

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Spreading Knowledge of our History like the Down of a Thistle
<http://www.meckdec.org/>



May, June, July, August 2-10
Volume 25, Number 3

Look Inside This Issue

- The Continuing Saga of Susan Nye Hutcheson
- Celebrate the Mecklenburg Declarations of Independence on Monday, May 20 on the Square
- Meck Dec Celebrations in other years - Dinner, Speeches, Songs and 34 Toasts!
- Meet the Reverend Robert Hall Morrison at the MHA Dinner
- A walking Tour of the Two Camden, SC Rev War Battle Sites, Free.

Susan Nye Hutcheson, Her Trials Continue

When we left Susan Nye Hutcheson in the last issue of the Dandelion, she had moved with her children to her parents' home in Amenia, New York, to separate herself, and protect her children, from her abusive husband, perhaps then the only socially acceptable way to leave a spouse. Meanwhile her husband Adam visited southerly spas hoping to find a cure for his lung ailment. In September of 1834 he died in the process. Susan truly mourned his passing. During the remaining six years of her journal she frequently mentioned missing him and loving him, all these entries tinged with guilt. She wrote about his angry rages and spendthrift ways, but never revealed whether his abuse was also physical. Did her guilt arise because she loved him in spite of his abuse, because her love was not deep enough to change him, or because she did not love him unconditionally and accept his flaws? She pled with God for forgiveness.

Susan, her four sons, and her rebellious step-daughter Elizabeth, stayed in New York for another year. Step-son Robert was twenty and off on his own. Susan visited a seminary to study the latest, most effective teaching methods, and hoped they would take Elizabeth as a student, but they declined as Elizabeth refused to be attentive to her studies. Elizabeth became engaged to a young man who was unsuitable in Susan's eyes. He died after a brief illness and Elizabeth was again at loose ends.

Using her new-found knowledge from the seminary Susan opened a school near Amenia to

teach her sons as well as neighboring children. It was not to last. The area was sparsely populated with small farms; she had very few students – not enough to support her family. One of Susan's highest ambitions was to write, and she hoped she could support her family with her pen, but rejection ensued. Perhaps one reason for her long detailed journals was to hone her skills, and in some places she succeeded beautifully. But like most journals constant repetition of daily activity is not very literary. She expected her journal to be read, at least by her family; after all she warned her descendants not to become step-parents. The journal is peppered with her pursuit of writing projects; they were rarely successful.

To support her family, she once again headed south. She accepted an invitation to return to Raleigh, took her older sons, Sylvanus and Ebenezer, with her, and placed them in school in Greensboro. Meanwhile Adam, who was five, and in poor health began to have epileptic seizures. John, only three, was too young for her to care for while teaching. She left them with her parents primarily under the care of her sister Amanda. She spent less than a year in Raleigh, as prospects for more scholars and higher pay awaited her in Salisbury. She arrived there in January of 1836, and with occasional visits to Amenia, she remained there until 1840.

In Salisbury she reacquainted herself with some of her previous students from Charlotte. Her first teaching job had been at the Raleigh Academy in 1815. Charlotte's William

Davidson was a NC state senator who was often in Raleigh; he enrolled his daughters in the Academy in 1817. His wife had died in 1812, and he had sent the girls, who were much too young, to Salem Academy. In 1817 Margaret was 14, Sarah was 13, and Harriet was 11. Susan nurtured the girls, perhaps because they were motherless and had already spent two years at boarding school, and their father's responsibilities were many.

By 1836 Margaret was married to Joseph Blake and had several small children; Sarah was not married – and never would be. Their father had retired from politics, and she was the mistress of his prosperous plantation. Harriet was married to Dr. Thomas Caldwell and was the mother of four. Another former student, Catherine Wilson was a close friend of the Davidson girls; she had married Joseph Alexander. Susan began a correspondence with these girls – now women. She had a great influence on Sarah. In 1837, at Susan's urging, Sarah began to keep a journal – a journal like Susan's, of self-examination and spiritual questioning, a verbal pilgrimage so to speak.

Constant streams in Susan's journal also occur in Sarah's. Susan worried that she was not holy enough to please God. She deemed herself a failure because of the trials God sent her: her failed marriage, her inability to publish, her rebellious step-children, her constant struggle to support her family, her frequent failure at fasting, and even her son's seizures. God's wrath was invoked by her sins of ambition, pride, vanity, envy, and temptation. After listing her many trials she wrote, "Yet all these have not weaned me from my besetting sins nor lessened my wanderings from God. Oh Jesus do today give me a right heart and a new spirit that I may never again depart from thy precepts." And later, "Sometimes I am led to doubt whether I have ever been converted and again I hope the love of God is shed broad in my heart – but alas I have lived in a backsliden state."

Sarah also worried that she was unworthy of salvation because she had failed to save others. Salvation came from a deep visceral conversion, not simple lip service.

The issue of slavery was worrisome to both women. Susan was careful not to offend the Southerners she lived among. She never owned slaves, but sometimes hired them. She needed

their assistance, and felt they were better off under her care. She wanted to buy a woman in order to free her, but could not afford to. In Charlotte she hired a slave named Ned to care for Adam. In Raleigh she had taught young slaves to read, common among Presbyterians. Sarah also taught slaves to read, and considered it her duty to teach them the catechism, and treat them kindly. Sarah expressed frustration as well as affection for her slaves, natural when you live closely with people, and did not fault them for their biblically ordained "degraded" condition.

Also in 1837 Susan visited Davidson College to see if would be suitable for her son's future education. She met Dr. Robert Hall Morrison, president of the new school, and his wife Mary Graham Morrison. The Morrison's encouraged her to open a school in their neighborhood to educate their children along with her own. It never came to pass. By the time Susan had relocated to the Charlotte area, the Morrissions had left Davidson in the wake of the deaths of two children, and his debilitating illness.

In April of 1838 Susan spent a few days in Charlotte which she described in several long journal entries. She had dinner at Catherine's whose husband was a distinguished lawyer. Sarah and another former student attended. Later they visited Harriet, whose infant was sick, then had tea with Margaret Blake. It was quite a round of visiting. She may have already been acquainted with John Blackwood; he was very active in the Presbyterian Church, and became a great friend. He was also a friend of Sarah Davidson, and although he was a few years her junior, she seemed to have a crush on him. He and Susan were apparently "co-conspirators" in urging Sarah to keep a journal. Sarah wrote of them with admiration and affection.

Finally in 1840 – the last year of Susan's journal – she came to Charlotte as principal of the Charlotte Female Academy. She was provided a house to live and teach in, with room to take in a few students as boarders. Amanda, Adam, Jr. and John joined her. By this time Adams seizures were serious and frequent – usually four or five per night in addition to daytime events. Ned was essential to care for him as he could not be left alone. In addition to his physical problems Adam's mental development was impaired. He died eight years later at the age of eighteen.

Susan hired Sarah Davidson as a piano instructor at the Academy. She remained in Charlotte until 1845; then taught in Concord for a while before retiring to Amenia where she died in 1867 at the age of seventy-six. Sarah advanced to be head of the Academy's music department, and later became principal.

Susan's life has been documented in *Heading South to Teach; The World of Susan Nye Hutchison, 1815-1845*, by Kim Tolley which was published in 2015. Tolley's emphasis was on schools, teaching philosophies, religion, and other aspects of 19th female education. She documents Susan's life and uses incidences in

her journal as illustrations. It's an excellent study with an extensive bibliography. And to brag a bit, *A Life in Antebellum Charlotte; The private Journal of Sarah F. Davidson, 1837*, edited by Karen McConnell, Janet Dyer, and myself is included in the bibliography and cited in several footnotes. Good for us!

Epilog: Elizabeth married a fine man and had two children. Sylvanus and Ebenezer married, had families, and lived out their lives in Charlotte. John returned to Amenia.

Ann Williams

Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence Celebration

Monday, May 20 at noon, Independence Square, Free

This year is the 244th anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of May 20, 1775. This famous, if controversial, event was the first time that the people of the colonies declared their independence from the King and Parliament of Great Britain, predating that other declaration at Philadelphia by more than a year. Starting at 11:30 there will be fife and drum, soldiers, flags and political speeches followed by a reading of the "Meck Dec" accompanied by Huzzahs from the crowd and the firing a muskets and cannon. Afterwards we will parade two blocks to Settlers Cemetery to honor Colonel Thomas Polk with a wreath and another musket volley. The event is free and the public is encouraged to attend, so come to Independence Square and join in the celebration.



MHA Docents, Reenactors and other Participants:

Get out your historic clothing and get ready for "fun on the square." We should all arrive at the square at 11 am, mingle with the crowd and hand out Meck Dec copies while the soldiers march up and down with the SAR honor guard and the music of the Fife and Drum. Parking is available on the streets around the square – 8 quarters for 2 hours.

Celebrations in Past Years

For the past twenty years or so we have been celebrating the Meck Dec on the square with speeches, toasts, fife and drum. and musket and cannon fire It was not always done this way. At some times we have nearly ignored the event. At others there have been more elaborate celebrations

The celebration of 20 May 1844 began fund raising for the erection of a monument to the memory of the signers of the Declaration. As reported in the Charlotte Journal of April 12 a meeting was to be held in Charlotte on 30 March "...to make arrangement for the celebration of the 20th of May." In another article in the same issue it was noted that the Mecklenburg Monumental Association had been incorporated by the Assembly for the purpose of raising funds and erecting a Monument in the town of Charlotte in commemoration of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

The issues of 24 and 31 May 1844 reported on the Celebration of May 20. The attendance had been less than expected perhaps due to a lack of publicity but primarily due to the absence of a fife and drum which is so essential to collecting a crowd. The celebration began at the courthouse in the morning when they fired a cannon and rang a church bell to gather a crowd. At noon the procession formed and marched to the grove of the Presbyterian Church Yard. After a prayer by Rev. Mr. Freeman, the Declaration was read by W. R Myers. Then James W. Osborne, the invited speaker, delivered an eloquent and feeling Oration which pleased and enchanted the crowd who only wished it had gone on longer. His address to Major Thomas Alexander, the only Revolutionary War Soldier present, brought tears to the eyes of the crowd. The ceremonies concluded with a chorus singing "Old North State" and a return to the Courthouse where it was dismissed.

At 3 o'clock Dinner was announced by the ringing of the Baptist Church bell. After a delicious meal, the cloth was removed and wine was placed on the table. There were thirteen formal toasts. The first and fifth were greeted with six cheers and a discharge of cannon. Two toasts, those to Ephraim Brevard and George Washington were drunk in silence. The ninth toast was to The Mecklenburg Monumental Association, and greeted with six cheers and a cannon. It was followed by a call for a speech

from H. C. Jones which led to a number of contributions towards the monument. Then Mr. Osborne was called on for a speech yielding even more contributions. Then toasts to General William Lee Davison and to the memory of the signers were consumed in silence. The twelfth toast, to North Carolina ended the formal toasts. Then the ladies sang "The Old North State" to six cheers and a cannon. They were encouraged and gave a concert which was "quite a 'jam'." They raised another \$100.

After the thirteenth formal toast, to The Fair Sex, there were 21 more volunteer toasts. A merry time was had by all and more than \$300 was raised for the monument. Whether or not a monument was built with these funds is not known.

Earlier in this issue you read about Susan Nye Hutcheson who taught at several female academies in North Carolina. It seems that she had an unusual assumption about our declaration. On May 20, 1839 while teaching in Salisbury she wrote in her journal: " Much public spirit is evinced in Cabarrus & Mecklenburg in the Celebration of this day which they claim to be the anniversary of their forefathers declaration of independence – they contend that the Celebrated Declaration ascribed to Jefferson and lauded throughout the enlightened world was really written in Mecklenburg two months before it emanated from Philadelphia..."

By the next year she had moved to Charlotte where she taught and was principal of the Charlotte Female Academy. On May 19th she wrote "Yesterday we had almost decided to give a holiday – I concluded too much time was likely to be lost and declined giving more than half the day, a good deal of dissatisfaction was produced – " On May 20th

"I had a great deal of trouble about giving holiday, the girls some of them rebelled, one determined not to study, I was very angry and spoke very loud – I of course was most unhappy for I had attempted to perform a duty in which I had completely failed"... That is, she had lost control of her class. Her journal continues: "Adam [her son] went with Ned to see the procession and to see the table set for the celebration dinner in honor of the Declaration of Independence."

From the Chairman

If you were unable to attend “Voices from the Past,” you really missed a great event. The portrayers were rarely without a crowd to listen to their stories. As I was checking on the portrayers assigned to me, I was able to hear very short bits of their presentation. I wanted to stop and listen to them all but, unfortunately, that wasn’t part of my duties that day. This year I was not a portrayer but worked behind the scenes which is a very different perspective of the event. Because VFTP is held in three public cemeteries, all of the set up that allows the event to run smoothly has to be accomplished the morning of the event. That was quite daunting to say the least.

Many thanks to Lynn Mintzer, chair of the VFTP advisory committee and her committee members, to Bill Bibby and his cemetery staff, to the volunteers who manned the welcome tents and those who drove the golf carts. Thank you to the musicians from Charlotte Folk Society and the many sponsors who supported the event. And, of course, thank you to all the portrayers who breathed life into the “Voices from the Past.”

Janet Dyer, Co-chair

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the September/October Dandelion will be August 13. Send articles to Jim and Ann Williams at mhadandelion@mindspring.com

MHA Docent Programs

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Inherit the Land; Jim Crow Meets Miss Maggie’s Will

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

Inherit the Land, by Gene Stowe is the story of a rare familial love that transcended racial division while much of America was convulsed with hatred, violence, bigotry and oppression. The mutual respect and affection between two white women and the African Americans who became their heirs persuaded a white jury in 1921 to “write a triumph for the law” as The Charlotte Observer wrote. This event established the Union County village of Marvin as an oasis of racial harmony that endures to this day.

The program will be presented by the book’s author Gene Stowe who grew up in the Charlotte area. He is a graduate of Monroe High School and UNC Chapel Hill. He was a reporter for the Charlotte Observer when he discovered the story that became *Inherit the Land*. He was a teacher in South Bend, Indiana, from 1993 through 2008, when he became a full-time freelance writer specializing in family history narratives. He returned to Monroe in 2016.

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

MHA Docent Annual June Picnic

This year we will picnic at Historic Rural Hill, the home of Major John Davidson and his wife Violet Wilson Davidson. Major Davidson was a signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and served in the Revolutionary War. He was the first of six generations of his family to farm Rural Hill. We will meet at the site for a 10:30 tour followed by a short business meeting and our picnic.

All docents should bring a dish to share. Water, iced tea and paper products will be provided. There is plenty of parking, and all food should be brought to the Cultural Center. We can eat inside if the weather does not cooperate.

Directions: Rural Hill's address is 4431 Neck Road, Huntersville, NC. Follow Beatties Ford Road north about 3 miles past the Sample Road intersection across from Hopewell Presbyterian Church. Turn left on Neck Road. Follow Neck Road for about 3 miles (it's a very winding road). After you cross the McDowell Creek bridge, Rural Hill will be on your right. Turn right onto the field road leading into the site and park by the Cultural Center. The family burying ground is on the left side of Neck Road, across from the site. If it is not part of our tour, be sure and see it after the picnic.

MHA Dinner Meeting

**Meet The Morrisons
Monday, May 20, 2019**

Trinity Presbyterian Church. Dinner is at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:15. Those not having dinner may enjoy the program at no charge. To make a reservation for dinner use the order form in your MHA Newsletter or contact Barbara Taylor at 308 Braxton Dr., Indian Trail 28079, btaylor797@aol.com or 336-404-1751.

At this MHA Meeting you will have an opportunity to meet the Rev. Robert Hall Morrison and his wife Mary Graham Morrison. Dr. Morrison was a man blessed with an abundance of intelligence, ambition, and willingness to work hard for his ideals. He founded several churches and was the primary founder and first president of Davidson College. Mary's father was Joseph Graham, Revolutionary War General who later owned and operated a profitable ironworks as well as a successful cotton plantation. As a young couple they were certainly in a position to lead a charmed life, but it was not to be. They will tell you about their many accomplishments, the dire troubles that befell them, and the path they took back to peacefulness on a backcountry farm. It was there that Morrison once again became an influential preacher and the two of them raised a fine family.

The Morrisons will be portrayed by Ann and Jim Williams who have researched and taken on the personas of several of Mecklenburg's early citizens.

History News

The Battle of Camden, Corps of Discovery, Saturday, May 4, at 10 am to 4 pm, Sponsored by the SCAR (Southern Campaign of the American Revolution), Free and Open to the Public.

The SCAR is famous throughout the South for their publications and programs on the American Revolution in the South. On this vigorous hike two master historians and tour guides, Charles Baxley and David Reuwer, will walk you over the actual ground where two pivotal battles were fought in 1780 and 1781. The Camden battle site is 4.5 miles north of the village of Camden, SC and has just recently been opened to the public. The Hobkirk's Hill battle site is located in the middle of Camden. You will walk these two sites while the experts help you visualize what happened there in the 18th Century.

Wear your boots, dress for the weather and plan to spend the whole day. Meet at 10 am at the Camden Battle Site, 1606 Flat Rock Road, 4.5 miles north of Camden. After lunch on your own. meet again at the Historic Camden Historic Site which is located south of the village at 222 South Broad Street, US Hwy 521. There we will carpool to the town of Camden to walk the Hobkirk Hill battlefield;

The History Calendar

Admission charged at most events unless otherwise noted.

Many of these events sell out so it is best to register at the web sites.

Check the Charlotte Regional History Consortium website for other events.

<http://www.charlotteregionalhistory.org>

Historic Rosedale

3427 N. Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC, 704 335 0325, <http://www.historicrosedale.org>

Paranormal Grounds Investigation, Friday and Saturday, June 14 and 15, Check in at 7:30 pm, event at 8 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. Their team will lead the investigation. Please wear flat, quiet comfortable shoes and bring a small twist top flashlight. You never know what you may find...or what may find you! Please note: Event is first come first served and we cannot guarantee tickets will be available at the door.

Historic Latta Plantation

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

Monocacy: The Battle That Saved Washington, Saturday and Sunday, June 1 and 2 from 10 am to 5 pm each day, Battle Reenactment each day at 2 pm.

This Civil War living history event focuses on the role North Carolina regiments played in the battle that was a victory for the South but resulted in saving Washington, DC, the Union capital. Infantry, cavalry and artillery demonstrations with 100+ reenactors. Visit the period encampments and sutlers. Hear from the wife of General Stonewall Jackson and other historical figures. Enjoy live music, food and beer. And of course the Battle Reenactment each day at 2 pm. Bring your lawn chairs. Leashed dogs allowed, but please be aware there will be loud cannon fire.

239th Anniversary of the Battle of Charlotte, Saturday August 31 and Sunday, September 1 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Join us for our annual Revolutionary War weekend and experience the Battle of Charlotte with historic encampments and a battle each day. Learn why Charlotte was called "The Hornet's Nest of Rebellion." Visit the oldest log cabin in Mecklenburg County. Battle reenactments each day at 2 pm.

Hugh Torrance House and Store

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

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

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

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

Colonial Gem Fundraising, Thursday, May 9 from 6 to 8:30 pm , Tickets from \$100.00.

Come celebrate the museum with a unforgettable outdoor event at Colonial Gem, our premier fundraiser. Enjoy live music, fine dining, specialty drink tastings, and more.

Meck Dec Day Celebration, Saturday, May 18 from noon to 4 pm.

Enter the hornet's nest and join the rebellion in Mecklenburg County for a day of revelry and rebellion. Celebrate the legendary Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and explore the long history of fighting for freedom here in the Queen City. Learn about Hezekiah Alexander's role in declaring independence in the Rock House, smell the Food of Liberty in the kitchen, and hear Captain James Jack read Mecklenburg Declaration from his tavern. Special guests include Olde Mecklenburg Brewery plus Colonel Thomas Polk, founder of Charlotte and his lovely wife, Susannah.

Naturalization Ceremony & Independence Day Celebration, Thursday, July 4 from 10 am to 2 pm, Free.

Every year millions of Americans celebrate Independence Day with food and fanfare. For a lucky few it also represents the beginning of their journey as new US citizens. Join us to be a part of this experience as we welcome these new citizens into our Charlotte community. Learn more about the meaning of citizenship, democracy, immigration, and freedom as we celebrate Independence Day. The event will include the Naturalization Ceremony, a special lecture through the Ron Hankins "History Talks" Lecture Series presented by Wells Fargo, the ringing of the American Freedom Bell, firework themed crafts, and more.

Teas of the British Isles

Independence Day, The Foundations of Liberty, Sunday, June 30 at 4 pm.

Celebrate America's Independence from Great Britain with a look back into history for inspiration. Wear your best red, white, and blue and join us to learn about the Foundations of Liberty.

Agatha Christie & Detective Hercule Poirot, Sunday, July 28 at 4 pm.

Spend an afternoon with Agatha Christie and her best-known creation, the Belgian Detective Hercule Poirot. The master of mystery, Christie changed how the literary world viewed the genre and was noted for her incredible output.

A Downton Abbey Tea, Sunday, August 25 at 4 pm.

Get a head start on Downton Abbey before the film comes out in September. The award-winning show starts off with the sinking of the Titanic, rolls through WWI and the 1918 Flu Pandemic, and sees the advent of electricity, cars and women's right to vote,. Join us as we sail through the wild and world-changing historical events of Downton Abbey.

Historic Brattonsville

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

Historic Brattonsville is a Blue Star Museum. All active duty personnel and their families receive free admission from Memorial day to Labor day.

Memorial Day, Monday May 27 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Historically dressed interpreters will demonstrate how folks in the Carolina Backcountry farmed, cooked and played during the colonial period. Pack a picnic lunch and kick-off the summer season.

Ag + Art Tour at Historic Brattonsville, Saturday and Sunday, June 8 & June 9 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free.
Weaver Beth Melton will be weaving on Brattonsville's 19th century barn loom using an overshot weaving pattern found in a historical coverlet hand-woven in York County

Independence Day Celebration, Thursday July 4 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Celebrate Independence Day at Historic Brattonsville. Enjoy a 19th century-style family celebration. Make an 1850s-style toast after the reading of the Declaration of Independence at 3:30 pm.

The Battle of Huck's Defeat, Saturday, July 13 from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday July 14 from 10 am to 3 pm.

At the actual site of an important Patriot militia victory this event includes a reenactment of the 1780 battle between the local Patriot militia and Loyalist troops. Historical interpreters also portray how Martha Bratton and Watt, an enslaved African American, helped to save the day. There will be cavalry and camp life demonstrations with reenactor regiments from all over the Southeast.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

Music, Dance and Que: Festival and Fundraiser, Saturday May 4 from 11 am to 3 pm.

Relax with good tunes, cold brews, and tasty 'que at our Music, Dance, n' Que Festival. Hear live bluegrass from the Myers Park High School Bluegrass Club, The High Ridge Pickers, and nationally-recognized musician David Childers. Enjoy bites and brews from OooWee BBQ, Olde Mecklenburg Brewery, and Cupcake Delirium. Play games, make crafts, browse vendor stalls, and support the raffle to fund our support group for the coming year.

The Life of Julia Alexander, Year of the Woman Lecture Series, Saturday May 18 at 10:30 am, Free.

Learn the fascinating story of a founding Daughter of the American Revolution, second woman to practice law in North Carolina and the first woman to be elected to the Assembly. She was descended from many of the founders and her father was a well known state and national legislator.

Summer Skills Workshops. Every other Saturday in June and July at 2 to 4 pm each day.

Subjects include Drop Spinning, Cross Stitching, Apron Making, Basket Weaving the making a cloth wallet. See www.jameskpolk.net to learn more and purchase tickets.

Bubble Day, Saturday, August 10 from 10 am to 1 pm.

Bubble Day is pure family fun at Polk, featuring arts and crafts, bubble-making areas, bubble machines and water play areas for the littlest ones.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

Militia Muster, Saturday, June 29 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free, \$2.00 Donation Suggested.

All males ages 16-60 were required by law to serve in North Carolina's militia during the French and Indian War. These civilians would gather at appointed times during the year to practice military drill and could be used to quickly form an army for defense at times of invasion. Historic interpreters representing the Rowan County militia will offer on-going displays of military camp life, as well as featured musket firing demonstrations.

Kings Mountain Historical Museum

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

www.kingsmountainmuseum.org

Civil War Stories, Saturday May 4 at 2 pm, Free.

Author Mark Hughes will tell stories of local people involved in and affected by the Civil War. Author of four books on Union and Confederate cemeteries, Mark will talk about how he has researched local people from the time period and share some of the interesting stories he has learned along the way.

Andrew Jackson State Park

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

www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/1797.aspx

Battle of Buford's Defeat, Saturday, May 25 at 10:30 am, SC Hwy 9 and SC Hwy 522, Free.

There will be a wreath laying at the mass grave with musket salutes.

Lincoln County Historical Association

www.LincolnCountyHistory.com

(704) 748-9090

Letters from the Trenches: Dear Kit, Saturday May 18 at 2 pm, Lincoln Cultural Center Performance Hall.

Long forgotten letters from a WW1 Marine Captain fighting in the trenches of France come to life in a one hour multimedia solo performance by his grandson, Hardin M. Minor, Charlotte's "Mime-in-Motion."

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/letters-from-the-trenches-dear-kit-tickets-60142933132>

Olde Huntersville Historic Society

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Olde-Huntersville-Heritage-Society/500442970021244>

Grand Opening of the Renovated Old Huntersville Town Jail, Sunday, May 5, from 2 to 6 pm, 301 Huntersville-Concord Rd, Huntersville, NC.

The old Huntersville town jail is ready for its long awaited debut to the public. The grand opening will be during the annual Hello Huntersville Festival at Veteran's Memorial Park. The jail is the oldest standing municipal building in Huntersville and is representative of our town in the 1930s.

Iredell Museum

134 Court Street Statesville, NC 704-873-7347

<http://www.iredellmuseums.org>

The Tom Dooley Project, Selected Scenes from the play "Tom Dooley: A Wilkes County Legend" Performed at the Old Iredell County Courthouse on Center Street in Statesville.

Performances at 8 pm on April 30, May 2, 3 and 4 and at 3 pm on May 5. Karen Reynolds' play tells the complete story of Tom Dooley, his murder of Laura Foster, his entanglement with Ann Melton, his trial and hanging in Statesville "on a white oak tree." This presentation features local actors and musicians, bluegrass and folk music. Produced by WAME radio.

Levine Museum of the New South

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

It Happened Here: The Charlotte Remembrance Project, Wednesday May 8 at 6 to 8 pm, Free with Light Refreshments and a Cash Bar.

Join us for an interactive dialogue about the story behind our Legacy of Lynching exhibit and the journey of bringing this project to Charlotte.

New South for the New Southerner, Unexampled Courage, Tuesday June 18 at 6 to 8 pm \$10.00 including Dinner from Mert's Heart and Soul Restaurant.

Author and current U.S. Judge Richard Gergel will discuss his new book *Unexampled Courage: The Blinding of Sgt. Isaac Woodard and the Awakening of President Harry S. Truman and Judge J. Waties* telling the story of the crime that led directly to the desegregation of the US Armed Forces and eventually to Brown v Board of Education. Hosted by community historian Tom Hanchett. Sponsored by the North Carolina Humanities Council and Arts and Science Council. Weblink: Please purchase tickets here <http://bit.ly/UnexampledCourage>

Juneteenth, Wednesday June 18 from noon to 5 pm, Free.

This free family day celebration marks the moment in 1865 that enslaved people received word of the abolishment of slavery at the close of the Civil War. Sponsored by the North Carolina Humanities Council and Arts and Science Council.

The Legacy of Lynching, a New Exhibit open from April 25 to July 17.

"The Legacy of Lynching: Confronting Racial Terror in America" presents the Equal Justice Initiative's groundbreaking research into the history of lynching, and situates Mecklenburg County's two recorded lynchings within this context. The exhibition features powerful oral testimonies from descendants of lynching victims, and seeks to spark an honest conversation about the legacy of racial injustice from slavery to present day mass incarceration.

Mount Holly Historical Society

131 South Main, Mount Holly, NC <https://www.mounthollyhistoricalsociety.org>

The Battle of Kings Mountain, Tuesday, May 28 at 7 pm, Free.

Bob Inman, novelist, writer and former WBTV news anchor, will speak on the background and production of his play Liberty Mountain which brings the Battle of Kings Mountain to the stage in Kings Mountain this summer.

Holland Drug Store, Tuesday, June 25 at 7 pm, Free.

Hap Smith will reminisce with us on the history of our local landmark and meeting place, Hollands Drug Store.

The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, Tuesday, July 23 at 7 pm.

Lawyer and author Scott Syfert will discuss the controversy surrounding the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

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