

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Promoting Local History through Education and Research

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



May, June, July, August, 2014
Volume 20, Number 3

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Good News from the Charlotte Public Library

Congratulations to Jane Johnson who has been named Manager of the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room! Anyone who has posed a question to Jane knows she is knowledgeable and the most thorough of researchers. Below is her report about her new responsibilities and the vast resources available at our local library:

It is my honor to be selected as the new Manager of the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room. A skilled group of managers, who have made this the wonderful special collections library it is, preceded me, and we all build on the work of those we follow. Since the founding of our public library in 1903, our history and genealogy collection has grown from a few shelves to over 62,000 cataloged items with new items coming in regularly. Our collection is housed in 7,218 sq. feet with public access, plus 2 environmentally controlled vaults, storage in basements, and the staff workroom.

Researchers always like viewing original documents whenever possible. We will begin adding hundreds of reels of microfilm from highly populated North Carolina counties, as well as smaller mountain counties in western North Carolina. This last region has fewer publications and is the furthest from the North Carolina State Archives and State Library in Raleigh. We hope that a large collection of western North Carolina documents on microfilm will aid many researchers. We will purchase microfilm that will include all 100 North Carolina counties. Several of our more fragile and loose materials have been bound, so they are easier to use. We have added more shelving, so we will have more room to increase our collection over the next few years.

My replacement will be a librarian who will add content to www.cmstory.org. Our digital presence on the Internet will increase significantly, so our team is currently selecting what materials and projects will be relevant and interesting to our users. We will have more programming. Shelia Bumgarner is currently planning several history programs at branches throughout the year that will be presented by a wide variety of speakers. They are always free, family friendly and open to the public. You can learn more about all of the library's programs at <http://cmllibrary.org/programs/>.

Our 2,808 surname vertical files can now be found in the catalog at www.cmllibrary.org. We will be adding more information to the record, as time goes by, so that the researcher can learn more about an individual or family. We plan to have all of our vertical files cataloged, so the public will be able to see what we have prior to calling or coming to do research. About 6,000 items, donated last year by the Charlotte Museum of History, will also be added to our catalog. Our goal is to make the public more knowledgeable about all of our materials, so cataloging is a high priority.

If you have suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We are public servants and want to make our library space and materials relevant and helpful. Many think we only have materials about North Carolina. If you have been to visit, you know our materials include culture and history, and our genealogy collection covers other states and foreign countries. From pottery and architecture, cookbooks and biographies, law and military, newspapers and automobile racing, there is something for everyone. We are known by many names – the Carolina Room, the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, the North Carolina Room, and NCR. No matter what name you choose, we hope you will make us your first stop for research. Our goal is to be the best special collections room in a public library in North Carolina and have one of the top 10 genealogy collections in the U.S.!

Jane Johnson
704-416-0152, or jjohnson@cmlibrary.org

From the Chairman

After a long and severe winter, signs of spring are witnessed everywhere. We are awaiting the return of full activity at the James K. Polk State Historic Site. When the state legislature decided to reduce or eliminate funding for a number of historic sites, our own MHA Docent, Sharon VanKuren, led a group all the way to Raleigh in a campaign to keep the Polk site open. Through calls, visits, and mailings legislators were informed about the educational and historic reasons for adjusting their thinking about fiscal responsibility.

The NC Museums Council awarded Sharon for her outstanding work for the site. Also recognized were Maya Osaka, an eleven year old junior historian, and Tabitha Warren who supervised media and correspondence for the campaign. I offer sincere congratulations. We must be cognizant of ways to fund our historic sites, and focus attention upon injustice wherever it shows itself.

We were saddened by the bereavement experienced in the Williams and McAdams families. Ann lost her beloved sister. The docents lost Katherine McAdams who was a dedicated member of our group.

Marion Redd, our speaker on May 6th, will speak about celebrating Meck Dec Day. Tom Phlegar's topic at the May 12th MHA dinner meeting will be the Revolutionary War in Mecklenburg County. Jim Williams has notified us about activities for Meck Dec Day on May 20th. Please let him know that you will participate in historic clothing at noon on the square and/or at the Meck Dec Day at the ballpark. I encourage your attendance at all events. On June 3rd we will meet at Latta Plantation for a tour and our annual picnic. I hope to greet you at all the various events mentioned.

Barbara McCray Jackson

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the September/ October issue of the Dandelion is August 12th. As you can see, this issue is brimming with events extending through August. Do enjoy some of them, and have a great summer.

MHA Docent Programs

Tuesday, May 6, 2014
Celebrating May 20th Through the Years

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

There have been public celebrations of May 20th beginning about 1825 and continuing in grand style until the 1975 bicentennial. Sitting presidents who attended various years include Dwight Eisenhower, William H. Taft, and

Gerald Ford in 1975. After the death of Grant Whitney who oversaw that bicentennial event, public celebrations were discontinued for a number of years. In 1996 the MHA board asked Marion Redd to undertake a revival of the commemoration. The *Chain of Error* had just been reprinted, and together with re-enactors, descendants of Meck Dec signers, and a flurry of publicity, Marion arranged for a celebration at the newly opened Independence Park, now Thomas Polk Park, at the corner of Trade and Tryon. Marion will talk about these events and how the celebrations have continued.

Marion Redd is a Charlotte native, and has served frequently on the MHA Board. He has a BA in History from UNC-Chapel Hill, and MA degrees from San Francisco State University and California Institute of Integral Studies. He is retired from the staff at UNC, and lives in Hillsboro. He returns frequently to Charlotte, especially for May 20th events.

Tuesday, June 3, 2014
Annual Docent Picnic

We will meet at the visitors' center at Latta Plantation at **10 am**, and have a tour of the site. Then we'll have a brief business meeting followed by our picnic. The tour will be of James Latta's plantation house built c. 1800. Latta was a merchant and early cotton planter. We will hear the rich history of Latta and his interesting family and learn about north Mecklenburg's early plantation days. After the picnic you may see exhibits in the visitors' center and walk the grounds which contain a number of outbuildings. Be sure to visit the assortment of farm animals.

Bring a covered dish to share. Ice tea, water, and paper products will be provided. We will have our business meeting and eat in the picnic area behind the visitors' center.

Directions: Take I 77 north and exit on 16 B, Sunset Road West. Turn right on Beatties Ford Road. Travel 4.8 miles and turn left on Sample Road (opposite Hopewell Presbyterian Church). The Plantation is at the end of Sample Road.

MHA Dinner Meeting

The American Revolution as it Occurred In the Carolinas

Monday, May 12, at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Dinner is at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:15. Those not having dinner are welcome to enjoy the program at no charge. To make a reservation for dinner use the order form in your MHA Newsletter or contact Jane Johnson at 704 544 0695 or JJCNC@aol.com

Tom Phlegar, past president and member of the Mecklenburg Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), will present our May 12th program on events in the Carolina backcountry from early 1780 to the surrender of the British at Yorktown. More battles occurred within 100 miles of Charlotte than all the rest of the colonies combined over the eight years of the Revolutionary War. We will hear a detailed description of the Battles of Charlotte, Ramsour's Mill, Kings Mountain, Guilford Courthouse, the Waxhaw and others. See how the battle sites look today, and learn about people and personalities on both sides.

This program will convey a deeper appreciation of this area's part in the struggle for our nation's independence and the sacrifices made by our forefathers so that we, as ordinary citizens, may enjoy the liberties we have today.

Mr. Phlegar received his education at VMI and Duquesne, retired from Calgon Corporation and is a retired Colonel in the US Army Reserves after serving thirty years in the Active Army and Reserves. He has lived in Charlotte for forty years.

Meck Dec Events

Get out your historic clothing and get ready for “fun on the square.” May 20th falls on a Tuesday this year and all events will be on that day. At 11:30 am we will gather at the square with muskets and cannon, and fife and drum, for addresses by politicians and other VIPs. There will be a reading of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence 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.

And Now for Something Completely Different.

That same evening, Tuesday, May 20, will be the first annual celebration of “MecDec Day at the Ball Park.” The Charlotte Knights are playing the Norfolk Tides in the new BB&T Stadium at 7 pm and we are their honored guests. We will parade in with the SAR color guard. The May 20th Society film will be shown on the Big Screen, Thomas Polk will read the Mecklenburg Declaration, and we will fire the muskets and cannon. Finally Captain Jack will throw out the first pitch and we will take our place in the stands. Play Ball! People in historic clothing will have free parking and free seating near first base. Seating is also available in this area for those in 21st century dress. Those who don’t want to attend the ball game may leave after the ceremony. We will be told where and when to meet closer to the date, and will pass that information along.

Nominating Committee Report

The docent nominating committee consisting of Audrey Mellichamp (chair), Christine Fodor-Vogel, and Rachel Abernathy will be at work this summer to select a slate of officers to serve for 2015-16. If you have suggestions, please let them know, and should they call on you, do consider serving. They will present the slate at the September meeting, and we will elect officers in October.

Docent Trip to Seagrove

Our recent trip to Seagrove, NC was quite a treat for MHA Docents and guests. The weather couldn’t have been better. On the bus Ann told us about the history of NC pottery; the exhibits at the NC Pottery Center illustrated and expanded that history. Sid Luck’s “turning” demonstration and talk were wonderful, then he took us to his wood-burning groundhog kiln and explained the “burning” process. In Seagrove they prefer the old terms, “turned and burned”, rather than “thrown and fired”, and they don’t pronounce the final “n” in kiln. At Westmoore Pottery Mary Farrell gave an excellent talk on 18th and 19th century NC pottery, then demonstrated how Moravian ware is decorated. At Jugtown we heard about Seagrove’s revival during the Arts and Crafts Movement in the 1920s. Crystal King told us how her parents were trained during Seagrove’s more modern revival, and how she was raised in the clay. Frank Neef gave us a studio tour and also turned a pot for us. His wife served lovely refreshments in their shop. We had asked Sid Luck and Mary Farrell to show and tell us about pottery and history; the others were wonderful surprises. Everyone was welcoming and generous and, noting the number of packages on the bus as we rode home, I’m sure the potters had a profitable day.

Ann Williams

In Memoriam

MHA Docent Katherine McAdams passed away on April 1, 2014. Katherine had been a docent for about ten years. She enjoyed our meetings, and especially our trips. She was a member of our book club who always read the book and had interesting insights to add to our discussion. Many of us were surprised to learn that as a younger woman Katherine was a world traveler, an avid sailor, loved water skiing, and took girl scouts on camping trips from the Florida Everglades to Canada's boundary waters. Katherine was an extraordinary person. The docent board is planning a memorial to Katherine. Details will be in the next Dandelion.

Congratulations to Three Award Winning History Sites!

James K. Polk Historic Site

Many thanks to Sharon VanKuren, Tabitha Warren, and Maya Osaka for their excellent work on behalf of the James K. Polk Historic Site! The article below is from site director Scott Warren:

The North Carolina Museums Council (NCMC) at their annual conference in New Bern, NC March 23-24, 2014 awarded three volunteers from the President James K. Polk State Historic Site. These Awards of Special Recognition honor and recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the museum field in the past year. These award winners are not always from the professional side of the museum world. Such was the case this year.

Three volunteers who gave their guidance, expertise and zeal are not new to the Polk site. Each of them campaigned hard last year when the museum was faced with possible closure. Sharon VanKuren, President of the Polk Support Group, was out front leading the charge by contacting legislators, making phone calls and meeting with our state elected officials. Tabitha Warren coordinated the multi media campaign by keeping our social media outlets up to date, coordinating mailings and ensuring that our message was getting out to the public. Lastly, Maya Osaka, one of our Tar Heel Junior Historians, was the face of the campaign. She even wrote letters and went to the extreme by calling the Governor's Mansion in Raleigh in an attempt to personally persuade the governor. All three ladies deserve this special recognition and should be proud that they lead the charge to save the birthplace of our Nation's 11th President, James K. Polk.

The Matthews Heritage Museum

Museum founder, Paula Lester, was given a Special Recognition Award from the North Carolina Museums Council on March 24, 2014. This award is given to those affiliated with a museum in North Carolina who have demonstrated significant interest and support in the programs, goals, and policies or made significant contributions of time, money, or ideas to a museum in the state. Paula was given this award for her work in preserving the town's history and specifically for her leadership role in developing the new Matthews Heritage Museum, which opened in June, 2013. On October 28th of that year, the town recognized her ongoing efforts in preserving the history of Matthews by presenting her with a key to the city and the North Carolina Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award from the Governor.

The Matthews Heritage Museum celebrated National Volunteer Month on April 1 with a luncheon for our volunteers. Each volunteer was given a lapel pin as a token of appreciation. The Volunteer of the Year, Marty Groet was feted for his work on collection documentation and the almost 200 hours he has given in the last year. Together, the volunteers collectively donated 1090 hours, or the equivalent of another part time person. The museum could not function without their support!

Historic Brattonsville

Historic Brattonsville's "By the Sweat of Our Brows" received a 2014 *Preserving our Places in History* Project Award from the SC African American Heritage Commission.

This project was recognized as "a project that significantly and dramatically influences in a permanent way the preservation and interpretation of African American history and culture in SC." It was presented to York County's Culture and Heritage Museums on March 28, 2014 at the South Carolina Archives & History Center in Columbia.

"By the Sweat of Our Brows" is part of the living history programming at Historic Brattonsville and features the experience of the African American journey from enslavement to today. The narrative includes both scholarly research and the collected memories of descendants of Bratton slaves, and endeavors to present a more accurate story about the lives of the enslaved. The event is held one day per year in September. Historic slave interpreters dressed in 19th century clothing go about their domestic routines in the fields, cabins, and kitchens of Brattonsville.

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>

Mother's Day Tea at Historic Rosedale, Saturday, May 3 at 1 pm.

Enjoy a Mother's Day Tea and a presentation of "How to Dress a Lady – from Pantaloon to Petticoats," in the formal gardens of the 200 year old plantation home. Advance reservations are required.

"How to Dress a Lady" features plantation Mistress, Harriet Davidson Caldwell, as she dresses and prepares for calling on friends and relations. Visitors will enjoy an engaging performance in Rosedale's formal garden. The lady's wardrobe will be surveyed from undergarments to outerwear, or in the words of the period, from chemise to mantle. And according to custom tea will be served in a gracious southern manner.

Latta Plantation

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

World War II Reenactment, Saturday and Sunday, May 3-4 from 10 am to 4 pm

Experience the D-Day invasion of France. The plantation will be transformed into a French farm and each day's battle will represent what happened when Allied forces landed on the beach and pushed inland. Meet reenactors portraying Allied and Axis soldiers and French Partisans. There will be demonstrations and a battle each day.

Civil War Reenactment, Saturday, May 31 and Sunday June 1, from 10 am to 4 pm

Explore the Civil War in 1864 with a battle each day and demonstrations throughout the weekend. Enjoy soldier camps, shop with Civil War sutlers, participate in a Saturday tea, and enjoy a hot meal from Appalachian Smoke.

Hugh Torance House and Store

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

Regular Public Tours: The First and Third Sundays of each month, 2 to 5 pm, through October.

Special Tour of the Hugh Torance House and Store, Wednesday, May 7 at 11 am.

You are invited to join the Colonial Dames for a tour of this historic house and store and learn about the arrival of Hugh Torance in Mecklenburg in the 1770s and about the family's mercantile and plantation life in the 19th century. The tour has been arranged by the Governor John Archdale chapter of the National Society of Colonial Dames of the 17th Century.

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

Living History Saturday, May 10 from 1 to 5 pm

Join the Piedmont backcountry folk as they go about their daily activities.

History Talks Lecture Series – Lectures and Book Signings:

The First American Declaration of Independence? The Disputed History of the Mecklenburg Declaration of May 20, 1775 by Scott Syfert, Saturday, May 17 at 1 pm.

A lively and informative discussion of the tantalizing evidence for and against the existence of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, presented by Scott Syfert, noted local author and lawyer.

“Light Horse Harry” Lee and the War for Independence in North Carolina by John Beakes, Saturday, June 14 at 1 pm.

Henry Lee was the father of Robert E. Lee. He was a skilled horseman, commissioned as a captain in the Virginia Light Dragoons and sent north to join the Continental Army. Leading his men on lightning raids against enemy supply trains, Harry attracted the attention and admiration of General George Washington and was rapidly promoted. He soon earned the nickname “Light Horse Harry.”

Camp Followers and Female Civilians in the Revolution: Analyzing the Myths and Setting the Record Straight by Robert M. Dunkerly, Saturday, June 28 at 1 pm.

In early America, women managed their households, farms, and plantations. They cooked and made cloth and garments. During the American Revolution, some women left their traditional role to follow the militias and the regular army. Whether as civilians or camp followers, women played a vital role in the daily routine of the armies.

Rock the Queen City! Thursday, June 12 at 6 to 8:30 pm.

There Was a Time: Rock & Roll in the 1960s in Charlotte is just out in a second, enlarged edition. Co-author Daniel Coston, a popular local photographer and writer, will share some of the images and stories of the music and the people who made it. Then co-author Jake Berger and his band, Mannish Boys, will play a short set that will get you up and dancing. Co-sponsored by Levine Museum of the New South.

Teas of the British Isles, Sundays (dates below) at 4 to 5:30 pm.

Join us for a delightful and informative afternoon tea that explores the tea customs and food of the British Isles. Dates: Ireland on June 29; Wales on July 27; Scotland on August 17; and England on September 28.

Fourth of July Celebration, Friday, July 4 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Join us for a patriotic celebration that will feature lively presentations, tours of patriot Hezekiah Alexander Home Site, viewing of a rare nineteenth century Liberty flag, children's crafts, and refreshments. Presentations will be:

10 am, Liberty, the founding cause of the American Revolution by Kay Peninger, Executive Director.

11 am, Battles of the American Revolution from British and Patriot Perspectives, by Tom Phlegar and Hugh Dussek.

12 Noon, The Civil War: The Birth of the United States of America, by Mary Turk-Meena, Gettysburg Historian and Board Chair, Charlotte Museum of History.

Matthews Heritage Museum

232 North Trade St., Matthews, 704-708-4996, www.matthewsheritagemuseum.org

Let's Play Ball, a new exhibit open May 22 through August 23.

This new exhibit features the Matthews Athletic and Recreational Association and its history from its founding in 1956 to the present. What started as an effort to sponsor a Little League Baseball Program has grown to include programs for softball, baseball, football, lacrosse, soccer, tennis and cheerleading. The community has supported this growth and MARA continues with a strong youth program today and thirteen fields for sports.

Schiele Museum

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

Sheep Shearing, Sunday, May 4 from 1 to 5 pm.

Each spring the sheep are sheared at the Backcountry Farm; the sheep are cool in the summer and the wool is made into cloth to keep the Pioneer family warm in the winter. Historical interpreters will card and spin the newly shorn wool into thread. Try shearing or weaving on a tape loom, while youngsters "dress the part" a of backcountry child.

Plant to Petticoat: The Story of Flax, Sunday, June 1 from 1 to 5 pm.

Before cotton became King, early settlers in the Carolinas relied on the fibers of the flax plant for processing into linen thread and clothing. See flax processed in 18th Century fashion, and try braking, scutching and hackling.

The Catawba Indians: People of the River, Sunday, July 13 at 2 pm.

Native American culture comes alive in this presentation by Keith Little Bear Brown. Keith is a Catawba potter and storyteller dedicated to the preservation and practice of traditional arts passed down from his grandmother and other elders of the tribe.

Tools of Stone, Saturday, August 2, from 1 to 3 pm.

Visit the Aboriginal Studies Center to see demonstrations of stone tool making as knappers gather to reproduce the knives, axes and projectile points of our prehistoric ancestors. Also explore at the Stone Age Heritage Site.

Under the Shade Tree, Sunday, August 24, from 1 to 5 pm.

With the early harvest behind them, families and friends gather to rest and recreate, escaping the searing Piedmont heat under the shade of the old oak tree. Join us for a lazy day of Piedmont pastimes – watermelon eating, seed-spitting contests, games and amusements enjoyed by early settlers in the late 1700's.

Gaston County Museum

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

Mother's Day Tea, Saturday, May 10 at 11:30 am, ages 5 and up.

Costumed staff will deliver a short program on the history of tea drinking and leisure activities of the 19th century. Participants will enjoy a tea party with freshly brewed tea, lemonade, finger sandwiches, pastries, and other savory offerings. Dressing up is encouraged, but not required. There will be a hat contest at the conclusion of the program!

Levine Museum of the New South

200 E. Seventh Street, Charlotte, NC, 704 333 1887, <http://www.museumofthenewsouth.org>

Harry Golden Marker Unveiling, Sunday May 4 at 2:30 pm outdoors at 7th Street & Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte, followed by a program at 3 pm at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 1510 E. 7th St., Free.

Harry Golden was a renowned author, humorist and Civil Rights activist of the 1950s and 1960s. He published *The Carolina Israelite*, and wrote the best-selling books *Only in America* and *For Two Cents Plain* which looked back to his Jewish roots and used satire to skewer the absurdity of segregation in his beloved adopted South. The N C State Highway marker unveiling will be followed by a program exploring Golden's life, with Dr. Tom Cole and Sam Shapiro of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library and retired Charlotte Observer editor Jack Claiborne.

Charlotte Folk Society

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte

www.folksociety.org

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

- Friday, May 9: New Southern Ramblers
- Friday, June 13: Charlotte Folk Society Members Showcase
- Friday, July 11: Pete Seeger - A Musical Tribute to Courage
- Friday, August 8: Wayne Henderson and Clay Lundsford

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

Living History Weekend, Saturday, June 14 from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday, June 15 from 10 am to 3 pm, Free.

Historic musket and cannon firing demonstrations as well as French and Indian War military camp life.

Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

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

Race, Class, and Power in the New South City: Revisiting *Bittersweet Legacy*, Saturday, May 3 at 11 am, Beatties Ford Road Library.

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

Cowpens National Battlefield

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

www.nps.gov/cowp

Kings Mountain and Cowpens: Our Victory Was Complete, Lecture and Book Signing by Robert Brown, Saturday, May 10 at 2 pm, Free.

Mr. Brown will speak about the American Revolution in the back country as a civil war.

The Military Staff Ride, Saturday, May 24 at 12:30 pm, Free.

Retired Lieutenant Colonel John Moncure researched and wrote the Cowpens Staff Ride that the military uses today. He will tell what a military Staff Ride is, how the military uses battlefields to train officers, and conduct a Staff Ride of the battlefield for visitors. *The Staff Ride* by John Moncure is available in PDF form on the website.

Women of the Revolution: Bravery and Sacrifice on the Southern Battlefields, Lecture and Book Signing by Robert Dunkerly, Saturday, June 28 at 10:30 am, Free.

Mr. Dunkerly will speak about the roles of women during the war.

Kings Mountain Historical Museum

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

www.kingsmountainmuseum.org

“Say Ahh!” The Incredible Medical History of Kings Mountain, Exhibit; June 14 to October 25, Free.

From doctors and dentists, to pharmacies and folk remedies, this exhibit presents an historical overview of all things related to health and well-being in Kings Mountain and the surrounding region.

King’s Mountain, Lecture and Book Signing by Sharyn McCrumb, Wednesday, May 14 at 5:30 pm, Free.

Sharyn McCrumb is an award-winning writer of historical novels. Her 2013 novel *King’s Mountain* written from the points of view of Patriot militia colonel John Sevier and Tory camp follower Virginia Sal, tells how the Overmountain Men, a poorly equipped volunteer army of Appalachian frontiersmen, set off in search of the enemy and won a battle against well-trained British troops, thus giving the colonists renewed hope of victory.

A Passel of Hate, Lecture and Book Signing by Joe Epley, Friday, May 23 at 6 pm., Free.

Joe Epley has written a fact-based historical novel about the Battle of Kings Mountain. This pivotal Revolutionary War conflict brutally pit brother against brother in the Carolina Piedmont frontier in 1780. The context of the battle is brought into sharp focus through the personal experiences of the individuals who shaped its outcome.

Little Known and Fascinating Facts about the Battle of Kings Mountain, Lecture and Book Signing by Robert Dunkerly, Friday, June 27 at 6 pm, Free.

Robert Dunkerly is the author of several local Revolutionary War history books. His lecture highlights some of the fun facts from his book *The Battle of Kings Mountain: Eyewitness Accounts*; he will sign some of his many books that are available in the museum’s gift shop.

Old Salem

<http://www.oldsalem.org>

Karsten Petersen & Sons: A Trade Shop in Transition, opened March 21 in the J. Blum House.

Karsten Petersen, from Christiansfeld, Denmark set up a turner's shop in Salem in 1813 to produce chairs, tables, and textile equipment. It became one of the most important cabinet shops in 19th-century Salem, defining the style of mid-19th century Salem furniture. His sons continued the shop until the end of the 19th century.

Mom's Herbal Remedies, Saturday, May 24, from 10 to 11 am. Free. Single Brother's Workshop.

Learn how to use herbs throughout the year, fresh or dried. Herbal products will be available for purchase.

Independence Day Celebration and Naturalization Ceremony, Friday, July 4 from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Enjoy music, games, food and fun, and experience a moving naturalization ceremony at 10 a.m.

Museum of the Waxhaws

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

Armed Forces Day, Saturday and Sunday, May 17-18, and Memorial Day, Saturday and Sunday, May 24 and 25, from 10 am to 4 pm both weekends.

Military displays and reenactors. Admission free for Veterans and their families.

Living History Day, Saturday, June 21, 10 am to 4 pm.

Featuring a lively debate between two historical figures "Why Do We Need Freedom From the King?"

Spencer Doll and Toy Museum

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

Bodacious Birthday Bash, Saturday, June 7 from 1 to 4 pm.

Celebrate our big second birthday, and see our new exhibits. Enjoy refreshments, door prizes, and gift shop discounts all day.

New Doll Exhibits, Mid-June.

Say goodbye to Sassy Senile Sisters cloth doll creations extraordinaire and hello to hand created story book dolls made by a club from Western North Carolina. These creations need to be seen to be appreciated. They will join GI Joe and the Schoenhut Circus, Beadoir Dolls and much more.

Fort Mill History Museum

310 North White Street, 803 802 3646, www.fortmillhistorymuseum.org

Shifting Ground, the History of Land Use in Fort Mill, a New Exhibit.

This exhibit tells the history of land use in the Fort Mill area from the 1600s to the present day. It is told through the media of high school art students' paintings depicting five significant periods of Fort Mill's history.

Marshville Museum and Cultural Center

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

Family History and Genealogy with Jack McIver, every Wednesday in May, June, July and August.

From 9 am to noon each day. Call 704 624 3192 for more information.

“Color Purple” Reunion, Saturday, July 19.

Anyone who participated in or watched the filming of the movie in 1985 in Marshville and Anson County, or is interested, is invited to participate. Bring scrapbooks and memorabilia to share. We will run the film during the day. Next year will be the 30th anniversary and we should have a big party.

Program and Exhibit about the notorious outlaw, Jesse James will be held in August and September. Dates to be announced.

This program will be by Mike Little, co-author of a book about Jesse James, the outlaw with local connections. A large collection of memorabilia will be on display.

Summer Camps at Historic Sites

Historic Latta Plantation

For additional information, contact Matthew Waisner at 704-875-2312, ext. 305 or mwaisner@lattaplantation.org

Civil War Soldier Camp, July 21-24 or August 4-7 from 9 am to 3 pm, Cost: \$175.

Boys and girls ages 8-12 muster into the Union or Confederate army 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 will receive items to keep that they will use during the camp week, including a replica musket, kepi, haversack and t-shirt. The camp week will end with a battle engagement that families can watch and a formal graduation ceremony.

Revolutionary War Soldier Camp, June 16-19 from 9 am to 3 pm, Cost: \$175.

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

Miss Jane's Academy, July 21-24 or August 4-7 from 9 am to 3 pm, Cost: \$175.

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. Each girl will receive an apron, bonnet, and t-shirt to keep.

Mini Farm Camp, June 3-5 or August 12-14 from 9 am to 12 pm, Cost: \$60.

This camp is for boys and girls ages 4-5 who want to learn about farm life! Each day will include hands-on farm activities, crafts, games, and of course, getting up close and personal with Latta's many farm animals.

Jr. Farm Camp, June 9-12 or July 28-31 from 9 am to 1 pm, Cost: \$100.

This camp is for children ages 6-8. In addition to getting up close to a variety of farm animals, campers will learn and participate in farm chores, animal care, and natural plants and medicines.

Farm Camp, July 7-10 from 9 am to 3 pm, Cost: \$175.

This is a very hands-on camp about all things 'farming' for ages 9-12. Campers will learn to care for various farm animals, where food comes from, and how to survive on a 19th century farm.

Advanced Farm Camp, June 23-27 from 9 am to 4 pm, Cost: \$200.

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 much 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.

Charlotte Museum of History

Piedmont Backcountry Colonial Kids Camp, Three four-day sessions, 9 am to 1 pm each day, cost \$125 per session. Bring a bag lunch each day, reservations required.

Sessions: June 23-26; July 14-17; August 11-14

Schiele Museum, Gastonia

7:30 am to 5:30 pm, reservations required, cost \$175 per week, for information contact 704-854-6676.

Backcountry Rangers, Grades: 1 – 2: July 28 – August 1 and August 18 – 22.

Frontier Scouts, Grades 3 – 5: June 23 – 27 and August 18 – 22.

Be a Time Traveler. Use your imagination to turn back the clock to the 1700's in the Carolina Backcountry. Campers will follow in the footsteps of Daniel Boone to experience 18th century life ways and skills: wilderness travel and scouting, food for the trail, life on a backcountry farm, pioneer woodworking and frontier fun.

American Indian Adventures, Grades: 1-2: June 16 – 20 and August 11 – 15.

Native Ways, Grades: 3 – 5: June 16 – 20 and August 11 – 15.

Explore a different Native American culture each day in our newly renovated Henry Hall of the American Indian. Enjoy games, songs, stories and crafts in the Schiele woods. Learn a story in Indian sign language. Make a Kachina doll. Cook over an open fire and make your own tools, weapons and toys in the Native American way.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

Heritage Days Summer Camp: Trades, Trades, Everywhere, June 9-11, 9 am to 1 pm., Ages 8 to 13, cost \$40.

Learn about a variety of trades during the early 1800's in Mecklenburg County. Costumed interpreters will demonstrate and explain their importance and impact on colonial life. Campers will also get the chance to participate in various trades, arts and crafts.

Heritage Days Summer Camp: Backcountry Explorers, July 28-30, 9 am to 1 pm, ages 8-13, cost \$40.

Discover history through nature by learning how the Catawba Indians and the early settlers lived off the land over 200 years ago. Through a guided scavenger hunt, campers will learn about plants and wildlife in Polk's backcountry. Camp will conclude with a special wildlife demonstration presented by Emily Walker, a certified naturalist from Chimney Rock State Park

Spencer Doll and Toy Museum

Each camp costs \$35.00 and runs from 10 am to 3 pm; Reservations required. Bring a sack lunch.

Superhero Camp, Thursday, June 19, boys and girls ages 6-12.

Superheroes of the world unite and help save the world SDTM style. Come dressed as your favorite Superhero. Create your own comic book and have an action packed day.

Passion for Fashion, Thursday, June 26th.

Be a supermodel for a day. Learn about fashion and public speaking while participating in an afternoon fashion show. Bring a white tee-shirt for lots of design fun.

Paper Doll: Timeless Appeal in a Modern Age, Thursday July 10, ages 6-12.

Learn a short history of Fashion dolls exemplifying extravagant fashions throughout time. A quality paper doll will be created by each camper using decorative papers and trimmings to play the game of Paper Doll.

Trains, Planes and Automobiles, Thursday, July 17, ages 6-12.

Learn about transportation, "run" the trains, build scenery to take home and meet a real railroad worker who will tell you about his job.

Under the Big Top, Thursday July 24, ages 6-12.

Learn to juggle and how to form balloon animals. Explore the museum's vintage Shoenhut circus toys and figures.

Alice in Wonderland or (Down the Rabbit Hole), Thursday July 31, ages 6-12.

Join us for a day of merriment. There will be a Mad Hatter Tea Party, costumes (Alice in Wonderland type) encouraged by not required. We will make top hats or rabbit ears.

Old Salem

Yesterdays Summer Camps in June and July for grades 1-2, 3-5, and 6-8. Contact site for dates and cost.

These one-of-a-kind summer learning experiences involve textiles, pottery, fireplace cooking, leatherworking and woodworking. Reservations required.

Summer Apprenticeship Program, June 30 – July 24, cost \$250.

A two week hands-on experience with the Old Salem Historic Trades staff for grades 9 – 11. Apprentices work with textiles, flax and wool, tinsmithing, blacksmithing and leatherworking. Program is from 10 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday and the following Tuesday and Wednesday. Reservations required.

MHA Docents
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