New “Sights and Sounds” Collection Features Moving Images and Oral Histories

From Grandfather Mountain to the Outer Banks, locations across the state are represented in the newest collection on DigitalNC: North Carolina Sights and Sounds. Thanks in part to funds from the Digital Public Library of America, we asked our partners to nominate audiovisual materials from their libraries and museums for a pilot digitization project, to help assess the demand for this type of work. Films, videos, and cassettes with both known and unknown content were nominated and chosen.

Truly a wide variety of audiovisual materials are now online in the Sights and Sounds collection. You can watch Rockingham County Public Library’s bookmobile visit a school in 1939. You can listen to residents of Nash County describe their experiences in World War II or in tobacco fields. You can see Cynthia Watts interview visual artists, musicians, and dancers in a number of “Arts in Durham” films from the late 1970s–early 1980s.

You can view silent films from H. Lee Waters, who filmed everyday life in small North Carolina towns (like Wadesboro, above) in the 1930s and 1940s.

In the end, we were able to digitize over 140 physical items from 11 institutions! Head over to DigitalNC.org and explore the many Sights and Sounds of the state.

DigitalNC.org Wins Award from the North Carolina Genealogical Society

At their annual meeting in October, we were thrilled to accept the North Carolina Genealogical Society award for Excellence in Web Presence. Here’s an excerpt from the nomination:

“This free website, DigitalNC, is very professional, well laid-out, and easily navigated. The website provides users with both search and browse features for access to the wealth of digitized original historic materials from libraries, archives, and museums from around the state. The website includes large collections of city directories, newspapers, yearbooks, and photographs. DigitalNC is a treasure trove of freely accessible materials that might otherwise not be readily uncovered by genealogists and historians.

We share this award with our over 180 partners, who have chosen to make their materials freely accessible online. We hope that genealogists and researchers of all kinds continue to discover and learn through DigitalNC.org.”
REYNOLDA HOUSE MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART: CORRESPONDENCE AND COLLECTIONS OF THE REYNOLDS FAMILY

Reynolda, a sprawling estate in the northwest part of Winston-Salem, was home to tobacco magnate R. J. Reynolds; his wife, Katharine; and his four children. Correspondence and photographs from the Reynolda House Museum of American Art, shared on DigitalNC.org, reveal the privileges of wealth and the nuanced personalities of this ambitious family. The balance of the letters comes from Katharine, showing her assertive efforts at managing the construction at the estate, daily life and elaborate events, and also many of her husband’s business affairs after he fell ill. There are also panoramic photographs and plans, and two photo albums from R. J. Reynolds’ daughter, Mary Katharine Reynolds Babcock. This collection is a good example of how correspondence can be organized and shared through DigitalNC.org.

CHAMPAGNE CHRISTENING BOTTLE AND SCRAPBOOK

On December 4, 1944, Betsy Bowman christened the S. S. Chapel Hill Victory. The Chapel Hill Historical Society brought in the original champagne bottle as well as a scrapbook with photographs and clippings related to the event. We enjoy the challenge of photographing three-dimensional objects like the bottle and its wooden case.
AMCO NEWS, MEL-ROSE-GLEN, SEW IT SEAMS

High Point, well known for its furniture industry, has also been home to numerous textile plants (like many towns in North Carolina). We’ve discovered how frequently mills published their own newspapers in the 20th century. These three titles, from the High Point Museum, are typical of the genre. While it might seem that company publications like these are of narrow interest, they are filled with information about their employees’ families and local events.

THE N.C. ESSAY

With notable alumni throughout the arts, the North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem has been in operation since 1965. The pages of the school’s student newspaper, the N.C. Essay, are graced with images from dance performances and plays. They describe school events and achievements. One of only two high schools that are part of the UNC System, the School of the Arts has shared the first 10 years of its student paper online.

Over the past months, the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center has partnered with Rockingham County Public Library and Forsyth County Public Library on their EZ Digitization Grants. These grants are funded through the Library Services and Technology Act and distributed by the State Library of North Carolina. Through an EZ Digitization Grant, a library can increase its local capacity to digitize materials. The Center consults with grant awardees and also provides digitization and digital publishing services.

EZ Digitization Grants for 2014-2015

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Rockingham County Public Library has been a long time partner, and they had already shared a variety of materials through the Rockingham County Legacy project (a partnership with Rockingham Community College and the Museum and Archives of Rockingham County). Their EZ Digitization Grant has allowed them to increase both the amount digitized by the Digital Heritage Center as well as their local capacity to digitize materials at the library. As part of this project, numerous family history materials, including in-depth research by John T. Dallas, have been added to DigitalNC.

FORSYTH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Forsyth County Public Library’s EZ Digitization Grant focuses on materials from local women’s clubs and African American high schools. During two “scan on demand” days, the Library brought over 40 oversized photos of students from Columbia Heights and Atkins High Schools. The Center was also able to help scan materials from the League of Women Voters, Junior League, and other women’s clubs in Winston-Salem.

If your institution has a project idea in mind for an EZ Digitization Grant, get in touch with us and we’d be happy to brainstorm with you. The deadline for the next cycle of grants is February 26, 2016.

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The North Carolina Digital Heritage Center is a statewide digitization and digital publishing program housed in the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Digital Heritage Center works with cultural heritage institutions across North Carolina to digitize and publish historic materials online. It is supported by the State Library of North Carolina with funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, and by the UNC-Chapel Hill University Library.

**ABOUT THE NORTH CAROLINA DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER**

The North Carolina Digital Heritage Center provides digitization and digital publishing services to cultural heritage organizations in North Carolina. Any organization that is open to the public and holds rare or unique materials related to the history and culture of North Carolina is eligible to work with the Digital Heritage Center. We have worked with libraries, archives, museums, and historical societies from around the state, ranging from very small organizations run by a single person to large academic institutions.

If you are interested in sharing selections from your collection online, or if you have questions about digitization in general, contact the Digital Heritage Center at digitalnc@unc.edu or (919) 962-4836. We are especially interested in hearing from smaller organizations who have not done any digitization on their own, as well as organizations from counties that are not yet represented on DigitalNC.org.

**HOW TO GET INVOLVED**

The scope of items on DigitalNC always amazes us: you can find materials related to 99 of 100 North Carolina counties.

If you know a library, archive, or museum in Graham County that would like to share yearbooks or other materials online, have them give us a call. We'd love to see materials related to all 100 counties represented on the site.

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OUR PARTNERS

The following institutions have worked with the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center to digitize materials from their collections:

Alamance County Public Libraries
Allegany County Public Library
Appalachian State University
Ashe County Public Library
Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College
Barton College
Bellamy Mansion Museum
Belmont Abbey College
Bennett College
Benson Museum of Local History
Braswell Memorial Library (Rocky Mount, N.C.)
Brevard College
Buncombe County Public Libraries
Cabarrus College of Health Sciences
Cabarrus County Public Library
Caldwell Heritage Museum
Campbell University
Carolina Aviation Museum
Carolina College of Health Sciences
Catawba College
Catawba County Library
Central Carolina Community College
Central Piedmont Community College
Chapel Hill Historical Society
Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum
Charlotte Mecklenburg Library
Chatham County Historical Association
Chatham County Public Library
Chowan University
Cleveland Community College
College of the Albemarle
Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center
Cumberland County Public Library
Dabney Public Library
Davidson College
Davidson County Public Library System
Davie County Public Library
Duke University
Duke University Medical Center Archives
Duplin County Library
Durham County Library
Durham Technical Community College
East Bend Public Library
East Carolina University
Edgecombe Community College
Edgecombe County Memorial Library
Elizabeth City State University
Elkin Public Library
Elon University
Farmville Public Library
Fayetteville State University
Fayetteville Technical Community College
Fontana Regional Library
Forysth County Public Library
Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program
Gardner-Webb University
Gaston County Museum of Art & History
Gaston County Public Library
Government and Heritage Library, State Library of North Carolina
Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum
Granville County Museum
Granville County Public Library
Greensboro College
Greensboro Historical Museum
Guilford College
Halifax County Library System
Harnett County Public Library
Haywood County Public Library
Henderson Institute Historical Museum
Heritage Research Center at High Point Public Library
Hickory Public Library
High Point Museum
High Point University
Highlands Historical Society
Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library (Clayton, N.C.)
Iredell County Public Library
Jewish Historical Society of Greater Charlotte located at the Levine-Skifield Judaic Library and Resource Center
Johnson C. Smith University
Johnston County Heritage Center
King Public Library
Kings Mountain Historical Museum
Lawndale Historical Society
Lees-McRae College
Lenoir-Rhyne University
Lexington Library
Lincoln County Public Library
Livingstone College
Louisburg College
Madison County Public Library
Mars Hill University
Martin Memorial Public Library (Williamston, N.C.)
Matthews Heritage Museum
Mauzy Memorial Library
McDowell County Public Library
Mercy School of Nursing
Meredith College
Methodist University
Mitchell Community College
Montgomery County Public Library
Montreat College
Moore County Library
Mount Airy Public Library
Museum & Archives of Rockingham County
Museum of the Albemarle
NC LIVE
New Bern-Craven County Public Library
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
North Carolina Central University
North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites and Properties
North Carolina Humanities Council
North Carolina Wesleyan College
North Davidson Public Library
Northwestern Regional Library
Old Jamestown School Association
Old Salem Museums & Gardens
Oliver Nestus Freeman Round House Museum
Olivia Raney Local History Library
Orange County Historical Museum
Page-Walker Arts & History Center
Pasquotank County Library
Pender County Public Library
Perry Memorial Library (Henderson, N.C.)
Pfeiffer University
Piedmont Aviation Historical Society
Pitt Community College
Polk County Public Library
Queens University of Charlotte
Randolph Community College
Randolph County Public Library
Rex Healthcare Library
Reynolds House Museum of American Art
Richmond Community College
Richmond County Public Library
Robeson Community College
Robeson County Public Library
Rockingham Community College
Rockingham County Public Library
Rowan-Cabarrus Community College
Rutherford County Library
Saint Augustine's University
Saint Mary's School
Salon College
Sallie Mae Ligon Museum & Archives & Masonic Home for Children at Oxford
Sandhill Regional Library System
Shaw University
Sheppard Memorial Library (Greenville, N.C.)
Sisters of Mercy Archives (Belmont, N.C.)
South Piedmont Community College
Southeastern Community College
Southern Pines Public Library
St. Andrews University
Stanly County Museum
State Archives of North Carolina
Stokes County Historical Society
Surry Community College
The Crossnore School
The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina
Thomasville Public Library
Transylvania County Library
Tufts Archives (Pinehurst, N.C.)
University of Mount Olive
University of North Carolina at Asheville
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University of North Carolina at Pembroke
University of North Carolina at Wilmington
University of North Carolina School of the Arts
Wake County Public Libraries
Wake Forest School of Medicine
Wake Forest University
Washington County Library
Watauga County Public Library
Wayne Community College
Wayne County Public Library
Western Carolina University
Western Piedmont Community College
Wilkes Community College
William Peace University
Wilmington Railroad Museum
Wilson County Public Library
Wingate University
Winston-Salem State University
Yadkin County Public Library