

# ROAR



## *Greensboro Athlete Marty Sheets*

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## DIRECTION

### Who are we?

### Why it matters!

Those were the six words I thought best described our museum. It was part of an exercise at a recent meeting for non-profits. We were given a few minutes to capture our organization's mission in six words—much shorter than an elevator speech or formal mission statement. It could be a list, phrase or brief thought. I started with my vision: to engage the community in the pursuit of wisdom by making connections that challenge—too wordy. Then I went back to traditional roles: collect, preserve, interpret and educate—great foundation, where would those ideas send me?

I thought of my 5 C's—collaborate, collect, connect, challenge and care, which handled what and how, but was not quite capturing why. What impact do I hope the museum will have in the community? Why is it we steward the precious artifacts of the past? It seemed to me the answer was that as a museum, we are exploring the question of who we are/were/can be.

History, after all, is about people. But who are the people we depict, how did people live, what did they think and feel? How does that help us figure out who we are? As a history museum we have to make connections that help us explore why that understanding matters.

What are your six words? Let me know via Twitter @GsoHistryMuseum #GHMinsix

  
Carol Ghiorso Hart, Director



**I am fond of  
Abraham Lincoln's quote,  
"Whatever you are,  
be a good one."**

What an incredible first quarter we had at the museum! With hundreds of people attending special events, from the screening of a film by local Montagnard youth, to our Black History Month *Lifted Voices* program, to *A Tartan Evening* (covered by *O. Henry Magazine*), it is exciting to see so many people visiting our museum, enjoying our programming, and using our space in ways that provide connections to our collections and to one another.

We want this momentum to continue. Our community is seeing our museum as an important destination...a place where one can learn not only about our city's history, but also about other cultures, traditions, and people...a place filled with enlightened conversations and meaningful dialogue.

I am fond of Abraham Lincoln's quote, "Whatever you are, be a good one." As we approach the 90th anniversary of our founding, I am proud that the Greensboro Historical Museum still seeks this challenge of excellence. From being accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (the ultimate mark of distinction in the field) to being a Smithsonian Affiliate (requiring the highest of standards), GHM has a strong commitment to serving our community while being the best in its class.

Thank you for being a supportive partner, and making our museum a part of your daily lives. We look forward to another eventful quarter ahead with you...filled with excellence!



Lisa Anderson, President, Greensboro Historical Museum, Inc.



## ON EXHIBIT



### Hey Kids, What Time Is It?

If it's April in Greensboro, that means it's poetry time and taking part in the Public Library's Poetry GSO celebrations. At the museum, we're inviting visitors of all ages to stop in their tracks and pen a tweet, haiku or sonnet about our Howdy Doody doll on exhibition.

John Keats took his inspiration from a Grecian urn; we'll be gazing upon a classic character from the NBC children's television show. He's a bit plastic instead of ceramic, of course, but still has plenty of cheer and personality.

Drop by the museum in April, say hello to Howdy, and in a flash, write a poem on an entry form. Youth and adult winners will be chosen in a raffle drawing on May 1.



### Museum on the Move

**D**o you want to bring the Greensboro Historical Museum into your classroom or community meeting?

We have great news: you can, because our Education Trunks are mini-museums in a box. For a small fee, you can get trunks packed with artifacts, reproductions of primary documents and visual aids. Whether your group consists of students, scouts or adults, our Traveling and Trouped Trunks bring local stories to the places where you live, study and gather within Guilford County.



Each year, scores of teachers, scout leaders and community leaders bring “history-in-a-box” Traveling Trunks to their groups. These trunks contain an easy-to-use script and are broadly based upon state curriculum standards.

If you think your audience

would enjoy a talk by one of our talented volunteers, you can select a Trouped Trunk, which includes a 30 to 60 minute presentation at your location.

Recently, we’ve made the Traveling and Trouped Trunks both easier to reserve and more accessible. How? You can visit our website,

GreensboroHistory.org, and click on Education Trunks to see a list of Trunk topics. Now that Traveling Trunks have been outfitted in rolling boxes, they are easier to bring to your group than ever.

If you’re interested in reserving a trunk, or in serving as a volunteer trouper, please contact me at 336.333.6831 or [Dean.MacLeod@greensboro-nc.gov](mailto:Dean.MacLeod@greensboro-nc.gov).

**Dean MacLeod**, Curator of Education



### WHAT THE MUSEUM MEANS TO STUDENTS

“My students are so excited when we come for a field trip,” says Aycock educator Susan Skinner. She enjoys attending special events because “there’s usually something that we can read about before our visit. Students love when they recognize something we’ve talked over in class.” Skinner and her Aycock students have come to 5 by O. Henry plays (at right), and performances about the Negro Baseball League and poet Langston Hughes, to name a few. “They’ve been great.”

Exhibits offer another teaching tool. “We make connections with social studies lessons, too, there’s so much stimulation for learning. The museum is a very warm, friendly place, and a valuable resource.”



## Up for Adoption

**T**aking care of unique objects that represent the diverse history of Greensboro is integral to the mission of the Historical Museum; caring for more than 25,000 objects and about 600,000 archival items requires special training and expertise. Each piece named to the *Adopt an Object* program has been carefully studied to consider

historical significance, origins, overall condition and structural stability. *Adopt an Object* provides the people of Greensboro—individuals, families, organizations and businesses—an opportunity to support this important preservation program through tax-deductible donations.

### Dolley Madison Daguerreotypes

by Mathew Brady, circa 1848

Treatment estimate: \$2200

Dolley Madison, wearing one of her favorite turbans, posed at Mathew Brady's studio during the last year of her life. Two rare daguerreotypes made that day were discovered in a Pennsylvania attic in the 1950s. The Greensboro-based Dolley Madison Memorial Association purchased the items and later donated them to the Historical Museum.



### Dolls

Makers include Trego Doll Mfg. Co. and Effanbee circa 1920s

Treatment estimate: \$2300

Imagine a little girl, Anita, and her older sister Marietta, spending afternoons in the 1920s playing with their favorite toys. Carefully kept by the family for nearly 80 years, these now rare dolls are wearing original era clothes but are in need of a visit to the doll hospital.

Anita Meares Rivers (1912-2010), a graduate of Hampton University with a degree in mathematics and master's degree from the University of Michigan, distinguished herself on the faculty at Bennett College and North Carolina A&T State University. The mother of three sons, Rivers was active in Greensboro's civic community, and upon retirement, traveled throughout the world.



### Southern Railroad Passenger Train Mural

Oil on canvas, circa 1909

Treatment estimate: \$20,000

Itinerant artist Harper Bond painted this mural in exchange for room and board at the Clegg Hotel, located at 368 S. Elm St. The artist's skill and the mural's subject attracted a great deal of interest even before it was completed. A newspaper described the artist's effort as painstaking, for the mural measured more than forty-five feet, the entire length of the coffee shop. Fortunately, when the Clegg Hotel was slated for demolition in the 1950s, the mural was saved. The museum acquired a thirty-five foot portion; it hung for many years in the former Hall of Transportation gallery.

### Awaiting Adoption

Hilda Lanier Ogburn Sketchbooks circa 1920s

Treatment estimate: \$1700

## Successful Adoptions

### Lt. Robert L. Campbell Brass Bugle

Adopted for \$425

Thanks to Office of the Chancellor,  
North Carolina A&T State University

### Lt. Col. William S. Rankin Civil War Kepi

Adopted for \$1300

Thanks to Mrs. Elizabeth Stephens  
Guilford Chapter #301, United Daughters of the Confederacy



## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

### New Holdings in Collections and Archives



photo courtesy of Carol W. Martin/GHM Collection

#### **Bentwood Chair from O. Henry Hotel, circa 1925**

Made by Kohn-Mundus

Bentwood chairs are so named because of how they are made: steamed wood is bent and shaped along metal sheets and rods to form arms, legs and decorative elements. Manufacturers introduced the design to American consumers after WWI; the style became extremely popular.

The museum recently acquired two Bentwoods from the N. Elm St. O. Henry Hotel, which opened in 1919. Similar chairs can be seen in this 1940s photograph.



#### **George Perry Papers, 1950s-1970s**

Generations of Greensboro children grew up watching WFMY-TV's The Old Rebel Show, and many adults fondly remember appearing on the live program. With George Perry starring as Old Rebel, the show featured slapstick humor, skits, cartoons and celebrities. The Old Rebel and sidekicks Pecos Pete and Lonesome Lee appeared in product promotions and were popular guests at parades, benefits and community events.

The museum recently acquired a collection of photographs and printed material documenting Perry's career and the early years of WFMY.

#### **US Citizens Defense Corps Jacket**

During World War II, the Office of Civilian Defense organized volunteers so that medical, public works, fire and police services would be available during emergencies. Auxiliary Police assignments ran the gamut from traffic control to security to enforced blackouts, as well as guarding bridges, factories and water resources against sabotage.

Charles "Pete" Lloyd Wyrick (1909-1976), member of the Home Guard, Citizens Defense Corps, was assigned to protect Greensboro's water treatment plant. His jacket's insignia identifies him as a member of the Auxiliary Police.



#### **Greensboro Yankees photo, 1958**

Professional baseball began in Greensboro around 1902, and was played at War Memorial Stadium from 1930 until NewBridge Bank Park opened in 2005. This photo shows Greensboro's minor league team in the first of its ten seasons as a NY Yankees farm club. By scoring eight home runs in one game, the 1958 team set a Carolina League record.

Elise Allison, Archivist  
Susan Webster, Registrar/Curator  
Jon Zachman, Curator of Collections

## Online Museum Shopping

**G**reat news! Did you know that you can shop for many items you already love or make new discoveries at <http://Shop.GreensboroHistory.org>? Our online site offers a variety of items including gifts made by local artists, children's toys, museum t-shirts, and North Carolina books and pottery. In just a few simple steps you can make that special purchase from the comfort of home or while you're on the go.



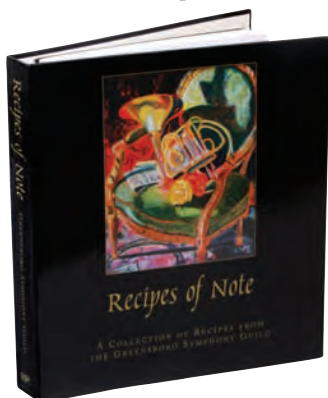
Perhaps you have visited the Museum Shop, and realized several days afterwards that you would like to have that lovely piece of North Carolina pottery that you admired. Well, good news—we feature a variety of local ware, which is available to you at just the click of a button.

Some customers have preferred to get a head start on their shopping by perusing our selection online prior to visiting in person. Others have purchased gifts for friends and relatives across the United States, which we gift wrap and ship within only a few days of receiving the order. (We love to gift wrap and it's complimentary with your purchase.)

Perhaps you would like to recommend to an out-of-town friend a special Greensboro cookbook that you saw in the Shop. Our online site is very easy to navigate. And, if for any reason you have questions about an item or need help with placing your order online, we are just a phone call away.

So, please be sure to visit the Museum Shop online at <http://Shop.GreensboroHistory.org> where there is history in every purchase.

*Erin Clark, Museum Shop Manager*



## Join Us



Guild members Jessie Edwards and Claudel Lassiter (in front)

**G**uild members enjoy learning about American history through programs and outings. Meetings are held during the school calendar year, on the third Monday of the month, beginning at 10 a.m. Guests are always welcome; our gatherings include members and newcomers, women and men.

We have two wonderful offerings planned this spring. On Thursday, April 17, we'll hop aboard a motorcoach bright and early at 7 a.m., to head for our state capital to enjoy a tour of the Governor's Mansion and its incredible gardens. The conversation is sure to be lively at lunch, a special treat at the Capital City Club, before heading back to Greensboro.

At our May 19 meeting, we'll hear about Greensboro's fascinating railroad history. The very nickname Gate City comes from our rail connections, and that's just the start of the story for Kevin von der Lippe, past president of the Greensboro Chapter, National Railway Society. Railroads have an allure all their own, to be sure, but Greensboro's rail stories are particularly interesting.

To learn more, visit [GreensboroHistory.org/join-support/museum-guild](http://GreensboroHistory.org/join-support/museum-guild) or call President Marilyn Cotten-McMichael at 854.2614.

*Josie Gibboney, Guild First Vice President*



## Greensboro Athlete Marty Sheets

**Y**ou could say Marty's gift comes from his work ethic, his athleticism or perhaps from his efforts for charities like CROP Hunger Walk and United Way. But when you look more closely, his gift is of heart and spirit. This talented athlete's desire to do things well, in sports and community, exemplifies a life of goodwill and inspiration. That is his gift.

In 2013, Marty Sheets was inducted into the NC Sports Hall of Fame, selected because of his role as an athlete representing the Tar Heel State. He is the first Special Olympian to be so honored.

Marty, a Smith High School graduate, has done many things well, including a 38-year career with Macy's and 15 years as a volunteer for the PGA Wyndham Championship, where he was named 2006 National Volunteer. He has also received the prestigious Order of the Long Leaf Pine as "an outstanding emissary for the State of North Carolina."

Marty's participation in Special Olympics powerfully illustrates his indefatigable spirit. He attended the very first Special Olympics Summer



*He is a North Carolina treasure; he has made many unique contributions to sports in North Carolina and is certainly worthy of induction.*

Kevin Brafford, NC Sports Hall of Fame

1999 file photo courtesy of Charlotte Observer

Games in 1968, where he met and became friends with founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver. During the next 42 years he participated in swimming, skiing, tennis, power lifting and golf, earning more than 250 medals in local, national and international games. He served on the Special Olympics golf committee, led US delegations during opening ceremonies and shared his story with other athletes.

His parents, Dave and Iris Sheets, and two sisters, have been amazing: advocating, supporting and encouraging. Dave simply says, "We are so very proud of him, and I must say, riding his coattails keeps me young."

### On display

An assortment of photos and memorabilia, generously donated by Marty and his family, will be added to the *Voices of a City* exhibition in late May; please watch the museum website for news about a reception to honor this extraordinary Greensboro athlete.

Susan Webster, Registrar/Curator

## CELEBRATION

### Making a World of Difference ... Right Here in Greensboro

**T**his year Ten Thousand Villages Greensboro celebrates ten years of service to artisans and the Greensboro community. This not-for-profit store provides vital income to people in developing countries on three continents. Opened thanks to generous contributions from local churches and individuals, this business is not a charity but an opportunity for artisans to have an outlet to sell their products through long-term, fair trading relationships.

A community display will open Saturday, May 10. Watch your mail for details about accompanying events and programs.

Susan Webster, Registrar/Curator



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### APRIL

**April 1 – 30**

#### **Poetry GSO Contest**

Visitors invited to pen a poem about our Howdy Doody doll

**Thursday, April 3 at 12:15 p.m.**

#### **BookBreak: Book Discussion Group**

Bring a bag lunch and let's talk about *Guests on Earth* by Lee Smith

**Saturday, April 5 from 11 – 1**

#### **Tartan Day at Caldwell Center**

Costumes, children's fun, bagpipe music by Triad Highland Games

**Saturday, April 12**

#### **Earth Day at Edwards Branch Library**

Visit the GHM Activity Table

**Friday, April 18**

**Sunday, April 20**

Museum Closed

**Saturday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m.**

#### **North Carolina and the French and Indian War, 1754 – 1763**

at Guilford Battleground NMP

Dr. John Maass

US Army Center for Military History

Reservations requested; call 288.1776

**Thursday, April 17**

#### **Museum Guild**

Bus trip to Raleigh

Tour of Governor's Mansion and Gardens

Call 272.2438 to check availability

### MAY

**Saturday, May 10 from 2 - 5 p.m.**

#### **Ten Thousand Villages**

Community display on view through July

**Monday, May 19 at 10 a.m.**

#### **Museum Guild Meeting**

Greensboro Railroad History  
Kevin von der Lippe

**Tuesday, May 20**

Dolley Madison born, 1768

**Monday, May 26**

Museum Offices Closed

### JUNE

**Saturday, June 14 from 11 - 3**

#### **Ten Thousand Villages Family Fun**

Make and take home crafts inspired by artisans from around the world

**Tuesday, April 8 at 7 p.m.**

#### **Textiles, Teachers and Troops: Greensboro 1881 - 1945**

Dr. Kevin Cherry  
NC Dept of Archives and History  
Launch of online local history resource thanks to NC grant from Library Services and Technology Act. <http://uncgdigital.blogspot.com/2012/06/textiles-teachers-and-troops-greensboro.html>



**On the Cover:** Marty Sheets (l) with his father Dave, at Marty's 2013 induction into the NC Sports Hall of Fame

Photo courtesy of Chris Seward/The News & Observer

**For more information, visit [GreensboroHistory.org/events](http://GreensboroHistory.org/events)**

Like Us On  facebook



**Greensboro Historical Museum**

130 Summit Avenue  
Greensboro, NC 27401  
Telephone (336) 373-2043

Open Tuesday - Saturday  
10 AM - 5 PM  
Sunday 2 PM - 5 PM  
Free Admission

**David and Rachel Caldwell Historical Center**

3211 West Cornwallis Drive  
Greensboro, NC 27410  
Telephone (336) 373-3681

Open Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM  
Free Admission

[GreensboroHistory.org](http://GreensboroHistory.org)

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