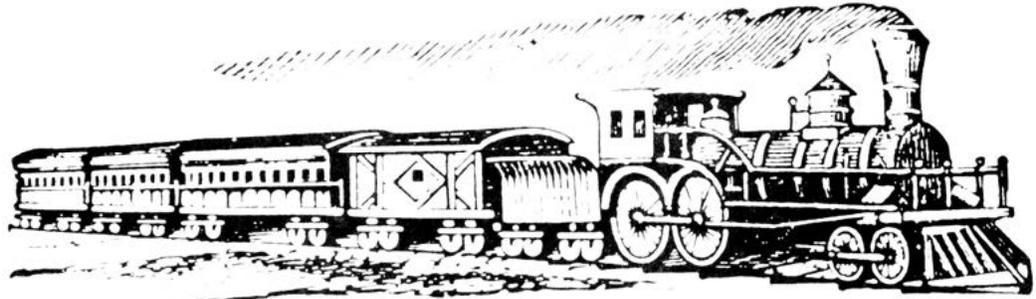


The Dispatch

Apex Historical Society



The Newsletter of the Apex Historical Society

Apex, North Carolina

Oct- Nov-Dec 2020

President's Message

Jeff Hastings, 2020-2021

Greetings from Jeff:

While the past 9 months have been unlike any we have seen, the Board of the Apex Historical Society would like to wish everyone happy holidays. Unfortunately, we will not be having our Christmas home tour this year. However we are looking forward to a 2021 where we can again gather together to promote, preserve and protect the history of Apex.

Coronavirus Continues:

From Claire Rousseau's journal:

Today December 1st cold but sunny 39 degrees outside as I turn over my wall calendar page. Sad no Apex Home Tour this Sunday. This would have been our Apex Historical Society's 34th Tour of Homes celebrating people, architecture and a way of life long ago in Apex.

I sit and remember our first Home Tour in 1987. It was a marathon weekend for our newly formed historical society. Now we add another W to our Pandemic list of things to do, Wash hands, Wear mask, Wait apart and now patiently Wait for vaccine.

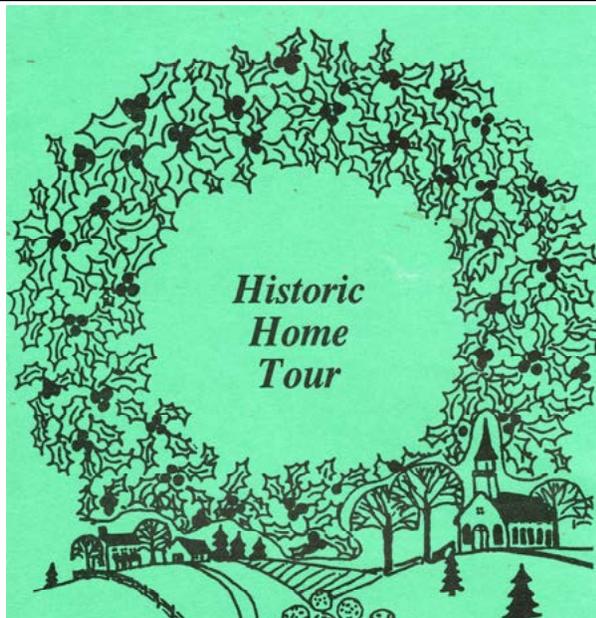
Our Early Home Tours:

Yes so long ago a young group of concerned Apex citizens wanted to preserve what attracted newcomers to Apex: old homes, the Depot and downtown Salem Street.

We initiated the downtown tree lighting ceremony on Friday night, we joined in the Saturday Parade with a float featuring two old time lady shoppers and a sausage maker in a general store, to generate awareness of our newly formed society and we had two homes on our tour on Sunday: the home of Dr Ronald G and Ruthie Hodson on 1012 N Salem Street and the home of Cloy J and Shirley Wells on 209 South Hughes Street.

Our first society President, Jan Brooks, inspired us to go for it and see how the home tour would be received by the community. Yes, she was a transplant from Michigan where she had previously had her home on tour and ran a very successful tour for her home town. We were all enthused to show off two beautiful Apex homes and share their history. That Sunday was a wonderful day of meeting town folks who remembered the Well's home as the Teacheridge. Read more about these homes and others from our archives of our first two years home touring. Notes from our "Dispatch Newsletter 1989" are included.

Hope you enjoy your 2020 Covid Style Home Tour.



*Historic
Home
Tour*

**December 13, 1987
3:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

**Sponsored
by
Apex Historical Society**

Guests will enjoy the open, country feeling of this lovely family home. Especially to be noted are the beauty of the original wood flooring, moldings, ten foot ceilings, fireplace mantel details and claw-foot tubs.

Purchased by the Hodsons in 1979, they are only the second homeowners of the property. Residing in their home are also their son Todd and Ruthie's mother, Carmie Norvell.



**HOME OF MR. AND MRS. CLOY J. (Shirley) WELLS
209 SOUTH HUGHES STREET**

This lovely home, characterized by its wrap-around porch and graceful columns, was built in 1910 by the Sears family. Occupied for a time by the Puckett family, it was sold later to Wake County. During this period, the home was used as a residence for the high school principal's family and single school teachers. It became known locally as "The Teacherage."

Vacated by the county in 1952, it was purchased by the Wilkerson family and remained un-occupied until 1976, when it was purchased by the Wells family. At the time of their purchase, the house had been open to the elements and consequently condemned.

An extensive restoration of this beautiful home has been a labor of love by the entire Wells family. Their adaptation of the home has been sensitive and consistent. Visitors will be greeted by the impressive open stairwell and oval stained glass window. Also to be noted are the original wainscoting, fireplace mantles, lighting fixtures and window treatments.



**Home of Dr. Ronald G & Ruthie Hodson,
1012 N. Salem St.**

Built in 1910, this home was formerly owned by Bayard and Ruth Pearson. Mr. Pearson was a banker, and his wife well known for her baking in their country kitchen. During their occupancy, the home also served as a rooming house.

In December 1984, the home was ravaged by fire, which totally gutted the interior. With the aid of their friends and the Truelove Brothers, the Hodson's were able to salvage and lovingly rebuild and restore the structure.



Apex Historical Society
1988
Christmas
Home Tour



Mr. & Mrs. James Allen
 1011 N. Salem Street

Built in 1912, the house was purchased by Mr. W. T. Hunt in March of 1918. Excepting the two large front columns, the house remains unchanged from its original structure.

Built entirely of southern pine, the house features oak mantles and original plaster walls. The heart pine floors have been restored to their original beauty, as has much of the interior trim. Reworked period light fixtures compliment the antiques throughout the house.

Another highlight of the "Salem Street Saunter," the Allen home is an excellent opportunity to step into Apex's history.



Dr. & Mrs. John Kent Pearson
 1015 North Salem Street

The Greek revival house at 1015 North Salem Street was the dream home of Amos Pearson. He designed the house himself, and built it in the early 1940's, notwithstanding the difficulties of war-time. The wood in the interior of the house was cut on the Pearson family farm on Olive Chapel Road.

This second home of Amos and Virginia Pearson was built after their only son, current owner John Kent was in college. Amos was particularly fond of boxwoods and used them extensively in his landscaping. The long front driveway lined with gracious magnolia trees foretells the charm of the house itself.



Mrs. John Duncan
 310 North Salem Street

In the early 1900's John Duncan's grandmother, "Don," lived in a small cabin until John's father had a copy of his house in Durham built for her. Don lived in the house until her death, then John's mother used it for a summer home.

In 1938, John brought his bride of one year, Billie, from Louisiana to live in Apex. Since that time, Billie has lived here gathering antiques and absorbing local history.

From the antique swing on the front porch, past the fourth Duncan generation grandfather chair in the living room, visitors enjoy the history of the furniture and the interesting antiques. Home for three generations of Duncans, 310 North Salem Street is a real hallmark of Apex hospitality.



**Mr. & Mrs. Ed Riley
210 South Salem Street**

Home to five families since its creation, this house has weathered many changes while maintaining its gracious lines. Its six functional fireplaces made it possible for one former owner who loved open fires to indulge his fancy year-round—he merely turned up the air conditioner in those pre-energy crisis summers!

The two lovely stained glass windows were crafted by former owner Betty Evans in her workroom behind the kitchen. The mantle in the office was installed during the Evans' renovation.

Now home to three lively boys and their parents, 210 S. Salem Street is a testimony to vitality in old houses!



**Apex United Methodist Church
100 South Hughes Street**

The first church built in Apex (1870-72) was on what is now Elm Street. That building burned in 1879 or 1880 and was replaced in 1873 by one on Saunders Street across from the Apex Town Hall. Remnants of *Methodist Hill* still exist in the small cemetery with its 115 gravesites.

The Apex United Methodist Church on the corner of Hughes and Chatham Streets is now the oldest church structure in Apex. Built in 1917 on land given by Mr. and Mrs. James Reeves Cunningham, it is of gothic revival architecture.

The building contains the original pews, altar area and chancel rail. The three largest stained glass windows were installed during construction.

This concludes our 34th home tour Covid-Style. Hope you enjoyed the review of past home tours.

We look forward to hosting a real home tour in 2021. If you would like to participate, please contact a member of the Board.

AHS 2020-21 Board Members:

- Jeff Hastings AHS Board President
- Jeremy Bradham AHS Board Vice President
- Erin Thompson AHS Board Co-Secretary
- Diane Long AHS Board Co-Secretary
- John Messler AHS Board Treasurer
- John Pearson AHS Board Member
- Margaret Lawrence AHS Board Member
- Michael Lawrence AHS Board Member
- Laverne Seagroves AHS Board member



Jan Brooks, founder and 1st president of the Apex Historical Society, October 22, 1987.

*Apex Historical
Society*

On October 22, a small, enthusiastic group met with the conviction that the Town of Apex needed an organization to intelligently integrate Apex's past to its inevitable future progress. Officially chartered on March 24, 1988, the group has grown to more than 65 members with the avowed purpose of preserving, protecting and promoting the history of the Apex area.

Since its inception, members have become involved in presenting Apex with a community tree and opening the holiday season with a town tree-lighting ceremony; sponsoring a traditional Christmas Candlelight Historic

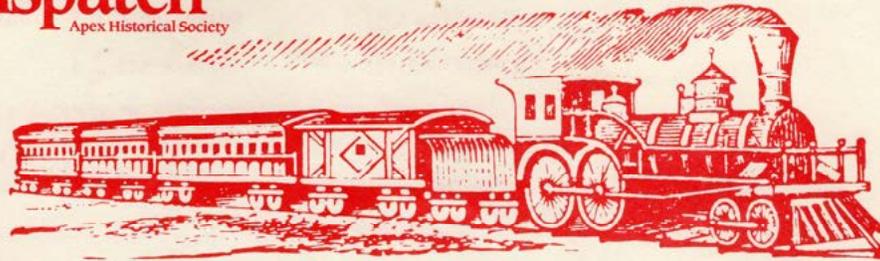
Home Tour; participating in the annual spring Peak Week celebration; researching and preparing documentation for the nomination of the train depot to the National Register of Historic Places; printing historic Apex note cards, and acquiring a caboose to be located adjacent to the train depot, which will house Apex related artifacts.

The enthusiasm of the Society is exceeded only by the commitment to create an awareness of Apex's unique character and pride in our heritage. We welcome kindred spirits!

Jan Brooks
President

The Dispatch

Apex Historical Society



AHSNL VOL.02

DECEMBER 1989

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As we approach the holiday season, it occurs to me that a few meaningful thoughts are in order. Gratitude... and I know the board joins me in thanking ALL of our members for...their many instances of support in our activities; for the fact that we obtained our 100 Charter Members, and realized the goal of seeing our Articles of Incorporation a reality...and for the many new and meaningful friendships that have been made during our meetings to further awareness of the very special place that Apex is, and can become.

The holidays traditionally represent a heightened program involvement; and your Historical Society's schedule is no exception. We look forward to seeing you at the annual town Christmas tree lighting ceremony, which promises to be a memorable event; we hope you'll be proud to see your Apex Historical Society represented in the Apex Christmas Parade; and our third annual Christmas Historic Homes Tour is expected to be the best ever! Again your support in these endeavors is essential, and I know you'll find participation very worthwhile.

The Board joins me in wishing all our special members a memorable holiday season and a very meaningful 1990!

JAN BROOKS, President

APEX TOWN CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

December 1, 1989 - 6:30 PM

This is our third year to host this event which gets bigger every year...along with the tree! Once again outdoor tree ornaments and holiday music are being furnished by several area groups and organizations. Our special gift to the community will be the framed certificate signed by the director of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History designating the Apex Depot as a historical property. This will be presented to the Library and will remain in the building after the library moves to its new site. We encourage all members to come support this community event.

CHRISTMAS PARADE

December 2, 1989 - 5 PM

"I'll be home for Christmas. Meet me at the Apex depot!"

Come see our Christmas Parade Float at the Apex Christmas Parade December 2 at 5 PM. Society ladies and gents will be in our Apex train depot scene eagerly waiting the train bringing loved ones home to Apex, North Carolina. J.C. Knowles will announce the arrivals and entertain us with his train patter. The depot waiting room will be decked out with a fireplace and Christmas tree and filled with luggage and holiday gifts. Thank you Maurice Truelove for the use of your truck.

Two cars will precede the float; Carl Holleman's classic Mercedes and James Allen's Classic Malibu carrying society board members. Come help us decorate the float Saturday morning Dec 2. Call Jan 362-5950 or Claire 362-1199 and say "I can help"

APEX HISTORIC HOME TOUR

December 10, 1989 1-5 PM

Reception from 2 to 5 at Apex UMC Fellowship Hall #1. Our third annual Christmas Home tour plans are progressing well. A special thanks to Molly Weston who is volunteering again to do the art work for the tickets, brochures, and posters. She is also writing the articles on each home for the Western Wake Herald. Jan Brooks is handling publicity, Patrick Kane is in charge of parking and signs, Margaret Ferry volunteered to be our hostess coordinator. Anyone interested in helping please contact her. Kay Swartley, my co-chairman, is helping to co-ordinate local florists with the tour home owners. Claire Rousseau and Linda Tucker are the reception chairmen and will need volunteers to serve hot cider and cookies at the Methodist Church. Thank you committee members for your help. Members, see you at the Home Tour.

There will be a drawing at 5 PM for a special door prize donated by antiques dealer J.C. Knowles.

RUTHIE HODSON, Home Tour Chairman

MEMBERSHIP

I am happy to report that our membership continues to grow. We have had eleven new people to join in the past few months. Welcome aboard new members! Grand total membership now stands at 111. Thanks to all of you for your continued interest and support.

RUTHIE HODSON, Membership Chairman

CHARTER MEETING

Charter Night meeting was held October 19, 1989 at the Apex UMC Fellowship Hall #2. The official legal charter of the Apex Historical Society was signed by the officers, then mailed to the North Carolina Secretary of State to be recorded. The charter was returned to us November 16 for confirmation that we are now a fully incorporated organization. Currently efforts are underway to apply for tax-free status. Special guest Bob Pickett of the Yates Mill Associates presented a slide program on the restoration of Yates Mill.

POLITICAL FORUM

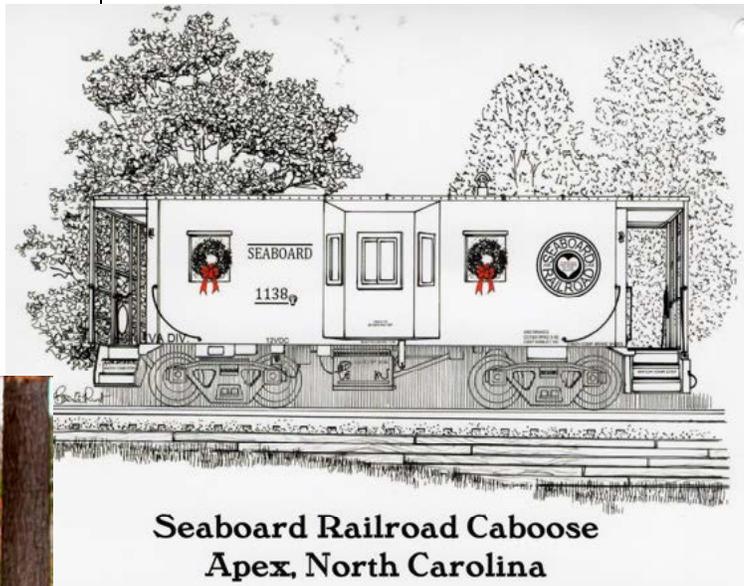
A political forum was held before the November 7 town election and was a big success. This was a joint effort by several community organizations spearheaded by Ruthie Hodson of the Apex Historical Society.



1988-89 Historical Society officers

Officers of the Apex Historical Society have planned several events for the coming year, including installation of a caboose beside the old train depot, a celebration when Historic Register status is granted to the depot and a second Christmas Homes tour. This year's officers and directors include (seated from left) Pat Shankle, Ruthie Hodson, president Jan Brooks and Claire Rousseau; (standing) Carl Holleman, James Allen, Tom Belton, Patrick Kane and Ronald Perry. (Staff photo by Stuart Wells.)

THE APEX HISTORICAL SOCIETY SAYS, "HAVE YOURSELF AN OLD FASHIONED MERRY CHRISTMAS"



Seaboard Railroad Caboose
Apex, North Carolina

Happy Holidays!
Editors, Bill & Claire Rousseau