

# THE GIBSONVILLE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

VOL. 6 NO. 2 ~ WINTER 2015/2016

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### Update (2016 - 2020):

### The State of Historic Rehabilitation

*By S. Moulton*

Due to the tremendous support of a widely diversified group of individuals, the outlook for historic tax credits took an upturn since we reported the status of NC historic rehabilitation in the most recent newsletter. We appreciate the sustained efforts of property owners and developers; municipal, county and state officials; those who committed to historic preservation; and, of course our donors, members, sponsors and the board of directors. Many thanks to everyone who embraced "the cause," especially Steve Ross (R-Alamance) who sponsored the bill in the General Assembly and secured the support of Governor McCrory, and Jon Hardister (R-Guilford).

Their successful campaign to restore historic tax credits in North Carolina is a scaled-back version of a previous program that expired at the end of 2014. This new program took effect January 1, 2016 and will sunset January 1, 2020, at which time it will be subject for reconsideration. For details about this program consult the NC State Historic Preservation Office website at <http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/>.

### Making History

*By S. Dowell*

History is not just what is recorded in books. Our histories are also recorded in the lives of those around us, in the life adventures we pursue(d) together, and in the smiles we help(ed) create. History is crafted by our own hands and made special by our own unique touches. This life is our legacy. It is in this spirit that this newsletter is written. This newsletter is dedicated to those that made "moments" for and in Gibsonville. This runs the spectrum of those who made a difference in past years (whether Dr. Julius Vance Dick or Principal Gerald James) to those impacting our future today (see the Update on Historical Rehabilitation above or GMHSI's own efforts in Annual Review (2015)). Our lives changes the world. We are making history daily.

## Historical Spotlight: Dr. Julius Vance Dick

Julius Vance Dick, son of John S. and Pandora Wharton Dick, was born on July 17, 1876 in Guilford County, NC. John Dick, a Confederate soldier who was wounded during the Civil War (1861-1861), died in 1882 when Julius was six years old. Following his death, Pandora and Julius moved to Whitsett, NC, where she built a house across from the Whitsett Institute, a highly-regarded private high school of the day. Mrs. Dick provided room and board for students of the institute. Her brother-in-law, Colonel Hiram C. Dick and his wife, lived nearby, and helped her raise young Julius. Julius V. Dick graduated from the University of North Carolina with a degree in medicine and opened his practice in 1907 in Gibsonville. (His office was located above the local drug store in a building with an interesting history; in addition to Dr. Dick's practice, it became Burke's retail business for many years and was razed in the 1990's to make way for Wade's Jewelry.) He married his Whitsett neighbor, Blanche Rankin (b. July 30, 1879), and they built a new home in 1910 on Church Street, near his office.

Dr. Dick was a contract surgeon for the U.S. Army during World War I (1914-1918) and returned home to pursue an active role in the Gibsonville community. His lifetime of service is noteworthy. In addition to tending to his patients, Dr. Dick was an elected official, serving as an alderman to the Gibsonville

Town Board, a Mason, and a member of the American Legion. Dr. Dick also served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Bank of Gibsonville, established in 1907 (which became a branch of First Citizens Bank & Trust in 1967). He and Mrs. Dick were faithful members of Bethel Presbyterian Church, near McLeansville.

Dr. Dick died on July 18, 1941, at 65 years-old. A Gibsonville newspaper article printed in 1920 stated that everyone liked Dr. Dick and Dr. Dick liked everyone. Mrs. Dick continued to reside in the home on Church Street until the mid-1950's, when she moved to the Presbyterian Home in High Point. William (Bill) E. and Colene Pope Bartlett purchased the property for use as the Barlett Funeral Home; their grand opening took place October 24-25, 1959. Mrs. Dick died on July 6, 1964.



### History in Need: 515 Church Street, Gibsonville

The Dr. Dick residence at 515 Church Street has seen better days. After Bartlett Funeral Home closed in the 2000's, this property was put on the market for sale. In the last year, a tree has fallen into the rear wing of this vacant property. Should this not be repaired, the home could be considered for demolition by the town of Gibsonville. This potential demolition is a worst case scenario and would only occur if the owner cannot find a means of repairing the property. If you would like to voice your support or opinion, there is a "Save Bartlett Funeral Home Building" page on Facebook. If you are interested in "fixing up" a significant Gibsonville home, this property is currently on the market with residential real estate broker Anthony Hezar at (336) 260-4910. While this property is not currently on the National Register, it could be with entitlement work. The GMHSI encourages preservation of this historic Gibsonville asset.

**About the Gibsonville Museum & Historical Society, Inc:** The GMHSI is a member funded, non-profit organization created to promote public knowledge of local, state, and national history (with an emphasis on the history of Gibsonville). The GMHSI has regional related historical artifacts as well as revolving exhibits at the Gibsonville Museum. The Museum is located at 219 East Main Street in downtown Gibsonville and is open on the third Saturday of each month from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. For information on membership, the Museum, donations, or otherwise, please email [info@gmhsi.org](mailto:info@gmhsi.org), call us at 336-449-5678, or visit us at the Museum.

## I Remember When ...

*By Ernest White*

"Not at the top – Still climbing." I owe a lot to Gibsonville Public Schools, teachers, and one special principal, Dr. Gerald James. When Minneola Mills went on strike, I was a sophomore in high school. My parents were employees at the Mill. With no money coming in, I needed to get a job other than carrying The Times News evening paper. I was told I would have to quit school. Before I could look for a job, Dr. James came to my house. Mr. James was my math teacher as well as my principal. In an earlier class, Dr. James had told me that I should choose a math related career field, but that day he was there to make me an offer. His offer was to get me a job and set up classes around the job so I could continue my education. I accepted his offer and graduated with my class in 1953.

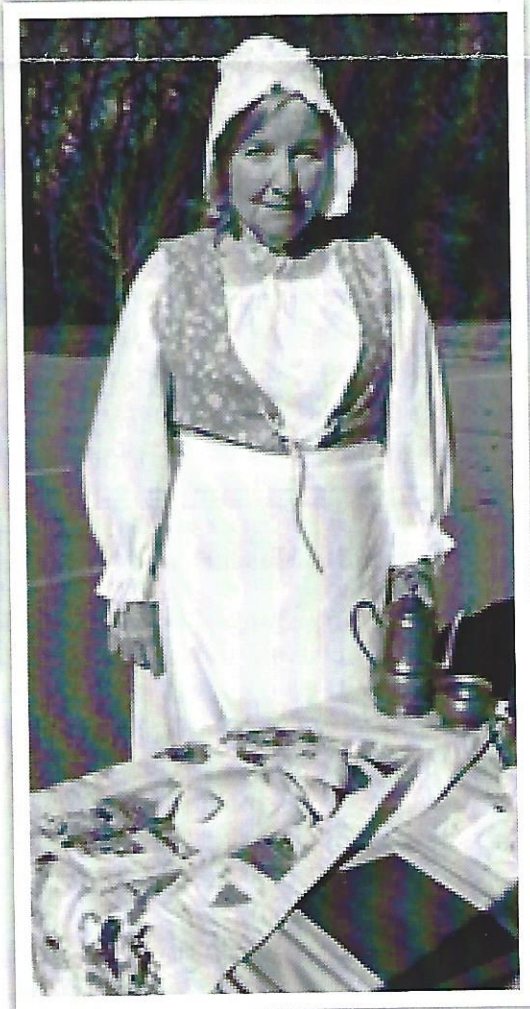
By November of 1953, I was standing in formation with 75-100 Marines. The 1st Lieutenant approached the group and asked, "How many graduated from high school?" Only three hands went up and one was mine. That diploma helped me throughout my life. I retired as Non Commissioned Officer (NCO), Master Sergeant in charge of a hospital pharmacy. Thanks being to God and a principal that cared...Dr. Gerald James."

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."

## Heritage Day At Gibsonville Elementary School

*By S. Moulton*

The Gibsonville Elementary School PTA sponsored a day long Heritage Day event on Friday, November 13, 2015. This event was used to acquaint students, from pre-school through fifth grade, with the life styles of families when candles provided the only light at night, fathers shod horses, mothers spun wool, and children attended one-room schools. Heritage Day took place with 15+ volunteers who demonstrated old-time crafts that included apple-coring, basket-weaving, and storytelling. GMHSI members Carol Moore and Sandi Moulton dressed in period attire and presented fifteen minute versions of "Mrs. Andrew Gibson, mother of Joseph Gibson," a script that Carol authored several years ago for visitors to the Gibsonville Museum. She led each group of students through a "time line" of Gibsonville history, and Sandi encouraged them to play with toys that were popular in those days. The GMSHI was delighted to participate.



## GMHSI Annual Review (2015)

The 2015 calendar year has been a productive one for the Gibsonville Museum & Historical Society Inc. In this time, we have:

- Completed the sale of the Gibsonville School from Guilford County Schools to Preservation North Carolina, a historic preservationist non-profit organization. Behind the scenes efforts for this property's historic development and preservation continue.
- Installed professional signage on Main Street in downtown Gibsonville for the Museum. Many Gibsonville residents were unaware of our museum and/or its location. This signage vastly increases our opportunity to be "found". Whether due to the new downtown signage or otherwise, this year held some of the most highly visited days to our Museum to date. At the Fall Festival, we had over 70+ new persons to visit.
- Created and presented a new exhibit at the Museum: The Gibsonville School (1923 -1974): Education, Athletics, and Good Times.
- Developed a professional website at [www.gmhsi.org](http://www.gmhsi.org).
- Improved our newsletter with a personalized "I Remember When..." and more current event related section. This collection of personal memories honors the heritage of our current membership.

Over this year, we have worked towards honoring our mission to preserve Gibsonville history, to establish a more consistent brand for our organization, as well as improve our communications with our members and the public at large. For the future year, our priorities include:

- Locating a permanent home for the Gibsonville Museum.
- Locating an interested party who will act as a grant writer for the GMHSI

If there are means in which we can further improve, let us know. All means to reach us are outlined in About at the bottom of page 2.

## A Community At Work

Over the last few years, there have been efforts on improving Gibsonville from many different, invested parties. These have included:

- The Merchant Association: Without the Merchant's Association, we would not have such a beautiful downtown or many of our events. These events include our summer time concerts, the Lighting of the Green, and others.
- Gibsonville Elected Officials & Staff: These individuals labor to make our lives easier. Without their efforts we would not have the "home" we have.
- Volunteer Committees: There are many volunteer opportunities within our town and locally. If you are interested in active involvement in our community, please consult Gibsonville Town Manager Ben Baxley at 336-449-4144 or [bbaxley@gibsonville.net](mailto:bbaxley@gibsonville.net).

Behind the scenes, Gibsonville has a tremendous pool of talented, intelligent individuals. Working together there is little we cannot accomplish.

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### Gibsonville Museum and Historical Society Inc.

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