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**The Museum of the Cape Fear Turns 30**

*Thursday, June 21, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.*

Did you know the North Carolina Museum of History has six sister museums spanning the state of North Carolina? Our regional museums are the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex in Fayetteville, Museum of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City, Mountain Gateway Museum in Old Fort, and three North Carolina Maritime Museums in Hatteras, Beaufort and Southport. These excellent museums pride themselves on continuing to tell the remarkable North Carolina stories that make this state so unique.

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – The **Museum of the Cape Fear** is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday with a party and the public is invited. On **June 21**, the first day of summer, from **6:00 to 8:00 pm**, the museum is throwing a party, complete with balloons, games and activities, and birthday cake, (while supplies last).

In June of 1988, the Museum of the Cape Fear officially opened its doors as one of the state’s regional museums—a branch of the North Carolina Museum of History for the southeastern part of the state. It was the third and final branch to open, which achieved a two-fold purpose: 1.) to decentralize the vast collection of artifacts held by the state, most of it in Raleigh; and, 2.) to put almost every North Carolinian within 100 miles of a state-owned history museum. The museum continues to operate under the auspices of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

When the museum opened its doors, it consisted of two floors of exhibit space dedicated to telling the story of the Cape Fear region—thus its name. Over the next few years, the “Ghost” Tower at Arsenal Park was built. Then a few years after that, the state restored and opened the 1897 Poe House. Today, the historical complex sits atop Haymount Hill, occupying approximately 7 acres of land where visitors enjoy all three historical resources at one accessible setting.

The future of the museum will undergo a major change in the coming years as it will be transformed to the North Carolina Civil War & Reconstruction History Center. The regional history component will remain in the new facility, as it was decreed by the legislature in 1983. For more information and membership opportunities, visit [www.nccivilwarcenter.org](http://www.nccivilwarcenter.org) or follow them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/nccivilwarcenter>.

If you would like to bring a present to the party, consider bringing a \$30 donation. As part of its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the museum has begun a fundraising campaign—“\$30 for 30,” where they hope to receive a \$30 donation from 1000 people during their year-long recognition of their 30 years in existence.

The event is free and open to the public. A \$30 donation is not required to attend. Come enjoy a fun and relaxing evening at the museum.

#### **About the NC Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate**

The NC 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 NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

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

#### **About the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex**

The Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex, located on the corner of Bradford and Arsenal avenues in Fayetteville, is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The museum operates under the Division of State History Museums, Office of Archives and History, within the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

#### **About the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources**

The NC 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 NC Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the NC 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](http://www.ncdcr.gov).

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