



On Your MARC

MUSEUM & ARCHIVES OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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

1st Quarter
Visitor Count:
309
2017 Total:
1693

MARC blooms with Rockingham County students in spring

Adults might not recall all the rules of grammar, scientific properties, or mathematical formulas they learned in school, but it is very likely that most can remember details of field trips they took as school students. Perhaps you hold memories of a trip to Chinqua Penn Plantation! For a growing number of Rockingham County Schools students, visits to the Museum and Archives of Rockingham County will provide their indelible fieldtrip memories.

As the end of the school year draws near, educators use field trips to underscore the curriculum presented to students throughout the year. Our location makes wise use of transportation costs and travel time. And, MARC exhibits correspond to science, sociology, economics, arts, engineering, and, of course, history. During the first quarter of this year, we have already hosted students from New Vision, Huntsville Elementary, and Monroeton Elementary Schools. Rockingham County High School History Club students will visit in May.

Nadine Case, MARC administrative assistant, does an excellent job working with teachers to plan the tour experience appropriate to the subject matter and age-level of each group. She also has a dedicated group of docents and guides to efficiently lead them through the exhibits and around the museum complex.

School tours are a win-win-win situation for the MARC and for education. MARC needs visitors to utilize our exhibits and substantiate their value. Schools need affordable and accessible learning laboratories. And, students need the opportunity to learn about their communities and to appreciate museum experiences.

In their words...

Huntsville Elementary fourth grade students and teachers shared these comments about their recent visit.

We (teachers) certainly want to encourage others to take advantage of all that is offered at the MARC.



Mary Kirkpatrick
Instructional Coach

I think the MARC Museum was fun and I got to visit that old house called the Wright Tavern and go inside it.



Jared Flores

I learned a lot about the Civil Rights Movement.



Colby Smith

We had a very good time. I like all of the different things in the military collection.



Grayson Shelton

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From our Director, Jordan Rossi



Model T safely journeys home to MARC

"How'd you get this car in here?" is a question I've been asked a few times by museum visitors, in awe of the 1916 Model T Ford Touring Car now set up in its new home – the MARC rotunda. The simple answer – we rolled it through the original front door – belies the planning, coordination, generosity, and man-power it took.

The car's original owner, Onnie Milloway, drove it along the bumpy roads of Rockingham and Pittsylvania (VA) counties for at least 15 years, until he upgraded to a 1931 Model A Ford. He cherished these cars for the rest of his life. Onnie Milloway understood the importance of history and preservation. He had hopes that Danville, VA, where he lived most of his adult life, would have a museum erected where his cars and other artifacts would be preserved and shared with future generations. However, at the time of his death, the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History (and the MARC) did not yet exist, so Milloway's Fords made their way to the Greensboro History Museum, where they were well cared for, displayed, and enjoyed.



Photo credit: Jordan Rossi

Special thanks to the people who made it possible for the Model T to come home to Rockingham County and MARC:

**Onnie and Beatrice Milloway
Greensboro History Museum
Voss Milloway, sponsor
Rick and Lisa Rossi, sponsors**

**Rockingham County Maintenance Department
Rockingham County Sherriff's Department
The MARC staff**

In August 2017, the Greensboro History Museum approached MARC to offer us the 1916 Model T. They recognized the car's connection to a Rockingham County native and Reidsville business, and believed the MARC would be an excellent new home for this incredible piece of automobile history. Of course, the MARC's staff and Board of Directors were delighted to accept such a generous gift, and we began fundraising to sponsor the car exhibit and preparing for the move.

We moved the car on a frigid March day. The movers picked it up in Greensboro, alerting us when they were on their way here. Rockingham County Maintenance came out to the MARC to remove the two front doors to get the car into the building. Once it arrived, the movers, maintenance staff, and MARC participants pushed the car up the ramps and through the door. Two sheriff's deputies helped slow traffic and stood by to protect us in case we needed to move the car into the road. Overall, the move could not have gone more smoothly, but that would not have been possible without the generosity of donors and assistance of participating agencies.

(NOTE: Read Bob Carter's research findings about Onnie and Bertie Milloway and their cars in his column, "Mr. History," on page 7 of this newsletter.)

Volunteers are the key to our success

Volunteer Guild is celebrated with tea party

By Nadine Case, Volunteer Coordinator

On Saturday, April 7, the MARC was beautifully decorated with flowers and colorful china patterns in order to celebrate our Volunteer Guild. Members came dressed to impress and enjoyed an event reminiscent of the past. Each volunteer received a replica of an old skeleton key attached to a note to remind them of what we know is true, "Volunteers are key to our success."

Four visitors attended in response to our invitation on Facebook and chose to become official MARC volunteers. We welcome them and encourage others to follow their lead. No matter what your interests or skills, we need your help to manage our collections, welcome visitors, guide tours, and share the history of Rockingham County.



A picturesque backdrop gave MARC volunteers visions of spring, even though a rainy cold front was passing through outside. You can tell by their smiles that Erma Walker, Cathy Scales, Kay Hammock, Brenda Ward, Beth Gunn and Mary Barrett enjoyed the first ever Spring Volunteer Tea!

Who enjoys school tours most - volunteers or students? The jury is still out about that!



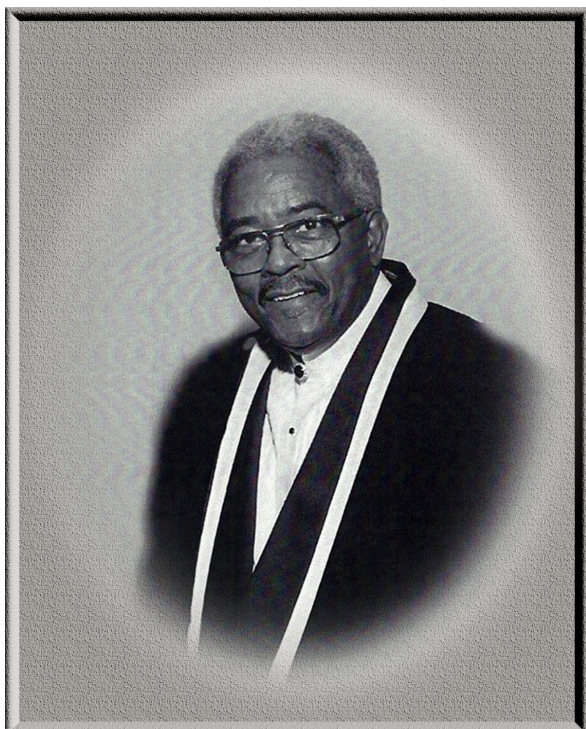
Guides and docents pose after hosting Monroeton Elementary third graders for tours at MARC. (L to R) Seated: Carol Adams, Jordan Rossi, Mary Barrett. Standing: Libby Barrett, Bob Carter, Nadine Case, Marcia Jones, Sandra Dickens, Joyce Anderson, Deuard Johnstone, Marguerite Holt, Robbin Dodson, Ruthie Young, Barbara Golding, and Jean Bullins.

Feature Article

Gordon “Clay” Slade’s Legacy

August 15, 1934 – February 3, 2018

By Joyce Anderson



Portrait courtesy of Penda Slade-Lane

We often think of history as a study of the past, failing to realize that history is made each and every day. As Gordon “Clay” Slade shared his gifts and talents with his community during his lifetime, he may not have recognized that he was carving his place in the history of Rockingham County. While it is with sadness that we acknowledge his death 5 February 2018, we are proud to preserve the legacy of his life in the Museum & Archives of Rockingham County.

In 1956, Clay joined the United States Air Force and was able “to see how the other half lives.” A new world opened for him when he was stationed in Japan for two years. He played on an Air Force basketball team and took advantage of opportunities to travel. These cultural experiences impacted his outlook on life.

When Clay returned to Reidsville, he worked at several businesses before he was hired by American Tobacco Company. He worked there until he retired in 1996.

However, Clay’s part-time jobs as Activities Director at Lowes Center and later at the Reidsville Recreation Department gym

on Franklin Street became his vehicles for touching lives through basketball. He started a traveling team while at Lowes Center, and he organized the first coed basketball team at the Reidsville Recreation Department.

Harry Brown, Clay’s supervisor at the Reidsville Recreation Department, said Clay loved young people and wanted them to succeed. Clay also showed Harry a different approach for disciplining young people. Clay believed that short punishments were more effective than long-term ones because he knew some young people would get into trouble if they were barred from the gym too long. At the same time, he held them to proper standards of behavior. Harry said, “Clay was committed to his mission and he made Reidsville a better community.”

Clay’s family and friends admired him and described his gifts. His younger brother, Floyd Slade, said he was “just great.” He recalled Clay helping organize the renowned Bethel Male Chorus which recorded four

Continued on page 5

News from the Galleries

Tribute to Clay Slade (Continued from page 4)

albums and performed with famous gospel singers such as Yolanda Adams and Richard Smallwood. Clay's daughter, Penda Slade-Lane, added that he was a poet and visual artist. She described how he incorporated each player's name in the posters he drew. Her father treated her like everyone else when she played on his coed team. She admired him for his patience, a trait she is striving to emulate. His son, Terry Slade, described Clay as a thoughtful and kind father who expected his children to treat everybody the way they wanted to be treated. Terry said they did not mind sharing their father with others, including Robert Doggett, a basketball player who moved in with their family. Robert was "like a brother."

Sharing his love of basketball, music, and visual art helped Clay bring people together. Many of his mentees still interact with each other because he touched their lives.

Webb Smith, who was mentored by Clay, gave a compelling tribute at Clay's funeral. Clay had told Webb stories about Hank Aaron's character. However, Webb saw Hank Aaron's qualities in Clay and he wrote a letter to Aaron describing Clay. Miraculously, with assistance from Mrs. Aaron, Webb was able to give his letter to Hank Aaron. In honor of Clay, Webb named his son Slade.

Clay's legacy will live on because he was "Reidsville's Dad," or as his daughter said, "the community's Dad."

Respecting and treating everyone fairly is the essence of civil rights. Visit the MARC to learn details of Clay's contributions to the civil rights movement of the 1960s in Reidsville.

Education in our galleries this spring

February 21 - Shady Grove Baptist Church (7)
 March 15 - Students of Success, Reidsville (21)
 March 6 - Monroeton Elementary 3rd graders (82)
 April 9 - Huntsville Elementary 4th graders (91)
 April 16 - Madison Presbyterian Women (6)
 April 24 - New Vision School 2nd graders (57)

Scheduled:

Rockingham High School History Club

Moving from road to rotunda with a few good men



Photo credit: Jordan Rossi



Photo credit: Jordan Rossi

MARC Business

New officers and directors to guide MARC



Photo credit: Jordan Rossi

MARC Executive Committee (L to R): Dan Mosca, Treasurer; Ann Brady, Governance Chair; Brenda Ward, Secretary; Bill Horsley, Vice-President; Tilda Balsley, Past-President; Jeff Bullins, President.

After the January meeting of the Board of Directors, a new slate of officers began their work to guide MARC through the next two years. The Board of Directors will hold a full-day retreat in May to update the organization's strategic plan and set goals.

New members were appointed to the Board of Directors at the March meeting. We welcome Amanda Bell, Obie Chambers, Cindy Price Farris, Beth Gunn, and Bob Carter to the start of their three-year terms. Anne Brady and Kay Hammock were reappointed to the Board for a consecutive term.

By-laws of the organization limit Board members to two consecutive terms of service. By virtue of this rule, several key members will be taking a rest from the Board. However, we welcome them to continue service on

committees, projects, and in the galleries at MARC. We owe more than words of thanks to our out-going Board members who have helped secure the future of the MARC. Marguerite Holt and Joyce Anderson both served terms as MARC's president. Iris Powell's contributions date back to the original Rockingham County Historical Society, and Dennis Paschal provided direction as a member of the Governance Committee. We are proud of the capable and qualified people, past and present, who serve on our Board of Directors. We appreciate their commitment and their willingness to serve MARC and the citizens of Rockingham County.

Newsletter is available to share

Current trends among non-profit organizations suggest making newsletters available to the public. The MARC Board approved changing to this policy in March. We encourage all members to share MARC's printed and/or electronic newsletter with friends. Join us in efforts to increase awareness of all we offer at MARC. In doing so, we can increase participation, memberships, and donations. Non-members may also request email copies of the newsletter by subscribing on our website.



Looking for
CD's of local
musicians?

Visit the MARC Gift Shop for a
great selection of music genres!

Mr. History: Bob Carter, County Historian

Milloway's foresight is MARC's good fortune



Onnie H. Milloway, the original owner of the Model T Ford now at the MARC, was born in Rockingham County on 28 March 1888. His parents, John Washington Milloway and Catherine Warren Milloway, were members of a prominent farm family residing in the community of Benaja in southern Rockingham County. Catherine inherited a farm on the Flat Rock Road when her father died at a young age. John and Catherine were married 29 August 1876 and they settled on her farm. The couple raised the traditional farm crops of tobacco, corn, and small grains. John became an expert in raising tobacco and over the years he won prizes at fairs in Winston, Danville, and Greensboro for his high quality "wrappers" tobacco, fine leaves used to wrap cigars.

John and Catherine had five sons and four daughters. Onnie and his siblings attended Post Oak Academy, a one-room school located on the Flat Rock Road one mile east of their home. A newspaper report of 7 March 1902 relates that four of the Milloway children, including Onnie, had made the honor roll the previous month. Onnie became interested in telegraphy, and by age nineteen he was working for Southern Railroad as a telegraph operator at Sadler Depot, just north of Reidsville. In less than one month, his job was transferred to Benaja, a Southern Railroad depot about two miles from his parent's home, and it appears that he returned home to reside with his parents as he continued to work as depot agent and telegrapher there for several years.

In December 1911, the post office and Richardson's Store at Benaja were robbed by two hobos while two other hobos diverted Onnie's attention in the train station. The home of Onnie's parents burned in March 1913. It is unknown what material losses Onnie may have suffered, if any. His father built a new home which is still standing on the original site.

On 15 June 1915 Onnie H. Milloway and Bertie Lee Waynick of Rockingham County were married in Greensboro at the residence of Methodist minister Rev. G. F. Milloway. Bertie was the daughter of P. D. Waynick and Julie Ann Smothers Waynick of the Thompsonville area of Rockingham County (now Williamsburg). The couple took train No. 36 north for a honeymoon tour of Washington, New York, and Niagara Falls. They made their home at Benaja where Onnie continued to work for Southern Railroad.

In the fall of 1915, Onnie purchased the new 1916 Model T Ford for approximately \$440.00 from J. E. Amos at Reidsville Motor Company. In 1916 a new opportunity opened for the Milloways when a telegraphy job opened at the Southern Railroad depot in Danville, Virginia. Onnie secured this job and remained in it until his retirement in 1958, making his home in Danville for the rest of his life.

Onnie purchased a new 1931 Model A Ford in Danville, but he maintained his 1916 Model T, as well. These were the only cars he ever owned. Onnie died on 2 January 1968 at age 79 and was buried in Highland Cemetery in Danville. His wife, Bertie, died in November 1979 and was buried by his side. The couple never had children and had acquired a good sized estate. They left small sums of money to several relatives and friends and established an endowment that continues to assist two students each year to attend Averett University, in addition to initiating the donation of their cherished vehicles to the Greensboro History Museum.



From a Post Oak Academy class photograph ca. 1900. Onnie Milloway, indicated, was about 12 years old.

Coming Events

June's Genealogy Roundtable:



Tracing African-American Genealogy

Led by Valencia Abbott

Searching for ancestors in African-American families creates a very different set of questions and obstacles for researchers. On Friday, June 8, Valencia Abbott will lead participants in a discussion of DNA research, search difficulties, and success stories. One of Valencia's goals will be sharing resources to help other people "paint the picture of their ancestors in the context of the time periods of history."

Participants are invited to bring a bagged lunch to the discussion, which begins at 12:00 noon at the MARC.

Flag Day program to highlight World War II service

Our June program date coincides with the national observance of Flag Day on Thursday, June 14.

County Commissioner and retired Air Force Col. Mark Richardson will provide an introduction of World War II campaigns on the European Front. The program, presented by Ed Bullard of Bethany, will center on the service of his father-in-law, Rockingham County native Odell Webb. Mr. Webb's WWII experiences, primarily in Germany, are well documented, including a recorded oral interview. His Army cookbooks are in the MARC archives.

Refreshments begin at 6:30 p.m. with the program to follow at 7:00.



(L to R): Kirby Reid, Frank Tulloch, Lois Johnson, J. C. Johnson, and Maude Edwards "motoring" on North Second Avenue, one of the primary roads in Mayodan ca. 1916.

Join us at MARC May 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. for **Roads & Automobiles in Rockingham County**

Bob Carter will share his research about early highways, the first paved roads, and early bridges in Rockingham County. This program is in celebration of our "new" 1916 Model T-Ford. We will also recognize the sponsors who funded the relocation of the car to MARC.
(Light refreshments begin at 5:30 p.m.)

Recent Events



Photo credit: James Anderson



Photo credit: Chris Narekh

(Above) Left: Our African American History Month food seminar grows more popular each year. On February 24, 2018, more than 50 participants gathered to share food, family traditions, and sweet potato based recipes. No one left hungry!

Right: A large group of Dan River Basin Association and MARC volunteers celebrated Earth Day on Saturday, April 21, with a Clean Up Day at High Rock Ford. We are grateful to the Reidsville Area Foundation for their support of the cleanup through the Pathways 2.0 Project. In addition to their work, volunteers enjoyed a delicious lunch hot off the grill.



Photo credit: James Anderson



Photo credit: James Anderson

(Left and above): Docents Joyce Anderson and Deuard Johnstone interact with Monroeton Elementary student visitors. MARC volunteers continually remark about the good conduct and interest our student visitors display during their visits to MARC.

Museum & Archives of Rockingham County Board of Directors

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Bill Horsley —Vice President
Brenda Ward—Secretary
Dan Mosca —Treasurer
Tilda Balsley—Past President

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



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ON YOUR MARC Staff

Editor & Design: Jean Bullins
Editorial Team & Photography:

James Anderson	Jane Haines
Tilda Balsley	Chris Nafekh
Libby Barrett	Charles Rodenbough
Bob Carter	Jordan Rossi
Fletcher Dalton	Sharon Tongbua

MARC your calendar

Thursday, May 17 – 6:00 p.m.

Lecture: “Roads, Automobiles, and the Milloway Model T Ford”

Led by County Historian Bob Carter

Friday, June 8 - 12:00 noon

Genealogy Roundtable Discussion: Tracing African American Genealogy

Led by Valencia Abbott

Bring a bag lunch, if desired.

Thursday, June 14 – 7:00 p.m.

Flag Day event

Discussion about World War II and the experiences of Rockingham County native Odell Webb

Ed Bullard, Presenter

SAVE THESE DATES

Saturday, August 11, 2018

Summer Soirée Annual Fundraiser

at Deep Springs Country Club, Stoneville

Saturday, August 18, 2018

Madison Freetown Seminar

at the Madison-Mayodan Public Library

Friday, September 21, 2018

High Rock Ford Park Ribbon Cutting

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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