

The Dispatch

The Newsletter of the Apex Historical Society Apex, North Carolina

March, 2010

The President's Notebook

It has been a year since you selected me as your president. It has been a good year and I would like to thank you for your support and service to the Apex Historical Society. In my last President's Notebook I shared with you my goals for the society during my term as you president. While we have accomplished many things together the challenge is still before us. As we look into a new administrative year I hope you will join me and commit to lets growing our membership, expand society projects and support of our community generating the necessary monies to preserve our Heritage and protect our History. There so much more we need to do and should. **Thank you for your support!**

Oral History Project

The Oral History committee kicked of 2010, putting the project back on track for the New Year, by meeting at The Rusty Bucket on the evening of January 28th. Committee members Molly Weston, John Pearson, Mary Peterson, Diane Long and Mack Thorpe mapped interview candidates with members of the Oral History Interview Team. Additionally planning for the first half of the year to record via video several interviews was made coupled with identifying long time Apex residents that were possibly in poor health and should be interviewed as soon as possible. Plans to edit and place on the society website some of the videos of remembrance already recorded were made. The project has been underway for two years and is at the critical point where the next six months will see a bulk of the required interviews of long time Apex residents.

Oral History Interview Certification Session

The Oral History Committee will be conducting one more interview certification session for members that are interested in participating and interview for the oral history project. The next session will be Saturday March 13th at 9am-12noon at the MPH. If you would like to attend please notify Mary Peterson.

Rusty Bucket Kids Club

This past October a TV pilot was shot in downtown Apex and at The Rusty Bucket (TRB). The series "Rusty Bucket Kids Club" (RBKC) is a story about two kids that live in the fictional town of Peak City "The Apex of Good Living" and historic downtown Salem St and TRB are the back drop for the series. The story line is based in today 2010 and has a brother and sister that travels back in time meeting historic figures as children or adolescents. The are driven to go back in time by riddles in an "Oracle" left behind by their Great Grand Father Peakson and given to them by their Grand Pa Peakson (played by retired WRAL news anchor Charlie Gaddy). Each time they travel back in time they go to influence a historical figure to keep their life on track and to stay the course as they have great things to accomplish. The pilot features a 13 year old Abraham Lincoln struggling with staying in school, quitting to help his family on their farm and his father

Illinois Man Researching Gravesite



Recently the AHS was contacted via email by Illinois gentleman researching the grave of an ancestor who fought in the Civil War and died at the Battle of Averasboro. The soldier, Ole Halverson, was buried in the National Cemetery in Raleigh. He fought for the Union Army in an Illinois regiment. His descendant was looking for someone to photograph the tombstone in Raleigh. Margot Knepp volunteered to do this and subsequently corresponded with the gentleman from Illinois, who was most grateful to have the photo.



Greeting & Christmas Card Project

The Board has approved a project in conjunction with Brenda Priest local area artist ("Your Door & More" custom pen & ink illustrations) to create for sale by the society a series of greeting and holiday cards. Mary Sue Lane has agreed to Chair and coordinate this project and will be meeting with Brenda with a time frame of having the card available for sale by the fall of 2010.



2009 AHS Home Tour

There is something special about the AHS Home Tour. As you may or may not know the tour is the biggest fundraiser each year and is held on the first Sunday of December.

The weather leading up to that first Sunday was rather warm and there was a question of whether to serve hot or cold apple cider at the reception area in the Maynard Pearson House. But as the time approached it became clear that hot cider would be the preferred beverage.

This year we had two new aspects to add to the tour. The first was new signs that our president, Mack Thorpe, had produced with the help of Rodney's Sign Company. These signs were placed in front of each of the four homes, in front of the MP House and the Chamber of Commerce Depot, and along Salem Street in front of the locations selling tickets for the tour. They were very well-designed, attractive and "eye catching" so much so that the home owners wished to keep them. The second new addition was Karen Wickes. She is a vintage clothes collector. She wore her period pieces the day of the tour at the MP House. She strolled around the house and engaged in conversation with our guests about the history of the MP House. She was awesome.

The houses on tour this year, in addition to the MP House and Historic Downtown Depot were the homes of:

Richard and Julia Brooks, 107 Hunter St.
Duane Taylor and Sherry Preddy, 109 Holleman St.
Doug and Pam Boyette, 209 E. Chatham St.
Vanessa and Scott Jenkins, 105 Hunter St.

All four houses were built in the early 1900s. The owners hoped that by opening their homes through our tour they would inspire others to restore historic property in Apex.

We wish to thank the homeowners who welcomed us into their homes, to all our members who were so willing to help, to the hosts, sweet shoppe and reception helpers and parking volunteers who patiently answered questions and gave directions. There is something special about the AHS home tour!

Speakers Series 2010

Apex Historical Society will be joining with the Halle Center again this year jointly sponsoring 6 speakers on historical and/or heritage topics of interest. The Speakers Series is expected to kick off in late spring with the return of Dr. Phil Upchurch speaking on the heritage of Apex, Jean Anderson on Southern Recipes and Warren and Toby Holleman speaking twice. First they will speak on the content of their republication of "Pluck, Perseverance, and Paint – Apex History" and a second program on the writing of the book and how the book came to be a family project. If you have a recommendation on a program/speaker please contact Molly Weston, Mary Peterson or Pam and Mack Thorpe.



Mystery Photo #2

Can any of our readers identify the building in the photo below? While not exactly within the town limits, it nevertheless played an important part in our area's history.



AHS Current Officers and Board

Mack Thorpe	President
John Pearson	VP
Mary Peterson	Secretary
LaVerne Seagrove	Treasurer

Board Members

John Messler
Gwen Nyce
Mary Sue Lane
Bill Sutton
open

Soup & Pie Supper

The Apex Historical Society held its annual "Soup and Pie" Supper on Thursday, January 21, 2010. Despite cold weather and heavy rain, the Maynard-Pearson House came alive with approximately forty eight attendees. There were eight generous soup selections and close to a dozen pies, fresh baked breads and lots of laughter. Everyone left warmed by both the good food and fellowship.

March 18th 6:30pm Pot Luck Dinner

The Annual Apex Historical Society Membership meeting will be held on Thursday March 18th 2010 at the Maynard Pearson House. This annual event is a Pot Luck supper so plan to prepare a favorite dish to share and join in the fellowship.

Did you know?

Our town was known as "Jones' Crossroads" during the Civil War era? This caused much confusion for the Union troops who were marching thru the area as there were many Jones' families here.