

# THE GIBSONVILLE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

VOL. 6 NO. 1 ~ SUMMER 2015

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## The Gibsonville School Exhibit

On May 16, 2015, the GMHSI opened it's newest exhibit: *The Gibsonville School (1923 -1974): Education, Athletics, and Good Times*. This opening was a one time fund raising event that raised over \$1,000. For those who attended, thank you. For those unable to make this opening, an abbreviated, rotating version of this exhibit is now on display. This exhibit will be shown during customary museum hours until mid 2016. We are certain this exhibit will excite, remind, and pleasure those who attend. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Update on the Gibsonville School

Through the extensive efforts and financial contributions of the GMHSI, Third Wave Housing (Richard Angino), and Preservation North Carolina (PNC), the Gibsonville School was purchased from Guilford County Schools in late January 2015. This property is now under the ownership of PNC, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of historic properties across North Carolina. This new ownership is a place holder owner and a developer is currently being sought to purchase and develop the old school building. Per a recent update, PNC reports regular, weekly tours of the Gibsonville School but no committed interest yet. In the meanwhile, the GMHSI and PNC are working together to improve and stabilize the School. These efforts have and will include basic roof repairs, general clean up, and other means of delaying building deterioration (where financially possible). As outlined in our charter, the GMHSI continues to be a voice for our community and heritage, which includes acting in the best interests of our town's historic structures. It should be noted that these efforts were only possible with the active support of the community and your membership / sponsorship contributions to the GHMSI.

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# The State of Historic Rehabilitation

As of December 31, 2014, North Carolina terminated state financial support of historic rehabilitation. The lack of state support impacts historic rehabilitation across NC but is truly most impactful to smaller projects and non-metro communities (which cannot get financing and/or make initial financial sense without this aid). You need to look no further than the undeveloped Gibsonville School to see the real world implications of our representative's decision. While historic rehabilitation is supported by many including Governor McCrory and the NC House, it has primary opposition in the NC Senate (headed by Guilford County's own Phil Berger). The opponents of state support for historic rehabilitation believe, "the purpose of the tax code should be to raise revenue for core government services. It should not be used as a means to redistribute income, favor certain personal behaviors or discourage others, or force taxpayers to be in the economic

development game" (John Locke Foundation). In contrast to this point of view, we believe that historic rehabilitation is both a good financial investment and the state supporting its citizens; see our Justification for Historic Rehabilitation below. As of July 30th, there is discussions of inclusion of incentives in the state budget. Whether this financial assistance is tax credits, a rebate program, or any other, the GMHSI is in support of the state supporting historic rehabilitation. If you also believe that the state should support historic rehabilitation, please 1) reach out to Guilford County Representative Phil Berger at (336) 623-5210 or phil.berger@ncleg.net and Alamance County representative Rick Gunn at 336-229-6981 or rick.gunn@ncleg.net or 2) consider signature of the petition at [www.historictaxcredits.org](http://www.historictaxcredits.org).

## Justification for Historic Rehabilitation

### Benefit of historic rehabilitation are:

- **FINANCIAL:** These projects profit many parties. During rehabilitation these projects create employment in construction, real estate, and other related industries. After (re)construction these projects become new residence and employment locations profitable to site ownership as well as residents / tenants. Over the long term these projects positively impact their community as a whole through improvement in the area tax base. The cost of supporting historic rehab is paid back in full and in excess through this increase in the tax base. Effectively, this state investment pays for itself and makes a profit (over the life of the project / property).
- **ENVIRONMENTAL:** Rehabilitation of historic properties takes often unusable properties with inherent environmental issues and allows these challenging sites to become beautiful, unique locations. Overall this is beneficial because 1) environmentally contaminated sites (as historic properties often are) are cleaned up and restored to a usable condition and 2) reuse of historic materials limits newly sourced materials required for construction. Rehabilitation is 'green' in nature and is the ultimate recycling project.
- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** By its character, rehabilitation happens in older areas and in infill locations. These drastic improvements in "old" areas stimulates positive area change and act as a forces of economic revitalization. This smart growth provides real, positive, tangible attention to in need areas and properties.
- **CULTURAL:** An areas heritage is revived, actively remembered, and made relevant to current generations through rehabilitation of historic properties.

## Our New Website

Like any historical organization, the Gibsonville Museum & Historical Society Inc walks the line between honoring our history and keeping up the the times. In pursuit of this second objective, we have created an online presence at [www.gmhsi.org](http://www.gmhsi.org). This website was created and donated to the GMHSI to facilitate improved communication with the public. On this website, we will share Gibsonville's history as well as keep our patrons and community updated on our activities.

Visit our website anytime for information on our current and continuing enterprises.

## I Remember When ...

*By Ernest White*

"In the 1940's and 50's, I walked (yes – we would) to school from the bottom of Mill Hill (4th Street). In the spring time this walk was enhanced by the smell of roses and honeysuckles on the fence that enclosed Minneola Mill. The rose became my favorite flower and I have both the honeysuckle vine and several rose bushes / vines in my yard today. The rose vines were all around on the fence that circled Minneola Mill and I feel sure that is where the name "City of Roses" came from.

Walking from Mill Hill along the fence you came to the railroad tracks. Several mornings or afternoons, there would be a train with a long line of railroad cars stopped on the tracks. In the morning, if we were going to make it to school on time, we had no choice but to crawl under the middle section of one of the cars, not knowing if the train would move forward or backward! Thanks be to God, we all made it."

If you have memories you would like to submit for future newsletters or our website, send us your stories at [info@gmhsi.org](mailto:info@gmhsi.org). Please title your email 'I Remember When'.

## Another Notable Donation

*By Jerry Nix*

At the Gibsonville Museum on April 19, 2015, Neil Bromilow presented a digital video player and two copies of historic town photographs. Elon University students produced the video.

In January 2006, Gibsonville residents shared scores of photos and their special stories. More than 30 residents participated including Ed Belvin, Bernice Emmons, Delano Flynn, Edna Hackett, Julie Isley, Travis Loy, Jerry Nix, Dr. William D. Rippy, Benny Younger, Linda Waynick, Ernest White and Anne Yow.



Photo caption: Jean Lippard, left (descendant of Andrew Gibson), Edna Kivett Hackett, Neil Bromilow and Peggy Kivett Cheshire

# Membership Matters

*By Sandra Moulton*

Your membership is the lifeblood of the Gibsonville Historical Museum. It makes the difference between a public space full of memories OR a warehouse full of musty, old stuff. How? Because when members share stories of their community and heritage, the museum becomes alive! By contrast, a warehouse is nothing more than a lifeless storage space, locked-up and inaccessible. Please join us, your neighbors, and friends in our commitment to our heritage and community.

One means is through financial donations, which are essential to fund our continuing efforts and museum operations. Annual 2015-2016 GMHSI member dues are payable now (through the end of December). Application forms are available through our website, [www.gmhsi.org](http://www.gmhsi.org). You might want to consider sponsorship, of which additional information is included on the same application form. Lastly, we encourage everyone to remember the museum in their estate plans. Such a gift creates a legacy for donors and their families that will last for generations to come. With any questions or needs, you can email us at [info@gmhsi.org](mailto:info@gmhsi.org) or call us directly at 336-449-5678 or 336-449-6388.

There are other non-financial ways you can support the museum, too. Right now we are actively seeking items about Gibsonville School (1923-1974), as well as artifacts about the Holt Brothers and the Yow Sisters. If you attended the school, we need your memories; pick up a survey form the next time you're at the museum. If you are free to donate a few hours of your time, there's always plenty to do at the museum: getting newsletters ready to mail and serving as host or hostess for an open house or special event are just a few. Also, we could very much use assistance with grant writing.

For those who have already contributed or continue to do so, "Thank you!"

## Thank You Notes

*By Carol Moore*

The Hayden-Harman Foundation and High Point Refrigeration donated generous sponsorships this spring. As regular contributors to the Gibsonville Museum, they demonstrate their commitment to our community through these donations. Thank you, sponsors!

In March 2015, a grant application was submitted to the Sternberger Foundation by our Curator, Howard Hendricks. The grant seeks funds for much-needed upgrades to the Museum's collections storage. Disbursements will be announced in August 2015. We will keep you updated with progress.

## Annual Meeting Reminder

The GMHSI will be having its annual, open meeting on Saturday, September 12th @ 10 AM in Town Hall (129 West Main Street). We welcome all our members to attend in order that we can 1) update you the activities of the GMHSI over the last calendar year and 2) that we can hear your suggestions, advice, and feedback. We encourage you to let us know what goals and priorities you may have that 'our' organization can address.

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**Gibsonville Museum and Historical Society Inc.**

P. O. Box 283

Gibsonville, NC 27249

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