



# JOURNAL

July–August 2008 | Volume 36, Number 4

*Service with a smile!*





*Honey's Drive-In, 1963*  
Carol W. Martin/GHM, Inc. Collection

## **Greensboro Historical Museum, Incorporated Board of Trustees**

Jim Slaughter, *President*  
Margaret Benjamin, *Vice-President*  
Ken Bethea, *Treasurer*  
J. Nathan Duggins, *Assistant Treasurer*  
David Craft, *Secretary*  
Derek Allen, *Assistant Secretary*  
Lisa Anderson  
Al Barnett  
Miriam Bradley  
Mike Cammack  
Ned Cline  
A. Robinson Hassell  
Reed Holmes  
Anne Hurd  
Fred Jones  
Stella Jones  
Jay Kirkpatrick  
Alison MacCord  
Tom Martin  
Dan McAlister  
Dene Mead  
Gail Murphy  
Ron Pittman  
Jim Schenck  
Susan Schwartz  
Pat Sevier  
Emerson Spivey  
Denise Turner  
Carla Ugboro  
Laura Petrides Wall  
Lea E. Williams



## **Director's Corner**

*by Fred Goss*

As the staff of a historical institution it is fair to say that we spend a good portion of our day looking back at the historical record whether it is in the form of archival materials, three dimensional objects, historical events that lend themselves to public programs or sharing information with school age children or adults. We learn from the study and reflection of the past and its impact on our present and future as well.

With this thought in mind it is appropriate that the museum starts to look at its own past service to the community and prepare its next strategic plan. With the completion of the Vision 2005 strategic plan, the successful bond vote, capital campaign and coming exhibit renovations we have introduced numerous new audiences to the museum especially during the bicentennial. We have listened to and heard the comments from museum users and how they have enjoyed a particular program, seeing an artifact and getting to learn something that was previously unknown to them. We have also heard from Greensboro residents that want to see more of themselves within all of our offerings.

The accomplishments of the Greensboro Historical Museum staff, volunteers and trustees are important over the eighty-plus years of serving the community. We now have the opportunity to build on this success and write another chapter in the organization's and community's history. The effort for a new strategic plan starts with a three step process. Museum staff and a professional facilitator have already studied the museum's mission, vision and values. The next action occurs this summer between June 26 and July 14 when we hear from Greensboro residents through a community-based committee to provide feed back and counsel on what they as critical stakeholders want and need from the museum.

Members are invited to a member-only evening on August 13 from 5:30–7:30 p.m. to share your comments on the museum's new strategic plan. The planning formally concludes in early October 2008 when the museum board reviews the findings of the first groups and organizes the vision into a comprehensive strategic plan and sets dates for implementation.

You will continue to hear more about our strategic planning process along with the vital daily operations of the museum through the Journal. This time of reflection and subsequent planning will energize us for the future and the prospect for meeting the challenges of the future.

As the Journal goes to press, the Greensboro City Council has not made a final decision on the reduction-in-force of the museum's gift shop manager position. The Board of Trustees has formed a committee to address the situation and I will provide an update in the next newsletter. For the immediate future the shop will be open Tuesday through Friday 12:30–5, Saturday 10–5 and Sunday 2–5.



# Davidson Internship Offers Students Experience—And Pay!

*By Linda Evans  
Community Historian &  
Intern Coordinator*

“When I moved to Greensboro in the 1960s the museum was one of the first things I found out about,” Alice Abel explained in 1998. It was a connection that led her to endow the museum’s first and only paid internship program. Now, after Abel’s death her gift continues as a legacy with benefits to both students and the institution.

The B. Craighead Davidson Internship program, launched in 2000, has offered hands-on training and professional experience to eight students from six North Carolina universities. Preferred candidates have been enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs in history or museum studies, with a serious interest in a museum career.

That description sounds dull, but the work is anything but boring. 2006 intern Angela Diaz, now in the Ph.D. program at the University of Florida, explained, “My first week as the official summer intern was quite an eventful one. I was allowed to attend a conference with Dr. Josephine Bradley, the first African American to attend a desegregated school in North Carolina ... as the meeting got underway, and I heard Dr. Bradley relate her story, my enthusiasm shifted toward understanding the insights Dr. Bradley offered.” 2005 intern Emily Mann contributed to research on the future museum exhibition by transcribing conversations between staff and professors at a day-long symposium and looking for first-person quotations in “three filing cabinet drawers and nine notebooks.” “I use academic history all the time at school,” she explained, “but here I have been able to see how it can be put to use.”

The Davidson Internship has paid students to update school tour scripts, help deinstall exhibits during HVAC renovations, photograph and inventory specialized collections, draft a driving tour for southeast Greensboro, photograph and document selected collections storage, and add to our online collections database. Peter Hawkins a new graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, is the 2008 Davidson Intern and has begun inventorying items in the Hockett Blacksmith and Woodworking Collection under the supervision of curator Jon Zachman.

How does someone learn about Davidson Internships? Announcements and application details are sent to North Carolina colleges and universities each January and posted on the museum website.



*2008 Davidson Intern Peter Hawkins*



*Donor Alice Abel with her father Craighead Davidson, whom she later honored by endowing a museum internship program in his name*



# Archives Uncovered

## 100 Years of Leisure

by J. Stephen Catlett, Archivist

*Guilford Battleground park has been popular since the late 19th century, especially on the 4th of July as seen here.*

Early settlers of Guilford County and Greensboro did not have much leisure time. Still, there have been plenty of places outside the home where local residents have gathered over the last century for sport, recreation, or just to have a good time.

*The Lindley Amusement Park seen here at Spring Garden near the future Willowbrook Drive, was a popular early 20th streetcar destination.*

*East White Oak Community Center, like other local recreation centers, offered a safe place for youth to gather and have fun.*

*In addition to fairs, the Greensboro Fairgrounds (future Coliseum site) hosted NASCAR races as early as April 1948.*

*The original Greensboro Coliseum opened in 1959, and the Greensboro Generals hockey team was its most popular tenant until the team folded in 1977.*

SPORTSMEN'S AND AMATEUR  
**Stock Car Races**

**GREENSBORO FAIRGROUNDS**  
GREENSBORO, N. C.

PROGRAM

NO. 1142



Price 25c

**WARNING TO ALL SPECTATORS AND PATRONS**

THESE SEATING ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE FAIRGROUNDS AND WILL BE USED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE FAIR. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR FIREARMS ARE ALLOWED. THE FAIRGROUNDS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LOSS OF ANYTHING LEFT UNATTENDED.



# Passport to History

## General Greene: Riding Tall Since 1915

by Linda Evans

*Curator of Community History*

He was a first. Riding tall in the saddle on a platform of Mt. Airy granite and completed just days before by Massachusetts sculptor Francis H. Packer, General Nathanael Greene made quite an appearance in the July 3, 1915 dedication ceremony. An impressive 27 feet and nine inches tall, General Greene now had a legacy beyond his military leadership during the Revolution, a legacy as the first equestrian sculpture in North Carolina. Thousands, including seven governors, were on hand to celebrate.

According to one source, the desire to have a monument honoring General Greene was voiced as early as 1848. The Greene Monument Association, founded in 1857 with Gov. John Motley Morehead, John McClintock Dick and Eli Caruthers as officers, fell by the wayside with the outbreak of the Civil War. On March 15, 1881, the battle's centennial celebration included a parade and speeches, and as one account put it, "some people even braved the trip to the battlefield" over rough roads and a wild landscape.

Newcomer David Schenck took up the cause in 1887 by founding the Guilford Battle Ground Co. with J.W. Scott, Thomas Keogh, Julius Gray, and D.W.C. Benbow. The association began buying up land and installing monuments (the more the merrier), including the graves of two North Carolina signers of the Declaration of Independence. The growing park boasted its own post office, restaurant and museum, and viewing tower.

As Mary Lewis Rucker remembered the park, "The fourth of July! Second only to Christmas in the Red Letter days of the year ... we would

set out on foot to catch the train for the four-and-one-half mile journey to the Guilford Battleground ... in the Pavilion, hung with red, white and blue bunting, prayers were said, orators orated, and the "Star Spangled Banner" attempted by all present ..."

Leaders asked Congress for \$30,000 to fund a Greene statue. The answer was no. The story goes that Joe Cannon, Guilford County native and then-Speaker of the House, made a trip to his birthplace in 1909 and came away in support of the statue project. Two years later Congress approved the money that led to all the celebrating on July 3, 1915.

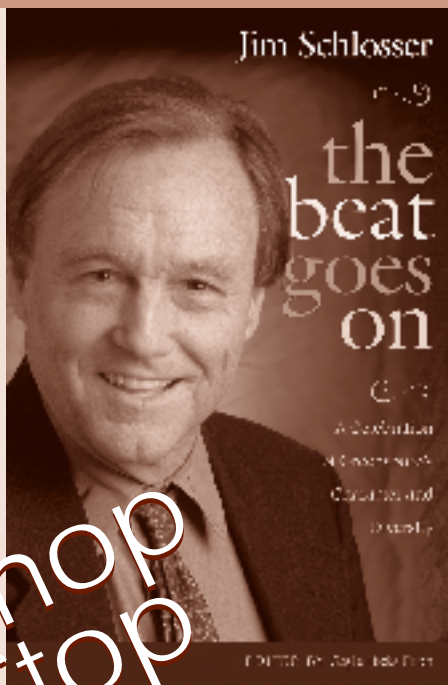
Greensboro native Alphonso Smith, then a UVA professor, won a contest to pen an appropriate inscription—

"In the maneuvering that preceded it, in the strategy that compelled it, in the heroism that signalized it, and in the results that flowed from it, the Battle of Guilford Courthouse is second to no battle fought on American soil. Over the brave men who fell here their comrades marched to ultimate victory at Yorktown, and the cause of constitutional self-government to assured triumph at Philadelphia. To officer and private, to Continental soldier and volunteer militiaman, honor and award are alike due. They need neither defense nor eulogy but only just recognition."

Greensboro's first General Greene statue has graced the city's official flag and watched over battle reenactments, picnics, concerts, joggers, weddings, and a presidential visit. He exemplifies our community's spirit, a spirit unflagged even in the face of vandalism in 1989. A fundraising campaign took care of repairs and our favorite equestrian still rides tall.



©2008 Martin Kane



*The Beat Goes On* by recently retired reporter Jim Schlosser contains stories about Greensboro's history and about some of the interesting characters Schlosser met during his career. This Bicentennial Commission-sponsored book was published thanks to editor and History Committee Chair Gayle Hicks Fripp, who spearheaded the project and selected 100 columns from over 1,500 Schlosser wrote between 1968-2007.

Stories range from the offbeat, such as the fox that stole golf balls from golfers at Bur-Mil Park, to the historically significant, such as the civil rights and wrongs of the area, including one about William Windsor who in 1914 was forced to sell his house because of its location in a white neighborhood. Others feature the first graduating class of Page High School, the 1918 flu epidemic and the 1948 polio epidemic, the history of street cars, the effects of Hurricane Hazel, and architect Harry Barton. The book includes articles about Greensboro's best known writer, O. Henry, and Vietnam soldier Phill McDonald who won the Congressional Medal of Honor, as well as other military veterans.

Signed copies are available in the Museum Shop for \$25.

## Junior Detectives To Solve History Mysteries

by Betty K. Phipps, Curator of Education

Each summer the museum becomes a destination for over 1000 children. Most visit with their child care center; some are enrolled in a summer day camp. Boys and girls from kindergarten to middle school quickly discover that history is more than dry textbooks with dusty-looking pictures. Through activities, crafts, and games the past comes alive for them under the leadership of energetic, enthusiastic teen volunteers.

Last summer young visitors became junior firemen. During *It's a Hot Time in the Old Town* they admired the General Greene Steam Fire Engine and played Firemen's Concentration. They practiced fire fighting skills through relays: donning turnout gear, coupling hoses, and racing to douse the fire (but not themselves) with the bucket brigade. They immersed themselves in the story of Mose the Fireman and created Dalmatian paper bag puppets. Other years, youngsters have enjoyed *The Caboose is Loose*, *Who's on First?*, *Discovering Cambodia*, and *Potsabilities*. Who wouldn't want to play Railroad Bingo and Keep Away, make a railroad lantern, enjoy a Cambodian folk tale, or unearth pottery in a mock archaeological dig?

This summer it's HIS – History Scene Investigations – gathering clues to solve a mystery. The young detectives look for missing objects, analyze data, test the evidence, and record their facts. They seek answers to their questions: What is it? Who did it? Where? And How? Another History Mystery will be solved every day.

Summer programs have a wonderful side effect by attracting teen volunteers from middle and high schools throughout Guilford County, teens eager to fulfill community service hours. They come with friends who rave about the museum. A few anticipate majoring in history or becoming a museum curator. Many return year after year until college and summer jobs beckon. They bring a mature commitment to their responsibilities. They are reliable, punctual, and patient with the children. They tackle each task with a sense of humor, laughing at the antics of a trouble-maker or spills–paint, water, or dirt. These teens defy the popular notion that history museums are only for senior citizens. History, they insist, is fun, and by golly, it is!





## Event Calendar

### July

**HEAR'S MY STORY:**  
**SENIOR VOICES IN GREENSBORO**  
On exhibit through August 31

**4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY**  
Museum Open

### August

**MEMBER IDEA NIGHT:**  
**TAKING HISTORY INTO THE FUTURE**  
*Wednesday, August 13*  
*Drop in anytime between*  
*5:30–7:30 p.m.*  
Reservations requested—call 373-2043

*You belong to the museum because you care about the organization and the cause of local history.* This summer the museum is taking history into the future by shaping its vision, goals, and objectives for the next five years.

Feedback and ideas from you, our members, can and will make a difference. What would you suggest for the museum and its service to Greensboro residents and visitors? It's all up for discussion – exhibits, services, programs, you name it. Please join us on Wednesday, August 13 and share your thoughts. *Questions? Call 373-2306*

### September

**LABOR DAY HOLIDAY**  
*Monday, September 1*  
Museum Closed

**VOLUNTEER TRAINING**  
**DOCENT ORIENTATION**  
*Thursday, September 4, 9:15-11:45 a.m.*

**DOCENT TRAINING**  
*September 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, & 25,*  
*9:25-11:45 a.m.*

**DESK RECEPTIONISTS**  
*Wednesday, September 10 at 10:00*  
*a.m. or Thursday, September 18 at 3 p.m.*

**TRAVELING TRUNK TROUPERS**  
*Wednesday, September 24 at 11:30 a.m.*  
For more information call 333-6831

**FIVE BY O. HENRY**  
*September 5, 6, 12, 13 at 8 p.m.*  
*September 7, 12, 13 at 3 p.m.*  
Tickets for Opening Night  
Champagne Reception \$20  
All other show tickets \$12 & \$10  
*Call 373-2043 for tickets beginning August 1*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, O. HENRY!**  
*Thursday, September 11*

**BELLE MEADE SOCIETY**  
**FALL GATHERING**  
*Monday, September 29 at 6:00 p.m.*  
Gayle Fripp shares Greensboro history  
Reservations required; invitations to follow

## In Memoriam

**SARA LYON HUNTER**  
*gifts from*  
**Mrs. Mary H. King**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Oettinger**  
**Mrs. Anita Schenck**

**EUGENE LASHLEY**  
*gift from*  
**Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Hodgin**

**ALICE & JOEL RADCLIFFE**  
*gift from*  
**Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Hodgin**

**MRS. MARJORIE MCNAIRY SMITH**  
*gift from*  
**Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Hodgin**

## Honorarium

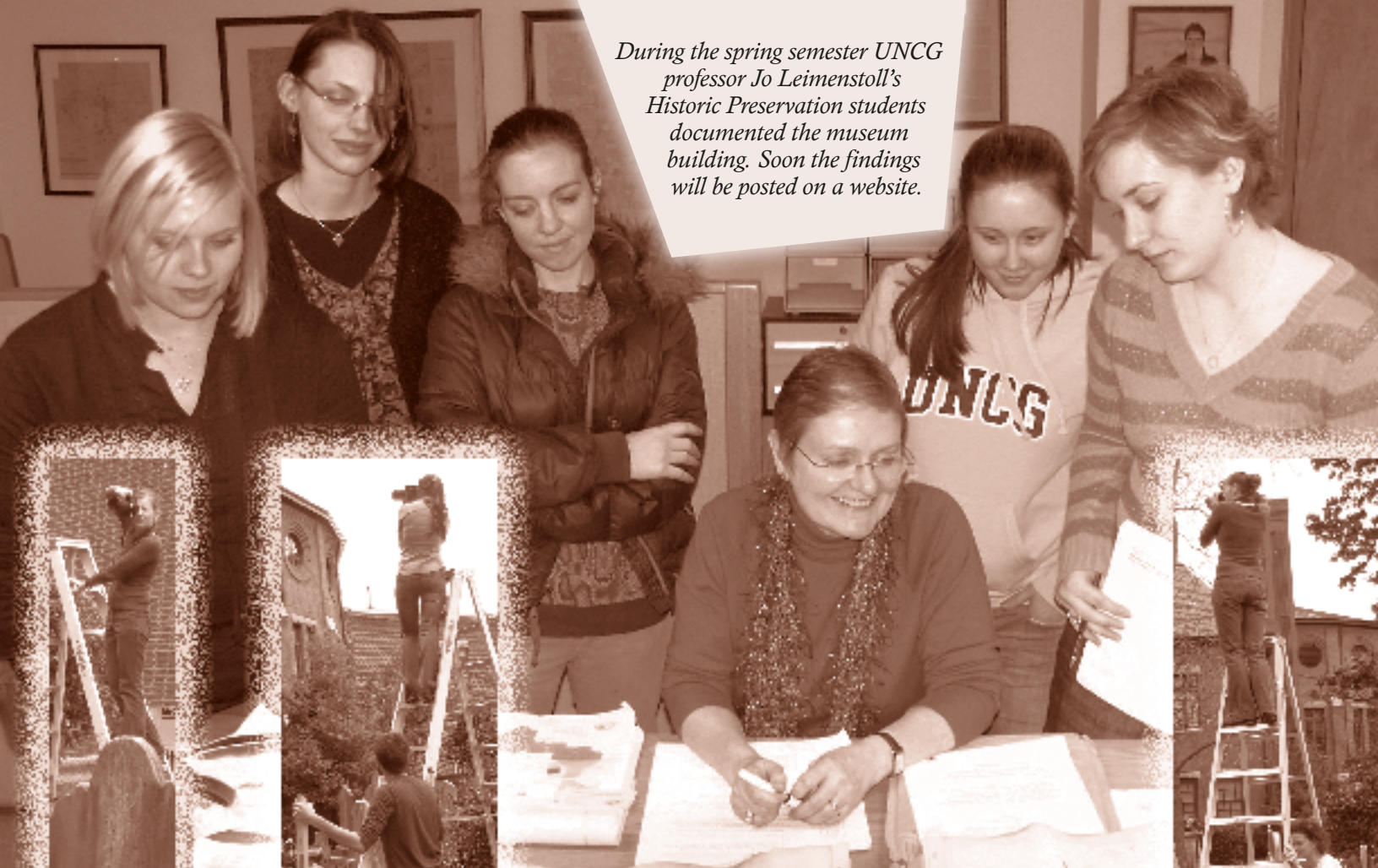
**LINDA EVANS**  
*gift from*  
**Ex Libris**

**FRED GOSS**  
*gift from*  
**Trinity Church**

**KIT RAVENEL**  
*gift from*  
**Ivy Garden Club**



*During the spring semester UNCG professor Jo Leimenstoll's Historic Preservation students documented the museum building. Soon the findings will be posted on a website.*



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

## JOURNAL

July–August 2008  
Volume 36, Number 4

### Museum Hours

Tuesday — Saturday 10 – 5  
Sunday 2 – 5

**FREE** admission to exhibitions

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Greensboro, N.C.  
Permit 330