



# River, Road, & Rails

W A Y N E C O U N T Y H I S T O R I C A L A S S O C I A T I O N

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- Rotating Exhibits
- Murders
- Volunteer opportunities
- Webpage: waynemuseum.org
- Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/waynecomuseum>
- Follow us on Instagram!
- Coming attractions

**N E W D I R E C T O R - N E W D I R E C T I O N S**

The Board of Directors of Wayne County Historical Association is pleased to introduce Rebekah Fitzgerald as the new Executive Director of the Wayne County Museum. Rebekah, a native of Princeton, NC, assumed the Director's position on June 1, 2016.

Our new Director was educated at Princeton High School and recently graduated from the University of Mount Olive with a major in History and a minor in Religion. For the past two years, she has been a part time Historic Interpreter at the Bentonville

Battlefield State Historic Site working with visitor services and giving tours of the historic Harper House. She has carried out these duties while also completing her University studies. While at Bentonville, she was involved in staffing the 150<sup>th</sup> Battle of Bentonville Anniversary Reenactment.

Rebekah recently returned from a trip to Thailand with the Honors Program. While in high school, she ran Cross Country, served as President of the Art Club and was a member of the National Beta



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
REBEKAH FITZGERALD

Club.

Parents of the new Director are Rachel H. Fitzgerald and Larry Fitzgerald of Princeton. She has two younger siblings, Hannah and Ethan Fitzgerald.

A reception to introduce Rebekah to the community will be held on July 11th at 7 pm at the Wayne County Museum.

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Exhibits	2
Programs	3
Gift Ideas	3
Outreach	4
New Inside / Outside	5
Timeline	5-6
WCHA	7
Reception	8

MAY – JULY ROTATING EXHIBIT

“It is with great enthusiasm that I announce the "Wedding Fashions Through the Ages: 1910-2000" Exhibit has been extended through the end of July. This is due to the high popularity and volume of guests visiting the museum since the exhibit's opening. If you have not come by yet, I encourage you to come enjoy this exhibit.”

~Rebekah Fitzgerald,  
Ex. Dir.

*The WCHA wants to thank all of those dedicated people who volunteered to help make this exhibit possible:*

*Arts Council of Wayne County, Becky Barclay, Pat Biggers, Nancy Delia, Betty Duncan, Dan Kester, Diane Kester, Chris Lawson, Dane McGee, Shari Watkins, and Emily Weil.*

*The committee also wants to thank all who loaned dresses or other items being displayed. A big thank you goes to: Pat Biggers, Nancy Delia, Betty Duncan, Martha Johnstone Ellington, Elizabeth Futrell, Carolyn Griffin, Kathy Lies, Judith McMillan, Deneen Kester Marshall, Emmy Mitchell, Betsy Neese, Stephanie Ross, Jewel Sauls, Elaine Van Hoy, Shari Watkins, Janice Whisenhunt, and Fannie Parker Widener.*

*Thank you to Amy Bauer for the use of the charming 1930s era vanity. And special appreciation for the new lighting goes to Roger Smith of Hometown Security & Electric and Judith McMillan.*



WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

The Wayne County Museum offers opportunities for volunteers to assist the part-time employees and enhance the services of the museum. Areas of service include:

- ◆ Clerical work such as preparing the newsletter for mailings, marketing, and public relations
- ◆ Guest services such as welcoming, visitors, tours, hosting of programs, and Gift Shop sales
- ◆ Maintenance work such as weekly cleaning, repairs, and outside beautification
- ◆ Collection development work such as recording descriptions of

objects, photographing objects, evaluation of donations, and research on items in the collection

- ◆ Exhibit planning, design, and execution.
- ◆ Planning fund raising events in support of the museum's activities
- ◆ Educational service such as selecting items and information about them for the traveling trunk and visiting classrooms

Application available from <http://waynemuseum.org>

If you are interested in contributing your time and talents, please fill in the application and submit in person at 116 N. William Street, Goldsboro, NC 27530 or by email to [info@waynemuseum.org](mailto:info@waynemuseum.org).



TALES OF MURDER

A full house attended the first in a series of tales of local murders presented at the Wayne County Museum on Thursday night, May 19. Sherwood Williford recounted the tale of John R. Denning's murder in January 1947.

Denning's body was found beside US Highway 117 near Mount Olive. According to reports from persons who had seen Denning earlier, he was carrying and flashing as much as \$1,300 in cash. Williford asked why in the world was the man carrying that kind of cash and letting others know about it? Also, part of the mystery would be where did he get the cash? Because of this, one must conclude that robbery was a motive for the killing.

A month later Marshall Bell, a Duplin County World War II veteran was arrested for the crime. A waitress had come forward stating that Denning had asked Bell for a ride home the night of his murder. The two had a disagreement about it, but eventually Bell put Denning into his car and drove off. According to the waitress, Bell returned a half hour later and told her that "I don't reckon he'll bother anyone else."

The trial resulted in a conviction of Bell and a sentence

of 20 years in state prison. Williford shared details of Denning's and Bell's lives. Denning was known as "One-armed John Denning."

Williford and the series was introduced by local attorney, Geoff Hulse. Because of a fuse malfunction, the museum was dimly lit for this story of murder and mayhem. Somehow, this seemed entirely appropriate. Electricians completed the repair in time for the audience to see and enjoy refreshments after the talk.

On June 13, David Weil presented the second presentation in the series. The topic was announced as "Wayne County Murders." However, because of personal interest and new information, Weil changed the topic to speak about new developments in the search for the "Lost Colonists."

He told of his interest in the mystery since seeing "The Lost Colony" on Roanoke Island as

a young boy. He told of local people who had been involved in that long-running outdoor drama.

He then told of recent findings by a group of archaeologists at a site on the Chowan River. The find included pottery shards from the Elizabethan Era, which is the time period of the Lost Colony, established in 1587. He described the findings in the British Museum of a "patch" on "The Virginea Pars" map of the area. Under the patch was the outline of a fort, and he speculated on the meaning and revelations shown on that hidden place.

Later, Weil described the Dare stone that had been found in 1937 near the site of the recent findings on the Chowan. This stone supposedly was carved by Elizabeth White Dare and told of her travails and of the death of her child, Virginia Dare and of her husband, Ananias, since leaving Fort Raleigh.

All these developments are helping unravel the mystery of "The Lost Colony." Weil expects new findings to follow as the professionals follow the trail left so long ago.



<http://ncpedia.org/dare-stones>

GIFTS AND SOUVENIRS



Available in the Gift Shop of Wayne County Museum

The Gift Shop has moved out of the small room and is now on display in the foyer of the Museum. What display!

Not only does it feature the many books available about local history, but also other unique gift items as well. There are quite a few items that will make wonderful

wedding or shower gifts. There are several unique readers "peepers" for stylish-looking eyewear.

Some of the stock available for sale includes various specialty creams and lotions not available at other places. There are toys of many types including those made of

early-American design. Christmas tree ornaments, postcards and many other great and unique items are perfect for gifts. Unique note cards and post cards by Cherche Midi Photography capture places and sights in Goldsboro.

(Continued on page 5)

## LOCAL HISTORY OUTREACH

Speaking invitations on local history and historical outreach to Cherry Hospital, Meadow Lane Elementary School Career Fair and Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) monthly meeting in April were the highlights of visits by Chris Lawson

of the Wayne County Museum and WCHA Member.

Students and adults at Cherry Hospital enjoyed learning about Goldsboro and Wayne County's early history. They listened to local legends and ghost stories and were interested in show and tell of traveling museum's artifacts.

At Meadow Lane Elementary, students K to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade were excited listening to Goldsboro's early beginnings and were

engaged in question and answer period which was followed by their favorite part the show and tell of the artifacts from the museum.

At the MOAA meeting, members were eager to hear about the beginnings of Goldsboro and its connection to the railroads. The presentation ended with the viewing of the DVD titled "Coming of the Railroad and the Birth of Goldsboro". The visits

were positive and were enjoyed by students and adults alike.

The DVD is available for purchase at the Museum Gift Shop.



Two other recordings that are available include The Heritage of Wayne County and Goldsboro 1949.

If you would like to invite a speaker to your organization's meeting, please email [director@waynemuseum.org](mailto:director@waynemuseum.org)

## " MY PASSION IS PHOTOGRAPHY "

**Artist Statement**

by Marilue M. Cook  
ChercheMidiPhotography.com

We all have a passion. Some of us will find that it is our occupation and career while others focus on that special creative force within us....music, art or perhaps dance. We need to find our passion to give us fulfillment and completion. Otherwise, we wander day after day, not living but existing.

I find myself always striving to utilize the "other half " of my brain. I'm a pediatrician in Goldsboro, North Carolina, and on a daily basis, my core is centered with science and technology.

For 30 years, my brain has been in overdrive to memorize medical facts and to utilize my basic knowledge of science and the human body to formulate a complete differential of

diagnoses. Then, which is just as important, to communicate effectively with my patients and their families my assessment and plan. Being a pediatrician is a difficult yet fulfilling career but can drain your spirit unless you have something else to define your essence...a creative outlet.

My passion is photography...it adds the dimension of creativity, science and art. The senses of the human body can be evolved by a single image... whether the smell of the freshly mowed green grass, the gritty feel of the sand, the taste of the plump, ripe tomatoes, the sound of the Sunday morning church bells or seeing beyond the edge of the fog into the forest. Images are a

representation of one moment in time, a moment like none other... that moment can never be duplicated. I try to look at my surroundings differently, a different angle, up close, from above or below, to capture a unique perspective, not always the usual or the expected.

My goal is for every person, regardless of age, who views my images to experience them through their inner spirit and soul. I hope my images will evoke one of the senses or a personal place for the viewer...perhaps a moment in time which was once cherished.

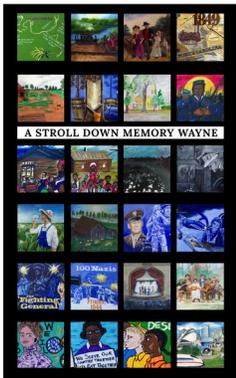
Come visit my studio, above the Arts Council of



Wayne County, on the corner of John and Walnut Streets. It's open every First Friday and through my website you can contact me and we can meet... just to explore...or for a tiny taste...visit the Art Market at ACWC.

Cook's cards and images are available at the Wayne County Museum's Gift Shop. Come see for yourself.

A STROLL DOWN MEMORY WAYNE



In the fall of 2014, museum consultant Martin Kane suggested creating a timeline produced in

council that reflected a broad range of artistic styles and our different area communities. Mr. Kane also strongly encouraged embracing the architectural elements of the museum building to enhance the main gallery space. Therefore, the wall molding frames out the area for each painting and dictated the size of each canvas.

Carolyn Hill oversaw the project, which included

applying for a grant from the Arts Council, forming a steering committee to select the historical themes and artistic criteria, recruiting artists, stretching canvases, and designing promotional materials.

After artists were selected, part of their

conjunction with the local arts

**Media at the Museum**  
 Huckleberry Brothers North Carolina's Own Civil War Band  
 First Pickin' \$15.00 CD  
 Medal of Honor Book Signing at the Wayne County Museum  
 Goldsboro, NC \$10.00 DVD  
 The Heritage of Wayne County \$20.00 CD  
 Coming of the Railroad \$10.00 DVD  
 Goldsboro 1949 \$10.00 DVD  
 Exploring The World of Thomas Day 2 CD-ROM Set \$10.00 PC Only

SHOP FOR GIFTS!

(Continued from page 3)

The book selection includes the following:  
*After Sherman's March*—Weil  
*Cornwallis' Campaign: Wilmington to Yorktown*—Weil  
*People & Plantations: Wayne County, North Carolina 1701-1860* Weil and Ellis

*Postcards of Old Wayne County*—Pope and Weil  
*The Five Royal Governors of North Carolina, 1729-1775*—Robinson  
*The Goldsboro Rifles*—Jones  
*Do All Things With a Single Eye To the Glory of God: A History of Saint Paul United Methodist Church, Goldsboro, North Carolina*—Twiford

*La Grange (Images of America)* - McCallister

Best of all there is a special table of 25% off items. These bargains make extra-special gifts. Amy Bauer is chairman of this Gift Shop. Come in and take a look! Cash, checks, and credit cards are accepted.

NEW INSIDE AND OUT

The past months have seen several repairs and upgrades at the museum. With the leadership of Judith McMillen, Vice-president for Buildings and Grounds, teams went through the museum and grounds to identify needs for repairs and improvements.

**OUTSIDE**

The overgrown "back 40" is being cleared by

the Wayne County workers. The goal is to provide additional parking spaces to accommodate visitors, especially for evening events.

Current parking is being shifted to two rows with cars facing William Street or the back of the property.

**INSIDE**

The office of our new Executive Director is now



on the left as you enter the Museum. The Gift Shop circles the foyer with displays and tables of the merchandise.

Upstairs the storage of the tables, chairs, and table clothes are now housed outside the small restroom.

### STROLL DOWN MEMORY WAYNE CONT.

requirement for participation was that they talk to the local history librarian at the Wayne County Public Library, Marty Tschetter.

Marty encouraged them to explore new themes in the county's history and to render eras that pre-dated photography or were not depicted in existing images from this area.

This project was supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources through the Arts Council of Wayne County Grassroots Subgrant with matching funds from the Wayne County Historical Association.

Artists contributing included:  
Gail Askins  
John George  
Mot Hill  
Martha Kornegay  
Maximillian Mozingo  
Robert Rigsby  
Guy Simmons  
Zeno Spence  
Sophie Steward  
Don Sutton  
Christian Tyner  
Mary Lou Ward  
Gigi Wynn



*“There is always an place for volunteers.”*

### LOOKING AHEAD

The Wayne County Historical Association has several ideas for upcoming events. We like to hear from you with what you have enjoyed in the past and would like to see in the coming months.

- Voices from Residents of Willowdale Cemetery
  - Who's Who Among Wayne County Organizations

- Christmas celebrations of the past
- What's with all the talk about BBQ and "pig-pickin'?"
- Moonshine—Fact and Fiction (Sept./Oct.)  
Exec. Director Rebekah writes, "I'll definitely need help though as this is my first exhibit. I'd love to have a still if at all possible!"



- The University of Mount Olive/ Higher Education exhibit plans are a go (Aug)
- And more!

*Punch and Judy Show*

*High Tea*

### WAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

**Purpose:** The purpose of this organization shall be to discover, preserve, document, display, and disseminate historical knowledge and artifacts of Wayne County. It also seeks to increase

public awareness of the heritage of Wayne County and its environs through exhibits, events, traditional and digital information sources.

**Membership:** Membership in WCHA is open to any individual, family, association, or business in support of the purpose and goals of WCHA. There are three types of membership: annual, lifetime, and business sponsorships. Currently dues are \$25 for individuals and \$40 for families.

**NEW FACES AT THE WAYNE COUNTY MUSEUM**

We have several volunteers in the museum this summer.

-Gage Currin and Ashleigh Daly are ECU history students who enjoy cataloging documents and artifacts into our museum database. They so love to research! Gage is also our on-the-spot handyman for any light bulb changing or work needing a ladder!

-Mary Emma is a retired teacher and former Codman House tour guide. She is willing

to do whatever is put in front of her and has been a huge contributor to organizing the museum's Gift Shop. She has also become a WCM member! We hope to have her with us year round.

-John Taylor Brantley is a local reenactor and insurance agent who enjoys volunteering in our textile collections. He has recently started helping with plans for high teas this fall so be on the lookout for ticket sales!

-Amanda Moran is a history student at the University of Mount Olive who likes to work in the background of our

collections cataloging, photographing, and researching every chance she gets.

-Within the past week we have received two other volunteer applications from Meagan Koonce of La Grange and Anna Mitchell of Princeton. Anna is a history student at the University of Mount Olive. We hope to see them soon.

We love our volunteers! If you'd like to volunteer, please fill out an application. We need help year round especially when our student volunteers are back at school!

**YOUR PLACE IN THE FUTURE**

So, how to you become a part of the future for the Wayne County Museum?

First, become a member. Annual dues are only \$25 for individuals and \$40 for families. Business sponsorships

are available for \$250 or more.

Second, become a volunteer. Opportunities are open in several areas: programming committees, exhibit committees, newsletter contributions, web designers,

educational programming, gift shop salesperson.

Membership information forms are available in the museum and on the website, <http://waynemuseum.org>

*"Membership forms are available in the museum, by calling 919-734-5023, and on the web at <http://waynemuseum.org>"*



**INFAMOUS WAYNE COUNTY MURDERS**

The popularity of the May and June presentations on infamous Wayne County Murders has prompted the planning of

additional stories and tales in the series.

A 2005 newspaper article reported 18 murders in Wayne County in the preced-

ing 10 years. It went on to state that there had been 58 murders in Goldsboro during that time. Fifteen remained unsolved.

<http://waynemuseum.org>



WAYNE COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION

Wayne County Museum  
116 N. William Street  
Goldsboro, NC 27530

Phone: 919-734-5023

E-mail: [info@waynemuseum.org](mailto:info@waynemuseum.org)

**Your museum, where history lives.**

YOU ARE INVITED

*An Open House and Reception  
to welcome Executive Director*

*Rebekah Fitzgerald*

*Will be held on*

*July 11, 2016*

*At 7 pm*

*At the*

*Wayne County Museum*

*Join us*

*"Progress is impossible  
without change and those  
who cannot change their  
minds cannot change  
anything."*

*~George Bernard  
Shaw*