

**Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents**

*Promoting Local History through Education and Research*



September/October, 2013  
Volume 19, Number 4

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*History is Alive and Well!*

The last issue of the Dandelion reported potential financial peril for four of our local sites: James K. Polk State Historic Site, The Charlotte Museum of History, Latta Plantation, and Rural Hill. We are happy to report that the summer has been productive, and a fine harvest is in. Many thanks go to all of you who signed petitions, wrote to legislators, and volunteered to save our sites. Yet there is still work to be done.

Polk and three other state sites were threatened with temporary, perhaps permanent, closure. The Governor's proposed budget eliminated all their state funding. Happily the proposal was amended due to a massive petition initiative, and most of the funding has been restored. Scott Warren, site director, and Sharon Van Kuren, head of the Polk Memorial Support Fund extend their heartfelt thanks to all of you who signed the petition, attended rallies, and communicated with your legislators. This year's state funding will still be \$10,000 less than last year's allotment. Generous contributions to the Support Fund and volunteering at the site can go far to close the gap.

The Charlotte Museum of History, privately funded, is making great progress in its yearlong struggle to recover from near financial ruin. Kay Peninger, the new site director, and Mary Turk-Meena, board chairman, have made great strides in bringing the site back to health. As you may remember the museum building was closed, and tours of the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite were reduced to one Saturday a month. A portion of the museum has been reopened for office and docent use, and for restroom facilities. House tours are now being offered every Thursday through Sunday at 1:15 and 3:15 each day. The 1774 rock house, Mecklenburg's oldest, is invaluable to our history, and we appreciate the community's affectionate response to keeping it open and available.

Latta Plantation and Rural Hill are both county sites, and were dealt the prospect of losing all county funding, but thanks to petitions and public response property taxes were increased and all funding has been restored. Both sites extend a huge "Thank You" to all who made their voices heard. Yet they too are not quite out of the woods. In the past several years county funding had been significantly decreased, and both sites are operating on bare bones budgets. Latta receives only about 15% of their total budget from ASC, Mecklenburg County, and the Town of Huntersville. About 85% is earned income. Rural Hill's situation is similar.

How can you continue to help? Visit the sites. Even though you've probably done so before, their many special events will extend your knowledge, appreciation, and enjoyment of our regional history. Take out-of-town visitors to the sites and show off our area's uniqueness. Please don't neglect those donation boxes! Site admissions cover only a small portion of their expenses. This goes for all historic sites everywhere. Donations are imperative. And do volunteer. Every volunteer hour is worth an hour of a paid staff member's time. Thanks again to everyone who pitched in to make this recovery happen. With your continued help the harvest of historical knowledge will be bountiful indeed.

Ann Williams

*A Trifling Place:  
A Conversation with President George Washington and Captain James Jack.*

President Washington and Captain Jack will meet on Friday, September 6 from 7:30 to 9 pm , for a conversation about events in Charlotte leading up to the American Revolution and about the Battle of Charlotte. This will be in Tate Hall on the campus of Central Piedmont Community College on Elizabeth Avenue near uptown. You will hear a lively, informative conversation between President George Washington as portrayed by Kevin Grantz, nationally-known speaker and actor, and Captain James Jack, as portrayed by Dr. Tony Zeiss, author, historian and president of Central Piedmont Community College. Admission to this special event is \$50.00 and tickets can be purchased by calling Shannon Leigh Holbrook, development and event coordinator at 704-968-5343 or mailing a completed order form that is available on [www.charlottemuseum.org](http://www.charlottemuseum.org)

On Saturday General Washington will be at the Charlotte History Museum to meet the public. Admission to the Museum and tours of the Hezekiah Alexander 1774 Homesite will be free for this community celebration. The Charlotte Folk Society will also be holding their annual free ice-cream social on the site that day. For more information, see the descriptions in The History Calendar, and check the web sites listed there.

*From the Chairman*

Who Hath a Book

Who hath a book hath friends at hand, and gold and gear at his command;  
And rich estates, if he but look, are held by him who hath a book.  
Who hath a book hath but to read. And he may be a king, indeed.  
His kingdom is his inglenook – All this is his who hath a book.

From *A Book of Poems* by Wilbur D. Nesbit

Our MHA Docent Library has a fascinating history. The contents have been bought and donated. It is a well-traveled library having been housed in many locations including Valerie Jones's living room, Janet Dyer's garage, and at Historic Rosedale. Some of our oldest docent history is archived at the UNCC library.

When our meetings moved to Sugaw Presbyterian Church we were able to establish our library in their Archive Room. The then current Queen, Jo Anne Dickens, oversaw the organization of books, research papers, manuals, maps, and memorabilia of decades of our own docent history. Our collection of materials and books which covers many topics related to Mecklenburg and North Carolina history has grown over the years and needed scrutiny. The Friends of the MHA Library was created this last spring and assigned the task of making and carrying out recommendations for library improvement. The Friends worked this summer creating a more attractive and functional library. Instructions for book borrowing and library use are being developed and will soon be distributed. We are meeting off site in September and October. By November the library will be ready for its grand reopening. I am asking that each docent review the library instructions, visit the library, and give comments and suggestions.

I have deep appreciation for those who have given service to our library. I thank Millie Hodge who has been librarian for the past few years. I thank the Friends of the Docent Library who worked diligently this hot summer fastening new labels on all books, shelving recently acquired books, labeling the shelves, cataloging all books, and establishing rules for borrowing and using library material. Hazel White deserves special mention for her countless hours of service in the library over the years. And for their exhaustive labor this summer I extend thanks to Hazel, BJ Caldwell, Valerie Jones, Ann Williams, and Nell Coward.

We have scheduled exciting visits to museums in September and October. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find details about these trips. We will return to our regular meeting site in November. I look forward to seeing you in September. In the meantime, please keep cool and dry.

Barbara Jackson

### *Newsletter Deadline*

The deadline for the November/December Dandelion will be October 15. Send news and calendar events to Ann and Jim Williams at [mhadandelion@mindspring.com](mailto:mhadandelion@mindspring.com).

### *MHA Docent Programs*

#### **Tuesday, September 3 Visit to the Carolinas Aviation Museum**

We will meet at the Carolina Aviation Museum for a short business meeting at 10 am followed by a tour of the museum at 10:30. The Museum opened in the 1990s in the small original hangar of Douglas Municipal Airport. The Museum outgrew that space and in 2010 moved to a new 40,000 square foot hangar. The museum contains a comprehensive display of airplanes and flight memorabilia from a replica of the Wright brothers' plane to the present day. Included are helicopters and military, civil, and commercial aircraft.

The highlight of the museum is The Miracle on the Hudson. We all remember when US Airways flight 1549 bound for Charlotte was crippled by a flock of geese, and was safely landed on the Hudson River by captain Sully Sullenberger, as if he had perfectly skipped a stone. All of the passengers and crew survived, many of them Charlotte residents. Later the plane was acquired by the Carolinas Aviation Museum, reassembled, and put on display. It is accompanied by panels explaining exactly what happened on that fateful day, and a video in which a number of passengers describe their experiences. It is breathtaking.

After the tour those who wish to have lunch will meet at the restaurant in the Billy Graham museum complex.

**Directions to the Carolinas Aviation Museum, 4672 First Flight Drive:** From the Billy Graham Parkway exit onto Morris Field Drive heading west toward the airport. Take the first right onto Minuteman. Go to the end of the road and turn left. You will still be on Minuteman, after one block the road becomes First Flight Drive. The museum is on the right at the top of the hill. There are brown "Aviation Museum" signs all along the way.

#### **THURSDAY, October 3 Field Trip to Hickory**

Please note that the meeting date is on **Thursday, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>**, not our usual first Tuesday. We will carpool and leave the Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church parking lot at **7:45 am**. In Hickory we will tour the Harper House, an 1887 Queen Anne 20-room mansion built by banker Daniel Shuler. Victorian to the max! We will then tour the Catawba County Museum in Newton, housed in the former county courthouse, where we will have a short business meeting before our tour. Afterwards we will have lunch at one of the several "eateries" on the courthouse square, and do a bit of shopping as time permits. Next we will head out cross country to see the Bunker Hill covered bridge, built in 1895 and covered in 1900, one of two covered bridges remaining in North Carolina. Then on to Murray's Mill, a working mill built in 1886 with original millstones still in use. There is also a wheat granary, millwright's house, and a general store, another shopping opportunity. We should return to Charlotte about 5 – 5:30 pm. On a side note: There is an article on grist mills in the October 2013 issue of Early American Life – a good read in preparation for our trip.

A registration fee of \$10, which includes all admissions, but not lunch, is now being accepted. Valerie Jones is coordinating carpool drivers and will provide them touring directions. All participants will be assigned to a carpool. Please bring \$5 to defray the drivers' cost of fuel. If you need to drive independently let Valerie know and she will email driving directions. **Deadline to register is by the end of the day Thursday, September 26.** Make your check payable to **MHA Docents** and send it with the form below to Valerie Jones, 4700 Coronado Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212. Questions? Call Valerie at 704-567-0599. The trip is open to Docents and anyone who loves history. Share this information with your friends; it should be a wonderful fall adventure.

Please include me in the MHA Docent trip to Hickory. Enclosed is my check for \$10

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

### *New MHA Docent Rosters*

Docent membership rosters for 2013 -2014 are now being compiled. If you have had a change of address, email address, phone number, etc., please let Valerie Jones know by September 20<sup>th</sup> at [vvjones@carolina.rr.com](mailto:vvjones@carolina.rr.com) or 704 567 0599. New rosters will be available at our November meeting.

### *MHA Dinner Meeting*

**Attention: The September MHA Dinner Meeting will not be held at Trinity Church.  
For this one dinner we will be meeting at the Reid House in Matthews.**

The next MHA Dinner Meeting will be held Monday, September 30 at the Reid House in Matthews and at the new Matthews Heritage Museum. We will meet at the Reid house at 6 pm for an excellent dinner catered by Southern Gourmet. They also cater events of the Matthews Historical Foundation and you are in for a delicious treat. After dinner we will walk or drive over to the new Museum. It is only three short blocks, so if the weather is fine, some of us may want to leave our cars at the Reid house and walk. Space at the museum is limited so feel free to go over to the museum as soon as you finish dinner, or wait and talk to your friends and go over later. Our host at the Museum is our friend, Barbara Taylor whom some of us remember from her work at the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite so many years ago.

The Historic Reid House is located at 134 West John Street in downtown Matthews. It was built in 1890 by Edward Solomon Reid and is one of the few remaining Victorian houses in the area. The Reid House is owned and operated by The Matthews Historical Foundation

The Matthews Heritage Museum opened this June and is located in the Massey-Clark House at 232 North Trade Street in downtown Matthews. It tells 150 years of Matthews' history in three galleries and is open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. See [www.matthewsheritagemuseum.org](http://www.matthewsheritagemuseum.org) for hours and more information.

Driving and Parking Directions: The Reid House is in Matthews at 135 W. John Street (at Freemont Street and West John Street) in the center of Matthews, one block north of Trade Street. The Museum is 1 ½ blocks up North Trade Street from John Street. Parking is in a lot directly across Freemont Street from the Reid House. On-street parking is available near the Museum building.

### *Hart Square Tickets*

**Note that the admission price has increased this year to \$35.00 each – Still a bargain.**

For more than thirty years, Dr. Robert Hart of Hickory has rescued and restored life in the Carolinas in the nineteenth century, recreating an entire village, Hart Square – the largest collection of original historic log buildings in the United States. Each year on the fourth Saturday in October, (October 26th this year), Dr. and Mrs. Hart open this restoration project to the public. Dating from 1782 to 1873, the seventy log structures—chapels, barns, houses, shops, and more—are all furnished, and over 275 volunteer artisans demonstrate period techniques such as flax breaking and hackling, spinning, weaving, herb dying, open-hearth cooking, broom and shoe making, bookbinding, shingle riving, wheelwrighting, tinsmithing, moonshining, and much more. 10% of the proceeds go to the Catawba County Historical Association and 90% go into a fund to carry on the festivals after the Harts can no longer do it themselves.

Advanced tickets are required since this event always sells out early. You can get tickets by calling the Catawba County Museum of History in Newton at 9 am on Tuesday, October 1 but, as participants, we can order tickets for you. Make your check out to Jim Williams for \$35.00 per ticket and mail it, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

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

We must receive your check by September 6 to get these tickets. We will receive the tickets by mid-October and mail them on to you.

### *History Lecture Series*

In February 2014 the MHA Docents will offer their fourth biennial series of History Lectures. These will be held on three consecutive Saturday mornings in February beginning February 8, with two speakers each day. Once again we have an excellent line up of presenters and topics: Agness Caldwell, Enslaved Woman at Rosedale Plantation by Bridget Strong; Civil war in Charlotte by Michael Hardy; Native Plants of Colonial Times by Larry Mellichamp; Andre Michaux Live by Charlie Williams; The Influence of Presbyterianism on early Mecklenburg by John Kuykendall; and The Idea of the New South by Tom Hanchett. Details and registration information will be in the next issue of the Dandelion.

### *A Report from ALHFAM. Or a Cook's Tour*

Thank you, MHA Docent Committee, for your commitment to education via stipends to docents to attend workshops and seminars; this financial help clearly shows that we value research and networking opportunities. In June I attended the international conference of ALHFAM (Association of Living History, Farm, and Agricultural Museums) in Akron, Ohio. The 225 attendees represented almost every state and four countries. We ranged from museum professionals to front-line interpreters.

My main interest is foodways, so from the start all signs were in my favor. Our “welcome” bags included a past copy of the quarterly publication of the Midwest Open-Air Museum Coordinating Council. My copy, from 2012, was devoted entirely to food! Lots of information for the Cooking Guild, but would it hold true for the South? In fact, throughout the conference questions were posed, as you will see. The answers are at the end of this article.

My pre-conference workshop was on pastry; puff paste and short paste for sweet or savory fillings. So of course we made fillings. 1) *What is the Italian version of Greek baklava?* Maybe I'll bring jam tarts or “Cheesecake the

French Way” to a docent meeting. A workshop on bread making in a 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom elicited: 2) *How many one-pound loaves can be made from a bushel of wheat?* Laura Ingles Wilder and the Victorians may have influenced our celebration of Thanksgiving as much as the pilgrims did. 3) *Anybody know the words to “A Boys Thanksgiving Day?”*

There were dangers having a toddler under foot while doing chores such as cooking on a wood stove. 4) *What is a child tender?* And there are other food questions:

- 5) *Why did cheese makers begin adding color to their product?*
- 6) *What do the brewing of beer and the raising of bread have in common?*
- 7) *What was the first product Grandpa Smucker made and sold in 1897?*

Not all of my sessions were about foodways. One was about the large Gypsy, or as they prefer Romani, population in the US. 8) *Gypsies have a long history as nomads; where did they originate?* And 9) *How did Queen Isabella finance Christopher Columbus’ voyage?* Finally: 10) *How can you qualify for a stipend for a history learning adventure?*

Answers: 1) Fine Spongati Italian Cake; 2) Approximately 70; 3) “Over the Hills and Through the Woods to Grandfather’s House We Go”; 4) A low chair in which a child could be confined; 5) It looked richer so they could charge more for it; 6) The yeast produced in brewing can be used to make bread; 7) Apple butter, sold from a crock – door to door; 8) In India; they began their migration around the year 997; 9) From the profits of wool from Marino sheep. The sheep were so prized that it was illegal to take one out of Spain. 10) Talk to any docent board member.

Carolyn Dilda

### *Inviting the Historical Cook into Your Kitchen*

#### **Introducing Kay Moss’ new book *Seeking the Historical Cook***

On Thursday, September 12 from 4 to 6 pm at the Schiele Museum Kay Moss will speak about her new book and sell and sign copies. She will be in the new demonstration kitchen in the Schiele Museum to prepare ancestral receipts (recipes) that are likely to become your new favorites. Ann Tippitt, Suzanne Simmons, and Kay Moss will lead cooking demonstrations. Afterwards we will settle down for a tasting party and informal chat about early flavors and twee touches. Bring along your favorite teacup, old or new, if you wish. Whether you cook in a thoroughly modern kitchen or at an open fire, tasty new ideas await in our Southern ancestor’s receipts. There is no admission charge, but seating is limited so reservation are required by September 6<sup>th</sup> to [dawng@cityofgastonia.com](mailto:dawng@cityofgastonia.com) (704) 866-6901

### *Francis Marion Symposium*

#### **Francis Marion and the Southern Campaign, October 18 and 19**

Immerse yourself in Francis Marion’s world and the significance of the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution. General Francis Marion played a major role in the American Revolution. Many of these engagements took place in the Clarendon County area. According to Professor Henry Lumpkin, about a third of all the battles in the American Revolution were fought in South Carolina and Marion had a hand in roughly a third of those.

The symposium will be held on Friday afternoon and evening and all day Saturday on the Dubose Campus of Central Carolina Technical College in Manning, SC. In addition to a number of distinguished speakers, Christine Swager will introduce her new book on the Southern Campaign and we will be visited by the Marquis de Lafayette for dinner.

For costs, list of speakers and topics, registration information, and other details see: [www.francismarionsymposium.com](http://www.francismarionsymposium.com)

## *Site News*

**The Matthews Heritage Museum** opened this June and is located in the Massey Clark House at 232 North Trade Street in downtown Matthews. It tells 150 years of Matthews' history in three galleries and is open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. See [www.matthewsheritagemuseum.org](http://www.matthewsheritagemuseum.org) for hours and more information.

**Frontier Skills Intensive Workshop at the Schiele Museum  
Saturday and Sunday, November 2 and 3 from 9 am to 4 pm.**

The Schiele Museum's 18<sup>th</sup> Century Backcountry Lifeways Program presents a practical workshop designed especially for historic site personnel, volunteers & Backwoods history buffs. Join us for two days of historical perspectives, intensive hands-on learning, new techniques for old skills, camaraderie and fun. Sessions include: New Insights into Frontier Fire, The Cutting Edge, Bone Working Basics, Pocketbooks or Wallets, Cane Patch Technology and Trail Foods. The registration fee of \$80.00 includes all 6 sessions and the registration deadline is October 15. To register or for more information contact Suzanne Simmons at the Schiele, [suzannes@cityofgastonia.com](mailto:suzannes@cityofgastonia.com).

**Hugh Torance House and Store**

The Hugh Torance House and Store has suffered a lean summer, but not from financial woes – although the site has those aplenty. Due to recent rains a large sink-hole opened up in early July on Gilead Road just west of the site. A barricade was put up closing Gilead Road from McCoy Road westward, making the site inaccessible to the public. Consequently there were no tours in July or August. The repairs to the road are scheduled to be completed by the end of August, but if the rains continue, this may not come to pass. The site hopes to reopen September 1<sup>st</sup>. We'll keep you informed. The regular tour schedule is the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, from 2 to 5 pm through October.

## *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>

**Victorian Funeral, Saturday and Sunday, October 5 and 6 from 1 to 4 pm**

Sickness has hit the plantation! Join the Caldwell Family and members of the enslaved community as they bury their loved ones. The house will be decorated in period style with a funerary exhibit on display.

**The Feast of the Hunter's Moon, an Antebellum Dinner Fundraiser, Monday evening October 21 at 6 pm**

This period candlelight dinner will be coordinated by Master Chef Geoffrey Blount of CPCC in association with a number of celebrity chefs. It features a five course meal and each course is complimented with a special wine pairing. The evening begins with cocktails and butlered hors d'oeuvres inside the 1815 plantation house and then adjourns to a tent in the garden amid the 200 year old English Boxwoods and the ancient Treasure trees on the Plantation grounds. Attendance is limited to 150 guests.

Tickets are \$150 and are available online at [www.historicrosedale.org](http://www.historicrosedale.org). All proceeds benefit education and preservation. For more information visit the website or call 704-335-0325.

**Spirits of Rosedale, Friday and Saturday, October 25 and 26 from 6:30 to 8:30pm.**

A Spirited Performance of ghosts stories from Rosedale and the Piedmont where the Spirits of Rosedale come back to life. Discover why they remain in this 200 year old plantation. Let the spirits transport you from the Native Americans who first inhabited the area to the Davidson family who restored its gardens in the 1940's. Meet spirits bound here because of epidemics, insanity, greed, and hope for freedom on the Underground Railroad. Be careful not to linger too long with the spirits.... they are dying to take in new boarders.

The Spirits of Rosedale takes visitors on a tour through the home's first floor, kitchen basement, and gardens. This innovative living history program is appropriate for audiences age 8 and up. Tours start every 15 minutes beginning at 6:30pm. Last tour begins at 8:30pm. Each group is limited to 15 people, tours last about 40 minutes.

*Latta Plantation*

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

**Revolutionary War Reenactment, Saturday, August 31 and Sunday, September 1 from 10 am to 4 pm**

Watch the British and Patriots relive the Battles of Charlotte and McIntyre Farm at 2 pm each day and talk with Colonel Thomas Polk before and after the battle. Other activities include touring the plantation, visiting the soldier camps, watching military demonstrations, and enjoying a hot meal from Appalachian Smoke.

**The Charlotte Gold Rush, Saturday, September 28 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Learn about Charlotte's rich gold mining history and pan for gold at the miner's cabin.

**Fall Farm Festival, Saturday, October 5 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Experience life on a 19th century farm as you meet rare and endangered breeds of farm animals, participate in farm chores and learn about farm skills.

**Ghost Tales in the Dark, Fridays and Saturdays, October 11, 12, 18 and 19, tours at 7, 8, 9, and 10 pm.**

Take a candlelit tour of the plantation night and hear real ghost stories from Latta staff and volunteers. Pre-registration is required call [704-875-2312](tel:704-875-2312)

**Cooking With Sukey Workshop, Saturday, October 12**

Learn to cook over an open hearth with Clarissa Lynch, author of *One Hearth, One Pot*. To register go to [www.lattaplantation.org](http://www.lattaplantation.org). The cost is \$60 per person.

**All Hallows Eve, Saturday, October 19 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Learn about the history of Halloween and meet some of its famous characters throughout history. Children can trick or treat around the plantation, participate in costume contests, and make crafts.

**Civil War Ghost Walk, Friday and Saturday, October 25 and 26 from 7 to 10 pm.**

Join us for this spooktacular historic event as you are led by a guide through a haunted site filled with numerous historical scenarios. Venture through the explosive battlefields, witness a family mourning their lost loved ones in the parlor, make your way through the haunted field hospitals and creepy cemetery

*The Charlotte Museum of History*

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

**A Trifling Place: A Conversation with President George Washington and Captain James Jack. Friday, September 6 at 7:30 pm. See the announcement earlier in this newsletter.**

On Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 5 pm General Washington will be at the Charlotte History Museum to meet the public. Admission to the Museum and tours of the Hezekiah Alexander 1774 Homesite will



be free for this community celebration. The Charlotte Folk Society will also be holding their annual free ice-cream social on the site that day.

Inside the museum building there will be crafts in the Creativity Room, a Revolutionary War campsite, the gift shop, and self-guided tours of the museum galleries. On the grounds, visitors can explore the American Freedom Bell, Backcountry Patriot statue, colonial games, the herb garden, the kitchen, the springhouse, and tours of the Hezekiah Alexander House. The Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley will demonstrate 18<sup>th</sup> Century foodways.

### *President James K. Polk State Historic Site*

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

[www.polk.nchistoricsites.org](http://www.polk.nchistoricsites.org)

#### **Sarah Polk: A Wife, A First Lady, Saturday, September 7 from 11 am to noon, Free.**

Celebrate the 210th birthday of First Lady Sarah Polk. We are proud to welcome Mrs. Betsy Overton, Chair of the History Department at Salem Academy, as she discusses the incredible life of Salem Academy's most famous alumnae, First Lady Sarah Childress Polk.

#### **Matters of Grave Importance, Saturday, October 12 from 10 am to noon. Free.**

Glimpse into the past, present, and future of local cemetery history. Explore first-hand the Polk Family Cemetery and the importance behind the preservation of this historic landmark.

### *Rural Hill*

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

#### **Revolutionary War Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, September 20 and 21 from 10 am to 5 pm.**

Reenactors representing the Hesse Kessel Jaeger Korps will demonstrate life in a Hessian camp during the revolution. Rural Hill docents will be at the cabin demonstrating blacksmithing, weaving, spinning, cooking, gardening, and more.

### *Schiele Museum*

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

#### **Tinsmith: An Artisan's Trade, Sunday, September 22 from 1 to 5 pm**

The trade of Tinsmithing came to the Colonies around 1720. A tinsmith (also called whitesmith or tinner) makes and/or repairs items of tinplate such as boxes, scoops, pans and cake cutters. Visit the Pioneer farmsite to see a tinsmith at work in 18<sup>th</sup> century fashion. Search and find tinware in use... in the kitchen, the Main House, and all about the farm.

#### **Frontier Frolick, Sunday, October 20 from 1 to 5 pm.**

*Surely there is no place in the World where the Inhabitants live with less Labour than in N. Carolina... where Plenty and a Warm Sun confirm them in their Disposition to Laziness for their whole Lives*

William Byrd, *Histories*

Imagine a crisp autumn day in the 18<sup>th</sup> century backcountry. With the early harvest behind them, families and friends gather to rest and recreate. Join us for a lazy day of Piedmont pastimes, games and amusements.

#### **Animals from the Farm, Saturday, November 2 from 10 am to 2 pm.**

Meet some live animals at the Backcountry Farm. An assortment of domesticated breeds of rabbits, goats, and sheep will be available for hands-on learning and exploration. Farm animal caretakers will be on site to answer your questions and guide your live encounters.

## *Gaston County Museum*

131 West Main Street Dallas, NC. (704)922-7681, #2 [www.gastoncountymuseum.org](http://www.gastoncountymuseum.org)

### **Preschool Preview Program, ages 3 and up, 10 to 11 am.**

Parents, grandparents and others are invited to stay with their youngster and enjoy time in the museum as well.

- September 14 – Life in the 1800s.
- October 12 – Victorian Halloween.

### **Laughing with my Three Favorite Presidents, Saturday, September 21 at 1 pm.**

Rick Dominy shares many of the humorous stories he has enjoyed about his three favorite presidents, Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan. By hearing the stories these men told about themselves and others told about them we'll find that it's easy to laugh with these presidents because they all laughed at themselves.

### **Carolina's South Fork Boys Charge into History, Saturday, September 28 at 1 pm.**

CPC & Belmont Abbey History Instructor Mike Baxter discusses The Battle of Kings Mountain with a focus on the local people from present day Lincoln and Gaston Counties that fought at the battle. In particular, he will focus on the South Fork Boys.

## *Historic Brattonsville*

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

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

### **By the Sweat of Our Brows, Saturday, September 14 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Follow the life of a former Bratton slave who defied stereotypes and purchased land in the 1870's. Meet nationally recognized historian Joseph McGill with the Slave Dwelling Project. Enjoy theatrical performances, craft vendors, food vendors, music and bus tours.

### **Piedmont Pottery Festival, Saturday, September 28 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Celebrate the South's rich pottery heritage and shop for pottery created by some of the best traditional potters in the Carolinas and Georgia. There will be children's activities and talks by pottery historians. Regional barbecue will be available.

### **Spirits and Stories, Brattonsville by Twilight, Saturday, October 12 from 3 to 9 pm.**

Learn the historical significance the ghost stories and legends of Historic Brattonsville as they are portrayed through scripted scenarios. Also, relax by the fire and listen to a professional storyteller. Food will be available for purchase.

### **Civil War Reenactment, Saturday and Sunday, October 26 and 27 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

The Civil War will surround Hightower Hall as reenactors gather for a weekend reenactment. There will be afternoon battles, tours of Hightower Hall, and 19<sup>th</sup> century life portrayed throughout the camps. Food will be available for purchase.

### **Living History Saturdays, September 7 and 21 and October 5 and 12 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Come and join costumed interpreters as they portray 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century life in the Carolina Piedmont. Activities vary by the season and include hearth cooking, quilting, and farming

### *Matthews Heritage Museum*

232 North Trade St., Matthews, 704-708-4996, [www.matthewsheritagemuseum.org](http://www.matthewsheritagemuseum.org)

#### **Second Saturday Programs**

- September 14, Uses of Herbs – Medicinal, Culinary and Household. What purpose did they serve?
- October 12, Tools of Yesterday – The tools our fathers and mothers used are sometimes unrecognizable to us today. What did they look like? How were they used? We will focus on woodworking and kitchen tools and utensils.

### *Charlotte Folk Society*

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte

[www.folksociety.org](http://www.folksociety.org)

**Romare Bearden Park opens in uptown Charlotte, Friday through Sunday, August 30 – September 1. Free.** Visit the Charlotte Folk Society stage from 1 to 5 pm on Sunday and hear Lando Pieroni (classical guitar), Ramona Moore Big Eagle (storyteller), Flat Possum Hoppers (old-time stringband), Michael York & The Big Cigar Band (bluegrass) and the WBT Briarhoppers (bluegrass).

**Old-Time Jam & Ice Cream Social, Hezekiah Alexander Homesite, Saturday, September 7, from 1 to 4 pm.** In conjunction with the visit of General George Washington enjoy storytelling, old-time, Celtic, bluegrass, and Appalachian dulcimer jams, song circle, clogging demonstration, and ice cream - as long as it lasts. Bring a chair if you wish to sit. Players, singers, and listeners welcome! Free admission to the museum and homesite.

**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, September 13, Whitetop Mountaineers (old-time & early country duo).
- Friday, October 11, Si Kahn & The Looping Brothers (bluegrass),

### *Fort Dobbs State Historic Site*

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

**Living History Weekend: 18th Century Camp Life, Saturday September 28 from 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday, September 29 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.

### *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>

**Battle of Kings Mountain Encampment and Battlefield Lantern Tour, Free Saturday, October 5 from 9 am to 5 pm. Lantern tour from 7 to 8 pm. Sunday, October 6 from 9 am to 3 pm.**

Join Living History interpreters for the 233<sup>rd</sup> anniversary encampment and learn about the men who fought in the battle. A variety of demonstrations will be held throughout the day including musket and rifle demonstrations, children's militia drills, trades and crafts, 18<sup>th</sup> century medicine, cooking and fife and drum.

For the battlefield lantern tours, call 864 936 7921 to make a reservation and be sure to bring a flashlight.

### *Matthews Historical Foundation*

All meetings begin at 6:30 pm with a reception followed by the program at 7.  
For more meeting information, call 704-846-6693.

#### **Food from Home, Tuesday, September 24.**

Dr. Tom Hanchett, staff historian at Levine Museum of the New South, will present this program exploring the food we eat, past and present. Held at the Matthews Library, 232 Matthews Station Street.

#### **Halloween Past, Tuesday, October 29.**

Patti Proctor, costumed storyteller, will present this program exploring past Halloween customs and traditions. Held at Matthews Woman's Club, 208 South Trade Street.

### *Walnut Grove Plantation*

1200 Otts Shoals Road, Roebuck, SC, 864-576-6546, [www.spartanburghistory.org/walnutgrove.php](http://www.spartanburghistory.org/walnutgrove.php)

#### **FestiFall at Walnut Grove Plantation, Saturday, October 5 from 10 am to 5 pm, Saturday, October 6 from 10 am to 4 pm. Battle reenactments Saturday at Noon and 2:30 pm, Sunday at 2:30 pm.**

Hear muskets fire! Feel cannon roar! See the American Revolution come to life! This two-day living history festival brings over 200 reenactors to Walnut Grove Plantation to camp and re-enact a Revolutionary War skirmish. In addition to battle reenactments, dozens of reenactors demonstrate colonial-era crafts and trades.

[www.spartanburghistory.org](http://www.spartanburghistory.org)

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