

MHA NEWS

Dinner Meeting

Monday, May 14, 2007

6:30 pm. Dinner; program following at 7:15 pm

Fellowship Hall

At Trinity Presbyterian Church

3115 Providence Road



Dinner Program Topic will be: “ Carolinas Aviation Museum”

The guest speaker for the program will be Marsha Hanna. She is the Education Director and Accessions Chairman for the Carolinas Aviation Museum. She is a retired history and social studies teacher from CMS and has been with the Museum since the mid-nineties. She volunteers with Historic Brattonsville and is active with the Charlotte Regional History Consortium.

The Museum was founded in 1992 with the restoration of the historic Southern Airways Hangar, the first building constructed

at Charlotte's first official Municipal Airport. Then Mayor Ben Douglas worked with the WPA to co-sponsor the construction of a Municipal Airport due to Charlotte's needs having outgrown the space available at Cannon Airport. Since its founding, the Museum, a restoration facility, has acquired 45 aircraft including three that fly. The aircraft range from a replica of the Wright Brothers' 1902 glider, to an F-14 Tomcat that was actually flown into Charlotte in April, 2006. The Museum's flagship, the Piedmont Airlines DC-3, flies to air shows nationwide. Staffed by vol-

unteers, the Museum is open 6 days a week with guided tours available each day.

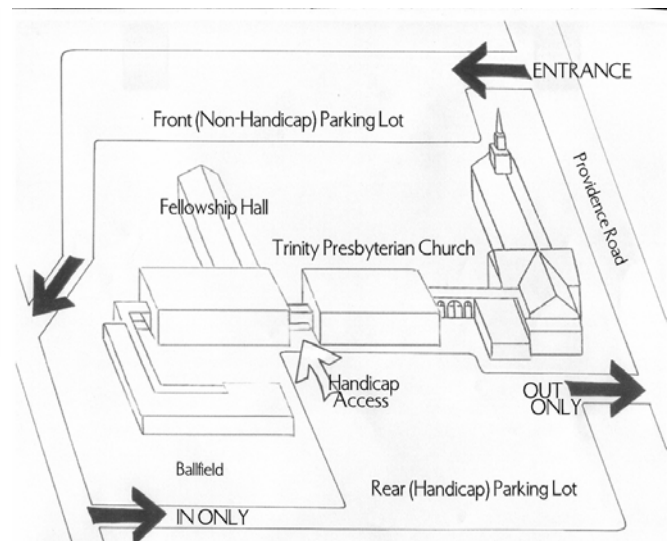
Reservation Form to be returned by
Wednesday, May 9, 2007.

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The MHA meets in Trinity Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall.
3115 Providence Road



Remarks from the President...



Congratulations Members! The embers of local history which you have kept alive are taking fire with a new generation! At the last meeting we heard from Charles Jonas,

Jr. the young man leading the May 20th Society which has planned an extraordinary series of events for May 18-20th with support from the business community, Center City Partners, and of course our Docents and Re-enactors! The latter gave the recent Captain Jack fundraiser at Tommy Norman's house on Sharon Road a wonderful spirit of the times. As a part of the May events, Jim Williams advised me that they are looking for a cannon to fire on the Square! It looks like full employment for the Docents and Re-enactors because everybody loves them.

Speaking of programming, the indefatigable Dr. Tony Zeiss gave a great performance at the last meeting embodying the spirit of four Civil War soldiers. It was delightful. And our Program Committee Co-chairs Jane Johnson and Kathy Herran have an engaging lineup of programs for the months to come. They are doing a terrific job. The May program will feature a presentation about our Air Museum. Don't miss it!

And Dr. Zeiss is excited about the Trail of History along the greenway near CPCC. Efforts are being directed at re-naming that section of Independence Blvd. near it Charlottetown Avenue! So give yourselves a pat on back! And bring in a new member!

As a final note, the MHA needs to be a part of funding the Captain Jack statute. Please contact me at

704.560.0039 or see me at the meeting about making a contribution. We need to provide inspiration to those fine young people who are raising money to make it happen. Your Board will discuss making a general contribution to which we would love to have additional group or individual donations. discuss making a general contribution to which we would love to have additional group or individual donations.

See you at the May meeting!

Chase Saunders, *President*
President, MHA

From the Docent Committee

On April third the docents were delighted to have MHA's own Kathy Neill Herran as our speaker. Kathy entertained and educated us on the lives of the six remarkable daughters of Robert Hall Morrison. It is good to be able to support our local authors who have done the research and writing that allows us to see more clearly into the lives of the early residents of Mecklenburg County. Leigh Dyer, Charlotte Observer Living Here columnist, wrote a nice article about the program and docent meeting times for the Sunday paper. Leigh's efforts to share local history with area residents are a wonderful addition to the Observer. Our Historic Cooking Guild is also getting some well deserved publicity for their work. Look for them in an article in the June *Our State* magazine.

We are looking forward to a presenta-

tion by Jim Williams, also an MHA board member, in May. Jim has been doing some research on Captain James Jack, famous locally for taking the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. He will share his research with us at the May 1st meeting. Jim will be joined by George Dewey and Scott Syfert, members of the May 20th Society, which is raising the funds needed to erect a statue of Captain Jack on the Little Sugar Creek Greenway. We are pleased to be able to learn about this group's vision for making Charlotte residents more knowledgeable about our region's history. Do come and join us at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, May 1. Refreshments and the business meeting begin at 9:30 and the program at 11 AM. You are welcome to join us at any time.

Our June meeting will be a picnic at Historic Rosedale on June 5. We will have a short business meeting at 10:30 followed by a potluck salad and dessert meal. We are looking forward to having time to catch up with everyone while enjoying some delicious food. We thank Rosedale for providing a beautiful location for this event. After a summer break we look forward to seeing you in September. Best wishes for a wonderful summer filled with relaxation and fun.

Alice Bostic
Docent Chairman

Morris Field, Predecessor to Charlotte Douglas International Airport

For an in-depth look at the history of the local airport, visit the website for the Carolina Room at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library.

Visit the following link for more information: <http://www.cmstory.org/homefront/places/morrisfield.htm>.

<http://www.cmstory.org/homefront/places/>

Charlotte Museum of History Exhibit

“Personal Legacies: Surviving the Great Depression Charlotte-Mecklenburg 1929-1939” by Robin Edgar now on exhibit includes the recollections of MHA member, Powell Majors. The exhibit is on display through August 12.

For further information, please use the following link: <http://www.charlottemuseum.org>.

Celebration of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence 2007

This year’s observance will be sponsored by the May 20th Society and Center City Partners at noon at The Square on Friday, May 18th. The Square will be closed with a replica of the courthouse, a reading of the Meck Dec, the reenactors’ Fife and Drums Corps, the presence of “Capt. James Jack,” and the MHA Docents.



For further details, please visit the new website, <http://www.may20thsociety.org>.

May 14th Dinner Meeting Reservation Form

**Mail to: Mecklenburg Historical Association
2401 Sharon Road
Charlotte, NC 28211**

Please make checks payable to Mecklenburg Historical Association
Questions? Please call Linda Dalton, 704.364.1618.

Enclosed: \$ _____ (total) for _____ seats (\$11 for Seniors)
\$ _____ (total) for _____ seats (\$13 for all others)

(Name Tag)

(Name Tag)

Reservations must be made by Wednesday, May 9, 2007.

Mark your calendars now for future meetings of the Mecklenburg Historical Association. The next meeting is scheduled for **Fall, 2007.**



"Preserving Mecklenburg's Heritage"

Post Office Box 35032
Charlotte, North Carolina 28235

ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AT
WWW.MECKDEC.ORG
