

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Promoting Local History through Education and Research

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



November-December, 2014
Volume 20, Number 5

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- *Wayfaring Strangers: The Musical Voyage from Scotland and Ulster to Appalachia*, a new book by Fiona Ritchie and Doug Orr.
- News from the new North Branch of the MHA.
- MHA Meeting – History of the Charlotte Fire Department plus our annual book sale.
- *A History of Lake Norman: Fish Camps to Ferraris*, a new book by Chuck McShane.
- Dedication of a new plaque at William R. Davie County Park.
- Fire at the President James K. Polk State Historic Site.

A Harvest of Heritage at the Schiele Museum

Harvest Day – 40th Annual Celebration, Saturday, November 22 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Join us in celebrating 40 years of Living History at the Schiele Museum during Harvest Day 2014 – the 18th century version of our contemporary Thanksgiving.

The flames danced and licked the base of the big iron pot. Coals undulated orange and red – waiting for their turn to be shoveled onto the lid of the Dutch oven. The crisp autumn air carried the tempting aroma of baking bread and the tangy scent of hot cider and stewing pumpkin. A young family was busily working about the cabin – Ma and daughter Susan rolled and cut biscuits to bake at the hearth, little Fred fetched firewood while Pa bundled medicinal herbs. Meg, the youngest, sat nearby happily oiling a wooden bowl. Everyone was excited with the business of preparing a meal; the harvest was in and company was coming...

The date might have been 1774, but in reality, it was 24th November, 1974. The setting was our first LIVING HISTORY OPEN HOUSE at the Schiele Museum. The hosts in the cabin were the family of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Moss, Jr. who welcomed hundreds of visitors that waited up to 2 hours to take part in the first Schiele Museum Harvest Day. A few months earlier the Moss family had encountered a modest encampment from the Kings Mountain National Military Park, and their children, thrilled with the venue, urged their parents, “Please! Could we do something like that?” Who could have imagined the far reaching effect of this innocent question? The rest, as they say, (in this case quite literally) is history...

Across the Nation, excitement was building for America’s Bicentennial in 1976. The time was ripe for re-discovering our past. Schiele Director Alan Stout embraced this opportunity. Stout’s community ties and fund raising abilities combined with the energy, initiative and research skills of Kay Moss and a crew of volunteers to produce the Schiele Museum’s 18th Century Backcountry Program.

The Schiele Museum’s pioneer farmsite evolved like a true backcountry settlement – initially a simple one room cabin, where the family lived and worked while the garden, outbuildings, and later the main house were constructed. When the main house was added, the first cabin was converted into a kitchen – just as our ancestors in the mid to late 1700’s did. One striking difference in the pattern was that, instead of constructing new cabins, the main house, kitchen, barn, and smokehouse were moved here, preserving original structures from around Gaston County. Other outbuildings were constructed as learning projects in the continuing Backcountry Lifeways Studies Program, reflecting styles and technologies of 18th-century German and Scots-Irish settlers.

Over the years, 18th century interpretative programming has steadily grown. Living history public programs, school programs and workshops were introduced after Kay Moss came on staff in 1981. Suzie Herrington “pioneered” the first on-site day camps. All of these programs continue to inspire and educate more than 1000 folk annually.

In 2011, in honor of the Moss’s contributions, the Backcountry Farm was designated “Moss Station”. In the 1700’s, along the foothills frontier, the terms “station” and “fort” were used interchangeably to mean a house, or several houses, that could temporarily house more than one family for protection from Native American attacks.

The following is Kay Moss’ response to the honor of the Moss Station title:

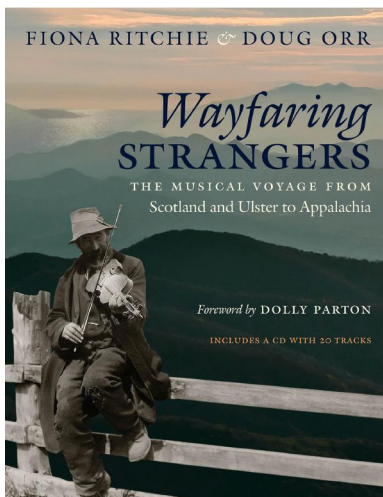
We share these honors with scores of active volunteers who have brought the farm site to life since 1974. While our family lit the first fire in the little lone cabin... many others have added fuel to that flame. The bright and energetic folk who joined our group in those early years were each active in research and experimentation. We were fortunate to be in the right place at the right time to become pioneers in serious historical interpretation – on the eve of Bicentennial fervor.

That dedication to exploring past skills and customs persists today among staff, volunteers, and visitors who share in the excitement from ongoing research – local happenings gleaned from eighteenth-century journals and letters, testing and tasting old recipes, crafting useful objects from local resources, or learning a traditional game or dance. Every Backcountry event offers something new. Backcountry Folk do not simply spout memorized facts and lore, but share experiences and discoveries of everyday life on the early Carolina frontier. We are so very proud of the way this program has continued to develop, under the guidance of Suzie Herrington, Kate Carter, and now Suzanne Simmons, during the decade since my retirement.

Thank you all for adding fuel to that fire! We also hope to keep adding a few sticks from time to time.

Once again, the flames dance and lick about the base of the big iron pot. In the pot a pumpkin simmers, stuffed with savory spinach, mushrooms, onion, and herbs. In the main house, a paste is mixed and rolled thin to line the redware pie plates to be filled with pears, apples, walnuts and spices. In the first house, now a prosperous kitchen, Sea Pie and boiled puddings are being made. All about Moss Station the extended Backcountry family is busy at tasks and chores. It’s Harvest Day, November 22, 2014 and company is coming... Suzanne Simmons

Journey from Scotland & Ulster to Appalachia November 14th



On Friday, November 14th, the Charlotte Folk Society, in partnership with the Mecklenburg Historical Association and the Charlotte Museum of History, will present a program of interest to anyone with a passion for our region’s history and/or the roots of our musical heritage. Fiona Ritchie and Doug Orr, co-authors of *Wayfaring Strangers: The Musical Voyage from Scotland and Ulster to Appalachia*, will introduce us to this wonderful book through a multi-media event. *Wayfaring Strangers* tells about the musical connections between the peoples of Scotland, of Ulster in the north of Ireland, and the Appalachian region of the U.S.

Admission is free; donations are appreciated and essential to presenting second-Friday CFS Gatherings in the Stella Center. The evening gets underway at 7:30 PM in the Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Avenue, in the edge of Uptown Charlotte. Doors open at 7:00 PM; arrive early to be sure of admission.

Free parking is available in the Mecklenburg County parking deck on 4th Street, between Kings Drive and McDowell Street. Exit the rear of the deck and cross the parking lot on foot to the Stella Center. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing at the conclusion of the program. Complimentary refreshments will be served downstairs in the Stella Center Café.

Wayfaring Strangers was published in September by UNC Press with a foreword by Dolly Parton and a companion CD. It was selected by the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance as a Fall 2014 Okra Pick: Great Southern Books Fresh Off the Vine, one of only a dozen the group recommends for great reading. Read excerpts from the book at: www.uncpress.unc.edu/browse/book_detail?title_id=3549

Fiona Ritchie is founder, producer, and host of NPR's *The Thistle & Shamrock* Celtic music program, which is broadcast worldwide. She was awarded an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in 2014 for services to broadcasting and traditional Scottish music. Doug Orr, Warren Wilson College President Emeritus and founder of the Swannanoa Gathering Folk Arts Workshops, is presently serving as interim chancellor at UNC Asheville.



As Fiona and Doug share the stories of the migrants and their songs, many of the book's beautiful photos and illustrations will be projected for the audience to enjoy. Little Windows (Julee Glaub and Mark Weems) will perform a selection of songs chronicled in *Wayfaring Strangers*. The duo tours nationally and abroad with a focus on the art of the pure voice with tight harmonies in traditional songs.

The November 14th Gathering marks a Charlotte homecoming for Fiona and Doug and his wife Darcy. All three were active in the Charlotte Folk Society when Fiona originated *The Thistle & Shamrock* at WFAE. Doug Orr met Darcy, *Wayfaring Strangers*' art director, in a jam class taught by CFS founder Marilyn Meacham Price. Fiona Ritchie and Doug Orr are both CFS Folk Heritage Award recipients. Join us in welcoming them home to celebrate the culmination of their many years of research and interviews with elder culture bearers, Wanda Hubicki

From the Chairman

It is autumn, the season of saturation of color followed by barren landscape which is soon coated by white crystals of frost or snow. This time of the year is the busiest for us docents as we work in our respective houses giving harvest tours this month and holiday programs next month.

As we work in our locales, be aware that the opportunity exists for us to invite others to join our ranks. Knowledge, camaraderie, and satisfaction are a docent's reward. Encourage guests, neighbors, and friends to become a volunteer, a docent, or a member at one of our sites. Our calendar for the rest of 2014 is detailed later in this newsletter.

I wish you and your family a blessed holiday season. I pray that 2015 will bring us all renewal of spirit and health, a year of love and peace.

Barbara Jackson

This Christmas may you have...

Walls for the wind
And a roof for the rain,
And drinks beside the fire,
Laughter to cheer you,
And those you love near you,
And all that your heart may desire.

An Irish Blessing from Valerie Jones

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the January-February issue of the Dandelion is December 10. As you can see, this issue is brimming with events extending through December. Do enjoy some of them, and have a great holiday season.

MHA Docent Programs

Both meetings will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church.

Tuesday, November 4 The First American Declaration of Independence?

Refreshments at 9:30, business meeting at 10, and program at 11. Visitors are welcome.

Scott Syfert, Attorney, Author, Historian and a founder of the May 20th Society, will recount the history of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence as set forth in his new book, *The First American Declaration of Independence? The Disputed History of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of May 20, 1775*. He will tell of the ten years of investigation and research that went into the writing and of the strong support he received from the Mecklenburg history community in this task. In this lively telling he recounts the complete history of the historic act and the controversy that later surrounded it. It is the first book on this subject in the last 50 years and the first complete telling of the entire story. Bring your copy for him to sign or buy one at the program.

Tuesday, December 2 Annual Christmas Tea

Business meeting at 9:45, program at 10 am followed by a Christmas Tea

Please join us for the MHA Docent's December Tea, our gift to the history community that we like to share with friends both new and old. As usual the program will be a fine mixture of history and a special musical entertainment. After the program we will enjoy tea and generous refreshments. Visitors are welcome and need not bring a dish for the tea.

Docents: Please be at the church by **9:30** to arrange your dishes on the serving table. The board and hospitality committee will arrive at 9 to set up and decorate the tables. Everyone should bring a dish to share for our Tea/Luncheon. We will be joined by many of our friends in the history community, so do be generous when planning your dish.

MHA Dues

The time has come to pay your Mecklenburg Historical Association Dues for 2015; our fiscal year runs from Jan 1 to Dec 31. This one payment entitles you to be a member of MHA as well as an MHA Docent. If you have already paid, we thank you for paying early. If you are not sure whether you have already paid for this year, send an email to mhadandelion@mindspring.com and we will check and let you know. Otherwise select a membership level from the list below.

If you are an MHA member, or would like to become one, and NOT an MHA docent, use the form below (or the one from the MHA newsletter), make your check payable to *Mecklenburg Historical Association*, and send it to:

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

If you are an MHA Docent member, or would like to become one, pay your dues directly to the docent treasurer who will remit them to the treasurer of MHA, our parent organization. Do not send your dues to the P.O. Box above, as that makes our record keeping of dues-paying docents difficult to maintain. Make your check payable to the *MHA Docents* and give your check with the form below to Valerie Jones at one of our meetings, or mail them to her at:

4700 Coronado Drive
Charlotte, NC 28212

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

MHA Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email Address _____

Please check one:

General Membership _____
MHA Docent Membership _____
North Branch MHA Membership _____

Please send my MHA Newsletter by:

Email _____
US Mail _____

If you have access to email, we would prefer to send the newsletter to you that way.
This saves considerable time and expense for MHA.

MHA Dinner Meeting The History of the Charlotte Fire Department

Monday, November 17, at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Our holiday social and book sale will begin 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. A special history book sale by the Carolina Room of the Charlotte Public Library will start at 6 pm and continue after dinner. To make a reservation for dinner use the order form in your MHA Newsletter or contact Jane Johnson at 704 544 0695 or JJCNC@aol.com



Tom Link, Battalion Chief with the Charlotte Fire Department, is an expert on the history of the Fire Department. He will tell us of the brave men, black and white, volunteer and professional, who have risked their lives to keep us safe. Tom has traced the lives of these early firemen and will talk about their heroic exploits and family connections in Charlotte and beyond. Little did he know that his curiosity about an old hand-pumped fire engine would lead to a fascinating discovery of stories that would illuminate the bravery and heroism of men long forgotten. Chief Link loves to share the stories of Charlotte's earliest firefighters; you will enjoy his enthusiasm as well as his fascinating story of those early days.

Tom Link is a 29 year veteran of the Charlotte Fire Department. He grew up in Charlotte and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Policy Analysis. His career in the fire service began while he served as a volunteer firefighter with the Carrboro Fire Department while a student at UNC.

Docent Elections

At our October meeting we elected officers for the next year. They are:

Co-Chairmen:	Janet Dyer and Audrey Mellichamp
Vice-Chairmen:	Alice Bostic and Barbara Jackson
Secretary:	Linda Beverly
Treasurer:	Valerie Jones
Hospitality:	Nell Coward
Newsletter:	Ann and Jim Williams

This slate will be presented to the MHA board for approval, and installed at our January business meeting.

MHA North Branch News

The Great Awakening, North Branch Meeting, Tuesday, November 11 at 7 pm, Mt. Zion UMC, Cornelius.
See details below.

The new North Branch (NB) of MHA is off to a strong start. We have already had two presentations and helped out at a Cornelius town event. Also several new MHA members have come through North Branch.

At our September meeting, Dr. Jan Blodgett of Davidson College fascinated sixteen attendees with facts and stories about what is now under the waters of Lake Norman. She is still collecting input from neighbors and our attendees provided several stories and contacts. It was a wonderfully interactive gathering.

Later in the month, North Branch MHA supported the second annual Trash and Treasures event sponsored by the Cornelius Historic Preservation Committee (HPC). Over 100 residents brought items to be examined and evaluated by a team of professional appraisers. Huge thanks to the HPC, and especially one of its members, David Stroud, for holding a Silent Auction for the benefit of NB MHA. Cooperation with other history organizations is one of goals and this has been a fabulous beginning.

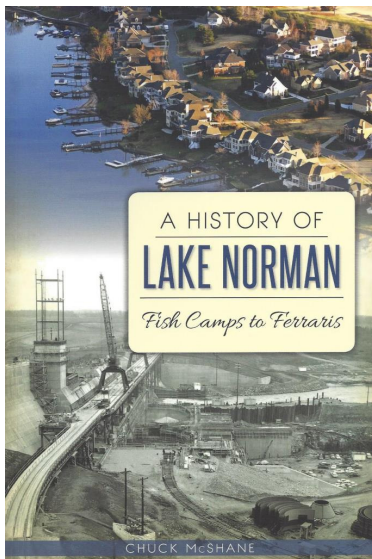
On November 11, we are presenting a program on the Great Awakening. Michael C. Scoggins, Historian for the Culture & Heritage Museums of York County, SC and Research Director of The Southern Revolutionary War Institute, will discuss his new book, *The Great Awakening and Southern Backcountry Revolutionaries*, co-written with Dr. Richard Chacon of Winthrop University. Their book examines the Protestant religious revival in colonial America known as the Great Awakening, and documents the effect it had in the Southern backcountry in the years leading up to the American Revolution. The lecture will also highlight the important role that religion played in other rebellions around the world throughout history. We would love to see a full house!

In December, we will not have a formal meeting. Instead we will be cooperating with other organizations participating in the Annual North Mecklenburg Christmas Parade. We will announce our 2015 schedule in a few weeks.

Sarah Sue Hardinger

A History of Lake Norman: Fish Camps to Ferraris

A New Book by Chuck McShane



Chuck McShane is a historian, reporter and author who writes for Our State Magazine and for Charlotte Magazine. He is writing an article each month for Charlotte Magazine telling the history of Charlotte. His history is accurate and his writing is excellent. For this new book he has researched the history of those parts of Mecklenburg, Iredell, Lincoln and Catawba Counties that eventually came to make up Lake Norman

As Dannye Powell writes for the Observer:

“McShane covers it all, from William Davidson's Revolutionary War death in 1781 at Cowan's Ford; Buck Duke's and William States Lee's dream of an electrified South; the opening of the Catawba River Bridge in 1908; the flood of 1916; the massive dynamiting of land in September, 1959, for the Cowan's Ford Dam; the construction of the dam in the early 1960s; the filling of the lake; and the rest is history... the book is engaging and well told.”

Those of us who lived here during the early years of The Lake well remember how new and interesting it was. And how everyone knew that although the lake was a

far drive for an afternoons boating, it was well worth the trip. We were all sure that no one would actually live on the lake full time – it was way too long a commute into Charlotte to go to work. Duke Power would rent you a waterfront lot on the lake for \$120 a year but insisted on at least a 10 year lease. But it was worth it because then you could park an old travel trailer on the lot and have a place to change. Some even went as far as to build a dock to make it easier for the ladies to get into the ski boat. Those were the days and Chuck McShane makes them live again for us

Jim Williams.

Fire at the President James K. Polk Historic Site

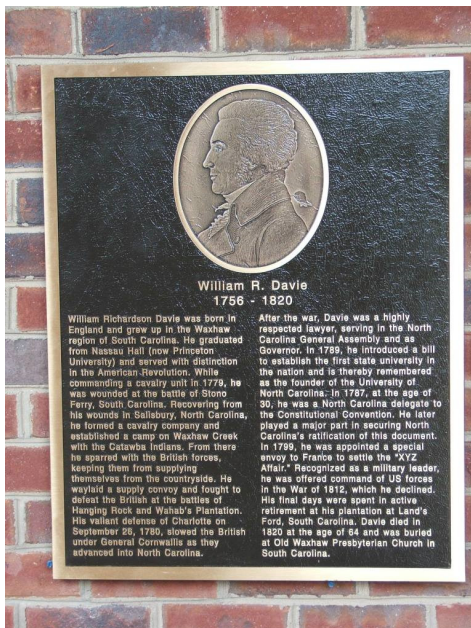
A fire broke out in the kitchen building at the Polk Historic Site on Thursday, October 9th. Sara Walker, a staff member who lives on the property, was walking her dog in the early evening and noticed smoke and fire coming from the building. She called 911 while trying to put out the fire herself. The firefighters arrived almost immediately and extinguished the blaze. Sara and those brave firefighters are heroes indeed. Thank you all so very much! The kitchen building sustained damage, but can be saved. It is an early 19th century log building; it is not original to the Polk family, but was put in place when Polk land became an historic site.

Keith Hardison, director of State Historic Sites and Properties sent the following message:

On behalf of the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties, I want to thank each and every one of you for your support during the recent fire at President Polk State Historic Site. Due to the quick thinking and rapid response of staff and local fire and police, the accidental fire was quickly extinguished and the building and the overwhelming majority of artifacts were saved. The 200-year old building experienced considerable damage, especially to the loft and roof, but it is still standing. The cleaning of the building will begin immediately and repairs will soon follow. Artifacts will be cleaned or conserved as needed. While the building will be closed for a while, the site is open to the public. President Polk State Historic Site will continue not just to survive but to thrive! Thanks to all of you for the role that you played and/or will be playing to make this possible!

William R. Davie Plaque Dedication

Wednesday, November 5, at 6 to 8 pm, William R. Davie Park



In South Mecklenburg County, on the Pineville-Matthews Road near Rea Road lies the William R. Davie County Park. The fact that there was no information at the park about just who Wm. R. Davie was has bothered historians for many years. Finally, one of them, Bob Smith, decided to do something about it. He worked at it for several years, talking to everyone he could find. About a year ago he got some attention. Due to efforts by local historians, including Jim Williams and Tony Zeiss, and strong support from Jim Garges and James Rainey of Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation, there is now a handsome bronze plaque mounted on the front wall of the park's conference center.

On Wednesday, November 5, near the 193rd anniversary of Davie's death, Bob Smith is sponsoring a recognition ceremony at the center. There will be a formal viewing of the plaque, and remarks from Davie himself, as interpreted by Jim Williams. Come out and learn about an important figure in the history of early Mecklenburg County, of the State, of the University of North Carolina and of the United States itself. Refreshments will be provided.

Site News

Latta Clock

Latta Plantation is happy to announce that an important piece of Latta history has permanently joined the collection: James Latta's tall case clock, the only piece of furniture in the house that is original to the site. James Latta died in October of 1837 at the age of 82. Shortly thereafter an estate sale was held to dispose of his possessions. James A. Henderson, a neighbor of Latta's bought "1 Eight day Clock" for \$33.25. In 2002 a gentleman came to Latta Plantation and said he believed he had Mr. Latta's clock that had been purchased all those years ago by his Henderson ancestor. It turned out that he did. He allowed the clock to be exhibited at the site on indefinite loan. Several years ago the gentleman passed away. His widow considered selling the clock to the site. An appraisal was done to determine the clock's value which proved to be much less than expected. Made with wooden works, it was one of many clocks mass produced by Seth Thomas in Philadelphia and sold very inexpensively. The widow decided to leave things as they were for the time being. Recently she had a change of heart and decided she wanted to take the clock back. Fortunately Latta Plantation found an "angel" who offered to buy the clock from the widow. She agreed and now the clock is at home to stay, right where it belongs.

We don't know when Latta bought the clock; he often traveled to Philadelphia to replenish his mercantile stock. The works were probably bought there for very little money, and the case purchased locally. After Latta's death his widow, who had already moved to her daughter's home, held the estate sale and shortly thereafter sold the plantation. Consequently the site today has very little that belonged to the 19th century Latta family. The clock's historical significance to the site far outweighs its monetary value. We extend our thanks to those who brought it home.

Ann Williams

State Honor

MHA Member David McCorkle has been awarded the North Carolina Genealogical Society 2014 "Award for Excellence in Web Presence" for his website *North Carolina Land Grant Images and Data*. If you are interested in early land grants, this is a new and powerful research tool. <http://www.nclandgrants.com/about.htm>

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>

Lunch and Learn – Planting Bulbs now for Spring Blooms, Wednesday, November 12 at 12:30 to 1:30.

Historic Rosedale's Garden Curator Jeff Drum will talk about what bulbs you should be planting this fall for Spring blooms and which ones to plant next Spring for Summer and Fall blooms. Bring your questions and your lunch.

Christmas Candlelight, Saturday, December 6 from 4:30 to 6:30

Historic Rosedale Plantation displays the 1815 home by candlelight. The Carillon Ringers Hand Bell Choir of Christ United Methodist Church from Greensboro will fill the great hall with carols; costumed docents will bring the home to life circa 1840. Experience holiday antebellum Southern hospitality at its best and soak in the fragrances of natural decorations of a backcountry Carolina Christmas. Hot cider and refreshments will be served.

Greenery Workshop & Sale, Saturday, December 6. Workshop at 10 am, Sale at 1 pm. Workshop is \$12 plus tax, Sale is Free.

This could be the most fun you have all holiday season! We will talk about many types of greenery for the holidays, and you will make and take home a nice bowl of greenery that should last through the season. You will learn how to add your favorite flowers to impress your guests all season long. Jeff, our Garden Curator, will show how to make a boxwood wreath and garlands for the house. Bring Hand pruners ---and be ready to work and learn.

Visions of Christmas, Sunday, December 7, tours at 4:30 and 5:30 pm.

Children, and the young at heart, wear your coziest Christmas pajamas to Rosedale for a simpler Christmas time. Enjoy a special reading of "The Night Before Christmas" in the great hall and tour the main floor of the plantation home by candlelight. Then have hot cocoa, treats, and a special surprise in the English basement kitchen. Absorb the fragrances of natural decorations created from plants from our nine acre plantation grounds. You'll leave with visions of sugar plums dancing in your heads!

Latta Plantation

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

Folk Life Festival, Saturday and Sunday, November 8 and 9 from 10 am to 5 pm.

The festival features an array of arts and crafts vendors selling everything from jewelry to pottery. Local food and beverage vendors will be on site serving up everything from BBQ to funnel cakes and local beer. Children will enjoy storytelling, crafts, games, and face painting. The home and exhibit hall will be open to the public seeing historic demonstrations and more! Entertainment by Southern Express bluegrass band.

Civil War Soldier for a Day Camp, Saturday, November 22 from 9 am to 3 pm, boys and girls age 8 to 12.

Become a Civil War soldier for a day and learn about soldier life during the war, practice drills, and battle it out across the plantation. Equipment loaned to campers for the day, and each will receive a kepi (hat) to keep. \$40 per camper. Pre-registration is required at lattaplantation.org.

Plantation Christmas, Friday, November 28 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Experience a Colonial Christmas as you walk through the cotton plantation. See period Christmas decor, meet Father Christmas, see Christmas baking in the kitchen, and learn about period Christmas traditions during this special holiday living history event!

Latta Plantation is looking for volunteers. Please call 704-875-2312 ext. 304.

Candle Light Christmas & Live Nativity, Saturday, December 6 from 6 to 9 pm.

Step back in time to a Latta family Christmas as you tour the plantation by candlelight. Meet the Latta family and see them celebrate the holiday through dancing, music and storytelling. See cooking in the kitchen, hear holiday caroling, and visit the Latta Farm animals in a Live Nativity.

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

The Road to Black Ned's Forge, History Talks Lecture Series, Saturday, November 1 at 1 pm.

Historian and Professor Dr. Turk McCleskey will discuss his book, *The Road to Black Ned's Forge: A Story of Race, Sex, and Trade on the Colonial American Frontier*.

Backcountry Beer Fest, Saturday, November 8 at 1 pm.

Our second annual beer fest will again feature colonial beers made from the natural spring flowing on the home site.

History Talks Lecture Series, Saturday, December 13, at 1 pm.

Join us as authors Fannie Flono, Dannye Romine Powell, and Ann Wicker read and discuss excerpts from their contributions to the book, *27 Views of Charlotte*.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

Grand Reopening Celebration: Polk Revisits Pineville, Saturday, November 15 from 10 am to 4 pm. Free

Celebrate with us as we reveal our newly renovated visitor center to the public. Bring the whole family to shuck corn, dance a jig and speak with none other than President Polk himself. Have a free hot dog and piece of cake, too. You won't want to miss out on this grand celebration.

Matthews Heritage Museum

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

Santas on Parade, a new exhibit opening Saturday, November 22 through Christmas.

This exhibit features a variety of Santas from the 30s, 40s and 50s. A great way to start the Holiday Season.

Downtown Matthews Christmas Stroll, Saturday, December 6 from 5 to 8 pm.

Visitors will walk along the luminary-lighted streets of downtown Matthews while enjoying refreshments and treats at participating businesses. There will be goodies for the children, carolers on the streets, and Santa's Helpers to guide you along the way.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

Military Timeline, Saturday and Sunday, November 15 and 16 from 10 am to 3 pm, Free.

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 hundreds of years. Small arms and artillery demonstrations will be scheduled each day.

Winter on the Western Frontier, Saturday, December 13 from 10 am to 5 pm, Free.

Historic interpreters will present musket and cannon firing demonstrations as they explain how soldiers fared in winter quarters during the French and Indian War.

Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room. Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

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

North Carolina Music, from the 1960s to Today with Daniel Coston, Saturday, November 22 at 11 am to 12:30 pm. University City Regional Library, 301 E. W. T. Harris Blvd.

In part 4 of the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room: Bringing History to You Series, Daniel Coston brings you Rock and Roll. For years, author and photographer Daniel Coston traveled with and photographed some of America's most popular musicians, including the Avett Brothers, the Kings Of Leon, and the "Man in Black" Johnny Cash. Now Coston turns his attention to the history of music and rock and roll in Charlotte and North Carolina. Join us for what will be a lively and entertaining program.

Schiele Museum

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

Harvest Day – 40th Annual Celebration, Saturday, November 22 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Join us in celebrating 40 years of Living History at the Schiele Museum during Harvest Day 2014 – the 18th century version of our contemporary Thanksgiving. Watch as skilled interpreter's labor by open hearth and outdoor fires roasting, baking, and stewing a "grand Fare" of traditional delights. See hunters make ready their firearms while swapping stories of the "ones that got away". At the close of the day, costumed interpreters sit down to partake of the Harvest meal in the manner and spirit of our ancestors. Read about the origin of the Schiele Harvest Day on page one of this newsletter

Colonial Christmas & Candle Lighting, Saturday, December 13 from 2 to 6 pm.

Bring your family and celebrate the Season in the 18th-century style at the Schiele's Annual Colonial Christmas & Candlelighting. Join us in the "Procession of the Yule Log," decorating with greenery, singing early American carols, and English country dancing. As the day draws to a close, gather with our Backcountry family for the traditional Candle-lighting Service and scripture reading. Enjoy colonial hospitality with a taste of Christmas pudding and hot gingered apple cider.

Historic Brattonsville

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

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

Cotton: Bolls, Bales, Batts and Beyond, Friday and Saturday, November 28 and 29 from 10 am to 4 pm.

It takes lots of hard work to get cotton from the field to a wearable garment on an antebellum cotton plantation. Lend a hand with costumed interpreters as they pick, gin, dye and spin (using 1840s technology) the fluffy fiber into the cotton garments that we all know and love to wear.

Christmas Candlelight Tour, Saturdays, December 6 and 13 from 3 to 9 pm.

Walk the candlelit paths of Historic Brattonsville and experience a Southern-style Christmas in the Carolina Backcountry. Costumed interpreters tell the stories of people who lived here long ago. Meet the new settlers, plantation owners and enslaved African Americans as they bring to life the holiday seasons of the 18th and 19th centuries. Go shopping for period-style items at Brattonsville's gift shop. Hot drinks, seasonal foods, and baked goods will be available for purchase. Please note; Brattonsville Rd. will be closed from 2:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Please follow detour signs.

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 6 from 9 am to 5 pm, Free.

Reed Gold Mine presents "A Golden Christmas" with music, special underground guided tours, food and seasonal demonstrators.

Duke Mansion

400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte, 704 714 4448

<http://www.dukemansion.com>

Eyewitness to WWII, Sunday, November 9 at 3 pm, Free

Charlotte Observer reporter David Perlmutter is tracking down World War II veterans, most now in their 90s. He'll bring some to share their stories including Henry Hirschmann, a Holocaust survivor who joined the U.S. Army "to get even" and fought through Europe; and Andy Andrews of Black Mountain, part of the third wave at Omaha Beach on D-Day. Part of the Explore History series sponsored by Levine Museum of the New South and The Duke Mansion.

Holiday Tea & Shopping at the Duke Mansion, Sunday, December 14 from 2 to 4 pm.

Brighten your holiday season with a delicious holiday tea at The Duke Mansion. At 2 pm, shop for memorable gifts from some of Charlotte's top boutiques. At 3 pm, savor tea in the living room with tea sandwiches, canapes, scones, and sweets. Enjoy strolling the public areas and grounds of the mansion, a Colonial Revival Estate on the National Register of Historic Places. Cost \$35.00. Reservations 704/714-4445 or kellis@tlwf.org

Charlotte Folk Society

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte

www.folksociety.org

See article on page two about the appearance of Fiona Richie and Doug Orr on Friday, November 14.

Andrew Jackson State Park

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

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

Life in the Waxhaws Lantern Tour, Saturday, November 8 from 6 pm, last tour at 7:30 pm

Spend an evening in the 18th-century. See what life was like for early settlers living in the Waxhaws and how the American Revolution affected our region. Experience life in our area during Andrew Jackson's time and watch as costumed volunteers bring the events that shaped the community to life and demonstrate the skills it took to survive in this backcountry settlement.

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 8 and 9 from 9 am to 5 pm, Free.

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

Howser House Tours, Saturday, November 29 from 11 am to 4 pm, Free.

The 1803 stone Howser House will be open to the public. The house is located at the back of the park.

Historic Camden

Highway 521 just South of Camden, SC

(803) 432-9841 <http://www.historic-camden.net>

Revolutionary War Field Days, Saturday and Sunday, November 1 and 2 from 10 am to 5 pm.

Muskets and Cannons roar as Redcoats & Patriots face off on the battlefield. The camps are alive with soldiers and Colonial demonstrators. Tavern tales, artillery demos, a period fashion show, Kershaw House tours, "War in the Backcountry" discussion, sutlers row shops, kid's activities, food concessions, free parking, no pets.

Colonial Christmas in Camden, Saturday, December 13 from 2 to 5 pm.

The Kershaw House is decked with boughs of holly. Guides in gay apparel share Yuletide customs. Meet militiamen, play colonial games, write Christmas greetings with a quill pen, don period clothes, enjoy the Christmas scavenger hunt and sample colonial refreshments.

Southern Campaign of the American Revolution

<http://www.southerncampaign.org/cod.php>

November 8 - Washington, Ga. - Southern Campaigns RW Roundtable from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Washington Women's Club – short presentations and discussions by all interested on relevant RW topics. Free, public invited to both SCAR events

November 9 – Washington, Ga. - SCAR Corps of Discovery - tour the Kettle Creek battlefield and Robert Carr's Fort with principal site archeologist Dan Elliott, military historian Steve Rauch, and historians Robert Scott "Bob" Davis and Walter Andrea <http://www.southerncampaign.org/roundtables> Depart in a car pool at 9:00 am from the Washington Courthouse Square.

As always, please see SCAR's on-line Calendar of Upcoming Events for up to date information at <http://www.southerncampaign.org/calendar-of-events>.

Gregory Creek Homestead and Iredell Museums

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

<http://www.iredellmuseums.org/4101.html>**Heritage Craft Day at Gregory Creek Homestead, Saturday, August 9 from 10 am to 2 pm, 1335 Museum Road, Statesville, Free.**

Learn about various heritage crafts such as leatherworking and sewing plus heritage music played by the Harmony Hill String Band. Tour the homestead buildings and see living history demonstrations. Heritage craft classes are available on that day in leatherworking and hand sewing. Ages 10 to Adult. From 10 am to 11:30. Cost \$5.00. Call Iredell Museums at 704-873-4734 to register.

Christmas at the Cabins at Gregory Creek Homestead, Saturday, December 6, Tours at 11 am, 2:30, 5, and 6:30 pm

The later tours are conducted by lantern and candlelight. Each tour consists of an hour-long program that details the home life of residents of Iredell County during Christmastime 1864.

Kings Mountain State Park

I-85 Exit 8 in NC and follow the signs

<http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/945.aspx>**Thanksgiving Dinner on the Farm, Saturday, November 15 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Find out how one of your favorite holidays was celebrated in the 1800s. Discover the necessary skills it took to make the delicious turkey and fixin's of that time. You are invited to the Living History Farm to learn about your favorite dishes and maybe some new ones as well.

Christmas at the Farm, Saturday, December 6 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.

Kings Mountain Historical Museum

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

www.kingsmountainmuseum.org**Toys, Games & Trains Exhibit, Saturday, November 15 through Saturday, January 3, see web site for days and hours. Free.**

This annual exhibit fills the Museum with model train displays, railroad memorabilia, and antique toys and games. Visitors will be enchanted with the miniature snow-covered scenes and interactive features. The gift shop will be open and well stocked. Bring your cameras – this exhibit provides great opportunities for holiday family photos.

Spirit of Christmas Past, Saturday, December 6 from 10 am to 3 pm, Free

Experience the magic of the Toys, Games & Trains exhibit, and tour the historic Barber House decorated for the holidays. Learn about the history of Christmas celebrations, and participate in the traditional craft of Scherenschnitte, the historic German art of paper-cutting. From 3 to 5 pm attend the annual Christmas Parade, then back to the museum from 5 to 7 pm for candlelight tours of the Barber House, and hot apple cider with cookies by the firelight.

Santa & Mrs. Claus at the Museum, Saturday, December 13.

Bring your camera for the perfect holiday family photo. Santa Claus will be at the Museum during the Toys, Games & Trains exhibit to visit with the little ones. Mrs. Claus will also do a special reading of the classic 1823 children's story, "The Night before Christmas."

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park

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

Living History Weekend with the Guilford Militia, Saturday and Sunday, November 8 and 9 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free

The men and women of the Guilford Militia, an organization of dedicated Revolutionary War enthusiasts, will be presenting a variety of interpretive programs clad in replica Revolutionary War clothing and carrying the firearms of 1781 while living the life of the 1780's soldier and camp follower.

York County Genealogical & Historical Society

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

Getting Started in Genealogy, Saturday, November 8 at 10 am, York County Historical Center Archives, 210 E. Jefferson Street, York, SC

Archivist Nancy Sambets will tell us about the kinds of materials that are available in the Archives and explain how to get started on basic genealogical research. If you have wanted to get started on your family history, come and learn what the Historical Center Archives has that could help you. If you want to learn more about York County's history, come and learn what materials are available.

MHA Docents

Jim and Ann Williams

1601 South Wendover Road

Charlotte, NC 28211