

# DURHAM HISTORY CRASH COURSE

September 14, 2023

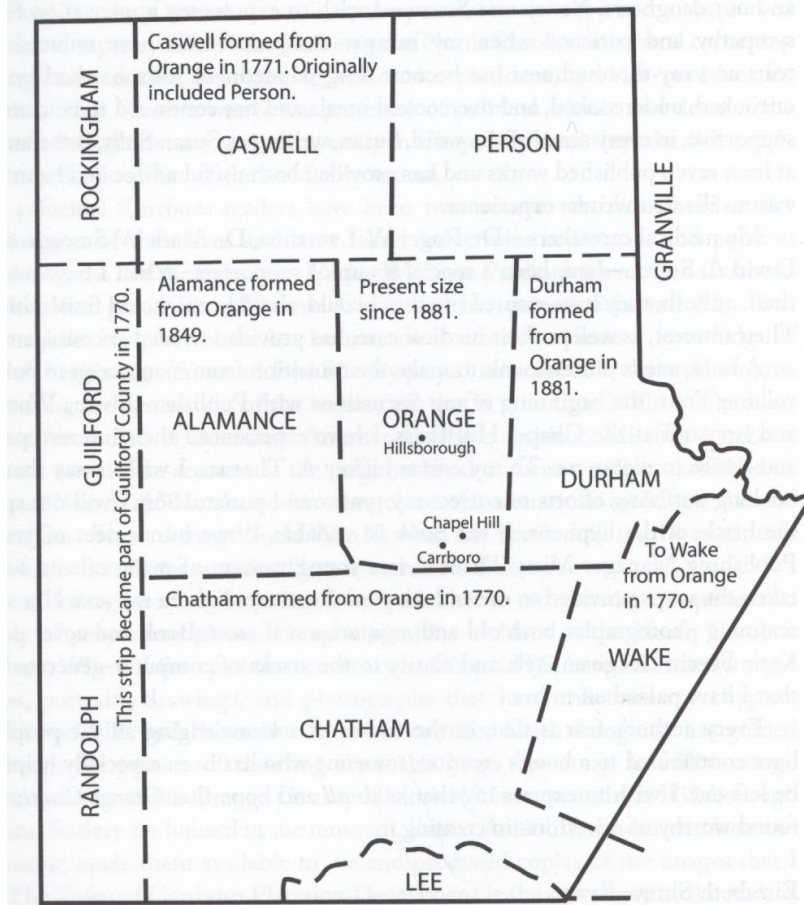
Lauren Panny, Head of the North Carolina Collection

Durham County Library



## 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES

- Indigenous Peoples in the area: Eno and Occaneechi tribes.



Orange County, as founded in 1752 and subsequently divided

Adapted by the author from Orange County—1752-1952, edited by Hugh Lefler and Paul Wager.

## BEFORE DURHAM BECAME DURHAM

- Durham County is one of the younger counties in North Carolina and was not founded until 1881. Prior to that, it and several other NC counties were part of Orange County.
- Orange County was founded in 1752.

# SLAVERY IN ORANGE COUNTY

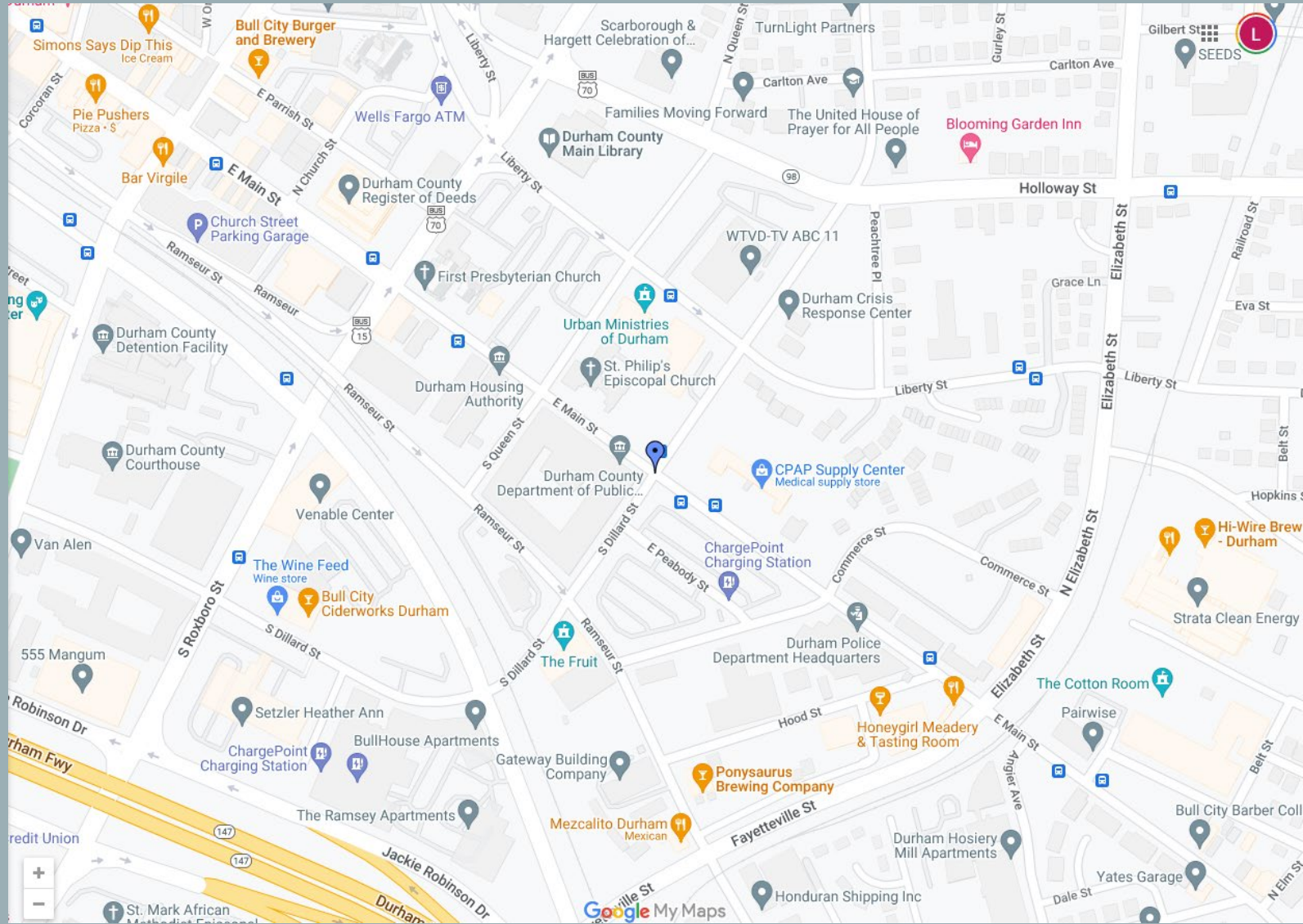
- Slavery was an integral part of the Orange County economy by the late 1700s.
- Historic Stagville is a state historic site in Durham County.

Lower right: Bennehan plantation house (1787-1799).  
Upper right: House for enslaved people. (1851)



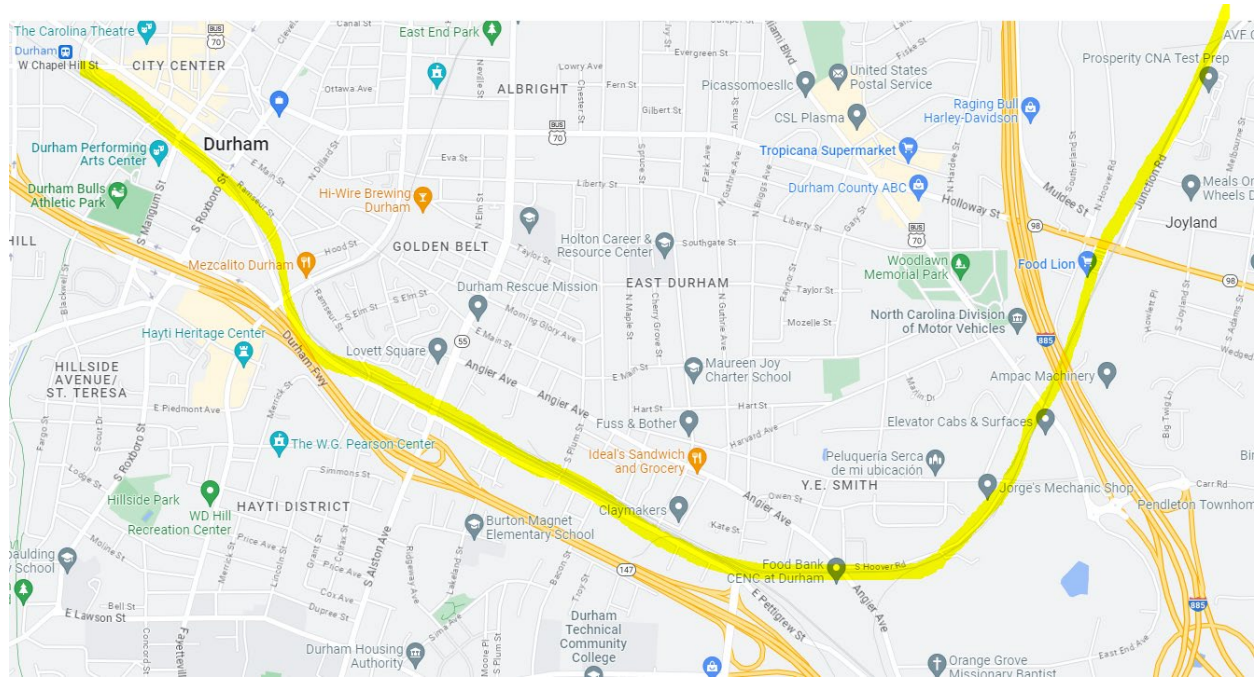
# DILLIARDSVILLE

- William Dilliard, a Wake County landowner, bought land in Orange County in 1819 concentrated around what we now know as Dillard Street in downtown today. The community was called Dilliardsville.



Approximate site of Dilliardsville.

# PRATTSBURG





Bartlett Leonidas Durham.  
Courtesy Duke RBMSC  
Library, W. T. Dixon papers.

## DURHAM IS BORN

- Dr. Bartlett Leonidas Snipes Durham was born in 1824 and raised about 12 miles west of Chapel Hill in rural Orange County.
- In 1849 he donated four acres of land to the railroad, which in turn named the stop “Durham’s Station” after him.
- The collection of houses and stores that sprang up around the station were known as “Durhamsville,” which was eventually shortened to “Durham.”
- A post office was established on April 26, 1853, the city’s official birthday.

# DR. BARTLETT L.S. DURHAM

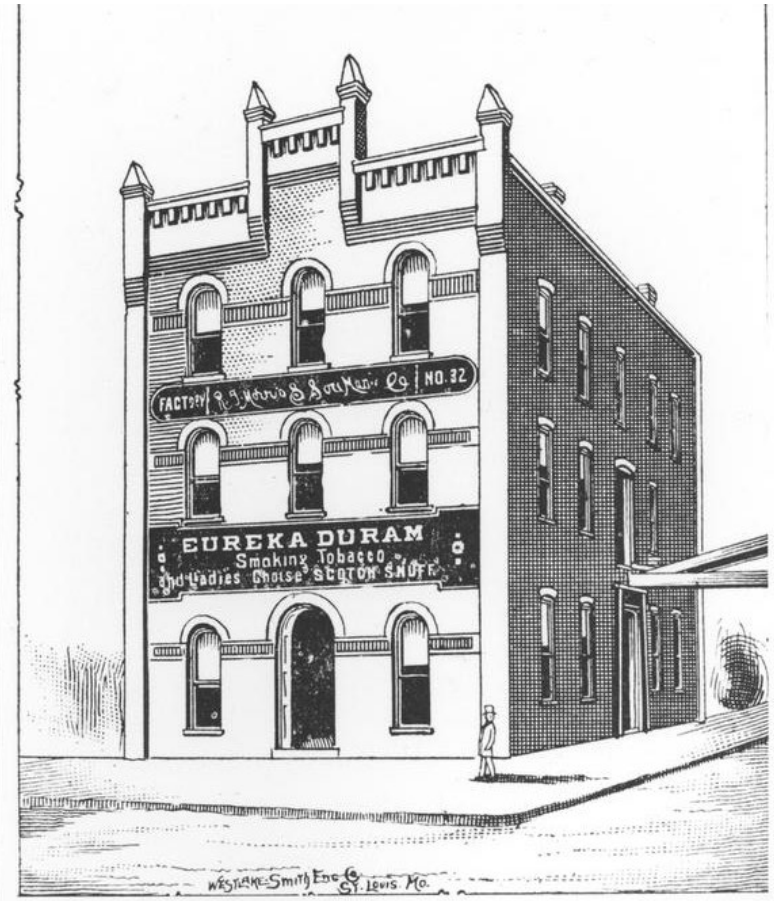
- In the early 1850s, Durham was elected to represent Orange County in the NC General Assembly.
- He died of pneumonia in February 1859.
- He was re-interred in Maplewood Cemetery the following year with a marker that lists an incorrect middle name, and erroneous birth and death dates.





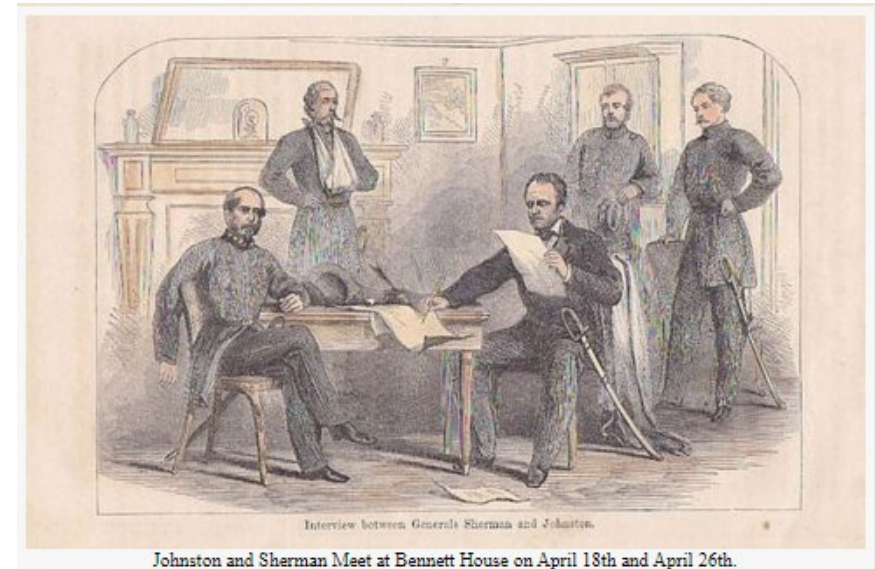
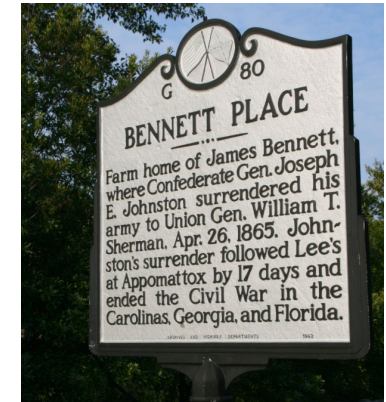
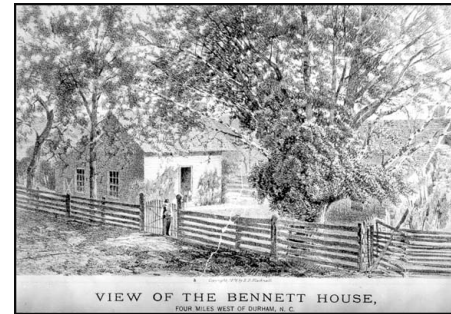
## 1858: DURHAM TOBACCO GETS GOING

- With the railroad came the tobacco industry.
- In 1858 a Virginian, Wesley Wright, established the first tobacco processing factory in Durham with Thomas Morris.



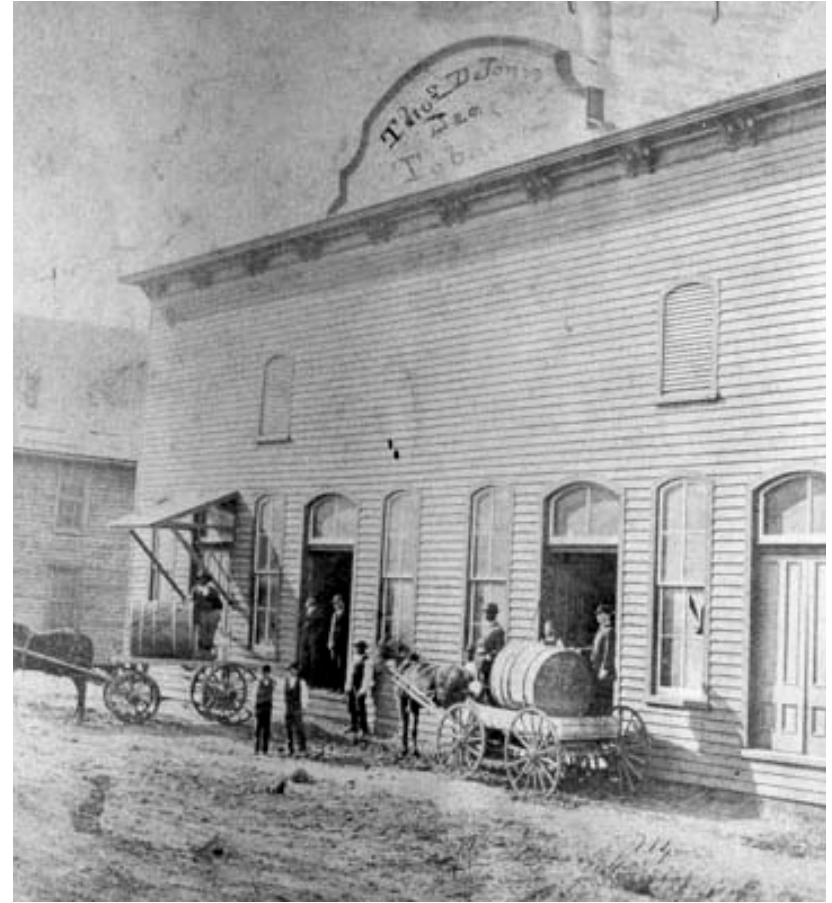
# THE CIVIL WAR

- No major battles were fought in this area, but Durham played an important role in the ending of the Civil War.
- Almost 90,000 troops were surrendered here, the largest surrender in the Civil War.



## THE WAR ENDS AND BRIGHTLEAF BOOMS

- While peace was being negotiated, thousands of soldiers from both sides of the war were camped around the neutral Durham countryside.
- When the thousands of soldiers returned to their homes across the United States, they wrote to Durham's Station for more tobacco, and Green—and Durham's—tobacco boom was off and running.





# THE BULL IS BORN

- Green's friend James Whitted was inspired by the bull on the jar of Coleman's Durham mustard and suggested using a bull as his trademark.



## BLACKWELL'S BULL DURHAM TOBACCO

- Green died in 1869 and William T. Blackwell became owner of Bull Durham Tobacco.
- Over time other major tobacco companies formed in Durham, including the Duke family's American Tobacco Company, which produced 90% of cigarettes in the US by the year 1890.

"On every green they all roll "BULL"  
It's easy for YOU to roll your own

GENUINE  
"BULL"  
DURHAM  
TOBACCO

*Manufactured by  
The American Tobacco Co.*

SMOKE BLACKWELL'S  
DURHAM  
TOBACCO

*U.S. Tobacco Journal, June 11, 1877*

The Man in the Moon  
would be happier if he could have a supply of

Cool  
Fragrant  
and Soothing

**Blackwell's Bull Durham  
Smoking Tobacco**

For over twenty-five years the standard smoking tobacco of the world.  
To-day More Popular than Ever.  
To have a good smoke anytime and everytime it is only necessary to  
get Bull Durham. It is all good and always good.

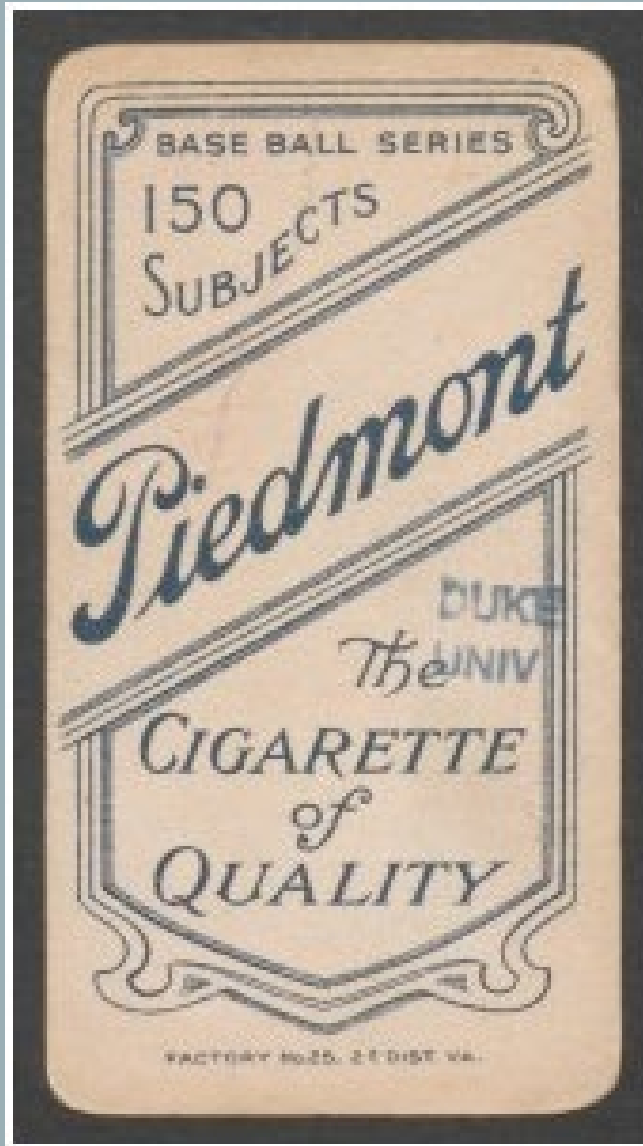
**BLACKWELL'S DURHAM TOBACCO CO.,  
DURHAM, N. C.**





CIGARETTE CARDS LEAD TO BASEBALL CARDS





# HAYTI EMERGES

- The origin of the name “Hayti” remains a mystery.
- Durham’s Hayti got its start in 1866 with the forming of White Rock Baptist Church.
- Edian and Mollie Markham came to Durham and established what would eventually become St. Joseph’s AME Church at the intersection of Pettigrew and Fayetteville Streets.
- This area was labeled “Hayti” on an 1881 map of Durham, the earliest use of the name on a local map.



## 1869 – IT'S OFFICIAL

- Durham was incorporated by act of the North Carolina General Assembly, on April 10, 1869.

DURHAM



1869

CITY OF MEDICINE

**DURHAM  
COUNTY**

**DCO**  
NC

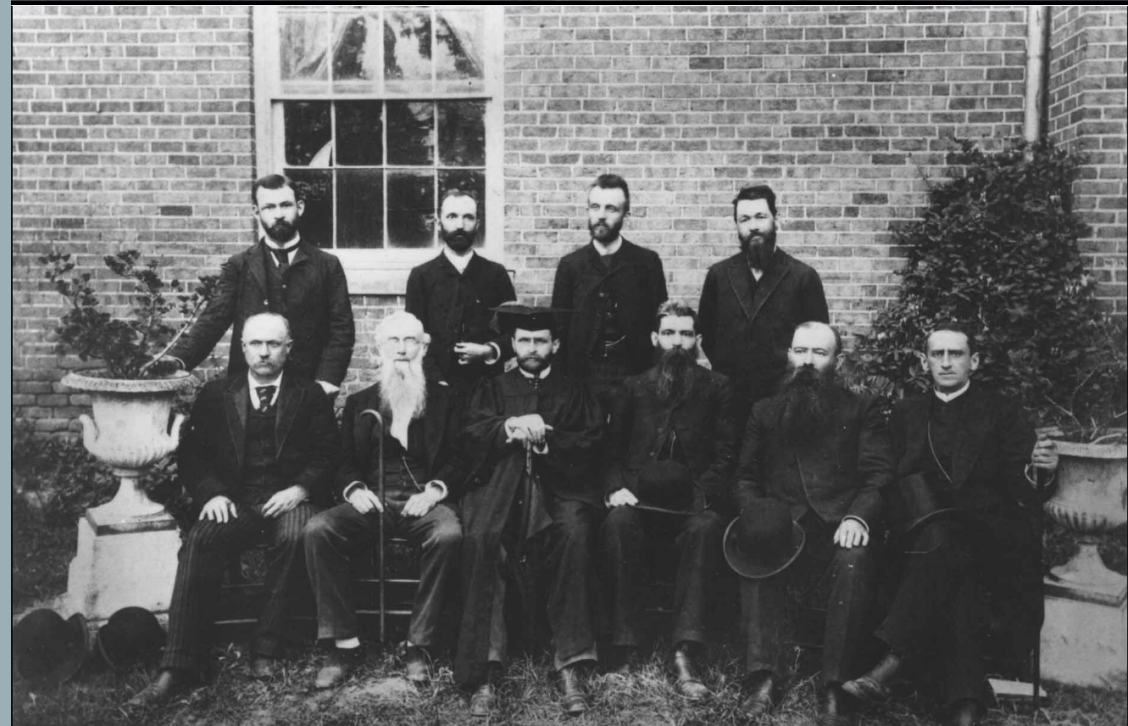
★ ★ ★ 1881 ★ ★ ★

## 1881 – A COUNTY IS FORMED

- On April 17, 1881, a bill to establish Durham County was ratified by the General Assembly.

## 1892 - DURHAM BECOMES A COLLEGE TOWN

- Trinity College relocated from Randolph County to Durham in 1892.
- It became Duke University in 1924.



Upper right: the beginnings of a campus in 1898.  
Lower right: Trinity College faculty



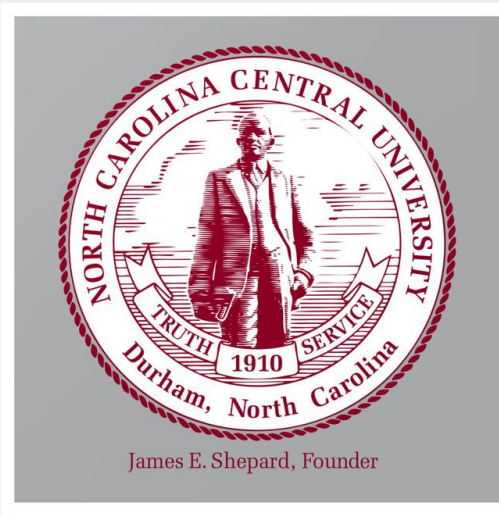
## 1898 – BEGINNING OF BLACK WALL STREET

- John Merrick and Dr. Aaron McDuffie Moore, prominent Black businessmen in Durham, founded the North Carolina Mutual Life and Providence Association.
- This enterprise went on to become one of the largest black-owned businesses in the world.





# MECHANICS AND FARMERS BANK



James E. Shepard, Founder

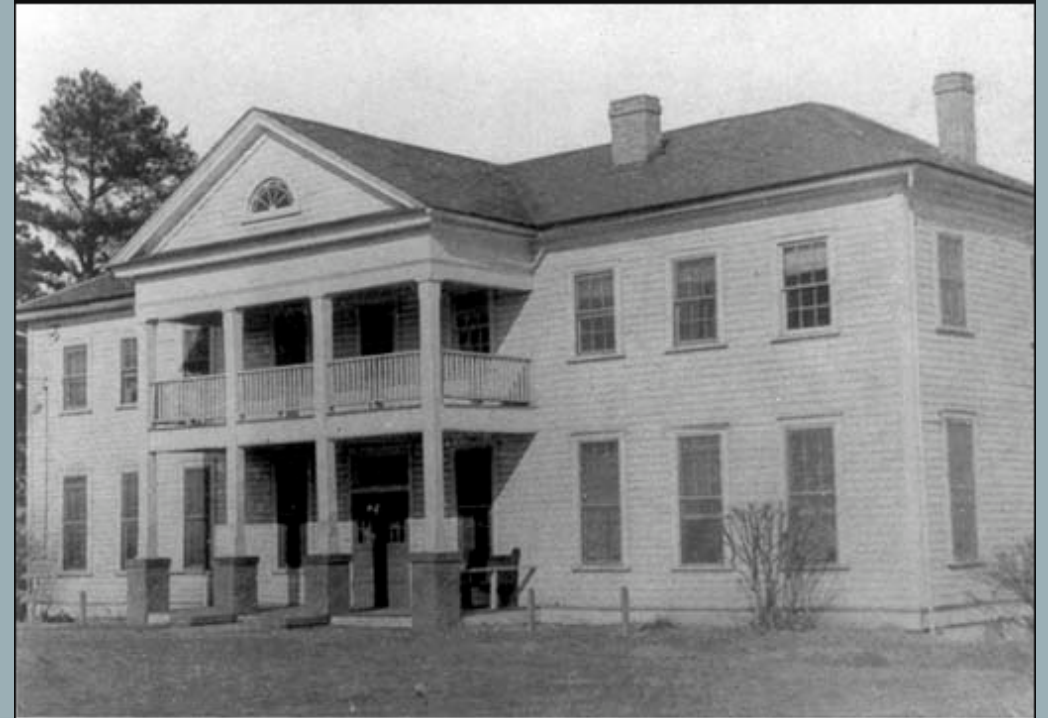
## 1910 – FOUNDING OF NCCU

- Founded as the “National Religious Training School and Chatauqua for the Colored Race” in July 1910 by James E. Shepard.
- It was the first publicly funded liberal arts school for African-Americans in the country.
- Underwent several more name changes before becoming North Carolina Central University in 1969.





Approximately forty members of the North Carolina College for Negroes gather on the front steps of Avery Auditorium for a class picture. Circa 1925.



*Chidley Hall, Oldest Dormitory on Campus*

Chidley Hall, the oldest dormitory on campus of North Carolina Central University.

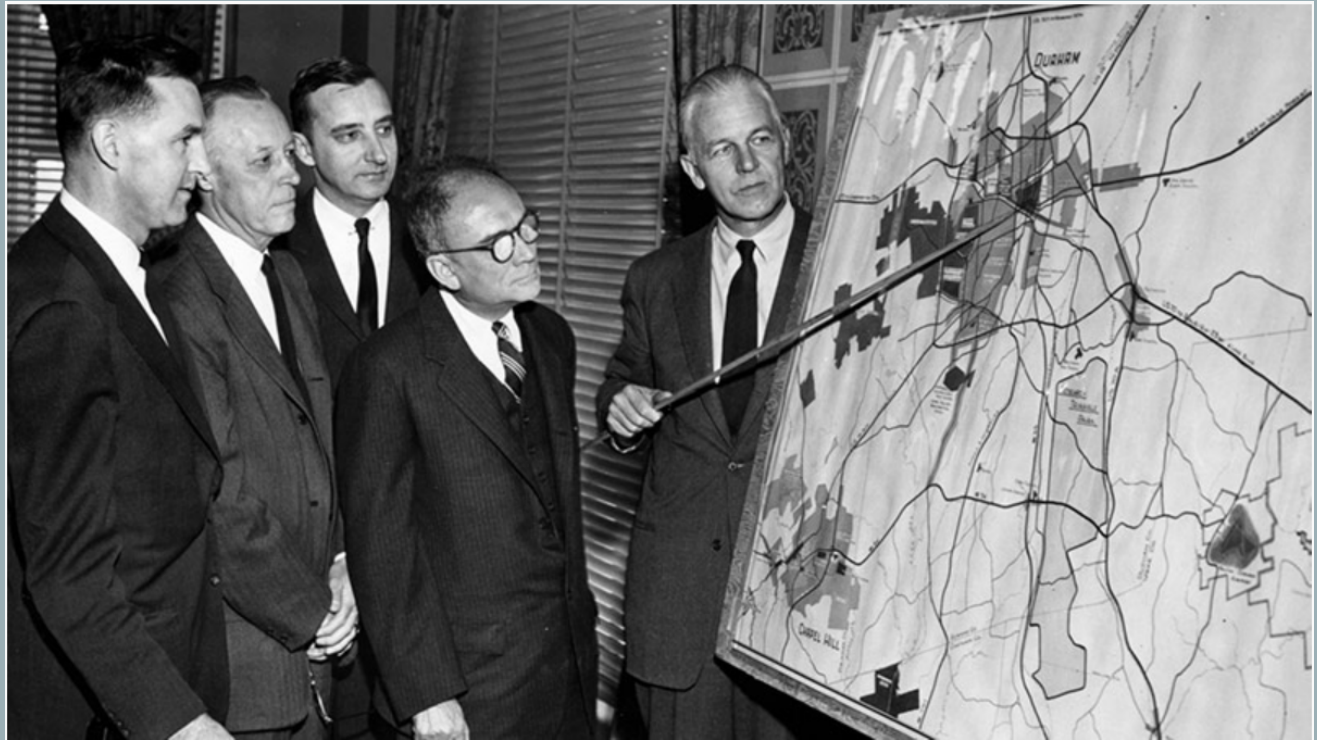
# DURHAM LIBRARIES

- The Durham Public Library was the first free, tax-supported library in NC. Services began in 1897.
- Lillian Griggs was the first professional librarian in NC.
- Durham Public Library purchased the state's first bookmobile in 1923.
- In 1916, Durham Colored Library opened as the second library for African Americans in the state.



# THE “RESEARCH TRIANGLE” IS BORN

- 1958: Plans for RTP begin.
- The area would earn international renown as the “Research Triangle.”





## URBAN RENEWAL

- A plan to re-develop 200 acres in the Hayti area was formed.
- Many leaders in the local Black community supported the plan.

## URBAN RENEWAL: URBAN REMOVAL?

- Urban renewal did not live up to its promises.
- Hayti was destroyed, and Durham's leaders did not fulfill their promise to rebuild it.
- The effects of urban renewal are still felt in the community today.



March protesting urban renewal.

# DURHAM DIVERSIFIES

- As of 2010, Durham is the only city in the Triangle region with no ethnic majority.
- The Hispanic population grew at the fastest rate, more than doubling in percentage from 2000 to 2020.
- In the 2020 census the demographic breakdown was:

Race	Number	Percentage
White (non-Hispanic)	109,401	38.59%
Black or African American (non-Hispanic)	101,442	35.78%
Native American	593	0.21%
Asian	15,917	5.61%
Pacific Islander	64	0.02%
Other/Mixed	12,619	4.45%
Hispanic or Latino	43,470	15.33%

# REVITALIZATION; GENTRIFICATION?

- Durham Bulls Athletic Park opened in 1995
- American Tobacco Campus renovation began in 2002
- Durham Performing Arts Center opened in 2008
- One City Center, now Durham's tallest building, opened in 2018.
- Additional development of the old University Ford dealership site is planned.





## DURHAM 150

- Durham celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 10, 2019. Events were held throughout the year commemorating the occasion.
- Sadly, the birthday also coincided with a large gas explosion on North Duke Street that claimed the lives of two people and injured 25 others.





# DURHAM FUN FACTS

- Colors:
  - Royal blue: Courage
  - Red: Action & Progress
  - Gold: High Quality in Growth
  - White: High Ideals
- Seven stars: represents the Taurus constellation (aka the Pleiades, aka the Bull) and the spirit of Durham:
  - The Arts
  - Commerce & Industry
  - Education
  - Medicine
  - Human Relations
  - Sports & Recreation
  - Preservation of Durham's Rich Heritage



HISTORIC  
SITES TO  
VISIT





## NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTION

- “Durham History Research Happens Here”
- Main Library: 3rd Floor
  - New Hours Starting October 2:
    - Monday – Saturday 10 AM – 4 PM
- [www.durhamcountylibrary.org/ncc](http://www.durhamcountylibrary.org/ncc)

CONTACT US!

Email: [ncc@dconc.gov](mailto:ncc@dconc.gov)

Phone: 919-560-0171

Email: [lpanny@dconc.gov](mailto:lpanny@dconc.gov)

Phone: 919-560-0254