



On Your MARC

MUSEUM & ARCHIVES OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MARC News	1
Director's Page	2
Volunteer Focus	3
Mr. History	4-5
Coming Events	6
Recent Events	7
Exhibits & Artifacts	8
MARC Business	9
MARC Business	10
Events Calendar	11

Visitor Counts
1st Quarter: 286

Spring openings bring renewal to the MARC and Rockingham County

Two highly anticipated MARC projects have been completed! We hope you will join us at our grand opening events to celebrate these accomplishments and to enjoy our outstanding new recreational and educational resources.

Grand Opening HIGH ROCK FORD

*A Museum & Archives of
Rockingham County Historic Site*

Saturday, April 27 | 10 AM

*Located in the Gibsonville area at
the intersection of the Haw River
and High Rock Road, 2.4 miles
South of Ross Grocery & Hardware*

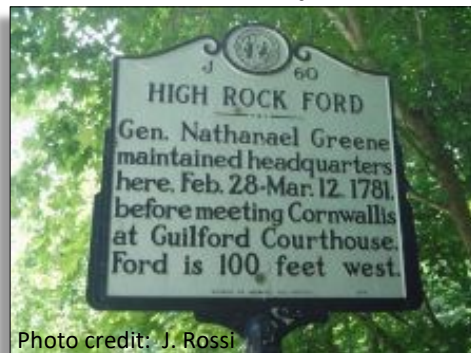


Photo credit: J. Rossi

The High Rock Ford Historic Site includes scenic views, trails, a Haw River paddle access, and historic signage. It was developed by MARC and the Dan River Basin Assn., and funded by a Duke Energy Water Resources Fund Grant. The land was donated to us in 1984 by James MacLamrock, in hopes it would become a public site where people could enjoy nature and its national historical significance.



Photo credit: J. Rossi

JOHN BURTON AGRICULTURE EXHIBIT

*Grand Opening
Thursday, May 9 | 5:30 PM*

**With special guest,
NC Agriculture Commissioner
Mr. Steve Troxler**

In a county whose economic history is deeply rooted in the agriculture industry, it is most appropriate for the MARC to share that history in our new gallery. We have renovated the old jail area to display John's collection of late 19th and early 20th century farm equipment. We invite you to join us at the opening gala as we celebrate this noteworthy exhibit and offer thanks to John and Peggy Burton for their leadership to make it a reality.

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

County employees provide helpful responses in MARC crisis



Dear Friends of the MARC,

I'd like to commend Rockingham County's employees. As you may know, Rockingham County owns the historic courthouse where the MARC is located. Parts of the building are over 100 years old, and, like all historic structures, the Courthouse has its quirks. We rely on the Rockingham County Maintenance Department to help us keep it going.

On the day I'm writing this letter, something truly unfortunate happened that gave MARC staff a chance to not only interact with members of the maintenance team, under the supervision of Ron Farris, but also with several sheriff's deputies (including Wentworth Corporal R. Burns), and Rockingham County's Safety and Risk Manager Chris Elliott.



The only thing worse than a bull in a china shop is a deer lost and alone in a museum! Perhaps seeing the car in our rotunda enticed the doe to enter the building.

Sometime in the early morning hours, a deer smashed through one of our glass doors and could not find her way out. Injured and afraid, she made her way to nearly every corner of the first floor before lying down at the back stairway.

When the museum operations manager, Fletcher Waynick, arrived at the MARC and was confronted by what at first appeared to be a breaking and entering, he called 9-1-1 first and Ron Farris next. Soon thereafter, the deputies and Animal Control arrived and removed the deer from the building. County Maintenance and Chris Elliott were on the scene, as well, to assess the damage to the building and to set into motion the necessary next steps to re-open the museum to the public.

We were thrilled to discover that the exhibits and artifacts remained largely untouched by damage. However, in addition to the broken door, the Courthouse floors and walls were (and I apologize if this is too graphic) literally covered in blood and tufts of deer hair. From my panicked point of view, the first floor was an overwhelming, insurmountable, and beyond gross mess.

Thanks to Rockingham County's thorough and efficient response, the MARC is already well on the way to being open for business as usual. The door is repaired and a hazmat team has cleaned most of the first floor. Although I would have preferred this never happened, I am so grateful and comforted by the response from Rockingham County's employees. I cannot thank everybody by name (I wish I could), but I can say their work is a credit to their departments and to Rockingham County.

Volunteers are the key to our success

John Burton Agricultural Collection reflects county's past and couple's lifelong dedication to historic preservation

Question: What do you get when you unite two preservationists in marriage?

Answer: A lifetime spent in the thrill of the hunt. Vast collections that reflect their values and interests. And, over time, a home that rivals any museum and is used generously to share their love of history and family.

This is the story of John and Peggy Burton. They have spent their lives together as full-fledged collectors of many things, both large and small. When asked what motivated them in their quest, Peggy quickly responded, "It's in both of our DNA. Fortunately or not, our ancestors valued certain things and passed them through the generations." John's early boyhood interest was collecting records. Peggy's interest grew from some pitchers passed to her through her grandmother when Peggy was just four years old. John and Peggy did not set out to establish their own personal museum. They were plenty busy raising their family while they made multiple moves during his ministry in the United Methodist Church.

When you visit the John Burton Agricultural Collection, consider the responsibility they accepted as guardians of history. Many of the old farm machines are very large, not to mention their collection of antique cars and carriages. They also collected over 100 clocks, mechanical musical instruments, furniture, china, and all the goods to create their own "country store." They are the third generation to maintain the home and Fair View Farm near Reidsville. Ironically, it was sold by John's maternal great grandfather to his paternal grandfather in 1891. (See the blog on our website for more about Fair View Farm.)



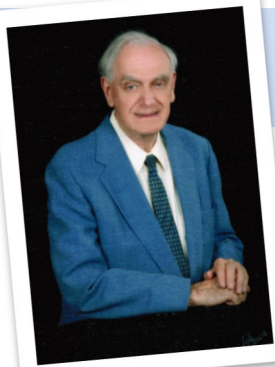
John and Peggy's donation of the John Burton Agricultural Collection is just a small part of their historical contributions over many years. John served as the last president of the Rockingham County Historical Society and continued in 2010-2011 as the first president of the Rockingham County Historical Society Museum and Archives (which we now refer to as MARC). His leadership was critical to the development of the MARC museum complex. John has also served on the board for the Reidsville Downtown Corporation and the Eden Preservation Society, and Peggy

has done her part to support these organizations, as well.

The Burtons' hope is to keep intact the various collections they have assembled, although they realize that guardianship needs to be passed to younger generations. Like the agricultural collection, they have promised certain items to appropriate recipients. Peggy has donated over 3,500 original letters which date from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries to the University of Georgia and promised other family records to the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Special Collections Library. John and Peggy are treading softly into downsizing and placing great emphasis on the word that describes them well, preservationists. They are actively pursuing ways to pass their treasures along so things will be available for future generations to better understand the past.

*Members Only
Exhibit Opening
May 9, 2019
5:30 PM*

*Special guest
Steve Troxler
North Carolina
Commissioner of
Agriculture*

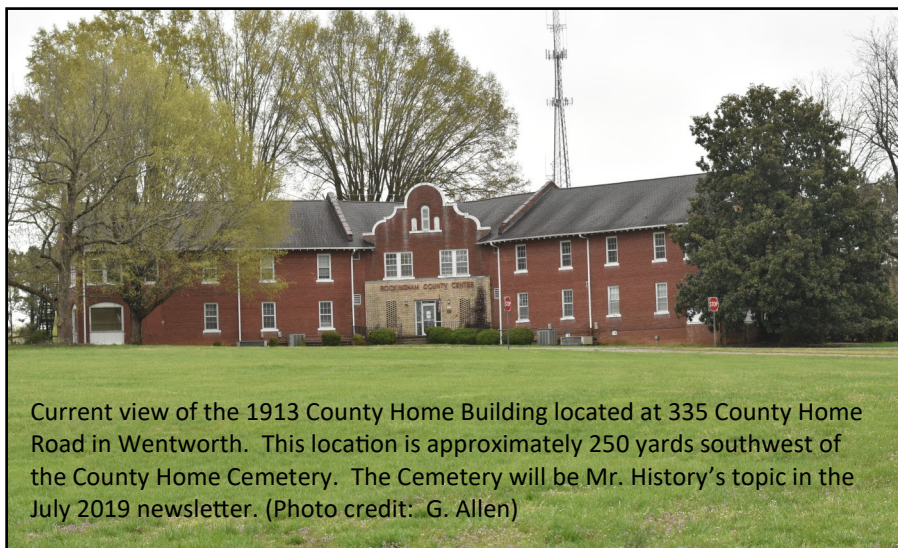


Mr. History: Bob Carter, County Historian

Rockingham County Home

In 1777, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted a law requiring each county to create a Wardens of the Poor Court to allocate tax money for the care of paupers, disabled, handicapped, orphaned, and blind persons. Each Warden's Court consisted of seven prominent citizens. In 1787, the North Carolina Legislature enacted a bill that allowed Rockingham County to build a home for the poor and ill, but no action was taken on the laws. By 1790 the local Warden's Court was using a portion of the county tax funds to help maintain the poor.

During the legislative session of 1824-1825, a bill was enacted to levy a tax to finance the creation of a poor house in Rockingham County. In February 1827, the County Court appointed a commission to inquire into the cost of building a poor house not to exceed the sum of \$2,000. In 1828, the County purchased two hundred acres of land from Robert Galloway for the sum of \$200, located one mile east of the County Courthouse. A contract was given to E.P. Odineal and Claybourn Wall to erect a couple of log buildings to serve as the poor house. The building was to be ready for occupancy by October 1828. The final cost of the buildings totaled \$373.75. Additional log buildings were constructed as needed in following years.



Current view of the 1913 County Home Building located at 335 County Home Road in Wentworth. This location is approximately 250 yards southwest of the County Home Cemetery. The Cemetery will be Mr. History's topic in the July 2019 newsletter. (Photo credit: G. Allen)

In the fall of 1848, the well-known social reformer Dorothea Dix, of Massachusetts, visited the Rockingham Poor House in her quest for a state mental hospital to be erected in Raleigh. She reported her findings on the local poor house as follows, "...the poor-house, but a short distance from Wentworth, is singularly neat and well-ordered. The inmates sufficiently well-clad and very neat and respectable. The buildings require repair. The house is well kept but more comforts might well be supplied..."

The Warden's Court remained in charge of the Poor House until 1868 when the State adopted a new constitution that turned over the operation of the poor house to the Board of County Commissioners. Under the new system the County Grand Jury examined the poor house facility each year and filed a report to the state. The report of 1869-1870 stated that the poor house consisted of nine hewed log buildings, 18 x 20 feet in size, with two rooms in each structure. It was also noted that the buildings were in bad repair.

In 1874, the County Commissioners let a contract to build several brick structures to replace the log buildings and work was completed in early 1875. The structures were constructed of burned brick made on the site. The annual report of October 1883 reveals there were five, one-story brick buildings sitting in a group several feet apart. The

See Rockingham County Home, Page 5

Mr. History: Bob Carter, County Historian

Rockingham County Home

Continued from Page 4

same year a separate frame hospital building was erected near the brick structures. In addition to operating the poor house, the County also gave a few county paupers a small annual stipend. These people lived with relatives or friends, and they were categorized as the “outside poor.”

In 1891, the official name of the poor house was changed to “The House for the Aged and Infirm.” Over time the facility became known to most people as the “County Home.” During the early 1890s, the number of inmates living at the County Home ranged from 30 to 50 persons. About 15 to 20 percent of the inmates were of African American descent, and it was the custom of the time period that these inmates were housed in separate buildings.

The County Home land consisted of 250 acres. Later, additional land was acquired because the wood on the original tract had been cut and burned to provide heat for the buildings. About ten acres of the land was in cultivation. Crops of corn and wheat and vegetables were grown to help feed the inmates of the home. Livestock on the farm consisted of a couple of mules, cows, and hogs. The farm work was performed by trustees (persons with short prison sentences from the county prison camp).

In 1903, a brick insane asylum was erected a short distance west of the main County Home building. The more dangerous inmates were housed there until they could be sent to a state insane asylum in Raleigh or Morganton. A great tragedy occurred on March 9, 1909, when two elderly men were burned to death in a building that was destroyed by fire. Later, the former asylum building was remodeled to serve as a residence for the superintendent of operations for the County Home.

The grand jury report for August 1911 reported, “The County Home buildings are crumbling to decay, one in very bad condition and one greatly out of repair. We recommend that the County build a new county home.” In 1913, the County hired noted North Carolina architect W. C. Northrup of Winston-Salem to design a new county home building. Reidsville contractor J. Sam Wagoner received the contract to build the new home at a cost of \$21,690. The structure was to be of brick construction with running water, bathrooms, and steam heat. The old brick and frame buildings were demolished in 1913 and 1914.

A change was made in 1917 when the operation of the home was placed under a local Board of Public Welfare with state supervision. During the first half of the twentieth century, the County Home continued to operate as usual. A person who often visited the County Home during this period wrote, “The County Home had excellent superintendents, but no level of quality care could erase the sadness and misery that pervaded that place.”

By the early 1950s, many counties realized that it would be cheaper to close their county homes and place the inmates in licensed boarding homes or nursing homes. For this reason, on June 30, 1955, the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners voted to close the County Home. At the time there were only 21 residents living there, and they were transferred to other facilities. After 127 years of operation, the Rockingham County Home was closed forever.

The Rockingham County Commissioners voted to remodel the old County Home building into office space for use by the Superintendent of County Schools and Farm and Home Demonstration Agents. Between December 1956 and November 1957, the County spent \$100,000 on the remodeling work. On February 13, 1958, the building was opened as the “County Center,” and, since that time, many different County offices have occupied the building.

Coming Events

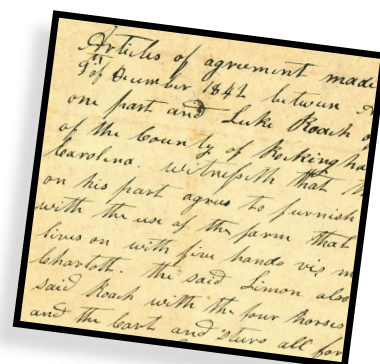


Notable speakers to lead spring quarter Genealogy Roundtable discussions

Deciphering Old Handwriting

Key to genealogical success is fluency in reading old records and decoding a variety of handwriting styles - some formal, some individual and idiosyncratic. You cannot always depend on transcribers and indexers to get it right! In MARC's June 15 Genealogy Roundtable discussion, Larry Cates will walk us through a few techniques to enhance our ability for reading old handwriting.

Mr. Cates has been a genealogist and local history librarian at the High Point Public Library for eleven years. He has 30 years of experience as a genealogist and 25 years as an editor of genealogical periodicals and books. He was presented the award for Outstanding Contribution to North Carolina Genealogy by the NC Genealogical Society in 2015 and the Filby Award for Genealogical Librarianship by the National Genealogical Society in 2017.



DNA and Genealogy Series

Due to interest expressed at the March DNA program, MARC is pleased to announce that an additional session of DNA discussion has been added to our Roundtable series. All sessions are presented by Robert S. Lockett, Jr. He is a past president of the Wythe County Genealogical Society, and his DNA presentations are highly regarded across Virginia and North Carolina.

Part II "DNA and Genealogy: Beyond the Basics" is scheduled for **Saturday, April 27**. This presentation will explore commercial DNA testing and how users can interpret the results.

Part III "DNA and Genealogy Update" was recently added to the MARC schedule for **Saturday, May 11**. This session will review the four types of DNA and their characteristics useful for genealogists, centimorgans, haplogroups, and compare DNA companies' testing services.

Save these dates!

BIG GREEN EGG RAFFLE DRAWING

Saturday, June 1 - 3:00 PM
At MARC



2019 Summer Soiree

Pennrose Park Country Club
Reidsville

Saturday, August 10

5th Annual
PICKIN' AT THE MARC
Fiddlers Convention
Saturday, November 9



Recent Events



Photo credits: G. Allen

Foods provide connections between history and people

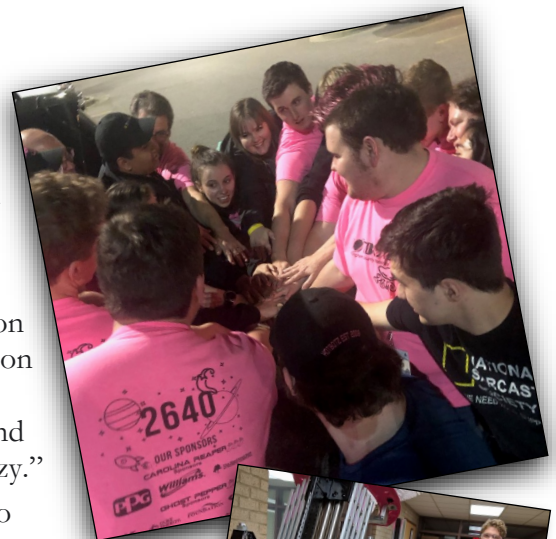
Our Food for Thought celebration of African American History Month held in February focused on biscuits and rice. This is the third event led by Valencia Abbott (*above, left*) to help us focus beyond the sight and taste of particular foods to consider their origins and methods of preparation in the context of history and our family traditions. Many thanks to Valencia and to the volunteers who planned the event for providing interesting and delicious foods (*above, right*).

MARC is home to both the past and future

MARC is pleased to provide working space for *FIRST* Robotics Team #2640, "The Hotbotz." They are a student-initiated club of Rockingham Early College High School which now includes students from 4 county high schools and homeschools. Their affiliation is in the worldwide organization, *FIRST*, "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology." Their mentor, Allison Holt, says their mission is to "build people and community by building robots together. We put a high value on being gracious and professional and including everyone, while still competing like crazy."

Participating teams develop robots to perform tasks according to specific game guidelines which are revealed to them in early January. Limited to six weeks, each team must design, build, and program a robot that will best perform the tasks and win the games at competitions. The Hotbotz competed well this spring, winning awards for professionalism, safety, creativity, and imagery. They won first place at the Asheville Regional Competition and were Alliance Captains at the state competition.

The team is grateful to MARC for hosting them. MARC is grateful to the students for helping clean up the space prior to moving in, and to the county for assistance with repairs to make the area safe for the students to work.



Photos submitted

News from the Galleries



Artist's work puts MARC onto the Rockingham County Quilt Trail map

Kathy Melvin (*photo left*) is well on her way to completing a square representing MARC to be added on the Rockingham County Quilt Trail. She is a semi-retired substance abuse counselor, previously with the Mental Health Center.

Kathy has always enjoyed painting and currently focuses most on canvas table runners and floor cloths, patterned after an old new England tradition. Her husband renovated his parents' old home into Bottle Tree Studio to provide her with studio space. She is available there by appointment or "by chance" to sell her work. Each spring and fall Kathy invites local artists to display and sell their creations at an open house event there. Kathy invites you

to come June 15 between 10 am and 4 pm for the spring Bottle Tree Studio Open House. The studio is located at 412 Miller Chapel Road, Reidsville.

The design of MARC's quilt square is based on Kathy and Jordan Rossi's historical research and eyes for design. They selected the "Grandmother's Flower Garden" quilt pattern as the centerpiece because of its similarities to the tile floors on the first floor in the MARC and because the pattern dates to ca. 1900, around the time the courthouse was built. The Duck and Duckling quilt pattern is featured on opposite corners and will be counter-balanced with drawings of the two most prominent aspects of the MARC entity - Wright Tavern and the old courthouse.

The Rockingham County Tourism Development Authority and Rockingham County Soil & Water teamed with the Piedmont Conservation Council in 2015 to bring the scenic quilt trail to life. Funding came from a grant awarded by the North Carolina Department of Commerce. Quilt squares, most painted on aluminum or wood, are mounted on the sides of barns and outbuildings throughout the county to showcase family histories, traditions, and the arts and crafts of the region. The project has grown to 31 sites. An interactive map is available online at www.visitrockinghamcountync.com/quilt-trail. Printed maps are available at the MARC, at the Tourism office, and other visitor attractions around the county.



In remembrance of Joan "Jo" Hopper Comer

April 21, 1942 - February 7, 2019

Over their years as MARC members, Jo and her husband, Henry, have supported efforts to preserve the rich history of our county. She was a history major in college and loved being a museum guide. Jo often attended events and programs here, and she will be missed by the MARC staff and members who had the pleasure of knowing her.

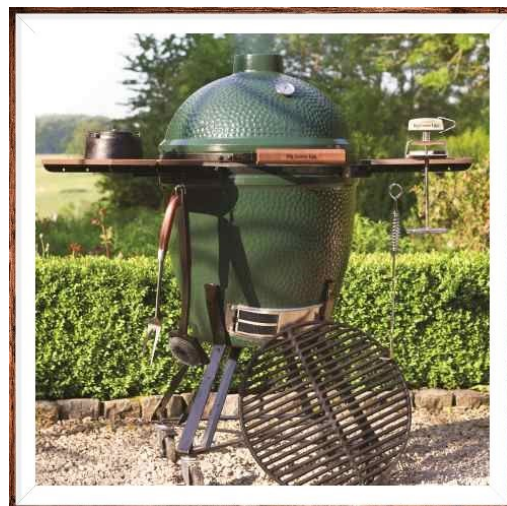
MARC Business

Announcing the **BIG GREEN EGG RAFFLE!**

The BIG GREEN EGG functions as a grill, smoker, and oven. From pizza and ribs to burgers and steak, this ceramic kamado-style grill is versatile and stylish. It is large enough to hold a 20 pound turkey, 12 burgers, 8 steaks, or 6 chickens - plenty for a crowd!

You have a chance to be the lucky winner of a BIG GREEN EGG when MARC holds a raffle drawing on June 1 at 3:00 pm. Best of all, proceeds from the raffle support the operations of the Museum and Archives of Rockingham County!

Tickets are \$50 each and are available for purchase on the MARC website, at the museum, and from MARC board members. We rely on the generosity of our members and friends to keep the MARC open, and we hope you will support this fundraising effort.



March meeting brings changes to Board membership

MARC would not exist without the leadership and work of volunteers. Four individuals were approved at the March Board of Directors meeting to begin three-year terms on the board. We appreciate their interest and willingness to contribute their time and talents to ensure MARC's continued success.

Linda Bass started her teaching career in 1977 at the old Lincoln School. She also spent several years teaching in Jacksonville and Danville, Virginia, and then she finished her career by returning to Lincoln Elementary as the principal from 2003-2015.

David French is co-owner of Strategic Healthcare Consultants, a company that provides strategic planning and regulatory consulting services to healthcare companies. His hobbies include travel, fly fishing, and hiking.

Dennis Paschal, III is beginning his third term on the MARC Board. He also serves on the Wentworth Town Council and works as assistant principal at Holmes Middle School.

Dr. Deborah Russell will receive her PhD in History from UNC Greensboro in May. She retired from Rockingham County Schools and has taught North Carolina, Civil Rights, and U.S. History courses at UNCG. A talented vocalist, she enjoys performing and playing piano.

We gratefully acknowledge the dedication and leadership of our out-going Board members:

- Robbin Dodson, Stoneville
- Elaine McCollum, Bethany
- Emily Parker, Martinsville
- W. L. Pryor, Reidsville

While their current terms on the Board have ended, we look forward to their continued participation in MARC functions and the work of the museum. Thank you!

MARC Business

Kallam Exterminators come to our rescue



It is my pleasure to shine a spotlight on a local business - Kallam Exterminators, Incorporated. As you know, the MARC Historic Complex includes several old buildings, some more than 200 years old. We are actively engaged in preserving those buildings, and they require constant work. Most recently, we discovered powder post beetles in the floor joists of Wright Tavern and the outdoor kitchen.

Kallam Exterminators promptly came to our rescue and went above and beyond to protect our treasured sites. Since we are a nonprofit, they treated all of our structures for both powder post beetles and termites at a discounted rate, and they will continue to check and treat the Wright Tavern site annually. We are grateful for their generosity and support.

Kallam Exterminators was founded over 40 years ago by the late James E. Kallam. Mr. Kallam was elected to the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners in 2008 and became the board's chair in 2011. He was its vice-chair the following year. The company is currently owned and operated by James' son, Jeff Kallam, who proudly carries on the family business from their Stokesdale office and the tradition of serving the citizens of Rockingham County.

Jordan Rossi

Becoming a MARC monthly sustaining donor means you provide strong and steady funding for the preservation and display of Rockingham County's history.

JUST LOOK AT WHAT ONE MONTHLY GIFT CAN DO:

- \$10 Purchase supplies for facilities maintenance
- \$25 Create and distribute *On Your MARC* quarterly newsletter
- \$50 Preserve 100 historic documents in archival quality envelopes and boxes
- \$75 Provide 1 hour of Educational Programming
- \$100 Support 1 hour of genealogy and local history research & outreach
- \$250 Host one 3rd or 4th grade school field trip
- \$500 Support ongoing preservation work at Wright Tavern



Attend our May 19 fundraiser at Hunter House in Madison to learn more about MARC giving opportunities. For party details and to make reservations or to sign up as a monthly sustainer, visit the MARC website today.

Museum & Archives of Rockingham County Board of Directors

Jeff Bullins—President
Bill Horsley —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	

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	Jordan Rossi
Tilda Balsley	Debbie Russell
Libby Barrett	Sharon Tongbua
Bob Carter	Fletcher Waynick



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

MARC your calendar

APRIL

Saturday, April 27 - 10:00 a.m.
Ribbon cutting at High Rock Ford Park
Ceremony and guided hike on park trail

Saturday, April 27 - 2:00 p.m.
Genealogy Roundtable - Robert Lockett, Part II
DNA and Genealogy: Beyond the Basics
At the MARC

MAY

Thursday, May 9 - 5:30 p.m.
Grand Opening: John Burton Agricultural Exhibit
At the MARC

Saturday, May 11 - 2:00 p.m.
Genealogy Roundtable - Robert Lockett, Part III
DNA and Genealogy Update
At the MARC

JUNE

Saturday, June 1 - 3:00 p.m.
Green Egg Raffle Drawing
At the MARC

Saturday, June 15 - 2:00 p.m.
Genealogy Roundtable - Deciphering Old Handwriting
At the MARC

Save the dates:

Saturday, August 10 - 6th Annual Summer Soiree at Pennrose Country Club in Reidsville

Saturday, November 9 - 5th Annual Fiddlers' Convention at the MARC

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.

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