

Chatham County Historical Association

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



Volume 31, Issue 3

CCHA Newsletter

Fourth Quarter, 2019

FEBRUARY 2020 PROGRAM

Chatham County Language and Life

The CCHA's next program will be **February 23, 2020 at 2 pm at the Historic Courthouse**. We will hear about the Chatham County portion of the Language and Life Project at North Carolina State University. Walt Wolfram and his students have been conducting interviews with Chatham County residents and will share the findings! Mark your calendar now so you won't miss it!

After the Chatham County Language and Life program, CCHA will hold the annual membership meeting. Officers will present their annual reports and new Board members will be introduced. If you'd like to use your experience and expertise and join the Board, please email history@chathamhistory.org and we'll be in contact! ❖❖



The 2019 September Program, *The Spirit of Harriet Tubman* was a huge success!

Diane Faison's reenactment of the life of Harriet Tubman was complete and inspiring. Over 130 guests heard Ms. Faison as Harriet Tubman talk about her

life-the good parts as well as the difficult parts. Her portrayal earned her a sustained standing ovation from the packed crowd. Those in attendance were glad they came! ❖❖



Chatham Historical Museum awarded The Museum Award from The North Carolina Society of Historians, Inc.!

October 12, 2019 the Chatham Historical Museum was awarded The North Carolina Society of Historians, Inc., Museum Award. The citation reads in part: "Ms. Luan Harmeson has expressed her pride and admiration for your Museum by providing our panel of distinguished judges with photographs and data regarding the Museum's work in preserving and perpetuating North Carolina's rich history. We would like to reward your efforts by presenting you with a NCSH MUSEUM AWARD, only one of two being presented this year."



Mr. Lee Sullivan, President of CCHA, far right, was pleased to receive the award at the presentation banquet at Davidson College, Davidson, NC. Lee later presented the award to Luan Harmeson, second from right, and several Museum volunteers, L to R, Pat Stucke, Patty Walters, Margaret Tiano, and Charles Thomas. The award now resides in

the CCHA office at the Historic Courthouse. ❖❖

Congratulations to Ms. Amy King!!

On October 31st, CCHA took Ms. Amy King to lunch to congratulate her on being named the **2019 Gilder Lehman NC History Teacher of the Year and National Finalist!** Ms. King teaches American History and is the Student Government Advisor at Chatham Central High School in Bear Creek. At lunch, CCHA Treasurer Lesley Richardson (right) presented her with a CCHA Certificate of Appreciation, a one-year family membership to CCHA, and



the Chatham history books, *The Architectural Heritage of Chatham County, North Carolina* and *Chatham County 1771-1971*. Ms. King was very grateful for the recognition of her hard work and will enjoy using the books for reference in her classroom. Congratulations Amy King! If you ever wonder about the K-12 Social Studies Curriculum Amy shared a website:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NCSBE/bulletins/271327b>. ❖❖

Preservation of Your Property

The Fall issue of the Preservation NC newsletter has a great article, *"If It's Not Protected...Kiss It Goodbye"* by Myrick Howard the President of Preservation NC. In the article, Mr. Howard laments the purchase of historic homes for development (read demolition). It happens when owners think buildings are protected by National Register designation or local landmark status. According to the article, "National Register designation does not prevent demolition, alteration, mutilation, or otherwise, unless public funds are involved," and local landmark or district status provides only a 365-day demolition delay to make other arrangements. According to Mr. Howard, "the best way to protect a historic property is through private deed restrictions, in the form of protective covenants or preservation easements." He also invites you, "if you own a property that you'd like to (really) protect with a preservation easement", get in touch with Preservation North Carolina.



The entire article can be found in the Preservation NC newsletter in the CCHA office. ❖❖

Griffin-White House Preservation

The CCHA has been working for several years with Chatham Park and Preservation NC to preserve the historic Griffin-White House. The house is in the path of Chatham Park development and would have been razed if a buyer was not found. Fortunately, our friend Rae Bland stepped forward to purchase the house for relocation approximately one mile east off Hanks Chapel Road. Many thanks to Chatham Park, Preservation NC and all those involved! ❖❖



Christmas Gifts at CCHA



Don't forget CCHA as a shopping location for history buffs or anyone interested in Chatham County. The gift shop at the Museum has three different Christmas ornaments: the facade of the Historic Courthouse, the Historic Courthouse cupola, and the infamous Chatham Rabbit! There are several books of Chatham County history to choose from. And a CCHA membership is a good way to celebrate history and give something back to the community. All are available on the website: chathamhistory.org or at the Museum Gift Shop. If you come to the Museum, bring cash or check, credit cards are not accepted. Museum hours are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 11-4 and First Sundays, noon to 4:30. ❖❖

Deep River Mines Exhibit

The current Temporary Exhibit is Deep River Mines and will run through January 2020. Forest Hazel, a CCHA member, has provided his collection of artifacts related to Chatham's coal history. The display provides detail on Chatham coal and context with the surrounding area. Mr. Hazel's artifacts will be returned to him at the end of the display so come see this while you can. If you have a collection you would like to share contact us at history@chathamhistory.org to discuss. ❖❖



Chatham County Architectural Update

CCHA volunteer Kimberly Steiner is doing an update to the architectural heritage of Chatham County. She is surveying by township and proving good information for CCHA, the State Historic Preservation Office and the county GIS. You can see the introduction here and link to the Bynum data page:

<https://chathamhistory.org/pdfs/ArchUp/ChathamCountyArchitecturalUpdate20192020.pdf>.

The information is in addition to the information found in *The Architectural Heritage of Chatham County, North Carolina* book. ❖❖



THANKS!



Rich Szary, who served as Archivist for several years, is stepping down from the Board of Directors. He became CCHA archivist following his retirement as the Director of the Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library and Associate University Librarian for Special Collections in 2016. Rich's experience and expertise has transformed the CCHA Collections. Many thanks to Rich Szary.

Kenneth Crabtree

has been on the CCHA Board for so many years no one can remember! His last project with CCHA was organizing and participating in the preservation and rebuilding of the Smokehouse at the new Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center. Recognizing the historic value of the building, the CCHA relocated the smokehouse from the "Kentucky Plantation" and restored it at the new Chatham County Ag Center. The smokehouse is now a perfect example of living history which will teach those not familiar with smokehouse use. We have many people to thank for the restored smokehouse, but Kenneth Crabtree most of all.



Thanks to **Barbara Pugh**, current Past President of CCHA and Board member for all she has contributed to the CCHA. We hope that she will continue to do so for many years to come. ❖❖



Opportunities to Help the Chatham County Historical Association

➡ **Historical Collections** – The CCHA is looking for a new Archivist! If you're interested email: Collections@chathamhistory.org and we'll work out the details.

➡ We are always looking for **Museum volunteers** who staff the Museum at the Historic Courthouse Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 11-4 and First Sundays from noon to 4:30. Email us at Museum@chathamhistory.org and let's talk.

➡ Collections has a wish list of items they'd like to get into the Collection. Right now they're looking for **Siler City High School yearbooks**. The yearbooks will be digitized and shared on-line. If you have one, two, or more and would like to share them please email us at Collections@chathamhistory.org.

➡ **Church Histories**: Does your Chatham church have a printed history? Is a copy in our archives? Please send us one and it will be! We can also get a digital version to an NC state sponsored on-line repository for everyone's reading pleasure.

➡ **Chatham County 250th Anniversary in 2021** – hard to believe but in 2021 Chatham County will be 250 years old. Help us plan for the celebration. Send us an email with your thoughts or if you'd like to help organize events. ❖❖

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Chatham Historical Museum

9 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro, NC

Museum Open: Wed, Thurs, Fri 11-4 pm year round

www.chathamhistory.org

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