

THE GIBSONVILLE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Update on The Gibsonville Museum

Like all things, the Gibsonville Museum has lived on borrowed time. As a museum financed through membership dues and operated through the benevolent donation of time (from our board of directors, docents, and others), this should come as no surprise. Due to the generosity of two different ownership groups, we have had a well positioned downtown site at limited cost. Since its inception in 2008, the

GMHSI has known we would have to find a permanent home for our Museum "someday." This time is upon us. In late 2016, roof and other building repairs required the storage of our collections and removal of the Museum from this generously donated space. While we may have the option of reoccupying after repairs, this space will never be "ours". For this reason, we are actively in the process of finding and financing a new, permanent location for the Gibsonville Museum.

This newsletter will outline GMHSI accomplishments to date, where we need support, and will also give details on what we are doing to accomplish our goals. Should you have any advice, thoughts, or are willing to aid the GMHSI in our efforts, please reach out to use at info@gmhsi.org.

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GMHSI Accomplishments

Since 2007, the GMHSI has...

- Opened a Museum (2008). This was in continuous operation and free to the public until August 2017. Our active, experienced curator Howard Hendricks put significant effort and thought into relevant, comprehensive exhibits related to Gibsonville's diverse history.
- Created a Significant Collection. The GMHSI has received, stored, and lovingly saved physical donations for a decade. While not all of these donations have been able to be displayed, we have been active in collecting items of historical significance for preservation and future presentation.
- Contributed Regionally. Through Board of Directors involvement with other historical societies and the Guilford County Historical Preservation Commission, the Gibsonville community has been actively represented in both Alamance and Guilford County. A continuing goal of the GMHSI has been to be an educational vehicle about the local and regional significance of our community and its members.
- Press & Print Publications. The GMHSI has sent publications on a bi-annual basis to its membership since 2009. While sent specifically to each of our members, these have also been free to the public in our Town Hall, local libraries, and in downtown businesses. We also created a walking tour numerous years ago. All of these publications are available on our website.
- A Comprehensive & Expanding Website. To reach a world wide audience, we launched www.gmhsi.org in 2015. We have become a qualified source of information for those interested in area history as well as the genealogy of local families.
- Advocated for Local Historic Properties. Through proactive outreach, the GMHSI has worked diligently to preserve local history and historic locations "in the real world". This has included the installation of historic plaques as well as advocating for the preservation of historic places. Physical rehabilitation have included the Dr. Dick house / Bartlett Funeral Home, preservation efforts on the Gibsonville School, among others.
- Active, Educational Outreach. Past and current members have gone to local schools and youth organizations to teach our children about our past. This began as "Mrs Gibson" lessons and continues with our "Traveling Trunk" efforts, which are still underway.

As we have done for the last decade, the GMSHI will continue to diligently work in Gibsonville's best interests now and into the future.

Fundraiser Efforts

We are proactively addressing a need for funds for our permanent location. To this end, the GMHSI has completed and/or is working on:

- **Retail Sales of Ornaments.** If you are interested in collection of these attractive collectables featuring local historical places, please see www.gmhsi.org/store. These are \$10 a piece or \$15 for two. They can be purchased locally at Gibsonville Antiques @ 106 East Railroad Avenue or ordered online. If ordered online, the cost of ornaments will be the price above plus actual shipping and handling costs.
- **Annual Submissions for Grants.** For numerous years, our Board of Directors have applied for grants to aid in museum operations and other goals. We continue with these efforts and for the last two to three years have worked on the required detailing of our non-profit's financials in order to be eligible for these grants. This is an expensive annual process for a small organization. Still, we persist in these efforts to prove the worth of our organization to qualified financial sources.
- **Aid from the Gibsonville Merchant Association (GMA).** The GMA has generously named the GMHSI and our permanent museum location as their chosen charity for their annual **Charity Golf Tournament (2018)**. This charity golf event will occur on **Friday, April 20, 2018**. For full details, see www.gibsonville.biz/golf. This is a fantastic reason to take off early on a Friday.
- **Gibsonville's Annual Car Show.** The GMHSI will be taking over the **Kiwanis Car Show on Saturday, April 28, 2018**. After this year, this will become a GMHSI event and will allow us our own annual event in which to raise operational monies. We are thankful to the Kiwanis club to allow us this opportunity. We will use it to initially raise funds for the museum and later for operational expenses of the same.
- **An Open House of the Bartlett Funeral Home / Dr Dick House.** To raise funds for a permanent museum location, the private owner of this property will be doing tours of this newly refurbished historic home. Tours of this property will be available for **May 19 - 20, 2018** at a cost of \$10 / person, the proceeds of which will go the GMHSI. Also on these dates, there will be a public yard sale in which a percentage of all sales goes to the GMHSI. For more information on the local significance of this property, see the History / Detailed Histories page of our website on Dr. Julius Vance Dick (1876 - 1941) & 515 Church Street, Gibsonville (1910).
- **An Annual Calender.** We are today planning an annual calender. This will work wonderfully within our chartered goals: 1) it allows us an attempt at documenting our history each year as well as beautiful art through photographs, 2) education about our local history, 3) a consistent year over year opportunity to interact with our community and 4) practically this calendar gives the GMHSI a different sale able item each year. The first year of this calender will be chosen images by the GMHSI. This will be available for pre-order in late 2018. In future years, images will be submitted to us and chosen by our community.

Let me note that we are also still accepting traditional donations. The GMHSI is a non-profit, member funded, 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. We are always happy to write donation letters and accept donations of any size. All donations are both tax deductible and greatly appreciated. For more information, see our website www.gmhsi.org.

Membership Matters II

Public attendance at the Gibsonville Museum showed growing interest in our local history last year (as reported by museum volunteers at the board of directors' annual meeting in September 2017). Financial support for the museum increased, too. Together - attendance plus dollars - are vital in order to preserve the history of Gibsonville and to promote our heritage.

Here are a few interesting facts about our membership in 2017. More than half of the members lived in Alamance and Guilford counties. Twelve members were Bronze sponsors at the \$100-level; they accounted for about one-third of all members last year and include St. Jacques @ Burke Manor Inn and the Town of Gibsonville. Silver sponsors, who hailed from Burlington NC and NY State, continued their support at the \$250-level. The award for "longest-distance" membership goes to Barbara Willis, who resides in California.

Additional out-of-state support was received from three closer-by states (FL, GA, and TX):

Memorials	Joan S. Drummond, by Bob & Sandy Moulton Steven Ray Shoe, by Jerry S. Nix
Honorariums	Bob and Sandra Moulton, by Dr. & Mrs. C. H. Brown Bob and Sandra Moulton, by Dr. Patricia Moulton Jerry S. Nix, by Mary Dorothy Pourteau

Please join these generous parties above and consider sponsorship of our organization.

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). For information on membership, donations, or otherwise, please consult our website www.gmhsi.org or email us at info@gmhsi.org.

Gibsonville Museum and Historical Society Inc.

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