

FOUNDATIONS

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



A Season of Community & Discovery

By Bob Aycock

This fall has been full of special events, tours, and hands-on history in action, offering residents and visitors alike the chance to explore Matthews' rich past.

October began with a headstone cleaning event at Historic Matthews Cemetery, held in partnership with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission and Christ Covenant Church. We're grateful to everyone who joined us in helping preserve this important piece of Matthews history. More than 70 volunteers came out on a Saturday morning and cleaned over 200 headstones in just two hours. Following the cleanup, Michael Meath led a tour of the cemetery. It was a wonderful day of service, learning, and community connection.

We were also thrilled to welcome twelve 6th grade classes from Crestdale Middle School for walking tours of the Matthews Heritage Trail and visits to the Matthews Heritage Museum. This marks our first year partnering with Crestdale Middle, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. After speaking with the school's principal, we're happy to share that this program will continue next year—giving future students the opportunity to explore the local history tied to their school's namesake.

To round out a busy season, the Museum hosted a private walking tour for the Carolina Women's Club of Charlotte. We explored historic buildings, learned about former sites that helped shape Matthews' early years, and enjoyed a stop at the Historic Reid House. It was a wonderful morning of discovery and conversation with an engaged and enthusiastic group.

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Veterans Exhibit Returns

Our annual veterans exhibit, *Service and Sacrifice: Honoring Our Heroes*, has returned to the Matthews Heritage Museum. First debuting in 2023, this meaningful tribute honors the courageous men and women who have served in the United States military. What began as a temporary exhibit has become a cherished tradition.

This year, we are especially proud to feature a World War I connection from right here in Matthews. The Crisco family generously donated artifacts belonging to their relative, William Reid Freeman, who served in the 30th Division. His service, and the histories shared alongside it, help us ensure that the stories of local heroes continue to be remembered and celebrated.

President's Corner

By Becky Willard

We're excited to invite all of our friends and Foundation Members to the 4th Annual Holiday Party at the Historic Reid House on Thursday, December 11! The house will be beautifully decorated for the season, creating the perfect backdrop to celebrate the holidays with the community. Enjoy festive music, delicious refreshments, and the warmth of gathering with friends old and new.

This event is our biggest fundraiser of the year, supporting our ongoing efforts to preserve the rich history of Matthews for future generations. We hope you'll join us for an evening of festive cheer, good company, and holiday spirit! Please RSVP to tbwhitley58@gmail.com to save your spot.



JOIN US IN PRESERVING HISTORY

Since 1987, the Matthews Historical Foundation has worked to preserve our town's rich history.

We're proud of all we've accomplished over the years, and you can help us continue this important work by becoming a member. We offer several membership levels and other donation possibilities. Support local history, preservation, and community programs.

Join today: matthewshistoricalfoundation.com/membership

Museum After Dark: A Night of History & Mystery

Our second annual *Museum After Dark* was a SPOOKtacular evening filled with history, mystery, and plenty of fun. Guests explored the museum by eerie light and heard chilling (but family-friendly) tales inspired by the past. We're incredibly grateful to our amazing volunteers for bringing the night to life with their energy and storytelling talent. Thank you to everyone who joined us! You made this unique after-hours experience a hauntingly good success.



From the Director's Desk

By Bob Aycock

I'm feeling especially grateful this season for the incredible individuals who make the Matthews Heritage Museum thrive. Our Foundation Board continually advocates for the Museum, supporting my efforts to get out into the community and connect with more people. Our dedicated Docents who volunteer each month, give exceptional tours and ensure every visitor feels welcome. Your commitment and energy make everything we do possible.

Since our last issue of *Foundations*, we've welcomed 1,372 visitors to the Museum from August through October, with 720 visitors in October alone! It's exciting to see so many people exploring Matthews' history and enjoying all the Museum has to offer. Thank you to everyone who supports and participates in our programs! You help keep our town's story alive.



SPECIAL EVENTS AND TOURS

The Matthews Heritage Museum offers engaging experiences for all ages. From our Historic Walking Tours to Historic Cemetery Tours and other seasonal programs, we invite you to explore local history in new ways. Visit our Events page for the latest schedule and details: matthewsheritagemuseum.org/events. Sign up for our email list to receive announcements about special events, new exhibits, and Museum news delivered right to your inbox.

PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE

The Matthews Historical Foundation extends its appreciation to all our members for their ongoing interest in and support of the Foundation and its initiatives. For over 37 years, we have achieved remarkable milestones, and we are excited for what the future holds. Every project and event we undertake is made possible by the generous contributions from our members, sponsors, and benefactors. Your support is invaluable, and we are deeply grateful for your commitment. Together, we can continue to preserve and celebrate our community's rich history for generations to come. Thank you for making our work possible!

To view our membership levels, please visit our website:
matthewshistoricalfoundation.com/membership

Checks can be mailed to:
 Matthews Historical Foundation
 P.O. Box 1117
 Matthews, NC 28106

As a 501(c)(3) organization, your donations are tax deductible.
 No donation is too small or too large.



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matthewshistoricalfoundation.org
matthewsheritagemuseum.org
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