

THE GIBSONVILLE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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A Brief History of Minneola Mill

Minneola Mill has been a significant part of Gibsonville's identity as well an anchor for its downtown.
See a brief history on this property below:

- *A Basis of Gibsonville:* While Gibsonville was formally founded in 1871, it truly has its origins in the construction of the rail line in the 1850's. This rail access allowed our opportunity for growth including construction of our downtown and Minneola mill. This mill was built in 1886 by Berry Davidson and was purchased by Cone Mills in 1892. From 1892 to 1988, this property was a Cone

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jerry S. Nix, *President*
Deleno Flynn, *Vice-President*
Elise "Tootie" Burke, *At Large*
Edna Jo Hackett, *At Large*
Boyce Johnson, *At Large*
Sandra Moulton, *At Large*
Howard Hendricks, *Curator*
Lethe Yow Walters, *Docents*
Jim Ezekiel, *Nominations*
Craig York, *Photography*
Karen York, *Projects*
Sean Dowell, *Publications*
Anne Manuli, *Secretary*
Barbara Williams, *Treasurer*

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Mills operation. For almost 100 years, this operation was one of Gibsonville's largest local employer and a basis for our town.

- *City Branding:* The roses on Minneola Street at Cone Mills faced Gibsonville's downtown train station. These were in such abundance that Gibsonville became known as the city of roses. This point of pride continued until the roses were removed in the 1940's. Around the 2000's, Gibsonville reinstalled roses downtown to honor this history.

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Minneola Mill

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- *The Strike & Its Impact:* In 1951, Cone Mills employees in NC and VA participated in a Textile Workers Union of America (TWUA) strike. This included local plants in Durham, Haw River, Gibsonville, Eden (then Leaksville, Draper, and Spray), High Point, and Greensboro. This strike was unsuccessful and prompted Cone Mills to discontinue perks including low cost housing for employees. After this civil action, Cone Mills sold their 60+ local homes to anyone who would move them. Moving multiple blocks of housing resulted in a changed look and feel for Gibsonville. Another effect of this large housing shift was that it forced many Cone employees to move from Gibsonville because they could not afford and/or find in town living. This resulted in Gibsonville's only decade of population decrease in its history.
- *Continued Significant Presence:* Composed of approximately 440,000 SF, this property today encompasses over 18+ acres and a city block. It is the largest single building in our central business district and is over 50% of downtown's non-residential space. In September 2018, property ownership achieved National Register recognition for the cloth warehouse portion of this property.

While no one knows what the future holds, it can be certain the continued evolution of this property will impact Gibsonville. Please note a longer version of Minneola Mills history is available on www.gmhsi.org under the History tab, then Detailed History

GMHSI Activities (2018)

On Sept 8, 2018, the GMHSI hosted its annual open meeting at Town Hall. Below was discussed regarding annual activities:

The Museum: While the Museum may have been closed this year, we have not been idle. Closing the museum required full repackaging of Museum inventory, movement of this to our storage space at Minneola Mill, as well as an updated inventory of existing stored product while packing current Museum inventory into this single location. To protect collected historical items and be generally organized, the GMHSI purchased storage boxes, racking, a dehumidifier, a computer for inventory, and more. With massive efforts, we are in good shape to protect our current inventory in the short term and also be ready for new layout and exhibits once the Museum reopens. It is anticipated that the Museum will be open again in its prior location (once repairs are completed on the ABC Store property).

Publications / Website: While detailed information about Gibsonville's history is always available on our website, this year printed and online publications were also actively used to inform about the GMHSI's many activities. Another reported long term 2018 improvement was a new Store page on our website. This store today hosts the sale of our ornaments but will be expanded with future offerings (like our new annual calendar). While this Store is currently basic, we have started to improve on website features and will continue to do so into the indefinite future.

Volunteers / Docents: Our volunteers were active and present at the many fundraising events the GMHSI participated in. These events included:

- 1) *The Gibsonville Merchants Association Annual Charity Golf Tournament:* On April 20, 2018, the GMA hosted its annual charity golf tournament at County Hills Golf Course, Gibsonville. This one day event raised \$3,500 for the GMHSI. The Gibsonville Museum & Historical Society Inc would like to thank the GMA and its members for their generous donation and efforts.



- 2) **The Dr. Dick House Tour & Yard Sale:** On May 19 - 20, 2018 the newly restored house of Dr. & Mrs. J. V. Dick was open to the public. The house located at 515 Church Street, Gibsonville was built in ca. 1912 for Dr. & Mrs. J. V. Dick. In 1958 Mrs. Dick sold the home to Bill and Coleen Bartlett to be used as the Bartlett Funeral Home (which closed in the early 2000's). Visitors were able to tour the house, grounds, and purchase furniture and yard sale items. About 217 people attended the two day event. The proceeds from the tour and yard sale will go toward the capital campaign fund for the Gibsonville Museum to purchase a permanent location.
- 3) **Annual Car Show:** On April 28, 2018, the GMHSI took over and ran the annual Kiwanis Car Show. As of this year, this downtown Gibsonville stable will become a GMHSI sponsored event. Use of this event for reoccurring funds will allow the GMHSI consistent, operational monies. We are thankful to the Kiwanis club to allow us this opportunity. We will use this car show to initially raise funds for the museum and later for operational expenses of the same.

These three events raised over \$10,000 for the GMHSI.

Long Term Viability: With both the car show and our pending calendar (more info on the last page), the GMHSI formalized two consistent annual activities to raise operational monies. While membership dues carry many of our annual expenses, the GMHSI's long term goals include purchase of a permanent museum location. This will require a large investment which we are actively saving for and would appreciate any assistance with. All in all, these additions will create a continued financial viability for the GMHSI for many years to come.

A Board of Directors Accounting

Like all groups, the GMHSI has grown and changed over time. This year marked abundant changes worth note to our membership.

- *Ten Year Anniversary:* The Gibsonville Museum & Historical Society Inc was initiated in 2007 and formally organized in 2008. This annual meeting marks our ten year anniversary.
- *Jerry Nix:* This year marked the first-year of Jerry Nix as President of the GMHSI. Jerry had been the GMHSI's prior Vice-President and is a founding member. Our prior President Deleno Flynn abdicated this role to Jerry Nix at our 2017 annual meeting due to other time commitments.

Into 2019, current Board of Directors members will be the same with the below revisions. New Board of Directors members include:

- *Anne Manuli:* Anne will be taking over the role of Secretary for Sandra Moulton (whom will become a member at large). Anne is a prior executive secretary in the legal department of Lincoln Financial among other varied accomplishments.
- *Karen York:* Karen is wife of current Board of Directors member Craig York, a professional photographer in her own right, and co-owner of York Studios. Karen is leading the GMHSI calendar efforts.
- *Barbara Williams:* Barbara will be taking over the role of Treasurer in lieu of Boyce Johnson (whom will become a member at large). Barbara is prior owner of Williams Medical Equipment and has been active long term with many local efforts. These include the Gibsonville Merchants Association (GMA), the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), our own organization, and others.

We would like to welcome our new board members and also thanks our prior ones. The GMHSI has been very fortunate to have received assistance from the below professional and community members.

- *Susan Ezekiel:* Founding member and Treasurer from 2008–2016. Susan aided the GMHSI in its formal creation as a non-profit and kept the GMHSI in financial and legal compliance for years. As an experienced tax professional and a named partner of Cobb, Ezekiel, Loy, & Company of Graham, we were very fortunate to have Susan's expertise and time. Susan was honored for these efforts at this years Annual Meeting.

- *Tina Ballard Barber*: Founding member, Board of Director from 2008 – 2018, and Gibsonville's prior representation on the Guilford County Historic Preservation Commission. Tina's contributions include composition of the first historic downtown walking tour, kid friendly lessons at the museum, creation of the "traveling truck", GMHSI representation at many public events, as well as a five+ year effort on rehabilitation of the Gibsonville School (which resulted in the school being purchased by a Triangle developer in December 2017). The Barbers will be indefinitely relocating due to an enviable promotion within the family.

While we have talent and experience on our current Board, we welcome new ideas and personnel. We could use specific assistance in fundraising / grant writing as well as with social media. If you are interested in additional information on joining GMHSI leadership, please reach out to us at info@gmhsi.org.

Our New Annual Calendar

In 2019 and beyond, the GMHSI will offer a calendar. While we will choose the images in its first year, images in future years will be submitted to us and chosen by our community. The 2019 calendar is available for pre-order (on our membership form) and will focus on classic and historic Gibsonville photographs. This high-quality annual offering will cost \$15 for non-members and \$12 for members. You will be able to order this calendar from our online store or purchase it directly from our supportive merchant partners

Membership Reminder

We would like to remind our community that GMHSI membership runs from January 1 until December 31. The GMHSI offers numerous membership types and benefits in order to allow tailor made participation by our financial contributors. For your ease, a membership form is included with newsletter. This form is also available online at www.gmhsi.org. The GMHSI have been actively locally for a decade and we hope you will support our efforts into 2019 and beyond.

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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