

Chatham County Historical Association

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CCHA Newsletter

Third Quarter, 2018

Voices of North Carolina, The Legacy of Tar Heel Talk, Sunday, October 7, 2:00pm, Historic Courthouse

The Chatham County Historical Association is pleased to announce that the quarterly program scheduled for October 7, 2:00pm, at the Historic Courthouse, will be a presentation by Dr. Walt Wolfram, who will speak on "The Legacy of Tar Heel Talk." The program is free and open to the public.



Dr. Walt Wolfram

One of the under-recognized traditions of the Tar Heel State is its linguistic heritage, from the historically isolated Outer Banks dialects of Ocracoke and Harkers Islands to the mountain dialects and Cherokee language of the Smoky Mountains. This presentation profiles the regional and ethnic traditions of language and dialects through a series of video and audio vignettes that have come from more than two decades of extensive research, documentary production, and preservation activities. No State has a richer tradition of language variation than North Cackalacky, and we need to celebrate it as an integral part of North Carolina's historical and cultural legacy.

Dr. Walt Wolfram, a sociolinguist at North Carolina State University, specializing in social and ethnic dialects of American English. He was one of the early pioneers in the study of urban African American English through his work in Detroit in 1969. Since the 1960s he has authored or co-authored 20 books and more than 300 articles on variation in American English. He was an active participant in the 1996 debate surrounding the Oakland Ebonics controversy, supporting the legitimacy of African American English as a systematic language system. In addition to African American English, Wolfram has written extensively about Appalachian English, Puerto Rican English, Lumbee English, and on many dialects of North Carolina, particularly of rural, isolated communities such as Ocracoke Island.

An evening of Court for 4-H Youth

On August 9th ten 4-H young women came to the Chatham County Historic Courthouse and learned the duties of various courtroom participants from experts who have filled the roles as professionals. Then they performed those roles in a mock trial in the historic Courtroom. One became the judge, two became the prosecuting attorneys, two became the defense attorneys, four were witnesses and one became the bailiff in the fictitious case of *State versus J. Simpson*. The two prosecutors were coached by the current Clerk of Superior Court, Sam Cooper. The defense attorneys were coached by Todd Roper, a partner in

the local law firm of Moody Williams Roper and Lee. The judge was coached by District Court Judge Sherrill Murrell, and the bailiff was coached by the next Clerk of Superior Court, Dana Hackney. The jury, composed of 4-H adult leaders during the trial and joined by the youth for deliberations, was coached by Pittsboro Mayor and attorney Cindy Perry.

To prepare for the trial, the youth and their coaches were given just the facts of the case. They had 30 minutes to plan strategy and determine questions for prosecution and defense witnesses. Only the facts elicited during trial were presented to the jury. The jury was charged by the judge with determining the accused's guilt. After some deliberation, the jury chose to ask a question of the judge who sent them right back for further deliberations and were able to come to a verdict.

Surprisingly, during deliberations a courtroom spectator tried to tamper with the jury! The judge noted the egregious behavior and had the bailiff eject the spectator.

The Evening of Court for the 4-H could not have happened without 4-H leaders and local legal professionals giving generously of their time and talents for an evening to Chatham youth. Also, thanks to Chatham Historical Museum volunteers Patty Walters, Pat Stucke, and Cindy Schmidt who participated in and organized the evening.



Participants included: First Row L-R: Lauren Browndyke, Katelyn Walker, Aria Browndyke, Dana Hackney, Brillet Olvera, Cindy Schmidt; Second Row L-R: Ginger Cunningham, Miana Taylor, Sage Coykendall, Rylie Ward, Liz Mauney, Sam Cooper; Third Row L-R: Victoria Brewer, Avery Wright, Marissa Kurz, Lindsay Shore-Wright; Fourth Row L-R: Cindy Perry, Todd Roper, Emma Wicker, Amelia Rodriguez, Sherri Murrell

Johnson Trust makes donation

CCHA Board of Directors would like to recognize and thank the Johnson Trust for their amazing donation of \$5,000 to the renovation of the Smokehouse Project. The Directors of the Johnston Trust include Gene Brooks, Rick Torbert, and Bob Wachs.

From the President

The primary mission of the CCHA is to preserve and promote the history of Chatham County. Often this relates to physical artifacts including documents, photographs or buildings. However, our most important work is to educate citizens and visitors about the significance of our history here in Chatham.

The CCHA accomplishes this, in part, by maintaining and staffing the museum, providing educational programs for county school children, and offering quarterly programs to the public.

On October 7th the CCHA will host a public program about our regional language and dialects presented by Dr. Walt Wolfram who is an expert on social and ethnic dialects of American English. With our rich mixture of natives and newcomers in Chatham County, this promises to be an entertaining and informative program that unlocks the riddles of how we speak, the words we use, and what they mean. We might even come away understanding each other better.

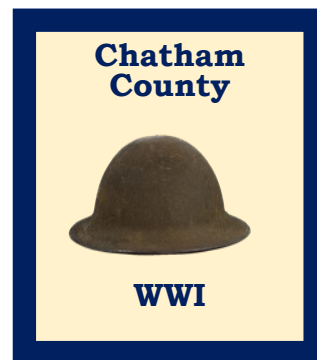
I look forward to seeing you at the program on October 7th.

Grimsley Hobbs, President



Grimsley Hobbs

Chatham County's experience in World War I will be highlighted over the next few months with several events, exhibits, and articles. Look for the Chatham County WWI image (at left) on our home page to link to all WWI activities and information.



Veterans' Photo Collection

On First Sunday, November 4, CCHA volunteers will be scanning photos of Chatham County veterans for addition to the museum's valor collection. *More details soon.*

Exhibits

A WWI exhibit is currently on display in the Genealogy and Local History area of the Chatham Community Library. The joint library-CCHA effort highlights resources available to learn more about the local WWI experience, along with photos of Chatham WWI veterans and local news clippings.

WWI will also be the focus of a temporary exhibit scheduled for display in the historic Chatham County Courthouse during the month of November 2018. The Chatham Historical Museum's permanent exhibits also include several interesting WWI items, including a uniform and gas mask.

Articles

Several articles on our website provide information about the WWI experience in Chatham County. We'll be adding information through November so check in regularly for updates. The following articles are currently posted:

[The WWI Draft in Chatham](#) Gives the history of the WWI draft registrations and how these were reported in Chatham newspapers, along with information about WWI draft cards for Chatham men.

[Chatham County WWI – Who Served?](#) Describes the draft process (lotteries and exemptions) and sources of information about who actually served in the military during WWI from Chatham. Displays images from Chatham County newspapers, reproduces a Chatham County draft board list and links to a list published in the CCHA *Historical Journal*, which was created from several sources.

[WWI Genealogical Resources](#) Gives links to general and Chatham-specific resources for genealogical research on WWI participants.

For more Chatham County WWI information, keep up with us here on our website and follow us on Facebook: [Chatham Historical Museum!](#)

Bells for Peace – Armistice Commemoration

Chatham County will participate in the nationwide program, which is designed to honor American men and women who served 100 years ago during World War I. On November 11, 2018 at 11:00 am, the chimes in the bell tower of the Historic Chatham County Courthouse will ring. The Chatham County Historical Association is encouraging other groups, churches, and individuals to participate. Wherever you are at 11:00 am on Sunday, November 11, 2018, let a bell sound to honor Armistice Day. [Learn more.](#)

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.

Your help is needed for items for the silent auction. Suggested items include merchandise, a gift certificate, art, hand crafted items, or interesting vintage objects. How about a weekend getaway, dining experience, lessons, class, or tickets to a concert, play, or sporting event.

Your donation will help us raise funds to finish the smokehouse and share a unique part of Chatham history with current and future generations.

The brunch will run from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm so make plans to attend and encourage your friends and neighbors to join us on Saturday, November 3.

Contact Cindy Schmidt for more info:
museum@chathamhistory.org

Farmers Alliance Store closed

Historical documents, pictures and artifacts related to the store's life were donated to CCHA for archiving. The material came to CCHA mainly due to the efforts of Duane Hall working with store officials. CCHA is currently assessing and processing the donation.

[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