

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Promoting Local History through Education and Research



March-April, 2013
Volume 19, Number 2

Look Inside This Issue

- Professor Patterson of UNC will speak, twice, on his new book, *The True Image*, on early Mecklenburg.
- Celebrate the Mecklenburg Sestercentennial
- MHA Docent meeting, March 5 on changes at the Charlotte Museum of History and at State Historic Sites.
- MHA Dinner meeting, March 25 with Dr. Dan Patterson – see below
- Come, join the Docents, if you like
- Dr. Patterson speaks again, April 7, at Old Steele Creek Church.

Dan Patterson, Authority on Early Mecklenburg will Speak in Charlotte



Photo courtesy of Beverly B. Patterson.

Dan Patterson, Professor Emeritus at UNC, will speak in Charlotte on Monday, March 25 and again on Sunday April 7th. Dr. Patterson is an expert on early folkways of the North Carolina backcountry with a specialty in the early tombstone carvers of Mecklenburg and surrounding Counties. His two presentations will be quite different, with one concentrating on life in early Mecklenburg and the other on the tombstones carved by the Bigham families of the Steele Creek Community in Mecklenburg County. Both are free and well worth hearing.

Daniel W. Patterson is Kenan Professor Emeritus of English and Folklore at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A lifelong student of early North Carolina life and folklore, he is the author or editor of nine books. His most recent book, *The True Image: Gravestone Art and the Culture of Scotch Irish Settlers in the Pennsylvania and Carolina Backcountry*, tells the story of the Bigham family of stonecutters in Pennsylvania and North Carolina from 1730 well into the 19th century. In it he gives a comprehensive history of the stone

carvers and their work, illustrated with photographs of over 200 stones that were taken by Dr. Patterson over many years – it sometimes took hours to photograph one stone, getting the light just right to be able to read the inscription and see the intricate carvings. Many of the stones he studied can be seen today in various Mecklenburg County cemeteries.

But this book does much more than that. In describing these early settlers and their craft he tells a story of life in early Mecklenburg that goes beyond the names and dates to paint a picture in great detail of how life was lived. In doing so he brings these characters to life for us in a well-rounded context.

Dr. Patterson was aided in his research by the vigorous efforts and encyclopedic knowledge of our own Linda Blackwelder, an expert on the history of that portion of Mecklenburg County known as the Steele Creek Community. He received help too from many other people in Mecklenburg and neighboring counties, from libraries here, and also from descendants of the Bighams and other Scotch Irish stone carvers in the piedmont of the two Carolinas.

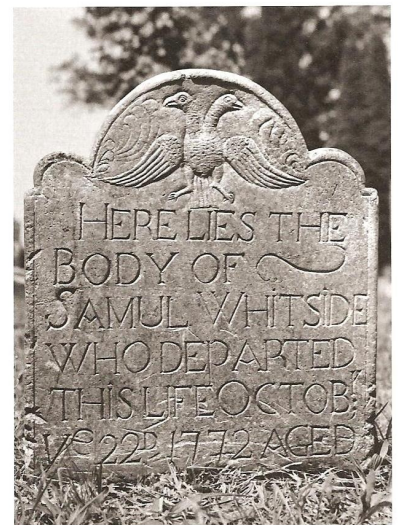


FIGURE 3.6. Samu(e)l Whiteside (1772) headstone, Steele Creek Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, N.C. Maker: William Bigham Sr.

On Monday evening, March 25, Dr. Patterson will address the dinner meeting of the Mecklenburg Historical Association. His presentation will focus on life in old Mecklenburg as lived by the early Scotch Irish settlers such as the Bigham family who came down from Pennsylvania in the 1760s. The public is invited and you can enjoy dinner with the MHA or attend only Dr. Patterson's presentation at no charge. See details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Professor Patterson will return to Mecklenburg County on Sunday April 7 for a 2 pm presentation sponsored by the Steele Creek Historical and Genealogical Society. This presentation will focus on the craft of gravestone carvings as practiced by the extended Bingham family and especially on those stones that still exist in the graveyard of the Old Steele Creek Presbyterian Church. After his talk, Dr. Patterson will lead a walk through the graveyard to view the Bigham stones there. The meeting will be held at Old Steele Creek Presbyterian Church, 7407 Steele Creek Road, in south-west Charlotte.

The MHA will be selling Dr. Patterson's book at both events. The price is \$49.95 and all profit goes to the MHA. Please bring your check book or cash as we have no way to accept credit cards. If you plan to buy a book, you could send us an email saying so, with no obligation to buy. That way we will have enough books on hand.

Jim Williams

From the Chairman

March brings breezes loud and shrill,
Stirs the dancing daffodil.
April brings the primrose sweet,
Scatters daisies at our feet.

Sara Coleridge

Happy 250th Birthday, Mecklenburg County. The celebration begins on February 26th. Read more about the events in another article in this issue.

The February meeting of the MHA Docents was attended extremely well. We can credit this to the fame of two of our historians, Jim and Ann Williams, who attracted members and the community to hear their presentation about some Davidson descendants of Rural Hill. Our plan is to continue to have stimulating discussions each month with topics of current or historical relevance. Our March speakers will be Kathy Ridge, interim director at The Charlotte Museum of History, and Robert Rensburg, West Regional Supervisor of NC Historic Sites. Their messages highlight the relevance of revenue as historic sites attempt to deliver service to the public. Read more about our programs in this issue.

We are preparing for our bi-annual education series. A committee has been formed, and we are in the process of obtaining speakers for the series which will be held in three sessions in February 2014. Details will appear in subsequent issues of Dandelion Press.

It is our intention to expand our membership. More MHA docents mean more opportunities for helping sites and the community. Please identify new residents in your neighborhood and facilities you frequent. Identify people who have an interest in learning the Charlotte-Mecklenburg story and want to share it with others. Invite them to MHA Docent meetings. Docents who bring guests who become MHA Docent members will receive special recognition at our December meeting.

I look forward to seeing you on March 5th at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church at 9:30AM for refreshments, our 10:00AM business meeting, and our program at 11:00AM.

Barbara Jackson

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the May through August issue of the Dandelion is April 16th. As always we welcome articles featuring our history and news of local events. That will be the last newsletter until September, so let us know about events throughout the summer. Send your news to Ann and Jim Williams at 1601 S Wendover Road, Charlotte, NC 28211, or email mhadandelion@mindspring.com.

MHA Docent Programs

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

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Keeping Historic Sites Accessible – In Good times and Bad

In May 2012 the Charlotte Museum of History, confronted by financial challenges, was forced to suspend public access to the museum building and limit access to the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite. Presently, visitors are welcome to take self-guided tours of the Museum and Homesite grounds and they may take advantage of docent-led tours of the Homesite one Saturday each month.

In the past several years, North Carolina State Historic Sites have been impacted both by the general economic climate and budget cuts dictated by the General Assembly.

Please join us as we explore the challenges facing both private not-for-profit and publicly supported historic sites. Our speakers will be Kathy Ridge, Interim Director of the Charlotte Museum of History, and Bob Remsburg, Western Region Supervisor, Division of State Historic Sites and Properties for the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources.

June White

Tuesday, April 2, 2013

Welcome Back, LATIBAH Collard Green Museum!



ATIBAH (Life and Times in Black American History) Collard Green Museum is the brainchild of its director T’Afo Feimster who will speak to us about the rebirth of this wonderful museum. The logo of LATIBAH is a combination of an African Ashanti ceremonial symbol and a collard leaf to represent survival and strength of character. The museum’s exhibits include a powerful representation of the middle passage, a sharecropper’s cabin with many of its accoutrements, and items from the civil rights struggle. The museum was once located in NoDa, however the building was inundated by flooding in September 2011. Fortunately nearly all of the exhibits were rescued. The building was declared uninhabitable, and the search was on for a new location. The docents had planned to visit LATIBAH that fall; we welcome this opportunity to hear about their progress.

After retiring from IBM T’Afo Feimster, a NC native and graduate of NC Central University, reinvented himself as a painter, wood-turner, sculptor, actor, and cultural educator. He is an excellent speaker with an unbounded passion for his project. He has secured space at 720 Tuckaseegee Road and hopes to open soon.

Save the Date! October Docent Field Trip

Mark October 1, 2013 on your calendar now for a special general docent meeting. We are planning a day trip to the Hickory area to visit the Catawba County Museum, the Harper House, Murray’s Mill, and the Bunker Hill

(covered) Bridge. We will carpool, and of course, have lunch. Details and cost are in the early planning stages; watch for all the information and registration in the May/June/July/August Dandelion. Valerie Jones

We'd Love for You to Become an MHA Docent

As you saw from our Chairman's remarks, this year the MHA Docents are focusing on increasing our membership. Charlotte and the surrounding region have experienced remarkable growth in the last few years, along with a surge of interest in our history. As docents, we have some catching up to do. If you enjoy learning and sharing history, we invite you to become an MHA Docent. Many of us volunteer at local sites, and participate in community events, often in costume; none of these things are required of a docent, but they are all fun and rewarding. All of us enjoy learning, field trips, good food, and like-minded companions. As Barbara Jackson said, there will be a special recognition for current docents who bring in new members, but you don't need to wait to be asked. Simply pay MHA dues to our docent treasurer, rather than to MHA directly (see dues notice below), and write "MHA Docent" on the check's memo line. And start coming to our meetings. Welcome Aboard! Ann Williams

MHA Docent Dues

Congratulations to the many docents who promptly paid your dues this year! It has been my experience these last 10 years as your treasurer that collecting dues has dragged on into summer, making it seem to take all year. There are only 6 active and 9 inactive docents, as I write this on January 24, who have not paid, a very cheering number. If you are one of the 15 and intend to renew for the year, or if you would like to become a new member of our group, please get me your check quickly, so we can move on to more satisfying docent activities.

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

MHA Dinner Meeting

Monday, March 25, 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 reservations for dinner use the order form in your MHA newsletter and mail to Linda Dalton, 2401 Sharon Road, Charlotte, NC 28211 or contact Linda at 704-661-8470 or leaseace@aol.com.

As described in the lead article in this issue of *The Dandelion*, our speaker for the March meeting will be Daniel W. Patterson, Kenan Professor Emeritus of English and Folklore at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He will be speaking about his new book *The True Image: Gravestone Art and the Culture of Scotch Irish Settlers in the Pennsylvania and Carolina Backcountry*. This is a wonderful book and Dr. Patterson is an interesting speaker. His presentation for the MHA will concentrate on the culture of the Scotch Irish settlers in the early days of Mecklenburg as illustrated by the Bigham family who reached the Carolina backcountry from Pennsylvania in the 1860s.

The MHA will be selling Dr. Patterson's book at both events. The price is \$49.95 and all profit goes to the MHA. Please bring your check book or cash as we have no way to accept credit cards. If you plan to buy a book, you could send us an email saying so, with no obligation to buy. That way we will have enough books on hand.

Dr. Patterson will be returning to Charlotte on April 7th to make another presentation on his book for the Steele Creek Historical and Genealogical Association. This will be a very different presentation, concentrating on the gravestones themselves and on the Steele Creek area. Both of these presentations will be well worth attending and many of us are planning on attending both of them. They are both free.

Mecklenburg Sestercentennial

2013 is the 250th anniversary of the creation of Mecklenburg County – its Sestercentennial – and is being celebrated in the County all year long. Mecklenburg County was formed out of Anson County by a law passed in 1762 that was effective “from and after the first day of February” 1763. On April 19th the first session of the Mecklenburg Court was held. At that session the 16 men the Royal Governor had appointed to be Justices of the Peace took the oath of office and proceeded to elect the county Sheriff, Register of Deeds and other county officials. Thus began Mecklenburg County.

There is some confusion regarding the date we should celebrate as the anniversary of the county. In 1903 D. A. Tompkins, owner of *The Charlotte Observer*, wrote a history of Mecklenburg County in which he stated that the first county court session was held on February 26, 1763, that the Sheriff was Moses Alexander and the Register of Deeds was Robert Harris. Documentary evidence has been discovered recently that the Sheriff was actually Alexander Lewis and the Register of Deeds was George Alexander. And a long and diligent search of books and records has failed to find any mention of the date of February 26 until Tompkins put it in his book. My personal preference is to celebrate April 19th – the date when the county government began to function – but we can each make up our own mind which date to celebrate.

Mecklenburg County is planning to celebrate and commemorate the founding of the county all year long. The first such celebration was a re-dedication of the 1928 County Courthouse on West Trade Street on Tuesday, February 26, with cannon and musket fire, great shouts of Huzzah!, speeches, cake and punch. Others will follow.

A web site has been set up at www.mecklenburg250.org where you will find a calendar of events and other information on the sestercentennial. A more complete telling of the founding of Mecklenburg County is in a research paper which is posted on that web site. You can put your comments and recollections up on this site for others to read and every citizen of the county is encouraged to do so. So dive in.

Jim Williams

Steele Creek Cemetery Program

An appearance sponsored by the Steele Creek Historical and Genealogical Society will feature the return of Professor Dan Patterson who appeared at the March MHA meeting. See more information in the lead article in this newsletter and in the section above on the March MHA meeting.

The program will be held at 2 pm on Sunday, April 7 at Old Steele Creek Presbyterian Church, 7407 Steele Creek Road in south-west Charlotte. Dr. Patterson will speak on his new book *The True Image: Gravestone Art and the Culture of Scotch Irish Settlers in the Pennsylvania and Carolina Backcountry*. His presentation will focus on the craft of gravestone carvings as practiced by the extended Bingham family and especially on those stones that still exist in the graveyard of Old Steele Creek Presbyterian Church. After his talk, Dr. Patterson will lead a walk through the graveyard to view the Bingham stones there. This will be a very different presentation from the one at the MHA meeting and many people are planning to attend both. Both of these presentations are free.

The MHA will be selling Dr. Patterson's book at both events. The price is \$49.95 and all profit goes to the MHA. Please bring your check book or cash as we have no way to accept credit cards. If you plan to buy a book, you could send us an email saying so, with no obligation to buy. That way we will have enough books on hand.

Jim Williams

Spindles on the Table

Several folks wondered about the choice of decorations on the refreshment table at the January general meeting. Ann Williams brought African violets that she had rescued from near extinction from her mother's living quarters after her death last summer. Ann brought them back to full flourishing beauty and she generously shared their blooming glory in the midst of January greyness that day.

Valerie Jones brought spindles, wooden knitting needles and a crochet hook, wool cards and a yarn swift to remind us that St. Distaff's Day had been observed on January 7. St. Distaff Day, the day after the feast of Epiphany, is not a religious holiday but rather one of many unofficial European cultural traditions. This is the day when women resumed their household work after the twelve days of Christmas. The distaff, used in spinning, is the universal symbol of women's work. Often men and women would play pranks on each other on this day, as the men had resumed their work earlier. Some modern craft groups have taken up the celebration of St. Distaff Day as part of their New Year celebrations; the docents once observed this day, having our annual holiday party on the weekend closest to January 7th to avoid the hectic pre-Christmas party season.

Valerie Jones

Site News

Historic Rosedale Cookbook

Historic Rosedale is planning to publish a cookbook to sell to visitors featuring recipes and the history of the site. They are beginning to collect recipes, and are especially interested in foods from the time period they interpret, the 1830s to the 1860s. This was a time when Victorian opulence was reflected in food and table décor, as well as architecture, furniture, and clothing. The book will be a real departure from the simpler fare that represents colonial and early American historic sites.

Rosedale is soliciting recipes for the book. They need not be for period dishes, modern food is fine. However if you send a heritage recipe add a note telling where the recipe came from and when it was popular. Send recipes to Sherry Griffin at grouptours@historicrosedale.org.

Sherry Griffin

Hugh Torance House and Store Volunteer Training

Volunteers are needed to give tours of the Hugh Torance House and Store. A training session will be held at the site on March 30 at 1 pm for those who would like to help. The site has a long and impressive history, beginning with the 1779 settlement of Hugh Torance, an itinerant merchant and farmer. From 1805-25 Hugh and his son James had a mercantile store, and by the 1840s James owned the largest cotton plantation in Mecklenburg County. The family were good stewards of history and kept numerous records concerning nearly every aspect of their lives. The basic facts needed to give a tour are quite manageable, yet there are many interesting tales that can be worked into a tour for those who wish to. Docents will be provided with a training manual containing all of the information.

The Hugh Torance House and Store is located on Gilead Road near Huntersville, 2 miles west of I 77, exit 23. Tours are given from April through October on the first and third Sunday of each month. If you are interested in attending the March 30th training session contact Ann Williams at 704-365-2402 or ann.williams@mindspring.com.

Ann Williams

James K. Polk's New Support Group Website

The President James K. Polk State Historic Site is pleased to announce the launch of our new support group website, www.presjpolk.com. This website will enable our on line visitors to access more information about the site, register for any of our upcoming programs and, best of all, become members of the museum simply by visiting this new portal. We are also pleased to announce that we have installed "QR" codes throughout the museum. You can scan these codes with your smart phone and it will link you to more information on a variety of topics. We hope to see you at the museum soon.

Scott Warren, Site Manager

University of South Carolina, Lancaster Native American Studies Week Keynote Address Bundy Auditorium

Andrew Jackson and Native American Removal, Thursday, March 28 at 7 pm.

Professor Harry Watson, Distinguished Professor, UNC- Chapel Hill will deliver the keynote address. His research interests lie in United States history between the American Revolution and the Civil War with special attention to the antebellum South and Jacksonian America. His work explores the period's social, economic, and political changes, market development, and race and class relationships under slavery. He directed the UNC Center for the Study of the American South from 1999 until 2012.

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 23 at 11 am and 12 noon.

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 \$5.00 per person. Advance registration required. There will be two separate sessions for hunting. One will be at 11:00am and one at 12 noon.

American Girl Mini Camp, Thursday, April 4 – from 11 am to 1 pm

Spend Spring break living as your favorite American Girl and learn how children lived at Rosedale from colonial to modern times. Ages 6-13, \$25.00 per child, reservations required.

Latta Plantation

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

Artisan Event, Saturday, March 2 from 10 am to 4 pm, and Sunday, March 3 from 1 to 4 pm

Enjoy a spring day at the plantation and observe open-hearth cooking, antique tools demonstrations, a blacksmithing demonstration, and spinning and weaving.

Quilting Workshop, Saturday, March 9 from 10 am to 3 pm

Complete a simple quilted potholder. No prior sewing knowledge required. Supplies provided but please pack a brown bag lunch. Fee \$25 per person and limited to 10 participants.

Latta Celtic Festival, Saturday and Sunday, March 16 and 17 from 10 am to 4 pm

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day and learn about Celtic people throughout history. Enjoy live music, Dancing and Celtic reenactors spanning from the Medieval Celts to WWII. Shop with Celtic Vendors, enjoy food from Appalachian Smoke, and grab a cold beer from The Olde Mecklenburg Brewery. On Saturday night from 6 to 9 there will be a Celtic Music Fundraiser with live music, food and beer, a raffle, and activities for children and adults. \$10 per person.

Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, March 30.

Children ages 1-10 can hunt for toy and candy filled eggs, visit the farm animals, meet the Easter Bunny, and more. Registration opens March 1st.

Embroidery Workshop, Saturday, April 6 from 10 am to 3 pm

Complete a monogrammed handkerchief. NO prior sewing knowledge required. Supplies provided but please pack a brown bag lunch. Fee \$25 per person and limited to 10 participants. Pre-registration is required.

Civil War Reenactment, Saturday and Sunday, April 13 and 14 from 10 am to 4 pm

Watch the North and South battle it out across plantation grounds. Visitors can tour the circa 1800 Latta home, visit the soldier camps, shop with period sutlers, and see demonstrations. A battle will be at 2 pm each day.

Cooking With Sukey Workshop, Saturday April 20 from 10 am to 4 pm

Enjoy a delicious meal while you learn how to cook over the open-hearth from a true Master. Clarissa Clifton, author of One Hearth, One Pot will teach participants various cooking techniques and recipes. Pre-registration is required (limited availability). \$60 per person cost includes instruction and all workshops supplies.

Family Farm Day, Saturday, April 27 from 10 am to 4 pm

Families with children of all ages can learn about 19th century farm life! Activities include animal presentations, farming demonstrations, crafts, and a kids' hands-on chore area where kids can milk the cow, churn butter, gather eggs and try the water bucket relay.

Hugh Torance House and Store

8231 Gilead Road, Huntersville, NC

Grand Opening of the 2013 Season, Sunday, April 14 from 3 to 5 pm

The Board of the Hugh Torance House and Store invites you to attend our Opening Reception and Celebration. We will treat you to great munchies and wine, and you'll be able to learn a little about the Torance family and walk through the house. If you're not familiar with this small site with a huge history, (see below for a taste if it) or simply want to visit again, please join us. Bring guests if you like; we love to make new friends. The event is free, but donations are gratefully accepted. The site is on Gilead Road, two miles west of I 77, exit 23.

House Tours Resume Sunday, April 21 from 2 to 5 pm

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

This season's tours begin on April 21st, and 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.

Mint Hill Historical Society

The Carl J. McEwen Historical Village, 7601 Matthews-Mint Hill Rd. 704-573-0726

<http://www.minthillhistory.com>

Discover Mint Hill, Saturday, April 20 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Get acquainted with the civic, culture, and history groups in the town of Mint Hill. Pan for gold and step into history at the Historic Village, take a tour of the town on a double-decker bus.

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

Historic House Tours, Saturday, April 6, from 1 to 5 pm

Costumed docents will give tours of the Hezekiah Alexander House, the springhouse, and the kitchen. There will be living history demonstrations and a hands-on table.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

Photography and the White House, Exhibit Opening, April 27

This spring the President James K. Polk State Historic Site will focus on the history of White House photography during Polk's presidency. This fascinating exhibit will examine the role that this new technology played in the White House and in America during Polk's presidency and in the administrations of future Presidents. This exhibit will run through December 31. Admission: **FREE**

Rural Hill

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

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. For details and schedules, go to <http://ruralhillscottishfestivals.net>

Schiele Museum

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

Easter in the Carolina Backcountry, Sunday, March 24 from 1 to 5 pm

Celebrate Easter in the tradition of backcountry settlers. Try your hand at "egg picking" with naturally dyed eggs or decorate your own egg with 18th century designs scratched with a pin. Search for the hidden nest of the "Ostr Hase" (Easter Hare). Discover why spring greens were considered "tonics."

Eastertide Traditions, Friday, March 29 at 10 am.

Learn about the legends and lore of Eastertide on the Carolina frontier. See eggs dyed with natural dyes; take home the recipes to try your hand at coloring eggs in 18th century fashion

Pioneers of the Piedmont, Tuesday, April 9 at 5 pm, Free

Discover life in the Carolina Backcountry in the late 1700's. Who were the Pioneers? Learn how these early settlers carved a life out of the wilderness – securing food, making clothing and creating shelter

Gaston County Museum

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

Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday March 24 at 1:30 pm

Children ages 10 and under can bring their own baskets and hunt for Easter eggs on the lawn of the Historic Square across from the museum. After the hunt there will be crafts, games, and activities until 3 pm. Free event; rain date: March 30.

Tales Through Time, Saturday April 13 from Noon to 3 pm

Enjoy an afternoon of folk tales with three distinguished storytellers. At noon Donald Rodgers, former chief of the Catawba Indian Nation, will share the stories and culture of the Catawba people. At 1 pm Chetter Galloway will feature African American folklore. Chetter has released three storytelling recordings: Evil Knows Where Evil Sleeps, Fresh Squeezed Carrot Juice, and A Story, A Story, Let It Come, Let It Come. At 2 pm Orville Hicks will tell Appalachian Jack Tales. Orville and his Hicks family ancestors have been masters of traditional mountain lore for generations.

Historic Brattonsville

1444 Brattonsville Rd., McConnells, SC, 803 684 2327
<http://www.chmuseums.org/brattonsville>

Children's Day on the Farm, Saturday, March 23 from 10 am to 4 pm

Children of all ages can get a glimpse of the Carolina Piedmont past. There will be plenty of farm chores to help with, animals to see and pet, pony rides and historical plowing demonstrations. After your work is done, be entertained by Senora Bella, an 18th century circus performer.

Sheep Shearing Day, Saturday, April 13 from 10 am to 4 pm

It's time for the annual shearing of our heritage flock of Gulf Coast Sheep. Along with shearing techniques, you will experience all manners of wool production, from washing the wool to a finished garment. (And you can take a peek at our newborn lambs. They are sooo cute!)

Living History Saturdays, March 2, 9, 16, 30; April 6, 20 27; from 10 am to 4 pm

Costumed interpreters will be on the site engaged in the various seasonal activities of our Piedmont ancestors.

Charlotte Folk Society

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte

www.folksociety.org

Gathering Concerts and Jams, 7:30 (doors open at 7); Free, Donations appreciated

March 8: Memorial Concert for Fiddler Joe Thompson, Mentor to the Carolina Chocolate Drops

April 12: Bluegrass meets Bolero

Andrew Jackson State Park

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

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

Colonial Herb Gardening, Thursday, March 21 at 3 pm.

Learn about herbs and other plants grown in 18th century kitchen Gardens with Suzanne Simmons of the Schiele Museum of Natural History.

Andrew Jackson Birthday Celebration, Saturday March 23 from 10 am to 4 pm

Celebrate Andrew Jackson's birthday. Crafters will demonstrate 18th century skills and sell their wares, and Revolutionary War reenactors will give black powder firing demonstrations. Hands-on activities include colonial toys, slate and quill pen writing, butter churning, and candle dipping. Tour the one-room school house, and take advantage of the plant sale, and food vendors.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

War for Empire, Saturday April 13 from 10 am to 4 pm, and Sunday April 14 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, 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, April 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.



Duke Mansion

400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte, 704 714 4448

<http://www.dukemansion.com>

Giving Away Money, Sunday March 3 at 3pm. Free. Reservations required: email kellis@tlwf.org, or 704-714-4445

Hospitals, churches, and schools – including Duke University, Davidson College and Johnson C. Smith University – all get financial support from the Duke Endowment. Discover the stories behind the Endowment dating back to its start nearly a century ago. Panelists include: Eugene W. Cochrane Jr. – President, The Duke Endowment, Charles C. Lucas III and Russell M. Robinson II – Trustees of The Duke Endowment and Dr. Ronald L. Carter, President, Johnson C. Smith University. A 15 minute video, “Legacy of Hope: The Story of James B. Duke,” will be shown.

The Amazing Life of Doris Duke, Sunday April 7 at 3 pm. Free. Reservations required: email kellis@2tlwf.org or 704-714-4445

The only child of fantastically wealthy industrialist James B. Duke, little Doris Duke spent part of her early years in Charlotte’s Duke Mansion. She grew up to be one of America’s most influential cultural philanthropists, helping create the new field of historic preservation, document the decorative arts of the Muslim world, and much more. Sponsored by Levine Museum and the Duke Mansion.

Matthews Historical Foundation Speakers Series

Matthews History/NEW Matthews Heritage, Tuesday, March 26; Reception at 6:30pm, Program at 7 pm. at the Matthews Chamber/Depot – 210 Matthews Station Street in Historic downtown Matthews.

Paula Lester and Leslie Kesler will speak about Matthews History and the new museum.

Book Talk and Signing, Tuesday, April 30; Reception at 6:30, Program at 7 pm.

Matthews Library, Matthews Station Street in Historic downtown Matthews.

Michael Hardy will talk about his book, *Civil War – Charlotte the Last Capital of the Confederacy*.

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