

**Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents**

*Promoting Local History through Education and Research*

<http://www.meckdec.org>



January-February, 2016  
Volume 21, Number 1

Look Inside This Issue

- The MHA Docents biennial lecture series will be held on three Saturdays in February. Read the description and mail in your reservation.
- Now is the time to renew your MHA membership for 2016.
- News of Ann Williams' new book.
- MHA Docent Programs in January and February.
- The History Calendar with information on programs and events of interest to the History Community.

***Benjamin Franklin is Coming to Town!***

Enjoy a historical evening of Dr. Franklin's humor, wit, inventions, quips and stories, brought to life during an evening you will not soon forget. A renowned polymath, Franklin was a leading author, printer, political theorist, politician, free mason, postmaster, scientist, inventor, civic activist, statesman and diplomat.

Dr. Franklin will be interpreted by Barry Stevens who has been reenacting the many facets of Dr. Franklin for over ten years. Through years of constant study and travel he has come to understand a most complex man and to make him come alive for audiences of all ages. We invite you to engage Dr. Franklin in conversation and learn his views of the world in eighteenth century America. And please wear colonial era clothing if you have it.

The Sons of the American Revolution welcome Dr. Benjamin Franklin to their annual President's Day Community Dinner on February 18, beginning at 6 pm and the public is invited to attend. The dinner will be held at the Hilton Charlotte Executive Park Hotel, 5624 Westpark Drive, in South Charlotte, starting at 6 pm. Tickets are \$28 for adults and \$15 for children, including an excellent meal. A limited number of tickets are available so reserve your place by mailing your check, made out to the SAR, with your name and address, to



Tom Phlegar  
7324 Marlbrook Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28212-4770

## *Reflections from the Chair*

“In the blink of an eye.....” history changes—my history, in particular, recently. I was lying, face down on the newly waxed linoleum floor at the Charlotte airport. Larry and I had just breezed through security and we were walking to our gate. My hiking boots’ rubber soles quickly ‘stuck’ to the floor and my body continued forward, face to the floor. I tried getting up and fell back down, hitting my front teeth, nose, and forehead again. My arms did not support me. I knew my right wrist was broken for sure. Forever it seemed, I was looking and breathing floor before paramedics came and carefully rolled me over.

There was no trip to St. Francisville, Louisiana; no looking at historic plantation homes, kitchen cabins, slave quarters; no gardening conference for me. There was no going back. I had to assess the new reality/history and deal with it.

The new situation was that I had broken the left elbow, the right wrist, and the right shoulder! In dealing with this, first I had to accept my situation. I got through it by having someone feed me; having 2 people get me out of bed and to the bathroom; doing intense leg and abdominal exercises to strengthen me so I could get out of bed and then a chair without using arms!

But I could not get out of that chair! Soon, I realized that if the bed or chair was high enough—at least 21-22” from the floor—I could do it without my arms. I had Larry bring in one of our patio chairs that had a thick sturdy pad, placed my 3” wheelchair pad on top of that, and I was at 22” and out of that chair without using my arms. Huzzah!

At 3 weeks, my left elbow had healed enough to use it with some weight. With my left hand I could now feed myself; dress myself [even socks]; wash up; and get out of chairs more easily. In the next few weeks, I was increasingly inventive in dealing with my situation. Really, think about it—history has all of these elements I had learned through this episode in my life. It happens. There is no going back. You deal with it, accepting it or not, you must go forward. You become creative and inventive. You survive. You live. It is history.

So, in conclusion, I want to thank you all for your kind thoughts, cards, and prayers. I want to especially thank Janet Dyer, my co-chair, and my board for taking over for me; Alice Bostic for her visits and talking history with me [I have several ideas for docent programs from these discussions]; and to my Larry who came every night to help me get ready for bed, no matter how tired he was or whether he had supper or not. Yes, I am looking forward to the new year!

Audrey Mellichamp

## *Newsletter Deadline*

The deadline for the March/April issue of the Dandelion will be February 10<sup>th</sup>.

## *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 5  
The Foothills Frontiersman**

In the two decades prior to the American Revolution, the land “west of the Catawba” was the Carolina frontier. A backwoodsman hunting or exploring in this region travelled through a land of forests and savannahs full of wild

game with few settlements and the ever present threat of hostile encounters with the Cherokee Indians. Steve Watts of the Schiele Museum will discuss and demonstrate the clothes, food, tools, weapons and other gear of these frontiersmen

Prehistorian Steve Watts directs the Aboriginal Studies and Traditional Outdoors Skills Programs at the Schiele Museum of Natural History in Gastonia. He researches, teaches and demonstrates these skills across the US and internationally. He consulted on the movie *Cast Away* and has appeared in a number of programs on The History Channel. His replicas of prehistoric tools and weapons are featured in museums throughout the US.

Steve is the author of many articles dealing with prehistory. A collection of his writings, *Practicing Primitive: a Handbook of Aboriginal Skills* was published in 2005.

## Tuesday, February 2 Stories From the Underground Railroad

Road Scholar Meltonia Young will present the program that explores the history of African slavery from the capture of people in Africa to their journeys to freedom. They were helped along those journeys by abolitionists in both the North and the South. We'll also hear about the art and quilt patterns associated with the Underground Railroad.

Meltonia Young, born in 1954, was raised in Jacksonville, Florida during a time when her family did not like talking about the history of African Americans. She has traveled to parts of Africa, and has studied plantation life from Virginia to Jamaica. She has a BA in African American studies and an MA in Liberal Arts with a concentration in African and African American history from UNC-Greensboro. As an artist she uses color and form to bring African American history into focus.

Ms. Young is now writing *The Journey South to Freedom*, the story of runaway slaves from South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama traveling south to Florida to be free over one hundred years before the Underground Railroad began in the North.



This presentation is made possible through funding from the North Carolina Humanities Council. The North Carolina Humanities Council is a nonprofit foundation and a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## *MHA Dinner Meeting*

The next MHA dinner will be on Monday, March 14. Our speaker will be Judge Chase Saunders speaking on the growth and future of Charlotte business. Details will be in the next issue of the Dandelion and in the MHA newsletter in February.

## *Docent Board Retreat*

The MHA Docent Board will hold its annual retreat on Monday and Tuesday, January 11th and 12th. If you have a committee report or anything else to present to the board please contact Janet Dyer. She'll convey your report or concern to the board, or put you on the agenda to appear 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 begin to roll about 6 am; therefore roads should be clear by our meeting time. If schools are open, and the church is closed, you will be notified by email or telephone. On days when the weather is iffy, watch the news reports and check email.

## *Hospitality*

After nine years of perfect service, Nell Coward has decided to resign as Hospitality chairman. Thank you, Nell for the many, many hours you have contributed to us. The board is looking for a new hospitality chairman; if you would like to volunteer contact Janet Dyer. Meanwhile board members are pitching in to fill the gap; bear with us (or lend a hand) as we work the bugs out.

## *A New Book*

I am very pleased to announce the publication of my novel, *The Uncommon Bond of Julia and Rose*. The book tells the story of an unusually close relationship between Julia and her slave Rose. It takes place during the first half of the 19th century on a piedmont farm that grew into a plantation. I was intrigued by a phrase in the 1808 will of Annabella Morrison: "...and concerning my said old faithful servant Rose, my will is that she shall not be sold (like a brute beast) but shall be kept by my three said daughters in as easy circumstances as the nature of slavery will admit..." I knew there was a story there that I wanted to tell, but not Annabella's mostly 18th century tale. In order to explore the complex, multi-faceted institution of slavery, I needed to move ahead in time.

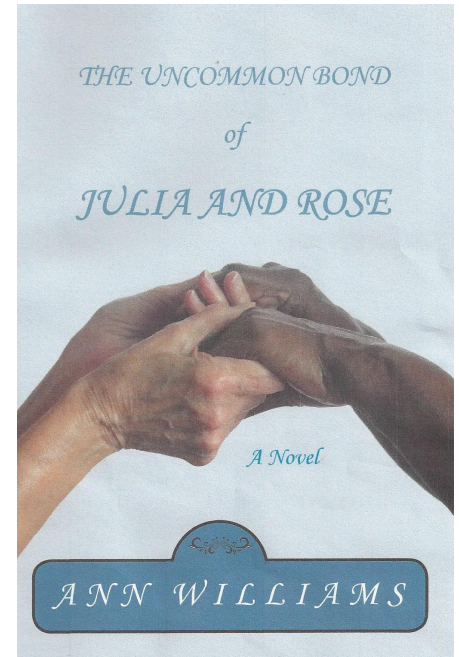
My book begins in 1860 when Julia Henderson decided to keep a memory journal preserving the events of her life for her children and grandchildren. Rose also began a journal; as a child she had learned to write in Julia's "play school." The novel unfolds in the form of Julia and Rose's interwoven journals, relating their half century of shared experiences, nuanced differently by each writer. Julia adores Rose and has no use for slavery, yet she is unaware of her own biases. Rose returns her affection with reservations. Only Rose can tell how demeaning it is to have no autonomy and how family separations are like deaths. They write of their childhood, marriages, raising children, and burying loved ones, all against a background of increasing fears and rumors of impending war.

The story may be fiction, but the historical background is very real. I've drawn from decades of research, reading, and interpretation at antebellum historic sites. Of special importance are the letters, journals, and other papers written by those who lived at those and similar places. And I am indebted to those of you who have shared your research; without you there would be no story.

**On Saturday, February 6, I will do a book talk and signing at 2 pm at Park Road Books.**

Books can also be purchased directly from me and I will bring copies to MHA Docent meetings and other history venues. They will be available at some historic sites, on Amazon and at Park Road Books. The book costs \$15; I hope many of you will enjoy the read. Go to the Amazon site and click on "look inside" to read the first few pages.

Ann Williams





## MHA Dues

The time has come to pay your Mecklenburg Historical Association Dues for 2016; 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](mailto: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.



## Beyond the Wagon Road

A course of lectures offered by  
the Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents  
in partnership with the  
Levine Museum of the New South



February 6, 2016

"The First American Declaration of Independence? The Disputed History of the  
Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of May 20, 1775"

Scott Syfert, corporate attorney at Moore & Van Allen and  
co-founder of the May 20<sup>th</sup> Society

"Portrayal of a Sixteen-Year-Old Backcountry Revolutionary War Soldier"

Dr. Tony Zeiss, President of Central Piedmont Community College

February 13, 2016

"A Visit with an 18<sup>th</sup> Century Herb Woman"

Kay K. Moss, founder of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Backcountry Lifeways Studies Program  
and adjunct curator at the Schiele Museum

"Dr. David Thomas Caldwell: Medicine in Antebellum Charlotte"

Janet Dyer, historical researcher and MHA Docent

February 20, 2016

"Music in Charlotte During the 1930's"

Dr. Tom Hanchett and the Kollard Kings, a String Band

"The Scotch-Irish Influence on Music of the Carolinas"

Michael C. Scoggins, historian at the Culture and Heritage Museums (SC)

Registration fee for the course: \$20.00 due by January 31, 2016.

Please make check payable to **MHA Docents**. Mail check and registration form to:

MHA, P.O. Box 35032, Charlotte, NC 28235

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (in case of cancellation due to weather): \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, email [jdye399@gmail.com](mailto:jdye399@gmail.com)

All lectures at Levine Museum of the New South from 9:30am-12pm. Doors open at 9am.

**"Preserving Mecklenburg's Heritage"**

For more details, see the next page.

## *History Lecture Series*

### **Beyond the Wagon Road**

In February the MHA Docents will hold their biennial series of history lectures. Audrey Mellichamp and Janet Dyer have arranged a fine lineup of topics and presenters; see the flyer and registration slip on page 6 for details. In the past this series has been popular with both longtime residents and especially with newcomers in our area. It is one of the ways we carry out our mission of presenting regional history to the community. Registration is now under way, and you must send your check and registration form by January 31<sup>st</sup> to reserve your space. Do include your email address and phone number so we can contact you if there is a last minute cancellation due to weather, as has happened in the past. If bad weather threatens, check your email before leaving home. Those without email will be called. All three lectures will be held at the Levine Museum of the New South, and the museum invites all attendees to tour the museum after any of the lectures at no additional charge. You may park for free at the 7th Street Station garage; the museum will validate your parking ticket. Saturday validations are good for the entire day.

Please share this information with anyone else who might be interested.

## *In Memoriam*

MHA Docent Camille Smith passed away on October 30, 2015. Camille became a docent in the late 1990s and was especially active at Historic Rosedale. She loved the site and sharing its history. She later became a Rosedale employee. Camille was blessed with exceptional intelligence and an enthusiasm for learning, both traits of a perfect docent. Her other passions were hiking and travel; she enjoyed both in England during her last healthy years. She was editor of the MHA Dandelion for several years until she turned the job over to Jim and me in 2006. It was Camille's idea to offer this newsletter by email to anyone who was interested. I think there were about 100 email subscribers when we got the job, now the number over 1,200. She would be proud.

It was about 2006 when Camille began to have memory problems, something she found extremely troubling. Testing revealed that she had early onset Alzheimer's disease. Gradually she had to give up her job at Rosedale, her outdoor activities, and then her home. For someone as bright as Camille losing her brain power must have been as frustrating as it would be for a champion athlete to lose the ability to walk. Camille is survived by her son, his wife, two grandchildren, her brother, and nieces and nephews. She will be deeply missed.

Ann Williams

## *Site News*

### **A Successful Event at Historic Latta Plantation.**

On Black Friday and Small Business Saturday (the two days following Thanksgiving), Latta held their annual two-day holiday event. Each year the holiday event varies in theme; last year the event focused on the Colonial era and was entitled A Colonial Christmas. In years past the themes have included A Backcountry Christmas and A Victorian Christmas. This year the theme was One Hundred Years of Christmas, covering all eras; Colonial, Regency, and Victorian.

Thanks to beautiful weather and unseasonably warm temperatures, Latta was able to set a new record for site visitors. In the course of the two day event, we brought in nearly 1,700 spectators, versus 900 at past events. With such great success, Latta's staff hopes to keep the momentum going for the upcoming 2016 season of events, with fingers crossed for beautiful event day weather!

### **235th Anniversary of the Battle of Cowan's Ford**

The Sons of the American Revolution invite you to attend a celebration of the anniversary of the Battle of Cowan's Ford beginning at 10 am on Saturday, January 30, at Hopewell Presbyterian Church on Beatties Ford Road in Huntersville. This is the first year that the SAR National Society has made this a "National Event." Quite an honor.

The first part of the ceremony will start at 10 am inside the main church chapel and will then move outdoors for the presentation of the wreaths and rendering of the honors to the Patriots of Hopewell Presbyterian Church. Dress warmly and come to watch the pageantry and ceremony of this Revolutionary War battle commemoration.

### *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>

### *Latta Plantation*

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

### **Civil War Winter Quarters Living History, Saturday January 9 from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday January 10 from 1 to 4 pm.**

The American Civil War was no easy time for soldiers or civilians, especially during the long cold winter months. Learn of illnesses that plagued the camps and ways civilians passed time while loved ones were away at war. Spectators will have the opportunity to see a unique Victorian Mourning display by the Grimsleys including original images and artifacts.

### **The Battle of Cowan's Ford – Living History, Saturday, January 30 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

This is a double-barreled event. In the morning, from 10 am the Latta-based First Mecklenburg Militia will be at Hopewell Presbyterian Church supporting the Sons of the American Revolution as they commemorate the Battle of Cowan's Ford, February 1, 1781. This is the battle where General William Lee Davidson died opposing the British Army under General Cornwallis as they crossed the Catawba River. After a musket volley to honor General Davidson, the militia will return to Latta Plantation for a day of living history.

### **Battle of the Bulge WWII Living History, Saturday February 6 from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday February 7 from 1 to 4 pm.**

During this event you will learn of the snowy Battle of the Bulge that took place during World War Two. There will be demonstrations by re-enactors from both allied and axis forces.

### *The Charlotte Museum of History*

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

### **Downton Abbey Tea, Sunday January 3 at 4 pm, Registration Required.**

Celebrate the final season of Downton Abbey as we recap the lives and loves upstairs and down and make predictions on how the final season will end. The tea will feature dishes eaten on Downton Abbey. Registration for the following Downton Abbey Tea on Sunday, March 6 is open.

### **Backcountry Explorers - NC: Colony to State, Saturday January 2 from 10:30 am to noon, or Thursday January 7 from 2 to 3:30 pm.**

Students ages 6-12 will immerse themselves in Colonial history, discover Colonial life at the Hezekiah Alexander Home Site and create hands-on projects.

### **Twelfth Night Celebration, Saturday January 9 at 6 to 7:30 pm.**



Twelfth Night was the end of the Christmas season for the Backcountry settlers and celebrated with great revelry. Join with the Backcountry folk as they sing carols around the bonfires, toast the fruit trees, and play colonial games. Learn about the history of Twelfth Night and take a candlelight tour of the house. Enjoy cider and Twelfth Night cake in the log kitchen.

**Daniel Coston at the Charlotte Museum of History, Friday January 15 from 6 to 9 pm, Free**

Join celebrated Charlotte photographer Daniel Coston as he discusses his photographic work and *On the Way to Here*, his current exhibit at the Museum. Listen to Coston speak on legends like Johnny Cash and the Avett Brothers, along with hundreds of the biggest names in music, of whom he's had the opportunity to photograph. Afterwards, enjoy live music and light refreshments.

**Robert Burns Supper, Monday January 25 at 6 pm.**

Born the son of a poverty stricken farmer in 1759, Robert Burns became one of the most famous Scottish poets. Every year on January 25th, people all over the world join together in honor and celebration of Burns and his talent for lyrics and poems. Join us in celebrating this outstanding poet for a traditional Burns Supper. Toast to the lassies while enjoying a meal consisting of traditional Scottish food such as Cock-a-Leekie Soup, Chicken, Haggis, Neeps, Tatties and Cranachan for dessert.

**Backcountry Explorers – Textiles and Clothing, Thursday February 4 at 2 to 3:30 pm, or Saturday February 6 at 10:30 to noon.**

Students ages 6-12 will immerse themselves in Colonial history, discover Colonial life at the Hezekiah Alexander Home Site and create hands-on projects.

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

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

[www.polk.nchistoricsites.org](http://www.polk.nchistoricsites.org)

**Homes Fit for a...President, Saturday, February 13 from 11 am to 1 pm, Free.**

This program is an in-depth look at the Tennessee estates of Old Hickory and his protégé, Young Hickory: Andrew Jackson's "The Hermitage" and James K. Polk's "Polk Place". Presented in partnership with Andrew Jackson State Park (SC).

***Fort Dobbs State Historic Site***

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

**256th Anniversary of the Attack on Fort Dobbs, Saturday February 27 from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday, February 28 from 10 am to 3 pm, Free.**

Re-enactors representing the provincial garrison and Cherokee warriors will offer on-going interpretation of 18th Century camp life, as well as featured musket and cannon firing demonstrations.

A Saturday evening firing demonstration will be held at 6:30 pm.

***Matthews Heritage Museum***

232 North Trade St., Matthews, 704 708 4996, [www.matthewsheritagemuseum.org](http://www.matthewsheritagemuseum.org)

**The exhibit "Girl Scouts Through the Years" Continues on Display through January 30.**

Many troops have scheduled tours, other girls have come individually. If you are a girl scout and wear your uniform, entrance to the museum is free. Troops scheduling a tour will be charged a flat fee of \$15.00. Please call to schedule a tour.

## *Charlotte Folk Society*

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte

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

### **Charlotte Folk Society Gathering Concert & Jams, Friday, January 8, Annual CFS Young Talent Showcase, Free.**

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte. 7:30 pm; doors open 7 pm. Free; donations appreciated. [www.folksociety.org](http://www.folksociety.org) Features 2015 Swannanoa Gathering scholarship recipients Angel Paez and Liam Purcell and more outstanding young musicians performing on a variety of instruments in a variety of genres.

### **Charlotte Folk Society Gathering Concert & Jams, Friday, February 12, David Childers and Malcolm Holcombe, Free.**

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte. 7:30 pm; doors open 7 pm. Free; donations appreciated. [www.folksociety.org](http://www.folksociety.org) Childers and Holcombe are two of North Carolina's most accomplished and respected singer/songwriters.

## *Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library*

310 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, 704 416 0150 [www.cmlibrary.org](http://www.cmlibrary.org)

### **The History of Plaza-Midwood, Monday, January 11 at 6:30 to 8:30, Plaza-Midwood Library.**

Dr. Tom Hanchett will present the history of Plaza Midwood from its early days to the present as well as how local business influenced its growth and popularity.

### **World War II: Charlotte On the Home Front & Overseas, Third Floor, Main Library, open library hours.**

This is an exhibit of images capturing life in Charlotte during World War II and the people who served our country overseas. Now Through January 21, 2016.

### **Genealogy 101, Thursday, February 11 at 6:30 to 8:30, Plaza-Midwood Library.**

Shelia Bumgarner from the Carolina Room will teach you how to begin the search for your family's history.

### ***The Wilmington Ten: Violence, Injustice, and the Rise of Black Politics in the 1970s*, Book Talk with the Author, Thursday, February 18 at 7 to 9 pm, Johnson C. Smith University Student Lounge.**

Dr. Kenneth Janken, will speak about his new book on the Wilmington Ten. Years of lengthy research have resulted in the definitive book on the conspiracies that surrounded the group of civil rights activists who became known as the Wilmington Ten. Dr. Janken is a professor of African, African American, and Diaspora Studies at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Reception to follow.

### **Segments of Our Backyard with Steve Crump, Thursday, February 25 at 7 to 8 pm, Johnson C. Smith University Student Lounge**

Local newsman and documentarian Steve Crump will look back over his career and discuss highlight selections from his award winning documentaries about Charlotte. Reception to follow.

## *Kings Mountain Historical Museum*

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

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

### **School Spirit Exhibit, Opening Saturday, February 6, Running to May 21, Open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm, Free.**

This exhibit will examine local schooling from the one-room schoolhouse to today's modern classrooms. Artifacts, archives, and photographs will illustrate the stories of classwork, sports, band, clubs, and other school

activities that shaped the citizens of this area. There will be an oral history of the racial integration of the local school system.

**The Attempted Theft of Abraham Lincoln's Body in 1876, Saturday February 13 at 1 pm, Free.**

Dr. Kevin L. Burke will share the true story of a bizarre and surprisingly comedic caper that took place in American history in 1876. More than a decade after the death of one of America's most beloved Presidents, a bumbling gang of Chicago counterfeiters attempted to steal Abraham Lincoln's body and to ransom the government for its return. Learn how the Secret Service and a comedy of errors foiled this criminal plot. Dr. Burke is a Professor and Dean at Queens University of Charlotte and has served as a volunteer at the Abraham Lincoln Tomb and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois.

***Historic Brattonsville***

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

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

**Hog Butchering, Saturday January 9 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Enjoy this time-honored tradition of our ancestors. Pork was a main-stay in the 18th century diet and preparing and preserving the meat was a family affair. We will butcher and preserve the hog and demonstrate the processes associated with it such as rendering lard, making soap, and cooking with pork.

**By Way of the Back Door, Saturdays in February from 11 am to 2 pm each day.**

"...in consideration of \$319.20...John S. Bratton is hereby authorized to take said Negro Adam in possession." What was life like for Adam and the other enslaved people that lived and worked at Brattonsville? Guided tours at 11 am and 2 pm will answer that question and many more about the enslaved at Brattonsville of both the 18th and 19th centuries.

***Rural Hill***

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

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

First Footin', also known as walking the bounds or "beating" the bounds is the traditional walk in the woods and fields around the boundaries of Rural Hill. Dress appropriate to the weather and wear sturdy shoes or boots. Hogmanay or Scottish New Year is a celebration of the New Year by sharing stone soup with your neighbors. The event is free but bring some vegetables to add to the soup or bring bread or desert.

***Union County Public Library***

316 E. Windsor St., Monroe, NC, [www.unionlib.nc.us](http://www.unionlib.nc.us) 704 283 8184

**Race, Religion, and the Pulpit, Book Talk, Saturday, February 20 at 3 pm.**

In *Race, Religion, and the Pulpit: Rev. Robert L. Bradby and the Making of Urban Detroit*, author Julia Marie Robinson, associate professor of African American Religion at UNC-Charlotte explores how Bradby's church became the catalyst for economic empowerment, community building, and the formation of an urban African American working class in Detroit.

*The Rowan Museum and Old Stone House*  
Old Stone House Road off Highway 52 in Granite Quarry  
<http://www.rowanmuseum.org/>

**German Christmas Celebration at the Old Stone House (1766) Saturday, January 2 from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday, January 3 from noon to 4 pm.**

The house, normally closed for the winter will be open these two days, decorated as it was in colonial days...very simply with natural greenery, dried flowers, herbs, fruits and berries.

Tours by guides in period dress, crafts, musket firing, woodworking, weaving, candle making, open fire cooking, children's games, goats & chickens plus an encampment of the First Regiment of the Mecklenburg Militia/Hopewell Company.

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