

# Chatham County Historical Association

PO Box 93 · Pittsboro, NC 27312 · 919.542.6222 · [chathamhistory.org](http://chathamhistory.org)



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CCHA Newsletter

Second Quarter, 2018

## The Gifts Keep Coming

Friends and members have been generous in their gifts to the Historical Collection. Some of these items are currently on display in the museum glass cabinet and others will be featured at a later date. Come take a look.

**John Hudson Emerson** added a number of items to our collection. A stereoscope viewer and five pictures ca. 1906-1907 which had been in the parlor of his Grandmother Dunlap at Bonlee. An old ledger from a store in the Rives Chapel community contained numerous names of the locale and period. Horses and their buggies were secured when attached to a portable buggy weight hitch, also donated by Mr. Emerson.

Other items from the Emerson and Dunlap collection of Chatham artifacts include a handmade froe, a small hatchet ca. 1840-50 from blacksmith shop of Eli Bray, circular post hitch with spike, a tobacco twist from Civil War period, a recently published book by Robert "Bob" Emerson entitled "You Be The Judge" chronicling his career with the State Bureau of Investigation.

Especially unique is a hat rack from a Bonlee and Western passenger railroad car circa 1913. And there's a free pass as well.

Remember the importance of the Kentucky Long Rifle in settling and taming the area. We now have a rifle and real powder horn and are considering how best to display. There are also numerous digital images that are to be shared. CCHA is truly fortunate to have so many artifacts from the Dunlap and Emerson families. We appreciate all of them.

A particularly unique group of items was given to the collection by **Gene Brooks** on behalf of the **John Blair Estate**. The Blair family had lived in the old Burns Hotel which is referred to as the Green Womack home in our architectural heritage book. John's mother, Mrs. Laura Blair Johnson had made a woodcut depiction of the old hotel. Attached to the plaque were original nails and wooden pegs. We also received an original brick from the site. The house was moved in the early 1970's from its location about where Hardee's is today to the street behind and

now next to the Justice Building. Several colored snapshots were included with the gift. The photos showed the house being moved and re-built.

From relatives of **Laura Evie Burns Thomas**, related to the **Burns Family on Indian**

**Creek**, we received a pair of eyeglasses ca. 1840's, John Foushee's military New Testament bible and a framed copy of a 1779 land grant to John Burns.

If you're interested in contacting us about the Collection, send an email to [Collections@chathamhistory.org](mailto:Collections@chathamhistory.org), or Richard Szary or Barbara Pugh.



Items from the John Blair estate

## Lecture program for fall announced

**Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 7, 2018** for a unique program on linguistics. As our area is constantly changing with families coming from other areas of the state, country, and other parts of the world, the language and dialects of the area are changing as well.

Walt Wolfram, a Linguistics Professor in the English Department of N. C. State University for many years has researched the sounds and patterns, as well as some unique words of our speech. His work is well-known. He presents a delightful program. If you want to investigate some of his work, his most recent book is *Talking Tar Heel*. Please note this on your calendar and attend.



Froe and hatchet ca. 1840-50



CCHA makes sure the Historic Courthouse is all dressed up for July 4!

## From the President

Over the past few months CCHA volunteers have been busy with ongoing programs including staffing the Museum, developing and refining the historical collection, finishing the smokehouse, and planning for future programs and activities. We have a great group of folks and we are always interested in welcoming new volunteers.



The smokehouse is nearing completion thanks to the efforts of Kenneth Crabtree, Lee Sullivan, Ray and Janet Carney, and Gil McNeill. An opening ceremony is planned for the fall.

We are thankful that Kenneth Crabtree and Walter Harris are continuing to mend after successful medical procedures.

The CCHA depends on dues to sustain its programs and keep the office operational. If you have not paid your membership dues for this year, please consider supporting our efforts.

I want to thank the many volunteers and others who make the CCHA a great organization.

Grimsley Hobbs, President

## Silent Auction and Fundraiser

Mark your calendars for the fundraising event of the year for CCHA on Saturday, November 3, 2018 at the Kiwanis Building on Credle Street in Pittsboro. The best brunch of the Fall.

We ask that you consider donating items for the auction. We would be happy to work with you. The contact person is Grimsley Hobbs at [history@chathamhistory.org](mailto:history@chathamhistory.org) or 919-542-6222 at the CCHA Office. Your support is needed for the CCHA to continue providing great services.

## What's new on the CCHA website

Learn more about Chatham history and CCHA activities [on our website](#). Here are just a few recent highlights:

- [Chatham Historical Journals](#) Now Available Online
- [Local History Acquisitions at Chatham Community Library](#)
- [Belmont AME Zion Church in Pittsboro Demolished](#)
- [CCHA Shows Off Smokehouse at Ag Fest 2018](#)
- [New Website Feature—Snippets \(of Chatham history\)](#)

Access these and more from our [home page](#).

Join us by purchasing a membership at the office or at <http://chathamhistory.org/membershipapplication.shtml>

## Welcome New Board Members

Three fine folks were added to the Board of Directors for CCHA at the February annual meeting. Be sure you get to know Doug Berg of the Pittsboro area, Cliff Beasley of Silk Hope and a former Board member, and June Price of Siler City. They are instrumental in helping us cover more of our county's nooks and crannies and interesting residents. Drop them a note of welcome and appreciation at our email address at [history@chathamhistory.org](mailto:history@chathamhistory.org).

## Fourth Grade Field Trips Have Successful Year! By Cindy Schmidt

The 2017-2018 school year 4<sup>th</sup> grade programs just completed its fifth year of serving the 4<sup>th</sup> graders throughout Chatham County including all public, private, and charter schools. The 2017-2018 school year saw over 900 students and teachers/chaperones come to one of the Thursday morning Field Trips. It takes minimum of ten volunteers and teachers/chaperones to complete one of the field trips.

Special recognition and thanks are extended to the faithful volunteers who make this special event happen for the county's 4<sup>th</sup> grade students:

- Chatham History--Leona Whitchard and Luan Harmeson;
- History of the Courthouse--Patty Walters and Pattie Liegl;
- Artifacts--Kim van Lookeren Campagne and Pat Stucke;
- Courtroom participation with *Goldilock versus The Three Bears*—Margaret Tiano, Cindy Perry, Dan Perry, and Jim Harmeson;
- Re-enactors:  
William Pitt, Earl of Chatham--Bill Whichard;  
Lucy Worth Jackson (community activist and artist)  
Connie McAdams;
- John Brooks (an early settler)—Gary Simpson;
- Time keeper—Charles Thomas

The students learn and the volunteers enjoy sharing. The Field Trips would not happen without their dedication to Chatham students! If you would like to volunteer, please contact us at [FourthGrade@chathamhistory.org](mailto:FourthGrade@chathamhistory.org). The Field Trip also takes donations to defray the cost of student workbooks and other educational materials. If you would like to donate, please click here: <http://chathamhistory.org/pdfs/Donate.pdf> and accept our many thanks!

### Visit Our Historical Museum

Located in the Historic Chatham County Courthouse  
9 Hillsboro St., Pittsboro, NC.

**Open:** Wednesday through Friday, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
919-542-6222 and First Sundays