PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE CENTER
MONTREAT

# The Herald

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### Take the Full Tour

Scan for the complete History Trail story, with a map and many more pictures.

NOW OPEN

# A Walk Through Time on the Montreat History Trail




*The first History Trail sign, showing Montreat's original gate (c. 1910), stands in front of today's stone gate. Each of the twelve signs pairs archival photos with a short story.*

The Montreat History Trail is a free, outdoor exhibit along the paved foot path on Assembly Drive, stretching from the Montreat Gate to Lake Susan. The PHC created the trail and installed it in collaboration with the Town of Montreat and MRA. Twelve informational signs line the route, each featuring archival photographs showing what stood on that very spot more than a century ago. A short description accompanies each image, and visitors who want to dig deeper can scan a QR code on their phone for a richer story.

Residents and visitors walk this path every day, passing sites with remarkable stories they may never have heard—the first livery stable, a hotel lost to fire, a long-gone golf course, and much more. The History Trail brings those stories to life right where they happened, turning an everyday walk into a journey through time.

A companion exhibit inside the Heritage Center offers an even deeper look at the early history of Montreat and the beautiful cove in which it sits, with additional artifacts, photographs, and stories drawn from our archives.

The trail is designed to reach people of all ages and backgrounds—including many who may never have visited the Heritage Center before. We hope the trail will spark curiosity, build a deeper appreciation for this remarkable place, and invite everyone to explore Montreat's past in a whole new way.

A complete story about the History Trail, including a map and many pictures, is available on the PHC website at **www.phcmontreat.org**.

*The Herald* is published by the Presbyterian Heritage Center at Montreat.
PO Box 207, Montreat, NC 28757 * 828.669.6556 * www.phcmontreat.org

EXPLORE ONLINE

# The PHC Goes Digital

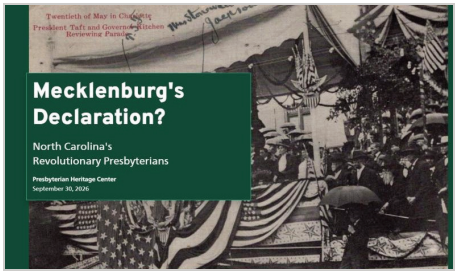
The PHC has more exhibits and materials than most visitors have the time to see, and far more than we can display at one time. For others, getting to Montreat is difficult. To help, the PHC has "gone digital."

PHC guests can now enjoy exhibits, research, programs, historical materials, and more from their computers and other devices. "The PHC offers access to so many resources that promote exploration, study, and discovery," stated Anne Chesky, PHC's Executive Director. "These services are designed to help individuals dive into our collections, archives, library, and historical materials wherever they are."

Online you'll find digital exhibits (a few are shown below); recorded programs, including both our Distinguished Reformation Lectures and our book talks; and "Did You Know?" History Spotlights on Montreat's people, places, and events.

To begin your exploration and discovery, go to the PHC website, **www.phcmontreat.org**, and dig in.







TRILLIUM CIRCLE UPDATE

# Become a Founding Member

There's still time to become a Founding Member of the PHC Trillium Circle before the end of 2026. Thirty-nine individuals and families have already committed to a gift of $10,000 or more, made either during their lifetime or through their estate. These gifts grow our endowment, giving the PHC a steady stream of income and a secure future.

Gifts can come through a will or trust, a life insurance or retirement plan beneficiary designation, appreciated stock or property, or a Qualified Charitable Distribution. If your gift will come through your estate, simply let us know by filling out a short, non-binding form called a Legacy Gift Confirmation.

It would be wonderful to have you become a Founding Member of the Trillium Circle. Thank you for all you do for the PHC!



*Trillium Circle members gather at the PHC for the 2025 Founders Luncheon.*

## Trillium Circle Founding Members

Anne & John Akers
Jane & Hugh Alexander
Elizabeth & Skeet Ayscue
Amy & Mason Blake
Karen & Tommy Brown
Martha & Gill Campbell
Karna & Scott Candler
Dody & Dixon Cunningham
Sue Diehl
Betty & Rusty Douglas
Lucy Dusthimer
Trish & Eddie Edwards
Kitty Fouche
Beth Fountain
Sheila & Alec Fraser
Sally & Rick Giles
Judy & Scott Gregory
Catherine Harkey
Mimi & Tim Helms
Caren & Powell Jones
Marianne & E. G. Lassiter
Nancy Smith Midgette
Charles Moffatt III
Sheri & William Pender
Susanne & Dick Query
Wendy & Harris Ricks
Peggy & Bill Scheu
Eloise & Steve Shepherd
Judy & Gene Shuford
Julia & Mark Sibley-Jones
Kay & Dennis Stockdale
Letta Jean & Rev. James Taylor
Lea Ravenel Walker
Ida & Alva Whitehead
Katie & Tom Widmer
Nancy Thomas & Charles Wofford
Mary Jo & Perrin Wright
Anonymous
Anonymous

To become a Founding Member, contact **Mason Blake** at 321-720-8989 or masonblake@outlook.com.

2026 HERITAGE FUND

# You Help Keep the Stories Alive

At its core, history is a collection of stories. And the PHC's purpose is to tell those stories. In fact, the PHC Vision Statement explicitly states the PHC "transforms lives with storytelling grounded in Christ-centered Reformed traditions."

Those stories are as diverse as they are timeless. For example, we recently told the heart-grabbing story about Hurricane Helene in Montreat. We are currently telling the story about the controversial 1775 Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. And the Cousins Collection of Biblical-era glasswork, pottery, and metal offers a unique glimpse of life around Christ's time.

None of these stories could be told, and preserved, without your help. Gifts to the 2026 Heritage Fund are the primary way the PHC receives funds for its work. Approximately 85% of all donations come from individuals. We receive no regular funding from Presbyterian or other Reformed denominations. We depend upon your generosity. Because the PHC is a 501(c)(3) organization, donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.



*Left: painted jug, Late Bronze Age, about 1400 BC, likely made in Greece. Right: terracotta jug, Late Bronze Age. Both from the Cousins Collection; purchased from Khader M. Baidun & Sons, Jerusalem.*

We are grateful for your generosity and for helping us tell stories that:

***Honor the Past, Inform the Present, and Influence the Future.***

## Gifts can be made in a variety of ways:

- Mail a check in the enclosed self-addressed envelope
- Through our website at **www.phcmontreat.org**
- Scan the QR code at right
- With a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA

SCAN TO GIVE

COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT

# Treasures from the Mission Field

Montreat's Foreign Mission Building (now the Way Out) once displayed objects that missionaries brought home from the places they served.

One of the most striking is this figure carved from porous volcanic stone. It belonged to Mary Love, who served in Mexico from 1955 to 1972 with her mother, Pearle. They lived in Teloloapan, Guerrero, where both volunteered at the Presbyterian mission school. Mary loaned the figure for display in the Foreign Mission Building. Before 1965, it was given to the Historical Foundation of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches here in Montreat. It later came to the PHC, and today it is featured in a new section of our *Missions in Montreat* exhibit.



*Carved volcanic stone figure that belonged to Mary Love.*

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ENEWSLETTER

YOU'RE INVITED

# Annual Christmas Tea

| Wed., Dec. 9 | 3:00 pm | at the PHC |
|---|---|---|
| 2026 | to 5:00 pm | 318 Georgia Terrace |



*Friends gather in the PHC library at a past Christmas Tea.*

Celebrate the season with friends old and new at the PHC's Annual Christmas Tea, with holiday refreshments, warm fellowship, and time to explore our exhibits.

**Free and open to the public. All are welcome!**

FROM THE ARCHIVES

# Lake Susan's Ice Harvest, 1918



*Lake Susan is on the left; the group is standing on the dam.*

The winter of 1917–18 was so cold that Lake Susan froze nearly 18 inches thick. Montreat residents cut the ice into blocks and moved them across the dam to an ice house between the old bookstore and Calvin Auditorium. That ice kept conferees cool for the entire summer that followed.

**Scan to explore more of our online collection**