MUSEUM HOSTS
SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT

From February 28-April 11, the museum hosted the Smithsonian traveling exhibit “Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America.” The exhibit is part of the “Museums on Main Street” program that is designed to bring high quality traveling exhibits to smaller rural venues like the MAMRH. The program is presented in partnership with the North Carolina Humanities Council, the Smithsonian Institution and six host venues around the state during the 2015 calendar year. The MAMRH was the kick-off venue for the year-long tour.

“Hometown Teams” explored the role of sports and the creation of the American identity. Exhibit topics ranged from hometown sports and games, to the fields of play, to themes as complex as race and international relations as experienced through sports.

During the six week exhibit period the museum presented a number of free public programs including lectures, performances, and even a chance to meet and greet with NASCAR Hall of Famers.

In addition to the scheduled programs and activities, the museum opened a new permanent exhibit on local sports history as a companion piece to the Smithsonian exhibit. According to Matt Edwards, the Museum’s Executive Director, “this is an exhibit we’ve been talking about for years; the Smithsonian show provided us with the perfect opportunity to move forward with its creation.”

The new exhibit highlights the development of sports and leisure activities in our region starting in Victorian times and continuing through today. Edwards adds, “As we were researching this exhibit it became clear we could never tell all the great stories we were finding, so we’ve designed the exhibit so that we can change out the specific stories highlighted in an effort to share as much as possible.”

“Hometown Teams” was the museum’s second Museum on Main Street Exhibit. In 2010 the MAMRH hosted “New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music.” That experience was the foundation for the creation of the museum’s traveling exhibit “The Luther’s Craft.”

CHICK-FIL-A SPONSOR’S JUNIOR HISTORIANS CLUB

The museum’s award winning Jessie Franklin Pioneers Chapter of the Tar Heel Junior Historian Association brought on a new sponsor for the 2014/2015 school year. Chick-fil-a of Mount Airy’s support helped the team have great experiences during the year and make a great showing at the annual conference in April.

The club consisted of 18 kids from 4-8th grade and represented three different schools from our area. They spent the majority of the year studying the architectural history of the region before completing group and individual projects for the state conference in Raleigh.

Awards from this year’s conference included individual honors for Max Oakley in the elementary division photography contest, artifact search awards for Olivia Edwards, Ellie Hooker and Max Flinchum, and an intermediate division literary award for Madison Lawson. Additionally, there was an elementary division team award in the exhibit category for the creating of a board game about life as a 1920’s tobacco farmer.

We’re happy to announce that Chick-fil-a will be returning as team sponsor for the upcoming school year and we’re excited to bring this program to a new group of kids. In an effort to maintain the highest level of programming we can for these kids we’re looking for adult volunteers to serve as club advisors for the season. If you are interested in helping serve as a club advisor or would like more information on how to enroll a child in the program please contact Matt Edwards at 786-4478 x 224.

Inside this Edition

- From the Director
- Nancy’s Corner
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- Museum Wish List
- Museum Exhibit Travels
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- New Members
- Sustaining Members
- Chick-fil-a Sponsor’s Junior Historians Club

Contact Us:
Phone: 336-786-4478
Fax: 336-786-1666
Email: mamrh@northcarolinamuseum.org
Web: www.northcarolinamuseum.org
Well it’s been a while since we’ve sent out a newsletter, and quite a lot has happened in that time. The museum has won some awards, put a new roof on the building, upgraded our lighting systems, hosted a Smithsonian institution traveling exhibit and made a number of upgrades and changes to our permanent exhibits here at the museum. In short, we’ve been busy doing our best mission to collect, preserve and interpret the heritage of the region.

We’ve also been fortunate in the last year or so to receive some pretty generous gifts both from living benefactors and as estate gifts. Those gifts have gone a long way in helping us maintain the facility and our collections now and for the future by helping to grow our endowment, but we’re not resting on our laurels.

As the museum approaches twenty years open to the public (we opened in October of 1995) we’re looking to the future. We’ve still got some things we want/need to do both to the building and to our exhibits, but overall we’re working to ensure that the museum is well prepared to be the repository for our area’s history for many years to come, and a big part of that is growing the endowment to the point it can support a significant portion of our operations.

If you’re reading my musings here you are one of the people who care most about the museum, and we appreciate your support. You can also make a difference in the future of the museum. As you think about your legacy, I encourage you to think about the museum and making it part of your estate planning, it may well be the least painful and most impactful giving you ever do.

Matt

NANCY’S CORNER

I hope you have been to the Museum lately to see our newly renovated Museum Gift Shop. We are featuring some new jewelry that has been well received by many. The jewelry is by Sassy Gems. The designers of Sassy Gems jewelry will be set up at our Open House in December to show some new pieces for your holiday giving. Amuse Beads and Rustic Daisy jewelry can also be found in the gift shop. I am sure you would like to see the designs of necklaces, earrings and bracelets as we now look toward the holidays.

Some of the Gift Shops new books are: Lives of Engl & Chang and Katherine & R. J. Reynolds, Partners of Fortune in the Making of the New South. Joy Fowler, born and raised in Mount Airy, will be at the museum’s Holiday Open House in December to launch her new book, “Mami Salami.” Tin Signs are popular for the “Man Cave” and to remember the past. We have beautifully framed photographs of the area by photographer Kenny Hooker.

Many of you know that we carry the Blue Bird of Happiness. It is a great welcome gift for your new friend, or someone sick or homebound, or just a ‘thank you’ for a good deed that your neighbor or friend did for you while you were away on vacation.

Our newest Blue Birds are Ornaments but not just any Blue Bird Ornaments. They have beautiful sayings such as: Happy Birthday, To A Special Friend, Nurses Are Special, To Nana, To Grandma, To Sister and many more that are too numerous to name. New cards that are like no others. Only the museum gift shop carries them in this area.

New T-Shirts are here with the Museum Logo in new colors. If you want a museum hat, we have those too. Some North Carolina items are new at the museum gift shop. For collectors, there are thimbles and spoons, cups, bells, shot glasses and many other items.

We haven’t forgotten the little ones either. Tumble Tambor (Logan logo), Musical trains, band sets and trains sets.

Hope to see you soon. Just ask for Nancy!
The museum has received two grants to expand research and exhibits related to instrument making traditions in the Blue Ridge region. The first grant, awarded by the North Carolina Arts Council was for $6,941.00 and was for the creation of a permanent version of “The Luthier’s Craft” exhibit in the museum along with additional research and development. The exhibit opened in June just in time for the Mount Airy Fiddler’s Convention.

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Both projects have now been completed. In addition to the obvious lack of leaks, the new roof includes significantly more roof insulation for increased long-term energy efficiency. Along those same lines the new LED track lights use far less energy than the current light bulbs with an eye towards reducing long-term operational costs. The new lights also address and in an effort to raise money to re-roof the museum. We filed grant applications, petitioned both the City and County Commissions for project funding and sought funds from private donors. The museum received a generous gift from an anonymous donor in the summer that provided approximately one third of the funds necessary for the roofing project, and as the year drew to a close John and Karen Springthorpe made another very generous gift to cover the remaining costs for the roof as well as the conversion to LED lighting throughout most of the museum.

The Museum would like to say a HUGE thank you to the Springthorpe’s and the anonymous donor for their support of the museum and assistance in making these projects possible. Their contributions will help to ensure that we can properly care for and maintain our collections and thus our collective history for at least another 20 years!
RECENT GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

The following have been added to the Museum collection:

- H. Wayne Easter
  Book: In the Footsteps of Home (Memories of growing up in the shadow of the Blue Ridge)
- Kelly and Jennifer Epperson
  Original WPAQ station call letters circa 1948 donated in memory of Ralph and Earlene Epperson
- Tom and Mary Fawcett
  2 Bank of Mt. Airy souvenir pencil sharpener/banks
- Anne Fleming for Jack and Marie Wilson
  Set of 6 connected seats originally from Surry County Juvenile Court at 137 Moors Avenue, National Furniture bedroom set: full size bed, dresser with mirror and nightstand
- William A. Hawkins
  The Educational Foundation, Inc. of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill—Wallace Shelton Football Scholarship plaque endowed by William A. and Virginia P. Hawkins
- Kenneth A. Hinton
  Vintage popcorn popper
- Raymond Joyce
  2 green ginseng circa early 1900s
- Lee Livingston
  Mt. Airy Saloon bottle, JS Patterson
- Mount Airy Public Library c/o Pat Gwyn
- Jordan Nance
  DVB: “Broadcast – A Man and His Dream”
- Dennis Patterson, Donna Keck
  Framed 12/16/1829 Western Sentinel newspaper from Winston, N.C.
- Charlie and Sandy Shelton
  Lionel Electric Train Set circa 1950-60s including numerous car, track and accessories
- John Shore
  Photograph of J.W. Beasley City Barbershop 1909
- Rodney Shore
  618-2755 Catalogue Mount Airy Male Academy, 24 miscellaneous archival paper items including letterhead, flyers, Bank of Mount airy checks and other items
- Wayne and Mary Emily Cooke
  Star Twist display cabinet for spools of thread made by American Thread Company
- Tom and Kay Tilley Sisk
  Shadow box of barber’s tools and memorabilia from Joel Reid Tilley – Joel’s Barber Shop in the Woodville community of Surry County
- Pi and Joy Snow
- James L. Sprinkle, III
  Framed photo of father James Lunsford Sprinkle, Jr., Chief Warrant Officer 4 in the US Navy, scrapbook containing photos during his naval career, orders, letters, discharge papers, certificates, minutes and other misc. items, 1962, ‘63, ‘64 Mount Airy High School yearbooks
- Randall and Tonda Strickland
  Small wooden barrel shaped bank from First National Bank of Mt. Airy, 53” long photo of “Recruits Battalion 5th Engineers Training Regiment Camp A.A Humphreys, Va., July 1918
- John Surratt
  Book: To God Be The Glory: The Centennial History – Calvary Baptist Church, 1913-2013
- Louis and Cathy Taylor
  2 cooking pans, embroidered pillowcase, dresser scarves, white wooden box mailed to Mrs. Moir Martin
- Martha Rowe Vaughn
  1916 Postcard – Mount Airy Granite, NCG Corp., Mt. Airy, NC
- White Sulphur Springs ECA
  Club yearbooks from 2003, 2005, 2007
- Betty C. Lyerly Willius
  Given in memory of Rev. Dr. J. Wilford Lyerly
- Charlie and Katie Krishnan
  By Tom and Mary Fawcett
- John and Kelly Inman
  By Tom and Mary Fawcett
- John and Mrs. Jerry Coram
  By Tom and Mary Fawcett
- Mrs. and Mrs. Edwin Woltz & Family
- Mr. and Mrs. Randy Robins
- Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Woltz & Family
- Dr. and Mrs. Thomas McElwee
  Of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – Wallace Shelton Football Scholarship plaque endowed by William A. and Virginia P. Hawks
- Mrs. and Mrs. Edwin Woltz & Family
- Mr. and Mrs. Randy Robins
- Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Woltz & Family
- Mr. and Mrs. Mickey McGuire
  By Tom and Mary Fawcett
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**RECENT GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM**

The following have been added to the Museum collection:

**Gifts of Memorials:**
- Felton & Joan Godwin
- H. Wayne Easter
- Framed photo made from tin type of Hardin M. Audrey Mae Marion Jones
- Jack Greenwood
- John & Claudia Bryant
- Mary Lindsay Boyles
- Bev Cooper
- Bill and Greta Boyd
- Wayne and Photos: 1935 Ola Dunbar, 1930 1th grade Franklin School, 12 postcards, 7 feed/sugar sacks, 29 hair perm clips, Primera Bap
- Tom and Kay Tilley Sisk
- E. Dean Bray III
- John & Berta Springthorpe, Jr.
- David & Nancy Dixon
- Delores Earling
- Bruce and Wendy Carson
- John Surra
- Jayna Simmons
- Inez Cox
- Billie Mae Davis
- H. Wayne Easter

**Gifts of Honorariums:**
- Mark Brown
- PJ and Joy Snow
- Charlie & Sandy Shelton
- Dennis Patterson, Donna Keck
- Laurie Carlson
- Charles & Sally Shelton
- Lionel Electric
- Rodney Shore
- Betty C. Lively Willis

**Museum Wish List**

- Copier Paper
- 23 inch flat panel computer monitor
- 10 key adding machine
- Compound miter saw
- Bottled Waters
- Museum Volunteers

---

**THE MUSEUM ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT TO THE FOLLOWING GIFTS OF MEMORIALS:**

**In Memory...**

- Mrs. Marjorie Rees
- Audrey Mae Marion Jones
- Betty Cooper
- Ronald Boyles

**In Honor...**

- Walter Ethinger
- Jack Greenwood
- Karen & Dick Fawcett
- Dr. & Mrs. Thomas McElwhee
- Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Coram
- Mr. & Mrs. Bill Inman
- Mr. & Mrs. John Young

**MUSEUM WISH LIST**

There are MANY ways to contribute to the museum—time, money or material contributions. Here are a few things you may have lying around or have access to that we need or could put to good use:

- Copier Paper
- 23 inch flat panel computer monitor
- 10 key adding machine
- Compound miter saw
- Bottled Waters
- Museum Volunteers

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MUSEUM EXHIBIT TRAVELS

In 2013 and 2014 the museum presented "The Luthier’s Craft: Instrument Making Traditions of the Blue Ridge" as a changing exhibit in the Adelaide Bunker Sink Gallery. The exhibit chronicled the lives and talents of several regional luthiers (stringed instrument builders) and was the culmination of over a year of research and development.

"The Luthier’s Craft" was always planned as a traveling exhibit that could be sent to other venues after its initial exhibition at the MAMRH. In July of 2014 (shortly after our last newsletter) the exhibit opened at the Earl Scruggs Center in Shelby, NC as part of their grand re-opening celebration after 5 years of renovations as their inaugural traveling exhibit. Additionally, in October of 2014 a portion of the exhibit was displayed at the International Bluegrass Music Association Awards week in Raleigh, NC by the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area where an estimated 180,000 visitors had a chance to see it.

The exhibit is the first of a series of major traveling exhibits the museum hopes to develop and is currently being marketed for travel to other museums across the region. Also in development is an exhibit about Women in North Carolina History. We are hoping to have that exhibit completed sometime in late 2016.

MUSEUM RECEIVES GRANTS TO EXPAND EXHIBIT

The museum has received two grants to expand research and exhibits related to instrument making traditions in the region. The first grant, awarded by the North Carolina Arts Council was for $6,941.00 and was for the creation of a permanent version of "The Luthier’s Craft" exhibit in the museum along with additional research with an eye towards adding new traveling components in the future. The exhibit opened in June just in time for the Mount Airy Fiddler’s Convention.

The second grant was a $6500.00 award from the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area to fund research and creation of a new dulcimer traveling component for "The Luthier’s Craft." Research and development are currently underway and museum staff hopes to have this project completed by the first of the year.

NEW MEMBERS

Ms. Kathy Atkins-Robertson
Ms. Winnie Banner
Ms. Norma H. Bowen
Mr. Tommy Bowman
Mr. Larry Bullen
Mr. & Mrs. Mel & Trish Cummins
Mr. Brent Ferry
Mr. & Mrs. Charles & Mary Ellen Graham
Mr. Brian Gray
Ms. Sasha Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. Jan & Lauri Legere
Mr. Randall Lynch
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Marion

Mr. & Mrs. W. Ashley & Paula Marion
Ms. Sharon Marshall
Ms. June Martin
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight & Wanda McAlexander
Mr. & Mrs. Edward & Vickie McDaniels
Ms. Anna Mertson
Mr. Bill Smith
Mr. George Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Justin Strewalt
Dr. & Mrs. Hugh E. Sutphin
Mr. John Tarn
Ms. Melissa Wilkins
Mr. Ronnie Wilson

INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES AT THE MUSEUM

Protecting our exhibits and collections from the elements is one of our primary jobs here at the museum. From a curatorial standpoint, we do our best to control light, temperature and humidity with an eye toward the long-term preservation of the artifacts in our care. In recent years the roof has become an increasing point of concern in terms of our ability to control these factors, but the failure of a number of HVAC units over the last two years forced our attentions elsewhere.

In 2014, recognizing that the roof needed to be addressed and in anticipation of the upcoming Smithsonian traveling exhibit, we started making efforts to raise money to re-roof the museum. We filed grant applications, petitioned both the City and County Commissions for project funding and sought funds from private donors. The museum received a generous gift from an anonymous donor in the summer that provided approximately one third of the funds necessary for the roofing project, and as the year drew to a close John and Karen Springthorpe made another very generous gift to cover the remaining costs for the roof as well as the conversion to LED lighting throughout most of the museum.

Both projects have now been completed. In addition to the obvious lack of leaks, the new roof includes significantly more roof insulation for increased long-term energy efficiency. Along those same lines the new LED track lights use far less energy than the current light bulbs with an eye towards reducing long-term operational costs. The new lights also offer conservation advantages for our collections by reducing exposure to UV light. On March 28th at the Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce’s annual awards banquet, the museum received a “Green Business Award” for this project.

The Museum would like to say a HUGE thank you to the Springthorpe’s and the anonymous donor for their support of the museum and assistance in making these projects possible. Their contributions will help to ensure that we can properly care for and maintain our collections and thus our collective history for at least another 20 years!
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For your new friend, for someone sick or hospital bound, or just a ‘thank you’ for a good deed that your neighbor or friend did for you while you were away on vacation.

Thank You!
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September
4th
Storybook Museum. Hands-on History Gallery. 10:30 AM. Free

12th
History Talks: Scott Douglas, For the Defense of the Frontier: Fort Dobbs in the French and Indian War. 3rd Floor MAMRH. 2:000PM. Free

18th
Casino Royale 6:30-11 PM Cross Creek Country Club

25th - 27th
Mayberry Days

October
2nd
Storybook Museum. Hands-on History Gallery. 10:30 AM. Free

9th - 11th
Autumn Leaves Festival

30th
Vineyard Stomp 5K – Costumed run 6:30 Round Peak Vineyards

30th
Boo Bash - Old North State Winery

31st
Downtown Trick-or-treating 3-5pm

November
6th
Storybook Museum. Hands-on History Gallery. 10:30 AM. Free

14th
History Talks: Ed and Sue Curtis and the Salisbury Confederate Prison. 3rd Floor MAMRH. 2:00 PM. Free

December
4th
Storybook Museum. Hands-on History Gallery. 10:30 AM. Free

5th
Holiday Open House

7th
Volunteer Christmas Party

31st
New Year’s Eve Party
SEPT. 18TH
6:30pm - 11pm
CROSS CREEK
COUNTRY CLUB
CASINO STYLE GAMING,
MUSIC, DRAW DOWN and
SILENT AUCTION
FOR TICKETS AND
INFORMATION CONTACT A
MOUNT AIRY MUSEUM OF
REGIONAL HISTORY BOARD
MEMBER OR CONTACT THE
MUSEUM AT 336.786.4478
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

CASINO ROYALE

SEPT. 18TH
6:30pm - 11pm
CROSS CREEK
COUNTRY CLUB
CASINO STYLE GAMING,
MUSIC, DRAW DOWN and
SILENT AUCTION
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