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A French Traveler among American Revolutionary War Veterans

In the initial years following the conclusion of the American Revolution, the new United States of America enjoyed especially close relations with its wartime ally, France. It was against this backdrop of warm relations between the two countries that French botanist André Michaux (1746-1802) came to America in 1785 to collect large quantities of native North American seeds and plants to send to France in order to improve French agriculture and forestry.

Michaux carried letters of introduction, not only from the French Foreign Minister Vergennes to his old friend Benjamin Franklin, but also letters from other Frenchmen with friends in America including the Marquis de Lafayette, who provided notes to some of his old comrades, including General Washington. Michaux was an official of the French government, holding the title of "King's Botanist in North America," with a diplomatic rank similar to a consul.

It was necessary for Michaux to travel throughout the U.S. in order to carry out his duties. American officials everywhere welcomed the botanist, as did American people from all walks of life. Language was not much of a barrier; he could read English when he arrived, and after only a few months here, he could speak it as well. Michaux traveled long before there were any hotels in America. Cities had boarding-houses, but travelers generally relied upon the hospitality of people who lived along their route, some of whom would provide rudimentary lodgings and food for a fee. A bed, or perhaps a spot on the floor for the night, was much more likely than a room, but the alternative was camping outdoors under the stars.

In his travels Michaux often stayed at the homes of Revolutionary War veterans. Many are named in his journals, although his phonetic spellings of personal names can sometimes puzzle modern readers. A case in point is Michaux's visit with "Colonel Waford" on June 15, 1789, at a place called Turkey Cove (just north of modern Marion in McDowell County, N.C). Until you say the name "Waford" aloud, (pronouncing Wa-ford with a bit of a southern accent) it probably isn't obvious that the Colonel's last name was "Wofford."

The historical record shows that Colonel William Wofford (ca.1728-after1820) was living at Turkey Cove in 1789. The Colonel was for a time a partner in Wofford's Iron Works in Spartanburg, County, S. C. His rank came from Maryland militia service during the French and Indian War, but during the Revolution he also campaigned in S.C and Georgia under General Lincoln before the fall of Charleston, after which he retired from active service.

In August 1780 his iron works was the scene of a running battle between Major Patrick Ferguson's Loyalists and Whig militias led principally by Isaac Shelby and Elijah Clarke. Sometimes called the Second Battle of Cedar Creek, it was one of a half-dozen small, but important engagements in the Spartan District shortly after the fall of Charleston in 1780. Loyalists later burned the iron works, but Colonel Wofford, on whose land the furnace was located, had disposed of his interest and moved to Turkey Cove on the upper Catawba some months earlier. There he built a fort on his 900-acre farm to protect himself and his neighbors from Indian attack.

The move didn't provide the safety for his family that Wofford probably hoped it would. Elements of Major Patrick Ferguson's Loyalist force reached the area and made threats, but relief was not long in coming. Wofford's McDowell County farm lay on the main route over the mountains into Tennessee. One of Ferguson's threats had been to cross the mountains and lay waste the settlements in the valleys on the far side. It was a fatal miscalculation on Ferguson's part. On September 29, 1780, one wing of the army of frontier militiamen, known to history as the "Overmountain Men," camped at Wofford's fort on their march to answer Ferguson's threat. Soon combining with other militias from backcountry Virginia and the Carolinas at Quaker Meadows near modern Morganton, these seasoned fighters caught and surrounded Ferguson at King's Mountain, destroyed his entire force, ended his life, and changed the course of the war.

Colonel Wofford lived peacefully in Turkey Cove for several years after the war and was counted as a resident there in the U.S. Census of 1790, but sometime later he moved to Habersham County, Georgia where his family prospered. Among his grandsons, William B. Wofford served several times as Speaker of the Georgia House, and William T. Wofford became a respected Confederate general. Colonel Wofford had four younger brothers and many of his relatives remained in S.C. where they were also leaders. Among the latter group was his nephew Reverend Benjamin Wofford (1780-1850) for whom Wofford College in Spartanburg is named.

Charlie Williams

Charlie Williams is a renowned scholar of Andre Michaux, president of the Andre Michaux International Society, and author of *The Annotated Memoirs of the Life and Botanical Travels of Andre Michaux*, published in 2011. He is a retired Charlotte-Mecklenburg librarian, and has presented many programs in the persona of Michaux including one for the MHA Docents in 2008.

From the Chairman

State of the MHA Docents, and a Summary of the Docent Board Retreat

We are doing just fine. In fact, we are doing better than fine. My first year was a wonderful year featuring local speakers and sites. Many of the programs were given by our docents, showcasing their talents and skills. We Docents are a very knowledgeable and interesting group. My board—your board—was the best to work with. They took on huge events like the Day trip to Asheville and our 20th Anniversary luncheon and program willingly and expertly.

Can we do it again? You bet! This year we will again feature local speakers and sites. In March, we will have Part 2 of "Where in the world has your passport taken you." In October, Ann and Jim Williams will do first person. Valerie Jones will talk with us about the Plimoth Jacket in November. Sharon Van Kuren will host "Fashions of our sites" at the Christmas Tea. Docents are going off site too. We will travel to Historic Rosedale, the Doctor's Museum in Mint Hill, and a day trip to Historic Salisbury (These site stamps will add to your passports.)

Besides the 2012 programs, at the Board Retreat, we discussed the 2012 Education classes, "From Wagon Roads to New South City." Kudos to Alice and Rachel for a great series (this is always a lot of work) and to our new 'partners' in this on-going endeavor – Charlotte Museum of History and the Levine Museum of the New South. Since our mission is to share and keep history alive in our community, these lectures allow us to bring our local history to the community. And they do come. We had almost 150 people register for these classes.

The board also passed our budget for 2012. In addition to our usual expenses we budgeted seed money for the 2014 series of history lectures, and money for the cooking guild's presentation of "When Is Catsup Not Red?" at the regional ALHFAM meeting at Historic Brattonsville. The budget, which includes our request for MHA funding, has been approved by the MHA board.

One more thing. After hearing from several people representing the 'Liberty Walk' project, this board wants to share their local history passion and support them in developing a Liberty Walk for Charlotte so we will do what we can to help with this project. All involved hope that the project will be far enough along to give docent-led walks at the May 20th event and then for special walks for the DNC. (We docents will do the walk for our September program, a week later than usual, on Sept. 11. after the DNC leaves town!)

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next issue of the Dandelion is April 12th. This will be our last issue until September, so include Summer activities in addition to May and June events. Many thanks to those who contribute to this publication. As usual send articles of interest to Ann and Jim Williams at 1601 S Wendover Road, or mhadandelion@mindspring.com.

MHA Docent Programs

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Where in the World Has Your Passport Taken You? – Part II

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

In January several docents working on the passport challenge gave us armchair tours of nearby sites, and some as far away as Mount Rushmore and Israel. It was fascinating, and we didn't begin to hear everyone's adventure. So our March program, by popular demand, will be Part II. Audrey has some presentations lined up, but there might be time for one or two more; if you are interested let her know. It doesn't matter if you've completed your passport, but she asks that we keep our presentations short; and *that* is a real challenge. We'll have a projector. Contact Jim Williams if you need to know if your presentation is compatible with our equipment.

Tuesday, April 3, 2012

A Journey to Mint Hill

We will meet in the schoolroom at Carl J. McEwen Historical Village in Mint Hill for our business meeting at 10 a.m. After the meeting there will be a tour of the site. We'll hear about the schoolhouse, see the doctor's office, the country store, the assay office, an herb garden and more. Most of the buildings date from 1890 to 1900. The historical village in an ongoing project of restoration and interpretation and there are always new things to see.

Directions: The village (7601 Matthews-Mint Hill Road) is 11 miles from the center of Charlotte. From South Charlotte take NC 51 (Matthews-Mint Hill Road) north. The site is on the left 0.3 of a mile past Lawyers Road. From North Charlotte take Albemarle Road to Lawyers Road (just beyond W. T Harris). Turn right on Lawyers Road, and left on Matthews-Mint Hill Road. The site is 0.3 of a mile on the left. These are winding country roads. Allow plenty of time. Arrange your own carpools; if you need help finding a ride call Millie Hodge at 704-563-7080. There are several interesting cafes in Mint Hill for those who would like to stay for lunch. We'll select a place that morning.

Heads Up for September

Because of the Democratic National Convention we will hold our September docent meeting on Tuesday, September 11th, a week later than usual. Some of us may be occupied with DNC historic activities, and the traffic situation may be difficult. We will meet uptown on the 11th to enjoy the Liberty Walk and exhibits installed for the city's visitors. Details will be in the September/October Dandelion.

Hospitality Fund

The MHA Docents keep a hospitality fund to buy coffee, cups, napkins, etc for our monthly meeting, and cards and stamps to honor birthdays and cheer those who are ill. Our dues do not cover these expenses. The fund is a bit low, so contributions put in the basket on the refreshment table will be much appreciated.

MHA Dinner Meeting

Monday, March 26, 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 0698 or JJCNC@aol.com

Chase Saunders, retired Judge and MHA Past President, will talk about the eight courthouses in Mecklenburg County and how they fit into the fabric of the community. The presentation is particularly timely in that the Mecklenburg County Bar is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year. Chase served on the Bar History Committee which engaged Howard Covington and Marion Ellis to write a book, "An Independent Profession: A Centennial History of the Mecklenburg County Bar." It traces the growth of the bar from one attorney (although a number of locals claimed to be lawyers) in the 1760s to 4,400 lawyers today! It covers social trends, important cases, and provides interesting anecdotes about local lawyers. Chase will draw on that book for his talk.

MHA Docent Dues

It is now time to pay your Mecklenburg Historical Association dues as our MHA year runs from January 1 to December 31. Since we docents are a committee of the Mecklenburg Historical Association, we pay our dues to that parent organization. But, to facilitate *our* record keeping, the docent board asks that you pay your dues *through* the docents. The docent treasurer then will remit one large check, along with a detail sheet listing who has paid dues and at what level, to the MHA treasurer. (If you receive a dues reminder from the MHA, and have already paid dues for 2012 through the docents, disregard that letter; or regard it as a reminder that your dues still need to be turned in to us if you have not already done so.) **Again, docents, please do not send your dues directly to MHA as this makes it difficult to determine for our records if your dues have been paid.**

Please make **checks payable to MHA DOCENTS** and give them to Valerie Jones, your docent treasurer. If you cannot be at the monthly meetings, please mail your check to Valerie at 4700 Coronado Drive, Charlotte 28212. And if you have any questions, email her 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 not a docent, but a member of MHA, and would like to pay your dues, please make your check payable to *Mecklenburg Historical Association* and send them to the MHA Treasurer at

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

Volunteer Opportunity

Reed Gold Mine is celebrating Heritage Days on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 24th and 25th from 9 am to 2 pm. They expect about 2,000 school children each day from Cabarrus and surrounding counties. They need volunteers to demonstrate historic crafts and trades or showcase early American life. Children walk around the site in small groups and spend about 5 to 10 minutes at each demonstration. If you can help call Reed's historic interpreter Susan Smith at 704-721-4653.

Liberty Walk

Last year when city officials and other VIPs visited Boston Mayor Anthony Foxx was most impressed with the city's Freedom Trail. Being a history major (how about that!) he said, "Charlotte needs one of these." And so we will have one. The May 20th Society and CPCC, with the assistance of the MHA, are designing a walk through uptown Charlotte where plaques along the way will tell the story of our Revolutionary War history. The nine block walk will begin on South Tryon near 3rd Street then go to the square, circle around several blocks, and end up back at the square. Many of the plaques already exist and several others are in the works. Markers will be implanted in the sidewalk to show the way, and brochures will be printed for self-guided walks. The project will be complete by the time of the Democratic National Convention, and perhaps by May 20th.

As MHA Docents we have been asked to help by occasionally giving guided tours, either in costume or street clothes, for groups. The board agreed to help as much as we can. These plans are in their infancy, and we'll keep you informed.

A New Event in Cornelius

Stopover at the Springs: A Revolutionary War Encampment

This new event is free and will be held on Saturday, March 24th from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, March 25th from 10 am to 4 pm at Legion Park in Cornelius (21214 Legion Street). Park at the town hall (21445 Catawba Ave). There is handicapped parking at the park.

This event will focus on the typical times between battles in a Revolutionary War soldiers' camp when they were joined by townspeople such as a blacksmith, leather maker, etc. Reenactors will conduct musket drills and demonstrate fire starting, low country basket weaving, camp cooking, music and dancing, repairing equipment, and working with the local tradesmen.

Book Review

America Aflame

David Goldfield, author of *America Aflame: How the Civil War Created a Nation*, gave an outstanding presentation on the topic at our recent series of history lectures. The book is even better. It's a large sprawling

volume, filled with meat, and beautifully written. Although I've not quite finished reading it, it has me thoroughly engaged, and I couldn't wait until the next Dandelion to tell about it.

The book begins in the 1830s with the conflicts and sentiments that led to America's most devastating war and ends as reconstruction winds down in the 1870s. Goldfield's rendering of the antebellum period, the war itself, and its aftermath is meticulously researched, carefully argued, and clearly written. The causes of the Civil War were myriad: slavery, the preservation of the union, states' rights, westward expansion, control of congress, agrarianism and industrialization, economics, and religious fervor. All were valid concerns, but slavery was clearly the lynchpin of this complex storm, and religion was the driving force. Nearly all antebellum Americans were Protestants and passionately evangelical. Northerners were positive the Bible forbade slavery; Southerners were equally convinced that it was Biblically condoned. God was on both their sides, and the sinners would pay!

The book emphasizes that prejudice against Negroes was strong in the North as well as the South. The entire country, either directly or indirectly, benefited from the labor of slaves. Most Northerners objected to slavery in their states, but in the beginning they did not object to it elsewhere. They did object strongly to the idea of free blacks living among them in the North. The concept of resettling the blacks in Africa was popular, but highly impractical considering their numbers. Even strong abolitionists, including President Lincoln, considered blacks an inferior race barely capable of sustaining themselves in spite of their meritorious service as soldiers. Freedom did not mean equality; they had no intention of allowing black men to vote. Disdain toward the Negro was universal. At the war's end, Lincoln was careful not to blame the South alone; both sides were culpable.

Goldfield's writing and storytelling skills come into full play. Woven throughout this massive tale are vignettes of ordinary people, many taken from soldiers' letters and diaries. His carefully nuanced portraits of major historical figures render them fully human. All men have feet of clay. His descriptions of the war are vivid, filled with the stench of the dead; unbearable heat and cold; lack of food, clothing and sleep; and muddy roads deep enough to swallow horses, wagons, and sometimes men. Battlefields were so cloaked in the noise and smoke of gunfire that communications were impossible and any sense of direction was obliterated. Then came massive casualties: piles of stinking dead and dismembered peppered with the still living, and poor soldiers who could stand it no more and took their own lives. War was hell and prison camps were worse. Faith gave way. How could God permit such carnage? Yet there were long interludes between the battles, times when soldiers traded tales, ate fairly well, and wrote letters by a warming fire; times when Rebels and Yankees sometimes enjoyed one another's company.

When the war began nationalism did not exist. People identified themselves first as North Carolinians, New Yorkers, etc. and only secondly as Americans. Becoming Unionists or Confederates broadened their scope. A major by-product of war was industrialization, especially in the North. Expanding telegraphs, railroads, manufacturing, and trade tied the states together as they had never been before, and nationalism was born. "These United states" became "The United States", hence the book's subtitle "How the Civil War Created a Nation." The South of course lagged far behind and would remain behind until well after the turn of the 20th century. They lost many more lives in proportion to their population. Most battles were fought in the South and devastated farms, towns, and resources. Reconstruction took its toll, and defeat was bitter to bear. But we are a Nation now. David Goldfield does a magnificent job in telling us how we became one.

Ann Williams

Site News

On Thursday, March 8 the Lower Providence Community House will receive a DAR Historic Preservation Recognition Award. This log cabin on Community House Road was built in 1938 and is designated as a Mecklenburg Historic Landmark. It was built by local farmers to serve as a meeting house for area women who were active in the Homemaker's Club.

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>

Easter Egg Hunt , Saturday, March 31 at 11 and 11:45 am.

Explore our enchanting gardens and wander through our ancient boxwood maze as you and your child hunt for hand painted Easter eggs left by the Easter Bunny himself. \$6.00 per child. Each child is allowed one free adult admission. Additional adult admission is \$6.00 per person. Advance registration required. There will be two separate sessions for hunting. One will be at 11:00am and one at 11:45am.

Latta Plantation

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

Art of the Blacksmith, Saturday, March 3 from 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday, March 4 from 1 pm to 4 pm.

See 19th century blacksmithing demonstrations, tour the plantation home and visit the farm animals. Talk to the blacksmiths as they forge works of iron.

Irish Heritage Day, Saturday, March 17th from 10 am to 4 pm.

Celebrate Irish heritage in North Carolina's history! James Latta came to America from Ireland in 1785, when he was thirty years old. Tour his plantation and learn about both the Irish and Scots-Irish in Mecklenburg County, hear Irish stories and traditions, see Irish cooking over the open-hearth, and more!

Hugh Torrance House and Store

8231 Gilead Road, Huntersville, NC

House Tours. Sundays, April 1 and 15 from 2 to 5 pm

The Hugh Torrance House and Store is truly a Mecklenburg County 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 an enormous 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 Hugh Torrance House and Store begins its regular season of house tours on April 1st. Tours will continue on the 1st and 3rd Sundays through October. The site is located on Gilead road, two miles west of I-77 exit 23.

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

Apron Chronicles Family Day, Saturday, March 3 at 1 pm

Join us for a little art mixed with history! Meet the curator of the exhibit "Apron Chronicles: A Patchwork of American Recollections" and participate in creating some art of your own. Art supplies will be provided by the museum to create your own apron chronicling a favorite memory. Apron artist Corrie Throckmorton will be on

hand to help and discuss her creative influences. A special tour of the exhibit will be given by Ellyn Anne Geisel, curator of the exhibit at 2:30, and a special behind the scenes collections tour will take place at 3:00.

Apron Chronicles Lecture, Thursday, March 8 at 6:30 pm.

Join Ellyn Anne Geisel, Curator of Apron Chronicles, for a closer look into the exhibit. A guided tour of Apron Chronicles will start the evening, followed by a lecture looking into the creative process that led to the exhibit's creation, how the themes evolved, and how the exhibit continues to grow at each stop on its nation-wide tour.

Woman's Making History Luncheon, Linda Hooper, Tuesday, March 27 at 11:30 am.

Linda Hooper is a middle school principal and consummate educator, who once asked her students to collect six million paper clips as a way to visualize the magnitude of the Holocaust. A firm believer in the power of education as a vehicle to tolerance, Linda Hooper speaks movingly about teaching to change the world. Her luncheon topic will be "The Power of One." Luncheon tickets will go on sale on the museum website on February 1, 2012. Members \$45, non-members \$55, tables of 10 \$500

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

Mexican American War Militia Muster, Saturday, March 31 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free

Illustrating the life of a citizen-soldier during the 1846 Mexican-American War, period costumed interpreters will demonstrate military drills and practices, camp life, and rifle firing while women support the soldiers with spinning and weaving, soap making, and cooking. Dr. Christopher D. Rounds, professor of American history at Winthrop University will speak on "Mexican War Soldiers turned Civil War Generals" at 11 am and 2 pm

Political Conventions Exhibit. Opening April 14, running through November 9. Free

Learn about the history of political conventions in the United States and the role that these meeting play in American politics, concentrating on the 1844 Democratic Convention in Maryland and James K. Polk's presidential nomination.

Volunteer Orientation, Saturday, April 28 from 10 am to 2 pm, Free

Learn about being a volunteer The President James K. Polk State Historic Site.

The Carl J. McEwen Historical Village

7601 Matthews-Mint Hill Rd. 704-573-0726

<http://www.minthillhistory.com>

Discover Mint Hill, Saturday, April 21 from 9 am to 3 pm

"Discovery Square" at the intersection of Bain School Road and Matthews-Mint Hill Road, will feature a variety of activities and demonstrations including hour-long historical tours on a double-decker bus, old-time craft demonstrations, panning for gold at the Assay Office, the Bost Grist Mill grinding corn meal on site, boiled peanuts and Wilgrove steaks.

Rural Hill

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

Dyeing Eggs the Natural Way, Saturday, March 31 at 10 am

Use everyday materials to dye eggs as it was done years ago, go on a hay ride, and take the eggs home with you. Registration required for this class.

Community Easter Egg Hunt and Great Spoon Race, Saturday, April 7, 10 am to 2 pm, Free.

Watch your weekly MHA email for more details, closer to the date.

Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games, Saturday and Sunday, April 21-22

Scottish heavy athletic competition, piping and drumming, highland dancing, Scottish country dancing, children's activities and an historic encampment. Festivities will begin with the Friday evening traditional "Call of the Clans." Friday and Saturday evenings will once again host Scottish country dancing at Hopewell Church. Saturday will offer the Professional Scottish Heavy Events plus the Saturday evening concert.

Bark in the Park at Rural Hill, Saturday, April 28.

This is a Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation event; Rural Hill is the host site

Schiele Museum

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

Backcountry Easter, Sunday, March 18 from 1 to 5 pm

Dye, Scratch & Pick: Celebrate the coming of spring and learn about Easter Customs in the Carolina Backcountry. Discover the wholesome beauty and vibrant colors of eggs dyed with natural materials. 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.

Clothing the Backcountry Housewife: 18th -Century Skills Series: Caps: Proper Head Gear**Tuesday and Wednesday, April 10 and 11 at 6 pm**

Registration deadline: March 15. The cap is undoubtedly one of the pieces of clothing which, upon completion of hand sewing, produces great satisfaction for the seamstress. A variety of caps will be available for participants to try on and compare styles. Once a style is selected, the pattern may be laid out and the cap pieces cut with instructor assistance; participants will be ready for stitching! Registration fee includes instruction, fabric, pattern and materials. Space is limited – 8 participants maximum.

Gaston County Museum

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

Bryan Grimes: Soldier and Citizen, Saturday, March 17 at 1:00 p.m., Free

Dr. John R. Peacock of Nash Community College in Rocky Mount presents the story of Bryan Grimes who rose from the rank of Major to Major General and fought with distinction in many of the foremost battles in the Eastern theatre of the Civil War. Reservations suggested to insure seating

Volunteer Orientation, Monday, March 12 at 2 pm

Volunteers are needed in many areas including assistance with museum visitors, school programs, exhibits, special events, and working in the gift shop. To RSVP contact Elaine Jackson at 704 922 7681 x 100 or Elaine.jackson@co.gaston.nc.us

Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday, April 1 at 1:30 pm, free

Children 10 and under hunt for eggs at 1:30, and then have crafts, games, and activities until 3:00 PM.

Tales Through Time: A Storytelling Event, Saturday, April 28 at 12 pm, Free

An afternoon of storytelling from Orville Hicks, traditional Appalachian Jack Tale Storyteller – Winner of the Brown Hudson Folklore Award, Chetter Galloway, African and African American Folktale Storyteller and Ramona "Big Eagle" Moore, Traditional Tuscarora Storyteller.

Historic Brattonsville

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

<http://www.chmuseums.org/ourmuseums/myco/index.htm>

Living History Saturdays March 3, 10, 17, 31, April 7, 14, 28 from 10 am to 4 pm

Join costumed interpreters as they demonstrate the lifeways of Carolina Backcountry residents in both the 18th and 19th centuries.

Spinning Workshop, Saturday March 17 at 9 am.

This spinning workshop is designed for those who are not experienced in spinning. It includes an exploration of the history of spinning, equipment, various fibers and hands-on use of the drop spindle and spinning wheel. Advanced registration and fees are required.

Children's Day on the Farm, Saturday, March 24 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Hands-on children's activities relating to colonial and antebellum farm life, including crafts, military drills, candle making, toys and games. All kinds of farm animals will be on display including the site's newborn lambs. A 4-H petting zoo, pony rides, tractor drawn wagon rides, and family friendly foods will also be available.

A special feature will be Signora Bella, an 18th-century-style circus performer. She delights children of all ages with amazing feats of juggling swords and flaming torches and walking the precarious slack-rope.

When Death Comes, Saturday, April 21 from 10 am to 4 pm

Death has always been a part of life, but the customs surrounding it have varied throughout the centuries. Come and witness it through the lens of 18th and 19th century customs. Talk with a stone carver and Revolutionary War soldiers and visit the plantation following the deaths of Dr. John Bratton and one of his slaves.

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's Birthday Celebration, Saturday, March 24 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.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

War for Empire, Saturday March 31 from 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday, April 1 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Join hundreds of soldiers, American Indians, and civilians from the 18th Century as we look at the French and Indian War history of North Carolina through encampments, trade demonstrations, and battle reenactments.

Cowpens National Battlefield

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

www.nps.gov/cowp

Living History Weekend, Saturday and Sunday, March 24 and 25 from 9 am to 3 pm, Free

The American Colonial Civilian Interpreters will demonstrate typical 18th century activities, such as cooking turkey, fish, and bread over a fire.

Kings Mountain State Park

I-85 Exit 8 in NC and follow the signs

<http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/945.aspx>

Spring Planting Preparation and Traditional Dyeing, Saturday, March 31 from 10 am to 4 pm

Experience farm and frontier life of the 1800s as the living history farm at Kings Mountain State Park comes alive. See demonstrations of natural dyeing and early farming techniques.

Duke Mansion

400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte, 704 714 4448

<http://www.dukemansion.com>

Trail of History: BBQ & Politics, Sunday, March 4 at 3 pm

Since the days of George Washington, political candidates have connected with constituents at community barbecues. The latest in CPCC Television's Trail of History documentary series explores that tasty tradition in Mecklenburg County, including the long-running Mallard Creek Barbecue. After the showing, Professor Gary Ritter and interviewees from the film join us for Q & A.

Mr. Duke's Railway: The Piedmont & Northern, Sunday, April 1 at 3 pm

April 2012 is the 100th anniversary of the P & N electric interurban railroad. Cousin to the streetcar, it connected Charlotte with the textile towns of the North Carolina and South Carolina upcountry. Today plans are afoot to revive part of the line running west from Panthers Stadium with the much-loved vintage Charlotte Trolley. Bill Jeffers, researcher for Charlotte Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, shares his knowledge.

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park

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

The Battle of Guilford Courthouse Reenactment. Saturday and Sunday, March 17 and 18. See times below.

Encampment and battles at Country Park; Pisgah Church Road and Battleground Ave.

Demonstrations and other ceremonies at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park.

Demonstrations at Guilford Heritage Center.

Living History, Suttlers, and Military Encampment, both days from 8:30 am to 5 pm. At Country Park

Battle Reenactments at 2 pm both days at Country Park.

Observance program Saturday, March 12 at 10 am at the Greene Monument in the Military Park.

Demonstrations throughout both days at the Heritage Center and both Military Parks.

For details see web site above.



Matthews Historical Foundation

Programs held at the Historic Massey Clark House, 232 North Trade Street, Matthews.

Latta Place: The Story of a Backcountry Plantation, Tuesday March 27 at 6:30 pm

Kristin Toler, Director Emeritus of Latta Place will tell the story of James Latta and his family and the Historic significance of the Site.

The Duke Mansion- & The Duke Family – 100 Years, Tuesday April 24 at 6:30 pm

Rosalie Reynolds and Pat Martin will tell about the Duke Family and Duke Mansion history – a celebration of contributions that have been made over the last 100 years – and its place in Charlotte history.

Sons of the American Revolution

Information contact: Tim Berly, tberly@carolina.rr.com 704 849 7886.

SAR Grave Marking Ceremony – Colonel William Bratton, Saturday, March 24 at 2 pm

Historic Bethesda Presbyterian Church. 4858 McConnell's Hwy (Hwy 322) , York, South Carolina
The ceremony will be followed by a reception at the church.

MHA Docents
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