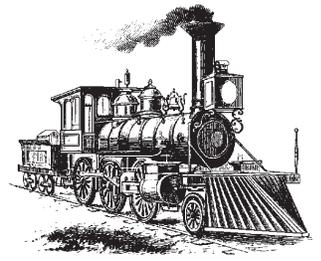


the DISPATCH

Spring 2014

Vol. XXVI, No. 1



Preservation & Pie

by Claire Rousseau

They came with one thought on their minds: saving old houses. Our January 23 speaker Jeremy Bradham, Preservation Specialist with Capital Area Preservation (CAP), was one sharp young man. He led us through an informative lecture and slide program on CAP's mission. He noted that Apex has distinguished itself in Wake County as an historic railroad town. Members of the Apex Historical Society can feel proud of our part, in cooperation with the Apex Town Planning Department's Patricia Crissman, in obtaining "Historic District" Status for downtown Salem Street in the 1990's. Jeremy discussed the fact that historic district property owners can get tax breaks. For more on this topic and a map, see the Town's website at www.apexnc.org/around-apex/historic-preservation-information.

Jeremy talk demonstrated that he likes old houses and he pointed out that "old" today is 50 years! CAP is a positive force in helping to save or move old structures. CAP advised the folks renovating the Duncan/Grebing house on renovations. CAP has been instrumental in other renovations in Apex as well.

Jeremy concluded his talk by telling about a new survey underway to document the historic architecture of Wake County. Some of you may recall our society's visits with Kelly Lally and her resulting 1994 coffee table-sized book, *The Historic Architecture of Wake County NC*.

Our group on that cold January night was warmed by the hot coffee and by the concern heard from the group. Our preservation discussions with Jeremy continued as we sampled many delicious pies at the historic Halle Center. Thank you, Jeremy, for staying and letting us get to know you better. We now know you like old houses—and also pie.

For more information on CAP visit www.capitalareapreservation.com.

Apex Founders Day

by Claire Rousseau

Apex celebrated its incorporation—February 28 1873—with its first Founders Day. The event included several historical talks at the Halle Center.

Dr. Chris Fonville, professor of history at UNC-Wilmington spoke about the Civil War. The second speaker was Dr. Ewan Pritchard, professor of electrical engineering at NC State University, who spoke about electric cars from the 1880s to today. Lastly, Dr. Toby Holleman, co-author of *Pluck, Perseverance and Paint*, spoke about the history of Apex. The Tarheel-A's Model A Club arrived about 1:30 PM, and were available to talk about their cars.

The Apex Historical Society participated by making a display in a large glass section in the Halle Center's main hallway, thanks to **Claire Rousseau, Marion Smith, and Jan Brooks**. Claire made an excellent time line about the growth and development of Apex. The display is still in place—if you have not seen it, plan to drop by the Halle Center, when you're downtown. Great job Claire, Marion and Jan!

The Society had a Sweet and Treat Shop. Thanks to everyone who contributed sweets, treats, and time to the efforts of making this new endeavor a success. We made about \$200 on the event. We also sold other items such as the note cards, canvas tote bags, train caps, and sweatshirts. There was a real spirit of team work and fun. We appreciate the Downtown Merchants Association's including the Society in this new adventure. We learned a lot to make it better next time.

Membership & Support

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

Jeffrey & Lesleigh Hastings

Elaine Best

Erin Thompson

Thomas Robbins

Jeremy Bradham

Eagle Scout Project

A young Scout from Troop 205, Joseph Lawrence, has proposed an Eagle Scout Project for the Maynard-Pearson House. He has been diligent in following up with Lowes Home Improvement store for patio style benches. These benches will be placed on the ground near the back of the house. Plants will be installed to beautify the area. Look forward to a new place for rest and relaxation when we have events at the MPH.

Membership Directory

Thank you to **DiAne Benzie**, along with several other members, who helped make the Apex Historical Society Membership Directory a reality. If you have not received your copy, you may expect to receive one in the mail in the near future. In the event your information is incorrect, or if changes occur, please notify **Karen Reed**, secretary, at 919-303-8504 (email at karreed04@yahoo.com) or notify any board member. Our plan is to publish an updated directory on an annual basis. We know you'll love this great communication tool for future use and events!

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It is exciting to have four new board members. We have a wonderful mixture of young and older adults, different careers that bring each person's individual talents to the club, and two members who have lived in Apex during their lifetime. This wonderful mixture of experienced board members can bring nothing but success to our organization. A big hearty welcome to you all!

2013 Holiday Home Tour Recap

by Diane Long

In spite of the weather, the annual Holiday Home Tour was a success. We have people who know about the tour and attend it on an annual basis. The homeowners have been so gracious, over the years, to open up their homes. Each home was unique and decorated beautifully. Our thanks to the following homeowners:

Bobby & Alene Glover, Amanda & Joe Coughlin, the Apex United Methodist Church, Charlotte & Keith Otterbein, Pam & Mack Thorpe, Alex Miller and Ryan Reed.

The Maynard-Pearson House on Olive Chapel Road, home of the Apex Historical Society, was also decorated beautifully by many of its talented members. Many thanks to Rhonda and Kenny Magee, for creating an original and beautiful holiday masterpiece at the front of the Maynard-Pearson House. Every year's display is more beautiful and unique than the last.

Thanks to all who contributed to the Sweet Shoppe. Our guests who attend this home tour look forward to the homemade candies and light refreshments, as they tour the beautifully decorated Maynard-Pearson House.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who hosted at the homes and the many donated hours of time to make the Home Tour a success. This event could not happen without teamwork.

We have already received two commitments for the 2014 Holiday Home Tour! If you have an interest in showing your home on the tour, or wish to volunteer your talents, we are always open to new ideas. Thank you again for all the hard work, time and persistence in making our home tour a success.

Plant Sale

Spring has sprung and, hopefully, winter is behind us. We hope all gardeners who are willing to share will prepare plants for the annual Plant Sale at the Maynard-Pearson House on Saturday, May 10, 8:00 am -2:00 pm.

Plants should be brought to the back area at the Maynard-Pearson House on Friday, May 9. All plants will be priced to sell-for \$5 or less! Please tell your family and friends about this important AHS fund raiser. We want to exceed our sales from last year, which were \$700. Please label your plants with their name on a piece of tape.



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

Maynard-Pearson House Update

by John Messler

The Maynard-Pearson House is a local landmark. It has value to the community as an example of vernacular southern architecture, as well as a look at the agricultural way of life in Apex in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Apex Historical Society works with the Maynard-Pearson Trust, to care and maintain the Maynard-Pearson House.

During 2013, the back porch was repaired, removing and replacing rotted wood. A Certificate of Appreciation was approved by Capital Area Preservation, before the work was completed. The repairs have been com-

pleted and Ron Whitehouse helped to match the paint and finished painting prior to the Holiday Home Tour. We are pleased with the outcome of this repair.

Our next big project is to have the roof and house painted. Ron Whitehouse, who is an expert regarding the painting of buildings, is providing advice to the Board, as to the best way to approach this project. Most likely the painting will be done in stages and probably will extend over a couple of years. The Maynard-Pearson House is like our own homes, it needs repairs and maintenance.

Apex Historical Society

PO Box 506

Apex NC 27502