

The Granite Tablet



Volume 11, Number 3

A Publication of the Granite Falls History Committee

August 2023

MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT

Three Seats to be Open on Town Council

Seven (7) men are vying for three (3) seats coming open on the Granite Falls Town Council in December. They include incumbents Jim Mackie, Mike Mackie, and Tracy Townsend along with newcomers Brandon Dupell, Douglas Dupell, Jamie Hagerty, and Mario Mastroeli. Early, one-stop voting will be conducted at the William B. Shuford Recreation Center on Pinewood Road according to the following schedule:

Thursday, October 19 - Friday, October 20
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Monday, October 23 - Friday, October 27
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Monday, October 30 - Friday, November 3
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 4
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Polls will also be open at the rec center on Election Day, Tuesday, November 7, 2023 from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

For instructions on casting absentee ballots, go to www.caldwellcountync.org and click on "Government," "Board of Elections," and "Absentee-by-mail Voting."

The Caldwell County Board of Elections is located at 120 Hospital Avenue in Lenoir. The office is open on weekdays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. The phone numbers are 828-757-1326 and 828-757-1342. The mailing address is P O Box 564, Lenoir, N. C. 28645.



Municipal elections will be held at the William B. Shuford Recreation Center on Pinewood Road in Granite Falls



Front Row (left to right): Mayor Caryl Burns, R.E.S.T.A.R.T. Program Coordinator Jason Powell, and R.E.S.T.A.R.T. Support Dog Cyren
Back Row (left to right): Mayor Pro Tem Tracy Townsend and Council Members Larry Knight, Ritch Bolick, M. D. Townsend, Jim Mackie, and Mike Mackie

GRANITE FALLS TOWN COUNCIL R. E. S. T. A. R. T. Presentation

Jason Powell, Caldwell County R.E.S.T.A.R.T. Program Coordinator, recently gave a presentation to the Town of Granite Falls Town Council on the "Opioid Crisis" and the Caldwell County R.E.S.T.A.R.T. Program that was initiated to help address the Opioid Crisis. Mr. Powell explained that R.E.S.T.A.R.T. is an acronym which exemplifies the foundations of the program which are Recognize, Educate, Stabilize, Transform, Accelerate, Rehabilitate, and Trust. The Mission Statement of Caldwell County R.E.S.T.A.R.T. is "to advocate for individuals and their families affected by substance abuse disorders and misuse, by meeting each individual where they are through the promotion of evidence-based strategies originating in prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery, while ultimately reducing overdose deaths." Mr. Powell further stated that R.E.S.T.A.R.T. is a post-overdose response team with goals to engage citizens who have overdosed, follow up with them and their families within hours after the overdose, and then connect those with non-fatal drug overdoses with resources for addiction treatment, recovery support, harm reduction services, primary healthcare, or any other services or support they need to improve their health and well-being. All individuals are treated with dignity, respect, compassion, and from non-judgmental viewpoints. This active engagement is necessary to create

(R. E. S. T. A. R. T. continued on page 2)

relationships through peer support and empathy.

Mr. Powell presented facts that support the need for the Caldwell County R.E.S.T.A.R.T. Program:

A) The per capita overdose death rate in Caldwell County has exceeded the per capita overdose death rate in North Carolina for each of the past three years.

B) Caldwell County ranked #7 in the state in per capita Opioid Overdose Emergency Room visits between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

C) Caldwell County ranked #6 in the state in per capita Medication/ Drug Overdose Emergency Room visits between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

Mr. Powell concluded the presentation by inviting the town council members, town employees, and other interested parties to an event on International Overdose Awareness Day, August 31, 2023. R.E.S.T.A.R.T. will host a program from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the J. E. Broyhill Civic Center in Lenoir that features personal experience speakers affected by overdose as well as Naloxone education and training and additional information from local resources.

Mr. Powell explained "Our purpose with this event is to recognize those who go unseen as we honor the lives that have been altered by overdose. Every day we respond to overdose calls to offer assistance and resources. With this event, we can reach the loved ones of those who lost their lives to overdose."

To learn more about RESTART, follow them on Facebook at @CaldwellCountyRESTART or send an email to RESTART@caldwellcountync.org.

(source: news release from the Town of Granite Falls)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! *Upcoming Special Events*

Saturday, September 16 from 2 - 8 p.m.— Granite Falls Merchants Association Festival on Main

Saturday, September 23 from noon until 6 p.m. — 120th Anniversary of the incorporation of Rhodhiss, N. C. at 317 Magnolia Street. (The rain date is September 30.)

Monday, September 25 at 6 p.m. - Caldwell County Schools Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony at the J. E. Broyhill Civic Center

Saturday, October 7 from 2 - 4 p.m.— Meet and Greet Candidates for Granite Falls Town Council at the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum (candidates meet at 1:30 p.m. for a guided tour of the museum)

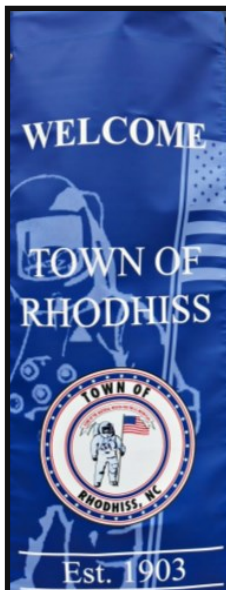
Tuesday, October 10 at 6:30 p.m.— Annual Meeting of the Granite Falls Historical Association at the museum

Sunday, October 15 from 2 until 4 p.m.— open house at the museum for newcomers and persons who want to learn more about the town's history

Thursday, November 9 at 10 a.m.— Veterans Day Program at the William B. Shuford Recreation Center

Monday, November 20 from 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.— Festival on the Square and Tree Lighting and Light Up Granite Falls Christmas Trees

December 2 at noon — Granite Falls Christmas Parade



RHODHISS, NORTH CAROLINA *120th Anniversary Celebration*

The Town of Rhodhiss will celebrate its 120th year as an incorporated municipality on Saturday, September 23, 2023 from noon until 6 p.m. at the Town Hall located at 317 Magnolia Street. The rain date is Saturday, September 30. The event offers food, fellowship, and fun with a car show, face painting, bounce house, children's activities, reunions, and music. T-shirts, Rhodhiss merchandise, and the town's history book (*Weaving the Heart Threads of a Mill Village* by Sherrie Hartsoe Sigmon) will be available to purchase.

Rhodhiss native Jerry McKee will serve as the DJ from noon until 6 p.m. Former employees of Burlington Industries will gather at the near by Boy Scout Building (former Methodist Church) for a reunion from 2 until 3 p.m. From 3 until 5 p.m., attendees will gather under tents to reminisce and enjoy each other's company. To ensure seating, participants should bring their own chairs. Sherrie Hartsoe Sigmon will be available to sign copies of the town's history book. Making the event more special is the location - the site of Rhodhiss Elementary School, which is gone, but not forgotten.

For more information, contact the Rhodhiss Town Office at (828) 396-8400.

Dateline: Granite Falls, N. C.

Women's Equality Day *A Woman's Place*

On May 1, 1899, the referendum to incorporate the Town of Granite Falls passed by a vote of 38 to 6 with 18 eligible persons not voting at all. All of the registered voters and all of the candidates for office were male because women could not vote or hold office until the ratification of the Nineteen Amendment on August 26, 1920. When women first organized to fight for the right to vote, many were virtually powerless and generally dependent upon men - their fathers, brothers, husbands, and/or sons - to support them. Many believed the old saying "a woman's place is in the house."

Women's rights have slowly developed over the years. Prior to 1868, when the State of North Carolina adopted a new constitution, women were not guaranteed the right to own property, work for their own wages, sue in court, make wills, and make contracts without the permission of their husbands. In 1893, the State Legislature granted women the right to cash checks and withdraw money without the permission of their husbands.

The following laws were passed in the twentieth century: Equal Pay Act (1963), Civil Rights Act with Title VII (1964), Title IX of the Education Amendments (1972), Equal Credit Opportunity Act (1974), Civil Rights Restoration Acts of 1987 and 1988, Family and Medical Leave Act - FMLA (1993), and Violence Against Women Act (1994).



Lula Hickman

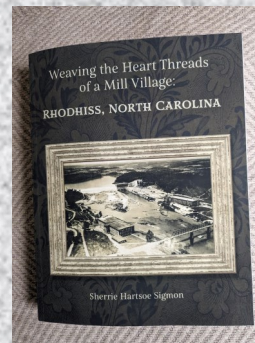
A WOMAN'S PLACE *in Granite Falls*

While women were marching, circulating petitions, lobbying, and giving speeches, there was one woman in Granite Falls, North Carolina who defied the odds and succeeded in business without the legal and political protections we now take for granted. Lula Russell Hickman was born November 9, 1878 to David Washington and Martha Miller Russell. In 1892, she moved from the Grace

Chapel area with her family to downtown Granite Falls where her parents owned and operated a general store located where Mackie Furniture is now. In 1897, she married James Hickman, a local merchant. Just three years later (1900) with one child and one on the way, Mr. Hickman died unexpectedly leaving his widow to support herself and rear their two children.

She became a skilled milliner and businesswoman. Around 1906, Mrs. Hickman received a hundred dollar bill in payment for her services, but she couldn't find anyone in Granite Falls who could make change. She traveled by train to a bank in Hickory. Realizing they needed a bank in town, she joined with other merchants to establish the Bank of Granite. Mrs. Hickman was the only female founder, and the gentlemen allowed her to be the first depositor.

(DATELINE continued on page 4)



RECORDING HISTORY *Voices From the Past*

In 1988, Sherrie Hartsoe Sigmon began recording the memories of people who lived and/or worked in Rhodhiss. During the COVID

lockdown, she transcribed the recordings and wrote the book *Weaving the Heart Threads of a Mill Village - Rhodhiss, North Carolina*. The book contains over 600 pictures featuring the rich history of a mill village that became a town. Redhawk Publications published the book just in time for the town's 120th Anniversary as an incorporated municipality. Copies sell for \$35, and they are available at the Rhodhiss Town Hall and online through www.redhawkpublications.com.

Granite Falls Historical Association

Members of the Granite Falls Historical Association met on Monday, August 14, 2023 in the museum to hear updates on its projects and to conduct business. Linda Crowder reported that she had written a chronological history of Granite Falls from 1999 through July 2023. She announced that she, Jeanne Whisnant, and Dr. Caryl Burns would visit with representatives of Redhawk Publications on August 24th.

Chris Newsom reported that he had saved the combined Pinecrest Cemetery spreadsheet as a PDF document to prevent inadvertent changes by persons viewing it. The listing will be kept on the computers at the museum, and members of the History Committee will make it available to interested persons upon request. Tommy High and Jeanne Whisnant will gather information about new burials and forward it to Chris so he can update the listing.

Linda Crowder reported that Claudia Bujold had donated a filing cabinet to house documents and genealogies submitted by families for safe keeping and research. The cabinet is in the Business Room on the first floor.

Adele Mangan reported that 24 Pine Street, where the Baird Cemetery is located, has been sold to an out of state investor. The

(RECORDING HISTORY continued on page 4)

This hardworking woman must have been financially shrewd. With money she had saved over the years, she and her son, Cecil, started a shirt factory in 1919 - a year before she could vote. When people bought shirts, they asked for other items. It was not long until the shirt factory became Hickman Hardware with three (3) locations (one in Granite Falls and two in Hickory).

In addition to operating a successful business, Mrs. Hickman worked to make her town a better place to live. She was a member of the Garden Cub, Granite Falls Woman's Club, and the Women's Society of Christian Service. She taught a beginners Sunday School class for over 40 years at the First United Methodist Church. Affectionately known as "Miss Lula," she took home blue ribbons from flower shows, worked with the Red Cross during war time, nursed the sick, and (before there was a funeral home) helped prepare the dead for burial. In 1960, the Granite Falls Woman's Club named her "Woman of the Year."

In addition to keeping house and tending a garden, she helped to rear her great-granddaughter Jo Ann (JoJo) Brady. JoJo remembers her as being strict, not very talkative, and opposed to alcoholic beverages. They lived on North Main Street between Mackie Furniture Company and Bank of Granite (now First Horizon). The house was later sold and turned into a parking lot. Mrs. Hickman had previously lived in a smaller house next door that was torn down to make room for the bank. Sunday was a family occasion when Mrs. Hickman's brother Ode Russell would drop by to eat lunch and watch television. JoJo noted that Mrs. Hickman was active until May 10, 1970 when she peacefully passed away in her sleep.



Lula Hickman's daughter and JoJo's grandmother was Nina Crouch. Nina also exceeded expectations for women in her lifetime. She graduated from Granite Falls High School and majored in music at Greensboro College. After completing her college education, Nina returned to Granite Falls where she taught piano and worked as a bookkeeper and major stockholder at Hickman Hardware. She married Lawrence Crouch of Burke County in 1923, and she worked as an assistant to the tax collector while he served as Register of Deeds. They had two (2) daughters - Martha and Jane. Upon his untimely death in 1943, Nina completed his term of office. JoJo remembers hearing that her grandfather's death might have been prevented if penicillin had been more widely available to civilians during World War II. After her children completed high school, Nina returned to Granite Falls where she became a leader in the community, especially at Granite Falls First United Methodist Church.



The Granite Tablet is a publication of the Granite Falls History Committee, which manages the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum. The museum is located in the historic home of Andrew Baird, an early settler. The building is the second oldest residence in Caldwell County. The Baird House was built around 1795 with additions made over the next hundred years. The house remained a residence until 2001 when the owner sought permission to have it burned down due to the high cost of maintenance. Recognizing the historical significance of the building, the Town of Granite Falls purchased the home with the intentions of turning it into a museum. With the help of a grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation and hours of hard work by dedicated people, the vision became a reality. The Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum held its grand opening and ribbon cutting on February 18, 2007. Visit us on Facebook under "Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum." Our website is www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org.

Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum - 107 Falls Avenue, Granite Falls, North Carolina 28630 - Phone: 828-396-2792

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new owner made a few changes and put it on the rental market. While they have kept the lawn mowed, they have not maintained the cemetery. Adele will try to contact the owners about acquiring the cemetery.

During the business session, members of the Association chose to hold the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the museum. They decided to renominate the same officers to serve another year - President Linda Crowder, Vice President Jeanne Whisnant, Treasurer Adele Mangan, Secretary Joel Kaufman, and Parliamentarian Gifford Poe. Members may nominate other candidates during the Annual Meeting.

The Association made plans to hold a meet and greet event for candidates running for town council on Saturday, September 9, 2023. The meet and greet will feature a tour of the museum, prepared remarks by the candidates, and a question/answer session with visitors to the museum.

The next meeting of the Association Board of Trustees will be Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 2 p.m. New members are welcome to attend.

Update: Caryl Burns, Linda Crowder, and Jeanne Whisnant have chosen Redhawk Publications at Catawba Valley Community College to publish *Dateline: Granite Falls, N. C.* They will work with Robert Canipe, Patty Thompson, Richard Eller, and other CVCC representatives on the project. The anticipated publication date is a year away (late summer 2024) in order to include celebrations in May and June marking the 125th anniversary of Granite Falls being a town.