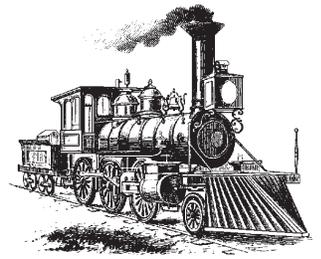


the DISPATCH

Winter 2015

Vol. XXVI, No. 1



Eagle Scout Project

As an Eagle Scout project, Joseph Lawrence built two outside benches now located at the east corner of the Maynard Pearson House. A ninth-grader at Apex High School, Joseph is a member of Scout Troop 205 of the Occoneechee Council.

While deciding to do a project for the Apex Historical Society, he researched the possibility of doing something to beautify the grounds. The pine benches are arranged beside the house and are complemented with plants.

Joseph is the son of Michael and Margaret Lawrence of Apex. Thank you, Joseph, for a job well done. 



Plant Sale

The 2015 plant sale will be May 9, in the backyard at the Maynard Pearson House. Last year was the best sale we had for making a profit to contribute to our treasury. Let's have another sale to top last year's plant sale! Thank you to all who participate in this important fund-raising event. 



General Meeting

The Apex Historical Society General Meeting will be held **March 19 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Maynard-Pearson House. As is required by our bylaws, we will elect officers.

We will follow the custom of having a pot luck dinner, with the Society furnishing the meat and beverages. Please bring your favorite side dish to share at this wonderful time to catch up with members while enjoying great food!

Membership & Support

It is a great delight to announce that we had six new members to join AHS in March. It is exciting to see the Apex Historical Society growing. Welcome to each of you!

Bob and Jennifer Quick Churchill
(Jennifer's dad was principal of Apex District School for many years and her mother a teacher there.)
800 South Salem Street
Apex, NC 27502

John Demers
P. O. Box 2186
Apex, NC 27502

Janet Ford
3901 Perney Court
Apex, NC 27539

Belea T. Keeney
1201 Salem Church Road
Apex, NC 27523

Michael and Margaret Lawrence
(sons are James and Joseph)
1314 Chenaworth Drive
Apex, NC 27502

If you know someone who is a potential member, please alert Gwen Nyce, membership chair. 

Rusty Bucket Kids

Movie makers are using the Maynard-Pearson House to film a story about Louisa May Alcott. This story inspires children in their growth and development in a very positive way. The Maynard Pearson is similar to the house where Ms. Alcott lived as a child. This movie series emphasizes history and the contribution she made to the world. The movie makers became very excited when they came in the house and viewed it as priceless for their purpose. 

Officers & Board

Diane Long, President
919.362.8097
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John Messler, Treasurer
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Gwyn Nyce
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Marion Smith
919.362.6618

Erin Thompson
919.219.3610
erin.thompson@hotmail.com

Donations

Ms. Janet Ford, a new member, donated two dolls which were shown at the Ice Cream Social. The older doll was made in the 1940's and is made of composition material. The second doll is newer, but wears a vintage outfit of early 1900s. Janet, we thank you for your donations. These dolls can be used as Santa's gifts to the children under the Christmas tree.

Janet Ford composed the following to let us know the history of one of the dolls.

In May 1945, the war in Europe ended. I was born in Birmingham, the second largest city in England. Birmingham and the surrounding area were very industrial and had suffered many losses from bombing raids.

I was born in April 1941, during strict rationing which was still in effect in 1945 and would continue for five or six more years. My mother saved ration coupons for food and clothes all year round and for any special occasions.

A friend of the family had a son who had been to America in connection with the military. He brought back this wonderful doll. My mother had to have it for my Christmas present. She used coupons and money she was saving for a winter coat and purchased the doll for me.

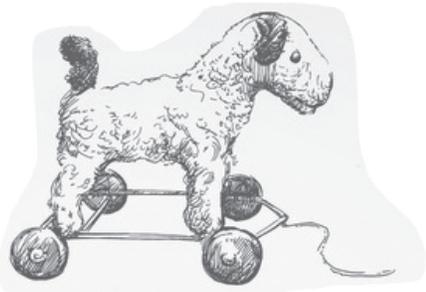
The doll became my constant companion for many years. Around October each year, my doll would disappear and would appear at Christ-

mas with a new outfit. I also had a cardboard pram. One year this too disappeared. My father had a friend who was an upholsterer. My pram appeared at Christmas with wooden sides and a leather apron and hood.

Due to the many baptismal and name changes, (Gwendolyn was the favorite) the original head had to be replaced because the eyes became stuck closed. Several years ago, my sister who now lives in Stratford upon Avon, had the body of the doll recovered at a shop that did toy repairs for Southerby Auctioneers.

She brought the doll to Apex when we moved from Manhattan, New York in November 1997 and I have had it ever since.

The doll will be 70 years old next Christmas and I am happy I found a new home for her. I hope she brings as much enjoyment to others as she brought to me. 🏠



2014 Holiday Home Tour Recap

by Diane Long

Once again, our Christmas Home Tour was a rousing success. This year's tour featured both homes and historic buildings. Special thanks to folks who opened their homes, business, and place of worship!

Dr. Evan Pritchard
The Tula Holland House
323 North Salem Street

Jennifer and Richard Bedford
113 North Street

Ms. Chris Jensen
The Pansy Lynch House
1018 North Salem Street

The Christian Home United Church of Christ
700 Center Street

Apex Chamber of Commerce
The Union Depot
220 North Salem Street

Maynard-Pearson House
1101 Olive Chapel Road

Gwen Nyce and Mary Peterson co-chaired the 2015 tour. They extend thanks to so many peo-

ple who brought items for the Sweet Shoppe, who helped with refreshments, and who served as docents. Susan Mills, Marion Smith, Belea Keaney, Karen Reed, Diane Long, John Pearson, John Messler, Betty Coleman, Erin Thompson, Jeremy Bradham, DiAne Benzie, and Jan Brooks worked untold hours decorating the Maynard-Pearson House so beautifully.

For several years. Rhonda Magee, owner of Southern Charms, has donated the unique decorations for the front porch and door.

To add to the season's festivities, The Halle Cultural Arts Center at 237 Salem Street sponsored a glorious Christmas parade of holiday trees in a silent auction, with the proceeds given to charity. The Halle also featured an Apex Historical Society display prepared by Claire Rousseau and Jan Brooks.

Ticket sales and proceeds from the Sweet Shoppe netted the Society approximately \$3000. AHS is fortunate to have so many talented and dedicated members! 



Apex Historical Society
PO Box 506 • Apex NC 27502
2012 Membership Application/Renewal

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Membership Class - Please Circle

Individual \$15 • Senior (70+) \$10 • Family \$25 • Contributing \$35 • Sustaining \$50 • Patron \$100

2-Year Business \$100

Great Programming Continues

The Society's fall programming was off to a great start on September 23, with Apex Ambassador J. C. Knowles at the Halle Center. J. C. shared his vast knowledge with "Railroads, Trains and Depots." After he talked, attendees watched a DVD specifically about the history of the Apex Depot and caboose.

October 12, we enjoyed our annual barbeque at the Park off Laura Duncan Road. The Society furnished barbequed chicken and pork, and the fixin's. Members brought complementing dishes.

At the January 27 program at the Halle Cultural Arts Center, new board member and preservation

specialist with Capital Area Preservation gave an update on Wake County's historic restoration.

Apex has distinguished itself as a historic railroad town while taking advantage of state programs to restore local buildings. In January 28, Mrs. Susan Klutz, secretary of N. C. Cultural Resources, visited Apex to see how state funds have been used in restoring downtown buildings. Jeremy's program included an update on current Apex restorations. He concluded the program with questions and stories from the audience.

As usual both programs ended with delicious deserts provided by Society members. 

Apex Historical Society
PO Box 506
Apex NC 27502