



On Your MARC

MUSEUM & ARCHIVES OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

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Visit MARC Online!



Executive Director creates a new vision for MARC

Members and friends of MARC joined together for the festivities of Christmas at Wright Tavern in December, which also served as a welcome reception for our new Executive Director, Matthew Titchiner.

A native of Barrowford, Lancashire, England, Matthew began his tenure at MARC on November 1. He earned his college degree in Archaeology and Medieval History from the University of Hull in England. His previous employment experience was at King Richard III Visitor Center and Harewood House Trust, both located in England. He has also enriched himself through volunteer positions in museums, including the Vanderbilt Museum in Long Island, NY, and work as a freelance professional, consulting on branding and marketing strategies.



Photo credit: J. Bullins

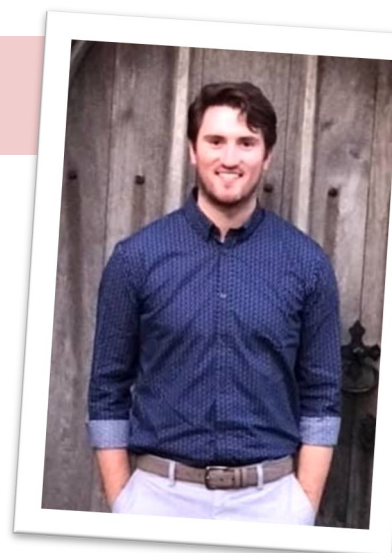
The welcome reception provided an excellent opportunity for our new director to meet long-time historical society friends and leaders. (Above L to R): Charlie Rodenbough, Dani and Matthew Titchiner, and Lindley and T Butler.

Matthew describes himself as “a passionate heritage professional...with a drive to preserve and disseminate history to inspire future generations.” In the few months since he arrived, he has drawn upon his past experiences to prioritize needs for MARC. We are excited to share some of his ideas in this issue of *On Your MARC*.

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From our director, Matthew Titchiner

Executive Director “hits the ground running” in the new year



Dear friends and supporters of the MARC,

Firstly, from all of the MARC team, Happy New Year! The year 2019 was a year of successes. We welcomed visitors and schools - both familiar and new, we helped visitors trace their history and roots, and we were greeted with our highest attendance at both the Pickin' at the MARC and Christmas at Wright Tavern events. We also more than doubled the previous year's total for year-end donations. This would not be possible without the generous support, donations, and hundreds of volunteer hours given by you and all of our fellow MARC ambassadors who keep the museum's mission alive. Thank you!

Last year was also a year of change. I was honoured and thrilled to take over the Executive Director role in November, and, I daresay, I felt a little apprehensive beginning as a Brit new to North Carolina. In spite of being 'separated by a common language,' I have been overwhelmed by the incredibly warm welcome and kindness I have received from everyone in Rockingham County. I'd like to say a personal thank you, too.

Looking ahead to 2020 and beyond, I am excited to lead the MARC into a new chapter. Using modern museum branding techniques, developing the MARC's unique voice through events, and devising educational programs and exhibits to be more immersive, engaging, and serving a wider community are priorities of my vision. It is a vision that may aim high, but with the support of our dedicated and passionate MARC ambassadors, from volunteers to visitors, we will undoubtedly achieve.

Part of that vision is the MARC's continued and increased commitment to the preservation, accessibility, and dissemination of North Carolina history, in particular within the vaults of our own archives. This is why I am pleased to announce the January 2020 start of the *Legacy Archival Project*, an exciting new opportunity for more people to get involved at the MARC and be part of a team delving into the Museum's vast and varied collections. Whether you are a beginner, retiree, student, or you just fancy engaging in new endeavors in the new year, there are ways for everyone to participate. You might even bring a friend who would also relish the chance to make a difference in preserving and sharing the important archives that are continually being entrusted to MARC. You can learn more about the *Legacy Archival Project* on the following page.

In the meantime, keep checking the MARC website and Facebook for all the latest news and developments at your museum.

Volunteers are the key to our success

Legacy Archival Project

by Matthew Titchiner

Since its inception, MARC has achieved an impressive amount of cataloguing, despite the inevitable changes of staff and volunteers. However, without a consistent and on-going focus on collections, MARC's future ability to produce an inventory of its collections, to prioritize preservation initiatives, and to expand the archives is limited.

As Executive Director, my vision for the MARC collection is to create a professional museum standard archive which will serve Rockingham County and the wider community, students and academics alike, as a repository of local, educational, and historical resources, as well as substantially benefitting MARC's exhibitions and program planning strategies. I hope to re-energize the collections effort by building a confident, adept, and largely self-sufficient archival team.



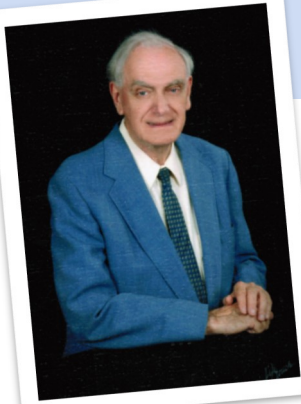
**“From presidents to paupers,
what tales will you uncover in
our archival vaults?”**

The process will focus on six areas of study and work: *surveying collections* to determine what has been accessioned; *re-designating zones of storage* to group collection types; *accessioning and storing backlogged archives*; *improving collections care* to identify preservation needs and improve storage methods; *providing public access* in the archives to highlight the importance of the collection; and *identifying future themes* for exhibits and programs.

The only qualifications volunteers must possess are the passion to help us learn what fascinating pieces of history and personal treasures we have and the dedication to help us organize and care for them. We will teach you how to research, preserve, enter data, and organize treasures; no prior experience is needed. Each person will bring their own unique set of skills, and utilizing those skills together we will bolster the foundation of the MARC archives.

Because volunteers will have appropriate training for specific tasks as we move through the process, you may choose how to schedule the time you give to MARC. For some volunteers, working together with partners might be more satisfying, while other volunteers may find it is easier to drop in to work on a more informal schedule.

We hope you will become active in the Legacy Archival Program! Contact Matthew by email (executive-director@themarconline.org) or call MARC (336-634-4949) to get started!



Mr. History: Bob Carter, County Historian

County's natural resources have long been key to its growth and development

Bob Carter recently came across a Moravian publication dated 1878 and written for the purpose of, "giving such general information as will be of interest and benefit to the tourist, emigrant and general reader, embracing descriptions of the features of the country, its products, industries, schools, &c..., as well as brief historical sketches." Entitled the *Guide Book of N. W. North Carolina Containing Historical Sketches of the Moravians in North Carolina, A Description of the Country and its Industrial Pursuits*, the booklet highlights each of twenty counties in the mountain and piedmont areas of our state. Following are excerpts from the 142 year old document.



Note: The full publication is available on the Library of Congress website at

<https://ia800900.us.archive.org/3/items/guidebookofnwnor00sale/guidebookofnwnor00sale.pdf>

The river Dan divides the county into distinct geological sections. On the North side is the coal region, on the South side the granite and gneisoidal formation. The coal region has a soil well adapted to the growth of wheat and clover, being of the red sandstone formation which is noted in Great Britain as the best wheat and grass lands in the kingdom. Strictly fine tobacco lands are generally composed in this county by the disintegration of fine sand stone or talcose schist, while soil formed from the claystone, hornblend, shale and trap, suits wheat and clover the best.

The Dan winds its serpentine course through the Northern section of the county. Who has not heard of the Dan and its "hills that intervene." As a young and gifted poet of our State once wrote:

This earth is not one garden spot,
Nor pleasure ground for man;
Few are the hills that intervene
Such as the hills of Dan.

Morehead, the young poet, who passed away from among his fellows at an early age, is no more. But the beautiful and classical river remains an emblem of the march of time and of constancy. The hills! oh, the beautiful hills and valleys intervening! The beauties of nature are, fortunately, not confined to a few chosen spots. In every country may be found some variety of scenery to enchant the eye and stimulate the imagination. Wherever there is a variety of surface, of forest and field giving forth a multitude of tender hues and graceful outlines wrought by light and shade, by contrasts of land and water, hill, vale and mountain, there are the beauties of landscape. Nature, in the grouping of her milder and more graceful forms, in the infinite charms of her wild forest foliage, in the green meadow or complaining brook, has done her work well amid the hills of Dan. (Pages 81-82)

Mr. History: Bob Carter, County Historian

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Excerpts from Guide Book of N. W. North Carolina Containing Historical Sketches of the Moravians in North Carolina, A Description of the Country and its Industrial Pursuits

Leaksville is a small town, situated in the Northern part of the county, eight miles from the county-seat, Wentworth, and thirteen miles from Reidsville, on the Piedmont Railroad. The town of Leaksville is immediately on Dan river about half a mile from where the Smith river empties into the Dan. The business of the town is in tobacco, which is the great staple of the county, although wheat and corn are also grown in large quantities on the rich bottoms of the Dan, Smith and Mayo rivers, which rivers water the county. Leaksville contains four tobacco factories and two warehouses for the sale of leaf tobacco, four stores, two hotels, one wagon and blacksmith shop, shoe shop, cabinet-makers shop, &c.

One mile from the town is the Leaksville Cotton Mill, which is a flourishing manufacturing village, containing a large cotton mill, wool cards, machine shop, blacksmith shop, large flouring mill, circular saw mill and store, with a population of about 300 persons. The cotton mill contains 80 looms, which turn out about 4000 yards of sheetings daily, besides yarns for country use, cotton bats, knitting and sewing cotton, warps and twisted yarn for the city market. The spinning department runs 3,700 spindles, a warping mill, three twisters, two spoolers and two warpers. This is the only mill in the State that runs an imported English slasher for sizing warps; it also runs ten large iron-framed English cards, all imported in the last four years by the enterprising owner, Major Morehead, a son of the late Governor Morehead, who built the original Cotton Mill in 1838-9. Major Morehead has added several buildings to the original mill. Since he took charge of the mill he has thrown out the old machinery, replacing it with the very latest improved new. The mill is run by one large over-shot waterwheel and two iron turbines. The flouring mill is driven by one iron and one wooden over-shot wheel. The power is derived from Smith river, which affords a fall of 24 feet at the cotton mill, and is said by competent judges, to be the best and most easily managed water power next to Richmond, Virginia. The product of the cotton mill finds a ready sale in Virginia and North Carolina, and the hosiery yarns of this mill are quite celebrated for their extra quality, being sold in large quantities in all the cities of Virginia and Baltimore.

A mile from Leaksville is the Flouring Mill, Foundry and Agricultural Works of Mr. C. Rodenhizer, a former citizen of Danville, and now part owner of the Danville water power. [*A Mr. Ragland established a plow foundry at this site. Later mills here were known as Kings Mill and later "Upper Kings Mill near the Virginia state line on maps.] He manufactures plows, &c., in large quantities, finding a ready sale for them. Five miles above him is the Mill and Tobacco Factory of Mr. Joseph B. King. Three miles from Leaksville is also the Mill of Mr. Morgan. [*James Morgan's mill was on Buffalo Island Creek.] This part of the county is well supplied with mills. (Page 83) [*Annotated by Bob Carter]

MARC Business

Board approves officers for new terms

As set forth in the by-laws, the recent terms of officers and executive committee members ended with the December Board of Directors meeting. Taking into consideration the need for continuity as the organization and new Executive Director transition together, the nominating committee asked officers to continue terms in the coming year. Following are the officers and terms approved by the Board:

President -- Jeff Bullins
 Vice-president -- Brenda Ward (1 year term)
 Secretary -- Ann Brady
 Treasurer -- Dan Mosca (1 year term)
 Past-president -- Joyce Anderson
 Governance chair -- Dennis Paschal
 Executive Committee member -- Marguerite Holt

MARC by-laws also require a break in service after two consecutive terms on the Board of Directors. Therefore, Tilda Balsley's current tenure on the Board of Directors ended with her term as an officer. Tilda has championed the MARC as a board member, president, and past president, and we are most grateful for her accomplishments. While she is deserving of a respite from monthly meetings, we look forward to her continued support and participation in MARC activities. Thank you, Tilda!



Year-end donation campaign yields significant responses

Thank
you

We are sincerely grateful to all who responded to MARC's year-end membership and donation campaigns. We received slightly over \$20,000 in donations, including the generous match portion. These funds will help us move forward in 2020 as we continue MARC's mission to preserve and share the history of Rockingham County.

Events



Food for Thought event celebrates Barbeque and Black History Month

We are eagerly awaiting this year's *Food for Thought: Barbeque* event at MARC on Saturday, February 29, at noon. The program, researched and facilitated by Valencia Abbott, will explore the history of barbecue as we celebrate Black History through the narrative of food. Abbott is a history teacher at Rockingham Early College High School, and she has enthusiastically shared her passion for food and African American history at each of MARC's four previous Food for Thought events.

Guests will enjoy sampling traditional barbeque and side dishes amid discussion and conversations about the aspects of the food's preparation and cultural significances. Past Food for Thought programs centered on greens, sweet potatoes/yams, and biscuits and rice.

To help us make adequate preparations for the event, we ask that you register for this [free event](#) on MARC's Facebook page or on our website. While you are online, we also encourage you to share your own memories and family recipes relevant to barbecued meats.

High Rock Park is always in season

Despite the winter cold that arrived just recently, there is still activity at High Rock Park, the historical park and trail on MARC property at High Rock Ford. In the past two months, contractors were hired to clear fallen trees that damaged fencing on the trail during a hurricane. We are grateful for the grant provided by Duke Energy Water Resources Fund to assist with cleanup.

The inset photo of the animal print (right) was made in January. The sheer size of the print raised questions about the animal's overall size and species. After sharing it with Facebook experts, it appears that this is the print of a very large dog. What a great place to spend time with man's best friend! Visitors are welcome there year-round during daylight hours.



Events

Wright family descendants join MARC for Christmas at Wright Tavern



Photo credit: G. Allen

We were happy to welcome a group of Wright family descendants to our annual Christmas at Wright Tavern celebration. They traveled here from Guilford and Stokes counties and other areas in the state for their family history journey. Since most of them had not visited Wright Tavern before, there is no doubt they learned a great deal about their ancestors and life at the Tavern. Charles Rodenbough and Bob Carter, who have been instrumental in the preservation and operation of the Tavern as a museum facility, were on hand to share their knowledge of the history of the family, home, and business.

The 1920s costumes worn for the holiday event by Martha Stewart, Marcia Jones, and Leigh Southard (center photo: L to R) were made with patterns from Todd Southard's collection of vintage fashions, and were hand crafted by Todd and Marcia. The various styles illustrated the transitions that occurred in women's fashions during the decade.

To provide further reminiscences of the 1920s, the Programs Committee prepared delicious refreshments and beautiful decorations using period recipes, traditions, and artifacts. Special thanks to the committee for making the annual holiday gathering a lovely educational and social event.

Events

Fiddlers' Convention is a perfect celebration of music and MARC



Photo credits: Gordon Allen

An army of volunteers worked tirelessly over the past year to make November's Pickin' at the MARC a success.

Special thanks to all MARC members and friends who coordinated vendors, registered participants, and kept the details of the day flowing, and to Jordan Rossi for returning to MARC to guide us as the event coordinator. With the leadership of Wayne Seymour, great effort was made to recruit participants and make the 2019 Pickin' our biggest convention ever! We were particularly happy to welcome young fiddlers from across the state who have found Pickin' at the MARC to be a welcoming place to venture into competition and performance of old-time music.

***Museum & Archives of
Rockingham County
Board of Directors***

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Ann Brady —Secretary
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Matthew Titchiner—Executive Director
Fletcher Waynick—Operations Manager
Nadine Case —Administrative Assistant



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ON YOUR MARC Staff

Editor & Design: Jean Bullins
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James Anderson	Kay Hammock
Tilda Balsley	Debbie Russell
Libby Barrett	Matthew Titchiner
Bob Carter	Sharon Tongbua



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MARC your calendar

High Rock Ford Park is open daily from sunrise to sunset. Enjoy hiking trails, river access, and learn about the historical significance of the area. See our website for directions and trip planning tips.

Saturday, February 29

Food for Thought: Barbeque

12:00 - 2:00 pm

at the MARC

A discussion and tasting of barbecue as we celebrate its significance in the African American culture

On-going volunteer opportunities are available whenever the MARC is open. Current projects include sorting and cataloging the Pete Comer Photography Collection and joining the Legacy Archival Project.

Call or email Matthew Titchiner at executive-director@themarconline.org for more information or to arrange training.

MARC Hours of Operation

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	1 pm - 6 pm
Saturday	10 am - 4 pm

Museum Admission

Adult	\$5.00
Seniors & Students	\$3.50
Children	\$2.50
Children under 4 years	FREE
Family pass	\$15.00
Members	FREE

Visit www.themarconline.org for individual and business membership information and forms. Become a sustainer by pledging monthly donations!

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