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- Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Charlotte Library’s Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room.
- A Progress Report on Voices From the Past, a tour of Charlotte’s earliest Cemeteries on April 1, 2017.
- One of the oldest and best Revolutionary War reenactment in the country will be at Historic Camden, November 5 and 6. See the Calendar section for details.

The Battle of Charlotte

The current exhibit at the Charlotte Museum of history is “Charlotte’s Road to Revolution” which will be open through June 15, 2017. This fine exhibit consists of sixteen paintings by Dan Nance on the theme of the American Revolution in the backcountry, accompanied by fourteen text panels on the same subjects.

In the fall of 1780 the American Revolution was going well for the British. After reaching a stalemate in the north they had implemented a southern strategy and found great success. They took Savannah, Georgia in December of 1778 and Charleston in May of 1780. The British won another major battle at Camden, S.C. on August 16th and the way was clear for the conquest of North Carolina. Their first objective was to establish a supply post in the village of Charlotte.

When the British Army rode into Charlotte on September 26, 1780 they were welcomed in a way they had not expected. Believing that the residents of the area were loyal subjects of the King, they expected to see citizens waving and shouting welcome. Instead they discovered that they had disturbed a hornet’s nest. Instead of waving citizens, they were welcomed by a volley of rifle fire.

The rear guard of the American Army consisted of 150 mounted men commanded by 24-year-old Colonel William Richardson Davie. These men were experienced in harassing the British and had done a good job of it in the three months since the fall of Charleston. Several times they had defeated small units of the British Army and captured supply trains, but they were no match for the entire British Army. Their orders were to keep an eye on the British, report their movements to General William Lee Davidson, who commanded the Mecklenburg and Rowan Militia, and attack any targets of opportunity they might find.

But Colonel Davie had a different idea. He and his men resolved to take a stand at the Mecklenburg County Courthouse, hold off the British as long as they could and then to run for cover. They were joined by a group of the Mecklenburg Militia commanded by Major Joseph Graham and took their positions around the courthouse.
The Mecklenburg County Courthouse stood square in the middle of the intersection of Trade and Tryon Streets, the usual place for a courthouse in those days. It was a single room, single story log building on ten-foot brick pillars. Court was held for one week every three months and the room was used by any itinerant preachers who came through. The area under the courthouse was used as a town market where various goods were bought and sold.

The British Army was led by the mounted troops of Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton’s British Legion, the same group who murdered so many Americans at Buford’s Defeat. Colonel Tarleton was recovering from a violent fever so it was commanded by Major George Hanger. As the Legion moved slowly up Tryon Street towards the square they might have wondered why the streets were empty. They soon found out as rifle fire rang out and a number of them fell dead or wounded. The rest wheeled their horses and rode back down Tryon Street. Re-forming, the British advanced again, this time with more caution but as soon as they got within range the Americans fired and once again they turned and ran.

Major Hanger was wounded so General Cornwallis himself addressed the troops saying “Legion, remember you have everything to lose, but nothing to gain” and told them to advance once more. By this time the British light infantry had moved up to surround the Americans. Seeing this, Davie’s troops fired one more time, got on their horses and rode north up the Salisbury Road, which is today North Tryon Street.

They stopped just north of Charlotte after crossing Muddy Branch and fired another few volleys at the British. By this time the British soldiers were cautious. They had seen how hard these hornets could sting. The Americans moved on and stopped one more time to fire on the British and slow down their advance. This was near where Historic Rosedale Plantation is today in the NoDa neighborhood.

After that it was a running battle on horseback until Davie’s men crossed Mallard Creek and joined the main body of the American Army. At that point the British rode back to Charlotte carrying their dead and wounded and leaving several Americans on the ground. Major Joseph Graham was wounded by three bullets and six sword cuts and left for dead. He survived his wounds and lived to become a leading citizen of Charlotte.

The British Army remained in Charlotte for two weeks gathering food and supplies, but they had gained new respect for the Americans and would later come to refer to Mecklenburg as “A Hornet’s Nest of Rebellion.”

Jim Williams

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**Doctor Annie Lowrie Alexander**

On Tuesday December 20 Dr. Annie Alexander, North Carolina’s first woman physician, will be honored with a state historic marker saying “First female physician licensed in N.C., 1885. Acting assistant surgeon at Camp Greene during WW I. Office was here.”

Tentative plans are for the unveiling at 2 pm followed by a reception at 2:30 in the Francis Auditorium at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, 310 North Tryon Street. At the reception, hosted by the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room and Charlotte City Center Partners, you will meet Serena Chu who made this celebration possible. Miss Chu is a student at South Central High School in Pitt County, North Carolina who placed second in last year’s National History Day Competition in Raleigh with her biographical website of Dr. Annie.
She nominated Dr. Annie for a North Carolina Highway Historical Marker which will be placed at the site of Dr. Annie’s former home, 400 North Tryon Street. It was at this location that she practiced medicine for over thirty years. At the reception you will meet Miss Chu’s teacher, Jennifer Bryan and other dignitaries. You will see the website Miss Chu created and one by the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room along with other images of Dr. Annie.

**Cooking Guild Anniversary Dinner**

On September 22, I attended one of the programs held regularly by the Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley at the President James K. Polk State Historic Site. This was a very special occasion—their 19th anniversary! When I stepped inside the kitchen, I was warmly welcomed by all the cooks—both current and past—who had prepared a scrumptious feast to share with their guests. Of course, everything was authentically 18th century, as they take great care in researching every aspect of their presentations.

While Linda Beverly was busy putting the final touches on the salmagundi, I chatted with those I hadn’t seen for a while and listened as Sharon Van Kuren, Audrey Mellichamp, Carolyn Dilda, Cathy Davis, Barbara Goodwin, and Leila Merims reminisced about their trips and adventures over the past 19 years.

It was then time to eat! The salmagundi was drizzled with a dressing made from tarragon picked in the kitchen garden. Surrounding this spectacular, multi-layered salad, were beef and chicken cold pies, brandied peaches and other tasty goodies. What a feast! We were then treated to our very own syllabub, that creamy, lemony dessert with the surprise ending—the perfect finale to a wonderful occasion!

When asked what’s in their future, the reply was to continue doing what they love and thrive on—researching and preparing foods of the past.

**From the Chairman**

Greeting fellow Docents,

The slate of officers for the 2017-2018 MHA Docent Board was unanimously approved at the October general meeting. Be sure to congratulate and thank your new board members: Rachel Abernathy and Audrey Mellichamp (co-chairs), Jane Estep (programs), Christine Vogel (secretary), Valerie Jones (treasurer), Linda Beverly (hospitality), and Ann and Jim Williams (newsletter editors).

According to our guidelines, the purpose of the MHA Docent Committee is to

1. Encourage docents to volunteer at regional historic sites.
2. Conduct research in order to enhance the Committee’s general knowledge of the region’s history, and thereby its training programs, with a view towards publishing or otherwise presenting such knowledge to the public.

3. Seek other appropriate areas of opportunities.

During the last two years we have continued to meet our stated purpose of education in several ways. Our lecture series on regional history, last presented in February 2016, continues to be popular. The programs at our general meetings are interesting, informative and open to the public. The Cooking Guild continues to wow us. Individual docents volunteer their time and expertise at area historical sites. School tours, drop-in-tours, open hearth cooking, first person interpretation, spinning, weaving, bookbinding, music, and research are a few of the activities our docents provide. Our new project “Voices From the Past” will be an exciting addition to our goal of presenting regional history to the public. If you haven’t already volunteered to portray one of our ancestors buried in Settlers or Elmwood/Pinewood Cemeteries, contact Lynn Mintzer or Ann Williams. They have a list of ancestors ready and waiting to be brought to life on April 1, 2017.

See you Tuesday, November 1, at the next general meeting.

Janet Dyer

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Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the January-February issue of the Dandelion is December 9.

MHA Docent Programs

Note: Lost Notebook. Someone left a spiral bound notebook at our September meeting. On the front cover is printed: Listen Design Build; Geoff Kemble CFP. If the notebook belongs to you, retrieve it at the November meeting, or email mhadandelion@mindspring.com to make other arrangements.

Tuesday, November 1
Clovis through Catawba Coalescence

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

Jim Daniel, historian and author will present an overview of Native American history in the NC Piedmont from the end of the last ice age to circa 1850. Humans first set foot in the Carolinas over 12,000 years ago. The arrival of the first Europeans marked the beginning of transformations that would result in the decimation and dispersal of the Carolina Native Americans. Here in the southern Piedmont, bands of Indians coalesced into what we now call the Catawba Nation. Through diplomacy and strategy the emergent Nation was able to maintain its tribal status and avoid removal from their ancestral lands.

Jim Daniel has studied and reenacted the history of the Carolina Piedmont since 1960. He has appeared at many historic sites including Mount Vernon and the Smithsonian and was a consultant to Colonial Williamsburg for many years. More recently he has researched early Native Americans in this region and published books on this and other subjects.
Tuesday, December 6
Annual Christmas Tea

Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church, business meeting at 9:45 am, program at 10.

Please join us for our Christmas tea, the MHA Docent’s gift to the history community and friends both old and new. This year we will also share with children. If you would like to participate, bring a new unwrapped toy and we’ll donate them to Toys for Tots. After a program of musical history, we’ll enjoy tea and delicious food.

Music is a part of Christmas today as it was in the past. The Myers Park Consort formed at the Myers Park Presbyterian Church will treat us to a musical program. Consort members Julie Harris, Tammy Bucy, Gregg Miller and Amy House all have extensive musical training and experience. They are especially drawn to the celtic and folk traditions of our early settlers. They will play Christmas carols using a variety of folk instruments including the Bouzouki, Hammered and Appalachian Dulcimers, Mandolin, Celtic Harp, Percussion, and Guitar. They will share historical tidbits, answer questions and join us for Tea.

Now Christmas comes, 'tis fit that we
Should feast and sing, and merry be;
Keep open house, let fiddlers play.
A fig for cold, sing care away
And may they who whereat repine
On brown bread and on small beer dine.

The Virginia Almanack

Docents: Please be at the church by 9:30 to arrange your dishes on the serving table. The board will arrive at 9 to set up and decorate the tables. Everyone should bring a dish to share for our Tea/Luncheon. We will be joined by many of our friends in the history community, so do be generous when planning your dish.

MHA Dinner Meeting

Monday, November 14
Outen Potteries: Three Generations of Potters

Our holiday social and book sale will be at Trinity Presbyterian Church beginning at 6 pm. It will feature festive beverages and appetizers followed by dinner at 6:30 and the program at 7:15. Those not having dinner are welcome to enjoy the program at no charge. A book sale by the Carolina Room of the Charlotte Public Library will start at 6 pm and continue after dinner. To make a reservation for dinner use the order form in your MHA Newsletter or contact Barbara Taylor, 1016 Goshen Place, Charlotte, NC 28211, btaylor797@aol.com or 980-335-0326.

Paula Lester will tell about the history of the pottery industry in Matthews. In 1922 William Franklin Outen, a trained traditional potter, opened Matthews Pottery on Shelby Street. In 1950 his son Rufus opened the R. F. Outen Pottery on Jefferson Street where he continued potting until 1976 when he retired. He earned the nickname “Churn Turner” by turning 100 large churns a day. His nephew Kenneth Outen continued the pottery business by opening a new Matthews Pottery on Pleasant Plains Road at Potter Road in the late 1980s. Today, all that’s left of the business is the R. F. Outen Pottery building. It is the last known commercial kiln in Mecklenburg County.

Paula Lester published Discover Matthews, from Cotton to Corporate, arranged the Matthews history mural in the Library, published Matthews Memories with the historical foundation and received the NCMC Award of Special Recognition. She oversaw the restoration of the Massey-Clark House and the design for the Matthews Heritage Museum. Paula received the North Carolina Long Leaf Pine Award and has been a leading force to save the R. F. Outen Pottery.
The time has come to pay your Mecklenburg Historical Association Dues for 2017; 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. Membership letters are going out now, so it is not too early to pay your dues for next year. 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

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MHA Membership Form

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Address __________________________

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City, State, Zip __________________________

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Email Address __________________________

Please check one: General Membership     Please send my MHA Newsletter by:
MHA Docent Membership     Email ________
North Branch MHA Membership     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.
Voices From the Past

We’re really excited about this new cemetery event, and our plans are falling into place. It will take place on the afternoon of Saturday, April 1, 2017 at Settlers and Pinewood/Elmwood cemeteries. Various “residents” of those cemeteries will come to life for the day and talk about their families and experiences. We already have about fifteen people who will portray some of those residents, and we’d like to have about a dozen more. We want all of our portrayers to have fun and feel comfortable in their borrowed skins; these ideas should help them out: Visitors will probably spend only about five minutes with a portrayer, so you don’t need to know a long detailed bio. People are often buried in family groups, so one person, male or female, can speak for the whole group. You can be aware of your surroundings and know about things that happened after you died. Dead people can have terrible memory lapses – in case you’re asked a question you can’t answer. People can age after they die – if you’re a bit older than your character. We’ll do our best to help with costuming.

Those portrayers already lined up have some really interesting characters to represent, and we’ve identified a number of others that haven’t yet been spoken for. Or you can portray your own ancestor or anyone else you would like. There are also logistic jobs both in preparation and on the day of the event.

If you’d like to participate contact Lynn Mintzer at lynnmhad@gmail.com or Ann Williams at mhadandelion@mindspring.com and tell us what you’d like to do. This is a big project, so we need lots of help. We want April 1st to be a fun and successful day for visitors and participants alike.

Site News

Anniversary Celebration at the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room.
Thursday, November 17th will mark the 60th anniversary of Special Collections at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. The current library building opened in 1956, replacing the original 1903 Andrew Carnegie building. The new building included for the first time space dedicated to materials that would later become the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room collection. Today the Carolina Room contains 76,000 books, thousands of photographs, over a million Charlotte Observer photographic negative, genealogical material for all fifty states and an extensive music archive.

Join us for games, puzzles and prizes from 10 am to 4 pm in the Carolina Room and come to the formal reception in the Dickson Board Room on the third floor of the Main Library, from 4 to 7 pm. Please RSVP for the reception only at 704-416-0150.

Historic Mapping Congress, Saturday, November 12 from 1:30 to 4:00 pm, CPCC Central Campus. Free.
There will be presentations on how deeds are created and cataloged, how some property boundaries have not changed since the 1700s, and about mapping the Cherokee boundary in 1767. Free and open to the public. Check the website for details: http://www.historicmappingcongress.org/
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

The Harvest Table, Saturday, November 19 at 10 am, $25.00.
In this interactive workshop we provide the materials and the teacher, our Garden Curator. Then our guests will make their own special living centerpieces that will look amazing atop their Thanksgiving tables.

Celtic Heritage Christmas, Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4 from 12:30 to 4:30 pm.
Experience wonder and merriment as we celebrate our Scots-Irish roots. The home will be open to explore and there will be music, kid’s crafts, and entertainment. Food & beverages will also be available… Best of all you might even get some Christmas shopping done.

Greenery Workshop, Saturday, December 10 at 10 am to noon, $25.00.
You will learn about many types of greenery for the holidays, and make to take home a nice bowl of greenery that should last through the season. Our garden curator will show how to make a boxwood wreath and garlands. Bring a pair of hand pruners and be ready to work and learn.

Historic Latta Plantation

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

Folk Life Festival, Saturday, November 5 from 10 am to 4 pm.
Homegrown, handmade, and local vendors will all be open for business during this craft and folk arts festival. The Latta home will be an open-house, the plantation grounds self-guided and the museum and farm buildings open for viewing. Kick off the holiday season with some early shopping in a beautiful historic setting.

One Hundred Years of Christmas, Friday and Saturday, November 25 and 26 from 10 am to 4 pm.
The circa 1800 plantation home and buildings will be decorated in period holiday décor as re-enactors demonstrate activities in preparation for the Christmas holiday. Fun for the entire family – picnicking available.

A Candlelight Christmas, Saturday, December 3 from 6 to 9 pm.
In the candlelit home, visitors become guests at the Christmas wedding of Nancy Latta and Rufus Reid in December 1828. The wedding couple will dance with their guests in the parlor as Mr. and Mrs. Latta welcome guests in the dining room. Young children will be in their bedchamber being put to bed by Sukey. Christmas in 1828 comes alive in the plantation house, enhanced by activities on the grounds including a live nativity scene, live music, and refreshments.

Children’s Music Workshop, Saturday, December 10 from 10 am to 1 pm.
A skilled historical musician will teach children how to play the Bones and the Tin Penny-Whistle which they will take home with them along with a customized song book. Pre-registration required.

Private Visits with Santa, Saturday, December 10 from 10 am to 8 pm.
Enjoy a visit with Santa as your family gets cozy by the fire inside the cabin. Enjoy time alone with Santa as he gives each child a gift and poses for pictures. Enjoy hot chocolate, see the Latta farm animals and a holiday movie in the exhibit hall.
Christmas Tea Party, Sunday, December 11 at 2 pm.
This annual tea party is popular with mothers, daughters, grandmothers and friends. Wear a fancy hat and come prepared for tea, refreshments, and crafts inside the Alexander cabin. Reservations required.

The Charlotte Museum of History
3500 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC, 704 568 1774, http://www.charlottemuseum.org

Charlotte native Dan Nance has been painting scenes of American history for more than two decades. His paintings hang in national parks and heritage sites and in the private collections of Charlotte notables. This retrospective exhibit tells the story of the Piedmont Backcountry and its role in the founding of our nation.

The Longrifle Makers of the Mecklenburg School, Saturday, November 5 from 10 am to 3 pm.
At this seminar on the Longrifle Makers of the Mecklenburg School, a panel of experts – Michael Briggs, Kenneth Orr, Bill Ivey, Robert Leath, and Blake Stevenson – will discuss the Longrifle Makers of the Mecklenburg School and display the 19 known rifles from that school. Cost $40 including continental breakfast and a box lunch. Pre-registration required.

Backcountry Beer Fest, Saturday November 19 from 1 to 5 pm.
This event features local breweries, live music, and food trucks. Craft Brewing is popular now but settlers in 18th century Mecklenburg County brewed their own beer and believed alcohol was the key to health and happiness. Sample last year’s winning brew and learn more about our region’s history with a tour of the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite.

Book Talk: The Uncommon Bond of Julia and Rose, Saturday, December 3 at 1 pm.
Ann Williams’ history-based novel is about an unusual relationship between a slave and her owner. The story takes place on an antebellum piedmont plantation, and is told from both women’s points of view in their own voices. Williams will talk about her research, do a bit of myth busting, and invite discussion. Books will be available for purchase.

The Schiele Museum
1500 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia, N.C. 704 866 6900 https://www.schielemuseum.org

Harvest Day, Saturday, November 19 from 10 am to 4 pm.
Celebrate the harvest season at the 18th-Century backcountry farm. Watch cooks and bakers at work as they prepare a traditional holiday feast in a spirit of thanksgiving for the season’s harvest. Visit with craftspeople and farm folk as they demonstrate early American skills & crafts.

Colonial Christmas & Candlelighting, Saturday, December 10 from 2 to 6 pm.
Celebrate Christmas on the Carolina frontier. Join in the “Procession of the Yule Log,” sing traditional carols, and enjoy English country dancing. Discover the folklore of holiday greenery as you decorate the cabins. At dusk, pause and reflect on this Season of Wonder during the Scripture & Candlelight Service. Round out the evening with a taste of hot gingered cider, taste Christmas pudding for luck and take home holiday memories to cherish always.
President James K. Polk State Historic Site
12031 Lancaster Hwy., Pineville, NC, 704 889 7145
www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

President James K. Polk Birthday Celebration, Saturday November 5 from 10 am to 4 pm.
Experience the fervor of the 1844 election, and the excitement of a presidential candidate’s return home. Meet the future President himself and discuss the events of the day. Mingle with the backcountry residents while enjoying children’s games and crafts, cooking and musket-firing demonstrations, and a birthday treat. This will be the opening of a new exhibit: Vote: The History of Voting in North Carolina.

Holiday Tunes with the Myers Park Consort, Saturday, December 3 from 10 am to 12:30 pm.
The Myers Park Consort, led by harpist and singer Julie Harris, will play a variety of historical and modern holiday tunes using historical instruments, featuring a dulcimer and a bouzouki. The Consort will also provide historical context centering on the music and instruments they feature.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site
438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882
http://www.fortdobbs.org

Military Timeline, Saturday and Sunday, November 12 and 13 from 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday, 10 am to 3 pm on Sunday. Free, donation suggested.
Visit with soldiers and support personnel from hundreds of years of North Carolina history. The experiences of veterans of the Revolution, Civil War, World Wars and other conflicts will be shared through living history displays and weapons firing demonstrations.

Winter Living History and Foodways, Saturday and Sunday, December 10 and 11 from 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday, 10 am to 3 pm on Sunday. Free, donation suggested.
During the weekend, historic interpreters will discuss winter life in a French and Indian War camp through living history demonstrations. Historic foodways and beer brewing will be highlighted.

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

If Elected: Political Buttons and Memorabilia Exhibit open through November 12.
See this collection of buttons, statuary, and other items that have been a part of presidential campaigns throughout the years. A wide variety of both Democratic and Republican memorabilia will be on display.

New Girl Scout Tour and Badge for all levels of Girl Scouts.
After taking the tour at the museum and fulfilling the additional requirements suggested for the different levels, scouts will be able to purchase a Matthews Heritage Museum badge. Some of the activities suggested to earn the patch include cooking a recipe from Nancy Reid, touring the historic cemetery to locate some of the important citizens buried there, or taking a walking tour of the town.
Kings Mountain Historical Museum
100 East Mountain Street, Kings Mountain, NC (704) 739-1019
www.kingsmountainmuseum.org

Toys, Games & Trains Exhibit open from November 19 through January 7, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm., Free.
The Museum will be filled with model train displays, railroad memorabilia, and antique toys and games.

The Spirit of Christmas Past, Saturday, December 3 from 10 am to 7 pm, Free.
- From 10 am to 3 pm experience the magic of the "Toys, Games & Trains" exhibit, and tour the historic Barber House decorated for the holidays. Learn about the history of Christmas celebrations, and participate in traditional craft demonstrations led by 18th century costumed interpreters. Bring home your own hand-made ornaments.
- From 3 pm to 5 pm view the City of Kings Mountain’s annual Christmas Parade.
- From 5 pm to 7 pm enjoy a special “night run” of the "Toys, Games & Trains" exhibit, candlelight tours of the historic Barber House and hot apple cider with cookies by the firelight.

Santa & Mrs. Claus Visit the Museum, Saturday, December 10 from 10 am to 1 pm, Free.
Santa Claus will be at the Museum during the "Toys, Games & Trains" exhibit to visit with the little ones. Mrs. Claus will do a special reading of the classic 1823 children’s story, “The Night Before Christmas.”

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

Christmas Candlelight Tours, Saturdays, December 3 and 10 from 3 to 9 pm.
A Southern-style Backcountry Christmas comes to life through candlelit vignettes as costumed interpreters recreate the Christmas of the backcountry settlers in the 18th and 19th centuries. You will learn of old and new Christmas traditions and children of all ages will enjoy period hands-on activities. Visit with Father Christmas and relax around the campfire while you enjoy musical entertainment. Food, hot drinks and baked goods will be available for purchase. Please note that Brattonsville Road will be closed from 2:30-9:30pm. Please follow the detour signs.

Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site
9621 Reed Mine Rd., Midland, NC 28163, 704 721 GOLD (4653)
http://www.nchistoricsites.org/reed/reed.htm

A “Golden” Christmas, Saturday, December 3 from 10 am to 4 pm.
Enjoy a traditional German Christmas with displays, candlelight mine tours, food, hayrides, hands-on activities, and pictures with St. Nicholas.

Historic Rural Hill
4431 Neck Road, Huntersville, NC, 704 875 3113, http://www.ruralhill.net

Sheepdog Trials and Dog Festival, Saturday and Sunday, November 12 and 13 from 10 am to 5 pm.
Bring your dog and see the shepherding competitions, historic skills demonstrations, dog sports demonstrations, and dock dog competitions.
Charlotte Folk Society
Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte
www.folksociety.org

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte 28204.  7:30 PM.  Doors open 7:00 PM.  Family-friendly & Free; donations appreciated. Free parking. Refreshments, song circle, songwriter's workshop, and jams follow concert. Accessible entry & elevator on ground floor. 704-563-7080; www.folksociety.org

Charlotte Folk Society Annual Holiday Potluck, Saturday, December 3, Dilworth United Methodist Church, 605 East Blvd., from 4 to 10 pm.
Bring a dish to serve 8 or donate $5 per person. Meats provided. Please bring veggie side dishes or desserts. Song circle & jam sessions 4 to 5 pm, dinner at 5 pm. Singing and jamming resume after dinner. 704-563-7080; www.folksociety.org

Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library
310 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, 704 416 0150 www.cmlibrary.org

Meet the Author: Mary Kratt, Thursday, November 17 at 6 pm, South County Regional Library, 5801 Rea Road.
Join Mary Kratt, prize-winning Charlotte writer and author of eighteen published books of regional history, biography and poetry, to discuss Carolina stories in prose and poetry with an emphasis on her books Watch Where You Walk: New & Selected Poems and Charlotte, North Carolina: A Brief History.”

Duke Mansion
400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte, 704 714 4400 http://www.dukemansion.com

Charlotte’s Military History — Places to Visit, Sunday November 13 at 3 pm, Free.
Where can you see our military heritage in Charlotte? In honor of Veteran’s Day, popular history speaker David Erdman returns to the Duke Mansion to take us on a “visual tour” of places that mark the Queen City’s military past. Discover the site of the Hornet’s Nest skirmish in the Revolution, see controversial Confederate monuments, learn the WWI story of Remount Road, and more.

Holiday Tea & Shopping At the Duke Mansion, Sunday, December 4 from 2 to 4 pm, $35.00.
Brighten your holiday season with a delicious holiday tea at the Duke Mansion. At 2 pm, shop for memorable gifts from some of Charlotte's top boutiques. At 3 pm, savor tea in the living room with tea sandwiches, canapés, scones, and sweets. Stroll the public areas and grounds of this mansion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Kings Mountain National Military Park

Veteran's Day Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, November 12 and 13 from 9 am to 5 pm, Free.
Visit the militia camp of the Backcountry Militia and help us honor all the Veterans.
Living History: Vietnam Veterans Share Memories, Sunday, November 20 at 4 pm, Free.
Congregation House, Davidson College Presbyterian Church, 208 Concord Road, Davidson.
Hear a panel discussion of veterans’ experiences in Vietnam during the war and their memories of returning home. Five veterans, including Davidson residents John Allen and Irvin Brawley, will share their stories and answer questions. Audience participation is encouraged.

Archaeological Institute of America, Central Carolina Chapter
Contact Morgan Dethman, morgdeth22@gmail.com

Early Farming Altered Climate Millennia Ago, Wednesday, November 9 at 7 pm, Tyler-Tallman Hall, Davidson College, 323 Concord Rd. Davidson.
William F. Ruddiman, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Sciences at the University of Virginia will speak. Current research has investigated the role that farmers have played during the last several thousand years by clearing land, raising livestock, and irrigating crops. These activities have put increasing amounts of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This has led to the hypothesis that early agriculture caused the observed reversals in the natural declines of atmospheric CO$_2$ (carbon dioxide) 7000 years ago and CH$_4$ (methane) 5000 years ago.

Earl Scruggs Center
103 S. Lafayette St., Shelby, NC, 704-487-6233, info@earlscruggscenter.org

Lunch-N-Learn: The History of Taps and the Bugle, Saturday, November 19 at noon.
Enjoy the exhibit “Star Spangled Sounds: Stories of Music and the Military” and hear Jay Callaham put to rest the mythology around the original “Taps” arrangement as he reviews the history of the horn as a military signal instrument, and the evolution of bugle calls in the US Military.

Holiday Tea and Parade of Tables, Sunday, December 4 at 3:30 pm.
Join us for our 3rd Annual Holiday Tea and Parade of Tables. Enjoy live music and take part in our raffle while you savor pastries, finger sandwiches, and of course, tea. All proceeds benefit the Earl Scruggs Center.

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

Life in the Waxhaws, Saturday, Nov. 12 from 6 to 8 pm, tours every 30 minutes from 6 to 7:30 pm.
Take a candlelight tour and catch a glimpse of early settlers living in the Waxhaws. Experience 18th century daily life as in Andrew Jackson's boyhood and see the events that shaped the community.

Historic Camden
Highway 521 just South of Camden, SC
(803) 432-9831 http://www.historic-camden.net

Annual Revolutionary War Field Days, Saturday and Sunday, November 5 and 6 from 10 am to 5 pm.
Reenactors from more than 20 states gather at one of the oldest Revolutionary War reenactments in the United States. Visitors are immersed in the past through interaction with hundreds of living-history docents and encounter
the sights, smells, and tastes of 18th century colonial life. Reproduction clothing, goods, and foods are available on Sutler’s Row and there are campfire cooking competition, colonial games, in-camp demonstrations, craftsmen, a history roundtable discussion, and children’s activities.

A militarily and historically accurate 18th century battle starts at 1:30 pm each day where spectators can feel the thunder of field cannons, hear the crack of flintlock rifles, and smell the gunpowder in an unparalleled sensory treat.

York County Genealogical & Historical Society

The American Revolution in York County, S.C., Sunday, November 13 at 2:30 pm, Museum of Western York County 3716 Woodlawn Street Sharon, SC., Free.
Events in western York County that impacted the outcome of the Revolution will be discussed.

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

Genealogy Club, Saturdays, November 5 and December 10, from 10 to 11:30 am, Free.
This support group meets once a month to discuss research, techniques, new sources, and help each other learn more about family history.

MHA Docents
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Charlotte, NC 28211