

Preservation

The Newsletter of the Travelers Rest Historical Society

Vol. 4, No. 2

Summer 2023

Welcome summer! We've been waiting for you!

ECHOES + ENOREE CAREER CENTER = PERFECT TOGETHER

The Enoree Career Center graphic arts students teamed up with their instructor Cheryl Bennefield to reprint much-needed copies of **Echoes Volume 1**. Thanks to everyone's hard work, we now have a limited supply of the reprints available for \$10 each at the museum. We also have the rest of the series available at \$5 per issue.

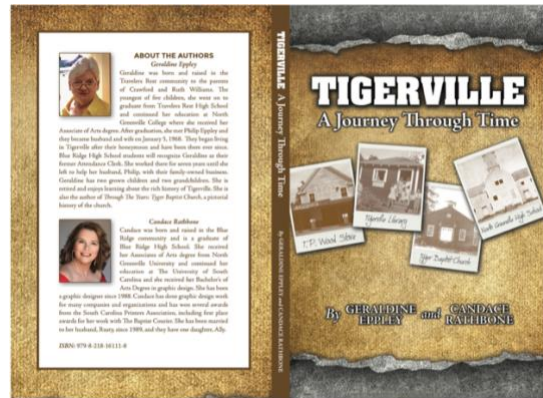
Echoes was a series of local history & interview books written by 8th graders at Northwest Middle School in the 1980's and 90's, patterned after the well-known Foxfire interview books from a North Georgia school. There were 20 volumes (years) produced in all, and we now have them all available to be purchased. The students personally delivered the newly printed versions to us, and we could not be more proud of the craftsmanship it took to get these done.

Below: Several students and the instructor presenting Echoes to Nancy Duncan and Rosemary Bomar from the Historical Society.

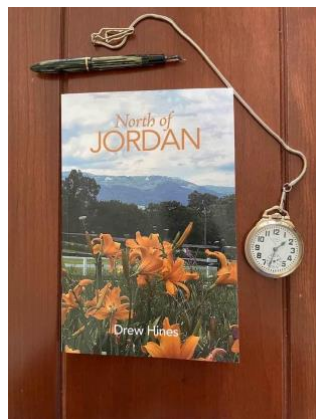


SPOTLIGHT: LOCAL HISTORY AUTHORS

TR native (and one of our museum docents!) Geraldine (Williams) Eppley has lived in Tigerville for almost 50 years; documenting the huge amount of change in the area. She recently co-wrote and published a book about Tigerville along with Candace Rathbone (Blue Ridge), showcasing and preserving its rich history. The book has been so popular that it's already on the second printing. The book is available at the museum and you may even run into Geraldine when you stop by to pick up your copy.



Drew Hines' newest book "North of Jordan" explores the history of the people, traditions and culture in Greenville County north of Jordan Road. The late Dean Campbell "Squire of the Dark Corner" wrote the forward to the book, and it will also be available at the museum soon.



TRAVELERS REST HISTORY NUGGET

Before Travelers Rest was an actual town, the general area was considered a stopping point for anyone coming up or down the mountains, truly a “traveler’s rest”. We recently received reprinted map copies of early Travelers Rest and the short-lived town of Athens. These maps are now on display at the museum for all visitors to view.

[Click here](#) to see the timeline, starting in the 1700’s.

HEY, HEY PAULA

Paula Deen Magazine recently featured a story about Travelers Rest, in the May/June issue. They shared all the great reasons why we love our “small yet mighty city”! The author journaled her experience visiting here starting with our historic beginnings, and finishing with our growth as a specific travel (and living) destination. The museum received a special shout out and we’re delighted to be considered a TR hot spot!

[Read the full article here.](#)

EXTRA SPECIAL

The Historical Society board recently visited Furman Special Collections department and got a behind-the-scenes look at how materials are archived and stored. This is important for us as we continue to grow, so we can continue to properly care for items that we’ve collected.

MISS ETTA’S CRAZY QUILT

Remember the donated quilt we featured in Preservation Spring ’23? We learned a little bit more about the backstory of how it came to be. Miss Etta was actually Rose Summer’s grandmother (not her aunt).

Crazy quilts were popular during the Victorian period. They were blocks of scraps or irregular fabric pieces, put together without a specific pattern or design. Then silks, velvets, and heavy embellishments like embroidery, lace, ribbons, and beads were added. These quilts didn’t usually have batting so they weren’t made for everyday use, rather to show off different types of stitches and fabrics. So when Miss Etta was making this in 1899, she likely had no idea that she was being a trend-setter!

Spring Park Inn visitors will be able to see this exquisite item when the restoration is complete, as it'll proudly be displayed in one of the rooms.

ALL ABOARD!

At the Historical Society meeting in April, our own railway enthusiast Joseph Hudson shared an in-depth presentation “Greenville & Northern Railway: the Route of the Swamp Rabbit”. In case you missed it, watch it [here](#).

FULL STEAM AHEAD

Echo Valley Western Theme Park is our new museum exhibit! Joseph Hudson worked with different groups and individuals to bring this short-lived (1964-68) amusement park back to life. We have several loaned photos and other memorabilia as part of the collection.

Fun fact: The 96-year old locomotive that was used at Echo Valley Theme Park (#110) is currently undergoing restoration at the North Carolina Railroad Museum. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Make sure to come see it at the museum!



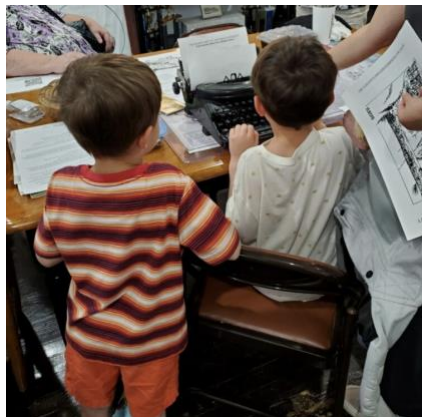
HISTORY IS NO MYSTERY

We participated in Career Day at Heritage Elementary School earlier this Spring and spent the morning with the 3rd graders talking all about

different roles they can pursue using history. They were all history fans and enthusiastic to share stories about their families and neighbors in the area. It was wonderful to see they're already appreciative of how incredible Travelers Rest is. Look out world, these kids are ready to take over!

NO TYPOS HERE

These museum visitors were amazed by this complicated machine and couldn't wait to learn how to use it. Any idea what it is?



GET READY FOR SUMMER CAMP

Here's Sandra Beckham and Dan Wood testing out "Button on a String". Read more about it below in the note from our president.



TIME FOR FLOWERS

“There are always flowers for those who want to see them.” – Henri Matisse



The Travelers Rest Garden Club donated these beauties to us. We thank you for your generosity.

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Part of our statement of purpose, along with “preserving and sharing the history of Travelers Rest”, is to bring people together who are interested in Travelers Rest and its history.

You can see how this is happening in the reports in this newsletter. This continues all the time. We hear positive comments from visitors to the museum and many add new information they know of to add to the exhibits. Some point out the names or pictures along with stories of their parents, or grandparents (or great-grandparents!) Newcomers have questions that we can help answer, and questions that prompt more questions and more things to find out.

Above are flowers shared by the Travelers Rest Garden Club from the cutting garden they started last year at the Spring Park Inn. They were used this week at a planning meeting at the museum where several Society members and friends had fun getting together to talk about “old

time toys and games”. These games will be shared one day next month at a local children’s day camp when the theme for the week is “A Look Back in Time”. This led to a mention from one of the retired elementary teachers present about a “Grandparents Checker Club”, where grandparents, or other senior adults, came on special days after school and shared their time to play checkers with students....hmmm---maybe another history related idea that could be adapted for the future. We’re always glad to hear ideas and suggestions for sharing history! -----Rosemary

BE A PART OF HISTORY

Would you like to be more involved with carrying forward these and other wonderful stories? [Join the Historical Society or become a docent!](#)

Travelers Rest Museum of History

Welcoming visitors

Saturday : 10:00am - 1:00pm

Sunday : 1:00pm - 4:00pm

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