

Murfreesboro, NC

# King's Landing

November 2024

## President's Message

Greetings,



We are enjoying wonderful fall weather in Murfreesboro as I write to you in our second newsletter of this year. MHA has been busy in recent months.

Once again, we manned the Hot Fudge Cake Booth at the North Carolina Watermelon Festival July 31 through August 3. Hundreds poured into town for food, entertainment, and the Watermelon Queen's Parade. Many thanks for the dedicated volunteers who manned our booth. We made \$2,714 from this event. Unfortunately, attendance was down compared to previous years. I attribute this to the extremely hot and humid weather we experienced while the festival was underway.

After a quiet September, things took off in October. On Saturday, October 5 we had our first Ghost Tour in several years. This event was the creation of Al Parker, who planned the tour, wrote scripts and recruited volunteers. Attendees left Southall Cemetery to walk from site to site in the Historic District. Enthusiastic guides related local lore and legends at each stop. The weather was perfect, and we had great attendance. A good time was had by all while MHA raised \$2,600!

Our next event Soup N' Sandwich took place at the Murfree Center on Monday, October 14. Once again, Mary Etta Flowers and a team of volunteers prepared soup, sandwiches, and desserts. This ever-popular event saw a large crowd of in-house diners. We also did a brisk business in takeaway. Soup n Sandwich was another resounding success, raising \$2,120. Our thanks go out to everyone who contributed to this undertaking. Soup N' Sandwich has become a beloved community event with all of Murfreesboro turning out for it.

We are now preparing for Candlelight Christmas Tour on December 13 and 14. Ten properties will be open this year. Site managers and docents are working hard to prepare our buildings to extend a hospitable welcome to our guests. Al Parker is putting out excellent publicity while Danny Figler coordinates preparations in the office. Tickets may

be ordered online from the MHA website [murfreesboronc.org](http://murfreesboronc.org) or in the office at the Roberts-Vaughan Village Center.

Meanwhile planning is underway for the Lafayette Visit Bicentennial on Wednesday, February 26, 2025. We are collaborating with the American Friends of Lafayette who are coordinating all of the observances throughout the South. They are providing an interpreter to portray Lafayette at all venues. Murfreesboro was Lafayette's first stop in North Carolina in 1825 on his tour to all twenty-four states. Accordingly, we will duplicate his welcome ceremony at the Town Hall at five o'clock. The council chamber has been chosen as the venue because it contains replicas of the flags of all the regiments Lafayette commanded during the American Revolution. These banners were given to Murfreesboro by the French government during the National Bicentennial celebration in 1976. Following the welcome ceremony, we will move across the street to Hertford Academy for a reception. The Historic Murfree Commission has given us a grant of \$3,000 to support the refreshments. We are most grateful for this generous support. The celebration will continue the next day with lunch in Jackson and evening festivities in Halifax. Festivities will follow Lafayette's progress across the state climaxing with grand events in Raleigh and in Fayetteville, first city in America named for the general. Visit [Lafayette200.org](http://Lafayette200.org) for updates on events throughout the country. We will be releasing further details locally as we get closer to February 26.

Please note that MHA is selling the Lafayette Bicentennial Tour 2024-2025 Calendar. This beautifully illustrated document shows where Lafayette was in the United States on each day of his travels. The calendars are available online and in our office for twenty dollars.

These are exciting times to be in Murfreesboro. I invite everyone to join with us as we celebrate the holidays with Candlelight Christmas and observe the historic Lafayette Visit Bicentennial.

*Jimmy Moore*

## Board of Directors

### Executive Committee

Jimmy Moore, President

Armando Torres, Vice-President

Sara Frances Hill, Secretary

Paige Sumner, Treasurer

<u>Term Ends 2025</u>	<u>Term Ends 2026</u>	<u>Term Ends 2027</u>
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Will Cowan	Charlie Cole	Hunter Brown
Charles Pond	Mary Hellmann	Donna Robbins
Elicia Revelle	Debbie Hill	Mike Saner
Kelsey Rose	Stanley J. Parker, Jr.	Lisa Turner
Michael Zhe	Holt Rose	Ken Wolfskill

## Site Managers

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

## 38th Annual Candlelight Christmas Tour

Friday, December 13 & Saturday, December 14, 2024

5:00pm – 8:00pm



Tickets are \$25 through December 8th.

Children under 12 do not need a ticket.

Tickets are \$30 beginning Dec. 9th and during the tour.

Enjoy candle-lit walkways, live greenery decorations, a blacksmith demonstration, refreshments, and live music.



## Publications Report

You might find your next great read or perfect gift from this list of publications available for purchase at the MHA office or online at <https://murfreesboronc.org/shop/ols/categories/books>

### 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>Trial Separation: Murfreesboro, NC and the Civil War</i>	15.00
<i>The Riddle of the First American Novel</i>	15.00
<i>William Hill Brown: The Power of Sympathy</i>	18.00

### 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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### 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

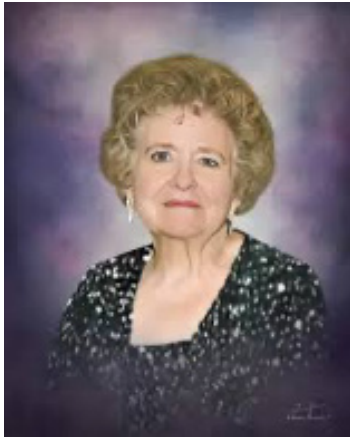
### SONJA MCGIBONEY

<i>Jazzy Explores Murfreesboro, North Carolina</i>	15.00
<i>Jazzy Coloring Book</i>	FREE

### HENRY KING BURGWYN, V

<i>Henry K. Burgwyn and Life on the Roanoke River 1840 - 1860</i>	20.00
<i>Albemarle Memories: A Pictorial History of the mid-1800's - 1939</i>	40.00
<i>Hecimovich, Gregg: The Life and Times of Hannah Crafts</i>	25.00
<i>Crafts, Hannah: A Bondswoman's Narrative</i>	18.00
<i>Lafayette Bicentennial Tour 2024 - 2025 Calendar</i>	20.00
<i>Roberts-Vaughan House Christmas Ornament</i>	5.00
<i>Christmas Cards</i>	1.00

### A Special Tribute to one of our Members



Janet Gibbs Vincent died Friday, October 18, 2024. She was born in Hendersonville, NC in 1936 to Norma and George Gibbs. At the age of three, she moved with her family to Murfreesboro. Except for a short time in Bowling Green, VA and Rich Square, NC she spent her entire life here in Murfreesboro. Janet had a lifelong love for this town and her many friends here. After graduating from Murfreesboro High School in 1954, she attended UNC-G. In 1955 Janet married Hugh C. Vincent, Jr. from Southampton County, VA. They raised a large family and were actively involved in the community. They spent their summers at Lake Lure in the North Carolina mountains. Janet's great love of music led her to spend many years performing with her friends in the Potecasi String Band. There she played the dulcimer and the banjo. Janet was a devout member of Murfreesboro Baptist Church. Janet and Hugh were strong

supporters of Chowan University and the Murfreesboro Historical Association. Their enduring legacy with MHA was the unique Vincent Deal Blacksmith Shop in the Historic District. Janet was also involved with the restoration of the John Wheeler House and served as a valued member of the Publications Committee. She is survived by five children: Dane Vincent, Dean Vincent, Carol Vincent Miller, Cristina Vincent, and Hugh C. Vincent III along with numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held at Murfreesboro Baptist Church on October 26. Donations in her memory may be made to the Murfreesboro Baptist Church, Murfreesboro Historical Association (Vincent Deal Blacksmith Shop) or Best Friends Animal Society in Kanah, UT.

### Historic Properties Available for Special Occasions

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 (there is a great gazebo in back of the house)
  - John Wheeler House (porch, kitchen, bathroom, and grounds)

Each of these property rents for \$250 per day plus a \$125 refundable deposit.

- 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, 252-398-5922



*Roberts-Vaughan House*



*John Wheeler House*



*Hertford Academy*

**Contact the MHA office to reserve a date for your next special occasion, 252-398-5922**



## Historical Events

### Edenton Tea Party | 250th Anniversary October 25 & 26, 2024

Join us in Edenton on October 25 & 26 to commemorate "A Society of Patriotic Ladies," where on **October 25, 1774**, an event of international importance occurred in Edenton, North Carolina, when 51 women penned their names to a resolution against the British Empire, protesting British goods, making history by forming one of the earliest-known political actions written and organized by women in America, Edenton Tea Party.

#### Key Weekend Events:

- Living history program with costumed interpreters demonstrating how North Carolinians protested British taxation efforts.
- “Edenton Tea Party 250th Anniversary” exhibit at the 1782 Penelope Barker House Welcome Center, showcasing the 51 Signers of the Edenton Resolves.
- “Sugar and Spice” exhibit at Chowan Arts Council celebrating the work of female artists.
- 250 Years of Edenton-Chowan Women Making History Parade on South Broad Street featuring heritage bagpipers and fife & drum corps.
- Launch of the children’s book “Within Our Power: The Story of the Edenton Ladies’ Tea Party.”
- Celebratory concert at Colonial Waterfront Park featuring the Grammy-nominated, all-female bluegrass band, Sister Sadie.

#### What is America 250 NC?

The national 250th anniversary will be commemorated in 2026; however, given North Carolina’s rich history in our nation’s founding, we will be using the next two years to recognize our state’s significance in the events leading up to 1776. We will reflect upon our country’s founding ideals and explore the pivotal events, places, and voices that have and continue to shape our state and country from the Halifax Resolves to the civil rights movement and beyond.

## Hayes Plantation at Edenton: The Murfreesboro Connection

by Jimmy Moore

Hayes Plantation just outside Edenton on the Albemarle Sound is one of the great houses of North Carolina. The current structure was completed in 1817. Designed by William Nichols, an English architect living in Raleigh, it was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1973. It is considered “one of the South’s most accomplished examples of a five-part Palladian villa.” The 194-acre estate was owned by the Wood family for over 150 years. In 2022 the state of North Carolina purchased the property with the goal of preserving it under the care of the Elizabeth Vann Moore Foundation in Edenton. Extensive work is now underway to stabilize the twenty-eight structures on the site and to reclaim the gardens and grounds. The goal is to have Hayes open to the public on a full-time basis.

Hayes was built by James Cathcart Johnston, the son of Gov. Samuel Johnston. He was one of the richest men in the state running large agricultural operations in multiple counties. A confirmed bachelor, he was at the center of a large extended family. When he died in 1865, the community was shocked to learn that Johnston had disinherited his relatives and left the property to his friend Edward Wood of nearby Greenfield plantation. The Johnston heirs immediately challenged the will in court claiming that Johnston was insane and had been off and on for many years. The trial in Superior Court attracted the best legal minds in the state. It came to be known as “The Clash of Titans.” There were three former governors, four former United States congressmen, two former Confederate congressmen, one former United States cabinet officer and one former superior court judge. After hearing days of explosive testimony, the jury upheld the will. The Johnston heirs then appealed to the state supreme court, where the will was upheld again. The Wood family would own Hayes for the next 150 years.

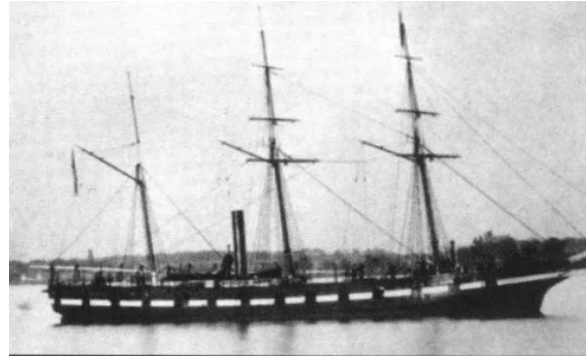
Among the men defending the will was William Nathan Harrell Smith of Murfreesboro. A Yale graduate, Smith was a successful attorney who had also served in the Confederate Congress. In 1871 he was counsel for North Carolina Governor William Woods Holden in his impeachment trial. He argued impressively for the governor’s acquittal but was not successful. Smith was appointed the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court in 1878. He served in this capacity until his death in 1881. Today his portrait overlooks his recreated office in the Murfree-Smith Law Office on Williams Street. This serves as a potent reminder of how a Murfreesboro man engaged in two of the most important trials in nineteenth-century North Carolina.



## The Southern Star

by Jimmy Moore

The logo of the Murfreesboro Historical Association is the black outline of a rigged sailing ship with a smoking funnel. This design represents the Southern Star, the largest ship ever built in North Carolina up to that time. The ship had been the brainchild of Jesse Andrew Jackson, a local entrepreneur who had the vision of building a packet that would operate directly between Murfreesboro and New York. The launch date was set for April 16, 1857. The roads into town were crowded with spectators who expected to see the event of decades. By eleven, some four thousand spectators were assembled on the banks of the Meherrin. There were speeches. Then came the moment of the christening. Mrs. Jethro Darden of Buckhorn wrote in her diary: "A goodly number of gentlemen went on board, and as it moved off everyone seemed to be huzzaining in a gay and lively tone, and just as the bottle was raised to be broken to sprinkle and name the boat, the underworks gave way..." With a resounding thud, the ship crashed into the Meherrin's muddy bank. From that moment forward, the Southern Star was a cursed ship. The minor damage from the mishap was brushed off at the time. However, the Southern Star would bring ruin to her promoters and disaster to the region that had created her.



Jesse Andrew Jackson came to Hertford County shortly before 1850 from Manasquan, New Jersey. Murfreesboro attorney John Wheeler Moore described him as an "adventurous and visionary man." He opened a store at Parker's Landing on the Meherrin. Then he established a sawmill across the river from town. Next, he added a brick kiln. This coincided with the establishment of two female academies in Murfreesboro – one for Baptists and another for Methodists. Jackson's fortune was made. By 1855 he had sufficient capital to implement his next big idea. He would build a steamboat.

In October, the wealthiest farmers and merchants of the region gathered in Murfreesboro to draft a charter for the proposed company. They pointed out that the commerce of northeastern North Carolina had been hampered for decades by shoals in Ocracoke Inlet, the sole outlet to the sea. Repeated appeals to the state and local governments had brought no relief. The introduction of steam-propelled boats had given the group new hope. It was felt that a "boat of this class can be successfully and profitably maintained between this place and New York." Under the terms of the charter, the Murfreesboro group pledged \$25,000 and the creation of a joint stock company to build the shallow-draft steamship. The principal backers were a who's who of local entrepreneurs: Murfreesboro merchants John W. Southall, John G. Wilson, B.A. Capehart, riverboat captain Hiram Freeman, Winton shipowner John Andrew Anderson, legislators Kenneth Rayner and John Parker Jordan, and Thomas and Henry Gatling, older brothers of the inventor Richard Jordan Gatling. A substantial portion of the stock was subscribed by the New York commission house of Glines and Graham, who were assumed to take over the operations of the northern end of the steam line.

Events moved quickly. Meeting at Winton on February 14, 1856, the group chose a board of directors and named themselves "The North Carolina and New York Steamboat Company. Jesse Jackson was authorized to proceed immediately to procure labor and materials for the project along with plans and specifications for the ship. Within a month, Jackson had also acquired specifications for two engines from Betts, Pusey and Company in Wilmington, Delaware. Shipwright John A. Kirkman of New York was retained to supervise the construction of the vessel. The board moved to apply for an act of incorporation from the North Carolina General Assembly in March.

Then disaster struck. Without warning, the firm of Glines and Graham went into bankruptcy in the fall of 1856. They had paid only \$400 on their stock subscription of \$8,000. This was a serious blow to the financial viability of the project. President John G. Wilson withdrew his involvement, and other investors became restless. Somehow Jesse Jackson soldiered on. Dr. S.J. Wheeler wrote to the Petersburg paper "Daily Express" that Jackson had "waded through difficulties in the accomplishment of this work, which would have deterred many a man of less nerve." However, the steamboat company collapsed in a matter of weeks. John Wheeler Moore wrote that "the North Carolina stockholders, fearful that their investments would end in loss, stopped their advancements. Poor Jesse Jackson got into a sea of troubles. Suits and demands thickened upon him." The ship was auctioned off in the sheriff's sale in October.

The Southern Star was purchased by John W. Southall of Murfreesboro and Captain Thomas W. Badger of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Badger had recently been lauded nationally for his gallant behavior in the sinking of the steamship Central America. Late in the year Southall and Badger towed the ship to Wilmington, Delaware for the installation of the engines. In the summer of 1858, the Southern Star made her maiden voyage to Norfolk for caulking, painting, and finishing touches. The new ship had a displacement of 545 tons. She measured 169 feet in length, 28 feet in beam with a draft of 12 feet, 6 inches. With steam engines and screw propeller, the Southern Star was capable of speeds of up to eight knots.

In late 1858 the USS Water Witch was fired upon by shore batteries while surveying a channel on the coast of Paraguay. The ship's helmsman was killed. When diplomatic negotiations failed to obtain redress for the American government, President James Buchanan moved to send a naval squadron to obtain satisfaction. In September 1858 it was announced that the Southern Star had been chartered by the government for this expedition. She was sent quickly to the Norfolk Navy Yard and converted to a cruiser by the installation of twelve- and thirty-two pounder cannons. The ship performed so well in her initial sailing that the government purchased her for \$49,000 and renamed her the "Crusader". This was the beginning of the most illustrious phase of her career.

On June 11, 1859, a brilliant young naval officer Lieutenant John Newland Maffitt assumed command of the Crusader. Towards the end of the year, the Crusader was sent to the West Indies to patrol for vessels employed in the illegal slave trade. It was a thankless task requiring Maffitt to pursue and investigate almost every ship sailing in the heavily traveled West Indies route. A reporter from the New York "Herald" was aboard in May 1860 when everything changed. After investigating sixty ships and finding nothing, the Crusader spied a flagless square-rigger on May 23. Boarding the ship, Maffitt realized immediately he was on a slaver from the terrible stench. The French master refused to cooperate or provide any documents. An examination of the holds revealed 450 captives who had been seized from the African coast. Maffitt took his prize in tow and streamed into Key West. There the excited correspondent telegraphed a dramatic account of the capture to New York. The country was electrified.

Southern states were starting to secede in January 1861 when Maffitt took his ship into Mobile, Alabama to cash a check for prize money "drawn, as was customary, on the Collector of the Port and payable to the officers and crew of the warship". Mobile was in a frenzy of secession fever. Reports circulated that the ship was "armed to the teeth" and had been sent to subdue the port. Payment of the prize check was refused. When told that parties were planning to seize the Crusader by force, Maffitt replied coolly that he would "shoot the first man that touches her." Tensions calmed sufficiently to allow the cashing of the prize check. Maffitt was happy to weigh anchor and leave Mobile behind him. In February, he sailed the ship to New York. Expecting North Carolina's secession, Maffitt turned over the ship at the Greenpoint Navy Yard and resigned his commission. Over the next four years, he would distinguish himself as one of the most brilliant blockade-runners in the Confederate Navy.

Lieutenant T. Augustus Craven, an old friend of Maffitt's, assumed command of the Crusader. He was soon ordered to the North Carolina coast to enforce the blockade. It was a cruel irony that the ship that Jesse Jackson had intended to enhance the region's economy was the tool for choking its ability to survive or contribute to the Southern cause. The original promoters languished in Murfreesboro. John Wheeler Moore wrote that "Jesse Jackson never recovered from this blow received in his great disappointment." His eighteen-year-old son Edgar was killed at Chancellorsville in May 1863. Moore wrote "Fresh disasters came upon him and after years of unavailing struggle, at the end of the ...war he left our country to seek his bread in other quarters. He had not taken fortune at its flood and in disaster alas found too few to do him reverence."

The Crusader ended her service June 12, 1865, at Washington Navy Yard when she was taken out of commission. Six weeks later, she was sold at auction to T.P. Morgan for \$9,000. Renamed Kalorama, she returned to commercial service. Around 1875, the ship was sold to a firm on the West Coast and successfully undertook the voyage around Cape Horn. The Kalorama burned and sank near San Francisco on March 30, 1877.

After the passing of 164 years, the town of Murfreesboro is taking steps to memorialize this remarkable story. As part of a beautification project, two murals have been approved to be placed adjacent to Main Street. One will feature Southern Star. The vision behind its creation endures today as citizens of the Boro still search for a comfortable way to travel to New York.

## Upcoming Events



### Business After Hours Social Event

MHA is planning to host another Business After Hours Event the week after the Candlelight Christmas Tour, in conjunction with the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce Members. It will be held on Tuesday, December 17th , 5:00 pm at the Roberts-Vaughn House. Refreshments will be served. Please contact Katherine Zhe for details.

# Properties Report

by Lamar Van Brackle



Greetings! Since the last somewhat garbled Properties Report quite a bit has been accomplished along with a number of yet to be completed issues. As I'm sure you realize, maintenance and upkeep of these 'old' buildings is a never-ending and expensive task.

So, without further ado-here we go...

## Completed Projects

### Dr. Walter Reed House c. 1850

- The chimney taps are in place and the front door lock has been repaired

### Murfree-Smith Law Office c. 1800

- The front porch has been painted and the rotted wood around the back window in the office has been repaired.

### Roberts-Vaughan House c. 1805

- The gazebo roof has been replaced and the wooden fence repaired. Both the fence and the gazebo along with the outbuildings and portions of the main house have been power washed.
- Repairs to the plumbing in the Women's restroom have also been completed.

### John Wheeler House c. 1810

- Front and back porches were pressure-washed.
- Front porch flooring repaired and painted.

### Murfree-Smith Law Office c. 1800

- The back porch has been painted and the broken glass in the kitchen window (debris damage from lawn mower) has been repaired.

- Kitchen windows have been reglazed and painted.
- A water leak on the house side of the water meter has been repaired which required removal of the sidewalk bricks. The damage to the sidewalk has been repaired.
- The mule barn gate (behind the Wheeler House) has been repaired.
- The picket fence has been power washed.

### Hertford Academy c. 1811

- There are 2 dishwashers in the kitchen, and both required serious attention. One was repaired but the second one was considered beyond economical repair and subsequently replaced.
- Unfortunately, the hot water tank also required replacement, and this was accomplished.

### Vincent-Deale Blacksmith Shop c. 1840

- Repairs to the front door have been completed.
- The electrical outlet for the forge has been relocated as requested.

## Planned Projects

### Dr. Walter Reed House c. 1850

- Moisture damaged plaster around one of the fireplaces will be repaired soon.

### Roberts-Vaughan House c. 1805

- Rotted wood siding on the main house will be repaired shortly along with touch-up painting as required.

### John Wheeler House c. 1810

- Install plexiglass covers on the lower windows to hopefully avoid future problems with flying debris from lawn mowers.

### B.B. Winborne Country Store & Law Office c. 1872

- The gas pack in the store will be repaired prior to Candlelight Christmas Tour.
- Winborne Law Office – (located above the store) has a major issue in that the enclosure housing the large safe in the rear of the office is pulling away from the building. The cause of this problem is the large supports (posts) holding the structure up are rotting at the base and thus compressing and settling. These supports will need to be replaced/repared, and this will require the enclosure to be 'jacked up' while repairs are in progress. The purpose of this enclosure, which projects away from the building, is to allow the supports to be pulled away in the event of fire. Thus, allowing the safe to fall free from the building. Clever!?

## Maintenance of Properties

Lawn care is drawing to a close until spring which is also the case with the constant spraying of our sidewalks. Unfortunately, we have had a fire ant infestation problem in the District which is being treated but this will require a dedicated effort to get rid of these pests.

Trees and shrubs in the District also need pruning before the spring growing season kicks in with a vengeance.

We also have reports of roof leakage at the Agricultural and Transportation Museum, and the Jordan Building. Due to the recent dry weather, we have not realized these problems, however investigation continues.

## Honorable Mentions

Lloyd Hill, our Property Czar, continues to provide exceptional attention to detail thus keeping all in order and looking crisp and pristine. While not for publication (as yet) his superior services has resulted in nomination for the award of the prestigious Royal Order of the Small Leaf Brown Turkey Fig Bush. Obviously, a well-deserved and overdue recognition of outstanding performance.

This conclude this edition of the Properties Report. Go Team!



## Events Recap

### Campapalooza

by Sara F. Hill



Murfreesboro Historical association hosted campers from **Campapalooza at Chowan University** on June 25, 2024. The camp provides high school students a college experience. They stay on campus in the dorms and eat in the cafeteria. Student ages range from 15-18. Some campers are attending for the second time. They are from Virginia and North Carolina (Greensboro to Wilmington, Richmond to the Tidewater Area).

Each camper attends one camp they pre-select before arriving. Their choices were The Life Skills Bridge to College, Design and Creativity, Movie Making, Robotics and Engineering, Building The Future, Chowan University Catalyst, History Through Pop Culture and Music Beatbox Factory.

Organizers of the camp were Dr. Mitch Henke and Dr. Ella Benson.

Faculty was Jason Fowler, Dr. Sam Miller, Mark Berk, Dr. Mary Hellmann, Dr. Chris Cook, Kyle Johnson, Dr. Torrence Gill, Dr. Lia Walker, and Jordan Cartrette Stancil.

Campers enjoyed touring the Winborne Country Store, Vincent-Deale Blacksmith Shop, Camp Gardens and John Wheeler House. Docents were at each location to interpret the sites and Objects for the students. They were interested and asked appropriate questions. Water bottles were given out at John Wheeler House. It was a very hot day, but the campers handled the heat very well.

### Hot Fudge Cake Booth

by Danny Figler



The MHA Hot Fudge Cake Booth fundraiser at the 2024 North Carolina Watermelon Festival was a success again this year raising over \$2,400 for the association.

Support was provided by many members in the form of donations of supplies used in the booth including soft drinks, bottled water, brownies, fudge sauce and whipped cream. Additionally, financial donations earmarked for the booth were received.

During the four-day event, 30+ volunteers worked shifts in the booth braving the August heat, humidity and even rain as they assembled and sold hot fudge cakes and cold drinks.

The key to the success of any fundraiser is the donors and volunteers. While space prevents a full list of all those directly involved, a special thank you to Mary Etta Flowers for making all the cakes, Mike Saner for graciously volunteering to work all fifteen shifts in the booth and to Lloyd Hill for ensuring we had coolers full of fresh ice every day. We could not do it without our faithful volunteers.

## Events Recap

### Ghost Tour 2024

by Danny Figler



The Ghost Tour took place on October 5th, Saturday night. We had an impressive turnout for this ghoulish event. We sold 114 tickets, and our net profit was \$2,120! This was a fun event, and the feedback was very positive. A lot of people enjoyed the haunted stories and folklore about our historic properties. We want to personally thank Al Parker for his decorations and for chairing this event. We also thank the volunteers who made this event memorable, especially those that had ghost stories to tell. Some of our members were dressed in costume which made the tour more memorable.



### Candlelight Christmas Tour

The 38th Annual Candlelight Christmas Tour will be held on Friday, December 13th and Saturday, December 14th and will include sites in the Historic District as well as the Roberts-Vaughan House located on Main Street.

Enjoy candle-lit walkways, live greenery decorations, a blacksmith demonstration, refreshments, and live music. We hope to provide you with an insight into the celebration of Christmas featuring simple customs and natural beauty.

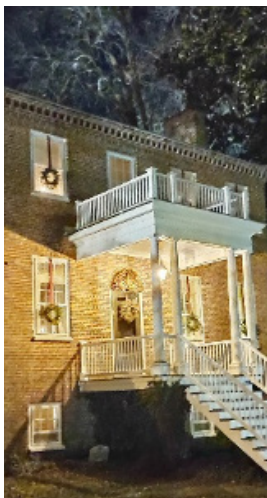
Tickets for access to the historic buildings are \$25 when purchased before December 9th. Children under 12 do not need a ticket. We recommend purchasing tickets in advance and all ticket sales are final. Beginning Monday,

December 9th and during the tour tickets are \$30 and are available at the MHA office in the Roberts-Vaughan House or online at [www.murfreesboronc.org](http://www.murfreesboronc.org).

If you are interested in volunteering to be on the committee or during the event, contact the MHA office or Committee Chair Liz Brown. The committee will continue to meet immediately following the Board meetings. Next meeting will be on Thursday, November 21st

If you or your business are interested in sponsoring the event, contact the MHA office or our Sponsors Coordinator Lloyd Hill.

We hope you will plan to join us in Murfreesboro in December for a sentimental return to the 1800's.



## Events Recap

### Tidewater Blacksmith Guild

by Mitch Henke

Mitch Henke hosted fellow Tidewater Blacksmith Guild (TBG) members Drew Hagemann, Dennis Bear Short, and Joe Gentile at the Murfreesboro Historic Association (MHA) Vincent-Deale Blacksmith Shop on 9/21/24. Drawing on their experience working in Williamsburg, the group spent time reviewing the contents and layout of the shop, firing up the forge, and naturally forging a few items to get a feel for the workflow in the shop.

The visitors were quite impressed with the variety of tools and displays and offered suggestions for adding to the authenticity of the blacksmith shop. In addition to their time, TBG donated a bag of coal and 2 process boards that show the progression of a forged spoon and a forged finial.

MHA will sponsor the Tidewater Blacksmith Guild meeting on Sunday November 17th" from 1:00 PM-4:00 PM. Food will be served and there will be a demonstration. Future collaborations may include demonstrators for the Candlelight Christmas Tour and a beginner blacksmith workshop. <https://www.tidewaterblacksmiths.org/>

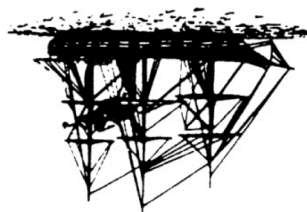


## Soup N' Sandwich

by Danny Figler

This year the event was held on October 14, 2024 at the Murfree Center. We pre-sold 231 tickets and sold 45 tickets at the door. This was a good turnout for perfect weather. Everyone raved about the vegetable beef soup and the decadent desserts. Our net profit was about \$2,600. Again, a special thank you to the many volunteers who gave their time and helped to make this event a success. Special thanks to Mary Etta Flowers, whose time and effort was exemplary.





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

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

116 E. Main Street  
The Murfreesboro Historical Association, Inc.

## Upcoming Events

### **38th Annual Candlelight Christmas Tour**

Friday, December 13 & Saturday, December 14, 2024  
5:00pm – 8:00pm

Tickets are \$25 through December 8th.  
Children under 12 do not need a ticket.

Tickets are \$30 beginning December 9th and during the tour.

Enjoy candle-lit walkways, live greenery decorations,  
a blacksmith demonstration, refreshments, and live music.

#### **Business After-Hours**

Tuesday, December 17th  
Roberts-Vaughan Village, 5:00pm – 6:30pm



**Celebration of the 200th Anniversary  
General Lafayette’s visit to Murfreesboro**  
Wednesday, February 26, 2025

#### **Annual Meeting MHA**

Friday, April 25th

#### **5th Annual Garden Party**

Saturday, May 3rd

#### **Murfreesboro NC Pork Festival 2025**

Saturday, May 31

#### **North Carolina Watermelon Festival**

##### **Hot Fudge Cake Booth**

July 30th – August 2nd

#### **Soup N’ Sandwich**

To be Announced

### **39th Annual Candlelight Christmas Tour**

December 12th and 13th

## **Schedule of Events for 2025**