History Place Museum A Must See Attraction

By Bob Ruggiero

A unique gem located at 11th and Arendell Street in Morehead City is The History Place museum. This outstanding exhibit is one of the highlights of the Crystal Coast in Carteret County.

The Carteret County Historical Society purchased the building site, formally housing a Helig-Myers store, and after extensive renovations the museum was relocated into its present location in November, 2001. The facility houses a museum gallery, a research library, classroom., auditorium and museum store. There is a tea room and tea shop on site. The museum also houses an extensive collection of period furniture and clothing, textiles, glassware and art works.

A tour through the Jack Spencer Goodwin Research Library reveals a large collection of publications and an extensive picture file documenting the history of Carteret County. The genealogy materials and the Civil War collection are especially outstanding.

The Carteret County Historical Society has been blessed with the generosity of members of the community. Funding to relocate the museum was possible because of the many people who stepped forward and contributed the necessary monies to purchase the building, two tower clocks, the outside sign, and installation of the museum gardens and landscaping. The museum is especially proud of the "Wall of Honor" holding over 600 personalized bricks in the foyer.

Visitors to the museum can walk through the exhibits and pay a visit to the general store, an early school room, a Victorian parlor, and an early doctor's office. The collection of items on display include an antique wheelchair, wind-up Victrola, her trunk and the carriage that well known Confederate spy, Emeline Pigott, was riding in when she was arrested in 1865.

The Carteret County Historical Society was founded in 1971 and the museum was established in 1985. It employs only one fulltime staff member and uses over 100 volunteers to run the day to day operations. Cindi Hamilton, the General Manager, was kind enough to give a tour of the many exhibits and artifacts located in this interesting museum. The number of visitors has increased since the relocation and now tops 22,000. Cindi commented, "This building houses much of the historical and cultural past of our county. Young and old will thoroughly enjoy a visit to our museum." Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Admission is FREE.

The Society is very involved in community awareness and community events. Participation in local events include the Blackbeard Festival, the Seafood Festival and the Festival of Trees. With the tourist season winding down, now would be a good time to get acquainted with the many facets of the history of our county.

The History Place -**October Events**

Moores Creek National Battlefield - On Thursday, October 14, the History Place is hosting a tour to the Moores Creek National Battlefield outside of Wilmington. This is the site of the first battle of the Revolutionary War in North Carolina between the Loyalists and the Patriots. This battle greatly influenced North Carolina to be the first colony to vote for independence. We will walk to the bridge where the battle was fought.

a.m. and the cost for the trip, guided tour and lunch is \$24 per person. For reservations or more information call the History Place at 252-247-7533, ext. 101.

Theatrical Play - "Life of the Eagle" - On

"Life of the Eagle" is a magical and mystical account of an ageless wanderer and adventurer. Richard's book will also be available to purchase.

Wine, punch and hors d'ouevres will be

Lunch With Rodney - Local historian and story-teller, Rodney Kemp, continues his lunch series at the History Place. Upcoming topics include: Friday, Oct. 8 - Carteret County, N.C. and Long Island, N.Y. Comparison. Friday, Oct. 22 - Graham Academy

of Marshallberg. Friday, Nov. 12 - Webb Family of Morehead City.

Tickets are \$8 for lunch and only \$3 without lunch. Reservations need to be made before Wednesday prior to each lecture by calling 252-247-7533, ext. 106.

October Meeting - On Tuesday, October 5, at 12 noon, Cheryl and Bruce Roberts will give a presentation and book signing on their latest book, "North Carolina Lighthouses - A Tribute of History and Hope" at the History Place." The public is invited and lunch is provided for \$7 per person or people may attend the lecture free without lunch. Reservations may be made by calling 252-247-7533, ext. 106, or e-mailing historyplace@starfishnet.com.





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The bus will leave the History Place at 9

Sunday, October 10, at 3 p.m., the History Place will host well-known local actors, Richard and Carolyn Evans, who will perform a reading and scene from Richard's anticipated book, "Life of the Eagle."

served. Tickets are \$7 per person. For reservations or more information, call the History Place at 252-247-7533, ext. 106.



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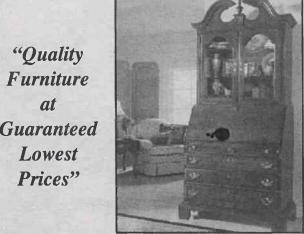
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