

Media

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CALL THE (NORTH CAROLINA) MIDWIFE: Comparing and Contrasting PBS' Series to North Carolina's Reality



RALEIGH, N.C. – If you weren't one of the 8.7 million viewers who watched BBC's 2012 runaway first series of "Call the Midwife," you can catch the fifth series April 3 on PBS. Will they still be riding bicycles? If you can't wait to see the continuing saga, we have **Lisa Yarger, who brings to life the story of her friend, Lovie Beard Shelton –Pamlico County's first public health nurse and the first nurse-midwife in North Carolina.**

You may be asking yourself, why should I want to hear about a midwife?

Come to the North Carolina Museum of History Sunday, March 19, at 3 p.m. to find out how this unassuming woman, widowed at 37 and mother of four, earned her place in the N.C. Museum of History's 1998 exhibit "Health and Healing" and on North Carolina's women's history pages.

Hear how Lovie Shelton (1925-2013) was the heart of many communities, including Beaufort, Martin, Pitt, Craven, Nash, Hyde, Wilson and Pamlico counties, **for over 50 years, from 1950 to 2001.** She never turned away a patient who was too poor to afford a hospital birth. **Lovie answered the "call" for both white and black women** during the years of Jim Crow and the civil rights era and into the 21st century. **She delivered more than 4,000**

babies. Her payment? Sometimes nothing, and rarely did she receive more than \$40 for a birth.

Lovie Beard Shelton donated a set of her midwifery equipment to the Museum of History, **and some of this equipment will be on display** for this memorable event.

Following the presentation, Lisa Yarger will sign copies of her new book, *Lovie: The Story of a Southern Midwife and an Unlikely Friendship*.

This program is FREE, as is parking on Sundays.

For information about the N.C. Museum of History, call [919-807-7900](tel:919-807-7900) or access ncmuseumofhistory.org or follow on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+ or YouTube.

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<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/se6nobas3chs4bg/AAA9EZcC9X9FyhTwXuY7LxfTa?dl=0>

Image – Book cover

Book cover. Courtesy of Lisa Yarger.

Image – Girl with a mule

Lovie at about age 12 with one of her father's mules. Courtesy of Lovie's sister, Octavia Bowman.

Image – Midwives on bicycles

"Call the Midwife" stars on their bicycles from Series 3 in 2014. Courtesy of cookeoptics.com_imgs_cooke-tv-credit-call-the-midwife.

Image – Midwives

Lovie (*third from left*) with sister midwifery pupils in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1949. Courtesy of Carolyn Ellison.

Image – Portrait

Lisa Yarger, author of *Lovie: The Story of a Southern Midwife and an Unlikely Friendship*.
Courtesy of Lisa Yarger.

About the N.C. Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate

The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 400,000 people visit the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

About the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit www.ncdcr.gov.

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