



# CCHA Bulletin

FEBRUARY 2026

*Caswell County Historical Association*  
THE OFFICIAL SITE OF THE CCHA & THE RICHMOND-MILES MUSEUM



**The Patron St. Valentine**  
Learn more about the History by clicking [\*\*\*HERE\*\*\*](#).

**FEBRUARY in HISTORY**



## February Event Highlights

- **February 1, 1790:** The U.S. Supreme Court convened for the first time.
- **February 1, 1865:** President Lincoln approved the 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery.
- **February 1, 1960:** Four African American students began the Greensboro sit-ins at a Woolworth's lunch counter, sparking nationwide protests.
- **February 1, 1978:** The first U.S. postage stamp honoring a Black woman, Harriet Tubman, is issued.
- **February 1, 2003:** 16 minutes before scheduled to land, the Space Shuttle *Columbia* broke apart in flight over Texas, killing all 7 crew members.
- **February 3, 1870:** The 15th *Amendment* to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, guaranteeing the right of citizens to vote, regardless of race.
- **February 4, 1789:** George Washington is unanimously elected as the first President of the United States.
- **February 20, 1962:** John Glenn becomes the first American to orbit the Earth.
- **February 22, 1732:** *George Washington* (1732-1799) was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He served as commander of the Continental Army during the *American Revolution* and became the first U.S. President.

- **February 23, 1945:** The iconic "Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima" photo was taken.
- **February 28, 1953:** James Watson and Francis Crick discovered the structure of DNA
- **February 28, 1954:** The first color television set on sale to the public



## Wilson Carey: A Life of Leadership and Public Service

By Sandra Aldridge, CCHA Writer/Researcher



Wilson Carey was born in Amelia County, Virginia, in the 1830s. Before relocating to Caswell County in 1855, he attended Richmond's common schools, receiving his early education. After moving to Caswell, he worked as both a farmer and blacksmith while residing in the "Fitch Store" community near the junction of Highway 62 and Fitch Road.

In 1857, he married Frances Kimbrough of Caswell County. Together they had fifteen children, eight of whom lived to adulthood. The 1870 U.S. Federal Census listed Carey as owning \$500 in real estate and \$150 in personal property—an indication of his relative prosperity during that period.

Carey earned a teaching certificate from Archibald Henderson, then Superintendent of Schools and also known as the County Examiner. He became one of the pioneering African American educators in Caswell County.

Deeply engaged in political and civic affairs, Carey ran as the Republican candidate for the North Carolina House of Representatives from Caswell County in 1868. Although he initially lost to Conservative candidate William Long, Long held the seat for only two months.

Carey successfully argued that Long's Confederate service made him ineligible under the newly enacted 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. On August 20, 1868, the House declared the seat vacant, and Carey was sworn in the following day. He served until the special session adjourned on August 24.

When the General Assembly reconvened on November 16, 1868, Carey was appointed to the House Committee on Corporations. He was one of seventeen African American members who served in the General Assembly during the 1868–1869 and 1869–1870 sessions. Along with thirteen other African American legislators, Carey signed a public letter congratulating Ulysses S. Grant on his election as President of the United States. The letter proclaimed, "Our cause has triumphed. By his election, our status is settled. We are men!"

Carey was also appointed Yanceyville Postmaster by the General Assembly, becoming the first African American in North Carolina to hold that position. He resigned after three months rather than relinquish his seat in the North Carolina House.

In 1875, Carey was selected as a Caswell County delegate to the state constitutional convention. He was one of only six Black delegates chosen statewide, alongside notable figures such as future Congressman James E. O'Hara of Halifax County and John H. Smythe of New Hanover County, who later served as U.S. Minister to Liberia.

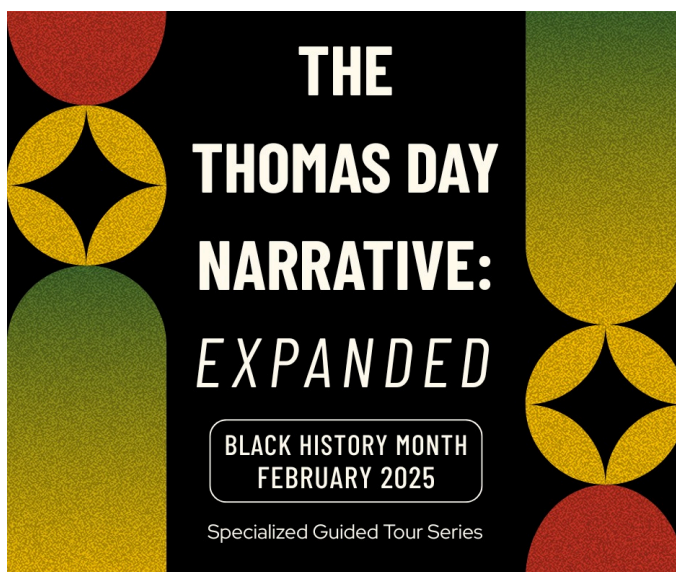
Carey was distinguished as the only Black delegate to serve in both the 1868 and 1875 constitutional conventions. During the 1875 convention, though in the minority, he played an active role on the Committee on Suffrage and Eligibility. His proposed amendment to exempt disfranchised voters from paying public (poll) taxes was brought to the floor twice but ultimately defeated.

On February 23, 1889, The Charlotte Democrat reported that Carey introduced a resolution in Congress requesting aid for the "colored people of the South," specifically to support their emigration to the West. Later that year, he was elected Secretary of the North Carolina Republican Association during a meeting held in Raleigh, as noted in the July 14, 1889, edition of the Critic and Recorder, published in Washington, D.C.

The voters of Caswell County reelected Carey to the North Carolina House of Representatives in 1876, 1878, and again in 1888, reflecting the continued confidence of his constituents in his leadership and service.

In his later years, the Carey family moved to Washington, D.C., where they were listed in the 1900 census as living with family members. Wilson Carey appeared in Washington city directories through 1905, the year he is believed to have died.

Wilson Carey's life reflects a story of perseverance, leadership, and public service during one of the most transformative periods in North Carolina's history. Caswell County Historical Association salutes his service and dedication. Learn more about Wilson Carey by clicking [HERE](#).



In celebration of Black History Month, Thomas Day State Historic Site will be offering a unique guided tour series where visitors can discover lesser-known details about the Day family's involvement in African American achievements throughout the 19th century.

Tours will take place each Saturday in February and involve a short lecture showcasing documents, followed by a guided tour of the site. Remaining dates include:

**February 21 10am, 1pm, & 3pm**

**February 28 10am, 1pm, & 3pm**

Walk-ins are welcome, but please register in advance using the link below so that we can accommodate all:

***<https://forms.gle/8tGXS38yQVWBdGuMA>***

**\*\* Tour fees must be paid on the date of your visit.**

## **More to see this month at the Richmond-Miles Museum**

Recently we have had more visitors stopping by for a visit and look forward to more activity as the spring season gets closer. If you have not been by recently, you're invited to stop in for an update!

There are many historic treasures here that tell the story of rural life in Caswell County.

Museum hours are **Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays 1:00 - 4:00 pm.**

Please call to be sure we are there if you plan to visit. We are in need of more volunteers to help keep the museum open more regularly and we want to be sure that if you stop by, we are here to provide a tour.

Feel free to email us at [CaswellNCHistory@gmail.com](mailto:CaswellNCHistory@gmail.com) or call 336-694-4965.

**Below are a few more things you can find at the musuem.**



### **The Sallie and Zeke Anderson Room:**

The Sallie & Zeke Anderson Room includes a collection of numerous books, articles, files, papers and Bibles. Records



### **Caswell Veterans Recognized**

Thre are numerous Caswell County Veterans recognized at the Richmond-Miles History Museum. The



### **Clock Collection**

The Richmond-Miles Museum is honored to display many of the Richmond Family's clocks



from several churches across the county are available for viewing. A CCHA Volunteer Researcher can assist if you notify us in advance.

Militray Room includes various uniforms, notes, plaques and other memorabilia donated by family members on display for the community to view.

throughout the musuem. From large grandfather, mantle and table clocks to smaller analog clocks, you will be impressed at the collection.

**Presidents' Day** is a U.S. federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February to honor George Washington's birthday, though it is popularly used to recognize all U.S. presidents. Officially "Washington's Birthday," it was shifted by the 1971 *Uniform Monday Holiday Act* to create a long weekend.



Click [HERE](#) or on the graphic above for a short video on Presidents Day.

### **Caswell County Historical Association**

If you have not renewed yet, please do right away. This year we were trying to get all the renewals in by January 1 in order to set the schedule for all renewals (anually) at the same time moving forward. You may send a check in follow up to the letter sent to you via US Mail, or feel free to renew online by clicking below. Thank you!

[Renew Your Membership Here](#)



See what is going on in the community from a historical perspective.

All are welcome.

Annual Memberships - \$35

Join Us

15 Main St., Yanceyville, NC  
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