

Caswell County Historical Association
1840's Caswell County Tobacco and Slave Trading Ledger Collection
Preservation Project

Dear Friend of Caswell County,

August 28, 2008

A member of the Caswell County Historical Association has funded the purchase and restoration of a rare and important 1840's Caswell County Tobacco and Slave Trading Ledger and associated documents including many slave bills of sale. The collection represents life in Yanceyville Township during the height of North Carolina's plantation economy. The materials will be permanently housed in the Caswell County Historical Association Collection, which is part of the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina's Wilson Library.

Preservation projects such as this demonstrate the CCHA's commitment to preserving and sharing Caswell County's rich cultural heritage. The CCHA reaches out to the local schools hosting museum tours and genealogy programs. Many small museums are struggling to stay open and maintain their collections. The Richmond-Miles History Museum is no exception. The Museum is in need of funds to maintain our buildings and buy equipment to enable us to care for our collections and conduct basic cataloging and archiving functions.

The Richmond-Miles History Museum is the childhood home of celebrated North Carolina artist and Yanceyville native Maud Gatewood. A collection of Maud Gatewood's art sets the Richmond-Miles History Museum apart from most small town museums. Considered by art historians, curators, museum directors and collectors as one of the most important painters in North Carolina history, Maud Florance Gatewood was born and grew up in Caswell County, North Carolina and was fiercely proud of her rural roots. She exhibited widely throughout the Southeast during her lifetime and received numerous awards, including a 1972 award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the 1984 North Carolina Governor's Award in Fine Arts, and an Honorary Doctorate from UNC-G in 1999. She was on the Averett University art faculty from 1975-1997 and her life and work have been chronicled in an hour-long documentary, '**Gatewood.' Facing The White Canvass**' shown on UNC: - TV.

The CCHA's goal is to raise \$ 13,808.82 for the 1840's Tobacco and Slave Trading Ledger Collection. Successful preservation projects help the CCHA fulfill its mission to preserve the history of Caswell County and qualify for grants and foundation assistance. Any funds received over our goal will be used for conservation of existing collections including the Maud Gatewood collection.

The Caswell County Historical Association invites you to participate in this important project and to help us preserve and share Caswell County's rich cultural heritage.

Acquisition of collection 3/2007	\$9,428.82
Restoration completed 7/2008	\$4,025.00
Museum copy	<u>\$ 355.00</u>
Goal	\$13,808.82

Caswell County NC
1840's Tobacco and Slave Trading Ledger Collection
Preservation Project
Please return this form with your tax-deductible contribution

Caswell County Historical Association
PO Box 278
Yanceyville, NC 27379

Name _____

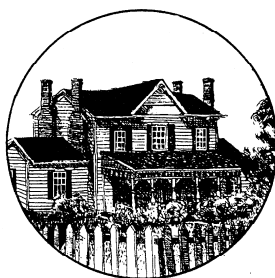
Address _____

Donation _____

Or donate online using PayPal or a major credit card: <http://ncccha.org/>

Thank you for helping us preserve and share our Caswell County heritage!

- All donors will be recognized on the cover page of the museum copy.
- Donors of \$ 1,000.00 or more will be recognized on a special museum plaque.
This project was separately funded.



Richmond-Miles History Museum

For more information

visit the CCHA website at [http:// www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ncccha/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ncccha/)

Museum hours are Wednesday –Friday 12:00-4:00

Other times by appointment call CCHA President Karen Oestreicher at (336) 562-5083

The DVD or VHS of 'Gatewood.' Facing The White Canvass'

can be purchased at the museum gift shop or at the CCHA's online bookstore,

<http://ncccha.org/publications/publications.html>

Caswell County, NC

1840's Tobacco and Slave Trading Ledger Collection

"April 8th, 1841 I have just learned with great sorrow that President Harrison is no more- the whole Nation should, yes, I believe they will mourn, Great God what a calamity, Oh, Lord receive him. Blessed be they who die in the name of the Lord."

The ledger consists of 148 pages of recorded tobacco and slave trading information dating from 1837 to 1845. There are letters, bills of sale and other documents dating from 1837-1855.

Part I Tobacco

The first part of the ledger concerns the prizing, buying and selling of tobacco from Caswell County plantations. Important facts such as person selling tobacco, the type and condition of the crop, and location sold are recorded. It is also noted how the tobacco is transported to market. The tobacco was prized into hogsheads. The hogsheads weighed about 1400 lbs full. The hogsheads were taken to Milton on heavy wagons. Once in Milton the hogsheads were loaded onto a bateaux and shipped via the Dan River to the market in Danville, Virginia.

Caswell County		North Carolina	
Tuesday Crop	121500	45	04 87 1/2
Do	6658	3	37
Do Do	18945	9	90 01
" "	13692	7	67 "
	51445	25	98 87 1/2
Wares	1552	1	00
	53000	26	98 87 1/2
add 10 pr Cent for Em		2	69 80
			329 68 67 1/2
Revenue for Tob. up to May		28	74
1841		26	58 87 1/2
\$941-40 Danville	\$941.40	2	15 "
also Lynchburg			
Richmond	206 56	927 06	
Do	355 57		
Do	567 13		
Petersburg	69 20	786 47	
"	368 29		
"	408 98		
		2654 93	20 54 93
Clear Loss		3	13 74
Or to be accounted for			44 26
			558 "

Caswell County North Carolina
 July 20, 1841 Tobacco sold in
 Lynchburg, Richmond, and Petersburg.

Part II Slave Trading

The second part of the ledger is a rare and important record of the North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina slave trade during the 1840's. Expansion of the cotton kingdom during the 1830's greatly increased the demand for slave labor in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. The need for slave labor began to decline in the old tobacco belt region of the upper south. Many enslaved people were "sold south" as a result of debt and estate settlements and economic conditions.



Paty Arroy	3 20
Grland...	3 40
Sandy	5 06
John Brown	5 00
Simpson	4 75
Bob	5 00
Tom & Hannah	8 00
Hanny Stude	3 62 1/2
Nancy Wray	3 99
Extra for Bob	49 90
Clothing & Bill	14 1/2
Cash p ^d to Surry	22.85
Dr. ...	3 95

A list of enslaved people by name, some are recorded with surname.
The cost of the trip to Surry County, NC for the auction is noted as \$22.85.

Restoration of the ledger

The ledger required a great deal of restoration. During the 1870's it was used as a scrapbook for recipes and remedies clipped from newspapers. The pasted on clippings covered almost half of the information in the ledger. The newspaper clippings had to be hand steamed and carefully removed one at a time. The ledger also lost its cover along the way. The lost cover was replaced with an 1840's style cover bound with leather. Each page was cleaned and stabilized. The Etherington Conservation Group located in Browns Summit, NC restored the ledger and two of the slavery documents.

