

FROM OUT OF THE BLUE

Malcolm Blue Historical Society

Winter 2006



The Malcolm Blue Farm 2006



Early Settlers in Blue



The Malcolm Blue Farm 1973



2005 Annual Meeting



MBHS's newest member Jed

A cold and wet night greeted the members at the Malcolm Blue Historical Society's Annual Meeting. A blustery night that could have predicted a cool future for the upcoming year was nipped in the bud with a new slate of officers and board members. With a basketful of Hollyhock and Daffodil bulbs we were off to a blooming start.



Martha Swaringen planted a Confederate Rose Bush that bloomed before the first frost.

*2006 Board Malcolm Blue Historical Society
Board of Directors*

Executive Committee:

<i>President</i>	<i>Martha Swaringen</i>
<i>Vice-President</i>	<i>Dene Moon</i>
<i>Acting Secretary</i>	<i>Patty Pottle</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>John Jarrett</i>

Members at large:

<i>Malaika Albrecht</i>	<i>Donna Niemi</i>
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Members:

<i>Kerriann Hilgrove</i>	<i>Linda Blue Jarrett</i>
<i>Paulette Kapp</i>	<i>Clara Blue Kimball</i>
<i>Robbie Farrell</i>	<i>Sue Lefton</i>
<i>Nanette Martin</i>	<i>Gary McGahey</i>
<i>Bill Moore</i>	<i>Sharon Peck</i>
<i>La Dean Seago</i>	<i>Lou McKnight Smith</i>

Site Director:

Ellen Marcus

How do you multiply fish into a profit? By members preselling tickets and leaving the cooking to David Talbert, it was our first year in a long time to bait a new fundraiser. But we did it hook, line and sinker. The March afternoon was perfect picnic weather. At Aberdeen Lake, with plenty of tables, great food and live music by Stella & Twig McDonald, Jo & Abby McDonald, Clyde Maness & Jeff Medlin the MBHS reeled in a winner.

With no backup plan the 3rd annual Blue **Grass Festival** would happen either rain or shine. From an overcast cool June morning the golden rays of sun gently lifted the dew. It was truly a perfect June day with toe tapping Blue Grass and folk music, sunshine, great food and free watermelon for the kids. It was the Blue Grass



Hey Diddle Diddle two gals and their fiddle set the toe tapping stage for the **37th Annual Farmskills Festival**. The beautiful Carolina fall weekend and the sweet essence of David Talbert's roasting tenderloin brought the community out in droves. The MBHS focus this year was going back to our roots and we did just that. Emphasis was placed on education and demonstrations. From candle dipping, mule drawn hayrides to woodturning it was a chance to step back in time.

Conner Hilgrove, re-enacting history. , age 7



Photo by Warren Lewis



Calvin Terry, Aaron & Isaac Parsons run the steam engine.



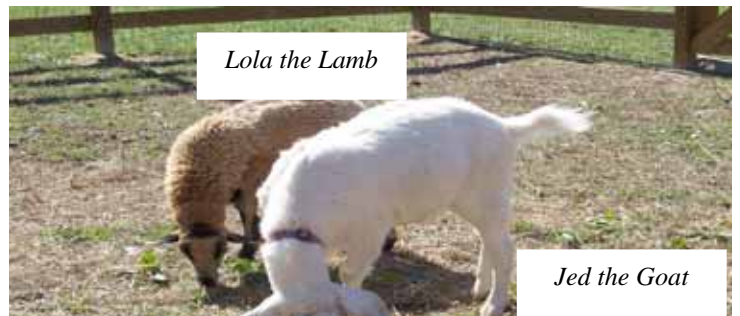
The Blue Kids for History Day Camp was a splashing success. Children from ages of 3 – 13 learned 19th century skills life skills. From cooking their own meals, planting a garden to feeding the chickens and walking the ponies the campers eagerly took on their new responsibilities.

Everyday, except when the skies provided it's on showers, the campers got a chance to cool down zipping down a waterslide and playing water games. The two weeks ended with a night under the stars as the students camped out with re-enactors. The next morning they completed the required chores and prepared lunch for their parents. With happy farewells the campers expressed desire to come again.



2006 Blue Kids For History Day Camp at Ellerbe Springs

Volunteers Needed! Like any farm there is always work to be done. Unlike most farms the Blue Farm relies heavily on volunteers to do that work. This summer the Baptist Men supplied much of their time and energy. They built a corral, reinforced the chicken pens, replaced a beam in the floor of the Blue Home and power washed the walls. There help was truly a Godsend!



Lola the Lamb

Jed the Goat

CLAYTON-BLAIR HISTORY MUSEUM

Two friends one dream.



At the 37th annual Farmskills Festival the museum was rededicated the Clayton-Blair Museum. In honor of Martha Clayton Swarington who dreamed of building a museum long before there was the MBHS. And in the memory of Claudia Blair who shared Martha's vision.

Martha and Claudia worked to make their dream a reality literally from the ground up. One the museum was built Claudia worked tirelessly on an extensive early medicine in the Sandhills exhibit.

Museum Hours
Open
Wed – Sat 11:00-2:00
Closed on Holidays

A local scout Mark Moon has honored the farm with his hard work and dedication. Mark was promoted to Eagle Scout upon completion of all work necessary to install underground irrigation around the Blue Farm House. He was professional, timely and a pleasure to work with. MBHS would like to thank him for his hard work and wish him well.

Scouts, scout and more scouts galore! Scouts from 12 different troops have earned a number of merit badges at the farm. From raking the grounds; learning Sandhills history; star gazing; cleaning the chicken pens; roasting marshmallows; putting good etiquette to the test with a meal served on China in the Blue Home; to constructing cornhusk angels for the Christmas the scouts have shared their time, energy and positive attitude! With such dedicated youth the Blue Farm's future is sure to be bright.



The many talented artisans, re-enactors and musicians that frequent the the Blue Farm

The Blue Farm was excited to host the **Sandhills Area Land Trust Annual Meeting**. It was a beautiful day with lots to see, do and eat. The museum and house were open for tours; Carolyn Register demonstrated basket weaving and Beth Garrison threw pots on her wheel. Joe & Abby McDonald played on the stage. Several of SALT's members created an informative exhibit displayed in the museum. It gives great insight on how conservation and preservation of the Sandhills can happen when the citizens are willing to work together.

Blessed with beautiful weather the Blue Farm once again got a chance to act as host. The NC Dept. of Conservation met at the farm for a picnic during their conference. They brought their pots and grills and prepared a down home feast of hamburger, potatoes, green beans, corn on the cob and rolls. The picnic tables were dressed with mason jars filled with wildflowers and watermelons for dessert. After lunch the group had a few minutes left to tour the house and museum

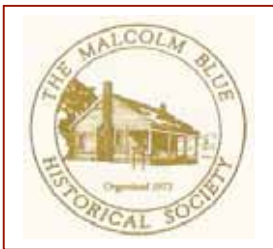


Once Upon An Autumn Night



As the heavens would have it, the rain finally came. Unfortunately it was the day of our Old Fashioned Halloween. The hayrides were canceled due to the mud but with over 20 Southern Middle Students on board to volunteer their time and earn their community service credits MBHS decided to ride it out.

Paula Caddel, Liz Garner and Clara Bryson told stories by the fire in the Blue Home. The Jazzy Little Pigs (Jazzercise) and the Big Bad Wolf had no fear of being blown away. There was plenty of popcorn, caramel apples, pizza and cider to go around. The windmill tower converted into 25-foot scarecrow, thanks to Nate McGraw, lit up the breezy drizzly foggy night. With stories, fortunes and constructing cornhusk ghosts old and young were well entertained. Turnouts were low but the enthusiasm and positive spirit of Southern Middle Students was well worth the expense.



Dear Members and Friends,

The Board of Directors and staff of the Malcolm Blue Historical Society thank you for your generosity and support through 2006. Now as you begin to plan your year-end giving, please consider a special year-end gift to the Malcolm Blue Farm.

Year-End Gift

I would like to help. Enclosed is my year-end gift to The Malcolm Blue Historical Society:

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 & above Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

The Malcolm Blue Farm is a 501 © (3) corporation; donations are totally tax deductible.

2006 Donations & Gifts



1890 Stewart coal and wood burning stove donated by Matt and Ann Desch



1800 circa antique cradle donated by Mr. Vance Crane.



1700 circa antique spinning wheel donated by Mary Blue dePrater & Catherine McAllister dePrater.

Other Donations:

Patricia Teague donated handmade quilts, quilting frames, pressure cooker, bottles and an 1890 photo album from her mother's estate.

Beth Bittner donated a railroad desk belonging to her great great grandfather Allison Francis Page who founded the Aberdeen and West End Railroad in 1880.

Margaret Ann Chambers donated a floor loom, and a second loom was donated from the Claudia Blair's estate both of which will be used for teaching.

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Brill donated Civil War artifacts and memorabilia.

"The MBHS board took on the task of updating and expanding the Membership List. We also ran a business drive campaign to find business sponsors for the Farmskills Festival. Amazingly time required for grant writing was worked around tours, feeding chickens and accounting. In the end the painstaking, meticulous, hard work paid off handsomely. The farm upped its total income by 45%," Ellen Marcus, site director.

Annual Funding received:

Moore County operational costs \$5000.

Town of Aberdeen operational costs \$2500.

Grants received:

Palmer Foundation: Blue Kids for History Day Camp \$5500

Palmer Foundation: climate control of packhouse \$5000

A&R Railroad ground maintenance \$2500

Southern Pines Rotary Club \$1500

Seedling Garden Club \$500

Moore County Community Foundation Grant \$350

Angel

Vance Crane
Matt and Ann Desch

Benefactors

Aberdeen Exterminating
Arthur Blue Attorney at Law
Boles Funeral Home
Paul & Judy Brill
First Bank
Linda & John Jarrett

Patron

Janice Long
McMurray Fabric
Piedmont Natural Gas
Progress Energy

Join for An Early American Christmas

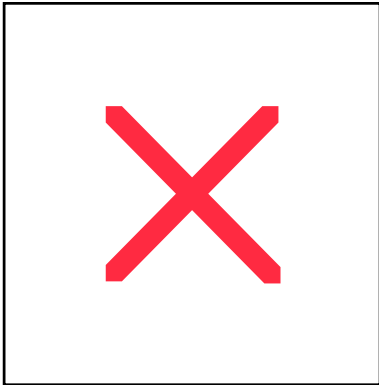
Saturday Dec. 9th 11:00 – 4:00 & Sunday Dec. 10th 1:00 – 4:00

“I look forward to the Christmas Open House in the 1825 Malcolm Blue Family Farmhouse every December. The scent of gingerbread and garlands of cranberries and popcorn are wonderful reminders of an old fashioned holiday,” Patty Pottle, MBHS Secretary.

Mule drawn hay rides, re-enactors, traditional food, 19th century children’s games, a Sandhills Santa, quilters, potters, musicians, basket weaving and Tweet Things, Pearly Girl and other select businesses.

“Thank you to our members, volunteers, the business community and everyone who helped make 2006 a year of growth and prosperity. With your support and dedication, we were able to add new programming and activities to advance our mission and goals. We appreciate your commitment,” Martha Clayton Swaringen, MBHS President.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please remember to bring your membership cards for admission.



The Malcolm Blue Farm & Museum
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