

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Promoting Local History through Education and Research

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Look Inside This Issue

Order your Hart Square Tickets Now.

Two stories of the Battle of Kings Mountain.

A new book on the Cherokee wars of 1760.

Interesting programs at the MHA Dinner and the MHA Docents meetings.

Going on a Field Trip! Join the Docents on one of their famous trips.

Other interesting articles, lots of site news and the History Calendar for the next two months.

Two Stories of King's Mountain

The October 7, 1780 Battle of King's Mountain is the subject of a number of books. Two that are well written and complementary are a novel by Sharyn McCrumb and a history by Randell Jones; they are reviewed below. Thomas Jefferson believed the battle was the turning point of the American Revolution, a fact most historians have ignored until recently. Many of its participants recorded their experiences; some at the time, others decades later, leaving a wealth of documentation. The topic is timely. It is the subject of Randell Jones' program in September, and on October 13th we'll visit Historic Camden, scene of a precursor to King's Mountain. Ann Williams

King's Mountain
By Sharyn McCrumb

It's a rare delight to read an historical novel that is beautifully written and steeped in accuracy. This rendition of the 1780 battle of King's Mountain, published in 2013, is among the best. McCrumb, a descendant of an overmountain man who fought there, knows how her mountain people speak and how they think. Combine that with thorough research and her gift for language, and you have a book well worth reading.

The tiny mountain that straddles the border of the Carolinas was named for Charles King who once lived at its foot. Major Ferguson led the British consisting of about a thousand American born loyalists gathered from hither and yon. The American Patriots were overmountain militias along with militias from Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, and central North Carolina. They also numbered nearly a thousand.

The story is told from the point of view of Col. John Sevier, a leader of the overmountain men. Sevier's grandparents were Huguenots, originally named Xavier, from Navarre nestled in the mountains between France and Spain. They settled in the mountains of Virginia, then John Sevier moved to a valley in the part of North Carolina that became Tennessee. The British ordered them to leave their land as they were violating a treaty ceding the land west of the mountains to the Indians. Sevier and his Scots-Irish neighbors took the edict as a dare and didn't budge. When the Revolutionary War came to the South there was no question of which side to take.

By 1780 the war was going well for the British. Charleston had been seized and all that was left to do was mop up the South. Camden fell easily, but they hadn't reckoned on the feistiness in western Carolina. McCrumb, through the voice of Sevier, alludes to the many first person accounts that would be written: "There would be a thousand stories spun out of the confusion of this battle, for every man here would have his own narrow escape, his own sorrowful memory, or his little personal triumph to remember. To piece the battle together, like the women fashion the separate squares of a quilt, you would need to gather together all those stories."

The book shares many of them, but McCrumb's greatest achievement is fleshing out personalities. They are all superbly human with the proper assortment of talents and foibles. Benjamin Cleveland was a huge bear of a man who believed, probably erroneously, that he descended from Oliver Cromwell. William Campbell was a brother-in-law of Patrick Henry, so the world should worship at his feet. Both men were full of themselves, but fair and even-handed to a fault. Isaac Shelby was a seasoned soldier, logical and single-minded; his voice revealed their battle strategy. Even the villains were humanized. Ferguson, the second son of a minor nobleman, was always served life's leftovers and was ill prepared to fight for his king. She painted James Williams as a scoundrel with an overabundance of greed, who redeemed himself in the end as a true patriot. Many historians attribute his supposed deviousness to falsehoods spread by rivals, and believe him to have always been entirely honorable.

McCrumb's stories usually have a mystical character. Virginia Paul and Virginia Sal were real women who tended Ferguson's laundry and other "needs". They give us Ferguson's story, and one of them foresees his death in a light but eerie touch.

The book does have a few shortcomings. It should have maps! The paths of the various combatants are hard to follow from narrative alone; many important landmarks are not on modern maps. And there are some historical inaccuracies – it is a novel after all – most are sins of omission.

Before They Were Heroes at King's Mountain By Randell Jones

Jones' book, published in 2011, tells the same story in much more detail. It is a compilation of three regional editions of the book that he wrote about precursors to the conflict in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. He tells how the French and Indian War, the Cherokee Wars, and increasing problems with British governance all led up to the American Revolution. With this history he introduces us to the leaders and participants who would fight at King's Mountain. He doesn't draw personalities as cleverly as McCrumb does (she may have taken liberties); Jones' book is a military history and his descriptions of the characters' past military experiences and those in 1780 are splendid. And he does have maps! Much of the story is of the gathering of the various militia groups from many places, and following their complicated treks as they try to locate and destroy Ferguson before he can keep his promise of crossing the mountains to kill them or rout them out of their settlements.

Jones has an excellent sense of history. His rendering is precise and he documents facts from primary sources. He tells when something is assumed from extensive circumstantial evidence, "is said to be" by descendants or previous historians, or when reports are contradictory. His writing demonstrates a mastery of military strategy.

Both books tell about Mary Patton who made black powder, and how difficult, dangerous, and disagreeable her trade was. They both relate the deceptive capers of a pair of patriot spies. Enoch Gilmer could convincingly assume any number of personas to weasel information from Tories; Joseph Kerr had a birth defect that made him seem harmless and perhaps a bit simple.

Jones describes the battle itself in very understandable military detail. After learning where Ferguson was, the patriots surrounded the mountain and ascended in columns fighting Indian style as they had learned to do in the Cherokee wars. Some of Ferguson's troops had been well trained in British field warfare, and attempted to march down the mountain firing shoulder to shoulder ending with a bayonet charge. The bayonet charges were the most deadly and fearful part of this strategy, as it is difficult to shoot downhill with accuracy. Ferguson tried to train his militia troops gathered locally to fight the same way, but the men found the unfamiliar tactics awkward. This situation and familiarity with mountainous terrain rendered favor to the patriots whose bravery could not be contained. Ferguson quickly realized they were done for, but refused to surrender and tried to make an escape down the mountain. As Virginia Paul, one of his "laundry" maids, rode away from battle she told the patriots how Ferguson could be identified, and he was promptly shot multiple times and killed. Why did she do such a thing? Perhaps having two mistresses is not a wise idea. Virginia Sal was killed in the battle and is buried with him.

There were casualties on both sides, but the battle was an overwhelming victory for the patriots. Yet they could not simply mount their horses and ride home in the glow of victory. The aftermath of war is not a pretty sight. There were bodies to be buried and wounded to be tended. Shallow graves were dug for the rapidly rotting corpses that did little to discourage the wolves and vultures. And the war was not over; other battles lay ahead. But in time those brave soldiers returned to their ordinary lives. Today we reap the benefit of their brave sacrifice.

An accidental howler: Ferguson used a pair of silver whistles to communicate with his troops during battle, as drum rolls could be drowned out by gunfire. Jones wrote “he gave his orders by tweets...” What fun it is to watch words attract new meanings.

The Cherokee War of 1759 to 1761

Most of us know a good deal about the American Revolution of 1775 to 1783, but very little about what led up to it. There are accounts of the Seven-Years War, called the French and Indian war on this side of the Atlantic, but until now there has not been a detailed scholarly study of the Anglo-Cherokee War of 1759-1761 which ranged through the back country of North and South Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee. An understanding of these wars provides the back story necessary for a full understanding of our Revolution. Now Daniel J. Tortora has remedied that fault with his new book from The University of North Carolina Press, *Carolina in Crisis, Cherokees, Colonists, and Slaves in the American Southeast, 1756-1763*. In his excellent and well-written book he tells the complete story of this important though little known part of early American history in great detail while examining the events that led up to it, the motivations of the forces involved and the effect of this conflict on events fifteen years later.

Today Dr. Tortora is a professor at Colby College at Waterville, Maine but his Masters is from The University of South Carolina and his PhD, on this topic, is from Duke University. In his studies he concentrated on the interaction between the British rulers, the American settlers, their black slaves and the Native Americans including not only the Cherokee, but the Catawba and Chickasaw as well. His research included original military and diplomatic correspondence, early newspapers and the speeches of the Cherokee people. The book is illustrated with several excellent maps which are vital to understanding this wide-ranging conflict.

A number of groups were involved in this war, each of which had a very different way of viewing the world. We think of the Cherokee Indians as a nation-state but this idea existed only in the imagination of the Europeans. They lived in fifty autonomous villages of about three hundred inhabitants each for a total population of about 15,000. These villages were loosely grouped in five clusters (the Lower, Valley, Middle, Out and Overhill groups) organized around seven “mother towns” in seven clans – the Bird, Blue, Deer, Long Hair, Paint, Wild-Potato, and Wolf. Their languages were similar, but different from town to town. It was a matrilineal society with a unifying custom of blood retribution. When a man was murdered or killed in battle his wife or mother had the duty to see that an enemy was killed to atone for that death. Until that revenge was exacted the ghost of the dead man haunted the family bringing famine, disease and death. Any member of the offending clan, in this case the white men, would fulfill this duty. The Cherokees took prisoners who were often adopted into the clan to replace the members who had been killed.

The British authorities, both military and civilian looked down on the settlers and there were similar differences between the tidewater and backcountry settlers. African-American slaves were thought to be planning a rebellion similar to the bloody one in Jamaica in 1760 so the settlers asked for a law prohibiting the importation of slaves which the British authorities refused. These differences increased during and after this war, contributing to the eventual American Revolution.

The Cherokee war of 1759 to 1761 had its beginning during the French and Indian wars when the Cherokees sent war parties north to support the British Army in its assault on French Fort Duquesne, where Pittsburgh is today.

These parties returned home in late summer and a number of them were ambushed, killed and scalped by the backcountry settlers in Virginia either because they thought they were northern, enemy, Indians or more likely because the Virginia authorities had placed a bounty on Indian scalps.

When news of these atrocities reached the Cherokee villages, war parties went out to avenge the murders. They didn't get all the way to Virginia but raided in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. The British raised an army and killed Cherokees, burning their villages and winter stores of grain. The Indians retaliated, the British retaliated, and finally peace treaties were signed with some of the Indians. These treaties were essentially meaningless because of a fundamental misunderstanding between the two societies about how the others were organized. The total Cherokee population had been reduced by one-third due to war, famine and disease. This treaty allowed the British authorities to declare victory and go home while the Cherokees got breathing room to rebuild their society and rearm for the next conflict, fifteen years later.

This is a part of our history that is important to our understanding of what came after it. It should be known better and Dr. Tortora's book will lead the way. Jim Williams

From the Chairman

I hope you had a relaxing summer and managed to stay cool. Our Docent meetings resume on the first of September. A major goal of the Mecklenburg Historical Association is to preserve our local heritage. One way we meet that goal is by providing interesting and informative programs focusing on the history of Charlotte-Mecklenburg and the surrounding area. Visitors are always welcome. September's program is set in the 18th century with Randell Jones, a Roads Scholar Speaker from the North Carolina Humanities Council, speaking about the connection between Mecklenburg County and the backcountry militiamen on their journey to the Battle of Kings Mountain. In October we move to the 19th century and Beth Harris will share research from Historic Rosedale on the enslaved families owned by Dr. D.T. Caldwell.

In October we will be traveling to Camden, SC and Pearl Fryar's Topiary Garden in Bishopville, SC. Camden, located at the head of navigation on the Catawba/Wateree River, was important for people in Mecklenburg who dealt with the Charleston merchants. Before railroads, goods were sent overland (or by the river when possible) to Camden and then by river to Charleston. During the Revolutionary War, Camden was also significant. Registration time is very short so please bring your check to the September meeting, and invite your friends to join us.

Speaking of furthering our knowledge of local history, the list of speakers for our 2016 MHA Docent Lecture Series has been finalized. The series is an outreach program on local history for the community at large. New Docents are encouraged to attend as part of their training. Attending the sessions is a great way for experienced Docents to supplement your knowledge and learn something new. See you September 1st. Janet Dyer

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the November/December issue of the Dandelion is October 14.

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. Note that the first Tuesday in September is the first day of the month. We meet before Labor Day this year, so mark your calendar!

Tuesday, September 1, 2015

They Came Through Here: Mecklenburg's Connection to the Battle of Kings Mountain

Newly developed history about the Battle of Kings Mountain reveals an exciting connection for the residents of Mecklenburg County and the surrounding area. The much celebrated Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, most of which lies in North Carolina, commemorates and interprets the route of the backcountry militiamen who came from the overmountain region and from the Yadkin River valley. The route of the South Carolina militia and the Lincoln County militia are not part of that national historic trail but they are most certainly a part of the story—this new story. That route, with footprints in Mecklenburg County, changes substantially the appreciation we have of these heroes.

Writer and storyteller Randell Jones will present the program. Randell has done copious research on the topic and is the author of *Before They Were Heroes at Kings Mountain* reviewed elsewhere in this newsletter. His books and his speaking schedule can be seen at www.danielboonefootsteps.com Randell is a Road Scholar speaker. This project is made possible by a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council, a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Towards an Integrated Interpretations of the Enslaved at Rosedale Plantation

Uncomfortable feelings, lack of primary source material, and difficulties with supporters are all challenges faced by the staff of historic plantation sites as they wrestle with how to interpret the enslaved to the public. Beth Harris, former curator of education at Historic Rosedale, will present her reflections and research regarding the enslaved of Rosedale. From an initial embarrassing moment in her early days at Rosedale to new discoveries and interpretation in 2013, Beth will share her journey to more fully understand an often-invisible history as she and volunteer Linda Vista tracked down previously unexamined records, visited gravesites, read background material, and looked at over 300 Mecklenburg County slave deeds. Beth has also traced the descendants of some of Rosedale's slaves into modern times. You will be amazed at all of the information she had found.

MHA Docent Field Trip

South Carolina Excursion

The MHA Docents invite you to join us on Tuesday, October 13, on a bus trip to two wonderful upstate South Carolina Sites: Historic Camden and Pearl Fryar's Topiary Garden.

We'll have a guided tour of Historic Camden, a 107 acre site commemorating the Revolutionary War's Battle of Camden. In 1780 after Charleston fell, General Lord Cornwallis took his troops inland to conquer the south. On August 16, he fought to secure the village of Camden and handily won. This was Cornwallis' last solid victory before the tide of war began to turn at King's Mountain. Meanwhile, Cornwallis appropriated Joseph Kershaw's fine home and used it as a supply post for the next eleven months. The home has been beautifully restored on its original foundations, and is the centerpiece of the site. The site also has several other restored 18th and 19th century restored houses and log cabins, a blacksmith shop, and many other exhibits. Of Course there is a gift shop.



When Pearl Fryar moved into his suburban Bishopville ranch house, it was surrounded by three acres of barren cornfields. He wanted to tidy up his land and vie for “yard of the month” recognition, so he asked a local nursery if he could have some sad little discarded shrubs. More than two decades later his yard has become an amazing and nationally known museum of fanciful topiary art studded with yard-art sculptures. Most topiary sculptors aim to create animals or other recognizable forms; Fryar’s work comes entirely from the imagination, and features such whimsies as the fishbone and wedding cake trees. We’ll hear Pearl talk about creating his fantasy gardens, and the scholarships he provides to economically deprived students with potential.

We will leave the Sugaw Creek Church parking lot promptly at 8 am; plan to be there by 7:45. We’ll arrive at Camden about 10, have our guided tour, then have lunch in Camden at the Hifalutin Restaurant. After lunch we’ll go to the topiary garden in Bishopville. We should be back in Charlotte by 6 pm. The cost of the trip is \$45 which includes the bus, admissions, and a donation to Pearl’s scholarship fund, but not lunch. We need about twenty-eight people to cover the cost of the bus, and we can take about a dozen more. Guests are both welcome and encouraged! We’ll begin taking reservations the 1st of September, and we **must** have your check by September 23rd. Please register as soon as possible so that we can finalize arrangements; your check will be returned if the trip has to be canceled. Make your check payable to **MHA Docents** and give it to Valerie Jones at the September meeting, or mail it to her at 4700 Coronado Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212.



MHA Biennial History Lectures Save the Dates!

The speakers and topics for the February lectures have been finalized. On February 6th we’ll have two authors: Scott Syfert who wrote a scholarly defense of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, and Tony Zeiss who drew from the diary of a boy soldier in the Revolutionary War. On February 13th Kay Moss will be an 18th century herb woman, and Janet Dyer will talk about Dr. D. T. Caldwell’s antebellum medical practice. On February 20 music will be the focus: Tom Hanchett’s topic is 1930s music in Charlotte, and Michael Scoggins will cover the Scotch-Irish influence on Carolina’s music. Details will be in the next Dandelion.

May 20th – A Shared Heritage?

On May 20th as we assembled in Settler’s Cemetery to honor Thomas Polk, we noticed another group there, a group of black men and women dressed in colorful African garments complete with bright turbans and red fezzes. We were curious as to why they were gathering at a place so heavily identified as Scots-Irish, so several of us stopped to chat. They said they were Moors (an Islamic sect) whose ancestors came from what is now Morocco, and they were celebrating the birthday of our namesake, Queen Charlotte, who was one of their own. She was born on May 19th, but they considered Meck Dec day an appropriate time to celebrate both events.

Some historians believe that Queen Charlotte had ancestors in the African branch of the Portuguese Royal House. Other historians deny it. African Moors took over the Iberian Peninsula in the 8th century and ruled for about 300 years. Their presence in Spain and Portugal remained for much longer. It is said that the German nobility was proud of their connection with African nobility, but when Charlotte married the English King that history was downplayed. Slavery was very much a fact of life in England and her colonies. Perhaps most interesting of all is that two very different groups met that morning in Settler's Cemetery each proudly celebrating a deeply held belief in one side of a disputed history.

The Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley

Cooks, The Greatest Tool Is You!

Several cooking guild members attended the national ALHFAM meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia where they presented a program in the form of a panel discussion. The four panelists were all open hearth cooks from other guilds or sites with varied experiences, but equal passion. Our own Sharon Van Kuren was the moderator. Prior to the event each panelist received biographies of the others plus a list of questions they might address.

The 45 minute panel discussion investigated many areas, such as: Why did you decide to hearth cook? What were your basic needs? Cooking equipment? Locating a host site? Do you have a mission statement? How are you funded? How do you recruit new members? Insurance? Fire wood supply? Training of new members? They also discussed programs and continuing education. The audience asked for opinions and suggestions from the panel which led to conversations that lasted long after the session ended. It was the consensus of the panelists that the session was well received by those who attended.

The Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley concluded that no matter what path a cook takes that "The Greatest Tool Is You".
Sharon Van Kuren

MHA Dinner Meeting

Under Lake Norman: A Community History

Monday, September 21, at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Dinner is at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:15. Those not having dinner are welcome to enjoy the program at no charge. To make a reservation for dinner use the order form in your MHA Newsletter or contact Robin Brabham at Mecklenburg1775@yahoo.com or 704-543-7519.

In 1958, Duke Power Company announced plans to build a new dam and hydro-electric plant on the Catawba River. The flooding of the land meant the loss of part of the heritage of four counties while leading to the creation of new economic opportunities and recreational facilities.

Using the process of crowd sourcing—asking a diverse group of people to contribute source material for a project—the Davidson College Archives is seeking to gather the stories and photographs of properties under the lake and to encourage the study of



ecological, economic, and social change in the surrounding area. This talk will focus on the project, what's under the water and what new stories are being uncovered. For a sample of the discoveries, see the website, <http://sites.davidson.edu/archives/community/under-lkn>

Jan Blodgett, our speaker, has been College Archivist at Davidson College since 1994. She has master's degrees in library science and history and a Ph. D. in American Studies. She is the author of three books, the most recent being a history of the town of Davidson, *One Town, Many Voices*, co-written with Ralph Levering.

Hart Square Tickets

For more than thirty years, Dr. Robert Hart of Hickory has rescued and restored life in the Carolinas in the nineteenth century, recreating an entire village, Hart Square – the largest collection of original historic log buildings in the United States. Each year on the fourth Saturday in October, (October 24th this year), Dr. and Mrs. Hart open this restoration project to the public. Dating from 1782 to 1873, the seventy log structures—chapels, barns, houses, shops, and more—are all furnished, and over 275 volunteer artisans demonstrate period techniques such as flax breaking and hackling, spinning, weaving, herb dying, open-hearth cooking, broom and shoe making, bookbinding, shingle riving, wheelwrighting, tinsmithing, moonshining, and much more. A portion of the proceeds goes to the Catawba County Historical Association and the balance goes into a fund to carry on the festivals 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 Thursday, October 1 or by standing in line at that time, but as participants, 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 5 to get these tickets. This year they have put a limit of 15 tickets per participant, so get your order in early. We will receive the tickets by mid-October and mail them on to you.

Site News

News from the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library.

The Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room is partnering with the Main Library to provide shelf space for a circulating collection for several hundred history and genealogy books that can now be checked out and used in the comfort of your own home. These are duplicate titles from the Carolina Room. There are currently 400 titles on the shelf with more being added daily. You can check a book out for 3 weeks and renew it up to 2 times, unless someone has it on hold.

This collection is shelved at the end of the 900s on the 2nd floor of the Main Library or they can be sent to your home branch. Find the book in the on-line catalog, reserve it and request it be sent to your branch of choice. They will notify you to pick it up in a day or two. These books can be returned at any branch library.

Now is the time to go back to your list of books you want to read or study which were only available in the Carolina Room and see if you can check out a copy to read at home.

Francis Marion Symposium

The Swamp Fox Murals Trail Society will present their annual Symposium on Friday and Saturday, October 23 and 24. This is a series of eight lectures by talented amateurs and professional historians Saturday on the subject of Col. Francis Marion, The Swamp Fox, and the American Revolution in the South. For details and reservations see www.FrancisMarionSymposium.com

A New Staff Member at the President James K. Polk State Historic Site – Welcome Angela.

Angela Thorpe began working as Historic Interpreter II at the James K. Polk State Historic Site in May. An Air Force brat, Angela studied History at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. Her passion for history and museums led her to pursue her graduate studies at UNC-Greensboro, where she graduated in 2014 with her M.A. in Museum Studies. Angela was part of the team that spearheaded the Warnersville Community History Project and Exhibit at the Greensboro Historical Museum, and most recently worked as a researcher for The HistoryMakers African-American video oral history archive in Chicago. She is thrilled to be a member of the Polk family, excited to learn about Mecklenburg County's rich history, and ready to share her passion for history with the community.

The Fort Mill History Museum is Moving.

This summer The Fort Mill History Museum will move from North White Street to the historic Wilson House at 107 Clebourne Street. The Wilson house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as of 1992. Built in 1869 by Stewart Wilson it is significant as an example of Victorian residential architecture. It was one of the first homes built on Main Street and was moved to its present location in the 1920's to make way for commercial expansion. The new location will put the museum right in the heart of downtown activity, and present new opportunities to promote the community's culture and rich history to visitors and newcomers alike. The museum closed its N. White Street site in July. The date of the grand opening at 107 Clebourne Street will be announced later this summer.

The Trail of History Scheduled Programs

The Trail of History is a weekly half-hour program on WTVI PBS Charlotte, 42, Time Warner Cable 5, each Tuesday at 8:30 pm. Producer John Branscum and Presenter Garry Ritter have produced over 100 segments telling the history of the Charlotte area. The schedule for September is:

- September 8: The story of the bronze statue of Jane Wilkes which stands in the Trail of History on Little Sugar Creek near uptown Charlotte. This show tells who she was and what she accomplished plus how the statue was produced.
- September 15: The importance of the region of the Waxhaws in early Mecklenburg history and of the present day town of Waxhaw in Union County, NC.
- September 22: The story of the bronze statue of Thomas Kanawha Spratt and Catawba King Hagler which stands in the Trail of History on Little Sugar Creek near uptown Charlotte. Spratt was one of the first settlers in the area and Hagler was the chief of the Catawba Indians at that time. They were great good friends and typify the relationship between the Catawbas and the early Scotch-Irish Presbyterian settlers.
- September 29: This is the premier presentation of the bronze statue of William Henry Belk on the Trail of History in the Little Sugar Creek Greenway, near uptown Charlotte. Belk was the founder of Belk stores and built them into the institution you know so well today.

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>

Feast of the Hunters Moon Antebellum Dinner & Bicentennial Auction, Saturday, October 17 at 6 pm.

This is our signature fundraising event, a multi-course farm to table dinner with wine pairings. For our bicentennial year we will be having both silent and live auctions of one-of-a-kind pieces.

Paranormal Grounds Investigation, Friday and Saturday, October 23 and 24 at 7:30 pm

The Charlotte Area Paranormal Society will lead you through the plantation grounds & basement. Registration required.

Paranormal House Investigation, Saturday, October 24, from 8:30 to 10:30 pm.

The Charlotte Area Paranormal Society will lead you through the plantation house in groups of no more than 8. Who knows what you may find... or what may find you! Registration required.

Midnight in the Garden, Saturday, October 24 at 11:30 pm.

Is it good? Or evil? You decide! Hear the real tales and ghost stories of encounters and experiences of staff and volunteers since 2006. Registration required.

Spirits of Rosedale, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 29, 30 and 31 from 7:30 to 9:30.

Let the spirits themselves transport you through the history of this mysterious place in a family friendly Halloween program.

Latta Plantation

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

Revolutionary War Reenactment, Saturday and Sunday, September 5 and 6 from 10 am to 4 pm.

This annual event includes reenactment of The Battle of Charlotte and The Battle of the Bees, celebrating events that occurred in Mecklenburg County in the fall of 1780. Experience the American Revolution as occurred in Charlotte. Battle reenactments at 2 pm each day plus a number of timed and ongoing demonstrations and talks including weapons, artillery, uniforms, cooking, life in the Army, and 18th century drill.

Connect with Culture Day, Saturday, September 19 from 10 am to 2 pm, Free this day only.

Enjoy a day of Living History demonstrations, self-guided grounds and exhibit tours, and a visit inside the Latta home for free this day, sponsored by the Arts and Science Council.

Friends & Family Reunion and Fundraiser, Saturday, September 19 from 5 to 8 pm.

Are you related to the Latta, Sample, Alexander, or Henderson families? Do you remember visiting a friend who was farming the Latta land? Are you a Member or simply want to know more about Latta Plantation. If so, join us in our first Friends & Family Reunion Fundraiser. You will enjoy an evening of historical demonstrations, live music, BBQ and fellowship.

Ghost Walk Haunted Trail, Friday and Saturday, October 23 and 24th, at 7 pm.

Walk the haunted trail through the dark forest and visit the haunted plantation home. Terrifying sights will send goosebumps up your arms. Not recommended for children under 10.

All Hallows Eve, Saturday, October 31 from 10 am to 2 pm.

This Halloween Festival celebrates the roots and history behind costuming and jack-o-lanterns with a costume contest and trick-or-treating for the children.

Hugh Torrance House and Store

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

House Tours, First and Third Sundays from 2 to 5 pm, September and 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>

On The Way to Here: Adventures In Photography, Music And Life, Exhibit Opening, Wed., October 8.

This new exhibit of the works of photographer Daniel Coston illustrates his travels in Europe and the US as he covered musicians and artists for TV networks and nearly every major publication in the US and Europe. In his work for the Charlotte Observer he has documented the changing scenes of North Carolina society. This exhibit illustrates his insight on his subjects, and what photography has meant to him.

Magna Carta Day, Saturday, September 12, Starting at 10 am.

Magna Carta, the great charter sealed by King John and his rebellious barons in 1215 at Runnymede, listed a series of rights and duties, including that the king was subject to the law. For over 800 years the document has been cited as legal precedent and has influenced our national Constitution and Bill of Rights. Four sessions explore the history of the great charter, of rights and freedoms in the Middle Ages, and the influence of Magna Carta on our own national Constitution and Bill of Rights. There will be kids activities such as jousting and castle making.

10 am	Rights and Freedoms in the Middle Ages	11 am	What led to Magna Carta?
12 pm	Magna Carta and our Founding Documents	1pm	Medieval Art

Backcountry Days with the Charlotte Folk Society, Saturday, September 19 from 1 to 5 pm, Free.

Join us for a free celebration of the Piedmont Backcountry with a variety of musical traditions from the Charlotte Folk Society. This free family event features music, storytelling, free ice cream, and kids crafts. There will be demonstrations of eighteenth-century crafts such as basket weaving, blacksmithing, pottery, and cooking.

Schiele Museum

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

Magots, Rants, and Giggs, Sunday, September 27 from 12 to 5 pm.

Music was an integral part of life in the Carolina backcountry – a source of entertainment and a break from monotonous chores. Enjoy the sounds of 18th-century tunes played on a variety of instruments. Tap your toes, dance a gigg! Learn the story of Bryan O’Linn, a song vital to the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Autumn in Early Carolina, Sunday, October 25 from 1 to 5 pm.

Visit the Backcountry Farm to observe how early settlers prepared and enjoyed the fruits of autumn. Taste fresh, homemade apple butter; pick up an 18th-century recipe for a delicious apple dish. See backcountry folk in period dress demonstrate skills from 250 years ago.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

12031 Lancaster Hwy., Pineville, NC, 704 889 7145
www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

1846 Mexican American War Militia Muster, Saturday, October 3 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free.

Look into the life of a common citizen who has been called into service for the 1846 Mexican War. Living History re-enactors will be drilling, demonstrating domestic lifestyles and speaking with visitors about what life was like in Mecklenburg County in 1846.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882
<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

Colonial Fair, Saturday and Sunday, September 26 and 27 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Explore the lives of the men, women, and children; soldiers, natives, and settlers, who inhabited the NC frontier during the French and Indian War. Trades demonstrations, weapons firing, period games and music.

Matthews Heritage Museum

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

Matthews Alive Annual Parade, Saturday, September 5 at 10 am. Downtown Matthews.

The Matthews Heritage Museum will participate in this annual parade. Mr. Hank Donaghy will be driving his 1931 Ford with our Volunteer of the Year, Joe Brandenburg riding with him.

Exhibit Opening, Eighty Years of Scouting, Saturday, September 5.

From Daisies, to Brownies, to Cadets, to Leaders, girl scouting has provided educational opportunities for all girls. See the changes of uniforms and practices over time. Girl scouts who visit will add their thumb print to the thumb-print tree. We invite all troops in the area to visit with us and schedule a tour.

Walking Ghost Tour of Downtown Matthews, Saturday, October 24 at 7 pm.

Meet the ghosts who haunt the town and learn about our history. The Museum will be open at 6 for touring before the walk. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a flashlight. Reservations suggested.

Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

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

Charlotte in World War II: on the Home Front and in Battle, Exhibit, September 7 through January 30.

The department will be displaying a wide array of it images, ephemera and artwork that capture the war both at home and overseas. This will be exhibited in the Carnegie Gallery & Carolina Room, Third Floor, Main Library.

Genealogy 101, All Genealogists Welcome, Wednesday, October 21 from 2 to 4 pm.

University City Regional Library, 301 East W.T. Harris Boulevard.

Charlotte Folk Society

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte

www.folksociety.org

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering Concert & Jams

All programs are held at the Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte. 7:30 pm; doors open 7 pm. Free; donations appreciated. www.folksociety.org

Friday, September 11, Steph Stewart & The Boyfriends, a NC band performing original tradition-based music.

Friday, October 9, The Red Clay Ramblers, the band that helped to fuel a revival of NC old-time music and went on to win Tony Awards on Broadway.

Ice Cream Social and Backcountry Days, Saturday, September 19 from 1 to 5 pm at the Charlotte Museum of History, Free.

In partnership with the Museum and the Storytellers Guild of Charlotte, the Folk Society presents Backcountry Days: Old-Time, Celtic, Bluegrass & Appalachian Dulcimer Jam Sessions plus Storytelling, a Song Circle and free ice cream as long as it lasts.

Historic Brattonsville

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

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

By the Sweat of Our Brows, Saturday, September 12 from 10 am to 4 pm.

This special event tells the story of the plantation's enslaved from colonial times through the Reconstruction. The program's narrative includes both scholarly research and the collective memories of descendants of Bratton slaves. This year the event features African American descendants of the Bratton family who will be on site in person to share their stories. Referred to as the "Seven Sacred Families of Brattonsville," they are Bratton, Crawford, Feaster/Femster, Lowry, Moore, Smith and Thompson.

From 10 am to 2 pm enjoy historic cooking demonstrations on the open hearth, watch historically dressed interpreters make bricks out of mud hauled up from the creek, and take guided tours of the plantation buildings, while children make rag dolls and play African-American folk games. At noon, in the orientation room, Dr. Lisa Bratton will present her current research as a Bratton descendant titled – "Straight Outta Brattonsville: Amazing Facts about Enslavement that You Won't Read in History Books."

At 2:30 meet in front of the Big House for a formal program to honor those that were once enslaved. There will be a performance by "Stars of Zion," a gospel choir. Then the descendants will share their family stories and showcase artifacts that have been passed down from generation to generation. This will culminate with the

'calling of the names' from the 1865 "Freedmen's List." Nationally acclaimed poet Glenis Redmond will honor the voices from the past and beckon the voices of today.

Piedmont Pottery Festival Saturday, September 26 from 10 am to 4 pm

In addition to over twenty potters from both North and South Carolina, including contemporary Catawba Indian potters, the Piedmont Pottery Festival will explore how pottery moved civilization from creekside to the table. The Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley will be in the plantation's McConnell House throughout the day demonstrating 18th century cooking with pottery on an open hearth and presenting historic methods of food preservation using clay crocks.

Historic Brattonsville's Orientation Room will feature two artful presentations during the Piedmont Pottery Festival. At 11 a.m. Dr. Stephen Criswell, noted scholar on the regional history of pottery and director of Native American studies at USC Lancaster, will speak on contemporary Catawba Indian pottery. At 1 p.m. Buddy Wingard will present his awarding-winning documentary film about the outstanding work and life of a slave potter from Edgefield, SC - "Discovering Dave: Spirit Captured in Clay".

Regional barbecue by Gardner's BBQ, Hash & Fresh Country Sausage will be available for purchase.

Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site

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

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

End of Panning, Saturday, Saturday, October 31 from 9 am to 4 pm, Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site

Our panning season is coming to a close. The last day visitors will be able to pan for gold in 2015 will be on Halloween, Saturday, October 31st.

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>

Labor Day Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, September 5 and 6 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Join the Backcountry Militia for a Labor Day Weekend Encampment with weapons demonstrations.

7th Royal Fusiliers Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, September 19 and 20 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Learn about this special unit and the Loyalists who fought during the war.

Battle of Kings Mountain Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, October 3 and 4 from 9 am to 5 pm.

At this 235th Anniversary Encampment, there will be living history demonstrations and presentations by authors.

235th Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain, Wednesday, October 7 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Join us as we honor those who fought at the Battle of Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780.

Fort Defiance

On highway 268, 5.5 miles northeast of HWY 321, near Lenoir, NC, 828 758 1671.

www.fortdefiancenc.org

Living History Days, Saturday and Sunday, October 3 and 4 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Numerous activities are planned for the weekend with a focus on reliving history to tell the story of the Lenoir family. Demonstrations will include farming techniques with a brace of oxen, domestic life, children's work and flintlock firing demonstrations to name a few.

Kings Mountain State Park

I-85 Exit 8 in NC and follow the signs

<http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/945.aspx>

Early Food Preservation in the Back Country, Saturday, September 26 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Imagine life without a refrigerator, freezer, or processed foods that stay good for months on the shelf. Early frontier families did not have these modern conveniences, yet they still survived through winter and hard times year after year. How did they do it? Come to the Living History Farm and see for yourself how food was preserved on the frontier. You just might like it enough to start preserving your own fruits and vegetables.

Kings Mountain Historical Museum

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

www.kingsmountainmuseum.org

Reverse Raffle & Auctions, Saturday, September 12 at 5:30 pm, H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life and Conference Center.

This 12th annual event provides vital support for the Museum exhibits and programs you enjoy. Each \$125 raffle ticket provides dinner for two guests; one of the 300 ticket holders will receive a \$10,000 Grand Prize, and there will be many great door prizes. Event includes Live, Silent & Cake Auctions.

City of Kings Mountain's Gateway Festival, Saturday, October 10 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free.

This Annual Festival offers trolley service to transport visitors around town and through time as we celebrate the anniversary of the Revolutionary Battle of Kings Mountain. At the Museum, explore the "Pig Pickin' & Finger Lickin': Kings Mountain's Food History" exhibit, then stroll the Museum Commons to see costumed interpreters of the Historic Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley demonstrating backcountry foodways at the Robert Barber Log House.

Old Salem

<http://www.oldsalem.org>

Military History Showcase, Saturday, August 22 from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Explore Salem's history with activities and demonstrations of each military period, along with presentations of daily life in the town of Salem. Watch soldiers and militia representing the French & Indian war, Revolutionary war, War of 1812 and 1830s North Carolina Militia with weapon firing and drilling. Learn about drinking chocolate and how it was used for soldier rations, Learn how clocks worked in the 19th century, and make and taste military hardtack.



Matthews Historical Foundation

Unless otherwise stated, Programs held at the Matthews Woman's Club, 208 South Trade Street

The Catawba Indians, a Presentation by Dr. Wenonah G. Haire, Tuesday September 29 at 6:30 pm, at the Matthews Public Library.

Dr. Haire is executive director of the Catawba Cultural Preservation Project. She will be dressed in full Catawba regalia.

The Preservation of the Loray Mills, Tuesday, October 27 at 6:30 pm at the Matthews Women's Club.

Billy Hughes, founding principal in JBS Ventures and Historic Preservation Partners will speak on the preservation of the Loray mill site.

Sons of the American Revolution

For information contact: Tim Berly, tberly@carolina.rr.com 704 849 7886.

Myths of the Revolutionary War, Saturday, September 12 at 10 am, McCelvey Center, Ferguson St., York, SC Public Invited, Free.

At this meeting of the Sons of the American Revolution, author M.C. Beckham will speak on "Myths of the Revolutionary War" exposing some of the misinformation in the history of the Revolutionary War. There will also be a tour of the Southern Revolutionary War Institute conducted by Michael Scoggins. <http://scsar.org/>

Museum of the Waxhaws

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

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans, Saturday, October 3 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free.

This long-overdue Welcome Home starts with a ceremony at 11 am and is followed by a USO Style Show with singing and dancing at 1:30 pm. There will also be the museum exhibits, gold panning and games for the children. Bring a blanket or chair and your favorite Vietnam Vet to enjoy the day.

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