

NCHC Report-March 25, 2021
Division of Archives and Records

On behalf of the Division of Archives and Records, I am pleased to highlight a few division activities since my September 3, 2020 report to the Commission. As with the previous report, most division work continues to be conducted remotely.

In major staffing news, on January 15 the division welcomed Judy Allen Dodson to the division as the new head of the Special Collections Section, the position most recently held by Donna Kelly until her retirement at the end of August 2020. Judy joined the division from the Wake County Public Libraries where she served as the Archives Manager for the Olivia Rainey Local History Library. After the departure of our oral historian this summer, John Horan filled that position on December 15. In addition to his experience with a variety of oral history projects, John is nearly finished with his PhD in Public History from Arizona State University.

With the management of the Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies remaining with the division, a position was transferred to help manage that work, as well as other outreach programming. We are in the process of filling that position and streamlining the management for all the division outreach work including the Cultural Resources Emergency Support Team (CREST), Federation, State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB), and external programming for public audiences.

Remote outreach programming continued to be robust over the last six months. As in the previous report, the Record Analysis Unit has been the group most actively delivering programs online. Each month they conduct online workshops for state and local government audiences, as well as for colleagues in other states and national professional associations. In the last six months they have held 36 workshops for over 1,740 attendees. Audiences outside the state included the Pennsylvania State Archives, the National Association of Government Archives and Records Managers and the Society of American Archivists. Digital Services Section staff provided a workshop on digital preservation to the North Carolina Community College Archives Association.

We also led a number of other online programs for public and K-12 audiences. We held 9 virtual classroom presentations for approximately 150 high school students in Wayne and Brunswick counties to pilot sessions on the colonial court records, how to transcribe them and what they contain. Staff presented 3 different programs on researching our new online catalog and how to research remotely. The Friends of the Archives' annual meeting moved online in November. Board member and speaker Dr. Warren Milteer of UNC Greensboro spoke about his new book, *North Carolina's Free People of Color, 1715-1885*. Dr. Joe Beatty of the Research Branch moderated this well-received program. The third and final genealogical research workshop originally scheduled for March 2020 at Aycock Birthplace was moved to Zoom and held in January 2021.

We utilized Zoom for media interviews about topics such as the TranscribeNC crowdsourced transcription project. On January 14 I participated in the PBS-NC online program that combined a sneak preview of the new season of their popular show "Finding Your Roots" with a panel session discussing genealogical research. The Federation's fall roundtable featured a discussion of fundraising strategies during the pandemic.

The TranscribeNC platform saw remarkable growth in user interest and transcription work completed by the volunteers. Some projects, such as those featuring local draft board records and North Carolina Marine Corps press releases were completed. This collection was launched with 892 pages available for transcription, and volunteers completed the work in 5 days. Currently available projects include African American education, federal and state constitutional materials, Maud Hayes Stick collection, military diaries, travel perspectives, World War I and II letters, and women's history

materials. Volunteer sign-ups increased from 276 to 786 over the last six months. In that same period volunteers made 12,537 page edits and contributed 6,129 hours of time. With the success of this platform for these transcription projects, we are working with other state archives to fund some enhancements to the software behind the platform. These enhancements will allow us to add additional types of materials to the platform, such as ledgers and forms, to the site. This will open new collections for transcription, something that pleases our online researchers and staff.

The division also prioritized a variety of social media content across our blogs, social media accounts, and YouTube. Social media highlights include participation in the national hashtag parties featuring archival collections across the country, creation of Zoom backgrounds using collection photos, participation in #AskAConservator Day, and advertisement of additions to the digital collections, such as the speeches of Governor Beverly Perdue. As part of the State Historical Records Advisory Board's (SHRAB) current grant, a series of tutorials on the preservation of and access to archival collections was developed and published on YouTube. The series includes videos on archival terminology, important policies, arrangement and description, preservation, digitization, and promotion of collections. Other videos created during this time included: "[How to Navigate the North Carolina Digital Collections in Under 6 Minutes](#)" (Sept. 2020); Electronic Records Day video, "[Don't Look Away, Your Records Are at Stake!](#)" (Oct. 2020); "[Researching Women's Suffrage in Less Than Three Minutes](#)" (Oct. 2020); and "[Uncovering the History of North Carolina's Free People of Color: A Journey into the Archives](#)" (Nov. 2020). This event was part of the Friends of the Archives' annual meeting.

February, in honor of Black History month, the staff wrote and published a number of blog posts. The highest rated of the posts was the one highlighting some county records series that capture Black history in North Carolina. The full list of blog posts include:

1. [African American Records in the State Archives of North Carolina: Miscellaneous Records](#)
2. [African American Records in the State Archives of North Carolina: Special Collections](#)
3. [Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority – Alpha Theta Omega Chapter Records and other African American Experiences in the Organization Records](#)
4. [African American Records in the State Archives of North Carolina: County Records](#)
5. [Portraits of Black North Carolina Veterans](#)
6. [Recognizing Frmr. Senator Abraham Galloway](#)
7. [Commemorating the Nation's First All-Black Lifesaving Crew, the Pea Island Lifesavers](#)
8. [African American Records in the State Archives of North Carolina: State Agency Records and Governor's Records](#)

For Women's History Month we collaborated with the State Library to develop a "lunch and learn" set of online programs. March 9 Oral Historian John Horan presented highlights of the "She Changed the World" oral history project. This collection showcases the leadership and ingenuity of select North Carolina women as they share their voices and relate their unique stories from a variety of professional fields and communities. March 16 Digital Projects Librarian Kelly Agan shared a wealth of online resources and documentary collections for women's history in North Carolina in a presentation called, "Making Time for Women's History." March 23 Sarah Downing from the Western Regional Archives shared, "A Viewpoint of Her Own: The Black Mountain College Photographs of Helen M Post." Downing examined the work of photographer Helen M. Post, through a collection of images she created at Black Mountain College in 1937. Finally, on March 30 Heather South of the Western Regional Archives will discuss the creation of the Reconstruction Aides program at the veterans' hospitals following WWI and significance of the aides' activities in Asheville, including their development of the field of physical therapy and arts and crafts to boost patients' mental health and agility.

During this period the Military Collection Archivist wrote 43 blog posts for the “Stories of Service” blog managed by the department. Many blog posts focused on women, discussing minorities and the role of racism that specific artifacts/record sets displayed, as well as special spotlights on new or interesting archival artifacts. The most impactful pieces in terms of numbers and donor relations included the blog post on Robert E. Nixon, a Charlotte WWII Navy Coxswain who died a month after his discharge in an accident. The collection included an original color film reel of his burial service. The most read post during this period announced a reprocessed collection of 91 original records cards for 810th Pioneer Infantry, U.S. Army, officers at Camp Greene in WWI. This post covered the white officers of a segregated unit at Camp Greene, as well as the racism faced by the Pioneer Infantry units. This post resulted in several research requests, including from the author of the only two books on the Army Pioneer units. In the wake of the passing of the important collections donor Betty Debnam Hunt on November 1, 2020, one blog included a lengthy piece in her honor on her and her late Marine Corps husband’s love story that revolved around her coming to understand her husband’s service history and the importance of his papers. Mrs. Hunt is well-known for her development of the nationally syndicated educational newspaper for children-*The Mini Page*.

As noted at the beginning of the report, most work continues to be conducted remotely. After several months of planning and coordination with the State Library, the public services of the division opened on a restricted basis November 12, 2021. Hours and patron numbers are limited, and most workflows are modified to accommodate pandemic safety measures. Patron visitation has been steady, but not at capacity. While pandemic capacity limits have eased somewhat recently, we will continue with our current capacity limits and consider adding research hours as visitation numbers necessitate. Staff who need access to collections to extend their telework have been allowed to return to onsite work on a limited and staggered basis.

Collection acquisition remains limited for non-digital donations. The collecting initiative “Your Story is North Carolina’s Story” continues to seek donations documenting life and activities during the pandemic and recent social protests. We will accept a variety of private and audio visual materials. A majority of the donors to this initiative reflected upon how the pandemic was impacting school life, family life, social life, community and church gatherings, travel, holidays, summer plans. One student wrote a poem about loneliness. One young adult had to postpone her wedding for at least another year. One student’s mother contracted coronavirus, and she had to assume care of her mother, and her brother, with responsibility for cooking and cleaning. Two adults, both educators, wrote about the murder of George Floyd, protests that ensued, the Black Lives Matter movement, racial injustice, and politics. Another filmed protest signs in Washington, D.C. near the Whitehouse when she visited the Capitol around Thanksgiving. Two students who submitted their stories during the summer also wrote about the murder of Floyd and racial injustice. Audio visual donations showed families adapting to mask wearing, working from home, shopping and closures, kids in remote learning, and day-to-day activities in early months of restrictions. Special Collections Section Chief Dodson anticipates working with a variety of groups to continue emphasis on this important collecting initiative.

The Government Records Section has been involved in this project through the development of an oral history program to capture the stories of state agency leaders who managed their programs during the pandemic. The history of how state government offices adapted operations during the pandemic is an important component of documenting this transformative period in our state’s history. Our oral historian has worked with the staff of the section to train the records analysts on oral history best practices. Interviews for this are set to begin soon.

Many staff continue to use remote work time for data cleanup and enhancement in our collections management system. This includes ingest of indexing data for collections, such as the *News*

and Observer negative collection, addition of more box-level collection data, and the implementation of the new deaccessioning workflow to manage deaccessions approved by this body. Staff are reviewing other system modules, such as those managing processing projects and workflows in the imaging unit, to advise the developer on needed improvements prior to implementation. In addition to managing the remote and onsite public services, the reference staff use teleworking time to transcribe the marriage bond index data that was scanned from the microfiche. When completed this telework project will open this information to users beyond the search room.

In addition to all the online training produced by the Government Records Section, a team within the division has been collaborating with the NC Department of Information Technology to develop records management guidance for state agencies using Microsoft Sharepoint to store and manage electronic public records. In addition, the records analysts have been working through the local records retention and disposition schedules to format them as the functional schedule for state agency records and to ensure standardized retention across all levels of government.

As noted in my September 2020 report, the Digital Services Section has spent several months planning and managing the conversion of our website to Drupal 8 to keep it in compliance with state agency website guidelines. This project included learning about the changes in this new version of Drupal, testing the bulk upload of web data, and clean up after the website went live. Section staff utilize time onsite to complete scanning work. During the last six months they added 6,015 pages to the North Carolina Digital Collections in the following collections: African American Education, Colonial Court Records, Council on the Status of Women, Good Neighbor Council, Governors Papers (modern), Oral History Materials, Senate Audio, Travel Perspectives, Women in NC 20th Century History, World War I, and World War II.

Work on several grant projects has been progressing as anticipated. The SHRAB grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) produced the tutorial videos highlighted earlier in this report. The grant supported the advertisement and selection of 6 repositories with documentary collections to participate in some intensive Traveling Archivist Program (TAP) consultations and visits. The consultations will cover best practices for the preservation of and access to historical records. The visits will also include training on digitization and promotion of collections. A team of division staff, Digital Heritage Collection at UNC Chapel Hill and the university archivist at UNC Greensboro are leading the program. Repositories to be visited during the TAP program include the Eastern Cabarrus Historical Society, Matthews Heritage Museum, Museum & Archives of Rockingham County, North Carolina General Service Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous, Roanoke-Chowan Community College, and the Sandhills Community College.

Another NHPRC grant supports the arrangement and description or and access to the colonial court records in the division collections. Contract archivist Marie Stark is wrapping up a complete arrangement of the Colonial Court and District Superior Court records, as well as the development of new finding aids and catalog data online. These will replace the very basic collection description tools written many decades ago and previously available only in the search room. In addition, the grant also includes the digitization of selected court materials and inclusion in our online crowdsourced transcription platform, TranscribeNC. As noted earlier in the report, the promotion of this part of the project received a great deal of media attention in December and January. We are continuing to mine these collections to identify materials of use in classroom resources for high school students.

The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) awarded the division \$37,039 for a grant under their "Recordings at Risk" program. The project "Preserving and Providing Access to Legislative History: Senate Audio Digitization" has been funded to digitize 64 Dictaphone Veritrac tapes, an analog medium nearing obsolescence, and provide access to the audio recordings via the North Carolina Digital

Collections. The tapes are part of the series SR.66.25 Senate Daily Legislative Session Audio and contain recordings of Senate proceedings for the years 1993-2005. Once digitized the audio will be available in the Internet Archives with our other digitized audio collections.

In my September report I noted the formation of two division-wide teams. The Conscious Description Team was formed to review the legacy description standards for our metadata, finding aids, and research guides and to identify best practices and updated language that can be used to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in our descriptive work. This team has been hard at work surveying descriptive language and developing annotated style guides with more inclusive language and description style guides. The Community Building Team developed a survey of our current outreach partnerships. They also are developing a strategy to prioritize the expansion of our work to previously underserved communities. Both teams are expected to work with staff across the division on professional development opportunities to learn more about topics such as practicing radical empathy in archives and the ethics of care for cultural collections. I am in conversation with a local artist and some other regional organizations to explore the feasibility of a new program using art, community conversations, and archives to demonstrate new ways to manage difficult stories found in archival collections, one that respects the stories of those in the records and moves ethics of care from an academic discussion to practice. Staff involved in these efforts are energized by their conversations and work to ensure we are putting our efforts into action to ensure our division work supports equity and inclusivity.

As we wrap up a year managing our programs during a global pandemic, I would be remiss if I did not offer a note of commendation for our staff who have adapted their work in the face of incredible challenges. Archivists like to be with their collection to process, scan, and research. Division staff have stepped up to the challenge of these times to find new ways to work remotely. They demonstrated creativity and perseverance in the development of outstanding programming and services for our varied audiences. I could not be prouder of their teamwork and adaptability.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time regarding the programming and projects of the division. I can be reached at sarah.koonts@ncdcr.gov

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah E. Koonts

Recent Collection Acquisition Highlights (excludes “Your Story is North Carolina’s Story” acquisitions)

- 11 interviews for the She Changed the World oral history project, including: Roberta Waddle, Karen Willis Amspacher, Brenda Hill Pollard, Leesa Jones, Shirley Danner Simmons, Heather McMillian Nakai, Janie Poole Brown, Kathryn Whitaker Overby, Constance Regan-Blake, Mari Fitz-Wynn, and Chasta D. Hamilton.
- MPF.136 record book addition (1943-1944): supplements the Ingold Grange film made in 1944 by James P. Stovall, which includes rare wartime Grange farming projects and support of wartime domestic efforts in a rural community.
- PHC.228 addition-an ambrotype of Esley Hunt (1817-1899), one of NC's earliest photographers. Hunt is believed to have produced most of Raleigh Civil War soldier portraits.
- Organizational records of the North Carolina Healthcare Information and Communications Alliance. The organization committed itself to driving the intersection of healthcare, information technology, and analytics. Originally created through an executive order by Governor James B. Hunt, the Durham-based nonprofit joined leaders in each field to collaborate on ways to improve the healthcare system.

- Dare Minority Coalition Records: Materials documenting a June 2020 demonstration related to police brutality and racial justice, including 7 posters, 1 t-shirt, photographs, transcripts of speeches, and other papers.
- Six Associates Collection: Records of an architecture firm in Asheville formed to create a business that would be competitive for government contracts in building constructions. The collection includes approximately 35,000 drawings and blueprints.

Division of North Carolina State Historic Sites and Properties (March 2021)

The Division of State Historic Sites began the calendar year with the following reflections, delivered, to all staff, in a new year message:

"...

It is certainly an understatement to say that last year offered more learning and growing opportunities than any of us anticipated. We have emerged stronger in many ways, but I also recognize how extraordinarily exhausting this past year has been.

The necessity for new kinds of carefulness, creative problem solving, paradigm shifting, and resilience has been absolutely relentless, and a season of constant change brings us to this moment.

Change has also touched our agency's leadership. We are truly excited to welcome Secretary Reid Wilson into his new role as the head of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources...

As we look forward, I invite you to rejoin me in affirming our guiding priorities. For those who are fairly new to Historic Sites, I invite you to reflect on and commit to these concepts as well. They are as follows:

- 1) Safety (And I am Adding Wellness of Self and All Others)
- 2) True Inclusion (A Comprehensive, Long-term Approach to Diversity, Accessibility, Equity, and Inclusion at all Levels)
- 3) Communication (with Colleagues, Stakeholders, and Guests) that is as Clear, Kind, and Consistent as Possible
- 4) Streamlining Procedures (Simplicity)
- 5) Protecting our Built Environment (I am also Amplifying Collections, Structures, Land, Water, Flora and Fauna.)

I believe these fundamentals will continue to result in community-focused relationships, sustainable innovation, compelling partnerships, fundable initiatives, and opportunities for thoughtful growth.

I'll end by emphasizing priority number one.

Please, please continue to be vigilant as Covid19 continues to impact so many across North Carolina. I cannot impress upon you enough how important it is that we follow all safety precautions, especially social distancing and mask wearing.

Let's stay healthy, focused, positive, and committed to our work as memory keepers!"

Prior to the new calendar year, much of the Division focused on thinking through holiday season ingenuity.

Staff have worked to create innovation programming alternatives all year long; however, the holiday season, in particular, offered up extraordinary programmatic creativity. For example, the North Carolina

Transportation Museum, which normally sells out tickets for "The Polar Express," developed a drive-through holiday light display with much success. The experience included 1.25-mile trek through the historic site, Gift Station, photos with Santa, and S'mores pits. Total counts for the event, which began on November 20, 2020 were 4,519 vehicles and 15,812 visitors.

Unfortunately, the NC Transportation Museum lost much of its Polar Express equipment, due to an arson set fire on January 9, 2021. Thankfully, no staff were injured, the fire was contained, and a suspect was identified. Insurance will cover damages. Departmental Safety Officer staff and leadership proved to be extraordinarily helpful in response to this matter.

***Digital Developments:**

Historic Sites is proud to have played a role in Governor Cooper's NC Connect Program, which seems to grow digital connectivity for all communities across the state. Wi-Fi towers were successfully installed throughout the Division, providing a significant, connectivity resource for visitors, staff, and community members. AT&T technicians, and Division staff creatively installed routers and antennas, with guidance from colleagues in Historic Preservation, so as to have minimal impact on historic buildings.

***The Elizabeth II:**

Roanoke Island Festival Park staff refinished the yards and blocks on the Elizabeth II and assisted with haul out related maintenance. The Elizabeth II sailed to Wanchese on February 23rd, for haul out at Bayliss Boatworks. The ship was lifted out of the water and moved to the boat yard for annual maintenance. Work began to replace up to 11 planks on the bottom of the boat as required. Maintenance is estimated to take 3 weeks to complete.

***De-escalation Training:**

With a continued focus on safety of staff and visitors, Division leadership authorized and completed a statewide de-escalation training, led by Departmental Safety Officer, Joseph Perry. Through this training, staff learned new skills in managing potentially challenging visitor interactions.

***Funding and Partnerships:**

Historic Sites continue to make notable progress on implementation of several grant-funded projects. The Golden and Ruth Frinks House restoration project has been moving forward with community engagement, particularly regarding working the Frinks Collection. Additionally, interviews have been scheduled to hire an architect for the structural needs of the house. Collections, Curatorial, and site staff worked, with Covid19 safety precautions in place, to clear out and store all artifacts and furnishings associated with the Frinks Freedom House.

Across the Division, several staff committee members are working towards the completion of a Cares Act/NC Humanities Council funded initiative, originally entitled "Health, Healing, and History," which, as a result of the success of "Singing on the Land," is now known as "Healing on the Land." This digital program has a two-fold goal of supporting staff in growing digital humanities skills, and creating accessible content for audiences to engage the concepts of health, wellness, and communal healing, as they connect to Historic Sites.

The Division continues to work with the American Battlefield Trust and the Conservation Fund towards the goal of conserving historical landscapes. Staff have increasingly partnered with Departmental leadership and the Division of State Parks to grow our green space and trails accessibility.

*True Inclusion:

The Division continues to grow its Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility efforts in numerous ways. A leadership team, the True Inclusion Working Group of 15 staff members, has been established to set measurable goals and share resources. Cultural heritage facilitator, Janeen Bryant, has been contracted to work directly with these Division leaders, starting in April 2021.

Emerging Division True Inclusion efforts prioritize growing an expansive use of inclusionary practices in the following ways:

*Through staff development

*Through community partnerships

*Through digital content

*Through programming and interpretation

*Through recruitment of staff, volunteers, board members, contracted specialists, and programmatic participants

Additionally, towards the burgeoning goals of True Inclusion, individual sites have engaged in numerous programmatic efforts.

Historic Halifax, in honor of Women's History Month, is hosting a temporary installation of a sculpture of Harriet Tubman, whose abolitionist history has inspired visitors to learn more about North Carolina's freedom seeking and abolitionist narratives, including the story of Patsy/Piety of Halifax County.

Fort Dobbs has successfully grown its interpretative relationships with Cherokee tribal members. In fact, four tribally-enrolled Cherokee participated in the site's February 27th event, including two who were new participants at the site. Malaciah Taylor, a contracted specialist, has been very active in recruiting Cherokee reenactors interested in engaging with Fort Dobbs. Malaciah has also worked with staff to create digital content for the site's Youtube channel.

The N.C. Transportation Museum partnered with HBCU, Livingstone College and the N.C. African American Heritage Commission to present two evening of virtual programming centered on Victor Green's publication, *The Negro Motorist Green Book*.

Bentonville Battleground Site staff have continued to partner with the Cole family, who are descendants of enslaved and free African Americans and the Tuscarora people. This relationship is being developed to better embody the "before this was a battlefield, it was home" philosophy that the Cole Family seeks to amplify. This new engagement can inform interpretation at other Civil War sites across the division. The Cole Family relationship with Bentonville has already been featured on *Tar Heel Traveler*.

Report of Division of Historical Resources
To the North Carolina Historical Commission

March 25, 2021

Continuity of government work for State Historic Preservation Office and Office of State Archaeology

Our work with maximum teleworking has continued, and this month marks a year of this arrangement. Staff continues to be productive and engaged, and constituent demand for our services seems unabated despite the ups and downs of the pandemic. The latter half of the year will be an interesting one as we look forward to the inevitable pivot back to more of what life was before March 2020; some remain very interested in teleworking options, and all are interested in returning to regular site visits in person with our constituents in the field.

Office of State Archaeology

The Office has launched what promises to be a year-long series of educational outreach opportunities entitled Submerged North Carolina, in partnership with NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary and focused on the role of Coastal North Carolina as a uniquely accessible underwater museum and mariner memorial, and the hallmark of North Carolina's underwater cultural heritage: shipwrecks. From violent storms and dangerous shoals to world wars, the waters off North Carolina have claimed thousands of ships over hundreds of years. These shipwrecks hold information about changing technologies and cultural and physical landscapes. They serve as a uniquely accessible underwater museum and a memorial to generations of mariners who lived, worked, and fought off our shores.

We are presenting a series of digital lectures from February to November 2021 about this topic, including February's *Hidden Beneath the Waves – Exploring North Carolina's Underwater Cultural Heritage*, and March's *Oases for Marine Life – Shipwrecks in 3D*. Future topics will likely include near-shore archaeology, NC beach wreck tagging, recovery and conservation of American Indian canoes, and merchant mariners. We welcome your participation!

National Register of Historic Places

We continue to have a very robust interest in the National Register program, including 20 new listings in 2020 – spanning the state geographically and focus wise broadly, such as industrial complexes in Haw River, Gastonia, Greensboro, High Point, Lenoir, rural small town districts in Colerain and Winton, a freight depot in Morganton, the early Good Roads era Bynum Bridge in Chatham County, African American schools (Cedar Grove in Orange County and HB Sugg School in Farmville).

At the February 2021 **National Register Advisory Committee** meeting (the first of our three meetings each year) reviewed 14 National Register nomination proposals, and 9 Study List proposals (the preliminary vetting step before National Register nomination preparation). 13 of

the 14 nominations were unanimously approved by the Committee, including **the historic African American Pigeon Street School in Waynesville in Haywood County, and a raft of three nominations in Mount Airy**. The 14th nomination for a large proposed historic district in Zebulon in Wake County was postponed to June to allow for more public outreach and education about the proposal, at the Town's request. All 9 Study List proposals were approved, including the **Bunker-Sink Farm in Surry County, which was the 19th century home of Chang and Adelaide Bunker and their family**. This farm remains in the ownership of Bunker descendants to this day. (Chang Bunker and his brother Eng were noted for being conjoined twins and natives of Siam, now Thailand; they settled in North Carolina after retiring from public performance and were naturalized as American citizens in Wilkes County around 1839.)

Historic Tax Credit activity

Our annual review of our 2020 activities provided us with updated statistics:

- **Historic tax credit investment in North Carolina since 1976 (federal and state): 4036 projects with \$3.253 billion in qualified rehabilitation expenses.**
- **In FY 2020, NC was the 12th state nationally in terms of historic tax credit investment (federal): \$178M with 45 completed projects; we are second only to Virginia in the South.**

Our annual office review is available through this link: https://files.nc.gov/ncdcr/historic-preservation-office/NCHPO_2021_FullReport.pdf.

Local Government Program

We have added Swansboro as our newest Certified Local Government, making them the 56th in the state (51st if we count those communities involved in local intergovernmental agreements) and also eligible for our small federal preservation grant program.

Local Government Coordinator Kristi Brantley – who was responsible for our virtual training program last year – has also launched a virtual quarterly staff retreat opportunity for local preservation planners. The first was in October and the second earlier this month. We plan to resume our in-person day long retreat but supplement it from now on with three virtual staff gatherings. We continue to make lemonade from the COVID lemons of not being able to meet in person.

Flyleaf

As an example of making more lemonade from COVID lemons, Dr. Joe Beatty, supervisor of our Historical Research Office, has launched a very successful video interview series or “litstream” we call *Flyleaf* with authors of our published works and articles that have appeared in the *North Carolina Historical Review*. Interviews are conducted by DNCR colleagues and partners. To date we have spoken with:

- Ruth Little about Raleigh’s Oberlin Village;
- Laura Phillips about interior decorative painting;
- Anne Runyon about her children’s book *Longneedle*, which chronicles the story of a 300-year-old longleaf pine and its connections to the natural and historical environment;
- Thomas Jepson about the early experimental work of the National Weather Service in North Carolina for weather reporting and broadcast of storm warnings;
- Michelle Lanier about her prizewinning children’s book about North Carolina African American history, *My NC from A to Z*;
- Dr. Jelani Favors and Dr. Crystal Sanders (the 2018 and 2019 Connor Award recipients) about HBCUs and the Civil Rights Movement, especially Bennett College.
- David Cecelski, Dr. Jerry Gershennhorn, Ms. Anna Jones, and Mr. Maury York about articles that have appeared recently on voting rights, desegregation of public schools, and the fight for economic opportunity in eastern North Carolina from the 1930s to the 1960s.

The interviews first appear as a Facebook Live event, and then are posted to the agency’s YouTube channel for on-demand viewing. Videos can be accessed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/NCDepartmentofNaturalandCulturalResources/search?query=flyleaf>.

America 250

Our Interim Deputy Secretary for the Office of Archives and History Sarah Koonts will likely give a more in-depth report on America 250 preparation, but our division will be contributing mightily, particularly through the Historical Research Office, and its publications and digital offerings.

National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) activities

As part of our annual National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers board meeting in Washington, DC – this year a virtual one – we would normally conduct Capitol Hill visits to brief our Congressional delegations on preservation activities in the state; we have likewise taken those visits on virtually and I am pleased to report that Secretary Wilson himself is leading those meetings.

On a personal note, I was honored earlier this month to accept the nomination for president of the NCSHPO board, and two weeks ago, elected to a two-year term, after serving two terms as vice-president.

Division of State History Museums report to the North Carolina Historical Commission

March 25, 2021

Even during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the museums have continued to be busy with new exhibits, virtual educational programs, and on-line activities. Visitation at all the museums is beginning to increase. Website activity has been at an all-time high for all the museums.

Museum Updates

NC Museum of History

We have recently raised the capacity for the Museum of History from 25% (250 visitors at a time) to 30% (300 visitors at one time). In addition, we have been able to post several positions that have been open for a long time, including Deputy Director and Associate Director for Exhibitions.

The Museum continues to work on its expansion project. Design work is progressing on Phase I, the new lobby atrium, shown below. Preliminary drawings are going to State Construction in April. More funding is needed before construction drawings can be completed. We hope this legislative session will designate more funding to get us through construction drawings.



If more planning money comes through we would expect design to be complete by the end of 2022 with construction beginning in spring 2023 if funds are available. Phase II, completing the

outside of the current building and completely redoing the interior would be expected to be completed by mid to late 2025.

Educational Programs

Using Covid funds provided by the legislature, the museum focused on doing more virtual programs, including a Jazz series, lectures, and our traditional festivals.

The Museum took its two traditional festivals, the American Indian Heritage Celebration and the African American Cultural Celebration virtual this year.

The **25th Annual American Indian Heritage Celebration** was held as an online experience on November 20 and 21, 2020. From fancy dancing to pine-needle baskets artists, performers, scholars, historians, and other representatives from North Carolina's eight state-recognized tribes and four Urban Indian Organizations shared their skills, knowledge, and cultural heritage over two days of virtual events. The visitors engaged virtually with presenters in interactive live-streamed events and enjoyed on-demand videos of performances. Performances, panel discussions, and demonstrations were viewed by over 18,000 people.

The 20th Annual African American Cultural Celebration is the statewide kickoff to Black History Month. It was held as an online experience on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2020. Named a Top 20 Event by the Southeast Tourism Society since 2015, this year's annual celebration brings together community organizations, authors, artists, musicians, filmmakers, and scholars to showcase the contributions that African Americans, past and present, have made to North Carolina's history and culture. This year's digital format allowed the Museum of History to share those contributions in a safe environment to a statewide audience. The theme Health and Healing included a range of information about health disparities and about steps that African Americans can take to promote and preserve their health. Almost 5,000 people viewed this year's virtual program.

During the pandemic, the museum has focused on developing several new virtual lecture series to reach a wide range of audiences with a variety of speakers and topics. We have developed regular monthly series such as History at High Noon, History and Highballs, and Coffee with a Curator. Since last March over 172,000 people have viewed our programs on-line as well as accessed our website for educational films, podcasts, lesson plans and activities.

In addition, we have begun a new series of classes. NC Community Class is a new virtual program series for the general public to highlight the histories of underrepresented North Carolina communities. Its goal is to present information to the public primarily about North Carolina history. The series would feature individual speakers or panels, including those that are high profile, such as historians, academics, and leaders who specialize in their various fields or subject areas.

Previous classes have included:

Ella Baker, Shaw, and SNCC

A discussion on the legacy of civil rights icon Ella Baker & her role in forming the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee.

Black Maternal Health and the History of Eugenics in NC

The current Black maternal health crisis is not a new issue, but rather that it ties back to America's history with chattel slavery. Through the lens of North Carolina's eugenics movement—a state-led movement that provided for sterilization as birth control from 1933 to 1973—and medical segregation, this class examined reproductive justice in contemporary society.

Our next class is on March 30 at 7:00pm.

Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All

The speaker is Dr. Martha S. Jones, Author; Historian; Professor, Johns Hopkins University

The NCMH virtual jazz concert mini-series featured performances by several well-known artists, Nnenna Freelon, T.S. Monk III, son of jazz pianist legend Thelonious Monk and John V. Brown. The artists performed several numbers, as well as discussed the history of jazz. Over 2,000 people viewed these performances.

The museum held our 4th American Revolution Lecture Series, sponsored by the NC Society of the Cincinnati, in a virtual format this year. *The Future of the American Revolution* by Jack Warren, Executive Director of the Society of the Cincinnati, was viewed by over 350 people from multiple states.

New Exhibits

We are working on two new exhibits to open this spring.

Answering the Call: Experiences of North Carolina Military Veterans, 1898–1945

Opening April 6, this free permanent exhibit, produced by staff members of the North Carolina Museum of History, will lead visitors on a voyage of discovery related to the military experiences of North Carolinians who served. Moving through time, visitors will learn about the lives of soldiers during each conflict—from the Spanish-American War (1898) through World War II (1941–1945)—using artifacts, vignettes, graphics, video clips, and oral histories.

Are We There Yet ? North Carolina's Variety Vacationland 1930's to 1970's

Opening April 30, this photography exhibit looks back at an era when tourism boomed thanks largely to a state-run marketing effort called "Variety Vacationland." The Variety Vacationland

campaign was successful in creating a unified tourism industry in North Carolina from the 1930s to the 1970s by depicting our state as both modern and progressive, but with strong ties to its past. However, true to the Jim Crow era, most sites promoted were marketed (and accessible) to White tourists only; people of color were neglected and even exploited at times, an attitude this exhibit attempts to point out where possible.

Museum of the Albemarle (MOA)

Educational Programs

During the pandemic, the museum has developed several new virtual lectures to reach a wider range of audiences with a variety of speakers and topics. Some of the virtual offerings have included a discussion on foodways (High on the Hog exhibit) with Vivian Howard (Chef and the Farmer PBS-NC). Other lectures featured archeologists from Mid-Atlantic Christian University discussing work from *Joshua, Judges and Jesus: An Archaeological Journey Through the Bible*, now on display in the museum.

MOA has developed a regular virtual monthly series titled *History for Lunch* lecture series at noon. See below, April's offerings!

- *Surfing Virginia Beach and the Outer Banks*; Wed., April 7, 12 p.m. Author Tony Lillis.
- *Making His Marc: The Basnight Legacy in Northeast North Carolina*; Wed., April 21, 12 p.m. author, Alex Gottschalk

Children's programs: *Tot Time: Gear Up for Earth Day!* Thurs., April 8, 10–11 a.m.

Don't Just Leave It to Earth Day; Sat., Apr. 17, 11-12noon.

Special Events

The museum is collaborating with the League of Women Voters of northeast North Carolina to paint a mural of regional, state, and national women instrumental in securing women's rights and the 19th Amendment. The mural will be positioned near the front entrance of the museum. The painting will begin in late March and will be part of the *Women Breaking Barriers* exhibit, described in the section below.

The Friends of the Museum of the Albemarle (FOMOA) are producing several videos to place on social media sites to promote visiting the museum, supporting the museum by becoming a member and the roles of FOMOA in supporting museum operations.

Exhibitions

Since March 2020 MOA has opened several exhibits. *The Day the Lights Came-On*, explores the Rural Electrification Act and its effects on farming and domestic lives in northeastern North

Carolina. The Day the Lights Came On is an interactive exhibit featuring how the power of electricity changes people's lives and businesses in the Albemarle region.

Women Breaking Barriers in Northeastern North Carolina

The year 2020 marked the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in America. As institutions across our country commemorate this event, the museum has embraced the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' initiative "She Changed the World." In MOA's related exhibition, we focus on women of northeastern North Carolina and how their experiences, stories, and challenges have factored in history.

Wheelwrights, Wagon Wranglers, and Welders: Blacksmithing in the Albemarle

Small exhibit highlighting the role of blacksmithing and its evolution in northeastern North Carolina. The museum collection has numerous blacksmith related artifacts.

Joshua, Judges and Jesus: An Archaeological Journey Through the Bible

Traveling exhibit highlighting artifacts found during archaeological work at the site of Khirbet el-Maqatir, the Biblical city of Ai of Joshua 7–8. On display are artifacts dating from the Middle Bronze Age (2200-1500 BC) to the Byzantine Period (AD 324-638) that help illuminate Biblical history.

***Navigating Jim Crow: The Green Book & Oasis Spaces in North Carolina* (opens 9/6/2021)**

The Negro Motorist Green Book (1936 – 1966) was both a guide and a tool of resistance for African Americans confronting racial discrimination. The book listed over 300 North Carolina businesses—including restaurants, hotels, tourist homes, nightclubs, and beauty salons. On loan from the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, this banner exhibit highlights many of these through photographs and the voices of those who experienced parts of the business network that allowed African American communities to thrive and creating "oasis spaces" for travelers. Eight vibrant panels form the traveling exhibit, showcasing images of business owners, travelers, and North Carolina Green Book sites.

Mountain Gateway Museum

Although MGM continues to operate on reduced hours (from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; closed Sunday and Monday) because of the COVID pandemic, the museum's staff and its Friends group have been hard at work the past few months developing new exhibitions, hosting outdoor activities, creating new educational videos, and planning special events for (hopefully) later this year.

Special Events

The MGM Farmer's Market completed its second successful year in early October 2020 and plans to kick off its third season in May 2021. The market was organized to give area farmers and crafters a free, convenient place in downtown Old Fort to sell—and for area residents and museum visitors to buy—locally grown foods and traditional, handmade mountain crafts. The market operates from 3 to 6 p.m. every Thursday from early May to early October on the museum's grounds. The McDowell County Farm Bureau recently donated \$500 to support the upcoming market.

MGM hosted its fourth annual **Holiday Wreath-Making Workshop** in November on the museum's front porch and nearby gazebo to allow participants to social distance. And the Friends of the Mountain Gateway Museum (FOTMGM) sponsored its second annual **Memorial Christmas Luminaries Lighting** in December on the museum's front lawn and the rock wall alongside Mill Creek.

To give people more time to get the COVID vaccine, MGM's 35th annual **Pioneer Day** won't be held in late April, as usual, this year. Instead, the museum plans to combine this event with the Old Fort Ruritan Club's annual Octoberfest on the first weekend in October to have one big, blowout festival with live bands, crafts demonstrations, food vendors, antique tool & farm equipment displays, children's games and activities, and much more.

New Exhibits

MGM opened a new exhibition in January 2021 and plans to open two other staff-produced exhibits this spring.

Uncovered: Airing the Stories of Heirloom Bedcoverings

Running through Memorial Day weekend, this exhibit features a small sampling of quilts, coverlets, and bedspreads made by western North Carolina women and used by their families during the past two centuries. It explores how the colors, fabrics, patterns, and needlework in these vintage textiles offer hints about their makers and the times and communities in which they were created.

Waking Rip Van Winkle: Gold, Gem, and Mineral Mining in Western North Carolina

Opening March 27, this exhibition will examine various types of mining in the mountain region—from gold used for currency to iron needed for building to precious stones set into jewelry—and will consider how this industry helped awaken North Carolina from its economic slumber in the mid-1800s.

Udderly Important: Dairy Farming in Western North Carolina

Opening in early June, which is National Dairy Month, this in-house exhibition looks at the history, as well as the future, of dairy farming in the state's western region. Pet Milk in Charlotte has agreed to provide free pints of milk to the first 100 visitors to this exhibit.

Educational Programs

With some schools closed and all field trips canceled because of the pandemic, MGM's staff has turned its attention to creating educational videos and digital exhibits. Early efforts—which involved self-instruction, intuition, and using personal cell phones—focused on videotaping demonstrations of simple crafts, such as butter churning, ice cream making, and soap carving.

The recent arrival of new video equipment, purchased with the COVID funds provided last year by the General Assembly, has allowed us staff to both expand and refine our attempts to interact with visitors in a digital capacity. Our most recent efforts have involved creating digital exhibits. Plans are in the works to videotape interviews with and demonstrations by western North Carolina crafters, farmers, musicians, and others to ultimately establish a video arts and crafts archives for the region.

For the second consecutive year, MGM and the McDowell County Public Library plan to partner on a summer outdoor reading program for families. This free program will be held in the museum's amphitheater on Tuesday mornings, from early June to early September.

MGM also plans to participate in the new PATH (Parks and Trails for Health) program, an initiative designed to encourage physical activity in parks, greenways, and other outdoor spaces in North Carolina. Because the new Fonta Flora State Trail will eventually cross Mountain Gateway Museum's property, MGM already has begun to work with the McDowell Trails Association and local master gardeners to create a short nature trail on the museum's property. Signs will be erected to identify native plants, trees, and flowers, and to educate visitors about their uses and historical importance.

MGM staff also continues to work with the State Capital Projects Unit to repair erosion damage along the banks of Mill Creek so fisherman can better access our Heritage Trout Waters-designated stream and make use of our Tackle Loaner Program, sponsored by the state Wildlife Resources Commission.

Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex

March 25, 2021

The museum complex was able to bring back one part-time employee in November. This enabled the museum to again offer tours of the 1897 Poe House, beginning November 12. Museum hours open to the public remained Wednesday – Saturday, 10:00 – 3:00, but now with tours of the house each of those days at 11:00 and 1:00. Saturdays have turned out to be the busiest day for visitation, and demand is such that the museum now offers tours every hour on Saturdays.

Leisa Greathouse, Curator of Education, retired November 1 after 30 years of State service. The hiring process to fill this position will be concluded in March. In March 2021 the museum began asking volunteers to come back to the museum to assist at the museum front desk and with outside yard work. 4 volunteers have started back at this time.

Educational Programs

With funds from the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County the museum hired actors from the local Gilbert Theatre to record the annual Halloween program at the 1897 Poe House. This was posted on-line and, to date, has received just under 5,000 views on Facebook and just under 400 views on YouTube.

The annual holiday program, Holiday Jubilee, had to be cancelled due to COVID restrictions. Museum staff decorated the house for the holidays and promoted this on-line. Many visitors, in their holiday dress, were observed taking family photographs at the house.

Arts Council grant funding allocated for cancelled programs are being used Spring 2021 for 2 on-line video programs. “Hoop Skirts and Gunpowder: A Woman of the Fayetteville Arsenal” is a one-woman show by Lee Ann Rose of Williamsburg, VA. and will be presented on-line at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, March 20. This is a portrayal of Catherine Armstrong, one of the 29 women employed at the arsenal.

Exhibits

The travelling exhibit **Freedom! A Promise Disrupted, North Carolina 1862-1901** remains on exhibit through May 30, 2021. This exhibit is from the NC Museum of History.

The travelling exhibit **Navigating Jim Crow: The Green Book and Oasis Spaces in North Carolina** will be on exhibit June 11-July 9, 2021.

Repairs and Improvements

A new shake shingle roof was installed on the 1897 Poe House back-yard restrooms in January/February 2021.

NC Connect (or “Park and Learn”) was installed in November allowing free access of Wi-Fi in the museum parking lot for home-bound students to use during the pandemic.

Maritime Museums Updates

Even during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Maritime Museums have continued to be busy with new exhibits, virtual educational programs, and on-line activities. Visitation at all the Maritime Museums has been stellar since easing of restrictions on September 10, 2020 (on site visitation 65,407 to date). Website activity has been at an all-time high for the Maritime Museums (March 1, 2020, to Feb. 28, 2021, 178,419 visits to the websites) .

Educational Programs

Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum

Using Covid funds provided by the legislature, the museum focused on doing more virtual programs. We were able to invite two speakers and two performers to do virtual presentations that were posted on Facebook and are scheduled to be uploaded to our website. The funds were also used to help create an aerial video of the Outer Banks that weaves history and culture into images of the landscape. The script has been written, which will be paired with the aerial images gained using a new drone camera.

In 2020, online educational programs were created for adults and youths including a children’s maritime newspaper, seven videos including two on African American history - ***The Black Experience on the Outer Banks during the Civil War and early Reconstruction*** (2,300 views) and ***Richard Etheridge: A Call for Courage*** (1,200 views) We also posted a video on ***Shipwrecks in the Graveyard of the Atlantic*** (6,400 views), ***Time to Remember*** (519 views), an uplifting video to help us keep in mind the positives in Outer Banks history and island life, while dealing with the pandemic, a video centennial commemoration of one of the most enduring maritime mysteries ***The Ghost Ship of Diamond Shoals Carroll A. Deering***, (7,000 views) and ***Messages From the Sea, the story of Aleta*** (1,900 views), the mailboat that connected the Outer Banks island communities by carrying people and mail to and from Ocracoke. ***British War Graves Commemoration Ocracoke and Hatteras*** (4000 views), ***Fish Story*** (1,800 views) about a world record blue Marlin, “Big Mama”, caught off Hatteras ***Sixty Second History*** five instalments (26,000 views); 51,119 views on Facebook.

Eight lesson plans meeting public school Essential Standards for Learning were posted to the website for grades 4 and 8 featuring essays and questions and hands-on activities about the Civil War, WWII, Shipwrecks of the Outer Banks, and Piracy

Three children's maritime craft programs were created and uploaded to the museum's website along with a new program, *Did You Know?*, which features six in depth highlights on Outer Banks maritime history. We also reached out to college-level institutions in the state to launch a writing contest that challenges unpublished writers to create a legend based on Outer Banks history.

On Facebook in 2020, we posted more than 365 maritime history posts – including educational videos, with a record-breaking series about the Bodie Island Lighthouse receiving approximately 9,000 likes. In 2020, we also added 291 posts to our Instagram page and fifteen educational video shorts on Outer Banks history and culture.

In February, completed the exhibition plan Artifact Notebook (last element for submittal to OSC) architects and designers plan to submit on or before 3/15/21.

Over the last month, two major projects have been planned. National Geographic / Discovery Channel documentary series on *The Battle of the Atlantic* will be filming at the Museum March 22 – 26, 2021. A series of meetings have generated a stronger relationship with NOAA. Four new trail markers: USS *Monitor*, General William "Billy" Mitchell and the *Virginia* and *New Jersey*, Battle of the Atlantic, The Graveyard of the Atlantic will be installed on Museum grounds. The Museum is a key partner in the upcoming NOAA, Global Foundation for Ocean Exploration(GFOE), and the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, *Valor in the Atlantic* telepresence project May 28 – June 12, 2021. Here is the promo video: <https://engineeringfordiscovery.org/> And here are the *Valor* web ages: allwrecks.org

NCMM Beaufort

The museum recorded 32 different maritime history and environment presentations and made them available on the museum website as well as on a new NC Maritime Museum YouTube webpage. Six of these were newly created by the Maritime History Curator, they covered topics related to the history of specific fisheries, shipbuilding, and seafood processing of North Carolina, and one on the Naval battle at Plymouth during the Civil War. Brief videos were also produced on the different exhibits within the gallery of the museum, various staff gave overviews of the content and artifacts included in the exhibits.

The museum social media presence flourished during the year with post clicks, likes and shares increasing on a monthly basis. One recurring post on the museum Facebook page titled 'Fish Friday!' covers a bit of North Carolina's commercial and recreational fishing history every week. Along with this themed post, the daily 'On This Day in NC Maritime History' posts have reached thousands of people. Topics covered included shipwrecks, U.S. Life-Saving Service operations, fisheries, hurricanes, marine science history and marine mammals; . 33,338 views on Facebook.

NCMM Southport

In 2020, online educational programs were created for adults and youths including one on African American History: ***Flying Hands and Nimble Fingers African American Women in the Crabbing Industry***. Virtual Learning Included YouTube, Facebook, Instagram offerings: **Sensory Saturday** – Maritime themed topics for neurodiverse populations, **Below Deck** – Spotlight on artifacts in the collection, **Third Tuesday lecture Series** – Monthly academic lectures, **Maritime Curiosities** – Interviews with USCG, Bald Head Conservancy, Dredging operations, Cape Fear Pilots, etc., **Homeschool Friday** – Maritime monthly themes that include worksheets, zoom lesson, and craft. **Education Bundles** – seasonal themes that can be mailed to participants or picked up at the museum.

On-Demand Programming

For Teachers! This playlist is designed to assist classes in learning about maritime history and culture. The Museum has designed quick units to include within one lessons or as a stand-alone class. The programs are free and are accessed via the internet: **First Mariners** (K – 2; 3 – 5), **Shining a Light on the Past** (K – 2, 3 – 5; 6 – 8; HS), **Ahoy Pirates** (K – 2; 3 – 5), **Dinos of the Deep** (3 – 5), **Rain, Rain Go Away** (3 – 5).

Initiatives

First institution in the State to be CAC (Certified Autism Center) through IBCESS; 80% of volunteers and staff are trained to assist neurodiverse populations: Guided Tour – Spoken word and ASL interpretation, Sensory Bookbags, and Sensory Room.

Virtual Exhibits

Indigenous Mariners of Coastal North Carolina

Opened November 13, 2020

The story of the first inhabitants of the Lower Cape Fear, what became of these early tribes, and what we learn from them today. Also available for the first time is the NC Maritime Museum at Southport's Land Acknowledgement!

Steaming into the 20th Century

Opened September 24, 2020

Learn about the Age of Steam and the communities of the Lower Cape Fear during the turn of the 20th century. This exhibit explores how steam engines work, the island and beach communities, travel within the region and around the world, as well as the African American experience in this post-Civil War era. Enjoy images, news clippings, videos, and more! We are grateful to Old Baldy Lighthouse and Smith Island Museum, Wrightsville Beach Museum of History, and Elaine Blackmon Henson for images, information, and support!

“Construimus, Batuimus. We Build, We Fight”

Opened May 1, 2020

Explore this digital exhibit focusing on the formation and legacy of the SEABEES! Items utilized

in this exhibit are on short-term loan or slated for permanent donation to the Museum. We are grateful to U.S. Seabee Museum, part of Naval History and Heritage Command, as well as Seabee Veterans Association Island X5 for images, information, and support.

New Exhibits

We are working on three new exhibits.

Commercial Fishing in North Carolina: Fishermen and Their Craft (working title)

Beaufort. Opening in Fall 2022, *Commercial Fishing in North Carolina: Fishermen and Their Craft* is a reexamination of the history of commercial fishing from the colonial period to now. The exhibit is currently in the research stage and will present a new perspective on North Carolina's fisheries methods, equipment, and politics. Special emphasis is placed on the development of watercraft and how the environment, species of catch, and experience influence and change their design through the years.

U-Boat! North Carolina's Battle of the Atlantic

Hatteras. Opening Spring 2022, *U-Boat! North Carolina's Battle of the Atlantic* commemorates the 80th anniversary of the German U-Boat attacks on American shipping off North Carolina's coast. The exhibit uses rare artifacts from German U Boat raiders and their victims to examine how German U-Boat operations off the coast of North Carolina affected American response early in World War II. The exhibit will cover *Operation Drumbeat* and the subsequent waves of U-boats that enjoyed what the German submariners called "a second Happy Time," lasting from February to July 1942.

Bombs Away! William "Billy" Mitchell and the Hatteras Bombing Trials

Hatteras. In commemoration of the centennial of the 1923 US Army Air Service bombing trials, the Graveyard of the Atlantic presents *Bombs Away! William "Billy" Mitchell and the Hatteras Bombing Trials*. Opening in 2023, the exhibit will highlight General William Mitchell's efforts to prove the effectiveness of aerial bombs against large warships. The role Hatteras played as the support base and airstrip for the trials is a central theme of the exhibit.