



THE WENDELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

GOLD LEAF NOTES

Vol. 1 Page 1
August, 2021

Message From the President

Thank you for your support this year. Times have been a little crazy, and I fear the craziness will not be over by the end of the year.

We had programs planned for this year. However, during the first part of 2021, the COVID-19 virus was wide spread and very contagious. The programs for the first part of the year were cancelled because of this. We planned to resume our programs in the second half of the year. Well, after a few months of things starting to return to normal, the virus is back again in full force and more contagious than ever. We felt our only recourse was to cancel the programs for this fall. The society really hated to do this, but we felt that it was the right thing to do.



While this is bad news, the good news is that the Museum Committee has been hard at work. They have been researching history, looking for photographs, searching for artifacts, and all the related activities to put together a first-class museum. I cannot wait to see the final product,

Museums cost a lot of money. Our community has been extremely supportive of the society to help it pay for our museum. One of the ways we have collected proceeds for the museum is through our reverse raffle. We are having another reverse raffle this year. We hope we may continue to count on your support.

I hope times return to normal soon so that the Wendell Historical Society may resume the things we, and hopefully you, enjoy doing.

Peedie Edwards, President

MUSEUM UPDATE

By Neal Conoley

The Museum Committee has been very busy planning and developing the Wendell Museum. The Committee took a trip to the Oxford Orphanage Museum to view the work of our exhibit planner, Mr. Craig Fitzpatrick. That trip proved to be a pivotal point in our design ideas and how our museum exhibits would be laid out.

In addition, earlier this year the Wendell Museum Committee announced plans for a Capital Campaign to fund the exhibit design and fabrication of displays for the Museum. Sponsors been very generous and with the 2021 Reverse Raffle fundraiser, we will be well on our way to reaching our goal. However, we need a few more sponsors to provide a first-class museum. Anyone wishing to become a sponsor should contact Neal Conoley at 919-365-5088.



Neal Conoley touring Oxford Orphanage Museum



The exhibit planning, design and fabrication process continues to move along very well with three of our seven major exhibits already designed and currently under review by the Museum Committee. Two more displays have been through the first draft and two others have all of the copy, photographs and artifacts awaiting an initial layout. The exhibits include churches, schools, businesses, civic organizations, famous people, Alex Wall, veterans, and a timeline tying it all together.

We are still collecting information and artifacts for a couple of topics so if you know of artifacts that might be useful, please let us know. We anticipate having the exhibits ready by the end of this year when we will have our grand opening.

Several members have volunteered to assist with the museum and more will be needed once we get closer to the final goal. The Museum Committee appreciates all donations, monetary and otherwise, and we thank you for your anticipated participation.

2021 REVERSE RAFFLE

Annual Reverse Raffle

Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021 – 7 p.m.

Virtual Again, Thanks To East Wake TV

Annual reverse raffles have led the way to making the long-awaited Wendell Museum a reality and will continue to play a major role in its continued maintenance. The museum is the largest project ever undertaken by the Wendell Historical Society, and we need the continuing support of our membership.

Tickets are \$100 for a one-in-265 chance of winning \$10,000. In addition, every 25th ticket drawn will receive \$100. Each ticket comes with two barbecue dinners, again catered by White Swan of Smithfield, pick up only from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Wendell Museum, 122 W. Second St., Wendell. Please mark your ticket stubs indicating whether you want 0, 1, or 2 barbecue plates so we can plan accordingly.

Upon purchase, ticket holders must specify if they wish to split, meaning they are willing to equally share the \$10,000 prize if they are among the final 10, or hold out for the chance to win it all. If one person holds out with no split, the drawing continues.

The raffle is scheduled for 7 p.m. and can be viewed three ways: Spectrum Cable 22; YouTube-East Wake TV; and Facebook-Wendell Historical Society.

As a member of the Wendell Historical Society, you can help with this year's raffle in a number of ways:

Buy a ticket or two or even better, **help us sell tickets!**

Spread the word about the raffle to your neighbors and friends.

To buy a ticket, sell tickets or volunteer, contact Ray and Carol Hinnant, (919) 365-3228.

Tickets are available online at wendellhistoricalsociety.com and from Baynes & Company, 3910 Wendell Blvd.; Universal Chevrolet, 114 N. Main St.; and The General Store, 28 N. Main St.



GOLD LEAF FARMERS TO BE DIGITIZED

By Mary Jo Cashion

Old newspapers provide a lot of history. That's what folks doing research for the Wendell Museum have discovered. While few copies of The Gold Leaf Farmer survived, thankfully the Raleigh newspapers covered much of early Wendell's activity.

Newspapers.com, a subscription online service which makes possible word search in news articles, has provided much of the information that is going into the museum. Seeing its value, the Wendell Historical Society, which saved the few remaining hard and microfilm copies of the local paper when McClatchy ceased publication, sent the local newspapers to be added to Newspapers.com.



Bound copies of the Gold Leaf Farmer and Eastern Wake News were picked up Aug. 16th to be delivered to Utah, where Newspapers.com, an Ancestry.com company, is located. The Wendell Historical Society is paying the freight costs in the hope that access to those Wendell newspapers will be a help to future historians.

Dates covered are very limited with the earliest in the 1970s. The Historical Society would welcome any earlier copies, which will be returned to the owner once placed online. If you have papers to add to the collection, please contact Mary Jo Cashion, (919) 744-5442 or mjcashion@bellsouth.net.

Pictured above are Cee and Kristy Todd, a transportation representative and Hugh Cashion working in the hot summer heat loading Gold Leaf Farmers newspapers to be digitized.

NORTH CAROLINE MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The NC Museum of History is always a good "outing". There is so much history shared in inviting exhibits that it would take more than a day to take it all in. For the next month or so, you will find an exhibit on David Marshall "Carbine" Williams. His grandson is David Williams of Wendell, NC.



Mr. Williams was a self-taught gunsmith who developed several innovative gun designs. He was a major contributor to the development of the US Carbine .30, M1 that was used extensively in WWII, Korea, and in the first part of Vietnam. This weapon was credited by General Douglas McArthur as being "one of the strongest contributions to our victory in the Pacific during WWII."

I think you will enjoy this exhibit of his workshop and all the other exhibits at the NC Museum of History.

David Marshall "Carbine" Williams



EDITORIAL COMMENTS

As we study history, we soon learn that history repeats itself. A prime example of this is the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. One hundred years ago the world endured the Spanish Flu pandemic. If we go further back, there are unfortunately many other pandemics in our history.



Wendell has been through pandemics twice in recent times. When the 1918 flu was recognized during WWI, European news media was told not to mention anything that would be bad for morale. Spain was not covered by this directive so their newspapers reported on the illness. Since Spanish news was the first to make the world aware of the virus, it was dubbed the “Spanish Flu.” It has never been determined where the illness began, but the first case in the USA was in Kansas. **Sunnyside** on Selma Road, (pictured left) the new home of R. B. Whitley in Wendell, was used as a hospital for those infected with this virus.

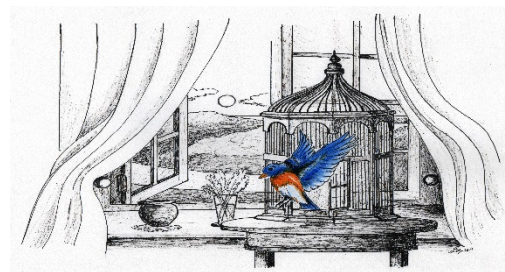
No one knows for sure where the COVID-19 virus originated, but we do know it has been widely reported.

For the COVID-19 virus, we have all scaled back on activities. This holds true for churches, civic organizations, and The Wendell Historical Society. In a normal year the Society would have sponsored historical programs, the July 4th celebration, and other events. In the interest of public safety, none of that has happened. However, as soon as it is safe, the organization will crank up again.

The important thing is, we survived the Spanish Flu, and if we follow the scientist recommendations, we will survive Covid-19.

Pandemics touch our lives in various ways. During the Spanish Flu, a children’s jump rope rhyme was written. It goes:

*I had a little bird,
His name was Enza
I opened the window
And in-flu-Enza.*



Artwork by Sidney Baynes

You can see that I have looked up a lot of strange things during the latest pandemic. I hope this one ends soon.

Remember to look back to see forward.

Carol Hinnant
Editor

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