



# JOURNAL

*November–December 2008 | Volume 36, Number 6*



**Farming 1900**



Henley Farm near Deep River, c. 1900



## Director's Corner

by Fred Goss

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We approach the end of the calendar year and a successful year at the museum. We have faced challenges and have celebrated our successes. We have concluded several phases of the museum's new strategic plan that will chart our course for the future. My thanks to all of you who participated in the museum's strategic planning sessions. Twenty members of a community advisory committee on strategic planning met over three evenings in July to discuss and recommend ways for the museum to reach beyond its current audience and supporters. Museum members came together in mid-August for an engaging evening discussing the many merits of the museum and to hear from our best advocates. The board of trustees concluded their strategic planning sessions with a set of in-depth discussions and reviewing the assembled information from staff, the community, and members.

There is considerable news about the Museum Shop as well. The board of trustees engaged the services of Andrew Andoniadis Retail Services of Portland, Oregon to review the shop's past operations and provide a recommendation for future retail operations. Andoniadis Retail Services has a lengthy resume working with museum retail operations of all sizes. Their resume includes Monticello, The Mint Museums, and the Virginia Historical Society. Andoniadis Retail Services spent two days in September reviewing the gift shop's financial statements, observing daily operations and store layout. Andoniadis' final report has provided the trustees with the best information for deciding the next steps for the Museum Shop.

The roof replacement work continues and is on schedule at the time of this writing. New wood trim is being installed in conjunction with the roof as well as gutters to carry away water from the building. This work is set to conclude late in 2008 and then it will be on to restoring and repairing the church building's windows.

# Annual Meeting

## Tar Heel Politics All The Talk At Annual Meeting • Tuesday, November 11

by Fred Goss  
Director

We have all read, watched and listened to a host of political debates and advertisements in this presidential election year. Earlier this year North Carolina's primary helped select the Democratic Party's presidential nominee. There are several local elections and bond issues on the local ballot this fall. In light of recent events and the fall elections it is fitting that this year's annual meeting address is given by an authority on North Carolina politics.

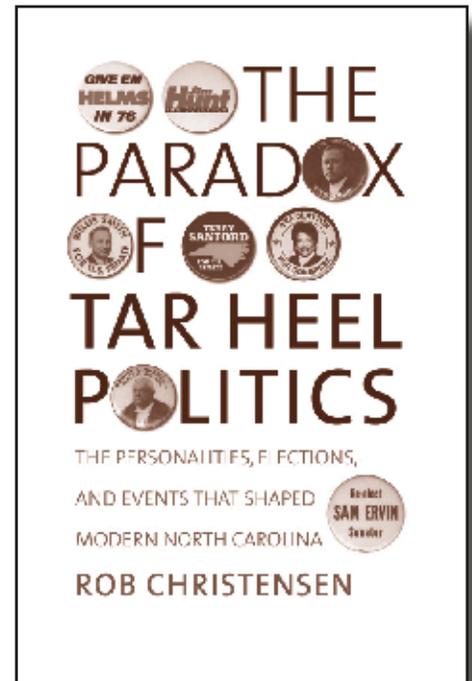


November 11 marks this year's date for the Greensboro Historical Museum, Inc.'s annual meeting at the Greensboro Country Club. We are pleased to welcome Mr. Rob Christensen, author of

*The Paradox of Tar Heel Politics: The Personalities, Elections, and Events That Shaped Modern North Carolina*, as the speaker for this year's annual meeting. Mr. Christensen's book attempts to, and many believe he has, explain the irony of North Carolina politics over the last one hundred years. North Carolina is a diverse state in geography and people. Outside observers of the Old North State have watched its political races for a century with keen interest in the outcomes. To say that North Carolina politics is a "paradox" might be an understatement.

Christensen's lecture will tell the story behind twentieth-century North Carolina politics and shed light on how a state can elect such political opposites as Jesse Helms and John Edwards. The subject of the competitiveness of the state's politics, party divisions, campaign issues, race and more will serve to educate and enlighten those attending this year's meeting.

Rob Christensen is a reporter for the News and Observer newspaper in Raleigh and has covered politics in North Carolina for nearly thirty-five years. He has also appeared as an analyst for CNN's Inside Politics, ABC's Nightline, CBS's Nightwatch and MSNBC's Hardball. In 2000 he was named by the New York-based Brill's



Content magazine to its "All Star Newspaper."

The meeting will also provide an opportunity to hear the latest news of the bond-funded projects and the exhibit renovations, as well as announce new officers. Watch your mail for invitations with reservation information.

# Collections Unveiled

## History of the T-Shirt

by Susan Webster,  
Registrar/Curator of Textiles and Clothing

“I visited Greensboro and all I got was this lousy T-Shirt”

I always talk about the messages we send by the clothing we wear, and that form follows function. So,



let's talk about an article of clothing that started out as underwear and today is one of the most recognizable garments for everyday: the T-shirt.

There are numerous versions of its origin, but by the 1880s a cotton shirt was regularly worn under men's dress shirts in England. This vest, as it was called, changed over the decades until it debuted as outerwear in the late 1930s. During World War II an undershirt was issued to protect US soldiers. The design incorporated a straight body, two short sleeves and a round neck, so, since it was shaped like a T, issued as a “training shirt,” it is likely the name “T-shirt” was coined at this time.

The first logos, phrases and images to appear as decoration promoted movies such as The

Wizard of Oz, cartoon characters including Mickey Mouse and even presidential campaigns with coined phrases of “Dew it for Dewey” and “I Like Ike.” Celebrities like John Wayne and James Dean also wore them, making T-shirts perfectly acceptable outerwear by the 1950s. The addition of words, symbols, embroidery and images provided a powerful space for self expression and advertising. You could signify your favorite sports team or soft drink, your opinions of war and changing cultures. T-shirts provided a canvas for celebrities, a sweetheart or grandchild.

As we enter the 21st century we continue to celebrate milestones, alma maters, political persuasions, social issues and dozens of entertaining images emblazoned on our shirts. Some are even considered works of art. T-shirts may have gone for a dollar in the 1950s but today

the price tag for a shirt splashed with a tiny designer's logo or singer's image can cost over fifty dollars.

The museum has over 30 T-shirts in its costume collection, shirts produced for local events, organizations, schools, sports, and the arts. Now stored safely away for posterity, they document such diverse happenings as City Stage, the July 4th Kirkwood parade, our recent Bicentennial, a 1950s Soap Box Derby contestant, WBIG 1470AM Radio, Page High School Basketball Champions, a February 1, 1960 celebration, and the Price School Reunion.

To paraphrase O. Henry's words from his story Voice of the City, “What would your T-shirt say, if your T-shirt could speak?” I imagine he'd be surprised by some of the answers!



# Passport to History

## More Than A Full-Time Job:

### *Service in the first Gulf War*

by Linda Evans  
Curator of Community History

Items donated by two local soldiers who served in the first Gulf War have been on display in the Military History gallery since July. Their story and memorabilia honor the service of soldiers, both reserve and active duty, who were deployed in 1990-1991.

Maureen McCullough joined the U.S. Army Reserves in 1981. Her training as a dental hygienist brought her an assignment with the Greensboro-based 312th Evacuation Hospital. The 312th was activated in November 1990 and sent to Saudi Arabia from January-April 1991.

Staff Sergeant McCullough served as the non-commissioned officer in charge of hospital admission and discharge. The hospital treated wounded and handled air evacuations, saw soldiers during sick call, and treated a number of enemy prisoners and Iraqi civilians. "It was more than a full-time job," she

recalled. "During the ground war itself, we were at our posts almost 24 hours a day." McCullough returned to the United States and Pope Air Force Base on May 4, 1991, and donated an extensive collection of memorabilia from her assignment. Today she lives and works in Kernersville.

Greensboro native Lawrence Clark enlisted in the United States Army in 1975 and retired in 1996 with the rank of Staff Sergeant. During the Gulf War Clark served with the 3rd Platoon Charlie Company and the Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division, 197th Infantry Brigade.

His tank unit arrived in Saudi Arabia in September 1990, where Clark remained until March 30, 1991. "When the bombing started and the scud missiles were being fired at us, it was kind of scary. You did not know if they had gas in them or not. As soon as the alert would go off we would have to

Larry Clark and his tank crew,  
October 1990

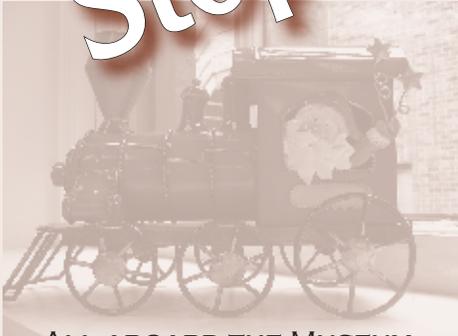


Staff Sergeant Maureen McCullough

put on our chemical suits and gas mask." Clark donated items to the museum from his military career after self-publishing a book on his experiences entitled *The War Within*. He now lives in Asheboro with his wife and son.



# Shop Stop



ALL ABOARD THE MUSEUM SHOP TRAIN FOR DISTINCTIVE HOLIDAY GIFTS INCLUDING ...

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DISTINCTIVE DESK SETS

NORTH CAROLINA'S HISTORIC RESTAURANTS & THEIR RECIPES

ORNAMENTS

STAINED GLASS FEATURING NORTH CAROLINA CARDINALS

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NORTH CAROLINA CONDIMENTS

CALICO BEANS & BARLEY SOUP MIX

**NEW SHOP HOURS**  
**TUESDAY~SATURDAY 11~4**  
**SUNDAY 2~5**  
 (336) 373-2949

## Exhibit In Progress

by Susan Webster  
 Exhibit Project Manager

It is so exciting to provide our members updates on progress and accomplishments towards the upcoming exhibition on Greensboro history. When the staff team and our design group Eisterhold & Associates completed the schematic design for the seven galleries, there was no rest for the weary.

Over the past six months our efforts have focused on design development. This phase connects key elements in each gallery. It produces documents and a refined plan that includes gallery elevations, addresses traffic flow, and details the physical layout and colors and materials. It also provides a formatted exhibit script, selection of artifacts and images, a media plan and graphic design templates. Addressing key issues of security, object conservation and environmental conditions, specific artwork and fabrication needs completes the design development phase. It incorporates input from our architectural

and engineering team from Teague Freyaldenhoven Freyaldenhoven Architects. Everyone has a role.

What's next? Finalizing this plan, and then developing construction documents. As we evaluate objects, refine text and select images, our education staff is developing lo-tech interactives and crafting new tours for the exhibition that will appeal to old and young.

Watch for the next update in your Journal. More will be revealed.

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INTERIOR DESIGN: NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

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The exhibition will be divided into these topic areas:

- Introduction
- Bewitching Country (Prehistory to 1807)
- Early Greensborough (1808 – 1890)
- Debating Liberty (1800 – 1865)
- Denim Capital (1890 – 1945)
- Service and Sacrifice (1812 – )
- Changing Times (1946 – 1979)
- Today's Gate City (1980 – )

# Event Calendar

## November

### VETERAN'S DAY

*November 11*

### ANNUAL MEETING

*Tuesday, November 11*

**6:30 p.m. Social**

**7:00 p.m. Dinner**

Speaker: Rob Christensen  
The Paradox of Tar Heel Politics  
Greensboro Country Club  
Reservations required

### GUILD MEETING

*Monday, November 17 at 10*

Paula Locklair shares the secrets of  
Old Salem's Museums and Gardens

### MUSEUM SHOP BACK ALLEY SALE

*Monday, November 17 from 10 - 4*

Bargains galore!

### 2008 JOHN DORTCH MEMORIAL

#### PROGRAM

*Thursday, November 20*

Greensboro's History Detective:  
Schlosser & His Sources  
5:30 - 7:00 Reception & Book Signing  
7:00 Talk, Panel Discussion, Q&A  
8:15 Book Signing Continues  
Reservations requested due to  
limited seating; Call 373-2043

### THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

*Closed November 27 - 28*

## December

### FESTIVAL SUNDAY

*Sunday, December 7*

Kid's Club with Bright Star  
Children's Theater  
2:00 p.m. - "Once Upon a Time"  
4:00 p.m. - "A Dickens Tale"  
Each show: \$5 per person

### GUILD MEETING

*Tuesday, December 16*

Holiday Luncheon  
Reservations required

### CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

*Closed December 25 - 26*

## January 2009

### NEW YEAR HOLIDAY

*Closed January 1*

## In Memoriam

**ADA JANE WASHINGTON**

*gift from*

Mary F. Stough

Fred W. Goss

## Honorarium

**LINDA EVANS**

*gift from*

Hickory Grove

United Methodist Church

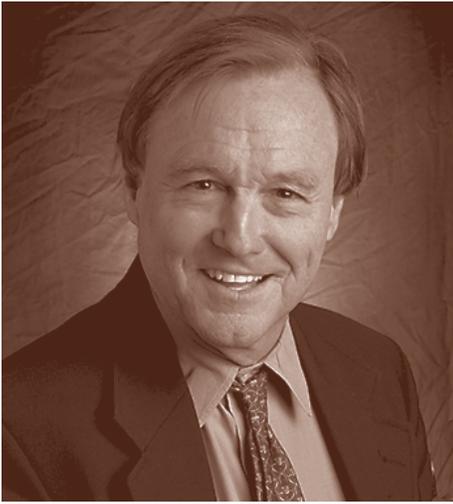
**TOM AND NANCY BEARD**

*gift from*

Emma Poindexter



*Albright Farm c. 1890*



# Jim Schlosser

## 2008 John J. Dortch Memorial Series

Greensboro's History Detective: Schlosser & His Sources

Thursday, November 20

He's the best gumshoe Greensboro has known these past forty years. If there's a hint of a story, a detail to be discovered, a personality to be portrayed, Jim Schlosser has been on the case. His columns, fueled by a never-ending curiosity and a love of his hometown, have illuminated Greensboro's past and present for generations of readers. Join us for an evening of conversation with Jim and several folks he's interviewed over the years. It will be the gumshoe and his sources, you might say, along with you and your questions.

### Reception & Book Signing

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

### Talk, Panel, Q&A

7:00 - 8:15 p.m.

### Book Signing Continues

8:15 p.m.

Bring your favorite Schlosser column to be autographed. Better yet, do your holiday shopping by purchasing signed copies of *The Beat Goes On*. (Irrefutable sources tell us it'll be your friends and business associates' favorite present)

Have you or a member of your family been featured in one of Schlosser's stories? Do you have a question you'd like asked at the program? If so, email [linda.evans@greensboro-nc.gov](mailto:linda.evans@greensboro-nc.gov).

Limited Seating - Reservations Requested 373-2043



SMITH MOORE  
LEATHERWOOD



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336-373-2043

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### FREE ADMISSION

### Museum Hours

Tuesday—Saturday 10–5  
Sunday 2–5

### Museum Shop Hours

Tuesday—Saturday 11–4  
Sunday 2–5

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