

CCHA Newsletter



Volume 24 — Issue 4

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Fourth Quarter 2012

WAR OF 1812 200TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

Chatham County citizens two hundred years ago provided troops to this conflict with the British. Chatham has a special connection through Captain Johnston Blakeley, lost at sea with his sloop "*Wasp*." Our own Board Member, Robert Barnes, teaches history at Central Carolina Community College here at the Pittsboro campus and will be our lecturer. The discussion will focus on the history of the War of 1812, examining the origins of the conflict, the motivation for US involvement, a brief synopsis of the major events, and an examination of the consequences of the war. It will cover the impact of the conflict on North Carolina and Chatham County.

Date: Sunday - 7 October 2012

Time: 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Location: Holmes Meeting Room
Chatham Community Library
CCCC Campus
197 NC 87 Highway
Pittsboro, NC 27312

We will also have a list of Chatham soldiers in the War of 1812 so folks can look for their ancestors.

Additionally, we will have an update on the new Museum and Courthouse.

Also part of the event will be the ability to purchase raffle tickets for numerous

items. Winners will be drawn and notified after the *Pittsboro Street Fair* on 27 October. Among the items to be raffled are professionally framed *Coal Fields of Chatham*, Ramsey 1870 map, and the new O'Neil print of Pittsboro.

VOLUNTEERS AND DOCENTS

Want to enjoy your local history and help save it? What would you like to do? We need:

Museum Collection: Assist in cataloging photographs and documents, sending out gift forms, labeling items, and related activities to keep museum collection identified and easily accessible.

Publicity: Researching, writing, and distribution of releases to various media regarding CCHA's programs, museum, collections, and historical happenings.

Docents: Interact with visitors to the new Museum and assist in office/research area. Training will be provided. Enjoying adult visitors and children a must. Docents may on occasion also attend the Manly Law Office.

Research: Topics vary and may involve

historical or genealogical work. Research could be new research or collection of existing data.

Clipping Files: Located at Community Library, this involves inter-filing and copying loose materials into binders and updating the computer listing of items in files.

Website: Liaison between Board and Webmaster to keep our website updated and fresh. Good writing skills needed.

Cemetery Volunteers: Find, record, and photograph gravesites while enjoying a romp in the outdoors!

All of these tasks are extremely important to the mission of CCHA to preserve and research the history of our county. We need your help to make it all happen and you can take pride in helping.

What would you like to do?

PUBLICITY FOR NEW MUSEUM

While working on the funding of the Chatham History Museum, there have been many occasions where presentations have been made to groups to tell our Museum story and seek community support and financial support. We welcome the opportunity to share our story with organizations that you might be involved with whom we have not yet reached.

We have taken "our dog and pony act" all around the county. Our presentation usually includes a verbal presentation accompanied by images of the museum as it was developing; now we have the final images to share. These events also provide an opportunity for us to learn of possible artifacts and request photographic images for the collection, learn of possible cemetery sites not yet in our database, but also of great importance is requesting photographs for scanning of military men to include in the "Valor" section of the museum exhibit.

To date we have told our story to the Chatham County Farm Bureau, Governor's Club residents, Carolina Meadows residents, the Pittsboro Kiwanis Club, the Town of Pittsboro, the Town of Siler City, Silk Hope Ruritan Club, Chatham County Economic Development, the Chamber of Commerce, Chatham County Agribusiness Association, the Winnie Davis Chapter #259 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. We have represented CCHA at Pittsboro First Sundays, Silk Hope Heritage Day in the spring and the Silk Hope Old Fashioned Farmers Days in the fall. This fall upcoming speaking events are at Goldston Lions Club and the Siler City Lions Club; we plan to attend Jordan Lake Heritage Day, Goldston Street Fair, and the Pittsboro Street Fair.

Please contact Barbara Pugh if you're interested in scheduling an event. BPUGH1601@GMAIL.COM or 919-542-4164

Your end-of-year tax deductible gift helps you and CCHA, a nonprofit organization.

DOCENTS

Museum Committee Members are eagerly looking forward to Friday, 9 November 9 and Monday, 12 November when they will be hosting Coffee Hours at 2:00pm to greet and welcome potential museum volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering in the new *Chatham County Historical Museum*, interfacing with visitors, is invited. Our location will be determined after we know how many are attending. You may choose either of the two dates to hear more about becoming a part of the exciting new museum program. Following up, training dates for volunteers will be held on 15 and 16 November. For more information concerning the volunteer program, contact CCHA at our email address:

HISTORY@CHATHAMHISTORY.ORG

or

Susan Little
919-929-7707

SSLITTLE@BELLSOUTH.NET

or

Patty Walters
919-742-2166

PATTYWALTERS@GMAIL.COM

HISTORY CLIPPING FILES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Where can you find information on local railroads, historic houses, class reunions, old county post offices, the Pittsboro Holly Tree, World War II heroes, the Chatham County Courthouse, the Boling Chair Company, the Chatham Agricultural Fair, and county schools, churches, roads, bridges and communities? Why, in the local history clipping files at the Chatham Community Library, of course!

These files were begun by library staff at the Pittsboro Memorial Library and later maintained by CCHA volunteers at Wren Memorial. They now fill twenty-five large notebooks at the Chatham Community Library and a detailed contents file is available on-line. The files are well-used and

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CHATHAM RECORD DIGITIZED

The folks at Digital NC have digitized early issues of the Chatham Record from 1879 to 1901, and they are working on adding more soon. Take a look here:

[HTTP://DIGITALNC.ORG/COLLECTIONS/NEWSPAPERS/CHATHAM-RECORD-PITTSBORO-NC.](http://digitalnc.org/collections/newspapers/chatham-record-pittsboro-nc)

THE BLAKELEY TEA SET

A hero of the War of 1812 was Captain Johnston Blakeley, lost at sea with his sloop "Wasp" and a native of Chatham County.



The State of North Carolina had intended to award him a commemorative sword upon his return. Instead, a magnificent silver tea service was commissioned and presented as a memorial to his daughter, Udney Maria Blakeley. The service is now in the collections of the NC Museum of Art and is pictured below. The details of the set are:

Title: Tea and Coffee Service

Artist: Anthony Rasch and Company (American, born Germany (Bavaria), circa 1778-circa 1859)

Date: 1818-1819

Medium: Silver, wood

Dimensions:

Tea Pot: (including finial) H. 9 7/8"; (handle to spout) W. 8 1/2"; (body) D. 3 1/2".

Coffee Pot: (including finial) H. 11 1/8"; (handle to spout) W. 9 1/4"; D. 3 7/8 in"

Sugar Bowl: (including finial) H. 8 1/8"; (handle to handle) W. 12 1/4"; D. 4 in"

Creamer: H. 9 1/4"; (lip to handle) W. 6 1/2"; D. 3"

Waste Bowl: H. 6 1/4"; W. 7 7/8 in"; D. 4"

Credit Line: North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lee Smith Jr. in honor of Dr. Robert Lee Humber

Inscription: Marked "A. RASCH" on the sugar bowl in a rectangle

Provenance: Commissioned by the State of North Carolina (1815-1842), Philadelphia, PA, 1818-1819; to husband Dr. Joseph von Bretton (1797-1882), Baron von Bretton, Saint Croix, Danish West Indies, 1842; to his daughter by second marriage Udney Maria Blakeley von Bretton (1848-1904), wife of Charles Ebenezer Treffry (1842-1924), Place, Fowey, Cornwall, Eng.; to son Col. Edward de Bretton Treffry (1869-1942), Place, Fowey, Cornwall, Eng.; to wife Anne Treffry, née Treffry (1891-1985), 1942; [private collection, Ireland, 1960?]; with Michael Harvard, Harvard Works of Art, Ltd., London, 1960; with Frank Partridge & Sons, Ltd., London, 1962; with Newhouse Galleries, New York, 1967; sold to NCMA, 1967.



VIRGINIA MAN FINDS CHATHAM COUNTY INFO IN OLD BOOK

Dennis Dutterer is a collector of rare books. Occasionally, he finds a bonus in the books he has purchased-- interesting notes or family histories written on the end papers or in the margins. When that happens, he researches the notes for his own interest and then shares his discoveries with local history organizations.

On the face of things, Mr. Dutterer's copy of John Marshall's *The Life of George Washington*, published by James Crissy in Philadelphia in 1834, has no connection to Chatham County, North Carolina. But a note written in the book says "*Riggsbee, Chatham County August 6, 1896.*" Riggsbee was a community in northern Chatham, near what is now Briar Chapel.

A bookplate pasted in on the inside of the front cover reads, "*The Farmer's Library - Agriculture, Science, and the Arts.*" The bookplate in the book led Mr. Dutterer and historical association members to wonder whether the Farmer's Library might have been an early Chatham County library association. Research into that question led to the discovery that, indeed, the Farmer's Library Association had been incorporated in Chatham County in 1833. Little is known about the association, apart from the act of incorporation passed by the North Carolina General Assembly, but generally such societies were organized by men in a community who paid a small annual membership fee which was used to obtain books that then circulated among the subscribers. About thirty such societies were incorporated in North Carolina between 1794 and 1848. Chatham's Farmer's Library Association was one of these. These library societies were emblems of literate society and tokens of community pride.

Inked on the back endpaper of Mr. Dutterer's book are the birth dates for Hasten Poe, his wife Mary, and children Chancey [or Clancey] G., William A., Elizer J., Happy, Euphema, and Mary C. According to Mr. Dutterer, the notes appear to have been written by one person at one time--rather than over a period of years as would be the case if the events were recorded as they happened. They are written,

he says, "*in the dark brown ink of the early 1800s.*"

By 1856, the book appears to have been in the possession of Sidney M. Ivey, who, according to the 1850 census, was the son of Thomas and Sophia Ivey, residing in Lower Regiment, Chatham County, NC. One note reads, "*Hasting Poe's book left with S. M. Ivey by Presley M. Smith 1856.*"



Additional notes suggest that S.M. Ivey is Sidney M. Ivey, born 28 October, 1841. Presley Smith, age 6 in 1850, lived nearby with parents Martin and Nancy Smith.

"We were delighted to receive this information," said Jane Pyle, who responds to inquiries for the group, "and are so grateful that Mr. Dutterer took the time and effort to share it. Apart from grave markers, birth and death information from the early 1800s can be very difficult to find. It's possible that the information that Mr. Dutterer has sent to us isn't recorded anywhere else."

"We are also very pleased to learn about the early library association in the

county. We would love to hear from anyone with more information about it. Perhaps others have books with the Farmer's Library Association bookplate and can help us identify other members of that group," Pyle said. Pyle can be reached at 919-542-3603.

Additional details and images of the notes written in the book, as well as the results of research on the Poe and Ivey families, can be on the Chatham County Historical Association's website:

WWW.CHATHAMHISTORY.ORG.

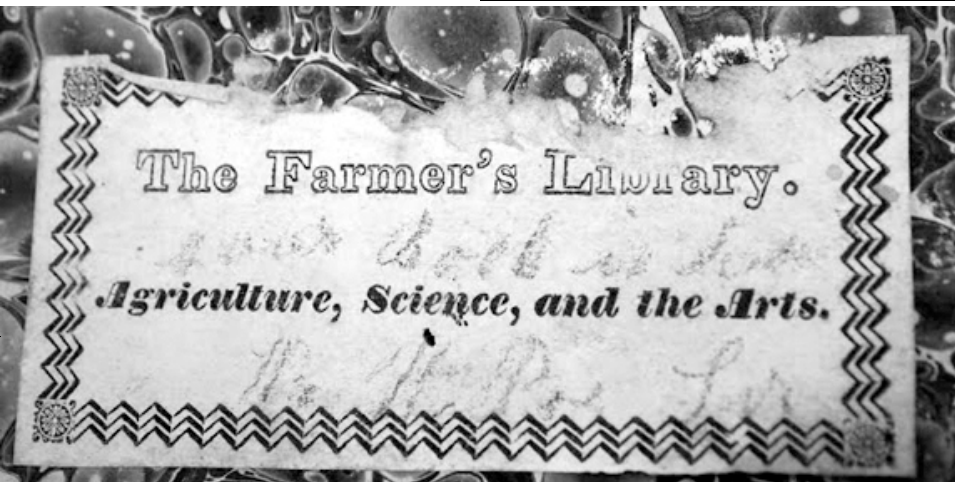
WORK CONTINUES ON HISTORIC COURTHOUSE AND MUSEUM

To update all of you on Courthouse activities, the renovation of the historic Chatham County Courthouse is about a month behind schedule according to Chatham County Public Works Director David Hughes.

Visible progress on the clock tower resumes when wood is clad to the steel, the curved cap is added to the clock tower, and the weathervane is set in place. The contractor is continuing with the decking on the roof to get the building dried in which is preliminary to insulation and drywall. Inside ceiling framing, HVAC and duct work continues. Window installation is almost complete; brick is being added on the gable ends. Connecting the building's sprinkler system to the new water main now being installed along Hillsboro Street is one of the final steps that needs to be completed. Taylor Hobbs says the water project should be completed in for the courthouse to get its Certificate of Occupancy in late January.

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**Bring a Friend to
CCHA**



NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE CHATHAM HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Visitation to the interim Chatham Historical Museum fell as summer temperatures rose, but preservation of the cultural heritage of Chatham County continues with the donation of many photographs, documents, and objects to the Chatham Historical Museum. Some of the interesting newly-donated gifts are:

- An unusual rabbit trap, called a rabbit gum because it was fashioned by hollowing out a gum tree, was donated by Claude Coltrane.



- Two cast iron horse bits, otherwise iden-

tical but used by opposing sides in the Civil War, were donated by Ronnie and Steve White; they are expected to be popular with school-age visitors as they search to find how they differ.

- An advertising piece for *Pedoline*, a salve manufactured by Charles M. Harden of Siler City, is an old gift, received from Herbert Poole in 1970 and newly discovered in stored files by Barbara Pugh.
- A call for photographs to use in a tribute to veterans planned for the new museum was enthusiastically answered by dozens of veterans or their families. The digital collection is a continuing, open endeavor; for more information call the museum curator, 919-542-3603.
- Three signs, recently removed from the PTA Thrift Shops when the logo was redesigned, are now part of the Chatham Historical Museum collection, reminders of the institution that has raised thousands of dollars to support school activities.
- Charles Thomas and the children of Estelle Wright expanded our collection of labels made by Chatham Mills, Charles with a 1980 calendar for NCSU Textiles and the Wrights with over 400

labels collected by Mrs. Wright.

- A handmade brick from the abandoned Moon family cemetery is a gift from Arthur Smith.
- Mrs. Eleanor Moses donated a number of items related to Meroney Church, including a photograph of William Alston Rives and his family from the early 1800s.
- Not yet completely inventoried is a collection of family photographs and papers connected with the Beavers, Rogers, and McMath families, a gift of Mildred Sandrone Hammer; it includes a photograph of the first woman rural mail carrier in Chatham County in her buggy.

YELLOW HOUSE TO BE RESTORED

Ray and Janet Carney are the proud and enthusiastic owners of the Patrick St. Lawrence House, the oldest known house in Pittsboro. Recently moved for the third



time, the elegant two-story house is still remarkably sound after 225 years. The Carneys, from Wyoming, NY, hope to restore the house to its original appearance, using the skills they've acquired in restoration of other historic houses. They are especially eager to receive information about construction and historical details. (Write RAY63@ROCHESTER.RR.COM.) For more information about the restoration project or the St. Lawrence (or Yellow House), visit the CCHA website.

(Continued from page 3)

AND in the meantime, Design Dimension Inc. is working on the fabrication of the Chatham Historical Museum. Designs are completed, fabrication has begun. We continue to fundraise. To date we have received and pledged \$125,702.78, or 86%, of our needed \$145,000. We have been able to accomplish this through working with our members, community friends, organizations, and businesses. We continue to write letters, make direct contacts, seek out grants and stress the importance of the museum project for education for Chatham's school children but also its importance to the community in the realm of historical tourism.

How can you help? Support our association and museum through your volunteer service and financial support. If you have not yet given, now is the time to help us reach our goal. With the end of 2012

approaching, now would be an excellent time to update your tax contributions. If you have questions, let us know. Our capital campaign allows the museum to be established with private donations. Having the museum paid for by the time of its opening would truly be two reasons to celebrate.

Should you be able to help with fundraisers, items for silent auctions, or donations, do not hesitate to let us know. Contact any of our board members (on back of newsletter) or email us at

HISTORY@CHATHAMHISTORY.ORG
Phone calls to Barbara Pugh at 919-542-4164 would work as well.



BRING A FRIEND TO CCHA

Your end-of-year tax deductible gift helps you and CCHA.

CCHA Partial Calendar for 2012

Wednesdays Open Museum Day 12:00PM to 3:00PM
 First Sundays Open Museum Day 12:00PM to 3:00PM
 First Tuesdays History Sharing Group - Contact Kay Judge
 Sunday, 7 Oct War of 1812 200th Anniversary Program

**Always Remember to
 Bring a Friend to CCHA
 Both of you will be glad
 you did!**

SESQUICENTENNIAL MOMENT

Dr. Brooks Gilmore, a valued member of CCHA, forwarded to us an article which appeared first in the Lee County Genealogical Associations newsletter "The Times." It is reprinted here to give a glimpse of the feelings of Chatham citizens on the question of secession. The proceedings of the meeting were published in the *Raleigh Standard* and *Fayetteville Observer*. In CCHA files, we have a complete copy from the *Fayetteville Observer*, January 17, 1861.

MEETING IN CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE OBSERVER

In compliance with the proclamation of President Buchanan, recommending the observance of the 4th day of January, as a day of fasting, prayer and humiliation, the Baptist Church at Love's Creek invited the surrounding churches to unite with them, and a large audience assembled on that day.

After divine service Rev. William Lineberry preached a very able sermon, and the people went into a meeting to consider the state of the country; John R. Marsh was called to the Chair, and E. H. Straughan Esq. and Dr. Thomas A. Brooks requested to act as Secretaries. Rev. William Lineberry, Rev. Enoch Crutchfield, Daniel Hackney, Joseph M. Bridges, and Thomas B. Long, were appointed, a committee to draft resolutions. The Committee, having retired for a short time, returned and presented the following preamble and resolutions (published in part here):

1. ...we are satisfied with the present constitution, so amended as will forever settle the question of slavery in the States, ... we are in favor of calling a convention of the States that are satisfied therewith, the said convention to take into consideration the best means to prevent war and bloodshed, in the event that the Union is dissolved.

2. That, although we regret the hasty action of our sister State South Carolina, yet we believe that the Federal Government have no constitutional power to use coercive measures to compel her to remain in the Union; and, that any attempt to use such power would destroy the last hope of saving the Union, and would precipitate the country into all the horrors of a civil war.

After the reading of the resolutions the meeting was ably addressed by Josiah H. Brooks, E. H. Straughan, Esq., Daniel Hackney, Thomas J. Brooks, T. B. Long and Dr. William Lane. The speakers expressed an earnest desire that the Union should be preserved, provided that the Federal laws are faithfully executed and our rights of property respected; and if the Union should be dissolved, a strong hope was expressed that a great Central Confederacy would be formed, embracing most of the Cotton States, all of the Central and border slave States, and such of the free States as are willing to do us that justice which many of their noble sons have labored so faithfully to secure. It was moved and carried the proceedings of this meeting be published in the *Raleigh Standard* and *Fayetteville Observer*. All of which was adopted. On motion, the meeting adjourned. JOHN R. MARSH, Pres't.

E.H. Straughan, T.A. Brooks, Secretaries.

Fayetteville Observer
 Thursday, January 17, 1861

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we often receive feedback as to their usefulness.

We need volunteers to help us add several years of accumulated clippings to the files. One major task is formatting the clippings so that they can be copied. Formatting volunteers will cut and tape the clippings onto 8.5x11 paper. If you can help, we will sign out a folder of original materials to you and you can work on the cutting and taping at home. We will need other volunteers to make copies of the pasted up versions. That job can be done at the library or at the interim museum. After copies are made, we will update the contents file. Then we will need a volunteer to file the clippings in the notebooks at the library. No experience is necessary for any of these volunteer jobs-we'll provide job training!

You can also help by sending us your clippings about Chatham County subjects. Be sure to include the name and date of the publication. If you would like to clip on an ongoing basis, let us know.

We are ready to get to work, but need some helping hands. If you can help, please call Jane Pyle at 919-542-3603 to volunteer or send an email to

HISTORY@CHATHAMHISTORY.ORG using "clipping files" in the subject line.

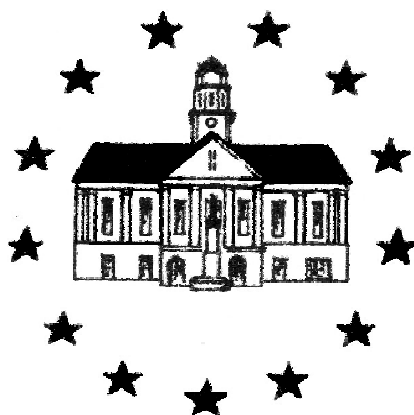
Soon you will find even more interesting information about Chatham County in those files!

FROM THE EDITOR

Most people reading this may not know but the time I get to spend editing, formatting, and researching some of the material found in this publication is some of the most enjoyable time I have all year. Of course, I learn a lot from reading every word you see here, but I also get a great deal from interacting with all the volunteers at CCHA from the most visible like

Barbara Pugh and Jane Pyle to names few ever hear but labor tirelessly for us none the less.. Please allow me to urge you to do two things. First, come to the lectures, get to know our volunteers, and thank them for all their efforts on your behalf. Second, become a volunteer for CCHA in some way. You will get a lot of satisfaction from both those actions. I promise!

**CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION, INC.**



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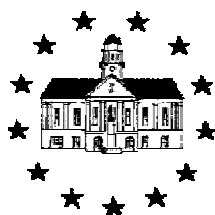
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