

GARNER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 2, Number 3 – September, 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: Closer to Reality

The new period-appropriate "German lap" siding is installed, the roof has been repaired and metal replaced, appropriate vintage-design windows and doors are in, the "loading dock" and handicapped-accessible ramps constructed, with a fresh paint job to boot! Thank you, Town of Garner, for these exterior repairs to preserve this historic building. It will be a solid structure for many years to come.

We are much closer to getting inside to work on the interior of the Depot. That is where supporters come in: providing funds for refurbishing and up-



fitting the inside of this circa-1900 gem for use as the Garner Depot History Museum. Your generous contribution is

needed to finally make this dream a reality for all of Garner to enjoy. Donors may make tax-deductible gifts by mail (P.O. Box 156, Garner, NC 27529) or online at Garnerareahistoricalsociety.org.

Adding to the Museum Collection

Members of the Board of Directors are constantly on the lookout for items of historical significance to Garner's past. Several vintage items have been acquired recently. We appreciate those folks who have remembered the Garner Area Historical Society with items of interest.

Additionally, we are cleaning and cataloging items which have been stored for many years in anticipation of having a Museum in which they can be displayed.

Oral histories recorded by many long-time Garner Citizens will be a part of the Museum experience. We have applied for a grant to digitize the interviews that we already have, and we are currently recording other interviews. These oral histories, as well as the folks who recorded them, are treasures; we can't wait to share them with the public.

History Mystery

*Last issue's question: 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. **The answer is:** Old Garner Road, leading from Raleigh to Garner. This road has been known by many names over the years: Highway 10, Smithfield Road, and Highway 70 before the current Highway 70 was built.*

***New mystery:** The greater Garner area is home to many historic churches, all of which we hope to celebrate with one of the rotating exhibits in the Garner Depot History Museum. Do you know which church is the oldest within the Town of Garner?*

Caboose Update

Many folks have inquired about our little red caboose and what the plans are for its use in the

future. When the Town of Garner moved the vintage caboose to the Pearl Street site, it was placed on a permanent concrete foundation that included authentic railroad tracks. The Town will be painting the exterior of the caboose to help preserve it until the Garner Area Historical Society is able to refurbish the interior to period-appropriate standards. Hopefully, this can be accomplished as a "phase two" project after the Depot itself is finished and open to the public.

There is quite a bit of work to be done on the caboose, as it has just been used for storage for many years. We are exploring railroad preservation grants that may allow us to make this an interesting part of the Garner Depot Museum experience in the future. Please "stay tuned!"



Our Professional Affiliations: Why They Are Important to GAHS

The Garner Area Historical Society is a member of several professional organizations that enhance our stature and have helped us grow over the last two years. The first organization that we joined was the Garner Chamber of Commerce. Chamber membership helps us spread the word about what we are doing in the community, as well as what we

hope to do in the future. The exposure and visibility that Chamber of Commerce membership gives us via the business community is vital to our success.

Early on, we joined the Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies. This organization is under the umbrella of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. The FNCHS has provided excellent workshops on various subjects related to operating a museum, and membership gives us access to those at a very low cost. In addition, there are several experts with whom we have consulted through this Federation who have shared their professional knowledge with us.

We are also members of the North Carolina Preservation Consortium. This organization offers advice and sponsors workshops regarding historic preservation and gives us access to experts in the historic preservation arena.

Recently, we joined the National Railway Historical Society and the North Carolina Railroad Museum. Although we are not specifically a railroad museum, we will certainly celebrate the essential role that the railroad played in the creation of the Garner community and how Garner's history is indeed railroad history. We will be able to obtain guidance through membership in these organizations.

Keeping up with "best practices" in museum operations and historic preservation is a key factor in making our museum efforts a success. In addition, several of these professional memberships afford us the opportunity to discover and apply for grants that will allow us to grow the Garner Depot History Museum into a "jewel in the crown" of the Garner community.

The Garner Area Historical Society is a
501(C)(3) non-profit organization.
P. O. Box 156, Garner, NC 27529
Garnerareahistoricalociety@gmail.com
Garner-area-historical-society.org
Facebook: @Garner History