

**North Carolina Historical Commission Report**  
**Division of Archives and Records**  
**June 18, 2026**

On behalf of the Division of Archives and Records, I am pleased to provide updates on recent division activities and programming for the Spring of 2026. It's been a busy few months in the Archives, full of opportunities to connect with our partners and the public.

**Key Highlights:**

The Division hosted an Archives Teacher Institute as part of the DocsBox Program (<https://archives.ncdcr.gov/educators/docsbox-resources>), a National Historical Publications and Records Commission funded project to bring primary source lesson plans and resources into K-12 classrooms around North Carolina. The Teacher Institute, co-sponsored by the Friends of the Archives and Carolina K-12, brought 15 middle grade and high school teachers together to do their own primary source research to use in their classrooms. All 200+ DocsBox files, including lesson plans aligned with social studies and language arts curriculum standards, are now available online.

The Internship Committee, chaired by Caroline Waller, reviewed over 150 applications for the Division's summer internships. Summer intern orientation took place on May 14, where 4 of our spring interns shared excellent short presentations on their projects and experience at the Archives.

Our America250 NC work has continued apace, and included an April 22 virtual panel titled "New Americans in North Carolina," focused on the histories of immigration in the state and our oral history project of the same name (46 attendees); and a lunch and learn on June 11 titled "Telling Our NC250 Story: Free Women of Color in Revolutionary North Carolina" that brought together a panel of researchers focused on the histories of this often overlooked demographic. America250 NC activities are discussed in more depth below.

On April 29, we presented our Annual Chief Records Officer Meeting for state agencies. The Government Records Section and the Digital Services Section presented the Archives' draft guidance document on AI and public records, which has been reviewed by the DNCR AI Oversight Committee and will be sent to the Governor's Office soon for approval, and provided an overview of our new workflows for state agency email appraisal and transfer. The program had 31 in-person attendees.

**Tours:**

The Division offered 23 tours this quarter with 163 total participants. This included 36 students from the Governor's Page Program, 34 students from Green Hope High School, 12 Senate Pages, and 16 members of the Legislative Semiquincentennial group.

**America 250 Programming:**

Teaching America 250 award winner Colin Richardson brought students to the State Archives on March 27 as part of his “Illuminating Ideals” project, which focusing on the ideals of the Declaration of Independence as they relate to the lives of North Carolinians today.

The Archives was awarded \$6,100 of the Lit&Hist grant the Capitol Building secured for July 4 to expand the Constitution One Day Wonder to include two major federal documents: original broadside prints of the Articles of Confederation of 1776-77—which is a new Archives acquisition--and of the US Constitution of 1787.

Our One Day Wonder State Constitution Exhibit visited the Museum of the Albemarle on March 19 and was viewed by more than 150 attendees. In April, staff took the exhibit to the Cape Fear Museum/New Hanover Public Library, Wilmington, NC, on April 11 for the Azalea Festival and to the Rowan County Public Library, Salisbury, NC, on April 14. Total attendees for April One Day Wonder exhibits was 256. On May 2, the exhibit was presented at “The Revolution Begins” symposium held by the North Carolina Military Historical Society in Edenton, NC. The NC Constitution exhibit also traveled to Hammock Beach State Park on June 6, where 220 people stopped by the exhibit tent.

On June 12, our One Day Wonder Soldiers Experience Exhibit debuted at the North Carolina Museum of Art alongside the North Carolina Brigade Sketch on loan from the Museum of the American Revolution.

Our Special Collections satellite at the Outer Banks History Center staffed at table at Dare County’s A250 Faire, Manteo, NC, in May; they had 184 visitors.

And on June 1, the State Auditor visited the Archives Search Room to inspect the 1868 NC Constitution (the constitution that established the position of State Auditor) as part of his A250 NC activities; his office took pics and video to use in upcoming promo materials.

**Events:**

- March 19: OBHC Speaker Series partnering with Friends of the Outer Banks History Center, College of the Albemarle, and Downtown Books, fifth event in the series: A talk about the Roanoke Expeditions through maps with local historians Mel Covey and Dr. C. Leigh Broadhurst. 36 attendees.
- March 24: Presentation on North Carolina Constitution for 4th grade classes at Sandhills Elementary. 81 attendees
- March 24: OBHC table at Robin Holt author talk, My Daily Bounded Realm, Duck, NC. 30 attendees
- March 26: Trivia Night, Carolina Overlook 55+, Clayton, NC. 27 attendees
- April 11: Table at 15th Annual Roanoke Island American Indian Heritage Festival and Powwow. 44 visitors.

- April 15: Revolutionary North Carolina Individual Stories, Carolina Gardens. Adrienne Berney. 52 attendees.
- April 15: Table at Blue Ridge Community College Local History Fair. Cherie Miller.
- April 16: Table at “Still We Speak: When History Speaks, We Listen.” Freedom Park student event. 11 visitors.
- April 16: OBHC Speaker Series, Manteo during WWII. OBHC in collaboration with the College of the Albemarle, their Friends group, and Downtown Books. 61 attendees.
- April 17: Presentation to youth at the NC Society of Hispanic Professionals. Alana Gomez.
- April 23: Friends of the Outer Banks History Center Annual Meeting, guest speaker Brian Edwards, “A Welcome Retreat: African American Resorts and Beaches along the Outer Banks.” 36 attendees.
- April 23: “Accessibility in Government Archives: ADA Title II and What it Means for You,” Council of State Archivists presentation with Anna Peitzman and Corinne Foster. 45 attendees.
- April 30: Table at Social Studies Leaders Institute. Adrienne and Dani. 18 visitors.
- May 7, 7 p.m.: The NC Trivia Team was back in action! This time, the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences hosted Science Trivia Night, focusing on science-related Archives and Library collections.
- May 9, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.: Community Scanning Day collaboration with Library of NC.
- June 18, noon-2 p.m.: SANC table at Wake Tech Juneteenth Event. Mitzi Townes and Judy Allen Dodson.

### **Workshops:**

- Government Records Section virtual, in-person, and private records management and disaster recovery workshops: 14 total, 1,304 attendees.
- March 24: Podcasting Presentation to UNC SILS graduate class. 35 attendees.
- April 11: Revolutionary War Soldier Research, Farmville Public Library. Alison Thurman. 12 attendees.
- April 14: Records Management Panel, NCCU. Rebecca Stubbs. 25 participants.
- April 25: Preservation Workshop, cohosted with the Library of NC. Lucy Dunphy Barsness.

### **Media Coverage:**

- WRAL visited the Archives on March 20 to film a short piece on the 250th anniversary of the Halifax Resolves.
- NBC17’s Russ Bowen to visit Archives Search Room/Vault to see A250-related materials
- The Archives hosted Chief Justice Newby and Spectrum News anchor Tim Boyum on May 18 for a brief Vault segment related to the Bill of Rights and the surrounding federal documents in the collection.

- John Horan was interviewed by WUNC's *Due South* about the New Americans Oral History project.

**Facilities:**

The HVAC/Vent Project at the State Records Center (215 N. Blount Street) will begin in earnest in mid-July in the mechanical room in the loading dock. We're taking steps to limit the disruption to services.

The Conservation Unit has begun summer humidity mitigation in the Archives stacks with regular humidity checks and strategically placed dehumidifiers to try to slow or stop the regular mold blooms we see in the summer months.

The Outer Banks History Center undergoing replacement of fire sprinkler system together with neighboring historic site, Roanoke Island Festival Park.

**Collections:**

There were a total of 171 accessions to our collections this month, including 426.7 cu. ft. of physical material, 631 reels of microfilm, and 494.4 MB of digital material. Highlights include:

- The Joshua Bass Papers, 2007-2015, OBHC, 6.01 cu. ft
- Halifax County Court, Estate, and Tax Records, 1873-1968, 79 cu. ft.
- DOJ, Archival Cases File, 1989-2023, 15 cu. ft.
- DNCR, Natural Science Museum Exhibits and Photograph File, n.d., 6 cu. ft.
- NC Freedom Park Inc. Records, 1999-2023, 7.5 cu ft
- OBHC, Stephens Architectural Drawings Collection, 1948-1992, 35.2 cu ft

The Archives Imaging Unit completed scanning 67 volumes of the Spring Hope Enterprise newspaper, 1949-2017 (36,139 pages).

The Digital Access Branch completed the digitization of two series in the Treasurer's and Comptroller's Papers: "Records Concerning the Cherokee and Tuscarora" and "Military Papers: Cherokee-American Conflicts" for the Records Concerning American Indians digital collection; and the Colin Shaw Papers, which have been published to the North Carolina Digital Collections; and finished most of the Secretary of State Inventories and Sales of Estates project.

**Technical Services:**

A revised Register of Deeds Records Retention Schedule was completed by the Government Records Section Records Analysis Unit; it was approved and released in April 2026. Kayla Leonard was the lead analyst for the update.

Alice Shahan, digital archivist, led the first meeting of the Email Advocacy Task Force created to bring together folks from the various higher ed institutions in the UNC and CC systems (3/10, 13 participants).

Transcribe NC: Digital Access Branch staff uploaded transcripts into AM/Quartex for five digital collections: the Regulator Movement (now complete), Good Neighbor Council, Black Mountain College, Cohabitation Records, and Revolutionary War; and they reviewed 188 pages and transcribed 42 pages of Regulator materials to complete that project.

Private collections finished Processing PC.2290 Haislip Family Papers, and PC.2289 Albert Lyman Cox Papers; processed additions to PC.2055 Mobley and Buck Family Papers and PC.1782 Mary Lyde Hicks Williams Papers.

DIT has begun a business process analysis of the Archives' digital preservation infrastructure; the Archives hopes to garner DIT support for changes to our digital repository operations.

**Staff:**

Staff member Ian F. G. Dunn's book, *Lost Raleigh: Exploring the Oak City's Architectural History*, coauthored by Mary Ruffin Hanbury, was published May 12 by UNC Press.

On May 28-29, nine State Archives employees contributed to sessions (poster, presentation, keynote) at the Society of North Carolina Archivists/South Carolina Archivists Association Joint Annual Meeting, "Many Voices, Stronger Archives: Advocacy through Community," at UNC-Charlotte.

The Archives has a promotion to celebrate and 3 current openings:

- Boyana Babanovski has been promoted to Lead Conservation Technician in the Collections Management Branch; her previous position, Conservation Technician, has been submitted for posting.
- We've accepted the resignations of our State Records Center Supervisor, Ryan Walsh, and the Lead Archivist at the Outer Banks History Center, Tammy Woodward; both are open for applications on the State of North Carolina jobs board.

**Report of the Division of Historical Resources  
To the North Carolina Historical Commission  
For its June 2026 meeting**

**Ramona M. Bartos, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
June 3, 2026**

***Division in general***

**New Helene grant aka Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund funding.** As reported previously, we long awaited word of our June 2025 ask (based on a December 2024 Congressional appropriation) for emergency supplemental Historic Preservation Fund for additional SHPO capacity (personnel, survey, office efficiency measures) for Helene recovery as the need for our services will outstrip / is outstripping our capacity. For example, our Section 106 reviews have as usual increased by upwards of 40% after Helene, and one we expect to continue unabated during the multi-year recovery effort. We have as expected also experienced upticks in constituent outreach and technical assistance, including for historic tax credit project consultations in the Helene zone.

Our final ask for the SHPO capacity grant category was for **\$6.71 million** including additional term-limited personnel to meet this need, records digitization, and architectural and archaeological surveys to create a new baseline post-Helene. We received news in late January 2026, with final grant agreement received on March 30, the **very welcome and gratifying news** that we indeed received SHPO capacity grant in full as requested. This grant will run for **three years until March 2029**.

We also were awarded our full \$180,000 grant request for a full conditions assessment report that will include plans for waterproofing, construction management, and repairs for the DNCR Western Office that has suffered multiple episodes of basement flooding because of heavy, prolonged rains, including from Helene.

At this time, we have hired recent state retiree Madeline “Punk” Spencer, who was the long-time office manager for the Underwater Branch of the Office of State Archaeology, to serve as our grant specialist / administrative assistant for our Helene grant.

Since March, we have been working with HR to create several new grant funded positions through a reallocation process (existing position not funded, and therefore reassigned to us) and recoding an existing survey position to this new funding. As a reminder, those new positions will serve the 40 or so “Helene” counties per FEMA designation, mainly west of I-77, and will include a Restoration Specialist, Environmental Review Specialist, a National Register reviewer, two Architectural Survey Specialists (to conduct surveys in Avery, Madison, and Mitchell Counties), and an Archaeologist. At this time, we are working to finalize the reallocations, and advertise these new term-limited positions. As context, the State cannot create or reallocate positions until funds are secured, hence these HR steps.

We will also conduct outreach and training events for local government, and to that end, have spoken with the UNC School of Government, who is to send us a proposed scope of work to assist us with these tasks over the grant's three-year term. We eagerly await that information, and hope to get an intra-state contract prepared with them soon, to be followed by legal review.

The grant will also pay for a long-desired digital scanning and digitization effort for our legacy architectural files, developed since the earliest days of our office in the late 1960s and early 1970s forward, to be integrated in digital format into our HPOWEB statewide mapping enterprise. Our Survey / National Register branch supervisor Sarah Woodard has been working diligently with our agency IT lead Joey Ennis and Department of Information Technology project managers to advance this part of our project.

Our plans to survey the newly acquired Pisgah View State Park for archaeological and architectural resources is likely underway, with conversations already had with our Division of State Parks' planning unit, and a scope of work under development for bid purposes soon.

### ***Personnel matters.***

**Resignations/ hiring.** Following the birth of her first child, **Office of State Archaeology collections manager** Courtney Page resigned to be a full-time mom earlier this year, and we welcomed recently **Natalie Carpiaux**, formerly with the Division of State History Museums as her successor in this role.

Our vacant National Register Assistant position was recently reallocated up a grade, and we are in the process of advertising it.

We also welcomed **Dr. Amanda Burtt** as our newest Assistant State Archaeologist Dr. Amanda Burtt (Raleigh Office) to the OSA in March. Originally from Greensboro and Raleigh, Dr. Burtt holds both a Ph.D. and master's degree, in Anthropology from Indiana University, Bloomington and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from the University of California at Berkeley. She recently served as a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the School of Geographical Sciences at the University of Bristol (Bristol, United Kingdom), co-directing archaeological field investigations at the Gully Cave Site in Somerset, England. Prior to that project, she helped coordinate the careful curation and management of archaeological collections from the Angel Mounds State Historic Site at the Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology in Indiana and carried out field research at several precontact American Indian sites and historical archaeology sites in North America. A specialist in zooarchaeology, she is lead author on a [new publication](#) about the ecological resilience of European grey wolves over millennia documented through dental microwear analysis.

**Recruitment considerations.** As I have shared before, recruitment and retention issues continue with our division’s positions.

Some positions we must advertise multiple times for lack of qualified candidates.

It is not unusual for candidates to decline to participate further in recruitment, citing low salaries or lack of affordable housing.

And it is not unusual for members of team to seek other roles elsewhere, because of extended low salaries without COLA adjustments, commute lengths, or better opportunities in less expensive areas.

For example, staff in the field during the statewide preservation conference in Asheville last fall noticed that advertisements in downtown Asheville real estate offices show *mobile homes* in Asheville suburbs selling for in excess of \$350,000.

The same COLA stresses are true in western and coastal areas and the Triangle, and many state employees live far from our offices, meaning long and arduous commutes in what is one of the fastest growing areas of our country.

A quick check this morning indicated that the median home price in [Raleigh is \\$449,950](#), up from \$340,000 in 2017; [\\$570,000 in Asheville](#); and [\\$491,500 in Wilmington](#). A screenshot from this official federal report below:



And a recent Wall Street Journal article from May 2026 discussed the matter of housing affordability versus inventory available: *“This inventory mismatch hits families earning around \$75,000 especially hard. While these households can afford a house up to \$261,140, homes in that price range make up just 23% of listings nationwide, according to the report.”*<sup>1</sup> As a reminder, the majority of our staffers make less than \$75,000 annually, and a number are

<sup>1</sup> Dagher, Veronica. “Some Housing Markets Get More Affordable,” *Wall Street Journal*, 27 May 2026, pg A2.

single. Affordable housing for our staffers in the communities where our state offices are is increasingly few and far between.

Teleworking continues to be a positive, **no-cost** opportunity that we can offer to aid in recruitment and retention, and we are appreciative of our agency's continued commitment to teleworking for rank-and-file staff.

### ***State Historic Preservation Office (HPO)***

#### **Historic Preservation Fund funding.**

**FY 2027 federal Historic Preservation Fund funding.** News from Washington indicates that our federal funding for HPO / OSA operations will likely continue to be level again this federal fiscal year upcoming – meaning any state raises for federally funded individuals will have to come from that static amount of funding, consequently reducing our ready travel and office supplies funding.

As a reminder, our federal funding is derived from the federal Historic Preservation Fund, which is derived from offshore oil and gas lease dollars. The 59 SHPOs in the states and territories received together \$62.15M; North Carolina's apportionment for operational funding is nearly \$1.3M and funds 14 FTEs (wholly or partially) plus travel and support monies (**this is 1/3 of our staff in the Division of Historical Resources, including several positions in the Office of State Archaeology**), and the Certified Local Government subgrant program (+/- \$130,000 statewide).

**National Register Advisory Committee (NRAC) meeting.** The second of our 3 NRAC meetings in 2026 will be held on June 11. [The National Register agenda](#) as usual is quite full and varied with 10 National Register nominations, again demonstrating the strong public demand for this program, along with nearly 40 proposed Study List properties.

Notably, the agenda includes we have a nomination from a Certified Local Government assisted project – the Broadell Community, an African American mid-century subdivision in Fayetteville.

Our Study List applications include 19 from a survey of Wilson, and 8 from the western region, including areas hit by Helene.

National Register coordinator Jeff Smith – who has been without a National Register assistant since December – and our entire NR team are to be greatly credited for maintaining a steady momentum with review and moving constituents' projects forward.

**Local Government Preservation Commission activities / training.** Local Government Coordinator Kristi Brantley and HPO colleagues has been conducting a full statewide slate of regional local government historic preservation commission training in the field this spring, including

- Elizabeth City on April 24,
- Hickory on May 1,
- Durham on May 15, and
- Waxhaw on June 5.

As an example of the good turnout, local government training in Hickory on May 1<sup>st</sup> saw 16 local governments represented with great engagement and collegial camaraderie (photo below).



Upcoming local government trainings are on the calendar for the following:

**July 31** – southeastern NC Certified Local Government historic preservation commission training in Wilmington

**August 7** – western NC Certified Local Government historic preservation commission training in Waynesville

**Environmental Review numbers.**

Our Environmental Review branch handles review of federally- and state-aided infrastructure and development projects under [Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act](#) for their effect (if any) on historic places, both above ground and below (archaeological). The consequence of our reviews is to influence meaningful consideration

of historic resources to be impacted by a proposed project in a “measure twice, cut once” approach for project planning and delivery.

To date through May 30, we have seen **2786** projects to review, or 557 projects on average a month, half of which are trending to be Helene recovery related. If this trend continues, as expected, we will see **+/- 6500** projects this calendar year.

In a typical “non-hurricane” year, we are running 3500 to 4500 projects annually.

This year, the expected increased projects submitted will represent a **30% to 45% increase in workload**.

Therefore, the Helene capacity grant is very appreciated, and will give us an additional environmental review specialist and archaeologist for review purposes for our western “Helene” counties.

### **Outreach efforts.**

- **Roseboro (May 5).** Restoration Specialist Jeff Adolphsen and Julie Smith presented at a historic tax credit workshop in Roseboro. Jeff spoke about topics such as historic rehabilitation tax credits, how to determine if a building is historic, how to apply for historic designation, and the U.S. Secretary of the Interior’s standards for rehabilitation of historic buildings. This is an example of the kind of local outreach undertaken by the Restoration Branch together with the Survey / National Register branch, designed to foster use of the historic tax credit in North Carolina communities.

Roseboro’s downtown was recently nominated and listed in the National Register, making those buildings eligible for historic tax credits.

- **Nonprofit Preservation Organization Q&A with HPO staff (May 13).** The HPO held an online webinar for nonprofit preservation organizations (regional and local) about HPO / OSA services for Preservation Month (May).
- **Western Office in Asheville – Museums in Partnership Meet and Greet (May 18).** WO Supervisor Cindy Bradley organized this on-site event to connect, collaborate, and converse with regional museum partners for networking and partnership planning. **Representatives from 35 organizations in the western region attended this gathering.** At the meeting, a discussion ensued regarding next steps on how to establish more structure and support and communication channels for this long-standing organization fostered by now retired Western Office Supervisor Jeff Futch. The partnership has had at any one time 200 organizations in contact. A steering committee was also discussed to share responsibility beyond DNCR alone and how we can better align with other organizations with overlapping missions.

- **National Rosenwald Advisory Committee.** In late April, DSHPO Ramona Bartos as a representative for State Historic Preservation Offices attended the first meeting of a national advisory committee to establish a national network of Rosenwald Schools. This effort is being led by the [Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historic Park Campaign](#) to establish a Rosenwald park unit within the National Park Service. Additional meetings and a national convening are planned for coming years. It was an inspirational and upbeat experience with the promise of a network that will help our large Rosenwald School stewardship constituency.

### **Cross-divisional / cross-agency activities**

- **Standing meetings re: State Capitol.** Restoration Services Branch Supervisor Brett Sturm has been representing the HPO at a meeting regarding planned work at State Capitol, including lighting work (proposed to start in August or September 2026) and sidewalk repair (sidewalk work proposed to be completed by mid-June 2026). Brett continues to consult regarding paint adhesion issues throughout the building. Standing meetings have been established between the Division of State Historic Sites, Department of Administration, and HPO.
- **Consultations with Historic Sites at Thomas Day Historic Site.** This spring, members from both OSA and HPO have consulted with Sites regarding archaeology needs and architectural history / historical use to help aid Sites with interpretation and stewardship.
- **Collaboration with Historic Sites and UNC-W and ECU at Brunswick Town.** The OSA lead geophysical archaeologist Dr. David Cranford is processing and refining Ground Penetrating Radar data collected at Brunswick Town / Fort Anderson Historic Site in support of upcoming archaeological field schools planned at the site by both UNC Wilmington Anthropology Department and ECU Program in Maritime Studies. OSA has worked for many years in this fashion with Sites and these universities for annual field schools at this site (as well as others, including Bath), which allows us to continue archaeological investigations that enhance our understanding of and interpretation of sites our agency stewards.
- **Aid to Land and Water Stewardship Division.** Our division – together with Leslie Leonard with the Division of Historical Research – aided the Land and Water Stewardship division to assist in scoring of their grants for “history” points sought by applicants, vetting projects that had purported archaeological, historic, or cultural value.
- **FEMA / NC DPS Emergency Support Function 11.** On May 12, DSHPO Ramona Bartos by invitation made a presentation to the NC Department of Agriculture to discuss the HPO / OSA role in emergency response / recovery as part of the FEMA / NC DPS Emergency Support Function 11 (which also includes Agricultural matters). We received

a warm welcome and interest in further collaborations. Misty Franklin with DNCR's Natural Heritage program followed with a presentation about their program.

### ***Office of State Archaeology (OSA)***

**Coast Guard exercise.** The Underwater Archaeology Branch of OSA participated in another tabletop exercise with US Coast Guard and other emergency management entities for emergency preparedness purposes this spring; the scenario was a leaking vessel creating an oil spill at Frying Pan at the mouth of the Cape Fear. Deputy State Archaeologist (Underwater) Stephen Atkinson flagged the possibility of encountering ordnance ("UXO") from Civil War combat in the vicinity, which had not occurred to other participants.

**FEMA interactions.** OSA staff in the Western Office continue to coordinate with FEMA on spatial data needs and batch project prioritization for Helene affected counties, while directly supporting FEMA staff with archaeological field equipment. There is additional focus on waste/debris sites with DEQ, including site visits.

**Good Neighbor Agreement with US Forest Service.** Our Legal Office is reviewing a draft Good Neighbor agreement from the US Forest Service to provide five years of salaries and benefits for term-limited archaeologists and an environmental review specialist to work on US Forest 106 compliance here in NC, related to Helene recovery. This collaboration was under discussion for last few years, but the proposed funding source was changed to be handled through Helene recovery.

**NAGPRA efforts.** On March 26, OSA initiated NAGPRA consultation for multiple Eastern North Carolina ancestors found east of I-95 (45-page list); the following federal tribes were invited: Virginia-based Nansemond and Monacan tribes; Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina; Tuscarora Nation of New York; and Pamunkey Tribe in Virginia.

**Spring Open House.** On April 11, the **Office of State Archaeology Conservation Lab** in Greenville hosted its [annual spring open house](#) (now a **NC Science Fest** signature event, focusing on our lab's interdisciplinary work). Participants learned how conservators and archaeologists use chemistry, art, physics, technology, and more to recover and conserve artifacts through fun hands-on activities and educational demonstrations, and how science and the arts meet to record and care for local history. Over 200 members of the public attended.

**Visit from Tuscarora Nation of New York.** In early April, OSA hosted a visit from a delegation of the federally recognized Tuscarora Nation (NY), including a meeting at the Office of State Archaeology Research Center, and a follow-up meeting with Secretary Cashwell, where we discussed multiple points of cooperation and needed assistance.

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

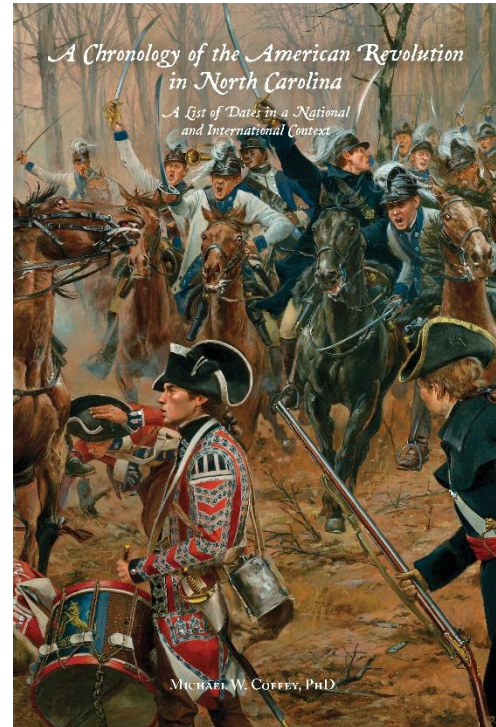
## Division of Research and Publications

### June 2026 Report

Submitted by Ansley Herring Wegner

*A Chronology of the American Revolution in North Carolina: A list of Dates in a National and International Context*, by Michael Coffey, was published in May. It is available for purchase online and in bookstores.

*Blue's March, An Overmountain Men Tale*, by Katelynn Hatton, our office's Colonial Records Editor and supervisor of Mosaic NC, is one of the America 250 NC children's picture books that was published by our office last year. It was chosen to be the Library of Congress Center for the Book 2026 young reader selection for North Carolina's Great Reads from Great Places. As part of the award, *Blue's March* will represent North Carolina at the National Book Festival in Washington, DC in August.



## Digital Publications

The Digital Publications section of the Research and Publications Office houses several projects including the North Carolina Colonial Records Project, the Governors' Papers Project, and the Civil War Roster Project, all of which are made available online at [MosaicNC.org](http://MosaicNC.org)

### Exhibits:

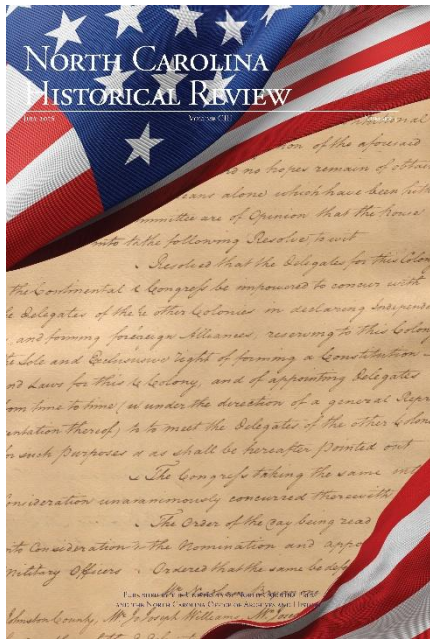
In late March, the "[Governor Richard Caswell and Revolutionary North Carolina](#)" exhibit was published. Richard Caswell served as the state of North Carolina's first governor from December 1776 to 1780. In honor of the 250th anniversary of American Independence, this exhibit explores the important themes of Caswell's papers from 1777, the first year of his administration and features 337 newly transcribed letters. Touching on topics such as the formation of the Patriot army and American Indian diplomacy, there is plenty to discover.

Work is also underway on an exhibit on the *USS Underwriter* raid of 1864, an important event for both the U.S. and Confederate Navies, which took place in New Bern. Work is also underway on a new online edition of Governor William Kitchin's papers.

### Internships:

The Digital Publications team hosted two interns from Meredith College during the spring semester. The students learned valuable skills in archival research, transcription, and exhibit writing during their time with the office.

### **North Carolina Historical Review**



For the last few years, printing and distribution of the *North Carolina Historical Review* has been managed by UNC Press. The partnership has saved our office a great deal of money and staff time, and we rely on their advice. UNC Press suggested that we make a modest increase for three of our subscription prices. In August 2026 the following increases will go into effect:

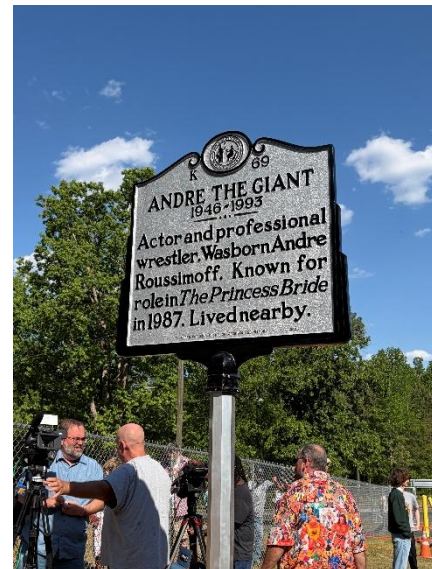
- Individual will go from \$40 to \$43
- Student will go from \$20 to \$21
- Institution will go from \$80 to \$87

The July Review will be a special America 250 NC issue. The articles include a retrospective on how the state commemorated the

anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in other years and an article about Cornelius Harnett.

### **Historical Marker Program**

Since March, the division has participated in dedications for five new historical markers: Ar-Razzaq Islamic Center, Piedmont Credit Union, Andre the Giant, Bazemore v. Bertie County Board of Elections, and Good Samaritan Hospital. Each dedication had many in attendance. The Andre the Giant marker dedication garnered national press.



## America 250 NC



In April the America 250 team attended the First Oval Office Project at Tryon Palace and the 250<sup>th</sup> of the Halifax Resolves, among many other events. In May we launched the tour of the North Carolina Brigade Sketch, on loan from the Museum of the American Revolution (MoAR), with a delightful evening at the State Capitol, where Matthew Skic, chief curator from the MoAR, delivered his lecture about finding and identifying one of only twelve known eyewitness

drawings of George Washington's troops. The sketch is now on view at the North Carolina Museum of Art. At the end of July it will move to Tryon Palace, and it will go to Halifax State Historic Site in early October. It will return to the Museum of the American Revolution on November 6. The America 250 team continues to work at events, sometimes as many as eight events per week, engaging with thousands of people around the state. One weekend we had had staff working in Cullowhee, Raleigh, and Manteo. Many offices in Archives and History will be exhibitors at the Capitol 250 Freedom Fest at the State Capitol on July 4.

## News from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties: June 2026

Michelle Lanier, Director

### Overview

- Fiscal year-to-date visitation for FY25–26 reached 1,558,345, representing a slight 1% decrease compared to the same period in FY24–25; this anticipated drop was driven by temporary site closures, scheduled construction projects, and fewer multi-weekend events across several historic locations.
  - Closures
    - Fort Dobbs (New Visitor Center Construction; Leak Repair)
    - House in the Horseshoe (New Visitor Center Construction)
    - Horne Creek (Orchard Building Construction)
    - NC Capitol (Grounds Closed; Sidewalk Repair)
- North Carolina Historic Sites reported serving a total of 864,667 youth through 2026 to date, a 3.5% increase over the same period in 2025.
- The total social media following grew to 469,214, reflecting a 6% increase.
- Historic Sites now holds current Institutional Memberships in the following local and national museum and public history professional organizations, with some Sites staff serving in leadership roles:
  - North Carolina Museums Council (NCMC)
  - Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC)
  - Alliance of American Museums (AAM)
  - Association of African American Museums (AAAM)
  - Association of Living History Farms and Museums (ALHFAM)
  - Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM)
  - National Council for Public History (NCPH)

### Personnel

- This spring **Leah Polk** joined State Historic Sites as Historical Interpreter III at **Fort Dobbs**.
- After almost 2 years at **Halifax**, **Lucas McInnis** joins **Duke Homestead** staff as Historical Interpreter II, serving as Collections Steward and Head of Costuming.
- The Executive Director position at **Roanoke Island Festival Park** was posted in April and shared widely across statewide, regional, and national museum and public history networks.
- Division leadership continues to work closely with Human Resources to refine and update best practices related to job classifications and performance management within the department.

## News from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties: June 2026

Michelle Lanier, Director

### America 250 NC

- **Historic Halifax** played a central role in America 250 programming this quarter. On April 7, the site hosted a Council of State meeting followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly renovated visitor center, with remarks from Governor Stein.
- The Halifax Resolves Days, held April 10–12, welcomed approximately 4,800 visitors—marking a significant increase over typical attendance.
- Upcoming America 250 programming includes planning for [Capitol 250: NC Freedom Fest](#) on July 4, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the North Carolina State Capitol.



Figure 1: Historic Site Staff and Director at Historic Halifax



Figure 2: Tribal leadership along with Historic Site Staff and AIHC Staff pose for a picture at Magazine Springs on Halifax Resolves Days

## News from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties: June 2026

Michelle Lanier, Director

### Curatorial Services

- **Michael Moore, Elizabeth Reighn, and Colby Lipscomb** successfully installed the Halifax Resolves in the new exhibit case at **Historic Halifax**, with oversight from the National Archives. The site is now preparing for future exhibit rotations, including the 1777 NC Brigade Sketch on loan from the Museum of the American Revolution.



Figure 3: Colby, Michael, and Elizabeth install the Halifax Resolves

Curatorial staff also advanced exhibit development at **Town Creek Indian Mound**, presenting plans to the **NC American Indian Heritage Commission**, which responded positively and will continue to provide input. A significant acquisition for Historic Sites includes a quilt by Doris Pettway Hackett of Gee's Bend, connecting North Carolina history to the broader legacy of the Freedom Quilting Bee.

### DIT/ODEL Grant

The DIT/ODEL Grant supports efforts to improve accessibility at North Carolina's historic sites through immersive 360-degree virtual tours. The project continues to progress as it enters the text approval phase, focusing on America 250 NC sites to make these historic spaces more accessible to all.

We are also planning to host three teacher workshops to introduce educators to online resources that can enrich and deepen their curriculum. These workshops will be led by our **Education Branch**, recorded, and uploaded to our website so that additional educators and community groups can access the training. Planning is still underway, and we anticipate offering the workshops in early summer.

### Digital Interpretation

The Project to Update State History (PUSH) continues to progress across multiple sites,

## News from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties: June 2026

Michelle Lanier, Director

with ongoing development of exhibits, digital interactives, and orientation materials that reflect inclusive narratives and current scholarship.

Final edits to the **Bentonville Battlefield** orientation film are underway, and other orientation videos are progressing at a steady pace. Several sites are in the process of installing new digital kiosks, including **Bentonville** and **Bennett Place**.

### East Region

- **Roanoke Island Festival Park** held major public programming, including the 17th annual Kidsfest in collaboration with Dare County Children and Youth Partnership. This popular event offered interactive games, music, and educational activities for young children, drawing visitors across the state.
- **Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson** began installation of the Africa to Carolina public art piece, with site preparation and foundation work completed. The exhibit is expected to open to the public on Thursday, July 16.



Figure 5: Installation of Liberty Pole at Halifax State Historic Site



Figure 4: Bentonville Staff watch as new touchscreen is installed

- Staff, in partnership with the Office of State Archaeology and Friends of Historic Halifax, installed a Liberty Pole at **Halifax State Historic Site** next to the 1767 courthouse site. Atop the pole is a red wool Phrygian or “Liberty” cap. Visitors can scan a QR to learn more about the installation. It will stay in place at least through the summer.

### Piedmont Region

- The **North Carolina State Capitol** hosted several major events this quarter, including the North Carolina Student Legislature, which brought hundreds of students to participate in a mock legislative session. The site also hosted **America 250** programming, including the Brigade Sketch event.

## News from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties: June 2026

Michelle Lanier, Director

- At **Alamance Battleground**, staff hosted a successful **America 250** event in March that drew 1,800+ visitors. **In addition, Alamance** saw nearly 1,900 attendees for the 255<sup>th</sup> anniversary re-enactment of the Battle of Alamance on May 16. This record attendance far exceeded expectations and is attributed in part to general excitement and increased awareness around **America 250**.



Figure 6: Museum of the American Revolution Curator and Historic Site Staff at Brigade Sketch Program

- **Thomas Day State Historic Site** has been accepted as an Affiliate member of the Historic Artists' Homes and Studios (HAHS) network. This program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation brings together sites that were the homes and working studios of significant American artists, leveraging collective experience in historic preservation, visitor programming, and community engagement.



### West Region

- **Fort Dobbs** celebrated the reopening of its visitor center on April 18 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by local and state officials. While the site has reopened to the public, work continues on exhibit installation, reconstruction of exterior fortifications, and renovation of the former visitor center.



Figure 7: Site staff with honored guests at the ribbon cutting for Fort Dobbs

## News from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties: June 2026

Michelle Lanier, Director



Figure 8: A current project that's underway and scheduled for completion in early 2027. The former Spencer Shops' Powerhouse is being completely renovated and will serve as a venue for rotating exhibits and event space for gatherings.

- The **North Carolina Transportation Museum** is nearing completion of its Powerhouse and Train Shed renovations, with major systems nearly finished.
- Storm recovery efforts remain ongoing at western sites. The historic house at **Thomas Wolfe Memorial State Historic Site** received extensive roof, plaster, window, and siding repairs after a 120-year-old maple tree fell onto the house.

### Cross-Division Collaboration & Special Programs

- Historic Sites leadership met with partners from SHPO, State Archaeology, and the Battleship North Carolina to discuss the impact of Cape Fear River deepening on cultural resources.
- Staff from **House in the Horseshoe** partnered with community volunteers for a cleanup day at the Endor Iron Furnace site, drawing approximately 40 volunteers.
- **Thomas Day State Historic Site** expanded visibility through new DOT signage.
- Archaeological field schools are scheduled at **Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson** in partnership with ECU and UNCW.
- Pre-construction planning for parking and visitor amenities at **Shallow Ford** continues. Staff have captured trail data and ordered directional signage for the site.



Figure 9: Site Manager DeAsia Noble poses with new DOT sign for Thomas Day State Historic Site

## News from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties: June 2026

Michelle Lanier, Director

- Also of note, social media impressions increased by 37% in April (total impressions 3,053,472) which is largely attributed to posts and media surrounding Halifax Days and the display of the original Halifax Resolves.
- A sampling of earned media:
  - [North Carolina's Halifax Resolves will be back home for America250 celebration](#)
  - <https://caro.news/10-places-to-explore-black-history-in-north-carolina/>
  - <https://triangleonthecheap.com/womens-history-stagville/>
  - [Gov. Stein celebrates opening of Halifax visitor site ahead of Halifax Resolves' 250th anniversary](#)

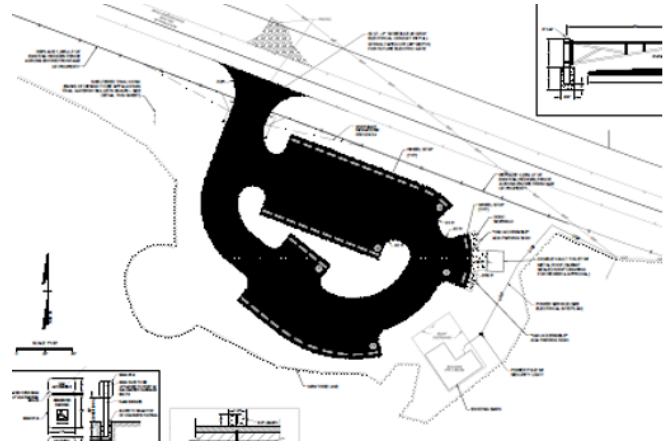


Figure 10: Proposed parking lot at Shallow Ford State Historic Site

**NC Historical Commission Report: March 13, 2025 – June 9, 2026**  
**Division of State History Museums**  
**19 June 2026**

## Celebrating the Semiquincentennial During Closure

### 250 Capitol Event:

America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday is almost here! Despite our building's closure, the North Carolina Museum of History (NCMOH) staff is hard at work planning for a celebration. One of the ways that NCMOH brings history to the public is by installing a display case to the State Capitol for the 250 Capitol event on July 4<sup>th</sup>. It is on display starting May 13 through July 4.

For this July 4<sup>th</sup> event, staff has restored and is planning to move and display the full-scale Liberty Bell replica (see below). Staff is also planning on having other games, activities, and hands-on displays on Independence Day in downtown Raleigh.



*Figure 1: Liberty Bell replica before (left) and after restoration by NCMOH Collections staff.*

### Witnesses to the Revolution:

Opening on June 12, *Witnesses to the Revolution*, is a collections-focused exhibition developed in partnership with UNC–Chapel Hill’s Wilson Library, which is where it will be open to the public through fall 2026.

### It’s Revolutionary!:

Work continues on formatting, reviewing, and editing the *It’s Revolutionary!* Educator Notebooks, including completion of the initial review of Advanced Placement lesson plan procedures. Post-production on the *It’s Revolutionary!* video series is also ongoing, including green screen background research, music selection, and animation development. The video series is planned to be available to the public in early July and will be on the museum’s website.

### Brand Refresh:

The North Carolina Museum of History is introducing a new brand identity that looks ahead to the museum’s next chapter while staying rooted in the work that has defined it for generations. The new logo is a refreshed Wright Flyer, keeping a symbol familiar to many museum visitors. The color palette pulls from North Carolina’s natural landscape, with deep, rich tones inspired by the mountains, sandhills, and coast. These new brand elements continue to build on the museum’s mission to collect, preserve and interpret the state’s history.



Figure 2: The new NCMOH logo.

### Museum Construction:

The museum demolition is scheduled to be completed in August 2026, which will then signal the construction phase to begin. Hard hat tours for staff and stakeholders are scheduled, as well. As of June 2026, the construction is on time and under budget.



Figure 3: View of the northwest corner of the NCMOH building from June 2026. This will be the location of the new lobby.

**Exhibit Renovation:**

Work continues on the MOH exhibit expansion project, including delivery of aggregated feedback on the 30% Schematic Design Review for the *Becoming North Carolina* and *Community* exhibits to the exhibit design firm GSM. Both exhibits will be on the second floor of the museum.

There will also be other exhibits on the fourth floor that include *Flight*, *Children’s Discovery Gallery*, *Sports Hall of Fame*, *Arts*, and military history. Reengagement with the design firm Roto is tentatively scheduled for summer 2026.

**Regional History Updates:**

Work is underway to better coordinate each of the seven regional history museums with each other as well as more comprehensively incorporate them into the NCMOH. The new standardized hours for the regional museums were announced to the public. Beginning June 1, all seven sites will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**NC Maritime Museum at Beaufort:**

- Collections staff are reorganizing the museum’s off-site storage facility in advance of the American Alliance of Museums site visit, which has been postponed to summer 2026.
- Monday, May 4 – The museum will receive a cannon from Blackbeard’s *Queen Anne’s Revenge* shipwreck from the Office of State Archaeology Maritime Conservation Lab in Greenville.
- PBS’s *The Best of Our State* featured a segment on the Bonehenge Whale Center. The museum’s Natural Science Curator, Keith Rittmaster, was the director.

**Graveyard of the Atlantic:**

- The new HVAC system was successfully completed in May 2026.
- Part of the museum’s centerpiece lifesaving display collapsed after hours on April 1. Color Ad, the company that originally installed the feature, arrived onsite on April 7 to assess the situation, remove compromised structures, and develop a solution.
- The museum’s new website is now live on Digital Commons.

**Tobacco Farm Life Museum:**

- Visitation tripled during the State Archives’ *One Day Wonder* event held Friday, March 6.
- The museum was awarded a small grant from the Davis Fund (NC Chapter of the Herb Society of America) to establish an educational herb garden. The garden will be planted with assistance from volunteers and visitors during the *Explore Your Own Backyard* spring event on April 18.

**Museum of the Cape Fear:**

- Tuesday, March 31 – Topping Out Ceremony for the NC History Center at the Museum of the Cape Fear Complex in Fayetteville.
- NCMOH staff traveled to the Museum of the Cape Fear to review artifacts currently on display that have been requested for inclusion in the new History Center exhibits.



*Figure 4: Kirk DeViere, chair of the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners, signs the final steel beam during the topping off ceremony for the North Carolina History Center on the Civil War, Emancipation & Reconstruction*

**Mountain Gateway Museum:** Work continued on Phase 2 repairs to the museum building at 24 Water Street in Old Fort, NC. Work is approximately 35% complete as of April 22.

**NC Maritime Museum at Southport:** Osterlund Architects (Capital Projects team) Maria Vann (NC Regional History Director), and Site Manager Shannon Walker (Site Manager) met to assess the building and discuss an upcoming construction project.

## Staff Highlights:

### Hiring and Promotions:

- **Stephen Thompson** was hired as Business Officer at the Museum of the Cape Fear Complex.
- **Lilly Cartwright** was hired as Educator at the Museum of the Albemarle.
- **Sarah Campbell** was hired as a Collections Curator at the Museum of the Cape Fear.

### Retirements and Resignations:

- **Natalie Carpiaux** resigned as Collections Registrar at the NC Museum of History.

## Public Programming & Exhibit Highlights:

### NC Museum of History:

#### Programs:

- Thursday, March 12, 3:30 p.m. – Storytime Stewards at Book Harvest (in person, 2501 University Drive, Durham)
- Saturday, March 21, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. – NCMH Pop-Up, Beech Bluff County Park
- Thursday, April 2, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. – NCMOH Pop-Up: White Deer Park Nature Center Discovery Day, in person in Garner, NC
- Friday, April 17, 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m. – Tar Heel Junior Historian Association (THJHA) Annual Convention (in person at Historic Bethabara Park and Reynolda House Museum, Winston-Salem)
- Thursday, May 14, 6 p.m. – *MOH Pop-Up! The Bend Bar, The Bend Bar*, Raleigh.
- Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. Thursday, May 28, 6:30–8:30 p.m. – *Metal Stamping Bookmark Workshop and Book Swap*, Adventures in Bloom, Apex.
- Thursday, June 11, 7 p.m. – *Author Talk: Dolen Perkins-Valdez* (virtual), featuring *Happy Land*.



Figure 5: The annual THJHA Convention visiting Historic Bethabara Park

- The museum launched its new book program, the *Plott Hound Literary Circle*, on February 25 with the announcement of its first selection, *Happy Land* by Dolen Perkins-Valdez.
- Monday, June 15, 4–8 p.m. – *MOH Pop-Up!: State Symbols Scavenger Hunt in Downtown Cary Park*, Downtown Cary Park.

Exhibits:

*Witnesses to the Revolution*, a collections-focused exhibition developed in partnership with UNC–Chapel Hill’s Wilson Library, scheduled to open to the public on June 12 (see information above).

## Regional History Museums

### Museum of the Albemarle

Programs:

- Saturday, March 21, 5–11:30 p.m. – Spring Showdown Social.
- Saturday, April 4, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. – *Colonial Canines Bark & Blooms Festival*.
- Saturday, April 25, 10–11:30 a.m. – *History in Your Pocket: A Coin Workshop for Kids*.
- Monday, May 4, 2 p.m. – *Our State Magazine* self-guided tour.
- Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. – PBS Rootle Roadster Tour, museum parking lot, as part of the North Carolina Potato Festival.
- Wednesday, May 20, 12–1 p.m. – History for Lunch: *Quakers and the Enslaved in North Carolina*, museum auditorium.

Ongoing programs not listed above include History for Lunch and Tot Time.

### Graveyard of the Atlantic:

- Saturday, April 18, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. – Dare County A250 *Liberty, Legacy, and Lift-Off* Faire in Manteo.
- Thursday, May 8, 11 a.m. – British War Graves Memorial Ceremony Reception, sponsored by the Friends of the Museum.
- Tuesday, June 2, 11 a.m.–12 p.m. – *Salty Dawg Speaker Series: The US Life-Saving Service* with historian James Charlet.
- Friday, June 5, 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. – *Maritime Crafts for Kids*, museum education room.
- Tuesday, June 9, 11 a.m. – Salty Dawg Speaker Series: JR Shanty Co. performs sea shanties, museum education room.

Exhibits:

The A250 display *The Raid on Ocracoke* has been installed and is now on view in the lobby throughout the remainder of the year.

## NC Maritime Museum at Southport

### Programs:

- Saturday, March 28, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. – *Deep Dive Into History: Dyeing for History* (first in the series).
- Friday, April 3 – *Skipper's Crew: Budding Branches*.
- Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. – *Skipper's Crew: Little Helping Hands*.
- Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. – *Skipper's Crew: Sunlit Sea Friends* craft program, museum exhibit hall.
- Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. – *Skipper's Crew: Love You Bunches* children's program, museum.
- Tuesday, May 12 – Shannon Walker presenting a lecture on the history of the Venus flytrap to the Southport Historical Society.
- Saturday, May 23, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. – *Deep Dive into History: Coin of the Realm*, museum gallery.
- Wednesday, May 27, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. – *Anchors Aweigh: School of the 18th Century Sailor*, museum gallery.
- Saturday, June 6, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. – *Skippers Crew: Tiny Tanks*, museum exhibit hall.
- Wednesday, June 10, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. – *Anchors Aweigh: Cyphers and Codes*, museum exhibit hall.

## NC Maritime Museum at Beaufort

### Programs:

- Thursday, March 12, 12 p.m. – Maritime Heritage Lecture Series: *Wreck of Caribsea*.
- Friday, March 20, 10 a.m.–6:15 p.m. – Annual Whales and Whaling Symposium.
- Saturday, March 21, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. – Half Hull Model Class, Harvey W. Smith Watercraft Center.
- Thursday, March 26, 2–4 p.m. – *Can You Knot?* Knot-Tying Workshop, museum auditorium.
- Tuesday, March 31, 5 p.m. – *Movies Before the Mast: Young Woman and the Sea*, Museum Auditorium.
- Thursday, April 2, 2–4 p.m. – Boating Seminar, America's Boating Club, museum auditorium.
- Thursday, April 9, 12 p.m. – Maritime Heritage Lecture Series: *A General History of Mermaids*.
- Thursday, April 23, 12–1 p.m. – Maritime Heritage Lecture Series: *Beaufort's Dolphins, Getting to Know Them*.
- Thursday, April 30, 12–1 p.m. – Maritime Heritage Lecture Series: *In Irons: American Prisoners of War, 1775–1783*, museum auditorium.

- Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. – 50th Annual Wooden Boat Show, museum, Watercraft Center, and Front Street.
  - The 50th Annual Wooden Boat Show was successful despite rainy weather conditions on May 2. Approximately 1,200 people attended, and 19 wooden boats were showcased.
- Thursday, May 14, 12 p.m. – Maritime Heritage Lecture Series: *Does Mother Know Best? Matrilineal Influences on Whale Social Dynamics*, museum auditorium and Zoom.
- Thursday, May 21, 12 p.m. – Maritime Heritage Lecture Series: *Sea Turtles in North Carolina*, museum auditorium.
- Thursday, May 28, 12 p.m. – Maritime Heritage Lecture: *Civil Air Patrol During World War II*, museum auditorium.
- Thursday, June 11, 12 p.m. – Maritime Heritage Lecture: *Museum’s Most Wanted: Identifying and Dealing with Museum Pests*, museum auditorium.

Ongoing programs not listed above include Intro to Woodworking, Bonehenge tours, saltmarsh kayak tours, Hiking and History on Shackleford Banks, Exploration of the Rachel Carlson Reserve, and Kids’ Cove.

Exhibits:

- Work is underway on two new exhibits:
  - Recreational Fishing exhibit exploring fishing in North Carolina,
  - A temporary exhibit on the history of the Annual Wooden Boat Show (this year marks the 50th anniversary, scheduled for May 2).

Mountain Gateway Museum

Programs:

- Saturday, March 14, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. – Jesse Bricker and Carly Collins serving as judges for the National History Day Western Regional Contest at Blue Ridge Community College in Hendersonville.
- Jesse Bricker presented a “Great Wagon Road” program to 850 registered students on Friday, April 17, at the NC Transportation Museum.
- Saturday, April 18 – “Great Wagon Road,” historic currency, and North Carolina maps programs at the NC Transportation Museum’s annual Tractors & Trains event.

Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex

Programs:

- Wednesday, May 13, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. – Volunteer Open House, complex grounds.

Exhibits:

- The *Steeped in Time: Tea Culture* exhibit opens in the rotational gallery on April 1.
- The temporary traveling exhibit *When Are We US?* opened June 5. The final date for the exhibit is June 12.

### Tobacco Farm Life Museum:

#### **Programs:**

- Saturday, March 21 – *Sewing Saturday*, a program allowing visitors to explore the museum’s textile collections and participate in a hands-on lesson on early twentieth-century textile history.
- Saturday, April 11 – Staff hosting hands-on activities at the Classic Antique Power’s 17th Annual Farm Heritage Days in Benson.
  - Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. – *Explore Your Own Backyard* spring event with community partners including the North Carolina Bluebird Society and the Wilson County Beekeepers. Staff and visitors planted an herb garden and refreshed garden beds through support from a grant from the NC Herb Society

#### Exhibits:

- Saturday, March 21–Saturday, May 2 – Traveling exhibit *Saving Our Wildflowers* from the North Carolina Botanical Garden.
- The traveling exhibit *Navigating Jim Crow: The Green Book and Oasis Spaces in NC* from the African American Heritage Commission opened Saturday, May 9, and will remain on display through Friday, July 31.