



Baker Block Museum

2019 Annual Report

North Okaloosa Historical Association



These turn-of-the-century school desks were often found in one-room schoolhouses.
(Cover) A covered pavilion is the newest addition to the Charles and Jeanette Henderson Heritage Park.



VISION, MISSION, GOALS

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The Baker Block Museum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization of the North Okaloosa Historical Association, Inc., and is managed by its Board of Directors.

The Museum newsletter is published by the North Okaloosa Historical Society, Inc., and is an authorized publication for distribution to Museum members and visitors. Contents of the newsletter is copyrighted, all rights reserved.

Items to be considered for the newsletter may be submitted to the Museum at P.O. Box 186, Baker, FL 32531 or emailed to bakermuseumnewsletter@gmail.com. Deadline for submission is March 15, June 15, Sept. 15 and Dec. 15 for consideration in the next quarterly issue. Articles received after the deadline will be considered for future use. All submissions will be edited for accuracy, clarity, brevity and conformance with newsletter guidelines.

VISION, MISSIONS, GOALS

Vision

The vision of the North Okaloosa Historical Association is to preserve Okaloosa County history.

Mission

The mission of the NOHA is to collect, preserve and promote the history of Okaloosa County, the northwest Florida panhandle and the surrounding communities.

Goals

The goals of the NOHA are to:

- preserve historical artifacts
- capture oral histories
- educate future generations
- promote a better understanding and appreciation of this area's rich heritage

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2019 Year in Review at the Baker Block Museum



The Museum kicked off the New Year with a new quarterly newsletter format published in January, April, July and October as the

Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall issues, respectively.

Shortly after the first of the year, the North Okaloosa Historical Association revised its bylaws.

In June, we introduced the Museum's **3rd Saturday**



event as a marketing tool.

3rd Saturday events in 2019 included:

- March — Praise in the Park (sponsored by Golan Assembly of God)
- April — Easter egg hunt
- May — 2019 Wall of Honor ceremony
- June — Rummage sale
- July — Museum's 23rd anniversary
- August — Florida Artist Blacksmith Assn.

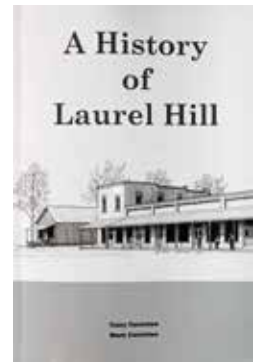
- demonstrations
- October — Book signing
- December — Holiday cookies and hot chocolate

The Museum also participated in community events during the year: the Laurel Hill Arts & Heritage Festival April 27, the 75th anniversary of D-Day hosted by the city of Crestview June 6 and the Doc Holliday Birthday Celebration September 14 hosted by the City of Crestview.

In August, Holt Academy-Baker child development center brought in a life flight helicopter to the Charles and Jeanette Henderson Heritage Park as part of its summer program.

In May, Lillie Mae Price Faulk, a 2013 honoree of the Museum's Wall of Honor passed away. And in July, Christian McDonald Campbell, Laurel Hill's oldest resident, celebrated her 105th birthday.

October saw a book signing for the Museum's latest in its local histories series,



A History of Laurel Hill (see Book Series).

In November, the Museum hosted its 15th Annual Baker Heritage Day Festival with an estimated crowd of 5,000.

Finally, for the first time in a few years, the Museum decorated the windows for the holidays.

The biggest improvement and addition to the Museum and Park was the construction of a covered pavilion. Built by Okaloosa County using inmate labor, the structure was completed in time for Heritage Day (see cover photo).

Future plans are to add a concrete floor, ceiling fans, misters, lighting and a raised stage with stage lighting and sound.



The 15th Annual Baker Heritage Day Festival was held Nov. 2 in the Heritage Park. This was an inaugural event for the Park's new covered pavilion (see cover photo).



The Museum presented World War II items from its collection during Crestview's 75th anniversary of D-Day June 6.

ACCESSIONS

Antique T-handle Bunghole auger

A T-handle bunghole auger (below left) was used to bore holes in wine or whiskey barrels. Holes were used to fill the barrels with anything that needed aging, then plugged with a bung or wooden plug. When the contents were ready to be enjoyed, the bungs were removed to allow the contents to drain from the barrel. The auger, on display in the Museum's moonshine exhibit, was donated by Mike Bush.



Flashy new ride

The Museum restored a replica of an 1896 Ford Quadricycle made by Bob's Replicars in Texas. The car made its debut during the 2019 Heritage Day Festival.



(above right) Laurel Hill resident Ola Richbourg joined the U.S. Marines in 1943 during World War II. She re-enlisted during the Korean War and served for two decades, retiring as a technical sergeant in 1966. Her military items went on display in 2019.

Baker Block Museum Membership

The North Okaloosa Historical Association updated its membership benefits in 2019. Membership terms run from January 1 to December 31.

All members receive a membership card, email subscription of the quarterly newsletter, 10 percent discount off books and calendars published by NOHA, email notification of special events and an invitation to the annual meeting in January.

Lifetime members receive all of the above as well as a 20 percent discount off books and calendars published by NOHA, recognition in the annual report and 10 percent off Family Heritage Wall of Honor nominations.

Memberships

- Individual — \$25
- Family — \$50
- Student — \$15
- Lifetime — \$250

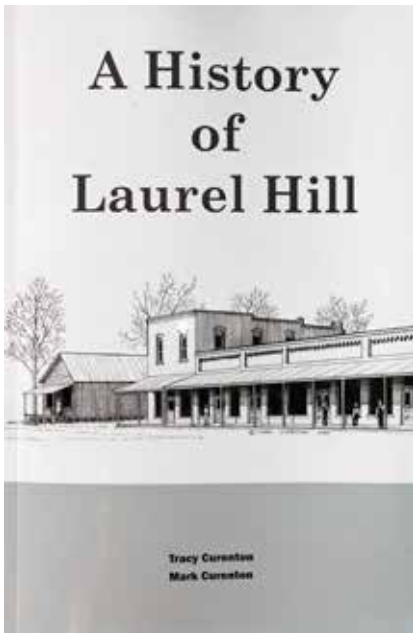
Baker Block Museum Sponsorship

The Museum would like to thank our generous sponsors throughout the year of 2019. Without the support of these organizations, many of the programs would not have been possible.

**Baker Metal
Gulf Power
Baker Pic 'N Save
Enzor Management
Baker Parts & Supply, Inc.
S&L Auto Body, Inc.**

**Eglin Federal Credit Union
Baker Feed & Country Store
The Restroom Portable Toilets
Adams Sanitation
Ruthie's Notions
WJSB 1050 AM**

BOOK SERIES



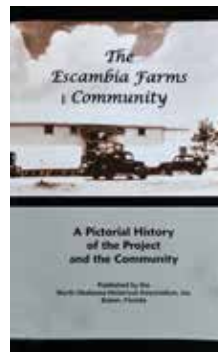
A History of Laurel Hill

The newest book in the history series was published this year, written by Tracy Curenton, NOHA board president and her brother, Mark Curenton. Drawing from interviews, newspapers, public records and photographs, *A History of Laurel Hill* tells the story of this historic town. The book covers the early history of the area under Spanish rule through the Civil War, the coming of the railroad, the Great Depression and into the modern era.

Other books in the history series



Turpentine in the Florida Panhandle casts turpentine as a significant element impacting the way of life in the Northwest Florida panhandle. It describes an integrated experience—culture, industry, and human condition—in the lives of those who lived it.



Present Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal program included aid to American migrant workers and tenant farmers. The Resettlement Administration created a planned farming community in the northwest corner of Okaloosa County in 1936 known as Escambia Farms.



Okaloosa County has a rich military history. *Okaloosa Strong: The Homefront* is a sampling of the people, places, stories, and events during wartime in the county.



Officially founded in 1883, Crestview became a stop on the Pensacola & Atlantic Railroad. The geographic center of the county, the town became the seat of the newly established county in 1917. *A Pictorial History* shows in photos how Crestview changed into the largest city in the county.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The 2019 Numbers

Income

Donations	\$3,740
Sponsorship	\$7,600
Activity income	\$2,549
Merchandise Sales	\$3,860

Membership

Annual	\$85
Lifetime	\$0
Family	\$0
Student	\$0

Rent	\$8,400
Okaloosa County Grant	\$10,000
Interest	\$248
Total Income	\$36,332

Expenses

Utilities	\$1,744
Supplies	\$5,278
Maintenance	\$4,001
Florida sales tax	\$842
Insurance	\$4,868
Payroll	\$16,877
Federal withholding	\$3,629
Merchandise	\$2,672
Heritage Day expense	\$384
Miscellaneous	\$315
Total Expenses	\$40,610

Net Income **-\$4,278**

Income Breakout

2019 Baker Heritage Day Festival	\$2,208
Mercantile Sales	\$3,860
Rental	\$8,400
Bingo	\$7,450

Number of visitors: 958*
106 increase from 2018

Average number of visitors per month: 80

Visitor locations:

27 states—54% of the country represented
1 U.S. territory

Visits by county:

Okaloosa	376
Santa Rosa	55
Walton	22
Escambia	67
Other Florida	58

* Numbers based on visitor sign-in data only



1900 Otahite Post Office and General Store was moved to the park from its original location, a lost community in the Blackwater State Forest.