

North Carolina Historical Commission Report-September 19, 2023
Division of Archives and Records

On behalf of the staff of the Division of Archives and Records, it is my pleasure to provide updates on some ongoing projects and division outreach since the June 21 meeting. As we work through filling vacant positions, division staffing levels are slowly returning to normal. Since the June meeting we welcomed two new records analysts, Alice Shahan and Natalie Walker, as well as a new archivist at the Outer Banks History Center (OBHC). Katherine Daughtery replaced Tama Creef, who retired at the end of April. We were pleased to offer a promotion to Lucy Barsness from conservation technician to conservator position. Colin Reeve was promoted to the vacant private manuscripts archivist position. Caroline Waller of the Records Description Unit in the Government Records Section was promoted from an archivist I to an archivist II within the unit. Lori Townsend joined the division as the new America250 research historian, a position that was created in the previous fiscal year. Debbie Soultatos retired from the Imaging Unit after over 39 years with the agency.

Throughout the summer progress was made on multiple, large division projects. The Digital Access Branch finished the transfer of digital collections from CONTENTdm to Quartex, the new content management platform. The move took 5 months and 3,800 hours of staff time to prepare and transfer 48 collections that included over 694,000 images and almost 1,500 audiovisual files. The new platform has features that will increase efficiency in developing digital collections and increase accessibility for patrons. Staff also resumed several digitization projects including the Cohabitation Collection, which will provide online access to county cohabitation records, African American genealogical records that were previously only available to access in person either in the State Archives' search room or in individual counties.

In addition to the digital collections migration, the Digital Services Section is working with agency information technology staff, the NC Department of Information Technology (DIT), and the State Library to migrate the shared storage drives of the State Library and State Archives. The server currently holding these drives is out of warranty. The move will allow to the Archives and Library to take advantage of DIT's hybrid storage option, meaning active documents will be hosted locally while rarely accessed materials will be held in cloud storage. Ten drives will be part of the move, including the preservation drive of the digital repository that holds the Archives' digitized and born-digital materials. A total of 104 TB of materials will be included in the move. Now that the section is fully staffed, they also began working with the backlog of materials to be hosted in the digital repository. All digital files must be held in quarantine and checked for viruses before ingestion into the digital repository. These steps were paused for ingest of incoming digital collection when the electronic records archivist position was vacant.

Staff, interns, and State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) members provided onsite Traveling Archivist Program consultations to several program participants this summer, including the Historic Turner House, Louisburg College Library, Dunn Area History Museum, and the Cape Fear Community College library. The program also funded onsite consultations for Southwestern Community College in Sylva and Fayetteville Tech Community College. In other

SHRAB project work, staff and a summer intern drafted 8 exhibit panels for the America250 thematic framework, “When Are We US?” They are currently working with a contract graphic designer to produce files in both print-on-demand and traveling formats to share as a resource for America250 programming. Another SHRAB grant funded project was the creation of oral history recording equipment loaner kits. They have been assembled and placed in Raleigh, Asheville, and New Bern. Oral history staff produced instructional guides for the kits, and the first loan is underway at the Cabarrus Historical Society.

Special Collections Section staff worked on several on-going preservation and processing projects this summer. At the OBHC archivist, Stuart Parks, completed a year-long inventorying and rehousing project for the Roger Meekins Photographs. Lead archivist, Tammy Woodward, completed the processing of the Albert Quentin Bell Papers, which include design and build plans for the original *Lost Colony* theater. The OBHC summer intern completed processing of the large Charles D. Evans Paper that includes maps and architectural drawings. The audiovisual unit staff continued their work to identify and rehouse deteriorating negatives in the *News & Observer* collections. Work also continued on the major reboxing and description project for our oldest private collections. Recent section collection acquisition highlights include three new oral histories from NC military veterans, four World War II and one Desert Storm collection, oral histories from the COVID-19 Government Employee oral history project and interviews done with the NC American Indian Heritage Commission, student transcripts from Carolia Career College, an addition to the Stanley Riggs Collection (OBHC), and the Charles Blanchard Papers (Raleigh). The Riggs Collection includes papers from a marine geologist, and the Blanchard Papers include account books, photographs, and publicity materials for the T.C. Blanchard store in Hertford, as well as letters sent by Blanchard while serving in the Navy during World War II. The Western Regional Archives acquired its first LGBTQ related donation with the Alternative Reading Room Collection. The donation is described in this blog [post](#).

Over the fiscal year 2022-2023, online engagement through social media (Facebook, X [formerly Twitter], Instagram, & Wordpress) increased, particularly on Facebook. Popular series highlighting records at the State Archives included a 12 Days of Christmas postcards series in December, a behind-the-scenes spotlight on inventory in January, a behind-the-scenes video series on the Imaging Unit in May, a Summer Fun series highlighting historic photographs of North Carolinians enjoying North Carolina’s natural resources that has run from May-August this summer, and a monthly “Archives Test Kitchen” blog post. Efforts continue to be made to connect the collections of the State Archives with nationally celebrated events and cultural heritage months, including Black History Month, Women’s History Month, and Pride Month, through the means of social media. This past year, a shift in focus from solely creating new material to using and generating “evergreen” content helped to save staff time while maximizing the impact of already completed work. Additionally, the Digital Archivist for Online Programming, Lauren McCoy, has reorganized the division’s Social Media and Outreach Committee. The group includes archivists working on multiple outreach and engagement efforts, including the search room display case, podcast series, virtual and in-person programs, and the A250 programs, allowing them to coordinate content and plan themes for our online resources.

The staff had a little summer fun on social media tying a popular movie to our work. On July 20, the day before the Barbie movie was released, a staff member brought a Barbie doll outfitted with a miniature fibredex box and miniature records to the Digital Archivist for Online Programming. This fun activity played right into the focus of internet culture during the week of the *Barbie* movie release. A thread on X (formerly Twitter) introduced “This Archivist is a Barbie” and then followed “Archivist Barbie” around the State Archives, showing viewers our search room, telling them about our offerings, and showcasing the daily work at the State Archives, such as processing collections and viewing audiovisual materials. Two similar posts were posted to Facebook, the first introducing “Archivist Barbie” and the second providing the same photos and information taking viewers on a virtual tour through the eyes of Barbie. On X, the initial tweet of “This Archivist is a Barbie” received the most attention, while on Facebook, it was the images of Barbie imitating the activities of an archivist. Between the two platforms, the posts garnered 580,906 impressions and 38,732 engagements. With the return of another season of the *Outlander* television series, Alison Thurman and Josh Hager resumed blog posts about the world and records of *Outlander*. The posts feature records related to topics in the season of the television show, including the last royal governor of NC, the Independence Hurricane of 1775, committees of safety records, early state newspapers, and the county apprentice records.



The State Archives of North Carolina’s podcast, *Connecting the Docs*, is in the midst of production on the fourth season and will begin releasing episodes in mid-September. The podcast team also had their first dedicated intern who helped with research, development, and other creative tasks. This season will include three distinct themes within the Archives along with a few standalone episodes. The three series include stories of resiliency in the face of natural disasters as recorded in the Archives. The second series looks at a 2023 departmental initiative, the Year of the Trail. The third series examines unexpected stories within the Archives. This series tells the story of a woman writing to a Revolutionary War general begging him to take her daughter after she, the mother, dies. It also has an episode showcasing the work our interns have done with describing efforts at manumission in the General Assembly records and interactions with the enslaved people who built the Capital building in the Treasurer’s and Comptroller’s papers. In addition to these series, the podcast will also explore special single episodes like the tale of Slowpoke the pardoned possum and a crowd-sourced episode answering frequently asked questions that we encounter in the Archives.

The Town of Nags Head will hold a premier of the Ash Wednesday Storm in Nags Head documentary on Thursday, September 14, at 2:30pm on the second floor of Jennette's Pier in Nags Head. After the 30-minute video telling the story of the devastating 1962 Nor'easter airs, there will be a short question and answer session with living witnesses and weather experts about the storm. Much of the documentary's imagery, oral histories, and video footage were provided by the Outer Banks History Center, and a local company called Rayolight Productions

produced the film. The event is sponsored by the Town of Nags Head, Dare County CurrentTV, and the Outer Banks History Center. CurrentTV will videotape the event. The Friends of the OBHC will provide light refreshments.

In early August, three staff attended the *Amplifying Native Voices in North Carolina History Summer Teacher Institute* held by the Museum of the Southeast American Indian; the University of North Carolina at Pembroke; the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and [InHerit, the Alliance for Heritage Conservation](#). The purpose of the Institute is to provide North Carolina teachers with subject material, curriculum, and pedagogy to incorporate an accurate and representative history of the indigenous peoples of North Carolina into their social studies and other K – 12 education curriculums. Ruth Cody presented to 30 K – 12 teachers from across North Carolina as well as subject experts in history and education. The presentation covered several topics including how to find indigenous records in the online digital collections, the difficulty with searching for these materials and the steps the State Archives is taking to remedy this such as adding more description, using proper terminology in metadata, and potentially developing collections specific to American Indians in NC. While there, staff met with the Special Collections and University Archivist, Jennifer Randall, who is also doing similar work at UNC Pembroke. They also attended content driven presentations from subject experts on precontact, colonization and the Indian slave trade. They met with Keven Melvin, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Lumbee and received a tour of the Lumber Cultural Center. The State Archives is in conversations to collaborate with the Institute to provide primary source teacher packets of records pertaining to North Carolina’s indigenous history.

Another summer outreach effort that included multiple staff members was the second annual conference of the North Carolina Community College Archives Association held at Randolph Community College on August 4. Division staff presented content on oral history project best practices, the America250 commemoration planning, the Traveling Archivist Program, and the state records retention schedule for community colleges. August 28 the division hosted the annual Cultural Resources Emergency Support Team (CREST) summit. Sessions this year include steps for prioritizing collections for salvage and recovery techniques for textiles. The CREST team is composed of 34 DNCR collections experts and 11 from partner institutions in the Asheville, Charlotte, Triangle, and Wilmington areas.

One of the programs developed by the division over the last 8 years is the “One Day Wonder” exhibits. These special exhibits feature original collection material from Archives on display at a host institution for one day. Archivists accompany the exhibit and provide additional resources for patrons to explore as they learn a little more about the Archives and its collections. The division is in the planning stages for a few of these that will be related to the America250 commemoration. We expect those to be available for cultural heritage groups to request within the next year to 18 months. In the meantime, we will be previewing one exhibit content this year for the Samuel Johnston chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution in the Triangle area. In conjunction with annual Constitution Day, we will have some of our state constitutional materials from the vault collection on display at the [Page-Walker Arts and History Center](#) in Cary on September 22 from 10 am-6 pm.

During the summer the Friends of the Archives sponsored a paid internship that was awarded to Hannah Nicholson, student at the School of Information and Library Science at UNC Chapel Hill. Hannah's internship focused on contributing to the State Archives' efforts to highlight collections in conjunction with the upcoming America250 commemoration. Specifically, she worked on increasing description for the General Assembly Session Records from the 1776-1789 period by creating a LibGuide that highlights each document that includes mentions of underrepresented groups, with sections on women, enslaved persons, free persons of color, American Indians, and religious minority communities in NC. The LibGuide provides researchers with a strong foundation from which to conduct research in the General Assembly Session Records from the period. Nicholson included detailed content notes, guides to conducting research in this collection, as well as historical context notes. For example, she included the legal definitions of commonly encountered terms in the records, as well as a description of the process by which persons could submit petitions to the General Assembly. The main body of the guide includes tables listing specific records within the collection, historiographical information on the guide categories, as well as citations for each document listed. The Records Description Unit is working on the final edits to the guide prior to online publication of it. Watch our History for All the People blog and our podcast for more information from Nicholson on her research and the guide.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah E. Koonts, State Archivist

**Report of Division of Historical Resources
To the North Carolina Historical Commission
For its September 19, 2023 meeting**

**Ramona M. Bartos, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
August 18, 2023**

Division in general

Statewide Preservation Plan. We continue our planning activities for our next 10-year statewide preservation plan and released our statewide survey in early August. We would strongly encourage each of you individually to provide your feedback through this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MW22JMQ>

To learn more about the statewide preservation plan, here are some links:

Current preservation plan: <https://www.hpo.nc.gov/northcarolina2013-2022historicpreservationplanpdf/download?attachment=>

National Park Service requirements for a statewide preservation plan: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservationfund/statewide-historic-preservation-plans-basic-requirements-overview.htm>

We look forward to hearing from you -- our next step will be public listening sessions with constituents to further develop the new plan based on these survey responses. Additionally, we have secured a speakers' slot at the statewide Preservation North Carolina annual conference in Durham in October to facilitate an overview of the survey's results and to solicit feedback in a listening session format.

DSHPO Ramona Bartos and Local Government Coordinator Kristi Brantley are our leads for this project.

Staff news.

- **Office of State Archaeology promotion to Deputy State Archaeologist.** Dr. Dylan Clark was promoted from his regional Assistant State Archaeologist position for western North Carolina to our new **Deputy State Archaeologist for Land**, following the resignation of Lindsay Ferrante earlier this year. Dr. Clark received a BA in Anthropology and Spanish from Western Michigan University, an MA in Latin American Studies from Tulane University, and a PhD in Anthropology from Harvard University. His dissertation research explored the social organization and history of a Maya coastal port community through household archaeology at the island site of Isla Cerritos in Yucatan, Mexico. In addition to Mesoamerican archaeology, his research has focused on public and collaborative

archaeology, historical archaeology in the US, museum studies, and heritage studies. Prior to joining the OSA, he served as program director for *InHerit: Indigenous Heritage Passed to Present*, a non-profit program in the Research Laboratories of Archaeology at UNC-Chapel Hill. He also taught courses in archaeology, cultural anthropology, and global history at UNC-Asheville, Brevard College, and Harvard University. In 2017, he was a George Stuart Residential Scholar at Boundary End Archaeology Research Center in Barnardsville, NC. He serves on the leadership team for the Heritage Values Interest Group of the Society for American Archaeology.

As in his prior OSA role, he will continue to work closely with multiple Native American nations in the discharge of our Section 106 duties as well as State Parks, oversee environmental review and technical assistance for the 23 most westernmost counties, assist with public outreach and education, and supervise our cohort of terrestrial archaeologists.

- **New Restoration Services Branch team member.** On August 1, we welcomed **Meghan Sullivan** to the Restoration Services Branch of the State Historic Preservation Office. She will be serving as a **Restoration Specialist responsible for coordination of the Non-income Tax Credit Program, more commonly referred to as “The Homeowner Tax Credits”**. In addition, she will also have county assignments as our restoration specialist in the field – exact counties to be finalized in a **newly created western Piedmont service territory** to meet constituent demand. For the past four years she has been serving as an Architectural Historian with Section 106 responsibilities with RK&K, an east coast planning, engineering, environmental, and construction services firm in their Fairfax VA office. Prior to that role, she spent three years with the National Trust for Historic Preservation as an assistant editor, writing and editing stories for *Preservation Magazine* and SavingPlaces.org, where she says she was the only trained preservationist on the editorial team. In addition to previously working as a museum interpreter at the Aiken-Rhett house museum in Charleston, in her spare time in Virginia she volunteered as a museum interpreter at the Lee-Fendell House and Gardens in Alexandria and served on the Board of Directors of that museum. Ms. Sullivan received a Master’s in Historic Preservation from the Clemson School of Architecture’s Charleston, SC-based preservation program and a Bachelor’s in History and Art History from Elon University– her Tarheel connection. She is a successor to long-time HPO preservation architect David Christenbury, who retired during the COVID pandemic.
- **John Wood’s retirement.** At the beginning of September, we will say goodbye to our long-term, valued colleague **Eastern Office Supervisor John Wood, who is retiring after 25 years with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office**, including roles as a dual National Register/Survey and Restoration Specialist, working in both our designation and incentive programs in eastern North Carolina. He has an enviably laudable track record of preservation assistance to a wide variety of constituents – from individual owners of historic properties to local governments to state and federal agencies, including stewardship of some of our most iconic North Carolina places like the Cape Lookout lighthouse and New Bern. He is relocating to his home state of Pennsylvania to join the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office in a management role overseeing their incentive programs,

including local government assistance, tax credits, and even their highway marker program. Our loss is most certainly Pennsylvania's gain.

Staff needs. In our last report, we gave the report below (*in italics*); the observations made then still hold, and need for additional staff resources to maintain our service levels to constituents remain. At the time this report was prepared, we do not yet have a FY 2023-24 state budget and eagerly await it. At a time when around **1000 individuals move to North Carolina daily**¹, we recognize the need to keep pace with constituent demand and the widespread development that our state is experiencing.

During our annual performance review meetings these last couple of weeks, multiple colleagues reported that they find it increasingly difficult to take vacation or time away for the office because of the workloads we are experiencing. Many report they often feel somewhat overwhelmed but deliver quality work in a timely manner, and remain dedicated, passionate, and indeed self-sacrificing public servants.

Through the biennial budget preparation process, we made a pitch for state funding for 4 new full-time positions in various sections of our division, acknowledging high constituent demand and need for additional professional and support staff. These "asks" were incorporated into the Governor's Budget, including an Environmental Review Specialist for Section 106 cases, a National Register reviewer, a Cemetery Program assistant, and a full-time NAGPRA specialist, but only one position (environmental review specialist) made it into the House budget, and none in the Senate budget. We eagerly await news of the final state budget.

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. (The National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers is launching a workforce study committee to identify the challenges and success for recruitment and retention of qualified cultural resource professionals on a national basis; this issue is also of concern to other national professional organizations.)

As in my last several reports, I would like to acknowledge for special recognition and sincere thanks the hard work of multiple staff members who have straddled multiple positions because of promotions and vacancies and done excellent work under demanding circumstances – their dedication to public service is bar none.

National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers. The National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers recently created **two new working groups to examine issues**

¹ "Nearly 366,000 individuals moved to North Carolina in 2021, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS)." Source: *Carolina Demography* (<https://carolinademography.cpc.unc.edu/2023/02/08/where-are-north-carolinas-newest-residents-moving-from-2/>)

around the **Secretary of the Interior's Treatment Standards** (used broadly for stewardship of historic properties, the historic tax credit program, and preservation grants) **and the current state of the Preservation Workforce**. We anticipate a white paper / report for each topic with recommendations representing the views of all 59 SHPOs nationally within the next 18 months; DSHPO Ramona Bartos is currently serving in her second term as national board president.

North Carolina will be hosting the **fall board meeting** of this organization in the **Winston-Salem area** in late October.

State Parks collaboration. With the leadership of Deputy Secretaries Jeff Michael (Parks and Natural assets) and Dr. Waters, we have engaged as a Division with the Division of State Parks to discuss how we can together foster even greater cooperation and collaboration, especially for archaeological and historic preservation activities. Over the years, we have engaged in a number of consultations and mutual aid activities, including reviewing plans for amenities for ground disturbance and restoration plans for historic buildings (such as the Rockefeller home at Carver Creek and Vade Mecum at Hanging Rock), and providing historical research support. We are keen to help them introduce additional best practices, including even earlier consultations for long-term plans, especially newly acquired properties. We believe that an opportunity to pilot these concepts, including archaeological and architectural surveys and National Register nominations, exists with the latest Park unit under development at Pisgah Ranch in western Buncombe County. More to come in future reports.

State Historic Preservation Office (HPO)

New Certified Local Government Grants. We recently completed our selection of our FY 2023 federal Certified Local Government grants with Dr. Waters’ approval of the following grants, totaling **\$132,200**, or about 10% of our office’s federal Historic Preservation Fund funding:

Certified Local Government	Project	Grant award
Burlington	Burlington Historic Preservation Learning Series	\$10,000
Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission/City of Winston-Salem	Bethabara Gemeinhas Bell Tower Architectural and Engineering Restoration Drawings	\$27,000
Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission/City of Winston-Salem	Forsyth County Architectural Survey Manuscript Phase II	\$29,900
Gaston County HPC	Hoyle Historic Homestead Roof Repair	\$6,500
City of Statesville	Garfield Green Street National Register Nomination	\$29,000
Town of Wake Forest	Wake Forest Preservation Workshops	\$4,000
City of Elizabeth City	The Old Oak Grove Cemetery National Register Nomination	\$25,000

Of note are the National Register nomination for Elizabeth City’s Old Oak Grove Cemetery, for which we provided CLG funding previously for a ground penetrating radar project to map

unmarked graves in this African American cemetery, and the Statesville project to nominate the African American Garfield / Green Street neighborhood to the National Register.

Architectural Survey activity. Hurricane funded architectural survey projects continue in multiple counties, including Cumberland, Hoke, McDowell, Montgomery, Person, Polk, and Vance. **Overall, we have 20 active survey projects** – perhaps a record for our office; we provided a list at the June meeting. Kudos to Statewide Architectural Survey Coordinator Beth King for leadership of her team and organizational skills.

State Historic Preservation Office training held since last NCHC meeting. Training continues in multiple regions for our local preservation commissions, including:

- Waxhaws (a new Certified Local Government), which both Mecklenburg County and Monroe attended;
- McDowell County (newly established commission); and
- Black Mountain.

We also consulted with the Town of Hot Springs regarding their interest in establishing a local preservation commission.

Upcoming training will be held in “Little” Washington and Mount Airy prior to September 30, the end of the federal fiscal year.

Electronic submissions for federal historic tax credit projects. The National Park Service is initiating this summer an electronic-only submission system for federal historic tax credit projects; our Restoration Services branch is working hard to get our constituents prepared and have taken steps with our IT colleagues to facilitate this change for us.

Updated HPO website. We would like to thank Kaytee Smith of our agency marketing team along with multiple Department of Internet Technology colleagues for aiding us in a much-needed update of our HPO website (now at <https://www.hpo.nc.gov/>), designed to be more constituent-friendly and -helpful.

Historical Research Office

100th Anniversary of the North Carolina Historical Review. We will hold a 100th Anniversary celebration of the North Carolina Historical Review at the Executive Mansion the afternoon of September 20th. Our Review editor Kathryn McKee has extended invitations to you all, and we hope you can join us.

Road to Freedom Project. The Historical Research Office as well as the African American Heritage Commission are consulting with the American Battlefield Trust on their Road to

Freedom project. Our feedback will include suggestions for sites and stories within North Carolina.

The **Road to Freedom** is a digital and physical history initiative supporting education and heritage tourism centered on historic sites located throughout North Carolina that tell little-known histories of African American contributions and agency in the cause of freedom during the broadly defined Civil War-era (1830-1890). It is our understanding that a state legislative directed grant was provided to the American Battlefield Trust for this project.

A Virginia project has already been completed, and is a model for this effort in North Carolina. More information here:

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/road-freedom>

Children's Books / Update projects. We also have under contract four new children's books for America 250, focusing on the **Edenton Tea Party**, **Harlow Patriots**, **Overmountain Men**, and the **red wolf** (and other extinct animals from the colonial period), as well as an illustrated biography geared towards Grades 3 to 5 about **environmental activist Carolista Baum**, recognized by many as the savior of Jockey's Ridge dune system in northeastern North Carolina (now a state park). We have likewise under contract an update of the perennial text *African Americans in NC*.

Mosaic – Digital Documentary Projects. Our dedicated historical editors Jessica Bandel (Governor's Papers) and Katie Hatton (Colonial Records) continue to build out our offerings on NC Mosaic (available here: <http://mosaicnc.org/>). Their work to finalize our project on **Royal Governor Dobbs** is particularly notable as is a deep dive into the strange but true story of the **Gourd Patch Affair, or the Lewellen Conspiracy, was a failed uprising against North Carolina's Patriot government in the summer of 1777** (<http://mosaicnc.org/exhibit/Gourd-Patch>).

Office of State Archaeology (OSA)

NAGRPA consultation. We recently completed a NAGPRA consultation for Cherokee ancestors, who were repatriated to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Our people-first work continues in collaboration with multiple Nations and remains a priority for all of us.

Tuscarora Nation delegation visit. We recently hosted in mid-August a delegation from the Tuscarora Nation of New York, who wished to renew their connections with us and to view one of the collections housed at the Office of State Archaeology Research Center here in Raleigh, namely, the donated Pate Collection, which was collected from the site of Fort Neoheroka in present-day Greene County. More about Fort Neoheroka here: <https://ancientnc.web.unc.edu/indian-heritage/by-region/northern-coastal-plain/neoheroka-fort/> and <https://www.ncpedia.org/nooherooka-tuscarora-war>.

Historic Cemetery Program. This program continues to go from strength to strength, and we now have approximately 16,000 cemeteries identified and mapped in North Carolina, 5000 are

newly mapped this year; in the last fiscal year, Cemetery Specialist Melissa Timo fielded 2600 inquiries, representing a 12% rise in constituent demand for the program. We also experienced a 300% increase in virtual meetings with descendant groups, and we continue to seek information about all cemeteries, but particularly those that are unmarked or partially unmarked.

Section 106 work. State Archaeologist John Mintz continues to report overly robust submissions of increasingly complex and large-scale infrastructure and development projects requiring OSA's and HPO's review, including solar fields, industrial developments, residential subdivisions, and several highway projects, including the A-9 corridor in the far west that is deep within the Cherokee homeland, and the Kinston Bypass, which impacts the National Register-listed Civil War Wyse Fork Battlefield. We continue in our mission to work conscientiously to protect or minimize effects on a wide variety of historic places that represent 15,000 years of human history while North Carolina continues to develop modern energy infrastructure, industrial investment, homes, and transportation improvements.

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

North Carolina Historical Commission Report August 2023

North Carolina Museum of History

The Museum continues to serve the public in person, through outreach and virtually.

Onsite visitation from April through July totaled 128,664.

Group visitation from April through July totaled 21,511.

Virtual programming participants from April through July totaled 52,740.

Exhibits:

The Power of Women in Country Music exhibition closed on April 2 with a concert and closing celebrations after a stellar run! From international superstars, including Emmylou Harris, Dolly Parton, Rosanne Cash, Shania Twain, and Taylor Swift, to contemporary North Carolina artists, such as Rhiannon Giddens, Rissi Palmer, and Kasey Tyndall, *The Power of Women in Country Music*, came to the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh from the GRAMMY Museum® in Los Angeles, highlighting the past, present, and future of country music's greatest female trailblazers. The exhibition opened Friday, October 28, 2022, and ran through Sunday, April 2, 2023. This empowering exhibition was amplified with a Southern Songbirds concert series (3 which ran on PBS NC), author series, family events and activities, and much more. The accompanying Southern Songbird Series welcomed 5 full houses of concerts with such North Carolina legends as Jim Lauderdale, Rissi Palmer, and Tift Merritt. Over 10,500 visited the exhibition. Many thanks to our sponsors, especially NCDCCR. Our marketing sponsors were WQDR, PBS NC, *Walter Magazine*, and *Raleigh Magazine*, who offered over \$176,000 in in-kind marketing support. The promotional digital reach spanned 36 countries and reached over 700,000 on social media. The exhibition earned 91 media placements with a \$10.5 million advertising equivalency.

Public Programs:

Environmental justice weighs heavily in our history and current public discourse. On Thursday, April 20, the North Carolina Museum of History hosted a Community Class presentation examining environmental justice in North Carolina. A panel of distinguished speakers reflected upon North Carolina's role in the origins of the environmental justice movement that began with the 1982 PCB protests in Warren County and on the ongoing efforts to nationally address these issues. We heard distinguished panelists, including Michael Regan, 16th administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency; Dr. Ben Chavis; the Honorable Eva Clayton, former congresswoman; the Reverend Bill Kearney; and Vernice Miller-Travis discuss the topic. A 15-minute press Q&A followed the panel discussion. A reception for all guests was held following the presentation. Over 200 people attended the program in person and over 170 people watched the program on live stream. The event was live-streamed and can be found on the museum YouTube channel.

In June, the museum hosted an array of exciting programs and events, both in-person and virtual! On June 14, we were honored to host Dr. Spencer R. Crew as he shared Juneteenth's significance and historical legacy. More than 260 people registered for this program. Secretary Reid Wilson kicked off the evening and welcomed Governor Cooper, Dr. Crew, and the audience. Governor Cooper gave an address and signed a proclamation declaring June 19 as Juneteenth in North Carolina. We rounded out the Juneteenth commemoration on Friday, June 16, with a lobby program honoring the United States Colored Troops. The program presented visitors an opportunity to discover the legacy of the USCT in the struggle for freedom and citizenship during the Civil War from the Battery B Second Regiment USCT Light Artillery Reenactors.

We kicked off the summer early with a Family Fun Fest on June 3. About 900 visitors came in during this drop-in program highlighting NC History from A to Z. Participants celebrated C for craft with American Indian artists Karen Lynch Harley and Phillip Harley and M for music with the teenage bluegrass duo Parker and Duncan. With a variety of hand on crafts and information tables showcasing a variety of DNCR sites and initiatives, there was something for everyone. WRAL covered this story with a Chrystal Regan interview on June third.

On Saturday, June 10, the museum's auditorium was packed during a spectacular evening of incredible jazz music, performed by the award-winning trumpet player, composer, recording artist, and educator Al Strong. The concert was the perfect way to celebrate African American Music Appreciation Month.

Hands-on History: Cornhusk Critters program was offered for two July weekends, July 1, and July 15. The programs were enjoyed by children and adults. The second offering of the Cornhusk Critters program also featured Pamela and Heather Earp as Artists at Work. Pamela and Heather demonstrated their cornhusk doll skills and gave a tour of the *History of the Harvest* museum garden.

The Summer Passport program continues for children and families. June 1 - August 31, 2023
Take a trip this summer with your North Carolina Museums! Art + History + Science! Explore and connect with family-friendly activities. Complete each museum's Passport activity, and get your Passport stamped. Voyage to all three museums to earn a North Carolina Traveler patch!

History and Highballs:

- Speaker: Caroline Morrison, Chef and Owner of Fiction Kitchen. We commemorated Pride Month with this special program with Fiction Kitchen owner Chef Caroline Morrison. She talked about the challenges she has faced as a female-vegetarian-queer chef throughout her career.
- All-American Ruins: Reawakening the Healing Power of Imagination in Abandoned Spaces. Thursday, July 20. Multidisciplinary artist Blake Pfeil shared his experiences exploring abandoned spaces across the United States and the healing power of imagination with 55 attendees.
- All-American Ruins: Reawakening the Healing Power of Imagination in Abandoned Spaces. Thursday, July 20. Multidisciplinary artist Blake Pfeil shared his experiences exploring abandoned spaces across the United States and the healing power of imagination with 55 attendees.

History at High Noon: The Battle of Moore's Creek. Wednesday, July 19. July's History at High Noon featured Robert M. (Bert) Dunkerly. Dunkerly is a historian, award-winning author, and speaker who is actively involved in historic preservation and research. Dunkerly spoke regarding the Battle of Moore's Creek and its significance to the American Revolution and NC history. 178 viewers participated in this virtual program.

K-12 Education:

For the FY 22-23, Beyond the Exhibits (BTE) programs and resources had 419,722 participants in 95 counties. During that Fiscal Year, BTE held three *LIVE!* streaming events, produced two Cultural Education Days, created eight Carolina Cover-to-Cover story guides, and launched a new History-In-a-Box kit, *Tumultuous Times: Antebellum to Reconstruction in North Carolina*, among other activities.

On August 17, 2023, we launched programming for the new school year and continue working on materials for the *It's Revolutionary!* project for the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

2023 THJHA Annual Convention was held on Friday, April 28. The museum welcomed 146 students and 56 chaperones from 22 clubs across the state in 14 counties. We also had clubs joining us for the first workshop and the Awards Ceremony through our live stream. At the event junior historians participated in engaging history-based workshops related to the themes from this school year's *Tar Heel Junior Historian* magazines, both the fall 2022 issue, Music in NC, and the spring 2023 issue, Legacies of Reconstruction. At the afternoon Awards Ceremony, we celebrated the work of the junior historians who submitted 142 entries to our Annual Contests this year. Winning projects will be displayed in our THJHA Discovery Gallery *History in Every Direction*.

Volunteers:

Museum docents had their last meeting of the fiscal year this month. In June, 34 docents gave 335.5 hours and served approximately 1400 visitors. We will celebrate and recognize the commitment of our docent corps and their hours of volunteer service at our July Docent Appreciation event. Interviews are underway to select new volunteers who will make up the next docent training class that starts in the fall.

Publications:

The museum produced, edited, and designed one of the largest issues of *Tar Heel Junior Historian* magazine in collaboration with the Behind the Exhibits team. The fall 2023 issue is themed *It's Revolutionary!* Prelude to War and covers Revolutionary history from the mid-1760s to 1776. It will be followed by a second companion issue that continues the story through the war. These issues are fully grant funded and align with the forthcoming America250 commemoration.

The spring/summer 2023 issue of *Circa*—was produced, edited, and designed by our team—announced the purchase of two caftans worn by Andre Leon Talley, a fashion icon who grew up in Durham. One of these pieces will be on display in the Collecting Carolina gallery this winter.

Media Report for NC Museum of History + NC Sports Hall of Fame

Combined total reach: 1,087,771,232.

MOH Reach: 727,372,175 over 212 articles

SHOF Reach: 360,399,057 over 95

Media Analytics: April 24 – July 1

Facebook – 1,187,211 impressions

Twitter/X – 146,297 impressions

Instagram – 284,073 impressions

Website page views: April – 56,820; May – 50,129; June – 54,004

North Carolina REGIONAL HISTORY MUSEUMS

Mountain Gateway Museum

The Mountain Gateway Museum (MGM) in Old Fort celebrated its 37th Annual Pioneer Day on Saturday, April 29, attracting 62 vendors and an estimated 2,800 visitors. Earlier in the month, rangers from Lake Jakes State Park conducted a water-quality program at MGM with fifth graders from Old Fort Elementary School as part of Earth Day. Museum staff also hosted fourth-grade students from Black Mountain Elementary School (Buncombe County), gave a presentation to the Sons of the American Revolution (S.A.R.) in Morganton (Burke County), assisted the Western Regional Office in Oteen with a

traveling exhibit, and participated in the NC Transportation Museum's "Tractors and Trains" event (Rowan County).

During June, the Mountain Gateway Museum (MGM) participated in Old Fort's new Trails & Trains Festival as part of the state's "Year of the Trail" initiative. About 150 people filled the museum's amphitheater for two kindergarten graduation programs, and another 60 individuals attended the "Family Fun Day" conducted by the Old Fort Community Forum in MGM's field. Museum staff installed the "coastal NC" portion of MOH's traveling exhibit, "Are We There Yet?", which will run through Labor Day; hosted two large school group tours; painted two outdoor sheds; and deaccessioned several artifacts in the process of cleaning and reorganizing its main artifact storage area.

Hundreds of cyclists gathered at the Mountain Gateway Museum (MGM) in July for Blue Ridge Adventures' annual mountain bike races: the Off-Road Assault on Mount Mitchell (ORAMM) and the Jerdon Mountain Challenge. The museum's grounds serve as the start-finish line for both races, which attract riders from around the world.

During July, MGM also hosted its annual 4th of July Ice Cream Social. The event featured the Possum Creek Band playing on the Museum's porch.

MGM welcomed the drama provided by the McDowell Arts Council Association's "Dream On" theater group in its two performances of a one-act play about early settlers' experiences. The play was part of the Town of Old Fort's ongoing 150th-anniversary celebration.

Museum of the Albemarle

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: "The Roanoke River Lights: Beacons to a Century of History", and "Air Quality Relating to Water Quality Through Purple Air Sensors".
- Exhibit opening: Nell Crosey: 120 Years of Mystery
- Outreach Through Social and Traditional Media with weekly article submitted to *The Daily Advance* for publication each Sunday.
- Three hybrid (both in-person and virtual) History for Lunches: "The First Republicans and the 1868 NC Constitution", "Across the Field: Inspirational Images of Warren Grove Missionary Baptist Church", and "Beekeepers of the Albemarle".
- Junior Docent Workshop and Summer Fun Day: Day on the River.
- Opening of small case display in recent acquisition case: Albemarle Profile: Dorothy A. Bellamy, USAR. highlighting the military life of Perquimans County resident Dorothy Bellamy. Bellamy served as a medic in the United States Army Reserves from 1974 until her retirement in 1988.
- Outreach Through Social and Traditional Media with weekly articles submitted to *The Daily Advance* for publication each Sunday.
- Two hybrid (both in-person and virtual) History for Lunches: "Lecture and Book Signing: Ship of Blood", and "The Seventeenth Century Albemarle: The Goodliest Land of Rogues' Harbor?"
- Summer Fun Day: Groovy 1970's Day, At the Movies for Kids: Lyle, Lyle Crocodile with special guests US Fish and Wildlife Services.
- Outreach Through Social and Traditional Media with weekly articles submitted to *The Daily Advance* for publication each Sunday.

Museum of The Cape Fear

On June 19th, the NC History Center on the Civil War, Emancipation and Reconstruction marked its fifth commemoration of Juneteenth with a presentation by Dr. Darin Waters, Deputy Secretary of the Office of Archives and History, NCDNCR. Dr. Waters' topic was "Remembrance, Forgetting, Forgiveness and the Shape of our Collective Memory." The event was at Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church in Fayetteville.

The Museum of the Cape Fear opened the exhibit "The Story of North Carolina BBQ" on June 20. This traveling exhibit from the NCDNCR will be on display through August 26. In association with the exhibit, the museum hosted a "Backyard BBQ Bash" on Saturday, June 24. The event featured a lecture on the history of barbeque in North Carolina by John Shelton Reed, author of "Holy Smoke: The Big Book of North Carolina Barbeque." Bluegrass musicians, Slippery Hill, performed throughout the event, which also featured food trucks selling BBQ, ice cream, and funnel cakes. This event was funded by a grant from the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County and the MCFHC Foundation.

The museum held its first week of 2023 summer camps June 26 – 30. This year's theme is "Pirates!" The second week of camp will be July 24 -28. The museum's summer camps are funded by the Cumberland Community Foundation.

History to Go and Hands on History: The museum prepares monthly take-home activity boxes for children (History to Go). Funded by the Arts Council of Fayetteville and Cumberland County and the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex Foundation, the number of boxes is limited and the theme changes monthly. With a new grant from the Arts Council, the museum is still offering the boxes, but adding an activity table for children once a month in the museum galleries focused on the theme for the month. Called Hands on History, the museum hosted a table on "Historical Documents" on July 22.

The Maritime Museums

Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum

The Museum closed to the public on December 1, 2022, for renovation. Construction continues and is estimated to extend to December 2023. The process to replace the HVAC/ Climate control systems at Hatteras is moving forward.

Conservation of the Krupp 8.8 SK L/30 naval gun is complete, and it was installed on the museum porch in mid-July. A mechanical restoration assessment will be conducted on August 6th.

NC Maritime Museum at Beaufort

Education staff recorded their first two podcasts as part of the new Salty History program in partnership with the local talk radio station. The first program looked at pirate Stede Bonnet and discussed whether his reputation as worst pirate ever is deserved. The second recording examines the purported healing properties of sea air as touted by early beach marketers. The podcast will start airing on Saturdays and be shared online once the first few are wrapped.

Planning continues for the Annual Wooden Boat Show. We currently have 30 boats registered. The free event will be held May 6 from 10-4 and all are invited to join us in Beaufort for the day.

The Education Department received a brand new 15-passenger van. The Friends helped raise funds to support the addition, which is part of the state's vehicle fleet.

We held a successful soft opening and introduction of our NaviLens project, which is a newly installed system designed to make the museum more accessible for the visually impaired. The NaviLens codes describe the exhibits/artifacts, as well as the space itself for navigation purposes. The official launch is expected to be held in September.

Producers for the German version of PBS were in Beaufort last December working on a piece about the North Carolina coast, which was recently aired. One of the featured sites is Bonehenge Whale Center (beginning at the 10:06 mark, and again at the 25:35 and 28:44 marks), which Natural Science Curator Keith Rittmaster operates under a MOA between NCDNCR & the nonprofit Carolina Cay Foundation. The production team joined Keith on marine mammal ID trips, toured the facility & accompanied the delivery of a dolphin skeleton prepared at Bonehenge to its new home at the NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores. It looks to be very well-produced, and I'm sure I would've enjoyed it more if I could speak German. But I did share it with one of the volunteers who does speak German. She said it was wonderful (& she got great feedback on it from her family in Germany).

NC Maritime Museum at Southport

The new DNCR Safety Team visited March 31. The safety consultants had never been to Southport and site issues were reviewed to ascertain what they can do to help.

Most recently, staff are developing a History Highlights Collaboration - working with other DNCR sites in the Cape Fear area, sharing stories of people, events, and items that connect the different sites, and developing an opportunity for sites to work with each other.

Work continues on the commercial fishing exhibit that is scheduled to be installed during the first two weeks in September. All purchasing, research, and writing are complete; and our designers are starting to build the shrimp boat that will anchor the exhibit.

News from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties: AUGUST 2023

Michelle Lanier

*The Division of State Historic Sites is exceptionally proud of our impact during fiscal year 2023. Here are our numbers for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23):

On-Site Visitation: 1,745,572

Total Youth Served: 630,832

Volunteer Hours: 43,155

Facebook Impressions: 24,749,105

Instagram Impressions: 1,335,597

Twitter Impressions: 451,226

Website Users: 415,066

New Website Users: 413,491

Website Pageviews: 1,044,174

UPDATES

*Working with Department leadership, under a core initiative of Secretary Wilson—Priority Updates to State History, or PUSH for short—Town Creek Indian Mound, Bentonville Battlefield, Bennett Place, Aycock Birthplace, and Vance Birthplace have all begun to welcome and collaborate with PUSH Fellows from across the state. The Division is especially grateful for the guiding leadership of Deputy Secretary Darin Waters as this effort has provided much-needed support for the growing and ongoing work of the Division’s True Inclusion team.

*The Division of State Historic Sites, working across DNCR (through the America 250th initiative, the Preservation Office, and the DNCR Chief Deputy Secretary's office) has successfully attained the following grant funds from the last quarter of fiscal year 2023 to the present: 1) Division of State Historic Sites and Properties: Grant amount \$468,403

Grant funding was awarded by the Office of Digital Equity to support Broadband access at 25 state historic sites. In addition, funding will enable the creation of a suite of new digital content (including virtual tours and recorded talks) with targeted outreach efforts to engage populations

News from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties: AUGUST 2023

Michelle Lanier

that may not be able to physically visit historic sites, including senior citizen centers, veterans hospitals, childrens hospitals, juvenile detention centers and more.

2) Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum State Historic Site Tea House: Grant amount: \$555,334

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources initially received an NPS African American Civil Rights grant in 2018 to fund emergency preservation measures at the Tea House at the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum, including repairs to the foundation, flooring and roofing. Now that the Tea House structure is stabilized, this second phase of new funding will cover preservation inside the building, including installation of new HVAC to ensure climate control, code compliant electrical systems, plumbing, replacement masonry, carpentry, and thermal and moisture protection. The project will also include the creation of a kitchenette to support future programming. Similarly, construction to make the building compliant with ADA laws is included. Under this new phase, preservation work will progress from basic emergency stabilization of the structure to preservation work inside the structure. The Tea House will eventually be opened to the public as an interpretive space.

3) House in the Horseshoe State Historic Site Alston House: Grant amount: \$444,000

The National Park Service awarded Semiquincentennial grants program will be supporting the restoration of the Revolutionary War-era Alston House at the House in the Horseshoe State Historic Site. Built in 1772, the 250-year-old Alston House requires serious study and attention to determine its accurate 18th century appearance and to deal with aging building infrastructure and correct dated restoration efforts. Under this proposal, DNCR seeks funding for pre-preservation and preservation work.

*The largest project in the history of the Division, the creation of a new visitorscenter at Fort Fisher, continues to progress. Working with colleagues at the Office of State Archaeology, efforts are underway to complete an analysis of a portion of the site which held some of the fort's earthworks. In an effort to connect with and engage communities descended from those forced

News from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties: AUGUST 2023

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to build the fort, in July the site hosted a gathering of reflection attended by staff from the NC African American Heritage Commission and the NC American Indian Heritage Commission, along with representative from the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, the US Colored Troops reenactment community, Friends of Fort Fisher, and the Waccamaw Siouan, Coharrie, and Lumbee Tribes. We anticipate a summer or fall of 2024 opening.

*The Historic Halifax exhibit updates and visitor center renovation are progressing as a part of our America 250th Commemoration. Additionally, significant progress has been made at the William R. Davie House. Staff, particularly Charles LeCount, have been especially productive with exhibit research and design.

*The Golden Asro and Ruth Holley Frinks House, also known as "the Freedom House," has been successfully accepted to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, effective August 8, 2023. The Golden and Ruth Frinks Freedom House is one of the newest additions to Historic Edenton, under the auspices of the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties. The efforts to apply for this designation were initiated as a goal of the larger Freedom House restoration project, funded by a Civil Rights preservation grant from the National Parks Service. Authorization for these federal funds was one of the last priorities of the late Congressman John Lewis.

*The NC Transportation Museum hosted the Fire Truck Festival on Saturday, June 24th where visitors met firefighters from across the state, got a close-up look at antique and modern firefighting equipment, voted for their favorite fire truck, and enjoyed a family fun day at the museum. There were an Obstacle Course, Inflatable Games, a Costume Contest, and train rides throughout the day. Visitors also enjoyed live music from the Norfolk Southern Lawmen Band and got an up-close look at the Norfolk Southern "Operation Awareness and Response" first responder's safety train and locomotive. The event ended with a fire truck parade. Over 4,000 visitors attended.

News from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties: AUGUST 2023

Michelle Lanier

* Somerset Place State Historic Site featured on NPR's award-winning Code Switch podcast.

In episode one of this two-part series, Somerset descendant and journalist B.A. Parker explored the question "How do descendants of slavery honor their ancestors' legacy?" This episode was anchored by a visit to Smithsonian, at the Descendant Communities Social Innovation Lab, sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, this March. Both Somerset site manager, Karen Hayes and Division Director Michelle Lanier were invited participants in this inaugural, annual gathering. In episode two, entitled, "Going back to the plantation where my ancestors were enslaved," Parker travels to Somerset. Here are links to the podcast series:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2023/06/06/1180479949/how-do-descendants-of-slavery-honor-their-ancestors-legacy>

<https://www.npr.org/2023/06/06/1180494396/going-back-to-the-plantation-where-my-ancestors-were-enslaved>

*Division Director Michelle Lanier was invited by the Smithsonian National Museum of American History to advise on a burgeoning exhibit about the Gullah Geechee region, which includes the Lower Cape Fear region historic sites of Fort Fisher and Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson. The North Carolina kickoff meeting for this effort took place on June 20th at UNC-Wilmington. Smithsonian curators involved in the meeting will be returning to the Lower Cape Fear to visit Brunswick Town and Fort Fisher on September 11-12.

*On July 4th, 22 people from 14 countries took the oath of American citizenship on the Capitol grounds. This is the first time since 2019 that the State Capitol has hosted the naturalization ceremony in partnership with the Raleigh-Durham Field Office of US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). An estimated 250 people observed the ceremony, which was well-covered by local media outlets.

*This year we commemorated the 242nd anniversary of the battle at House in the Horseshoe on July 29. The fight between Loyalist Col. David Fanning and Patriot Col. Philip Alston as part of the Tory War in North Carolina during the American Revolution. We had 50 reenactors portraying militia as well as 18th century craft demonstrators. Over 1800 visitors came out to see

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the event. The battle reenactment itself featured a narration of the fight between opposing militias, and Temperance Alston's brave actions of the day which included hiding her children in a fireplace for safety and surrendering her home to the notorious Loyalist Commander.

The event would not have been possible without the support of our fellow Historic Sites staff from Ft. Dobbs, Ft. Fisher, Duke Homestead, Town Creek, Reed Gold Mine, Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson, Halifax, Charlotte Hawkins Brown, Somerset Place, Transportation Museum, and Mountain Gateway Museum. Division leadership was here as well Jennifer Farley and Andrew Dupstadt assisted through the day. The entire board of directors for the Alston House Association was also presented, helping with many different aspects of the program from event information to interpretation. Overall, it was one of the most successful events in recent years.

*The Division of State Historic Sites has approved the reinstatement of an annual event partnership with the North Carolina Central University Department of History and Historic Stagville State Historic Site. The occasion is a history lecture (date to be determined) dedicated to former NCCU history professor and Department Chair, Dr. Earlie E. Thorpe. Our department's own NC Pedia** includes a feature on Dr. Earlie Endris Thorpe.

(** <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/thorpe-earlie-endris>)