

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Promoting Local History through Education and Research

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



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Voices From The Past

A New Event, Saturday April 1st, From 1 to 5 pm

On the first of April, the Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents will introduce a new program called “Voices From The Past”. The event will be held in Settlers’ and Elmwood/Pinewood Cemeteries where many of the “residents” there will come to life for the afternoon, and visit with the cemeteries’ strollers. We have engaged a broad array of portrayers who will impersonate familiar characters from our local history, and a few you may never have heard of. For instance, when Col. Thomas Polk isn’t busy reading the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence at the square on May 20th, you’ll find him at Settlers’ pontificating about founding our fair city and his Revolutionary War exploits. You probably haven’t met the wife of Joel Baldwin the hatter; his is the oldest grave in the cemetery. At Elmwood you’ll see Dr. Annie Alexander, the South’s first licensed female physician, but that was just one of her many accomplishments. Did you know we have a former mayor named for the Swamp Fox, or a circus trainer mauled to death by his elephant, or a poor runaway boy no one could identify in spite of a huge effort to find the child’s family? You’ve probably passed by St. Mary’s Chapel many times, and may know it was once part of Thompson’s Orphanage. Now you can learn of the marvelous adventure Thompson’s founder had early in his life. If you’re familiar with the bold and colorful collages of Romare Bearden, you’ll want to meet his great-grandmother who inspired him. Some portrayers will appear as their own ancestors telling stories they learned firsthand. This is only a smattering of the tales we will have to tell.

Lynn Mintzer is the MHA Docent who is in charge of the event. She has attended similar cemetery tours in other cities. She queried some of them about how they organized their events, and pulled together a committee to find portrayers, research their characters’ stories, locate costuming, and tidy up other details. Her committee has worked closely with the Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society, Charlotte’s Center City Partners, Bill Bibby, director of Charlotte’s cemeteries, and a number of other helpful people.

The event is free, and some free parking is available. There are parking meters on several streets surrounding Settlers’; metered spaces are free all day on Saturdays. At Elmwood/pinewood some of the wider lanes will be available for parking. To use those spaces enter Elmwood via Cedar Street which is around the corner from the main entrance on 6th Street. The 6th Street entrance will be open for foot traffic only. There are a number of public parking lots in the general area. We were unable to get a price break on any of them, but you may use them if you

wish. We decided not to schedule a rain date, as the logistics were too complicated. We will carry on if the weather is misty or drizzly; if it rains heavily, perhaps we'll try again next year.

So do put April 1st on your calendar, and pass the words to your acquaintances about the event. Perhaps you'll meet the Victorian funeral director. He and his wife can help you plan your own funeral in the romanticized way of that time. And surely you'll want to visit with Dr. Ephraim Brevard, the talented physician and author of the Meck Dec, and learn how his life ended much too sadly and swiftly. Don't miss the northeast corner of Settlers' that was reserved for "our servants", a euphemism for slaves. None of those graves are marked, and most never were. There you'll encounter Aggie and Cherry who were enslaved at Rosedale. They'll talk about their lives, and they might well spread a bit of gossip about the white people. Do enjoy the day.

Ann Williams

From the Chairman

Barbados to Charleston, South Carolina

I rounded a corner in the Visitor Center and saw a display about making sugar cones in 17th C. Barbados. I stood and gazed. Here is the answer to how the sugar cones were made! This cone was 2 ½ feet tall and there were some 4 feet tall, all packed in wooden barrels for shipping by small ship to Charlestowne, South Carolina.

Larry and I were visiting Charlestowne Landing State Historic site where Charleston, SC was first founded in 1670 by the English. Trade with Barbados was established soon after for its sugar production. Sugar cane was brought from SE Asia to Brazil by the Portuguese in the 1540s. The Dutch took sugar cane to the West Indies, especially Barbados. The English took over the sugar cane plantations there.

Sugar cane processing was done by African slave labor when the indentured servants and Native Indians could not take the heat nor malaria. The sugar cane stalks were cut then squeezed. The juice and plant debris were filtered and boiled in huge

Sugar cone clay mold; the tip has a small hole so debris and molasses can flow through into the kettle.

cauldrons. The juice was cooked until it thickened and began to crystallize; then was poured into inverted clay loaf molds. There is a hole in the tip that allows most of the molasses and small bits of debris to flow down into the clay kettle that holds the inverted cone in place.

When the sugar cone is tipped out of its inverted mold, some impurities and molasses are at the top. The whiter sugar is at the bottom of the upright cone. The sugar cones were then transported by small cargo ships to Charleston, and left-over molasses was shipped to New England for rum production.

Audrey Mellichamp



Sugar cane squeezing of stalks, running of juice and debris into huge kettles; filtering vats and boiling the liquid.

*MHA Docent Programs***Tuesday, March 7****Southern Schoolgirl Needlework from the Carolina Piedmont, 1800-1860**

This meeting 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.

Pat Veasey will present the program which focuses on 19th century embroideries of the Carolina Piedmont where the Presbyterian tradition of education was strong. These embroideries lead to a deeper understanding of how women's lives were shaped, based on the study of their needlework. Some teachers brought particular patterns and motifs from the north. The use of various motifs is sometimes a clue to where a girl was schooled. Pat will show pictures of a number of samplers, some from Mecklenburg, and point out their interesting characteristics.

Patricia V. Veasey is an independent scholar with interest in women's education in the antebellum South. From 1990-2002 she was Director of Education at Historic Brattonsville, Culture and Heritage Museums. She has written many articles on needlework, 18th century women's dress, and related topics that have appeared in ALHFAM publications, the journal of MESDA, Antique Needlework Quarterly, and elsewhere. She has curated several exhibits including "Virtue Leads and Grace Reveals" in 2003; she wrote the scholarly catalog and study of that exhibit.

Tuesday, April 4**Field Trip to Historic Brattonsville**

Historic Brattonsville began as an 18th century farm that became a large, prosperous 19th century cotton plantation. Generations of Brattons were doctors and planters, and active participants in both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. The site has planned a day filled with activities for us. We should arrive at the visitors' center by 9:45 am. At 10:00 we will have a tour called "By Way of the Back Door" which is an interpretation of the lives of the enslaved. At 11:30 we'll enjoy lunch, and at 12 we'll visit the gin house for a hands-on focus on cotton. At 1:00 pm we'll be treated to a tour of the private slave cemetery, a place that is not generally open to the public. Many descendants of Bratton slaves still live in the area, and have made invaluable contributions to Brattonsville's programming. Visitors are welcome to join us; email mhadandelion@mindspring.com so we'll have an idea of how many people to expect.

If you would like to carpool, meet in the Sugaw Creek Church parking lot about 8:30; we should leave there promptly at 8:45. From the parking lot turn left onto Sugar Creek Road. Use Sugaw Creek's scout hut driveway to avoid the traffic barrels. Take Sugar Creek Road to I 85. Take I 85 South to I 77. Take I 77 South to exit 82 B in South Carolina and turn right on US 21, which is Cherry Road. Stay on Cherry Road which will become Rte. 322, then become McConnells highway. Turn left on Rte 165 which is Brattonsville Road and follow it to the visitors' center. The trip from I 77 to Brattonsville is 15 miles and takes about 25 minutes. There are a number of brown signs along the way. If you drive yourself be sure to allow enough time to reach the site by 9:45. By the way, gas stations on Cherry Road near I 77 have some of the cheapest gas in the country!

We have made arrangements for box lunches from Honey Baked Hams. They will include a classic ham or roasted chicken sandwich, chips, and a cookie; the cost is \$10.00. The box lunches must be ordered ahead. Jane Estep will have a sign-up sheet at the March meeting, or you can mail her a check to: 10170 Foxhall Drive, Charlotte, NC 28210. Make the check payable to Jane Estep, and indicate on the memo line which sandwich you prefer. She needs to have your check by March 30th. We will provide pickles, and water and tea to drink. Instead of a box lunch, you may bring a lunch from home if you wish.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the summer (May, June, July and August) issue of the Dandelion is April 11.

MHA Dinner Meeting

Monday, March 13
North Carolina as the Confederate Capital

Trinity Presbyterian Church. Dinner is at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:15. Those not having dinner may enjoy the program at no charge. To make a reservation for dinner, use the order form in your MHA Newsletter or contact Barbara Taylor, 1016 Goshen Place, Charlotte, NC 28211, btaylor797@aol.com or 980-335-0326.

For fifteen days in 1865 North Carolina was the Capital of the Confederacy. In the waning days of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis and the members of his Cabinet fled south out of Virginia. Their train arrived in Greensboro on April 11, but the city was crowded with refugees, and with the Union Army under General Sherman's approaching from the east, the Confederate Cabinet decided to move further south. They traveled overland through Jamestown, Lexington, Salisbury, China Grove, and Concord, and arrived in Charlotte on the 19th where they established offices and stayed in local homes. When the Confederate Army surrendered at Bennett Place on April 26, Davis held a final meeting of the entire Confederate cabinet and then rode out of the city. He passed through South Carolina and into Georgia where he was captured on May 10.

Historian and author Michael Hardy has worked as an interpreter and researched and written numerous books and articles about the Civil War. Much of his work has focused on the role of North Carolina. Among his twenty books are:

- *The Thirty-Seventh North Carolina Troops: Tar Heels in the Army of Northern Virginia* (2003)
- *Remembering North Carolina's Confederates* (2006)
- *The Fifty-Eighth North Carolina Troops* (2010)
- *North Carolina in the Civil War* (2011)
- *Civil War Charlotte* (2012)
- *The Capitals of the Confederacy: Montgomery, Richmond, Danville, Greensboro, and Charlotte* (2015)

Michael is a graduate of the University of Alabama, and was named North Carolina Historian of the Year by the North Carolina Society of Historians in 2010. He will have his books for sale and signing at the meeting.

MHA North Branch Meetings

Wednesday, March 15
Tour of Irvin Law Historic Site

We will meet at 7 pm at Irvin Law, PLLC on Zion Street. This is the latest site to be recognized as a Historic Site in Cornelius. After a short business meeting, Susan Irvin will give us a tour of her renovated and restored property.

Tuesday, April 11
Changes in the Cornelius Historic Area

At 7 pm, at Mt Zion Church, Will Washam of the Town of Cornelius will bring us up to date on the Arts Center and other changes to the historic areas of Cornelius.

MHA Dues

A Reminder: If you have not already paid your Mecklenburg Historical Association Dues for 2017, now is the time to do it. Our fiscal year runs from Jan 1 to Dec 31 and this one payment entitles you to be a member of the 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

	<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, effort and expense for MHA.

Docent Nametags

We will be ordering permanent plastic nametags for any dues-paying docents who would like to have one. If you have lost your nametag, or if you've never had one, you may place your order by May 2nd (Docent Meeting day) at a cost of \$13. You may pay Valerie Jones at one of our meetings, or mail your check to her at: 4700 Coronado Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212. Make your check to MHA Docents. On the memo line write your name exactly as you want it to appear on the name tag. Valerie should have them in hand by the June picnic.

Meet a Famous Character and See a Historic Church for the First Time

Saturday, March 25 at 2 pm at Machpelah Church in Lincoln County

Robert Hall Morrison is a familiar name, primarily because his daughters married leading citizens and Confederate Generals and officers, but he was much more than that. On Saturday, March 25 you will have a chance to meet and talk with Dr. Morrison, as interpreted and presented by Jim Williams, and learn about his life and accomplishments. This program will be at Machpelah Church in Lincoln County where he spent the last half of his life. The graveyard at Machpelah dates back to 1801 and the church building to 1848. This will be a unique chance to visit this important historic structure which is seldom open to the public.



A native of Cabarrus County, Dr. Morrison became one of the leading Presbyterian ministers in North Carolina, Minister of Sugar Creek Church and founder of First Presbyterian Church in Charlotte. In 1837 he founded Davidson College and he did it all. He convinced the Presbytery to support it, raised the money, chose the land and supervised the building, curriculum and enrolment. Then he served as the first President and one of the first two professors. After a personal tragedy he retired from the College to become a wealthy planter in Lincoln County and, for the rest of his life, the pastor of the oldest church in the county, Unity Presbyterian, and of Machpelah and Castanea Churches.

To get to Machpelah Church from Charlotte, cross the Catawba River on US 16, go north to US 73 and turn left towards Lincolnton. After 4.8 miles turn left on Tucker's Grove Church Road and go 1/10 mile to Machpelah Presbyterian Church and Cemetery at 226 Brevard Place Road. If you plan to attend, please contact the Lincoln County Museum of History at lcmh@bellsouth.net or 704 477 0987. Admission free, donations appreciated.

Jim Williams

In Memoriam

On January 6 we lost a long time docent, Ruti Fadel. She had been in excellent health, and leading a very active life when she suddenly passed away while playing bridge, one of her favorite activities. Ruti became a docent with some of us at the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite in 1980. When her children approached college age, she stepped back to work in the family business. Several years ago she rejoined us, and was just beginning to become a more involved docent. Ruti was really looking forward to playing one of our characters in "Voices From the Past". In fact the minister mentioned during her service that she had recently found a new pursuit – to be an actress. Her children also expressed how excited she was to participate. She was going to portray Margaret Blake, daughter of Senator William Davidson, and talk about her very important and influential father. She even wanted to purchase clothes to wear so she could use them for other history related events. In fact she often ran errands on her way home from giving a tour at the Alexander Homesite, still dressed in her 18th century garb. We will miss Ruti.

Ann Williams

Exploring Joara Cultural Showcase and Grand Opening

The Exploring Joara Foundation promotes public archaeology in the upper Catawba and Yadkin river valleys. Their work is centered on the Berry Site near Morganton. This site was called Joara by the Native Americans and occupied ca 1400-1600. It was called Fort San Juan by Spanish explorers in 1567 to 1568. The archeological digging site is open to visitors one day in June each year.

There will be a Cultural Showcase and Benefit Auction, Friday March 17 from 6 to 9 pm at the Hickory Metro Center. This marks the 450th anniversary of Fort San Juan and the establishment of the Spanish and Indian Colonial Trail, a heritage trail corridor over 600 miles long from Beaufort, SC to the mountains of Tennessee.



The Grand Opening of the Fort San Juan Exhibit will be on Saturday, March 18 from 10 am to 2 pm at the History Museum of Burke County. This was the earliest European settlement in the interior of the United States and is sometimes referred to as The Original Lost Colony.

Jim Williams

Plans for Mecklenburg Declaration Day

Mark Your Calendar for the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence Celebration

The Uptown Celebration on Friday, May 19

This year May 20th falls on a Saturday so in keeping with long-standing tradition, the MHA will hold our annual celebration on Friday, May 19 at Independence Square in uptown Charlotte. There will be fife and drum, soldiers, flags and political speeches, followed by a reading of the "Meck Dec" accompanied by Huzzahs from the crowd and the firing of cannon and muskets. So make your plans now to be on the Square at noon on Friday, May 19th.

The Ron Hankins History Talks Lecture on Thursday, May 18

The evening before the uptown celebration the Charlotte Museum of History will present the first annual Wells Fargo Foundation Ron Hankins History Talk. The inaugural speaker will be Colonel Tom Vossler who retired

from the US Army after being director of the US Army Military History Institute and is the author of several books on the Civil War. He will speak on the Civil War Battle of Antietam and the part North Carolina Troops played in it. There will be a reception before and Col. Vossler will be signing copies of his books afterwards.

Liberty or Death - the Revolutionary War in the Carolinas, May 20 and 21

The Saturday and Sunday after the Meck Dec Celebration at the square there will be a major Revolutionary War Reenactment at Historic Brattonsville. Over 300 reenactors from across the country will appear and recreate the battles of Kings Mountain, Camden and Eutaw Springs. Military camps will be set up, Sutlers will be selling their goods and there will be a number of demonstrations throughout the day.

More details on these events will be in the MHA Dandelion Summer Edition, coming out in late April.

Reenactment of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, March 18 and 19



The Revolutionary War Battle of Guilford Courthouse was fought on March 15, 1781 between American forces under General Nathanael Greene and British forces under General Cornwallis. Although the British forces were in possession of the field at the end of the day, they were so destroyed in men and materiel that they retreated back to the coast at Wilmington. From there they went to Virginia and later surrendered at York Town, Virginia. Guilford Court House is generally considered to be the final turning point of the war.

This battle is reenacted each year on the weekend nearest March 15 and is the largest Revolutionary War reenactment in the South. This year it is on Saturday and Sunday, March 18 and 19 from 8:30 am to 5 pm each day at Country Park in Greensboro. Admission is free. The battle itself will be reenacted at 2 pm daily, giving spectators a glimpse of what took place on the battlefield back in 1781. During this two-day event, visitors can see military encampments and live firearms demonstrations. They can participate in various events, and purchase craft and trade items from that time period. For additional information look at these web sites.

<http://www.greensboro-nc.gov>

<http://www.nps.gov/guco>

<http://guilfordbattlegroundcompany.org>

Site News

Part-Time Guest Services Team Member Needed at the Earl Scruggs Center in Shelby.

This part time job requires an enthusiastic, reliable individual to welcome guests from around the world, process admission sales and gift shop transactions, direct guests to other local attractions including restaurants and retail and assist the Earl Scruggs Center staff as required. Hours of 8-12 hours per week may be flexible. For more information or to apply, send an email to info@earlscruggscenter.org to request full job description and Earl Scruggs Center application or stop by Guest Services during regular operating hours to pick up a copy.

The History Calendar

Admission charged at all events unless otherwise noted.
Check the Charlotte Regional History Consortium website for other events.
<http://www.charlotteregionalhistory.org>

Historic Rosedale

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

Rosedale Winter Walk, Sunday, March 5 from 1 to 5 pm.

Dr. Larry Mellichamp, Professor Emeritus of Botany and Horticulture from UNC Charlotte will take you on a tour of the gardens at Historic Rosedale. Learn about plants that provide interest in the landscape during the cold months of winter and observe how barks, shapes of trees, berries and evergreen textures can keep your garden interesting throughout the year.

They Don't Make Them Like They Used To, Saturday, March 25 at 10 am to 4 pm, cost \$45.

In this ICAA Hands-On Workshop, skilled artisans will reveal trade secrets & teach current methods along with hands-on demonstrations of historic plastering, masonry restoration, and forged metal arts.

Back to Architectural Basics, Brick by Brick, Saturday, March 25 at 6 to 8:30 pm, Cost \$85.

Help us welcome Calder Loth, world renowned architectural historian, to Rosedale. The cocktail hour from 6 to 7 is followed by a lovely dinner and a unique presentation from Calder Loth. Mr. Loth is the retired Senior Architectural Historian of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the first recipient of the Secretary of the Interior's Preservation Award and the Honor Award from the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art.

Oyster Roast Fund Raiser, Sunday, March 26 from 2 to 5 pm, Cost \$50.

Oysters will be roasted outside in the true Southern coastal tradition and served with the usual sides. There will be beer for adults and games for the kiddies plus hot dogs, snacks, and side fixins.

Rosedale Spring Cleaning, Saturday, April 1 from 10 am to 2 pm, Free.

Come to the Historic Rosedale Spring Cleaning and purchase some of her treasures plus those donated by our friends. See the Facebook page for item listings. And if you would like to donate something, contact roseedu@historicrosedale.org

Historic Rosedale's Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 8 at 10 or 11 am or noon.

Explore our enchanting gardens and wander through our ancient boxwood maze as you and your child hunt for Easter eggs left by the Easter Bunny himself. Reserve your place now as this event fills up fast. And bring your own Easter Basket.

Rosedale Garden Tour, Saturday, April 8 from 1 to 5 pm.

This year the Rosedale Garden Tour starts at the Botanical Garden at UNC Charlotte where Director Emeritus Dr. Mellichamp will lead you through the gardens, especially the native wildflowers. Some of these will be available for sale. Then to Rosedale for a tour of the gardens and the house and refreshments.

Historic Latta Plantation

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

Celtic Festival, Saturday and Sunday, March 11 and 12 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Celebrate all things Celtic by enjoying live music, food and beer vendors, arts and crafts vendors, historic Celtic warriors and heritage demonstrations. Children will enjoy story times, dancing and visiting the farm animals.

Celtic Music Night Fundraiser, Saturday, March 11 at 6 pm.

Enjoy an outdoor concert on the lawn of the plantation grounds with food and beverage as you relax with friends and family.

Exploring a Catawba Valley Victory Trail, Thursday, March 30 at 6 pm, North County Public Library, 16500 Holly Crest Lane, Huntersville.

Award-winning author and storyteller, Randell Jones will tell of recent discoveries showing that a quarter of the men who fought at Kings Mountain marching through Mecklenburg County and up the Catawba River to join with the Overmountain Men. Hear this new history, and meet representatives from area historical sites and organizations.

Latta Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 15 from 10 am to 2 pm.

This annual event is one of the area's most popular and is available for children ages one and up by reservation only. Reservations open on April 1st on the web site at <http://www.lattaplantation.org>

Family Farm Day, Saturday, April 22 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Visit the living history farm and see all of the new life and activities of Spring. See farm animals, (hopefully brand-new baby lambs), the newly planted spring garden, sheep shearing, fiber working, and open-hearth-cooking.

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

Siloam Rosenwald School Fundraiser, Saturday, March 25 at 5 pm, Cost \$25.

Silver Star Community, Inc. and Charlotte Museum of History present a dinner and presentation by Stephanie Deutsch. Ms. Deutsch, whose husband is a great-grandson of Julius Rosenwald, will discuss the inspiring story of the partnership between Booker T. Washington and Julius Rosenwald to provide schools for African American communities in the South in the early twentieth century.

This program will benefit the restoration of the Siloam Rosenwald School, relocation and installation at the Charlotte Museum of History, creation of an exhibition on Charlotte and Mecklenburg County's African American history, and provide an endowment to maintain the building.

Civil War Symposium, Saturday, April 29 from 8:30 am to 3 pm.

Join the Charlotte Metrolina Civil War Roundtable and Charlotte Museum of History for the Third Annual Civil War Symposium. This year will feature experts who will examine four key battles: Antietam, Vicksburg, Shiloh, and Chickamauga. Register before April 22; \$10 fee plus \$10 lunch.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

Coffee and Conversation: The Mexican Flag, Saturday, March 18 from 11 am to Noon, Free.

Over coffee we will discuss what the Mexican Flag means, and has meant, to our community and nation past and present.

Earth Day Celebration—Growing Our History, Saturday, April 22 from 10 am to 1 pm, Free.

Join us for an intimate discussion of some environmental issues we face today. The day will also feature a native and historical plant sale, along with an interpretation of historic gardening.

Historic Cooking with Cheryl Henry, Saturday, April 29 at 9:30 am, Cost \$40.

Join trained chef and historic cook Cheryl Henry as she leads an intimate historic cooking class. Participants will be guided by Cheryl in our back-country kitchen house as they prepare a 19th century meal, enjoy the fruits of their labor and receive a special gift. Space limited; pre-registration required.

Historic Rural Hill

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

Loch Norman Highland Games , Saturday and Sunday, April 8 and 9, All Day.

This Scottish Festival features Heavy Athletics, Highland Dancing, Scottish Country Dancing, Pipe Bands, an Historic Encampment, Kilted Races, Battle Axe and Longbow, Whiskey Tasting and children's activities. For details and to register go to www.lochnorman.com

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882
<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

The War for Empire, Saturday, April 8 from 9 am to 5 pm, Sunday, April 9 from 10 am to 3 pm.

During Fort Dobbs' largest event of the year, join the soldiers, settlers, and American Indians who inhabited North Carolina's colonial frontier and learn about their lives and struggles through encampments, trades, demonstrations, and battle re-enactments.

Kings Mountain Historical Museum

100 East Mountain Street, Kings Mountain, NC (704) 739-1019
www.kingsmountainmuseum.org

First Peoples: Catawba & Cherokee Nations, Exhibit on display now through May 20, Free.

This original exhibit features archaeological and historical collections on loan from the Schiele Museum of Natural History, the Inn of the Patriots, and several private collectors. The display includes stone and bone tools, ceramics, basketry, weaponry, and other artifacts.

Martyr of Loray Mill: Ella May and the 1929 Textile Workers' Strike in Gastonia, NC, Saturday, March 11 at 2 pm, Book Talk by Kristina Horton, Free.

Textile worker, labor activist, and protest balladeer Ella May played a central role in the Loray Mill strike of 1929, the largest communist-led strike in United States history. Ella's union involvement, ability to move audiences with her music, and her efforts to support desegregation and labor rights for African Americans at the height of Jim Crow made her a target of violence. At only 28-years old, pregnant and a mother of five children, Ella May was assassinated on her way to a union meeting in Gastonia, NC. Although there were many witnesses, no one was ever held accountable for the crime.

Kristina Horton, great-granddaughter of Ella May, will discuss the 1929 strike and ongoing efforts to memorialize Ella May's legacy, as well as her personal journey in discovering an unsung heroine in one of her ancestors.

Rediscovering the Civilian Conservation Corps Camp at Kings Mountain State Park, Wednesday, March 29 at 5:30 pm, Free.

Mike Baxter, History Professor at Central Piedmont Community College and Belmont Abbey College, will discuss recent archaeological excavations at the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp at Kings Mountain State Park and efforts made by his students to understand the importance of the CCC's work in this area.

Carolina Belle, Wednesday April 12 at 5:30 pm, Free.

You will never look at an apple the same way again after reading Rose Senehi's most recent book, *Carolina Belle*. The story follows Belle McKenzie, a botanist and farmer who is obsessed with creating a "billion dollar apple" she'll call the Carolina Belle, and determined to rekindle the love her obsession has nearly destroyed.

Public Scanning & Oral History Day, Thursday, April 20 from 1 to 5 pm, Free.

Do you have family photos you'd like to digitize to preserve and share? Do you have stories to tell about Kings Mountain's history? Come share your stories and photographs of the area's history, from family photos to stories about the textile mills and racecar drivers.

Historic Brattonsville

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

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

Children's Day on the Farm, Saturday, March 25 from 10 am to 4pm.

Children can experience work and play on the farm in the 18th and 19th centuries with candle-dipping, blacksmithing and cooking. Visit the new lambs, oxen and horses. Pony and wagon rides will be available as will food concessions or bring your own picnic lunch.

Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site

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

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

More Than a Woman, Saturdays in March at 1 pm.

This specialty tour examines the role of women in Cabarrus County and the societal expectations placed on women in Antebellum North Carolina, including Sarah Kaiser Reed, wife of John Reed.

Reed Gold Mine Anniversary Celebration, Saturday, April 22 from 9 am to 5 pm.

In the 40 years since opening in 1977, Reed Gold Mine has welcomed more than two million visitors to the site of America's first gold discovery. Reenactors and living history specialists will descend on Reed from across the country to celebrate this historic anniversary. Visitors will not only be able to pan for gold, but also take their turn on a cradle rocker, take a special guided underground tour and check out the mining vendors and exhibits.

Charlotte Folk Society

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte

www.folksociety.org

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams, Friday, March 10, featuring Piedmont North Carolina Bluesman, Logie Meachum, 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, April 14, featuring "Primitive Bluegrass" by The South Carolina Broadcasters. 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

Davidson Historical Society

Post Office Box 144, Davidson, NC 28036

<http://www.davidsonhistoricalsociety.org>

Hidden Figures: Remarkable American Women Slighted by History, Sunday, March 19 at 4 pm .

Davidson Friends Meetinghouse, 625 South Street, Free.

Sally McMillen will share stories about some amazing but unheralded American women who did so much to advance issues such as abolition, civil rights, women's rights and suffrage, education, political reform, child labor, and the arts. Sally McMillen is the Mary Reynolds Babcock Professor of History Emerita at Davidson College and the author of numerous books on women's and southern U.S. history.

Cowpens National Battlefield

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

www.nps.gov/cowp

71st Highlander Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, April 8 and 9 from 9 am to 4:30 pm, Free.

At the North Carolina Highland Regiment encampment there will be weapons firing demonstrations at 10:30, 11:30, 1:30, and 2:30 on Saturday and drilling for the children.

Lincoln County Historical Association

www.LincolnCountyHistory.com

(704) 748-9090

See page 6 for the event at Machpelah Church, March 18.

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park

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

See page 8, "Reenactment of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, March 18 and 19."

York County Genealogical & Historical Society

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

Industrial Transformation: The Bleachery Site, Sunday, March 19, at 3 pm, Rock Hill City Hall, Hampton Street.

Walter Hardin, Tony Vaughan and Stephen Turner will discuss the history of the Bleachery Site. Over the past 130 years it has gone from a buggy company to an auto manufacturer to one of the world's largest textile operations and finally to an emerging high-tech center.

Earl Scruggs Center

103 S. Lafayette St., Shelby, NC, 704-487-6233, www.earlscruggscenter.org

Spring Square Dance, Saturday, March 18 from 2 to 4 pm.

Barn Dance – without the barn. Join us for recreational family fun square dancing featuring Laura Wheeler and the Log Cabin String Band. No experience or partner necessary.

Lunch-N-Learn: In the Footsteps of Daniel Boone, Wednesday, March 29 from noon to 1 pm.

Market hunter, frontier guide, wilderness scout, master woodsman, expert marksman, Indian fighter, militia leader, surveyor, land speculator, judge, sheriff – Daniel Boone led one of the fullest and most eventful lives in American history. North Carolina Humanities Council Road Scholar Randell Jones shares the episodes and adventures that made this frontiersman famous.

Lunch-N-Learn: Mystery Artifacts, Wednesday, April 26 from noon to 1 pm.

Join Earl Scruggs Center Curator Adrienne Nirde for a Lunch-N-Learn to celebrate Preservation Week and learn more about mystery items from the Cleveland County Historical Collection. What will she bring from the vault?

Iredell Museums

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

<http://www.iredellmuseums.org>

Preserving Your Family Heirlooms Workshops, Sundays at 2 pm, Cost \$20.

Instructed by Executive Director Melinda Herzog at the Museum. Participants are encouraged to bring two personal artifacts related to the topic of the workshop. The instructor will assist in dating your artifacts. Advanced reservations required, see the web site for details and to register <http://www.iredellmuseums.org>

- March 12 – China, Pottery & Glass: Pottery vs. Porcelain, Dating & Identification, Cleaning Different Finishes, Storage & Display.
- March 26 – Metals: Identification, Marks & Signature, Storage & Display.
- April 9 – Painting & Art Prints: Identifying Painting Mediums, Identifying Print Techniques, Manufacture Abbreviations, Signed Limited Editions Prints, Framing & Display.
- April 23 – Archival Material: Identifying Paper vs. Hides, Genealogical Documentation, Transcription, Storage & Display.

MHA Docents
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