

Chatham County Historical Association

PO Box 93 · Pittsboro, NC 27312 · 919.542.6222 · chathamhistory.org



Volume 29, Issue 4

CCHA Newsletter

Fourth Quarter, 2017



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Thank you for your support during
the 2017 year!

CCHA Board and Volunteers

Fundraising to Raise the Roof

Members of the CCHA Board and Volunteers took on a new task on November 4. With the assistance of the Kiwanis Club, a breakfast brunch and silent auction was held to raise funds to complete the restoration of the Smokehouse. We raised nearly \$3,000 for the smokehouse! Thanks to all who made it possible!

The event took place at the Kiwanis Club building in Pittsboro. The CCHA workforce for the day was challenged by cooking for the masses, but was delighted to share our enthusiasm for the association with our guests who were either eating or browsing and bidding on the silent auction items. Thank you to each person that came by and ate with us and or purchased auction items.

The community support of individuals and businesses who donated items for the auction reflected the generosity of Chathamites. For more information about the smokehouse, visit the website: <http://chathamhistory.org/pdfs/>



Manly Law Office Refreshed

Fort Snug is getting new face protection as well as some needed repairs. It has a new look. Upon removing the old paint, a gray color was discovered underneath. The new face will be a gray exterior with white trim work and the green shutters and door. Pretty classy.

CCHA is proud to be the caretaker of this special little law office. With the help of dedicated donors over the years, it stands there as a representative of a long ago law office of Governor Charles Manly. Long term major donors to the upkeep and restoration of the building have been Harvey Gunter and the Questors Group as well as the Masonic Lodge for use of their land where it sits and their grounds keeping. Learn more about Governor Manly and the law office on our website: <http://www.chathamhistory.org/pdfs/CharlesManlysLawOffice.pdf>



Manly Law Office being changed to its former color.

CCHA Annual Meeting

The date for the CCHA Annual Meeting will be February 25, 2:00pm at the Historical Courthouse. More information will be available in the January Newsletter.

CCHA Officers—2017

President: Grimsley Hobbs
Vice President: Lee Sullivan
Secretary: Cindy Schmidt
Treasurer: Lesley Richardson
Archivist: Richard Szary
Past President: Barbara Pugh

CCHA Director —2017

Joyce Cotten
Kenneth Crabtree
Walter Harris
Thomas "Snuffy" Smith
Charles Thomas
Delphine Womack

Newsletter editors: Barbara Pugh and Joyce Cotten

From the CCHA President

Dear CCHA Members and Friends,

It has been an honor to be the President of the Chatham County Historical Association this year. This experience has been a time of learning and, more than ever, I am completely impressed by the knowledge and dedication of our many volunteers. In this time of change, the CCHA is more important than ever in presenting and preserving the rich history of Chatham County.



Our members are to be applauded for their generous commitment of time and talent to advance the programs and goals of the CCHA. Some projects were new in 2017 but many, like opening the museum every week and hosting excellent courthouse programs for all county 4th graders, have been going on for many years. The programs of the CCHA bring the past to life for residents and visitors alike. In addition, the members of the CCHA enjoy working together and have a good time.

2017 has been a busy and productive year for the Chatham County Historical Association. A partial list of projects and accomplishments include the following:

Preservation

- Re-building and locating the smokehouse from “Kentucky” home site at the new Agriculture Center.
- Fresh paint and repairs of Manly Law Office
- A “Country Brunch” and silent auction was a fundraiser for the smokehouse project.

Education

- Fourth grade school tours for fourth consecutive year
- Local History in the Path of Growth
- Coal Mining in Chatham
- Jones Ferry on the Haw River.
- Museum open for fourth consecutive year

Outreach

- High School Alumni Associations
- County service groups
- Participation in the dedication of the Chatham County Ag and Conference Center
- Provide resources to researchers

Historical Collection

- Collection policy revised and storage space improved
- Opened Gallery 106 for additional display space for images

Communication

- Website was re-vamped and improved
- Newsletters mostly digitally distributed
- Resource for requests for historical information

Thanks to all who have supported the CCHA with gifts of time, money, and talent. I hope that all of you a Happy Christmas and Happy New Year. Grimsley Hobbs, President

Save the Dates - for Educational Series

Chatham County's involvement in the Revolutionary War and associated activities will be the focus of upcoming programs in 2018. Gene Brooks will be our main lecturer with others also participating. Mr. Brooks is a noted historian about Chatham County, North Carolina and the United States. The depth of his historical knowledge and its effects qualifies referring to him as a political analyst as well.

Plans are for three lectures being January 28, February 11, and February 25, 2018. Look for more details in 2018.

CCHA donates history books to Chatham Schools

Fourth and eighth graders will have greater access to local Chatham history.

Notebooks of compiled *Chatham Historical Journals* were given to the media centers



in thirteen elementary schools. Also donated to four high school libraries were copies of the *Architectural Heritage of Chatham County*. Receiving the materials for the Chatham County Schools are Dr. Amanda Hartness, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Keith Medlin, Media Supervisor. Presenting the materials on behalf of CCHA are Grimsley Hobbs and Barbara Pugh.

See What's New on the CCHA website:

For additional information on the following topics, visit our website <http://www.chathamhistory.org/>

- Give the Gift of Chatham History -- Tell your friends!
- Avent Family Collection
- Six Documentary Videos about Siler City
- Grover Johnson Vietnam War Photo Collection
- Smokehouse Project Nears Completion—donor list
- Manly Law Office Repairs Underway
- The Search for Jones Ferry Crossing

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