



**1780 Council Oak
at Quaker Meadows
July 2017**

The History Museum
of Burke County, Inc.
P.O. Box 416
Morganton, NC 28680
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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

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MUSEUM MUSINGS



The History Museum is excited to announce the receipt of its 20,000th artifact, donated by Bob McGhinnis, a Henry Centennial Edition Rifle. Shown here are History Museum Executive Director Claude Sitton, Chair of the Acquisitions Committee Winston Lear, Bob McGhinnis; Curator Phyllis Wogan, and Registrar Shirley Helms.

History Museum Receives 20,000th Artifact

Bob McGhinnis has donated a Henry Centennial Rifle, caliber .22 S/L/LR to the History Museum, making it the 20,000th artifact since the Museum's founding. The rifle was released in 2010 to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of The Boy Scouts of America. It features the Scout oath, Scout law, scrollwork and the Boy Scouts of America logo embellishing the receiver, as well as a "100 Years of Scouting" logo and Centennial Edition gold-filled etchings in the buttstock and forearm. It was donated with its original box.

The first Boy Scout Troop in Burke County was organized in Morganton in 1915 by the Reverend Cary E. Gregory according to Edward W. Phifer Jr.'s "The History of a North Carolina County: Burke".

It's interesting that both Museum's 1st acquisition and 20,000th acquisition were firearms. Museum Executive Director Claude Sitton donated a flintlock shotgun, 33.5" sawed-off barrrel in 2003. Plan a visit to the Museum to see these artifacts.

CHICKEN FOR CHARITY FUNDRAISER

For the Burke County History Museum

Friday, August 4th— 5:00-7:00 PM

Location: Burke County History Museum (Annex); 203 W. Meeting St., Morganton, NC

Catered by **FATZ CAFÉ** Calabash Chicken Dinner includes: World Famous Calabash Chicken, green beans, potato salad, poppy seed rolls, banana pudding, and tea. Tickets are \$10.

Docent Prepares Book about the Museum to Present to Schools

Being a docent of the Burke History Museum, I felt the need to get the word out to our Burke County Schools about the Museum, especially the K-3 and 4th graders, who study North Carolina history. The Museum staff, along with Museum Board member/retired principal Robert Patton, supported me in making a book to take to each school. After raising funds for this purpose, Assistant Museum Curator Wayne Hitt and I went through the exhibits in the Museum, taking photos. We then went to a local photo business that helped us prepare the book.

Robert and I visited the principal at each school and presented them a copy of the book. They seemed very appreciative. We saw an increase in students touring the Museum, and many were awed as to what they saw. Even several teachers stated they did not know the Museum is in Morganton and were surprised at it being so big and informative.

As the children came in, we asked them to think of yesterday and not the digital future. We traveled back in time where they were shown artifacts of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, the making of furniture, the music room, the Frankie Silver room, the building of Lake James and where the village of Fonta Flora existed, the old country store, legal room, pictures of high school graduating classes of 50 or more years ago. They had hands-on experience near the News Herald room by typing on an old typewriter, saw many items of yesteryear including an old toaster and skates. They liked the Presidents' room, the military room, and mostly the over 750 airplanes that Les Patton made through the years. The agriculture room was fun for the children as they studied about local farmers, the dairy farms, and the many different types of equipment used to help tilling the soil. The students were surprised that all of the artifacts were donated by individuals to the Museum. It was exciting for the staff to hear the children say "gol-lee."

We continue to invite schools, churches, and other groups to visit the Museum. The public is welcome. Our hours are Tuesday – Friday, 10:00 – 4:00, and Saturday from 10:00 – 2:00. Docents are present to welcome and escort you!

Submitted by Sue Cozort, Museum Docent



New North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

Topic of the May

“Coffee at the History Museum”

Kevin Baxter, Director of Western Campus Planning for the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, spoke at the May 18 "Coffee at the History Museum" about the goals and timeline for building the new campus on the eastern ridge of the campus of the North Carolina School for the Deaf. Plans call to raze some existing buildings and to renovate and incorporate into the new campus two grand buildings of distinction, Goodwin Hall and Joiner. The new campus will offer outstanding opportunities to Burke County educationally, economically, and culturally.



Morganton police officers and firefighters, whose station was at the corner of East Meeting and College Streets from November 1959 until November 1978, gathered at the site in June 2017 to reminisce. The building is now the Annex for the History Museum.

Judge Claude Sitton, Executive Director of the History Museum, hosted the reunion, welcomed the former occupants, and provided a tour of the facility as it is today.



Melissa Timo, Staff Archaeologist at the Exploring Joara Foundation, presented information at the June 15 "Coffee at the History Museum" about plans for the Annual Field Day at the Berry site in June and the status of excavations of Fort San Juan. This year is the 450th Anniversary of the founding of Fort San Juan at Joara, Catawba settlement, and the Spanish and Indian Colonial Trail. Fort San Juan was built by soldiers under the command of Captain Juan Pardo and represents the earliest European settlement in the interior of the United States, 18 years before the English "Lost Colony" at Roanoke and 40 years before Jamestown.

Other Docent News...

Recently we assisted in setting up the archaeology room featuring Fort San Juan, built by conquistador Juan Pardo in the late 16th century adjacent to the Catawba Indian village of Joara in what is now Burke County. The fort predates the earliest English settlement at Roanoke Island, North Carolina by 18 years. This special exhibit shows progress made to date in the ongoing archaeological dig at the Berry site on private property off Highway 181. The exhibit includes the information about the history of the site, both Native American and Spanish, and includes artifacts.

A mural of the Brown Mountain Lights is being developed for the Museum and should be ready this fall.

Submitted by Sue Cozort

Assault of East Cemetery Hill at Gettysburg by
Hoke's and Hays' Brigades of the Army of Northern Virginia
on July 2, 1863

First of a Multi-Part Article by History Museum Board Member Benjamin O. Williams

A photograph of Samuel McDowell Tate of Morganton on East Cemetery Hill at Gettysburg recently was given to the History Museum. Tate led the 6th North Carolina Regiment in the Confederate assault.

Gen. Robert E. Lee decided to advance the Army of Northern Virginia into the North in June 1863. Part of the army was Hoke's Brigade and included the 6th, 21st, and 57th North Carolina; it was commanded by Col. Isaac E. Avery of Morganton, N.C. Men from Burke County largely made up Company D of the 6th N.C. The men advanced as part of Jubal Early's Division and Richard Ewell's Corps as far as York, PA on June 28, 1863. Other divisions of the corps were near Harrisburg and Carlisle, PA. General Lee recalled Ewell's forces from their locations and directed them toward Cashtown and Gettysburg, PA. Approaching Gettysburg on the afternoon of July 1, Ewell found that A.P. Hill's Third Corps had been in battle for several hours. Colonel Avery led the brigade in a charge across Rock Creek and into Federal lines just north of Gettysburg. After a hard-fought encounter, the Confederate Second and Third Corps prevailed all along their front and drove the Federals into and through Gettysburg. The advance pushed the remaining Federals to the heights south of Gettysburg to the area known as Cemetery Hill. On July 1, Hoke's Brigade sustained 145 casualties.

As July 2 dawned, the Confederates in Hoke's Brigade "saw Cemetery Hill crowned with field works—lunettes at the gun positions—and 'bristling with a most formidable array of cannon.'" The Union force on East Cemetery Hill consisted of the batteries of Capt. Michael Wiedrick, Capt. Bruce Ricketts, and Capt. Gilbert Reynolds (twenty-three guns total) with two brigades of Adelbert Ames' Division of the Eleventh Corps at an estimated strength of 1200 men. The brigade was facing the same forces they had helped drive through Gettysburg the day before.

After James Longstreet sent his men to attack the areas of Little Round Top, Devil's Den, and the Peach Orchard, the men of Hoke's Brigade, with their sister brigade commanded by Brig. Gen. Harry Hays, prepared to attack the opposite end of the Federal line. About 7:30 p.m. bugles sounded and men of Hays' and Hoke's Brigades advanced with skirmishers in front followed by two lines of battle. "This lack of daylight, along with the obvious obstacles, such as the natural strength of the hill and the Union defensive line positioned upon it, made a successful assault on East Cemetery Hill seem nearly impossible." However, Hays reported, "owing to the darkness of the evening...and the deep obscurity afforded by the smoke of the firing, our exact locality could not be discovered by the enemy's gunners, and we thus escaped what in full light of day could have been nothing else than horrific slaughter."

Avery's men traveled 700 yards of rocky Pennsylvania landscape to reach the base of the hill. They advanced in the face of a shower of grape and canister from several big guns atop Cemetery Hill and another half-dozen guns on Culp's Hill. Lines of well-entrenched Union sharpshooters fired from behind stone walls on the incline. But the charging Confederates continued with Federal skirmishers falling back as Avery's line approached.

The men next faced a right turn and an uphill climb of approximately 300 yards to reach the main Federal line and artillery just below the Baltimore Pike. Colonel Avery was hit in the neck by a bullet and slumped off his horse while still at the hill's base. After he was removed from the field and the wound was determined to be mortal, Avery scribbled on a piece of paper, "Major [Tate] Tell my father I died with my face to the enemy. I.E. Avery." He succumbed thirty hours later.

The story continues in our next edition of Museum Musings