



WAYNE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

FALL 2024

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Local History

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WAYNE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Greetings from Local History

By Anna Mitchell, Local History Librarian

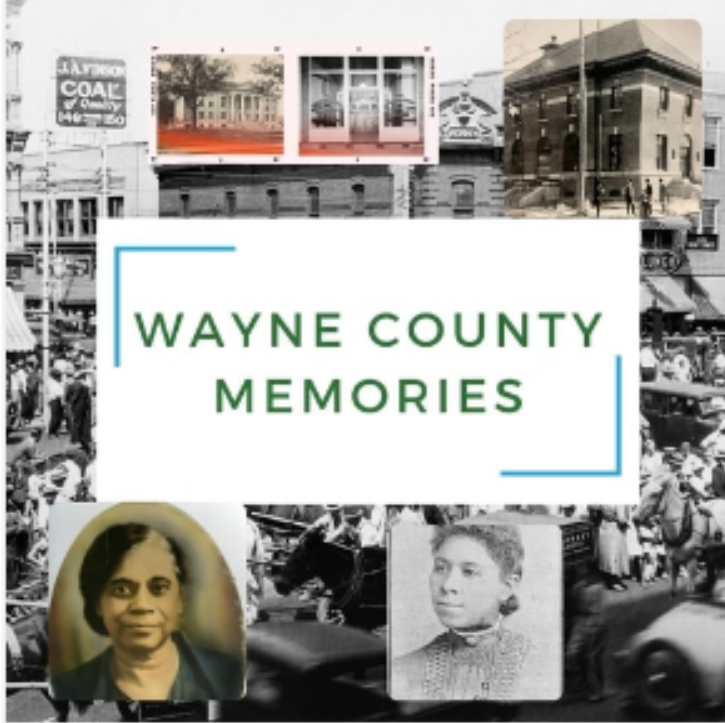


From the Wayne County Public Library Collection

“And the sun took a step back, the leaves lulled themselves to sleep and autumn was awakened.”

Summer is gone and we're making our way into the cooler days of fall! Our summer months were busy in Local History with programs, projects, and working alongside our intern, Davia! As we enter into a new season, we are excited about what is coming next! We will be hosting a variety of workshops and programs this fall and we hope you'll join us. As always, feel free to stop by the Local History room the next time you're at the library and say hello!

Everyone has a story. We want to hear yours.



Here in Local History, we believe that everyone has a story and that each person's experience helps to shape our community memory. We would love to hear your Wayne County Memories.

Did you know that there are multiple ways to share your story with us? We are currently seeking interviewees for Oral History interviews, and we are also looking for contributions for our Digital Exhibits. If you would be interested in conducting an Oral History interview with us or contributing photos or memories to our exhibit, contact us.

You have a story to tell - we want to hear it.

Blast from the Past: A Party for Vietnam Soldiers

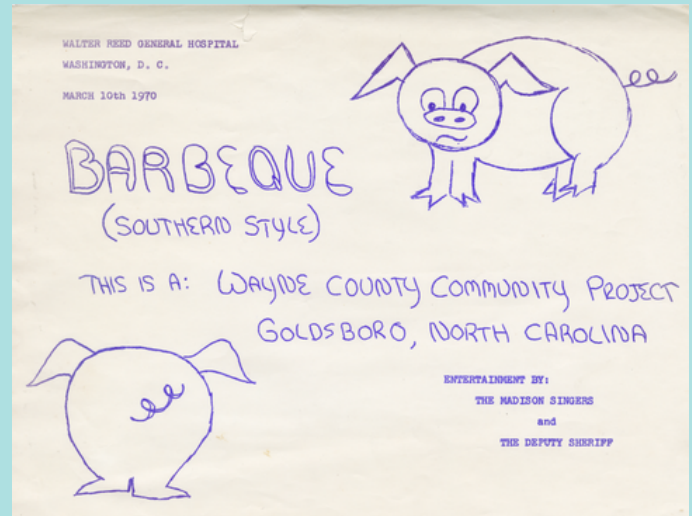
By Anna Mitchell, Local History Librarian

In 1970, while war raged on in Vietnam and the American people were faced with constant loss and fear, there was a glimmer of light and hope emerging from some of Wayne County's own.

Dana Borden Lacy, a self proclaimed "misplaced girl" from Goldsboro was living in Chevy Chase, MD.

She developed the idea of a party for the injured men recovering at Walter Reed Hospital. To raise money, she sent a letter to her friends and family back home - requesting a \$1 donation. She hoped to keep the cost below \$100. By the end, her Goldsboro friends and family had raised over \$400.

The event received world-wide attention when the story was published in countless newspapers. People around the globe praised the Wayne County folks who "did it right" for the Vietnam veterans.

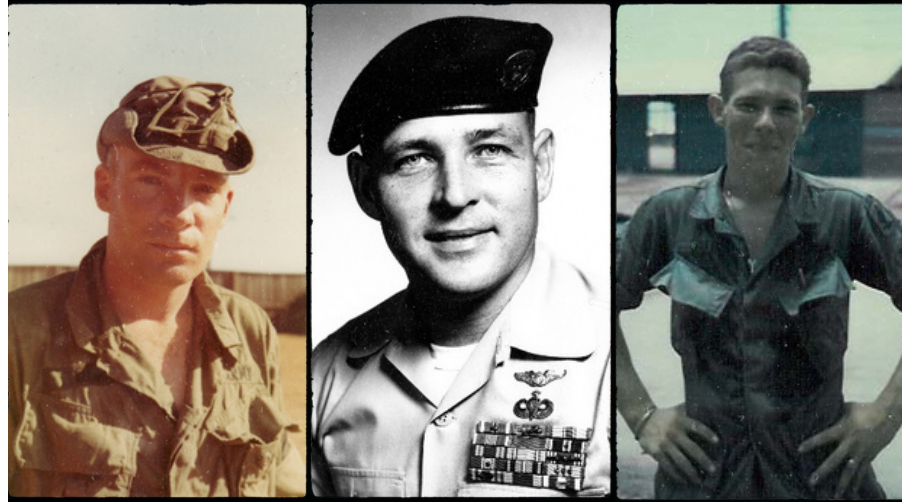


The Names on the Wall: Wayne County's Men in Vietnam

By Anna Mitchell,
Local History Librarian



In preparation for our upcoming program and digital exhibit about the history of the Vietnam War years in Wayne County, the Local History staff has been doing research about the men from our community who served. I was fascinated to learn that Wayne County has more than 20 names on the Vietnam Wall, which memorializes those who lost their lives in service.



Edmond Ray Toler, William Carl Sutton, Phillip Dean Hardy



From Top Left: Casco Devaughn Howell, Lane Kornegay Hargrove. Ralph Howell, Bobby Ray Lane, Billy Wayne McKeel, Murray Lyman Borden

Among the names are the men in these photographs. Their faces are a reminder of the community's loss during this tumultuous time in our world's history. To learn more about these men, be sure to check back and view our upcoming digital exhibit.

If you or a family member with a connection to Wayne County served during the Vietnam War, we would love to speak with you. We are currently seeking stories and photographs about Wayne County during the Vietnam War. If you think you can help, please contact us!

Stay tuned for our Vietnam history programs in November and the debut of the accompanying digital exhibit!

Back to School: Yearbooks

By Kailauna White, Local History Assistant



12th grade class, Seven Springs School, 1937

Smile! It's that time of year when class is in session and books are abound. As we continue to digitize our General Photograph Collection, we've stumbled upon a plethora of yearbook photos from the late 1930s, early 1940s. For schools such as Rosewood, Seven Springs, and Pikeville. These photos provide us with a look at the culture surrounding the times. From fashion to hairstyles to body language, we are fortunate that these photos exist to show us a glimpse of the past.

One of the hardest parts of aging is losing those formative memories that once held so much power over us. As we grow older, the days begin to blend together and create a fog that overtakes our conscious. Photography has been vital in capturing memories that we often forget. While we don't recall every chipped pencil or stressful exam, we are able to point a finger amongst a crowd and say "that was my best friend". We remember the emotions that overwhelmed us, even when we don't remember the faces.

Our mission in Local History is to preserve, and we are beyond grateful for the continued donations that make this work possible. Our ability to protect past generations from the sands of time relies on the generosity of the community. As hard as we work to protect history, we always appreciate the help from those who lived it.

Notice that in the short amount of time between 1937 and 1944, hair got a lot fluffier and skirts became shorter. No more striped socks. It's just as they say, teens control the cultural tides!

Got a yearbook you'd like to share with the community? Consider donating it to Local History! We take pride in our yearbook collection. We encourage everyone to come on down and have a blast with the past!



11th grade class, Rosewood School, 1944

That's Old News!

By Kailauna White, Local History Assistant

Often the Homefront is forgotten in times of war, and the Vietnam War is no exception. It's worth looking back on times of strife and examining the lives of the everyday man. For every front page headline about Vietnam and U.S. involvement, countless stories relate to our people at home. Some articles mirror today's concerns regarding politics, the economy, housing, and the environment. Take a look at this article to your right, which dominated the Goldsboro News Argus on July 6, 1965, overtaking news of the Vietnam War. It must be understood that living in historic times does not define the people in the way we assume when we look back through time. Despite our Air Force base and our countless men overseas, the people were occupied with the threats directly in front of their faces. I highly recommend scrolling through our microfilm and reading papers from the Cold War era to better understand the wants and fears of the common everyday man.

Come visit the Local History Room for more Old News!

Storm Leaves City And County Damage



2 Areas Hit By Tornado

By GEORGE JOHNSON
A series of violent thunderstorms left damage in Goldsboro and Wayne County Monday and resulted in injuries to two persons. Rain exceeded two inches in some sections of the county.
The Musgrave Crossroads and Edmondson Crossroads sections of Wayne County northeast of Goldsboro were hit by a tornado and a house in Goldsboro was struck by lightning.
Rain was heavy throughout the county and agricultural agents were visiting farms today to assess the damage and recommend protective measures.
Damage was estimated at 15 per cent of 30 acres of tobacco on the Musgrave farm at Musgrave crossroads. Corn also was blown down.
Aron Musgrave estimated damage at 30 per cent to his 10 acres of tobacco.

HIT BY LIGHTNING — A Goldsboro fireman chops a hole in the attic of a house at 106 N. Stocumb St. hit by lightning yesterday afternoon. Firemen battled the blaze for two and one-half hours before bringing it under control. (News-Argus Photo)



This 1912 photo was taken from our General Photo Collection

Remember When...?

By Kailauna White, Local History Assistant

Picture this: Wayne County, 1912. H. Weil & Bros is the most popular store in town and people spell 'barbecue' with a Q. The wind passes through your feathered hat and taking a drive is the fanciest way to spend your afternoon. This was the life.

This Ford Model T was the hottest item one could buy in the 1910s. Driven by Herman Weil, an icon of early Goldsboro, the starting price for a Model T was \$690, which is the equivalent to about \$22,374.49 today!

Programming Recap

July

What is PassItDown?

July 3 @ 4:00 PM

Reading Cursive on Historic Documents

July 11 @ 6:00 PM

Introduction to Genealogy

July 15 @ 6:00 PM

Classic Movie Night

All About Eve

July 24 @ 6:00 PM

August

Preserving Your Family Photos

August 6 @ 4:00 PM

Vinyl Swap

August 12 @ 6:00 PM

Scrapbooking 101

August 15 @ 4:00 PM

Classic Movie Night

Laura

August 21 @ 6:00 PM

Introduction to Genealogy, Steele

August 28 @ 3:00 PM

September

Digitization Workshop

September 3 @ 2:00 PM

Music BINGO

September 16 @ 3:00 PM

Classic Movie Night

12 Angry Men

September 18 @ 6:00 PM

Oral History Training

September 24 @ 5:00 PM

Upcoming Programs

October

Music of War

October 3 6:00 PM, GW Auditorium

A virtual conversation about music during World War II and the Vietnam War featuring Dr. Annegret Fauser and Doug Bradley. We will be hosting a viewing of the livestream in the auditorium at the Goldsboro Library.

What's That Say?

Reading Cursive on History Documents

October 8 @ 4:00 PM, Local History Room

Reading the penmanship of the past can prove to be one of the largest stumbling blocks to doing historical research. Join us for this informational session and workshop and learn tips and tricks for deciphering those tricky cursive letters.

Getting Started with Ancestry

October 17 @ 2:00 PM, Local History Room

Join us for an informative workshop about how to get started with your genealogy research. Work with our Local History Librarian to learn how to use AncestryLibrary, available at the Wayne County Public Library, and learn who you are. Registration strongly encouraged.

Recipe Swap

October 29 @ 3:00 PM, Local History Room

Join us for a casual and cozy evening of sharing memories and recipes with friends and neighbors. Come prepared with recipes to swap and stories to share!

Call 919-735-1824 ext. 1830 or email
library.localhistory@waynegov.com
to register!