



JOURNAL

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**Girl Scouts
1939**





Girl Scouts, 1939
Carol W. Martin/GHM, Inc. Collection

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Director's Corner by Fred Goss

We are winding down the official celebration period for Greensboro's bicentennial but the museum will offer its services the entire calendar year. Many of you and your friends have marked this special year through a variety of events. With that in mind let's examine how the Greensboro Historical Museum served the community and its bicentennial year.

GREENSBOROTM BICENTENNIAL

and skilled writing brought out Greensboro's history to an audience that expected and received the best. What a great partnership for the museum and its engaging presentation of the Gate City's history.

The Heritage Festival provided an opportunity for all of us to see Greensboro's life from more than a century ago. It brings to mind the era of a small community with strong bonds and the relationships of a different time. No better backdrop than Mary Lynn Richardson Park could be found and we are pleased that this event was held at the museum.

Quite possibly the highlight of the official celebration period was the extensive public programs held from mid-March through late April. No less than seven partners including the Greensboro Public

Library, Greensboro Historical Museum, North Carolina Humanities Council, Guilford College, University of North Carolina-Greensboro, Grove Winery and Vineyards and the National Railway Historical Society came together for a truly unique program series. Literally hundreds of area residents were able to learn about Greensboro beyond the history that they may have been familiar with.

We have seen steady visitation to the museum during the bicentennial celebration. As always the museum will continue to present Greensboro's history to all who have had a long-term interest in the subject as well as those who are just now learning about their city no matter what their age.

Who will forget the impression made by Brenda Schleunes and the Touring Theater of North Carolina's production of *Lasting Impressions* held at the museum? A superb combination of drama, music

A R I C H H I S T O R Y
 1808/2008
 A B R I G H T F U T U R E

Exhibit Planning Behind the Scenes

*By Susan Joyce Webster
Core History Exhibition Project Manager*

What takes thousands of hours to research, write, select, revise and test with scholars and citizens? What combines the expertise of folks from here to California? Our exciting core history project!

While the museum team has created the exhibition vision and is currently defining the content for this 8500-square-foot transformation, this major project will also include specific architectural changes and the design vision of two professional groups.

Teague Freyaldenhoven Freyaldenhoven Architects & Planners, LLP (TFF) is a Greensboro architectural firm with diverse experience in renovations of public spaces. Partner and project manager Virginia Freyaldenhoven has completed the scope of the exhibition's structural changes including the addition of walls, creation of ramps, room finishes like paint and flooring, lighting, and mechanical and electrical updates

to address security and safety. Her team of engineering consultants have been everywhere in the building carefully measuring spaces, looking in the attic, crawling underneath the building, examining wiring & vents, and calculating weight requirements. Coordinating this work as the design team Eisterhold Associates, Inc. develops the visual story is vital.

The award-winning Eisterhold Associates, Inc., based in Kansas City, specializes in planning and designing for cultural and historical subjects. Creative Director Gerard Eisterhold is supported by a cast that includes Ben Lawless, former

Director of Exhibitions for the Smithsonian, a full-time staff in Kansas City and associates in New York and California. They are creating a beautiful and compelling exhibition design that incorporates museum objects, graphics, and innovative audio and video components to help tell the story of Greensboro's history.

How are we all working together for the new exhibition? In the last six months we have had over 35 team, one-on-one or topic specific meetings, 18 conference calls with our designers and consultant, and 4 on-site visits with TFF and Eisterhold to help organize and brainstorm this project. Currently we are in the Design Development phase which brings all the pieces of the project together. Transposing the story, the objects and the design elements from paper to real life is an exciting venture and you won't want to miss any updates.

Museum staff, TFF Architects and the Eisterhold design team have been meeting to discuss and plan our core history project

Collections Unveiled

Celebrating the City's Founding

by Jon B. Zachman
Curator of Collections

Greensboro citizens have proudly celebrated the city's founding with grand and elaborate events during the 1908 Centennial and the 1958 Sesquicentennial. Souvenirs from these historic events, including photographs, programs, buttons and other memorabilia, are now on display in the museum's lobby.

From October 11-17, 1908 the citizens of Greensboro celebrated the 100th anniversary of the city's founding and each day of Centennial Week had a theme and its own set of events. On Sunday, October 11 distinguished visiting clergymen delivered sermons followed by performances of the Greensboro Music Association and the United States Marine Band. The next five days gave residents a chance to enjoy a full round of festivities. Monday's Education Day featured a parade of 10,000 students, teachers and administrators, followed by Military Day and a parade of United States and North Carolina troops. The Knights of Pythias Band led the parade held on Wednesday's Fraternal Organization Day. On Thursday a Conferences on Good Roads and Central Carolina Fair exhibitions attracted large crowds. Centennial Week ended on Friday, Greensboro and Confederate Veterans Day, with "a spectacular parade representing every phase of the city's life and business and with the Confederate Veterans in the places of honor."

From May 2 -10, 1958 the citizens of Greensboro celebrated

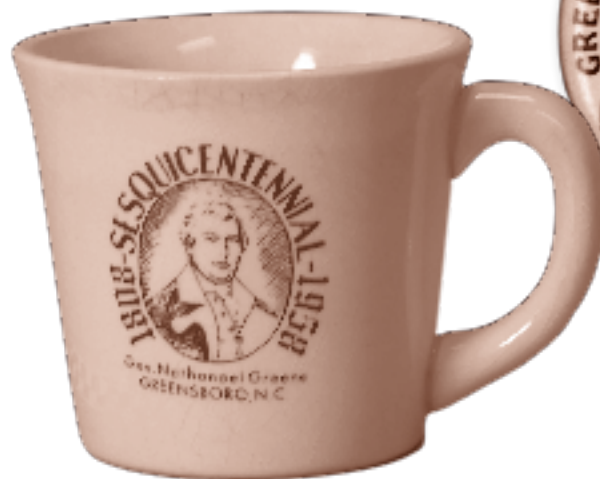
the 150th anniversary of the city's founding. Following the tradition of the Centennial, festive parades added to the fun, including on May 2nd Good Neighbors Day, May 3rd Youth and Education Day, and May 10th Sesquicentennial Homecoming Day. Former residents were invited to Greensboro "to renew the ties of love and allegiance and join in the celebration of the city's founding."

One of the largest Sesquicentennial events was the pageant "Enter the Gate City" by local historian Ethel Stephens Arnett. This historical drama with a blockbuster cast of 1,250 portrayed Greensboro in sixteen episodes from the early years of the Native Americans to the Atomic Age and beyond. People still laugh about the Brothers of the Brush, a comical fraternity which encouraged men to grow their beards and sponsored a contest to honor the best facial hair. Those men who did not participate risked being sent to Kangaroo Court to plead for mercy.

From March 25 - May 17, 2008 Greensboro is commemorating 200 years of history. Don't miss



May's scheduled events, including Faith Community Open Houses, World of Today and Tomorrow Expo, and the Parade of Decades. And you never know - perhaps your souvenir program or button will be displayed at the museum in 2058.



Passport to History

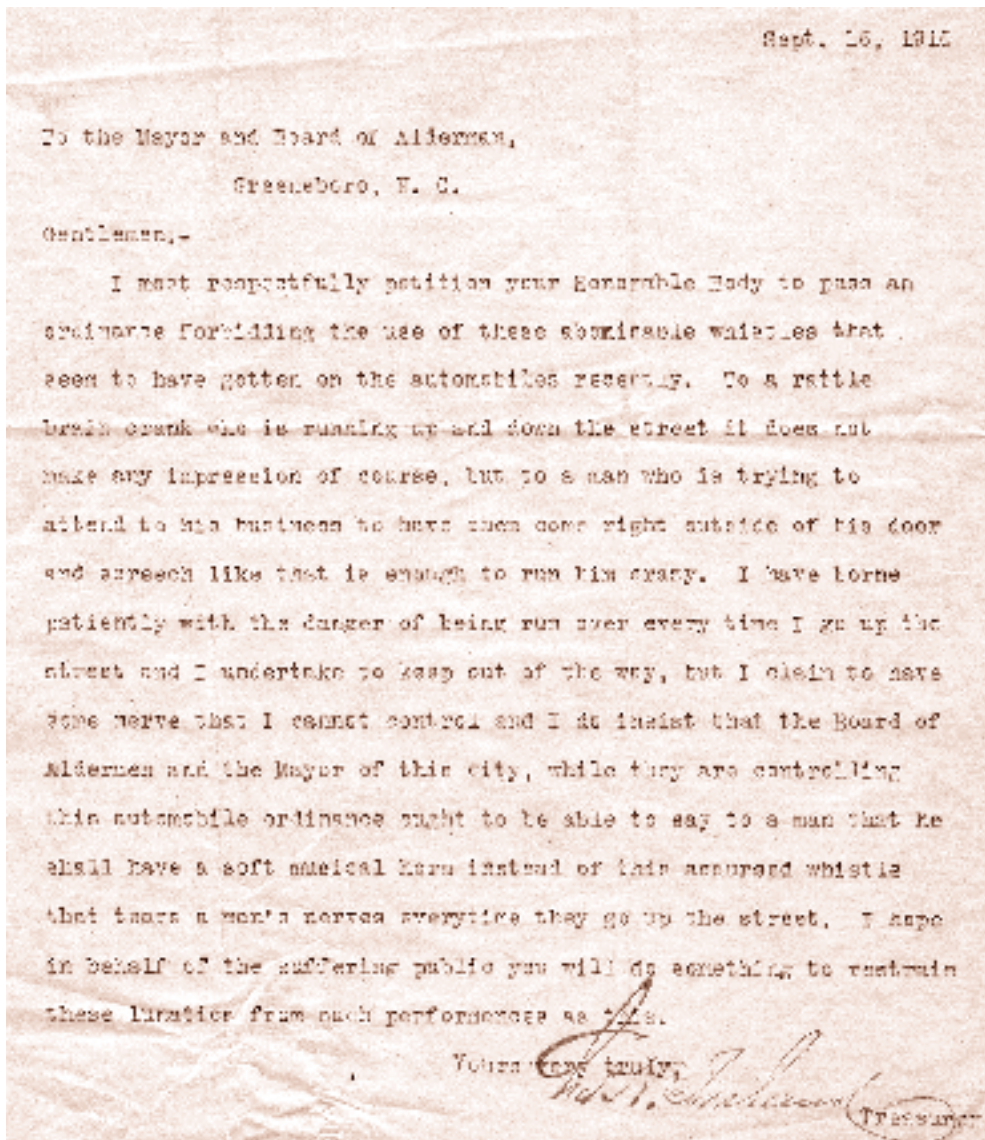
“Abominable Whistles”

by Linda Evans

Curator of Community History

Throughout 2008 visitors will enjoy thirteen new Bicentennial Moments panels throughout the building as part of our celebration. Around one corner you will see Marilyn Monroe in a movie publicity still from one of her first on-screen roles in O. Henry's Full House. Song lyrics can be found

upstairs, stanzas honoring White Oak denim plant put to the tune of Yankee Doodle. Youngsters will recognize a photograph of 2006 Olympic champion and Dudley High School graduate Joey Cheek, who earned cheers around the world from his speed-skating and philanthropy. And I hope that everyone will enjoy this letter:



Who was Charles Ireland?

Charles H. Ireland (1859-1932) may have sounded like a man who detested change. In fact, he was a visionary businessman who transformed Odell & Co. into a major wholesale hardware company. Ireland joined the business in 1882, and served as president from 1912-1925.

In 1888 Ireland wooed and wed DeLavolette Alderman, a graduate of Greensboro College. The couple raised their four children in a grand 23-room home at the corner of Friendly Avenue and Spring Street. Ireland's interests went beyond family to West Market Street Methodist Church, Greensboro College, Palmer Memorial Institute, Bennett College, and both the Greensboro and Guilford County School Boards. Odell Hardware survived until 1996, when what remained of the business after a series of ownership changes was absorbed into Memphis-based Orgill, Inc.

shop
stop

by Dawn Kouba
Museum Shop Manager

Mother's Day, graduations, Father's Day, weddings: these special events present opportunities for gift-giving. There is a varied jewelry selection, including handmade sterling-and-pottery creations from Jennie Keats of Seagrove. Venetian glass beads are available in necklaces, bracelets and earrings. The amber is Baltic in origin set in sterling silver and comes with documentation of authenticity. As you look around the Shop you'll see a substantial selection of North Carolina pottery, including new selections from Wil McCanless who creates in both traditional and contemporary styles. Local watercolor artist Stephen Costello has created six scenes from the UNC campus in note card format that are also perfect for framing. A new publication, *The Civil War Ends: Greensboro, April 1865*, details the events that occurred in Greensboro during the last days of conflict. Complimentary gift wrap is available.

Students Connect with History "Insiders"

by Dr. Benjamin Filene
Director of Public History,
UNC Greensboro

Twenty-three-year-old Lisa Zevorich came to graduate school with a talent for historical research—seeking out documents, weighing interpretations, crafting arguments. This semester she has been honing a new skill: listening. Zevorich and seven classmates in UNCG's Museum Studies program conducted twenty-five interviews with seniors at the Greensboro Senior Center. Every week students came downtown to the Center to sit with seniors and hear stories about the events of their lifetimes—from the moon landing to their favorite Thanksgiving meal to their reflections on whether the dishwasher represents technological progress or just a frill for the lazy.

The stories the seniors shared are the centerpieces of a new exhibition at the Historical Museum: "Hear's My Story: Senior Voices in Greensboro," which showcases photographs, quotations, and audio excerpts and invites visitors to explore their own memories of the big and small events of their lifetimes. "It has been fascinating to develop relationships with people whose life experiences are so different from my own," says Zevorich. "It has

been exciting to discover how much we share, despite our differences."

The students devised three lines of questioning. One group asked the seniors about their memories and the traditions they associate with food and cooking. Some talked about how they were raised not to waste food, as Maggie Townsend told student Katherine Steiner in one conversation, "I was staying with a cousin one time and she would tell me that I had to eat the oatmeal before I go to school. And when she'd go out the kitchen I'd take it and throw it out in the yard to her chickens. When I come home she said, 'You didn't eat that oatmeal.' And I said, 'How did you know?' She said, 'The chickens didn't eat it.' I said, 'Well, what I want with it if the chicken didn't eat it!'"

Another group of students showed famous historical photographs—of the flag-raising at Iwo Jima or Neil Armstrong on the moon, for example—and asked for personal memories of those events. Talking about World War II with student Allyson Atwood took Mary Powers back to the living with wartime rations while her father served as a military cook: "He used to send candy home and I would meet the mailman and I would get the candy

continued on page 7



UNCG graduate student Lisa Zevorich (right) interviewed Betty Taylor about Taylor's memories of food. Photo by Sarah Cunningham

Greensboro Seniors Share Their Stories

continued from page 6

and I would hide behind the house and I'd eat that candy until I got sick."

A third group asked seniors about how new technologies—from cake mixes to washing machines to TVs—shaped the routines of everyday life. Evelyn Dorsey marveled to student Leda Wilkins about the changes she has seen in her lifetime, explaining, "I read Buck Rogers, which is a comic strip, as a little kid. All that was things of the future, you know. And the future's kind of here."

"Hear's My Story" involved a collaboration between UNCG, Senior Resources of Guilford and the Historical Museum. The students planned the project, won a North Carolina Humanities Council grant

to support it, and planned the design, construction, and installation. They attended several workshops led by museum exhibits curator Martin Kane, impressing director Fred Goss with their energy, who commented, "It's great to see students so engaged in this partnership." Renee Griffin with Senior Resources also welcomed the project. "We live in such a youth-centered society that we often neglect to think about what older adults have experienced and lived through. Some seniors have never had the chance to tell their stories. It's a respectful and empowering thing to have their stories listened to by young people in the community. And I think it has been a great opportunity for the young people to build relationships with older adults."

"Hear's My Story: Senior Voices in Greensboro" opens May 6 and will run through through August 31. Please join us for an opening celebration featuring the students and seniors on Tuesday, May 6 from 10:00-11:00 a.m.

This project was made possible in part by the North Carolina Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities; UNCG Office of Leadership and Service-Learning; and UNCG Department of History.



Event Calendar

May

**HEAR'S MY STORY:
SENIOR VOICES IN GREENSBORO**
On exhibit May 6–August 31
Opening Reception
Tuesday, May 6 at 10 a.m.
FREE

BICENTENNIAL PARADE OF DECADES
Saturday, May 17 at 11 a.m.
Museum volunteers portray 1880s

GUIDED CEMETERY TOURS
May 17, 18, 19 & 25 from 1-5 p.m.
Led by First Presbyterian members
Call 375-0600 for more information
FREE; DONATIONS ACCEPTED



May

GUILD PROGRAM WITH BOX LUNCH
Monday, May 19 at 10:30 a.m.
David Caldwell Interpretive Center, Hobbs Road
Speaker: Gary Brown
Reservations required -
Call Sara Stuart at 545-9440

DOLLEY MADISON'S BIRTHDAY
Sunday, May 20

MEMORIAL DAY
Monday, May 26
Offices Closed

July

4TH OF JULY
Museum Open

September

FIVE BY O. HENRY
September 12, 13, 18, 19, 20 at 8 p.m.
September 13, 14, 20, 21 at 3 p.m.
Tickets: \$12 General Admission,
\$10 Members, Seniors and Students
Tickets go on sale *August 1*

In Memoriam

MRS. MARJORIE MCNAIRY SMITH
gift from
Mrs. Merle C. Frazier

MR. GENE LASHLEY
gift from
Mrs. Merle C. Frazier

Honorarium

MRS. JOANNE BLUETHENTHAL
gift in honor of her birthday from
Mrs. Betty C. Roth

In 2007, 169 volunteers donated 4551.75 hours to the museum, the equivalent of two full-time staff working for 2 years without a vacation or holiday! Our volunteers range in age from young teens to senior citizens and perform a myriad of tasks. Docents, Traveling Trunk Troupers, Receptionists, Shopkeepers, Visitor Hosts, Special Events Hosts, Archival Assistants, Collections Assistants, and Teen Program Assistants extend the hands of the staff, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all our visitors. Here, docents Burl Hull, Nancy Jones, Genevieve Leach, and Kathryn Eskey pose with props from the Civil War tour.



Celebrate Our Volunteers!



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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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