



From the Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA
SOCIETY OF HISTORIANS

VOLUME 1

FEBRUARY 2025

Entry Period for the 2025 NCSH Awards Program Opens March 1!

Nomination of works celebrating the rich history of North Carolina are welcomed for the 2025 Awards Program of the North Carolina Society of Historians. The entry period extends from *March 1 - June 30, 2025*.

- An author does not have to live in North Carolina to enter.
- All entries must - within the entry itself - clearly identify it's connection to the history and/or heritage of North Carolina.
- Anyone can submit an entry for another individual or an organization for any of the above categories (self-entry is also welcome).
- Entries may be made in the following categories:
 - History Books
 - Journalism
 - Publishing
 - Multi-Media
 - Organizations
 - Museums
 - Outstanding History Teachers and/or Student Historians Doing Exceptional History Projects
 - Historian of the Year

Additional information about each award category is available on our website, along with downloadable nomination forms, and instructions on submitting the nominations.

<https://northcarolinasocietyofhistorians.com/download-award-forms/>



From The President:

Greetings, Historians! Let me welcome you to the newly revived NCSH newsletter, *From the Quill*. I am excited to introduce **Lane Dyer**, who has volunteered to pick up the “quill pen” and other communication duties of the Society. A native of Wilkes County, Lane is an engaging journalist and author of books celebrating NC history. In the last two years, he has received seven NCSH awards, including a Lighthouse Award of Exceptional Merit for research that led to the discovery, editing, and preservation of a “long lost” book of otherwise unrecorded history of Wilkes in the 1880’s. In addition to authoring books, since 2022 he has demonstrated his passion for writing and history as a serial journalist for the *Wilkes Record*. As you get to know Lane through the newsletter, he welcomes your comments. We both hope you enjoy this revived LINK to NCSH!

2024 Awards by The North Carolina Historical Society

Annual Award Celebration

Hart Square Village, Vale, North Carolina

On Saturday, November 9, 2024, an award ceremony was held at Hart Square Conference Center, in Vale, North Carolina to recognize the very deserving recipients of annual awards given by the North Carolina Society of Historians. President Maxine McCall presented the awards with Vice-President Dan Hoyle acting as master of ceremonies.

Awards of Excellence were presented to sixty-two individuals in recognition of their important work to highlight and preserve North Carolina history, along with eight special awards. The full list of those who were recognized, along with images taken from their work, can be found on our website: www.northcarolinasocietyofhistorians.com

The Special Award honorees are listed below. A heartfelt Thank You goes to the authors and artists nominated this year, to our hosts at historic Hart Square Village, to the judges who generously gave their time in reviewing nominations, and finally, to the NCSH board members for their hard work and dedication to the preservation of our precious history.



Special Award Winners



Historian of the Year

Steve Quillin

*President of the Grandfather Mountain
Highland Games*

President's Award

The Depot Museum

Hudson, North Carolina

History Teacher Of the Year

Theresa Pierce

Author and Dramatist

Lighthouse Award Winners

Waldensian Heritage Museum

Town of Valdese

Philip Gerard

Inspiring Writer and Musician

Hart Square Village

*Dr. Bob Hart and the Hart Family
Vale, North Carolina*

Lane Harrison Dyer

*Author and Journalist
Historical Sketches of Wilkes County and
other works*

Granite Falls Middle School

The Wall Tells All



Restoring Old Photographs



Our appreciation and understanding of North Carolina history is always enhanced when photographic evidence, or artwork is included. Unfortunately, many times photographs have become faded or otherwise damaged over the years. There are a variety of computer applications available that offer you the ability to edit and restore old photographs. Photoshop is probably the best known of these.

However, it is possible to enhance or improve some photographs with the tools available through your smartphone or home computer these days. The first step is to use your phone's camera to create a digital copy of the photograph that you would like to edit. It is important that you make a good quality digital photograph to ensure you are working with a clear reproduction that is free from glare and that was taken with adequate lighting and a neutral background.

If your phone has built-in editing capabilities, then you may be able to do things like remove scratches, tears, and stains. Depending on the program you are using, you can crop, adjust lighting, sharpen the image, and change the color balance.

Before investing in an editing program, experiment with the features that are included with your phone or computer. The great thing about working from a digital copy is that if you make a mistake, the original photo is not altered, and you can always start over.



Share Your Award With Your Readers!

The North Carolina Society of Historians offers packets of 15 attractive Award Winner stickers for only \$10.00.

When you apply one of our stickers to the cover of your book, or other media, it tells everyone about the well-deserved recognition you have received for your work.

To place your order, please email:

ncsocietyofhistorians@gmail.com

Payment and mailing instructions will be provided.

Editor's Choice

Stephen Quillin

North Carolina Society of Historians 2024 Historian of the Year



Stephen Quillin in full Scottish regalia and at the 2024 NCSH Awards Ceremony.

Stephen Quillin, 11th President of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games is the recipient of the 2024 Historian of the Year Award presented by North Carolina Society of Historians President Maxine McCall.

The Highland Games were first organized in 1956 to highlight the traditions and games of the Scottish immigrants to North Carolina, who contributed so much to the state's heritage. President Quillin was recognized for his efforts to preserve Scottish heritage and culture.

Following his award, the accomplished, yet modest native of Kingsport, Tennessee said, "I'm not only honored to receive this award, I feel unworthy of the recognition."

On the contrary, Mr. Quillin is exactly the kind of advocate of history that exemplifies the people in our state striving to keep our precious heritage alive. Congratulations, Steve Quillin!

About The North Carolina Society of Historians

The Society was established in 1941 to preserve and recognize important historical works, efforts to preserve our history, and outstanding accomplishments that further these goals. Each year we seek the nomination of deserving North Carolina writers, journalists, teachers, and artists, along with museums and other sites dedicated to preserving North Carolina history. At our annual award luncheon these efforts to maintain a connection to our state's rich history are recognized and celebrated.

To learn more about the Society, visit our website at:

[North Carolina Society of Historians – Honoring those who Preserve and Perpetuate the History and Heritage of North Carolina](https://www.ncshsociety.org/)



President's Pick: The Depot Museum, Hudson, North Carolina

Visit the 2024 "President's Award" Winner!

A delightful step back in time awaits historians, train buffs, travelers needing a break, and children of ALL AGES! Tucked neatly in a small park behind the Town Hall of Hudson, NC (on Alt. Hwy 321), the masterfully renovated Depot of 1940 -- replacement for the 1844 original destroyed by fire -- stands proudly as one of two main attractions.

To step Inside The Depot is to find a treasure trove of train artifacts, each one with a story, collectively telling how the Chester and Lenoir Narrow Gauge Railroad finally came to Caldwell County. It's challenging to guess what some of the artifacts are. Interesting displays in the next room reveal the town's unique history while, overhead, a sizable model train puffing steam -- with operational headlight and warning whistle! -- rides a track encircling the room. FUN!

But commanding the most attention is the superb renovation of the on-site 1913 caboose, with its fascinating revelation of the conductor's life and work on the train. A WOW! The "kids" with me the day we toured The Depot had a BLAST! Never mind that all of them were retired! I had to pry them away.

Open Fridays 11am to 1pm. Call (828)728-8272 for special visits on other days.



The Depot Museum, Hudson, NC

The 2025 Officers and Directors of the North Carolina Society of Historians

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EDITOR, FROM THE QUILL

Lane Dyer

Questions or comments about the Society or our newsletter?

Larry Griffin, Executive Director
yourbrainhealth@yahoo.com

Maxine McCall, President
ncshawards@gmail.com

Lane Dyer, Editor
communications.ncsh@icloud.com

NCSH Website
www.northcarolinasocietyofhistorians.com

Spotlight on North Carolina History: Old Salem

The Village of Salem was originally built by Moravian settlers in 1766, as part of the Wachovia Tract, an approximately 100,000 acre parcel of land purchased in 1753 by the Moravian Church. Salem was intended to be the central town of the larger Moravian settlement and all residents were required to belong to the Church. When Forsyth County was formed from out of Stokes County in 1849, Salem declined to be the county seat, but did sell a nearby parcel of land that became the town of Winston, named for Revolutionary War hero, Joseph Winston. Winston and Salem officially merged in 1913, forming the city of Winston-Salem.

Beginning in 1950, a non-profit organization, Old Salem, Inc. was formed to protect the historic remains of the original settlement, to restore the town, and to operate it as a museum. Today visitors can go back in time to experience life in the 18th century. Generations of schoolchildren have experienced the thrill of visiting a colonial era village. All visitors are likely to mention the bakery with its authentic Moravian cookies and sugar bread. For more information about the museum, visit <https://www.oldsalem.org/>

**Readers, if you have a suggestion for a future Spotlight, please let us know.*