

The Chatham Historical Journal

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Chatham County, North Carolina

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The Chatham Historical Journal, 1988-1997

Organized in 1957, partly in anticipation of the county bicentennial, an active Association produced a county history, which was realized in 1971 under joint editors Wade Hampton Hadley, Jr., Doris Goerch Horton, and Nell Craig Strowd. The Association acquired the Manly Law Office at this time as well, a gift of Henry and Laura Blair, and repaired it extensively at its new location on Masonic Street.

After the bicentennial activities, the Association remained active through 1980, collecting dues and presenting annual programs. In the 1980s the treasury was maintained by John London, but the organization otherwise ceased to function.

In May 1988 at the suggestion of Wade Hadley and Gene Brooks, a small group of persons met to lay plans for reactivating the Chatham County Historical Association. In addition to building membership and fostering interest in local history through public meetings, the new volunteer officers endorsed the idea of a journal and a newsletter. Both were to be published irregularly, the newsletter for Association matters such as minutes and notices of meetings, and the journal when sufficient material accumulated to fill a four page, 8.5x11-inch booklet format. Members of the Association and the public at large were solicited for articles, old photographs, private papers, letters, and similar items, previously unpublished and well documented.

The first issue of the journal was published without a title in September 1988. Names proposed for the publication were "The Chatham County Gleaner," with the word "gleaning" suggesting a gathering, a slow collection, of neglected or overlooked items of county history, and "Chatham Perspective," the "perspective" suggesting distance or point of view. Both were rejected by a vote of the membership at the newly-reorganized Association's first meeting in favor of the straightforward "Chatham Historical Journal."

As evident in the contents listed below, most years only two issues were published, and 1991 was a high point, with four issues. It was in this year that the renovation of the county courthouse was completed, and issues of the journal devoted to the courthouse and to the Manly law office saluted this accomplishment. A quick glance at the index verifies that a steady supply of articles from Wade Hadley, Jr., kept the *Chatham Historical Journal* alive during the early years of publication.

From the first issue, the Association secretary, Jane Pyle, took on major responsibility for editing the publications, with advice and assistance from Cindy Edwards, Marti Dreyer, Gene Brooks, Bob Wiesner, Elizabeth Hains, Mike Tysor, and others.

Back issues of the journal may be obtained by writing the Chatham County Historical Association, P. O. Box 913, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312. Price of single issues is \$1.00; out-of-print issues will be photocopied at fifty cents each.

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Other Association Publications

The Architectural Heritage of Chatham County by Rachel Osborn and Ruth Selden-Sturgill, 1991

Sections on the history and architectural development of Chatham County and of Pittsboro are followed by historic architecture inventories of Pittsboro, Siler City, Goldston, Mt. Vernon Springs and Ore Hill, and each township. The book is lavishly illustrated and thoroughly documented. 8.5" x 11", 391+ pages, index. \$35.00, tax included.

Chatham County, 1771-1971, edited by Wade Hadley, Doris Horton, and Nell Strowd, 1971

Now in its second facsimile reprinting, the book contains chapters on the colonial period, Revolutionary War, county government, politics, Civil War, transportation, town and country life, communities and post offices, churches, education, fraternal order, African-Americans, agriculture, industry, and brief summaries of long-established families. 6" x 9", 528 p., photographs, index. \$20.00 plus tax (\$1.20). Original dust jacket, \$1.00.

The Story of the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company, 1849-1873, by Wade Hadley, 1980

"The story records an heroic attempt to render almost one hundred miles of the upper Cape Fear and lower Deep rivers continuously and reliably navigable for steamboats." 8.5" x 11", 90 p., bibliography. \$4.00, tax included.

Historical Buildings of the Central Business District, Siler City by Wade Hadley, 1996

Brief histories of twenty-eight buildings erected between 1909 and 1929 are illustrated with photographs by the author. 8.5" x 11", map, index. \$10.00, tax included.

Siler City, North Carolina, 1887-1987 by Wade H. Hadley, Jr., reprint of Siler City's centennial history, 8.5"x11", photographs, 67+ p., \$10.00, tax included.

1870 Ramsey Map - Reproduction of Capt. N. A. Ramsey's map of Chatham County, 17" x 22", showing rivers, bridges, mills, churches, roads and railroads, and many family homes. \$2.50; index, \$.50.

1874 Jackson Map - Reproduction of Lucy Worth Jackson's "Map of the Coal Fields of Chatham and a Portion of the Mineral Region of N.C.," 17" x 22", color. \$8.00; framed map, \$69.00.

The **Chatham Historical Journal** is an occasional publication of the Chatham County Historical Association. Its purpose is to disseminate items of historical interest about Chatham County. To be considered for publication, articles or photographs should be previously unpublished, of reasonable length, and include detailed sources of information.

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Correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary, CCHA, Box 913, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.