The Digital Heritage Center reached an important milestone when we completed digitization of the Lees-McRae College yearbooks: Lees-McRae was the 100th institution to work with the Digital Heritage Center to share materials on DigitalNC.org. The 100 organizations range from small historical societies to large research universities and come from all regions of North Carolina (below). Together, they’ve shared more than 75,000 items, which contain a total of more than a million pages that can now be freely and easily viewed.

These impressive numbers represent just a fraction of the rare and unique materials available in North Carolina’s libraries, archives, and museums. We are looking forward to working with even more organizations in the years to come on our shared goal of promoting and increasing access to North Carolina’s cultural heritage.

VISIT ONLINE
http://digitalnc.org/institutions

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

“Big Quantity of Whiskey Found in Middle of Street”
—Sylvan Valley News, August 21, 1908

“Flood Causes Heavy Losses of Property Throughout McDowell”
—Marion Progress, August 15, 1940

“Sit-Ins Planned Sunday at Howard Johnson”
—The Carolina Times, July 28, 1962

“Cantaloupes Fly When Truck Upsets in Aberdeen”
—Southern Pines Pilot, July 14, 1933

“Volunteers Wanted Immediately. Single Men Preferred.”
—Fayetteville Observer, May 30, 1861
The digitization of historic student and community newspapers continues to be the largest and most complex project at the Digital Heritage Center. This spring and summer saw the publication of many new titles from across North Carolina. Some of the highlights include:

**THE PINEHURST OUTLOOK, 1897-1923**

This paper covers the often fascinating stories of the rapid development and growth of the town of Pinehurst in the early 20th century. Published by James Tufts, the Boston-based businessman who was largely responsible for the development of Pinehurst as a resort town, the *Outlook* includes stories about local activities and prominent visitors to Pinehurst and is especially thorough in its coverage of the development of golf in the region. This title was nominated for digitization by the Given Memorial Library in Pinehurst.

**THE HIGHLAND MESSENGER (ASHEVILLE), 1840-1851**

The *Highland Messenger* was the first paper to be published in Asheville. These issues cover the very early development of the town when it was still a quiet mountain outpost, decades before the railroad came through and long before the population and building boom in the early 20th century. The Buncombe County Public Libraries nominated this title for digitization.

**THE GOLDSBORO HEADLIGHT, 1887-1903**

Goldsboro was a lively tobacco town during the period covered by this paper. The *Headlight*, described as a “first class Democratic family paper,” includes many ads for local goods and services and a full social column in each issue tracking the illnesses, births, deaths, and comings and goings of people in the community.

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**NORTH CAROLINA NEWSPAPERS COLLECTION, BY THE NUMBERS**

- 130,000 pages
- 18,000 issues
- 53 titles

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**FEATURED IMAGE**

*Most Original*, Brevard High School, 1947

Robert Hunter and Carolyn Kizer, students at Brevard High School in 1947, display their originality—and some pretty impressive teamwork. Contributed by Transylvania County Library.

Selected Brevard High School yearbooks are also online as part of the North Carolina High School Yearbooks exhibit.
The North Carolina Yearbooks project was in the news this summer when newspapers and TV stations around the state ran stories about the statewide reach of the project. The News and Observer in Raleigh (above right), the Charlotte Observer, and the Winston-Salem Journal each published articles about the project, and it was also featured on the websites of local TV stations in Raleigh, High Point, and Wilmington. WLOS-TV in Asheville and WCHL radio in Chapel Hill ran short on-air pieces about the project. Many of the stories included celebrity photos from the older yearbooks, with the undergraduate shots of Andy Griffith (UNC-Chapel Hill, 1947) and David Sedaris (Western Carolina University, 1976) getting the most attention.

The publicity has resulted in increased visits to the website and renewed excitement about the project. Among the most gratifying comments are those received from people who were able to find family members in the older yearbooks. One user wrote, “Thank you for undertaking this enormous project. Both of my parents are deceased, and I was able to ‘reconnect’ with them through their old college yearbooks.” Another user commented on Facebook that she was able to find her mother’s college yearbook photo and was touched to discover how much her mother looked like her at that age.

With the continued popularity of the college and university yearbook digitization project, many libraries around the state approached the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center to inquire about digitizing high school yearbooks from their communities. Now that the college project is winding down, we are expanding the project to include high school yearbooks.

We will focus first on older high school yearbooks, limiting the project to yearbooks that are at least 50 years old. We are especially interested in working with partners to share online yearbooks from schools that no longer exist, particularly those from North Carolina’s African American schools.

Several libraries have already contributed high school yearbooks to be digitized: early yearbooks held by the Hickory Public Library, the Davie County Public Library, and the Transylvania County Public Library are already available online. The high school yearbook project has the potential to reach even more communities in North Carolina and is sure to be popular with local historians, genealogists, and family members. If you are interested in having older high school yearbooks from your community digitized, get in touch with your local public library or contact the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center for more information.

**Yearbook Digitization Project Expands to Include High School Annuals**

**Old Salem Examination Books**

Among the many treasures held in the archives at the Old Salem Museums & Gardens is a set of school exercise books from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. These handwritten volumes were used by students at Nazareth Hall, a Moravian boarding school for boys in Nazareth, Pennsylvania between 1788 and 1847.

Each volume includes the work of many different boys, and together they give us a glimpse into the curriculum and educational practices at Nazareth Hall. The students practiced handwriting, arithmetic, and languages, and their written work was bound into these books. Several of the volumes also contain impressive drawing exercises, including landscapes, portraits, and botanical illustrations. These detailed, full color illustrations still appear vibrant and interesting more than 200 years later.

**1890 Forsyth County Tax Book**

When the North Carolina Room at the main branch of the Forsyth County Public Library in Winston-Salem was in the process of moving a few years ago, staff members uncovered a unique volume that has shed new light on county history. The large, unmarked book contained county tax records for 1890. The records are surprisingly detailed, giving not only the names of the residents and the amount paid in taxes, but their race and age as well. The book also lists in great detail the personal property of each resident, how much their furniture and other household belongings were worth, and how many hogs, goats, and other farm animals they owned.

This volume is especially significant because of the absence of the 1890 federal census records, lost in a fire many years ago. Without the reliably detailed Census to turn to, genealogists and historians face a big gap in evidence between 1880 and 1900. For students and scholars of Forsyth County history, the availability of the 1890 Tax Book is a big step toward filling that void.
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.