

# Wayne County HISTORICAL Association Newsletter

April 1990

## WCHA Revolving Fund To Hold Tour

The Wayne County Historical Association Revolving Fund is hosting a Spring Historical Homes Tour on Saturday, April 28, as a fund raiser. The tour will feature six recently restored Goldsboro homes, and will be held between 1:00 and 6:00 p.m.

The tickets for the tour are \$7.00 if purchased in advance or \$8.00 if purchased the day of the tour. (See below for list of purchase locations.) Tickets may also be purchased by writing to the WCHA, P.O. Box 665,

Goldsboro, N.C. 27530. Please add \$1.00 handling fee per order.

In conjunction with the tour, the Wayne County Museum is sponsoring a luncheon for \$5.00, which will be held at the Museum from noon to 2:00 p.m., April 28. Luncheon tickets should be purchased in advance at the Museum.

The tickets for the tour are available at the following locations:  
Wayne Co. Museum, 116 N. William St., Goldsboro  
Anderson Paint Co., 1705 E. Ash St.,

Goldsboro  
Grant Electric Co., 1227 N. William St., Goldsboro  
W.P. Martin Paint Co., 113 N. Center St., Mt. Olive  
Carolyn Griffin, Seven Springs  
Mary Grady, Seven Springs  
Pikeville Insurance, 102 S. Railroad St., Pikeville  
Fremont Realty, 107 Main St., Fremont  
Fremont Pharmacy, Main St., Fremont.

Following are descriptions of the homes on the tour schedule.

### A.J. MAXWELL HOUSE, 112 East Pine St., c. 1935

This two-story painted brick house built in 1935 was designed by Allen J. Maxwell, Jr. as his family residence. Mr. Maxwell was a prominent architect and businessman who practiced in Eastern North Carolina until his death in 1963. He also designed the Gordon Maxwell, Jr. house at 112 Evergreen Ave., the Raymond Bryn house at 1108 E. Pine St., the Maxwell-Pelletier house at 1111 Evergreen Ave., the Louise Maxwell house at 1306 E. Mulberry St., and the Bryan-Korschun-O'Berry house at 1403 Mulberry St.

The street side entrance of the house was originally through an enclosed porch which opened onto an adjacent courtyard in the rear. Although the architecture is Classical in form, the reverse fluted

design in the wood trim around the windows and the pattern in the metal grill work under the windows and the pattern in the metal grill work under the second story windows are features of the Art Deco Style. The interior also has many Art Deco design elements including the scalloped plaster fireplace mantel in the living room and the metal stair railings.

In 1989 the present owner, Billy Barfield, did a complete restoration, including stabilization of the plaster and preservation of the hardwood floors.

### GRANTHAM-BARTHOLOMEW HOUSE, 309 W. Walnut St., c. 1905

This late Victorian, two-story house with a gabled standing seam tin roof and large decorative front porch, was purchased by Wayne County Historical Association in 1989 and has been sold to Mary Wells, Scott Wells and Jeff Moorine.

It is located in the Goldsboro Historic District, directly across the street from the Borden family compound. The home has its original pair of Victorian front doors. These open into a central hallway that is arched in the rear. Two large rooms branch off both sides of this hall in the front of the house. In the rear of this hall is the kitchen, butler pantry, 1/2 bath, morning sitting room, evening sitting room, and enclosed back porch. The upstairs contains a central hall bathroom and two bedrooms.

Of particular interest is the recent removal of the false partition in the central downstairs hall. This has reopened the house in its original style and exposed the grand hallway.

For many years this was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bartholomew. Mrs. "B" as she was affectionately known, was an early leader in the Women's Club and the USO.

# Black Exhibit Declared a Cooperative Success

The Wayne County Historical Association, and its umbrella components, the Old Dobbs County Genealogical Society and the Wayne County Museum, can stand proud for the recent accomplishments in conjunction with Black History Month.

Henry Ford once said: "Coming together is the beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

Working together with the black community produced one of the greatest periods of harmony that has ever existed in Wayne County. In the beginning, the Wayne County Historical Association and the Old Dobbs County Genealogical Society jointly sponsored a black lecturer, genealogist and author - Dorothy Spruill Redford in her presentation, "Collecting the Genius of People." This event at Wayne Community College drew an audience of more than 200 and was followed by an outstanding reception co-hosted by the Wayne County Museum where most of those enjoyed fellowship with each other.

Prior to the presentation, Dorothy Spruill Redford and Mayor Hal Plonk cut the red, black and green ribbon to officially open the "Black Heritage/Black Culture" exhibit at the museum. The air was full of excitement as three young men in African costume played drum rolls for the ribbon cutting.

This was followed by six young ladies also in colorful costumes and also members of The Cultural Movement led by Anne Hurrey. They performed traditional African dances in the museum lobby. Miss Nicole Aboly, from Abidjon, Ivory Coast, entertained with solo native dance. The exhibit was then declared open by WCHA President Charles B. Ellis and Museum Trustees Chairman Christian Cobb.

By closing on March 4, more than 1,800 children and adults had visited the museum. This is an impressive figure and warms the hearts of all connected with the Wayne County Museum. However, there is more to the success of any function than mere attendance figures. What is impressive here is the spirit of cooperation displayed by those involved in designing setting up and conducting tours of the exhibit. This could never have been accomplished without the wholehearted cooperation of our black community.

The success of this first "Black Heritage/Black Culture" exhibit can be traced directly to Dorothy Whitted Hardy, who gave unstintingly of her time, talent, expertise, and generous bond of friendship. Her contacts in the black community led directly to Denise Fields, black historian, who served as artifacts coordinator, and who loaned many, many items from her personal collection. Mrs. Hardy, who served as the exhibits chairman also enlisted the support of the following people who worked to make this first Black History Month observance a memorable and lasting event:

Elizabeth Arrington  
Gloria Burney  
Mildred and Milford Coor  
Lawrence Durham  
Virginia Green  
Dr. Thomasine Hardy  
Eunice Hudson  
Holland Hudson  
Lilly Kendall  
Dorothy Lewis  
Rachelle Richardson  
Jonathan Rogers  
Mary Rogers  
Janie Rouse  
Gwen Shipman  
Dr. Rick Stovall  
Major Roy C. White (Ret.)

Helen Wiley  
Ernestine Wooten

The Association and its components appreciate the support of the following people who also helped make Black History Month a success for Wayne County:

Dr. Herman Porter  
Bishop J. Melvin  
Dorothy Spruill Redford  
Elizabeth Ellis  
Jack Wharton  
June Wharton  
Mayor Hal Plonk  
James White  
Janice Hill  
Latterie Ward  
Linwood Anderson

Our first Black Heritage/Black Culture exhibit and presentation proved that Henry Ford was certainly correct when he said, "Working together is success."

Charles B. Ellis, Museum Exhibits/Community Liaison

## The Tale of the Civil War and the Sycamore Tree

"Near the end of the Civil War some of the Union soldiers came into Goldsboro and marched down Walnut Street. At that time my grandfather, Charles Dewey, was about 12 years old and small for his age. He couldn't see the soldiers very well because of all the people lined up on both sides of the street, so he climbed a sycamore tree in his yard on the corner of Walnut and James streets. As the soldiers passed, one looked up and saw him in the tree and called out 'Come down, Zaccheus.' Someone standing near said, 'it is surely a surprise to me that a Yankee soldier knows anything about the Bible.'"—as told by Bessie Bell (Mrs. Donald Bell)

(Tour Homes continued from page 1)

### STERLING WOOTEN HOUSE, 809-811 E. Beech St., c. 1938

This two-story painted brick house was designed by architect Mitchell Wooten of Kinston and built in 1938-39 by Mr. and Mrs. Sterling D. Wooten. The Wootens expanded and remodeled their home in 1951 and 1960. In 1987 when it was purchased by Colonel and Mrs. Paul W. Bishop the house and gardens were again refurbished.

Outstanding features of the home include a 150-year-old mantel brought from Mrs. Wooten's family estate in Brunswick County, Virginia, English-design gardens, an above-garage game room with fireplace and oak floors, as well as some modernizations. An added delight of touring this home is viewing photographs made prior to renovation.

The property belonged to the Wootens for several generations. Mr. Wooten's ancestral home, that was on lot 809, burned and was never rebuilt. The wood-frame three-bay garage is much older than the rest of the structures and was part of the original structures on 809. Although the interior of the house has been altered slightly, much of the work was completed with the original 1938 doors, shutters, etc., which had been stored in the attic. Some items have been relocated to other parts of the house.

### ORMOND HOUSE, 500 A. Street, c. 1919

Built prior to 1919, this two-story frame, Colonial Gothic home predates a part of the Ormond subdivision annex which is outside the Goldsboro city limits. Recently renovated by D.J. Rose, this house's extraordinary features were

retained. It has a gabled roof and a front porch. The vestibule's hand-carved archway and staircase has been painstakingly restored. Of the three full baths, one still has its original fixtures, including a footed tub of the 1920s decor. The ingenious mow room on the second floor was used to store wood for the six period fire places, most of which are decorated with faux tile and one with a carved solid Philippine mahogany mantel. The front entrance has leaded beveled glass windows and the dining room has a stained glass bay window. The stairwell has recessed panels and beaded molding of heart pine.

Mrs. Della Brennen and her son and daughter-in-law, Ken and Robin Brennen from Jamaica, New York, purchased this house in 1989.

### GINN-CREECH HOUSE, 105 S. Virginia St., c. 1909

On February 1, 1909, John T. Ginn purchased the property for \$3,500 and owned it until 1938 when Wilbur and Frances Creech bought it. The Creeches owned a furniture store downtown and enjoyed the convenience of living close to their business.

The Revolving Fund of the Wayne County Historical Association bought the endangered house in October 1984 after numerous owners and neglect. Mr. D.J. Rose purchased the house and made extensive renovation; before selling it to attorney Jerry Braswell in September 1988.

A wrap-around porch, multiple gables and bracketed eaves make this two-story frame house an outstanding example from the Victorian era. The gingerbread woodwork on the exterior was meticulously restored. The interior of this three bedroom house has a central

hallway and staircase. Five original mantels decorate their respective rooms.

### LOVING-BENTON HOUSE, 207 S. Pineview Ave., c. 1935

Mr. A.J. Maxwell designed this 1936 two-story, painted brick house Mr. and Mrs. T.A. Loving. The exterior is reminiscent of Georgian Classical Revival. An interesting Classical feature is the pattern of the brick detail around the roof overhang. The curved front entrance, however, is the Art Deco style which incorporated into the Classical design of the 4,000 square foot home. Also distinctive is the pattern carved into the doors.

The hallway and staircase run parallel to the front of the house. The entry opens onto a living room with 12-inch plaster molding and a sun porch on the side and a living room on the other. The fireplace mantel and metal stair rail are Art Deco in style. The kitchen and breakfast room have been redecorated with black and white tile floors. The breakfast room was turned into an efficient office. Also located on the first floor is a Japanese mahogany paneled den and a guest bedroom. On the second floor are three bedrooms and two bathrooms.

Dr. and Mrs. George Benton purchased the house in 1952 and lived in it until 1985 when Dr. and Mrs. John Jennings, Jr. purchased it.

### Dues Due

The annual membership dues for 1990 became due January. You may use the attached self-addressed envelope or send the dues to WCHA, P.O. Box 66 Goldsboro, N.C. 27530.

## Museum Selects New Board Chair

The Wayne County Museum has a new chairman of the Board of Trustees. Christian Cobb came on board in December full of ideas, vim, vigor and vitality. This lady is excited about the museum, its associations, contacts and purposes. She inspires enthusiasm, a feeling of belonging and is actively engaged in day to day operations.

The new chairman's visions for the future of the museum have already begun to bear fruit although she has scarcely begun to act. She has already appointed several

new committee chairmen, begun a vigorous search for an administrative director, increased efforts in fund-raising and has a well-functioning membership committee.

Christian's interest in our museum is accentuated by involvement in such allied organizations as the Colonial Dames XVII Century, Friends of the Library (co-chairman), and N.C. Museum of Art (member of the board). We look forward to a long and profitable future for our museum under her capable leadership.



Wayne County Historical Assn., Inc.  
P.O. Box 665  
Goldsboro, N.C. 27530

## WCHA To Meet in Fremont

The next general meeting of the Wayne County Historical Association will be held in Fremont, at 3 p.m. on April 22 at the Fremont United Methodist Church Education Hall. Selby Daniels, a Fremont native, historian, and author will give a presentation on the "History of Fremont."

All members and friends are asked to loan for display any photos, artifacts, or other memorabilia of early Fremont. School students at Fremont Elementary School are now studying a unit on Fremont history and we hope to decorate the Fremont merchants' windows with their drawings.

## Civil War Artifacts on Exhibit

The Wayne County Museum opened its current exhibit, "The War Between the States - 1861-1865," with a gala event on March 24.

The ribbon cutting was attended by Mayor Hal Plonk, Museum Trustee Chairman Christian Cobb and various officials of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Sons of Confederate Veterans and Children of the Confederacy. The dignitaries and guests were escorted into the building to the sounds of an authentic 1860s drum and amid the unfurled colors of the five flags of the Confederate States of America and the 1860s Union flag.

The exhibit consists of the various period flags, coins, currency and postal items; original paintings; ordinances; rifles; uniforms; photopaplis; battlefield maps and drawings; period furniture; an 1860s bugle; an 1855 clock; engravings of President Abraham Lincoln and President Jefferson Davis; school text and other books of the period; a confederate soldier's camp; and a display of War Between the States naval/marine artifacts.

On loan only for the opening day from the N.C. Museum of History was the uniform of General William Gaston Lewis. General Lewis lived in Goldsboro and is buried in Willowdale Cemetery. Gaston McKee Lewis, the five-year-old great-great-grandson of General Lewis, was in attendance for the opening.

## FOR SALE

Hollingworth Home, 113 Park Ave. B, c. 1920

This house is being sold by the family by sealed bids. Bids will be opened at noon on May 1, 1990. Downstairs on one side of a central hall is a living room, bedroom, and bath. On the other side is a dining room, large kitchen, and study. Upstairs are four bedrooms and a bath. The house has approximately 3,600 square feet and is heated by one gas heating unit. For further information please contact David Rouse at 736-2440 (work).

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