

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Promoting Local History through Education and Research

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



January-February, 2015
Volume 21, Number 1

Look Inside This Issue

- The new Trail of History Statue of Thomas Kanawha Spratt and Catawba Chief King Haglar.
- The new bronze plaque of William R. Davie at the county park of the same name.
- MHA Docent Programs for January and February.
- It is now time to pay your 2015 MHA Dues.
- News of special events at local historic sites, including a major event at Cowpens National Battlefield in January.

Trail of History Statue Unveiling

On the morning of Friday, December 5th over 200 people gathered in the Little Sugar Creek Greenway to view a new bronze statue on the Trail of History. It was a cold, rainy day, but they were comfortable inside a large tent as they listened to short speeches by Tony Zeiss, President of CPCC, James Garges director of Parks and Rec, Chas Fagan the sculptor of the statue and several others. The unveiling was accompanied by Catawba Indian ceremonies, the SAR Color Guard and the fife and drum from the 6th North Carolina Continental Line. The statue stands in front of the CPCC Culinary Arts Center at the north end of the Trail of History. Refreshments were provided by the CPCC Culinary Arts institute.



The statue represents and honors two early residents of this area who were close friends in life and are portrayed together here. Thomas “Kanawha” Spratt was among the earliest European settlers in the area and a great friend of the Catawbas. He received his Indian name “Kanawha” from his actions in a battle against the Shawnee on the Kanawha River in what is now West Virginia. Catawba Chief King Haglar was the greatest chief in the history of the tribe. He ruled from 1749 until he was murdered by the Shawnee in 1763. He and Spratt were great good friends and often went on hunting and war parties together.

The bronze figures are larger than life size and stand on a nine-ton replica of a

Catawba River rock. They mark one end of the Trail of History which will eventually include twenty-one privately funded bronze statues commemorating our history. The south end of the trail is anchored by a statue of Jane Wilkes who founded Charlotte’s first hospitals. At the middle of the walk is Captain James Jack on horseback, carrying the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence to Philadelphia in 1775. The Captain Jack statue was also created by internationally famed sculptor Chas Fagan.



The “Trail of History” television program runs on WTVI, Channel 5 on Cable, each Tuesday at 8:30 pm. On December 16 they premiered a new segment on the unveiling of this statue. To view this program on YouTube, go to http://youtu.be/VAOD45_gibA

The Davie Plaque

There is a new bronze plaque in place at the William R. Davie Center. This is located at the county park on the Pineville-Matthews Road near Rea Road in South Charlotte. The purpose of the plaque is to inform visitors who William Richardson Davie was and why he was so important to the history of Charlotte that we have named a public park in his honor.

The plaque features an image of Davie “taken” while he was American ambassador to France in 1800. This image used the very latest technology of this time long before photography had been invented, by the use of a Physionotrace. This device physically traced a reduced image of his profile onto a piece of paper, providing an outline which was then filled in by an artist. The original is in the Southern Collection at the University of North Carolina.

The wording of the plaque was developed by Jim Williams, James Rainey and a number of local historians to fully and accurately tell the story of William Richardson Davie:

William Richardson Davie was born in England and grew up in the Waxhaw region of South Carolina. He graduated from Nassau Hall (now Princeton University) and served with distinction in the American Revolution. While commanding a cavalry unit in 1779, he was wounded at the battle of Stono Ferry, South Carolina. Recovering from his wounds in Salisbury, North Carolina, he formed a cavalry company and established a camp on Waxhaw Creek with the Catawba Indians. From there he sparred with the British forces, keeping them from supplying themselves from the countryside. He waylaid a supply convoy and fought to defeat the British at the battles of Hanging Rock and Wahab’s Plantation. His valiant defense of Charlotte on September 26, 1780, slowed the British under General Cornwallis as they advanced into North Carolina.

After the war, Davie was a highly respected lawyer, serving in the North Carolina General Assembly and as Governor. In 1789, he introduced a bill to establish the first state university in the nation and is thereby remembered as the founder of the University of North Carolina. In 1787, at the age of 30, he was a North Carolina delegate to the Constitutional Convention. He later played a major part in securing North Carolina’s ratification of this document. In 1799, he was appointed a special envoy to France to settle the “XYZ Affair.” Recognized as a military leader, he was offered command of US forces in the War of 1812, which he declined. His final days were spent in active retirement at his plantation at Land’s Ford, South Carolina. Davie died in 1820 at the age of 64 and was buried at Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church in South Carolina.



From the Chairman

New Year's Day

Last night, while we were fast asleep
The old year went away.
It can't come back again because
A new one's come to stay.

Rachel Field

The 2013-2014 MHA docent board's responsibilities will terminate on the first Tuesday in 2015. The docents have enjoyed working with and for the history community. It has been the board members' pleasure to provide leadership, programs, and projects. Our term report will reflect those tasks. We relinquish our responsibilities to the 2015-2016 board members and wish them the time and perseverance to accomplish their goals.

Barbara Jackson, Outgoing Chairman

We are all but Wayfaring Strangers

Yes, all of us are wayfaring strangers, crossing over to the other side, finding our way in a new job, beginning a family, or a new endeavor. When our Scots-Irish ancestors left the old world to cross the great ocean, they did so for a new beginning. Yet they kept their traditions, their ways, and their songs. They went forward with hope of a new start with confidence that they would be able to carry on. They landed in the new world and shortly started again for the unknown frontier down the Great Wagon Road to the coves and hollers of Appalachia.

Their songs changed little from the old country along the way; maybe the names and places changed but the subject and tunes were the same. They did however create a new instrument, the Appalachian dulcimer, to accompany them.

Now we docents have a new board with new ideas. But we keep true to our mission--the tradition of keeping history alive in our communities. We do so with hope and confidence that we will accomplish this in our own way.

Audrey Mellichamp and Janet Dyer, New Co-chairmen

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the March-April issue of the Dandelion is February 12th. Thank you for the articles and special events listings that you send us. The MHA Dandelion goes to over 1,100 email subscribers. Some of those subscribers forward it to others, and still more people find it on the MHA website. We've had lots of positive feed-back. We appreciate all you do to keep the history community informed and knit together. We could not do it without you. Keep up the good work!

MHA Docent Programs

Both meetings will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. Refreshments at 9:30, business meeting at 10, and program at 11. The new docent board will be installed during the January business meeting. As always, visitors are always welcome.

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

When the River Ran Free: Fords, Ferries, Fisheries and Navigation on the Catawba

When the first Europeans came to the Catawba River valley, they found fertile bottom lands and water power for grist and sawmills. Settlers crossed the river at fords and later at ferries. Shallow and rapid at normal levels, the river could quickly swell to perilous levels during a freshet and could become life threatening and impossible to cross. First-person accounts and sketches of fords and ferries depict the life along the free flowing river.

Fishing in the Catawba was not only a pleasant pastime that could provide a fresh fish dinner but was often a commercial enterprise. Images of fishing weirs and fish traps illustrate an industry now lost under the lakes. When the river ran free, planters and farmers along the river dreamed and schemed of turning the Catawba into a reliable means of transportation to get their goods to market in Charleston. Efforts to tame the Catawba in the late 18th and early 19th centuries are recalled by images of riverboats and receipts for Catawba Navigation Company stock.

Janet Dyer, an MHA Docent and newly elected co-chairman, has researched the Catawba for many years. She will share her findings about our enigmatic river. It was sometimes perilous and hard to tame, yet extended families lived on either side as conveniently as if living across the street. Janet is a careful and thorough researcher, and her work has covered many topics. The Catawba is one of her favorites.

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Historic Sites and Kitchens in England and Scotland

Linda Beverly will talk about historic sites and kitchens in northern England and Scotland where she and Carolyn Dilda spent three weeks last summer. Linda and Carolyn are MHA Docents and members of the Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley. They attended a Georgian Cookery Class taught by noted food historian, Ivan Day, and visited many historic sites and museums. They toured a variety of kitchens from a small fire pit in the middle of a turf dwelling to the gleaming displays in grand houses. In her spectacular slides you will see these kitchens along with castle ruins, ancient stone monuments, and the breath-taking beauty of glacier-carved mountains and valleys.



Linda came to the docents by way of the cooking guild, and if you read her article in the September/October Dandelion, you've had a preview of this program. The criteria for joining the cooking guild are stringent, so you can be sure Linda knows her stuff.



MHA Dues

The time has come to pay your Mecklenburg Historical Association Dues for 2015; our fiscal year runs from Jan 1 to Dec 31. This one payment entitles you to be a member of MHA as well as an MHA Docent. If you have already paid, we thank you for paying early. If you are not sure whether you have already paid for this year, send an email to mhadandelion@mindspring.com and we will check and let you know. Otherwise select a membership level from the list below.

If you are an MHA member, or would like to become one, and NOT an MHA docent, use the form below (or the one from the MHA newsletter), make your check payable to *Mecklenburg Historical Association*, and send it to:

Mecklenburg Historical Association
P. O. Box 35032
Charlotte, NC 28235

If you are an MHA Docent member, or would like to become one, pay your dues directly to the docent treasurer who will remit them to the treasurer of MHA, our parent organization. Do not send your dues to the P.O. Box above, as that makes our record keeping of dues-paying docents difficult to maintain. Make your check payable to the *MHA Docents* and give your check with the form below to Valerie Jones at one of our meetings, or mail them to her at:

4700 Coronado Drive
Charlotte, NC 28212

Levels of MHA Membership

	<u>Single</u>	<u>Couple</u>
General	\$30.00	\$50.00
Senior (60+)	\$15.00	\$25.00
Patron	\$60.00	\$100.00
Life (single payment)	\$300.00	\$500.00
Student	free	n/a

MHA Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email Address _____

Please check one:

General Membership _____
MHA Docent Membership _____
North Branch MHA Membership _____

Please send my MHA Newsletter by:

Email _____
US Mail _____

If you have access to email, we would prefer to send the newsletter to you that way.

This saves considerable time and expense for MHA.

MHA Docent Board Retreat

The MHA Docent Board will meet for their annual retreat, January 12 and 13. All end of the year reports are due by January 9. These are reports from the executive board (programs, secretary, treasurer, hospitality, and newsletter) and from the active sub-committees (cooking guild, library, and education training). Anyone who has an issue or funding request to bring to the board, please contact Audrey Mellichamp and she will schedule a time for you on the retreat agenda.

Audrey Mellichamp and Janet Dyer

A Joyful Celebration

December's Docent Christmas Tea was a great success! The music provided by the Charlotte Appalachian Dulcimer Club was wonderful as well as the lore of the mountain dulcimer, the journey of the music, and the song catchers who preserved them. Lots of visitors joined us – we had to pull out more tables and chairs several times. The food was delicious and plentiful. With so many people I was afraid we might run out, but like loaves and fishes, it just seemed to multiply. For those of you who were our guests, now that you've seen how much fun history can be, we hope you'll consider becoming an MHA Docent. Just send in your dues (see the article above) and continue to enjoy our meetings.

Ann Williams

The History Calendar

Admission charged at all events unless otherwise noted.

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>

The Trial of Lunsford Lane, Saturday February 7 following the 1:30 and 3 pm tours.

This living history program will be presented by Master Docent Ronnie Schumann and will delve into socioeconomic conditions, Pre-Civil War race and class dynamics, and abolition in North Carolina. It will contrast the lifestyles of poor whites and freed people of color through the vivid portrayal of the persecution of Lunsford Lane, a freed slave and business entrepreneur in Raleigh, NC.

Latta Plantation

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

Civil War Winter Quarters, Saturday January 3 from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday, January 4 from 1 to 4 pm
Learn how Union and Confederate soldiers lived while in the battlefield during the winter months of the war, see demonstrations including encampment, cooking, and drilling. Learn of life on the home front as you tour the 215 year old Latta home. See an extensive Antebellum mourning exhibit and learn the superstitions surrounding death in the 1800's.

Cultural Engagement Day, Saturday, January 10 from 10 am to 2 pm, free.

Enjoy Historic Latta Plantation, the last remaining cotton plantation along the Catawba River open to the public, for free. On January 10th only, the Mecklenburg County Arts & Science Council will sponsor a day at no cost to the public. Enjoy a self-guided tour of the plantation grounds, visit the exhibit hall, and chat with re-enactors as they demonstrate 18th century skills and Revolutionary War history.

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

Twelfth Night Celebration, Saturday, January 10 at 6 pm.

Twelfth Night was the end of the Christmas season for the Backcountry settlers and celebrated with great revelry. Join with the Backcountry folk as they sing carols around the bonfires, toast the fruit trees, and play colonial games. Learn about the history of Twelfth Night and take a candlelight tour of the house. Enjoy cider and Twelfth Night cake in the log kitchen.

History Talks Lecture Series, Saturday, January 31, at 1 pm.

Val Greene, civil engineer and John Lawson historian, will discuss his soon-to-be published book on the journey of John Lawson, the naturalist who explored the Carolina Backcountry and wrote about it in the book, *A New Voyage to Carolina*.

History Talks Lecture Series, Saturday, February 7 at 1 pm.

Join us as author, historian, and Davidson College Professor Michael Guasco gives a presentation on his new book, *Slaves and Englishmen: Human Bondage in the Early Modern Atlantic World*.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

255th Anniversary of the Attack on Fort Dobbs, Saturday, February 28 from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday, March 1, from 10 am to 3 pm. free.

This living history program will feature musket and cannon firing demonstrations as well as on-going displays of 18th Century military camp life. A special evening firing demonstration will be offered at 6:30 pm Saturday.

Charlotte Folk Society

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte

www.folksociety.org

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering Concert & Jams, Friday, January 9, Annual Young Talent Showcase.

Musicians through high school age perform traditional old-time, bluegrass, Celtic, and Gypsy jazz, as well as Scottish country dance. Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte. 7:30 PM; doors open 7:00 PM. Free; donations appreciated. www.folksociety.org

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering Concert & Jams, February 13, Blues guitarist and historian Scott Ainslie.

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte. 7:30 PM; doors open 7:00 PM. Free; donations appreciated. www.folksociety.org

Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

310 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, 704 416 0150 www.cmlibrary.org

Charlotte: Where have We Been, Where are We Going? Wednesday, January 28 at 6:30 pm, Morrison Regional Library.

Eric Caratao of the NC Urban Institute at UNCC will lecture on Trends in Charlotte's Economy, Education and Population

The Wilmington Ten in Historical Perspective, Saturday, February 7 at 11 am, Beatties Ford Road Regional Library, with Dr. Kenneth Janken of UNC Chapel Hill**The Black Male Student-Athlete's Plight in Higher Education, Monday, February 9 at 11 am, Bette Rae Thomas Parks and Recreation Center, with Dr. Deborah Stroman, UNC Chapel Hill*****Duke Mansion***

400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte, 704 714 4400

<http://www.dukemansion.com>

The Duke Mansion's 100th Birthday Party on New Year's Eve, Wednesday, December 31, from 8 pm to 1:30 am.

Dinner, dancing, champagne toast to ring in the New Year and late-evening breakfast. Black Tie, \$515 per couple or \$258 single tickets, RSVP to kellis@tlwf.org or 704/714-4445

Enjoy the best of everything Charlotte has to offer in a celebration of the mansion's 100th birthday in 2015. Experience a sumptuous multi-course dinner from Chef Harrison Booth in a heated tent adorned with lights on the McGuire Lawn. Dance to the romantic vibe from That Guy Smitty, named Best Lounge DJ by Creative Loafing. Toast the New Year at midnight with champagne, and enjoy a late-evening breakfast to start the New Year in style.

Rural Hill

4431 Neck Road, Huntersville, NC, 704 875 3113, <http://www.ruralhill.net>

First Footin' and Hogmanay, Thursday, January 1 at 11 am, Free.

First Footin', also known as walking the bounds or "beating" the bounds is the traditional walk in the woods and fields around the boundaries of Rural Hill. Dress appropriate to the weather and wear sturdy shoes or boots. Hogmanay or Scottish New Year is a celebration of the New Year by sharing stone soup with your neighbors. The event is free but bring some vegetables to add to the soup or bring bread or desert.

Gaston County Museum

131 West Main Street Dallas, NC. (704)922-7681, #2 www.gastoncountymuseum.org

Vinegar Valentines, Thursday, February 12 from 6 to 7 pm, Free

We have all received sweet Valentines before, but can you imagine receiving a bitter one? Come learn about the odd practice of sending Vinegar Valentines, a popular activity at the turn of the 20th century. See some classic examples and learn how you can renew an old tradition, if you dare!

Historic Brattonsville

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

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

Hog Butchering Day, Saturday, January 10 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Observe a traditional 18th century farm activity. Brattonsville staff and volunteers will process a hog utilizing traditional means and utensils. We will discover the importance of this event, and take a closer look at the roles played by different individuals, from farmers to freedmen to slaves. Enjoy period cooking, militia demonstrations, and, of course, the pig.

By Way of the Back Door, Each weekend in February.

Learn about the enslaved experience at Historic Brattonsville. There will be special events each weekend and information on those will be sent out in advance.

Cowpens National Battlefield

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

www.nps.gov/cowp

The Battle of Cowpens, Saturday and Sunday, January 17 and 18, from 9:30 am to 5 pm each day with Twilight Battlefield walks from 5:30 to 7 pm on Saturday.

- Battlefield walks
- 18th Century storytelling
- Cavalry and weapons firing demonstrations
- Meet Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton in person
- Fife and Drum Performances by the Guilford Fife and Drum Corps
- Divine Service (18th century church service).
- Carolina Thread Trail dedication.
- Arrival of Morgan's March participants, led by Guilford Fife and Drum.
- Presentations, book talks and book signings by:
 - Drs. Katherine Cann and George Fields, *Turning Point, the American Revolution in the Spartan District*
 - Sheila Ingle, *Elizabeth Hutchinson Jackson, the Mother of a President*
 - Larry Babits, *A Devil of a Whipping*
 - Daniel Murphy, *William Washington, American Light Dragoon*
 - Dr. Mary Ann Solesbee, *Sal and Amanda Take Morgan's March to the Battle of Cowpens*
 - Jack Parker, *Parker's Guide to the Revolutionary War in South Carolina*
 - Dr. Christine Swager, *Come to the Cow Pens*

For times and locations of all events, see the web site.

Marshville Museum and Cultural Center

201 N. Elm St. Marshville, NC, 704-624-2602

The Marshville Museum Announces a Genealogy Course Offered Each Month In 2015.

Each month-long course will consist of four 2½ hour workshops plus homework. Participants will learn how to organize, record, research and publish their family history. Computer experience is not required, but may be helpful. The instructor and workshop materials are supplied courtesy of the Museum. To learn more and register for the course, contact Jack McIver at 704-624-3192.

Kings Mountain Historical Museum

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

www.kingsmountainmuseum.org

Pioneering Women of Cleveland County, a New Exhibit, Open from February 7 to May 23.

This exhibit celebrates women's history in Cleveland County and the surrounding region from the Revolutionary War to the present day. It spotlights women whose courageous acts helped to turn the tide of the revolution, as well as on our "founding mothers" – the women who helped establish and maintain our area's infrastructure, industries, hospitals, schools, churches, and civic organizations. It will showcase local women who were groundbreakers and leaders in their professions, and reflect on how our unique local history fits into the broader narrative of women's history throughout the nation.

***Women in the Civil War*, Thursday, February 12 at 5:30 pm.**

The first program in the 2015 Lecture Series will be a lecture & book signing by Mark Hughes.

Museum of the Waxhaws

8215 Waxhaw Hwy., Waxhaw, N. C. 704-843-1832, <http://museumofthewaxhaws.org/>

Stitches in Time. Saturday, February 7 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Spinners, weavers and quilt makers. Historical Quilts and antique sewing machines on display. An expert in textiles will be on hand to evaluate your quilts.

Southern African American History During the War Between the States, Saturday, February 21 from 9 am to 5 pm.

In honor of Black History Month we are highlighting Union County Confederate Pensioners of Color with speakers, historical displays, and reenactors.

Union County Public Library

316 E. Windsor St., Monroe, NC, www.unionlib.nc.us 704 283 8184

Doctoring Ourselves: Slave Medicine and Herbs, Then & Now, Saturday, February 7 at 2 pm, Griffin Room.

Learn about herbs and medicines used by slaves as found in *African American Slave Medicine* by Herbert Covey. We'll also be brought up-to-date on some of these herbs used today by Mary Roberts of Windcrest Organics Farm.

School Desegregation: A look back at Monroe & Union County, Thursday, February 19, at 6:45 pm, Griffin Room.

Professor Joseph Ellis of Wingate University and Adrienne Cherry, a history major, share their findings from a study grant about our local schools' long road to desegregation. Gather at 6:30 pm for the program beginning at 6:45 pm.

Gregory Creek Homestead and Iredell Museums

1335 Museum Road, Statesville, NC, 704-873-4734

<http://www.iredellmuseums.org>

Arts after Dark, Tuesday, February 24 at 7 pm, Court Street Gallery at 134 Court Street in Statesville

Tamla Boone is a well-known living history demonstrator who specializes in African-American History. She will present a program at Iredell Museums as a part of Black History Month.

The Rowan Museum and Old Stone House

Old Stone House Road off Highway 52 in Granite Quarry

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

German Christmas Celebration, Saturday, December 27 from 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday, December 28 from noon to 4 pm.

Tour the 1766 two story Georgian house decorated for Christmas in 18th century style. Learn about the house from costumed docents and observe musket firing, woodworking, weaving, candle making and hearth cooking plus music, children's games, goats and chickens.

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

City Center, 320 E. Ninth Street, Charlotte <http://clas.uncc.edu>

Lincoln and the U.S. Colored Troops, Tuesday, February 10 at 6:30 pm, Free

A Conversation with John David Smith, author of *Lincoln and the U.S. Colored Troops*. This is the story of President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and his decision to use African Americans to keep the Union intact and the yeoman service of the more than 180,000 black soldiers who donned Union blue. At the City Center campus. A book signing and reception will follow. RSVP requested at [online registration form](#). Parking is complimentary at two lots directly across Ninth Street and directly across Brevard from UNC Charlotte Center City.

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