



# BYNUM *front porch*



# newsletter

15th Issue † January 2015

### Our Mission:

The Bynum Front Porch organization creates family-friendly events and programs that celebrate the community's rich history and bright future.

### About us

They say **"once you get that Bynum mud between your toes, you'll always come back"** and that is exactly what has kept the town going since the 1800's.

## BYNUM at a glance

### Newbies

**Isai, son of Luis Ramos**  
**Nina Siegler**  
**Robert Zubik**

### Hatches

**Emmett McKay Zigler** – Born Dec 22 at 7 pounds 14 ounces to parents Brienne McCay & Matt Zigler



CHATHAM  
ARTS  
COUNCIL

## Greetings, Bynum neighbors!

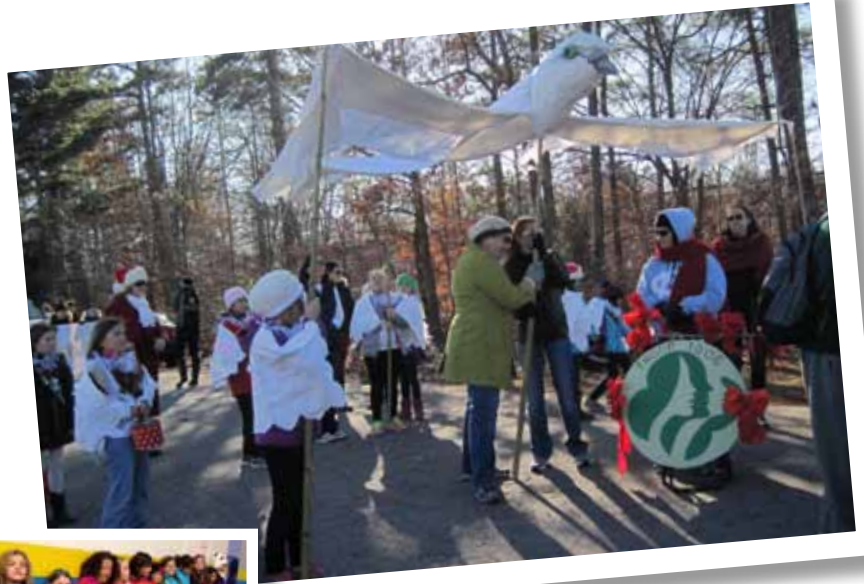
We at the Chatham Arts Council are grateful for your hospitality once again as we save the date for the 14th annual ClydeFEST, kids' festival of folk art fun, on May 2, 2015. The Bynum Ballfield will once again be home to this beloved Chatham Arts Council tradition.

Thank you for welcoming kids and parents from near and far to experience the special brand of creativity that is ClydeFEST.

Here's what David, parent of a 3-year old had to say about last year's festival: "This is the first time we've been, and we'll definitely be back. I think what I love the most is how friendly everyone is. It's just the perfect place to hang out as a family."

We'll work hard to be sure that ClydeFEST- going families respect the Bynum community and neighbors' parking preferences again this year. Thanks in advance for any input -- and for all the excellent help you provide.

And...in case you haven't taken a look at our new website yet, head on over to [www.chathamartscouncil.org](http://www.chathamartscouncil.org). You can learn more about how ClydeFEST is part of the Chatham Arts Council's new focus on Educating Kids Through the Arts.



## Bynum

### Girl Scout Troop 1006 Highlight

**G**irl Scout Troop 1006 kicked off the school year with a bang! The second year Brownies went on their first hiking trip to Jordan Lake in October. Led by two Brownies' moms, Lesley Matthews and Robena Meek, the girls learned about some survival and safety tips such as how to start a fire and use a pocket knife to sharpen a stick (apparently that was most exciting!). The girls are now ready to plan for their first camping trip in the spring!

The girls used the early meetings to plan what outings, service projects, and other activities we would do for the year. With money earned from cookie sales, in November, Troop 1006 welcomed winter with an ice-skating party at the Orange County Sportsplex in Hillsborough. For some of our girls this was their first time ice-skating! They all had a blast even with many falls and laughter.

In December, the Brownies participated in the Pittsboro Christmas parade. They showcased the beautiful, one and only dove of peace which they constructed under the guidance of Jan Berger of Paperhand Puppet Intervention and Marchellina Waugh. Last year the inclement weather prevented the paper dove's participation in the parade, so the girls were so excited that they finally got to hold the dove and wings high in the sunny sky. Each girl also wore her own individually designed and hand-made wings during the procession. The brownies wrapped up the parade and 2014 with hot cocoa and lots of candies!

And folks, you have waited a whole year for this but wait no more! The wildly anticipated and delicious GIRL SCOUT COOKIES will be starting on Jan 17th!! So get your wallet and appetite ready!



## Cadle Cooper's Barber Shop

Have you ever had the need for a barber shop, well there's one right here in Bynum. Cadle Cooper's barber shop has been open since 1978. He opens the doors on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 5pm(ish) – 8:30(ish). He was born and raised in Bynum and in 1972 had the brick house on Durham Eubanks Rd built. When asked how many haircuts are done each week he laughed and said that it varies and supposes its "enough to stay in business". When asked what was the longest beard he ever trimmed, he calculated it was probably a 10 inch beard (*could that be Santa?*). He has some barber jokes to share and probably some stories too. Stop by and get a trim from your local barber.

*Cadle Cooper cutting the hair of customer Mark Barnes. Picture by John Winecker*

## Bynum Ruritan Club

We continue to support the Bynum Community in many ways. We try to help those in need that have lost jobs, been ill, or for any other reasons that have brought on hard times. We also give an Educational Grant to a deserving Chatham HS student who is going to continue their education. Our main fundraising is our Monthly Suppers. We appreciate the support you have shown and hope that you will continue to come enjoy the fellowship at these suppers. We are also seeking new members so that we can continue to serve the residents of Bynum. The Ruritan Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm. A pot-luck supper is enjoyed by the members and guests. We invite you to attend our meetings and learn more about The Ruritan Club Chatham Arts Council

## THE HAW RIVER Canoe & Kayak Co

Happy New Year to everyone in Bynum. We wish you much happiness and success in 2015. Our 2015 paddling season will start again on March 1st when we begin renting canoes and kayaks. Through the middle of May, our emphasis will be on whitewater canoe and kayak instruction with courses for beginner or novice paddlers. More advanced courses will also be offered.

Although we will emphasize whitewater instruction during the spring months, we anticipate that many people will just want to rent a canoe or recreational kayak and get out on the river for a couple of hours. Upriver of the dam in Bynum, the Haw River offers a relaxing, wonderful opportunity to shed the effects of cabin fever.

We are still looking for that special individual to be our Bynum Outpost Rental Coordinator, so if you are interested in the position or know of someone who might be, please have her or him contact us at 336-260-6465 or send us an Email message to admin@hawrivercanoe.com. Our vision for 2015 is for the Coordinator to work on weekends beginning from mid-April through the end of September, or possibly October. If there seems to be enough interest in mid-week rentals, especially during the summer months, the weekend job could be extended to also include some week-day work.

## Bynum: THE COMING OF MILL VILLAGE LIFE TO A NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY

**Another installment of our sometimes series highlighting an excerpt from the 1985 dissertation by Douglas Paul De Natale, University of Pennsylvania (Starting from Page 156)**

An unexpected blow came in January, 1907, with the sudden failure of the Odell Manufacturing Company in Concord. J. M. Odell had himself been carried away by his enthusiastic expansion, and had purchased a large Bessemer City mill with the hope of involving the Duke family in its financing. When the Dukes declined to invest, he violated his own policies and underwrote the concern with his Concord assets. The failure of the Bessemer mill, together with a series of reversals in Odell's efforts to stave off creditors—including a destructive fire in his Concord plant—led to the total collapse of Odell's enterprise, with the single exception of his holdings in Bynum. The Bynum mill was tiny by Odell's standards, and he had never bothered to link it to the rest of his ventures. A relieved Chatham Record reported:

We are pleased to know that the failure of the Odell's at Concord does not at all affect the J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company, which owns the cotton mill at Bynum. This is a separate corporation and is perfectly solvent. The failure of Messrs. J. M. and W. R. Odell is much regretted by their many friends.

The Odells' misfortune proved a boon for W. L. London, however. Although the Odells would retain the presidency of the J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company until its demise in the 1970's, their protegee W. L. London, by now a majority stockholder, came out from their shadow. While the Bynum mill was recovering from the Odell bankruptcy, London expanded his own Pittsboro business, advertising as "Chatham County's Largest Department Store." In 1909, W. L. London and his son Arthur announced plans to construct a second Pittsboro hosiery mill behind their general store, with a capacity of 1500 pairs of hose a day. Completed in September, the Elizabeth Hosiery Mill, owned entirely by the Londons, employed twenty-five women and consumed a sizeable portion of the Bynum mill's output.

Unlike his earlier venture, the Elizabeth Hosiery mill remained in continuous operation until 1919, two years after London's death. From 1907 until 1916, the Bynum mill under London and



The Bynum Community Garden hosted its annual Fall bonfire/wiener roast at the garden on October 26 to socialize with friends and neighbors and to mark the end of the summer growing season. Folks gathered around our new fire pit just before dusk to roast hot dogs and munch on side dishes. A highlight of the evening was the unveiling of a large cake commemorating the garden's 5th season of providing fresh vegetables to our gardeners and to our community.

Charlotte Glen, Chatham County's newest Extension Service agent, visited the garden on November 7th to learn about the history of the garden, how it operates, and what needs the county may be able to help with. Charlotte has replaced Al Cooke, who has retired from the Extension Service. Thanks to Al for his support in the past, and welcome to Charlotte with whom we look forward to working in the future.

While winter is in full swing and the Halloween pumpkins are comfortably composting in the garden's compost bins, the garden will hold its annual garden sign-up/seed swap and a garden work day in late January or early February in anticipation of an early Spring.

Garden members as well as others are welcome to participate in these events. The garden will hold its annual garden sign-up/seed swap on Feb 15th from 1-3 pm. A garden work day will be organized for some time in anticipation of an early Spring. Anyone interested in renting a bed can contact Maggie Frantz at [maggiesmagic2002@yahoo.com](mailto:maggiesmagic2002@yahoo.com).

**FREE MULCH**  
*up for Grabs*

The mulch in front of the old C.E. Durham store (that's near the corner of Bynum Road & Durham Eubanks Rd.) should be ready for your yards & gardens. Most of it has aged for a year now. Please feel free to come and take a load or several loads for FREE.

Moore's management enjoyed the general prosperity that favored the southern textile industry during this period. Then in April, 1916, a second disaster hit the company: "The cotton mill at Bynum was entirely destroyed by fire last Sunday, which was caused by a flash of lightning striking the tower in the middle of the building and setting the building on fire," reported the Record. "The alarm was promptly given and every effort was made to extinguish the rapidly spreading flames, but all in vain." The dry old wooden building made excellent tinder, and the workers gathered around to watch the mill collapse. Lewis Durham recalled:

Some of them was glad to see it burn. They thought, you know, they were tired of working in the thing, younger ones. ... My oldest brother had been working in the mill some, and he was glad to see it burn. The boys at that age, they knew it was all lost anyhow, and they was out there throwing rocks at the windows, busting the window lights out that the heat hadn't already busted, just to see them bust.

The only portions of the mill saved were the lapper room and a warehouse containing raw cotton. The loss amounted to \$125,000. In the following week, the stockholders met and announced their decision to rebuild the mill. Only half of the loss was covered by insurance, but the company was solvent enough replace the mill with a brick structure and new machinery, and to purchase the old Bynum grist mill at the same time. Once again, the displaced workers were given employment in rebuilding the mill. The mill also purchased a Corbett truck in June to replace the old factory wagon, and not coincidentally, the Pittsboro-Bynum road was surfaced by the county in September at a cost of \$250 per mile. But the fire had a further casualty, when W. L. London succumbed to the stress of rebuilding his company, and fell mortally ill. When the seventy-nine year-old London died in December, a special stockholder meeting was hastily called, and Arthur H. London was elected to replace his father as secretary/treasurer of the company. His full succession to his father's position in the county was confirmed the following month, when the Bank of Pittsboro also selected him to be its new president.

Ironically, A. H. London had far more modest business goals than his father, and under his supervision the company reverted to much of the sense of local enterprise it had felt during the Bynums' ownership. By this period it was clear that much of the industrial development of the Piedmont had bypassed Chatham County, despite the London family's best efforts.

When the new mill was completed in June, 1917, Arthur London continued his father's practice of managing the company from Pittsboro, but purchased a Ford roadster in order to visit the Bynum plant daily. With continued prosperity in textiles, the

company did see expansion into the early 1920s. The number of spindles was increased from 5200 in 1917 to 10,000 in 1919, and an addition to the mill was built in that year. From 1921 to 1923, a new concrete dam was built downstream from the wooden dam, without interrupting work in the mill, and the county replaced the wooden covered bridge with a concrete span at the same time. In 1922, electric lights powered by a generator in the mill allowed the introduction of a full second shift, and the number of spindles were increased to 12,000. "They built fifteen new houses up there on the mill village . . . and it brought an influx of a whole lot of new people in there, from Saxapahaw, from Gibsonville, from Siler City, from down around Fayetteville - they come in there to work on that night shift." In 1928, the mill finally began utilizing a combination of water power and electricity for powering its machinery when the Carolina Power and Light Company ran a power line from Pittsboro.

But these gains were modest in comparison to the North Carolina textile industry as a whole, and they were made at the expense of W. L. London's earlier dreams of expansion as his son decided it necessary to relinquish the family's other concerns in order to concentrate on Bynum. The Hosiery mill was closed in 1919, and the equipment was sold to a Georgia mill three years later. The Pittsboro store was closed in 1923 upon the death of W. L. London's widow, who had resisted its sale during her lifetime. When the Great Depression struck the textile industry in the late 1920s, A. H. London's conservative management proved a mitigating factor: "They tried to hold up the labor force as much as possible, to retain as many people. But they had to cut down on production, because they couldn't sell it." With the elimination of a shift, workers were forced to share jobs, each person working two days one week and three the next, but the Bynum mill was the only textile factory along the length of the Haw that was able to run continuously throughout the Depression. London also resisted the sale of the mill village, a common practice among southern textile firms during the period. "My father always felt it was better to run it," explained his son Lawrence, "It was more of an economic thing on the part of the mill operators [who sold their villages] than it being better for the people." The mill saw no further expansion after a final addition to the plant in 1948.

As a result of A. H. London's conservatism, Bynum retained many of the characteristics of a turn-of-the-century mill village until the very end of the Londons' tenure. London's son John succeeded as secretary-treasurer in 1964, and managed the mill until his retirement in 1979, when the plant was leased and later sold to the Tuscarora Yarn Company of Mount Pleasant, North Carolina.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## JANUARY

- 1 Ruritan New Year Breakfast 10am
- 10 BFP Pickin' Acoustic round circle 10am-1pm
- 17 Girl Scout Cookie Sale Begins
- 24 BFP Pickin' Acoustic round circle 10am-1pm

## FEBRUARY

- 14 BFP Pickin' Acoustic round circle 10am-1pm
- 15 Seed swap at Bynum Community Garden 1-3 pm
- 21 Ruritan Dumplin' Supper 4-7 pm
- 28 BFP Pickin' Acoustic round circle 10am-1pm

## MARCH

- 14 BFP Pickin' Acoustic round circle 10am-1pm  
Ruritan Supper TBD
- 28 BFP Pickin' Acoustic round circle 10am-1pm

## APRIL

- 5 Ruritan Easter Sunrise Breakfast 7am
- 11 BFP Pickin' Acoustic round circle 10am-1pm
- 18 Work Day – come along and help out
- 25 BFP Pickin' Acoustic round circle 10am-1pm

## MAY

- 1 Friday Night Music Series begins 7pm-9pm
- 2 ClydeFest

## Corporate Sponsors:

*Bynum Front Porch gratefully acknowledges the following sponsors for their support!*

### Auto Pro

5522 US Hwy 15-501N.  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
**919-542-0964**

### Hope Crossing Animal Hospital

58 East Cotton Rd  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
**919-542-1975**  
[www.hopexcrossing.com](http://www.hopexcrossing.com)

## Ways you can help

- \* Volunteer on one of the BFP Committees
- \* Donate Items from the BFP Wish List
- \* Join as a Corporate Sponsor
- \* Buy your Christmas Tree, Wreath & Garland from BFP

## Wish List

- \* Licensed Electrician – the building and stages could use some donated skills from a licensed electrician
- \* Solar Powered Lights

*BFP is a non-profit organization, your tax deductible donations are always welcome:*

950 Bynum Road,  
P.O. Box 381,  
Bynum, NC 27228

[bynumfrontporch@gmail.com](mailto:bynumfrontporch@gmail.com)

[www.bynumfrontporch.org](http://www.bynumfrontporch.org)

Send newsletter content to  
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## Bynum P.O. BOXES

Please remember that our Bynum P.O. Box kiosk is in continual danger of being closed and the **Bynum Zip Code lost forever**. If you are considering discontinuing the use of your P.O. Box, please pass the key to someone else to use your box number. The more active P.O. Boxes that are maintained, the less likely Bynum will lose the zip code, and other neighbors can keep their addresses, so that rural delivery mail boxes at residences will not have to be installed.  
**More info: Martha Collins, 919-542-7399.**

## Bynum Artist Nathanael Mays of Cooper Mays Pottery

“Face jugs primarily continue to evolve as a folk tradition inspired by slaves of southern plantation owners. Slaves would sneak into the the potter’s studios late at night and find freshly made jugs and urns and scraps of workable clay. The end result of their fear of impending evil spirits led them to the studio, where they made faces of spirits on the jugs. These faces represented spirits that would protect them from the evil ones that lurked in the dark of night.”

