



# THE WENDELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## GOLD LEAF NOTES

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### Happy New Year

Here we are in 2020. Not the 20/20 hindsight nor 20/20 vision we all wish we had. Rather, it is the year 2020. and The Wendell Historical Society (WHS) will be looking to the future as the Society brings on a new slate of officers and new board members to guide the organization in developing plans for the next decade.

Officers for 2020-2021 are:

President: Peedie Edwards  
Vice President: Neal Conoley  
Secretary: Martha Ramsey  
Treasurer: Ray Hinnant  
Past President: Hugh Cashion

Board Members:

Chris Smith	2018-2020
Ginna Gray	2018-2020
-OPEN-	2019-2021
Carol Hinnant	2019-2021
Tracy Caldwell	2020-2022
Paul White	2020-2022

### 2019 IN REVIEW

#### Programs

2019 was a very good year for the WHS. Vice President Steve Brown organized several very interesting programs.

In February, naturalist Frank Doherty acquainted the WHS with birds most often seen in the Wendell area. Frank leads bird watching groups on the Wendell Nature Trail

The May program looked back at the industry that built our town. Ronald Barham and his family shared how tobacco was once planted, harvested, cured, and sold. Then they told how farmers do these same tasks today. They also discussed the problems facing farmers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In August members and guests were enthralled by biologist Alvin Braswell's presentation of "Wendell's Hidden Critters". He shared not only pictures but live exhibits of the lizards, turtles and frogs and other species found in the Wendell area.

November's program, "Wendell's Veterans from World War II", was the highlight of the year. Family members of WW II veterans and a WW II veteran told the stories of what it was like to be in service during this time. It drove the point home that real heroes don't wear capes, they wear DOG TAGS.

November also brought a new dimension to our programming. The WHS purchased a video camera so that the programs presented could be captured for the future.

#### July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration

July was hot and humid but that did not put a damper on the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July

celebration. The turnout was outstanding and all enjoyed celebrating the birthday of the Republic



*Lady Liberty lifts her lamp for all*

### Raffle

In the fall, the Reverse Raffle raised a record amount--\$14,261.76. All proceeds from this event and previous raffles go directly towards the establishment of an historical museum for the Town and community of Wendell to showcase our history from the late 1800's to present day. Exhibits will be planned in the coming months by the Museum Board.



*Everyone wins when there is fried chicken and banana pudding*

### TOUR

Third graders from Wendell Elementary School were given a tour of the Historic Post Office. Over 140 students heard the story of the history of Wendell and how the Post Office was saved. Information was also shared with them regarding important people from the Wendell Community. Upon leaving the students were given a challenge coin to remind them to learn one new historical fact each week.

The Historic Post Office is available for group tours upon request.

### MUSEUM NEWS

The 2019 accomplishment of the year was obtaining a building to house The Wendell Historical Museum. The Town of Wendell purchased a property at the corner of Baugh and Second Streets and has leased it to the WHS for \$1 per year.



*Future home of Wendell Historical Museum*

This property was a rental house; therefore, some retrofitting had to be done before the WHS could use it as a museum. It has been made handicap accessible, painted, and is on its way to being turned over to the Museum Board in preparation for a projected 2020 fall opening; however, much work is still to be accomplished.

### EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2020

With the introduction of a new slate of officers and new board members, events are in the planning stages.

The WHS will continue to present Quarterly programs on various topics of interest. There will be a 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration and on September 17, the WHS will hold the Reverse Raffle.

Other events will be announced later.

### HISTORIC RESTORATION PROJECT

The Town of Wendell is fortunate to welcome Mr. Sigurd Westerlund who is patiently and lovingly restoring the Farmers and Merchants Bank building on the corner of Main and Third Streets. After the F & MB was purchased by the Bank of Wendell in 1932, the building was the site of the Wendell Savings and

Loan. Since then it has housed many different ventures including an art gallery, a shoe store, a variety store and most recently a roofing company.



*Former Farmers & Merchants Bank now being restored*

When completed, the façade will be a near perfect restoration of the original. If you are passing the construction, don't hesitate to ask for Mr. Westerlund and express your thanks for his willingness to save and preserve an historic building in Wendell's downtown.

### HISTORIC POST OFFICE

The Historic Post Office has undergone some conservation efforts over the past year. A few boards on the outside were replaced due to rot. The exterior was painted and a broken window was replaced.



*Historic Post Office awaiting new landscaping*

The overgrown shrubs have been removed and a new landscape plan has been developed. To ensure that the landscaping did not cross property boundaries, the property was surveyed to establish corner points.

**MEMBERSHIP**

The Wendell Historical Society is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. The WHS is funded through membership dues, reverse raffle earnings, donations, and a few smaller ticketed events.

Joining is easy. Complete the attached form and mail it to the address given.

**Annual Membership Type:**

- Individual (\$ 20.00)
- Family (\$ 35.00)
- Corporate (\$100.00)
- Donation Only \* (Amount \_\_\_\_\_)  
(No membership)

Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone

# \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

The Wendell Historical Society  
Post Office Box 426  
Wendell, North Carolina 27591

\*Name and address are necessary on donations to satisfy the requirements of a 501 (c) 3 designation.



January 2020