

Bentonville Battlefield Commemorates 140th Anniversary

On March 19-20 Bentonville Battlefield will mark the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Bentonville (March 19-21, 1865) with a major



battle reenactment. It is estimated that some 3,000 reenactors from across the United States will participate. Held every five years, Bentonville is the largest battle reenactment in North Carolina, and about 15,000 spectators will visit the site during the two-day event. In addition to two

battle scenarios, interpretive displays, military and educational lectures, tours of the Harper House and military camps, replicas for sale by sutlers, and food will be available for the public. Volunteers from all over the Department of Cultural Resources will be graciously assisting the staff at Bentonville with this “mega” event. The reenactment is also sponsored by the Bentonville Battlefield Historical Association and the Johnston County Visitors Bureau.

During the event, lectures will be given by historians Mark Bradley, Ansley Herring Wegner, and Alan Lamm as well as 19th-century living historians Mike and Virginia Mescher, Brenda McKean, and the ladies of the Soldiers Benevolent Society. A Civil War period Sunday church service also will be presented.

“The Last Grand Charge of the Army of Tennessee and Morgan’s Stand” battle scenario will re-create for visitors the charge of the Army of Tennessee and fighting south of the Goldsboro Road. This reenactment will take place Saturday, March 19, at 3:00 p.m.

“The Fight for the Morris Farm,” which originally took place March 19, 1865, will be recreated this year on Sunday, March 20, at 1:30 p.m.



The action featured the most intense artillery barrage of the entire battle, with the concentration of twenty-one cannons and the destruction of the remnants of the Army of Tennessee.

For more information regarding the event, please visit our website at www.bentonvillereenactment.com or call the historic site at 910-594-0789. Tickets are \$10 after March 1 for each day’s battle scenario. Children twelve and under are free.

Volume XXI, No. 3
 March 2005

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Check Our Website:
nchistoricsites.org

Tryon Palace Hosts 37th Decorative Arts Symposium

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens will sponsor its 37th decorative arts symposium, “American Revolution to Industrial Revolution: Making the Nation through the Decorative Arts, 1776-1876,” March 20-22 with a distinguished roster of speakers.

Design characteristics of the decorative arts echo and sometimes challenge the sensibilities of their makers, buyers, and users. Examining the century after the American Revolution, the symposium will explore the era from the perspectives of changes in socio-political structures, new technology and fabrication methods, improved transportation and communication systems, and other influences on design. The program will also consider the idea of revolutions spurring major shifts in design, as citizens struggled to form a new nation and cope with advancing industrialism. Scholars will discuss how decorative arts related to the evolving political, social, economic, and cultural climate of the century after 1776.

Prof. Richard Lyman Bushman (Columbia), will open the series with “Politics, Commerce, and Culture Between the Revolutions.” The next day’s offerings will be Ann Smart Martin, (Wisconsin), “Eagles, Urns and Fylfots: Fashion and Tradition in a New Nation”; Katherine C. Grier (South Carolina), “Domestic Intelligence: How Consumers Found out What was New in Household Furnishings”; and Anne Verplanck (Wintherthur Museum), “New Demand for an Old Form: Portrait Miniatures in 19th-Century America.” The final day’s program will feature Sumpter T. Priddy III (Sumpter Priddy III, Inc., Alexandria, Va.), “American Fancy: Exuberance in the Arts, 1790-1840,” and Patrick Lee Lucas (UNC-G), “Recurrences and Occurrences in the Decorative Arts.”



Fancy chair, ca. 1815-1830



Silver milk pot, ca. 1794-1827



Earthenware teapot, ca. 1820-1850

Besides speakers, the symposium will include tours of Tryon Palace, its extensive collections (several pieces shown here), and a number of other historic houses; several meals; and social hours. Some seats are still available for the event, which costs \$350 (although there are less costly alternatives and add-on options). Tryon Palace has awarded four scholarships to DCR staff. Registration forms are at www.tryonpalacesymposium.com.

(Nancy Hawley)

Bath Will Celebrate Historic 300th Anniversary

North Carolina's oldest town, Bath, will kick off a year-long birthday celebration March 8 with festivities mixing history, government, culture, and barbeque. Highlights will include a rare meeting outside Raleigh of the General Assembly, anticipated remarks by Gov. Mike Easley (who is expected to attend), and an exhibit of the original Carolina Charter, a document that established the Carolina colony in 1663.

The celebration begins at 10 a.m., when the charter will be displayed in the Palmer-Marsh House. After lunch the Cypress Landing Jazz Band, the Ad Hoc Players, and costumed Bath schoolchildren will provide music from colonial days and the famed musical *Show Boat*. A special tricentennial cancellation for outgoing mail will be available at Bath's post office.

At 2 p.m. opening ceremonies will feature local and state dignitaries. Other programs will include an exhibit on early colonial explorer and author John Lawson, a weaving demonstration, and a book signing by Dr. Alan Watson, author of *Bath: The First Town in North Carolina*. The day will end with the unveiling of a highway historical marker honoring Lawson.

Bath was North Carolina's first town. Among early residents were Lawson and Christopher Gale, first chief justice of the colony. By 1708 Bath had 12 houses and about 50 people. The colony's first port of entry, Bath in the mid-1700s became a seat of colonial government. Most trade was in naval stores, furs, and tobacco. The colony's first library and shipyard were established there, along with St. Thomas Church. However, political rivalries, epidemics, Indian wars, and piracy disturbed Bath's early years. Legend says the pirate Blackbeard lived nearby. When county government moved to Washington in the late 1700s, Bath lost most of its importance and trade.

Today its original town limits encompass a historic district. Tours begin at the visitor center and include the 1751 Palmer-Marsh House (a National Historic Landmark), the Van Der Veer House, and the 1830 Bonner House.

(Mary Cook)



History Bowls Under Way for 2005

Eighth-graders are once again shouting out North Carolina history facts on demand in History Bowl competitions across the state. N.C. Historic Sites sponsors the contests annually to reinforce history learned in the classroom, build good study habits, and foster sportsmanship and teamwork. The single-elimination tournaments pit two teams of four members against each other in succession, until one team emerges as the winner. The games begin with a toss-up question worth five points, and students must respond within five seconds.

This year's regional bowls began at Tryon Palace on January 31, with contests at Bentonville, Aycock/CSS Neuse, and Historic Edenton in February. This month bowls will take place at the N.C. Transportation Museum, Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum, Polk Memorial/Reed Gold Mine, and Duke Homestead/Bennett Place.

Winners of regional bowls will advance to the state championship on May 18-19 in Raleigh.

(Fay Henderson)



Civil War Trails Come to Durham

As North Carolina prepares for the 140th anniversary of the end of the Civil War with special events and programs, certain areas will commemorate the conflict with special interpretive markers. North Carolina Civil War Trails will launch its statewide program in March. The trails program began ten years ago as a tourism-marketing venture and benefited heritage tourism in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Durham's five sites are among six hundred stretching from South Carolina to Philadelphia.

The Durham trail sites are a part of a driving tour, The Carolinas Campaign, which traces Union Gen. William T. Sherman's march through the Carolinas. After arriving in Raleigh on April 13, 1865, Sherman and his men traveled west and spent time at Bennett Place, Brassfield Station, Durham Station, Leigh Farm, and

West Point on the Eno. Each tour stop on the trail will be interpreted with distinctive displays of text, graphics, and photographs. (An additional marker may be placed at Duke Homestead to mark soldiers' discovery of bright leaf tobacco.)

The Bennett Place marks the second great closing surrender of the war, after the better known surrender of Lee to Grant at Appomattox. Two agreements were signed in Durham; Pres. Andrew Johnson rejected the first. The surrender on April 26 resulted in Gen. Joseph Johnston surrendering 89,270 men (the largest troop surrender of the war) in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida. Stagville, Duke Homestead, and the Bennett Place invite you to see Durham's new trail when you visit Durham.

(Davis Waters)

Easter Bunny Express Chugs into N.C. Transportation Museum

The Easter bunny will don his engineer's hat and coveralls once again this year to ride the rails at the NCTM for the annual Easter Bunny Express March 19-20 and 25-26. Besides handing out treats to youngsters on the train, the bunny will eat lunch with visitors, pose for pictures, and participate in an Easter egg hunt.

Easter Bunny Express train rides are offered at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 1, 2, and 3 p.m. March 19 and 25-26, and at 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30 p.m. March 20. Tickets are \$5 for ages 3 and up.

Lunch with the Easter bunny will be offered at 11 a.m., noon, and 1 p.m. March 19 and 25-26. Lunch will not be available March 20. Tickets are \$10 per person and must be purchased in advance by calling 704-636-2889 or visiting the site. The price includes a photo with the Easter bunny.

The Easter egg hunt at 10 a.m. March 19 is free for children. A free craft project will also be offered all days in the classroom of the Julian Roundhouse.

There is no admission fee for regular museum exhibits, which will be open extended hours, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. March 19 and 25-26, and 1-5 p.m. March 20.

(Misty Ebel)



Notes from the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum

In February the museum celebrated Black History Month with special programs. Dr. Freddie Parker of N.C. Central University led a workshop on Civil Rights in North Carolina that facilitated in-depth discussion by attendees, mainly high school and college students, adults, and teachers of African American and American history. Closing out the month's activities and honoring Dr. Hawkins Brown, the Brown Memorial Singers presented a concert of traditional spirituals and gospel music.

From March 13 to April 30 the museum will present *Palmer Memorial Institute 1947*, a traveling exhibition of photos by Griffith Davis for *Ebony* from the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University. Davis, a young reporter for *Ebony* magazine, photographed Brown and Palmer life for the October 1947 edition. He went on to a successful career as a free-lance photojournalist and American diplomat in Africa. Davis donated a collection of his work, including the Palmer photos, to the center.

The center will also sponsor a free, two-hour workshop on oral history conducted by Michelle Segbefia on March 19. The exhibit and workshop are supported by the North Carolina Arts Council and the North Carolina Humanities Council. St. Joseph's Historic Foundation and the Hayti Heritage Center in Durham helped sponsor the exhibit.

Palmer alumni, in New Orleans for their 2004 reunion in December, donated and pledged over \$50,000 toward restoring Charles W. Eliot Hall. That 1934 building was once the boys' dormitory. In recent years, it has deteriorated significantly. More than sixty alumni donated or pledged at the reunion; others have donated directly.

(Marian Inabinett)



NCTM Honors Black and Women's History Months

The N.C. Transportation Museum celebrated Black History Month with tours, storytelling, and a presentation to interpret minority contributions to transportation.

Capt. Bill Wilkerson, longtime aviator with Piedmont Airlines and U.S. Airways, and museum historian Walter Turner discussed the history of Piedmont February 19. Wilkerson, who has flown more than 14,200 hours since he began flying at the age of 16, also spoke of his experiences as a minority aviator. A native of Knoxville, Wilkerson spent six years in the Air Force and Air National Guard before joining Piedmont as a pilot in 1974. He currently flies an Airbus A330-200 between Charlotte and Europe.

Tours focused on minority inventors' contributions to transportation and a presentation of the tale of John Henry, based in part on the life of a former slave who worked for a railroad, were available. Black history tours also were offered for schools.

For Women's History Month, two women in the museum's newest exhibit, former Highway Patrol officer Dee Parton and trucking entrepreneur Pat Long, will be at the museum from 1-4 p.m. March 5 for talk of their experiences breaking gender barriers in transportation. Women's History Month tours will be available throughout March for school and other groups.

(Misty Ebel)

Festival Park Holds Eighth Annual Quilt Extravaganza

The Priceless Pieces Past & Present Quilt Extravaganza will be held at Festival Park March 1-25 in the Art Gallery. The event is organized by the local Teacup Quilters. The popular show features old and new quilts made by, or belonging to, people of the region. An opening reception will be held March 6 from 2-4 p.m. The gospel singing group, Echoes of Heritage, will perform. The free show is open daily.

The Teacup Quilters work on projects each year to contribute to the show and the local community. Their gifts include fourteen cancer compassion quilts, constructed of scrap fabrics and simple designs, given to people diagnosed with cancer. The quilters even make quilts for U.S. soldiers wounded in Iraq. Fifteen red, white, and blue quilts have been sent to veterans in hospitals across the country.

A rose of sharon quilt, with an appliqué design of botanical motif, was given to the Elizabethan Gardens for a fund-raiser, which earned \$2000. Festival Park received a quilt with a nautical theme. The raffle quilt for this month's show is a stunning blue-and-yellow quilt with a traditional churn dash pattern and naturalistic appliquéd tulips for a modern flair.

The Library of Congress has recognized the Teacup Quilters and the show.

Antique quilts are a large part of the annual show. Quilting will be in progress on an antique quilt frame. The Teacup Quilters will work with an antique quilt top throughout the event. The public may buy quilting supplies March 12 at the show.

(Tanya Young)



Aycock Birthplace Will Hold Daffodil Open House

On March 24, Aycock Birthplace plans to greet more than three hundred area first-graders for the annual Daffodil Open House.



Among popular activities featured will be wagon rides with Alfred Boykin's Belgian horses, Cody and Cole; an old-fashioned toy demonstration; a costumed schoolmarm explaining how children learned in the 1893 one-room school; an interpreter cooking on an open hearth; basket making; shelling corn; tours of the birthplace and farmstead; and a video presentation. Blacksmith Amos Tucker and his friend, Jerry Armstrong (who will demonstrate rope making) will add to the planned activities.

The Daffodil Open House's morning session will last from 9:15 a.m. until 11 a.m. Afternoon activities will start at 12:30 p.m. and end at 2:15. No activity fees will be charged. The public is invited.

(Ellen Payne)

New Display of Iredell Family Artifacts

Historic Edenton proudly announces the opening of a new exhibit featuring James Iredell and his family. Items on display for the first time at the visitor center include James Iredell's walnut traveling medicine chest and his eight-volume set of *Hume's History of England* (1782), with Iredell's signature in each volume.



The exhibit also includes a collection of six miniature portraits, painted on ivory and in their original frames. The large oval miniatures of James Iredell and Samuel Johnston, Iredell's brother-in-law, are displayed in their original silk-lined traveling cases. Johnston's portrait is signed "JP 1795" and attributed to James Peale.

The remaining miniatures on loan from Iredell descendants feature the Reverend Arthur Iredell, brother of James Iredell, and Iredell's mother, Margaret McCulloh Iredell. Another miniature depicts James Iredell Jr. and his sisters, Annie and Helen, as children. The display also includes a miniature of two Iredell cousins thought to be Jean and Penelope Johnston.

Visitors to the James Iredell House will see a three-drawer walnut dresser, which belonged to James Iredell.

The new exhibit opened February 10. On February 8, 1790, President Washington nominated James Iredell as an associate justice to the first U.S. Supreme Court. On February 10, 1790, the U.S. Senate confirmed Iredell. He served on the court until his death in 1799. The majority of the collection is on loan to the site for two years.

(Kathy Busby)

Fort Dobbs Receives Special Appropriation

The Ft. Dobbs Alliance in Statesville has received a \$25,000 special appropriation from the General Assembly for improvements, programming, and an archaeological study at Ft. Dobbs, which is currently being redeveloped. The alliance is a nonprofit organization created in 1998 to support Ft. Dobbs, the only North Carolina state historic site associated with the French and Indian War.

The special appropriation came from a reserve established in Cultural Resources by the 2004 General Assembly. The funds in the reserve were designated for nonprofit organizations and local governments to be used for cultural, artistic, or historic projects and for museums.

Current projects of the alliance include assisting archaeological digs, research, interpretive and educational programming, special events, interactive activities, recreational facilities, and future reconstruction of the fort itself. The group's goal is to educate the public about the role Ft. Dobbs played in North Carolina's frontier history.

The fort tells the story of the Carolina frontier and its settlers through the collision of French, English, Scotch-Irish, Native American, and African American cultures. It also interprets the frontier's military history during the mid-1700s when North Carolina was one of Britain's American colonies.

(Beth Carter)

Living History Weekend Recalls 1862 Battle of Roanoke Island

On February 19-20 a Civil War Living History Weekend commemorated the 143rd anniversary of the Battle of Roanoke Island at Roanoke Island Festival Park. The annual festival featured reenactors dressed as Union and Confederate soldiers, Civil War-era sailors, and civilians. Activities included artillery demonstrations, drills, military encampments, blacksmithing, rope making, woodworking, leatherwork, crafts, presentations, lectures, book signings, and period music.



On Saturday visitors could enjoy artillery and small arms demonstrations; a lecture by Drew Pullen, author of *The Battle of Hatteras Island*; and talks on the Battle of Roanoke Island, civilian life on the Outer Banks during the Civil War, and the Roanoke Island freedmen's colony. A musical tribute to the freedmen's colony honored the black heritage of Dare County. The day concluded with a free blues concert by Bev "Guitar" Watkins and Cootie Stark. Sunday's events included a re-enacted skirmish, more living history military demonstrations, and speakers. The final lecturer was Kevin Duffus, who discussed the Cape Hatteras lighthouse lens.

Confederate reenactor units included Reilly's Battery, the Edenton Bell Battery, the Sixth Virginia Infantry, Longstreet's Corps, the CSS *Virginia* ship's company, and the N.C. Naval Squadron; among Union reenactors were folks from the Museum of the Albemarle and the First N.C.-U.S. Wingfield Raiders.

The Outer Banks History Center opened a new exhibit, *Turmoil in the Tar Heel State: The Civil War in Northeastern North Carolina*.

(Tanya Young)

Train, Turntable Rides Return to N.C. Transportation Museum

Bells and whistles will return soon to the NCTM. On-site train rides, not given in January and February, begin again the first weekend of March.

Returning as well, after more than two years, will be rides on the roundhouse turntable starting March 1. Rides ceased because a turntable motor needed repair. Rides will be offered daily for \$1 per person or \$0.50 per person for scheduled groups.

Train rides will be offered weekends only in March, at 11 a.m. and 1, 2, and 3 p.m. on Saturdays and at 1, 2, and 3 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$5 for adults or \$4 for children ages 3 to 12 and seniors ages 60 and up. Group rates for groups of 15 or more are available, with advance notice, on Thursdays and Fridays.

The 25-minute train rides feature a narration on the buildings and history of the museum's 57-acre site, once a main repair facility for Southern Railway's steam locomotives. The train rides have been a tradition at the museum since 1986.

Spring train rides are pulled by one of four operating diesel locomotives. Starting in April, rides will be offered daily. The 1925 Shay steam locomotive is expected to return for weekend rides in the summer, after its extensive annual maintenance.

(Misty Ebel)

Selected March Events at Tryon Palace

Summer Hours – March 1 through May 31 – Gardens open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

March 1 Film, *The Madness of King George*

7 p.m. Visitor Center. Free

A mysterious illness causes British monarch King George III to grow increasingly erratic. While loyal aides seek to cure him, his scheming son tries to gain the throne. Nigel Hawthorn, Helen Mirren, and Rupert Everett star.

March 12 Garden Lecture, “A Recycled Garden”

10 a.m. Visitor Center. \$4. Free for ticket holders and Tryon Palace Council of Friends.

Nancy Anderson of Sampson Community College shows how to design and assemble a garden with recycled materials.



March 17 African American Lecture, “The African American Church in Works by Ernest J. Gaines”

Thursday, 7 p.m. Tryon Palace Auditorium. Free

Prof. Booker T. Anthony explores the role of the black church in African-American communities and three works by author Ernest J. Gaines. Cosponsored by the James City Historical Society.

March 19 “The Lost Light: A Civil War History of Extinguished Southern Sentinels and Hidden Lighthouse Lenses”

10 a.m., Visitor Center. \$4; free for ticket holders and Tryon Palace Council of Friends.

Raleigh author Kevin Duffus unravels a 140-year-old mystery and finds the missing Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Fresnel lens.

March 20 African American Historic Downtown Walking Tour

2 p.m. Meet in Visitor Center. \$4 for adults and \$2 for students. Free for ticket holders and Tryon Palace Council of Friends.

Learn about 300 years of African American history on a walking tour of New Bern’s historic district. 90-minute tour covers 16 blocks.

March 20–22 37th Annual Tryon Palace Decorative Arts Symposium: American Revolution to Industrial Revolution: Making the Nation through the Decorative Arts, 1776-1876

The symposium will examine the tremendous changes that occurred in the decorative arts as a result of shifting political-social structures, new technologies and fabrication methods, improved transportation and communication systems, and diverging design theories. Richard L. Bushman of Columbia University will give the keynote address.

River Lighthouse History Preserved in Eastern N.C.

Recently two NCTM staff members and two folks from the division office visited Plymouth on the Roanoke River to see the Roanoke River Lighthouse and Maritime Museum. There they learned that water transportation in N.C. has been aided not only by Outer Banks lighthouses but also by sixteen river and sound lighthouses.



The replica lighthouse in Plymouth is similar to a screw-pile lighthouse structure built in 1866 over Albemarle Sound at the mouth of the Roanoke six miles from Plymouth (to replace a lightship removed by Confederates) and rebuilt in 1885 and 1887. The facility included a cottage above the river for the lighthouse keeper beneath the light itself, which was mounted atop the roof of the cottage. The 1887 lighthouse was deactivated in 1941 and moved to downtown Edenton by a private owner in 1955.

The Maritime Museum is in a renovated building and includes exhibit panels, a collection of wooden boats, and several vintage outboard motors. One of the boats is a replica of the U.S. Navy's Civil War steam picket boat used by Lt. William S. Cushing to sink the Confederate ironclad ram *Albemarle* at Plymouth in a night commando raid in October 1864.



A 3/8-scale replica (63 feet long) of the *Albemarle* is moored down the riverfront at the Port-O-Plymouth Museum, which specializes in Civil War history. The *Albemarle*, built in a cornfield up the Roanoke River, was launched in April 1864 and enabled the Confederacy to retake Plymouth, which had been captured by the

Union in 1862. When the *Albemarle* was sunk, however, the Federals quickly retook Plymouth.

Early American Industries Association Research Grants Offered

The Early American Industries Association (EAIA) is again offering grants of up to \$2,000 to support the study of early American industries in homes, farms, shops, or at sea. Applications must be obtained immediately and are due March 15, 2005. Awards will be announced in April.

For details please contact Justine J. Mataleno (grants coordinator), 1324 Shallcross Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19806, phone 302-652-7297, or Kenneth R. Clay, 802 Carpenter Street, Glassboro NJ 08028, phone 856-589-7314.