



RIVER, ROAD, & RAIL

Pathways through our past

VOLUME I, ISSUE I • SPRING 2015

By BRANTLEY PARTIN

Museum Director

Last October Martin Kane, the head exhibit designer for North Carolina State Parks, spent a full day at with us providing important advice. A consummate museum professional with over 30 years of exhibit design experience, Mr. Kane designed the history exhibit at Cliffs of the Neuse State Park.

Martin compiled a report on the museum, highlighting areas for improvement and suggestions for exhibit designs to maximize our space. One of his recommendations concerns our timeline project.

Originally we planned to create a large timeline of Wayne County history using floor-to-ceiling panels, but he strongly encouraged us to embrace the aesthetics of the building. Therefore, in lieu of covering up the decorative molding found throughout the museum, we will use the molding as frames to mount panels.

Therefore, our new plan is to collaborate with the Wayne County Arts Council to work with local artists to render different aspects of county history on canvas. The artwork will serve as the timeline, which will be placed inside the upper molding that surrounds the main gallery space.

Using different artists will provide a wide-range of styles that is unique, affords personal interpretations, and embraces our local artisan community. The project will be planned out with parameters that include the number of panels, sizes, and specific eras, events, and people.

Further, the Local History Collection in the public library will help artists research and learn new aspects of local history that warrants exposure.

This new approach is exciting because it should be a positive engaging community event, can help us formally kick-off our ambitious plans for a major overhaul to the museum operation, and potentially turn into a fundraising event.

The museum is pleased to announce the allocation of funds for a paid summer internship who will help us catalog the permanent museum collection. Since opening in 1988, numerous cataloging efforts started but never completed nor carried out by someone who understood museum standards. In order for our museum to be considered professional its imperative that we manage our collection properly, which is a top priority.

We are in the process of interviewing graduate students from the North Carolina State University Public History program and University of North Carolina-Greensboro Museum Studies. The intern will help process items, evaluation, data entry, photography, digitization, labeling, and storage.

In order to help make this internship possible, we extend special gratitude to the **Neuse Lodge Chapter of the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows** who gave us a \$500 scholarship, under the stewardship of WCHA Board Member Robert Fuller. Jay and Amy Bauer graciously offered free housing for the summer intern, which helped us overcome a major hurdle.

ON THE COVER



Oversized aerial photograph of downtown Goldsboro facing north taken circa 1957. Based on context clues in the image, the cars date to the late 1950s, and the St. Paul Methodist Church steeple is missing, which Hurricane Hazel destroyed in October 1954. Many of the buildings in the business district still stand, but there are also several noticeable changes. For example, the traffic circle at the intersection of Ash and Center Streets is not built yet. The row of houses in the bottom center section of the picture were torn down to build the police and fire station headquarters.

A large 4' x 6' copy of this photo is on display at the museum accompanied with a booklet of historic photographs of downtown buildings. The photograph is part of the Charles Norwood, Sr. collection. A 1920 Goldsboro High School graduate and local businessman, Mr. Norwood amassed a beautiful collection of local photographs, many that are housed both in our museum and at the public library. In fact, the Local History Room at the Wayne County Public Library is named in his honor due to efforts to preserve local history and financial support.

Did you know?

Wayne County trivia by CHRIS LAWSON

- Britton Hood (1767-1848) served as Wayne County's first surveyor. Britton and his brothers came to Eastern North Carolina from Lynn, Massachusetts in 1790.

- In 1913, the Helig-Meyers store started in Goldsboro by Lithuanian immigrants H.A. Heilig and J.M. Meyers. Eventually it became one of the largest furniture retailers in the nation.



STREETSCAPE EXHIBIT: Artifact Recovery

By KIRK KELLER
WCHA President, 2013-15

The museum is in the process of starting to display artifacts recovered from the downtown construction currently underway on Center Street and Walnut Street towards the old train depot. At the moment there are two display cases full of objects with plans to expand as more items arrive.

In 2006, the City of Goldsboro funded a study to create a master plan of the downtown area that became known as Streetscape. The plan outlines the vision for the commercial district and its surrounding historical residential neighborhoods. Culling of the objects is dubbed "**Downtown Goldsboro Artifact Recovery Project**", which can be followed on Facebook.

Wayne County Historical Association President Kirk Keller (2013-15) approached city officials and contractors TA Loving and Daniels and Daniels about putting aside the excavated dirt to save "gems" that help document local history. After removing the railroad tracks in 1925, the city paved Center Street which essentially sealed everything underneath dating to the city's founding in 1847.

Under Kirk's leadership, he engaged a wide range of volunteers throughout the county to help dig through piles of dirt. Students include the Wayne Early Middle College High School, Wayne School of Engineering, University of Mount



1887 "Liberty Seated" dime found underneath Center Street

Olive students, archeology student Lura Hulse who studies at the University of North Carolina. Jim Hinnant with Xpress Communications is starting to work on a documentary.

So far an incredible diversity of objects include bottles, ink wells, nails, coins, railroad spikes, bullets, parts of ceramic wares, oyster shells, a Civil War era uniform button from South Carolina, and most recently a Union army issued leather shoe. In the near future the museum will have a formal reception kicking off the first phase of the Streetscape project that focuses on community involvement.

Over time we plan to incorporate these objects into exhibits that explore topics that include businesses, architecture, the Civil War, and the railroad.



Glass figurine



South Carolina button circa 1860s

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Downtown Goldsboro Artifact Recovery Project

RECENT GIFTS HONORING ETHEL CRONE

Ethel Donnelly Crone of Goldsboro recently passed away Feb. 11, 2015. A former president of the Wayne County Historical Association, several friends honored her memory with financial gifts.

Ethel enjoyed art, architecture, literature, and people. Her home on Salem Church Road used design elements from a 1760 historic house in Maine. In addition, one room from the former Vernon Hall Plantation in Mount Olive (built circa 1819), was literally removed piece by piece and built inside Mrs. Crone's house, which afforded the intricate woodwork to be saved.

Originally from New York, she came to her husband's hometown of Goldsboro in the late 1940s, teaching the sixth grade. James Clarence Crone passed away in August 2013.

Friends honoring Ethel Crone

Michael & Sonna Kalis
Martin & Alice Lancaster
Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC
Alice Cox
Sterling Harrell
Mary Morrow
Mailande Schrum
Charles & Lu Snipes
Sylvia Scherr
Charles & Nancy Norwood
Jim & Mary Ann Parker

Wayne County Historical Association

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PATHWAYS, RAILWAYS, and HIGHWAYS is a publication of the Wayne County Historical Association.

About Us

The Wayne County Historical Association is a non-profit organization responsible for operating and maintaining the Wayne County Museum and the 1856 Presbyterian Church located on the corner of Ash and James Streets in downtown Goldsboro.

Wayne County Museum

Open Tuesday thru Saturday
11am - 4pm or by appointment
info@waynemuseum.org

Questions or comments please contact
Marty Tschetter, *Newsletter editor*

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MAJOR FUNDRAISER for the YEAR



**303 S. William Street
Goldsboro**

**Friday, April 24
through
Saturday, May 2**

**Open 11-5pm
Closed Monday, April 27**

Luncheon served 11-2pm daily

**Tickets \$25
Luncheon Tickets \$15**

Tour, Tasting, and Tunes

**Friday, May 1
6:30pm-9pm
\$40**

The Herring-Hulse House
AN HISTORIC GOLDSBORO DESIGNER SHOW HOME

The designer show house is an eight day event featuring the finest home designs with over 200 products,

...raising money for the Wayne County Museum and future endeavors by the Historical Association. Under the leadership of Amy Bauer and Gretchen Reed,

Built in 1944 by the late ?? Herring who taught elementary school for ?? years. The house features six bedrooms and three baths on a spacious lot that features a guest house and standalone greenhouse. The house boasts a grand living room with a fireplace and built-in bookcases; a formal dining room and Mrs. Rowena Hulse's antique table with chairs as the centerpiece. A transformed kitchen with old as well as new elements dazzles you. The kitchen leads into a warm and inviting family room with rock fireplace then into an elegant powder room and cozy library, all on the main floor.

The staircase leads to a wide second floor foyer. One room turned into a nursery, followed by a playroom, which should delight a child of any age. Bright and cheer describes this room. Across the hall is a bedroom with an antique double bed that whispers sweet dreams

