



# ROAR



## Making History Together

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## DIRECTION

**H**istory is made every day. It is also remade every day. As museum director I have an opportunity to make a difference in people's lives, to have an impact on the future of this city and to encourage thoughtful analysis of the whys that go beyond the who, what and when. In addition to the historical games we sometimes play with our visitors, I like to do thought experiments. Can you imagine what would have happened differently if he hadn't existed? Why don't we know about the daily lives of these people before/after that time? How did she feel that day? Did they have cheese straws back then?



I think about how the museum can be the spark that ignites a thought in you that helps the world be a better place. I also want to make sure the museum continues our work of collecting really awesome stuff. Objects, documents and photographs are treasures that we can return to again and again with new eyes. They anchor and connect us in a real, tangible way. It is hard to forget what happened on the battlefield, in a home or on the counter stool when it is right in front of you.

My vision for the museum is to engage the community in the pursuit of wisdom by making connections that challenge and have impact. I wish for us always to be curious, to question, to demand that the past continue to tell new stories as we ask new questions. I hope that you join me in these pursuits in the coming New Year. Engage, as Star Trek's Captain Picard always commanded to the navigator as they started out on a mission of exploration, engage along with us—there are adventures ahead if you do.

*Carol Ghiorso Hart*  
Carol Ghiorso Hart, Director

**W**elcome to a New Year and a New Day for the Greensboro Historical Museum. As President of the Museum, I want to thank you for your great support over the years!



This is the year of engagement! We want to engage our members by hosting a number of meaningful opportunities for you to be with us, engage our schools through increased tours and our traveling trunk program, and engage our community through enriching programming, lectures, our Smithsonian quality exhibits, family fun days and our website.

When I joined the Board in 2004, many museums were struggling with the idea of how to remain relevant. Today, many directors continue to rethink how their museum connects to people. They want their collections, exhibits, curators and the entire museum experience to remain pertinent to their community in our changing times.

I am proud that our organization has been on the cutting edge of this movement. When I joined the Board, we were just envisioning the Welcome to The Gate City exhibit. Now, a decade later, I have witnessed this exhibit come to fruition along with the state-of-the-art exhibit, Voices of a City. We renovated and launched the opening of our Museum Shop, and we have invested in technological upgrades which will allow us to connect with thousands of visitors as we digitize our collection and increase our online presence.

Greensboro's distinctive past will always be relevant. Come engage with us this year as we continue to share the stories of our past and capture the history of today!

*Lisa Ann Anderson*

Lisa Anderson, President, Greensboro Historical Museum, Inc.

## ON EXHIBIT



### February Is African American History Month

**D**uring the 18th and 19th centuries, the overwhelming majority of Africans came to North America against their will, sold into slavery upon their arrival under the most horrible of circumstances. In 1790 people of African descent numbered approximately 640, or 10%, of Guilford County's population. They worked as farmhands, household servants, and craftsmen.

When you next visit the museum, look for these two items in the Voices of a City exhibition, for both the ladderback chair and the slave sale document give reason to pause to consider local African American history before 1865: in 1796 a woman named Comfort was sold by Mary Donnel [sic] to William Brown for 45 pounds; an unknown enslaved craftsman made the ladderback chair.

## A Day in the Life

**G**reetings from the Education Department! Even if you haven't bumped into our staff directly, you have certainly been in contact with our many wonderful volunteers. Just a regular day is full of adventures.

**9:00 Preparation:** It takes many hands to create a welcoming and engaging place for visitors, and that begins before any of them ever arrive. Education staff are on hand right from the start of each day, turning on lights, exhibits, and preparing for our first guests.

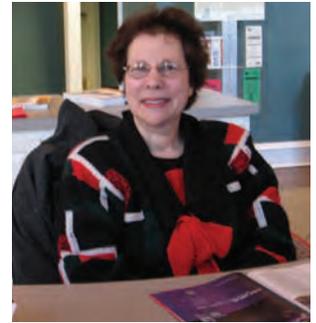
**9:30 Field Trips:** Our most visible activity relies on our team of dedicated docents, who help students explore the history of our communities through hands-on activities in our galleries and historic buildings.



Students participate in a field trip

**10:00 Opening:** Our Desk Ambassadors greet and orient all visitors—regulars, first-timers, locals and world travelers. Don't be shy; let them get to know you, too!

**2:00 Group Tours:** Docents also help lifelong learners explore more about our community. Their patience, knowledge and enthusiasm attract groups including seniors, English-language learners, college students and persons with disabilities.



Desk Ambassador Barbara Roth



Docents Barbara Cummings, Beth Ann LaMarche and Sandra Canipe

**2:30 Volunteer Recruitment:** We're always looking for folks to join our team! Watch for new volunteers getting oriented to our museum.

**3:30 Education Trunks:** Even students who can't visit get to experience the museum through our Education Trunk program. Watch for our new rolling cases as they head out

into Guilford County schools.

**5:00 Closing:** Time to get ready to do it all again. In Education, there's always a new adventure waiting!

Lynette James, *Education Assistant*

## WHAT THE MUSEUM MEANS TO US



"At first I volunteered to get service hours required by school," says Ty Mohammedzein, a senior at NCA&T Early College. Ty, seen here as astronaut Ron McNair for a Ghoulish Moonlight Cemetery Walk, joined the teen volunteer team in 2012. Why does he stay? "I've enjoyed it so much that it's become a hobby," Ty explains, adding, "The museum is a great place to have fun and learn about Greensboro's history."



Co-chairs of the last capital campaign and former trustees, Jim and Anita Schenck value the museum for reasons both personal and altruistic. "As 4th generation residents of Greensboro, we care about our social history and the preservation of our architectural heritage," Jim explains. Anita adds, "We support the Greensboro Historical Museum because its collections tell the story of Greensboro through educational exhibits housed in a National Register building."

## Up for Adoption

Last year donors provided more than \$13,000 for specialty conservation in the new Adopt an Object program. We need to raise \$3,425 to meet our initial goal of preserving Greensboro's history for future generations. Among the pending adoptions is a Civil War kepi which belonged to William S. Rankin (1834 – 1899).

Lt. Colonel Rankin came from a family with the tradition of service to country. His great-grandfather John and great-uncle William, landowners along North Buffalo Creek, participated at the 1771 Battle of Alamance and 1781 Battle of Guilford Courthouse.

William Rankin enlisted in the Civil War in 1861, joining a Guilford County company known as the "Guilford Dixie Boys," more formally, Company M, 21st NC Regiment. The young soldier was elected 1st Lieutenant, then Captain, then Major, and by March, 1863 he was promoted to Lt. Colonel.

The 21st NC took part in some of the war's bloodiest battles. At the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863, Rankin was wounded, then captured. After receiving treatment at a Federal hospital, he was transferred to a prison for Confederate officers at Johnson's Island, near Sandusky,

**Exiled from our homes and country, captives in the land of those who hate and would destroy us, we watch with anxious concern the progress of events and the course of the war...**

*Letter from Tar Heel POWs smuggled to Gov. Zebulon Vance, 1864*

Ohio. There he remained for the next 18 months until paroled in 1865 as part of a prisoner exchange.

**One of my responsibilities is ensuring the proper care of the collections. Public support through the Adopt an Object Program allows us to address specialized conservation needs. You can learn more about adoption opportunities by googling Greensboro Historical Museum Adopt an Object.**

*Curator Jon Zachman*

After the war, Rankin returned to Greensboro and married Mildred Dick, daughter of Judge John McClintock Dick. The couple lived in town and by 1879 Rankin worked as a clerk for C. M. Pretzfelder retail store. At his death in 1899, he was buried in the First Presbyterian Cemetery.

### Rankin Kepi

This forage-style cap appears to be locally made. Adorning the crown is "21 NC" fashioned of hand-cut metal letters and numbers. Not standard practice during the war, it's possible the numbers were attached during his prison stay or perhaps afterwards, as a veteran's commemoration.



Civil War Kepi, circa 1860  
Seeking Adoption for \$1,300

The kepi needs to be cleaned, using a specialized vacuum system. A microcrystalline wax will be applied to the metal and the leather visor and headband needs to be de-acidified and conditioned. The stitches used to attach the metal letters and numbers will be reinforced using silk hair thread, and a new cap lining will provide additional support. A mount for exhibition and a box for storage will be custom-made.

*Susan Webster, Curator*

## Successful Adoptions

### **Farmer's Market by Warren Brandt**

Adopted for \$825

Thanks to the Family of Jessie Brandt Allen, sister of the artist

### **Arthur Forbis Liberty Cap**

Adopted for \$6000

Thanks to the Colonel Arthur Forbis Chapter, NSDAR

### Montagnard Youth Film Debuts January 25

As was announced back in July, the Historical Museum was one of nine Smithsonian Affiliates across the country selected to launch a project with underserved Asian Pacific American youth. The grant, part of the Smithsonian Affiliates' "Young Historians, Living Histories" initiative, funded a multimedia project for teens to learn the basics of oral history, video documentaries, and community storytelling through digital technologies.



Buish, Mai Butrang, Hillary Ksor (l-r)

Most of all, the students would contribute to a dialogue in their local communities. The work of each Affiliate was to culminate with students producing short community heritage films for broadcast online by the Smithsonian and Center for Asian American Media, and screening at the 32nd annual CAAMFest, March 13–23, 2014, in San Francisco.

We immediately realized this would be a one-of-a-kind opportunity, and since Greensboro has one of the largest Montagnard populations anywhere in the world outside of

**“It was a fun experiment. I got a chance to see how it would be like to actually get to interview someone and learn how to edit videos with a new software.”**

Vietnam, we decided to work with that community at this time. The Montagnards came to the U.S. in at least four waves of settlement since the mid-1980s. They represent a significant and underserved cultural population, making the opportunity for youth to share their stories a new and particularly meaningful project.

Between July and November, the museum partnered with eleven high school students whose families had arrived as refugees and immigrants from the Central Highlands of Vietnam. After receiving some training from museum staff, assisted by Fripp Intern Meghan Reed, and later by local filmmaker Mariah Dunn, students took on varied roles such

as videographer, interviewer, set manager and video editor to help develop the film. “It was a fun experiment,” says student H’Lois Mlo. “I got a chance to see how it would be like to actually get to interview someone, and learn how to edit videos with a new software.”

### Film Screening

There will be a free screening of the film, “The Young Mountaineers: An Untold Story of Montagnard Youth in Greensboro” at the museum on Saturday, January 25 from 1-4 p.m. “We are thrilled with the enthusiastic response to this project and the caliber of our host venues,” notes Konrad Ng, director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center. ““Young Historians, Living Histories’ shows how community historiography is a meaningful way to learn and apply media skills and literacies critical for success in the digital age.”

In addition to the film, visitors will see a display created by Mendenhall Middle School educator and author Betty Stratford. Inspired by her work with Montagnard students, Stratford designed an art project to tell the story of her former student, Lie. There are eighteen scenes, each made of textile and craft supplies. You learn about Lie from her time in the Central Highlands to becoming an American citizen.

The result is a unique and powerful story, yet one with universal themes that people of all backgrounds have immediately responded to.

Dean MacLeod  
Curator of Education



Y'Suu Bujiang

Mariah Dunn, Klen Kpa,  
Dee, Lisa (l-r)



## Archives Online

**W**ith the launch of a new website, it is easier than ever to learn about and view some of our archival holdings.

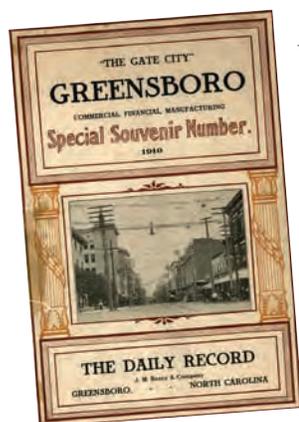


Start with Digital Highlights to see rare items like a circa 1890 document disfranchising local African American voters and 1932 student essays describing their relatives' memories about slavery. You can also read excerpts from the early 20th century diary of Mary Kelly Watson Smith or get advice about writing short stories from O. Henry himself.

For more in-depth research, look at descriptions of our Manuscript Collections or search the site for your topic of interest. Also be sure to visit Printed Materials to access city directories, Sanborn fire insurance maps, and a collection of promotional publications called Pictorials, all useful for information about buildings, businesses, and people of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



Mary Kelly Watson Smith, 1896



Are historical photos your real passion? While you should always contact us with specific requests, most Digital Highlights include photo galleries, and many more photographs will soon be online thanks to a digitization grant in partnership with UNCG. Through this project, more than 3000 images relating to local schools and universities, the textile industry, and WWII military base were scanned. Check the website as the year progresses for links to these materials.

*Elise Allison, Archivist*

## Join Us

**L**ifelong learning and friendly fellowship can be found at Museum Guild meetings, held on many a third Monday of the month, beginning at 10:00 a.m. During the past year we have talked politics, Scottish heritage, Presidential history, Civil War soldiers, a favorite First Lady and the value of keeping a journal.

Guests are always welcome at our meetings, and our gatherings include newcomers and members, women and men. Odds are you won't be a guest for long! To learn more, visit [GreensboroHistory.org/join-support/museum-guild](http://GreensboroHistory.org/join-support/museum-guild) or call Marilyn Cotton-McMichael at 854-2614.

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Enjoying high tea

## BIRTHDAY BASH

### Celebrating Our Past and Present on March 22



*It's a birthday party everyone can enjoy! It's timed around the day in March when Ralph Gorrell sold 42 acres of land for \$98 to create the town of Greensborough. It's a time to immerse yourself in all things Gate City. Mark your calendar and join us!*



Travis Owens

***Try It In the Gate City*** at 11 a.m.

Make it, try it on, listen in,  
take a peek, have a taste

***"Birth of a City"*** at 12 noon

With Director Carol Hart

***Take a Tour*** at 1 p.m.

Living History Meet and Greet

***Museum Shop welcomes Jugtown Potter Travis Owens*** from 1 - 4 p.m.

Debut of 2014 Signature Piece.

Gift with Purchase

***"We Love Our Neighborhoods"*** at 2 p.m.

With Linda Evans

***Take a Tour*** at 3 p.m.

Living History Meet and Greet

***For Members Only,\**** 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Local Food and Wine Tastings

***For Members Only,\**** 7 p.m.

***"Our Slippery Mother Tongue"***

with Elliot Engel

*\*Reservations required; call 373-2043 or  
email [mary.allen@greensboro-nc.gov](mailto:mary.allen@greensboro-nc.gov).*

## MUSEUM SHOP



**T**here's a changing of the guard, as Cynthia Kennard (l) has resigned after five years on staff and Erin Clark (r) is succeeding her as manager. "I sincerely and gratefully thank you for the opportunity to work with and contribute to the museum and our beloved Museum Shop," Cynthia recently told board members, adding, "I'm proud of the work we've accomplished together and plan to stay involved with the Museum, and the friends who've been so kind to this Northerner."

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## JANUARY

**Saturday, January 11 at 6 p.m.**

### *Leadership Styles of Lee and Grant*

with Historian Ed Bearss  
Partnership with NC Civil War Roundtable  
Tickets \$15; Call 336.725.8797

**Monday, January 20**

### *MUSEUM OFFICES CLOSED*

**Saturday, January 25 from 1 - 4 p.m.**

### *Screening*

### *"The Young Mountaineers: An Untold Story of Montagnard Youth in Greensboro"*

See page 5

**Tuesday, January 28 from 5 - 8:30 p.m.**

### *A Tartan Evening*

Celebrating Scottish origins and connections. With dinner, dancers, chorale, bagpipe, ceremonial toast, more. Scottish attire welcome. Partnership with English Speaking Union. Tickets \$35  
Email [linda.evans@greensboro-nc.gov](mailto:linda.evans@greensboro-nc.gov) for details.

## FEBRUARY

**Thursday, February 6 at 12:15 p.m.**

### *BookBreak: a Museum Book Club*

Bring a bag lunch and let's discuss *The Known World* by Edward P. Jones



**Saturday, February 8 from 12 - 3 p.m.**

### *Lifted Voices:*

### *Bringing African American History Makers to Life*

Costumed interpreters portray people who have made a difference in Greensboro and beyond

**Monday, February 17 at 10 a.m.**

### *Guild Meeting*

Archivist Elise Allison shares photos of Greensboro landmarks Then & Now

## MARCH

**Monday, March 17 at 10 a.m.**

### *Guild Meeting*

Library Director Brigitte Blanton discusses how the library and museum serve the community

**Saturday, March 22 from 10 - 5**

### *Greensboro Birthday Bash*

See page 7

**Sunday, January 12 at 3 p.m.**

### *Hoofing It: By Mule Across North Carolina*

Bernie Harberts spent four months with a camera and a mule traveling 600 miles from the NC coast to the Great Smokey Mountains. Hosted extensively by families he and his mule Woody met along the way, he produced an extraordinary collection of local photos and recollections that could only be acquired by traveling at the speed of conversation. Join us and discover why Pin Hook was named for the way early residents fished, Hell Town has nothing to do with the devil, and flour burgers face extinction.



For more information, visit [GreensboroHistory.org/events](http://GreensboroHistory.org/events)

Like Us On facebook



**Greensboro Historical Museum**  
130 Summit Avenue  
Greensboro, NC 27401  
Telephone (336) 373-2043

Open Tuesday - Saturday  
10 AM - 5 PM  
Sunday 2 PM - 5 PM  
Free Admission

**David and Rachel Caldwell Historical Center**  
3211 West Cornwallis Drive  
Greensboro, NC 27410  
Telephone (336) 373-3681

Open Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM  
Free Admission

[GreensboroHistory.org](http://GreensboroHistory.org)

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