Wayne County Historical Association and Museum Newsletter

APRIL 2023 VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

Home Grown



Dorothy Cotton (played by Crystal Hodges at R) had two important teachers in her life. The first and most important was Miss Rosa Gray, (played by Dorisenia Thompson at L) who always encouraged her and said that her star pupil was a "ready girl." The second (played by Anetta Reid at center) was also a motivating factor for Dorothy Cotton when she told her student at Dillard High School that she was "weird." Dorothy never forgot either influence.

In real life, Dorisenia, who is retired, is a whimsical cook and lay nutritionist, as well as a member and frequent volunteer at the Wayne County Museum.

Anetta, who is also retired, is a member of the education committee for the Wayne County Historical Society, and she enjoys volunteering at the museum for events.

Crystal is currently teaching. She is a board member and the education chairperson of the Historical Association at the Wayne County Museum.



The community turns out to honor one of their own, Dorothy Cotton, as part of the museum's celebration of Women's History Month.

(cont. on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Home Grown (cont.)	2-3
April Events at the Wayne County Museum	4
Happening in the Community	4
Becoming a Member	4
Fairy Tale Characters Visit the Museum	5
Annual Fairy Tale Festival at the Museum	5-6
Temple Oheb Shalom	7-8
Doricia Benton	8-9
Correction to the March issue	9
Eastern Chapter of Jack and Jill of America	10
The 135th U.S. Colored Troop	11
Movie Night at the Museum	12
Wayne County Museum Sponsors	13
Recipe	14

Home Grown (cont. from page 1)



The cast of "Home Grown from Goldsboro: Dorothy Cotton (January 5, 1930-June 10, 2018)" gathers following the recent performance at the Wayne County History Museum. They are as follows (from L to R):

Winston Barnes as one of Dorothy Cotton's students in her Citizenship School: Winston (Wimp) is a graduate of Dillard High School and St. Augustine's college. He is a retired chemist, a Corvette owner, as well as an avid cook and fisherman.

Michael Daye as one of Dorothy Cotton's students: Michael is an actor, singer, and dancer who loves using his gifts to bless others. Michael has acting credits with Center Stage Theatre in Goldsboro.

Dorisenia Thompson as Dorothy Cotton's favorite teacher, Miss Rosa Gray: Dorisenia is a graduate of Dillard High School and Bennett College. She is a retired educator and co-owner of Carolina Shoe Rebuilders.

Anetta Reid as another of Dorothy's teachers: Anetta is a graduate of Goldsboro High School, a former teacher assistant, former cosmetologist, and a retired admissions clerk. She enjoys helping others and watching Turner Classic Movies.

Lestee Foye as Martin Luther King: Lestee is from Kenly. He teaches Spanish at James B. Hunt High School in Wilson and is the assistant pastor at First Missionary Baptist Church in Selma, NC.

Crystal Hodges as Dorothy Cotton: Crystal is a National Board Certified Teacher and she teaches kindergarten students at Tommy's Road Elementary School.

Ernestine Wooten as one of Dorothy's students: Ernestine is a retired educator and a pioneer in early childhood education in Wayne County. She is a member of First African Baptist Church and she enjoys volunteering at the Community Crisis Center here in Goldsboro.

Veronica Smith as one of Dorothy's students: Veronica is the assistant principal at Brogden Primary.

Kevin Smith as another of Dorothy's students: Kevin Smith is the principal of Edgewood Community Developmental School. His motto there is that we emphasize what our students can do, not what their limitations are.

Nancy Wooten Coor as one of Dorothy's students: Nancy is a retired social worker and her mother Ernestine Wooten's constant companion. She is a member of First African Baptist Church, where she enjoys singing in the choir. Nancy also sings at community events, including those held at the Wayne County Museum. She volunteers at the Community Crisis Center with food distribution.

(cont. on page 3)

Home Grown (cont. from page 2)



Dorothy Cotton, played by Crystal Hodges, and Martin Luther King, played by Lestee Foye, join forces near the end of the reading to encourage the audience to have a dream for tomorrow.



Lestee Foye, as Martin Luther King, visits Dorothy Cotton's Citizenship classroom, to sing for her students and for our audience. He is playing his guitar and singing the Pete Seeger version of "Keep Your Eyes on the Prize."





Descendants of Dorothy Cotton turned out along with a standing room only crowd to learn more about their famous relative at the recent Dorothy Cotton readers' theatre event held at the Wayne County Museum. Dorothy Cotton, who was from Goldsboro, was Martin Luther King's right-hand woman. She established Citizenship Schools throughout the deep South during the height of the Civil Rights Movement for the purpose of raising the literacy level of disenfranchised African Americans. Until recently, little has been known about her key role in influencing public policy and opinion with regard to segregation. Her methods of nonviolent protest and education were the same as her famous mentor, Dr. Martin Luther King. The source for the readers' theatre, "Home Grown from Goldsboro: Dorothy Cotton (January 5, 1930-June 10, 2018)," written by Mary Susan Heath, was Dorothy Cotton's memoir, ***If Your Back's Not Bent.***

Mary Susan Heath (center) is the author of the script for the Home Grown readers' theatre presented recently at the Wayne County Museum. On her right is Lestee Foye from Kenly, who played Dorothy's famous mentor, Martin Luther King. Lestee, who is multi-talented, also sang two songs popular during the height of the Civil Rights Movement. His solos included "A Change is Gonna Come" by Sam Cooke. He holds a BS degree in Hispanic studies and master's degrees in school administration from East Carolina University and in theology from Duke University.

Dorisenia Thompson (L) is a an active member of St. Stephens Episcopal Church, where she and Mary Susan serve together in children's ministries. They also recently graduated together from a four-year course through the Episcopal Church entitled Education for Ministry.

April Events at the Wayne County Museum:

April 1 – Saturday Ongoing until May 27 – **2023 Black History exhibit: "Serving with Valor, the Black Military Veterans of Wayne County and Beyond"** continues. The exhibit explores the often-overlooked history of Black soldiers in our nation's wars. Presented in partnership with the NC Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs.

April 1 – Saturday **10:30am – Free Downtown History Walk** – The walking tour meets in the lobby of the Museum at 10:30am and lasts about 1.5 hours. The tour is guided by our director and will cover the history of Goldsboro and various historic sites and buildings downtown. Please wear comfy shoes. *Weather permitting – if rain is imminent or temps are below 45° or above 90°, we will reschedule.

April 7 – Friday – The Museum will be closed for **Good Friday Holiday**.

April 21 – Friday **–7:00pm – Movie Night at the Museum** – Inside showing of ***Double Victory: The Tuskegee Airmen at War .*** Cost is $10 for each person. Concessions available for purchase.

April 29 – Saturday **10:30am – Free Downtown Black History Walk** – The walking tour meets in the lobby of the Museum at 10:30**am** and lasts about 1.5 hours. The tour is guided by our director and will cover the Black history of downtown Goldsboro, from its pioneers, entrepreneurs, historic sites, and the James St. business district to the Little Washington neighborhood. Please wear comfy shoes. *Weather permitting – if rain is imminent or temps are below 45° or above 90° we will reschedule.

April 29 – Saturday **1-3:00pm – May Day Festival for Kids – Readers' Theatre is at 1pm** – Come celebrate the arrival of Spring with us! This fun family event will feature: a Maypole activity, a Scavenger Hunt, Face Painting, Arts & Crafts, an original Readers' Theater Staged Play, Snacks, and Much More! This event is free and open to the public.

Happening in the Community

April 12 – Wednesday **Golden Agers (50+) – 12:00pm – Goldsboro Event Center – Bring a dish for potluck lunch** – Come and see what they are about.

April 28-30 – Center Stage Theatre performing ***Seussical the Musical*** at the Paramount (**Friday - Saturday - Sunday**).

Becoming A Member

If you're receiving this newsletter, you're likely already a member of the Wayne County Historical Association and Museum. If not, that means someone has thought enough of you to share it and include you in the experience. To receive the newsletter directly to your email the first of each month, join online at waynemuseum.org/membership or go to the museum in person and Assistant Director Jeff Westbrook will assist you. Membership has its privileges! In addition to receiving the monthly newsletter by email, you will receive discounts on ticketed events, a 10% discount in the museum gift shop, a 20% discount on Ballroom rentals, invitations to special Members-Only Events, and voting privileges at Wayne County Historical Association meetings. We appreciate your support to preserve our local history.

Fairy Tale Characters Visit the Museum

By Crystal Hodges

On Saturday, March 11, 2023, the Wayne County Museum hosted its annual Fairy Tale Festival! A readers' theater based on "The Three Little Pigs" was performed by kindergarten, first, and second grade students. After the reading, there were lots of activities to enjoy! Children had the opportunity to explore STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) activities that included building a house where all three pigs could live! Other activities included face painting, arts and crafts, and light refreshments.

Thank you to the Miss Goldsboro Scholarship Organization, The Goldsboro Optimist Club, and the many volunteers, parents, and students who continue to make these events possible. This free educational event was the first in a series of children's programs to promote literacy in our community, created by Crystal Hodges, education chairperson and board member.

Our next children's event will be the May Day Festival on Saturday, April 29, 2023, from 1:00 -3:00pm. If you are interested in your child being a reader for any of these events, please contact author and educator Mary Susan Heath at heathtomcat@yahoo.com. There will also be a free book available for each child who attends while supplies last. We look forward to seeing you there!

Annual Fairy Tale Festival at the Museum



The cast of the readers' theatre performance of "The Three Little Pigs" was as follows (from L to R): Crystal Hodges, Mary Susan Heath, Ava Long, Breelyn Davis-Holmes, Romani Williams, Noah Bognar, and RJ Alston.



A large crowd of eager children and adults waits for the beginning of the free readers' theatre that was performed at the beginning of the recent Fairy Tale Festival held at the Wayne County Museum.

(cont. on page 6)

Annual Fairy Tale Festival at the Museum (cont.)



Miss Goldsboro's Outstanding Teen, Eden May; Miss Goldsboro, Tara Parker; and Carolina Princess, Arianna Davis, dress as fairy tale characters to meet and greet the crowd at the Museum's recent Fairy Tale Festival.



Judy Hodges, a volunteer at the Fairy Tale Festival, is dressed as the Queen of Hearts and is ready to serve refreshments.



Volunteers, adults, and children enjoy using the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) kits to explore critical thinking and problem-solving skills.



Mary Susan Heath, local author, board member, and educator, poses with two of the books that were available for children as a gift from the museum, thanks to a donation by a generous benefactor.

Temple Oheb Shalom

By Emily Weil

The Jewish congregation in Goldsboro has a long history. Its members organized in 1883, and the temple Oheb Shalom opened in 1886. Preceded only by the temple in Wilmington, Goldsboro's is the second oldest in the state.

The original congregation, calling themselves "brothers," included 33 people. They first met in the Odd Fellows Hall for the purpose of building a synagogue.

Except for one farmer in Pikeville, all the participants were merchants. Adolph Lehman, a liquor merchant, was named first president of the congregation. Those present included Henry Weil, Solomon Weil, F. Abraham, Joseph Isaacs, Asher Edwards, Emil Rosenthal, Sol Einstein, Joe Rosenthal, and Leo Cohn. They adopted bylaws, elected officers, and began plans for a new building. Forty-eight charter members signed the constitution.

One resolution called for 20 percent of a member's pledge to be paid immediately and another 20 per cent within six months. Building construction would start as soon as possible. A committee was appointed to solicit donations from the community.

In April 1883, the group met to secure a temporary place of worship. The second floor of the Armory Building on Center Street (where the Paramount is now) was leased from H. Weil and Brothers, and the Ladies Assistance Society provided furnishings. The congregation held its first meeting in the new quarters on May 18, 1883. At that time the Rev. I.M. Bloch was elected rabbi, reader and teacher. The choir, Sabbath School, and a day school were organized that same month. Fifteen students were enrolled in the day school.

In October 1883, the congregation approved the purchase of a building lot on North James Street from W. H. Griffin at a cost of $750. Almost a year

(Continued on page 8)





The former Temple Oheb Shalom, a Jewish synagogue, located at 112 West Oak Street, now houses the Community Soup Kitchen of Goldsboro.

Temple Oheb Shalom (cont.)

(Continued from page 7)

later the building committee reported that funds were on hand to start construction.

In January 1885, building plans and estimates were presented to the congregation. The members agreed that the building should cost no more than $6,000. It should have a frontage of 35 feet, a depth of 65 feet, and a seating capacity of 250.

In September 1885, Milton Harding was awarded the building contract at $4,700. The Romanesque-Revival structure was designed to resemble a synagogue in Baltimore. Temple Oheb Shalom is the second oldest in North Carolina and one of the earliest in the United States.

The first meeting at the synagogue was held December 26, 1886, and a "gala" was planned to celebrate.

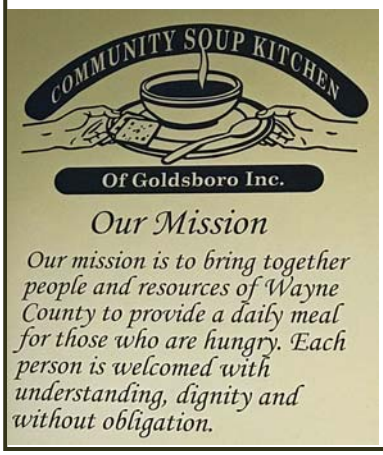
Over the years membership remained constant with 30 families. The synagogue was the center of Jewish life in the community. Gradually the numbers declined as members died or moved elsewhere. By the 1990s no regular meetings were held. Soon a new use was found when the Community Soup Kitchen needed a new home. This service fits into the Jewish tradition of care for the needy. The building stands today as a beautiful reminder of a rich Jewish heritage that played an important role in our local history.

Doricia Benton: Opening Doors for Others

By Mary Susan Heath

Doricia Benton, Director of the Soup Kitchen, meets people where they are – hungry. The door is open to all. There are no other requirements and no questions asked to be served a delicious home-cooked meal at the Soup Kitchen of Goldsboro. Many of the people who come needing a hot mid-day meal are homeless, but not all. Some have simply fallen on hard times and do not have enough income to cover food for the month, as well as other necessities. Some are "regulars." For others, the visit to 112 W. Oak may be just once. Lunch is available to all Monday through Saturday, from 11:00am-12:00pm.

Doricia has a thirty-year history with the Soup Kitchen, and she has been the director for 19 years. The Soup Kitchen itself originated at St. Stephens Episcopal Church forty-two years ago and was led by Barbara Berkely, who was a member there. In her own words, this was Doricia's beginning:



"My mom invited me to meet her friends that she volunteered with at the Soup Kitchen. They went by the name "The Tuesday Lunch Bunch." I stepped in and met Mrs. Barbara Berkely (Director) and the volunteers. It wasn't long before Mrs. Barbara asked me to peel a bag of potatoes.



Doricia Benton, director of the Soup Kitchen, pauses in her office before beginning this day with "double duty." Susan Britt, her right hand and Soup Kitchen cook, has to be out, so Doricia will be Souper Woman in more ways than one.

I stayed on the rest of the day to help. She put me on the calendar to volunteer regularly. I guess you could say I stepped in and never stepped back out."

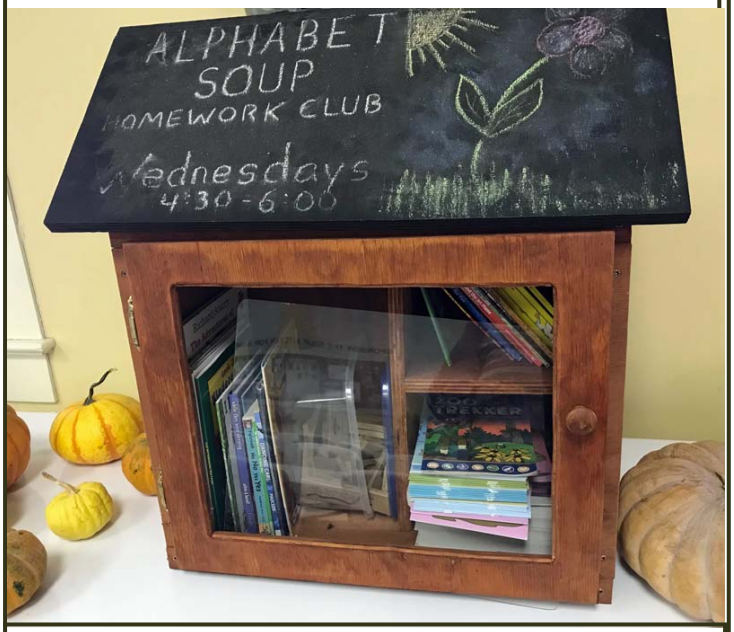
It's the joy that keeps Doricia there. "Helping my friends," giving them what they need in the moment is what she finds most rewarding about her work. That may be "conversation to ease their mind or letting them call a family member so they don't worry. Always remember, people are hungry for many different things, not just food. They are "hungry for attention, understanding, acceptance,

(Continued on page 9)

Doricia Benton: Opening Doors for Others (Cont.)

(Continued from page 8)
and the list goes on and on."

Reflecting, Doricia says that each day at the soup kitchen is different from the day before, from the meal that is served to the Soup Kitchen friends who come to eat. Of her experience, she says, "I have grown each day to become stronger and more knowledgeable as to what each individual needs. When they cry, you stay strong for them. When they are confused, you stay strong for them. When they are hurting because of their choices, you stay strong for them. When they are hurting because of other people's choices, you stay strong for them. I don't feel challenged with my Soup friends, only love.



The mission of the Soup Kitchen is extended to include feeding minds as well as bodies when the Alphabet Soup Club meets every week for homework help and tutoring.

"I love to stir up love in the kitchen, too. I have an awesome crew from our Soup Kitchen cook, Susan, to our dedicated volunteers."

Another, little known aspect of the Soup Kitchen's mission is feeding the minds of young people. Every Wednesday, from 4:30-6:00pm, Doricia opens the doors of the Soup Kitchen for a meeting of the Alphabet Soup Homework Club. During that time, any student who wants to come can stop in for tutoring, homework help, and a snack.

In keeping with her Soup motto and her commitment to the community, Doricia recently made a $500 donation to the Wayne County Museum for the purpose of funding the book giveaway that the Museum is offering along with their free children's programming. She agreed to allow me to interview her and share this information with our readers to encourage others to join her in supporting the museum in our efforts to inform the community of our past, present, and future.

Doricia's Soup Motto is:
"We live together
We love together
We grow together."

Both the Wayne County Museum and the Goldsboro Soup Kitchen are dependent on financial support from the public to keep their doors open.



Correction to the March Issue

A portrait of a local wife/husband military duo is on display at the museum as part of the current exhibit, "Serving with Valor, the Black Military Veterans of Wayne County and Beyond." They are from L to R: Lt. Col. Minnie Mae Beverly (deceased Nov. 26, 2022) and Colonel Chester Arthur Beverly, Jr. (deceased November 17, 2021). She was a flight nurse in the Air Force during the Cuban Missile Crisis and in Vietnam. He also served in Vietnam with the Air Force and was a pilot throughout his career. The March issue of our newsletter incorrectly identified the relationship between the two. The newsletter staff apologizes for the mistake.

Eastern Chapter of Jack and Jill of America





The museum was at capacity for the February event, a Black history oratorical program sponsored by the Eastern Chapter of Jack and Jill of America. Jack and Jill of America is a leadership organization formed during the Great Depression. It was formed in 1938 by African American mothers seeking to bring children together in a social and cultural environment.

We would like to thank the Goldsboro/ Wayne NAACP members who volunteered at the museum for the "Agriculture for the Culture" Black History Oratorical Program presented by the Jack and Jill or America Eastern NC Chapter.





The students at the recent Black History Oratorical Program did an amazing job representing various individuals in Black Agriculture and reporting on the history of the Black farming experience



From L to R, Maxine White, Kelton D. Moore, and Jewel L. Morgan are serving on a panel and answering questions regarding farming from young people. The recent Black History Oratorical Program, Agriculture for the Culture, was held at the Wayne County Museum.

The 135th U.S. Colored Troop

By Jennifer Kuykendall, Executive Director, Wayne County Museum



Pictured are the "Lost Troop" of the 135th, who served under General Sherman during the Civil War. Little was known about them before the research of Jay and Amy Bauer.

General William T. Sherman organized the 135th United States Colored Troop in Goldsboro, NC, toward the end of the Civil War in March of 1865. The 135th USCT consisted of 1,154 men. They joined the army from the rolls of a pioneer corps that had been with General Sherman since leaving Savannah, Georgia. This "Lost Troop" of freedom seekers, the 135th USCT, marched with Sherman's army out of Goldsboro to Raleigh, NC, at the end of the war. They then marched on to Washington, DC, and on May 24, 1865, the 135th USCT paraded with Sherman's army in the Grand Review, displaying their regimental flag. After a short stay performing guard duty in DC, they transferred to Louisville, KY, serving garrison duty in Kentucky and Indiana. The 135th USCT was mustered out of service at the end of October 1865. You can learn more about this fascinating but little-known Civil War Regiment that is part of the museum's current exhibit "Serving with Valor, the Black Soldiers and Veterans of Wayne County."

Recognizing the 135th USCT has been a long time in the making, a product of years of work by Jay and Amy Bauer, who researched and discovered details of the lost troop of 1,154 men – 30 soldiers estimated to be from Wayne County and 220 from North Carolina – who joined the Union army in 1865. The Bauers wanted to share the forgotten work of these soldiers. They have written a book entitled "Where Eagles Come From," that tells the story of a young 135th descendent accidentally discovering her ancestor's service in the USCT regiment.

"They enlisted here so this is where the 135th formed, right here in Goldsboro, probably downtown on Center Street," Amy Bauer said in a News-Argus interview. "You put your hand up and you pledge your life to the military – you deserve to be honored. And this troop was forgotten." From research, and official pension records, their team can tell the story of the men of the 135th USCT from slavery, to their army lives and their lives after service in the army.

On March 25th, the Bauers spoke at the museum and gave a presentation about the history of the 135th. Some of the descendants of these soldiers shared information about their relatives, and uniformed reenactors posted the regimental flag of the 135th. Now the City has honored these men of the 135th USCT as "Freedom Seekers, Veterans, and Good Americans." "They led the way," is the title of the newest Civil War Trails marker recently installed in Goldsboro. On March 27 at 10am, on the 158th anniversary of the historic event, community leaders, descendants, and officials met at 201 S. Center Street in beautiful downtown Goldsboro and dedicated the new site and marker in honor of the service of the men in the 135th United States "Colored" Infantry.



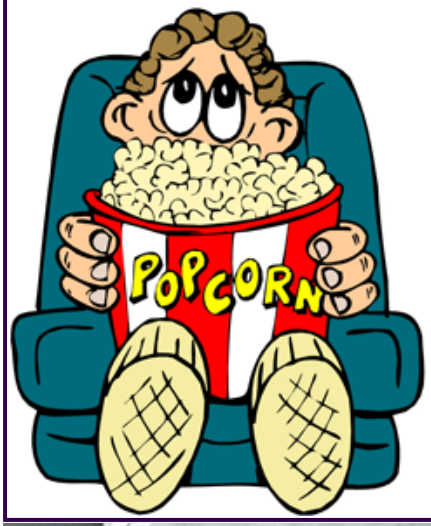
Learn more about the contributions of the 135th Colored Troop to the Civil War from this display at the Wayne County Museum. T-shirts honoring the troop are available for purchase.

Movie Night at the Museum!



Come join us and enjoy a showing of the movie "**Double Victory: The Tuskegee Airmen at War**" at the Wayne County Museum on the big screen, April 21, at 7:00pm.

From LucasFilm, the story of the Tuskegee Airmen is inspirational. "As the first African-American pilots in the United States military, the Tuskegee Airmen are heroes of World War II and beyond. Their story of the fight to achieve a 'double victory' against fascism overseas and racism at home" is one you don't want to miss.



Admission is $10 per person and concessions are available for purchase. The movie will be shown in the ballroom.



Wayne County Museum Sponsors

The Wayne County Museum Historical Association Board of Directors would like to thank the following sponsors for their contribution to the museum's mission, which is "to discover, preserve, document, display, and disseminate historical knowledge and artifacts of Wayne County. We also seek to increase public awareness of the heritage of Wayne County and its environs through exhibits, events, and traditional and digital information sources."

Platinum Sponsors have donated $1000 or more to the museum.

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*Rental discount not to exceed $500 during the 12-month period of sponsorship. After reaching $500, sponsor will continue to receive a 20% discount on future rentals during the 12-month period.				
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WAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION AND MUSEUM

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www.waynemuseum.org

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RECIPE

Broccoli & Cheese Casserole

Prep: 5 minutes
Bake: 30 minutes
Makes: 6 servings

Ingredients:

1 can (10¾ oz.) Campbell's Cream of Mushroom Soup (Regular, 98°/o Fat Free or 25% Less Sodium)
½ cup milk
2 teaspoons yellow mustard
1 bag (16 ounces) frozen broccoli flowerets, thawed
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
1/3 cup dry bread crumbs
2 teaspoons butter, melted



Directions:

1. Stir soup, milk, mustard, broccoli and cheese in 1½-quart casserole.
2. Mix bread crumbs with butter in bowl and sprinkle over broccoli mixture.
3. Bake at 350°F 30 minutes or until hot.

Rice Is Nice: Add 2 cups cooked white rice to broccoli mixture. It is also a good way to use leftover rice.
Cheese Change-Up: Use mozzarella cheese instead of Cheddar.

