

Murfreesboro, NC

# King's Landing

October 2022

## President's Message



*Greetings,*

This is my first opportunity to address the combined membership of the Murfreesboro Historical Association since my election as president in April. I want to express my thanks to you for entrusting me with this responsibility as we go about the vital business of preserving our town's heritage. My job would be impossible if not for the excellent service and support I receive from our executive committee. This community owes a great debt to Lamar Van Brackle, vice-president and Lloyd Hill, property manager for their endless work on maintaining our historic properties. In recent months, HVAC components at the Wheeler House and Roberts-Vaughan House were replaced under their supervision. Colon Ballance continues his faithful service at the Jeffcoat Museum opening the facility every weekend. Sara Francis Hill serves as our efficient secretary and maintains the collections database. Paige Sumner has been an exemplary treasurer providing guidance in time of economic turbulence. Our general board, including the site managers have done an outstanding job maintaining our historic structures and preparing them for visitors. We are delighted to welcome three new board members: Milton Vaughan, Will Cowan and Liz Brown.

We are extremely fortunate in having Ami Wilson as our office manager. Her hard work and dedication are an inspiration to us all as she keeps us on task. Each week she processes a large amount of correspondence, pays bills and reconciles our bank balances while helping implement all of our events. Also, Ami and membership chairman Catherine Jenkins have worked diligently to update our rolls and bring back folks who had dropped through the cracks during the pandemic. Today the membership account is double what it was last year at this time.

Recently Murfreesboro hosted the North Carolina Watermelon Festival August 3-6. As always, MHA participated with its Hot Fudge Cake Booth. Once again, Mary Etta Flowers donated the cake and fudge sauce. Email appeals from Ami brought in a record amount of soft drinks and water. In addition, a record number of cash donations poured in. I am pleased to report that the profit for this year's booth was over \$4,000! Most important of all were the dozens of volunteers, including visitors from out of town, who showed up to sell our wares in the heat and humidity. The sense of teamwork and good will was palpable. I was proud of how MHA came together to achieve our goals.

This year was also the first time the Association hosted an art show and sale in conjunction with the Watermelon Festival.

The idea was put forward by Gertrude Revelle and local artist Silvia Liverman in May. Elicia Revelle graciously provided the show venue in a space next to her office, and Revelle Realty hosted the opening reception July 31. Nine artists participated and sold ten pieces of art, with MHA receiving a percentage of all sales. The show received many positive comments. We are hoping to enlarge and expand it in the future. Also, the publications committee was co-located with the art show and did a good business selling their books.

We have received three grants to help us in our work. The Americana Corner grant of \$6,000 was awarded and used to offset the cost of the new cedar shake roof on the Rea Museum. Hertford County awarded MHA \$2,000 to paint the Walter Reed House. The Town of Murfreesboro granted us \$2,300 as part of a Facade Grant to businesses on Main Street. These funds will be utilized to construct wooden doors with glass panels to replace the existing storm doors at the entrance to the Roberts-Vaughan House. The work is scheduled for October.

In the midst of these accomplishments, we were saddened by the loss of three giants in our community: Hugh Vincent, Percy Bunch and Brinson Paul. Each of these men left huge legacies to our community including the Historic District Blacksmith Shop, the NC Watermelon Festival and the Jeffcoat Museum. While their legacy endures, they will be sorely missed in Murfreesboro.

Going forward, we face challenges. We need to be constantly recruiting and training docents to show off our properties, not only for the Candlelight Christmas Tour, but other times throughout the year. Finally, we have not hosted school tours for several years because of the pandemic. I am hopeful we can restart this program in the next few months, but we will need many volunteers to make this happen.

As we start the last quarter of the year, I am pleased to announce that Soup and Sandwich will return Tuesday, October 25. Finally, the Candlelight Christmas Tour is set for December 9 and 10. Once again, it will be an all hands on deck effort while bringing holiday joy to our community.

These are exciting times for the Murfreesboro Historical Association. I look forward to working with all of you as we bring these projects to fruition. May God bless each of you as we continue to make our community a wonderful place in which to live and work.

*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 fall. If you are not receiving our email communications, please update your email address with the office by emailing [murfreesborohistorical@gmail.com](mailto: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  
Liz Brown  
Mike Saner  
Lisa Turner  
Ken Wolfskill

#### Term Ends 2022

Will Cowan  
Charles Pond  
Elicia Revelle  
Kelsey Colvin Rose  
Milton Vaughan

### New Board Members



**Liz Brown** was voted in as a member of the board of directors at the May meeting. Liz will fill the vacancy left by Jimmy Moore when he assumed the role of president on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Her term will expire on April 30, 2024.

**Debbie Hill** was voted in as the newest member of the board of directors at the September meeting. Debbie will fill the vacancy created by the passing of Raymond Benthall. Her term will expire on April 30, 2023.



### Site Managers

Ken Christison	Agriculture/Transportation
Dennis Pauly	Evans Tin Shop
Mary Etta Flowers	Hertford Academy
Colon Balance	Jefcoat Museum
Geri Bradshaw	John Wheeler House
Craig Dennis	
Armando and Bardin Torres	Roberts-Vaughan House
Steve Sumner	Southall Cemetery
Michelle Surerus	Village Print Shop
Vacant	Vincent-Deale Blacksmith
Martha Dalton	Dr. Walter Reed House
Steve Fowler	William Rea Museum
Hal Thomas	B.B. Winborne Country Store & Law Office
Vacant	Murfreesboro Smith Law Office

## Publications Report

The publications committee sold over \$200 during the NC Watermelon Festival and a copy of *Renaissance in Carolina 1971-1976* was given to each member of the Class of 1982 who returned to Murfreesboro for his or her high school reunion that week.

You might find your next great read or the perfect Christmas gift for the history lover in your life from this list of publications available for purchase at the MHA office or online at [www.murfreesboronc.org/shop](http://www.murfreesboronc.org/shop).

#### F. ROY JOHNSON

<i>Legends &amp; 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 &amp; 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 &amp; the Rise of Higher Education for Women</i>	15.00
<i>Murfreesboro &amp; 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 &amp; 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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# MHA and Murfreesboro Need Your Help on Online

by Al Parker

MHA needs your help with something you can do right from your home or office. We need your help in making Historic Murfreesboro and our local businesses look as good on online as they look in person. Al Parker, who handles our Facebook and other social media, is working with the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce and Chowan University to increase MHA's and Murfreesboro's presence and visibility on websites like TripAdvisor.com, Google, and Yelp.com. The Internet is critical to get noticed and to get people interested in what you have to offer.

Websites make recommendations based on the number of positive reviews and comments that are located near the location. *We need for you to go online and give our attractions positive comments and reviews.* Be a cheerleader for Murfreesboro and the MHA! We all benefit when our local businesses and the town attractions do well. Make sure you remember what your mama probably told you, "If you don't have something nice to say, then don't say anything."

Al went to TripAdvisor.com, searched for "Murfreesboro, North Carolina", and realized that only the Jefcoat Museum was there, and that it did not have a good description or any photographs.

Instead, the top results for "Things to Do" in Murfreesboro were actually in Courtland, Ahoskie, and Roanoke Rapids. After a bit of work, he now has almost all of our museums and

attractions added to Trip Advisor and is currently working on Google and Yelp entries.

## Here is where we need your help!

**Step 1** - Go online to the following sites - TripAdvisor.com, Yelp.com, and Google.com.

**Step 2** - Search for "Murfreesboro, NC" and in the search results, look under headings like "Things to Do", "Hotels", "Restaurants", etc. Or search for the following places -

- Murfreesboro Historical Association,
- William Rea Museum
- Brady C. Jefcoat Museum,
- Agriculture and Transportation Museum,
- North Carolina Watermelon Festival,
- Evans Tinsmith Shop,
- Vincent-Deale Blacksmith Shop,
- Dr. Walter Reed House, Murfrees Landing,
- John Wheeler House.
- Chowan University

**Step 3** - When you find a Murfreesboro attraction, restaurant, or business, (especially one of the MHA properties), give them a boost by leaving them a positive review on the site. You may need to create an ID on these sites, but most of them will allow you to log in using your Facebook or Google account. We are working on getting more attractions added to these sites, and when we do, please help us by giving them a shout-out!!!

## MHA Website and Facebook Updates

by Al Parker



We are excited to share some updates on our Murfreesboro Historical Association Facebook and webpage at <http://murfreesboronc.org>.

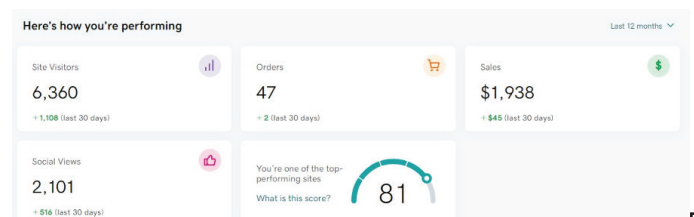
*You can help MHA by hitting the "SHARE" button on Facebook to share our posts with your own friends and family.* When people enjoy our posts, they can "follow" our Facebook page. This helps us build an audience. Our Facebook posts give us the opportunity to share bits of our history, but more importantly they build an audience that we can *advertise* to. When we host events, we now have a built-in audience that we can invite to attend our tours, parties, and fundraisers. You help us build that audience when you click on SHARE and LIKE.

According to Vivid Image, "Sharing is a guaranteed reach outside your network of fans, triggers the Facebook algorithm, and serves as a subtle referral to others.... This is the ideal action as sharing takes your content to a broader audience, helps your visibility and reach...."

For example, one Facebook post about our Candlelight Christmas Tour had almost 6000 views! Between April 1, 2022 and June 30, 2022 our Facebook posts reached 54,435 readers!!! (Unique readers are counted daily.) Considering that the population of Murfreesboro was 2,993 in the 2020 census, our Facebook is performing very well!!!

On Facebook, we've started a new series that features posts about our property managers and volunteers. In the past months Colon Ballance (Jefcoat Museum), Ken Christison (Agriculture and Transportation Museum), Martha Dalton (Dr. Walter Reed House) and Steve Fowler (Rea Museum) have been profiled. We appreciate the hard work of our volunteers, and want everyone to know just how fantastic the properties and their managers are. It is interesting to get the thoughts and opinions of each property manager about the attractions that they manage.

Our website, managed by Mark Parker, is doing very well. In the past 12 months, we've had 47 commerce orders come through (for books, event tickets, etc.) and have sold just shy of \$2000. There have been 6,360 visitors to our website in the last 12 months. Our website has a new section called "Our Properties" where each of our historic properties is shown, and readers can click further to read about each site and see additional photographs.



# Obituaries

by Jimmy Moore



## Carl Witt

E. Carl Witt of Jackson, NC died August 30, 2021. He was a longtime member of the Murfreesboro Historical Association and frequently attended MHA events. Carl delighted in taking visitors around the Roberts-Vaughan House and Southall Cemetery because of his connections with the Barnes and Vaughan families. Carl attended Chowan University and Campbell University. He then taught history at Northeast Academy in Lasker for over forty years. He was a popular instructor known for conveying his passion for history to his students. In addition, he edited "Footprints in Northampton" for the National Bicentennial celebration in 1976. Barnes and Moore portraits from Carl's collection have been placed recently in the upstairs hall at the Roberts-Vaughan House in conjunction with the portrait of Judge David A. Barnes.

On his birthday June 4, former student Frank Womble and his wife Gloria established the Ernest Carl Witt Endowed Education Scholarship Fund at Campbell University. Contributions to the scholarship may be sent to Campbell University, P.O. Box 125, Buies Creek, NC 27506. Please include "Witt Scholarship" on the memo line.

Carl was a devout member of the Episcopal Church of the Saviour in Jackson often serving on the vestry. He also played the organ there for over forty years. The congregation dedicated a memorial tablet in his memory during the regular Sunday service on July 17.

## Cliff Copeland

Cliff Copeland, former chairman of the Historic Murfreesboro Commission, died on April 22, 2022, at Duke University Hospital from complications following heart surgery. A longtime resident of Edenton, Copeland was Chowan County's first county manager from 1979 until his retirement in 2008. He was a supporter of historic preservation at Edenton and Murfreesboro and encouraged tourism in the area. Copeland was born in Suffolk, Virginia and grew up in nearby Woodland. He graduated from Duke University in 1974 with a degree in political science and later earned a master of public administration degree from the University of North Carolina. He served as assistant county manager in Stanly County before coming to work in Chowan County. We are all the beneficiaries of his wise counsel and leadership.

Surviving is his wife of nearly 38 years, Anna Chesson Copeland; two sons Luther Clifton Copeland III of Arlington VA and Bryan T. Hurdle of Kill Devil Hills; a sister Rebecca Copeland Scarboro of Franklin VA; a brother William Grant Copeland of Birmingham, AL.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the Boys & Girls Club of the Albemarle/Edenton Unit, 824 North Oakum Street, Edenton, NC 27932 or to Edenton Baptist Church, 200 S. Granville Street, also in Edenton.



## Hugh C. Vincent, Jr.

Long-time Murfreesboro Historical Association supporter Hugh C. Vincent, Jr. died on July 1. His name endures in the Historic District with the Vincent/Deale Blacksmith Shop Museum. Hugh refitted an existing building to serve as an authentic blacksmith shop. He served as the site manager and delighted demonstrating the craft to visiting groups. He generously donated his great-grandfather's blacksmithing tools to equip the facility. Hugh also studied to learn the appropriate blacksmithing techniques in order to provide an accurate presentation to visitors.

He and his wife Janet were also committed supporters to Chowan University, where he served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees from 2005 to 2007. At other times, he was on the executive committee, Chair of the Athletic Committee and member of the Board of Visitors. They were strong supporters of Chowan athletics with the Vincent Center for soccer and lacrosse named for them. The Vincents also endowed seven scholarships, many of them earmarked for athletics. Hugh and Janet were devoted members of Murfreesboro Baptist Church and involved in numerous community endeavors. Their last project was the construction of a volunteer fire department in Newsoms, Virginia.

Hugh was born April 1, 1934, in Suffolk and grew up in nearby Newsoms. He attended North Carolina State University. After completing his military service, he worked for forty-seven years as a representative for farm equipment companies including Bush Hog, Kewanee and Lillistop. Not only was he highly successful in this business but he also farmed in North Carolina for over fifty years.

Hugh is survived by his wife of sixty-six years Janet Gibbs Vincent along with five children: Dane Vincent, Dean Vincent, Carol Vincent Miller, Christina Vincent and Hugh C. Vincent III and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at Murfreesboro Baptist Church on July 6. Memorial donations may be made to Murfreesboro Historical Association, Murfreesboro Baptist Church and Best Friends Animal Society.

## Percy Bunch

Prominent Murfreesboro philanthropist Percy Bunch died July 20 at the age of ninety. Known as "The Watermelon Man", he was the founder of the North Carolina Watermelon Festival which brings thousands of visitors to Murfreesboro each year. He was born in the Rocky Hock community of Chowan County in 1931. His family moved to Hertford County when he was six. Percy graduated from Murfreesboro High School. Later he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in France. Percy was a successful farmer for decades doing business as Murfreesboro Farms, Inc. He was



*Obituaries continued...*

a prime mover in starting the North Carolina Watermelon Association. Eventually this led to Murfreesboro becoming the location for the annual North Carolina Watermelon Festival.

An ardent sportsman and water enthusiast, Percy led the way in reclaiming the Murfree's Landing site on the Meherrin River. When members of the Winborne family came to town, they asked to visit the site. The local resident accompanying them was horrified when she realized there was nothing to see but weeds and discarded beer bottles. Percy led the way in transforming the area. Today it has been beautifully landscape with paved parking lots and an historical marker outlining the site's role in the origins of Murfreesboro. A pier will be erected shortly. Percy and his wife Lynette were active members of Murfreesboro Baptist Church and supporters of Chowan University.

Percy is survived by his wife of sixty-six years Frances Lynette Mitchell Bunch with three children Frances Bunch Copeland, Julie Bunch Hopf and Michael Wood Bunch along with several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A funeral was held at Murfreesboro Baptist Church on July 23. Memorial donations may be made to Murfreesboro Baptist Church.



**Brinson Paul**

Brinson Paul, a major supporter of MHA and Chowan University, died at his home in Murfreesboro on July 27 at the age of ninety. He was born in the Free Union Community in Beaufort County on December 5, 1931. After graduating from Pantego High School, Brinson attended Chowan College. While at Chowan, he played varsity baseball and basketball, managed the bookstore and soda shop and was yearbook editor. Chowan was also where he met the love of his life Lorene Bennett, a Murfreesboro girl. They were married for sixty-eight years.

Following graduation, he worked for the Virginian Railroad in Norfolk until he was drafted into the U.S. Army. After two years of military service, Brinson embarked upon a very successful career of thirty-seven years with General Motors. During his time with GM, Brinson held fifteen positions in ten different cities around the country. He liked to joke that it was hard to hit a moving target.

Upon his retirement from GM in Detroit in 1992, Brinson brought Lorene back to her hometown for thirty years of community service and involvement. Much of Brinson's time was devoted to the development and operation of the Brady C. Jeffcoat Museum of Americana on High Street. He was deeply involved in the negotiations with Mr. Jeffcoat to obtain the collection for Murfreesboro. Later Brinson led the fundraising campaigns to buy the old Murfreesboro High School and to convert it to house the Jeffcoat Collection, which ranks today as the largest museum collection in North Carolina. Brinson Paul stepped up to establish an endowment to maintain the museum and its contents. The annual Roanoke-Chowan Pork Fest was his idea to provide ongoing financial support for the operation of the Jeffcoat Museum.

Brinson was actively involved with his alma mater Chowan University. He served on the Board of Trustees. At the time of

his death, he was active on the Board of Visitors. He strongly promoted athletics and enrollment at Chowan. Brinson and Lorene were involved in a host of community endeavors and were devoted members of Murfreesboro Baptist Church.

Brinson was predeceased by his wife Lorene by nine months. He is survived by his daughter Barbara Beasley of Bellevue, WA and son David Paul of Allen, TX along with several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A funeral was held at Murfreesboro Baptist Church on August 1. Memorial donations may be made to Lorene and Brinson Paul Scholarship Fund at Chowan University.

**Raymond C. Benthall, Jr.**

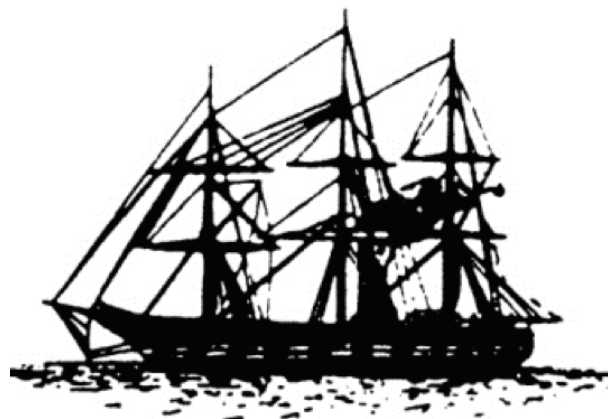
by Lamar Van Brackle

Raymond C. Benthall passed away on Sunday, September 11, 2022, at his home in Murfreesboro. A memorial service was held at the Murfreesboro Baptist Church on Thursday, September 15, 2022.



Raymond was a long-time, loyal, and active member of The Murfreesboro Historical Association. Prolonged service on a number of MHA Board of Directors found him as a consistent member of the Finance Committee sharing his 42 years of professional banking experience as well as serving on numerous audit boards. A willing and versatile volunteer, he assumed the responsibility for the placement and maintenance of the over 300 candles during several of the annual Candlelight Christmas fundraisers. This of course included the lighting, extinguishing and removing and storing the candles and their holders at the conclusion of the two-day event. He also excelled as the "greeter" at the first John Wheeler House Garden Party. Additionally, assisted by his grandson, he provided a venison ham for many years for the hearth cooking at the John Wheeler House during Candlelight.

Raymond was also an avid gardener, and his roses were the envy of the community. An accomplished outdoorsman, he thoroughly enjoyed hunting and fishing with his sons and grandson as well as other friends. Possessing a love of history and a great sense of humor, he was an asset not only to MHA, but the Town of Murfreesboro as well. He will be missed by all.



# Collections Committee Update

by Jimmy Moore



Riddicksville

One of my first duties as president was to acknowledge a significant gift to MHA made in 2021 by Lee and Mary Beth Cowper of Wilmington. This was the Riddick dining table from the family estate Riddicksville on the upper Chowan River near the Virginia line. The mahogany table dates from the 1830s consisting of a center section with two large leaves. It began life as the property of Abram Riddick (1801-1870). Around 1825, Abram acquired the Maney plantation. He moved the eighteenth-century house up the hill from the river and enlarged it to its present size. Although now in a ruinous condition, Riddicksville remains one of the most significant plantation homes of our region. Abram's granddaughter Jennie married G.V. Cowper of Como. From there, it descended in the Cowper family to Lee and Mary Beth. Several years ago, the Cowpers donated the canopy bed and bureau in the upstairs bedroom at Hertford Academy. While downsizing, the Cowpers also gifted MHA a brass fireplace fender and andirons along with a massive handmade blanket chest. The dining table is now on display in the dining room of the Walter Reed House. "A History of the

Riddick Plantation of Hertford County, North Carolina" by Frank Harris is for sale in the MHA office.

In June we received a magnificent Sheraton sofa from John and Elizabeth Tyson. Two Methodist ministers, the Tysons moved to Murfreesboro from Fayetteville after spending five years restoring the Pipkin house on Wynn Street. The Tysons will make their home between Murfreesboro and Raleigh. The sofa comes from the collection of architect Shurley Vann, former president of the Historic Murfreesboro Commission, who owned the property for many years. The Sheraton style was in vogue from 1785 to 1820 and takes its name from English furniture designer Thomas Sheraton. The sofa is a particularly fine example from the period. It has been placed on display in the dining room of the Walter Reed House.

Recently MHA received an unusual piece of early nineteenth-century English silver from Jack Taft, who owns the Overseer's Cottage in the Historic District. The fish knife or server was made between 1815 and 1830. It is an example of close plating, the earliest form of silver plating where sheets of sterling silver were welded to a steel base. Jack is a keen collector of antique silver. He shared his knowledge in a silver show and talk for MHA in May. The fish knife will be displayed in the Wheeler House dining room.



Shurley Vann Sofa



Silver Fish Knife donated by Jack Taft



Riddick Dining Table

## Annual Meeting

by Ami Wilson



The 2022 Annual Meeting took place at noon on Friday, April 22 at the Murfree Center. Attendees were welcomed by President Debbie Hill, an invocation was given by Ken Wolfskill and all enjoyed a catered lunch prepared by MHA board member Hunter Brown.

In addition to various MHA updates, remarks were brought by Hal Thomas, Mayor, and Daryl Williams, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce followed by an update from Al Parker on MHA social media. The keynote speaker, Jimmy Moore, delivered a captivating history of the Wheeler family.



The nominating committee, represented by Linda Hassell, presented a slate of executive committee officers as well as board members with a term expiring April 20, 2025, for the membership vote. Jimmy Moore was elected president and Lamar VanBrackle, Sara Frances Hill and Paige Sumner maintained their positions on the executive committee. Will Cowan and Milton Vaughan were newly elected to the board of directors and Charles Pond, Elicia Revelle and Kelsey Colvin Rose were elected to an additional three-year term.





## Properties Update

by Lamar Van Brackle

So, pretend for a moment that you are an MHA Site Manager, and you discover a leaky roof, or hot air is coming out of your air conditioner in July, or for some reason a light will not come on, or a door is jammed; what are you going to do? No problem, call Lloyd Hill our intrepid and occasionally heroic Property Manager. He will then add your problem to his voluminous list, either at the top or the bottom, depending on the magnitude and complexity of the issue. Lloyd does it all, from overseeing the mowing, landscaping and spraying sidewalk weeds to correcting the material faults to our numerous historic and otherwise buildings. Many items he personally corrects or, if they are beyond his considerable talents, he will contact the necessary craftsmen required to unstop drains, correct roofing issues, re-plaster, major interior or exterior painting and so forth. It is not unusual to have multiple projects underway simultaneously.

To illustrate the scope and complexity of his endeavors some recent examples follow:

### Landscaping

- Ten crepe myrtles and six green giant trees were planted at the Roberts-Vaughan House parking lot.
- Ten dogwoods and five chaste trees planted at the John Wheeler House.

(Assistance in this and many other landscaping projects including inclement weather debris removal is generously and frequently provided by Wayne Brown.)

### John Wheeler House

- Second floor heat pump replaced. New hot water heater and dehumidifier installed in the kitchen. Additionally, the kitchen brick floor was sprayed for mold.

### Murfree-Smith Law Office

- New cedar shake roof installed along with repair and repainting of water damaged interior plaster.

### Dr. Walter Reed House

- Exterior power washing prior to replacement of rotten wood and repainting the exterior.

As you can see, the scope of the repairs vary considerably as does the cost. From a \$40,000 roof or a \$6,000 heat pump to a few pennies to replace a missing screw, it all adds up quickly. In addition to his many other attributes, Lloyd is also a frugal manager and is always striving to ensure necessary repairs are provided precisely and economically.

In conclusion, MHA is exceedingly fortunate to have the dedication and support of Lloyd Hill. As previously indicated, he does much of the unheralded repair work himself to include sidewalk weed spraying throughout The Historic District without complaint or expectations of praise or acknowledgment. His knowledge of household systems along with his willingness to freely give of his time and assets is unequalled and we are all in his debt.

Well Done!

### Rea Museum & the Gatling Gun

Former MHA intern Will Leary and his West Point professor Jeff Jones visited Murfreesboro on May 23, 2022. Professor Jones is pictured here with the Gatling Gun in the Gatling room of the Rea Museum. Other features of this photograph include the portrait of Richard Jordan Gatling over the mantel as well as the woodwork which came from the Gatling plantation home in Maney's Neck near Como, North Carolina.



### Hertford Academy

- Rotten wood on the handicap ramp was replaced. Sanitary drains unstopped following the Watermelon Festival.

### Hertford Academy

- Rotten wood on the handicap ramp was replaced. Sanitary drains unstopped following the Watermelon Festival.

### William Rea Museum

- Heat pump replaced, first floor interior repainted with the assistance of Armando Torres and new cedar shake roof installed.

### Roberts-Vaughan House

- Defective lower level heating and air conditioning unit replaced with a larger capacity unit to accommodate the requirements of the system.



## The Ghost Guild to Visit Historic Murfreesboro

by Al Parker

The Ghost Guild, Inc. and the Murfreesboro Historical Association (MHA) have entered into a partnership to explore the town's history with an opportunity for members of the public to join them. The Ghost Guild will research and investigate MHA properties in the Fall of 2022 – starting with the Brady C. Jefcoat Museum of Americana. The Brady C. Jefcoat Museum of Americana is an enormous collection of more than 17,000 collectables, antiques, and oddities, some of which have a mysterious element to them. The Ghost Guild plans to examine reports of odd happenings at the museum to see what explanations they can find for any items that may have spirit energy attached to them or for any unexplained occurrences. Brady C. Jefcoat spent 35 years collecting the items on display before he passed away in 2013. He gifted his collection to the Murfreesboro Historical Association with assurances that the entire collection would be displayed. The Brady C. Jefcoat Museum of Americana is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays.

The Murfreesboro Historical Association is holding an online give-away, and a winner and their guest will join The Ghost Guild in a paranormal investigation of one of the association's historic properties in early 2023. Entry for the give-away is online only, and a winner will be randomly selected on December 16, 2022. The winner will also receive a 2-night stay at the beautiful bed and breakfast on Liberty Street owned by Bardin and Armando Torres, and dinner for two. All proceeds from the event go to the Murfreesboro Historical Association. To enter, go to the MHA website at <http://murfreesboronc.org> and look under "Events".

The Murfreesboro Historical Association also has a self-guided smart phone based "Ghost, Legends, and Lore" tour that you can take at any time. Proceeds from these tours also go towards the MHA's historic preservation programs.

Part of the mission of The Ghost Guild, a registered non-profit paranormal research organization made from Triangle area volunteers who share a love for history, science, and the unexplained, is to work closely with notable and historically significant organizations. Murfreesboro native Al Parker, who created the MHA "Ghosts, Legends, and Lore Tour," introduced MHA to The Ghost Guild after joining them for an investigation

aboard the Battleship North Carolina in Wilmington.

Parker says, "The Ghost Guild is not a typical ghost-hunting organization. Their research always starts with a respect for the location and its history." According to The Ghost Guild, "We seek locations of cultural and historical significance. Our investigations are science-based, meaning that we observe and gather data, form hypotheses, and imagine possible solutions to explain those observations before starting our experiments. It is especially important to us that we educate our audiences on the history we've uncovered, the science we've utilized, and the data we've documented. We don't label things as 'evidence' when we share our data; we always ask our audience to make their own conclusions. For us, it is simply a mystery that remains to be solved." The Ghost Guild's goal is to "assist in the preservation efforts of historical sites by bringing their history to life and opening the doors to a larger and untapped audience."

Follow both MHA and the Ghost Guild on their Facebook pages to keep up with the activities of both organizations.

Links for online articles -

Murfreesboro Historical Association - <https://murfreesboronc.org/>

The Ghost Guild - <http://theghostguild.com/>

Paranormal Investigation Give-Away Sponsored by Murfreesboro Historical Association - <https://tinyurl.com/joinaninvestigation>

"Ghosts, Legends, and Lore of Murfreesboro" Self Guided Smart Phone Tour - <https://murfreesboronc.org/tours>

Brady C. Jefcoat Museum - <https://www.thejefcoatmuseum.org/>



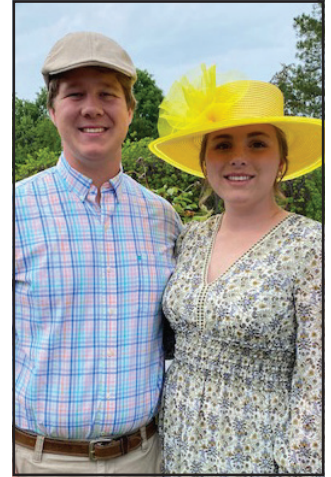




## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Garden Party

by Rachel Peterson

The second Annual MHA Garden Party was held on April 30th at the beautiful Wheeler House Gardens. The event was filled with music, food, herb sales and a hat contest. The winners of the hat contest were Sarah Alt (Women's Division), Armando Torres (Men's Division), Lydia and Sophia Fritz (Kids Division). This fundraising event made \$2,700 designated for exterior maintenance of the Dr. Walter Reed House. The 3rd Annual Garden Party is scheduled for May 20, 2023, and we hope to see you there!



# Art Show & Sale

by Jimmy Moore



Murfreesboro was ground zero for the arts in the Roanoke-Chowan region on Sunday, July 31 with the opening reception for the first ever Art Show & Sale in conjunction with the North Carolina Watermelon Festival. The event is an initiative of the Murfreesboro Historical Association with twenty percent of sales going to MHA's efforts.

Mrs. Gertrude Revelle and Mrs. Silvia Liverman of Murfreesboro came up with the idea for the show in May. Elicia Revelle of Revelle Realty provided the venue at 133 E. Main Street, Murfreesboro, and sponsored the opening reception. Our sixty guests viewed the artwork over glasses of wine and punch.

MHA president, Jimmy Moore, announced the prize winners.

Best in show was *Carried Away* by Laura Frye of Washington, NC. The abstract design impressed the judges with its unique design and brilliant colors.

Best use of color went to Claudia Morris of Ahoskie, NC for her watercolor *Fresh* depicting fruits and vegetables.

Murfreesboro's own Silvia Liverman received the MHA Choice Award for her oil painting of *Parker's Ferry*, which sold immediately.

MHA also used the show to sell a wide selection of publications on the town's history.

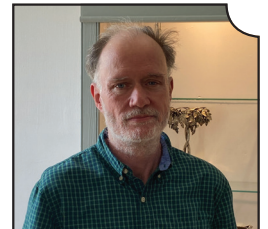
MHA volunteers maintained art gallery hours during the NC Watermelon Festival which featured 94 works of art submitted by nine artists from around the region. We were pleased with the number of participants as well as the variety of art displayed, and \$590 was raised for MHA.



## Show & Tell Silver Display

by Jack Taft

In May, an MHA dedicated member exhibited a small collection of plated English and American silver. Jack Taft talked about the different manufacturing and stylistic techniques that occurred in the manufacture of plated silver from 1790 - 1870. The desire for plated silver rose with the emergence of the new middle class during this period. Many individuals associated with MHA collect different types of artifacts and are willing to share their knowledge with the public, particularly young people.





## Hot Fudge Cake Booth

by Lamar Van Brackle

MHA's world renowned Hot Fudge Cake Booth results during this year's Watermelon Festival were exceptional, perhaps even record setting. During the four-day event, profits exceeded \$4,100.00. This year's venue included canned soft drinks, bottled water and of course the featured brownies topped with ice cream, cool whip and the signature hot fudge sauce.

Superior support was provided by a multitude of members in the form of donations of all the supplies used in the booth including the soft drinks, bottled water, brownies, fudge sauce and ice cream. Additionally, generous financial gifts earmarked for the booth were also received which are included in the final profit figure. Furthermore, during the opening periods during the four days, 43 volunteers took turns manning the booth, enjoying the typical early August weather as they assembled and sold fudge cakes and cold drinks.

The key to this success was, as always, the willingness of the donors and volunteers to step up and support the event. A hearty well done and thank you to all concerned. While space prevents a full listing of all those directly involved there are a few key players who were extremely involved. They were Mary Etta Flowers, Paige Sumner, Ami Wilson and Lloyd Hill who provided and delivered ice faithfully.

Again, thanks to all involved.



The Murfreesboro Historical Association, Inc.  
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Murfreesboro, NC 27855  
(252) 398-5922  
murfreesborohistorical@gmail.com  
www.murfreesboronc.org  
Facebook @MurfreesboroHHAORG  
Office Hours  
Monday–Thursday  
9:00am–1:00pm

## Upcoming Events

### **Soup ‘n’ Sandwich**

**Tuesday, October 25, 2022 - 11:00 am–2:00 pm**  
**Murfree Center – 201 E Broad Street, Murfreesboro**  
**Tickets are \$10**

For the first time since February 2020, we are beyond excited to host the popular Soup ‘n’ Sandwich fundraiser. Lunch will include homemade vegetable beef soup, homemade pimento cheese sandwich, and homemade dessert with water or tea.

Tickets are \$10 each and will be available after September 15th at the MHA office, from any board member or online at [www.murfreesboronc.org](http://www.murfreesboronc.org) by clicking the events tab. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

Mary Etta Flowers is the committee chair and is seeking volunteers to make food and to volunteer the day of the event.

Contact Mary Etta at 252-396-1324 if you are willing to volunteer.



### **36<sup>th</sup> Annual Candlelight Christmas Tour** **Friday, December 9 & Saturday, December 10, 2022** **5:00pm – 8:00pm**

The annual Candlelight Christmas Tour is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and it is just around the corner. What a fantastic way to spread the joy of the Christmas season throughout the community of Murfreesboro.

Back on the tour this year are the Roberts-Vaughan House at 116 E. Main Street and the Dr. Walter Reed House at 311 West Main Street.

#### **Tickets for Access to Historic Buildings and Horse Drawn Carriage Rides \$20 ~ Children Under 12 are Free**

For more information, to volunteer as a docent or musician and to order tickets, contact the MHA office at 252-398-5922, [murfreesborohistorical@gmail.com](mailto:murfreesborohistorical@gmail.com) or order tickets online at [murfreesboronc.org/events](http://murfreesboronc.org/events).

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### **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Garden Party** **Saturday, May 20, 2023**