



On Your MARC

MUSEUM & ARCHIVES OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

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Mayodan Lowe's Community Heroes Enhance High Rock Ford Park

Even though 2018's multiple floods, epic snow storm, and seemingly endless rain have delayed the official opening ceremony, High Rock Ford Historic Site is complete! In fact, these weather events have already proven the quality work provided by Tony McGee of RoundRock Design, Anglin Earthworks, and volunteers, as the trail and parking lot have held well under extreme conditions.

Employees at Lowe's Home Improvement in Mayodan provided the finishing touches for the park through the Lowe's Community Heroes program. They constructed and donated three benches and an information kiosk to assist park visitors. The purpose of the Heroes program is to enhance the local community while engaging Lowe's employees in a teambuilding project. We are grateful that Lowe's employees selected High Rock Ford Park for their service project and we thank them for the wonderful structures they provided.

High Rock Ford Park is a historic recreational facility developed jointly by MARC and the Dan River Basin Association. Primary funding was provided by a \$61,500 Water Resources Grant from the Duke Energy Foundation. We are anxious to host the official grand opening early this spring - watch for event details to be announced soon!



Above: Assistant Manager Scott Dalton is ready to deliver the handiwork of Mayodan Lowe's employees. Right: The Lowe's kiosk installed at the park conveys the cultural and natural history of the area.



Photo credit: Fletcher Waynick



Visitor Counts
4th Quarter: 558
2018 Count: 1665

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From our Director, Jordan Rossi



Planning for MARC's future

Happy New Year!

I find January is an excellent time to reflect on the past, present, and future. This is especially true today, since another ice storm has knocked out our phone and internet service here, and thus most distractions.

- ◆ 2018 marked our sixth year open to the public and the end of my third year on the job.
- ◆ It was the year of the car: a 1916 Model T Ford Touring Car purchased from a dealer in Reidsville by Onnie Milloway. The Greensboro History Museum donated it to us in March and it became the largest artifact in our transportation exhibit. It inspired a Mr. History article, the theme for our annual fundraiser, and our appearance in the Wentworth Christmas Parade. We waved to the crowds from our seats in a slightly earlier Model T Touring Car.
- ◆ It was also a year of interdisciplinary learning at the MARC. Our Natural History Exhibit opened in late 2017 and throughout 2018 visitors experienced the hands-on-activities about local animals, rivers, and minerals. The MARC also completed work on its 20-acre park, the High Rock Ford Historic Site. In addition to trails and a river access for paddlers, High Rock Ford Park contains an outdoors exhibit about the site and the history that unfolded there.
- ◆ And, finally, in 2018 the MARC Board of Directors created a Strategic Plan to guide the museum through the next three years. Some highlights from the plan include: adding more interactive elements to existing exhibits; re-launching volunteer committees; and expanding fundraising efforts to ensure the museum not only remains sustainable in the years to come but has an opportunity to expand and offer new learning opportunities to more people.



Photo credit: Gordon Allen

I am excited about the work before us as we build on these accomplishments and work toward the goals of our Strategic Plan. It is our desire to provide citizens and visitors of Rockingham County with resources and experiences to preserve and celebrate the history of this area. With continued support from you, our members and friends, I know 2019 will be another exciting year for the MARC!

Volunteers are the key to our success

Volunteer shares his unique perspective

When you visit the new High Rock Ford Historic Site, you will notice a kiosk featuring photographs of birds inhabiting the area. The images were captured through the lens of Gordon Allen. How fortunate we are to have such a talented photographer to volunteer and assist MARC documenting our interesting events and providing illustrations in our exhibits!

Since he was a young boy, Gordon has spent his time exploring the world around him. As he says, "I had the good fortune of having a dad who greeted each day with enthusiasm and was always looking for the next adventure, and a mother

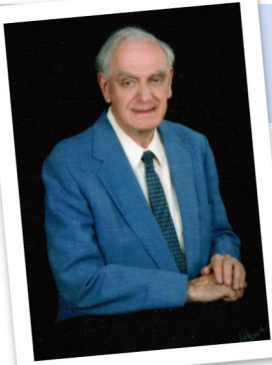


who appreciated the beauty in nature." His photography skills are enhanced by the wisdom he gained then by observing waterfowl and other wildlife near his home. He understands how to assimilate himself into nature, which he frequently does as he travels North Carolina in search of the natural wonders that most people overlook. "Sometimes I capture the moment with my camera and at other times I will still just sit quietly and take it all in."

Gordon's giftable artwork is available at MishMosh Gifts and Accessories in Reidsville and a business at Harkers' Island, NC. However, much of what Gordon photographs he also shares on his Facebook page. If you are a Facebook user, you need to "follow" his breath-taking pictures and his informative posts! He is well-connected with nature groups, artists, historians, and museums, and he uses Facebook, "so people will know there is a lot going on in Rockingham County and in North Carolina. There are a lot of people who are generous with their time and who want to share their passions. I am happy and humbled by the opportunities people bring to me to help promote their good work." We are sincerely grateful to Gordon for his interest and support of the MARC, our museum, and programs!



The beginning of the calendar year is an excellent time to engage in new activities and pursuits, and at the MARC opportunities to be involved are limitless. Won't you consider sharing your talents here? Among other needs, we currently have openings on the Resource Development and the Collections committees. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Nadine Case to become involved.



Mr. History: Bob Carter, County Historian

Editor's Note: Mr. History shared part one of the history of milling at High Rock Ford in the October 2018 issue of "On Your MARC." That article stated that a grist mill was first located on the site by December 1753 and was the first known mill in what is now Rockingham County.

Milling Operations at High Rock Ford - Part II

In 1811 Peter Bysor sold the High Rock Mill tract with 600 acres to Nathanael Scales. Scales' daughter, Mary, and her husband, Joseph McCain, inherited it in 1824. The McCains built a large brick home and operated a tavern, store, post office, and tanyard, in addition to the High Rock milling enterprises. The mill building was 45 feet by 40 feet, three stories tall, with a saw mill, oil mill, cotton gin, cooper's shop, miller's house, and two pairs of millstones - one for corn and one for wheat.

[Note: In the October 2017 issue of "On Your MARC," Mr. History explained that Joseph McCain was the great-great-great grandfather of the late Senator and Republican presidential nominee, John McCain.]

As early as 1805, as operations at High Rock became more commercial, enslaved people may have run the mill and performed other tasks on the High Rock farm. By 1830, twenty-five enslaved people lived and labored on the property. They grew crops and operated the grist mill and tanyard.

The property changed hands numerous times between 1838 and 1848, when Ludwick W. Summers purchased it. High Rock Mill remained in the Summers family until well into the twentieth century.

Malaria fever was common up and down the Haw River region. Many people believed the stagnant water at High Rock Mill pond was part of the problem, as it provided a place for mosquitoes to breed in large quantities. Doctor Sam Buck Ellington, the Rockingham County Health Officer, declared the High Rock dam a nuisance in 1914. In May of that year, after Margaret Summers refused to break the dam, the Rockingham County Commissioners ordered it destroyed in 30 days. The dam was dynamited and the mill pond drained. With the dam broken, the milling ceased. At some point the High Rock Mill building was destroyed or moved to a new site.



This photograph of High Rock dam remnants was made recently by Fletcher Waynick.

Coming Events

February event focuses on food, customs, and fellowship

Two of the most important recipe ingredients cannot be found in any grocery store - shared family culinary traditions and the memories of the preparation and consumption of family specialties!



At our “Food for Thought: Biscuits and Rice” event on Saturday, February 16, at 1:00 p.m., we will explore the history of biscuits, rice, and similar foods in our third annual conversations about southern food and soul food. This multicultural and intergenerational program will offer MARC visitors the delightful experience of tasting a variety of biscuit and rice dishes prepared by local Rockingham County cooks and the opportunity to share their own family culinary experiences with these foods.

“Food for Thought” is one of our most popular programs and no guest has ever left hungry! Previous events featured greens and sweet potatoes. Admission is free but your registration by phone or on our website at <http://www.themarconline.org/events.html> will assist us in planning food quantities. While you are on the website or our Facebook page, please share your own memories of family recipes for biscuits and rice!



Genealogy Roundtable: Two-part seminar led by DNA expert is scheduled

The MARC is honored to host Robert S. Lockett, Jr. to conduct a two-part discussion on DNA. The first session, “DNA and Genealogy: The Basics,” will be held on Saturday, March 2. Lockett will define DNA and examine its properties that are used for determining family relationships.

Part two, “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. Both programs begin at 2:00 p.m.

Lockett returned to his native Virginia following retirement as an engineer with Texas Instruments. He is a past president of the Wythe County Genealogical Society, and his DNA presentations are highly regarded across Virginia and North Carolina.



**Spring
is on
its
way!**



It won't be long before High Rock Ford Historic Site (photo above) is thawed and it is time to honor our wonderful MARC volunteers (2018 participants below). Keep watching for announcements about the spring High Rock Ford Park Clean-up Day and Volunteer Tea at the MARC!

Recent Events

Picking' at the MARC is more than a music festival!



Photo credit: Gordon Allen



Photo credit: Gordon Allen

It's competitive...



Photo credit: Gordon Allen



Photo credit: Gordon Allen



Photo credit: Jean Bullins



Photo credit: Jean Bullins



Photo credit: Jean Bullins

...and thanks to
our vendors
**it's
delicious!**

Recent Events

It's about the love of music...



...and a lot of awesome people!

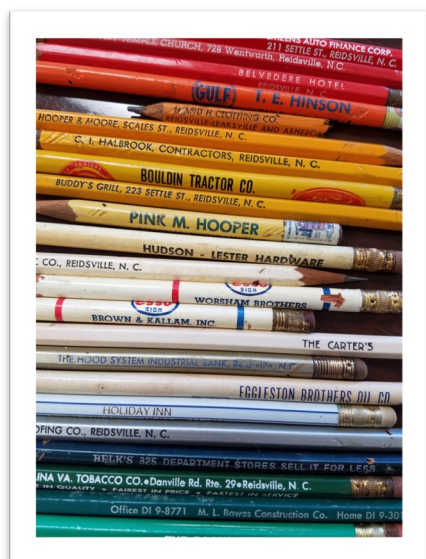


Photos by Jean Bullins

Enthusiasm and enjoyment prevailed at MARC's 4th Annual Fiddlers Convention. With a record number of competitors and record attendance at the event, the day was a true celebration for people who like to play string music, those who enjoy listening and dancing, and those who came to their first ever Fiddlers Convention! Check out the MARC website for a complete list of competition award winners.

Special thanks to Event Coordinator Wayne Seymour; MARC staff; the MARC Programs Committee; Audio Technician Mark Dillon; and a host of MARC volunteers for making the day so successful. Thanks, also, to vendors: Aspen Bakery, Big Ivy Instruments, Kudzu Patch Productions, Lemonade & Kettle Corn, and The Rib Man for providing participants with specialty foods throughout the event.

News from the Galleries



Pencil us in!

Many of us have reached the phase of life to be sorting through the possessions our elders have accumulated over their entire lifetimes. As we do so, we need to remember that insight into Rockingham County's history can be found in the most unusual sources. These pencils, originally used as business advertisements, still remain long after most of the businesses and their owners are gone. Please keep MARC in mind when you locate documents and memorabilia that represent our past! We would love to preserve them in our archives or galleries.

This pencil collection is one small part of the Lloyd Carter Collection recently donated to MARC. Other articles in the collection include farm and farrier tools. Mr. Carter donated these items in honor of Dr. Jerry Owens.

A 1905 Christmas Tea at Wright Tavern

Guests enjoyed the MARC's annual Christmas gathering on December 8. Event chair Todd Southard (photo below with Nancy Stewart) and the Programs Committee prepared lovely decorations and delicious refreshments to exemplify traditions true to the year 1905. Our costumed guests, including Jennifer Hall and her daughter, Serenity Hall, helped to transport us back in time for the celebration.



Photos by Gordon Allen

Feature Article

Civic organization approaches its 80th anniversary

By Fletcher Dalton

In Autumn 1939, one month after the ominous start of World War II, a civic and social organization was established in Madison and was called by its charter members the Modernistic Club. The club's membership was limited to twelve ladies, and most members, like its founder, Mrs. Elnomia Scales Graves, had some connection to the public schools and were also staunch members of the churches they attended.



The Modernistic Club's long history is chronicled with a series of group portraits. The photo above, submitted by the author, was taken in 1978. The older photograph was made by Madison Photographer Pete Comer.

In the early years, Modernistic Club social activities included assisting the Golden Agers, giving financial aid to needy persons, and helping to alleviate local crises. The Modernistic Club led the Victory Bond Drive during the War and gave an annual trophy, called the Arion Award, to an outstanding music student at Charles Drew School in Madison.

A major contribution to the community was establishing the McRae Library in a stand-alone building in the Freetown area of Madison. The first African-American library had been in the home of Mrs. Matilda Galloway, also in Freetown. With a strong financial campaign led by the Modernistic Club, fixtures, supplies, and utilities were funded to update the quality of education for youth and adults. Later, around 1961 when segregated libraries were merged, members of the club were proud to contribute the library's holdings to the Rockingham County Public Library system. At the merger, the Modernistic Club was represented by Mrs. Mabel G. Dalton and Miss Betsy A. Franklin.

Today, the club is attracting a new generation of members, and many are descendants of the organization's original members. As the Modernistic Club approaches its 80th anniversary in 2019 it continues to maintain high standards of service to the community and people in western Rockingham County.

Museum & Archives of Rockingham County Board of Directors

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Fletcher Waynick—Operations Manager
Nadine Case —Administrative Assistant



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MARC your calendar

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 16 - 1:00 p.m.

Food for Thought Event: Biscuits and Rice

At the MARC

Please preregister online or by phone to assist with planning food quantities

MARCH

Saturday, March 2 - 2:00 p.m.

Genealogy Roundtable - Robert Lockett, Part I

DNA and Genealogy: The Basics

At the MARC

APRIL

Saturday, April 6 - 11:00 a.m.

Volunteer Tea at the MARC

A time to thank our volunteers and to reach out to others who wish to be involved

Saturday, April 27 - 2:00 p.m.

Genealogy Roundtable - Robert Lockett, Part II

DNA and Genealogy: Beyond the Basics

At the MARC

Date to be scheduled:

Clean-up at Ford Rock Park - joint event with DRBA

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.

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