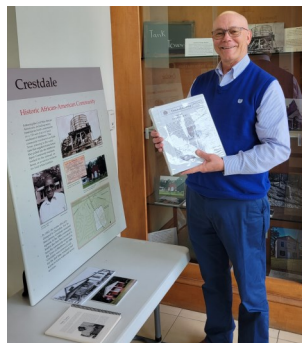


Leon Berry Presentation

Our former museum director Barbara Taylor gave a talk on Leon Berry at the Matthews Library on February 9th. Mr. Berry, a renowned basket weaver, created several of the baskets in our current exhibit and Barbara had the pleasure of meeting him in the 1980s. It was a very interesting and informative session that was bolstered by the presence and personal recollections of Mr. James Henderson, Mr. Berry's grandson. A great-granddaughter of Mr. Berry was also in attendance. A picture of them and Barbara can be found below.

Following Barbara's talk, museum docent Joe Brandenburg led a discussion on Tank Town in the lobby of the library/town hall. A photo of Joe and his presentation can also be found below. Also featured is a photo of a fish weir created by Mr. Berry from our current basket exhibit, which will run until the first week of April. On May 6th, a basket weaving workshop with Nancy Duffie will be held at the Matthews Library from 1-4 pm. The event is free, but registration is required. Please contact the library for additional information.



President's Corner:

It has been an exciting first quarter thus far for the MHF. I'm thrilled to announce that we were chosen by the Matthews Chamber of Commerce as the recipient of this year's Non Profit of the Year Award. This award is given annually to a non-profit that demonstrates exceptional service and is voted on by chamber members. I would like to thank Tina Whitley for nominating us and placing us in the company of so many impactful organizations. Thanks also to our Board members and volunteers who made it all possible, It is truly a prestigious honor for the Matthews Historical Foundation and all involved.

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
Anne Bennett
Chuck Bennett
Kress Query
Jim Taylor
John Urban
Tins Whitley
Ex Officio
Sandy Duncan
Marilyn Sczech

Docents
Erin Barrett*
Joe Brandenburg
John Camenga
Gloria Clackum
Gregg Coleman
Julia Hanson
Eileen Linz
Mary McClure
Althea Meade-Hadjuk
Michael Meath
Elinor Minshew
Lanell Owenby
Meghan Sharpe
Kathy Shonts
Barbara Stegall
MHM Director
Camilla Bahr

*On Leave

Eileen Linz — Our Newest Docent

Eileen was born and raised in Queens, New York. Fashion has been a longtime passion of hers and she had an illustrious career at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. During her time at FIT she worked in account management and fundraising, was involved in the running of FIT's sister schools in Italy and India, and met many celebrities and fashion designers. Eileen also taught tennis for 25 years, both in schools and privately, and competed in the US Tennis Association (USTA), reaching level 4.0.

Eileen first moved to North Carolina in 2006, settling first in Pittsboro where she ran a vintage store for seven years and served as president of the Women of Fairington Village club for a year. She moved to Matthews in May of 2022 to be closer to family, who include three sons, eight grandsons, one granddaughter and nine great-grandchildren. A seasoned traveler, Eileen has visited Israel, Germany, Turkey, Greece, Canada, and Japan. Her hobbies include collecting jewelry and perfume bottles and reading books about history. In her time as docent, Eileen has demonstrated her love of history and flair for storytelling and gives a great tour. Stop by and say hello!



Did you know...

... that South Charlotte used to be home to a gold and copper mine? Located on the site of the Cinemark Movie Bistro, the Rea Gold Mine dates back to at least 1853, although the actual date of its establishment is unknown. In 1853 the mine occupied approximately 575 acres and was owned by Green Lee Rea. Three spellings were used to refer to the mine: Rhea, Rea and Ray.

According to an unnamed source: "It is remarkable, however, for the number uniformity and extent of its veins of Gold and Copper. The mining surface of this plantation, is, however, remarkable for its evenness, and in fact is more nearly a perfect level than most farms in the region. Two of the veins... are traceable for nearly half a mile, without the slightest interruption. Shafts have been sunk at the distance of one hundred yards along these veins for the space of a quarter of a mile and the ore has been found abundant and accessible in veins of eight inches to a foot in thickness, and of the uniform value of \$1.85 a bushel – weighing one hundred pounds – or \$35 to \$40 per ton."

A geological survey was conducted in 1859 and it found that "owing to the monetary difficulties that so soon intervened, subsequently to 1853, this property has maintained its comparative integrity, which at that time was supposed to consist chiefly in the value of its gold veins, but to which late disclosures have given it more prominence in the way of its copper ores." Copper was in very high demand at the time, as it was used to manufacture ocean navigation equipment. The last known mention of the mine's existence comes from a state geological report from 1936.

Taken from research compiled by Barbara Taylor.

From the Director:

Hello everyone! My name is Camilla and I am the new museum director. I took over from Barbara at the end of 2022 (big shoes to fill!) and so far it has been an absolute joy. I grew up in Matthews and I am so delighted to be working in my hometown.



History has been a long-time passion of mine and I am very excited to share that passion with the community. I have a BA in History from Mars Hill University and an MLIS from UNC Greensboro. During my time at Mars Hill I interned at the Thomas Wolfe House in Asheville and during graduate school I volunteered at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library at the Jewish Community Center of Charlotte. My hobbies include cross-stitching, reading, listening to podcasts, trying out new recipes, shopping, playing video games, and spending time with friends and family.

I am very grateful to Barbara, the docents, and the Historical Foundation for making the museum such a great place to visit and for providing continued support. In my time at the museum I have updated the basket exhibit while also planning a new one on depression glass. I have also been busy scheduling several school tours and a docent training class, brainstorming possible events, and managing the day-to-day operations.

Please feel free to stop by the museum and say hello. I enjoy meeting new people!

Spring Has Sprung at the Museum!



Millie the Dog (and her human) with MHM Docent Lanell Owenby



Our beautiful daffodils in full bloom

Foundations is a publication of
Matthews Historical Foundation and the
Matthews Heritage Museum
Edited by Camilla Bahr, 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
www.matthewsreidhouse.org
www.matthewsheritagemuseum.org



Our [Little Free Library](#) is running low on books! If you have any books that you are willing to donate and want to bring them by the Museum we would greatly appreciate it!



**One of the Area's BEST KEPT SECRETS
2018 Best LOCAL HISTORIC SITE**

Contact us today to book your event!
704.849.7368
matthewsreidhouse.org

*Charming & quaint, it is an
ideal setting for your next event!*

Wedding Ceremonies • Outdoor Weddings
Rehearsal Dinners • Wedding Receptions
Bridal Luncheons • Anniversary Celebrations
Charity Events • Private Parties • Luncheons
Business Meetings • Corporate Functions
Reunions • Film & Photography Location