

130th WHS Annual Meeting

The Archie K. Davis Award for History Wachovia Historical Society

Sunday
October 26, 2025
2:30 p.m.
Old Salem Visitor Center

Presentation of
the 2025
Archie K. Davis Award

In recognition of the contributions of Archibald Kimbrough Davis (1911 - 1998) to the study and appreciation of the history of North Carolina and our nation, the Wachovia Historical Society established the Archie K. Davis Award in 1999. This award can be presented annually by the Society and recognizes an individual whose outstanding contributions and devotion to the history of our region, state, and nation have enriched the appreciation of our heritage.

Archie K. Davis, a revered and respected banker and statesman, was a lifelong student of history, especially the history of his beloved North Carolina and the Civil War. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a degree in history in 1932. Upon his retirement from the position of Chairman of the Board of Directors of Wachovia Bank and Trust Company in 1974, he re-enrolled in the University. He received his Master of Arts Degree one year later. Recognizing

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WHS members and guest gather prior to the Annual Event.

From the President

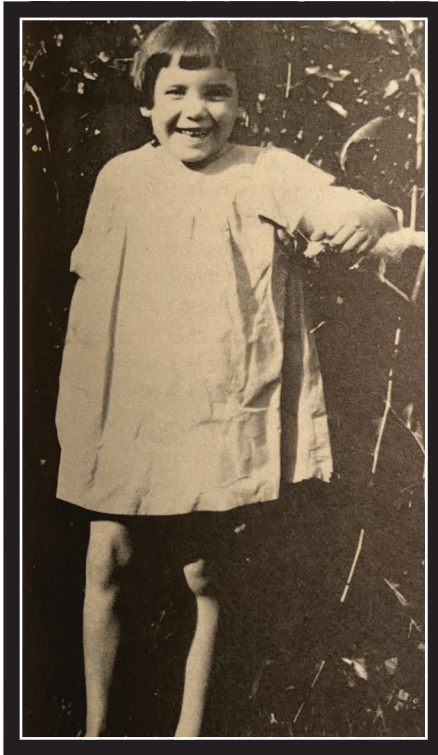
The Hidden History of two Methodist Children Home's Gravesites at Wachovia Arbor Grounds

"She symbolized the best of us." These were the touching words that The Children's Home (TCH) archivist David Edwards chose to characterize young Pauline Wray (1919-1930), an orphan and at the time one of the youngest children living at the Methodist-supported TCH. Affectionately known as Polly, she arrived on New Year's Day, 1922. According to the Children's Home Chronicles, "She immediately became a favorite of the Home." Little Polly won many hearts through her

sunny disposition, generosity, and kindness. Her grave is the oldest of the two graves adjacent to the Moravian God's Acre.

At the time, most of the THC residents were economically insecure orphans or children with only a maternal head of the household. Their numbers far exceeded THC's capacity. For example, of 180 applications received in 1923, TCH could only admit fifteen children and adolescents. The Home was so

...continued on page 5



Pauline Wray Perry Lefeavers, The Children's Home. The First Seventy-Five Years. Hunter Publishing Company, Winston-Salem, 1983.



Gray Todd Sitting on a Tractor. The Children's Home. The First Seventy-Five Years. Hunter Publishing Company, Winston-Salem, 1983.

Welcomee New Trustees

Whenever she can't remember a password, or her phone call gets dropped mid-conversation, Liz Thomas jokes that modern technology is the reason why she "prefers to work in the past," alongside the simple machines of history. Ironical, perhaps, when spoken by the chair of a technology committee, but certainly appropriate for a board trustee of one of the oldest historical societies in North Carolina: the Wachovia Historical Society. Both the Wachovia Historical Society (WHS) and Liz share an appreciation for lessons to be learned in our history, whether by examining the craftsmanship of simple machines or by examining past practices of our society and politics.

Prior to her service as a board trustee and the chair of the Technology Committee for the WHS, Liz worked with historic foundations including the George Washington Foundation (Fredericksburg, VA), an internship with Stratford Hall (Westmoreland Co., VA), Thomas Jefferson's Monticello (Charlottesville, VA), the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (Williamsburg, VA), and Old Salem Museums and Gardens (Winston-Salem, NC). During her work she served in administrative and educational capacities, working directly with the public for many years.

After receiving a BA in Theatre and Entrepreneurship from Wake Forest University, she decided to jumpstart her career out of college by working in professional theatre in the Southeast including the Georgia Shakespeare Company (Atlanta, GA) and Arena Stage (Washington, D.C.). She also held internships with Actors Theatre of Louisville (Louisville, KY) and the Australian Theatre for Young People (Sydney, New South Wales, Australia).

Liz was gifted a membership to the Wachovia Historical Society in 2023 (a great way to join!) after returning to her home state (The Great State) of North Carolina during the 2020 pandemic.



As chair of the Technology *Liz Thomas* Committee for the WHS

Liz believes in technology's capacity for outreach and its potential as a tool for connection. A big fan of oral histories, Liz's goals include growing the media of the WHS to provide a space for the oral histories of Wachovia. She invites you to join us by visiting our website at wachoviahistoricalsociety.org, and to stay up to date with our latest events and announcements by following us on Instagram (@whs1895). Liz is excited to be a part of the board as it moves towards the opening of the Adam and Maria Historic Park.

In addition to simple machines Liz appreciates modern medicine (especially during allergy seasons), exploring the social and political movements that promoted "liberty and justice for all," and living in a time that she can steward the benefits of these movements which were won by those who came before her. Liz also enjoys being outdoors in the National Parks, researching the complex history of the American Revolution, and classic screwball comedies of the 1930s. Above all, Liz believes that understanding the past is key to navigating the present in hopes of a better future.

The Archie K. Davis Award *continued from page 1...*



Mr. Tom Gray accepting the 2023 Davis Award.

his lifelong scholarship and passion for history, the university granted Mr. Davis' request to continue doctoral study without pursuing the degree itself. His dissertation was condensed and published as a book, *Boy Colonel of the Confederacy*, by the University of North Carolina Press in 1985.

In addition to membership on numerous corporate boards, Mr. Davis was a member of the Board of Trustees of Old Salem, Inc., the Moravian Music Foundation, and the Moravian Church Archives. He was also a member of the Society of Cincinnati, the Massachusetts Historical Society, the North Carolinian Society, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Archie K. Davis' professional life and service to our community were characterized by grace, gentility, intellect, enthusiasm, perseverance, and humility. With the Archie K. Davis Award, the Wachovia Historical Society recognizes the exemplary service of those who, like Mr. Davis, enrich our lives through their devotion to the study and appreciation of our heritage.

Recipients of the award should meet the following criteria:

- ✦ Be a living resident of North Carolina
- ✦ Have made significant contributions to the knowledge and appreciation of our history in fields such as literature, restoration, architecture, photography, archaeology, conservation, journalism, archival work, etc.

The Board of Directors of the Wachovia Historical Society may select an award recipient annually.

Nominations may be submitted to the Board by members of the Society. They should be sent to the Chair of the Annual Meeting Committee, along with a description of the nominee's merits and contributions to the field of history. ***Nominations must be received by August 15 for an award in the current year.*** The award will be presented at the Annual Meeting; the selection will be held in confidence until the presentation.

The Archie K. Davis Award for History Past Recipients

1999 Louise Kapp
 2000 Chester S. Davis
 2001 Frank Horton
 2002 James A. Gray, Jr.
 2003 C. Daniel Crews
 2004 Flora Ann Bynum
 2005 R. Arthur Spaugh, Jr.
 2006 J. Edwin Hendricks
 2007 Richard Starbuck
 2008 Gwynne Taylor
 2009 John Larson
 2010 Craig Atwood
 2011 Michael O. "Mo" and Martha B. Hartley
 2012 Copey Hanes
 2013 Nola Reed Knouse
 2014 Graham Rights
 2015 Molly Rawls
 2016 Walter Philip Dunigan
 2017 Bradford L. Rauschenberg, PhD
 2018 Paula W. Locklair
 2019 Langdon E. Oppermann
 2020 Frederick Pfohl Spach
 2021 Travis and Evva Hanes
 2022 Barbara Strauss and David Blum
 2023 Thomas A. Gray
 2024 Johanna Metzger Brown



The Hidden History *continued from page 2...*

overcrowded then that the children had to sleep two or three to a large bed. Following TCH hygiene policies, new arrivals spent their first days in the infirmary to be checked for what one young boy remembered as "everything: pneumonia, mumps, measles, polio, lice, megalice, fleas, snakebites."



View of the Children's Home Cemetery.

Before the widespread use of new vaccines and penicillin (discovered in 1928), infectious diseases and epidemics were a common and often fatal threat everywhere, especially among children. THC recorded frequent influenza and measles outbreaks, polio, diphtheria, ear infections, and pneumonia. Young Polly succumbed to blood poisoning resulting from mastoiditis, a common ear infection for which there was no cure yet. She had no relatives to bury her, but hundreds of children, holding flowers and outfitted in their Sunday best, followed her hearse to her gravesite.

As you ascend the hillside toward the Moravian God's Acre, you will notice that another, more elaborately decorated gravesite sits adjacent to Polly's grave. It belongs to the longtime resident and TCH alum Gray Floyd Todd (1923-2009), who requested to be buried on THC's Farm. Having grown up at the Home, he left in 1941 to serve in the Army Air Corp during World War II. He returned in 1946 and worked on the farm for sixty-two years, eventually reaching the rank of farm manager. THC Chronicles record that in his youth, Gray Todd became a marble champion, winning both The Children's Home and Winson-Salem championships.



Close up of two graves at the Children's Home Cemetery.

Besides the two graves' vicinity to the Moravian Cemetery, there is yet another Moravian connection. One of the first THC nurses was Erna McCracken, a Moravian. She, too, grew up at THC. She received her nursing training at the renowned Dr. Henry Long's Sanatorium in Statesville. Dr. Long was one of the first North Carolina surgeons to perform appendectomies. After working at THC for several years, Erna McCracken eventually found employment as a nurse at the RJ Reynolds factories.

Today, you can find Polly Wray's and Gray Todd's graves by walking along one of the public trails on Crossnore's bucolic meadows off Reynolda Road. And as those alumni who loved little Polly did for many years, you may want to leave a few flowers for her, but perhaps also for the marbles champion, US Veteran, and TCH alum Gray Todd.



Ulrike Wiethaus, Ph.D.

¹ Marva Dawn, *Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down: A Theology of Worship for the Turn-of-the-Century Culture* (Grand Rapids, MI, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1995), p. 148.

– The Guild

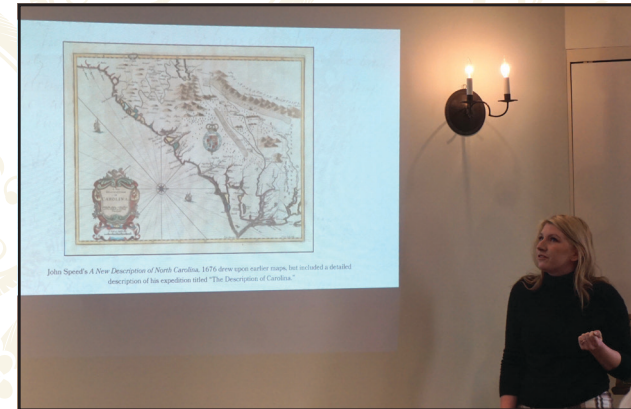
2025 Events –



January 5, 2025 – Pottery in the Kitchen,
Demmie Stewart



January 5, 2025 – Pottery in the Kitchen



February 2, 2025 – Moravian Surveyors & the Wachovia Tract,
Sabrina Garity



February 2, 2025 – Inside the vault at the Moravian Archives



March 2025 – Old Salem Family Memories, Historic
Preservation, and Urban Renewal



May 4, 2025 – Salem First! Industrial Firsts in Salem



June 1, 2025 – Moravian Physicians Bethabara (1753), Bethania (1759),
Salem (1766) to the Civil War, Dr. Tom Sears



June 1, 2025 – Moravian Physicians Bethabara (1753),
Bethania (1759), Salem (1766) to the Civil War

Wachovia Historical Society
Treasurer’s Report Submitted by Karl Kapp
March 28, 2025

Hello Fellow Members,

As of December 31, 2024 , funds held by the Society were as follows:

General Fund Unrestricted – Wells Fargo Checking	\$ 16,737
General Fund Unrestricted – Wells Fargo Business High Yield Savings	15,032
General Fund Unrestricted – Moravian Ministries Foundation in America	45,165
General Fund Designated – Direct Care of Collection Curated by Old Salem	10,188
General Fund Designated – Wells Fargo Checking – Rock House	20,028
Rock House Restricted – Moravian Ministries Foundation in America	46,255
NC Grant – Rock House Restricted – Moravian Ministries Foundation in America	223,013
Total	\$ 376,418



The \$250,000 grant for the Adam and Maria Historic Park Project included in the State of North Carolina 2023 Appropriations Act passed by the Senate and House on September 22, 2023 was received on April 19, 2024.

Current total for Rock House Historical Project funds available are \$289,296 consisting of \$223,013 remaining available from NC grant invested with Moravian Ministries Foundation Stable Fund, \$46,255 invested with Moravian Ministries Foundation Growth Fund, and \$20,028 deposited in General Fund Designated.

NC Grant funds disbursed during 2024 included the following:

- \$14,828 paid to Seramur & Associates for Ground Penetrating Radar
- \$14,500 paid to Rlayang Tree Service for clearing and mulching
- \$3,450 paid to B&L for topographical survey of existing road within the 30’ easement

Membership donations for the year ended December 31, 2024 totaled \$12,771, which was \$7,653 or 37.5% lower compared to the \$20,424 received during 2023. My thoughts are numbers were down because our donor base, mostly here in North Carolina, made contributions for other worthy causes, including not only the Rock House Historical Project for a combined total of bricks and designated funds at \$5,775, but also Hurricane Helene relief efforts.

As always, many thanks for your membership giving and support. I continue to believe we have been excellent stewards of your interest. Your help in getting us back on track to giving and support in the \$20,000 range during 2025 is greatly appreciated.

Honorariums and memorials from members made during 2024 were as follows:

- Teresa & Mike Cude in honor of Juanita Disher
- Karen & Peter Eller in memory of John Christian Eller
- Robert V. Ford in honor of Gerrii & Peck Spach
- Bette Glance in memory of Bill Glance
- Travis Hanes in memory of Evva Hanes
- Barry Johnson in memory of Ruth Gross Campbell
- Sarah Kane in memory of Frank Kane
- H. Lester Morris in memory of Gail Morris
- Leah & Keith Wheeler in memory of Helen Wheeler (she loved history)

Designated gifts made during 2024 to support the Rock House Historical Park project were as follows:

- Travis Hanes in memory of Evva Hanes – \$500
- Beth Iskander – \$1,000
- Total – \$1,500

Wachovia Historical Society 2024 Donors List
for Calendar Year 2024

Contributing Life Members

Karen & Peter Eller
Travis Hanes
Edward G. Hill, Jr.
Phillip W. Johnson & Emily Fearnbach

Life Members

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis R. Ayers
Mrs. Marjorie Beardsley
Mr. Nicholas B. Bragg
Mrs. Mary Dull
John & Margaret Eller
Karen & Peter Eller
Mr. James D. Fishel, Jr.
Mrs. Elisabeth B. Felts
Mr. Bernard Goodman
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Gray
Mr. & Mrs. Lyons Gray
Mr. Thomas A. Gray
Ms. Sallie L. Greenfield
Travis & Evva Hanes
Dr. Thomas J. Hauptert
Mrs. Lacy B. Hefty
Dr. & Mrs. Edward G. Hill, Jr.
Bob & Sarah Hunter
Phillip W. Johnson & Emily Fearnbach
Mr. John C. Larson
Mrs. Rita C. Leinbach
Ms. Barbara B. Millhouse
Marie Nifong
Mr. & Mrs. Norman L. Nifong
Dr. Paul D. Nifong, Jr.
Mr. Ken Otterbourg
Mr. David W. Piner
Mr. Bradford Rauschenberg
Betty Lassiter Reck
Rt. Rev. Graham H. Rights
Mr. William H. Roberts III
Eleanor Rights Roller
Dr. Donna K. Rothrock
Mrs. Martha W. Rowe
Mr. David E. Shaffner

Sandra & Wayne Shugart
Mr. Kenneth P. Sommerkamp
Robert & Kaye Spaugh
Dr. Julianne Still Thrift
Gwynne & Dan Taylor
Mr. Charles Timothy Via
Winston-Salem Journal
Mrs. Lynn Ziglar

Order of Wachovia

(\$1,000 and up)
Nola & Paul Knouse
Gerrii & Peck Spach

Herrnhut Associates

(\$500-\$999)
Chancy & Keith Kapp
Judy & Jay Lester
Sarah Kane

Bethabara Associates

(\$250-\$499)
Joan & David Cotterill
Terrie & John Davis
Michelle & Sim DeLapp
Toni & Karl Kapp
Linda & Ed Kelly
Cama Merritt
Piper & David Shannon
Louise & Jimmie Snyder
William W. Truslow
Judy & Bill Watson

Committee of 1895

Year of the Society’s Inception (\$100-\$249)
Betty & Tommy Cole
Teresa & Mike Cude
Peggy & Wayne Dodson
Karen & Peter Eller
Kathy & Bill Ewalt
Ragan Folan
Robert V. Ford
Lou & Ralph Garner
Patty & Hal Garner
Bette Glance

Laurie & Chris Hartley
Betsy Hine
Katherine & William Hoyt
Donna Hurt
Annie Jenkins
Martha & Jim Manning
Robert Mayville, Sr.
Marianne & Rod Meyer
Susan & John Mickey
George W. Morgan, Jr.
Beverly & Alan Moore
H. Lester Morris
Joe & Langdon Oppermann
Mary Anna & Johnnie Pearson
Roberta & Jim Pettit
Molly & Jeffrey Rawls
Esther Tesh
Barry D. Self
Martha & Don Shaffner
Patricia Sicheloff
Carol & I.B. Southerland
Thomas W. Williams, Jr.
Trudy & Powell Winstead
James Yarbrough, Jr.

Zinzendorf Associates

(formerly the Salem Guild) (\$50-\$99)
Doris Bostian
Jane & Richard Carmichael
Phyllis Dunning
Phyllis & Riff Footland
Hal Garrison
Martha & Mo Hartley
Kate & Gary Hix
Fran Huetter
Sarah Jennings
Sally McLeod
Sonya & Terry Meiste
Nancy & John Schultz
Leah & Keith Wheeler

Family (\$35), Individual (\$25), Student (\$15),

and Senior (\$15)

Ted Bowen
Hallene Brindle
Martha Chamberlain
Phillip C. Cohen
Linda Reed & Daniel Crews
Roger Crook
Thomas Denegre
Dale Dennard
Vickie & David Gall
Lisa & Jim Gallaher
Jeffrey P. Gray
John Hauser
Richard Henderson
Carol Holcomb
Conrad Hunter
Alan Johansson
Maurice Johnson
Shannon Kvam
Leslie & Robert Leinbach
Richard Manning
Martha Martinat
John David Mickey
Mary & Larry McRae
Brandi Winter & John Rights
Elizabeth Robinette
Terry Taylor
Victoria Schwartz
Henry Starbuck
Mary Lou & Charlie Stott
Charles Taft
Gordon Thomas
Sandra Waggoner
Carol Westmoreland
Hessie Williams

Non-Profit, Commercial, & Professional

Allen County, Fort Wayne, IN Public Library
Town of Bethania
Blackbaud Giving Fund, made on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Brick Paver Donor List for the Adam and Maria Historic Park for Calendar Year 2024

Jim Baucum – in honor of Martha Goslen Baucom, 8th generation, Thomas and Will, 9th generation, Emerson, Graham, Wells and Yates, 10th generation – \$130

Beth & Bill Bencini – in memory of Maria Magdalena Spach m. Johan Anton Castner, Christina Castner m. Joseph Kerner, John Friedrick Kerner m. Nancy Anna Landrum, Paulina Maria Kerner m. Robert Douglas Fulton, Nancy Elizabeth Fulton m. Emery Anthony Bencini, Robert Emery Bencini, Sr. m. Ruby Constance Snow, William Snow Bencini, Sr. m. Treva Ann Tulloch, and Franklin Tulloch Bencini – in honor of Beth Constance Bencini, Peter Austin Zarcone, Benjamin William Zarcone, Harrison Gene Zarcone, Michael Emery Zarcone, William Snow Bencini, Jr., William Michael Bencini, William Snow Bencini, III, Elinor Frances Bencini, Sarah Snow Bencini m. Jason Schafhauser, and Frances Snow Schafhauser – \$1,425

Rick Bynum – in memory of Richard T. Bynum, Sr., 1928-2014, 7th Generation, Winston-Salem, U.S. Navy – Korean War – \$130

Teresa & Mike Cude – in honor of Beth & Robbie Alphin – \$75

Teresa & Mike Cude – in honor of Beth & Charles Baldwin – \$75

Teresa & Mike Cude – in memory of Willis Max Brady – \$130

Teresa & Mike Cude – in honor of Juanita Masten Disher & in memory of Sid Disher (husband) – added \$55 for total of \$130

Teresa & Mike Cude – in honor of Teresa & Van Krause – \$75

Teresa & Mike Cude – in honor of Lou & Jimmie Snyder – \$75

Jennifer Maher & Ruthie Dibble – in memory of Bill Phillips, Spach descendant, NC history expert, preservation advocate – \$130

Thom Ford – in memory of Evelyn Thom Spach, my grandmother, a long time matron of Old Salem – \$75

Beverly Hartgrove – in honor of descendants – \$75

Cheryl Spough Hughes – in memory of William Rubin Spough by his children and grandchildren – \$130

Donna Hurt – in loving memory of my dear parents, Mary & Carl Dull, devoted Moravians

Joyce Nelson – in honor of Selma Spach Quinn – \$75

Pamela Raines – in memory of J.A. & C.E. Bennett of Bennett's Granite Works – \$75

Marcia & Richard Reich – in honor of the descendants of Christian Zimmerman – \$130

Tara & Philip Reich and Family – in memory of John Ralph Reich, Joy Jean Sexton Reich, Mary Elizabeth Linville Reich and Samuel Linville Reich – \$520

Erik Salzwedel – in memory of Edith Neligh Tesch & Rt. Rev. Samuel J. Tesch – \$75

Erik Salzwedel – in honor of Sarah Tesch & Rev. James V. Salzwedel and in memory of Margaretha & Henrich Tesch – \$130

Brenda Spaugh Schaefer – in memory of Rebekah Grace Schaefer and William Rubin Spough – \$130

Sandra & Wayne Shugart – \$75

Sam Sorrells – in memory of Ethel & Clyde Spaugh – \$75

Judy Link Stoner – in memory of Adam Spach – \$130

Sonya Wentzel – in memory of Judy K. (Spaugh) Overmyer – \$130

Total – \$4,275

Adam and Maria Historic Park



Back By Popular Demand! – Brick Paver Sales!

Memorialize/Honor Your Loved One!

On the request from several of our supporters, we are reopening the brick paver sales until October 31, 2025! This will be the final opportunity to purchase a brick commemorating the life of your loved one to go into the “Descendant’s Walkway” of the Adam and Maria Historic Park. The order form is below, or you can go online to www.WachoviaHistoricalSociety.org, choose the “Donate” tab at the top of the home page, and fill out the form using your credit card. Thank you for all of your support for the park project and we are looking forward to celebrating when it is completed. More to come!



BRICK PAVERS ORDER FORM

4” x 8” brick: (\$75 each)

Line # 1:

In memory/honor (please circle one) of: _____

Line # 2: _____

Line #3: _____

Line # 4: Given by: _____

(Lines # 2 and #3 are information of your choice)

8” x 8” brick: (\$130 each)

Line # 1:

In memory/honor (please circle one) of: _____

Line # 2: _____

Line# 3: _____

Line # 4: _____

Line # 5: _____

Line # 6: Given by: _____

(Lines # 2 – #5 are information of your choice)

Please mail your order with check made payable to:

Wachovia Historical Society, 1299 Embler Road, Lexington, NC 27292

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P.O. Box 20803
Winston-Salem, NC 27120-0803
www.wachoviahistoricalociety.org



 Summer 2025



**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS NOW!!!**
Wachovia Historical Society
130th Annual Meeting
Sunday, October 26, 2025
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Old Salem Visitor Center
Music & Refreshments – 1:00 p.m.



Keynote Speakers
Michelle DeLapp
Jimmie Snyder
WHS Board of Trustees Members



Topic
Adam and Maria
Historic Park



Presentation of the
2025 Archie K. Davis Award