

GARNER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 2, Number 1 – April, 2020

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



Garner Depot Museum Update

Work continues on the exterior restoration of the Depot building. The Depot is sitting on a new permanent brick foundation. Siding has been replaced with historically appropriate "German lap" wood siding; new windows and a main entry door have been ordered; and the roof is scheduled to be



repaired/replaced. We look forward to the time that we can begin refurbishing the interior of the depot, and working toward the opening of the

Museum, hopefully by December of this year. What a great Christmas gift that would be for our community!

The caboose has been placed on genuine rails on a permanent concrete foundation. The Town will be painting the exterior of the caboose.



The Garner Area Historical Society hopes to refurbish the interior of the caboose at a later date.

Historian Makes Exciting Discovery

Town Historian and GAHS Executive Committee member Kaye Whaley has done some "super sleuthing" about the history of the Depot. Through her research, Kaye has found conclusive evidence that the Depot existed as early as 1900. (Previously, it was believed that the Depot dated to 1902.) Kaye discovered that the Depot Agent for Garner was J.A. Weathers, who served from 1900-1907. Mr. Weathers left the position in Garner to become a teacher of telegraphy at King's Business College in Raleigh.

History Mystery

Do you know which road was the first modern paved concrete road in Wake County? This road was sixteen feet wide, with concrete eight inches thick. It was said that "this piece of roadwork is one of the best in the state," and that it was a "marked step in the construction of good roads." The road was approximately five miles long. Here is a hint: the year was 1919. Stay tuned for the answer . . .

First Annual Meeting Held January 26

The first annual meeting of the Garner Area Historical Society general membership took place on January 26, 2020. Twenty-five members were present, including three student members. We heard committee reports and updates, got information on recent acquisitions, viewed artifacts and heard interesting and entertaining stories from lifelong downtown Garner resident and Board member Wayne Brooks. Former founding Board member Amy Griggs was recognized for her service to the society.



Continued

Board Members Attend Professional Workshop on Exhibit Design

On February 17, four GAHS Board members attended a workshop on museum exhibit design. Several museum design professionals presented the workshop, which took place at the Public Library in Smithfield. We were able to tour the Johnston County Heritage Center Museum and the Ava Gardner Museum and learn about exhibit design from their professional designers. The workshop



was coordinated by Adrienne Berney of the Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies, of which GAHS is a member.

We were given information on message or theme and focus that a museum wants to convey with its exhibits, signage, preservation issues, design "tips and tricks," and sourcing of exhibit supplies. Care of collections was also discussed. Among the presenters was Todd Johnson, director of the Heritage Center in Smithfield.

Recent Acquisitions for Museum Collection

The Garner Area Historical Society has been fortunate to acquire some wonderful items for future display. Judy Bass connected with Jenny Trey Parton via our Facebook page. Jenny had run across several vintage issues of the old Garner High School's student newspaper, The Garner High Review. She generously donated them to the Garner Area Historical Society. They are for the years 1937 through 1940, and give a great picture of student life and student activities in that era. Thanks to Jenny for this find

Additionally, we have acquired two pairs of wooden folding chair "pews" from the early years of Garner United Methodist Church. The chairs came with documentation of their "provenance" as having been used in the church many years ago.

Thanks to member Gail Woolard for giving us the "lead" on these pews.

Another great acquisition was courtesy of Bob Quillin, who sent us (all the way from Germany!) vintage advertising memorabilia from the Jesse Jones Sausage Company, a prominent Garner-based regional business for many years. Bob's father, James, worked there. We so appreciate having these memorabilia donated to our Museum.



We will be excited to display all these items in future exhibits. Please keep your eyes and ears open for other such artifacts pertaining to Garner's history.

Capital Campaign "Quarantined;" Fundraising Events Planned for Later

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, the formal Capital Campaign for the Garner Area Historical Society has been temporarily "sidelined." We are, of course, unable to call on businesses and/or individuals to present our campaign for financial support. In addition, we are most aware that this is a tough financial time for many in our area. However, if you or others that you know are able and would like to make a donation towards the Depot Museum efforts, we would certainly be grateful.

Two fund-raising events are planned for later this year: one is a Voices of the Past Historic Cemetery Walk (most likely in October), and the other is a "Bare Rooms" Reception for the Museum. We will be sending out further information at a later date. Please stay safe, everyone, and support our local businesses in any way you can.

The Garner Area Historical Society is a
501(C)(3) non-profit organization.
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