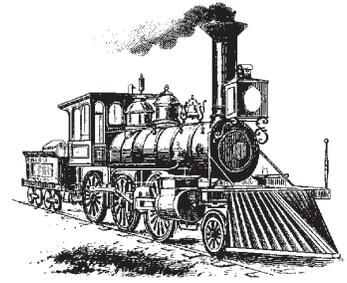


# the DISPATCH

Summer 2012

Vol. XXIV, No.2



## Celebrate: AHS Turns 25!

To commemorate the beginning of the Apex Historical Society, the Anniversary Committee has been hard at work planning events for every month of the 25th year.

Among the first efforts of the Society were gaining National Historic Registration for the town hall (now the Halle Cultural Arts Center) and the Union Depot (currently the Apex Chamber of Commerce).

We will kick off the year-long celebration with a Founders' Day program at the Halle Center, Sunday, October 14, 3:00–5:00 pm. The tentative program in the auditorium will include a history of the Society's beginnings by **Jan Brooks and Claire Rousseau** and recognition of charter members and former officers as well as those who played a part in the organization. An AHS time line will be displayed in "Studio A" which will also feature a reception after the program.

We are especially happy for our quarter-century event to coincide with the 100th year of the Halle Center building.

Several other programs and events are in the works but full details are not yet available. All those featuring speakers will be at the Halle

Center. Topics will include the Civil War and remembering Apex.

Many members from the early years still use the Society's tote bags featuring a drawing of a steam engine by Jerry Miller. He graciously provided us with the original pen and ink sketches so that we could use them again. **Claire Rousseau** has arranged with the original producer of these bags to have them re-issued. The Society will have these available for promotion and sale very soon.

### A blast from the past?

One of the favorite shared memories from the early years was a collaborative effort with the Apex Volunteer Fire Department. Volunteer firemen cooked BBQ, Firebelles provided the fixin's, and AHS volunteers manned the serving lines. Pat Shankle made bib aprons for all AHS members to show support for our still-growing Society.

In recognition that the Salem Street shopping district is now a destination for many in the Triangle area, we are hoping to expand collaboration to include more organizations and downtown merchants.

Stay tuned for more updates! 🐘

## Holiday Tour 2012

Everyone knows that our holiday home tour is always a spectacular event that many include on their yearly holiday calendars. Did you know that our first tour featured only two houses? How we have grown!

This year's tour will fall on Sunday, December 2, from 1:00–5:00 pm. This year's houses are all centered around the downtown shopping area of Salem Street. Weather permitting, visitors to this year's tour can walk to all the houses. Homes featured will be 317 North Salem Street, owned by Joe and Lise Zublena; 210 Salem Street, owned by Don and Laura Grimes; 107 S. Salem Street, owned by Billy and Susan Mills; and 212 Center Street, owned by Richard and Monica Derrenbacher.

For the first time, the Halle Center, featuring their annual Christmas tree display, will be included. The Society will host its reception at the Halle Center. As usual, both the Maynard-Pearson House and the Apex Chamber of Commerce (housed in the historic Union Depot) will be open for touring.

The Holiday Home Tour is a great opportunity to show friends and family the great town that is Apex! 🐘

# Notes from Mary

*Hello, AHS members! I am honored to be serving as AHS president for the upcoming year—especially as we celebrate the Society's 25th anniversary. Many thanks to **Mack Thorpe** for his leadership as president over the past few years. He will now continue his leadership role by filling the position of vice president.*

*We have many activities planned for the rest of 2012 for which we need your help. Our anniversary year will be focused on remembering. That is, remembering the history of Apex as well as remembering past members of the Society whom we haven't seen in awhile. We encourage all former members to renew their membership and become involved once again with the Society and its efforts to promote the history of Apex.*

*Our first upcoming event will be the annual Ice Cream Social on August 19th at the Maynard-Pearson House (MPH). This will be in conjunction with the monthly Open House held there. Please bring your family and friends and join us as we enjoy delicious home-made ice cream and provide tours to visitors. Please contact me if you are willing to make some ice cream—we would like to have at least five different types to enjoy.*

*At this event we will have sign-up sheets for the Annual Home Tour volunteers—to serve as hosts and hostesses, to help with the reception, and to work at the Sweet Shoppe. Please consider volunteering a few hours to help with these activities. Member help is critical to the financial success of this always popular event.*

*If you are a Society member who may not be participating in our various programs, I encourage you to join in the upcoming scheduled events. You can find a calendar of events on Page 4 of *The Dispatch* and on the AHS web site ([www.ApexHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.ApexHistoricalSociety.com)). I look forward to seeing many of you at the scheduled events throughout the year!*

—Mary Petersen

## the DISPATCH..

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# Duncan Doily

by Shirley Fiorentino

Several years ago, Katherine Duncan Neal (daughter of Charter Member Billie Duncan) of Rockingham donated a large table doily embroidered by one of her grandmothers. Quotes for displaying the piece in a manner that it could be seen on both sides proved to be quite expensive, so professional framing was considered out of the question.

Fortunately, Allen Lawrence took on the project as a challenge. He actually made eight or nine attempts before he was satisfied with the results. Using 100-year old wood flooring from the Apex Baptist Church (obtained through Bill Goodwin) and with encouragement and shared experience from Katherine Boeham, framing manager at A. C. Moore, Allen completed the large frame.

The Duncan Doily holds a place of pride at the MPH. Why not stop during an open house and see it for yourself.

We appreciate Allen's perseverance and creativity in making this piece of history available to the public. 🍷

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Thanks to all the Apex Historical Society members who were supportive to me and our family after the death of my husband, Allen, on March 14, 2012. The gifts, cards, calls, attendance at the visitation and funeral were greatly appreciated. Allen was a good husband, father who supported the Apex community in many ways. We shall all miss him.

—Diane Long



Do you recognize this house? Where is it located? What former downtown merchant lived there? What was his business? (Answers are on page 4.)

## Plant Sale

by John Messler

The Apex Historical Society held its annual plant sale on May 12, 2012. As usual there were a large variety of plants offered ranging from small house plants to herbs and flowers to large shrubs. Once again Diane Long's irises were a particular favorite among buyers.

Thanks to having a lot of plants and good weather to encourage shoppers, this year's sale was again a financial success, with the Society making \$490 on the event.

Coordinator Diane Long, said, "This event would not be possible without the help of all those who provided plants and/or contributed their time to help with the sale." The Society thanks Diane for her efforts in organizing and running the sale.

Mark your calendars now for next year's plant sale on May 11, 2013. Please start saving plants now.

Remember, the plant sale is an important fund-raising event for the Society. 🍷

## On the Docket 2012

- July 15, 2:00–4:00  
MPH Open House
- July 19, 7:00  
Board Meeting, MPH
- August 16, 7:00  
Board Meeting, MPH
- August 19, 2:00–4:00  
MPH Open House  
3:00–5:00  
Ice Cream Social
- September 16, 2:00–4:00  
MPH Open House
- September 20, 7:00  
Board Meeting, MPH
- October 14, 3:00–5:00  
Picnic, TBA
- November 15, 7:00  
Board Meeting, MPH
- November 18, 2:00–4:00  
MPH Open House
- November 30  
Christmas on Salem Street
- December 1  
AHS Candy Bagging  
Apex Christmas Parade
- December 2  
MPH Home Tour, 1:00–5:00
- December 16, 2:00–4:00  
MPH, Open House
- December 20, 7:00  
Board Meeting, MPH

# MPH Open House

by Shirley Fiorentino

One of the activities to celebrate the Apex Historical Society's 25th anniversary is opening the Maynard Pearson House (MHP) to visitors each month. Our first open house was on Sunday, April 15. Approximately eight to 10 people toured the house during the two-hour event. (Everyone didn't sign our guest book.)

Many members helped prepare the house and grounds for this occasion and they all deserve a big thank-you. Among them were **Susan Mills** and **Laverne Seagroves** who helped straighten and arrange the interior; **Jane Spanton** who offered insight into the appropriate décor for a turn-of-the-century farmhouse; and **John Pearson**, **John Messler** and **Henry Brown** who worked on the garden areas and did some inside chores.

To help to increase attendance at this monthly event, **Mack** and **Pam Thorpe** have erected a permanent sign in front of the MPH which can be read from either direction.

Many members have requested the MPH be open to the public often, but in order to continue this project, we need more volunteers to be there for a two-hour period just one Sunday afternoon. It would be good to have a couple of longtime Apex residents who are familiar with the history of the area and who can add their personal anecdotes to the conversation.

I would love to hear from each of you so I can put together a schedule. The group who visited on April 15 had an enjoyable day—and so will you.

Please call me at 919.303.2939 or email me at frankfiorentino@aol.com to volunteer.

Your support is vital—and the Society appreciates it. One way to support these events is by visiting when we are open. Why not invite neighbors, friends, and relatives to come with you? It's a great place to spend an afternoon that's absolutely free! 🐾

# MPH Repair Update

by John Messler

Those of you who attended the membership meeting in March probably saw the deterioration in the front porch of the MPH. We are happy to report that repairs were completed in mid-May by Ben Jones and Company.

Rotted portions of the turned posts were repaired and a number of rotted floor boards were replaced. The posts and floor were repainted as part of the job—which was done well and accomplished quickly. The work cost the Society just a little more than \$1000.

Our thanks to **Henry Brown** who organized the work, got quotes and made sure everything was accomplished. This porch is the first of several projects needed at the house. 🐾

*The house pictured on page 3, located at the corner of Moore and Mason Streets was owned by the J. W. Lassiter family. Mr. Lassiter was the owner of the Apex Mule and Supply Company on Salem Street.*



**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