



## The Durham-Kavala Connection

By Jessica Shillingsford

What does Durham have to do with a 2,700-year-old city in Greece? More than you might guess.

Durham, North Carolina, USA and Kavala, Greece are connected in both past and present. Founded over 2,000 years and 5,000 miles apart, tobacco leaves link the ancient city of Kavala and the New South city of Durham.

Durham and Kavala became tobacco hubs in the mid-nineteenth century. Both cities were home to markets for buying and selling tobacco grown in the surrounding countryside, as well as factories for processing cured tobacco leaf. The tobacco industry brought similar change to both places – iconic architecture, an influx of laborers, increased wealth for merchants, tremendous growth in industry, and new international connections. It also brought labor disputes, monopoly,



Aromatic tobacco curing in the sun in Kavala, Greece

and ultimately a vacuum in economy, landscape, and memory when the tobacco industry departed in the late twentieth century.

Both Durham and Kavala emerged as centers of buying, selling, and manufacturing tobacco in the mid-1800s, and both as a result of war. People had grown *Nicotiana tabacum* in the rural areas

around Durham and Kavala for several generations, each local environment, seed type, and curing method yielding a different result. Durham became known in this time for bright leaf (also called “flue-cured”) tobacco, and Kavala for aromatic tobacco (also sometimes called “Turkish” or “oriental” tobacco). Aromatic tobacco is sun-cured and, as

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## About GOLD LEAF

The Duke Homestead Education and History Corporation publishes *GOLD LEAF*. The Corporation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of the Duke Homestead State Historic Site and Tobacco Museum. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Visit the website, [dukehomestead.org](http://dukehomestead.org), for more information. This newsletter is published semiannually and is available free of charge for digital subscribers. A paper copy can be received for \$5.00 a year.

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## Financial Report

**Mary Bell**  
*Treasurer*

The funds of the Duke Homestead Education and History Corporation as of April 1, 2017 are as follows:

General Fund Savings	\$10,282.29
General Fund Checking	\$9,417.51
Scottrade Account:	\$49,911.91
<b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>\$69,611.71</b>

## Upcoming Events

### Family Outings

*3rd Saturdays of the month from May to September*

Get hands-on with history at Duke Homestead. Enjoy a morning out with your family full of fun and learning. We will provide free history-themed activities for kids from 10:00 am and 12:00 pm on the 3rd Saturday of every month between May and October (rain or shine).

Free of charge

### Pork, Pickles, and Peanuts

*July 22, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm*

Celebrate North Carolina food culture and history. This extremely tasty event includes BBQ and Pie contests. Guests can taste the BBQ and pick a People's Choice winner of their own. Venture back in time at the Duke House where costumed interpreters will demonstrate historical cooking methods.

Free of Charge

### Harvest and Hornworm Festival

*August 26th, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm*

Celebrate North Carolina farming culture and history at Duke Homestead with our Harvest and Hornworm Festival. Don't miss the looping contest and Hornworm Race! This event will feature live music, local arts and crafts vendors, hands on history, and the last tobacco auction in Durham!

Free of Charge

Find more information on all of our events at **DukeHomestead.org**.

## From the Site Manager's Desk

2017 has brought a fresh start for us at Duke Homestead! Renovations to the Visitor Center are nearly complete, and the lobby, offices, auditorium and restrooms have an updated professional look. Unseen improvements include the fire and security systems in the building, and the staff are going to continue updating the space in the coming months. Please stop by and see it in person!

This year we will spend more of our energies updating exhibits in the lobby and museum. Last year we created a new Duke family history board that we utilize while introducing tours. Due to the construction in the lobby we needed to re-do the Tobacco Seed exhibit at the entrance to the museum. Next, we will create a site

history display for the lobby that will trace the property's history from before Washington Duke through the creation of Duke Homestead State Historic Site.

Fall and winter of 2016 saw another merry Christmas by Candlelight celebration, as well

as the success of a new Halloween program. For 2017 we will continue these and other popular events (see the full event calendar for de-

tails), as well as bring back a Methodist Revival program that the site had done in years past. We invite you to visit or volunteer at any of these events!



## In Memoriam

In the past two years we have welcomed new Members at Large into our support group, Duke Homestead Education and History Corporation. But we have also lost integral, long-term members of our Duke Homestead community. Since our last newsletter, Mary Albert Ward and Ben Roberts passed away.

Mary Albert Ward passed away on Tuesday, November 22, 2016. A lifelong teacher, Mary Albert had a passion for working with children. She also had a passion for history, and was a charter member of Duke Homestead's support group. An active board member and volunteer, she generously gave her time and energy to the site.

Bennett (Ben) Watson Cowper Roberts died on December 17, 2016. He worked as the Community Relations Coordinator for American Tobacco Company's Durham Branch, but he was also a published historian. Ben Roberts was an ardent advocate for Duke Homestead, and longtime DHEHC officer. Ben was instrumental in establishing the site's artifact and library collections. His expertise on Washington Duke, American Tobacco, and other Homestead-related history is a loss that will be felt for a long time to come, as will his collector's eye.

## The Durham-Kavala Connection cont.

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its name suggests, has a rich flavor and aroma. Locally it was smoked in cigarette form, and during the Crimean War of 1853-1856 European soldiers brought to the region to fight acquired a taste for aromatic tobacco in cigarette form. Once back in Europe, soldiers sought those aromatic cigarettes from the Mediterranean and created an international demand for the product. This narrative will likely sound familiar to Durhamites. At the end of the American Civil War in 1865, soldiers stationed in Durham went home to various areas of the country and wrote back to Durham's Station for more of the unique bright leaf pipe tobacco known later as Bull Durham. This demand catalyzed Durham's tobacco factory boom in the late 1860s and 1870s.

American companies debuted "Turkish" cigarettes made with aromatic tobacco in the early 1900s. Liggett & Myers introduced Fatima cigarettes in 1905 (still under the ownership of the American Tobacco Company) and RJ Reynolds launched Camel cigarettes in 1913. Global demand, and especially American demand, for aromatic cigarettes peaked after World War I, when once again soldiers traveled abroad to fight and developed a taste for that style. Not only did American companies promote various "Turkish" cigarette brands, they began to add aromatic tobacco to signature

"American blend" cigarettes like Chesterfield or Lucky Strike. To satisfy this demand for aromatic tobacco, American companies set up branches in Kavala (and other towns lining the Aegean) to buy and process aromatic tobacco for their cigarettes.

In many cases, smaller companies emerged for the exclusive purpose of buying and selling aromatic tobacco. Gary Tobacco, incorporated in 1915, was one such company. It became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Liggett & Myers (based in Durham), whose tobacco buyers lived and worked in Kavala year-round. Many of the individuals in Kavala for Gary Tobacco were Durhamites, and they played important roles in the business and diplomatic communities through much of the twentieth century.

While Durham's tobacco economy thrived through World War II and the following decades, Kavala's tobacco economy declined. Instability during the conflict and the constant search for better prices led American manufacturers to open new markets. As demand for cigarettes fell in the 1980s

and 1990s, both Durham and Kavala shuttered warehouses and factories. The absence of the tobacco industry left structures unused, people without work, and city identities in question.

Tobacco museums emerged in the absence of tobacco industry. Kavala opened The Institute of Social Movements and Tobacco History in 2003. Duke Homestead's Tobacco Museum opened in 1989. Both museums exhibit similar artifacts and interpret similar themes, including tobacco farming, manufacturing, products, and advertising.

In the twenty-first century, both cities face questions about how to reconcile their tobacco pasts. How should tobacco warehouses be repurposed? What is the legacy of the tobacco industry? What stories and whose memories should be preserved? These questions don't have clear answers, and tobacco museums, both in Durham and Greece, play an important role in the discussion.



American companies like Liggett & Meyers launched "Turkish blend" cigarettes in the early 1900s.



## Congratulations, Graduates!

Anna Blackwell—Volunteer

After graduating from UNC Chapel Hill this May, Anna will be furthering her education and time as a Tar Heel by completing the Master's of Arts in Teaching program at UNC. She is excited to complete her Master's degree there, as it will aid her in her goal of teaching high school United States history. Anna's experience at Duke Homestead has been an invaluable asset to her future education and career plans; teaching history to the public, especially to school children, has solidified her decision to go into teaching history.

Chris Laws—Part-Time Historic Interpreter

Chris completed his MA in History from North Carolina Central University during the spring semester. In August, he will be joining the History Department at North Carolina State University, working towards a PhD in Public History, while continuing his research on the themes present in North Carolina Civil War monuments. He will also have the opportunity to teach undergraduate history courses.

Casey Haney—Part-Time Historic Interpreter

Casey started at Duke Homestead in 2015 as a Junior Interpreter. She volunteered to do Visitor Services and give tours, and eventually became a part-time staff member. Casey graduates from Riverside High School this year, and will pursue engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Virginia Tech) in the fall.

Khadija McNair—Part-Time Historic Interpreter

Khadija joined Duke Homestead as an interpreter in the spring of 2017. She graduated from North Carolina Central University in May with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. She is carrying her passion for history forward and staying with NCCU to pursue a Master's degree in History. (And staying with Duke Homestead during her studies!)

## Family Outings at Duke Homestead

Enjoy a morning out with your family that is full of fun and learning! Duke Homestead will provide **free** history-themed activities and crafts for kids and their families from **10 am to 12 pm** on the 3rd Saturday of every month from May to September. Our first Family Outing was on May 20th, check out the full calendar below and learn more at [DukeHomestead.org](http://DukeHomestead.org).

MAY 20 - HISTORIC DANCING

JUNE 17 - FARM CREATURES

JULY 15 - GAME DAY

JUNE 17TH - FARM CREATURES

From wildlife to livestock, find out what roll different animals and insects could play on a 19th century farm. Make and take home a farm creature of your very own!

AUGUST 19 - HISTORIC CLOTHING

SEPTEMBER 16 - FALL HARVEST



**GOLD LEAF**

Duke Homestead Education and History Corporation

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E-mail: duke@ncdcr.gov

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Member #: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail application with your check or credit card information to:

**Duke Homestead Education and History Corporation**

**Duke Homestead State Historic Site**

**2828 Duke Homestead Rd.**

**Durham, NC 27705**

