

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Promoting Local History through Education and Research

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



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The Rural Hill Farm Journals of Adam Brevard Davidson 1834-1856

A New Book by Ann Williams

In 2012 Ann and Jim Williams were asked to compile a comprehensive history of Rural Hill and the generations of Davidsons who farmed there. The site had file cabinets filled with copies of documents, but no narrative study organizing them. It was then that Ann became familiar with Brevard's journals. She read them from beginning to end and extracted what she needed, but the project had a deadline, and there was no opportunity to give them the attention they deserved. She had long been fascinated by antebellum plantations and the minutia of 19th century farming. She made a promise to herself to get back to Brevard's journals and transcribe them, and this book in a fulfillment of that promise.

Adam Brevard Davidson kept a pair of farm journals from 1834 to 1856 documenting the workings of his North Carolina piedmont farm. These journals are important for the amount of detail they provide about operating a southern cotton plantation. This was during the years when the cotton economy became a major factor in the national economy, and when the principles of scientific farming began to drive the development of modern agriculture.

In 1834 Brevard, as he was always called, picked up his pen and began to write in a copybook: "I have made the attempt two or three times to keep an account on how we plant our crop, and have always failed. I shall now make one more attempt." This time, much to our benefit, he succeeded. In order to make himself a better farmer he recorded where and when crops were planted, and how they were affected by weather. He kept the journals for twenty years usually with several crisp entries each week revealing the prodigious amount accomplished by a small work force under the guidelines of emerging Agricultural Societies.

The Rural Hill Farm Journals of Adam Brevard Davidson, 1834-1856 is a complete transcription of both journals. The plantation consisted of about 2,000 acres that Brevard inherited from his grandfather and his father. During the years of his journals Brevard's father, Jacky Davidson, remained active and he and Brevard farmed together.

In 1836 Brevard married Mary Laura Springs, the well-educated daughter of a prosperous South Carolina planter. She brought into the marriage nineteen slaves and a nearby plantation of 1,000 acres; yet the slave force that worked Rural Hill was small for a plantation of its size. Brevard recorded births of many of their children as well as other notable family and community events. The author's introduction provides background information about the farm, the family, Rural Hill slaves, and an explanation of Scientific Farming. Taken together with Brevard's comprehensive farming records, *The Rural Hill Farm Journals of Adam Brevard Davidson, 1834-1856* can enrich presentations at historic farm museums, and reward those who are simply interested in antebellum Americana.

Rural Hill Book Launch Dinner

On Tuesday evening, September 19th Rural Hill will hold a book launch dinner for Ann Williams, author of *The Rural Hill Farm Journals of Adam Brevard Davidson, 1834-1856*. Reservations are required at the web site <http://www.ruralhill.net>

The evening will start at 6 pm with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. At 6:30 Ann will tell about her book and how she came to write it. Dinner will be served afterwards.

The Founding of Settlers Cemetery

The date for the establishment of Old Settlers Cemetery in Charlotte has long been sought with no success. It has been stated that the City of Charlotte set aside two blocks for the Church and the Burying Ground in 1815, but no record of this has been found. The city was incorporated by an act of the Assembly in 1815 and the minute book of the city still exists but there is no mention of land for either church or cemetery up to at least 1825.

This founding date has actually always been in plain sight but it was not recognized until now. The evidence lies in a number of deeds recorded in the Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds office. Abstracts of these old deeds have been published but they do not contain this type of information. In fact it is difficult to detect this information without making a careful and detailed transcription and even then some words are nearly illegible.

The deed that reveals the founding date for Settlers Cemetery is that of a purchase of twelve city lots by Waightstill Avery in September 1777. He had purchased 23 lots in April, 1774 which were located on present day Fifth and Sixth Streets. Four of these lots are on the west end of the square where Settlers Cemetery is today. The 1777 deed locates eight lots as extending “from the Lower Corner of the Burying Ground to the S. of the Town Land and adjoining the Land heretofore purchased by Said Avery...” This clearly indicates that the “burying ground” was in existence and known as such by 1777. It is probable that the burying ground had not been in existence in 1774 when Avery made his first purchase.

Another deed in 1828 tells us something more about the cemetery land. In a Sheriff's sale, Dr. Robert McKenzie purchased 25½ acres of city lots which included the lots Waightstill Avery had originally owned. The deed says “Beginning at a stone corner the corner of the grave yard & runs with the lines of the grave Yard land...”

It appears that what we call today Old Settlers Cemetery did not originally have a name. It was called “The Burying Ground” or “The Grave Yard” or other generic names until 10 December 1952. At the Carolina Room of the public Library there is a file of old newspaper clippings on the cemetery. Before 1952 some of the names used were:

- Fifth Street Cemetery – 1916
- The Old Cemetery – 1917
- Old Cemetery back of First Presbyterian Church – 1934
- Historic Old Cemetery on West Fifth St. – 1937
- Old Mid-Charlotte Cemetery – 1949
- Historic Old Cemetery – 1953

Jim Williams

From the Chairman

September's General Meeting marks the half-way point in the MHA Docent's year. This means a temporary changing of the guard – Audrey Mellichamp will rest a bit after having done a grand job for us the first six months of 2017. Thanks, Audrey.

Many years ago when I was Queen – for two years – in my first letter to the membership, I noted that I realized I had LARGE shoes to fill as Queen of Docents. I compared myself to Minnie Mouse. Minnie's skinny little legs and, I assume, skinny little feet never quite filled her shoes. This I how I feel again today as I prepare to serve again as Queen – only for the rest of the year.

Audrey has presided over an outstanding half-year and your Board continues to serve our organization well. Thanks to you Docents "Voices From The Past" was nearly as perfect as the weather was on Saturday, April 1st. We are eager to work closely with Lynn Mintzer again in 2018. Linda Beverly and her granddaughter are gathering information this summer to revitalize our "Passport to History" project. Ann Williams notified three sites that an intern or volunteer had received a token of appreciation in honor of those Docents who had died during the past several years. Because of these projects and our usual commitments, we have postponed indefinitely our "Wagon Roads" lecture series.

Our newsletter is worth reading: do you need to take family, friends or guests for an outing? Check your Dandelion Press first. Please share your experiences at the end of our regular meetings – we will set aside time for you to do so each month.

So you see, each month's meeting will bring a special treat so make plans to attend: First Tuesdays of each month, Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church – 9:30 to socialize; 10:00 for business; 11:00 for programs. Hope to see you there.

Rachel Abernathy

Newsletter Deadline

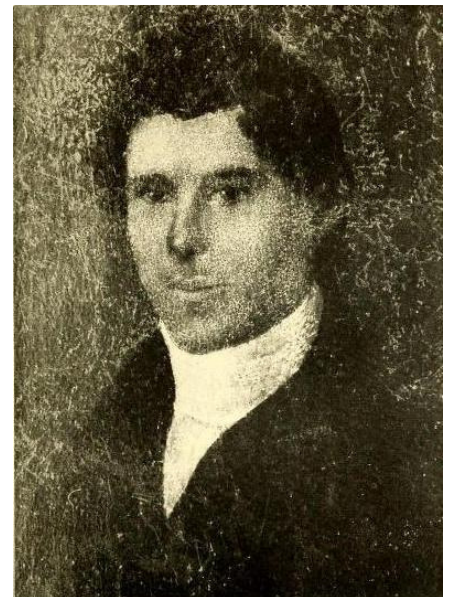
The deadline for the November/December Dandelion is October 16. Send articles to Jim and Ann Williams at mhadandelion@mindspring.com Be sure to include information about holiday programming.

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. Visitors are always welcome.

Tuesday, September 5
Dr. Robert Hall Morrison, Founder of Davidson College

Robert Hall Morrison is a familiar name, primarily because his daughters married leading citizens and Confederate Generals and officers, but he was much more than that. A native of Cabarrus County, Dr. Morrison became one of the leading Presbyterian ministers in North Carolina, Minister of Sugar Creek Church and founding minister of First Presbyterian Church in Charlotte. In 1837 he founded Davidson College and he did it all. He convinced the Presbytery to support it, raised the money, chose the land and supervised the



building, curriculum and enrolment. Then he served as the first President and one of the first two professors. After a personal tragedy he retired from the College to become a wealthy planter in Lincoln County and, for the rest of his life, the pastor of the oldest church in that county, Unity Presbyterian, and of Machpelah and Castanea Churches.

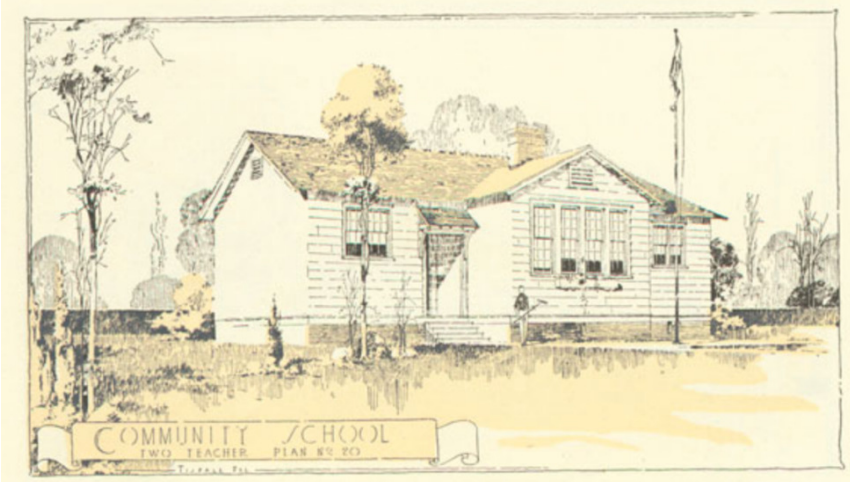
Jim Williams will appear as Dr. Morrison and tell the story of his life up to 1860, based on extensive research into this dynamic, accomplished, and very interesting man.

**Tuesday, October 3
The Rosenwald Schools**

Long before the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, an impressive collaboration worked for educational equality in the American South. Julius Rosenwald, the entrepreneurial genius behind Sears & Roebuck, inspired by Andrew Carnegie and Booker T. Washington, offered matching grants that helped more than 5,000 rural African American communities build public schools during the 1910s to the 1930s. Professor George E. Davis of Johnson C. Smith University was appointed Supervisor of the Rosenwald School Building Program and North Carolina constructed 813 Rosenwald buildings – more than any other state.



Community historian Dr. Tom Hanchett will tell that story, drawing upon research he published in the *North Carolina Historical Review*. He grew up attending white rural schools in Virginia – whose architecture drew on the Rosenwald designs – and went on to earn degrees at Cornell, University of Chicago and UNC Chapel Hill. Tom retired in 2016 as Staff Historian at The



Levine Museum of the New South and continues speaking and writing on Charlotte and Southern history and culture.

New Docent Roster

Valerie Jones is in the process of preparing the MHA Docent roster for 2017-2018. She will have a draft copy at the September Docent Meeting. Please check to see if your information is correct. Note any needed corrections, or put a check mark by your name so she'll know you approved it. If you miss the September meeting and any of your information has changed, notify Valerie at vvjones@carolina.rr.com by September 20. She'll have newly revised rosters for everyone at the October meeting.

MHA Dinner Meeting

Trinity Presbyterian Church. Dinner is at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:15. Those not having dinner may enjoy the program at no charge. 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.

Monday, September 18 100 Years of Service, The American Red Cross in Mecklenburg County

Angela Broome Powley will address us on the 100th anniversary of the American Red Cross in this area, sharing with us several of the key moments in that service.

The Charlotte Red Cross was founded here in 1917 in response to the entry of the US into WWI, to supply support and assistance to our men and woman serving in the Armed Forces. From the beginning, the Mecklenburg Chapter played a key role in providing assistance to Camp Greene, a training camp for WWI soldiers in Charlotte which was established that same year. Although today the Red Cross is known for its disaster and emergency services and its blood bank operation, it was only in the 1940's that the Red Cross began collecting blood. A highlight of their service was the 1970 premier of the WBTV Blood Give-In which brought in 832 donors. Charlotte's slogan "You've Come a Long Way Baby – Don't Stop Now" won national recognition.

Angela Broome Powley is the Chief Executive Officer for the American Red Cross Western North Carolina Region, a position she has held for six years after a career in banking.

MHA North Branch Meeting

Meetings are held at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, 19600 Zion Ave, Cornelius, NC 28031 (off Old Statesville Road), room 204 (enter by the cemetery – south side ramp). For questions contact Sarah Sue Hardinger at 704-906-6656.

Early America's Sleeping Beauty: How Nature and Nurture Turned an Unruly Fiber into King Cotton. Tuesday, October 10 at 7 to 8pm.

Historian Ann Williams has made an extensive study of Upland Cotton, the variety of cotton that became so profitable in the 19th Century South. Her talk will begin with the unusual botany of the plant, then move on to Eli Whitney's "improved" cotton gin, including its influence on his unfortunate love life. She will talk about the development of the plantation system, its importance in the national economy, and its role in precipitating the Civil War.

The Tale of Cotton, Tuesday, November 14 at 7 to 8 pm.

Sarah Sue Hardinger will continue the Story of cotton as it was handled in the early mills of North Carolina, featuring the history of both the Cornelius and Davidson cotton mills.

First World War Symposium

Sunday, September 17 from Noon to 5:30 pm, at the Charlotte Museum of History, \$25.00.

Discover the impact of the First World War on North Carolina during this half-day symposium hosted by the Charlotte Museum of History, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library and UNC Charlotte.

Noon Check-in, Welcome and Introductions.

12:45 World War I and Charlotte’s Economic Development.

Dr. Mark Wilson will explore the impact of Camp Greene and WWI on Charlotte’s economy and dig into some of the personal experiences of those working in the textile industry and other businesses impacted at the time. Dr. Wilson is a Professor of History at UNC Charlotte.

1:45 Black Soldiers Matter: Carolina’s Unheralded Soldiers of WWI.

Dr. Janet Hudson will tell of the war experiences of 22,000 African American soldiers from North Carolina. Dr. Hudson is an Associate Professor of History at USC Palmetto and author of *Entangled by White Supremacy*.

2:45 Appalachia in the Trenches: German Prisoners in Our Backyard.

Dr. Heather Perry will discuss the German internment camp in Hot Springs, North Carolina during the war. At the beginning of the war the federal government rounded up 2,200 newly labeled German enemies and relocated them to this camp. Dr. Perry is an Associate Professor of History at UNC Charlotte, Associate Editor of the *Journal of First World War Studies*, and author of *Recycling the Disabled: Army, Medicine, and Modernity in WWI Germany*.

3:45 City of Canvas: The Story of Camp Greene.

Produced by the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library and WTVI Charlotte. This documentary film explores Charlotte's growth while Camp Greene, the WWI training camp, was here. Producer Jack Dillard will discuss the film and answer questions. A 40-year resident of Charlotte, Jack Dillard is a retired advertising copywriter and creative director.

4:30 Display of Artifacts and Reception.

Revolutionary War Cherokee Chief Attakullakulla

**Thursday, September 14 at 6 pm, Hilton Executive Park Hotel
Sons of the American Revolution**

Have dinner with Revolutionary War Cherokee Chief Attakullakulla, known to the English as “Little Carpenter.” Attakullakulla was the Peace Chief of the Cherokee Nation from about 1754 until his death (ca.1780-1783). He had been trained to become a leader among the Cherokee people and was acknowledged as “the most important Indian of his day.”

Attakullakulla will be portrayed by Captain Robert K. Rambo (USA, Ret.), who earned his BA (History) from the Virginia Military Institute, his teacher certification (History) at UVAWise, and his M.A. (US History Cherokee Studies Program) at Western Carolina University. His research centers on Attakullakulla during the 18th century.

Doors open at 6, dinner begins at 6:30 pm at the Hilton Charlotte Executive Park Hotel, 5624 Westpark Drive. Tickets are \$27 per adult and \$15 per child. Download the RSVP form at www.mecklenburgsar.org or mail a check to: Tom Phlegar, 7324 Marlbrook Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212-4770



Hart Square Tickets

For more than thirty years, Dr. Robert Hart of Hickory has rescued and restored 19th century life in the Carolinas, recreating an entire village, Hart Square – the largest collection of original historic log buildings in the United States. For one day each year, on the fourth Saturday in October, (October 28th 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 300 volunteer artisans demonstrate period techniques such as flax breaking and hackling, spinning, weaving, open-hearth cooking, broom and shoe making, bookbinding, shingle riving, wheel wrighting, tin smithing and moonshining. A portion of the proceeds goes to the Catawba County Historical Association and the balance goes into a fund to carry on the festival after the Harts can no longer do so 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 Monday, October 2, or by standing in line at that time, but as we are participants in the event, we can order tickets for you. Make your check out to Jim Williams for \$40.00 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 8** to get these tickets. We will receive the tickets by mid-October and mail them on to you.

We the People

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the US Constitution.

From an article in the Washington and Lee Alumni Magazine, Winter/Spring 2017, page 11.

On the U. S. Constitution, a tattered copy of which she carries around in her hefty purse:

The opening words, “We the People,” referred to white, property-owning men and that was it. Of course, people were then held in human bondage – they were not part of ‘We the People.’ Native Americans were not part of ‘We the People.’ And half of the population, women, were not part of the political constituency. So I say the genius of the Constitution is that, over the course now of much more than 200 years, this notion of who belongs in ‘We the People’ has become ever more expansive. So it is the inclusiveness of ‘We the People’ today in contrast to what it was. I think the Founding Fathers may have had an idea of what it someday may have become, but they were held back by the limitations of their own time.”

From Janet Dyer

The Norris Preyer Lecture Series

A Change is Gonna’ Come: From Civil Rights to Black Power.

Sunday, September 10, at 6:30 to 8:00 pm, Ketner Auditorium, Sykes Bldg, Queens College, Free.

Dr. Waldo E. Martin, Jr., Professor of History and Citizenship at the University of California, Berkeley will examine the complex histories of the modern civil rights and Black Power movements. An expert on African American cultural and intellectual history, Martin explores how these two movements converge and diverge and the role of African American cultural politics in history.

Archaeological Institute of America Lecture Series.

**War and Peace: Trojan Narratives on Ancient Greek Vases, Monday, September 25 at 7:30 pm.
Semans Auditorium in the Belk Visual Arts Center, Davidson College.**

Tyler Jo Smith of the University of Virginia will analyze and discuss an item from their collection, an Athenian black-figure column krater that had been at Castle Ashby, England and is dated to the 6th century BC with a duel on one side and a wedding scene on the other

**The People of Vinland (Newfoundland) in the Viking Age.
Tuesday, October 17 at 7:30 pm. Tyler-Talman Recital Hall, Sloan Music Center, Davidson College.**

Kevin McAleese of the Provincial Museum of Newfoundland & Labrador will discuss the Norse arrival at L'Anse aux Meadows in northern Newfoundland ca. AD 1000, the earliest known European settlement in North America. He will review the Norse Sagas referencing the Skraelings, the archaeological evidence for these people, the settlement history of this UNESCO World Heritage site, and the lifeways of current residents.

The Longrifle Makers of Guilford County
**Saturday, September 23 from Noon to 4 pm
Jamestown Town Hall Civic Center, Jamestown, NC, \$10.00**

In the 19th Century the Longrifle Makers of Jamestown in Guilford County made more rifles than all others in North Carolina combined. This seminar will celebrate this early industry and the artisans who practiced their craft in Jamestown. It will be held in memory of Jack L. Perdue, historian and author who was an early leader in discovering, recognizing and celebrating these works of art and science.

The Seminar will be led by Historian Michael Briggs, author of *The Longrifle Makers of Guilford County*. He will speak about these uniquely American works of art and their makers and show examples from his longrifle collection. Mr. Briggs will lead a discussion with William W. Ivey, (author of *North Carolina Schools of Longrifles 1765 – 1865*), Kenneth Orr, and Blake Stevenson. Owners of Guilford County Longrifles are invited to bring up to three from their collections to the event.

Constitution Week
Sunday September 17 at 2 pm, Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church.

Celebrating the 230th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution with a number of speakers, kid's activities, refreshments, and ringing of the church bell at 4 pm. All are welcome. Hosted by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Doing Research at the Carolina Room

Those of you who need to visit the main branch of the Charlotte Library, especially to do extensive research in the Robinson-Spangler Carolina room, are well aware of the great expense of parking in the area of the Library. An alternative, if you are going to spend all day, is to use the Blue Line Light Rail. Free parking is available at many stops, especially at the Scaleybark station. Then a short comfortable and inexpensive ride brings you to the Seventh Street Station, just one block from the Library. The Carolina Room Collection has greatly expanded in recent years and the genealogy section now covers all 50 states. To assist the serious researcher they have a machine that allows you to capture images from their huge microfilm archive, frame by frame, onto a thumb drive to take home and study or transcribe at your leisure.

Journey to the Piedmont Past, an Interactive Workshop
September 29 to October 1, Schiele Museum, Gastonia,

Discover the Piedmont Past as you explore trades and technology vital to daily survival in the Carolina Backcountry.

Orientation: Discovering the Past, Friday, September 29 at 6 to 9 pm.

Explore, through primary source accounts, the story of early settlement in this region. Learn about period resource materials and how to bring to life your frontier interpretation and teaching. Included and required with either or both of the sessions.

Session I: Domestic Industry, Saturday, September 30 at 9 am to 4 pm.

Discover through hands-on experience, the tools, technologies, and natural materials used to carve a life in the wilderness. Try your hand at frontier skills such as fiber production and open-hearth cooking. \$85.00.

Session II: Frontier Trades, Sunday, October 1 at 9 am to 4 pm.

Natural resources and trade shaped the development of the Backcountry. Experience first-hand some common trades of the 18th-century such as leatherworking and blacksmithing. \$85.00.

Site News

The Iredell Museums in Statesville is Hiring.

They are looking for a creative, independent, personable, and hard-working Program Assistant to work 15 to 20 hours per week on weekday morning and Saturdays. If you, or someone you know, is interested, reply directly to the museum at ajohnston@iredellmuseums.org

Job Opportunity at Latta Plantation.

Latta needs someone to care for the animals in the early morning from Monday to Friday – 20 to 30 hours per week. Large animal experience including hoof trimming and sheep shearing is required. Contact the executive director David Clay at dclay@lattaplantation.org for more information.

Project Job Opportunity in Kings Mountain

The Kings Mountain Historical Museum and the Mauney Memorial Library in Kings Mountain have received a grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS) to digitize the Museum's photograph and archival collections. The position is part-time, up to 20 hours per week through June 2018. Those interested should contact the museum director Adria Foch at kmhmdirector@outlook.com

Matthews Heritage Museum Docent Training.

The museum is recruiting new docents who can be at the museum either the 4th Friday of each month from 1 to 4 pm or the 3rd Saturday of each month from 1 to 4. There will be a training session for new docents from 10 am to noon on the four Thursdays in September. If you are interested, drop by the Museum Thursdays through Saturdays between 10 am and 4:30 pm or call 704 708 4996.

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>

Paranormal Grounds Investigation, Friday and Saturday October 20 and 21 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm.

Join professional ghost hunters as they take groups of no more than 20 guests through the grounds of Rosedale's 200 year old plantation, and attempt contact with the beyond. You will use the latest technology in partnership with the Charlotte Area Paranormal Society. Wear flat, quiet comfortable shoes and bring a small flashlight.

Paranormal House Investigation, Saturday October 21 from 9:30 pm to Midnight.

Join professional ghost hunters as they take groups of no more than 8 guests through the 4 story, 200 year old plantation house and attempt contact with the beyond. You will use the latest technology in partnership with the Charlotte Area Paranormal Society. Wear flat, quiet comfortable shoes and bring a small flashlight.

Spirits of Rosedale, Friday & Saturday, October 27 & 28 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm.

The Spirits of Rosedale takes visitors on a night tour through the plantation home's first floor, kitchen basement, and gardens. Rosedale's theatrical production team presents this family-friendly Halloween production appropriate for audiences ages 6 and up. Tours start every 30 minutes beginning at 7 pm with the last tour beginning at 9:30 pm. Each group is limited to 15 people, tours last approximately 45 minutes.

Historic Latta Plantation

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

A Hornets Nest of Rebellion - War in Charlottetown, Saturday and Sunday, September 2 and 3 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Meet Colonel Thomas Polk and General Charles, Lord Cornwallis. Learn about the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and see it's repercussions as the Revolutionary War makes its way through the Carolina Back Country. The circa 1800 living-history farm and cotton plantation will buzz with action. Patriot and British soldier camps will be open for visitors and children's drills will take place daily. The farm animals will be out for the children to meet and the home, outbuildings, barn, and cabins will be open for demonstrations.

Eighteenth century vendors (called sutlers) will be on-site selling goods of the time. Food vendors will include Appalachian Smoke, Anna's Sweet Treats, and Olde Mecklenburg Brewery. Revolutionary War battle reenactments will take place at noon and 3 pm on Saturday and at 2 pm on Sunday.

Hugh Torrance House and Store

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

House Tours on first and third Sundays from 2 to 5 pm, May through October.

The Hugh Torrance House and Store is truly a Mecklenburg treasure. The log house section of the building was built as a residence about 1780. In 1805 the building was expanded to include a store which operated until 1825. As the Torrance family obtained land and wealth it became a cotton plantation of 3,000 acres worked by over a hundred slaves. Extensive family history kept through the generations allows us to interpret nearly a century of Mecklenburg's rich mercantile and plantation history.

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

Mod VIP Party, Thursday, September 7 from 6 to 8:30 pm at Hans Krug Cabinetry, 4310 Sharon Rd., \$25.00.

Meet and socialize with current and past Mad About Modern homeowners, volunteers, organizers, VIP guests and enthusiasts. This is the first year we have opened this exclusive party to the public and there are a limited number of tickets available.

Mad About Modern Home Tour, Saturday, September 9 from 10 am to 4 pm, \$30.00.

Celebrate Charlotte's unique midcentury modern architectural history by touring a selection of seven homes dating from 1955 to 1991. This tour includes the Mod Designer Showcase Home located at 5668 Lansing Drive. This diamond in the rough will be transformed by interior designers and builders this summer, and our tour guests will be the first to see the finished product. See <https://www.madaboutmodern.com> for details and tickets.

First World War Lecture Series at the Charlotte Museum of History.

A project of the Charlotte Public Library, UNC Charlotte and the Charlotte Museum of History.

Over There: The United States Enters World War I, Thursday, September 21 at 6 to 8 pm.

Dr. Steve Sabol, Department of History, UNC Charlotte.

Great Britain and the Great War, Thursday, October 12 at 6 to 8 pm.

Dr. Peter Thorsheim, Department of History, UNC Charlotte.

Mobilizing the Kitchen: Women, Food and the WWI Homefront, Thursday, November 9 from 6 to 8 pm.

Dr. Heather R. Perry, Department of History, UNC Charlotte.

Historic Brattonsville

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

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

By the Sweat of Our Brows, Saturday, September 9 from 10 am to 4 pm.

This special program tells the story of the plantation's enslaved from colonial times through Reconstruction. Local church hymn choirs will perform and African American descendants from Brattonsville plantation come together to tell their story. Referred to as the "Seven Sacred Families of Brattonsville," the surnames are: Bratton, Crawford, Feaster/Femster, Lowry, Moore, Smith, and Thompson.

Historically dressed interpreters will portray the lives of the enslaved on a Carolina Backcountry plantation while the US Colored Troops give a living history interpretation. There will be historic cooking over open hearths, cotton ginning, farming chores and playing African-American folk games. Dr. Lisa Bratton will discuss researching family history. There will be music by the Gold Hill Baptist Church Choir followed by the 'calling of the names' from the Probate List, which declared freedom for the "Seven Sacred Families of Brattonsville."

Spirits and Stories, Saturday, October 21 from 3 to 9 pm.

Join us for an afternoon and evening of good old-fashioned fun. There will be historic harvest demonstrations, hands-on activities, wagon rides and more for kids of all ages. The highlight of the experience will be the ghost tours. Historically dressed interpreters will lead you on a candlelit path where you will encounter spirits of the past who have a connection to the Bratton plantation. After your encounter with the spirits try to relax around the campfire to warm your toes. There will be musical entertainment plus favorite fall foods available for purchase.

Civil War Reenactment, Saturday, October 28 from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday, October 29 from 10 am to 3 pm.

John S. Bratton's widow Harriett and her grown children were staunch supporters of the Confederacy. Experience the Civil War that ravaged America and tore their world apart. There will be battle reenactments, cannon-firing demonstrations, camp life activities and children's military drills. Shop for reproduction items along sutlers row and enjoy family-friendly foods.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

Slave Dwelling Project Weekend, September 29-30.

The President James K Polk State Historic Site and The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts+Culture present a weekend of events on historic preservation, interpretation, community, and family.

Stories Untold: A Communal Dinner, Friday, September 29 at 5:30 to 8 pm, \$50.00

This dinner will be at The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts+Culture in uptown Charlotte. The keynote speaker will be Mr. Joseph McGill, Founder and Executive Director of the Slave Dwelling Project.

Home is Where the Heart is: Cabin Sleepover Experience, Friday, September 29, from 9 pm, Free.

Joseph McGill will conduct a lifetime experience of sleeping in a representative slave cabin at the President James K. Polk State Historic Site. The evening will include a discussion on the life experiences of enslaved African Americans, contemporary social issues and the U.S. presidency. Participants will be selected at random from those attending the Stories Untold Dinner and notified of their selection one week prior to the experience.

Inalienable Rights: Living History through the Eyes of the Enslaved, Saturday, September 30 from 10 am to 3 pm, Free.

Families will encounter folks in our living history village to learn more about the life experiences of enslaved peoples through stories and lectures related to the lives of enslaved African Americans. Interpreters will demonstrate skills such as cooking, quilting, brick-making and blacksmithing.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

Fall Living History, Saturday, October 14 from 9 am to 5 pm, Free.

Get a glimpse of what daily life was like for the garrison of Fort Dobbs through on-going displays of camp life, historic cooking, and scheduled musket and cannon firing demonstrations.

Matthews Heritage Museum

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

Matthews Walking Ghost Tour, Saturday, October 28, tours at 7:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Come learn the history of Matthews and meet some of the early residents. Reservations needed: 704-614-5836

Exhibit: Widgets and Thing-A-Ma-Jigs, Part Two: An Exhibit of the Mostly Unknown.

On display until October 14. Have you ever come across an object but didn't know what it was? A tool from another time, no longer used by the general public? Well, The Matthews Heritage Museum has a whole exhibit of items that might stump even antique lovers.

Kings Mountain Historical Museum

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

www.kingsmountainmuseum.org

Great Gatsby: Cleveland County in the Roaring Twenties, Exhibit on through October 14, Free.

In the 1920s, Cleveland County experienced an economic boom and bust, the heyday of the textile mills, the birth of the political engine known as the Shelby Dynasty, and improved education, healthcare, technology, and transportation systems. This area also saw violent disputes over labor rights and the racial inequality of the Jim Crow system in that decade. Visitors will be able to see dramatic social, economic, and political changes reflected in the clothing, music, dances, slang, and products of the era. This is an original exhibit with additional items on loan from the Earl Scruggs Center/Cleveland County Museum Collection.

14th Annual Reverse Raffle & Auctions, Saturday, September 9 at 5:30 pm.

Event includes Reverse Raffle & Live, Silent, and Cake Auctions. Tickets are \$125 each which includes dinner for two and a 1-in-300 chance to win the Grand Prize of \$10,000.

Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site

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

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

Gold Festival and Panning Competition, Saturday, September 9 from 9 am to 5 pm.

Registration for the panning competitions will begin at 9 am. From 10 am to noon youth will be able to work log and cradle rockers and view displays on rocks and minerals. The panning competitions will begin at noon for professionals, youths and amateur adults. \$5 charge for amateurs, \$15 for professional panners

Charlotte Folk Society

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte

www.folksociety.org

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams, Friday, September 8, The Glorifying Vines Sisters performing in the African American quartet gospel tradition, Free.

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte. 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

Festival in the Park, Charlotte Folk Society Folk Stage at Freedom Park.

Celtic, old-time, country, honky tonk, folk, singer/songwriters, gospel, and bluegrass music and dancers from several traditions. Friday, September 22 from 4 to 9:30 pm, Saturday, September 23 from 10 am to 9:30 pm, Sunday, September 24 from 11 am to 9:30 pm.

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams, Friday, October 13, features Bluegrass by Wyatt Rice & Friends, Free.

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte. 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

Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

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

North Carolina & the Great War.

This is a traveling exhibit from the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in Raleigh which will be on exhibit from August 28th through October 8th.

Lando-Manetta Mills History Center

3801 Lando Road, Lando, SC, 803-789-6475, <http://landomanettamilshistorycenter.com>

This delightful small town museum commemorates Lando-Manetta Mills and the community that dates from before the Revolution. Located 32 miles south of Charlotte, near Landsford Canal it is open most weekday mornings and Sunday afternoons. Call to check hours before coming.

Lando Days, Saturday, October 7 from 10 am to 3 pm, Free.

There will be an encampment of Revolutionary soldiers who will fire the town cannon. There will be a kids play area, live bands, classic car show, museum tours plus vendors of hot dogs, BBQ plates and baked goods.

Davidson Historical Society

Post Office Box 144, Davidson, NC 28036
<http://www.davidsonhistoricalsociety.org>

The History of the Catawba River, Sunday, September 17 at 4 pm, Davidson Friends Meetinghouse, 625 South Street, Davidson, Free.

Emilee Syrewicze, Executive Director of the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation will examine the historical significance of the Catawba River and how its development has shaped its current status as one of America's Most Endangered Rivers.

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>

Backcountry Militia Encampment, Saturday, September 2 from 9 am to 6 pm, Free.

The Backcountry Militia will demonstrate a variety of 18th century activities with weapons firing demonstrations.

York County Genealogical & Historical Society

P.O Box 3061 CRS, Rock Hill, SC 29732, <http://www.weblandinc.com/ycghs/member.html>

**The Springs Story: Development of a Southern Textile Empire, Sunday September 17 at 3 pm,
Unity Presbyterian Church, Historic Sanctuary, 303 Tom Hall Street, Fort Mill, Free.**

No other company had more influence on the development of York, Chester, and Lancaster counties than Springs Industries. Learn how larger-than-life figures in the White and Springs families created this textile empire. Ann Evans, Director of the Springs Close Family Archives at the White Homestead, will tell the remarkable story of this family and its legacy for our area.

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