

FOUNDATIONS

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



Charting Our Course

By Bob Aycock

As I reflect on the past 10 months since I assumed the role of Director of the Matthews Heritage Museum, I am filled with gratitude and excitement for this ongoing journey. It has been an incredible experience witnessing the steady stream of visitors who grace our doors week after week. One decision that stands out as particularly rewarding is the choice to make admission free. This decision has not only opened our doors wider but has also fostered a sense of community and accessibility for all. I am thrilled to share that our visitors express their appreciation through not only words, but donations as well, whether in-person at the Museum, online, or at our community events.

Having grown up in Matthews myself, it is such an honor for me to be entrusted with preserving and sharing the history of my hometown with both residents and visitors alike. Every day, I am reminded of the tapestry of stories, traditions, and memories that make Matthews the remarkable place that it is. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to play a part in celebrating and preserving our town's heritage. I look forward to many more moments of collaborating, discovering, and sharing experiences, all while actively promoting tourism to our wonderful town. Exciting things are on the horizon!

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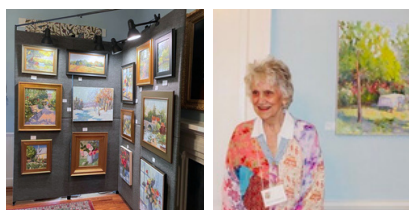
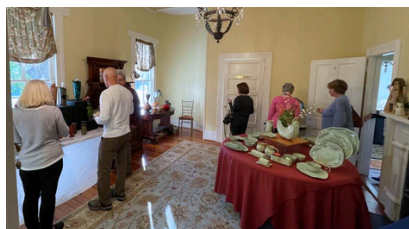
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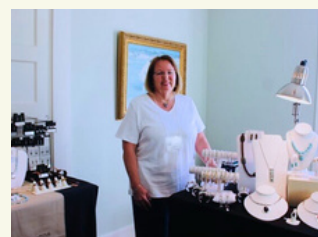
Fine Art Show

The Matthews Historical Foundation held its inaugural Fine Art Show at the Historic Reid House on April 12 and 13. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended, to the talented local fine artists who participated, and to our sponsor, Weaver, Bennett & Bland, P.A. Your support made this event a tremendous success. A special congratulations to Claudia, the lucky winner of our raffle for Prudy Weaver's original oil painting! Thank you all for your continued support of the Matthews Historical Foundation. We're already planning for next year's show, which will be even bigger!

President's Corner

By Becky Willard

The Matthews Historical Foundation's Fine Art Show was so much fun! We are fortunate to have so many talented artists in the Matthews area. A big, heartfelt thank you to each and every one of our wonderful artists and to all who joined us for this memorable event! Your support means the world to us. Reflecting on the rich history of the Reid House adds an extra layer of warmth to our appreciation. It was truly special to have Nancy Reid's grandniece Sarah Redd join us for our Fine Art Show, connecting the past with the present in such a meaningful way. Sarah gifted the Reid House to the Historical Foundation on December 31, 1987. This is why we celebrate 1987 as the beginning year of the Matthews Historical Foundation, which is still going strong after 35 years!



LITTLE CABOOSE PRESS ARTWORK

The Matthews Heritage Museum now offers beautiful Massey-Clark House notecards and postcards for sale, featuring designs by local artist Garrett Agresti. Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder at age 3, Garrett's passion for trains unlocked his potential, leading him to start drawing them in elementary school. Over the years, he has refined his skills to produce detailed artwork, now selling it through his venture, Little Caboose Press.

New Museum Exhibit

Unearthed Riches: Local Treasures Revealed highlights the hidden treasures discovered right beneath our feet. This collection not only serves as a testament to the persistence of the past but also as a reminder of the importance of preserving our local heritage. The artifacts on display range from everyday objects that provide insights into daily life to mysterious finds that leave us questioning the past. Each unearthed item tells a unique story, shedding light on the lives of those that once thrived in our local landscape. We invite you to marvel at the craftsmanship of bygone eras and ponder the tales behind these fascinating relics. *Unearthed Riches* is more than an exhibit—it's an opportunity to connect with the past and appreciate the rich history that lies just beneath the soil.



From the Director's Desk

By Bob Aycock

I was honored to be invited by the Kiwanis Club of Matthews to give a presentation, which I attended on April 25. It was a pleasure to share insights into the rich history of Matthews, from the early history of Stumptown to Fullwood to when it became Matthews. I outlined the major changes that took place, leading to the present, along with some of the prominent families that helped shape our community. I also discussed the important work the Museum and Foundation are doing to maintain and celebrate our community's past. Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to present to the Matthews Rotary Club, further spreading awareness about our efforts to preserve our town's heritage for the future.



Thank you, Kiwanis Club of Matthews, for all you do to make a difference in our community

“MILES FOR MUSEUMS” PASSPORT PROGRAM

The “Miles for Museums” Summer Passport Program encourages people to explore area museums to collect stamps, making them eligible to receive prizes. I’m thrilled that the Matthews Heritage Museum is participating in this program, initiated by the Eastern Cabarrus Historical Society in 2023. I have volunteered to design this year’s passport and will be collaborating with ECHS on marketing the program, which kicks off Memorial Day weekend.

HISTORIC CEMETERY TOUR



Michael Meath has done an incredible job researching and planning for a tour of the Historic Matthews Cemetery. Michael gave a preview tour for Docents and Board members on April 14. The first public tour took place on April 20, attracting 42 attendees of all ages and receiving excellent feedback. Michael will be offering additional cemetery tours soon. Stay tuned for details on the Museum's website and social media channels.



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Museum Director
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Visit our websites
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Foundations is a publication of the
Matthews Historical Foundation and the
Matthews Heritage Museum
Edited by Bob Aycock, Director