

2010 History Day PSA

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For immediate release

Tarboro's 6th Annual Living History Day Saturday, September 25 On the grounds of Tarboro's historic Blount-Bridgers House

TARBORO, NC – a major part of the year-long celebration of Tarboro's 250th birthday will take place on the grounds of the historic 1808 Blount-Bridgers House, as the Edgecombe County Cultural Arts Council presents Tarboro's Living History Day, the last Saturday in September.

There's more. The day is packed with a variety of historic attractions and not just at the Blount-Bridgers House. The Edgecombe Garden Club's annual homes tour will include historic sites and private residences within the historic district and out in the county; and Tarboro's 250th Birthday party will take place on the Town Common. Most attractions throughout the day are free except for tickets for the homes tour, the evening ghost walk and meals.

Saturday morning, September 25, patrons can pick up tickets and information packets for Edgecombe Garden Club's annual homes tour at the Blount-Bridgers House which serves as tour headquarters (\$20 each, \$26 with lunch). Tour patrons are on their own, but will be greeted by docents at each of the other ten sites on the walking and driving tour that includes six private residences, throughout the historic district and other Tarboro locations open from 10 - 5. A bagged lunch is available (\$6.00) from 11 - 2 at the Blount-Bridgers House.

The Blount-Bridgers House will be open from 10 'til 5 to all visitors and will feature the extensive historic collections throughout the house as well as the two other buildings on the grounds, the 1810 Pender Museum and the 1850 Philips Dependency. The grounds have gained in prominence as the landscaping now includes new beds with period plantings and an authentic kitchen garden behind the Silas Everett House.

For the day, the grounds will take on the appearance of Revolutionary and Civil War living history encampments with demonstrations by civilian and military reenactors who will participate in lively drills throughout the day, all in period dress, carrying out the day's duties without any of today's modern conveniences. Children's activities and demonstrations of the period include interaction with historical docent from Pamplin Historical Park, crafters and artisans, including a

pottery demonstration, soap-making, candle-making, weaving, a blacksmith, a beekeeper and other period crafts. A popular attraction, the Periauger, a 19th century replica work boat from historic Hertford, will be on the grounds, and a Civil War field hospital surgery tent will be set up with very life-like demonstrations throughout the day. Eric Russ and other members of the First North Carolina Volunteers re-enactment group will give informal talks at their campsite about the Edgecombe Guard, which was organized in 1860 by Captain John Luther Bridgers, one of the original owners of the Blount-Bridgers House. Bridgers led Company A, NC 1st Infantry in the first land battle of the Civil War at Bethel Church, York County, Virginia on June 10, 1861, a victory for the Edgecombe Guard.

An informal lecture and book-signing will take place at two seatings (11 am and 2 pm) in the main parlor of the Blount-Bridgers House, with author David A. Norris who will talk about his book, *Potter's Raid, the Union Cavalry's boldest expedition in Eastern North Carolina*. Copies of his book will be available for purchase at \$24.95.

In the gallery, an historic exhibit on the East Carolina Railway, is on loan from Farmville collector, Bob Newton who has an extensive collection of memorabilia and artifacts from the early railway system that was incorporated in Tarboro in the summer of 1898, which by 1900, ran from Tarboro to Pinetops, and by 1901, reaching Farmville. The ECR, owned and operated by founder Henry Clark Bridgers, not only brought freight and passenger services, but in 1902 introduced the Western Union Company's telegraphic services.

All encampments on the grounds and exhibits in the house will be open for visitors all day, but at 3:00, the focus will move to the Town Common as the "Semiquincentennial Jamboree," Tarboro's 250th birthday party will officially begin. Entertainment will continue until 7:00 pm. For a schedule of the party events, visit the town's website at www.tarboro-nc.com.

The last attraction of the day is the ever-popular "Ghost Walk" starting at 6:30 pm, visiting personalities from the past at sites in the vicinity of the Town Common where the birthday celebration festivities will be coming to a close. Ghost walk tickets are \$5 (children 10 & younger are free when accompanied by an adult). Remember to bring along a flashlight.

For more more details, please contact Carol Banks 252/823-4159 or visit our website at www.edgecombearts.org.