

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Promoting Local History through Education and Research

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



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The Power of Place

Industrialist Eugene Cole and the Preservation of the Hezekiah Alexander Rock House.

In a July third article in the Charlotte Observer Dr. Brian Jones, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters and history professor at Johnson C. Smith University, eloquently reminded us of the power of place in our understanding of who we are as a country. The Charlotte Museum of History was preparing to host a July Fourth naturalization ceremony where twenty people would take the oath to become United States citizens. He spoke of the special place we have to celebrate our nation's birthday, the 1774 Hezekiah Alexander "Rock House" which stands on the hill behind the museum. The "Rock House" is the oldest structure in Mecklenburg County and is a living artifact to the era of enlightenment, revolutionary politics, immigration and awakening that formed our nation.

We often hear Charlotte residents speak of our lack of historic buildings as though we do not care about our history. However, few people know of the dedication, financial resources and luck that made it possible for Charlotte to have several historic homes from the 18th and 19th centuries that are now restored and open to the public. Historic preservation does not have a long history in the US. It was not until the 1970s that protecting our heritage finally became a matter of public policy and law. As we celebrate Charlotte's 250th birthday this year, it is a good time to look at the efforts of those who have worked diligently to ensure that our heritage is protected for the future. The story of saving the Alexander "Rock House" and its preservation is especially interesting.

The house was finished in 1774, most certainly due to the work of enslaved men who were the builders of most of America's most valuable historic sites. Hezekiah and Mary Alexander moved into the house less than a year before the events leading to the American Revolution began to unfold in Charlotte. Hezekiah became deeply involved in the efforts to win the war and establish the North Carolina constitution during that time. Both Hezekiah and Mary passed away at the beginning of the 1800s; their youngest son, Oswald, and his family lived in the Rock House until his death in 1826. From that time until a century later the house was bought and sold several times to a variety of people who lived there and farmed the land. In 1928 the house and 175 acres of land were put up for sale at a public auction following the death of the last owner.

Not far from the property another significant person in Charlotte's history had built a successful manufacturing business housed in buildings that stand today on Central Avenue. Eugene Cole, along with his brothers, had invented and obtained a US patent for a seed corn planter that was known as the "Coles' Combination Planter" in 1900. By the 1940s it was estimated that three fourths of the cotton, corn and peanut crops in the south were planted with Cole planters. In 1928 Eugene Cole attended the auction attracted by an interest in having a place to go fishing near his home. He acquired the land and the house for \$15,000, the equivalent of \$200,000 today. He placed a dam across the creek that runs through the property to make a small lake for fishing. He knew the historic importance of the house and considered at least one idea for raising the funds needed to restore it.

In 1943 a committee of the Western Conference of the United Methodist Church was looking for land to build a home for the aged. Eugene Cole was a Methodist and one of his brothers was a Methodist minister. When the committee approached him asking to purchase the land he gave the deed to the 175 acre farm to the church as a gift with the request that none of the land be sold. That is how the Methodist Church became the owner of this historic site. The following year Eugene Cole died leaving a monetary gift that made the purchase of 50 acres of adjoining farm land possible. By 1948 the church had raised the money to build the first building of what was then called the Methodist Home for the Aged. The following year the board agreed to lease the “Rock House” on the campus to the Daughters of the American Revolution for 99 years at \$1.00 a year. Local DAR chapters raised money and began restoration efforts to turn the home into a house museum. Restoration work began in the 1950s and continued until the early 1970s. Period furnishings and a trust fund of three million dollars for maintenance costs at the site were acquired. In 1976 the home and a new Charlotte Museum of History were opened to the public.

Today the property is a continuing care retirement community known as Aldersgate that celebrates its 70th anniversary this year. The lake created by Eugene Cole is still used for fishing and a variety of houses and apartments accommodate several hundred independent living residents in a beautiful 250 acre wooded campus in the center of Charlotte. In addition, a 100 bed skilled nursing facility, hospice and dialysis units, memory care and assisted living facilities provide medical care for members of Aldersgate as well as other Charlotte residents. The 231 acre site also provides opportunities to serve the East Charlotte community in several ways in addition to the Charlotte Museum of History.

On September 8, 2018 the museum will hold a family reunion for descendants of the Alexander family. We are indeed fortunate that all who come for this event can enjoy the grounds where their ancestors lived and the home that stood when we were still British subjects. The power of this place is special indeed! Alice Bostic

From the Chairman

Last spring Audrey Mellichamp challenged each of us to find a Sense of Place and explore it, in our imaginations if not in person. She and her husband had planned a journey to Michigan, Audrey’s childhood home. At our September meeting some of us will share our discoveries. Audrey will not be with us – traveling again! – so below is the story she would like to tell.

A Summer Car Trip to My Sense of Place

A three week car trip with your spouse, staying in a different place almost every night. Could you do it? Larry and I did this in June when we went back home to Michigan. And we still love each other! In fact, we discovered a few new things about each other!

We did indeed experience “Our Michigan.” We smelled the lilacs; ate Michigan whitefish and gorged on rhubarb pies. Larry enjoying the pies as much as I did and I grew up on them. We renewed our sweet tooth with Mackinaw City fudge—only Marshalls will do. All our botanical haunts from graduate school days are still intact: lakeshore sand dunes and beaches, bogs, fens, mosquitoes. The University of Michigan Biological Station, “bug camp”, has not changed in 40 years. They are still teaching the next wave of scientists.

We fell in love with Mackinac Island all over again. A five day Road Scholar program presented the rich history of the area from the late 1600s with Father Marquette, and the 1700s with two frontier forts, one on the mainland and one on the island. There are no cars on the island, only bikes, horse taxis, and snow mobiles in the winter. We did a lot of walking up the glacial terraces. These are quite steep. In the 1800s huge resort homes were built on these high terraces as summer residences for the wealthy. The Grand Hotel, 1887, has a spectacular view of Lake Huron. Our group had a splendid tea served to us in the parlor, complete with champagne toasts. Very much a treat in a grand setting.

Our lectures were by some of the permanent residents of the island; some 400 people live there year round. Slides of the island in winter were magical—candle lights, sleigh bells. The school teacher described teaching K-high school with perhaps 2 students graduating each year. The park superintendent described the Victorian architecture. The year-round Vet told of caring for the horses.

After getting back to the mainland by ferry, Larry and I crossed the Mackinaw Bridge to the Upper Peninsula. Immediately we felt that we were HOME. We were in the North Woods—no traffic, no billboards, different vegetation, the land of Hiawatha! There were a few surprises in Michigan. My grandfather’s farming area has been bought by the Amish. I was thrilled to see this. The rich glacial till/soil will be farmed and not developed. Along the shores of the thumb there are wind turbines. The pot holes are still in the roads.

I did renew my sense of place....It was wonderful to have this opportunity again. I am thankful to see my history coming and going.

Audrey Mellichamp

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the November/December Dandelion is October 16th. Send articles to Jim and Ann Williams at mhadandelion@mindspring.com

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 programs at 11. Visitors are always welcome.

Tuesday September 4, 2018 Giggles, Grins and Other Serious Matters

It’s so much fun hearing stories about what we did on our summer vacations, so let’s start the season with Audrey Mellichamp’s challenge and share a revisited Sense of Place from your past, or perhaps an entirely new place recently discovered. Think about where you’ve been, who you’ve met, what you’ve read, or maybe tell how you spent the summer just unwinding and enjoying your garden. If a different summer or season comes to mind, feel free to wander. Several times at docent meetings we’ve shared family stories and treasured possessions; this time we’ll share special places. If you have pictures to show, bring them as a Power Point on a thumb drive or chip; if they’re in a different format, contact Jim Williams for advice. Program chairman, Jane Estep will be our moderator, and allow each of us a few minutes to tell our stories. Do prepare to take notes, as you’re bound to get ideas for future journeys. To quote Dr. Seuss, “Oh, the places you’ll go!”

Tuesday October 2, 2018 Making History in Charlotte’s West End

Discover Charlotte’s African American history. Community historian Dr. Tom Hanchett will explore stories of the McCrorey Heights neighborhood near Johnson C. Smith University. Developed after World War II, the neighborhood was home to some of the leading black institution-builders in the city, and to key figures in the Civil Rights movement locally, regionally and nationally.

As a community historian Dr. Tom Hanchett has consulted with groups throughout the area, and was Staff Historian for sixteen years at the Levine Museum of the New South. He curated the museum’s permanent exhibit, *Cotton Fields to Skyscrapers* (named Best in the Southeast by the South East Museum Conference), and has won national awards for a number of temporary exhibits.

Tom has written extensively about urban history and Southern culture including *Sorting Out the New South City; Race, Class, & Urban Development in Charlotte*, In addition to consulting and lecturing he reviews ethnic food purveyors for the Charlotte Observer.



Nominating Committee Report

The MHA Docent nominating committee composed of Janet Dyer as immediate past chairman, June McKinney, and Alice Bostic submitted the following slate of nominees to the docent board:

Co-Chairmen – Barbara Jackson and Janet Dyer
Program Chairman – Jane Estep
Treasurer – Valerie Jones
Hospitality – Carolyn Dilda
Newsletter Editors – Ann and Jim Williams

The slate will be presented to the membership at the September meeting; additional nominations can be made from the floor with the nominee's permission. The slate will be voted on in October. The elected officers will be presented to the MHA board for approval, and they will be installed in January. All terms are for two years. As of this writing we do not have a nominee for secretary, but should have that slot filled by the September meeting.

New Docent Roster

Valerie Jones is in the process of preparing the MHA Docent roster for 2018-2019. She will have a draft copy at the September Docent meeting. Read it to see if your information is correct. Note any corrections to be made, or put a check mark by your name to indicate your approval. If you miss the September meeting and any of your information has changed, notify Valerie at vyjones@carolina.rr.com by September 24. She'll have new rosters for everyone at the October meeting.

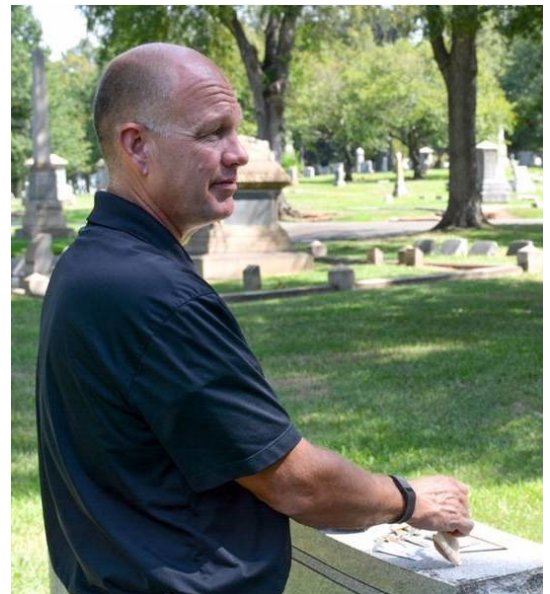
MHA Dinner Meeting

**Monday, September 17
City of Charlotte Cemeteries**

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.

Bill Bibby, City of Charlotte Cemeterian, will present a program about Charlotte's city-owned cemeteries that probably cover more territory than most of us are aware of. In addition to Settlers, Elmwood, and the three sections of Pinewood, Bill and his team manage Evergreen and Oaklawn; altogether they cover 192 acres. All except Settlers are active, having about 490 burials each year. The mission of Bill's team is "To serve our community with the utmost integrity and respect, with a caring and empathetic feeling toward our families that we serve, and to protect, beautify and restore our community's history through dedication and hard work." Bill will speak to us about the history of Charlotte's cemeteries, and his master plan and ideas for the future.

Bill was recently named Employee of the Year out of 8,000 Charlotte employees. He came to Charlotte from Pittsburgh where he was Manager of Historic Cemeteries including Sylvania Hills Memorial Park, Allegheny Cemetery, Homewood cemetery, Grove Cemetery, and the Zellenople; several of these have Mausoleums with capacities in the thousands. Bill has actively worked with us for the last two years on our Voices From The Past events; his enthusiasm and commitment to history contributed to the success of those events.



MHA North Branch Meeting

Tuesday, September 11, at 7 pm

The North Branch MHA will begin its fifth year with a Hidden Treasure trip to the ruins of the Captain Richard Barry estate, followed by a planning meeting at the nearby home of Sarah Sue Hardinger. Captain Richard Barry was a patriot in the Revolution, and is buried at Hopewell Cemetery. His property was the site of the first Hopewell Church structure.

Richard Barry Park is also on Beatties Ford Road, so take care in using map apps. The Barry ruins are immediately north of Hopewell High School, 11530 Beatties Ford Road in Huntersville. Look for the North Branch sign on the corner where you need to turn.

Sarah Sue's home is only minutes away. The meeting will move there for refreshments and to discuss new possibilities for our group in 2018. For more information, contact Sarah Sue at 704-906-6656.

In Memoriam – Sylvia Dubreuil

Long time docent Sylvia Dubreuil passed away on Saturday June 23, 2018 at the age of ninety. Although Sylvia was a native of Massachusetts and lived much of her life in New England, when her family moved to Charlotte she became fascinated by local history. She became a docent at the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite in 1979 where she enjoyed giving tours to children and adults. When Historic Rosedale opened for tours in 1993, Sylvia became one of its first docents and continued to guide tours for as long as she was able. Her family said that being part of our docent group gave her much pleasure and enriched her life.

Hart Square Tickets

For more than thirty years, Dr. Robert Hart of Hickory has rescued and restored 19th century life in the Carolinas, recreating an entire village, Hart Square – the largest collection of original historic log buildings in the United States. For one day each year, on the fourth Saturday in October, (October 27th 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. The proceeds from this event go to the non-profit Hart Square Foundation which is dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of Hart Square Village.

Advanced tickets are required since this event always sells out early. You can get tickets by visiting the Catawba County Museum of History in Newton at 9 am on Monday, October 1, but as participants in the event, we can order tickets for you. Make your check out to Jim Williams for \$45.00 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 **Friday, September 7** to get these tickets. We will receive the tickets by mid-October and mail them on to you.

History News

A North Carolina Museums Council Meeting will be held in Charlotte on Thursday, October 4 from 6 to 8 pm, at the Wells Fargo Museum, 401 S. Tryon St., \$20.00.

Museum professionals and supporters are invited to "Think and Drink," a networking and fundraising event for the North Carolina Museums Council, a state wide association advocating for museums and museum professionals in North Carolina. Network with fellow museum professionals over appetizers and beverages and hear Dr. Tom Hanchett speak on the unique history of Uptown Charlotte. Register at <http://www.ncmuseums.org/news-events/networking-event/>

Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox, Symposium, Friday, October 26 from 2 to 8:30 pm and Saturday, October 27 from 9 am to 8:30 pm, Manning, SC.

History buffs and Francis Marion admirers are invited to the 16th annual Francis Marion/Swamp Fox Symposium. Explore the Revolutionary War Southern Campaign with General Francis Marion; immerse yourself in Francis Marion's world and the significance of the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution.

This "Times of Francis Marion, 1732-1795" symposium will feature ten presentations and two evening dinner theaters in the history of the Revolutionary war. For details, schedules, locations and to register see www.francismarionsymposium.com call 803.478.2645 or email gsummers@ftc-i.net

The Fall Lecture Series of the Central Carolinas Society of the Archaeological Institute of America will be held at Davidson College in September and October.

Tuesday, September 11 at 7:30 pm, Sloan Music Center, Davidson College.

Hoplites in Above-Ground Tombs: A Quasi-Archaeological Report on the Piedmont's "Bronze-Age" Confederate Monuments. Professor Gary Freeze of Catawba College.

The recent debates over public display of Confederate monuments, their appearance, messages and relevance will be discussed.

Monday, September 17 at 7:30 pm, Chambers Building, Davidson College.

Two Thousand Years of Sexual Harassment. Professor Amy Richlin of UCLA,

Sexual harassment: the Greeks made a joke of it, but in Rome you could sue. Yet whose honor was at stake? Roman legal definitions of street harassment point to norms for female virtue that have lasted from antiquity to the present. Have US sexual harassment laws caused a change? Time's up: again?

Tuesday, September 18 at 7:30 pm, Chambers Building, Davidson College.

The Arab Girl: Human Trafficking in Roman Comedy. Professor Amy Richlin of UCLA,

In the sale scene in Plautus *Persa* and other scenes in Roman comedy, actors dressed up as foreigners and talked about slaves of various ethnicities, especially Syrians, as well as their Italian neighbors.

Thursday, October 25 at 7:30 pm, Sloan Music Center, Davidson College.

Revolt! Why the Jews took on Rome. Professor Andrea Berlin of Boston University,

New archaeological evidence of building constructed by King Herod the Great reveals the conditions that led the Jews to revolt against Rome.

For additional information contact Peter Krentz, W. R. Grey Professor of Classics, Davidson College, pekrentz@davidson.edu

Book Talks in Spartanburg at the Campus Life Center, 180 Gramling Drive, Spartanburg, SC.

Living a Big War in a Small Place: Spartanburg. South Carolina During the Confederacy by Dr. Philip N. Racine, presented by the Foothills Civil War Roundtable, Monday, October 1 at 6 to 8 pm.

Turning Point: The American Revolution in the Spartan District by Dr. Katherine Cann, presented by the Revolutionary War Roundtable of the Backcountry, Monday, October 29, at 6 to 8 pm.

\$25 in advance for dinner and presentation or \$5 for presentation only. Contact Bonnie Werlinich at bwerlini@uscupstate.edu for information.

Site News

Iredell Museums is Searching for a Programs and Operations Manager.

This person will be the main face of the Museum, both on-site and out in the community. The Manager oversees all aspects of programming and events related to membership and education, management of museum building and historic structures, and serves as a liaison to the community.

This is a full-time (40 hours per week) position, with benefits. To apply: submit a Resume, Cover Letter, and at least two References to Angel Johnston at ajohnston@iredellmuseums.org

Matthews History Museum Receives a Grant.

The Museum has received a mini-grant from Truliant Federal Credit Union for the creation of an exhibit on Tank Town, the area of Matthews now known as Crestdale. This area was originally settled by freed slaves and for more than a hundred years was separate from Matthews. The exhibit will open in February and some materials will be added to the permanent exhibit. Educational materials will be developed for the school system and a special tour will be created for this neighborhood.

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>

Read It @ Rosedale: *Varina* By Charles Frazier, Thursday & Saturday, September 27 & 29 from 11:00 am-12:30 pm.

Join us for a moderator-led discussion plus a specially-designed house tour, bringing to life the past and literature, sharing oral history, and spotlighting artifacts rarely seen outside our archives

Spirits of Rosedale, Friday & Saturday, October 19 & 20 from 7 to 10 pm.

The Spirits of Rosedale takes visitors on a night tour through the plantation home's first floor, kitchen basement, and gardens. Rosedale's theatrical production team presents this family-friendly Halloween production appropriate for audiences ages 6 and up. Tours start every 20 minutes beginning at 7 pm with the last tour beginning at 9:20 pm. Each group is limited to 20 people.

Paranormal Grounds Investigation, Friday and Saturday October 26 and 27 from 8 to 9:30 pm.

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

Paranormal House Investigation, Saturday October 27 from 10 pm to Midnight.

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

Historic Latta Plantation

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

A Hornets Nest of Rebellion - War in Charlotte, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 1 and 2 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Meet Colonel Thomas Polk, learn about the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and see its repercussions as the Revolutionary War makes its way through the Carolina Back Country. Revolutionary War battle reenactments will take place at noon and 3 pm on Saturday and at 2 pm on Sunday.

The circa 1800 living-history farm and cotton plantation will buzz with action. Patriot and British soldier camps will be open for visitors, the farm animals will be out for the children to meet and the home, outbuildings, barn, and cabins will be open for demonstrations. Food vendors will include Appalachian Smoke and Olde Mecklenburg Brewery.

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, September 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>

Backcountry Days & Ice Cream Social, Saturday, September 8, from noon to 4 pm, Free.

Join the Museum and the Charlotte Folk Society for an afternoon of fun and frivolity, 18th century style and free ice-cream as long as it lasts. Learn what early Charlotteans did for fun, listen to folk music and explore the oldest house in Mecklenburg County.

Are You an Alexander Family Descendent? Saturday, September 8 from 4 pm.

If you are, or think you may be, an Alexander family descendant you are invited to the Alexander Family Reunion. After the afternoon ice cream social, join in with your kinfolk, some of whom may have traveled from miles away. Share family stories and Alexander lore over a festive dinner. Dinner at 5 pm, \$25.00, Reservations Required.

Mad About Modern Home Tour, Saturday, September 29 from 10 am to 4 pm, \$25.00.

Celebrate Charlotte's unique midcentury modern architectural history by touring a selection of homes dating from 1955 to 1991. See <https://www.madaboutmodern.com> for details and tickets.

Historic Brattonsville

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

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

By the Sweat of Our Brows, Saturday, September 8 from 10 am to 4:15 pm Plus a Tour of Two Historic Churches on Sunday September 9 at 2 to 5 pm.

In this annual award-winning program honoring African American culture and heritage, descendants of the enslaved families who lived on the Bratton plantation come together and share their stories. This year the program expands to a two-day event with on-site programs on Saturday and special tours of two historical churches on Sunday.

Programs on Saturday include historically dressed interpreters portraying life on the plantation, cooking over open hearths, demonstrating traditional agricultural practices, storytelling and playing folk games plus a historical wedding or “jumping the broom.” There will be live portrait drawing of descendants by Winthrop professor of fine arts Stacey Davidson and her students.

Special Programs:

11 am: The story of Watt and his role in the American Revolution.

2 to 3 pm: Dr. Lisa Bratton will discuss her family and the “Seven Sacred Families of Brattonsville.”

3 to 3:30 pm: Dr. Chris Gillam will discuss a structure that has links to the enslaved at Brattonsville.

There will be African American arts and crafts and food available for purchase from Kenny Liles Fish Fry.

Saturday’s admission includes a free pass for Sunday’s tour of two historic churches that are significant to the Brattonsville community. Meet at Brattonsville at 2 pm to caravan to Bethesda Presbyterian Church and Mt. Zion Baptist Church where African Americans worshiped before and after the Civil War.

Piedmont Pottery & Pickin’ Festival, Saturday, September 22 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Over two dozen potters from the Carolina Piedmont will demonstrate their art and sell their wares. Plus live bluegrass music and BBQ.

Spirits and Stories: Brattonsville by Twilight, Saturday, October 20 from 3 to 9 pm.

By day, the living history plantation will be full of old-fashion fun and hands-on activities including wagon rides and harvest demonstrations. Other amusements include Simon St Clair’s Magick and Marvel Show plus live music and cider and donuts by the campfire. Food concessions will be available for purchase.

At twilight there will be guided lantern tours along the battlefield trail where Captain Christian Huck was killed. Historically dressed interpreters will lead you on a candlelit path where you will encounter spirits of the past who have a connection to the Bratton plantation

The Schiele Museum

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

Colonial Homestead: Off the Grid, Sunday, September 23, from 1 to 5 pm.

In the days before grocery stores and super-sized shopping centers, preserving food to sustain the family throughout the winter months was critical to the family’s survival. Visit the backcountry farm bustling with seasonal activities. Discover a variety of methods from the 1700’s for preserving food; many of which are still applicable to 21st century lifestyles.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

Tennessee – James K. Polk’s Frontier, Saturday, October 6 at 3 pm.

John Holtzapple, Director of the Polk Ancestral Home in Columbia, Tennessee will discuss the new frontier of Tennessee after the Revolution and how it shaped James K. Polk’s beliefs and values.

Reception for Mr. Holtzapple, Saturday October 6 at 5 pm.

At this reception Mr. Holtzapple will discuss the tomb controversy by discussing the dispute over President Polk’s will and the eventual demolition of Polk Place. For more information and to register for this event, please visit us at www.jameskpolk.net.”

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

Fall Living History, Saturday, September 29 from 9 am to 5 pm, Free, Donations Appreciated.

This living history program will give visitors a glimpse of what daily life was like for the garrison of Fort Dobbs through on-going displays of camp life, historic cooking, and scheduled musket and cannon firing demonstrations.

Kings Mountain Historical Museum

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

www.kingsmountainmuseum.org

Break on Through: 15th Annual Reverse Raffle & Auctions, Saturday, September 8 at 5:30 pm, H Lawrence Patrick Senior Center, 909 East Kings St, Kings Mountain.

Ticket \$125- include meal and entrance into \$10,000 Raffle (1 in 300 chance)

The evening will feature Live, Silent & Cake Auctions, raffle prizes, camaraderie, and entertainment. Celebrate the museum’s exhibit, A Century of Fashion: 1880-1980, by highlighting the decade of the 1960s. Enjoy the groovy era, 1960s dress is encouraged. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Buffet opens at 6:00 pm.

Goin’ South: in Search of Equality, Saturday, September 29 at 2 pm, Free.

The Rev. Dale M. Swoford will discuss his new book, a heart- rending story of the lead-up to the anti-discrimination march of Dr. Martin Luther King and his followers, the confrontation with Bull Connor and the aftermath that generated King’s “I have a dream” speech.

Train Module Workshop, Saturday, October 27 at 10:30 am.

See firsthand how the train guys put together the displays you see every Christmas. Learn and try your hand at creating the scenery for the model trains. Refreshments provided. Check web site for more information.

Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site

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

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

Gold Panning Competition, Saturday, September 8, from 10 am to 4 pm

Try your luck to pan as quickly as possible without losing the “gold” from your pans, open to both amateurs and professionals. Prizes awarded for all categories. \$5 entry for amateurs, \$10 entry for professionals (children), \$15 entry for professionals (adults). For ages 8 and up, panning is available for \$3.21 a ticket.

Charlotte Folk Society

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte

www.folksociety.org

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams, Friday, September 14, features Jamie Laval with special guest Megan McConnell, Free.

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte. 7:30 PM. Doors open 7:00 PM. Family-friendly & Free; donations appreciated. Free parking. Refreshments, song circle, songwriter's workshop, and jams follow concert. Accessible entry & elevator on ground floor. 704-563-7080; www.folksociety.org

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams, Friday, October 12, features Jeff Little & Wayne Henderson , Free.

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte. 7:30 PM. Doors open 7:00 PM. Family-friendly & Free; donations appreciated. Free parking. Refreshments, song circle, songwriter's workshop, and jams follow concert. Accessible entry & elevator on ground floor. 704-563-7080; www.folksociety.org

Andrew Jackson State Park

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

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

Friends of Andrew Jackson State Park, Sunday, September 30 at 2 pm.

Come out to learn how you can support Andrew Jackson State Park. Find out about upcoming projects, programs and volunteer opportunities. We will be discussing plans for Fall Fun Night and the Life in the Waxhaws Lantern Tour.

Cowpens National Battlefield

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

www.nps.gov/cowp

Living History Day, Saturday, September 15, from 9 am to 5 pm, Free

The South Carolina Rangers will give weapons firing demonstrations at 10:20, 11:20, 1:20, and 2:20.

The Night before Kings Mountain, Saturday, October 6, at 6 pm, Free.

This Outdoor Drama tells about the march of the overmountain men to Kings Mountain.

Continental Cannon Camp, Saturday, October 13 from 9 am to 5 pm, Free.

There will be Artillery demonstrations and battlefield walks.

Military through the Ages, Saturday, October 20, from 9 am to 5 pm, Free.

Reenactors will portray different eras of American History.

York County Genealogical & Historical Society

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

Colonel James Williams and the Battle of Kings Mountain, Sunday, September 9 at 3 pm, Bethel Presbyterian Church, 2445 Hwy 557, Clover, SC

Award-winning author and storyteller Randell Jones will tell the story of South Carolinian's participation in this famous Rev War battle. New research enables us to salvage the reputation of South Carolina's own Col. James

Williams, much maligned by a fellow colonel in his suspect memoir. Williams may well be the real hero of this famous battle which helped make America free.

The Iredell Museums

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

<http://www.iredellmuseums.org>

The Wallace Brothers: Roots, Herbs, & Religion, a New Exhibit, Opens in September.

This is an original exhibit on two of Statesville's most successful businessmen. They arrived in Statesville at the beginning of the Civil War and opened a wholesale store. In addition to the usual goods their Botanic Depot featured roots, produce and herbs as medicinal commodities. Other Jewish immigrants made their homes in Statesville and the Wallace brothers established a Jewish Congregation in 1883. They soon built a synagogue which drew congregants from as far as Hickory, Salisbury, and Charlotte. They were among the founders of Mitchell Community College and the New South Cotton Mill,

Eastern Lincoln Historical Society

Mundy House Annex, 4353 Highway 16 N Business, Denver, NC

Camp Greene, Hot Springs, and the War to End all Wars, Monday, September 10 at 6 pm.

Heather Perry from UNC Charlotte will talk about why America went to war in 1917, Camp Greene, the army training camp in Charlotte, and the German internment camp in Hot Springs, N.C. Camp Greene was a primary training facility where over 60,000 soldiers spent 30-90 days learning trench warfare. Hot Springs, North of Asheville on the Tennessee Border, was the home of the largest prison camp in the U.S. in WWI.

Historic Unity Presbyterian Church in Lincoln County, Monday, October 8 at 6 pm.

Reverend David Bonnema will speak on historic Unity Presbyterian Church, originally established as "Beattie's Meeting House" in 1764. The first settlers to this area were Scots-Irish Presbyterians and Palatine Germans. John Beattie established the first religious center in the area, built of logs beside a grove of oak and hickory near a spring. The first pastor at Unity was Rev. Humphrey Hunter, who came to Unity in 1796. He was born in Londonderry, Ireland.

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