**1940 City Directories Supplement Census Research**

As historians and genealogists around the country begin to dig into the 1940 Census, released to the public on April 2, 2012, supplementary research materials will be especially helpful when struggling to identify people listed in the population schedules.

There are currently 17 directories from 1940 available in the North Carolina City Directories online collection. These include many of the state’s larger cities, such as Asheville, Charlotte, and Wilmington (above center), but there are also directories from a handful of smaller towns, including Asheboro, Hendersonville, Shelby, and Lenoir.

City directories contain a wealth of information for researchers—not just names and addresses, but occupation, often the place of employment, the name of the person’s spouse, and, in many directories, their race.

**DIGITALNC PARTNERS WITH NORTH CAROLINA’S COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

In recent months the Digital Heritage Center began partnering with North Carolina’s community colleges, digitizing yearbooks, campus publications, scrapbooks, historic photos, local histories and genealogical materials. We’ve worked with the following 12 institutions, and have invited all of the 58 community colleges in our state to collaborate with the Digital Heritage Center to share their histories online.

- Central Carolina Community College
- Cleveland Community College
- College of the Albemarle
- Edgecombe Community College
- Fayetteville Technical Community College
- Gaston College
- Pitt Community College
- Randolph Community College
- Rockingham Community College
- Rowan-Cabarrus Community College
- Southeastern Community College
- Surry Community College

**FEATURED NEWSPAPER HEADLINES from the Historic Headline of the Day on Twitter (@ncnewspapers)**

- “$100 Bounty. Wanted, 100 Mounted Riflemen.”
  —Fayetteville Observer, March 21, 1864
- “Public Auction—40 Or More Likely Slaves.”
  —Catawba Journal, February 20, 1826
- “Runaway Mule Causes Three-Way Wreck.”
  —Raeford News-Journal, January 10, 1946
- “Celebration of Holiday Lands Many in Court. Mostly Liquor Cases.”
  —Southern Pines Pilot, January 6, 1933
  —Mebane Leader, March 28, 1912

**VISIT ONLINE**
http://digitalnc.org/collections/north-carolina-city-directories
http://digitalnc.org
http://www.twitter.com/ncnewspapers
Historic newspapers are by far the items most frequently suggested for digitization by both contributing institutions and library users. Old newspapers are terrific resources for research and study, and are especially good candidates for digitization because current access is significantly limited: many titles can only be accessed on microfilm held by just a couple of libraries. The challenge of digitizing newspapers is due primarily to one thing: there are so many of them. North Carolinians have published hundreds of newspapers since James Davis first printed the North-Carolina Gazette in 1751. Many of the surviving papers have been photographed onto thousands of reels of microfilm containing pages numbering in the tens of millions.

The Digital Heritage Center is working steadily to increase access to this treasure trove of state and local history. There are currently 31 titles available online, containing in all more than 60,000 pages. The titles were nominated by public libraries around the state, and span the 19th and 20th centuries. There is a broad range of communities represented in the titles selected for digitization this year. Some of the highlights include:

**THE PILOT (SOUTHERN PINES), 1929-1942.**

The Pilot covers the growth of the Sandhills region of North Carolina during the Great Depression, especially its development as a vacation spot for northern tourists. Southern Pines and neighboring Pinehurst were celebrated as destinations for visitors interested in horseback riding and golf. In addition to typical small town news, The Pilot covered steeplechases, golf tournaments, and the many famous visitors who passed through the area.

**THE CAROLINA TIMES (DURHAM), 1937-1964.**

The Carolina Times has documented and advocated on behalf of North Carolina’s African American community since the paper’s founding in 1927. Pioneering publisher Louis E. Austin, who ran the paper until his death in 1971, used The Carolina Times to publicize racial inequality and injustice in North Carolina and around the country. The early issues of this paper are especially important as they contain news of events and issues unlikely to have been covered by other newspapers in the area.

**THE FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER, 1851-1865.**

Published when Fayetteville was one of the largest and most important towns in the state, the Observer gives an in-depth look at North Carolina just before and during the Civil War. A staunchly pro-Confederate paper, the Observer details the political arguments that led up to the war and the fears for the state’s future as the Confederacy faced defeat.
The local and state history room in the Cumberland County Public Library in Fayetteville is a terrific resource for studying the history of the county and surrounding area. The collection is especially strong in family history materials, with one of the most valuable resources being a set of handwritten tax records from 1920. The records span thousands of pages across five volumes and contain detailed accounts of the personal possessions and finances of individuals throughout Cumberland County. The forms they had to fill out are surprisingly specific: residents were asked to list not just the value of their homes and land, but whether or not they owned valuable items such as pianos, watches and clocks, firearms, sewing machines, and livestock. The resulting records give a rich and intimate look into the lives of Cumberland County residents in 1920.

The Cumberland County Public Library has indexed the records, making it easy for users to locate specific names in the tax lists.

The Richard B. Harrison Library first opened in 1935 to serve as a public library for the African American community in Raleigh. The driving force behind the library was Mollie Huston Lee (below left), who served as the librarian for more than 30 years. Mrs. Lee built outstanding collections of African American literature and local history. The vertical files in the library document individuals, institutions, and events significant to the history of Raleigh through the middle part of the 20th century.

The North Carolina Digital Heritage Center worked with the Wake County Public Libraries to digitize a selection of materials from the Harrison Library vertical files. Nearly 200 items from the collection are now available online, including fliers, pamphlets, and publications from community events and local institutions. Many of the publications are from Shaw University and Saint Augustine’s College. The Digital Heritage Center will continue to work with the Wake County Public Libraries and plans to digitize more of these materials soon.
Our Partners

The following institutions have worked with the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center to share materials from their collections online at DigitalNC.org:

Alamance County Public Libraries
Appalachian State University
Ashe County Public Library
Belmont Abbey College
Bennett College
Braswell Memorial Library, Rocky Mount, N.C.
Brevard College
Campbell University
Carolinas Aviation Museum
Central Carolina Community College
Charlotte Mecklenburg Library
Chatham County Historical Association
Chowan University
Cleveland Community College
College of the Albemarle
Cumberland County Public Library
Davidson College
Davie County Public Library
Duke University
Durham County Library
East Carolina University
Edgecombe Community College
Elizabeth City State University
Elon University
Fayetteville State University
Fayetteville Technical Community College
Forsyth County Public Library
Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program
Gardner-Webb University
Gaston College
Gaston County Public Library
Greensboro College
Greensboro Historical Museum
Guilford College
Halifax County Library System
Haywood County Public Library
High Point University
Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library (Clayton, N.C.)
Jewish Historical Society of Greater Charlotte located at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center
Johnson C. Smith University
Louisburg College
Mars Hill College
McDowell County Public Library
Meredith College
Methodist University
Montreat College
Mount Olive College
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
Old Salem Museums & Gardens
Orange County Historical Museum
Peace College
Pender County Public Library
Piedmont Aviation Historical Society
Pitt Community College
Queens University of Charlotte
Randolph Community College
Randolph County Public Library
Rockingham Community College
Rowan-Cabarrus Community College
Saint Augustine's College
Saint Mary's School
Salem College
Sallie Mae Ligon Museum & Archives & Masonic Home for Children at Oxford
Shaw University
Sisters of Mercy Archives (Belmont, N.C.)
Southeastern Community College
Southern Pines Public Library
St. Andrews University
Surry Community College
The Crossnore School
Transylvania County Library
Tufts Archives, Pinehurst, N.C.
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
Wake County Public Libraries
Wake Forest School of Medicine
Wake Forest University
Wayne County Public Library
Wilmington Railroad Museum
Wilson County Public Library
Winston-Salem State University

About the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center

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.

How to Get Involved

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.