

July-Sept 2010
Volume 2, Issue 3

Voice of Forsyth

Forsyth County Historical Association
Winston-Salem, NC
www.forsythnchistory.com

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President's Message Phyllis Roberson Hoots

I would like to announce that the FCHA has joined the Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies, which gives us access to many historical workshops and information.

Our program chairman, Jerry Hart, has coordinated several excellent programs already this year, and we have several more exciting programs to come. In September we plan to hold a forum with World War II veterans, telling us of their experiences during the war. Also, we are holding day programs in the Senior Center located at the Kernersville Library.

As with any historical organization, we are concerned with how we can attract more people to attend our programs and to become involved with the discovery of Forsyth County's history. We would also like to invite any member to join our board and be a part of decision-making in achieving our mission. At this time, we have an opening for Secretary and Assistant Newsletter Editor. Members are welcome to call any of the board's officers to offer ideas and suggestions.

The FCHA Board members are open to our member's suggestions. It is our goal to keep our members abreast on issues being addressed. In an effort not to disrupt the allotted time scheduled for our Program Speaker, the Board meetings are held prior to the Program. If you would like to attend one of our Board meetings, please email us at forsythhistory@yahoo.com to obtain the next meeting time.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE

FOR 2010 SPEAKERS!!!

www.forsythnchistory.com

OFFICIAL FORSYTH FLAG IS ADOPTED

Winston-Salem Journal Nov. 5, 1963
Contributed by Betsy Hendrix

Forsyth County was formed in 1849. For almost 115 years people got along without an official flag. Yesterday, the Board of Commissioners adopted one.

The color of the official flag is blue—the blue of the United Nations flag and the blue, incidentally, of the University of North Carolina. The official seal of Forsyth County is in the center. The seal, stitched in black, is bordered by a golden ring and two golden tobacco leaves.

Members of the Forsyth County Volunteer Firemen's Association submitted the design that was adopted. They wanted flags to fly at the fire stations.

Stepping Stones of Progress...continued

Winston-Salem: A Study of Growth, Resilience and Adaptability

http://www.cityofws.org/Assets/CityOfWS/Documents/Planning/Newsletter/News_September_2009.pdf

Saturday Evening, May 4, 1935 *Winston-Salem Journal:*

1919: New lake built for water supply; population of city 56,000; Corporation limits extended west and south; Juvenile court established; Mrs. Reynolds gave an auditorium and Hanes family park and hospital; Lot bought for City Hall; Winston-Salem Foundation established

1920: Planters Warehouse and Furniture plant on Southside finished; Salem College endowment \$640,000 completed.

1921- Winston-Salem votes million bond issue for schools; Robert E. Lee Hotel finished

1923 New churches for First Baptist, Calvary, Centenary M.E. and addition to Christ Church, Fairview

1924: Centerville and part of Woughtown annexed; New schools: North, Skyland, Central, South Park and Fourteenth Street; Contract let for sewer disposal plant

1925: City Market, City Hall, Nissen Building, Courthouse, YMCA, Union Station and many more buildings under construction.

1926: Nissen Building, City Hall, Union Station and County Courthouse completed.

1927: Building Boom – nearly seven million spent for construction; over 700 new homes; Airport made possible by R.E. Lasater and Clint Miller; Journal and Sentinel consolidated

1928: In the city over 2,000 erected; Fourth street widened; Reynolds building and Carolina building on Fourth street finished; New Tuberculosis Sanatorium and Memorial Industrial School for Negro children under construction

1929: Under construction: Nurses Home, Home for Aged and Infirm, work on great Methodist Church; Ten railroad and steamship companies located offices here; Muddy Creek drained; 5 ½ miles of sidewalks and 6 ½ miles of streets paved.

2010 IS A GREAT TIME TO RESEARCH HISTORY! See What FCHA Has Planned!

KERNERSVILLE

SENIOR CENTER

130 East

**Mountain St.
Kernersville**

**FCHA is now
holding special
sessions in K'ville!!**

**Check our website
For times & topic!**

Tuesday, July 13-- Reynolda Manor Library - Fam Brownlee- North Carolina Room Librarian

Mr. Brownlee is the "resident expert" of the collections of the North Carolina Room. If you have never visited the N.C. Room, located in the Central Library on Fifth Street, downtown Winston-Salem, you are in for a wonderful treat! Local history is one of Mr. Brownlee's passions and past times and the North Carolina Room is the hub of Forsyth County's finest historical collections.

Thursday, August 10, 2010 - Reynolda Manor Library- "History of Walkertown" by

Wallace Baird & Wayne Biby : **Wallace Baird** is a native of Burke County, NC. After graduating from Drexel High School he attended college and graduate school in Kentucky and Wisconsin. In 1963, he moved from Madison, Wisconsin to Winston-Salem, NC to join the Department of Chemistry of Wake Forest College as professor of physical chemistry. He has lived in Forsyth County since September 1963 and for the past thirty two years has lived on a forestry farm near Walkertown, NC. He now works for the family business Treehugger Forestry Inc. which produces locally grown lumber for many wood products. **Wayne Biby** is a life long resident of Walkertown. He grew up on a tobacco farm helping his grandfather care for the tobacco crop and doing other necessary chores. After graduating from Walkertown High School and Forsyth Technical Institute, he spent the next 37 years working for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. Wayne is a postcard collector and a collector of tobacco memorabilia. He is a member of Morris Chapel United Methodist Church in Walkertown. Both men are members of the Walkertown Area Historical Society.

Thursday, August 26, 2010 - Kernersville Senior Center- 1:00pm- Cam Steele:

What Became of Kernersville's Beard and Roberts Tobacco Factory?

Cam Steele, Human Resources Manager at Highland Industries in Kernersville, will discuss the history of the building where Highland is located today, as well as other businesses that have used that location since 1884.

KEEP CHECKING OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS ON THE SEPTEMBER MEETING!

DID YOU KNOW???...BY KATHLEEN CLAYTON

Forsyth County has an important part of NASCAR history, Bowman Gray Stadium (BGS). BGS was a WPA, Works Progress Administration Project, project dedicated on October 22, 1938 during the Duke-Wake Forest football game. It was one of the South's most complete athlete layouts, with powerful floodlights, electric scoreboard, public address system and spacious field house at the end of the open horse shoe. It was built in eleven months, cost \$175,000, and had seating for 12,000 people. Private funds matching those of the WPA were furnished by the Bowman Gray Family. A quarter-mile cinder track circled the football field. A track for midget racing opened in June, 1947.

BGS was host to North Carolina's first stock car race on a quarter-mile paved track on Wednesday, May 18, 1949. Bill France, Sr. and Alvin Hawkins were the organizers of the four 10-lap heats, a 10-lap consolation race and a 25-lap feature race. The May 17th Winston-Salem Journal's (WSJ) article described the next night's event, "Anything is likely to take place Wednesday night when the roaring knights of dirt speedways take their first fling at flirting with death over the treacherous quarter mile paved track at Bowman Gray Stadium." Most of the drivers were newcomers to the quarter-mile distance and were skeptical of the track. Drivers came from as far away as Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia.

After the event the WSJ reported "Approximately 5,200 thrill hungry spectators sniffed perfumes of scorched rubber as Fonty Flock of Spartanburg, SC roared over the quarter mile paved track ahead of a field of 13 souped-up stock cars in the inaugural racing event at Bowman Gray Stadium last night." Although there were accidents, no injuries were reported.

Races were held on Wednesday nights starting at 6:30pm for time trails and races beginning at 8:00 pm. Admission cost \$1.80, with children under 12 free.

BGS was NASCAR'S first weekly race track and has been sanctioned by NASCAR since the first race in 1949. Famous racers such as Lee and Richard Petty, Junior Johnson, and David Pearson, have competed as BGS. Today sons and grandsons race at the same place their daddies raced.

If you want to spend an exciting Saturday summer evening of racing join your friends for some Forsyth County history at the famous Bowman Gray Stadium. Go to www.bowmangrayracing.com for more information.

For information about another local race track see Fam Brownlee's article about the Peace Haven Race track at www.northcarolinaroom.wordpress.com/news-events/article.

VISIT A MUSEUM!

EXHIBITS: The North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh has a summer exhibit of Scouting: 100 Years of Adventure. This small exhibit commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America.

Another exhibit at the NC Museum of History, Down Home: Jewish Life in North Carolina, is opened until July 11 and then Aug 2010 through March of 2011. It is a traveling exhibit presenting 400 years of Jewish Life in North Carolina.

The Boy Scout of America's Old Hickory Council's Historical Association started the Raven Knob Boy Scout Museum in 1998. The museum is open to the public on Wednesday's from 2pm to 8 pm during the summer camp season of June 23 through August 4. For more information visit www.boyscoutmuseum.us or www.ravenknob.com

WALKERTOWN RESIDENTS

Charles Emerson & Co.'s Winston, Salem and Greensboro North Carolina 1878

Andrews, J T, mechanic	Barker, E, wood workman	Cemmons S S, blacksmith	Darnell, T H, fruit dealer
Dicks, W P, physician	Grubbs, J F, merchant	Hester, H A, merchant	Jones, J W, county surveyor
Linville, E W, postmaster	Mecum, J H	Morris, I, chair-maker	Morris, J H, physician
Morris, J L, chair-maker	Smith, J T, shoemaker	Sullivan, N D, tob. mnfr	Vanhoy, J, wood workman
Waggoner, R, farmer-miller	Wilson, N S, with N D Sullivan		

FARMERS: Frazier, B Frazier, S Frazier, W W Grubbs, E Grubbs, G Jones, M Jones, W F Lewis, J T Linville, D S Linville; J Marshall, S T Martin, M Martin, W Mecum, J C Moir, J Morris, M M Parish, R Swain, WH Vanhoy, A Vanhoy

THE WACHOVIA MORAVIAN

January 1925

WINSTON-SALEM: Anybody who rides over the city after having noted its increase in stately buildings, in greater or smaller churches, in school buildings, and in magnificent mansions, will come to the conclusion that after all its chief wealth is in the very great number of modest comfortable homes that have been built or are now in process of building. The suburbs are rapidly growing in every direction, and on the western side of the city the stately R.J. Reynolds Memorial auditorium with its accompanying great high school looks down in all its beauty, upon the populous valley below. There always awakens, however, in the passerby, regret that the wide-hearted and generous benefactress, Mrs. Katherine Reynolds Johnston, has not lived to see more of the good which she so nobly has instituted.

Statements by Mr. R.H. Latham regarding public school development: In May 1924, the third bond issue was passed, amounting to \$800,000. The 1919 bond issue amounted to \$800,000 and the 1921 bond issue to \$1,100,000, making a total for school purposes in bond issues of \$2,700,000. This does not include the R. J. Reynolds Memorial auditorium nor the gifts of land for school and recreational purposes, especially from the Hanes families, which total seventy-five acres. At the time of the gift of land and the erection of the new city high school this plant and property was one of the three largest public school plants and properties in the entire United States, and by far the largest in the South. During the past year, the city school system has moved into the following new buildings: North school, Skyland Central, South Park and the Fourteenth Street school for colored people. During the year under consideration, considerable territory has been annexed in Centerville and Waughtown and vicinity, with additional school population of more than a thousand, which was provided for by two white schools and one in Waughtown and the other in Centerville, taken over by the city, and one colored school.

Statements by Mr. Lewis Owen regarding city of Winston-Salem: Twenty miles of hard surface paved street have been laid during the year. The contract has been let for the sewer purification and disposal plant; and work has begun on the same, which will involve an expenditure of from \$300,000 to \$400,000. Plans are now practically completed for the new city hall, which will be immediately erected upon the property at Main and First streets. The aeration system for use in the water plant of Winston-Salem has been contracted for and in this connection the development of the water system will be brought up to a capacity delivery of approximately sixteen million gallons per day of filtered and aerated water. The city market house is practically completed at the approximate cost of \$400,000. This is a community undertaking, the benefits of which will be far-reaching and distinctly constructive along important lines of community services, with a large reaction in relation to food production in Forsyth county and vicinity.

Statements by Dr. R.L. Carlton, Health Officer, city of Winston-Salem: The health work in the schools has been developed to the point of having fifteen full time workers, one of them a school physician, twelve graduate nurses, one nutrition worker and one modern health crusade leader. Every school, white and colored, has a daily visit from a nurse....Many persons have been examined in the tuberculosis clinic and a score or more persons otherwise might have gone undiscovered for years. Baby health stations every summer teach hundreds of mothers from all walks of life how to keep their babies well. Many hundred Winston-Salem children have received protective doses of toxin-antitoxin to keep them from having diphtheria.

Doubtless there are other items of interest which could be gathered if space permitted, but these must suffice to serve as a picture of the condition and growth of Winston-Salem during a God-prospered year. We could not, however, close our record without a reference to the great and happy changes which are making our Salem College for Women and its affiliated academy for young pupils beautiful without, as it has been thoroughly developed within, one of the few A-class colleges for women only of our Southern land. In a few weeks we shall see the opening of the Bahnson Memorial infirmary, which has been added to the great college extension improvement through the liberality of the family and in commemoration of the faithful medical service of the late Dr. Henry T. Bahnson, for more than a generation the physician of the institution.

**Forsyth County
Historical Association**

Meetings are held March through
October the second Tuesday of
the month at 7 pm.

Reynolda Manor Branch Library
2839 Fairlawn Drive
Winston-Salem, NC 27106
(336)703-2960

Please check our website at
www.forsythnchistory.com/meetings.html

**For last minute changes
to our meetings**

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.forsythnchistory.com

Email

forsythhistory@yahoo.com

FCHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name : _____(new____ renewal____)

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone:() _____

Email: _____(please print)

Password for FCHA Members Site _____
(less than 10 lower case letters- please print)

Dues: \$25.00 for 12 months (Jan-Dec)

Lifetime Membership: \$125.00

Please make check payable to: **Forsyth County Historical Association**
6025 Crestridge Road, Winston-Salem, NC. 27106

I agree not to share my FCHA User ID or Password with other members or non-members

Signature Required: _____

About Becoming a Member

If you are interested in your heritage as well as the history of Forsyth County, the FCHA is the organization you should join! Our speakers will educate you in their various fields of expertise. The MEMBERS ONLY SITE will provide you with research information not accessible to our general readers.

Our organization has great plans! Become a member and experience how interesting history and heritage can be!

FCHA

6025 Crestridge Rd
Winston-Salem, NC 27106

