



WAYNE ECHOES

The Newsletter of the Wayne County Museum

VOL. 5, No. 2



FALL 1993

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Permanent Collection Receives Facelift

The Permanent Collection has received a facelift, thanks to Mr. Charles Ellis, chairman of the Exhibits committee. The presentation of this exhibit is unlike any other, in that it reflects the simplicity of the artifacts without losing the relevance of the time period and historical significance that it adheres to. From the first moment one is struck by the crispness of the displays and sensibility of design as each artifact is reviewed. Mr. Ellis spared no creative expense in adapting the time-worn floor layout into an innovative and refreshing experience in the historical outlook of the museum.

Some new additions to the museum from private collections include a 100 year old violin, a Persian rug, and several pieces of eye catching and prestigious artwork. These, plus some new acquisitions to the museum currently on display, enhances the entire exhibit and makes for an enjoyable experience for every member of the museum.

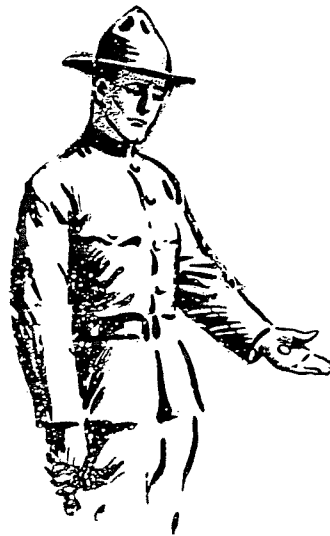
While the new additions bring a sparkle to the eye, the old and valued regulars are still in attendance; and some are out for the first time since special exhibits of years past. Some of these items are: Indian artifacts from the county as old as 10,000 years; a Congressional coin given by Rep. Martin Lancaster; and an early style instant picture camera.

So come on down and view the new museum. But don't be surprised if you feel at home and get caught up in a conversation in one of the exhibits. They're just waiting for you to stop by and chat in their Victorian parlor.

We Need Your Artifacts

From

W. W. I



The next major exhibit for the museum will cover the World War I period. Many people have expressed an interest in seeing such an exhibit at the museum. The museum has some unique pieces covering the war, but we still need your help. Plans are underway to locate and borrow anything from the years 1914 to 1920. Seymour Johnson Air Base will even be lending some items to the exhibit.

Some types of artifacts that we desperately need are: Old magazines from the period, photographs, letters, newspapers and other war-related items. Your donations will not only be appreciated, but safely and tastefully displayed. Through your support, your museum can only get better!

Historic County Site Visited Everittsville: Richest City With Shortest Life

A sprawling subdivision of lower middle income homes is all that is left of a once proud and very elite town of 150 families. The town in question is Everittsville. Born in 1840 yet dead in 25 years (1865), this town boasted the best homes and buildings in the county. The best analogy would be to imagine Walnut Creek with three times the number of homes. Everittsville held the finest families in the county and also the most influential. Some of those families were: the Cobbs, the Hollowells, the Pridgens and the Hines.

One of the principle reasons for Everittsville's birth was due to the horrendous mosquito problem in Waynesborough. The low-lying land on the Neuse River was infested with the pests, and those with money moved to higher ground. Another valuable point was also the new Wilmington to Weldon railroad (the longest in the world at that time), which allowed the landowners a chance to ship their crops out much faster than by the river network. The death of this city came during Sherman's march into Goldsboro in 1865, at which time over half of

the town was burned.

Yet this sad event was preceded by the slower disease of migration. As you know,

Goldsboro's birth was in 1847, and many in Everittsville watched with interest as new warehouses and railroad depots were built in the middle of this new town. Thus many, opting for an even easier way to transport their goods yet still maintain their style of living, moved again into the young town of Goldsboro. What makes this event so unique is that they moved everything, including the kitchen sink. This fact becomes even more surprising when you consider that their two- or three-story homes were on the opposite side of the Neuse River. No one is sure how they managed the water crossing, but by using massive logs they successfully navigated the land route to their new homes.

To find the present site of Everittsville, you need to take Highway 117 South until you reach State Road 1926, at the intersection of Hardees, just after you cross the river. Take a left at this intersection (it has a stoplight) and proceed $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. When you find Lakewood Estates (on the left), you will be in Everittsville.

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Published by the Wayne County Museum
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Exhibit Hours:
2 - 5 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday
and Sunday

Office Hours:
Tuesday and Thursday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The aim of the Wayne County Museum is to collect, preserve, study and exhibit objects that illustrate the story of man and nature in eastern central North Carolina.



This Quarter In Wayne County History

(Early Period)

August 21, 1740 - Joshua Grantham was born in Surry County, Virginia. He would later help settle the area in the southwest corner of Wayne County and his children would establish the town of Grantham.

May 6, 1781 - Lord Cornwallis and Lt. Col. Banastre "Bloody" Tarleton and 2000 British troops were engaged by 400 Pitt County militiamen at Peacock's Bridge in northern Wayne County. After inflicting heavy losses on the British, the militia retired. The loss of these fine British soldiers helped lead to Lord Cornwallis' defeat at Yorktown.

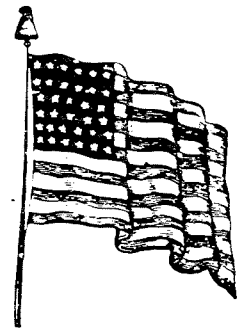
August 3, 1824 - William T. Dortch was born in Nash County. He was a county lawyer for Wayne and also served as State Senator during the Civil War and again after reconstruction in 1880. He also helped revise and codify the entire body of law in North Carolina. He died in 1889.

May 28, 1861 - Jefferson Davis, New President of the Confederate States, stopped in Goldsboro for supper.

July 1874 - Curtis Hooks Brodgen, a Wayne County native, assumed the office of Governor of North Carolina after the

death of Tod Caldwell, then Governor.

April 21, 1885 - The Goldsboro Argus is first published. It would later join the Goldsboro News in 1929.



New Chairman

At the June meeting of the Board of Trustees' meeting, Velda Faye Howell was elected to fill the position of Chairman of the Wayne County Museum. She has been serving on the Board since 1989 in the position of Chairperson of the Education Committee and acting Chairman since February of this year. One of the best programs initiated for the museum has been the tour guide program, the brainchild of Ms. Howell.

Her other activities within the community are serving on the

"Communities In Schools Task Force" of Wayne County Public Schools and with children and youth groups in the Society of Friends (Quakers), of which she and her family are members.

A native and resident of eastern Wayne County, she finds history, particularly state, Quaker and Greek, very fascinating. Her outlook on the museum is very refreshing, as she states: "I am looking forward to working with the other members of the board and [in] continuing our mission to

educate Wayne County and the surrounding area about their historical past."

She is married to Robert M. (Bobby) Howell, who is a supervisor at Franklin Baking Company, and has a grown daughter, Katrina.

New Artifacts Donated

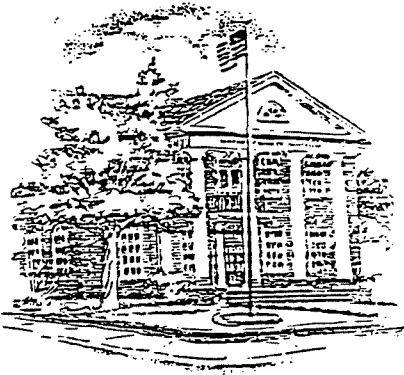
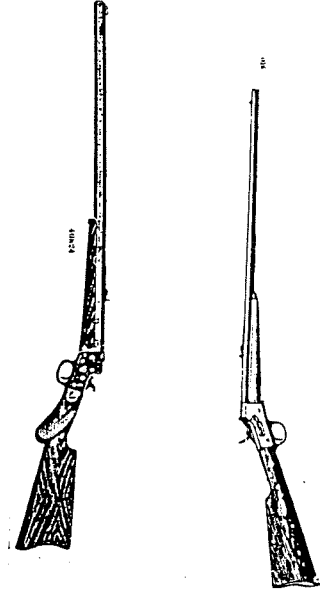
New Artifacts that have been donated to the museum but have not passed the Acquisitions committee are:

Five rifles from Mary Johnstone representing the Springfield and Remington Armories. Among them is a fine example of a breech-loading weapon made by Springfield in 1864. Another rifle sports a rather unique magazine and ejecting system. The magazine juts out perpendicular to the barrel about 1 1/2" to 2", and feeds the bullets in a sideways-type motion into the chamber. All of the rifles are in excellent

condition and are an asset to the museum.

Another artifact donated to the museum is an Ediphone dictating machine (c. 1920), by Mr. Facie Weeks. This machine used a thick wax cylinder that rotated on a polished drum to record the human voice. Each cylinder can hold the equivalent of an album as far as playing time is concerned. This device was the brainchild of Thomas Edison, but enjoyed little popularity since few could afford such a luxury item. This gift is indeed a valued prize for the museum since its rarity is desired by

many state museums and will provide Wayne County with a quality showpiece.



Wayne County Museum
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