

THE NEWSMAGAZINE OF HISTORIC CABARRUS ASSOCIATION, INC.

PAST TIMES

HISTORIC CABARRUS
ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. Box 966
Concord, NC 28026
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Spring 2012

Issue No. 8

historiccabarrus.org

Concord Museum Relocates Historic Courthouse is New Home

EXCITING NEW CHANGES
FOR BOTH OF DOWNTOWN
CONCORD'S MUSEUMS

VISIT OUR
TWO MUSEUMS
IN DOWNTOWN CONCORD:

CONCORD MUSEUM

(effective April 14, 2012)

Historic Courthouse

65 Union Street South, First Floor
Concord, NC 28025

Open Mondays through Fridays and most
Saturdays,
10 AM until 4 PM

CABARRUS COUNTY VETERANS MUSEUM

(effective May 14, 2012)

Cabarrus County Governmental Center
65 Church Street SE, First Floor
Concord, NC 28025
Open Mondays through Fridays,
9 AM until 5 PM

Free admission.
Group tours by appointment.
Donations warmly appreciated.

This issue's
highlights
include...



Discover the history of the Concord Museum, p. 3.

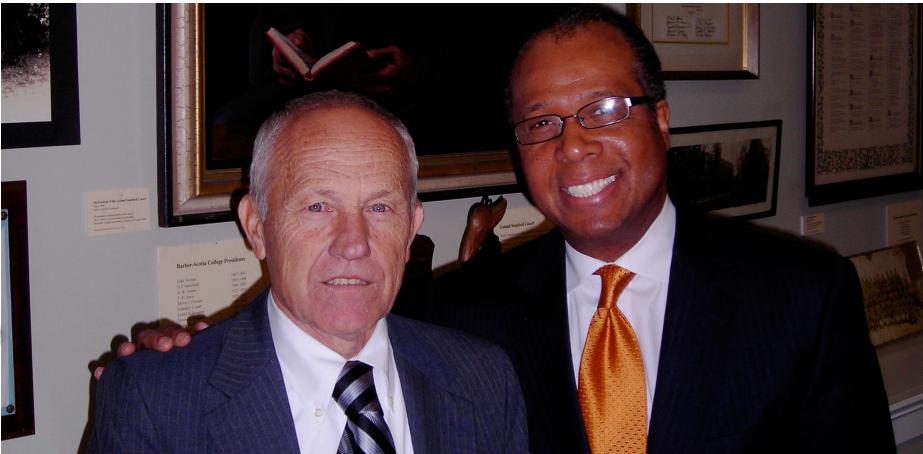


Student-produced documentary
examines life in textile mills, p. 7.



Clarence Horton to
receive award, p. 10.





Barber-Scotia College President David Olah and Past President Carl Flamer at the Concord Museum's open house for its BSC special exhibit, November 28, 2011.



Jackie Lafferty, 1941-2012.

The Concord Museum is on the move!

Literally!

Normally, we regard *Past Times* as a newsmagazine published in an affordable newsletter format. In the spirit of the Concord Telephone Company's late, lamented *Progress Magazine*, we've endeavored to share with you stories about the people, events, and institutions in our beloved Cabarrus County.

Big changes and major events are forcing this issue to serve more as an actual newsletter, however—although we hope that the "Concord Museum: Looking Back, Moving Forward" article will appease those of you turning to these pages for a flashback fix. That article also contains details behind the relocations of both the Concord Museum and the Cabarrus County Veterans Museum.

As a result of our move, our contact information is changing. Effective April 1, 2012, our phone number will be **704-920-2465** and our email address will be **historiccabarrus@gmail.com**.

We've got a spring full of special events and activities, so post this issue's calendar on your fridge and make plans to attend.

Concord's history and culture are spotlighted in an article by Concord native Lori K. Tate in the June 2012 edition of **Our State Magazine**. Rumor has it you'll spy ye ed and a famous suit of armor therein. Don't miss it, on sale in May!

With considerable sadness we must say goodbye to one of Historic Cabarrus Association's loyal members, **Jackie Burrage Lafferty**, who died on February 29, 2012. Whether you knew her as part of the Cabarrus Creamery Burrage family or as a teacher or as one of the Forest Hill United Methodist "hot dog ladies," Jackie was a true angel whose smile was warm and infectious. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the Burrage and Lafferty family and dedicate this edition of *Past Times* in her memory.

Print editions of *Past Times* are produced as a membership benefit for Historic Cabarrus Association members. You can read or download each issue of *Past Times* in color by visiting our website, **www.historiccabarrus.org**. And remember, Historic Cabarrus Association and our museums receive very little external support, so your memberships are crucial in the sustainment of our endeavors. Thank you, members, for your loyal support!

Michael Eury, Editor

Past Times #8, Spring 2012. Published by Historic Cabarrus Association, Inc., P.O. Box 966, Concord, NC 28026. Text and photo submissions pertaining to Concord's and Cabarrus County's history are sincerely appreciated; contact Michael Eury, Editor, at historiccabarrus@gmail.com.

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The Concord Museum: Looking Back, Moving Forward

BY MICHAEL EURY

Note: Portions of this article appeared in The Concord Museum 70th Anniversary Special Edition, published in April 2009 by the Independent Tribune.

I was a pudgy R. Brown McAllister school kid known as “Mickey” in 1967 when I first visited Memorial Hall, the Concord Museum’s name back in the day. You’re probably expecting me to regale you with a tale of how I stood enchanted by the Hall’s rustic enormity, of how its sweeping mural snatched my breath away, or of how my squeaky voice echoed in its acoustic brilliance.

Sorry. No can do. As a child, I was more interested in bopping on down to Williams Candy Kitchen for a Cherry Lemon Sun-drop, a Mickey’s (no relation) cream-filled chocolate cake, and the latest Batman “funnybook.”

Despite that childhood indifference to Memorial Hall, in May of 2008, after two decades of working in the publishing industry in major metropolitan areas, I was appointed executive director of Historic Cabarrus Association, Inc., the nonprofit organization with which the Concord Museum merged in September 2007. In the four years since I’ve discovered from my conversations with hundreds of Cabarrus County residents and museum visitors that when it comes to our heritage, there are two types of people: history buffs ... and the rest of us.

Far too many of us regard history as musty, dusty, and boring. That’s not our fault: it’s the bill of goods we’ve been sold. Many of us were taught that history is a litany of dates. We used whatever tools were at

our disposal to memorize those dates —“In fourteen hundred and ninety-two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue,” anyone?—and then promptly forgot them as soon as we scribbled them onto a mimeographed test paper and passed our labors forward to the teacher.

Yet virtually everyone is a history buff, although you might not realize it. Perhaps you’re a master of sports trivia, or love the way your momma splices up those stories about how crazy your daddy was when they were courting. You might collect postcards, or military memorabilia, or coins, or even your children’s escapades (in scrapbooks). Maybe you wile away the hours building your genealogical database, or by reading classic literature. Do you find your channel surfing limited to Turner Classic Movies or MeTV, or your radio dial stuck on that oldies station? Are you addicted to Facebook? (If so, you’re recording your own history via social media.) We might supplant the word “history” with “retro” or “nostalgia” or “vintage” or “the good ol’ days,” but as we age and experience triumphs and tragedies in our own lives, the journeys of those who marched before us bear more significance.

The Concord Museum began in 1939 when our City Aldermen requested of the Coltrane-Harris Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy that they create a collection of artifacts, books, and documents pertinent to our community’s heritage. These items were displayed inside the museum’s original location, Memorial Hall—also known as Confederate Memorial Hall—housed within the Community Center building on the corner of North

Union Street and Holly Lane (now Killarney), where the parking lot for Central United Methodist Church exists today. Also home to the Concord Public Library and a YMCA swimming pool, the Community Center was originally the residence of “Sandy” Smith until a 1940 Works Progress Administration subsidy funded its remodeling, with architect A. G. Odell, Jr. at the helm.

Memorial Hall contained many prized relics, including artist James McLean’s Cabarrus County history mural (now displayed in the Concord Library’s auditorium), family heirlooms, a gigantic pipe organ from First Presbyterian Church, and Confederate battle flags hand-sewn by the women of Concord and presented to their husbands and sons in 1861 when they proudly marched or rode away in pursuit of duty and an uncertain destiny.

During World War II, Memorial Hall doubled as the Concord Canteen, opening its doors to entertain servicemen from across our great nation. Groups of young women in Concord volunteered to sponsor dances and parties—and legend has it that upon occasion a young soldier found his way back to town after the war, to marry a local gal with whom he shared a Canteen dance.

The construction of the current library in 1975 forced Memorial Hall to find another home for its valuable collection. The Division of Archives and History in Raleigh requested that the items be donated to the state as an “unrestricted” gift, but the United Daughters of the Confederacy declined their request, wisely preferring to keep the artifacts

here in Cabarrus County. In December 1976, the artifacts were relocated to two rooms in the Historic 1876 Cabarrus County Courthouse. Memorial Hall was renamed the Concord Museum in 2002 when the Museum moved into Union Street Square (known to long-timers as “the old Belk’s building”), located at 11 Union Street South, in downtown Concord. The museum was originally located downstairs, then moved upstairs to suite 104.

Rent increases at 11 Union Street South no longer make the building affordable for us. Additionally, the closures of our neighboring restaurants, Emma’s and the Brass Button, have adversely affected our walk-in traffic. But we couldn’t be happier about our new location: the Historic 1876 Cabarrus County Courthouse, at 65 Union Street South!

Since Historic Cabarrus Association’s creation was the result of a citizens’ campaign to preserve this cherished landmark, it’s appropriate that our regional heritage be represented inside the county’s most recognizable building. Also, this highly visible location, and the popularity of the building’s other resident, the Cabarrus Arts Council’s Galleries, will introduce us to a wider audience.

We’re not merely packing up our artifacts and moving down the street. The Concord Museum is instead revitalizing its appearance and presentations. Photographic enlargements, narrative graphics, and multi-layered displays will give our collections a fresh, new look—and we’re also gathering many never-before-seen artifacts that will enthrall even the most frequent of our visitors.

These revitalizations were made possible by the generous support of many members of our organization who became “Friends of the Concord Museum.” Their names are listed elsewhere in this publication, and we owe them a tremendous debt for their assistance in underwriting unbudgeted expenses related to our relocation.

The new Concord Museum, located on the first floor of the Historic Courthouse, in the first room on the right, will be unveiled at a ribbon cutting grand opening on Saturday, April 14, 2012, at 1:00 p.m. We are honored to have Mayor Pro-Tem Ella Mae Small at this event.

The Concord Museum will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. that day, in conjunction with our Concord History Walk, which will bring the past to life on the sidewalks of downtown. Beginning Monday, April 16,

the Concord Museum’s hours of operations will be Monday through Friday and most Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Many of you are aware that this new location has, for nearly four years, been the home of the Cabarrus County Veterans Museum.

We are proud to maintain our commitment to the preservation of the history of our servicemen and servicewomen, and in the short term, we will be doing so in conjunction with our friends at the Cabarrus County government.

Thanks to the kind cooperation of County Manager Mike Downs and Veterans Services Director Tim Tereska, the Veterans Museum will

present a special exhibit in remembrance of Memorial Day, to be showcased within the rotunda inside the Cabarrus County Governmental Center at 65 Church Street SE. This special exhibit will open on Monday, May 14, 2012 and run through the end of June.

Yes, there are significant changes afoot—but isn’t change what history is all about? Our memories telescope into the past, focusing on the stories of our ancestors and predecessors. While I choose to ignore that aforementioned “litany of dates,” I cannot forget a litany of names of people whose devotion has made both the Concord Museum and Historic Cabarrus Association true treasures: Robert E. Burrage, Sr., Janet Magaldi, Branson Jones, Mary Lentz, Janet Dearmon, Clarence Horton, George Engstrom, Zac Moretz, Jim and Bonta Kee, Deloris Clodfelter, George M. Patterson, and Lois Marlow, to name but a mere few. More names will no doubt be added to that list.

This was beyond Mickey Eury’s comprehension in 1967, but in 2012 Michael Eury clearly understands that the lessons of history are crucial to our well-being.

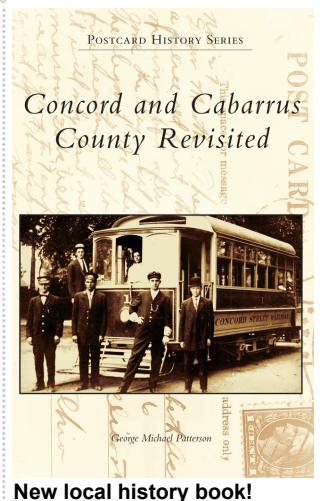
We stand at an important cultural crossroads where community history is threatening to, like the



Exterior of Memorial Hall with Concord Canteen sign, ca. 1942.



The museum collection on display inside the Historic Courthouse, ca. early 1980s.



New local history book!

decaying fabrics of vintage military uniforms, crumble into dust. Young people and busy adults alike direct their eyes forward, with technology and societal demands pulsing that “today and tomorrow” pace ever faster. Our culture is obsessed with youth and rarely, if ever, looks back.

Yet we can’t allow progress to trash-can our past. Our forefathers took up arms, built houses, picked cotton, brainstormed businesses, sweated over looms, raised young’uns during tough times, stood up to oppression, and mopped floors, so that we might inherit the wonderland we call Cabarrus County today. While it is our duty to honor them by preserving their stories, it’s to our benefit to study those stories so that we may learn from them.

I am immensely proud of the Concord Museum. It is Concord’s and Cabarrus County’s ultimate scrapbook. Yet I view it as a work in progress. Due to limited space we can only display a fraction of the artifacts in our possession. In storage we have hundreds of vintage area history books, plus countless additional items including Victorian era clothing, quilts, plates, oil paintings, lithographs, scrapbooks, photographs, maps, blueprints, Civil War weapons and memorabilia, vital community documents, and antiques, all screaming to be shared but silenced by the lack of room.

And thus the board of directors and staff of Historic Cabarrus Association, Inc. remain determined to grow into a larger, permanent facility for the Concord Museum.

We can’t do it alone. If you’re reading this issue of *Past Times*, you no doubt share our love of history. So please join us on our mission. Become a member of Historic Cabarrus Association. Volunteer as a docent. Sponsor a history project. Join a committee or our board of directors. Help us find new ways to raise funds. Join us—and help us make history.

Michael Eury is executive director of Historic Cabarrus Association, Inc. He is also the editor of the magazine Back Issue and author or co-author of ten published books, including Images of America: Concord (Arcadia Publishing, 2011).

**Congratulations to
Historic Cabarrus
Association board
member George M.
Patterson for the
February 2012
publication of his
new Postcard History
Series book, *Concord
and Cabarrus County
Revisited*, from
Arcadia Publishing
(above). The book is
available at retail and
online bookstores
and at several local
venues including the
Concord Museum
Gift Shop. Patterson
will sign copies of
this book at our
annual meeting on
Thursday, May 3 (see
pg. 10).**

FRIENDS OF THE CONCORD MUSEUM

(as of March 12, 2012)

Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.

Historic Cabarrus Association humbly thanks the following Friends for helping make possible the April 2012 relocation and revitalization of the Concord Museum:

Dr. Rodney Howell
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Clay and Terri Smith
Rob and Glenda Steel
Dianne Tallent
Margene and Raiford Troutman
Margaret and Barney West
Dean Wike
Shelley C. Williamson (in memory of
Janet Magaldi)
Carol W. Wood

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Historic Cabarrus Association, Inc.

The Concord Museum

www.historiccabarrus.org

Make checks payable to: **HISTORIC CABARRUS ASSOCIATION, INC.**, and mail to: P.O. Box 966, Concord, NC, 28026.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Membership level:

- Individual (\$30) Family (\$50) Sustaining (\$100) Patron (\$250)
 Benefactor (\$500) Sponsor (\$1000) Founder (\$2500+)

Local Students Help Preserve Cabarrus History

Leadership Cabarrus is an annual program managed by the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce “to educate qualified business and community leaders about resources, issues, challenges, and opportunities in the Cabarrus region.” (For more information, visit the Chamber’s website at www.cabarruschamber.org).

The Leadership Cabarrus Class of 2012 has chosen as its class project the production of a mini-documentary titled *Stitched in Time*, exploring life in the textile mills of Cabarrus County through personal stories shared by people who worked there. The project’s genesis began in a session where class member Robin Scharding of Home Instead Senior Care asked Historic Cabarrus Association’s executive director Michael Eury to propose a potential project connected to historical preservation. Eury proposed that the Leadership class help Historic Cabarrus Association capture mill workers’ stories on video.

The Leadership class also desired to involve youth in the community, and through their planning sessions the project has grown to also involve the Kannapolis History Associates, the A. L. Brown High School Digital Media Department, and students from Concord High School. The students are actually producing the documentary, under the direction of A. L. Brown’s digital media teacher Jonathan Greene.

News 14’s Adrianne Flores did a television report on the project on Friday, March 9. It can be viewed online at http://charlotte.news14.com/content/top_stories/654821/cabarrus-leaders-turn-to-local-students-to-create-documentary-about-textile-industry.

Stitched in Time will premiere on Tuesday, May 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gem Theatre, 111 West 1st Street, in downtown Kannapolis.

The Honorable Kathy Kitts, mayor of Midland and a member of the board of directors of Historic Cabarrus Association, is spearheading the Midland History Project, gathering information about the Midland/Bethel region of south-central Cabarrus County. While Midland as a city incorporated in 2000, the community’s historical roots run deep.

U.S. History students at Central Cabarrus High School, under the direction of teacher Donna Fera, are exploring various aspects of the history of central Cabarrus County (including an 1849 meteorite landing and the region’s largest moonshine still bust in 1968) as a class project that will eventually be on display in the Midland Town Hall. Many of the CCHS students will be representing the history of Midland and central Cabarrus County at the Concord History Walk on Saturday, April 14. Make sure you spend some time with these students while you visit the walk and learn about this history-rich region of our community!



Jonathan Greene (2nd from l.) and Brown students prepare for a *Stitched in Time* interview.



Mayor Kathy Kitts at CCHS.

CONCORD MUSEUM MOVING SALE



**FRIDAY, MARCH 23 & SATURDAY, MARCH 24
10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM EACH DAY**

VINTAGE BOOKS • LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS & PRINTS • DISPLAY CASES •
REGIONAL COLLECTIBLES • OFFICE FURNITURE • PICTURE FRAMES

CONCORD MUSEUM * 11 UNION ST. S. * STE. 104* DOWNTOWN CONCORD

CASH OR CHECK ONLY PLEASE. QUESTIONS? CALL 704-782-3688.

And don't miss our ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES APPRAISAL happening concurrently!
\$10 per item appraised. Michael Hansen, appraiser.

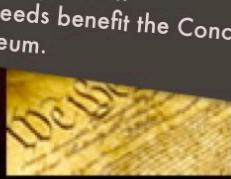
ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES APPRaisal

Discover the
values of your
keepsakes!



\$10 per item
appraised

2 items per visit.
Proceeds benefit the Concord
Museum.



FRIDAY, MARCH 23 and SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2012

10 AM to 4 PM each day

at The Concord Museum, 11 Union St. S., Ste. 104, downtown Concord

Appraisals by Michael Hansen. You must be able to carry your own items.
The appraisal process is very thorough, and your patience is sincerely appreciated.
And don't miss the CONCORD MUSEUM's MOVING SALE, happening concurrently.
Info: 704-782-3688.

Historic Cabarrus Association's Annual Meeting May 3

Clarence E. Horton, Jr., host of Channel 22's popular *Historical Moments* television program (which was co-developed by Historic Cabarrus, Inc.), will receive Historic Cabarrus Association's inaugural Outstanding Historian Award, to be presented by board President Lois Marlow at our annual meeting on Thursday, May 3.

The newly implemented Outstanding Historian Award honors community members whose efforts to explore, preserve, and share the history of Cabarrus County positively impact a wide range of citizens. It will be presented annually. In addition to his hosting of *Historical Moments*, Horton has contributed to several local history books including *A Bicentennial History of Concord* (1996) and *Kannapolis: A Pictorial History* (2008).

The location of the Historic Cabarrus Association Annual Dinner Meeting is the **Cabarrus County Country Club**, 3247 Weddington Road NW, Concord, NC 28027.

The evening begins with a **Social and Silent Auction** from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. The Silent Auction features art and memorabilia connected to Cabarrus County's heritage.

During that hour, celebrated local illustrator **Jennie Martin Tomlin** will present an art exhibit of Cabarrus County landmarks, and regional historian **George M. Patterson** will be signing and discussing his new book, *Concord and Cabarrus County Revisited*, part of Arcadia Publishing's Postcard History Series.

The Dinner Meeting commences at 7:00 p.m., at which time new officers and directors of the Historic Cabarrus Association board will be inducted.

The evening's guest speaker is Cabarrus County businessman **Jamison Lee** (pictured with Kannapolis Mayor Bob Misenheimer in the photo below, at right), who will discuss his restoration of the historic 1923 H. J. Peeler House, located at 101

South Ridge Avenue in Kannapolis. Harvey Jeremiah Peeler was Kannapolis' school superintendent in the 1920s. His former residence is the city's first mill village home to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is now available for bookings as a meeting and event venue.

Topping off the evening will be live music by **Jim Avett**, courtesy of Ramseur Records. Avett will perform several songs from new album, *Second Chance*, featuring early rock-and-roll and classic country influences.

Invitations to this spectacular evening will be mailed soon to all Historic Cabarrus Association members. If you're not a member but wish to attend, please contact us at **historiccabarrus@gmail.com** for information. In the meantime, please mark your calendars and plan to join us for our Annual Dinner Meeting on Thursday, May 3!



Detail from the cover of Jim Avett's album *Second Chance*. Courtesy of Ramseur Records.



Peeler House, est. 1923.

Spring 2012 Calendar

Friday, March 23 and

Saturday, March 24

Two simultaneous events:

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Concord Museum

11 Union St. S.

Concord, NC 28025

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

APPRaisal

Discover the values of your keepsakes (no jewelry, please). \$10 per item appraised. You must be able to carry your own items (no staff assistance). Appraisals by Michael Hansen. Benefit for the Concord Museum.

CONCORD MUSEUM MOVING

SALE

Vintage books, local history books and prints, regional collectibles, office furniture, display cases—must go! Info: 704-782-3688.

Saturday, April 14

GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW CONCORD MUSEUM

1:00 p.m.

Historic Courthouse

65 Union St. S.

Concord, NC 28025

Special guest Mayor Pro-Tem Ella Mae Small.

Saturday, April 14

CONCORD HISTORY WALK

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Downtown Concord

Costumed interpreters, uniformed reenactors, walking tours of historic

buildings, and live music bring our past to life. Guided tours of Fire Station No. 1 at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Family-friendly event co-sponsored by Cabarrus County Community Foundation, Shoe Show, Inc., and Historic Cabarrus Association. Free admission.

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Concord History Walk concludes with free outdoor jazz concert by Rowan Big Band All-Stars. In front of Central United Methodist Church.

CONCORD HISTORY WALK

Saturday, April 14, 2012



Thursday, May 3

HISTORIC CABARRUS

ASSOCIATION ANNUAL

DINNER MEETING

Silent Auction and social from

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Dinner meeting begins at 7:00

Cabarrus County Country Club

3247 Weddington Road NW

Concord, NC 28027

Highlights:

- Cabarrus County Landmarks Art Exhibit by Jennie Martin Tomlin
- *Concord and Cabarrus County Revisited* book signing by George M. Patterson
- Presentation of “Outstanding Historian Award” to Clarence Horton
- Guest speaker Jamison Lee, restoration of H. J. Peeler House in Kannapolis
- Musical performance by Jim Avett
- Invitations and dinner details forthcoming.

Monday, May 14

VETERANS MUSEUM

MEMORIAL DAY SPECIAL

EXHIBIT OPENING

Cabarrus County Governmental Center

65 Church St. SE

Concord, NC 28025

New location for Veterans Museum.

Tuesday, May 22

“STITCHED IN TIME: LIFE IN THE CABARRUS COUNTY TEXTILE MILLS” SHORT FILM

DEBUT

7:00 p.m.

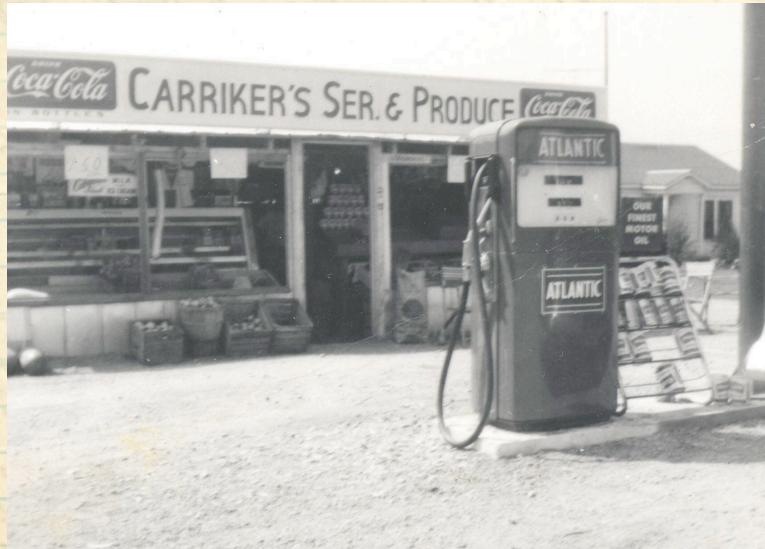
Gem Theatre

111 West 1st St.

Kannapolis, NC 28081

Mini-documentary of mill workers' stories produced for Historic Cabarrus Association as project of Leadership Cabarrus class of 2012, in conjunction with media department of A. L. Brown High School.

Cabarrus Flashback



Carriker's Service and Produce, on Sam Black Road at Albermarle Road, ca. 1960s. From the Midland History Project collection (see p. 7).

Historic Cabarrus Association, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the heritage of the City of Concord and of Cabarrus County, North Carolina, and to the education of its citizens, students, and visitors.

PAST TIMES

Spring 2012

Issue No. 8

FROM:
HISTORIC CABARRUS
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