

## Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

*Promoting Local History through Education and Research*



November/December, 2012  
Volume 18, Number 5

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### *Rural Hill to Dedicate New Cultural Center*



Tuesday, January 1, 2013 will mark the dedication of the “Historic Rural Hill Cultural Center,” now under construction. The building totals more than 4,000 square feet and was made possible by a bequest from Miss May Davidson who passed away in 2011. She was a direct descendant of Major John Davidson, the founder of Rural Hill Plantation. The new building is dedicated to Miss Davidson, to her love of her Scottish heritage and of the Rural Hill plantation where she was born and raised.

The largest part of the building, the May Davidson Hall, is designed to be used for weddings, receptions, business retreats and other such activities. Built on top of the hill in the middle of the plantation it has a clear view of the entire property and is ideally suited to inspire joy and confidence in the future.

The building will also contain the Scottish Heritage Room containing the Rural Hill library along with personal artifacts from Miss Davidson and others of the wide-spread Davidson clan. It will function as a research library as well as a meeting room for smaller groups.

This day of celebration will start off at 11 am with the First Footin.’ Also known as walking the bounds or “beating” the bounds, this is a traditional walk in the woods and fields around the boundaries of Rural Hill. In ancient times a man took his sons around the property each year to make sure they knew the bounds of the property that would one day belong to them. Dress appropriate to the weather and wear sturdy shoes or boots.

First Footin’ will be followed by Hogmanny, the traditional Scottish celebration of the New Year. We will share a noon meal of “stone soup.” (Place a large, clean stone in a pot of water. Bring the water to a rolling boil and add whatever you have until you have a hearty soup. Remove and discard the stone. Share the stone soup with your friends and neighbors and enjoy the fellowship.) This event is free but everyone is encouraged to bring vegetables (either fresh or canned) to add



to the soup or to bring bread or desert. Those neighbors so unfortunate as to be unable to contribute to the stone soup should be sure to attend as they will enjoy a substantial meal along with the support and condolences of their more fortunate neighbors.

At the conclusion of the noon meal there will be a dedication ceremony of the new Cultural Center and everyone may tour the facility and examine the family artifacts. The ceremony will be attended by a number of researchers and interpreters in period dress who will discuss with you the Rural Hill Davidson family as they lived on the plantation from 1765 to 1860, and you will be able to view and discuss the new Rural Hill Davidson research report discussed in the following article.

Jim Williams

### *The Davidsons of Rural Hill*

Last winter the Arts and Science Council awarded a grant to Historic Rural Hill for a study of the Davidson family who lived and farmed there. Jim and I were asked to do the research and write the report. We might have declined had we realized the scale of the project; at least we had the foresight to limit ourselves to the first three generations. We completed the report in August after six months of the hardest work we've ever done.

There was a mammoth amount of material to read and analyze, much of it at Rural Hill in the form of photocopies of family papers from the archives of various academic institutions. Other major sources included census records, wills, deeds, estate papers, court records, and other public sources, as well as published histories, genealogies, and the archives at UNCC, UNC, the state archives and elsewhere. The Rural Hill staff was well aware of their large and unwieldy collection of documents. What they needed was a single narrative that wove all the facts into place, debunked the myths, and made note of gaps and inconsistencies. Not an easy task. Many early records no longer exist. Multiple people with the same name such as John Davidson, Samuel Wilson, etc. were a constant tangle. To add to the confusion, many of them used middle names in private life and their full names on official documents. Handwritten documents and inconsistent spelling presented more puzzles. Oft repeated family stories cried out for confirmation that doesn't exist or hasn't yet been found.

The number of people involved in this study is enormous. Major John and Violet Davidson built Rural Hill and lived the rest of their lives there. They had 10 children, 63 grandchildren, and countless great grandchildren. The stack of genealogy sheets on those four generations is nearly an inch thick. We concentrated on those who lived on the property, a more manageable number. The family lore had been that Major John's father-in-law gave him the property on the occasion of his marriage to Violet in 1761. A study of deeds shows this not to be true. As a young man John bought a farm about ten miles northeast of Rural Hill. Two years later he married Violet, and four years after that he bought his first parcel of Rural Hill land from Violet's father for a fair price. Over the years he and his descendants added additional acres to his farm, how many we will probably never know. Deeds were often not recorded, and acreage was often not mentioned in lands distributed by wills. We can account for about 2,000 acres by the 1850s, and we know there was more. The family lore says that Rural Hill became a 5,000 acre plantation. This may be an exaggeration, but perhaps not.

Two of John's sons became the second generation at Rural Hill: Robin and his wife Peggy, and Jacky and his wife Sallie. Robin and Peggy named their portion of the farm Holly Bend. It is now also county property adjacent to Rural Hill. Jacky inherited the primary farm and its mansion house. By then cotton had become profitable, and the property continued to grow. Robin and Peggy were childless; Jacky and Sallie had 10 children. Jacky's son Brevard became the next owner of the plantation. Brevard and his wife Mary had 16 children. We included brief biographies of all of these children, as well as those of Major John and Violet and their parents. (Thank you, Robin and Peggy, for not adding to our task.) We briefly outlined the last three generations that lived on the property. None of the final generation married and left heirs. By then the acreage had greatly diminished. In 1992 the three remaining siblings (including May Davidson, mentioned above) sold most of the land to Mecklenburg County; it became the Rural Hill we know today.

Brevard Davidson, Major John's grandson, kept farm journals from 1834 to 1856. They are rich with details about the operation of a large cotton plantation and the slaves who labored on the land. Brevard's journals tell us that they prepared the land with three or four plowings, then furrowed and hilled rows before planting. Next came endless plowing and harrowing around young crops, followed by the intensive labor of harvest. Later came cotton ginning and pressing, the slaughter of hogs, and the constant building and repair of fences, mills, roads and bridges. In June of 1840 Brevard cut 40 acres of wheat with four hands in two days, which means that each person cut about five acres a day with a scythe by hand – overwhelming to a modern non-farmer. He told us a lot about his slaves: their names, ages, what tasks they performed, and some of their family relationships. He also included tidbits of family information and happenings around the neighborhood. It's a wonderful resource!

This is just a taste of what we uncovered. I've not mentioned the lunatic minister, the Lincoln County iron works, Hopewell Church, the education of children, three of Jacky's children who became some of Florida's earliest non-Spanish settlers, why he was called "Silver-headed Jacky", and much, much, more. For this you can read the entire 146 page report, *The Davidsons of Rural Hill: the First Three Generations*. There is a copy in the docent library, as well as the Carolina Room of the public library, the UNCC library, at Rural Hill and several other places. This was truly a fascinating family that left us a wealth of information about antebellum Mecklenburg County.

Ann Williams

### *From the Chairman*

"I did it!"--"We did it!"

I still remember this milestone in my daughter's young life. Suzy was about 2½ when she needed to cross a 2 plank bridge in the gardens at UNC Charlotte. Daddy had crossed ahead of her. Suzy, being able to climb and walk at 8 months, had grown up in the gardens. She climbed rocks and stomped in the creeks, but this bridge...all it was, was 2 narrow planks, with no sides and the creek was steep below it. Suzy placed one small foot in the middle of each plank and started out, one slow step at a time. She stopped after 3 steps, backed away and cried, "I can't." Daddy, however, encouraged her to try again, and so she did, 1 step at a time until she stopped half way and cried, "I can't." But the choice was to go back or forward. Slowly she inched forward and when she reached the other side, Suzy jumped for joy, clapped her hands, and shouted, "I did it!" She had won her challenge.

When I started being your chair nearly 2 years ago, I did not doubt that I could do it. But I hesitated to take on the challenge of leading Docents because of concerns--the health of my back and my mother. And I was still working. I did have my hands full. But with the encouragement of Docents, I accepted being your Queen. "I did it, too!" But really "We did it!"

Even through these hardships (Mom has passed on), I have loved this job and all of you docents. We really did do it together. I did it because of the work, devotion, and support of my board. I have the best board! Each of you is priceless. We do work well together. Two thirds of this board will be staying on for another term. Barbara and June, you are in good hands.

I did wonder what would be my 'mark' on Docents. It did not take me long to come up with my Passport challenge to promote "learning history by being there." You embraced it and ten of you completed the challenge. BUT all of you began it. Other milestones came along – the 20<sup>th</sup> Docent Anniversary, the Asheville trip, and the Salisbury trip. This board also emphasized the talents of fellow docents and local historians for our programs. I am proud to have led the Docents in their quest to continue "to keep history alive in our community." We did do it.

My best, Audrey Mellichamp



## *Newsletter Deadline*

The deadline for the January/February 2013 issue of the Dandelion is December 14<sup>th</sup>. As always we welcome submissions from readers. Send articles to Ann and Jim Williams at 1601 S Wendover Road, Charlotte, NC 28211 or [mhadandelion@mindspring.com](mailto:mhadandelion@mindspring.com).

## *MHA Docent Board Elections*

At the October docent meeting the following slate of officers was elected: Chairman, Barbara Jackson; Vice Chairman, June White; Secretary, Lisa Tappy; Treasurer, Valerie Jones; Hospitality, Nell Coward, and Newsletter Editors, Ann and Jim Williams. The slate will be submitted to the MHA board, and installed at our January meeting. The chairman will serve a two year term and cannot succeed herself. All others serve one years terms and are eligible for reelection.

## *MHA Docent Programs*

Both the November and December meetings will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. Visitors are always welcome.

**Tuesday, November 6, 2012**

**The Plymouth Jacket**

Refreshments at 9:30 am, business meeting at 10, and program at 11.

In 2006 an idea was hatched at Plymouth Plantation (a historic site just south of Plymouth, Mass.) to create an embroidered jacket similar to those worn in the 1600s by ladies of the gentry. It was to be displayed with other recreated artifacts in the site's permanent exhibit. Little did anyone know how much work, how many hours, or how many people would be needed to bring the project to fruition. The economic downturn in 2008 caused the closing of Plymouth's textile department, and nearly derailed the project. "Faith", as the jacket was called, was nearly completed, and workers persevered to get the job done. The magnificent jacket was finally revealed at Plymouth Plantation in December of 2009.

Our own Valerie Jones, an expert on historic stitchery, and needle worker par excellence, will tell us the story of Faith's incredible journey from conception to completion, including all the perils met along the way. The details of how the perfect materials were acquired and how legions of embroiderers were selected are fantastic. Her talk will be illustrated by slides of this magnificent work of art. It is a feast for the eyes.



**Tuesday, December 4, 2012**  
**A Celebration of Christmas Past with Food and Fashion**  
Program at 10 am followed by a Christmas Tea

Each December the MHA Docents host a Christmas Tea to celebrate the season with our friends and colleagues. We invite all of you to be our guests. The program for our Tea will feature docents costumed in the styles worn by the people who lived at Hezekiah Alexander's rock house, James K. Polk's home, Latta Plantation, and Historic Rosedale during the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. They will talk about Christmas customs and the festive foods that were served during the season. We will learn how the holiday was celebrated in early Mecklenburg, and how the customs changed through the years. The program will be led by Sharon Van Kuren. Sharon, a long time member of the Historic Cooking Guild and chairman of the docent costume committee, will bring her considerable expertise to the event.

After the program we will be treated to a feast featuring historic goodies as well as more modern dishes prepared by our docents. Any guest who would like to bring a dish is welcome to do so but this is not required. Several docents will prepare food using old recipes, some with Mecklenburg roots, and recipes for some of them will be available.

Docents should bring a dish to share, either historical or modern, suitable for a luncheon or tea. Arrive at 9:30 to place your food on the serving table. We'll have a short business meeting at 9:45, followed by the program at 10. If you have period clothing, you are encouraged to wear it to add to the festive atmosphere. If you have questions contact Millie Hodge at 704-598-9584 or Sharon Van Kuren at 704-846-6187.

***MHA Dinner Meeting***

Monday, November 12, at Trinity Presbyterian Church. We will begin with a holiday social at 6 pm featuring appetizers and festive beverages, followed by dinner at 6:30 and the program at 7:15. Those not having dinner are welcome to enjoy the program at no charge.

**Anything You Could Think of Doing, We'd Just Do It**  
**The Early History of Charlotte's WBT**

Local historian Pamela Grundy will talk about the early years of Charlotte's WBT radio station, a time of technical innovation, experimental programming, and the occasional comic mishap. WBT (Watch Buick Travel) first broadcast in 1921 and 1922. At 50,000 watts the "Clear Channel" station could be heard at night from Maine to Miami, from Canada to the Caribbean. But not in Statesville or Wilmington. Many Americans had their first introduction to Charlotte through their radios, and our fair city soon became a welcome visitor in their living rooms. Weather and technology limitations interfered with weaker radio signals, but WBT broadcast loud and clear across the land.

Dr. Grundy wrote her masters thesis on WBT and also was curator of the Levine Museum of the New South exhibit: "Don't Touch that Dial! Carolina Radio Since the 1920s." There will be a table of WBT memorabilia for all to see during the social hour and after the program.

## *MHA Dues for 2013*

As we approach the end of the year, it is time to pay your Mecklenburg Historical Association dues (Our MHA year runs from January 1 to December 31). We will be sending out the annual dues letters in November so you can save your organization the mailing costs by sending in your dues now.

### Levels of MHA Membership

	<u>Single</u>	<u>Couple</u>
General	\$30.00	\$50.00
Senior (60+)	\$15.00	\$25.00
Patron	\$60.00	\$100.00
Life (single payment)	\$300.00	\$500.00
Student	free	n/a

If you are an MHA Member or would like to become one:

Print out this form, or cut out the one in the MHA Newsletter, make your check payable to *Mecklenburg Historical Association* and send it to the MHA at

Mecklenburg Historical Association  
P.O. Box 35032  
Charlotte, NC 28235

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please send my MHA Newsletter by

Email \_\_\_\_\_ US Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Both \_\_\_\_\_

### If you are an MHA Docent

We are a committee of the MHA and pay our dues to the docent treasurer who in turn remits them to the MHA treasurer. **Again, docents, please do not send your dues directly to MHA as this makes it difficult to determine for our records if your dues have been paid.**

Please fill out the form above, make **checks payable to MHA DOCENTS** and give them to Valerie Jones, your docent treasurer. If you cannot be at the monthly meetings, please mail your check to Valerie at

MHA Docents  
4700 Coronado Drive,  
Charlotte 28212.

And if you have any questions, email her at [vvjones@carolina.rr.com](mailto:vvjones@carolina.rr.com) or call at 704-567-0599.

## *Charlotte Museum of History Update*

On September 15th the Charlotte Museum of History held an Open House for the community. The museum staff was quite pleased with the public's response. Interim Director Kathy Ridge said, "The staff and board were very gratified by the attendance of about 200 who turned out Saturday evening for the Historic Evening at the Alexanders and the 50 or more who participated in community conversations. We heard loudly and clearly that folks wanted us to re-open the house as soon as possible and make that a priority. So we are piloting a once a month Saturday-only schedule to see how that works for visitors, staff, and the volunteer who will make this possible." In order to focus on their top priorities of the 1774 rock house and early Mecklenburg history, the museum will open the house for tours from 1 to 5 pm on November 3rd and December 1st. They plan to offer an expanded schedule for the New Year.

The museum recently entrusted its collection of paper archives including manuscripts and photographs to the Charlotte Public Library. These items will soon be transferred to the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room where they will be inventoried and catalogued. They should be available for researchers soon after the first of the year. The museum staff is pleased to find a home for this valuable collection where it will be well cared for and publicly accessible.

Now the museum is in the process of inventorying its collection of about 7000 objects. They would like to retain pre Civil War objects relevant to Mecklenburg County, and find more appropriate homes for other items. About 80% of their collection is post-Civil War, and some of their older pieces would be better situated closer to their places of origin. Reducing their collection will better enable the museum to focus on their mission of interpreting early Mecklenburg History, and greatly reduce their need for climate controlled storage space which is expensive to maintain. They have contacted other institutions who might be interested in acquiring artifacts, and would like to have this information shared with museums and archives you may know of. Their goal is to find an appropriate publicly accessible home for each item.

They are also looking for tenants for portions of the museum building which would greatly alleviate some of their financial burden.

## *The James K. Polk Memorial Welcomes Sara Walker*

Sara Walker has joined the staff at the President James K. Polk State Historic Site as a site interpreter. She replaces Courtney Rounds who moved away from the area due to her husband's employment. Sara comes to Polk with a wealth of interpretative experience. After earning a BA in History from Elon University, she worked at Chimney Rock Park as a naturalist. She then occupied three positions with the National Park Service. She began at the Carl Sandburg National Historic Site, worked two seasons at the Dr. Martin Luther King National Historic Site, and most recently at the Adams National Historic Park in Massachusetts. We are fortunate to have such a talented person in our local history community. When you visit Polk be sure to meet her.

## *New Museum Experiences*

This year as we make our holiday plans and welcome family and friends to visit Charlotte, we have the opportunity to show them two new museum exhibits. The Harvey B. Gantt Center has been turned into a history museum for a special traveling exhibit called America I AM: The African American Imprint. The exhibit celebrates nearly 500 years of African American contributions to the United States and runs through Jan. 1, 2013. The museum art galleries have been turned into a beautifully arranged exhibit covering 10,000 square feet and showing more than 200 artifacts. The objects displayed include documents, rare artifacts, and photos that tell the story of pivotal

moments in the African American story. You will need at least two hours to see everything and you would have to travel the world to see the objects that have been gathered here. More information is available at [www.ganttcenter.org](http://www.ganttcenter.org).

For those who enjoy aviation history, The Carolinas Aviation Museum has a wonderful new exhibit on the "Miracle on the Hudson". There have been many changes in the museum with new lighting, display cases, artifacts and story boards. The centerpiece is the US Airways Airbus A-320 which Captain "Sully" Sullenberger and First Officer Jeff Skiles landed on the Hudson River on January 15, 2009. The seating area next to the plane includes a continuous showing of film of the landing and rescue not seen on the news, and stories told by Charlotte residents who were on the plane. For more information go to [www.carolinasaviation.com](http://www.carolinasaviation.com). Alice Bostic

## *In Memoriam*

Kitty Sellars who became an MHA Docent in 1983 passed away on October 12th at the age of 89. She was an active docent for many years before moving to Davidson. We saw less of her after her move, but she kept up with us and was a dues-paying docent until her death. In recent years she was an active member of the Davidson Historical Society. She will be remembered as a docent eager to contribute, with her happy smile and quiet graceful ways.

## *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>

**Honoring our Heroes, a special exhibit from Saturday, November 10 through Sunday, December 9.**

**Tours Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 and 3 pm.**

Residents of the North Carolina piedmont found themselves preparing for war but praying for peace in late November 1941. When the tragic events of Dec. 7, 1941 unfolded in Pearl Harbor, it became clear that the United States would be unable to avoid a role in the conflict. The families living and working at Rosedale experienced the sacrifice, grief, and triumph that was the common experience of all Americans during World War II. Come experience the plantation house filled with artifacts from the war years and see the contributions to the war effort of those who lived and worked at Rosedale. In addition to the exhibit, World War II veterans will be on hand from 1- 3 pm Saturday and Sunday Nov. 10 and 11 to meet visitors and share their stories.

**Holiday Decorating Workshop, Saturday, December 8 from 11 am to 1 pm.**

Participants will leave the workshop with their own creations from fresh southern greenery found right here on Rosedale's lovely eight acres of urban green space. The participation fee includes greenery, all wire, forms, etc. needed and ribbon to create a bow for the project. If participants wish to select and bring their own ribbon they may do so. \$25. Pre-register starting Nov. 1, 2012 at [www.historicrosedale.org](http://www.historicrosedale.org).



### *Latta Plantation*

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

**Become a Pirate for a Day, Saturday, November 10, from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Boys and girls ages 8-13 can set sail on the seven seas and join a crew while learning about the pirates of the Carolina Coast. Campers will experience what it was like to be a pirate in colonial NC, learn navigation skills, participate in a pirate battle, and enjoy a treasure hunt with your fellow buccaneers. Registration required.

**Fall Harvest Festival, Saturday and Sunday, November 17 and 18 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Bring the family out for a fun fall day at Latta! Meet the farm animals and enjoy numerous harvest presentations, listen to live music and shop from local artists and vendors! Children can milk the cow, gather eggs, join the water bucket relay and the tractor pull. See antique tractors courtesy of the Stumptown Tractor Club.

**A Plantation Christmas, Friday and Saturday, November 23 and 24 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Begin the Christmas season by stepping back into an 1860s Christmas. The plantation will be decorated for a time period Christmas. Visitors will learn about 1800s Christmas traditions and meet a Victorian St. Nick in the plantation house, see open-hearth cooking in the kitchen, and a slave Christmas in the cabin.

**Christmas Tea and Craft Program, Saturday, December 1 from 1 to 3 pm.**

A fun historical afternoon for mother and daughter! Learn about the history of Christmas at this special holiday tea. The cost is \$25 per mother/daughter pair. Additional daughters are \$10 each. The cost includes a fan, craft materials, tea, and snacks. Pre-registration required.

**A Candlelight Christmas, Saturday, December 15 from 6 to 9 pm.**

Walk through the plantation house, kitchen, cabin, and grounds by candlelight and experience an 1820s Christmas. See dancing in the house, meet the Latta family, see a slave Christmas in the kitchen, and more. The plantation will be decorated for the season— one of our most beautiful events.

### *The Charlotte Museum of History*

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

**Hezekiah Alexander Home Site Tours, Saturdays, November 3 and December 1 from 1 to 5 pm.**

Costumed docents will give house tours of the oldest home in Mecklenburg County, built in 1774 on the current site. In May, the museum temporarily suspended public operations in order to restructure its programs and plans. During this time, the historic grounds have been and will continue to be available Tuesday to Sundays, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, with a cell phone guided tour of the site.

### *President James K. Polk State Historic Site*

12031 Lancaster Hwy., Pineville, NC, 704 889 7145  
[www.polk.nchistoricsites.org](http://www.polk.nchistoricsites.org)

**James K. Polk Birthday Celebration, Saturday, November 3 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free.**

This living history program will bring back to life the Polk family of Mecklenburg County in November 1795, when James K. Polk was born into the family. Activities will include an historic cooking demonstration, children's games and other hands-on activities.

**Christmas in Mecklenburg County with the Polks, Saturday, December 8 from 11 am to 3 pm, Free.**

Visitors will see a living history vignette in the main house. Each building will be decorated in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century style. Come and learn about food and customs from Christmas in 1802.

***Rural Hill***

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

**First Footin' and Hogmanay, Tuesday, January 1 at 11 am, Free.**

First Footin', also known as walking the bounds or "beating" the bounds is the traditional walk in the woods and fields around the boundaries of Rural Hill. Dress appropriate to the weather and wear sturdy shoes or boots. Hogmanay, or Scottish New Year is a celebration of the New Year by sharing stone soup with your neighbors. The event is free but bring some vegetables to add to the soup or bring bread or desert. The new cultural center will also be dedicated. See the feature article on page one of this newsletter for more detail.

***Schiele Museum***

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

**Harvest Day, Saturday, November 17 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Join us for our 38th Annual Harvest Day celebration at the 18th-Century Backcountry Farm. Watch cooks and bakers at work as they prepare a traditional holiday feast in a spirit of thanksgiving for the season's harvest. Visit with craftspeople and farm folk as they demonstrate early American skills & crafts.

**Colonial Christmas & Candlelighting, Saturday, December 8 from 2 to 6 pm.**

Bring your family and celebrate Christmas in the 18th-century style. Join us in decorating with greenery, "Procession of the Yule Log", singing traditional carols, and English country dancing, which will be followed by a scripture reading and candle lighting service. Enjoy colonial hospitality with a taste of Christmas pudding and hot gingered apple cider.

***Gaston County Museum***

131 West Main Street Dallas, NC. (704)922-7681, #2 [www.gastoncountymuseum.org](http://www.gastoncountymuseum.org)

**Moonshine Exhibit, Now through March 9, 2013.**

This exhibit explores the long-standing history of whiskey making in Gaston County and North Carolina. Learn about legal and illegal whiskey production through the years, and hear stories from both moonshiners and the men who tried to catch them. Walk through the exhibit and see whiskey stills from the 1700s to the present day, get your picture taken in a prison uniform outside a jail cell for selling moonshine, and visit a speakeasy from the 1920s.

**Ancient Airs & Dances: Celtic Fiddle Concert with Jamie Laval, Friday, November 2 at 7:30 pm.**

Jamie Laval, internationally-acclaimed Celtic violinist, will perform a solo concert featuring selections from his new album Murmurs and Drones. Laval performs traditional music of Scotland, Ireland, Brittany, Quebec and Appalachia. RSVP required by October 29 to Jeff Pruett - 704.922.7681 x101.

**Victorian Christmas Tea, Saturday, December 8, call for times.**

Come see the museum decorated for Christmas and learn the history of Victorian Christmas decorations. Partake in a tea party complete with fresh brewed tea or hot cocoa, pastries, and other savory offerings. While dressing up is not required, it is encouraged. Ages 6-up. Reservations required to Jeff Pruett at 704.922.7681 x101 or [jeff.pruett@co.gaston.nc.us](mailto:jeff.pruett@co.gaston.nc.us) – \$10 per person – limited to 25 per session.

**Holiday Open House, Friday December 14 from 3 to 7 pm.**

Enjoy the Town of Dallas Christmas Parade beginning at 4 PM, and then join our program featuring Christmas traditions and fun for the whole family. See the museum decorated for Christmas, take part in cookie decorating and historic crafts, hear live music, watch or take part in historic dancing, and sample holiday treats. There will be a visit from Santa Claus for kids this day too! Visit the Museum Shop for holiday gifts featuring crafts by local artists, traditional wooden toys and contemporary items.

***Mint Hill Historical Society***

The Carl J. McEwen Historical Village, 7601 Matthews-Mint Hill Rd. 704-573-0726

<http://www.minthillhistory.com>

**Lee and Jackson – the Last Meeting, Friday, November 2 at 7 pm, free.**

Bring a blanket and gather around the campfire to listen in as Generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson discuss the events of the day, and plan their strategy of attack for the following day. Little did they know how important this meeting would become in American history.

**Salute to Veterans, Saturday, November 3 from 9 am to 1 pm, Free.**

Military memorabilia will be on display in the administrative building; uniforms, supplies, military equipment, "sawdust" bread that was fed to POW's in WWII, and much more! Featured reenactors and public speakers will showcase various military and civilian occupations during this time period.

**Christmas Tea, Wednesday through Saturday, December 5-8 at 1, 4 and 7 pm.**

Tea, treats, and holiday cheer in the 100+ year old Ashcraft One Room Schoolhouse. Reservations required. Call 704 545 4928.

**The Village Christmas Shoppe. Saturday December 1 to Saturday, December 8. Call for opening times.**

Step into Christmas at the historic Surface Hill Gold Assay Office where you will find beautiful Christmas items, collectibles, and handcrafted gifts. Truly a one of a kind Christmas Shoppe!

***Clover Community Center***

120 Bethel St., Clover, SC, <http://www.cloversc.org> click on 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo.

**Family Snapshots, Friday, November 2 at 10 am, free.**

Learn how to identify and date different types of photographs and how to protect them for future generations.

**Preserving Grandma's Quilt and Grandpa's Uniform, Friday, November 16, at 10 am, free.**

Find out best museum practices for taking care of clothing and other fabrics that are important to your family history.

***Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site***

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

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

**A Golden Christmas, Saturday, December 1 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free.**

The only Christmas candlelight tour you can take in the daytime! The underground mine tunnels will be decorated for the holidays and special holiday-themed tours will tell how Christmas was celebrated over the years at Reed Gold Mine. The Stamp Mill will also be open for tours, and the celebration continues in the Visitor Center with crafts, historical demonstrations, musical performances, and free refreshments.

***Museum of York County***

4621 Mt. Gallant Rd., Rock Hill, SC, 803 329 2121

<http://www.chmuseums.org/ourmuseums/myco/index.htm>

**Salute to Veterans, Saturday, November 3 from 10 am to 1 pm.**

Join us as we pay tribute and express our appreciation to the brave men and women who have served in the armed forces to protect our freedom – past, present and future.

***Charlotte Folk Society***

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte

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

**Bound for Carolina: Scots-Irish Traditions in the South. Friday, November 9, Great Aunt Stella Center. 7:30 PM, Free; donations appreciated. Doors open 7 PM. Free parking.**

Using songs, stories, and dance tunes, David DiGiuseppe and Rob Sharer present a lively, engaging performance that traces folk traditions from the Scottish highlands to coastal Carolina; from northern Ireland to the Carolina piedmont and mountains. [www.folksociety.org](http://www.folksociety.org)

**Charlotte Folk Society Annual Holiday Potluck & Jams, Sunday, December 16, Dilworth United Methodist Church, 605 East Boulevard, Charlotte. 4-9:45 PM. Jams & song circle 4 PM. Dinner 5 PM.**

The evening features a short program of songs of the season by gifted vocalist and songwriter Natalie Royal with singing and jamming following dinner. Bring a dish to share or donate \$5/person toward expenses.

***North Carolina Transportation Museum***

Spencer, NC [www.nctrans.org](http://www.nctrans.org)

**Autumn Train Excursion to Appomattox, Virginia, Saturday, November 3.**

The Virginia Autumn Special departs from Spencer at 7 am. With a stop in Greensboro, it travels through the northern North Carolina Piedmont and central Virginia to Appomattox and returns at 8 pm. There will be time in Appomattox to tour the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park or the Museum of the Confederacy's newly-opened Appomattox site and historic shops and restaurants.

**Autumn Train Excursion to Toccoa, Georgia, Sunday, November 4.**

The Georgia Autumn Special departs Spencer at 7 am. With a stop in Spartanburg, it travels through the Carolina foothills to Toccoa, Georgia and returns at 8 pm. There will be time in Toccoa to visit the 30th annual Harvest Festival and visit Toccoa Falls. At 186-feet, the falls are 26 feet taller than Niagara Falls.



### *Andrew Jackson State Park*

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

[www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/1797.aspx](http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/1797.aspx)

#### **Life in the Waxhaws, Saturday, November 10 from 6 to 8 pm.**

Join us for a candlelight tour and catch a glimpse of early settlers living in the Waxhaws. Experience 18th century daily life, similar to Andrew Jackson's boyhood experience, and see the events that shaped the community as you step back in time. Tours begin every 30 minutes from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

### *Fort Dobbs State Historic Site*

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

#### **Military Timeline, Saturday, Nov. 10 from 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday, Nov. 11 from 10 am to 3 pm.**

North Carolina has survived numerous invading military forces and sent tens of thousands of her sons and daughters off to war over the centuries. Visit with Cherokee warriors, Johnny Reb and Billy Yank, WWII G.I.'s and grunts from Vietnam, among others, and learn how their uniforms, equipment and experience have changed over the past three hundred years. Cannon and small arms demonstrations will be featured.

#### **Living History Weekend, Saturday, Dec. 8 from 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday, Dec. 9 from 10 am to 3 pm.**

Historic interpreters will present musket and cannon firing demonstrations as well as on-going demonstrations of 18th Century camp life. On Saturday visitors are welcome to return to the site at 7 pm to warm up with hot cider and a blazing bonfire while joining the garrison in the singing of period carols.

### *Mount Holly Historical Society*

131 South Main, Mount Holly, NC [mhhistoricalociety@gmail.com](mailto:mhhistoricalociety@gmail.com)

#### **Monthly Meeting, Tuesday, November 27, at 7 pm, Free.**

"City of Canvas: The Story of Camp Greene" Documentary Film Presented by Jack Dillard, Local Historian. Camp Greene was a World War I training camp in Charlotte from 1917 to 1919. The documentary was produced by Jack Dillard and a team of advisors. Light refreshments will be served; Historic exhibits will be on display.

#### **Mount Holly Days, Friday, December 14, from 6:30 to 10 pm, Free.**

The MHHS Headquarters will be open to Public: Stop by for holiday refreshments, great fellowship, see our vintage Christmas tree and collection of vintage Christmas Post Cards, and tour our historic exhibits.

### *Kings Mountain National Military Park*

SC Hwy 216. I-85, Exit 2 in North Carolina. Follow the signs. 864-936-7921

<http://www.nps.gov/kimo>

#### **Veteran's Day Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, November 10 and 11 from 9 am to 5 pm, Free.**

Visit the camp of the backcountry Militia and help us honor all the Veterans.

*Kings Mountain State Park*

I-85 Exit 8 in NC and follow the signs

<http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/945.aspx>

**Christmas at the Farm, Saturday, November 17 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Christmas was not always the hustle and bustle time of year that it is today. Step back in time at Kings Mountain and visit a Christmas scene from a simpler, by-gone era. And you can be a part of it by helping us decorate the Living History Farm.

*Historic Camden*

Highway 521 just South of Camden, SC

(803) 432-9831; Fax (803) 432-3815 <http://www.historic-camden.net>

**Revolutionary War Field Days, Saturday and Sunday, November 3 and 4 from 10 am to 5 pm.**

500 re-enactors interpret life on the Southern Campaign trail. Battle reenactment at 1:30 (don't be late) followed by military courts martial, period craftsmen and civilian interpreters, plus shopping on Sutlers Row, Artillery Demonstrations and more. Food concessions and free parking.

*Duke Mansion*

400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte, 704 714 4448

<http://www.dukemansion.com>

**City of Canvas: Charlotte's WWI Camp Greene Sunday, Sunday, November 11 at 3 pm, Free.**

In honor of Veterans Day, learn the story of Charlotte's Camp Greene, the World War I installation that drew thousands of people to the small town of Charlotte in 1917-1918. Filmmaker Jack Dillard will discuss his work, and Jane Johnson of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library's Carolina Room will present an extensive display of Camp Greene memorabilia.

*Guilford Courthouse National Military Park*

Greensboro, NC. <http://www.nps.gov/guco/index.htm>

**History of the American Soldier, Saturday, November 10 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Veterans Day, November 11, was originally called Armistice Day to observe the end of World War I in 1918, on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month. Today, November 11 is a national holiday expanded to honor those who have served in the armed forces of the United States. The "History of the American Soldier" is a living timeline of American military history. This program will give visitors an opportunity to learn about several periods of this nation's military history from the early European settlement to the recent era.

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