



CCHA Newsletter



Volume 25 — Issue 2

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Third Quarter 2013

THE EARL OF CHATHAM RETURNS TO THE COURTHOUSE



**CCHA HISTORIC LECTURE BY
ARTIST LUANA LUCONI WINNER
ON THE NEW PORTRAIT OF THE
EARL OF CHATHAM**

**2:00PM - SUNDAY
AUGUST 4, 2013**

**COURTROOM OF THE HISTORIC
CHATHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
IN THE CIRCLE - DOWNTOWN
PITTSBORO**

Photo by Duane Hall

Ms. Winner will tell us the story of how she re-painted and interpreted the painting into today's portrait of William Pitt, Earl of Chatham. The portrait was presented at the April 20, 2013 re-opening of the historic courthouse.

Chatham County is named for William Pitt (1708-1778), the first Earl of Chatham, Prime Minister of the UK and first royalist leader to defend the Colonies in their cause. After an extensive remodel of the courthouse in 1959, the Chatham County Historical Society commissioned Mrs. Edward S. Nash to paint a portrait of William Pitt. William Hoare based the portrait on earlier portraits of the same subject. The county unveiled the portrait on February 22, 1961 and installed it behind the judge's bench, where it looked over the courtroom until March 25, 2010, when it was consumed by fire.

After the fire, Steve DeMeyer, general manager of Luck Stone Corporation in Chatham County, volunteered the company's resources to replace the portrait. The company not only provided the funding, but also unprecedented leadership in

identifying and securing an artist worthy of the project. After an extensive search, Luck Stone commissioned Luana Luconi Winner of Raleigh to create the painting. Mrs. Winner is widely known for her award-winning portraits in oils and pastels.

After initial research, attention was directed to a William Hoare portrait of William Pitt owned by the State of North Carolina and residing at the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh. The portrait was not on public display, but held in archives. With the help of Michael Klauke in the Museum's research department.

Extensive notes were made on colors and values of the original. Most pigments from 1754 are no longer in use due to instability or toxicity. This required numerous color discussions with Perry Hurt, the museum's color expert, and Scott Gellantly with Gamblin paints on the west coast. Mrs. Winner made decisions for substitutions with modern US-made pigments, but also chose pigments from the Netherlands, Paris, Milan, and Florence in continuous production for nearly four hundred years.

CALLING ALL CURRENT CHATHAM HISTORICAL MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Please join us Tuesday, July 23, at 10:00am in the Chatham County Courthouse.

10:00am - 10:30am - Lemonade and sweets as we meet and greet
10:30am - 11:30am - Adjourn to the courtroom for general meeting

Seasoned volunteers will share and discuss concerns, ideas and questions involving the volunteer process. Potential volunteers will learn about being a volunteer greeter, docent, or reenactor. Plans for future programs, special events and exhibits will be discussed. Following the general meeting, volunteers interested in being involved with the upcoming Chatham fourth grade field trips as well as other special events will have the opportunity to find out more and to sign on to help out.

Please mark your calendar for this important volunteer meeting!

Questions or more info:

Susan Little 919-929-7707

sslittle@bellsouth.net

Patty Walters 919-742-2166

pattywalters@gmail.com

CALLING ALL NEW VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers make the museum hum! What a great setting for you to be the face of Chatham County. Locals as well as travelers are coming through our door. In the last week alone we had guests from California, Indiana, and New York. What fun we have had in making these visitors feel welcome and then sharing with them the Chatham story. Volunteers are always needed to greet visitors, work in the office, help with fund raising and assist in the archival process.

**PROSPECTIVE AND EXPERIENCED
VOLUNTEERS ARE INVITED TO
ATTEND A MEETING ON JULY 23 AT
10:00am AT THE MUSEUM.**

After refreshments we will break into two groups. Those considering volunteering will have a chance to learn more about the opportunities for service. Those trained and working in the museum will be able to discuss what we have learned in the past few weeks, what we need to do differently, and what is working well.

Come wear the green apron, a symbol of our hospitality and promotion of Chatham County history.

**Museum Hours for July and August
Wednesday through Friday
11:00am to 4:00pm**

**BRING A FRIEND TO
CCHA**

ACCOLADES FOR TWO GREAT VOLUNTEERS

BARBARA PUGH, PRESIDENT OF CCHA

Barbara became Presidency of CCHA in 2007, and without her leadership and guidance, CCHA would not be where it is today. In 2007, the collections were scattered. Items were stored in various locations and there was no centralized database of memorabilia. Since then, CCHA has become more focused, items are stored in one central location, and the process of creating a database is in process.



Coordinating and keeping volunteers on task is not an easy job, but Barbara has taken the task to heart and CCHA has become an entity focused on preserving the history of Chatham County. The time and energy she has devoted to this task is a full-time job, but she has graciously given what it takes to bringing together a diverse group of volunteers to stay focused on the mission on CCHA.

Added to this task was the devastating courthouse fire damaging the CCHA office and showroom. The average person would have looked at the disarray and damage and thought it hopeless but not Barbara. She oversaw and helped sort and dry the items, and located specialists to assist in the process.

Barbara stayed in close touch with the county commissioners as they proceeded through the lengthy process of making the decisions to rebuild the courthouse. When CCHA was notified much of the first floor would be assigned to the CCHA for offices and museum, it was a day of celebration. The process of developing the museum and raising the funds to complete this process was a laborious task. Over a year was spent in planning and bringing all the volunteers together and, at times, seemed insurmountable. However, under Barbara's leadership the task is complete and all citizens of Chatham County can be proud of the results. As one walks into the new museum, they see a wonderful history making Chatham County what it is today.

Thank you Barbara Pugh for your leadership and commitment of time and effort to make Chatham County history come alive.

SUSAN LITTLE, SPECIAL RECOGNITION

In the summer of 2010, the Chatham County Commissioners appointed a task force to oversee the process of restoring the historic courthouse. After the task force make their recommendations and the county commissioners voted to give space in the courthouse to develop a museum through the CCHA, a Museum Committee was selected with Susan Little appointed as chairperson to oversee the development of the museum.



Susan took on this task with enthusiasm to make the museum a wonderful place to showcase the history of Chatham County. This was an arduous process. Design Dominions was selected to develop the actual display. Time and effort were demanded to plan, select items, photographs, and develop a story line based upon acceptable standards for developing a museum.

Work started in the winter of 2010 and continued through the spring of 2013. This was a time-consuming process and Susan patiently guided the committee and the CCHA Board through this undertaking by keeping the group focused on meeting the deadlines imposed upon this committee.

This process could not have been completed without Susan's leadership. The CCHA Board is appreciative of Susan's leadership and guidance. Special thanks go to her commitment to tell the wonderful story and history of Chatham County.

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE LATELY?

WWW.CHATHAMHISTORY.ORG

BIG CHANGES ARE COMING!

WATCH CLOSELY!

LOCAL HISTORY CLIPPING FILES JOINT CCHA/LIBRARY FRIENDS PROJECT A SUCCESS

Twenty-five large notebooks at the Chatham Community Library house hundreds of newspaper clippings and other documents about Chatham County. In them you can find information about agriculture, local railroads, historic houses, class reunions, old county post offices, the Pittsboro Holly Tree, World War II heroes, the Chatham County Courthouse, local artists and musicians, the Boling Chair Company, the Chatham Agricultural Fair, and county schools, churches, roads, bridges and communities.

The local history clipping files were begun by library staff at the Pittsboro Memorial Library and later maintained by CCHA volunteers at Wren Memorial. They have long been a popular resource with all kinds of people who are interested in Chatham's history.

Last fall we asked for volunteers to help us add several years of accumulated clippings to the files. Our call was answered by volunteers from CCHA and the Friends of the Chatham Community Library, and over a several-month period these folks clipped and pasted and copied and filed until the entire backlog had been incorporated into the files. We would like to thank Jennifer Chubb, Colette File, Audrey Harlow, Joyce Johnson, Reece Jones, Glenn Lazarus, Renee Luberoff, Jane Pyle, Millie VanNess, Louise Walker, and Bev Wiggins for their help with this project. We are especially grateful to Joyce Johnson for agreeing to coordinate the continued maintenance of the files.

We encourage you to browse the notebooks when you are in the Chatham Community Library. If you have not used them, ask a librarian to show you their location in the local history section of the library. A detailed contents list is available on the CCHA website. Look under the "Research Resources" tab and then select "Family and Local History Research Collection."

We can still use your help. Remember--today's current events are tomorrow's history. Help us build the clipping collection by clipping any articles about Chatham County you think will be of interest in the future. (You can use the detailed contents list on the website as a guide to the categories of information that are currently included.) Be sure to mark each clipping with the name of the publication and the publication date and drop them off at the Reference Desk at the Chatham Community Library. We will take it from there.

**Bring a Friend
to
CCHA**

CEMETERY PROJECT PROGRESS

Enthusiastic volunteers are out in the field, photographing Chatham County cemeteries and family gravesites and adding to the database of information and photos on CemeteryCensus.com. Since our last report, several hundred photographs have been added to the Chatham County collection and at least one-thousand more are in the processing queue. Currently, there are 587 cemeteries listed for the county, including almost 32,000 burials. We have photographed about 9,000 of those burials.

All of the graves at Martha's Chapel have been photographed by Alma Council, and Bill Mundt is finishing up Mt. Gilead Baptist, a project begun by Doris Houston before she moved away.

Glenn Lazarus single-handedly photographed the large cemetery at Mt. Pleasant UMC, and those are online and ready to view. These three cemeteries are among the most-viewed online, so the photographs will be a particularly welcome addition.

Kelly Evenson is working to find a few elusive graves at Pleasant Hill Baptist.

Rich and Sue Luke have finished photographing Terrell's Chapel and are now entering the data. Those photos will be available on CemeteryCensus.com very soon.

Julie King-McDaniel continues to find hidden sites near Gulf and Goldston.

William Smith is working on Asbury Methodist and Joseph Gerstner is tackling Rocky River Friends.

Cass Arble, Van Finch, Ronnie Lambert, and Alan and Jane Mann all have assignments, and Tommy Emerson has agreed to help us get to some sites in the western part of the county, so you'll find even more photos of Chatham grave markers online soon.

We are making good progress and have momentum, but more volunteers are needed to provide photos of the nearly 32,000 grave markers in the county. Help us get photos of the markers in your church cemetery, small graveyard on your own or a neighbor's property, or volunteer to take on an assignment we do not have covered. To volunteer, call Bev Wiggins, 919-542-4478 or email

cemeterysurvey@chathamhistory.org.



RESOLUTION

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JANE PYLE TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, on the 1st day of June, 2013, death claimed Jane Pyle, an honored and valued member of the Chatham County Historical Association; and

WHEREAS, Jane Pyle, through the application of her many skills, talents and remarkable energy, showed extraordinary dedication to the goals and mission of our organization; and

WHEREAS, Jane ably served the organization in several offices over twenty-five years - most recently as museum curator, working tirelessly to preserve, document and catalog the artifacts donated to the organization and to share with others their interesting stories through creative exhibits and displays; and

WHEREAS, Jane's other contributions include dozens of meticulously-researched articles about various aspects of Chatham County history published in the *CCHA Journal*, of which she was editor for many years; the research she contributed toward the successful application for the Pittsboro historic district; service as CCHA representative on county committees; the organization and maintenance of files of newspaper clippings at the county libraries; and work on exhibits for the new Chatham Historical Museum; and

WHEREAS, Jane spent much of her time learning about and eagerly sharing her knowledge of Chatham County, helping many who hoped to learn more about their Chatham ancestors or historic sites, her enthusiasm for the history of the county and generous mentoring leading to the recruitment of others to the organization and its cause;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Chatham County Historical Association, that we hereby express our deep respect and affection for Jane, and gratitude for her service to the organization and for the rich legacy she leaves to the people of the county.

Adopted this the 9th day of July, 2013.



GROWTH AND CHANGE ALL AROUND

By: Barbara Pugh

The grand re-opening of the Historic Courthouse and the unveiling of the Chatham Historical Museum were highlights of the spring this past April 20. It was a day to remember. CCHA members in attendance that day were excited to receive so many words of appreciation and wonder about the Museum and the Courthouse. If you have not been there, plan to come and enjoy. For July and August CCHA will have the museum and office/research area open Wednesday through Friday 11am to 4pm. If you want to plan a trip, email me at BPugh1601@Gmail.com or visit the website and leave a message there at www.ChathamHistory.org. How about a visit on August 4 when Ms. Winner will give a program about the Earl of Chatham portrait?

Mid-April we found out Jane Pyle was seriously ill. Because of her health issues she was not able to attend the April 20 event. However, she was able to get to the Courthouse and Museum on our May 19 opening for donors and members. Jane passed away on June 1. She was a truly unique person and will be missed. For twenty-five years she was dedicated to CCHA and worked diligently to accomplish its goals.

New faces around the Board table include Melissa J. Delbridge. Melissa joined us as Archivist back in the spring. She is a three-year resident of Pittsboro. Melissa has twenty-six years of experience as archivist in the Special Collections Library at Duke University. Before that she was Curator of Political Manuscripts at Hill Library, Louisiana State University. A Masters degree in Archival Administration and Public History from NC State rounds out her super qualifications to handle our historical collection. Welcome, Melissa.

Voted onto the Board at the February annual meeting, Joyce J. Cotton is no stranger to Chatham County history. Her Chatham roots run deep; living and raising a family here as well as being an educator in Chatham schools all add up to a love of place and its history. Joyce's main responsibility initially will be to act as the website coordinator. Watch for her impact on the website at www.ChathamHistory.org.

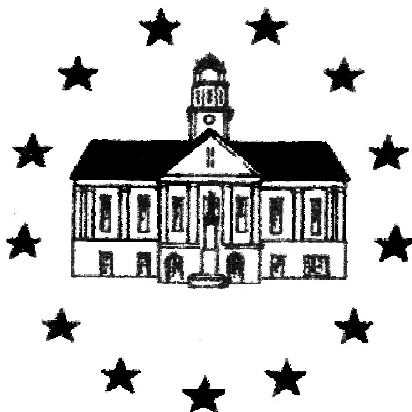
Our thanks and regards go out to Kay Judge who left the Board this year. Kay's work with CCHA continues but in a more limited fashion so she has more time for her writing and publishing efforts.

Barbara Pugh, President

Pictures from Chatham Museum Open House April 20, 2013



**CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION, INC.**



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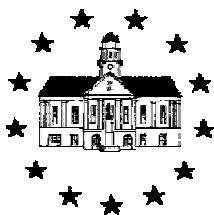
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