

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Promoting Local History through Education and Research



September/October, 2012
Volume 18, Number 4

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- Come to the October MHA Docents meeting to talk with Ezekiel and Lydia Wallis in 1803.
- Come to the September MHA Meeting to meet Captain James Jack, the Paul Revere of the South.

The Charlotte Museum of History is Not History

In May the Charlotte Museum of History announced that they were temporarily suspending public operations. Financial problems, many resulting from the recession, made it impossible to continue with business as usual. It seemed prudent to step back and explore their options. Meanwhile rumors arose that the museum was permanently closed, and the 1774 Alexander home would be abandoned. These rumors are entirely false. Hezekiah Alexander's beautiful rock house is safe. It is owned by the Methodist Church, and is leased to the museum for maintenance and operation as an historic site. The church and the Aldersgate retirement community have always been good stewards of the historic home and will certainly continue to be so in the future.

The museum is hard at work reassessing their situation and making great progress. The Dandelion editors asked the museum's interim director Kathy Ridge to submit an article outlining their plans and progress. She was delighted for the opportunity. The following is her report.

August 20, 2012

The Charlotte Museum of History regrettably had to close operations to the public temporarily beginning May 26 but is very much alive! Since the temporary suspension of public operations the remaining staff, of program director, historian and curator, and interim director, Kathy Ridge, has been hard at work implementing a six fold plan for the Museum. One part of that plan is looking at the Shamrock Museum building to see how it might be best used to serve the community. The Museum building was built in 1999 and has 32,000 sq. feet. This building is more than can be supported by the History Museum alone, so we are looking for partners in the nonprofit community to come share these quarters with us. We are reaching out to any nonprofit with education, history or culture in their mission statement and quantitative measures of program excellence.

Another plan underway is looking at how and when we can re-open the Hezekiah Alexander home site and grounds to the public and school tours. We currently offer "Guide by Cell" phone tours for the general public Tuesdays through Sundays from 10 am to 5 pm but we hope to have docents and volunteers recruited to help us make Charlotte's historic home once again accessible to the public and school groups in early 2013. In order to do this, we will have to rely more on volunteer docents than in the past when we had some paid staff to help greet tours, work in the gift shop, and interpret the history of the house and the Alexander family.

We have recently re-opened the Museum building for special events with a contracted professional meeting planner. We evaluated the rates we charged for special events and found our 'advertised' rates were competitive but in reality, we were offered very large discounts to most every group and as a result, suffered financial losses. We have now modified our rates and plan to be consistent in our pricing including offering nonprofit groups a 20% discount. There is information now on the Museum's website including an information request form for any group desiring to rent space for an upcoming special event: www.Charlottemuseum.org

Thanks to dedicated and very conscientious volunteers, we have underway a full inventory of the Museum's collections – over 7,000 items. We are learning that many of these items are not from Charlotte/Mecklenburg. Of course, every item given to the Museum was precious to whoever donated it, but not all are historically significant – toys from the 1960's for example. We want to make sure rare relics of Charlotte's history continue to be preserved and made accessible to the most people possible. We are looking at how best and where best to preserve and offer these items for public study. Some will stay with the Charlotte Museum of History and some might be better offered through other history organizations. I heard a rumor we were selling our collection and that is not only untrue, but not good practice – we were entrusted with these items over past decades and need to respect the intentions of the donors and collectors who shared them with the Museum.

And of course, we are planning our program areas for the future. We are looking at the possibility of bringing history closer to the community by being less bound to the Shamrock Road location, though still using that as our 'base camp.' We are exploring ideas for another location and/or using others' premises to tell Charlotte's stories and share our local history.

On September 15, we are having a one-time special event at the Charlotte Museum of History, An Historic Evening, for the public to experience what the Alexander family life was like at twilight. We will have other history organizations sharing information tables and materials, food trucks in our parking lot for refreshment and some community information sessions for those interested to hear more about what's being planned for the Museum, and to ask questions and share ideas with us. We hope to see many of you there!

Kathy Ridge
Interim Director, Charlotte Museum of History

Kathy Ridge is also hosting community input discussions at the Museum during the Sept. 15 event at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 pm. Anyone who wants to know what is being planned or with opinions and ideas should attend and express their views. They really want to hear from you. For details see the History Calendar in this newsletter.

From the Chairman ALASKA!



In my mind, I have a kaleidoscope of pictures, memories, and experiences. Alaska is swirling before me and will continue to do so the rest of my life. What can I say, but: Spectacular! Astonishing Beauty! Powerful Wilderness! Suzanne, my daughter, and I had two weeks in Alaska on a small boat "un-cruise" with Innersea Discoveries from Juneau to Ketchikan. We traveled by plane, ferry, small boat, bush pilot, skiff, kayak, feet, and car. No dogsled or snowshoes, though we wanted to do that, too.

We, along with some 60 passengers and 20 crew, bonded

for those 2 weeks. Together we experienced glaciers, really close, using skiffs from the boat to approach them through the iceberg field. OH, the ICE. The blue-aqua of the glacial icebergs will linger in our minds, as well as the boot-sucking mud, we hiked though. Fortunately the boat had rubber knee boots for all of us. Some of us walked to and on the glacier (Suz did this); others of us flew over the glaciers (Suz and I did this on a pre-tour). What a view—to see from foot to head of the glacier and then head to foot of the glacier behind it.

Suzanne and I did the ‘Polar Bear Plunge’ along with all the young people and a few dads and one other mother-daughter team. All jumped from the 3rd deck. I jumped from the 1st deck (being the oldest woman, I allowed myself that.). Into the cold 56 degree water, we jumped and went down and down, then paddling with hands and feet kicking upward, as fast as we could go. No one was lost.

We saw a pod of orcas (2 moms and 2 babies) swimming alongside the boat, humpback whales diving and lunging up to feed, grizzly bear mama and 3 cubs feeding on mussels on the shore, sea and river otters, harbor seals and sea lions, mountain goats, loons and puffins.

And did I see history! Geologic history: the glaciers and their actions over more than 13,000 years. All that Natural History plus bald eagles fishing for salmon on the mud flats and salmon coming home. Cultural history beginning with the first humans coming into North America across the Bering Land Bridge or native boat to become the Inuit, Tlingit and Haida. I learned about their use of the land and its materials to provide lodging, canoes and kayaks, baskets, cooking utensils and hunting weapons. Then Suzanne and I flew to Skagway to see where the miners went up the steep White Pass single file to the Klondike Gold rush.

Our boat was awakened one midnight – “Northern Lights! Everyone on Deck. Now!” Out of a sound sleep, we flew to the top deck to see this light show. Green waves across the darkened sky. To eat, Suzanne and I had all the Alaskan treats. Salmon (grilled, smoked, jerky), halibut, caribou (reindeer), rhubarb, spruce tip syrup and birch syrup plus kelp pickles and marmalade. In my mind, ‘Alaska!’ stays in a special place.

Then homeward, we were greeted by Captain Jack, riding with our Declaration and Resolves to the Continental Congress, on Concourse A of the Douglas International Airport (your MHA had a hand in arranging this)....We were home.



Audrey Mellichamp

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the November – December issue of the Dandelion is October 19. As usual we appreciate your articles; our aim is to include many voices from the history community. Send us items for the History Calendar including Christmas activities. Is it that time of year already! Send your information to Ann and Jim Williams at 1601 S Wendover Road, Charlotte, NC 28211 or mhadandelion@mindspring.com.

Announcing the Charlotte Liberty Walk



Charlotte has long had a number of bronze plaques in the uptown area commemorating historical events, but they were difficult to find. This spring a group of historians from the MHA, along with city leaders and led by Scott Seifert of the May 20th Society marked out a path connecting these plaques and adding some new ones. The Charlotte Liberty Walk

will be completed at the end of August with the installation of a stone monument with a bronze plaque commemorating the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration on the square at Trade and Tryon. The formal dedication will be in September. The Liberty Walk focuses on the period of the American Revolution and extends in a loop about three-quarters of a mile long around uptown. Engraved granite markers with the “Captain Jack on Horseback” logo have been embedded in the sidewalks marking the path. Brochures detailing the walk are available at the Visitors Bureau uptown and at a number of historic sites. There will also be an interactive video program which can be accessed from your computer or i-phone that tells in more detail what happened at each station and illustrates it with scenes painted by noted local artist Dan Nance. The next time you are uptown grab a brochure or turn on your i-phone to www.charlottelibrarywalk.com and walk The Charlotte Liberty Walk.



MHA Docent Board Elections

At the September docent meeting the nominating committee will present the slate of officers for the upcoming year. We will vote in October and then the slate will be submitted to the MHA, our parent organization for approval. Installation will take place in January. The docent chairman serves for two years, and may not serve consecutive terms. All other officers are elected for one year, and may succeed themselves. There is not another newsletter before October, but we'll send out a note announcing the slate prior to the election in October.

MHA Docent Programs

Yet another change in our September program schedule! Due to a number of complications we will not meet on September 11th as previously announced. Instead we will meet at our usual time and place; **Tuesday, September 4th, at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church at 9:30 am.** There are no plans for docents to host Liberty Walk tours uptown during the DNC, in fact travel on uptown streets will be severely limited. If you usually travel through town to Sugaw Creek Church, plan to use Eastway Drive or some other route instead. Allow extra time; lots of others may be avoiding the center city and making traffic heavy elsewhere.

Both the September and October meetings will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. Refreshments at 9:30, business meeting at 10, and program at 11. Visitors are always welcome.

Tuesday, September 4, 2012
Hercules of the Revolution

Peter Francisco was perhaps the most famous private in the Revolutionary War. He was a well known hero to his contemporaries, but has nearly been forgotten by history. Francisco was kidnapped as a child by pirates in the Portuguese Azores, then abandoned in Colonial Virginia. He grew to six and a half feet tall, and weighed 260 pounds when he enlisted in the Continental Army. He developed great strength to match his frame, which served the “Giant Virginian” well in battle at Camden, Greensboro, and elsewhere. George Washington said that without Francisco we would have lost two crucial battles, and perhaps the war.

Travis Bowman, a Charlotte resident, is a descendant of Francisco and has made it his mission to bring this important man back to the forefront. Bowman, who inherited his ancestor’s imposing size, will dress in Revolutionary garb, and become Francisco for the morning. He has appeared as Francisco locally and across the country, and has won numerous awards for his engaging performances. His presentation promises to be rich with research and passion – we’re in for a treat. Bowman has also written a book, *Hercules of the Revolution*, about Francisco and his many adventures. He will bring copies to sell and sign.

Tuesday, October 2, 2012
The Wallis’s Pay a Visit to Sugar Creek

You may not have heard of Ezekiel and Lydia Wallis. They were not important historical figures, but well positioned to report on those who were. Lydia’s daughter was the mother of James K. Polk, and Ezekiel’s son was the minister who refused to baptize the future president. Their ties to Alexander Craighead, and the Providence and Waxhaw communities provide excellent fodder for stories, gossip, and rumor, including a bizarre tale that borders on witchcraft. Although members of the Sugar Creek Presbyterian congregation, Ezekiel and Lydia usually worshiped at Providence where Ezekiel’s son preached. On October 2, 1803, they’ll pay a visit to their home church bringing lots of stories to tell.

Ann and Jim Williams have researched a number of old Mecklenburg families, and done first person interpretations of some of them. Several years ago they did a program for the Providence Presbyterian Church homecoming. They portrayed Ezekiel and Lydia, thinking the opinions of observers of historical events might provide a different perspective from those who were caught up in them. The docent program will draw from that research, but be tailored for the Sugar Creek setting.



MHA Dinner Meeting
Captain Jack Rides Again

Monday, September 24th, at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Dinner is at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:15. Those not having dinner are welcome to enjoy the program at no charge. To make reservations for dinner use the order form in your MHA newsletter and mail to Linda Dalton, 2401 Sharon Road, Charlotte, NC 28211 or contact Linda at 704-661-8470 or leaseace@aol.com.

Dr. Tony Zeiss will appear as Mecklenburg patriot Captain James Jack. We are all familiar with Captain Jack’s heroic ride to Philadelphia in 1775 carrying the newly penned Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and the Mecklenburg Resolves to the Continental Congress. But there was much more to the man than this one meritorious journey. Just who was James Jack, and why was he chosen to be the bearer of these treasonous documents?

We'll hear all about this interesting fellow and the times he lived in from the man himself.

Tony Zeiss, president of Central Piedmont Community College, is passionate about history. He was instrumental in situating the Captain Jack statue in the Little Sugar Creek Greenway at the very visible corner of 4th Street and Kings Drive. He has also actively raised funds and planned for future statues and plaques along the Trail of History. Because of his immersion in local history he is one of those entrusted to assure that the interpretation along the trail is historically accurate. We are fortunate to have someone of his stature as a major player in this endeavor. Tony's presentations are filled with humor, enthusiasm, and energy; we're sure to have a rousing good time.

The Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley Eatin' High on the Hog When the Power Goes Out

The cooking guild will teach a workshop on Saturday, September 22 showing how historical cooking methods can be utilized in modern emergencies. It seems that some ladies seasoned in hearth cooking became neighborhood heroes during local power failures by sharing their well-honed skills. Many of today's cooks have no idea how to feed themselves without modern conveniences, a situation the cooking guild plans to remedy. Workshop topics include taking stock of equipment and supplies; kitchen safety in the dark; adapting hearth cooking to the fireplace, fire pit, or gas cooker; and washing dishes in a bucket in the sunshine. This is a hands-on workshop, and a luscious meal will be prepared for the group to enjoy. If you are interested in historical cooking, or simply want to be prepared for emergencies, this is a workshop for you.

The workshop will be held on September 22nd, from 9 am to 2 pm at the James K. Polk State Historic Site. It is limited to ten participants, ages 18 and up, and the fee is \$20. To register email Leila Merims at thebulldogguess@yahoo.com.

Hart Square Tickets

For more than thirty years, Dr. Robert Hart of Hickory has rescued and restored life in the Carolinas in the nineteenth century, recreating an entire village, Hart Square – the largest collection of original historic log buildings in the United States. Each year on the fourth Saturday in October, (October 27th this year), Dr. and Mrs. Hart open this restoration project to the public. Dating from 1782 to 1873, the seventy log structures—chapels, barns, houses, shops, and more—are all furnished, and over 250 volunteer artisans demonstrate the period techniques such as flax breaking and hackling, spinning, weaving, herb dying, open-hearth cooking, broom and shoe making, bookbinding, shingle riving, wheelwrighting, tinsmithing, moonshining, and much more.

Advanced tickets are required since this event always sells out early. You can get tickets by calling the Catawba County Museum of History in Newton at 9 am on Monday, October 1 but, as participants, we can order tickets for you. Make your check out to Jim Williams for \$25.00 per ticket and mail it, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

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

We must receive your check by September 6 to get these tickets. We will receive the tickets by mid-October and mail them on to you.

In Memoriam

Virginia Johnson, one of our longest serving and most revered docents, passed away on June 21, 2012 at the age of 99. After retiring from teaching in the Charlotte Mecklenburg schools in 1977, Virginia joined our docent corps at the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite. She had taught elementary school, and loved dressing in costume and conducting third grade tours. She worked with us for over twenty years and during the last of those years gave tours at Historic Rosedale as long as she was able. She loved to work with children always with a sweet smile, a soft voice, and kindness, and they were obviously enchanted by her every word. Virginia will be keenly missed.

Francis Marion Symposium

Francis Marion and the Southern Campaign, October 12 and 13

Immerse yourself in Francis Marion's world and the significance of the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution. General Francis Marion played a major role in the American Revolution. Many of these engagements took place in the Clarendon County area. According to Professor Henry Lumpkin, about a third of all the battles in the American Revolution were fought in South Carolina and Marion had a hand in roughly a third of those.

The symposium will be held on Friday afternoon and evening and all day Saturday on the Dubose Campus of Central Carolina Technical College in Manning SC. For costs, list of speakers and topics, registration information, and other details see: www.francismarionsymposium.com

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>

Victorian Funeral, Saturday and Sunday, October 6 and 7, from 1 to 4 pm

Sickness hits the plantation! Join us at Historic Rosedale, pay your respects to the Caldwell family and their slaves as they bury their loved ones, and learn the funerary practices of the 1840's. Tickets may be purchased on-line beginning September 24th or at the door.

Spirit Encounter, Friday October 26 and Wednesday October 31, at 8 pm

Some believe former inhabitants still reside at Rosedale and many believe they visit. Join us as we walk in the steps of those who worked, lived, and died at Rosedale Plantation. Will Elbert, the "conjure man," or Archibald, the ill-fated original owner make themselves known? Tour includes the 1815 plantation house. \$65, on-line registration only; limit 8.

Ghost Walk, Saturday October 27 and Wednesday October 31, at 6 and 8 pm

Some believe former inhabitants still reside at Rosedale. Join us as we walk in the steps of those who worked, lived, and died here as you hear the stories of those that have experienced the paranormal at the plantation. This tour is on the grounds only. \$15; on-line registration only; limit 20.

Midnight Tour, Saturday October 27, 11 pm – 1 am

Rosedale has been dubbed one of Charlotte's most-haunted houses by the Charlotte Paranormal Society. Spend "the witching hour" inside the plantation house hearing the stories of those who have met some of Rosedale's former inhabitants. \$85; on-line registration only; limit 6.

Latta Plantation

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

Revolutionary War Battle, Saturday and Sunday, September 1 and 2, from 10 am to 4 pm

See how Charlotteans defended their independence when Cornwallis came through in 1780. On Saturday, reenactors will fight the Battle of Charlotte, which occurred at the corner of Trade and Tryon. Sunday will feature the Battle of McIntyre Farm, which took place just off Beatties Ford Road. The battle is at 1pm each day. Visitors can shop with period sutlers, see soldier camps, enjoy numerous demonstrations, and take in a hot meal from the food vendor.

World War II Living History, Saturday September 29, from 10 am to 4 pm, and Sunday September 30, from 1 to 4 pm

World War II is coming to Latta Plantation for Living History based on the Allied Troops preparing for the 1943 invasion into France. There will be many interactive displays, briefings, and demos describing navigation using a compass, simulated rifle / grenade ranges, bayonet training, and much more.

All Hallows Eve, Saturday October 13, from 10 am to 4 pm

Come experience the history of Halloween and its famous characters. There will be trick or treating around the plantation, Halloween baking in the kitchen, storytelling, pumpkin painting, a costume contest, and more

Ghost Tales in the Dark, Fridays October 12 and 19, and Saturdays October 13 and 20

Tour the plantation by candlelight and hear ghost stories from staff and volunteers, and from previous ghost hunts. RSVP is required and the cost is \$12 per person. You must be 10 years or older. Call 704-875-2312 to register. Registration will open late September.

Cooking With Sukey Workshop, Saturday October 20, from 10 am to 4 pm

Taught by Clarissa Clifton, an experienced food historian, this workshop is a wonderful introduction to the techniques of open-hearth cooking. Pre-registration is required and includes all workshop materials. Check out our website's 'Workshops' page for details.

Ghost Walk, Friday October 26 and Saturday October 27, from 7 to 10 pm

Experience the darker side of Latta and discover what goes bump in the night, at the Ghost Walk. Venture through the plantation on a candlelit tour of historic proportions. Groups will survive an explosive Civil War Battlefield, the haunted plantation house, a cemetery, the old kitchen, an insane asylum, and more. Groups will depart every few minutes. Not recommended for children under 10.

Hugh Torance House and Store

8231 Gilead Road, Huntersville, NC

Sunday Site Tours, September 2 and 16, and October 7 and 21, from 2 to 5 pm

The circa 1779 log house and its 1805 Federal addition was the residence of two generations of the Torance family. Part of the building became a store from 1805 – 1825. The site eventually became a 3000 acre cotton plantation worked by over 100 slaves. After the October tours the site will be closed for the winter.

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

Special Museum Opening and an Evening at the Alexanders, Saturday September 15, from 5 to 9 pm.

The Charlotte Museum of History will be open for a one-time special public program Admission to the museum is free, with a \$5 fee for a tour of the historic Hezekiah Alexander house. Local historic sites and organizations will share their information with the community. Food trucks will also be here, so come hungry.

Costumed docents will give guests a peek into the lives of the Alexander family after the sun went down. Learn about evening meals, activities, and entertaining in colonial times. Visitors are encouraged to bring flashlights. Explore the museum's permanent galleries, including the *Sophie Charlotte* exhibit which looks at the life of Queen Charlotte – the English monarch that is our city's namesake. The gift shop will be open with ALL merchandise at 50% off.

The Museum is also hosting community input discussions at the Museum building during this event at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 pm. Anyone who wants to know what is being planned or with opinions and ideas should attend and express their views. They really want to hear from you.

Mount Holly Historical Society

Mount Holly, NC

Historic Hoyle Homestead Open House, Saturday September 8 from 10 am to 2 pm, Free.

Come join us at Gaston County's oldest home, the Hoyle House, circa late 1700's, located on the Dallas-Stanley Highway (Near Riverside Fish Camp). Enjoy a fun-filled day of history, crafts, re-enactors, home tours, guest speakers, and BBQ.

Rural Hill

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

Revolutionary War Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, September 29 and 30, from 10 am to 6 pm, free.

Rural Hill staff and docents will host the Hesse Kessel Jaeger Korps encampment. Featured will be hearth cooking, blacksmithing, spinning and weaving, firearms demonstrations and more.

Amazing Maize Maze. Sept. 7-23: Fridays and Saturdays 10 am to 6:30 pm, Sundays 10 am to 5 pm Sept. 28 – Nov. 4: Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10 am to 5 pm. Flashlight Mazes on Fridays from 6 to 9 pm.

Come out and experience the Amazing Maize Maze at Historic Rural Hill. One of the largest in the Southeast, our maze is sure to please! Looking for an even bigger challenge? Do the maze in the dark during one of our famous Family Friendly Friday Night Mazes! Bring your own flashlight and an appetite for adventure, there's even live music and bonfires! (Weather permitting) The whole of Rural Hill's 265 acres is available to you and your group during maze hours- take a hayride around the farm, play a round of corn-hole, explore our historic site, play in our mini-mazes, have a picnic, hike our trails or pick a pumpkin (in October).

Schiele Museum

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

Workshop: Pockets, Aprons and Neckerchiefs, Friday September 14, from 6 to 8:30 pm, and Saturday September 15, from 9 am to 3 pm. The workshop is limited to 8 participants; contact the museum for prices and to reserve a space.

The Backcountry Housewife would consider her presentation less than suitable unless she was wearing her apron, pocket and neckerchief. Uses of these small yet important items will be explored and examples will be on hand for review. The basic cross stitch and simple cross stitch patterns will be featured. Pattern and materials for one item included in this workshop.

Autumn in the Backcountry, Sunday September 23, from 1 to 5 pm

Imagine a hot autumn's day in the 18th century backcountry. With the early harvest behind them, families and friends gather to rest and escape the heat under the shade of an old oak tree. Join us for a lazy day of Piedmont pastimes – watermelon eating, seed spitting contests, games and amusements.

Early American Corn Husking, Sunday October 21, from 1 to 5 pm

During their first years, early settlers typically planted basic food crops on open land where ever available. Of these basic crops, corn proved to be one of the most useful and nourishing. Visit the backcountry farm to learn about this important plant. Grind corn by hand. See traditional dishes prepared at the hearth. Join in the celebration of an early American corn husking.

Gaston County Museum

131 West Main Street Dallas, NC. (704)922-7681, #2 www.gastoncountymuseum.org

Civil War Charlotte: Last Capital of the Confederacy, Saturday September 29 at 1 pm. Book Talk and Signing with Author Michael C. Hardy. Free.

Charlotte helped to make history during the Civil War. The city's factories produced gunpowder, percussion caps and medicine for the Confederate cause. Perhaps most importantly, Charlotte housed the Confederate Naval Ordnance Depot and Naval Works, manufacturing iron for ironclad vessels and artillery projectiles and providing valuable ammunition for the South. Charlotte also sent over 2,500 men into the Confederate army and served as home to a military hospital, a Ladies Aid Society, a prison and even the mysterious Confederate gold. When Richmond fell, Jefferson Davis set up his headquarters in Charlotte, making it the unofficial capital. Join historian Michael C. Hardy as he recounts the triumphs and struggles of Queen City civilians and soldiers in the Civil War.

Historic Brattonsville

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

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

Occupations of the Past, Saturday September 1, from 10 am to 4 pm

Many occupations of our ancestors have changed or disappeared over time. Costumed interpreters will demonstrate many of these occupations such as military life, teaching, doctoring and domestic activities.

By the Sweat of Our Brows, Saturday September 8, from 10 am to 4 pm

In 1843 the Bratton plantation was home to 139 enslaved souls. Their descendants are helping Historic Brattonsville honor their ancestors' legacies. The African-American journey from enslavement to today will be shared through powerful stories, presentations, hands-on activities, bus tours, and more. Michael Twitty, an African American-Jewish culinary historian and interpreter, will recreate dishes from Africa through slavery and bridge their connection to contemporary food.

Everything Apples, Saturday September 15, from 10 am to 4 pm

Making cider, apple pie, sausage and apples, and preserving apples were activities of our ancestors every fall. They took advantage of the supply of fresh fruit and put some away to enjoy in the winter months. Costumed interpreters will do these activities and more as they recreate life of the Carolina Backcountry in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Piedmont Pottery Festival, Saturday September 29, from 10 am to 4 pm

Celebrate the South's rich pottery heritage. Shop for pottery created by some of the best traditional potters from the Carolinas and Georgia; enjoy pottery making demonstrations, hands-on children's activities, and talks by noted pottery historians. Bring your own pottery for identification by experts. Outstanding regional barbecue will be available for purchase. This year's presenters are Dr. Terry Zug, author of *Turners & Burners: The Folk Potters of North Carolina* and Leonard Todd, author of *Carolina Clay: The Life and Legend of the Slave Potter, Dave*.

Spirits and Stories: Brattonsville by Twilight, Saturday October 20, from 4 to 9 pm

This new event will feature Halloween crafts and games, ghost storytelling and fall harvest activities. Once the sun goes down, guided ghost tours will begin. Visitors will learn the true stories that led to many popular legends while walking the grounds.

Civil War Reenactment, Saturday October 27, and Sunday October 28, from 10 am to 3 pm

Step into the war that ravaged America through battle reenactments, cannon firing demonstrations, camp life activities, dramatic presentations, and take part in children's military drills. Battle reenactments are at 2 pm each day.

Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site

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

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

Fall Harvest Festival, Saturday, October 13 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free

Learn what life was like when John Reed owned the mine. Experience early 19th century life through cooking demonstrations, traditional craftsmen, food, animals, and backcountry lifeways.

Charlotte Folk Society

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte

www.folksociety.org

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering Concert & Jams. Both events free; programs at 7:30 pm; doors open at 7.

Friday September 14: African stories, dance and song by The Healing Force

Tuesday October 9: Riley Baugus (banjo) and Kirk Sutphin (fiddle), masters of the Round Peak old time music tradition.

Historical Center of York County

212 E. Jefferson St., York, SC, 803.684.3948

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

McCelvey Historical Marker Dedication, Saturday September 8, at 11 am

Take a look back at the educational tradition of this York landmark now called the McCelvey Center. Immerse yourself in its rich history with a photo presentation and tour.

Vices of York County, Saturday October 13, at 11 am

Discover the common crimes of 19th century York County residents that brought them before a judge and jury.

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>

Militia Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, September 1 and 2 from 9 am to 5 pm, Free.

The Backcountry Militia will encamp at the park this weekend. There will be a variety of demonstrations held throughout the day including weapons firings.

Battle of Kings Mountain Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, October 6 and 7 from 9 am to 8 pm, Free.

On the 232nd Anniversary of this important battle, there will be various living history demonstrations, special presentations by authors and evening lantern tours along the Battlefield Trail. On Sunday there will be a wreath laying ceremony at the monument at 11 am and Overmountain Victory Trail Marchers will arrive at 3 pm followed by a keynote address.

Duke Mansion

400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte, 704 714 4448

<http://www.dukemansion.com>

Introducing Charlotte's New Liberty Walk, Sunday September 16 at 3 pm, Free

Why is Charlotte called the "hornet's nest of rebellion?" You'll know the answer when Charlotte's May 20th Society and Central Piedmont Community College unveil the Liberty Walk, a new multi-media resource that lets you explore Charlotte's Revolutionary War sites in the Uptown area. The event is free but reservations are required. To reserve your spot, email pmartin@tlwf.org or call 704/714-4448.

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