

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

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The Ambitious Annie Alexander

Annie Lowrie Alexander was ambitious at a time when ladies were not supposed to be. She became the first woman in the South licensed to practice medicine – and that was only one of her many accomplishments. Annie, 1864-1929, was one of six children of Annie Wall Lowrie and John Brevard Alexander. She could also claim Major John Davidson and John McKnitt Alexander as ancestors. Her father, Dr. J. B. Alexander wrote several local histories of the area, and was not hesitant to tell us all about his talented daughter.

When Annie was fourteen a female patient of her father's died after refusing, out of modesty, to be examined by a man. Consequently he encouraged his daughter to study medicine to prevent other such tragedies. Annie was educated at home by her father and a private tutor prior to attending The Woman's Medical College of Philadelphia. While there she wrote home to her father in the summer of 1884, "I have performed seven operations... I think I will make a surgeon ... I would like to study about five years more before I go to practicing, then I would be plenty young, only 25... I can't decide where to locate when I leave Philadelphia. I've thought of Baltimore, Atlanta, and Jacksonville, but there will be obstacles where ever I locate. My success will depend on my ability and the liberal views of the people among whom I will be.

"I feel and imagine I look very professional sometimes, especially when I am operating... Do you remember how I quaked when you said 'I must take off that colored girl's finger.' Her mother brought her to the house for you to see the finger... I thought I would never be able to put a knife on human flesh."

Annie graduated in 1884 at the age of 20! She interned for a year at the at Baltimore Children's Hospital. In 1885 she and 99 men were tested for a license by the Maryland Board of Medical Examiners; her score was the highest in the group. North Carolina began requiring doctors to be licensed in 1859, although those already in practice were generally allowed to continue. Annie did post graduate work at the New York Polyclinic, and became an assistant teacher of anatomy at the Women's Medical College in Baltimore where she also had a private practice.

While in Baltimore she contracted tuberculosis, and spent a year in Florida recovering. She returned to North Carolina in 1887, becoming the first woman south of the Potomac licensed in the practice of medicine. This notice appeared in a Charlotte newspaper in May of 1887. "A nice young female physician, Miss Annie Lowrie Alexander, has located in this city ready to practice among women and children and consult about female disorders generally... She has been educated in the best medical schools in the country. Her office is at Mrs. Lathan's nearly opposite the post office." She practiced a year in Charlotte before she received her first income from her work, the grand sum of two dollars. She experienced obstacles as she had predicted. It is said that some of her relatives refused to speak to her or say her name. However, once again she was encouraged by her father, this time to join the all-male state medical society. In 1900 she wrote "There are eight women practicing in the state, one of whom is a negro." Reflecting on her own struggle: "This pioneer woman in North Carolina was received with cold indifference by the professions and open curiosity by the laity...It was more than two years before she was self – supporting."

In 1889 she bought a house on N. Tryon Street where she lived and practiced. The following year her parents moved in with her. She served on the staffs of St. Peter's and Presbyterian Hospitals, both facing the First

Presbyterian Church; and she was physician for the Presbyterian College for Women (now Queens University) for 23 years. She also served as a physician and as a board member to the local YWCA and the Crittenton Home for unwed mothers. It is said that her father told her that should she marry she would no longer be allowed to practice medicine, and she replied that medicine was much more important to her. She never married, but brought into her home and raised a boy born at the Crittenton Home and assumed the responsibility of educating seven nieces and nephews, children of her brother Robert who died in 1901.

During World War I she was appointed temporary First Lieutenant at Camp Greene, a large training camp in Charlotte. This was during the deadly Spanish Flu epidemic, and the camp required a five mile sanitary zone surrounding it. Charlotte residents, being hospitable people, often invited soldiers to their homes for Sunday dinner. Annie and her nurses performed medical inspections at Mecklenburg County's schools to prevent soldiers from going to homes where children were ill. Influenza was not the only problem; in one school she found a large number of cases of trachoma, a pervasive eye infection that often led to blindness. The infected children were sent home and given proper treatment. Catastrophe was avoided.

In the early years of her practice Annie made house calls in a buggy pulled by her horse Conrad. Apparently her father thought automobiles were dangerous. After he died in 1911 she purchased a car. The strain of cranking the car to start it irritated the tubercular scars on her lungs, so she hired a black teenager to accompany her and crank the car. He was with her in 1914 when she had her only accident. Her car was struck by a streetcar that knocked the body of the automobile completely off its chassis. After tending to the injuries of her young assistant she proceeded on foot to call on the patient she had set out to see.

Annie was a feminist before there was such a thing. In the 1920s she wrote, "Women nowadays... can no more be withheld from her public duty than she can be exempt from taxes" Also, "hospitals, asylums... and reformatories need and have the influence of woman's power." She wrote that women through Women's Clubs, Civic Leagues, and the like have made great improvements in cities, parks, and schools with social aid, education, and municipal reform. She was especially adamant about the Florence Crittenton Home, originally called "The Home for Fallen Women". She believed unwed pregnant girls were victims, not wicked women, and that they needed understanding, care, and help getting their lives back in order.

Annie was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, D.A.R., the state medical society, and many other civic and professional organizations. She served several terms as president of the Mecklenburg Medical Society, and was vice president of the Women's Physicians of the Southern Medical Association. She practiced medicine for over forty years until her death on October 15, 1929, at the age of 65. She is buried at Elmwood Cemetery.

Ann Williams

John Springs and the Charlotte & South Carolina Railroad

At the mid-point of the nineteenth century Mecklenburg County was doing well, in a modest way. The Carolina Gold Rush of the past twenty years had brought fortunes to some but had little effect on the ordinary citizen. Likewise, some men had done well growing cotton and become prosperous planters. But the yeoman farmer had little prospect save to remain a small holder living from hand to mouth. The problem was transportation.

As America had developed through the centuries, the development of transportation had extended only as far as navigable streams would carry it. Wherever a boat could go, commerce would follow but where boats were stopped by the first line of falls, above the "fall line," efficient transportation ceased. Moving goods by horse and wagon was so time consuming and expensive that excess crops could not be economically taken to market and only subsistence farming could be done. And that was difficult because there were some things such as salt, woven cloth and farming tools that had to be purchased. And, of course cash money was required to pay state and county taxes. Without a "cash crop" there was always a shortage of ready money. Even after the invention of Mr. Whitney's Cotton Gin and the development of upland cotton the yeoman farmer had to live on what he could grow.

In the early nineteenth century transportation began to extend above the fall line; at first with canals, then plank roads and finally railroads. Anyone with access to these modes of transportation could get their goods to market and sell them for a good price. At long last moderate prosperity was seen to be possible for the common man.

For Mecklenburg, if they could get a railroad they would develop as a transportation hub for the entire back county with access to worldwide markets through Columbia and Charleston, SC. Railroads were first developed in America ca. 1827 and the first one in North Carolina was built in 1840. This was in the east, the Wilmington and Weldon, the longest railroad in the world at that time. There had been talk from time to time of a rail link to the west, but nothing had happened.

In March 1845 a group of leading citizens in Mecklenburg County met and organized to explore the possibilities. They reached out to the east but met only indifference from Raleigh and Charleston. By 1847 they realized that if they were going to have a railroad they would have to organize and fund it themselves. After holding several meetings in the early spring, they called a convention in Charlotte for late April. Among the leaders were James W. Osborn and C J Fox of Charlotte and John Springs whose plantation in South Carolina lay just two miles south of the North Carolina border. The convention was held in the Presbyterian Church, the largest venue in town, and was filled to overflowing with 228 men from Mecklenburg, seven surrounding counties in North Carolina and six districts in South Carolina. Over one hundred men attended from Charlotte. The first order of business was to elect a president for the convention and John Springs was elected unanimously.

Today we refer to John Springs III to distinguish him from all of the other prominent men named John Springs in that family, but at the time he was just plain John Springs. Building on the work of his father and grandfather he had developed a huge plantation of well over 4,500 acres (seven square miles) in North and South Carolina near today's Pineville, NC and Fort Mill, SC. After building his plantation to be the biggest in the area, educating his children and settling them on large properties, John Springs had moved farther afield with investments in general stores, banks, insurance companies and the newest and largest textile manufacturing plants in the South. As a long time member of the board of the South Carolina Railroad, the SCRR, he was ideally suited to lead the way as president of the convention in developing a new railroad.

John Springs was a native of Mecklenburg and of the York district of South Carolina. The original family name was Springsteen and, yes, the famous musician is also descended from the original Dutch settlers in New Amsterdam. The southern branch of that family settled before the American Revolution in Mecklenburg County and changed the spelling of their name to Springs. The Springs family home, called Springfield, is located today just two miles south of the NC border, between present day Pineville, NC and Fort Mill, SC, and is the oldest house in that region.

On May 7, 1847, two weeks after the Railroad Convention, the Charlotte Journal weekly newspaper published a letter from John Springs which told of the plans to build a railroad to South Carolina. It was to be called the Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad – the C&SCRR. The organizers had obtained charters from both North and South Carolinas to build the road and the South Carolina Railroad was being extended from Columbia to Camden. It was time to get started. It was clear that no government body was going to fund this railroad so they were going to have to do it themselves. Although several of the organizers were moderately wealthy, the road would have to be funded by the efforts of ordinary farmers.

John Springs' letter, and another one from him the next week, combined with a 2,500 word report on the convention itself, put the whole area on notice that the railroad was coming. Shares of railroad stock would go on sale on June 1. One million dollars must be raised, almost all of it from small farmers and none from any branch of government. It was hoped that the citizens of Charleston, SC would raise a good deal of money but that failed to materialize. In fact most of the money was raised from people in Charlotte and Columbia and the farms in between. Organizing conventions were held in most of the towns and counties surrounding Charlotte. The organizers freely admitted that those buying stock would not made a profit, but said that they could pay for their stock in increments as the development progressed and even go to work on building the railroad to pay the installments. When the railroad was completed and the trains began to run, their property would double in value and they would be able to sell their excess produce at a good price. When the shares went on sale \$500,000 was raised within three months.

The Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad would connect Charlotte with the South Carolina Railroad, in either Camden or Columbia. There were strong feelings about each of these routes and a brilliant innovation was proposed. Two types of stock were offered. One would be for a line going to Camden, the other for a line going to Colombia. The final destination would be determined by whichever route sold the most stock. This provided a powerful incentive to invest in a line going near your property. As it happened, the farmers on the Columbia line, on the west side of the Catawba River, raised more money than those on the eastern, Camden line. So the line

would run to Columbia and those who had subscribed to the Camden line got their deposits back. The western route was more expensive to build than the eastern one, in large part because of the cost of building a bridge over the Catawba river but those were the people who wanted it, they paid for it and they got it. John Springs spoke strongly in favor of the Camden route because of the lesser expense but in the end he embraced the western route and even took the contract to build the railroad bridge across the River.

On October 28, 1852 the first train ran from Columbia to Charlotte and a crowd of 20,000 gathered in Charlotte for the inaugural run. The population of Charlotte at that time was 1,065.

Two years before, as the Charlotte and South Carolina construction was well under way, there was talk of building a line from Danville, Va. to Charlotte. At that point the North Carolina Assembly saw that these lines would drain off all the commerce from the western regions and that the eastern region would be cut off from any of that revenue. Swiftly they passed a law to build another Rail Road, the North Carolina Rail Road, from Goldsboro through Raleigh to Salisbury and Charlotte. This complicated law had 53 chapters, several of which were not directly related to the new railroad. The taxpayers would pay most of the cost of the road and also pay to clean up several rivers and clear the debts of the Gaston and Raleigh Railroad. The NCRR went into operation in 1854 but by that time Charlotte had become established as the primary center of commerce for the entire western region. The town had filled with shipping companies and warehouses, the people of Mecklenburg were becoming prosperous and the population of Charlotte doubled in ten years, Charlotte was well on its way.

Jim Williams

From the Chairman

The end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020 offers a time of evaluation and planning. The Docent Board Annual Retreat is our opportunity to hear from each committee chair and docent. The committee chairs' written reports are due now. Any docent should advise Janet Dyer or me of your wish to be present at the Retreat. The Docent Board wants you to know that we value each docent. Thank you for working at sites and in the communities. Thank you for each task you perform. Each one of you is a resource and a treasure. Please continue your role as preservationist, historian, and orator.

Janet and I thank the Docent Board members for almost daily labors which bring to the membership outstanding monthly programs and yearly projects.

I take great pleasure in honoring Ann and Jim Williams with well deserved kudos. They serve as editors and publishers of our weekly newsletter and the bi-monthly, The Dandelion. The innumerable hours they have spent in research, lectures, tours, and 18th century style manual labor have contributed to the education and enrichment of the members of the history community, the residents, and the visitors throughout our city, county, and the Carolinas. Huzzah to Ann and Jim.

On behalf of Janet Dyer and the Docent Board I wish each reader a blessed holiday filled with joy and love. May each day in the new year be a day of peace.

Sincerely, Barbara McCray Jackson, Co-Chair

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the March-April Dandelion will be February 10. Send articles to Jim and Ann Williams at mhadandelion@mindspring.com

MHA North Branch Meeting

The North Branch of the MHA will meet on Tuesday, February 11 at 7 pm at our new venue, The Brick Row, 19725 Oak St #9 in Cornelius.

Professor Michael Connor will tell us about his family's history in Cornelius from slavery to the present and why the road at the end of the Peninsula is called John Connor Road.

MHA Docent Programs

Both meetings will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. Refreshments at 9:30, business meeting at 10, and program at 11. Free, visitors are always welcome.

**Tuesday, January 7
Mecklenburg County Suffragists**



Kate Moore is the Assistant Site Manager at the President James K. Polk State Historic Site located in Pineville. She completed her BA in History with Honors and MA in History at the University of North Carolina Charlotte. Her undergraduate and graduate research focused on the lives of single women in Mecklenburg County from the 1770s through the 1850s.

One hundred years ago the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, officially granting all American women the right to vote. You likely recognize famous icons of the suffrage movement like Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Alice Paul. But how much do you know about the women’s suffrage movement in North Carolina and, more specifically, right here in Mecklenburg County. During this presentation we will discuss Charlotte as a regional hub of women’s suffrage activity and identify some of the fascinating women who played a part in North Carolina’s suffrage movement.



**Tuesday, February 4
*A Relentless Spirit, Catharine Ladd, Southern Educator, Entrepreneur and Author, 1808-1899***

Catharine Stratton Ladd was inspired by meeting the Marquis de Lafayette as a teenager. In her life she educated hundreds of young women, pushed the boundaries of women’s rights, helped revitalize her community of Winnsboro, SC, published her political and social opinions in newspapers and wrote poetry and fiction for national magazines.

Pat Veasey will tell how she researched and wrote this biography of Catharine Ladd and will sell and sign copies of the book. Winnsboro was burned in 1865 so Pat had to reconstruct Catherine’s life through two decades of searching public records; descendants’ memorabilia and objects; museum collections; and historical records. She has published numerous articles and papers, received a Fellowship from the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) and has written an article for MESDA on Catherine Ladd’s husband, itinerant portrait artist, George Ladd.





MHA Dues

The time has come to pay your Mecklenburg Historical Association Dues for 2019; our fiscal year runs from Jan 1 to Dec 31. This one payment entitles you to be a member of MHA as well as an MHA Docent. If you are not sure whether you have already paid for this year, send an email to mhadandelion@mindspring.com and we will check and let you know. Otherwise select a membership level from the list below.

If you are an MHA member, or would like to become one, and NOT an MHA docent, use the form below (or the one from the MHA newsletter), make your check payable to *Mecklenburg Historical Association*, and send it to:

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

If you are an MHA Docent member, or would like to become one, pay your dues directly to the docent treasurer who will remit them to the treasurer of MHA, our parent organization. Do not send your dues to the P.O. Box above, as that makes our record keeping of dues-paying docents difficult to maintain. Make your check payable to the *MHA Docents* and give your check with the form below to Valerie Jones at one of our meetings, or mail them to her at:

4700 Coronado Drive
Charlotte, NC 28212

Levels of MHA Membership

	Single	Couple
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

MHA Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email Address _____

Please check one or more as appropriate

General _____ Senior _____
MHA Docent _____ North Branch MHA _____
Patron _____ Life _____

Please send my MHA Newsletter by:

Email _____
US Mail _____

If you have access to email, we would prefer to send the newsletter to you that way.
This saves considerable time, effort and expense for MHA.

Merry Christmas from the Mecklenburg Historical Association



In celebration of the Christmas season, for the second year, the US Court House, Western North Carolina District, is displaying a magnificent Christmas Tree in their Lobby. It was placed there by the MHA in recognition and appreciation of a true friend of History, Chief Judge Frank Whitney and his assistant Ruth Blackmon. The nine-foot artificial tree features a number of the MHA Queen Charlotte Christmas Ornaments plus other blown glass ornaments from the same traditional German workshop.

The Queen Charlotte Ornament was originally commissioned by MHA member Marion Redd more than twenty years ago. He ordered 500 custom-made, hand-blown, silvered and hand-painted ornaments to sell in his Redd Sled Christmas Shop in Charlotte. The ornament was based on the statue by sculptor Graham Weathers of “Queen Charlotte in Her Garden” located at the corner of College and Fifth Streets in uptown Charlotte. It commemorates Princess Charlotte Sophia of Mecklenburg-Strelitz after whom both Charlotte and Mecklenburg County were named. She was the wife of King George III and was the first to introduce the German custom of the Christmas Tree to Great Britain.

The tree was graciously donated by the Peppermint Forest Christmas Shop of Pineville and was set up and decorated on site by Linda and Terry Dalton, Jim Williams and Joe

Brandenburg. The decorations consist of seven Queen Charlotte ornaments and 67 others. It is located in the main lobby where it is admired by all.

Archaeological Institute of America, Central Carolinas Chapter Speaker Series, Free

All presentations will take place at 7:30 pm and last about 75 minutes

Semans Auditorium (Room 117), Belk Visual Arts Center, Davidson College, 315 N. Main St., Davidson.

Jewish Diaspora in the 1600s-1800s, Tuesday, January 21.

David Markus (Clemson University) is a Lecturer in Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice. His interests include historical archaeology, race, gender, diaspora and post-colonial archaeology. He has led field schools on the Clemson campus investigating the lives of enslaved people on the John Calhoun plantation.

President Theodore Roosevelt Jr.

President’s Day Community Dinner, Sons of the American Revolution

The 26th President of the United States of America, Theodore Roosevelt, will host the SAR dinner on Thursday, February 20.

Professional historical actor and portrayer Bill Rose from Williamsburg, Va. will bring President Roosevelt to life. According to Stephen McKee, president, Mecklenburg chapter of the SAR. “Mr. Roosevelt’s interaction with the audience and his amazing ability to recount his many accomplishments as a driving force in the Progressive Era in early 20th Century America will delight and entertain everybody in attendance.”

President Roosevelt is best known for making conservation a top priority and focusing on Central America where he began construction of the Panama Canal. He also sent the US Navy on a world tour called the Great White Fleet to project the US naval power around the globe. His face is depicted on Mount Rushmore alongside George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln, all presidents we have had as speakers at our President’s Day dinners.

The dinner will be held at the Hilton Charlotte Executive Park Hotel, 5624 Westpark Drive in Charlotte. Phone 704-527-8000. Doors open at 6 pm and the dinner program begins at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$37.50 (price includes PayPal fee) for adults and \$19.00 for children and can be purchased safely via PayPal from the chapter's website. https://mecklenburgsar.org/chapternews/chapternews_events.html For group ticket information, please contact Tom Phlegar at btphlegar@aol.com

The History Calendar

Admission charged at most events unless otherwise noted.
Many of these events sell out so it is best to register at the web sites.
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>

Haunted History Tour, Friday, February 21 at 7 pm.

Join select members of the Rosedale staff and the Charlotte Area Paranormal Society for this special evening tour. From the reconstructed blacksmith shop, to the gardens, to the first floor and cellar of the house itself, you'll hear tales of the macabre and the stories behind Rosedale's resident spirits. Tours last approximately one hour, and groups are limited to 25 to allow for a close-up storytelling experience. Come spend the evening with us, and discover why so many of our former residents have chosen to remain behind. Reservations required - tickets available online.

Historic Latta Plantation

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

Felted Wool Workshop, Saturday, January 4, at noon to 2 pm, Pre-Registration Required, \$25.00.

Learn how to felt wool while making this adorable little lamb. Each participant will be taught how to felt wool while they make their project lamb using wool from Latta sheep, and will receive a felting tool kit to keep.

Advanced Basket Making Workshop, Saturday, January 18, at 10 am to 2 pm, Pre-Registration Required, \$45.00.

Take your basket making to the next level. Learn to make a basket with a swing handle. Participants must have some prior basket weaving experience. All materials provided.

Open Hearth Cooking Workshop, Saturday, January 25 at 10 am to 2 pm, Pre-Registration Required, \$40.00.

In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn more complex techniques of cooking over an open hearth and get to taste everything cooked in the workshop. The menu will include seasonal selections consisting of meat or chicken, vegetables, breads and dessert. Some experience with open hearth cooking required, Wear closed toed shoes and bring a water bottle.

Felted Wool Workshop, Saturday, February 8, at noon to 2 pm, Pre-Registration Required, \$25.00.

Learn how to felt wool while making this adorable little lamb. Each participant will be taught how to felt wool while they make their project lamb using wool from Latta sheep, and will receive a felting tool kit to keep.

Sgraffito Workshop, Saturday, February 29, at 10 am to 2 pm, Pre-Registration Required, Cost \$40 to \$65 Depending on Size of Plate.

Learn about 18th & 19th century earthenware pottery. This workshop will teach the technique called Sgraffito. meaning to scratch. The red clay body is coated with a white slip which is then scratched revealing the red body. Suitable for all ages.

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

Twelfth Night, Saturday, January 4 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm, Free.

Celebrate the twelfth night after Christmas Day with bonfires, hot cider, live music, games of chance and revelry at the 1774 Alexander Rock House. There will be a cash bar, and candlelight tours of the Hezekiah Alexander homesite are \$5.00. The VIP experience, registration required, includes a guided home tour and whiskey flight in the rock house cellar for \$25.00.

African American Heritage Festival, Saturday, February 29 from 11 am to 5 pm, Free.

Celebrate over 250 years of Charlotte's vibrant African American history and culture at the Museum. Explore the African roots of Southern foods; tour the 1774 Alexander homesite through the eyes of Bet, one of the enslaved people who lived and worked on the property and listen to African and African American music. Spend the day exploring arts, music, dance, fashion, storytelling, and learn about everyday people who have accomplished extraordinary things.

Historic Brattonsville

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

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

Hog Butchering, Saturday January 11 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Early settlers in the Carolina Piedmont prized the hog as food and for its utilitarian by-products. Join the Brattonsville interpreters as they process and preserve a whole hog and nothing goes to waste. Watch them butcher the hog, preserve the meat with salt, render lard and make sausages. Learn how pig bladders are used in food preservation and how soap is made from lard. Gather around the warm open hearth as the cooks make head cheese and other delicacies using offal and scrap.

By Way of the Back Door, Saturdays in February from 10 am to 4 pm, Tours at 11 am and 2 pm.

In honor of Black History Month we look at how enslaved people lived on the plantation with special guided tours and activities. These highlight African American foodways, agriculture and way of life in the Carolina Piedmont through the 18th and 19th centuries. From the fields to the kitchen, foods that originated in Africa are highlighted in cooking demonstrations and agricultural practices. Singing, storytelling and playing games offer insight on how African American culture persevered.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

Twelfth Night: The Vanishing Holiday, Saturday, January 4 from 11 am to 1:30 pm, Free.

Dr. Ron Vinson, of the Presbyterian Heritage Center in Montreat, NC, will discuss the celebration of Twelfth Night from its medieval origins through Shakespeare's 1602 play, to observances in Colonial Carolina. Hear medieval carols and colonial tunes about the celebration of Twelfth Night and taste the king cake.

Miracle on the Hudson, Saturday, January 11 at 10:30 to Noon, Free.

Staff and volunteers from the Carolinas Aviation Museum will commemorate the eleventh anniversary of the "Miracle on the Hudson." Hear the story of the flight from a passenger and Charlotte native, Dan Vinton . US Airways Flight 1549 made an emergency landing on the Hudson River on January 15, 2009. Due to crew competency and the expertise of pilots Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger and Jeff Skiles, Dan Vinton and all 155 lives on board Flight 1549 were saved.

Apron Making Workshop, Saturday, January 11 at 2 to 4 pm, \$10.00.

Learn the basics of hand sewing and make an apron to take home. All materials will be supplied, and all skill levels are welcome. Presented by the Catawba Valley Fiber Guild.

Knitting Workshop, Saturday, February 8 at 2 to 4 pm, \$20.00.

Learn the basics of knitting with Laura Bain of Phun Knits. Needles and yarn included, and all skill levels are welcome.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

The Defense of Fort Dobbs, Saturday, February 29 from 10 am to 8 pm, Battle at 7 pm, Sunday, March 1 from 10 am to 3 pm.

On February 27, 1760, the garrison of Fort Dobbs engaged in a bloody, confusing, night-time skirmish with Cherokee warriors. This living history event will give visitors a glimpse of what life was like for those involved through on-going displays of camp and barracks life, as well as scheduled musket and cannon firing demonstrations.

Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

310 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, 704 416 0150 <http://cmstory.org>

Rosenwald Schools, Saturday February 1 at 2 pm, Hickory Grove Branch, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, 5935 Hickory Grove Rd, Charlotte.

A talk with Dr. Tom Hanchett, historian-in-residence with the Carolina Room of the Library in honor of Black History Month. Look back at the Rosenwald School program., funded by Sears Roebuck executive Julius Rosenwald. His matching grants helped African Americans build over 5000 rural schools across the South in the 1910s, 20s and 30s.

Brooklyn to Biddleville, Thursday February 6 at 6:30 pm, Morrison Regional Library, 7015 Morrison Blvd, Charlotte.

A talk with Dr. Tom Hanchett, historian-in-residence with the Carolina Room of the Library. Look back at Charlotte's impressive African American "city within a city," the Brooklyn neighborhood where today's Government Center now stands. It's the subject of a new exhibition at Levine Museum of the New South. Also learn about Charlotte's black "college town" – Biddleville in the Historic West End around Johnson C. Smith University.

Food from Home, Saturday February 8 at 2:30 pm, Davidson Branch, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, 119 S Main St, Davidson.

A talk with Dr. Tom Hanchett, historian-in-residence with the Carolina Room of the Library. What foods remind you of your growing up? That question will be a springboard for exploring Charlotte's food traditions today – a window on Charlotte's wide array of newcomers from across the US and around the world. With tasty restaurant tips from Hanchett's monthly "Food from Home" column in the Charlotte Observer and online at www.HistorySouth.org

Historic Rural Hill

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

Hogmanay and First Footin', Wednesday, January 1 – New Years Day – from 11 am to 1 pm, Free.

Celebrate the Scottish New Year (Hogmanay) with a traditional walk around the farm (First Footin'). This vigorous walk around the farm's 2.25 mile trail will stop along the way to discuss the history and folklore of the site. Then at noon partake of stone soup. Bring along fresh or canned vegetables for the soup or bread or dessert to add to the feast.

If you do not think you are physically able to do the walk, please come anyway. It's a great time for fellowship at the Rural Retreat Cabin Site, which will be open for this occasion.

Cowpens National Battlefield

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

www.nps.gov/cowp

Anniversary Celebration, Save the date, January 18 – 19.

Includes encampment, historic weapons firing demonstrations, and author lectures. Complete schedule should be available by the end of December.

York County Library

138 E. Black Street, Rock Hill, SC. www.yclibrary.org

Genealogy Class: African American Genealogy, Thursday, January 2 at 6 to 8 pm.

In this introduction to discovering your African-American ancestors explore the sources and methods for uncovering and recording your unique heritage.

Preserving Your Family Stories, Thursday January 23 at 6 to 8 pm.

Join genealogist and local journalist Gene Stowe as he explains how to interview your relatives and expand your understanding of your family's past.

Genealogy Class: Beginning Genealogy, Thursday February 6 at 6 to 8 pm.

Learn the first steps in researching and organizing your family tree.

Advanced African American Genealogy, Thursday, February 27 at 6 to 8 pm.

Go deeper into your family history as we explore the methods and sources available for researching African-American genealogy. Break through the 1870 brick wall and explore how to research slaves and slave owners. Learn about new resources for uncovering your past.

Levine Museum of the New South

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

Three Kings Day, Sunday January 5 from noon to 4 pm, Free.

Celebrate Dia de Reyes with music and dance. In Latin America and Spain, this commemorates the three wise men who traveled from afar, bearing gifts for the "King of Kings", baby Jesus.

MLK Jr. Legacy Celebration, Monday, January 20 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free.

Join us for our annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Celebration with music, dance, film screenings, arts and crafts.

Native American Studies Center, USC Lancaster

119 S. Main St. Lancaster, SC 29720 803 313 7172

Cherokee Women- Invincible Spirits, Lunch and Learn, Friday January 17 at Noon.

Dr. Alice Taylor-Colbert will tell the story of these powerful women whose bravery, tenacity, adaptability, and resilience provide lessons for us all, using myths, images and artifacts.

The History of the Barr Street School, Lunch and Learn: Friday February 21 at Noon.

USCL Professor Dr. Ernest Jenkins will explore the school's development, its continuing significance, and its linkages to the broader histories of our community and our state.

Kings Mountain Historical Museum

100 East Mountain Street, Kings Mountain, NC 704 739 1019

www.kingsmountainmuseum.org

Language of Clay: Catawba Indian Pottery & Oral Traditions, Exhibit Opening Tuesday February 11 through May 9, Free.

Presented by the Catawba Indian Nation, this exhibit is based on collections at the University of South Carolina Lancaster and examines Catawba Indian Pottery and oral traditions in the twentieth century.

Olde Meck Genealogy Society

Asbury Care Center, Aldersgate

Goat Castle: A True Story of Murder, Race, and the Gothic South, Wednesday January 8, Free.

Karen Cox, UNCC professor of history, will describe the research into her successful historical novel and tell the true story of the 1932 murder and the two suspects, "Wild Man" and "Goat Woman."

MHA Docents
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