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# North Carolina

## DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER

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### Quarterly Report

APRIL – JUNE 2021

This quarter Digital Heritage Center staff began traveling again as pandemic restrictions eased. We also wished Bob Anthony, Curator of the North Carolina Collection and Director of the Digital Heritage Center, the best as he retired.

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## New Partners

### ALAMANCE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Alamance Community College joined DigitalNC with the first batch from the Crystal Lee Sutton collection. Crystal Lee Sutton was a union organizer and activist, recognized as the driving force behind the unionization of J.P. Stevens plant workers in Roanoke Rapids, N.C. Her story inspired the acclaimed 1979 film, *Norma Rae*. Items digitized in this collection give firsthand accounts leading up to that notable unionization, including a union cheer and a timeline of events recorded in several meeting recollections with J.P. Stevens management. She personally donated the collection to Alamance Community College in 2007.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/alamance-community-college/>

### BLADEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Bladen County Public Library provided access to the first Bladen County newspaper content on DigitalNC. Nine issues from five titles were added, covering the towns of Elizabethtown and Clarkton.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/bladen-county-public-library/>

### FREEDMAN CULTURAL CENTER OF CALDWELL COUNTY

Our first batch for the Freedman Cultural Center of Caldwell County included yearbooks from Freedman High School. The Center is located in the former Freedman High School building in Lenoir, N.C. Freedman High School was an important center of the Freedman community—an African

American community that was established in the late 1860s and early 1870s just north of Lenoir. The school was established in 1932 and was the first high school for Black children in Caldwell County.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/freedman-cultural-center-of-caldwell-county/>

### MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Our first batch from Montgomery Community College were course catalogs for the school and a 50th anniversary publication. Montgomery Community College (originally the Montgomery Technical Institute) was established on September 7, 1967 in Troy, North Carolina. Due to Montgomery County's status of one of the most rural, least populated, and isolated counties in North Carolina the college faced tremendous challenges to get chartered. According to *Montgomery Community College: 50 Years of Success*, one of the items digitized by DigitalNC, there was a delay of several years to have the college established due to state leaders thinking it would not succeed. The citizens of Montgomery County proved them wrong: the campus currently includes facilities of approximately 134,400 square feet on 153 acres of land, with over 400 enrolled students.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/montgomery-community-college/>

### NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Our partnership with the North Carolina School for the Deaf shows the strength of partners spreading the word about the Digital Heritage Center; Burke County Public Library worked hard to make this connection! The North Carolina School for the Deaf was founded in 1891 in Morganton, N.C. In a move to separate hearing-impaired students from vision-impaired students, whom all had a place under one school in Raleigh (North Carolina Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind), funds were established for a new school at Morganton.

The first brick for the school under its original name, the North Carolina School for the Deaf and Dumb, was laid by two future pupils, Maggie LeGrand and Robert C. Miller, on May 16, 1892. The school's doors opened to 100 pupils on October 2, 1894, and in 1907, the name officially changed to The North Carolina School for the Deaf. Our first batch for them consisted of 35 yearbooks.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/north-carolina-school-for-the-deaf/>

### PS. JONES ALUMNI, INC.

Our first batch from P.S. Jones Alumni, Inc. was five yearbooks. Located in Washington, N.C., P.S. Jones High School was originally named Washington Colored Public School and was a Black public high school. The first iteration of Washington Colored Public School consisted of three detached structures that served primary, elementary, and high school students. Washington Colored Public School's first class graduated in 1926. In 1950, Professor Peter Simon Jones, a beloved teacher who taught at the school for 22 years, passed away. The community decided to rename the school P.S. Jones High School in his honor. The school disbanded in 1968 due to the integration of Washington City Schools.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/p-s-jones-high-school-alumni/>

## Ongoing Projects

Lulu Zilinskas, Ashlie Brewer, and Kristen Merryman digitized and published online materials from many of the Center's current partners, including:

- College yearbooks from **Davidson College, East Carolina University, and Fayetteville Technical Community College**
- College catalogs from **Cape Fear Community College, Mitchell Community College, and South Piedmont Community College**
- High school yearbooks from **Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, Chatham County Historical Association, Clear Run High School Alumni Association, Person County Public Library, Tyrrell County Public Library, and Western Carolina University**
- High school yearbooks and student newspapers from **Chapel Hill Historical Society**
- Barbecue festival posters, newspapers and yearbooks from **Davidson County Public Library System**
- Newspapers and ephemera from local companies from **High Point Museum**

- Furniture catalogs, newspapers, and ephemera from the **Heritage Research Center at High Point Public Library**
- Photographs, yearbooks, and a family Bible from **Wayne County Public Library**
- Community newspapers from the **History Committee of the Town of Pine Knoll Shores, Neuse Regional Library, UNC-Chapel Hill, Washington County Library, and Wayne County Public Library**

The Center worked with a total of **27 different partners** during this quarter. To learn more about each of these projects, or to keep up with new items added to DigitalNC, check out the DigitalNC blog.

## Bob Anthony Retires

At the end of May, NCDHC staff bid farewell to Bob Anthony, who retired from UNC-Chapel Hill after a 40-year career. Bob was instrumental in the formation of the Center, partnering with the **State Library of North Carolina** to bring the statewide initiative to life in 2010. He led as the Center's Director for over 10 years, using his ability to build relationships around the state to the Center's advantage. His knowledge of North Carolina and his enthusiasm are already missed, but we wish him the best!

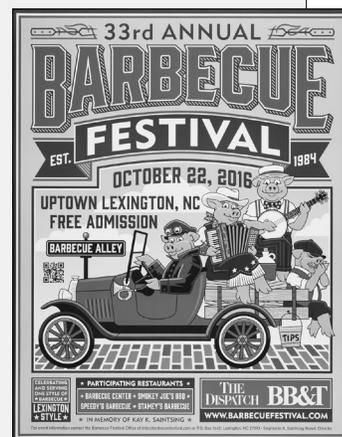
## Project Highlight

### LEXINGTON BARBEQUE FESTIVAL POSTERS

This quarter, we had a lot of fun digitizing a batch of Lexington Barbecue Festival posters for **Davidson County Public Library System**. We have scanned 23 of the posters so far, each one a unique piece of porcine art. The festival in the self-styled "Barbecue Capital of the World" has achieved nationwide fame since its establishment in 1984. It now averages over 200,000 visitors every year (pre-COVID).

<https://bit.ly/lexington-bbq-festival>

ABOVE RIGHT *33rd Annual Barbeque Festival, 2016.*



## Partner Visits and Presentations

As travel became safer, NCDHC staff were pleased to be able to visit partners again. This quarter Lisa traveled to **Alamance Community College, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Elon University, and UNC-Charlotte**. In our quest to work with organizations in all 100 counties, Kristen visited new partners in Bertie County: **Historic Hope Plantation** and **Russell's Back in the Day Museum**. We're already planning more trips in the Fall and look forward to connecting with partners in person.

Staff gave presentations at or participated in a number of virtual events this quarter. Kristen was part of a panel discussion hosted by the Historical Society of North Carolina on COVID's impact on our work. Kristen and Ashlie both attended the Society of North Carolina Archivists annual meeting. Lisa gave a presentation to the **UNC-Chapel Hill's Friends of the Library Board** and provided an update at DPLA's Members Day.

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## Preserving and Sharing Community Histories Online

NCDHC, the **State Archives of North Carolina**, and **UNC-Greensboro** are partners on a grant funded by the State Historic Records Advisory Board entitled "Preserving and Sharing Community Histories Online." This grant provides cultural heritage organizations with basic training in archival practices including digitization. Originally centered around in-person visits, travel restrictions led the grant partners to focus on video tutorials (released through the State Archives' Youtube channel) in 2020. More recently, organizations applied to receive personalized training and this quarter the grant partners began working with participants. In addition, with restrictions easing, visits to some of these organizations have begun. NCDHC staff are working with the grant partners to plan upcoming visits where we can do some in-person digitization training and also pick up materials to be scanned in Chapel Hill.

## Technology Update

This quarter, Stephanie continued planning and development activities toward an accessibility-first redesign of the main DigitalNC.org website. She also performed maintenance and security updates for all of NCDHC's major software systems, and participated in TIND's newly-established release webinars, representing NCDHC in its role as an "early-access" software tester.

As part of the UNC-Chapel Hill Libraries' Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiative, Stephanie began collecting resources toward making NCDHC's collections more equitable from a technology perspective. Topics include removing bias from search index processing, providing inclusive keyword suggestions, and improving our systems' ability to handle sensitive materials and display appropriate content warnings.

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## Consultations

*For this statistic, we're counting NCDHC full-time staff consulting on NCDHC services, digitization, digital publication or another related topic. These consultations are substantive, last at least 10-15 minutes, can take place virtually or in person, and do not include presentations or workshops.*

Examples this quarter include:

- talking about TIND with a potential TIND client in California
- discussing print newspaper digitization with a public library
- consulting with a partner about Omeka OAI output
- providing CONTENTdm data storage insight to TIND in support of new migration tools

**TOTAL CONSULTATIONS: 10**

## Statistics

### ITEMS PUBLISHED ONLINE TO DATE

Collection	Number of Objects	Number of Files
Images of North Carolina	24,729	41,965
North Carolina Memory <i>Includes Urban Renewal Collection</i>	9,543	347,057
North Carolina Yearbooks		
College and University Yearbooks	4,536	844,765
Other Campus Publications	5,880	814,318
High School Yearbooks	4,410	505,567
North Carolina City Directories	1,021	558,332
North Carolina Sights & Sounds	930	1,170
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,049</b>	<b>3,113,174</b>

Collection	Titles	Issues	Number of Pages (Scans)
North Carolina Newspapers	510	184,053	1,682,937

### VISITORS TO DIGITALNC.ORG, APRIL 1 – JUNE 30, 2021

Unique visitors	88,636
Average sessions per day	1,820
Total number of sessions	165,653
Sessions from North Carolina	95,565
Total number of page views	1,042,574

### VIEWS OF DIGITIZED MATERIAL AVAILABLE THROUGH ARCHIVE.ORG, APRIL 1 – JUNE 30, 2021

320,422

### NORTH CAROLINA DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER

<https://www.digitalnc.org>

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