

Fall 2013

# The Charter

The State Archives of North Carolina



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in partnership with the Friends of the Archives

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The State Capitol Building on a snowy day, circa 1930  
(N.30.5.50).



Fred and Howard dance in the snow, Cary North Carolina, circa 1940  
(N\_2000\_4\_4 Fred and Howard).

## State Archives of North Carolina

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Raleigh, NC 27699-4614

919-807-7310

[www.ncdcr.gov/archives](http://www.ncdcr.gov/archives)  
[archives@ncdcr.gov](mailto:archives@ncdcr.gov)

Physical Location:

109 East Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601

### Hours

Tuesday - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

### Closed

Sunday and Monday  
and all state holidays

**Cover Photo Information:** Meredith College Mars Hill Club, 1916. Identified in the 1916 "Oak Leaves" Vol. 13 MCMXVI. Original glass plate negative is from the J. C. Knowles Collection, PhC.182, State Archives of North Carolina. (PhC-182\_08\_03)

## From 109 East Jones

Sarah Koonts, State Archivist and Director,  
Division of Archives and Records



Partnerships and public outreach are central to our mission and success. Throughout the year we deliver public programs for the general public, specialized audiences, and records managers. Governor Pat McCrory has proclaimed *October 21-27 Archives Week* in North Carolina and this fall is particularly busy as we present programs that will appeal to a variety of audiences.

For the past four years, we have co-hosted with AV Geeks *"Home Movie Day"* - part of a worldwide celebration of amateur home movies. Bring in your family films (8mm, Super8mm, or 16mm) to share and talk with archivists about ways to properly care for and preserve your films. Home Movie Day will be held October 19 from 1 to 4 p.m. in our auditorium at 109 East Jones St. in Raleigh.

Last spring law professor John V. Orth and Justice Paul Martin Newby released a new edition of *The North Carolina State Constitution*, a textbook which provides history and commentary on this important document. In honor of the book, the Friends of the Archives will sponsor two related programs on October 21. At noon we host a program for attorneys and other law professionals, *"Review of North Carolina Constitutional Law,"* featuring a panel discussion and case updates from Professor Orth and Justice Newby in the area of state constitutional law. In the evening the public is invited for *"A Historical Primer on the North Carolina Constitution"* with both scholars. That program begins at 6 p.m. Many of you will recall that Justice Newby was involved in the recovery of North Carolina's original copy of the Bill of Rights.

North Carolina passed its Vital Records Act in 1913 providing for the statewide registration of births, marriages, and deaths, including information on the causes of death. The systematic collection and analyses of these records was critical for use by government and public health officials to address health problems and issues in the state. These records are also crucial to genealogists and other researchers who are investigating family or genealogical lines. The State Archives has been happy to partner with the Division of Public Health to host their staff commemoration with the program, "100 Years of Vital Records: Measuring the Health of North Carolinians." Read archivist Debbi Blake's article, *"Vital Records in the State Archives of North Carolina"* on page 8 of this newsletter to get a historical overview of these important records.

We end Archives Week with the annual *Family History Fair* on Saturday, October 26 in partnership with the Friends of the Archives and the Government and Heritage Library. This year the fair focuses on examining the evidentiary materials used in tracing family ancestry. Presentations will cover traditional paper records and introduces the world of DNA testing in genealogical research. I think it will be a fascinating day with presentations, visits with vendors, "Ask a Genealogist" sessions, door prizes, and more. *See the related article on page 10*, and plan to join us for the fun.

Our final State Archives Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee lecture will be presented on November 18. *"Digital Collections: An Update"* will offer a look at some of the more fascinating documents, diary entries, and letters posted to our Civil War 150 blog. Learn how and why we select the pieces we feature. Plan to join us on from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the auditorium.

All of these programs are free. Please check [www.ncculture.com](http://www.ncculture.com) for a complete and current listing. For more information about Archives Week activities around the state visit the website of the Society of North Carolina Archivists, [www.ncarchivists.org](http://www.ncarchivists.org).

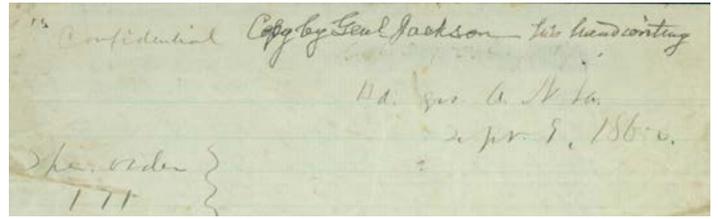
Two other partnerships bear mentioning. The Department of Cultural Resources, Marketing and Communications Unit created a logo that is based on the dogwood flower and the symbol for infinity. Look for the logo on the last page of this publication. After three years of dedicated work and with the help of our Information Technology Services Department, our new *State Archives website* has launched! Most of the Archives staff was involved in creating, reviewing, editing, and coding the content and I hope we've improved the look, navigation, and functionality. A special thanks goes to our Digital Services staff for making it all work seamlessly. As always, I welcome your comments.

The next issue of our newsletter will be issued in the spring of 2014. On behalf of our staff and department, thank you for supporting our work. I wish you all the best for the holiday season.



## From the President of the Friends of the Archives

### WHAT HATH STONEWALL WROUGHT



Robert E. Lee's Special Orders 191 copy, written in Stonewall Jackson's hand (VC. 6).

In my inaugural column I mentioned as a “treasure” of the State Archives the copy of Robert E. Lee’s extraordinarily significant *Special Orders 191*, addressed to Major General Daniel Hill of North Carolina. What makes this particular document significant, I wrote, is the fact that it was written by the great Thomas Jonathan Jackson himself. But, after *The Charter* had gone to press, I was beset by sudden second thoughts, “surely-not, how-could-it-be” doubts. Had I been too credulous, like Browning’s “Last Duchess” been too soon made glad? Was it another myth, akin to the sometimes poignant unreliabilities attendant to the lore of the Lost Cause?

Happily not: through the kindness of Andrea Gabriel and Bill Brown, I have now gazed upon the plastic-sleeved relic, a revelation that removed for me any reservations as to its authenticity. Subscribed on the reverse of the dispatch is the statement of Jackson’s Aide de Camp, Captain J.G. Morrison: “I hereby certify that I am familiar with the handwriting of Gen. T.J. Jackson and know this order to be in his own handwriting.” Combined with the unequivocal attribution of the ultimate Jackson authority and biographer James I. Robertson, there can be no doubt, reasonable or specious, that North Carolina does indeed own this piece of incomparably important, nearly ethereal paper.

This document is remarkable not only because it is in the hand of Stonewall but because it is a proxy for the incalculably important “Lost Dispatch,” arguably ranking behind only the Declaration of Independence and Constitution and its Amendments in national significance. It is fair to ask what all the fuss is about. What was Special Orders 191 and how did a copy come to be “lost”?

After the South’s victory at Second Manassas in the summer of 1862, Robert E. Lee resolved to move into Maryland to relieve the beleaguered farmers and other citizens of Virginia of the presence of both armies and to supply his own forces with Maryland’s abundant provender, thereby compelling Union General George B. McClellan to cross the Potomac to engage him. To implement this strategy, Lee issued Special Orders 191, directed to his wing commanders, Stonewall Jackson and James Longstreet, as well as several of his division commanders. In short, the directive constituted a comprehensive blueprint of Lee’s plan for the invasion of Maryland.

Among the intended recipients of the dispatch was Major General Daniel Harvey Hill, whose division had until then been under the command of Jackson but was being re-assigned to Longstreet for the invasion. After Jackson received his copy – and perhaps unaware that Hill was also an intended recipient – as a matter of courtesy he wanted to advise his brother-in-law Hill of both the orders and the change in command structure. Remarkably, the busy Jackson wrote out a copy of the Orders himself and dispatched it by courier to Hill.

For reasons that might not ever be clear, only Jackson’s dispatch reached Hill, resulting in what Civil War historian Stephen Sears has described as “the greatest security leak in American military history.”

As the result of two unlikely fortuities, Hill’s wayward copy from Lee’s headquarters was found by Union soldiers and its authenticity quickly established, allowing McClellan, as he put it, to “know what to do.” With a commander less temporizing, the knowledge might have led to the crushing of the rebel army and an early end of the war. What McClellan achieved at Sharpsburg was instead closer to a tactical draw, but that result was sufficient for President Lincoln to issue his Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, most likely putting paid to any recognition of the Confederacy by the governments of Great Britain and France, actions that could have altered the arc of the conflict.

Although the Lost Dispatch did not, as McClellan hubristically prophesied, allow him to “whip Bobbie Lee,” Robert E. Lee himself did not doubt its significance, which, he later lamented, “changed the character of the campaign” and caused him to face odds longer at Sharpsburg than on any battlefield before or after.

Although many of his contemporaries were inclined to blame D.H. Hill for the stray copy, his vehement protestations of innocence are cogent; it seems unlikely that he ever received the copy sent from the headquarters of the Army of Northern Virginia. The copy that he did receive – and which now resides in the vault of the State Archives – became a centerpiece of his campaign to vindicate himself.

All the arguments about the wayward document notwithstanding, there can be no dispute that Friends’ support is indispensable in helping to preserve, protect, and make publically accessible the evidentiary documents of our state.

Frank P. Ward, Jr.

# The Conservation Corner

By Emily Rainwater, State Archives Conservator

## The Will of John Patterson



*This two-page will was hinged and the second sheet torn when it arrived at the lab.*

A will from Mecklenburg County dated 1787 came to the conservation lab for repair. The item was initially flagged for treatment because the right side of the second sheet of paper was torn. A closer examination of the will revealed a long history of preservation problems and treatments. When it arrived, the will was two sheets of paper, both with writing on the front and back, and each one with a white hinge on the back. The modern hinges, one cloth and one paper, were stuck to each other, but the pieces of paper were separate items. These hinges indicate that at some point the document was attached to the pages of a large volume.

The first sheet of paper had previously torn into three pieces, and been repaired with tissue. The second sheet was also torn into four separate pieces and been previously repaired, but in a different style indicating treatment at a different time. There were paper fills on the right hand side that gave the original curving edge of the paper a straight line. Finally, the first sheet of paper was silked.

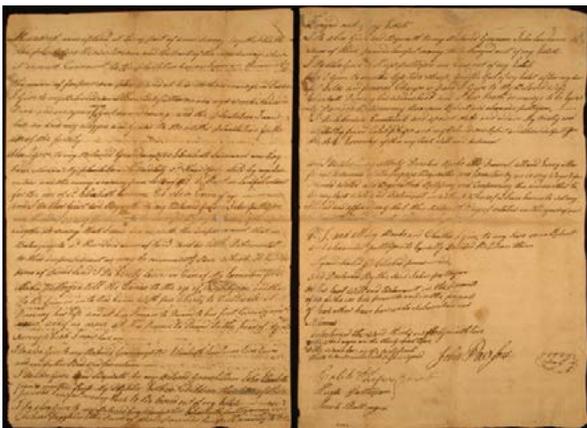
Silking involves attaching a layer of silk netting (like a silk stocking) to the front and back side of a piece of paper with paste. Because the silk has an open weave the writing is still legible. Silking was first introduced as a method of document preservation in 1898 by the Vatican. The Library of Congress adopted the technique in 1899 and continued to use it until the 1940s or 50s. Conservators today will generally remove silk if needed to repair the damaged document underneath; if the silk has caused the paper to become brittle; or if the silk is obscuring text. For John Patterson's will, de-silking was necessitated by a combination of the first two reasons.



*Silking involves attaching a layer of silk netting (like a silk stocking) to the front and back side of a piece of paper with paste. Because the silk has an open weave the writing is still legible.*

To remove a silk lining, the document is first humidified and then immersed in a shallow bath of deionized water. The paste holding the silk to the paper will begin to swell and soften. The paper can then be moved to a light table, which gives the conservator better illumination for removing the silk. The silk is gently peeled off, taking great care to watch out for paper fragments and flaking media that cling to the silk. If the silk starts to pull any material away,

the document can be returned to the bath for further soaking. After all the silk is removed, the object is washed one more time and gently brushed to remove any remaining adhesive residue before being deacidified, dried, and repaired.



*The same document; the page on the left was de-silked and the tear on the right page repaired.*

When repairing this will, the paper fills were removed on the right side of the second sheet leaving the edge naturally curved. Because prior treatments involved trimming the edges, it could not be stated definitively that the sheets were originally one large piece of paper, though it is extremely likely. Consequently, the two sheets were left separate.

# State Archives/DCR News

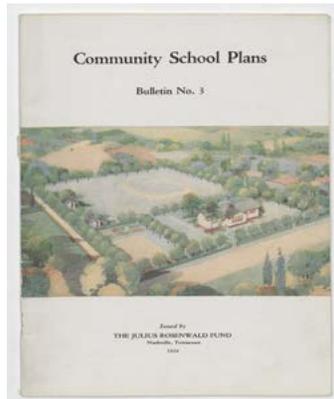
## Digital Projects



On June 26, 1963, the North Carolina General Assembly passed the Act to Regulate Visiting Speakers, later known as the Speaker Ban Law (NO\_3-6-1966\_SpeakerBanDemoChHill\_Fr33).

On June 25, 1963, the Speaker Ban Law was adopted on the last day of the legislative session after just over one hour of debate. It prohibited speeches on North Carolina public college campuses by “known” members of the Communist Party, persons “known” to advocate the overthrow of the constitutions of North Carolina or the United States, or individuals who had pleaded the Fifth Amendment in order to decline answering questions concerning communist subversion. From the moment it was passed, the Speaker Ban Law inspired heated debate on university campuses and living rooms across the state. Fifty years later, digitized materials on the Speaker Ban issue are now available through the North Carolina Digital Collections (<http://digital.ncdcr.gov>), a joint project of the State Archives and State Library of North Carolina. The new Speaker Ban Law digital collection (<http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16062coll12/>) includes newspaper clippings from the State Library and a variety of resources from the State Archives, including selected Speaker Ban Study Commission correspondence, materials from the records of Governors Dan Moore and Robert W. Scott, transcripts of commission meetings, a survey of opinions from members of the public both for and against the law, and News and Observer photographs taken during the controversy. Among the highlights of the new collection are the audio recordings (<http://archive.org/details/SpeakerBanStudyCommissionHearings1965>) of the meetings of the Commission, recorded in 1965 and available digitally for the first time. Although the items in

this online collection are only a small sample of the materials available on this subject from the State Archives of North Carolina, they provide a fascinating window into how North Carolinians viewed themselves, their institutions of higher education, and their own roles as citizens in the cold-war-era politics of the 1960s.



Community School Plans, Division of Negro Education, Rosenwald Fund.

A new African American Education Collection (<http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16062coll13/>) has been added to the N.C. Digital Collections. Currently the collection includes photographs and other materials from the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum (<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/chb/>). The next materials to be added will be the correspondence from the Division of Negro Education: Correspondence of the Supervisor, Rosenwald Fund.

The State Archives' Military Collection includes a large number of Civil War reminiscences and thirty of these items are now available online through the Civil War Collection (<http://www.nccivilwar150.gov/history/digital-resources.htm>) in the N.C. Digital Collections. The reminiscences cover everything from the commencement of the war to Confederate General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House. Reminiscences can be inaccurate sources of information since, unlike letters and diary entries which were written close to an event they chronicle, reminiscences were frequently written years if not decades after the events they describe. However, reminiscences are useful for studying how the events of the war were remembered and related over time. They also capture the emotions associated with events and, in some cases where letters and diaries have not

survived, may be the only record of a person's experiences.

A digital collection landing page is now available for 21st century governors' papers (<http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16062coll5/>); currently the online collection includes press releases, executive orders, and proclamations from the administrations of Gov. Mike Easley and Gov. Bev Perdue. The online collection contains only a small percentage of the total governors' papers in the holdings of the State Archives, which include papers from Richard Caswell (1776 - 1780) through Bev Perdue (2009 - 2012). The State Archives also has the records of colonial governors, including Arthur Dobbs, Charles Eden, Gabriel Johnston, James Hasell, John Archdale, Josiah Martin, Nathaniel Rice, Robert Daniel, and William Tryon. In addition, the State Archives houses governors' letter books, 1764-1916.



North Carolina Gazette, 1752

The North Carolina Newspaper Project is now part of the N.C. Digital Collections. The N.C. Newspaper Project makes available digital copies of papers dating from 1752-1890s from cities like Edenton (1787-1801), Fayetteville (1789-1795), Hillsboro (1786), New Bern (1751-1804), Salisbury (1799-1898), and Wilmington (1765-1816). The move allows researchers to search the newspapers from the same website as other State Archives digital collections.

A list of all of the collections available through the N.C. Digital Collections is available on the "All Collections" (<http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/allcolls/>) page.

## Military Collections at the State Archives



Portrait of Gunner's Mate Third Class Warren Carson McNeill, U.S. Navy (U.S.S. Louisiana), World War I.

On the last day of March 2011, Lt. Col. (ret.) Sion Harrington III retired as military collection archivist at the State Archives, a position he had held since 1996. During his 15 years of direction of the Military Collection Project, Harrington developed a number of long-range programs, including the active collection of the papers of North Carolina veterans, the recording and preservation of their oral histories, and the creation of a database of the personnel information contained in the series of World War I service records. Harrington was succeeded by Kenrick N. Simpson, who already had more than 30 years experience with the Office of Archives and History, and for the past two and a half years, he has continued to further the programs developed by his predecessor, while also redirecting the focus of the office.

The bulk of the records in the *Military Collection* came to the Archives during and immediately after the two world wars of the twentieth century. These records vividly reflect the state's role in those two conflicts; however, the physical condition of the records was imperiled in the acidic folders and boxes in which they had been housed for more than a half-century.

Oversized materials such as maps, posters, and panoramic photographs were scattered throughout the three floors of the Archives stacks area, and their description was as haphazard as their arrangement.

Simpson made the decision to more thoroughly describe these two extensive collections and has completed the rearrangement and description of the World War I Papers. The finding aid to that collection tripled in scope and content, and numerous hidden documentary gems were brought to light. Through the efforts of Heather Szafran, a student intern, more than 500 maps were catalogued and scanned last summer; these are currently being mounted by the Digital Access Branch of the Archives for presentation online. Ninety panoramic photographs were



Intern Samantha Rich at work on the WWI collections.

assembled as a series and are being treated by our conservator prior to scanning. Two-thirds of this project is now complete, as Samantha Rich, the Gattton intern for 2013, has scanned the 60 panoramas that have been conserved. Aaron Cusick, an archivist in the Digital Access Branch, scanned and catalogued the collection of *World War I* posters, which are now accessible online.

For the past year, Simpson has been concentrating on the collections of *World War II* papers and miscellaneous materials (military records that either encompass more than one conflict or fall between the wars). Simpson identified and assembled as separate series the maps, panoramic photographs, and other oversized records contained in these collections. Samantha Rich has scanned and catalogued more than

100 maps from these collections this summer. Simpson also removed many published materials from archival collections and gathered them in his office as the seeds of a military collection library.

Donations of collections continue to flow into the office and are processed as they arrive. Thanks to the efforts of volunteer interviewers – primarily Rusty Edmister of Cary and Ken Samuelson of Pittsboro – the collection of veterans' oral histories grow; there are now more than 900 reminiscences on file in the State Archives. Many of these were received as audio and videocassettes, and digital reformatting of these invaluable recollections is paramount and ongoing as funds permit. The approach to the World War I service cards database has been revised

out of necessity. The original idea was to extract all of the personnel information contained in these records, but the enormity of the project – there are an estimated 90,000 cards in the series – compelled a scaled-down approach that captures the name of the soldier, service number, branch of service, race, gender, and county of residence, essentially creating an index that is linked to a digital image of the card for online presentation. It also allows for data entry by volunteer Joy Heitman and staff member,

Gay Bradley, who do not possess an intimate knowledge of the organization of the American armed forces in World War I. Since the adoption of the new approach last summer, 18,000 cards have been entered into the system. This project is scheduled for completion by 2017, the centennial of American entry into the war.



Unidentified African American unit, probably at camp Gordon, Georgia, photograph by J. W. Cranshaw and Son, Atlanta.

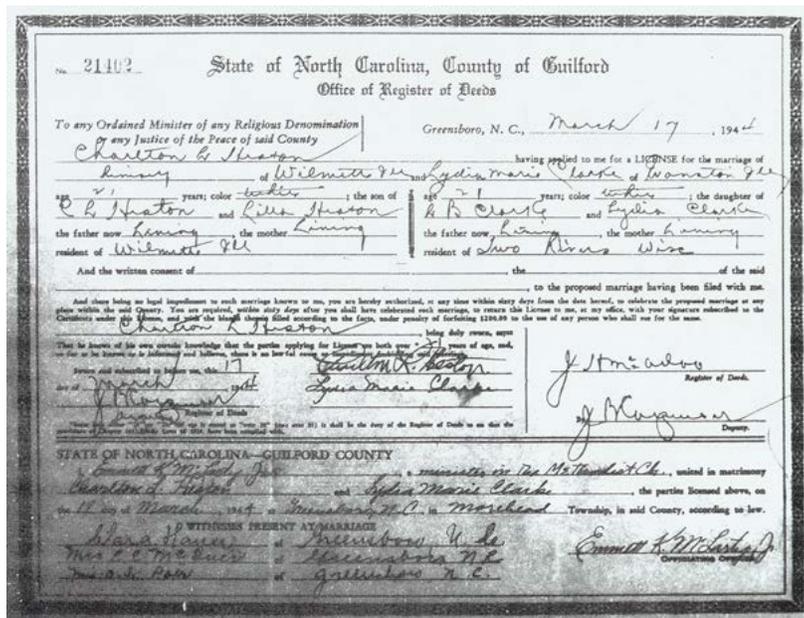
# Vital Records in the State Archives of North Carolina

Debbi Blake, Collection Services Section Manager

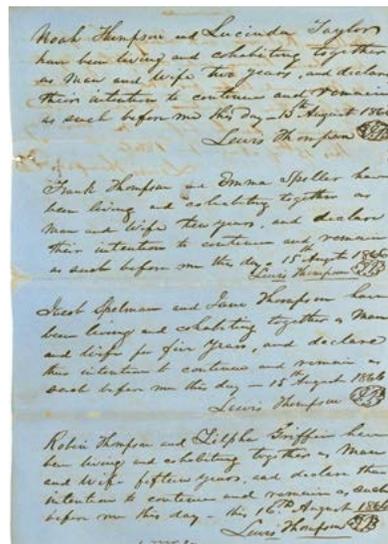
While there were early laws mandating the registration of vital records, most were not followed in North Carolina until the passage of the law entitled “An Act to Provide for the Registration of all Births and Deaths in the State of North Carolina” that required the then Board of Health to establish a process and faithfully register at the county and state level all births and deaths. The ratification date, following an amendment, was October 1913. Even after the law was passed in 1913 compliance was somewhat slow, but by the 1920s and 30s it was widespread.

Generally, birth certificates can be found in the county register of deeds office, at the Vital Records Section of the North Carolina Division of Public Health, or in some counties, at the health department, but copies of birth certificates cannot be obtained from the State Archives of North Carolina. Information on securing copies from the Vital Records Section is found at [www.vitalrecords.nc.gov/](http://www.vitalrecords.nc.gov/). County registers of deeds and county health departments have their own procedures for obtaining copies as well.

The recording of marriages occurred earlier. For all practical purposes it was not until 1741 that public registration of marriages was followed. County marriage registration became widespread in North Carolina about 1868 when marriage licenses came into use. Marriages, throughout the state's history, have been performed by both civil and church authorities so records may be found in both public and private sources. Beginning in 1741 and lasting until 1868, couples could marry by publishing banns in a church or posting a bond with the register of deeds in a given county. The banns were posted in a church and might be found in private church records. In 1851 marriage returns of posted banns were supposed to be filed with the county clerks and are generally listed in marriage registers. Posting a bond, on the other hand, was a public record. The groom posted a bond in the bride's county of residence. Extant marriage bonds, of which there are over 170,000, are in the State Archives filed by the groom's name. They are indexed on microfiche by both parties' names. Researchers should be aware that parents' names are rarely found on these documents. The few exceptions occurred when either the bride or groom was underage since a parent had to sign the bond. It is indicated on the index when this is the case.



Marriage license of Charlton Heston, March 17, 1944, Guilford County.



Cohabitation record from Bertie County, 1866.

After 1868 the recording of marriages by the county register of deeds became much more widespread and consistent. The State Archives has some original marriage licenses even though these records generally remain in the county. The card file in the Search Room indicates when, and from which counties, marriage licenses have been transferred. The Archives also has microfilm copies of most counties' marriage licenses. Beginning in 1962 the state began maintaining a statewide marriage registration in the Vital Records Section of the N.C. Division of Public Health ([www.vitalrecords.nc.gov](http://www.vitalrecords.nc.gov/)).

In 1866 the North Carolina General Assembly passed an act to record marriages of former slaves. It gave couples the opportunity to register marriages that had taken place prior to emancipation by appearing before a county justice of the peace or clerk of court. Dr. Barnetta White compiled the cohabitation records found in the Archives into a three-volume work entitled *Somebody Knows My Name: Marriages of Freed People in North Carolina, County by County*.

Another aspect of marriage is divorce since a divorce is the breaking of the civil contract of marriage. Early divorce records appear in the General Assembly papers or in court records. The General Assembly divorces have been abstracted for the *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal* by Ransom McBride. Again, the law in effect for the time of the divorce will determine where the researcher should look for the records. Helen Leary's *North Carolina Research: Genealogy and Local History* gives an excellent rundown on the vital

records laws and should certainly be consulted.

Death registration did not occur with any regularity until the very late part of the 19th and early 20th centuries. The city of Raleigh kept death registers from 1887-1937. Wilmington, too, kept death registers from 1903-1909. The State Archives has microfilm copies of state death certificates up to 1979. Information about the deceased on the certificate is both primary and secondary. Primary information concerns the death itself. Secondary information on the certificate relates the deceased's birth date and place, as well as who his/her parents were. There also can be information about the deceased's spouse, and the burial place of the deceased. All documents can contain mistakes. Indeed, the informant on the death certificate, generally a close family member, provided the information at a time of great stress. It is also possible that the informant may not have had certain knowledge of the information he/she was providing. Researchers should seek corroboration of the information on the certificate from other sources. Death certificates of children or siblings of an ancestor should be checked to see if the information matches. For example, if all three children's death certificates give their mother's maiden name as Parker, then it probably is. County death certificate indexes also provide some information regarding a death and the State Archives has microfilm copies for some counties.

The image shows a North Carolina State Board of Health Certificate of Death for Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald, dated April 7, 1948. The certificate is filled out with handwritten information. Key details include: Place of Death: Buncombe County, Asheville, N.C.; Home (Usual Residence) of Deceased: Asheville, N.C.; Name of Deceased: ZELDA SAYRE FITZGERALD; Sex: Female; Race: White; Date of Birth: July 21, 1900; Cause of Death: Myocardial infarction; Burial Place: Rockville, Maryland. The certificate also lists the informant as M. M. Fee, Registrar.

Official death certificate of Zelda Fitzgerald (Buncombe County, 1948), writer, and wife of novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald.

In addition to death certificates there are other public documents that can provide information regarding an ancestor's death. Wills and estates are the two most obvious and generally give the researcher two dates that can place a death date within months. A will usually includes the date it was written and the date it was probated. Sometime in between those two dates the writer of the will died. Estates records may provide a date at which the process of settling the decedent's estate commenced, usually very soon after the death.

Death certificate microfilm has been purchased from the Archives by Ancestry.com and is available through their website, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

The information available in vital records is invaluable to genealogists, historians, social scientists and others. With the law of 1913 came a registration process that encouraged the timely recording of vital information that has helped countless citizens with entitlements and researchers with evidence. This records series is an important tool for beginning and advanced researchers alike.



Enoch Ward bastardy bond.

## Examine Your Ancestral Ties at the Annual Family History Fair



Carolina Conservation and Development Department, Travel and Tourism Division photo, circa 1930 (ConDev\_2055\_B).

Members of the North Carolina Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists will be available for fifteen-minute “Ask the Genealogist” time slots for free consultations. This service is on a first-come first-served basis.

The *Family History Fair* will be held at the Archives and History/State Library building at 109 E. Jones St. The fair opens at 9 a.m. and presentations begin at 10 a.m. Among the vendors at the fair that day are the *Wake County Genealogical Society*, the *Olivia Raney Local History Library*, the *Family History Society of Eastern North Carolina*, *Interwoven Heritage Services*, the Historic Jamestown Society, and several independent historians, researchers, and archivists. There will be door prizes including a free online course from the *National Institute of Genealogical Studies*. The fair is sponsored by the *State Archives of North Carolina*, the *Government and Heritage Library of the State Library of North Carolina*, and the *Friends of the Archives*. Admission is free.

The *Family History Fair* provides information and guidance for experienced family history researchers and beginners alike. For more information please visit the website, <http://www.ncdcr.gov/FamilyHistory>, or call (919)807-7450.

## Historical Hoot

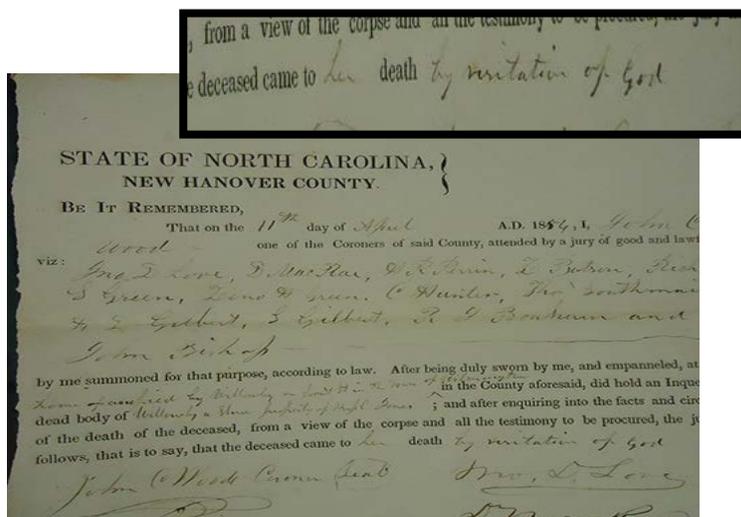


“Be it remembered, that on the 11th day of April, A.D., 1856. . . did hold an inquest over the dead body of Willowby. . . and after enquiring into the fact and circumstances of the death of the deceased, from a view of the corpse and all the testimony to procured, the jury finds as follows, that is to say, that the deceased came to her death by visitation of God.”

The annual *Family History Fair* celebrates links to our heritage. This year the fair will be held on Saturday, October 26 and offers presentations and a panel discussion about the types of evidence used to trace family ancestry—from public records to the mysterious world of DNA.

Archivist Debbi Blake will present “Before the Vital Records Law: What’s a Family Historian to Do?” describing alternatives to the recording of births, deaths, and marriages. North Carolina’s vital records law wasn’t enacted until 1913 and there was no systematic, statewide method for creating and preserving these data. In her presentation, Blake will talk about alternative ways to find information similar to that now recorded in vital records.

Professional genealogist Diane L. Richard, principal of MosaicRPM, explores the enigmatic world of genes and the double helix in her presentation, “Who’s Your (Great-Grand) Daddy?: The basics of DNA testing for Genealogy.” Richard recently attended several training sessions on the use of DNA testing for genealogical purposes and has worked with clients and their DNA test results for the last six years. Taking a swab of cells from inside of your cheek may reveal a heritage unknown to you or confirm a link to your past, but the process and the issues raised are a bit more complicated. Richard’s presentation will give a brief summary of the three types of genealogical DNA tests currently available, who can take them, what they can be used for (and also what the tests will not reveal), the current major providers and what’s trending now. The second part of her presentation will feature a panel of individuals who will relate their own stories about genetic testing.

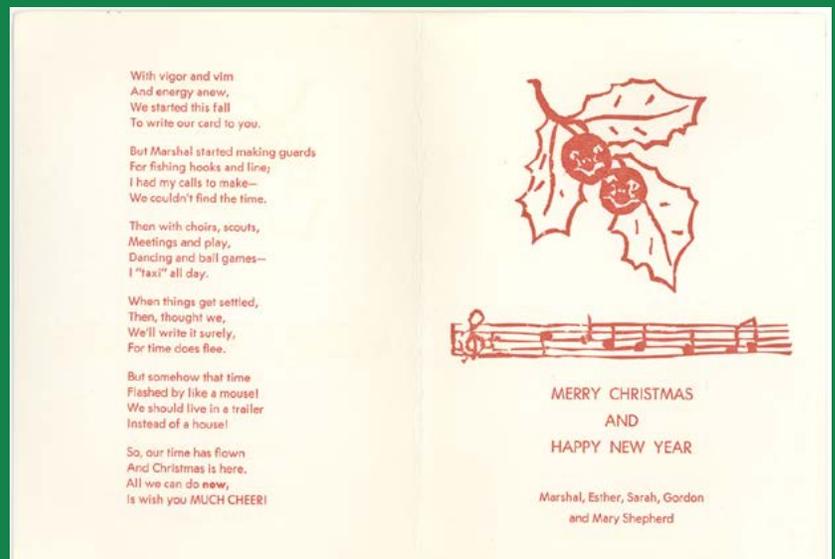
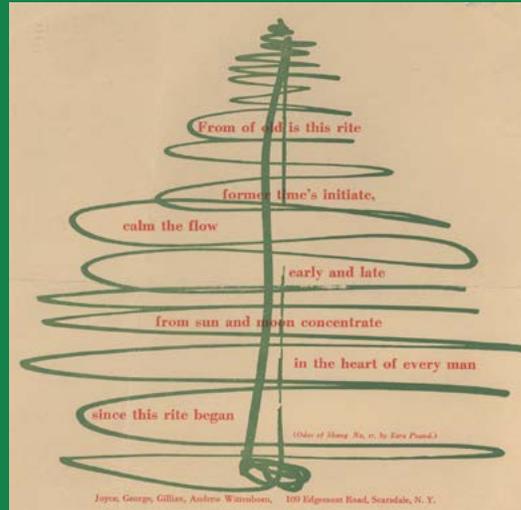
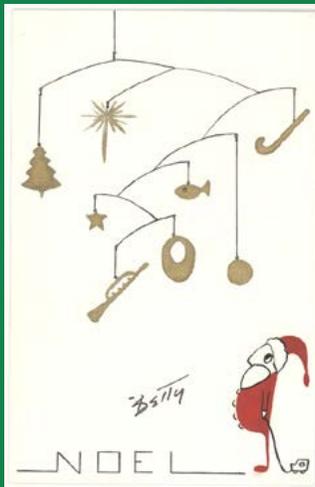
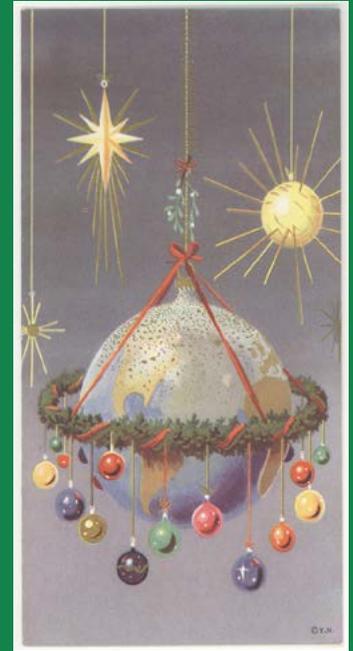
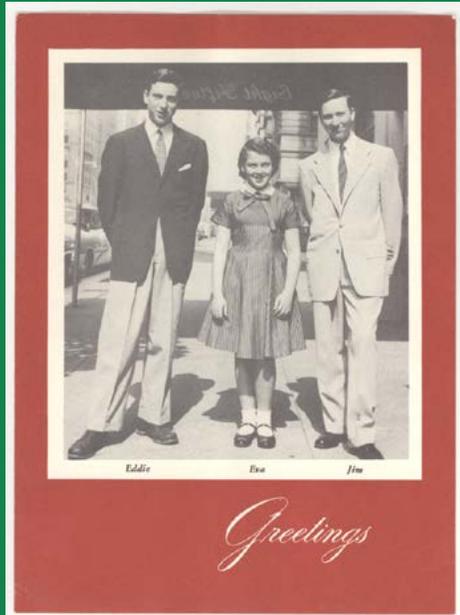


New Hanover County Coroners’ Inquests, 1768-1880, 1768-1866, (CR 070.913.1, 1856).

# Document Highlight: Focus on...

## Valentiner Holiday Cards

These holiday cards are from the William R. Valentiner Papers. Born in Germany in 1880, Dr. Valentiner was an art historian and curator who later directed several museums including the Detroit Institute of Art. He served as the first director of the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh from 1955-1958.



## Happy Birthday Western Regional Archives!



The Western Regional Archives is located in a restored building of the Oteen Veteran's Administration Hospital, built from 1924 to 1932.

August marks the first birthday of the *Western Regional Archives* and it has been a year of progress-serving researchers, accessioning, and arranging and describing collections, and presenting public programs. Heather South, archivist for the western office, said of the past year, "Whew, I've been busy, but it has been exciting to help build such an important foundation for the State Archives in the western region." The western office has had researchers from around the globe and around the block (and out of the woods if you count the bears) who have been using the collections for research papers and projects, exhibits, books, documentaries, genealogy, and to satisfy historical curiosity. Preservation education is now a big component of the western office outreach efforts with groups from the highlands and foothills asking for presentations and seeking collection care guidance. South says that in addition to the services being provided by the western office, the rich historical collections being added to the holdings are proof that the branch was needed. The western office fills a niche for collecting significant historical documents in the region. Knowing that their



Family portrait, part of the Western Regional Archives collection, (AIC Album, summer 1918).

treasures will be cared for and available to research for generations to come has brought out some great donations to the western office

including the Alexander Inn Collection, the Carson Family Papers, the American Enka Textile Mill blueprints and plans, photographic collections, postcard collections, club and organization records, and so much more. When you're in the west, come by and visit. The Western Regional Archives is located in *Department of Cultural Resources Western Office* at 176 Riceville Rd.

## Outer Banks Public Programs Showcase Collections

As part of the department's "2nd Saturdays" initiative, the *Outer Banks History Center* presented three engaging public programs over



FDR visits Dare County in 1937.

the summer months whose themes expanded those touched upon in their current exhibit, *Dare County in the 1930s: Decade of Determination*. The exhibit runs through October 15 and features the variety of collections held by the history center.

Archivist Tama Creef presented, "Welcome to Dare County, Mr. President," describing President Franklin D. Roosevelt's visit to Dare County in 1937. FDR gave a rousing speech one afternoon and attended The Lost Colony outdoor drama that evening, giving a promotional boost to the fledging production. The visit was documented by newspapers of the day, and later recorded in oral histories that are now part of the history center's collections. The exhibit features film footage, photographs, and archival materials heretofore unknown and gathered from regional, national,

and the history center's own collections. Curator KaeLi Schurr presented "Fort Raleigh's Log Buildings and Frank Stick's Vision: From Reality to Fiction and Back Again." Artist Frank Stick designed a series of log and thatch structures in the 1930s for the Fort Raleigh National Historic Site depicting those presumed to have been built by the English settlers who became the famed "lost colony." Built as a project of the depression-era Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps, their historical accuracy was later questioned by scholars, and the buildings were abandoned. Today there is renewed interest in these buildings as local history. Assistant curator Sarah Downing got everyone moving in her presentation, "Learn how to Dance the Big Apple," the dance craze that swept the nation in 1937. This circle dance was discovered at the Big Apple Club, a black juke joint in Columbia,

S.C. two University of South Carolina students were credited with sharing the dance with white culture. Its popularity spread, especially during the summer months when teenagers danced at seaside pavilions. The history center's collection of newspapers and photographs document the dance craze at clubs in Nags Head.

If there are sites who interpret related topics and are looking for a good program, consider enlisting the staff of the history center to bring one of these programs to you. Contact curator KaeLi Schurr at 252-473-2655 or [kaeli.schurr@ncdcr.gov](mailto:kaeli.schurr@ncdcr.gov).

Plan to join the Outer Banks History Staff at the annual *Seafood Festival* at Nags Head, October 19. Among the activities, the staff will display historic cookbooks from their collections.

# Staff Notes

## Staff Spotlight:

**Eric Moser**  
Lab supervisor, Microfilm unit



Lab Supervisor Eric Moser personally maintains and repairs the microfilm processor and both of the microfilm duplicators in the Microfilm Unit of the Collections Services Section. Staff in the microfilm unit are responsible for processing and duplicating microfilm, cataloging and storing archived microfilm, converting digital images to microfilm, and microfilm back to digital images for local and state agencies and for public requests. While most believe microfilm to have gone the way of the Dodo bird, it remains the most cost effective means of permanently archiving images. At a cost as little as four tenths of a cent per image, being able to store up to 2,800 images in a box the size of a piece of Texas toast, and requiring only a lens and a light source to view the images, as well as being able to be around as long as Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa"; silver microfilm remains the number one choice for long term archiving.

Silver microfilm is film that has an emulsion containing silver halides. The film, after having an image projected upon it, goes through a chemical process that turns the silver halides, exposed to light, into metallic silver, which represents the image projected onto the film. All silver halides that are not exposed to light are washed away and the silver recovered, recycled, and sold. Silver microfilm is used as an archival preservation copy, while diazo microfilm is used for duplicates ordered by the public, or government agencies. Historically, paper records have come to us for microfilming, but increasingly, we are receiving digital images to be preserved through the microfilming process.

As a unit supervisor, project management is an important part of Moser's job as well, as his team gets many short and long term projects that require a great deal of planning and

preparation to ensure a quick turn-around with minimal cost. In addition to processing and scanning all microfilm, Moser helps to maintain the branch supply inventory and analyze its needs by creating budget plans, negotiating with vendors, and placing supply orders. He also oversees a team of three staff members in the unit, and strives to ensure that all unit work meets ANSI archival standards and best practices.

Moser is a lifelong North Carolina native, born in Raleigh whose family has been here for exactly 250 years. He has served as a Navy electronics technician, specializing in communications and cryptologic equipment aboard a U.S. naval frigate. "We chased Russian submarines around the Caribbean in the 1980s," said Moser. The experience Moser brings to the Collections Management Branch of Archives and Records includes 35 years of repairing and maintaining electronic equipment, 29 of which concentrated on micrographics and micrographics equipment.

Some of the more interesting projects of the microfilm unit include providing duplicate rolls of film of our historical records for FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com. Unit staff also processes microfilm for the Administrative Office of the Courts and the N.C. Dept. of Motor Vehicles, and has been scanning microfilmed Civil War records for the N.C. Digital Archives.

Moser describes the most rewarding aspects of his job as "working with a great group of people, serving the State of North Carolina, and knowing that the work I've done will help preserve the history of the past for the people of the future."

## Staff Updates:

**Jennifer Blomberg** has been selected as head of the Collections Management Branch. She comes to us from Duke University where she has worked for the past two-and-a-half years in the conservation lab and as assistant to Duke's preservation officer.

**Kurt Brenneman** has been hired as a records analyst to work in the Records Analysis Unit, Government Records Section. Kurt brings previous records management experience and experience collaborating and training with a large variety of state agencies.

**Carie Chesarino** has been promoted to Records Description Unit supervisor position. Carie brings a wide variety of experience to this position in the area of long-term preservation of both paper-based and electronic government records. Prior to her promotion Carie was a records management analyst with the Government Records Section.

**Ruth Cody** joins the State Archives as a processing assistant IV in the Correspondence Unit of Collection Services Section. Ruth holds an M.A. in public history from NC State University and most recently was an intern at Duke University's Special Collections Library.

**Derrick Evans** was hired in July as a processing assistant IV in the Government Records Section.

**Jeremy Gibson**, a graduate of the public history program at NC State University, has been hired as a records analyst in the Government Records Section. Jeremy previously worked with the Digital Services Section taking electronic audio recordings into our permanent collection.

**Al Hargrove**, records management analyst, retired May 1, 2013 after 32.5 years of service.

**Janet Hicks**, a retired State Capital Police guard, has been hired as the Saturday security guard in the building lobby.

**Ron Leach**, a records analyst in the Government Records Branch retired in June.

**Chris Meekins** has been promoted to imaging head within the Collections Management Branch. Chris moves to this new position from the Public Services Branch where he was the correspondence archivist. He brings a strong knowledge of records and managerial experience to his new role.

**Francesca Perez** has been promoted to information management archivist in the Digital Services Section overseeing digital projects involving scanning and metadata creation. Francesca had been part of the Local Records Unit working on the collection, arrangement, and description of county records.

**Mike Pridgeon**, arrangement and description archivist, has retired after 33 years of service.

**Rachel Trent**, digital archivist in the Digital Services Section, was recognized as a "Rising Star" by the Council of State Archivists at their August joint meeting with the Society of American

Archivists. The Rising Star award acknowledges innovative projects and outstanding contributions by individual staff to their state archives and constituencies.

**Ashley Yandle** has been promoted to digital access manager. In her new position Ashley oversees the division's digital collections, websites, online catalog, and many of the State Archives' social media accounts.

Several State Archives staff members recently graduated from the Department of Cultural Resources' Leadership Development Program and were honored in a ceremony August 22 in the Archives & History/State Library building auditorium. DCR Secretary Susan Kluttz and C. Neal Alexander, State Human Resources Director, were guest speakers for the event. Graduates of this most recent program are Sarah Downing, assistant curator, Outer Banks History Center, Andrea Gabriel, outreach and development director, Tammy James, processing unit supervisor, Chris Meekins, imaging unit head, Eric Moser, microfilm unit, lab supervisor and Rebecca Paden, former head of the Imaging Unit.

The Leadership Development Program was adopted by the department in order to prepare current and future leaders with opportunities for skill enhancement, career development, and networking. It requires a 3-year commitment from each participant both in a classroom setting and in web-based exercises. To date, the department has graduated 78 leaders from this program.

## Friends News

New board members were elected during the annual meeting of the Friends of the Archives on June 24. Elected for two-year terms are Dick Lankford, former state archivist and current FOA vice president, Bob Anthony, curator at the North Carolina Collection, UNC-Chapel Hill, and Larry Odzak, retired archivist with the division. Elected for three-year terms are Stewart Dunaway, private researcher, Troy Kickler, founding director of the North Carolina History Project and editor of *NorthCarolinahistory.org*, Jack McGreachy, retired N.C. State University librarian and Mike Taylor, director of the Pender County Public Library. Current president Frank Ward will serve again as president.

After the election, scholar Hilary N. Green presented "*Lest We Forget: African Ameri-*

*can Memory of the Civil War in Hertford, NC*" an examination into the ways African Americans commemorated those black soldiers who fought in the Union Army.



### Friends of the Archives Board Member Spotlight: Barnetta McGhee White

Dr. Barnetta McGhee White has served multiple terms on the Friends' board, first elected in 1995. A North Carolina native, she was born in Oxford, one of five children. Her mother was a teacher and her father a farmer. An avid reader from a young age, she graduated from Mary Potter Academy in 1948.

Barnetta received her bachelor's degree from West Virginia State College and while an undergraduate, she was active in college theatre. She studied at Columbia University, the University of Texas, El Paso, and the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs and received her M.A. and Ph.D. from Atlanta University in counseling and guidance. Barnetta spent her career in the field of education working as a counselor, consultant, and teacher. She taught in the public schools and at Auburn University before accepting a teaching position and returning to North Carolina. She retired as a professor of counselor education from N.C. Central University's School of Education in 1996. Active in her profession, she published widely, served as chair and member of several national boards, commissions, and committees, and presented numerous papers at national conferences. She is professor emerita from NCCU.

It was after she returned to her home state that Barnetta began to research family history publishing her first genealogy in 1986. The granddaughter of slaves, Barnetta has worked tirelessly to research her own genealogy and is an active contributor to AfriGenas, a network that supports African American genealogical research and she is a much sought-after lecturer and presenter. Her research, publications, indexes, and abstracts of public records in the State

Archives have been invaluable to other researchers and genealogists. In 2002 she earned the Award for Outstanding Contribution to North Carolina Genealogy "for an individual whose outstanding genealogical contributions have greatly enhanced the family history of North Carolina." Among her publications are *Enslaved Ancestors Abstracted From Deed Books, etc.*, Vols. I and II, *Somebody Knows My Name: Marriages of Freed People in North Carolina, County by County*, *A Quest for Enslaved Ancestors: The Extended Family of Griffin Fountain of Virginia and North Carolina*, and *In Search of Kith and Kin: the History of a Southern Black Family*. Barnetta's interests are wide-ranging and she has traveled extensively, living in Germany twice for a total of five years. As she writes, "In addition to my addiction to rambling around in musty courthouses and punishing my eyes reading barely legible microfilm, my personal interests are my children, grandchildren, genealogy, birds, and boxer dogs and not necessarily in that order."

Visit Barnetta's profile and list of publications on [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com).

## Friends of the Archives Funds Map Restoration

These maps are part of a series of maps drawn by Robert H. B. Brazier (died 1837) from surveys undertaken by him and/or Hamilton Fulton (died 1834) as state engineer. These surveys were undertaken by Hamilton and Brazier over a period of nearly a decade for the state Board of Internal Improvements in preparation of a new and accurate map of the state and to assist the board in its work of improving the state's transportation and commerce.



*Plan of the Stage Road from Fayetteville ...*, 1822  
(MC.171.F284.1822fb).

The hand-colored manuscript Brazier maps are works of art and among the most historically valuable items in our map collection. The Plan of the Stage Road from Fayetteville was conserved by Etherington Conservation Services in 2012 with funds provided by the Friends of the Archives. The Plan of Croatan and Roanoke Sounds is awaiting treatment. Thanks to the Friends for making this conservation work possible.



Plan of Croatan and Roanoke Sounds..., 1820 (MC.167.C937.1820fb).

## Upcoming Public Events

(Please check [www.ncculture.com](http://www.ncculture.com) for the latest listing of events)

### “Home Movie Day”

Saturday, October 19, 1 - 4 p.m. Auditorium, Archives and History/State Library building, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh.

### “A Historical Primer on the North Carolina Constitution”

Monday, October 21, 6 - 7 p.m. Auditorium, Archives and History/State Library building, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh.

### “Family History Fair”

Saturday, October 26, 9 - 2 p.m. Archives and History/State Library building, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh.

### “Digital Collections: An Update”

November 18, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Auditorium, Archives and History/State Library building, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh.

## About the Friends of the Archives

The Friends of the Archives, Inc. was formed in 1977 to provide non-profit support for the State Archives of North Carolina. Through generous donations, the Friends has purchased valuable collections for the Archives, helped conserve documents and maps, and purchased chairs for the Archives’ Search Room. The Friends also sponsors workshops and other activities, and helps coordinate a volunteer and intern program for the State Archives.

The Friends is a 501(c) (3) organization that receives grants, bequests, and donations from individuals, corporations, foundations and other organizations in support of the State Archives.

## Board of Directors

President: Frank Ward  
Vice-President: Dick Lankford  
Secretary-Treasurer: Sarah Koonts  
Past President: Janet Pittard  
Board Members: Davis Brinson, Ann Nicholson Flint, Dick Lankford, Joe Mobley, Leland Park, Karen Paar, Rebecca Seaman, Nelson Weller, Sam West, Barnetta White, David Zonderman, Bob Anthony, Larry Odzak, Stewart Dunaway, Troy Kickler, Jack McGreachy, Mike Taylor  
Ex Officio: Susan Kluttz, Kevin Cherry

# The Charter

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*The Friends of the Archives, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Donations may be tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Please check with your tax preparer for details. FOA membership dues cover the period for the calendar year January-December.*