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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Final Showing of Baker-Barber Photograph Collection at the Henderson County Public Library

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The last slideshow of the Baker-Barber Photograph Collection, hosted by the Henderson County Public Library and Community Foundation of Henderson County, will take place on Thursday, February 21 at 1:00 p.m. in the Kaplan Auditorium at the Main Library. The public is welcome to attend, enjoy light refreshments and a celebration of favorite images from the collection.

The slideshow originally started five years ago, in 2014, with the goal of seeking additional information on photographs in the Baker-Barber Collection. Participants viewed photos and related what they knew about the photographs. Relying on the collective memory of the local community meant preserving data about these images that was not otherwise available.

The Baker-Barber Collection, generously gifted to Community Foundation of Henderson County by Mr. Jody Barber in 1993, chronicles the history of Western North Carolina from 1884 to the early - 1990s. Much more than just a collection of old photographs, it documents places, events, and records growth in and around Henderson County.

Henderson County is fortunate to have a collection of this size and breadth as Ron Partin, host of the slideshow and former Community Foundation board member, recently said, “Few communities of any size have such a treasure of historical photographs. We hope our efforts will assure the preservation and access of this marvelous gift for many generations.”

Currently there are approximately 4,000 Baker-Barber images available for viewing on the library’s website. Library staff will immediately begin cataloging the 8,000 additional images reviewed in the slideshows and make them accessible through the library’s website. “It is bittersweet to see the slideshows end,” said Special Collections Librarian Mark Burdette. “We’ve had many of the same folks meeting for years and they have developed into quite a community. However, I am excited about making more of this great collection available to the public.”



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The library and Community Foundation intend to hold future slideshow viewings as a way of promoting the collection. You can view digital images from the Baker-Barber collection at <https://www.hendersoncountync.gov/library/page/baker-barber-collection>.

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