

Garner Area Historical Society News

Volume 1, Number 1 – March, 2019

Our mission: Preserving the history of Garner and nearby crossroads, educating youth and promoting Garner's story in and outside of the community.



GAHS MEMBERSHIP GROWING; FOUNDING MEMBER STATUS STILL AVAILABLE

It is not too late to become a Founding Member of the Garner Area Historical Society! Visit our website at Garner-area-historical-society.org to obtain information about membership and a membership application form. We welcome and thank these donors/founding members:

Al & Debbie Bagwell
Kimberly Ross Davis
Kay Cathey Dowd
Johnny Foster
Eddie Gray
Amy & Charley Griggs
John & Becky Harrison
Anne Phillips Holland
Neal Isaacs
Joe Ben Johnson
Jerry & Brenda Jones
Buck and Barbara Kennedy
Tom Maynard
Spencer Mobley
Karen & Neal Padgett
Matt Poole
Joni Carter Robison
Magdy Saad
Joseph Sample
Tim & Donna Stevens
Kaye Buffaloe Whaley
Ellis & Jean Williams
April & Brent Wood
Gail Woolard
Jimmy Yeargan

We are excited to work together to make the dream of a Garner Depot History Museum a reality!

GETTING CLOSER: PLANNING CONTINUES FOR DEPOT RELOCATION

GAHS Board members have met several times with Town of Garner staff to nail down details of moving and repairs to the historic Garner Depot. The structure has been inspected by experts in historic preservation/repair. There has been significant damage over time, both from leaks, deterioration of windows, and water damage from years of being splashed by cars along Garner Road.

Plans for the restoration include replacement of windows and siding with authentic, period-appropriate materials. Specifics for location of the Depot and Caboose on the site at Main and Pearl Streets are being nailed down. Stay tuned!

IN SEARCH OF . . .

We are gathering historical documents, photos and artifacts on almost a weekly basis. While excited to preserve these items, we are in need of a fire-proof file cabinet in which to store them. Such cabinets are a bit pricey for our fledgling budget. If you can help us out or know of a source for a fire-proof file cabinet, please contact us!

If you have artifacts related to Garner history that you would like to donate to the Garner Area Historical Society, please let us know. We are currently planning for future exhibits.

One particular mystery that we hope to solve is that of Henry Fort, a cabinet and furniture maker who owned a shop in the Main Street area very early in Garner's history. Do you know of any Henry Fort pieces of furniture? If so, we'd like to hear from you!

Garnerareahistoricalociety@gmail.com

WE APPRECIATE . . .

Dr. Stephen Moore, a retired physician and artist who painted the picture of our historic Depot several years ago. He has kindly allowed GAHS permission to use this rendering on our Society's publications. Our Board of Directors voted to name Dr. Moore an Honorary Founding Member of GAHS. You can view the original painting in the lobby of Garner's Rex Wellness Center. You may see Moore's other wonderful artwork at stephenmoorepaintings.com

LEARNING, CONNECTING AND GAINING EXPERTISE

Two of our Executive Board members, Judy Bass and Kaye Whaley, recently attended a workshop sponsored by the Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies. The topic for this hands-on workshop was preservation and display of military memorabilia. Kaye and Judy came away with some excellent ideas, resources and connections, as well as knowledge about proper display of such artifacts.

Amy Griggs attended the "Chamber 101" seminar hosted by the Garner Chamber of Commerce. This useful seminar teaches members about the benefits of their Chamber membership and how to use tools available to members to publicize their organization's activities and maximize their impact in the community.

Karen Padgett attended the recent Downtown Garner Association Board meeting as a liaison from GAHS. We are excited to partner with DGA in their upcoming activities and to promote the historic Downtown Garner area. Visit their website at downtowngarner.com.

Amy Griggs connected with a retired business expert through SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives). This organization connects fledgling businesses/organizations with experienced business people who give guidance to start-up groups such as GAHS. Amy did a wonderful job on devising a draft business plan. She and Judy Bass met with two experts from SCORE who reviewed the plan

and advised us regarding organization, growth, and sustainability of GAHS. This is crucial for our next steps of applying for grants that will help grow and sustain the Garner Depot History Museum.

We continue to visit area museums and connect with other area historical societies and foundations. Without fail, we have found these organizations to be helpful and generous with their time and advice.

SPEAKERS AVAILABLE

Members of the Executive Board are ready and willing to speak to your church or civic organization with a brief presentation about GAHS. Contact us at:

Garnerareahistoricalsociety@gmail.com

History Mystery: You may have heard of the "Wreck of the Old '97," a tragic train crash in 1903. The mail train was enroute from Monroe, VA to Spencer, NC. Here's what [Encyclopedia Virginia](#) has to say: "The wreck of the Old 97 occurred on September 27, 1903, when the Southern Railway freight train called the Fast Mail (or "Old 97") left the tracks and crashed at the Stillhouse Trestle outside Danville, Virginia, killing eleven people. The accident became a sensation, with thousands of spectators at the scene, newspaper stories, and even a series of musical ballads, the most popular of which became a hit on the country music charts in 1924."

Can you solve the History Mystery? [What is Garner's connection to this historic accident?](#) Look for the answer in our next issue! We'll try to bring you a History Mystery in every issue, along with the previous Mystery's solution.

Follow us on the web: Garner-area-historical-society.org and on Facebook @Garner History

The Garner Area Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. GAHS is a member of the Federation of NC Historical Societies and the Garner Chamber of Commerce.