



The cast of this year's Ghost Walk

Volunteer re-enactors taking part in our 9th annual Historical Ghost Walk Oct. 24 in Smithfield's Riverside Cemetery were: (left to right) Pearl and Edward Blackmon as Flossie and N.L. Cannady, long-time educators in Clayton; Judy Daniels as Lunette Barber, conservationist and wildlife educator; Lt. Col. Jonathan Gaskins as Capt. Sefton Stevens, a decorated World War II bomber and fighter pilot who was killed in action; Myra Wallace as Nancy (Nanny) Coates, mother of nine children educated at Smithfield's famed Turlington Institute who went on to distinguished professional careers; present-day Johnston County Sheriff Steve Bizzell as C.S. Powell, Confederate war veteran and sheriff of Johnston in the 19th Century; and Tom Howerton as Benjamin Williams, Revolutionary War veteran and the only native Johnstonian to serve as Governor of North Carolina.



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Johnston County Heritage Center

Update

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Annual dinner moved to March 11; theme is "Music: The Tie That Binds"

"Music: The Tie That Binds" will be the theme for the Heritage Center's 11th Contributing Patrons Appreciation Banquet – scheduled for Tuesday evening, March 11, 2014.

Regional TV personality and on-stage entertainer Tina Seldin Cash will serve as our emcee, guiding us through our look back through Johnston County's musical heritage and performing a song or two along the way.

Tina is well known in these parts as a former WRAL-TV personality and later as one of the star performers in the early days of Selma's American Music Jubilee. Presently, she sings with the award-winning, all-female, a-cappella Carolina Harmony Chorus and emcees for a variety of functions throughout our region. She also presents a musical character-education program in elementary schools.

Invited to the dinner on March 11 are Contributing Patrons of the Heritage

Center who make donations of at least \$50 between now and next spring. Fund-raising letters and dinner registration forms will be mailed, as usual, the week following Thanksgiving, giving donors the option of making their contributions in either 2013 or 2014.

This is the only time of the year that the Heritage Center asks for financial contributions to help underwrite the cost of our services. Last year's campaign raised \$26,125 from 224 Patrons: individuals, couples, and businesses.

As in recent years, our annual dinner will be held at the Johnston County Agricultural Center on Highway 210 west of Smithfield. The event was moved from January to March to reduce our chances of running into wintry weather.

Once again, Patrons who attend the dinner may enter a drawing to have their name used as a cameo character in an upcoming mystery novel by Johnston County's own Margaret Maron. She has



Tina Seldin Cash

made this offer for several years now – all done in memory of her mother, Claudia Stephenson Brown, one of the Heritage Center's founding volunteers.

Heritage Center staff builds searchable 1940 Census database

The Heritage Center has produced an online searchable database of Johnstonians listed in the 1940 U.S. Census. Completion of the project brings our Website up to date with local Census records going back to 1860.

Personal information from the 1940 Census was released in April 2012. Since then the Heritage Center's staff has been working continuously to transcribe from the original Census records each person's name, place of residence, age, sex, race, place of birth, relationship to

head of household, and occupation into a searchable database. (The original records are accessible online via the U.S. Census Website.)

Margo Allsbrook, Lucy Washington, and Joyce Mitchell of the Heritage Center's staff shared the tedious work of compiling Johnston County's 1940 Census data.

"What made the task so difficult was poor penmanship by many of the Census takers, making some names illegible," explained Wingate Lassiter, the Heritage

Center's director. "Our staff resorted to various other sources, such as earlier Census records, to figure out many of the names. Sometimes we had to make an educated guess. As a result, we'll gladly make corrections to our 1940 database as the public brings misspellings of names and other correctable mistakes to our attention."

Next in line for release of personal information is the 1950 U.S. Census, but that, by federal law, cannot be done until April 2022.

YOUR DIRECTOR REPORTING...

The Heritage Center has a limited number of paperback copies on sale of the hottest new book related to Johnston County history and culture we've seen in quite a while.

It's Perry Sullivan's *Lost Flowers: True Stories of the Moonshine King, Percy Flowers* – the memoir of a son born out of wedlock.

I've read it and found it a fascinating look not only into the character of the father but also into the "country culture" of Johnston County in the mid-20th Century.

The book is not an expose by any means, but rather a heart-warming story about a famous man who took Perry under his wing to make up, I think, for the loss of his first-born son in an airplane accident.

With assistance from Belle Allen, who knew Perry when he was attending school in Clayton as a boy, we were

able to secure a dozen copies of *Lost Flowers* to sell at the Heritage Center. We'll try to get more when those are gone, but if you miss out, go ahead and order a copy online via Amazon.com.

The only difference is our copies have been autographed by the author, who was in Clayton recently for a book signing that drew hundreds of admirers. Perry was very gracious – and patient – in giving everyone in line a chance to chat with him and get their copies signed.

Fifth-graders made scrapbook about JFK assassination

I'm sure most if not all of you remember exactly where you were on November 22, 1963 when the news came down that President John F. Kennedy had been assassinated in Dallas, Tex.

Thanks to Julia McCullers, we recently secured for our archives a fairly thick scrapbook of newspaper and magazine clippings about



New additions to the Heritage Center family are Tom Howerton and Jessica Radford. Tom is filling a Heritage Commission seat vacated by Claudia O'Hale. Jessica has joined our staff as Saturday's front-desk host.

the event that was assembled by Agnes Gunter's fifth-grade class at Smithfield Elementary School in the days and weeks following that tragedy 50 years ago.

We're putting the scrapbook and related items

on display in one of the new exhibit cases we recently purchased for the main entrance hall of the Public Library across the street from the Heritage Center. Come see, and reverently remember.

– Wingate Lassiter

Heritage Center open late Nov. 15 for "Wine Walk"

The Heritage Center will be open till 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15 for a "Wine Walk" benefitting Harbor Inc., a Johnston County non-profit that rescues victims of domestic violence.

Walkers will begin at Harbor's Pizazz store, located at 119 N. Third Street around the corner from the Heritage Center. They'll pay \$20 for tickets that will allow them to taste wines at a dozen Downtown Smithfield establishments, including the Heritage Center. The first 100 participants will receive commemorative wine glasses.

The Heritage Center's bookstore and gift shop will be open for business during the Wine Walk, giving nighttime shoppers a chance to do some Christmas gift-buying here.

Other establishments taking part in the Wine Walk include the Ava Gardner Museum, 231 Market Classic Printing, Market Street Coffee & Bakery, Plus Plus Consignment, Jewel's Formals, Evans Jewelers, The Yoga Connection, Bistro on Third, Memory Lane Frame Shop, and Aspect Financial.

RECENT MATERIAL DONATIONS TO THE HERITAGE CENTER

Here's a list of material donations added to the Heritage Center archives July-August-September 2013:

- Little River Primitive Baptist Association Minutes, 1825-1906 (original) – from Debbie King Byrd.
- Southern Bell Telephone Selma office photos and clippings; Selma High School Class of 1933 "Memory Book"; booklet entitled *Experiences of a Young Salesman* by M.L. Stancil, 1940-41 – from Betty Stancil Segal.
- Photo: "Smithfield Young People, 1908," by J.W. Langdon Studio, Four Oaks – from Warren & Genie Grimes.
- Photo: Micro High School students with teacher, 1948-49 – from Tommie Woodard.
- Quarterly editions of *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy*, 2008-2012 – from Rebecca S. Owens.
- Booklet of original poetry: *Lines of Thought*, by the donor: Harold Medlin, Sr.
- Booklet: *Clinton City Schools Past To Present: 1821-2012* – from Sue Cannady Barefoot.
- Belongings of Annie Bell Langdon Massengill: china doll, c.1900-1910; comb & brush set, n.d. – from Elizabeth M. Anderson.
- *Wall-Hinnant Families of Johnston Co., NC*: genealogy files including photos compiled on CD by the donor, Dave E. Williams.
- Alta Wanna Stout Lewis Collection: Pine Level School eighth graders, 1937 photo along with Wanna's diploma and family photographs – from M.J. Ruskowsky.
- Genealogy reference books: *Tennessee Tidbits: 1778-1914, Vol. IV*; *1805 Georgia Land Lottery: Fortunate Drawers and Grantees*; *1805 Georgia Land Lottery: Persons Entitled to Draws*; *History of Boone County, Arkansas* – from RoseMary Starling.
- Cleveland Post archives: bound volumes August 1996 - December 1997, all of 2001-2003; PDFs October-November 2007, August 28-December 2008, all of 2009-2012, January-August 2013 – from Mary Lahr Cain.
- Genealogy books: *Tart Family - Descendants and Ancestors of Thomas Tart, Born c.1761*, published in 2011 by the donor, Rebecca S. Owens.
- Genealogy books: *Franklin County, VA Birth Records 1853-1870*; *Birth Records of Franklin County, VA 1860-1879*; *Marriage Records of Franklin County, VA 1853-1875*; *Marriage Records of Henry County VA, 1778-1851* – from Joanne Sutherland.
- Genealogy book: *The Hodge Family of Johnston County*, 2012 – from Pat Godwin.
- Genealogy book: *Jernigan Reunion - Second Edition*,



This 1937 photograph of eighth-graders at Pine Level School came to us from the family of Alta Wanna Stout Lewis, who is the second girl from the left in the second row. Can anyone help us identify the others?

1999 – from Rebecca S. Owens.

- Photos: Smithfield girls' softball team, 1952; Ned Cunningham sworn in as Smithfield town commissioner by Mayor Ben Baker, 1956; studio portrait photos of Cynthia DeFord Adams, n.d. – from Julia A. McCullers.
- Midget Football (Pop Warner) program for "1st Annual Tobacco Bowl": Smithfield Colts vs. Manville, N.J. Colts, November 23, 1962 – from Tom Stevens.
- Yearbook: Neuse Charter School, 2012-2013.



Employees of Southern Bell Telephone's Selma office posed for this picture in 1955 as the switchover was being made from manual to dial, or automatic, placement of calls. The photo came to the Heritage Center from Betty Stancil Segal.

HERITAGE CENTER BASICS

- The Johnston County Heritage Center is located at 241 East Market Street – in the heart of Downtown Smithfield.
- Our phone number: 919-934-2836
- Our mailing address: PO Box 2709, Smithfield, NC 27577
- Our Web address: www.jcheritagecenter.org
- Our hours of operation: 9:00-5:00 MONDAY-SATURDAY

Heritage Commission

Belle Allen	Tom Howerton
Art Andrews	Ann Hucklenbeck
Pearl Blackmon	Tanya Jones-Boland
John Booker	Stanton Massengill
Charles Creech	Julia McCullers
Carolyn Ennis	Helen Smith
Mary Nell Ferguson	Mary Stephens
Heather Ford	Vicky Temple-Rains
	Myra Wallace