

# GRAHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



## HONORING THOSE WHO PIONEERED THE RUGGED MOUNTAINS OF GRAHAM COUNTY



[www.HISTORYGC.org](http://www.HISTORYGC.org)

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Tere Moore, Editor



Maple Springs Overlook  
Wintertime 2012 by  
Killboy.com

### NEWSLETTER

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GCHA meets the 1st & 3rd  
Mondays of each month  
(except holidays) at 5 pm  
at United Community  
Bank, 132 Rodney Orr  
Bypass, Robbinsville.

We also have a  
teleconference option.



Contact us for  
call-in information

### GCHA VISION STATEMENT

To maintain a heritage center located on Main Street, by focusing on education, history, and community activities, to assure that Graham County's place in history will be secured for future generations. Participate in the revitalization of downtown Robbinsville, NC, and promote cultural tourism and economic development in our area.

### GCHA MISSION STATEMENT

To preserve, interpret, and convey Graham County, regional, and Appalachian history through exhibitions and educational programs to showcase our history, making Graham County a desired historical destination.



Graham County Historical Association is in the process of taking Oral Histories from anyone with a story

to tell about their experiences, family ties and/or remembrances in Graham County.

Whether you are, were, or are not a resident, whether your story is young or old, it most surely can become the future history of Graham County.

**Contact us today to schedule your interview!**

[grahamcountymuseum@gmail.com](mailto:grahamcountymuseum@gmail.com)

*Today's Story is Tomorrow's History*

### MEET DOYLE BROCK GCHA BOARD MEMBER



Doyle Brock was born September 8, 1925 in Proctor, North Carolina, the son of Ruben and Maggie Brock. He graduated from Robbinsville Schools and went on to study at Blanton's Business College. Doyle and his family eventually settled in the Milltown area of Graham County.

Doyle enlisted in the United States Armed Forces and was discharged in April 1946.

An article printed in The Graham Star in 2022 recounted the following story:

"Way out in the Pacific Ocean, the forces of history drew at least eight Graham County servicemen to the island of Iwo Jima. Robbinsville resident **Doyle Brock** remembered Iwo Jima like it was yesterday.

"They were fanatics," Brock said of the Japanese. "They would rather die than surrender to Americans." In the end, 22,000 Japanese were killed, as well as more than 6,800 Americans. Brock said that perhaps 10 servicemen from Graham County participated in the epic battle. "To think there were that many people from Graham County on that Island," Brock said.

The known servicemen on the island were **Brock, Leonard Lloyd, Ray Wiggins, Charles Phillips, Hobart Stewart, Eston Hooper, Arnold Jenkins and William Green.**

Doyle married Helen Cole on October 1, 1947. He worked at Bemis Lumber Company, retiring after 43 years.

He was a member of the former Robbinsville Lions Club and a current board member of the Graham County Historical Association GCHA values Doyle as our resident expert on Bemis Lumber Company's presence in Graham County.



## \$4.895 million tour comes to Graham County

Excerpted from an article by Ruby Annas  
news@grahamstar.com

### Senate, House representatives deliver funding

Sen. Kevin Corbin (R-Franklin) and District Rep. Karl Gillespie (R-Franklin) both visited Graham County on Dec. 20, presenting four checks totaling \$4.895 million for various community needs.

“Our job is to get money for our district and we’ve been very successful with that,” said Corbin. The money provided were four directive grants, appropriated only for use by the local department of transportation; Graham County; the Town of Robbinsville; and the Graham County Historical Association.

Corbin and Gillespie put in a request for the grants in the spring and the budget passed in October, concluding a 6-month process.

The first stop of the tour was the Graham County Department of Transportation Branch building. A check of \$1.4 million was awarded, to rebuild the office building.

The second stop was the Graham County Courthouse, where two checks were presented; the first to Graham County for \$2 million, to renovate or rebuild the Graham County Justice Center.

The third check presented at the courthouse was to the Town of Robbinsville, totaling \$1.395 million for water and sewer projects in the town.

The final stop of the tour was just down the street at Phillips and Jordan. A \$100K check was presented to the Graham County Historical Association for capital needs.

The loop concluded with a visit to the Phillips and Jordan office in Robbinsville, where a check for \$100K was afforded to the Graham County Historical Association for capital needs.



Left to right: Kevin Corbin, association board member Max Buchanan, association treasurer Terri Phillips, association secretary Carolyn Stewart, association president Edd Satterfield, association member Connie Orr and Karl Gillespie.

## HISTORY OF GRAHAM COUNTY - PART XIV

A compilation by Tere Moore

### GRAHAM COUNTY POSTAL SERVICE



The first Post Office building in Robbinsville (it was previously housed in various stores). Willard Slaughter (front), Malcolm Slaughter, and Katherine Eller Dance.

The first post office was established in 1843, and was housed in the King-Cooper Store (located on the present Robbinsville Elementary School site) with Wiley King as the first postmaster. The post office was originally listed as Cheoah Valley, changed to Fort Montgomery in 1849. Fort Montgomery was granted a U.S. Post Office on February 28, 1849 in Cherokee County, and its first Postmaster was J.P. Colvard. Fort Montgomery name was changed to Robbinsville on June 9, 1874, and its first Postmaster was Perley A. Aiken. It has been in continuous operation ever since inception.<sup>1</sup>

### POST OFFICES & POSTMARKS <sup>2</sup>

#### BROCK

George F. Brock	25 Jul 1903
William P. Robertson	23 Nov 1905
Luther C. Sawyer	19 Apr 1906
Alice D. Brock	26 May 1909
Daniel A. Taylor	17 Jun 1914
Arthur J. Fisher, Acting	12 Apr 1922
Arthur J. Fisher	21 Aug 1922
Alice D. Brock, Acting	10 Jan 1923
Alice D. Brock	3 Mar 1923
Discontinued	14 Nov 1931
Mail to <b>Stecoah</b>	

#### CHEOAH



February 7, 1900

Jefferson D. Harwood  
John H. Hyde  
William R. Morgan  
David J. Rogers  
Molton L. Rice  
J. A. Carpenter  
Arthur C. Ray  
Pearl L. Rice  
Molton L. Rice  
Thomas L. Rogers  
Arthur P. Dayton, Acting  
Arthur P. Dayton  
Sallie Shope, Acting  
Sallie Shope  
Abraham V. Elliott, Acting  
Abraham V. Elliott  
Discontinued  
Mail to **Robbinsville**



August 12, 1904

11 Aug 1892  
26 May 1896  
8 Feb 1898  
12 Jul 1898  
26 Mar 1901  
12 Oct 1901  
5 Nov 1901  
14 Aug 1903  
11 Apr 1907  
3 Oct 1910  
14 Dec 1923  
15 Jan 1924  
4 Dec 1938  
2 May 1939  
9 Oct 1941  
30 Jan 1942  
31 May 1955

#### FAIRFAX

James M. Rhymer  
Moved to **Swain County**

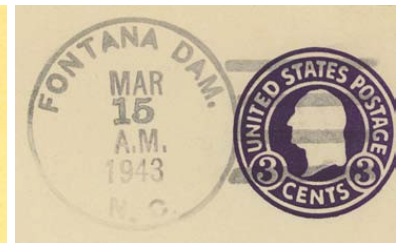
26 May 1893  
3 Nov 1896

#### FONTANA DAM



AUGUST 13, 1942

Fay Bales  
Herbert C. Enloe, Acting  
Martha T. Calahan, Acting  
Martha T. Calahan  
Amanda B. Crisp  
James R. Miller  
Mrs. Belle Q. Cable, Acting  
Mrs. Belle Q. Cable  
Burl L. Orr, Acting



MARCH 15, 1943

16 Jul 1942  
11 Aug 1942  
17 Sep 1942  
27 Oct 1942  
2 Jun 1943  
1 Mar 1945  
31 Mar 1947  
2 Mar 1949  
30 Apr 1954

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<sup>1</sup> GrahamCounty.net

<sup>2</sup> [www.pncpostalhistory.com](http://www.pncpostalhistory.com), 13 April 2023 - R.F. Winter



## HISTORY OF GRAHAM COUNTY - PART IX (cont'd)

A compilation by Tere Moore

### FONTANA DAM (cont'd)

Mrs. Belle Cable, Acting	24 Feb 1961
Mrs. Faye B. Stewart, Acting	17 Feb 1969
Mrs. Faye B. Stewart	4 Sep 1971
Mrs. Sheila G. Beasley Officer-In-Charge	9 Jun 1973
Mrs. Sheila G. Beasley	2 Feb 1974
Virginia H. Zakroski Officer-In-Charge	9 Sep 1999
Virginia H. Zakroski	18 Dec 1999
Brenda A. Williams Officer-In-Charge	2 Mar 2007
Brenda A. Williams	9 Jun 2007
Angela Price Officer-In-Charge	9 Jun 2009
Converted to Remotely Managed Post Office of <b>Robbinsville</b>	17 Nov 2012

### FORT MONTGOMERY, from Cherokee County

Perley J. Aitken	2 Dec 1872
Name changed to <b>Robbinsville</b>	9 Jun 1874

### GLADDEN

John J. Gribble	3 Jun 1903
Order rescinded	23 Jun 1903

### HOMESTEAD, name changed from Welch



March 21, 1898

William H. Crisp	1 Sep 1892
Discontinued	21 Mar 1898
Papers to <b>Judson</b>	

### JAPAN, NAME CHANGED FROM WELCH



June 6, 1908

Joshua C. Edwards	2 Sep 1903
Joshua C. Crisp	21 Sep 1910
Callie L. West	5 Feb 1912
John B. Andrews	15 May 1916
Laura J. Medlin, Acting	23 Feb 1941
Laura J. Medlin	3 May 1941

Laura M. Taylor (marriage)  
Hazel B. Taylor, Acting  
Hazel B. Taylor  
Discontinued  
Mail to **Stecoah**

9 Aug 1941  
19 Oct 1941  
29 Nov 1941  
15 Jan 1944

### JOHNSON



May 17, 1898



February 7, 1907

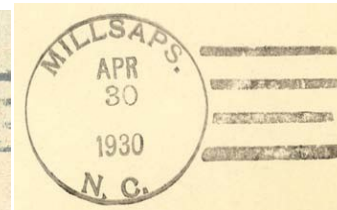
Willis L. Jenkins  
Robert V. McElroy  
Riley Orr  
Discontinued  
Mail to **Millsaps**

24 Oct 1890  
29 Mar 1907  
5 Feb 1908  
31 Oct 1914

### MILLSAPS



June 8, 1910



April 30, 1930

Noah E. Millsaps  
Discontinued ca. 1914  
Noah E. Millsaps  
Minnie Millsaps  
Mollie Shope, Acting  
Mollie Shope  
Name changed to **Santeetlah**

9 May 1906  
18 Sep 1917  
11 Feb 1920  
2 Apr 1925  
14 Sep 1925  
1 May 1930

### ROBBINSVILLE



October 24, 1887



May 1, 1894



August 7, 1900

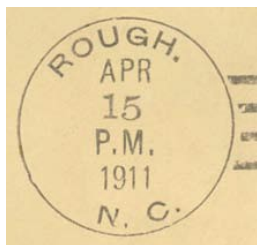
Perly A. Aiken  
John W. King  
George B. Walker  
John Barker  
William P. Rose  
George B. Walker

9 Jun 1874  
6 Jul 1874  
23 Jul 1875  
2 Feb 1883  
3 Apr 1884  
18 Jan 1886

Cont'd Pg. 6

**ROBBINSVILLE (cont'd)**

Theodore Metz	15 Jul 1889
John W. Robinson	1 Jun 1893
Jefferson D. Harwood	11 Jun 1897
Newton C. Christopher	18 Oct 1899
William H. Eller	7 Dec 1909
Helen D. Slaughter	19 Jun 1914
John H. Philips	5 Mar 1920
A. S. Eller, Acting	1 Jun 1922
Theodore M. Jenkins	3 Nov 1924
Frank Colvard, Acting	1 Nov 1926
Frank Colvard 1	6 Feb 1927
Earl P. Tatham, Acting	7 Jul 1934
Earl P. Tatham	24 Jul 1935
Oliver L. Ammons, Acting	24 May 1936
Oliver L. Ammons	8 Feb 1937
Mrs. Woodie G. Ammons, Acting	31 Oct 1944
Mrs. Woodie G. Ammons	6 Dec 1945
Mrs. Woodie G. Carver (marriage)	5 Nov 1950
Delmas Shuler, Acting	1 Feb 1956
Caroll O. Jenkins, Acting	28 Jun 1957
Mrs. Hazel W. Keith, Acting	4 Apr 1961
Edward M. Ingram, Acting	22 Jun 1962
Edward M. Ingram	4 Sep 1962
Delila C. Cable Officer-In-Charge	26 Jun 1992
Marvin D. Jenkins Officer-In-Charge	9 Dec 1992
David R. Spitzer	29 May 1993
Marvin D. Jenkins Officer-In-Charge	25 Jun 1999
Bryan I. Roberts	11 Sep 1999
Karen E. Watson Officer-In-Charge	1 Jul 2002
Jeane U. Camp	11 Jan 2003
Donald S. Reynolds Officer-In-Charge	14 Jan 2005
Donald S. Reynolds	5 Feb 2005
Deborah O. Beasley Officer-In-Charge	29 Nov 2006
David R. Spitzer Officer-In-Charge	9 Aug 2007
David R. Spitzer	5 Jan 2008
Deborah O. Beasley Officer-In-Charge	21 Feb 2008
Debbie R. Beasley	16 Aug 2008

**ROUGH**

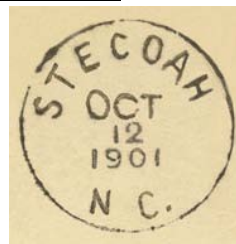
April 15, 1922

James A. Stewart	3 Nov 1908
William N. Crisp	9 Mar 1915
Discontinued	31 Oct 1915
Mail to <b>Robbinsville</b>	

**SANTUTLAH, SANTEEHLAH**

MAY 1, 1930

Wade W. Hampton	2 Oct 1901
Name changed to Santeehlah	25 Nov 1901
Wade W. Hampton	25 Nov 1901
John A. Weaver	2 Jan 1903
Cleveland Wall	17 Feb 1904
Bessie M. Rose	7 Jun 1906
Tennessee Parker	25 Oct 1912
Discontinued	31 Oct 1913
Name changed from Millsaps	1 May 1930
Mollie Shope	1 May 1930
Discontinued	31 Oct 1949
Mail to <b>Robbinsville</b>	

**STECOAH**

OCTOBER 12, 1901



NOVEMBER 4, 1909

James M. Carven	2 Jul 1874
William D. Crisp	27 Jul 1874
D. A. Taylor	3 Nov 1885
Martha A. Taylor	12 Feb 1886
Manoes A. Crisp	17 May 1889
Martha A. Taylor	1 Aug 1893
Nelson S. Crisp	13 Sep 1897
Clara E. Crisp	2 Jul 1902
Philip S. Crisp	6 Jul 1905
Joel L. Crisp	27 Dec 1905
James S. Ammons	26 Oct 1912
Joseph M. Edwards	7 Aug 1914
Joseph G. Lakey	7 May 1932
Dillard P. Hyde, Acting	19 Feb 1940
Dillard P. Hyde	21 Jun 1940
Glenn R. Jenkins, Acting	14 Apr 1941
Glenn R. Jenkins	17 Jun 1941
Arvil H. Cable, Acting	12 May 1944
Arvil H. Cable	31 Oct 1944
Lura Edwards	27 Apr 1945
Hobert Holder, Acting	5 Feb 1957
Discontinued	31 Jul 1958

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## HISTORY OF GRAHAM COUNTY - PART IX (cont'd)

A compilation by Tere Moore

### SWEETGUM



June 17, 1903

William D. Bradley  
Discontinued  
Mail to **Robbinsville**

23 Dec 1902  
28 Feb 1905

### TAPOCO



February 26, 1919



July 16, 1934

Thomas C. Shope	14 Oct 1916
Pleas M. Sawyer	7 Jun 1917
Morion T. Crisp	20 Jun 1918
Ray Raulston	26 Mar 1919
Fred F. Beasley, Acting	3 Mar 1928
Fred F. Beasley	3 May 1928
Charlie Orr, Acting	1 Jan 1931
Charles W. King, Acting	1 Sep 1931
Charles W. King	28 Oct 1931
Fred S. Beasley, Acting	30 Sep 1933
Fred S. Beasley	3 Nov 1933
Charles W. King, Acting	31 Dec 1934
Charles W. King	18 May 1935
Erskin J. Jenkins, Acting	2 May 1936
Erskin J. Jenkins	4 Jun 1936
Mack W. Grant Officer-In-Charge	28 Feb 1969
Mack W. Grant Sr.	17 Jul 1971
Mitchell R. Hayes Officer-In-Charge	17 Feb 1976
Richard Wilson Officer-In-Charge	31 May 1977
Mrs. Virginia A. Zakroski	16 Jul 1977
Service suspended	5 Oct 1992
Discontinued	26 Oct 1995

Mail to **Robbinsville**

### TULULA



March 4, 1910

George W. Colvard	21 Nov 1894
John Ammons	11 Jun 1901
Annie Colvard	1 Feb 1904
Discontinued	31 Jan 1914

Mail to **Topton**, Cherokee County

### TUSKEEGA

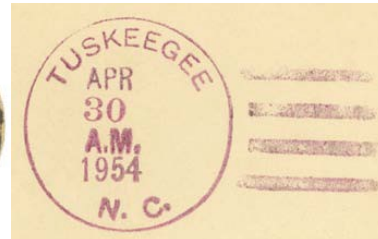
Isaac C. Brooks	19 Jul 1890
Discontinued	12 Jun 1894

Papers to Stecoah

### TUSKEEGEE



October 15, 1904



April 30, 1954

Andrew J. Breedlove	15 Jun 1903
Elisha H. Garland	21 Mar 1904
George H. Garland	23 Sep 1904
Elisha H. Garland	13 Feb 1905
John W. Edwards	3 Jul 1905
Elvira Owenby	2 Oct 1905
Louisa Owenby	7 Sep 1907
Zenia M. Conley	30 Dec 1912
Eliza C. Cable	16 Apr 1919
Samuel A. Cable	27 Jan 1937
Discontinued	30 Apr 1954

Mail to **Stecoah**

### WELCH



October 29, 1883

Thomas J. Welch	26 Jan 1881
Discontinued	16 May 1887
Thomas J. Welch	7 Jun 1887
William H. Crisp	21 Oct 1890
Name changed to <b>Homestead</b>	1 Sep 1892
Andrew M. Edwards	11 Aug 1898
Joshua C. Edwards	8 Aug 1901
Name changed to <b>Japan</b>	2 Sep 1903

Cont'd Pg. 8



**WELCH COVE**

March 31, 1947

Rubye S. Hood  
 Belle Cable  
 Discontinued  
 Mail to **Fontana Dam**

23 Feb 1943  
 1 Apr 1946  
 31 Mar 1947

**YELLOW CREEK, YELLOWCREEK**

February 8, 1910



June 30, 1953

Devania Parker  
 Virgil Grant  
 V. M. Grant  
 Varnell Grant  
 Kimsey N. Grant  
 Name changed to **Yellowcreek**  
 Oliver P. Williams  
 Artie Williams  
 William B. Shope  
 Joseph E. Brooks  
 Daniel Anderson  
 Jeffie G. Kennedy  
 Jeffie J. Millsaps  
 Discontinued  
 Mail to **Robbinsville**

15 Oct 1878  
 6 Mar 1882  
 4 May 1882  
 31 May 1882  
 6 Oct 1890  
 18 May 1894  
 18 May 1894  
 1 Nov 1898  
 27 Dec 1900  
 2 Jan 1907  
 17 Feb 1916  
 7 Mar 1918  
 7 Mar 1918  
 30 Jun 1953

To view even more postmarks from our post offices, visit: [http://www.ncpostalhistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/PostmarkCatalog\\_graham\\_county-20230413.pdf](http://www.ncpostalhistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/PostmarkCatalog_graham_county-20230413.pdf)

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** If you possess any photos/ letters/ postmarks from any of the above-named post offices, Graham County Historical Association would be interested in scanning them for our museum archive. Please contact Tere Moore at [GCHAnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:GCHAnewsletter@gmail.com).

**Genealogy Corner****Thomas Jefferson Ammons & Rachel Elizabeth Davis**

Thomas J. Ammons, born August 9, 1849, son of David Cannady and Nancy Avaline Rogers Ammons, married Rachel Elizabeth Davis on August 12, 1869 in Cherokee Co. NC. Rachel Elizabeth Davis, born on March 3, 1851, in Cheoah, North Carolina, was the daughter of Jacob C. and Susanah Hallman Davis. Rachel died on November 7, 1926, Thomas died on December 8, 1926, both in Vernon, Texas and buried in Fargo, Texas.

**Children of Thomas Jefferson & Rachel Elizabeth Davis Ammons:**

**John A. Ammons**, born June 11, 1872 in Graham Co, NC, died February 26, 1942 in Wilbarger Co, TX, married Nancy E Colvard.

**Candace H Ammons**, born February 28, 1875 in Graham Co, NC, died: October 29, 1952 in Wilbarger Co, TX, married Levi Benjamin Woodard.

**Robert J Ammons**, born June 1877 in Graham Co, NC, died: after 1910 in Wilbarger Co, TX.

**Martha Ammons**, born September 1881 in Graham Co, NC, died: after 1900 in Graham Co, NC.

**Mary E Ammons**, born September 8, 1881 in Graham Co, NC, died: March 12, 1935 in Wilbarger Co, TX.

**George W Ammons**, born March 20, 1884 in Graham Co, NC, died March 26, 1884 in Graham Co, NC.

**Addie Pernina Ammons**, born November 25, 1889 in Graham Co, NC, died January 18, 1929 in Wilbarger Co, TX.

**Charles Carl Ammons**, born October 5, 1892 in Graham Co, NC, died January 27, 1947 in Wilbarger Co, TX.



# 2023 GCHA Museum Christmas Window Displays

For more photos, take a moment to view the wonderful video  
created by Betty Satterfield on Facebook at:

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/731385811473212/permalink/1039421747336282/?mibextid=Nif5oz>



# Join Us Today

## HELP PRESERVE GRAHAM COUNTY'S HISTORY

Become A  
Member

### JOIN US TODAY



MEMBERSHIP LEVELS		Membership Benefits
1-year	\$25.00	Membership Card Quarterly Newsletter Meetings and Committees GCHA Decal 10% discount on GCHA merchandise
5-year	\$100.00 (1 year free)	All 1-year benefits plus GCHA Short-sleeve Tee Shirt
10-year	\$200.00 (2 years free)	All 1-year benefits plus GC Centennial Book
Lifetime	\$1000 or more	All 1-year benefits plus memorial at Museum

**Become a Member Today**  
and proudly display your new  
GCHA Window Decal!

#### Send your payment:

- Through **PayPal** to [grahamcountymuseum@gmail.com](mailto:grahamcountymuseum@gmail.com)
- Drop off at **Hometown Tax**, 62 Tapoco Road, Robbinsville
- Mail to **GCHA**, PO Box 1221 Robbinsville, NC 28771

If you know someone who  
loves history like you do...



### GRAHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

The work of Graham County Historical Association is greatly assisted by your generous support!

**Membership Includes:** Membership Card & Decal / Meetings & Committees / Quarterly Newsletter

#### Please Check Membership/Donation Option Below

- ☐ 1 year \$25.00      ☐ 5 years \$100.00  
☐ 10 years \$200.00      ☐ Lifetime \$1000 or more  
☐ One-time Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Monthly Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ **Merchandise Amt** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\* First \$25 of donation goes to 1-year Membership  
**METHOD OF PAYMENT**

Check | Money Order (Payable to GCHA)

**PayPal** [grahamcountymuseum@gmail.com](mailto:grahamcountymuseum@gmail.com)

Credit Card: (All major credit cards)

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I authorize GCHA to auto-draft my donation from my account

P.O. Box 1221, Robbinsville, NC 28771  
 828.479.5008 / [grahamcountymuseum@gmail.com](mailto:grahamcountymuseum@gmail.com)  
[www.historygc.org/](http://www.historygc.org/) GCHANC

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