



On Your MARC

MUSEUM & ARCHIVES OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Special Event	1
Director's Page	2
Volunteer Focus	3
Mr. History	4-5
MARC Business	5
Coming Events	6
Recent Events	7
Exhibits & Artifacts	8
The MARC Outdoors	9
Events Calendar	10

2nd Quarter
Visitor Count:
619

"Rooted in Rockingham" Soirée theme reflects focus

Each August, members and friends gather to celebrate MARC's accomplishments in the previous year and to focus on future goals and aspirations. The proceeds from the event provide the needed resources to fund museum staffing and operational expenses for the coming year.

This year's summer soirée will begin at 5:30 pm on Saturday, August 17, at Pennrose Park Country Club in Reidsville. Tickets are \$60 per person and are available online and from MARC directors. We know you will enjoy gathering with old and new friends for dinner. We recommend seasonal casual dress! There will be a variety of useful and exciting items and excursions for both the silent and live auctions to encourage your generous donations! We are grateful to regional sponsors for providing these gifts in support of MARC.

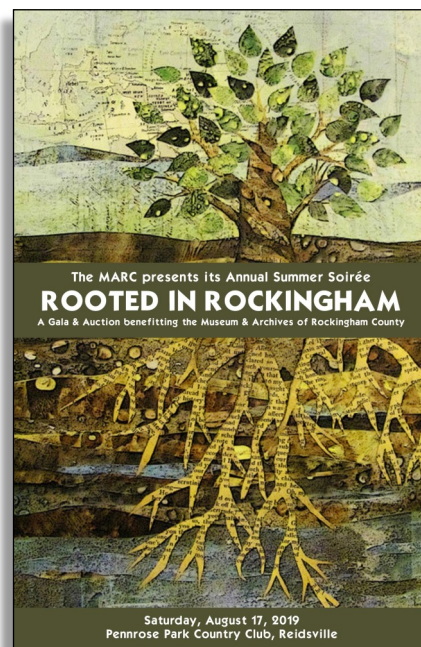
"Rooted in Rockingham" is a fitting theme to describe the past year and the overarching purpose of MARC. Our High Rock Ford Historical Site reveals Rockingham County's deep roots in American history. This Revolutionary War site is now a living laboratory providing historical, environmental, and recreational benefits to county residents and visitors.

The new John Burton Agriculture Exhibit at MARC draws us to the earth and an understanding of the diligence of our forefathers who depended on crops for their food and livelihood in this agricultural region. Thankfully, John and Peggy Burton contributed their antique farm equipment collection to MARC to help us visualize the challenges of farming before modern tools and automated machinery.

The revival of our Genealogy Roundtable series this year has connected MARC with the growing popularity of family history research. Whether you are home grown Rockingham County or a "transplant" here, the search for your roots and family stories brings excitement, understanding, and fulfillment. For many of us, our family trees keep us rooted in this county.

The Comer Photography Collection project is in progress, and we recently acquired significant documents from the Hugh Reid Scott Collection. The developing collection in the MARC archives adds to our significance as a budding research facility.

We have done so much, yet there's so much more to do in our future! Your participation in the Soirée is a perfect way to foster the growth of the MARC.



P.O. Box 84, Wentworth, NC 27375 (336) 634-4949
 MARCconnection@gmail.com www.themarconline.org
 Physical Address: 1086 NC HWY 65, Reidsville, NC 27320
 Follow us on Facebook: Museum & Archives of Rockingham County

From our Director, Jordan Rossi



Museum Director announces upcoming move

Friends of the MARC:

In August, the MARC will have been open to the public for seven years. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as the Executive Director for the last four. It's difficult for me to put into words what this museum complex means to me. It was my first "real" job out of graduate school in my chosen profession. But more importantly, the community of volunteers and patrons surrounding this museum welcomed me with open arms and taught me about the fascinating history of Rockingham County.

Through this job, I've had the opportunity to meet wonderful people and work on some *amazing* projects. Thus, it is with a sense of both sadness and excitement that I announce my decision to resign and relocate to Denver, Colorado to be near my family.



NC Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler and John and Peggy Burton pose with Jordan Rossi in celebration of the May 9, 2019 opening of the John Burton Agriculture Exhibit at the MARC.

Photo credit: G. Allen

Though I already feel the loss of the many wonderful people who make the MARC such a special place, I am encouraged knowing they remain to lead the museum through the upcoming period of transition.

The Board of Directors provides vision and guidance. They serve on committees, assist with events, and fundraise, among other activities. They are committed to preserving and sharing Rockingham County's history and volunteer their time and resources to ensure that history is accessible to as many people as possible. As they conduct the search for the next director, they'll have the museum's best interests at heart.

The staff manages the facility and performs a slew of administrative duties. Their day to day efforts create a positive environment for visitors to the MARC. Finally, a host of volunteers give their time to accomplish a variety of tasks, from cataloguing artifacts to guiding tours.

Without the interest, participation, and financial support of members and friends, MARC is limited in its ability to grow and accomplish its mission. I encourage you to consider how gifts received now, at the height of the fundraising campaign, will help MARC to attract its next director. With your ongoing support the MARC has a bright future ahead.

Jordan Rossi, Executive Director

Volunteers are the key to our success

The Pete Comer Photography Preservation Project is in progress

You may recall that last year's Summer Soirée Fund-A-Need drive raised funds for the Pete Comer Photography Collection. Funding raised for the project was designated to two areas: purchasing supplies and hiring a paid intern. I am happy to report that work on the project has begun! We also received a recent grant from the North Carolina Preservation Consortium for the purchase of additional supplies necessary to complete the project.

The first order of business was to hire Katherine (Katie) Crickmore, a recent master's degree graduate of the UNC Greensboro Museum Studies program, as the intern to coordinate the project. Essentially, the project consists of three parts:

1. Transcribing the index into a searchable format -- Volunteers are currently entering relevant data from index cards regarding each client's order into a master spreadsheet which will be available for public use.
2. Re-housing the photographs and negatives in acid-free, archival quality materials.
3. Organizing the physical collection so it is easy to search -- The collection came to MARC in dozens of boxes and containers. Though the Comers kept folders in a sequential manner, the volume of the collection requires better storage methods for easier access.

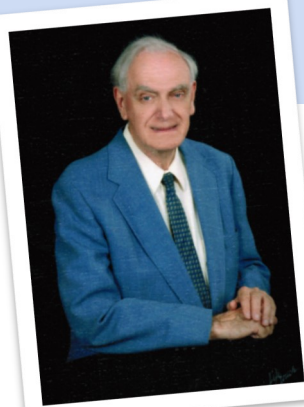
A very dedicated group of volunteers is working on the collection on a weekly basis. They have established Friday afternoons for their group work, although some volunteers drop by at other times when they are able. Currently, they are over halfway through transcribing the index. To put that accomplishment into context, Katie has estimated there are over 17,000 index card entries. Katie and the volunteers would certainly welcome additional people to join in the efforts to work toward our goals for this collection! Call the MARC for more information.

--Jordan Rossi



(Photo above, L to R): Comer project volunteers working hard on recent workdays include Katie Crickmore, Debbie Brown, Mary Barrett, Marcia Jones, and Deuard Johnstone. (Photo left) Debra DeLancey. (Additional project volunteers include Carol Adams, Susan Bullock, Ashley Doom, Anne Everhart, Kim Everhart, and Debbie Russell.)

(Photos credit: Jordan Rossi)



Mr. History: Bob Carter, County Historian

County Home Cemetery is focus of renewal

Editor's note: The County Home facility was Bob Carter's focus in the April 2019 issue of "On Your MARC." Located one mile east of the old county courthouse in Wentworth, the purpose of the County Home was to provide housing and care for poor and infirmed citizens. County records chronicle the deaths of these people, most of whom were laid to rest in the County Home Cemetery on the property surrounding the County Home.

The earliest burials in the County Home Cemetery probably date from the period soon after the County Home was opened in 1828. When residents of the home died, they were buried in the cemetery in a shallow grave, often without funeral services to mark their passing.

The bodies were not embalmed, and they were buried in cheap wooden coffins made by a local carpenter. During the 1880s and 1890s, the County paid approximately three to five dollars each for the coffins. One entry in the Rockingham County Commissioners' record, dated December 4, 1871, shows that Tom Richardson was paid "\$2.50 for digging a grave for William Collins, a pauper." It is not clear if outside help was hired regularly for this task or if the prison trustees or County Home's superintendent was required to dig the graves. What is evident is that

within a few years the flimsy wooden coffins collapsed leaving sunken indentations across the cemetery.



There are several hundred graves in the cemetery, and only a few of those are marked with field rock. Most graves have no markers at all. However, it appears that the superintendent had the county prison trustees make small concrete markers for the County Home residents who died between 1924 and 1941. Those markers display the name of the person and their date of death. The only marble tombstone in the cemetery is for Rachel Mooney who died in 1916. The date of the last burial in the cemetery is unknown but it is believed to have occurred around 1950.



As was the custom of the time, the graves were segregated by race. Whites were interred on the east side of the cemetery nearest to County Home Road, and African Americans were buried on the west side of the cemetery nearest NC Highway 65.

The first known improvement in the cemetery occurred in June 1880 when the County Home Superintendent, P. D. Simpson, was ordered "to fence the graveyard at the poor house." This original fence

(County Home Cemetery continued on page 5)

MARC Business

County Home Cemetery (continued from page 4)

was likely an old fashion wooden rail fence that lasted a number of years.

In the early 20th century the cemetery, which is owned by Rockingham County and covers approximately two acres of land, received little attention. In more recent times County maintenance crews, prisoners, and other groups have cleaned the undergrowth from the cemetery.

The area has been the object of two Eagle Scout projects. The first project, organized in 1993 by brothers Jason and Josh Dooley of Scout Troop 701, was to erect a section of rail fence along with a kiosk to convey some history of the County Home and the cemetery. A large oak tree later destroyed the kiosk.



Photo credit: K. Hammock

Wyndell Earles and Mike Hammock install historical panels in the new kiosk.

The second project in 2011 was led by Geoffrey Haigler of Boy Scout Troop 797 to erect a brick and marble memorial marker and a new section of fence around the southeast corner of the cemetery. Pine Hall Brick Company donated brick. Rockingham County erected a new sign for the cemetery during this period, and a dedication ceremony was held November 13, 2011

to recognize completion of Haigler's project.

The Town of Wentworth's Historic Preservation Committee recently coordinated with Wentworth and Rockingham County governments to focus on renewed care of the cemetery. A new kiosk with more detailed historical information is now installed, and additional fencing will better defines the cemetery boundaries.

And the winner is...MARC

We extend a huge thank you to everyone who purchased tickets for this spring's **Big Green Egg raffle.**



The winner of the smoker is Ann Mailly of Raleigh. She and her husband, Dave, enjoy roasting and grilling foods, and they are especially excited to have won the grill while also benefitting MARC.

The museum was also a winner, as this raffle brought in \$4,000 to help fund salaries and other vital operating expenses.

We are also grateful for the generosity of friends and guests who attended the **Madison Hunter House**

Porch Party fundraiser on May 18. Sally Simons kindly opened her historic home and



joined with Ann Brady, Jeff and Jean Bullins, and Debbie and Eugene Russell to sponsor the event.

The evening provided an excellent opportunity to learn about MARC, to visit one of Madison's most notable homes, and to enjoy the company of others who share an interest in the history of our county. This event raised about \$1,500 to benefit the museum.

Coming Events

2019 Soirée Fund-A-Need focus is educational programming

Each year the MARC chooses a priority need to address with our Fund-A-Need appeal during the auction portion of the Summer Soirée. Thanks to donors like you, we have been able to renovate Wright Tavern, offer school field trips, and launch the Pete Comer Preservation Project. This year for the Fund-A-Need, we're shifting our focus back to education – specifically, to developing a variety of learning opportunities for people of all ages.

At our current level of funding, the MARC is able to offer one program per month. They vary in styles and topics, such as Food for Thought during Black History Month, Christmas at Wright Tavern in December, and Pickin' at the MARC in November. In addition to those programs, we periodically host lectures or workshops. With your support of this Fund-A-Need appeal, the MARC will expand its educational programming by:

- ♦ Working with local educators to ensure fieldtrips meet the evolving needs of the classroom.
- ♦ Recruiting and training docents so the MARC is able to offer a variety of tour opportunities to a larger number of student and adult groups. The ever-expanding MARC historic complex includes a museum, Wright Tavern, a historic site at High Rock Ford, and a historic post office. Currently tours are only offered for the museum and tavern.
- ♦ Offering more interactive experiences for families, such as living history demonstrations at Wright Tavern and reenactments at High Rock Ford.
- ♦ Developing resources for learning local history at home or in class with documents from the MARC's archives.

Our goal is to raise \$12,000 to direct toward these initiatives. Even if you cannot attend the Soirée, your on-line donation or monthly sustainer contribution is important. With your support, we can ensure more people of all ages have the opportunity to learn about and experience the history of Rockingham County.



Free day at the MARC -- Saturday, August 3

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Makers and Collectors Day

Enjoy displays of special collections from the MARC archives
and noted collectors and crafters from Rockingham County.

Refreshments provided.

Recent Events

May celebration marks opening of the John Burton Agriculture Collection

This collection, assembled by John and Peggy Burton, contains artifacts that were common to everyday farm life in Rockingham County, as well as items that were quite unique. It ranges in date from 1844 to 1920.

The MARC is grateful to the many donors who made this exhibit possible:

John & Peggy Burton

County of Rockingham

Jasper & Virginia Sharp

Forrest W. Bray

Hazel Puckett

John & Martha Austin
James & Catherine Brown
Andrew M. Canady
Barbara Golding
Arthur & Kathryn Fagg
J. Michael Fargis, Associates
Patricia A. Jacques
Carol Johnson

N. Jerry & Mary Owens

Via Electric Company

Gene & Marcia Jones
J.D. & P.S. Jones
David Kyger
Charlotte A. Lankford
Barbara S. Moore
Ward Triche
Mickey Wright
Wentworth Ruritan Club



Photo credit: J. Bullins



Photo credits: G. Allen

Top photo: Bob Carter and John Burton in the jail wing of the courthouse soon after the farm collection was delivered.

Center: Truman Tisdale, Claire Grace and Sophie Lewis, and John Everett Webster provided youthful energy and hard labor to complete the final clean-up of the gallery, along with their grandmother, Elaine McCollum, and other volunteers.

Bottom: Forrest Bray poses with Peggy and John Burton during the celebration.

A large crowd was on hand May 9 for the grand opening of the John Burton Agriculture Collection. Guests included friends of the Burtons and MARC, in addition to NC Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler.

We give special thanks to the generous donors who made John and Peggy's dream a reality. Thanks, also, to Rockingham County and its maintenance employees for modifying the building to allow us to house the equipment inside. MARC Executive Director Jordan Rossi and the MARC staff have worked diligently for more than two years to coordinate work and create this tribute to our agricultural heritage.

Because the exhibit is better accessed through an exterior entrance on the west side of the museum building, it will only be opened to MARC visitors for special hours or by appointment. **We will have extra volunteers to open the Tavern and this exhibit on the first Saturday each month. You can be one of these volunteers!**

Exhibits and Artifacts

Contribution enables MARC to make historically valuable purchases at the Melrose Estate Auction

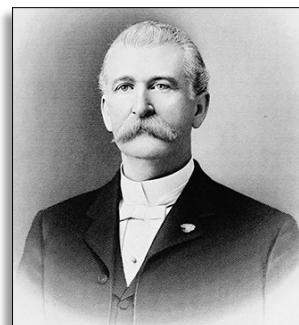
In May, a donor made a contribution specifically to enable the MARC to purchase several items of incredible historical significance at the Melrose Estate Auction conducted in Mebane. These documents from the Hugh Reid Scott Collection were held in a private collection until now, meaning that they are not a part of the existing historical record.

Hugh Reid Scott practiced law in Wentworth and Reidsville and served two terms in the North Carolina Senate (1881–85). In 1895 he was chosen to organize the Citizens' Bank of Reidsville, but he returned full-time to his law practice in 1909. The Melrose Mansion was built for him in Reidsville in 1910. An avid collector, he amassed a prized collection of books, papers, pamphlets, and periodicals concerning North Carolina. Part of his collection was previously donated to the Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

MARC's purchases from the auction include the draft of a letter written by Hugh Scott Reid's uncle, Governor David Settle Reid, to Jefferson Davis, then President of the Confederate States of America, to request Rockingham County's Civil War soldiers be allowed to return home due to difficulties the people of Rockingham County were facing at home. The reply to Governor Reid's inquiry, written by the Secretary of War, accompanied the original correspondence. Additional items in the MARC purchases include records related to enslaved people in Rockingham County, speeches, business ledgers, and family albums.

We've only just begun to delve into the contents of this fascinating collection – who knows what other gems of information we might find. We will need your help to preserve this collection over time. As I mentioned, a donor helped us acquire it, but preservation is a long-term process. By becoming a sustainer, or monthly donor, you can ensure these documents receive the care they require.

--Jordan Rossi



A 1905 engraving of Hugh Reid Scott. Image from Archive.org. <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/scott-hugh-reid>

SAVE THE DATE!



**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
3RD ANNUAL
"REMEMBERING FREETOWN"
SEMINAR**
Saturday, August 17 -- 1:30 p.m.
M-M Public Library
**Seeking photos and oral histories
of the African-American
community in
Madison & Mayodan**

The MARC Outdoors

High Rock Ford Historic Site connects visitors with nature and history



**Now open daily
sunrise to sunset**



**Located near this sign
on State Road 2620
(High Rock Road) at the
Haw River bridge, about
2.4 miles south of Ross
Grocery & Hardware**



Despite setbacks from hurricanes and floods, High Rock Ford Historic Site opened to the public on Saturday, April 27. Duke Energy District Manager Davis Montgomery was given the honor of cutting the ribbon at the official opening ceremony. Others who contributed to the development of the park assisted him. (Top photo, L to R) Representing DRBA were T Butler, Tiffany Haworth, Reidsville Mayor Jay Donecker, Brian Williams, Jenny Edwards, Kelley Neiderhiser, and Dr. Lindley Butler (both DRBA and MARC). To Montgomery's right and representing MARC are Fletcher Waynick, Jordan Rossi, Jeff Bullins, , Bob Carter, and Reidsville Chamber of Commerce Director Diane Sawyer. A crowd of about 40 people attended the ceremony, which included remarks by Dr. Butler about the national historic significance of the site and the progression to develop the land into a public site. The land was donated to the County Historical Society in 1984. Guests also enjoyed the river access and hiking trails.

Creation of the park was a joint project with the Dan River Basin Association. A Duke Energy Water Resources grant provided major funding. Lowes of Mayodan assisted by building a kiosk and benches for the trails. MARC is grateful for this cooperation and assistance to make the park a reality.

Museum & Archives of Rockingham County Board of Directors

Jeff Bullins—President
Vacant —Vice President
Brenda Ward—Secretary
Dan Mosca —Treasurer
Tilda Balsley—Past President

Karen Baker	Cindy Price Farris
Linda Bass	David French
Amanda Bell	Beth Gunn
Ann Brady	Kay Hammock
Bob Carter	Dennis Paschal
Obie Chambers	Debbie Russell
Fletcher Dalton	Will Truslow

Staff

Jordan Rossi—Executive Director
Fletcher Waynick—Operations Manager
Nadine Case —Administrative Assistant



Members who receive newsletters by email save the MARC valuable printing and postage costs! Please email changes in your contact information to MARCconnection@gmail.com. Non-members may subscribe to the newsletter on our website.

ON YOUR MARC Staff

Editor & Design: Jean Bullins
Editorial Team & Photography:

Gordon Allen	Jane Haines
James Anderson	Kay Hammock
Tilda Balsley	Jordan Rossi
Libby Barrett	Debbie Russell
Bob Carter	Sharon Tongbua



1086 NC Highway 65
Reidsville, NC
Mail to: PO Box 84
Wentworth, NC 27375
Phone: 336-634-4949

MARC your calendar

High Rock Ford Park is open daily from sunrise to sunset. Enjoy hiking trails, river access, and learning about the historical significance of the area. See our website for directions and trip planning tips.

AUGUST

Saturday, August 3

***“Collectors and Makers Day at MARC
Free Day at the MARC (*admission is waived)***

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Special displays from the MARC archives and noted collectors and crafters.

Saturday, August 17

“Rooted in Rockingham” 2019 Soirée Fundraiser

5:30 pm at Pennrose Park Country Club in Reidsville

Saturday, August 17

3rd Annual Freetown Seminar

1:30 pm

at the Madison-Mayodan Public Library

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 9

5th Annual Pickin’ at the MARC

Fiddlers Convention

Watch our website for details!

MARC Hours of Operation

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

Museum Admission

Adult	\$5.00
Seniors & Students	\$3.50
Children	\$2.50
Children under 4 years	FREE
Family pass	\$15.00
Members	FREE

*Visit www.themarconline.org for individual and business membership information and forms.
Become a sustainer by pledging monthly donations!*

The MARC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at (919) 807-2214. This license is not an endorsement by the State.

email: MARCconnection@gmail.com
www.themarconline.org