Newsletter of the

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

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A Slave Named Cherry

Telling the story of an individual slave is often an impossible task, but occasionally tidbits of knowledge can be pieced together to form a semblance of a person's life. Such is the case with Cherry. Cherry's name first appears in the estate of Thomas Davidson, a well-to-do gentleman, who died in 1801. He left his wife, Sarah Frew Davidson, 1,000 pounds, directed that some land and slaves be sold, and left the rest to his infant daughter, who died several years later. With her share Sarah bought the house they had been living in, some parcels of land, and three slaves. One of them was Cherry who was probably in her teens at the time.

The next year Sarah married William Davidson, a nephew of her first husband. By law when a woman married all of her property became her husband's. It was rare, but not unheard of for a widow to seek protection for her possessions when entering a second marriage. Sarah took that path and William Davidson signed a deed of trust stipulating that Sarah's property, including Cherry, was to be hers until she died, then passed on to her children. Sarah and William Davidson had four children, then Sarah died in 1812.

Cherry became the nursemaid to the motherless children, Margaret, Sarah, Harriett, and William. The oldest was nine, the youngest two. William Davidson was a successful banker, planter, and gold mine owner. He served several terms as state senator and one term as a US Congressman. His children all attended boarding schools. The family lived first in the center of Charlotte, then on a plantation called The Grove. We can imagine Cherry mothering the children in their early years, then as they grew older tending to their wardrobes, packing their trunks for school, and assuming their total care when their father was away on business.

We next find Cherry along with her children, Ann, Edmond, Joe, and John, on a Deed of Trust from William Davidson in 1833. By then three of his children had married; only his daughter Sarah remained in his home. It's unclear if Davidson assumed ownership of Cherry against his late wife's directive, or if he was protecting his unmarried daughter's property. Sarah kept a journal in 1837 in which she described teaching the "young servants" to read. Three of Cherry's children were among her thirteen pupils.

In 1845 Davidson's daughter Harriett Caldwell died leaving six small children. Her husband, Dr. David Caldwell, asked for the loan of Cherry to care for them; certainly Harriett would have wanted her children entrusted to Cherry, who had been her own mother substitute. A family story tells us that Cherry spent many hours in the nursery telling stories to the children while rocking baby Alice in her cradle. Cherry loved to smoke a pipe, but Dr. Caldwell disapproved, so Cherry sat close to the fireplace, held the pipe so the smoke went up the chimney, and told the children not to tell their father. The children thought it was a great joke on their father. They may not have told him, but they passed the tale to their children, and their grandchildren passed it on to us.



The Caldwell home is now Historic Rosedale. One day while giving a tour the docent spoke of Cherry, and a black gentleman in the group asked if he could talk about Cherry. Then he told how she had tended the children, and held her pipe in almost the same words the docent had planned to use. He explained that an ancestor of his was enslaved at Rosedale and he had come in search of his roots. The same story that had come down in a white North Carolina family, came down in a black Virginia family. Oral history collected and confirmed at its best. We don't know what became of Cherry. In 1850 Sarah Davidson owned six slaves. Perhaps Cherry was one of them.

Ann Williams

Three-Year Digital Project on Postwar Charlotte Nearing Completion

The explosive growth and change experienced by Charlotte in the decades following World War II is the subject of a large-scale digitization project now being completed at J. Murrey Atkins Library Special Collections at UNC at Charlotte. *Living Charlotte: The Postwar Development of a New South City* (<u>livingcharlotte.uncc.edu</u>) provides researchers online access to a wealth of primary source materials: Charlotte city planning documents, personal papers of leaders in higher education and civil rights, legal files of the lead attorneys in the landmark Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education busing case, aerial photographs of the city, and oral history interviews on topics ranging from education to motor sports. These materials are from collections held at Atkins and its project partner institutions, Johnson C. Smith University's James B. Duke Memorial Library and the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library's Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room.

Postwar Charlotte was chosen for the project because it represents a time of unprecedented and interrelated economic, political, and social change. According to the U.S. Census, Charlotte's population in 1940 was about 100,000 with a landmass of about 20 square miles. By 1990, the population had almost quadrupled to nearly 400,000 and, as a result of annexation, its footprint had exploded to almost 175 square miles. During these decades the city was transformed from a textile town to a center of finance at a rate of growth that was exceptional, far outpacing most of the rest of the country: among U.S. cities, Charlotte's rank in population rose from 90th in 1940 to 35th in 1990.

This era encompasses not only an incredible economic expansion, but also the rise of intentional city planning, the civil rights movement, urban renewal projects that demolished African American neighborhoods, and radical reforms in the structure of municipal governance. Indeed, the interrelatedness of the realms of economic development, transportation, land use, and social relations is nowhere more evident than in the postwar history of Charlotte, as crystallized in the struggle over desegregation in education. The nation's eyes were on Charlotte when the landmark Swann ruling on busing for desegregation was decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1971. Cities throughout the state and country were affected by the decision, which pushed them to initiate busing to achieve desegregation in education. Until *Living Charlotte*, this story of Charlotte's unique place in postwar America had not been fully told in any online cultural heritage collection.

This project is comprised of 130 audio oral-history recordings, 9,000 pages of bound print materials and 39,200 pages/images of manuscript and photographic materials. Among the highlights are:

- Publications produced by the Charlotte Redevelopment Commission during the 1960s that attempted to make the case to the public for urban renewal; http://bit.ly/23BboSP
- Attendance area maps for public schools prepared by the Charlotte Board of Education in 1970 to accompany their school desegregation plans, in the Julius L. Chambers papers; http://bit.ly/1SdI0A8
- Interviews with Dr. Johnnie McLeod, who pioneered the treatment of substance abuse and the teaching of sex education in Charlotte during the 1960s and 1970s;
 http://goldmine.uncc.edu/islandora/object/uncc%3A223
 http://goldmine.uncc.edu/islandora/object/uncc%3A7
- Materials documenting efforts to desegregate dining establishments in Charlotte led by Johnson C. Smith students in the early 1960s, in the Charlotte Mayor's Committee on Race Relations records; http://bit.ly/1VkcAIv



All materials are accessible through the <u>livingcharlotte.uncc.edu</u> website, and the metadata is also being harvested by the Digital Public Library of America, so the collection can also be found by searching at dp.la

This project was made possible by funding from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

Dawn Schmitz

Book Review

Beyond Damned Quarter,
The Polk/Pollock Family of the Chesapeake Eastern Shore in the Colonial Era.
John F. Polk, Jr. (Millsboro, Delaware, 2015, Colonial Roots Publishing)

The title tells the tale. This is a detailed genealogy of the Maryland branch of the Polk family. But it is much more than that.

John Polk is a highly respected and accomplished historian and genealogist from Havre de Grace, Maryland. In a previous paper some ten years ago he investigated and detailed the Maryland roots of the Alexander family of Mecklenburg County. That work delved into the Maryland Colony public records and discovered facts and connections previously unknown about this group of Scots-Irish so important to the early history of Mecklenburg and North Carolina.

In this book he has done the same for the Polk/Pollock family in southern Maryland. His exhaustive and detailed research adds a great deal of historic information which makes the book as much a history book as a genealogical one. His insights into the way life was lived in seventeenth century Maryland are amazing – and often amusing. In those days each land grant was named giving rise to grant names such as Polks Folly, Forlorn Hope, Come by Chance, Devils Island, Maiden's Blush, and Damned Quarter. And it is interesting to learn that these early settlers moved from Virginia to Maryland because of their religion – they were Quakers, not Church of England.

In doing this research Polk has found documentary proof that many of the stories and connections known in the past are simply not true and he points out very gently the errors in the old family histories. One discovery that directly affects us here in Mecklenburg is that the Polks that came here from western Pennsylvania in the 1750s were not descended from Robert and Magdalen Polk of Somerset County, Maryland, as was long thought. William Polk, the father of Thomas and Ezekiel Polk and great grandfather of President James K. Polk did come to Pennsylvania from Maryland, but it was from Cecil County where they lived among the Alexanders.

John Polk contends that Thomas Polk and Hezekiah and John McKnitt Alexander were born as neighbors, grew up together and went to church and school together. His next book will cover this branch of the Polk Family among other topics, including the family's roots in Ireland and Scotland."

Jim Williams

Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence Celebration

On Friday, May 20, there will be a celebration at Independence Square (the corners of Trade and Tryon Streets in uptown Charlotte) of the 241st anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of May 20, 1775. This famous, if controversial, event was the first time that the people of the colonies declared their independence from the King and Parliament of Great Britain, predating that other declaration at Philadelphia by more than a year. Starting at 11:30 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 a muskets and a cannon. Afterwards we will parade two blocks to Settlers Cemetery to honor Colonel Thomas Polk with another musket volley. The event is free and the public is encouraged to attend, so come to Independence Square and join in the celebration.



MHA Docents, Reenactors and other Participants:

Get out your historic clothing and get ready for "fun on the square." We are making a special effort this year to turn out as many people in historic attire as possible. The Meck Dec was celebrated many times throughout the years, so any historic clothing is appropriate. We should all arrive at the square at 11 am, mingle with the crowd and hand out Meck Dec copies while the soldiers march up and down with the SAR honor guard and the music of the Fife and Drum. Parking is available on the streets around the square – 8 quarters for 2 hours.

This year we we'd like to see a larger participation by celebrants "from the past", especially men in civilian dress. If you would like to borrow clothing, we will have a selection of both men's and women's wear at the May 3rd docent meeting for people to look through and try on. If you can't be at the Docent meeting on May 3rd, contact Ann or Jim Williams at mhadandelion@mindspring.com and let us know what you need.

From the Chairman

Every day. I read several sayings every day. Two are taped to my computer. Two are taped to my kitchen cabinet. These sayings give me focus to pattern the day to come and allow me to take on the challenges and opportunities that come my way.

The first saying comes from Theodore Roosevelt: "Believe you can, and you're halfway there." Having confidence in your self does wonders in doing anything. Then Eleanor Roosevelt strengthens me with: "Do one thing every day that scares you." Just get out there and try; if not this way, try another way.

Being a teacher, I am reminded by Rachel Carson, "If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in." Let's think about this when we give history tours to children and adults! And lastly, Henry Ford said, "Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success." This is the cooking guild's motto, now in our 19th year. But this can be the Docents, too. We have had 25 years as US.

But wait! Two new thoughts have come my way within the last few weeks. Gandhi said, "There is more to life than increasing its speed." Take it slow and yes, smell the roses. Benjamin Franklin said, "By failing to prepare, you prepare to fail." Do your homework. Read that recipe/instructions/whatever first. I hope these thoughts will help guide you through your day.

Audrey Mellichamp

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the September/October Dandelion is August 15th. Have a happy summer, and collect a history experience to share in the next newsletter.

MHA Docent Programs

Tuesday, May 3 The Spirit of 1775

The meeting will be 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.

Whereas on the 20th of May in the year of our Lord 1775, the brave citizens of Mecklenburg County of the former colony of North Carolina did declare themselves free and independent of Great Britain; and subsequently



150 year later, in 1925, the citizens of Mecklenburg did honor and remember their esteemed forefathers (and foremothers) with a pageant celebrating the said declaration.

Docents Janet Dyer and Rachel Abernathy will lead us in a whimsical, light-hearted adaptation of that pageant. The 1925 performance was probably straightforward and serious. Ours will be a bit campy, but certainly not disrespectful. There will be interesting props, and audience participation will be encouraged. So join us for some fun as we gear ourselves up for the BIG May 20th celebration on the square.

Also at this meeting we will be asking for participants for the 2016 Meck Dec celebration on the square. We would like to have more people at this event, especially men in civilian clothes. For those that don't have period clothing we will have men's and women's loaner-garments for you to look through and try on. See more information on the May 20th celebration on page 4.

Tuesday, June 7 Annual Docent Picnic

Our picnic will be held this year at the Schiele Museum in Gastonia. We will meet at the site at 10 am for a tour. We will begin with a visit to the new SciDome Theater to view "Supervolcanos"; then on to the general museum tour, which includes the Environmental Studies Center and the Henry Hall of the American Indian. Next we will proceed to the backcountry farm for a short business meeting and lunch. Those who wish to stay after lunch can take a "behind the scenes" tour with the Curator of Collections, Carrie Duran. It will include the Native American and Natural History Collections.

Bring a covered dish to share. You may leave your dish in the museum lobby during the tour, or get it from your car afterwards, as we will walk through the parking lot on our way from the museum to the picnic site. A platter of fried chicken will be provided as well as iced tea, water, and paper products.

Directions: From I 85 take exit 21 (Cox Road) south into Gastonia. When you cross Franklin Blvd. (Rte. 74) Cox Road becomes Armstrong Parkway. From Armstrong turn Right onto Garrison Blvd. Cross New Hope Road, and the Schiele will be about a mile farther on your right at 1500 E. Garrison Blvd. Transportation is on your own. Form carpools if you wish, or contact a board member to ask who you might ride with.

MHA Dinner Meeting

Monday, May 23, The Tryon Resolves

Trinity Presbyterian Church. Dinner is at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:15. Those not having dinner are welcome to enjoy the program at no charge. To make 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 980-335-0326

On August 14, 1775, west of the Catawba, a group of Tryon County citizens convened at the Tryon Courthouse, in response to the horrific Battles of Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts that had taken place four months before. Vowing resistance to "barbarous and bloody actions" by the British Empire against its North American colonies, they formed an Association, and signed a set of resolutions which came to be known as The Tryon Resolves. Join us to learn more about this important regional document and its contribution to the atmosphere of unrest in the Carolina Backcountry on the eve of Revolution. The original manuscript is extant and now resides in the North Carolina Archives in Raleigh. Photographs of this historic decree will be on hand for your inspection.



Suzanne Simmons, a native of Cleveland County and graduate of UNC-Greensboro, joined the staff at the Schiele Museum of Natural History as Environmental Education Program Specialist in 1985. In addition to her experience with natural history, native plants, and the environment, she has been actively involved with the Schiele Museum's Backcountry programs. In 2007, she donned the cap as 18th Century Backcountry Lifeways Program Specialist, and Pioneer Farm site manager. Now, Suzanne weaves her interests in 18th century life, Native American/Aboriginal folklore, storytelling, and working with children "of all ages" into a fabric of educational programs and activities which bring to life the triumphs and trials of settlement in the late 1700's in the Piedmont Backcountry.

North Branch WHA Meeting

Field Trip to Holly Bend, Tuesday, May 10 at 7 pm, Free.

We will meet at Holly Bend, the large frame plantation house located on the continuation of Neck Road past Rural Hill. After you pass the walled Davidson family cemetery, turn left and go through the cedar tree canopy. Holly Bend is on your right. It was built by Robert Davidson between 1795 and 1800 on 420 acres adjacent to Rural Hill, the home of Major John Davidson, his father, who gave Robert the 420 acres in 1795. Holly Bend was completed before Robert married Margaret Osborne on January 1, 1801. Robert and Margaret, who had no children, lived at Holly Bend until they died, he in 1853 and she in 1864.

The significance of Holly Bend lies not in its exterior appearance, but in the treatment of the interior. The use of such lavish interior trim in an outwardly unexceptional house, together with the exuberantly vernacular handling of forms, makes Holly Bend unique. The lively creativity of the carpenter-interpreter transformed the standard Adamesque compositions into a purely local expression of Federal Neo-Classicism. Join us for a tour of Holly Bend. If you have questions, contact Sarah Sue Hardinger, sarahsuenc@gmail.com, or (704) 906-6656).

A New MHA Docent Memorial Program

The MHA Docent board has implemented a new program to memorialize deceased members. In the past we planted rose bushes or bought books for our library in their memory. But the roses died, the library is running out of space, and we needed a fresh idea. It took a while, casting about for a plan that could be readily accomplished and fit our mission of supporting history education. Here is the plan that emerged. In memory of each docent who has passed away we will give an honorarium to an intern working in a history field. The honorarium will be small, in keeping with the cost of a book or a rosebush, but it will be accompanied by a letter expressing our appreciation for the intern's work and a few words about the docent being remembered. A similar letter will go the intern's site. For each memorial we will choose a site that fit the docent's interests, then we will ask the site staff to recommend an intern and tell us about that person's accomplishments. The honorarium will go directly to the intern.

Years have passed since we last memorialized a docent, and we have catching up to do. We are taking our list chronologically and our first honoraria will be in memory of Virginia Johnson and Kitty Sellars both of whom died in 2012. Virginia was involved and enthusiastic with the Levine Museum of the New South in its early days, especially with its basketball exhibit. They have selected Valeria Hernandez, a sophomore at Johnson C. Smith. In addition to maintaining a 4.0 average, she works with the Levine's education department by leading tours and helping to design and deliver youth and family programs. She is hardworking, inquisitive, and says "In high School I had great educators that taught me the importance of history, and that made me want to teach others.

Kitty moved to Davidson in her later years where she was active in the Davidson Historical Society and had a fondness for north Mecklenburg's history. We paired her with Latta Plantation and they chose William McDevitt. Will is a self-directed, efficient, enthusiastic worker who gives tours, helps with special events, works in the gift shop, and is producing a video describing the site's activities. Congratulations to both of them!



In Memoriam - Millie Hodge

Millie Hodge passed away on March 6th. She had been a docent, and a very active one, since 1999. Millie had a special fondness for Historic Rosedale where she did numerous tours for school groups and adults. It was on Docent Millie's tour that a slave descendant revealed that his family shared "Cherry's Story" (see page 1). When Rosedale had WWII programs, Millie was proud to share her memories of that time. She invited her granddaughters to be docents at Rosedale events; they loved working along with her, and have inherited her love of the place. It is amazing Millie had so much time for us. She was an active member of an astonishing array of organizations. Her large church was packed to capacity for her memorial service. She will be missed.

Hazel White said it best: I had to say goodbye to my friend Millie. For 15 years we traveled everywhere and always had fun together. Millie and I belonged to all the same clubs and the same church. We spent a lot of time together, and shared phone calls every day. Millie had a good memory of all the places in North Carolina and Virginia, so all I had to do was ask her and I could get any information I needed. She was a smart lady and loved her charity work. Millie was loved by all who knew her. She loved her bridge groups, and she never missed a game. She loved telling us about meeting Eleanor Roosevelt when she was in school and got to go to the White House. We will all miss her, but I think I will miss her the most.

Site News

Kings Mountain Historical Museum

On April 13 the Museum hosted "The Mauney Brothers' Civil War," a presentation and book signing by Lawrence Lohr, a descendant of Jacob Mauney. This program was presented in celebration of the digitization and online publication of the Civil War diary of William Andrew Mauney through the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center.

The war claimed Peter Mauney's life, but his brothers Jacob and Andrew went on to play major roles in the establishment of the City of Kings Mountain and the area's industries. Many descendants of the Mauney brothers and other Civil War soldiers were in attendance and three men came dressed in period uniforms to portray the 28th



Regiment North Carolina Troops, in honor of their ancestors who fought alongside Andrew and Peter Mauney. There was a lively discussion after the program which revealed a number of previously unknown details of the Mauney's lives and deaths.

Adria L. Focht, Director & Curator

Mount Holly Historical Society

On Sunday, March 13, the Mount Holly Historical Society held their Founders Day Program where they unveiled their new "Mount Holly Daily Life" exhibit. Melisa Thompson was their guest speaker where she spoke about the founding of Mount Holly, NC. This new exhibit allows the public to step back in time to learn what daily life was like for a Mount Holly citizen from 1850 -1910. Guest are able to see how families were entertained by playing music on their family piano or listening to modern music on a Edison phonograph.

Southern Campaigns Round Table, Saturday, April 30, from 10 am to 4:30 pm, followed by a car pooled guided tour of the Ramsour's Mill battlefield. Lunch will be Dutch Treat.

The Southern Campaigns Revolutionary War Roundtable is an informal gathering of professional and amateur researchers interested in sharing and helping others on topics in the era of the American Revolution. Attendees may make a short presentation on their current projects and share their finds with the group. The public is invited.



We will be hosted by the Lincoln County Historical Association. We will pass the hat to collect expenses for our lunch and to make a contribution to our host facility. We will meet in the Reception Hall of the Lincoln Cultural Center, 403 East Main Street, Lincolnton, NC.

Summer Camps

President James K. Polk State Historic Site - Registration required at the web site.

Positively Presidential Day Camp, June 21-25 at 10 am to 2 pm each day, ages 8-13

During this camp students will learn how the election process has changed over time. They will create political parties, craft a platform, and draft a campaign team. Then they will embark on the "campaign trail," giving speeches, debating, and last (but not least!) voting.

Work & Play in Young Polk's Day – Day Camp, Tuesday, July 19 or Thursday, July 21 from 9:30 am to 4 pm each day, ages 8-13.

Campers will explore traditional chores, games and activities of the late 18th and early 19th centuries and learn what made Mecklenburg County a unique home for the Polk Family through guest demonstrations and hands-on experiences.

Latta Plantation - Registration required at the web site.

Civil War Soldier Camp (ages 8-12) July 18-21 or August 1-4 at 9 am to 3 pm each day.

Boys and girls experience life as a Civil War soldier and relive the war through a week of drills, battles, hikes, and 19th century life. Campers receive several items to use during the week and keep: a replica musket, kepi, haversack and t-shirt. The week ends with a battle engagement that families can watch and a formal graduation ceremony.

53rd Call to Arms Camp (ages 13 and up) July 11-14 at 9 am to 3 pm each day.

This is an Advanced Civil War Camp for graduates of the Civil War Soldier Camp. Learn strategic battle planning, tactics in the woods, fire starting with flint and steel, campfire cooking, and many more camp skills.

Revolutionary War Soldier Camp (ages 8-12) June 13-16 at 9 am to 3 pm.

Boys and girls relive the American Revolution as a Patriot or Loyalist with drills, battles and colonial life, exploring the grounds, hiking in the woods and participating in mock battles. Participants will receive a tricorn hat, canteen, toy musket, and camp t-shirt to keep and use throughout the week. At graduation on Thursday parents can see the soldiers demonstrate a Rev War battle.

Miss Jane's Academy (ages 8-12) July 18-21 or August 1-4 at 9 am to 3 pm each day.

This Antebellum era camp takes girls back in time to see what life was like for women during the time of the Civil War. Hands-on activities include making fans, sewing, weaving, open-hearth cooking, making ice cream, tiedying, and Olde English Country Dancing. There will be a showcase and graduation on the last day of camp to demonstrate their skills, including a dance performance, for their parents.

Mini Farm Camp (ages 4-5) May 31 to June 2 or August 9-11 at 9 am to noon each day.

This camp is for boys and girls to learn about farm life. Campers will meet the Latta animals, including chickens, pigs, sheep, goats, a cow, mule, and horse plus hands-on farm activities, crafts, games, and getting up close and personal with the animals.

Jr. Farm Camp (ages 6-8) June 20-23 or July 11-14 at 9 am to 1 pm each day.

This camp is for children who like the outdoors and animals. In addition to getting up close to a variety of farm animals, campers will learn and participate in farm chores, animal care, natural plants and medicines.



Advanced Farm Camp (ages 13-17) June 20-23 at 9 am to 3 pm each day.

This is an extremely hands-on and labor intensive training course in all things farming including animal husbandry, historic natural farming techniques and woodworking. For those with a serious interest in agriculture and farming, as well as those who have a future interest in veterinary medicine.

Historic Encounters Summer Camp (ages 9-12) June 27-30 at 9 am to 3 pm each day.

Children will enjoy a number of outdoor activities including woodworking and fire starting, plus working with the Latta farm animals, canoeing and horseback riding.

Charlotte Museum of History - Registration required at the web site.

Passport to World Cultures Geography Camp, August 8-12 at 8:30 am to 5 pm., ages 6 to 9.

Campers will explore geographic regions and cultures of the world through research, stories, crafts, and activities. They will build and label a topographical map, research and present a country's unique culture for the Parade of Nations, learn about and participate in the Olympic Games and explore world cultures with an international meal. Each day of camp will focus on a different human or environmental geography theme, and will tie in the history of Charlotte and the Carolina Backcountry:

Geography and Landforms Animals and the Environment History and Government Art, Music, and Cuisine Architecture and Monuments Religions and Celebrations

Historic Rosedale Plantation - Registration required at the web site.

Adventure Camps, June 14-17 at 10 am to 1 pm each day, ages 6-12, Snacks and Water Included.

- Fairy Camp Tuesday, June 14.
 - Explore our urban shire and hunt for fairies that hide all around. Learn about the whimsical folklore behind their favorite characters, and create enchanting crafts that would impress the most finicky of fairies.
- Pirate Camp, Wednesday, June 15.
 - Learn about North Carolina's rich pirate history, create jolly good crafts, hunt for buried treasure and find out how pirates on the open seas affected life here Charlotte.
- Take a Walk on The Wild Side, Thursday, June 16.
 - Buzz around like a bee and connect with nature in a unique historic setting and urban green space. Includes educational games about the local surroundings, plants, and animals as well as insect themed craft activities.
- Old Timey Picnic, Friday, June 17.
 - Come as you are or dress up if you like. Our counselors will don their antebellum finery to serve our picnic with a lesson on the life and etiquette of those who lived in the plantation house. Parents are welcome to join in the fun.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site - Registration required at the web site.

Life on the Carolina Frontier Summer Camp, July 12-15 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm each day.

Boys and girls ages 8-12 will experience the life of an 18th century soldier, learn about weapons and tactics, hike historic trails and help to tend a recreated garden and construct a log cabin.

Rowan Museum, 202 N. Main Street, Salisbury, Contact the Museum for Details.

Elementary Camp, grades 3-5, 9 am to 2 pm each day, refreshments provided, bring your lunch.

June 20-24 or August 8-12

This camp involves all museum sites plus the Old English Cemetery and Freedman's Cemetery. Activities include book making/journal keeping/quill writing, cemetery search/rubbings, local lore and ghost stories, tin punch,



weaving fabric and rugs, old tools/antiques/artifacts use and recognition, candle dipping, outdoor cooking/butter making and gardening plus early children's games and folk music.

Middle School, grades 6-8, 9 am to 2 pm each day, refreshments provided, bring your lunch.

Colonial Camp, July 11 to 15.

Activities include many of the above plus making gourd bird houses, basket weaving, studying period clothing, historical interpretation, an evening "lanterned" trip to the Old Lutheran Cemetery, a scavenger hunt and an overnight stay at the museum.

Civil War Camp, July 25-29.

Campers will be mustered into the Union and Confederate Troops, study the history of the war, especially local history, and relive the life of a soldier through 19th century life skills, cooking and medicine, as well as marches, drills, and military maneuvers.

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

Plantation Garden Tour, Sunday, May 1 from 1 to 5:30 pm, Limited to 25 Participants.

In this exclusive guided tour of three unique gardens, Dr. Larry Mellichamp, director emeritus of UNC Charlotte's Botanical Gardens, and Elizabeth Myers, Rosedale's Head Gardner, will be your personal guides for the entire day:

- The Duke Mansion at 1 pm: This 4 ½ acre estate features a white garden, a rose garden and a children's play area. It is filled with classic southern plants, two beautiful fountains, a prayer garden, a woodland walk and a kitchen garden. Historic oak trees, magnolias and old boxwood complete this historic arena.
- Elmwood, Pinewood, & Potter's Field Cemeteries at 2:30 pm. This 100-acre urban landscape was designed for the respite of both the living and the dead. It is one of the seven cemeteries overseen by the county's sexton Bill Biddy. The famous Burwell Musk Rose is revered by colonial herbalists. See the 112 foot tall Tulip Poplar and traditional white "cemetery iris" used on graves for thousands of years as you stroll through the graves of the Davidson's, Caldwell's, and other historical Mecklenburg families.
- Historic Rosedale Plantation at 4 pm: Once known as Frew's Folly, it is now a 9-acre stage for the gardener's delight. The beautiful grounds host some of Charlotte's most cherished Treasure Trees, a perennial border and formal gardens dating back to Mrs. Louise Heagy Davidson's original 1914 design, that invite casual walks through paths of native trees and shrubs. Heirloom plants of interest will be for sale, wine and cheese will be provided in the garden, and the 200 year old home will be open.

Hats Off to Mom, Thursday, Friday, & Sunday: May 5, 6 & 8 (no tours Saturday, May 7 due to private event) at 1:30 & 3:00 pm.

A special look at hats & headwear through the ages. Examples of how millinery fashion changed as displayed by different hats in the many rooms of the home. As part of this special program our prized green silk bonnet, one of the oldest locally made textiles, will be on display for these three days only. Wear your favorite hat and come on out to Rosedale for a one of a kind hats off experience.

Thank You Note Tea Party, Saturday, June 4th at 11 am to 1 pm.

Teach your child to be thoughtful and considerate through the lost art of handwritten thank you notes, an essential part of being a Southern lad or lady. We will teach the etiquette of the note while your child learns the valuable



lesson of expressing gratitude they will carry into adulthood. Dress up or come as you are and enjoy the atmosphere of a tea party in the charming English basement kitchen of our 200 year old Federal home. The lady of the house will be teaching the lesson and Rosedale will provide stationery to get you started.

Paranormal Grounds Investigation, Sunday, June 19 at 7:45 to 9:30 pm.

Join professional ghost hunters as they take no more than 30 guests through the grounds of Rosedale's 200 year old plantation and attempt contact with the beyond. You will use the latest technology in partnership with the Charlotte Area Paranormal Society. Their team will lead the investigation. Please wear flat, quiet comfortable shoes and bring a small twist top flashlight. You never know what you may find... or what may find you!

Latta Plantation

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

World War Two Re-enactment Saturday, April 30 and Sunday May 1 from 10 am to 4 pm each day.

Demonstrations and battles surrounding WWII circa 1941-1945. Living history exhibits and talks include both Allied and Axis soldiers, a field hospital and the motor pool. And you can accompany the soldiers on a patrol. There will be two battles each day, a smaller one at 11 am and a larger one at 2 pm.

African Drum Circle, Saturday, May 14 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Learn the history of music and musical celebrations within the African culture. See and participate in the drum circle.

Cooking With Sukey Workshop, Saturday, May 21 at 10 am to 4 pm.

Back by popular demand. Cook on the open hearth alongside Cheryl Henry as you learn some of Sukey Latta's very own recipes. Learn how the Latta's head cook prepared daily meals in the kitchen building, including fire starting, using 19th century utensils and historically accurate local ingredients. Finish out the day by enjoying the home-style meal you spent the day preparing.

Civil War Battle Re-enactment, Saturday and Sunday, June 4 and 5 from 10 am to 5 pm.

Living history exhibits, ladies antebellum tea, suttlers, food vendors, and a battle re-enactment each day at 2:00pm.

Hugh Torance House and Store

8231 Gilead Road, Huntersville, NC www.hughtorancehouseandstore.com/

House Tours on first and third Sundays from 2 to 5 pm, May through October.

The Hugh Torance House and Store is truly a Mecklenburg treasure. The log house section of the building was built as a residence about 1780. In 1805 the building was expanded to include a store which operated until 1825. As the Torrance family obtained land and wealth it became a cotton plantation of 3,000 acres worked by over a hundred slaves. Extensive family history kept through the generations allows us to interpret nearly a century of Mecklenburg's rich mercantile and plantation history.

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

Colonial Gem, a History Museum Fund Raiser, Thursday, May 12 from 6 to 8:30 pm

Supporters will spend the evening at the Hezekiah Alexander Home Site with craft beer, wine, hors d'oeuvres and music, plus guided tours of the house and log kitchen.

Meck Dec Day Celebration, Saturday, May 21 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Celebrate the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and Resolves. Enjoy cupcakes and lemonade, tours of the Hezekiah Alexander Home Site and kid's crafts and games.



Teas of the British Isles

This is a series of afternoon teas accompanied by lectures that explore the history of the British Isles.

- Legends and Mysteries of England, Sunday, June 26 at 4 to 5:30 pm. Stories of Robin Hood, King Arthur, and Stonehenge plus an Irish themed menu of tea sandwiches, scones, and desserts, and a favorite Irish tea.
- Henry VIII and the Tudors, Sunday, July 31 at 4 to 5:30 pm. The intrigue and international politics of King Henry VIII and his six wives plus a Welsh themed menu of tea sandwiches, scones, and desserts and a favorite Welsh tea.
- The English Colonies in America, Sunday, August 28 at 4 to 5:30 pm. Tales of the early English attempts to found colonies in North America: Roanoke, Jamestown, and New England plus a Scottish themed menu of tea sandwiches, scones, and desserts and a favorite Scottish tea.

Fourth of July Celebration, Monday, July 4 from 10 am to 2 pm.

A patriotic celebration of Independence Day with lectures, kids' crafts, tours of the Hezekiah Alexander home site, and a ringing of the American Freedom Bell.

Schiele Museum

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

Kephart Days: Classic Camping Event, Saturday, May 21 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Enjoy a bit of time travel at the backcountry farm as you step into a demonstration campsite featuring a variety of canvas tents, open fire cookery and interpreters dressed in the fashion of Golden Age Campers of the 1920s.

The Colonial Kitchen Garden, Memorial Day, Monday, May 30 from 10 am to noon.

Visit the pioneer farmsite to see the kitchen garden in its prime. Learn interesting uses of herbs, flowers, and vegetables grown in early Carolina gardens. Discover that the kitchen garden is much more than an herb garden

The Woodsman's Companion: Carolina Plott Hound, Sunday June 26 from 1 to 5 pm.

Arriving in America in the 1750's, the Plott bear hound has become one of the premier big game hunting dogs in America. This official state dog of NC was also Daniel Boone's faithful hunting companion. Join us at 3 pm for a feature presentation by Bob Plott, NC Humanities Council Roads Scholar, and his Plott hound companion to discover more of this classic American breed. Visit the backcountry farm to see backwoodsmen in period attire as they prepare for the hunt.

The Tryon Resolves, Sunday, August 14 from 1 to 5 pm.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Visit the Schiele as interpreters reenact the promise and confusion of the backcountry folk in 1775. At 4 pm an official reading of the Tryon Resolves will be held featuring the names of 49 local pioneers, our ancestors, who bravely signed for freedom. The Broad River Genealogy Society will assist visitors in tracking connections to old Tryon County and the Tryon Resolves. Don't miss this historic celebration, 241 years to the day of the signing. Huzzah!



President James K. Polk State Historic Site

12031 Lancaster Hwy., Pineville, NC, 704 889 7145 <u>www.polk.nchistoricsites.org</u>

Back-Country Music, Dance 'n 'Que, Saturday, May 14 from 11 am to 3 pm.

This festival features local artists playing historic music plus local barbeque. Bring the family, your lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy the Appalachian Dulcimer Club, Red Hills Dancers, and the Myers Park Consort, headlined by the Myers Park High School Bluegrass Club.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

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

Militia Muster, Saturday July 23 from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday July 24 from 10 am to 3 pm, Free.

During the French and Indian War (1754-1763) all males ages 16-60 were required by law to serve in North Carolina's militia. These civilians gathered at appointed times during the year to practice military drill and would quickly form an army for defense at times of invasion. Historic interpreters representing the Rowan County militia will offer on-going displays of military camp life, as well as featured musket and cannon firing demonstrations.

Matthews Heritage Museum

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

Tea Parties and Teddy Bears Exhibit Closing May 28.

Teacups old and new, miniature tea sets, special pots and tea pots for one. From Sadler to Wedgewood to Beatrix Potter to even a tin set. Teddies of all varieties and beanie babies. Something for everyone. Bring your bear with you when you come to see the exhibit.

Pine Wood Derby Racer Exhibit Open from June 4 to September 3.

Partnering with the Mecklenburg County Council of the Boy Scouts, small cars carved out of pine wood by cub scouts will be on display. The exhibit includes the winners of this year's Derby Race and those from years ago.

Book Sale at the Museum

The Craig Marek collection of 275 books on World Wars I and II are offered for sale. The inventory includes the complete 156-volume Ballantine Illustrated History of WWII. See the web site for a complete listing of the books including title, author, condition, and cost.

Charlotte Folk Society

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte www.folksociety.org

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams.

All programs are held at the Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte 28204. 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

- Friday, May 13, The Kollard Kings performing songs recorded in Charlotte in the 1930s.
- Friday, June 10, CFS Members' Showcase.
- Friday, August 12, The Snyder Family Bluegrass Band.



Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

310 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, 704 416 0150 www.cmlibrary.org

Exploring History: Hitler's Last Day, Tuesday, May 3 at 6 pm, South County Regional Library.

Dr. Rita Botwinick takes you inside the bunker at the fall of the Third Reich. April 29, 1945. Soviet Armies are at the outskirts of Berlin, US & British forces approach. Hitler is underground. This is his last day.

Duke Mansion

400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte, 704 714 4400 http://www.dukemansion.com

Explore neighborhood history — Inventing Charlotte's Greenways, Sunday, May 22 at 3 pm.

Dr. Tom Hanchett, Consulting Historian with Levine Museum, will look back at planner John Nolen's 1910s vision for a Charlotte greenway system. Beth Poovey, landscape architect for LandDesign of Charlotte, will tell some of the stories behind creation of the Little Sugar Creek Greenway.

Historic Brattonsuille

1444 Brattonsville Rd., McConnells, SC, 803 684 2327 http://www.chmuseums.org/brattonsville

Memorial Day at Historic Brattonsville, Monday, May 30 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Enjoy musket firing, children's drills, house tours, cooking demonstrations, and a recreated 1870's wreath laying ceremony. Learn how and why this holiday was celebrated during the tumultuous years after the American Civil War. Pack a picnic and make a day of it.

Independence Day Celebration, Monday, July 4 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Celebrate Independence by playing English Cricket as the founding fathers did. Join in the game – no experience required. Also period music and dancing, cooking demonstrations and the reading of the Declaration of Independence from the front steps of Hightower Hall. Food will be available for purchase.

Battle of Huck's Defeat, Saturday, July 9 from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday, July 10 from 10 am to 3 pm.

The Battle of Huck's Defeat 2016 will reenact the early stages of Christian Huck's career. Reenactors will engage in the siege of Charleston on Sat, and the Battle of Huck's Defeat on Sunday. There will be living history demonstrations for all ages, including infantry, artillery, and cavalry demonstrations throughout the weekend.

Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site

9621 Reed Mine Rd., Midland, NC 28163, 704 721 GOLD (4653) http://www.nchistoricsites.org/reed/reed.htm

From Mercenary to Miner, Saturday, June 18 from 9 am to 5 pm.

John Reed was more than just a miner; he was also a Hessian soldier who deserted during the American Revolution in 1782. Demonstrations, military reenactors and special lectures will be offered.

Mount Holly Historical Society

131 South Main, Mount Holly, NC mhhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Restoration of the Mundy House in Denver, NC, Tuesday May 24 at 7 pm, Free.

Jason Harpe, Director of Lincoln Co. Historical Society, will speak.



Mount Holly Oral Histories, Tuesday June 28 at 7 pm, Free.

Bobby Black will speak on several oral histories that have been completed with local Mt. Holly citizens.

The Great Flood of 1916, Saturday, July 16 from 10 am to 4 pm, in Downtown Mt. Holly, Free.

Flood Fest: The 100th Anniversary of the Great Flood of 1916. Celebrating Mt. Holly, NC citizens' resilience.

The Great Flood of 1916, Tuesday, July 26 at 7 pm, Free.

Mike Baxter from CPCC will discuss "The Great Flood of 1916" and how it impacted Mt. Holly.

Kings Mountain National Military Park

SC Hwy 216. I-85, Exit 2 in North Carolina. Follow the signs. 864-936-7921 http://www.nps.gov/kimo

Military Through the Ages, Saturday and Sunday, May 28-29 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Living history interpreters from every war from the French & Indian War to today's military will represent their respect time periods. Weapons demonstration will be held throughout the day.

Children's Colonial Day, Saturday, June 11 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Fourth of July Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, July 2 and 3 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Backcountry Militia will be encamped this weekend demonstrating a variety of skills from the 18th Century.

North Carolina Highland Regiment Encampment, Friday and Saturday July 23 and 24 from 10 am to 4 pm. Come learn about this Loyalist Regiment.

Backcountry Militia Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, August 6 and 7 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Cowpens National Battlefield

I-85 South Carolina Exit 83, follow signs, 864-461-2828 www.nps.gov/cowp

Living History Weekend, Saturday and Sunday, June 4 and 5 from 10 am to 4 pm.

First Maryland, Southern Campaign encampment (American Continentals). Weapons firing demonstrations at 10:30, 11:45, 1:45, and 3:15.

Living History Day, Saturday June 11 from 10 am to 4 pm.

New Acquisition Militia - featuring activities such as sewing, laundry, cooking, rifle making, and weapons firing demos. At 2:30 there will be a talk on "The Year of 1780 - Turning from Uncertainty to Victory".

Living History Day, Saturday, June 18 from 10 am to 4 pm.

The SC Rangers (American Militia). Weapons firing demonstrations at 10:30, 11:30, 1:30, and 2:30.

Celebration of Freedom, Saturday, July 2 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Family Friendly patriotic activities.

Living History Day, Saturday, August 6 from 10 am to 4 pm.

SC Rangers (American Militia). Weapons firing demonstrations at 10:30, 11:30, 1:30, and 2:30.



Fort Defiance

On highway 268, 5.5 miles northeast of HWY 321, near Lenoir, NC, 828 758 1671. www.fortdefiancenc.org

Happy Birthday General William Lenoir, Saturday, May 7 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Celebrate William Lenoir's 266th birthday, tour Fort Defiance and learn about its construction. Hear how it looked when the General was alive and about some of his hobbies. There will be a birthday cake at noon for the General.

Happy Birthday America, Saturday, July 2 from 11 am to 4 pm.

Celebrate America's Independence at Fort Defiance in Happy Valley.

Kings Mountain Historical Museum

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

Turning Point: The Battle of Kings Mountain, a New Exhibit, Open June 18 through October 15, Tuesdays through Saturdays 10 am to 4 pm, Free.

Learn about the victory that marked the turning point of the American Revolution. Original artifacts will draw you into the triumphs and tragedies of the lives surrounding the Battle of Kings Mountain, a conflict that brutally pit brother against brother in the Carolina Piedmont frontier in 1780. Displays relating to annual celebrations of the Battle of Kings Mountain reflect the spirit of their time and an enduring commitment to commemorate those who bravely changed the course of American history.

The Farmer's Wife, Book Talk, Thursday, May 12 at 5:30 pm, Free.

Author and columnist Kathryn Hamrick will present her new book and tell about her weekly column in the Shelby Star, which ran from 1983-2004. These columns told the witty and comical real-life stories of her adjustment from being a city girl to being a rural dairy farmer's wife. Behind the laughter, Hamrick helped readers understand what life was like for a farm family in Cleveland County, illuminating the challenges and joy that lifestyle has brought to generations.

Turning the Tide of War, Book Talk, Thursday, July 14 at 5:30 pm, Free.

Author Ken Henderson will talk about his true-life adventure novel telling the story of the Battle of Kings Mountain 1780. As the Revolutionary War seemed to be a lost cause the Battle of Kings Mountain helped turn the tide of war and lead to victory. This is the story of Josh Mosby, Chief of Scouts, and the events which forced him to choose between saving his family or leading the Patriots to find the enemy.

Union County Public Library

316 E. Windsor St., Monroe, NC, www.unionlib.nc.us 704 283 8184

Union County Public Library Celebration, Sunday, May 1, drop-in between 2 to 5 pm.

Join us as we remember 50 years in our current location. The guest register from 50 years ago will be available for signing and a slide-show about the 1966 library will be playing all afternoon. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library.

War Zone: World War II off North Carolina's Outer Banks, Sunday, May 22 at 2:30 pm.

For six months in 1942, sixty-five German U-boats hunted merchant vessels, practically unopposed, within view of North Carolina's coastal communities. Three hundred ninety-seven ships were sunk or damaged, and 5,000 people killed by these U-boat attacks. Kevin Duffus, 2014-15 North Carolina Historian of the Year, will present a program based on his collection of eyewitness stories of the merchant sailors, Coast Guard recruits, and coastal residents who survived the events.



The Iredell Museum

1335 Museum Road, Statesville, NC, 704-873-4734 http://www.iredellmuseums.org

The Mummy Treasure of Al Faiyum, now on Exhibit at the Iredell Museum

North Carolina's only Egyptian Mummy is now on display at the Iredell Museums in Statesville. The Mummy Treasure of Al Faiyum will take you on an interactive journey through the life of "Margaret" a 3,000 year old Mummy from Egypt.

The Rowan Museum

202 N. Main Street, Salisbury http://www.rowanmuseum.org

Special Forces in Vietnam, History Club Meeting, Tuesday, May 10 at 7 pm.

President Washington Comes to Visit, Saturday, May 21, All Day.

On May 30th 1791 President George Washington, on his Southern Tour, spent the day and night in Salisbury. On this 225th anniversary of his visit, Mr. Washington will be about town visiting with the populace and observing the town. There will be a banquet in his honor that evening – for reservations, contact the museum.

"Mama, why does the water have a color?" New Exhibit Opens, Sunday, June 12 at 1 pm.

A Taste of History, History Club Meeting, Tuesday, June 14 at 7 pm.

A Night at the Museum, Saturday, August 13 at 4:30 pm.

A joint event of the Rowan Museum and the Spencer Toy and Doll Museum.

