



1780 Council Oak
at Quaker Meadows

MUSEUM MUSINGS

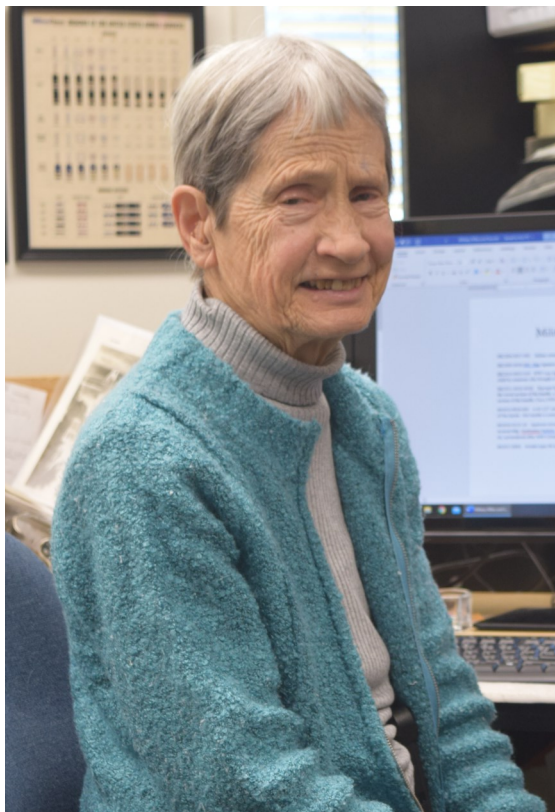
History Museum of Burke County Newsletter
Spring 2021



Museum Non Profit Status

We express our gratitude to our friend at the Waldnesian Museum for reading Museum Musings carefully! He noticed that in our notice of our IRS 501 (c) (3) status, that we have had an error in the statement in every issue of the newsletter. The statement should state that the Museum is a PUBLIC nonprofit. We appreciate his call, and advising us of this correction that needed to be made.

The History Museum of Burke County has IRS approval as a 501 (c) (3) public nonprofit educational organization. Financial information about this organization and a copy of its solicitation license are available from the NC Charitable Licensing Service at 1-888-830-4989. This license is not an endorsement by the State.



Shirley Helms, pictured above, has been critical to maintaining information on acquisitions. In order to be sure this important work continues, Shirley has asked for someone to help learn her role. Interested? Contact_____

We sat down with board member Shirley Helms to learn more about her role on the Acquisitions Committee. Shirley comes to the board from Drum Straight area near the Drexel/Morganton border, and has served as the museum's registrar for twelve years. It is her responsibility to process donations to the museum from start to finish – no small task for a museum with more than 22,000 total items taken in!

Upon receiving an item for donation, the Acquisitions Committee evaluates whether it has a place in the museum's collections. If there hasn't already been a comparable item acquired, and it's determined the item will fit into the collection for the purpose of furthering the museum's mission, Shirley takes the first of many steps to process the acquisition. She begins by documenting whether the item has been deeded or loaned to the museum; donors may choose to take an item back after a given amount of time, or as it rotates out of the museum's collection. Next, she enters the item into PastPerfect, the world's leader in museum collection software. It is used by more than 11,000 museums, including the Smithsonian and the Louvre! Each donation is numbered according to the year and order in which it is received, and the display and/or storage location of the items is recorded. Shirley's documentation process is crucial to the efficient, accurate maintenance of the museum's collections – she's invaluable!

Did you know?

In 2019 the Museum had 2,831 visitors. Based on the Museum budget, the cost per visitor that year was \$25.

In 2020, the Museum had 405 visitors. Average cost per visitor: \$176.



Trench Art from Valdese Soldier

It seems humans infuse their lives with art in all kinds of circumstances. Here are two examples of “Trench Art”. The bullet necklace was brought back to Burke County by Pt. Jesse H. Messer of Valdese in 1918. The replica of a cannon was brought back by Sgt. Atlee Brinkley of Valdese who served in WWI in France. Brinkley was the uncle of Museum Board Member Jim Brinkley. Both pieces, and other examples of Trench Art, are on display in the “Military Exhibit” on the upper level of the Museum.



“Necessary”

Recently Edward Phifer, III, donated an antique bedpan to the Museum. It is a replica of one used by George Washington, seen at Mount Vernon. It is made of pewter. Note the multi-purpose handle. It can be taken off, and there is an opening used to empty and clean it. This is typical of the style used during the 1700s.

The History Museum
of Burke County, Inc.
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Curator

Phyllis Wogan

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Winston Lear

Linda Lindsey

David McGalliard

Sarah Owens

Robert Patton III

Velma Sanders

Fred Smith

Dana Whisnant

Phyllis Wogan

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

Museum Musings Staff

Debbie Bradley

Linda Lindsey

Sarah Owens

Pat Page

Watch our website
for news on the
Museum reopening
in 2021!

Form for Membership, Donation, Brick Orders

Your Name(s) _____

Address _____

Tel _____

E-mail _____

Membership (Check appropriate category level)

___ Youth (to 8) - \$5

___ Conservator-\$500-\$999

___ Family--\$50

___ Benefactor-\$1,000 and above

___ Individual --\$35

___ Corporate Patron- \$250-\$499

___ Contributor--\$75

___ Corporate Conservator-\$500-\$999

___ Patron--\$100-\$499

___ Corporate Benefactor-\$1,000 & +

General Donation \$ _____

Pathway to History Brick Order (\$100 per Brick)

___ Memorial

___ Honorarium

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

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

Line 3 _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____