

**Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents**

*Spreading Knowledge of our History like the Down of a Thistle*

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



January, February 2019  
Volume 25, Number 1

Look Inside This Issue

- Sallie Harper Davidson, a single, rich eccentric in Charlotte who traveled the world.
- The Queen Charlotte Christmas Tree.
- Celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Charlotte.
- A new monument in The Trail of History.
- Voices from the Past returns in April.
- Mark Twain comes to Charlotte in February.
- Now is the Time to Renew your MHA Membership.

***Sally Forth. Miss Sallie***



**Miss Sallie's Passport, 1927**

Sally forth, Miss Sallie! An apt prophecy for Sarah Harper Davidson born on Mecklenburg's Rural Hill plantation August 16, 1845. Sallie was the sixth of Brevard and Mary Davidson's sixteen children. By the time she entered the world Rural Hill was a successful cotton plantation and Brevard had made a fine place for himself in the community. Sallie, like all of her siblings, received an excellent education. In September of 1862 she was enrolled in the Edgeworth Female Academy in Greensboro, in spite of the fact that there was a war on. Sallie was 17, and her 15 year-old sister was probably with her. That same year her 13 year-old twin sisters were at school at Salem. War did however, impact the men in the family; Sallie's three older brothers were all combatants for the Confederacy, one nearly perishing in a POW camp.

During the winter of 1868 Sallie, now twenty-three, spent several months in Philadelphia at the home of the minister David Cunningham and his wife. Sallie's companion was a young lady named Julia Sinclair. The Cunninghams and Julia were probably kinfolk of Sallie's oldest sister by marriage. Mr.

Cunningham gave the girls journals, and Sallie kept hers filled with great rounds of sight-seeing – a precursor of things to come. She began on March 1<sup>st</sup> reminiscing about her late brother Robert. "I've generally thought of this month a good deal because my father's birthday was the 13<sup>th</sup> of this month and that of brother Robert's the same... I've felt particularly saddened at the approach of it as it brings to my mind very forcibly the sad recollection of the death-bed scene of my darling brother Robert who died the 31<sup>st</sup> this mo. three years ago – He was a dear good brother..." Robert had been taken prisoner of war in September of 1863 spending over a year in Elmira, NY, a place drastically short of food, medicine, and supplies, and rife with sick and dying men. He was released in a wasting state, and died shortly after reaching home.

Sallie also wrote of being reluctant to marry. When news reached her of illness in the family she wrote, "People have worries before married life, but ah! me it seems to me worse afterwards – sometimes I think I won't get married at all." She also lamented the fate of a friend about to marry a widower with three small children: "...my affection will never center upon a widower with children." This prophecy came true; Sallie was never encumbered by a husband or children. Another doubt expressed that winter did not come to pass; on hearing of

someone's travels: "Wouldn't I love to be this far on my way to Europe but I fear I shall never get there – It has always since a child been my desire to go to Europe – but my aspirations I know are too high." Not so! Europe was to become Sallie's oyster.

By April Sallie was home again in Charlotte. Although she had been raised on the Rural Hill plantation, after the war her father decided the future lay in real estate, not cotton, and moved his family to Charlotte. His wisdom held true. After losing most of his assets in the war's immediate aftermath, he lost no time recouping his losses, and built them into a considerable fortune.

Sallie's next journey was an 1877 "Centennial Trip" celebrating our nation's hundredth year by visiting important American cities. At some point in time Sallie left her father's home on N. Tryon Street, and along with her sister Blandina established her own household on N. Church Street. Blandie, as she was called, was eight years younger and also unmarried.

Miss Sallie and Miss Blandie easily came by their "eccentric" reputations, Sallie obviously the leader of the pair. They took great pride in their luscious flower gardens and exclusive dinner parties; i.e. one dinner party "excluded" one spouse of a couple, and the next, the other spouse. The sisters' abiding passion was world travel. They usually traveled in winter foregoing the expense and bother of installing a furnace in their home. Over the years they visited Japan, Egypt, South America, South Africa, the South Seas, Australia, and nearly every corner of Europe including Russia and the Balkans. A 1927 Passport records trips to the United Kingdom, Gibraltar, Palestine, Kenya, Tanganyika, Zanzibar, the Union of South Africa, Egypt, Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, Monaco, Italy, and France. This jaunt lasted from December to March; Sallie was 82, Blandina 74. Several years later at the age of eighty-eight Sallie declared herself "fit as a fiddle" and she and Blandie took a four month tour of South America and South Africa, with stops in Europe. On one of their journeys they flew from Brussels to London, an unusual mode of transportation for the time. Nothing daunted the Misses Davidson.

None of these ventures involved extensive wardrobes, at least not for Miss Sallie. She usually dressed like a pauper and was sometimes mistaken for one as she found that dresses fifty years old were still quite serviceable. When asked if she planned to buy new outfits for a trip, she replied, "Why should I, no one over there knows me." Her friend then asked if she'd buy clothes overseas to bring home, "Of course not, everyone here knows who I am." An oft told family story involves shopping at Tiffany's in New York. Sallie may have cared little about fashion, but she did like fine things. While she was writing a check for a significantly large purchase, the clerk quietly stepped into a back room to telephone her banker in Charlotte. He was told, "You can sell her the whole store if she wants it; she has plenty of money."

Sallie died March 26<sup>th</sup> 1935. Her obituary venerated her family's many accomplishments, and her unusually adventurous life. It began: "Miss Sallie Davidson, 89, one of Charlotte's wealthiest and most prominent elder citizens and a member of a family distinguished in Mecklenburg history, died yesterday afternoon at 3:15 o'clock at a Charlotte hospital after a few day's illness of a heart affection." Only Miss Sallie could die of a heart "affection". Her survivors included only three of her many siblings, one of whom was Blandie who died two years later. Sallie and Blandie now lie in adjoining graves in the Rural Hill family burying ground. Ann Williams



### *Merry Christmas from the Mecklenburg Historical Association*

In celebration of the Christmas season the US Court House, Western North Carolina District, is displaying a magnificent Christmas Tree in their Lobby. It was placed there by the MHA in recognition and appreciation of a true friend of History, Chief Judge Frank Whitney and his assistant Ruth Blackmon. The nine-foot artificial tree features a number of the MHA Queen Charlotte Christmas Ornaments plus other ornaments from the same traditional German workshop.

The Queen Charlotte Ornament was originally commissioned by MHA member Marion Redd more than twenty years ago. He ordered 500 custom-made, hand-blown, silvered and hand-painted ornaments to sell in his Redd Sled Christmas Shop in Charlotte. The ornament was based on the statue by sculptor Graham Weathers of "Queen Charlotte in Her Garden" located at the corner of College and Fifth Streets in uptown Charlotte. It commemorates Princess Charlotte Sophia of

Mecklenburg-Strelitz after whom both Charlotte and Mecklenburg County were named. She was the wife of King George III and was the first to introduce the German custom of the Christmas Tree to Great Britain.

The MHA has continued to sell these ornaments, in small quantities through the years. Since the inventory was nearly gone, Marion recently brought us the few remaining ornaments to sell. He also brought us a surprise. When he commissioned the original ornaments he also bought some 67 similar balls from their standard product line, thinking that they might be featured in a Charlotte City Christmas Tree some day. Since this dream had never been fulfilled, he brought them to us to dispose of in any way we could.

In March of this year a number of Revolutionary War reenactors from the Sixth NC Regiment, Continental Line, comprising muskets, cannon, fife and drum appeared at the ground-breaking for the new Federal Courthouse Annex behind the courthouse on West Trade Street. This ceremony also commemorated the centenary of that court house and the relocation of the Lt. William Shipp Spanish American War monument to its original site, in front of that courthouse. We were invited to appear at this ceremony by Chief Judge Frank Whitney a lover of our history and previous reenactor, and by his assistant Ruth Blackmon. It should also be noted that this lot is the original location of the first US Branch Mint which was opened there in 1837 and moved many years later to become the Mint Museum of Art on Randolph Road.

Remembering Chief Judge Whitney's enthusiasm, and the great beauty of the courthouse lobby, currently being restored to its original magnificence, we approached the judge with the idea of placing a tree with these ornaments in the lobby. Judge Whitney enthusiastically embraced the idea and welcomed the tree. The tree itself was graciously donated by the Peppermint Forest Christmas Shop of Pineville and was set up and decorated on site by Linda and Terry Dalton and Jim Williams. The decorations consist of seven Queen Charlotte ornaments and 67 others. It is located in the main lobby where it is admired by all.



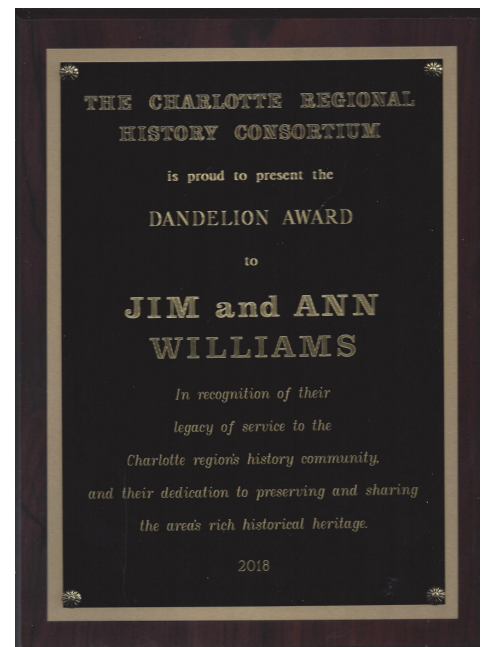
### *Ann and Jim Williams Receive History Award*

The Charlotte Regional History Consortium has created a new annual award program to recognize an individual or group, organization, event, project, or product that represents outstanding service and commitment to the Charlotte region's historical resources and community. The inaugural award was presented to Ann and Jim Williams during the Consortium's December meeting at the Historic Reid House in Matthews on December 13, 2018. The plaque reads, "...in recognition of their legacy of service to the Charlotte region's history community, and their dedication to preserving and sharing the area's rich historical heritage."

The details of their invaluable contributions and lasting impact in Charlotte would be difficult to capture on a plaque, or indeed in a newsletter. In addition to their significant roles as founding members and critical supporters of the Charlotte Regional History Consortium and the Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents program, Ann and Jim have selflessly volunteered their time and talents to many of the museums and historic sites in the Charlotte region. For Ann and Jim's tireless dedication to the Dandelion Press Newsletter – a resource relied upon by some 1,500 local history enthusiasts for news and upcoming events in the Charlotte area – the Charlotte Regional History Consortium decided to name their annual award "The Dandelion Award."

Please join us in congratulating Ann and Jim for receiving this award, and in thanking them for all they do to support Charlotte's historical resources and community.

Adria Focht, President, Charlotte Regional History Consortium





## *Charlotte Sestercentennial – Our 250th Anniversary*

On Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> the citizens of Charlotte celebrated the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our founding in great style. Liberty Square – the intersection of Trade and Tryon – was closed for a block in each direction. A stage was built, there was live music and an hour of speeches including Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles and Thomas Polk, the founder of Charlotte himself who was later interviewed on television. Food trucks were in evidence and there were a number of costumed representatives from Voices from the Past. Thomas Polk's short speech was well received. Here is a transcription of that speech:

Good afternoon, Gentlemen and Ladies.

I am Thomas Polk, your representative to the Colonial Assembly and I am here to tell you of a momentous occasion. On December 3, in this year of our Lord 1768, Royal Governor William Tryon graciously gave his approval to a bill passed by both houses of the Assembly establishing the town of Charlotte. We from Mecklenburg have been working on this effort for some time and it has finally come to pass.

It started in January 1767, nearly two years ago, when John Frohock, Abraham Alexander and I purchased this land for £90 – 360 acres of the finest land in the County. We bought it from Henry Eustace McCulloh, the agent for Lord Selwyn in England, and here we built a courthouse, prison and stocks for Mecklenburg County. We also laid out a city and began to sell half-acre building lots.

When Mecklenburg County was formed four years before, the three of us, along with four others, had been appointed County Commissioners. We were to buy land and build a courthouse, prison and stocks and levy a "poll tax" – that is a head tax – on the residents of the county to repay our expenses. We could have bought cheap land and build a small building, but we had a better idea. We spent a great deal of our own money to buy the best land we could find, on this ridge, at the top of a hill, with three good springs, on the Trading path from Salisbury to the Catawba villages and on to Charlestown.

As you know, we built the substantial courthouse you see standing here, in the middle of the intersection of Trade and Tryon Streets, the latter named in honor of our Royal Governor. On ten-foot brick pillars this one room building has served our needs for the past two years and will for years to come. Then we laid out a town and town commons and began to sell building lots. We have been quite successful at this and have sold 80 lots so far.

It has taken nearly two years to get a law passed establishing the city of Charlotte but it has finally happened. I introduced a law in early November which passed both houses of the Assembly and was approved by Governor Tryon on December 3rd.

Those of you who have taken up lots and constructed substantial buildings should apply to us immediately for a formal deed which will be issued without hesitation and will give you legal title to your property and protect it against any other claims.

So, fellow citizens, congratulations on now living in and being citizens of the town of Charlotte, named in honor of our gracious Queen Charlotte, formerly princess of Mecklenburg Strelitz and now wife of our most glorious King, George III.

Citizens of Charlotte, I say to you Long Live the King. Huzzah!

Jim Williams

## *A New Trail Of History Monument.*

On Friday, December 14, the Trail of History committee dedicated a new sculpture in the Little Sugar Creek Greenway, to join the other seven already there. This sculpture by Jane DeDecker commemorates Thompson Orphanage which was founded in 1887 and formerly occupied all of the land which now makes up the Greenway and much of the local area. The last remaining building of this Orphanage is the Chapel of Saint Mary the Virgin which was built in 1892 using brick made from clay dug from the banks of Little Sugar Creek. Construction of this sculpture was funded by private contributions and represents Rev. Edwin Osborne, the founder of the orphanage sitting with several of the children on the banks of Little Sugar Creek.



The Reverend Edwin Augustus Osborne was a descendant of the Osbornes of early Mecklenburg and Rowan Counties. Living with his family in Texas and desiring an education, he wrote to his “Aunt Peggy” Davidson of Holly Bend plantation in North Mecklenburg. She replied that if he could get himself to Mecklenburg she would provide him with an education. So he walked from Texas to North Carolina. After introducing him to his many relatives, she enrolled him at a Statesville military academy. When the Civil War broke out he enrolled to serve his adopted state of North Carolina. He rose in rank and gained distinction while being wounded several times. After the war he was a lawyer, court clerk and Episcopal missionary.

The land for the orphanage was donated by the family of Lewis Thompson on the condition that Osborne was to found and operate an orphanage as a place of refuge not only for children whose parents had died but also for those whose parents could not support them. He raised the money required to establish and run the orphanage by traveling throughout the state seeking clothing, furniture and especially operating funds. The orphans supported themselves by raising vegetables and a herd of milk cows. They harvested the vegetables and milked the cows, selling the produce door-to-door in the town.

## *Voices From The Past*

Saturday, April 6, 2019

Once again in April the MHA Docents will present Voices From The Past, an afternoon spent touring cemeteries and meeting some of their most colorful residents. Again the event will take place at Settlers’ and Elmwood/Pinewood cemeteries. Many of our favorite characters will return, and a few new folks will be added to the mix. This year’s event will take place on Saturday, April 6, 2019, and we expect to play host to some very special visitors. The International Cemetery, Cremation, and Funeral Association will have their annual convention in Charlotte April 2-6, and Voices From The Past will be on their agenda.



On Thanksgiving Day we had twenty costumed portrayals marching in Charlotte’s annual Christmas parade which certainly got the attention of parade watchers. With appetites whetted, this year we plan to put on another stellar event. If last time you missed meeting the Unknown Boy and hearing his poignant tale, or perhaps didn’t get to hear Thomas Polk brag about founding our fair city 250 years ago, you can catch them on April 6<sup>th</sup>. And surely you’ll want to know how a blind horse got into – and out of – Senator Davidson’s mine shaft, or meet Annie Alexander the first woman licensed to practice medicine in the South. That’s a

bare sampling of the important people and quirky sorts that will be on hand for the day.

As you might guess it takes a large support team to manage the event: to hand out programs, distribute water, answer visitors’ questions, and in general keep the afternoon running smoothly. If you would like to volunteer, contact us. And if you’re asked to volunteer, please say yes. Look for more details about the event in the March/April Dandelion.

Ann Williams

## *From the Chairmen*

### Happy New Year and Happy 250th Birthday to Charlotte Mecklenburg.

Our new MHA Docent officers will be installed during January's meeting. Below are the messages from our co-chairs-elect, Janet Dyer and Barbara Jackson. They will decide how they will divide the chairman's duties between them. Welcome, Janet and Barbara; we give you our whole-hearted support!

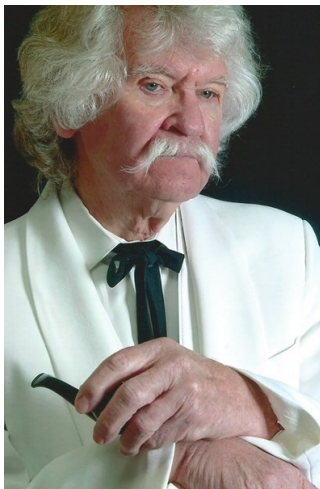
From Janet Dyer:

I am looking forward to sharing the Docent chair with Barbara Jackson in 2019-2020. I have been an MHA Docent since we joined MHA as a group in 1990. Over the years, the Docents have been my friends and fellow adventurers – ask Carolyn Dilda or Rachel Abernathy about our adventure to find Catawba Falls. You have inspired me to research and write about Charlotte and Mecklenburg history, to give 3<sup>rd</sup> grade tours and talks to adults, to learn skills such as spinning and fire starting with a flint and steel, and even to learn and play 18th century fiddle tunes. Barbara and I will work together with our board to inspire you to continue to share your love of history with and through the Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents. We encourage you to invite someone new to each docent meeting as we continue to grow.

From Barbara Jackson:

Once again we have a time for new beginnings. Janet and I have the challenging responsibility of co-chairing the MHA Docent Committee, a remarkable group of men and women. One task of the committee is presenting programs about Charlotte Mecklenburg's growth and development. Our area has an illustrious history which we share with residents and visitors. I ask all MHA members and all those whose read our newsletter, *The Dandelion*, to support the docents by attending our monthly programs and by visiting regularly the many historic sites we represent. Charlotte and Mecklenburg have numerous familiar and untold stories, some of which are on our 2019 agenda. Your input is requested to assure we meet our goals of providing the public with information about our remarkable community. Correspond with us through the MHA website.

## *Mark Twain is Coming to Town*



Noted author and humorist Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens), will appear in Charlotte on Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. 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. Clemens speak and converse with him. Wear your finest 18th or 19<sup>th</sup> Century clothing if possible.

“Mark Twain's interaction with the audience and his amazing ability to recount his life's story and his famous novels will delight and entertain everyone in attendance. And the humor that we all love in his stories will be with him for the evening.” said Tony Zeiss, president, Mecklenburg Chapter.

Professional historical actor and portrayaler Curtis O'Dell will bring Mark Twain to life in his family-friendly presentation. His appearance and manor bear a remarkable resemblance to the original and help to take the audience back to the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

Tickets are \$37.10 for adults and \$19.00 for children and can be purchased from the chapter's website at [https://www.mecklenburgsar.org/chapternews/chapternews\\_mark\\_twain\\_2019dinner.html](https://www.mecklenburgsar.org/chapternews/chapternews_mark_twain_2019dinner.html)

Mark Twain is best known for his American novels *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885) and his collection of short stories *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County* (1867). Twain was born on November 30, 1835, shortly after the appearance of Halley's Comet and he predicted that he would “go out with it” as well; he died the day after the comet returned on April 21, 1910.



## *Newsletter Deadline*

The deadline for the March/April Dandelion is February 12. Send articles to Jim and Ann Williams at [mhadandelion@mindspring.com](mailto:mhadandelion@mindspring.com)

## *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. Free, visitors are always welcome. Note that the January meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month; the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday is New Year's Day.

### **Tuesday, January 8, 2019 The Future of Charlotte's History**



An apt topic to begin the New Year! Adria Focht will present a program about her vision for the future of the Charlotte Museum of History and Charlotte's cultural resources, from historic structures to artifacts and archives. She will share local preservation success stories, and discuss some of the "endangered history" in need of advocacy in Mecklenburg County.

Adria Focht is the President & CEO of the Charlotte Museum of History. She currently serves as the President of the Charlotte Regional History Consortium and the History Section Chair of the North Carolina Museums Council.

### **Tuesday, February 5, 2019 Revolution in the Backcountry: A British Perspective**



In the final stages of the American Revolutionary War, Patriots and Loyalists struggled over the backcountry of the Carolinas. The war in the backcountry during 1780 and 1781 played a key role between the campaigns in the north and Lord Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown. The presentation examines the issues, people and battles in the backcountry from a British perspective.

Originally from London, England, Hugh Dussek holds an undergraduate degree from The University of the State of New York, a masters' degree from California State University, and a doctorate from Union Institute & University in Cincinnati, Ohio. Hugh teaches history at Central Piedmont Community College including courses on world civilizations and American history. He currently serves on the board of the Charlotte Museum of History and the Historic Mapping Congress.

## MHA Dues

The time has come to pay your Mecklenburg Historical Association Dues for 2019; 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](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

	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.



## *The History Calendar*

Admission charged at most events unless otherwise noted.

Many of these events sell out so it is best to 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>

**Temporary Exhibit: Fragmented History Series: Bits & Pieces, from January 17 through March 24, Thursdays through Fridays at 3 pm each day.**

You can't have 200 years of history without having some odds & ends. In this first part of our 3 year series of temporary exhibits we will be looking at a few of those, focusing on pottery, ceramics, & some literal pieces found around the property through archaeological digs done on the property over the years.

**Read It @ Rosedale: Varina By Charles Frazier, Thursday and Saturday, January 24 or 26 (pick your favorite date) from 11 am to 12:30 pm.**

Reading connects and transports us to a different time and place. That experience becomes even more meaningful when it's possible to encounter and interact with related historic objects and places while hearing little-known, yet meaningful stories. This moderator-led discussion of selected bestsellers is unique in that we provide a specially-designed house tour, bringing to life the past and literature, sharing oral history, and spotlighting artifacts rarely seen outside our archives.

**Great Backyard Bird Count, Friday or Saturday, February 15 or 16 (pick your favorite date) at 10 am to 1 pm, Free.**

This is our 4th year participating in this Audubon society national event. We provide the location, forms, and hot cocoa as you tally the native birds. Our Head Gardener will be on site to help, answer your questions, and teach about feathers & nests found at Rosedale. Advanced registration requested.

## *Historic Latta Plantation*

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

**Beginner Crochet Workshop, Saturday, January 26 at 10 am to 2 pm, \$25.00.**

Learn the basics of crochet and make a 100% cotton farmhouse dishcloth to keep. Participants will also receive a crochet hook and instructions to keep for use in future projects. Pre-registration required.

**Open Hearth Cooking Workshop, Saturday, February 9 at 10 am to 2 pm, \$25.00.**

Learn 19th century cooking techniques as you prepare a meal in the Latta kitchen. Participants will get to taste everything cooked in the workshop. Pre-registration required.

## *The Charlotte Museum of History*

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

**Twelfth Night, Saturday, January 5 from 6 to 8:30 pm, Free.**

Party like it's 1768 and help us wrap up the holiday season at Twelfth Night. Celebrate with hard cider and Twelfth Night cake, stay warm by the bonfires, cheer on the rifle firing, listen to live music, and tour the Hezekiah Alexander House.

**Connect with Culture, Saturday, January 26 from 11 am to 5 pm.**

The Charlotte History Museum is excited to once again serve as the cultural hub for the Arts & Science Council's annual Connect with Culture weekend. This year's highlights include live performances, robots, and tasting East Charlotte's culinary delights.

**African American Heritage Day, Saturday, February 23 from Noon to 4 pm.**

Celebrate Charlotte's thriving African-American community. Learn about over 250 years of resisting and persisting with performances, cooking demonstrations exploring the African roots of Southern food, and tours of the Hezekiah Alexander House. Explore the lives of enslaved people on the property.

***Historic Brattonsville***

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

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

**Hog Butchering Day, Saturday, January 12 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Early settlers in the Carolina Piedmont prized the hog for its food value and utilitarian by-products. Join period interpreters to learn about processing and preserving the whole hog where nothing goes to waste. See them rendering lard, making sausages and preserving pork using salt. Learn how pig bladders are used and how soap is made from lard. Gather around the warm open hearth for historical cooking demonstrations. See the making of head cheese and other delicacies using offal and scrap.

**Living History Saturdays (African American Food Ways), Saturdays in February from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Learn about the foods that African Americans ate during the years of enslavement at Historic Brattonsville. Period dressed interpreters will be busy with historical cooking in various locations throughout the site.

**By Way of the Back Door, Every Saturday in February from 11 am to 2 pm.**

Guided tours highlight African American history and culture in the Carolina Backcountry during the 18th and 19th centuries.

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

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

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

**Twelfth Night: The Vanishing Holiday, Saturday, January 5 at 11 am to noon, Free.**

Ron Vinson, Executive Director of the Presbyterian Heritage Center in Montreat, NC, will discuss the origin and prominence of Twelfth Night from its medieval continental origins through Shakespeare's 1602 play, to observances in Colonial Carolina.

The festivities surrounding Twelfth Night – parties, gift-giving, and weddings – gradually disappeared over the last two centuries. Yet hints of this once ubiquitous holiday remain in our present day celebrations. The presentation will include illustrations, medieval carols and colonial tunes about the celebration of Twelfth Night, plus a taste of the holiday spirit with a slice of King Cake.

***Fort Dobbs State Historic Site***

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

**The Defense of Fort Dobbs, Saturday, February 23 from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday, February 24 from 10 am to 3 pm.**

On February 27<sup>th</sup>, 1760, the garrison of Ft. Dobbs engaged in a bloody, confusing night-time skirmish with Cherokee warriors. This living history event will give visitors a glimpse of what life was like for the soldiers and

settlers involved through on-going displays of camp life as well as scheduled musket and cannon firing demonstrations. A special evening firing demonstration will take place at 6:30 pm on Saturday.

### *Kings Mountain Historical Museum*

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

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

#### **Lionel Train Seminar, Saturday January 5 at 1 to 3 pm, Free.**

A Lionel Professional will showcase train features and answer your questions about the train you just got for Christmas or the train you've had for years. And see the Toys, Games, & Trains Exhibit for the last time this season.

#### **World War Two on the Home Front, Saturday February 23 at 2 pm.**

Chris Hartley, author of *The Lost Soldier: The Ordeal of a World War II GI from the Home Front to the Huertgen Forest* will tell the story of Peter and Ruth Lynn of Kings Mountain, NC and how their lives were changed by the outbreak of WWII. Refreshments Provided.

### *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 with Brenda Long, Saturday, January 26 at 9:30 am to 2 pm., \$43.00.**

Weave a "Four Square" basket with Brenda Long and help carry on this handmade tradition. Registration required. Bring an old towel, 12 clothespins, and a snack/lunch.

#### **Black Gold: NC Slavery and The Reed Gold Mine, Saturdays in February at 1 pm, Free.**

The origins and impact of slavery in Cabarrus County, NC, and the benefits of enslaved labor to Reed Gold Mine will be examined during Black History Month. There will be talks every Saturday at 1 pm which will examine the area's social and economic environment during John Reed's lifetime.

### *Historic Rural Hill*

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

#### **Hogmanay and First Footin', Tuesday, January 1 – New Years Day – at 11 am to 1 pm, Free.**

At 11 am celebrate the Scottish New Year (Hogmanay) with a traditional walk around the farm (First Footin'). This vigorous walk on the 2.25 mile farm 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.

### *Lincoln County Historical Association*

[www.LincolnCountyHistory.com](http://www.LincolnCountyHistory.com)

(704) 748-9090

**Mecklenburg Militia Muster and Lincoln County Hearth Cooks, Saturday and Sunday, January 12 and 13 from 10 am to 4 pm, Ramsour's Mill Battle Site, 301 Jeb Seagle Drive, Lincolnton, NC, Free.**



At this reenactment of a post revolutionary war militia muster there will be musket firings with discussions of the weapons of the time and of the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution. There will also be military drilling, open-hearth cooking, Colonial music, and talks on period clothing and camp life. There will also be children's toys and discussion of colonial surgery and the commissary. And the hearth cooks will be cooking up some interesting dishes in the cabin onsite.

### *Levine Museum of the New South*

200 E. Seventh Street, Charlotte, NC, 704 333 1887, <http://www.museumofthenewsouth.org>

#### **Three Kings Day, Sunday January 6 from Noon to 4 pm, Free.**

This Family Day at the museum features arts and crafts, musical selections, and dance performances.

#### **MLK Jr. Legacy Celebration: A Call to Service, Monday January 21 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free.**

This Family Day at the museum features arts and crafts, musical selections, and dance performances.

#### **# ShapingCLT: Trafficked, Wednesday January 23 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.**

ShapingCLT is a monthly DIY social justice toolkit program about issues affecting our community. The January event will focus on human and sex trafficking.

#### **New South for the New Southerner: Distilling the South, Tuesday, February 5 at 6 to 8 pm.**

A discussion with Kathleen Purvis and host Tom Hanchett. Cost is \$20 and includes a full dinner.

#### **Scene@Levine, Friday, February 8 from 7 to 11 pm.**

Party with the Levine Museum's Young Professionals Council to celebrate the 85th anniversary of the repeal of Prohibition. Come dressed in attire from the 1920s. Cost is \$20 including dinner bites and great music.

#### **# ShapingCLT: Know Justice, Know Peace, Wednesday, February 20 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.**

ShapingCLT is a monthly DIY social justice toolkit program about issues affecting our community. The February event will focus on the Charlotte protests surrounding the death of Keith Lamont Scott and where we go from here. Special guests include Greg Jackson and Braxton Winston.

### *Andrew Jackson State Park*

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

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

#### **Celebrate President's Day Weekend with Presidents Andrew Jackson and James K. Polk,**

#### **Saturday, February 16 at 10 am, Free.**

At Andrew Jackson State Park explore the journeys of these two great statesmen from log cabins in the Carolinas to plantations in Tennessee to the White House in Washington, D.C. Join the staff of Andrew Jackson State Park and the staff of the President James K. Polk State Historic Site for a history program that will bring into focus the extraordinary lives these presidents.

### *Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS)*

#### **Genealogy Classes: Beginning and Advanced, Mondays, January 14 and 28, February 4, 11 and 18, at 6:30 to 8 pm, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, 3400 Beatties Ford Rd, Charlotte.**

The African American History Ministry, the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) and Comprehensive Genealogical Services (CGS), are presenting these classes.

Beginning topics include genealogical forms and records for organizing genealogical data, records to search for in the home, records to search for outside the home, conducting interviews, name change curveballs, and genealogy websites and organizations.

Intermediate and advanced topics include freedmen's records, records of the enslaved, researching the slave owner, land records, probate, writing your story, and the use of DNA to confirm family roots. Time will be scheduled in the computer room and bring your laptop or cell phone to search the web.

**Symposium, Finding Calvin: A Case Study, Saturday, February 23 at 9 am.**

This concluding symposium is for genealogists of all levels. Renate Sanders will present her case study demonstrate step-by-step how she first confirmed her ancestor's status as "enslaved" and followed him through 25 years of enslavement with several different owners. There will also be a presentation on the use of DNA to help locate ancestors. There will be a genealogy showcase for you to display your family genealogy: reserve a table when you register.

For more information contact 704-287-4602. To register for a class or the symposium go to <https://campscui.active.com/orgs/FriendshipMissionaryBaptistChurch#/selectSessions/2542114>

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

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

**Collards and Culture: LATIBAH Talk, Thursday, January 10 at 6 pm, Sugar Creek Library.**

Join us for a discussion focused on the Reconstruction period highlighting Black Wall Street and the psychology of a successful black community.

**Collards and Culture: Memories of Martin, Monday, January 14 at 11 am, Sugar Creek Library.**

Learn about the life of Dr. Martin Luther King from his childhood to his death with this interactive lobby display.

**Collards and Culture: LATIBAH Talk, Thursday, January 24 at 6 pm, Beatties Ford Road Library.**

Join members of the LATIBAH Museum in an in-depth discussion of the semi-permanent exhibit that showcases the life and times of Africans during the Middle Passage.

**Reflections on Charlotte in the mid-20th Century, Myers Park Library, 1361 Queens Road, Charlotte.**

Tuesday January 22 at 6 pm, Librarian Thomas Cole will talk about the career of Myers Park resident and newspaper columnist, Dorothy Knox.

Tuesday, January 29 at 6 pm, Librarian Thomas Cole will talk about transplanted New Yorker, Harry Golden, who made a career in Charlotte as a journalist, memoirist, and activist.

Tuesday, February 5 at 6 pm, Librarian Thomas Cole will talk about LeGette Blythe, who moved from a career in journalism to one as an independent writer. He told the heroic tale of Charlotte's founding and the Revolutionary era in drama, fiction, and history.

***Cowpens National Battlefield***

I-85 South Carolina Exit 83, follow signs, 864-461-2828

[www.nps.gov/cowp](http://www.nps.gov/cowp)

**Battle Anniversary Event, Saturday and Sunday, January 19 and 20.**

The park will commemorate the 238th anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens with guided battlefield walks, weapons firing demonstrations, cavalry demonstrations, author talks, and children's activities. See website for details.

*Union County Public Library*

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

**Oral History: Interviewing & Composing a Compelling Family Narrative, Saturday, February 2 at 1:30 pm.**

This workshop will be led by former journalist, Gene Stowe, on how to interview family members and craft a story based on those interviews. Reservations suggested.

*York County Library*

138 E. Black Street, Rock Hill, SC. [www.yclibrary.org](http://www.yclibrary.org)

**Genealogy Class: Beginning Genealogy, Thursday, January 3 at 6 to 8 pm.**

In this recurring class on genealogy, learn the first steps in researching and organizing your family tree.

**Alternative Sources for Vital Records in Genealogy, Thursday, January 17 at 6 to 7:30 pm.**

Birth, marriage, and death certificates can be a wonderful source of genealogical information but many states, including South Carolina, did not begin creating these records until after 1900. Learn about earlier sources that can be used to document the vital events in our ancestors' lives.

**Genealogy Class: Census Records, Thursday, February 7 at 6 to 8 pm.**

In this recurring class on genealogy learn how to use this valuable resource and discover what you may have overlooked.

**African American Genealogy Records, Thursday, February 14 at 6 to 7:30 pm.**

Explore a variety of genealogical sources in print and online for researching your African-American ancestors. We'll explore Bible records, slave records, early marriage records and other unique sources.

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