

# Rosedale News

Margarette Joyner, Editor



## **Historic Rosedale**

3427 N. Tryon Street

P. O. Box 790004

Charlotte, North Carolina 28206

(704) 335-0325

<http://historicrosedale.org>

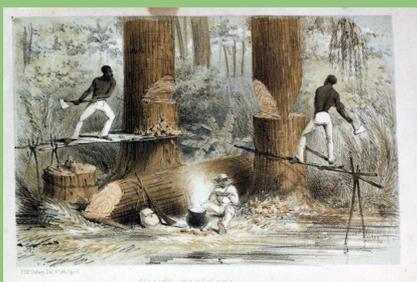
It is the mission of Historic Rosedale to interpret three important themes; the ancestral families who owned the house and surrounding property, the enslaved and freed African Americans who worked and lived on the land through many generations, and the unique architectural features, decorative arts, and natural landscapes that are showcased in the 1815 historic house and its nine acres of gardens and grounds.

## **African American Legacy Project**

*By Margarette Joyner*

Since the hiring of our new African American Legacy Project Coordinator supported by the generosity of SteelFab and Nucor Corporations, we are making great strides in shedding more light on the enslaved individuals who lived and forcibly worked this land for the benefit of the plantation owners. If you will visit our website, and click on the AAL section, you will find new documents, photos and events that give you a closer look at the lives of the enslaved and introduce you to some of their descendants. Exhibits are also available in our dedicated space in the main house throughout the year highlighting the accomplishments of African Americans in music, textile art, and inventions despite the circumstances in which they lived. These exhibits are included in our house tours. Tours of the 1815 building (\$15 fee) are available from Wednesday through Saturday at 11:30 and 1:00. For interest in our programs please feel free to contact Ms. Joyner at 704-335-0325 or by email at: [margarette.joyner@historicrosedale.org](mailto:margarette.joyner@historicrosedale.org).

**Barbara Jackson, Chairman**  
**African American Legacy Project**  
[barbaraj1.2@cloud.com](mailto:barbaraj1.2@cloud.com)



## **What's Next?**



### **"Guided Garden Tours"**

**September 20th**

**10:15 & 11:45**

### **"Family Fun Day"**

**September 27th**

**11:00 - 2:00**

### **"Paranormal Investigation"**

**October 11th**

**Time**

### **"Haunted History: A Look at the Victorian Funeral"**

**TBD**

### **"Drinks Through the Decades"**

**November 8th**

**Time**

### **"Candlelight Tour"**

**December 6th**

**Time**

### **"Christmastide of the Enslaved Exhibit"**

**November & December**

## Guided Garden Tour

Come explore our 9 acres of grounds, including the ArbNet accredited arboretum.

## Family Fun Day

by Margarete Joyner

### Celebrate Summer at Historic Rosedale!

Bring the whole family for a delightful day of hands-on fun! This all-ages event features:  craft stations, engaging storytelling sessions,  classic games, and live blacksmith demos straight from Rosedale's forge

 Plus, enjoy complimentary **pizza (courtesy of Brixx Wood Fired Pizza: Birkdale)** and **light refreshments** with your ticket!  Admission: \$10 per child | \$5 per accompanying adult. We can't wait to see you there!

## Paranormal Investigation

Come on out and see if you have a sense of who is still in the main house or walking the grounds.

## Haunted History: A Look at the Victorian Funeral

Learn about the elaborate mourning customs of the Victorian Era 1837 - 1901

## Drinks Through the Decades

Take a closer look and taste of drinks that define eras.

## Candlelight Tour

Experience Historic Rosedale by candlelight as it was seen by residents and visitors in the past.

## Christmastide of the Enslaved

This exhibit enlightens visitors to the realities of those enslaved individuals working on plantations during the holidays.



### **Tidbit**

Charlotte residents have referred to the downtown area as "Uptown" for years before it was officially designated the historic sector of "Uptown Charlotte" in 1974. Not many locals know that "uptown" actually does sit at a higher elevation than the rest of the city.

## From the Garden



A kitchen garden, also known as a potager, is a compact garden space specifically intended for growing edible plants. It is typically situated near the kitchen or back door for easy access, allowing cooks to harvest fresh ingredients right when they need them.

## A Garden Welcome

*I'm really rooting for our gardens to grow!*

## *From the Executive Director*

**Deanna Witte-Walker**

Nearly four months have passed since I started in this role at Historic Rosedale. I am grateful to each of the staff members who have welcomed me. I am truly impressed by their work and feel fortunate to be able to work together with them. I am inspired by the board of directors, whose commitment to Rosedale is steadfast and strong. It's a great team!

Looking toward the next few months, I will continue to work on standardizing procedures and make sure we are engaging in best practices. It will be exciting to see how the gardens/grounds change with the new season. I am eager to help develop new programs/events, including the Family Fun Day on Sept 27. Please see our website for more information, or give us a call in the office (704-335-0325). We hope you can make it and bring your friends and family.

Together, we support this place, but it is the people, the stories, and events that are so compelling. While I explore Rosedale's history, I am also excited about Rosedale's future. The contemporary story, people, and current events continue to shape Rosedale. With that in mind, I invite you to stop by, give a call, or simply explore what is happening at Historic Rosedale via our website, social media, etc. And please keep in mind, we are always looking for volunteers.

# About the Inhabitants

by Cheralyn Lambeth

**Ann Cowan Frew** married Archibald Frew in 1802. Her father, David Cowan, was prominent in the Sugar Creek community where Rosedale was eventually established and had served as Keeper of Weights and Measures for the county. It was likely that a good portion of the funds needed to purchase the land for Rosedale came from Ann's family money. Together, Archibald and Ann had seven (*possibly eight*) children, one of whom, **Mary Ann Frew**, later returned to Rosedale as governess and teacher to the daughters of her cousin, **Harriet Davidson Caldwell**.

## Descendant Spotlight

by Margarett Joyner



*Fred Caldwell Knox Sr. with 2 of his grandsons,  
Harold Wiley Jr. (Butch) & Richard Wiley (Dickey) Circa  
1944 or 1945*

Fred Knox Sr., (1905 - 1968) was a Painter and Plasterer in New York City. He was the child of Sarah Caldwell Knox, (1874 - 1897) and William Knox, (1873 - Unknown) who lived in Mallard Creek township and were married in the 1900s in Charlotte, NC.

Sarah and William had a total of 9 children and they are all descendants of George Caldwell Jr. who was Sarah's father. Fred Sr. married Lois Foster and together they had 2 children, Louise, and Fred Jr. After Lois and Fred Sr. divorced, he remarried and they had a daughter named Adrienne.

*(Photo: Historic Rosedale Foundation)*

## Laborers

by Martin Foil

*A word from our Blacksmith*

The blacksmith shop is looking forward to Fall and cooler temperatures! Our resident blacksmiths – Jason, John M., John W. Gene, Dalvin and Martin are on hand each Saturday to teach inquisitive guests about the enslaved smiths at Rosedale and demonstrate 19th century blacksmithing at the same time. Guests can even test their mettle by operating the forge bellows! The smiths also continue to uncover more on the history of blacksmithing at Rosedale. For instance, in 1838 Dr. Caldwell purchased equipment for the forge at Rosedale from Mecklenburg County resident John Johnson. Included in the purchase: a set of bellows, \$24, anvil, \$18 and miscellaneous tools, at \$11.25. Thus began a legacy of blacksmithing that culminated with George Caldwell establishing two blacksmith shops in Charlotte at some point after the civil war.



*Martin Foil and Jason Blanchett teaching and demonstrating*

## The Gift Shop

Looking for a special gift with local charm? Historic Rosedale has you covered! Our Gift Shop is brimming with treasures from local vendors to help you welcome the fall season. Enjoy our delicious honey—harvested right here on the grounds—perfect for hot tea or seasonal baking. Cozy up with our newly stocked quilts, or explore one-of-a-kind blacksmith pieces and historic toys that reflect Rosedale’s complex history. Every purchase supports the preservation of Historic Rosedale, so you can take home something meaningful while keeping history alive.



### Join the Friends of Historic Rosedale

We’ve all heard it - *Membership has its benefits*. This holds true at Historic Rosedale. Members receive a host of benefits: Free grounds admission, free guided house tours, discounts at the gift shop, on event tickets, and in some cases discounts on site rental fees. Most importantly, membership fees help fund the often-overlooked general operating expenses of the Foundation. Preservation and special programming can be funded by grants and large individual donors, but it is the everyday expenses of running the site and the Foundation that suffer most from a lack of financial security. This is especially true for private foundations which receive no government funding. Is becoming a member important? **YES!** Become our friend and join today!

[Membership - Historic Rosedale](#)



**Donations!** *Every little bit helps!*

**Volunteers!** *If you have an hour or two, we'll take it!*

## Poetry Corner

**'I Know Not How It Falls On Me**  
**Emily Bronte, 1831**

*I know not how it falls on me,  
This summer evening, hushed and lone;  
Yet the faint wind comes soothingly  
With something of an olden tone.*

*Forgive me if I've shunned so long  
Your gentle greeting earth and air!  
But sorrow withers e'en the strong,  
And who can fight against despair?*

### Did you know?

Thomas Jefferson was one of America’s first wine connoisseurs. He imported French wines and even tried growing wine grapes at Monticello.

### A Word From The Board

by Janet Levy

I am happy to report that Ms. Tamia Allen Williams has joined the Board of Directors of Historic Rosedale. She is a descendent of George Caldwell, an enslaved man at Rosedale. Her late mother, Tawana Allen, and her father, Emmanuel Allen, have been longtime supporters of Rosedale and we are honored to have her join our Board.

Ms. Hunter Hamilton has joined our staff, taking charge of the gift shop, giving tours, managing the schedule, and, among other tasks, making it possible for Rosedale to be open on Saturdays. Hunter is a recent graduate in History from Queens University in Charlotte.

The city of Charlotte, through the Foundation for the Carolinas, has provided a grant for general operations for the current fiscal year, and Ms. Agnes Weisiger, Board member, has provided ongoing generous support. Historic Rosedale is very grateful to all the foundations, individuals, organizations, businesses, and government units who contribute. The success of our mission depends on the support of donors and members.