



CHATHAM

COUNTRY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, INC

Volume 28 Issue 2

CCHA Newsletter

Second Quarter 2016

Field Trips Resume September 22nd

By Margaret Tiano

"What is that sound?" asks an eager 4th grade student while filing into the historic courthouse. It is the sound of the clock tower chiming 9 AM, and the start of another exciting morning for students, teachers, parents, and CCHA volunteers!

"You have no idea how much we appreciate the educational quality of these field trips and the welcoming atmosphere provided by CCHA's volunteers for our students," remarked Daphne Terry, K-5 Instructional Program Facilitator and CCHA's school system liaison.

The 4th grade field trip committee is busy this summer with planning for the 2016 - 2017 school year. We will host 16 tours and serve over 800 Chatham County 4th graders at no cost to students. We welcome CCHA members as visitors on any tour date and invite you to join our dedicated team of field trip volunteers. Tour dates are all Thursday mornings: 9/22, 10/6, 10/20, 11/3, 11/17, 12/1, 12/15, 1/5, 1/19, 2/2, 2/16, 3/2, 3/16, 3/30, 4/13, 4/27 with 5/4 reserved as a make-up day. Do contact Field Trip Volunteer Coordinator, Luan Harmeson at [<lharmeson@windstream.net>](mailto:lharmeson@windstream.net), to verify a specific date and time.



4th Graders learning about Chatham's history.



Preserving YOUR Heritage

Dorothy Tucker
336-266-4606
dorothy@preservingyourheritage.com
www.preservingyourheritage.com



We can turn the CHAOS OF YOUR PHOTOS

Organize and Scan Printed Photos
Digitize Slides and Videos
Create Digital Photo Books & Albums

into the
STORY OF YOUR LIFE

Preserving Your Heritage Program and Workshop

Mark your calendar to attend a workshop sponsored by CCHA to help you learn how to save your precious photos - your family's heritage. Saturday, September 24, 10:00 am will be the time and the Kiwanis Building here in Pittsboro will be the place.

We have invited representatives of Preserving Your Heritage, a company dealing in customized photo management, to help us learn through their lecture how we can take care of our priceless family photos. Afterwards they will be

able to digitally scan and save some photos that you consider special. Learn how to take those boxes of photos and turn them into the story of your life. Get professional help and enjoy learning. Bring a jumpdrive or CD to store your digital images to take home.

We are limiting our attendance to 30 folks who want some pictures scanned after the lecture presentation. The small fee for the workshop is \$10 in advance or \$20 at the door. Call or drop by the CCHA office and get on the attendance list. You may pay when you get there. The office number is 919-542-6222. Please leave name and how we may return your call or contact you via your email address. So sign up early!

President's Remarks from Barbara Pugh

Greetings on behalf of all the folks who make CCHA such a unique organization. With the advent of this year our February annual meeting brought us new members to the Board and several folks moved on to other endeavors who had been important to us through their efforts. Hats off to Rob Barnes, Gary Tyson, Andy Wilkie, and Patty Walters who changed roles with CCHA. We appreciate all you did.

All work that gets done for CCHA is done by Officers, Directors, Volunteers, and Leaders in many different roles. It's a diverse group and we always are looking for a "few more good people". Members are the grease that keeps the wheels going. Invite your friends to become a part of our organization - or why not give them a gift membership to let them know you care. Members often morph into volunteers.

Our roles vary from being a generalist doing lots of things, or a specialist who specifically channels their work. May I remind you of our on-going programs and activities? There is currently much preservation work going on in trying to save the smokehouse and get it back home to the Ag Center property as well as some houses that

Continued p. 2

CCHA Museum Volunteers

By Patty Walters

Dedicated volunteers have shared time, talent, love of history and shown great spirit during the three years the Chatham Historical Museum has enjoyed its beautiful new home in the restored Historic Chatham County Courthouse.

As programs and activities have expanded, volunteers have stepped up to the plate and scored numerous home runs with their passion for all things historical. From casual drop in visitors to the well-orchestrated Fourth Grade Field Trips involving all Chatham County fourth grade students; volunteer greeters, docents, re-enactors and activity directors have scored high marks from museum guests with their knowledge and friendly demeanor.

The opportunity to volunteer is open to all those interested in learning and sharing Chatham County history. The only prerequisite to becoming a volunteer is to be a member of the Chatham County Historical Association. Training sessions are scheduled so that new volunteers gain an understanding and appreciation for Chatham County history and feel comfortable in their role. Numerous areas of support are needed. Greeters, docents, student activity leaders, field trip coordinators, re-enactors, publicity coordinators, archival and office workers...wherever your interests lie, the museum can use your help.

With the museum soon beginning its fourth season, and with ideas abounding for expanding the scope of programs, new folks are needed to augment the existing multi-talented volunteer corps. If supporting the museum sounds interesting to you and you would like to learn

Marshall Log Cabin Gets New Life and Owner

A long time project of CCHA had been the relocation and rebuilding of the Marshall log cabin. The cabin had been situated on the personal property of former CCHA enthusiast and dedicated member and worker Jane Pyle. After Jane's death her property was offered for sale and was purchased by Hobbs Architects LLC. They subsequently purchased the cabin from CCHA. The cabin was moved nearer to the office property and added to the office complex. The Marshall log cabin is to become the conference area for the firm. So, the story ends on a wonderful note. New life and purpose for the Marshall log cabin.

Continued from p. 1

need saving. Cemetery work continues. Work with County Planning continues. We are working on another Fried Rabbit publication. Historical research continues. There's the website, the newsletter, lots of communications with people interested and inquiring about the history of Chatham County. The Fourth Grade School program will start again very soon expecting to serve about 800 students. The doors of the museum and office continue to be open on Wednesday through Friday and on the First Sunday of most months. We soon will be having a fundraising campaign to bring the Smokehouse Back Home. Take a good look at the picture of the smokehouse (see below) when it was on the trailer ready to leave its old foundation to make way for the new. Help us bring it back.



The smokehouse leaves its old foundation awaiting restoration.

Special Request for Book Donations

Do you have history books you would be willing to donate to CCHA? We are looking for North Carolina history, Chatham County local history, genealogy, or historical fiction related to the area. The books would be used to supplement information in our reference library or if duplications occur they could be offered for sale with funds going to CCHA general fund. As a 501(c)(3) organization, donations to the historical association are tax deductible to the extent of the law. Contact Barbara Pugh or Richard Szary for more information at history@chathamhistory.org.

Have you been in to the Museum lately?

By Cindy Schmidt

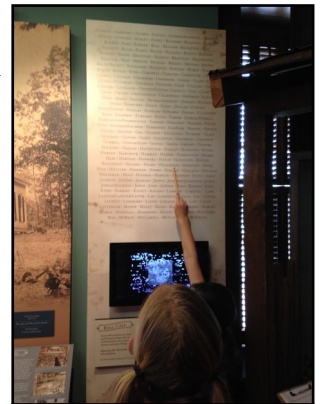
Have you seen the Homecoming display in the east hall display cases? Interesting and enlightening. Have you seen the Cemetery display in the south hall? So much research has been done and the map and index are continuously updated with new found cemeteries thanks to Beverly Wiggins.

You'll want to come back again and again to the Museum to see the displays planned for the next few months. There will be a hallway display on mills in Chatham County and the display in the cabinet in the Museum will be a revolving display of new acquisitions in the collection. The perfect time for your visit is the monthly First Sunday of Pittsboro when the Museum is open from noon to four. Over a hundred and fifty people came to see the Museum and displays on the First Sunday in July, we had to stay open longer to accommodate the interest. Aren't you curious about what they saw?

You're already a part of the Museum because you're a member of

CCHA. If you want to have a more direct role and meet some wonderful people, volunteer for a few hours at the Museum. The last time I volunteered, I met 10 interesting people. One from South

Carolina, several from the Pittsboro area, one from New Hampshire. They came as a group of friends and spent two hours touring the Museum and Courtroom. They took great selfies for their Facebook pages. I got to hear great stories about their history in Chatham County. Visit or Volunteer or Both!



A student searches the names of the earliest settlers in Chatham County.

**Invite a friend to join
CCHA and help preserve
Chatham County's
unique
History!**

Historical Collection Always Growing/Changing

By Barbara Pugh

Absolutely one of the best things to happen to our Historical Collection in quite a while is the addition of Richard Szary to our Board and as a professional to assist with the collection. Richard recently retired from UNC Wilson Library where he dealt with rare books. Richard's first task is to review and make recommendations as appropriate for our existing Collections policy. Welcome aboard Richard!

Some acquisitions that are pictured are large items that have been added and which you may have heard about but not yet seen. The display case pictured inside the Museum was made from salvaged mahogany from the Courthouse. The workmanship was provided by Rouse Wilson III, a quite talented woodworker. When not working with the wood, you may find him in his dental office. Items from the collection can be displayed safely in the case and special historical displays can be featured there, too.

Longtime friend Dalton Harvey Gunter has been in a generous state lately. The clock pictured was from his grandfather James A. Parham who lived in Lockville and operated the old Ramsey mill during the Civil War. This mill was in existence on Deep River and was standing in 1781 when Cornwallis spent several days at Ramsey's Tavern following the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Mr. Parham served the county as a legislator, mill operator, and faithful citizen. The Seth Thomas clock ca. 1850 was in his home which is pictured in the *Architectural Heritage of Chatham County*. Harvey donated the chair in memory of Jane Pyle. The chair is American Sheraton design in mahogany and dates to the early 1800's.

The two cases which have flexible usage as display or storage units were given to us by Beth Whitacre of Cary. Her father, John Emerson was the catalyst for getting Beth and CCHA together. One case is being used to house our sale items, as pictured, and the other case is in our workroom holding various things in the numerous "cubby holes".

Preservation Update

By Beverly Wiggins

CCHA's most exciting preservation project currently is to restore to the County's new Agriculture and Conference Center property the smokehouse rescued from that parcel before construction of the new Center began. A committee has been appointed to plan for the structure's restoration and to raise funds for the project. You'll be hearing more about this very soon.

CCHA is also working with Preservation North Carolina to save two other historic structures in the county. The Griffin-White house, on Chatham Park property, was slated for destruction, but Chatham Park developers have now agreed to give the house to Preservation NC and to help defray the cost of moving the house from Chatham Park property.

The Bynum-Lambeth house, near the village of Bynum, is on land that, until recently, was proposed for development. CCHA has been in contact with a series of corporate owners of that property to encourage preservation of the house, which is believed to be the residence of Luke Bynum, and may date from the very early 19th century. The property has recently been purchased by a private owner, who has agreed to enter into discussions with CCHA and Preservation NC about saving the structure.

Also on CCHA's preservation agenda is to document the history of the area to be developed as the Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing site.



The American Sheraton chair was donated by Harvey Gunter in memory of Jane Pyle.



The Parham clock donated by Harvey Gunter dates back to ca. 1850.



The display case inside the Museum was made from salvaged mahogany from the Courthouse made by Rouse Wilson, III. Note it has rolling casters which enables it to be moved around!



Two display cases donated by Beth Whitacre are extremely useful to the Museum for displays and storage.

Restoration 2010– 2015

Windows, Walks, and Chimney

Chatham Seekers Questers

The above Quester's plaque is ready to be installed at the Manly Law Office. The Questers have been extremely helpful in the restoration of the Manly Law office over the last several years. This important project was generously funded by our Quester friends.

CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION, INC



CCHA Newsletter

Published by the Chatham County Historical Association, Inc.
Post Office Box 93, Pittsboro NC 27312
Email: HISTORY@CHATHAMHISTORY.ORG
WEB: [HTTP://CHATHAMHISTORY.ORG/](http://CHATHAMHISTORY.ORG/)

The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Chatham County Historical Association, Inc. Articles appearing in the CCHA Newsletter may be reprinted in whole or in part under fair use provided proper credit is given to the source. Submissions are always welcomed, along with accompanying photographs. CCHA is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

Chatham County Historical Association
Officers and Directors - 2016

President	Barbara C. Pugh
Vice President	Grimsley Hobbs
Secretary	Carol Hall
Treasurer	Wincie Jane Johnson Hinnant
Past President	Fred Vatter

<u>Directors</u>	Term Ending
Joyce Cotten	2016
Kenneth Crabtree	2016
Carol Hall	2016
Walter Harris	2016
Cindy Schmidt	2017
Lee Sullivan	2017
Richard Szary	2017
Charles Thomas	2017

Past President: Fred J. Vatter
Collections Director: Richard Szary
Museum Committee Chair: Cindy Schmidt
Volunteer Committee Chair: Patty Walters
Fourth Grade School Committee Chair: Margaret Tiano
Cemetery Survey Coordinator: Beverly Wiggins
News Letter Coordinators: Barbara Pugh/Joyce Cotten
Membership Coordinator: Joyce Cotten