

# 250th Anniversary of First Settlement

By Judi Lawson Wallace



# 250

ANNIVERSARY  
1753 ~ 2003

W I N S T O N - S A L E M , N C

**O**n the crisp November 17, 1753, 15 Moravian brethren completed their long trek along the Great Wagon Road from Pennsylvania and arrived at Bethabara, the site of their first settlement in the 100,000-acre Wachovia Tract. That tract now encompasses all of Winston-Salem and most of Forsyth County, so Bethabara marks the beginning of both the city and the county. In celebration of this 250th anniversary, a committee of community leaders plans to kick off a year of celebration with an anniversary festival at Historic Bethabara Park on Saturday, November 15, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. During the 12 months that follow, community organizations are being encouraged to sponsor special activities as part of the 250th anniversary celebration. The celebration will culminate with a major

event in November 2004, in Winston-Salem, the modern county seat. Events will be posted at [www.eventorama.org](http://www.eventorama.org).

The public is invited to join in the kick-off festival at Historic Bethabara Park on November 15 by participating in a Community Walk, reenacting the original trek along the last stretch of the Great Wagon Road into Bethabara. Following the walk, a public ceremony at the reconstructed 1754 village will commemorate the arrival of those first settlers. A catered lunch will be served with musicians entertaining. Then the afternoon will be filled with a variety of activities: music, colonial games, dancing, wagon rides, tours of historic buildings and a reunion of descendants of the early settlers. The events are free; there is a charge for lunch. For more information about the Historic Bethabara Celebration, call (336) 924-8191.

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