

# Rosedale News

Margarette Joyner, Editor



## Historic Rosedale

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<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 Barbara Jackson



Get ready, get ready, get ready!! Juneteenth is fast approaching and this year we are extremely excited to be celebrating African American traditions through spirituality. Our theme, "Praise Him," is going to be a gathering of song, spoken word and Moving Spirits Inc., (under the direction of Tamara Williams), will conduct libation and present a dance entitled "A Sacred Hymn for Duke" performed to Duke Ellington's work "Praise God and Dance." So mark your calendars for June 20, 2026 from 12:00 - 3:00 to come celebrate, fellowship and give thanks for our freedom!

**Reserve the Date!!**

**Memorial Garden Dedication - 11/07/2026**

For interest in our programs, please feel free to email:  
[office@historicrosedale.org](mailto:office@historicrosedale.org) or  
Barbara Jackson, Chairperson  
[barbaraj1.2@cloud.com](mailto:barbaraj1.2@cloud.com)

## Weaving the Tale

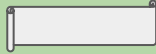
Isaac Cook and Sarah Frew have an interesting connection. Isaac Cook first appears in the Mecklenburg County court records being licensed to operate a tavern. This is the same tavern where George Washington stayed on his southern trip in 1791. There were a lot of other people in Mecklenburg named Cook at that time. From 1780 to 1800, only two people named Frew show up in the County Records and they are Archibald and Sarah. In 1795, when Sarah was 23, she received a promissory note from Isaac Cook for 128 pounds, a lot of money in those days. At the same time, the note was secured by a mortgage on what looks like all of Isaac Cook's tavern gear. It included 3 dozen chairs, one dozen tables and four feather beds plus livestock and kitchen equipment. - *Jim Williams, Mecklenburg Historical Association*

## Tidbit

### "A King's Tribute to His Queen"

King George III named "Charlotte Town" after his wife, Queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. The county of Mecklenburg is named after the region of Germany she was born in.

## ***What's Next?***



### ***Stitched in Tradition***

Through June 27th

“Stitched in Tradition: 200 Years of Bridal History” will be on display through the end of June, and is included with regular house tours. An accompanying curator’s talk will be taking place on June 23.

### ***Juneteenth***

June 20th from 12:00 - 3:00

*(Under the pavilion)*

This holiday marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed. They came two years after the Emancipation Proclamation!

### ***Sitting at the Feet of our Elders***

Friday, June 26th at 4:30

*(formal garden)*

This poetry reading presented by Aneb Kgositlase, a Black Arts Movement artist and African-centered educator, is open to the public. We look forward to seeing you at this powerful event.

### ***Love of Liberty: The Revolutionary Spirit of Historic Rosedale***

This exhibit will feature stories of those connected to Rosedale who not only helped shape the nation during the Revolutionary War but also carried that spirit throughout the pivotal events in our nation’s history. The exhibit opens July 1st, and will be included with regular guided house tours. Later in the summer, an accompanying panel discussion will take place.

To register for all events, please visit our website. And as always, be sure to join us for regular guided house tours every Wednesday through Saturday at 11:30 and 1:30 pm. We look forward to having you join us!

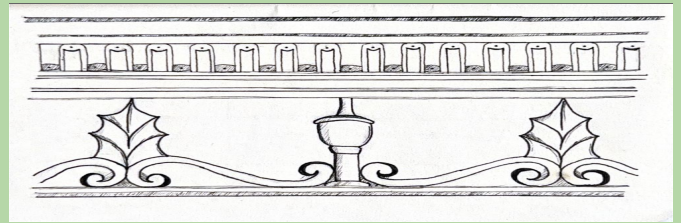
[Homepage - Historic Rosedale](#)

## ***From the Garden***

Rosedale’s roses are in full bloom!



### ***Architecture by Caroline Cook***



*Formal dining room, classical dentil crown molding above a hand-carved frieze featuring acanthus leaves and urn motifs.*

### ***From the Executive Director Deanna Witte-Walker***

Summer is fast approaching and if this summer is anything like last, I expect visitors will not be deterred by warm temperatures. Thank goodness for visitors, and thank goodness for air conditioning!

I want to take this opportunity to encourage you to consider the role that Historic Rosedale plays in the community. Our city is rapidly changing, but when you enter this historic site, you are transported back in time. Some of the elements of our past are beautiful while others are quite tragic. We can learn from all the history – the good and bad. Preservation of this site is critical to that learning and our shared growth.

Instead of highlighting individual events or programs this quarter, my request of you is to please spread the word – will you share what you find valuable about Rosedale with others? Encourage friends, family and acquaintances to learn more about this special place, to visit, and to support our good work.

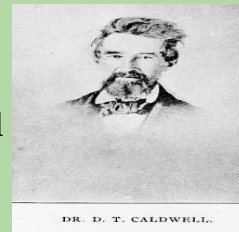
*Hope to see you around!*

[deanna.witte-walker@historicrosedale.org](mailto:deanna.witte-walker@historicrosedale.org)

# About the Inhabitants

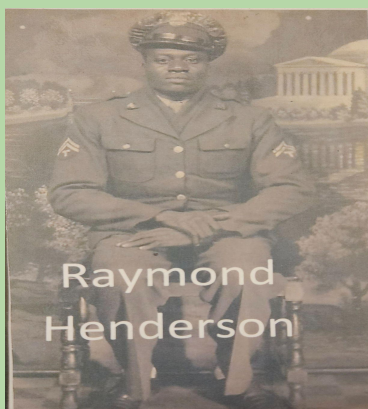
*by Cheralyn Lambeth*

**Dr. David Caldwell (1799 - 1861)** came from a wealthy, religious family. He graduated from The State University of Chapel Hill in 1819, then he attended a series of medical lectures in Philadelphia. In 1820, Dr. Caldwell began practicing medicine in Charlotte with a partner, Dr. McKenzie. In 1826, David married Harriet Davidson. Between 1827 and 1844, they had eight children, four boys and four girls. The Caldwell's move into Frew's old plantation in 1832. At the time the property still belonged to Harriet's father William Davidson. The next year David purchased the property by selling a piece of land in Tennessee that Harriet had inherited from her late mother. The family lived comfortably for the next dozen years, making money in many different ways including cash from crops, lumber sold locally, and enforced labor. In 1844, tragedy struck as an epidemic of erysipelas came through town and within a year, Harriet and three of their children died. After his wife's death, he brought in an enslaved woman named Cherry from the Grove Plantation, to take care of their remaining five children. In 1849, Dr. Caldwell married Adeline Hutchison, a wealthy woman from Rock Hill. They had one daughter named Addie, born 1851.



## Descendant Spotlight

*by Margarett Joyner*



According to the 1940 U.S. Federal Census, Raymond Eugene Henderson was born abt 1922. His parents were Lester and Carrie Henderson who worked on the Rosedale Plantation. With a high school education, he worked in a cotton mill as a textile worker for 44 hours a week. Raymond enlisted in the Army on October 31, 1942 at Fort Bragg, N.C. He became a technician 5th grade, the highest level in that field, (*equal to a corporal*) without the ability to give commands. He died on May 4, 2006 and is buried in the Veterans Cemetery in Salisbury, N.C.

## Laborers *by Martin Foil*

*A word from our Blacksmith*

Summer is on its way but it's already hot in the Historic Rosedale blacksmith shop! Our resident blacksmiths always love sharing our ancient craft with interested guests! Blacksmiths are in the shop most Saturdays each month to demonstrate our craft and educate visitors about the enslaved smiths at Rosedale. While you're visiting the shop, be sure to ask to take a turn at operating the forge bellows! (*You may be appointed an official Blacksmith Apprentice*)

We have new hand forged keychain fobs for sale in the gift shop. Each keychain fob has the Sankofa symbol stamped on it. This stamp was made from a tracing of the andirons attributed to enslaved blacksmith Nat in the great hall of the house. Be sure to pick one up when you visit!



## **The Gift Shop**

*By Hunter Hamilton*

As summer begins, the Gift Shop is blooming with fresh finds. We're excited to welcome new local vendors, bringing a beautiful mix of handcrafted goods and thoughtfully curated pieces to our shelves. This season, you'll find charming teacup candles in bright, summery scents, festive table runners perfect for warm-weather gatherings, and our popular local honey straight from our own beehives. Whether you're stopping by after a tour or simply searching for a unique seasonal treasure, every purchase supports the preservation of Rosedale and helps us continue sharing its stories with the community.

### ***Did you know?***

*Thomas Jefferson was often called "Long Tom" due to his height of 6' 2½". This nickname highlighted his imposing stature.*

### **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 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](#)

### ***Business Member***



## **Poetry Corner**

### **"The Eagle"**

*by Tennyson, 1851*

*He clasps the crag with crooked hands;  
Close to the sun in lonely lands,  
Ring'd with the azure world, he stands*

*The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;  
He watches from his mountain walls,  
And like a thunderbolt he falls.*

## **A Word From The Board**

*by Janet Levy*

In addition to our staff, operations at Historic Rosedale are also supported by volunteers, like the Board of Directors who are committed to overseeing Rosedale's fiscal and legal sustainment. The volunteers who support daily activities, Gene Pease, John Watson, and Martin Foil maintain the smithy, demonstrating, and creating handmade items for the gift shop. Several friendly guides provide tours of the house, including Ashley Duggan, Caroline Cook, Sean Sullivan, and Michele Lemere, as well as blacksmith Gene Pease. Among other contributions, these volunteers have allowed us to open Rosedale on all Saturdays. Michele also contributes to managing Rosedale's collections. Another group of volunteers work in the gardens and on the landscape: Barbara Coppola, Sean Sullivan, Susan Burlingame. and Board member, Tina Wright. In addition, Kyle Smith, a descendant of the enslaved at Rosedale, and Ronald Schumann, along with other Board members, are leading the development of the new garden space which is a memorial to the enslaved individuals who worked and lived on the property. Jen Kurceski supports our gift shop, Max Morton provides valuable support to our IT operations, and Sekiya Billman is working on a research project with the 19th century journals written by Dr. David Caldwell. Currently, our longest serving volunteer is Janet Dyer, a historic researcher who contributes to taking care of our collections. It would be extremely difficult to welcome visitors and maintain the property without them and we are grateful. If you are interested in volunteering, contact: [office@historicrosedale.org](mailto:office@historicrosedale.org)