

Murfreesboro, NC

King's Landing

April 2023

President's Message

Greetings,



I am pleased to reach out to you as Historic Murfreesboro is awash in a profusion of spring color and bloom. This reflects the confidence I feel as MHA enters the fourth month of 2023. As always there is much going on within our organization. We are fortunate in continuing to have Ami Wilson as our office manager. Her dedication and attention to detail are an inspiration to all of us. I could not do my job as president without her help and the assistance I receive from the executive board. Lamar Van Brackle, vice-president, and Lloyd Hill, properties manager, have ensured that our properties have been maintained. Colon Ballance continues to serve at the Jefcoat Museum opening the facility every weekend. Sara Frances Hill functions as our efficient secretary and has spent hours updating the online acquisitions database. Paige Sumner continues to be an outstanding treasurer providing timely advice as needed. All of our site managers are doing outstanding work maintaining our historic structures and seeing that they are welcome for visitors. Recently Dell Aycock took charge of the Dr. Walter Reed House. Bruce and Liz Brown assumed responsibility for the Murfree-Smith Law Office. Milton Vaughan and Hazel Davis took over at the Agriculture and Transportation Building. Donna Robbins replaces Liz Brown on the Board of Directors in a term ending April 30, 2024.

On December 9 and 10 we celebrated one of the most successful Candlelight Christmas Tours in many years. Visitors poured into Murfreesboro as we sold 304 tickets for the two nights. In addition, our sponsors were uncommonly generous to us. They contributed \$15,500 to the effort. Remember that MHA receives no government support. Fundraisers like this are essential in meeting our ongoing operating expenses. This year we opened all of the structures in the Historic District, along with the Roberts-Vaughan House and Dr. Walter Reed House. Finally, we could not have done the Candlelight Tour without the tireless work of approximately eighty volunteers! Thank you for your support!

On March 22 and 23, we resumed School Tours for the first time since COVID. This was one of the goals of my presidency. We welcomed 403 fourth graders and forty-one adults from ten schools in the surrounding area and from as far away as Bertie County and Weldon. Sandra Fowler drew on her years of experience to make this event a resounding success. Once again, our faithful volunteers turned out to serve as docents and guides for our young visitors. I lost count of how many times I said, "Don't touch that!"

Nevertheless, the excitement was palpable as the kids learned about A Day in the Life of Old Murfreesboro. We were all reminded that a core part of the mission of MHA is to teach young people about their heritage here in Hertford County.

During the fall, Al Parker conducted an online raffle in conjunction with the Ghost Guild of North Carolina. The prize was a weekend in Murfreesboro while the Guild conducted a paranormal investigation at the William Rea Store Museum and the Roberts-Vaughan House. The winner was Brittany Hobson Leedy of Hillsboro, NC. She and a friend visited the Boro on April 1. Bardin and Armando Torres provided their Air B&B for their accommodation. Many thanks also to Tavern 125 and Insert Coin for their support of this event. The Ghost Guild raffle netted \$1,723 in ticket sales. Thank you, Al! Meanwhile, Mark Parker continues to provide expert support for our website.

I am pleased to announce the creation of the Bynum Rhodes and Shirley Graham Brown Endowment for the Dr. Walter Reed House. These funds placed with the North Carolina Community Foundation will secure the ongoing maintenance of the building. This is the last major structure in the collection of MHA properties to be endowed. The three remaining structures are the Village Print Shop, the Evans Tin Shop and the Vincent-Deale Blacksmith Shop.

In October, we received an unrestricted gift of \$2,500 from Scott and Courtney Finch Taylor in support of general operating expenses for MHA. This gift was made in memory of Dr. Robert Henry Gary, Courtney's great-grandfather. She reports that her mother and aunt had cherished memories of childhood visits to Murfreesboro. Dr. Gary's home is on North Wynn Street directly behind Melrose.

I want to thank Martha Dalton for the gift of Empire-style draperies she donated from her home, the Dr. Gary House, when she purchased it. With the assistance of Geri Bradshaw, we secured the services of a decorator. He came for one day in the fall and hung these magnificent window treatments in the Roberts-Vaughan House, Wheeler House and Dr. Walter Reed House. If you have not been to the MHA office recently, stop by and take a look in the parlor. The effect is breathtaking! Also, these are the first window treatments ever in the Wheeler House dining room. Meanwhile, we are not resting on our laurels. The third annual Garden Party is scheduled for the Wheeler House on May 13.

I am happy to be your president as we move forward with our various programs and projects.

Jimmy Moore

Update Your Email Address with MHA

by Ami Wilson

MHA is using email as a form of communication more than ever and we have exciting events coming up this year. If you are not receiving our email communications, please update your email address with the office by emailing murfreesborohistorical@gmail.com or call 252-398-5922.

Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Jimmy Moore, President

Lamar Van Brackle, Vice-President

Sara Frances Hill, Secretary

Paige Sumner, Treasurer

Term Ends 2023

Linda Hassell
Debbie Hill
Matthew Howell
Danny Jatko
Holt Rose

Term Ends 2024

Hunter Brown
Donna Robbins
Mike Saner
Lisa Turner
Ken Wolfskill

Term Ends 2022

Will Cowan
Charles Pond
Elicia Revelle
Kelsey Colvin Rose
Vacant

New Board Member



Donna Robbins was voted in as the newest member of the board of directors at the February meeting. Donna will fill the vacancy left by Liz Brown when she assumed the role of site manager for the Murfree-Smith Law Office. Donna's term will expire on April 30, 2024.

Site Managers

Agriculture/Transportation	Milton Vaughan
Evans Tin Shop	Hazel Davis
Hertford Academy	Dennis Pauly
Jefcoat Museum	Mary Etta Flowers
Murfree Smith Law Office	Colon Ballance
William Rea Museum	Bruce & Liz Brown
Dr. Walter Reed House	Steve Fowler
Roberts-Vaughan House	Dell Aycock
Southall Cemetery	Armando & Bardin
Village Print Shop	Torres
Vincent-Deale Blacksmith	Steve Sumner
John Wheeler House	Michelle Surerus
B.B. Winborne Country Store & Law Office	Jeff Llewellyn
	Craig Dennis
	Hal Thomas

Publications Report

You might find your next great read from this list of publications available for purchase at the MHA office or online at www.murfreesboronc.org/shop.

F. ROY JOHNSON

<i>Legends & Myths of North Carolina's Roanoke-Chowan Area</i>	15.00
<i>The Peanut Story</i>	15.00
<i>The Fabled Doctor Jim Jordan</i>	15.00
<i>Vol. 1 – The Tuscaroras Mythology, Medicine, Culture</i>	15.00
<i>Vol. 2 – The Tuscaroras History, Tradition, Culture</i>	15.00
<i>The Algonquians – Vol. 1 & 2 (Combined in 1 Book)</i>	20.00

THOMAS C. PARRAMORE

<i>The Ancient Maritime Village of Murfreesborough 1787-1825</i>	15.00
<i>Murfreesboro, NC & the Rise of Higher Education for Women</i>	15.00
<i>Murfreesboro & the Founding of the American Republic</i>	15.00
<i>Murfreesboro, NC and the Great Intracoastal Waterway</i>	15.00
<i>Murfreesboro, NC: Cradle of Titans</i>	15.00
<i>Murfreesboro, NC and the Roots of Nat Turner Revolt</i>	15.00
<i>The Gatling Aeroplane of 1873: America's First Airplane</i>	7.00
<i>Trail Separation: Murfreesboro, NC and the Civil War</i>	15.00

ALICE ELEY JONES

<i>A Maritime History</i>	20.00
<i>The Builders & Architecture of Historic Murfreesboro</i>	20.00
<i>Woodworking Tools of Historic Murfreesboro</i>	20.00
<i>Selena Stays Home</i>	10.00
<i>Black America Series – Hertford County, NC</i>	25.00

FRANK H. HARRIS, JR.

<i>A History of the Riddick Plantation of Hertford County, NC</i>	20.00
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BRINSON PAUL

<i>Back in Time – A Story of the Brady C. Jefcoat Museum of Americana</i>	25.00
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WARREN MILTEER, JR.

<i>Hertford County, NC Free People of Color and Their Descendants</i>	22.00
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MURFREESBORO HISTORIC COMMISSION

<i>West of the Chowan – The Historic Architecture of Hertford County, NC</i>	45.00
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MURFREESBORO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

<i>Walking Tour Booklet</i>	8.00
<i>Renaissance in Carolina 1971-1976</i>	5.00
<i>Renaissance in Carolina – Vol. 2</i>	15.00

SONJA MCGIBONEY

<i>Jazzy Explores Murfreesboro, North Carolina</i>	15.00
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Properties Update

by Lamar Van Brackle

It recently occurred to me, and perhaps others, that seasoned citizens and old buildings and houses have a lot in common. There are many comparisons but let's focus on only one. As we age, we develop aches and pains that usually result in increased medical expenses. The comparison, related to our historical structures, is demonstrated by the ever-increasing costs of upkeep and maintenance of these wonderful old icons. Whereas we humans can usually call on Medicare to help defray these major expenses, there is no such Federal program for our historical properties. Our "Medicare" program therefore relies on very expensive insurance, individual building endowments and of course you, the members of MHA. (As an aside, the Print Shop, Evans Tin Shop, and the Vincent-Deale Blacksmith Shop currently are not endowed and are available for adoption!)

With that in mind, let's quickly review the latest examples of local historical preservation as managed and directed by our talented and dedicated Property Manager, Lloyd Hill.

Winborne Law Office and Country Store

- The roof has been repainted with two coats of very expensive metal paint. This is the last of the 2019 hailstorm damage to be corrected and the cost was partially covered by insurance.

Dr. Walter Reed House c. 1851

- The exterior siding damage revealed by recent power washing has been repaired and an exterior painting estimate is in hand with painting scheduled for June. Two exterior doors and locks in the Annex have been replaced/repaired.

Evans Tin Shop (Former Princeton Post Office)

- The exterior door has been repaired.

Agriculture and Transportation Building

- The gutters have been repaired and corrected. The area by the large door was graded to prevent water seepage into the building. The exterior sign on the building has been removed and replaced and the building has been power washed.

Exhibits Building *(Storage building attached to the Agricultural and Transportation Building)*

- Rotten flooring on the porch has been replaced.

Ross House c. 1825

- Has been power washed and damaged exterior siding is scheduled for repair.

Print Shop (Former D.C. Barnes Law Office)

- Has been power washed.

Roberts-Vaughan House c. prior 1814

- The rear porch and backyard gazebo have rotten wood which will be replaced shortly.

In addition to looking after our buildings, Lloyd has also assumed yard and grounds maintenance as well as managing our two rental properties – the Jordan Building and Ross House.

Both the Ross House and the Jordan Building have recently been rented to long-term tenants.

The crepe myrtles along Broad Street were pruned and cleared of encroaching vines.

Commercial lawn care on all properties has resumed. As always, a hearty well done to Lloyd, certainly one of our most dedicated, loyal, and hardworking volunteers!

Historic Properties Available for Special Occasions

by Ami Wilson

Looking for an event venue? Four of our historic buildings and grounds are available to rent for your next special occasion: weddings, engagement parties, bridal showers, baby showers, class reunions, etc. The Hertford Academy building and grounds, Roberts-Vaughan House building and grounds, John Wheeler House porch, kitchen, bathroom and grounds each rent for \$250 per day plus a \$125 refundable deposit and the Dr. Walter Reed House Annex rents for \$150 per day plus a \$100 refundable deposit. Contact the MHA office to reserve a date for your next special occasion.



Shane and Kristen Revelle

New Site Managers



Milton Vaughan & Hazel Davis

Ken Christison resigned as site manager of the Agriculture and Transportation Building after many many dedicated years of service to MHA. Milton Vaughan and Hazel Davis have assumed the role of site manager and both couples were on hand for the 2023 School Tours event in March.

Geri Bradshaw resigned as site manager of the John Wheeler House and Craig Dennis has assumed the responsibilities of this historic home and garden. Make plans to visit both on Saturday, May 13th for the 3rd Annual Garden Party.



Craig Dennis

Martha Dalton resigned as site manager of the Dr. Walter Reed House when she returned to Lake Charles, LA earlier this year and Dell Aycock has assumed the responsibilities associated with this historic property.



Dell Aycock

Bruce and Liz Brown are the new site managers for the Murfree-Smith Law Office. This site has been without a manager for several years and we are thrilled that Liz had it open and back on the Candlelight Christmas Tour this year.



Bruce and Liz Brown

Dr. Walter Reed House Endowed

by Jimmy Moore

The Bynum Rhodes and Shirley Graham Brown Endowment has been established for the ongoing maintenance and preservation of the Dr. Walter Reed House. The funds will be administered by the North Carolina Community Foundation. The endowment is named for Bynum and Shirley Brown, prominent philanthropists and civic leaders of the community and stalwart supporters of the Murfreesboro Historical Association.



Born January 7, 1926, Bynum Brown was a life-long resident of Murfreesboro. After serving in World War II, he attended the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. He returned home to Murfreesboro in 1953 and opened the Bynum R. Brown Insurance Agency, which operated until 1991. He was married to Shirley

Graham of Windsor, NC in 1955. Their daughter Grace was born in 1961. In partnership with Jim Johnson, he started the Roanoke Valley Nursing Home in Rich Square in 1961. Over his long life, he pursued a variety of business interests including real estate, health care, farming and appraising.

Bynum Brown was devoted to Chowan University where he was trustee, vice-chairman and five times chairman of the Board of Trustees. The school honored him with an honorary doctorate and named him a trustee emeritus. Chowan dedicated the Bynum Rhodes Brown Aquatic Center in his honor in 2016. He died September 25, 2020.

Shirley Graham Brown was born in 1932 and grew up in Windsor, NC. She attended Meredith College, where she majored in home economics. Shirley met Bynum at a UNC football game. They were married in Windsor on July 30, 1955. In 1982 she received her insurance broker license and her real estate license. She opened her business in Murfreesboro in a historic structure on Main Street. Realizing she needed a national affiliation with a company specializing in rural and small town properties, she elected to go with United Country. Shirley went on to enjoy a highly successful career in real estate. She was renowned in the area for her hospitality, giving legendary parties at Thanksgiving and Christmas for over fifty years. Shirley died on February 9, 2012.



Dr. Walter Reed (1851-1902) lived in Murfreesboro as a young man. The house bearing his name was the parsonage while his father served the local Methodist congregation. After becoming an Army physician, Reed became known for his work combating infectious diseases. He achieved international fame in 1901 when he discovered the cure for Yellow Fever while stationed in Cuba.



Morgan Brett Photography

Parkers Ferry **by Sylvia Liverman** **Reprints For Sale**

by Ami Wilson

Murfreesboro's own Sylvia Liverman received the MHA Choice Award for her oil painting of Parkers Ferry at the MHA Art Show & Sale during the 2022 North Carolina Watermelon Festival in August. This oil painting sold immediately, and Sylvia has given MHA permission to sell canvas reproductions of Parkers Ferry as a fundraiser for MHA. A photograph of the original artwork was taken by Ken Christison and printed on an 11" x 14" canvas. This canvas reproduction would make a nice addition to your collection or a wonderful gift for a friend and can be purchased for \$50 by contacting the MHA office.



Birth Announcement

by Ami Wilson

Congratulations to board of directors' member Will Cowan and his wife Brittany on the birth of their second son, Benjamin Jack Cowan. Jack was born on March 16, 2023, and weighed 8lbs 14oz. Charlie is super excited about being a big brother to Jack!



Harris Finch Foundations **Grant Received**

by Ami Wilson

In October, the Murfreesboro Historical Association received an unrestricted gift of \$2,500 from the Harris Finch Foundation and Courtney and Scott Taylor in support of general operation expenses. This gift was made in honor of the Dr. Roderick Henry Gary family, formerly of Murfreesboro. Dr. Gary was Courtney's great-grandfather. Courtney's mother, Anna Virginia Harris Finch and her sister Cora Louise Harris, both Dr. Gary's granddaughters, cherished memories of visits with Dr. Gary and his family in Murfreesboro. Courtney's aunt, Louise Harris, who passed away in 2013, was a lifetime member of the Murfreesboro Historical Association.

Jefcoat Museum

by Ami Wilson

The Jefcoat Museum was featured in the North Carolina Attractions section of the USA Today Travel Go Escape Florida & Southeast magazine in an article titled "Small-Town Touring - Quirky attractions abound in North Carolina". The article states, "More than 17,000 items are on display at this weekends-only museum that focuses on American history." Make plans to visit the Jefcoat Museum open on Saturdays 11:00am - 4:00pm and Sundays 2:00pm - 5:00pm. Admission is \$10.



Obituary

LuAnn Joyner

by Jimmy Moore



LuAnn Joyner, long-time member of the Historic Murfreesboro Commission, died on April 7. She served seven consecutive terms, the longest of any member in the history of that body. During her time on the commission, she was a strong advocate for the Murfreesboro Historical Association. LuAnn also was the site manager at Historic Hope Plantation near Windsor for several years. Born in Murfreesboro in 1958, she was the daughter of Harry Walton Whitley and Lucille Woodard Whitley. She graduated from Ridgcroft School in 1976 and went on to attend Meredith College in Raleigh. While at Meredith, LuAnn met Wingate Gordon Joyner, Jr. They were married in 1983.

LuAnn was a twenty-three year breast cancer survivor. This motivated her to be a force for fundraising and efforts to find a cure. She was passionate about her work with the Hertford-Bertie Relay for Life. She was also known for her compassion and encouragement for those fighting their own battles with cancer. She was an active member of Ahoskie First Baptist Church and of the Ahoskie Garden Club.

She is survived by her husband Don Joyner along with her children Wingate Gordon Joyner III and Elizabeth Lucille Whitley Joyner Gorzeman. Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 930B Wellness Drive, Greenville, NC 27834.

Collections Update

by Jimmy Moore

MHA has continued to receive significant donations of furnishings and artifacts in recent months. In October, Renee Picot Gilman of Midlothian, VA donated an oil painting of Niagara Falls in memory of her deceased parents Julien C. and Sharon C. Picot. The picture descended in the Picot family in nearby Como. The artist is believed to have been one of the young ladies of the family. Niagara Falls was a popular subject for art students. This particularly well-preserved example has been hung in the dining room of the Dr. Walter Reed House.

In November, Jack Taft of Greenville and Murfreesboro presented an interesting burning fluid table lamp made around 1850. It has been attributed to one of the major lamp manufacturers of the northeastern United States. It consists of a pressed flint glass font atop a gold-plated brass column on a marble base. Burning fluid was a mixture of turpentine and alcohol. Its popularity was short-lived because it was very dangerous and could explode if not handled properly. Mr. Taft also presented the Association with two Old Paris fruit compotes made between 1830 and



1870 and an early Sheffield plate chafing dish. The serving piece has an interesting compartment to hold coals for warming food. The compotes and chafing dish were placed in the Wheeler House, where they served as part of the decorations for Candlelight Christmas. Finally, MHA received an attractive nineteenth-century Staffordshire dessert service from him. This and the lamp are being displayed at the Dr. Walter Reed House.

Recently Dr. and Mrs. Kirk Peterson donated several rustic items to us. These included a handsome blanket chest, either late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, iron kitchen utensils, assorted baskets and a child's highchair. All of these items were placed in the Wheeler House. The Dr. Walter Reed House received five dining room chairs and another highchair. An Empire style music rack went to the parlor of the Roberts-Vaughan House. All of these objects will help us interpret these house museums to our visitors.

The most touching gift was a historic family cradle donated by Megan Pierson Lovins of Hudson, NC. Over one hundred years old, it descended in the Long family of Northampton County. By a curious twist of circumstances, both of her grandparents slept in it. In an interview with the Raleigh News and Observer in 1979, the Rev. Joe Mack Long, originally from Murfreesboro told how he slept in the cradle for the first six years of his life. His mother Carrie Fleetwood Long and his wife's mother Mary Johnson Woodard were close friends in Severn. Mrs. Long loaned her cradle to Mrs. Woodard when her daughter Roy May was born. When his mother took him at age six

to see the new baby, he stretched out beside her and fell asleep. When he awoke, his head was caught between the spindles at the footboard. He quipped "I was caught right then and have been caught ever since. We were destined to be together." Mr. Long was the pastor at the Baptist Church in Harleysville, NC for many years. The couple resided in Murfreesboro from 1967 until their deaths in the 1980's. He and Mrs. Long had three children: Rachel, Betty and Mary. All of them used the cradle along with several grandchildren. Megan stated she was delighted to place this heirloom with MHA so that it would be preserved in the region where it originated. The cradle will be displayed at the Dr. Walter Reed House. MHA has also received a framed cross-stitched piece done by Mrs. Long in the 1930's. This gift was from their daughter Mary F. Long of Greenville.

The Murfreesboro Historical Association greatly appreciates the gift of all of these significant objects to its collection.

Upcoming Events Lafayette Event

by Jimmy Moore



In 1824 and 1825, the Marquis de Lafayette, hero of the American Revolution, made a Farewell Tour of the United States. This extraordinary journey took thirteen months, included all twenty-four states and covered 6,000 miles. On February 25, 1825, Lafayette arrived in Murfreesboro, where he was entertained by the citizens and spent the night. The next day he continued on to Jackson and eventually to Raleigh. Plans are now afoot to celebrate the Bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour. The observance will kick off on August 16, 2024. The organization The American Friends of Lafayette plans to recreate the tour with observances at each stop on the date of the original visit. They are also erecting memorial markers where such do not already exist. Further information is available online at lafayette2024.org. In conjunction with other state observances, Murfreesboro will hold its observance on Tuesday, February 25, 2025. The Murfreesboro Historical Association has been designated as the POC for this event. Plans are in the early stages. There will definitely be a re-enactment of the 1825 welcoming ceremony at the Town Hall. Volunteers are needed to plan and carry out the celebration. If you would like to participate, please contact MHA at 252-398-5922.

Winborne Donations

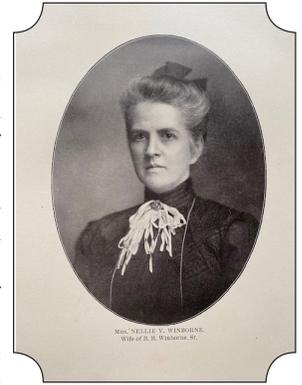
by Jimmy Moore

The Historical Association has received two significant gifts of furniture and other memorabilia from members of the Winborne family—Rosa Winborne West of Southern Pines and Jean Winborne Boyles of Raleigh. The story of the Winbornes in Murfreesboro begins with Judge B.B. Winborne (1854-1919). Born and reared in nearby Maney's Neck, he came to town as a young man to practice law. On December 23, 1879 he married Nellie Vaughan, daughter of Col. Uriah Vaughan of the Roberts-Vaughan House. They would have two sons: Stanley and Benjamin, Jr. In addition to being an attorney, Winborne was a member of the state legislature and judge of the Hertford County Criminal Court. In 1906 he published "The Colonial and State History of Hertford County". This remains the county's history of record. The Winborne law office stood on the corner of Main and Union Streets. Some years ago, it was moved to the Historic District. The Winborne house next door was relocated to Jay Trail and restored by Dick and Edna Hammel, strong supporters of MHA; it is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Zhe.



along with Judge Winborne's desk and typewriter. She also generously included one of Nellie's dresses and some kitchen items. All of these items are on display in the Roberts-Vaughan House. The fainting couch is in the front hall. Judge Winborne's desk and typewriter have been placed temporarily in the parlor. The bedroom furniture was placed in the last available space on the second floor.

Jean Winborne Boyles, a Raleigh attorney, is the daughter of Tommy and Jean Winborne and granddaughter of Stanley and Frances Winborne. She has presented the Historical Association with a petticoat table, marble-topped sideboard, hall chair and some items of clothing. All items are currently in the Dr. Walter Reed House. The sideboard will be used in the interpretation of the dining room. Decisions are still pending on the final placement of the petticoat table and hall chair. The Winbornes, along with their relations the Vaughans and Barneses, constituted one of the most important families of the town in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These items are invaluable in telling the Murfreesboro story. Jean Boyles is making this gift in conjunction with her sons Wayne Winborne Boyles and Benjamin Brodie Boyles in memory of Stanley Winborne. MHA is deeply indebted to Al and Mark Parker for transporting everything from Southern Pines and Raleigh.



Rosa Winborne West of Southern Pines is the youngest of the seven children born to Stanley and Frances Jernigan Winborne. She approached MHA originally with the offer of Nellie Winborne's fainting couch. This proposal grew to include the oak bedstead and dresser Nellie had used at the time of her marriage



Winborne Petticoat Table



Winborne Hall Chair



Winborne Sideboard



Winborne Bedroom



Fainting Lounge

Events Recap

Soup ‘n’ Sandwich Fundraiser

by Ami Wilson

For the first time since February 2020, we were excited to host the popular Soup ‘n’ Sandwich fundraiser on Tuesday, October 25 at the Murfree Center. Tickets were \$10 each and lunch included homemade vegetable beef soup, homemade pimento cheese sandwich, and homemade dessert with water or tea.

We would like to thank Mary Etta Flowers for chairing the Soup ‘n’ Sandwich committee and the countless volunteers who made delicious soup, sandwiches and desserts as well as those who were on hand to help with set up, serving, and clean up.

The fundraiser was a huge success yielding just over \$2,600 for MHA.



Investigating the Paranormal at the Murfreesboro Historical Association

by Al Parker

MHA raised over \$1700 from our Paranormal Investigation Give-Away last fall. The event was suggested to me by Nelson Nauss, the founder of The Ghost Guild, Inc. which is a paranormal research team from the Triangle area. I set up the MHA give-away using an online service that specializes in charity and civic group fundraisers. Through donations from our generous sponsors, we were able to put together a fantastic, fun weekend get-away package in Murfreesboro. Barden and Armando Torres donated a two-night stay at The Little Lodge which is their beautiful Air B&B on Liberty Street. Keith and Geri Bradshaw donated a wonderful dinner for two at The Tavern Game Room, and Mike and Joni Saner donated two memberships and two tasty cocktails from Insert Coin Arcade and Bar.

Our winners were two young professional women from the Triangle Area, Brittany Hobson Leedy and Sarah Trostle. They are both ghost story and folklore aficionados and decided the Rea Museum and the Roberts-Vaughan House would be the venues that they were most interested in checking out.

Brittany and Sarah commented on how friendly everyone was, how much they enjoyed the tour of the Jefcoat Museum hosted by Colon Ballance, and how beautiful the Columns Building and MHA properties are. They also found a few things they could not resist at the gift shops on Main Street. I am so proud that my hometown made such a wonderful impression!

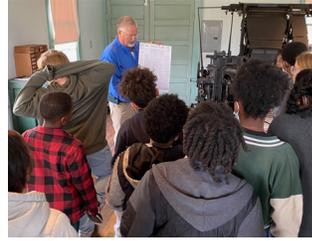
On Saturday night, April 1, the Ghost Guild members, our contest winners, and I took off after dinner and started our investigation at the Rea Museum. At one point two apparitions appeared in the window! It was the apparition of Steve Fowler, our MHA Rea Museum Property Manager, and his dog. They stopped by to make sure that we had everything we needed.

At both locations, The Ghost Guild, Inc. members and our guests used some of the paranormal investigation techniques that you may have seen on television – voice recorders to capture EVPs (electronic voice phenomena), EMF meters to capture any changes in energy fields, digital thermometers to record temperature changes, video cameras, and other devices that light up if touched. While we were doing an EVP session in the Judge Maney Room of the Rea Museum, one of the investigators said, “I am going to count down from five. Touch the device and make the light go off if you want us to leave you alone.” She counted, “Five, four, three, two”, and the light on the device flashed yellow. At that point, we packed up and moved to the Roberts-Vaughan House. Because it was a windy night, we could not tell if some of the bumps in the night were coming from the wind or from any spooks that might be roaming the old house.

Around 3 am, our guests and The Ghost Guild members left me alone for the night in the Roberts-Vaughan House. I spent a very restful night on my cot with a sleeping bag in the front parlor under the watchful gaze of Colonel Uriah Vaughan, or rather his portrait. The next morning as I was leaving Murfreesboro, I realized two things. One, I am probably the first person to spend the night in that house in more than seventy years. Two, my night alone in the house parallels the plot of a Don Knotts movie, “The Ghost and Mr. Chicken”. Regardless, we had a great time, our guests were enchanted by Murfreesboro, and we raised a nice amount of money for MHA! Again, thank you to The Ghost Guild, Inc., our sponsors and Daryl Williams at the Chamber of Commerce for all of your support in making this event such a success.



Events Recap



Historic Murfreesboro School Tours

by Ami Wilson

For the first time since 2019, on March 22 and 23, 2023, MHA hosted over 400 fourth graders and their teachers and chaperones from elementary schools in Hertford, Bertie, Gates, and Northampton Counties. Thanks to 35+ site managers, tour guides and volunteers, these historic district visitors got to experience a day in the life of 18th century Murfreesboro.

Thank you to Sandra Fowler for her willingness to coordinate the School Tours event and thank you to the Historic Murfreesboro Commission for donating \$1,000 to offset the cost of hosting this event, therefore allowing each student to attend free of charge.

The mission of The Murfreesboro Historical Association, Inc. is to preserve and interpret the architectural and cultural heritage of the Town of Murfreesboro, North Carolina. What better way to fulfill this mission than to share what we love with young people.



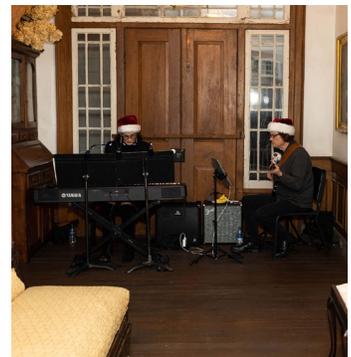
36th Annual Candlelight Christmas Tour

by Ami Wilson



The 36th Annual Candlelight Christmas Tour was held on Friday, December 9th and Saturday, December 10th and included sites in the Historic District as well as the Roberts-Vaughan House and the Dr. Walter Reed House both located on Main Street. Over 300 tickets were sold for this two-day event. Visitors enjoyed candle-lit walkways, live greenery decorations, horse-drawn carriage rides, a blacksmith demonstration, refreshments and live music.

Liz Brown chaired the committee this year and did an exceptional job while also getting the Murfee-Smith Law Office back on the tour. Lloyd Hill was responsible for getting financial commitments from our sponsors, which was a huge success. The fundraiser resulted in \$18,600 raised for MHA. None of this would be possible without the commitment and dedication of our site managers and hundreds of volunteers who make this annual event a reality.



Photography by Morgan Brett Photography

2022 Candlelight Christmas Sponsors



**Co-Sponsor Tour
\$1,000+**
Wayne and Shirley Brown
Hill Realty Company
Charles Pond
Southern Bank
Bob and Lisa Turner

**Business & Individual
\$100 - \$199**
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Alston
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Boyette & Robertson Agency, Inc.
Grace Brown
China Garden
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**Co-Sponsor Site
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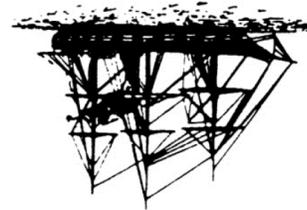
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Johnson McLean & Company CPA's
Hal and Sylvia Liverman
The Parker Agency
Revelle & Lee LLP



Photography by Morgan Brett Photography



Office Hours
Monday–Thursday
9:00am–1:00pm

The Murfreesboro Historical Association, Inc.
116 E. Main Street
Murfreesboro, NC 27855
(252) 398-5922
murfreesborohistorical@gmail.com
www.murfreesboronc.org
Facebook @MurfreesboroHARG

Upcoming Events

3rd Annual Garden Party

Saturday, May 13, 2023 - 4:00 pm–6:00 pm

John Wheeler House Garden

407 E. Broad Street, Murfreesboro

Tickets are \$20 for Adults and

\$10 for Children 12 and under

Entertainment ~ Refreshments ~ Hat Contest

Yard Games ~ Flower Sale

North Carolina Watermelon Festival

MHA Hot Fudge Cake Booth

August 2-5, 2023

Soup ‘n’ Sandwich

Autumn Date To Be Determined

37th Annual Candlelight Christmas Tour

Friday, December 8 & Saturday, December 9, 2023

Lafayette Event

Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of

Lafayette’s visit to Murfreesboro

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

