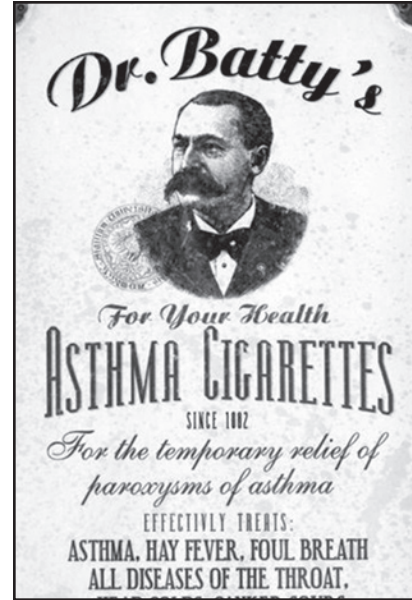




MEMORIES OF 1964 – We've pulled out a few items from our archives to give Heritage Center visitors a taste of what was going on around here 50 years ago, including the photograph above of dignitaries riding the "Lady Bird Special" that made a Presidential campaign stop in Selma: (pictured, from left) Clayton's Mayor Lawrence Cooper, Princeton's Mayor S.S. Lee, Smithfield's Mayor Hubie Talton, "Lady Bird" Johnson, and Clerk of Johnston Superior Court Nora Southerland. The year 1964 also saw release of the U.S. Surgeon General's report on smoking and health that turned the tobacco industry upside down. The old cigarette advertisement shown here was typical of pro-smoking campaigns earlier in the 20th Century.



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Johnston County Heritage Center

Update

Vol. 12, No. 2

Winter 2014



Annual fund-raising drive isn't over yet! Patrons banquet planned for Tuesday evening, March 11

January 2014 has come and gone without the Heritage Center's annual Contributing Patrons Dinner. Considering the colder-than-usual wintry weather we've been having, that's good!

And it's the main reason the Johnston County Heritage Commission decided to move the annual banquet to early March, when chances are better for avoiding hazardous weather conditions.

Tuesday, March 11 is the date of this year's event.

And that means our annual fund-raising campaign is still going on. Last year our Contributing Patrons donated \$26,125 to the Heritage Center. Our goal is nothing less this time around.

The theme for this year's annual banquet is "Music: The Tie That Binds" – featuring a program emceed by regional

TV and stage personality Tina Seldin Cash. But, as we've always required, you must first be a current Contributing Patron to be invited to attend.

Registration forms were mailed the week after Thanksgiving, but in case you've misplaced yours, there's a handy form printed on an inside page of this newsletter that you can fill out and mail to us along with your donation....

Black History Month program to explore ties to Native American culture; latter-day "Political Pioneers" will be honored as well

The Heritage Center's Black History Committee will host a program on Thursday, Feb. 20 comparing Native American and African-American cultures. It begins with a reception at 6 p.m. in the second-floor meeting room of the Public Library of Johnston County and Smithfield.

"Pocahontas" is the title of a presentation written by Carolyn Ennis, a member of the Johnston County Heritage Commission. "The play reveals the facts and fiction of Native Americans with a comparison of African-American traditions and historical experiences," Dr. Ennis noted.

Prior to the performance, the Heritage Center will honor about two-dozen African Americans who have won popular election to public offices in Johnston County since the onset of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. Almost half of those to be honored are currently serving on municipal government boards and councils throughout Johnston.

Those African-American "Political Pioneers" will also be featured in an exhibit in the Heritage Center's main hall that will remain in place beyond Black History Month (February).

Light refreshments will be served during a brief reception preceding the Feb. 20 program, which will be free of admission charge.



Cast members for "Pocahontas" include (in front, left to right) Joia Freeman, the Rev. Sterling Freeman, Michelle Freeman, and Joyce Grandy.

Members of the Heritage Center's Black History Committee are Pearl Blackmon (Chair), Dr. John Booker, Carolyn Ennis, Tanya Jones-Boland, Cynthia Toudle, and Q.K. Wall.

YOUR DIRECTOR REPORTING...

This is my final newsletter as director of our Johnston County Heritage Center. I plan to retire March 31.

I know it's trite but I'll say it anyway: It has been an honor and a privilege to direct the operations and services of this bedrock local institution for 10-plus years.

And what have we been doing over the past decade? Basically, we've continued the work – and the customer service – started by our founder, the late Margaret McLemore Lee, some 47 years ago at the Public Library across the street.

Yes, the tools have changed since Margaret Lee's time. Today we've got the Internet and digital copying devices to help us with the never-ending task of saving and sharing vital pieces of Johnston County history and genealogy.

But the methodology is the same, whether it's putting

research notes in those family folders in the Reading Room, copying newspaper obituaries for folks who will want them many years hence, or collecting school and church yearbooks and photographs before they are forgotten and gone forever.

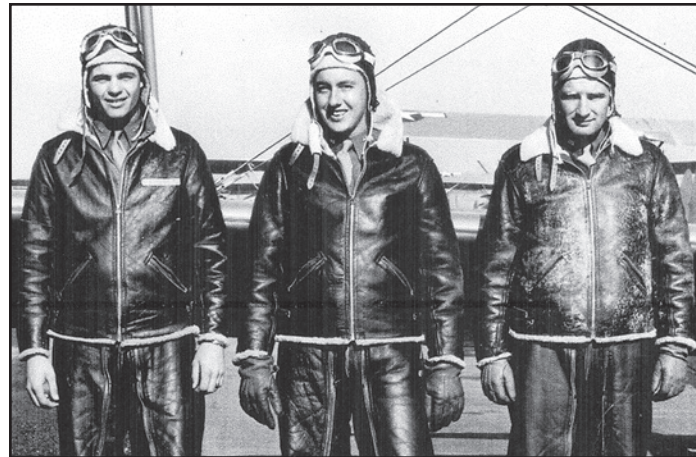
The Digital Age is upon us, and we've embraced it in our archiving, thanks in large part to the County of Johnston's Technical Services folks who have given us capabilities to build searchable databases of Census records, newspaper articles, even our own archival inventories – all of it accessible to anyone and everyone the world over through our Website.

Wow. And yet, we've kept one foot firmly planted in the archiving past, as Margaret Lee would have us do, making sure that we're still accepting and securing tangible materials one can hold in one's hand – without having to "retrieve it" electronically on a computer screen.

In fact, one of the

challenges of saving history in the years ahead, I believe, is to make sure the stuff we're saving can still be "gotten to" despite massive changes in technology that are sure to come again and

again with no end in sight. And so, I shall soon finish my "term in office" feeling confident that the staff and volunteers who've made this place will never let it slide. – Wingate Lassiter



Arthur N. West's donated notebook on his experiences as a World War II pilot includes this photo of him (center) with buddies at a U.S. Army Air Corps flight school.

RECENT MATERIAL DONATIONS TO THE HERITAGE CENTER

- Here's a list of material donations added to the Heritage Center archives October-November-December 2013:
- Audiocassette tapes with recorded music of Ginny Wicker: album "The Purple Song Book" (1993) and WBZB radio program "Home Folks" (December 29, 1996) – from Julia A. McCullers.
 - Notebook with narrative & pictures about World War II experiences of the donor, Capt. Arthur N. West, a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps.
 - Yearbook: Powhatan Elementary School, 2013
 - Book about U.S. Army paratroopers, *The Boys of Benning*, including a chapter on military experiences of the donor, Rudy Baker.
 - World War I Victory Medal awarded to Alfred T. Taylor; original documents and research of Taylor-Bridgers-Barbour lineages – from Barbara Taylor Ennis.
 - Stories written and read by the donor on cassette tapes recorded for radio broadcasts: "A Wise Woman Bearing Gifts," "The 12 Days of Christmas," and "The Virtuous Woman" (1995) plus "Rena Bingham Lassiter: Something for the Boys" (1996) – from Julia A. McCullers.
 - Genealogy reference books: *Rambles in the Pee Dee Basin South Carolina* (1926) and *The Scottish Highlander Carmichaels of the Carolinas* (1935) – from Creola Smith Campbell.

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

JOHNSTON COUNTY HERITAGE CENTER CONTRIBUTING PATRONS REGISTRATION FORM

Check One:

- Bronze Patron: \$50 – entitles you to one (1) seat at our annual dinner *
- Silver Patron: \$100 – entitles you to two (2) seats at our annual dinner *
- Gold Patron: \$250 - entitles you to two (2) seats at our annual dinner *
- Platinum Patron: \$500 - entitles you to two (2) seats at our annual dinner *
- Diamond Patron: \$1,000 - entitles you to two (2) seats at our annual dinner *

YOUR NAME(S) for published listing of our 2014 Contributing Patrons:

Mailing Address

Telephone () _____

\$ _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED

Make check payable to: Johnston County Heritage Center

* PLEASE TAKE NOTE: As a Contributing Patron, you're invited to our annual banquet on Tuesday evening, March 11, 2014. To make sure you're on our guest list, complete and mail this form along with your check to **PO Box 2709, Smithfield, N.C. 27577** so we may receive it **no later than February 28** in order to finalize arrangements for the number of meals to be served and table places to be set.

NAMES (including yourself) of those who will attend the banquet:

(1) _____

(2) _____

Please write "will not attend" below if you DO NOT plan to join us at the banquet.

But let us know by February 28 if you change your mind!