

The Family Business: 175 Years of Pottery by the Owen/Owens Families opens at the NCPC on January 14th, 2009 with 100 pieces of pottery and many family photos and bios.

The exhibit will run thru April 3rd. We will host an artists reception on January 17th from 2-4 pm. The reception is free and open to the public and family members plan to bring their instruments and play bluegrass and old time Appalachian music.

"Families of artists are a particularly exotic and appealing phenomena, the Owen/Owens family of Seagrove, North Carolina is such a family. Beginning with Joseph Owen (1823-1905) this extended family has crafted pottery for at least six generations. Other Seagrove area families share a similar history. Aumans, Coles, Teagues and Chriscoes also produced utilitarian earthenware and stoneware. Their collective presence forms a larger sample of potters whose practice continued over several generations, and suggests that pottery making was the result of circumstances - nurture - as well as human nature.

The purpose of this exhibition will be to examine different strands of knowledge about and within this family. The current potters are living evidence for their own history. From decade to decade the Owen/Owens family has created an enduring legacy of art and craft by absorbing change and using it, by finding the energy of new hybrids along with the power of persistent, internal consistency. They have lived through good economic times and bad times too, sometimes producing only to maintain the organization that work gives a day and the feeling of accomplishment that assures some control over one's life.

"Joseph's descendants have succeeded in the face of radical social, cultural and demographic change at both the local and regional levels. The Owen(s) family has endured like no other." Excerpt from Charlotte Vestal Brown, Hon AIA

The mission of the North Carolina Pottery Center is to promote public awareness and appreciation of the history, heritage, and ongoing tradition of pottery-making in North Carolina through educational programs, public services, collection and preservation.