

**Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents**

*Promoting Local History through Education and Research*

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



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*The Slave Dwelling Project*

Through correspondence from The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture I received information regarding a dinner at which Joseph McGill, founder of The Slave Dwelling Project, would be the keynote speaker. Those in attendance at the dinner were invited to be a recipient of an overnight experience with Mr. McGill through raffle selection. Eight winners would spend the weekend at the President James K. Polk State Historic Site.

Mr. McGill has visited slave dwelling since 2010. His intention is to identify extant slave dwellings and work towards their preservation and interpretation as it relates to the history of U.S. slavery. He is a Civil War Reenactor and a member of the South Carolina Humanities Council Speakers Bureau. He has been a Park Ranger at Fort Sumter National Monument in Charleston, SC. and was a field officer for the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Of course, I was attracted to this topic and the prospect of active participation. I received notification of being one of the eight winners of the raffle two days before the event which was held on September 29, 2017. I went to the Polk Site, met staff, the other overnight guests, project members, and North Carolina Humanities Council staff. We were taken to the Gantt Center for dinner where we discussed topics such as history, heritage, memory and roles in community or individual life experiences. Mr. McGill described sleeping in over a hundred slave dwellings in all parts of the United States.

Upon our return to the Polk Site we were welcomed by a campfire. We sat around it and explained our reasons for being there. One person was a descendant of slave owners. She was at this, her 39<sup>th</sup> sleepover, to honor and memorialize the people her family owned. Another person hosts history podcasts. We ranged in age from teen-agers to seniors; we were Asian, black, and white. Some spoke about encounters with people who are insensitive in how they speak to or treat others who are of another ethnic group. On Saturday morning we held up flags which proclaimed that THIS PLACE MATTERS. The inhabitants of the slave dwellings helped to shape this country economically and culturally. Now some blacks and whites are giving recognition to the stories and contributions of the enslaved people.



I have given tours which depict the daily life of the enslaved. I have told about the skills they used to build structures, to farm lands, and to be blacksmiths, lumberjacks, nursemaids, healers and cooks. I could talk about those things from research and reading firsthand accounts recorded after the Civil War. This sleepover reminded me of a tour I took in Richmond, VA. The tour began at the James River. Tour guests instantly became newly arrived enslaved individuals. We were treated as such in being made to line-up one behind the other with our hand upon the shoulder of the person in front of us. We had to walk in silence while threats of bodily harm were hurled at us. A man with a rifle made sure we followed orders. Upon arriving at the slave block we were humiliated at being described and then sold to a bidder.

Sleeping on the wooden floor in a room with strangers gave me deep sensations for the feelings a woman might have felt as she was physically uncomfortable, emotionally unsure about her fate or that of the loved-ones from whom she had been separated, and hearing sounds in the night – were they from creatures which could harm her?

I think guests on my future tours will sense the empathy I have for my ancestors. Being a part of the Slave Dwelling Project strengthened my belief in the versatility of my ancestors. I am grateful for the courage of the woman I imagined myself to be. She, her children, and her companions took the nothingness they had in this new world and created meaningful lives for themselves through their crafts, skills, stories, and music and used them to build this country. We need to preserve every remaining slave dwelling and use each one to tell the story of a remarkable people.

Barbara Jackson

### *Andrew Jackson's Christmas*

In 1835 when Andrew Jackson was in his second term as president, he had living with him in the White House his wife's niece, Emily Donelson, and her four children plus the two children of his adopted son, Andrew Jackson, Jr. That year, Jackson planned a special celebration for Christmas day. He sent invitations to other children: "The children of President Jackson's family request you to join them on Christmas Day, at four o'clock p.m. in a frolic in the East Room." He gave no details of the plans, not even to the children of the White House.

The day before Christmas, Jackson called for a carriage and, taking the children with him, delivered gifts. For Mrs. Dolly Madison there was a gift of embroidered handkerchiefs and snuff; Vice-President Van Buren received a hand-painted mirror. As they rode along, one of the children asked the President, whom they called "Uncle," if he thought that Santa Claus would come to their party the following day. Jackson replied that they must wait to see. Then he told them that he once knew a boy who had never heard of Christmas or of Santa Claus and who never had a toy in his life. This boy lost his father and then his mother died. After her death, the boy had no home and had no friends.

Jackson told the children that they were now going to an orphanage. The remaining presents in the carriage were for the children of the orphanage. The children always remembered the visit to the orphanage and one of them, Mary Donelson, wrote that many years later they realized that Andrew Jackson had described to them his own boyhood in the Waxhaws of Lancaster District. That night President Jackson invited the children to hang their stockings in his bedroom. The children asked Jackson if they could hang a stocking for him. He looked pleased and said that he had waited nearly 70 years before hanging a stocking. Early the next morning the children raced in to see what Santa had left them. In each stocking was a silver quarter, candy, nuts, cake and fruit in addition to a small toy. The children's stocking for "Old Hickory" contained a pair of bedroom slippers, a corncob pipe and a tobacco bag.

That afternoon the children invited to the frolic found the East Room decorated with greenery and mistletoe. For two hours there were games, dancing and singing. At six p.m. the dining room doors opened. The band played "The President's March." The children marched in two-by-two. Their eyes popped as they took in the special creations of the French chef. With icing and confectionery sugar, the chef had created winter scenes such as a

reindeer pausing at a lake with small fish and a frosted pine tree surrounded by animals. There were cakes shaped like apples, pears and corn.

In the center of the table there was a pyramid-shaped pile of cotton "snowballs," lightly frosted, that exploded when struck in a certain manner. After the children had eaten dinner, Jackson showed them how to set off the noise makers and cheered their "snowball fight" which nearly got out of hand as the children filled the air with noise and smoke. Some of the adults must have been reminded of the tumultuous reception that followed Jackson's first inauguration and have viewed the scene with apprehension, but Jackson was obviously taking great pleasure in the children's delight.

Later, when Jackson bid the children good-bye at the White House door they marched across the lawn still very much caught up in the spirit of the evening. Dolly Madison, one of a handful of adult guests, is supposed to have said that the children reminded her of the fairy procession in "Midsummer Night's Dream." Andrew Jackson, who probably had never read any Shakespeare, responded, "No, it makes me think of the words, "Suffer little children to come unto Me..."

Louise Pettus

### *The Lowrie Family of Mecklenburg County*

by Zita Ballinger Fletcher

Editor's Note: We do not ordinarily include genealogy in the Dandelion, but this submission is so concise and contains so many interesting people that we decided to include it. The author is a professional writer and published author who lives in Switzerland.

My great-grandmother Ann Wickliffe Lowrie Arnold had many ties to Mecklenburg County pioneers through her father, Harold Watkins Lowrie. The lives of her relatives reflect the rich history of Mecklenburg over the years.

One of her earliest pioneer ancestors was the Reverend Alexander Craighead, born in Ireland in 1705. Craighead was a Presbyterian minister known for his passionate disposition and radical approach to preaching. An outspoken opponent of King George III, Craighead became a frocked fugitive on the run from British colonial forces as he incited local parishes against royal rule. Excommunicated from the Presbyterian Synod of Philadelphia in 1740, he was chased from various states until he eventually settled in North Carolina, then a frontier. He became a much-beloved leader among the local community and was the first settled pastor of Sugar Creek church. He is credited with influencing the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, written six years after his death in 1766. My great-grandmother Ann and her paternal grandmother, Louise Jemima Watkins Lowrie, were direct descendants of Rev. Craighead's daughter, Nancy Craighead Richardson.

Another noteworthy ancestor of my great-grandmother Ann was Captain Robert Alexander, who emigrated from Pennsylvania to North Carolina in 1760. He fought in the Revolutionary War under the command of General Griffith Rutherford, a former member of the British militia during the French and Indian War. Alexander was later elected to serve in the State Legislature from 1781 to 1787. He died in 1813. He and his wife, Mary Jack, had a daughter named Mary Alexander who married Judge Samuel Lowrie.

Judge Samuel Lowrie was a well-respected figure in Mecklenburg. His son, Samuel Lowrie Jr., married Mary Johnston, whose father was an Irish weaver who emigrated to America in 1787. The couple named their son, Patrick Johnston Lowrie, in his honor. Patrick Johnston, commonly known as "P.J." Lowrie, was born in 1832 and had a tragic fate. He was bookstore owner and a devoted member of the Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church. He advertised his shop, located in Charlotte, in the Charlotte Democrat newspaper in the 1850s and served as Treasurer of the Mecklenburg County Bible Society. By all accounts, he was a popular community member known for his kind disposition. He married Louise Jemima Watkins in 1859 and had a son, but their family life was short-lived due to P.J.'s untimely death as a Confederate soldier in the Civil War in 1862.

P.J.'s only child, Harold Watkins Lowrie, moved to Tennessee, where he became a lawyer and judge like his Mecklenburg ancestors. He kept in close contact with his family in Mecklenburg, particularly his first cousin—the famous Dr. Annie Lowrie Alexander. She was the daughter of Harold's aunt, Annie Wall Lowrie, who married Dr. John Brevard Alexander. Dr. Annie Lowrie Alexander was the first female doctor in the South and had a controversial reputation before becoming popular. Harold and his family—including his daughter, my great-grandmother Ann—used to stay with Dr. Annie and their relatives when they visited North Carolina.

Like her ancestors from Mecklenburg, my great-grandmother Ann was known to have a lively disposition, religious faith and a love for education. Born in Nashville in 1899, she became an accomplished pianist and married my great-grandfather Edward Willingham Arnold, an original founding partner of Coldwell Banker Real Estate. Learning about my great-grandmother's heritage and our family history has made me very proud of my roots in North Carolina and Mecklenburg County.

### *From the Chairman*

Tom Hanchett presented a most interesting program at our September general meeting. His topic was the local Rosenwald Schools. Julius Rosenwald, founder of Sears Roebuck and a well known philanthropist, developed these school buildings unique to their period, 1912-1932. Each school was planned for the young students architecturally and educationally. Rosenwald's plan included the involvement of the students who would attend, and their families who actively raised funds, thus becoming a project reaching the entire community.

At the September meeting those attending were offered the opportunity to "sign up" to participate in "Voices From The Past" in April, 2018. Plans are well underway – there are volunteer positions available that can be lots of fun and – you guessed it! – educational. More information about the project and its volunteer opportunities appears elsewhere in this newsletter. To learn about other docent projects my contact info is in our new docent roster available to all docents, or see me at our next general meeting on November 7. At this meeting Sally McMillen, formerly of Davidson College will be our speaker. Her topic concerns the origins and impact of the women's rights movement. On December 7 we will host our famous Christmas Tea. Not to be missed, always a fitting beginning of the Christmas season.

Congratulations to our wonderful Cooking Guild girls on their anniversary. What a credit to our organization! Thanks to you all.

Honor the Past; Treasure the Present; Prepare for the Future.

Rachel Abernathy

### *Newsletter Deadline*

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

### *MHA Docent Programs*

The November meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. Refreshments at 9:30, business meeting at 10, and program at 11. Visitors are always welcome.

**Tuesday, November 7**

**Seneca Falls and the Origins of the Women's Rights Movement**

In the quiet town of Seneca Falls, New York, over the course of two days in July, 1848, a small group of women and men, led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, held a convention that would launch the women's rights movement and change the course of history. In her book, *Seneca Falls and the Origin of the Women's Rights*



*Movement*, Sally McMillen tells the full significance of that convention and how it led to years of women's activism from 1840 to 1890.

Sally McMillen is the former Mary Reynolds Babcock Professor Emeritus of History, and was Department Chair at Davidson College. She specializes in 19th century Southern and Women's history. Her publications include *Motherhood in the Old South: Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Infant Rearing*; *Southern Women: Black and White in the Old South*; and *To Raise Up the South: Sunday Schools in Black and White Churches, 1865-1915*.

**Tuesday, December 5, 2017**  
**Annual Christmas Tea Luncheon**

Business meeting at 9:45 am program at 10, followed by the Tea. Please join us in the fellowship hall at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church for the MHA Docents' December Tea and Luncheon, our gift to the history community to share with friends both old and new. This year we will again participate in the annual Toys for Tots program. To participate bring a new, unwrapped toy.

The program will feature the history of a small mill town first named McAden Mills but now famously known as Christmas Town USA. Our speaker, Dick Roberts, one of the original organizers of the annual, month-long McAdenville Tree Lighting ceremony, will share stories of the area's rich history, including why the names Springs and McAden are important to its heritage. Learn how he and a small group of volunteers, along with the dedicated support of Pharr Yarns, created this wonderful annual Christmas event.

After Mr. Roberts' talk, we'll hear about the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Historic Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley. Their brief presentation will feature the Guild's highlights and accomplishments. There will be several tables of pictures and memorabilia featuring both the McAdenville lights and the cooking guild's activities, along with a display of dishes from Christmas' past.

**Docents:** Please be at the church by **9:30** to arrange your dishes on the serving table. All docents should bring a dish to share for our Tea/Luncheon. We will be joined by many of our friends in the history community, so do be generous when planning your dish.



*A Seasonal Poem*

Lads and Lasses raise your Voices,  
Strike, O Muse, the sprightliest lay;  
All within the Muse's choice is,  
While she Sings of Christmas Day.

"Christmas Day"  
London, 1775



Photographs of McAdenville Lights courtesy of Steve Rankin



## *MHA Dinner Meeting*

**Monday, November 13**  
**City of Canvas: The Story of Camp Greene**

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

Jack Dillard will show the documentary film he wrote and produced for WTVI. It tells the story of an important but somewhat overlooked chapter in Charlotte's history. During World War I, Charlotte was selected as one of 32 training camps to prepare troops for the war in France. Camp Greene was built in 90 days on 2,400 acres near uptown Charlotte. The camp later expanded to nearly 6,000 acres. More than 100,000 soldiers from across the country received training at Camp Greene in 1917 and 1918.

Jack Dillard is a freelance copywriter with more than 30 years of experience working in traditional and new media. He is also a photographer with several self-published photography books to his credit. His documentary film was supported by the Dowd Foundation, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library and WTVI.



## *Voices from the Past Encore*

Voices from the Past will be returning on April 14, 2018. The MHA Docents hit the ball out of the park last April when 50 portrayers told the personal stories of some of Mecklenburg's founding fathers and memorable citizens, who are buried at Settlers, Elmwood, and Pinewood cemeteries. The docents will continue to present the event, and once again Lynn Mintzer has agreed to act as its chairman.

With an estimated crowd of over 800 visitors, Linda Dalton of MHA, and Audrey Mellichamp of the MHA Docents, both commented that Voices from the Past taught more history to more people than they have ever seen accomplished in one day.

Plans for VFTP's 2nd annual performance are underway and we are looking for a few Mecklenburg "natives" who have ancestors buried in these cemeteries. Lynn Mintzer said, "Every family has a story to tell and we would love to hear yours." Submit your story to the VFTP advisory committee at [lynnMHAD@gmail.com](mailto:lynnMHAD@gmail.com) or call Lynn at 980-439-1927.

This year's event will feature some of last year's most popular characters, along with some that we haven't heard from before. The committee is recruiting portrayers to tell the stories of Fred Alexander who brought down the fence – or racial divide – between Pinewood and Elmwood, Senator William Davidson, and merchant/planter John Springs III who managed to occupy both Settlers and Elmwood. This is only a sampling of new people to bring into the mix.

If you love history, you don't want to miss out on being a part of VFTP. Please contact Lynn or any MHA Docent board member to learn more about being a portrayer or being a non-acting volunteer.

Lynn Mintzer

## MHA Dues

The time has come to pay your Mecklenburg Historical Association Dues for 2018; our fiscal year runs from Jan 1 to Dec 31. This one payment entitles you to be a member of MHA as well as an MHA Docent. Membership letters are going out now, so it is not too early to pay your dues for next year. If you are not sure whether you have already paid for this year, send an email to [mhadandelion@mindspring.com](mailto:mhadandelion@mindspring.com) and we will check and let you know. Otherwise select a membership level from the list below.

**If you are an MHA member, or would like to become one, and NOT an MHA docent,** use the form below (or the one from the MHA newsletter), make your check payable to *Mecklenburg Historical Association*, and send it to:

Mecklenburg Historical Association  
P. O. Box 35032  
Charlotte, NC 28235

**If you are an MHA Docent member, or would like to become one,** pay your dues directly to the docent treasurer who will remit them to the treasurer of MHA, our parent organization. Do not send your dues to the P.O. Box above, as that makes our record keeping of dues-paying docents difficult to maintain. Make your check payable to the *MHA Docents* and give your check with the form below to Valerie Jones at one of our meetings, or mail them to her at:

4700 Coronado Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28212

### Levels of MHA Membership

|                       | Single   | Couple   |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| General               | \$30.00  | \$50.00  |
| Senior (60+)          | \$15.00  | \$25.00  |
| Patron                | \$60.00  | \$100.00 |
| Life (single payment) | \$300.00 | \$500.00 |
| Student               | free     | n/a      |

### MHA Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one or more as appropriate

General \_\_\_\_\_ Senior \_\_\_\_\_  
MHA Docent \_\_\_\_\_ North Branch MHA \_\_\_\_\_  
Patron \_\_\_\_\_ Life \_\_\_\_\_

Please send my MHA Newsletter by:

Email \_\_\_\_\_  
US Mail \_\_\_\_\_

If you have access to email, we would prefer to send the newsletter to you that way.

This saves considerable time, effort and expense for MHA.

### *Archaeological Institute of America Lecture Series.*

**Cultivating Social Landscapes: Early Farmers in the Midsouth, Monday, November 20 at 7:30 pm.  
Tyler-Talman Recital Hall in the Sloan Music Center, Davidson College**

Kandace Hollenbach, Assistant Professor; Head of Subsistence Unit, Archaeological Research Laboratory at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville will speak on the domestication of native cultigens around 4,000-5,000 years ago in the Eastern US.

### *Historic Mapping Congress.*

**Colonial Roads of Mecklenburg County, Saturday, November 4, from 1:30 to 4:00 pm, at The Charlotte Museum of History. Free and open to the public.**

A number of speakers will discuss the roads of Mecklenburg County in the colonial and revolutionary eras. Presentations will include:

- The Great Wagon Road and Colonial Trade
- Mecklenburg County and the Colonial Trade System of the Carolinas
- Charlotte as a Colonial Crossroads
- The Roads used by Lord Cornwallis and the Patriots in the Fall of 1780
- Colonial Fords and Ferries
- The Route of Nations Ford Road
- The History of Potter Road

### *On the Road:*

**Adventure to Westmoore Pottery & Mill Creek Forge  
Schiele Museum, Gastonia, Saturday, November 11**

The Schiele van will depart the parking lot at 7:30 am and return about 7:30 pm. A park-and-ride pick up will be available in the Charlotte area. The fee of \$25.00 includes transportation, snacks and admission to the NC Pottery Center. Lunch is Dutch Treat at the Seagrove Family Restaurant. Contact the museum to register: [suzannes@cityofgastonia.com](mailto:suzannes@cityofgastonia.com) or 704-866-6013. Space is limited – registration deadline Nov. 7.

This adventure to Seagrove, NC celebrates Mary & David Farrell's 40 years of researching, crafting and interpreting regional history in clay plus Karen Becker, recently retired from Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton, VA, preparing historic dishes in the fireplace in the Westmoore studio. In addition, Mill Creek Forge next door will have demonstrations of blacksmithing, weaving, spinning, woodworking and candle making. The finale will be a visit to the NC Pottery Center to discover the beauty and stories behind the remarkable Seagrove pottery and potters past and present.

### *American Revolution Symposium*

**Saturday and Sunday, November 18 and 19 from 10 am to 3 pm.  
Gaston County Museum of Art and History, Dallas, NC, Free**

The Lincoln County Historical Association and the Gaston County Museum of Art & History are partnering to present this two-day symposium on the American Revolution. The first day features lectures by experts on the overall war effort and how it shifted to the Southern colonies in the 1780s. The second day is devoted to guided tours of Revolutionary War sites in Lincoln and Gaston Counties.



The presenters are:

- Randall Jones is an award-winning author and storyteller. His books include *In the Footsteps of Daniel Boone*.
- Bill Anderson is a Charlotte based historian who has authored a number of reports on the American Revolution, and secured the establishment of two state-approved historical markers. He led an effort that protected a 200-year-old Patriot cemetery in Lincoln County. His webs site <http://elehistory.com> plots events during the Revolutionary War.
- Ed Southern is the editor of *Voices of the American Revolution in the Carolinas*, the story of the Southern Campaign through the words of those who lived and fought their way through it,

## *The History Calendar*

Admission charged at all events unless otherwise noted.

Many of these events sell out so it is best 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>

### **House Decorating Party & Luncheon, Wednesday, November 29, Decorating at 10 am, Lunch at noon.**

You are invited to help decorate the grand home for Christmas with natural decorations. We will break for lunch, and then see what else is left to do. Food and drink will be provided and you are welcome to bring something as well. Please let us know if you plan to attend by emailing [roseedu@historicrosedale.org](mailto:roseedu@historicrosedale.org) or calling 704-335-0325.

### **Rosedale Musical Christmas, Saturday, December 2 from 11 am to 4 pm.**

Join us this holiday season as we reach out to Christmas past. Beautiful music will fill the air from harp, bagpipes, dulcimer, hand bells and a caroling troubadour. The first floor of the home will be open for viewing, and decorated in its 19th century holiday finest. In the Basement Kitchen you will see more of the house and do some gift shopping with our vendors. Snacks and beverages will be available for purchase. Each group will also receive a bogo coupon for regular house tours, so you'll be able to come back to experience the entire house.

## *Historic Latta Plantation*

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

### **Folk Life Festival, Saturday, November 11 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Start your Christmas Shopping early as you browse our vendor village of local artisans. Shop with historical and modern hand-crafted vendors and artisans. Bring cash to shop with the vendors.

### **One Hundred Years of Christmas, Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 24 and 25 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Enjoy a day full of holiday cheer at this Christmas living history event at the 1800 plantation home and buildings decorated in period holiday décor. See dressed re-enactors as they demonstrate period activities in preparation for the Christmas holiday. See how festivities changed within the one hundred years between colonial days to antebellum ways.

### **A Candle Light Christmas, Saturday, December 2 from 6 to 9 pm.**

Walk through the Candle-lit plantation and see everything alive, as if you're peeking through the windows of a doll house. Live music, a live Nativity and refreshments.

**Christmas Tea Party, Saturday, December 2 at 1 pm.**

Mothers and Daughters along with their Dollies, will enjoy this exciting tea party held in an enchanting quaint cabin. Crafts, refreshments and history will be served at this reservation-only event. Call 704-875-2312 for details.

**Private Visits with Santa, Saturday December 16 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Santa is visiting Latta on one special day and will be ready to meet children and their families for personal pictures inside the Latta's log cabin. Santa even will have a tagged gift to present to each child. Reservations required call for details 704-875-2312.

***The Charlotte Museum of History***

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

**Mobilizing the Kitchen: Women, Food and World War I, Thursday, November 9, at 6 pm, Free.**

While American doughboys were fighting in the trenches, life continued back on the Homefront. Learn how organizations and women supported the war effort from their kitchens with history Professor Heather Perry of UNC Charlotte. Presented by the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, The Charlotte Museum of History, and UNC Charlotte.

**Symposium: Exploring North Carolina's Role in The Great War: 100 Years On. Sunday, November 12 at 12:30 to 5:30 pm, Free.**

Discover the details of World War I's impact on North Carolina. Forgotten, overlooked, and unexplored aspects of our state's history will be discussed and displayed during this half-day symposium hosted by the Charlotte Museum of History, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library and UNC Charlotte. Topics include:

- World War I and Charlotte's Economic Development.
- Black Soldiers Matter: Carolina's Unheralded Soldiers of WWI.
- Appalachia in the Trenches: German Prisoners in Our Backyard.
- City of Canvas: The Story of Camp Greene.
- Display of artifacts and reception with light refreshments

***Historic Brattonsville***

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

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

**Christmas Candlelight Tours, Saturdays December 2 and 9 from 3 to 9 pm.**

Through candlelit vignettes, costumed interpreters will recreate the Christmas of the backcountry settlers in the 18th and 19th centuries and you will learn of old and new Christmas traditions. There will also be children's activities including a visit with Father Christmas while you relax around the campfire and enjoy musical entertainment. Food will be available for purchase.

***The Schiele Museum***

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

**Harvest Day, Saturday, November 18 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Celebrate the harvest season at the 18th-century Backcountry Farm. Discover scents and seasonings from the 1700's as hearth cooks and bakers work to prepare a traditional holiday feast in a spirit of thanksgiving for the season's bounty. See black-powder firing demonstrations in the hunter's camp. Visit with craftspeople and farm folk as they demonstrate early American skills & crafts of the Carolina backcountry.

**Colonial Christmas & Candlelighting, Saturday, December 9 from 2 to 6 pm.**

Celebrate Christmas on the Carolina frontier. Join in the "Procession of the Yule Log," singing traditional carols and English country dancing. Discover the folklore of holiday greenery as you decorate the cabins. At dusk, pause and reflect on this Season of Wonder during the Scripture & Candlelight Service. Round out the evening with a taste of hot gingered cider, Christmas pudding for luck and take home holiday memories to cherish always.

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

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

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

**President James K. Polk Birthday Celebration, Saturday November 4 from 10 am to 3 pm, Free.**

Celebrate the birthday of our 11<sup>th</sup> President, James K. Polk by experiencing the everyday life of backcountry settlers like the Polks. Chat with back-country residents, see how difficult it was to process cotton before the cotton gin was invented, learn about important crafts from back-country artisans, and hear the sounds of black-powder artillery. Activities will include open-hearth cooking, tatting, spinning, artillery demonstrations, cabin tours and lectures on Polk-related history.

***Fort Dobbs State Historic Site***

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

**Military Timeline, Saturday, November 18 from 9 am to 5 pm, Sunday, November 19 from 10 am to 3 pm.**

Re-enactors representing soldiers from more than 400 years of NC history will present displays of uniforms and equipment and perform historical weapons firing demonstrations.

**Winter on the Western Frontier, Saturday, December 9 from 9 am to 5 pm.**

Learn what life was like for the garrison of Fort Dobbs as they prepared for the coming winter in 1755. There will be on-going displays of camp life and cooking, as well as scheduled musket firing demonstrations.

***Matthews Heritage Museum***

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

**Make a Ring Catcher. Saturdays November 11 and 18 from 10 am to noon, at Brakeman's Coffee on Trade Street.**

Partnering with Brakeman's Coffee we will work with children to make a ring catcher, an early toy. Those who present a Brakeman's receipt will receive a dollar off entrance for their entire party to the museum, just across the street. What better way to start a Saturday morning.... Coffee, fun and history.

**Toys of the 50s, 60s and 70s, a new Exhibit Opening October 28 through January 27.**

See and remember the well-loved toys of our youth – baby dolls and Barbies, card games and games of skill, cowboys and stuffed animals. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century toys were simple. After WWII a flood of wind-up tin toys came from Japan. With the advent of TV, former book and radio characters became TV and movie stars such as Howdy Doody, Hopalong Cassidy and Mary Poppins. It wasn't long before these became puppets and dolls and were being merchandised with accessories. Step back in time and remember your youth.

**Matthews Christmas Stroll, Saturday December 2 from 3 to 7 pm.**

The Matthews Heritage Museum will participate in the Christmas Stroll which is open and free to all who wish to participate. During the afternoon, we will light the town Christmas tree.

### ***Kings Mountain Historical Museum***

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

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

**Toys, Games & Trains Exhibit, open from November 18 through January 6, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm, Free.**

The Museum will be filled with model train displays, railroad memorabilia, and antique toys and games.

**Toys, Games & Trains Exhibit Sneak Preview, Friday, November 17 at 5:30 pm, \$10.00.**

Play like a kid and party like a grownup. Celebrate the opening of this year's Toys, Games & Trains Exhibit with a sneak preview featuring holiday treats and interactives.

**The Spirit of Christmas Past, Saturday, December 2 from 10 am to 7 pm, Free.**

- From 10 am to 3 pm experience the magic of the "Toys, Games & Trains" exhibit, and tour the historic Barber House decorated for the holidays. Learn about the history of Christmas celebrations, and participate in traditional craft demonstrations led by 18<sup>th</sup> century costumed interpreters. Take home your own hand-made ornaments.
- From 3 to 5 pm view the City of Kings Mountain's annual Christmas Parade.
- From 5 to 7 pm enjoy a special "night run" of the "Toys, Games & Trains" exhibit, candlelight tours of the historic Barber House and hot apple cider with cookies by the firelight.

**Santa & Mrs. Claus Visit the Museum, Saturday, December 9 from 11 am to 1 pm, Free.**

Santa Claus will be at the Museum during the "Toys, Games & Trains" exhibit to visit with the little ones. Mrs. Claus will do a special reading of the classic 1823 children's story, "The Night Before Christmas."

### ***Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site***

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

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

**A Golden Christmas, Saturday, December 2 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Join us for holiday cheer with a little history added in. Activities include a hayride, holiday crafts, holiday decorations, a German Christmas Market with vendors and demonstrators, and candlelit mine tours.

### ***Charlotte Folk Society***

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte

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

**Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams, Friday, November 10, features Award-Winning Bluegrass & More by The Trailblazers 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 Annual Holiday Potluck & Jams, Saturday, December 2, Park Road Baptist Church, 3900 Park Road, Charlotte, From 2 to 10 pm, Free.**

Entrees & beverages provided. Bring a side dish to serve 8 people or donate \$10 per person towards expenses. Song circle & jam sessions at 4 pm and after dinner. Dinner at 5 pm. Family-friendly and open to the public. 704-563-7080; [www.folksociety.org](http://www.folksociety.org)



*Duke Mansion*

400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte, 704 714 4400

<http://www.dukemansion.com>**Celebrating Veteran's Day with Historical Artist Dan Nance , Sunday November 12 at 3 pm, Free.**

Dan Nance uses his interest in all things historical and his extraordinary artistic talent to create paintings of important historical moments across the decades. Visit critical times in history and see, through Dan's vision, what it would have looked like to have been there. Part of the Explore History series hosted by Dr. Tom Hanchett, sponsored by The Levine Museum of the New South and The Duke Mansion.

**Holiday Tea & Shopping at the Duke Mansion, Sunday December 3 from 2 to 4 pm. \$35.00.**

Brighten your holiday season with a delicious holiday tea at The Duke Mansion. At 2 pm, shop for memorable gifts from some of Charlotte's top boutiques. At 3 pm, savor tea in the living room with tea sandwiches, canapes, scones, and sweets. Stroll the public areas and grounds of this mansion, on the National Register of Historic Places.

*York County Genealogical & Historical Society*P.O Box 3061 CRS, Rock Hill, SC 29732, <http://www.weblandinc.com/ycghs/member.html>**The Civilian Conservation Corps and South Carolina State Parks, Sunday, November 5 at 3 pm.**

Daniel Newquist, a member of the CCC Legacy Board of Directors, will present a program on the development of the CCC, its purposes and activities, and especially its role in the creation of 16 state parks in South Carolina. Fellowship Hall, Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church, 421 Oakland Avenue, Rock Hill, SC (enter from rear parking lot on Park Avenue)

*York County Library*138 E. Black Street, Rock Hill, SC. [www.yclibrary.org](http://www.yclibrary.org)**Genealogy Class: Wills and Probate, Wednesday, November 1 at 6:30 to 7:30 pm.**

In this recurring class on genealogy, learn where to look for wills and probate records and the unique information they provide.

**Genealogy Group 1, Saturdays, November 4 & December 2 at 10 to 11:30 am.**

Interested in genealogy? Need help with your research? This small support group meets once a month to discuss our research, techniques, and new sources, and to help each other learn more about our family history.

**Genealogy Group 2, Fridays, November 17 & December 8 at 1 to 2:30 pm.**

Interested in genealogy? Need help with your research? This small support group meets once a month to discuss our research, techniques, and new sources, and to help each other learn more about our family history.

*Mount Holly Historical Society*131 South Main, Mount Holly, NC <https://www.mounthollyhistoricalsociety.org>**Veterans Day Program, Friday, November 10 at 7 pm and Saturday, November 11 at 11 am.**

First Presbyterian Church (133 S Main St., Mount Holly). Light refreshments will be served at the museum next door following each program. Free.

***Andrew Jackson State Park***

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

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

**Life in the Waxhaws Lantern Tour, Saturday, November 11, Lantern Tours Every Half Hour from 6 to 7:30 pm.**

Spend an evening in the 18th-century. Watch as costumed volunteers bring the events that shaped the community to life and demonstrate the skills it took to survive in this backcountry settlement.

**1830s Christmas in the White House, Saturday, December 2 at 2 pm.**

Learn how Christmas was celebrated with President Jackson at the White House. We will be joined by a special guest who will share her experiences at Christmas time in the 21st Century White House.

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