

# Carolina Comments



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## Second Saturdays Debut at Historic Sites and Museums

Artists from across North Carolina will exhibit and sell their artwork this summer as part of the Department of Cultural Resources (DCR) Second Saturdays: History, Heritage, Arts, and Fun Program, scheduled at all thirty-seven state historic sites and museums on June 12, July 10, and August 14. Each site and museum has developed special programming for those days, with various themes reflective of the state's history that facilitate a pairing of art forms appropriate to the individual site. The 110 events, most of which are free, provide an opportunity for North Carolina artists to showcase their work to state residents and visitors and to make connections with a larger cultural community. The program is the brainchild of DCR secretary Linda A. Carlisle. "We are excited about combining the unique power of the arts and heritage with lots of hands-on fun each Second Saturday during the peak summertime vacation months of June, July, and August," said Secretary Carlisle. "Families on a budget will find a lot of value for their travel dollar, whether it is for 'staycations,' 'tank-of-gas-or-less trips,' or a longer vacation."

Partners in the Second Saturdays program include *Our State* magazine; the Golden LEAF Foundation; the Division of Tourism, Film, and Sports Development of the North Carolina Department of Commerce; the North Carolina Cooperative Extension; and the Tourism Extension Program of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism

## For the Record

The North Carolina Historical Commission met on May 19, 2010, and adopted with favor the “North Carolina State Capitol Memorial Study Committee Report.” That report recommended ending a twenty-five-year moratorium on the placement of further memorials on the State Capitol grounds. Recognizing the lack of diversity in the memorials on the grounds and within the State Capitol, the commission announced that it would consider new memorials that trace the development of citizenship rights and the achievements of American Indians, women, and African Americans. Under G.S. 100-2, the Historical Commission must approve all memorials placed on state property.

Dr. William S. Price Jr., former director of the Division of Archives and History, chaired the committee that prepared the report. Michael Hill, supervisor of the Research Branch, served as the committee’s secretary and drafted the final report. Other members of the committee included Keith Hardison, director of the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties; Deanna Mitchell, administrator of the State Capitol State Historic Site; Michelle Lanier, curator of cultural history in the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties; Dr. Freddie Parker, a member of both the North Carolina Historical Commission and the African American Heritage Commission; and Dr. Harry L. Watson, a member of the North Carolina Historical Commission.

The study committee met four times and held three public hearings in February 2010 in Asheville, Raleigh, and Greenville. A blog attached to the State Capitol Web site permitted additional comment. The study committee did not recommend removing any of the existing monuments or memorials but noted that appropriately



Management at North Carolina State University. To learn more about the program and the venues, visit [www.ncculture.com](http://www.ncculture.com)—2nd Saturdays. Details of the inaugural Second Saturdays activities on June 12 may be found below under the individual sites.

There is no cost to artists to participate in the Second Saturdays events although each is responsible for his or her own display materials, including tents and tables. Visual artists in any medium are encouraged to participate. Artists and vendors will retain 100 percent of their sales at most sites. Spaces are still available at all sites for the July and August events. Registration is being handled by the North Carolina Arts Council. Information for artists, including an online registration form, is available at [www.ncarts.org/2ndsaturdays](http://www.ncarts.org/2ndsaturdays), or by contacting Jennifer Huggins at (919) 807-6516 or [jennifer.huggins@ncdcr.gov](mailto:jennifer.huggins@ncdcr.gov).

## Archivist of the U.S. Addresses Friends of the Archives

More than eighty people filled the auditorium in the Archives and History/State Library Building on June 14 to hear national archivist David S. Ferriero address the Friends of the Archives annual corporation meeting. Ferriero is the tenth Archivist of the United States, appointed by President Barack Obama in 2009. Friends president Patrick Wooten introduced Linda A. Carlisle, secretary of the Department of Cultural Resources, who opened the program. “We have a strong tie to the United States archivist,” she noted. “We are proud that the head of our program, R. D. W. Connor, served as the first Archivist of the United States.” Connor, a professor of history at the University of North Carolina, was named to the post in 1934 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

### **For the Record** *(continued)*

sized monuments could still fit within the current grouping. Proposed locations included the northwest, southwest, and southeast corners of the grounds. It also suggested that the west corridor of the State Capitol might host plaques commemorating the Thirteenth Amendment (abolition of slavery), Fourteenth Amendment (citizenship and equal protection of the laws), Fifteenth Amendment (voting rights for freedmen), and Nineteenth Amendment (voting rights for women).

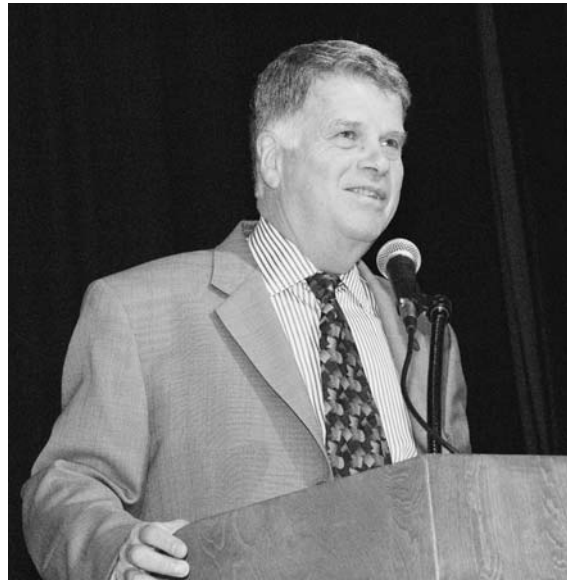
The study committee offered several subjects for possible inclusion. With respect to American Indians, it suggested a symbolic memorial representative of all recognized tribes. For women the study committee proposed either Lillian Exum Clement, the first female legislator, or Ella Baker, the civil rights leader. To commemorate African American achievements, the study committee recommended a memorial to one of several subjects: United States Colored Troops during the Civil War; George Henry White, the last African American to sit in Congress (1897–1901) until 1929; or a combined White-Baker memorial. The study committee commended the work of the North Carolina Freedom Monument project. The committee's recommendations are meant to complement, not supplant, the Freedom Monument's ambitious plans for public art.

When Associate Justice Patricia Timmons-Goodson of the North Carolina Supreme Court swore in the new members of the African American Heritage Commission on February 28, 2009, she noted that in crossing the State Capitol grounds each day she was disappointed that no people of color were represented in the statuary. The North Carolina Historical Commission has taken the important first step to add diversity, reflective of all North Carolina's population, to the State Capitol grounds.

Jeffrey J. Crow

After being introduced by Wooten, Ferriero took the stage and delivered his talk titled, "Transparency, Collaboration, and Participation in Government: A View from the National Archives." In his twenty-minute presentation, Ferriero discussed ways in which the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is responding to President Obama's initiative of open government. From his viewpoint as director of the primary agency responsible for preserving government records, Ferriero noted that "citizens have a right to examine the records of their government." NARA permanently retains approximately 2 to 3 percent of the one billion records generated by the federal government every day. Having inherited an agency in need of a "culture change," he outlined several new initiatives at NARA aimed at increased transparency and responsiveness, including improving the appearance and broadening the presence of the Web site, <http://www.archives.gov/>; reaching new audiences by fully exploiting social network media, such as Facebook, Twitter, blogs, and wikis; streamlining the document declassification process; focusing the role of NARA in Freedom of Information Act requests, whereby the tracking, comment, and mediation processes become better organized; and the creation of "citizen archivists" by engaging the public in projects and programs. Ferriero admitted that one of his major challenges lies in the collection and preservation of archival electronic records, especially electronic mail. Currently, individual employees must decide whether an e-mail is an archival record, worthy of retention. "The key to transparency is effective records management," he said, noting that the Electronic Records Archive was created to meet this challenge.

David S. Ferriero, tenth Archivist of the United States, addressed the annual corporation meeting of the Friends of the Archives, attended by numerous staff members of the Office of Archives and History, on June 14. All images courtesy of the Office of Archives and History unless otherwise indicated.



In concluding his remarks, Ferriero thanked the Friends of the Archives for the opportunity to return home to North Carolina, as he still maintains a residence in the state. From 1996 to 2004, he served as university librarian and vice-provost for library affairs at Duke University. “I am proud that my letter of appointment as Archivist of the United States reads, ‘David S. Ferriero from North Carolina’,” he said.

### **Western Office Closer to New Home**

The Department of Cultural Resources (DCR) Western Office will move into a newly renovated building in east Asheville, known as the Oteen Center, sometime before September 30, 2010. Plans for the move were first set in motion in 1994 when the department entered into discussions with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the General Services Administration concerning the fate of the former African American nurses’ dormitory in the northwestern corner of the Veterans Administration Hospital Historic District in Oteen. Completed in 1932, Building 13 is a three-story, 17,800-square-foot Georgian-style structure that was part of an Oteen Hospital campus that by 1944



The renovated Oteen Center in east Asheville will soon be ready for occupancy by the Department of Cultural Resources Western Office.

contained more than twelve hundred beds and eighteen buildings. By the early 1950s, the hospital had diversified beyond tuberculosis treatment, and in 1967 a new comprehensive treatment facility—the Charles George VA Medical Center—was built adjacent to the original site.

The DCR connection to Building 13 dates to 1978, when a lease agreement between the department and Western Carolina University allowed the then newly established Western Office to occupy space on various floors. For several years, Western Carolina used the building for adult education classes, but when the university ended its lease with the federal government in 1992, the Western Office was required to move. It has taken eighteen years and a \$3.4 million renovation project that has been delayed numerous times, but the Western Office is close to realizing a homecoming that at times seemed impossible to imagine.

Once relocated, the Western Office will have space for limited interpretive exhibits and a lecture hall for workshops and community events. Additional office space in the building will accommodate two tourism development officers and a resource library. There will be expanded file storage capacity for programs administered by the State Historic Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology. An archaeology lab for processing artifacts will be housed in the basement, along with a small darkroom and photography/scanning studio. It is envisioned that at a later date the third floor will become a western regional archives repository managed by staff members of the Archives and Records Section of the Division of Historical Resources.

## Highway Historical Marker Dedicated at Executive Mansion

On May 12, a highway historical marker was belatedly erected and dedicated in front of the Executive Mansion on Burke Square in Raleigh. The First Gentleman of North Carolina, Robert Eaves, and Secretary of Cultural Resources Linda A. Carlisle delivered brief remarks during the unveiling ceremony. Also attending the dedication were



Following the highway historical marker dedication ceremony in front of the Executive Mansion on May 12, Michael Hill (*left*), supervisor of the Research Branch of the Office of Archives and History and head of the marker program, presented a copy of the revised edition of *The North Carolina Gazetteer*, which he compiled and edited, to Gov. Beverly Perdue and First Gentleman Robert Eaves.

Gov. Beverly Perdue and Jeffrey J. Crow, deputy secretary of the Office of Archives and History. This year marks the seventh-fifth anniversary of the North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Program, created by the General Assembly in 1935. Since the first sign went up in Granville County in January 1936, 1,544 markers have been erected across the state, including eighty in Wake County. But for some inexplicable reason, the Executive Mansion was overlooked for all those years. Mr. Eaves attended a program last year to dedicate the Eugenics Commission marker on McDowell Street in Raleigh and mentioned the oversight to Secretary Carlisle.

The Executive Mansion is the fourth official residence of the governor of the State of North Carolina (Tryon Palace in New Bern served colonial governors and the first state governors). From 1797 to 1816, a two-story frame structure at the corner of Fayetteville and Hargett streets housed the chief executive. Construction began in 1814 on a grand home at the end of Fayetteville Street, the present site of Memorial Auditorium, which was known as the Governor's Palace. The mansion served the state's chief executive until 1865. From the close of the Civil War until 1891, governors had to either rent a house in Raleigh or stay in one of the better hotels, such as the Yarborough House on Fayetteville Street. Gov. Thomas Jarvis appealed to the General Assembly for a suitable residence in 1883, when he insisted that "it does not comport with the dignity of the State for the Governor to live in a hotel, where he is unable to dispense the hospitality incumbent upon him and due to the State, to say nothing of the personal inconvenience to himself." Philadelphia architects Samuel Sloan and A. G. Bauer were selected to design the executive mansion. Prisoners at the new state penitentiary provided much of the labor. Gov. Daniel G. Fowle moved into the mansion in 1891 before all work was finished. He lived there just two months before dying of a heart attack.

The highway historical marker program is among the longest running initiatives of the Office of Archives and History. The North Carolina Department of Transportation, program cosponsor, supplies the funds to make and the manpower to erect the signs. Details about the program can be found in the tenth edition of the *Guide to North Carolina Highway Historical Markers*, published by the Historical Publications Section, or on the Web site, [www.ncmarkers.com](http://www.ncmarkers.com).

## **New Highway Historical Markers Approved**

At meetings on December 15, 2009, and May 25, 2010, the members of the North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Advisory Committee approved the following new markers: YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE and ZELDA FITZGERALD, Buncombe County; ANDREW'S CHAPEL and KING SOLOMON LODGE, Craven County; LEWIS LEARY and OMAR IBN SAID, Cumberland County; PEA ISLAND LIFESAVERS, Dare County; GEORGE H. WHITE, Edgecombe County; LUNSFORD RICHARDSON, Guilford County; G. B. CASHWELL, Harnett County; CAMP NEW PROVIDENCE, Mecklenburg County; DEEP CREEK and NIMROD JARRETT SMITH, Swain County; ANNA J. COOPER, EXECUTIVE MANSION, and FAIRGROUNDS SPEEDWAY, Wake County; and STANLEY HARRIS, Watauga County. Details about each of these new markers can be found at [www.ncmarkers.com](http://www.ncmarkers.com). Over the past twelve months, marker dedication and unveiling programs have been held in Asheville (2), Chimney Rock, Durham, Greensboro (2), Lumberton, and Raleigh (3).

Department of Cultural Resources secretary Linda A. Carlisle has appointed Kelli Cardenas Walsh of Fayetteville State University and Chris E. Fonvielle Jr. of the University of North Carolina Wilmington to five-year terms on the marker advisory committee.

## News from Office of Archives and History Administration

### USS *North Carolina* Battleship Memorial

After long deliberation and review, the USS *North Carolina* Battleship Commission formally convened on May 31 and unanimously voted to begin significant hull repairs to the ship. By virtue of the contractual agreement with the U.S. Navy, the State is mandated to maintain the battleship, which was last dry-docked in 1946 and is in immediate need of hull repairs. Following significant research by the staff of the battleship memorial, the commission agreed to conduct on-site repairs by using new cofferdam technology; to use U.S. Navy-approved paint and maintenance procedures; to replace and/or repair the steel hull plates; to replace the “through hull fittings” blank flanges; to conduct underwater hull cleaning and painting; and to remove approximately 1.5 million gallons of contaminated oily water from the ships’ tanks to protect the Cape Fear River from potential contamination.

Conducting the long-term maintenance in Wilmington rather than at a dry dock in Charleston or Norfolk will save approximately \$16 million. The repairs can be carried out while the ship remains open to the public. Development of a plan to fund these repairs over the next several years is the commission’s next priority. The commission will undertake a campaign to raise as much money as possible from private contributions. Starboard bow repairs using a cofferdam will be conducted this fall as a template/test case.

## News from Historical Resources

### Archives and Records Section

State archivist and records administrator Dick Lankford and members of the Archives and Records Section management team participated in a two-day strategic planning process in April. The resulting planning document may be viewed on the State Archives Web site, [http://www.archives.ncdcr.gov/policies/2010-2013\\_archivesrecords\\_strategic\\_plan.doc](http://www.archives.ncdcr.gov/policies/2010-2013_archivesrecords_strategic_plan.doc).

The Imaging Unit of the Collections Management Branch has added two new pieces of equipment that will expand the branch’s capacity for preservation of permanently valuable state and local records, as well as the digitization and preservation of existing collections in the Archives. The German-made SMA 51 utilizes the most powerful graphics cards and monitors to create thirty-five-millimeter microfilm from digital images of almost any size or file format. Currently the branch uses a Kodak Document Archive Writer to convert images of letter- and legal-sized documents to sixteen-millimeter film. The addition of the SMA 51 allows the branch to create microfilm copies of oversized items, such as plats, maps, and other drawings. It also diversifies the services the branch can offer to state and local officials who want microfilm duplicates of their permanently valuable records.

The second piece of equipment that arrived in May was a Zeutschel OS 1400 A1 overhead scanner, which will replace the last of the Kodak MR-D microfilm cameras still used by the branch. The MR-D served as the workhorse for preservation microfilming of archival materials for decades. But it has become increasingly difficult to keep the MR-D running. Repairmen trained to service the camera are retiring, and replacement parts have become harder to find. The pair of new machines will enable the branch to continue its preservation microfilming program, as the digital images created by the scanner can be converted to microfilm by the SMA 51. Capable of three-dimensional imaging of books, the OS 1400 A1 meets the strict preservation scanning guidelines of the National Archives. The OS 1400 A1 will enable staff members of the Collections Management Branch to capture the best possible scans of fragile oversized archival materials and simultaneously to make those images available for patron use or conversion to microfilm.

In April, the Traveling Archivist Program (TAP) completed its initial cycle of assistance to cultural institutions. This pilot program, supported by the State Historical Records Advisory Board and the North Carolina State Archives, was established to assist institutions in the care and preservation of archival collections. Hal Keiner, former university archivist at Appalachian State University, was hired as the “traveling archivist.” During the first cycle of the program, Keiner compiled collection surveys, conducted demonstrations and workshops, and distributed archivist starter kits to twenty-six institutions across the state. “This work is tremendously gratifying,” said Keiner. “Reaching out to these archives, libraries, and museums, and providing them with training in collections care are important steps in preserving North Carolina’s documentary heritage. Through this program, we are demonstrating both the need for and progress in assistance to cultural agencies.”

Participants in the TAP were selected through a competitive application process. The second cycle of onsite visits to an additional sixteen institutions will be completed in December. The program is funded through a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

The State Archives has acquired microfilm copies of compiled service records of the soldiers who formed the United States Colored Troops (USCT), organized primarily in North Carolina during the Civil War. This addition completes the Archives’ microfilm holdings of the National Archives and Records Administration series of compiled service records of North Carolina Civil War soldiers: Confederate and Union, white and African American. The 137 reels of microfilm of the USCT service records comprise a bounteous source of information for genealogists and historians. These records contain invaluable personal information, such as a soldier’s general physical description (eye and hair color, height, weight, etc.), place of birth, length of service, and details of that service.

On May 7, Druscie Simpson, head of the Information Management Branch of the State Archives, and Michelle Czaikowski of the State Library spoke to a group of Cumberland County public librarians at a development day program in Fayetteville. Their topic was “Explore North Carolina Culture and History, Digitally” and covered the online resources to be found on the State Library and State Archives Web sites. On May 20, Druscie Simpson held a day-long workshop on basic digitization for twenty-two participants as part of the Connecting 2 Collections Project. Attendees came from as far away as Corolla to learn how to plan, manage, and preserve a digital project.

The State Archives hosted a series of presentations for approximately twenty members of a chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in May. The day-long program featured several lectures by archivists detailing how to research Revolutionary War records in the Archives; a tutorial on the use of the Archives online catalog, the Manuscript and Archives Reference System (MARS), and other online resources; and a general discussion of reference tools and finding aids useful in genealogical research.

Since May, the Outer Banks History Center (OBHC) in Manteo has been offering “History in Your Hands,” a series of workshops targeting those interested in the preservation of family papers, photographs, objects, and other memorabilia. These workshops will be presented throughout the summer, ending in October. Scheduled sessions include:

**July 13:** Caring for Paintings and Artwork. Associate conservator Perry Hurt of the North Carolina Museum of Art will provide practical tips for the care, display, minor cleaning, and storage of original paintings. The session includes a review of the conservation work Hurt has done on Frank Stick’s paintings in the OBHC collections.

**July 27:** Genealogy 101. OBHC assistant curator Sarah Downing will explore methods of researching and collecting family history from both traditional and online resources, the variety of sources available for research at the OBHC, and strategies for organizing research findings.

**August 10:** How to Write Your Own Autobiography. Author, personal coach, and clinical psychologist Kathleen Brehony will share tips about how to relate those true personal stories that beg to be told. Participants will learn to organize their thoughts and to use literary craftsmanship to produce compelling results.

**August 24:** Caring for Your Family Textiles. Professional textile conservator and restoration specialist Lynn Gorges of Battleground Antiques and Civil War Shop of New Bern will give practical advice for the preservation of wedding and baptismal gowns, family quilts, and other special heirlooms.

**September 14:** Preserving Your Family Treasures. OBHC curator KaeLi Spiers will present a broad overview of the common do's and don'ts of storing and handling family memorabilia, such as letters, diaries, photographs, and heirlooms.

**September 28:** TBA.

**October 12:** Understanding Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Documents and Newspapers. Civil War and militaria expert Will Gorges of Battleground Antiques and Civil War Shop will introduce participants to methods of identifying inks and paper in old documents and discuss the ways the paper-making process has changed over the years.

**October 26:** From Tintypes to Today: Identifying and Caring for Your Family Photographs. Iconographic archivist Kim Cumber of the State Archives will demonstrate how to identify the different types of historic images and preserve them for future generations.

The workshops are free, funded by a grant from the Outer Banks Community Foundation and the support of the Outer Banks History Center Associates. All sessions will be held at the Outer Banks History Center, across from the Manteo waterfront within Roanoke Island Festival Park. Reservations are recommended and can be made by contacting (252) 473-2655 or [obhc@ncdcr.gov](mailto:obhc@ncdcr.gov).

## Historical Publications Section

In the past few months, several publications have been reprinted, including seven maps, one facsimile document (the Halifax Resolves), and four books: *The Lost Colonists: Their Fortune and Probable Fate*, by David B. Quinn; *The Pirates of Colonial North Carolina*, by Hugh F. Rankin; *Ship Ashore! The U.S. Lifesavers of Coastal North Carolina*, by Joe A. Mobley; and *Society in Early North Carolina: A Documentary History*, edited by Alan D. Watson. Bill Owens and Susan Trimble revised the book covers to include a synopsis of the contents, as well as information about the authors and editors.

New initiatives concerning the *North Carolina Historical Review* are in place. Eileen McGrath, assistant curator of the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will replace Robert G. Anthony Jr. as compiler of the annual "North Carolina Bibliography," published in the April issue. In the future, the bibliography will include books published during a single calendar year, rather than over a two-year period as heretofore. Revised categories will streamline the listing of titles, and only books relating to North Carolina will be included. The April 2010 issue of the *Review* is available for purchase or through subscription. Articles include "The Failure of Enlightenment Military Doctrine in Revolutionary America: The Piedmont Campaign and the Fate of the British Army in the Lower South," by Charles Heaton, and "The Golfers': African American Golfers of the North Carolina Piedmont and the Struggle for Access," by Jess Usher. A listing of all *Review* articles published since 1924—giving the date, title, and author—is being prepared for online searching. The articles themselves are not yet available online, but copies of many back issues are available for \$5.00 plus shipping and tax. For information about the availability of particular issues, contact [historical.publications@ncdcr.gov](mailto:historical.publications@ncdcr.gov).

Publishing agreements with the Historical Publications Section have been renewed or prepared. The contract with Oxford University Press to print *The First Colonists: Documents on the Planting of the First English Settlements in North America, 1584–1590*, edited by David B. Quinn and Alison M. Quinn, has been renewed. An agreement with the Moravian Archives in Winston-Salem to post online the first eleven volumes of *The Records of the Moravians* is in place. The Moravian Archives staff has already digitized the material, and plans call for these out-of-print volumes to be available on the Web in a year or two.

## Office of State Archaeology

This past winter ocean storms uncovered what may be North Carolina's oldest shipwreck. In late December, the Underwater Archaeology Branch (UAB) began receiving reports that a large section of a shipwreck was exposed on Currituck Beach near the lighthouse at Corolla. Among those interested in the wreckage was Ray Midgett from nearby Southern Shores, who recognized that the shipwreck was much older than most found on the beach. He based this conclusion on the extensive use of wooden trunnels (pegs) to fasten the vessel's timbers and the discovery of datable artifacts associated with the site. It is rare to find diagnostic artifacts with shipwreck remains on the beach. In this case, however, Midgett and a colleague discovered a concretion attached to a plank that had come off the wreck. The concretion contained numerous lead shot and brass straight pins, and a French copper coin dating to the reign of Louis XIII (1610–1643). This was not the first time that Midgett and his friends had found items dating from the mid-seventeenth century while metal detecting on the beach in this vicinity. Previous discoveries included French, English, and Spanish coins, as well as lead cloth seals.

Staff members of the UAB first inspected the shipwreck on January 13, 2010. They immediately observed that the structure exhibited construction techniques typical of colonial-period vessels. The UAB team met with Midgett and his associates and examined the artifacts closely associated with the shipwreck that they had found.



The shipwreck on the beach at Corolla was in its most intact and exposed condition on New Year's Day of this year. Image courtesy of Bruce Terrell, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

At that time, in mid-January, protective sand was again covering the structure, and it was hoped that this episode of exposure was nearing an end. Unfortunately a series of northeasters struck the coast, uncovering the shipwreck once more and moving it nearly three miles down the beach. Of even greater concern, ocean waves were beginning to take a toll on the wreck, separating the stem, keel, and other timbers from the lower hull. In early April, the UAB made arrangements with the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) to remove the shipwreck from the beach. The WRC provided heavy equipment and staff members with years of experience in marine construction. The recovery team assembled before daylight on April 6 and successfully inserted large beams under the hull structure and pulled the shipwreck off the beach on this makeshift sled. The nonprofit

group, Outer Banks Conservationists, generously provided an area near the Currituck Beach Lighthouse to store the shipwreck.

During the week of May 24, students and staff members from the East Carolina University (ECU) Program in Maritime Studies spent three days making detailed drawings of the remaining hull structure. Plans are currently under way to move the shipwreck from its temporary location to Hatteras Village, where it will be installed in the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum exhibit hall for long-term curation and display.

Prior to the discovery of the Corolla wreck, the remains of what is believed to be Blackbeard's flagship, *Queen Anne's Revenge* (QAR), had the distinction of being North Carolina's oldest shipwreck. Blackbeard and his pirate crew lost the QAR at Beaufort Inlet in June 1718. Although researchers have yet to identify the Corolla shipwreck, the site could easily predate the pirate ship by fifty years, adding a new chapter to North Carolina's rich maritime history.

During the first week of May, UAB staff members returned to the QAR shipwreck site for a mini-expedition. The goal was to improve the prospects of *in-situ* conservation begun two years ago under the direction of Wendy Welsh. This was accomplished by hooking up four of the shipwreck's large iron artifacts—three anchors and one cannon—to upgraded sacrificial anodes manufactured specifically for cathodic protection in seawater. Corrosion engineer Dave Johnson of Galvotec Corrosion Services in Louisiana provided sixteen anodes totaling 266 pounds of aluminum for artifact protection. Each anode will protect one large iron artifact for more than two years. Furthermore, if the process proves successful, conservation of cannon and anchors will have begun while they rest on the seabed. Once these one-ton artifacts are recovered and transported to the QAR laboratory in Greenville, their lengthy conservation time, up to five years, will be shortened, while their original surfaces are likely to be better preserved.

Later that month in Greenville, DCR secretary Linda A. Carlisle welcomed conservators and scientists from around the world to the QAR conservation laboratory for a behind-the-scenes tour of the facility. More than eighty participants from fifteen countries and ten states were attending the triennial conference of the International Council of Museums, Conservation Committee, Wet Organic Archaeological Materials Group. QAR chief conservator Sarah Watkins-Kenney, representing DCR, was co-host of the conference, along with ECU and Colonial Williamsburg. Deirdre Mageean, vice-chancellor for research and graduate studies at ECU, and Pat Long, director of the university's Center for Sustainable Tourism, attended the conference and the tour. The QAR conservation laboratory provides a unique training opportunity for university faculty and staff, and, in turn, their participation boosts DCR's ability to manage, display, and interpret this internationally recognized shipwreck site for the educational and economic benefit of the region and the state.



Mark Wilde-Ramsing (*left*), QAR project director, explains some of the displayed artifacts from the shipwreck to Linda A. Carlisle (*center*), secretary of the Department of Cultural Resources, and Pat Long (*right*), director of the East Carolina University Center for Sustainable Tourism, during a tour of the QAR conservation laboratory in Greenville.

### East Historic Sites Region

On April 14, the Governor Charles B. Aycock Birthplace offered the last in its series of Living History Wednesday programs. Demonstrations included gardening, open-hearth cooking, and corn shelling and grinding. For four days in mid-April, the site held its annual Farm Heritage Days, playing host to every fourth grader in the Wayne County school system, as well as students from several private schools in the county. The birthplace also hosted the semiannual meeting of the Fremont Historical Society on May 29. Honoring those who serve in uniform and in the classroom was the focus on Saturday, June 12, when the site celebrated North Carolina's rich cultural heritage through music and crafts with its Saturday under the Pines program, a Second Saturdays event. Harmony Boys, a local musical group, performed, and Nancy Ping-Robins displayed oil and acrylic paintings of woodlands, cityscapes, and houses. Demonstrations included blacksmithing, wagon rides, and corn-shuck doll making. Also that day, the site debuted its new covered picnic shelter, dedicated to the educators of North Carolina. The shelter was officially opened by the secretary of the Department of Cultural Resources, the superintendent of Wayne County schools, the North Carolina Teacher of the Year, the Wayne County Teacher of the Year, and the president of the Governor Charles B. Aycock Birthplace Advisory Committee.



In April 1925, the James Adams Floating Theatre visited Bath, where it served as the inspiration for Edna Ferber's novel, *Show Boat*.

Historic Bath recognized the eighty-fifth anniversary of Edna Ferber's visit to Bath with a showing of the movie, *Show Boat*, and a PowerPoint presentation by staff member Bea Latham concerning Ferber and the James Adams Floating Theatre. The site, the Town of Bath, and Beaufort County Community College (BCCC) worked together to stage another successful Bath Fest and Cutthroat Croquet Tournament on May 15. Bath Fest, a festival that blends arts and history, had a lost-and-found history theme this year—the “lost” aspect represented by a visit from actors of *The Lost Colony*, and the “found” by the *Queen Anne's Revenge* exhibit, a display of concretions from the shipwreck, and members of the conservation team. Historic Bath and BCCC both benefit from the croquet tournament: money raised through registrations and a catered luncheon helps to fund the Dorothy “Dot” and John Tankard Scholarship and special projects at the site, currently grounds beautification. Because this event coincides with National Travel and Tourism Week, the site offered free tours of the Palmer-Marsh and Bonner houses. Pleasant weather helped to attract approximately fifteen hundred visitors.

Art and history had another chance to blend during Historic Bath's inaugural Second Saturdays program on June 12. Pickin' and Diggin': Life in Eastern North Carolina was

the theme of the day. Vendors helped present the region's agricultural past by selling tobacco-stick art, local produce, honey, and baskets. Members of the Eastern Antique Power Association demonstrated tractors and farm implements. Site staff members taught children how to dig up root crops and led them in art activities, while local musicians entertained the crowd. On June 22, a Past Times Day Camp program for ages five through ten was presented. Through stories, activities, a movie, and a visit from a family that had emigrated from Japan, children learned that all Americans ultimately have immigrant roots. Later that week, the East Carolina University Summer Ventures Program for gifted high school students resumed archaeological work in Bath's historic district under the guidance of Charles Ewen. The dig will continue through July 9.

The months of April, May, and June witnessed Bentonville Battlefield's gradual recovery from the 145th anniversary battle reenactment in March, even as the site hosted three additional programs, multiple school and adult groups, and its perennially strong drop-in visitation. The amount of garbage created by fifty thousand visitors is hard to imagine. The trash was disposed of immediately, but there were also valuable items left behind, such as firewood, hay, and straw, that had to be collected and properly stored. Excess firewood will be used during living history programs throughout the year; the straw was given to a local farmer who assisted with the clean-up; and the hay was sold to recoup some of its cost. The last of the hay was finally removed from the site in May.

On April 25, the Harper House Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy hosted a Confederate Memorial Day service at Bentonville. The president of the Sampson County Historical Society was the keynote speaker, followed by the placement of wreaths at the various monuments on the property. The first Summer Seasonal Living History and Artillery Program of the year was held on June 5. These events traditionally feature musketry demonstrations and the firing of the site's three-inch ordnance rifle by a crew of highly trained staff members and volunteers. The 1st/11th and the 18th North Carolina reenactment groups also participated. On June 12, Bentonville hosted Art and Archaeology: Remembering Bentonville's Soldiers, as part of the Second Saturdays programming. The event combined battlefield archaeology with the arts of jewelry and pottery making. Assistant state archaeologist John Mintz and Division of State Historic Sites and Properties conservator Jennifer French discussed techniques used to discover and preserve battlefield artifacts. Visitors were treated to demonstrations of pottery and jewelry making by area artisans and were able to purchase these locally made items.

The staff at Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson has upgraded thirteen of the old interpretive signs in the town section and around the ruins of St. Philip's Church to complement the Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant walkway completed last September. The most deteriorated and unreadable signs were replaced with duplicates in cast aluminum mounts. A new "sherd board" containing examples of various ceramics that have been excavated from the site has been assembled to facilitate pottery identification. The display was dedicated during the June 12 Second Saturdays program titled, Colonial Brunswick: Pottery Then and Now. Archaeologists Linda Carnes-McNaughton and Thomas E. Beaman Jr. gave visitors a lesson in ceramics identification, while thirteen registered potters demonstrated and sold their wares. Eunice Andrews of Wilmington donated a watercolor that is a collage of scenes from the various living history programs presented at the site.

Historic Edenton celebrated National Tourism Day with free trolley and walking tours and special activities, such as quill-pen writing, rope making, quoits, and corn-shuck dolls. In conjunction with Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library, Bob Germain developed a program concerning Edenton's African American builders, which he presented at the library, followed by a trolley tour he also developed on the topic. State Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office summer intern Joseph Johnson began work on May 24. His ten-week project, Strategies to Increase Site Visitation, involves recommendations based on findings from the development and implementation of a visitor survey. The North Carolina State



Volunteers from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke Center for Leadership and Service installed new fence posts along Highway 421 during the annual Park Day at Fort Fisher on April 10.

Ports Authority board and staff met at the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse on May 25–26. Historic Edenton staff member Keith Furlough presented a walking tour highlighting Edenton's maritime history, which included the town's role as administrative center of the Port of Roanoke.

On Saturday, April 10, Fort Fisher's volunteers gathered for the annual Park Day, sponsored by the Civil War Preservation Trust and History™ (formerly The History Channel). The national day of service at Civil War battlefields was designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as a Take Pride in America event. More than fifty volunteers joined staff members in improving the site's landscaping, cleaning up the gun emplacement, and upgrading fencing along Highway 421. Returning for the event were local Boy Scouts and families visiting from the Raleigh area. New volunteers included students from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke Center for Leadership and Service. Following a lunch provided by the Friends of Fort Fisher, volunteers enjoyed a small-arms demonstration by a costumed interpreter. Special programming continued in June with Fort Fisher's first Second Saturdays event, Exploring Our Historical Landscape, on

June 12. Visitors experienced nature through the work of modern landscape and seascape painters while wandering through the historical landscape of a Civil War encampment. Throughout the day, guests enjoyed period music, costumed tours, and weapons demonstrations.

On June 19, Fort Fisher linked the past and the present through the program, Support Our Troops: Making Connections, 1865 to 2010. Highlighting the event were several members of the armed forces who had recently returned from Iraq, who spoke with visitors and displayed the equipment they carried while serving their tours of duty. Author Tom McKinney discussed his book, *One Man's War*. Artillery and infantry demonstrations were presented throughout the day. Children's activities focused on the ways the local population supported the fort's garrison during the Civil War. Throughout the event, members of the public were encouraged to demonstrate their support for American servicemen and servicewomen overseas by writing letters at stations manned by site volunteers or by making donations to care packages. The site closed a busy month with its first small Saturday activity program, Seeds of History, on June 26. During this children-centered event, visitors learned about the fort's garrison garden, while planting a seed to take home. Other programs in the series in July and August, all geared toward a family audience to target summer visitors to surrounding beach communities, will include hands-on signal flag demonstrations, field artillery programs, and Fourth of July crafts.

Somerset Place hosted its first spring event, Days Gone By, on Saturday, April 12. Sunny skies welcomed approximately 153 visitors to this community program. Costumed interpreters demonstrated open-hearth cooking and offered visitors samples of freshly fried

herring. Volunteers performed woodworking and wool-dyeing demonstrations, while younger members of the audience enjoyed pony rides, sack races, jumping rope, and playing quoits. Visitors wove their own small reed baskets, crafted rope and sedge brooms, or hand dipped candles to take home. Guided tours of the grounds and buildings were offered throughout the event. More than fourteen hundred students from South Carolina, Virginia, and twelve North Carolina counties visited Somerset during April and May. Most of these young visitors participated in the site's interpretive hands-on educational programming and constructed historic crafts after partaking of guided tours of the plantation. On June 12, the site's initial Second Saturdays program, Somerset Craftsman's Fair, celebrated the traditions of arts and crafts, highlighting both heritage and modern craftsmanship. Somerset Place was a self-sufficient antebellum community, and many everyday-use items were handcrafted on the plantation. In keeping with the Second Saturdays concept, local artists demonstrated, displayed, and sold their wares. Woodworkers, quilters, metal crafters, potters, basket weavers, and jewelry artists illustrated the site's crafts heritage with their works. Somerset's Made from Off the Land program was presented throughout the day, portraying the heritage of and utilitarian objects crafted by Somerset's past residents.

### Museum and Visitor Services Section

Museum and Visitor Services supervisor David Latham retired from the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties on April 28 after more than thirty years of service. Latham began his long career with the division cutting grass at Duke Homestead, when he was a teenager. His first full-time position, just after graduation from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was at the House in the Horseshoe. From there, he worked in a variety of positions in the division, including overseeing the construction of the *Elizabeth II* at what would become Roanoke Island Festival Park. At a retirement party on April 29, Department of Cultural Resources secretary Linda A. Carlisle



Linda A. Carlisle (*left*), secretary of the Department of Cultural Resources, and Keith Hardison (*right*), director of the Division of Historic Sites and Properties, presented the Order of the Longleaf Pine to David Latham (*center*) at his retirement reception on April 29.

awarded Latham the Order of the Longleaf Pine, while his friends and colleagues presented him with several gifts, most of which were Carolina blue, in tribute to his strong attachment to his alma mater. In the wake of Latham's departure, the Museum and Visitor Services Section has been renamed Curatorial Services Section.

### North Carolina Transportation Museum

The North Carolina Transportation Museum celebrated aviation with its annual Learning to Fly event. The program on May 8 featured a walk-in hot-air balloon, a UH-1 Huey helicopter, and the museum's full-size replica of a Wright Flyer. It was also the occasion for the debut of the museum's latest acquisition: flight simulators that have been added to the *Wagons, Wheels, and Wings* exhibit space. The simulators were developed from a professional flight training program and modified to provide a user-friendly flying



Historic interpreter Brian Moffitt (*right*) instructs a young visitor in the operation of one of the new flight simulators at the North Carolina Transportation Museum.

experience of different types of airplanes, from jets to biplanes, for ages seven to adult. The flight simulators are part of exhibit upgrades that also include uniforms and memorabilia from Piedmont Airlines. The museum's annual celebration of the golden age of railroading was held on June 12–13, with the Family Rail Days program incorporated this year into the Second Saturdays scheme. The event featured the museum's collection of rail equipment, passenger train and caboose rides, a chili cook-off, and the music of Hobo Bill and Kristen. Artists were on hand to show and sell their works on the museum grounds.

### **Piedmont Historic Sites Region**

Alamance Battleground honored the 239th anniversary of the Battle of Alamance with its annual Patriots' Day Celebration on the weekend of May 15–16. With the help of the Alamance Battleground Friends, the Alamance County Historical Association, the Alamance Battleground Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Battle of Alamance Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, colorful commemorative activities were presented to remember the decisive clash of the War of the Regulation, as well as three Revolutionary War engagements—Pyle's Defeat, the Battle of Clapp's Mill, and the Battle of Lindley's Mill—all of which occurred in present-day Alamance County. Site manager Bryan Dalton, who discussed the Battle of Alamance and its significance, was the featured speaker for the Patriots' Day ceremony on May 15. Josh Howard, research historian with the Office of Archives and History, presented his program, *The Battle of Alamance: Ongoing Research and New Findings*, the following evening. The Craven County and Guilford County militia units set up a working military encampment, where they drilled, demonstrated flintlock weapons, and fired the site's three-pound cannon throughout the weekend. Site staff members, along with other employees of the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties and volunteers, staged demonstrations of colonial life skills, such as open-hearth cooking, blacksmithing, candle making, and quill-pen writing. Visitors also enjoyed visits with a period doctor and schoolmaster. Alamance hosted a Second Saturdays event on June 12, with the theme of blacksmithing/gunsmithing. Visitors learned about the necessary skills and craftsmanship associated with these professions. Local craftsmen and artists displayed their work, while an Alamance County farming family sold fresh produce.



Rissa Trachman (*right*), assistant professor of anthropology at Elon University, supervises a group of university and community college students during the archaeological survey at Alamance Battleground on April 23.

The ongoing Alamance Battleground Research Project is generating quite a bit of excitement. Under the guidance of John Mintz, assistant state archaeologist, and Josh Howard, two archaeological surveys were completed on April 23–24 and on June 25–26. Division of State Historic Sites and Properties research curator Marty Matthews and curator of technology Martha Battle Jackson rendered technical assistance. Several pieces of ordnance dating from the time of the Battle of Alamance were found. The new discoveries promise expanded exhibits and an enhanced overall interpretation of the battle. The Alamance Battleground Friends, the Old North State Detectorists, anthropology/archaeology students from Elon University and Wake Technical Community College, and members of the Carrboro High School History Club all volunteered their services.

In April, visitors and supporters gathered at Bennett Place for a special evening to recognize the efforts of key individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the site. Robinson Everett and Charles Thissen were honored with their names being permanently affixed to the site's library, which was officially designated the Everett-Thissen Research Library. The first William Vatauk Scholarship, named after the former president of the Bennett Place Support Fund and author of the book, *Dawn of Peace*, was awarded to Phillip Black, a high school student from Cary.

The final episode of the division's commemoration of the 145th anniversary of the end of the Civil War in North Carolina took place at Bennett Place during the week of April 12–18. Special programming commenced with a guest appearance by Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman (portrayed by Bennett Place site manager John Guss) and his counterpart, Gen. Joseph E. Johnston (played by veteran reenactor Craig Braswell of the Raleigh Civil War Roundtable). Perhaps the most significant moment of the week was the unveiling of a painting commissioned by the Bennett Place Support Fund titled, *The First Meeting*. This portrayal of the initial face-to-face encounter between generals Sherman and Johnston was painted by well-known Civil War artist Dan Nance of Charlotte. Later that weekend, a full reenactment of the largest surrender of the war was presented, with Sherman (Guss) and Johnston (Braswell) riding up the original Old Hillsborough Road accompanied by approximately twenty-five Union and Confederate cavalymen. Throughout the weekend, soldiers encamped on the grounds, drilled, and cooked over fires while awaiting the conclusion of the negotiations being reenacted inside the Bennett



Acclaimed Civil War artist Dan Nance explains some of the historical details of his painting, *The First Meeting*, after its unveiling in the Bennett Place exhibit gallery in April. The painting was commissioned by the Bennett Place Support Fund.

home. Historic interpreters portrayed Bennett family members James, Nancy, and Eliza, who greeted and entertained guests in the kitchen. Reenactors re-created the final stacking of arms by the Army of Tennessee on Sunday afternoon. More than twenty-five hundred spectators witnessed the weekend events, and approximately one hundred reenactors helped to stage the program. In May, the site staff remembered the fallen soldiers of North and South by recognizing Confederate Memorial Day on May 10 and Memorial Day on May 29. Living history programs and lectures concerning the history of these nationally significant dates were offered.

The Duke Homestead Education and History Corporation sponsored a fund-raiser featuring country musician George Hamilton IV on May 25. Hamilton, a native of Winston-Salem, was touring North Carolina during the last week of May in celebration of his fiftieth year with the Grand Ole Opry. At Duke Homestead, Hamilton played some of his biggest hits, such as “A Rose and a Baby Ruth,” “Abilene,” and “Early Morning Rain.”



George Hamilton IV performed some of his most memorable songs during a fund-raiser concert at Duke Homestead on May 25.

The House in the Horseshoe hosted its annual spring militia muster on April 24. More than three hundred visitors enjoyed artillery and musketry demonstrations throughout the day and observed reenactors portray a Revolutionary War-era militia encampment. Site manager John Hairr led several tours of the Endor Iron Furnace property in Lee County for DCR employees. The department-owned property is being assessed for development as a state historic site, and Hairr's knowledge of the history of the Deep River region has been invaluable during the planning process.

Stargazers had an opportunity to view both Mars and Saturn in the southeastern sky at Town Creek Indian Mound on April 10. Mars, known as the Red Planet because of its reddish hue, was high in the sky and easily spotted with the naked eye in the constellation Cancer. The rings of Saturn were a little more difficult to see because the planet was positioned so that its rings were nearly edge-on to Earth. The planet's trademark "tea-cup handles" appeared only as a very thin line. But this angle permitted a better view of Saturn's moons. The site held its final Astronomy Night until the fall on May 22. Participants began the evening viewing a short educational film, *The Tug of the Moon*, which described the Earth's relationship with its largest satellite. Afterwards, the skies cleared just long enough to observe the moon during its waxing gibbous phase. This phase (waxing meaning "increasing" and gibbous meaning "humped") occurs when the moon is between the first-quarter and full stages, with more than half of the moon illuminated by the sun. A full moon is often too bright for the observation of craters, whereas less illumination of the surface forms more shadows, allowing the texture of the moon to stand out. Sky watchers also enjoyed a clear view of Venus, likewise in its waxing gibbous phase.

Town Creek hosted its initial Second Saturdays program on June 12 centered on the theme of weaving. Participating local artisans included broom makers, basket weavers, and jewelry makers. One of the vendors painted reproduction quilt patterns that he placed on the side of old barns in the area, and another artist created handmade paper out of recycled paper and plant fibers. The site staff demonstrated how to wattle huts in the village site and taught cordage, the art of making string or rope. Historic interpreters Karen Bowles and Byron Wood wove pine-needle baskets in the East Lodge.

### West Historic Sites Region

All West Region site support groups submitted their memorandums of agreement for consideration by the division and the department. The comprehensive interpretive plan for Fort Dobbs was unveiled at a special presentation at the Marquee Theater in Statesville on June 14. Secretary Linda A. Carlisle, Keith Hardison, director of the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties, area legislators, and key Iredell County officials attended the program. Basic plans for the fort's reconstruction to be utilized in the development of construction drawings have been received by the division. The Friends of Fort Dobbs are preparing a capital fund-raising campaign to support the effort. When historic interpreters and Iredell County dignitaries visited Raleigh to participate in Tourism Day at the Legislative Building, several Friends of Fort Dobbs leaders met with Secretary Carlisle and Deputy Secretary Jeffrey J. Crow to discuss the upcoming efforts at Fort Dobbs.

The War for Empire event was held at Fort Dobbs on April 9–11. More than four hundred students attended the Friday activities, and approximately three thousand visitors came during the weekend. Hundreds lined up to see the reenactment of the Cherokee skirmish that occurred 250 years ago. The theme of the Second Saturdays program on June 12 was Victualing the Troops and the Art of Cookery.

Home Creek Living Historical Farm received a \$5,000 grant from the Surry County Convention and Visitors Bureau to be used for marketing purposes, including a Web presence. Approximately 225 guests visited for a day of Sheer Fun, the site's sheep-shearing day. Staff members showed off their proficiency at clipping sheep with manual shears. Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler visited the Southern Heritage Apple Orchard on May 13. He was interested to see the progress of the orchard and to learn about the

challenges in developing and maintaining it. The Second Saturdays program in June examined agricultural and rural traditions in North Carolina's northwest Piedmont.

A new exhibit concerning James K. Polk's rival, Henry Clay, has been installed at the President James K. Polk State Historic Site. Developed and designed by division and site staff members, the display updates the campaign section of the exhibit area. A new display of White House china for the auditorium is being organized by historic interpreter Courtney Rounds. Several pieces of reproduction Polk china will be featured in the exhibit. Maintenance mechanic Robert Dreher attended a workshop at the Cleveland County Historical Society to learn about historic-building restoration and maintenance, which will help him care for the two cabins and the barn at the Polk site. The waddle fence around the garden was reworked, and the garden has been planted. With the help of volunteers, the cabins were thoroughly cleaned, and the interior of the kitchen house received a fresh coat of white wash in April. The Second Saturdays theme for June was Shaping the Past: The Form and Function of Pottery.

Reed Gold Mine's Carolina Heritage Festival, which is designed for fourth-grade students, was a tremendous success with nearly 2,700 visitors during two days of demonstrations, gold panning, and tours. A new interpretation plan for accommodating summer crowds, featuring self-guided underground tours for a portion of the day, has been reviewed and will be utilized on a trial basis. Self-guided tours have also been developed for the Upper Hill and Middle Hill surface areas of the site. Reed Gold Mine participated in the Downtown Concord History Walk and provided Girl Scouts a gold-panning experience at Oakboro Park. Amy Sawyer and Martha Jackson of the Museum and Visitor Services Section came to the site in May to upgrade the exhibits in the safes. The Second Saturdays theme for June was Exploring the History of the Designers of Coins Made at the Charlotte Mint.

Vance Birthplace continued to implement minor site improvements to allow for future renovation of the exhibits and lobby area. A water fountain was moved from the lobby to the rear porch to permit use of wall space for expanded orientation and gift shop areas. The exhibit and interpretations planning committee met periodically to prepare for redevelopment. Site visitation increased somewhat after the reopening of the Blue Ridge Parkway and I-40 to Tennessee. The Second Saturdays theme for June was Recycle, Reuse, and Repurpose.

The Thomas Wolfe Memorial continued to attract new volunteers to assist with guided tours. The rear porch roof was replaced with new copper sheeting and solder. The popular Pickin' and Poetry on the Porch events have been ongoing since the first of May. Spring and summer writing camps have also been well attended. Much of the Wolfe site will be covered with art vendors during the Second Saturdays events this summer. The theme for the June program was Come Gather 'Round the Table: Boardinghouse Foodways.

## News from State History Museums

### Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex

In April, Leisa Greathouse, curator of education at the museum, received the inaugural Certified Tourism Ambassador™ (CTA) of the Year Award from the Fayetteville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. The award honors the CTA who best exemplifies excellence in hospitality and customer service. Greathouse was recognized for her leadership of the Thirty-one Days of Glory and the Fayetteville/Cumberland County themed Cultural Heritage Trails, her role in the development of the Fayetteville Area Ambassador Program, and her willingness to help visitors and fellow industry partners. As a local winner, she qualified for consideration for the nationwide award, sponsored by the Tourism Ambassador Institute™ (TAI). On May 24, Greathouse received the inaugural National TAI Star Award. John Marks of the TAI selection committee remarked, "We selected Leisa for her

Leisa Greathouse, curator of education at the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex, received the inaugural Certified Tourism Ambassador™ of the Year Award in April and the first National Tourism Ambassador Institute™ Star Award in May.



tireless commitment to the CTA program, coupled with her creativity in bringing so many travel industry people together to market the destination.” Marks, immediate past president and CEO of the San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau, co-chaired the committee with Mark Hurwitz, former CEO of the American National Standards Institute. John Meroski, president and CEO of the Fayetteville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, praised Greathouse’s passion for and advocacy of tourism: “She understands, preaches, and lives partnership marketing.”

On May 14, museum volunteers Mara Jones and Meghan Plessinger offered a special welcome to visitors at the I-95 South Welcome Center in Rowland. The two docents greeted travelers, inviting them to visit the historical complex in Fayetteville, offering give-aways, and highlighting other points of interest in the area. The outreach effort was coordinated by the Fayetteville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau in recognition of National Travel and Tourism Week.

### North Carolina Museum of History

Two events on May 22 helped mark the opening of *Behind the Veneer: Thomas Day, Master Cabinetmaker*, a major exhibit that explores the life and legacy of Day, a free man of color who operated the largest antebellum cabinet shop in North Carolina. The morning program, Celebrate North Carolina: Turning Points in African American History, featured a lively panel discussion moderated by Jeffrey J. Crow. Panelists included Timothy B. Tyson, Reginald F. Hildebrand, and Blair L. M. Kelley. After the program, Patricia Marshall, curator of decorative arts for the North Carolina Museum of History and the Executive Mansion, led an exhibit tour. Several descendants of Thomas Day were among the two hundred attendees at the opening gala hosted by the Museum of History Associates. The evening event included a reception and a ribbon cutting to officially open the exhibit that showcases approximately seventy pieces of furniture crafted by Day. Progress Energy is the title sponsor of *Behind the Veneer*, with additional support from Raleigh’s *News and*



Co-authors Patricia Marshall (*left*), curator of decorative arts at the North Carolina Museum of History and the Executive Mansion, and Jo Ramsey Leimenstoll (*right*), signed copies of their book, *Thomas Day: Master Craftsman and Free Man of Color*, at the museum on May 22.

*Observer*, the Broyhill Family Foundation, and Mr. and Mrs. H. Nelson Rich. The book, *Thomas Day: Master Craftsman and Free Man of Color*, co-authored by Marshall and Jo Ramsay Leimenstoll, was released by the University of North Carolina Press that day. David Perry of UNC Press presented a copy to Secretary Linda A. Carlisle for the library at the Executive Mansion. The co-authors signed copies of the book during the evening.

Allan Smith, president of DreamQuest Productions, visited the museum on May 7 for a screening of the documentary film, *Rescue Men: The Story of the Pea Island Life Savers*, which he directed and produced. A question-and-answer session with the Los Angeles filmmaker followed the hour-long film, which chronicles the experiences and heroic accomplishments of the all-African American crew that manned the Pea Island Life-Saving Station on the Outer Banks. The documentary is based on the book, *Fire on the Beach*, by David Wright and David Zoby, associate producers of *Rescue Men*. For more details about the documentary and the book, visit <http://www.rescuemenfilm.com>.

Three Confederate battle flags will be carefully transported from Raleigh to West Virginia for specialized conservation treatment. These banners, the colors of the Twenty-fourth, Thirty-fourth, and Thirty-eighth North Carolina Troops, are part of the extensive flag collection of the Museum of History. Restoration of these flags requires expensive textile treatment, and the North Carolina Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans has helped make this possible. On March 18, the organization, which has ninety camps or chapters across the state, presented a \$28,361 check to museum staff members during a brief ceremony. The funds will also be used to purchase a much-needed storage rack for conserved battle flags.

The traveling exhibit, *Down Home: Jewish Life in North Carolina*, opened at the museum on June 14, the first stop on a statewide tour. Produced and organized by the Jewish Heritage Foundation of North Carolina (JHFNC), *Down Home* chronicles the integration of Jews into Tar Heel life by blending their ethnic and religious traditions into southern culture, while preserving their heritage. The exhibit is one segment of a four-part multimedia project of the same title, organized by the JHFNC. The project also features a



This photograph of the Joseph and Celia Lipman wedding party at New Bern in 1911 is among the many captivating images featured in the *Down Home: Jewish Life in North Carolina* traveling exhibit currently on display at the North Carolina Museum of History. Image courtesy of Elbert Lipman.

critically acclaimed documentary film, a companion book published by the University of North Carolina Press, and fourth- and eighth-grade curriculum guides with DVDs for public schools. Former governor James B. Hunt Jr. is honorary chairman of the project.

“The exhibit *Down Home* brings to life Jewish values—family, faith, work, and study,” says Leonard Rogoff, exhibit curator, historian, and author of the companion book. “It challenges stereotypes both Southern and Jewish.” Enhanced with artifacts and re-created environmental settings depicting scenes of everyday life, *Down Home* recounts the personal stories of Jewish immigrants who became southern, while struggling to maintain their cultural and religious traditions in a new land. The exhibit highlights the remarkable Jewish contributions to North Carolina’s economic, social, cultural, and educational welfare. Four re-created environments focus on the values of religion, family, community, education, and work.

*Down Home* will close temporarily between July 11 and August 1 but will reopen on August 2 and run through March 7, 2011. After the exhibit closes in Raleigh, it will travel to Greensboro, Wilmington, Charlotte, and Asheville. “The Museum of History is honored to have been selected by the JHFNC as the first venue for this wonderful exhibit on the Jewish history, heritage, and culture in North Carolina that have been so important to our state,” remarked museum director Ken Howard. The exhibit is sponsored by the Leon and Sandra Levine Foundation of Charlotte and the Department of Cultural Resources. Copies of the book, *Down Home: Jewish Life in North Carolina*, by Leonard Rogoff, are available in the museum gift shop.

The initial Second Saturdays offering at the Museum of History on June 12 featured artists Jonathan Daniel and Bill Newman, who demonstrated weaving techniques. Visitors were encouraged to weave their own paper basket. They also learned about Juneteenth, the holiday proclaiming the end of slavery in the United States.

### Staff Notes

The Historical Publications Section of the Division of Historical Resources recently lost three staff members. Documentary editor W. Lang Baradell accepted discontinued service retirement, effective May 1, when his position was eliminated as a result of budget cuts. A veteran of eighteen years with the section, he was co-editor of *The Papers of James Iredell*, volume III, 1784–1789. Baradell also edited *Letters from a North Carolina Unionist: John A. Hedrick to Benjamin S. Hedrick, 1862–1865*; *Phantom Pain: North Carolina’s Artificial-Limbs Program for Confederate Veterans*; and, most recently, *Haven on the Hill: The History of North Carolina’s Dorothea Dix Hospital*. Historical editor I Denise Craig separated from the section on June 15 to accept employment in the private sector. She edited several general publications and most recently worked with the Colonial Records Project. Gail Elliott was transferred to the Archives and Records Section effective June 30. Donna Kelly and Bill Owens completed DCR’s leadership development program in June.

In the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties, Beth L. Hill separated as site manager at Fort Dobbs effective April 30 to become director of Fort Ticonderoga. Sonja Hayes began work as historic site assistant at Town Creek Indian Mound on April 17. Fort Fisher welcomed Si Lawrence, recently of the division’s Civil War Office, who joined the staff as a media specialist. Keith McLaughlin began work as historic interpreter I at Bennett Place on April 1. Shannon Walker joined the staff of Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson on January 2. She is responsible for eighteenth-century programming, visitor services, and business aspects of the site. Marian Inabinett, historic interpreter III at the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum, completed the department’s leadership development program in June. Twenty employees, family members, and friends of the Piedmont Historic Sites Region visited the North Carolina Zoo near Asheboro as a staff wellness activity on May 24.

In the Division of State History Museums, Richard (Dusty) Wescott joined the staff of the North Carolina Museum of History as an artifact handler. Clay Swindell was promoted to museum specialist at the Museum of the Albemarle.

# New Leaves

## Confronting Inconsistencies: The Birth, Death, and Interment of Gov. Benjamin Smith

By Alan D. Watson

EDITOR'S NOTE: A native of Rocky Mount, Alan D. Watson has served as professor of history at the University of North Carolina Wilmington since 1971. He has written numerous books and articles on North Carolina history, arguably utilizing the resources of the North Carolina State Archives more extensively than any living historian. In 2009, he was named an emeritus member of the North Carolina Historical Commission after more than twenty years of service on the commission.

Benjamin Smith, Brunswick County planter, soldier, legislator, and philanthropist, capped a stellar record of public service in 1810–1811 as governor of North Carolina. From the wealthy family into which he was born Smith imbibed a sense of noblesse oblige and spent a lifetime in various capacities working on behalf of the people of North Carolina, particularly those of the Lower Cape Fear region. He emerged on the public scene in April 1784 as state senator from Brunswick County. He reappeared as a representative of that county in North Carolina's constitutional conventions in 1788 and 1789. In the latter year he was elected to the state House of Commons from Brunswick. After three terms he moved to the senate, representing Brunswick County from 1792 through 1800, serving as Speaker of the senate from 1795 to 1799, and from 1804 to 1810, when he was elected governor.

At an early age Smith evinced a spirit of martial ardor that doubtlessly derived from his maturation during the hostilities with England and the Revolutionary War. He claimed to have been an aide-de-camp to Gen. George Washington in the Continental army (though there is no absolute proof of that assertion), fought in skirmishes in South Carolina in 1779, and surrendered to the British in the capitulation of Charles Town in 1780. Thereafter, in North Carolina, he retained a lifelong interest in the state militia, became an authority on military affairs, and served as brigadier general and major general of the militia division of the southeastern area of the state, and as adjutant general of North Carolina.

Smith manifested his penchant for involvement in public affairs in other ways. He donated land on Bald Head Island to the state (which subsequently transferred the property to the United States) for the erection of a lighthouse. The second structure on the site—Old Baldy—still stands. The Brunswick planter was the first major benefactor of the University of North Carolina, an institution he cherished throughout his life. A member of the



The details of the birth, death, and burial of former governor Benjamin Smith are curiously shrouded in mystery and contradiction.

initial board of trustees of the university, he served in that capacity until 1824, the second longest term of any original trustee. A lifelong proponent of education, Smith attempted without apparent success to establish an academy in Smithville, a town named for him and renamed Southport in 1887.

Smith's involvement in municipal-county affairs has generally been overlooked by his biographers. He helped to inaugurate Smithville as first chairman of the town's commissioners. Receiving an appointment from the governor as justice of the peace, Smith joined the Brunswick County Court in 1784. At that time the county unit of government controlled virtually all facets of the public and sometimes private lives of those who lived under its jurisdiction, exerting a greater impact on the citizenry than the state or national government. Smith remained a member of the court for more than forty years, becoming the senior magistrate on the bench.

Yet, despite the manifold contributions of Benjamin Smith, in the facts of his birth and death at least, he remains a man of mystery or, perhaps, a congeries of contradictions. Historians have disputed the place and date of his birth. They also disagree about the date of his death and the site of his burial. Controversy has stemmed from a lack of adequate records, an inability to access relevant documents, and reliance upon local lore that over the years assumed almost mythical status. As a result, throughout the twentieth and into the twenty-first century, errors and inconsistencies plague biographies of Smith and obscure a true understanding of the man.

An appropriate departure for a discussion of Smith centers on the place and date of his birth. Apparently the first biographical sketch of consequence of the governor appeared in 1888 in *Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, a compilation of data about eminent persons in the United States. That was quickly followed by a series of articles authored by J. B. McKoy and published in the *Southport Leader* in 1896. Those essays constituted the first sustained effort to pen a biography of Smith.<sup>1</sup> Conjointly, *Appleton's Cyclopaedia* and McKoy's articles set the stage for future consideration of Smith.

In the early twentieth century, James Sprunt and Louis T. Moore dominated the historiography of the Lower Cape Fear region and its dramatis personae. In the instance of Smith, they utilized not only the essays in the *Southport Leader* and memories of prominent residents but also a fine article by Collier Cobb that appeared in 1912 in the *North Carolina Booklet*. Cobb's essay was a succinct, though hardly critical, review of Smith's life occasioned by the presentation of a portrait of the governor by the North Carolina Sons of the American Revolution to the State of North Carolina, represented by Gov. W. W. Kitchin.<sup>2</sup>

By the opening of the twentieth century, the sketch of Smith in *Appleton's Cyclopaedia*, seconded by McKoy, convinced North Carolinians that the governor was a native of Brunswick County. After all, Smith spent his adult life in North Carolina. Although McKoy, in the *Southport Leader*, confirmed the North Carolina nativity, he admitted that Smith spent "a great part" of his youth in Charleston, South Carolina. Louis T. Moore in several essays cemented the notion that Smith was born in Brunswick County, leading a correspondent of the *Raleigh News and Observer* in 1955 to state, "it is generally agreed that he [Smith] was born in Brunswick County." As a result, a biographical directory of governors of the United States edited by Robert Sobel and John Raimo in 1978 and a compilation of sketches of governors of North Carolina edited by Michael Hill in 2007 both claim a Brunswick County origin for Benjamin Smith.<sup>3</sup>

South Carolinians always knew better. The register of St. Philip's Parish of Charles Town (available in print since 1927) recorded the birth of Benjamin Smith, the seventh of twelve children born to Thomas Smith of Broad Street and Sarah Moore Smith. The boy spent his youth in the South Carolina capital and its environs before marrying a cousin, Sarah Dry, daughter of William and Mary Jane Rhett Dry of Brunswick County, North Carolina, in 1777. After the marriage Benjamin and Sarah resided with the Drys at Blue Banks plantation, a 3,840-acre tract on the Northwest Cape Fear River. Benjamin was loath to sever ties with his family and Charles Town, but at the conclusion of the

Revolution in 1783, he opted to remain in North Carolina, at least temporarily, a decision that soon proved permanent.<sup>4</sup>

An investigation of Smith's nativity raises the question of the date of his birth. Although the publication of *Appleton's Cyclopaedia* clouded the matter by giving 1750 as the year in question, Cobb noted in 1912 that "the weight of authority favors January 10, 1756. . . ." North Carolina sources early and uniformly agreed upon that date, which was incised on Smith's raised tomb, laid by the North Carolina Freemasons in 1929, in the present state historic site of Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson. Popular publications such as *The State* magazine, newspapers, and respected historian Lawrence Lee have used that date. Not surprisingly, Sobel and Raimo, and Hill, in their sketches of governors concurred with January 10, 1756, relying as they did upon the histories available to them.<sup>5</sup>

The use of the year 1756, the origin of which is obscure, constitutes another example of the perpetuation of error based on misleading information. North Carolinians early on ignored opportunities to take advantage of South Carolina sources. While the month and day are correct, the year of birth was 1757, as attested by the register of St. Philip's Parish. Moreover, consultation of an article that appeared in the *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine* in 1903 would have corrected any misconception about the birth year. More recently, South Carolina scholars George C. Rogers Jr. and Walter Edgar have affirmed 1757 as the birth year of Smith.<sup>6</sup>

Sadly, after a successful political career, Smith's last years ended in financial disaster. At one time Smith owned Blue Banks, Belvedere (often Belvidere), Orton, Mallory, and Benevenuto (variously spelled) plantations; Bald Head (Smith's) Island; thousands of additional acres of land; and fine town homes in Wilmington and Smithville. But a combination of high living, speculation, the vagaries of agriculture, and unwise sureties led to his financial downfall. The demands of creditors ranging from the United States and the University of North Carolina to the Bank of Cape Fear and a host of private claimants left the once wealthy planter virtually penniless at his death, dependent mainly upon the support of Dr. George C. Clitherall and his wife, Eliza Burgwin Clitherall, in Smithville. His last hours were spent in a dilapidated house on the bay in that town.

Yet the former governor did not exit without engendering controversy over the date of his death and the circumstances surrounding his burial. Although *Appleton's Cyclopaedia* again tried to mislead by listing February 10, 1829, as the date of death, residents of the Lower Cape Fear well and rightly were convinced that the year was 1826 and that the month was January. From the onset of the twentieth century, local historians from Louis T. Moore to Lawrence Lee had fixed upon January 10 as the date of Smith's demise, which with the year 1826, is inscribed on Smith's tomb in St. Philips churchyard in Brunswick Town.<sup>7</sup>

The Clitheralls, however, who kept vigil by Smith until the end, differed from others in the date of his death. Years later in her diary, Eliza remembered that death occurred in the "cold month of Jan[uar]y 26th or 27th." More precisely, her husband, in notifying South Carolina relatives of the death, related that Smith had died "on the evening of [January] 27." Rather than January 10, the day of January 27 would seem more appropriate for the death of Smith, a date used by Sobel and Raimo in their collection of sketches of governors.<sup>8</sup>

But Smith's travails continued even in death. The circumstances surrounding his burial and the place of interment have been subject to differing opinions as well. McKoy, in the *Southport Leader* in 1896, proclaimed that Smith had died in a debtor's prison, and that his creditors intended to hold the body until family or friends had paid his debts. The sheriff of Brunswick County had been notified of the impending demise by creditors, and that official waited for death, the "sure deliverer."<sup>9</sup> At that point the story diverges slightly. The sheriff and his minions may have secured the body, after which friends of Smith tricked the officers and stole the corpse, or friends of Smith quickly and secretly buried the body before the law intervened. The latter version usually prevails.

The tale no doubt originated with Mary Elizabeth Bensel Stuart of Southport and was reiterated by her daughter Kate. In *Memoirs of an Octogenarian*, John D. Bellamy recalled that he had been told by “Old Mrs. Stuart, whom I knew intimately, . . . [that] she had helped to prepare his [Smith’s] body for burial, and had held the torch at the grave, before dawn!”<sup>10</sup> By placing the body in the ground before it could be arrested, Smith’s friends thwarted his creditors.

Kate Stuart remembered a similar version. She had been told by her mother that the commander of Fort Johnston had gone to her mother’s house “early in the evening [of Smith’s death] and asked her to prepare a midnight lunch with plenty of hot coffee as they were to bury Gov. Smith that night.” Given the esteem enjoyed by Kate Stuart, no one questioned her version of the departure of Smith. In the words of Louis T. Moore, since the details of the “real story” of Smith’s burial had been given to “an estimable lady” by her mother, “There can be no question as to the authenticity of the surrounding circumstances.”<sup>11</sup>

The account of Smith’s quick burial to avoid creditors has been a focal point in the lore of the Lower Cape Fear since its first telling. The image of a cabal lowering Smith’s body into an unmarked grave at midnight, five hours after his death, by the light of flickering pine torches, one of which was held by Mary Stuart, proved irresistible to purveyors of popular history such as Cobb, Moore, Bill Sharpe, and recently Billy Arthur. Lawrence Lee, however, in his history of Brunswick County, was more restrained, attributing the story to “Tradition.”<sup>12</sup>

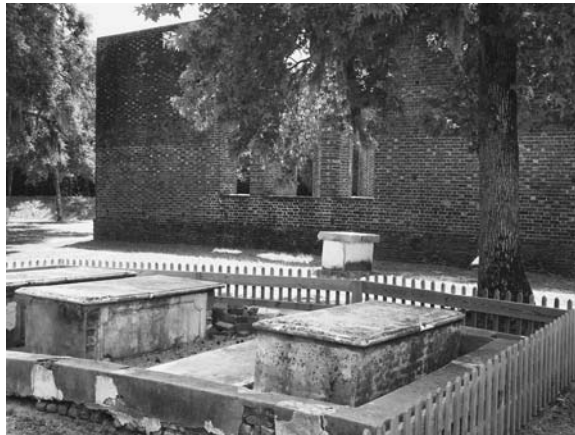
Correction and resolution of the accounts of the burial of Smith again inhere in the Clitheralls. Death occurred during the night of a ferocious storm that did not abate until morning, precluding any “midnight” burial. Although the weather was cold, the decomposition of the body, not the avoidance of creditors, required immediate interment. Smith had been ill for some time during the winter months, and personal hygiene posed an obstacle to those who cared for him. Then, a week before his death, he contracted typhus fever or “putrid fever,” so named for the offensive discharges of the body and its rapid decomposition, which in extreme cases occurs before death. It was imperative to lay Smith to rest, and soon.<sup>13</sup>

The tale of death in a debtor’s prison together with the attempt of creditors to seize the body seems patently false. At his death Smith no doubt was hounded by creditors, but no evidence exists that he had been committed to debtor’s prison. In extensive correspondence with his family and heirs, Smith’s executors never mentioned his confinement, which would have affected the disposition of the governor’s property.<sup>14</sup> As the years passed, locals apparently confused Smith’s earlier incarceration in 1817 in a debtor’s prison with the common knowledge that he died in debt.

Indeed, they may have conflated the memory of his indebtedness and quick burial, and have drawn the conclusion that creditors sought the body, but again substantive proof is lacking. The practice of creditors attaching a corpse to force payment by heirs existed in Rome, in Europe during the Middle Ages, and in the American colonies, but it found little favor in America after the Revolution. Massachusetts in 1811 and other states prohibited taking a dead body by attachment or execution. On a practical note, given the danger posed by a typhus-ridden corpse, it is doubtful that the sheriff or any official would have wanted to take possession of Smith’s body.<sup>15</sup>

Although Smith had hoped for a final resting place beside his wife Sarah in St. Philips churchyard in Brunswick Town,<sup>16</sup> according to local historians the burial site or sites were many. Smith may have been buried six or eight miles from Smithville and later reinterred in St. Philips;<sup>17</sup> buried in St. Philips first and only;<sup>18</sup> buried first in St. Philips and then moved to St. James Cemetery in Wilmington;<sup>19</sup> buried originally in St. James;<sup>20</sup> or, as the corpse was taken up the Cape Fear River to St. Philips, consigned to the waters where “the weary, tossed-about bones of the old hero were borne by the swift current of the Cape Fear, into the great Atlantic.”<sup>21</sup>

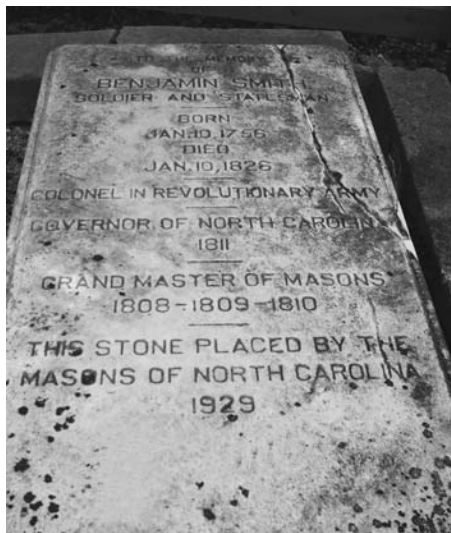
Eliza Clitherall comes to the rescue. In her diary she noted that the former governor was laid to rest soon after his death in the burying ground in Smithville, now the Old Southport Cemetery. The barge at Fort Johnston was unavailable, and a heavy fog on the river prevented the hire of other craft to take the body to St. Philips in Brunswick Town. Given the need for immediate burial, Smith necessarily was interred in the cemetery in Smithville.<sup>22</sup>



The grave markers for Benjamin Smith (*right*) and his wife Sarah (*left*) near the ruins of St. Philips Church at Brunswick Town. The remains of the former governor may or may not be buried therein.

Regarding a second burial, the governor's remains may have been removed from the Smithville cemetery circa 1840 and deposited in St. Philips churchyard in Brunswick Town. Mary and Kate Stuart constitute the best, though hardly the most reliable, sources for that account. Removal may have been undertaken by Robert Barnwell Rhet, Smith's nephew from Charleston, erroneously identified as Smith's brother by Mary Stuart.<sup>23</sup> Some sources, particularly Louis T. Moore, attribute the removal to Gen. Joseph G. Swift, a longtime friend of Sarah and Benjamin Smith, but that seems most unlikely. Swift often mentioned the Smiths in his memoirs, but he failed to include any reference to a trip to Smithville to oversee the reburial of Smith.<sup>24</sup>

Accompanying the story of the reburial was the oft-told tale of the means of identifying the remains in Smithville, a problematic endeavor a decade and a half after the original interment. According to Mary Stuart, she knew the site of the grave. She also remembered that Smith had been wounded in a duel, and that the bullet had never been removed. Thus, using a flour sifter, she combed through the ashes and found a bullet. All agreed that the lead missile was sufficient proof of the authenticity of the remains.<sup>25</sup> The ashes reputedly were taken to Brunswick Town.



The inscriptions on the marble slab over the presumed grave of Benjamin Smith at Brunswick Town contributed to the confusion surrounding his birth and death dates.

In 1853, General Swift sent a marble slab, made in Brooklyn, "*to be erected at the grave of Mrs. Smith*" (*italics added*) in Brunswick Town. The slab, subsequently erected, contained an inscription to Sarah Dry Smith that included a remembrance of Benjamin Smith, "once Governor of North Carolina," but it hardly constituted irrefutable evidence that the governor was buried at the site. Nonetheless, years later Kate Stuart averred, "There is no doubt about his [Smith's] remains being removed to St. Philips."<sup>26</sup>

Swift's marble memorial and the recollection of the Stuarts cemented the belief that Smith's remains had been moved to Brunswick Town. In 1929, the North Carolina Freemasons in an elaborate ceremony to memorialize Smith, Grand Master of North Carolina Masons from 1809 to 1811, marked the supposed site of Smith's grave in Brunswick Town with the tablet that may be seen today. Still, there are those like Lawrence Lee who attribute Smith's final resting place in Brunswick Town to local tradition. Proof of the move from Smithville to Brunswick Town remains elusive.<sup>27</sup>

Thus Gov. Benjamin Smith of North Carolina was born on January 10, 1757, in *Charles Town (later Charleston), South Carolina*, and died on *January 27, 1826* in Smithville. *First interred in the cemetery in Smithville, his remains may have been moved* to St. Philips churchyard at the site of old Brunswick Town, where they may lie in the shadow of the walls of St. Philips Church. Regardless of his birth and death dates, and his ultimate burial site, Smith may be remembered for his minor contribution to the American victory in the Revolution, his dedication to the protection and perpetuation of the Union, and his promotion of the economic and educational development of North Carolina, all the while exemplifying by his life the proverb, "riches have wings."

## Notes

1. James Grant Wilson and John Fiske, eds., *Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, 6 vols. (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1886–1889), 5:557; *Southport Leader*, March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 1896. John H. Wheeler briefly mentioned Smith earlier, promising more at a later date. John H. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches of North Carolina from 1584 to 1851*, 2 vols. (Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo and Company, 1851), 2:49.
2. Collier Cobb, "Governor Benjamin Smith," *North Carolina Booklet* 11 (January 1912): 158–168.
3. Wilson and Fiske, *Appleton's Cyclopaedia*, 5:557; *Southport Leader*, April 2, 1896; *Morning Star* (Wilmington), November 7, 1926; Louis T. Moore, *Stories Old and New of the Cape Fear Region* (orig. 1956; Wilmington, N.C.: Broadfoot Publishing Company, 1999), 112; *News and Observer* (Raleigh), April 24, 1955; Robert Sobel and John Raimo, eds., *Biographical Directory of the Governors of the United States, 1789–1978*, reprint, four volumes in one (Westport, Conn.: Meckler Corporation, 1978), 1119; Michael Hill, ed., *The Governors of North Carolina* (Raleigh, N.C.: Office of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 2007), 130.
4. D. E. Huger Smith and A. S. Salley Jr., eds., *Register of St. Philip's Parish, Charles Town, or Charleston, S.C., 1754–1810* (orig. 1927; Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1971), 5; New Hanover County, Deed Book H, 48–49, microfilm, Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C.; Benjamin Smith to ?, May 19, 1783, Grimke Family Papers, Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University, Durham, N.C.
5. Cobb, "Governor Benjamin Smith," 159; Louis T. Moore, "Governor Benjamin Smith," *The State* 15 (April 17, 1948): 11; *News and Observer* (Raleigh), April 24, 1955; Lawrence Lee, *The History of Brunswick County, North Carolina* (Charlotte, N.C.: Heritage Press, 1980), 141; Sobel and Raimo, *Biographical Directory of the Governors of the United States*, 1119; Hill, *Governors of North Carolina*, 130.
6. Smith and Salley, *Register of St. Philip's Parish*, 5; Barnwell Rhett Heyward, "The Descendants of Col. William Rhett, of South Carolina," *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 4 (January 1903): 41; George C. Rogers, junior, *Evolution of a Federalist: William Loughton Smith of Charleston (1758–1812)* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1962), 403; Walter B. Edgar and N. Louise Bailey, eds., *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives*, 5 vols. (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1974–1992), 2:643.
7. Wilson and Fiske, *Appleton's Cyclopaedia*, 557; Moore, "Governor Benjamin Smith," 11; Lee, *History of Brunswick County*, 141–142.
8. Eliza Carolina (Burgwin) Clitherall, "Autobiography and Diary of Mrs. Eliza Clitherall," 17 vols., Clitherall Books, 7:8, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; George C. Clitherall to John G. Bee, January 30, 1826, Benjamin Smith Papers, Southern Historical Collection; Sobel and Raimo, *Biographical Directory of the Governors of the United States*, 1119. Billy Arthur, "The Tragedy of Benjamin Smith," *The State* 65 (February 1998): 16, and Hill, *Governors of North Carolina*, 131, use January 26, 1826.

9. *Southport Leader*, April 30, 1896.
10. John D. Bellamy, *Memoirs of an Octogenarian* (Charlotte, N.C.: Observer Printing House, 1942), 3–4.
11. Kate Stuart to “My Dear Mr. Sprunt,” January 1, 1921, Alexander Sprunt and Son, Inc., Papers, Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University, Durham, N.C.; Moore, *Stories Old and New*, 115. For Kate Stuart see Brooks Newton Preik, “Kate Stuart: Legendary Lady of the Lower Cape Fear,” *Lower Cape Fear Historical Society Bulletin* 59 (October 2005).
12. Cobb, “Governor Benjamin Smith,” 167; *Morning Star* (Wilmington), November 7, 1926; Bill Sharpe, “From Manteo to Murphey,” *The State* 23 (May 19, 1956): 31; Arthur, “Tragedy of Benjamin Smith,” 16; Bellamy, *Memoirs of an Octogenarian*, 3–4; Lee, *History of Brunswick County*, 142.
13. George C. Clitherall to John G. Bee, January 30, 1826, Benjamin Smith Papers; Clitherall, “Autobiography and Diary,” 7:8; Samuel Willis and Walter Moxon, *Lectures on Pathological Anatomy* (Philadelphia: Lindsay and Blackiston, 1875), 629; Alfred L. Loomis, *A Textbook of Practical Medicine: Designed for the Use of Students and Practitioners of Medicine*, 3d ed. (New York: William Wood and Company, 1892), 711.
14. See the correspondence of Robert Howe, Alfred Moore, and Thomas S. Grimké in the Grimké Family Papers, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C.
15. Vern Countryman, “Bankruptcy and the Individual Debtor—and a Modest Proposal to Return to the Seventeenth Century,” *Catholic University Law Review* 32 (Summer 1983): 2; “J. F. H.,” “The Nature of Rights in a Dead Body,” *University of Pennsylvania Law Review* 74 (February 1926): 404–405; Anne Reichman Schiff, “Arising from the Dead: Challenges of Posthumous Procreation,” *North Carolina Law Review* 75 (March 1997): 7.
16. Clitherall, “Autobiography and Diary,” 7:8; Will of Benjamin Smith, November 21, 1825, Brunswick County, Deed Book B, 137–138, microfilm, Office of Archives and History, Raleigh.
17. *Morning Star* (Wilmington), November 7, 1926; Moore, *Stories Old and New*, 113–114. Earlier Moore noted that Smith was buried in the village (Smithville) cemetery. *Morning Star* (Wilmington), November 21, 1926.
18. Cobb, “Governor Benjamin Smith,” 167.
19. *News and Observer* (Raleigh), April 24, 1955.
20. Sobel and Raimo, *Biographical Directory of the Governors of the United States*, 1119.
21. Early Winfred Bridges, *The Masonic Governors of North Carolina* (Greensboro, N.C.: n. p., 1937), 141–142.
22. Clitherall, “Autobiography and Diary,” 7:8. Sue Carson in a sketch of Smith in the *State Port Pilot* (Southport, N.C.), September 30, 1987, and an article in the *Morning Star* (Wilmington), Supplement, May 1990, follows the Clitherall diary.
23. Bellamy, *Memoirs of an Octogenarian*, 4–5.
24. *Morning Star* (Wilmington), November 21, 1926; Moore, *Stories Old and New*, 116; Joseph Gardner Swift, *The Memoirs of Gen. Joseph Gardner Swift* (Boston: Privately printed, 1890).
25. Bellamy, *Memoirs of an Octogenarian*, 4–5; Moore, *Stories Old and New*, 116–117.
26. Swift, *Memoirs of Gen. Joseph Gardner Swift*, 271; Kate Stuart to “My Dear Mr. Sprunt,” January 6, 1921, Alexander Sprunt and Son, Inc., Papers, Rare Book, Manuscript and Special Collections Library, Duke University, Durham, N.C.
27. *Orphans Friend and Masonic Journal*, August 1, 1929; Lee, *History of Brunswick County*, 142.

## Additions to the National Register of Historic Places

(Administered by the State Historic Preservation Office)



The Rasmus Midgett House in Waves on Hatteras Island was built ca. 1850 and significantly altered thrice thereafter. It qualified for the National Register upon the strength of both its architectural integrity and its historic significance as the home of Rasmus Midgett, who earned a Gold Life-Saving Medal for his heroic rescue of ten sailors from a wrecked ship during an 1899 hurricane.

The diminutive (twenty feet by thirty feet) W. R. Surles Memorial Library in the small southeastern Robeson County town of Proctorville has operated as a privately owned community library since its construction in 1951. Administered by the R. C. Lawrence Book Club, it continues to serve the agrarian families of the surrounding small towns and countryside, independent of the public library system of North Carolina.



Even before it was completely built, the house at the Henry Seawell and Mary Jane English Brown Farmstead in the North Cove Valley of northern McDowell County was submerged by the rising waters of the North Fork of the Catawba River in the great flood of 1916. The house, constructed of lumber and shingles sawn at the mill on the property, was disassembled and moved to higher ground.



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