



JOURNAL

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ON OUR COVER



South Elm Street looking north, circa 1925



Director's Corner

by Fred Goss

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I am looking forward to 2009 and all of the opportunities of informing you of the museum's progress and how it continues to serve Greensboro. You will find considerable news in this issue of the Journal on the last few weeks of 2008 and how they will impact the museum well into the future. The Greensboro Historical Museum, Inc. board of trustees has new leadership for the year and I want to acquaint you with these individuals that will lead the museum.

The 2009 board officers are President Ken Bethea, Vice President Susan Schwartz, Secretary Margaret Benjamin, Assistant Secretary Robby Hassell, Treasurer Emerson Spivey, and Assistant Treasurer Carla Ugboro. Also welcome these trustees to their 2009-2011 term of service: Margaret Benjamin, Mike Cammack, Jeff Davis, Lara Heberle, Ron Pittman, Jim Rucker, Jim Schlosser, Pat Sevier and Carla Ugboro.

The trustees and I also want to say thank you to board members that have contributed to the museum and are concluding their terms of service: Ned Cline, Fred Jones, Jim Schenck, Nathan Duggins and Al Barnett. Ned served as our board president in 2006 and 2007. Fred Jones served as cochair of our planned giving committee. Jim Schenck along with his wife Anita led the museum's most successful capital campaign from 2005 through 2007 and exceeded the original goal of \$1.6 million by more than \$500,000.

I can't say thank you enough to this group of inspiring individuals that have done so much for the museum as trustees and will continue to advocate for the museum after their official board service has ended.



© Carol W. Martin Greensboro Historical Museum Collection

Show on Haystacks, December 1945

Voices of a City

Our Next Exhibition: Teamwork in Progress

by Susan Webster
Project Manager

As the months move along we have talked about the variety of ideas during the schematic phase, completing the design development phase and the chronological interpretations of each gallery for this exhibit. The team continues work on the big picture while also developing the details that reinforce the exhibition's philosophy.

Linda Evans, Community Historian, uses interpretive threads to tell the visitor what is distinctive to Greensboro and to provide connections to American history. Creating, researching, acquiring feedback and editing are part of her dedicated efforts to create a poignant, entertaining and accurate story.

Stephen Catlett, Archivist, and Elise Allison, Assistant Archivist, have spent countless hours selecting local images and archival material to enhance this

***“The strength
of the team is
each individual
member...
the strength
of each member
is the team.”***

—NBA coach Phil Jackson

story. Hundreds of images will be used for large murals and graphics. Rare original documents, photographs and books will supplement the galleries too. Audio clips and video footage have been pulled from our holdings or acquired for the exhibition.

Jon Zachman, Curator of Collections, monitors the needs of the architects and structural engineers as they prepare to transform the exhibit space in our largest artifact, our building. He is also developing an exciting military history technology

component. This task will allow visitors to look at additional military objects, learn more about local veterans and provide a way for them to relate their own history. Selecting objects, acquiring new items and creating detailed charts for each gallery have been tasks that Jon and I have worked on together.

Curator of Education Betty K. Phipps is developing exciting interpretive ideas for visitors of all ages and interests. Working with an educators' advisory board and staff members Anne Foster, Carolyn Malone and Shawn Rogers, Betty K. will soon be scripting tours and developing related educational programs. In collaboration with Kathryn “Kat” Sikes, our new Exhibits Assistant, Betty K. will finalize the hands-on interactives that will allow visitors to see, feel, smell and touch history. Kat brings wonderful ideas and experience in conceptualizing and designing these interactives.

Director Fred Goss and I meet often to review budgets, next steps and strategies for the exhibit's success. Fred keeps the board and the public informed on our progress.

In the next Journal, read more about specific elements of the exhibition



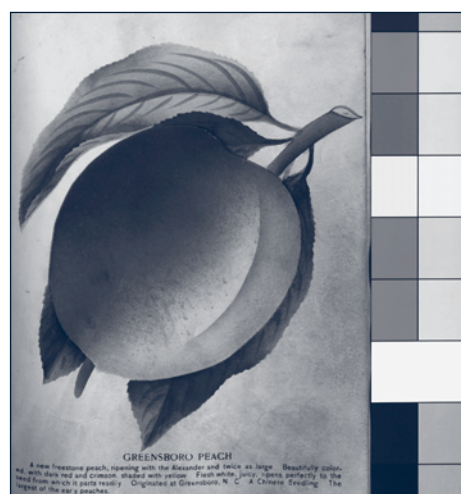
In October Jerry Eisterhold, founder and artistic director of Eisterhold Associates of Kansas City, provided an update on the exhibit project for capital campaign donors

Archives Uncovered

Scan Once, Use Forever

by Elise Allison
Assistant Archivist

Over the past few years, Archives has undertaken the monumental task of scanning hundreds of items, ranging from photographs to letters, newspapers, broadsides, and maps, for the upcoming exhibit on Greensboro history. While some of these items will be put on display in their original format, the majority will be reproduced as graphics on text and photo panels and in audiovisual presentations.



Color plate from nursery sample book c. 1885.
A color bar provides a benchmark for the tones of the original paper and illustration

grayscale bar, placed next to the item to show its size and allow its color to be accurately reproduced by printers and on other computer monitors.

Although these standards are more than sufficient to meet the needs of most repositories and their users, they are not always adequate for a museum exhibition. We are planning to reproduce some images as murals at sizes many times that of the original items. As a result, we have been scanning at even higher resolutions than those recommended by professional standards, a time-consuming process that produces huge image files.

We have scanned over one thousand items for the upcoming exhibit, but our work will be useful far beyond the opening of this exhibit. In keeping

Archival standards recommend a "Scan Once" approach with master scans created at 300-600 pixels per inch (ppi) and saved as uncompressed files, usually in the tiff format.

These digital masters can then be easily copied and reproduced in many sizes and formats.

They also include a color or



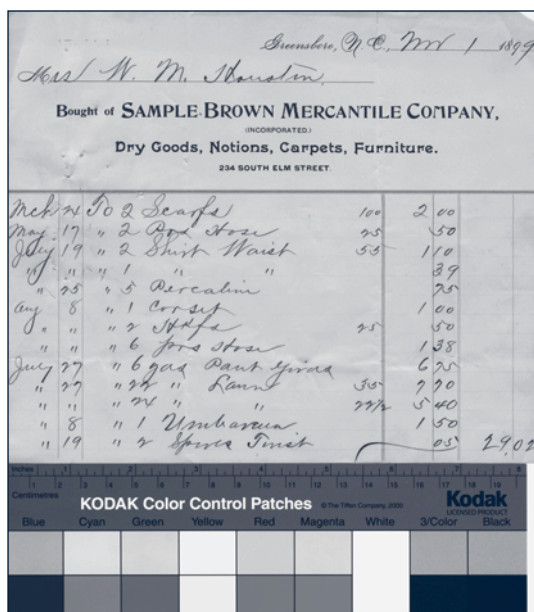
Vick Chemical c. 1935

A grayscale bar makes sure every tone can be accurately rendered

with the "scan once" approach, our master scans are of such high quality that we will be able to derive from them digital and print copies to meet virtually any future need.

Of course, as all good archivists know, use "forever" is not as simple as it sounds. Digital files must also be maintained with regular back-ups and, as technology

evolves, migration to new storage formats.



Merchant's bill, 1899
A color bar includes a ruler to show the image's original size

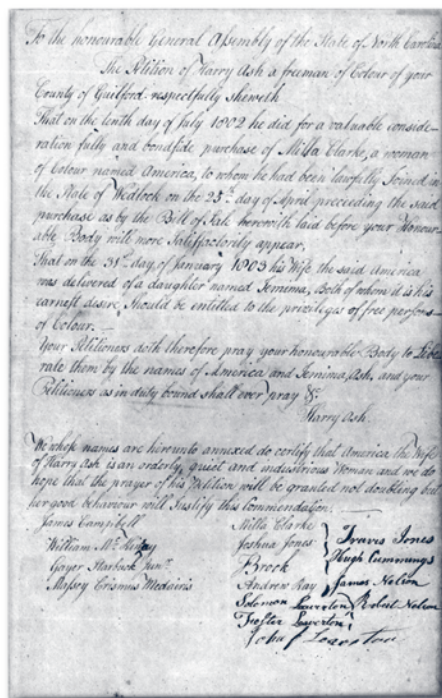
Passport to History

"I've Been Writing Exhibit Labels for Years"

by Linda Evans
Community Historian

That's what I heard myself telling a friend as I declined yet another invitation. I had work to do—research, writing, fact-checking, and such. Yes, I'd been working on this project a long time, four years in fact, but that was okay. Fine in fact, because I'd learned so much and the exhibit was going to be great. Then I woke up, laughed out loud over my dream, and had to smile thinking about how fun it will be when *Voices of a City: Greensboro North Carolina* opens in 2010.

Part of the exhibit development process has been an evolving list of titles (if you even remember, please forget the previous *Greensboro: A Crossroads for Many Voices* or *Voices of Greensboro*). All the while the staff team, led by project manager Susan Webster, has been steadily working to develop a storyline and identify the objects and images that will best express our new interpretation of Greensboro's history. The task has been both daunting and energizing. The plans for *Voices of a City* have benefited from



Freedman Harry Ash's petition to emancipate his wife and daughter

introduced to some of the over 200 people who create the framework for *Voices of a City*. Since this issue appears during African American History Month, I'll begin with two examples of powerful voices.

Two family stories will powerfully illustrate the institution of slavery as it happened right here in Guilford County. In one, freedman Harry Ash had enough money and support to appeal to the

staff members' distinct yet complementary expertise, from creativity to conceptualization to organization and project management.

In the process I've been able to meld both new and well-known voices to the exhibition storyline, voices with an extraordinary power to tell Greensboro's story. In the months to follow, before the exhibition opens, you'll be

legal system. Ash had purchased America in 1802 for the sum of fifty dollars. The couple had married and welcomed a child, whom they named Jemima. Now Ash sought emancipation for his family and submitted a legislative petition supported with the signatures of over a dozen residents. The House of Commons granted Ash's request on December 18, 1804. The entire family would from this day forward be free.

In a second story, an enslaved mother named Ede risked all to keep her family together. She took her youngest child and hid in the woods after learning that she was to be sent away from her husband and three other children. She appealed to a Quaker family for help, and teenager Levi Coffin went to talk on Ede's behalf with her owner, Rev. David Caldwell. Caldwell agreed to keep Ede

with her family and promised she would not be punished. Available records don't reveal what the future held for Ede and her loved ones.

These are only two of the over two hundred individuals who will be introduced to visitors. Some will make a brief appearance; a few will even have part of their story shared in an audiovisual presentation. All will play a unique and powerful role in *Voices of a City: Greensboro North Carolina*.



Ede ran away to keep her family together



by Director Fred Goss

For many months Journal readers have read of updates on the Museum Shop with many of the articles ending with the sentence that more news was forthcoming. I take pleasure in stating that this Shop Talk article has considerable news on the museum board's decision on the Shop and its future operations.

Andrew Andoniadis of Andoniadis Retail Services in Portland, Oregon completed his report on the Museum Shop on October 15, 2008, and provided considerable insight into current and future shop operations. The board's Museum Shop Committee reviewed the final report and had the consultant present his findings to the full board of trustees to answer their questions. The analysis concluded that the Museum Shop was an integral part of museum operations, was a visitor expectation and served as an extension of the educational experience provided by the museum.

The full board accepted the Andoniadis report and its recommendations on October 29. The report will be implemented with current Museum Shop operations, and includes a total remodeling and remerchandising. A manager will be hired before the new Shop opens in 2009. Exact dates for the closing and remodeling are yet to be set, but will appear in the *Journal* to keep current shoppers informed of the change. My thanks to the board of trustees for their thorough study of the Shop and providing for its future operation.

I appreciate the patience and support that many members have provided while the Museum Shop Committee conducted its study these past months. I am excited about the Shop and look forward to its changes in 2009.



In November, Montpelier Foundation research associates Cheryl Bush (l) and Gillian Maguire spent 2 1/2 days with Curator Susan Webster. They came to return loans, study our collections and archives, and courier a new set of artifacts back to Montpelier for temporary exhibition. The pair have been researching Madison-related objects, collections and genealogy to create a computer database that will benefit museums and scholars across the country.



At November's Annual Meeting, Anita Schenck (r) showed Gene Jones and Anne Hurd the plaque she and husband Jim received for their stellar leadership in the capital campaign



Laura Wall, (l) with Patrick and Lisa Anderson at Annual Meeting



2008 Dortch lecturer Jim Schlosser (r) with wife Kate and panelist Willie Breeze, Jr.

Event Calendar

January

NEW YEAR HOLIDAY

Museum closed

NORTH CAROLINA CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

Saturday, January 10 at 6:00 p.m.

Civil War historian Ed Bearss

"The Escape and Capture of John Wilkes Booth"

Tickets \$15; E-mail

ctommycole@yahoo.com

or call 725-8797

MILITARY HISTORY GALLERY CLOSES

Sunday, January 11

DOCUMENTARY AND BOOKSIGNING WITH CONNIE CURRY

Friday, January 16 from 4 – 7 p.m.

Senior Resources Partnership

See the award-winning documentary

An Intolerable Burden

For more information, call 373-4816

KIDS' CLUB WITH BRIGHT STAR THEATRE

Saturday, January 17 at 10:30 and 2:00

Honoring the legacy and work of

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

For grades 3 and up; Tickets \$5

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY

Offices closed Monday, January 19

February

LOCAL AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MUSEUM TOURS

Every Saturday and Sunday

in February at 3 p.m.

LEGACY OF THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS WITH ERNEST HOOKER

Saturday, February 7 at 2 p.m.

Inspirational stories of legendary

African American soldiers

For grades 3 and up; Tickets \$2

PRESIDENTS DAY

Monday, February 16

GUILD MEETING

Monday, February 16 at 10:00 a.m.

Timber Framing and Barn Raising

with Tillers International member

Ed Morrah

DOLLEY MADISON EXHIBIT CLOSES

Sunday, February 22

KIDS' CLUB WITH BRIGHT STAR THEATRE

Saturday, February 28 at 10:30 & 2

Heroes of the Underground Railroad

featuring Harriet Tubman, Levi Coffin,

Frederick Douglass, John Parker, and

Henry "Box" Brown.

For grades 3 and up; Tickets \$5

March

FROM FOREST TO CITY & O. HENRY EXHIBITS CLOSE

Sunday, March 7

In Memory of

MRS. MARJORIE SMITH

gift from

Terry & Gayle Fripp

MR. EMMETT BRINGLE

gift from

Blake and Nancy Clark

In Honor of

CAROL MOORE

gift from

Museum Guild

BETTY K. PHIPPS

gift from

Guilford County Schools

JIM & ANITA SCHENCK

gifts from

Ms. Marilyn Anderson

Mrs. Merle Frazier

Mr. Francis McNairy

Mrs. Juliet Davis

BETTY GALE SIKES

gift from

Mrs. Phyllis Lashley

Members' Bequests Received

Member Alice Caldwell Davidson Abel left a most generous bequest to the B. Craighead

Davidson Endowment, a gift that will allow the museum to offer additional paid internships for students pursuing museum careers.

Abel, who passed away last winter, had a passion for history and antiques. Her childhood home, Rosedale, now welcomes guests as a house museum. As an adult she became a founding member of the North Carolina Association of Dealers in Antiques and active at both the Historical Museum and Blandwood. In 1998 Abel funded a paid internship program in her father's memory, helping a new generation learn about the fields she so loved.

Alice Caldwell Davidson Abel

Each summer since,

Davidson Interns have assisted in museum projects and written Abel letters of thanks.

"When I moved to Greensboro in the 1960s, the museum was one of the first things I found out about," Abel recalled. We and students selected for the Davidson program are most thankful her fondness never wavered.



Alice Abel, about 1960

Anyone who came in contact with Carolyn Stevens saw a sparkle in her eye and realized

Carolyn Stevens

her joy for life and lifelong learning. Her experience as a professional educator and her love of people made her the ideal museum volunteer, and for years hardly an event or project took place without her help and presence. As a docent she drew young charges under her storytelling spell, and as a Guild member and president she created a wonderful sense of community for the museum and local history.



Carolyn Stevens, about 1985

After Carolyn's death in 2007, director Fred Goss received a letter from her estate informing him of a major monetary gift. "Ms. Stevens is fondly remembered as a consistent advocate for the museum and its services," notes Goss, adding, "We recognize the loss to the community and appreciate her final gift that will reach visitors for years to come. Her bequest will go toward the gallery renovations for our exhibition opening in 2010 at which time her generosity will be duly acknowledged."



130 Summit Avenue
Greensboro, NC 27401
www.greensborohistory.org
336 373 2043

FREE ADMISSION

Museum Hours

Tuesday - Saturday 10 - 5
Sunday 2 - 5

Museum Shop Hours

Tuesday - Saturday 11 - 4
Sunday 2 - 5

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