

## **Register Now**

**For the NCPC Annual  
Conference.**

**“Unbroken Threads:  
Preserving our Textile  
Heritage”**

**November 7th, 2016**

## **Upcoming 2016 Events and Deadlines**

Nov. 7, 2016	Annual NCPC Conference (Raleigh)
Nov. 8, 2016	Election Day
Nov. 9-12, 2016	AMIA annual conference in Pittsburgh, PA
Dec. 1, 2016	Preservation Greensboro Holiday Party at Blandwood Mansion

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## **Newest North Carolina Endangered Artifact**

The four-harness loom from the early 19th century has been at the Swananoa Valley Museum since 2002. Many alterations have been made over the years and it is no longer functional. It was originally designed to use four harnesses and six treadles. The loom currently has two harnesses and two modern treadles.

Originally this loom belonged to the Jones family of Riceville in eastern Buncombe County. The Jones family settled on land at the end of Jones Cove Road in 1891. Their property has the oldest surviving log cabin in the area, built in the mid-19th century, and their descendants continued to occupy the property until 1974. Around that time, Nancy Wrenn, a nearby neighbor and historian was asked to gather artifacts from the property's outbuildings. In her search for artifacts, she uncovered parts of the handmade loom in the loft of the oldest log shed. She also found the Jones' spinning wheel, weasel, and yarn winder which are also in the Museum's collection.

The handmade loom is representative of the traditional four-harness looms of Southern Appalachia. This type of loom was constructed of heavy timber and took up considerable floor space. Due to its size, this variety of loom was typically referred to as a "barn loom" or "porch loom," since it was too large to fit into a house. This one was no different. Looms were often passed down through generations. Throughout the nineteenth century, weaving endured as a home industry in the Southern Appalachians. After commercial textiles became more readily available following the Civil War, not every home had a loom, but the handicraft persisted in rural areas such as Riceville. Some people still wove traditional coverlets in wool and cotton. Around the turn of the 20th century, missionaries and social workers encouraged weaving as a cottage industry for economic development, and hand spinning and weaving served as the foundation of the craft revival in the Southern Highlands. Congratulations to the Swananoa Valley Museum for the acceptance of your loom to the North Carolina Endangered Artifact list. To find out about more NC Endangered Artifacts visit: <https://ncpreservation.org/programs/endangered-artifacts/>



## 2016 NCPC Annual conference

### Unbroken Threads: Preserving our Textile Heritage

McKimmon Conference and Training Center

North Carolina State University

November 7, 2016

Throughout history, textiles have played important roles in the lives and traditions of people of all cultures. Museums, historic sites and homes, and archives of all types and sizes can have a wide range of textiles in their collections. These items have been constructed using a variety of materials and techniques – from natural fibers such as cotton, silk, flax and wool to regenerated or manufactured fibers such as rayon, nylon and polyester. Speakers will cover a variety of topics at the 2016 North Carolina Preservation Consortium (NCPC) annual conference addressing the care and preservation of textiles. These include the philosophy and mission of textile conservation, inherent vices such as heavy trims on fragile fabrics, man-made fabrics and dyes, environmental concerns, light damage, insect and pest damage, stains, and poor storage. Speakers will cover stabilization options such as vacuuming, dry cleaning, wet cleaning and sewing, as well as packing and handling, and when to hang, to fold, or to roll textiles. In addition, speakers will cover preparing textiles for exhibition and display, review types of materials used in mount and mannequin making, the use of padded hangers for display and storage, cutting ethafoam for small mounts, methods for mounting quilts and hats, the use of magnets, and an introduction to fosshape.

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### Keynote Speakers and Topics

**Newbold Richardson** is a textile conservator and material culture historian from Alexandria, Virginia. Ms. Richardson will present an overview of the environmental requirements for textiles, basic handling, stabilizing options (vacuuming, cleaning, sewing) and storage solutions on a budget.

**Colleen Callahan** began the consulting business, *The Costume & Textile Specialists*, in 2003 after retiring from the Valentine Museum in Richmond, Virginia, as curator emerita of costume and textiles. She will present an overview about organizing costume/textile exhibitions, based on a handout that will be provided to attendees.

**Paige Myers** is the textile conservator at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh, North Carolina. Ms. Myers will address basic mounts and supports for textiles and clothing that are easy to construct and very cost effective. She will also introduce a new method of mannequin making using a material called fosshape.

**Deb Higgins** is the director of the May Museum & Park, a Civil War-era house museum located in Farmville, North Carolina. Ms. Higgins will discuss the museum's collection of over forty quilts, conservation efforts the museum has taken to date, and the challenges faced by a small museum in storing and maintaining such a collection.

**Lynn Lancaster Gorges** is a textile conservator and owner of Historic Textiles Studio located in New Bern, North Carolina. Her specialty is in the area of military uniforms, flags, vintage clothing, and quilts. Ms. Gorges will discuss a recent project to conserve and stabilize a coat worn by a North Carolina native during the Civil War.

**Wanda Lassiter** has worked at the Museum of the Albemarle for ten years, and will focus on the Museum's efforts to raise funds for the conservation of wedding dresses.

# A Preservation Success Story for a Small Community College

Written by: Mary Gomez , Director of Library Services and Archives

Some unexpected treasures lie within the Gerald B. James Library, a NCPC member, at Rockingham Community College in Wentworth. Housed within the library are the Rockingham County Historical Collections, consisting of papers, photographs, artifacts and books related to the history of Rockingham County. One of the most historically significant items in the collections is the only known surviving Confederate First National flag, also known as the Stars and Bars, originating in Rockingham County. The flag dates from the summer of 1861 and has 11 stars representing the original seven Confederate states, joined by four more, including North Carolina on May 20 of that year. Two more stars would be officially added just months later.

The flag is 4 feet by 6 feet, hand stitched from silk, and includes gold stenciling “Defend Our Homes” on the white stripe. It includes gold fringe on three sides and a separate banner with blue and white silk cord and the words, “Victory or Death.” This flag had remained in Rockingham County at least through 1897, when an article appeared in the *Reidsville Review* about a Confederate soldier reunion, and included this description:

*Over the stand, erected for the speakers, floated a Confederate flag, aged, tattered and torn. The inscription, “Defend our Homes” in bronze letters was at all times in plain view. It was for this that many a soldier, who was present on this occasion, had battled; many of them had fallen from the ranks, wounded, while by them lay their dead comrades.”*

This flag passed down through the Boyd family of Rockingham County and eventually ended up with a memorabilia dealer in South Carolina. It was then purchased by an anonymous benefactor who brought it home to Rockingham County and donated it to the college.

When the flag was received in 1980, it was in good condition and was placed in a frame by a local frame shop with no real preservation expertise. It was then propped on a desk in the public area of the Historical Collections where it

remained for the next 25 years, with no particular thought as to its condition.



Flag Before Restoration

## A Preservation Success Story *continued.*

By 2005 the flag had faded significantly, but was still in fair condition with areas of silk near the hoist edge and around the lettering torn or very weak. There were also several dark stains located near the stars and tide lines evident throughout the flag. The fringe was intact, but twisted. There were both vertical and horizontal creases in the fabric.

With funding from the Rockingham Community College Foundation, the flag was sent to Textile Preservation Associates in Keedysville, MD in 2007 for treatment. It was vacuum cleaned to remove airborne particles and accumulation of soil, humidified with a light misting of distilled water to relax creases, then flattened and dried under glass weights. After treatment, it was placed on an acid-free panel covered with polyester batting and unbleached cotton fabric. Colored Stabiltex was cut to size and laid over the faded areas to restore color. UV filtering glazing was laid over the flag and the entire unit was placed in a custom made frame with an aluminum back.

Once the flag was returned to campus, a new issue arose. After investing so much into the preservation, the question became, "What do we do with it now?" The finished product was large and heavy. For the next few years the flag leaned against the wall, covered in a sheet to protect it from light. We wanted to do right by it, but had no additional funding and very little preservation knowledge.

Then, in 2013, we received a donation of funds that allowed us to hire a contractor. We contacted NCPC for advice on safely hanging the flag to prevent any further potential damage. Following specifications from the information NCPC had provided, the contractor hung the flag with proper spacing, ventilation and lighting. The final touch was a custom made walnut cabinet with folding doors hung around the frame as an enclosure.



*Flag After Restoration*



## Giving Tuesday!

Mark your calendars for Giving Tuesday, December 6th, 2016. Your financial donation to the North Carolina Preservation Consortium will help preserve our state's educational, cultural, and historical collections. Libraries, archives, museums, historic sites, and other heritage institutions in North Carolina need your help. NCPC is a 501(C) 3 non-profit organization that supports preservation with educational workshops and conferences, information and consultation service, and preservation grants. Your donation will fund preservation programs and projects for the proper care and handling of collections, appropriate storage and environmental control, disaster planning and preparedness, repair and conservation, reformatting, and collection security. Your financial contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Each year we choose a Tuesday to raise funds in a variety of ways. Here are some of the ways: Preservation Philanthropy, Memorials, Matching Gift Programs, Corporate Donations, and Shopping on Amazon Smile. For more information please visit <https://ncpreservation.org/give/>

### Support NCPC by Shopping Amazon Smile

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In November 2015 NCPC received its first AmazonSmile disbursement. Thanks to all of you who support us through this program. AmazonSmile makes it easy to support NCPC by shopping online. When you order items via AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to NCPC. By selecting NCPC as your designated charity, your purchases give back to NCPC at **no additional cost to you**. When you shop through AmazonSmile you automatically support NCPC.

To sign up, log in to your Amazon account at <http://smile.amazon.com>. Search their database for North Carolina Preservation Consortium, and select NCPC as your charitable organization. When you are ready to shop, simply enter the Amazon website through the AmazonSmile URL.

More [information on the Amazon Smile program](#) can be found on their website. Please note that purchases made through AmazonSmile are not tax deductible. You may also change your designated charity at any time, but we hope that you stay with NCPC. AmazonSmile is an easy and cost effective way to help support NCPC and our programs.



## Preservation In The News

### The National Historic Preservation Act at 50—and Beyond

By: Tom Mayes, Vice President and Senior Counsel, National Trust

Fifty years ago, on October 15, 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) into law, ushering in a new era for historic preservation in the United States. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NHPA is an occasion to celebrate, and also to ponder the past *and* the future.



For 50 years, the NHPA has been working to save places throughout the United States, places that give Americans the “cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, economic, and energy benefits” envisioned in the Act’s preamble.

For full article visit: <https://savingplaces.org/stories/the-national-historic-preservation-act-at-50-and-beyond#.WAT1hvkrLct>

### Race, Diversity, and Politics in Conservation: our 21st Century Crisis

By: Sanchita Balachandran at AIC’s annual Meeting

Nearly every academic discipline has acknowledged that objects have multiple values and meanings, that they embody relationships, histories, memories and identities. But the concept of multiple meanings and resonances of objects is often an abstract one, something left to imagine rather than viscerally experience. And in our own field of art conservation, we have been slow to recognize that objects are not merely a sum of the materials they are made from, but rather, that their “intangible” values may in fact be as important, if not more important than the tangible heritage we’ve trained to conserve. But to the nearly fifty people who testified on the night of December 15th, the intangible and tangible were densely intertwined. It was the same over-life size bronzes that functioned as works of art, as symbols of love and resilience, as markers of oppression and hatred.

For full article visit: <http://www.conservators-converse.org/2016/05/race-diversity-and-politics-in-conservation-our-21st-century-crisis-sanchita-balachandran/>

### Architecture After Access: The Palace’s of Saddam’s Baghdad

By: Owen Vince

During his time in power, as head of state and as leader of the all-powerful, secularist Ba’th party, Saddam Hussein would oversee an unprecedented program of monumental development across the historic city of Baghdad. This was not limited to monuments of war and hollow bronze shells, but enormous palatial complexes, museums, art galleries, and civic squares, almost always designed to embellish and further empower the narrow elite which ruled the country with violent authoritarianism, much of it focused on the “heavily guarded” district of Karadat Maryam... There’s scant discussion of the complexes from an architectural and social perspective. They are gaudy, but they are not insignificant.

For full article visit: <http://www.failedarchitecture.com/architecture-after-excess-the-palaces-of-saddams-baghdad/>



## Welcome to the New Board Members!

NCPC would like to say a special welcome to all new members of the Board of Directors for the 2016- 2017 year. And a special congratulations to all those who elevated in their position within the organization. Great things will take place this year, especially since this month marks the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act signed by Lyndon B. Johnson. We feel this historic anniversary will inspire us all to do that much more to preserve our historic structures and resources. The newly appointed members are:

- **Beth Doyle**, *President*, Head of Conservation Services at Duke Libraries
- **Jeff Futch**, *Vice President*, Western Regional Supervisor for NC Office of Archives and History
- **Kesha Talbert**, *Secretary*, Assistant Paper conservator for Etherington Conservation Services
- **Kat Oosterhuis**, *Member at Large*, Director/archivist for Sisters of Mercy Heritage Center
- **Renee' Donnell**, *Member at Large*, Historic Interpreter at Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum
- **Charles Watkins**, *Member at Large*, Retired from the Appalachian Cultural Museum

## NCPC Workshops: What Do You Want To Learn?

NCPC strives to present relevant workshops on a variety of preservation topics. So far this year the NCPC Education Committee has scheduled workshops on the preservation of historic cemeteries, preserving historic buildings, preserving scrapbooks, and basic book repair.

- Is there a preservation workshop you would like to take that we don't offer?
- Would you like to host an NCPC workshop at your site?
- Would you like to teach a workshop?

If you have answers to any of these questions, please contact [Robert James, NCPC Executive Director](#). We are always looking for new ways to provide our members with the training they need. We want to hear from you!



NC Preserves is published quarterly in January, April, July and October. If you would like to submit preservation news from your organization, please send content to the [Editor](#). Text should be in a Microsoft Word document. Images should be jpeg with a printable quality of 250dpi or more, please include a caption and photo credit. Submission does not guarantee publication. Submissions may be edited for length/content at the discretion of the editor. **Submissions for the January 2017 issue should be sent to the Editor by December 15, 2016.**

**ncpreserves**  
an electronic newsletter from the north carolina preservation consortium

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