

Oct - Dec 2011
Volume 3, Issue 4

Voice of Forsyth

Forsyth County Historical Association

FCHA Officers

President:

Phyllis Roberson Hoots

Vice-President:

Will You
Volunteer???

Treasurer:

Kathleen Clayton

Newsletter & Website Editor:

Cindy H. Casey

Program Chairman:

Jerry Hart

Publicity Chairman:

Michael Marshall

CHECK OUR WEBSITE

FOR 2012-2013

SPEAKERS!!!

www.forsythchistory.com

President's Message Phyllis Roberson Hoots

We have finished another year of great programs. The one featuring the reminiscences of our Korean War veterans was fascinating. I learned much from listening to the three veterans, one having been a nurse during the war. Our major concern is the low attendance at these programs; therefore, the FCHA board must rethink how we need to present our county's history. We have several ideas and would appreciate any input from our membership.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, there will be a celebration of the joining of Winston and Salem, which occurred in 1913, coming up in a year. I think the various historical societies should have a significant role in this upcoming event. I would like to contact the people in the local government who will be in charge of this event and schedule a meeting with them regarding the presentation of the city's history. I realize that most of our historical societies are focused on the histories of the areas surrounding the city proper. However, Winston and Salem did not operate in a vacuum. People from other areas of the county had a role in or influenced the two towns which merged in 1913. We would like to invite our membership to think about how we can participate in presenting this history to the public.

As we look to another year, please keep in mind that our board members have been the ones carrying the FCHA. We would love to have fresh ideas from others. Our newsletter editor, Cindy Casey, is retiring from this position at the end of 2011. She will continue the role of editor of our FCHA webpage.

We are an evolving group, and you can have an important role through volunteering.

WACHOVIA BANK....*End of an Era*

Be Sure to Read This Great Article by Fam Brownlee

<http://northcarolinaroom.wordpress.com/2011/11/30/big-red-bus-end-of-an-era/>



Wachovia Bank & Trust building at Main and Third Streets was originally seven stories, designed by one of the South's most famous architects, Franklin Pierce Milburn. In 1914, pharmacist Edward O'Hanlon built a slightly taller building at the corner of Fourth and Liberty Streets. That may have irritated the Wachovians, because they then added an eighth story to their building to reclaim the bragging rights to having the tallest building in what had, by then, become the city of Winston-Salem. This illustration is an architect's drawing of the expanded bank building. Both the O'Hanlon and Wachovia buildings are still standing. At one point, Winston-Salem had eight buildings designed by Milburn. The old bank building and the Brickenstein house on the Old Salem bypass are the only ones left.

By 1918, the Wachovia Bank & Trust Company had become one of the South's premier banks, boasting assets of \$18 million, plus another \$7.5 million managed by their trust department. The board of directors included a who's who of local citizens: the Fries brothers, W.T. Brown, H.G. Chatham, L.H. Clement, E.L. Gaither, A.H. Galloway, Jno. L. Gilmer, Eugene E. Gray, James A. Gray, P. Huber Hanes, A.J. Hemphill, T.S. Morrison, William N. Nissen, J.K. Norfleet, C.D. Ogburn, E.W. Ohanlon, H.A. Pfohl, R.J. Reynolds, William Neal Reynolds, Wescott Roberson, W.C. Ruffin, H.F. Shaffner and W.T. Vogler.

DID YOU KNOW? By Kathleen Clayton

Hope Moravian Church Records can be found on Ancestry.com

This booklet lists birth and death records as well as the lists of children who were received into the congregation and admitted to the Holy Sacrament.

On October 1, 1918 the AMUZU Theater at 116 West Fourth Street in Winston-Salem had a special presentation of the movie, **The First Law**. Mrs. Vernon Castle, Irene Castle, the female star of the movie attended the showing.

The AMUZU Theater opened in 1910 following the demise of its predecessor, the Lyric. Early moviegoers paid 10 to 25 cents for a matinee performance and up to 30 cents for an evening performance. They advertised as, "The Place You Know".

The advertisement in the Winston-Salem Journal on that Oct. 1 stated "*Fair Week at the Place You Know. Today only. We will show the world famous dancer in a. Pathe Super Production, Mrs. Vernon Castle in a great play "The First Law". No other woman on the speaking stage is more favorable or better known than Irene Castle. Don't miss this great production here for only one day. Admission only 10 cents day and night.*"

Irene had studied dance and performance arts in amateur theater groups prior to meeting Vernon Castle, an established comic actor and conjuror. They began to work together in dance revues and various theatrical productions. They introduced Paris, France to American ragtime dances such as the Turkey Trot and Grizzly Bear. They soon opened a dancing school in New York called Castle House to teach New York society the latest dance steps. They are credited with introducing American women to the bob, the short haircut favored by flappers in the 1920's. Vernon died in 1918 while training American pilots after successfully serving in the Royal Flying Corps during World War I. Irene starred in a dozen of silent films between 1917 and 1924. She married five different times.

In the book, "Vernon and Irene Castle's Ragtime Revolution", by Eve Golden the movie showed that day in Winston-Salem was described as, "The First Law, in which she played a nouveau-poor girl romanced by the son of the man who ruined her father. The movie was released in August of 1918, it made no great hit, due largely to its confusing and illogical plot. The picture proceeds without rhyme or reason wrote Variety, the fine points being glossed over and everything happening without cause and effect."

If you would like to read an interesting collection of memories see the book, "Wringer Washers and Ration Stamps, A Treasury of 20th Century Memories of Forsyth County Tales, located at the Forsyth County Central Library, NC Room, (NC 975.67 W954).

US CENSUS

**THE 1940
US CENSUS
WILL BE
RELEASED
APRIL 2, 2012**

ARE MY ROOTS SHOWING??..... by Cindy Casey

I'm pleased to report I had another successful drive across the country to my home in Oklahoma. I hope you remember Clara, my 81 year old cousin who lives in OK and still refuses to leave her tick infested piece of property! We had a little excitement to deal with when a wild fire broke out near her home and I had to race in and rescue her. For those of you who know me, you realize I could REALLY embellish and exaggerate this story and no one would know the difference! I'll stick to the facts and not mention the monument the city wanted to erect in my honor. *I humbly refused the offer.*

Here are the facts: A simple backfire of a lawnmower set a grass fire which led to acres of land and homes being burned to the ground a few hundred yards near Clara's home. Clara didn't know what was going on, and because of her blindness, certainly couldn't drive out of the area. When I phoned to see if she was alright I tried to sound calm, but she was onto me like a termite and damp wood! She knew something was wrong....

After arguing with her that yes, her life was in danger, I convinced her to pack her meds (let's not forget the diamonds!) and I would be at her door in 5 minutes. Not bad for a 15 minute drive! As I approached her home, I wove my way around several highway patrol cars, various fire department vehicles and 18-wheelers loaded with water (there are no fire hydrants in the backwoods!). Two Chinook helicopters hovered above my head waiting their turn to dump their buckets of water on the flames licking at my tires!

Once I made it to Clara's the smoke was thick and the fire was getting closer. After beating on her door, she finally answered and said, "Oh, Hi Cindy".....**Really????Oh Hi Cindy?Like I just dropped in for coffee!!!**

ME: "Clara, let's get your walker and stuff in the car and get out of here!"

HER: "Can't we take a few minutes to smoke a cigarette?" (**Really??? I just risked my life and you want to burn one?**)

ME: " *&@ Clara, get in the car!!! Atlanta is burning!!!"

Our mutual sarcasm waxed and waned during our drive to her son's house. She thanked me several times for saving her and I "*shuck'ed ma'am*" and said it was nothing...think nothing of it.... then I gave her the list of items she could buy me to show her thanks. I think it went well for both of us!

#####

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support during my time as the FCHS newsletter editor. I really appreciate the many articles donated to "The Voice of Forsyth"....they were all very special.

I will continue to edit our FCHS website and post articles on our county's history. As long as you keep sending them....I'll keep posting!

Happy Holidays to you all!

Cindy H. Casey

.....*JUST IN CASE YOU WERE INTERESTED*

- In November 2010, Forsyth County voters approved a bond referendum to build a new Central Library and new Branch Libraries in Clemmons and Kernersville. Community meetings are being planned for January and March of 2012 to give the public an opportunity to voice their opinion on the services these libraries should offer. Check the Forsyth County website <https://www.co.forsyth.nc.us/> for more information.
- **North Carolina, Estate Files, 1663-1917** : Family Search.org has indexed the estate file images of North Carolina counties. The originals were filmed at the North Carolina Department of Archives and History. The estate records contain loose papers relating to the settlement of estates including such matters as provision for heirs including minor children as well as distribution of funds, land and property, including slaves. This project was indexed in partnership with the North Carolina Genealogical Society and Library. <https://www.familysearch.org>
- **North Carolina, County Records, 1833-1970** : A collection of various county records including, wills, guardianships, estates, voter registration books, coroner's inquests, etc. It was filmed at the North Carolina Department of Archives and History in Raleigh. This collection is being published as images become available. Check the wiki or browse the collection to determine current coverage. <https://www.familysearch.org>
- **North Carolina, Civil War Service Records of Confederate Soldiers, 1861-1865** Confederate service records of soldiers who served in organizations from North Carolina. The records include a jacket-envelope for each soldier, labeled with his name, his rank, and the unit in which he served. The jacket-envelope typically contains card abstracts of entries relating to the soldier as found in original muster rolls, returns, rosters, payrolls, appointment books, hospital registers, Union prison registers and rolls, parole rolls, inspection reports; and the originals of any papers relating solely to the particular soldier. For each military unit the service records are arranged alphabetically by the soldier's surname. The Military Unit field may also display the surname range (A-G) as found on the microfilm. This collection is a part of RG 109, War Department Collection of Confederate Records and is National Archive Microfilm Publication M270. Index courtesy of Fold3. <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://hr-search-api:8080/searchapi/search/collection/1932376>
- **North Carolina, State Supreme Court Case Files, 1800-1909** This collection is comprised of images of case files from North Carolina State Supreme Court. The cases are generally appeals of lower court decisions with each case usually covering multiple pages. The records are arranged chronologically and handwritten. Includes Forsyth County images. [https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/North_Carolina_State_Supreme_Court_Case_Files_\(FamilySearch_Historical_Records\)](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/North_Carolina_State_Supreme_Court_Case_Files_(FamilySearch_Historical_Records))

THE NATIONAL JUKEBOX - This is a great source for researchers with a connection to the music world (performer, composer, lyricist) or who would like to know what their parents and grandparents may have listened to way back when. The National Jukebox includes more than 10,000 digitized sound recordings (music and spoken-word), from 1901-1925, in a searchable database <http://www.loc.gov/jukebox/>

BILLIONGRAVES - Take the BillionGraves.com iPhone/Android app with you when you go to the cemetery and contribute to the grave image database. Even if you don't have the gadgets required to collect images for BillionGraves, you can still help build the database by transcribing the images so anyone, anywhere, can find ancestors' graves with just a few clicks of the mouse. <http://billiongraves.com/>

FCHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Forsyth County Historical Association

AUDITORIUM
CENTRAL LIBRARY
660 W. FIFTH ST
WINSTON-SALEM, NC

SUNDAY 2:00 PM

CHECK OUR MEETING
SCHEDULE ONLINE
FOR LAST MINUTE
CHANGES

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.forsythnchistory.com

Email

forsythhistory@yahoo.com

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. 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