



North Carolina

DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER

Quarterly Report

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2024

This quarter the Digital Heritage Center added a new position and welcomed new staff.

New Partners

GIBSONVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Gibsonville Public Library serves the town of Gibsonville, which spans the Alamance and Guilford county borders. Our first batch from them was putting together an exhibit featuring materials from a Black history community project led by the library. More information about this project can be found in our project highlight section.

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

LOWER CAPE FEAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

The Lower Cape Fear Historical Society, Inc. is an organization committed to the preservation and promotion of the history of the Lower Cape Fear region since 1956. Located in Wilmington with headquarters in the Latimer House—a noteworthy example of Victorian Italianate Revival Architecture—the Society holds a comprehensive collection of over 600 artifacts, with an extensive archive and library that is open to the public. The Society also published the *Lower Cape Fear Historical Society Bulletin*, which includes local historical and genealogical research. A full run of the *Bulletin* (since 1957) was the first batch of materials added to DigitalNC.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/lower-cape-fear-historical-society-inc/>

RAILROAD HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION AND MUSEUM

The Railroad House Historical Association and Museum is located in Sanford, NC and became a partner through our colleagues at Lee County Libraries. Just a block away from Lee County Libraries in downtown Sanford, the Museum was

established in 1962 when a group of citizens rallied to save the historic house that holds the institution today. The Museum documents the history of Sanford as a railroad hub—and more widely, the historical importance of railroads in North Carolina's history. Our first batch from the Museum includes photographs, negatives, and issues of one of Sanford's few Black-owned newspapers, the *Sanford Enterprise*.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/railroad-house-historical-association-and-museum/>

WEYMOUTH CENTER FOR THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

The Weymouth Center for the Arts & Humanities is located in Southern Pines in the former home of James Boyd. The Center has served as a writers' residency for over 40 years, and hosts meetings of the N.C. Poetry Society, literary readings, dramatic performances, musical concerts, and recitals. James Boyd's study is the home of the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame, established in 1993. Our first batch for them was a large photograph album documenting the Moore County Hounds, the oldest hunting club in North Carolina.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/weymouth-center-for-the-arts-humanities/>

Ongoing Projects

Ashlie Brewer, Hannah Helmey, Kristen Merryman, Abby Martin and Summer Stevens digitized and published online materials from many of the Center's current partners, including:

- High school yearbooks and the *Boone-Blowing Rock Journal* newspaper from **Blowing Rock Historical Society**
- Student newspapers from **UNC-Charlotte**
- Shakespeare festival records from **High Point Museum**
- Magazine Club records and panoramic photographs from **Edgecombe County Memorial Library**

INSTITUTION TYPES WORKING WITH NCDHC, JULY 1 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Public Libraries	7
Historical Societies	7
Public Colleges and Universities	5
Community Colleges	4
Museums	3
Alumni Associations	2
Public Archives	2
Private Colleges and Universities	1

- Community newspapers from **Appalachian State University, Blowing Rock Community Library, Blowing Rock Historical Society, Margaret and James Harper, Jr. Library, Outer Banks History Center,** and the **State Archives of North Carolina**
- Newspaper clippings, course catalogs, scrapbooks and other college publications from **Forsyth Tech Community College**
- Student newspapers and scrapbooks from the **Hendersonville High School Alumni Association**
- Maps from the **Chapel Hill Historical Society**
- Course catalogs and a student newspaper from **Rowan-Cabarrus Community College**
- *The Lumbee* newspaper and a yearbook from **UNC-Pembroke**
- Scott Family Collection dairy business objects from **Alamance Community College**
- Yearbooks, an ambulance ledger, and city directories from the **Person County Museum of History**
- Board of trustees' minutes and course catalogs from **Sandhills Community College**
- Architecture records from the **Chatham County Historical Association**
- High school yearbooks from **Burke County Public Library, Henderson County Education History Initiative,** and **McDowell County Public Library**
- A student newspaper, Carolina College items and a student scrapbook from **Methodist University**
- Maps, architectural drawings, and posters from **Durham County Library**
- Newsletter indexes from **Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society**

The Center worked with a total of **31 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.

On the Road

During this quarter, Kristen attended the North Carolina Community College Archives Association annual meeting at Central Piedmont Community College. While there she co-presented with two NCDHC partners, **Southwestern Community College** and **Montgomery Community College**. She also visited Charlotte-area partners **Johnson C. Smith University, Queens University of Charlotte,** and **UNC-Charlotte**.

Lisa traveled to Toronto to attend the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries IDEAL conference, where she presented on her work with diversity, equity, and inclusion within Wilson Library.

Personnel Updates

The last few months saw a lot of personnel-related activity at the Center! Thanks to additional funding from the **State Library of North Carolina**, we were able to interview for a new position, "Digital Projects Coordinator." This position will take over management of the day-to-day digitization work of the Center, freeing up other staff for increased partner and user engagement. After a successful search, Ashlie Brewer (formerly our Digitization Technician) was promoted to this new job. We are excited about Ashlie moving into this role and plan to hire a new Digitization Technician in early 2025.

We also welcomed several new graduate students this quarter. The North Caroliniana Society funded two new Primary Source Fellows, cal lane and Isabella Walker. cal and Isabella are creating additional Primary Source Sets (to be added to the "Resources" section of our site) using materials found on DigitalNC. Previously-created sets were aimed at learners in K-12; these will be written for undergraduate-level teaching and learning.

We also welcomed Summer Stevens to the Center this Fall. Summer is a Carolina Academic Library Associate, a program run by UNC Libraries and the UNC School of Information and Library Science in which students are assigned to a Library department that fits with their



ABOVE *St. James' choir posed outside the church.*

Project Highlight

GATHERING BLACK HISTORY IN GIBSONVILLE

This quarter we were excited to work with **Gibsonville Public Library** to add photographs, oral history interviews, and anniversary booklets from their project, “Gathering a Community History,” to our site. The grassroots project, sparked by a community conversation among members of the Faith Baptist Church, focuses on gathering and sharing the history of the Gibsonville Black community.

Partnering together, Faith Baptist Church, Gibsonville Historical Society, and members and leaders from additional Black churches in the area were awarded a grant from the State Library of North Carolina, made possible by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This grant provided funds to purchase a scanner and recording equipment for oral histories and hire a part-time research assistant. This research assistant worked closely with area churches, individuals, and organizations to record interviews and digitize documents and photographs. These materials can be viewed in DigitalNC's newest exhibit, “Gathering Black History in Gibsonville.”

[https://www.digitalnc.org/exhibits/
gathering-black-history-in-gibsonville/](https://www.digitalnc.org/exhibits/gathering-black-history-in-gibsonville/)

experience and career goals. Summer is already at work scanning and creating metadata for partner materials.

Finally, in September, UNC Libraries welcomed Anna Chen as the new Associate University Librarian for Special Collections and Director of Wilson Library. Coming to Chapel Hill from the Clark Library, a rare books and manuscript library housed in a historic property at the University of California, Los Angeles, Anna has a strong background in management, special collections, and community engagement. The Digital Heritage Center now reports directly to Anna.

Technology Update

In addition to regular maintenance activities this quarter, Stephanie expanded the functionality of DigitalNC's primary source sets to accommodate content for an undergraduate audience, improved the way newspaper content exhibits are presented on the site, prepared a new batch of records for transcription via Zooniverse, and processed 64 batches of newspapers and corrections for ingest into the North Carolina Newspapers collection. She also analyzed data from the SiteImprove monitoring service and adjusted DigitalNC's collection methods to provide a clearer view of site accessibility concerns.

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 working with a SILS student on setting up a field experience, discussing potential migration of a digital exhibit to DigitalNC, and helping a user craft advanced searches of newspaper content for a research project.

TOTAL CONSULTATIONS: 6

Statistics

ITEMS PUBLISHED ONLINE TO DATE

Collection	Number of Objects	Number of Files
Images of North Carolina	28,499	55,430
North Carolina Memory <i>Includes Urban Renewal Collection</i>	13,589	520,577
North Carolina Yearbooks		
College and University Yearbooks	4,623	856,101
Other Campus Publications	6,445	865,026
High School Yearbooks	5,360	629,126
North Carolina City Directories	1,165	589,120
North Carolina Sights & Sounds	1,263	2,238
Total	60,944	3,494,984

Collection	Titles	Issues	Number of Pages (Scans)
North Carolina Newspapers	2,001	603,073	4,565,293

VISITORS TO DIGITALNC.ORG, JULY 1 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Unique visitors	130,089
Average sessions per day	1,414
Total number of sessions	186,079
Sessions from North Carolina	82,827
Total number of page views	1,401,285

VIEWS OF DIGITIZED MATERIAL AVAILABLE THROUGH ARCHIVE.ORG, JULY 1 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

258,362

ZOONIVERSE TRANSCRIPTION STATISTICS, JULY 1 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

This quarter, 357 unique users on the Zooniverse platform transcribed 3,201 handwritten phrases in 1,236 page scans that were part of 12 digital objects.

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