



# PITT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

We hope the worst of the pandemic is behind us so that we can welcome the fall of 2021 and a return to a semblance of normality as we continue our celebration of the 260th year of Pitt County's history. Before introducing events planned for the months ahead, a quick look back is worthwhile.

Given the public health regulations then prevalent, most of the PCHS activities this past spring were virtual, conducted via Zoom webinars. One of our high notes was the webinar presentation in April by Dr. Timothy Jenks, ECU professor of history, on William Pitt the Elder, Earl of Chatham and Pitt County namesake. Dr. Jenks laid bare many of the common misconceptions about Pitt, providing for a more historically critical understanding of the man.

The year began, however, with a talk by Kim Kenyon, senior conservator and co-principal investigator for the Queen Anne's Revenge Project. Kenyon's talk was on "Recent discoveries from North Carolina Archaeological Site 31CR314: *Queen Anne's Revenge* and *La Concorde*." Broadcast in January 2021, the talk attracted considerable attention, including front page coverage in the *Daily Reflector* as well as over 100 Zoom attendees.

In February, the PCHS welcomed the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Hammond who gave a webinar presentation in observance of Black History Month, a PCHS first, attracting over 70 attendees.

Dr. Randy Daniel, professor of anthropology at ECU, gave a webinar in March on "Native Artifacts of Eastern North Carolina," broadcast to nearly 100 attendees. Dr. Jenks' webinar in April attracted over 50 attendees, and Dr. John A. Tucker's webinar on John F. Kennedy's campaign stop in Greenville in 1960, also in April, was attended by over 70.

Concluding our spring programs, Dr. Trista Reis Porter, executive director of the Greenville Museum of Art, gave a webinar in May revisiting the 60-year history of the museum at the Flanagan House. Dr. Porter's webinar attracted over 30 attendees.

With virtual technology, the PCHS sidestepped the pandemic, providing historical events for the community, all free, attended by over 400. With the exception of the Queen Anne's Revenge webinar (due to N.C. Dept. of Cultural Resources' restrictions), the talks were recorded and are now posted on our website.

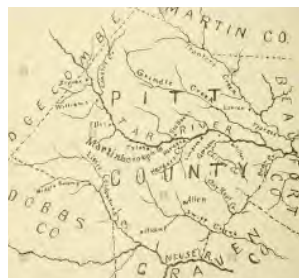
Spring Flashback:  
William Pitt Webinar



Dr. Timothy Jenks



Portrait of William Pitt, by William Hoare, ca. 1754. North Carolina Museum of Art.



Early map of Pitt County

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE FALL?

Dr. Charlie Ewen

Gone and Nearly Forgotten: Reclaiming African American Heritage in a Rural Southern Cemetery  
September 14, 7:00-8:30 pm



On September 14, Dr. Charlie Ewen, professor of anthropology at ECU, will give a presentation on recent archaeological work he and his students have conducted at an African American cemetery near Ayden. Dr. Ewen's talk is entitled "Gone and Nearly Forgotten: Reclaiming African American Heritage in a Rural Southern Cemetery."

Dr. Ewen's presentation is cosponsored by the Ayden Historical and Arts Society, and will be held at the Ayden Community Building, 548 Second St., located next to the Ayden Museum. For those interested, a tour of the Ayden Museum will be available prior to Dr. Ewen's presentation. Those interested in touring the museum should contact Andrea Morris ([ahnorris@suddenlink.net](mailto:ahnorris@suddenlink.net)).

Dr. Ewen's research interests focus mostly on historical archaeology (specifically the contact and colonial periods), from prehistoric villages to Civil War fortifications and twentieth-century homesteads. He has directed projects at the Tryon Palace, Fort Macon State Park, Hope Plantation, Somerset Place, and Bath. Ewen currently serves as president of the Society for Historical Archaeology, and as director of the ECU Phelps Archaeology Laboratory.



Top: The Ayden Community Bldg., 548 Second St.

Bottom: Ayden Historical and Arts Society Museum, 554 Second St.

# Dr. Donald Ensley

A Quality of Life Conversation: An Eastern North Carolina Journey  
September 28, 2021, Laupus Library, 4:30-6:00 pm, Webinar



Dr. Donald Ensley, emeritus professor of public health with the ECU School of Allied Health will give a presentation in Laupus Library on September 28, offering his autobiographical reflections on his journey, from rural Belhaven to his career as professor and chair of the Department of Community Health. Dr. Ensley's insights into the importance of community-based initiatives in public health are especially relevant as eastern North Carolina and the country as a whole continue efforts to overcome the COVID pandemic.

Dr. Ensley joined the ECU faculty in 1977 as an associate professor in the School of Allied Health and Social Professions' Department of Community Health, becoming one of university's first African American faculty. Throughout his career, Dr. Ensley's focus has been on community-based health services, managed care, health promotion and disease prevention, rural health care, elder care, health care advocacy of special populations, and public health policies. Exemplifying the "think globally, act locally" philosophy, Ensley also helped strengthen the environmental integrity of eastern North Carolina by serving as a founding board member and first president of the North Carolina Coastal Federation.

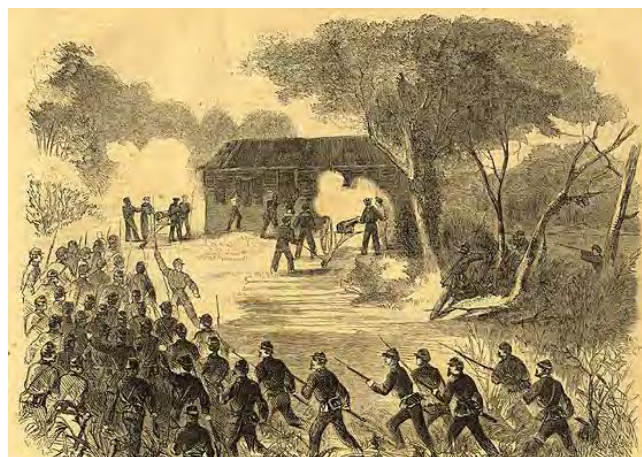
In 2001, Gov. Mike Easley appointed Ensley to the N.C. Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission tasked with distributing North Carolina's share of the national tobacco settlement. In 2005, he was elected to serve a three-year term on the board of the North Carolina Humanities Council after having worked on two oral history projects funded by it. The first, in 1996, "The Black Physician Experience in Eastern North Carolina," and then later, the second, in 2003, "Voices of Stroke: Words and Pictures of Stroke Survivors and Caregivers." Ensley also served as vice chair of the North Carolina Heart Disease and Stroke Task Force and as chair of the board of directors of the North Carolina Heart Association.

Cosponsoring this lecture in partnership with the PCHS are ECU's Laupus Health Sciences Library and the James Yadkin Joyner Library.

# Dr. Donald Collins

The Civil War in Pitt County: A Webinar Presentation

October 12, 2021 (See our website for updates)



Battle of Tranter's Creek, Washington, N.C.  
June 5, 1862 Illustration from *Harper's Weekly*

A native of Miami, Florida, Don Collins served in the U.S. Army's 13th Armored Infantry Battalion, 3rd Armored Division in Germany, 1955–1958. He subsequently received his B.A. in Library Science from Florida State University in 1963 and an M.A. in Library Science in 1964. He finished a second M.A. in history and his Ph.D. at the University of Georgia (1985).

Dr. Collins's doctoral thesis was published as *Native American Aliens: Disloyalty and the Renunciation of Citizenship of Japanese Citizens during World War II* in 1985. His other publications include *Libraries and Research: A Practical Approach* published in 1987, and *The Death and Resurrection of Jefferson Davis*, published by Rowman and Littlefield in 2005.

Collins joined the faculty at ECU in 1972, first as an associate professor in the Department of Library and Information Studies, and then, in 1993, as associate professor in the Department of History. Collins is a member of the scholarly advisory council for the Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles. He is also a member of the American Library Association, Association for Library and Information Science Education, North Carolina Library Association, North Carolina Association School Libraries, North Carolina Community College Learning Resources Association.

# Roger Kammerer

Farmville History: On its Sesquicentennial  
November 2021 (See our website for updates)



*Celebrating Farmville's 150th Year*



Roger Kammerer will give a special presentation on the history of Farmville as the PCHS contribution to that town's celebration of its sesquicentennial. The presentation will be held in the new Farmville Public Library, 4276 W Church St.

Kammerer is a local author and historian. He has authored or co-authored twenty-one books and booklets on local history and genealogy including *Forgotten Tales of North Carolina* and *Recollections of Pitt County*, both published in 2006. His papers are curated by the ECU Joyner Library Manuscript Collection as the Roger E. Kammerer, Jr., Collection, 1782-2011.

He is the current president and a charter member of the Pitt County Family Researchers, Inc., a local genealogical group, and served as the founding editor of the group's journal, the *Pitt County Genealogical Quarterly*, which in 2004 was named the best genealogical publication of the year by the North Carolina Genealogical Society.

Since 1985, Kammerer has authored numerous columns on local history for the *Greenville Times*. He is a lifetime member of the Pitt County Historical Society, serves as its official historian, and in recent years has served on the board of the Eastern Carolina Village and Farm Museum.

# Return of the Christmas Tea Greenwreath Plantation House December 5, 2021 (Updates to follow)



L-R: Deb Higgins, Kim Kenyon, and Garreth Kenyon

For the first time since December 2019, the Pitt County Historical Society plans to celebrate the holiday season once again with our traditional Christmas Tea. All PCHS members are invited and their guests, especially prospective members, are welcome. Holiday refreshments and a special program of Christmas carols will brighten the occasion.

This year, the gathering will be at the historic Greenwreath Plantation House located at 5157 NC-43 (Falkland Highway), west of Greenville. This beautifully restored property is now the residence of former PCHS board member and senior conservator at the Queen Anne's Revenge Conservation Lab, Kim Kenyon, and her husband Garreth.

For nearly a decade, Kim and Garreth have dedicated their free time to restoring this late-18th century property now listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. For information posted by Kim and Garreth on the challenges they have faced and the achievements realized, see their blog, "That Big Old Yellow House" online at <http://greenwreathplantation.blogspot.com/2013/07/>

We encourage all PCHS members to mark their calendars and save the date, Dec. 5, for what will surely be a unique holiday occasion at one of the most handsome and historic venues in Pitt County and eastern North Carolina.



**Stay Tuned: Updates on Fall 2021 events will be posted on our website and Facebook pages!**