

North Carolina Historical Commission Report-June18, 2024

Division of Archives and Records

On behalf of the staff of the Division of Archives and Records, it is my pleasure to update you on some division projects and programming since your March 20 meeting. Since my last report, only one division staff member departed or retired. Kelly Policelli accepted a position at Elon University and resigned this spring. Recent hires include Rebecca Stubbs (Special Collections) and Kimberly Kresica (Government Records). Olivia Carlisle was promoted to Digital Access Manager within Digital Services. Tara Bradshaw was promoted to archivist I within Collections Services. The division also administers the America 250 NC programming and welcomed Anna Freeman and Alana Gomez to the administrative team.

Spring and summer seasons are popular for tours, particularly for interns working in a variety of government offices. In the next month we will provide tours for legal interns at the Governor's Office, NC Department of Justice, and some parts of the judicial branch, including the NC Supreme Court. Larger tours of note this spring included a group from the High Point Museum on March 13 and the Society of NC Archivists on April 19.

In a previous report I highlighted our collaboration with the Freedom Fellows, a cohort of educators from across the state working with the department on America 250 NC programming and educational resources. One of the teachers in the group elected to utilize the resources of the State Archives for her project. She brought 55 middle school students, primarily eight graders, for an extended tour and research trip. The students explored topics across our history and spent time working with archivists on collections focusing topics like the Revolutionary War soldiers, the fight for women's suffrage in NC, the Battle of Hayes Pond, World War II, civil rights struggle in NC, and the Regulators. Multiple staff coordinated this event by curating collection highlights, assisting with the tours, and discussing the materials with the students as they rotated through the topics.



As part of a research trip chaperones and students from Wake Forest Charter Academy explore primary sources.

After researching their selected topics, students created displays covering multiple periods and people in American history. The displays included props and other decorations, such as students in period clothing. The projects were placed together in the school gym into what they called the living history museum. Fellow students, families and the public were invited to tour their museum and experience how they created this display around the commemoration framework of “When Are We US?” The project proved to be a fun collaboration with the middle school students from research to making history come alive in their projects.



The living history museum featured students portraying civil rights activists, such as the Freedom Riders.

Division programs from the last quarter included a variety of presentations to different audiences and constituent groups. On March 22 Adrienne Berney provided a presentation for the Public Library Directors conference. She highlighted the work planned for the current State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) grant to create resources for public libraries to support community archiving. Adrienne promoted the SHRAB funded America 250 NC traveling exhibit “When Are We US?” at the DEAI showcase as part of the annual NC Museums Council meeting. During that annual meeting program, oral historian, John Horan, presented a session on his collaboration with the NC American Indian Heritage Commission to collect oral histories from the American Indian communities in the state. Adrienne also organized a workshop at the Greenville Art Museum as part of the state’s Cultural Resources Emergency Support Team (CREST). This CREST workshop covered disaster preparation and recovery for cultural heritage institutions.

The Government Records Section hosted the annual meeting of chief records officers for state agencies, boards, and commissions on April 24. Part of this year’s agenda covered the timeline and plan for large updates to the “Functional Schedule for State Agencies.” The meeting included discussions about the best ways for agencies to get involved by providing edits and suggested changes to the schedule. The goal is to have the updated schedule ready for agencies to sign by this fall. In addition to the chief records officers’ meeting, section staff presented 15 records management workshops to 1,232 participants in the last three months. That included another offering of training on the identification and protection of public records in event of emergencies.

Other large staff presentations this quarter included Tammy Woodward's presentation on the Outer Banks History Center and the architectural history of Frank Stick's flat-top cottages on the Outer Banks as part of the Museum of the Albemarle's "History for Lunch" series. While at the museum, Tammy also assisted with their upcoming exhibit on the history of surfing, expected to open in June 2024. Division staff also presented sessions on our digital collections migration, our podcast program, and a major records processing project as part of the annual meeting of the Society of North Carolina Archivists. That meeting was held in the State Archives' building, and several staff assisted with meeting planning and logistics. Ian Dunn presented a program to the General Assembly Book Club. It covered the work and collections of the audio-visual unit. John Horan spoke at the NC League of Municipalities' conference about the collaboration between our oral history unit and the City of Greensboro's Historic Preservation office. John also was the keynote speaker at the North Carolina State University History Graduate Student Conference in May.

As part of a special program at the Alamance Battleground State Historic Site, a "one day wonder" exhibit including materials related to the Regulators was displayed at the site. The public enjoyed reviewing these materials, especially the Hillsborough District Superior Court volume that featured comments and notes inserted by some Regulators when they disrupted a court session.

Tammy Woodward recently served as co-moderator of a two-day Native American history and environmental symposium at the College of the Albemarle titled "In the Spirit of Wingina...and Beyond." The event highlighted the forgotten history of Chief Winginia, the Tuscarora, and other North Carolina tribes along the east coast.

Some recent online program offerings also have proved popular with our constituents. March 26 reference archivist, Alison Thurman, gave online presentation called [Tracing Revolutionary War Soldiers](#). The webinar quickly reached maximum capacity with another 300+ viewers of the recording as soon as it was posted to our division's YouTube channel. Recently Lauren McCoy, our digital archivist for online programming, presented [Assembling History: Research in the General Assembly Records](#). This records series is one of the largest and richest collections at the State Archives spanning over 300 years. By the Commission's June meeting the division also will have recently wrapped up a special program for Juneteenth. We hope the recording of the program "Peter Oliver: Freedman and Family, a Journey of His Enslavement and Persistence" will be available soon. It features the history, family, and legacy of Peter Oliver (1766-1810) who negotiated his way to freedom and eventually worked as a potter in Salem.

Collection development highlights during the last quarter included ORG.228, Records of the Trading Path Association. This organization studies and preserves history of the pre-colonial river crossings, trails, and roads that linked the Chesapeake Bay region and the Catawba, Cherokee and other Indian towns in the Carolinas and Georgia. In addition to the administrative records, this collection includes research and maps of the trading path sites. The collection will be processed this summer. Another new and recently processed collection is CHR.387, Records of Memorial Primitive Baptist Church of Fremont. The collection includes ledgers of hand-written minutes and membership information dating back to the 1850's. The Outer Banks History Center

received a donation of 18 original Theodore deBry engravings of coastal North Carolina Native American scenes drawn by John White during the Roanoke Voyages. The engravings are in German and Latin, and the donation included a modern book of English translations of the engravings. The Western Regional Archives acquired the Donald Folsom Cooper Music Manuscripts and Scores. Cooper studied composition with Stefan Wolpe at Black Mountain College. The oral history unit added an oral history from Brenda Toinetta Pipestem of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians. This work was part of our collaboration with the NC American Indian Heritage Commission. The unit also collected an oral history of Gregory Tyler as a supplement to PC.1218, Whitmel T. Sharrock Papers. In addition to oral histories collected by division staff, the unit worked with the towns of Waxhaw and Washington on the acquisition of oral histories done in those municipalities. The Dix Park Conservancy in Raleigh and the curator at the State Capitol also have approached the unit about opportunities to collaborate in creating training, conducting oral histories, and transferring previously recorded oral histories. The Military Collection received three collections via the NC Museum of History (Mildred I. Clark Papers, Vernon v. Haywood Papers, and the Thomas W. Ferebee Papers).

Collection processing highlights during this period included work on PC.2209, Clarence Lightner Papers. Lightner was the first African American mayor of Raleigh. The collection required extensive weeding, organizing, and reboxing, but is now discoverable online and accessible to researchers. The collection includes personal papers, funerary papers, political papers, and materials from civic and fraternal organizations that Lightner was associated with. The processing of the Chappell Family Papers is underway. These records of William Chappell, who worked for the Weather Bureau at the RDU airport from 1953-1972, also include correspondence and files covering his personal and professional work. Intern Katie Grotewiel is working with Special Collections archivists to process the PC.2087, Raines and Cox Photography Studio Papers. The audio-visual unit has been prioritizing collection management through work on finding aids for collections without them and adding cataloging information to improve patron access. This included rehousing a portion of PhC.202, Piedmont Triad Film Commission Photograph, as well as the rehousing and item level description of PhC.294, Frank Hall Postcard Collection. The public transcription platform "TranscribeNC" has 13 active collections available for the public to transcribe. Between March-May an average of 44 collaborators each month added 3,142 pages of transcriptions and 5,151 total page edits. Eventually these crowd-sourced transcriptions are added to the images in our digital collections to increase searchability.

Several recent projects aimed at increasing access to our physical and digital collections have been undertaken recently. In preparation for the Wake Forest Charter School students' visit, Lauren McCoy created a [tutorial](#) on how to find digitized primary sources in the North Carolina Digital Collections and the division's Flickr pages. The video is now available on our YouTube channel, through the agency's "Learning Happens Here" initiative, and the state's National History Day resources. Digital Services staff also recently launched a new digital collection featuring records related to ports. This vibrant chronicle of the state's maritime heritage features records from the ports of Bath, Beaufort, Brunswick, Currituck, Edenton, Elizabeth City, Roanoke, Swansborough, and Wilmington, along with miscellaneous records from unidentified locations. You can read more about the collection in this recent [blog post](#), as well as access the [digital collection](#). In collaboration with the State Library, the division launched the [NC Website and Social Media Archives](#) website. Previously, the archives of state agency websites and social

media were available through two separate sites. Now they can be found and searched through the same portal. It also includes a new FAQ section, lists of websites and accounts preserved, and guidance around the website archiving program. The site also includes information about Archive-IT and ArchiveSocial, the tools used to capture the archives.

Becky McGee-Lankford has been leading the development of new special “one day wonder” exhibits with America 250 NC themes. An exhibit on the history of the state constitution is in design, and another on Revolutionary War soldiers is in the planning phase. These special exhibits will be available to supplement commemoration events. Cultural heritage organizations will be able to request an exhibit time and if the calendar and facilities match our exhibit preservation parameters, we will have the exhibit available along with division staff to assist with the program. She also has been coordinating planned special exhibits of documents, such as the previously mentioned exhibit at Alamance Battleground State Historic Site, and an August exhibit at Tryon Palace featuring documents from the First Provincial Congress. The 250th anniversary of the convening of that body is August 25, 2024.

The outreach staff in the division began work on virtual and in-person consultations for the spring Traveling Archivist Program (TAP) participants. Consultations and supply deliveries are underway for 6 organizations including Central Carolina-Lee County and Forsyth County community colleges, Lee County Public Library, Lewisville Historical Society, Camp Butner Museum, and the Fruit of Labor World Cultural Center. Ashley Latta, military collection archivist, assisted with the Camp Butner Museum consultation. The program also has funding for a summer intern to provide training and support with additional recipients, some of whom have received previous TAP consultations. The intern started work this month with the Southwestern Community College archives and will move to Durham Technical Community College, Moore County Public Library in Carthage, and the Camp Butner Museum.

Lauren McCoy recently completed an audit of social media accounts managed by the division. She reviewed statistics about various platforms over the last 5 years, and explored which types of content reached the most audiences on each. While followers on Facebook have continued to increase since 2020, Lauren was pleased to report that engagement with users has grown drastically since 2021. She reported that engagement reflects actual action by users on our posts, including commenting, forwarding, or liking. At the same time statistics about our Twitter/X account reflect the national trends of users moving away from the platform in favor of others, such as Instagram. Our YouTube audience continues to grow with that group representing our youngest group of users. Recent social media series that proved popular included the March “Mystery Mondays” that featured hometowns of important NC women and “Trivia Tuesdays” that included NC women’s history questions.

Finally, planning is underway for a fall workshop on cultural competencies to be presented by Helen Wong Smith of the University of Hawaii Manoa Hamilton Library. Smith is the current president of the Society of American Archivists, and a well-respected trainer on this subject. The division’s Community Building Team was pleased to identify a trainer with direct experience in archives, as well as to receive agency support for this training to be offered to all staff.

**Report of Division of Historical Resources
To the North Carolina Historical Commission
For its June 18, 2024 meeting**

**Ramona M. Bartos, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
June 4, 2024**

Division in general

Staff updates.

Following the retirement of the HPO's **Preservation Architect Tim Simmons** in 2023 with 33 years of state service, we held interviews for candidates for this position in early March. This key position coordinates our federal historic tax credit program, which from FY2019 to FY2023 helped facilitate over \$900 million in private investment for 227 individual income-producing historic tax credit projects statewide.

Last month, we welcomed his successor **Jamie Dail Bell**, a Greenville, NC, native; she earned a Bachelor of Art in Architecture and Bachelor of Architecture from UNC Charlotte (2012-2013), and a Master of Fine Arts in Historic Preservation from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) (2015). Jamie joined Dunn & Dalton Architects, PA, in Kinston in 2015 shortly after graduating from SCAD, where her thesis project, *A Forgotten Voice: Post WWII Communications Preserving Scientific Heritage*, received the 2015 MFA Thesis Award in Historic Preservation. At Dunn & Dalton, she worked on a wide range of projects, including adaptive-reuse, national register nominations, historic tax credit projects, and educational, medical, religious, retail, and commercial projects. She completed her final architectural licensure exam in 2021, becoming a registered architect that July. As a student at UNC Charlotte, Jamie discovered her love - and aptitude - for architectural history, winning the School of Architecture's Award for Excellence in Architecture History in 2013.

We are also imminently waiting on HR to post the **Restoration Specialist position** for an eastern region, vacated by Reid Thomas when he was promoted to Eastern Office Supervisor.

In April, the Office of State Archaeology also welcomed **two new Assistant State Archaeologists** – **Michael Nelson** in the Western Office, and **Will Nassif** in the Underwater Archaeology branch at Kure Beach. Both Michael and Will originally hail from North Carolina. Will is a graduate of East Carolina University's prestigious maritime studies program, and is joining us from the South Carolina Institute of Anthropology and Archaeology's Maritime Research Division (SCIAA). Michael was previously associated as a staff archaeologist with the private sector cultural resource management (CRM) firm TRC Environmental Corporation, where he worked for more than a decade. Michael received his B.A. from UNC-Greensboro and his Master's in Anthropology from the University of South Carolina, and has worked for several CRM firms in the Southeast region.

Staff needs. In our last few reports, we have continued to flag the need for additional staff resources to maintain our service levels to constituents.

We were very heartened by management’s and the Office of State Budget Management’s (OSBM) favorable view of our renewed request for 4 positions – again for an Environmental Review Specialist for Section 106 cases, a Cemetery Program assistant, and a full-time NAGPRA specialist, but shifting the specialist for the State Historic Preservation Office to one for the Restoration Services branch because of even more demand for services, especially consultations for high “return on investment” historic tax credit projects and overall constituent technical assistance. **Ultimately, the Governor’s Budget included two of these requested positions – an Environmental Review Specialist for Section 106 cases, and a full-time NAGPRA specialist.** We eagerly await the final state budget in the near future.

As I have previously reported, we continue to experience **heightened workloads and constituent demand for our services**, and through these programs, we continue to further economic development through historic preservation, to foster a holistic approach to public history, including an emphasis on recognizing and telling the stories of all North Carolinians, and to practice stewardship of the state’s irreplaceable historic places in collaboration with constituents. Survey respondents for our statewide preservation plan underscored this point:

- 25% of the comments offered at the conclusion of the survey for a “open question” recognized our division’s low salaries compared with the market and high workload, or as one respondent put it, **“overworked and underpaid”** HPO / OSA staffers, and expressed worries about the HPO / OSA being able “to keep up with current future needs without substantially increasing budget to pay living wages to staff.”
- Constituents found our HPO/OSA staffers **“knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and helpful”** and “helpful, well-informed, and knowledgeable about any preservation topic put before them” **but “over-extended in the size of areas and numbers of people served.”**
- “Keep up the great work!” was the wish of one survey participant, and another offered, ***“...[e]mployees of OSA and HPO....need support because they are the people who make the preservation happen.”***

We believe that our contributions are both measurable – in terms of dollars invested in historic places and a greater knowledge of our history – and immeasurable – in terms of our commitment to protecting and preserving those places that define our continued identity and shared history as North Carolinians and Americans.

State Historic Preservation Office (HPO)

Statewide Preservation Plan. Following our successful launch at the October Preservation North Carolina annual state preservation conference of the first of our listening sessions for our next 10-year statewide preservation plan planning cycle, Local Government Coordinator Kristi Brantley and DSHPO Ramona Bartos continued to hold those listening sessions through the close of April, and we ultimately conducted **twelve (12) Zoom platform listening sessions with constituents and one in-person listening session (PNC statewide preservation conference) between October 2023 and April 2024, including:**

- Kick-off listening session at the October 2023 annual statewide preservation conference in collaboration with Preservation North Carolina, the statewide preservation nonprofit organization.
- Listening session with the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology.
- Listening session with the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission staff; the North Carolina American Indian Heritage Commission was also invited to participate in its own targeted listening session but opted not to participate.
- Listening session with the Survey / National Register Branch staffers of the HPO.
- Listening session with HPO Grants / Local Government staffers.
- Listening session with members of the Historic Resiliency Project (funded by the Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund grant for recovery from Hurricanes Florence and Michael), comprised of faculty from the University of North Carolina School of Government and NC State University.
- Listening session with historic preservation planners statewide.
- Listening session with Preservation North Carolina staffers.
- Five regional listening sessions for constituents (2 Piedmont, 2 Eastern, 1 Western); participants included representatives of regional and local preservation advocacy groups, members of tribal entities, historic tax credit developers, archaeologists, architects, architectural historians, and members of the public interested or engaged in historic preservation.

As a reminder, we will be submitting a draft plan to the Commission for its approval before the end of 2024, and then will transmit to the National Park Service for their approval, as mandated by the National Historic Preservation Act, and by state law.

National Register Advisory Committee (NRAC) meeting. The second of 3 NRAC meetings will be held on Thursday, June 13. The agenda is quite full and diverse with ten National Register nominations and +/- 20 Study List applications (all submitted by constituents), again demonstrating the strong public demand for this program. The final agenda will be available [here](#).

National Park Service grant award to HPO. The [HPO learned late last month that will be receiving NPS grant funding](#) from the African American Civil Rights grant program for Phase II of our northeastern NC Civil Rights project, *The Untold Stories of the Struggle for Civil Rights in the Places of Northeastern North Carolina*. This project will result in a survey of properties identified from previous studies (including oral histories) to document the African American history in the northeastern portion of the state. The survey information will be used to make priorities and recommendations for future National Register nominations. National Register nominations for historic districts will also be updated to include civil rights history and context.

Two other North Carolina projects received grant funding, including:

Reinvestment Partners / Preservation of Harriet Tubman YWCA – Durham

The grant will fund rehabilitation of the Harriet Tubman YWCA, a key building in Durham's African American history associated with both the civil rights movement and the feminist movement in Durham, NC. The goal is to restore a key building in Durham's history and bring it back into operation to meet the growing need for affordable housing. The project will include development of architectural and construction plans to preserve and re-purpose the building.

City of Greensboro / Research and document African American history in Greensboro – Greensboro

This project will expand knowledge and awareness of the struggle for African Americans to gain equal rights in Greensboro. Major tasks will be to prepare a Multiple Property Documentation Form for structures and sites with civil rights significance and develop an individual National Register nomination for one property of special significance.

(Our office provided the initial Certified Local Government grant to survey African American neighborhoods in Greensboro several years ago.)

- **Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area study.** Our division has been in conversations with NPS representatives charged with a study of the Dismal Swamp as a potential future National Heritage Area. We have connected them with agency colleagues with the Natural Heritage Program in an effort to help them with their desired holistic natural / cultural approach. NPS colleagues have also been in touch with the Division of State Parks as well as local constituents in the area.
- **Department of Commerce partnership.** The State Historic Preservation Office is partnering with the NC Department of Commerce for various regional workshops in 2024 and 2025 to help constituents rehab historic buildings in smaller communities, using the historic tax credits program. See flyer [here](#).

Historical Research Office

- **New Children's book.** The Publications unit of the Historical Research Office released its latest children's book this spring, entitled *Save Our Sand Dunes*, this time highlighting a well-known North Carolina State Park – Jockey's Ridge, an example of the culmination of collective environmental activism.

From our press release:

In the early 1970s, the voices of three children transformed the future of North Carolina's coastal environment when the sand dune known as Jockey's Ridge was set to be leveled and developed for residential housing. One day, Ann-Cabell, Inglis, and Gibbs Baum saw bulldozers where they often played at Jockey's Ridge and ran home to tell their mom, Carolista. With her children's urging, Carolista mobilized the community and relentlessly lobbied local and state leaders to save the dunes. In 1975, Jockey's Ridge was designated as a North Carolina state park. Authored by Hannah Bunn West with Ann-Cabell Baum, one of

the three Baum children, the book brings to life the unique ecosystem of Jockey's Ridge, the tallest living sand dune system on the Atlantic coast, and the successful effort to save it from development.

About the authors

Hannah Bunn West grew up on the Outer Banks and is passionate about sharing its history, advocating for its people, and protecting its natural wonders. She is a freelance writer, former teacher, and the author of Remarkable Women of the Outer Banks. She lives in Kill Devil Hills.

Ann-Cabell Baum grew up in Nags Head across from Jockey's Ridge. She is the oldest daughter of Carolista Fletcher Baum, artist, jeweler, preservationist and great granddaughter of Inglis Fletcher, a noted historian and author instrumental in the development of the Elizabethan Gardens in Manteo. Ann-Cabell is a successful businesswoman in Raleigh and vice chairwoman of the Friends of Jockey's Ridge State Park.

The book is available for purchase from UNC Press [here](#).

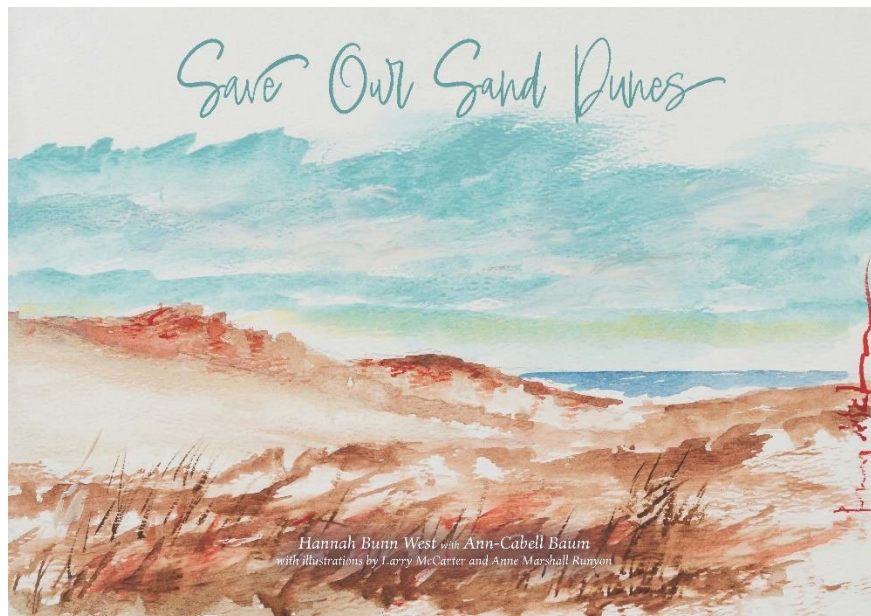


Photo Courtesy of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

Office of State Archaeology (OSA)

- **Society for American Archaeology:** 4 members of the Office of State Archaeology represented our state at the 2024 annual conference of the Society for American Archaeology in New Orleans in late April.
- **Underwater Archaeology Office move.** The Underwater Archaeology branch (UAB) of the Office of State Archaeology is excited to have moved into the [new Fort Fisher visitors' center](#). Thanks much to management for facilitating the move and providing access to

"new to us" and new furnishings, and to our colleagues in fellow divisions to welcome us. UAB has made its home up till now in WWII-era buildings nearby on the site.

- **Archaeology field schools at DNCR sites.** Several archaeology field schools are taking place at DNCR sites, including Edenton, Bath, and Brunswick Town (Russellborough). This ongoing partnership with NC-based universities helps us learn more about our historic sites and also provides crucial "on the job" training to the next generation of archaeologists, especially in terms of interacting with the public.
- **Submerged NC webinar series.** In late April, the latest episode in the Submerged NC webinar series aired in collaboration with NOAA. Entitled, "Diving into the African American History of Eastern North Carolina— The Underwater Archaeology of Cape Fear Rice Plantations", Dr. Emily Schwalbe presented research on the submerged archaeology of rice plantations in Brunswick County, North Carolina. During the 18th and 19th centuries, the Cape Fear region was the only place in North Carolina that had the environment for commercial rice agriculture. Rice plantations were operated by enslaved Africans, who also used the local creeks and rivers to travel and, in some cases, escape enslavement. Much of the archaeological evidence of these activities is now underwater, but Emily's recent work alongside local North Carolina organizations has identified and recorded sites that tell new stories about plantation histories. This webinar recording is available in the series archive [here](https://monitor.noaa.gov/gallery/webinar-archive.html): <https://monitor.noaa.gov/gallery/webinar-archive.html>.

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

North Carolina Historical Commission Report June 2024

North Carolina Museum of History

Visitation: March through May 1, 2024 we welcomed 59,470 members of the public.

Public Program Highlights

Tar Heel Troubadours Concerts: A celebration of Americana, roots, bluegrass, and traditional music performed by artists from or living and working in North Carolina. Recent artists that were featured include- Fireside Collective and Paige King Johnson.

History at High Noon Series programs: *John Chavis Memorial Park Carousel (Hybrid)*. Speakers: Dana Brown, Assistant Director, John Chavis Memorial Park; Madison Phillips, Assistant Director, John Chavis Memorial Park. We welcomed Dana Brown and Madison Phillips of John Chavis Memorial Park, as they gave us the inside scoop on the beautiful, historical Allan Herschell carousel at Chavis Park, as well as how this space had served as a pillar of the downtown Raleigh African American community for decades.

History + Highballs Series: *Still Starring North Carolina!* Speaker: Sally Causey Bloom, Director, Longleaf Film Festival, North Carolina Museum of History. Way back in 2014, the North Carolina Museum of History's exhibit *Starring North Carolina!* explored the state's more than 100-year history of filmmaking. The exhibit launched Longleaf Film Festival in 2015. Today, the exhibit is closed, but both Longleaf and the state's many connections to filmmaking continue. Sure, you know about the North Carolina connection to *Bull Durham* (1988) and *Dirty Dancing* (1987), but what about *The Heart of Esmeralda* (1912) or *Summer Camp* (2024)? Of course, commercial films are the tip of the iceberg of what filmmaking means in the Tar Heel State. So why North Carolina, and how can you access the latest and greatest in North Carolina-related film action? Sally Causey Bloom, director of Longleaf Film Festival, explored some of the history and ongoing contributions to cinema in our state and beyond! *Obstacles and Opportunities in 20th Century American Women's Sports (Via Zoom)*. Speaker: Mary Jo Festle, PhD, Maude Sharpe Powell Professor of History, and Distinguished University Professor, Elon University joined us as we celebrate Women's History Month by welcoming Professor Mary Jo Festle. Over the course of the 20th century, female athletes experienced many ups and downs. Festle connected these experiences to other events in US history while she examined what held women's sports back and how things have changed.

Longleaf Film Festival. A free-to-attend festival that highlighted the best of independent film in a place that strives to tell the stories that connect us all—this is Longleaf. Visitors viewed dozens of films—narrative and documentary shorts and features, animated films, music videos, and more. Plus, enjoyed Movies-N-Moonlight, workshops, socials, and the presentation of awards. This year, attendance at the fest was about 1,600—which is a significant increase from 1,000 in 2023! The museum screened 71 films. Thirty of them were premieres of some sort. At the Awards Presentation 22 films were recognized for their excellence including the evening's top prize recipients: African American Cultural Celebration Prize: Frederick DeShon Murphy and

Kimberly Knight, *Duality: A Collection of Afro Indigenous Perspectives*; American Indian Heritage Celebration Prize: Montana Cypress, *Lumbeeland*; Latin American Communities Prize: Ana Carolina Hoppert Flores and Layla Peykamian, *Abuela*; Best Student Film: Lauren E. Johnson, *Running to Remember*; Judges' Choice/Documentary Film: Brad Herring and Adé Carrena, *Bite of Bénin*; Judges' Choice/Narrative Film: Shaun Dozier, *The Problem of the Hero*.

Family Programs

Hands-on History, Make Upcycled Jewelry. For Earth Month visitors went on a museum gallery hunt. Then made a simple piece of jewelry from buttons, paper clips, and more. **Artist at Work: History Hatter Andy Sterlen.** FREE drop-in program. Visitors watched Andy Sterlen—tailor, hatter, and reenactor—as he created a historically accurate 18th-century felt hat.

Publications

Both publications—*Tar Heel Junior Historian (THJH)* magazine and *Circa*, the membership magazine—are in production. The spring/summer issue of *Circa* will go to print in June; *THJH* magazine will be printed in August.

North Carolina REGIONAL HISTORY MUSEUMS

Museum of the Albemarle

Tot Time: Dr. Suess Day! Participants between 3 - 5 years of age, accompanied by an adult, discovered the wacky world of Dr. Seuss as the museum celebrated his 120th birthday! Read some of his classic books and participated in a hands-on activity. Participants came dressed as your favorite Dr. Seuss character.

History for Lunch Series: *Early North Carolina Quakers and Slavery*. J. Timothy Allen, Ph.D., professor of humanities at Strayer University, discussed the early North Carolina Quakers' attitudes toward slavery and how and why they progressed from slavery to manumission. Virginia and New England Quakers arrived in coastal North Carolina from the 1650s into the early 1700s. Surprisingly, many were enslavers who forced enslaved people to labor on Quaker farms in this colony.

A Pocket Full of Change: An Introduction to Coin Collecting. A Celebration of National Coin Week when the museum explored the world of coins and coin collecting. Visitors discovered the basics of American coins, traveled the globe with world coins, and began their coin-collecting journey with this free introductory workshop for families. This workshop was designed for grades 1st - 5th.

North Carolina Maritime Museum, Southport

THIRD TUESDAY Series: "Rice Culture in the Cape Fear". Jim McKee presented "Rice Culture in the Cape Fear." The program is part of the museum's Third Tuesday lecture series, which is held

at the Southport Community Building, 223 E. Bay St. Lectures are geared for ages 16 years and older. Admission was free and open to the public.

DEEP DIVE INTO HISTORY: “Digging for the Past”. Madline Spencer of the North Carolina Underwater Archaeology Division based at Fort Fisher shared the tools of the trade of an archaeologist, how they preserve what they find, and how they help us understand the past. The program was part of the free Deep Dive into History drop-in series, which gives visitors a deeper understanding of our shared past through costumed interpreters and artifacts.

THIRD TUESDAY: “Silent Sentinels”. Members of the North Carolina Military History Society on presented “Silent Sentinels.” The program was part of the museum’s Third Tuesday lecture series, which is held at the Southport Community Building.

Mountain Gateway Museum

Pioneer Day. The museum hosted local crafts, music, food, demonstrations of heritage crafts, and more! Our friend's organization sold raffle tickets to help in the museum's education and outreach endeavors. After 38 years, this event was still free to attend and a fun time for all. This year, the museum welcomed Purpose, Carley and Daniel Thrailkill, and Possum Creek to the amphitheater. Purpose won Male Group of the Year and Entertainer of the Year at the Music City Gospel Showcase in 2011. This gospel group travels through western North Carolina, Tennessee, and Florida sharing their musical talent.

Conservation Assistance Day. Two conservators from the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh will be at the Mountain Gateway Museum (MGM) in Old Fort answered questions and offered expert advice about how to preserve family heirlooms and antiques.

Maritime Museum at Beaufort

Kids’ Cove. The museum presented a free-play program designed for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers with a different maritime themed craft and wiggle activity each month. This is a screen-free program meant to help caregivers connect with their little ones, each other, and their local maritime heritage. The program is designed so that participants can stay for as short or as long as they want, arriving and leaving at any time during the scheduled program. Programs do not build on each other, so you can participate in one, all, or some without feeling left out. Programs are held on the second Wednesday of each month.

The Cape Lookout Lighthouse. Education Curator Benjamin Wunderly talked about the history of the Cape Lookout lighthouse, an iconic landmark of Carteret County. The presentation covered both lighthouse structures at Cape Lookout, the extant 1812 tower, and the still standing 1859 tower. Many images of the lighthouse were shared during the presentation. The program is part of the museum’s Maritime Heritage Series, informal lectures held in the museum auditorium and focused on North Carolina’s rich maritime history, coastal environment, and culture.

48th Annual Wooden Boat Show. The longest-running wooden boat show in the Southeast was held in May. There were a variety of small wooden boats, historic vessels, nautical crafts, educational activities, boat models, traditional skills demonstrations and displays during the show. Admission was free. The day ended with an awards ceremony for the top boats.

Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum

NOW OPEN! The museum has reopened after two and a half years to the public with reimagined permanent exhibition and a variety of special programs planned for opening week and beyond. Operating hours will be Monday to Friday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm). Admission is free.

Division wide digital program participants February through April was 58,115.

News from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties: June 2024

Michelle Lanier, Director

Overview

- North Carolina State Historic Sites reported total onsite visitation of 1,505,476 for FY 2023-24 to date (July 2023 through May 2024).
- State Historic Sites has had 597,345 website visitors in FY 2023-24 to date, and has a total of 353,257 followers on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Personnel

Grant Holmstrom was named Assistant Site Manager of the Thomas Wolfe Memorial. Grant joined N.C. State Historic Sites in fall 2022. A graduate of Finlandia University, Grant previously worked as a guide at the historic Quincy Copper Mine and as a costumed interpreter at Fort Wilkins Historic State Park in Michigan.

Jordan Jenkins was named Assistant Site Manager of Vance Birthplace. Jordan has a Master of Arts in public history from N.C. State University and previously worked at Duke Homestead, first as an intern and then as a Historic Interpreter.

Luke Kresse was named Historical Interpreter I at Bennett Place. Luke has a degree in history and museum studies from Juniata College, and he previously worked for the National Park Service in Utah and Colorado.

Matthew McCarthy was named Historical Interpreter I at the North Carolina Transportation Museum. Matthew has a Master of Arts in history from UNC-Greensboro and previously worked as a tour guide at Historic Bethabara Park in Winston-Salem.

Michael Moore was named Chief Curator of State Historic Sites' Curatorial Services team. Michael joined State Historic Sites in 2014 and has worked as Site Manager at Vance Birthplace and House in the Horseshoe as well as serving as Registrar and Curator for the Division.

Business and Finance

Grants from the Charles A. Cannon Charitable Trust Grant will benefit Historic Edenton and Historic Halifax. An announcement on May 23 stated that a \$146,000 grant to Historic Halifax will enhance the site of the Halifax Courthouse, where the Halifax Resolves were drafted and signed on April 12, 1776. A \$97,000 grant to Historic Edenton will help fund efforts to honor the legacy of Harriet Jacobs, including a reproduction of her hiding place, a reflection garden, and a community-drive mural with a visual narrative of Jacobs' journey.

News from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties: June 2024

Michelle Lanier, Director

When Are We US? and America 250

America 250 NC and *When Are We US?* are dedicated to honoring the signing of the Declaration of Independence while exploring freedom, civic responsibility, and the ideals of democracy over the past 250 years. Some State Historic Sites events that are engaging with these themes and encouraging civic dialogue include:

- Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson's *Women of the Port* (May 18) was a demonstration of the lives and experiences of women who worked and lived at the port of Brunswick.
- *Making Our Voices Heard: North Carolinians Fighting for Civil Rights*. This traveling exhibit chronicles the stories of seven N.C. leaders who called out injustice and demanded full participation in our democratic society.
- Historic Edenton's *Homespun* (June 8) puts a new spin on the Edenton Tea Party Resolves by focusing on 18th century textiles.

The Legacy of Cherokee Orchards & the Nikwasi Initiative (June 15) at Horne Creek Farm showcases the work of the Cherokee people, some of the most successful apple orchardists in the United States.

Forthcoming Juneteenth Commemorations

North Carolina's Historic Sites are honoring African American history with a variety of events in June, including:

- The State Capitol's free weekly walking tour titled *We've Always Been Out There* continues, with a focus on the history of protest, civil rights, women's suffrage, and prohibition in Raleigh.
- Historic Stagville's *Say My Name* and Juneteenth open house (June 22). Stagville, one of the state's largest plantations, welcomes the public to an open house honoring the struggles of the men, women, and children enslaved by the Cameron family. *Say My Name*, held later the same day, is a private event for descendants.
- Somerset Place's *Days Gone By* (June 8) will highlight Black history on Roanoke Island in addition to Civil War medicine, trades, and crafts.
- Vance Birthplace's *Leah and the Rabbit* (June 15) is a historical drama told with puppets, painting a portrait of resilience among enslaved people, and addressing appropriation of African American stories and the romanticization of N.C.'s plantation past.
- Adrienne Nirdé, director of the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission, will speak at the President James K. Polk State Historic Site (June 22) about how people in North Carolina experienced Juneteenth.

News from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties: June 2024

Michelle Lanier, Director

- The Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum's *Black Heritage Day* (June 8) celebrates Black life and history, in partnership with the Greensboro Opera and Mount Zion Baptist Church.

True Inclusion

The True Inclusion Committee has welcomed three new members: Registrar Catherine Harper, Research Historian Michelle Witt, and Vance Birthplace's Jordan Jenkins.

Current initiatives under way include plans to update the True Inclusion website for greater clarity and accountability to the public; and formalize True Inclusion's role in exhibition content development.

Curatorial Services

The Curatorial Services team celebrated a few key milestones in the spring, including the completion of exhibit development for the new Fort Fisher visitor center. The team, under the leadership of Elizabeth Reighn, helped lead interpretive planning for several new visitor centers, including Town Creek Indian Mound, Somerset Place, Historic Stagville, Fort Dobbs, Historic Halifax, and House in the Horseshoe. Elizabeth also participated in strategic planning for the Thomas Day State Historic Site and coordinated logistics for transport of the Governor Aycock statue from the U.S. Capitol to a temporary storage facility in Charlotte.

In light of the Division's influx of major projects, Elizabeth also took the lead in developing updated planning materials to foster consistency, clarity, and accountability in the exhibition development process moving forward. The team also submitted permission to post the vacant Curator position to HR.

In addition to contributing significantly to final reviews and approval of the Fort Fisher exhibition content and design, Chief Curator Michael Moore joined Registrar Catherine Harper in evaluating artifacts held by the Friends of the Thomas Day Historic Site. Michael also participated in planning for artifact move-out at Historic Halifax in preparation for demolition and construction of the new visitor center, and prepared to provide support to the Fort Fisher team as it prepared to move into its new visitor center and offices in June. The Design team continued to work on virtual tour development, the Slavery in NC video project, and exhibits and waysides for Historic Bath, the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum, Historic Edenton, Historic Halifax, and the State Capitol.

Education and Interpretation Supervisor Andrew Duppsstadt held historic weapons training in March at Roanoke Island Festival Park, provided support for 8th grade programming at Fort Anderson Civil War Days, attended the webinar *Diving into the African American History of Eastern North Carolina* and a series of webinars titled *Sociology of Guns*, and

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Michelle Lanier, Director

served as emcee for the NC Military Historical Society's annual meeting and symposium. Notably, Andrew was able to use America 250 funding to purchase muskets and related supplies to serve as interpretive tools for sites. Education Specialist Bob Bemis taught the classes Introduction to Historic Blacksmithing Interpretation and 18th Century Men's Hat-Making, which were widely attended by staff within and outside of the Division.

PUSH Projects

The Division made significant progress on a series of projects under the auspices of the PUSH (Priority Updates to State History) initiative. Site staff as well as Michelle Lanier, Chuck LeCount, Jennifer Farley, and Laura Rogers have participated in meetings with audiovisual vendor Horizon Productions to begin work on new orientation videos for the Aycock Birthplace, Bentonville Battlefield, Bennett Place, and the Vance Birthplace.

In addition to these much-needed videos, some short-term PUSH priorities include:

- Aycock Birthplace: Production of accessibility video, exhibit updates, touchscreen purchase
- Bennett Place: Installation of touchscreen kiosk, paving access path, outdoor temporary exhibit kiosk, folding stools as an accessibility aid
- Bentonville Battlefield: Replacement of fiber-optic map, trail resurfacing, movable ramp
- Town Creek Indian Mound: Installation of benches, purchase of golf cart, development of land acknowledgment statement
- Vance Birthplace: Development of touchscreen kiosk, additional exhibit and wayside updates, and installation of handrails

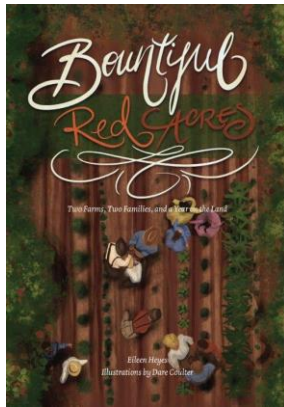
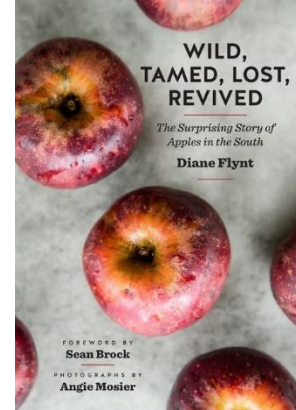
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Michelle Lanier, Director

West Region

Horne Creek Living History Farm

Author and orchardist Diane Flynt visited Horne Creek (March 16) to sign her new book, *Wild, Tamed, Lost, Revived: The Surprising Story of Apples in the South*. Flynt, a James Beard Award finalist, traces the rich history of the fruit across the southeastern United States, the people who shaped the story of orchards, and her own experiences planting and growing apples.



North Carolina Humanities nominated the children's book *Bountiful Red Acres* by Eileen Heyes to be presented at the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C.

The book depicts life for the Hauser and Sawyer families in the year 1900 on the land that now makes up the Horne Creek farm.

N.C. Transportation Museum

The Transportation Museum welcomed the Easter Bunny (March 23-24 and 29-30) for games, activities, food, photo ops, an Easter egg hunt, and rides on the Easter Bunny Express. This popular event contributed to a 60 percent visitation increase over March 2023.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site



The Polk site unveiled a new interpretive panel (April 27) on the history of the Catawba Nation. This collaboration between State Historic Sites, The Catawba Cultural Center, Dr. Wenonah Haire, and Kassidy Plyler underlines the significance of Catawba history in modern times.

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Michelle Lanier, Director

In addition, the Polk site welcomed local artists (March 23, April 27) to paint and perform, in partnership with Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation and Charlotte Is Creative. Artwork by Joanna Henry and DOOGA Art was displayed in the visitor center through the month of May.



Reed Gold Mine

Boomtown Bash: Life at a Carolina Gold Mine (March 2) recreated the sights, sounds, and smells of life during the 1850s gold rush. After the site's living history program's pandemic hiatus, the event returned with a new brand and enthusiastic participation, reporting more than 320 visitors.

Vance Birthplace

In *Love & Loss in the Civil War* (April 20), Dr. Angela Elder spoke about the experiences of women who were widowed between 1861 and 1865, drawing upon a variety of primary source material, including diaries, letters, scrapbooks, and pension applications. This lecture was sponsored by the Mountain History & Culture Group.

Piedmont Region

Bennett Place

The Day Had Come: Emancipation & Bennett Place (April 27) honored the 331,059 North Carolinians who were enslaved during the Civil War and celebrated their emancipation.

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Michelle Lanier, Director

Bennett Place's Earth Day event (April 20), hosted in partnership with Duke University, featured research displays and tours that brought to life the ways in which history and science go hand in hand to uncover the mysteries of the past.

Bentonville Battlefield

Always on Duty: Medical Care at Bentonville (March 16), the site's 159th anniversary living history program, included artillery and musket demonstrations as well as talks about medicine and medical care. The program drew 2,286 visitors.

Duke Homestead

Born at Duke Homestead (April 13) offered a fresh look at the lives of women in the Duke family household. This event detailed the daily expectations of Victorian motherhood, including birth, childcare, education, mortality and remarriage, and enslaved versus White motherhood.

On May 30, Duke Homestead announced that it was the recipient of a \$2.5 million grant from The Duke Endowment, the largest private monetary gift to a State Historic Site from a single donor. This grant will be used to renovate the site's exhibits, provide maintenance and upgrades, and care for historic structures and collections at the site.



House in the Horseshoe

The popular *Doll, Me and LiberTea* event (April 20), in which visitors are invited to an 18th century tea with sweet treats, lawn games and a scavenger hunt, sold out in March.

As part of its planning for the new visitor center, photogrammetry for the Alston House was completed; Site Manager Amanda Brantley met with a Joseph K. Oppermann architect to review onsite research materials, and the existing visitor center and offices were tested for asbestos and lead paint.

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Michelle Lanier, Director

State Capitol

Kara Deadmon and Terra Schramm joined Assistant Secretary for Government Affairs Deans Eatman in addressing 8th graders at Exploris Middle School on April 18 to talk about the Aycock statue on the Capitol grounds, “hard history,” civic engagement, and plans for an African American monument at the State Capitol. Students later participated in a letter-writing campaign in support of a Black history monument, with some calling for removal of the Aycock statue. Here are a few excerpts from their letters:

“Some people that you should take into consideration for the art installation are Pauli Murray, Ella Baker, and Charlotte Hawkins Brown. I selected these people because the Capitol doesn’t have any African Americans or females.... I hope you consider my thoughts as a young North Carolina citizen.”

–Greyson Ritter, Exploris Class of 2024

“I believe it is important to have a statue because people’s stories need to be heard worldwide, not just in specific places, and the full story should be told. If there is going to be a Confederate statue representing North Carolina, the there should also be a monument for the millions of African Americans who stood up for what they believed in.”

–Imani Le Chevallier, Exploris Class of 2024

Town Creek Indian Mound

Town Creek welcomed the N.C. American Indian Heritage Commission (March 19) for its second annual Spring Equinox Ceremony. Guests included representatives of the eight state-recognized tribes and the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs.

Site manager Rich Thompson and Region Manager Jennifer Farley visited the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City to gather information and insights about

American Indian exhibition development as they prepare to collaborate with the American Indian Heritage Commission on Town Creek site updates.



Photo courtesy Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina via FB

News from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties: June 2024

Michelle Lanier, Director

East Region

Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson

Site Manager Jim McKee hosted a boat tour of Eagles Island (April 23) in which he shared knowledge about land and canals that once supported rice crops and the Gullah Geechee people who grew these crops. Participants included the Eagles Island Coalition, the Arboretum, and the Cape Fear Garden Club.

CSS Neuse

Clara Barton Dinner Theater (May 2), held in honor of National Nurses' Week, offers a first-person glimpse into the life and experience of Clara Barton, whose life's work had a profound impact on women's history, public health, and medical professions. This event coincided with *Clara Barton: Pioneering American Woman*, a traveling exhibit on loan from the Civil War Medicine Museum that was on display from March through May.

Historic Edenton

This spring, Historic Edenton hosted *Memorable Proof*, a site-responsive installation of new work by Black southern photographer Letitia Huckaby presented by *The Harriet Jacobs Project*. Organized by Curator-at-Large Johnica Rivers, *Memorable Proof* documents members of the Fannie A. Parker Woman's Club and their extended community of Edenton, the birthplace and first site of resistance of Harriet Jacobs.

The Harriet Jacobs Project, directed and curated by Rivers and Division Director Michelle Lanier, aims to foreground the spaces and landscapes of Edenton as an invitation to witness the material memory of Harriet Jacobs and other figures who have and continue to pursue freedom in the place of her birth. The project's inaugural effort centers local Edentonians and youth leaders in a communally empowering arts process.

Huckaby's photographs, which were displayed in the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse, brought together the legacy-bearers and limitless beneficiaries of Jacobs's story with a key landmark of Historic Edenton. Staff from Curatorial Services and numerous Historic Sites contributed to this effort, including the State Capitol, Somerset Place, the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum, and Duke Homestead.

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Michelle Lanier, Director

Historic Halifax

Historic Halifax's annual **Halifax Day** event served as the formal kickoff of America 250 in North Carolina. *Halifax Days: Prelude to Revolution* kicked off with a ceremony April 12 featuring speakers Deputy Secretary Darin Waters, PBS-NC CEO David Crabtree, and Brig. Gen. Wes Morrison of the N.C. National Guard.

A ceremony on April 13 with the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe took place at Magazine Spring, a sacred site that provided drinking water to all inhabitants of Halifax including Haliwa-Saponi ancestors, White settlers, and migrating tribes. Demonstrations, talks, and tours rounded out the events.



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Michelle Lanier, Director

Feedback From Our Visitors

“Your passion for your work and dedication to ensuring we had a memorable time was evident. Your depth of knowledge and your ability to convey that information in such an engaging and compassionate manner made the tour both educational and enjoyable.”

Historic Stagville visitor
Pastor Quincy Davis

**“Wonderful!
Very humbling.”**

Anonymous visitor,
Town Creek Indian Mound

“Really want to commend the staff at Historic Halifax for the programming and work you all are doing!”

Historic Halifax visitor
Brig. Gen. Wes Morrison

"You can feel the history! Love going out here for day hikes.”

Anonymous visitor,
Bentonville Battlefield

“I wish you could have seen how people were feverishly taking notes on the insights, stories, and perspectives you both shared. Several people came to me, during the lunch that followed, and said they were writing as fast as they could to capture the wisdom and experience you brought.”

Anonymous visitor,
Historic Stagville

“Billy [McDermott] is fantastic! He did an amazing job giving clear, easy to follow instructions, laughing and joking with us. He is phenomenal!”

Reed Gold Mine visitor
Brianna Jones

“I lucked out with a great guide who knew more about Thomas Wolfe than he did about himself. Those tidbits and fun facts about the author that you can’t find in a fortune cookie or in Cliffs Notes comes from dedication and long hours of having your face planted in books, lots of them, which made the tour more interesting. Thanks, Sarah, for being an amazing bibliophile and tour guide!”

Thomas Wolfe Birthplace
5-star Google review