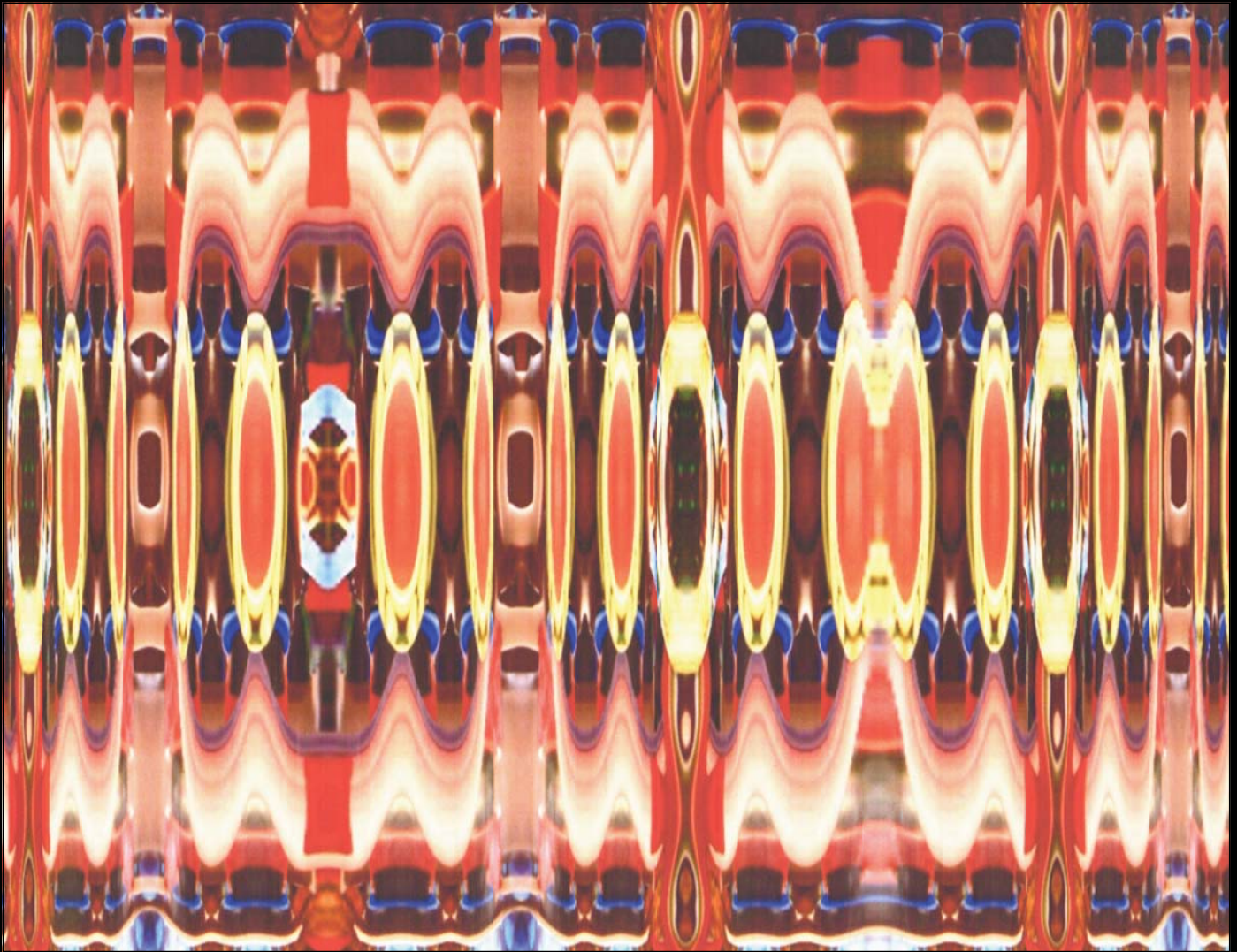


Gaston County
MUSEUM
of Art & History



The
Museum Messenger

Spring Newsletter 2010

Phone: 704-922-7681

www.gastoncountymuseum.org

Check us out on Facebook -
Keyword search **Gaston County
Museum**

The Museum's mission is to interpret the distinctive cultural heritage of Gaston County and the region through historic preservation and the collection and conservation of artworks and artifacts. The Museum strives to inspire diverse audiences to understand their shared heritage and to consider ideas and issues which link the past and present to the future.

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Front Cover:

Peppers, Peppers, Peppers series by Jim Biggers, 2008, digital print
On display now at the Anne Bigger Furr Learning Station

Comments by the Director

Chris Dobbins, Interim Director



2010—New Year—New Look! As you have probably noticed, we have made some changes to our Museum newsletter. Thanks to the incredible graphic design talents of our Curatorial Staff (Stephanie Haiar and Regan Brooks), we believe the new layout is not only informative, but also more “eye-friendly” for our readers. We hope you agree and welcome your feedback.

Also, in keeping with the “new look” theme, this is our first newsletter since the departure of our former Director, Elizabeth Dampier. As you may or may not know, Elizabeth recently took a Director position at the Children’s Museum in Winston Salem. Although sad for our loss, we are very happy to report Elizabeth is doing great in her new job and is extremely happy to be with her family every evening—“We miss you, Elizabeth!”

Obviously, Museum business has continued since Elizabeth’s departure, and as such, I have agreed to serve as the Interim Director while the Museum Search Committee conducts its Director search. On a personal note, it has been a pleasure to serve alongside such an experienced and knowledgeable staff. Trust me when I say the history of Gaston County, and the future of the Museum is in great hands with these professionals.

Again, we hope you find our new look to be both informative and appealing as we share our museum news with each of you. We are very excited about the programs and exhibits chronicled inside, and hope you, your family, and your friends take the opportunity to visit with us and experience all the sights and sounds of **YOUR** Gaston County Museum!

Staff Spotlight

Robert Bemis - Outreach Coordinator



As a long-time museum professional, my background is in museum education and I am excited for this opportunity to help grow an already excellent institution. I have an undergraduate degree in History from UNCC and am in the process of finalizing my Masters thesis in History. I’ve been a long time reenactor of the 18th and 19th centuries and am happy to say that my wife and I are the proud new parents of a wonderful little boy. I certainly look forward to continued growth in the relationship between the museum and larger community and hope to see many of you soon.

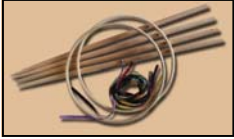
Kelly Mason - School Programs Assistant

As a former Gaston County Museum intern, I am very happy to be the new School Programs Assistant. I have worked at the Schiele Museum and have lots of experience in museum education. I have an undergraduate degree in History from Belmont Abbey College and am looking at graduate schools in the area. I am enjoying working at the museum and look forward to seeing our programs continue to grow and improve.

Monthly Programs

Coffee with the Curator

March 3, April 7, May 5
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM



Third Thursday Family Fun Nights

March 18 – Adventures in Art
May 20 – Toys & Games of Long Ago
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
\$5 per child, under 3 – free

Terrific Toddler Tuesday

March 23 – Eggs, Eggs, Eggs!
April 27 – Little Artists
May 25 – Teddy Bears
10 AM – 11 AM
Free to members, all others \$2 per child

Special Programs

Magic Lantern Show

March 5

Showtimes – 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, and 12:00 PM

Over 850 area fifth graders will attend the American Magic Lantern Theater's most popular school program – The Patriotic Show – covers 300 years of American history in story and song. These shows use historic glass slides projected onto a screen, along with live music, comedy, and drama. They are the pre-cursor to modern cinema. Special thanks to Gaston College for their continued partnership in this program.

Book Talk/Signing

The Battles of Kings Mountain & Cowpens: Our Victory was Complete

Robert W. Brown, Jr. – Sunday, March 7; 3 – 4 PM

From the rocky slopes of Kings Mountain to the plains of Hannah's Cowpens, the Carolina backcountry hosted two of the Revolutionary War's most critical battles. On October 7, 1780, the Battle of Kings Mountain utilized guerilla techniques—hiding behind trees, wearing buckskin and hunting shirts, and armed with hunting rifles, American Over Mountain Men attacked Loyalist troops, resulting in an overwhelming Patriot victory. In January of 1781, the Battle of Cowpens saw a different strategy but a similar outcome: with brilliant military precision, Continental Regulars, dragoons, and Patriot militia executed the war's only successful double envelopment maneuver to defeat the British. Using firsthand accounts and careful analysis of the best classic and modern scholarship on the subject, historian Robert Brown demonstrates how the combination of both battles facilitated the downfall of General Charles Cornwallis and led to the Patriot victory in America. Brown's book will be available for purchase for \$20.

Education & Programs

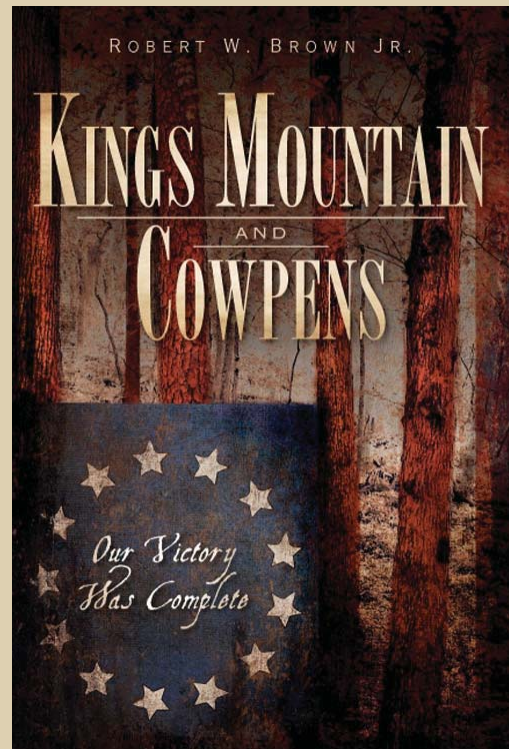
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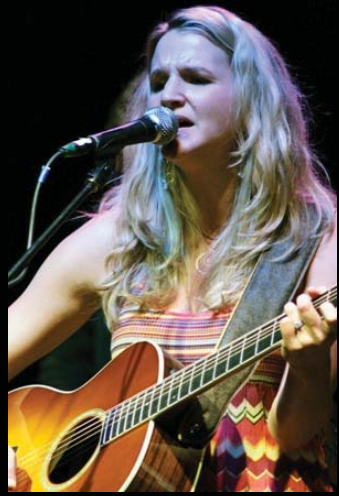
Jeff Pruett, Programs Coordinator

Lynn Duncan, Programs Assistant

Bob Bemis, Outreach Coordinator

Kelly Mason, School Programs Assistant





Rebecca Rippy



Easter Egg Hunt



Ella May Wiggins drawing

Blood on the Cloth and *Roots Music* are made possible through a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council's Road Scholars Speakers Bureau. The North Carolina Humanities Council is a nonprofit foundation and state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Special Programs (continued)

Music at the Depot: Winter Acoustic Series
Friday, March 12; 6:30 – 8:30 PM
\$10 in advance/\$13 day of the show
 Featuring Rebecca Rippy

Rebecca Rippy plays for the sheer love of it, expressing herself fully and authentically, without concern for what's trendy or hip. Whether singing heartfelt, folk-influenced ballads or gritty rocker songs, Rippy sings with sincerity and an emotional intensity that sets her apart from the crowd, and the sheer quality of her songs herald her arrival as a significant songwriting talent.

Easter Egg Hunt
March 28; 1:30 – 3:00 PM – Free

In partnership with the Town of Dallas, please join us on the Historic Court Square Lawn, across from the museum, for a family fun Easter Egg Hunt. Kids – bring your basket and come for an exciting afternoon! The Egg Hunt begins promptly at 1:30 PM with crafts and activities in the museum.

Blood on the Cloth:
Ella May Wiggins & the 1929 Gastonia Strike
April 10; 2 – 3 PM — Free
 Special Presentation by Roxanne Newton, PhD

Amid the strife and upheaval in the American South of the 1920s, the 1929 Loray Mill Strike in Gastonia serves as an emblem of the violent textile labor disputes of the time. During this calamitous period, textile worker Ella May Wiggins became a labor leader who rallied people to the union cause with her impassioned speeches and moving ballads. Wiggins was murdered by vigilantes, in part because as a union leader she successfully united the African American and white workers in the Communist-affiliated National Textile Workers Union. Ella May Wiggins' story figures prominently in NC's labor history and the state's violent and bloody clashes with unionists in subsequent decades. Come join us for this very unique program.

Roots Music & the American South
May 2; 3 - 4 PM — Free
 Special presentation by Alex Macaulay, PhD

Nowhere is the rich cultural diversity of the American South more evident than in its music. From the high, lonesome sound emanating from Appalachian hollers to the "lowdown shaking chill" of blues performers in Delta juke joints, Americans, and Southerners in particular, have long expressed their worries, fears, hopes and aspirations through music. This presentation will take a broad definition of "roots music," tracing the origins, the influences and the meanings of songs that men and women of various backgrounds have played, danced to, and sung along with over the years.

Special Programs (continued)

Mother-Daughter Tea
May 8; 11-12pm or 2-3pm
\$5 per person – For ages 6-up

Come learn about Victorian etiquette, manners, and the history of tea in America. At the end of the program, participants will partake in a small tea party complete with fresh brewed tea, lemonade, pastries, ice cream, and other traditional offerings. While dressing up is not required, it is encouraged! **RSVP required by May 1** to Jeff Pruett at 704.922.7681 x105

Blues out Back
May 14; 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM — Free

This evening, we will kick off our annual free “*Blues out Back*” summer concert series on the lawn behind the museum. The series takes place May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, and September 10. The museum encourages folks to bring along blankets, lawn chairs, and a picnic for an evening of great music with friends and family. Artists to be announced.

Civil War Presentation
Saturday, May 8; 12:00 PM—3:00 PM
Free

During this program, The Confederate History and Monument Preservation Society, who portrays Company H of the 23rd NC troops, will have a display set up, be on hand to answer questions about the Civil War, and give firing and drilling demonstrations. In honor of North Carolina Confederate Memorial Day at 1:00 PM, there will be a wreath laying ceremony on the Confederate Marker in Dallas, NC. Come join us for this unique free program!



Two Civil War reenactors demonstrating their equipment



Ty Hobson painting the Carriage House floor

GCM is proud to announce approximately 150 hours of volunteer service was performed during the month of December. We'd like to express our thanks to all the volunteers who participated in decorating the museum for the holiday season, who helped make December's Holiday Open House a success, who worked in the Gift Shop on a weekly basis, played the pump organ for the Holiday Open House, decorated cookies with the children, helped write letters to Santa, re-typed the museum's Collection Policy every Wednesday, and helped set up and break down for programs.

Thanks especially to the ones who brought Santa & Mrs. Claus to life at our Holiday Open House! We are proud to have each one of you working with the museum staff. No job is insignificant, and you do make us shine! If you are interested in becoming a museum volunteer, please call Elaine Jackson at 704-922-7681, x. 100.

Volunteers

Lucy Penegar
Rebecca Rhyne
Daphene Peach
Marilyn Finger
Mary Moore
Pricilla Britton
Tim Heafner
Ty Hobson
Lora Caldwell
Jackie Freestone
Ina Jones
Harry Jackson
Grace Blanks

Exhibits

Staff

Stephanie Haiar, Curator of Collections

Regan Brooks, Registrar

Intern

Lauren Stepp



Visual Jazz exhibit opening



Through an Artist's Eye Exhibit



Painting by Kenya Tilson

Current Exhibits

Visual Jazz: Digital Designs by Jim Biggers

January 9 – April 10

The new exhibit at the depot, *Visual Jazz*, combines digital imagery that conceptualizes the movement and flow of early jazz through digitally generated work that has transformed mundane objects, such as peppers or eggs, into mechanical tableaus by Gastonia-based artist Jim Biggers.

Through an Artist's Eyes: Gaston County Schools Annual Art Show

March 13– May 1

The Gaston County Schools Annual Art Show will be on display again at the museum for the first time in several years. The show will feature artists from elementary, middle, and high schools participating in categories from painting to sculpture to fiber art.

Rachel Huggins & Kenya Tilson: Random Pixilated Madness

March 2, 2010 – May 1

The museum has partnered with Gaston College to provide a venue for upcoming local artists to exhibit their artwork. Throughout 2009-2010, seven artists will be featured in solo shows. The second show in our Gaston College Art exhibit will feature two artists though. Rachel Huggins and Kenya Tilson's artwork will be on display on the 3rd floor.

Upcoming Exhibits

SilverArts

April 12 – 16

Gaston County will be hosting its first annual Senior Games this year, and as part of this event the Gaston County Museum will be displaying the art and crafts of the participants at the Anne Bigger Furr Learning Station.

Into the Limelight: Gaston College Visual Art Show

April 24 - June 19

This year's Gaston College Visual Art Show will be held at the depot, with the color theme of "Green". Students from the college will participate in this juried show, which will include 2D and 3D art.

Curator's Corner



In this issue I would like to talk about preserving your old photographs and documents. Everyone has photographs lying around the house, in boxes or in photo albums. These are precious memories that you want to preserve for generations, but maybe aren't certain how to

accomplish. There are two main rules when preserving any type of material: Avoid direct contact with sunlight or any ultra-violet light (including incandescent light) and keep the object in an acid-free environment. If you follow these two rules, your photographs and documents will last much longer.

The first rule is pretty easy – make sure to keep your photos in a dark, cool place that is not affected by temperature and humidity changes. The second rule can be a little trickier but since scrapbooking has become so popular, many craft and stationary stores are now carrying acid-free material (paper, plastic sleeves, albums, etc.) that you can acquire fairly easily and cheaply.

You can store and preserve your photos and documents in a few different ways. You can organize and file them in acid-free folders, and keep them in an acid-free box, or you can also place your documents in archival-safe, acid-free plastic sleeves and keep them in an album or binder. Just make sure that any plastic you use does not have PVC (polyvinyl chloride), which can emit acid over time and ruin your objects.

Last but not least, please DO NOT laminate your photograph or document. Lamination can potentially damage an object due to the high heat and pressure required, and the laminating materials themselves can be chemically unstable and contribute to the deterioration of the object. Remember that lamination cannot be reversed!

If you have any questions regarding preserving your photographs or documents, please contact the Stephanie Haiar at 704-922-7681 ext. 104.

Collections Cabinet

Picture a small box covered in drawings, doodles, or perhaps a sticker or two, carefully stashed under the bed or in the back of a closet, and filled with small treasures. How many of us cherished such a thing as a child?

Recently, the Museum received such a box as a donation. Among the items were several Big Little Books, including the one seen here – *Maximo, the Amazing Superman*. Maximo is one of the few fictional characters that originated in a Big Little Book. The character, fully named Maximo Miller, first appeared in 1940, and was created by Russell R. Winterbotham. Maximo was created in response to the popularity of DC Comics' Superman, and is one of the few Superman knockoffs that did not provoke legal action from DC, even though the publisher was brazen enough to use the descriptive word "Superman" in block text on the covers of the books.

Collections

Staff

Stephanie Haiar, Curator of Collections

Regan Brooks, Registrar

Intern

Lauren Stepp

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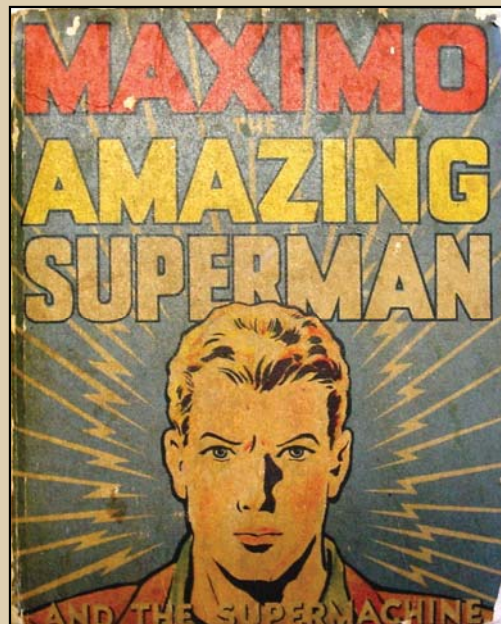
Mystery Object



Can you identify this object? If so, call the museum at 704-922-7681 and you could receive a prize!

Term Time:

Acid Migration - the transfer of an acid from a more acidic material to a less acidic material with which it is in contact.



Gaston County
MUSEUM
of Art & History



131 West Main Street
PO Box 429
Dallas, NC 28034

Museum Hours

Tuesday - Friday 10:00 - 5:00

Saturday 12:00 - 4:00

1st Sunday 2:00 - 5:00

Admission is free

Wheelchair Accessible

Museum Tidbits

What's New in the Gift Shop?



New CD, "**Gaston Gallop: Cotton Mill Songs & Hillbilly Blues**". It features 1931 recordings made in Charlotte by a group called the "Three 'Baccer Tags", one of the most extensively recorded Gaston

County string bands before World War II.

A new line of soaps, beautifully-wrapped and wonderfully-scented, will be coming to the Gift Shop from Greenwich Bay in Raleigh. (These will make very nice Mother's Day gifts and a special gift for yourself.)

Eggstravaganza

Please mark your calendars and Save-a-Date for the museum's annual fundraiser on Saturday, May 22nd, honoring William and Wilma Craig. Bill & Wilma, as they are known to most everyone in Gaston County, have been a part of the museum since its beginning, and it is with pleasure we host this year's fundraiser in their honor. Ticket prices and further details will be forthcoming. We hope to see you there!

Run for the Money



This is the 8th year for the Community Foundation's Run for the Money. The museum, as it has every year, appreciates any and all contributions made during the

February 15th-April 17th Run. These donations must be accompanied with a mail-in donor form to the Foundation and must be in before the April 23rd final deadline. If you do not have a donor form, please call Elaine Jackson at 704-922-7681, x. 100, and one will be mailed to you. The Community Foundation will be mailing information this week to all past participants. Because of the continuing need to stretch museum dollars in multiple directions, we do appreciate every donor and every dollar given in the name of Gaston County Museum – and we are also appreciative of the Community Foundation for their match! Thank you for your support of the museum; please call if you have questions.