

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 exhibition 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 Luthier's Craft."



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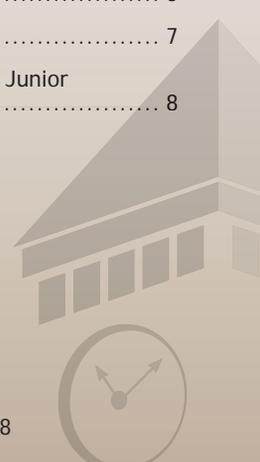
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FROM THE DIRECTOR



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 to fulfill our 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 financial 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/I 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



New window graphics - June 2015

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 towards the holidays.

Some of the Gift Shops new books are: **Lives of Eng & 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, for 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 Timbers (Lincoln Logs), Musical trains, band sets and trains sets.

Hope to see you soon. Just ask for Nancy!

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 curation 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!

RECENT GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM



The following have been added to the Museum collection:



Doug Belcher

Framed photo made from tin type of Hardin M. Smith 1827-1910, Smith family genealogy paper

Mary Lindsay Boyles

Photographs: 1948 Graniteers, 1920s Mount Airy High School football team, #16 Fred Folger, MAHS football player

Bill and Greta Boyd

Photos: 1935 Ola Dunbar, 1930 1th grade Franklin School, 12 postcards, 7 feed/sugar sacks, 29 hair perm clips, Primitive Baptist Hymn book, Hersheys Cocoa Recipes booklet, baby sweater, baby socks from Renfro Hosiery Mills, Hammill Dairy fan, 2 toys

E. Dean Bray III

3 empty Mount Airy glass bottles: Coca Cola, Slaughters, 1 pint milk

Mark Brown

Christmas tree shaped decoration used in downtown Mt. Airy Main Street circa 1980s

Claudia Bryant

Infant's dressing gown, slip and pair of long socks

Carol M. Burke

Caricature of Northern Hospital of Surry County Administrator, founder of Surry Medical Ministries and Rotarian, John Lockhart

Paddy Butera-Billings

Mount Airy Furniture ledgers, appraisal reports, profit and loss statements 1913-1921

Bruce and Wendy Carson

Book: "Encyclopedia of North Carolina" edited by William S. Powell

Freddie Chilton

Miscellaneous artifacts including handheld fans, calendars, fireplace tools, tobacco hook, postcards, magazines, almanacs, rulers, patterns, catalogs, booklets, 4 pocketbooks, 7 hats, hatbox, 1 black wool woman's coat with fur trim, alligator purse, lady's hightop shoes

Jayna Simmons

Large tin-type image of a funeral wake with family members on front porch given in memory of Dora Simmons

Inez Cox

Mt. Airy City Directories: 1928-29, 1954-55, 1957-56

Billie Mae Davis

Shadowbox of Bright Leaf Drive-In and Mt. Airy Drive-In Theater memorabilia, framed photo of manager Donald Davis, framed newspaper articles of both drive-ins, tickets, business cards and money deposit bags

H. Wayne Easter

Book: In the Foothills 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 Moore Avenue; National Furniture bedroom set: full size bed, dresser with mirror and night stand

William A. Hawks

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. Hawks

Kenneth A. Hinton

Vintage popcorn popper

Raymond Joyce

2 green settees circa early 1900s

Lee Livengood

Mt. Airy Saloon bottle, JG Patterson

Mount Airy Public Library c/o Pat Gwyn

23 bound volumes of the Mount Airy News: 1927(2), 1928, 1929(2), 1930(2), 1931(2), 1932(2), 1933(2), 1934(2), 1935(2), 1936, 1937(2), 1938, 1955, 1965. Books: North Carolina Local History – A Select Bibliography, The Tree of Life: A History of the North Carolina Railroad, The Indian Trading Path & Great Wagon Road Across NC Highlighting Rowan & Cabarrus Counties

Jordan Nance

DVD: "Broadcast – A Man and His Dream"

Dennis Patterson, Donna Keck

Framed 12/16/1859 Western Sentinel newspaper from Winston, N.C.

Charlie and Sandy Shelton

Lionel Electric Train Set circa 1950-60s including numerous cars, track and accessories

John Shore

Photo of J.W. Beasley City Barbershop 1909

Rodney Shore

6-18-1875 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

PJ and Joy Snow

Misc. records, calendars, minutes, membership lists from The Mount Airy Arts and Crafts Guild 1967-2001, The North Carolina Gardener Engagement Calendars: 1950-2007, Garden Gate Club yearbooks 1950-56, Modern Gardeners 1999-2000 notebook – loose pages

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, minus 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 scrapbooks from 2003, 2006, 2007

Betty C. Lyerly Willis

Given in memory of Rev. Dr. J. Wilford Lyerly Shoe last and mold, roller skates, cotton scale and two weights



THE MUSEUM ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT TO THE FOLLOWING GIFTS OF MEMORIALS:

★ ★ ★
In Memory...

Mrs. Marjorie Rees
Felton & Joan Godwin

Audrey Mae Marion Jones
John & Claudia Bryant

Betty Cooper
John & Berta Springthorpe, Jr.

Ronald Boyles
John & Berta Springthorpe, Jr.

Walter Etringer
Jane & Carl Bell

Jack Greenwood
John & Berta Springthorpe, Jr.

Jack Greenwood
John & Claudia Bryant

THE MUSEUM ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT TO THE FOLLOWING GIFTS OF HONORARIUMS:

★ ★ ★
In Honor...

Karen & Dick Fawcett
by Tom & Mary Fawcett

Charlie & Katie Krishnan
by Tom & Mary Fawcett

John & Kelly Merritt
by David & Nancy Dixon

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Coram
by Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Woltz & Family

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Inman
by Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Woltz & Family

Mr. & Mrs. John Young
by Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Woltz & Family

Dr. & Mrs. Thomas McElwee
by Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Woltz & Family

Mr. & Mrs. David Pruett
by Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Woltz & Family

Mr. & Mrs. Mickey McGuire
by Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Woltz & Family

Mr. & Mrs. John Springthorpe III
by Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Woltz & Family

Mr. & Mrs. Cooper Adams
by Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Woltz & Family

Louise E. Woltz
by Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Woltz & Family

Mr. & Mrs. H. O. Woltz
by Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Woltz & Family

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Patterson
by Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Woltz & Family

Mr. & Mrs. Randy Robins
by Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Woltz & Family

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hart
by Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Woltz & Family

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

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 | Mr. & Mrs. W. Ashley & Paula Marion |
| Ms. Winnie Banner | Ms. Sharon Marshall |
| Ms. Norma H. Bowen | Ms. June Martin |
| Mr. Tommy Bowman | Mr. & Mrs. Dwight & Wanda McAlexander |
| Mr. Larry Bullen | Mr. & Mrs. Edward & Vickie McDaniels |
| Mr. & Mrs. Mel & Trish Cummins | Ms. Anna Mertson |
| Mr. Brent Ferry | Mr. Bill Smith |
| Mr. & Mrs. Charles & Mary Ellen Graham | Mr. George Smith |
| Mr. Brian Gray | Mr. & Mrs. Justin Stirewalt |
| Ms. Sasha Jackson | Dr. & Mrs. Hugh E. Sutphin |
| Mr. & Mrs. Jan & Lauri Legere | Mr. John Tarn |
| Mr. Randall Lynch | Ms. Melissa Wilkins |
| Mr. & Mrs. Mike Marion | Mr. Ronnie Wilson |

2014 SUSTAINING MEMBERS



GRANITE CIRCLE

Armat Foundation
City of Mount Airy
Renfro Corporation
SouthData, Inc.
Woltz Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. John and Karen Springthorpe, III
Mr. & Mrs. Jim and Tammy York

STERLING BENEFACTORS CIRCLE

Duke Energy Foundation
NCFI Polyurethanes

BENEFACTORS CIRCLE

Mr. & Mrs. Lindsay and Barbara Holcomb
Moody Funeral Services, Inc.
Dr. & Mrs. Swanson and Ruth Richards
The Mount Airy Newspaper, Inc.
Dr. & Mrs. Paul and Jean Webster
Mr. & Mrs. Ed and Ellen Woltz
Mr. & Mrs. H. O. and Agnes Woltz
ZWB Enterprises, Inc.

PATRIOTS CIRCLE

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Mr. & Mrs. Ed and Dotti Shelton
Mr. & Mrs. Kester and Rosie Sink
Mr. & Mrs. PJ and Joy Snow
Dr. James Wells
Workforce Carolina, Inc.

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Mr. & Mrs. Steve and Marie Simmons
Mrs. Love Diffee Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Hank and Cathy Spires
Surrey Bank & Trust
Surry Insurance Agency
Ms. Emma Jean Tucker
Mr. & Mrs. Richard and Betty Kay Vaughn
Dr. & Mrs. Steve and Ann Yokeley

FRIENDS CIRCLE

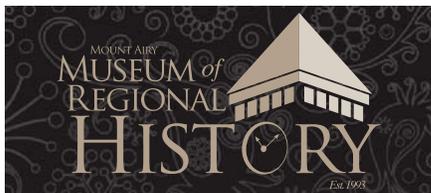
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Surry Telephone Membership Corporation
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Mr. & Mrs. Charles and Martha Vaughn
Dr. & Mrs. Tom and Ann Vaughn
Mr. & Dr. William and Gail Ward
Webb Interiors
Women's League of Mount Airy
WPAQ, WSYD, WBRF Radio, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Robert and Angela Yacano

In Kind

B & L Custom Jewelers
Brandon Plumbing & Pump Service
Cross Creek Country Club
Chick-fil-A
Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce
Hutchens Cleaners & Laundry
Haynes, Strand, & Company
Old North State Winery
Olde Mill Music
The Dairy Center
This'n That Catering

*Thank
You!*



“Historic Downtown Mount Airy”
301 North Main Street
Mount Airy, North Carolina 27030

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FALL / WINTER 2015



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. 2:00PM. 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



**TICKETS
ON SALE
NOW!**



**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
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TITLE SPONSOR

