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Federation NCHS
# Bulletin
November 2026 Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies
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## Federation News




Newsome awardees at the Federation's October 27 event at the High Point Museum. Left to right: Federation coordinator Adrienne Berney, City of Raleigh Museum director Abby Kellerman, Friends of the City of Raleigh Museum director Robyn Herndon, Odyssey for Democracy founder Clark Curtis, and Stanly County Museum coordinator Megan Sullivan

Thanks to the **High Point Museum** for hosting the 2026 Newsome Awards presentation! It was a wonderful time to learn more about the winning projects, tour the museum and historic park, and enjoy fellowship with advisory board members, awardees, and other members and project partners.

Announcements for all members:

- The **NC Digital Heritage Center** (NCDHC) invites cultural heritage organizations of all types to take the North Carolina Newspaper Survey. NCDHC hopes to learn more about which papers have yet to be identified and cataloged, which require digitization, and which have special preservation needs. If your institution does *not* hold any newspapers or newspaper photograph morgue materials, but you know of one that might need support, please fill out the survey anyway; there is space to indicate this in the form. Your response is crucial in helping NCDHC develop a complete picture of North Carolina newspapers and plan future work. **Deadline: Nov. 20**.
- We know the holiday tours listed in the "Member Events" section below are a small fraction of upcoming member festivities. To have your organization's tour listed in the December issue, please send announcements to adrienne.berney@dncr.nc.gov. Also, remember to contribute photos of holiday decor and events for a reel to share with all members and other stakeholders.

## Member News



Preservation Zebulon's time capsule program participants browsed through scrapbooks and other materials from the unearthed 1976 time capsule and buried a new box of mementoes for discovery in 2076.

**Preservation Zebulon** coordinated a time capsule reveal and replacement at the local PNC Bank, exactly 50 years after the ceremonial burial of the Bicentennial time capsule. Contents included newspaper clippings about July 4, 1976, celebrations, photographs, and film. View East Wake Television's coverage of the event.

The **Eastern Cabarrus Historical Society** was one of four small communities in the greater Charlotte area featured in an episode of PBS Charlotte's "Trail of History." Find ECHS beginning at the 8-minute mark in the episode "Small Towns, Big Stories".

### Member Events

- Nov. 7, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., **Martin County Historical Society** hosts a self-guided tour of 12 historic buildings, including the c. 1790 Williams-Early "Bella" Mansion, three additional houses, three churches, the Jamesville & Washington Railroad stop, and the Robersonville Exhibit Hall. Tickets: $10, may be purchased the day of or in advance at the Martin County Welcome Center. Contact info@martincountyhistoricalsociety.org.
- Nov. 7, 1-4 p.m., **Hickory Landmarks Society,** fundraising event, Couture for a Cause. Celebrate Hickory's history with fashion through the decades, 1890-1980. Style, creativity, and community will be on display with an elegant runway showcasing designs by Cassidy Burel, owner of CassB by Design. Tickets: $100.
- Nov. 7, 2-3 p.m., **Wake County Historical Society** at **Historic Yates Mill County Park,** Revolutionary Wake**.** Becky McGee-Lankford and Flannery Fitch from the State Archives of NC join WCHS President Saundra Cropps to share stories of Wake County soldiers and supplies, and how these contributed to the war effort 250 years ago.
- Nov. 8, 3-4:30 p.m., **Greensboro History Museum,** Revolutionary Road Trip: a Conversation with Darley Newman. Travel expert Darley Newman chats with Museum Director Carol Ghiorsi Hart about her new book, *Revolutionary Road Trip: Hidden Stories of America's Founding Journey.* The book follows the host of PBS's *Travels with Darley* on a journey through American Revolution sites, including Guilford County.
- Nov. 12, noon-1 p.m., **City of Raleigh Museum,** Uncommon Valor: Notable Raleigh Military Veterans. Historian and veteran Ernest Dollar will share stories of veterans who shaped the state's capital city.
- Nov. 12, 6-8:30 p.m. **Preservation Zebulon**'s Zebulation at the Olde Raleigh Distillery will feature the winners of PZ preservation awards and the annual Zebulon Memory Project film, "Answering the Call: The Perry Fire Chiefs," which documents the service of Sidney Perry and his son Chris as leaders of Zebulon's Fire Department. Tickets: $50.
- Nov. 14, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., **Greensboro History Museum** hosts the African American Historical & Genealogical Society of the Triad for Indigenous Workshop - America 250 NC**.** Learn about records that can unlock the history of Black Indians through Tribal Rolls and and more and overcome challenges created by the Trail of Tears, slavery, and segregation-era record keeping.
- Nov. 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., **Moore County Historical Association**, Old Scotch Graveyard Cleanup. This event is open to the public and volunteers of all ages are welcome.
- Nov. 16, 10 a.m., **Asheville Museum of History**, Hike with a Historian: the RAIL Project at Point Lookout Greenway. Join Dr. Dan Pierce to learn about the making of the Western NC Railroad and the African Americans who built it. Tickets: $38-$48.50.
- Nov. 16, 6:30 p.m., **Mecklenburg Historical Society**, Amanda Brantley, Site Manager at **Reed Gold Mine**, will present the Gold Rush in North Carolina. in the Fellowship Hall of the Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3115 Providence Road, Charlotte.
- Nov. 17, noon-5 p.m., **Preservation NC**, Fayetteville Ramble. Highlights include a stop at the Museum of the Cape Fear's 1897 Poe House. Tickets $25.
- Nov. 18, 6 p.m., **Historic Hillsborough Alliance**. Join the Keckly Burwell Book Club to discuss Jennifer Fleischner's *Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Keckly: The Remarkable Story of the Friendship between a First Lady and a Former Slave*.
- Nov. 19, 10 a.m., **Southport Historical Society.** Tickets for the Holiday Tour of Homes (Dec. 11-12) will go on sale to the public. A new **guided Friday evening tour** with a smaller group experience is an option. Tickets: Friday guided tour $75; Saturday self-guided tour $35.
- Nov. 21, **Lincoln County Historical Association**, Author Elliot Secrest will discuss his book, *Patriot Colonel, the Life and Times of Frances Locke* at the Lincoln Cultural Center. Free program. Call 828-777-8707 for more information.
- Nov. 24, 6-7 p.m., **Asheville Museum of History**, Stumptown: Rooted in Legacy, hybrid documentary screening and discussion with filmmaker Elizabeth Lashay Garland at UNCA's Reuter Center. Tickets: free - $11.
- Dec. 6, 1-5 p.m., **Historic Hope Foundation**, Christmas Open House. The 1803 Hope Mansion and 1763 King-Bazemore House will be decorated with period decorations. Join us for live holiday music, refreshments, and horse-drawn carriage and wagon rides. Free event; donations appreciated. Dec. 7, 9, & 11, 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., Hope Mansion tours. Tickets: $10. 252-794-3140; historichope.org.
- Dec. 11-12, **Murfreesboro Historical Association,** 40th annual Candlelight Christmas in Historic Murfreesboro. Come visit Christmas past while experiencing Christmas present with your family and friends. Tickets: $20. (They will sell out, so buy soon!)



Dec. 12, 2:30-6:30, **Wendell Historical Society**, Christmas Tour includes the museum, post office, five houses, and two churches. The tour includes the 1917 "airplane bungalow" [left], a noteworthy example of Craftsman-style architecture in Wake County, Guests can look forward to festive refreshments and prize drawings at select locations. Tickets: $25-$30.

## DNCR News



Panoramic photograph of Patterson Mill Village, Rosemary, Halifax County, Patterson Mills Photograph Collection, Ph.C.162.8, State Archives of NC. View 8 images from the collection on the Archives' Flickr album.

**Museum of the Albemarle** is planning an exhibit to open in May 2027. *Life in a Mill Community* will focus on people who lived and worked in textile mill, lumber mill, or lumber camp communities from 1880-1945 in the following counties: Bertie, Beaufort, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Northampton, Martin, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington. Museum staff hope to borrow related objects and high-resolution images as soon as possible through May 2030. Contact Curator of Collections and Exhibitions, Wanda Lassiter, wanda.lassiter@dncr.nc.gov; 252-331-4033.

The 2026 North Carolina Awards will be presented on Nov. 17, at the Lenovo Center in Raleigh. Proceeds from ticket sales for the awards ceremony will go to two charities that benefit veterans and military families: Blue Star Families and Camp Corral. Profiles of winners in the categories of literature, fine arts, science, and public service area available at dncr.nc.gov/awards/north-carolina-awards.

The 2026 American Indian Heritage Month Toolkit is now available.

### DNCR Events

- Nov. 6, 1-4 p.m. & Nov. 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., **Historic Edenton**, Harvest of Dissent: the Gourd Patch Conspiracy of 1777. This immersive experience brings to life the tension, intrigue, and divided loyalties of the trial of John Lewelling, founder of the Gourd Patch Conspiracy. Due to limited seating for the trial portion of the event, tickets are required for this free event. Obtain in advance at the Visitor Center, or call 252-632-5020.
- Nov. 7, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m., **Office of State Archaeology** Conservation Lab Open House. Learn about the recovery of artifacts from the *Queen Anne's Revenge/La Concorde* (one ship with two names) and the Brunswick Town waterfront at the lab in Greenville. Register in advance for free tours.
- Nov. 7, 11 a.m.-noon, **James K. Polk Historic Site**, The Catawba Nation in the Revolution. Kassidy Plyler, Cultural Public Programs Specialist and a member of the Catawba Nation, will present this free program.
- Nov. 10, 6-8 p.m., **NC Museum of History**, "The Samuel Adams of North Carolina?": Cornelius Harnett and the Revolution in North Carolina. presentation by Professor Jason Stroud in conjunction with the exhibit *Witnesses to the Revolution: North Carolina and the War for Independence*, a collaborative effort with the Wilson Library, UNC. Cornelius Harnett of Wilmington was recognized in his time as one of the state's most powerful and influential Patriot leaders.
- Nov. 11, 10 a.m.-noon, **Stone Mountain State Park**, Homestead History. Tour with a park staff member to view the Hutchinson Homestead cabin and learn more about the history of the park.
- Nov. 21, **NC Museum of History** hosts the 31st American Indian Heritage Celebration at the **NC Museum of Art**! The celebration—with support from its community partners, the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs and the **North Carolina American Indian Commission**—highlights traditional and contemporary artistic, historical, and cultural contributions of American Indian communities in North Carolina.
- Nov. 21, 11-noon, **Governor Caswell Historic Site**, 250th Anniversary of the Office of the NC Governor. With the ratification of the first state constitution in December 1776, Richard Caswell became the first Governor.

Find more history events to explore this month at State Historic Sites' events calendar.

## Free Webinars

- Nov. 6, 4-5 p.m., Who Gets to Tell the Story at Historic Sites? **Zakros InterArts**. Omar Eaton-Martinez, Senior Vice President for Historic Sites at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has worked to make historic sites more relevant, equitable, and accountable to the communities whose stories they hold. At a moment when interpretation and institutional independence are under political pressure, this session asks who has the authority to tell difficult histories and what is lost when complexity is replaced by a single, comfortable narrative.
- Nov. 6-8, Masonic Lodges, Odd Fellows, and Secret Societies, **NC Genealogical Society**. J. Mark Lowe's webinar recording will be free and publicly available.
- Nov. 11, 8 p.m., Experimenting with AI Transcription, **FromThePage**, Queensland State Archives has applied AI Drafts to correspondence, registers, and microfilm records. Learn what has worked, what hasn't, and what the Archives has learned about configuring fields, working with imperfect source material, reviewing AI-generated results, and deciding where AI can usefully support—or accelerate—human transcription.
- Nov. 17, 3-4 p.m., HOPE (Hands-On Preservation Experience) Crew: Historic Masonry, **National Trust for Historic Preservation**. First in a new series with preservation trades experts focusing on historic masonry. Two masons will each share a recent project, walking through the details and challenges of the work, then come together for a conversation about the past and future of the trades.
- Nov. 17, noon-1 p.m., Metadata Matters: Foundations for Description and Access, **DHPSNY**. Metadata plays a critical role in making collections discoverable, understandable, and usable, but knowing where to start can be challenging.
- Nov. 19, 7 p.m., New Year, New Programs, **Small Museums Association**. Kristen Matulewicz, Curator of Rockwood Park & Museum and Chair of SMA's Programs Committee will share resources and guide participants through an interactive programmatic think-tank. Working together, participants will help each other develop new programs or adapt old ones for new audiences.
- Nov. 30, 4-5 p.m., How to Face the Future, Cultivate Optimism, and Defy Dystopia**, Zakros InterArts**. Elizabeth Merritt, VP for Strategic Foresight and founding director of the American Alliance of Museums' Center for the Future of Museums, applies trends forecasting and scenario development to help museums create brighter futures for their communities. At a time when AI, culture wars, government actions, and economic stress can make the future seem unknowable, Merritt will show how foresight can restore a sense of agency.
- December 8: What is STEPS and Can It Help My Site?, **AASLH**.
- Dec. 17, noon, Your First Crowdsourcing Project. Join Ben and Sara Brumfield of **FromThePage** as they step you through your first crowdsourcing project. The session covers selecting material, finding volunteers, developing transcription conventions, keeping volunteers engaged, and what to do with your transcriptions once you're done.

## Conferences

- Nov. 17-19, Preserving America Conference, Richmond, VA, sponsored by **Americana Corner** and **American Battlefield Trust**. Tailored to organizations with small staffs and modest revenues, the conference will focus on best practices in development, marketing, and programming.
- Nov. 17-19, **Northeast Document Conservation Center**, Digital Directions: Foundation for Digital Collections, virtual.
- Nov. 19-21, NC Maritime History Council Conference, New Bern.
- Dec. 4, deadline to submit a session proposal for the 2027 AASLH Annual Conference, Sept. 28-30, Madison, Wisconsin.
- Feb. 6, **Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society,** 24th Black History Month Genealogy Conference. Greensboro. Contact: Lamar DeLoatch, President, NC-AAHGS, aahgsnc@gmail.com.
- Feb. 21-24, Small Museum Assoc**.** Conference, Rochester, NY.
- April 2-3, **NC Association of Historians** Annual Meeting, Winston-Salem. Call for papers deadline: Jan. 31.
- April 3-5, **NC Museums Council** Conference: Climbing Upward: Museums in Times of Change, Asheville.

## Grants

- Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) offers 13 funding opportunities to history organizations and libraries, including Inspire Grants for Small Museums. **Deadline: Nov. 13**.
- NEH Collections Stewardship Grants support projects that preserve and make available physical and digital collections important for research, teaching, and public engagement in the humanities. Funding can including conservation and preservation, collections assessments and planning, rehousing and preventive care, cataloging and description, digitization, and education and training for students and professionals in collections stewardship. **Deadline: Dec. 15.**
- **Americana Corner** Preserving America Grants provide up to $15,000 to preserve and share the story of America's founding era with historical significance pre-dating 1876. Eligible artifacts must be intended for regular public display. **Deadline: Dec. 15.**
- **Glass Foundation** children's education and preservation grants fund projects in 19 counties of Western N.C. **1st-Round Deadline: Dec. 15.**
- Public Outreach Grant, Southeastern Archaeological Conference, promotes public awareness of archaeology in the Southeast, Requests may range from $1,000 to $5,000. **Deadline: Jan. 11**.
- **Country School Association** Preservation Grant funds up to $1,000 for the preservation of one or two-room buildings once used as country schools. Innovative Instruction Grant offers start-up support, up to $1,500, for the delivery of inventive preK-12 and/or adult learning programs. **Deadlines: Jan. 31**.
- **National Railway Historical Society** Heritage Grants provide up to $5,000 to preserve equipment, buildings, or related archives. **Deadline: Jan. 31**.
- **American Institute for Conservation** Outreach Grants provide up to $1,000 to improve public understanding of conservation and support under resourced institutions in meeting their collection care needs. Deadline: Feb. 15.
- Recordings at Risk**, CLIR**'s grants program is dedicated to preserving rare and unique audio, audio-visual, and other time-based media through digital reformatting. See past examples of funded projects. **Deadline: Feb. 23**.
- Unity Cemetery Preservation Fund supports preservation, recording, and programs related to historic African American cemeteries. Applications are now open, **deadline Feb. 28**.

### Rolling Deadlines

- Cannon Foundation funds capital improvements or equipment projects for organizations providing historic or environmental preservation services in North Carolina. Complete an inquiry form soon to prepare for the next quarterly deadline.
- T-Mobile Hometown Grants fund up to $50,000 for community projects in towns with populations under 50,000.
- North Carolina Land and Water Fund Donation Mini Grants provide up to $50,000 to cover costs associated with land donation and stewardship. Nonprofits with properties where historic or cultural events occurred are eligible for this service to conserve land in perpetuity. Next quarterly **deadline: January 15**.
- North Carolina Preservation Consortium and the North Carolina Museums Council Disaster Relief Grants assist collecting institutions affected by disasters. Applicants must be institutional members of NCPC or NCMC and must be within the de-clared North Carolina disaster areas as defined by FEMA or the Governor of N.C.
- Society of American Archivists Foundation Opportunity Grant program provides funding to help archival repositories seize unexpected, time-sensitive opportunities--projects that would otherwise be out of reach. Applicants must demonstrate they are prepared to begin and complete the work within eight months of the award date.
- Dudley Flood Center Youth-Led Mini Grants (up to $500) support youth-driven projects that promote history, civic engagement, and social justice within their communities. These grants encourage young leaders to develop and implement projects that address local issues by engaging in the study of history and the principles of equity and community empowerment.
- Federation of NC Historical Societies offers no-interest loans to members of up to $15,000 for projects including publications and special programs.

## History Help




Bill Baker photograph, August 1939, Department of Conservation and Development, Travel Information Division Photograph Collection, ConDev.2344,State Archives of NC.

**Happy Thanksgiving!** You still have time to begin a Giving Tuesday (Dec. 1) campaign and register for Museum Store Sunday (Nov 29). Independently operated museum stores may register as Museum Store Sunday participants with three easy steps. For assistance with registration, email info@museumstoresunday.org.

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