



Davidson Historical Society

Fall 2003

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Our Purpose

The Davidson Historical Society promotes an understanding and appreciation of the history of Davidson, North Carolina and its surrounding area.

Methodist Church Renovates Chapel and Neighboring Structures

Summoned by the recently-reinstalled bell of the Chapel of the Davidson United Methodist Church, on September 21st the members and friends of The Davidson Historical Society convened in the newly-renovated chapel for the opening program of the Society's 2003-2004 year. A group of 40 people listened with great interest as Ed Beam talked about the history of the nearly 100-year-old chapel. He also talked about the history of the adjacent building, known for years as the Sloan house, then as the Cathey-Hoyle Funeral Home and now as the DUMC Molly McKay Youth House. Built in the 1870's, this is the oldest house still standing on south Main Street. Ed and his family lived in the old church for seventeen years before moving, in 1988, to live in the house next door.

In the new brightness of the chapel, Ed described the original church, built when 99 members of Mt. Zion Methodist Church founded Davidson Methodist Church. In the 1940's the lay people of the church built four Sunday school rooms behind the original sanctuary. Ed told stories of a trap door in the wall behind the organ and of unannounced visitors who mistook him for the Methodist preacher.

In 1947, William A. Cathey began a funeral business from the Sloan house with his brother-in-law, Robert Hoyle. They brought the first ambulance to the town of Davidson. Over the years many Davidson College students, especially those in pre-med studies, lived in this house, assisting Mr. Cathey with the business and learning



Newly renovated Chapel of the Davidson United Methodist Church

from him. The funeral home closed in 1972. Mrs. Ruth Cathey continued to live in the house until moving to a retirement home in Charlotte, at which time Ed and Janis Beam moved their family into the home.

In 2001 the Beams sold the buildings to the Davidson United Methodist Church and renovations began. Jim Hawk, who was in charge of that project, described some very interesting facets of that renovation. The renovators had hoped to preserve the original ceiling, but were unable to because it needed to be raised. They discovered bales of hay were being used as insulation above the ceiling. The present ceiling, made of pine with a pickled finish, is very similar to the look of the original. The renovators were able to remove and preserve all of the

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Events Calendar 2003-2004

All programs are free and open to the public.
Programs are at 4 p.m. at Davidson Town Hall unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, November 16, 2003

Olin, Oskeegum, and Gismo by James Puckett

James and his twin brother, John, were born in Charlotte in 1947, a year after their father, Olin, with their mother and sister, moved to Davidson. This book, recently published by Blackwell Ink, recounts James' 20 years of Davidson memories. James will speak about his book and regale us with many stories not included in print.

Sunday, January 18, 2004

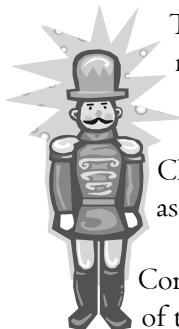
Historic Mt. Mourne – In the Midst of Change

Lewis Alexander, chairman of the Iredell Historic Properties Commission, and O.C. Stonestreet III, Iredell County historian, will discuss the historic sites of the Mt. Mourne community and the challenges to preserve them in the midst of development. This historic community is undergoing major changes prompted by the construction of Lake Norman Regional Medical Center and the Lowe's Corporate Campus. The Mt. Mourne community, which developed around Centre Presbyterian Church (est. 1765), includes several antebellum plantation homes and the site of the Revolutionary War skirmish at Torrence Tavern.

Wednesday, December 3 – Friday, December 5

Christmas in Davidson – Nutcrackers

6:00 – 8:45 p.m.



The DHS will display a wide variety of nutcrackers during the three nights of Christmas in Davidson. The display will include nutcrackers for holidays such as Christmas, Easter and the Fourth of July, as well as novelty characters.

Come visit our display in the Community Room of the Davidson Public Library!

Sunday, March 21, 2004

Davidson: Namesake of General William Lee Davidson

The minutes of the Presbytery of Concord for August 1835 record "It was resolved that the Manual Labor Institution which we are about to build be called Davidson College as a tribute to the memory of that distinguished and excellent man Gen. Wm Davidson, who in the ardor of patriotism, fearlessly contending for the Liberty of his country fell (universally lamented) in the Battle at Cowan's Ford." Who was this "universally lamented" gentleman and what role did he play in American and North Carolina history? Come find out, when Dr. Malcolm Lester, Professor Emeritus, will discuss the life and legacy of Gen. William Lee Davidson, for whom both the town and college were named.

Methodist Church...continued from page 1

original stained glass windows. Because many of the windows had been donated, portions of the windows were framed and given to the families who originally donated them. Part of one of those windows now hangs above the original communion table and plans are being made for other uses of the original glass. Working within today's building codes, they were able to create new, attractive and versatile spaces

while maintaining the historical integrity of both the chapel and the former funeral home.

Ed Beam and Jim Hawk concluded the meeting with a tour of both buildings. With these interesting talks the Davidson Historical Society enthusiastically began its new year!

Join Us in Preserving Local History

Become a member of the Davidson Historical Society! Your support will help DHS offer programming that preserves the past.

Name _____

Telephone _____

Mailing Address _____

Enclosed is my check for membership in the Davidson Historical Society:
\$10—Individual Membership \$15—Family Membership

Fill out form, enclose check and mail to:

Davidson Historical Society
PO Box 144
Davidson, NC 28036

Would you like to be more involved? We need your help! Circle an area where you would like to participate:

Town Tour Leader
Oral History Project
Displays
In-School Projects
Informational Table
Telephoning
Program Planning
Board Member

Interested in learning more about local history?

Try one of these books:

Davidson: A History of the Town from 1835 until 1937 by Mary Beaty, 1979

Memories of Davidson College by Walter Lingle, 1947

The North Carolina Medical College by Robert Lafferty, 1946

Historic Town of Davidson Walking Tour by Rupert T. Barber, Jr., 1999

On Foot in Davidson: A Walking Guide to Campus and Town by Moreland Hogan, 1985

A History of Davidson College by Mary Beaty, 1988

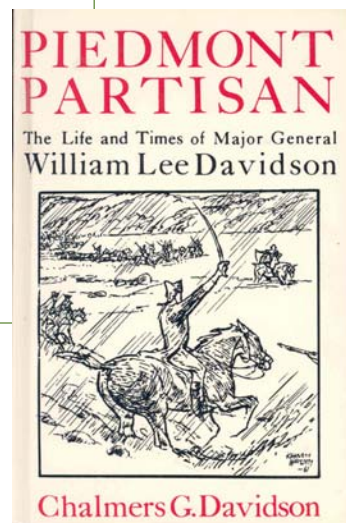
Piedmont Partisan by Chalmers Davidson, 1951

Davidson College by Cornelia Shaw, 1923

David Played a Harp by Ralph Johnson, 2000

Have you read one of these books or another interesting book on local or regional history?

Please send us a short review or synopsis to include in a future newsletter.



Many thanks to Jane Ellithorpe for the continued use of her beautiful Main Street art!



Davidson Historical Society

Post Office Box 144
Davidson, NC 28036

*We don't just talk about Davidson's past...
We are working to preserve it.*

The Davidson Historical Society was founded in the late 1980's by a group of concerned citizens led by Taylor and Irene Blackwell. Over the years DHS has presented programs by outstanding local and regional personalities on varying topics as well as touring historically significant sites in the area.

D•H•S

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I look at the plans for our 2003-2004 year, I cannot help but be excited and pleased. The programs are exceptional and after a year's absence, we return to the Davidson Town Library Community Room for Christmas in Davidson. The theme for our display this year is "Nutcrackers" which will appeal to all ages.

I look forward to seeing you throughout the year.

A page from history....

This page of advertisements appeared in the Davidson Monthly, shared by the Davidson College Archives.

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Prescriptions a Specialty

We carry a full line of Drugs and Druggists' Sundries, Tobacco and Cigars, Soda Water, Lowneys Candy. Agents for Waterman's Ideal Fountain Pen.

DAVIDSON, - - - NORTH CAROLINA

R. C. KNOX

H. J. BROWN

KNOX & BROWN

General Merchandise, Dry Goods, Groceries, Coffins, Furniture, etc.

DAVIDSON, - - - NORTH CAROLINA

DR. Z. K. JUSTICE,

DENTIST

Office over Bank, opposite Hospital - - - - - Phone No. 84.

DAVIDSON, N. C.

MRS. M. J. SCOFIELD

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Your Necessity is to Buy

Your Advantage is to Buy Cheap

Have on hand the freshest and nicest lot of Groceries to be had in town. Stationery of every kind and a fine Soda Water Fountain to quench your thirst. Prices low. Profits small, and satisfaction guaranteed.