

## Rediscovering the Reids

Always on the lookout for the next exhibit topic, Anne Bennett, a board member, suggested an exhibit on the Reid family. I thought it was a wonderful idea, though I wondered if we had enough material. I began doing research on the family and found information on the Ancestry website, and Sarah Redd helped with my questions. Paula Lester helped to round up a number of items that Nancy Reid gave to the Foundation, along with family photos.

This exhibit opening on March 5 features the Reid Families of Matthews and Sharon Township, sometimes a confusing topic. Intriguingly two Reid families with no relationship to each other were joined together with the marriage of Ellie Reid Bell and T. N. Reid. The exhibit will be on display until June 25, 2022.

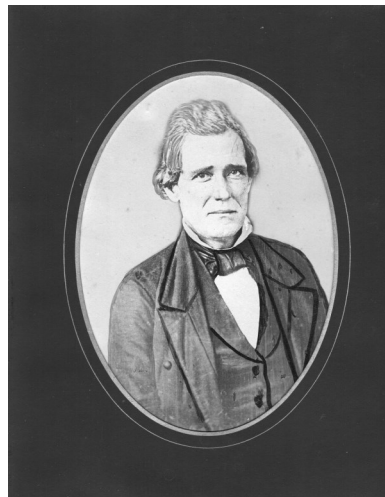
The Reid House was given to the Matthews Historical Foundation by Sarah Redd, who inherited the building from Nancy Reid. Nancy and her sister, and two step-sisters lived in the house with Dr. T. N. Reid, her father, and Ellie Reid Bell Reid, her mother. The Reid House, located at 134 W. John Street is one of the surviving structures in Matthews from the Victorian era.

Ellie's family first came to this country when her great-grandfather James Reid emigrated from Northern Ireland and settled in Mecklenburg. James was a patriot in the Revolutionary War. James' son Solomon and grandson Jeremiah Solomon were early leaders in the county. Solomon served in the War of 1812 and the Mexican-American War. Jeremiah Solomon served in the NC State Legislature, and

is often referred to as the "father" of Matthews as he submitted the papers to incorporate the town. Jeremiah's son Edward Solomon built the Reid House, but sold it to his sister, who lived there with her second husband, Dr. Thomas Neely Reid.

Dr. Reid of the "other" Reid family and was a beloved doctor in Matthews. Dr. T. N. Reid's great-grandfather, Allen, was born in Mecklenburg County in 1772. His great-great grandfather, William moved here from either Pennsylvania, Virginia, or Ireland. The roots of both of these families intertwine with other leading family in the area. Learn about this interesting and get to know many of its members. Many never before seen photos of these residents will be featured.

William Reid, Dr. T. N Reid's grandfather



### Board of Directors

#### Foundation

Becky Willard, President

Bill Helms, VP

Bob Aycock, 2nd VP

Brian Antal, Treasurer

Carol Cullis, Secretary

Paula Lester, Historian

Anne Bennett

Chuck Bennett

Kress Query

Jim Taylor

John Urban

Tina Whitley

Ex Officio

Sandy Duncan

Marilyn Sczech

#### Docents

Erin Barrett

Joe Brandenburg

Pat Browning

John Camenga

Gloria Clackum

Gregg Coleman

Sarah DelPrete

Wilson Goodson, Jr.

Julia Hanson

Clyde Kiser

Mary McClure

Elinor Minshew

Lanell Owenby

Meghan Sharpe

Kathy Shonts

Barbara Stegall

MHM Director

Barbara Taylor

**From the Director:**

The longer hours of light and the warming days are always a welcome sign that spring is not far away.

During the winter the museum has been busy. We participated in the Annual Christmas Stroll where 130 people stopped by the museum. In January we were supposed to have our first tour in over a year for a group of Girl Scouts wanting to earn a badge. Unfortunately, the museum was closed an extra week in January, because of my exposure to Covid. Fortunately they rescheduled.

I have had several unique opportunities to connect with new audiences. In early February we partnered with Around the Crown 10K. This running organization planned a run on the Heritage Trail and 4 Mile Creek, ending at the museum where I spoke to the participants about researching and writing the panels for the Trail. Approximately 20 runners participated and seemed to enjoy learning about a new neighborhood and its history. Truist is partnering with Around the Crown seeking out new running opportunities. As a result of our participation we were presented with a \$1,000 check.

At the end of the month I made a presentation at Rosedale Plantation on Leon Berry, an African-American basket maker who lived in Mecklenburg County. I had the good fortune to get to know him when he participated in a festival I held at the Alexander Homesite in the early 80s. At that time he was 94! When I was Director at Rosedale in the late 90s, I had an opportunity to purchase some of his baskets for the site. As part of Rosedale's celebration of its African American heritage, I was asked to speak about Leon and his art of basket making. It was a pleasure to do so and remember this wonderful artist.

Barbara E. Taylor, Director



Leon Berry making a cotton picking basket at the Summer Sampler, 1983.

***Our Thanks to Rich Shepler with Alphagraphics of South Charlotte for donation of his services to the Matthews Historical Foundation.***

### **Victorian Lawn Party**

The year is 1915 and you are invited to Dr. & Mrs. T. N. Reid's annual Victorian Lawn Party at their home at 134 W. John Street from 12 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 9, 2022. Step back in time and learn how the early residents of Matthews got together and enjoyed each other's company.

The Matthews Heritage Museum is sponsoring its Annual Lawn Party where you can partake in activities that were common in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. You can make note cards out of eggshell mosaics! Participate in the Maypole Dance. Skilled artisans will teach you about quilling, wood carving or basket making.

Dr. and Mrs. Reid will greet their guests as they tour their lovely home. Be sure to leave your calling card, as is the proper custom of the day. (We will provide.) The Reid's will tell you about their Matthews, and how they would hop a train to spend a day in Charlotte.

If you like antique cars, we will have a few vintage automobiles on the property! Food Truck available.

Barbara E. Taylor



Dear Friends,

Ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus taught that “the only constant is change”. And the great 20<sup>th</sup> century “musical philosopher”, David Bowie, implored us to “turn and face” new “ch-ch-ch-ch-changes”. Here at the Matthews Historical foundation, we are doing just that, as we turn and face two major transitions within our organization.

Paula Lester, President Emeritus of the MHF and longtime Matthews historian is leaving us for another beautiful historic town, Beaufort, SC. We wish Paula and husband Larry well on their new adventure, though we are sad to see them depart. However, Paula will not be far from us in spirit. She will remain on the board of the MHF and stay involved with our work even as she makes her home away from Matthews.

We also have a new addition to our board. Former Matthews Mayor and Town Commissioner Kress Query will be joining us on the board. Kress is a Matthews native, descended from one of the founding families of our town. He grew up across from the Nancy Reid House and was instrumental in acquiring the house for the MHF. We are delighted to welcome Kress to the MHF board and look forward to his ideas and input.

While it’s true that change is a central and inevitable part of life, one thing within the MHF remains the same -- our commitment to preserving the unique history and hometown feel of our beloved Town of Matthews.

Becky Hayes Willard, President



### Introducing John Camenga

Hello Museum Friends,

I’m John Camenga, a recent addition to the Docent staff (2018). I got interested in history as a child and was lucky to have people to help me along in this interest. When I was ten we moved to Salem, MA where we lived across the street from the home of Revolutionary War General Timothy Pickering who later was the third U.S. Secretary of State. There was an historic cemetery across the side street from our house. In subsequent years I was able to explore the heritage of Salem, Boston and other nearby towns. I majored in history in college (Syracuse University, “Let’s Go Orange!”), but never found employment in that field. I did use it in other endeavors such as my 40 years working in “library land” (4 systems in 2 states). I enjoy exploring the areas around places I have lived and love to travel, visiting battlefields, natural areas, and museums. In my Army service I was sent to Oklahoma, so I felt I was following the ghosts of the frontier Army.

Clearwater (FL) Public Library is where I met my future wife, Carol, when we both worked at the Reference Desk. A few years after the birth of our son in Tampa, we moved to North Carolina so we could be closer to our respective families. We were in Hickory for a few years then moved to Matthews.

After retirement, I was casting about for things to do and in recent years, I have volunteered for the American Red Cross, transporting blood products (even during the shutdown) and was a volunteer tax preparer for VITA with Community Link.

In elementary school, I picked the trombone as my instrument because everyone else wanted the trumpet. I did not take it seriously until sometime in High School. I kept with it through college and always tried to find a group to perform with, and have been with the Matthews Concert Band for fifteen years.

The Matthews History Museum was seeking volunteers and it seemed like a good fit. I have enjoyed my work here and meeting new people.

Note: if you are at the museum and see me perk up as a train goes by-that’s because I’m also a train freak.



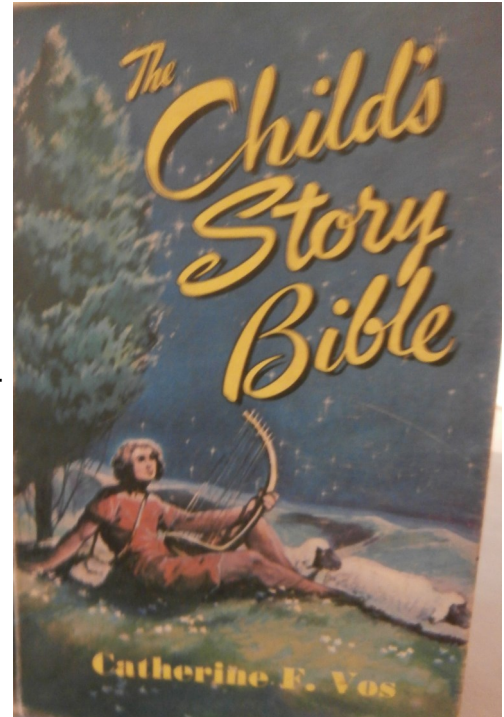
Memories of Sunday Mornings, Matthews Presbyterian Church, Matthews, NC

By Diane (Funderburk) Adams in collaboration with elementary Sunday School classmates, Donna Overcash, Dick Overcash, Rusty Burton, Ruby (Matthews) Caldwell, Bill Stevens and Dianne Benton

*About a month ago, Barb Taylor, Director of the Matthews Heritage Museum, asked me to write my memories of Nancy Reid for the newsletter as she was preparing an exhibit on the Reid's. As Nancy Reid was my Sunday School Teacher I accepted the challenge.*

Wow, I thought, that was about 6 decades ago! But I walked to the bookshelf and pulled out the well-worn 700-page volume, The Child's Story Bible, by Catherine F. Vos. This was the book that Nancy A. Reid, aka "Miss Nancy" had given to every child in her class. On the inside cover was an inscription, "With love from Nancy A. Reid, Primary Sunday School Teacher, October, 1958.

As memories tend to fade with time, I called several former classmates from that little class to pull together a collective memory of the "Miss Nancy Sunday School Experience" and interestingly enough, they, too, all still had the same book inscribed with their names, just like mine.



What were the likely chances that all 7 of us, now retirement age, having gone through numerous moves, rearing families, growing careers and going through all the changes the years bring, would not only still have this book of Bible stories but could immediately pull it off their shelves during an out of the blue "do you remember" phone call? Perhaps the anomaly of "The Book" as we began to call it has something to do with the richness of the Sunday School Experience Miss Nancy created and the carry-over it had in the young lives she touched.

At that time, Miss Nancy was also a teacher in the public schools, though none of us seemed to be aware of this. To us, Miss Nancy was the Sunday School teacher who was always there, who made Sunday School fun and who was as much a part of the church environment as were the pews, the church shaped chandeliers hanging from the ceiling, and the pulpit were in the sanctuary.

Teacher evaluation has come a long way since the 1950s but Miss Nancy would have been considered "distinguished" by any best practice standards which can broadly be listed into 3 categories: 1) The personal attributes of the teacher, 2) the social and emotional considerations of the learning process and 3) the knowledge of and the delivery of the content.

### The Teacher

Donna and I remember vividly that Miss Nancy was always "put together". We admired her suits, the brooches she wore on her lapel, the perfectly coiffed hair and the hint of perfume we noticed when she looked over your

shoulder at your work. Ruby Caldwell remembers her beautiful smile and the kindness with which she treated all of us, whether we were listening or fidgeting. Bill Stevens remembers his Sunday mornings as positive experiences and could name other classmates that none of us had interacted with in years. Dick Overcash added that whatever the church function, his Sunday School teacher was always there and Dianne Benton echoed the same sentiments, made over and over by this group who had the common denominator of gathering together in the basement of the church. We all received birthday cards in the mail on our special day and Christmas cards in December. And all of us loved gathering around the old upright piano and singing songs while Miss Nancy played and sang along with us.

#### Social/Emotional Learning

In this Sunday School class, everyone was greeted warmly at the door, patted on the shoulder for good work, listened to and respected. The understanding that we could ask questions, make comments and even disagree made for a safe place to be oneself without being worried about what others might say. This freedom to take risks when discussing ideas may not be so commonly seen in Sunday School classes where teaching religious doctrine is the focus, but it was most appreciated when burning questions such as “How did Noah get all those animals to climb into the ark?” and “How was Jonah able to breathe in the belly of the whale?” came up for consideration in class discussions.

#### Content

A good teacher knows the content and, by any measure, Miss Nancy was a great teacher. Her book selection for us, previously mentioned, showed that she respected us as learners; she thought that we were capable of thinking about and discussing ideas; and she knew that we were curious about all the details of a Bible story and not just a general overview. Miss Nancy was also a believer in memory work. Our weekly assignment was to work on the answers to the 150 questions of the Child’s Catechism which is still used today by the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. The Catechism was a small Pepto Bismol pink paperback and it was probably disliked as much as the medicine it reminded us of. Rusty Burton remembered this part of our religious education and added that Miss Nancy promised any student who memorized the entire Catechism a silver dollar. Rusty admitted he never qualified for that silver dollar and on that note... the rest of us never earned silver dollars, either!

#### A Final Reflection

A good and often used quote about teachers is as follows: “They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel.” Ruby talked several times about her memories of Miss Nancy’s “sweet smile and gentle spirit”. She further noted that when she visited her former teacher in Nancy’s later years, her countenance had not changed. Miss Nancy understood that good instruction of any sort happens in a community of learners who respect each other and who have a teacher with high expectations for each of them.

I would say that Donna, Bill, Rusty, Ruby, Dick, Dianne and I won the lottery, so to speak, when we ended up in Miss Nancy’s class in the basement of Matthews Presbyterian Church in the mid 50s. We all took away a virtual treasure chest of silver dollars – Catechism or no Catechism.

*My Thanks to Diane Adams and her Sunday School classmates for sharing their memories with us.*

*Foundations* is a quarterly publication of Matthews Historical Foundation and the Matthews Heritage Museum

Edited by Barbara Taylor, Director

**Available at the Museum**

Matthews Remembered DVD.....\$15  
Matthews Memories Cookbook...  
\$21.95

**If you have a local artifact to donate, please call the Museum office 704-708-4996.**

**Visit our websites**

[www.matthewshistoricalfoundation.org](http://www.matthewshistoricalfoundation.org)  
[www.matthewsreidhouse.org](http://www.matthewsreidhouse.org)  
[www.mattheritagemuseum.org](http://www.mattheritagemuseum.org)

**Girl Scouts**

We welcomed Girl Scout Troop 3032 in early February, the first group tour in over a year! It was great to have a group of youngsters visit, especially knowing that they were working on a badge. They took a tour of the museum, and then sought out specific artifacts on display. Independently the group will work on other activities to complete the museum badge seen here. Please let other scouts know we have this wonderful badge that can be earned.



**Jim Taylor, Foundation Board Member**

Jim Taylor served as the 17<sup>th</sup> Mayor of the Town of Matthews for 8 years and as Town Commissioner for 10 years prior as well as serving 5 years on the Matthews Transportation Committee. Jim retired as Mayor in 2018 after more than 23 years of continued service to the town. Jim has served on multiple boards in and around Matthews such as the Matthews HELP Center, Matthews Alive Festival, and the Novant-Health Care Alliance to name just a few.

While serving as Mayor, Jim also served as Chairman of the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO) and board member of the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Jim's involvement and leadership within the region and helped promote causes important to the area at a

regional and state level.

Jim grew up in Miami, Florida and moved to Matthews after graduation from the University of South Florida in 1989. He started his career with NCNB in Charlotte. After about 10 years he joined First Union National Bank, which eventually became Wells Fargo. Jim has been with Wells Fargo for over 20 years in multiple finance roles.

Jim and his wife, Joselyn, have been married for over 31 years and have two wonderful children, Breanna and Brandon. Both children attended Butler High School in Matthews and then attended and graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Jim has continued to serve the community by being appointed to the Novant Health Board of Trustees for the Southern Piedmont Region and is currently serving as their Vice-Chair. Jim also serves as Vice Chairman, and current acting Chairman, of the annual Matthews Alive Festival.

In Jim's free time, he has started up his own podcast, Inside Matthews, which discusses all the wonderful things Matthew has to offer. Jim talks about the history of the town and chats with the movers and shakers that make Matthews, Matthews.

Jim has also taken up a new hobby. He has taken to the sky as a private pilot. Jim enjoys flying, a passion he has had for years but never seemed to have the time.

After leaving the Mayor's office Jim agreed to join the Matthews Historical Foundation and help keep the history of Matthews alive. Jim was Mayor when the History Museum opened and feels strongly about continuing to preserve our history while preparing ourselves for the future. Jim expressed that he is extremely honored to serve on the MHF and very optimistic about the future of the organization. Jim stated, "We have terrific board members on the MHF and great Docents sharing the history, not to mention a wonderful Executive Director, Barbara, running the museum. I am very proud to be involved with this organization as we all have a small part in preserving our current history and the making of the history of tomorrow."

