

## Newsletter of the

### Mecklenburg Historical Association

*Spreading Knowledge of our History  
like the Down of a Thistle*

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

**Volume 28, No. 4**

**September-October 2022**

#### **Dinner Meeting**

Mon, Sept 12, 2022

Dinner: 6:30 pm

Program: 7:15 p.m.

**RSVP Deadline: Friday, Sept 7. – See  
dinner reservation form on page 13**

#### **Featured Speaker: Richard Eller**



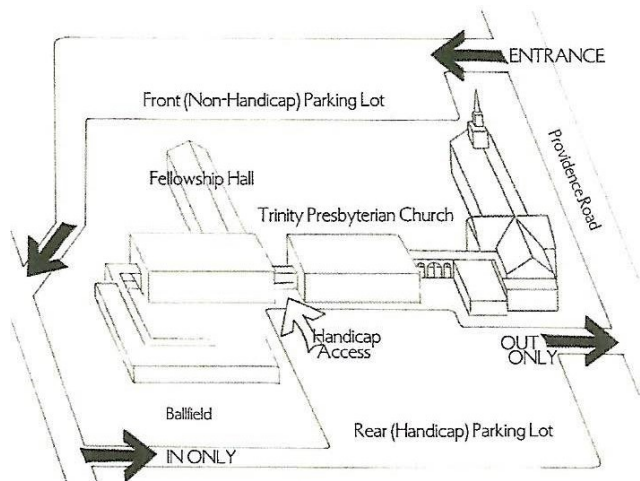
Richard Eller is a historian. He believes in the use of past events to explain who are and why. In 1944, a small medical team rallied the community to rise to the challenge of a polio invasion. In 54 hours, volunteers created an emergency hospital to combat the disease, accepting patients from across the state who were caught up in the wave of infections. The story of a community that united to combat a feared disease during an epidemic is the “Miracle of Hickory.”

His latest work follows the rise, fall and resurrection of the furniture industry in the western foothills. Eller was named 2021 Historian of the Year by the North Carolina Society of Historians. His award-winning documentary work has appeared on PBS North Carolina and the History Channel. He heads up the only publishing initiative by a community college in North Carolina, Redhawk Publications. He is the husband of one, father of two, grandfather of four, with whom he works to instill a sense of history in them all.



#### **Dinner reservations:**

Boxed dinner, Jason's Deli, \$12 per person  
Contact Barbara Taylor at 336-404-1751 or  
[btaylor797@aol.com](mailto:btaylor797@aol.com) for RSVPs and boxed  
dinner options.



Fellowship Hall, Trinity Presbyterian Church,  
3115 Providence Road Charlotte, NC 28211



## From the President

by Linda Dalton

Greetings to our MHA Members! We begin our fall season with a dinner meeting on Monday, September 12th at

Trinity Presbyterian Church. Our speaker on the Polio Epidemic of the 1944 is Richard Eller. He will tell the fascinating and inspiring tale of the Hickory community that pulled together to fight the polio invasion. We will again choose a boxed dinner from Jason's Deli for our meal together. We will be seating only 4 people per table. The reservation form is on page 13 of this newsletter. Please make every effort to send your reservation and attend.

Also in this issue you will find an excellent article on the Catawba River Valley Decorative Arts Survey. Just a short update, we continue to explore the creation of a website that will allow the public to

access our more than 20 years of early decorative arts documentation. We have recently found a promising website approach that could work for our project. We will let you know when this is available to the public.

It's hard to believe that MHA is in its 68th year since being formally organized in 1954. As we continue our primary mission of exploring and promoting the rich history of Mecklenburg County, we welcome your suggestions for MHA and for future programs and activities. We also welcome your participation as a reader, as a member or, perhaps, on our Board. You will find a membership application in this newsletter. If you are interested in joining the Board, please use that form and make note of your area of interest.

There is still work to be done and history to teach!  
Linda

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## History News – MHA Announcements

### *Olde Meck Family Research Center Reopens*

Olde Meck (Mecklenburg Genealogical Society) is glad to be welcoming visitors to its Family Research Center once again. During the long COVID shutdown we were not able to open for researchers, but are pleased to have added significantly to our collection. With the Carolina Room of the public library closed for renovations, we are happy to help you with your genealogical needs. As things ramp back up, we ask that you contact us for an appointment to ensure that we will have staff on hand to assist you.

Our hours are Tuesdays 10am -2pm and others by appointment. Email us at [info@oldemeck.org](mailto:info@oldemeck.org) or call 704-568-1774, Ext.109 to reserve a time. Find out more at [www.oldemeck.org](http://www.oldemeck.org).

If you're unfamiliar with Olde Meck, we work to unite people who share the love of family history, to assist them in their genealogical research, and to preserve records of interest to family historians. We strive to meet their genealogical needs by offering:

- A research library (the Family Research Center) staffed by knowledgeable volunteers and providing a wealth of valuable sources. The FRC is located on the second floor of the Charlotte Museum of History and includes:
  - Over 10,000 books plus files, journals, maps, photos, and other media
  - Complete indexes of the most valuable research materials
  - Dedicated volunteers
- Monthly meetings with a variety of speakers, currently conducted on Zoom. Recent topics have included:
  - Unusual Sources for Genealogical Research

- Writing Your Family Story
- Publications to assist researchers in tracing their ancestors:
  - Monthly Newsletter called the Mecklenburg Messenger
  - Quarterly Journal with well-researched articles
  - Research Books, including abstracts of court records, cemetery information, will abstracts, estate records, and more, all available for sale to the public.
- Website
  - Announcements of Upcoming Events
  - Library Catalog
  - Indexes to Resources
  - Bookstore
- Facebook Page offering timely items of interest to genealogists and local events
- Special projects in the community, many in collaboration with other organizations
  - Writers Group
  - Community Genealogy Workshops (with AAHGS)
  - National Speakers

If you're getting started on your family research, want to enhance your research skills, or wish to share your expertise with others, we invite you to visit or contact us and join the Olde Meck genealogical community.

Contact Information:

**P.O. Address:** P.O. Box 32453,  
Charlotte, NC 28232-2453

**Family Research Center:**  
3500 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, Second Floor  
**Phone:** 704-568-1774, Ext.109

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## *History of the Catawba River Valley Decorative Arts Survey*



*by Jane Estep*

During the lead up to the November 1993 opening of *Historic Rosedale* to public tours, an idea emerged during a casual meeting of the Mecklenburg Historical Association (MHA) Docents and James Jordan, Curator of Decorative Arts at the Mint Museum. The docents had spent months developing the *Historic Rosedale Handbook*, which included interpretive information about the gardens, the families who lived at Rosedale, and the architectural details of the house. At the time *Historic Rosedale* did not have a complete inventory of physical artifacts or furnishings and some docents wondered how to respond to visitors' questions about the type of furnishings and housewares used. Jordan responded to this concern by discussing the field work being conducted by the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts in Winston-Salem (MESDA) to **document furnishings and other objects brought to the South during its early settlement. Jordan added that additional fieldwork was needed to discover and learn about the artisans and objects manufactured in the Backcountry.**

The Docents were tempted by this interesting endeavor the docents, took the bait, and the Catawba River Valley Decorative Arts Survey was born! Jordan offered to lead the project and Linda Dalton, current President of the MHA, and I volunteered to co-chair a committee. By early 1995 we were ready to roll, launching our first documentation of early regional artifacts at Historic Latta.

Several noteworthy objects were documented within the survey's first few years. These items included: a Rowan County chest of drawers by James Gheen; a Lincoln County jug attributed to renown potter Daniel Seagle (1805-1867); and a needlework sampler stitched by Annis Dewese of Mecklenburg County. Then, in early January 1997 we were surprised to learn that three Carolina samplers were to be auctioned in Virginia within a few weeks! Excitement grew when the names of the young ladies who stitched the samplers became known—Peggy Allison, Jane E. Latta, and Camilla Catherine Torrence. All were familiar family names known to the history community. All three samplers were acquired and relocated to collections held in North Carolina. The Allison sampler was purchased by MESDA, the Camilla Torrence sampler was acquired by a private collector, and the Jane Latta needlework was added to the James and Jane Knox Latta Family Collection at Historic Latta.

The pace of the project has slowed but its work continues to include documenting several objects that add to a more comprehensive understanding about the material culture of the region. **The age of these objects range from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century period to circa 1850.** These objects include documentary evidence or evidence of strong family tradition. Private ownership information is not revealed. A future article about the Jane Latta needlework will be featured in a future edition of the MHA Newsletter/Dandelion.

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## ***Meck Dec Day 2022!!***

*by Sarah Sue Hardinger*

All four corners of the square at trade and Tryon in Uptown Charlotte were packed with folks for the 2022 Meck Dec Day celebration. There were people from the office buildings, tourists, locals from the nearby restaurant, 19th century belles, 18<sup>th</sup> century civilians, uniformed Continental infantry and a full cannon crew. Representatives of the Mayor's Office and the City Council spoke as well as the hosting group, the May 20<sup>th</sup> Society. We had a small but mighty parade (on the sidewalk) to Settler's Cemetery where Steven McKee led a tribute to Thomas Polk who by legend first read the Declaration from the steps of the Court House. We had good media coverage and one television station even asked me to say a few words. It was like the days "before", back to good times.



It continues to surprise me that many North Carolinians are not aware the date of the Mecklenburg Declaration is a part of our state flag. If they have noticed the date, they rarely know their significance. (The second date is April



12<sup>th</sup>, 1776, the date of the Halifax Resolves.) So each May 20<sup>th</sup>, a few stout souls brave the heat for about an hour and educate a few more willing folks.

Wherever you stand on the Meck Dec, no one disputes the date of the Mecklenburg Resolves, May 31, 1775, which defined a new locally based representative government for our county, more than a year before the national government was formed. Those who claim a relationship to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina are deservedly proud of the stand our forebears made that month. And once every year, on May 20<sup>th</sup>, you will find some of us in Uptown Charlotte proclaiming that heritage to the world. Put it on your calendar for next year!

## ***Announcements & Historic Site News***

### **Hugh Torance House and Store a Year On**

*By Sarah Sue Hardinger, Lead Docent*

Hugh Torance House and Store (HTHS) is now open 6 1/2 times as often as it was pre-pandemic and people are beginning to notice. HTHS at 8135 Gilead Rd. in Huntersville, NC is a Revolutionary era home and the oldest standing store in North Carolina. The site has been owned or governed by a member of the Torance family continuously since 1779.

HTHS has been open to the public since 1989. Very few people knew that. Even those who drove by daily for work or school rarely saw it open. That is because it was open on Sunday from 2 to 5 twice a month from April through October. That is about 36 hours a year.

Last year on September 19, 2021 we reopened with a much more aggressive schedule. We are still open on Sunday but from 1 to 4 and every week. We did take January off due to likely bad weather and traditionally low attendance. So our Sunday hours for the last twelve months totaled 144, 4 times as much as before Covid. We are also open one Saturday a month from 1 to 6 and we have had 6 evening Ghost Hunts besides special tours about once a month. That is about an additional 90 hours of special programming. In total, we have been open for about 234 hours this past year or 6 ½ times our pre-Covid level.

We have done this with a very small number of volunteers (to whom I am most grateful). We have no paid staff. We are now part of HEARTS Park. HEARTS Park currently includes our historic property and the 19<sup>th</sup> century property next door called Cedar Grove. HEARTS sponsors monthly Saturday events at Cedar Grove and HTHS is part of those events, open for tours and as the store and tavern for the event.

Besides making HTHS more available to the public, we have redesigned the tours to encompass everyone who lived and worked at the site from 1779 to 1825. In support of this enhanced story, we have updated the interior of the house and store and added various demonstrations and programs. If you have not visited in the last year, you have a pleasant surprise in store. (Pun intended.)

## Teresa Armour Mourned by Museum Community

by Marie Cheek

Teresa Armour, creator of award-winning museum exhibits for Culture & Heritage Museums for over 28 years, has died at the age of 63. Known for her eagle-eyed attention to detail, hard work and dedication in developing natural and cultural history exhibits, Teresa Armour, the exhibits manager for Culture & Heritage Museums, leaves behind a visual and tactile legacy in museum experiences. She died peacefully at her daughter's home on April 9 after a brave battle with cancer.

Teresa Armour began her lifelong museum career first at the Schiele Museum of Natural History in Gaston County, N.C. and then joined the staff at the Museum of York County in 1994.

The Museum of York County's exhibit, "Way Back When: Ice Age Beasts of Carolina" won awards in 2014 from the South Carolina Federation of Museums and the Southeastern Museum Conference. Armour's meticulously crafted exhibit featured a life-sized model of Jefferson's Ground Sloth, an extinct Ice Age resident of South Carolina. The model for the grizzly-bear-sized sloth was based on numerous fossils housed at the S.C. State Museum as researched by Steven E. Fields, Ph.D., curator of natural history at the Museum of York County. Armour and her exhibits team created the unique model of the Ice Age mammal by hand, beginning with the construction of a foam body mount to finishing with painstakingly applied artificial fur. Fields, who has worked closely alongside Armour for all of her 28 years there, says "I would propose ideas for new exhibits or additions to existing ones. Nothing seemed out of the realm of possibility for Teresa. She never once told me, 'Oh, no. We can't do that.' Instead, she would often take the idea and expand it with a response like, 'That is a good idea, but I think we can also do this...' Of course, her development and implementation of the idea always exceeded my expectations."

The "Way Back When" exhibit was a test of the idea for a large-scale permanent exhibit at the Museum of York County on the Ice Ages. Its success led to the opening of "Ice Age Carolinas: Exploring Our Pleistocene Past" ten years later and was the final natural history exhibit that Armour developed.



In addition to the Museum of York County, Teresa Armour was the exhibits manager for all of Culture & Heritage Museums' sites. She developed interpretive cultural history dioramas, exhibits and historical house staging at Historic Brattonsville. Her last completed project at the living history site was the exhibit "Liberty & Resistance: Reconstruction and the African American Community at Brattonsville 1865-1877" and the recreation of the Bratton General Store, circa 1871, installed in the front rooms of the Brick House; both exhibits opened to the public in November 2021.

Teresa Armour was a driving force in the development of the visionary, interactive and immersive environment of Main Street Children's Museum, which was inspired by the artwork of Vernon Grant. She oversaw the project management and fabrication of its storybook-come-to-life playscape, which features the iconic pumpkin house and sailing ship. She was also the primary source in exhibiting the artwork of Vernon Grant at the Museum of York County and other notable gallery spaces in the regional community.

Teresa Lane Myers was born on September 14, 1958 in Rock Hill and was the daughter of the late Robert Boyd Myers and Eula Gay Isch Myers. She graduated from Rock Hill High School in 1975 and was a graduate of the University of South Carolina with a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts. She resided in Clover and is survived by husband Tom Armour, daughter Kelsey and her husband Kenny Nethken, grandson Knox, and brother Kenneth Myers.

Online condolences may be made to the family at Obituary for [Teresa \(Myers\) Armour | Bratton Funeral Home](#)

## Presbyterian Rebellion in the Backcountry

by Robert Ryals



In 2014, Dr. Richard J. Chacon of Winthrop University and Michael Charles Scoggins the historian for York County, South Carolina published The Great Awakening and Southern Backcountry Revolutionaries. This academic study focused on the topic of religion as a catalyst for the Patriot Whig resistance during the

American Revolution. This work includes a discussion about the experiences of radical New Light Covenanter Scots-Irish Presbyterian ministers who used their pulpits to fan the flames of rebellion in the South Carolina Backcountry. These men of the cloth all paid a price for their actions in some measure and this article briefly summarized their experiences during the critical British occupation period in South Carolina from 1780 to 1781.

By 1777 the American Revolution was at a stalemate in the north. The British could not win a decisive victory to end the war. In 1778 the British implemented a new strategy focused on capturing the American South. Initially, this new strategy was quite successful. The British captured Savannah in late 1778 and used it as a base of operations for launching land raids into the Carolina Low Country. From 1779 to 1780, Low Country and Backcountry Patriot Whigs stubbornly resisted but eventually British gained ground and encircled the neck of the Charles Towne peninsula by the early spring of 1780. By then an invading British naval under the command of Sir Henry Clinton arrived in Charles Towne harbor to complete the circle. A month-long siege and brief period of bombardment followed, terrorizing the citizens of Charles Towne. Finally, Continental forces under the command of General Benjamin Lincoln surrendered to the British on May 12, 1780.



This marked the beginning of the 1780 to 1781 British occupation period of South Carolina, a period in the war marked by bitter, violent bloodshed throughout the state. In the Carolina Backcountry, this violent period began in the Waxhaw region (e.g. – near present-day Lancaster, SC) on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton and the British Legion fought in a short, yet extremely bloody battle against the last remaining Continental army in South Carolina commanded by Colonel Abraham Buford. “Out of Buford’s 350 men, 113 were killed during the battle and another 150 were wounded. Many were wounded so badly that they couldn’t be transported to the Presbyterian meeting house ten miles away. ... Tarleton himself referred to the battle in his memoirs as “a slaughter.” “ (Chacon and Scoggins, 2014, p. 73).

Clinton and his successor Lord Charles Earl Cornwallis assumed the Whig resistance in the Carolina Backcountry would soon collapse. Most of these Whigs were Scots Irish the most antagonistic group in the Backcountry to oppose British occupation. Consequently, the British army and their Loyalist allies targeted the Scots-Irish of the Backcountry. Many of them had been fighting against the British or providing aid to the rebel resistance since the British invasion of Savannah. The British adopted, “... a heavy-handed occupation of the Carolina Backcountry. British soldiers confiscated food, cattle, and horses; imprisoned or hanged rebel leaders; terrorized their wives and children; [and] plundered homes.” (Chacon and Scoggins, 2014, p. 72).

The Battle of the Waxhaws, also known as Buford’s Massacre, was so notorious that it became a rallying cry for the Whig resistance. Instead of collapsing, the Whig resistance grew stronger and more stubborn. It resulted in a hostile, bitterly fought partisan war pitting the Scots-Irish Presbyterian Whigs against units in the British army and their

Loyalist allies. This was especially true among the Scots-Irish Presbyterians living in the northern section of the Camden District (e.g. - present-day Lancaster, Fairfield, and Chester Counties) and the neighboring New Acquisition District (present-day York County). This large geographic area was dotted by small pockets of Scots-Irish Presbyterian communities. Their common culture and religion united them.

Some of these communities included members of a radical sect of the Presbyterian faith known as “New Light Covenanters.” The “Covenanters” were part of a radical faction within the Presbyterian sect which zealously believed that the Church of Scotland (Presbyterianism) was the one true Christian faith. They also believed that English secular authority (King of England and Anglican Church) over the Christian church was a sin in the eyes of God. They proclaimed that only God could be the head of the Christian church. Their name, “Covenanter” was derived from the Solemn League and Covenant, a 17<sup>th</sup>-century civil agreement between the English and the Scots which essentially guaranteed that the Scots could maintain their religious system. The most fervent followers of this sect swore an oath to defend the Solemn League. The political arrangement of this agreement was conveniently discarded during the English civil war and it was never renewed during the English restoration. Nevertheless, many Scots and Scots-Irish Presbyterians stubbornly and zealously persisted in its ideals, some to the point of radicalization.

Their radical leaders are one of the subjects of Chacon and Scoggins’ study. They suggest that the horrors experienced in the wake of the Battle of the Waxhaws marked the beginning of a holy war which included radicalized New Light Covenanter Presbyterian ministers. They chronicle the unique experiences of five of these ministers who suffered the consequences for expressing vehement opposition to British authority from the pulpit. These experiences included forced interrogation, fleeing into exile, and even joining the fight.

The experiences of Reverend William Martin at Rocky Creek experienced severe consequences. Martin was a devout New Light Covenanter who had emigrated from County Atrim in the Ulster province of northern-Ireland to the Rocky Creek community (present-day southeast Chester County) in South

Carolina. Martin had arrived in South Carolina with five shiploads of devout followers who settled in the Backcountry for the purpose of worshipping as devout Presbyterians as far away possible from the harassment of British colonial authorities.

Martin delivered a fiery sermon following the Battle of the Waxhaws, making his opinions about the British well-known among his congregation and within the Rocky Creek community:

*“My hearers, talk and angry words will do no good. We must fight! ... Sorely have our countrymen been dealt with, till forced to their declaration of their independence - and the pledge of their lives and sacred honor to support it. Our forefathers in Scotland made a similar one, and maintained that declaration with their lives; it is now our turn, brethren, to maintain this at all hazards.*

*Let us not forget the butchery of Buford’s men, cut down by saber and sword while crying out for mercy. “Go see the tender mercies of Great Britain! In that church you may find men, though still alive, hacked out of the very semblance of humanity; some deprived of their arms, some with one arm or leg, some with both legs cut off, and others with mutilated trunks.*

*Is not this cruelty a parallel to the history of our Scottish forefathers, driven from their conventicles, and hunted as beasts of the forest? Behold the godly youth, James Nesbit, chased for days by the British for the crime of being seen on his knees upon the Sabbath morning!*

*As to King George, I owe him nothing. I was raised in Scotland, settled in Ireland, and came to this country. As a King, he was bound to protect his subjects in the enjoyment of their rights. Protection and allegiance go together, and when the one fails, the other cannot be exacted.” (Chacon and Scoggins, 2014, p. 81).*

Word quickly spread outside of the Rocky Creek community, eventually reaching the ears of Loyalists who passed it on to British authorities. On June 12<sup>th</sup>, the day following the sermon, Martin was captured by the British at his home, arrested, and sent to the gaol in Camden where he was interrogated by Cornwallis and held for 6 months. He was released in December 1780, fled into exile in Mecklenburg



County, and remained there until the Spring of 1781. Like Martin, other ministers were forced to flee into exile.

Reverend Thomas Brown Craighead of the Presbyterian meeting house in the Waxhaws was the second son of the late Reverend Alexander Craighead, the New Light Covenanter Presbyterian minister of the Rocky River and Sugar Creek congregations in Mecklenburg. Craighead the elder who spewed anti-British rhetoric from the pulpit for several years prior to the Revolution. He died in 1767, several years prior to the Revolution, but he was a pioneer who planted the seeds of anti British discord among the Scots-Irish congregations in Mecklenburg County which spread into the neighboring districts in South Carolina. Thomas followed in his father's footsteps and became the target of British authorities following the Battle of the Waxhaws. Craighead and his family fled to Virginia in exile and never returned to South Carolina.

Reverend Joseph Alexander the supply pastor of Bullock's Creek Meeting House in the New Acquisition District (present day York County, SC) was another Presbyterian minister with strong connections to Mecklenburg County. He was the nephew of Hezekiah Alexander and John McKnitt Alexander, two prominent Whig leaders of the rebel movement who were also signers of the legendary Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence (May 20, 1775). Charles Ezra Alexander and Abraham Alexander were two cousins who were also Whig leaders and Mec Dec signers. Joseph fled South Carolina in early June 1780 and lived among family in Mecklenburg County. He did not return to Bullock's Creek until after the Patriot victory at the Battle of Cowpens in January 1781.

Some men of the cloth openly defied British oppression by actively joining the conflict and suffered the consequences as a result. Reverend John Simpson, supply pastor for the Bethesda Meeting House in the New Acquisition District (present day York County, SC) and about 80 of his congregants took up arms and joined Thomas Sumter's army of militia. He joined a Whig militia company on June 10<sup>th</sup> and the next day British forces terrorized his wife and then plundered and burned his home, meeting house, and library. Reverend Francis Cummins, supply pastor for the Bethel Presbyterian

Congregation in the New Acquisition District was more fortunate. He enlisted in the militia many times and fought in several battles.

Though the voices of their religious leaders had been silenced in South Carolina, the Backcountry Scots Irish Whigs continued to defy the British even after the disastrous loss at the Battle of Camden (August 16<sup>th</sup>) and the Battle of Charlotte one month later (September 26<sup>th</sup>). They openly defied Cornwallis and the British army during their brief 16-day occupation period of Charlotte. Whig militias from Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Georgia banded together and eradicated Patrick Ferguson's Loyalist army at the Battle of Kings Mountain (October 7<sup>th</sup>).

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, eleven days before the Battle of Kings Mountain battle, men from Virginia and the Watauga settlements of North Carolina rendezvoused at Sycamore Shores (present-day Elizabethton, TN). According to legend, they heard a power and inspiring sermon by Reverend Samuel Doak, a Covenanter who served as a supply pastor for the various Watauga settlements. The sermon was delivered the night before the group would begin the perilous journey south and east in pursuit of Patrick Ferguson who, like other British leaders in South Carolina, had threatened the homes and lives of the Scots-Irish in western North Carolina.

A portion of his sermon reads:

*"Your brethren across the mountains are crying like Macedonia unto your help. God forbid that you shall refuse to hear and answer their call - but the call of your brethren is not all. The enemy is marching hither to destroy your homes.*

*Brave men, you are not unacquainted with battle. Your hands have already been taught to war and your fingers to fight. You have wrested these beautiful valleys of the Holston and Watauga from the savage hand. Will you tarry now until the other enemy carries fire and sword to your very doors? No, it shall not be. Go forth then in the strength of your manhood to the aid of your brethren, the defense of your liberty and the protection of your homes. And may the God of Justice be with you and give you victory."*

Chacon and Scoggins' work covers several additional topics regarding the influential role of the

Great Awakening movement relative to Southern Backcountry colonists. Chapter abstracts, chapter notes, and the Front Matter and Back Matter sections of Chacon and Scoggins' book are available for download at <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-319-04597-9>. It is available for check out at the York County Library (Rock Hill branch) and via

Interlibrary Loan. It is also available for purchase through [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Also, a dramatic 17-minute fictionalized sermon/performance reflecting the spirit of the times can be viewed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=upmUjDbkkAA>. The content of the sermon recaps some of the atrocities committed against the Scots-Irish in South Carolina during the summer of 1780.

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## Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley

by *Susie Worcester*

The ladies of the Cooking Guild have been taking it easy this summer, working from home, visiting and gardening. Some have just taken the summer off to regroup and relax. But as the summer slips away, we will all start thinking about getting back to hearth cooking and sharing our love of historical receipts and cooking.

Since we don't meet during the summer, I thought I would share one of our meetings from last year which Audrey Mellichamps put together about the various types of salts. Audrey bought several different types of salt and provided butter, crackers and cheese for tasting with the different types. She had regular salt, sea salt, Portuguese salt, a finishing salt and Himamllayan salt. It was very interesting to taste the different strengths, saltiness and textures.

Carolyn Dilda invited Guild members to join her on her family farm to pick blueberries from bushes planted by her father. What a fun day, picking the berries and filling up the buckets. Thanks for inviting us!

The Guild is starting to prepare apple receipts for the September meeting. Apples had so many uses during the 18th. From vinegars, ciders, pies, cakes, sauces and animal food, they were a very important crop for the Colonists. Many families planted different types of trees for the many different uses. Sadly, many of the types they grew during this time are no longer available. There is a man, Tom Brown who has an orchard in Clemmons, NC and has spent the past 25 years rescuing and nurturing over 1000 lost heirloom apple trees. He has searched all over the Appalachian Mountains and surrounding area looking for long lost and abandoned apple trees.

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## Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley: Update and Recipe

by Susie Worcester

The Cooking Guild met on May 26, 2022 and we were so glad to be able to meet in person. We previously discussed what to bring and with the temperature outside, we decided to not have a fire and to bring foods that would have normally been served on hot summer days in the 1770's. We had several visitors and really enjoyed sharing our time with them.

We also discussed what days we would meet when we returned in September from our summer break. The dates are September 8 -focus on apples, October 13 - focus on pumpkins, November 10 - stir - up and December 8 - Christmas traditions. Now that we have a focus, we will begin to research cookbooks and databases looking for something that the families in the backcountry would have eaten.

We have also discussed going on field trips and visiting historical sites to help further our knowledge of 18th century cooking. There is always something new to learn.

The Cooking Guild would like to invite those that are interested in historical foodways to join us on the dates listed above and we will be glad to talk to you about what we do. We will meet at the President James K. Polk birthplace in Pineville from 9am to 2pm.

Our fair for the May 26 meeting included fresh veggies, boiled eggs, bread and cheese along with a French salad (chicken) from the Maria Rundell book titled "A New System of Domestic Cookery" 1806. This is a very light salad and can be made with the meat of your choice.

I have chosen a receipt to share that came from a French cookbook that was translated to English. This is another lite receipt that would be great for a summer picnic.



**RECEIPT - POULETS A LA BONNE AMIE  
(CHICKENS WITHOUT ART; IN A FRIENDLY, EASY WAY)**

*From Susie Worcester*

Cut off the wings of four middling chickens and flatten them with the handle of a knife. Marinate them with pepper and salt, chopped parsley, green shallots, mushrooms and a little good oil.

Then put them into a stew pan, separately with the marinate, on a good brisk fire, and turn them soon.

They will be done in about a quarter of an hour.

Take the wings out and lay them on a dish you intend for the table.

Add two spoonfuls of cullis to the sauce and skim it well.

When ready, add a good lemon squeeze, and serve upon the meat.

From "The Professed Cook" by Claremont, 1769, pg. 208-209. Please notice the cullis that is added to the sauce. This is a thick gravy like broth. I just added a bit of mushroom ketchup.

The uniqueness of this receipt is that they use just the wings. Generally, the whole chicken is cooked. Hope you enjoy!



**MHA Dinner Meeting Reservation Coupon: Monday/Sept 12, 2022**

Dinner: 6:30 p.m., Program: 7:15 p.m.

**Absolute RSVP deadline: Tuesday, Sept 6<sup>th</sup>.**

All boxed meals are \$12 each, no discounts for seniors at this time.

Attendance to the 7:15 p.m. program is free if you do not plan on ordering a boxed meal.

Complete this coupon, and make check payable to “**Mecklenburg Historical Association**” (\$12 if one boxed meal, \$24 if two boxed meals). Mail completed coupon and check to: Mecklenburg Historical Association, c/o Barbara Taylor, 308 Braxton Dr., Indian Trail, NC 28079.

*Boxed meal options (Jason's Deli) include:*

Option 1. **Nutty Mixed-Up Salad (light)** - (430-770 cal) 100% antibiotic-free chicken breast, organic field greens, grapes, feta, cranberry-walnut mix, organic apples, balsamic vinaigrette.

Option 2. **Shelley's Deli Chick** - (650 cal) Family-recipe chicken salad with almonds and pineapple, leafy lettuce, tomato, toasted croissant.

Option 3. **Amy's Turkey-O** - (450 cal) Roasted turkey breast, sliced avocado, jalapeño pepper jack, red onions, tomato, leafy lettuce, stone-ground mustard, toasted onion bun.

Option 4. **Club Royale** - (680 cal) Nitrite-free smoked turkey breast and ham, bacon, Swiss, cheddar, leafy lettuce, tomato, honey mustard, toasted croissant.

*Each boxed meal option includes chips and a cookie*

Complete all of the following:

Name(s) for name tags: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) for name tags: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if only one boxed meal is being ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$12)

Boxed meal option (Check 1 meal option only):

Option 1. \_\_\_\_\_ (Nutty Mixed-Up Salad (light))

Option 2. \_\_\_\_\_ (Shelley's Deli Chick)

Option 3. \_\_\_\_\_ (Amy's Turkey-O)

Option 4. \_\_\_\_\_ (Club Royale)

Check here if two boxed meals are being ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$24)

Boxed meal option (Check up to 2 meal options only):

Option 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity (Enter 1 or 2) \_\_\_\_\_ (Nutty Mixed-Up Salad (light))

Option 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity (Enter 1 or 2) \_\_\_\_\_ (Shelley's Deli Chick)

Option 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity (Enter 1 or 2) \_\_\_\_\_ (Amy's Turkey-O)

Option 4. \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity (Enter 1 or 2) \_\_\_\_\_ (Club Royale)

Contact Barbara Taylor at 336-404-1751 or [btaylor797@aol.com](mailto:btaylor797@aol.com) for any additional questions.-----  
(Cut on the line above)

## MHA Newsletter Dandelion Article Submission Deadlines

The deadline for submitting articles to the May-August issue of the MHA Newsletter Dandelion is Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Please send articles to Robert Ryals at [mhacalendar1775@gmail.com](mailto:mhacalendar1775@gmail.com).

Newsletter Article Submission deadline	Month(s) :	Publication Dates (2022)
Oct. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Nov-Dec	Nov 1
Dec. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Jan-Feb	Jan 2, 2023

## MHA Monthly Calendar Submission Deadline

The deadline for the October issue of the MHA Monthly Calendar is Monday, Sept 28<sup>th</sup> Please send to Robert Ryals at [mhacalendar1775@gmail.com](mailto:mhacalendar1775@gmail.com) and include the following information:

Your full name (for my contact information purposes only.): \_\_\_\_\_

Site/Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Event/Workshop/Lecture/Program Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Day of week, Month, Day, and Time of the Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Four Sentence Maximum Event Description: \_\_\_\_\_

### MHA CALENDAR DEADLINES

*Calendar Event Submission deadline	Month of:	Publication Dates (2022)
Sep. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Oct	Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup>
Oct. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Nov	Nov. 1 <sup>st</sup>
Nov. 28 <sup>th</sup> (for Dec. & Jan. submissions)	Nov-Dec	Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup> (both Dec. & Jan events published)



“Preserving Mecklenburg’s Heritage”

### VISIT US ONLINE

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

## MHA Dues Membership Renewals

Now is the time to renew your MHA membership for 2023. Our fiscal year runs from Jan 1 to Dec 31.

**Current Members:** Please complete all sections of the form below so that we can ensure your contact information is accurate and complete. Write your check in the amount based on membership level and make it payable to “Mecklenburg Historical Association.” Mail check and completed form to the address below. If you are not certain about the status of your membership, send an email to [ttcottingham3@gmail.com](mailto:ttcottingham3@gmail.com) for verification.

**New Members:** Payment to any of the levels of membership listed below (except Life) entitles membership to the MHA for one calendar year (Jan.1<sup>st</sup> – Dec.31<sup>st</sup>).

Please complete all sections of the form below so that we can ensure your contact information is accurate and complete. Write your check in the amount based on membership level and make it payable to “Mecklenburg Historical Association.” Mail check and completed form to:

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

### MHA Membership Form:

Levels of Membership	Single	Couple	Contact Information	
Senior (60+)	\$15.00	\$25.00	Name:	_____
General	\$30.00	\$50.00	Address:	_____
Patron	\$60.00	\$100.00	City, State, Zip:	_____
Life (single payment)	\$300.00	\$500.00	Phone:	_____
Student	free	n/a	Email:	_____

**Please check one or more membership type:**

General _____	Patron _____	Senior _____	North Branch MHA _____	Life _____
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### Please send my MHA Newsletter by: (One option only.)

(To help us save time, effort, and expense, while preserving the environment, please choose to download newsletter by a PDF download. You will be notified of publication by Email. Select Email for this option.)

Email _____	US Mail _____
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MHA  
Robert Ryals  
103 Pond View Lane  
Ft. Mill, SC 29715