UNC ENGAGEMENT WEEK 2022

# North Carolina Digital Heritage Center: Increasing Access to Local History

## Who We Are

THE NORTH CAROLINA DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER works with cultural heritage organizations to share their community histories online by scanning, describing, and providing open and ongoing access to materials from their collections. We catalyze the work of local history professionals by sharing best practices and workflows for scanning and sharing historic materials. Through this work, untold stories from North Carolinians throughout the state and across time can be discovered by an international audience.

THE CENTER'S MISSION is to support community engagement and lifelong learning by promoting and increasing open access to North Carolina's cultural heritage.

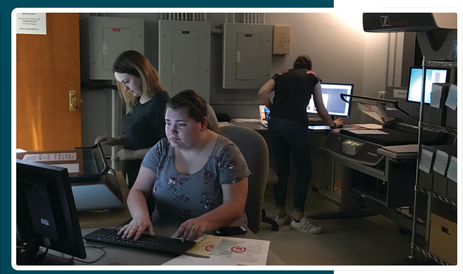
## Our Story

A PARTNERSHIP PROJECT between the State Library of North Carolina and Wilson Special Collections Library at UNC-Chapel Hill, the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center was formed in 2010 to provide a centralized entity that could assist institutions in scanning and sharing local history materials from their collections at no cost to the institution. The Center began scanning yearbooks from a number of area colleges and also worked with some smaller libraries and museums on scoped projects centered around historic photographs, museum objects, and urban development records.

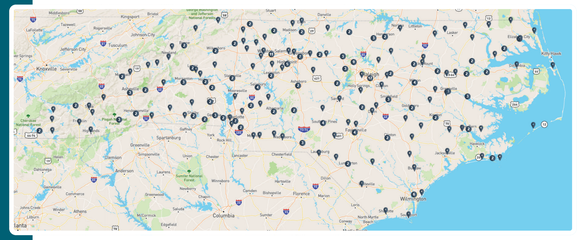
Through the years, the Center has expanded its reach as well as the types of items digitized. Partners select materials that are a priority for them and their users, leading to an eclectic website with millions of images found nowhere else on the internet. Much of the work is completed in Wilson Library's Digital Production Center (BELOW LEFT) on a variety of high end scanners created for use with fragile historic items. Today, the Center's top goals include sharing more materials from communities underrepresented in archives and libraries, and increasing the amount of newspaper content available through our website, DigitalNC.org.

## WE WORK WITH

Libraries
Alumni Associations
Historic Societies
Museums
Genealogical Societies
Archives



## By the Numbers



TO DATE, the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center has worked with 302 partners across all 100 North Carolina counties. Statistics from our website, DigitalNC.org, offer a glimpse at the reach of materials digitized and published online by the Center:

**5.8 million+**
images and files (and growing!)

**1,000+**
visitors per day

**61%**
of traffic comes from North Carolina

Most popular item types include:

College and High School Yearbooks
Community and Student Newspapers
Photographs and Moving Images

## CONNECT

https://www.digitalnc.org
NCDigitalHeritageCenter
@ncdhc
digitalnc@unc.edu

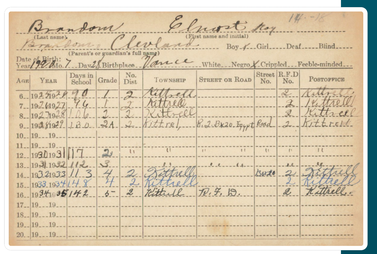
## Project Highlights

### Scanning on Site in Camden County

IN AUGUST 2021, staff traveled to Camden County to scan materials at the Camden County Heritage Museum and the Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center. We met with local curators and librarians, who told us about the history of this rural coastal area. Among the items scanned were some views of bridges, roads, and canals built in the 1920s to encourage travel around Camden County. There were also photographs of industry in the Dismal Swamp and along the coastline.

### School Census Cards from the Henderson Institute in Vance County

WORKING CLOSELY WITH the Henderson Institute Historical Museum, NCDHC has been scanning records about Black students at Henderson Institute and other area schools from the early 1900s. The Henderson Institute was formed in 1887 and operated up until desegregation in 1970. These records show basic information about the students: name, birthplace and birthdate, parent's name, and attendance records. The Museum suggested these records for scanning as a way for researchers and family members to locate hard-to-find information about students in the area.



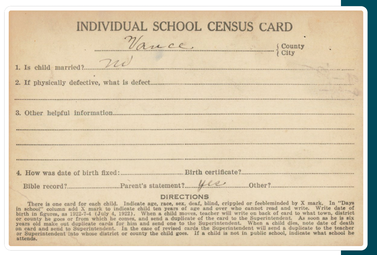



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**PHOTO CREDITS**
Mauney Memorial Library (TOP LEFT), Lisa Gregory (BOTTOM LEFT), Ashlie Brewer (TOP RIGHT), Henderson Institute (bottom right). Icons from the Noun Project.