



**1780 Council Oak
at Quaker Meadows
First Quarter 2019**

The History Museum
of Burke County, Inc.
P.O. Box 416
Morganton, NC 28680
201 West Meeting Street,
Morganton, NC 28655

828-437-1777

burkehistory@compascable.net

Executive Director

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Fred Smith

Dana Whisnant

Betty Whitaker

History Museum Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 10:00 - 4:00

Saturday 10:00 - 2:00

Rail Road Depot

Saturdays

1:00 - 3:00

R. Douglas Walker

Curator Emeritus

Jeff Stark, Coordinator

Museum Musings Staff

Debbie Bradley

Linda Lindsey

Pat Page

MUSEUM MUSINGS



“REMEMBERING BURKE COUNTY FURNITURE COMPANIES” EXHIBIT OPENS

"Remembering Burke County Furniture Companies", the museum's newest exhibit, pays tribute to the many companies that produced furniture in Burke County during the 20th century. It showcases examples of furniture, lamps, and accessories once proudly produced by thousands of local workers. Also on display are photographs of office and factory workers and two showcases of furniture miniatures handmade for the 1964 - 1965 New York World's Fair. This large exhibit will remain on display until the end of the year. More information is given inside.



Jes Long, retired furniture worker, talks with Edward Phifer after the “Coffee at the Museum”. Many retired furniture workers attended and enjoyed talking with friends and co-workers about their experiences and what the industry meant to Burke County.

First Quarter 2019

DREXEL BARBER SHOP MUSICIANS ENTERTAIN

Drexel Barber Shop musicians, pictured right, entertained more than 100 members of the History Museum during the 2019 Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 16 in the Fellowship Hall at First Baptist Church in Morganton. Kay Dignan of the Quaker Meadows



Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) presented its most prestigious award, the National DAR Historic Preservation Medal, to History Museum Executive Director Claude Sitton. Fewer than 30 of these awards are made each year.



History Museum Becomes Safe Harbor for Brinkley Company Safe

This safe, donated by J.D. Brinkley, Jr. (shown in photo) to the History Museum of Burke County, was first used in 1917 by J.M. Brinkley and Sons, a hardware and lumber company in Valdese. Originally located on Columbo Street, the company split after J.M.'s death in 1944 and became Brinkley Hardware, located on Main Street and operated by Atlee Brinkley, and Brinkley Lumber, located on the corner of Church Street and Main Street and operated by J.D. Brinkley, Sr. Upon J.D. Sr.'s passing in 1961, two sons, J.D. Jr. and Bill, operated the lumber business. In the 1970s the lumber company moved to Rutherford College until it closed in 2017 in its 100th year of operation. J.D. Jr.'s brother Jim is a member of the History Museum Board.



Docent Raymond Robinson at the Museum's satellite, the old Morganton Depot, with visitors watching a train coming by on a Saturday afternoon.



Meet Michele Fulgate

Our new receptionist is Michele Fulgate, who is working with the Museum 20 hours per week. She has taken over our Facebook page, and you will read frequent postings. Please "friend" us on Facebook!



"Casting" on Display

There is an interesting story about the eagle on display in the new Furniture Exhibit at the History Museum (see photograph). Donnie Williams writes that his first employer out of college was Drexel Furniture in the Research and Development Department. This was a time when "castings" were first being used in the industry, replacing wood carvings. Initially, these castings were made from polyester and, later, from polyurethane. To make a casting, first a mold

is made of the carving and polyester or polyurethane was poured into mold to harden, or cure. The cured product was then removed from the mold and used in whatever manner for which it had been designed. Mr. Williams' department was responsible for forming the molds.

Among the wood carvings which went to the department was an eagle, and from that carving was made a casting which is the item on display in the current exhibit. It was made from an original carving done by Andrew "Andy" Helminger, a German immigrant who learned his craft in his home country and who was known as a true artist and a perfectionist. The full-size eagle casting, in polyester, was to be used as a base for a cocktail or occasional table. The mold itself had eight parts and the original casting had a hole in the eagle's back for a post to support the top along with the eagle's head and wings. After producing the original test casting, the Research and Development Department decided to cap the hole in the eagle's back in order to make a lasting memento of Mr. Helminger's work. Mr. Williams feels fortunate to have been able to maintain this memento for approximately 53 years.

The History Museum of Burke County Inc.
PO Box 416
Morganton, NC 28680-041600

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Form for Membership and/or Brick Orders

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Membership Categories (check appropriate level)

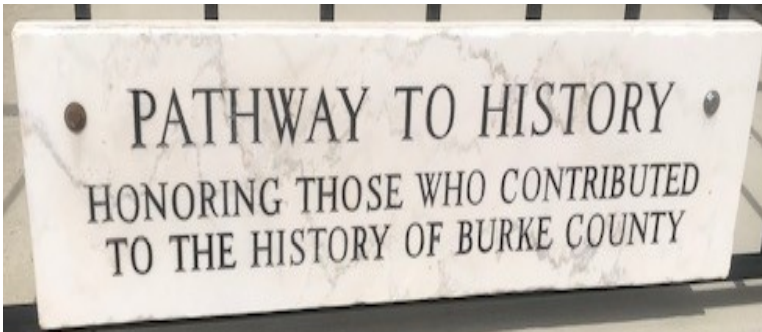
Youth (birth - age 18)--\$5 Family--\$35
 Individual --\$25 Contributor--\$55
 Patron--\$100-\$499
 Conservator--\$500-\$999
 Benefactor--\$1,000 and above

Pathway to History Brick Order

Memorial Honorarium \$100 per brick

(Up to 3 lines, 15 characters per line, spaces count as ½ character)

Line 1 _____
Line 2 _____
Line 3 _____



Looking for a unique and memorable graduation gift? Birthday gift? Retirement Gift? A gift with a long life? Consider honoring a family member, friend, or colleague with an engraved brick in the sidewalk leading to the West Meeting Street entrance to the History Museum of Burke County. Bricks are \$100 each. The form pictured left may be used to order bricks. For more information, please call the History Museum at 828-437-1777.

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