

NCHC Report-December 7, 2022

Division of Archives and Records

On behalf of the Division of Archives and Records, I am pleased to submit some highlights of division activities and projects from September-November. In addition to core archival work of collection development and arrangement, staff presented several important programs and exhibits, participated in key professional meetings, and continued to address ongoing preservation issues brought on by facilities challenges. As always, we are pleased to provide additional details on division operations and programs.

In September we welcomed the return of special exhibits called “one day wonders” because they are presented in partnership with a host organization for a single event. For Constitution Day on September 16, the division partnered with one of our strongest collaborators, Alamance Community College, to present an exhibit featuring state and constitutional materials from our vault collections. Three staff members accompanied the exhibit and spoke to approximately 1,000 local K-12 and college students. The event also featured participation from the National History Day program, Alamance Battleground State Historic Site, and Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum and State Historic Site. On September 24 the *She Changed the World* exhibit on the fight for women’s suffrage in NC was presented at the Gunn Memorial Public Library in Yanceyville during the county’s annual harvest festival. It was a pleasure to finally present this exhibit which had to be rescheduled three times due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staff across the division regularly provide talks and programs for a wide variety of groups both on and off-site. In addition to those offerings, several important outreach events and programs were presented this fall. The division hosted an informational table at the 50th anniversary festival at Mordecai Historic Park in Wake County where approximately 500 people attended. The Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies hosted a history educator virtual roundtable with four public school educators from three counties speaking about history education in the state. With the continuing popularity of the *Outlander* books and television shows, division staff have prepared several blogs and programs about the world of *Outlander* as seen through the archival records. On October 20-21 two staff member attended the “Fraser’s Ridge Homecoming,” and *Outlander* event in Ferguson, NC. They presented workshops and via an informational table. On October 25 the Department of Public Instruction hosted a virtual roundtable for educators, and a presentation about the Archives’ resources for North Carolina educators reached 70 teachers. At the November 4 annual meeting of the North Carolina Community College Archives Association, three staff members gave presentations about preservation of archival collections, resources of the State Archives, and the Traveling Archivist Program. The Friends of the Archives’ annual meeting and program on November 7 featured a presentation about the “People Not Property” project from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. This project to transcribe and index all personal names in NC deeds involving enslaved people has been advised and supported by the division since its inception several years ago. Finally, in honor of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the department, the division co-hosted two special NC trivia events on November 28. These trivia contests featured questions from all divisions of the department and were hosted in conjunction with the Museum of Natural History and the State Library.

Founded in the summer of 2020, the division’s community building team continues to identify opportunities to partner with audiences who may not be as familiar with our collections

and services. They also regularly provide staff with updates on team activities developed to expand division outreach programming. This fall the team focused on providing resources for the Museum of History's American Indian Heritage Celebration on November 19. Ruth Cody, team leader, along with another team member, partnered with members of the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe for a program session called "A Conversation on Researching Tribal Histories with the State Archives." Team members also manned an informational booth during the festival. A special interactive "docs box" of selected duplicate collection material from all the state and federally recognized American Indian tribes was a part of the table, as well as a sample photo crowdsourcing project developed by the team and our audio-visual unit. The trifold signage for the informational table also featured images of collection material and signage specific to Native communities.

Blog posts represent another important outreach opportunity for the division. They also are used to amplify events and online resources or collections. The community building team coordinated and posted a series of blog posts in honor of National Hispanic American Heritage Month featuring topics such as the North Carolina Arts Council Folklife [Collection](#). These were on the History for All the People blog. The division has also started a blog series called *Welcome to the State Archives' Test Kitchen!* featuring staff writing about how historic recipes were adapted for modern cooking. First up was a two-part series on baking a [lady cake](#).

Videos provide another outlet for highlighting collection content or information about archival and records management topics. This year the records management staff returned to the creation of a light-hearted video for Electronic Records Day held annually on October 10 (think 1010 or bits and bytes of electronic data). These popular videos highlight an aspect of digital preservation. After a few years' hiatus for the pandemic, the video series resumed with [The File Zone](#). As we draw closer to the beginning of our America250 commemoration in North Carolina, the division created the first in a planned series of videos about collection content that supports the commemoration themes. In October the [When Are We US: An Introduction to the Americ250 Commemoration](#) was posted to provide an overview of the types of collections we will use to support this thematic framework.

Work continued on the State Historical Records Advisory Board's programming grant from the National Historic Publications and Records Commission. The grant supports another round of Traveling Archivist Program consultations. The final visit for this year's program participants was completed on September 29 with an on-site consultation at Durham Technical Community College. Applications for the 2023 class of TAP participants will be open soon. The fall Community Collecting and Storytelling workshops wrapped up with successful events in Asheville on September 23 and Winston-Salem on October 24. Three additional workshops are being planned for 2023 for Wilmington, Edenton, and Raleigh. The workshops contain presentations and resources on community scan days, oral history program development, and digital storytelling platforms.

Tours of the Archives continue to prove popular with a variety of groups. During the last three months we welcomed visitors from the Transportation Museum, Cary Academy, students from UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Information and Library Science, as well as chapters of the Colonial Dames and the Daughters of the American Revolution. The community building team hosted a group of directors from the John T. and Mary Turner House in Raleigh, the historic home of John T. Turner in the African American community of Oberlin. The team anticipates touring the Turner House in December.

In important administrative work for the division, multiple units worked hard on filling vacancies, and the division recently welcomed new staff in organizational records (Elizabeth Bates), accounting (Medwin Toboku-Metzger), administration (Kelley Young), imaging unit (Victoria Tuttle), and state agency services (Tyler Contraino). We also filled the newly created position of eastern records manager. Based in New Bern, the position will focus on records management and essential records protection needs for the counties and municipalities most frequently impacted by recent hurricanes. Kayla Leonard was selected to fill that position, having recently worked for the department at Tryon Palace. After the pandemic-driven changes to the workplace routines, as well as the addition of several new division employees, the management team decided to host a staff retreat in early 2023. The agenda will focus on team development. Planning for the retreat is underway.

Other administrative work included the development of a strategic planning effort by the management team to begin this winter. A consultant who specializes in strategic planning for museums and archives was secured to lead the efforts, and a staff survey was conducted to gain input on the internal and external strengths and weaknesses of the division, as well as opportunities for development. Another pre-planning activity involved some benchmarking of similar state archival programs to learn more about their strategic priorities and successes. The Digital Services Section completed the website migration to a new Drupal theme. Following that project, they turned their attention to the transition from the existing digital collections system to the new platform (Quartex). A significant amount of work will go into the 2023 migration, including metadata clean-up and image inventory management.

As the division anticipated the delivery of the final report from the Image Permanence Institute on the hvac system of the State Archives, it was discovered that continued environmental fluctuations in the Archives' stacks prompted a mold bloom on some boxes of materials. Work is underway to replace the impacted boxes and remediate any mold growth on collection materials. As the Image Permanence Institute report findings are reviewed within the agency and with the Facilities Management Division of the Department of Administration (DOA), we will work on prioritizing actions to correct some of the most problematic hvac issues in the building. DOA has a project underway to replace the State Records Center's air handlers, a critical step in improving the fluctuating conditions in that facility. Discussions are also underway regarding the potential replacement of the building's main chiller as well.

Finally, this fall select staff were able to attend professional meetings of the Council of State Archivists, Best Practices Exchange, and the Southeastern Archives and Records Conference. These meetings provided opportunities for division staff to learn more about advocacy for archival records programs, digital preservation strategies, as well as to share best practices in outreach, records management, and electronic records management with our neighboring colleagues in state archival programs.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah E. Koonts
State Archivist

**Brief Report of Division of Historical Resources
To the North Carolina Historical Commission
For its December 7, 2022 meeting**

**Ramona M. Bartos, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
November 29, 2022**

Division in general

Vacancies.

- **Promotion / new hires.** Research Historian **Ansley Wegner**, who has served long-term as the statewide Highway Historical Marker program coordinator, has been promoted to **Supervisor of the Historical Research Office**. We also hired **Kathryn McKee** as **Historical Publications Editor to oversee production of the North Carolina Historical Review**, following the retirement of veteran editor Anne Miller earlier this year.
- **Departures.** **Casey Kirby**, one of our two **archaeologists in the Western Office** with western regional opportunities, is departing as of December 2, for a new position with the US Forest Service.
- **Recruitment.**
 - Our **Greenville-based Eastern Office preservation specialist position for the Survey / National Register branch** was filled, and the new hire **Lauren Poole** (a North Carolina native) will start work in early 2023.
 - We will be recruiting for a new **National Register assistant**, brought on by the promotion of Julie Smith to a preservation specialist position.
 - Additionally, we are in the midst of interviewing for the vacant **Civil War Roster editor position in the Historical Research Office**; this position will work on the exciting Union forces phase of the project to support our division's efforts to tell the full story of North Carolina's complex history.
 - Ansley Wegner's promotion creates a vacancy in the **Highway Historical Marker program coordinator position**; we are working with Human Resources to get that position advertised as quickly as possible.
 - We are also recruiting for a **transportation-project Environmental Review Specialist for our Environmental Review branch**, and continue our efforts to secure a **Restoration Specialist for a newly constituted western Piedmont /foothills service territory**.
 - The resignation of Dr. Mary Beth Fitts as one of our **archaeologists** created a vacancy, then filled by lateral move by Dr. David Cranford, already on staff; we are now recruiting for his position, and will likewise do so for the vacancy arising from Casey Kirby's departure.

Staff needs. Through the budget preparation process, we have made a pitch for state funding for 7 new full-time positions in various sections of our division, acknowledging high constituent demand and need for additional professional and support staff. Management is weighing the needs as the first step for our request. If successful, it would then be vetted by the Office of State Budget Management (OSBM) and the Governor's Office.

Vacancies combined with a tight job market and non-competitive state salaries in booming high cost-of-living metro areas are stretching staff thin, and we continue to advocate for attention to these issues and the factors that give rise to these situations. I would like to acknowledge for special recognition and sincere thanks the hard work of multiple staff members who have straddled two positions because of promotions and vacancies and done excellent work under demanding circumstances – their dedication to public service is bar none.

State Historic Preservation Office (HPO)

National Register of Historic Places. Dr. Waters in his capacity as SHPO nominated the following properties to the Keeper of the National Register which arose from our October National Register Advisory Committee (NRAC) meeting:

1. Shiloh AME Zion Church and Cemetery, Asheville, Buncombe County
2. Nicholas & Lucretia Thompson House, Leasburg, Caswell County
3. Downtown Winston-Salem Historic District, Forsyth County
4. City Motor Company, Salisbury, Rowan County
5. Stanley Mills, Stanley, Gaston County,
6. Goldsboro Woman's Club, Goldsboro, Wayne County

The NRAC also considered an astonishing **27** Study List applications, including properties associated with the Waldensian/Italian immigrant settlement of Valdese in Burke County (including communal bake ovens), African-American properties in a survey update of Tarboro, and a 1972 modernist Congregationalist Church associated with a post-Emancipation congregation in rural Randolph County.

Surveys underway. Our hurricane grant-funded architectural surveys are underway, and have received local media attention, such as news about work in McDowell County:

https://mcdowellnews.com/news/local/mcdowell-picked-for-architectural-survey-data-will-help-preserve-historic-resources/article_5827b5c0-65e7-11ed-a5da-cfc931462e3a.html. We now understand that there is interest in McDowell County about forming a local historic preservation commission, and believe that the survey work is therefore already starting to pay dividends for community preservation efforts.

Restoration Services Branch; building showcase planning. A Building Showcase in Ahoskie was rescheduled to December 2 at the town's request as the original September 30 date saw the arrival of the remnants of Hurricane Ian. Following earlier successful programs in Elizabeth City

and Tarboro, the day will highlight historic buildings available and eligible for rehabilitation with state and federal tax credits.

Local Preservation Commission training. The State Historic Preservation Office hosted a very well-attended, in-person local preservation commission training for staff and commissioners on Wednesday, November 8. Topics included "Why Preserve" (presented by yours truly), the Certified Local Government's role in National Register nominations (given by our National Park Service National Register reviewer Jim Gabbert), training on the use of our mapping service HPOWEB, ESRI Story Maps as an education / outreach tool, Section 106, alternative materials, and commission powers.

Consultant workshop. Likewise, the Survey and National Register branch of the State Historic Preservation Office held its bi-annual consultant workshop in-person after COVID-era hiatus on Wednesday and Thursday, November 8 and 9. Topics included a briefing by our National Park Service National Register reviewer Jim Gabbert, survey topics, and small group break-out sessions.

Western Office

A long-needed paving project is underway at the Western Office.

Historical Research Office

100th Anniversary of the *North Carolina Historical Review*. Our Historical Research Office staff is planning for a special edition in mid-2023 to mark the 100th anniversary of the *North Carolina Historical Review*, published by our Publications unit within that Office. Published quarterly, the peer-reviewed *North Carolina Historical Review* has been a definitive source for the study and understanding of North Carolina history. Regular features include carefully researched, handsomely illustrated articles that explore North Carolina and southern history from the colonial period to the present and cover a variety of subjects; reviews of books about state, regional, and national history; an annual bibliography of books pertaining to North Carolina subjects; an annual index; and a listing, printed annually, of theses and dissertations related to North Carolina subjects. <https://www.ncdcr.gov/about/history/division-historical-resources/historical-publications/north-carolina-historical-review>

As an example of the *Review*'s continuing currency, a *Review* article on the 1918 influenza pandemic was shared with the Governor's Office as part of the Office's response to its 2020 research request about public health measures during a worldwide pandemic. <https://www.ncdcr.gov/media/1528/open>.

Highway Historical Marker Advisory Committee meeting. The committee's first meeting of this fiscal year will take place on December 13th in person at 109 E. Jones Street. We anticipate that the agenda will include upwards of 2 dozen business items, including proposals for

Statesville's Wallace Brother Herbarium, Chief Justice Susie Sharp, comedian and social activist Jackie "Moms" Mabley of Transylvania County, and the savior of Jockey's Ridge Carolista Baum.

Office of State Archaeology (OSA)

Cemetery mapping project. The Office of State Archaeology is working to digitize existing cemetery records from a variety of sources, including the State Archives of North Carolina, and in turn, incorporate this information into our HPOWEB mapping service for protection and preservation purposes. At present, 14,345 cemetery forms (with multiple pages) from 20 of the 100 counties have been digitized. In addition, we have identified approximately 960 African American cemeteries. We are also especially interested in any records of cemeteries located on state property as well as from additional information from the public. Contact OSA Cemetery Specialist Melissa Timo for more information (melissa.timo@ncdcr.gov).

Town Creek Indian Mound Archaeological Investigations. In partnership with the Division of State Historic Sites, the North Carolina Archaeological Society, and Research Laboratories of Archaeology at UNC - Chapel Hill, the Office of State Archaeology engaged in archaeological investigations at Town Creek Indian Mound State Historic Site on October 10 through 15. WUNC covered this activity on its statewide network: <https://www.wunc.org/2022-11-18/archaeologists-carefully-dig-for-history-at-town-creek-indian-mound>.

Our deep thanks to the Commission for its support of and engagement with our Division.

NC Historical Commission Meeting – December 7, 2022

Division of State History Museums State Highlights Report September 1, 2022 to November 30, 2022

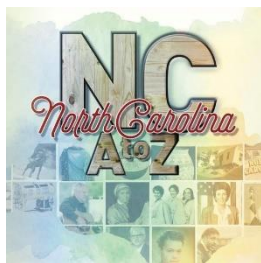
The museums have continued to be active since the last Historical Commission meeting. Highlights of the activities from each museum during the period from September 1 through November are listed below. Visitation continues to pick up at all the museums. From January 1, 2022, through November 30, 2022 visitation at each museum was as follows:

NC Museum of History – 247,523
Maritime Museum in Beaufort – 132,992
Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum – 103,257
Museum of the Albemarle – 68,497
Museum of the Cape Fear – 33,781
Maritime Museum in Southport – 31,599
Mountain Gateway Museum – 12,236

As you will see in the notes that follow, the Museums have been experiencing staff turnover recently due to retirements and staff accepting better paying positions. We still have a number of open positions to fill.

NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF HISTORY, RALEIGH

September 2022



North Carolina A to Z exhibition, which opened Labor Day weekend, highlights a diverse array of people, places, events, and objects from North Carolina's history through the lens of an alphabetical framework. It employs artifacts, images, and interactive opportunities to present familiar and lesser-known topics from our state's past. The exhibition features a wide variety of artifacts from the museum's collection, including several that are rarely displayed.

Visitors will also be able to engage with exhibit content through photo ops, multimedia presentations, games, and other hands-on activities.

Artifacts of note:

1. B, Basketball - North Carolina basketball paraphernalia from Tobacco Road schools including commemorative national championship soda cans, championship rings, and more.

2. V, Variety Vacationland - A kicking machine that served as a popular roadside stop for many years during North Carolina's *Variety Vacationland* tourism campaign.
3. F, Film Industry - Costumes worn while filming movies such as *The Hunger Games*, and *The Conjuring* in North Carolina.
4. I, Infection - A ca. 1950 iron lung (or artificial respirator) used to force air in and out of the lungs of polio patients.
5. X, Xtreme Artifacts - A ca. 1930s Fluoroscope (foot X-ray machine), a sales gimmick that purportedly helped shoe salespeople accurately fit footwear while emitting radiation.



Thursday, Sept. 8: 190 joined us for this popular virtual program.

The speaker was Hunter Ingram, Assistant Museum Director, Burgwin-Wright House and Gardens

Hunter Ingram provided an inside scoop on Wilmington's oldest historic site, the Burgwin-Wright House and Gardens, and its thrilling new podcast series *Burgwin-Wright Presents:*

Outlander in the Cape Fear. The podcast uses the beloved book and television series *Outlander* as a guide to share the colonial history of North Carolina.



September 8th: The North Carolina Museum of History was delighted to serve as the backdrop for the NASCAR All-Star Race press announcement, covered by [national](#) and international press. The NASCAR 2023 race is heading back to its North Wilkesboro roots. Governor Roy Cooper, legendary race car driver and North Carolina native Dale Earnhardt, Jr., and NASCAR dignitaries were keynote speakers.

Kerry Burns, the museum's digital manager, resigned Friday, September 30th to take on a new marketing role in the medical field. We are hoping to fill this important position soon.

October 2022



The North Carolina Museum of History opened its first traveling, ticketed exhibition of the year, straight from the Grammy Museum in LA: [The Power of Women in Country Music](#). This empowering exhibition features memorabilia including instruments and lyric sheets from country music's greatest trailblazers.

Artisan instruments, couture gowns and costumes, album covers, lyric sheets, and awards punctuated by inspirational quotes, videos, and music make this an exhibition everyone will enjoy.



Visitors are transported by the rich colors and sparkling collection that line each case and include pieces from Dolly Parton, Roseanne Cash, Loretta Lynn, Yola, Brandi Carlile, the Judds, Faith Hill, and others whose light has shined so brightly in the music genre.

There is also a special space designated for North Carolina

artists like Emmylou Harris, Rissi Palmer, Kasey Tyndall, and Rhiannon Giddens. The range of musical talent, style, and voices showcased in the exhibit further amplifies the barriers that have been broken by these amazing artists.

The October 29th opening weekend included a Family Frolic with local bluegrass bands, Jayne Henderson, a nationally known luthier, and musical crafts.

The opening weekend launch of the concert series, *Southern Songbirds*, was hosted by legendary North Carolina native, Jim Lauderdale. Throughout its run, there will be a variety of concerts celebrating North Carolina artists. The Southern Songbirds Series kicked off with North Carolina artists Charly Lowry, Caitlin Cary, and H.C. McEntire.

Exhibition sponsors include DNCR, WQDR, PBS NC, *Raleigh Magazine*, and *Walter Magazine*.

November 2022



The American Indian Heritage Celebration, with support from its community partners, the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs and the North Carolina American Indian Commission, has been the culminating event in honor of American Indian Heritage Month in North Carolina for more than 27 years.

November 26th, we were delighted to hold the Annual American Indian Heritage Celebration, for the first time in person in three years, with around 6,000 attendees.

To kick off the day, dancers and tribal representatives walked in the Christmas Parade. Organizers estimated 30,000 people in person + 250,000 people at home (TV/Live stream) saw our group of dancers/tribal

reps walking at the beginning of the parade.

The consistent theme and message of AIHC, as expressed by its Advisory Board, is visibility: Indigenous people are still here!

Friday, November 27th, The Virtual Education AIHC Day, nearly 30,000 participated in virtual education programming with representation from 74 counties and 7 states. During AIHC, multiple demonstrations, presentations, and performances highlight the traditional and contemporary artistic, scientific, historic, and cultural contributions of American Indians in North Carolina.

The event was covered statewide by Spectrum, and on WRAL, CBS-17, ABC11, *News and Record*, and *the News and Observer*, among other outlets.

NORTH CAROLINA REGIONAL MUSEUMS:

MOUNTAIN GATEWAY MUSEUM, OLD FORT

September thru November 2022

Between January 1 and November 27, 2022, the Mountain Gateway Museum (MGM) in Old Fort, NC, hosted 11,034 onsite visitors, compared to 7,501 visitors for the same period in 2021. That's an increase of 47 percent, which can be explained, in part, by the relaxation (in 2022) of visitation restrictions imposed in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



During September 2022, more than 3,200 people visited a booth about MGM at the Mountain State Fair in Fletcher. The museum's staff also presented a program about the R.A.I.L.

Memorial project to the Asheville History Club, hosted a mini-garden workshop, assisted Fort Dobbs with an Education Day, and held its monthly "Fourth Friday" program that showcased DNCR's Parks and Trails for Health (PATH) initiative and offered a compass course.

MGM made its television debut on Oct. 6 in a segment that aired on PBS NC's *North Carolina*



Weekend program. That same week, the museum opened a new traveling exhibit from the Smith-McDowell House in Asheville titled *Hillbilly Land: Myth & Reality of Appalachian Culture*. The exhibit explores the myths and misconceptions about WNC's mountain residents and will be at MGM through May 7, 2023.

During October, MGM's staff manned a booth at Marion's Mountain Glory Festival, hosted the Old Fort Ruritan Club's "October Family Fun Day," participated in the three-day *Outlander*-inspired "Fraser's Ridge Homecoming" in Wilkes County that focused on Scottish heritage, presented a program to Montreat College's

"Road Scholars," and contributed to a panel discussion during a Smithsonian Affiliates' virtual conference. The museum's grounds also were the site for a wedding, an Old Fort Library-sponsored children's reading activity, the MGM Friends' quarterly meeting, and the final segment of the museum's "Fourth Friday" summer series, which featured pumpkin carving and decorating and a scavenger hunt.

November 2022 was the month for groups at MGM, with the museum again hosting “Road Scholars” from Montreat College in Black Mountain, as well as first-graders from Asheville’s Rainbow Community School, fifth-graders from West Marion Middle School, and two dozen crafters for its annual wreath-making workshop. A group of MGM staff and Friends members also installed and decorated a nine-foot-tall Christmas tree in the museum’s lobby and decked the two historic log cabins for the holidays with live greenery and fresh pine wreaths.

MUSEUM OF THE ALBEMARLE (MOA), ELIZABETH CITY

September 2022



MOA Continued to Work on Virtual and In-Person Exhibits and Educational Programming, including but not limited to:

- Two Hybrid (both in-person and virtual) History for Lunches: “Hospital of the Albemarle: Past, Present & Future” and “Debunking Common Recycling Myths While Also Learning Where “Away” Actually is When Throwing Something Away.”
- Night at the Nags Head Casino Dance Party Fundraiser for Friends of the Museum of the Albemarle
- Outreach Through Social and Traditional Media with weekly article submitted to *The Daily Advance* for publication each Sunday.

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October 2022

MOA Continues to Work on Virtual and In-Person Exhibits and Educational Programming, including but not limited to:



- One Hybrid (both in-person and virtual) History for Lunch: “Our Family, Its History, Their Boats: Six Generations of Boat Builders in Dare County.”
- Exhibit Opening: Rocky of the Eye: Boatbuilding Traditions Around the Albemarle Sound
- Friends of the Museum of the Albemarle Annual Meeting

- Outreach Through Social and Traditional Media with weekly article submitted to *The Daily Advance* for publication each Sunday, as well as *Albemarle Tradewinds*, published monthly.

November 2022

MOA Continues to Work on Virtual and In-Person Exhibits and Educational Programming, including but not limited to:

- Two Hybrid (both in-person and virtual) History for Lunches: *"Remarkable Women of the Outer Banks"* and *"NC History Markers Program"*.
- Exhibit Opening: *Working Birds: Decoys and their Carvers*.
- Special events: Carolina Decoy Collectors Association Decoy Evaluation Workshop and Designers Workshop – No-Sew Quilted Christmas Ornament Workshop.
- Outreach Through Social and Traditional Media with weekly article submitted to *The Daily Advance* for publication each Sunday, as well as *Albemarle Tradewinds*, published monthly.

MUSEUM OF THE CAPE FEAR, FAYETTEVILLE

September 2022



- *We Wanted to Fight: Black North Carolinians in World War II* traveling exhibit opened September 2.
- "Victorian Carolina" event held at the 1897 Poe House on September 17. This was part of a monthly series of programs tied to themes of the museum's "History to Go" box program. This is funded by the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County and the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex Foundation.
- Cumberland County Board of Commissioners voted to fund \$7.5 million to the North Carolina Civil War and Reconstruction History Center, contingent on the City of Fayetteville doing the same.

October 2022



invited to talk to History Center staff and leave comments about the proposed exhibit content.

1. The **North Carolina History Center on the Civil War, Emancipation and Reconstruction** hosted a public presentation and discussion on its proposed initial exhibit storyline at Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church in Fayetteville on October 11. The storyboards were on display for a week at Mount Sinai and a week at Highland Presbyterian Church (also in Fayetteville). The public was

Representatives from the History Center went before the Fayetteville City Council on October 24 and received a commitment of 6.6 million dollars towards the construction of the Center.

2. The Museum of the Cape Fear conducted its annual **Halloween Revels – Night Tours of the 1897 Poe House** from October 20 -22 and October 27 -28. Actors from the local Gilbert Theater performed a 30-minute skit in the house from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. each night. 505 visitors went through the house, with over \$3,000 raised in donations.
3. The museum hosted its annual **Trick or Treat at the 1897 Poe House** on October 29. Over 1,000 people attended, with 600 treat bags handed out. The Halloween events were funded by a grant from the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County and the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex Foundation.

November 2022

1. Representation at Bentonville event: Curator of Education Leslie Leonard set up a MCFHC information table at Bentonville’s Fall Festival November 5 and saw and spoke with around 900 visitors.
2. Native American Heritage Day: Working with students from the History Department at UNC Pembroke, the museum hosted an activity day for families in the back yard of the Poe House on November 6. There were around 100 participants.

3. Interpretation Training for docents/volunteers and staff: NAI (National Association of Interpretation) trainer, Sonya Davis, came to the museum on November 9 to conduct training about language and visitor interaction. Best practices (as determined by NCDNCR) were covered regarding how to speak to visitors from varying racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds and how to assist visitors with a variety of needs.
4. *Heroes Homecoming: On the Homefront* exhibit: This exhibit closed November 20. This was the MCFHC's contribution to the annual Fayetteville Heroes Homecoming Veterans Day observances. Copies of the museum's exhibit panels were also on display at the Headquarters branch of the Cumberland County Public Library.
5. Holiday exhibit: *Carolina Holidays* opened November 25 and will remain on exhibit through January 8, 2023. The 1897 Poe House is decorated for the holidays and will remain so through January 8, 2023.
6. Visitation: Attendance November 1 -28, 2022 was 2,793. Total visitation for November 2021 was 2,942.

MARITIME MUSEUMS

September thru November 2022

GRAVEYARD OF THE ATLANTIC MUSEUM, HATTERAS



Staff is working on a timeline for the exhibit hall redesign. Construction is scheduled to begin on January 4, 2023. Deinstallation of the exhibits in the gallery was completed the week before Thanksgiving. A schedule for closing the museum overall has not yet been set but will be communicated externally as soon

as it's in place. In the meantime, the Meekins Chandlery gift shop, Cape Hatteras Lighthouse 1854 Fresnel Lens and shipwreck video in the auditorium currently remain accessible by the public.

Education Curator Mary Ellen Riddle she created an e-blast for coastal NC school teachers regarding the museums' online education opportunities and created and had printed a collage of all past and current volunteers (around 100) and had it framed for display as a thank you for decades of service.

The Facebook Followers Photography Exhibit ended with 116 entries and more than 3,000 people voting for the People's Choice award. Kenneth Newman of Prince George, Virginia, won People's Choice for his image 'Very Vivid Vessels,' and Best in Show went to Nancy Hall of Martinsville, Virginia, for "Cousins First Visit to Rodanthe."

Jemison Beshears drove from San Francisco to Hatteras to donate an important World War II Battle of the Atlantic U-Boat collection. He arrived the evening of Nov. 18, and hundreds of artifacts were taken into the museum's possession on Nov. 19.

Staff Updates

- Education Curator Mary Ellen Riddle has retired. Her last day of work was November 23. Job posting for the open position is awaiting HR approval.
- Joshua G. Leh started as Maintenance/Construction Technician I.

NORTH CAROLINA MARITIME MUSEUM, BEAUFORT



The North Carolina Shell Club recently certified a Scotch bonnet belonging to Education Curator Benjamin Wunderly as the state's largest. His 91.25mm-long shell supplanted the previous title holder, a new find that was certified only two months before, by 4.25mm. Ben found the shell in 1999 while working as a park

ranger at Hammocks Beach State Park. He decided to return the shell to where he found it, so he donated the Scotch bonnet to the park on Oct. 14. It was added to the shell display in the Hammocks Beach State Park Education Center, which is located on the mainland in Swansboro.

The museum partnered with Lori Davis at DEQ's Estuarine Research Reserve to host an educator's workshop, which included a visit to the museum and a tour of Bonehenge Whale Center, which our natural science curator oversees. The museum stop included a presentation on the history of the museum, as well as museum educational opportunities. Attendees received credit toward their Environmental Educators Certification and Continuing Education credits for NC teachers license requirements.

The museum was one of the stops for award winning marine biologist Dr. David Shiffman, who is on a "reading frenzy" tour in support of his new book, "Why Sharks Matter." It was a successful event with 65 in attendance for the early evening program. The museum partnered with the nearby UNC Institute of Marine Science to bring Dr. Shiffman to the museum, one of his three North Carolina public stops.

Senior Conservator and Co-principal Investigator Kim Kenyon and Conservator Elise Carroll of the Queen Anne's Revenge Research Project visited the museum on Oct. 26 to transfer QAR artifacts to the museum. Twenty-two QAR artifact numbers were transferred. Highlights include

77,037 individual pieces of lead shot, 462 new grains of gold, a gun barrel, the Project's first expanding bar shot, and the original bullet mold from which the facsimile currently on display was cast. Twenty-seven glass and ceramic QAR pieces were returned to the lab for research, as well as two QAR gold and lead shot for consolidation. The QAR lab returned to the museum on Nov. 9 to deliver two extraordinarily well-preserved Swedish 1-pounder cannons.

The museum welcomed the crew of tall ship *Huron Jewel* into Beaufort in early November. The stop was part of the nine-month Dream Inspiration Tour, which is designed to inspire others to make their own dreams a reality — as the captain and first mate did in building the sailboat. Tours of the schooner were offered to the public at the Museum's Gallants Channel, where they were docked during their stay. The crew also hosted a slideshow presentation about the building of the *Huron Jewel* followed by a Q&A session in the auditorium of the museum.

Beaufort Staff Updates

- Dylan Fulford started as Maintenance/Construction Technician I.
- Collections Registrar Tessa Johnstone was promoted to the collections manager position. Paperwork for the selected candidate to fill her former collections registrar position is with HR awaiting their approval to hire.
- Exhibits designer Jamee Rose left the museum to take a teaching position. Selected replacement candidate's paperwork is with HR awaiting their approval to hire.
- Christine Brin was promoted to Museum Curator II in the Education Department. Job posting for her former museum curator I position is awaiting HR approval.

NORTH CAROLINA MARITIME MUSEUM, SOUTHPORT



Site Manager John Moseley participated in DNCR Military Appreciation Day at the State Fair and is working with the Town of Leland to provide presentations on Cape Fear maritime and North Carolina history and with the Friends of the Southport Library to co-sponsor a non "Third Tuesday" presentation.

Staff introduced a new historical program for museum visitors: Deep Diving into History. The program offers a hands-on look at living history. The inaugural October program detailed shipboard medical service in the 18th Century and was very well received. Similar programs exploring different aspects of maritime history are being planned each month. The November program was on the Southport USO and its work with local Navy and Coast Guard members.

The museum's World War II Living History Day welcomed around 250 visitors.

Site Manager John Moseley continued to present at Brunswick Town Heritage Days. Teachers rated the dental station the most informative and useful for the students.

Southport Staff Updates

- Education Curator Katy Menne left to take a new position as director of education for the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Oregon. Selected replacement candidate's paperwork is with HR awaiting their approval to hire.
- John M. Moseley started as new museum manager.

News from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties: December 2022

Michelle Lanier

- **Overall visitation to State Historic Sites remains strong and is increasing.** Visitation has exceeded pre-pandemic visitation by 3-4% every month since June 2022. **In October 2022, the division hosted 10% more visitors than in October 2019, with 168,015 total visitors.** Sites with particularly large increases in visitation include Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson (30% increase, Aug-Oct 2022 vs. Aug-Oct 2019), Historic Edenton (44% increase), House in the Horseshoe (71% increase), and Roanoke Island Festival Park (80% increase).
- **On September 19th and 20th, staff from across the division gathered for a Summit and Reunion in Raleigh.** This was the first annual meeting held since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The gathering gave staff a chance to reconnect or to meet each other for the first time, as well as to pursue a variety of professional development opportunities. Presentations included an overview of the new State Historic Sites Strategic Plan, an introduction to the new NC Historic Sites Alliance support group, remarks by Deputy Secretary Waters, and a talk on stress management, as well as guided conversations, musical performances, shared meals, and special tours.
- **Thanks to budgetary increases in FY 2021-22, the division was able to reinstate a third Regional Supervisor position.** Former West Region Supervisor Jennifer Farley is now the supervisor of the new Piedmont Region, and former Alamance Battleground site manager Jeremiah DeGennaro began work as the new West Region Supervisor in October. Jeff Bockert remains East Region Supervisor. This change will allow all three supervisors to devote more time and attention to their sites, staff, and many other responsibilities within the division.
- **The CSS Neuse Museum recently earned its Sensory Inclusive Certification in partnership with the national non-profit KultureCity.** In order to earn this certification, museum staff underwent training to better understand and interact with guests with differing sensory needs, including people with autism, PTSD, and sensory processing disorders. Staff created sensory bags equipped with noise-canceling headphones, fidget tools, verbal cue cards, and weighted lap pads. These tools will be available to any visitor who might otherwise find the museum inaccessible because of noise or overstimulation. The Division of State Historic Sites, with a focus on True Inclusion, is committed to increasing and expanding accessibility efforts across all of its sites and hopes the work of the CSS Neuse Museum Staff will be a model across the division.

News from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties: December 2022

Michelle Lanier

- **In October, the Shallow Ford property officially transferred to the Division. It will become the first new State Historic Site in over 30 years: Shallow Ford State Historic Site.** The 246-acre property on the banks of the Yadkin River in Forsyth County will feature walking trails and interpretive waysides. Construction will begin in 2023.
- **At the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum, construction was recently completed on a relandscaping of Dr. Brown's gravesite, designed and supervised by North Carolina A&T State University landscape architecture students.** This project was made possible by \$15,000 raised by The North Carolina General Federation of Women's Clubs and the NCA&T Landscape Architecture Program.
- **Division staff were excited to return to the NC State Fair in October.** Staff from many sites took part in the Military Appreciation Day event, during which they dressed as members of the military from many different eras of American History. Additionally, staff from Duke Homestead coordinated with staff from the NC Department of Agriculture for two events: a mock tobacco auction and a tobacco stringing contest.
- **At Historic Bath, the new permanent exhibition *Along the Banks of Bath Creek: A Story of People and Place* will open on December 9th.** This exhibition is the result of many years of planning and collaboration between site staff; curatorial, craft services, and research staff; external partners including Bath residents, Eastern Carolina University archaeologists, and American Indian cultural and historical experts; and DNCR partners such as the African American and American Indian Heritage Commissions, the Office of State Archaeology, the Museum of History, and the Maritime Museum in Beaufort.
- **The partnership between the Southern Heritage Apple Orchard at Horne Creek Farm and the Nikwasi Initiative continues, and will bring three Cherokee apple varieties back to the Cherokee homeland.** The Nikwasi Initiative preserves, protects, and promotes culture and heritage in the original homeland of the Cherokee people. Junaluska, Cullasaga, and Nickajack trees grown at the Orchard will be planted on the Initiative's Barbra McRae Cherokee Heritage Apple Trail outside of Franklin.
- **The President James K. Polk State Historic Site project "The Enslaved Polks" received a Gold Award in the 2022 Southeastern Museums Conference Technology Competition.** The project explores the stories of three people enslaved at the site – Violet, Lucy, and Elias – and uses their stories to discuss the larger history of enslavement by the Polk family and President Polk.

News from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties: December 2022

Michelle Lanier

- **The fall is a busy time for events across the division.** Programming included the annual Thomas Wolfe 8K run at the Thomas Wolfe Memorial; a living history program at the State Capitol featuring the Hannibal Guards, a United States Colored Troops living history group; a yard sale at Historic Halifax that raised over \$500 for the State Employees' Combined Campaign; historical cooking demonstrations by Dontavius Williams at Historic Stagville and Polk; a major quilt exhibition by the Surry County Quilters Guild at Horne Creek Farm; and agricultural fall festivals and other seasonal offerings across the state.
- **In early November, Roanoke Island Festival Park and Historic Edenton partnered for a unique project when RIFP's ship *Elizabeth II* sailed to Edenton.** Staff from both sites welcomed large numbers of visitors to learn about early colonial maritime history on the Albemarle Sound.
- **In honor of Hindu Heritage Month in October, the State Capitol hosted the exhibition "Darshana: A Glimpse into Hindu Civilization" and two related events: an opening reception and a Diwali celebration.** The exhibition and events were organized in partnership with the Research Triangle Park chapter of Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh, a non-profit social and cultural organization for Hindus living outside India.
- **The popular *Polar Express* season event is again taking place at the NC Transportation Museum.** To date, over 61,000 tickets have been sold, and more will go on sale in early December for the final weeks of the event.
- **October is Archaeology Month in North Carolina, and Town Creek Indian Mound hosted a six-day public excavation.** This event was sponsored by the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, the UNC-Chapel Hill Research Labs of Archaeology, the North Carolina Archaeological Society, and the Friends of Town Creek Indian Mound Inc. Processing and interpretation of the results from the dig are still ongoing, but artifacts like glass trade beads indicate that the dig has revealed post-European-contact American Indian presence at the site.
- **Conservation work took place on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the State Capitol.** Local bronze conservator Mark Erdmann cleaned and protected the statue, restoring it to its original appearance. The cost of the work was shared between the State Capitol Foundation and the NC Vietnam Veterans Inc. (NCVVI). Capitol staff and the members of NCVVI are all very pleased with the final result.