

# Chatham County Historical Association

PO Box 93 · Pittsboro, NC 27312 · 919.542.6222 · [chathamhistory.org](http://chathamhistory.org)



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CCHA Newsletter

Jan 2024

## Annual Membership Meeting and Program George Moses Horton's Life in Poetry

Sunday, February 11 at 2 pm

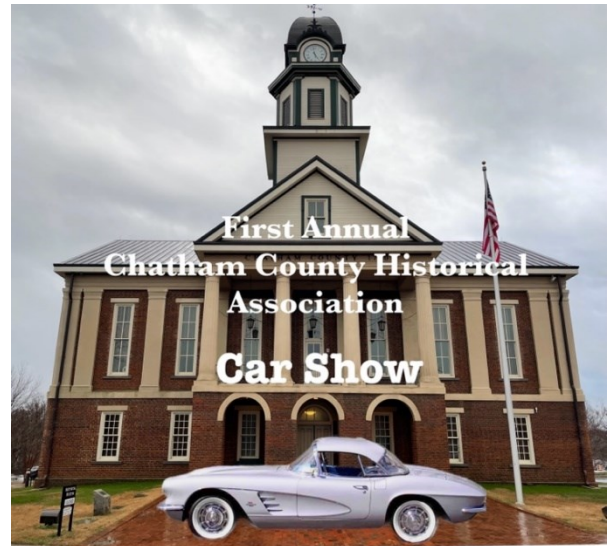
The next program and annual membership meeting of the Chatham County Historical Association will be held on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at 2 pm at the Historic Courthouse in the circle in Pittsboro.



Our speaker will be Dr. Eliza Richards, professor of English and Comparative Literature at UNC-Chapel Hill, who will present our program on George Moses Horton's Life in Poetry.

Dr. Richards specializes in American Poetry before 1900, and is currently collecting all of George Moses Horton's writings in one volume. At our program, Professor Richards will provide an overview of Horton's writings and will trace the course of Horton's life--most of which was spent enslaved in Chatham County.

Dr. Richards' program will be from 2-3 pm. The annual meeting will begin after a short break. We'll review what CCHA volunteers have done in 2023 and ask for your membership to help fund plans for 2024.



## 1st Annual Chatham Car Show

Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm

The Chatham County Historical Association will present its first annual Car Show to support preservation activities in Chatham County. Profits from the first show will go to improvements of the Manly Law Office. The April show will be in downtown Pittsboro, using the town parking lot at Salisbury, Fayetteville, and Hanks Streets. We're expecting as many as 125 cars. Early registration will be \$20/car and will be on the CCHA website soon; registration on April 27<sup>th</sup> will be \$25/car. It will be FREE for spectators to look at the cars and talk to the owners. We invite you to come enjoy the show and then have lunch, a drink, and explore Pittsboro's eclectic mix of shops. More information will be on our website soon, and in our next newsletter. For now, mark your calendar for Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Rain date will be the following Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm.

# Volunteer Orientation

## Sign UP!!

If you'd like to get involved in the Chatham County Historical Association, come to the Volunteer Orientation Saturday, February 17th at 1 pm in the Historic Courthouse, 9 Hillsboro, Pittsboro. You need to reserve your seat by registering before Feb 10<sup>th</sup> at

<https://www.chathamhistory.org/event-5555568>

Read on for what we did last year and you can be a part of in 2024:



## Here's some of what our volunteers did in 2023:

- Educated ~900 4<sup>th</sup> Grade students with a morning of history, government, and civics by identifying artifacts, imagining themselves a Museum curator, participating in a trial, and understanding what a native person's world was like.
- With the Preservation Hill Questers, continued to preserve the Manly Law Office.
- Staffed the Museum to welcome about 3,000 visitors to the Museum and Chatham County. A great way to meet new people!
- Created a new short-term exhibit on Chatham County Railroads!
- Shared Chatham history on CCHA's website with an average of 1,500 unique visitors a month, and with more than 8,000 followers on our Chatham Historical Museum Facebook page.

- Participated in Pittsboro First Sundays, Pittsboro Summer Fest, Siler City Chicken Fest, Bennett's Flatwoods Festival, Goldston's Old Fashioned Days, the Pittsboro Christmas Parade, and history talks to any organization that asked!
- Presented the Spirit Tour with reenactors explaining Chatham history during a tour of buildings and venues.
- Presented four programs a year on Chatham History in the Historic Courthouse courtroom.
- Supported the documentation and preservation of cemeteries in Chatham.
- Participated in government Planning Boards and provided comments on commercial and residential development proposals and rezonings. Created development guidelines for developers to identify and preserve cemeteries and burial sites.
- Advised on the feasibility of preservation of buildings and assisting with preservation in special cases.

## CCHA's Collection has grown!

Here's a sample of what's been added:

- An article on Clyde Farrell by his grandson.
- Goldston 1943 HS photo by Gilbert Stroupe.
- Video memorial to Billy Burns a Chatham WWII veteran by August Burns.
- 1933 home movie showing St. Bartholomew's by Sally Sypher.
- Several Mathiesen Clinic artifacts by Todd Mace, Dr. Mathiesen's grandson as well as other family members.
- London family photos by Lawrence London Jr.
- Powder horns by Marjorie Neuffer.
- Two bicentennial plates by The Railroad Museum in Sanford.
- Many artifacts and pictures from the Pittsboro High School Reunion Committee.
- Bronze bicentennial medallion by Linda Northcutt.

- Photos and records of veteran Alvin M. Clark by his daughter Charity Campbell.
- Collection of photos, records, and memorabilia of the Buckner Family by the family.
- 1897-1898 handwritten budget for Chatham County schools by Ryan Farrell
- Marley Furniture Company sign by Rachel Allen.
- Book: *A Grandfather's Legacy* by the author and granddaughter Kathrine Newlin Hadley.
- Information about Joseph Baldwin by Bob Norwood.
- Two Triassic age plant fossils found in Chatham County by Tony Shaver.
- Hand carved dogwood gavel by Jon Spoon.

## Siler City History Club

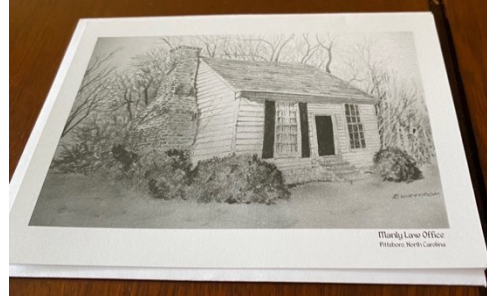
On Friday, January 5th at 10:30 the first meeting of the Siler City History Club was held at the Wren Memorial Library. Ten people attended and enjoyed an hour of memories, as well as planning how to capture some of those historical memories so the future can understand where the current Siler City came from! If you're interested, join us. Meetings will be held every first Friday at 10:30 at the Wren Library. The **next meeting will be Friday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30.** We'll be sharing memories of Chatham Ave and Birch Ave--what stores were where and when! Coffee, tea, and water are provided by the library. Please join us for the fun of remembering together.

## New on our Website

Seaforth Road, Seaforth High School, Seaforth Landing-- what's the story behind the Seaforth name? Connie McAdams tells the story of the Seaforth community that is now under Jordan Lake. She researched newspapers to discover happenings of past days and interviewed people whose families lived in Seaforth for generations. Here's the link:

<https://chathamhistory.org/resources/Documents/PDFs/ResearchArticles/Seaforth%20History%20Connie%20McAdams.pdf>

## If you need a Special Gift:



CCHA partners with the Preservation Hill Chapter of the Questers to preserve the Manly

Law Office. The Chapter of the national Questers is currently fundraising for new doors for the Law Office to make it watertight again. The Questers have notecards for sale in the Museum and online: <https://chathamhistory.org/Online-Catalog>. The notecards would be a wonderful gift that gives back to Chatham County by helping preserve the Law Office, and are perfect for the history buff in your life.

## National Historic Register: Bynum Update



Bynum Historic Preservation (BHP) continues to fundraise to get Bynum on the National Historic Register. The GoFundMe page is still active. BHP is over 2/3 of the way to their initial financial goal! Once they reach their goal, they'll hire a preservation expert to start writing the Bynum historic description.

GoFundMe page:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/national-historic-register-designation-bynum>

If you want to donate, but not online, you can now mail in a check: Make the check payable to: Bynum Front Porch. BHP is working with Bynum Front Porch as their 501-C3/ non-profit sponsor. Add on memo line: For Bynum Historic Designation

Send check to: Bynum Historic Designation  
PO Box 124  
Bynum, NC 27228

CCHA is very glad to support the Bynum Historic Designation (BHD) effort by spreading the word through the newsletter, Facebook, and website. If you have questions about the Bynum project, please reach out to SusieCrate:  
[scrate1@gmu.edu](mailto:scrate1@gmu.edu)

## Museum Update

- **Railroad Exhibit:** The Railroad Exhibit information in the exhibit cabinet remains, but the artifacts had to be returned to The Railroad House Museum in Sanford. Our visitors enjoyed the artifacts, which can still be viewed at the Railroad House Museum.
- **Family Names Photo frame:** The Photo frame on the Family Names wall has stopped working after 10 years of continuous service! A new one is on order and will be installed in the next two weeks.
- **Geology Exhibit** remains too popular to stop. Students of all ages love discovering Chatham's rocks!
- **Follow us on Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/ChathamCountyHistoricalMuseum> Daily Facebook posts highlight various aspects of Chatham County history. The page has more than 8,000 followers who contribute photos and information that adds to the knowledge base and connects community. Join us!

## In Memory

Donations have been received in memory of two of CCHA's long-time supporters--**Tommy Emerson** and **Fred Vatter**.

Tommy Emerson was a former board member and was instrumental in identifying several old family cemeteries in western Chatham and in getting our cemetery team to the sites to document them. Tommy remembered the sites from his days of riding horseback in the woods as a young man--sometimes scouting for stills for his father, who was sheriff at the time. The cemetery team enjoyed their outings with Tommy, as he told stories and pointed out Chatham landmarks as he drove. We are grateful for his commitment to preserving Chatham history and will miss his colorful stories.

Fred Vatter was a former president of CCHA whose curiosity about all-things-Chatham, along with his research and writing skills, resulted in dozens of articles about Chatham history for the Chatham County Line publication, some of which were reproduced in Tales of Fried Rabbit (now out of print) for CCHA. These articles shared a wide range of Chatham topics of interest to both Chatham natives and newcomers. We have shared some of Fred's articles on our website and will be adding more over the next months, so Fred's legacy will continue to serve CCHA's goals of preserving and sharing Chatham history.

# MEMBERSHIP IN CCHA:

The Chatham County Historical Association is an all-volunteer organization-- which means we don't have expenses for staff, but we do have expenses, including the phone and internet bill, the newsletter email IT program, copies that are mailed by USPS, the website and its maintenance. We depend on your membership and financial donations to continue to be able to "*preserve and communicate the history of Chatham County, North Carolina.*"



Join on the website: <https://chathamhistory.org/CCHA-Online-Membership-Application>

Or cut out the form below and send it to the address at the bottom.



**Membership Information** (please print clearly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone or cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email will be used for newsletter and announcement delivery

**Interested in volunteering?** Please indicate areas of interest and a representative will contact you:

Museum  Collection/Research  Cemetery  Preservation  Genealogy  Other

**Membership level**—Please check one:

Individual (\$18)  Family (\$20)  Student (\$10)  Patron (\$50)  Friend (\$100)

Corporate (\$100)  Lifetime-individual (\$1,000)  Lifetime-corporate (\$5,000)

Please make checks or money orders payable to

Chatham County Historical Association or CCHA

Complete this membership form and send it with your dues to:

Chatham County Historical Association, Inc.

PO Box 93

Pittsboro, NC 27312

Chatham County Historical Association



Chatham Historical Museum 919-542-6222

[www.chathamhistory.org](http://www.chathamhistory.org)

[history@chathamhistory.org](mailto:history@chathamhistory.org)

9 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro, NC

Museum Open: Wed, Thurs, Fri 11-4 pm year round

Tours by request -> email [museum@chathamhistory.org](mailto:museum@chathamhistory.org)