



On Your MARC

MUSEUM & ARCHIVES OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

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2rd Quarter
Visitor Count
207
Year-to-date
1033

4th Annual Summer Celebration: Vitality with a new vibe

The Summer Celebration of the MARC is set to take place on August 12 at Pennrose Park Country Club. If you attended last year's event at Deep Springs Country Club you may know a little of what to expect: good food, good company, a beautiful setting, and an exciting auction. To give our event renewed vitality, planners are shaking it up this year with a new vibe. Dress will be casual to complement the theme *Rivers and Railroads*.

Your presence and participation will bring you pleasure, while it also provides your museum with money needed for the coming year. Just as our plans bring new vitality to our event, we rely on this celebration to renew vitality for the museum each year.

Our auctioneer has years of experience building enthusiasm and excitement when the bidding begins. Three vacations at private homes on the coast, ever-popular Panthers tickets, and tickets to the Greensboro Symphony and The Bryan Series are a few "experiences" to be auctioned. We also expect a lot of interest in our "25 quarts of Brunswick stew," which can include your participation to make it in a vintage iron pot or you may choose to receive the bounty to stock freezers for winter. The lucky winner of the Golden Ticket raffle may choose from among all live auction items and be an instant winner! Golden Tickets are available from the MARC and from Board members for \$100, and they are valid even if you won't be able to attend the event. Only 100 will be sold so your chances of winning are very good.

Our Summer Celebration is one way you can show support for the museum, and your support is something vital to the MARC's continued success. We hope you will join us for the festivities!

By Tilda Balsley, MARC President



A highlight of our auction is this original painting, *Woodland Stream*, by acclaimed artist Mel Steele. With beautiful hues of blue, green, brown, and gold, it will be a treasured prize for the winning bidder!

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From our Director, Jordan Rossi



MARC to benefit Rockingham County waterways with recent grant from Duke Energy

The Museum and Archives of Rockingham County received a \$61,500 grant to fund our involvement in the protection and enhancement of regional waterways and the environment. The grant is part of the Water Resources Fund, a \$10 million multi-year commitment from Duke Energy. We are one of 14 organizations across North and South Carolina to collectively receive



more than \$1 million in the fifth grant announcement. The Water Resources Fund will leave a legacy of improved water quality, quantity, and conservation in the Carolinas and neighboring regions.

“This grant will enable the MARC to open historic walking trails and a river access at High Rock Ford.” said Jordan Rossi, Executive Director at the MARC. “We thank Duke Energy for its support and

are eager to launch this project so that we can continue to protect and share our local waterways and history.”

In addition to being home to the oldest mill site in what is now Rockingham County, High Rock Ford was also a staging area for General Nathanael Greene’s army before the Battle of Guilford Courthouse – a turning point in the Revolutionary War. On this site, the MARC, partnering with the Dan River Basin Association, will build a kayak and canoe river access at the highest point of navigation on the Haw River. This will extend a popular paddling route by 4 miles, in addition to adding one-quarter mile of historic land trails.

The High Rock Ford property was donated to the Rockingham County Historical Society by James G. W. MacLamroc in 1985, in hopes that it would be opened to the public as a site of local and national significance, where people could gather to enjoy the nature around them and connect with their past. As the successor organization to the Historical Society, the MARC now has the opportunity to make this dream a reality thanks to the Duke Energy Water Resources Fund.

“Duke Energy is committed to protecting and restoring the rivers and waterways that are valuable resources for our communities and the regional economy,” said Cari Boyce, president of the Duke Energy Foundation. “We look forward to our partnership with the Museum and Archives of Rockingham County and the impact this grant will have in Rockingham County.”



Volunteers make it happen!

It's a win-win situation for MARC and interns

As it is MARC's mission "to preserve, promote, disseminate, and exhibit the history, culture, human and natural resources of Rockingham County," it is no small wonder that there is *always* work to be done here. In addition to our faithful guild of volunteers, this spring and summer we have enjoyed the assistance of three interns to help us work toward our goals.

Michael Vernon's internship here during spring semester helped to fulfill course requirements toward his Masters' Degree in History. We were fortunate to have his help to begin accessioning the large collection of photographs and negatives we had just received from the estate of Madison photographer Pete Comer. Michael made a preliminary index of the names of Comer's customers with a brief description of items included in each of their customer files.

The Reidsville Area Foundation funded paid summer internships for local college students, connecting students to the county through project -focused work. The program's purpose was to provide students opportunities for professional growth as well the means to contribute to the betterment of our county. MARC is grateful to the Foundation funding this program to benefit students and local agencies.



Shyquam Martin will be a junior at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke in the coming year. The McMichael High School alumnus is splitting his internship time between the Dan River Basin Association and MARC. He has stayed busy helping to catalog various collections in the MARC archives, and he has been trained to use the museum inventory management system.

In preparation for our July 30 program, **Ethan Wilson** has conducted research about the life and service of Opie Lindsay. Furthermore, Ethan has helped to identify insignia and catalog the MARC's collection of military uniforms and items.

Thank you to our interns for making this a productive summer at MARC and for sharing your talents and abilities with us.



Photo credit: F. Waynick

**Volunteers
keep history
alive
at Wright Tavern**



Photo credit: F. Waynick

Marcia Jones (*left*) has tended the demonstration garden behind Wright Tavern for almost four years, growing herbs and vegetables to help visitors understand that providing food was a family necessity and chore. Recently, when Libby Barrett (*right*) had the idea to plant flowers in the watering trough at the Humphrey Law Office, she knew where to find a green thumb to help her! The results of their project have added great "curb appeal" to our property. Thank you Marcia & Libby, for your gardening expertise and all the ways you contribute to MARC!

Feature Article

A name to be remembered

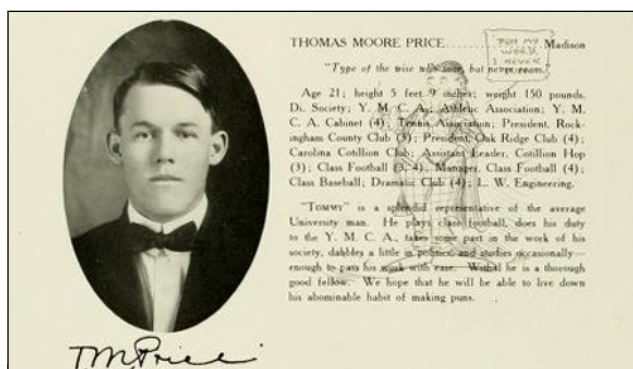
By Charles Rodenbough

About 1906 a mischievous young man, Thomas Moore Price, obviously bored with the sermon, joined his male buddies by writing his name on the wall inside the Madison Presbyterian Church. The names are still there today, preserved under some plywood wainscot in the choir loft. Tom Price went on to do many more productive things in his life, and his name is now honored on the other side of the world.

Price was born at "Rose Bank," the home located in the Gold Hill community outside Madison and built by the grandfather for whom he was named. The eldest of ten children of John Valentine and Pattie

Frances Moore Price, Thomas graduated from Oak Ridge Military Institute and then from the University of North Carolina in the class of 1912 as an Electrical Engineer and in 1915 with a BS degree in Civil Engineering.

After a year working for a paving contractor in Greensboro, followed by managing two quarries of Raleigh Granite Company, Price was overtaken by World War I. He tried repeatedly to enlist but was always turned down for health reasons. So he headed for the West Coast where he was hired by Henry Kaiser, a notable paving contractor. Kaiser sent him to Seattle where Price designed and built his first of more than a hundred gravel and sand plants. Some of the more notable plants included the Radum Plant near San Francisco, the Boulder



University of North Carolina. Yackety Yack Nineteen Hundred and Twelve, Volume 12, 62. Chapel Hill, N.C.: Dialetic and Philanthropic Literary Societies and the Fraternities of the University of North Carolina. <http://library.digitalnc>

Dam plant, and the Coulee Dam plant. The Radum plant produced 1,800 tons or 36 railroad cars hourly. Later Price was project manager for construction of the Broadway vehicular tunnel through the Oakland Hills and the Delaware Aqueduct for New York City. On the eve of World War II, he was involved in the construction of new locks at the Panama Canal. In 1942 he was engaged in the construction of the Kaiser steel plant to provide steel plates for ships. In 1944 he was named vice-president in charge of the Iron and Steel Division of the Kaiser Company.

In 1950, when Price was sent to Australia to develop the Snowy Mountain hydroelectric project, he fell in love with the country and its people. He used his geology knowledge to identify the location of a valuable mountain of iron ore in western Australia, which came to be named "Mount Tom Price." The coastal town that provided housing for the Australian mine workers also bears the name, "Tom Price," as do the local schools there.

Despite worldwide success, Tom Price never forgot his roots in Rockingham County and his early years as a choir boy first at the Madison then the Wentworth Presbyterian churches. Following the death of his daughter in recent years, both churches received generous gifts from his estate.

News from the Galleries

Helping you understand the MARC collection process

By Jordan Rossi, Executive Director

People often ask me questions about donating artifacts to the MARC. If you're considering donating an item, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- We collect artifacts related to Rockingham County's History – we want your letters, photographs, ledger books, clothing, items from the home or the business, farming tools, etc. They will be used to tell the stories of the people here in our county.
- However, we cannot accept everything that is offered to us, as we have limited space.
 - ⇒ If your treasured artifact is not related to Rockingham County, we cannot accept it. But we can help you find another museum or historic site that will.
 - ⇒ If an artifact is incredibly damaged, we cannot accept it. It is our responsibility to ensure all artifacts in our collection are cared for and preserved. If we cannot fulfill this responsibility toward your treasure, we will not accept it. But we can help you find a conservator, who may be able to stabilize your artifact and extend its life.
- Before you bring an artifact in, please ensure it is free of silverfish and other insects which inhabit attics and basements and eat historic things! We must protect all items by keeping pests out of the MARC!
- We cannot display every artifact at once. For one thing, if everything were out, the museum would feel incredibly cluttered. But there is a more important reason to keep parts of the collection in storage: preservation. Environmental factors, such as lighting, changes in temperature and humidity, and oils from the fingers of people who did not notice the "please do not touch" signs slowly cause cumulative harm to an artifact. Artifacts in storage have limited exposure to those environmental risks. Rotating artifacts in and out of the display area allows us to minimize damage and extend the lives of our treasures.
- We prefer to accept donations on Friday afternoons; however, other dates and times can be arranged by contacting the museum.

Feel free to call to discuss any items you might consider bringing to MARC. We are so grateful to our donors who entrust us with their family heirlooms. These contributions and loans are essential to our museum.



(Left to Right) Mary Barrett, Jordan Rossi, D. J. Ballington, and Deb Mabe inspect and document items donated to MARC.



Mr. History: Bob Carter, County Historian

The Madison Mineral Springs

During the nineteenth century when medical science and physicians could do little to cure common diseases, many people believed that mineral water could be a cure-all for many of their health problems. Various springs across the country claimed their water could cure the following diseases: skin problems, stomach and kidney disease, constipation, rheumatism, bronchitis, diarrhea, piles, Bright's disease, gallstones, dropsy, neuralgia, gout, nervous disorders, and a host of other health problems. While most of these health issues could not be cured by drinking mineral water, perhaps a few problems could receive some benefit.

Rockingham County has three well known mineral springs that operated as resort-mineral springs at some time during their history: Rockingham Springs (or Lenox Castle), Wentworth Springs, and Guerrant Springs. Ellington Springs, near Stoneville, was not a resort but the water there was bottled and sold by Dr. Sam Buck Ellington of Wentworth during the years 1913-1914.

The Madison spring is located on private property approximately one-half mile south of the intersection of NC 704 and Mineral Springs Road (S.R. 1145).

The spring is above a small branch on the east side of the road. The first mention of the spring, known to date, is in an ad in the *Greensboro Patriot* newspaper dated 1840. In an advertisement, William Porter listed his 600 acre farm for sale and mentioned a spring of mineral water that "possesses good medical qualities." Many years later, in September 1884, *The Reidsville Times* reported two young couples had recently walked to the Mineral Springs from Madison.

In May 1890, W. C. Truitt and wife Mary had sold five acres containing the Mineral Spring and a right-of-way to the public road to R. M. Cardwell and T. R. Pratt, two Madison businessmen. In an article in *The Reidsville Review* dated 2 July 1890, it was reported that the Madison Springs had been purchased by a syndicate (no doubt Cardwell & Pratt) planning to develop the spring property. This article continued by saying, "the water is of splendid medical quality." The new owners did not develop the spring property and nearly a year later, on 23 June 1891, they sold the spring to John T. Benbow of Guilford County for the sum of \$550. Since two railroads were soon to be completed to the town of Madison, Benbow might have believed that it was an excellent time to build a hotel and develop the Mineral Spring. For some reason, however, no development ever occurred at the spring.

Nancy Watkins, Madison Historian, wrote an account of an outing to the Mineral Spring which occurred in October 1892 while she was a girl attending the Old Madison Academy. The teacher, Professor A. L. Betts, lined the children up and "away we went East down the hill, across the N. W. [Railroad] track, a steep slide, then across the C. F. & Y. V. tracks...past the corn fields and brick yards on to the covered wagon bridge over the Dan. A sharp turn to the south, up a rough, tangled hill path, then down to a branch south to a small creek, then up a steep hill to Madison's health resort for much fun and picnicking."

Published reports indicate that the mineral springs remained a well-known meeting place for outings, picnics, stews, reunions, and political rallies during the late nineteenth century and even as late as World War II. According to tradition two springs remain in the area, but the main spring was covered with dirt when the timber on the property was cut in the late 1950s or early 1960s.



MARC Business

Shelter your income with gifts to MARC

We want to share with others a method that several members currently use to make their MARC charitable donations more financially beneficial toward their tax liability. If you are over age 70 1/2, you might be able to donate to MARC from your IRA required minimum distribution (RMD).

Congress voted in 2015 to permanently exclude from income RMD distributions given directly to charities. Keeping some or all of your RMD out of your adjusted gross income could help you avoid the Medicare high-income surcharge or help to make a smaller portion of your Social Security benefits taxable. (Please note that the gift must be written directly from the IRA manager to MARC in order to qualify for the RMD tax free benefit.) Some limits apply, so **you should check with your tax professional about your particular circumstances** or refer to IRS Publication 590 for more information.

We strongly encourage you to investigate this opportunity. Wouldn't you rather your money come to MARC, instead of being owed as taxes!



Congratulations to Dan and Beth Mosca, who were recently presented the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award for excellence of character and service to humanity at Guilford College. The award honored them, "as visionary community leaders and benefactors to the College."

Their loyalty, service, leadership, and financial support of MARC are evidence of the qualities for which they were honored. We join Guilford College in commending Dan and Beth, and we thank them for their generous support of MARC.

SAVE THE DATE

Rivers and Railroads

August 12 at 6 p.m.

An Annual Celebration and Auction Benefitting the MARC. Join us for:

- Dinner
- Silent and Live Auctions
- Golden Ticket Raffle



Admission tickets available now from the MARC. To purchase tickets, or for more information, call (336) 634-4949.

4th Annual Summer Celebration

Join us and celebrate the past year in order to ensure future success for MARC

Dinner tickets
\$50.00

Golden Raffle Tickets
\$100

Coming Events

Highway marker dedication set for Sunday, July 30

Charles Rodenbough led efforts on behalf of MARC to request a North Carolina Highway Historical Marker to honor Robert Opie Lindsay. Following approval by the state, plans



are now complete for the dedication of the new marker.

Opie Lindsay was born near Madison in 1894. He joined the United States army in 1916, being assigned to the 139th Aero Squadron in advance of the Saint Mihiel Offensive. Between September and October 1918,

Lieutenant Lindsay shot down six German planes, earning him the designation of "ace."

Lindsay returned to duty in World War II and advanced to the rank of Colonel. At one point he served as Commander of Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Between wars he was a founding member of the Civil Aeronautics Administration, the forerunner organization of the Federal Aviation Administration.

On Sunday, July 30, at the Madison-Mayodan Public Library, Rodenbough will be joined by Lindsay's daughter, Muriel, to present a program honoring Col. Lindsay's accomplishments. Refreshments begin at 2:30 pm, with the program following at 3:00 pm. The marker will be unveiled afterwards at the intersection of US Highway 311 and Lindsey Bridge Road. Members and friends of MARC are welcome to attend at no charge.

September event plans are in the works

Even though we are very busy working to make the Summer Celebration a successful event, we are also focusing on programs for September. Saturday, September 16, MARC will host a family free day with activities to commemorate Constitution Day. We are also working with partnering agencies to schedule a groundbreaking event for High Rock Ford Park. And, finally, we are attempting to confirm a September program at MARC. Watch your email, Facebook, and local papers as more information about these events becomes available.



Carolina-Virginia Connection: 1st Place Bluegrass 2016

Announcing the 3rd Annual MARC Fiddlers' Convention Coming Saturday, October 28

We are expecting another year of growth in the number and strength of entries for this event! Please spread the news for performers to look for announcements and contest information coming to our website soon, or contact the MARC for more information!

Recent Events



Photo credit: L. Barrett

Rockingham & Stokes residents enjoy program at MARC



Photo credit: L. Barrett

Hanging Rock State Park Ranger Jason Anthony and Rockingham County Historian Bob Carter teamed up to share the histories of mineral springs in Rockingham and Stokes county (see *Mr. History* on page 6 of this newsletter). We were happy to welcome neighbors from Stokes County who were also in attendance for this excellent program and to engage with others who are interested in history.

WANTED

Organizational Records

Throughout history, Rockingham County has had many organizations formed to promote many concerns—church going, good agricultural practices, civic and patriotic duty, and countless others. Many no longer exist but membership was once a proud contribution and people were inclined to preserve memorabilia. Current organizations such as DAR, civic clubs, and fraternal organizations have collections of memorabilia that tell their history.

MARC now is a repository for those public efforts to improve our county. We have archives to preserve documents and fragile items and museum facilities where some can be displayed to encourage public interest. We may not be able to take everything, but private or organizational donations can be arranged (see page 5 in this newsletter).

By Charlie Rodenbough
Collections Chairperson

Museum & Archives of Rockingham County Board of Directors

Tilda Balsley—President
Jeff Bullins—Vice President
Fletcher Dalton—Secretary
Kay Hammock—Treasurer

Joyce Anderson	Elaine McCollum
Karen Baker	Dan Mosca
Ann Brady	Emily Parker
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Bill Horsley	Brenda Ward

Staff

Jordan Rossi—Executive Director
Fletcher Waynick—Operations Manager
Debbie Brown—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

Editor & Design: Jean Bullins
Editorial Team:

Tilda Balsley	Jane Haines
Libby Barrett	Charles Rodenbough
Bob Carter	Jordan Rossi
Fletcher Dalton	

MARC Your Calendar

Sunday, July 30—Opie Lindsay Program and Dedication of NC Highway Historical Marker
at the M-M Public Library on Burton St. in Madison
2:30 pm—Refreshments
3:00 pm—Program followed by marker dedication
on US Highway 311 at Lindsey Bridge Road

**Saturday, August 12—6:00 pm
4th Annual Summer Celebration**
Dinner and Auction at Pennrose Park Country Club
in Reidsville

Saturday, September 16—Constitution Day
Activities and free day at MARC
1:00 to 4:00 pm

September program—date and topic TBA

**Saturday, September 23 (Tentative date)—
Groundbreaking at High Rock Ford Park**

**Thursday, September 28—Board of Directors
Meeting at 6:00 pm**

**Saturday, October 28—MARC's 3rd Annual Fiddlers
Convention— Registration at 12:00 noon**

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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