

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Promoting Local History through Education and Research

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



May, June, July, August, 2015
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Congratulations to Us!

MHA Docents Received Special Recognition from NCMC

On March 30 at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Museums Council the MHA Docents were one of two volunteer groups to receive an *award of special recognition* for service given to local museums and sites. This was not the first time we have been so recognized. In 1992 the docents received an award from the American Association for State and Local History, and in 1998 received an NCMC Service Award for outstanding contributions to historic sites. By the way – it took some digging to recollect our previous accolades. We are apparently much more attentive to our region’s history than we are to our own. Barbara Taylor, director of the Matthews Heritage Museum, nominated us for the award; she along with docent co-chairs Audrey Mellichamp and Janet Dyer attended the Council’s Awards Luncheon in Durham where they received our plaque of commendation. Below are excerpts from Barbara Taylor’s nomination submission. Ann Williams



In 1976 the Charlotte Museum of History opened to the public and a core group of docents was trained to conduct tours. In 1990 a management change at the museum led the docents to become a part of the Mecklenburg Historical Association, a group that supported county history. They began taking programs to the schools.

These volunteers have continued faithfully serving the Charlotte community providing historical information in a variety of ways. In 1993 Historic Rosedale opened as an historic site. A committee of docents spent a year researching and writing a training manual and training Rosedale docents. This experience led to soliciting new docents and holding training classes to cover all of Mecklenburg’s

history. The newly trained docents would then select a site at which to volunteer. Those training classes continued for approximately 10 years.

In 1994, the docents started the Charlotte Regional History Consortium in order for sites to better know each other and share resources. That group just celebrated its 20th year. In 1997 a small group of docents got together to learn open hearth cooking. They became the Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley and a committee of the MHA Docents in 2003. To encourage the public and school children to visit multiple local sites, the Passport to History booklet was developed in 1997. The docents developed a training manual for teachers at the request of the schools. Another unique undertaking is a newsletter. Currently "The Dandelion" goes out free to 1,200 email subscribers five times a year. The docents offer a biennial series of scholarly history lectures to the public, as well as informative monthly programs.

This self-directed organization of volunteers has continued faithfully serving the Charlotte community providing historical information in a variety of ways, and responding to the needs of the community for almost 25 years. There is no other organization in the country that has done so much for educating the local community in history. Congratulations on your recent recognition!

Barbara Taylor

From the Chairman

Following Our Passions

My passions are cookery, history, and travel. When I travel, I glory in learning about all three. Right now, I am in Crete! I am following these passions in great depth. I have been collecting/foraging wild edible greens called 'horta'; cooking with the people of Crete at their hearths and bake ovens; and learning about the Minoan (1500 BC) culture. I am in 'heaven'.

This summer I will learn Nigerian (Igbo; western Africa) clay hearth cookery at the national ALHFAM meeting. This will enhance my knowledge of our enslaved peoples from that area and the skills they brought with them to the colonies. I wish for you all to follow your passions this summer. Hopefully some of the exploration will be at historic sites. Along the way, take up my CHALLENGE of learning a new skill or gaining hands-on experience.

I will be learning to use the ancient Viking tool, the lucet, to make my own historical shoelaces. My leather laces break when tightened. So I will make my own laces of wool thread. They will be strong and do the job well. Let me know your new 'old' skill in September when we come back together in the fall. Happy skills to you.

Audrey Mellichamp, co-chair, MHA Docents

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the September/October issue of the Dandelion is August 12. Have a great summer!

MHA Docent Programs

Tuesday, May 5, 2015
Stories from the Trail of History

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. Visitors are always welcome.

John Branscum and Gary Ritter, producer and presenter, will tell the story of The Trail of History which has become a highly successful TV series. Central Piedmont Community College has had a local TV station since

1994. They began producing the show in 2007 with an episode, which can still be seen, about the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite. There are now more than forty shows, many of which can be seen online. Recently the college acquired WTVI, a PBS affiliate, which significantly broadens their audience and will allow them to offer a new degree in broadcasting and video production – a great bonus to The Trail of History.

Hundreds of production hours have gone into these half-hour shows. Gary Ritter is the narrator, and John Branscum has the less visible, but essential job of filming, editing, and producing. In his capable hands hours of rough footage featuring an assortment of presenters are seamlessly pieced into each smooth-flowing show. Over the years several MHA members have provided the research and told the stories of Mecklenburg’s history. Gary and John will begin by showing the recently produced show about King Hagler and Thomas Spratt, and the creation of a statue. Then they will talk and tell stories about producing these wonderful documentaries.

**Tuesday, June 2, 2015
Annual Docent Picnic**

Our picnic this year will be held at the James K. Polk State Historic Site. We will meet at the site at **10 am** for a tour given by Scott Warren. The site grounds are interpreted as the Polk farm at the turn of the 19th century where Polk was born and lived his early childhood. We’ll tour the farm and see progress on the kitchen repairs. The visitors’ center interprets Polk’s presidency in the 1840s. The building was enlarged and refurbished last year; you’ll appreciate the improvements. After the tour we’ll have a brief business meeting followed by the picnic.

Bring a covered dish to share. A big platter of fried chicken will be provided along with ice tea, water, and paper products. We’ll have our meeting and eat in the picnic area behind the visitor’s center. Should it rain, we’ll eat very snugly inside.

Directions: The site is at 12031 Lancaster Highway (an extension of South Blvd/Polk St.) about a mile South of Highway 51.

MHA Dinner Meeting

Monday May 18

Trinity Presbyterian Church. Dinner 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 form in your MHA Newsletter or contact Robin Brabham at 704-543-7519 or archivist201@yahoo.com

Humpy Wheeler and the 1975 Bicentennial Celebration of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence



“Humpy” Wheeler, retired president and general manager of Charlotte Motor Speedway, will be the speaker for the May 18 dinner meeting. A consummate showman and raconteur, Mr. Wheeler is best known for his business acumen promoting auto racing. He published his memoirs in 2010 with the intriguing title *Growing Up NASCAR: Racing’s Most Outrageous Promoter Tells All*.

Mr. Wheeler also lent his talents to promoting the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. As vice chairman of the Mecklenburg Bicentennial Committee in 1975, he arranged to recreate the ride of Captain James Jack to deliver the document to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, an achievement he described in his book as “one of my most successful publicity stunts.” A lawsuit alleging animal cruelty to the horse brought the Declaration more extensive national coverage than it had probably received since 1819 when John Adams and Thomas Jefferson exchanged letters about its authenticity.

May 20th Events

Get out your historic clothing and get ready for “fun on the square.” May 20th falls on a Wednesday this year. At 11:30 am we will gather at the square with muskets and cannon, and fife and drum, for addresses by politicians and other VIPs. There will be a reading of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence followed by traditional toasts with Huzzahs! and musket and cannon fire. Then we will parade to Settlers Cemetery with a wreath of native plants and herbs to place on the grave of Col. Thomas Polk. Interpreters should arrive at the square at 11:00 am, or earlier if possible, mingle with the crowd and hand out Meck Dec copies while the soldiers play music and march up and down. Parking is available on the streets around the square – 8 quarters for 2 hours.

And the May 20th Society tradition returns with a speaker on the evening before Mecklenburg Declaration Day.

**Neil Howe will speak on Tuesday, May 19, at the Morehead Inn, 1122 E. Morehead Street
Guest Arrival at 6:00 pm; Lecture begins at 6:30 pm, followed by a 7:30 pm Reception**

18th or 19th century clothing, military or civilian, will be appropriate. Neil Howe is a historian, economist, and demographer who writes and speaks frequently on generations, the economy, and social change. He is the author of nine books on American generations including *Generations*, *The Fourth Turning*, *Millennials Rising*, and *Millennials in the Workplace*. The event is free but you must reserve your seat at rsvp2015@may20thsociety.org

South Carolina Road Trip

October 13, 2015: Save the Date!

The MHA Docents are planning a bus trip on Tuesday, October 13, to two wonderful upstate South Carolina Sites: Pearl Fryar’s Topiary Garden, and Historic Camden. The next newsletter will be published just a few short weeks before our final bus payment is due, so here is a preview. Make plans and mark your calendar now!



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 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.

Historic Camden is 107 acres on the original town site commemorating the Battle of Camden that occurred in the area during the Revolutionary War. In 1780, after Charleston fell, British General Lord Cornwallis took his troops inland to take the south. On August 16, he fought to secure the village of Camden and handily won. He 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 houses and log cabins, a blacksmith shop, and many other exhibits. Of course there is a gift shop.

The tentative schedule is as follows: We will leave the Sugaw Creek Church parking lot at 8 am, see one of the above sites in the morning, and the other in the afternoon. We'll have lunch in Camden, and if time allows visit some antique shops, or perhaps another small museum. We should be back in Charlotte about 6 pm. The cost of the trip, which includes the bus, admissions, and a donation to Pearl's scholarship fund, but not lunch, will probably be \$42.50. We will need thirty people to make the numbers work; the bus will hold fifty. Guests are both welcome and encouraged! Your next newsletter will have the final details. We'll begin taking reservations the 1st of September, and you will have only about two weeks to reserve your seat. So mark your calendars now.

A Severe Drought

Lack of rain in the summer of 1826 brought hard times to the citizens of Mecklenburg County. Week after week during the prime growing season, the rains failed to appear. Everyone depended on the crops they grew to feed themselves as well as their animals. The loss of food crops meant going hungry and, sometimes, even starvation especially for the poor subsistence farmer. When cash crops, such as cotton, were lost to the drought, debts mounted. The threat of the bankruptcy loomed.

The loss of crops in 1826 had long range consequences that would affect a successful growing season in 1827. Seeds from the best plants were saved for next year's crop. Crop failure meant no seeds for next year. Seeds, imported from an area unaffected by the drought, would have to be purchased, an additional hardship.

The Charlotte newspaper, *The Catawba Journal*, was unable to publish on its regular schedule due to the drought. On July 4, 1826, an article explained that paper ordered in the spring from New York was shipped to Charleston in April but low water prevented the paper from being shipped upstream to Camden. From Camden it would have been sent on to Charlotte by wagon. *The Catawba Journal* was finally able to resume publishing after a small wagon was sent to Charleston to retrieve part of the shipment of paper.

Corn was a universally grown crop. Both people and animals could eat corn; even in drought conditions, some of a corn crop would survive. The scarcity of corn caused by the drought of 1826 meant that farmers were not able to adequately feed their stock resulting in the loss of hogs and cattle. Milk cows living under drought conditions often could not produce as much milk and sometimes went dry. The longer the drought continued, the higher the price of corn and meat rose.

Grist mills, dependent on water power, were unable to run when the river and creeks dried up. Millers lost their income and farmers could not get their corn ground. If a farmer owned a hand cranked mill such as the one advertised in the June 13th *Catawba Journal*, he could grind his own grain; however, most depended on the grist mills. "Several families in this place, have been compelled to feed their negroes on flour, from their inability to get corn ground" according to the August 15th *Catawba Journal*.

A letter, dated September 18, 1826, from William Davidson in Charlotte to James K. Polk in Tennessee described the worsening economic situation caused by the summer drought. Money was "...very scarce, we in truth have had and have still pretty hard times in this Country in the money way and indeed we have Tougher times this summer as to bread and meat. Corn is generally sold at One Dollar & One Dollar 25 cents pr Bushel and much of the corn brought from beyond the mountains – the oats crops has entirely fail'd. There is not seed in the County we shall have to Depend on the upper counties for our seed...."

In mid-August, the editors of the *Catawba Journal* reported; "Such a drought is not within the recollection of the oldest inhabitants; and the prospect before us is truly melancholy. It is too late now for early corn to receive much,

if any benefit, from rain; but it would greatly revive and invigorate late planted corn; and should the remainder of the season prove favorable, the gloom which now overshadows our prospects, would in good degree be dissipated.” This article is peculiar since the area had seen a very severe drought just ten years before, in 1816 which was known as “The Year Without a Summer.”

Rain finally returned after six weeks of drought.

Janet Dyer

In Memoriam

Karen McConnell

On March 19th Karen McConnell passed away, and the MHA Docents lost one of their best and brightest. Karen was part of the group of volunteers that became the MHA Docents, and one of the handful who did the work that defined us and caused us to thrive. History and research were her passions. In those pre-computer days, she learned where records were kept and how to access them. Then she shared her information and her methods. She was my research mentor, and I’m sure I’m not alone. In the early 1990s in preparation for Historic Rosedale’s opening, Karen was instrumental in gathering the research that had already been done. She distributed it among a group of MHA Docents, then sent us out to learn more and led us in writing the docent training manual. All of this she did as a volunteer. Several years later she joined the Rosedale staff as educational coordinator where she continued to research and develop innovative programs. Two massive projects, the transcription and publication of Sarah Frew Davidson’s journal and Dr. Caldwell’s account book, were done under her leadership. By this time she had become personally acquainted with nearly everyone one who lived in 19th century Mecklenburg.

Later in the 1990s Karen and her husband Stan acquired a house in Salisbury that had been in Karen’s family for several generations. They decided to restore it and build an addition to accommodate modern living. We had several docent picnics at the McConnell’s “new” old house; as you might imagine the restoration was historically perfect. But it was a time consuming project; that and the long commute to Charlotte each day eventually led her to resign her position at Rosedale. She remained an active docent for a time, but family and other responsibilities began to keep her in Salisbury. We had a wonderful docent trip to Salisbury several years ago that Karen organized for us. Karen will be missed for all of her superlative talents and contributions to all of us.

Ann Williams

William S. Powell (1919-2015)



William S. Powell, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, passed away on April 10, 2015, at the age of 95. With a degree in History from The University he was a professor and curator for the North Carolina Collection, editor of History News, and a researcher for Archives and History.

Powell’s focus was on the history of North Carolina and his works are necessary for a thorough understanding of the Old North State. *The North Carolina Gazetteer* and his many contributions to the *Encyclopedia of North Carolina* and the *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography* are invaluable to historians and genealogists alike. Professor Powell’s history of Albemarle County contributed to our understanding of the Lost Colony and he helped authenticate the Carolina Charter of 1663 now in the possession of the State Archives.

History Community News

The Museum of Western York County in the village of Sharon, SC is open Sundays from 3 to 5 pm from April through November.

Here visitors can gain insights into local history and the culture and heritage of Western York County through a wide variety of memorabilia ranging from rough plows to delicate glassware.

Summerfest, a Street Festival in York, SC, Showcases the Town's History and Charm, Saturday, August 22 from 9 am to 5 pm.

Hosted by the Greater York Chamber of Commerce, the 32nd annual Summerfest will attract 40,000 to 50,000 visitors with a craft and food fair, classic car show, children's activities, musical entertainment, health fair, tennis, golf, 5k and fun runs, antique shows and art exhibits.

Re-Dedication of the Confederate Navy Yard Plaque, Sunday, May 3 at 2 to 4 pm, Elmwood Cemetery, Charlotte.

This iron plaque was originally installed on a building on west Trade Street. It was rescued from the wreckers by Tom Hanchett of the Levine Museum of the New South and kept in storage for many years. Now it will be displayed in the Confederate Section of Elmwood Cemetery, 700 West 6th Street, Charlotte. The UDC will have a re-dedication of this plaque in conjunction with the Confederate Memorial Day Service at the cemetery,

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>

Carolina Artisans 1780-1850, Lunch and Learn, Wednesday May 27 at 12:30 to 1:30 pm

Bring your lunch and enjoy an informative lecture by Wade Fairey, former director of Historic Brattonsville and current developer of Roots and Recall. Mr. Fairey has extensively studied Carolina craftsmen from Hickory to Camden in the period that includes Rosedale's construction 1815.

Felicity's Tea Party, Saturday, June 6 at 11 am

Join Felicity from the American Girl series in Rosedale Plantation's unique English basement kitchen for a tea party. Bring your favorite grown up lady and a treasured doll as Felicity teaches us the etiquette of tea and what it meant for a lady to get dressed properly long ago. Refreshments and tea will be served and participants will create their own personal calling card.

Diggin' With Dad, Sunday June 21 at 9 am or 11 am (choose your session).

This Father's Day join us for an event that dads of all ages will love. Learn about archaeology and dig for artifacts on the grounds of our 200 year old plantation. You will have an experience you'll never forget as you uncover hidden relics near the old smithy. Our resident anthropologist will be on hand to help you with both your dig and figure out exactly what you find.

Paranormal Investigation, Sunday, June 21 from 9 to 10:30 pm.

Join professional ghost hunters as they take 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!

Latta Plantation

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

Latta is happy to welcome a new member of the Latta Farm Family. Selah Grace, a Cotswold Lamb, was born in early March. She is proving to be one of the most popular attractions.

World War Two Re-enactment, Saturday and Sunday, May 2 and 3 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Experience war torn Europe during the 1940's as half-tracks, trucks, tanks, and soldiers take over the Latta grounds in battle. Ongoing exhibits, open house tours, farm animal displays, live music, and food vendors will be available for spectators to enjoy. Donate items to the USO to receive admission discounts (see website for details).

Buffalo Soldiers Living History, Saturday, May 30 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Learn of the Civil War experience for African American soldiers at our first ever Buffalo Soldiers Living History. See exhibits, enjoy an open house tour, and visit the farm animals.

Civil War Re-enactment, Saturday and Sunday, June 6 and 7 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Travel back in time to life during the Victorian era. See soldier and civilian exhibits, interact with re-enactors, see first-hand demonstrations of weaponry and open-hearth-cooking. A battle will occur each day surrounding the Latta house and grounds. Spectators will enjoy food vendors and entertainment throughout the weekend.

Latta Summer Camps

A dozen summer camps are offered throughout the summer months focusing on activities including farming, history, and science. These camps are available for children ages 4-17.

- Mini-Farm Camp Ages 4 & 5 August 11th-13th
- Junior Farm Camp Ages 6-8 June 22-26 & July 27-30
- Miss. Janes Academy Ages 8-12 July 20-23 & August 3-6
- Civil War Soldiers Life Ages 8-12 July 20-23 & August 3-6
- Revolutionary War Soldiers Life Ages 8 -12 June 15-18
- Historic Encounters Ages 9-12 July 7-10
- Historic Ambassadors Ages 12-17 July 13-16
- Advanced Farm Camp Ages 13-17 June 22-26

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

Myers Park Neighborhood Walking Tour, Friday, May 1 at 6 pm, Free.

In honor of Jane Jacobs, join us as we explore one of Charlotte's iconic neighborhoods – Myers Park. Charlie Succop, Charlotte Museum of History Education Coordinator, will lead a walking tour of the Myers Park neighborhood. Meet at Napa on Providence, 110 Perrin Place at 6 pm. Registration required.

A Colonial Gem, Fundraising Special Event, Thursday, May 7 at 6 pm.

The Charlotte Museum of History invites you to join us for a special evening at one of Charlotte's most important cultural treasures – the 1774 Hezekiah Alexander Home Site. We will gather at the Rock House for a magical evening featuring food and drinks by Heist Brewery with colonial beers, wine, hors d'oeuvres, and music as we celebrate the successful renaissance of The Charlotte Museum of History. Tickets are \$100 and reservations are required.

Hugh Torrance House and Store

8231 Gilead Road, Huntersville, NC

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.

Schiele Museum

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

Horace Kephart Days, Friday, May 15 from Noon to 5 pm and Saturday, May 16 from 9 am to 5 pm.

Enjoy a bit of time travel at the backcountry farm as you step into a demonstration campsite featuring a variety of canvas tents, open fire cookery and interpreters dressed in the fashion of the woodsloafers of the Golden Age of Camping (1880's – 1920's).

Sit Down Content, Sunday, June 28 from 1 to 5 pm.

Sit down content on a pleasant summer's day with colonial craftspeople and farm folk enjoying simple pastimes – needlework, whittling, simple amusements and some lively fiddle tunes.

Celebrate the Tryon Resolves on its 240th Anniversary, Sunday, August 23 from 1 to 5 pm.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Celebrate an afternoon of fun-filled history honoring our ancestors as we commemorate the 240th anniversary of the signing of the Tryon Resolves.

August 14, 1775: A local Declaration of Independence, predating the United States Declaration of Independence by almost 11 months, was adopted by citizens of Tryon County (now Gaston, Lincoln, Cleveland and Rutherford Counties). The names of the 51 signers read like a Who's Who of Gaston County. Visit the Schiele as re-enactors muster for a militia muster. See black powder firing demonstrations. Witness the confusion of the Backcountry folk in 1775 - to sign was an act of treason. An official reading of the Tryon Resolves will be held at 4:00pm featuring 51 names of local pioneers, our ancestors, who bravely signed for freedom. Don't miss this historic celebration. Huzzah!

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

America 1844, Polk Site Fund Raiser, Thursday, May 14 at 7 pm, at the Polk Site.

The Polk site welcomes renowned author John Bicknell as he discusses his new book *America 1844: Religious Fervor, Westward Expansion and the Presidential Election that Transformed the Nation*. This book explores how

the presidential election of 1844 was one of the two or three most momentous elections in American history. Had Henry Clay won instead of James K. Polk, we'd be living in a very different country today. Polk's victory cemented the westward expansion that brought Texas, California and Oregon into the union and fulfilled his vision of a continental nation. The evening begins with a reception with light hors d'oeuvres at 7 p.m. and the author discussion begins at 7:30 p.m., followed by a book signing. Admission \$25.00. Seating is limited. Books available at a \$5.00 discount.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

Life on the Carolina Frontier Summer Camps at Fort Dobbs, June 23-26 and July 28-31, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm each day.

Kids will learn about the lives of soldiers, settlers, and Cherokee warriors during the French and Indian War. Hands-on activities including gardening, hiking, 18th century cooking, and authentic military drills will bring history to life. The camp culminates with an 18th century inspired water balloon battle giving kids an opportunity to put into practice their newly acquired soldiering skills! Children 8 to 12, \$75.00 per child, reservations required.

Matthews Heritage Museum

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

Girl Scouting, A New Exhibit, Opening in August; Dates to be Announced.

Locally scouting began in Mecklenburg 80 years ago in 1935. A variety of artifacts will be on display that document scouting over the years, including uniforms and their changes, badges, pins, and even a thumb print tree! Each Girl Scout in Mecklenburg County will be welcome to put her thumb print on a tree... showing the strength of scouting in 2015. This is an excellent opportunity for scouts to learn about their history in the county and to tour the museum learning about the history of Matthews at the turn of the century. An opening reception will be held, serving, of course, Girl Scout cookies!

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, May 8, North Carolina singer/songwriter Rob McHale

Friday, June 12, Young, high-energy bluegrass band The Barefoot Movement.

Friday, August 14, All Male Gospel Choir, Men Standing for Christ.

Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

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

Let Me Be Your Salty Dog – Charlotte’s Stringband Heyday, Saturday, May 9 at 1 to 4 pm, Charlotte Friends Meeting House, 570 Rocky River Road West.

Dr. Thomas Hanchett of the Levine Museum of the New South and The Kollard Greens will present a Lecture and demonstration. Afterwards, Stay and Jam with the Charlotte Folk Society (bring your instruments.)

Remembering Harry Golden, Sunday May 31 at 7 to 9 pm, Lerner Hall, Jewish Community Center. 5007 Providence Road.

Author Kimberly Marlowe Hartnett will discuss her new book, *Carolina Israelite: How Harry Golden Made Us Care about Jews, the South and Civil Rights*.

Duke Mansion

400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte, 704 714 4400

<http://www.dukemansion.com>

The Duke Mansion’s 100th Birthday Open House Weekend, August 28 and 30.

Mark your calendar for this celebration of The Duke Mansion’s first 100 years. More details to come.

Historic Brattonsville

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

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

Remembrance Day, Monday, May 25 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Come join the interpreters at Historic Brattonsville for an 1870’s Remembrance Day celebration. We will address the history of Memorial Day as well as look at artifacts from the post-American Civil War veteran’s organizations.

Ag + Art Tour, a free self-guided tour, Saturday, June 27 from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday June 28 from 1 to 5 pm, Free.

This is a free self-guided tour of South Carolina's Catawba Region's Farms and Artisans. Historic Brattonsville will be promoting the agricultural activities of the site and hosting local artists. Come and see our flock of Gulf Coast sheep, Dominique chickens, and Ossabaw Island hogs. Learn why these animals were important to our ancestors. See field crops and gardens that were vital to the survival and success of the antebellum plantation. On Saturday, on-going hands-on demonstrations such as 18th century gardening, blacksmithing, weaving, hearth cooking and more will be done by our costumed interpreters.

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

Travel back in time to an 1840’s Fourth of July celebration. See the militia muster on the back lawn, hear the Declaration of Independence read by costumed interpreters, and enjoy all the sights and sounds of 19th century patriotic revelry.

The Battle of Huck’s Defeat, Saturday and Sunday, July 11 and 12 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Take a closer look this year at the man for whom the battle is named. Learn more about the life and times of Captain Christian Huck through this two day interpretive reenactment. Visit the military camps and see a battle each day.

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-Olympics, Saturday, June 13 from 9 am to 4 pm.

This is the Annual North Carolina Open Gold Panning Competition where experienced gold panners compete with novices looking for adventure as each attempts to win prizes in this speed panning event. The competition is held alongside the historic Little Meadow Creek, location of the first documented discovery of gold in the United States. For details see the web site.

Andrew Jackson State Park

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

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

A Memorial Service to the Victims of Tarleton's Massacre, Saturday, May 23 at 10:30 am, in Buford, SC, Free.

This 235th anniversary observance will be held on the ground where Tarleton's British Legion slaughtered Buford's Virginia Continentals without mercy and introduced a new term to warfare – Tarleton's Quarter. It will be held at the battleground southwest of the intersection of SC Highway 9 and SC Highway 522 in Buford, SC. Presented by Andrew Jackson State Park.

Kings Mountain Historical Museum

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

www.kingsmountainmuseum.org

Exhibits

- Pioneering Women of Cleveland County, February 7 through May 23.
- Pig Pickin' & Finger Lickin': Kings Mountain's Food History, June 20 through October 17.

Kings Mountain Post Office 75th Anniversary Celebration, Wednesday, July 1 at 5:30 pm

This building was built by the US Postal Service in 1940 and is today the home of the Kings Mountain Historical Museum. Nominated for the National Register of Historic Places.

Seeking the Historical Cook, Wednesday, July 29, at 5:30 pm.

Kay Moss, author, historian, and founder of the Eighteenth-century Backcountry Lifeways Studies Program at the Schiele Museum in Gastonia, will discuss her book, *Seeking the Historical Cook: Exploring Eighteenth-Century Southern Foodways*. She will share pictures of historical foods and methods, plus show-and-tell (and sniff) items. She will sign copies of this book and her other titles that will be available in the Museum's Gift Shop, including *Southern Folk Medicine, 1750-1820* and *Journey to the Piedmont Past: Source Book*.

Lincoln County Historical Association

www.LincolnCountyHistory.com

(704) 748-9090

March to Liberty: A Frontier's Call for Freedom, Saturday, May 2 at 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, Lincoln Culture Center, 403 E. Main St., Lincolnton, NC.

March to Liberty is a three-month series of presentations observing the 240th anniversary of the beginning of the American Revolution. Two authors will present on May 2. Randell Jones, the author of *In the Footsteps of Daniel Boone* will share stories from the life of Daniel Boone including the marking of Boone Trace in March 1775. Scott Syfert, author of *The First American Declaration of Independence?* will talk about the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, believed by some to have been signed a year before our national declaration. Randell will also present new information about the route of the Lincoln County Militia in 1780 to the Battle of Kings Mountain. A ceremony outside afterward will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the placing of a marker at Kings Mountain in 1815 by Dr. William Maclean of Lincoln County honoring Major William Chronicle and the South Fork Boys. The event is hosted by Lincoln County Historical Association. Lunch will be served.

Call to School Teachers: Any classroom teacher (Elementary, Middle or High School, public or private) who attends the presentations will receive a free copy of *Before Liberty*, a qualitative history of North Carolina from discovery to independence written during America's bicentennial forty years ago. Copies of this book will be available for purchase by homeschoolers and the general public. For more information, visit www.danielboonefootsteps.com

York County Genealogical & Historical Society

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

Allison Creek Presbyterian Church, Sunday, May 3 at 3 pm. Free.

5780 Allison Creek Road at SC 274, York, SC. A brief history of Allison Creek Presbyterian Church followed by a walking tour of the adjacent African-American Graveyard where over 300 graves have been located and marked.

The White Home in Rock Hill, Sunday, July 12 at 3 pm.

The White Home is at the corner of White Street and Elizabeth Lane in Rock Hill, SC. Started in 1839, this house pre-dates Rock Hill. It has been home to five generations of the White Family that has had a significant role in the history of Rock Hill. The house is now owned by Historic Rock Hill, a local non-profit preservation organization who will be our hosts.

Museum of Western York County

3716 Woodlawn Street, Sharon, S. C.

The Museum of Western York County in the village of Sharon, SC is open Sundays from 3 to 5 pm from April through November.

Here visitors can gain insights into local history and the culture and heritage of Western York County through a wide variety of memorabilia ranging from rough plows to delicate glassware.



Gregory Creek Homestead and Iredell Museums

1335 Museum Road, Statesville, NC, 704-873-4734

<http://www.iredellmuseums.org>

All Things Textile, Saturday, May 16 from 10 am to 2pm, Gregory Creek Homestead.

Demonstrations of heritage spinning, weaving, yarn dyeing, hearth cooking, and quilting will be held, as well as workshops in heritage quilting.

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