

FOUNDATIONS

Quarterly newsletter for the Matthews Historical Foundation
and the Matthews Heritage Museum



A Decade of Matthews History

By Bob Aycock

In 2023, we celebrated the joyous milestone of the Matthews Heritage Museum's 10th anniversary. It has been a decade filled with historic preservation, education, and cultural enrichment, and I am immensely honored to be a part of it all.

Our journey would not have been as enriching without the invaluable contributions of our dedicated docents. Their unwavering commitment and passion have brought the Museum to life, making each visit a unique and memorable experience for our patrons.

To mark this momentous occasion, we came together this past fall to celebrate, complete with birthday cakes and party favors, thanks to Elinor Minshew.

As we enter the next chapter, I am excited about the continued growth and impact we will achieve together. Here's to another decade of inspiration, learning, and discovery at our Heritage Museum!

Thank you to all of our Museum supporters and Foundation members for being valued contributors to our community.

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Holiday Party

We had a fabulous Annual Holiday Fundraiser at our Historic Reid House this year. Thank you to the Musical Heirs for the lovely caroling, our fab DJ Chris Melton, Adam and Veronica Reed of Santé for the delicious food, and to Lee Myers for heading up our auction. Thanks also to our Board Members and our Museum Docents! And a special thanks to Board Member Tina Whitley, our event planner, the Matthews Woman's Club Service League for decking the halls, our generous auction item donors, and most of all to our friends who attended. We appreciate your support, and we couldn't do it without you!



President's Corner

by Becky Willard

The Historic Reid House, our "Jewel of Matthews" was once again the place to be for the Victorian Holiday Teas, presented by the Matthews Woman's Club Service League this past December. The organization's signature fundraising event, the Victorian Teas have been a Matthews institution for many years and are still going strong! Guests enjoyed festive harp music, elegant holiday decor, and delicious treats along with their tea. Carol singers dressed in period costumes created an authentic Victorian atmosphere, and there was even a visit by *Dr. and Mrs. Reid!* The Reid House has been delighted to host the MWCSL and their guests for this Matthews holiday tradition for over 30 years.



IN MEMORIAM

In fond remembrance, we extend a heartfelt tribute to those we have recently lost. May their memory continue to inspire and resonate within our community.

- Garlin Russell, a lifelong Matthews resident, on October 10, 2023
- William Wilson Goodson Jr., a cherished former docent, on January 1, 2024

History in the News

The Matthews Heritage Museum and the Matthews Historical Foundation were the front page of the Matthews-Mint Hill Weekly in December (article to the right).

Becky Willard, President of the Matthews Historical Foundation, and Bob Aycock, Vice President and Director of the Matthews Heritage Museum, were also included in the Matthews-Mint Hill Weekly's list of the 100 Biggest Newsmakers of 2023.

As MMH Weekly printed, **history is on a roll**, and we're excited about making more headlines throughout 2024!



From the Director's Desk

by Bob Aycock

I'm so proud of all we've accomplished since the end of July when I became Director. We've participated in a number of events with the Town of Matthews and the Matthews Chamber of Commerce, including Matthews Alive, Fall for Matthews, and the Hometown Holiday Stroll. We also hosted seven 2nd grade classes from Mathews Elementary and a local Cub Scout den. Since I began, we have welcomed over 800 visitors to the Museum, and I'm thrilled with the generous donations we continue to receive after making admission free for everyone. Our exhibit, "Service and Sacrifice: Honoring our Heroes," has been a success. The Matthews-Mint Hill Weekly published an article about it at the end of October and we've had several local veterans come in to see it.



Celebrating #MuseumSelfieDay

CLIMATE-POSITIVE WEBSITE ACCREDITATION

The Museum website received a Climate-Positive Website Accreditation from the Eco-Friendly Web Alliance (EFWA), an award-winning social enterprise with a vision to make a positive impact on the environment. Their report found our website to be low-carbon, green-hosted, and qualified for their Climate-Positive Website Accreditation. EFWA's mission is to work towards a greener internet by empowering website owners to reduce their environmental impact.

EVENTS



Our spring **Art Show** to benefit the Matthews Historical Foundation will be held at the Historic Reid House on **Friday, April 12, 5:30-9:00, and Saturday, April 13, 10:00-4:00.** Discover the creative talents of local fine artists:

- Prudy Weaver, Oil Painter
- Cynthia Howard, Oil Painter
- Sharon Schwenk, Oil Painter
- Brian Sykes, Wood Turner
- Debbie Winchester, Silversmith, Fine Jewelry
- Gena Van Dyke, Fine Pottery

We will be raffling off an original painting by Prudy Weaver. Raffle tickets are \$10 each for a 20" x 20" oil painting worth \$1,300. Purchase raffle tickets at the Matthews Heritage Museum or contact Tina Whitley.



Embark on a captivating journey through time with our **Historic Cemetery Tour.** This new experience, coming **this spring,** will offer a unique blend of history and storytelling as you wander through the hallowed grounds of the Historic Matthews Cemetery. Our knowledgeable guide will regale you with tales of notable figures from our past and their contributions to the town of Matthews.



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

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- 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

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- Lanell Owenby
- Kathy Shonts
- Barbara Stegall

Museum Director
Bob Aycock

Visit our websites
matthewshistoricalfoundation.org
matthewsheritagemuseum.org
matthewsreidhouse.org

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