



Mint Hill Historical Society

OCTOBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2007

FARMERS MARKET

CONTINUES THRU OCTOBER

- 13 – Saturday, 10am – 2pm
AUTUMN JUBILEE
- 16 – Tuesday, 7pm,
Trustees Meeting
- 20 – Saturday, 9am – 1pm
Arena Racing Cars at the
Farmers Market
- 20 – Saturday, 10am – 4pm
Matthews Historical
Foundation 20 Year
Celebration at Reid House
- 25 – Thursday – 10am,
Volunteer field trip to
Lucas home in Matthews
- 27 – Saturday, 9am-1pm
Farmers Market
- 27 – Saturday, Trip to Hart
Square in Catawba County

NOVEMBER 2007

- 9 – Friday, 10am – 3pm
“Salute To Veterans”
Homeschool Program
- 10 – Saturday, 10am – 2pm
“Salute To Veterans”
- 20 – Tuesday, 7pm
Annual Meeting with guest
speaker Robin Brabham.
Public invited to attend.
- 29 – Thursday, 10am
Volunteer Meeting

DECEMBER 2007

- 7 – Friday, Afternoon and
Evening – “**Holiday Tea**”.
Call now to purchase your
tickets. 704-545-4928
- 8 – Saturday, Afternoon and
Evening - “**Holiday Tea**”.
Call now to purchase your
tickets. 704-545-4928

~ ~ ~

No Trustee or Volunteer meetings in December.

Mint Hill Meanderings

By Margaret Hood Barach

Our Annual and General Meeting is coming up Tuesday, November 20th at 7:00PM at the Carl J. McEwen Historic Village.

A terrific speaker, Robin Brabham of UNC-C will give an overview of the Special Collections in the Atkins Library. I heard Robin at the Docents’ monthly meeting at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. Who knew a librarian could talk out loud and be so interesting! Beating the bushes, surviving spiders and snakes gives the word “Special” extra punch. Be there.

Our next class of Board of Trustees will be elected. Each member is entitled to make one nomination. Nominees must agree to serve.

Becky Griffin recently attended the Arts & Science Council meeting where our Trustee Tina Ross is a board member. The council is rejiggering their formula for donations and their recent grant of \$3,000.00 hopefully may be exceeded. That’s in the dream stage.

One restriction on many grants is they must be used only for program content and not for capital expense. It is good news to think there might be an opportunity to present both types of requests.

Discussions by County Commissioners on banning low slung trousers reminds me of the fun children here have sack racing.

Becky led the Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents through the Doctor’s office last week, she quoted from a book, The Little Doctor, about emergency brain surgery while the patient lay in the front yard, demonstrated tonsil removal and pill making as well as showing instruments with wooden handles (do you think they got boiled or autoclaved, boys and girls?). Such tools were used to remove bone from heads to allow brain tissue to expand after trauma or to remove crushed fingers. Some surgeons like smooth handles to permit feeling what they were doing, and some preferred rough ones so as to improve grip in a slippery situation.

One of our books, the autobiography of Dr. Chevalier Jackson of Pittsburgh, describes how he grew up being beaten and was once thrown unconscious into a coal mine by the rough boys who went to school with him.

Dr. Jackson attributed his world famous skill at getting things out of people’s throats to always wearing gloves and keeping his hands sensitive to the touch. Rumor has it that the instrument he used was developed by Dr. Wilson “Brass” MacConnell of Davidson College during World War I as he did facial reconstruction in France.



The word is out! The ladies in the picture on the left serve a wonderful lunch. Who says so? The Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents! Thank you to Lynnette Pritchard, June Hood and their crew for a generous helping of herbed chicken, country style green beans and spice cake with orange sherbert. Served with a choice of beverage, like actual lemonade or sweet mint tea, the luncheon was a grand surprise for the guests who are more accustomed to church coffee and cup cakes. Make reservations for your group to visit the village and enjoy an elegant lunch served in the Rebecca Junker Griffin Assembly Room at the Carl J. McEwen Historic Village.

New Book For Sale

“Do You Know Why Butterflies Fly?”

A story of courage and new beginnings by Tom McWhirter.

ANNUAL MEETING – November 20th, Tuesday.

The annual meeting begins at 7:00PM. Open to members and general public. Special Guest is Robin Brabham, Associate University Librarian for Special Collections at UNC-C, with hair-raising tales of gathering Special Collections. Do you know where your ancestors' love letters are? How about the biggest ever NASCAR collection? Some of the rare books in the collection included Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, and a signed first edition of Phyllis Wheatley's work. Wheatley was the first African American to have a book published in the United States. The oldest items in the Rare Books collection are two Sumerian clay tablets dating back to 2000 B.C. The oldest book was published in 1471 and written in Latin by John Chrysostom. With one million items in their special collections, listen to Robin Brabham tell how it all began.



A short business meeting and election of our next class of trustees will occur after Mr. Brabham speaks. Each member is entitled to nominate one person for office. Nominees must agree to serve a three-year term of office prior to the nomination. Nominations must be submitted to the Mint Hill Historical Society by November 13. Call 704-573-0726.

MINT HILL ROTARY VOLUNTEERS FOR REST ROOM PROJECT

The regular breakfast meeting every Thursday at 7:30 am at Pine Lake Country Club was changed to a field trip breakfast in the yard of the Carl J. McEwen Historic Village on August 16, 2007. June Hood, Lynnette Pritchard and other volunteers catered breakfast with mass quantities of eggs, sausage, cheese grits, and French toast. June was seen giving her cheese grits recipe to Melinda Johnston so we hope to see that in the *Charlotte Observer*!

Rotarians Jerry Helms, Tina Ross, Tanya Nix, and Bob Rowland proudly shared their interest in the teaching mission of the Village. As more students are welcomed these days, we

need bigger restroom facilities. As a 100 year anniversary gift to Mint Hill, the Rotary Centennial Fountain has been dedicated at the Mint Hill Park on Wilgrove-Mint Hill Road. To continue the running water theme begun in 1906, improved comfort stations providing space for several guests simultaneously will be forthcoming in the Carl J. McEwen Historic Village.

Architectural drawings by DMR have made it through initial approval phases and Jerry Helms, Bob Rowland, and David Reed are busy securing donations of time and materials. DMR's architect, Terry Dalton, suggested a "caterers' kitchen" on one end of the building, NOT connected to the rest rooms. Such kitchens are for serving off-site prepared food. DMR is working at near cost.

Rotary's 2007-2008 Theme: The Power of One to do Ordinary Miracles. Maybe "it takes a village", but at least one spark plug is needed to get things started. Rotary's Four Way Test of the things we think, say or do might be handy to write on the Ashcraft school black boards:

1. Is it the *truth*?
2. Is it *fair* to all concerned?
3. Will it build *goodwill* and *better friendships*?
4. Will it be *beneficial* to all concerned?

Those already signed up to help on the project with materials and labor include; Mobley Electric, Dan King Plumbing, Lowes Home Improvement Center, Lewis Air Conditioning, Bob and Brenda Rowland, and McGee Brothers.

Thank you for your support!





THE BOB-B-CUE!! - HUGE thanks to Bob Bryant for giving us the opportunity to raise funds for the village by selling his barbecue at the Farmers Market and Mint Hill Madness. Thanks to the many members who pre-sold barbecue butts and worked at the park taking orders and money! Thank you to Barbara Lowe who led the Farmers Market all season, along with her regular job, and stood in the sun for three days at the Mint Hill Madness as she helped with preparing “Bob-B-Cue” sandwiches.

Thank you to the Roy Johnson family for the donation of more pharmacy related items and to Dr. Wesley Bruce, the first Mint Hill Pharmacist, for his donation of many pharmacy items including black and white 8x10 photos of his pharmacy. Thanks also to the Barach family for the donation of Dr. D. E. McConnell’s early dental instruments, and to The Mint Hill Times for including our logo each week. Thank you to Pete Larsen for work in the early days to build the storage well in Ferguson’s Country Store and to acquire the Ashcraft One Room Schoolhouse. We’ve heard he has returned to the Mint Hill area. Thank you to Merlin Simpson for white oak logs to make rot resistant sills for the Assay Building, and to Bill Griffin for the frequent loan of his table saw. Thank you to Jeanette Driggers for some horse drawn farm equipment. Thank you to the many who see the wisdom in contacting the Historical Society before throwing out the ‘old stuff’ in the attic! One man’s trash.....

Thank you to Trustee Tina Ross for alerting us to the quick sell out of the Hart Square tickets. The lucky buyers will go to Catawba County on October 27 and tell you all about it so you won’t miss out next year. Dr. Hart shows what one man can do with help from his friends when no permits are required. His village of 88 log buildings is safe, pretty and educational. What more can we want?

SALUTE TO VETERANS – November 9 & 10

Friday, November 9 – 10am until 3pm

Saturday, November 10 – 10am until 2pm

Lewis West is working hard to make this the best Salute To Veterans yet! Friday’s program has been designed for school and homeschool students. Along with interesting displays of memorabilia, re-enactors will have Civil War camps set up all around the village including a surgeon’s tent and a recruitment tent. Students will also find out about Rosie the Riveter and rationing. Bring your old and worn flag to the museum on or before the event so it can be respectfully retired by the VFW and Boy Scouts. Flag retirements will take place on Saturday. This year we are hosting a blood drive with the Community Blood Center of the Carolinas – “Where every drop stays here. Saving local lives.” Call the office to reserve your seat for donating “in honor of...” or “in memory of...” someone in the military, or just because!

Cooking with lead? Making your own bullets? A docent recently reminded me that our toothpaste used to come in nice soft tubes made with lead. People used to salvage the lead out of car batteries to make tractor weights or boat anchors. Putting lead on the face to look whiter was going too far and death ensued.

Last year the Sesame Workshop produced a DVD to help military families discuss deployments with children. Now they are working on a DVD for military families to help the wounded talk with their children.

If you want to help veterans and their families at the Charlotte airport, contact Jack Ahart, Center Director of the USO, phone 704-359-5581 or E-mail: j.ahart@uso-nc.org Formed before World War II, the United Service Organizations is chartered by Congress as a nonprofit, charitable corporation. Not a part of the U.S. Government, the USO relies on donations from individuals, organizations and corporations to support its programs. The USO is endorsed by the President of the United States and the Department of Defense. Each President has been the Honorary Chairman of the USO since its inception. The USO depends upon donations and volunteers. You can make sandwiches or write a check. It will help troops going to assignments as well as widows with children traveling to funerals. Jack will accept good video games and current magazines. His travelers enjoy cakes from Johnson & Wales cooking school, buns from the airport Cinnabon shop, and Lance products among others.

WELCOME TO our new trustees: DOUG DUNCAN, son of a Mint Hill dairy farmer, NANCY BLACK NORELLI, daughter of Jim Black of the red socks, and TOM “Cash” FLOWE, a man who knows how to sell BBQ!

Thank you Jane Burdick, Rita and Gar Hartmann, Mary Shores, John Black and Becky Griffin for leading costumed tours of the Ashcraft School and the Doctor’s Office. Thanks to Bob Rowland and Ron Heath for insulating and sealing the Country Store. Richard Allison will begin painting the interior of the store this week and soon the shelves will be stocked and ready for customers. Makeover almost complete!



Gold Assay Office on restoration path. Coy, Ronnie, and Josh Lambert, the three generations of craftsman who squared up the framework of the schoolhouse, have readied the assay building for the next step – installation of the electrical system. Keep an eye on the progress!

An overall and overdue thank you goes out to the McGee Brothers and Sam McGee for their speedy help with a track hoe to recover a Chilean mill with two huge stones for our gold story. Placed in front of the assay building, maybe they will be operational again someday. John Nix found the wheels while Bob Rowland made quick arrangements with owner Paul Scoggins, and neighbor Scott Hobbs, for access to the property so we could accept the gift. Bob and Sam can really move fast. The stones weighed about 6500-8500 pounds. Thanks to John for keeping his eyes peeled for the museum.

HOME DEPOT - continues to support restoration efforts in the village. Next time you’re shopping for nails, stop in and tell them thanks.

Boy Scout Allen Palmer and family worked in 100 degree heat to finish his Eagle Project, a brick paver patio, at the back of the administrative building – and it is beautiful! We look forward to the end of this drought when we can plant the surrounding area with flowers. Brother Brian Palmer has planned his Eagle Scout project at the front of the administrative building - a proper ramp to replace the emergency model. Brian’s project will begin in November.

Thank you to Rustee Lane and the Elvis Club for a great turn out for Elvis Tribute Day on a hot August 4, 2007. It takes a Village of Elvises to keep up with all the events. Chuck Ayers turned out to sing the life of Harry Hood at Harry’s surprise 70th birthday party given by Jane and Charlie Burdick. Read in The Mint Hill Times about the party to which “everyone who knows Harry” was invited. Thanks to Adam Houston for his fine coverage and photos.

The society just couldn’t function without the devotion of many volunteers. Kathy McKeever, although a part-time employee, triples her paid hours with volunteer hours. Our archives are approaching tiptop shape – thanks to her meticulous organization and work ethic!! Many people are involved in the day to day activities of the museum. The Executive committee comprised of Becky Griffin, Don Wilson, Vic Orr, Bob Rowland, Ron Heath, Judy McWhirter, and Margaret Barach meet every Tuesday and work throughout the week in the society’s name. Trustee John Nix works every day. Rita and Gar Hartmann – tireless, cheerful and ever supportive of every task. Barbara L., Brenda, Anna Mary, Jane, Bob, Donnie, Barb, June H., Lynnette, June B., Donna, Charlie, Bob and Ann, Barbara B., Martha, Kay, this list goes on and on. Next month as we are sitting around the turkey on the table, we will remember and be thankful for the many volunteers who are making a difference at the Mint Hill Historical Society.

★ Looking for two maple logs. A recent donation of a feather mattress perfectly fits another recently donated item – a rope bed. The maple bed needs two new side rails. The round rails are about 4” in diameter.



ARENA RACING - If you just can't get enough of the big cars racing around the track, you're sure to love the ½ scale stock cars! The fast-paced indoor sport features 15 race nights of local drivers ranging in age from 14 to fifty-something, competing in their own unique half-scale stock cars on a one-tenth mile banked track built to fit inside Cricket Arena. At times, as many as 14 cars will entertain fans at speeds of up to 50 miles per hour with lap times of about 8 seconds.

Arena Race Cars and other cars of interest will be at the Farmers Market Saturday, October 20, 9am until 1pm. Half size car drivers will be available to answer questions about the racing season starting on Friday, October 26. Thanks to Brooks Davis, car owner/driver (*his car pictured*) for introducing us to this family fun!

Tours in May and June included Bain School with 150 students over three days. The Sassy Lady's Red Hats with 25 adults and Doug Duncan and the Whitley Family Reunion as well as the DeArmon Reunion enjoyed tours led by Becky Griffin and Jane Burdick. The Queen Mother, Helen, and her royal court, the Gorgeous Garnets brought 20 adults after a luncheon at Jimmy's. John Black brought the Rama Road Teaching Group who toured with Jane Burdick and enjoyed lunch in the Rebecca Junker Griffin Assembly Room.

New work tables were purchased for the H.M. (Penny) and Martha H. Mullis Documentation Room, allowing Kathy McKeever plenty of room for recording artifacts. A refrigerator, new cabinetry, wicker table and basket have been added to the Bettie W. McEwen Garden Room making the room more functional. Come see what's new!



Recent losses to our extended Mint Hill family include: Clem Williams, Ralph Mullis, Ivel Douglas "Doug" Carriker, John Dennis, Henry Baxter "H.B." Forbis, V. Glenn Craig, Robert "Bob" Baxter Pharr, C. J. "Jack" Hovis, Faye Stilwell Rushing, & Mitchell Wayne Mullis "Mitch". Our sincere sympathy is extended to the families.

20 YEAR CELEBRATION !

The Matthews Historical Foundation is celebrating its 20th year. On October 20, from 10a – 4p, visitors can catch a glimpse of life around the 1900's at the historic home of Dr. T. N. Reid in Matthews.

The Mint Hill Historical Society will join their celebration by suiting two rooms at the Reid House. One will portray a 'sick room' and the other will be concerned with medicines of the 1900's time period. Other rooms in the house include exhibits of entertainment, clothing styles, holidays, and cooking. The event is free and open to the public.

We gratefully acknowledge gifts to the Mint Hill Historical Society given in Mary Emily DeArmon Whiting's memory by Lillian Whitney, Julie Austin and family, Frank Whitney and family, Grant Whitney, Jr. and family, Helen Churan, Lelia G. Middleton, Becky Griffin, the Yates family of Frances, Judith, Chek, Rosalie Walsh, Allene Wecklin, and Celia P. DeArmon. At 100 years of age, Mary Emily was the last survivor of Dr. DeArmon's 12 children.

Handsome display cases in the Country Doctor's Museum were donated by Becky Griffin in honor of June Baucom. Other donations were received from Sarah Belk Gambrell and Margaret Hood Barach gave software in memory of George Junker, brother of Becky Junker Griffin. Eileen Allison and her son Richard donated the paint and labor to makeover the country store, in memory of Kathleen Allison Patrick, who was Eileen's daughter, and Richard's sister.

Come celebrate the season at the Holiday Tea in the Ashcraft Schoolhouse. It promises to be a wonderful time to visit with friends, and relax over a cup of tea and delicious treats. Tickets to the Holiday Tea will make the perfect gift for a teacher, best friend or babysitter. Serving times are Friday, December 7, 3pm and 7pm and Saturday, December 8, 3pm and 7pm. Seating is limited. Call Lynnette at 704-545-4928 to purchase tickets.

TOUR OF DR. LUCAS HOME

Volunteers are invited to visit the magnificent 3 story home in Matthews built in 1935 by the late Dr. Charles Lucas. Susannah Hewson, daughter of Dr. Lucas, has been a long time friend of the Mint Hill Historical Society and has donated many wonderful artifacts and treasures. The tour of her childhood home will be Thursday, October 25 at 10 am and is free for members of the Historical Society. Call the office if you wish to register for the trip. Space is limited. Office - 704-573-0726

Mint Hill Historical Society

PO Box 23203
7601 Matthews Mint Hill Rd
Mint Hill, NC 28227
704-573-0726
historical@bellsouth.net
www.minthillhistory.com

Board of Trustees

June Hood, Bobby Long,
Judy McWhirter, Martha Strohm,
Sam McGee, Jim Black Sr., Stan Davis,
Sue Helms, Tina Ross, Bob Rowland,
Doug Duncan, Becky Griffin,
Gene Griffin, Ron Heath, Jerry Helms,
Billy Kiser, Lewis West,
George McDonald, Vic Orr,
Shirley West, Don Wilson, John Nix,
Nancy Norelli, Tom Flowe.

Executive Director

Becky Griffin

Officers

Co-Presidents - Vic Orr and Don Wilson
Co-Vice Presidents – Bob Rowland and
Ron Heath
Secretaries – Shirley West and
Margaret Barach
Treasurer – Judy McWhirter

Administrative Director

Suzanne McDonald

Newsletter Editor

Margaret Barach

MEMBERSHIP FORM – PLEASE CUT OUT AND MAIL

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone(s) _____

E-mail _____

Level of Renewal or Membership:

Individual (1 year) \$15.00 _____ Family (1 year) \$25.00 _____

Life (one individual) \$200.00 _____

Mail tax deductible check to: Mint Hill Historical Society

P.O. Box 23203

Mint Hill, NC 28227-0272

Mint Hill Historical Society

PO Box 23203

Mint Hill, NC 28227



The Mint Hill Historical Society is supported, in part,
with a project grant from the Arts & Science Council.