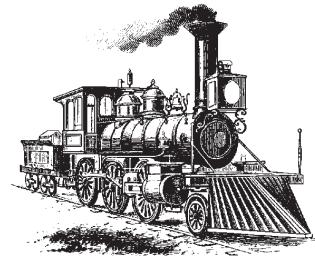


the DISPATCH

Winter 2015



HOLIDAY HOME TOUR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH!

The Apex Historical Society is proud to present its twenty-ninth annual home tour featuring four residences and the historic Union Depot. The tours begin at 1 PM and extends through 5 PM. Tickets are available for pre-purchase at several local businesses including The Rusty Bucket, Lynn's Hallmark Cards, Antiques on Salem Street, and the Apex Chamber of Commerce. Tickets are also available at each venue on the day of the tour.

The Society is also hosting a Sweet Shoppe and complimentary punch and cookies at the Maynard-Pearson house. Please join us and enjoy the fabulous décor our volunteers have created at this historic farmhouse, and the holiday treats.

We extend warm thanks to our gracious hosts for extending their hospitality and for allowing visitors to enjoy their period homes and holiday décor. We know you'll enjoy visiting!

The Union Depot
Home of the Apex Chamber of Commerce
220 North Salem Street

White-Duncan-Grebing-Foltz House
Josh and Shannon Foltz
316 North Salem Street

Pearson-Gibson House
Doug and Cheri Gibson
1012 North Salem Street

Rogers-Fike House
Jeff and Cheryl Fike
207 South Mason Street

Maynard-Pearson House
Home of the Apex Historical Society
1101 Olive Chapel Road



MPH FRONT PORCH DECORATIONS

by Diane Long

For the past six years, Rhonda and Kenneth Magee II have decorated the front door of the Maynard-Pearson House for our holiday home tours. Their work has evolved and grown, and it all started as a gift. As a young couple, they combined their business and creative dreams into a company, creating Dream House Showcase in 2006. The couple chose to give back to their local community by decorating the MPH front porch.

Their fortuitous partnership with the AHS is a true labor of love. Rhonda says it's a joy to bring to life period-specific compositions that herald the joy of Christmas and the holidays to this cherished landmark of the historical community—especially one with just the right amount of Southern charm!

MEMBERSHIP BOOKLETS

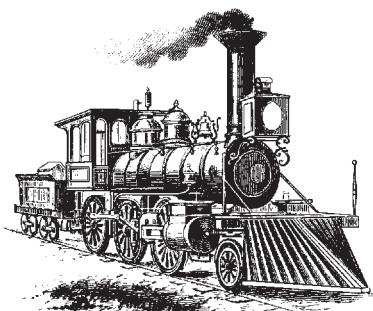
by Gwen Nyce

DiAne Benzi and I enjoyed working to update the AHS Membership Directory for 2015. The directories were distributed at the ice cream social. We are keeping a running list and will check off your name when you receive the book. They'll be available again at our next event, the Holiday Home Tour, on Sunday, December 6.

We find these very handy for contacting our members when needed to complete projects, notifying folks of upcoming events, and looking up phone numbers and email addresses.

The booklet also details how the Apex Historical Society began in October 1987, and when the society acquired the Maynard Pearson House and the retired railroad caboose. There is a monthly list of AHS events along with members' addresses, phone numbers, and emails. For the most up-to-date information about events, please check our website at www.apexhistoricalsociety.com.

DiAne Benzi even designed our 2015 Directory. Thank you, DiAne!



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BILLIE DUNCAN PRESERVATION AWARD

by Diane Long

It is a delight to announce that Marion Smith has been awarded our Billie Duncan Preservation Award for 2015. Marion was honored with this award due to her long-time active membership, including many years taking the lead for decorating the Maynard Pearson House for the holiday home tour. She has also served on the AHS Board of Directors for several years, and cheerfully contributes homemade ice cream to the annual socials. When the AHS has had garden tours in the spring, Marion and George have generously allowed access to their beautiful garden.

Her current project involves a multi-year look into the history of a handmade piece of lace on display at the MPH. Its history begins with Annie Dowd White, who was John Duncan's grandmother. Early in Apex history, Annie Dowd married the Reverend James White, and they built a two-story house that still stands at the curve of north Salem Street. (The home is on the Christmas Home Tour this year; it's known as the White-Duncan house.)

The piece of lace was donated to the AHS by Catherine and John Duncan, Jr., the great-grandchildren of Laura Duncan.



It was framed by Allen Lawrence, and the stand was made by Charles McLaurin. We are extremely grateful for the generous gift of their time, skills, and supplies.

We are also grateful and proud to give this award to Marion. Her persistence and dedication in learning about this piece of history and supervising the lace's care and restoration will give us a lovely gift to pass on to future generations.

CAR HITS MAYNARD-PEARSON HOUSE

by John Messler

Strange as it may sound, this past winter, the Maynard-Pearson House was involved in a car accident! You all remember the storms we had that coated the local roads with ice. On the night of February 24th, a motorist traveling west on Olive Chapel Road encountered an icy spot and left the road, ending up with his car hitting the cedar trees at the edge of the MPH front porch. On his way across the front yard, he took out the power post we use for our floodlights and hit the west edge of the front porch. There was damage to several floorboards and the trim on the top and bottom of the end post.

Everyone involved was very lucky. First, there were no serious injuries and; second, the damage to the porch was relatively minor. Had the car's trajectory been different, it could have ended up destroying the front porch and possibly doing extensive damage to the west wall of the house.



A Town of Apex arborist examined the damaged trees and determined that they would likely recover without any significant remedial work being required. Following a settlement from the driver's insurance company, Ben Jones, of Apex, did an excellent job repairing all the damage to the porch. Today, the only remnants of the accident are the scars on the trunks of the cedar trees. We're pleased that it turned out so well for all of us.

SPECIAL GATHERINGS

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Our annual ice cream social took place this year on August 16th, at the Maynard Pearson House. Several dozen visitors came for the treats and socializing, and we have several people to thank for contributing homemade ice cream, treats, and toppings. LaVerne Seagroves brought us strawberry ice cream, Marion and George Smith brought banana, Mack and Pam Thorpe brought coconut, Bill and Dot Goodwin made vanilla, and Diane Long brought peach. Thirty-five people attended, including several new members. (We're always happy to see new faces!)

Everyone had a lovely time visiting and talking about current and historical events. We offer many thanks to

everyone who provided the ice cream, toppings, and cookies for our enjoyment!



ANNUAL FALL PICNIC

The annual fall picnic was scheduled initially for October 11, but then an interesting series of events threw roadblocks in our way.

First, the date was changed due to the last-minute opportunity to participate in the Peak-A-Palooza, which the Town of Apex put on to celebrate Apex's being named the Best Small Town in America by *Money Magazine*. We rescheduled for October 18th, but then we faced another interesting challenge.

The folks from Red-Eye-BBQ called to let us know that an equipment fire would prevent their catering our food. Alas, we ended up with Bojangles fried chicken, slaw, potato salad, chips, and beverages from Kroger. About fifteen people brought homemade side dishes and casseroles. It was a cool day, but pleasant, and everyone had a good time. We were pleased to have new members join us.

We're hoping next year's fall picnic is just as enjoyable and has fewer roadblocks. Please plan to join us!

Apex Historical Society
PO Box 506 • Apex NC 27502