

WAYNE COUNTY MUSEUM

**YOUR MUSEUM,
WHERE HISTORY LIVES**

116 N. WILLIAM STREET
GOLDSBORO, NC 27530
919-734-5023



Wayne County Museum

Operated By Wayne County Historical Association

HOURS

11:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Or By Appointment 734-5023

116 N. William St.

DECEMBER 2024

Newsletter

These pages will hopefully prompt you to come visit us and see first-hand the exhibits we have to offer.

We're open Tuesday – Friday from 11:00 AM until 4:00 PM, and Saturday from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM.

Our mission is to discover, preserve, document, display, and disseminate historical knowledge and artifacts of Wayne County and its relationship to 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.

If you have any questions, please feel free to [contact us](#).

TABLE OF CONTENTS



03. STAFF & COMMITTEES

11. WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

06. GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST

12. HANGING OF THE GREENS

08. BALLROOM RENTALS

13. WHAT'S IN STORE

09. DID YOU KNOW?

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

BECOME A MEMBER

- Access to our Newsletter
- Discounts on Ticketed Events
- A 10% Discount in our Gift Shop
- A 20% Discount on Ballroom Rentals
- Invitations to Special Members-Only Events and Receptions
- Voting Privileges at Wayne County Historical Association Meetings

BECOME A
MEMBER HERE

NEWSLETTER STAFF

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

JENNIFER FONTINE
MARY SUSAN HEATH
MARY EMMA STEVENS
BRUCE MAHISTADT

LAYOUT & DESIGN

CINDI PATE



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - JENNIFER KUYKENDALL

MUSEUM STAFF

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - JEFF WESTBROOK



2024/2025 WCHA COMMITTEES

Membership

Chair: Melissa Sutton

Members: Jennifer Fontine, Fritz Knack,
Cindi Pate, Anetta Reid, Rosanna
Anderson

Finance

Chair: Jennifer Isenhower

Members: Joan Hackmann, Crystal
Hodges, Tom Anderson, Rosanna
Anderson

Fundraising

Chair: Anetta Reid

Members: Cindi Pate, Jim Hinnant,
Rosanna Anderson

Buildings and Grounds

Chair: Tom Anderson

Members: Bruce Mahlstadt, Rosanna
Anderson, Brian Fontine

Events and Exhibits

Chair: Bruce Mahlstadt

Members: Melissa Sutton, Ron Sutton,
Jennifer Fontine, Rosanna Anderson,
Gregory Brown

Grants

Chair: Fritz Knack

Members: Jennifer Isenhower, Joan
Hackmann, Bruce Mahlstadt, Rosanna
Anderson

Education

Chair: Crystal Hodges

Members: Anetta Reid, Jennifer
Fontine, Rosanna Anderson, Mary
Susan Heath

Publicity and Public Relations

Chair: Cindi Pate

Members: Jennifer Fontine, Ron Sutton,
Jim Hinnant, Rosanna Anderson

Handbook (By-Laws and Policies)

Chair: Joan Hackmann

Members: Fritz Knack, Ron Sutton,
Melissa Sutton, Rosanna Anderson

Technology

Chair: Jim Hinnant


Members: Tom Anderson, Jennifer
Isenhower, Fritz Knack, Rosanna
Anderson

CURRENT EXHIBIT

Seymour Johnson Air Force Base

A Heritage of Defending Freedom


Written by Jennifer Kuykendall



FREE SPECIAL EXHIBITION

SEYMOUR JOHNSON AFB

A HERITAGE OF DEFENDING FREEDOM



WAYNE COUNTY MUSEUM

116 N WILLIAM ST #919-734-5023

OCT. 5TH - JAN. 25TH



The museum's new Fall/Winter exhibit explores the history and evolution of Goldsboro's Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. The base has long been an integral part of our community and has played a vital role in the defense of the US on the world stage.

When WWII began in 1939, the United States began to provide significant military supplies and other assistance to the Allies, even though the United States did not officially enter the war until December 1941. Seymour Johnson AFB was initially established at that time as a municipal airport and in August 1940, as the War in Europe escalated, the War Department designated the airport as essential to national defense.

The airport was initially activated in June 1942 as a Technical School for the Army Air Forces Technical Training Command. The Army Air Corps Training Airfield was named in honor of U.S. Navy Lt. Seymour A. Johnson, a native of Goldsboro. Johnson was a Navy test pilot who was killed in an F-4 Wildcat plane crash in 1941. Goldsboro officials immediately petitioned the War Department to name a North Carolina air base after the local hero, and in 1942 they succeeded in their mission. Seymour Johnson has the distinction of being the only Air Force base named in honor of a Naval pilot.

In June 1943, the function of the base was training officers and men for overseas duty. It was known as the Provisional Overseas Replacement Training Center. In September 1943, Seymour Johnson Field took on another mission, providing basic military training for cadets preparing to become technical officers in the Army Air Corps. During its history, Seymour Johnson Field played a significant role in training replacement pilots for P-47 Thunderbolt aircraft and served as a central assembly station for processing and training troops after World War II.

In May 1946, at the end of WWII in Europe, Seymour Johnson Field was inactivated and in late 1952, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers arrived at Johnson Field and demolished many of the old buildings and began construction of new ones. Led by Goldsboro Mayor Scott B. Berkeley Sr., local community leaders began a campaign to have the installation reopened. Their tireless efforts were successful and on April 1, 1956, SJAFB was reactivated as a Tactical Air Command base. Three months later, the 83rd Fighter-Day Wing was assigned to the base as the primary unit. The 4th Fighter Wing unit replaced the 83rd on Dec. 8, 1957. The legendary 4th Wing continues to be the host organization at Seymour Johnson. Today, Seymour Johnson AFB remains a premier air defense base for the United States and plays an important role in our city's local economy.

The new exhibition, entitled "SJAFB, a Legacy of Defending Freedom", explores the history and evolution of the Air Force base, its many components, its various planes and pilots over the years, its connection to the community, its stories, and the important role that the military base has played in safeguarding our nation in global conflicts since WWII. The SJAFB exhibit will have a 4-month duration, closing at the end of January 2025.





The Wayne County Museum presents

GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST

Join us on December 7th for a journey through the beautiful and historic Willow Dale Cemetery, where you will meet notable “residents” of Willow Dale played by costumed actors, telling their personal stories at their gravesites. Appearing from the past this year are Clement and Ethel Twiford, Mildred Gaylor, Henry Brogden Jones, Sandy Korschun, Zeno Spence, Governor Curtis Brogden, Neil Joseph, Eugene Franklin, and Mary Johnstone. The tour will be followed by a Holiday Reception at the Wayne County Museum. There will be tours from 4:30-6 PM and 7-9 PM. Each tour will last approximately 30-40 minutes. Parking will be on the Museum’s lot and a trolley will take you to and from Willow Dale, located 4.5 blocks from the Museum. This is a walking tour. The evening tours will take place in the dark with only dim lighting available from lanterns and candles. We encourage attendees to take this into consideration before choosing a tour time. The ticket times are general admission and will leave the cemetery gates about every 25 minutes or so (depending upon the speed of the tour group ahead of you). Arrive at the museum near the time you want to take your tour. The last tour will start at 8:30. Attendees are responsible for their own actions during the tour and by purchasing a ticket acknowledge the risks associated with participating in an evening walking tour. All proceeds benefit the Wayne County Museum.

Saturday, December 7

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM & 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

ADVANCE ADULT TICKET: \$25

ADVANCE CHILD TICKET: \$15

Price includes Willowdale Walk & Museum Reception. If available, tickets can be purchased on the day of the event at the Wayne County Museum.

BALLROOM RENTALS

Did you know that the Wayne County Museum is available to rent? Our second floor isn't just any event space, it's the former USO Ballroom! This beautiful, historic, yet very reasonably priced space can be used for a wide variety of functions. In fact, we've been nominated as one of the Best Event Venues in the 2024 "Best of the Boot" awards! When you rent at the Wayne County Museum, you're helping to financially support your local museum and contributing to the preservation of our county's history. Come by and check out the ballroom for your next event! For more info: #919-734-5023.

What was once a dance floor for our very own USO troops, our refurbished ballroom space is now the perfect location for your next event or get-together. Outfitted with the combination of outstanding acoustics and a simple yet elegant color scheme, this space is ideal for any and all types of gatherings, such as business conferences, presentations, birthday parties, dances, live performances, and so on. And what makes it even better is that the process of renting this space couldn't be simpler. Please review our [Rental Agreement](#) and [Contact Us](#) for more information.



The ballroom is available for a variety of events including weddings, receptions, baby showers, reunions, corporate meetings, retirement parties, and more!

MUSEUM SPONSORS

Platinum Sponsors:

Glenn Barwick & Judith McMillen
The Best Foundation
William & Ellen Bland
The Community Foundation
M & J Foundation
Mt. Olive Pickle Company
Paramount Theatre
Parker & Parker, PA
Diane Rawl
Skill Creations, Inc.
David & Emily Weil

Gold Sponsors:

Seymour Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Inc

Silver Sponsors:

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Dorcia Benton
The Borden Foundation
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The Laughing Owl
Laurie Urland
Wayne County Cruisers

Bronze Sponsors:

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Joan Hackmann
Mrs. Charles Norwood
Old Dobbs Genealogical Society
Miss Goldsboro Scholarship Association
Nahunta Pork Center
Retro-Lube
Donna Schneider
Shumate-Faulk Funeral Home
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Strickland
Meg Teasley
Union Bank
Wayne Realty
Mr. Jeffrey Westbrook
Marian Westbrook
Connie Whaley

*Thank
you!*



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Wayne County Museum has a wide variety of opportunities to get involved in your community. Whether it is lending a hand at our events, assisting with research related to our exhibits, leading one of our downtown history walks, or helping to keep the building looking beautiful, there is always some way you can pitch in. We are always looking for new volunteers! If this newsletter has piqued your interest and you'd like to find a way to get involved, contact us at volunteer@waynemuseum.org to get started.

HEY, WAYNE COUNTY! DID YOU KNOW?

WRITTEN BY
JENNIFER FONTINE



Salvation Army Christmas donations, 1925.



Salvation Army New York City 1906



Shirley Temple even helped ring that bell!



Lucille Ball and Barbara Newbold opening Red Kettle Season in 1947

As the Holiday season begins at full speed ahead, we all can find ourselves busy shopping, cooking, baking, attending parties, etc. Even with all of the holiday festivities, we are caught up in partaking in both the new and old traditions. It is easy to walk past the little red kettle, but it is very hard to ignore the bell ringing. Why are they standing out in the cold weather? Why the ringing of the bell? Where exactly does the money go? It all began quite a while ago...

In 1865, General William Booth founded the Salvation Army in London's Notorious East End slums. He wanted the more fortunate members of society as they celebrated the holiday season to also become more charitable and contribute to those who were lacking during the season. William Booth was a Methodist lay preacher in the East End of London, which is an area that had a lot of poverty, many of the immigrants, drunkards, ladies of the night, and orphans. Booth began to go out and preach to these people. He was what they call a "soapbox" preacher, and he realized how difficult it was to try and preach the words of God like helping your fellow neighbor, being charitable, and how much God loves you when there were so many people that were hungry and cold. So was birthed the Soup, Souls, and Salvation.

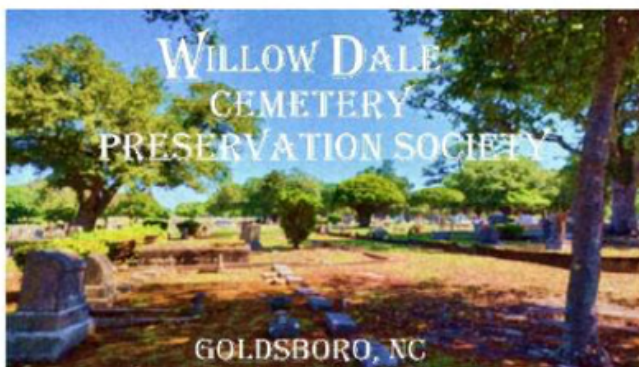
How did the 1800's Soup, Souls, and Salvation turn into the Modern Salvation Army? It was actually by pure accident. The kettle collections started in San Francisco in 1891 when a lack of contributions led Salvation Army Capt. Joseph McFee to publicly promise to feed 1,000 destitute people near Fisherman's Wharf. To raise the money needed, McFee used an old lobster pot and came up with the slogan "Keep the Pot Boiling." He set it up on the waterfront to collect donations to help fund this idea of feeding so many. This was the early beginnings of the kettles starting.

Then there is the tradition of the bell. When and how did the ringing start? It began in the 1900s with a teenage volunteer in New York City named Amelia Kunkel. She was frustrated by the many bankers on Wall Street who walked by and ignored her. So Kunkel took it upon herself to go to the nearby Woolworth's Department store and buy a small bell for ten cents. The rest "as they say" is history! This started the bell tradition and now the Red Kettle Program. What does the Salvation Army's Red Kettle program represent and mean? It is the sound of help, hope, and comfort to our neighbors when they need it the most, during the holidays and beyond. It means doing good in the community. Every penny, nickel, dime, quarter, and dollar collected in your community stays local and supports the Salvation Army programs. When people walk by the kettles, more often than not, they stop by with a story to tell. Whether they were once helped by The Salvation Army, used to volunteer, or know someone who was a recipient of some sort of service, the stories they share are enlightening and uplifting. The bells and kettles are now helping crowdfund the less fortunate in 131 different countries, including 30 million Americans every year. Hopefully, this gives some history and insight, and as you pass by the red kettle this season you too will feel led to leave a little coin that jingles or a bit of green that folds. Merry Christmas!

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

WRITTEN BY
MARY EMMA STEVENS

Wreaths Across America has been honoring veterans across the country for several years. The Willow Dale Cemetery Preservation Society is honored to be sponsoring a wreath-laying ceremony as part of Wreaths Across America's mission to Remember, Honor and Teach. We will be at the Cemetery on December 15, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. to honor the over 1600 veterans buried there. On that day we will show a united front of gratitude and respect as we REMEMBER the Fallen, HONOR those who serve and their families, and TEACH the next generation the value of freedom. Come and be a part of our ceremony. Lisa Granberry Corbett, Co-Chair, Wreaths Across America Ceremony Cathy Blow, Co-Chair, Wreaths Across America Ceremony.



HANGING OF THE GREENS

WRITTEN BY
BRUCE MAHLSTADT

On Saturday, November 23rd, a small group of WCHA board members and volunteers gathered together to put the finishing touches on the museum's Christmas decor at The Hanging of the Greens. Though most of the work had already been completed by the staff of the Wayne County Museum, there were still a few loose ends to tie up. Under the leadership of Ron Sutton, WCHA Secretary, the ballroom's decorations were completed. Together, we constructed our beautiful Christmas tree with thousands of intricately arranged lights and carefully placed ornaments. Wreaths were displayed at the doorways leading to the back of the stage. Thank you to all of those who came out to help!

Later that evening, Ron Sutton switched roles from decorator to emcee for A Night of Holiday Sharing at the Museum. Though the turnout was small, it helped to facilitate intimate conversations, where those who came out had the opportunity to share Christmas memories with one another, whether humorous or heartwarming. And it meant more of Melissa Sutton's apple cider and Jennifer Fontine's snacks for the rest of us! After a round of Christmas caroling - thanks to the piano accompaniment of Mr. Sutton - and a rendition of Carol of the Bells by Meah Fontine, the night came to a close. I hope the spirit of that evening carries us all through the rest of this holiday season. After all, there are no greater gifts to give someone than these: your time, your attention and your heart.





III CENTURY SINGERS
presents their annual
Christmas Concert

*A Celebration
of
Carols*

December 8, 2024 • 3:00 pm
First Baptist Church - 125 South John St - Goldsboro

December 12, 2024 • 7:00 pm
First Baptist Church - 300 North Chestnut St - Mount Olive



FREE Admission
Donations Accepted



This project was supported by the North Carolina Arts Council a division of the Department of Cultural Resources



Funds for this project supplied by the ACWC's Grassroots Subgrant Program

WHAT'S IN STORE



IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE GIFT, VISIT OUR STORE AND PURCHASE A HOLIDAY ORNAMENT DEPICTING A LANDMARK FROM WAYNE COUNTY!

DON'T FORGET THAT THERE ARE ALSO COLORING BOOKS, CHILDREN'S BOOKS, AND BOOKS RELATING TO OUR HISTORY HERE IN WAYNE COUNTY.

RECIPE



Fruitcake Cookies

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 1/4 teaspoon lemon extract
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup diced candied pineapple
- 1 cup diced red cherries
- 1 cup diced candid green cherries
- 1 cup coarsely chopped pecans

Instructions: Preheat the oven to 300 degrees F. and line a cookie sheet with a silicone mat or parchment paper. Set aside.

Use a mixer to cream the butter and sugar together until fluffy. Add the egg, vanilla extract, almond extract, and lemon extract and mix well.

In another bowl, whisk together the flour, salt, and baking soda. Gradually add the flour mixture to the butter mixture and mix well. Fold in the candied fruit and pecans.

Drop the dough by heaping tablespoonsful onto the prepared cookie sheet about 3 to 4 inches apart. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until just golden brown. Allow to cool for about 5 minutes on the baking sheet before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely. Store in an airtight container for a few days or in the refrigerator for longer. Cookies can be wrapped rightly and frozen for a few months.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

Sat. Dec. 7th, Museum will be closed 10 AM - 4 PM. All are invited to attend Jen's funeral at First African Baptist Church, Goldsboro NC at 2 PM.

Sat. Dec. 7th, 4-9pm "Ghosts of Christmas Past" Willow Dale Cemetery Tour. This popular event is the Museum's biggest fundraiser of the year. The tour is a local history performance featuring "ghosts" from Wayne County's history (played by costumed actors) that have been laid to rest in the historic cemetery. They will tell you about their stories beside their gravesites. The ticketed, guided walk is in the evening and the cemetery will be lit with luminaria and lanterns as you make your way from grave to grave. The tours are from 4:30-6 and again from 7-9pm. Tickets available on www.waynemuseum.org or the Museum's Facebook page. \$25 adults/\$15 children.

Mon. Dec. 9th, 7-9pm Museum Players Auditions for "Dear Jack, Dear Louise". Performances will be January 24-26. Auditions will consist of cold readings. If you are interested but unable to attend auditions, you can email president@waynemuseum.org to submit a video audition. The cast is 1Male/1Female, mid 20's to mid-30's.

Sat. Dec. 14th, 1-3pm Presentation by Sherwood Williford on Seymour Johnson. Presentation by renowned local author and newspaper columnist, Sherwood Williford. His talk will be about Seymour Anderson Johnson, the namesake of SJAFB, a Goldsboro native who died in an airplane crash on March 5, 1941. Free to the public.

****The Museum will be closed for Christmas on December 24, 25, & 26th****



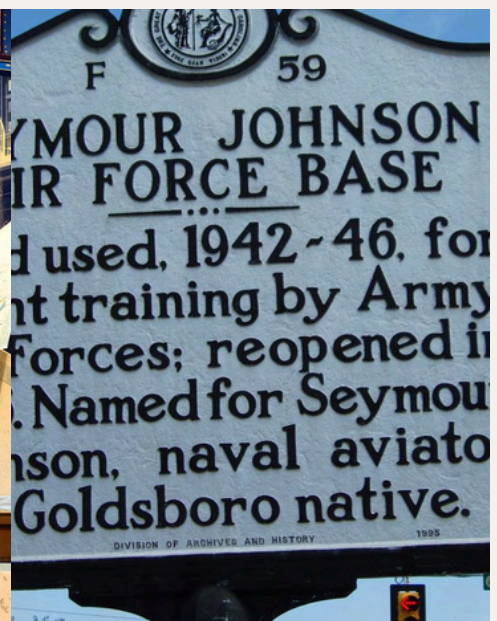
WAYNE COUNTY MUSEUM
PRESENTS
THE GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST

Saturday, December 7
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM & 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

ADVANCE ADULT TICKET: \$25
ADVANCE CHILD TICKET: \$15

Price includes Willowdale Walk & Museum Reception. If available, tickets can be purchased on the day of the event at the Wayne County Museum.

For more information, call 919-734-5023 or visit WayneMuseum.org.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

**Do you know an Outstanding
Person from our Community that
deserves a place on
*Wayne County's Wall of Fame?***



**Scan here or visit
waynemuseum.org for more information
and to fill out an application.**



Jennifer Kuykendall



Our community is better because of you

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Jennifer Kuykendall, Executive Director of the Wayne County Museum. Many know her as Jen. While Wayne County has not always been her home, she embraced this community and became as a member of the family to so many. Please hold Jen and her family close in your thoughts and prayers. The family has asked instead of flowers "that you use hearts and hands to make the community a better place, one act at a time. You can best honor Jen by identifying someone or a situation that needs help and do what you can to help, making our community better one small act at a time."

