



THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2023



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When the restrictions imposed by the pandemic finally ended, the Moore County Historical Association slowly returned to its previous activities. The Board began to meet monthly and assessed the manpower needs to carry out previous events. Some were to fall by the wayside such as the chicken and waffles luncheon, while the Board felt that others needed to be resumed such as the periodic lectures, the heritage fair, Clenny Creek festival, and the holiday events at year's end. This year, 2023, is the first full year after the transitioning in 2022. It has been a **very** busy year.

Cemeteries

In late 2022, the Old Scotch Graveyard was deeded to the MCHA. Serious removal of many dead trees and restoration of fallen or tilted gravestones was begun thanks to several generous donations. A cast-iron archway was erected, and signage was made. The annual meeting was held at the graveyard and it was officially dedicated in a ceremony led by a bagpiper. Several county and state officials were also present. The Association's newest acquisition is located at 113 Scotch Burying Road, just off Bethlehem Church Road near Carthage.

The Kenneth Black Cemetery has been maintained and landscaped by the MCHA although it was not owned by the Association. The developer of the new shopping and housing complex off 15-501 sought the Association's input before construction began. The developer agreed to remove and store all grave markers after their GPS locations were recorded. The cemetery has been preserved and will be part of the park and walking trail in the development. The gravestones will be replaced using the GPS locations and the developer will be responsible for maintenance of the cemetery. The MCHA plans to restore the signage that explained the cemetery significance.

Lecture Series

The Association's lecture series resumed in November of 2022. The 250th Anniversary of the United States will be celebrated in 2026. The MCHA has partnered with the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in advertising some events leading up to 2026. Our lecture series concentrated on local events that occurred during the Revolution. In April, Andrew Diemer, teacher and historian, spoke about the Tory War of 1781 in central North Carolina. In November, Amanda Brantley, site manager of the House in the Horseshoe, spoke about the battle that occurred there in 1781 between Patriot and Tory forces which was precipitated by the killing of Kenneth Black.

At the dedication of the Old Scotch Graveyard in June, Sandy Stewart, President of Sandhills Community College, spoke about the history of Scottish tartans. This was followed by a talk about the Scottish history of Moore County by Don McLeod.

The Association's Regular Events

The regular calendar of events that the MCHA took place in 2023. These included Clenny Creek Heritage Day on April 15th at the Bryant House property, the Shaw House Heritage Fair and Moore Treasures Sale on October 14th, the Shaw House Tag Sale on October 21st, Christmas at the Bryant House on December 3rd, the Members' Holiday Party at the Shaw House on December 7th, and Christmas at the Shaw House on December 9th. All of these were well attended even if the weather was marginal.

In addition, members of the Board staffed information table for the Association at the Annual Scotland County Highland Games on October 7th, and the Battle of the House in the Horseshoe on July 29th. Members of our working Board also served as docents for the Shaw properties every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons.

The Association's Soap Sales

Many members know that the MCHA sells labelled, luxury, scented hand soap to raise funds. As pointed out in a presidents' letter, this is the primary source of income for the association. In 2023 our staff hand-wrapped and sold approximately 30,700 bars of soap that were sold in the states of AL, FL, GA, LA, ME, MN, MS, NC, OH, SC, TN, VA, and WI. Since starting in 2008, we have serviced over 517 retail outlets with as many as 14 sales representatives, working on a commission. However, the number of retail outlets has dropped to 109 and only 4 sales representatives remain. The soap is shipped from the Shaw House to the businesses. The soap is manufactured in Raleigh.

History and Pinecrest High School

Studies indicate that 40% of Gen Z get their news from Tik-Tok. There is no meaningful history that can be provided in less than 120 seconds. A Social Studies teacher from Pinecrest High School called the MCHA to inquire if there was a member who could talk to the AP American History classes about the Civil War.

Jim Jones as a Confederate soldier reenactor talked about life in the field for the soldier. Students got to heft a musket, feel hard tack, touch chewing tobacco, and handle the items used for personal hygiene in the field. **Bob Ferro** did the same for the Union soldier. He had an original uniform on display and also talked about photography in the war. **Paul Brill** had on display edged weapons, a pistol and a Fayetteville musket—all produced in North Carolina. **Matt Farina** brought his capital amputation kit and talked about the difference in wounds produced by the round musket ball and the minie ball. He also discussed the advances in medicine that occurred during the war.

The program was approved by the teacher, the school administration, and the SRO. A member of the Board of Education was present, and parents were made aware of the program. The students were respectful, asked questions and appeared to enjoy the presentations. Teacher and volunteers plan to repeat this next year.

From the Moore County Historical Association Archives

This year in the archives at MCHA we've been able to expand our collection by collaborating with 3 new entities this year thanks to the utilization of our new cataloguing software, PastPerfect: Weymouth Center for the Arts, the future West Southern Pines Museum, and most recently Carthage Museum.

Our two UNC interns are finishing up their semester with us having completed the processing of 10% of our massive McKenzie photo collection and having catalogued the full art collection with our collaborator, Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities! This was an extremely successful step in mentoring future professionals that we intend to repeat in the 2024 fall semester. Archives Committee volunteers are also consistently making progress in the cataloguing and preservation of our backlogged accessions, our newly acquired postcard collection, and our Shaw House reference library!

In the new year we will focus on the acquisition and cataloguing of the Carthage Museum collection, continue in processing our massive photo collection, and soon provide the public digital access to our collection.

MCHA Is On E-Bay

Nearly two years ago, Sue Pockmire and Grace Jones set up an E-bay Store for MCHA. Our new online store gives us an opportunity to get better prices for your donated items. We are well pleased with our sales and as a non-profit our fee is 2%, far below what others pay. Sales to date have generated over \$7200. We will continue to operate the store to the best of our ability and thank you again for your generous donations and support. Giving History a Future.

The QR Program

The overall objective in the QR program (Quick Response codes) is to take our history out into the community using technology. In addition to the codes now on all the main structures on the Shaw House property, codes are now present on 6 locations throughout Southern Pines — The Sunrise Theatre, the Visitor Center, Jefferson Inn, Ice Cream shop, Patch Department Store and Betsy's Crepe's. In support of the "Telling Moore Stories" Program, 5 X 7 location cards were created and distributed throughout Southern Pines as well as at the Shaw House. Additionally, we participated in a local Pod Cast, sponsored by the Pilot that was well received. More ways to use this technology are being planned in 2024. We will expand into Aberdeen, with 4 locations already underway as well as an additional 3 locations in Southern Pines. Today, we have a total of 11 locations using technology to "get the message" out about MCHA.

Shaw House Docents

The Shaw House properties (the Shaw House, Garner House, Sanders Cabin and Tobacco Barn) had a total of 1,062 visitors in 2023. This is an increase of 372 visitors

from the previous year. The Board of Directors decided to open the house on Saturdays in addition to Thursdays and Fridays. Docents who served on Thursdays and Fridays in 2023 were Steve Gaydica, Beverly Offutt, Dorothy Shankle, Don McLeod, Rachel Ray Webb, Cindy Novosel, Carla Butler, Carley Sutton and Sherry Wright. MCHA board members volunteered on Saturdays.

Beverly Offutt retired as head docent after 15 years of service in that position. The head docent sets the volunteer docent schedule, coordinates with the curatorial committee concerning the placement of artifacts in the houses and works with the building and grounds committee to make sure the structures and grounds are clean and in good repair. We thank her for her service to the Association. Steve Gaydica is the new head docent. He has reorganized and updated the docent training manual.

Goals for 2024:

The Counting Office located on the left side of the front porch has not been open to visitors for a number of years. The Docent Committee hopes to officially re-open the office for visitors this year. In coordination with Paul Caddell, our Curator, and the Curatorial Committee, we plan to update the “black books” which contain information concerning the artifacts in each room.

At her death in 1874, eight of the twelve children of Mary Ray Shaw (wife of Charles Shaw) were living. We have portraits/photos of seven of them on display in the house. In coordination with the curatorial committee, we would like to acquire a portrait/photo to be placed in the house of Dr. John Shaw who lived in Carthage and served the community as a physician, county commissioner, legislator and register of deeds.

The Yadkin Road Markers

In 2022, four Yadkin Road markers were deeded to the MCHA. In 1927, Leonard Tufts, James Wicker and James Johnson erected five trail markers that defined the historic Yadkin Trail that passed through Moore County. Four of the concrete markers have survived, and in 2023 they were cleaned and partially repaired. Unfortunately, they do not qualify for state funds as historic monuments. The most visible and landscaped marker is near the intersection of Page Road and route in Pinehurst. Future plans include plantings and signage before their centennial celebration in 2027.

Summary

As you can see, your Association has been very active, but we face a major problem, namely membership. There were 206 in 2021, 176 in 2022, and 196 in 2023. That means that only 0.2% of Moore County supports the MCHA. That is 2/10s of one percent. We hear a great deal about “preserving our unique corner of North Carolina.” Then we urge you to join or renew your membership and encourage your friends to join. The Association is doing its job to preserve history; now it’s your turn – and it’s only \$35.