

# MOORE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



Shaw House, Garner House, Sanders Cabin & Tobacco Barn in Southern Pines



Carthage



Bryant House and McLendon Cabin in Carthage

**FEBRUARY 2025**

## MOORE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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## PRESIDENTS' LETTER

On April 19, 1775, the Battles of Lexington and Concord were the first major military campaign of the American Revolutionary War. I was a much younger man in 1975 when I took my young daughter and son to see the Bicentennial steam locomotive train that was touring the country as part of the celebration of the Bicentennial of the United States. We will shortly start the 250th Anniversary cycle. How will we celebrate it?

At the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, the country celebrated the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Ten million Americans, 20% of the population then, attended. It told the story of the nation's accomplishments. The massive Corliss steam engine in the main hall provided power that drove hundreds of machines on display. There was a monorail. Attendees could be photographed in the lamp being held by the arm of the yet-to-be-erected Statue of Liberty. Even the news of the Battle of the Little Big Horn (June 1876) did not diminish festivities at the Exhibition which ran from May to November.

The Bicentennial was a major 20th century cultural event that followed an extended revolutionary period – the women's rights movement and the Civil Rights Movement for African Americans and others, the expansion of democracy, the war in Vietnam and the anti-war movement, the Watergate crisis and the resignation of President Richard Nixon.

What will the celebration of the Semiquincentennial be like in 2026? Time and future events will tell. In the meantime, the Historical Association hopes to partner with other local groups (the two chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Sons of the American Revolution, the National Society of Colonial Dames XVII Century, Scottish Heritage USA, Sandhills Community College, and others) in order to make the public aware of the rich cultural history in the area. Then perhaps, we can start serious discussions about where we have come from and where we are going as Americans. Thank you.

Matt Farina, Co-President



## UP-COMING EVENTS



### A TOUR PRESENTATION: EXPLORE THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

The Moore County Historical Association is partnering with Collette Tours with a special all inclusive Northwest tour. The tour will take place October 12 - 19, 2025 and includes the exploration of the Pacific Northwest and California. The tour is 8 days with 12 meals and departs from the Shaw House in Southern Pines.

A free information program at **Shaw House on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.** will offer a full presentation of the tour details. For pricing and itinerary, visit <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1298612>. Or contact MCHA member, Walker Oldham at (910) 638-1450 or [walkereagle@gmail.com](mailto:walkereagle@gmail.com).

### LECTURE: JANE PRATT: NORTH CAROLINA'S FIRST CONGRESSWOMAN

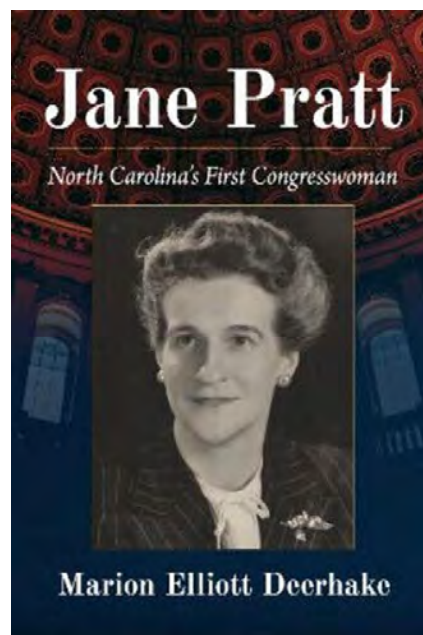
Join us for the Association's first lecture for 2025. We are partnering with Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities for this first presentation by author Marion Elliott Deerhake titled, *Jane Pratt: North Carolina's First Congresswoman*. **This is a change in our usual date and location. This free talk will be at the Weymouth Center on Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.** The Center is located at 555 E. Connecticut Ave. in Southern Pines.

Jane Pratt was born in 1902. By 1923, she was editor of the *Montgomerian*, the weekly newspaper in Troy, NC when she met Rep. William Hammer. He offered her a position on his staff as an administrative assistant. She was secretary to five Tarheel congressmen from the 7<sup>th</sup> District and 8<sup>th</sup> District across six presidencies from Calvin Co-

lidge in 1924 to John F. Kennedy in 1963. The issues that were addressed in Congress included Prohibition, the stock market crash of 1929, the Great Depression, and Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. During FDR's terms, she was an intricate part of the orchestration of the Resettlement Administration, the Sandhill Project, and the construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Pratt served through the turmoil of World War II. In April 1946, Rep. William Burgin died in office. The Democrat Party chose her to serve the rest of Burgin's term. "Miss Jane" won by a landslide with only a \$100 campaign budget. She hit the ground running, voting to pass the Atomic Energy Act and worked tirelessly to mitigate a century of flood disasters in Western North Carolina.

Pratt once was one of the most influential women in North Carolina, but her story largely has been lost to time. Her decision not to run for re-election offers insight into why 46 years passed before the state elected another woman to Congress. After leaving Congress, Pratt went on to a variety of federal government jobs from 1947 to 1956, but she again became a legislative secretary from 1957 through 1962. She died in Charlotte on May 13, 1981 and is buried in Raeford Cemetery.



Author Marion Elliott Deerhake, is an environmental scientist with more than 30 years of experience in research, outreach, and communication. She has co-authored articles in peer-reviewed journals and in more than 90 technical reports and conference papers.



# NEWS



## LARRY'S POSTCARDS

A highlight for November was a visit from Larry Koster, author of 13 books documenting the history of Moore County. A reception was held at the Shaw House the morning of November 11<sup>th</sup> to recognize Larry's recent Award of Excellence from the NC Society of Historians for the publication of *The Railroads of Moore County*. Most of Larry's books are available at the gift shop in Shaw House or they can be ordered from the Association.



*Larry and archivist Sue Pockmire at Shaw House*

Larry graciously donated several thousand postcards of Moore County from his collection last year. Many are now online. Since he was back in North Carolina to receive his award, he brought to us a number of rare postcards to scan and add to the collection.

## HONORING OUR FOUNDER

Elizabeth "Buffie" Stevenson Ives (1897-1994) was a distinguished figure in Moore County, known for her dedication to historic preservation, genealogy, community service, and civic leadership. On March 7, 1946, she founded the Moore County Historical Association, an organization that became instrumental in preserving

the region's rich history. She played a pivotal role in acquiring and preserving several significant historical sites Shaw, Bryant, and Alston Houses. She was an active member of the DAR whose Patriot was Joshua Fry. She was also a member of the League of Women Voters, the American Association for the United Nations, and was the organizer of the first Red Cross Motor Corps in Moore County during WWII.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution has a "Women in American History" award to honor women, past and present, who have made significant contributions to American history. The Alfred Moore Chapter of the DAR selected Buffie as one of several women to be recognized for their invaluable contributions to our community.



*Combined meeting of two local chapters of the DAR*

On December 14, 2024, following the reading of the certificate and biography, Mrs. Ives was honored at the Alfred Moore Chapter meeting with a framed medal and certificate. Two Board members of the Moore County Historical Association, Cindy Novosel and Matt Farina, accepted the award presented by Marsha Jacobs, Regent, Alfred Moore Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

## THE CLEANING OF THE ROOFS

While preparing the Shaw House for the October Heritage Fair, Grace Jones noted that the cedar shingles on the front roof of the House were in need of a cleaning to remove moss, mold, fungi and lichens and other debris. Some of the shingles also appeared to be in need of replacement.

After doing research, Grace contacted Clean Pro Exteriors. The company used a proprietary formula liquid cleaning agent that dislodges the plant life without extracting the natural oils in the wood. After setting a while, the roof was washed with a low pressure hose. The formula does not kill plantings on the ground. The Shaw House roofs were dramatically brightened. The company also cleaned the front cedar roof of the Garner House and as a bonus, cleaned the roofs of several of our out buildings.

Alison Ives, a granddaughter of Buffy Ives, made a generous donation to the MCHA which was used to assist in the funding of this endeavor. She also donated some curatorial and archival material that belonged to Buffie. Thank you, Alison and Grace.

## END OF THE YEAR ACTIVITIES

The Bryant House Christmas Holiday Open House was a great success this year with over 200 attendees on Saturday, December 8, 2024. The weather cooperated with a sunny, warm day. Honor Society high school students provided directions for parking and operated golf cart rides from the parking area to the house. An assortment of drinks and delicious cookies were in plentiful supply. Students from the Union Pines Orchestra playing stringed instruments on the front porch of the Bryant House provided seasonal carols.



An 1828 Eli Terry & Sons pillar and scroll clock with a wood movement was donated to the Bryant House by Diane L. Burghardt and her husband. Thank you for this generous historic donation.



*Part of the crowd at the McLendon cabin*

The Annual Members' Holiday Party was held at the Shaw House on Thursday, December 12th. There was a large selection of delicious finger foods, wine, sparkling cider and warm beverages. Members have always looked forward to this event and the festivities this year did not disappoint. The house was decorated with natural items that grow in the Sandhills. Both fireplaces were operating and provided a warm ambiance.





# MORE NEWS



Finally, on Saturday, December 14, 2024, the public was invited to tour the Shaw property as part of the Association's Christmas Open House. Once again there were cookies, warm cider and hot chocolate for attendees. There was live entertainment and demonstrations of the Sanders Cabin and Garner House. The weather cooperated for all three events.

More photos can be viewed on the Association's website and Facebook page.



## 10 PLATES FOR DINNER AT SHAW HOUSE

What might a dinner for guests have looked like at the Shaw House in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century? The Moore County Historical Association provided that experience and raised funds for preservation projects at the same time. On October 8, 2024, the first of four different dinner parties were offered to ten guests in the dining room of the historic Shaw House. The dinners were served on the large, period lazy Susan table, on period chairs, with period atmosphere dishware and lighting.

The meals were prepared by noted chefs in the towns and transported to the Shaw House where they were served by hostesses in peri-

od dress. The dinners consisted of three courses: a soup course, a meat course with appropriate vegetables, and a dessert. Socializing began at 5:30 p.m. Water and an appropriate beverage were available, but guests could bring their own spirits of choice, with no corkage fee.



This very successful fundraiser was organized by Board member, Carla Butler. In order to determine how feasible the dinners would be, the initial four dinners were advertised to a small number of attendees by word of mouth. Future dinners will be advertised to the membership so if you are interested, sign up early for a limited, pre-paid reservation. Thank you, Carla!

## KENNETH BLACK CEMETERY

A new granite stone has arrived and will be placed in the Kenneth Black Cemetery later this spring. The prayer is in Scottish-Gaelic and in English. Kenneth's original stone will also be placed at the same time. The original inscription has worn away over the years.





## A SLICE OF HISTORY



### TIME CHANGE AND THE RAILROADS OF THE 19TH CENTURY

Prior to the late nineteenth century, timekeeping was a purely local phenomenon. Each town would set their clocks to noon when the sun reached its zenith each day. A clockmaker or town clock would be the "official" time and the citizens would set their pocket watches and clocks to the time of the town. Enterprising citizens would offer their services as mobile clock setters, carrying a watch with the accurate time to adjust the clocks in customer's homes on a weekly basis. Travel between cities meant having to change one's pocket watch upon arrival.



*1874 Philadelphia Standard Time Regulator*

However, once railroads began to operate and move people rapidly across great distances, time became much more critical. In the early years of the railroads, the schedules were very confusing because each stop was

based on a different local time. The standardization of time was essential to the efficient operation of railroads.

In 1878, Canadian Sir Sandford Fleming proposed the system of worldwide time zones that we use today. He recommended that the world be divided into twenty-four time zones, each spaced 15 degrees of longitude apart. Since the earth rotates once every 24 hours and there are 360 degrees of longitude, each hour the earth rotates one-twenty-fourth of a circle or 15 degrees of longitude. Sir Fleming's time zones were heralded as a brilliant solution to a chaotic problem worldwide.



*1850 Double Time Pocket Watch that could keep local time and railroad time simultaneously*

Until November 18, 1883, railroads across the United States operated under 53 different time schedules, differentiated on railroad maps by a complicated system of colors. For travelers, time shifts meant constant confusion and, frequently, missed trains. And then, at noon on Sunday, November 18, 1883, railroads across the North American continent shifted their schedules to conform to a new standard time. Under the new system, North America would have just five time zones.

Fifteen minutes before the time of the shift, the tel-

graph company Western Union shut down all telegraph lines for anything but the declaration of the new time. It identified the moment the new time went into effect in telegraph messages to local railroad offices and to the jewelers known in cities for keeping time. In offices that got the message, men had their timepieces in their hands and ready to reset when the chief operator shouted “twelve o’clock!”

In Boston the change meant that the clocks would move forward about 16 minutes; in New York City, clocks were set back about four minutes. For Baltimore the time would move forward six minutes and twenty-eight seconds; in Atlanta it went back 22 minutes.

The system was a dramatic wrench for the rural United States, bringing it into the modern world. Uniform time zones had been proposed by pioneering meteorologist Cleveland Abbe, who developed the U.S. system of weather forecasting. Having joined the United States Weather Bureau as chief meteorologist in 1871, he recognized that predicting the weather required a nationally coordinated team and worked with Western Union to collect information about temperature, wind direction, precipitation, and sunset times from across the country.

Coordinating that information required keeping time across all the stations he had set up. To do so, Abbe divided the United States into four time zones, each one hour apart, and in 1879 he suggested those zones might smooth out the chaos of the railroad systems, each trying to coordinate schedules across a patchwork of local times. Railroad executives, who were concerned that if they didn’t do something, the government would, listened to Abbe, and by 1883 they had concluded to put his new system in place.

Members of the new professional class who traveled by train from city to city were on board because they thought the need to regularize train schedules was imperative. But standard time was controversial. In the United States, people had operated entirely by the rhythms of the sun until the establishment of factories in New England in the 1830s, and most people still lived by those rhythms, their local time adjusting to solar time according to their geographical location.

Telling the time by sundial and history not only was custom, but also was understood as follow-

ing God’s time. The idea of overriding traditional timekeeping because of the needs of the modern world seemed positively sacrilegious. “People...must eat, sleep and work...by railroad time,” wrote a contributor to the *Indianapolis Daily Sentinel*. “People will have to marry by railroad time.... Ministers will be required to preach by railroad time.... Banks will open and close by railroad time; notes will be paid or protested by railroad time.”

The mayor of Bangor, Maine, vetoed an ordinance in favor of standard time, saying it was unconstitutional, that it changed the immutable law of God, that the people didn’t want it, and that it was hard on the working men because it changed day into night. Those planning for a switch to standard time tried to ease fears by providing that Americans would operate on both local time and standard time, with both times represented on clocks.

On November 18, no one quite knew what the dramatic wrench into the future might mean.

What did it mean to gain or lose time? Many people expected “a sensation, a stoppage of business, and some sort of a disaster, the nature of which could not be exactly ascertained,” a *New York Times* reporter recorded. As the great moment approached, people crowded the streets in front of jewelers to see the “great transformation.”

They were disappointed when, after all the buildup, the future arrived quietly.

The *New York Times* explained: “When the reader of THE TIMES consults his paper at 8 o’clock this morning at his breakfast table it will be 9 o’clock in St. John, New Brunswick, 7 o’clock in Chicago, or rather in St. Louis—for Chicago authorities have refused to adopt the standard time, perhaps because the Chicago meridian was not selected as the one on which all time must be based—6 o’clock in Denver, Col. and 5 o’clock in San Francisco. That is the whole story in a nut-shell.”

The time zones of the United States are standardized by Congress and although the lines were drawn to avoid populated areas, sometimes they’ve been moved to avoid complications. There are nine time zones in the U.S. and its territories, they include Eastern, Central, Mountain, Pacific, Alaska, Hawaii-Aleutian, Samoa, Wake Island, and Guam.



## A SECOND SLICE OF HISTORY



### A TARTAN OF OUR OWN

*Fiona Ritchie is a radio broadcaster, producer, and writer best known for her NPR show "The Thistle & Shamrock."*

In the third century A.D., a native of Scotland stashed 2,000 silver coins in an earthenware pot, burying it deep in a pit near the ancient burgh of Falkirk. Knowledge of its existence apparently died with the owner. We can only imagine what kind of crisis would have driven that Iron Age dweller to hide such wealth. When the treasure trove was uncovered in 1933, it was the largest hoard of Roman coins found in Scotland. Instead of a stopper, a wad of woven woolen cloth had been stuffed into the neck of the pot to keep the coins safely stowed. The fabric's pattern was a simple two-toned check, an early form of tartan, dyed in the colors of local plants. This ancient fragment, buried in the very soil of Scotland, reinforces what we already recognize: The warp and weft of tartan cloth has been woven for centuries through the fabric of Scotland's national story.

By medieval times in Scotland, the term "tartan" was being used to describe woven, rather than knitted, fabrics and garments. ("Plaid," now used as an interchangeable term with tartan in the U.S., was originally the Scots Gaelic word for a blanket.) By the late 16th century, as weaving techniques developed and plant dye extracts were refined, weavers began to produce their own unique tartan patterns, known as "setts." Designs then began to take on a regional distinctiveness, determined by the availability of local plant dyes and wool. It was some time, however, before they were associated with any clear-cut clan identity. By the 19th century, as local preferences were refined, different tartans became linked to particular clans and

families. Since then, whether or not it parades a connection to Scotland, each tartan is a time-honored badge of belonging to family, locality, teams, events, and even ideas.

Tartan attire was threatened in 1746 under the "Dress Act," which made the wearing of any "Highland Dress," including kilts and tartans, illegal in Scotland. Those suspected of supporting the Jacobites were required to swear by oath that they would "never use any tartan, plaid or any part of the Highland garb, and if I do so, may I be cursed in my undertakings, family, and property."

During these troubled times, many Highlanders relocated to the Cape Fear River Valley, where a large settlement of Gaelic-speaking Scots graced the land of the longleaf pine in the kilts and plaids of their family tartans. From the Lowlands, Ulster Scots settled throughout the Piedmont and Southern Appalachians, and as the "Scots-Irish," they wove a tartan sett of ballads and fiddle tunes in and among the mountain laurel of their new homeland.



The creation of a special tartan was a natural consequence of the deep and abiding connections shared by Scotland and the Carolinas. For the Carolina tartan sett, designer and weaver Peter MacDonald of Crieff, Scotland, was keen to draw upon history. The Province of Carolina was established in 1663 by a grant from King Charles II. When Charles was crowned King of



Scotland at Scone Palace, he is said to have worn a jacket of the Royal Stewart tartan. A pre-1800 fragment of Royal Stewart design thus provided the foundation for MacDonald's Carolina sett, with added distinctive features in the bands of color. In 1991, the North Carolina Legislature adopted the Carolina tartan, officially shared by South Carolina in legislation passed there in 2002.

All well and good, but beauty is, of course, in the eye of the beholder. For me, in the threads and hues of the Carolina tartan, I see the white of dogwood and trillium, yellow poplar, red maple. In the shades and tones of the warp and weft are green, rolling Piedmont hills, Smoky Mountain ridges, and the crowning blue of a coastal Carolina summer sky. Just like the tartan, it is the braiding and weaving of landscapes, along with European, African, and indigenous American cultural influences, that create the tapestry of the Carolinas. Extract any one of the essential threads, and the pattern and associations will quickly fade. As surely as a glimpse of tartan anywhere in the world connects me instantly to Scotland, the colors of the Carolina tartan transport me to the other place where I feel most at home, and where my heartstrings and your history are interwoven for all time.

## VALENTINES FROM 1847 & 1851

Pictured below and to the left is an oversized bronze floral ornamental Valentine envelope which was mailed with two U.S. 1847 10¢ George Washington stamps that was mailed from New York City to Lakeville, NY.

Accompanying the envelope is the original enclosure: an ornamental lace valentine card featuring clusters of flowers in the corners and a central portrait of a young lady inside an ornate red and gold frame. Beneath the portrait is a scroll that reads, **"When first I saw those sparkling eyes, I felt love's flame within me rise."**

The envelope and card, accompanied by a 1985 Philatelic Foundation certificate, has an estimated value of \$7,500 to \$10,000.

The second Valentine, below and to the right, is a striking bronze floral valentine envelope mailed from Deep River, CT, to Westbrook, CT, bearing the extremely rare U.S. 1851 1-cent blue Benjamin Franklin type 1 stamp. Rounding out the 12¢ postage are an 1851 1¢ Franklin stamp affixed to the tip of the backflap and three 1851 3¢ dull red George Washington stamps.

Included with the envelope is the original embossed ornamental Valentine enclosure with multicolored woodblock print and decoupage floral accents around a small embossed envelope holding an enamel card with four-line poem.



**When the first U.S. postage stamps were issued, some enterprising young men thought it would be a magnificent gesture to "mail" a Valentine card to their loves. When was the last time you sent a Valentine to your love?**