

Church Crowns



From small to big, plain to elaborate, demure or boldly embellished with rhinestones and trim, women worshiping in hats is a tradition that's been passed down for many generations in the Black church. Church hats became popular after slavery. Black women wanted to look their best when worshiping, and hats were



considered a way to honor God. But wearing them isn't just about fashion, it's a tradition with spiritual and cultural significance. Black women were not allowed self-expression during slavery and used headwraps as available adornment. They were often not treated with respect during slavery or segregation, and these women had a desire to look proper and proud on Sunday to praise the Lord. Female leaders of the Civil Rights Movement often marched in their church hats as a symbol of their dignity. Hats reminded the wearers to hold their heads high and carry themselves like queens. The hats complete a best Sunday outfit and bring distinction to the women who wear them. The hats are

(Continued on page 2)



Inside this issue:

<i>Church Crowns (cont.)</i>	2
<i>The Wayne County Museum Takes Us to "Once Upon a Time" with the Annual Fairy Tale Festival</i>	3-4
<i>April & May Events at the Wayne County Museum</i>	5
<i>April Happenings in the Community</i>	5
<i>Becoming a Member</i>	5
<i>Tea with the Queen</i>	6
<i>Poetry Slam</i>	7
<i>May Day Festival</i>	7
<i>Rent This Space!</i>	7
<i>Seymour Anderson Johnson</i>	8-9
<i>Mona Lisa Pinkney</i>	10
<i>Gertrude Weil</i>	10
<i>NC Highway Historical Markers</i>	11-13
<i>Dillard/Goldsboro Alumni and Friends</i>	13-14
<i>WCHA and Museum Sponsors</i>	15
<i>Recipe</i>	16

Church Crowns (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

considered a woman's crowning glory. In fact, you often hear the hats referred to as "church crowns."

Church hats are more than just beautiful accessories to the women who wear them. In the Bible, I Corinthians 11:5-6 says: "Every woman that pray or prophesies with her head uncovered, dishonor her head, it is even all one as if she were shaven. If a woman does not cover her head, she should have her hair cut off; and if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut or shaved off, she should cover her head." Hats are considered a way to respect God and they represent the virtue and piety of the women who wear them.

At First African Baptist Church, wearing hats can indicate special days on the church calendar. Easter is a notable church service, and the holiday hats worn are traditionally white, cream or pastel. In addition to marking important holidays and events, specific hats can signify different roles in the church. For



example, the Deaconesses of the church wear all white on the first Sunday of every month when the service of communion is taken. White outfits, topped with gorgeous and elaborate white hats, symbolize purity, and reverence for the sacrament.

Unfortunately, the stylish custom of church hats seems to be a fading institution, as young people become more casual in their church attire. The religious expression of wearing of hats is becoming generational, and they are slowly starting to be worn primarily by well-dressed worshippers over 50. Hats have always been synonymous with the Black church and even if the popularity of wearing them wanes, the nostalgic love for this elegant cultural tradition will endure.

The Wayne County Museum Takes Us To “Once Upon a Time” with the Annual Fairy Tale Festival

By Crystal Hodges

This free, educational children’s event was held on Saturday, March 9, starting with a wonderful readers’ theater performance of “Goldilocks and The Three Bears.” This year, our talented and multilingual children readers spoke a combined three languages of English, Spanish, and Creole! The cast of readers included: the narrators: Breelyn Davis-Holmes, RJ Alston, and Noah Bognar; the three bears: Cris Andrew Deye as Papa Bear, Austynn Ludgy Deye as Mama Bear, and Emmie Cassie Jean Batta as Baby Bear; and Goldilocks was Romani Williams. Many thanks to everyone who attended and supported this event. It was a huge success!

Special thanks to Doricia and Ben Benton for their generous sponsorship for the book giveaway during the children’s programs. Their sponsorship is in honor of Emily and David Weil for their service to the community.



Readers for this year’s rendition of The Three Bears were as follows (L-R): Romani Williams, Breelyn Davis-Holmes, RJ Alston, Cris Deye, Austynn Deye, Emmie Jean Batta, and Noah Bognar. Cris and Austynn arrived in the US from Haiti this past summer. Cris and Austynn, along with their cousin Emmie are multilingual. They speak a combined three languages of English, Spanish, and Creole.



Melissa and Ron Sutton added to the festivities by coming in costume as Snow White and her Prince Charming. Melissa and Ron are talented and much appreciated museum volunteers.

(Pictures continued on page 4)

The Wayne County Museum Takes Us To “Once Upon a Time” with the Annual Fairy Tale Festival (cont.)



Area children enjoyed the arts and crafts, as well as the STEM related activities provided at the recent Fairytale Festival. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and math to explore problem solving skills using hands-on manipulatives.



Crystal Hodges (L), board member and education chair, introduces readers' theater to the audience at the recent Fairytale Festival held at the Wayne County Museum. Readers' theater gives children a chance to practice reading fluency and build self-confidence in their reading skills. To her right is Goldilocks, played by Romani Williams, who is now a seasoned performer.



Museum volunteer Judy Hodges added to the ambience as the wicked queen from Snow White.



A Work in Progress! Rosanna Anderson, Wayne County Historical Association President (L), enjoys the face painting station along with her niece. Our face painting volunteers are an integral part of the museum's children's programming.

April & May Events at the Wayne County Museum



April 12 – 7pm – Historical Poetry Slam – Enjoy the creative written stylings of local **Friday** writers as they tell stories of the past, or different topics of history in ways only possible through the artistic lens of poetry.

April 27 – 1-3pm – Mayday Festival – Part of our Kids educational event series. **Saturday** Celebrate the arrival of spring! This kid and family-friendly event will start at 1pm with a reader's stage play performed by local students. The play will be followed by dancing a traditional Maypole, activities, arts and crafts, photo ops, face painting, snacks, and more.
Free – no registration is required.

May 3 – 2pm – New Museum Parking Lot Dedication – This ribbon-cutting **Friday** ceremony will celebrate the completion of the museum's much-needed and much larger new parking lot, built with a generous grant from the state of NC. NC State Representative Mr. John Bell will be speaking at the ceremony.

April Happenings in the Community

April 10 – 12:00pm – Golden Agers (50+) – Goldsboro Event Center – Bring a **Wednesday** dessert, lunch will be provided – Come and see what they are all about.

April 18 – 6:00pm – Senior Follies – Paramount Theatre – Free Event – This is a **Thursday** **Senior Games** event consisting of individuals/groups 50+ showing us their talent. There will be singing, dancing, comedy, etc. Come support your friends and neighbors from Wayne County. Seniors and younger are invited to attend this event. This year, for the first time, the audience will have an opportunity to vote for their favorite act, **"The People's Choice Award."**

Becoming A Member

If you're receiving this newsletter, you're likely already a member of the Wayne County Historical Association and Museum. If not, that means someone has thought enough of you to share it and include you in the experience. To receive the newsletter directly to your email the first of each month, join online at waynemuseum.org/membership or go to the museum in person and Assistant Director Jeff Westbrook will assist you. Membership has its privileges! In addition to receiving the monthly newsletter by email, you will receive discounts on ticketed events, a 10% discount in the museum gift shop, a 20% discount on Ballroom rentals, invitations to special Members-Only Events, and voting privileges at Wayne County Historical Association meetings. We appreciate your support to preserve our local history.



Tea with the Queen

A Wayne County Museum Annual Fundraiser



June 1st 1:00 - 3:00 pm

*\$15 Adult, \$8 Child,
or \$20 for Adult+ 1 Child
Purchase tickets on our
website or in person.*

Meet and greet with Miss
Goldsboro and her court!

*116 N William St,
Goldsboro, NC 27530
www.waynemuseum.org*



Dress in your finest hats and
tea party apparel!

*Fashion show, prizes, and
more. Tea and teatime
refreshments will be served.*

Poetry Slam

Friday, April 12th at 7pm

Poetry Slam to Celebrate National Poetry Month

April is National Poetry Month and offers an opportunity to celebrate this written art form and to honor poets' important role in documenting our culture. Poetry has historically been used to relate emotions and thoughts on events and ideas that writers feel strongly about. Just like the Beatnik poets of the past, you can dust off your beret, and get your fingers snapping at the Wayne County Museum's first ever historical poetry slam. Enjoy the stylings of local writers as they tell stories of the past or highlight different topics in history in a way only made possible through the artistic lens of poetry. Free and open to the public.

May Day Festival

Come celebrate spring with us at our third annual May Day Festival at the Wayne County Museum! This free, educational children's event will be held on Saturday, April 27, from 1:00-3:00pm. There will be a readers' theater performance at 1:00pm; followed by dancing around the Maypole, a scavenger hunt, face painting, refreshments, and arts and crafts. We hope to see you there!



Rent This Space

⇐ Rent this lovely space! The upstairs ballroom of the museum is a fitting venue for many occasions – birthday parties, as decorated here by Jones Girls Decor of Goldsboro, wedding receptions, baby showers, family reunions, and more. With a \$100 (non-refundable) booking fee, and a \$125 p/h rental rate with a minimum of two hours of use on an hourly basis only, you can have access to the entire second floor of the museum. For more information or to make a reservation, call (919) 734-5023. Members of the Wayne County Historical Association receive a 20 percent discount.

Seymour Anderson Johnson



The month of March marked the 83rd anniversary of Navy test pilot Lt. Seymour Anderson Johnson's death on March 5, 1941. He is the namesake of Seymour Johnson AFB in Goldsboro. Only two U.S. Air Force bases are named in honor of Navy commanders, SJAFB

and Beale AFB in California. Johnson was a top-drawer test pilot who died in the line of duty. On March 5, 1941, Johnson took off from Naval Air Station Anacostia aboard a new Grumman F4F-3 Wildcat fighter. At 43,000 feet, Johnson radioed the base he was running low on oxygen. Those were his last words. The fighter crashed near Norbeck, MD, 16 miles north of Washington, D.C. Johnson died instantly. He was 37. Although he was selected for a June 1941 promotion to lieutenant commander, his promotion was never executed due to his death in March 1941.

Seymour Anderson Johnson was born February 15, 1904, in Goldsboro, the son of Dr. John Norborn Johnson and Lilly Belle Newbury Johnson. He graduated from Goldsboro High School. Seymour, better known as "Andy" was 16 when he entered UNC-Chapel Hill in 1920. After completing 3 years at UNC, he received a coveted appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy in 1923. He was a good student and on the wrestling team. After a total of seven years in college, he graduated from the Naval Academy in 1927. In December 1933, Seymour flew a plane to Goldsboro from Norfolk, VA, for a visit with his father. The local newspaper printed an article about his plane doing loops and dives over the City of Goldsboro before landing.

Seymour Johnson spent two years at sea on board the battleship USS Florida and then Cruiser, USS Galveston. In 1929 Johnson entered flight training at Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL. He served in a scouting plane squadron aboard the USS Ranger and an observation plane squadron aboard the USS

New Mexico. In 1937, Johnson volunteered for duty as a test pilot at Naval Air Station Anacostia in Washington, D.C. During the



next three years, Johnson accumulated more than 4,000 hours in various aircraft. While testing a seaplane in July 1940, Johnson's plane developed engine failure. Attempting to land on the Potomac River, the plane hit a tree, tearing away the engine before bouncing twice off the water. Johnson survived the crash landing with a back injury. A passenger-scientist on board was not injured.

After Seymour Johnson's death in 1941, Goldsboro city officials petitioned the War Department to name the local U.S. Army Air Corps Technical Training School Airfield in his honor. On October 30, 1942, Congressman Graham H. Barden announced the name Seymour Johnson Field was official. After World War II, the base was deactivated in 1946, but was reactivated in 1956 as Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

Seymour 'Andy' Johnson met his wife, Alice Virginia Kelley of Washington, D.C., and was married in 1929 at Cristobal, Panama Canal Zone. Their two-month-old infant child, Joan, died in 1931 and is buried with Johnson at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. Johnson and his wife also had another daughter named Suzanne. At age 12 in 1944, Suzanne traveled to Goldsboro to dedicate the base in honor of her father. Suzanne returned to Goldsboro in 1997 as Parade Marshall for the city's sesquicentennial celebration and as a guest of honor at SJAFB events. Her married name was Suzanne Johnson Willard Greer. She was born July 22, 1932, and died in Rockville, MD, on March 27, 2015.

Seymour Johnson's mother was Lilly Belle Newbury, originally from the Duplin County town of Magnolia. Though not much is known about Lilly Belle, it appears she later lived in Wilmington. Her father (H.E. Newbury) had moved to Magnolia from Connecticut to open a business. Lilly Belle died from pneumonia at age 36 (1916) and is buried in Willow Dale Cemetery. Seymour Johnson was 12 years old when his mother died. Lilly Belle and John Johnson also had two daughters. Virginia Southerland Johnson (Britt), born in 1902, and Florence Brinkley Johnson (McMillan), born in

(Continued on page 9)

Seymour Anderson Johnson (cont.)

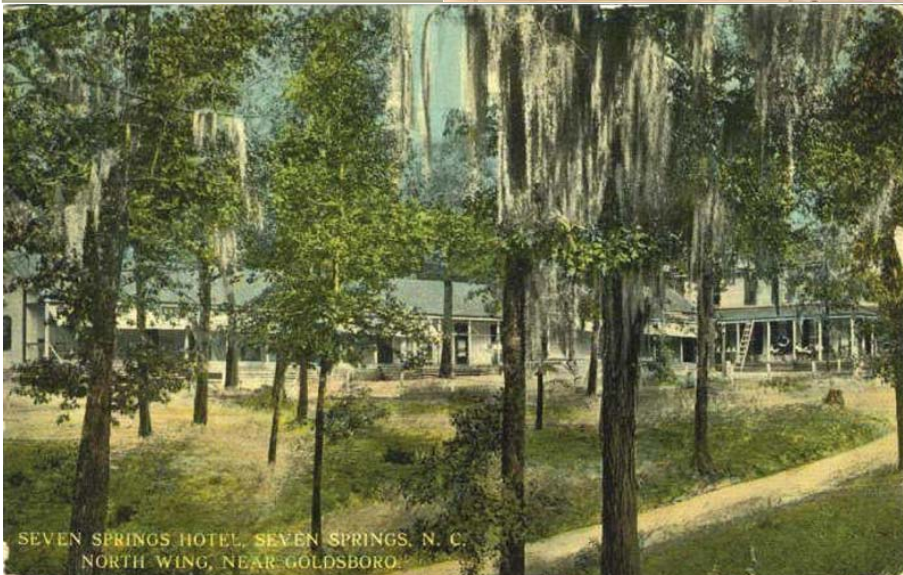
(Continued from page 8)

1909. Virginia is buried in Willow Dale Cemetery (1977), and Florence is buried in Fayetteville (1993).

Seymour Johnson's father was a Goldsboro dentist, Dr. John Norborn Johnson. He was born in Louisa County, VA. Dr. Johnson attended public schools in Virginia and the graded school at Wilson, NC, then the academies in Warsaw and Magnolia, NC. He graduated from the University of Maryland dental school in 1899. He began his dental practice in Wilmington in association with Dr. A.M. Baldwin. On August 6, 1901, Dr. Johnson married Lilly Belle Newbury in Magnolia. The wedding newspaper article mentions the Johnsons spent their two-week honeymoon in Seven Springs. During the early 20th Century, Seven Springs was home to several hotels that catered to people drinking from the healthful natural springs. The couple moved to Goldsboro where Dr. Johnson opened his dental office. After Lilly Belle's death in 1916, Dr. Johnson married Ruth Elizabeth Knowlton in 1925. They had two daughters, Elizabeth Dortch (Mrs. Redmond P. Dortch) and Lillian Chase Duffy (Mrs. James E. Duffy). Ruth Knowlton Johnson died in 1967 and is buried in Willow Dale Cemetery. Dr. Johnson was a staff member of Goldsboro Hospital and the Spicer Sanatorium, president of the NC Dental Society, member of the Fifth District Medical Advisory Board, authorized dental examiner, and former vice president of the NC State Board of Health. Johnson was a member of the Odd Fellows, a Mason, an Elk, and a Knight of Pythias. Dr. Johnson died in 1946 and is buried in Willow Dale Cemetery. Dr. Johnson's parents were the late Seymour Anderson Johnson and Annie Eliza Clark Johnson.



The Wilmington Morning Star
Wilmington, North Carolina
7 August 1901



Mona Lisa Pinkney



On Sunday, March 24, Mona Lisa Pinkney came to the museum to discuss the book she co-wrote, entitled **Securing Our Future: Embracing the Resilience and Brilliance of Black Women in Cyber**. Ms. Pinkney is a 1981 graduate of Goldsboro High School and has received numerous awards and accolades in the field of cybersecurity. After her talk, she was available to sign copies of her book which were available for purchase. Afterwards, there was a time of food and fellowship.



Gertrude Weil

Our very own Gertrude Weil was recently highlighted by the State Archives in March in honor of Women's History Month. Weil was known for her activism on behalf of women's suffrage, labor reform, and civil rights. She founded the League of Women Voters chapter and the Goldsboro Equal Suffrage Association in 1914.



NC Highway Historical Markers



In May of 2022 an historical marker was dedicated in Goldsboro to Ruth W. Whaley, following a ceremony honoring her. Hers is the most recent historical marker erected in Wayne County.



For years I have noticed these markers but never really stopped to read them. It is hard to do so when one is in a rush and also keeping an eye on traffic. For the past several weeks, I have driven throughout Wayne County with the goal of taking photos of all of the markers. I succeeded, with the exception of two, which are missing. One of the missing markers was about Torhunta, an Indian community destroyed during the Tuscarora War of 1712. It was located on US 13 at Saulston Road, southeast of Goldsboro. The second missing marker is about the Battle of Whitehall which took place on December 15-16, 1862. This marker was located in Seven Springs. The remainder of the historical markers are pictured here.



Highway historical markers began in 1935 when the NC General Assembly established the NC Highway Historical Marker Program. This program operates jointly with the Department of Transportation. Today there are more than 1,500 markers statewide, with at least one in each county.



There are set criteria that must be met in order for a person, place, or past event to be considered. They are as follows:

An individual cannot be considered until 25 years after his or her death.



All markers shall designate places, events, or persons of statewide historical significance, meaning any person, place, or event of the past has been documented, recorded, or recognized in a primary or secondary source as having a lasting contribution to NC history.

The text on the historical marker is purposefully concise. When highway speeds were much lower, people were able to read the signs without decreasing speed. Nowadays, however, you will need to pull over and read the sign. The signs give a kernel of information, whetting your appetite to learn more.

(Continued on page 12)

NC Highway Historical Markers (cont.)

(Continued from page 11)

If you know someone, some place, or some event that you feel is worthy of a marker, you can request an application from the following website: ncmarkers@ncdc.gov.



(Continued on page 13)

NC Highway Historical Markers (cont.)

(Continued from page 12)



Dillard/Goldsboro Alumni and Friends

By Mary Emma Stevens

It seems timely, in the midst of what is going on in education in Wayne County today, to feature an organization that is built on pride of and hope for a quality education in Goldsboro. That organization is Dillard/Goldsboro Alumni and Friends. In order to give you a history of that organization I am borrowing the following words from their website:

Dillard High School, located in Goldsboro, North Carolina, was the outgrowth of a private school founded in 1866 for Negro students. The Reverend Clarence Dillard came to Goldsboro in 1884 to serve as pastor of the Presbyterian (Shiloh) Church.

In 1894, Reverend Dillard became principal of the colored school as it was called then. The building that Reverend Dillard saw erected was named Dillard High School. The Reverend Clarence Dillard retired in 1924 and was succeeded by Mr. Hugh Victor Brown. Dillard High School was accredited by the North Carolina State Department of public instruction in 1926 and by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in 1937.



(Continued on page 14)

Dillard/Goldsboro Alumni and Friends (cont.)

(Continued from page 13)

In 1955, Professor Brown envisioned the return home of all his children who had graduated since the year 1926, to celebrate 30 years of accreditation of their alma mater. Professor Brown used all his possible resources to begin gathering addresses of alumni who resided mostly in the Northern States. Communication was established and plans were initiated for a mammoth homecoming celebration in 1956.

In 1969, the doors of Dillard High School closed and students were transferred to Goldsboro High School.

I recently interviewed Gary Packer, President of Dillard/Goldsboro Alumni and Friends, at the headquarters which are located at 801 Poplar Street. He told me that his mother was an active member from the beginning of the organization, and she instilled in him the pride he feels for what the organization stands for. He has been President since 2018. He is a 1979 graduate of Goldsboro High School. He said there are currently chapters in NC, District of Columbia, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Maryland, and Virginia. Because of Professor Brown's vision, this year will be the 69th annual homecoming. This event is held every year on the Memorial Day weekend. The city of Goldsboro gives financial support because of the revenue brought in by the thousands of people attending. The weekend is packed with activities. There is a parade, alumni and community picnics, dances, a concert, and a worship service.

Mr. Packer said that the biggest expense in their organization is providing educational scholarships for students every year. Since their founding, they have given more than 1.5 million dollars in scholarships. He hopes that everyone will take a look at their website, dgafnc.org. There is a donate button on the website for those who would like to be a part of the vision.

At the Dillard/Goldsboro Alumni Headquarters at 801 Poplar Street there is an archives room, which you may visit by appointment. If you are interested you may call the curator, Velma Atkinson, at (919)736-2969.



Gary Packer

WCHA and Museum Sponsors

The Wayne County Historical Association Board of Directors would like to thank the following sponsors for their contribution to the museum's mission, which is "to discover, preserve, document, display, and disseminate historical knowledge and artifacts of Wayne County and the State of North Carolina. We also seek to increase public awareness of the heritage of Wayne County and its environs through exhibits, events, and traditional and digital information sources."

Platinum Sponsors have donated \$1,000 or more to the museum.

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Monthly e-Newsletter	✓	✓	✓	✓
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Rental Discount: Receive a discount on ballroom rental for event.	25% discount*	30% discount*	35% discount*	40% discount*
Movie Tickets: Complimentary tickets to all Museum Movie Events* *	(2 tickets)	(2 tickets)	(4 tickets)	(4 tickets)
Event Tickets: Complimentary tickets to featured ticketed events* *	(2 tickets)	(2 tickets)	(4 tickets)	(4 tickets)
*Rental discount not to exceed \$500 during the 12-month period of sponsorship. After reaching \$500, sponsor will continue to receive a 20% discount on future rentals during the 12-month period.				
**Tickets are subject to availability and are only held if requested by the sponsor.				

WAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION AND MUSEUM

116 N. William Street
Goldsboro, NC 25730
(919) 734-5023

www.waynemuseum.org

Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 919-814-5400. The license is not an endorsement by the State.

RECIPE

Deviled Eggs

Some families still dye hard-boiled eggs for Easter egg hunts, and many more make deviled eggs as a traditional Southern dish. The good news for local cooks is that eggs in Goldsboro are available at prices as low as \$1.90 per dozen.

“Deviled” eggs are thought to have evolved from an Ancient Roman appetizer made from boiled eggs with the yolks separated and creamed with various spices. Today, deviled food can refer to anything made with spicy seasonings. Probably the association comes from the devil being a big fan of heat. Not surprisingly, America’s early Puritans were not fans of the term. Alternative names for deviled eggs include stuffed eggs, salad eggs, and angel eggs.

Ingredients:

6 hard-cooked eggs, peeled and halved. (Eggs are hard boiled when they are submerged in boiled water for 7-9 minutes. To avoid sticking to the shells, eggs should be drained, rinsed in cold water, and peeled immediately after boiling.)

¼ mayonnaise

½ tsp. white vinegar

1 tsp. Dijon mustard

¼ tsp. Salt

Directions:

1. Separate egg yolks from egg whites by cutting the eggs in half.
2. Mash egg yolks in small bowl. Stir in remaining ingredients except egg white halves.
3. Spoon or pipe yolk filling into egg whites. Chill, if desired. Garnish, if desired, with parsley and sprinkle with paprika.



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