



CCHA Newsletter



Volume 26 — Issue 4

Editor: R.T.Crowley - CROWLEY1948@GMAIL.COM

Forth Quarter 2014

ALL ROADS LEAD TO AND FROM CHATHAM COUNTY

Lee D. Kent - Adjunct History Professor - UNC Pembroke

September 21, 2014 - 2:00pm

Historic Chatham County Courthouse Courtroom - Pittsboro, NC

The presentation will look at the original migration patterns into North Carolina as a whole and in Chatham County in particular. The discussion will center on the groups forming the historical make-up of the county, and the exodus of families and groupings. Particular attention will be focused on the population decrease in the 1830s. A question/answer period will follow the presentation.

Mr. Kent has retired from his professional career in the teaching at the public school, community college, and University of Virginia levels. He now lives in Pinehurst and teaches at Pembroke, Sandhills Community College, and according to his wife, wherever someone wants to learn history.

Recognition and Awards:

- National State Teacher of the Year (Virginia)
- Adjunct Professor of the Year - Northern Virginia Community College
- Daughters of the American Revolution History Teacher of the Year
- Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher of the Year
- USA Today 100 Most Influential Teachers



A PEEK AT PITTSBORO'S PAST

This issue of the Newsletter went to press before the CCHA *A Peek At Pittsboro's Past* home and historical building tour took place. Watch for a full report of the special day in the next issue with a thank you to our sponsors and to those who so kindly gave in-kind donations.

THE GREAT WAR - WWI

Anniversaries come and go, and we all forget them at times, but this year we have one none of us should never forget. On 28 July 1914 at 10:45am, one-hundred years ago this year, *The Great War* (aka *World War I* or *The War to End All Wars*) began with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo, Bosnia continuing to 11:00am on 11 November 1918. The last Soldier killed was American Sgt Henry Gunther on the Muse River in France sixty seconds before the armistice went into effect. CCHA is seeking artifacts and photos of WWI to photograph or scan. Please bring them to the museum Friday and Saturday, 14 and 15 November.

GENEALOGY WEBSITES

Getting Started in Genealogy

statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/ghl/resources/genealogy/gettingstarted.html

Tracking an Ancestor Back to North Carolina

statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/ghl/handouts/trackingancestors.pdf

Emigration issues in NC

www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-newnation/4389

Finding Slave Records

statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/ghl/resources/genealogy/slaverecords.html

Genealogy Collection, Genealogy Reference Services, Electronic Resources

statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/ghl/resources/genealogy.html

Cousin Charts

statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/ghl/resources/genealogy/cousinchart.html

Family History and Genealogy Resources in the NC Collection, UNC-Chapel Hill

www.lib.unc.edu/ncc/genealogy.html

East Carolina University Joyner Library Genealogy and Local History

www.ecu.edu/cs-lib/ncc/genealogy.cfm

Southern Oral History Program - UNC Chapel Hill

www.sohp.org/

The South Asheville Colored Cemetery, 1840-1943

toto.lib.unca.edu/findingaids/oralhistory/SACC/default_colored_cemetery.html

Sources for NC Vital Records

statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/ghl/resources/genealogy/vitalrecords.html

North Carolina Vital Records office

vitalrecords.nc.gov/vitalrecords/

North Carolina Family Records Online

statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/digital/ncfamilyrecords/

North Carolina USGenWeb Archives Obituary Project

www.usgwarchives.net/obits/nc/obitsnc.htm

NEW MUSEUM SIGN

We have hung out our shingle! Drive around the traffic circle at the historic 1881 Chatham County Courthouse and you will see the latest addition to the sights here in Pittsboro. We now have an official sign to show where folks can find the Chatham Historical Museum and tell if we are open or not. We think the sign looks rather handsome. What do you think?

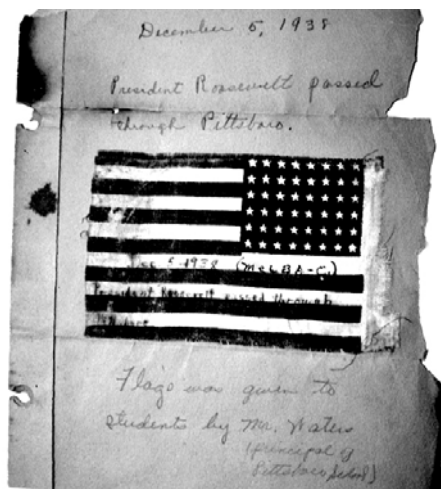


NEWS FROM THE COLLECTION - ANOTHER PIECE OF HISTORY

By: Barbara Pugh

A piece of history was given to CCHA, Sunday, August 24, 2014. It was a seventy-five (75) year old cloth flag measuring 3 1/2 x 5 inches. It was waved by a Pittsboro school child on December 5, 1938 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt came through town and stopped briefly.

The small flag is glued to a scrapbook page. The forty-eight star little flag is inscribed, "Dec. 8, 1938 (MELBA - C)

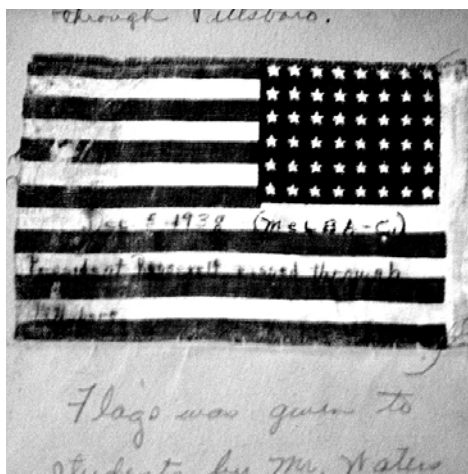


President Roosevelt passed through Pittsboro." The same phrase is at the top of the scrapbook page; at the bottom of the page in pencil is written "Flags were given to students by Mr. Waters (Principal of Pittsboro School)"

The scrapbook page has burn marks around the edges. The item was found in the attic at the Tara Farm home while cleaning up fire damage. It was given to us by Edgar Zimmerman, formerly of Pittsboro area, but now of Bowie, Maryland.

In checking on December 5, 1938 in the *Chatham Record*, it was a cold wet day. President Roosevelt arrived in Sanford via train, then motored towards Chapel Hill to address the *Carolina Political Union* at *Kenan Stadium*. Then-Lieutenant Governor W. P. Horton of Pittsboro had issued an invitation to President Roosevelt to stop for a few minutes in Pittsboro as he passed through. On the day of his visit, "In spite of the dripping skies it was a jolly crowd which waited to see the President. Among it were approximately 2,000 school children of Chatham county who shouted loud and long and waved hundreds of tiny American flags."

The little flag and a copy of the newspaper articles can be seen in the CCHA Office in the Historic Courthouse or cover-



age of the President's trip can be viewed on microfilm dates December 1 and December 8, 1938 in the Chatham County libraries.

SUMMER CHANGES TO FALL President's Message from Barbara Pugh

CCHA had a grand summer!. We added new members, had lots of visitors at the Museum, and members worked, learned, and played together for the good of the organization and its future.

Museum attendance and expansion of our programs is ongoing. Some of our most cherished moments are visitors find they have family ties to the museum materials. For us, that is sort of a "homerun."

First Sunday afternoon event at Pittsboro now includes the Courthouse Museum being open for visitors. We have had

very good attendance. This will continue through November.

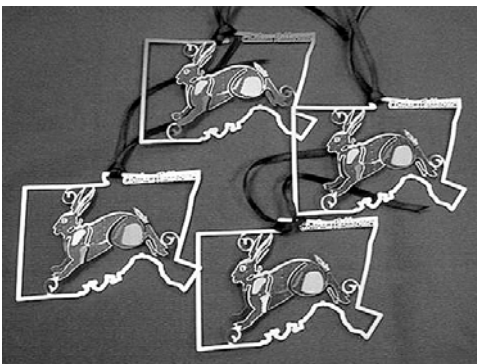
Fourth-grade tours start their second year this fall. Lots of planning and volunteer efforts go into making the trips special for all the students. All fourth graders from public, private, charter, or home schools get the opportunity to come. Who learns the most; the children or the adults?

Volunteers keep us going. Since the organization is all-volunteer, we could not function without greeters, committee mem-

(Continued on page 3)

CCHA 2014 HERITAGE ORNAMENT

The second in the historical series of ornaments offered by CCHA is here, the 2014 Chatham Rabbit. It pairs nicely with the 2013 Courthouse ornament. (The Courthouse ornament is still available, but the supply is limited.)



Funds raised from the sale of the ornaments are directed to the needs of the Museum. Each ornament is \$22 (tax included) and is available currently at the CCHA Office at the *Chatham Historical Museum* in the historic Chatham County Courthouse in the center of Pittsboro. Off-site selling locations and mail order procedures are being determined.



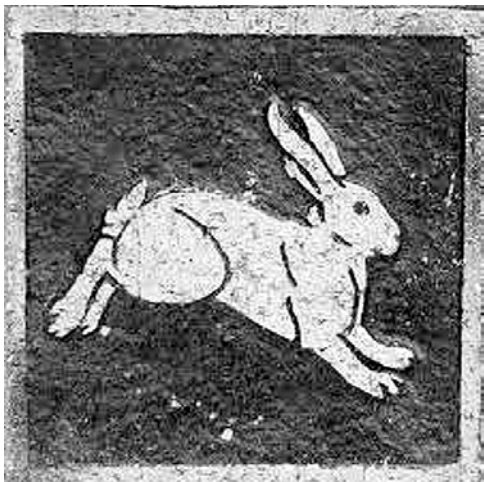
For further information about ordering, watch the website or call the office at 919-542-6222 Wednesday through Friday 11:00am to 4:00pm to talk to a live person.

Bring a Friend to CCHA

RABBITS MADE CHATHAM FAMOUS

By: Carol Hall

One hundred years ago, North Carolinians joked you could recognize someone from Chatham County because their "breath smelled of fried rabbit and corn whiskey."



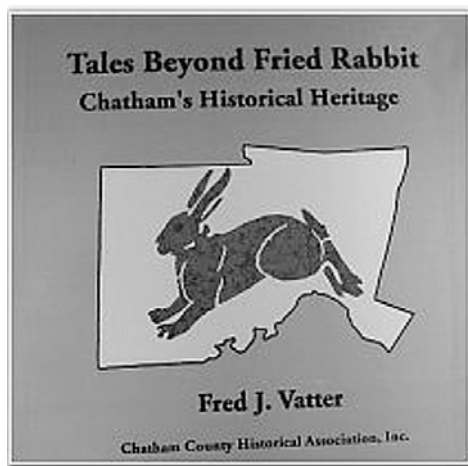
RABBIT PLAQUE IN THE SUPPORTS OF
CAMELBACK BRIDGE

Chatham's rolling hills were overrun with wild rabbits, and everyone agreed they were larger, sweeter, and better tasting than other rabbits. The arrival of the railroad turned the rabbits from a local staple into a national phenomenon. Schoolboys trapped and hunted them, selling them for eight cents each. The rabbits were skinned and shipped by rail up the East Coast, where menus of the finest restau-

rants in New York listed "Chatham Rabbit."

Siler City was the hub of the business, with four rabbit dealers. One was W. J. Durham. His ad in the local newspaper read, "Dear boys: The rabbit season is here again and I am ready to buy. I want your rabbits and will pay you every cent for them that I can afford to pay. I have a nice present for every boy who sells me his rabbits. Bring them along and I will treat you right."

In the 1904-05 season, Siler City shipped out 40,000 rabbits, a major part of the local economy.



Above is the cover of a book by Fred J. Vatter, published by the CCHA. We understand a sequel is in the works.



**Durham's Rabbit Letter To
The Boys:**

Dear Boys:-

The rabbit season is here again and I am ready to buy! I want your rabbits and will pay you every cent for them I can afford to pay. I have a nice present for every boy who sells me his rabbits. Bring them along and I will treat you right.

Yours truly,
W. S. DURHAM

FRIED RABBIT RECIPE

- 1 small rabbit (2 pounds) cut up
- 1/2 cup flour
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 3/4 cup lard
- 6 slices lemon or the peel from half a lemon
- 1 1/2 cups diced onion
- 1/4 lemon juice

Mix flour, salt, pepper.

Add the rabbit parts and roll them until coated. In a large skillet, heat the lard, and just before it starts to smoke, ease the rabbit parts into the skillet.

Fry, uncovered, for four (4) minutes on each side.

Reduce the heat to medium, cover the pan, and simmer for twenty (20) minutes.

Remove the lid, and add the onions, lemon juice, and lemon peel.

Fry the rabbit about four (4) minutes on each side. Test for tenderness.

Adapted from *Cartersville Cooks: A Collection of Antebellum Recipes* compiled by Cartersville Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy

(Continued from page 2)

bers, Board members, clerical workers, collection workers, project leaders, fundraisers, event planners, cemetery stalkers, photographers, writers, researchers, school group volunteers, and a lot of others. We have something for everyone wanting to be part of a dedicated group.

Historic Homes Tour, scheduled for September 13, has been a tremendous effort of the members of the *Museum Committee* which turned into the *Tour Committee* with Susan Little, Tour Coordinator. Be prepared to get a report on it in the next newsletter.

The Collection of our history entrusted to CCHA continues to grow and be in a state of transition from storage to space in the Courthouse. We are proud of all of it.

Oral history interviews are needed. Would you like to learn about doing that?

Publication work continues on the next volume of articles written by Fred Vatter. Co-editors Carol Hall and Judith Peterson will certainly tend to the details and present us with a fine continuation of *Beyond Fried Rabbit*.

Manly Law Office will be getting stabilization work done to the chimney. We do not want the chimney to separate itself from the building and stand alone. The *Questors Group* of Fearington will be fundraising and help with the cost.

Cemetery Survey work moves onward. This summer much photography was done; and with ticks and chiggers decreasing in the cool season, it is ideal time to canvas and record unrecorded gravestones. It is fun, and you can help!

Repurposing is a good thing. CCHA has some mahogany salvage from the Courthouse. Member and volunteer Rouse Wilson, a woodworker, will be making picture frames as a fundraising project for CCHA. More on that later.

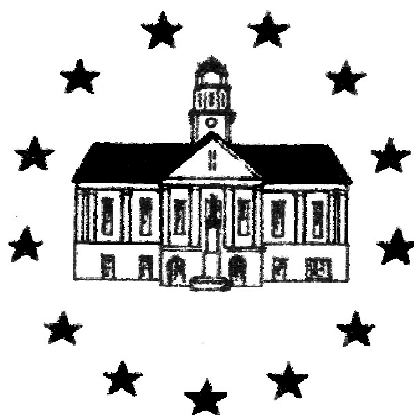
September program with speaker Lee Kent promises to be a good one. I have heard a similar presentation from him and you will like what he says if you have one ounce of genealogy interest in your cells. Come out on September 21 and learn.

November program will be in Siler City with a topic of interest to that area. More on that in the next newsletter.

Visit street fairs, Fall annual events, and VOTE! Keep the good work and support flowing. It is getting results.

Barbara Pugh
CCHA President

**CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION, INC.**



CCHA Newsletter

Published by the Chatham County Historical Association, Inc.

Post Office Box 93, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Email: HISTORY@CHATHAMHISTORY.ORG

Web: [HTTP://CHATHAMHISTORY.ORG/](http://CHATHAMHISTORY.ORG/)

Published as needed. Subscription is included with membership.

Copyright © 2014 - Chatham County Historical Association, Inc.

The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Chatham County Historical Association, Inc. Articles appearing in the CCHA Newsletter may be reprinted in whole or in part under fair use provided proper credit is given to the source. Submissions are always welcomed, along with accompanying photographs. Articles reprinted herein are done under the principals of fair use, with full and proper credit given to the source.

OFFICERS:

President: Barbara Pugh
Vice President: Lee Sullivan
Treasurer: Dan Perry
Secretary: Wincie Jane Johnson Hinnant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Rob Barnes
Joyce J. Cotten
Kenneth Crabtree
Walter "Corkey" Harris
Grimsley Hobbs
Susan Little
Barbara Pugh
Lee Sullivan
Gary Tyson
Andy Wilkie

PAST PRESIDENT:

Fred J. Vatter

ARCHIVIST:

Melissa Delbridge

CEMETERY SURVEY COORDINATOR:

Beverly Wiggins

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

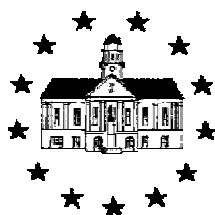
R.T.Crowley

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR:

Nancy Simons

**CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
POST OFFICE BOX 93
PITTSBORO, NC 27312**

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
PITTSBORO, NC
PERMIT NO. 19



CCHA NEWSLETTER