



# BULLETIN

December 2024

Volume 44, no. 4

The Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies is a nonprofit organization operating under the auspices of the Office of Archives & History, N.C. Department of Natural & Cultural Resources (DNCR).

**Mission: The Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies inspires local history organizations through collaborative learning projects and promotes history education statewide.**

The *Federation Bulletin* is published quarterly. Submissions for the *Bulletin* should be sent to [Adrienne Berney](#) and should be received by **February 1, April 1, August 1, and November 1.**

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## Mountain Region Devastation & Recovery



Downtown Spruce Pine during the height of flooding after Hurricane Helene, September 26. The North Toe River flooded over 25 feet, with floodwaters topping 8 feet in town.

Our thoughts are with those from member organizations in the region who have suffered. Some had to evacuate from their homes, and all managed with a lack of services, such as power and potable water, for weeks and even months. Federation adviser, David Biddix, who is also on the **Mitchell County Historical Society** board, works for Mitchell County as a public information officer. He has shared a the county’s collection of photographs documenting storm damage (including the scene above) [here](#). Thankfully, Federation member institutions in the region weathered the storm fairly well, with no major damage to collections or structures. Minor flooding on the basement level of the Smith-McDowell House (**Western N.C. Historical Association**) and the Rural Heritage Museum (**Mars Hill University**) necessitated relocating artifacts in storage and on display and taking additional steps to dry out those spaces. DNCR’s Western Office also had to recover from basement flooding. The Mountain Gateway Museum, a branch of the N.C. Museum of History, is situated along Mill Creek in Old Fort. Floodwaters washed a shed structure away and knocked a building with offices and collections storage off its foundation. The high water mark in the main museum building reached about eighteen inches above the floor. (More on page 10.) If you would like to assist with Western N.C recovery, DNCR encourages donations to the [North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund](#).

## *Federation Bulletin*

### Members of the Federation Advisory Board

#### About the Federation

The Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies is a statewide coalition of organizations, dedicated to working together to preserve and promote local history in North Carolina. An advisory board made up of twelve representatives from member organizations oversees the work of the Federation.

The Federation sponsors workshops and meetings; offers interest-free loans to members for the creation of historical publications (print or A/V) and special events; provides technical assistance; and nurtures a statewide history network. For more information, visit the [Federation's webpages](#).

#### Through 2024

Shelia Bumgarner  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library

Stephanie Velazquez May  
Granville Museum

Laura Ketcham  
Historic Yates Mill County Park

Bob Surridge, Ed.D.  
Southport Historical Society

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#### Through 2025

David Biddix  
Mitchell County Historical Society

Anne Chesky  
Presbyterian Heritage Center

Sara Blanchett, **Chair**  
High Point Museum

Matthew Titchiner  
Gaston County Museum

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#### Through 2026

Annie Anderson  
Country Doctor Museum

Cindy Schmidt  
Chatham County Historical Association

Ken Badgett  
Old Hickory Council, BSA

Leesa Jones  
Washington Waterfront  
Underground Railroad Museum

#### Remember these FEDERATION MEMBER benefits:

- ◇ Subscription to the *Bulletin*
- ◇ **Mini-grants** to help accomplish interpretive or collections preservation projects
- ◇ Interest-free **loans** to publish local history books, create educational media, or develop special events
- ◇ Discounted fees for Federation **workshops**
- ◇ Statewide recognition through the **Newsome Award**
- ◇ Contributions to N.C.'s **National History Day**
- ◇ **Leadership** opportunities to nurture a statewide network of history organizations

## FEDERATION NEWS



African American exhibition at the Person County Museum of History

### Mini-Grant Advances Person County Museum's Goals

As of 2023, Person County had a population of just under 40,000 residents, 26% of which are African American. The African American community has long fought for education, representation, and equality. At the **Person County Museum of History**, their stories have been curated and shared by members of the community for many years.

In 2023, the museum realized that the building housing the African American exhibits, which dates to 1840, needed long-term interventions. This realization led to the decision to relocate exhibits from that building to other places on the campus. It was a perfect opportunity to evaluate and revitalize the existing African American exhibit. Funding from the Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies is supporting this effort.

Exhibit committee members bring with them a wealth of knowledge of the African American experience in Person County and are excited to be able to present these stories in an updated footprint. Funds are being applied to exhibit cases, panels and lighting to ensure the artifacts and histories are being highlighted with respect. The museum will first

mount a temporary exhibit before the final permanent exhibit is installed.

The museum has also received an NC Humanities grant to support its "Community Voices" oral history project. The new documentation will be an additional resource for the re-developed exhibit.

### Mini-Grant Applications Due January 31, 2025

Up to \$1,500 to fund local history projects. All active member organizations are eligible to apply.

[FAQs](#)

[Application](#)

### Federation Field Trip!



In October, Federation staff visited new member, **Spring Hope Historical Museum**.

President Gay Sturgeon (left) and additional board members provided a tour of exhibits and discussed possible participation in the [Traveling](#)

[Archivist Program](#). The museum aims to be a community gathering space with regular programs, exhibits that change every eight months, and an active high school student volunteer program. The Society has recently acquired issues of the local newspaper, the *Spring Hope Enterprise*, 1949-1917, and are working with the State Archives to create a preservation copy (microfilm) in early 2025. The organization hopes to contribute those images to the N.C. Digital Heritage Center in the future for hosting on [digitalnc.org](#).

# FEDERATION NEWS

## Get a Jump Start on 2025 Dues!

Annual dues are holding steady at only \$25 for 2025.

[Pay online now](#) or send a check for \$25 to:

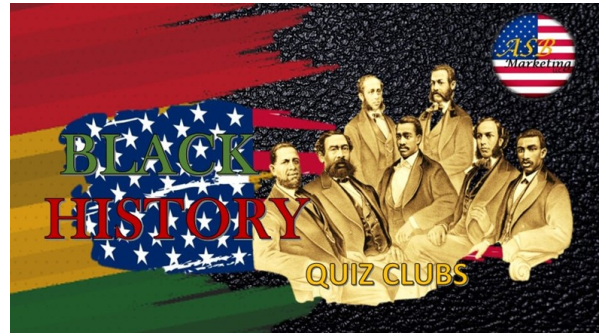
The Federation of N.C. Historical Societies  
MSC 4610  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4610

## Why charge dues and what do those funds support?

The Federation operates under the auspices of DNCR's Office of Archives & History as a separate 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization. While DNCR staff help with operations, a board of twelve advisors, representing member organizations of various types and geographic regions of the state, oversee organizational decisions. The mini-grant program is the Federation's largest operating expense, followed by directors and officers liability insurance. With over 100 members statewide, the Federation needs all renewals to approach \$3,000 in annual revenue to meet insurance and grant expenses, along with an annual teacher award for National History Day in N.C.



Postcard, c. 1910, [PC.1785](#), State Archives of N.C.



## Welcome New Members!

[African American Heritage Foundation of Southeastern NC](#) provides regular programs and coordinates projects including a documentary on Black history in Brunswick County and oral history collection.

[Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society of the Triangle](#) strives to preserve African-ancestored family history, genealogy and cultural diversity by teaching research techniques and disseminating information throughout the community.

Addi Banks founded [ASB History](#) with a mission to present Black American history on numerous platforms. Existing efforts focus on N.C. and Durham Black history. The organization will soon introduce NC Black History Clubs for youth with opportunities for Quiz Bowl competitions and adult clubs as a future goal. (logo above)

[The Cultivator](#), serves Hertford, Bertie, and Northampton Counties with free book boxes, food boxes, and cultural heritage programs through Worrell's Mill Historic Site and the Hertford County African American History Coalition.

[Historic Turner House Foundation](#), preserves and interprets a c. 1890 house in Raleigh's Oberlin Village as a testament to the rising African American middle class of that era. It is open to the public for tours by appointment and special events.

[Spring Hope Historical Museum](#), is open each weekend with free admission and managed by a volunteer board. (See page 3.)

## MEMBER NEWS

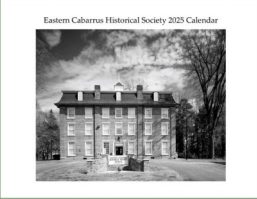



## Eastern Cabarrus Historical Society

Eastern Cabarrus Historical Society  
2025 CALENDAR

important dates in  
Eastern Cabarrus  
history

makes a wonderful gift

local historic photos

\$10  
available at ECHS Museum

Again this year, the Society has created a calendar for the New Year in time for holiday shopping!

## Lewisville Historical Society

Historic Nissen House is now open weekly with hours on Thursdays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 213 Arrow Leaf Drive, Lewisville (336-946-6504). Tour the house, learn about its history and the Nissen family, and enjoy the Victorian flower gardens. In addition to managing the Historic Nissen House as an event rental, the board plans to open a regional history center, which will include information about additional local historical museums, organizations, and properties in the Piedmont.

## Carteret County Historical Society

Museum volunteer Deborah Taule has assembled an exciting new exhibit at CCHS! Members of the [Core Sound Decoy Carvers Guild](#) loaned these decoys.



Deborah Taule with a new exhibit at the History Museum of Carteret County.

## Member Materials Added to DigitalNC!

**Alamance Community College** added [70 new records](#) featuring Melville Dairy materials, Hopalong Cassidy ephemera, livestock equipment, ritual objects, and more.

**Chapel Hill Historical Society** has [nine new maps](#) now available online! The maps depict Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and the rest of Orange County in stunning detail.

**Chatham County Historical Association** added [new architectural records](#).

**High Point Museum's** recent upload includes [manufacturing booklets, maps, and more](#).

**Hyde County Historical & Genealogical Society** contributed tables of contents and indices for the spring and fall issues of [High Tides, 2018-2022](#).

**Lower Cape Fear Historical Society** added [bulletins from 1957-2014](#) that are full of Wilmington-area genealogical and historical information.

## MEMBER NEWS

## Wendell Historical Society



Carol and Ray Hinnant with WHS President, Linda Hess

Ray Hinnant, Wendell historian and longtime treasurer of the **Wendell Historical Society**, received the organization's lifetime achievement award October 17. Linda Hess, president, recognized Hinnant for his "dedicated service and outstanding contributions" at the annual business meeting, saying that no individual has been associated with the historical society longer or played a greater role in its success.

"Ray has been the 'heart and soul' of the Historical Society for many years," Hess said. In addition to handling the historical society's finances, he and his wife, Carol, have been the record-keepers and "historians," guiding new board members and sharing their years of experience.

Although stepping down from the duties of treasurer, Hinnant has promised to continue his support of the organization in other ways. A recognized authority on Wendell history, Hinnant has also held leadership positions in the Wake County Historical Society, L.L. Polk House Foundation, Raleigh City Cemeteries Preservation, Wake County Historic Preservation Commission and the Federation of N.C. Historical Societies. In 2017, he was received the Anthemion Award for lifetime achievement in historic preservation by Capital

Area Preservation Inc.

The nonprofit Wendell Historical Society was established in the late 1960s to preserve and celebrate Wendell's history. Projects have included restoration and maintenance of the historic 1891 Wendell Post Office, National Register of Historic Places designations for the Wendell Commercial Historic District and the Wendell Boulevard Historic District, securing North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame recognition for Wendell's baseball great Jake May, digitizing Wendell High School yearbooks and Gold Leaf Farmer newspapers, and establishing the Wendell Museum.

## Cape Fear Museum

The Stamp Defiance Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution in Wilmington and the American Battlefield Trust are excited to feature [the American Revolution Experience](#) exhibition at the Cape Fear Museum, December 11 - December 29. The innovative pop-up exhibit includes display panels and interactive digital kiosks that use storytelling, illustration, technology unique artifacts, and primary accounts to connect modern audiences with the people and places that shaped the birth of our nation.

Dec. 11, 11 a.m., FREE opening reception at the museum with keynote speaker, State DAR Regent Cricket Crigler. Matthew Woods, Superintendent of Moore's Creek National Battlefield will also speak on the [NC First in Freedom Festival](#).

**Hyde County Historical & Genealogical Society** won the N.C. Genealogical Society's Award for Excellence in Periodical Publishing. The Society's [High Tides](#) journal has been published in the spring and fall since 1980 and helps fulfill the Society's mission to preserve and record the history of Hyde County and its people. Current journal editors are Linda Mayo, R.S. Spencer, Jr. and Betty Mann.

## MEMBER NEWS

**Murfreesboro Historical Association**

Dec. 5, “**Rock Around the Tree**” Scavenger Hunt begins! When you find one of the special painted Christmas rocks, you will win a gift. Rocks will be “hidden” in local towns—Ahoskie, Como, Murfreesboro, Winton, and Conway.

Prizes include bird feeders, Scentsy tart burner, handmade Christmas ornaments, a \$50 gift card, and more.

Dec. 13-14, 5-8 p.m., **38th Annual Candlelight Christmas Tour**. Enjoy a special tour of MHA’s ten sites by candlelight, carriage rides, and live music. [Tickets \\$25-30](#).

**Museum & Archives of Rockingham County**

Dec. 7, 1-4 p.m. 1940s Christmas at the Wright Tavern. Open house, free admission and refreshments.

**City of Raleigh Museum**

Dec. 6, 6-9 p.m., **Annual Sip ‘n’ Shop** includes local vendors, music, and raffle.

**Historic Hope Foundation**

Dec. 7, 5-8 p.m., **Christmas Candlelight Tour** of the mansion. Sample traditional 18th- and 19th-century food and drink, including syllabub, wassail, country ham biscuits, crab dip, fruit cake, and more. [Tickets \\$25 in advance or \\$30 at the door](#) or call 252-794-3140 on Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 10:00 am and 3:30 pm, or leave your name and telephone number and we will return your call as soon as possible.

Dec. 8, 1-5 p.m., **Christmas Open House**. The Hope Mansion and King-Bazemore House will be decorated with period decorations. Join us for live holiday music, refreshments, horse drawn carriage and wagon rides, and a holiday craft fair. There is no charge but donations are appreciated. We will also be open for tours at 10 a.m., noon, and 2 p.m. [December 9, 11, and 13 at \\$10/person](#). [Historic Hope](#) is located at 132 Hope House Road, off NC 308 just west of Windsor.

**Preservation Greensboro**

Dec. 10, 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m., **Christmas concert and tour of Blandwood Museum**. Join in a candlelit tour followed by carols around the historic Morehead pianoforte. [Tickets are \\$25](#) and have a limited availability. For more information, please contact the Blandwood Manager.

**Beaufort Historical Association**

Tickets to all events available by calling 252-728-5225 or at the Old Beaufort Shop, 130 Turner Street.

Dec. 11, 6 p.m., **Christmas in Peachtree Bluff Dinner at Beaufort Grocery**. Celebrate the holidays in Historic Beaufort, NC! Join a festive dinner featuring a curated meal and wine pairings. Tickets: \$100.

Dec. 12, 1:30 p.m., **Christmas in Peachtree Bluff Special Double Decker Bus Tour**. Explore Beaufort locations featured in Kristy Harvey’s book, *Christmas in Peachtree Bluff*. Tickets: \$15.

Dec. 14, 1-4 p.m., **Beaufort Holiday Art Walk**. Kick off the holiday season in historic Beaufort! Meet artists and find unique holiday gifts. The Mattie King Davis Art Gallery will feature works by local artists Jimmy Craig Womble and Lisa Tuckek.

Dec. 14, 5-8 p.m., **Christmas Candlelight Tour**. Experience southern hospitality and glimpse decorated historic homes, churches, and the Old Burying Ground. Guests can stroll candlelit streets or enjoy a complimentary double-decker bus ride to each stop. Tickets \$25 adults; \$12 for children (ages 6-12),

**Southport Historical Society**

Dec. 14, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., **Holiday Home Tour** will feature nine properties, each with its own distinctive story. [Tickets \\$30](#).

**Wake County Historical Society**

Dec. 16, 7 p.m., Carla Matthews and Peggy Van Scoyoc, board members of the **Friends of Page-Walker** will discuss the formation of this Cary historical society, its role in preserving local history, and the future of historic preservation in fast-growing Cary. Copies of Peggy’s books on Cary’s history will be available for purchase. The program will be held at the Mordecai Historic Park Visitor Center classroom, Raleigh. Register [here](#).

# AMERICA 250 NEWS



As 2024 comes to a close, the America 250 NC team shares some important updates and programming tips.

**Social Media:** America 250 NC will soon offer templates for organizations to promote relevant content. Upcoming social media series include: North Carolinians You Should Know; Next 250; and Road to 250 Starts Here. Please send the America 250 NC team short essays for [the blog](#), social media series ideas, upcoming events for [the calendar](#), grant program highlights, images and videos of events, and requests for the airstream to visit your most popular festivals and large events. Contact [america250nc@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:america250nc@dncr.nc.gov).

**Grants: The deadline for A250 NC local grant funding has been extended to December 16, 2024!**

When submitting your [grant application](#), be concise in your narrative and clearly connect to America 250 themes. Include the expected reach of your program and ensure that your program is free to the public. Try including activities for all ages in your event plan. If your event includes waysides, murals, and/or local markers, indicate the location, as these installations will need to be approved by the appropriate boards.

**2025 Initiatives:** As we move into the New Year, be on the lookout for more details about the [Race to the Dan](#) planning grant, [Lafayette's tour bicentennial celebration in Fayetteville](#), and the [Two Lights for Tomorrow](#) initiative on April 18, 2025, with a subsequent day of service. 2025 also marks the [250th anniversary of the armed forces](#), so consider this commemoration in your event planning. Additionally, the America 250 NC team is looking forward to more arts activations, including working with N.C.'s Poet Laureate Jaki Shelton Green.

## Chowan County Courthouse Restoration

DNCR has received a \$750,000 grant to replace the roof of the historic 1767 Chowan County Courthouse at Historic Edenton. This restoration project is made possible by a [Semiquincentennial Grant from the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Fund](#).

The 1767 Courthouse was declared a National Historic Landmark and placed on the National Register of Historic Places on April 15, 1970, due to its role as a meeting place for patriots during the American Revolutionary War. This historic courthouse, still used today for public events, proceedings, and ceremonies, has withstood the ravages of time and weather, with only modest restoration over its more than 250-year history.

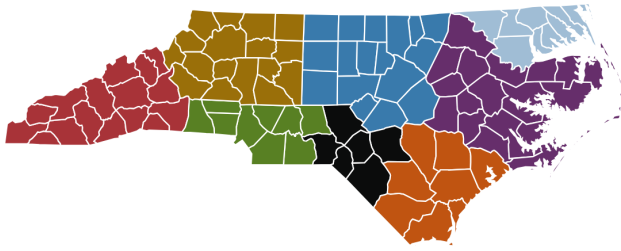
The grant will fund a new, historically accurate roof that will protect this national treasure for the future while also providing a stable interior environment to safeguard the structure and the colonial-era artifacts inside. The replacement of the roof also ensures that the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse continues to serve as an active community hub.



Chowan County Courthouse, Edenton, July 27, 1978, [PhC.13.22](#), State Archives of N.C.



# DNCR NEWS



## 2025 National History Day Contest Schedule

Region	Date	Location
Albemarle (lt. blue)	April 4	Elizabeth City State University
Northeast (purple)	March 27	East Carolina University
Southeast (orange)	March 12 & 13	Cape Fear Museum
Central Piedmont (blue)	March 22	Alamance Community College
Sandhills (black)	March 7	UNC Pembroke
Northwest Piedmont (gold)	March 21	Surry Community College
Southwest Piedmont (green)	Feb. 21	UNC Charlotte
Western (red)	March 15	Blue Ridge Community College
<b>STATE</b>	<b>May 3</b>	<b>UNC Greensboro</b>

### Federation members make great judges!

Do you enjoy working with middle school and high school students? Be prepared to be amazed by what they can accomplish and also to provide encouragement for those who need more help. All participants can learn from your constructive criticism and shared experience in conducting research and presenting it to audiences. Mark your calendars and sign up to judge! Contact NHD Coordinator, Karen Ipock, [karen.ipock@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:karen.ipock@dncr.nc.gov).

### Learning Happens Here Field Trip Fund

Governor Roy Cooper announced \$1 million in new funding for public school field trips. The fund will provide North Carolina public school students with access to enriching field trips to the over 100 DNCR locations across the state. The program is available to any K-12 public school in North Carolina, with priority given to Title I schools, and is made possible with funds from the State of North Carolina, managed by DNCR in partnership with PBS North Carolina. In response to Hurricane Helene, a portion of the funds will be reserved for Western North Carolina schools impacted to ensure those schools receive equal opportunities for field trip funding. [Applications for the fund are now open.](#)

### Historic Stagville

A new exhibit, *Maya Freelon: Whippersnappers*, features large-scale sculptures, archival photographs, paintings, and collages. Freelon's first large-scale installation grew from her research of enslaved children in the Library of Congress [prints & photographs online catalog](#). The site-responsive installation features new works on view in Stagville's 1799 Bennehan House, the preserved home of former enslavers. *Whippersnappers* opened November 16 and will be on view through January 25, 2025. Exhibition hours: Wednesdays and Saturdays. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and by appointment.

Dec. 14, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., **Tissue Quilt Workshop**. Open to all ages, Freelon will lead participants on a transformational, collective art-making journey. Advanced registration required: [stagville@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:stagville@dncr.nc.gov).

### N.C. African American Heritage Commission

Dec. 6, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., **Africa to Carolina Community Poetry Workshop** at the [DREAMS Center for Arts Education, in Wilmington](#). Led by State Poet Laureate Jaki Shelton Green, participants will write lines for a collective poem as part of the [Africa to Carolina](#) inclusive public art project with the artist team David Wilson and Stephen Hayes. This workshop continues Shelton Green's practice of calling remembrance to ancestry. All ages are invited. [Registration requested](#) for this FREE in-person event.

## DNCR NEWS

## Flood Recovery



The Mauney House at **Mountain Gateway Museum** in Old Fort included staff offices and artifact collections storage. Flooding of nearby Mill Creek during Hurricane Helene caused its collapse.

Flood recovery activities have taken place across DNCR's eighteen western sites, including Mountain Gateway Museum, one of the hardest hit by flooding. In addition to clearing downed trees, repairing building damages, and functioning for some time without power or water, DNCR staff in the region helped with community disaster response. State Historic Preservation Office staff continue to provide restoration technical support. Over 150 state parks staff assisted in community disaster response, including work as first responders and law enforcement officers. Of the thirteen state parks with some damage, all but three had reopened at least partially by mid-November. Chimney Rock, Mount Mitchell, and South Mountains state parks remain closed.

Mountain Gateway Museum exhibits had to be de-installed and the building emptied for recovery activities to proceed. The Cultural Resources Emergency Support Team (CREST) helped provide storage supplies for artifacts. Federation member **Mountain Heritage Center** loaned shelving for off-site storage. Joined by additional Museum of History staff, several CREST members gathered at Mountain Gateway in November for a workday to transport artifacts to the new off-site warehouse.



# DNCR NEWS

## North Carolina Land and Water Fund

The NCLWF Board of Trustees awarded funds for projects that will protect North Carolina’s land and water from the mountains to the coast. Over \$28 million in grants will go to rural and economically distressed counties. [This year’s grants](#) will support North Carolina’s \$28 billion outdoor recreation economy, including ten sites with historic and cultural significance. Lockville Canal in Chatham County (below), the [Pauli Murray and Fitzgerald Family Home in Durham](#), a Civil War-era shipwreck, historic mills and farmsteads, and multiple archaeological sites will benefit, along with a buffering project for the Blue Ridge Parkway.

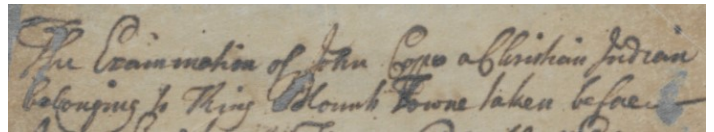


Lord Cornwallis used the Lockville site as a campground after the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. In the early to mid-19th century, interest in improved river transportation systems resulted in the construction and use of a lock and canal works at Moncure. The canal was put back into service in 1922 to provide water power to a newly established hydroelectric facility at the site. This power plant brought electricity to part of Chatham County.

[Historic American Engineering Record](#), Library of Congress. See also a [view of the Lockville Canal](#), contributed to the N.C. Digital Heritage Center by the [Chatham County Historical Association](#).

About NCLWF: Previously known as the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, the fund was originally established in 1996 to protect the state's drinking water sources. The N.C. General Assembly expanded the Fund’s mission to include conserving and protecting the state's natural resources, cultural heritage and military installations. The North Carolina Land and Water Fund has conserved over 500,000 acres and protected or restored 3,000 miles of streams and rivers. To learn more, visit [www.nclwf.nc.gov](http://www.nclwf.nc.gov).

## Historical Research & Publications Branch



“The Examination of John Cope affiliation Indian belonging to King Blounts Towne taken before—”  
August 5, 1722, CCR.194, State Archives

A new digital exhibit on [American Indians in the Colonia Court Records](#) is now available on Mosaic, a digital publishing venture of the North Carolina Office of Archives and History. Visit [MosaicNC](#) to find the newest edition, along with ten previously published exhibits. The American Indians exhibit provides important background about North Carolina’s colonial court system and a showcases a compelling selection of records from the State Archives’ collections.


  
**Contribute to the Federation’s 2024 Holiday Greeting!**
  
 As your site decorates and celebrates this week and next, please submit photos to *Bulletin* co-editor, Danielle Shirilla, [dani.shirilla@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:dani.shirilla@dncr.nc.gov), by **December 13**. We will create a short slide show to share with all members and additional partners.

**DNCR Seasonal Celebrations**
  
 Many DNCR sites across the state welcome participants for special holiday activities. Explore opportunities at [www.dncr.nc.gov/holidays](http://www.dncr.nc.gov/holidays).

## FREE WEBINARS

### **N.C. Genealogical Society**

Dec. 4, 7-8:30 p.m., Learn about the four Abbott brothers, responsible for a one-family 18th-century Piedmont crime spree, as instructor Diane Richard showcases various records found in the State Archives: Courts of Pleas and Quarters, District Superior, North Carolina Supreme, Treasurer & Comptroller, and General Assembly Session Records, plus a private lawyer's ledger, and more. [Register](#).

### **Gaylord Archival**

Dec. 5, 2 p.m., Build Your Own Four-Flap Enclosure: Step-by-Step Instructions for Creating Archival-Quality Book Protection. Conservator [Rebecca Elder](#) will lead instruction. Four-flap enclosures are ideal for books that are too flimsy or fragile to go on shelves unprotected. They're great for pamphlets, paperbacks, and books with detached boards. [Register](#).

### **American Association of State and Local History**

Dec. 6, 3 p.m., **Introduction to the History Leadership Institute**, Learn about the Institute and how this program can develop your leadership skills. [Register](#).

### **Dec. 9, 3 p.m., Facilitating 250th Planning Workshops for Small History Organizations.**

Discuss how to use new AASLH resources and plan 250th workshops that will serve small history organizations of all types, sizes, and locations. You will learn how AASLH's workshop templates can help your stakeholders use our "Making History at 250" field guide, our new handbook of low-resource programming ideas, and how to effectively apply these tools to their history organizations. [Register](#).

### **Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York**

Dec. 10, 2 p.m., **Processing Priorities: Setting Goals for Your Collections.** How do you prioritize collections for processing? How do you determine the appropriate level of processing? Andrew Arpey, Head of Records Access Services at the New York State Archives will provide an overview of the NY-

SA collections, explore the processing challenges the institution has encountered, and highlight strategies and solutions. Q&A session will follow. [Register](#).

### **National Trust for Historic Preservation**

Dec. 12, 2 p.m., **African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund Conversation Series.** Preservationists and developers are leveraging the significance of historic communities, assets, and cultural legacies to rescue vacant buildings and revitalize historic Black neighborhoods. Join preservationist Justin Garrett Moore for a conversation with today's leaders breaking barriers in real estate development through creative financing, community development, and dogged perseverance. [Register](#).

### **Museum Association of New York**

Dec. 13, noon, **Removing Barriers and Opening Doors: Finding Ways to Improve Accessibility and Inclusion.** Accessibility can mean many things, from physical access to buildings to language translation, transportation, site navigation and way-finding, and more. This webinar will discuss ways multiple organizations have addressed complex issues of accessibility to their historic buildings, while making their programs and exhibits more inclusive of their communities, and embracing challenges of reaching new audiences and breaking down barriers to visitorship. From funding, to finding the right consultants, to implementation, participants will receive practical advice to work toward a more open and welcoming museum no matter what the size of the organization. [Register](#).

### **FAIC: Connecting to Collections Care**

Jan. 7, 1 p.m., **Care of Newspaper Clippings.** Newspapers show up in almost every collection in some form or another: folded, bound, clipped, scrapbooked, or even used in artworks! At the same time, they are incredibly fragile, prone to disintegrating over time. How do we even begin to approach their preservation? This webinar will suggest a starting place by explaining the reasons why newsprint deteriorates so rapidly and covering a range of different approaches to preservation and tools to help care for collections. [Register](#).

## CONFERENCES & MORE

### Smithsonian National Collections Program

Dec. 2-5, **Disaster Risk Management for Cultural Heritage**. Free online conference, afternoons for three days. What are the risks for objects in our collections? What can we do to protect them before, during, and after disaster strikes? This international conference will look into preparation, response, training, research, and networks to address and mitigate the effect of disasters on cultural heritage. See the [conference program](#) and [register](#).

### N.C. Preservation Consortium

Feb 10, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., McKimmon Center, Raleigh, 2025 Conference, "[Things that Go BOOM!](#)"

### Small Museums Association

Feb. 17-19, **Annual Conference, Gaithersburg, MD**. The theme of the conference will be "Make it Happen." See registration options [here](#).

### N.C. Association of Historians

March 28-29, **Annual Meeting**, hosted by the College of the Albemarle in Manteo. [Call for papers](#) due January 31.

### N.C. Genealogical Society

March 28-29, the **2025 Virtual Conference** will include eight lectures presented by expert speakers on a variety of topics. Full details and registration available early 2025.

### N.C. Museums Council

March 30-31, Raleigh, **Museums Unwalled: Expanding Horizons**. This theme highlights the importance of museums as dynamic entities that engage with communities, foster education, drive cultural change and often go beyond the building itself. We aim to inspire attendees to think broadly about the potential of their institutions and to foster a spirit of innovation. [Registration coming soon](#).

### Society of North Carolina Archivists

May 21-22, **Annual Conference**, Greenville. Save the date for the 41st annual SNCA conference, Joyner Library at East Carolina University. The theme is "Outreach and Engagement in a Digital World." Call for proposals will go out in December.

### American Association for State & Local History

[Call for papers](#): Are you passionate about history and eager to share your expertise, insights, and innovative approaches with a vibrant community of history and museum professionals? AASLH is accepting session proposals for the 2025 Annual Conference with the theme, "The American Experiment," to explore experimental approaches in history, society, and historic sites. **Deadline: December 13**

## Additional Opportunities

### American Alliance of Museums

[Museum Assessment Program](#) assists organizations through a one-year process of self-assessment, institutional activities, and consultative peer review with a site visit and recommendations.

**Deadline: February 1**

### State Historical Records Advisory Board

[Traveling Archivist Program](#) funds consultations, site visits, and starter kits of preservation supplies to assist with archives preservation and access. Applications will open in January! **Deadline: February 15**

### Foundation for Advancement in Conservation

[Conservation Assessment Program](#) funds expert site visits with a report to assist in preservation planning.

**Deadline: February 28**

### Beloit College: [Center for Collections Care](#)

Fourteen in-person courses and six online courses offered in 2025. [Registration](#) is now open and [scholarships](#) are available for small museum staff and emerging professionals: \$600 for in-person courses and \$250 for online courses. Note: courses fill quickly, so don't delay!

## New Resource

Gaylord's [Archival Storage of Paper | Guide to Collections Care](#)

## GRANTS

### Federation of N.C. Historical Societies

[Mini-grants](#) provide up to \$1,500 for member projects such as exhibition components, programs, or collections preservation. **Deadline: January 31**

### National Park Service

[Save America's Treasures Grants](#) provide funds for preservation and/or conservation work on nationally significant properties and collections.

**Deadline: December 12**

### Americana Corner

[Preserving America Grants](#) fund education and preservation projects for pre-1876 American history. Awards costs between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

**Deadline: December 15**

### National Endowment for the Humanities

[Public Humanities Project Grants](#) provides significant funds for planning or implementation in three categories: exhibitions, historic places and humanities discussions. **Deadline: January 8**

### NC Humanities

[Small Project Grants](#) provide up to \$5,000 for projects such as programs and exhibitions.

**Deadline: January 18**

### Country School Association

[Preservation grant program](#) provides up to \$1,000 per year for the preservation of one or two-room buildings once used as country schools. **Deadline: January 31**

### National Railway Historical Society

[Heritage Grants](#) provide matching funds for projects that preserve, research, educate, or publish railway history. **Deadline: January 31**

### The Foundation for Advancement in Conservation

[Community Partnership Project Grants](#) offer awards up to \$1,000 for travel and supplies and pairs conservators with collections that need care. Conservators typically volunteer one or two days of their time to work with curators, archivists, or collections managers to provide basic care and rehousing for specific collections. **Deadline: February 15**

[Tru Vue Conservation and Exhibition Grants](#) support the preservation of collections and encourage the work of conservators in museums and libraries.

**Deadline: February 15**

### Marion Stedman Covington Foundation

[Grants](#) support historic preservation projects across the state of North Carolina, with preference for initiatives that generate resources and projects which may serve as models for other communities.

**Deadline: March 1**

### North Caroliniana Society

[Archie K. Davis Fellowships](#) provide up to \$5,000 in travel and subsistence expenses for research on North Carolina topics. **Deadline: March 1**

### North Carolina Arts Council

[Project Support Grants](#) provides \$5,000-\$15,000 for arts-based programs or exhibitions.

**Deadline: March 1**

### Society for Industrial Archeology

[DeLony Grants](#) for industrial heritage preservation provide \$1,000 to \$3,000 for the study, documentation, recordation, and/or preservation of significant historic industrial sites, structures, and objects.

**Deadline: March 1**

### N.C. Preservation Consortium

[Preservation grants](#) of up to \$2,000 promote collections preservation. Applicants must be institutional members (\$100 annual dues). **Deadline: March 15**

## Rolling Opportunities

### Federation of N.C. Historical Societies

[No-interest loans](#) to members of up to \$15,000 for projects including publications and special programs.

### T-Mobile

[Hometown Grants](#) provide up to \$50,000 for rural community projects.

### N.C. Community Foundation

Grant seekers should contact this organization and its county affiliates to find [potential funding sources for projects](#) or other needs.

## Audience Engagement Ideas

- **Connect with Gen Z.** Complete a [GenZ Engagement Scorecard](#) to assess how well your organization is doing and learn tips for improvement.
- **Produce educational videos.** Did you know that YouTube is one of the best platforms to reach younger audiences? Find quick tips on equipment, editing, and publishing in “[Video Production 101 for Museum Education](#),” by the American Alliance of Museums (aam-us.org).



H.2003.73.1, N.C. Museum of History

- **Compile a Collections Top Ten.** The **National Trust for Historic Preservation** has shared a fun list of unique objects, “[10 Quirky Objects Underscore the Unique Stories of Historic Sites](#),” selected from across its properties and programs. Check out a similar list of twelve objects from N.C. [here](#). (Note the dropdown menu for regional selections.) What objects do you know of that should be included? If you were to select ten of the most intriguing objects or documents from your organization or region, what would they be? Your list could be useful for a social media or fundraising campaigns and a great way to share compelling collection highlights with audiences.

## Tips for Interpreting Slavery during the 250th

by Alana Gomez  
 America 250 NC Educator  
 Based on [AASLH training, fall 2024](#)

**Create brave spaces.** begin with an acknowledgement of risk and vulnerability. People working within brave spaces are prepared to exist in discomfort and navigate it together. At historic sites, for example, a brave space acknowledges the challenges that both visitors and interpreters have when attempting to discuss difficult and/or sensitive topics such as race, power, privilege, and the various forms of oppression for the purpose of learning.

### Relate to America 250 themes.

- Unfinished revolutions
- Power of place
- We the people
- the American experiment

[America 250 NC's organizing concepts and themes](#) may also be useful.

### Engage participants.

- Emphasize your site's goal to paint a **broader picture of history**, not rewrite it
- Pose **open-ended questions** that allow visitors to learn new content and respond with their own thoughts. Examples include: “What do you notice about your surroundings?;” “What do you wonder about the site?”
- Do not use role play or encourage visitors to “imagine what it was like to be an enslaved person.” **Alternatives to historical role play** include: historical figure cards with biographies and facts, shared characteristics and universal themes, actor interpretations, storytelling, reflections.

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