

2025 Programs

- **March 22, 2025 – Maps as Storytellers.** A presentation by Fowota Mortoo, PhD student in geography at the University of North Carolina. She has created a 12-square-foot map of the UNC campus layered with images of the people who built the buildings, focusing on four Black Chapel Hill families - Barbee, Blacknell, Jones, and Johnson. Mortoo saw an opportunity to unsettle traditional mapping practices while highlighting the stories of the Black individuals who helped design and construct the University's buildings, rock walls, and brick pathways. Ms. Mortoo is joined by Dr. Kathryn Wall, co-director of public history at the Marian Cheek Jackson Center, who shares resources on www.fromtherockwall.org and discusses community efforts to honor Black builders and masons with a physical monument. You can view a recording of this presentation at <https://youtu.be/tKNLissmhe8>
- **May 10, 2025 - Carrboro Goes to War!** A presentation by Richard Ellington, President of the Chapel Hill Historical Society. Did you know that Carrboro had its own group of “Rosie (and Robert) the Riveters” who contributed to the WWII effort by making munitions for the US Navy? Well, they did. A cotton mill that once sat on the current ArtsCenter location was transformed into a munitions factory in Carrboro. Starting in early 1942, that factory made anti-aircraft ammo for use by the US Navy against the Axis forces of Germany and Japan. Richard explained how this happened in the small town of Carrboro. You will see where the workers came from and how well they performed. This is a story that made the munitions’ workers proud of their efforts. There are LOTS of photos showing places and people that are long gone from Carrboro! You can view his presentation [here](#).
- **Shared Learning Seminars** - The Chapel Hill Historical Society sponsored a series of eight presentations on the history of Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and the surrounding area, presented and moderated by local historians. This series of lectures enabled Shared Learning members, especially those who are new to the area, to learn about the rich history of the Town and its surrounding communities. Each presentation lasted approximately one hour and had specific learning objectives associated with it. Topics covered include the history of the Towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro, the importance of agriculture in Orange County, the historic Black business district in Chapel Hill, schools and integration, the story of the Carrboro Farmers’ Market, and historic Chapel Hill neighborhoods. Lectures were delivered by a combination of in-person presentations at the Church of the Reconciliation and Zoom sessions for those who attended remotely.
- *“An Introduction to the Chapel Hill Historical Society.”* A brief history of the Chapel Hill Historical Society, and its service to the community from 1966 to the present. Presented by Richard Ellington, President, Chapel Hill Historical Society. (in-person at Church of Reconciliation, September 16, 1:30-3:00PM)
- *“Chapel Hill – Then and Now: Some Highlights from Chapel Hill History.”* Presented by Tom Jepsen, Treasurer. (in-person at Church of Reconciliation, September 23, 1:30-3:00PM) Video link: <https://youtu.be/L6xHtsqCnnI>

- “*Carrboro Goes to War!*” a presentation on the history of the town of Carrboro and the munitions plant that existed there during World War II. Presented by Richard Ellington, President. (in-person at Church of Reconciliation, October 14, 1:30-3:00PM) Video link: <https://youtu.be/Qhi-N16vDgA>
- “*Orange County’s Agricultural Revolution: 1900-1970.*” A remarkable period of change in Orange County’s agricultural history using historic photos. Presented by Orange County’s Cultural Resources Coordinator, Peter Sandbeck. (Pre-recorded presentation via Zoom, October 21, 1:30-3:00PM). The YouTube video of Peter’s presentation is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTmgCAR0VyE&feature=youtu.be>
- “*Midway: A Virtual Tour of the Black Business District of Chapel Hill.*” The history of the Black community from the earliest days of the University to the present. Presented by Danita Mason-Hogans, project manager for Duke’s Center for Documentary Studies. (Pre-recorded presentation via Zoom, November 11, 1:30-3:00PM). A YouTube video of this program is available here: <https://youtu.be/aMLzwLSwpd8>
- “*Building A Farmers’ Market: A Light History of the Carrboro Farmers’ Market.*” The history of the Carrboro Farmers’ Market, from its initial inception in 1977 to its current operations. Presented by Maggie Funkhouser, manager of the Carrboro Farmers’ Market, and Alex Hitt, owner of Peregrine Farms in Graham, NC. (Pre-recorded presentation via Zoom, November 18, 1:30-3:00PM). A YouTube video of this program is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iSmS-uCpKQA>
- “*Ringing of the School Bell: Schools of the Carrboro Area from Jim Crow to Integration.*” The history and differences between the two school systems, white and “colored”, that existed side-by-side in Orange County at the beginning of the 20th century. Presented by Richard Ellington. (Pre-recorded presentation via Zoom, December 2, 1:30-3:00PM). The YouTube video of Richard’s presentation is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEZhAlZWXIw>
- “*Historic Coker Hills*”: a presentation by Jill Ridky-Blackburn, and “*Kings Mill/Morgan Creek - The Story of a Neighborhood.*” Beginning as part of Mark Morgan’s farmland in the 1700s, the Kings Mill-Morgan Creek neighborhood became the home of many notable Chapel Hillians, including the legendary basketball coach Dean Smith and the singer James Taylor. Presented by Tom Jepsen. (In-person at the Church of Reconciliation, December 9, 1:30-3:00PM). A YouTube video of Tom’s presentation is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5b84jKRSxks>