

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Promoting Local History through Education and Research

<http://www.meckdec.org/>



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Robert Hall Morrison and the Founding of Davidson College

Many colleges have someone who is referred to as “The Founder.” In the case of Davidson College and Robert Hall Morrison this is literally true. In 1835 Dr. Morrison conceived of the college and chaired the committee that brought it into existence. He purchased the land in north Mecklenburg County where the college is today and, with another man, raised the necessary funds. He organized the design and construction of the buildings, wrote the curriculum, solicited students for the first class and went to the Assembly to get a charter. When attempts to staff the college failed he served as the first president and half of the first faculty

If ever a man could be said to have “founded” a college, it was the Reverend Doctor Morrison. Shortly, however, a family tragedy and poor health forced him to resign the presidency and he moved his family to Lincoln County, recovered his health, became a successful farmer and continued his ministry.

Either his religious career or the founding of the college would make him an outstanding figure in antebellum North Carolina, but what fame he has today rests on the fact that his daughters married well, to prominent Confederate officers including Stonewall Jackson and D. H. Hill.

Robert Morrison was born in 1798 and raised in the Rocky River section of Cabarrus County. At the age of 19 he graduated from the University of North Carolina with honors, third in his class. Future US President James K. Polk was first. Trained by local preachers he felt called to the Presbyterian Church and attended The College of New Jersey (later Princeton University). He was licensed as a Presbyterian minister in 1820 and called by Providence Presbyterian Church. After a year and a half he was called to a much larger church in Fayetteville where he prospered greatly. After five years he returned to Mecklenburg County, called by Sugar Creek Church and the newly formed First Presbyterian Church in Charlotte where he was the founding pastor.

In 1835, the most popular and respected minister in this part of the state, he saw the need for a local college to train Presbyterian ministers. He conceived of the college and convinced the Concord Presbytery to support it. Appointed chairman of the committee to establish the college, he purchased a large tract of land from William Lee Davidson, the son of the General who died at the Battle of Cowan’s Ford in the Revolution. With his good friend Rev. Patrick Sparrow they raised the \$30,000 required to build the college in three months.

While his committee designed and built the college buildings, Morrison wrote the curriculum and recruited the founding class of 64 students. When attempts to hire a president and faculty failed, Morrison agreed to resign from the church and serve as the first president of the college. Morrison and Sparrow were the first faculty with Sparrow teaching Latin and Greek and Morrison teaching everything else.

The college was very successful in the first year but then tragedy struck. Dr. Morrison had married Mary Graham, a daughter of General Joseph Graham of Lincoln County in 1824. They lived in Fayetteville and then in Charlotte as their family grew. By the time classes started at Davidson in March 1837 they had six children. A year later a typhoid epidemic passed through the area and their two youngest daughters, ages one and four, died within a week of each other. Morrison was destroyed by grief: he contracted bronchitis and began to lose his voice. He took some leave to try to recover, but had to carry on with his classes, including giving the college inaugural address and going to Raleigh to gain a charter. His illness continued to get worse and finally in July 1840 he resigned the presidency and professorship and moved to Lincoln County to farm the land Mary had inherited from her father.

After two more years, Morrison began to recover his health. In 1842 he was called to Unity Church, the oldest Presbyterian Church in the county. He had great success as a farmer and preacher, speaking widely and founding Machpelah Church in 1848. Until his death in 1889 he continued to be respected and revered in the area as a leading minister in the Presbyterian faith. In the first 24 years of their marriage he and Mary had 12 children, all but two of whom lived to adulthood. Two of his sons served in the Civil War as officers. Six of his daughters married men who later became Confederate Officers including General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson, General Daniel Harvey Hill and General Rufus Barringer.

The foundation he laid for Davidson College allowed it to survive and prosper when the vast majority of private colleges founded at that time did not. Today it continues as one of the leading small colleges in America, producing outstanding leaders for North Carolina and the country. Jim Williams

From the Chairman **Our Day in the Sun**

Yes, the Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents had their day in the Sun! All through the efforts of Lynn Mintzer! It was a bright and sunny day on Saturday April 1, 2017. The Docents presented a Cemetery Walk in Settlers’ and Elmwood/Pinewood Cemeteries. Everyone involved in “Voices From The Past” did a wonderful job in making this event a reality in less than 1 year. It was a tremendous job. WELL DONE! To Lynn, and Ann her co-chair, the advisory board, our sponsors, portrayers, Bill Bibby and his staff, and supporters.

It boggles my mind how Lynn did this—almost single handedly at times. She got others involved, donations given, support for publicity, horse and carriage rides available. Lynn believed in “Voices From The Past”. Then she made us believe in it, too. Docent Board knew that we could do it and do it well but did we have enough time? Lynn and Bill Bibby, director of Charlotte’s city owned cemeteries, reassured us that we did. So we carried on for April 1. We can improve, of course, for the next time. But it does not take away from a tremendous success this was. The rave response and enthusiasm for this Cemetery Walk overwhelmed me. As Linda Dalton said that day, “I truly believe we taught more history to more people today than I have ever seen accomplished in one day.” Every portrayer knew their character, all in proper dress. Charlotte did have its day in the Sun.

Coming up for Docents:

- Meck Dec Day. Please support this event on the Square, Friday, May 19th.
- June picnic at Historic Rosedale with a visit of the new blacksmith shop.
- Summer adventures. Come back in the fall and share with other docents the history you learned and saw. Just as Lynn Mintzer did with a cemetery walk in Gadsden, Alabama.

With gratitude, Audrey Mellichamp

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the September/October Dandelion is August 15th.

MHA Docent Programs

Tuesday May 2 To the Tune of Yankee Doodle

This meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. Refreshments at 9:30, business meeting at 10, and program at 11. Visitors are always welcome.

Janet Dyer will present this program about one of our oldest and most beloved tunes. Most Americans know the song "Yankee Doodle". From the 1760's when British soldiers sang it to mock their American allies in the French and Indian War to the Americans' claiming it as their own during the American Revolution to the present, it has been our unofficial number one patriotic song. For over two hundred years, Americans have sung it, whistled it, played it on various instruments, danced to it, and written other songs to the tune of "Yankee Doodle". Find out more about the history of this popular tune. Listen to different 18th century versions of the tune. Dust off your dancing shoes and learn an 18th century dance to "Yankee Doodle" – no experience required.

Janet is a MHA Docent with an interest and expertise in a variety of historic areas. One of them is music. You may have seen her when appeared before our group with her fellow musicians, The Limbertwigs. Don't be surprised if she appears again with fiddle in hand to illustrate her program.

Tuesday, June 6 Annual Docent Picnic

This year we will picnic at Historic Rosedale. We will meet at the site at 10 am for a tour of their recently built reproduction blacksmith shop. Although Dr. Caldwell was a physician, most of his income came from his farm. Five of his slaves were trained as smiths, highly skilled and elite positions for slaves. Smithing that was done on the property and that done by men who were hired out contributed significantly to the family's wealth. After the tour we will have a business meeting followed by the picnic. It will probably be best to leave your dish in your car until picnic time. A platter of fried chicken will be provided, as well as iced tea, water, and paper products. Rosedale is at 3427 North Tryon Street, just a half mile toward town from Sugar Creek.

MHA Dinner Meeting

Trinity Presbyterian Church. Dinner is at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:15. Those not having dinner may enjoy the program at no charge. To make a reservation for dinner use the order form in your MHA Newsletter or contact Barbara Taylor, 1016 Goshen Place, Charlotte, NC 28211, btaylor797@aol.com or 980-335-0326.

Monday, May 15 Carolina's Oldest Roads

Historian and Road Scholar Tom Magnuson will describe and discuss original roads and trails in the Carolina Piedmont. This will include the physical factors of geology and geography that caused the roads to be where they were then, where they are today, why the early settlers chose to live there and why we live where we do today.

This presentation touches on the geology and geography of pre-modern byways, the flora and fauna needed for travel, and the environmental and geopolitical factors determining where we live to this day.

Tom Magnuson is the founder of the Trading Path Association and a Visiting Scholar at the Center for the Study of the South at UNC Chapel Hill. He specializes in finding remnants of the pre-colonial and colonial times in this area and protecting them from accidental destruction.

Past Event Report

Voices From The Past

Saturday April 1st was a spectacular day! Lynn Mintzer and her committee did a splendid job of organizing, researching, and attending to detail. Lynn acquired an impressive array of sponsorships, and the event appears to have more than earned its keep – the final report is not yet in. We estimate at least 700 people attended; the 500 programs that were printed ran out pretty early in the afternoon. And Mother Nature could not have provided a better backdrop for our performances. There were a few glitches such as running out of programs and some of our characters being a bit long-winded, and a few logistical snags that the public probably never noticed. Otherwise near perfection reigned.



An assortment of comments from some of our visitors: “I learned a lot and had fun!” “I had a great time. Hope y’all do it again next year.” “Can’t wait ‘til next year so I can learn more history of Charlotte.” This was such a great event! Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to bring to life Charlotte’s impressive history.” “Maybe I enjoyed it so much because I’ve always loved to visit old cemeteries. Maybe it’s because Charlotte was my home and that of both my parents. Maybe it’s because I was familiar with the names of many of the people being portrayed. Maybe because Harry and Bryant conducted both my parents’ funerals. Maybe all of the above!”

The most popular portrayals were of Randolph Scott, Thad Tate, and the John King story. The most prevalent regret was there was not time enough to see everyone. Perhaps that’s the perfect teaser to bring folks back another year for Act II.

Ann Williams

May is Mecklenburg History Month

**Captain Jack's Historic Bike Ride
Saturday, May 6 at 2 pm, Olde Mecklenburg Brewery**

In the summer of 1775, Captain James Jack, a local tavern owner, rode 450 miles to deliver the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia. In honor of this historic ride, there will be a historic bike ride from the Olde Mecklenburg Brewery to various historical locations around

Charlotte. The ride will leave from the Olde Mecklenburg Brewery and finishing there with a social upon return. Visit www.bikecharlotte.org for more information. Contact Queen City Bicycles at info@queencitybicycles.com for information on how to rent a bike. Sponsored by the May 20th Society.

**The Ron Hankins History Talks Lecture
Thursday, May 18 at 6 pm to 9 pm, Charlotte Museum of History, Free**

The evening before the uptown celebration the Charlotte Museum of History will present the first annual Wells Fargo Foundation Ron Hankins History Talk. The inaugural speaker will be Colonel Tom Vossler who retired from the US Army after being director of the US Army Military History Institute and is the author of several books on the Civil War. He will speak on the Civil War Battle of Antietam and the part North Carolina Troops played in it. There will be a reception before and Col. Vossler will be signing copies of his books afterwards.

**The Uptown Celebration
Friday, May 19 at noon, Independence Square, Free**

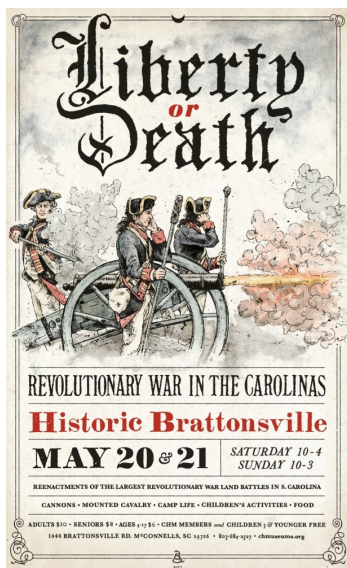
This year May 20th falls on a Saturday so in keeping with long-standing tradition, the MHA will hold our annual celebration on Friday, May 19 at Independence Square in uptown Charlotte. There will be fife and drum, soldiers, flags and political speeches, followed by a reading of the “Meck Dec” accompanied by Huzzahs from the crowd and the firing of cannon and muskets.



This year we are being joined by some of the reenactors that will be appearing at Brattonsville the next day – see below – so we are expecting to have 30 or 40 soldiers, three to five men on horseback and two cannon crews plus fife and drum, the SAR Color Guard and 20 or 30 of the ladies.

After the speeches and salutes we will all parade to Settlers Cemetery to honor Col. Thomas Polk, the founder of Charlotte and Mecklenburg with a wreath and more salutes.

**Liberty or Death - the Revolutionary War in the Carolinas
Saturday May 20 from 10 am to 4 pm
Sunday May 21 from 10 am to 3 pm, Historic Brattonsville, McConnells, SC**



More than 300 reenactors will form infantry and cavalry regiments for one of the largest living history demonstrations in the southeast. Over the two days they will recreate the battles of Kings Mountain, Camden and Eutaw Springs, the three largest Revolutionary War battles in South Carolina and a turning point of the war. This will feature historically accurate battlefield activities including guard mounts, infantry and artillery drills, caring for the wounded, ration distributions, cooking demonstrations, and military field music. Sutlers will be set up between the two camps with period-style goods for sale. On Sunday morning there will be period-style worship services for both opposing camps.

James K Polk: The Dead President Who Never Rests in Peace

A few months after leaving office in 1849, President James K. Polk died at the Nashville mansion called Polk Place. Because he died of cholera he was buried for a year in a mass grave in the Nashville City Cemetery. That cemetery was the first of Polk's "final" resting places. After a year the president's relatives moved his body to the Polk Place grounds where he had asked to be buried. But the family sold that land in 1893 and bodies of Polk and his wife Sarah Childress Polk were then moved to the grounds of the Tennessee capitol. Now the Tennessee Senate has passed a resolution to once again relocate his grave. This would cause the Polks' bodies to be exhumed and relocated to Columbia, Tenn., where the president spent part of his childhood and the James K. Polk Home and Museum is located.

The state's House of Representatives, the Davidson County Chancery Court and the Tennessee Historical Commission must also approve the resolution. And if Polk goes to his fourth grave, it will not be quietly. A few of his descendants have decried the move as a poor way to honor the president. "Every step they take is one step toward grave robbery," Teresa Elam, 65, Polk's niece by way of seven generations, told the Tennessean. "It would be like taking someone out of Arlington and taking them to the family farm and putting them behind the barn."

From The Washington Post, March 28, 2017.

Let the Land Say... Amen

Saturday, May 6 from 10 am to 4 pm

Sunday, May 7 at 10 am. Allison Creek Presbyterian Church, York SC.

On Saturday this festival will tell the story of Elias Hill, a former slave who led the migration of freed slaves from York County to Liberia. This was after facing acts of terrorism by the Ku Klux Klan during Reconstruction.

It will also tell the history of the Clay Hill Community near Hill's Iron Works and Plantation and include:

- Guided tours of the church and its historic cemeteries with costumed interpreters.
- Period games for kids.
- A concert and lecture by renowned banjo player and historian Bob Carlin.
- A short film on the history of Allison Creek Presbyterian Church which was built in 1854 by the enslaved.
- The church's recent visit to Liberia.
- Food concessions will be available.

On Sunday the church will hold an outdoor service at 10 am (weather permitting). At the close of service, a state marker will be unveiled commemorating Elias Hill and the Liberian migration. This marker is the first state marker to mention the Ku Klux Klan.

The Culture & Heritage Museums provided invaluable assistance with special thanks to Historic Brattonsville.

Community Service Award

MHA Docent Bee Jay Caldwell Recognized by Area Churches

Rev. Russell Alexander, the new pastor of Hopewell AME Zion Church proposed to other pastors in this area that they unite together in community outreach fellowship. He would create a Community Service Day award for a deserving member of his congregation, then other churches could do the same. This idea was supported by pastors at Catawba Presbyterian, Chapel Hill Missionary Baptist, Hopewell Presbyterian, and Mount Carmel Baptist

churches. The award would be named for an active church member and organizer in Alexander's congregation. It became the Thomasine Howard Grier Community Service Award.

The award was presented on February 19, 2017, and Bee Jay Caldwell was asked to present a Black History Moment in history for the occasion. Unbeknownst to her, she was really asked to attend in order to be the first recipient of the award. Reverend A. Putrill, pastor of Hopewell Presbyterian Church delivered a short meditation. Then he announced the creation of "The Thomasine Howard Grier Community Service Award." This was a surprise to Mrs. Grier who was not aware that the award was to be named for her. Our Bee Jay became its first recipient. Congratulations, Bee Jay!

MHA Docent Memorials

Last year the MHA Docent board implemented a program to memorialize deceased docents by giving an honorarium to an intern at one of our historic sites in memory of a docent who had passed away. We had ten docents to be remembered as we had not made memorials in a number of years. Last year we did three, and in April we completed our task by doing seven more. For each one we chose the site where the docent had been most involved, and asked the site director to name the intern or interns.

The Carolina Room was selected for Katherine McAdams for her passion of reading; Katie Grafer was the honorarium recipient. Helen Kinney, Mary Morgan, and Ruti Fadel were recognized for their work at the Charlotte Museum of History. The interns there were Casey Moore, John Nolan, and Hannah Silver. Karen McConnell, Camille Smith, and Millie Hodge made significant contributions to Historic Rosedale; both Karen and Camille had been staff members there as well as volunteers. Rosedale chose to combine those honoraria for a recent intern, Chris Tenney. Congratulations to our recipients, and thank you for promoting history education.

The History Calendar

Admission charged at all events unless otherwise noted.

Many events sell out, so check the web sites to reserve your place.

Check the Charlotte Regional History Consortium website for other events.

<http://www.charlotteregionalhistory.org>

Historic Rosedale

3427 N. Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC, 704 335 0325, <http://www.historicrosedale.org>

Hats off To Mom, Thursday, Friday, & Sunday: May 11, 12, & 14 from 1:30 to 3 pm, no tours Saturday, May 13 due to private event.

See different hats and millinery fashions as they changed through the ages displayed through the house. Our prized green silk bonnet, one of the oldest locally made textiles, will be on display for these three days only. Wear your favorite hat for a one of a kind experience. Light refreshment will be served.

Fairy Camp, Tuesday, June 13 at 10 am to 1 pm.

Have your wee ones visit Historic Rosedale for this half day camp. They will explore our urban shire and hunt for fairies that hide all around while learning about the whimsical folklore behind some of their favorite characters, and create enchanting crafts that would impress the most finicky of fairies. Snacks and water are included.

Pirate Camp, Wednesday, June 14 and Wednesday August 4 at 10 am to 1 pm.

Arrrrrg... you ready for adventure? Learn about North Carolina's rich pirate history in this swashbuckling half day camp. Create jolly good crafts, hunt for buried treasure, and find out how pirates and the open seas could affect life back here in Charlotte. Young landlubbers will also receive snacks and water.

Take Walk on the Wild Side (Nature Camp), Thursday, June 15 at 10 am to 1 pm.

Buzz around like a bee in this half day camp where kids connect with nature in a historic setting and urban green space. The camp includes educational games about the local surroundings, plants, and animals as well as insect themed craft activities. Pollen and nectar (snacks & water) will be provided.

Old Timey Picnic, Friday, June 16 at 11 am to 1 pm.

Come as you are or dress up for this festivity. Our counselors will don their antebellum finery to serve the picnic. Learn about the life and etiquette of those who used to live in the plantation house. Campers who join us for all four days of camp will receive a certificate during the festivities. Parents are welcome to join in on the fun.

Paranormal Grounds Investigation, Friday & Saturday, June 16 & 17, Check in 7 pm, event 7:30 to 9 pm.

Professional ghost hunters will take groups of no more than 20 guests through the grounds of Rosedale's 200 year old plantation, and attempt contact with the beyond. You will use the latest technology in partnership with the Charlotte Area Paranormal Society as their team leads the investigation. Wear flat, quiet comfortable shoes and bring a flashlight. You never know what you may find... or what may find you! Reservations suggested.

Fashionista's of the 1800's, Exhibit open June 21 through September 5.

Take a walk through 1800's fashion, as your knowledgeable guide tells you all about Rosedale's history as well as fashion trends. Sometimes they were quite scandalous in their day.

Rosedale Benefit Yard Sale, Saturday, August 12 from 10 am to 2 pm, Free.

Attention Collectors, Campers, and other enthusiasts! Join us for the ultimate bargain hunt. See and purchase some of our treasures including cast iron skillets and corn bread molds. There will also be a gift basket raffle with an estimated value of \$75, there will be a second raffle for bird and nature lovers. To donate to the yard sale (no clothing or large furniture) contact roseedu@historicrosedale.org

Historic Latta Plantation

5225 Sample Road, Huntersville, NC, 704 875 2312, <http://www.lattaplantation.org>

World War II Reenactment, Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and 7 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Time travel back into the war-torn countryside of Germany to see troops in action. Meet uniformed Allied and Axis soldiers and see their accoutrements up close. Meet civilians and learn of the impact WWII had on daily life on the home front. Living history all day, battle reenactment at 2 pm, bring a chair.

Open Hearth Cooking Workshop, Saturday, May 20 at 9 am to 2 pm, \$65.00.

Learn from an experienced chef the process of cooking local backcountry cuisine over an open hearth fire. Learn about firestarting, 19th century cooking utensils, prepare a full course meal, and later enjoy the meal in an authentic setting. Age 18 and older, long pants and closed toed shoes required, 8 participants. Call for registration.

African American History Celebration, Saturday, June 3 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Joining in an African drum circle, learn the history of the Buffalo Soldiers, meet and talk with Harriet Tubman and Abraham Lincoln, and roam the plantation grounds, main house, and reproduction slave cabin.

Civil War Reenactment, Saturday and Sunday, July 1 and 2 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Battle at 2 pm each day, lectures and talks, demonstrations, primitive living exhibits, living history farm, food vendors, sutlers.

Hugh Torrance House and Store

8231 Gilead Road, Huntersville, NC www.hughtorancehouseandstore.com/

House Tours on first and third Sundays from 2 to 5 pm, May through October.

The Hugh Torrance House and Store is truly a Mecklenburg treasure. The log house section of the building was built as a residence about 1780. In 1805 the building was expanded to include a store which operated until 1825. As the Torrance family obtained land and wealth it became a cotton plantation of 3,000 acres worked by over a hundred slaves. Extensive family history kept through the generations allows us to interpret nearly a century of Mecklenburg's rich mercantile and plantation history.

The Charlotte Museum of History

3500 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC, 704 568 1774, <http://www.charlottemuseum.org>

Charlotte Neighborhood Walking Tour- NoDa, Saturday May 6 at 10:30 to 11:30 am, Free.

Join us for an hour walking tour of the NoDa neighborhood, an eclectic arts district and community that began as a mill village. The tour will begin and end at Benny's Pizza, 2909 N. Davidson Street #100. Following the tour, we will have a reception at Benny's. Please wear comfortable walking shoes.

Backcountry Explorers, Saturdays at 1 pm.

Become a Backcountry Explorer and journey through our region's history! This year, we will be learning all about Colonial professions. Saturday, May 13 – Farmer. Saturday, June 10 – Wheelwright.

Ron Hankins History Talks Lecture Series sponsored by Wells Fargo, See page 5, above.**Meck Dec Day and Family Fun Day, Saturday, May 20 from 1 to 4 pm, Free.**

Explore the concept of Liberty and why this led to the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. Meet Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Polk, one of the first families to live in Charlotte Town, while enjoying performances from Drums4Life, poet Queen Isis, and LATIBAH Collard Green Museum.

Catawba Indian Nation Symposium, Saturday, June 10 from 10 am to 2 pm.

The Native American Studies Center University of South Carolina Lancaster and the Charlotte Museum of History present a symposium on the history and culture of the Catawba Indian Nation. Topics include "Tho Much is Taken, Much Abides: A Brief History of the Catawba Indian Nation," "Catawba Women in a New World, 1746 – 1840", and "Catawba Indian Pottery: An Ancient Tradition."

Backcountry Days & Ice Cream Social, Saturday, August 26 from 1 to 5 pm, Free.

Presented by Charlotte Folk Society, Charlotte Museum of History, and Storytellers Guild of Charlotte. Enjoy an old-fashioned family afternoon with ice cream, singing, storytelling, and open old-time, bluegrass, and Celtic jam sessions. Demonstrations of everyday activities of 18th century living. www.folksociety.org ; www.charlottemuseum.org

Into the Hornet's Nest Summer Camp, Monday, June 26 through Friday, June 30 at 8:30 am to 4:30 pm each day, Ages 6-9.

In September of 1780 General Cornwallis came marching into Charlotte and descended into a Hornet's Nest of Rebellion. Campers will explore the Carolina Backcountry from its earliest beginnings through the American

Revolution and will experience life as explorers, naturalists, colonial tradesmen, and patriots as they join the Rebellion and create a free and independent Mecklenburg County.

Passport to World Cultures Geography Camp, Monday July 17 through Friday, June 21 at 8:30 am to 4:30.

Campers will explore the geographic regions and cultures of the world through research, stories, crafts, and activities. They will build and label a topographical map, research and present a country's unique culture, learn about and participate in the Olympic Games and explore world cultures with an international meal. Ages 8-11.

Teas of the British Isles, Sundays at 4 to 5:30 pm.

- June 25 – King George III and Queen Charlotte.
- July 30 – Highland Scots of North Carolina.
- August 27 – Winston Churchill and the Second World War.
- October 1 – The Story of London.

Historic Brattonsville

1444 Brattonsville Rd., McConnells, SC, 803 684 2327

<http://www.chmuseums.org/brattonsville>

Liberty or Death, Revolutionary War Reenactment, Saturday and Sunday, May 20 and 21. See Page 5.

Frolic and Play on the Plantation, Wednesdays and Fridays from June 7 through August 11.

Costumed interpreters will play games of the early 19th century with children of all ages, including games of skill and quick thinking, games for exercise and games to challenge the individual.

Time Travel Tuesdays, from 10 am to 4 pm each Tuesday from June 6 to August 8.

June 6-Draft Animals on the Plantation	June 13-Heritage Breeds and Seeds
June 20- Blacksmithing	June 27- Revolutionary War Dragoons
July 4- Independence Day Celebration	July 11-Worms, Linstocks and Sponges
July 18- Indigo: Many Shades of Blue	July 25-Historic Cooking
August 1-Dairying on the Plantation	August 8- Antebellum School Days

Teacher Appreciation Day, Thursday, July 27 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Historic Brattonsville will thank area teachers on this special day for their tireless dedication to our nation's youth and their support of our nation's past. There will be guided tours, food and free admission for all current teachers and their families. Teachers will meet our interpretive staff and learn of our school programs for the next school year.

The Schiele Museum

1500 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia, N.C. 704 866 6900 <https://www.schielemuseum.org>

Sheepshearing & Other Rites of Spring, Sunday, May 7 from 1 to 5 pm.

Historical interpreters in 18th-century dress card and spin freshly shorn wool into thread. Try your hand at shearing or weaving on a tapeloom. Visit the kitchen garden in springtime finery to discover heritage herbs and vegetables; see these natural seasonings applied to dishes cooked on the open hearth.

August 1775, Sunday August 13 from 1 to 5 pm.

Summer heat fuels the unrest and uncertainty of new colonists struggling for survival and independence. Forty-nine men are about to sign a document that will change their lives forever, the Tryon Association. Visit Moss

Station on the Backcountry farm to learn of this important event in Gaston County's history while exploring the daily chores, pastimes and challenges of frontier life. Re-enactors from the 6th NC Historical Society will demonstrate flintlock firearms and black powder firing. A reading of the Tryon Resolves will be held at 4 pm.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

12031 Lancaster Hwy., Pineville, NC, 704 889 7145

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

Music, Dance 'n Que Fest, Saturday, May 6 from 11 am to 3 pm, Free, BBQ plate \$10-.00.

Artists will dance, sing and play their way through historic tunes, folk songs and bluegrass music. Bring a chair or a blanket.

Kids Bubble Day, Saturday, August 12 from 11 am to 1 pm, Free.

There will be arts & crafts, bubble-making stations and water play areas with light, cooling refreshments and take-home treats.

Matthews Heritage Museum

232 North Trade St., Matthews, 704 708 4996, www.matthewsheritagemuseum.org

A Century of Helping Hands, Current Exhibit Through June 24.

The Museum and the Western North Carolina Region of the American Red Cross joined together to put on this exhibit in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the American Red Cross in Mecklenburg County.

Widgets and Thing-a-ma-Jigs II, A New Exhibit Opening July 1 and Running Through October 28.

If you missed the first installment, you have another chance to guess what these odd objects on exhibit are. Once used on a regular basis, these items have passed into obscurity and are not used like they once were.

Camp Funshine Museum Participation.

This year the Museum is joining with Matthews Park and Recreation to sponsor two days with Camp Funshine, a week of fun-filled activities. Trips to the Museum and Reid House will be held during the week of June 19-23 and July 24-28. To register, go to www.matthewsfun.com or call 704-321-7275.

Kings Mountain Historical Museum

100 East Mountain Street, Kings Mountain, NC (704) 739-1019

www.kingsmountainmuseum.org

New Exhibit: Great Gatsby: Cleveland County in the Roaring Twenties, June 17 through October 14, Free.

Open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm. See dramatic social, economic, and political changes reflected in clothing, music, dances, slang, and products. This was an era of economic boom and bust with the growth of the textile mills, plus the racial inequity of the Jim Crow system and violent disputes over labor rights.

Old Timey Spring Picnic, Saturday, May 20 from noon to 4 pm.

Live music, BBQ, historic games, storytelling, and craft demonstrations by costumed interpreters plus tours of the historic Barber & Cornwell homes.

Roaring Twenties Program for Children & Families, Saturday, June 17 at 2 pm, free.

Experience the fashion, dancing, and music of the 1920s with a special performance. Make your own flapper headband to take home.

A Passel of Trouble: The Saga of Loyalist Partisan David Fanning, Thursday, June 29 at 5:30 pm, Free.

Joe Epley presents his fact-based historical novel about one of the most extraordinary characters of the American Revolutionary War.

They Don't Build 'Em Like They Used To, Wednesday, July 19 at 10 to 11 am, Free.

Mauney Memorial Library Summer Reading Program. Tour KMHM's two historic homes and learn about colonial building techniques.

Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site

9621 Reed Mine Rd., Midland, NC 28163, 704 721 GOLD (4653)

<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/reed/reed.htm>

Iron Peddlers Tractor Meet, Saturday, May 13 from 11 am to 3 pm.

The Iron Peddlers Antique Power Club will visit Reed Gold Mine during their spring ride for lunch and pictures at the mine. Visitors will have the opportunity to meet the owners and photograph the tractors while on site.

Chronology of Mining Tour, Saturday, May 20 at 2 to 3 pm.

This walking tour of the gold mine property shows various types of gold extraction methods, with demonstrations of cradle and log rockers.

Gold as Currency, Saturday July 15 at 1 to 2 pm.

At Reed Gold Mine we spend most our time focusing on the discovery and history of NC gold mining rather than what happened to the gold after it was removed from the ground. This lecture will discuss stamping gold coins here in North Carolina at the Bechtler and Charlotte Mints plus an introduction to gold as the universal currency.

Charlotte Folk Society

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte

www.folksociety.org

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams, Friday, May 12, features Americana/Bluegrass by Tellico, Free.

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte. 7:30 PM. Doors open 7:00 PM. Family-friendly & Free; donations appreciated. Free parking. Refreshments, song circle, songwriter's workshop, and jams follow concert. Accessible entry & elevator on ground floor. 704-563-7080; www.folksociety.org

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams, Friday, June 9, features The Kollard Kings, Free.

The Kollard Kings specialize in performing old-time stringband songs from Charlotte's surprising heyday as a country music recording center back in the 1930s – roots of the music now known as bluegrass. Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte. 7:30 PM. Doors open 7:00 PM. Family-friendly & Free; donations appreciated. Free parking. Refreshments, song circle, songwriter's workshop, and jams follow concert. Accessible entry & elevator on ground floor. 704-563-7080; www.folksociety.org

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams, Friday, August 11, features Appalachian Old-Time Music by Strictly Strings. Free.

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte. 7:30 PM. Doors open 7:00 PM. Family-friendly & Free; donations appreciated. Free parking. Refreshments, song circle, songwriter's workshop, and jams follow concert. Accessible entry & elevator on ground floor. 704-563-7080; www.folksociety.org

Backcountry Days & Ice Cream Social, Saturday, August 26 from 1 to 5 pm, Free.

Charlotte Museum of History & Hezekiah Alexander Homesite, 3500 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte 28215. Presented by Charlotte Folk Society, Charlotte Museum of History, and Storytellers Guild of Charlotte. Enjoy an old-fashioned family afternoon with ice cream, singing, storytelling, and open old-time, bluegrass, and Celtic jam sessions. Demonstrations of everyday activities of 18th century living. www.folksociety.org ; www.charlottemuseum.org

Earl Scruggs Center

103 S. Lafayette St., Shelby, NC, 704-487-6233, www.earlscruggscenter.org

Irish Emigration to America, Tuesday, May 2 from noon to 1 pm.

Lunch-N-Learn the story of Irish emigration to America over the past two centuries in song and story, with references to the different waves of emigration that took place throughout the years.

Earl Scruggs: Banjo Icon, Book Launch, Saturday, May 6 from 2 to 4 pm.

Authors Gordon Castelnero and David L. Russell launch the first ever biography of four time Grammy winner Earl Scruggs. The authors will share stories and field questions from guests and there will be an informal pickin' session with special guests Terry Baucom of The Dukes of Drive, Jason Burleson of Blue Highway, Marc Pruitt of Balsam Range, and Kristin Scott Benson of the Grascals.

Duke Mansion

400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte, 704 714 4400
<http://www.dukemansion.com>

Charlotte's Musical History, Sunday, May 21 at 3 pm, Free.

In the 1930's record companies cut more discs in Charlotte than in Nashville. Charlotte historian Dr. Tom Hanchett will share stories from that history — with live music by the Kollard Kings stringband. Sponsored by the Levine Museum of the New South and The Duke Mansion.

Andrew Jackson State Park

196 Andrew Jackson Park Road, Lancaster, SC 803 285 3344
www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/1797.aspx

A Memorial Service to the Victims of Tarleton's Massacre, Saturday, May 27 at 10:30 am, in Buford Community, SC, Free.

This 237th anniversary observance will be held on the ground where Tarleton's British Legion slaughtered Buford's Virginia Continentals without mercy and introduced a new term to warfare – Tarleton's Quarter. It will be held at the battleground southwest of the intersection of SC Highways 9 and 522. At 12:30 pm a memorial plaque will be dedicated, listing the 216 patriots who fought there. Presented by Andrew Jackson State Park.

Andrew Jackson, Southerner, Thursday, June 8 at 7 pm, USC-Lancaster, Carole Ray Dowling Center.

At this Katawba Valley Land Trust meeting author Dr. Mark Cheatham will discuss his latest book.

Jackson and the Indian Wars, Saturday, July 15 at noon.

Lunch and Learn at the Native American Studies Center of USC-Lancaster.

Hanging Rock, Saturday, August 5 at 10 am, 2 miles south of Heath Springs.

This natural wonder and SC State Historic Site was the site of a British outpost during the Revolution. In July 1780 William Richardson Davie led a raid on the outpost. In August 1780 General Thomas Sumter attacked and looted the outpost. At the age of 13, President Andrew Jackson experienced the battle. Hanging Rock is a satellite site of Andrew Jackson State Park. The trails are moderate to difficult and there are no restrooms at the site.

Kings Mountain National Military Park

SC Hwy 216. I-85, Exit 2 in North Carolina. Follow the signs. 864-936-7921

<http://www.nps.gov/kimo>

Military Through the Ages, Saturday, May 27 from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday, May 28 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Living history interpreters from every war from French & Indian War to today's military will represent their respective time periods. Weapons demonstrations will be held throughout the day. Free.

Military Encampments, Saturdays from 9 am to 5 pm and Sundays from 9 am to 3 pm, Free.

Backcountry Militia Encampment Saturday July 2 and Sunday July 3.

The Backcountry Militia will demonstrate a variety of 18th century activities.

Jaeger Korps, Saturday July 8 and Sunday, July 9.

Learn about the Jaeger Korps during the American Revolution with weapons demonstrations.

North Carolina Highland Regiment Saturday July 22 and Sunday July 23.

NC Highland Regiment will be encamped at Kings Mountain. Come learn about this Loyalist Regiment.

Backcountry Militia Encampment Saturday August 5.

The Backcountry Militia will demonstrate a variety of 18th century activities.

Cowpens National Battlefield

I-85 South Carolina Exit 83, follow signs, 864-461-2828

www.nps.gov/cowp

1st Maryland, Southern Campaign Encampment Saturday, Jun 3 from 9 am to 4:30 pm, Free.

1st Maryland, Southern Campaign encampment (American Continentals).

SC Rangers Living History Day, Saturday, June 24 from 10 am to 3 pm, Free.

18th century weapons firing demonstrations at 10:15, 11:15, 1:15, and 2:15.

Celebration of Freedom Saturday July 1 from 9 am to 4:30 pm, Free.

Patriotic activities for the family.

Exploring Joara Foundation

<https://exploringjoara.org> Morganton, NC (828) 439-2463

The Exploring Joara Foundation engages the public in archaeology in the Carolinas, and emphasizes the discovery of the Native American town of Joara and Fort San Juan, the first inland European settlement in the United States.

Field Day at the Berry Site, Saturday, June 24 from 10 am to 2 pm.

This is the one day each year that the site is open to the public for tours, primitive skills programs, artifact displays, and more. The event is free but we request a \$5 minimum donation towards parking.

Cultural Heritage Festival, Friday and Saturday, August 4 and 5, All Day, Catawba Meadows Park, Morganton, Free.

Witness the first ever reenactment of Pardo's army meeting Native Americans at Joara. This festival will highlight regional Native American history, culture and crafts with representatives of the Catawba, Cherokee, Cheraw and other tribes. There will be craft demonstrations and public lectures.

York County Genealogical & Historical Society

P.O Box 3061 CRS, Rock Hill, SC 29732, <http://www.weblandinc.com/ycghs/member.html>

Churches Burned in South Carolina during the American Revolution, Sunday, May 14 at 3 pm, Free.

First ARP Church, Oakland Ave., Rock Hill. Author Bill Segars will tell about the fourteen churches that were burned by the British during the Revolutionary War.

Lincoln County Historical Association

www.LincolnCountyHistory.com

(704) 748-9090

The Longrifle Makers of the Mecklenburg School, Monday May 8 at 6:30 pm, at the Robert Munday House, 4353 N. Hwy 16, Denver, Free.

Author and Longrifle expert Michael Briggs will discuss the longrifles of the Mecklenburg School, from 1760 to 1835, which includes those made in Lincoln County. Only 19 rifles and one pistol from this school are known to exist. They are highly decorative and real works of art. If you have a longrifle that might date from this era, bring it to the museum. You might find out something about its history.

Lando-Manetta Mills History Center

3801 Lando Road, Lando, SC, 803-789-6475, <http://landomanettamillshistorycenter.com>

This delightful small town museum commemorates Lando-Manetta Mills and the community that dates from before the Revolution. Located 32 miles south of Charlotte, near Landsford Canal it is open most weekday mornings and Sunday afternoons. Call to check hours before coming.

The town of Chester, nearby, is hosting the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit, "The Way We Worked" from June 24 to August 6. In connection with this exhibit the History Center will be showing home movies of the mill and village from 1935, 1945 and 1985. The festivities start at 5 pm with film at 7.

MHA Docents
Jim and Ann Williams
1601 South Wendover Road
Charlotte, NC 28211