

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

*Promoting Local History through Education and Research*

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



September, October, 2016  
Volume 22, Number 4

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- The History List continues to grow. Today our circulation is 1,298.
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- **Now is the Time to purchase your tickets for Hart Square.**
- Lots of Site News and the History Calendar for the Fall.

*Voices From the Past: A New Event*

A year or so ago while visiting in Gadsden, Alabama an MHA Docent attended a local history event. It was held in the town cemetery and while visitors strolled through the grounds, appropriately dressed "residents" of the cemetery stood beside their gravestones and told the stories of their interesting lives. All were informative, some were touching, and some were a pure hoot. One poor lady complained that she was tired of moving as she had been dug up and "relocated" three times! That MHA Docent was Lynn Mintzer. She thought it was such a great experience that she approached our docent board asking if we would like to do something similar in Charlotte. What a great idea! The board said yes, and Lynn agreed to chair the project. Her first step was to meet with Bill Bibby, director of Charlotte's cemeteries. Bill said he was familiar with such programs in other cities, and had really wanted to have one here, but didn't know who could do it. Next Lynn talked to the Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society, and they also eagerly jumped on board.

The MHA Docent project will be called "Voices From the Past," and will take place in Settlers and Elmwood/Pinewood cemeteries on Saturday April 1, 2017. The committee has been meeting this spring and summer, and plans are falling into place. We have identified a number of those residents who would be interesting to portray; and as in Gadsden, we'd like to have a mix of important figures from history, poignant stories, and some that are just plain fun. We already have several portrayers who have agreed to assume some of their personas, and hope to soon have a cast of about twenty-five or so. We want to cover as broad a time period as possible – from our earliest settlers (I bet you can't guess who'll be Thomas Polk) to the recent past.

So you can see that we will need lots of help – your help. We are especially interested in having some people portray their own ancestors, so if your forbears lie in either of those cemeteries, please consider portraying one of them. However, anyone is free to "adopt an ancestor" and portray whomever they wish. Portrayers need not be docents, nor MHA members, nor do they need any acting experience – just people who love bringing history to life.

We also need volunteers to help with a number of logistic chores. The city is being very helpful in giving us lots of assistance. They will designate a parking area and provide shuttle service between the cemeteries. Our volunteers will help the public find the way. We may need help with costuming, props, etc. Some folks are already busy with research; more needs to be done. Publicity is a big deal; if you have contacts or ideas, let us know. If you have an ancestor at one of the cemeteries with an interesting story, but don't want to be a portrayer, pass the story on to us. In fact, we have more jobs than we have docents, so we are inviting the entire history community to volunteer and support the MHA Docents with this project. So please do join in, in whatever capacity you wish. Contact Lynn Mintzer at [lynnmhad@gmail.com](mailto:lynnmhad@gmail.com) or Ann Williams at [mhadandelion@mindspring.com](mailto:mhadandelion@mindspring.com) and tell us what it is you'd like to do. This is a big project, and we'll need lots of help to make it a big success.

Ann Williams

## *This Year's Meck Dec Celebration*

May 20, the 241<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, fell on a Friday this year and our celebration was unique in a number of ways.

Heavy rain was forecast so we moved our celebration indoors, to the second level of the Belk Theater Lobby in the Blumenthal Center. Despite this, our turnout was quite substantial including a large number of the history-loving public plus soldiers, musicians and the SAR color guard. We did have to cancel the cannon crew but by the time the speeches were completed the rain was so light that we carried on with our usual parade. We led the crowd with fife and drum to Old Settlers Cemetery and honored Thomas and Susannah Polk with the firing of muskets over their graves.

Thanks to the efforts of Scott Syfert and the May 20<sup>th</sup> Society we have a new North Carolina Highway Historical Marker uptown at Independence Square. This handsome plaque on North Tryon Street in front of the Marriott Hotel commemorates the Mecklenburg Resolves of May 31, 1775. It was dedicated by Kevin Cherry, Director of NC Archives and History to the accompaniment of fife, drum and musket volleys, despite the light rain.

The most important event of this celebration, however, was the display at the Bank of America Heritage Center at Founders Hall of the three pages that are the original documents with wording that is exceptionally strong evidence for the declaration of May 20, 1775. These documents reside in the Southern Collection, Wilson Library at UNC-Chapel Hill and some staff consider them to be the most valuable documents in the entire Southern Collection.

The display of these documents was made possible by the work through the years of former MHA President Marion Redd, and of Jane Johnson, MHA Board Member and Manager of the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. She worked to meet the security requirements of the Southern Collection and presented a wonderful display in a glass case. Throughout the few hours the exhibit was open it was thronged with interested and knowledgeable people.

To maintain security Carolina Room intern and recent UNC graduate Anne Harding picked up the documents in Chapel Hill early on the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> and drove them to Charlotte. When the exhibit closed at 5 pm she retraced her steps and returned the documents to the Southern Collection. Every minute that the documents were in Charlotte they were under the watchful eye of Anne Harding or Jane Johnson and other members of the Carolina Room staff. We have great hopes that we can repeat this display in the years to come.

For more information on America's First Declaration of Independence, see the MHA web site <http://www.meckdec.org> the May 20<sup>th</sup> Society web site <http://may20thsociety.org> the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library's site, <http://www.cmstory.org/meckdec> or read Scott Syfert's new book *The First American Declaration of Independence? The Disputed History of the Mecklenburg Declaration of May 20, 1775.* Jim Williams

## *From the Chairman*

September often seems more like the beginning of the year than January does. If you volunteer at one of the historic sites, you are gearing up for third grade tours. Perhaps you volunteer at special weekend events that are scheduled in the cooler fall months. The September Docent general meeting is a good way to ease back into the many historical events and "volunteer opportunities" after a hopefully relaxing summer. Come to the Docent general meeting on Tuesday, September 6, and catch up with friends who share your love of history, find out about upcoming events, and hear a great program by Randell Jones about Rebecca Boone and other backcountry women. Hope to see you there. Janet Dyer

*Newsletter Deadline*

The deadline for the November/December Dandelion is October 12. Send articles to Jim and Ann Williams at [mhadandelion@mindspring.com](mailto:mhadandelion@mindspring.com) Be sure to include information about holiday programming.

*Nominating Committee Report*

The MHA Docent Nominating Committee, consisting of Barbara Jackson as immediate past chairman, Alice Bostic, and Carolyn Dilda, submitted these nominations to the Docent Board for the next two-year term:

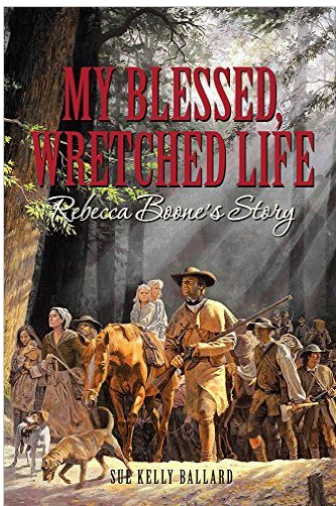
- Co-Chairmen – Audrey Mellichamp and Rachel Abernathy
- Program Chairman – Jane Estep
- Secretary – Christine Vogel
- Treasurer – Valerie Jones
- Hospitality – Linda Beverly
- Newsletter Editors – Ann and Jim Williams

After a summer of hard work, Barbara, Alice, and Carolyn were finally able to find nominees for all the board positions. But note that once again we will be led by co-chairmen. Rachel Abernathy was willing to serve, but due to family commitments is not able to step into the position right away. Our Docent guidelines state that a docent chairman should not serve consecutive terms, however they are guidelines, not by-laws, and can sometimes be departed from. The committee reported that Audrey Mellichamp, one of our current co-chairmen, was willing to extend her service if the board concurred. The board found this arrangement agreeable. We hope you will take note, and if you are asked to take on a board position or serve on a committee you will accept. Yes, there are meetings to attend, but we work well together and are passionate about sharing our history. It’s a most rewarding job. Along the same line we could use more volunteers in supplying our refreshment table. Goodies need not be homemade; when the list is passed around, sign up for a date, and bring whatever you wish.

The slate of officers will be presented at the September meeting. We’ll hold the election in October and after the results are approved by the MHA Board the new officers will be installed in January.

*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 6  
Rebecca Boone, Backcountry Woman**

Behind every successful man stands a woman. Daniel Boone, America’s pioneer hero, was no different. And he had a good one—Rebecca Bryan Boone. Her story has fallen in the shadows of her famous husband, but is now told with great care and most appropriately by one of her descendants, Sue Kelly Ballard of Kentucky.

Award-winning author and storyteller Randell Jones will share stories from the life of Daniel and Rebecca Boone and read passages from *My Blessed, Wretched Life* by Sue Kelly Ballard. (He will have autographed copies of Ballard’s book available for purchase.) Randell is a member of the Road Scholars Speakers Bureau. This project is made possible by funding from the North Carolina Humanities Council, a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Tuesday, October 4**  
**The Attempted Theft of Abraham Lincoln's Body in 1876,**

Dr. Kevin L. Burke will present the true story of a bizarre and surprisingly comedic caper that took place more than a decade after the death of one of America's most beloved Presidents. A bumbling gang of Chicago counterfeiters attempted to steal Abraham Lincoln's body and to ransom the government for its return. Dr. Burke will discuss how the Secret Service and a comedy of errors foiled this criminal plot.

Dr. Burke is a sport psychology professor at Queens University of Charlotte. He has given this entertaining presentation at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (Springfield, Illinois), Charlotte Museum of History, Gaston County Museum of Art & History, Belmont Abbey College, Kings Mountain Historical Museum, and other locations. Dr. Burke has volunteered at both the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum, and, Abraham Lincoln Tomb in Springfield, Illinois.



Dr. Burke and Friend

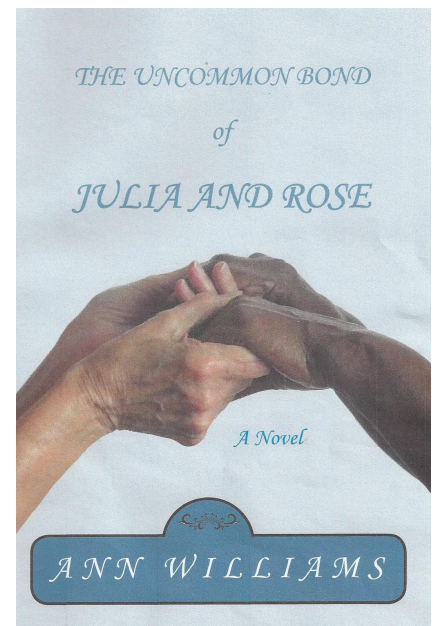
*New Docent Roster*

Valerie Jones is in the process of preparing the MHA Docent roster for 2016-2017. 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 and any of your information has changed, notify Valerie at [vyjones@carolina.rr.com](mailto:vyjones@carolina.rr.com) She'll have rosters for everyone at the October meeting.

*MHA Dinner Meeting*  
**Monday, September 19**  
*The Uncommon Bond of Julia and Rose*

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 Barbara Taylor, 1016 Goshen Place, Charlotte, NC 28211, [btaylor797@aol.com](mailto:btaylor797@aol.com) or 980-335-0326.

*The Uncommon Bond of Julia and Rose* by Ann Williams is a history-based novel about an unusually close relationship between a slave named Rose and Julia who was her owner. It is told in their two voices by way of "memory journals" written in the spring and summer of 1860, a time of fears and rumors of impending war. Their interwoven journals recount their fifty years of life together; each woman writes of those shared events from her own point of view. Julia detests slavery and adores Rose. Rose returns her affection with reservations. She deplors being property, but knows that her life has been easier than most.



Ann Williams has researched and written about antebellum plantations for many years, and has been an interpreter at most of Mecklenburg's historic plantation sites. She will talk about how the book came to be, do a bit of myth busting, and cite historic sources for some of the story's events. Then she will open the floor for discussion. She will have books available for purchase.



*MHA North Branch Meeting*  
Wednesday, September 13  
African-American History Documentation

Using funds from a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, the Davidson College Archives is reaching out to local African-American communities to document their history. The grant supports oral histories and scanning of photographs, documents and publications. The North Branch of the MHA is sponsoring a community meeting to learn more about the project and ways to participate on September 13 at 7 pm 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).

*Hart Square Tickets*

For more than thirty years, Dr. Robert Hart of Hickory has rescued and restored 19<sup>th</sup> century life in the Carolinas, 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 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 Monday, October 3, or by standing in line at that time, but as we are both 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 9** to get these tickets. There is 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.

*Time Travel*

Here I was walking forward on a path into a village. Yet I felt that I was going backwards. Up ahead was the 18<sup>th</sup> century Market Fair at Fort Frederick near Hagerstown, Maryland. All the suttlers and many of the customers were dressed in 1700's garb. The shops were white canvas tents set up in the meadow. "Good Day," we greeted the couple coming down the path towards us with their purchases in baskets and canvas bags. They were going back to their campsite. Everything there was as if were the 18<sup>th</sup> century – tent, dishes, cookware, food, clothing.

Our mission this day: To change Larry from a modern day botanist to a colonial botanist, buying all he would need from the suttlers here. Look, up ahead, a hatter. We purchased a tricorn felt hat, made to fit Larry's head. Next, we visited the Barkertown outfitters for the clothing. Lucky us! Off the racks, we found a linen shirt, a long waist coat, britches, and a scarf for his neck. All items fitting Larry and going together! But what about a coat, socks, and shoes. Missy, our seamstress, suggested that we buy linen fabric and she would make the coat. We had seen 96 Fabrics down one of these lanes. There it was. We purchased 2 pairs of socks and fine gray linen fabric for the coat and another pair of britches. No shoes, though. We will have to find them another time.

Larry and I are exhausted. This has taken all day. But on the way back to reality, we treated ourselves to shortbread. We felt good. Larry has become Monsieur Joseph Mellichamp, a French Huguenot botanist, out of Charlestown. He is in the Carolinas exploring our native plants. He is amazed at the variety we have here in the Carolinas. Through the years, the Mellichamps have been involved in native plants. To this day, they promote them for the garden. You may read about them in Larry Mellichamp's book, "Native Plants of the Southeast".

Audrey Mellichamp

## *Site News*

### **Construction of a Full Size Replica of Fort Dobbs is about to Begin.**

The Friends of Fort Dobbs have reached their financial goal for the first of three phases of the structure. There has been a ground-breaking ceremony and construction is about to begin. The first phase will be completed this winter and will include the foundation, chimney, floor joists, planks and three courses of oak logs of the outer wall. For more information or to support this worthy cause, go to [www.fortdobbs.org](http://www.fortdobbs.org)

### **Shape Note Workshop and Concert, Providence Presbyterian Church, 10140 Providence Church Lane.**

Providence Presbyterian Church is hosting a workshop and concert with folk singer Laura Boosinger on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> as part of their 250th Anniversary celebration. Learn how the congregation and the community learned to read music despite being unable to read the written word. The workshop is from 1 to 3 pm and the concert is at 7 pm in the 1858 sanctuary. There will be a suggested donation of \$10 to attend both events.

### **The Cherokee War of 1776, Rutherford's Expedition, A Special Event at the High Point Museum, Saturday, October 15 at 10 am to 1 pm.**

"A Finel Destruction of the Cherroce Nation": a quote from General Griffith Rutherford

- Robert Rambo (retired captain, US Army, War in Iraq) portrays Cherokee Peace Chief Attakullakulla, who at 15 traveled to England to meet King George II. Known as "Little Carpenter," he created alliances, but his son, Dragging Canoe, promised a "dark and bloody ground."
- Nadia Dean, a Lebanese-American who fled Beirut under fire writes from Cherokee, NC, of another war. Her book *A Demand of Blood* portrays the men, on all sides of the conflict, who fought for the land they loved, as brave, hardy, and resolutely determined to annihilate their enemy—whether British, rebel, Cherokee, or loyalist.
- Randell Jones, NC Humanities Council Road Scholar Speaker, puts history on the landscape, sharing the story of the backcountry militiamen invading remote Cherokee towns. Some of these same men would defeat the loyalist army at the Battle of Kings Mountain four years later.

### **Southern Longrifles, MESDA, Saturday Seminar, Saturday, September 17 at 10 am to 4 pm, Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, Winston-Salem.**

I've stopped people in their tracks, without firing a shot: Rifle Makers of Kentucky, Georgia, and North Carolina. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to personally examine some of the most important rifles ever made in the South. Featuring three prominent experts in the field of southern longrifle studies: Mel Hankla, C. Michael Briggs, and Wayne Elliott. The day-long program will also include an exhibit of longrifles provided by the three speakers and related to their lecture topics. Cost: \$95.

### **Volunteer Recognition Program, Tuesday, October 25 at 7 pm, at the Matthews Woman's Club.**

This meeting will recognize the Matthews Heritage Museum docents and volunteers, the Eagle Scouts who completed projects at the Reid House and Museum, and Paula Lester who will present a Power Point on the Matthews Fullwood Restoration Award and the houses that have received the award.

**York County Scholarship Award.**

The York County Genealogical and Historical Society is pleased to announce that it has awarded its \$500 scholarship for 2016 to Victoria Alison Burrell. Ms. Burrell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Burrell, will graduate from Clover High School and plans to attend Clemson University in the fall. She was recognized at the annual meeting of the society on May 15. In order to qualify for the scholarship a student must attend one of the public high schools in York County, have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, and have an interest in genealogy and / or local history.

*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, Saturday October 15 at 6 pm.**

This 6-course gourmet dinner is Rosedale's annual signature fundraiser. The event begins with an open bar cocktail hour and butlered hors d'oeuvres on the lush lawn of our formal gardens. Guests will then be welcomed into the house for their gourmet excursion back in time for a period dinner.

**Paranormal Ground Investigation, Friday and Saturday October 21 and 22 at 7 to 8:30 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. You never know what you may find... or what may find you!

**Paranormal House Investigation, Saturday October 22 from 9 to 11 pm.**

Join professional ghost hunters as they take groups of no more than 8 guests through the 4 floor, 200 year old plantation house, now known as Rosedale and attempt contact with the beyond. You will use the latest technology in partnership with the Charlotte Area Paranormal Society.

**Midnight In The Garden, Saturday October 22 at 11:30 pm to 12:30 am.**

Is it good, or evil? You decide! Hear the real tales and ghost stories of encounters and experiences of staff and volunteers since 2006. Contact will be attempted in the garden. Who will you hear this night? Who will tap you on the shoulder? What will you see?

**Spirit's of Rosedale, Friday and Saturday, October 28 and 29, doors open at 7 pm with tours: every 20 minutes to 9:20 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 team presents this family-friendly Halloween production appropriate for audiences ages 6 and up. Be careful not to linger too long with the spirits.... they are just DYING to meet you!

*Latta Plantation*

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

**Revolutionary War Battle Re-enactment, Saturday and Sunday, September 3 and 4 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Labor Day weekend Historic Latta Plantation will present their annual Revolutionary War Reenactments of the Battle of the Bees and The Battle of Charlotte. Battles will take place both days at 2 pm (bring your own chair).

Hear Colonel and Mrs Polk tell of life in Charlotte at that time and of the events leading up to these battles. Visit with the farm animals, see camp cooking, civilian life and other demonstrations plus music and food vendors.

**Celtic Heritage Day Fundraiser, Saturday September 10 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Hearing that Historic Latta Plantation had been defunded by the Arts and Science Council and lost nearly half of their annual budget, the New World Celts organization is holding a Celtic Festival. Enjoy music, beer and history with Renaissance Festival Characters, live music from Ceol Na Gael, Tom Eure and the Loch Norman Pipe Band, Irish dancing and the Old Mecklenburg Brewery.

**Open Hearth Cooking Workshop, Saturday, October 1.**

Learn open hearth cooking from an expert in the craft. You will learn how to do the tasks and use the tools of the time and how to make popular recipes from the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. This workshop has limited space as cooking will take place inside Latta's kitchen and over a campfire. Call for registration information.

**Ghost Walk Haunted Trail, Friday and Saturday Nights, October 21 and 22 from 7 to 10 pm.**

If you are afraid of the dark or ghouls and ghosts then stay at home; this Haunted Trail is for only the bravest souls. The plantation is turned into a frightening sight once the moon rises over the forest and the spooks come out at night. Those who dare must be aware that the haunted trail is outdoors and unsafe for children under 8.

**All Hallows Eve Family Day, Saturday, October 29 from 10 am to 2 pm.**

Dress in your best Halloween costumes and trick-or-treat around the Latta Plantation. Play games, see historical demonstrations and meet the friendly farm animals. Children's costume awards will be given to The Best Historical Character, The Best Classical Storybook Character, The Best Farm Animal Costume and The Most Creative Costume.

*Hugh Torrance House and Store*

8231 Gilead Road, Huntersville, NC [www.hughtorancehouseandstore.com](http://www.hughtorancehouseandstore.com)

**House Tours, Sundays September 4 and 18, October 2 and 16, from 2 to 5 pm.**

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>

**Mad About Modern 2016, Saturday, September 10 from 10 am to 4 pm, South Park area.**

Tour Charlotte's amazing collection of homes designed in this architectural style. Mid-Century modern is architectural, interior, product and graphic design that describes 20th century architecture and urban development from roughly 1933 to 1965. This tour Includes: 6 to 8 homes. Check the web site for details and registration.

***From Day to Day, Thursday, September 15 at 6 pm, Free.***

Timothy Boyce, the editor of the concentration camp diary *From Day to Day*, will discuss the story of Odd Nansen, a Norwegian architect and humanitarian. He was arrested in 1942 and spent the remainder of the war in various concentration camps. In these camps, he kept a secret diary which describes the daily life of a prisoner, including the casual brutality and random terror that he and the other prisoners suffered. Reception follows.



**They Came Through Here, Saturday, September 17 at 2 pm, Free.**

Randell Jones, award-winning author and storyteller will share new information revealed through a recent collaboration and investigation with history colleagues Bill Anderson and John Robertson to expand the understanding of how various groups of combatants followed a number of paths to the Battle of Kings Mountain. Presentation sponsored by the North Carolina Humanities Council.

**Backcountry Days with the Charlotte Folk Society, Saturday, September 17 from 1 to 5 pm, Free.**

Join us for a celebration of the Piedmont Backcountry with a variety of musical traditions from the Charlotte Folk Society. This 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.

**Teas of the British Isles: The Story of Canterbury, Sunday, September 25 at 4 pm.**

At this afternoon tea and lecture you will hear about the history of an ancient English city from the time of the Romans to the building of the cathedral and development into a modern city while you enjoy an English themed menu of tea sandwiches, scones, and desserts, along with a favorite English tea.

*Schiele Museum*

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

**Colonial Bookbinding Workshop, Saturday, September 10 at 9 to 11:30 am.**

Jim Williams will teach participants about 18th century bookbinding tools and techniques. They will fold and sew a blank book with a marbled paper cover to take home along with their own bone folder (used to crease the folds). As time allows participants will be able to "try their hand" with the tools and techniques of the craft. \$40 per person.

**Just Add Practice: Learning to Write in the Manner of the 18th Century, Saturday, September 10 at 1 to 3:30 pm.**

Not a Course in Calligraphy. Rather, this workshop is an introduction to Learning to Write in the Manner of the 18th Century. Jim Daniel will focus on learning to cut and use quill pens and to duplicate the letter forms and writing conventions of the time. Included with the course are cut and uncut quills, ink and detailed instructional materials to start you on your way. Just add practice. \$40 per person.

**Under the Shade Tree, Sunday September 25 from 1 to 5 pm.**

Escape the searing Piedmont heat under the shade of an old oak tree - join us for a lazy day of colonial pastimes: stitching, music, carving and skillful dilly-dallying.

**Backcountry Crafts Fair, Saturday, October 15 from 11 am to 4 pm.**

Hear ye! Hear ye! Come one! Come all! Come to the Fair to discover an assortment of Colonial skills and crafts from tinware to textiles, carving to cookery, music and more! Meet the artists & craftsmen of the Schiele's 18th - Century Backcountry Lifeways Studies as they demonstrate their unique trades. A perfect chance for early Holiday shopping!

*President James K. Polk State Historic Site*

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

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

**Sarah Childress Polk: Educated Wife, Active First Lady, Saturday, September 10 at 11 am, Free.**

James Crawford, Professor of History at UNC-Charlotte, will discuss the role of education in the life of First Lady Sarah Childress Polk, patron of the arts and one of the most successful graduates of North Carolina's Salem Academy.

**Cap-Making Workshop, Friday and Saturday, September 16 and 17, 11 am to 2 pm each day.**

In this two day workshop participants will select from a series of patterns and Mia Dappert will guide them as they create a woman's caps like the ones worn during the late 18th century. Registration required.

**Down the Great Whiskey Road, Thursday, October 6 from 7 to 9 pm.**

Great Wagon Road Distillery will present an exclusive whiskey tasting of a variety of spirits, while learning about their background and the distilling process. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages included in the price of admission. Registration required.

**1846 Mexican American War Militia Muster, Saturday October 15 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free.**

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

**Historic Cooking Class, Saturday, October 22 at 9:30 am to 2:30 pm.**

Learn about historic cooking with Cheryl Henry in the Polk Site backcountry kitchen. Prepare a 19th century meal, enjoy the fruits of your labor and receive a special gift to remember your experience. Registration required.

**Matters of Grave Importance, Saturday, October 29 at 10:30 am to 1:30 pm.**

Learn about the past, present and future of local cemetery history with historian and preservation expert Jason Harpe who will demonstrate preservation techniques in the Polk Family Cemetery. There will be a discussion session during which participants may share their individual cemetery preservation experiences or questions.

*Matthews Heritage Museum*

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

**Exhibit: Now thru September 17: Pinewood Derby Racers.**

Winners of this year's Derby Races as well as older cars are on display.

**Exhibit: September 24 – November 12: If Elected: Political Buttons and Memorabilia.**

A collection of buttons, statuary, and other presidential campaign memorabilia will be on display including items from both Democratic and Republican candidates. Come and cast your vote for your favorite!

**New Girl Scout Tour and Badge:** "Discovering Matthews Heritage" is a guided tour offered to all levels of Girl Scouts. After touring the museum and fulfilling requirements suggested for different levels, scouts can purchase a Matthews Heritage Museum badge. Some of the suggested activities include cooking a recipe from Nancy Reid, touring the historic cemetery to locate important citizens buried there, and taking a walking tour of the town.

**Avery Simpson Rea Documents:** The Matthews Heritage Museum recently received a collection of 20 documents including the family Bible containing the family history from the descendants of Avery Simpson Rea. He was the younger brother of Green Lea Rea, who owned the Rea Gold Mine on Monroe Road. These documents range in date from 1778 to around 1850. Most are indentures for the sale of land. However, three of them itemize purchases made by Mrs. Margaret Rea, two of them from a store run by Solomon Reid, father of J. Solomon Reid, who is considered the "father of Matthews." Among the purchases were laudanum, madder, indigo, sugar, fine shoes, plates, a set of tea spoons, coffee and soap. Madder and indigo are red and blue dyes respectively. The same family also donated to the museum the ledger books from S. R. Rea's store in Matthews. These items help us to continue to enlarge our knowledge of Matthews' history.

## *Matthews Historical Foundation*

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

### **Thomas and Susannah Polk, Tuesday, September 27 at 7 pm, at the Matthews Public Library.**

First person interpreters Jim and Ann Williams as Thomas and Susannah Polk will discuss the early days of Charlotte. The year is 1793 and much has happened in the area since they arrived about 40 years before.

### **Volunteer Recognition Program, Tuesday, October 25 at 7 pm, at the Matthews Woman's Club.**

This meeting will recognize Matthews Heritage Museum docents and volunteers, Eagle Scouts who completed projects at the Reid House and Museum, and Paula Lester who will present a Power Point on the Matthews Fullwood Restoration Award and the houses that have received this award.

## *Historic Brattonsville*

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

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

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

This special program tells the story of the plantation's enslaved from colonial times through the 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 portray the lives of the enslaved on a Carolina Backcountry plantation. there will be historic cooking over open hearths, quilt making, blacksmithing, making bricks out of clay, storytelling, and playing African-American folk games.

At 11 am Dr. Lisa Bratton will lead a panel discussion on how the family history carries on. An "African American Genealogy Presentation: How-to Guide" will be offered from at 2 pm and York County Historical Center will talk about African Americans' role in the American Revolution. "By the Sweat of Our Brows" will culminate on the front steps of the Bratton homestead with music by Rock Hill's Stars of Zion and 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 15 from 3 to 9 pm.**

Activities will include a historic harvest demonstration, hands-on activities and wagon rides plus a candlelight tour of the Huck's Defeat Battlefield Trail where you will encounter spirits who knew Captain Christian Huck. There will be a campfire to warm your toes, musical entertainment and cider and donuts at the Tavern. Simon St Clair will engage you with his Magick and Marvel Show. Food concessions will be available.

### **Civil War Reenactment, Saturday, October 22 from 9 am to 4 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 a battle reenactment at 2 pm, cannon-firing and archery demonstrations, camp life activities and children's military drills. The Grimsly family will display their 19<sup>th</sup> century mourning artifacts in the front parlor of Hightower Hall. Shop for reproduction items along sutlers row and enjoy family-friendly foods.

### *Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site*

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

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

**Pan-O-Lympics, Annual NC Open Gold Panning Competition, Saturday, September 10 from 10 am to 2 pm.** Displays will include mining history of North Carolina and visitors can try their luck at speed panning in the competition.

### *Charlotte Folk Society*

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte

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

**Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams, Friday September 9, North Carolina Singer/Songwriter Jonathan Byrd & The Pickup Cowboys.**

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

**Backcountry Days & Ice Cream Social, Saturday, September 17, 1 to 5 pm, Free.**

Presented by Charlotte Folk Society, Charlotte Museum of History, and Storytellers Guild of Charlotte. Charlotte Museum of History & Hezekiah Alexander Homesite, 3500 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte 28215. Enjoy an old-fashioned family afternoon with ice cream, singing, storytelling, and open old-time, bluegrass, and Celtic jam sessions. Demonstrations of everyday activities of 18th century living. [www.folksociety.org](http://www.folksociety.org)  
[www.charlottemuseum.org](http://www.charlottemuseum.org)

**Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams, Friday, October 14, Old-Time, Country & Bluegrass by Grammy Nominee Alice Gerrard & the Piedmont Melody Makers.**

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

### *Duke Mansion*

400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte, 704 714 4400

<http://www.dukemansion.com>

**Neighborhood history — The Most Interesting Street in Charlotte, Sunday September 18 at 3 pm, Free.**

What do novelist Carson McCullers (The Heart is a Lonely Hunter), evangelist Billy Graham, Family Dollar & Harris Teeter have in common? All have important early history on Central Avenue. Join historian Dr. Tom Hanchett as he shares those stories — plus the new history that's unfolding on Central Avenue now, from the hip Light Factory photography gallery to a diversity of restaurants from around the globe.

**Explore neighborhood history — Black Neighborhoods Then & Now, Sunday October 23 at 3 pm, Free.**

Mary Newsom of UNC Charlotte's Urban Institute moderates a conversation on the rich history and uncertain future of African American neighborhoods. With Mattie Marshall of Washington Heights, Kathryn Frye of Second Ward, and John Howard of Charlotte's Historic Districts Commission. Exhibit panels on the Biddleville and Brooklyn neighborhoods will be on display courtesy of Charlotte Museum of History.



### *Rural Hill*

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

#### **Constitution Dinner, Thursday, September 15 at 6:30 pm.**

This dinner features a four-course meal and a discussion with Stewart Harris, an award-winning law professor who loves to talk about the Constitution in a fun, accessible way that everyone can understand. Harris is the host of the weekly podcast and public radio program "Your Weekly Constitutional," which addresses interesting and controversial issues in constitutional law. For more details see the web site.

### *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>

#### **Upper Broad River Regiment, Saturday, September 24 from 9 am to 5 pm.**

The loyalist militia will practice their drill and try to learn the whistle and hat commands that Ferguson and DePeyster used at Kings Mountain.

#### **Revolutionary War Weekends, October 1 – 9.**

A series of Revolutionary War activities at Walnut Grove Plantation, Cowpens National Battlefield, Kings Mountain National Military Park, and Gaffney, SC. Complete schedule will be available by mid-September.

#### **236<sup>th</sup> Battle Anniversary, Friday, October 7.**

Wreath-laying ceremony at 11 am at the U.S. Monument. Celebration and keynote speaker in the amphitheater at 3 pm.

#### **Battle of Kings Mountain Anniversary Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, October 8 and 9 from 9 am to 5 pm.**

Join Living History Interpreters for the 236<sup>th</sup> anniversary encampment. Learn about the men and women who fought in the battle. Camps will have a variety of demonstrations: trades and crafts, cooking, medicine, weapons and children's activities.

### *Cowpens National Battlefield*

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

[www.nps.gov/cowp](http://www.nps.gov/cowp)

#### **Living History Day, Saturday, September 10 from 9 am to 5 pm.**

The SC Rangers (American Militia) will give weapons firing demonstrations at 10:30, 11:30, 1:30, and 2:30.

#### **Living History Day, Saturday, September 24 from 9 am to 5 pm.**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland, Southern Campaign encampment (American Continentals) Weapons firing demonstrations at 11:15, 1:45, and 3:15.

#### **Revolutionary War Weekends, October 1 – 9.**

A series of Revolutionary War activities at Walnut Grove Plantation, Cowpens National Battlefield, Kings Mountain National Military Park, and Gaffney, SC. Complete schedule will be available by mid-September.

#### **Outdoor Drama - The Night before Kings Mountain, Thursday, October 6, see web site for details.**

#### **Living History Day, Saturday, October 22 from 9 am to 5 pm.**

The SC Rangers (American Militia) will give weapons firing demonstrations at 10:30, 11:30, 1:30, and 2:30.

## *Southern Campaign of the American Revolution*

<http://www.southerncampaign.org/cod.php>

### **General Francis Marion Tour, Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon, October 27-30.**

Charles Baxley of the SCAR will be leading this professional tour of the significant sites of Gen. Francis Marion's partisan warfare in South Carolina. America's History LLC will provide all tour services. For a complete itinerary, fees and expenses, see <http://americashistoryllc.com/2015/the-swamp-fox-rides-again-francis-marions-war-in-south-caroline>

## *Lincoln County Historical Association*

[www.LincolnCountyHistory.com](http://www.LincolnCountyHistory.com)

(704) 748-9090

### **Basket Weaving Class, Saturday, September 10 at 9 am to 2 pm.**

This class will be with Joanne Sigmon Charles at the Mundy House and History Center of Eastern Lincoln County, 4335 N. NC Hwy. 16, Denver. Reservations required to Jason L. Harpe at [lcmh@bellsouth.net](mailto:lcmh@bellsouth.net)

## *York County Genealogical & Historical Society*

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

### **Battle of Huck's Defeat, Sunday, September 18 at 2:30 pm, at Historic Brattonsville.**

At this regular meeting of the YCGHS we will hear about the Battle of Huck's Defeat/Battle of Williamson's Plantation (July 12, 1780), one of the first Patriot victories after the fall of Charleston in May, 1780.

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