



Shaw House Sketches

President's Letter

The year 2016 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Moore County Historical Association. On March 7, 1946 the Association was founded for the purpose of purchasing the Shaw House and saving it from destruction. The Shaw House is the oldest house in Southern Pines on its original foundation and is considered of major historical importance. The Association's founder was Elizabeth (Buffie) Ives. She was a "Yankee lady" with a "southern heart." Her famous brother was Adlai Stevenson, former Governor of Illinois, Presidential candidate who lost the 1952 election to Gen. Dwight Eisenhower. Stevenson regularly visited here, played golf and represented the United States to the United Nations.

"Buffie," was the guiding force that led the Association in the acquisition of the Shaw House, Alston House (the House in the Horseshoe), the Bryant House and other places of historic significance. These acquisitions were made not because they were mansions of great importance but because as "house museums" they told the story of how the people lived. In fact, MCHA is the oldest historical society in North Carolina in continuous operation.

A major event marking our birthday year is an "old-timey" luncheon to be held April 18, at the Shaw House, with two seatings at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Volunteer Grace Snelgrove is guiding the protocol and the overall project involving many volunteers. Restaurateur and MCHA vice president Jim Jones is overseeing the food preparation, tweaking the menu featuring a Tea Room staple: Creamy chicken a la king spread sumptuously over Belgian waffles. Also on the menu will be prune cake with whipped cream, a fondly remembered offering from the 1940s through the next five decades. Local and visiting ladies (and sometimes men) made a ritual of lunch "at the Shaw House." Perhaps you've heard of this tradition or have been to a Shaw House luncheon. In later years lunch was served every day except Sunday during mild spring and fall weather. The Ford Times magazine presented the "Shaw House Tea Room" in 1975 with an Award of Excellence, featuring it as a "Famous Eating place." The house holds 40 people for meals at one time, so make your (required) reservation now. The price is \$18. Car-pooling is recommended. To save your place call Grace Jones at (910) 281-5047. Watch The Pilot for more details.

We welcome four new members to the Board of Trustees. Appointed during the annual membership meeting were Eileen Malan, Katie Chisolm, and Paula Caddell. At the February meeting Vernon Elhart joined the Trustees.

Projects completed during 2015 included the installation of new heating and air conditioning equipment at the Shaw House, thanks in large part to a generous grant from the Covington Foundation, obtained by Dorothy Shankle.

At the Shaw House, a new roof on the shed has been installed, thanks to Steady Meares and Jim Jones of the Building and Grounds committee and a grant from the NC Community Foundation.



Under Treasurer John Burns and the Finance Committee, our finances are in order. Our endowment fund continues to grow. We are supported by private donations, fundraisers, grants and endowments, receiving no tax support. We have five house museums we must constantly work to preserve and don't charge admission for tours or visits for these educational offerings. More work is necessary to ensure our future financial stability, but we are heading in the right direction.

An important new initiative we started this past year was preservation of the historic Kenneth Black family cemetery here in Southern Pines. Kenneth Black was a Scottish loyalist during the American Revolution who was murdered by patriots led by Phillip Alston in July 1781. Alston's men mistook Black for their real target, another loyalist, David Fanning because Black had switched horses with Fanning. His murder site was on what is now the Southern Pines Elks Club golf course.

Black's death led to the battle of the House in the Horseshoe a few days later, in northern Moore County, in which Fanning's men attacked the Alston residence in retaliation. MCHA was instrumental in preserving the Alston residence before turning it over to the State of North Carolina. Now, it's the scene of an annual reenactment each August. Trustees, Jim Jones and Steady Meares, and Sue Pockmire and other volunteers and patrons are thanked for investing time, energy, and money.

We will continue to keep you informed of all that is happening through this newsletter, e-mail, our website, the news media, Facebook, posters and postcard mailings.

Many thanks to all members, volunteers and other supporters. Special thanks to Milton Sills, for making our members' party in December a delightful experience, and to Mike Haney for donating a Christmas tree for MCHA to decorate in downtown Southern Pines. We cannot continue to exist without our volunteers.

Greg Zywockinski, co-president



UPCOMING EVENTS

Clenny Creek Day

The 11th annual event from 10-5 on Saturday, April 16 is free admission and includes a raffle, live music, re-enactors, vendors, and pony rides. The Bryant House has added improvements thanks to our volunteers. Jeff Garner built a much needed storage building that is now being used, and Eddie Ferguson carved a handrail for McLendon Cabin, also gas logs have been installed in the Bryant House front room fireplace.

Musicians Allen Ashdown, Steve Hedgpeth, and David McDonald are expected to entertain with live music. This 1820s era home and the adjoining McLendon Cabin from the 1760s are on the same beautiful green site at 3361 Mt. Carmel Road, Carthage. Call (910) 692-2051 for more information.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members!

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FALL 2015 WILMINGTON TOUR. Hosted by Beverly Offutt with transportation provided by Kirk Tours. Check out our spring 2016 tour to Charlottesville.



MEET YOUR LOCAL AUTHORS. Nine authors greeted guests at the Shaw House. Pictured are Cos Barnes and Norris Hodgkins



KENNETH BLACK CEMETERY. The grave marking event in February found 34 graves at the 235 year old cemetery. Left is former trustee, Gene Schoenfelder, with member, Jim Kral who assisted Sarah Lowry with New South Associates in marking the graves. Bottom left Steady Meares sets headstones with the help of his grandson, Jake.



MEMBERS XMAS PARTY. Jim Jones, upcoming co-president, greets guests arriving at the December party.



TAR, PITCH, TURPENTINE EVENT. Trustee, Kelly Hinson, greets Judy and David Page at Bryan Avery's turpentine making event.



CANADIAN ROCKIES TOUR. Guests beginning their fall journey throughout Canada.



SHAW HOUSE FAIR. Becky Keith, Sara Lindau, and Joyce White are ready to make a sale! While the day was cold and blustery, over 200 people stopped by to check out the big sale.



CHRISTMAS AT THE BRYANT HOUSE. Marshall Caddell, with trustee, Heather Jackson and Eddie Ferguson welcome guests at the Christmas event.

Springfest

For the second year, the Shaw House will host an Open House during Southern Pines Springfest on April 30th between 11-4. The historic homes will be open and photographs from Moore County's early years will be displayed.

Annual Membership Meeting

Save the date June 12, place to be announced later, for fellowship, refreshments, and interesting annual reports for all MCHA members.

Shaw House Fair

Eighth annual Shaw House Fair of Vintage Collectibles and Antiques, will be held Oct. 8, 2016. There will be a \$2 per person admission charge. Committee Chair Jim Jones wants to thank the many volunteers and donors who helped make the annual Fair a success on a very rainy, Oct. 10, 2015. "Despite the rainy weather the MCHA was able to achieve its fund raising goals," says Jones.

"Our organization is truly a sum total of many parts," he said. "It was a pleasure to work with so many." MCHA member Howard Muse is thanked for the "generous donation of historical monies to the organization. The artifacts donated are from the former Muse hardware store in Carthage."

Festival of Trees

The MCHA is sponsoring a Christmas tree in the Festival of Trees Nov. 17-20 at the Carolina Hotel in Pinehurst. We will decorate the tree on Monday, Nov. 14. We plan to have a tree representing historical sites in Moore County and we need volunteers' help. We would like for some of you to paint a Christmas ball depicting a historical building in Moore County. You don't have to be an artist to help. If interested, call Judy Snider, 245-1199 or Roberta Helin, 695-0295.



UPCOMING TOURS

Charlottesville Virginia Presidential Homes Tour April 26 to 28, 2016

Planned by Marva Kirk and Beverly Offutt. The tour will visit the presidential homes of Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, and James Madison with additional stops at Jefferson's summer home, the Walton Mountain Museum, and Michie Tavern. All entrance fees, breakfast, and lunch at the tavern are included. Hotel accommodations are at the English Inn, which has an indoor pool.

Prices: Members \$420 per person double; \$520 per person single; Non-Members \$425 per person double; \$525 per person single.

Marva Kirk will offer two modern mini-buses that will accommodate 20 people. Call (910) 295-2257 to register. Payment in cash or check due by March 28.

Christmas Markets Tour

Classic Christmas markets in Innsbruck, Munich, Wurzburg, Strasbourg and Nuremberg are on the travel agenda organized by Collette Tours. We depart Friday, Dec. 9, and return Saturday, Dec. 17. Cost is \$3,499 double, and \$3,699 single.

A \$250 deposit is due at registration, and final payment due Oct. 10.

There will be a special travel presentation at the Shaw House on Wednesday, May 4, at 3 p.m. for those interested in the trip. The Shaw House is at 110 W. Morganton Road, Southern Pines. Save \$200 by early booking.

For more details call Liz Whitmore at (910) 692-4943.

2015 – 2016

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More Sketches

MORE NEWS

Kenneth Black Cemetery Project

On Feb. 2, the Historical Association held a ceremony marking 34 graves found at the Kenneth Black Cemetery in Southern Pines with special guests, New South Associates of Greensboro, the company that used ground penetrating radar equipment to find underground gravesites not visible above ground. Sarah Lowry, an archaeologist and geophysics specialist with the company, observed there are very likely 34 underground graves on the site, consisting of most of Kenneth Black's sons and their families. However it's "not known if 100 percent of the graves we marked are actual graves, but that 34 is more of a ballpark number". Their equipment sends and receives signals through radar.

A large group of interested people gathered on a cold but sunny day in Southern Pines off a major highway where Black, who died in 1781 as the result of an attack by "patriots" who mistook him for another British loyalist, is buried. Through many years, historians, including Blackwell Robinson, Rassie Wicker and Tony Parker, wrote of the historic event and Parker photographed the gravesite that had rocks scattered around the area that was thought to be the cemetery.

A long slab was eventually placed on top of where it was believed that Black was buried. Members of the MCHA worked last summer to neaten up and make a clear outline of the site where the graves were thought to be, and a sign put up to mark the site which is officially being taken care of by the MCHA, acting as agents of the descendants of Black. Over the years development plans for the area have occurred but so far none have come to fruition at the site, which is currently part of a 45-acre undeveloped piece of land with a single owner. Finding scientific evidence of the probable existence of more grave sites than the one visible above ground, along with a couple of vertical stone monuments marking the site, strengthen the necessity of preserving the cemetery itself when development occurs.

EVENT RECAP

Love Your Local Authors

"Love Your Local Authors" held by Azalea Art Press on Feb. 13, 2016 drew visitors to the Shaw House where refreshments, and local authors were on hand. The free admission event drew numerous people in a pre-Valentine's Day party.

Craigrownie Lecture

"The Lost Town of the Sandhills" was subject of a lecture on Jan. 24 by Michael Cox, a Southern Pines resident whose Scottish ancestor was one of the founders of Craigrownie in Richmond County, now defunct.

Christmas Open House

Christmas Open Houses held in December 2015 at the Shaw House and Bryant House featured holiday cheer and old timey decorations, refreshments and music to take the hundreds of visitors back in time for a seasonal treat.

Homeschoolers' History Fair

Judy Snider and Liz Whitmore conducted a second annual homeschoolers' history fair in November 2015 much to the delight of the kids, their teachers, and parents. This one was in Vass. The first one was held at the Agriculture Center in Carthage.

Tar, Pitch and Turpentine Lecture and Demonstration

A naval stores demonstration by historian Bryan Avery held outdoors at the Shaw House on Oct. 24, resulted in Avery's largest crowd to attend his lectures. At least 130 people gathered in the back yard of the Shaw House to learn about this now little-known "art" of collecting the sap of the longleaf pines and converting it to turpentine, tar and other products. For centuries, from the 1700s, this was a major part of the economy of the Sandhills.

Canadian Rockies Tour

The trip to the Rockies Train Trip last October was a bucket list item fulfilled. Some 40 years ago, my husband had been there and always thought - that we would enjoy this trip. However, it turns out I had the opportunity to sign up with the Historical Association. Perfect trip it was - from the first organizational meeting with Liz Whitmore some 40 of us travelled together - all friendly and helpful. Our local travelers were Betty & Wayne Hamblin, Ruth & Bob Stolting. With great weather all the way. Great experiences. - Eileen Malan.

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