



The Granite Tablet



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A Publication of the Granite Falls History Committee

September - October 2021



Left to right: Tamara Salmon and Debbie Daughtry for Thomas Capshaw; Dr. Carmen Icard Teague; Bill Oxford; Vale Biddix for George Crowell, Jr.; Neil Annas; Dr. Mark Poarch; and Wilford Roberts for George Petrie, Jr. (photo courtesy of Caldwell County Schools)

HISTORY IN THE MAKING COVID-19

Caldwell County Schools: Due to COVID restrictions, the Eighteenth Annual Caldwell County Schools Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony was held Monday, October 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the J. E. Broyhill Civic Center. Since the 2020 event, originally scheduled for April 27, 2020, had been cancelled due to the coronavirus, the school system honored both the Class of 2020 and the Class of 2021. 2020 Inductees included Dr. Carmen Icard Teague (introduced by Linda Crowder), Thomas Evan Capshaw (posthumous recognition by Dr. Caryl Burns), and George W. Petrie, Jr. (posthumous recognition by Joe Gibbons). 2021 Inductees included Neil T. Annas (introduced by Dr. Caryl Burns), James W. (Bill) Oxford (introduced by Dr. Jeff Church), Dr. Mark Poarch (introduced by Joe Gibbons), and George T. Crowell, Jr. (posthumous recognition by Dr. Helen Hall). All presenters were members of the Hall of Honor Committee. The Caldwell County Schools Hall of Honor "recognizes distinguished former students who have made significant contributions to their profession and/or their community."

Rocky Brooks, a member of the Hall of Honor Committee, served as emcee. Dr. Donald Phipps, Superintendent of

(COVID-19 continued on page 2)

GRANITE FALLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION Update

The Granite Falls Historical Association, Inc. held its Fourth Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 beginning at 6:30 p.m. President Linda R. Crowder reported that she has been working on the update to *Etched in Granite* by writing articles first for the museum newsletter, *The Granite Tablet*, and the Association's newsletter, *Tablet II*, and then using them as the basis for the book. As of the meeting, she has completed a chronological history from 1999 through September 2021. She and Jeanne Whisnant are collecting oral histories from people who have lived and/or worked in Granite Falls for a special section in the history book. The update will also include family histories and information about local organizations (businesses, schools, churches, and civic groups).

Metaleen Thomas reported that the project to map Pinecrest Cemetery is still on hold, at least until May 2022. Teachers at South Caldwell High School want to incorporate the project into their end of school year classes to give students some practical experience, but doing so depends upon remaining on a normal schedule and not being shutdown due to COVID.

Jeanne Whisnant displayed a 1' X 2' granite tablet engraved with information about the water tower topper set up near the falls at the wastewater treatment plant on Gunpowder Creek. Stoneville Custom Countertops on Duke Street donated the granite, and Foothills Monument Company on Hwy 321 engraved it free of charge.

(ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING continued on page 2)



(COVID-19 continued from page 1)

Schools, gave the welcome. Dr. Jeff Church, co-chair of the selection committee, gave the invocation, and Co-Chair Libby Brown recognized past inductees. Joe Gibbons presented a memorial tribute to the late Pam Pilkenton in recognition of her service on the committee.

To lessen the chances of spreading COVID, there was no banquet. Attendees wore masks and practiced social distancing. As they left, they received gift bags with a cupcake and other products from Caldwell County.

Vaccinations: On Thursday, October 21, 2021, the CDC authorized Moderna booster shots after 6 months for adults 65 and over and for persons 18 years old and older who live in long term care facilities, have underlying medical conditions, and/or work/live in high risk settings. The agency also recommended booster shots after six months for persons 18 and over who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. In addition, the CDC announced that the booster could be a different vaccine from the original.

Economy: On Tuesday, September 28th, the Dollar Tree announced it would raise prices due to rising costs, notably increased freight charges. On October 26, 2021, the internet (www.northcarolinagasprices.com) showed \$3.299 as the price of regular unleaded gas at the Market Basket on South Main Street in Granite Falls. The photograph below, taken May 27, 2020, shows \$1.759. Increased global demand accompanied by less domestic production yielded higher gas prices. In addition to gas prices, a broken supply chain affected prices and the availability of merchandise. By the end of September 2021, stores were rationing toilet paper and paper towels again. Television newscasts showed huge numbers of loaded cargo ships waiting offshore California to be unloaded.



Part of the problem was the lack of workers. Employers posted “help wanted” signs, held job fairs, and announced wage increases and bonuses in attempts to lure applicants. Many people stayed out of the workforce for a variety of reasons, such as desiring to home school their children, needing to provide care for someone, waiting for the right job to come along, reaching retirement age, faring better under government assistance, and so forth. In addition, some people lost jobs because they were not vaccinated.



Above Photo: Walmart's candy aisle in Granite Falls on Tuesday, October 21, 2021

(ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING continued from page 1)

During the business session, members re-elected President Linda Crowder; Vice President Caryl B. Burns, Ph.D.; Treasurer Adele Mangan; Secretary Jeanne Whisnant; and Parliamentarian Gifford Poe. Members also voted to have the Board of Trustees audit the treasurer's records at its next meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 2:45 p.m. All members are invited to attend.

New members may join at any time by sending dues to Adele Mangan, 33 Crestview Street, Granite Falls, N. C. 28630. Annual dues are \$12.00 per person, \$18.00 for families, and \$25.00 for organizations (businesses and non-profits).

After the business session, Alan Huffman talked about the Electric Cola Café he set up at Club Cola on South Main Street and told members he planned to donate a portion of the proceeds to the Association.

Following Alan's presentation, members previewed a PowerPoint® slideshow featuring photos Linda made of the groundbreaking and construction of the new Granite Falls Middle School.

DO YOU PAINT, DRAW, OR SKETCH? Show off Your Work at the Museum

The Granite Falls History Committee is still accepting paintings, drawings, and/or sketches to show at the museum from November 7th through December 12th. There are no entry fees, no prizes, and no specified subject - just an opportunity to show others what you have been doing during the pandemic (or before). The Committee will host a reception for artists at the museum on Sunday, December 12th from 2 until 4 pm. For more information, contact Linda Crowder by email [Irdrcrowder@gmail.com] or by phone [(828) 396-1066]. *Karen Isbell*

CALDWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS HALL OF HONOR *Showcasing our Local Schools*

Here are the three Hall of Honor inductees with ties to the Granite Falls area.



Thomas Evan Capshaw wanted to graduate from Granite Falls High School in 1948 after finishing the eleventh grade, but his hopes were dashed by the state mandating a twelfth year. Deciding that helping his widowed mother support their family was more important, he enlisted in the Navy where he found a talent for engineering. After serving for five years, including two tours of duty during the Korean War, Tom used the GI Bill to earn a diploma from Capitol Radio and Engineer Institute (CREI). His accomplishments include helping to develop the

Infra-Red Detection System, heading up the engineering support team on the Submarine Warfare Simulator, digitizing the pictures from the moon that enabled the first Apollo landing, working on the design and development of the Tomcat, and being in charge of quality control on the space shuttle program. In 2021, his name was inscribed on the Wall of Honor at the National Air and Space Museum outside of Washington, D. C.

Dr. Carmen Icard Teague attended elementary and middle school in Hudson and graduated as valedictorian from South Caldwell High School. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology/Speech at UNC-Chapel Hill, a Master's in Christian Counseling at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Medicine at UNC - Chapel Hill School of Medicine. Dr. Teague practices internal medicine at Mecklenburg Medical Group-Uptown and is the Director of Internal Medicine at Atrium Health Medical Group. She is also an Associate Professor of Medicine at the UNC - Chapel Hill School of Medicine. In her spare time, Carmen goes on mission trips overseas, volunteers at her children's schools and at church, and participates in various sports. She is also a blogger and an author. To learn more, check out www.carmen-teague.com and go to "carmenteagueauthor" on Facebook.



Neil T. Annas grew up in Sawmills, but he went to school in Hudson and graduated from Hudson High School. He also attended Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute. In 1980, he joined his parents, Floyd and Theresa Annas, at Granite Insurance Agency, Inc., where he introduced information technology and developed his leadership skills in the insurance business. Under his guidance as President/CEO from 1990 - 2020, the company grew from five team members to 23 and expanded into 43 other states. In 2020, he stepped away from

his duties as President/CEO, but he continues to serve as Chief Financial Officer. Neil has been active in the professional insurance community across North Carolina, serving on boards and taking other leadership roles. Locally, he has completed 39 years of service with Sawmills Volunteer Fire & Rescue - 25 years as an active firefighter and the remaining time as treasurer of the department's Board of Directors. Neil is also an active member of Union Grove Baptist Church.



Above photo: Town employees putting up Christmas lights on October 25, 2021

COMING TO GRANITE FALLS *Mark Your Calendars*

November 10th at 10 a.m.: Veterans Day Ceremony at the William B. Shuford Recreation Center

November 11th: Town offices closed for Veterans Day.

November 22nd at 6:15 p.m. Festival on the Square and Tree Lighting Ceremony

December 4th at noon: Christmas Parade sponsored by the Rotary Club

Parks and Recreation

Basketball registration has already started at the Recreation Center and will continue now through Monday, November 8th.

Age groups: 4-6 Coed (must turn 4 years old by Oct. 15th), 7-8 Coed, 9-10 Boys, 9-10 Girls, 11-12 Boys (can not turn 13 before Oct. 15th), and 11-12 Girls (can not turn 13 before Oct. 15th)

The fee is \$40 each for residents of Granite Falls and \$60 each for non-residents. For more information, call the rec center at (828) 396-1221.

Municipal Elections

Early voting continued through Saturday, October 30th at 3 p.m. The polls will also be open on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 from 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Dr. Caryl Burns is running unopposed for mayor. Martin D. Townsend, Larry Knight, and Ritch Bolick are also running unopposed for seats on the Granite Falls Town Council. However, don't take anything for granted as write-ins are possible. Make your voice heard and vote.

OH MOTHER OF OUR LEARNING

Long May Thy Presence Be - We'll Pray to Keep Thy Portals Wide for All Posterity

Work continues at Granite Falls Middle School. These photos were made on Sunday, October 3, 2021.



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 January 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

Committee Chair: Dr. Caryl B. Burns

Vice Chairman/Newsletter Editor: Linda R. Crowder