

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Spreading Knowledge of our History like the Down of a Thistle

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



September, October 2019
Volume 25, Number 4

Look Inside This Issue

This Month the MHA Dinner Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12

Harry Worke, Brick Mason

Planking Shad

Jim Williams will address the Docents as William R. Davie

Chas Fagan will address the Docents about his paintings and sculptures of historic people

Professor Emeritus Robin Brabham will tell about the founding of Special Collections at UNCC.

Information on a new way to get tickets to Hart Square

Lots of History News and Site News

And news of upcoming events at local history sites.

**SPECIAL NOTE: THIS MONTH THE MHA DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, DUE TO A SCHEDULING PROBLEM.**

The Aptly Named Harry Worke

In Northern Mecklenburg County in the first half of the 19th century Brevard Davidson operated a large plantation called Rural Hill. He had inherited the property from his grandfather and father. From 1834 to 1854 he kept a farm journal in which he recorded activities on his plantation.

In 1842 Brevard Davidson built a new mill. This was a large and complicated undertaking which took over a year. There had been at least one other mill at Rural Hill for many years and this one was probably built as a supplement since it was not built on the footprint of a previous mill. Digging commenced at the mill pit on August 10th and, although interrupted by a freshet, continued through most of the month. In September Brevard began quarrying stone from Cashen's quarry nearby, and over the next several months hauled many loads of stone to the site. On September 18th work began in earnest – or perhaps we should say Worke.

For erecting the mill, as well as for other building projects, Brevard hired outside workers. His slave population was small for such a large farm, and this project commenced during the cotton harvest; hence the need for hired men. Some were slaves hired from their owners, some were unskilled day-workers, others were Brevard's tenant farmers, and there were skilled craftsmen. These men worked along with Brevard's hands that could be spared from the fields. Among the hired craftsmen was a highly skilled brick mason named Harry Worke.

Brevard's journal often named the people he hired, and many can be identified by the US census, or through the journal itself. But Harry Worke could not. This was not surprising. Brevard looked for the most skilled people available, and they might well live in adjoining counties. Harry was a talented mason, this is obvious from the journal which tells us how his job was done. From Brevard's words we might assume that Harry was a white man. But he was not. Harry Worke was a forty-two year old free man of color living in Iredell County.

First we will see how Harry did masonry; then learn the marvelous coincidence that revealed that he was free. The following quotes are from Brevard's journal. Be warned – the math does not always appear to work.

September 18: *Harry Work commenced the mill wall @ 65 cts per perch, three hands waiting on him five days @ 50 (33 loads) \$5.50* Those hands were not idly waiting for Harry to arrive, they were assisting Harry allowing him to practice his craft without interruption. One can almost imagine a man with a hod of bricks, and another with a mortar trough walking along side Harry, close enough to be efficient, but not so close as to be in the way; other helpers made sure the hods and troughs were replenished when needed. They waited on Harry as the mill rose up from the ground, course by perfect course.

Oct. 1: *Three hands waiting on Hary & his Brothers this week @50 5 days – \$ 9.00.*

Oct. 8: *Two hands waiting on Hary four days & ½ at 50 per day – \$4.50.*

The next several weeks were spent hauling rock from the quarry and ordinary farm work, then Harry reappears.

Oct. 29: *Two hands waiting on Harry five days@ 50 – \$5.00.*

Nov 11: *Two hands with Hary Worke 2 ½ days \$3.00.*

Nov. 19: *Two hands waiting on Hary this week @50 6 days 6.00.*

And lastly on Nov. 24: *Hary finished mill wall today three days, this week. 37 days at it. Two hands waiting on Hary 3 days 3.00.*

The money amounts in those quotes are the hands' earnings. Brevard generally paid 50 cents per day for slave labor, and \$1 a day for unskilled white workers. Skilled craftsmen were paid in a different way. Harry's earnings were 65 cents per perch, a specific measure of work, perhaps based on the number of bricks laid or the area covered.

Work on the mill ceased over the winter, but recommenced in April. Although Harry's job was finished, there was plenty left to do. The upper story of the building was wood frame, then the mill race was built along with the complex assortment of wheels, pulleys, belts, etc. necessary to turn the grindstones. Both a corn stone and wheat stone were installed. The project was finished in November of 1843.

Then came the surprise. About a year ago David McCorkle, a fellow historian, attended a genealogy conference at the state archives. He happened to meet an African American woman from Michigan named Helen Mickens. He noticed she had a copy of my book, *Your Affectionate Daughter, Isabella*, which is the story of the north Mecklenburg Torrance family of Cedar Grove, and struck up a conversation. Helen was a descendant of Harry Worke, and she was searching for Harry's wife who had been owned by a woman named Margaret Torrance. James Torrance of Cedar Grove had a wife named Margaret, and Helen was looking for a connection. David put us in touch with each other and we exchanged emails. Cedar Grove's Margaret Torrance was not a match. The woman Helen was looking for died in 1841; our Margaret died in 1880. Helen shared what she had learned about her ancestor, and having transcribed Brevard's farm journals, I had already "met" Harry at Rural Hill, I was delighted to learn his story.

Harry, born a slave, was freed by Col. Alexander Worke of Iredell County in his 1806 will. Harry was described as a ten year old boy with a yellow complexion. He was one of only eight slaves freed from a population of over a hundred. The others were his mother, Big Pegg, and some of her aunts and uncles. Harry's brothers were not mentioned. It's not known where Harry settled; the group of eight probably stayed together somewhere in Iredell County. Nor do we know when and where he got his training as a brick maker and mason. Harry married a woman named Rachel and they had several children. Rachel was owned by the Margaret Torrance who died in 1841. In Margaret's will there was some legal protection given Rachel and her child for the benefit of her husband "Free Harry Worke". Who was this Margaret? There was a large extended family of Torrances who had lived in what is now Iredell County since colonial times. Among them was Adam Torrence who owned the Torrence Tavern, a rallying point during the Revolution. They are distantly related to the Mecklenburg Torrences, but I have seen no correspondence or business conducted between the two families. Many of the Iredell Torrances are buried at Centre Church, including two Margarets, neither of whom died in 1841. There are other cemeteries in Iredell; maybe we'll find her yet.

At some point Harry acquired Rachel's and their children's freedom. Probably masonry pay was involved. By 1850 Harry, Rachel, and the children were living in Van Buren County, Michigan, Helen Mickens home state.

One of the reasons we love history is its intriguing puzzles to solve.

Ann Williams

Planking Shad

The Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley cooked another historic "High" on March 28, 2019. We found a place to buy shad and cooked it several different 18th century ways.

Shad is a seasonal fish living in the Atlantic Ocean and swimming up fresh water streams and rivers in the spring to spawn, when the water temperature is about 60 degrees F. In the Carolinas this is in late February, March, and April, coinciding with the blooming of the "shadbush." Shad come up the waterways for 2 to 6 weeks to spawn. These fish regularly came up the Catawba River near Charlotte until the flood control and hydroelectric dams made lakes and prevented them from swimming any further. "Weiring" for shad with a dam and net or



using a fish basket to capture the fish was a very good business. Local men cleaned and salted the fish and barreled them. They were used locally throughout the year and were exported to Charleston and other ports.

How do you cook this fish? The favorite way then was to plank the shad. After gutting and scaling the whole fish, we coated the insides with Portuguese sea salt, (George Washington's preferred salt for this), black pepper and cayenne. We stuffed the insides with rosemary and thyme; coated the outside with salt and lemon slices, and tied it with a string to a white oak board. We placed the board along the inside of the fireplace, near the coals, but not in the fire. Our fish was done in about an hour.

We also fried a fillet in butter, sautéed the roe (fish eggs) in butter, and grilled another fillet on our grill with red hot coals underneath it. Grilling shad was Thomas Jefferson's favorite way to prepare the fish.

Planked fish won our taste buds—it was tender and had a good favor. But beware of the big bones and the small butterfly bones at the spine!

Audrey Mellichamp

From the Chairman

Warm September brings the fruit
Fresh October brings the pheasant

Sportsmen then begin to shoot.
Then to gather nuts is pleasant.

from Mother Goose

We have memories of 2019 summer months. They were filled with many hot days, leisurely walks, catching up with reading from that stack of books and articles, reunions with family or friends, and the fulfillment of obligations to others and self. I hope your summer gave you rest, inspiration, and growth.

Now it is time to resume our MHA Docent Association activities. On Tuesday, September 3, 2019, we will meet at 9:30 AM for refreshments in Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church, followed by our Business Meeting at 10:00AM and our program at 11:00AM. Jane Estep has planned a schedule of programs which you will find provocative, entertaining, and instructive. Your knowledge of the history of Mecklenburg and neighboring counties will be enhanced through Autumn mornings spent with the docents. I look forward to seeing you. Invite someone to join you. Barbara Jackson, Co-Chair

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the November/December Dandelion will be October 14. Send articles to Jim and Ann Williams at mhadandelion@mindspring.com

MHA North Branch Meeting

Preserving Spaces, Tuesday September 10 at 7 pm, Boatyard Eats, 18418 Statesville Rd, Cornelius, Free. Kyle Scharf will discuss his project of recording historic sites for posterity. He will show some of his photographs of local buildings including some that no longer exist and discuss his plans to expand the project.

African-American Warriors, Tuesday, October 8 at 7 pm, Boatyard Eats, 18418 Statesville Rd, Cornelius, Free.

Maurice Johnson will present his illustrated work on African Americans who fought for our county from 1770 to 1870. He has developed this presentation with his daughter. They often demonstrate it at Historic Latta Plantation and have plans to publish it as a book.

MHA Docent Programs

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

Tuesday, September 3 William Richardson Davie

William Richardson Davie was an outstanding citizen of the Revolutionary era in the Carolina back country. He was educated at Queens College in Charlotte and at Princeton. He fought and was wounded in the American Revolution and commanded at the Battle of Charlotte. He was an outstanding lawyer, long-time member of the NC Assembly, delegate to the US Constitutional Convention and founder of The University of North Carolina. Finally he was Governor of North Carolina and US Ambassador to France.

Jim Williams will appear as William R. Davie and tell about some of his exploits commanding his cavalry troop and becoming commander of the Southern American Cavalry. He worked to bring the University of North Carolina into being and was named Father of the University. At the Constitutional Convention he made influential speeches and cast the deciding vote that brought the Constitution into being. Having been elected Governor of North Carolina he resigned to go to France and negotiate a treaty with Napoleon Bonaparte to avoid war. He will answer your questions about his life and then Jim Williams will tell you of his research.



Tuesday, October 1 Charlotte Artist And Sculptor, Chas Fagan

Charlotteans know Chas Fagan best for the two sculptures he created for the Trail of History on Little Sugar Creek Greenway, beginning with Captain James Jack, "The Spirit of Mecklenburg," and later for the statue of Thomas Spratt and King Haglar. His artistic talent and knowledge of history have led to several high-profile commissions including the official portrait of Mother Teresa for her canonization at St. Peter's in Rome. In July he



dedicated two statues of his boyhood hero, Neil Armstrong, at the Armstrong Air and Space Museum in Ohio in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the First Landing on the Moon. Chas will share some interesting stories about the people he has re-created, how he acquired the inspiration to begin each project, and about his next adventures.

Chas Fagan was born in rural Pennsylvania. He spent much of his early childhood in Belgium, where his father worked as a diplomat. Chas taught himself how to draw and paint and was inspired by the rich landscapes of his surroundings. He started out drawing political cartoons for newspapers but later was commissioned to create portraits and sculptures of respected public figures known around the world. Among his favorite works are the statue of President Reagan in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol and a sculpture of Rosa Parks in the Narthex of Washington National Cathedral. His other commissions include oil portraits of every U. S. president. Chas graduated from Yale University with a degree in Russian and East European Studies.

MHA Dinner Meeting

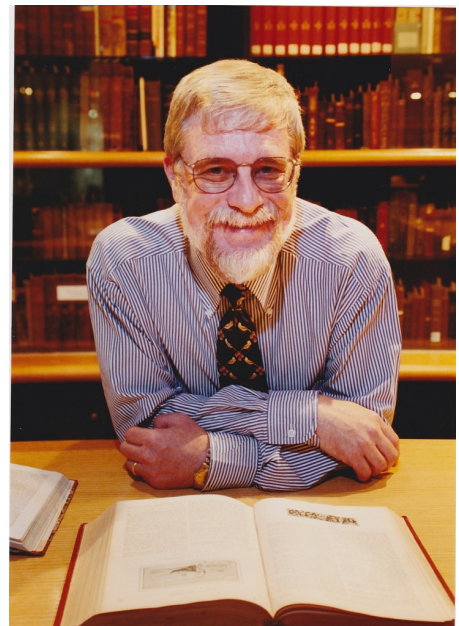
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Trinity Presbyterian Church. Dinner is at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:15. Those not having dinner may enjoy the program at no charge. To make a reservation for dinner use the order form in your MHA Newsletter or contact Barbara Taylor at 308 Braxton Dr., Indian Trail 28079, btaylor797@aol.com or 336-404-1751.

Thursday, September 12 Fifty Years of Special Collections at UNC Charlotte

Robin Brabham was the founding head of the Special Collections Department of UNCC's J. Murrey Atkins Library – no small task. Robin came to UNCC in 1969. In 1973, thanks in a large part to the generosity of local businessman and philanthropist Harry Dalton, he became the first head of Special Collections. At first the emphasis was on collecting rare books, especially first editions in American and English literature. As time passed more attention was given to collecting manuscripts and other materials that document the history and culture of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

Robin earned his master's degree in librarianship at Emory University, and his master's in history from UNC Chapel Hill. He retired in 2010, and is currently working on a bibliography of 19th century printing and publishing in Mecklenburg County. He says he "continues to assist and, sometimes pester, Special Collections, and to find materials to add to the collections." Anyone who has researched any part of our regional history understands and appreciates the monumental collection that Robin has spawned. We are fortunate indeed to have such a complete and well organized archive so close to hand.



Hart Square Tickets

For more than thirty years, Dr. Robert Hart of Hickory has rescued and restored 19th century life in the Carolinas, recreating an entire village, Hart Square – the largest collection of original historic log buildings in the United States. For one day each year – on the fourth Saturday in October, (October 26th this year) – Dr. and Mrs. Hart open this restoration project to the public. Dating from 1782 to 1873, the seventy log structures—chapels, barns, houses, shops, and more—are all furnished, and over 300 volunteer artisans demonstrate period techniques such as flax breaking and hackling, spinning, weaving, open-hearth cooking, broom and shoe making, bookbinding, shingle riving, wheel wrighting, tin smithing and moonshining. The proceeds from this event go to the non-profit Hart Square Foundation which is dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of Hart Square Village.

Advanced tickets are required since this event always sells out early. The ticketing procedure has changed from previous years. A block of tickets has been set aside for friends and family of participants (us). To purchase tickets, email us at mhadandelion@mindspring.com and we will reply with the web site, code, and other information to purchase any quantity of tickets. Please note that you must make your purchase by September 15.

History News

Archaeological Institute of America, Central Carolinas Chapter Speaker Series: Fall 2019, Free and Open to the Public

All presentations will take place at 7:30 p.m. and last about 75 minutes at Semans Auditorium (Room 117), Belk Visual Arts Center, Davidson College, 315 N. Main St., Davidson, NC 28036.

Maps and Directions: <https://www.davidson.edu/about/campus-and-surroundings/maps-and-directions>

The Belk Visual Arts Center is at the corner of Griffith St. and Main St. in Davidson, on the western edge of campus; there is parking behind the building.

Tuesday, September 17, Dan Boye (Davidson College), “Volumetric X-Ray Imaging of Art and Artifact.”

Dr. Boye, Prof. of Physics, will be speaking at the intersection of science and art history and archaeology. He will discuss a new X-ray technology which is used in conservation of art and archaeological artifacts.

Thursday, October 24, James Sickinger (Florida State University), “Ostracism and Ostraka: New Light on an Ancient Practice.”

Dr. Sickinger, Assoc. Prof. of Classics, will discuss new archaeological evidence from Athens about the use of writing on broken pottery (ostraka) in the process of ostracism. This research gives us new insights into Athenian democracy.

Thursday, November 14, Elizabeth Greene (University of Western Ontario), “The Social Life of Roman Soldiers: The Role of Wives, Children and Families in Roman Military Communities.”

Dr. Greene, Assoc. Prof. of Classics, holds a Ph.D. from UNC-Chapel Hill. She will be speaking about some of her archaeological research at Vindolanda, a Roman fort and community in northern England.

For additional information, contact chapter president Susan Walker at susan.walker.books@gmail.com or Board Member At-Large Janet Levy at jelevy@unc.edu. The AIA Spring schedule will be published in the next issue of the *Dandelion*.

Swamp Fox/Francis Marion Symposium
Friday October 25 from 2 to 8:30 pm, Saturday, October 26 from 9 am to 8:30 pm
DuBose Campus, CCTC, Manning, SC, Sponsored by the Swamp Fox Murals Trail Society
\$95.00 including Lectures, Lunch and Dinner Theaters.

This symposium explores the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary with General Francis Marion. Immerse yourself in Francis Marion's world and learn the significance of the Southern Campaign.

There will be ten presentations and two dinner theaters including the following:

- The Continental Marines 1775-1783: In the Beginning
- Admiral David Farragut's father, George, The North Carolina & Spanish Family Connections
- Rebecca Motte, A first person monologue of her American Revolution Experience
- Baron DeKalb & his friendship with Francis Marion
- "Foot-Rovers" also known as "Raccoon Rovers" in Charles Town
- Sampit River Bridge & the Bridges Campaign
- Running the Gauntlet: Interpreting the Battle of Parkers Ferry from the Archaeological Record
- Richardson-Sinkler Connections, Planting, Politics, Horses, and Family Life
- Avenue of the Cedars, Francis Marion's Last Engagement: Wadboo Plantation
- Buying Time at the Racetrack: 240th Anniversary of Charlestown Neck & Marion's delaying of Prevost

See www.francismarionsymposium.com for the details or call 803.478.2645 or email gcsunners@ftc-i.net

"The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," a New Play by John Heimbuch and Jon Ferguson.

Presented nightly at 7 pm from Monday, October 7 to Saturday, October 12 by the Community Playhouse of Lancaster County at the Andrew Jackson State Park Amphitheater.

This play is based on the beloved gothic short story by Washington Irving. In the quaint village of Sleepy Hollow during 1790, stories of wonder and strangeness surround the legend of a mighty headless Hessian soldier. When the humble schoolteacher Ichabod Crane vies for the hand of the beautiful Katrina Van Tassel, the townsfolk might protest, but it is ultimately the Horseman who will decide his fate.

Site News

Fort Dobbs Reconstructed
Grand opening September 21-22
Fort Dobbs State Historic Site, 438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC



After a three-year reconstruction project, the full-size replica of Fort Dobbs will officially open to the public! Be one of the first to enter the structure and experience what life was like 260 years ago.. A detailed schedule will be announced later, including living history displays, historic cooking, weapons firing demonstrations, and tours of the fort.

Saturday, September 21 from 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday September 22 from 10 am to 3 pm. Free (\$2 donation suggested.)

**NC Digs Travelling Exhibit – On Display Through November 2nd
President James K. Polk State Historic Site, Lancaster Hwy., Pineville, NC.**

This exhibit shows five different types of archaeological sites – Native American, battlefield, plantation, trash pit, and industrial – that are found across the State. It includes interpretive panels explaining each site type and the techniques and methods used for excavating and analyzing materials from each site. Artifacts and tools used by archaeologists will be on display.

Take a Guided Tour of the Historic Duke Mansion, 400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte

Built in 1915 and tripled in size by its most famous owner, James Buchanan Duke, The Duke Mansion has been home and host to leaders of the 20th century. Mr. Duke's most lasting legacies including Duke University, Duke Energy, and the Duke Endowment, all took shape in this 32,000 square foot Colonial Revival style mansion. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and recently named one of Southern Living Magazine's *Best Historic Inns*, The Duke Mansion is operated as a nonprofit with all proceeds being used to preserve and protect this community treasure. To arrange a guided tour of this Charlotte landmark, e-mail to afaulkenberry@tlwf.org or call 704.714.4445.

“My Passport to History”

The MHA Docents have long had a Passport to History program that encouraged children to visit a number of local sites. It's use has greatly diminished, and the information in the passport booklet became dated. It was time for a redo. The new “My Passport to History,” available in September, will encourage students to learn about history in a more fun and interactive way.

Girl Scout Payton Bjurstrom worked with ten local historic sites and museums to create the passport as her Gold Award Project, the highest achievement award within the Girl Scouts of America. The ten participating sites include:

- Rural Hill
- Andrew Jackson State Park (SC)
- The Charlotte Museum of History
- President James K. Polk State Historic Site
- Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site
- Historic Rosedale Plantation
- Historic Latta Plantation
- Matthews Heritage Museum
- Carl J. McEwen Historic Villages
- The Schiele Museum of Natural History

Each site or museum has a page of questions and activities which the student completes and has signed by a site staff member. After the Student completes at least five site visits they are eligible to receive a Passport to History patch.

The “My Passport to History” booklet will be available for \$3.00 at most participating sites or by contacting the MHA Docents at PO Box 35032, Charlotte, NC 28235.

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>

Haunted History Tour, Friday, September 27 at 7 pm, \$20.

This one hour tour is lead by Historic Interpreters and representatives from the Charlotte Area Paranormal Society. Learn about the home's darker events and why some of the past residents may have never really left. Please note this is not a ghost hunt. Space is limited, registration required.

The Second Mrs. Hockaday – Read It @ Rosedale, Saturday September 28 at 11 am to 2 pm, \$25.

Author Susan Rivers will lead a discussion of her bestselling book *The Second Mrs. Hockaday*, and tell how Historic Rosedale was an inspiration for this unique and intricate novel. The event will include discussion, book signing, house tour with related artifacts, and a light lunch. Registration requested.

Paranormal Grounds Investigation, Friday and Saturday, October 18 and 19.

Join professional ghost hunters as they take your group through the grounds of Historic 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. Contact the site for pricing and other information.

Spirits of Rosedale, Friday and Saturday, October 25 and 26.

This theatrical presentation brings the spirits of Rosedale to life in a celebration of the Halloween season. Actors portraying key figures will transport you through the history of our 200 year old plantation home and grounds. This is a family friendly event, but best for children 6 years and older. Contact the site for pricing and other information.

Historic Latta Plantation

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

The Battle of Charlotte Reenactment, Saturday, August 31 and Sunday, September 1 from 10 am to 3 pm, Battle each day at 2 pm.

On this 239th anniversary of the Battle of Charlotte, step back in time to 1780 and learn why Mecklenburg County was known as “The Hornet’s Nest of Rebellion.” Experience firsthand how the military and their followers lived during the Revolutionary War through authentic, historic encampments for both the Patriots and the Crown. Talk with the reenactors,, shop with the sutlers, and view the battle reenactment.

Drinking Customs in the 18th Century, Saturday, August 31 at 3 pm, immediately after the Battle Reenactment, \$35.00.

After the battle come to the 250-year old Alexander cabin for a program on the drinking habits of the 18th century colonies of British North America. This interactive presentation includes Port and Madeira tastings accompanied by small bites. Registration Required.

Tea with Catharine Greene, Sunday, September 1, at Noon to 1 pm, \$30.

Join Catharine Greene, wife of American General Nathanael Greene, for an intimate colonial tea time experience in our 250-year old log cabin. Learn the customs of officers' wives during the American War of Independence while interacting with "Caty" Greene and Patriot officers. Colonial tea and refreshments included, reservations required.

Downton Abbey Afternoon Tea, Saturday, September 14 at 2 to 4 pm, \$40.

In anticipation of the premiere of the Downton Abbey movie, learn the history and etiquette of afternoon tea while nibbling on scones with clotted cream and jam, delicate finger sandwiches and petit fours. The Queen City Palm Quartet will provide music from the Downton Abbey television series.

This afternoon tea will be located at Historic Hopewell Presbyterian Church in the Family Life Center (last building): 10500 Beatties Ford Road, Huntersville, registration required.

"The American South as We Know It" Documentary Film, Friday, September 20 at 6:30 to 8 pm, Free.

Filmmaker Frederick Murphy will present his documentary film with the untold stories of African-American and American history.

Open Hearth Cooking Workshop, Saturday, September 21 at 10 am to 2 pm, \$40.

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

Beginner Knitting Workshop, Saturday, September 21 and Saturday, October 12 at 10 am to 2 pm, \$25.

Learn the basics of knitting and leave with a skein of yarn, a pair of needles and the knowledge of slip knot, knit stitch, purl stitch, how to read a pattern, casting on and binding off. No experience necessary. Registration required.

Advanced Basket Weaving, Saturday, September 28, at 10 am to 2 pm, \$45.

Take your basket making to the next level and learn to make a basket with a swing handle. Participants must have some prior basket weaving experience. All materials provided.

Advanced Open Hearth Cooking, Saturday, October 12, at 10 am to 2 pm, \$40.

In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn more complex techniques of cooking over an open hearth and get to taste everything cooked in the workshop.

Kid's Open Hearth Cooking Workshop, Sunday, October 13 at 1 to 4 pm, \$30.

Learn 19th century cooking techniques as you prepare a meal in the Latta kitchen and taste everything you cook. Designed for kids aged 9 and over and limited to 8 participants. Registration required.

Hugh Torrance 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 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>

Backcountry Days Festival, Saturday, September 7 from noon to 5 pm, Free.

Explore the history and culture of the Carolina Backcountry's early residents, including European colonists, enslaved people, and the Catawba Indian Nation. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for an outdoor concert on the lawn of the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite provided by the Charlotte Folk Society, a nonprofit promoting the enjoyment and preservation of traditional and contemporary folk music, dance, crafts, and lore in the Carolina Piedmont. Food will be available for purchase at the event.

Mad About Modern Home Tour, Saturday, September 28, from 10 am to 4 pm, \$30.

Insider access to a curated collection of private homes representing some of the best examples of midcentury modern architecture and design in the city.

Scots-Irish in the Backcountry, Sunday September 29 at 5:30 pm, \$40.

As part of the Teas of the British Isles series, learn about Hezekiah Alexander and his family. They were among the Scots-Irish who made up more than a quarter of the population of the United States in 1790. Learn about this unique group of people who shaped the culture and traditions of the backcountry.

Historic Brattonsville

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

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

By the Sweat of Our Brows, Saturday, September 14 from 10 am to 4 pm. Special bus tour to Allison Creek Presbyterian Church on Sunday September 15 from 1 to 3:30 pm.

Descendants of the African American community at Brattonsville come together to honor their culture.

Margaret Parson-Willins will recount her involvement in the local Civil Rights movement.

Wali Cathcart, a former professional Negro League ballplayer, will recall how playing ball fostered a sense of community while growing up in the segregated south. Two ballgames will be played on Saturday at Brattonsville. Bring a glove and join in; open to all ages, ballgames are scheduled for 11 am and 2 pm.

Piedmont Pottery & Pickin, Saturday, September 28 from 10 am to 4 pm.

See pottery from around the Carolina Piedmont, enjoy Carolina style barbecue and live music. Traditional, contemporary and Catawba Indian potters showcase and demonstrate original creations. There will also be crafters of baskets, jewelry and other handmade goods. Learn how pottery was used in 19th century food preservation as period dressed interpreters bustle about the kitchen.

Harvest on the Homestead, Saturday October 19 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Period dressed interpreters will lead a living history event that centers on farm-related activities that occurred in the fall to prepare for winter in the Carolina Piedmont during the 19th century. Also storyteller Tim Lowry and historical cooking demonstrations. Concessions will be available.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org**Slave Dwelling Project Weekend, September 13-14.**

This weekend includes a series of events centered on interpretation of the slavery experience.

“The American South as We Know It” film, Friday, September 13 at 6 to 8 pm.

Comments by Joseph McGill followed by a showing of the film by Frederick Murphy. Free, registration required.

Slave Cabin Experience, Friday, September 13 at 9 pm to Saturday Morning. SOLD OUT.**Inalienable Rights, Saturday, September 14 from 10 am to 3 pm, Free.**

In living history “Through the Eyes of the Enslaved,” encounter interpreters telling stories and presenting lectures related to the lives of enslaved Africans plus interpreters demonstrating cooking, quilting and storytelling.

President Polk’s Birthday Celebration, Saturday, November 2 from 11 am to 3 pm.

One of our most beloved events of the year features living history demonstrations, tours of the historic cabins, games, crafts, and general family-fun for all.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>**Fort Dobbs Reconstructed, Grand opening, Saturday, September 21 from 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday September 22 from 10 am to 3 pm. Free (\$2 donation suggested).**

After a three-year reconstruction project, the full-size replica of Fort Dobbs will officially open to the public! Be one of the first to enter the structure and experience what life was like 260 years ago. A detailed schedule will be announced later, including living history displays, historic cooking, weapons firing demonstrations, and tours of the fort.

Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site

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

<https://historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/reed-gold-mine>**Gold Panning Competition, Saturday, September 14 at 10 am.**

Experienced gold panners and novices will compete for speed along historic Little Meadow Creek, site of the first documented gold discovery in the United States. See the web site for details on the competitions.

Free activities will include guided underground tours, demonstrations of the 1895 stamp mill which crushed ore to extract gold, and an orientation film and visitor center exhibits. Panning will be available for \$3.21 (tax included) for all 8 and older.

*Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room. Charlotte Mecklenburg Library*310 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, 704 416 0150 <http://cmstory.org>**Charlotte's Country Music Roots, Thursday, September 19 at 6:30 pm, Morrison Regional Library, 7015 Morrison Blvd.**

Before there was Nashville, there was Charlotte. The Carolina Room presents Dr. Tom Hanchett, Resident Historian and co-author of "The Charlotte Country Music Story" to talk about a little-known chapter in Charlotte's history. In the 1930s more music was recorded in Charlotte than in Nashville. Learn about the Queen City's heyday as a country and gospel recording center.

The Last Battleground, Book Talk by Phillip Gerard, Tuesday September 24 at 6:30 pm, Morrison Regional Library, 7015 Morrison Blvd.

Philip Gerard, professor at UNC Wilmington, tells of the complexity of winding down the Civil War in 1865 when the war finally came to North Carolina. He presents this dramatic convergence of events through the stories of the individuals we rarely hear of in history, including slaves and free blacks, farm women and plantation belles, Cherokees and mountaineers, conscripts and volunteers, gentleman officers and privates.

Andrew Jackson State Park

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

www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/1797.aspx**Life in the Waxhaws Lantern Tour, Saturday, November 9 from 6 to 9 pm.**

Spend an evening in the 18th-century. See what life was like for early settlers living in the Waxhaws, how the American Revolution affected our region and experience life in our area during Andrew Jackson's time. 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. Meet at the picnic shelter #1. Lantern tours will begin at 6, 6:30, 7, and 7:30 pm and will last about 30 minutes.

*York County Genealogical & Historical Society*P.O Box 3061 CRS, Rock Hill, SC 29732, <http://www.weblandinc.com/ycghs/member.html>**The Campaign of the Battle of Kings Mountain in 1780 and 2019, Sunday September 22 at 3 pm.**

Leigh Van Blarcom, a Revolutionary War re-enactor will discuss the importance of the Battle of Kings Mountain, and some of the local men who participated in it. She will also discuss The Overmountain Victory Trail, which traces the path of some of the Patriots from Virginia to the battle site. This meeting will be at Bethel Presbyterian Church in the activities building to the rear of the church. The church is near Clover at 2445 Highway 557.

*Museum of the Waxhaws*8215 Waxhaw Hwy., Waxhaw, N. C. 704-843-1832, <http://museumofthewaxhaws.org/>**Haunted Tour, Saturday, October 26 from 7 to 10 pm.**

Brave an evening tour filled with chills and thrills and enjoy some s'mores by the fire pit. \$10 per person

Lando-Manetta Mills History Center

3801 Lando Road, Lando, SC, 803-789-6475, <http://landomanettamillshistorycenter.com>

Lando Days, Saturday, October 5 from 9 am to 3 pm.

There will be vendors, food trucks, and children's activities plus live music from Rumor Mill of Fort Mill, SC and Oneppo Brothers from Edgemoor. New this year is Dancing in the Streets with a DJ playing beach and shag music (from 6 to 8 pm). This is a free event and the museum will be open for self guided tours of our textile mill village. Vendors are welcome and textile mill displays are encouraged.

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