

THE GIBSONVILLE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 5 NO. 1 ~ SPRING 2014

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DOCENT APPRECIATION TEA & TRAINING WORKSHOP

Nine docents participated in our first-ever, group-session to learn the duties and responsibilities of museum guides and volunteers. They represented a valuable group who volunteer to host the museum's regular open hours once a month, on the 3rd Saturday, from 10 am - 1 pm.

Please congratulate the participants who attended the event April the 12th:

Laverne Apple
Faye Cheek
Peggy Cheshire
Pat Johnson
Jean Lippard
Joan Mansfield
Lethe Walters
Ernest White, Jr.



Howard, Lethe, Laverne and Jean

Board members Edna Hackett and Sean Dowell developed the manual, Carol Moore provided the training, and Deleno Flynn, along with museum curator Howard Hendricks, led the participants on a tour of the archives and artifacts representative of Gibsonville's history (from early 1800's through mid-20th century).

Hostesses for the appreciation tea were Tina Barber, Carol Moore, and Sandi Moulton.

If you'd like to become a docent, call Edna Hackett at 336-656-3303 or email her at EHACKETT@triad.rr.com.

Save Gibsonville School Project

By: *Tina RB Barber*

A little over three years ago there was a phone call that went something like this, "Hi. My name is Sean Dowell." "And I am Tina Barber. I want to save the Gibsonville School." Little did either of us know what path this would take us down, what adventures we may have, or what the result would be for all our efforts. Several times the old school seemed moments away from becoming a pile of rubble. After all, votes were made to allocate money for demolition, then votes were made to actually demolish the school, and in all likelihood the building should have been a pile of bricks last summer. Our mantra adopted at the beginning was, "I'd rather have tried and failed than not to have tried at all." Presentations were made to the Gibsonville Board of Alderman, Gibsonville Merchants Association, Gibsonville Museum and Historical Society, and the Guilford County Preservation Commission. Petitions were signed, renovations decided upon, plans made for possible uses, funds sought, and many uphill battles waged. There were setbacks, but our perseverance has had its rewards.

There is still a lot of work to be done. The roof caved in on the wing closest to the library in February 2013 which prompted Guilford County Schools to expedite the vote to demolish. It was a sad day when the School Board unanimously voted to demolish the building in March 2013 within three to six months. But in that time period, things changed. A potential buyer came forward with a plan to renovate and reconstruct the building into apartments, a very suitable rehabilitative use of old schools that has been used across the state. With the help of Preservation North Carolina, an offer was made on the school property. After the school was declared surplus by the School Board, the County Commissioners were offered first refusal in which they voted to not buy the building. The building was put under contract to be purchased by Third Wave Housing out of Winston-Salem. Richard Angino, who owns Third Wave Housing, has been involved in developing apartments for twenty plus years. Third Wave Housing's plan is to create 41 apartments within the historic structure of the school.

The Gibsonville School was placed on the Study List with the North Carolina State Preservation Office (NCSHPO) in 2006. GCS had already informed that office that they

intended to demolish building not long after this adventure started. But having the school already on the Study List was a good thing. The process to have a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places has multiple steps. First apply to the Study List, then move forward with an application for actual designation as a historic building. Since the first step had been completed and the building was already deemed to possibly have historic significant (that is what the Study List really determines), the application to the National Register designation was submitted in January 2014. The NCSHPO only meets three times per year. Their first meeting was to be February 13, 2014 and as you well know, the snowpocalypse descended upon us for three days. The application is going through the review process as the full package is prepared for the July 2014 for the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office committee meeting. Once this is approved, the package goes to the National Park Service in Washington for final approval. Nevertheless, Third Wave Housing is still working towards having GCS on the national register by the end of the summer.

If you've been by the school recently and wondered why it's still just sitting there, it really isn't. There are many behind the scenes activities going on that are necessary before any visible work can begin on the project. Many uphill battles have been faced and won. Many an email blast has been sent to the Guilford County School Board, the Guilford County Commissioners, and others. But there is still rezoning, plans to be drawn up, and financing to finalize. Soon we hope to see the physical work begin. The transformation will be tremendous visually and will even have economic implications for the Town of Gibsonville. Town merchants will enjoy the benefits of having more residents living close to downtown. To those that have helped in any way, we offer a huge thanks from the bottom of our hearts. The preservation would not have been possible without the help of so many contributing their voice, their time, and their efforts towards this mutual goal.

Some have already expressed interest in renting the apartments. Can you imagine living in a room that was once your math class? It is entirely possible that it may happen now.

Gibsonville Museum and Historical Society, Inc.

P. O Box 283, Gibsonville, NC 27249

Annual Membership — 2014-2015

Sponsorships

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Tel. No. _____ Email _____

Tel. No. _____ Email _____

\$25 Adult (Age 18-64) \$10 Senior (Age 65 - Up)

\$100 Bronze \$250 Silver

\$50 Family \$50 Non Profit

\$500 Gold \$1000 Platinum

~ GRANT APPLICATIONS ~

Carol Moore, board member, has devoted hours and hours searching out local foundations that have an interest in charitable organizations like ours. She identified a handful of them with preferences for historical preservation and/or cultural education. Armed with this information, the board applied to a several foundations during the past year.

Lowe's Home Improvement, Inc.

Marian S. Covington Foundation

Tannenbaum-Sternberger Foundation

Walmart Foundation

Completing application forms is a tedious process that requires dedication. All foundations require the same general information, before asking for specific details that are unique to each organization. Their forms and formats are unique, too. Carol deserves high praise for her persistence!

In addition, Carol calls on local merchants for smaller donations, such as gift cards that benefit the museum in a variety of ways.

Food Lion, Inc.

Lowe's Food Stores, Inc.

Lowe's Home Improvement, Inc.

Walmart Foundation

Thanks, Carol, for your leadership in these efforts.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE



The Museum looks for ways to raise money. During the 2013 Christmas holidays we sold tickets for a 50/50 raffle. The drawing was held at the Museum, following the Christmas Parade on Saturday, the 14th of December.

The lucky winner was Margie Stalzer. The Stalzers live in the Whitsett area. Congratulations to Margie and her husband Joe.

Submitted by Deleno Flynn

Gibsonville Museum Faces the Challenges of Success

Sandi Moulton could not have imagined the excitement that was born when she hosted a handful of history-minded Gibsonville residents at her home in 2008. Several attempts at establishing a museum in Gibsonville had been started and stopped over the years. But the small group of citizens felt that, as Gibsonville moved forward, the story of our past way of life was worthy of being saved to be heard by future generations.

Since that first organizational meeting, the Gibsonville Museum and Historical Society has collected many artifacts and treasures.

But, as with any endeavor, success often brings its own challenges. As a result of public interest and the donation of historical items, the Society is searching for a new home. Ideally, the new site would allow the Museum to combine its exhibition and storage spaces which are currently being housed in two separate locations. Information on potential locations is currently being solicited. If you could assist the Museum with this search, please contact Jerry Nix, Vice-President at 449-7680.

Gibsonville Museum and Historical Society has been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Charitable contributions are therefore tax deductible by the donor to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Submitted by Jim Ezekiel, Board Member

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

What is a museum without people? It's a depository for old "stuff," no more than a warehouse. True, "Stuff" can be recorded and catalogued, repaired and restored, and saved ... for what purpose?

Where's the meaning, Where's the value of such efforts? The purpose is found in people like you and me who give meaning and add value to a museum's collection.

We are the members and the visitors. The volunteers and the staff. The donors who support with their dollars and those who contribute artifacts and records. The genealogists and historians who come for information and leave their stories with us. The children who want to learn their heritage and the seniors who want to share their memories.

If you're reading this now, surely you found yourself among these people! If you are a member of the museum, I hope you'll renew your membership in 2014. If not, I invite you to join today! Look for the membership form on the opposite page of the newsletter.

Submitted by Sandi Moulton

COMING EVENTS

The Board of Directors invites you to the Annual Meeting of the Gibsonville Museum & Historical Society on Saturday the 13th of September at 10:30 am.

The meeting will be held in Gibsonville Town Hall, located at 111 West Main Street and be followed by a reception in the Museum.

Plans are underway to bring you an exciting new exhibit – a history of *The Gibsonville School!* It will feature many artifacts that were retrieved from the buildings since it became vacant about 2005.

If you attended The Gibsonville School during the days when students spent their entire public education there, from 1st grade through graduation (1926 to 1974), you're in for a special treat! Remember chalk boards, school desks, and water fountains? You'll see athletic awards and yearbooks, too!

Become a museum member today, and you'll be the first to know when this wonderful exhibit opens in 2014-2015!

*Submitted by
Howard Hendricks, Curator*

2013-2014 SPONSORSHIPS

The Board of Directors is pleased to acknowledge the following Bronze sponsors:

Joan and Jim Drummond
Phoebe and Pat Harman
Sandi and Bob Moulton
Jerry Nix
Denise and Michael Kimo

2013-2014 FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

The Board of Directors is pleased to welcome these family memberships:

Sarah W. Burgess
Onie "Dolly" W. Burgess
James "Jim" and Jason Dunn
Doyle and Jean Gilliam
Richard and Lyndia Kleeberg
Leonard and Carol Mangum
Jim and Pam Young

2013-2014 HONORARIUMS

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the following honorariums:

Patricia S. Moulton made gifts to the Museum in honor of:

Bob Moulton
Sandi Moulton

Thank-You Notes

Thank you, Food Lion, of 6307 Burlington Road, Stoney Creek NC for your donation to the Gibsonville Museum & Historical Society in March.

Thank you, Walmart, of 3141 Garden Road, Burlington NC for your donation to the Gibsonville Museum & Historical Society in April.

Your financial support provides funding for museum activities, such as the recent appreciation tea and training workshop for our docents. You can read about that event in this edition of the newsletter.

Submitted by Carol Moore

Gibsonville Museum and Historical Society Inc.

P. O. Box 283
Gibsonville, NC 27249

