



ROWAN ROOTS

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Brown-Fisher Association

Rowan County, North Carolina

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Editor: Brenda Zimmerman

2019 GERMANFEST AND BROWN FISHER ASSOCIATION REUNION SCHEDULED...COME RAIN OR SHINE

‘Come rain or come shine...’ has been the US Postal Service motto for years. Perhaps the Brown Fisher Association (the Association) needs to adopt the same motto after Hurricane Matthew created havoc with our Reunion last fall. Ultimately a decision was made to postpone last year’s event for one month to allow rescheduling of our enactors and to allow the grounds to partially, well mostly, dry out.

We are now planning for the 2019 reunion, which will be the 94th annual reunion of the combined Association, and this year we have a rain delay contingency plan. Please plan to attend the reunion at the Michael Brown House and Grounds on Saturday, September 21 with a rain date of Saturday, September 28. **Please reserve your spot in advance using the enclosed reservation form. The form will also be available on our website should you need additional copies.**

As discussed later in this letter, you’ll find many changes to the grounds, specifically that the caretaker’s house has been removed and grading work is underway for a new education center. The center will house a large event space, kitchen, an office/gift shop among other amenities, and a spacious archives room to house the Brown-Fisher family archives. Rowan Museum is weeks away from launching a capital campaign and we truly hope you will consider a financial contribution.

The reunion will once again be held in conjunction with Rowan Museum’s popular Germanfest. Rowan Museum’s Friday evening Patron’s Party (\$50 admission) will feature a presentation by Dr. Michael Thompson of Pfeiffer College whose thesis was centered around NC Barbeque. Please refer to Rowan Museum’s website (www.rowanmuseum.org) for reservation information. Current Brown-Fisher members are admitted at no charge to Saturday’s Germanfest while there’s a \$5 fee for non-member adults and \$3 for youth. Highlights of the Saturday event will be the availability of German foods, beer and traditional German activities such as dances, children’s games and re-enactors. The list of re-enactors is quite extensive and includes, but is not limited to: the Mecklenburg Revolutionary War Militia, petting animals, apothecary (colonial herbs & medicine), music by Windsong Recorder group, displays by local churches (Organ Lutheran, Grace Lower Stone Reformed, Union Lutheran), which were founded in part by Brown and Fisher descendants, and the

Nathan Brown House rehabilitation project. A new glassblower re-enactor will be making and selling an MBH replica flask/bottle made before your very eyes. Don’t forget to return the enclosed reservation form if you plan to attend. Overall it looks to be a wonderful opportunity to see the initial stages of the improvements to the MBH grounds while reconnecting with cousins from various parts of the country. Please plan to join us.



Kaye Hirst preparing vegetables for cooking over an open fire.



Theo Buerbaum, a renowned local photographer and bookstore owner, is portrayed at a recent Germanfest by The Honorable Judge John Holshouser.



TIMES, THEY ARE A' CHANGING

By Aaron Keply, Executive Director, Rowan Museum

When I took over as museum director three years ago, Kaye Brown Hirst, the previous director, showed me a plan from the early 2000s that was a radical rethinking of the Michael Brown House Museum and Grounds. That plan had a barn, pasture, and garden, along with a building containing storage space and bathrooms. A separate structure housed archives and museum space. There were some things about it that I didn't like, mainly having a parking lot located directly in front of the house, but the ideas and dream were there. This made clear to me the tremendous potential to expand our educational programming at the house and grounds.

In December of 2017 the museum was offered a gift of Representative Eugene and Jean McComb's log cabin in Faith. The Rowan Museum quickly began thinking about what could be done to integrate the cabin into the house and grounds. Representatives of the Brown-Fisher Association were also involved in the early discussions as well. I remember talking with Juanita Lagg about the new potential made possible by the gift. She was so excited that we were thinking about expanding the educational opportunities of the property. A committee comprised of members of both the Rowan Museum and Brown-Fisher Boards began to look at a myriad of options to expand the grounds, including utilizing existing structures and new construction. Due to structural limitations, the caretaker's house was quickly eliminated as an option to be converted into a visitor center. Asbestos siding also made destruction too costly. The committee determined that moving the caretaker's house off the property was the best option. A mover was hired who offered to move the McCombs cabin in conjunction with the caretaker's house.

Next, the committee began to dream about a future building near the road and south of the Michael Brown House that could be used as a home for the Brown-Fisher Archives, an education/meeting hall, and, critically needed handicap accessible restrooms. The entire planning process had one goal in mind: whatever would be built on the property must be secondary to the Michael Brown House. Our focus was on making sure the majesty of the house would be the focal point for generations to come. It was during this time of great excitement and progress that Juanita passed away. It was a blow from which the Brown-Fisher Association and Rowan Museum are still trying to recover. Her foresight in including the Michael Brown House in her will, however, ensures that the project is viable. As a result of her substantial gift, the

Rowan Museum Board has decided that the new structure will tentatively be named the Dr. Elmer and Juanita Lagg Education Center to honor Juanita's lifelong service to and love of the Michael Brown House. In addition, Dr. Lagg made much of Juanita's work possible, traveling with her across the country and overseas doing genealogical research.

The committee's goal is to kickoff the Capital fundraising campaign at this year's Germanfest. Presently, the education center is designed to resemble a German barn on the outside and a German beer hall on the inside. There will be ample room inside the structure for the large school groups that currently tour the house and grounds, for weddings, and, of course, for Brown-Fisher Association reunions. The main hall of the building will have a large window on the north side giving those inside a totally unobstructed panoramic view of the Michael Brown House and Grounds. To the east and south of the education center will be a future living history farm with a barn, corn crib, workshops, and slave cabins (possibly built with logs from the McCombs cabin) to represent the 15 slaves owned by Michael Brown in 1790.

My personal goal for this project is to have a working historical farm that is the leading educational site in the Piedmont for historical interpretation of the 1700s in the South. I want students from Rowan, Cabarrus, Stanly, and Mecklenburg to come to the Michael Brown House and Grounds to learn about early settlement in the Piedmont of North Carolina rather than traveling an additional hour to Old Salem. I want the Michael Brown House to be the destination for historic tourism that it should be. One of the most powerful realizations I've had since becoming Executive Director was during a tour when I said my usual, "This was a palace in its time compared to other houses of its era." and it hit me that it is actually nicer than most of our houses today as well! To think that Michael Brown built a structure 253 years ago on the frontier of colonial settlement that has not only withstood the test of time, but is still an architectural marvel continues to amaze. This historic site and structure is an incredible source of pride for our community. I am looking forward to your help in making this dream possible through your participation in the upcoming historic Capital campaign.





MOVING GROUND AROUND OLD STONE HOUSE



Before house and tree removal project



Caretaker's house loaded up and ready to go



First photo after house removal



After house and tree removal project





MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

We all do it. The paper bills arrive monthly and the most important ones get paid first while other mail gets put aside for processing later. Perhaps that's where you placed your 2019 BFA membership renewal? Unfortunately, we have had disappointing results thus far from 2019 Membership Campaign. We accept some responsibility as our membership reminder was not mailed in December 2018 or January 2019 in accordance with our fiscal year due to circumstances beyond our control. Our newsletter editor, Cathy Kirchin's health dramatically worsened, resulting in her unexpected death in February. She was in the process of compiling the spring newsletter, but we could not locate her drafts, forcing us to start over. Unfortunately, it wasn't until April that the newsletter was written, processed, and mailed. This certainly put our campaign far behind. It was a trying process from start to finish.

Nevertheless, we still need you, your children, siblings and other extended family members to send in your 2019 membership fee. Visit the Donate page (<https://www.brownfisher.org/donate.html>) on our website to join/renew. You may also donate in honor of/in memory of someone at this same page. Your membership dues are crucial and make our newsletter, website and Facebook group page

possible. So please help us today!

We are committed to getting our membership drive back in compliance with our bylaws which state that the annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31 of each year. To that end, we will be sending out 2020 renewal notices at the end of 2019.

We are extremely grateful for your support and hope we can rely upon you to help keep our Association moving ahead.



AS WE REMEMBER . . .

The Association offers our condolences to the family of perhaps our most famous descendant, Senator Richard Green Lugar, (R-IN), who passed away on May 28 at the age of 87. Cousin Sylvia Wiseman published a lengthy article in May 1995 stating that Senator Lugar was a fifth great-grandson of Michael Brown, descending from Michael's daughter Christina who married John Eakles/Echols and lived in Giles County, Va. and whose descendants migrated to Indiana. Lugar was a fifth generation Hoosier farmer who was the only elected six term senator in Hoosier history. Senator Lugar became one of our country's foremost foreign policy leaders, working to end apartheid in South Africa, remove Philippine strongman Ferdinand Marcos, and, with Senator Sam Nunn

(D-Ga), secured an agreement with Russia to limit and destroy weapons of mass destruction. He was also a guiding force in the creation of the national Veteran's History Project (VHP) which seeks to record, in either audio or video format, the recollections and experiences of all veterans, regardless of conflict. These recordings are then stored by the Library of Congress and made available for anyone to listen or view in perpetuity. Senator Lugar was swept from office by a surprising primary loss during 2012's Tea Party Rebellion. President Barack Obama in 2013 awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor. Interestingly, it is said that Senator Lugar later disavowed being a descendant of Rowan County's Michael Brown.





Family Record Sheet

Instructions: (rev 11/18)
Marriage/marriages: If the descendant has been married more than one time, please fill out separate sheet for each marriage, noting the children of each marriage.
Children: Please fill out a separate family sheet for each adult child and /or any child that is deceased

I have Brown ancestors I have Fisher ancestors I have ancestors from both. My line is:

Dad: _____ G: _____ GG: _____ GGG: _____ GGGG: _____

Mom: _____ G: _____ GG: _____ GGG: _____ GGGG: _____

(G = Grandparent, GG=Great Gparent, GGG=Great, Great Gparent, GGGG=Great, Great, Great Gparent)

Descendant's Name _____ Nickname or Called Name _____
First name Middle name Surname

Descendant's Address: _____

Descendant's Parents are: _____
Father's First Name Middle Name Father's Surname

And _____
Mother's First Name Middle Name Mother's Maiden Surname

Date of Birth _____ Birthplace _____
Day Month Year (DD/MM/YYYY) City/County State

Date of Death _____ Place of Death _____
Day Month Year (DD/MM/YYYY) City/County State

Buried? _____ in _____ Located in _____
Yes/No Name of Cemetery City/County State

Cremated? _____ Is there a marker? _____ Marker located in _____
Yes/No Yes/No Name of Family/Church/Public Cemetery

Located in _____ Occupation of Descendant _____
City/County State

Descendant married on _____ in _____
Day Month Year (MM/DD/YYYY) City/County State

Divorced _____ Is this the only marriage _____ Second marriage _____ Other(s) _____
Yes/No Yes/No Yes/No Indicate which marriage

Descendant's Spouse _____ Nickname or called name _____
First Name Middle Name Surname

Date of Birth _____ Birthplace _____
Day Month Year (DD/MM/YYYY) City/County State

Date of Death _____ Place of Death _____
Day Month Year (DD/MM/YYYY) City/County State

Buried? _____ in _____ Located in _____
Yes/No Name of Cemetery City/County State

Cremated? _____ Is there a marker? _____ Marker located in _____
Yes/No Yes/No Name of Family/Church/Public Cemetery

Located in _____ Occupation of Spouse _____
City/County State

Spouse's Parents are: _____
Father's First Name Middle Name Father's surname

and _____
Mother's first name Middle name Mother's Maiden Surname





Family Record Sheet

Children of Dependent and Spouse

_____ Children born to this marriage _____ Adopted _____ (if adopted, is this child
number yes/no yes/no
from former marriage of spouse?) _____ Step-children _____ How Many? _____
yes/no yes/no

Child's Name first, middle, and surname	Date of Birth day, month- spelled out, year	Born Where: town/county and state
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____

stepchild's name first, middle, and surname	date of birth day, month- spelled out, year	Born where: town/county and state
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____

Biographical information: such as military service, church affiliation, education, honors, clubs and associations, or any other information that you would like to share:

Provide the name(s), mailing address(es), email address(es) & phone number(s) of your children:
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

If not the Descendant listed above, this information is submitted by:

First name	Middle name	Surname	Email
_____	_____	_____	_____
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code
_____	_____	_____	_____

Please return promptly to: Betty Dan Spencer, 280 Topsail Dr., Salisbury, NC 28147. Please do not hesitate to call: (704) 636-6998 or e-mail: bdspencer@carolina.rr.com should you have any questions.





Brown-Fisher Association, Inc

Rowan Roots

August 2019

Brown-Fisher Association Annual Reunion

At the Michael Brown (Old Stone) House, 770 Old Stone House Road, Granite Quarry, NC 28072

Saturday, September 21, 2019, Registration 10am – President’s Greeting/Lunch 11:30am – Meeting 12pm

Directions to house: From I-85, take US Hwy. 52 South to Granite Quarry & turn left onto Old Stone House Road. Travel approximately ½ mile and the house will be on your right.

Questions? Email info@brownfisher.org

JOIN US FOR GERMANFEST 2019 AT THE MICHAEL BROWN HOUSE

We invite you to celebrate our German heritage at Rowan Museum’s Germanfest, beginning with Deutscher Abend (a German Evening) Friday night (reservations required), and continuing with events all day Saturday in conjunction with our annual reunion. More information is available on Rowan Museum’s website at www.rowanmuseum.org.

-----CUT HERE & RETURN IN ENCLOSED ENVELOPE-----

Brown-Fisher Association Annual Reunion Reservation Form – RETURN BY SEPTEMBER 14, 2019

Please mail this form & payment, if any, to Brown-Fisher Association, c/o Rowan Museum, 202 N. Main St., Salisbury, NC 28144

Member’s 1st Name _____ MI/Maiden Name _____ Last Name _____

Spouse/Partner’s 1st Name _____ MI/Maiden Name _____ Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip Code _____

Telephone Number (____) _____ E-mail address _____

Lunch includes scrumptious hot dogs and hamburgers with all the fixings, chips, baked beans, drink and a dessert.

Number of adults eating lunch @ \$10 each ____ Number of children (age 10 and under) eating lunch @ \$5 each ____

Total Amount enclosed _____ (Please make your payable to Brown-Fisher Association, Inc.)

Your name tag will serve as your meal ticket. Name tag(s) should read:

Member: _____ Active/Retired Military? _____ Branch: _____

Spouse/Partner: _____ Child: _____ Age: _____

Child: _____ Age: _____ Child: _____ Age: _____

Child: _____ Age: _____ Child: _____ Age: _____

HOW ARE YOU RELATED? (include a second page as needed)

I am a Brown descendant, I am a Fisher descendant, or I am a descendant of both families. My line is:

Dad: _____ Grand: _____ GG: _____ GGG: _____ GGGG: _____

Mom: _____ Grand: _____ GG: _____ GGG: _____ GGGG: _____

(Grand = Grandparent, GG=Great Grandparent, GGG=Great, Great Grandparent, GGGG=Great, Great, Great Grandparent)

YOUR FAMILY UPDATES SINCE LAST REUNION

(Full names please. Use a separate page as needed. List dates in MM/DD/YYYY format)

Births: _____ Date: _____ to _____ & _____

Deaths: _____ of _____, _____ Death Date: _____

Weddings: _____ to _____ Date: _____

Divorces: _____ from _____ Date: _____

Please bring your family heirlooms (quilts, photos, scrapbooks, genealogy research, etc.) for display & discussion!





August 2019

ROWAN ROOTS

Brown-Fisher Association, Inc.



PRESORTED STANDARD US POSTAGE PAID CHARLOTTE, NC PERMIT #3307

Brown-Fisher Association, Inc.

202 N. Main St
Salisbury, NC 28144

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

www.brownfisher.org
info@brownfisher.org
@brownfisherassociation

COORDINATOR'S CORNER... HISTORY IN THE MAKING*By Doug Robinson, Coordinator*

It's a very exciting and an historic time for the Brown-Fisher Association. Impactful improvements are underway at the Michael Brown House and Grounds. It is literally history in the making, as these are the most extensive improvements to the property perhaps since its construction in 1766. Of course, these improvements are of keen interest to our adult descendants. It's also an opportunity to involve our younger generations in these historic changes. As current caretakers of this property, we need to impress upon them that the future of this jewel will depend upon them and their future financial support. We have the responsibility to teach them the importance of making annual donations as they are able and encourage their continued support when they become adults.

Once again, I can't stress enough how very important it is for you to renew your membership/join the association.

We are busy trying to make up lost ground on our 2019 Membership Drive and really need you! Regarding annual membership, your BFA Board has not increased our membership fees since the two families came together to create the Association back in 1994. Our newsletter expenses have risen significantly since then. Additionally we now have website hosting and design expenses. As a result, at the annual meeting, your BFA Board will present a motion increasing our annual membership fees, effective 2020, as follows: Annual, from \$10 to \$15; Donor, from \$25 to \$30; and Sustaining, from \$50 to \$75. The Board chose to leave the Lifetime Membership fee unchanged at \$250. We hope that you appreciate the restraint the board has exhibited for the last 25 years and that you'll agree these increases are important to the Association's future.

