



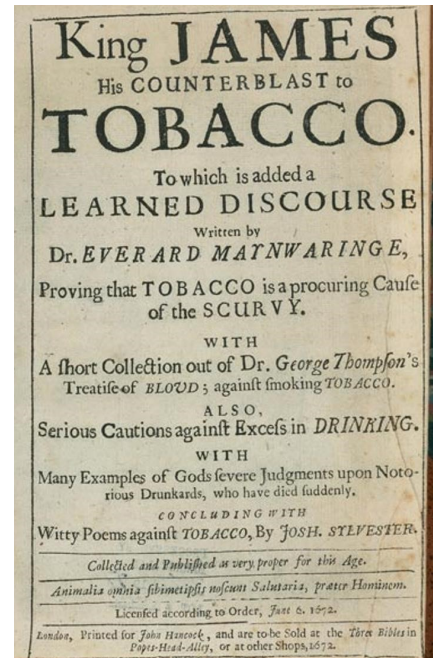
### Targeting the Law: The New Anti-Cigarette Movement of the Late 19th Century By Chamberlain Silkenat

Most recent histories written on the mass anti-tobacco movement point to the 1964 Surgeon General’s report as an origin point on understanding how tobacco harms the body. While not inaccurate, this is an incomplete understanding of the long history of works against tobacco since the Counterblaste to Tobacco in 1604, and continuing with numerous periods of strong anti-tobacco advocacy. The most successful of these was the anti-cigarette movement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as part of the progressive movement ideals, and in which powerful coalitions leveraged successfully to pass wide-ranging laws regulating the sale or manufacture of cigarettes amid a time of nearly unregulated capitalistic excess.

Shortly following the widespread popularity of cigarettes in America in the 1880s, peo-

ple blamed them for a wide array of physical and social ills, corrupting workers, especially women and youth, and being dangerous in the hands of foreigners now immigrating to the country in massive numbers. In 1884, the New York Times wrote of Spain, a great global power in decline facing increasing tensions with the US, that “the decadence of Spain began when the Spaniards adopted cigarettes.” More powerful voices added to the growing complaints about cigarettes, with important figures such as Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, and John Wanamaker espousing ideas far less nebulous than decadence. For Ford, the cigarette smoker simply could not be trusted, blaming them for thefts, damages, and inefficiencies in his

production line. Edison theorized that the burning paper



“King James I, His Counterblast to Tobacco, 1604,” Document Bank of Virginia, <https://edu.lva.virginia.gov/dbva/items/show/124>.

(Continued on page 4)

#### Inside this issue:

Targeting the Law: The New Anti-Cigarette Movement of the Late 19th Century	1, 4
Financial Report	2
Upcoming Events	2
From the Site Manager’s Desk	3
Get to Know a Board Member!	5
Membership Form	6

## 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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**DHEHC President:** Dale Coats  
**GOLD LEAF Editor:** Katie Vanhoy  
**Printing:** Sir Speedy



## Financial Report

**Mary Bell**  
*Treasurer*

The funds of the Duke Homestead Education and History Corporation as of December 21, 2023 are as follows:

First Horizon Savings: \$16,722.51  
First Horizon Checking: \$10,708.12  
Schwab Account (formerly TD Ameritrade):  
\$93,800.19

**Total Assets: \$121,230.82**

## Upcoming Events

### Field & Factory Tours

*Saturdays in February, 11:15am, Free*  
Tours will highlight the contributions that each group of people working in tobacco made to NC's culture and powerful economy in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, while addressing the inequalities in tobacco's labor forces.

### Spring Egg Hunt

*March 30th, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Free*

### Born at Duke Homestead

*March 9th, April 13th, May 11th, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm*

Learn about 19th century birth and motherhood. *Tour fees apply; Mothers free!*

### Family Farm Animal Day

*June 29th, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Ticketed*

### BBQ Fundraiser

*July 27th, Ticketed*

### Field & Factory Tours

*Saturdays in September, 11:15am, Free*

### Bright Leaf Harvest Day

*August 17th, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Free*

### Vintage Baseball Tournament

*September 28th, 5:00pm & 7:00pm*

Join Duke Homestead at the historic Durham Athletic Park for a vintage base ball game. *Ticketed*

### Phantasmagoria

*October 25th, 6:30pm - 9:30 pm*

Explore historical concepts of Spiritualism, awe, and wonder from the 19th century at Duke Homestead. *Ticketed*

### Christmas by Candlelight

*December 6th, 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm*

*December 13th, 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm*

Kick off your holiday season with this annual favorite! *Ticketed*

## From the Site Manager's Desk

Happy holiday greetings to all of our wonderful supporters! 2023 has been a busy year here at Duke Homestead. As we look back on the past twelve months, we are especially thankful for all the support we received from the DHEHC!

We began the year cranking out winter projects on our checklist. When we received news that The Duke Endowment planned to visit us, it energized our staff to get the site in top shape. We spent a month beautifying the site, with support group members in and out helping us. We were so thankful to have everyone's help in putting our best foot forward, and we received many compliments about the site. We hope the Duke Endowment folks will remember us!

While certain things the DHEHC does for Duke Homestead may seem small, frivolous, or even confusing, it has a big impact. I've heard the question many times this year, what does the DHEHC do? To me, it's obvious – not only do you support the site's needs, but your contributions are essential to our overall success.

For example, the DHEHC purchases for Phantasmagoria included turnips, hair jewelry, and turkey feathers. Out of context, these random items seem strange and superfluous. But they went towards much-loved stations, contributing to a historical aesthetic, and a spooky atmosphere. Watching faces twist when you say "everyone on this table is made from human hair" – when a visitor is so inspired by carving turnips that they pledge to go buy some now – when you hear visitors laughing and having a good time playing corn cob darts made with turkey feathers, and leaving with



big smiles on their faces... all of these experience make a successful event. Each station left people with feelings of amazement, wonder, awe, and an appreciation for the past. Many have come for years, and spread the word to their friends.

For Family Farm Animal Day, the DHEHC secured a grant to fund the event. We bought many items, like tables and popup tents, that we can re-use for multiple events. We could pay some of our farmers, and offer helpful and easy logistics to build good relationships. We bought more hand-washing stations to keep people healthy after touching livestock, and re-usable yard signs at each station. Grayson ordered a bubble machine for the children's sensory and craft area, and my toddler still talks about it! DHEHC contributions ensured the event was safe, healthy, and fun, and helped us connect with our local agricultural community.

For Christmas by Candlelight, DHEHC covered cookies, cider, and our musicians. They

are magical evenings, you can see it in people's eyes as they smile, belting out "OOO-OHHHH... STAR OF WONDER STAR OF NIGHT!" or the chorus to Jingle Bells. You feel the Christmas spirit spread as St Nicholas pops into the kitchen and invites everyone outside for cookies and cider with him. Visitors have told us it just doesn't feel like Christmas until they come to Duke Homestead. For hundreds of people, Christmas is not Christmas without us! We are their family's yearly tradition! That magic does not happen without your help.

And event support is just the beginning! We haven't even gotten how you all support living history, gardens, tobacco agriculture, Youth and Junior interpreter programs, technology advances, part timers working on inclusive research, building preservation, fence restoration, the spirit of base ball, good NC BBQ, or how the DHEHC helps us bypass state bureaucracy to get things done. And everything else! So what does the DHEHC do? You help us reach our goals. Your contributions help our events be successful and important local fixtures. You help us with community involvement, helping children learn history and public speaking skills. You provide materials for historic preservation and farmstead restoration. DHEHC is filled with passionate people whose physical and financial help give this place continued meaning in the modern age.

As we close out the year and hail the new, we are so grateful for the DHEHC. The state gives enough to survive, but we thrive because of you. Thank you, and see you all in 2024!

## Targeting the Law, cont.

*(Continued from page 1)*

specifically had a negative impact on health, creating a by-product known as acrolein, causing “permanent and uncontrollable” brain damage. Wanamaker, founder of one of the first department stores and President Harrison’s Postmaster General, objected primarily on grounds of personal aesthetic and the environment smoking produced in his store, banning all depictions of smoking from artwork produced for his company. All three refused to hire anyone who confessed to smoking cigarettes, or had clear evidence of cigarette smoking, and would fire anyone they caught smoking cigarettes.

Coalitions of prominent people formed to mount a legal and political challenge to the cigarette industry. Fifteen states banned the sale of cigarettes across that period, and a further twenty two considered such laws, including North Carolina, which introduced measures seven times between 1893 and 1913. A surprisingly vocal ally with heavy political influence came from tobacco producers. North Carolina had a campaign to ban cigarettes, with a coalition of tobacco farmers, pipe and cigar producers, and others, many in direct opposition to James B. Duke’s domineering control of the industry. This coalition brought bills regulating the sale of cigarettes to the North Carolina General Assembly every new session be-

tween 1897 and 1917, but never managed to pass. The first attempt was S.B 294, “an act to prohibit the sale of cigarettes in the state.” The bill died in the Committee on Propositions and Grievances, returned with a disfavorable rating, with no further discussion.

Despite powerful influences with prominent leaders pushing for legal restrictions across the country, James B. Duke and others in the tobacco industry opposed most laws and came with a veritable army of lobbyists and agents. Most representatives had the ability to write large checks to defeat legislation against Duke’s interests. In 1898, Rep. Lafayette Rodgers of Tennessee claimed that a lobbyist on Duke’s behalf offered him \$500 to introduce a bill to repeal that state’s cigarette ban. Rodgers already fought aggressively against cigarette bans, but felt Duke’s business as interstate commerce was outside his state’s ability to regulate.

Even in the fifteen states that banned the sale of cigarettes, the laws were rarely enforced, with a handful of notable exceptions. Popular labor organizer, William D. “Big Bill” Haywood, was charged with possessing the makings of a cigarette in three Texas towns. In Haywood’s case, it seemed more of a means to harass the labor leader, rather than making a moral stand on the merits of cigarette smoking.

He was convicted in two towns, but in the third, the prosecutor refused to move forward with the case.



William Dudley Haywood  
Photo: Library of Congress  
Digital ID hec 07493

The anti-cigarette movement collapsed in 1917 as a result of the First World War. Tobacco interests claimed the cigarette was an ally to protect soldiers from partaking in greater hazards of drink and women. Groups that had once railed against the impact of cigarettes made an abrupt about-face as the government began including them in soldiers’ rations in unquestioned patriotism. All the laws formerly passed would be repealed over the next decade. But this often overlooked chapter in the fight against tobacco represents a fundamental change in the movement’s goals and structure, including vocal powerful figures, and with targeting laws and regulations, rather than using moral persuasion.

## Get To Know a Board Member!

### **Tony Harvey: Secretary**

Welcome to our newest Officer, Tony Harvey. Originally from Indiana, Tony is a software developer who recently moved to Durham with his wife, Heather.

Tony first joined Duke Homestead as a volunteer in 2022. Since then, he's been an incredible help to the staff in keeping up the site, updating technology, and getting ready for events. Tony has done everything from helping with parking, putting out fires, and setting up the DVD player for Christmas. He's watched the front desk while staff were away, helped with numerous cleaning endeavors, and given tours. For exciting tech updates, Tony added captions to the site video, making it much more accessible to visitors, and he got our museum intercom working again, which has been very helpful in announcing tours, video times, and closing reminders.



Duke Homestead's staff are very grateful for all of Tony's generous help, and are excited to have him officially on the board!

### **Interested in Getting More Involved?**

Duke Homestead is always looking for volunteers who are interested in helping with Visitor Services, which include giving our 45-minute guided tour, greeting and orienting visitors as they enter the Visitor Center, and helping to conduct our educational programming for visiting school groups. Volunteers can also help at our many special events, complete historic research, assist with landscaping projects, and more! If you're interested, please email us at: [duke@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:duke@dncr.nc.gov)



**GOLD LEAF**

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and  
History Corporation

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Address Service Requested

***Support Duke Homestead through your Membership!***

Application (Please Print):

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- Friend \$20.00 +                       Hander \$50.00 +
- Stringer \$100.00 +                       Primer \$250.00 +
- Grower \$500.00 +                       Corporate/Charter  
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Add \$5.00 to my membership to continue to receive a  
paper copy of Gold Leaf

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

My Check is enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please use my Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Duke Homestead Education & History Corporation**  
**Duke Homestead State Historic Site**  
**2828 Duke Homestead Rd.**  
**Durham, NC 27705**

