

Look Inside This Issue

- A History of Rocking Chairs
- Lord Cornwallis in Person – Don't miss this MHA Dinner Meeting
- A Docent Tour of Historic Salisbury
- The Schedule for May 20th Events
- Belgian Interns come to Latta
- Plus the complete History Calendar for the Summer

Rocking Chairs

When rocking chairs came 'on-line' most likely sometime in the 1700's, there was little in the furniture of the day that was truly comfortable to rest a weary frame upon. Wooden chairs, stools, and benches served as the chief seating choices; only the wealthy, nobles, or royalty could afford padded (upholstered) furniture and cushions for wooden pieces of seating. Even at night, little ease could be found for most folk, lying as they did on a tick filled with vegetable matter of one sort or another, with perhaps another tick of lumpy feathers on top, all supported on a roped frame.

Great derision was aimed by Europeans at Americans who invented this form of seating. They were called lazy, always rocking back and forth in their peculiar chairs with runners on the bottom. An English author, traveling in the young country, was highly critical of Americans and their love of the rocking chair. She found women "sitting lazily in a species of rocking chair—which is found wherever Americans sit down—cradling themselves backwards and forwards, with a lazy, lounging, sleepy air that makes me long to make them get up and walk!" By the early 1800's rocking chairs were ubiquitous in the new country and every level of society enjoyed their ease in a rocking chair. Most likely, European complaints were sour grapes for having failed to invent such a comfortable chair themselves. Rocking chairs were mentioned as early as 1742 in colonial writing, but the form was probably in existence long before that. It took American genius to marry the rocking motion of cradles to a chair.

Windsor chair makers and Shaker woodworkers capitalized on producing these chairs with their simple profiles, unparalleled strength, and comfort. Early rocker manufacturers embellished on the basic design to create the Boston rocker. And today these three styles with various modifications still dominate the rocking scene. Rocking chairs are not as easily made as adding runners to the legs of a chair and calling it done. The legs must be perfectly even and the runners perfectly balanced in order for the chair to perform correctly. If you have ever had the sad experience to sit in an unbalanced rocking chair, you realized quickly how disagreeable the rocking experience can be. Besides a bumping ride, a chair can also be top heavy, or have runners that are too short or long for the chair body, resulting in too fast or slow rocking. An engineering feat to be sure is needed for all parts of the chair to culminate in a harmonious movement.

And then there is the matter of the seat of the chair itself. The seat can be a solid plank of wood, sometimes beautifully carved into a 'saddle' to fit the rocker's anatomy. Or the seat can be slats, either straight or curved, again to accommodate the body. Seats can be made of rush, cane, woven tape, or woven wooden splints of various widths, all with the view of making the seating experience as comfortable as possible. The backs of rockers also

show a wide variety of styles, all aimed at making that portion of the rocker as comfortable as the seat. Some rockers are made to accommodate cushions, either for the seat or the back or both, which can almost turn the chair into an upholstered piece of furniture.

Good examples of antique rockers are not easy to find, and when they are available are relatively expensive. Lovely reproductions of the early styles of rockers are still being made by expert craftsmen, and while the prices of these are not cheap, they have several things going in their favor. First, they are a new product, so they will last as long as their antique antecedents. Secondly, because body sizes have increased in the last several hundred years, the new chairs are sized to accommodate our larger girths and the stress that places on the chairs. And finally, there is the satisfaction of purchasing a beautiful handmade piece of American furniture, keeping the craft alive and well.

Today, I wish you time to “sit and rock a spell” with no guilt that you are being lazy or wasting valuable time. A mental and physical break in a rocking chair is good for the body and soul, as many of our presidents would tell you.

...based on an article in “Early American Life” magazine, April 2011, p. 62-69

Valerie Jones

From the Chairman

A Year of Exploration

Our year of exploring is almost over. Our passport challenge ends this May. Whether you went to 15 sites this year or not, each one of you accepted the challenge eagerly, and went to historic sites. It thrilled me to see you going places and learning about different histories. You went up the eastern seaboard; out West; and overseas. But more importantly you wanted to tell us about what you saw and learned. Your enthusiasm stirred us to want to go to those sites or to Google them to learn more. So you are all winners to me! And I know that you will continue to learn history by being there. For those of you who have completed the passport challenge, I will give you your passport badge at the June picnic. Well done, Docents!

Looking forward, we have an interesting program for May and our annual picnic in June. Details for these programs are in this newsletter, along with details for a day trip to Historic Salisbury on May 16th led by Karen McConnell. Come and join us. Our trips are always wonderful. MeckDec events are coming soon. Jim and Ann will keep us up to date on the final scheduling.

In the fall, our September program will be on September 11th at the church. Our speaker, Travis Bowman, will present the story of his ancestor who fought in the American Revolution. This program will be an exciting one to bring us back together after the summer. And don't forget our involvement in September with the DNC and the Liberty Walk.....We do have a lot to look forward to!

Audrey Mellichamp

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the September/October issue of the Dandelion is August 23rd. Thanks for all your articles, a number of which are in this issue. Keep us in mind should your summer travels take you places that would interest our readers. Send articles to Ann and Jim Williams at 1601 S Wendover Rd. or mhadandelion@mindspring.com.

MHA Docent Programs

Tuesday, May 1 Powder, Perfumes, and Pomades

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 always welcome.

Patti Proctor spoke to us several years ago about women's lives during the American Revolution. This time she will treat us to her newly researched program highlighting the history of cosmetics from the Colonial era to the World War II years. Patti is an expert on many aspects of our history, and presents programs that truly take her audience back in time. Her authenticity in dress and manner is impeccable. This program on cosmetics will be especially timely, as many of us plan to dress in historical garb for the May 20th activities. Come with questions.

Tuesday, June 5 Docent Spring Picnic and Rosedale Garden Tour

We will meet at **10:00 am at Historic Rosedale** in the Visitors' Center for a short business meeting. After the meeting Deborah Hunter, Rosedale's executive director, will give us a tour of the gardens. The house dates to 1815, but only boxwoods remain in the garden from that early period. In 1918 Louise Heagy Davidson, an avid gardener, came to Rosedale as a new bride. Over the years she developed extensive formal gardens, which were maintained and augmented by her daughters, Mary Louise and Alice, the last residents of the historic property. The gardens today are based on the plans Louise Heagy Davidson left us. They should be especially lovely in June.

After the garden tour we will enjoy a covered dish luncheon in the picnic area. All docents should bring a dish to share. The hospitality committee will provide drinks, paper plates, napkins, etc. Should the weather be rainy, we will picnic in the basement. Hope to see everyone at this lovely site to wind up our year!

Heads Up for September – More Changes

We will meet on September 11th, as previously announced. Some of us will be busy with DNC activities on our usual 1st Tuesday, and traffic might be problematic. However we will meet at Sugaw Creek Church, rather than uptown, for a program on Peter Francisco, "Hercules of the Revolution". Travis Bowman, a Cornelius resident and descendant of Francisco, will present the program. Watch for details in the next Dandelion.

MHA Dinner Meeting

The World Turned Upside Down: Lord Cornwallis in America

Monday, May 21, 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 Dalton at 704 661 8470 , leaseace@aol.com .



English actor-writer Howard Burnham will present a costumed dramatic monologue subtitled “Never Play Hockey with a Bishop” – a reference to Cornwallis’ eye injury. As the shade of Charles, Marquis Cornwallis, Burnham will revisit the scenes of his American campaigns from New York to the Carolinas. With resignation and humor, the redcoat commander gives the British perspective on the Revolutionary War. Among his many recollections are “Mr.” Washington making a monkey of him at the second battle of Trenton, the Siege of Charleston, and the activities of “Bloody Ban” Tarleton.

Howard Burnham was born and raised in England, but claims American blood through his paternal grandfather. He has worked in England as an actor, educator, and museum curator. In 1998 he and his wife settled in Columbia, SC. He has developed numerous dramatic monologues featuring characters from history, and performed them to great acclaim on both sides of the pond. This is definitely a must-see program!

MHA Docent Dues

Final Call for MHA Docent Dues

For those of you who have not yet paid your dues for 2012, this is the last reminder before I remit our dues to MHA.

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 have not paid your dues this year, but would like to, 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

Historic Salisbury Tour

On Wednesday, May 16th we will be treated to a tour of Salisbury led by our very own Karen McConnell. We will carpool (details below) and meet Karen at the **Organ Lutheran Church** built in 1794 to learn about the German settlers who came to the area in the 1740s. We can't go inside the Church, but we can peek through the windows, and enjoy the beautiful graveyard. Next we'll visit the **Michael Brown House** built of native stone in 1766 by Michael Braun. It is a substantial two-story house, and the oldest structure in Rowan County. Karen will tell us about her ancestral connection to the house where her great grandmother was born and married.

In Salisbury we will visit the **Rowan Museum** located in the 1854 courthouse. We will have a box lunch there and museum director Kay Brown Hirst will tell about the history of the building and the Confederate Prison which we will visit later in the day. There will be time to see the exhibits which include: Country Life and Early Trade, Commerce and Professional Life, and the Civil War and the Confederate Prison.

In the afternoon we'll see two of the most impressive houses in Salisbury. The **Utzman-Chambers House** is a Federal townhouse with a unique curved staircase and exquisite molding reflecting the lifestyles of affluent citizens of the early 1800s. Its rooms are furnished with Hepplewhite and Chippendale pieces, as well as furniture made by Rowan County craftsmen. The **Dr. Josephus Hall House** was built in 1820 as the Salisbury Female Academy, and became a private residence in 1825. Dr. Hall purchased the house in 1859 and made it the showplace it is today featuring Greek Revival and Victorian décor. Much of the elegant furniture, china, and silver belonged to the family.

The last stop of the day will be the site of the **Confederate Prison and National Cemetery**. In 1861 an empty cotton factory became a prison to house Northern prisoners of war. The three story brick building with its cottages and outbuildings was surrounded by a stockade. Initially commodious, it became a horrendously overcrowded death camp when the exchange of prisoners between the North and South was halted. The dead were buried in an abandoned cornfield nearby. As many as 11,000 men may be buried in trenches enclosed today in the National Cemetery.

The cost for the trip is \$14 which covers the box lunch and all admissions. We'll carpool from Sugaw Creek Church; be there by 8:45 for a **9 am** departure. If you plan to go, and guests are welcome, fill out the form below. Bring it with your check to the May meeting or mail by May 12th to Valerie Jones at 4700 Coronado Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212.

Directions to Organ Church: From I-85 North take exit 68 (Rockwell/China Grove exit, highway 152). Turn right (east). In 6.3 miles turn right onto Organ Church Road (just past Faith Road; it almost looks like one intersection). Go 1.5 miles to Organ Church on the left. Park in the lot between the old and new churches. Directions to the other stops on the tour will be given out at Organ Church.

Name(s): _____

Lunch selection:

___ Chicken Salad Croissant
Fruit salad & Pound Cake

___ Smoked Turkey Wrap
Pasta Salad, Salsa, Chips,
Chocolate Chip Cookie

___ Chef Salad & Ranch
Dressing, Crackers,
Chocolate Pound Cake

___ I would like to Carpool

___ I can drive a carpool

___ I'll meet you there

If you meet us there, we still need your lunch selection and check.

May 20th Events

Get out your 18th and 19th Century clothing and get ready for “fun on the square.” May 20th falls on a Sunday this year so our celebrations will be on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 17, 18, and 19. Yes, three days of celebration. We are working ourselves up to a full week, someday.

The Thursday night, May 17th event is at the Mint Museum, downtown and the speaker is Jeff Shaara, the well-known author of a number of books on American history. His father wrote *Killer Angels* about the battle of Gettysburg in the Civil War. After working on the film *Gettysburg* made from that movie, Jeff proceeded to write sequels and prequels and then branch out into different eras of early American history, including Revolutionary War novels *Rise to Rebellion* and *The Glorious Cause*. This is an invitation-only event, but reenactors and docents in 18th or 19th century dress are welcome, and needed, and get in free. Fife, Drum and Muskets will all get a chance to show their stuff. Parking in the garage below the museum will be validated. Don't we have fun when we dress up?

On Friday, May 18th, at 11:30 am we will gather at the square for the unveiling of the Charlotte Liberty Walk – 15 historic sites in the uptown area, each marked by a bronze marker or other monument (three new ones will have just been installed) and linked by granite markers in the sidewalk.

Following the CLW unveiling, we will re-form on the square with muskets and cannon, and fife and drum for addresses by politicians and other VIPs. The Meck Dec will be read followed by traditional toasts with Huzzahs! and musket and cannon fire. Then we will parade to Settlers Cemetery to honor Col. Thomas Polk.

Interpreters should arrive at the square at 11:00 am, or earlier if possible, mingle with the crowd and hand out Meck Dec copies while the soldiers play music and march up and down. Parking is available on the streets around the square – 8 quarters for 2 hours.

Finally, on Saturday, May 19, we will participate in a street fair in NoDa (the North Davidson Street arts district) from 4 to 6 pm for a formal unveiling of Revolutionary Street Art. Artist Will Puckett has painted an extensive mural on the concrete under the Matheson Street overpass on Davidson Street at the South end of NoDa. Captain Jack will be there and we will parade and celebrate this cultural event.

If you can attend and participate in costume at any or all of these events, please let us know so that we can let you send you the details as they develop.

Jim and Ann Williams, mhadandelion@mindspring.com

From Wagon Roads to New South City

The 2012 lecture series, *From Wagon Roads to New South City*, is now part of history. Your docent education committee is relieved and happy to see the end of a very successful venture. Our partnership with the Charlotte Museum of History, Levine Museum of the New South and the Arts and Science Council was essential to its success as was the support from the MHA. The speakers who volunteered their expertise were critical to our success. We began with an overview of Charlotte history by Mary Kratt and the story of the Catawba people by Dr. Stephen Criswell of USC Lancaster. The second session was led by Charlotte Museum docent Tom Phlegar sharing the story of the American Revolution in our area and Mike Sullivan covering the discovery of gold. We moved on to the story of slavery in North Carolina with Michelle Lanier of the NC African American Heritage Commission, and the Civil War with Dr. David Goldfield of UNC-Charlotte. Then Tom Hanchett of the Levine museum took us through the twentieth century and we were introduced to four area historic sites by their staff members. We ended the series with Kitty Wilson Evans sharing the music of slavery, Tom Hanchett sharing music that began in Charlotte and Billy Hunt on music of the Native Americans.

This was the third series presented over the past six years; we have learned a lot that will help us plan for the future. The partnership with the museums is essential due the seating capacity needed for the series, and collaboration with museum staff in planning for and choosing speakers was very important. The Arts and Science Council grant provided the courage we needed to charge for the series for the first time and have a larger number of speakers. The 143 people who attended are avid history buffs and willing to pay a registration fee. We asked the Charlotte Museum of History to take care of the registration. Even though they were going through difficult changes, they were willing to handle the task that had been a challenge for the docents.

This year's success has left us with a model that works well and hopefully will encourage new leadership to plan the next series scheduled for winter 2014. The Docent Education Committee, made up of Rachel Abernathy, Alice Bostic and Audrey Mellichamp, wishes to thank our fellow docents who helped with welcoming and caring for our series participants. We end this journey with extreme gratitude for all who made this venture so successful. We are fortunate indeed to live in a community with such wonderful history.

Alice Bostic

New Interns at Latta

In 2009 Latta was contacted by a college student from the University of Ghent in Belgium, about a possible internship opportunity at the site. Evy was browsing the internet and came across Latta's website. Since then a wonderful partnership has bloomed and four interns have come to Latta to complete 5 week education internships. Evy and Nathalie came the first two years and were absolutely wonderful! The last two lambs born at Latta were named in their honor.



The most recent interns are Michiel and Maaïke. They will be here until May 4th and are doing a fantastic job with tours and school programs. It is amazing to the Latta staff how fluently they speak and understand English, and how quickly they have learned to conduct programs and tours. Both are hard workers and a joy to have around.

Michiel is 23 years old and in his final year of Teacher Training College, and lives in Ertvelde, not far from Ghent. He has a passion for history and loves to learn about and visit historic places. At home he gives Moving Math workshops to school children, which combine math and dance to make a memorable learning experience.

Maaïke is 21 years old and lives in Koewacht, which is on the border of the Netherlands and Belgium. Her nationality is Dutch, but she chose to study in Ghent because it was closer to home than any Dutch schools. Her favorite subjects are English and history. She loves English history novels and visiting historic places. She is particularly interested in North American history and has done research papers on slavery here.

All four interns have been hosted by families in the Overlook community, in Mountain Island. Latta is grateful to these families for creating special experiences for the interns and taking them to places like Florida and Washington, DC. The internship program between the University of Ghent and Historic Latta Plantation has become so popular that interns now must compete for a spot to come. Moving forward, the plan is to have up to four interns come each year, two in the fall, and two in the spring. Latta is so appreciative of the opportunity to meet each of these wonderful people and looks forward to a long partnership with our friends in Belgium.

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>

Arts Festival, Saturday, May 12 from 10 am to 4 pm

Meet Carolina's Finest Artisans including potters, wood turners, and jewelry makers. Enjoy demonstrations of historic crafting techniques, plus fun for the entire family with a demonstration by the Carolina Raptor Center, free pony rides, and pottery-throwing for the children.

The Patron's Breakfast at 9 am is available with the purchase of a separate ticket in advance, and offers an early opportunity to mingle with the artisans, enjoy a gourmet breakfast and preview of the items for sale at the festival.

A Victorian Wedding, Saturday and Sunday June 2 and 3 from noon to 4 pm.

Wedding bells are ringing at Rosedale as the Caldwell family prepares their home for two weddings. The first is the wedding of Dr. Caldwell to his second wife Adeline Hutchison, and the second is the wedding and "jumping the broom" ceremony of Rhea, an enslaved girl living on Dr. Caldwell's plantation. As a wedding guest you will enjoy the sounds and spirit of an antebellum wedding as one of the largest groups of living history re-enactors ever seen at Rosedale portrays the members of Dr. Caldwell's enormous household. This is the only time this year one of Rosedale's most prized artifacts, a green silk bonnet owned by Adeline Hutchison and likely made by Charlotte's renowned milliner Mary Porter, will be on display to the public.

Relish Carolina, A Dinner Celebration of Southern Ingredients, Like-Minded People & Unique Spaces, Thursday, July 12th at 7:30 pm

Reserve your spot at the 150 foot farm table which will canvas the bountiful garden and grounds of Historic Rosedale Plantation on a summer evening. Dinner will be prepared by Chef John Cornely and served family style. The mood will be relaxed, yet tasteful - similar to how the occupants of Rosedale and their guests used to feast. Celebrate with local farmers, artisans, spirit makers and Carolina lifestyle enthusiasts. One requirement: Show your personality and BYOP (Bring Your Own Plate) - there will be a plate valet. Tickets go on sale May 15th.

Latta Plantation

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

All camps require advanced registration

World War II Reenactment, Saturday and Sunday, May 5 and 6 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Remember the sacrifices of Americans who fought in World War II. The battle each day at 2:00pm will take place in 1945 Germany. Demonstrations throughout the weekend will include, On the Front Line, On Patrol, Weapons Training, Knowing Your Enemy, POW Interrogation, and a Mortar Demo. Explore the grounds and visit the Allied and Axis camps and learn about the USSO in the plantation house.

Civil War Mustering Event, Saturday, May 19 from 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday, May 20 from 1 to 4 pm.

150 years ago the Sample boys left their home at Latta (then called Riverside) and were mustered into the Company B Mecklenburg Grays. Experience the Civil War as those did who were mustered into the army. Visit the camps, watch the company drill, and much more

Living History Weekend Fundraiser, Saturday, May 26 from 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday, May 27 from 1 to 4 pm.

Experience 19th century life with living history demonstrations that include open hearth cooking, woodworking, weaving, blacksmithing, and more. Children can make crafts, dance around the maypole, and see farm animals.

Mini Farm Camp, Tuesday through Thursday, June 12-14 from 9 am to noon each day.

This camp is for boys and girls ages 4-5 who want to learn about farm life. Campers will meet the Latta animals, including chickens, pigs, sheep, goats, a cow, mule, and horse. Each day will include hands-on farm activities, crafts, games, and of course, getting up close and personal with the animals.

53rd Call to Arms Camp, Monday through Thursday, June 18-21 from 9 am to 3 pm each day.

Advanced Civil War Camp for 13-14 year olds that have graduated out of the Civil War Soldier Camp. Experience strategic battle planning, tacticals in the woods, fire starting with flint and steel, campfire cooking, and much more.

Farm Camp, Monday through Friday, June 18-22, July 16-20, August 13-17, from 9 am to 4 pm each day,

This is an intense, extremely hands-on training course in all things 'farming' for ages 12-17. The course will include animal husbandry, historic natural farming techniques, woodworking, and more. Participants should be prepared for labor intensive work and training. This camp is designed for those with a serious interest in learning about farming, animals, and agriculture, as well as those who have a future interest in veterinary medicine.

Civil War Soldier Camp, Monday through Thursday, June 25-28, July 9-12, August 6-9, from 9 am to 3 pm each day.

Boys and girls ages 8-12 are mustered into the Union and Confederate armies to experience life as a Civil War soldier. Relive the war through a week of drills, battles, hikes, farm programs, and 19th century life. Campers receive items to keep that they will use during the camp week, including a replica musket, kepi, haversack, t-shirt, and more. The camp week will end with a battle engagement that families can watch and a graduation ceremony.

Miss Jane's Academy, Monday through Thursday, June 25-28, July 9-12, August 6-9 from 9 am to 3 pm each day

This Civil War camp takes girls ages 8-12 back in time to see what life was like for women in the 19th century. Hands-on activities include spying, making fans, sewing, open-hearth cooking, and English Country Dancing plus a horse drawn wagon ride through the nature preserve. Each girl will receive an apron, bonnet, and t-shirt to keep.

Revolutionary War Soldier Camp, Monday through Thursday, July 23-26, from 9 am to 3 pm each day.

Boys and girls ages 8-12 can relive the American Revolution as a Patriot or Loyalist, during a fun filled week of drills, battles and learning about soldier life.

Jr. Farm Camp, Monday through Thursday, July 30-August 2 from 9 am to 1 pm each day.

This camp is for boys and girls ages 6-8. If your child likes the outdoors and animals, they will love this experience! In addition to getting up close with a variety of farm animals, campers will learn and participate in farm chores, animal care and natural plants and medicines.

Hugh Torrance House and Store

8231 Gilead Road, Huntersville, NC

The Hugh Torrance House and Store is open for tours from 2 to 5 pm on 1st and 3rd Sundays through October. The site is located on Gilead road, two miles west of I-77 exit 23. Tour dates for the summer are May 6 & 20, June 3 & 17, July 1 & 15 and August 5 and 19.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

The Art of Music in the Mid Nineteenth Century, Saturday, June 9 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free.

This program features the music that was popular during President James K. Polk's administration. It varies from classical to folk and visitors will get the chance to try their hand at making music. Artisans will sell instruments and sheet music and create a hand-on area where visitors can make their own simplified versions of instruments.

Breaking the Mold: Mixed Media Creations, Saturday, July 14 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free.

This program focuses on the process of creating utilitarian and decorative objects from wood, metal, and clay. Watch a blacksmith demonstration, learn about the art of woodworking, and meet with local potters. The craft area lets you try your hand at creating your own pottery. Local artists will be on hand to sell their work.

Be the President for a Day Camp, Monday, July 23 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Children will learn about the electoral process and the Polk Campaign of 1844. They will nominate candidates for President and hold a mock election filled with speeches, campaign posters and slogans! Lunch is provided. Boys and girls aged 8-12 years. Hours: 9am-3pm, Fee: \$35 per child.

Mecklenburg County Settlers Camp, Monday, July 30 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Experience life as an early pioneer of Mecklenburg County. Participants will learn about the early days of settlement in North Carolina. They will try their hand at land surveying, panning for gold, building a portion of a log cabin, and help prepare lunch over a campfire. Boys and girls aged 8-12 years. Fee: \$35 per child.

Young Artisans Camp, Monday, August 6 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Let your creative side take charge and learn about various artistic mediums common during the 19th century. We will partner with the Cultural & Civic Arts Center of Pineville to give campers an opportunity to create their own pottery, learn about period music, try their hand at quill writing, design their own tin punch decoration, learn about the art of blacksmithing, and much more. Boys and girls aged 8-12 years. Fee: \$35 per child.

Threading the Story: Spinning and Weaving, Saturday, August 11 from 10 am to 4 pm.

This program will focus on the process of creating fabric from fiber to yarn to clothing. Staff will interpret the various steps that are involved in the fabric making process. Visitors will learn about spinning, weaving, knitting, and dyeing. The market area will feature the creations of local artisans.

Schiele Museum

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

Cowboys: Dust of the Trail, New Exhibit, Opening Day Saturday May 19 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Exhibit open through December. Take a ride back in time to the real Wild West of the American Cowboy. Retrace their evolution from the Mexican vaqueros of the old Spanish southwest to the hardworking cowhands of today's Great Basin ranches. Discover the tools and techniques necessary for work in the cattle trade. It's an epic tale of doggies, drifters and drovers—roundups, riatas and rodeos—bunk houses, bronco busters and buckaroos!

"Of Canes and Reeds..." Sunday, May 27 from 1 to 5 pm

In the 1700's the Piedmont region of NC contained vast areas called Canebreaks where Rivercane grew. This native grass was a source for Catawba and Cherokee basketry, important forage for livestock, and served settlers as angling rods, pipestems and other "gadgets". On the Backcountry Farm discover some of the uses of this plant which was once common to our 18th Century ancestors and in the 21st Century is critically threatened.

Backcountry Frolick, Sunday, June 24 from 1 to 5 pm.

Enough of the hard work – time for some frivolity and fun! Join us as costumed interpreters try their hand at an assortment of traditional games familiar to Backcountry folks – card, dice, board games and more! Visit the cabins to glimpse the daily life in the late 1700's. Be sure to save enough energy for a round of dance and a reel or two stepped to the lively tunes played by our fine musicians.

Unite Ourselves: The Tryon Resolves, Saturday, August 25 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Come for a day of history and fun as we celebrate our local Independence Day! The Tryon Resolves, signed August 14, 1775, is a local Declaration of Independence adopted by citizens of Tryon County (now Gaston, Lincoln, Cleveland and Rutherford Counties) which predates the United States Declaration of Independence by almost a year! In it the signers vowed resistance to “unprecedented, barbarous and bloody actions committed by British troops [against] our American brethren”. Witness the confusion of Backcountry folk – to sign was treason!

An official reading of the Tryon Resolves will be held at 3:00pm featuring 51 names of local pioneers who bravely signed for freedom. There will be firing demonstrations and sutlers with 18th century trade items all day.

Workshop: Clothing the Backcountry Housewife: 18th-C. Undercover: Shifts and Stays**Friday, May 4 from 6 to 8:30 pm and Saturday, May 5 from 9 am to 3 pm.**

Join us for a peek into the world of undergarments of the late 1700's Carolinas. Allison Boulton, our guest speaker on Friday evening, has completed new research into clothing from the 1700's and 1800's and will have several of her handmade garments for exhibit. Shifts will be available for comparison in sleeve detail, neckline treatment and fitting. Wear patterns will be investigated as well. Utilizing stitches learned in the opening session, participants will have the opportunity to repair old shifts or to begin a new one, and learn new sewing techniques.

Registration fees: \$30 per person. To Register contact Susan Dyer at the Schiele, susand@cityofgastonia.com or 704-854-6676. Space is limited – 8 participants maximum. Your registration fee guarantees your place.

Registration Deadline: April 27. NOTE: Participants are asked to bring: Linen fabric for making a new shift or Old shift for repair. Questions about the fabric? Contact Suzanne 704-866-6913 or suzannes@cityofgastonia.com

Workshop: Handmade Traditional 3-legged Stool, Saturday, May 26 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Master Woodsman Bob Thornburg will guide participants in making a traditional 3-legged stool from the Tulip (Yellow) Poplar tree. Learn to identify this important native species as you hone skills with period tools: hatchet, draw knife, auger, froe and maul. Each participant will take home their very own hand crafted period piece.

Registration fees: \$30 per person. To Register contact Susan Dyer at the Schiele, susand@cityofgastonia.com or 704-854-6676. Space is limited to 8. Your registration fee guarantees your place. Registration Deadline: May 11.

Gaston County Museum

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

Mother/Daughter Tea, Saturday, May 12 at 11 am and 2 pm.

Learn about Victorian etiquette, manners, and the history of tea in America. Partake in a tea party complete with fresh brewed tea, lemonade, pastries, whipped cream, and other traditional offerings. While dressing up is not required, it is encouraged! Ladies – wear your favorite hat! For ages 6-up, \$10 per person, limited to 25 per session. RSVP by May 9 to Lynn Duncan at 704.922.7681 x106 or lduncan@co.gaston.nc.us

Civil War Living History, Saturday, May 12 from 11:30 am to 2:30 PM. Wreath Laying at 1 pm.

The Confederate History and Monument Preservation Society, portraying Company H of the 23rd NC troops will have a display and answer questions about the Civil War, and give firing and drilling demonstrations. The wreath laying at the Confederate Marker in Dallas, at 1 pm will be in honor of North Carolina Confederate Memorial Day

Civil War Soldier Camp, Tuesdays, June 19 and August 7 from 10 am to 3 pm,

This special one day experience for kids ages 8 – 12 is \$30 per child. Children will begin the day by setting up a camp, learning period military marching drills, and observing historic firing demonstrations. Then campers will learn about home life, experience writing letters to soldiers, play a game of Town Ball, and finish the day by engaging in a special mission! Campers should bring a bag lunch and wear closed-toed shoes. This program will be very interactive and hands-on. RSVP required to Lynn Duncan at 704.922.7681 x106.

Victorian Girls Camp, Tuesday, July 10 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Go back in time to the 1800's when young ladies wore aprons and ribbons in their hair. Learn needlework, use watercolors, and plant flowers! Create a Victorian fan to escape from the summer sun while enjoying amusements such as graces, rolling hoops, and croquet! Lastly, relax at a formal afternoon tea of delicious refreshments! An apron will be provided for each girl to take home at the end of the day. This special one day experience for kids ages 8 – 12 is \$30 per child. Campers should bring a bagged lunch and wear closed-toed shoes. This program will be very interactive and hands-on. RSVP required by June 19 to Lynn Duncan at 704.922.7681 x106.

Red Hills English Country Dancers at the Museum, Monday, July 30 at 7:30 pm.

The Red Hills English Country Dancers of York County, dressed in clothing of the 18th and 19th centuries, will dance such favorites as "The Virginia Reel," "Picking Up Sticks," and "Mr. Issac's Maggot." The audience may participate in several dances. Light refreshments will be served.

Historic Brattonsville

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

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

Sheep Shearing Day, Saturday, May 5 from 10 am to 4 pm.

This event will feature shearing our flock of Gulf Coast sheep. We will also have hands-on demonstrations of the many processes such as washing, carding, spinning, dyeing and weaving, to turn raw wool into finished garments.

Memorial Day Monday, May 28 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Brattonsville will be open for a special day of Living History to honor those who have served in our military through the ages. Learn about 18th or 19th century military customs from men who represent units from the past.

Independence Day Celebration, Wednesday, July 4 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Members of the 34th regiment of the South Carolina Militia will parade before the home of Dr. J. S. Bratton. Ladies and Gentlemen, both young and old, not belonging to the company, who may feel desirous of participating in the festivities on the day, may join the 34th Regiment. Come and hear the Declaration of Independence read, raise your glasses in toasts, and play a friendly game of stick ball to celebrate the day.

The Battle of Huck's Defeat, Saturday July 14 from 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday, July 15 from 10 am to 3 pm.

The Revolutionary War in the Carolina backcountry was one of intense fighting that involved all society. See how soldiers and civilians survived the war. Two battles will be reenacted including Huck's Defeat, which will take place near the actual site of the engagement. Reenactments will be at 2 p.m. each day. Music performances, firearms demonstrations, talks by noted experts, and camp life will be shown throughout the day. Younger visitors can explore the Children's Encampment area with toys and games, military drills and Revolutionary War camp.

County Court Day: To Administer the Peace, Saturday, August 4 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Actual 18th century court cases, as they were recorded in the handwritten books of the county court, will be recreated at Historic Brattonsville to give visitors a glimpse into the legal system of our early republic.

Trespassing, slander, overcharging for liquor at taverns and rioting were common offences of the time. Witness the court activities through scripted scenarios delivered by costumed interpreters.

Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site

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

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

Pan-O-lympics, Saturday, June 9 from 10 am to 4 pm

Gain a better understanding of the work that miners did to extract gold from the NC soil in the 19th century. Visitors will participate in a variety of activities related to gold mining.

When Nature and Man Collide, Saturday, August 11 from 10 am to 4 pm

Site staff and NC Forest Rangers will give tours of the surface area of the Reed gold Mine, telling both the historic significance of the gold mine and the natural environment surrounding it.

Charlotte Folk Society

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte

www.folksociety.org

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering Concert & Jams; all events free

Friday, May 11: featuring a CFS Members' Showcase

Friday, June 8: featuring Viva Klezmer

Sunday, July 1: Annual Old-Time Music Jam and Ice Cream Social, Charlotte Museum of History, 1 to 4 pm

Friday, August 10: featuring fingerstyle guitarist and luthier Wayne Henderson and Friends

Andrew Jackson State Park

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

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

Anniversary of Buford's Defeat, Saturday, May 26.

Commemorate Buford's Defeat in the Waxhaws with speakers, living history demonstrations, colonial church service, and memorial services. Living historians include Continental Line, British Legion, and Militia units.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

Living History Weekend, Saturday June 9 from 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday, June 10 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Historic interpreters will present musket and cannon firing demonstrations as well as on-going demonstrations of 18th Century camp life.

Hands-On History Day, Saturday, July 14 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Learn about the tools needed to create an 18th Century log structure through hands-on demonstrations.

Hands-On History Day, Saturday, August 11 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Test your skill at games typical of those enjoyed by North Carolinians 250 years ago.

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>

18th Century Trades and Crafts Fair, Saturday and Sunday, May 5-6 from 9 am to 5 pm, Free

Learn about 18th Century trades and crafts as craftsmen/women demonstrate such skills as woodworking, spinning, leatherworking, blacksmithing and weaponry.

Military Through The Ages, Saturday and Sunday, May 26-27 from 9 am to 5 pm, Free.

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

Children's Colonial Day, Saturday, June 16 from 9 am to 5 pm, Free.

Kids will have the opportunity to step back in time by dressing in 18th Century Clothing, playing Colonial games, making cornhusk dolls and rolling cartridges.

Fourth of July Encampment, Sunday, July 1 from 9 am to 6 pm, Free.

Backcountry Militia will be encamped this weekend demonstrating a variety of skills from the 18th Century.

Backcountry Militia Encampment, Sunday, August 12 from 9 am to 5 pm, Free.

Come learn about the people living in the Carolina Backcountry as the Backcountry Militia encamps at the park.

Kings Mountain State Park

I-85 Exit 8 in NC and follow the signs

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

1800s Food Preservation, Saturday, May 5 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Can you imagine life without a refrigerator, freezer, or processed foods that stay good for months on the shelf? Early frontier families did not have these modern conveniences, yet they survived through winter and hard times year after year. Come to the Living History Farm and see how food was preserved on the frontier.

Farm Life, Saturday, June 16 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Life was so much easier back in the good old days; no vacuuming, no mowing grass, no cleaning the refrigerator, no washing the car, no changing the oil... Or was it? Come experience the daily chores necessary to survive on an 1800s yeoman farm at the Living History Farm. They might just make you appreciate the chores you have today.

Matthews Historical Foundation

www.matthewshistoricalfoundation.org

Programs held at the Matthews Woman's Club, 208 South Trade Street

Discover Matthews Day, Saturday, May 12, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Visit the downtown shops and restaurants, learn about local non-profits, hear about the Seaboard Railroad, visit the Library, learn about the new Matthews Heritage Museum, go on the downtown walking tour, visit the Reid House, see what your town has to offer. At Renfrow's get your own bottle of Blenheim's Ginger Ale, bottled since 1903.

The McCelvey Center

212 E. Jefferson St., York, SC, 803.684.3948 x 33

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

Finding Military Records, Saturday, May 12 at 11 am

Ever wondered how to find military records of your ancestors? Discover how to locate these important records.

Family Snapshots, Saturday, June 9 at 11 am

Learn how to identify and date different types of photographs and how to protect them for future generations.

Ballads, Songs, and Stories of the Southern Appalachians, Saturday, July 14, at 11 am.

Enjoy traditional tales and songs with folksinger Philip Cheney as he plays five-string banjo and guitar. Be sure to see the exhibit New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music after the program.

Tracing Your Ancestor's Property, Saturday, August 11 at 11 am.

Discover how to utilize wills and deeds to help you trace ownership of your ancestor's property.

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