



# JOURNAL

*September / October 2007 | Volume 35, Number 5*



# 1940S TRICK-OR-TREAT



Children at Halloween party , ca. 1940s  
Martin & Miller Studio Collection/GHM



## Director's Corner

by Fred Goss

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There has been considerable work occurring at the museum since the last issue of the *Journal*. Such is the norm here at the museum. We are excited that the first phase of preservation work has started on the building listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Our thanks to Center City Maintenance staff and their contractor's efforts to undertake this essential work on one of the oldest buildings in downtown Greensboro. The initial preservation work is occurring at the rear on a tower of the building behind the gift shop. The tuck pointing will insure against leaks from rainfall and other precipitation. An upcoming meeting is set to discuss window replacement in the historic building in the coming months. All of this work and that yet to come was made possible by the successful bond vote of last fall. We are now witnessing the city's support for the museum and its infrastructure with the bond dollars. Please check upcoming issues of the *Journal* for additional news of the bond project as it unfolds at the museum.

I am glad to report that over 3,000 visitors made their way to the museum on July 4<sup>th</sup>. A great turn out for Fun Fourth and accompanying weather made all of this possible. Many people remarked that they had not been to the museum before and were pleased that there was no charge to see the *Gate City* exhibit and the accompanying exhibits.



# Voices at the Crossroads

by *Taneka Bennett*,  
*Director of Marketing and Development*

The Greensboro Historical Museum is commissioning the Touring Theatre of North Carolina to present a historical play for Greensboro's bicentennial celebration. Based on staff research for the *Greensboro: A Crossroads for Many Voices* exhibition, the play will span 300 years of local history and resonate with the voices of those of the past.

Significant events which have contributed to the city's growth will also be highlighted, while period music will further underscore the emotions of the times.

The idea to present a play arose from conversations among museum staff while developing programming ideas for Greensboro's 200th birthday. Therefore the museum approached Brenda Schleunes, the Producing and Artistic Director of Touring Theatre of North Carolina, because of her expertise in creating new works from historical documents.

"She was absolutely thrilled by the idea," said Fred Goss, museum director.

Schleunes, who founded a touring theatre in 1981, has a Master's Degree in Speech Communication with an emphasis in performance studies from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She has adapted and directed more than fifty plays including *Letters from Leokidia*, a story about a Polish woman who rescued a Jewish baby during the Holocaust; *Let My People Go*, based on court documents about slaves and slavery; *Star-Spangled Girls*, which celebrated the contributions of women who served in WWII; and *The Life and Times of Fannie Lou Hamer*, which brought to light the struggles of a powerful civil rights activist.

Her company has performed in twelve states, the District of Columbia, and more than sixty counties throughout

North Carolina. Schleunes' remarkable talents as a writer and producer have earned her the prestigious Literary Laurel award from the Greensboro Public Library in 2005 and the Women of Achievement for the Arts award from the Greensboro Commission on the Status of Women in 2005.

Research and funding for the *Greensboro: A Crossroads for Many Voices* play is made possible through the Greensboro Historical Museum's John Floy Wicker Endowment and a grant from the Greensboro Bicentennial Commission.



# GREENSBORO A CROSSROADS FOR MANY VOICES

# Collections Unveiled

## Michiel Van der Sommen Bust of Reverend David Caldwell

by *Jon B. Zachman,*  
*Curator of Collections*

David Caldwell, the eldest son of Andrew and Martha Caldwell, was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania on March 22, 1725. As a young man he was apprenticed to a carpenter and worked that trade until the age of twenty-five. After graduating from the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) in 1761, he underwent a religious conversion and prepared to become a Presbyterian minister.

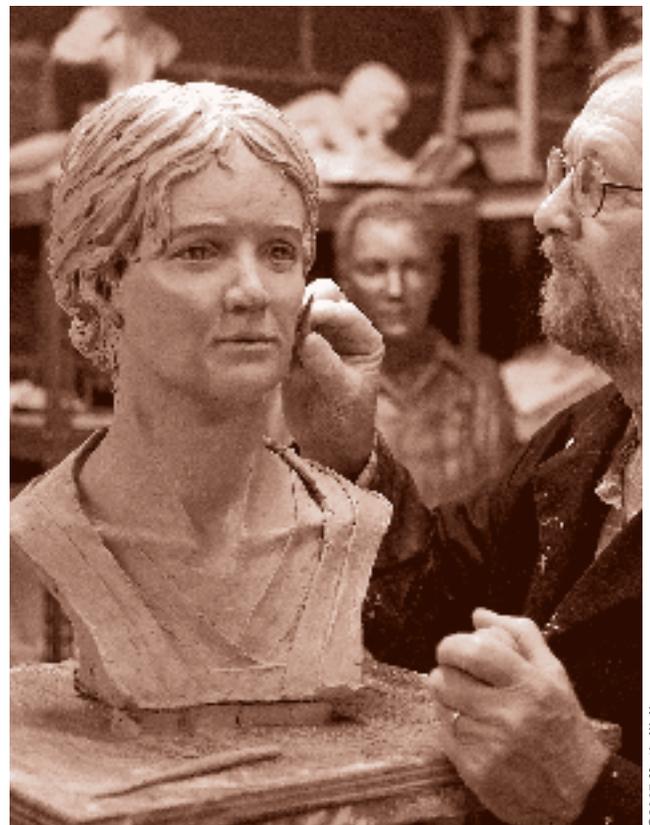
Ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1765, Caldwell moved to North Carolina to work as a missionary. The following year he married Rachel Craighead and they settled on a farm in what is now part of Greensboro. Caldwell became minister at the Buffalo and Alamance Presbyterian Churches, and two years later in 1768, he was installed as pastor at both churches. In addition to his duties as a pastor, David and his wife Rachel founded an academy to educate young men of the Carolina backcountry. He ran the preparatory school from 1767 until 1807, when his son John Washington Caldwell took over. Many of his students went on to become prominent ministers, lawyers and judges, including Governor John Motley Morehead.

Last year Greensboro sculptor Michiel Van der Sommen created a bust of David Caldwell for a new interpretative center at the David Caldwell Historic Park. As part of his research, Van der Sommen consulted with Susan Webster, the museum's curator of costumes and textiles, to make sure the details of his clothes and hair style were historically accurate. Several months later, he completed a life-size bust in clay and then prepared a mold, which he sent to a foundry. Van der Sommen also created a bust of Caldwell's wife Rachael.

The museum recently acquired the bronze bust of David Caldwell, which we plan to display in a future exhibition highlighting the important contributions of this minister, self-trained physician and early educator.



*Sculptor Michiel Van der Sommen working on a bust of Rachel Caldwell in his Greensboro studio.*



©2007 Martin W. Kane

# Passport to History

## CONSUMING ★ STARBUCKS

by Linda Evans, Curator of  
Community History

### 2007 JOHN FLOY WICKER MEMORIAL PROGRAM

Sunday, September 30 at 4 p.m.

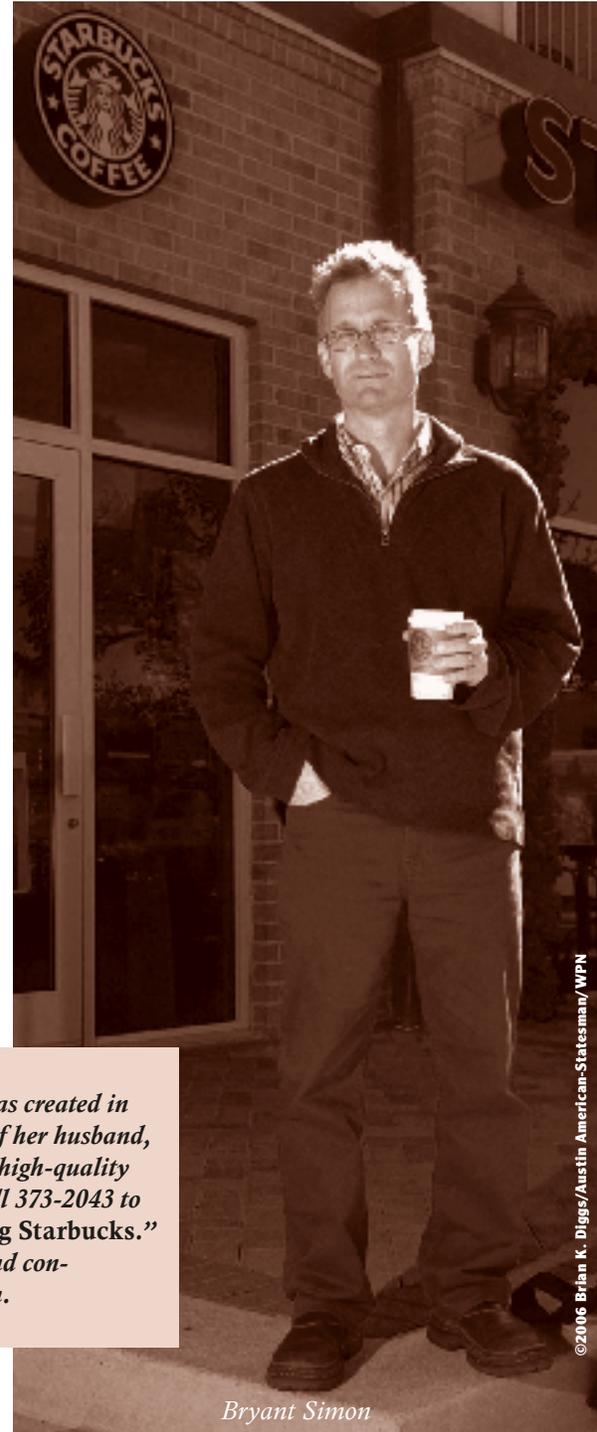
The story goes that about 1909, local folks stopped by the Hotel Clegg Café on South Elm Street for more than what was on the menu. They came down to watch an artist at work, one Harper Bond, hired by hotel owner William Clegg to paint a railroad mural in his cafe. The entrepreneurial Clegg welcomed onlookers as a way to increase his sales; in turn, whiling away an afternoon downtown gained a new status, and the Clegg Café became a place of cuisine, camaraderie, and culture.

On Sunday, September 30 at 4 p.m., Dr. Bryant Simon of Temple University will provide a look at a contemporary gathering place—Starbucks—which has 13,000 locations across the globe, including some thirteen in Greensboro. Starbucks has set itself apart by offering a coffeehouse experience with its own language [small, medium and large have become tall, grande and venti], recognizable décor, and layered marketing from coffee accoutrements to music to books. And Dr. Simon, after visiting some 500 shops in seven countries, thinks that Starbucks offers a distinctive vantage point both on American culture and globalization. “What are we drinking,” Simon asks, “and what does it say about who we are?” How are we consuming Starbucks and why are folks who will drive an extra two blocks to save a few pennies on a gasoline purchase willing to spend such high prices for coffee?

Simon’s presentation goes beyond the obvious and spurs us to think about how our public spaces are changing and the impact of having those green and white logos on our streets, in our stores, and as part of our consumer culture. What is the interplay between a corporate giant selling highly-caffeinated products to teens, and the teen customers who enjoy the menu items and find Starbucks a cool place to hang out? How does one type of coffee shop make both business folks and stay-at-home mothers feel comfortable, and why do twenty-somethings and seniors tend to pass it by? According to Simon, corporate goals and marketing have intertwined with consumer choices and behavior in an intriguing brew.

Dr. Bryant Simon, Professor of History and Director of American Studies at Temple, earned his Ph.D. at UNC-Chapel Hill in 1998. His Starbucks research, which has attracted attention from the Associated Press, Boston’s public radio station, *The New Yorker* and YouTube, is slated to be published as a book by Bloomsbury Press.

*The John Floy Wicker Endowment was created in 1995 by Mrs. Ruth Wicker in memory of her husband, a noted Greensboro architect, to offer high-quality programs for Greensboro residents. Call 373-2043 to make your reservations for “Consuming Starbucks.” We hope you will enjoy coffee and conversation after the program.*



Bryant Simon



Merry Monday



50% Off Sale



**September is the month that the Shop holds its annual Merry Monday Sale**

This year's sale will be on **Monday, September 24** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For new members who may not be familiar with the sale, here are the details. Once a year the shop gathers all clearance merchandise, reduces the original price of each item by at least fifty percent, and offers it for purchase. The variety of merchandise runs from paper goods to pottery (the only time we offer pottery at a reduced price), books, jewelry, children's merchandise, household accessories and gifts. Because the sale is held on a Monday when the museum is normally closed, entry to the shop is **THROUGH THE BACK DOOR ONLY!** Directional signs will be placed along Lindsay Street in front of the museum and in the parking lot east of the museum. The best time to shop is early in the day when selection is at its peak. At the same time that clearance merchandise is offered at reduced price, **NEW HOLIDAY MERCHANDISE** is introduced at full price.

So stop in and stock up on merchandise that has been marked down. Also, be one of the first to purchase items from our new fall and winter selection.

To add to the festive atmosphere there will be refreshments and door prizes. Mark the date on your calendar; it's an event you don't want to miss.

## Recovery and Return: The Bill of Rights Comes Home



*Story courtesy of North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources*

The North Carolina state constitution, adopted in 1776, protected civil liberties in a "Declaration of Rights." The absence of such a declaration was the primary reason why delegates to a convention in Hillsborough in 1788 rejected the federal constitution by a vote of 184 to 84. During the meeting of the first Congress in 1789, James Madison, principal architect of the Constitution, proposed a set of amendments that included a bill of rights. He hoped the amendments would alleviate the fears and criticisms of the new national government and be a conciliatory gesture that would bring North Carolina and Rhode Island into the American union. In September 1789 both houses of Congress approved twelve amendments that were forwarded to the states for ratification.

When the General Assembly ratified the twelve amendments in December 1789, North Carolina became the third state to approve the document. Eventually a revised slate of ten amendments was sanctioned by the necessary three-fourths of the states. These amendments became the federal "Bill of Rights."

North Carolina's copy—one of fourteen originals—of the twelve proposed

amendments was removed from the Capitol at the close of the Civil War. Its disappearance has led to much speculation concerning the circumstances. Union troops under Gen. William T. Sherman arrived in Raleigh as early as April 13, 1865. Eventually 60,000 men, including sixty-two regiments of Ohio soldiers, were stationed in and around Raleigh. The majority remained for two to three weeks.

The document is alleged to have been taken as contraband of war by a Union soldier who returned to his home in Ohio and sold it to Charles Shotwell in 1866. It remained in his family until 2000, when a Connecticut antiques dealer purchased the document from Shotwell's granddaughters for \$200,000. The dealer attempted to sell the parchment to the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It was recovered on March 18, 2003 during an undercover operation organized by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Attorney's Office, North Carolina Governor's Office and North Carolina Attorney General's Office. On April 1, 2003, the document arrived on North Carolina soil for the first time in almost 140 years. After several years of litigation, on August 4, 2005, Governor Michael F. Easley gained possession of the Bill of Rights on behalf of the state's citizens.

**Bill of Rights Exhibition**  
Friday November 30 through Sunday December 2

# Exhibition & Event Calendar

## September

### **FIVE BY O. HENRY**

*September 7, 8, 13, 14, 15 at 8 p.m.*

*September 8, 9, 15, 16 at 3 p.m.*

Opening Night Party, Friday,  
September 7— \$20

Cost for remaining shows

\$10 members, seniors and students;

\$12 general admission

*For tickets call (336) 373-2043*

### **2007 JOHN FLOY WICKER ENDOWMENT EVENT**

**“CONSUMING STARBUCKS” WITH DR.  
BRYANT SIMON, TEMPLE UNIVERSITY**

*Sunday, September 30 at 4 p.m.*

The coffeehouse phenomenon  
that has shaped consumption,  
free time, and the landscape  
For free reservations,  
call (336) 373-2043

## October

### **GREENSBORO: THEN AND NOW WITH AUTHOR LYNN SALSİ**

*Sunday, October 7 at 3 p.m.*

Author Lynn Salsi will give a talk and  
show fascinating images of events and  
people that shaped the Gate City.

### **GHOST STORIES IN THE GRAVEYARD WITH STORYTELLER CYNTHIA BROWN**

*Saturday, October 27 at 11 a.m.*

Taking place at the First Presbyterian  
Graveyard, located behind the museum.

**FREE**

Spooky Tales  
This Way



## November

### **ANNUAL MEETING WITH SPEAKER WILLIAM E. LEUCHTENBURG**

*Wednesday, November 7,*

Greensboro County Club  
Time to be determined

William E. Leuchtenburg, Professor  
Emeritus at the University of North  
Carolina at Chapel Hill, is the author  
of more than a dozen books on  
twentieth-century American history.

### **EXECUTIVE POWERS DURING WARTIME: WHAT THE FOUNDING FATHERS HAD IN MIND**

*Sunday, November 11 at 2:30 p.m.*

Dr. Stephen F. Schneck, a scholar  
associated with the Smithsonian and  
the Catholic University of America,  
will present a historical look at powers  
vested in the President during wartime.

**FREE**

Reservations requested,  
please call (336) 373-2043

### **COLLECTIVE SECURITY VS. CIVIL LIBERTIES: PRESIDENTIAL POWERS DURING WARTIME**

*Sunday, November 18 at 2:30 p.m.*

A panel discussion program moder-  
ated by Dr. David Olson, focusing  
on the current political situation  
and inherent Presidential powers

**FREE**

Reservations Requested,  
please call (336) 373-2043

### **BILL OF RIGHTS EXHIBITION**

*Friday, November 30 through  
Sunday, December 2*

Be among the first to see North  
Carolina's copy of the Bill of Rights.

**FREE**

Group reservations requested,  
please call (336) 373-2043

## In Memory of

### **JETA PACE**

*Gift From*

**Mr. & Mrs. John Stuart**

## In Honor of

### **STEPHEN CATLETT**

*Gift From*

**Ada Jane Washington  
Baxter Sapp**

## December

### **THE SECOND AMENDMENT'S RIGHT TO “KEEP AND BEAR ARMS”: CHANGING INTERPRETATIONS THROUGH THE YEARS**

*Sunday, December 2 at 2:30 p.m.*

Speaker Dr. R. Don Higginbotham  
to focus on the Second Amendment  
taking place at the Greensboro  
Central Library, 219 N. Church  
Street, in the Nussbaum Room

**FREE**

Reservations requested, please  
call (336) 373-2043



*Bill of Rights on display.  
Courtesy North Carolina Department  
of Cultural Resources*



*Charlie Weston and an unidentified friend hunting with their dogs, Fall 1952*



130 Summit Avenue  
Greensboro, N.C. 27401  
[www.greensborohistory.org](http://www.greensborohistory.org)  
336-373-2043

# JOURNAL

September/October 2007

## Museum Hours

Tuesday — Saturday 10 – 5  
Sunday 2 – 5

*FREE admission to exhibitions*

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