



CAROLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2023

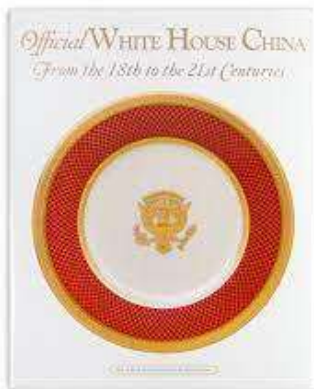
P.O. Box 324, Bowling Green, Virginia 22427

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The Caroline Historical Society, Inc., will meet at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 23, 2023, in the Caroline Community Services Center, 17202 Richmond Turnpike, Milford, VA



White House China



On Sunday, July 23, Historic Port Royal (HPR) will partner with the Caroline Historical Society to provide a presentation showcasing HPR's White House China collection. The 125+ piece collection of state and private fine glass and china tableware hails from 25 different presidents. The pieces are works of art and a living history of the presidents, administrations, and the eras they represent.

The presidents, and their first ladies, understood the impact that appearance and presentation had on visiting national and international dignitaries, right down to the plate on which dessert was served. One of the more favored patterns of White House residents is that of Benjamin Harrison and wife Caroline. The Harrison plates have a dark blue border lined with 44 stars and corn and goldenrod in gold. The corn and goldenrod are a symbol of American agriculture and a tribute to the Harrisons' home state of Indiana. The stars represent the 44 states in the Union at that time.

Other patterns, particularly those selected from a china maker's catalog, show the White House keeping up with the fashion and social values of that period.



Theodore and Edith Roosevelt's pattern was selected from the Wedgwood catalog. The Great Seal was a simple addition. The pattern features gold lined "columns" around the band which speaks to the resurgence of Greek and Roman (neoclassical) influences in everything from architecture to fashion to place names.

Lady Bird Johnson, an advocate for the environment and the beautification of the nation's interstates, chose a pattern that emboldened the interests and values of the Johnson administration. Tiffany and Co. of New York City created the design, which features a historic Monroe eagle and native flora of every state.

Certain details in the patterns portray what was happening in the world at the time, particularly through one of the most iconic symbols, the Great Seal. It was during the Wilson administration the seal was standardized. But the eagle in both the Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt seal casts its gaze toward the arrows in its talons rather than the olive branch, symbolizing the nation's status of actively defending itself in war, in pursuit of peace.



The benefactor of HPR's White House China, Herbert Collins, spent years assembling this wonderful collection. Mr. Collins is a historian of Caroline County and served as a curator at the Smithsonian Institution for 33 years. Mr. Collins has always had a passion for history and the political artifacts associated with the U.S. presidency. He is responsible for helping to accumulate and organize a large portion of the political collections the National Museum of American History holds today.

Presenter Trish Parker is a retired Caroline County teacher and serves as secretary on HPR's board of directors. Since joining HPR, she has been collecting Mr. Collins's White House China facts and stories and conducting her own research as HPR's lead China Room docent. Kerri Holland works as an archaeologist and is the current president of HPR.

July's presentation will be a fascinating tour of the collection, highlighting more historical, traditional, and personal touches each administration chose to incorporate in their patterns. We will also present more interesting historical facts and stories and further explore the evolution of the Great Seal as shown through this fine collection of White House China.

The White House China refers to the various patterns of china (porcelain) used for serving and eating food in the White House, home of the president of the United States. Different china services have been ordered and used by different presidential administrations. The White House collection of china is housed in the White House China Room. Not every administration created its own service, but portions of all china services created for the White House are now in the China Room collection. Some of the older china services are used for small private dinners in the president's dining room on the second floor.



**Do you recognize any faces in this photo
taken in front of Salem Baptist Church at Sparta?**



Monty Harris of Richmond recently donated this picture to the Caroline Historical Society. He was married to the late Rachel Puller of Sparta who was a member of Salem Baptist Church.

A Brief History of Salem Baptist Church

The picture donated by Mr. Harris is the congregation standing in front of Salem Baptist Church in Sparta before World War II. Sparta post office was established in 1827. This was a thriving community at the crossroads with the church, three country stores, Dr. Campbell's office, a grade school, and the first high school in the county. Sparta High School was built by the citizens and later deeded to the county.

Salem Baptist Church was established near Alps in 1802 where the old church foundation and some tombstones remain. Mount Calvary Church was established in Sparta in 1818. After a wagon train with 200 people left this area in 1854 to settle in



Texas, the members of the two churches joined and met at both locations. In 1869, the members combined to meet at Sparta as Salem Baptist Church.

After the Civil War, Salem helped the black members build Jerusalem Church in 1866 near Sparta.

Salem Church Baptist Church has 11 acres including the cemetery. The brick church was built (1852), followed by the parsonage (1927), cinder block two-story Fellowship Hall (1952), large two-story Fellowship Hall with paved parking lot (1999) and a picnic pavilion.

Salem Baptist Church has had 17 ministers: Andrew Broaddus I, II, and III, (grandfather, son, and grandson) served 106 years (1820 to 1926); Curtis Holloman served 25 years (1946 to 1973); Kevin James served 33 years (1989 to 2022); and Doug Duty is the present minister.

For more information look online at the "Salem Baptist Church Sparta History" <https://www.salembaptist.org/join-us/history-beginning-1802> and for more details including "Timeline of Salem Church Events" by Bernard Collins, "Salem Church 1802-1957" by Sadie Pitts, and a list of Salem Church pastors and dates of their service, 1802-2023.

Bernard Collins, May 2023

****Salem Baptist Church is located at 24032 Sparta Rd, Milford, VA 22514****

Highlights from the April 2023 CHS Meeting

Susan Sili presented a program entitled “The Lady of Oak Ridge and the Founding of a Town and A Tale of Two Houses.”



F. Lamar Brandt of Powhatan brought a chair for show and tell that was once used in the Old Mansion, Bowling Green.



Only the chimneys remain of Oak Ridge, the home of Sophia Hoomes. Property owner Bill Webb is pictured (on the left) with CHS members during the tour of the site.

Pictured to the right is Oak Ridge.



The Caroline



What is this?

What was it used for?

How old is it?

Is it real



Come to the meeting on the 23rd to find out what this is!!

Membership Dues Reminder for 2023

If you have not paid your 2023 dues, please forward payment to:

Caroline Historical Society

P.O. Box 324

Bowling Green, VA 22427-0324

Individual membership – \$15.00 per year

Family membership – \$20.00 per year

Life membership – \$200 for life

General Contact Information

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Web Site: <http://www.carolinehistoricalsociety.org>

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