



1780 Council Oak
at Quaker Meadows

MUSEUM MUSINGS

History Museum of Burke County Newsletter
Winter 2022



RARE, VINTAGE CURRENCY DONATED BY RIDDLE FAMILY

When former Morganton Mayor Harry Lee Riddle, who worked in banking, started his collection of vintage currency decades ago, he had no idea it would eventually be on exhibit at a history museum that had not yet been envisioned. Totaling 66 antique bank notes now mounted and displayed in three frames, the new exhibit went on display in November, thanks to its gift by the Riddle family. Mayor Riddle left his collection to his son, the late Dr. J. Iverson Riddle, Sr., for whom the J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center is named. He left it to his wife, Marsha, who donated it to the History Museum. Mrs. Riddle is pictured above, with Iverson Riddle, Jr.

Between 1900 and 1935, Morganton's First National Bank printed \$45,880 of national currency. That currency says "Morganton First National Bank" on its face. The collection on display includes a \$10 National Bank note printed in 1920, six vintage \$1 bills, and more than 50 pieces of fractional currency in denominations of 5, 10, 15, 25, and 50 cents. Fractional currency was issued following the Civil War when precious metals used to make coins were scarce.

Museum Curator Phyllis Wogan noted the Museum has taken precautions to protect the collection from theft. Currency was professionally re-framed, anti-theft devices bolt the frames to the wall, and a security camera is aimed at the collection 24/7. A photo of Mayor Riddle and Dr. Riddle is included in the exhibit.

Christmas Parade Adventures

The old saying about making lemonade when life gives you lemons comes to mind when you consider the History Museum's involvement in recent years in the Morganton Christmas Parade. Sue Cozort, Board member and Co-Chair of the School Tour Committee, was not able to arrange school tours, as usual, due to the pandemic. Undaunted, she turned her attention to History Museum representation in the much-beloved Annual Parade. Due in large part to her efforts, the Museum participated in the 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 Parades.

The first year there were no hitches: musicians dressed in costumes and singing songs rode on a "vehicle float". The second year, the driver was late and couldn't find the Museum's Parade entrance number. This necessitated him having to go in and out of the Parade route to try to find his position. The third year the Museum borrowed a classic car in which a group of carolers rode while they entertained the crowd. It went well until the car ran out of gas and the carolers had to push the car up the hill near the Museum! This past year Cozort went to the Food Lion on East Union Street near the deadline for the Parade entry application. Not having located a vehicle yet, she noticed a truck decorated with Christmas lights parked in front of the store. She located the owner and talked with him about driving his truck for the Museum in the Christmas Parade. He was delighted to oblige! Cozort reported later that, for weeks after the Parade, the driver continued to drive all around the countryside with "History Museum of Burke County" signs attached to the truck advertising an invitation to visit the Museum.

LATEST BOOK ADDITIONS TO THE MUSEUM STORE

Two recently published books have been added to our 120 + publications available for purchase.

The Painted Series-The Adventures of Bailey, Blecker, and Banjo-Linville Gorge by mother and daughter, Emily and Tonja Smith, is the tale of three dogs who set out on their own to explore the Linville Gorge and surrounding area. The picturesque illustrations are from paintings by Tonja Smith. Although primarily a children's book, animal lovers and those who value the beauty of the area will find it appealing. The illustrations are wonderful. (\$20 retail)

The Story of Linville Falls-A Village, A People, A Wilderness is authored by Tense Franklin Banks, a retired educator and historian who served for several years as Director of the Avery County Historical Society and Museum, Inc. Historian and sixth-generation Linville Falls resident, the author takes us on a journey to discover the personal tales, travails, and triumphs that have taken place within this unique landscape for over two centuries. The author is a descendant of the first permanent white settler in Linville Falls, Samuel Franklin. His family owned Linville Falls twice and once traded them for a suit of clothes. The book is comprehensive, well documented, and features historic information about the area and many families, individuals, and events which played a role in the history and development of Linville Falls. (\$50 retail) by Sandra West

NOTE: The Museum is not able to offer shipping.

The History Museum of Burke County has IRS approval as a 501 (c) (3) public nonprofit educational organization. Financial information about the History Museum 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.



The top photo shows the new look of the History Museum Annex from the corner of West Meeting and South College Streets. The lower photo shows the rear entrance, accessible from South College Street.

History Museum Annex Receives Needed TLC

The History Museum Annex on the corner of West Meeting Street and South College Street has been the recipient of some much-needed attention to its exterior and is collecting a lot of compliments from Museum visitors and passers-by. After repairs to the outside of the building, installation of a new roof, and removal of a large awning over the garage doors, the building has received new paint. Board member David McGalliard, who has responsibilities for facilities management, and Curator Phyllis Wogan worked with other Museum leaders and a local painter to select a particular shade of green that has transformed the outward appearance of the building. McGalliard says the Annex is a “work in progress” as efforts are now underway to assess heat and air conditioning needs. The building currently provides storage space and a very large exhibit of Boy Scout memorabilia that may be visited by appointment. Discussions are ongoing as decisions need to be made soon about the location and size of one or more other exhibits.

Call 437-1777 to schedule an appointment to see the Boy Scout memorabilia exhibit.



December “Coffee at the Museum”

Representative Hugh Blackwell made a detailed presentation about 2021 Legislative actions at the Thursday, December 9 “Coffee at the History Museum”. Following his presentation, he entertained a wide range of questions from the audience.



Something for All Ages

The December 8, 2021 visit to the History Museum by the Casanova family (pictured left) provided a reminder that the several thousand artifacts in the Museum's collection have appeal for a variety of ages. The Casanovas have five children, all under age eight, who accompanied their parents on a tour led by Docent John Howard. While some might have concerns about keeping a watchful eye on five children and trying to keep them engaged during a visit to a history museum, the Casanovas did not hesitate. John Howard noted later that the children were attentive and among the best-behaved he had met.

During the tour, Michele Fugate, Museum Receptionist, told the family about the Train Depot and the family expressed interest in seeing it. Usually the Train Depot is open to the public only on Saturdays but, that particular Wednesday, Museum Curator Phyllis Wogan was leading a tour of the Train Depot for students from Morganton Day

School. She volunteered to provide a tour of the Train Depot to the Casanova family that afternoon if they could be available. The Casanova family accepted her offer and they and their children saw both the History Museum and the Train Depot in one day.

Future Students of NCSSM- Morganton Visit History Museum



The History Museum on January 22 welcomed future residents, pictured here, eager to learn about the community in which they will live as of Fall 2002. A group of students who will be among the first to enroll in the new North Carolina School for Science and Math (NCSSM Morganton) travelled from Durham for an orientation to both the past and the present of their soon-to-be home away from home.

Museum docents enjoyed their time with the students and noted that they were very engaged and asked excellent questions.

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Form for Membership, Donation, Brick Orders

Your Name(s) _____

Address _____

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Membership (Check appropriate category level)

Youth (to 18) - \$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 \$ _____

Volunteers Needed!

Call or visit the History Museum if interested! There are a variety of needs to be filled.