



On Your MARC

MUSEUM & ARCHIVES OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

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MARC turns a new page on publications

A new issue of *The Journal of Rockingham County History and Genealogy* has been published and is already in the hands of many of our members. It features the second group of letters written by Lieutenant William Mills Nunnally when he served as a member of Company K, 13th Regiment, North Carolina State Troops. He was killed in the Civil War Battle of Gettysburg. The first group of letters and a family profile were featured in the June 2010 issue of *The Journal*. The Nunnally letters have been preserved through the years by his descendants, and they were transcribed and made available for our publication by Alythia and Berkley Alcorn.



This issue marks the final edition of *The Journal* to be published by the Museum and Archives of Rockingham County. The first issue was published in April of 1976 in conjunction with the nation's bicentennial celebration. The purpose for the publication has always been to collect and preserve previously unpublished primary source materials pertaining to Rockingham County, such as abstracts of local records and edited diaries, letters or church records.

To save on mailing costs, members are asked to stop by the MARC to pick up Journals. If you would like to arrange another way to receive your copy, please call MARC at 336.634.4949.

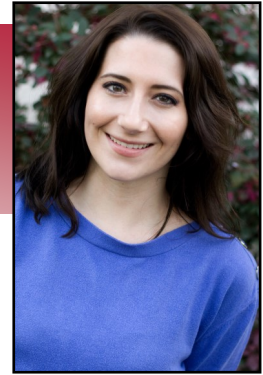
The MARC Publications Committee is already hard at work on articles for the first edition of our new publication, *MARC Connection*. They hope a modern magazine format will be more appealing for readers as we continue to share pertinent historical research. The first edition of *MARC Connection* is scheduled to be available to members later in 2016.



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*From our Director:
Ms. Rossi shares her vision
Part II*

Happy New Year! Did you know 2016 marks the bicentennial of our favorite tavern? Initial construction on Wright Tavern began around 1816. We have access to the tavern as an educational space today because the Rockingham County Historical Society undertook its excavation and restoration.



Jordan Rossi

As the successor of the Historical Society and as the museum of Rockingham County history, it is the MARC's duty to ensure historic artifacts, documents and buildings entrusted to our care survive the ravages of time—light, water, mold, insects, and even the oils on our fingers pose a threat to the physical embodiments of our past. But if we address these risk factors with diligence and care, we can extend the life of our heirlooms, just as the Historical Society extended the life of Wright Tavern.

For this reason, in 2015 the MARC undertook an extensive reorganization of our artifact collection area, photographed the entire inventory, and acquired additional storage shelves. We also replaced the building's halogen light bulbs with LEDs, which operate more efficiently and help protect items from light damage. Preservation efforts focused on creating a physical environment to protect our historic objects and eliminate risks.

In 2016, the MARC's Preservation Committee will shift its focus to documentation and exhibit preparation. As the Presentation Committee plugs away on research for new exhibits, the Preservation Committee locates appropriate artifacts and collects new items for display. Each new acquisition is accompanied by a set of paperwork—a deed of gift or loan, a condition report, a computer entry, a photograph, and a ledger entry. In the future, as the museum expands, a staff position will be added for the purpose of caring for and documenting artifacts. In the meantime, the MARC continues to rely on a host of excellent volunteers for this work. This year, this group of volunteers and interns will meet weekly to perform tasks that are absolutely essential to the museum.



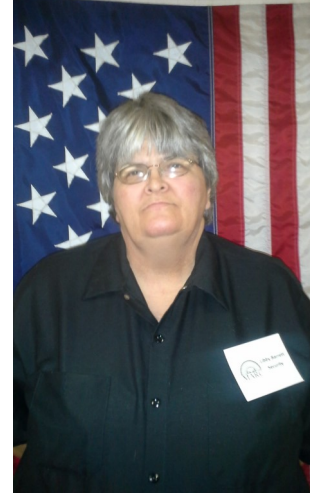
A new group of officers is beginning their term as 2016 begins. We anticipate continued progress under the direction of Tilda Balsley, President; Jeff Bullins, Vice-president; Fletcher Dalton, Secretary; and Kay Hammock, Treasurer (*photo left, standing left to right*). Many thanks to them for their willingness to serve MARC. I look forward to working with them, as well as MARC committees, volunteers and members, as we continue to preserve and share the history of Rockingham County in the new year.

Volunteers make it happen!



Here are a few of the ways you can volunteer to help at MARC:

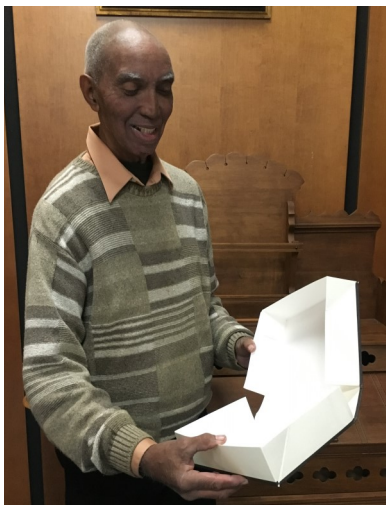
- ◇ Sort, catalog and document artifacts
- ◇ Enter artifact data on the computer system
- ◇ Greet visitors and assist in the galleries
- ◇ Help plan or volunteer at MARC events
- ◇ Encourage friends and family to visit and join MARC
- ◇ Share MARC news on Facebook
- ◇ Make financial donations



We give special thanks for the work these featured volunteers provide!

(Left) **Brenda Ward** says, "I serve on other boards and committees in the county, but being associated with MARC is a special privilege. Being able to give back to our county with all the good people in this organization is so rewarding!" Brenda is an excellent liaison for MARC in the community. She recently completed a term as Vice-president and she serves on the Governance Committee.

(Right) **Libby Barrett** once worked at Chinqua Penn Plantation providing security and helping in the house, greenhouse and gift shop. When the museum acquired artifacts from Chinqua Penn, we were fortunate that Libby also came to MARC as a volunteer. She says, "I like to meet different people. I call the museum home and this is where I belong!" Libby provides security services, greets visitors and serves on both the Programs and Publicity committees.



MARC seeks to re-purpose gift boxes

Did you know that your unwanted holiday gift boxes can become excellent storage containers for the vast array of items stored in the MARC archives vaults? MARC secretary, Fletcher Dalton *(left)*, demonstrates how we have learned tricks of the trade to cut and fold department store boxes and create economical containers that meet our needs for storage and organization.

Please bring any spare gift boxes you have to MARC for this important use!

Feature Articles

History comes full circle: Then

Written by MARC Board Member Charles Rodenbough 8 February 2011

Miss Nancy Watkins maintained Madison, NC as her residence all her life (ca 1880-1965). She was raised in a family that valued education but had been impoverished in the aftermath of the Civil War. The community always considered "Miss Nancy" as very learned but socially crippled - proud and opinionated. She taught school much of her life in Madison and Greensboro. In her later years she was seen walking the streets of Madison pulling a produce crate to which she had affixed wheels. She would check store trash and the business trash at Gem-Dandy, Inc., for paper that was used on only one side. That she would put in her cart and later use for writing her many missives concerning history and family lore. Even in the summer she dressed so that her whole body was covered and she wore a broad-brimmed hat. She said that as a child she had a case of poison-ivy that left her with an allergic reaction to the sun. She was often taunted by children and made fun of behind her back, but she never reacted to that except in her writing. She left with friends in Madison her many "manuscripts" in which she recorded wonderful bits of information not found anywhere else. Any references to her writings, however, as authoritative, need to be further researched or qualified because she did not have access to a research library and she tended to let her many prejudices influence her writing to the point of exaggeration or embellishment.



This photo of Miss Nancy Watkins was taken at the northwest corner of Market and Murphy Streets in Madison. (Photograph used courtesy of Jerri Griffin Waldruff as published in her book, "Bits and Pieces of Madison History.")

The MARC plans to assemble a collection of Miss Nancy's art work and writings into a permanent Nancy Watkins Collection. We are seeking articles of her work that might be in private hands but would be valuable pieces in a public collection.



Read more about Miss Nancy Watkins on the MARC website:

"Fordus Achates" - Excerpts from Miss Nancy's diary about her car

Miss Nancy & the sherbet dishes— One man's trash is his granddaughter's treasure

*Feature Articles**History comes full circle: Now*

Written by MARC Board Member Charles Rodenbough 10 July, 2015. Both articles are reprinted by permission of the author.



This watercolor, painted by Charles Rodenbough, contrasts the dark image most people remember about Miss Nancy. The watercolor hangs in the new Madison-Mayodan Library.

I had a rare opportunity last night to speak to the national Reunion of the McQuiston Clan in Greensboro. One of the benefits of enjoying a long life is that you observe repeating and interacting history.

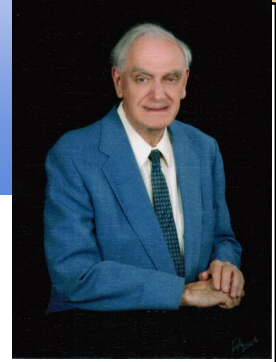
Sixty years ago I first met Nancy Watkins in Madison. I had a Real Estate office downtown and she would arrive with long-wandering historical tales that always started in one direction subject-wise and wandered in many others. If I had a client in my office, I would hear an irregular tap, tap, tap as she used her cane to push her writing under my door, so as not to disturb my business.

She was a town character, but I always had great respect for her. Her grandfather, Thomas McQuiston Woodburn (1823-1900) had been an early mayor of Madison. She bitterly hated certain people in Madison who had taken advantage of him late in his life. She also had a collection of local relics from her family which she did not want anybody in Madison to get hold of, so she sent them to a distant cousin who was a judge in Dallas, TX, with the direction that he was to provide a room in the Dallas Museum to hold these relics. That was before World

War II. Of course, nothing was ever heard of them again until about fifteen years ago when Don Hoover (member of the Rockingham County Historical Society) called me and said there were four daguerreotypes being offered on Ebay that said they were from Madison, NC. I asked if he knew where they were from and when he said Dallas, I knew immediately what they were. He bid and bought two that connected with his family and I did the same for the other two, one of which was of Thomas McQuiston Woodburn. My two pictures are coming to MARC.

Miss Nancy also gave me copies of the family page from her great-great grandfather's Bible which said that in 1852 the Bible had gone with the family to Shelbyville, TN - also the will of this Thomas McQuiston. Last night when I arrived at the dinner before the McQuiston reunion, I was seated at a table with the chief McQuiston historian from Shelbyville, TN. They knew that at one time the Bible had existed but they believed it had been burned. I was able to give them a copy of this particular page. That night, as the bagpipes played, I could not help but imagine Nancy Watkins jumping for joy that someone was at last in possession of at least some of her relics. It is moments like this that make history so fascinating - and rewarding.

Expressing appreciation to Mr. History, Bob Carter



As the MARC moves forward with plans for its new magazine style publication, it is important to look back over the past 30 years to consider the success and value of *The Journal of Rockingham County History and Genealogy*. Much of that success can be attributed to Bob Carter, who has served as our county's official historian since his appointment in 2002.

The Journal was published twice each year from 1976 until 2005, and then annually from 2006 to 2010. Issuance of a Supplement to the 2010 *Journal* was delayed until December 2015 due to our organization's transition from an historical society to become the Museum and Archives of Rockingham County (MARC). In total, there were 58 issues published. For twenty-six years during this time, 1984 to 2010, Bob served as the *Journal's* editor. He deserves endless gratitude for accepting the challenges and burdens an editor faces with every issue and every deadline.



Since retiring in 2012 as an historical consultant at RCC, Bob has worked toward his goal to organize documents and to expand upon his earlier research work. With an office at MARC, he is a gracious source of information for patrons.

Bob's interest in history is rooted in his experiences as a farm child and the influence of his father. Bob was fascinated by the stories his father shared about his life, and Bob's interest grew into a passion to listen to stories of older people. His earliest sources were those born in the 1880s and 1890s, but his quest for knowledge has continued with the generations which followed. In this way, Bob has collected notes and artifacts which provide information about people, family histories and Rockingham County history that he may well be the only person to know.

When Bob is writing articles or responding to inquiries for MARC patrons, one should not expect an off-the-cuff response. Instead, he thoroughly researches and documents sources before giving his answer. You could say Bob is part historian and part investigator. These qualities are the ones which make his work invaluable and enduring.

There are particular interests Bob has researched over the years – including historic gristmill sites, railroads, highways, stage coach roads and taverns. But, the fabric that weaves all these topics together is the history of Rockingham County people. Bob has devoted his life to preserving our stories and our family histories. We, as well as generations of future genealogists and historians, will profit from his endeavors. For this, we give him our most sincere thanks.

MARC Business

Every gift makes a difference

Do you know that cash donations are not the only method of providing financial support to the MARC? We can accept most vehicles as donations, as long as they are in running condition and have at least some value. Once sold, *every dollar of the sales price goes to the MARC!* If you have a vehicle to donate, call the MARC at 336-634-4949 for details.

We are grateful to Vicky Alston for the donation of her 2000 model Volvo. It brought \$3,200 for MARC when it sold recently. Thanks, also, to Board Member John Burton for facilitating all vehicle transactions.



Two cars donated by Ken and Suzanne Howard are currently available for sale by MARC. This 1998 Buick Park Avenue Ultra is priced at \$1,750. Their 1984 Chrysler convertible with wood-grain sides, also donated to MARC, is priced at \$3,500. We appreciate the Howard's generosity!

Duke Energy upgrades save resources

The MARC was a recipient of a grant from Duke Energy's Small Business Energy Saver Program. Duke Energy paid two thirds of the cost to upgrade lighting in the historic courthouse. Gallery areas were upgraded to LED technology while T-8 lighting was installed elsewhere in the building.

These upgrades should provide an approximate 80% savings in energy costs, which will initially help pay our cost for the upgrades. According to Fletcher Waynick, MARC Operations Manager, the upgrades will also eliminate labor costs and expenses related to the countless transformer and tube replacements that we were plagued with in the past.

We are pleased to be good stewards with the financial resources provided for MARC, as well as with Earth's natural resources.



Physicians' gift improves vault

This filing system (*photo above*) will add excellent new storage options in a compact area of the archives vault.

We appreciate this gift donated by the Family Tree OBGYN practice of Dr. John Ferguson and Dr. Luke Eure in Reidsville. Thanks, also, to Dr. Ferguson for providing moving and installation expenses.

Coming up at MARC

3rd Annual program to celebrate Rockingham County talents

By Cathy Scales, MARC Multicultural Committee member

The Multicultural and Programs committees of the Museum and Archives of Rockingham County (MARC) invite you to attend the third annual **"A Celebration of American Music"** program to be held at **4:00 pm** on **Sunday, March 6, 2016** at the Reidsville High School Auditorium, 1901 South Park Drive in Reidsville. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students, and they are available at the MARC, from MARC members and at the event. The proceeds from this fundraising event support the work of the museum. For more information, call the museum at 336-634-4949.

The Celebration will feature selections from a diverse group of musical groups and artists from throughout Rockingham County. Early entries include vocalists from Douglass Elementary School, Zion Baptist Church, Wilbert Reaves (gospel music), First Church Choir Hubbard Street (gospel music), and Carol Leach (Native American flute).

This program promises to be an exciting and entertaining afternoon of music presented by outstanding local artists. The Master of Ceremony Wayne Seymour, a local musician and story teller, and Mistress of Ceremony, Rochelle Tucker, a choir director and prominent member of our community, will ensure an enjoyable afternoon.

MARC partners to facilitate slave research

Buncombe County and Guilford County have completed efforts to index all records of slave transfers and sales and to record those transactions individually. Rebecca Cipriani and her staff at the Rockingham County Register of Deeds office have begun this process in our county, also, and she invited MARC to partner on developing the research possibilities of this effort.

In December, Jordan Rossi, Ms. Cipriani and other local representatives attended a meeting at UNCG with hopes to broaden these efforts across the state. According to Charles Rodenbough, Preservation Chair for MARC, "We anticipate that this is a rare opportunity for MARC to draw together a number of developing efforts for the preservation and research development for African American research that could make MARC a regional center for research."



*Member
Appreciation
Day*

**February 6—Saturday
10:00 to Noon**

We hope you will join us for a special gathering of members!

Meet our new officers. View our newest upgrades and exhibits. Discuss progress on upcoming exhibits. Hear exciting plans for MARC's future. Enjoy the company of friends, like you, who love Rockingham County History. Pick up your *Journal* while you are here!

Recent MARC Events

MARC's first Fiddlers Convention is a success



The Friendly Fiddlers won 2nd place for Old Time Bands

Musicians young and old turned out on October 17 for the first Pickin' at the Rock Fiddlers Convention sponsored by the MARC, Rockingham Community College and the Town of Wentworth. Over \$1,200 in prizes were awarded. The event attracted nearly 150 people, including musicians and music artisans.

One special feature of the day was a documentary film about Bluegrass radio. Jordan Nance (*photo right with event coordinator, Wayne Seymour*) was on hand to share his film project.



Old Time Band Competition

- 1st Place: Zinc Kings
2nd Place: Friendly Fiddlers

Bluegrass Banjo Competition

- 1st Place: Don Wright
2nd Place: Glenn Paschel
3rd Place: Travis Neal
4th Place: David Royster

Bluegrass Fiddle Competition

- 1st Place: George Cox

Old Time Banjo Competition

- 1st Place: Christin Blanton Mack
2nd Place: Mark Dillon

Old Time Fiddle Competition

- 1st Place: Christin Blanton Mack
2nd Place: Alan Goble
3rd Place: George Cox

Mandolin Competition

- 1st Place: Mark Dillon
2nd Place: Christen Blanton Mack
3rd Place: Alan Goble

Guitar Competition

- 1st Place: Glenn Craver
2nd Place: Jeremiah Jobe
3rd Place: Bret Hart
4th Place: Mark Dillon

Solo Vocal Competition

- 1st Place: Christen Blanton Mack
2nd Place: Glenn Craver
3rd Place: Mark Dillon

Open Competition

- 1st Place: Michael Wood
2nd Place: Glenn Craver
3rd Place: Gail Webber
4th Place: John Skipper
5th Place: George Cox

Youth Instrument Competition

- 1st Place: Sidney Keskinen
2nd Place: Carter Lane
3rd Place: Ben Wooster

Recent MARC Events



(Above) Halloween was "super fun" for young and old at MARC. (Right) Adults took time to ask questions following Deborah Heinecker and Athena Varounis's lecture, "What a ghost is and what a ghost is not."



MARC was featured on UNCTV's *NC Weekend* program in December. If you missed seeing us, just visit our website for a link to the video!



With themed decorations and refreshments provided by the Programs Committee, MARC members celebrated an old-fashioned Christmas at Wright Tavern on December 5.

Remembering our past president

Helen "Moe" Price Hooper, age 89, passed away on 6 December 2015. A memorial service was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Reidsville where she was a long time member and former elder.

She was the daughter of the late John Paul and Helen Rankin Price of Greensboro. She was preceded in death by her husband Phillip "Diddle" Hooper, son Phillip Jr., and sister Mary Louise Price Boquist of Greensboro. She is survived by a daughter Pattie, a son Paul and five grandchildren.

"Moe" served as president of the Rockingham County Historical Society from 1998-2000. During her term of office a modern kitchen was completed in Wright Tavern. She later moved to Milton, North Carolina where she restored an old brick home and spent the last years of her life.

News from the MARC Galleries

WANTED

Ronnie Webster recently donated the 1904 catalogue put out by Sharpe's Institute at Intelligence. From it, we learned that as many as 150 students attended Sharpe Institute annually and its campus extended to several dormitories and local homes. The athletic teams even played against current ACC schools. Girls could not go alone on a date with a boy without permission from her parents. Boys who were not students could not visit a girl on campus without the permission of her parents.

Do you have a parent or grandparent who attended Sharpe's Institute? Do you have any of those "secret letters" that must have facilitated those clandestine meetings of young boys and girls? Are there photographs or other Sharpe Institute documents to preserve at MARC?

County maps come back to MARC

As Rebecca Cipriani and the county Register of Deeds office have worked diligently to bring official records into the digital era, both MARC and Rockingham County citizens have benefitted from their progress.

This fall, Ms. Cipriani, a former MARC Board member, arranged with county officials to allow MARC to be the repository for the collection of original surveyors maps that were recorded and used by thousands of researchers over the years. The collection consists of 45 large map books. County staff delivered the books to MARC, ironically putting them right back where they started years ago.

We are pleased that the maps will be significant research tools for future use as part of the MARC archives.

Martin Plantation access meeting is Feb. 11

Rockingham County is partnering with the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) to develop a river access and environmental park on a portion of the former Gov. Alexander Martin plantation. Because the site has considerable historical significance, MARC and the William Bethell Chapter of the DAR will host a public "drop in" input meeting at MARC on February 11 from 5:30 - 7:00 pm.

Everyone is invited to attend to make comments and suggestions for historical interpretation of the site, as well as to share ideas for the park's amenities. Refreshments will be provided.

Major funding for purchase of the property has been provided by the Duke Energy Water Resources Fund. Other support is coming from Rockingham County and DRBA members. For more information about the meeting or the project, contact Jenny Edwards, DRBA Program Manager, 336-339-6169 or jedwards@danriver.org.

ON YOUR MARC STAFF

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Fletcher Dalton
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Steve Gilliam
Bill Horsley
Charles Rodenbough
Jordan Rossi
Cathy Scales

Contributing
Photographers: Libby Barrett
Peggy Burton
Jordan Rossi
Kitty Williams
Fletcher Waynick

MARC Hours of Operation

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 1pm-6pm
Saturday 10am-4pm

MARC Admission

Adult	\$ 5.00
Seniors & Students	\$ 3.50
Children	\$ 2.50
Children under 4	FREE
Family Pass	\$20.00
MEMBERS	FREE

MARC Your Calendar

Saturday, February 6 — 10:00 to Noon
Member Appreciation Day
at MARC

Thursday, February 11—5:30 to 7:00 PM
Martin Plantation River Access Public Meeting
At MARC

Thursday, February 18—6:00 PM
Black History Month Program at MARC
Harold Bass, Speaker

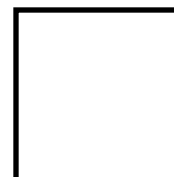
Sunday, March 6—4:00 PM
Celebration of American Music
at Reidsville High School

Saturday, May 14
Red White & Brew—Wine and craft beer tasting
at the Morehead Fair House in Eden

Saturday, August 12
2016 Soirée, "La Dolce Vita"
in Western Rockingham County

Saturday, September 24—Oktoberfest
On the MARC Green

Members who receive newsletters by email save the
MARC valuable printing and postage costs! You can keep
your email address current by emailing changes to
MARCconnection@gmail.com



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