

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Promoting Local History through Education and Research

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



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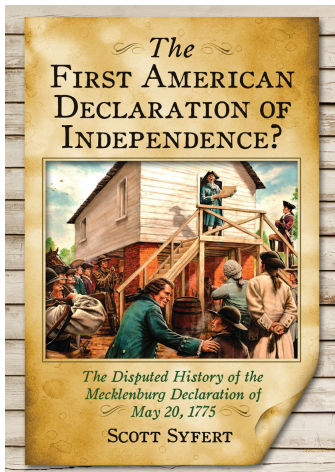
Look Inside This Issue

- Scott Syfert will speak at the next MHA meeting on his new book on the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. See a review of the book by Tony Zeiss.
- The Docents are going on a bus trip to visit the potteries at Seagrove and the public is invited.
- Lots of site news:
 - Plans for May 20.
 - Janette Greenwood speaks at the library.
 - A free workshop to plan the future of the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite.
 - Author Robert Morgan speaks in Pineville.
 - Docent Training for Hugh Torance House and Store,
 - A new interim director at Latta Plantation.

The First American Declaration of Independence?

By Scott Syfert

A Review by Tony Zeiss



When you read this seminal work, you will assume it was written by a seasoned, if not revered, author. You will be astonished to learn that this is Scott Syfert's first book. It is brilliantly written with the careful research of a learned attorney who can cite and analyze both the affirmative and negative arguments of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence debate.

Syfert has produce a treasure of historical notes for those who love history and this book, I predict, will become recognized as the most important literary source for all future studies of this intriguing topic. The book represents a fine example for future history writers, a riveting piece of American history for all readers, and will contribute mightily to the body of knowledge regarding America's great rebellion against the Crown of Great Britain.

This work has been well-planned with an easy-to-read chronological format peppered with many illuminating photographs. Syfert begins the book by framing the disagreements between those who believe the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence was made on May 20, 1775 and those who don't. He expertly presents historical evidence for point-counter-point from both sides of the issue building the suspense of which side is correct until the very last page. In the process, he weaves in his own observations about the human side of those historic figures who weighed in on the controversy. Most North Carolinians, ever true to their colony, believed the declaration to be true while most Virginians, likewise true to theirs, believed the opposite. No colony could claim a greater position with the revolution than George Washington's home colony.

The narrative is written in a style reminiscent of a good mystery novel. Once a reader begins, this book cannot be put down for any length of time. When John Adams' letter to Thomas Jefferson convincingly accuses him of plagiarizing the Mecklenburg Declaration to write America's declaration a year later, one thinks the controversy is about over. Yet, the reader quickly learns it has just begun, especially when Jefferson adroitly counters that the declaration is spurious and fictional. The dialogue about the Mecklenburg declaration among these early giants of

our republic provides keen insight into their debating expertise, no doubt, during discussions about important provisions of the constitution.

I have been an eager student of the controversy for a decade or more, but I learned more from Syfert's research and his insight into the eighteenth century psyche of our Colonial leaders than in my total research over that period of time. Fortunately, this book has an extensive index, a large bibliography, and chapter-by-chapter reference notes which will give researchers a huge leap forward in their work on this subject or related topics.

Scott Syfert has objectively and fairly presented this controversy in historic terms. It is difficult enough to write a scholarly piece supported by extensive research, but it is far more difficult to also entice, engage, and entertain the reader. Syfert has skillfully accomplished this task. By posing sagacious questions Syfert keeps us engaged, and his clear presentation of the major players in this curious, almost "who done it" story, keeps us entertained.

Syfert has a new career in historical writing if he wishes, but if he never pens another book, he has left an extraordinary legacy in this one.

This book is a must read for all who love American history and for all who have any interest in this country's colonial roots. *The First American Declaration of Independence?* should be required reading for American history college students and it should be read by all North Carolinians, especially those from Mecklenburg County – even Virginians might find it to be illuminating.

Dr. Tony Zeiss

P.S. It is a two-highlighter book.

From the Chairman

We are nearing the end of a milestone winter. Being confined to our homes during the multiple snowstorms gave us the opportunity to select books to read from that pile of recent purchases. Some of us refined or created tour information.

Looking ahead, springtime's arrival is imminent. The historic sites have prepared public programs which encompass food, fashion, and facts through three centuries. Docent participation in these events is significant. I applaud your contribution to your site's success and encourage your continued participation. We will have a fun day on April first when we travel to Seagrove, NC. Read elsewhere about plans for the day and sign up immediately to secure your seat on the bus.

Our focus for 2014 continues to be **increase**: work for the **increase** of funding for all sites. Work for the **increase** of docent membership at all sites. **Increase** your participation by working on a docent committee and by attending the MHA dinner meetings. I look forward to seeing you on the next first Tuesday.

Barbara McCray Jackson

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the May through August issue of the Dandelion is April 16th. We thank all of you who contribute articles to us; a variety of voices makes this a much more interesting publication. When submitting items for the calendar, remember that our next issue covers the entire summer. Send items to Ann and Jim Williams at mhadandelion@mindspring.com.

MHA Docent Programs

Tuesday, March 4, 2014 The Island at the Center of the World

The 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 welcome.

Alice Bostic will present this program based on Russell Shorto's book *The Island at the Center of the World* which explores the 17th century Dutch settlement of New York and especially Manhattan Island, which contains what is still considered the world's best natural harbor. At about that same time the Pilgrims settled in Massachusetts, and there was soon conflict between the Pilgrims' severe puritanical religion and the broad tolerance of the Dutch. Add to the mix numerous Indian tribes, both warlike and peaceful, whose allegiances with whites and one another shifted like the wind. Through a complex century-long history of conflicting personalities, honor and greed, wars, trade, egos, and diverse settlers from England and elsewhere, the English prevailed, and the Dutch history was lost. Shorto discovered this history through records recently transcribed from the Dutch, and shows how Dutch culture influenced the tolerance we espouse today, and how close we came to being a Dutch speaking nation.

MHA Docent Alice Bostic has traveled the world widely, exploring the history, culture, and archeology of diverse peoples. She has visited New York many times, and also been to the Netherlands. She uses her own research and images to broaden Shorto's story of how culture is derived from history. She encourages us to read his book, a beautifully written page-turner, filled with heroes in a difficult land as well as pirates, prostitutes, and scalawags. You'll want to hear this fascinating story!

Tuesday, April 1, 2014 A Day Trip to Seagrove

You are invited to join the MHA Docents on an all-day trip to Seagrove, NC to visit a few of the many potteries there. We'll travel by bus, and en route we'll have a brief docent business meeting and an introduction to the history of Seagrove as a major pottery center. As you can see from the details below we'll have a fully packed day to see and buy utilitarian, folk art, and fine art pottery, and learn about traditional techniques.

Leave the parking lot of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church promptly at 8 am.

Travel time is about 1½ hours plus time allowed for a brief pit stop in Asheboro.

NC Pottery Center 10-10:45 – Self guided tour of the museum for an overview.

Luck's Pottery 11-11:30 – Sid Luck will demonstrate throwing a pot on his wheel in the historic manner, and we can see his wood-fired groundhog kiln. Luck's sell mostly utilitarian ware and some folk art pieces.

Lunch 11:45-12:45 – Westmoore Family Restaurant. They have a good selection of salads, sandwiches, veggie plates, and full meals, all very reasonably priced. We'll each pay for our own lunch.

Westmoore Pottery 1-1:45 – Mary Farrell will talk about Moravian pottery, and the traditional redware that most of our historic kitchens use. She will do a demonstration of pottery decoration. Westmoore sells historical reproductions, both plain and fancy.

Jugtown Pottery 1:50-2:30 – Shopping, mostly utilitarian ware. They also have a small museum featuring Owens family history and pots made by them over several generations.

Crystal King Pottery 2:45-3:30 – Shopping. Utilitarian pottery, folk art, animal figures, and whimsies. She will also have pieces made by her parents, Anna and Terry King.

Frank Neef Pottery 3:40-4:15 – Shopping. Elegant fine art pottery decorated with intricate piercings and crystalline glazes.

Arrive back at Sugaw Creek about 5:45-6.

The cost of the trip is \$35 per person which covers the bus and the NC Pottery Center. **We must have your payment by March 8th to secure the bus.** Give your \$35 check, made out to MHA Docents, to Valerie Jones at the March meeting, or send it to her at 4700 Coronado Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212. We encourage you to reserve your space as soon as possible, as it makes our planning easier. If we do not have enough participants to secure the bus, your check will be returned to you. Friends and guests are welcome; it should be a great day!

MHA Dinner Meeting

Monday, March 17, at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Dinner is at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:15. Those not having dinner are welcome to enjoy the program at no charge. To make a reservation for dinner use the order form in your MHA Newsletter or contact Jane Johnson at 704 544 0695 or JJCNC@aol.com



As described in the lead article in this issue of The Dandelion, our speaker for the March meeting will be our own Scott Syfert, Charlotte native and author of *The First American Declaration of Independence?*, published this year, to great acclaim, by McFarland & Company, Publishers. In this true life historical detective story, Scott lays out all of the evidence, both pro and con, for the existence of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of May 20th 1775. He also tells the fascinating story of the controversy and arguments which have raged back and forth for nearly 200 years. Scott is a dynamic speaker who knows the subject extremely well and this promises to be an entertaining and illuminating presentation. He will have copies of the book to sell and sign. See the lead article for more information and the opinion of Tony Zeiss, president of Central Piedmont Community College.

MHA Docent Dues

Congratulations to those of you who have already paid your dues for 2014! Our parent organization, MHA, funds our docent activities, and I like to turn over to them our list of docent members along with their dues as early in the year as I can. If you've not paid your dues please do so as soon as possible. If you're unsure if you've paid, I can furnish you with that information.

Make your **checks payable to MHA DOCENTS** (we also accept cash!). If you cannot be at the monthly meetings, mail your check to me at

Valerie Jones
4700 Coronado Drive
Charlotte, NC 28212.

And if you have any questions, email me at vvjones@carolina.rr.com or call at 704-567-0599.

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

PLEASE NOTE: If you are or would like to be a member of the MHA, but not a docent, please make your check payable to *Mecklenburg Historical Association* and send it to the MHA Treasurer at
Mecklenburg Historical Association
P.O. Box 35032
Charlotte, NC 28235

Thank you so much for attending to this. And thank you for allowing me to be your treasurer. I love my job!

Valerie Jones

A Pesky New Tax

As of January 1st the State of North Carolina has levied a new entertainment tax of 7 ¼ % to be collected on all admissions to cultural and history sites and museums. The tax is to be remitted to the state monthly; consequently sites and museums will have more records to keep and forms to fill out. Some smaller sites with limited operating hours and little or no staff may suspend admission fees and encourage donations instead. All sites struggle to make ends meet, so do be generous with your donations, especially to those who forego admissions for donations.

Site News

Plans for the May 20 Celebration of Mecklenburg Declaration Day

After 10 years of overseeing the Meck Dec celebrations and providing a series of excellent speakers, the May 20th Society has decided it is time to pass this responsibility to another organization. Plans are being made for a grand celebration next year on the 240th anniversary of May 20, 1775

This year we will forgo the May 19th speaker and return to the tradition of a simple ceremony on the square, plus possibly an additional celebration along the liberty walk. Details will be in the next issue of the Dandelion.

The Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Presents Race, Class, and Power in the New South City: Revisiting *Bittersweet Legacy* Saturday, May 3 at 11 am, Beatties Ford Road Library, call 704-416-0150 to register.

In her 1994 study, *Bittersweet Legacy: The Black and White "Better Classes" in Charlotte, 1850-1910*, Janette Greenwood, Ph.D., Professor of History at Clark University, uncovered evidence of political and professional cooperation between middle-class blacks and whites in the generations following Reconstruction. Professor Greenwood is returning to Charlotte to revisit her study in the light of twenty years of subsequent scholarship and to reflect on the importance of community members whose stories, documents, and photos made her work possible.

The Charlotte Museum of History Hezekiah Alexander House Environmental Improvements Plan Workshop Thursday March 20, 10 am to 2 pm, Charlotte Museum of History. The public is invited to participate.

The Charlotte Museum of History is performing an environmental analysis of the Hezekiah Alexander House. Two professional consultants have been studying the Hezekiah Alexander House and the collection contained in it, in order to identify ways to improve the preservation of the valuable structure and artifacts. In this free all-day workshop, participants will work with the experts to understand current condition and conservation issues, develop a plan to address these issues and strategies to achieve this plan.

The workshop is from 10 am to 2 pm with a half-hour break for lunch which will be provided for a fee of \$10.00. If you would like to participate, please register online via the CMH website at www.charlottemuseum.org where you can also pay for your box lunch. If you have any questions, please email kay@charlottemuseum.org.

Learn How to Preserve Family Treasures

Join the Mecklenburg Historical Association on Saturday, March 29th, from 1 to 3 pm at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church to learn about the various dangers that threaten your family treasures at home and strategies for protecting them. Click on the link below to register. Space is limited and cost is only \$5 at the door.

<http://surveymonkey.com/s/C2CSugawCreek>

This event is presented as a result of MHA's Catawba River Valley Decorative Arts Survey. Our work on this survey has shown us the public's need for education on how to store and preserve family treasures such as photographs, textiles, furniture and more. Pass this information on to family and friends and please join us on Saturday, March 29th. Questions, contact Linda Dalton at 704-661-8470 or leaseace@aol.com.

Lions of the West

Fundraising Program for the President James K. Polk State Historic Site
Wednesday, March 26 at 7 pm, Hilton Garden Inn Pineville, 425 Towne Center Blvd.

Robert Morgan, best-selling author of *Gap Creek* and *Boone* will discuss his new book that profiles ten Americans who inspired our nation's westward expansion. A wine and cheese reception will take place at 7 pm, followed by the program and book signing. \$30.00 for both the reception and program, \$20.00 for the program. Books available for purchase for \$20.00. Attendance limited. Register at 704 889 7145 or www.presjkpolk.com.

Docent Training for Hugh Torance House and Store

A few new docents are needed to conduct tours of the Hugh Torance House and Store. The site is open to the public on the first and third Sunday afternoons, April through October. Docents generally do 2-4 tours per season. There will be a training session at the site for new docents on Saturday, March 22nd from 1 to 4 pm. From documents kept by the family you will learn about their mercantile and plantation activity from the 1790s through the 1840s. The House and Store is located on Gilead Road 2 miles west of I 77 exit 23. If you are interested in attending the training session contact Ann Williams at 704-365-2402, or ann.williams@mindspring.com, and we will be sure to have an information manual available for you. This is a small lovely site with a large well-documented history. Torance has no staff; all tours are done by volunteers, and we need more helpers.

Changes at Latta Plantation

Latta Plantation welcomes Maureen Stiene as interim Executive Director. Mrs. Stiene is a retired school principal who volunteered at Latta for several years before becoming a part-time staff member. Former Director, Nicole Cheslak, resigned in order to help with the family business, following the death of her father. Her father was a beloved member of the Latta volunteers and is truly missed.

The Board of Directors plans to begin the search for a permanent Executive Director within the next several months. They will advertise the position locally through the Charlotte Regional History Consortium and Mecklenburg Historical Association networks. Mrs. Stiene can be reached at mstiene@lattaplantation.org or 704-875-2312, ext. 304. She is at the site on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Kristin Toler

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>

Honoring Our Heroes – A New Exhibit and Tour, March 1 through 29, Thursdays through Sundays at 1:30 and 3 pm.

Experience the years of WW II through the eyes of two families connected to Rosedale plantation in an exhibit covering all four floors of the plantation house. Soldiers, housewives, and even children made contributions to the war effort and experienced the hardship of those years.

Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 5 at 11 am, reservations required.

Explore our enchanting gardens and wander through our ancient boxwood maze as you and your child hunt for Easter eggs left by the Easter Bunny himself. Children of all ages are welcome and don't forget your Easter Baskets.

Civil War Living History Weekend, Saturday, April 19 from 9:30 am to 4 pm and Sunday, April 20 from 1 to 3 pm.

In April 1865 the war has just ended. Charlotte is full of soldiers, transients, civilian residents, prisoners of war and refugees, including the Confederate cabinet fleeing Richmond. Military and civilian re-enactors will bring these characters and events to life on this weekend. Concessions and sutlers will be on site.

Latta Plantation

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

Artisan Event, Saturday, March 1 from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday, March 2 from 1 to 4 pm

Learn about 19th century skills as you watch open-hearth cooking, bookbinding, spinning, weaving and blacksmithing demonstrations. Also, tour the plantation house and outbuildings, and visit the farm animals.

Celtic Festival, Saturday and Sunday, March 15 and 16 from 10 am to 4 pm.

All things Celtic with live music from the Thistledown Tinkers and Stirling Bridge, and an event Piper throughout the weekend. See Scottish dancing by Latta's Kilts and Petticoats, meet various Scottish clans and shop with Scottish vendors. Food and drink from The Olde Mecklenburg Brewery and a number of food vendors. Games and storytelling for the children who can also visit the farm animals.

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

Environmental Improvements Plan Workshop, Thursday March 20, at 10 am, the public is invited to participate.

See details above in Site News.

***America Aflame: God and the Civil War*, a lecture by David Goldfield, Friday, April 18 at 6 pm.**

David Goldfield will speak about *America Aflame*, his great sprawling meaty book about the Civil War. The story begins in the 1830s as conflicts solidify, continues through the horrors of war, and concludes with reconstruction in

the 1870s. Both sides began the fight believing God was on their side, either condoning or detesting slavery. As death, dismemberment, stench and bloodshed seemed endless, both wondered what sort of God could allow such suffering. Dr. Goldfield is an excellent speaker, and brings immediacy to his subject.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

Lions of the West, Fundraising Program, Wednesday, March 26 at 7 pm, Hilton Garden Inn Pineville, 425 Towne Center Blvd.

See details above in Site News.

Hugh Torance House and Store

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

House Tours, Sunday, April 6 from 2 to 5 pm

Regular tours of the Hugh Torance House and Store resume on April 6th and will continue the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month through October with the exception of Easter Sunday, April 20th. The log portion of the building was constructed as a residence about 1780. In 1805 it was expanded to include a store which operated until 1825. The site eventually became a 3,000 acre plantation worked by over 100 slaves. Extensive family records allow us to interpret nearly a century of mercantile and plantation history.

Schiele Museum

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

Easter in the Carolina Backcountry, Sunday March 30 from 1 to 5 pm.

Celebrate the coming of spring with backcountry settlers! Enjoy displays of eggs dyed with natural materials in a rainbow of colors. Try your hand at "egg picking" or decorate your own egg with 18th century designs scratched with a pin. Search for the hidden nest of the "Ostr Hase" (Easter Hare) to learn if the children have been good or bad this year. Discover the significance of a tansy pudding and why spring greens were considered "tonics."

Sheepshearing, Sunday, May 4 from 1 to 5 pm.

Each spring the sheep are sheared (given a haircut) at the Backcountry Farm; it keeps the sheep cool in the summer and the wool is made into cloth to keep the Pioneer family warm in the winter. See historical interpreters in 18th century dress card and spin the freshly shorn wool into thread. Try your hand at shearing or the simple craft of weaving on a tapeloom. Discover the difference between a shortgown and a waist coat as youngsters "dress the part" of a backcountry child.

Gaston County Museum

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

Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday, April 13 at 1:30 pm, Free.

Families come join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt around the Dallas Town Square! In partnership with the Town of Dallas we are offering this free activity for ages 10 and under. The egg hunt begins promptly at 1:30 PM...so don't be late! Kids bring your Easter baskets and join us afterwards until 3 pm for fun activities including games and crafts at the Gaston County Museum.

Civil War Day, Saturday April 26 from 11:30 am to 2:20 pm, Free.

Join us as we remember those that served through the Civil War, both for the Union and the Confederacy. This living history event will include military drills, musket firing demonstrations, camp life displays, and activities to help everyone understand what life was like for those that served during the War Between the States.

Historic Brattonsville

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

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

Children's Day on the Farm, Saturday, March 22 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Focusing on farm life in the 18th and 19th centuries there will be a number of hands-on activities including toys and games, candle making plus a blacksmithing demonstration. Visit the museum's new born lambs and heritage breed animals, a 4-H petting zoo. Pony rides, tractor-drawn wagon rides and family-friendly foods will be available as well. Professional story teller Tim Lowery will tell stories about the past to children of all ages. Children's author Sheila Ingle will be signing her book Fearless Martha, and we will have a team of plow horses in the field.

Sheep Shearing Day, Saturday, April 12 from 10 am to 4 pm.

It is time for the annual shearing of our flock of Gulf Coast sheep. Along with shearing demonstrations we will have hands-on demonstrations of the processes of washing, carding, spinning, dyeing and weaving to turn raw wool into finished garments.

Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site

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

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

Blackbeard's Queen Anne's Revenge: 1718, Exhibit open now through April 5, Tuesday through Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm. Free.

The Queen Anne's Revenge ran aground near Beaufort in 1718. It is only in the past few years that these artifacts have been raised from the depths of the ocean and are now traveling the state, on loan from the N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort. Blackbeard's Queen Anne's Revenge displays artifacts that represent weaponry, nautical tools and personal items.

There are several display cases showing artifacts removed from the ship, and fish tanks showing how secretions are removed from the artifacts, as well as several touch screen displays and text panels. A reproduction cannon and mannequins round out the display. As part of the exhibit, children can participate in scavenger hunts to help understand more of Blackbeard and pirates off the North Carolina Coast.

Mount Holly Historical Society

131 South Main, Mount Holly, NC mhhistoricalociety@gmail.com

Founder's Day Celebration, Sunday, March 16 from 1 to 4 pm

Celebrating Mount Holly's 135th birthday, learn about the Revolutionary War, tour historical exhibits and enjoy musical entertainment and light refreshments. At 2 pm Mike Baxter, CPCC History Professor will speak on the Battle of Kings Mountain and the people of Gaston and Lincoln Counties who took part in it.

Charlotte Folk Society

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte

www.folksociety.org

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams, Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte. 7:30-10:00 PM. Free; donations appreciated. Doors open 7 PM.

- Friday, March 14 – Michael York & the Big Cigar Band plus the Myers Park High School Bluegrass Band performing a pre-concert at 7 pm.
- Friday, April 11 – Irish Singer/Songwriter & Author Danny Ellis.

Andrew Jackson State Park

196 Andrew Jackson Park Road, Lancaster, SC 803 285 3344

www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/1797.aspx

Andrew Jackson Birthday Celebration, Saturday, March 15 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Celebrate the birthday of the Seventh President of the United States at his boyhood homeplace. Join us for a day of living history demonstrations to see what the Carolina Backcountry was like in Jackson's time. See traditional crafters at work. Listen to historians discuss the legacy of Andrew Jackson. Enjoy the beauty of the park as history comes to life before your eyes.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

254th Anniversary of the Attack on Fort Dobbs, Saturday, March 1 from 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday, March 2 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Re-enactors representing the provincial garrison and Cherokee warriors will offer on-going interpretation of 18th Century camp life, as well as musket and cannon firing demonstrations.

War for Empire, Saturday April 12 from 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday, April 13 from 10 am to 3 pm.

In Fort Dobbs' largest event of the year, join soldiers, American Indians and civilians from the 18th Century as we look at the French and Indian War history of North Carolina through encampments, trades demonstrations and battle reenactments.

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>

Spring Encampment with the Backcountry Militia, Saturday and Sunday, April 12 and 13 from 9 am to 5 pm.

Join the Backcountry Militia as they kick off the season with their first encampment. Various Demonstrations including weapons.

Cowpens National Battlefield

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

www.nps.gov/cowp

Upper Broad Regiment Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, March 15 and 16 from 9 am to 5 pm.

This Regiment is a group of 18th Century Loyalist reenactors. They will have frequent weapons firing demonstrations. On Sunday there will be a book signing by John Buchanan, author of *The Road to Guilford Courthouse*, at the Visitor Center from 3 to 4:45 pm.

North Carolina Highland Regiment, 71st Highlander Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27 from 9 am to 5 pm.

The 71st Highlanders fought at the Battle of Cowpens. They will have weapons firing demonstrations frequently throughout both days.

Kings Mountain Historical Museum

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

www.kingsmountainmuseum.org

Shakespeare's Spear: The History of Heraldry, Thursday, March 27 at 5:30 pm, Free.

Heraldry originated as a method of identifying knights in battle and evolved into a complex system used by royalty and nobility as a sign of status and heredity. Hear the tale behind the grant of Shakespeare's Coat of Arms which helped a once-impooverished family regain their reputation. Create your own Coat of Arms – fun for the whole family.

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park

Greensboro, NC. <http://www.nps.gov/guco/index.htm>

The Battle of Guilford Courthouse Reenactment. Saturday and Sunday, March 15 and 16. .

This battle was truly a turning point in the American Revolution. Visiting the National Military Park is a joy and a wonderful history lesson at any time, but especially on this weekend. The soldiers are encamped for the weekend and reenact the battle each day. This is the largest reenactment in the South every year and seeing this large number of troops in action gives you a true feeling for an 18th Century battle. For details and to plan you weekend, see the web site above.

Museum of the Waxhaws

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

Andrew Jackson's Birthday, Saturday, March 15 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Birthday cake and coffee will be served and there will be crafts for the children. Arthur Lightbody, appearing as President Jackson will visit the Museum at 2 pm and share some stories of his experiences as our seventh President.

Andrew Jackson Southerner, a new book by Mark Cheatham, Sunday, March 16 at 3 pm.

Professor Cheatham will speak about Old Hickory as more than a frontiersman: He was also an elite southern gentleman.

Swords and Crosses, Saturday, April 5 from 10 am to 4 pm.

The Museum will erect hundreds of crosses into a War Between the States Memorial Cemetery. Learn about mourning in the 1860s with General and Mrs. Robert E. Lee and Clara Barton along with a period Blacksmith, Farmer, Spinner, and "Copperhead," plus a display of Civil War artifacts and Artillery.

York County Genealogical & Historical Society

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

Confederate Park and Unity Cemetery, Fort Mill, Saturday, March 29 at 10 am. Free.

Tour Confederate Park and see and hear about the monuments dedicated to the Catawbias, slaves, soldiers and women "who sacrificed so much from 1861 to 1865." Then at the Unity Cemetery on Tom Hall St. visit the graves of members of the Springs Family plus the World War I plot with several Medal of Honor recipients, ending up at the Fort Mill History Museum. Meet at the Bandstand in Confederate Park at 10 am.

S.C. Department of Archives and History, 8301 Parklane Rd. in Columbia, Wednesday, April 2 at 10 am. Free.

Tour the Research Room and learn what materials are available and how to use them. Visit the stacks to see some of the important documents in the Archives and meet Dr. Eric Emerson, Director of the SC Department of Archives and History.

Union County Public Library

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

Carolina Gristmills, Sunday, March 16 at 2:30 pm, Griffin Room, Free.

Chuck Ketchie has been researching the old water powered mills of North Carolina for over 35 years visiting 140 of the remaining relics (thus far). His talk will use his extensive collection of photos to illustrate the history, beauty and complexity of this grand old industry.

Spencer Doll and Toy Museum

108 Fourth St., Spencer, NC, 704 762 9359, www.spencedollandtoymuseum.com

Yatahay! Indian Princess Fun, Saturday, March 8 from 5:30 to 8 pm, ages 5-11, cost \$18.00

Participate in a Pow Wow full of fun and learn about Native American history and culture. We'll explore the Native American doll exhibit, enjoy story time and have fun crafting! Each participant will receive a real seed necklace, pick an Indian Princess name, make a Native American Paper Doll and make an Indian Princess vest for herself and her dolly.

Antiques Appraisal Fair (Roadshow Style), Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Antiques dealer Michael Hanson will examine visitor's items and offer advice and information. He will examine a broad spectrum of general merchandise, including toys. Bring in your family heirlooms and yard sale bargains to find out the fascinating truths about these finds! Cost is \$5.00 per item. Limit 2 items per person.

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