



Murfreesboro, NC

King's Landing

October 2023

President's Message

Greetings,



While Murfreesboro might appear to unknowing eyes to be dozing through the dog days of summer, exciting activities have been going on in recent months. I continue to rely heavily upon our office manager Ami Wilson. In July, the MHA executive board voted unanimously to name change her job title to executive director in recognition of all that she has accomplished in her time with us. As always, the executive board has been invaluable with their support. Armando Torres is our vice-president since elections were held in April. Lamar Van Brackle and Lloyd Hill have ensured that our fourteen properties have been maintained in good repair. Colon Ballance provides faithful service in opening the Jefcoat Museum every weekend. Sara Frances Hill serves as our secretary. Paige Sumner continues to be an outstanding treasurer. I could not carry out my duties without the support of our executive board.

On May 13, our third annual Garden Party took place in the Wheeler House garden. A good time was had by sixty attendees. The event raised \$2,000, which will be used for much-needed window treatments at the Dr. Walter Reed House. Special thanks to Rachel Peterson and Mary Etta Flowers for co-chairing the party. Also, thanks to all of the volunteers who pitched in to make it a success. We are looking forward to the next one in 2024.

In March we resumed School Tours since COVID. They were a great success with 403 students attending. These continued during the summer. MHA hosted a total of 210 students with teachers and chaperons on June 14 and 21 and July 13. We had two contingents from Chowan University's Academic Summer School. The first group came from Long Leaf School of the Arts in Raleigh. The second group was drawn from various high schools in North Carolina and surrounding states. The kids were very enthusiastic to learn about Murfreesboro. On July 14, we welcomed forty rising fourth graders from Bertie Middle School in Windsor. One intrepid scholar asked me "Were

you in the Civil War?" Either I look pretty bad, or I'm very well preserved. I'll leave it to you to decide.

Throughout June and July we had the pleasure of having Pierce Williams of A Hoskie as an intern. Pierce and Connie Christison worked with me to organize boxes and boxes of the research files of the late Dr. Tom Parramore in the collections office. Pierce also helped set up for the Watermelon Festival and manned the office while Ami was on vacation. We wish him the best as he resumes his online studies.

Of course, the highlight of the summer was the thirty-eighth North Carolina Watermelon Festival August 2-5. This year was another huge success. Our hot fudge cake booth made over \$4,000! This is remarkable considering that Friday was a wash-out with the rain. Thankfully the weather was cooler this year than last year. Consequently, we sold more cake. Many thanks to all of our volunteers and contributors who stepped up to make this an event of which we could all be proud.

On August 18th, Robert Leath, Executive Director of the Edenton Historical Commission visited MHA for the first time. He was extremely impressed with the work of the Publications Committee. He commented that Edenton had nothing comparable to it. Also Robert observed that we have a diverse collection of historic structures including various commercial buildings in addition to the usual house museums.

Meanwhile, we are not resting on our laurels. Our next event will be Soup 'n' Sandwich on Tuesday, October 24. Tickets are available in the office. The Candlelight Christmas Tour is set for December 8 and 9. Once again, we will need all of the volunteers we can find to make this happen. Finally, planning is underway for the Lafayette Event. On February 26, 2025, we will celebrate the 200th anniversary of Lafayette's visit to Murfreesboro.

With all of us working together, our future is bright.

Jimmy Moore

Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Jimmy Moore, President

Armando Torres, Vice-President

Sara Frances Hill, Secretary

Paige Sumner, Treasurer

<u>Term Ends 2024</u>	<u>Term Ends 2025</u>	<u>Term Ends 2026</u>
Hunter Brown	Will Cowan	Charlie Cole
Donna Robbins	Charles Pond	Mary Hellmann
Mike Saner	Elicia Revelle	Debbie Hill
Lisa Turner	Kelsey Rose	Stanley J. Parker, Jr.
Ken Wolfskill	Michael Zhe	Holt Rose

New Board Member

by Ami Wilson



Michael Zhe was voted in as the newest member of the board of directors at the May board meeting. Michael will fill the vacancy left by Milton Vaughan when he and Hazel Davis assumed the role of site managers for the Agriculture and Transportation Museum. Michael's term will expire on April 30, 2025.

Site Managers

by Ami Wilson

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	Jeff Llewellyn
John Wheeler House	Craig Dennis Deborah Fields
B.B. Winborne Country Store & Law Office	Hal Thomas

Site Manager

by Ami Wilson



Deborah Fields has joined us as co-site manager of the John Wheeler House. She will work alongside Craig Dennis fulfilling the responsibilities of this historic home and garden. Make plans to meet Deborah and Craig as you tour this historic home on December 8th and 9th during our annual Candlelight Christmas tour.

Publications Report

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

F. ROY JOHNSON

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

THOMAS C. PARRAMORE

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

ALICE ELEY JONES

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

FRANK H. HARRIS, JR.

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

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

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

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

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

SONJA MCGIBONEY

<i>Jazzy Explores Murfreesboro, North Carolina</i>	15.00
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The Murfreesboro Historical Association's Annual Meeting

by Ken Wolfskill



Newcomers to the borough might have come to our Historical Association's annual meeting in April and been impressed that ours is not just a busy town but that it has more history than they imagined. They'd also see that there's a large, very enthusiastic group of folks interested in sharing that history.

As a business meeting, it would have seemed so interesting: President Jimmy Moore's update included an impressive amount of money, much from donations, but also from a garden party, a silver display, an art show, and—gasp!—the Ghost Guild's tour and paranormal investigation. He was clearly proud to recall successful events that we have every year that show off our historic town: the Watermelon Festival and Candlelight Christmas. Who would not be impressed that thousands of dollars were raised by a hot-fudge booth and a soup-and-sandwich day?

Part of our business was to hear about repairs to properties. Lloyd Hill talked only about maybe a fourth of our properties, but he went on and on, delighted to share all the voluntary work done to historic structures, much of it difficult and expensive. The newcomer heard about the Walter Reed

House, law offices, museums, exhibit buildings, and several houses, repairs completed, work planned—a lot going on.

The meeting showed that the Historic Association is deeply engaged. Then Mayor Hal Thomas and Chamber of Commerce President Darryl Williams talked of their work, and the town also looked good, its leaders aware of issues but moving forward, interested in the town's growth.

We all got new history from Dr. Greg Taylor, Distinguished Professor of History at Chowan University, an innovative scholar who has helped open a new area of historical investigation—prisons—and showing how society's attitude toward its prisons reflects society's values. His primary illustration was Raleigh's Central Prison, the subject of one of his books.

When he concluded, newcomers might have been ready to leave, having had a fine, interesting experience—and the pleasant memory of Mary Etta Flowers' fine buffet; but there was more, the election of new officers. But it was impressive too: it took only a minute, as the vote was unanimous.

Good food, good conversation, good reports, good history! It'll happen again next year.

New Board Members

Both Debbie Hill and Holt Rose agreed to serve another three-year term on the board of directors and were part of the unanimous vote at the Annual Meeting in April. We would also like to welcome to the board of directors: Charlie Cole, Dr. Mary Hellmann and Stanely J. Parker, Jr. Each of these elected board members will serve a three-year term ending April 30, 2026.



Charlie Cole
Photo Unavailable



Mary Hellman



Stanley J. Parker, Jr.

Chowan University Board of Trustees Meeting at Hertford Academy

by Jimmy Moore

The Chowan University Board of Trustees enjoyed a reception at Hertford Academy on Thursday, April 20 as part of their spring meeting. The gathering kicked off the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the school's founding. Organized in 1848, Chowan Baptist Female Institute was housed in Hertford Academy until the Columns Building was completed on the campus in 1851. During the reception, MHA president Jimmy Moore spoke about the Mulberry Grove Meeting, which led to the founding of Chowan.



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, John Wheeler House porch, kitchen, bathroom and grounds each rent for \$250 per day plus a \$125 refundable deposit and the Dr. Walter Reed House Annex rents for \$150 per day plus a \$100 refundable deposit. Contact the MHA office to reserve a date for your next special occasion.

Mulberry Grove Meeting

by Jimmy Moore



April 28, 1848, marks the genesis of Chowan University at a meeting that took place at Mulberry Grove, the home of Dr. Godwin Cotten Moore, in southeastern Hertford County near the present-day Tri-County Airport. Dr. Moore was a dedicated Baptist layman who had served as trustee for Wake Forest and also as the moderator for the Chowan Association. At that time, the Association consisted of all of the Baptist congregations from the Roanoke River eastward along the north side of the Albemarle Sound to the Atlantic Ocean. He would eventually hold this post for thirty-seven years.

Many Baptists in North Carolina recognized the need for higher education for their girls. Other denominations had established schools, but nothing had been done for the Baptists. Word of these discussions among Baptist leaders reached Dr. Moore through the denominational agents who visited his home from time to time. Dr. Moore and his associates began to discuss the possibility of a school for girls in their own area.

In August of 1847, the Bertie Union Meeting, an organization of churches within the Chowan Association from Hertford, Bertie and Northampton counties, appointed a committee to investigate the possibility of establishing a school. Dr. Godwin Moore was the leading member of this committee and also served as moderator of the Bertie Union Meeting. Although the committee was not ready to report at the next meeting in January of 1848, Moore made a personal appeal for the establishment of a college.

He stressed the importance of such a move and drew attention to the strength of the Baptist denomination: "We number not less than 7,000 members of Baptist churches within the limits of our association. We have intelligence, wealth, and denominational respect enough amongst us to induce us to provide for all our wants..." He went on to say that the quality of the work to be done was important. The school must be "one of high order. It is only such a seminary as will offer advantages equal to the most distinguished in the state that can insure us success in its undertaking." This was not the report of the committee. However, the Bertie Union Meeting responded to this personal appeal by appointing three men, Dr. Godwin C. Moore, Abner J. Perry and Jethro W. Barnes as "trustees for the proposed female institute." As positive as these developments were, Dr. Moore was not satisfied.

The Bertie Union Meeting convened again in April, 1848. This time they were at Pleasant Grove Church, one mile from his home. Dr. Moore used the opportunity to canvass the group of leaders to discuss the proposed school in more detail. In a masterful stroke, he invited all of them to supper at Mulberry Grove. Built by his great-grandfather Arthur Cotten in 1758, Mulberry Grove had a long history of gracious hospitality and high living. As the men sat down at the Hepplewhite dining table, they would have seen three of the portraits now at Hertford Academy: Dr. Moore's mother Esther Cotten Moore Jones of Lawrenceville, VA, his sister Emeline Moore LeVert of Marion, AL and his other sister Sallie Moore Westray of Nash County, NC.

During the meal and later on the porch, Dr. Moore led the discussion of a school for girls. He had served as trustee for Wake Forest and was interested in higher education in general. His daughter Esther was approaching college age. This added to his specific interest in education for girls.

It was a remarkable group assembled around the dining table: the Rev. James Delke, the Rev. Quinton Trotman, the Rev. Amos J. Battle, Abner J. Perry, Dr. Andrew J. Askew, W.W. Mitchell, Washington Mitchell and Dr. S. J. Wheeler. Ordained ministers, physicians, politicians, farmers and educators. Although they had many differences, they were united in their support of the Chowan Baptist Association and its activities. The men concurred with Dr. Moore that such an institution was needed and possible to establish. They decided to bring the subject before the entire group of representatives at the Bertie Union meeting the very next day for more consideration and action.

Friday, April 29 the delegates to the Bertie Union Meeting endorsed the proposal completely. They appointed the Rev. Amos J. Battle to begin fundraising for the school and confirmed the appointment of Moore, Perry and Barnes as trustees. Less than one month later, the Chowan Association convened at Ramoth Gilead Baptist Church. On May 19, the ninety-four messengers and visitors took up the proposal to found a school for girls. They gave the measure their full support: appointing a board of trustees and instructing them to obtain a charter from the next session of the State Legislature. It was agreed that the name would be "Chowan Female Institute". The school would be located in Murfreesboro, already known as a center of education and culture. From here, things moved rapidly. The trustees acquired the former Banks School, now known as Hertford Academy. Dr. Moore was given the responsibility of securing teachers. He chose Archibald McDowell to be the principal.

On October 11, 1848, the Institute was formally opened. The first day eleven students registered: Susan Carter, Cleopatra Deans, Elizabeth Deans, Elizabeth Hatchell, Mary S. Neal, Susan Montgomery, Georgia Montgomery, Elizabeth Neal, Frances Hines, Eleanora Lawrence and Margaret Thompson. Others joined them until that first class totaled forty-seven. And Chowan has never looked back. The school has gone from strength to strength, enriching the lives of thousands during its history.

In this the 175th anniversary year, it is fitting that we remember that first meeting on April 28, 1848 and salute the vision and energy of those men whose efforts continue to bless us all to this day.

Ann Ward Moore Portrait

by Jimmy Moore



Chowan University has acquired a reproduction portrait of Ann Ward Moore, its first graduate, in conjunction with the 175th anniversary of the school's founding. The original portrait, painted in 1858, is in the possession of her great-granddaughter Jane Moore Holloman of Albuquerque, NM. Mrs. Holloman's daughter Melissa Roberts supplied photographs, which were used to reproduce the painting at Conway Photo. The portrait is on display in the Yancey Conference Room in the Columns Building.

Ann James Ward was the only child of James Ward and Elizabeth Jones. She was born June 30, 1834, at her father's plantation in Bertie County near present-day Powellsville. Her father was already an old man at the time of her birth. He died in 1843. She was raised by her mother and her stepfather, the Rev. James Delke at Maple Lawn, her mother's family home, which Ann had inherited from her father. Ann was among the first students enrolled at Chowan Baptist Female Institute. Initially she and other girls boarded with Dr. Samuel J. Wheeler while the school was conducted at Hertford Academy on Broad Street. The Columns Building was constructed in 1851. Ann was a gifted pupil studying Latin and French among other subjects. While a student, she made a profession of faith and joined Murfreesboro Baptist Church. On August 8, 1853, Miss Annie, as she was known in her family, became Chowan's first graduate. The next month she married John Wheeler Moore, son of Dr. Godwin Cotten Moore, the school's founder. They would be devoted spouses for forty-seven years with John always calling her "Angie". For the first several years of their marriage, the Moores lived with Dr. Moore at Mulberry Grove, while their home was constructed in Murfreesboro. Anniesdale was completed in 1855, the same year John Moore began his law practice. It stood in the vicinity of White's Crossing on what is now the south side of the Chowan campus. No pictures have survived. It is known to have been a three-story white brick house surrounded by extensive gardens. The structure had the second-highest tax valuation of any residence in Hertford County. Only Melrose was more expensive. The Civil War began in early 1861. John W. Moore joined the Confederate Army at once. He would spend much of the war as a major commanding Moore's Battalion of Light Artillery at Fort Fisher.

While Anniesdale was the scene of the Moores' happiest days, it also witnessed their greatest tragedy. The war was raging when their six-month-old daughter Helen Manly fell ill from malaria. The blockade made it impossible to acquire medicines. John's brother Julian thought he was buying quinine at a drugstore. In fact, the druggist was drunk and gave him morphine. When they gave Helen a dose, she died May 9, 1863. Her mother was devastated. One evening at twilight, Ann was on the porch at Anniesdale when she saw something white jumping around her child's grave in the garden. She went down to investigate and declared later that she saw a sort of mist in the form of her child.

John W. Moore was home from the war for a few months when Anniesdale burned on October 23, 1865. A chimney fire sprayed sparks onto the cypress shingle roof, and the flames spread rapidly. Ann later told her grandson Raynor Moore that they could have saved the house if they had a ladder. The family stayed in a small structure on the grounds for a year. Then they moved to Maple Lawn, Ann's family home in lower Hertford County near Powellsville. Here she would spend the rest of her life. She and her husband devoted themselves to educating their children. There would be twelve altogether: Arthur, Bessie, Charles, Julia, Helen, Philip, John Jr., Annie, James, Godwin, Rutland and Isabella. Seven grew to adulthood. Five died in infancy. Ann also devoted her energies to the Sunday School at Bethlehem Baptist Church. Although plagued by deafness in her later years, she continued to be involved in the life of her church and community. In early 1901, she was taken to Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore for medical treatment. After surgery for uterine cancer, blood poisoning set in. She died on March 16 at age sixty-four. Her body was brought back to Hertford County and interred at Maple Lawn. Her obituary stated: "Mrs Moore exhibited in a remarkable degree the graces of culture, combined with deep piety, and a beautiful and mellow Christian experience. She was a devoted wife, an ideal mother, a true neighbor, a charming social spirit, and withal a devout Christian". Such was the summing up of the life of a remarkable lady, who was a pioneer in women's education. Her portrait brings to life a forgotten chapter of both Murfreesboro's and Chowan's history.

Properties Report

by Lamar Van Brackle



Greetings sports fans and welcome to another scintillating edition of Properties Update. But first, as we enter this most exciting time of year, college football season, it's time to settle down and cheer for your favorite team. Go _____! (Fill in the blank with your favorite team. Please remember Army, Florida and Notre Dame are not valid entries.)

So now, here's the latest from the Historic District.

Completed Projects

Roberts-Vaughan House c. prior 1814

- Exterior rotten wood has been repaired and repainted on the main house and the gazebo.
- A new wooden front storm door has been fabricated and installed and landscaping plants have been acquired for future planting. Both of these items were financed by the Town of Murfreesboro Main Street Grant.

Ross House (Rental) c. prior 1825

- Significant exterior siding replacement has been completed and repainted.
- Back porch flooring and access ramp have also been repaired permitting safe access to the restrooms.

Murfree-Smith Law Office c. 1800

- The Freon was replaced in the unit in June.

Agriculture and Transportation Museum

- Gutters have been cleaned and repaired along with power washing the main structure.

Exhibits Building

- Interior fluorescent lights have been repaired.

Dr. Walter Reed House c. 1820

- Encroaching trees and vines have been trimmed in preparation for future painting.

Jordan Building (Rental)

- The building has been pressured-washed.

Rea Museum c. 1790

- Both heat pumps have been serviced and repaired as necessary.

Mule Barn

- The fence that was damaged by fallen tree has been repaired.

New Signage in the District

- New signs have been installed on the Agriculture and Transportation Museum and the Rea Museum.
- The exterior sign outside the Vincent-Deale Blacksmith Shop has also been replaced.
- The directional sign at the west end of the Bob Hill Pedestrian Bridge has been renewed and is presently being reoriented and reinstalled.

Planned Projects

- The **Roberts-Vaughan House** gazebo wooden roof has deteriorated and requires replacement. Requests for estimates have been submitted.
- The **Dr. Walter Reed House** painting should commence soon. Any rotten wood will be replaced prior to painting.
- The **Winborne Country Store** will receive electric baseboard heating prior to Candlelight Christmas.
- The **Agriculture and Transportation Museum** has a roof leak which will be addressed shortly.
- Commercial lawn care will cease with the arrival of cool weather.

This completes the major maintenance events both accomplished and planned. However, I would be remiss if I failed to mention the continued support MHA receives from Wayne Brown. Anytime downed trees, large limbs or other wind related debris occurs in the District, Wayne's personnel are right there to clean up and dispose of the waste. We are indebted to him for his unwavering attention in helping to maintain the appearance of our Historic District.

In conclusion, please remember and thank Lloyd Hill for his constant diligence and attention to the upkeep and maintenance of our numerous properties. Well done, Lloyd!

Roberts-Vaughan House

Before

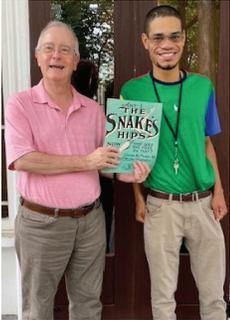


After



Collections Update

by Jimmy Moore

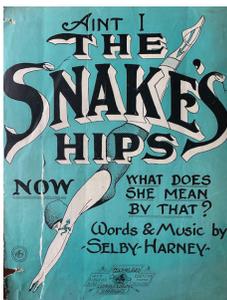


We have continued to make exciting discoveries in the collections office. Over the summer we were blessed with the help of intern Pierce Williams of Ahoskie. A graduate of East Carolina University, Pierce is working on a master of library science degree from North Carolina Central University in Durham. He plans to specialize in archives and records management. Pierce approached MHA with the desire to gain some experience. We were happy to put him to work.

Over two months, Pierce worked with Jimmy Moore and Connie Christison sorting and filing numerous boxes of research notes from the work of Dr. Thomas C. Parramore. We were astounded to find the complete manuscript of an unpublished biography of William Hill Brown.

In 1789, Brown, member of a prominent Boston family, published what is now considered to be the first novel written by an American. "The Power of Sympathy" was highly scandalous. It consisted of a thinly-veiled account of the private life of a family across the street from Brown and included accusations of incest and suicide. By 1792, Brown had found it expedient to follow his sister Elizabeth Hichborn to Murfreesboro. He was reading law with William R. Davie of Halifax when he died here of yellow fever in 1793. He is thought to be buried in an unmarked grave on Boyette Street. The manuscript has been turned over to the MHA Publications Committee for their action. This is a story that deserves to be told.

With the Parramore papers sorted, the team turned to a box of sheet music that belonged originally to Lucy Outlaw Worthington of Wilson, NC. A native of Bertie County, she married Samuel Wheeler Worthington, grandson of Dr. Samuel J. Wheeler of Murfreesboro. The Worthington collection of books was acquired by MHA in the 1970s. The box contained mostly show tunes from 1890 to 1920.



However, one item stood out. "Ain't I The Snake's Hips" was composed by Selby Harney and published by the Carolina Publishing Company, 413 N. Broad Street, Edenton in 1922. On the back of the score was a fox trot "My Carolina" by C.C. Harney. Initial research led nowhere. Then

our intrepid intern Pierce discovered a contemporary article from Elizabeth City in Newspapers.com. This item announcing the publication of the piece told us that Selby Harney was from Elizabeth City. In 1911 he married Clara Cotton Capehart, daughter of Dr. William Rhodes Capehart of Avoca plantation in lower Bertie County. Known to her friends and family as "CC", she was the composer of the fox trot.

Finally, Ken Christison found a detailed obituary for Selby Harney. In addition to being a composer, he was also a noted cartoonist and accomplished portrait painter. After living in Greenwich Village and Florida, the Harneys settled in Norfolk, where Selby worked with the Chamber of Commerce. He died in 1950. C.C. lived until 1974. Both were buried at Holy Innocents' Chapel near the site of the long-vanished Avoca. When Robert Leath, Director of the Edenton Historical Commission, visited Murfreesboro on August 18, we presented "Ain't I The Snake's Hips" to him for Edenton's collection. There is talk of a future performance.



Attention has now turned to the many bags of antique clothing in the collections office. When the Colin Barnes home was cleared out some years ago, the late Carol Piper took home piles of filthy clothing. She washed everything, placed it in plastic bags and eventually turned it over to MHA. We enlisted the help of Carole Farnham, who has experience working in textiles conservation in two museums and Connie Christison. When we opened the first bag, we were amazed at the contents. We found a Victorian dress, various blouses and ladies' undergarments. Everything dated from 1890 to 1915. All of the items were copiously decorated with lace and ruffles.

Everything was in surprisingly good condition. We are now conserving the collection. This will include steaming all items to remove wrinkles. Then they will be wrapped in acid-free paper and stored in acid-free boxes. Meanwhile, everything will be measured, photographed and entered properly into MHA's accession records. Our long-term goal is to stage an exhibition of some of the more notable items. The fun never ends in dealing with our collections!



Events Recap



3rd Annual Garden Party

by Rachel Peterson

The 3rd Annual MHA Garden Party was held on May 13th at the beautiful Wheeler House Gardens. The event was filled with music, food, flower sales, yard games and a hat contest. The Fritz family ran away with the hat contest this year! Sharon Fritz won the women's division, and Lydia and Sophia Fritz received the kid's division prizes while Bill Crockett won the men's division. This fundraising event made \$2,000 that was designated for window treatments at the Dr. Walter Reed House.

The planning committee included Craig Dennis, Dell Aycock, Sara Frances Hill, Debbie Hill, Frances Van Brackle, Sandra Fowler, Ami Wilson, Mary Etta Flowers (Co-Chair) and Rachel Peterson (Co-Chair). If you are interested in being involved with this event, please contact Ami Wilson at the MHA Office (252) 398-5922. The 4th Annual Garden Party is in the planning phase, and we hope to see you there in 2024!



Events Recap



Chowan University Summer Camp Student Tours

On June 14th we hosted 130 high school students and teachers from Longleaf School of the Arts in Raleigh. They were spending the week in Murfreesboro at Chowan University and intentionally included time in their schedule to tour the Agriculture and Transportation Museum, Murfree-Smith Law Office, Village Print Shop and the Rea Museum.

Then on June 21st, approximately 80 high school students attending the Chowan University summer academic camps from North Carolina, Virginia, Florida, etc. toured the same Williams Street properties in our historic district.



Bertie County Students

We hosted rising fourth grade students from the summer program offered at Bertie Middle School in the historic district on July 13, 2023. Students toured the Agriculture and Transportation Museum, the Rea Museum and the Evans Tin Shop.



Events Recap

Hot Fudge Cake Booth

by Ami Wilson

The MHA Hot Fudge Cake Booth fundraiser at the 2023 North Carolina Watermelon Festival was a huge success again this year raising over \$4,000 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, generous 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 it all homemade, Mike Saner for volunteering for 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.



Murfreesboro News

Augmented Reality

by AI Parker

The Murfreesboro Historical Association has partnered for the past three years with Built Story, a smartphone app platform that allows us to offer on-demand tours of Historic Murfreesboro. Now the team at Built Story has provided a new feature which is FREE to use, and gives users historic views of our town that have not been seen in a very long time.

The new feature is called "Augmented Reality", and it uses historical photographs to show app users what the town looked like back in time. Now you can "step" into Murfreesboro history—using just your phone. Fifteen historic "hot spots" are dotted around town.

With the help of your phone, a little augmented reality, and the great outdoors, you'll be able to walk right into the past. Explore quaint, historic Murfreesboro, and the special moments across time that have made this community what it is today.



A Compatriot grave marking ceremony will be conducted for Compatriot Carl Witt by the Halifax Resolves Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution at the Lasker Town Cemetery in Lasker, NC on 21 October at 1:30pm. Carl was a life member of MHA.



Karen King, great niece of Dr. Jim Jordan, and her family visited Murfreesboro on June 25th. While they were in town, President Jimmy Moore took Karen, and her daughter Akita Taylor and grandchildren Karen Taylor and Mekhi Raymond on a tour of the Rea Museum to view the Dr. Jim Jordan exhibit.



Artists Craig Dennis and Andre Lassiter complete work on the mural of the Southern Star located just off Main Street on Williams Street. The Southern Star was built and launched from Murfreesboro in 1857. It was the largest ship built in North Carolina up to that time.



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Enjoy a full tour, or just one historic hot spot.

There's something here for you.

Upcoming Events

Soup 'n' Sandwich Fundraiser

by Ami Wilson

We are excited to host the popular Soup 'n' Sandwich fundraiser on Tuesday, October 24th from 11:00am to 2:00pm at the Murfree Center.

Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased from any board member, site manager, at the MHA office or online at www.murfreesboronc.org by clicking the events tab. Tickets may also be purchased at the door. You can eat in or carry out and lunch includes homemade vegetable beef soup, homemade pimento cheese sandwich, and homemade dessert with water or tea.

Mary Etta Flowers is the committee chair and is seeking volunteers to make food and to work the day of the event. Contact Mary Etta at 252-396-1324 if you are willing to volunteer.



37th Annual Candlelight Christmas Tour

Photography by Morgan Brett Photography

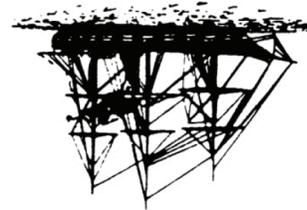
The 37th Annual Candlelight Christmas Tour will be held on Friday, December 8th and Saturday, December 9th and will include sites in the Historic District as well as the Roberts-Vaughan House and the Dr. Walter Reed House both located on Main Street. Enjoy candle-lit walkways, live greenery decorations, horse-drawn carriage rides, 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 and the horse drawn carriage ride are \$25 when purchased before December 3rd. Children under 12 do not need a ticket. We recommend purchasing tickets in advance and all ticket sales are final. Beginning Monday, December 4th 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.

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 on Thursday, October 19th and Thursday, November 16th.

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.



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

Upcoming Events



Soup ‘n’ Sandwich

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

11:00am – 2:00pm

\$10 Per Person

Homemade Soup, Sandwich, Dessert & Beverage

Eat in or take out.

Murfree Center, 201 E Broad Street

37th Annual Candlelight Christmas Tour

Friday, December 8 & Saturday, December 9, 2023

5:00pm – 8:00pm

Tickets are \$25 through December 3rd.

Children under 12 do not need a ticket.

Tickets are \$30 beginning December 4th and
during the tour.

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

4th Annual Garden Party

Spring Date To Be Determined

North Carolina Watermelon Festival

Hot Fudge Cake Booth

Wednesday, July 31 – Saturday, August 3, 2024

Lafayette Event

Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of

Lafayette’s visit to Murfreesboro

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

