



On Your MARC

MUSEUM & ARCHIVES OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

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3rd Quarter
Visitor Count
360
Year-to-date
1393

3rd Annual
Pickin' at the MARC
Fiddlers Convention
Saturday, October 28 at 11:00 a.m.
Areas of Competition

Old Time Banjo	Open
Bluegrass Banjo	Youth Vocal
Old Time Fiddle	Youth Instrument
Bluegrass Fiddle	Bluegrass Band
Guitar	Old Time Band
Mandolin	



It is almost time for the third annual Pickin' at the MARC Fiddlers Convention! This event continues to grow in popularity and participation each year under the direction and care of event chair Wayne Seymour and his committee. We are grateful to have the Town of Wentworth and HomeTrust Bank as our partners and sponsors for this event.

What is a Fiddlers Convention? A Fiddlers Convention is a gathering of people who like to play string music and those who like to listen. Musicians, both young and old, come for friendly competition, camaraderie, and to show and hone their skills. Bands and individual musicians are scored by judges, and up to \$2,500 in cash prizes and ribbons will be awarded. For many people, the old-time sound experienced throughout the day is a connection to the past. "Old-time" music represents the oldest form of North American traditional music, other than Native American music.

Two bands, Zinc Kings (right top) and Hot Trail Mix (right bottom) will play featured performances. Depending on the competition schedule, the bands will begin around 6:00 and 7:15 p.m., respectively.



Photo submitted



Photo submitted

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 Follow us on Facebook: Museum & Archives of Rockingham County

From our Director, Jordan Rossi



Members' celebration for new exhibit is November 9

Rockingham County's natural environment, especially its rivers, shaped the communities established here – from the Saura and early settlers who relied on the rivers and soils for sustenance, to textile industrialists, tobacco farmers, and nature tourists.

In the coming months, MARC will be wading into our rivers and their history in more detail than ever. Our first venture begins November 9 with the opening of an interactive exhibit at the MARC about the Dan River Basin. The Virginia Museum of Natural History, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and located in Martinsville, VA, has partnered with MARC to curate this new exhibit. It will reveal our natural history, including the science behind our rivers, geography, and mammals and insect life. Funding for this collaboration was made possible thanks to a \$22,000 grant from the Rockingham County Community Foundation, an affiliate of the North Carolina Community Foundation.

NORTH CAROLINA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



By adding a science component to the study of history, not only will we serve a broader area of interest among our visitors, but we are also setting the stage—creating a backdrop—upon which our history continues to unfold.

One of the perks of your MARC membership is the opportunity to be among the first visitors to experience new exhibits. I am happy to extend an invitation for you to join us at the exhibit opening November 9 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This is your opportunity to meet the curators and scientists behind the exhibit. They will lead the introductory program, open to the public, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Come and enjoy a night out with other history and science enthusiasts!

Retirement precipitates changes in MARC staff

It was almost four years ago when Debbie Brown accepted the role of administrative assistant at MARC. We quickly came to rely on her unique set of skills—in the expected duties of her position and her knowledge of genealogy research and local families. She helped to keep MARC moving forward through changes of directors, and she was invaluable to successes in many facets of the museum. However, the time has come for Debbie to retire. She looks forward to a more relaxing pace and more time to focus on her husband, family, genealogy, travel, and sewing. Fortunately for us, Debbie's true devotion to history will keep her active as a member and volunteer at MARC! We wish her much happiness and look forward to working with her in new ways in the future.

Nadine Case assumed the administrative assistant duties on October 3. We welcome her to MARC! She has previous experience as a safety manager with Proctor and Gamble, including experience training employees. Besides general office duties, one of Nadine's priorities will be to foster growth and engagement within the MARC Volunteer Guild. She will be recruiting new members for a variety of tasks. If you have ever considered increasing your MARC involvement, Nadine will help you find your calling—just give her a call at MARC or email her at marcconnection@gmail.com! And, be sure to introduce yourself and welcome Nadine the next time you are here.

Volunteers make it happen!

Volunteers provide flow and direction for gala

This year's gala, "Rivers and Railroads," was planned with an intentional change of pace from MARC's previous events. With casual dress, a delicious traditional southern menu, innovative decorations, appealing auction items, and entertaining auctioneers, all the elements came together to create MARC's most successful fundraiser ever.

We congratulate the MARC staff and volunteers who worked diligently to make the gala sensational! Thank you for making the annual gathering of MARC friends and supporters a much anticipated evening each and every year.

MARC Staff

Jordan Rossi, Executive Director
Fletcher Waynick, Operations Manager
Debbie Brown, Administrative Assistant
Bob Carter, Rockingham County Historian

Event co-chairs

Joyce Anderson & Marguerite Holt



Photo credit: J. Bullins



Photo credit: J. Bullins



Photo credit: J. Bullins

It's all about attention to detail! (Left to right) Tilda Balsley, Joyce Anderson, Ann Brady, Emily Parker, Brenda Ward, and Diana Carter craft table decorations.

Ticket sales/auction gifts/advertising

Members of the MARC Board of Directors

Volunteers and Contributors

James & Joyce Anderson
Karen Baker
Skip & Tilda Balsley
Cathy Baranek
Libby Barrett
Ann Brady
Jeff & Jean Bullins
Lindley & T Butler
Diana Carter
Barry & Robbin Dodson
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Dennis Paschal, III
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Si & Carol Rothrock
Marilyn Que Tucker
Bill & Brenda Ward
Ginger Waynick

Left top: We were able to document photographer James Anderson's contributions to the evening by turning our camera on him. We appreciate his photographic chronical of this and many other MARC events. Left bottom: MARC heralds the creative talents which MARC member Cathy Baranek shares by using striking décor to develop our theme and set the mood for our event each year.



Mr. History: Bob Carter, County Historian

Senator McCain's roots in Rockingham County

Former Republican presidential nominee Senator John McCain's great-great-great grandfather, Joseph McCain, built the Rockingham County landmark, High Rock House, several miles southeast of Reidsville. In the Arizona Senator's biography, *Faith of My Fathers*, the ancestral home is mentioned as "Lenox Castle in Caswell County, North Carolina." It is

unclear how Senator McCain came to this conclusion since Lenox Castle was never owned by his family and it was actually located in Rockingham County. Family history research documented years ago by McCain's relatives included their connection to the High Rock property. The family tradition indicates they migrated to America from Scotland near the end of the eighteenth century. Joseph (born ca. 1778) married Mary "Polly" Scales in 1807. She was the daughter of prominent landowner Nathaniel Scales, owner of the High Rock property which also included the High Rock Mill on the Haw River.

Joseph and Polly McCain built the three-story brick High Rock plantation home around 1813. They developed a plantation on the property which included a grist and flour mill, saw mill, tan yard, whiskey distillery, and a store. Records indicate that farming operations were carried out with the labor of twenty-five enslaved people. The McCain's also kept a tavern in their home. Joseph was postmaster of the local High Rock Post Office from 1815 until his death in April 1830.

In 1838 the plantation, mills, and store were sold for a division among the heirs of Joseph McCain. His widow moved to Greensboro by 1840. Soon after 1843 she moved to Tallahatchie County, Mississippi where she lived with her son, William A. McCain, until her death in 1848. The only one of Joseph and Polly's McCain's children to remain in Rockingham County was Dr. James W. McCain. After securing his medical education he settled in Lawsonville in eastern Rockingham County. In December 1841 he married Ann C. Jeffreys and a few years later he purchased a 535 acre plantation on "Lower" Hogans Creek from his brother-in-law, Dr. Robert H. Scales. On this tract he built a home where he resided until his death on 26 July 1871 at age fifty-two. His wife died on 22 July 1872. The remainder of the family moved to Mississippi and other areas of the South during the antebellum period. They became successful citizens wherever they settled. The descendants of the Mississippi McCains included two United States naval admirals who distinguished themselves during the Second World War era. Both of these men were named John S. McCain and were the grandfather and father of Senator John McCain.

The High Rock property passed on through the hands of a number of owners during the remainder of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Mrs. Tempie Harris Prince (1904-1990) received the property in 1939 as a wedding gift from her second husband, Sydney R. Prince. The Princes restored the house during the early 1940s and following Mr. Prince's death in 1948 Tempie move there and operated the property as a cattle and tobacco farm. Shortly before her death in 1990 she sold the plantation to Richard and Rolfe Teague who painstakingly restored the High Rock House, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Rolfe is deceased but Richard still lives there and operates High Rock Farm as the largest working and producing chestnut orchard in the mid-Atlantic, with over five hundred chestnut trees and four hundred pecan trees.



Photo credit: high-rock-farm.org

The historic house will be open to the public during their annual Chestnut Roasting Festival on Nov 5. At other times, guided tours may be arranged by appointment. For more info: high-rock-farm.org

Mr. History: Bob Carter, County Historian

Work is in progress on High Rock Trail

Just down the hill from the High Rock House, the Museum and Archives of Rockingham County owns a 20 acre property called High Rock Ford, which was at one time a part of the McCain's operations. The Conservation Foundation of North Carolina deeded this property, as well as the 50 acre Troublesome Creek Iron Works, to the Rockingham County Historical Society in December 1984.

Both properties were Revolutionary War Supply bases and campgrounds during the 1781 Southern Campaign of General Nathanael Greene and Lord Cornwallis. The High Rock property contained the earliest mill in Rockingham County. A land survey of 1753 mentions the mill erected by Aaron Pinson.

The properties were originally purchased by James G. W. MacLamroc who wanted to see a large historic State Park developed in the area. The park plans did not come to fruition and MacLamroc sold part of the land for development. He deeded the two historic tracts to the Conservation group, who in turn gave the properties to the Historical Society. The successor organization to the Historical Society is the MARC.



Photo credit: J. Rossi

Lindley Butler, MARC Historic Properties committee chair; Jenny Edwards of the Dan River Basin Association; and Tony McGee of RoundRock Design on the High Rock Ford site, standing on what was once a colonial road.

The Rockingham County Naturalist Club invites you to join them November 19 for a hike at the High Rock trail site. Hikers will assemble at 2:00 pm in front of the Administration Building at RCC. County Historian Bob Carter will lead the expedition. This hike should be interesting historically and will be part of our trails project.

In May 2017, the MARC received a \$60,500 Water Resources Grant from the Duke Energy Foundation to develop a canoe and kayak access on the Haw River, to extend a popular paddling route by four miles, and to build a ¼ mile of historic walking trail with interpretive signage. MARC is partnering with the Dan River Basin Association on this project.



Tony McGee of RoundRock Design, a noted landscape architect, will be the contractor leading us to our goal of building a high-quality trail to highlight the best features of the site that is conducive to historical interpretation and recreational use. Work should be completed by Spring 2018.

By Bob Carter, Jordan Rossi, and Jean Bullins

Gala 2017: "Rivers and Railroads"



Photo credit: J. Anderson



Photo credit: J. Anderson



Photo credit: J. Anderson



Photo credit: J. Anderson



Photo credit: J. Anderson

TOP: (L) As the auctioneer searched for the gala's oldest guest, Ida Tucker (shown with her daughter, Rochelle Tucker) assured him it was her—but he would have to guess her age! (R) It's a family affair for Michael Parker Benefit Auctions. Their enthusiasm encouraged generosity, competition, and much laughter. ROW 2: (L) Guests participated in a few arm exercises to warm up for the start of the auctions. (R) Cepheus and Sallie Lea seem pleased with their Mystery Box gift. BOTTOM: The Parker family's superb organization provided fast check-out and detailed financial receipts for auction winners and donors.

Recent Events



Photo credit: J. Anderson

Gala Fun



Photo credit: J. Bullins



Photo credit: J. Bullins



Photo credit: J. Bullins

Gala competition was friendly yet intense due to the exceptional gifts donated by local businesses and MARC friends. (TOP) (L) Thanks to their wise and generous strategies, Brently Boyte, Joan Bennett, and Dennis Paschal were the last contestants in the "Heads or Tails" game vying for a Caribbean vacation. Dennis outlasted them all to win! (R) Mary Truslow is focused on bidding during the live auction. (BELOW) (L) Debbie & Eugene Russell and Sue & Don Moore enjoy celebrating MARC with long-time friends. (R) John and Gayle Ferguson and Laura Felts take time to monitor their bids on silent auction items.



Photo credit: J. Bullins

Summer successes at MARC

MARC sponsored several successful events this quarter. In June, Bob Carter and Jason Anthony spoke about the history of mineral springs in Stokes and Rockingham Counties. We dedicated an NC Historical Highway Marker in July to honor Madison's Opie Lindsay, a World War I ace. (Photo left: Charles Rodenbough and Opie Lindsay's daughter, Muriel Lindsay, at the marker site on US 311) In addition to our Constitution Day Celebration September 17, we hosted two lectures in September focused on High Rock Ford. Bob Carter's presentation focused on the ownership and business uses of the site. Guilford Courthouse National Battleground Park volunteer Dr. Scott Culclasure discussed the military history of the site.

MARC Business

Success of Gala shows promising trends

By Jordan Rossi, Executive Director

I say this every year and it remains true: the MARC's annual Summer Gala was a roaring success thanks to you, our donors, our supporters, and volunteers.

Overall, "Rivers and Railroads" netted over \$37,000. What does that mean for the MARC? It means with a single event we raised over 20% of our annual budgeted income. It also means that with each successive year, the Summer Gala raises more funds than the previous – a promising trend for our most important fundraiser of the year.

For example, this year the silent auction brought in nearly double the amount of 2016, due in large part to the incredible generosity of event attendees and local businesses and individuals who contributed an array of desirable items. Likewise, revenue from the live auction also increased from the previous year.

Having been involved in the event planning, I wish I could take credit for this upward trend, but the reality is clear. Our continued success and improvement is due to the loyal and expanding support from the community.

We give special thanks to these businesses for supporting the Gala with their advertisements:

Adams Electric, Greensboro—Event Sponsors

Cone Health Annie Penn Hospital, Reidsville
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Michael Parker Benefit Auctions

Barry Dodson, CPA PLLC, Madison

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Robert L. Wheless, DDS, Reidsville

Round About Way, Reidsville

Shiloh Utilities, Eden

Walnut Cove Furniture, Walnut Cove

Wilkerson Funeral Home, Reidsville

MARC Business

Gala sponsors and advertisers deserve your thanks and patronage

As a MARC member, when you do business with Gala sponsors and advertisers, would you please take a minute to acknowledge their support of the MARC and thank them for helping to preserve our history!

Event sponsor: Adams Electric, Greensboro

SILENT AUCTION AND LIVE AUCTION DONORS:

Joyce Anderson
 Bake Me Happy, Madison
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 Jewelry by Ginger Waynick, Reidsville
 La Boutique, Reidsville
 Lowes Home Improvement, Mayodan
 The Mad Bean Coffee Shop, Madison
 Madison Dry Goods, Madison
 Mayflower Seafood, Reidsville
 Mayodan Arts Center, Mayodan

Mayodan Outdoor Sports, Mayodan
 Rick Mills
 Mom's Kitchen, Wentworth
 More than Yoga, Eden
 Dan and Beth Mosca
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 Tracey Nafekh
 PBJ's Boutique, Madison
 Pennrose Park Country Club, Reidsville
 Persnickety, High Point
 Hazel Puckett
 Reidsville Building & Restoration, Inc.
 Reidsville Family YMCA, Reidsville
 Reidsville Office City, Reidsville
 Rockingham County Tennis Association
 Round About Way, Reidsville
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 Serenity Beauty Lounge, Reidsville
 Short Sugars, Reidsville
 Simply the Best Flowers, Inc., Eden
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 Southern Spirits Bar & Grill, Madison
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 Strader's Shoe Store, Reidsville
 Sue's Kitchen, Wentworth
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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! You can keep your email address current by emailing changes to MARCconnection@gmail.com

ON YOUR MARC staff and contributors

Editor & Design: Jean Bullins
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Tilda Balsley
Libby Barrett
Bob Carter
Fletcher Dalton

Jane Haines
Charles Rodenbough
Jordan Rossi
James Anderson

MARC Your Calendar

Call the MARC for event details

Saturday, October 28—MARC's 3rd Annual Fiddlers Convention— Registration at 11:00 a.m. Featured bands perform approximately 6:00 and 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, November 9—Natural History Exhibit opening celebration 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 19—High Rock Ford hike with the Rockingham County Naturalist Club 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 2—Christmas at Wright Tavern Open House 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 7—Pearl Harbor Day dinner and program at MARC

Thursday, December 14—Board of Directors Meeting 6:00 p.m.

*Find unique holiday gifts with
local flair in the
MARC Gift Shop*



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.

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.

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