



1780 Council Oak
at Quaker Meadows

MUSEUM MUSINGS

History Museum of Burke County Newsletter Summer 2021

Museum Reopens with Reworked Exhibits, COVID-19 Protocols, and Change in Saturday Hours

The History Museum is open! We are practicing all suggested guidelines for visitor and volunteer safety. We ask that visitors please respect each other and our volunteers by adhering to current guidelines.

During the past year, we have updated and made changes to several exhibits.

In response to increased traffic during the summer months, Saturday hours are now 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Tuesday – Friday hours remain 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Appointments are encouraged in order to help us plan. If you are interested in touring the Museum, please call 437-1777 to schedule a visit.

Replica of 16TH Century Spanish Galleon on Display in Gold Exhibit



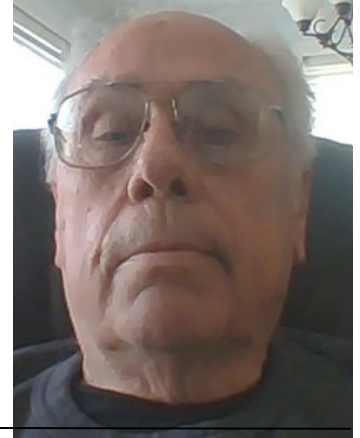
One of the newest artifacts at the History Museum conjures up thoughts of adventure, danger, and treasure. Now housed in the “Gold Rush Exhibit,” a beautiful replica of a 16th century Spanish galleon is on display.

The stunningly detailed ship was made by Larry Clark, local historian, author, retired dean at Western Piedmont Community College, and former History Museum board member. Clark, who has always been fascinated by boats of all kinds, said after years of making boats (continued on page 3)



Oops – Apology for the Error!

The last issue of Museum Musings was sent to the printer before inserting the article introducing our two new Board members. Our deepest apologies to Allen Fullwood and Ron Kendrick, pictured left and right respectively, for the error.



Volunteer Training Held as Museum Reopens

As part of the Museum reopening, on May 1, Museum Board Member/Docent Coordinator Dana Whisnant held a docent meeting/orientation.

The docent orientation was a great success and prepared the docents to safely volunteer in a new post-COVID-19 environment upon reopening. There were 21 attendees. Phyllis Wogan updated the volunteers on new Covid-19 guidelines and requirements to operate the Museum safely. Wayne Hitt shared information on new and updated exhibits.

The Museum depends on volunteers in order to provide free admission. Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks including docents to guide tours, facility and office work, and grounds maintenance. Volunteers may serve seasonally so schedules can generally be accommodated. Please contact the Museum for information.

Gilboa Cemetery Clean-up



Andrea Kiser is a leader in cemetery preservation and was recently recognized by the Daughters of the American Revolution for her work. Armed with rakes, clippers, chainsaws, and other tools, she and her mighty team of workers take time to clean, trim, remove limbs and debris, or whatever needs to be done, to clean up old cemeteries.

Recently Andrea and her group worked to clean the roadside leading into Gilboa Methodist Cemetery, off Highway 64 South. Gilboa, established in 1793, is among the oldest Methodist churches in Burke County.

Andrea and her group continue to do work in several old cemeteries in Burke County.

Morganton Movie Star in 1930's



Hint: Remember that Museum hallways are more than passageways to connect rooms. They house their own exhibits. On the lower level, in the hall next to the elevator, is an exhibit about a Morganton man whose rise to stardom in Hollywood was cut short by death at age 37.

Born on a Morganton farm in 1894, Robert Williams ran away from home at age 13 to join a traveling show. He worked on Mississippi showboats and in Midwest and New York theaters before joining the U.S. Army during World War I. After he was discharged, he moved to New York City and debuted in a leading role in the popular Broadway comedy "Abie's Irish Rose." He acted in many successful plays before moving to Hollywood.

Frank Capra selected him to play the leading male role in "Platinum Blonde" with Loretta Young and Jean Harlow. Williams missed the October 31, 1931, premier because he had collapsed while filming "Lady with a Past" with Constance Bennett. He suffered a ruptured appendix and died from peritonitis. His passing brought a sudden and unexpected end to a promising career.

Pay attention to those hallways in the History Museum!

Galleon (continued from page 1)

from plastic models, he wanted to make a wooden ship. He remembers working on the galleon during "long, cold winter nights, all winter." Galleons were multi-decked sailing vessels first used as armed cargo carriers in the 16th – 18th centuries and were the principal vessels drafted for warships until the Anglo-Dutch Wars of the mid-1600s. They were approximately 150 feet long with a beam of 45 feet and were armed with 64 guns. They traveled at eight knots an hour, or a little more than nine miles an hour, and often traveled in groups for safety reasons. They required a crew of 90 – 100, not counting soldiers that might have been on board. Galleons became every treasure hunter's dream as they often carried coins, ingots, and objects crafted from gold and silver. Clark said one of his memories of building the replica is that much more rope went into building a galleon and equipping it with sails than he would have thought. He learned that when he used string and thread to install the sails on the replica.

Clark has long been associated with the discoveries of the Catawba Indian village of Joara and the 16th century Spanish fort at the Berry site. He remembers his excitement when some of the pieces found in the Joara site pottery field were determined to be of Spanish origin. It may be that some of those pieces made their way to what is now Burke County via a Spanish galleon more than 400 years ago.

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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.

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

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

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

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Total amount enclosed \$ _____