

# ROAK



### Warnersville - Our Home, Our Neighborhood, Our Stories

#### In This Issue

Direction	2
Collections & Archives	3
Heading to Public Television	6
Mark Your Calendar	8



What the Museum Means to Me Volunteer Nancy Clark See page 4 See page 3



It Happened in Winters Past



Warnersville Exhibition Opens Crowds on hand See page 5



Museum Shopping Handmade scarves and must-reads See page 7

#### **Mysteries at the Museum**

here was a morning in December we had film crews from three different projects working at the museum. A crew from NYC was here to film an episode for the Travel Channel's Mysteries at the Museum (the story



of Dolley's red velvet dress to be aired this June), a local crew, including our own education director, was filming a documentary on the Montagnard community that the museum is co-producing (which will hopefully air on public television this spring), and there was a film crew filming a music video version of the song "Happy" for the City

website (which starred several of us joyfully dancing down the steps). It made for a slightly hectic day, as lighting, sound bleed and other concerns kept us busy, but it sure was energizing to us all. That day reflected the breadth of the work we do, from historic scholarly research and preservation of

artifacts of the distant past, to ongoing oral history research of a new immigrant community in the context of current national and local politics.

In looking through this issue of *ROAR* I am struck by the range in the faces I see. We are engaging many parts of the community in exciting new ways, and I am happy about that. I hope you are pleased to be part of these efforts through your ongoing support. We have many more mysteries to investigate, communities to research, stories to communicate and songs to sing. Join us in making this another a great year.

Carol Ghiorsi Hart, Director

Welcome to the Greensboro
Historical Museum. I am proud to
serve as your President for 2015. It will
be an exciting year for our Museum.
We are excited about the plans the city
and other members of the community
have put together such as the LeBauer



Park and Greensboro Performing Arts Center (GPAC). We are confident these plans and more will make downtown a thriving community. We have many wonderful engaging activities planned during the year to enhance the museum's visibility in the community.

This year we will focus on increasing our membership, continue to partner with our schools to enrich children's

knowledge of the history of Greensboro, reach out to businesses and families as well as work closely with our existing members. A couple of exciting new projects are ahead, including working on the creation of an interactive History Lab gallery as another way of creating educational

opportunities for our community. We will also be announcing an amazing traveling exhibition for the spring.

I believe the Museum is a place that is full of life and offers an opportunity for all people to learn more about Greensboro's rich history. History is about bringing people together and helping them understand the past so that they can plan for the future.

I am excited to be your President for the 2015 year. Again, it is going to be an amazing year full of wonderful opportunities. I hope to see you around at the Greensboro Historical Museum soon.

Dr. Brian Clarida

Dr. Brian Clarida, President, Greensboro Historical Museum, Inc.

#### **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER**



◆ Congratulations to 2014 Voices of a City Local History Award recipient Brian J. Dunphy (I), Greensboro Community Television producer, here with Annual Dinner keynote speaker Dr. Elliot Engel and guest Amy DiTommaso

We have many

wonderful engaging

activities planned

during the year

Mike Cammack (I) and daughter ►
Reed Maddox accepted thanks for
a major bequest by their wife and
mother, Martha Cammack, and
visited with Library Director Brigitte
Blanton (r) and Museum Director
Carol Ghiorsi Hart.



2 January - March 2015 | GreensboroHistory.org

#### **COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES**

# February is African American History Month

In 1939 to work as a physician at L. Richardson Memorial Hospital. Of his decision to open a clinic in the Warnersville neighborhood, he said, "I wanted to settle where there was the greatest need." Dr. Hampton was elected as the first black member of the Greensboro City Council in 1951, was reelected in 1953, and served on the Greensboro Board of Education from 1955 until his death in 1960. The surgeon had a long record of community involvement including the Greensboro Citizens Association political action group, YMCA, YWCA, Boy Scouts, Heart Fund, St. Matthews Methodist Church and Greensboro Men's Club. His contributions have been recognized by the naming of a school, a subsidized housing project, and a park in his honor.



Dr. William M. Hampton and patient

Elise Allison, Archivist



St. Leo's School of Nursing student Jean Payne [Rabie], 1948

#### March is Women's History Month

For nearly 50 years, The Sisters of Charity operated St. Leo's Hospital, which was located at the intersection of Summit and Bessemer avenues. The Sisters also ran a nursing school from 1906 until 1954, graduating close to 600 expertly trained nurses. Graduates created an alumnae association and funded scholarships for local nursing students.

This wool cape was worn by Jean Payne [Rabie] between 1947 - 1950, while she was a student at St. Leo's nursing program. It is part of a collection that includes two of Payne's uniforms and caps, along with her surgical scrub gown. After graduation, Payne worked for polio hospitals in Greensboro, Chattanooga and Minneapolis. She spent the last part of her career at the Red Cross blood program in Charlotte.

Susan Webster, Registrar/Curator

#### WHAT THE MUSEUM MEANS TO ME

ancy Clark came to the museum thanks to her friendship with longtime volunteer Rosemary Troxler. "Rosemary told me how much she loved it," Clark explains. "I thought, gee, that sounds like it'd be fun to do." And it has been since 2012, when she began helping Registrar Susan Webster on Thursdays. Clark, who had careers as a music educator and electrical engineering associate before retirement, works with collections records. On a recent morning, she was "filling in the gaps on an inventory list created by interns, adding details such as how the item was acquired, what paper records exist, is there a photo, does it date from the museum's earlier years and have information on index cards, or early ledgers?" she explains. "It's so varied, which I really enjoy. I never know what I'm going to encounter."

Registrar Webster comments, "Nancy has worked with nearly 1000 records. She has made quite a difference, and it's such a pleasure to work with her." What does the museum mean to Clark? "I've always admired the museum. I love coming here. Being able to work on the inside, my admiration just grows and grows."



#### It Happened Here in January, February and March

#### January 1, 1931

Greensboro marks the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation with a parade and a pageant depicting African American history from 1619 to the present.

#### **January 2, 1849**

Fire destroys most of Greensboro's business district, beginning in a frame dwelling and sweeping from one building to another.

#### January 4, 1961

Children's jeans, usually \$1.09 a pair, are on sale for 88 cents at Sears. There's even a choice of six colors.

#### January 12, 1972

Yester Oaks Apartments opens, a new concept with club facilities, swimming pools, tennis courts, and jogging trails. Rentals begin at \$245 per month, including utilities.

#### January 16, 1951

An ad in the *Greensboro Daily News* invites buyers for a McKnight Mill Rd. five-room house complete with garage and workshop. The asking price is \$8,200.

#### **January 17, 1857**

Snow begins and continues for more than 24 hours, closing roads and halting mail. Bitter winds push the two-foot snowfall into huge drifts.

#### January 19, 1944

The Greensboro Police Department adds its first African American officers, Samuel Penn and John Montgomery, to its roster at the standard starting salary of \$140.80 a month.

#### January 23, 1968



The Boar and Castle, a drive-in sandwich shop on West Market St., runs a family special, with castleburgers for 25¢, castlesteaks for 35¢, french fries for 20¢, and fountain drinks for 10¢.

#### **January 28, 2006**

A Chinese New Year Celebration takes place at the Greensboro Cultural Center.

#### **February 3, 1983**

Henry E. Frye, attorney, businessman and former state senator, is sworn in as associate justice of the NC Supreme Court, the first African American in the court's history.

#### February 4, 1902

The Greensboro Public Library holds its formal opening ceremony. Located in City Hall, the library opens to the public the next day, its shelves filled with 1490 books.

#### February 5, 1919



WWII flying ace George Preddy is born. He grows up in a home on Park Avenue, near War Memorial Stadium. Determined to become a pilot and serve his country, he becomes the highest-scoring Mustang ace of the war.

#### February 6, 1956

Elvis Presley, called "the most talked about new personality in the last 10 years of recording music," performs at the National Theatre. Also on stage are country singers Maybelle and June Carter.

#### February 7, 1950



## Summit Shopping Center

Stores open at Summit Shopping Center, the only shopping center in town and second in the state.

#### February 11, 1958

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speaks to an overflow audience at Pfeiffer Chapel on the Bennett College campus.

#### February 19, 1875

H. H. Tate advertises daily home delivery of milk and ice in any quantity, on reasonable terms, and offers to deliver ice at any hour of the day.

#### February 21, 1846

The *Greensboro Patriot* warns readers of counterfeit \$4 Bank of the State of North Carolina bills. These are easy to spot, since "Charlotte" is misspelled as "Charlton."

#### February 25, 1953

When Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital opens today, the cost for a patient in a four-bed room is \$8 per day.



#### March 1, 1943

The first troops arrive for training at the new 650-acre Army Air Force base in northeast Greensboro.

#### March 2, 1917

The Guilford Courthouse National Military Park is established, the first Revolutionary War battlefield to become part of the National Park Service.

#### March 6, 1957



A corporation is founded to establish a nature museum in Country Park. Sponsored by the City and Greensboro Junior League, it is now the Greensboro Science Center.

#### March 16, 1987

WOJY-FM celebrates its second anniversary by giving motorists a tank of gas for only \$2. Cars line up for almost a mile to fill up at a Lawndale Exxon station.

#### March 25, 1974

North Carolina State wins the NCAA basketball title at Greensboro's only Final Four Tournament.

#### March 28, 1870

The NC General Assembly passes legislation that will, when adopted by local voters, make the town a city. Greensboro has 2,000 residents and is one mile square.

#### March 28, 1938



Sam Snead wins the first Greater Greensboro Open.

#### March 30, 1967

A new weekly newspaper, *The Carolina Peacemaker*, begins publication, founded by NCA&T professor and businessman John Marshall Kilimanjaro.

from the Historical Museum/Public Library Bicentennial Minutes project

Linda Evans, Community Historian



#### Our Home, Our Neighborhood, Our Stories

when the weariness ow do you tell a story about a heaven remembered when the weariness has been felt for decades? When memories softened by time may fight the realities of a historic Greensboro neighborhood that cannot be told through its historic buildings and roads, because they are gone. Yet the place is still powerful and present.

The Warnersville community has been making this place for decades, a place tied not to buildings, or roads, or monuments, but to the meaning its people have created, shared and kept alive. The history is in what happened there. Warnersville historians Dr. Johnny and Brenda Hodge wrote "It was the first black community in the county where people could own their own homes, build their own churches, own land, run their own businesses and educate their own children." Until they couldn't.

Still, the spirit of the community continued, and in time influenced social change well beyond its borders. We, of the museum and Warnersville, have shared a search for the history of Warnersville and a mission to tell the stories not often shared beyond this small community. Our Advisory Committee strongly wants visitors to know this neighborhood, their struggles and their triumphs. Together we say, here is a look at Warnersville and ask, how is it meaningful to you, what else needs to be part of this? To those with ties to Warnersville, we ask, will you add to our stories?

As you visit the gallery, you will notice key words—Triumph, Faith, Strength, Hope and Endurance-words that resonated in neighborhood meetings during the Downtown Greenway project. How do you tell the Warnersville story? We start by remembering that Faith and Hope have fed the roots of this neighborhood from its very beginnings.



Among the staff and exhibit advisors at the November 21 preview were: (I-r) Robert Harris, Linda Waddell, Larky R. Robinson, Jr., Howard Griffin, Hunter Haith, James P. Scales, Jr., Carol Ghiorsi Hart, James Griffin and Jon Zachman



#### **New Documentary Shares the Two Worlds of Montagnard Teens**



Dean MacLeod, Mariah Dunn Kramer, Philip Krongkon, Y'Minh Krongkon

Adocumentary about the lives of three Montagnard immigrant families is in production with the Historical Museum in collaboration with the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM), building on the well-received 2014 Smithsonian *Young Historians, Living Histories* initative. It features Mai Butrang, Philip Krongkon and sisters De and Lysa Nie.

#### About the Film

The first Montagnard immigrants to the United States came as refugees in 1986, a small group of about 200 who had supported U.S. Special Forces during the Vietnam War. The majority of Montagnard Americans are more recent arrivals who have fled religious and political persecution. There are



more Montagnards
(French for "mountain people") in North
Carolina—30,000—
than any place outside
Southeast Asia. The four teens sharing their stories have arrived in the past decade, their families supported by the local immigrant community, volunteer

sponsors and professionals, all helping with their transition.

Filmmaker Mariah Dunn Kramer is struck by these youth. "They are wise beyond their years. They seem really mature and they think about life seriously, and have serious goals and aspirations. They also have a huge connection to family...they want to support their families and take care of their families into their older years." Curator Dean MacLeod notes,

"The documentary will have universal themes." The two coproducers hope to show the families' diverse experiences, for

# The film will be offered to public television stations across America

assimilation includes navigating daily life, school, job training and placement and bridging differences between generations. "They have a high ambition to succeed," Dunn Kramer adds.

CAAM staffer Donald

Young says the project will complement upcoming films on the Vietnam War era, including a major series from Ken Burns. "There are very few documentaries about the role the residents of the Highlands played, and we think it's important to support the Greensboro production that ripples to this day, and particularly gives voice to young people."



#### **Distribution Plans**

The film will be completed by spring and distributed by CAAM to public television stations across America and made available to schools and educational institutions, along with an educator's guide. Film screenings in Greensboro, Raleigh and Charlotte will be scheduled once the broadcast date has been determined.



Intern Siera Schubach and filmmaker Mariah Dunn Kramer

#### **Sweet Treats, Must-Have Greensboro Books**

A big Roar was heard for the arrival in the Shop of a new favorite, milk chocolate lions, introduced as a sweet treat at the museum's annual dinner in November. Looking so much like our Belle Meade Lions, gift packaged with a ribbon, this delicious confection has been a hit with visitors and members looking for a sweet way to "Give the Gift of GHM."

What a great response the Shop is having to our theme of featuring local artisans! Our recent "Give the Gift of Greensboro" introduced five talented folks plus member Kevin Reid, signing his new book, *Greensboro*, which

focuses on the last 50 years.

Our popular scarf collection includes various textures, with several locally-made styles

to keep you warm this

winter. The tasting of our custom Vida Pour teas was very popular. Each package brews 35 cups and is perfect for gifts. To compliment the teas, we offer local honey and Old

Mill of Guilford gingerbread and scone mixes, along with an assortment of Moravian Cookies. Be sure to shop the gorgeous selection of locally-made teapots for brewing.

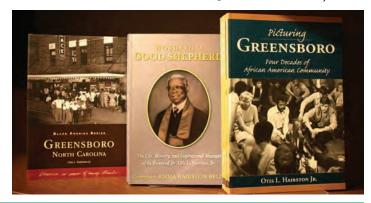
Since the opening of the Warnersville exhibition, there has been added interest in titles by the late photographer and Warnersville resident Otis L. Hairston Jr.: Picturing Greensboro: Four Decades of African American Community and Greensboro, NC. The Shop is also pleased to offer Words of a Good



Shepherd: The Life, Ministry and Inspirational Messages of the Rev. Dr. Otis L. Hairston, Sr., a stirring collection of sermons and articles by the legendary and much-loved minister of Greensboro's Shiloh Baptist Church, collected by daughter Emma Hairston Belle.

We are pleased to offer gift wrap, phone orders, online shopping at shop. Greensboro History.org and affordable shipping. Your Shop Staff Team is happy to show you what's new and help with your selections. Come in for a visit.

Barbara Shanks, Channell Williams, Jane Teer and Cathy Battle



#### **MUSEUM GUILD**

We'll have a break in our meeting schedule, with no gathering in January, then it's back on track for lifelong learning and fellowship this spring. Join us on February 16 when Community Historian Linda Evans presents a look at Greensboro women in our city's history. "Some women I talk about have familiar names, but there are others who are under-appreciated and deserve to be better known," Linda offers. In March, fellow Guild member and master timber framer Ed Morrah will share his knowledge of



Sternberger and other local women have made a difference at the Guild's February meeting.

traditional construction techniques. There's never too much to learn about the hows and whys of historic buildings, is there?

Mark your calendar for an April 28th trip to Mt. Airy, where we'll have a step-on guide take us on a driving tour of "Mayberry," an amazing granite quarry, and the Museum of Regional History. Guaranteed fun! Our meetings begin with social time at 10, followed by the program at 10:30. Guests are always welcome. If you'd like to find out more, please call me at 378-1531.

**Betty K. Phipps** *First Vice President* 

#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

#### JANUARY



#### Saturday, January 10 at 6 p.m. **NC Civil War Roundtable Presents**

"What Were Lee's Options on January 10, 1865?" Ed Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus, National Park Service \$15 per person donation requested Contact Dick Whitaker at 293,2980 or dwbiz53@gmail.com for reservations

#### Monday, January 19

Museum Offices Closed

#### Tuesday, January 20 from 9:30 - Noon Thursday, January 22 from 9:30 - Noon **Volunteer Docent Training**

For adults who enjoy young people and want training to lead tours Call Volunteer Coordinator Carolyn Malone at 333.6834 for details

#### **FEBRUARY**

#### Saturday, February 7 from Noon to 4 p.m. Lifted Voices

Actors portray people from Greensboro's African American community and share compelling stories from four centuries

#### Monday, February 16 at 10 a.m. Museum Guild Meeting

"I Feel Like I'm a Pioneer: Women in Greensboro's History" Community Historian Linda Evans Guests welcome



#### Saturday, February 21 from Noon to 4 p.m. **Lifted Voices Plus**

Actors portray people from Greensboro's African American community and share compelling stories from four centuries. plus today's event features live music from area high schools and colleges. and refreshments.

#### MARCH

#### Monday, March 16 at 10 a.m. **Museum Guild Meeting**

"Antique Construction" Master Timber Framer Ed Morrah Guests welcome

On the Cover: Warnersville Historical and Beautification Society founder James Griffin, during a live shot for WFMY-TV The Good Morning Show

#### For more information, visit GreensboroHistory.org/events





#### 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 Cornwalllis Drive Greensboro, NC 27410 Telephone (336) 373-3681

Open Tuesday and Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM Free Admission

GreensboroHistory.org







#### CORPORATE SUPPORTERS





NEWBRIDGE BANK



WEALTH MANAGEMENT



#### Greensboro Historical Museum, Inc. 2015 Board of Trustees

Brian Clarida, President Chris Carlson, Vice President Courtney Ageon, Treasurer

Lisa Anderson Uma Avva Anna Brady Bonita Brown Mike Cammack Chris Carlson Marilyn Cotten-McMichael Michelle Davis Cham Edmiston Gayle Fripp Whitney Frye Chris Gorham Dan Hayes Patrick Haywood

Andrew Medley, Asst. Treasurer Tyson Hammer, Secretary Jennifer Poindexter, Asst. Secretary

> Bob King David Kolosieke Rebecca Lang Sheri Masters Cheryl McQueary Bill Moore Lindsay Morris Judith Parker Michelle Perrell Rose Marie Ponton Britt Prever Justin Ricketts Susan Robinson William H. White

ROAR, a publication of the Greensboro Historical Museum, Inc., is published with private funds and produced by museum staff and trustees. The Historical Museum is a division of the Library Department of the City of Greensboro.