

Winter 2008

Anthemion

North Carolina State Capitol Foundation

Foundation Prepares for Ball

By Kim Shope, Society Ball Chair & Amy Needham, Public Relations Chair

On Saturday, April 5th, 2008, the State Capitol Foundation will host the 3rd State Capitol Society Ball, benefiting the ongoing educational and restoration programs of the North Carolina State Capitol. More than 200 supporters attended the 2006 Ball.

Goldsboro artist Brenda Behr will donate the second in an original series of paintings, featuring the four seasons of the State Capitol, titled "One Nation." The painting will be auctioned during the live auction. Her first piece in the series, "Winter at the Capitol," was auctioned at the 2006 ball.

In addition, photographs of the interior of the State Capitol by renowned North Carolina-born architectural photographer John Hall will be featured at the event. His work has been featured in magazines such as *House*

and *Garden*, *Architectural Digest*, *House Beautiful*, *Vogue Decoration* and the *New York Times Magazine* as well as the books *Adventures With Old Houses*, *Greek Revival America*, and *Antiques at Home*.

To date, the following sponsors have partnered with the Foundation to support the Society ball:

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For sponsorship information, contact Kim Shope, Society ball chair at 919-786-0109.

Ball Committee:

Kim Shope, Chair
Ed Davis and Kristy Lee, TableScapes Co-Chairs
Tom Alexander and Amy Needham, Auction Co-Chairs
Amy Needham, Public Relations Chair
Jon Brookshire, Jerry Traub, Dutchie Sexsmith, Auction Committee
Barbara Boney and Nancy Thompson, Food and Beverage Co-Chairs
Lou Mitchell, Sponsorship committee
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Rufus Edmisten introduces Brenda Behr at the 2006 Ball.



Edward T. Davis

The agenda for projects in the Capitol and on Union Square for 2008 is impressive. The installation of elegant custom reception furnishings in the east entrance of the building at last provides visitors with period fittings appropriate to this National Historic Landmark. I urge you to visit the Capitol soon to admire these magnificent mahogany fixtures.

Work continues to progress on the plans for new (handicapped accessible) sidewalks. It is anticipated that this project will be let in the summer of 2008. The Little and Little landscape architectural firm has meticulously studied the work of the Olmsted Brothers and the development of Union Square since 1792. The new sidewalks will respect the look of the 1928 plan but with a construction that will accept the vehicular (maintenance) traffic necessary to sustain the square as well as provide surfaces and slopes more easily maneuvered by persons with disabilities.

Mr. Keith Hardison, Director of the North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites, is currently chairing a committee of persons studying the programmatic needs for interpreting the Capitol in the proposed Raleigh Visitor's Center. All visitors and architectural historians agree that the Capitol is an outstanding work of art. The story of the progressive leadership which made this building a reality is an important story which will soon be told.

The principal fund raiser for the Capitol, the biennial State Capitol Society Ball, is scheduled for the first Saturday in April. This year's ball will feature the debut of artist Brenda Behr's newest painting of the Capitol as well as John Hall's amazing photographs of the building. Ms. Behr's painting will be auctioned that evening and a very limited edition of Mr. Hall's work may also be ordered. The Ball Committee, chaired by Board member and 2nd Vice President Kim Shope, has worked very hard to make certain this is an elegant and memorable evening. I strongly urge you to attend.

Later in the spring we will host a public exhibition of John Hall's photographs of the Capitol as well as a lecture on the Greek architectural precedents of this building by noted architectural historian, Calder Loth. Please be watching for publicity advertising these dates and plan to attend.

There is, indeed, a lot on our plate this year. Please be part of our celebration and support this magnificent National Landmark!

This newsletter is funded by the Barbara H. Boney Publications Fund

Anthemion

A Publication of The State Capitol Foundation, Inc. and The State Capitol Society

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Volume III, Issue I

Anthemion is published quarterly by The State Capitol Foundation to provide information about and build support for North Carolina's State Capitol. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please contact *Anthemion* editor & designer Terra Steinbeiser at 919-715-3962 or via e-mail: terra.steinbeiser@ncmail.net

For more information about the State Capitol, visit our Web site at www.ncstatecapitol.org, or call 919-733-4994.



Exhibit Details Experiences of State's First Black Legislators

By Terra Steinbeiser, Education Programs Specialist

The Capitol staff is pleased to announce that a new exhibit will open February 9 and remain on display through June 1.

With All Our Rights: North Carolina's First African American Legislators aims to explore the political climate at the Capitol following the end of Presidential Reconstruction and the emancipation of North Carolina's enslaved population. This exhibit introduces the first African American state legislators, as well as the effects of the Reconstruction Amendments in North Carolina, the Freedmen's Convention in Raleigh, and the Constitutional Convention of 1868.

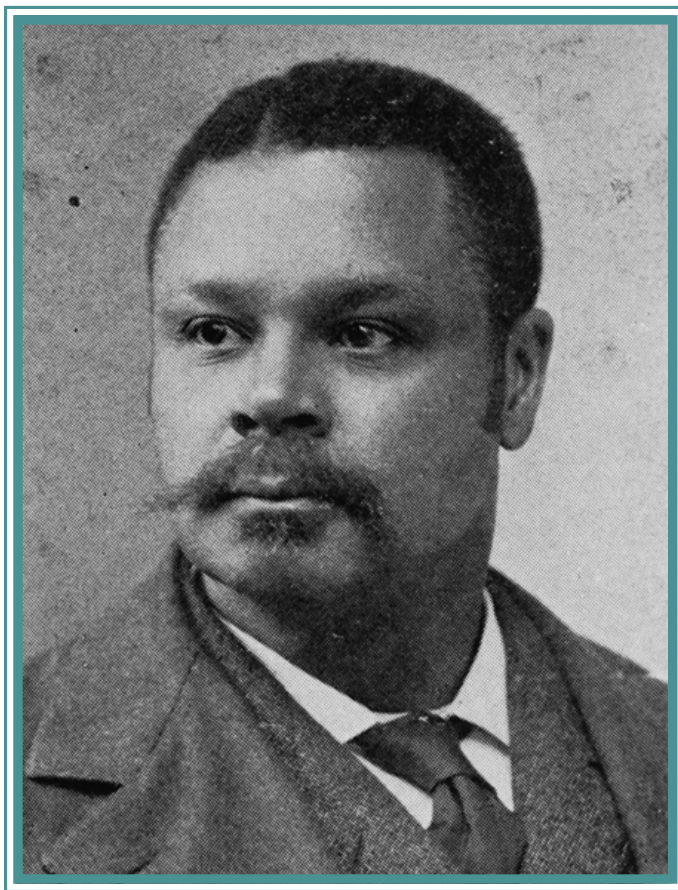
Artifacts displayed in *With All Our Rights* span from the Civil War era through the 1890s and serve as a powerful link connecting North Carolinians, past and present. From the Constitution of 1868 to a nineteenth century ballot box, visitors will view the tools of democracy that were made available to the state's formerly enslaved population for the first time during Reconstruction.

This exhibit details the progress made by African Americans between 1865-1876 and the later rise of the white supremacy movement that effectively restricted the participation of blacks in the political process for the next six decades. Of particular interest will be the story of George White, North Carolina's last black Representative elected in the Reconstruction era. White, then the lone African American from North Carolina serving in Congress, became a favorite target of Josephus Daniels' *News & Observer*. The state would not send another African American to Congress until Eva Clayton's election in 1992. White endured scathing public attacks in the local newspaper, including unflattering caricatures which will be on exhibit to further illustrate the ugly political climate of the late 1800s and early 1900s.

On February 9, in conjunction with the exhibit opening, the Capitol will sponsor a viewing of the documentary, *This Side of the River: Self Determination and Survival in the Oldest Black Town in America* and panel discussion afterwards. The film recounts the history of the North Carolina town of Princeville, founded by freed slaves in 1865. Prior to the Civil War, Edgecombe County held the largest number of enslaved African Americans in the state. Following emancipation, this newly enfranchised population cast their votes to send black representatives and senators to the Capitol in Raleigh for the first time in history.

Princeville and its remarkable history became widely known in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd in 1999. The powerful storm caused the Tar River to rise and when the levee broke and the town flooded, many figured it could not be saved. The residents returned to their homes, however, and voted to rebuild Princeville. The town will celebrate its 123rd birthday on February 20, 2008.

The film showing and symposium will take place from 10 a.m. to noon and admission to this program and the exhibit are free. For more information, please call the Capitol at 919-733-4994.



After representing Craven County in the North Carolina General Assembly, George White was the state's last African American U.S. Congressman for nearly 100 years. Photo courtesy of State Archives.

Many Thanks

The State Capitol Foundation gratefully acknowledges the generosity of those individuals, organizations and corporations who have made contributions to the Foundation. Gifts appearing here were received between September and December 2007.

David Britt

Gift of \$20

Stephen Cumbie & Druscilla French:

Gift of \$1,000 to the Barbara H. Boney Publications Fund, in honor of Brenda Pollard

Emma House

Gift of \$20

Bonnee H. Logan

Gift of \$20, in memory of William A. Logan

Don Munford

Gift of \$1,000

Dutchie Sexmith

Gift of \$20

Earl Roberson

Gift of \$100

Henry and Cecilia Sneed

Gift of four Booger Mountain Christmas trees for the Capitol's holiday decorations

Richard Y. Stephens

Gift of \$100

New Reception Desks Installed

By Terra Steinbeiser, Education Programs Specialist

After months of anticipation, the Capitol's new reception area furnishings arrived at their new home in November.

Under the instruction of David C. Kenealy, associate professor of fine and creative woodworking and Art Pentz, professor of fine and creative woodworking at Rockingham Community College, students Dustin Pitts, Adam Joyce, Ed Godbey, and Jim Turner worked throughout the course of the summer and fall terms to build and finish three new desks to house the Capitol's reception, docent, and security functions. The desks, which evoke the House and Senate Chamber rostrums, were designed by SCF board member Jerry Traub and Anita Mahabir of Traub Architecture to bring a more uniform look to the Capitol's front entrance.

Once construction was complete, bringing the massive desks from the workshop in Wentworth to Raleigh took some special maneuvering. With the help of the RCC students and volunteers from The Healing Place of Wake County, the desks (the largest of which weighs 900 pounds) were carefully loaded onto two trucks and delivered to the Capitol. From there, the volunteer movers unloaded the furniture and rolled the pieces into the building on several pieces of pipe. Once in place, electricians and technicians from State Facility Management and Information Technology Services wired each desk and the project was finished.

The State Capitol Foundation would like to thank everyone listed above and all others involved in this unique project: Dr. Robert C. Keys, president of RCC; Ted Currin, RCC dean of industrial technologies; Ed Davis, president of the SCF; Dennis Parnell, director of The Healing Place of Wake County; Chris Cheek, transportation coordinator. C.T. Jones and State Capitol Site Manager Raymond Beck served as drivers.

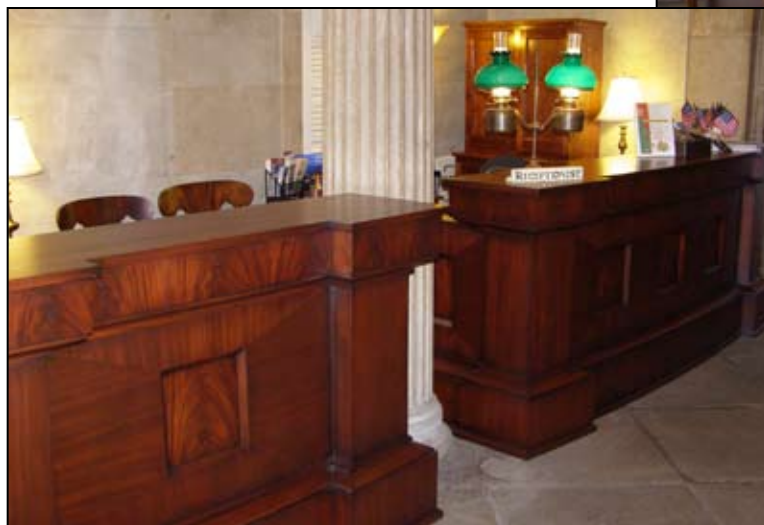
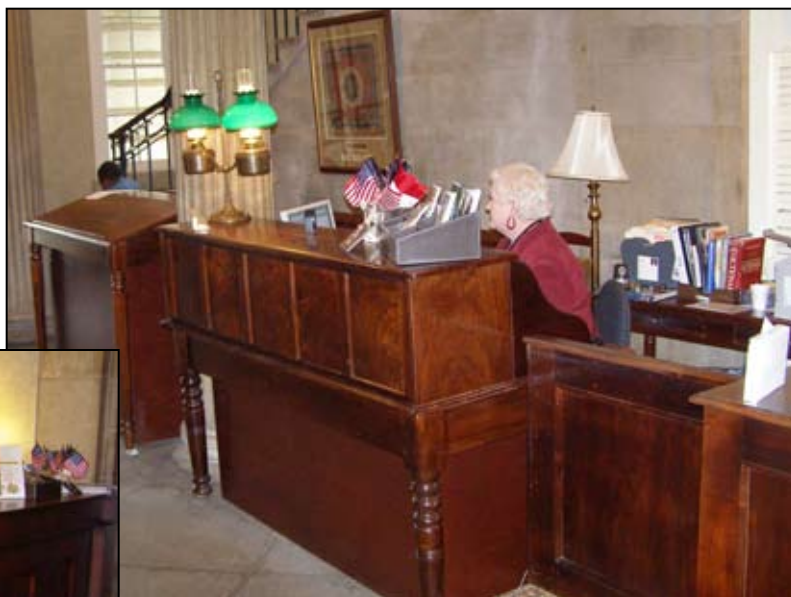


Adam Joyce works on the interior of the docent desk in the workshop at RCC. Photo by Raymond L. Beck.



Before

Right- The mixture of furniture that made up the former reception area lacked both uniformity and a stately formality befitting the 1840 capitol.



After

Left- The new docent and reception desks are more welcoming to visitors and are more harmonious with the ongoing restoration of this National Historic Landmark.

Photos by Terra Steinbeiser

Fountain Replacements Mounted in January

During a storm on November 16, 2006, rain and heavy winds uprooted a large tree on the southeast quadrant of Union Square. The tree completely smashed one of the fountains at the east entrance and damaged the other beyond repair. Fortunately, no one was hurt. Tours were canceled for the rest of the day while state landscapers cleaned up the mess.

In January, two new duplicate fountains were installed to replace the 1920s-era ones that were destroyed. The new fountains are made of Mt. Airy granite and are a welcome sight to staff and visitors alike.

Photo by Terra Steinbeiser



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From the Site Manager: New Year, New Projects



Raymond L. Beck

Since my previous report, published a long six months ago, much is happening of a positive nature. Several projects are closer to becoming a reality; new perspectives have been gained through travels; and our program and mission are set on a course that portends limitless achievements through the work of the Foundation Board and by your

contributions. Thank you for all of your continued donations and support.

In the past months, we have worked with the faculty and students of the Fine and Creative Woodworking program at Rockingham Community College to produce handsome new furnishings for the reception area inside the east entrance. The extraordinary talents at RCC have produced magnificent, massive, one-of-a-kind mahogany-veneered desks to encompass our reception, tour, and security functions. Additionally, the new furnishings will greet all Capitol visitors with both a stately and appropriate period look. Our state electricians, carpenters, and the staff and clients of

The Healing Place of Wake County greatly assisted in the successful installation of the new furnishings.

Within weeks, we will introduce our 'John M. Hall Signature Series' line of postcards featuring this building's priceless architecture as seen through the eyes of a gifted artist. We will soon prepare six additional postcard views of the Capitol, a guidebook, and a multi-view postcard stringer, all of which will feature Mr. Hall's work. Additionally, plans are underway to re-print several historical photos and unique postcards long out of print.

This past October, while on a trip to Italy with my wife, we traveled to the northeastern mountain town of Possagno. While there, we visited the home, studio, and tomb of Neoclassical sculptor Antonio Canova. That excursion fulfilled a long overdue wish to pay homage to the sculptor of our "Roman George" and to learn more about Canova's life and talents.

In my next column, I hope to report on several additional initiatives and projects. Due to their nature, I will need this same amount of space in order to present a detailed account. A three word teaser until next time – lights, carpet, and walks.

Calendar of Events

This Side of the River Documentary Viewing and Symposium

February 9

This film incorporates interviews with residents and historians to tell the story of Princeville, NC. Settled by freed slaves in 1865, Princeville was the first town in the US incorporated by African Americans. After the film, a symposium will take place with the filmmakers and Michelle Lanier, curator of cultural history for State Historic Sites. Viewing will take place in the auditorium at the NC Museum of History. 10 a.m.-noon.

With All Our Rights: North Carolina's First African American Legislators exhibit

February 9 - June 1

The Capitol's newest exhibit explores the political climate of the Capitol following the end of Presidential Reconstruction and the emancipation of NC's enslaved population. This exhibit introduces the first African American state legislators, as well as the effects of the Reconstruction Amendments in this state, the Freed-

man's Convention in Raleigh, and the Constitutional Convention of 1868.

Easter Sunrise Service

March 23

A non-denominational service with musical performances will take place on the east grounds of Union Square. 6:30-8:00 a.m.

Raleigh Occupied living history event

April 26

A Civil War era troop encampment and character interpretations recall the April 1865 occupation of the Capitol by Union General William T. Sherman's troops. Visitors will meet costumed interpreters portraying former Governors William A. Graham and David L. Swain; local plantation wife Margaret Devereux, Union Signal Corps Officer George Round; and newly-freed slave Elick Moore. Characters are based on personal letters, diaries, and personal accounts. Reservations are encouraged. Tours at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Become a Pillar of Society: Doric, Ionic, or Corinthian

State Capitol Society Membership & Donation Form

Membership benefits include a handsome cast-metal State Capitol pin, yearly membership card, subscription to *Anthemion* quarterly newsletter, reduced rates for annual history excursions, reduced admission to Capitol social events, invitations to public programs, & special tours by request for your organization or company.

Levels of Membership

- Senior/ Student Membership \$10
- Individual Membership \$20
- Family Membership \$40
- Rotunda Membership \$100
- Doric Membership \$500
- Ionic Membership \$1,000
- Corinthian Membership \$2,500
(corporate 2 years, individual 3 years)
- Crown Membership \$5,000
(corporate 3 years, individual 5 years)

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