

GARNER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 5, Number 2 – June 2023

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



Eagle Scout Builds Message Board for Museum

The Garner History Museum at the Depot has a new outdoor message and information board. Eagle Scout Candidate Coleman Allen, son of Karen and Michael Allen, worked with our Executive Committee to design this attractive board.

The pitched metal roof on the small structure blends in with the vintage aesthetic of the Depot building. Located between the Depot and the Caboose, it will be used for information about the Museum, the Historical Society, fundraising on the Caboose restoration, and coming events. Many thanks to Coleman, his family and fellow Scouts for this great project.



Don't Forget:

The Historic Garner High School 100-year Anniversary will be celebrated on September 16th, 2023. It promises to be a fun occasion recognizing the opening of this landmark Garner school. Be sure to check our website later this summer for more information.

GAHS Members Participate in Student Podcast Project

Students from South Garner High School, East Garner Middle School, and Vandora Springs Elementary School have been working on a project this year called "The Garner Chronicles." This oral history project is a collaborative effort between the three Garner schools.

"The Chronicles" includes a variety of student-developed and student-produced podcasts that focus on students, families, and the community of Garner, all archived on their student-created Garner Chronicles website. Students have interviewed several members of GAHS about their experiences growing up and/or living in Garner.

In the words of project leader South Garner High Media Specialist Christine Tuttell, the students want to make connections to Garner's past, present, and future. We have been excited to meet these young historians in the making!



Banks Bed & Breakfast Opens in Historic Garner Home

Garner Area Historical Society members Mary and Curtis Smalling have recently opened their bed and breakfast in the historic Banks House after a long and careful restoration of the home. A Garner icon for generations, the beautiful white Victorian-style structure is located at the corner of East Garner Road and Creech Road.

The Banks House is part of Garner's National Register Historic District. Capital Area Preservation states that "Dr. Braxton Banks purchased a one-story dwelling from George Montague in the 1890's and soon greatly expanded it to serve as both his home and office..." Dr. Banks died in 1903, but the house was owned and lived in by family members until very recent years, when it was purchased by the Smallings.

Congratulations to Mary and Curtis on opening their "new, old" business! We are grateful for their vision and hard work in making the Banks Bed & Breakfast a reality and in their faithful preservation of this Garner treasure.

Be sure to visit their website (banksbnb.com) for information, and Mary's Instagram page for photos of the restoration.

GAHS Raising Funds for Caboose Interior Restoration

The Garner Area Historical Society has begun a fundraising campaign for the interior restoration of our circa 1951 Caboose. Our goal is to restore the caboose to its original condition as a working railcar. (The exterior of the Caboose was stabilized after the move to the Pearl Street location, next to the Garner History Museum at the Depot.) We will be applying for grants to help with the expense of the restoration; however, many granting agencies/entities require that we raise at least part of the funds ourselves.

If you would care to help with this effort, you may donate through our website, in person during Museum hours, or by check sent to our mailing address. Your donations are tax-deductible.

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Garner History Museum at the Depot/
Garner Area Historical Society is a
501(C)(3) non-profit organization.
P. O. Box 156, Garner, NC 27529
Museum location: 106 Pearl St., Garner NC

Did you know...

...That the "Pearl Street Building" was originally a Garner fire station? From the early 1950's until 1970, the building served as headquarters of the Garner Volunteer Fire Department. After construction of Fire Station One, the building served many other civic purposes, including use as a health clinic.

