



### On Equal Footing A History of Women at Duke University

by: Percia Swift

In 1892, Trinity College (now Duke University) opened its doors in Durham, North Carolina. The move of Trinity College from its original location in Randolph County to Durham was largely due to the financial support of Washington Duke and Julian Carr, another prominent Durham Tobacco industrialist.

Four years after Trinity's relocation, Washington Duke wrote a letter to the president of the college, John C. Kilgo. In this letter, Duke pledged that he would endow Trinity College with \$100,000, on the condition that the school would "open its doors to women, placing them on an



"Visiting Washington Duke early 1900's"

University Archives, Photograph Collection, Duke University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

equal footing with men." The

size of the gift offered and the content of the letter caused Duke to receive a lot of publicity. He received letters praising his support of women's rights and was even offered the position of Vice President for a national women's suffrage association.

Trinity College swiftly accepted Duke's gift and request. When the College opened in Durham in 1892, women had been admitted, but only as day time students, and four women did enroll that year. The school also had women graduates in 1878 when it was still located in Randolph County. The four women that were enrolled at Trinity in 1892 and were

*(Continued on page 4)*

#### Inside this issue:

On Equal Footing	1, 4
Upcoming Events	2
From the Site Manager's Desk	3
A letter from the President	5
Sponsorship Opportunities	5
Membership Renewal	6

#### Help Us Save Paper!

We at Duke Homestead are doing our best to conserve the environment. If you do not already receive the newsletter in digital form, please contact us via email at [duke@ncdcr.gov](mailto:duke@ncdcr.gov) with your name and preferred email so that we may send you future copies of *GOLD LEAF* via email. Thank you!



## About GOLD LEAF

The Duke Homestead Education and History Corporation publishes *GOLD LEAF*. The Corporation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of the Duke Homestead State Historic Site and Tobacco Museum. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Visit the website, [dukehomestead.org](http://dukehomestead.org), for more information. This newsletter is published semiannually and is available free of charge.

For more information, write:  
Duke Homestead Education and History Corp.  
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Durham, NC 27705  
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**DHEHC President:**  
**GOLD LEAF Editor:**  
**Printing:**

Thomas Shaw  
Julia Rogers  
Sir Speedy



## Financial Report

**Mary Bell**  
*Treasurer*

The funds of the Duke Homestead Education and History Corporation as of April 1, 2014 are as follows:

Sun Trust Business Savings	\$2,835.64
Sun Trust Business Checking	\$3,037.17
Sales Desk Checking:	Account closed on 1/17/14
Sales Desk / Gift Shop Inventory:	\$16,782.32
Scottrade Account:	\$42,049.42
<b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>69,483.16</b>

## Upcoming Events

### *April 26 Community Yard Sale*

Buy and sell second hand items and take home a new treasure of your own! Contact Mia Berg at [Mia.Berg@ncdcr.gov](mailto:Mia.Berg@ncdcr.gov) or call (919) 477-5498 for information on how to sell items at the Yard Sale.  
8:00 am—12:00pm FREE

### *June 14 Bull Fest*

Get back to the Bull City's roots and help us celebrate everything that is Durham, from our history to our local artists, food, and businesses! 10—4 Free

### *July 12 Pork Pickles & Peanuts: Tastes of NC*

North Carolina's food history and heritage take center stage for the day! This festival includes a barbecue cook-off and juried pie competition. Throughout the day, visitors can enjoy historic cooking demonstrations, and browse our local arts and crafts vendors. 10—4 Free

### *August 9 Summer Children's Festival*

The perfect event for families to spend the day together! Throughout the day enjoy music and dancing, and historical crafts, activities and games. 10—4 Free

### *Sept 13 Harvest and Hornworm Festival*

In the morning, see demonstrations of historic tobacco harvesting, stringing, and curing. In the afternoon, hear the sounds of the only tobacco auction left in Durham. Throughout the day, enjoy the hornworm race, Moon Pie eating contest, musical entertainment, craft vendors, refreshments and more. 10—4 Free

Find more information on all of our events at [DukeHomestead.org](http://DukeHomestead.org).

## From the Site Manager's Desk by Jennifer Farley

Lately we have been working with many things finite and rare at Duke Homestead. First and foremost would be the site and its history, which we work to preserve every day. Secondly would be the funds required to meet this mission.

The current financial situation at the site is grim. We have been told that the state can only be relied on to pay full-time salaries and the site's basic utilities and that this is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future.

As a result, we will be relying upon the Duke Homestead Education and History Corporation more than ever to help fund special events, part-time salaries, new museum exhibits, artifact acquisition and preservation, as well as less-exciting (though extremely important) activities such as termite inspection and control, repairs to the historic buildings, and repairs to the general infrastructure of the site.

We at the site spend a great deal of our time coming up with ways to raise money. The 2013 Christmas by Candlelight Tours were ticketed events for the first time, and we added a third, daytime Christmas event that was ticketed as well. We also have tenants in our two site residences and the rent provides a steady income. The income from these events and rentals will fund

a part-time staff member this summer.

Through the support of the Corporation, we have been able to fully fund the library digitization project. All of the reel-to-reel recordings have been digitized, and we are currently working on our collection of cassette tapes. The Corporation also funds the site's 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday events throughout the summer and helps with some of our emergency expenses

The staff has created an ongoing list of site needs with items and projects both big and small. Since the creation of this list last year, we have been able to whittle it down from two pages to a one-page document.

Heading the list of large projects are stabilization of the site's curing barn which has rot and termite damage, stabilization and repairs to the site pack house which has a crack in the foundation, and a new roof for the historic house. On the list of smaller needs are items such as grass seed, a new zero-turn lawn mower, and a heavy-duty sewing machine. If you are interested in seeing the full list of site needs, please contact the site.

Duke Homestead has been extremely lucky this fiscal year in that we are the recipients of Repair and Renovation money through the State of North Carolina. This type of funding is finite and rare indeed, as only a few sites receive any R & R money in a given fiscal year. Duke Homestead's R & R funding will be used to repair and pave the site's parking lot, re-roof the visitor center, and repair a crack in the visitor center's stone veneer. These are all repairs that are many years overdue and we are extremely grateful to have received these funds.

Our work at Duke Homestead is never done. Whether it be educating the public or preserving the site's history, we take our jobs very seriously. With your help, we will be able to see significant progress and improvements throughout Duke Homestead in the coming months and years. A fact that only becomes more obvious over time, we can only do it with your help.

### Meet Percia!

Percia is a UNC Chapel Hill graduate and one of our part-time employees. Percia's salary is made possible because of our Support Group and she, in turn, makes a great many things possible here at Duke Homestead.

On any given day you will find her giving tours, teaching school children, helping to prepare for and run events, doing research for the site, and even writing articles for our newsletter.

Without your support, her position would remain empty.



## On Equal Footing *continued*



Trinity Freshman students 1904

University Archives, Photograph Collection, Duke University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

*(Continued from page 1)*

about to graduate by the time Duke announced his gift, later commented that “Mr. Duke was always interested in us and would question us about our progress and chuckle over our achievements.”

There is no documented evidence of why Duke added the stipulation of women’s equal entrance into the school in order to receive the endowment money; but, a possible explanation could be that this gift was meant to memorialize the life of Duke’s daughter, Mary, who died at the age of forty in 1893. The result of this gift was the

immediate construction of a residential women’s dormitory. The dorm was named the Mary Duke building, after Mary Elizabeth Duke. The construction of this dorm helped increase women’s enrollment at the college to fifty-four by 1904.

The women graduates from Trinity College in 1878 are considered to be the first women graduates of Duke University. Mary, Persis, and Teresa Giles joined Trinity College as a way to prepare themselves to be teachers. While at Trinity, the sisters were considered “special students.” They recited their lessons at the end of the day

after the men had been released; the Giles sisters were not deterred by this special treatment, they eventually went on to continue their education and earned their Masters of

Arts in 1885 from Trinity.

Then, using their education and training, they established Greenwood Female College in South Carolina. Today the women are remembered on Duke’s campus through the establishment of Giles Dormitory school’s east campus, and their portraits hang in room 119 of the East Duke Parlors.

Washington Duke’s dream of having women enrolled in this college on “equal footing with men” has also come to fruition. As of 2012 the total number of men undergraduates at Duke University was 3,302 and the total number of women undergraduates was 3,329.

## A Letter From the President

by Thomas Shaw

Hello. I am Thomas Shaw, President of the Duke Homestead Education and History Corporation. I am an active tobacco and grain farmer from Henderson, NC. I live and farm on a tobacco farm that has been in my family since 1876. Tobacco has been a part of my family's life for a long time.

I became involved with Duke Homestead in 2008 when my daughter started working there as a volunteer while attending college at UNC Chapel Hill. She later worked there as an employee and she still helps out with special events. During that time I became a member of the Duke Homestead Education and History Corporation (DHE&HC) and a board member.

I served as vice president for Mary Bell during her tenure as president. I enjoy working with the staff for special events and meeting people and listening to their stories about growing up with tobacco. I also enjoy telling people about the history of tobacco.

I want to encourage the membership of DHE&HC to be involved with this organization. We need more participation and support from members. We need new members. There are many needs at Duke Homestead. State funding is being cut back and more responsibility is being placed on the support group. We all need to work to secure outside funds to help this site continue. It is my hope that with your help we can grow and improve this historic site and continue to educate people on the importance of tobacco to Durham, to North Carolina, and to this country.

Thomas Shaw



Thomas Shaw helps judge the annual looping contest at the Harvest and Hornworm Festival

## With your support we can meet our needs

**Grass seed** (high traffic. 4 x 7lb bag) ... \$20 per bag

**Erosion Control Mat** ... \$150

**Re-lay brick path in parking lot** ... \$200

**Sewing machine** ... \$200

**New picnic tables** (10) ... \$500 each

**Stabilization to Curing Barn** ... \$4,500

**New seats in auditorium** ... \$12,950 (\$185each)

**Update site bathrooms** ... \$20,000

On this list of needs, you will see a sewing machine. If you have a sewing machine in good condition (a real work horse!) that you would like to donate to the site, please contact us! Donations of gently used items on our wish list are just as welcome as new items.

If you would like to take a gander at the full site list of needs, or want to know more about a particular item, contact Site Manager, Jennifer Farley at (919) 477 – 5498 or email [duke@ncdr.gov](mailto:duke@ncdr.gov).



**GOLD LEAF**

Duke Homestead Education  
and History Corporation  
2828 Duke Homestead Road  
Durham, NC 27705

Phone: 919-477-5498  
Fax: 919-479-7092

Non-profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Durham, NC  
Permit #951

Address Service Requested

***Support Duke Homestead through your Membership!***

Application (Please Print):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City                      State                      Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone                      Evening / Mobile Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_Friend \$20.00 +                      \_\_Hander \$50.00 +  
\_\_Stringer \$100.00 +                      \_\_Primer \$250.00 +  
   \_\_Grower \$500.00 +  
   \_\_Corporate/ Charter Members \$1000.00 +

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

My Check is enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please use my Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code: \_\_\_\_ Exp date: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member: \_\_\_\_

Renewal \_\_\_\_

Member #: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail application with your check or credit card  
information to:

**Duke Homestead Education and History Corporation**  
**Duke Homestead State Historic Site**  
**2828 Duke Homestead Rd.**  
**Durham, NC 27705**