



JOURNAL

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*Fisher Park
Ben Poole Collection*



Director's Corner

by Fred Goss

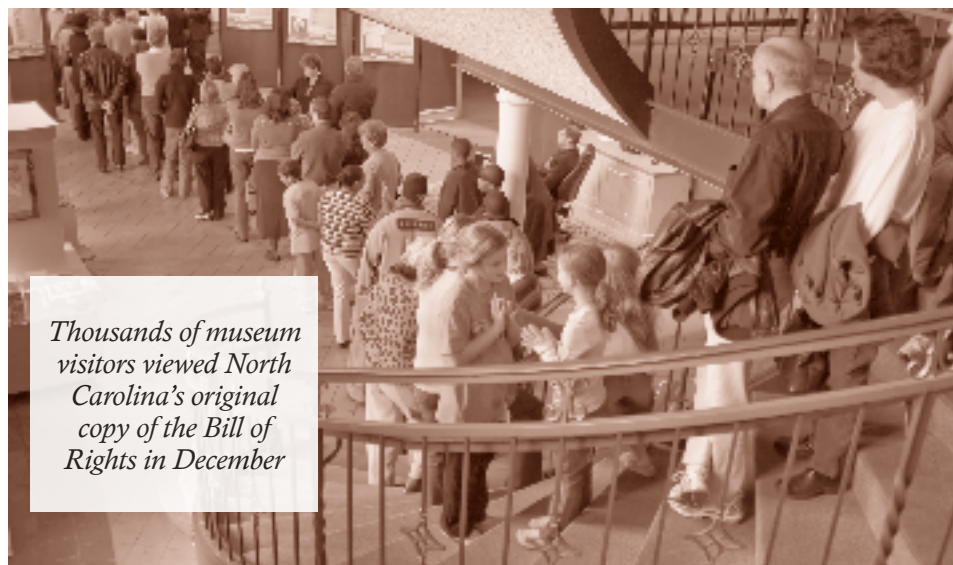
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We have entered a new year and what better way to start than looking ahead to our city's bicentennial year and changes at the museum. I want to recognize the following retiring trustees for their dedicated service to the museum: Gail Bernstein, John Hardy, Sam Hummel, Jim Kirkpatrick, Ginni Lineberry, Allison Robinson, Rebecca Schlosser and Betty Gale Sikes. These trustees have led during a remarkable time at the museum including a successful capital campaign, a major new exhibit in *Welcome to the Gate City*, passage of the museum's \$5.3 million bond and an award-winning exhibition with *From Cambodia to Greensboro: Tracing the Lives of New North Carolinians*.

I am also pleased to welcome new trustees to the Greensboro Historical Museum, Inc. board: Lisa Anderson, Mike Cammack, Jay Kirkpatrick, Dene Mead, Tom Martin, Gail Murphy, Carla Ugboro, and Laura Wall will lend their time, expertise and leadership to the museum. Their duties will include participating in the completion of the museum's bond project and developing and implementing a new strategic plan. We are delighted that they have chosen to serve on the museum's board and we look forward to their coming years of service.

On another very positive front, the Greensboro Historical Museum, Inc. capital campaign has exceeded all of our expectations. The original campaign goal set by the museum trustees in the fall of 2005 was \$1.6 million. I am pleased to announce that we have raised over \$2.1 million from foundation, corporate, and individual donations. What an incredible testimony to the community support for the museum. Our thanks to campaign co-chairs Jim and Anita Schenck and all who have helped raise these much-needed funds and especially to those donors who have contributed so generously over the last two years.



*Thousands of museum
visitors viewed North
Carolina's original
copy of the Bill of
Rights in December*

Experts to Share Neighborhood History

by Suzanne Pell
Programming Supervisor

Gayle Fripp, Greensboro historian and author, and Benjamin Briggs, Executive Director of Blandwood and Preservation Greensboro, will join forces for a bicentennial program on **Sunday, March 16 at 2:30 p.m.** at the museum. Their topic is neighborhood history in the evolution of Greensboro as a modern city. "Greensboro draws its strength from

being a city of neighborhoods, each with distinct flavors that add character to the face of our city," says Briggs.

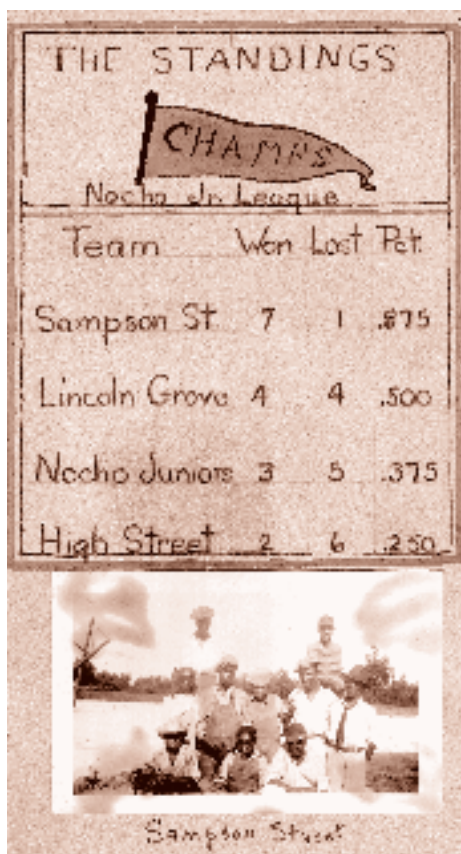
Briggs and Fripp are champions of preserving Greensboro's history and see the bicentennial as an opportunity to take stock of what we have and what we can be.

Briggs describes his historical interests as a "curiosity to know what I am looking at." After graduating from N.C. State in the late 1980s with thoughts of becoming an architect, he learned about a 1907 home in the High Point Historic District scheduled for demolition. "I could not see the building torn down. It spoke to me about a culture and high style that could not be thrown into the landfill." Briggs says that his work as project manager in saving old homes led him into historic preservation. "For the past 12 years, my focus has been on how and why to preserve historic sites because they add such value to our community," says Briggs.

Likewise for Gayle Fripp, whom the County Commissioners honored with the title County Historian in 1993,

who explains, "History speaks to me. I always wanted to tell the stories of how people lived their lives so that history comes alive." As the museum's former Curator of Education, her interests grew to include the everyday things that comprise our physical world. "I learned how critical it was to preserve the artifacts, the scrapbooks, images, household articles, that told our life stories," says Fripp.

Fripp and Briggs plan to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for all things Greensboro in this bicentennial program that includes history and memory of what made the Gate City prosper and grow. Briggs promises a lively video show of buildings and architectural styles in the various neighborhoods. Others from neighborhood associations, who will each respond about the character of their unique area of town, will join them. "We invite you all to celebrate who we are, share talk and refreshments, and usher in the bicentennial," says Fripp. "Welcome to our neighborhoods! Welcome to the story of Greensboro!"



Scrapbook images



Gayle Fripp and Benjamin Briggs review a 1935 Nocho Park scrapbook

Archives Uncovered

A Piece of WWII Greensboro Preserved in New York City

by J. Stephen Catlett, Archivist

I receive interesting phone calls in Archives all the time but the one from Abe Greiss last summer will remain a career highlight. He talked about spending several months in 1943 at Basic Training Center #10 in Greensboro, his background as an artist, his work in the camouflage unit, and the artwork that he and the other soldier-artists completed while here. What prompted his call, however, were the sketches and photos he had recently rediscovered in his New York City home. They document an elaborate wall mural that he painted in an African American service club on base. He had initially conceived of a jungle scene, since troops were headed to the South Pacific, and in preparation did extensive research, even getting a pass to travel to the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Remarkably, when touring the museum, he saw a recently completed diorama of New Guinea, with stuffed animals, birds and colorful foliage. He came away with more than enough accurate information and inspiration to fill the 33 by 66 foot space in Greensboro. The mural took weeks to complete



BTC #10 barracks

but, unfortunately, he was shipped out right after he finished, never to return and never to see the service club in use or the soldiers enjoying his artwork.

“Do you know if the building and mural are still in existence?” he asked. Since I had done the research and writing for our *Army Town: Greensboro 1943-1946* exhibit back in the 1990s, I was very familiar with the BTC #10/ORD area, and felt confident in saying that the building was, unfortunately, no longer standing.

The delightful end to this story occurred in October. My wife and I

visited our daughter in New York, and we three called on Mr. Greiss and his wife, Carmen, in their home in Greenwich Village. He showed us his elaborate color model, as well as a wonderful oil painting of his BTC #10 barracks. He generously shared photos and memories – of Army life and his career as a college professor and art director for Macy’s – and gave a grand tour of his house. It overflows with artwork and sculpture, and with warmth, creativity, and stimulating conversation. And best of all for us, with pieces of Greensboro history lovingly preserved.



Abe Greiss 1943



Abe Greiss 2007

Passport to History

Emancipation Day in Greensboro History

by Linda Evans
Curator of Community History

Union-occupied New Bern held North Carolina's first Emancipation Day celebration on January 1, 1865, with a parade, music, speeches, and dinner. The custom, which soon spread across the state, expressed ideals of patriotism and citizenship.

Greensboro's first documented celebration took place in 1872, when the *Patriot* reported on a downtown parade led by Isaac Sloan and Robert Hargrave, organizers of the Loyal Volunteer Fire Company. Afterwards "an immense crowd of blacks and a right good sprinkling of whites" met at the courthouse for a reading of the Proclamation and speeches. Orators included controversial Republican Judge Albion Tourgee ("a very impressive talk") and Billy Henderson ("a rip-roarious harangue"). Giving the keynote was George M. Arnold of Kentucky, described elsewhere as a "universally popular" orator. The *Patriot* offered a back-handed compliment, noting, "Not a row or a semblance of one occurred the whole day."

In 1892 a celebration took place on April 9, the date Lee surrendered to Grant—a bold counterpoint to festivities on Lee's birthday. Though the Democratic-leaning *Patriot* ignored the event, an account made the pages of the *Star of Zion*, a Salisbury-based AME Zion newspaper. In addition to a speech by the paper's editor, John Dancy, festivities included a parade, military procession, and brass bands, followed by a program for a packed crowd at the Benbow Hotel.

The *Patriot* only briefly mentioned a January 1, 1904 Emancipation Day event, noting a speech by Dr. C.C. Somerville, minister at Charlotte's black First Baptist Church. Somerville had recently published a pamphlet arguing that blacks needed to prove themselves through their achievements. Such a message held inspiration and irony during a time of Jim Crow segregation.

A *News & Record* article suggested that Emancipation celebrations faded by the 1920s because there was "no reason to celebrate," yet Greensboro had at least one more spectacular occasion. January 1, 1931, a day planned by an

Emancipation Memorial Association, may rank as the city's most elaborate. Crowds applauded floats, marching bands, and veterans in a parade that paused at Bennett College for a salute by President David Jones, veteran David Gilmer, Mayor Rufus King, and National Guard commander Ralph Lewis. Having whites on the review stand signified a shift in race relations, for now politicians desired the appearance of a unified community. The celebration continued at Dudley High School, where a packed audience saw 125 cast members present "March of the Black Man," an original production highlighting contributions from 1619 forward.

Beginning in 1996, Greensboro joined other Southern cities to remember Emancipation on June 19, known as Juneteenth Day. This event commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Now Barber Park is the site for annual picnics, entertainment, crafts, and educational displays celebrating African American life and history.

No photo survives of local Emancipation Day parades. We can imagine that crowds resembled these from the 1908 Centennial.





Shop
Stop

by Dawn Kouba
Museum Shop Manager

Join Virginia Zenke on a tour of her adventures as a mid-century interior designer. A native of Charleston, Zenke came to Women's College (UNC-G) in 1942 and remained in Greensboro following graduation. She was initiated into professional life through employment at the local Morrison-Neese (THE home furnishings store between Washington and Atlanta).

After Virginia married Henry Zenke in 1951, her work assignments ranged from Greensboro to other North Carolina cities, other states and ultimately abroad. In the midst of all this, Zenke also became heavily involved in historic preservation. Her book describes a lifetime of experiences and offers an insider's view of the interior design world in the mid-20th century.

MID LIFE • MID CENTURY • MID SOUTH by Virginia F. Zenke

Now available — \$22.50

The Civil War: *The Times, The Places, The People*

Civil War Class with Ned Harrison
Ten Tuesdays beginning February 12
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

by Taneka Bennett, Marketing Director

Ned Harrison has taught military history classes at Guilford College, GTCC, Alamance Community College, and the museum. He writes the column "About Veterans" for the *News & Record*, and writes a monthly Civil War column for newspapers in Virginia and Maryland.

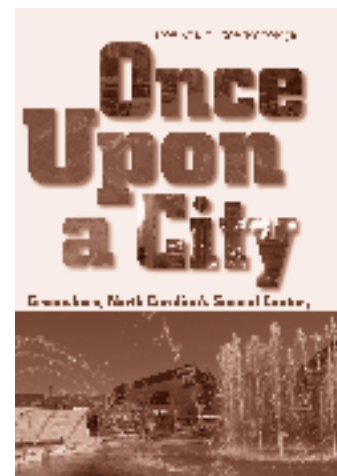
"The Civil War: The Times, The Places, The People" will discuss why the war had to be fought to determine once and for all if we would remain one nation, as well as when and how the war was fought. It will feature the military and civilian giants on both sides, as well as how the Industrial Revolution affected the war and tragically made mass death an integral part of warfare. Harrison will also discuss ten different issues settled by the Civil War.

Course fee covers 30 hours of instruction, along with a text manual filled with maps, data, and explanatory text. The cost is \$60 for museum members and \$65 for non-museum members. Reservations may be made by sending payment to the Greensboro Historical Museum at 130 Summit Avenue, or by calling 336-373-2043 to charge by phone. Prospective students are urged to enroll quickly because class size will be limited to fifty.

Howard Covington book set for February publication

Greensboro author Howard Covington, through support of the Joseph M. Bryan Foundation, has written a new narrative history entitled *Once Upon a City: Greensboro's Second Century*, told through the people who helped shape the city. Woven through their stories are the particulars of how a striving, earnest community faced the dramatic challenges of the twentieth century. The story begins just before the bold and blustery 1920s when the city's boosters believed that Greensboro would far surpass other communities in the constellation of the Carolinas. It brings Greensboro to the introduction of twenty-first century as the city was rebounding from seismic shifts of its economic base and facing a very different future than had been predicted when the city's last history was published in 1955. There were many players during this era whose stories make up this account.

The Bryan Foundation is making the book available exclusively to the Museum Shop at no cost, and all sales revenues will benefit museum projects. The Shop expects to receive its first shipment by mid-February.



Event Calendar

January

SHOP CLOSED

January 2 through January 9
Annual inventory

MUSEUM OFFICES CLOSED

Monday, January 21
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

February

THE CIVIL WAR: THE TIMES, THE PLACES, THE PEOPLE

10 Tuesdays starting February 12, 1-4 p.m.
Ned Harrison, Instructor
\$60 members; \$65 non-members
See article for registration details

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY GUIDED TOURS

Saturdays and Sundays in February 3 p.m.
FREE

GUILD PROGRAM

Monday, February 18
Social at 10 a.m.—Program at 10:30 a.m.
“Let’s Get Involved”
Greensboro Bicentennial Commission
FREE

March

EVOLUTION OF A CITY: GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

Sunday, March 16 at 2:30 p.m.
Benjamin Briggs, Executive Director of Preservation Greensboro, Inc.
Gayle Fripp, Guilford County Historian
FREE

GUILD PROGRAM

Monday, March 17
Social at 10 a.m.—Program at 10:30 a.m.
Dr. Clifford Watkins
“Showman: The Life and Music of Perry George Lowery”
FREE

March

GREENSBORO’S LITERACY LEGACY: REMEMBERING JAMES EPHRAIM MCGIRT, GEORGE MOSES HORTON, AND RANDALL JARRELL

Sunday, March 30 at 2:30 p.m.
Central Library
FREE

April

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD: FREEDOM ROUTES FOR ENSLAVED AFRICANS

Cosponsored with Guilford College
Thursday, April 3 at 7 p.m.
Central Library
Fergus Bordewich, author of *Bound for Canaan: The Underground Railroad and the War for the Soul of America*
FREE

CIVILITIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS — WHAT LESSONS LEARNED?

Thursday, April 10 at 7 p.m.
Central Library
Dr. William Chafe, Duke University
Q&A moderated by Dr. Claude Barnes, NCA&TSU
FREE

PASSAGE TO GREENSBORO: PROFILES OF OUR IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

Thursday, April 17 at 7 p.m.
Central Library

Dr. Raleigh Bailey, UNCG, Nolo Martinez, Center for New North Carolinians, & Community Panel
FREE

LASTING IMPRESSIONS: A TOURING THEATRE ENSEMBLE PRODUCTION

April 17-19 & 24-26 at 7 p.m.
April 19-20 & 26-27 at 3 p.m.
Tickets go on sale January 29
Adults \$12; Seniors 65+ and Students \$10
Mark your calendar to see this museum-sponsored production in celebration of Greensboro’s bicentennial

In Memory of

**JOHN FRED & FLOSSIE
JOYNER RATLEDGE**

and

**MILDRED JOHNSON
GULLEDGE**

Gift From

Fredda Ratledge-Hobbs

In Honor of

BETTY GALE SIKES

Gift From

Lawndale Baptist Church

April

GUILD PROGRAM

Social at 10 a.m.—Program at 10:30 a.m.
Charles Cranfield, Superintendent
Guilford Courthouse
National Military Park
FREE

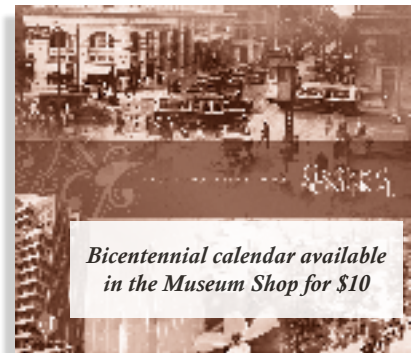
HOW THE IRON HORSE TRANSFORMED GREENSBORO

Thursday, April 24 at 7 p.m.
Central Library
Author Jim Wrinn
Response by Dr. Allen Trelease and Jim Patton
FREE

May

GUILD PROGRAM

May 19 at 10:30 a.m.
With speaker Gary Brown, from David Caldwell Historic Park
Location: David Caldwell Historic Park, Interpretive Center





Renovations Update

by Director Fred Goss

Much has been happening with the bond project. Museum staff has been working intently with our recently-hired design firm Eisterhold and Associates, and an initial schematic design for the exhibit is now being crafted. Staff has reviewed archival holdings, three-dimensional collections and major story lines for the exhibition that will provide the overall visitor experience. As the project progresses, we will be updating the City Manager's Office, trustees, museum members, capital campaign donors and the public. Watch the news for announcements about the dates and times of these discussion sessions.

Bond-funded renovation efforts continue on the historic section of the museum building. We have formed a committee to help address historic preservation issues as they arise with the roof replacement, window repairs and water abatement issues. Our thanks to City of Greensboro staff from the Housing and Community Development Department for their guidance, as well as Preservation Greensboro, Inc. and local historic preservation volunteers.

If you have any questions about the exhibition or building renovation projects, please, feel free to contact me at 373-2306.



130 Summit Avenue
Greensboro, N.C. 27401
www.greensborohistory.org
336-373-2043

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Museum Hours

Tuesday — Saturday 10 – 5
Sunday 2 – 5

FREE admission to exhibitions

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