

Those Were The "Good Ole Days"

Kings Mountain Featured At Cleveland County Historical Museum

With a rich and flavorful heritage, the people of Kings Mountain are pictured just as affluent and fashionable in early years of the city's long history as today.

Visitors to the Kings Mountain Exhibit in the Community Room of the Cleveland County Historical Museum are being treated to a wealth of material which portray the early days of the 1800's in picture and from relics of the past which have been loaned for the exhibit by many Kings Mountain families.

The Kings Mountain Exhibit will be open to the public through the month of October, according to Jim Marler, director of the Museum which is housed in the Old Courthouse on the square at Shelby.

Collections of the Museum consist of artifacts which illuminate the life of the county from its founding in 1841-45. Kings Mountain is among the communities which are placing exhibits on a regular basis in the Museum, which is open to the public from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and from 2 until 5 p.m. on Sundays. Guided tours are available by advance reservation with the Museum office at 482-8186.

The Museum consists of 11 rooms on the first and second floors of the Old Courthouse. The Hall of Fame on first floor is a real showcase displaying artifacts of 10 outstanding Clevelanders including former Governors Clyde R. Hoey and O. Max Gardner and others. The Genealogy Room is a family history room with genealogy records and resource books available to the public. The Founders Room retells the origin of the county, its towns and institutions. The Government Room displays leading officials of government in Cleveland County from 1841, the Religion Room shows the background of all Cleveland County churches, and early agricultural tools and equipment are displayed in a room reminiscent of that era. The War and Freedom Room displays the part Cleveland

County played in major Wars and also shows a colonial family setting. On the second floor are the Communications Room where early methods of communication such as telephone, telegraph and newspapers are displayed and a professional room where the evolution of such professions as medicine, law and pharmacy are displayed. Griffin Drug Co. of Kings Mountain has contributed a large case of old medicinal supplies, assorted patent medicines of the early 1900's and pharmacy relics. We noticed a sample of Spanish Fly (a blistering plaster Emplastrum Cantharides) and there were tiny, old spectacles from the period 1800-1900 in this collection.

A Mining Exhibit, featuring the Old Gold Mine in the early years of KM's history, and emphasis on the role of mining in this area will be added in future months and work is underway on a unique gift shop which will feature handcrafted goods from the county, early lanterns and books.

Director Marler said that bus tours will be scheduled by the Historical Society and Museum for a one-two-and three day tour of Colonial Williamsburg this Fall and that young people are invited to join and become active in a German Heritage Christmas Project.

"We're interested in getting more volunteers to assist in our tour program here at the Museum," said Marler, who noted that already "docents" (teachers) on the volunteer staff are giving much time to the program. He said that eventually all the donated materials, newspapers, pictures, etc. will be "under glass" and noted that old photographs, diaries, records, receipts, newspapers are welcomed.

The Kings Mountain Exhibit features pictures of the downtown district in the early days, newspapers reporting President Hoover's visit to KM Battleground



HISTORY IS MADE—Two newspapers from the early days tell of the early history of the city and detail the appearance of President Hoover and President Roosevelt to the historical city. Newspapers, photographs, clothing and other artifacts are featured in the KM Exhibit, open through October, at the Cleveland County Historical Museum.

and President Roosevelt's passing through town and in later years the KM Centennial Celebration.

In the "good old days" a monthly telephone bill was \$1.16, two fashionable hats were \$4.85 and a subscription to the Kings Mountain Herald was \$1.50, according to receipts which are included in the exhibit from numerous business firms in town. The original charter of First National Bank is on display, pictures of the "old corner drug store" in the business district, and early Kings Mountain in the 1800's are prominently displayed.

Among the other exhibits of interest were a large glassed collection of clothing, including fancy shoes with cuban heels, high top dress boots, buttoned shoes with tassels for the young set, feathered bonnets and a woman's mourning hat and black veil once worn by Mrs. J.C. Nickels. The late Dr. J.E. Anthony's white baptismal dress and slip is a treasure donated by his family to the collection as are A.K. Willeford's gold-tipped walking cane, quilts made by Rachel Jane Galloway Crawford in the mid 1800's, Mrs. John O. Plonk, Sr.'s wedding basket, a turtle spittoon owned by Mrs. George H. Mauney, a cobbler's shoe stand belonging to Dr. and Mrs. O.P. Lewis, a wooden dough board belonging to Mrs. Nan P. Ormand, an 1829 candle mold owned by the family of Mrs. W.R. Craig, and a "Crazy Quilt," dated 1894, and owned by the L.E. Hinnant family.

An old tax desk and the Cleveland County Sheriff's desk during the period of the early 1900's are also located in the Community Room where the KM Exhibit is displayed, as is part of a primitive collection of pictures of the old Courthouse in 1845 showing the mode of transportation in those days, the horse and carriage.

The Exhibit tells the story of the business, religious, educational and social life of Kings Mountain in her

early years.

Director Marler said that all pictures loaned for the exhibit will be copied for use in the Archives and Museum collection for years to come. He said that membership in the Cleveland County Historical Society is open to students, individuals and family members.

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SHADES OF YESTERYEAR—The "good ole days" of Kings Mountain are depicted in a Kings Mountain Exhibit on display at the Cleveland County Historical Museum through the month of October. The exhibit, above, depicts the fashionable dress of citizens in the early 1800's.



HISTORICAL DISPLAY—Jim Marler, Director of the Cleveland County Historical Museum, points to a Kings Mountain Exhibit which details the colorful history of Kings

Mountain from the early years to the present time. The Exhibit is free to the public through October.

Living Today

Section B

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EARLY KINGS MOUNTAIN—This is a picture of the downtown district in the early years and is included in an historical exhibit on display through October at the Cleveland

County Historical Museum. The Kings Mountain Exhibit traces the city's growth through its business, religious, educational and social life.