

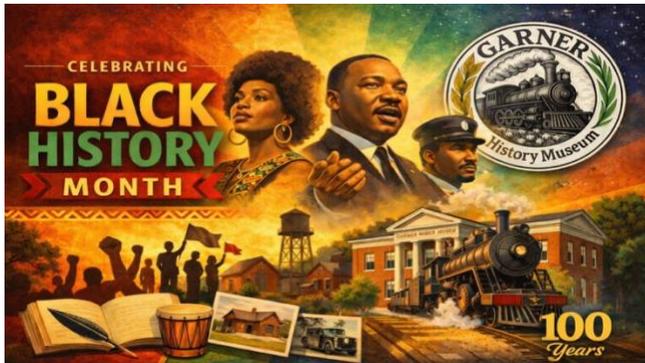
GARNER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 8, Number 1 – February 2026

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



The Garner Area Historical Society Celebrates Black History Month



Garner Historical Society celebrates 100 years of Black History Month! Thanks to our Board Member Joyce Bailey Stephens, the museum has a special exhibit recognizing Black-owned businesses in our historic downtown. While you are there, stop by the Meadowbrook Country Club exhibit. Meadowbrook was founded in 1958 as one of the first Black country clubs in the southeast and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places!



Figure 1 - Joyce Bailey Stephens

Join GAHS or Renew Your Membership for 2026

This is the time of year that we remind existing members to renew their Garner Area Historical Society membership for the coming year and encourage newcomers to join the Society. Your dues support our monthly and annual expenses, enabling us to operate the Museum and produce history-related programs for the community.

Membership levels for 2026 are:

- Student under 18 – no cost
- Student over 18 - \$20
- Individual- \$45
- Family Membership-\$70.00
- Corporate Membership - \$500/year one which includes a brick, and \$300 each year thereafter
- Lifetime Member - \$2,500

Payment Options:

- Check payable to Garner Area Historical Society
- Credit Card via our website

Member Benefits Include:

- Quarterly Newsletter
- 10% Museum gift shop discount
- Early event registration and announcements

You can join the Garner Area Historical Society online by visiting the membership page at <https://givebutter.com/garnerhistory>.



Caboose Restoration Update



The caboose restoration project is moving full steam ahead. We're excited to share that we expect to open the caboose for public tours **later this year**. Stay tuned for grand opening details.

Explore Our New Website



We invite you to visit our **redesigned website** and experience the Garner History Museum online.

The updated layout makes it easier than ever to:

- Browse exhibits
- View historic photos
- Learn about events
- Discover ways to get involved

 www.garnerhistorymuseum.org

Whether you're planning a visit or exploring from home, Garner's history is just a click away.

Red Hot Caboose Tea 2026



- **Date:** May 17, 2026
- **Time:** 2:00 – 4:00 PM
- **Location:** Banks Bed & Breakfast
101 E. Garner Road, Garner, NC

The Garner Area Historical Society will host the 2026 **Red Hot Caboose Tea** at the beautiful Banks Bed & Breakfast. Guests will enjoy an afternoon of tea, refreshments, and fellowship while celebrating Garner's rich railroad heritage. Proceeds will support ongoing restoration efforts of the historic caboose.

Ticket information for the Red Hot Caboose Tea will be announced soon on our website. Admission will be **\$65 per individual** and **\$55 for Garner Area Historical Society members**.

Annual Membership Meeting Held

The Society also held its **Annual Meeting on February 8th**, where members gathered to review the past year's accomplishments, discuss ongoing projects, and look ahead to exciting initiatives for 2026. We appreciate everyone who attended and continues to support our mission.



Chainsaw Critters Exhibit



In the late 1980s and 1990s, a strong community movement emerged to revitalize Downtown Garner. During that revitalization era, the Historic Depot was restored, a caboose was donated, and major renovations were completed on the beautiful Bryan Building. Annual festivals filled the streets with art, music, vendors, barbecue cook-offs, and large crowds. Folk artist Clyde Jones took part in several of those events, creating his famous eccentric “critters” with a chainsaw. The pieces he left behind have been stored inside the historic caboose for the past 30 years. Internationally known as the “Picasso of Driftwood,” Jones displayed his work in notable locations including Crook’s Corner in Chapel Hill, the Bynum General Store, the Smithsonian, the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore, and even the Great Wall of China — and now at the Garner History Museum at the Depot. Sadly, Clyde Jones passed away on Christmas Day, but the Museum now honors his legacy with a display featuring three of the critters he created during an early Downtown Garner festival.

Thank you for your continued support of the Museum!



The **Garner Area Historical Society / Garner History Museum at the Depot** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization staffed entirely by volunteers and supported through donations.

We are always looking for volunteers who share a passion for preserving Garner’s history.

If you’d like to get involved, we’d love to hear from you!

Contact Us

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