

King's Landing

Murfreesboro, NC

President's Message





The Murfreesboro Historical Association (MHA) is having and has had an exciting year. A warm thank you to the many docents for the past 56 years who volunteered their time and/or money toward making the preservation of the history of Murfreesboro possible. Looking back

since the establishment of MHA in 1966, from the founding fathers and mothers, to the sponsorships, endowments, memberships, fundraising events, collections, etc., it is only through the volunteers that have made MHA what it is today. From love of history, heritage, genealogy, and community service comes the desire to give back and we thank each one of you.

We are so fortunate to have hired Ami Wilson as our new Office Manager. She came on board during the preparation of the Candlelight Christmas Tour and it has been come on let's go since then. Ami has brought an expertise in finance, computer programs, creativity, and professionalism to our office. What a blessing Ami has been to MHA!!

With over 20 years of volunteer service to MHA, Vice-President Lamar Van Brackle has been the backbone of this organization. He has served as President, Vice-President, Property Manager, and on the Board of Directors. We are so fortunate to have a talented and dedicated volunteer such as he. Lamar is a wealth of knowledge and has been such an asset to MHA. Thank you, Lamar, for all the many hats you wear.

A very special thank you is extended to Lloyd Hill our Property Manager. Property maintenance is an extremely important role in the upkeep of the many historical properties we own. Lloyd serves on the executive committee, sponsorship chairman for the Candlelight Christmas Tour, and serves in many other capacities.

Wayne and Shirley Brown are special supporters of MHA. With many considerable monetary donations, they also have planted trees, and many landscaping projects. Thank you both for giving from your heart and soul.

Several MHA properties are available to rent for private and public events: Hertford Academy building and

grounds; Roberts-Vaughan House-gazebo and grounds; Dr. Walter Reed House Annex and The Brady C. Jefcoat Museum of Americana-auditorium, Home Economics Building and grounds. Please contact Ami Wilson for details.

Brothers Al and Mark Parker have developed and maintained the website, Facebook, and Pay Pal. Al made the Video Tours of both Historic Murfreesboro and Ghost Tours. Mark's computer expertise has benefited MHA by upgrading the office computer. Both have made it possible to purchase publications and tickets for events and online, plus make contributions to MHA and renew memberships.

The bottom floor of the William Rea Museum was renovated in 2021 thanks to the hard work of Armando Torres, Steve Fowler, Site Manager, and others. The project was completed prior to the Candlelight Christmas Tour. The John Wheeler House and the Murfree-Smith Law Office roofs were replaced due to hail damage.

Paige Sumner has done a superb job as Treasurer. She stepped up when we hired our new Office Manager training her in the financial aspect of her position. We couldn't function without her loyal service to MHA.

The Board of Directors appointed Sara Frances Hill as the new Secretary in 2021. She serves on the Executive Committee, the Collections Committee where she is responsible for collections computer program PastPerfect and the Garden Party Committee.

Property landscaping and beautification included 10 crepe myrtle trees running alongside of the Roberts-Vaughan House and Wynn Street donated by Gertrude Revelle, and Wayne and Shirley Brown provided the planting and landscaping of the trees. Also, 10 dogwood trees and 5 purple chaste trees will be planted in the John Wheeler House side yard.

These are exciting times for MHA and I am looking forward to seeing you all at the upcoming events. It has been a very busy and exciting year. I will not be running for President due to family health reasons, but I can promise you that I will continue to be very involved in the Murfreesboro Historical Association. Thank you all for your support.

Debbie Hill

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2022 Upcoming Events

2nd Annual Garden Party

Saturday, April 30, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. John Wheeler House Garden, 407 E. Broad Street \$20 Donation, \$10 Donation for kids 12 & Under – Tickets available at the office, from board/committee members & online.

Show & Tell Silver Display

Saturday, May 21, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Rea Museum, Jack Taft, Speaker

North Carolina Watermelon Festival MHA Hot Fudge Cake Booth

August 3-6, 2022

Soup N' Sandwich

Autumn Date TBD

36th Annual Candlelight Christmas Tour

Friday, December 9 & Saturday, December 10



New Office Manager

Allow me to introduce myself. I am Ami Wilson, and I am the new Murfreesboro Historical Association (MHA) office manager. My husband Andy and I will celebrate 30 years of marriage this month and we have two amazing children. Emily will graduate from the University of Alabama with a master's degree in May and David is a senior at Ridgecroft School and will graduate in June.

Andy and I are both graduates of small private colleges in Kentucky much like Chowan. I have been blessed to be a stay-at-home mom for the past 23 years. While raising our children, I held many seasonal and volunteer positions primarily in areas of finance and I have been an independent demonstrator with Stampin' Up! for over eleven years. Stampin' Up! is a United States based company with a 34-year history of providing quality, color-coordinating paper crafting supplies to customers. I currently have a team of 18 and perform in the top three percent of demonstrators globally.

In my first few months as office manager, I have enjoyed taking a serious look at our membership, identifying areas of savings for the Association, and, most of all, meeting and getting to know many of you. If we have yet to meet, I look forward to the day we do.

Board of Directors - Executive Committee

Debbie Hill, President Lamar Van Brackle, Vice-President Sara Frances Hill, Secretary Paige Sumner, Treasurer

Term Ends 2022
Charles Pond
Elicia Revelle
Kelsey Colvin Rose
John Sullin
Brenda Tinkham

Term Ends 2023
Raymond Benthall
Linda Hassell
Matthew Howell
Danny Jatko
Holt Rose

Term Ends 2024 Hunter Brown Jimmy Moore Mike Saner Lisa Turner Ken Wolfskill

New Board Members Term Ending 2024

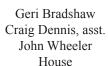
Hunter Brown

Jimmy Moore

Lisa Turner

New Site Managers





B.B. Winborne Country

Store & Law Office



Armando and Bardin Torres Roberts-Vaughan House



Martha Dalton Dr. Walter Reed House

Site Managers

Agriculture/Transportation	Ken Christison
Evans Tin Shop	Dennis Pauly
Hertford Academy	Mary Etta Flowers
Jefcoat Museum	Colon Ballance
John Wheeler House	Geri Bradshaw Craig Dennis, asst.
Roberts-Vaughan House	Armando and Bardin Torres
Southall Cemetery	Steve Sumner
Village Print Shop	Michelle Surerus
Vincent-Deale Blacksmith	Jeff Llewellyn
Dr. Walter Reed House	Martha Dalton
William Rea Museum	Steve Fowler

Hal Thomas



Lamar Van Brackle

Dr. Walter Reed House Endowment

by Lamar Van Brackle

As most of us know, MHA has a number of endowments that are designated to help support the upkeep and maintenance of the majority of our older buildings. All of these endowments, with one exception, are managed by the North Carolina Community Foundation (NCCF) and the yields from these investments are either reinvested or withdrawn as the need arises to help fund repairs to the particular building.

The Dr. Walter Reed House, a relatively recent acquisition, remains unendowed and thus is the focus of this article. Obviously, it needs an endowment—or endowments should we be so fortunate. Several of our existing structures have multiple endowments so this is not a new concept.

As might be expected, the establishment of an endowment is a significant commitment as, for example, NCCF requires a minimum of \$25,000 to establish a new endowment. Fortunately, MHA has made alternative provisions to establish new endowments that require smaller financial investments. These smaller endowments can also be established incrementally.

We respectfully request you consider a commitment to establish an endowment for the Dr. Walter Reed House. An endowment is a perpetual gift that provides long term support and stability which is what this historically significant structure requires. The base amount is never withdrawn, only the earnings from the investment.

If you wish to establish an endowment or add to an existing endowment, please contact the office or any of our officers for assistance or questions. Thank you!

About the Dr. Walter Reed House

A mid-nineteenth century house built by Will B. Wise. Twice occupied by Rev. Lemuel Reed and his family when it served as the Methodist parsonage. Dr. Walter Reed, son of Rev. Reed, was a small boy during the first occupancy and a medical student during the second period. While visiting his parents here, he met and married the girl across the street, Emilie Lawrence. This home is located at 311 West Main Street and is owned by the Murfressboro Historical Association.



Dr. Walter Reed House
Site Manager

New Self-Guided Smartphone Tours of Historic Murfreesboro

by Al Parker

The Murfreesboro Historical Association is using 21st century technology to share the history, legends, and lore of the town. The Built Story app for your smart phone or tablet allows you to take a tour of Murfreesboro any time you wish. The app navigates you from stop to stop as you walk or drive the tour route, or you can take the tours virtually from the comfort of your favorite easy chair.

There are two different tours – one focused on history and the other surrounded by mystery. The first tour, "The Murfreesboro Historical Association Presents a Tour of Murfreesboro," features 22 stops and the history of 33 historic properties. You will learn about the region's early history including the history of Murfreesboro as a port, the founding of Chowan University, the first African-American novelist, and a visit by the Marquis de Lafayette. The second tour, "Ghosts, Legends, and Lore of Historic Murfreesboro," features 19 bone-chilling stories regarding mystery, murder, and spirits that may inhabit the town. The tours feature text, photographs, and recorded narration that share the history of Murfreesboro with you.

To access the tours, simply download the free Built Story application on your phone or tablet from the Apple Store or Google Play Store. Create an account, and then search for our tours using the word "Murfreesboro." Each tour is \$10, and profits go to the Murfreesboro Historical Association. Once you purchase a tour, you may revisit, start or stop it as many times as you like for 30 days. This is a great family activity. The tours were created by Al Parker, a Murfreesboro native.

Show and Tell Silver Display

Saturday, May 21, 2022

Rea Museum 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Speaker - Jack Taft, Collection Committee

Jimmy Moore, Collection Committee Chair Sara Frances Hill, Collection Committee Carol Farnham, Collection Expert

Bring item(s) you might want a collection committee expert to look at and give you a history of the item.

(These items will not be appraised.)

Admission is free.

Donations are appreciated.

Members and the public are invited to attend. There will be entertainment and refreshments.



MURFREESBORO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



EXPERIENCE MURFREESBORO

With these self-guided tours!



A Tour of Historic Murfreesboro

Walking Tour

A very old town dating back to the Meherrin, Chowanoke, and Nottoway tribes who populated the area before the Europeans arrived in the 1600s, Murfreesboro is located on the banks of the Meherrin River. Walk through the centuries in this beautiful historic district. \$10



Ghosts, Legends and Lore of Historic Murfreesboro

Walking Tour

With such a long and varied history it's no wonder that Murfreesboro has developed lore that some would call paranormal. This tour is a collection of the stories that shroud the town of Murfreesboro in mystery.



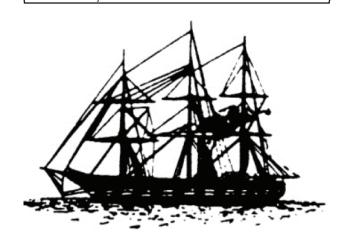
Download the free app now, and start discovering Murfreesboro!

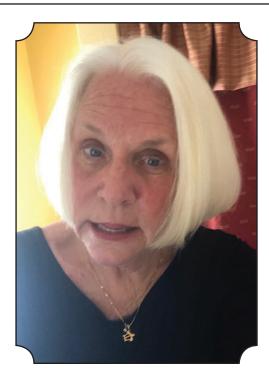
Or, search Built Story

built story



by Velma Eatmon, Tarboro, NC





Catherine Jenkins serves as the Chair of the Membership Committee and works closely with the office manager to ensure association members maintain their membership status.



The Murfreesboro Historical Association, Inc.

Invites You to Join Our

2nd Annual Garden Party Saturday, April 30, 2022 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Donation of \$20.00 Kids 12 & under \$10.00

John Wheeler House Garden, 407 E. Broad Street

Donations will go toward the Dr. Walter Reed House exterior maintenance project.

Entertainment & Refreshments

Dress up with your favorite hat or come as you are.

For more information, contact the MHA office at 252-398-5922 or visit our website at www.murfreesboronc.org



Connecting with MHA Online

by Al Parker

Have you seen the big changes in the last year to our online and social media presence? We have a new website, our Facebook page has been updated, and we have online tours of Murfreesboro that you can take using your smartphone.

My brother Mark Parker and I have great memories of growing up in Murfreesboro and volunteering for MHA. Our parents, Dr. Alton Parker (the town Optometrist) and Jeanne Parker, were volunteers for MHA. Our family line goes back in the area as far as we can trace it, and we are very connected to our roots



Ami Wilson, Al Parker and Mark Parker

in the town even though we no longer live in Murfreesboro. We noticed that the MHA website and Facebook page were outdated and seldom had any updates or activity. We asked if we could help. It is a way for us to volunteer from a distance.

I pitched an idea to take over MHA social media posts on Facebook. Building a regular audience is critical to being able to leverage social media to promote events, sell merchandise, and attract volunteers and visitors. In the last month our posts have reached over 6,000 people (more than twice the population of Murfreesboro), and the number of new page followers is up 300%. We've had individual posts that reached more than 3,000 people.

I've researched Murfreesboro history in books, online resources, and libraries to find historical facts and photographs to share. I appreciate the contributions that Ken Christison, Jill Evans Vargo, Kelli Whitley, Stanford Vann, Caroline Stephenson and others are also making by sharing old newspaper articles, family photographs, and stories that I can post. I've created a series of posts called "On this day in Murfreesboro history..." which give an historical anecdote related to that specific day in our history, picture, and sometimes a link to where you can find more information about Murfreesboro's history. I've also shared old photographs from many sources including the Paul Ronald Jenkins collection owned by MHA. Visit us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/MurfreesboroHAORG, and make sure you click the "LIKE" button. Contact me on the Facebook page if you have interesting photographs and stories to share related to Murfreesboro history.

Mark noticed that the MHA website needed an overhaul and volunteered his time and expertise. He found opportunity to leverage e-commerce to sell books, memberships, and tickets to events. Mark rewrote the website, created an online store, and reduced MHA expenses related to credit card processing by partnering with Ami Wilson, our new MHA Administrator. Visit our website at https://murfreesboronc.org/

I created two tours – a historical tour and a ghosts, legends, and lore tour – that you can take using your smartphone. This allows anyone to take a tour of Murfreesboro at any time and from anywhere. You can walk or drive around town as you take the tours, or you can take them virtually from your favorite easy chair. You no longer have to wait for a day when tours are being offered to learn about our history. Each tour costs \$10 which gives you access to start, stop, or retake the tour as many times as you want for 30 days. Each stop on the tour has text, recorded narration, and photographs. Learn more at our website - https://murfreesboronc.org/tours

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Sara Frances Hill & Jimmy Moore

Collections Committee Update

by Jimmy Moore

The Collections Committee was reconstituted in late 2021 with Jimmy Moore as chair serving with members Sara Frances Hill, Jack Taft and Armando Torres. The MHA president and vice-president are ex officio members. The committee's purpose is to approve donations to and acquisitions by the Historical Association and to maintain an upto-date inventory providing property accountability. Also important is placing items in the appropriate venues to aid in the interpretation of the Murfreesboro story to visitors. The MHA Collections not on display in the exhibition buildings are kept in the Murfree-Smith Law Office.

The first order of business was to clean up the front room of the Law Office and place donated furniture left in that area in time for the Candlelight Tour. Jimmy and Sara Frances started work in the Collections Room in January, where there are shelves of books and artifacts as well as pictures stacked against the wall. They have made fascinating discoveries.

First was a pitch-black silver water pitcher on a shelf. Polishing revealed a Victorian object wih grape decorations. The style identified it as a product of the Meriden Britannia Company in Meriden, CT, made between 1865 and 1867. A piece of paper inside said that the pitcher had been given to MHA by Vaughan Hawkins, a descendant of Col. Uriah Vaughan's daughter Sallie, who married Thomas Williams Hawkins of Littleton. It also asserted that the pitcher had come from Montmorenci, the Williams plantation in Warren County. Montmorenci, one of the great houses of the state, disappeared by 1940. However, its spectacular staircase is preserved in the Winterthur Museum in Delaware. Collections has placed the pitcher on display in the parlor of the Roberts-Vaughan House.

One of the more poignant discoveries was a small box of daguerreotypes marked "Vaughan & Hawkins." Only one was identified. Inside the case a card read, "This is Julia Munro Vaughan. Born 184- July 26. Died 184-. Buried in corner of yard with 2 little brothers. Now beside Dr. Mc (illegible)." This was a child of Col. Uriah Vaughan and his wife Sarah Jenkins. There is no sign of graves at the Roberts-Vaughan House. MHA's Lamar Van Brackle revealed that this little cemetery without markers in the vacant space behind Dr. Gus McLean's former office.

There are a number of portraits in the collections building. We recognized Col. Uriah Vaughan and his wife Sarah. These reproductions were made for the Roberts-Vaughan House when it was restored in 1972. Much later descendants gave the originals now on display in the parlor and MHA office. These copies are



Julia Munro Vaughan

going to the Rea Store Museum to help interpret the story of Murfreesboro. There was also a reproduction of a picture of Judge W.N.H. Smith. Since the original portrait is now hanging in the law office, the Judge will join Col. and Mrs. Vaughan at the Rea Store. Smith was a Confederate senator and a member of the North Carolina State Supreme Court.

Perhaps the greatest beneficiary of these discoveries will be the Dr. Walter Reed House. A large array of medical instruments has been transferred there to enlarge the existing display. At the same time we sent along a bowl and pitcher set and chamber pot, all of white china with a fine gold band. Jimmy recognized framed reproduction photographs of Collin Williams Barnes and his wife Louisa Barnes. They were the parents of Judge David Alexander Barnes, who built the Victorian house on the western side of town. They have been taken to the Roberts-Vaughan House, where they will join the oil portrait of Judge Barnes in the upstairs hall.

The surprises are never ending. Each item given to MHA comes with a deed of gift signed by the donor. Donations are assigned an accession number, then all information entered into a computer program. The next task is to compare all of the documentation with the computer entries to make sure everything is up to date. The Collections Committee is excited and proud to be doing this work for MHA.

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MHA RESOURCE LIBRARY

by Connie Christison

In 1966, a group of Murfreesboro's civic-minded men known as the Men's Coffee Club agreed upon the need for an organization to preserve the town's historical, architectural, and cultural heritage. The idea became a reality, and the Murfreesboro Historical Association (MHA) emerged.

MHA became a vibrant and contributing organization in the community. Over the years, several historic Murfreesboro properties were purchased, renovated, and furnished. As MHA developed, books, documents, genealogies, and many photographs became a valuable part of the collection. Over time, volunteers saw the need to gather and store these records in one location for the sake of organization, research availability, and public interest. In September 2021, the Resource Library became a part of the MHA system with its policies and procedures.

The Resource Library is a work in progress; however, we are ready to assist the members and the public in researching their interests through our available materials and resources.



Linda Hassell and Connie Christison Resource Library Upstairs Roberts-Vaughan House

Are you delving into local genealogies, histories, or details on the renovation of a historic property? Does a student in your family need a regional research project? Here are a few of many ideas:

- Relive Marquis de Lafayette's famous 1825 visit to Murfreesboro.
- Explore James Henry Gatling's reasoning as he met challenges in the building of his 1873 areoplane.
- In 2001 MHA volunteers built a full-size replica of the Gatling aeroplane in a community college carpentry class.
- Follow early shipping and commerce at Murfree's Landing.
- Richard Jordan Gatling patented the Gatling gun in 1862, noted for firing 400 bullets per minute a revolutionary feature in weaponry at the time.
- Read the details on the history and the meticulous renovation of the Roberts-Vaughan House, the John Wheeler House, the Dr. Walter Reed House, and others.
- Dr. Thomas O'Dwyer's 1825 diary gives an eye-opening look at Murfreesboro's daily life and details of his medical practice in colonial times.
- Find locations and histories of early Murfreesboro churches, schools, businesses, and hotels.
- The William Rea brick store (now the Rea Museum) is reportedly the oldest brick commercial building in North Carolina (ca. 1790).

Browse photos and articles reviewing MHA's past newsletters and other published articles to discover the many workshops and activities sponsored by MHA, including the prestigious Lafayette Ball, various tours, and Candlelight Christmas.

Schedule an appointment through the MHA office (1-252-398-5922) for a Resource Library volunteer to assist you in accessing information. Books and materials are available for use within the Resource Library.

We also accept Murfreesboro and Hertford County genealogy queries and will do our best to help research and answer your questions.







2021 Garden Party

The GARDEN PARTY held in May 2021 was so successful we will be having the Second Annual Garden Party on April 30, 2022. This fundraiser made \$2,000 designated toward the purchase of 10 dogwood trees for the John Wheeler House property. Proceeds made on the Second Annual Garden Party will be designated toward the Dr. Walter Reed House exterior maintenance (power washing, replacing of rotten boards, and painting).











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Mike Saner, Matthew Howell and daughter Charlotte Howell and Danny Jatko
2021 Watermelon Festival Hot Fudge Booth

2021 Events Recap

The MHA Hot Fudge Cake sold at the **2021 Watermelon Festival** profited \$2,300. Chairman, Mike Saner, along with Mary Etta Flowers and MHA volunteers helped make this event such a great success.

We had a **Front Porch Yard Sale** in the fall and made almost \$1,000. The Exhibits Building was partially cleaned, and items were given to sell at the yard sale. Many MHA members donated items and we wish to thank each one of you.

The **35th Annual Candlelight Christmas Tour** in December 2021 made Murfreesboro proud. From beautiful lights in trees and buildings in the historic district, decorated in live greenery, horse drawn carriage and tram rides, Christmas tunes heard from various venues, delicious refreshments, vendors at the Murfree Center, to the countless hours of preparation of making it all come together. Lloyd Hill was responsible for the Sponsorships and a total of \$12,175 was donated.







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2021 Candlelight Christmas Sponsors

Co-Sponsor Tour ~ \$1,000

Wayne & Shirley Brown Hill Realty / Lloyd Hill Charles Pond Southern Bank & Trust Bob & Lisa Turner

Co-Sponsor Site ~ \$500

William S. Brown
Diane Dixon
James & Connie Sterling
Steve & Paige Summer
Heidi & Henry Van Brackle

Donor $\sim $200 - 300

Alexander Design Build, Inc.
Bruce & Liz Brown
Percy & Lynette Bunch
Colonial Pharmacy
Matthew & Nancy Edwards
Ray & Judy Felton
Johnson, McLean & Company, CPA
Jones Law Office
Hal & Sylvia Liverman
Parker Agency
Sarah V. Parker
Severn Peanut Company, Inc.

Business & Individual Display ~ \$199 or less

Mike & Susan Alston Boyette & Robertson Agency Grace Brown China Garden Clark Heating & Cooling **Edward Jones Investments** Gay Implement Co., Inc. Debbie Hill Jernigan Oil & Propane - Duck Thru John's Seafood Parker Appraisal, LLC Gertrude Revelle Revelle & Lee, LLP Revelle Realty, LLC Albert L. Roper II Stitch Count Town 'N College Cleaners Dean G. Vincent Dr. Thomas W. Vinson, DDS Walter's Grill

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

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Murfreesboro, MC 27855
(252) 398-5922
www.murfreesboronc.org

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Gertrude Revelle & Lafayette Ball Planning Committee from 1974

A Look at the Past

Planning for the 1975 Lafayette Ball began in September 1974 with Mrs. Guy Revelle Jr. (center, in glasses) as overall chairman. The planning committee has mailed out 1,000 invitational bids to the affair which was held January 25, 1975 in the Murfreesboro gymnasium from 9pm to 1am. Others are (from left) Nancy Copeland, publicity; Spec McLean, souvenir program; Billie Burgwyn, secretary-treasurer; Josie Hill, who with husband is co-chairman of invitations committee; Carol Brown, open house; Walter Lackey, president of the Murfreesboro Historical Association; Helen Burleson, table decorations and refreshments, and her daughter; Barbara Revelle, preball parties; Stanley Dixon, special effects; Mary Brown, co-chairman of table reservations; and Geri Parker co-chairman of the champagne breakfast.

A Look at the Future

Congratulations to our board of directors' members Holt and Kelsey Colvin Rose on the birth of their son. Colvin Holt Rose was born March 21, 2022 and weighed 7lbs 10oz.

