



WAYNE ECHOES

The Newsletter of the Wayne County Museum

VOL. 2 NO. 1



Spring 1990



CHARLES BRANTLEY ELLIS, HEAD HISTORY HONCHO, FINALLY GETS HIS OWN ROOM AT THE TOP By Jean Powell

Charles Brantley Ellis' theory of relativity is that he's kin to just about everybody in Eastern North Carolina. And if there's not a blood tie, you can bet that one of his eleven brothers and one sister have made it possible to claim kin by marriage.

Ellis is the current president of the Wayne County Historical Association, the Museum's parent organization. Charles, "whose love of history has evolved through the years," has been a member of the Association since it was chartered in 1955. His membership had been on an absentee basis most of that time until his 1987 retirement.

But back to relatives and relativity and the reasons that folks come home. Charles has a wife who's from Washington State, but has deep ancestral ties to Philadelphia. They decided to retire to the East Coast. And

now you'd think Elizabeth Ellis had always lived in the county. She's a member of St. Joseph's United Methodist Church and heads its United Methodist Women, a member of the David Williams Chapter of the D.A.R. and is president of the Old Dobbs County Genealogical Society (Ellis is chaplain).

Asked for his resume, Charles handed over a list of accomplishments that makes you tired just to read it. So the conversation was abruptly steered back to family and houses and where his mother, Virginia, is living (Goldsboro) and about what a fine gentleman his late father, John, was and how Charles finally has his own room.

This room is a special place in their Pikeville home (at the top of the stairs) where he keeps a standing metal file cabinet full of research papers, the slides he uses in

lectures, photographs of old houses and public buildings that have been razed and innumerable artifacts he's collected over the years.

Growing up in Goldsboro, Charles always shared a bedroom with his brothers in the house that seemed to miraculously expand to accommodate one more baby. Later he was in the U.S. Navy where private rooms were reserved for the admiralty. Then came marriage to Elizabeth Ann Gordon and the birth of their two children, Charles B. Jr., Laurel, Md., and Dorothy Elizabeth, a pre-pharmacy student at Vincennes University in Indiana.

Since retirement began, Ellis has pursued one of his first loves and that is genealogy. He is researching about thirty families in his family tree and finds that he is related to "just about everybody". He is named for his great-grandmother

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**PAST CHAIRMAN
HONORED; NEW
TRUSTEES NAMED**

Mary Johnstone was presented a plaque in recognition of her work as first and immediate past chairman of the Museum's Board of Trustees.

"A museum means many things to many people," Mrs. Johnstone told the Trustees Board at the February dinner meeting held at the Goldsboro Country Club. "My husband (Andrew J. Johnstone) and I met in the building when it was used as the U.S.O. in the 40's. This is one of the reasons we are interested in the development of the museum," she continued. "There is much more to be learned about the kind of artifacts we need, their care and the ways to display them. Christian Cobb, current Trustees chairman, will need all our help and support in the coming months to make this possible," she concluded.

Mrs. Cobb encouraged members to take day trips to the various museums in the vicinity. Nearby museums are located in Fayetteville, Wilmington, Burgaw and Richlands and are open during the spring and summer months.

The four new board members are Elizabeth Arrington, J.D. Evans, Dick Moffatt and Jim Vinson.



**HOUSE TOUR
IS APRIL 28**

Mark your calendars for the House Tour sponsored by the Wayne County Historical Association.

The tour, under the chairmanship of Judy Haverkamp, will be held Saturday, April 28. A luncheon at the Museum will be a highlight of the event; tickets are \$5.

Edith Harper will be chief chef. Her culinary skills are legion and her current professional association is with the bakery division of an area supermarket chain.

Houses on tour: Paul and Sheila Bishop, 811 E. Beech St.; John and Estelle Jennings, 207 S. Pineview Ave.; Billy Barfield, 1102 E. Pine St.; Ken, Robin and Delia Brennan, 500 A St.; Jerry Braswell, 105 S. Virginia St.; Revolving Fund House, 309 W. Walnut St.

Call the Museum, 734-5023, or Christian Cobb, 734-3588, for further information.

Price of the tour is \$7.

**WAYNE COUNTY
MUSEUM TRUSTEES**

Chairman:
Mrs. John C. Cobb
Vice Chairman:
Dr. James M. Zealy
Secretary:
Mrs. James L. Williams
Treasurer:
Mr. Arthur R. Hawkinson

Mrs. Roger W. Andrews
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Mr. Charles B. Ellis
Mrs. Charles B. Ellis
Mr. J. D. Evans
Mrs. Charles Gaylor, Jr.
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NEWSLETTER

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(919) 734-5023
Jean Powell, Editor



MUSEUM EXHIBIT HOURS

2 - 5 p.m.
Sun. Tues. Thurs.

INTERIOR RENOVATION IN FINAL PHASE

Echoes and memories of many happy past events are paramount as the restoration of the Wayne County Museum to its former elegance nears completion.

Final phase of the interior renovation began February 5 under the direction of June Y. Wharton, Chairman Building Committee. Christian Cobb, Trustee Chairman, and Trustees voted on January 18, 1990, to complete the project which was first undertaken in November 1988. The first floor interior renovation was completed in 1988 in time for the inaugural opening and the Museum's first exhibit "A Victorian Christmas."

Total renovation of the second floor and kitchen will be completed prior to the ribbon-cutting March 24 at 2 pm for the Museum's fifth exhibit "The War Between the States." The auditorium, stage, ladies' lounge and adjacent rooms have been completely renovated. The walls have been painted a soft yellow color which provides a warm glow even on cloudy days. All woodwork has been painted a clear white; the wrought iron balconies have been refreshed with

sparkling black oil-based enamel.

The lamp post in the front yard and iron mail box have also been painted the same black. A new door has been installed on the fire escape.

Lockable kitchen storage cabinets and flooring will be installed shortly. Funds for all of these renovations were made available through the Hillsdale Foundation, the late Mr. Charles S. Norwood, Sr., Mrs. Charles S. Norwood, Sr., Mrs. Edwin B. Borden, Mrs. James N. Smith, the Colonial Dames and monies from special events. A mercury vapor dusk-to-dawn light has been installed in the parking lot. This will serve to make the lot safer for night meetings, programs and fund-raisers as well as inhibit possible illegal entry.

The building committee is deeply grateful to the Trustees for their support in the lengthy project and especially to Christian for her unflagging enthusiasm, support, constructive ideas and visions of the future for the Wayne County Museum.

The Museum auditorium will need stage curtains, appropriate furnishings dressing table, wicker

furniture, mirror and lamps for the ladies' lounge and adjacent bathroom. There are approximately 95 original folding chairs which will be adequate for the auditorium uses. It is sincerely hoped that monetary donations for these items will be made to the Museum.

Richard F. Griswold, Jr. was the contractor, Jack Crain, paint contractor; they have our sincere gratitude for their professional expertise and outstanding work on the Museum.

June Y. Wharton, Ch.
Building Committee

SPECIAL THANKS TO EXHIBIT CONTRIBUTORS

More than 1,800 area people toured the Museum's "Black Heritage/Black Culture" Exhibit which closed March 4.

Dorothy Whitted Hardy was Exhibit chairman; Denise Fields, Black Historian, was coordinator of artifacts.

Exhibitors included Elizabeth Arrington, Gloria Burney, Millie and Milford Coor, Lawrence Durham, Virginia Green, Dr. Thomasine Hardy, Eunice Hudson, Holland Hudson, Dorothy Lewis, Rachelle Richardson, Jonathan Rogers, Mary Rogers, Janie Rouse, Gwen Shipman, Dr. Rick Stovall, Major Roy C. White (Ret.), Helen Wiley and Ernestine Wooten.



Wayne County Museum

116 North William Street
Goldsboro, North Carolina 27530

Greetings:

You as members are responsible for the continuing success of the Wayne County Museum.

The Museum is a vibrant tribute to the volunteers' dedication in keeping the history of the area viable, visible and audible.

Opening in December, 1988, the Museum is still in its infancy. In its brief lifetime, however, the Museum's special exhibits have brought "Remembrances of Things Past" to hundreds.

The diversity of offerings is wide ranging as exemplified in the last three exhibits:

- * The current "Black Heritage/Black Culture"
- * "A Railroad Celebration"
- * "A Victorian Christmas"

Taking a look at short-term goals and gains, the Museum's primary needs are simple:

- * You as a member to lend your talents.
- * The acquisition of additional display cases to house the burgeoning collection of historical artifacts.
- * The addition of a salaried, well-qualified administrative director.
- * The preservation and maintenance of the building and grounds to keep pace with its past elegance.
- * You as a member to provide monetary gifts.

Does HISTORY have a role in your FUTURE?

Cordially,



Christian Cobb, Trustees Chairman

Membership Committee:

Peggy Griswold Jean Powell
Dick Moffatt Lawson Withers

-----Cut here-----

Name _____

Phone _____

Volunteer []

Membership:

Patron	\$500	[]
Sustainer	\$100	[]
Sponsor	\$50	[]
Family	\$25	[]
Individual	\$10	[]
Student	\$2	[]

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NEXT MAJOR EXHIBIT IS "THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES"

Ellis' cousin, Gov. Charles Brantley Aycock. His mother's family includes the Greene County Bests, Suttons, Hardys, and the Johnston County Prices, Earps, Gulleys and Johnsons.

Now back to that busy resume which lists such interests as membership on the Museum's Trustees Board (he's chairman of the Exhibits committee); ex-officio member of the Goldsboro Historic District Commission; a member of the A.P. Hill Camp, Petersburg, Va., Sons of Confederate Veterans; a member of the Norfolk, Va., Chapter, Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution; a member of the Research Board of Advisors for the American Biographical Institute; Member of the N.C. Federation of Historical Societies; and a member of the Association of Historians in North Carolina.

Charles is active in St. Joseph's Church where he serves as lay leader, is a member of various committees, is on the Board of Trustees and the church's administrative board and is vice-president of United Methodist Men. He is vice-president of the Pikeville Lions Club, was recently elected to the Pikeville Town

The Exhibits Committee is collecting artifacts and making detailed planning for the next major exhibit at the Museum: "The War Between the States 1861-1865." Members of the Committee consist of representatives from The Dixie Chapter, Children of the Confederacy; Thomas Ruffin Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Goldsboro Rifles Camp, Dr. B.T. Person Camp (Pikeville) both from Sons of the Confederate Veterans. Assistance with museum access during the

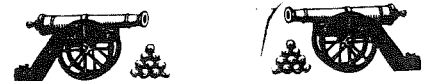
Board of Commissioners and serves as the finance commissioner and as chairman, Long Range Planning Committee for the Pikeville Town Board. He was educated in the Goldsboro City Schools and is a graduate of the University of Washington, where he has also done graduate work.

Wayne County's own Renaissance Man, who says he doesn't remember dates in history so much as incidents, does remember his birthdate down to the exact hour: High Noon, Saturday, Oct. 19, 1929 -- the fifth in what was to become a 13-child household.

preparation of the exhibit and helping to set up the exhibit itself would be greatly appreciated.

The response to a call for artifacts and exhibit materials has been outstanding. There will be flags of the Confederacy; coins; Confederate NC currency; original paintings; ordnance; rifles; uniforms; photographs; battlefield maps and drawings; period furniture; a bugle; an 1855 clock; engravings of Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis; and books, all of the period.

The committee expects more support as plans progress. Already programmed is



a gala ribbon-cutting at 2 p.m. on March 24, 1990, with U.D.C. & S.C.V. officials and Mayor Hal Plonk. A special feature of the exhibit on opening day only will be the display of General William Gaston Lewis' Confederate uniform. We also expect to have young Gaston McKee Lewis, five years old, a great-great-grandson of the general.

Charles B. Ellis
Exhibits Chairman



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MUSEUM? A LOT. THAT'S WHAT!

Claude Moore, retired Mount Olive College professor, will give a lecture on "The War Between the States" Sunday, April 1, at 4 p.m., in the Museum. The lecture is part of the on-going adult education program in addition to the Museum exhibits.

Among the new Museum chairmen are Jewel Sauls, Research Historian; Bertha Wooten, Acquisitions; J. Frank Casey, Grounds. Other chairmen include Christian Cobb, Oral History; Velda Faye Howell, Tours; June Wharton, Building; Charles B. Ellis, Exhibits.

The search is still on for a director, who enjoys meeting the public. The job calls for writing and speaking skills, general office skills, including experience in clerical work, computer and word processor. Mail resume to the Museum.

Even though the Museum is closed officially until March 24th, the Trustees and volunteers continue working at one thing or another.

John C. Cobb is collecting scenes of old Goldsboro churches and homes to frame and hang in the building. Contact the Museum if you have a suitable donation.

STILL TIME TO JOIN

The membership drive of the Museum is on-going. If you have not sent in your dues, our address is 116 N. William Street.



*116 North William Street
Goldsboro, North Carolina 27530*

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