

Wachovia Historical Society 124th Annual Meeting

by Paul F. Knouse, Jr. and Johnnie P. Pearson

The 124th Annual Meeting of the Wachovia Historical Society was held on Tuesday evening, October 15, 2019, in the Gray Auditorium of the Old Salem Visitor Center. As always, a delightful musical prelude preceded the meeting. This year, we were pleased to have organist Mary Louise Kapp Peeples with us, playing the historic 1800 David Tannenberg organ (*see page 2*). Business matters of the Society were covered first, including remarks by WHS President I.B. Southerland and election of new directors starting their terms in 2020.

This year's most interesting annual oration was delivered by Mr. Randell Jones, an award winning author and storyteller (*pictured at right*). The title of Mr. Jones's oration was "*They Came to Wachovia, Tired, Cold, and Hungry.*" Randell presented a story of the American Revolution which touched Wachovia specifically—the march of the prisoners after the Battle of Kings Mountain to Bethabara around the fall of 1780.



It is helpful to remind ourselves of the lay of the land during this period. The Declaration of Independence in 1776 might have "officially" initiated our American Revolution, but the momentum for this had been building for some time (at least since 1765) with the British intent upon having undisputed control of the colonies and actively demonstrating this. July 4, 1776, however, was just one of the many noteworthy official events of the period, as the War for Independence actually began, as early as 1775, with numerous skirmishes and open combat, extending all the way to 1783.

The players in all of this included the American "Patriots," who fully supported the Revolution, and "Loyalists" to the British empire, also known as "Tories, Royalists, or King's Men" at the time. It is said that those ardent Loyalists kept assuring the British that they would defend the crown, offering significant support. In fact, far fewer Loyalists than expected actually signed up to fight for the British cause. Importantly, the

British greatly miscalculated the strength and fervor of the American Patriots, who considered them, as *Wikipedia* puts it, "inimical to the liberties of America." The Patriots watched their every move like hawks and were determined to stop them.

Within this historical backdrop lie the early Moravians and their settlement towns of Bethabara (1753), Bethania (1759), and Salem (1766). The late John R. Weinlick, Dean Emeritus, Moravian Theological Seminary, during the Seminary's vespers on October 14, 1976, spoke about the Moravians of this time.

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124th Annual Meeting

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Brother Weinlick describes the Moravians as “pacifists” and “non-combatants.” While the Moravians were not unified in thought about the Revolution, their focus, said Weinlick, was their dedication to “evangelism and mission.” Additionally, the Wachovia Tract settlements, in addition to the Northern towns of Bethlehem and Lititz, were consid-

ered, as Weinlick put it, “centers of production and places of healing.”*

In his oration, Mr. Jones (pictured at the podium at right) described the actions of the Moravians as they encountered the Patriots and their Loyalist prisoners, having arrived in Bethabara from the long and arduous journey from King’s Mountain, Gilbert Town, by Morganton, up south of Elkin, through the counties of Surry, Stokes, Forsyth, and Yadkin, etc. Commented Randall, “We know of these events through the journals of the Moravians.” Moravian towns were visited by both Patriots and Loyalists. The Patriot militias were not always kind. Randall noted, “Moravians endured the Patriot militia at Bethabara....600 men asked for bread, but they wanted other things....they plundered Bethabara....they behaved badly.” Moravians noted in their journals, “How glad we were to see them go!” Randall noted that a second group of Patriot militia came to Bethabara, and additional supplies were requested from Salem. “They took our meal, and we could not bake,” complained some Salem Moravians. These same Moravians also said, “We still paid heed to their spiritual nurture,” recalling Weinlick’s description of “evangelism and mission.”

Mr. Jones’ oration clearly showed the early Moravians’ focus on accurate record keeping, journaling, providing information about this time we otherwise would not have. These early Moravians also clearly demonstrated, even during those very difficult times, their desire to be of service, to be helpful, and to mission to those in their midst, even if they did not like them. *WT **The Moravians and the American Revolution, An Overview, a paper read at the vesper, October 14, 1976. From Transactions of the Moravian Historical Society © 1977.*



The traditional “Music Prelude” at the WHS Annual Meetings always brings notes of beauty and reflection prior to the start of the annual business session and oration. This year, we were pleased to have Mrs. Mary Louise Kapp Peebles (at left) bring us the music prelude. Mary Louise gave her usual stellar performance on the historic Tannenber Organ in the Gray Auditorium. The organ was built for Home Moravian Church in 1800.

It was also nice to have Mary Louise with us, recognizing that her mother, Louise Kapp, was the first recipient of the Archie K. Davis Award for History in 1999! Mary Louise’s father, John Kapp, was a Moravian minister. Mary Louise is also the performer on a new compact disc recording of organ music (shown at right). Organ music on the CD was recorded at a number of locations in Winston-Salem, in addition to the Gray Auditorium instrument, including the Sisters’ and Brothers’ Houses in Salem and both Calvary and Home Moravian Churches. Her husband, Wade Peebles, is a composer some of whose works appear on the CD. The CD is available from the Moravian Music Foundation. *WT



Langdon E. Oppermann Receives 2019 Archie K. Davis Award

One of the highlights of last fall's annual meeting was the presentation of the 2019 Archie K. Davis Award for History to Langdon E. Oppermann (at right).



Ms. Oppermann was introduced at the meeting by Mr. David E. Gall, Architect, P.A. of Winston-Salem and a former member of the WHS Board of Directors. Ms. Oppermann is an architectural historian and planner with the architectural firm of Joseph K. Oppermann, Architect, P.A. The firm specializes in research, restoration, and retrofitting of historic buildings. She conducts intensive-level research on the history and architectural history of buildings and structures for planning evaluations and preservation efforts.

Ms. Oppermann earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in City Planning and Historic Preservation from Hollins University in 1974 and a Master of Arts degree in City Planning and Historic Preservation from George Washington University. Her service to our community has been lengthy, varied, and has advanced the cause of our local history. She has served as a member and Vice-Chairman of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Historic Properties Commission, a member of the Board of Directors for the Study of Afro-American History of Winston-Salem, a member of the Advisory Committee for Design Review Guidelines for the West End Historic District, and Chairman of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission.

Her notable local projects include the preparation of the nomination of the Washington Park neighborhood as a National Register Historic District. In 1997-1998, Ms. Oppermann facilitated the direct participation of the Washington Park residents in the presentation of the nomination through research and photograph of historic properties, the first time such a collaborative effort was undertaken in North Carolina. She also prepared the nomination of the Reynoldstown neighborhood as a National Register Historic District as well as an inventory of about 2,000 buildings associated with Winston-Salem's African-American History.

Ms. Oppermann's work continues to assist other authors ranging from Heather Fearnbach's *Winston-Salem's Architectural History* to Robert Kerstad's study of tobacco unions to Elizabeth Herbin-Triant's new study of racism in Winston-Salem's neighborhoods. Her devotion and contributions to local history have most certainly enriched our appreciation and knowledge of local history. WHS is most pleased to have Langdon Oppermann as the 2019 Recipient of the Archie K. Davis Award for History! **★WT**

Contributed by David E. Gall

(Photo above of Ms. Oppermann courtesy of Jay Sinclair. At left, portrait of Mr. Archibald K. Davis. This portrait is displayed in the lobby of the Moravian Music Foundation. At right, Ms. Oppermann (left side, at right) at the WHS Annual Meeting. Seated directly behind her is David E. Gall.)



from the President

by I. B. Southerland



First thing.....I want to say a *special thank you* to **Richard Starbuck** for his many years of service to the Society as WHS Treasurer. His dedication to this job has been a great aid to us. We thank him for his service.

Richard was Assistant Archivist to the Reverend Dr. C. Daniel Crews, a former Archivist of the Moravian Archives, Southern Province of the Moravian Church, and he served as the ninth Archivist from 2014 through 2017. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Williams College and worked for 12 years as writer and editor at the *Winston-*

Salem Journal/Sentinel newspapers before joining the Moravian Archives in 1986. At the Archives he has been instrumental in editing numerous works for publication in print and on the internet, and with Dr. Crews is co-author of *With Courage for the Future: The Story of the Moravian Church, Southern Province*. He was co-editor of volumes 1-6 of *Records of the Moravians Among the Cherokees*, and has been sole

editor of volumes 7-9 in that series. He was honored at our 124th Annual meeting on October 15, 2019 by Dr. Crews. Richard delivered the WHS Annual Oration at the 2016 Annual Meeting (*photo above right*). Additionally, Richard is the former editor of **The Wachovia Tract**. Thank you, Richard, for your service to WHS, the Moravian Archives, Moravian history overall, and the history of our community!



WHS Monument in Oglethorpe Square: We were excited with the results of our partnering with the City of Savannah to restore the monument in Oglethorpe Square. Check out the pictures (*left and right*) from Oglethorpe Square.

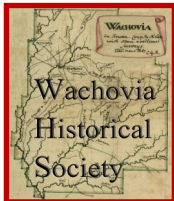
Adam Spach Property: A special task force has been formed to work on the Adam Spach property (*Rock House historic photo below*). The goal is to establish the best use of the property going forward—how we as custodian of the property can manage it and may find uses that best serve the interest of the Society.



Collections: We are working with Old Salem Museums and Gardens on an agreement for our collections that they now store and display. Our original agreement was for 50 years and began in 1953. The new agreement is for 10 years with automatic renewal for up to 4 additional terms.

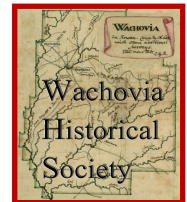


President's Report continued on Page 5 →



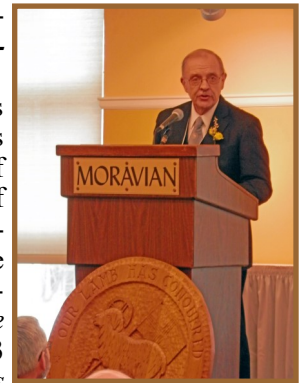
2020 WHS 125TH ANNUAL MEETING— OCTOBER 20

by Johnnie P. Pearson, Chair, Annual Meeting Committee



The 2020 Annual Meeting of the Wachovia Historical Society has already been scheduled! The meeting will be held on **Tuesday evening, October 20, 2020**, beginning at **7:30 p.m.** in the Old Salem Visitor Center. As always, a delightful **musical prelude** will precede the meeting, beginning at **7:00 p.m.**

This year's annual oration will be delivered by the Reverend Dr. C. Daniel Crews (*photo at right*). Dr. Crews received Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Divinity degrees from Moravian Theological Seminary, a Ph.D. in British literature from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and a Ph.D. in historical theology from the University of Manchester, England. He did post-doctoral study at the University of Prague. As an ordained minister he has served Moravian churches in North Carolina, England, and the Virgin Islands. He is the author of numerous publications on Moravian history and theology, and with Richard Starbuck co-authored *With Courage for the Future: The Story of the Moravian Church, Southern Province*. He was co-editor of volumes 12 and 13 of *Records of the Moravians in North Carolina*, and co-editor of volumes 1-6 of *Records of the Moravians Among the Cherokees*. He served as the eighth Archivist of the Moravian Church, Southern Province, from 1991 through 2014. He is a most sought after speaker, famous for his knowledge of history and his unmatched wit. ★WT



President's Report

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Future Work: We as your Board continue to work on the many issues that are required to move your Society forward. This past year we visited the Salem Tavern, Old Salem storage in the old Coca Cola plant on Marshall Street, and had meetings in both The Boys School and MESDA.



Membership: We encourage all members to renew their memberships. Memberships now are on a calendar year (January 1 to December 31). Our financial year has also been changed to calendar year.

2020 Annual Meeting: We are looking forward to our annual meeting in October 2020. It is our Society's 125th. We look forward to this meeting and hope many members and guests will be able to come. Look for more information in the coming issues of **The Wachovia Tract**. ★WT
I.B. (left and right, the Boys' School and the Salem Tavern.)

New WHS Treasurer: Karl Kapp

Karl Kapp has graciously agreed to become WHS's new Treasurer, replacing Richard Starbuck. Karl was elected to the WHS Board of Directors in 2018, and he is currently serving his first term (through 2023).



Not long ago, Karl completed 10 years as Chief Operating Officer for Auto Supply Company, Inc. He is a Board member and Secretary for Muttentz Descendants, Inc., an association of people who tie their history here in North Carolina to 120 emigrants from Muttentz, Switzerland in the 18th century. Karl's ancestor was John Jacob Kapp, one of the second band of Moravian settlers to come to Bethabara in 1754 and the miller there. John Jacob's son, Henry, lived and apprenticed in the Single Brother's House in the late 18th century. Karl is married to Toni Kapp, and they are members of Home Moravian Church. *WT

Wachovia Historical Society 2020 Meetings Schedule

May 12
(given the COVID-19 crisis,
details to be determined)



July 14



September 8



November 10

**125th
Annual
Meeting**



**October
20,
2020**

Welcome New WHS Board Members!

At last fall's annual meeting, members of WHS approved the election of 4 new members of the Society's Board of Directors. We are excited to welcome these new members and are certain they will make significant contributions to the Society and its members. These members will serve an initial term lasting until 2024. Welcome, all of you!

John W. Dyer is a retired Winston-Salem businessman. John brings significant corporate experience to his first term on the Board, as well as knowledge of Wachovia and the Moravians. John is a member of Home Moravian Church, and he is the husband of the late Patricia Sear Dyer.

John Alexander Hauser has been a practicing attorney since 1987, in criminal and civil trial settings. He was born in Frankfurt on the Main, Germany in 1961. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina for undergraduate studies and law school. He is a volunteer with Old Salem Museums and Gardens, Salem College and Academy, the Southern Province of the Moravian Church, the Wachovia Garden, and a former board member with Preserve Historic Forsyth. John is a member of Home Moravian Church.



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New Board Members!

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John C. Larsen sits on the City Council of Winston-Salem, representing the South Ward. He has served on the Council since 2016 and is running for re-election this fall. John has a significant "historical" background, having previously been a Vice-President for Old Salem Museums and Gardens. Among his many civic responsibilities, John is also a member of the Moravian Archives, Southern Province of the Moravian Church. John is a member of Home Moravian Church. *(Photo above courtesy of the City of Winston-Salem.)*



As the new resident of the former Cape Fear Bank building in Old Salem, **Victoria ("Vicki") Remishofsky** is delighted to have retired in Old Salem. She draws experience from working on the Board of



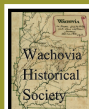
Sorosis. ★WT

Directors of the Asheville Lyric Opera, Winston-Salem Symphony, Winston-Salem Youth Orchestra, Music in Education, and forty years serving as principal of the Orton Academy. She is currently a member of the Wachovia Gardens at Bello, Home Moravian Church's Continuing Education, and Circle 7, and the Winston-Salem Chapter of



Sincere appreciation is expressed to the members of the Board of Directors whose terms were completed at the end of 2019. We are grateful for your past service, and look forward to your being a part of the Society in 2020 and beyond!

★Helen B. Beets ★Peggy P. Dodson ★
★Conrad A. Mitchell ★



Wachovia Historical Society
2020 Board of Directors
(alphabetical order)



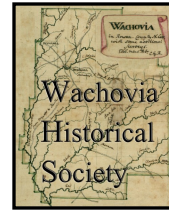
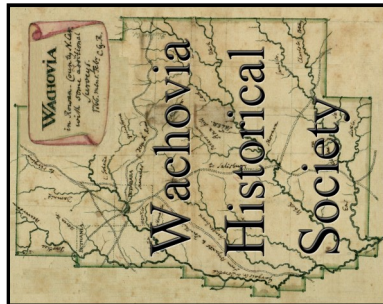
Paul W. Armfield (2020)
John W. Dyer (2024)
Michelle M. DeLapp, *Vice-President* (2023)
Chris J. Hartley (2022)
John A. Hauser (2024)
Edward G. Hill (2021)
Karl Kapp, *Treasurer* (2023)
Paul F. Knouse, Jr., *Editor, The Wachovia Tract* ('22)
John C. Larsen (2024)
Michelle Leonard (2023)
Paula W. Locklair (2023)
Johnnie P. Pearson (2021)
Victoria Remishofsky (2024)
W. Kirk Sanders, *Secretary* (2020)
Ricky R. Sides (2023)
I. B. Southerland III, *President* (2024)

Advisory Members:

Johanna Metzger Brown (*Old Salem*);
William W. Phillips, Jr.; Jimmie Snyder;
and Frederick P. Spach

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P.O. Box 20803
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www.wachoviahistoricalsociety.org



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!

**Wachovia
Historical Society**

125th Annual Meeting

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

Old Salem Visitor Center

7:30 p.m.

(Music prelude—7:00 p.m.)



Annual Oration

The Reverend Dr. C. Daniel
Crews

*Former Director, Moravian Archives,
and Retired Moravian Minister*



*Presentation of
The 2020 Archie K. Davis
Award*

Spring 2020