

Wachovia Historical Society

2017 Annual Meeting Overview

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

The 122nd Annual Meeting of the Wachovia Historical Society (WHS) was held on Tuesday evening, October 10, 2017 in the James A. Gray Auditorium of the Old Salem Visitor Center. The meeting included a special presentation by the new President and CEO of Old Salem Museums and Gardens, Mr. Franklin (Frank) D. Vagnone, and the presentation of the Archie K. Davis Award to Mr. Bradford L. Rauschenberg, formerly of Old Salem Museums and Gardens. 2017 WHS President Peggy P. Dodson also reviewed the work and accomplishments of WHS during the previous year, and new WHS Board Directors were elected. Prior to the official meeting, the capacity audience enjoyed classical guitar music presented by the very accomplished John Kossler.



Franklin D. Vagnone assumed his new role of President and CEO of Old Salem Museums and Gardens on March 1, 2017. Mr. Vagnone brings to Old Salem an international reputation in the fields of historical preservation and museums, having previously been the executive director of the Historic House Trust, where he oversaw the operations of 23 house museums. Frank is the co-author of *The Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums*, a best-selling book on creative approaches to presenting the past.



WHS Board member Johnnie Pearson introduced Mr. Vagnone to the assembly. In his annual oration to WHS members and guests, Frank lived up to the “anarchist” theme in his most provocative presentation which was entitled, *“If I ran this place, I would....”* If there is a one-word “take-away” to describe Frank’s opinion of what an historic preservation should be, the word would be “experiential.” Visitors to places like Old Salem should have the opportunity to “experience” in a very real way what it was like to live in Salem during “historical” times.

Museum tourists in our day no longer want to view purely static images and relics of the past. Rather, they are more interested in experiencing what it was truly like to live in an earlier time, to “know” the people. The traditional museum must adapt its presentation of things historical in such a way as to make people feel that they while they are living now in a modern age, they can understand, feel like and experience the way life was in the past. (continued on page 2) ➔

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Above right, Peggy P. Dodson opens the Annual Meeting. Above left, Frank Vagnone.

122nd Annual Meeting

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During his presentation, Frank provided multiple examples of museums who are making the transition to a new way of presenting and interpreting history. Indeed, he strongly believes that for museums to remain viable, they must provide “experiential opportunities” for their visitors. Frank hopes to further incorporate this strategy in his current and future work with Old Salem.

A former research and restoration director and a very familiar face across the decades at Old Salem, Mr. Bradford L. Rauschenberg received the 2017 Archie K. Davis Award which was presented by Mo and Martha Hartley on behalf of the Society. Introduced to the assembly by WHS President Peggy Dodson, Brad was the 20th recipient of this prestigious award which is presented at each annual meeting. Brad’s involvement with Old Salem spanned many years,



and he was a major force in the development of the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, an internationally known museum. Brad, a native of Atlanta, is a graduate of Georgia State College and earned his Master of Arts in History from Wake Forest University. He was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the Kendall College of Arts and Design in 2006. Dr. Rauschenberg is the author of multiple books including *The Furniture of Charleston, 1620-1820* (The Frank L. Horton Series) and a centennial history of *The Wachovia Historical Society, 1895-1995*. Brad has also been a member of many historical societies including the Organization of American Historians, the Southern Historical Association, the Furniture History Society and the Society of Historians of the Early American Republic, to



name just a few! Dr. Rauschenberg’s accomplishments clearly support his election to the distinguished roster of recipients of the Archie K. Davis Award and to the historical “ideals” and vision of Mr. Davis. (Pictured above right, Mo and Martha Hartley present the 2017 AKD Award. Above left, Dr. and Mrs. Brad Rauschenberg).

John Kossler (pictured at right) captivated the audience gathering prior to the meeting with his moving presentations of classical guitar music. John’s talents run in the family, being the son of renowned violinist Lauren Kossler. John is a graduate of Wake Forest University and during his time at Wake Forest performed extensively in Europe. In 2016, he won the New York Artists International Competition, performing at Carnegie Recital Hall. Prior to playing for WHS at the meeting, John had just recently finished his Masters of Musical Arts degree in guitar performance with Ben Verdery at Yale University.



Along with writing and arranging music, he currently teaches and performs throughout the country and abroad. WHS is grateful for John’s moving musical presentation for this year’s meeting.

During the meeting, Board member W. Kirk Sanders (at left) presented the slate of nominees to become new members of the Board or to be re-elected for a second term. Newly elected to the WHS Board are Aurelia G. Eller and Edward G. Hill. Elected to a 2nd term is Johnnie P. Pearson.



Meeting photos courtesy of Helen B. Beets


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Last but not least, John Larson, formerly of Old Salem Museum and Gardens, received a painting of his home in Salem in appreciation of his service to the Wachovia Historical Society. The painting was done by Mr. Leo Rucker. John is a former WHS Board member and the 2009 recipient of the Archie K. Davis Award. (pictured at left, John Larson and Leo Rucker).

122nd Annual Meeting

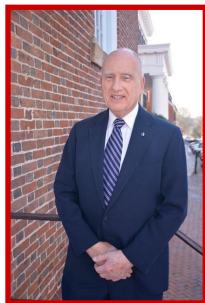
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We certainly look forward to the **2018 Annual Meeting** of the Society, so **mark your calendars NOW: Tuesday, October 16, 2018**, beginning with a musical prelude at 7:00 p.m. and the annual meeting at 7:30 p.m. We will also announce at that time the 21st recipient of the Archie K. Davis Award. More news is to come about our annual meeting! (At right, WHS Board Members Conrad Mitchell, Cheryl Harry and Chris Hartley at the "WHS Table" at the annual meeting. P.S. We sold a number of books!!) 



from the President

by I. B. Southerland III



As I start my term of office, I consider myself very fortunate to have the Board of Directors that I have, hard-working and dedicated to the mission of our Society. Our committees are very strong and provide the backbone of all the many tasks and projects in which we are involved. I will outline some of them that are currently underway.

Collections

- ☐ Working with Old Salem to identify and determine the location of our items on loan
 - ☐ Finding the records of the Society and maintaining them
 - ☐ Working to decide if we as a Society continue to collect items

Public Relations and Publications

- ☐ Publishing **The Wachovia Tract** three times per year
 - ☐ Review of website

At right, the 1794 Salem Boys School, which served as the museum of the Wachovia Historical Society, 1897-1972

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from the President

by I. B. Southerland III

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Annual Meeting/Davis Award

- ☐ Selection of speaker for 2018
- ☐ Arranging meeting space
- ☐ Requesting nominations for Davis Award and final selection

Properties

- ☐ Continue to pursue National Landmark designation for Adam Spach Rock House
- ☐ Consolidating records on the Rock House

Membership

- ☐ Finding ways to attract new members
- ☐ Encouraging our friends to join the Society

Special Events

- ☐ Medical Readers' Theater partnership with Old Salem

Other Projects

- ☐ Continuing to get estimates for restoration of the Society plaque in Savannah, GA
(this has required much time because of all the parties involved and decision about how best to restore this plaque)

As you can see we are involved in many activities and projects. A special thank you is due to Paul Knouse and his publication committee for their hard work in getting **The Tract** out three times per year.

We invite you to be involved in the work of the Society. We would encourage you to serve on our committees. We welcome your ideas and suggestions! 📧

I. B.

Wachovia Historical Society

and

Old Salem Museums and Gardens

present

A Medical Readers' Theater Workshop and a Tour of the Doctor's House Exhibition

"A Face of Stone"

by William Carlos Williams

A busy physician takes an instant dislike to a young immigrant couple who bring their infant to the office for a check-up. The story tracks the evolution of this complex physician/patient relationship.

Sunday, April 8, 2018

12:30-4:30 p.m.

Church Parlor, Home Moravian Church,
529 S. Church Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

(The workshop is being planned by
Peggy Dodson and Gene Adcock—
Wachovia Historical Society, and Emily
Baker—Old Salem.)

(See article about The Medical Readers' Theater,
page 5 ➔)


THE MORAVIAN WAY OF HEALTH AND HEALING

In April 2017, Old Salem Museums & Gardens opened a major new exhibition, *The Moravian Way of Health and Healing*, in the newly-restored Doctor's House, formerly the Vierling House (pictured below at left). Funded by the *National Endowment for the Humanities*, this exhibition is like no other in the country. It presents the unique healthcare system in Salem through the lenses of history, medicine, science, music, and religion to convey the nuanced narratives of Moravians in the Southern Province in the 17th and 18th centuries.



Winston-Salem is a city with a wealth of historical resources and that stands at the forefront of medical advances. *Old Salem Museums & Gardens and the Wachovia Historical Society have partnered to present a Medical Readers' Theater to tie together the past and the present.* The Medical Readers' Theater confronts contemporary ethical, medical, and interpersonal issues in healthcare and invites anyone—not just professional actors—to perform and initiate thought-provoking conversations that focus on issues pertinent to the physical, spiritual, and psychological aspects of health and healing 200 years ago and today.

History of *The Medical Readers' Theater*

The Medical Readers' Theater concept was developed by Dr. Todd Savitt, a professor in the department of Bioethics and Interdisciplinary Studies at The Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University. The program began in 1988 with a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council, and it evolved into Dr. Savitt's book, the *Medical Readers' Theater*, published by the University of Iowa Press in 2002. It uses scripts—based on fictional stories by well-known physician/writers such as William Carlos Williams, Richard Selzer, and Arthur Conan Doyle and requires no props or sets, and minimal preparation. A discussion leader introduces the program to the audience. The readers sit or stand in front of the audience, scripts in hand. At the conclusion of the reading, the discussion leader facilitates an exchange of ideas among audience members and the readers about the themes and topics presented in the play. 

Thanks to Emily Baker, Old Salem Museums & Gardens, for contributing to this article.—Editor

Workshop Schedule

12:30 p.m.—Light Lunch
 1:00-3:15 p.m.—Workshop and planning for future MRT performances
 3:30-4:30 p.m.—Doctor's House exhibition tour
 (At right, a "sick room" in the Doctor's House.)



Space is limited. Please R.S.V.P. by **March 31** to Emily Baker, Program Coordinator for Humanities, Medicine and Science at Old Salem Museums and Gardens: **336.721.7354** or **ebaker@oldsalem.org**.

This is an initial workshop for future performances. You can be a part of developing programs and performances!

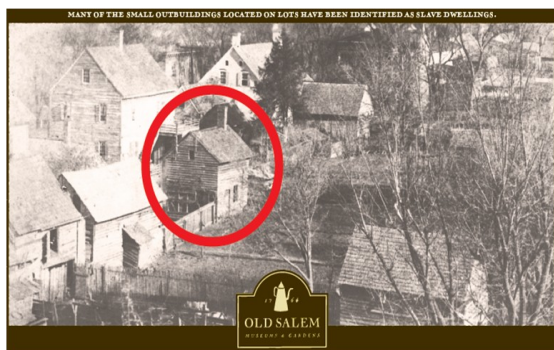
Thank you for joining us!

LOOK AGAIN: OLD SALEM'S HIDDEN TOWN PROJECT

The overall goal of the Hidden Town Project is to bring lives, names, families and legacies to life.—

Frank Vagnone, President and CEO, Old Salem, Inc.

by Cheryl Harry, Old Salem Museums and Gardens
Member, Board of Directors, Wachovia Historical Society



Old Salem's new initiative, the Hidden Town Project, exhorts us to look again at the way we've viewed photographs, artifacts and records from a different perspective. In December 2016, Frank Vagnone, Old Salem's new president, formed a committee comprised of staff members and external and external scholars to research, discuss, and formulate a larger strategy to bring to the public this lesser-known aspect of the Moravian town of Salem. The goals for the Hidden Town are to:

- Locate the sites of dwelling places of enslaved people throughout Salem's historic district.
- Fully integrate this narrative into the everyday interpreted visitor

experience: *where they lived and worked, and who they were as human beings.*

- Connect with descendants of the enslaved.
- Archaeologically investigate designated sites.
- Interpret the heritage of enslaved people in Salem and their descendants through contemporary art forms, salon discussions, and public gatherings.

Using the vast resources found within Old Salem Museums & Gardens including its Collections, the MESDA Research Center, and the Anne P. and Thomas A. Gray Library, as well as the Moravian Archives and Wachovia Historical Society, the initial stages of this research have already produced extensive and compelling data:

- Approximately, 5,200 photos have been reviewed in the Old Salem Photograph Collection finding evidence of enslaved and freedmen dwellings, as well as images of individuals.
- Extensive *Records of the Moravians in North Carolina*, 1753 through 1876. Comprised of 13 volumes containing many of the official records of the Moravian Church in Wachovia, much of which was translated from the original German and includes information on enslaved individuals who lived in Wachovia.
- The MESDA Craftsman Database: Information gathered from Southern primary documents on craftsmen who worked in the South, including more than 4,000 African American artisans (online). More than 16,000 Collection objects, many of which have a relationship to the Hidden Town Project research.
- The Moravian Archives in Winston-Salem houses more than one million pages of original documentation about the Moravians in North Carolina, beginning in 1753, and is a significant source of information about the people who lived in Salem and Wachovia. This primary documentation includes papers relating to the purchase of enslaved individuals, as well as correspondence, diaries, memoirs, maps, prints, and photographs.


The red circles in the picture above and on page 7 indicate places of "enslaved presence."

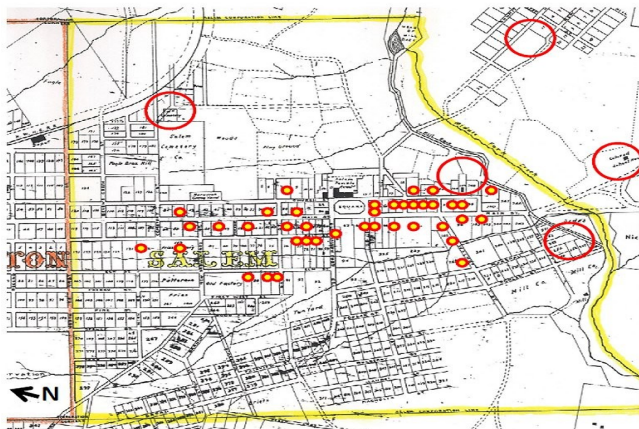
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OLD SALEM'S HIDDEN TOWN PROJECT

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- Mapping -- using known documentation about enslaved in Salem, and with additional information including data from 19th century Federal Censuses and late 19th and early 20th-century City Directory information, a mapping exercise produced a visual representation of Black presence in Salem through time (1766 to the present). The series of maps by quarter century locates enslaved presence by known, either workplace, residence work/residence or/and other activity. *See one example below for 1850-1875.* Mapping helps to inform any potential archaeological investigation. A next step is to understand individuals as people by gathering and compiling biographical information. A hopeful outcome will be the potential connection to descendants.

The Hidden Town Project is ongoing, involving research, genealogy, collaborative partnerships and programming. In the fall, a Hidden Town Community Forum will be held to engage the audience in the history of Africans and African Americans in the local community and to empower forward movement with new information and encouragement.  **Cheryl Harry**



Wachovia Historical Society 2018 Board Meeting Schedule

March 13



May 8



July 10



September 11



November 13

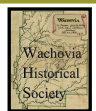
**123rd
Annual
Meeting**



**October
16,
2018**

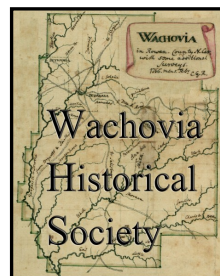
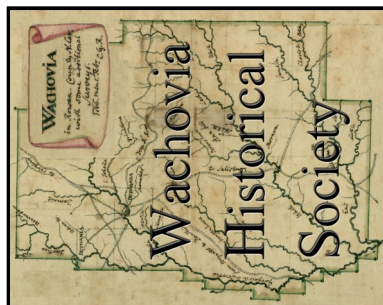


Wachovia Historical Society
2018 Board of Directors
(alphabetical order)



Eugene W. Adcock, M.D. (2020)
Paul W. Armfield (2020)
Helen B. Beets (2019)
Peggy P. Dodson, *Vice-President* (2019)
Aurelia G. Eller (2021)
Heather Fearnbach, *Secretary* (2018)
Cheryl Harry (2020)
Chris J. Hartley (2018)
Edward G. Hill (2021)
Paul F. Knouse, Jr. (2018)
Conrad A. Mitchell (2019)
Johnnie P. Pearson (2021)
W. Kirk Sanders, Esq. (2020)
Jimmie E. Snyder (2018)
I. B. Southerland III, *President* (2019)
Thomas W. Williams, Jr. (2018)
Advisory Members:
Johanna Metzger Brown (*Old Salem*)
William W. Phillips, Jr.
Frederick P. Spach
Richard W. Starbuck, *Treasurer* (*Moravian Archives*)

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www.wachoviahistoricalsociety.org



**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS NOW!!**

**Wachovia
Historical Society**

123rd Annual Meeting

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Old Salem Visitor Center

7:30 p.m. (*Music prelude—7:00 p.m.*)



Annual Oration by
Dr. Kenneth Cherry

*Deputy Secretary, N.C. Department of
Natural and Cultural Resources*



*Presentation of
The 2018 Archie K. Davis
Award*