

Spring 2020 Newsletter

Village of Rockford, N.C. Est. 1789

Well, this is about the latest we have ever gotten the Spring newsletter out! What a crazy time we are experiencing with this Coronavirus and the stay at home mandate! Hope this newsletter finds everyone doing well. During this shutdown we have taken the opportunity to do extra deep cleaning and painting at the Rockford Inn. We are trying to not let this time of not having guests at the Inn be unproductive. There are always projects that need our attention and I am sure I am not alone in this! We truly appreciate our health professionals and are praying for those families affected by this Virus.

1810 WP Dobson Store/Masonic Lodge

The progress that was being made on the WP Dobson Store/Masonic Lodge building from November to early March came to a screeching halt like everything else. However, work is resuming soon. The exterior siding is to be completed within the next couple weeks and the painter is starting next week! It is exciting to see this building closer to being restored. Below is the progression.

2015



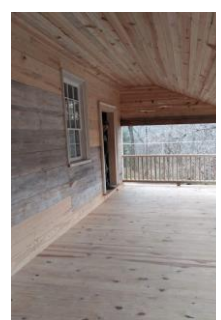
2016



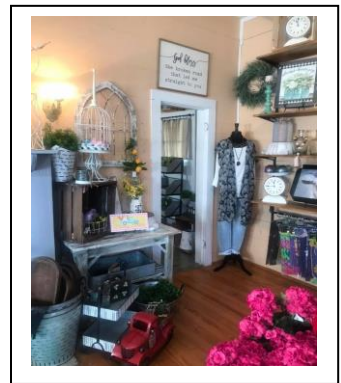
2019



2020



The Sweet Paws Home Goods and Perlie Chic Boutique opened the first of March taking January and February off to do some cleaning, painting and getting all of their spring merchandise out. The shop was doing great until they had to temporarily close with the NC Mandate. Hopefully, they will be back open soon! The Visitor Center and Museum will open very soon also.





Surry County 250th

<https://www.facebook.com/surry250/>

Six years before the United States was established, the founding of Surry County, North Carolina, began with a bill submitted by local leaders in 1770. North Carolina's Colonial Assembly went on to approve bill several months later in the new year, thus creating Surry County in 1771.

In celebration of those two milestone events in its history, Surry County marks its 250th anniversary with a 12-month Sestercentennial celebration running from spring of 2020 to spring of 2021.

- The first event is to be a 250th Anniversary Kickoff Celebration on the square of the historic county courthouse in downtown Dobson. It was originally scheduled for May 2, 2020, but has been postponed because of the coronavirus situation. We will announce a new date for the event when it becomes available.
- The last event, in **April 2021**, is the burying of a time capsule at the historic courthouse that is to be opened 100 years later in 2121.

As more events become available, they will be posted here, so please check back periodically.

In the meantime, here is a link to an informative column about Surry County's founding published in *The Mount Airy News* and written by a member of the 250th Committee: <https://www.mtairynews.com/top-stories/82305/surry-countys-founding>

An interesting tidbit: at the time of its creation, Surry County encompassed a far greater swath of land, including modern-day Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin counties.

We want to sincerely thank everyone who has supported the RPS and our efforts to restore and maintain our part of the Historic Village of Rockford. This year has started off rough for a lot of nonprofits and we are no exception. Our usual May Fundraising dinner that raises the funds for our operating costs like mowing and utilities for the year, had to be put on hold and we are still not sure when we will get to schedule it. Other events will be planned as well, as soon as things open up again.

We are planning ahead for our September 12th Remember Rockford event that will be called ReDiscover Rockford. This year's event will be part of the Surry County 250th events. It will be different than previous years. We will have craft vendors, food trucks and musicians in the park. There will be a guest speaker, a play in the church, and a tour of the Village and surrounding area. (see flyer)

We are working on a new logo and t-shirts for the ReDiscover Rockford re-branding. Hopefully will have them ready for the September 12th event.

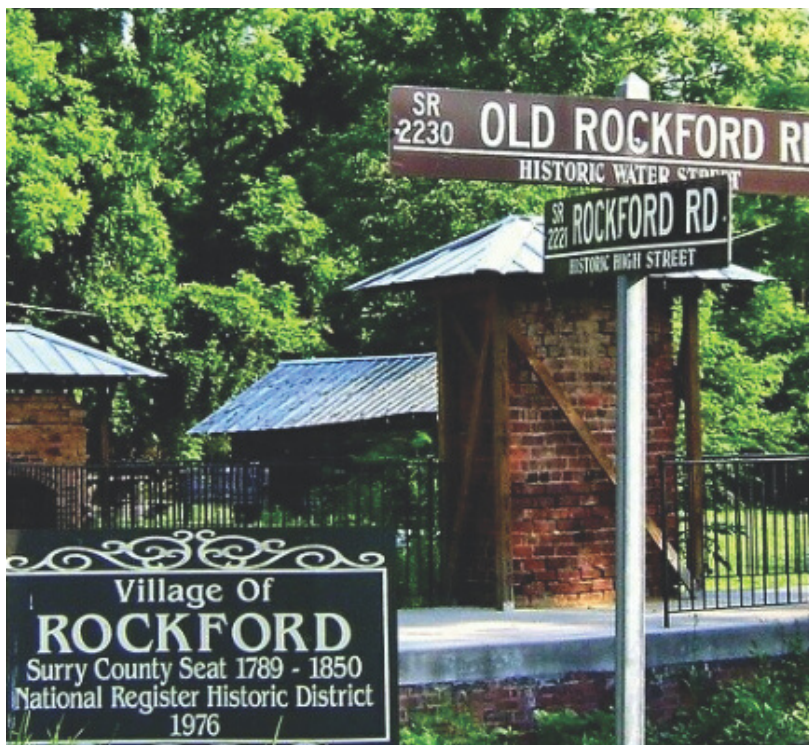
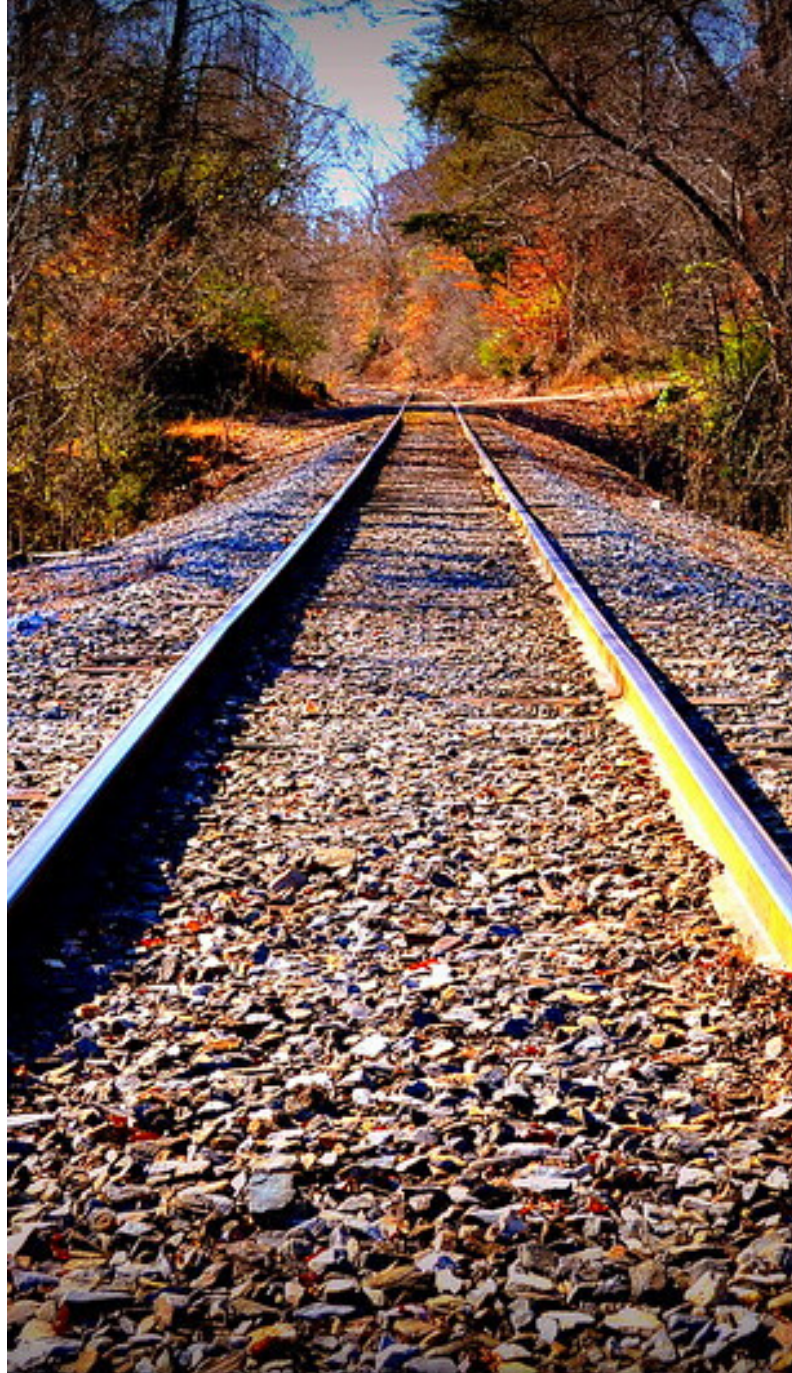
The front and north side of the Methodist Church exterior was painted before Candlelight Christmas. We need to raise funds to finish the rear and south side of the church this spring.

If you would prefer to give online, our website is www.rememberrockford.com. Again, we thank you so much for your support!

**SATURDAY,
SEPT. 12, 2020
10 AM - 4 PM**

REDISCOVER ROCKFORD

- Heritage Crafts and Vendors
- Musicians & Food Trucks at the Rockford Park
- Guest Speakers at the Methodist Church
- Wine tasting at the 1830 Mark York Tavern
- Bus tour of Rockford area
- Sweet Paws Home Goods & Perlie Chic Boutique in the 1850 Davenport Gallery
- Rockford Visitors Center and History Museum in the 1900 Post Office



**10th year of this event
to coincide with the
250th anniversary
of Surry County.**



**Free event,
join us!**

2019 CONTRIBUTIONS

Designation

In Honor or In Memory

RPS CHAMPION - (\$5000 PLUS)

Anonymous WP Dobson Store/Masonic Lodge

RPS ADVOCATE (\$150 - \$499)

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Rex Burrus | Grant-Burrus Hotel Site/Rockford Park | Memory of RC and Viola Burrus |
| Dr. Garland & Mary Ann Wampler | Greatest Need | |
| Mike Jones | Greatest Need | |
| Carolyn Reece | Greatest Need | Memory of Billy Reece and Joe Hicks |
| Marion and Jewell Welborn | Greatest Need | |
| William Freeman | Greatest Need | Memory of Evelyn B Holyfield |
| Clark & Carolyn Comer | Greatest Need | |
| Scott Lowry | Greatest Need | |
| Allen Edwards | Greatest Need | |
| Gene & Peggy Rees | Greatest Need | |
| Paula Stanley | Rockford Methodist Church | |
| Susan Norman | Rockford Methodist Church | |
| Margaret Timberlake | Rockford Methodist Church | Memory of Dr. Wilson Nesbit |
| Dr. Gena Poovey and Noah Lindemann | Rockford Methodist Church | Honor of Will & Jeremiah Greene & Milo Matthews |
| Dr. and Mrs. Richard Merlo | Rockford Methodist Church | Memory of Joe Hicks |
| John and Patti Brame | Rockford Methodist Church | |
| Marion Venable | Rockford Methodist Church/Greatest Need | |
| Dwayne and Karen Carter | Rockford Methodist Church/Greatest Need | |
| Doug and Hannah Holyfield | Rockford Methodist Church/Rockford Book | Memory of Evelyn B Holyfield |
| Betty and David York | York Tavern | |

RPS CONTRIBUTOR (to - \$150)

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Norma Zurich | Davenport Gallery | Memory of W.Y. & Permelia Davenport |
| Carol Davenport Schneider | Davenport Gallery and Post Office | Memory of William Ernest Davenport |
| Jann Davenport Schmitt | Greatest Need | |
| Karen Roberts | Greatest Need | Memory of Dorothy Davenport Heintzl |
| Emma Jean Tucker | Greatest Need | Memory of Lewis & Caroline Dobson |
| Ted Holyfield | Greatest Need | |
| Andrew Mackie | Greatest Need | |
| Emily Norman Corkill | Greatest Need | |
| Wilma Hiatt | Greatest Need | Memory of Joe Hicks |
| Wilma Hiatt | Greatest Need | Memory of Amber Hiatt Ward |
| Vernon and Kay Walker | Greatest Need | Memory of W Y Davenport family |
| Rick and Renee Burrus | Greatest Need | |
| Joyce Ingram | Greatest Need | Honor of Marion Venable |
| Henry W Burrus, Jr | Greatest Need | |
| Carole Simpson | Greatest Need | |
| Dr. Dean and Carole Simmons | Greatest Need | Honor of Randy and Paula Stanley |
| Blanche Burrus Clark | Greatest Need | Memory of Burrus Families |
| Mike and Peggy Stanley | Greatest Need | |
| Duke Energy/Lonnie Miller | Greatest Need | |
| Don and Betty Steele | Greatest Need | |
| Marion Holyfield | Greatest Need | Memory of Robert H. Holyfield |
| Becky Holyfield Link | Greatest Need | Memory of Robert H. & Evelyn Holyfield |
| Rosy Beverley | Greatest Need | |
| Virginia & Thomas Foxx | Greatest Need | |
| Jean Pruitt | Greatest Need | Memory of Tom Pruitt, Jr. |
| Pat Widdowson | Greatest Need | Memory of Catherine White |
| Beverly Cooper | Greatest Need | |
| Andy Matthews | Greatest Need | Memory of Joe C. Matthews |
| Norma Johnson | Greatest Need | Memory of Pat Woltz |
| Joe and Kay Holyfield | Greatest Need | |
| Rebecca Matthews | Greatest Need | Memory of Catherine Hutchens |

RPS CONTRIBUTOR (to - \$150)**cont'd**

| | Designation | In Honor or In Memory |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Lonnie and June Miller | Greatest Need | |
| Teresa Smith | Greatest Need | Memory of Joe Hlcks |
| Tina McCall Cockerham | Greatest Need | Memory of Maurine McCall |
| Margaret Timberlake | Rockford Book Reprint | |
| Karen Roberts | Rockford Methodist Church | Honor of Jann Davenport Schmitt |
| Mary Jane Madison | Rockford Methodist Church | |
| Woody and Helen Faulk | Rockford Methodist Church | Honor of Marion Venable |
| Nannie Lou Kidd | Rockford Methodist Church | |
| Alice B Dobson Simonson | Rockford Methodist Church | Memory of Rockford area ancestors |
| Tom Parker | WP Dobson Store/Masonic Lodge | Honor of Dobson Family |
| Felton and Joan Godwin | WP Dobson Store/Masonic Lodge | Honor of Dr. and Mrs. John Crane |
| Felton and Joan Godwin | WP Dobson Store/Masonic Lodge | Honor of Mac and Carole Simpson |
| Carolyn Garber | York Tavern | |
| Shannon Cavanaugh | York Tavern | Memory of Susan York |

Thank you For Every Kind Of Contribution!

We want to thank everyone for all contributions! Every contribution is appreciated whether you donate for fundraising activities, attend our events, volunteer your time, or donate monetarily, it is all valuable and most appreciated. Your generous gifts make it possible for us to continue restoration, maintain and mow the properties, pay the utilities and insurance, and provide historical and cultural programming to the Village of Rockford. It also gives you a chance to participate in saving a portion of your own personal heritage or Surry County's heritage. We sincerely thank you for helping us make it possible for future generations to enjoy and appreciate their heritage as well.

All donations are tax-deductible and can be sent to:
 Rockford Preservation Society, Inc.
 4844 Rockford Road
 Dobson, NC 27017

2019 Expenses - While we do have unavoidable operating expenses such as the insurance and utilities, the majority of the funds are spent on actual restorations, repairs and maintenance of these historic treasures. As you know, there is no payroll, all RPS Board members and others volunteer their time.

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Restore/Repair/Maintenance - | 15,074 |
| Mowing Expense - | 1,430 |
| Utilities - | 3,092 |
| Events - | 2,452 |
| Newsletters- | 945 |
| Insurance - | 1,342 |

The Rockford Preservation Society, Inc. was organized in 1972 with the purpose of stabilizing and preserving the Town of Rockford as a historic site. Rockford was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 and the Rockford Preservation Society, Inc. was incorporated the same year and obtained 501c(3) designation. The Articles of Incorporation direct that the Society is "to acquire, restore, reconstruct and maintain sites, places and buildings of significant historical, architectural, scenic and aesthetic value". Through the years, the RPS has been led by dedicated volunteers and supporters interested in seeing its mission completed; to restore each property the society owns and for each to be open to the public.