



CCHA Newsletter



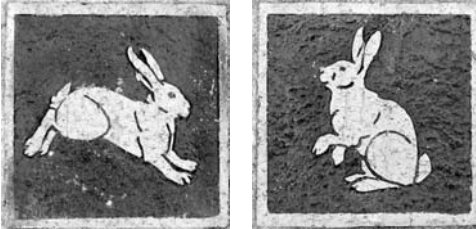
Volume 21 — Issue 2

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Second Quarter 2009

TALES BEYOND FRIED RABBIT

Tales Beyond Fried Rabbit: Chatham's Historical Heritage, a collection of articles by past CCHA president Fred Vatter is scheduled for release on April 15.

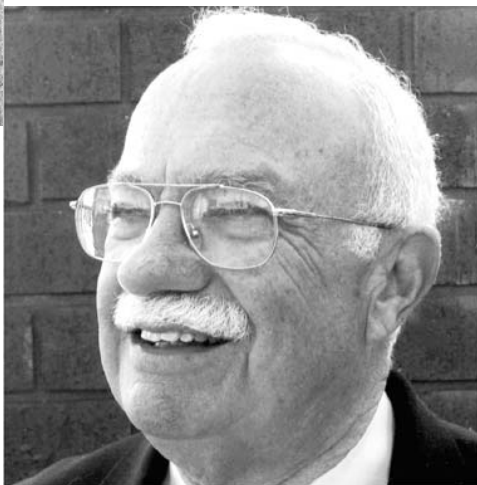


Rabbit tiles on Cumnock Bridge over the Deep River, made by Hal Siler

Would you like to meet some folks who not only know how Chatham County used to be, but whose families helped make it that way? Perhaps you'd care to hear some tales about grand schemes gone awry, such as the big rail and canal-based transportation and coal mining industry that never quite bloomed, or the fabulous wealth almost gleaned from the local cultivation of silk.

Old houses, aged country stores, church yards with intriguing gravestones, and venerable public buildings; settlements and cemeteries now lost due to dams and other

effects of progress; ordinary people who know the county's past and would love to tell you about it, as well as prominent civic leaders now long dead; all play roles in Fred Vatter's delightful saunter into some of the many corners of Chatham County's past.



Author Fred Vatter

Published by CCHA, the book will be available at the Chatham County Museum and by mail order for \$24.95.

Pittsboro's First Sunday and CCHA's Walk to Historical Places

The first Sunday of each month downtown Pittsboro is alive with activities such as exhibits, crafts and art vendors, music, food, drink, fun, friends as well as the Historic Courthouse Museum being open for visitors. On First Sunday of May, the 3rd from 1:00 to 4:00 pm CCHA will be hosting a walking tour of historic places around town. Docents will be available to tell of the history and answer questions at the sites. This is a leisurely tour at your own speed to the places you choose. You can begin at the Courthouse for a map and listing of places available for visiting; there will also be written cemetery material about some of the town's "historic residents." Please visit our website www.chathamhistory.org as time draws nearer to see a list of places that will be open. The walk is free and open to the public. Mix in some history with the street scene on a beautiful Spring day.

Did You Know...

Chatham County, North Carolina used to be one of the largest suppliers of rabbit meat to tables all across the nation. Rabbits were an important cash crop here.

New Exhibit at the Chatham Historical Museum

A new exhibit in the Chatham Historical Museum traces the history of schools in Chatham County from the private academies established in the 18th century, through the glory days of the union schools, to consolidation and integration in the late 1960s. In addition to a historical overview, on display are photographs, report cards and diplomas, school yearbooks, and principals' reports from as early as 1919. The museum, located in the historic county courthouse in Pittsboro, is open on Wednesdays from noon to 3:00PM and on the first Sunday of each month from 1:00PM to 4:00PM.

Time to Renew Your Membership

If you have not done so, please send your 2009 dues to:
CCHA, PO Box 93, Pittsboro NC 27312.

- Individual or family \$12.00
- Student \$10.00
- Patron \$35.00
- Corporate \$50.00

Donations in addition to these rates are greatly appreciated.



Pittsboro Band - c. 1940

It's No Secret

CCHA, in cooperation with the staff at Wren Memorial Library, maintains two special collections. The family history collection is contained in 35 looseleaf binders alphabetized by family name, with limited cross-references to related families. These combine the files from Wren and Pittsboro Libraries and, if used with caution, can furnish valuable information to family history buffs. The second collection is contained in 25 looseleaf binders with newspaper clippings, brochures, and photocopied materials. Arranged by subject heads such as People, Industry, Churches, and Education, the files contain many photographs. A

computer dedicated to use in the area holds the searchable list of contents for the clippings collection as well as the index to the NC Genealogical Society's journal.

Also in the library's Local and Family History Collection are cataloged bound volumes of family history, reference books with a wide variety of information about Chatham County, how-to books on genealogy, and maps. A microfilm reader-printer and wireless internet access are also features. A display case, also maintained by CCHA, currently exhibits items that have been donated to the Chatham Historical Museum.



Case Maps and Shelves at Wren Memorial Library

Looking for Your Ancestors in Chatham County Cemeteries?

A number of surnames have been added to our burial database in recent months, including: Andrews, Attwater, Barber, Bowen, Brady, Burnett, Clegg, Cotton, Durham, Fike, Harris, Hart, Johnson, Jones, Klass, Lane, Lee, Leonard, Lester, Lutterloh, Oldham, Pattishall, Perry, Rhone, Richardson, Riggsbee, Scurlock, Smith, and Spivey. We also have made some corrections to the burial database. To access our on-line database go to:

[HTTP://CEMETERYCENSUS.COM/NC/CHAT](http://CEMETERYCENSUS.COM/NC/CHAT)

More information on the Chatham County Cemetery Survey can be found on our website at:

WWW.CHATHAMHISTORY.ORG/CEMETERYSURVEY.HTML

**Bring a Friend to
CCHA**

CCHA Lecture Series

Sunday - August 16, 2009

Mr. John Hudson Emerson on
Chatham's participation in War on
Regulation

Rives Chapel Church
Siler City, NC

In Memory

Chatham County Historical Association has recently lost two long-time supporters of the Association and Chatham County history. Candice Street Simmons had served in the past as one of our Directors. Candice was history personified for western Chatham and Moore County. She will be very missed.

Mount Vernon Springs advocate Elizabeth Dixon recently passed away after being injured in a burn accident at her home. A void will be felt in her community.

CCHA's Website Can Tell You...

- When the Chatham Historical Museum is open.
- What's currently on exhibit in the Chatham Historical Museum.
- How to search CCHA's family history inquiries or to submit an inquiry of your own.
- What materials are in the Chatham County Local History and Genealogy collection at Wren Library.
- The history of the Manly Law Office.
- What CCHA is doing to help preserve Chatham's historic buildings.
- The status of CCHA's log cabin project.
- How to find information on a Chatham County gravesite.
- How to order CCHA publications.
- What, when, and where the next program will be.
- How to join or renew your CCHA membership.
- And more!

Check our website regularly to stay current with CCHA activities:

WWW.CHATHAMHISTORY.ORG

National Genealogical Society Family History Conference

The 2009 National Genealogical Society Family History Conference will be held 13-16 May 2009 at the Raleigh Convention Center. As an attendee at the conference, you will find Raleigh a great place to stay. In addition to the conference you can explore the many great cultural and historical offerings in the city, including the North Carolina Museum of Art, North Carolina Museum of History, North Carolina Railroad Museum, Exploris/IMAX Theatre at Exploris, North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame, Raleigh City Museum, Mordecai Historic Park/President Andrew Johnson's birthplace, and Oakwood Cemetery, among many others. For genealogists, the North Carolina State Archives preserves original and microfilm records of the colony and state of North Carolina from 1663 to the present.

For more information on genealogical resources in Raleigh, please be sure to frequently look at the very informative conference blog at

WWW.NCGENEALOGY.ORG/BLOGS/NGS2009

To request a conference brochure, please e-mail Conference Registrar Rochelle Compton at

RCOMPTON@NGSGENEALOGY.ORG

CCHA Calendar of Events for 2009

April 29	Hometown History by Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies, Pittsboro — See article in this newsletter.
May 3	Historic Walking Tour, Open Courthouse and Museum WWW.CHATHAMHISTORY.ORG
	Pittsboro's First Sunday WWW.PITTSBOROSHOPS.COM
May 13-16	The Building of a Nation: From Roanoke to the West National Genealogical Society Family History Conference 2009 See notes in newsletter
May 13	CCHA participating at Society Night at Genealogy Conference
June 7	Open Courthouse and Museum Pittsboro's First Sunday
July 5	Buntings decorate Historic Courthouse to celebrate Nation's Independence Open Courthouse and Museum Pittsboro's First Sunday
August 2	Open Courthouse and Museum Pittsboro's First Sunday
August 16	CCHA Lecture, Mr. John Hudson Emerson on Chatham's participation in War on Regulation at Rives Chapel Church, Siler City
September 6	Open Courthouse and Museum Pittsboro's First Sunday Old Fashioned Farmers' Day weekend at Silk Hope, sponsored by the Silk Hope Ruritan Club
October 3	Heritage Day at Jordan Lake
October 4	Open Courthouse and Museum Pittsboro's First Sunday
October	Street Fair
November	CCHA Fall program
December	Christmas Parade

Hometown History 2009

The Federation of NC Historical Societies (FNCHS) will present their spring hands-on Hometown History Workshop at Central Carolina Community College on Wednesday, April 29, 2009 commencing at 9:30AM.

Given today's difficult economic situation, it is more important than ever for non-profit organizations to establish a strong staff of volunteers and to recruit new members to join.

During this practical workshop, Kay Mitchell-Thomas, tourism development officer for the NC Division of Tourism, Film, and Sports Development, and John Woodward, president of the Murfreesboro Historical Association, will share the secrets of recruiting and retaining volunteers. Jason Harpe, president of the Lincoln County Historical Association, will discuss how to recruit young people to join historical organizations and the different ways these new members can help your organization. He will also discuss how to use new technologies to appeal to Web-savvy generations.

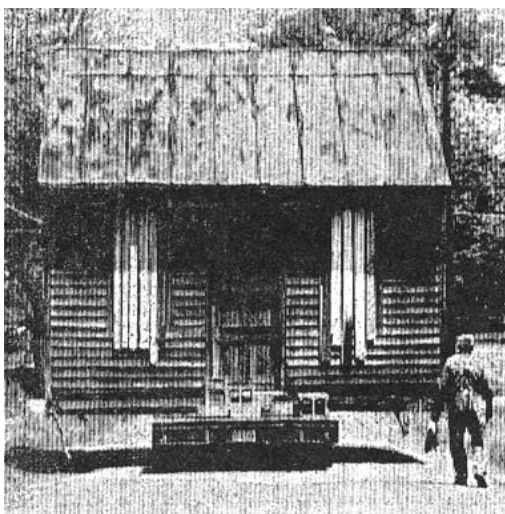
This workshop will also be presented on May 13, 2009 at the Lincoln County Cultural Center in Lincolnton, NC. Registration for the session is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members of FNCHS. Deadline for registration is one week prior to the date of the session.

For registrations, contact Karen Pochala-Peck of the Federation of NC Historical Societies in Raleigh at 919-807-7280 or on the web at:

WWW.FNCHS.ORG/FNCHS.HTM

Manly Law Office

In 1969 the Chatham Record published a photograph showing the Gov. Charles Manly Law Office on its way down East Salisbury Street to its new location behind the Masonic Lodge. Donated to the Chatham County Historical Association by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Blair, the one-room, typical 19th-century professional office building was renovated in time for the county bi-centennial celebration in 1971. It is open by special arrangements by calling 542-3603.



Send Us Your Email Address - Please...

If you use email, please send us your address so we can use it to notify you about upcoming CCHA events and programs. We promise that we will not share your address with anyone else, and we won't fill your inbox with unnecessary clutter.

To join our email list, send an email message to

HISTORY@CHATHAMHISTORY.ORG

Include your email address in the body of the message, and put "add my email address" in the subject line. Thanks!

CCHA 2009 EVENTS

Museum Wednesdays

The CCHA Chatham County Museum of history in the historic Chatham County Court House is open every Wednesday from 12:00PM to 3:00PM.

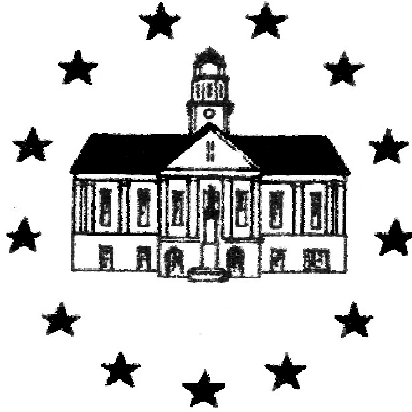
First Sundays

The CCHA Chatham County Museum of history in the historic Chatham County Court House will be open from 1:00PM to 4:00PM the first Sunday of the month, April through November.

CCHA History Lecture Series

Lectures and presentations on various facets and subjects of Chatham County history are scheduled for the third Sunday of February, May, August and November. All will begin at 2:30PM on these dates.

**CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION, INC.**



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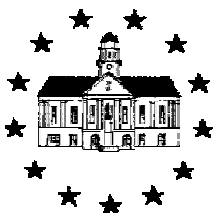
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