



Mint Hill Historical Society

2008 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY

- 9 – Saturday, 9:30 am
Volunteer Orientation
- 16 – Saturday, 9:30 am
Volunteer Orientation
- 19 – Tuesday, 7 pm
Trustee Meeting
- 23- Saturday, 9:30 am
Volunteer Orientation

MARCH

- 18 – Tuesday, 7 pm
Trustee Meeting

APRIL

- 19 – Herb & Flower
Festival and Grand Re-
Opening of the Ira V.
Ferguson Country Store
9 am – 3 pm
- 22 – Tuesday, 7 pm
Trustee Meeting

MAY

- Farmers Market**
Open every Saturday
9am-1pm
- 20 – Tuesday, 7pm
Trustee Meeting

Mint Hill Meanderings

By Margaret Barach

The big excitement in January was the replacement of the furnace in the office during a week with nighttime temps in the teens. Sue McDonald sends “Thank you” to Gar Hartmann and Bob Rowland “for taking pity on the frost bitten office staff, and voluntarily brought electric heaters to keep our toes and pipes from freezing.”

We have a new hvac unit in the office. “A very competitive bid was submitted and accepted - and installed” before Sue arrived at work the next day. “That’s service!”

We welcome back Bob Rowland who actually volunteers to be cold by having a big snow adventure camping on Ice Mountain. Is that a real place?

He is back now, coordinating, cajoling, and configuring between public and private entities to get the Assay Building, well house, and Rotary Restroom projects moving as spring approaches. You can see him with his loaded tool belt in our handsome new brochure. As Coordinator-in-Chief Bob could ask for Hail to the Chief to be played when he enters.

One of the missed “Kodak moments” was Kathy McKeever, our opera star, singing Christmas carols to Jim Black, Sr. as he sat on the steps of the Ashcraft Schoolhouse. We were there decorating the Village with natural magnolia, holly, nandina berries, and pine boughs for the terrific teas put on by June Hood and Lynnette Pritchard.

Please pick up some of the brochures to give to your own vendors and leave in places where you play or trade.

We do have people “on the case” to update our website which is stuck in 2006. This is important when considering the fact that great members like Rita and Gar Hartmann found us on the Internet when they were looking for a place to live to be near children and grandchildren.

Congratulations to Rita on entering the Medicare generation. She will find the Country Doctor a better choice for simplicity of payment.

Not so complicated is emailing our newsletter to you and saving a stamp. They will come in a .pdf format which should work for most of us. Please reply to historical@bellsouth.net let us know the email address to send your next newsletter, and we’ll save the postage to make improvements in the village.

Our wonderful Wayne Rowell, CPA is retiring to the beach! So we’ll be looking for help in that department.



Bob Rowland and James McWhirter with Fordson

HELPING HANDS

The team of devoted men who care for the old cemeteries in Mint Hill, took a day from their restoration work to help tidy up at the Mint Hill Historical Society. Huge leaf blowers and busy rakes gave the grounds a tidy look before the Holiday Teas in December.

Shown here on a well deserved break are Harry Hood, Scot Treadwell, Eddie Bartlett, and Charlie Burdick.

Not shown; John Nix, photographer



James McWhirter bought a 1922 Fordson tractor for us but we must have it protected from weather. No one wants to conceal the log construction on the side of the present shed with a lean-to. Becky Griffin said we need a shed for the tractor, hit & miss engine, gristmill, huge pea sheller, and buggy (which also needs upholstery). These items are stored all over Mint Hill.

Imagine what Farmer John Nix could do with a barn!

~

November Review – ‘Salute To Veterans’



Boy Scout Troop 144 retires worn flags with dignity and honor. Well done!

Korean War Veterans and Civil War re-enactors honor the rising flag.



Rosie the Riveter (Patti Proctor) tells children about the role of women during wartime, when the men were away defending our country.

Civil War campfire is explained to children visiting the Salute To Veterans event.

~~*~*~ Holiday Teas ~*~*~*~*

In December, the society sponsored a series of Holiday Teas. A total of six seatings at 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, and 7:00 pm, were scheduled for December 7th & 8th.

Of the 192 reservations available for sale, 124 were sold at \$10.00 each, grossing a total of \$1240.00. Because members volunteered time, donated supplies, and loaned furnishings, utensils and adornments, only a \$287. Expense was subtracted leaving a net income of \$953.00.

A Warm Christmasy ambiance permeated the Ashcraft School House which had been transformed into a tea room for the occasion. Costumed in 20th century dress, volunteers greeted guests and ushered them to artistically decorated tables where they were served a variety of scrumptious savories and delectable sweets. Continuous rounds of tea were poured as guests enjoyed sampling a variety of hot beverages including Wassail and Russian Tea.

Our own Katherine Luna McKeever entertained with several seasonal favorites. Being an accomplished opera singer, her voice and selections added a celestial tone that was inspiring and breathtaking.

Much praise and recognition goes to Lynnette Pritchard, June Hood and their committee for planning, organizing and executing such a successful event.

The Holiday Tea Committee has already met to plan the 2008 event. Do you like tea parties? Want to help? Call 704-573-0726.



ASSAY OFFICE AND ROTARY RESTROOM PROJECTS - WHAT A WEEKEND!!

January 26 – a cold and mucky day, but a busy day at the Mint Hill Historical Society! Tanya Nix was in the administrative building making breakfast and lunch for the two work crews in the Carl J. McEwen Historic Village. Mint Hill Rotarians were building floor joists for the restrooms at one end of the village, and MHHS volunteers were at the other end removing the steel girders from under the gold assay office.

The next improvement due on the assay office is installation of electrical wiring, but again we are waiting in the “permit jungle”. Wade Carmichael, Restoration Specialist, consulted with the society on Thursday, January the 31st, to discuss historical reconstruction in the village.

The Rotary Club will have another workday the weekend of February 9th. If you need to work off your Christmas fat, please come help. You will get to see the white oak logs Merlin Simpson gave to make rot resistant sills for the Assay Building, and maybe Bill Griffin lending his table saw.

Remembering Rotary’s 2007-2008 Theme: The Power of One to do Ordinary Miracles. We are grateful for their gift.

Thanks to all who got the ball rolling on these projects – Terry Edwards, John Nix, Alvin Lewis, David Reed, Jerry Helms, Bob Rowland, Abel del Campos, Mike Cochrane, Casey Cochrane, Tanya Nix, Rich Bartos, Vic Orr, Don Wilson, Doc McGee, George McDonald, Sam McGee, Zack McGee, Jordan McGee, Colter McGee, and Grayson McGee.



The Mint Hill Historical Society would like to start a collection of china. Do you have single pieces, partial sets or heirloom treasures for which you would like to find a 'loving home'? Bring them to the Society Office at 7601 Matthews Mint Hill Road in Mint Hill or call 704-573-0726 for pick up.

Coming Attractions –

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents – Who was Harry Golden?

The next meeting of the MHA Docents will be on Tuesday, February 5 in the Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church.

Refreshments: 9:30 am; Business Meeting: 10 am; Program: 11 am. Visitors are always welcome.

Robin Brabham, recently retired as head of Social Collections at the UNC Charlotte Library, will speak on **Harry Golden**. Golden was once internationally known as a best-selling author, publisher of the Charlotte based Carolina Israelite, civil rights activist, and raconteur. He lived in Charlotte for many years, and was a well-known, wonderfully colorful character. Unfortunately he is little remembered today. Learn why he was important and why he should not be forgotten. The author of *Only In America*, *For 2cents Plain*, *So What Else Is New?*, *You're Entitled*, *Carl Sandburg*, *Forgotten Pioneer*, among others, Golden's Vertical Integration Plan was greatly discussed. Although he did not “sleep here” in Mint Hill, The Charlotte Observer covered Golden's being entertained at a home on Dan Hood Road where his cigar was always welcome.



Herb & Flower Festival

April 19

Mark your calendar! The Herb & Flower Festival is underway. Applications are being accepted for vendors. Call 704-545-4928. Tea times have been set and reservations may be made with Lynnette Pritchard at 704-545-4928



Applications are now being accepted for market vendors and volunteers to support the market

Call the office 704-573-0726
Or email historical@bellsouth.net

Thank you to Becky Griffin and Tom Flowe for interviewing Mint Hill residents, Sally Cochran and Ruth Flowe, whose memories are as sharp as the ladies themselves. These interviews are available for listening as are several others such as Sam McGee talking with Walter Gladden and Stan Davis and Becky Griffin with Lena B. Russell.

John Nix and Mike Cooper enrolled in an 8-week course on Beekeeping. Both deny being the King Bee, but wish to be responsible for caring for a hive. Did you know.....bees have been on the earth for 100 million years? And plants have been on the earth for 140 million years? Who was pollinating before the bees got here?

Thank you to Brooks Davis for supporting the Mint Hill Historical Society by donating tickets to Arena Racing at Cricket Arena. If you are not familiar with arena racing, check out these small cars at www.arenaracingusa.com. Look for Brooks zipping around the track in his own car. Also, thanks to Billy Kiser for selling the Arena Racing tickets. Profits benefit the Historical Society.

Gar and Rita Hartmann - two volunteers who are everywhere in the village – not just docents, but carpenters, cleaners, waiters, landscapers etc etc etc. Thanks for all you do!! Farmer John Nix – Thank you too!! John is a pillar in the Historical Society’s everyday operations.

Bob Rowland, at the January Trustees meeting, asked Sam McGee to list many of the projects in 2007:

1. Patio grading by Doc McGee
2. Footings dug and foundation poured for the assay office
3. Stone piers built on the assay office
4. Footings dug and foundation poured for the Rotary Restroom Project
5. Stone piers built on the restroom project
6. Chilean millstones retrieved and placed beside assay office
7. Well house lifted, poured footings, put in foundation and stone veneer

Bob said that Sam McGee has two foremen, Mike Ramos and Dalton Reynolds who are formidable and highly energetic. Thank you to all of them.



Steel girders on the way out!

We look forward to upcoming Eagle Scout projects such as a black smith shop, up-to-code handicap ramp for the front of the office, and an arbor/shelter built near the hand pump behind the administrative building. All of these projects and others already completed, are from young men in Troop 144 at Blair Road Methodist Church. Thank you!

Gar and John installed a new floor on the stage and thanks to Home Depot, it will get a fresh coat of paint! Read the Mint Hill Times and Charlotte Observer for upcoming events. Strick Tree Service removed a dead tree in the village. Thank you!

Please remember those who volunteer their services or reduce prices to the Mint Hill Historical Society when you are looking for help at your home or place of business.



Charlie Burdick and Becky Griffin reposition the stove and pipe during improvements.

******* GRAND RE-OPENING *******

The Ira V. Country Store has been closed while improvements were made to the building. The attic was vacuumed and reinsulated. Cracks and crevices were sealed to keep critters and the weather out. The entire store was emptied and then repainted inside by Richard and Eileen Allison, and repainted outside by Home Depot. Display cabinets and furniture have been moved – and store artifacts have been put back in place!

Mark your calendar to attend the Grand Re-Opening Ceremony at the Herb and Flower Festival in April!

Register for free Volunteer Orientation Workshops in February

Join the fun and excitement of bringing the history of Mint Hill to life! The workshops offer opportunities to meet people of all ages, in all walks of life, including - research, genealogy, construction, preservation, tours, costumes, education, gardening, event planning, computer work, display and design work, or whatever you would enjoy doing!

Saturday, February 9, 9:30a - 11:30a Who are we? The history of the Mint Hill Historical Society and Carl J. McEwen Historic Village with Executive Director Becky Griffin.

Saturday, February 16, 9:30a - 11:30a Building tours through Dr. Whitley's medical office, Ira Ferguson's Country Store and Walter Ashcraft's Schoolhouse offer a glimpse of the lifestyle of the folks who rode the horse and buggy to town 100 years ago.

Saturday, February 23, 9:30a - noon Explore opportunities that interest you, meet other volunteers, and enjoy the Appreciation Luncheon for new and experienced volunteers.



Orientation facilitator: Jane Burdick

Workshop location: Administrative Building of the Mint Hill Historical Society

Register by phone or email: 704-573-0726 or historical@bellsouth.net

THE MINT HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE 2008 BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

Board of Trustees

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

Officers

Executive Director – Becky Griffin
Co Presidents – Vic Orr and Don Wilson
Co Vice Presidents – Bob Rowland and Ron Heath
Secretaries – Shirley West and Margaret Hood Barach
Treasurer – Judy McWhirter



Recent losses to our extended Mint Hill family include: Kenneth Hill, brother of Macamie Dearmon (MD) Hill and also brother of Fran Harris, who made a significant contribution towards the purchase of our administrative building five years ago; Robert Charles Green "Bobby"; Gene Griffin; Ed McWhirter; Paul Long; Arthur Johnson McEwen, Jr.; James Gerald Gerard "Jerry" and Lena B. Russell.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to all the families.

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Mint Hill's 'Poet Laureate'

The Mint Hill Historical Society lost a valuable friend and board member in the passing of Gene Griffin. His wisdom, wit, love of words and his knowledge of local history will be missed by the entire community. Fortunately, his collection of almost a thousand poems leave a lasting legacy for our enjoyment and for the enjoyment and education of future generations.



Mint Hill Historical Society

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MEMBERSHIP FORM – PLEASE CUT OUT AND MAIL

Name _____

Street _____

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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
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Mint Hill Historical Society

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