

# TASK, TECHNIQUE, TALENT, TREASURE

by Exhibit Project Manager Susan Webster

## TASK: Collecting Stories of Local Veterans

Last year on Veterans Day, the museum launched an oral history project called Service and Sacrifice: Collecting Local Veterans' Stories. Since then we have completed more than 30 interviews, thanks in large part to dedicated volunteer Roger Weigold. With Roger's help, the museum has acquired photographs, biographical information and personal narratives from local veterans of the Second World War to the present.

These stories and images will be featured in a touch screen interactive in the new military history gallery. Visitors will be able to search for veterans of each major conflict from the American Revolutionary War to today. If you would like to share your story, it is not too late.

## TECHNIQUE: Holes, Footings and Braces

The stagecoach marker, part of the museum landscape, will be moving inside. So where and how will we mount a 9-foot tall, 800 pound granite monolith? To confirm measurements and condition, Exhibits Curator Shane Carrico and several J. Wayne Poole crew members excavated the base of the marker enlisting manpower, strong nylon straps and the gentle tug of a forklift. Inside the museum an opening was cut in the floor, and a footing poured so a custom lined metal brace can hold the marker below floor level and allow it to loom securely 6 feet above.



This stagecoach marker let travelers know they had ten miles to travel to reach Greensboro

## TALENT: They'll Sweat the Big Stuff

Moving really big objects takes talent and technique. In the next few weeks the museum will enlist experts to move a 3200 pound loom from Cone Mills, a flat bed train car, our granite stagecoach marker and our road wagon. Where are they going? Carefully pre-planned journeys will place them within Voices exhibit galleries. City Transfer of High Point will

move the loom to the Denim Capital. Mike Greene of MGB in Salisbury will disassemble and reassemble the wagon, winding through the renovation to settle in Bewitching

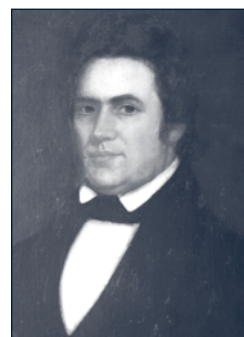
Country. The granite marker will be lowered into the floor in Early Greensborough and the flat bed will be the focal piece for a section on railroads. Watch for photos!

## VOICES OF A CITY: GREENSBORO NORTH CAROLINA

### TREASURE: Portrait of John Adams Gilmer

In September the museum had a rare opportunity to acquire a portrait of North Carolina Congressman John Adams Gilmer (1805-1868). Born in Guilford County, Gilmer practiced law in Greensboro before serving in the North Carolina State Senate and later the United States House of Representatives.

The museum has known about the Gilmer portrait for several years, but recently learned it would go on the auction block. Curator of Collections Jon Zachman attended the auction where dozens of pieces from the estate of Mr. W. Samuel Tarlton sold to a crowded room of bidders. With a final tap of his gavel, the auctioneer exclaimed, "lot 468 sold to bidder 489!" Look for the Gilmer portrait in the Debating Liberty section of the Voices exhibition.



John Adams Gilmer

## VOICES OF A CITY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Progress photos posted at [www.greensborohistory.org](http://www.greensborohistory.org)

### December:

- Graphics for the exhibit are being produced by Hadley Exhibits of Buffalo, N.Y.
- Interior renovation nearing completion
- Design and fabrication of interactives continues

### January:

- Audiovisual elements finalized
- Education tours under development
- Conservation of objects continues

### February:

- Excitement is building!



# Voices of a City: College Town

## Education, Cooperation, and Innovation in Upcoming Changing Times Gallery

By Katei Cranford, UNCG Work/Study Student

The upcoming Voices of a City exhibition will highlight the pursuit of education in Greensboro. Both prominent Greensboro figures and working folk understood that a well-educated population would be necessary to support a thriving community.

Educational emphasis helped produce innovative ideas during changing times which fostered Greensboro's transformation from an 1800s pleasant village into a 20th century "Gate City" in the New South.

Today, Greensboro continues looking ahead, adopting new avenues of academic exploration. In 2006, through collaboration with the American Judicature Society Institute of Forensic Science and Policy and the NC Business Court, Elon University School of Law opened to provide students with access to real-life court procedures while preparing them for the innovative fields of the future.

### Woman's (School) Work: UNCG & Greensboro College

*Without educated women there can be no trained teachers.  
Without trained teachers there can be no effective schools.  
Without these schools there can be no progress in North Carolina.*  
N.C. Normal and Industrial School instructor Annie Randall, 1901

#### Greensboro College

In 1837, North Carolina granted its first charter for a woman's college, the Greensborough College for Women. Since the first class graduated in 1848, the college has worked to "advance the status of women and realize a progressive vision of North Carolina." In 1902, President Lucy H. Robertson became the first woman to head a North Carolina college.

A coeducational format was adopted in 1956, allowing the school's progressive vision to be directed toward both genders. Today 1,200 male and female students make up the community who have come together to learn at Greensboro College.

#### University of North Carolina at Greensboro

In the 1890s, Charles Duncan McIver and Mary Mendenhall Hobbs crusaded for a women's teacher-training college in Greensboro. A 10-acre site was donated, and local bonds raised \$30,000 to erect a campus for the North Carolina State Normal and Industrial School for White Women. In 1892, McIver presided over the inaugural class of 223 students.

Becoming a fully licensed University in 1931, the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina (affectionately known as WC) offered courses in business, domestic science, education, and music. A coeducational expansion, and adoption into the UNC system, turned WC into the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1967.

Today, UNCG is a major research university, offering over 175 undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

### Ahead of the Race: NCA&T & Bennett College

*The status of a school can best be measured by the success of its students.*

Dr. James B. Dudley  
NC A&T President, 1896-1925

#### NC Agricultural & Technical State University

In 1891 Greensboro citizens donated 14 acres of land and \$11,000 to build the Agricultural and Mechanical College for the Colored Race.

In less than 20 years, with president James B. Dudley at the helm, A&M oversaw significant expansion in physical facilities and academic programs, and in 1915 became the Agricultural

and Technical School of North Carolina. As a full university by 1967, A&T was incorporated into the growing North Carolina university system.

As the largest historically black university in North Carolina today, A&T provides a top-ranked engineering program as well as nearly 150 other degree options.



Blacksmithing class in the early years of N.C. A&T

#### Bennett College for Women

What began in a basement in 1873 at Warnersville Methodist Episcopal Church ultimately became Bennett College, a school dedicated to African American education.

In a building funded by Lyman Bennett, on land purchased by school supporters, basic reading and writing classes flourished into a full coeducational training facility for future teachers. The college was operated by the Freedman's Aid Society until 1926 when the Women's Home Missionary Society joined the board of education and Bennett welcomed the first class of all female students.

Bennett's legacy includes visits by political and social figures, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who personally addressed the Greensboro community at Bennett's Pfeiffer Chapel in 1958, and Oprah Winfrey, who in 2006 raised funds to ensure that Bennett continues providing education to over 600 students in the 24 degree programs offered today.

### Innovation and Open Arms: Guilford College & GTCC

*You send me the people and I'll train them.*

Aviation technology instructor Steve Saunders, 2008  
Guilford Technical Community College

#### Guilford College

The Quaker Society of Friends chartered the New Garden Friends Boarding School in 1837. As the first coeducational

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# Touch It, Play With It, Make It Go!

By Betty K. Phipps, Curator of Education

Low-tech interactives are displays that entice, intrigue, and engage the visitor with an activity that is fun, intuitive and does not require computer skills. They can be enjoyed by people from age three to one hundred and three. A jigsaw puzzle is a familiar low tech interactive. By assembling the pieces, you achieve a picture; the parts make up the whole image or story.

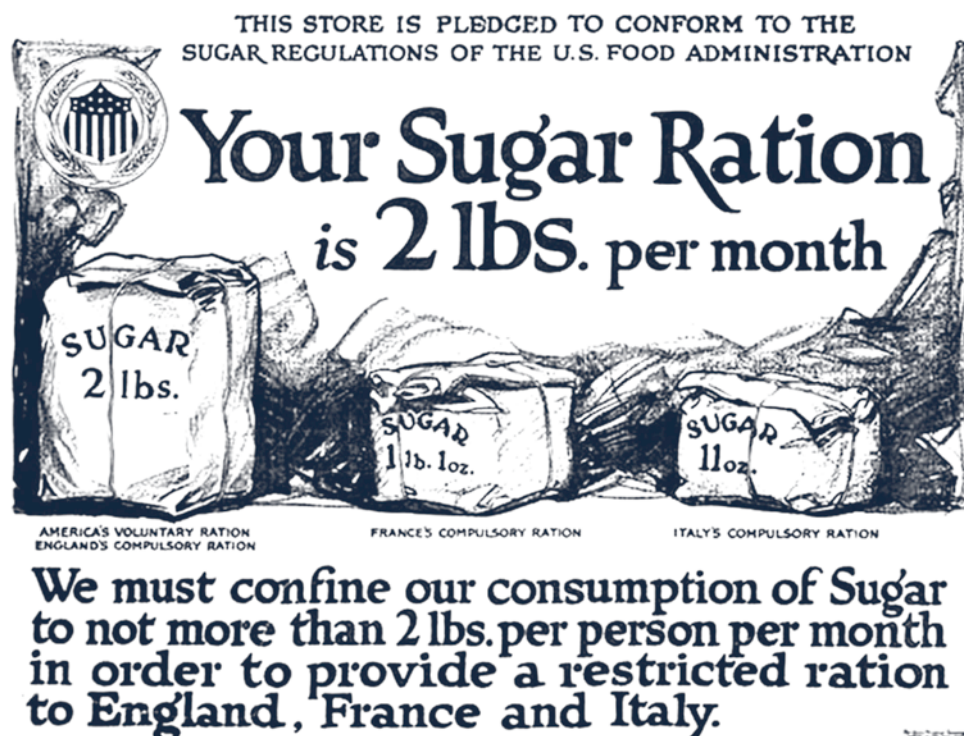
Working together, the Education staff and Exhibits Departments are developing low-tech interactives for Voices of a City. First, we identified our goals. The interactives should be easily grasped or explained, stimulate a variety of learning styles, encourage curiosity, and promote experimentation and fun. Next, three consultants shared their expertise during a one-day workshop. To insure that the interactives enhance the overall experience, the museum curators participated on the exhibit team and in meetings with the design firm, Eisterhold and Associates. With the completed exhibit plan in hand, the education staff developed content statements and sought supplementary information for each interactive station. The final step is close at hand. Just as the museum engaged Eisterhold and Associates to create the overall exhibit design, the interactives team has recommended that the museum hire

Studio Displays, Inc. of Charlotte to design and install the interactives. A workshop with representatives of the firm will finalize the plans.

Visitors will encounter seven different interactive stations scattered throughout the exhibit. *Choices* will allow them to discover that commitment to the Revolutionary cause or to the Crown

brought with it serious consequences for residents like the Spurgin family of Guilford County. *Building a City* will invite amateur surveyors to plot the course of the development of Greensboro from a wilderness to a town, between 1808 and 1856. At the *What Is It?* case, sleuths will solve the mystery of the identity and function of unusual artifacts in the collection. Denim has become a universal fabric, but how is it made? Through *Tactile Textiles* guests can explore the feel of denim as it progresses from cotton plant to fabric. Do you like O. Henry stories? Then the next interactive station is for you. Readers can take a seat, relax to vintage music and enjoy the short stories of O. Henry. If they wish, they may take an example of O. Henry's work home for later entertainment.

At the *World War II Homefront* case visitors will gain insight into the sacrifices and challenges of wartime rationing and salvage. Finally, revolving *People Cubes* will illustrate Greensboro's diverse population today.



Sugar was one of the many rationed items during World War II, and this illustration is one of many to be featured in the *Homefront* interactive

## 2009 Greensboro Historical Museum, Inc. Board of Directors

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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 - Friday 11 - 4  
Saturday 10 - 5  
Sunday 2 - 5

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



## Voices of a City: College Town

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school in the south, New Garden continued evolving with innovative ideas and never closed during the Civil War.

In 1888, the school shifted toward a collegiate curriculum, continuing its educational pursuit as Guilford College. During World War II, the college protected Japanese-American students from internment camps, and in 1953 it became the first local college to launch a degree program for working adults.

Today Guilford College continues to "strive for wisdom and virtue," as the school motto goes, and is home to over 1,200 students pursuing their choice of the 40 academic majors available.

### Educating Everyone at GTCC

In 1958, 42 students attended the first class at the vocational Guilford Industrial Education Center. Within that first year, enrollment grew to 593 students, and hasn't stopped growing in the 50 years since.

By 1965, GIEC trained over 7,000 students, gained the ability to bestow associate degrees, and officially became Guilford Technical Institute. Never losing its main focus of educational preparation for the working class allowed GTI to flourish, and expand in 1983 to offer college preparatory courses as Guilford Technical Community College.

Today GTCC provides nationally accredited programs to accommodate over 41,000 students.



GTCC's first graduating class, 1967

## CALENDAR

### Now - January 5

David Caldwell Historic Park Exhibit:  
*How Did Our Ancestors Celebrate the Holidays?*  
Free. Call 373-3681 for details.

### Tuesday, December 15

Guild Trip to Old Salem  
8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
\$58. Call 545-9440 or 854-2614 for details.

### Friday, December 18, 2009

*Dolley is Back:* A selection of Dolley Madison artifacts returns in the former *Play Ball* exhibit area

### Thursday and Friday, December 24 and 25

Museum and Caldwell Park closed

### Friday, January 1

Museum and Caldwell Park closed

### Saturday, January 16

*Civil War Round Table*  
6:00 social, 7:00 lecture by Ed Bearss, Retired Historian, National Park Service  
Free. Call 725-8797 for details.

### Saturday, January 23

David Caldwell Historic Park  
Exhibit Opening  
*David and Rachel Caldwell: Their Lives and Legacy*  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Free. Call 373-3681 for details.

### Sunday, January 31

*The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln: The Greensboro Connection*  
Bill Moore, retired director, GHM  
3:00 p.m.  
Free. Call 373-2043 for details.

### Monday, February 15

Guild Meeting  
10:00 a.m.  
*Local Church History* with Gayle Fripp, Kitty Robison & Scott Culclasure

### Thursday-Saturday, February 25 - 27

*La Revue Negra:*  
*The Josephine Baker Story*  
Featuring Ms. Ashanti White  
7:30 p.m.  
\$5 at the door. Call 373-2043 for details.

### Friday, February 26

*La Revue Negra:*  
*The Josephine Baker Story*  
9:30 a.m.

### Sunday, February 28

*La Revue Negra:*  
*The Josephine Baker Story*  
3:00 p.m.



Stop by the Museum Shop, temporarily located in the Lindsay Lobby, to meet new Shop Manager Cynthia Kennard and see our great selection of gifts, toys and books.