

## Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

*Promoting Local History through Education and Research*

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



May, June, July and August 2018  
Volume 24, Number 3

### Look Inside This Issue

- Who was Willie Shipp?
- Fifty Years of Special Collections At UNC Charlotte.
- How Nature and Nurture Turned an Unruly Fiber into King Cotton, at the MHA dinner meeting.
- May is Mecklenburg History Month:
  - The Inaugural Captain James Jack Colonial Dinner, Monday May 14..
  - Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence Celebration, Friday, May 18.
  - Meck Dec Day at The Olde Mecklenburg Brewery, Sunday, May 20.
  - Captain Jack's Historic Bike Ride Sunday, May 20.
- A Report on Voices from the Past.
- Announcing *Eminent Charlotteans*, A New Book by Scott Syfert.
- Plus History News and the Calendar of Events for the Entire Summer.

### *Who was Willie Shipp?*

There is a 30 foot high granite obelisk weighing 15 tons in his honor behind the Federal Court House on Trade Street in uptown Charlotte. This monument is the only Spanish American War memorial in Charlotte and one of the very few in the US. And there is a chapter dedicated to him in Scott Syfert's new book, *Eminent Charlotteans*, just out.

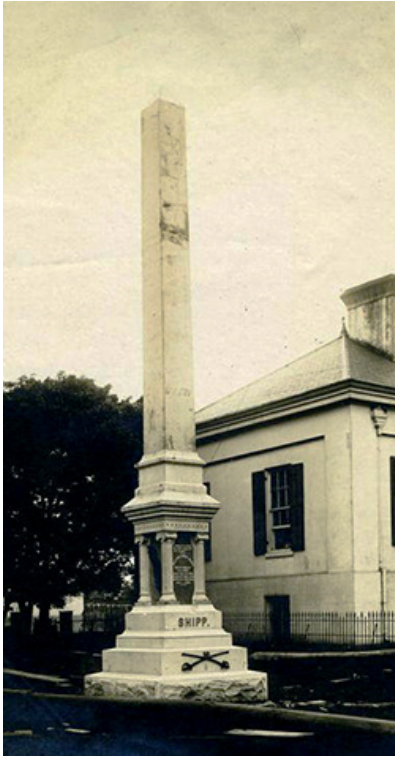
The Federal government is building an annex behind that Court House. They had a dedication ceremony on Friday, March 23 complete with honored guests, the NC Army Reserve band and color guard, patriotic speeches, fife and drum, and salutes from muskets and a cannon. In addition to the ground breaking, they celebrated the centenary of the Court House which was built in 1915. At the end of the ceremony Chief Judge Frank Whitney paid special honor to Lt. William Shipp and the monument that honors him. Judge Whitney announced that the monument will be moved to the front of the Court House where it was originally placed and where it belongs.

Willie Shipp (23 August 1861–1 July 1898) was descended from a long line of American patriots. A great-grandfather was General Peter Forney of Lincoln County who served in the Militia during the Revolution. A grandfather served in the NC Assembly and in the War of 1812. Shipp's father was a lawyer, politician and judge. He was a captain in the Civil War, then a Judge in Charlotte.

Willie's mother died when he was four and he was raised in Lincolnton by his grandmother. He attended the Carolina Military Institute in Charlotte, which had been founded by Daniel Harvey Hill some years before, and then won a competitive appointment to West Point in 1879. He was the first southerner to attend the Academy after the Civil War.



He graduated well up in his class and, having his pick of assignments, chose the 10<sup>th</sup> US Cavalry, the Buffalo Soldiers. Serving on the western frontier, these former slaves, many of whom had been Union Soldiers in the Civil War, earned this name from the enemy they fought. The Indians said that their hair looked like buffalo fur and they were of great courage. He served with distinction as a second lieutenant, was commended for gallantry fighting against Geronimo and was promoted to First Lieutenant.



When the Spanish American War broke out in 1898 Shipp was offered a staff position but volunteered to lead his buffalo soldiers, Troop F of the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, to fight the Spanish in Cuba. At the battle of Santiago he rode through shot and shell to carry orders to Colonel Theodore Roosevelt to lead the assault up San Juan Hill. He then returned to his company and led them to guard the flank of Roosevelt's Rough Riders as they climbed the hill, won the battle and ended the Spanish American War. Advancing up the hill, Lt. Shipp was killed by rifle fire at the head of his beloved Buffalo Soldiers.

Willie Shipp was buried in Lincolnton with 3,000 in attendance, including Confederate veterans and the Lee Rifles of Charlotte. The school children of Lincolnton and Charlotte raised money to build a memorial to Shipp and to his honor and bravery. On May 20, 1902 this magnificent monument was installed and dedicated near the Charlotte Branch Mint on Trade Street. Five thousand people attended the unveiling with a military band, mounted police, marshals, and military units from all over North Carolina.

Colonel Roosevelt, by now US President Theodore Roosevelt, was unable to attend the unveiling of the Shipp Monument but he did bring Lt. Shipp's widow and two sons to the White House in October 1902. Roosevelt said to Shipp's widow Margaret, "He took breakfast with me on the morning he was killed. He was as true and brave a man as ever lived."

In 1905 President Roosevelt made a state visit to Charlotte where he stood in front of the monument recounting the bravery and dedication of his friend Lieutenant William "Willie" Ewan Shipp.

William Ewan Shipp, Jr. was three years old when his father died on San Juan Hill. He grew up to attend West Point, was promoted to Captain and commanded troops in the first world war, In his military career he became military attaché in a number of countries before, during and after the Second World War. Jim Williams

### *Fifty Years of Special Collections At UNC Charlotte*

On April 3<sup>rd</sup> Robin Brabham spoke to the MHA Docents about his years at Special Collections at UNCC. His full paper is available on request from the Dandelion editors. The following is extracted from that paper.

Having received a Masters Degree in history from UNC and another in Library Science from Emory, Robin went to work at UNCC in 1969, just four years after it came into existence. This decision was on the recommendation of one of his professors and was a fortunate one for him, for UNCC, and for the History Community in Charlotte. He began by ordering books for the library and was able to nudge the holdings in the direction of history. Their hope, even in those early days was that UNCC would become a research university like UNC Chapel Hill and for that they needed a suitable library collection to support this research. Today the Adkins Library at UNCC contains over 1,000,000 volumes.

Miss Bonnie Cone was the founder of the University which began as Charlotte College and eventually became a part of the UNC system. The foundation for Special Collections was laid with the establishment of the university itself when Miss Bonnie invited staff members of the State Archives to come to campus in the fall of 1965. They surveyed the "official" records that would be created and determined which of them would warrant permanent preservation. When Miss Bonnie retired in 1966 and Dr. Colvard took over, her files as president of Charlotte College were transferred to the library; and the University Archives were born.

When Robin started at the library there was already the beginnings of a rare book collection. It had been the anonymous gift of the widow of a Davidson professor and contained a small collection of historic erotica which was quite popular with the students and some of the faculty.

The first major collection was the papers of Harry Golden, a bestselling author, newspaper reporter and publisher, civil rights activist and public gadfly. The second important manuscript collection was the papers of Charlotte Mayor Stan Brookshire who donated them to UNCC to keep them from being discarded by the city. Today Special Collections contains the papers of all Charlotte Mayors since that time.

The new library building was built in 1971 and the tower was named for Harry Dalton, a local philanthropist who had been stationed at Camp Greene during the First World War and married a native Charlottean. Over the years the Daltons would add much to the cultural resources of the Charlotte area and make major donations to the rare book collection and to construct the Dalton Rare Book and Manuscript Room on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of the Dalton Tower. Today that rare book collection includes a number of first editions by writers such as Walt Whitman, Herman Melville, Louisa May Alcott, and William Faulkner. In 1973 Robin was appointed Special Collections Librarian, due in great part to the generosity and influence of Harry and Mary Dalton.

Over the years Atkins Library Special Collections has continued to grow, competing as an equal, for collections and staff, with the major research facilities of the state – N. C. Archives and History, the Southern Collection at UNC Chapel Hill, The Rubenstein Library at Duke University and the Carolina Room at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library. They have entered into agreements with Archives and History to be a repository for certain materials which, by law, belong to the state archives but now reside at UNCC. This brings major research material to a place where it can be organized properly and made available to researchers in the Charlotte area.

A recent focus of the collections is that of African-American history which contains much material of national importance, documenting the contributions made to that history in our area.

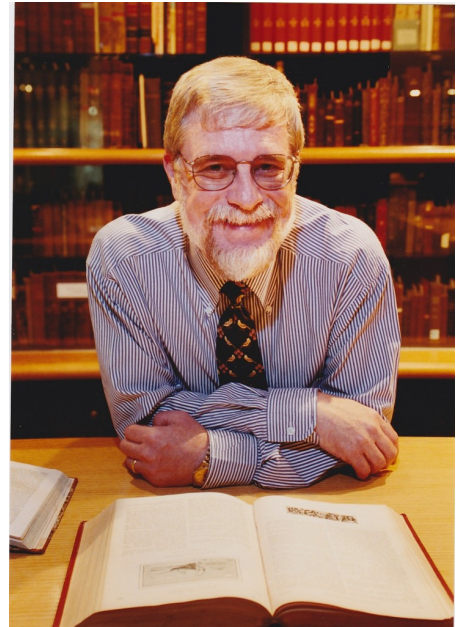
In the early 1980s Robin joined the Mecklenburg Historical Association and made the acquaintance of a number of the members. He got to know Dick Banks, a newspaperman and owner of Cedar Grove, possibly the most spectacular antebellum plantation house in the state, and with the assistance of Mrs. Mary Boyer, convinced him to allow his family papers to be microfilmed. This had to be done at the Mecklenburg Register of Deeds by a student assistant. It seems that the Torrance-Banks family seldom discarded a piece of paper so the microfilming involved a lot of driving back and forth to generate 28 microfilm reels. This built trust between Dick and Robin and led to the eventual donation of the entire collection of 16,200 papers.

Robin also got to know Mary Louise Davidson and Alice Davidson Able, two sisters who lived at Rosedale, their ancestral home. They eventually donated their family papers and some very old books to Special Collections. This material supports and enhances the interpretation of this important Charlotte historic site.

Another major collection is material from Florence, S. C. on NASCAR and automobile racing which comprises 171 linear feet of manuscripts. There is also a large collection of material from Spartanburg, S. C. on the Ku Klux Klan.

Since Robin retired eleven years ago Special Collections has continued to grow, now having 19 employees. Construction is under way to make more room for the collections as they continue to expand. UNCC Special Collections today stands high among the ranks of North Carolina history collections, forming a firm basis for scholars to study and understand the history of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County and “The Carolina Backcountry.”

Jim Williams





## *From the Chairman*

I am going HOME! I want to smell the lilacs in June; eat Great Lakes whitefish; walk the beach dunes; and hop from sphagnum mat to mat around the bug station. I want to cross the bridge to the UP; take the ferry to Mackinac Island. Home to Michigan, one more time with different interests now and a desire to explore history and renew my sense of place.

"Sense of place." Rick Bragg introduced me to that phrase in his book *My Southern Journey: True Stories from the Heart of the South*. His sense of place was his South. "It suits me, here. My people tell their stories—the joys of this Southern life ...I am home now." By seeing his people's hopes, and looking into their sock drawers and recipe books, he has learned family secrets and grasped his sense of place.

My mother and her mother and her mother lived in Michigan as farming people around Marlette, in the thumb of Michigan. I learned Mom's stories: having her tonsils out on the kitchen table of the farmhouse; never learning to drive a car, but driving a team of mules, and plowing the fields. During the depression they always had food—which they grew and shared.

I remember Grandma's button tin and Mom's quilt she made at the age of ten! I slept well under the kaleidoscope of colors and patterns of that quilt. And there were Mom's date-filled cookies she only made at Christmas. Their sense of place and mine, too!

This summer, I would like each of you to find a sense of place and explore it. Your own sense of place, or Charlotte's, or a site's, or an author's. Go, see, learn, and share with the rest of the Docents come September. I challenge you all to discover a 'sense of place.'

Audrey Mellichamp

## *Newsletter Deadline*

The deadline for the September/October Dandelion is Tuesday, August 14. Send articles to Jim and Ann Williams at [mhadandelion@sindspring.com](mailto:mhadandelion@sindspring.com)

## *MHA Docent Programs*

### **Tuesday, May 1 A Journey to Springfield**

Our May meeting will be a fieldtrip to Springfield, the York County plantation home of John Springs III. This will be an architectural tour, and a follow up to the program presented to us in February by Ann Evans. Because of space limitations within the house we have been asked to keep attendance to a manageable size. We surveyed our members to give docents priority, and unfortunately have no more room for visitors. Those who are on our attendance list will receive driving directions and other details by email.

### **Tuesday, June 5 Annual Docent Picnic**

Our docent picnic this year will be at the Charlotte Museum of History. We will meet there at 10 am for a tour of the Hezekiah Alexander House. As most of you know this 1774 stone house is the oldest standing structure in Mecklenburg County, and the extended Alexander families were among our earliest settlers and community leaders. The house is beautifully restored and tells a fascinating story.

After the tour we will have a brief business meeting followed by the picnic. Everyone should bring a covered dish to share; we will provide iced tea, water, and paper products. The Charlotte Museum of History is at 3500 Shamrock Drive. When you arrive at the museum unload your covered dish, and they will be taken by golf cart to the picnic area behind the building. Anything that must be kept cold should be in a cooler. Then walk up the hill to the homesite, or the golf cart will be available if needed.

## *MHA Dinner Meeting*

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](mailto:btaylor797@aol.com) or 980-335-0326.

Ann Williams will be our speaker at our dinner meeting on May 21. She will share with us what she has learned about cotton in a program titled "Early America's Sleeping Beauty: How Nature and Nurture Turned an Unruly Fiber into King Cotton." The program will be augmented by her research in the Rural Hill Farm Journals.



In America's early days Upland Cotton, the variety that grows readily across the South, had botanical factors that kept it unprofitable. This was a great frustration to farmers until Eli Whitney invented a new kind of gin. We'll hear about the botany of cotton, Whitney's improved gin, and how it complicated his sad love life. Scientific farming was coming into play, yet cotton farming was still very labor intensive. Cotton had a major impact on the national economy, and a role in precipitating the Civil War.

Ann Williams has researched and interpreted local antebellum historic sites for many years. About ten years ago she began researching cotton in order to better understand plantation life. More recently she published *The Rural Hill Farm Journals of Adam Brevard Davidson, 1834-1856*. She will talk about transcribing those journals, Rural Hill's use of Scientific Farming, an important advancement for 19<sup>th</sup> century agriculture, and the immense amount of detail the journals added to her research.



## *MHA North Branch Meeting*

**Tuesday, May 8  
Merino's Furniture Warehouse**

David Stockwell will host our meeting at Merino's Furniture Warehouse, 500 S Main St, Mooresville. Merino's occupies an early 20<sup>th</sup> century cotton mill and has maintained much of the original character of the structure. The owner George Bulat will lead a tour of the facility and tell us his story. The tour will begin at 7 pm. Some of us will gather before the meeting at The Barcelona Burger and Beer Garden at the north end of the building, at 5:45. There will be no North Branch meetings in June, July or August.

## *May is Mecklenburg History Month*

### **The Inaugural Captain James Jack Colonial Dinner, Monday, May 14 at 6 pm, \$50.00 The Olde Mecklenburg Brewery, 4150 Yancey Road, Charlotte**

Join us for a three course colonial themed dinner with each course paired with a different beer from The Olde Mecklenburg Brewery. Nationally renowned artist Chas Fagan will discuss how he came up with the image of Captain James Jack used in the *Spirit of Mecklenburg* statue on The Trail of History. Reservations required at <http://may20thsociety.org/events/captjackdinner>

### **Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence Celebration Friday, May 18 at noon, Independence Square, Free**

This year May 20<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday so in keeping with long-standing tradition, the MHA will hold our annual celebration on Friday, May 18 at Independence Square (the corners of Trade and Tryon Streets in uptown Charlotte).

2018 marks the 243<sup>rd</sup> 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 cannon. Afterwards we will parade two blocks to Settlers Cemetery to honor Colonel Thomas Polk with a wreath and 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 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.

### **Meck Dec Day at The Olde Mecklenburg Brewery Sunday, May 20, from 11 am to close.**

Visit Olde Mecklenburg Brewery for their annual Meck Dec day celebration. Enjoy a pint of Captain Jack pilsner and watch a movie about the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

### **Captain Jack's Historic Bike Ride Sunday, May 20 at 2 pm, Olde Mecklenburg Brewery**

In the summer of 1775, Captain James Jack, a local tavern owner, rode 450 miles to deliver the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia. In honor of this historic ride, there will be a bike ride from the Olde Mecklenburg Brewery to various historical locations around Charlotte. The ride will leave from the Olde Mecklenburg Brewery and finishing there with a social upon return.



## Voices From The Past

April 14<sup>th</sup> was our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual presentation of Voices From The Past, the cemetery tour of Settlers' and Elmwood/Pinewood presented by the MHA Docents. Once again nature sent us a spectacular day – a fine warm sun tempered now and again by little breezes and a scattering of clouds. Just as last year we had about fifty portrayers; eighteen were newcomers, the rest repeat performers. The crowd was estimated at 400 which is a lot of folks to share history with in a single afternoon. The MHA Board thanks Lynn Mintzer who chaired the event, her amazing committee and volunteers for a job well done.

The comment we heard over and over: “The portrayers were all so very, very good!” What else would you expect? They worked hard, they learned their stories, and truly assumed the personas of their characters. And they had lots of fun doing so.

Volunteers manning the information tables and assisting visitors helped things run smoothly. The addition of

“Southern Belles” at Elmwood was a great idea. They were properly attired young ladies from the Children’s Theater who strolled the grounds helping visitors locate the various portrayers.

We would also like to thank our Event Sponsors, Harry & Bryant Company and Charlotte Center City Partners for continuing to support Voices From The Past.

Look for announcements in the fall; there will be opportunities for portrayers, volunteers, and those who just want to enjoy the day.

MHA Docent Committee



## Eminent Charlotteans

A New Book by Scott Syfert

The author of *The First American Declaration of Independence? The Disputed History of the Mecklenburg Declaration of May 20, 1775* (Jefferson, N. C, McFarland, 2014) has written a new book published by McFarland. It is available on Amazon and will soon be in better book stores, including Park Road Books in Charlotte.

*Eminent Charlotteans* contains historical profiles of twelve selected figures from Charlotte's past including:

**King Haigler.** Leader of the Catawba Indian Nation during the mid-1700s. He kept the Nation together amidst the storms of European settlement, internecine warfare and smallpox. He befriended a Scots-Irish leader in Mecklenburg named...

**Thomas “Kanawha” Spratt.** By legend, the first family to cross the Yadkin River in a wagon. Thom Spratt personified the Scots-Irish frontiersman that the British would later hate and fear during the American Revolution (they called them “crackers”). As one British officer described Spratt and his kinsmen: “This distinguished race of men are more savage than the Indians and possess *every* one of their vices but *not one* of their virtues.”

**Ishmael Titus.** This slave from Rowan County was sent by his master to fight against the British for the freedom of America. He was promised his own freedom if he served honorably. After fulfilling his promise and fighting in the Revolution his master refused to keep his promise of freedom. Titus then escaped to Massachusetts where he lived free the rest of his life.

**Captain James Jack.** The “South’s Paul Revere,” Jack delivered the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence to the Continental Congress in the Summer of 1775. Or did he? What papers was he carrying?

**Thad Tate.** Born of slaves in 1865, Tate became the leading African-American civic leader in Mecklenburg, working to establish libraries, schools and businesses for the black community, while acting as a celebrity barber.

**Dr. Annie Alexander.** The first female physician in North Carolina, she broke the glass ceiling in a time when women doctors simply *didn’t do*.

**Hugh Crofts.** A quiet man, he taught American history in the Charlotte school system for decades. His students never knew of his actions as a infantryman and tank spotter at the battle of Tarawa, one of the most savage engagements in the Pacific in the second world war, until well after his death. He personified the greatest generation.

The stories of Alexander Craighead, Joseph Graham, Thomas Polk and William Shipp round out the twelve. Those familiar with the writing of Syfert have anticipated this book for some time. Those unfamiliar with his writings should look forward to an accurate, carefully researched and very enjoyable read.

## *History News*

### **The Battle of Buford's Defeat, Saturday May 26.**

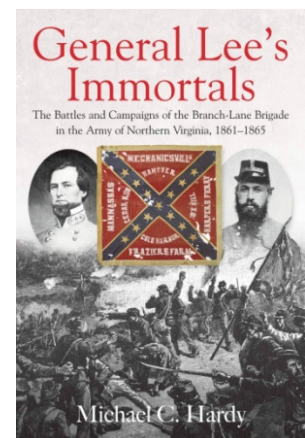
On May 29, 1780, Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton’s British Legion attacked Virginia Continental Troops led by Colonel Abraham Buford. British brutality at this battle galvanized support in the backcountry for the American cause and “Tarleton’s Quarter” quickly became a rallying cry.

Celebrate the 238th Anniversary of the Battle of Buford's Defeat on Saturday, May 26. The battlefield is located in the Buford Community, just south of the intersection of South Carolina Highways 9 and 522. The celebration begins with a Memorial Service at 10:30 am with a laying of wreathes by the DAR, SAR, the Children of the American Revolution, and others at the mass grave on the battlefield. Reenactors will fire a salute to the fallen and rangers from the South Carolina State Park Service will provide information about the battle and its aftermath. Learn more about the efforts to protect and care for this hallowed ground.

### ***General Lee’s Immortals*, Book Signing, Saturday, May 5 at 1 pm, Barnes & Noble., Carolina Place Mall.**

In this deeply researched work we witness the experiences of North Carolina's Branch-Lane Brigade in nearly every major battle fought in the east, including that infamous day at Chancellorsville when its members mistakenly shot Stonewall Jackson. Two months later they were in Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg, and thereafter throughout the titanic battles of 1864. In the meantime we learn of the camp-life and the hard winters of Lee's army. Yet when Lee finally surrendered at Appomattox it was the Branch-Lane Brigade still with him, no longer victors but yet unbowed.

Michael Hardy's *General Lee's Immortals* is the first comprehensive history of the Branch-Lane Brigade, and fully meets Captain Gatlin's challenge by setting forth the complete story of these "more than immortal men." This book is based on many years of study and grounded on a vast foundation of sources that relate every aspect of the career of this remarkable fighting command. The reader will come to think he has met, marched with, fought beside, and bled with these North Carolinians.





***Liberty Mountain will be Performed Friday, June 29 through Sunday, July 22 in Kings Mountain.***

This is the fifth season for this excellent play and tickets are now available at [www.LibertyMountainDrama.com](http://www.LibertyMountainDrama.com). Performances will be at the Joy Performance Center in the city of Kings Mountain.

Liberty Mountain, written by Robert (Bob) Inman, tells the story of the settling of the Carolinas by hardy families who were caught up in the chaos of the American Revolution. The production climaxes with the historic Battle of Kings Mountain, where Patriots defeated a larger, better-trained force of Loyalists and turned the tide of the Revolution. It is an action-packed and inspiring drama for the entire family.

***The History Calendar***

Admission charged at most events unless otherwise noted.

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

Check the Charlotte Regional History Consortium website for other events.

<http://www.charlotteregionalhistory.org>

***Historic Rosedale***

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

**Gardening In Charlotte, Saturday, May 5 from 9 am to noon, \$20.00.**

Distinguished botanist Larry Mellichamp, author of *Native Plants of The Southeast* and three other books, will present a lecture and workshop about gardening in the Queen City. Dr. Mellichamp is a professor emeritus and former director of the botanical gardens at UNC Charlotte. He will discuss pruning, bulbs, soil types and local weather. Reservations required.

**Hats off To Mom, Thursday through Sunday, May 10-13, Tours at 1:30 and 3 pm, plus 11 am on Saturday.**

Wear your favorite hat and come to Rosedale for a special tour chronicling hats through the ages. A highlight of the tour is our prized green silk bonnet, one of the oldest locally made textiles. Light refreshments will be served in the English Basement Kitchen.

**Paranormal Grounds Investigation, Friday & Saturday, June 15 & 16, Check in at 7:30, tour from 8 to 9:30 pm, \$20.00.**

Join professional ghost hunters as they take groups of 20 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!

**Summer Solstice Experience, Thursday, June 21 at 8 to 9:30 pm, arrive at 7:40, gates close at 7:45. \$65.00, Reservations required.**

On this longest day of the year, Rosedale's Summer Solstice Experience will be led by Reiki Master and Cherokee Shaman descendant Faye Wright. Honoring the four directions plus heaven and earth, the evening will include an intimate session (no more than 12 participants) on how to cleanse yourself and your personal space with sage through the art of "smudging."

**Sew to the Point: Textile Exhibit, Open June 20 through August 19.**

This exhibit includes quilts and textiles that have rarely been seen on display in the home. Including locally made pieces of exquisite hand craftsmanship and a piece belonging to the family who lived at Rosedale. This special exhibit is only here for a limited time and can be seen during our regular house tour or by appointment.

## Rosedale Summer Camps

- **Fairy Camp, Tuesday, July 24 at 10 am to 1 pm.** Have your wee ones visit Historic Rosedale for this half day camp. They will explore our urban shire and hunt for fairies that hide all around while learning about the whimsical folklore behind some of their favorite characters, and create enchanting crafts that would impress the most finicky of fairies. Snacks and water are included.
- **Pirate Camp, Wednesday, July 25 at 10 am to 1 pm.** Arrrrrg... you ready for adventure? Learn about North Carolina's rich pirate history in this swashbuckling half day camp. Create jolly good crafts, hunt for buried treasure, and find out how pirates and the open seas could affect life back here in Charlotte. Young landlubbers will also receive snacks and water.
- **Take Walk on The Wild Side (Nature Camp), Thursday, July 26 at 10 am to 1 pm.** Buzz around like a bee in this fun and educational half day camp where kids connect with nature in a unique historic setting and urban green space. The camp includes educational games about the local surroundings, plants, and animals as well as insect themed craft activities. Pollen and nectar (snacks & water) will also be provided.
- **Old Timey Picnic, Friday, July 27 at 11 am to 1 pm.** Come as you are or dress up for this fun filled festivity. Our counselors will don their Antebellum finery to serve our picnic. Receive a brief lesson on the life and etiquette of those who used to live in the plantation house. Campers who join us for all four days of camp will also receive a certificate during the festivities. Parents are welcome to join in on all the fun.

## *Historic Latta Plantation*

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

## **WWII Battle Reenactment, Saturday and Sunday, May 5 and 6 from 10 am to 4 pm each day.**

This annual battle reenactment showcases the lives of Allied and Axis troops during WWII, both at home and abroad. Glimpse the lives of soldiers and civilians and learn how their lives were impacted by the war. Enjoy food vendors, self-guided tours, visiting with reenactors, and a live battle each day at 2 pm. Bring a chair and extra cash to shop with vendors. Picnic areas available.

## *Hugh Torrance House and Store*

8231 Gilead Road, Huntersville, NC [www.hughtorancehouseandstore.com/](http://www.hughtorancehouseandstore.com/)

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

The Hugh Torrance 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>

## **The Council of Defense in WW I, Thursday, May 10 at 6 to 8 pm, Free.**

Matthew Peek with Archives and History will tell how this home front organizations was created to mobilize civilians in support of the war effort. Presented by the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, The Charlotte Museum of History, and UNC Charlotte.

**Colonial Gem Fundraiser, Thursday, May 17 from 6 to 8:30 pm, \$100.00.**

Celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Charlotte and support the county's oldest home, the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite.

**Meck Dec Day Celebration, Saturday, May 19 from 11 am to 5 pm.**

Celebrate the Mecklenburg Declarations of Independence of May 20, 1775 with a reading of the Meck Dec, tours of the house and a military encampment.

**Teas of the British Isles, Sundays at 4 to 5:30 pm, \$40.00, Reservations Required and Sell Out Early.**

- June 24 – The London of Sherlock Holms.
- July 29 – Dickens' England.
- August 26 – Spies and Spymasters.
- September 30 – Mecklenburg County during the Revolution.

**Fourth of July Celebration and Naturalization Ceremony, Wednesday, July 4 from 10 am to 2 pm, Free.****Speaking Easy in the Queen City, Saturday, July 7 from 6 to 9 pm. \$65.00.**

Enjoy prohibition era cocktails, dance to the jazz band and play speakeasy games.

***Historic Brattonsville***

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

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

**Time Travel Tuesdays, each Tuesday in June and July plus August 7 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

On these Tuesdays costumed interpreters will present special focus days. Join them and explore the many aspects of 18th and 19th century life for the Bratton family and others in the Carolina Piedmont.

**Sheep Shearing, Saturday, May 12 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

This is the annual shearing of our sheep. Along with shearing demonstrations, costumed interpreters will highlight the many processes such as carding, spinning, dyeing and more to turn raw wool into finished garments. And be sure to meet our spring lambs while you are here.

**Independence Day at Hightower Hall, Wednesday, July 4 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Our 1850s Independence Day Celebration includes activities to honor the holiday as our Carolina Piedmont ancestors did long ago. There will be historic cooking demonstrations, children's military drills, and toys and games. The program will climax with the reading of the Declaration of Independence from the front steps of Hightower Hall.

**Battle of Huck's Defeat, Saturday, July 14 from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday, July 15 from 10 am to 3 pm.**

Captain Christian Huck and his Loyalist troops were soundly defeated in the early morning hours of July 12, 1780, in a battle that took place at the home of William Bratton's neighbor, James Williamson. This victory inspired confidence for backcountry Patriots and began to turn the tide for success in winning Independence from King George. Reenactors recreate these battle activities and more during our annual reenactment weekend.



## *The Schiele Museum*

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

### **The Story of Flax: Plant to Petticoat, Sunday, June 24 from 1 to 5 pm.**

Long before cotton became King in the South, the early settlers in the Carolinas relied on the strong fibers of the flax plant for processing into linen thread and fabric for hand-sewn clothing. Visit the Backcountry farm to see period interpreters processing flax in the 18<sup>th</sup> century fashion. Try your hand at braking, scutching and hackling and discover the many other virtues of flax.

### **A Rendezvous of Idlers, Sunday, August 12 from 1 to 5 pm.**

An 18<sup>th</sup> Century traveling clergyman, Charles Woodmason observed “these Assemblies at Private Houses for Singing... is reprehensible... these Singing Matches lie under the Imputation of being only Rendezvous of Idlers”. Assemble with the Backcountry folk at Moss Station for an idle afternoon of music, dance, and intrigue in the Carolina Backcountry in August 1775.

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

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

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

### **The Historic Southern Kitchen: A Class on the Old Southern Way of Cooking, Saturday, May 5 at 9 am to 2 pm, \$60.00.**

Learn the traditions and techniques of the Historic Southern Kitchen from trained chef and historic cook Cheryl Henry during this half-day class. Students will prepare a three-course meal from scratch in the rustic environs of the log kitchen house at the President James K. Polk State Historic Site.

### **Music, Dance, n’ Que Festival and Fundraiser, Saturday, May 19 from 11 am to 3 pm, Free.**

At this annual festival hear live bands, enjoy plates of local BBQ, pours from local breweries and dessert from the ice cream truck. Visit historic log cabins and interact with living historians. Do some shopping in the Vendor Village and there will be a raffle with prizes donated by local artists, businesses, and sponsors. Proceeds will go to the Friends of President Polk Birthplace, a support group that helps fund educational events and field trips.

### **Gathering Gourmet: An Introduction to Wild Edibles, Saturday, June 2 from Noon to 4 pm, \$30.00.**

David Williams will show you how to find tasty foods growing right outside your doorstep, learn how to identify the wild edibles found all over North Carolina and sample natural food and drink prepared from local fare. Expect a 30-minute to 1-hour easy to moderate hike. No experience necessary. Children younger than 12 must be accompanied by parents.

### **Apron-Making Workshop, Saturday June 16 at 2 to 4 pm, \$10.00.**

Historic re-enactor and avid seamstress Mia Dappert will teach you 18<sup>th</sup> century sewing techniques and stitches. Then, you will put your new skills to use creating an apron like those worn by women during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. All workshop materials will be provided. Pre-registration is required.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bubble Day Celebration, Saturday, August 11 from 10 am to 1 pm, \$5.00 per Car.**

This program features activities for very little ones, including arts and crafts, bubble-making, and a water play table. Light, cooling refreshments and take-home treats will be provided.

*Fort Dobbs State Historic Site*

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>**Militia Muster, Saturday June 30 from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday, July 1 from 10 am to 3 pm, Free.**

All males ages 16-60 were required by law to serve in North Carolina's militia during the French and Indian War. These civilians would gather at appointed times during the year to practice military drill and could be used to quickly form an army for defense at times of invasion or insurrection. 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](http://www.matthewsheritagemuseum.org)**Celebrate our 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Saturday, June 9 from 10 am to 4:30 pm, Free.**

Children can participate in making simple crafts, weather permitting. The first Saturday of each month, (June 2 and July 7) the Museum is open free to the public from 10 am to 4:30 pm.

**From Memorial Day thru Labor Day, the Matthews Heritage Museum will participate in the Blue Star Museum Program.**

Blue Star Museums is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and museums across America. Each summer since 2010, Blue Star Museums have offered free admission to the nation's active-duty military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve, from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

*Kings Mountain Historical Museum*

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

[www.kingsmountainmuseum.org](http://www.kingsmountainmuseum.org)**A Century of Fashion in Kings Mountain, 1880-1980, A New Exhibit Open June 9 through October 13, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm, Free.**

This parade of fashion across a tumultuous and exciting century explores the relationship between the changes in the world and the changes in clothing. It highlights some of the peaks of Kings Mountain fashion and showcase some hidden gems in our collection.

**A Century of Fashion, 1880-1980 Costume Party and Sneak Preview, Friday June 8 at 5:30 pm.**

Enjoy dressing up? A fan of the 60s? Come and get a sneak preview of our fashion exhibit and enjoy food, music, and dances of the 1960s.

**Summer Reading Program: Dancing Through the Ages, Wednesday July 18 from 10 am to noon at Central United Methodist Church, 113 S Piedmont Ave, Kings Mountain, Free.**

Mauney Memorial Library and the Museum sponsor this part of the Summer Reading Program, beginning with the Gaston County Museum interactive program, "Dancing through the Ages" at the Church. Afterward the Museum's historic houses (right across the street) will be open to tour and there will be crafts, historic games, face painting, and live music.

*Iredell Museum*

134 Court St, Statesville, NC 704-873-4734

<http://www.iredellmuseums.org>**Tom Dooley Day Festival, Saturday, May 5 from 11 am to 4 pm, Free.**

At this history festival, enjoy the music, meet the characters from the Tom Dooley Project, meet authors of some great books about Tom Dooley, learn more about Statesville history and enjoy some great food and beverages.

**The Tom Dooley Project**, a play in two acts preceded by a mini-concert will be presented at the Iredell County Courthouse Wednesday through Saturday, May 2 through 5 at 8 pm and Sunday, May 6 at 3 pm.

The story of Tom Dooley has been passed down in song, folk tales, books, plays, and movies. After 150 years, Tom Dooley's story continues to mystify and intrigue people from all over North Carolina and beyond. Statesville is where the drama reaches its conclusion. It's a unique opportunity for us to tell the story in one of Statesville's historic buildings.

*Charlotte Folk Society*

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte

[www.folksociety.org](http://www.folksociety.org)**Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams, Friday, May 11 features a CFS Member Showcase, Free.**

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

**Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams, Friday, June 8 featuring Joe Newberry and April Verch, 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](http://www.folksociety.org)

*Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library*310 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, 704 416 0150 <http://cmstory.org>**The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Charlotte, Saturday, May 12 at 10 am, Community Room, University City Library, 301 E. WT Harris Blvd, Charlotte.**

North Carolina State Senator Joyce Waddell, Mecklenburg County Commissioner Vilma Leake, and historian Dr. Willie Griffin will talk about Charlotte's civil rights movement and how it responded to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968. [Please register online](#) for this event. Call Thomas Cole at the Carolina Room (704-416-0150) with any questions.



### *Duke Mansion*

400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte, 704 714 4400

<http://www.dukemansion.com>

**The Duke Mansion Home and Garden Tour, Sunday, June 10 from 1 to 8:30 pm, Free.**

Enjoy a self-guided tour inside the historic landmark home on the National Register of Historic Places. Get a glimpse inside many of the exquisite rooms and explore the manicured 4½ acres of gardens. Wine, beer and cocktails will be available for purchase throughout the afternoon as you tour the grounds. In the evening enjoy music and small bites from Duke Mansion Chef Harrison Booth. Learn the history of The Mansion and experience its setting in one of Charlotte's most historic neighborhoods. Free valet parking on site. Reservations required at <https://homeandgardentour2018.eventbrite.com> or call 704-714-4453.

### *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>

**Fourth of July Encampment, Saturday June 30 and Sunday, July 1, from 10 am to 4 pm, Free.**

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

**Jaeger Korps Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, July 28 and 29 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free.**

Learn about the Jaeger Korps during the American Revolution. Weapons demonstrations and more.

### *Cowpens National Battlefield*

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

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

**Living History Day, Saturday June 2 from 11 am to 4 pm, free.**

1st Maryland, Southern Campaign will give weapons firing demonstrations at 11:15, 1:45, and 3:15 pm.

**Living History Day, Saturday June 16 from 10 am to 4 pm, free.**

SC Rangers will give weapons firing demonstrations at 10:20, 11:20, 1:20, and 2:20 pm.

**Celebration of Freedom, Saturday, July 7 from 10 am to 4 pm, free.**

Battlefield walks, weapons firing demonstrations and reading of the Declaration of Independence.

**Living History Day, Saturday August 25 from 10 am to 4 pm, free.**

SC Rangers will give weapons firing demonstrations at 10:20, 11:20, 1:20, and 2:20 pm.

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