

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Promoting Local History through Education and Research

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



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The Founding of Charlotte

This year, 2018, we will be celebrating the sescentennial, or 250th anniversary, of the founding of Charlotte. Historical records show that the town of Charlotte was established with a law passed by the Assembly on December 3, 1768, but the story is more interesting than that. The way that Charlotte came into being was unusual for the time and illustrates the exceptionalism that has always been a part of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

To understand this we have to start at the beginning. About 1750 settlers began to come down from Pennsylvania into western Anson County in the Royal Colony of North Carolina. By 1763 there were enough settlers in the area to form a new county out of the western part of Anson, to be called Mecklenburg. This was not an unusual action as counties were routinely divided whenever the population reached a level that made that feasible.

When any new county was formed seven men were appointed to purchase a piece of land and build a courthouse, prison and stocks for the new county. Once they had done this they were to levy a tax on the residents of the county to repay themselves for the expense. This way of building a courthouse always gave new counties a problem. Since the commissioners put up their own money, they waited until there were enough residents that the tax would fully reimburse the cost of buying the land and building the courthouse. So in the case of Mecklenburg County, the commissioners waited four years before building the courthouse. Then they did something extraordinary.

On January 15, 1767, instead of just building a courthouse, they decided to build a town. Three of the commissioners put up their own money, and bought a large piece of land. It was the best land they could find, on the main road from Salisbury to the Catawba Indian Nation. It was on a high hill on a long ridge, and had three good springs. They bought 360 acres from the absentee land owner Lord Selwyn through his agent Henry Eustace McCulloh for £90. A land grant for this amount of less desirable land elsewhere in the county would have cost them only about £5. In addition to building the court house they laid out a city and began to sell city lots.

The North Carolina General Assembly had met the previous October, 1766, with Thomas Polk and Martin Phifer, the representatives from Mecklenburg County, attending. Governor Tryon prorogued (dismissed) the session to reconvene in December, 1767. In that session Mr. Polk introduced two bills. One was to divide Mecklenburg County, forming Tryon County. The other was to establish a town in Mecklenburg County. In January 1768 the session was again prorogued and met again in November, 1768. On November 12 Thomas Polk, re-introduced the bill to establish a Town in Mecklenburg County and Mr. Phifer re-introduced the bill to divide Mecklenburg County. These two bills became laws when they were approved by Governor Tryon on December 3.

The law establishing Charlotte states that John Frohock, Abraham Alexander and Thomas Polk had purchased 360 acres for the purpose of erecting a Court House for the use of the County. That they had laid out this land into

a town and a common area and some if it into lots. They had sold 80 of these lots and on some of them good habitable houses had been erected. The law also says that the land is so healthy and convenient for trade that if it were established as a town it might grow to a considerable size.

The town was to be named Charlotte, in honor of their Queen, the wife of King George III of Great Britain. It was the custom in those days to name towns after famous people to honor them, not for any hope of gaining favor. These Trustees plus two more – Richard Berry and George Allen – were to make deeds for the 80 lots already sold and for other lots as the town developed. The owners of these lots were given three years to erect a building of a specified minimum size and quality or the lot could be seized by the trustees to be sold again. These lots were owned “in fee simple,” but the owners were to pay a Land Rent of one shilling per year. Land Rent for city lots and Quit Rent for land were universal in the Royal Colonies, providing a way to support the colonial government and the Royal Establishment, much as taxes do today.

Finally, Thomas Polk was appointed treasurer. The founders expected to sell a large number of city lots and make a lot of money and it seems that this did happen at first. As soon as there were 60 families living in the town, the Assembly would make Charlotte a Borough Town, giving them their own representative in the Assembly. Unfortunately things did not work out as planned. Within seven years the American Revolution had begun and it would be 1815, 46 years later when the town was finally large enough to become incorporated.

Jim Williams

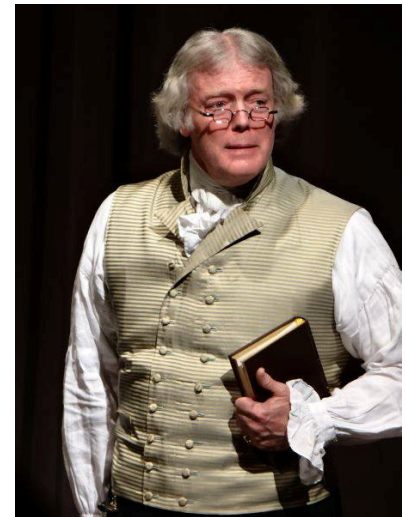
Thomas Jefferson is Coming to Town

President Thomas Jefferson, our country’s third president, will return to Charlotte on Thursday, February 15. The Sons of the American Revolution will welcome him with a dinner at 6 pm at the Executive Park Hilton, 624 Westpark Drive in Charlotte. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Enjoy a dinner, hear Mr. Jefferson speak and converse with him. Wear your finest 18th Century clothing if possible.

President Jefferson will tell his stories and accounts of the drafting of the Declaration of Independence, serving as a founding member of the first Continental Congress, and as the Governor of Virginia during the Revolutionary War. President Jefferson’s interaction with the audience and his amazing ability to recount his role in numerous historical events from a first-person point of view will delight, inform and entertain everyone in attendance.



Professional historical actor, producer, and director Bill Barker portrays President Jefferson. He regularly portrays Thomas Jefferson at Colonial Williamsburg, Independence Hall in Philadelphia, the White House, the Palace of Versailles, and in performances of the Broadway musical *1776*.



This is the second time the SAR has brought Bill Barker as Thomas Jefferson to town and those who saw him before will want to repeat the experience. Thomas Jefferson was an amazing historical figure in the formation of our country, serving as the first United States Secretary of State from 1790-1793 under President George Washington. He was elected as the second Vice President of the United States under President John Adams in 1797 and served as President in 1801 to 1809.

Admission to the dinner and evening program is \$29 per person, \$15 per child and open to all ages. Advanced reservations are required. Send your check, made payable to the Mecklenburg Chapter SAR, c/o Tom Phlegar, 7324 Marlbrook Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212-4770 by February 8. For more information, contact Tom Phlegar at btphlegar@aol.com or jay@mecklenburgsar.org or visit <http://www.mecklenburgsar.org>

From the Co-Chairmen

From Rachel Abernathy:

Season's Greetings...Here's hoping it is not too late to wish all of you a magnificent 2018. 2017 certainly was! Our organization worked together to bring "Voices From The Past" to reality; our Cooking Guild celebrated their twentieth anniversary as a public voice for open hearth cooking; attendance at our monthly meetings is holding steady, and too much more to mention here.

Our annual Christmas Tea/Luncheon was successful – not boasting – as usual. After a very interesting program about the McAdenville Lights we celebrated the season with an unbelievable array of food. The only downer to the morning was that our other Queen, Audrey Mellichamp, had a very bad fall, sustaining painful bruises. We are so sorry, Audrey, and missed you very much.

Our annual board retreat is scheduled for January, 2018, so if you have a report due, or something to suggest to the board, please contact one of us. We will accommodate you if possible.

Wishing everyone the best in the New Year.

Rachel Abernathy

P.S. Here is an update on Audrey's condition. She is at a rehab facility and is improving, although not as quickly as she would like. She will probably not be home for Christmas, but may be very soon afterward. Her rehab activities consume almost all of her time, as they should, to make her well again. Because of that the best way to wish her well is to send cards or letters to her home, and Larry will deliver them. The address is 3036 Ventosa Drive, Charlotte, NC 28205. We hope to have her back among us soon.

From Audrey Mellichamp:

As we begin a new year, I would like to take the opportunity to honor our cooking guild. All members of our group are MHA Docents. So as one of their cooks, I represent the cooking guild.

We are "Sisters of the Smoke," and as members of the **Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley** have cooked together in the 18th century backcountry way for a long time now – in fact, our Guild is 20 years old as of September 2017. Some of us have been together that long, and all of us enjoy our time together. We have created a lasting bond among ourselves and have each others' backs at our hearth. It is amazing to consider what we have accomplished during that time. All the things we have cooked, researched, and taught. Oh, the places we have gone. We are unique! There is no other volunteer group of hearth cooks like us that we know of.

So, what have we done? We have learned the cooking techniques of 18th century America. We have cooked and shared this learning with the public and school groups at our home hearth at the President James K. Polk State Historic Site. We have also had renowned food historians come in to teach us – Ivan Day of English Victorian cooking fame and Sandy Oliver for the evolution of recipes. Our cooking guild has traveled to Philadelphia, Williamsburg; Foxfire Heritage Center; Polk's Home & Museum in Columbia, Tennessee; Hart Square; Rural Hill; and all our ALHFAM & Lifeways Conferences – cooking all the way.

We have put together our impressive cooking guild time line and have posted it on the MHA website. The cooking guild is on the main menu next to Docents. Our time line is "cooking 20 years." I hope you will go to our website and see what we have enjoyed doing. And then go to our calendar on the website to see what we are doing in our 21st year of cooking together. I hear we want to make "lye" soap with some of our gifts of bear fat.

Audrey Mellichamp

Newsletter Deadline and Our New Format

The deadline for the March/April Dandelion is February 14th, Happy Valentine's Day. You may have noticed a small change to our format. We have used indented paragraphs with no blank lines between them. This is the format usually used in books, and for that reason we think is more user friendly. We hope you find it as easy to read as the old format of paragraphs with no indentations separated by white space.

MHA Docent Programs

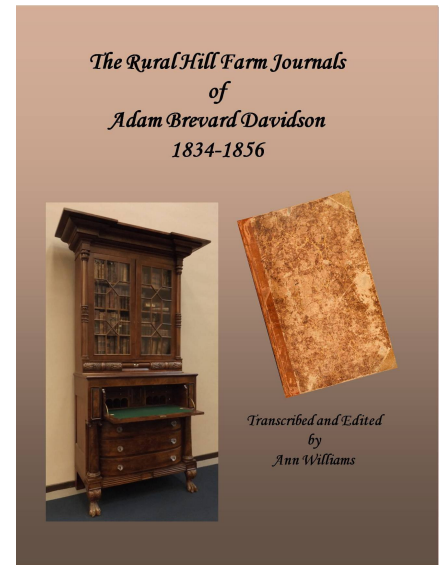
Both meetings will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. Refreshments at 9:30, business meeting at 10, and program at 11. Visitors are always welcome.

Tuesday, January 2, 2018

Early America's Sleeping Beauty: How Nature and Nurture Turned an Unruly Fiber into King Cotton, Augmented by the Rural Hill Farm Journals

In the early days of our country Upland Cotton, the variety that grows so readily across the American South, had botanical factors that kept it from being profitable. This was a great frustration to farmers, that is until Eli Whitney invented a new kind of gin. This program will address the botany of cotton, Eli Whitney's improved gin, and how it complicated his sad love life. We will also hear about the labor intensity of cotton farming, cotton's huge impact on the national economy, and its role in precipitating the Civil War.

Ann Williams has researched and interpreted local antebellum historic sites for many years. About ten years ago she began researching cotton in order to better understand plantation life. More recently she published *The Rural Hill Farm Journals of Adam Brevard Davidson, 1834-1856*. She will talk about transcribing those journals, Rural Hill's use of Scientific Farming, which was an important advancement for 19th century agriculture, and the immense amount of detail the journals added to her research. You will also get a sneak preview of February's program; Brevard Davidson married Mary Laura Springs, daughter of John Springs, III of Springfield. The families were very close.



**Tuesday, February 6, 2018
Springfield**



York County's Springfield is a two-story frame house built in the early 1800s by John Springs, III, and as family tradition relates, has remained in the Springs family since its construction. The home, an excellent example of an antebellum plantation house, is one of the oldest structures in eastern York County, and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. The 19th century business and personal relationships between citizens of York and Mecklenburg Counties were legion. Several of the owners of Springfield have played significant roles in the development of commerce in the region and the nation. The Springs' successful business investments helped to create some of South Carolina's economic growth in the years prior to the Civil War, including textile mill operations and the development of railroads in South Carolina.

Ann Evans, presenter of "Springfield", is a well-recognized expert on York County history. She is archivist and curator of the White Homestead, another Springs family property, and she has been a consultant for the Fort Mill History Museum, as well as for many other institutions and organizations. She is a graduate of Winthrop University with a major in history. Through additional study at Emory University and the Georgia Department of Archives and History she has become a certified archivist. She has served as archivist for the Catawba Cultural Center and Special Collections at Winthrop University.

Docent Retreat

The MHA Docent Board's annual retreat will be January 15 and 16. If you have a committee report to present, please give it to a board member prior to those dates. If you have something you would like to bring to the board's attention, you may tell a board member, or if you prefer, ask to be placed on the retreat agenda and present your concern in person. Give any budget requests to Valerie Jones.

Weather Cancellation Policy

The MHA Docents will follow CMS decisions on cancelling meetings due to inclement weather. If schools are closed due to weather, our meeting will not be held. If the schools are on a two hour delay we WILL meet as usual. School buses normally start rolling about 6 am. If they are delayed to 8 am, that is well before our meeting time. If schools are open, and the church is closed, you will be notified. On days when the weather is iffy, watch the news reports and check email.

History News

News of the 25th Annual President Polk Birthday Event at the President James K. Polk State Historic Site.

This annual event was a great success this year. The historic grounds were populated with demonstrators who brought the every-day reality of a backcountry farm to life for visitors. Presidential candidate James K. Polk, embodied by the MHA's own Jim Williams, was on hand to discuss the election and take pictures with eager fans. We look forward to hosting a blowout celebration next year for the site's 50th anniversary and we hope to see you all there.

Kate Moore

Photo by Christopher A. Strickland.



Carolina Piedmont through Time Seminar Series, Tuesdays, January 23, February 20 and March 20 at 6 to 8 pm each evening, Registration Required, Museum of York County, Rock Hill, SC.

Discover the geologic origins of the Carolina Piedmont six hundred million years ago. Dr. Steve Fields, Ph.D., the York County museum's curator of natural history will present these three lectures:

- January 23 – From the Depths of the Earth and Ocean. The story of volcanoes and continental collisions as revealed in the fossils of early marine life.
- February 20 – Big Times – Dinosaurs and their Kin. The Carolinas' account of the Age of Dinosaurs, from raptors and duck-bills to a T-Rex cousin.
- March 20 – Rise and Reign of the Mammals. When the Eastern U.S. was like East Africa today, fossils of giant armadillos, mastodons and lions tell the story.

Jamie Laval's Celtic Christmas: Music and Stories for the Deep Midwinter, Thursday, December 28 at 7:30 pm, Fullwood Theater at Matthews Community Center.

Award winning Scottish Fiddler Jamie Laval will be joined by a cast of nationally-acclaimed Celtic performers including a bagpiper, Celtic harpist, Irish dancer, and an exceptional soprano. Laval won the U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Championship in 2002, has performed for Her Majesty The Queen, and has presented a TEDx Talk. This family-friendly show weaves a tapestry of music, dance, poetry, and stories to capture the beauty and atmosphere of Celtic lands associated with the Winter Solstice and Christmas. Tickets and info are available at

www.JamieLaval.com

MHA Dues

The time has come to pay your Mecklenburg Historical Association Dues for 2018; 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 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

Single	Couple	
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 or more as appropriate

General _____ Senior _____
MHA Docent _____ North Branch MHA _____
Patron _____ Life _____

Please send my MHA Newsletter by:

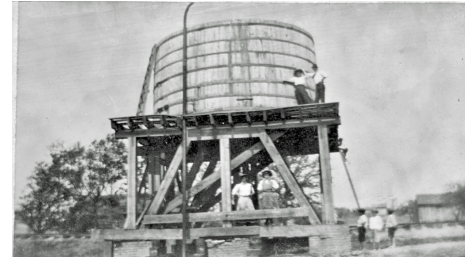
Email _____
US Mail _____

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

A Request from the Matthews Heritage Museum.

Do You Have Information, Memories or Materials about Tanktown/Cresdale/Matthews? The Matthews Heritage Museum is developing an exhibit on Tanktown, now known as Cresdale, a part of Matthews, to be opened in February. If you have material such as photographs, diplomas, programs or personal memorabilia they would like to meet with you, scan the items and learn about people who lived in this area. If you have three-dimensional items, they might want to borrow them for the exhibit.

Please contact Barbara Taylor, Director of the Museum before January 20th at 704-708-4996 Thursday – Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm or by email at info@matthewsheritagemuseum.org



Site News

Charlotte Museum of History

The Charlotte Museum of History has a new site director, Adria Focht (rhymes with poked). Adria comes to us from the Kings Mountain Historical Museum. As director of that museum she has long been active in the Charlotte Regional History Consortium. Consequently she is familiar with our landscape and our local history sites. Since assuming her new position in mid-November she has attended meetings of several history related organizations, and saying she was in a “listening mode” asked those groups what they envisioned for the Charlotte Museum of History. Adria brings with her valuable museum training and experience, and loads of enthusiasm. In her own words:

“As the new President & CEO of The Charlotte Museum of History, allow me to introduce myself and express how honored and excited I am to join this organization at this time of renewed energy and promise for the future. I want you to know I’m listening, and encourage you to reach out to share your vision for the Museum and how we can best meet the needs of the community.

“Next year will mark the City of Charlotte’s 250th anniversary. With your support, we can make this a defining moment in building civic pride in Charlotte’s rich history, helping people embrace our shared past and inspiring optimism for the future. We are eager to present a robust slate of educational programming in 2018, and we hope we’ll see you at many of our upcoming programs.”

Welcome, Adria, We look forward to working with you, and we know you’ll do a great job!

Latta Plantation

Latta Plantation has several job openings. They would like to hire a part-time person to feed the animals each morning and assist with their care. A full-time interpreter/management position is also available. Recently Matthew Waisner left the site for a teaching career, and his shoes need to be filled. Matthew developed, scheduled, and oversaw most of the site’s programming, as well as giving tours of the property. The person filling this position needs museum experience and a broad knowledge of local history. Contact David Clay at Latta for more specifics at 704-875-2312 ext. 303 or dclay@lattaplantation.org

The History Calendar

Admission charged at all events unless otherwise noted.

Many of these events sell out so it is best register at the web sites.

Check the Charlotte Regional History Consortium website for other events.

<http://www.charlotteregionalhistory.org>

Historic Rosedale

3427 N. Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC, 704 335 0325, <http://www.historicrosedale.org>

Audubon's Great Backyard Bird Count, Saturday, February 17 from 10 am to noon, Free.

On this day birders around the world gather to count birds and create a snap-shot of the world bird population. Join us at Rosedale for our third annual GBBC. We will provide the checklists and something warm to drink.

Billinda Daylily Garden Lecture, Saturday, February 24 at 10 am to noon, rain date Saturday, March 3.

Bill Gluck is a Daylily hybridizer and owner of Billinda Daylily Gardens, an official American Hemerocallis Society Garden. He will speak about his garden and award-winning hybrid Daylilies and take orders for spring delivery. Reservations suggested.

Forging Ahead, Saturday, February 24 from 1 to 4 pm.

In celebration of Black History Month visit the Rosedale Smithy to see a blacksmithing demonstration and learn of the farm's enslaved residents many of whom were skilled blacksmiths in the time before the Civil War.

Historic Latta Plantation

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

World War II Living History, Saturday, February 17 from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday, February 18 from 1 to 4 pm.

Living history demonstrations presented by WWII reenactors portraying both Allied and Axis troops during the 1940's. See uniforms, gear, and weapons. Witness camp-life, and learn more about those from The Greatest Generation.

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

Twelfth Night, Saturday, January 6, from 5 to 7:30 pm, Free.

In the 18th Century Twelfth Night was the end of the Christmas season and was celebrated with great revelry by the backcountry settlers. Join us to hear live music, play colonial party games, enjoy hot apple cider, eat Twelfth Night cake, and take a candlelight tour of the Hezekiah Alexander house. One lucky guest will even be crowned the King or Queen of Twelfth Night. There will be toasting with hard cider, roasting by the bonfire, and general colonial merriment as we invite you to join us for the ultimate party – eighteenth-century style.

Historic Brattonsville

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

<http://www.chmuseums.org/brattonsville>**Hog Butchering Day, Saturday, January 13 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

It is the dead of winter and time for Hog Butchering. Early settlers in the Carolina Backcountry subsisted on Hog and Hominy. At this time of the year they killed, cleaned, salted and smoked their hogs to provide food throughout the year. Interpreters will be rendering lard, preparing chitlins, stuffing sausages and preserving pork using salt.

By Way of the Back Door, Special Tours every Saturday in February from 10 am to 4 pm with special tours at 11am and 2 pm.

Special guided tours interpreting African American history and culture in the Carolina Piedmont, tell the stories of the plantation's enslaved and their way of life from the American Revolution to the Reconstruction Era. Stops on the tours include Oak Grove, a slave cabin, the brick kitchen, the woodworking shed and the Homestead with historic cooking and blacksmithing demonstrations.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org**Twelfth Night, the Vanishing Holiday, Saturday, January 6 at 11 am to Noon, Free.**

Ron Vinson of the Presbyterian Heritage Center of Montreat, NC will speak on the now largely-forgotten Twelfth Night holiday. Learn more about what it is, how it started, and how it has evolved to the present day.

Connect with Culture Day, Saturday, January 27 from 10 am to 3 pm, Free.

Join us to celebrate our local culture with music, art and history. Hear the Myer's Park High School Bluegrass Band and the High Ridge Pickers, see craft demonstrations, and tour the historic grounds and museum exhibits.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>**Cherokee Attack Anniversary, Saturday, February 24 from 9 am to 5 pm with a 6:30 pm Evening Program, Sunday, February 25 from 10 am to 3 pm.**

On February 27, 1760, the 30-man garrison of Fort Dobbs engaged in a bloody, confusing, night-time skirmish with as many as 70 Cherokee warriors. This living history program will give visitors a glimpse of what life was like for the soldiers and settlers seeking protection through on-going displays of camp life, as well as scheduled musket and cannon firing demonstrations.

Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site

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

<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/reed/reed.htm>**Basket Weaving Class, Saturday, January 6 from 10 am to 1 pm.**

Brenda Long will teach participants how to create a small muffin basket. Participants are asked to bring a snack, 12 clothespins, an old towel and plenty of creativity to this fun and educational program. Cost is \$25.

Matthews Heritage Museum

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

Toys of the 50s, 60s and 70s, Exhibit Opening, Saturday, January 27 from 10 am to 4:30 pm.

Explore the toys of this era: Baby dolls, Card games, Games of skill, Cowboys and Stuffed animals. Before WWII toys were simple. Afterwards a flood of wind-up tin toys came from Japan. With the advent of TV, former book and radio characters became TV and movie stars such as Howdy Doody, Hopalong Cassidy and Mary Poppins and these became puppets and dolls - with accessories.

Connect with Culture Day, Saturday, January 27.

On the Arts and Science Council Connect with Culture Day the Museum will be free all day.

Charlotte Folk Society

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte

www.folksociety.org

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams, Friday, January 12, features the Annual Young Talent Showcase, Free.

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

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams, Friday, February 9, features Andrew Finn Magill, Free.

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

Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

310 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, 704 416 0150 <http://cmstory.org>

Wings: World War I: The Forgotten War, Saturday, January 27 at 2 to 4 pm, Main Library, Free.

The silent movie *Wings* won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1929. It stars Clara Bow, Buddy Rogers and Richard Arlen and was directed by William Willman. It was Gary Cooper's first picture and features Ethan Uslan on piano. *Wings* is a mixture of romance and drama and introduced aeronautic stunt flying in motion pictures.

Historic Rural Hill

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

Hogmanay and First Footin', Monday, January 1 – New Years Day – from 11 am to 1 pm, Free.

Celebrate the Scottish New Year (Hogmanay) with a traditional walk around the farm (First Footin'). This vigorous walk around the farm's 2.25 mile trail will stop along the way to discuss the history and folklore of the site. Then at noon partake of stone soup. Bring along fresh or canned vegetables for the soup or bread or dessert to add to the feast.

If you do not think you are physically able to do the walk, please come anyway. It's a great time for fellowship at the Rural Retreat Cabin Site, which will be open for this occasion.

Gregory Creek Homestead and Iredell Museums

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

<http://www.iredellmuseums.org>

Return to the Land of My Ancestors, I, Thursday, January 25 at 6:30 pm, Free.

Catawba College professor Gary Freeze will present a talk about the history of Piedmont NC before the America Revolution. This is in association with the Museum's current exhibit, Return to the Land of My Ancestors.

Return to the Land of My Ancestors, II, Thursday, February 8 at 6:30 pm, Free.

Fort Dobbs Site Manager Scott Douglas will tell the story of the attack on Fort Dobbs by more than 60 Cherokee on February 27, 1760. This is in association with the Museum's current exhibit, Return to the Land of My Ancestors.

York County Library

138 E. Black Street, Rock Hill, SC. www.yclibrary.org

The York County Library offers Free Genealogy Programs in January and February.

Nine programs include deeds and land records, family Bibles, research at Winthrop, obituaries and newspapers, exploring genealogy with AncestryDNA, plus regular monthly support group meetings. For program schedules, more information and registration go to www.events.yclibrary.org

Mount Holly Historical Society

131 South Main, Mount Holly, NC <https://www.mounthollynhistoricalociety.org>

William Gaston: Namesake of Gaston County, Tuesday, January 23 at 7 to 8 pm, Free.

Jerry Bostic will present a program on William Gaston: Honorable man, unlucky in love, man of his word, wonderful grandfather, member of the State Supreme Court, member of the U.S. Congress, bank director, and nominated to The U.S. Presidency as a Whig candidate (but turned it down).

History Before Us – Frederick Murphy, Tuesday, February 27 at 7 to 8 pm, Free.

Local oral historian Frederick Murphy will discuss his project "History Before Us," a gatekeeper in capturing, preserving, and sharing influential History. Visit his website at www.historybeforeus.com

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