



## PUBLIC INFORMATION

ITEM NO. 2.

**DATE OF MEETING:** June 4, 2012

**REQUESTED BY:** Mike Taylor, Library Director

**SHORT TITLE:** Donation to Pender County Public Library of the Contents of the William Dallas Herring Memorial Library in Rose Hill, NC

**BACKGROUND:** With the full backing of the Pender County Board of Commissioners and County Manager, the Pender County Public Library made a proposal to the Duplin County Historical Foundation to donate the contents of the William Dallas Herring Memorial Library in Rose Hill to Pender County Public Library (attached). This proposal has been formally accepted by the foundation as stated in the accompanying letter dated May 22, 2012.

The Herring Memorial Library is an outstanding regional collection of local history and genealogy and is privately owned and operated by the Duplin foundation. It was founded by Dr. Dallas Herring, "father of the NC Community College system," and supported financially by a bequest upon his death in 2007. Now the funding is running low. Despite all attempts of the foundation to keep the collection there, Duplin County and other institutions were unable to fund or sponsor it to the foundation's satisfaction, opening the door to out-of-county proposals.

Pender County Library's plan is to locate the collection in the historic York House on Cowan Street in Burgaw directly across from the public library. This is reminiscent of Dr. Herring's historic Rose Hill home where the collection is now. Before it is moved, work will first begin for repair and maintenance of the building using funds already budgeted for the York House. A physical assessment of the needs has been conducted likely requiring additional funding to complete the work. Plans to move Tourism and Veterans offices to other locations had already been in the works prior to and independent of this development.

The Library Board of Trustees has voted to name this the William Dallas Herring Regional Heritage Collection of Genealogy and Local History which is in agreement with the Duplin County Historical Foundation. Once moved and organized the library will initially be opened two days a week and at other times by appointment until additional help is funded. As it has in Duplin County, the collection is expected to draw visitors to Pender County from many counties in the state as well as from across the country.

The Library Director and Library Board of Trustees express gratitude to the Duplin County Historical Foundation for placing their trust in Pender County. We also thank the Pender County Board of Commissioners and County Manager for their critical support and commitment without which this could not have been possible for Pender County and for North Carolina.



## PENDER COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

**Central Library:**  
Michael Y Taylor, Director

PO BOX 879, 103 SOUTH COWAN STREET  
BURGAW, NC 28425  
PHONE: 910-259-1234 FAX: 910-259-0506

**Hampstead Branch:**  
Marsha Dees, Mgr.

75 LIBRARY DRIVE  
HAMPSTEAD, NC 28443  
PHONE: 910-270-4603 FAX 910-270-5015

Board of Directors  
Duplin County Historical Foundation  
PO Box 130  
Rose Hill, NC 28458

May 19, 2012

Dear Board Members:

Pender County is this day issuing an official invitation to your board to donate the genealogy and local history collection that Dr. Dallas Herring amassed to the Pender County Public Library. We would propose to commemorate Dr. Herring's memory by naming the collection after him as part of the Pender County Public Library. This library is well supported by the public. In the most recent state rankings, we ranked 10 from the top of all county library systems in the state in library loans per capita. The public library in Pender County has also established a respectable track record for preservation and access to local history and family heritage over the past 25 years.

A growing issue has been lack of space in the current library. A 2007 facilities study is on record recommending an additional 16,000 square feet. This is not likely to happen in the near future. However we have the opportunity to work together to establish a regional local history and family heritage in a separate facility honoring Dr. Herring. The historic York House across Cowan Street from our library is owned by the county and has been used for offices for a good number of years. As such, it has received a number of desirable upgrades such as computer network wiring. At present, Pender County has already budgeted \$75,000 for painting and repair work on the house. A detailed assessment of need has been conducted and would include taking steps to strengthen the flooring from residential to commercial to avoid potential problems of the weight of the collection.

If offered to Pender County, we could accept the collection and Dr. Herring's memory would be preserved by naming it after him. For example, the Dallas Herring Regional Heritage Research Collection is one possible suggestion. We would welcome the shelving as well as the collection and could maintain the present arrangement of the collection for the foreseeable future. We would welcome your involvement as volunteers and value your input and advice. In addition, we would welcome exploring ways to incorporate any of the special interior architectural elements of the Herring house that you might consider passing on to recall the ambiance of Dr. Herring's library in Rose Hill.

Staff: We have a part-time (20 hr/wk) archivist, June Swinson, who has long been a genealogist with interest in history along with a volunteer pool. After the upcoming budget year we would make it a priority to increase the current position, or add another part-time position in our budget request. We could be open to the public part-time and by appointment. Certainly as demand presents itself, we will seek to increase hours of operation and a full time manager of the collection, likely a history major.

Leadership: I offer my personal commitment also as library director with deep historical interests and passions in our region. My roots hail from Duplin County since the Revolution. I have been here 27 years, in good health and only 57 years old. I have no inclination to retire and love what I do, particularly with regional history, a sincere passion.

Proximity and Kinship: We are certainly close in proximity to Duplin County. Our library location is a short drive off I-40 with no heavy traffic to drive through. We are similar to Duplin County in culture, history and bloodlines. The Duplin militia were Patriot heroes at the Battle of Moores Creek! My ancestor was among them. The genealogy collection you have is superb. Our book collection, though it has grown, is smaller so all the works you have in genealogy and NC and local history would be prized and retained.

Technology and Innovation: We can position the contents of the collection to be discovered to a wider audience. We would engage in cataloging the collection which in essence is an inventory with indexing to increase the power of the finding aids. Our catalog is not only available online like most other public libraries, but the contents are structured to allow Internet search engines such as Google to post matches to queries. Our historic photograph collection and clipping files are indexed to increase identification possibilities. We also engage in scanning manuscripts so they can be accessed by computer. This increases security for the original document since it can be shared by computer in the library.

We would also implement security measures for the physical collection. The building already has a burglar alarm system and a fire alarm system wired to the fire station a few blocks away should be added. A book security system, like in the library across the street, would be installed. Visitors would check in and be asked to leave bags and such in the lobby. Computer stations with scanning equipment and Internet access would be part of the service. The library provides public access to Ancestry.com and HeritageQuest.com genealogy databases.

Service to Duplin County: There is no charge to Duplin residents who want to use and borrow books from the Pender County Public Library. The same policy applies to all counties surrounding Pender except New Hanover. In return, these counties do not charge Pender residents. (When New Hanover imposed a fee on out-of-county users, we did the for New Hanover, though it a lower fee than they charge us)

Overview of Plan: We would move our own Pender Historical files and collection to be a part of the proposed Dallas Herring Regional Heritage Collection. In addition to a 20 hr/wk archivist, we have a full time technology/cataloger specialist that contributes time to our historical collection management. We would certainly welcome an volunteers from Duplin. Our history and genealogy files, and our historic photograph collection are all indexed and searchable on the online catalog found on the Internet. Subject searches on the Internet, like Google, automatically search the contents of our catalog. Our photograph collection exists online in an easily searched and viewed website. We digitize rare and valuable documents. This also supports preservation and safety from damage from handling and theft. We are growing and improving every year. We would also implement a book security system. We also have ways to protect our files while still providing

access.

The library seeks to provide programming in regional history on an ongoing basis. We have a meeting room in the library across the street from the York House that seats one hundred. Our Friends of the Library provides stipends for speakers and programs on historical subjects. I am enclosing information about our hosting a Smithsonian exhibit beginning in June and the series of special programs being offered by a partnership of community groups which are the arts council, the historical society and the Burgaw Depot Foundation.

As I said earlier, we have a long range library facility plan for Pender County. The original recommendation of expansion by 16,000 square feet will likely be impacted by a revision in light of the growing impact of digitalization. The current scheme to expand the current central library with a two story addition on the north and west sides. A footprint design has been done by an architect showing how at least another 10,000 square feet can easily be added. It may not happen soon, but in a better economic day the historical collection could be housed in a modern facility with hours of operation the same as the general library.

In closing, I want to say the Pender County Commissioners were unanimous in offering their support for this proposal. They pledged to back up this offer with the repairs to the house and support of this endeavor. Dr. Herring is remembered, respected and revered for his life work. This collection which was a passionate interest would continue in his memory. County lines are artificial boundaries which do not confine natural affections between members of families, marriage, and new families. We share a great deal. I hope you will consider and say yes to this invitation to donate the collection to Pender County to hold in trust for us all.

Sincerely,

Mike Taylor  
Library Director



Duplin County Historical Foundation, Inc.  
314 East Main Street, Post Office Box 100  
Rose Hill, NC 28458

May 22, 2012

Pender County Board of Commissioners  
Post Office Box 5  
Burgaw, NC 29425

Dear Sirs,

We have been in consultation with your Library Director, Mr. Michael Taylor, concerning your offer to accept the contents of the William Dallas Herring Memorial Library, which we understand will be located in the York House across the street from your public library.

Our foundation Board of Directors met with Mr. Taylor and your County Manager, Dr. Mickey Duval, at your library on May 19, 2012. We toured the York House and had an opportunity to listen to your proposal and ask questions concerning the transfer. We were very impressed with the enthusiastic and professional presentation and the positive attitude toward the possibility of receiving the collection. Their assurance of the support of the entire Pender County Board of Commissioners was most reassuring.

The Board of Directors of the Duplin County Historical Foundation, Inc. hereby accepts your offer. Your willingness to preserve the memory of Dr. Herring by naming the collection after him is appreciated. We have talked on several occasions with Mr. Taylor. I called him today to inform him that we have accepted your proposal. Details and timing of the transfer of books, shelving, publications, equipment, and furniture will be coordinated with Mr. Taylor.

There are items in Dallas' library that are personal to Dr. Herring's family which will not be transferred. They have been discussed with Mr. Taylor. Also there are some books and other items that are not of a historical or genealogical nature that are not to be transferred and will be disposed of by the Foundation.

Thank you for your interest and willingness to preserve the lifetime collection of Dr. Herring.

Sincerely, 

Horace Fussell Jr. President  
Duplin County Historical Foundation

