

## Tours of the Reid House Coming!

Have you ever driven past the Reid House on West John Street and thought, "Boy I would like to be able to tour inside!" Well, your wish will soon be coming true! Two years ago, the Historical Foundation asked me if they thought the Docents would be willing to open the Reid House for a tour. After giving it some thought, I felt that we could open the House for tours once a quarter. It will vary what days we will open, depending if there is another event that is taking place that would help draw visitors. We hope a variety of days will help most people plan for a time that they can come.

The first day for giving tours will be Thursday, September 29. We will give a tour at 1, 2 and 3 that day. We ask that you make a reservation for the tour you are interested in taking, by calling the museum at 704-708-4996. This way we will know that we have guests coming, and can limit the size of group to 10. Five of the docents have been helping me this summer work on the tour development, focusing on the architecture of the structure, the history of the people who lived in the house, and some of their stories. Thanks go out to Joe Brandenburg, Pat Browning, Elinor Minshew, Barbara Stegall and Kathy Shonts for giving their time to this project. Joe and Barbara, who frequently portray Dr. &



Mrs. Reid, have been very helpful!

We will give tours of the house around Christmas with the house decorated in its finery. In April, the house will again be on tour during the return of the Victorian Lawn Party. In the fall, we hope to open the house in conjunction with the quarterly Main Line Market sponsored by the Town of Matthews. Keep an eye out for the dates.

Dear Friends,

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer and has made lots of fun memories. As we welcome in the autumn season, we have some changes and some exciting things happening within the Matthews Historical Foundation.

Barbara Taylor, who has been director of the Matthews Heritage Museum since it opened in 2013, has announced her retirement at the end of the year. . She has done a fantastic job and has been a respected figure in the local history community. We wish her well on all her new adventures!

In other news, we have spent much of the summer constructing a tour of the Reid House for the public to enjoy. We will even have our own "Dr. and Mrs. Reid" interpreters on hand for some of the tours. Days and times will vary, reservations will be required, and a donation of \$5 will be recommended per person. Our first tour starts on September 29th! Please come see the Reid House and learn more about the history!

Becky Hayes Willard, President

### Board of Directors

#### Foundation

Becky Willard, President

Bill Helms, VP

Bob Aycok, 2nd VP

Brian Antal, Treasurer

Carol Cullis, Secretary

Paula Lester, Historian

Diane Adams

Anne Bennett

Chuck Bennett

Kress Query

Jim Taylor

John Urban

Tins Whitley

Ex Officio

Sandy Duncan

Marilyn Sczech

#### Docents

Erin Barrett

Joe Brandenburg

Pat Browning

John Camenga

Gloria Clakum

Gregg Coleman

Julia Hanson

Eileen Linz

Clyde Kiser

Mary McClure

Althea Meade-Hadjuk

Michael Meath

Elinor Minshew

Lanell Owenby

Meghan Sharpe

Kathy Shonts

Barbara Stegall

MHM Director

Barbara Taylor

Michael Meath — A new Docent

I retired from the American Red Cross in Rochester, NY at the end of July 2021 and relocated to Matthews a month later with my wife Lori our wonder dog Chester. The movers had strict instructions not to bring the snow shovels.

My sister Susan had relocated to the Charlotte area ten years ago where her grown children and grandchildren had already established a beachhead. For several years there was an on-going discussion between me, Lori, and my brother Tom and his wife Lindy regarding relocating to the Charlotte area and “getting the band back together”. About four years ago, Tom called me and said “Matthews”. I said, “Matthews what?” Tom said, “Matthews is where we are going”. After a few reconnaissance trips and a two-year delay due to the pandemic, we finally got to Matthews.

It turns out that Matthews was a wonderful choice, and we are all thrilled to be living in such a beautiful city where even the “transplanted” folks are proud of the local history.

My first career was in the entertainment industry working in the Production Services department at Walt Disney World in central Florida as a “Stage Operator” in 1971. The “Theatre” business being what it is, I traveled extensively (including to the Highlands Playhouse in Highlands, NC.) for many years and was blessed to be exposed to many historical sites and much local history and developed a deep love for the unlikely evolution of our beautiful country.

Matthews is no exception, and I was thrilled that the Matthews Heritage Museum was here and starting a new “docent” class. Under the expert direction of Barbara Taylor I was able to scratch the surface of the rich history of Matthews NC. Please stop by the “small on the outside, but big on the inside” Matthews Heritage Museum. I would be happy to share a tour with you if I am on duty.

Michael, Welcome and thanks for your help!



Barbara Stegall and Joe Brandenburg, AKA Mrs. and Dr. T. N. Reid are ready for the parade. Thanks to Ed Kale for bringing his wonderful 1931 Ford.

### Matthews Alive!

Becky Willard, President of the Foundation and Kress Query, Board Member enjoying the parade!



From the Director:

After much consideration I have made a decision to step down as Director of the Museum at the end of the year in order to spend more time travelling and exploring places I wish to go. I am hopeful that the Board and I might be able to work it out that I can keep working for the Museum the equivalent of one day a week, but that still needs to be determined. I believe the museum needs to hire someone to be the Director to take on my duties, and I would use some of my time to help train that person in areas that they might not have experience with, in order to make a smoother transition.



In the last six months a couple of individuals have offered to not only be trained as docents, but to learn our collection management system, which takes a great deal of time. It would be wonderful if I could train the next Director and perhaps a few others to work on Past Perfect, which is used to document our collections. Another couple of people, wanting to become docents, expressed interest in doing additional research on their own. I believe there is a great opportunity ahead for us to utilize these many talents, particularly if my time was limited to focused work with these individuals.

It is difficult to walk away completely from a career I have done for 46 years. It is impossible for me to think I can just quit. The past 9 years of working part-time has allowed me to slow down and begin to learn how to relax. I think it is time I enjoyed a bit more of that! Hopefully I can continue to be of service to the museum and community. It could be an exciting chapter for all of us. I want to thank the Board for helping explore these possibilities for the future. All of us want what is best for this museum that is loved by the many who understand what we do for the community. I hope I can keep up an association with you for several more years, while having more time for projects and travel. Thank you to all who have been so supportive to the museum, and given their time and talents. Hoping we can move on to the next chapter together.

Barbara E. Taylor

## Upcoming Events

Creation of the Heritage Trail Lecture

September 22, 2022      3 o'clock Public Library in Matthews.      Free

Barbara Taylor, Director of the Museum, spent several years researching the history and families that lived in Crestdale. She explored how the community evolved including its churches and institutions.

In a power-point presentation she will share with the audience what she found and the rich history of this neighborhood.

Reid House Tour September 29, 1 - 4      134 W. John Street      Recommended Donation \$5

Beginning in September we will be open for tours to the public on a quarterly basis. The Matthews Historical Foundation cares for the House, and generally uses it as a rental property. In coordination with the Foundation the Museum has developed a new tour of the property focusing on the unique architecture of the structure and the family who lived there. The tours will be conducted at 1, 2 and 3. Reservations are **required**. You may register by calling the museum at 704-708-4996 to reserve your spot. We will offer tours to the public on a quarterly basis, and will announce the upcoming dates soon.

Fall for Matthews – October 16      10 a.m. – 4 p.m.      The Matthews Heritage Museum will be participating in this year's Fall for Matthews. Stroll around Matthews Station viewing arts and crafts booths. Learn about the programs available at the museum

*Foundations* is a publication of  
Matthews Historical Foundation and the  
Matthews Heritage Museum  
Edited by Barbara Taylor, Director

**Available at the Museum**

Matthews Remembered DVD.....\$15  
Matthews Memories Cookbook...  
\$21.95

  
**If you have a local artifact to  
donate, please call the Museum  
office 704-708-4996.**

**Visit our  
websites**

[www.matthewshistoricalfoundation.org](http://www.matthewshistoricalfoundation.org)  
[www.matthewsreidhouse.org](http://www.matthewsreidhouse.org)  
[www.matthewsheritagemuseum.org](http://www.matthewsheritagemuseum.org)

As many of you know, Paula Lester has been the “keeper of history” for the town of Matthews. When she and Larry decided to move to SC she started cleaning house. Many items she had been given over the years by local citizens she brought to the museum. We are beginning to process that collection and I have come across a lot of goodies! Paula had been housing several small photos of members of the Reid family which will be copied and included on the new Reid House Tour. Now that all items that Sarah Redd donated were brought together for the Reid exhibit, we will begin cataloguing all these items which includes books owned by J. Solomon Reid, and other family members and small ceramic items that belonged to Nancy, along with her coffee service. Paula’s collection included new photos of Beulah and O.L. Phillips and their daughter’s High School Diploma; a business card for Nash S. Cochran — “Candidate for 20th Sen. District, Mecklenburg Co.”; a poem written by T. N. Reid on a receipt from the Matthews Drug Store; and an original framed photo of E. J. and Celia Funderburk. Most exciting are several paper items that record the existence of another school

known as the Matthews Academy/Baptist School. One document brought in by Paula details the rigorous curriculum of this High School, including Latin and Greek! It also lists some of the prominent citizens of Matthews who supported the school. Another document announces graduation exercises for 1901. Research from City Directories, show this school existed as early as 1884! Documents in the Massey Collection prove that Dr. Massey sent Daisy and Edgar to this school. We have receipts for their tuition and I believe a report card from Oct. 1896! We also know names of some of the principals and school teachers. We believe it was open until 1905 or 1906, and probably closed because of the new school built that would be free to the community. I hope in the future to be able to compile all known knowledge of this excellent school, and add it to our knowledge of the early schools in the area. D.A. Tomkins book of 1902 lists this school along with the “best schools in the county outside Charlotte are the Belmont Graded School, Bain Academy, Davidson Academy, Matthews High School, Pineville High School, Newell Academy, Zion Academy and Huntersville Academy. It is believe Matthews was awarded one of the two new community schools in 1907 because it had an existing excellent school.

Barbara Taylor, Director

**Save the Date — November 7**

In November every year, a day before Election Day, the Matthews Historical Foundation hosts their annual Fundraiser. After a two-year absence due to COVID, the Foundation will once more host a fundraiser to support the operations of the Museum and the Foundation. Please save the date November 7 for this year’s fundraiser. Details and invitations about the event will be mailed out in late October. Please consider joining in this event!