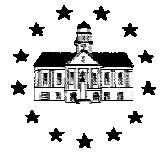




CCHA Newsletter



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Third Quarter 2009

GRAVESTONE PHOTOS ADDED TO CEMETERY WEBSITE SHARE YOUR PHOTOS WITH US

Photographs of gravestones in several Chatham cemeteries recently have been added to the CCHA cemetery website at WWW.CEMETERYCENSUS.COM/NC/CHAT/INDEX.HTM. We are grateful to Paul Wilson for sending photos of the Stinson cemetery

and to Linda Hester and Trudy Harris for sharing their photographs of the Wesley Barber cemetery with us. Janie Johnson has provided prints of all of the gravestones in the Pittsboro Methodist Church cemetery for our permanent files.

Photographs are the only sure way to permanently save the important information that gravestones contain. Although we often think of stone as everlasting, the deterioration of many old stones in the county due to weathering is all too apparent. Tree-fall, vandalism and other sources of destruction are also threats.

If you would like to help us document Chatham County's gravestones, we welcome your help. Whether you photograph all of the stones in a cemetery or just your own family's stones, we invite you to share your digital images with us. They will be made part of our files on the cemetery and posted on our website so that others have access to them.

For more information about submitting photos, please see our website WWW.CHATHAMHISTORY.ORG/CEMETERYPHOTOPROJECT.HTML, or contact Beverly Wiggins, cemetery survey coordinator, at 919-542-4478, or send email to us at CEMETERYSURVEY@CHATHAMHISTORY.ORG.



TALES BEYOND FRIED RABBIT THE NEW BOOK IN TOWN

Fred Vatter's book, *Tales Beyond Fried Rabbit*, received a most pleasing review by Deborah Meyer in the June Chatham County Line. The articles that make up the book were originally published in the Chatham County Line beginning in about the year 2000. Many photographs and pictures of items such as labels woven at Chatham Mills and a Masonic apron have been added in the book.

In writing the articles Fred said that he had originally thought they could teach young people about the county's history. He has found, though, that adults like his stories as well. While many of the stories are about early happenings in this county—the settling of Gulf in the late 1700s, for instance—some are more recent stories—such as those about Clarence Poe and Charlie Baldwin.

Published by the Chatham County Historical Association, the book can be purchased at our museum (open Wednesday 12-3 and First Sunday's through October 1-4) and at McIntyre's Books in Fearington Village. The book can also be ordered by mail. See our web site for an order form: WWW.CHATHAMHISTORY.ORG. The price is 23.95 with a 10% discount for members. We hope you enjoy the book.

GRANVILLE LAND GRANTS IN CHATHAM COUNTY NEW STUDY AVAILABLE

Some of the earliest landholders in Chatham County obtained their lands through grants from the Granville land office between the years of 1751 and 1763. Unlike many earlier grants in our area, the records for these Granville grants are relatively complete. In the past, a major problem to identifying grants made in what is now Chatham County was sorting these out from the more than 800 grants made in Chatham's parent county, Orange.

CCHA member Jim Wiggins has undertaken the task of identifying the Chatham grants by using references to waterways. He has produced a list of some 202 grants that he believes are probably for land in what is now Chatham. Along with the grantholder's name, he provides the survey and grant dates, number of acres granted, waterways and other geographic features mentioned in the survey, adjoining landholders mentioned in the survey, a map code that allows users to locate the waterway by USGS map segments, and page references to his sources. Notebooks containing these data, presented in tables that are sorted by grantee name, date of grant, and map code, along with a map showing the waterways referenced, Jim's description of the process he used to identify the grants and a brief history of the Granville Land Grants, are available in the Chatham Historical Museum in Pittsboro and also in the local history section of Wren Library in Siler City. In addition, the information can be accessed via the CCHA website. Go to WWW.CHATHAMHISTORY.ORG/GRANVILLEPROJECT.HTM.

Jim stresses that the data he has presented are a work in progress. He invites corrections and additions from anyone with additional information or alternative viewpoints. Send suggestions for corrections to Jim Wiggins, c/o CCHA, PO Box 93, Pittsboro, NC 27312, or via email to HISTORY@CHATHAMHISTORY.ORG. Please include your contact information.

Shew Yourselfs to be Freeman: The Regulator Movement in Chatham County, 1766-1771

**Sunday, August 16, 2009,
3:00 p.m.**

**Rives Chapel Baptist Church
4338 Rives Chapel Church Road
Siler City, NC**

Chatham County's role in the Regulator movement, a fascinating and important part of North Carolina and US history-will be the topic of a presentation by John Hudson Emerson, a Chatham native and historian whose ancestor James Emerson narrowly escaped hanging after being captured at the Battle of Alamance. The CCHA-sponsored program will be held at Rives Chapel Baptist Church, on Sunday, August 16, 2009, beginning at 3:00 p.m. Please plan to attend!

Beginning in 1766-six years before the Boston Tea Party and nine years before the Battle of Bunker Hill-settlers in what is now Chatham County participated in a movement that would lead to what many historians consider to be the earliest armed conflict against the British in the American colonies. Yet many are unfamiliar with this Regulator Rebellion, whose participants walked the very ground we call home today.

By some estimates, there were more than 6,000 participants in the Regulator movement-accounting for nearly three-fourths of the NC backcountry's white adult male population. It began with petitions and civil disobedience, and ended in May of 1771 when Governor William Tryon's Colonial Militia violently suppressed an armed rebellion at the Battle of Alamance, at which two- to three-thousand Regulators were decisively defeated by Tryon's smaller, but well-armed, provincial forces.

Mr. Emerson will discuss the "grievous oppressions" that the Regulators opposed and the implications of the Regulator movement for the formation of Chatham County and for North Carolina's participation in the Revolutionary War. He will describe several clashes between Regulators and British forces that involved thousands

of settlers, and will talk about the roles some early Chatham settlers played in the Regulator movement.

Also of interest are the meeting place, Rives Chapel Baptist Church, which was founded in 1832, and the nearby Old Tick Creek cemetery, which is the burial place of James Emerson, whose grave marker



John Hudson Emerson

suggests some of the drama of the Regulator movement. It reads "Patriot. A Regulator at the Battle of Alamance, condemned to death by Gov. Tryon, pardoned by Gov. Martin, lived to take part in the War of American Independence."

Come early for a brief tour of the church grounds or to take a short walk to the Old Tick Creek cemetery. Volunteers from the church will serve as guides for these activities beginning at 2:00 p.m. Lemonade and cookies will be served on the church grounds following the presentation.

PITTSBORO WALKING TOUR

A free walking tour of historical places in Pittsboro was among many activities enjoyed by those who turned out for May First Sunday, in Pittsboro. The tour, sponsored by the Chatham County Historical Association, began at the historic Chatham County Courthouse, where visitors toured the historic building, perused the displays in the historical museum, and had questions answered by volunteer docents or paused to chat with Fred Vatter, signing copies of his new book *Tales Beyond Fried Rabbit*, a collection of articles about Chatham County. Free maps guided "tourists" to seven other tour locations. These included Governor Charles Manly's tiny law office, where docent Becky Henley told about Manly's life and showed off the furnished one-room office. Right next door, Phil Ihme and Bret Kelly had visitors galore interested in the Columbus Lodge, one of the oldest Masonic lodges in North Carolina. Mr. Kelly shared some of the building's long and interesting history, including the source of its mysterious tilt.

Three Pittsboro churches opened their doors, and their cemeteries, for the tour. At the Pittsboro Presbyterian Church, Pittsboro's oldest existing brick structure, docent Corkey Harris, known for his storytelling and knowledge of the county, told visitors about the church and some of its well-known parishioners. At the Pittsboro United Methodist Church, visitors learned how Sarah Lewis Taylor came to be buried under the pulpit, and at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, many admired the stained glass windows designed by native son Frank Marsden London and other interesting architectural features.

At the charming Lewis Freeman house,

In anticipation of Mr. Emerson's presentation, a special exhibit will open on August 5 in the Chatham Historical Museum. The display will feature Chatham-area men who participated in the Regulator movement and the locations of their properties, where known. The exhibit will be on display for several months. The Chatham Historical Museum is located in the historic county courthouse in Pittsboro and is open on Wednesdays from noon until 3 p.m. and First Sundays.

For more information about our August program see our website, WWW.CHATHAMHISTORY.ORG, or call 542-3603 or 542-4478

**Bring a Friend to
CCHA**

CCHA Calendar of Events for 2009

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 4-6	Old Fashioned Farmers Day weekend at Silk Hope sponsored by Silk Hope Ruritan; more information : WWW.SILKHOPERURITANS.COM
September 6	Open Courthouse and Museum Pittsboro's First Sunday
October 3	Heritage Day at Jordan Lake State Recreation Area 10:00 am to 3:00 pm White Oak Recreation Area; celebrate the unique cultural and natural resources of region WWW.NCPARKS.GOV
October 4	Open Courthouse and Museum Pittsboro's First Sunday
October 24	Street Fair
November	CCHA Fall program
December	Christmas Parades

one of only four buildings remaining from Pittsboro's earliest period of settlement, current resident Jane Pyle described the structure's interesting history. The core part of the house was built about 1815 by free African-American Lewis Freeman, who owned virtually that entire block in town and another 20 acres in the county.

And finally, at the Marshall log house, Dan Perry described features of the 1830's house that was donated to the historical association and moved in pieces to the Rectory St. location in 2001. The association is still seeking volunteers to help finish the chimney, chinking and daubing. When that work is completed, the house will be used for educational tours.

The warm, breezy day was perfect for the tour. Historical Association president, Barbara Pugh, was pleased with the turnout and thanked all of the many volunteers who made the tour successful. "It's fun to be able to share some of the interesting places and stories about Chatham County History," she said. "I think folks had a good time, and we did, too."

Thanks to the many volunteers who made this event a great success! For help with publicity, handouts, photography, and site cleanup, we thank Kathy Creason, Kay Judge, Evie Judge, Rae Bland, Duane Hall, Jane Pyle, Travis Evans and Jim and Bev Wiggins. The docents included: Rebecca Yount, Dan Perry, Becky Henley, Phil Ihme, Bret Kelly, Mrs. Laura Johnson, Judy Peele, and several other ladies from the Methodist Church, Nancy Harman, Nancy Simons, Corkey Harris, Jane Pyle, Bev Wiggins, Barbara Perry, Fred Vatter, Barbara Pugh, and Rae Bland.



Columbus Masonic Lodge in Pittsboro



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!

COURTHOUSE DECORATIONS

Thanks to the efforts of CCHA President Barbara Pugh and her helpers, the historic Chatham County Courthouse was looking good for Independence Day for the third year in a row,



The decorating crew asks us to pay particular attention to the flying of both the flag or the United States and the State of North Carolina. The war memorial statue still stands guard out in front of the building, representing those always ready to defend our rights whenever necessary.

We also think the gentleman in the shorts carrying the folder adds something special to the photograph as a representative of all of us standing as one nation with our flags to guide us.

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.

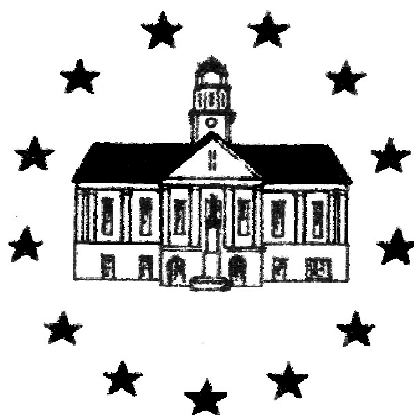
First Sundays

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 on Chatham County history are scheduled throughout the year.

**CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION, INC.**



CCHA Newsletter

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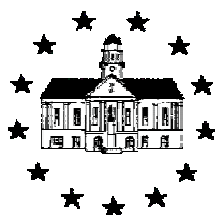
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