

**Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents**

*Promoting Local History through Education and Research*



January/February, 2007  
Volume 13, Number 1

*From the Outgoing Chairman*

Dear MHA Docents.

I have served two years as "queen" of the docents. I have had the privilege of working with talented women who possess innumerable skills, vast storehouses of knowledge, and warm personalities. Mecklenburg County has an incomparable treasure in you, its docents.

Thank you for your support and for this opportunity of working with you in this very special capacity. I wish you each a peaceful, healthy new year.  
Barbara Jackson

*From the Incoming Chairman*

As we welcome a New Year, I wish each of you a year filled with happiness, good health and interesting experiences. I hope your holidays were all you wished for and provided time for some much needed rest.

While I have lived in Charlotte for twenty-two years, I am a relatively new member of this group. I have been a Rosedale docent on Sundays and at special events since 1998 but unable to join the MHA Docents until I retired in 2003. One of the best perks of retirement has been attending our meetings and getting to know all of you. I am convinced that this is one of the most cordial and talented groups I have known. The programs have been interesting and informative and I always leave inspired to learn more about each topic.

My new role as your Queen is exciting but, I admit to feeling apprehensive about living up to the model Barbara Jackson has left for me to follow. She has been very supportive and I look forward to her continued coaching as I assume my new duties. We have elected a wonderful board that is dedicated to our mission and all the committee chairmen have agreed to continue their important work. I know that together we can accomplish great things. Our board retreat will be held at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church January 22-24 from 9-3 PM. We welcome your joining us and sharing your ideas and needs. Please let me know if you plan to come so we can be sure to have enough lunch for everyone. I also look forward to seeing all of you at the General Meeting in January.

Alice Bostic

*MHA Docent Dues*

It is time once again to pay your MHA dues. To facilitate Docent record keeping, the docent board asks that you pay your MHA dues through the docents. The docent treasurer will send the MHA Treasurer one check, a list of who has paid and at what level.

You also will receive a dues notification from the MHA sometime later this year; if you have already paid your dues, disregard the letter. If you have not yet paid your dues, regard that letter as a reminder to submit your dues to the docent treasurer. Please do not send you dues directly to MHA as this makes it difficult to determine for docent records who has paid.

Make checks payable to ***MHA DOCENTS*** and give them to Valerie Jones, your docent treasurer. If you cannot be at the monthly meetings, please mail your check to Valerie at 4700 Coronado Drive, Charlotte 28212. And if you have any questions, email her at [vvjones@carolina.rr.com](mailto:vvjones@carolina.rr.com) or call at 704-567-0599.

Levels of MHA Membership

	<u>Single</u>	<u>Couple</u>
General	\$25.00	\$45.00
Senior (60+)	\$12.50	\$20.00
Patron	\$50.00	\$90.00
Life (single payment)	\$300.00	\$500.00
Student	free	n/a

*Education and Training*

The next regional history course conducted by the MHA Docent Committee will probably begin in March. These periodic sessions cover general regional history and have proved to be valuable to historic sites as background for their site-specific training. They usually consist of five to seven classes taught on consecutive Tuesdays. Although the course was initially designed to train potential and current staff and volunteers at historic sites, its scope has been expanded and anyone interested in learning our history is welcome to enroll. The schedule and fees will be announced in the next newsletter.

*Miscellaneous*

The deadline for the March/April edition of *The Dandelion* will be February 19, 2007. The next MHA dinner meeting will be March 26. Details will be in the next newsletter.

*January and February Programs*

Both meetings will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church. Refreshments – 9:30 AM; business meeting – 10:00 AM; Program – 11:00 AM. Visitors are always welcome.

Tuesday, January 2, 2007

Dr. Tom Hanchett: Sorting Out the New South City, Part Two

Last year Dr. Tom Hanchett, historian at the Levine Museum of the New South, led the Docents on a slide show "tour" of Charlotte during the last quarter of the 19th century. In response to your requests for "the rest of the story," he will explore developments in the Queen City in the 20th century. Dr. Hanchett will draw on his book SORTING OUT THE NEW SOUTH CITY, Race, Class, and Urban Development in Charlotte, 1875-1975, now in its second printing by UNC Press.

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Katie McCormick: The Oral History Program at UNC-Charlotte

Katie McCormick is Reference Archivist and Coordinator for the Oral History Program in the Special Collections of the Atkins Library at UNC Charlotte. The Oral History Collection contains interviews gathered by Atkins Library and UNCC faculty, staff, and students as well as interviews donated by community partners, such as the Levine Museum of the New South. Ms. McCormick will discuss the library's oral history resources and how they can be accessed. As well, she will share information on how and why to gather oral histories.

Wanda Hubicki

### *Docent Book Club*

Scheduling conflicts have prevented our meeting the past two months but we will bravely enter the New Year and hope to get back on schedule in January. Several interesting ideas have been suggested and we welcome any others. Please join us whether you have read your assignment or not, our discussions have a way of involving everyone. Bring a lunch if you like.

Rachel Abernathy

### *A Tribute to Karen McConnell*

After many years as education director at Historic Rosedale, Karen McConnell announced her retirement effective after the Christmas Candlelight Tours. She will be greatly missed. It is impossible to list all her contributions to Rosedale and the history community, but here are a few of her accomplishments. She copiously researched not only the Caldwell and Davidson families, but many (perhaps most) of the citizens who lived in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Mecklenburg County. Karen didn't just construct genealogical family trees, but taught us how interrelated and intertwined these families were, and how they went about their everyday lives. She also designed a wonderfully creative and interactive program for school children. Kids love icky stuff and are regaled by Dr. Caldwell's puking and purging his patients. I doubt that "Miss Frew" raps any knuckles in her re-created classroom, but she makes good use of the dunce cap. In the basement children replicate the tasks of young slaves and learn how they lived. Many teachers have commented how well-behaved their charges are at Rosedale, probably because they are so well engaged. Karen trained Rosedale's docents, both for school and public tours, and kept us up to date with the results of her research. Behind the scenes she dealt gracefully with the public, the media, and the school system. A task more challenging than most of us realize. And year after year she researched, wrote, and produced numerous skits and dramas for special events. All of this done with quiet grace and charm, with wisdom and intelligence, and dogged perseverance. What will Rosedale do without her?

Karen says she will miss Rosedale, but not the two hour commute each day. She is looking forward to gardening, dancing, and travel; and she has another old family home in need of attention. She plans to stay active with the MHA Docents, and as a volunteer at Rosedale. Her career as researcher extraordinaire will continue. Dr. Caldwell's journals need transcription and context, and her mind won't let go of a man who was murdered and stuffed down a well on her property many years ago. There may be a book there. We will miss you Karen, but please don't let us miss you very much.

Ann Williams

### *Welcome, Camille*

Upon Karen's retirement, Camille Smith will fill her position as Rosedale's Education Director and Volunteer Coordinator. Camille has worked for about six years as the site's weekend staff person, and last year began working part-time on weekdays. Her love of history and extensive knowledge of the site make her the perfect person to take on this new responsibility. Yet we mustn't let Camille be overwhelmed by Karen's enormous shoes to be filled, or still another hat to be balanced on her bright head. If you can volunteer for a school or public tour give her a call. Congratulations, Camille, Rosedale is lucky to have you!

Ann Williams

## *Southern Campaign of the American Revolution*

*The Southern Campaign of the American Revolution* or SCAR is an organization of amateur and professional historians that investigates all aspects of the Revolution in this area. They publish a monthly newsletter which is available for download from their web site <http://www.southerncampaign.org>. The SCAR also hosts one or two symposia per year on these same subjects.

### *Dedicating the New Mecklenburg County Courthouse*

On or about Friday and Saturday, February 9 and 10, Mecklenburg County will dedicate a new Courthouse. Plans are not firm yet (the construction is about 6 months behind schedule) but there will be a part for docents to play on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup>, in costume if possible. Hopefully it will include Musick, Musket Firing, and perhaps a parade. Mark you calendars and you will hear more as things progress.

This will be the 7<sup>th</sup> Mecklenburg County Courthouse. We know about the first two, 1766-1810 and 1810-1845 through verbal descriptions that are sometimes self contradictory. We have photographs of all of the others. Mary Boyer and I have written a 5-page history of the six courthouse which I will send you if you drop me an email. Here are some interesting factoids about these courthouses:

- The first Courthouse building in Mecklenburg County was completed prior to November 3, 1766 and was located in the middle of the intersection of Trade Street and Tryon Street in the small village of Charlotte. This location in the middle of the main streets was the usual place for a small town courthouse or market building in England at the time. Many county seats in North Carolina and other states still have their courthouse located like this and a number of these Town Market Buildings still exist in England.
- From the establishment of Mecklenburg County in 1762 until Charlotte was founded in 1766, Court was held in a variety of homes, taverns and other places. Tradition is that a number of courts were held in the home of Thomas Spratt, one of the earliest settlers, near Charlotte. Court was held four times a year and lasted for a day or two each time.
- The best evidence we have today is that the first courthouse was built of logs on brick pillars and later covered with boards. However, a British Officer described it as a brick building, Light Horse Harry Lee said it was made of stone, and American General Joseph Graham said it was a frame building on brick pillars 10 feet high with a rock wall 3½ feet high between the pillars.
- The second courthouse was built by John Dow in 1810 and by 1812 he still had not been paid all he was owed for constructing it.
- In the 1875 City Directory there is a description of what Charlotte looked like in 1825. "The whipping post, stocks and pillory stood in the middle of the street...in full view of the judge's bench, where he could see his sentence executed... the upper story of the Court House was cut up into offices, and thereby spoiling the only good ball room in town, as all the public balls or dances were held in the second story of the Court House, and all the preaching was done in the lower story in the Court room."
- The contractor for the third courthouse was a Mr. John Dameron. He received a number of progress payments, but after losing two law suits and an appeal to the Mecklenburg County Court, he failed to receive the final 30%. Commissioners in charge of the project testified that he was late, over budget, required constant supervision, and did not deserve the final payment. Mr. Dameron blamed the commissioners for not buying the property on schedule so that he could start on time and for constantly changing the specifications.
- In 1891 the Charlotte News reported that a mob had taken over the jury room in the courthouse for the purpose of consuming at least 86 watermelons and strewing the rinds and seeds all over the floor.
- On January 25, 1909, The Charlotte Daily Observer reported that a Women's Club Committee had visited the courthouse and was appalled by the dirt, smells, and general uncleanliness, not to mention the tobacco spit all over the floors, including the court room.

Jim Williams





*Settler's Cemetery Vandalized (again)*

On Halloween Night Settler's Cemetery was vandalized by a person or persons unknown. The MHA had restored this central Charlotte cemetery in 1998 with funding from the city, Bank of America and private donors, supervised and coordinated by Linda Dalton. Funds donated for Settler's restoration and repair are held by MHA and are used to pay for repairs as needed. The fund was used to repair one of the grave markers that was most severely damaged on Halloween night. The work was done on November 28 and 29, 2006 by a team from The Chicora Foundation, of Columbia, SC who had done the grave marker work in the 1998 restoration. In the photo above, the team members are Nicole Southerland, Julie Poppell and Dr. Mike Trinkley.

Settler's cemetery is the original Charlotte cemetery and holds graves dating from 1796 to 1884. It is owned by the city and not affiliated with any church, although it is located just behind First Presbyterian. Over the years Settler's has suffered from neglect and vandalism and had been restored three times before the 1998 restoration.

The MHA has asked the Charlotte Police to include Settler's in their regular uptown bicycle patrols. At press time we do not have a commitment from the Police to do this. If you know anyone connected with city government, especially the police, please ask them to patrol Settler's Cemetery and help prevent more damage from vandals, street people, or whoever it is that gets a thrill out of destroying ancient irreplaceable artifacts.

There is much more repair to be done, including 80 stones that are now in storage, and there is money in the MHA treasury to cover some of it. All contributions are gratefully appreciated. Funds earmarked for Settler's Cemetery repair and restoration will be put in a special fund and used only for that purpose.

Jim Williams





### *A Christmas Tea*

Tea for two? No, make that fifty-two! MHA Docents did it again! Another traditionally wonderful Christmas tea.

Switching to Monday morning instead of our usual Tuesday meeting day enabled more VIPs to attend—that is, Very Important Personages from our Historic Sites. We are happy to welcome site representatives each month but we especially enjoy having them in December.

The Orrs, Doug and Darcy, presented an outstanding musical program. Their guitar, dulcimer, and their voices set the perfect tone for the beginning of the Christmas season. They prefaced each song with a lively explanation of

how the tunes and words connect Scotland and Ireland with our own American traditions. Thank you to Wanda Hubicki for planning an excellent program.

After the program, we enjoyed beautifully displayed refreshments. Many, many thanks to June McKinney for her organization of the event and to her December hospitality cohorts, Nell Coward and Rachel Abernathy. Linda Dalton's help and her know-how about Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church, was indispensable. It was a splendid event.

Rachel Abernathy

### *Cooking Guild Members Travel the World, Part Two*

In November Carolyn Dilda and Linda Gedney joined five other participants in “The Art of Foodways: Immersion Weekend for Hearth Cooks.” It was held at Gunston Hall, the Virginia home of George Mason. On Friday we heard presentations on Genteel Dining in 18<sup>th</sup> Century Virginia, Herbs and Vegetables for the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Kitchen, and Farm Animals and Dairy Lore of the 1700s. We toured the Georgian house built circa 1755-1760 at dusk, then returned to the reception center to be welcomed to dinner by Mr. and Mrs. Mason and Mrs. Grace Newman the governess for the Mason daughters. The first course consisted of Onion Soup and Boyd Trout as removes, followed by: turkey the genteel way, chine of pork, mince pies, onion pye, carrot pudding, pickled mushrooms, and pickled onions. The second, or desert, course was: black caps, poached pears, macarons, queens cakes, lemon tarts, and everlasting syllabub. These were followed by a third course of fruits, nuts, and cheese.

On Saturday in the brick kitchen we prepared many of the dishes that were served the night before, as well as several others. Our instructors were B. L. Trahos and Pixie Shannon, both of whom have been active hearth cooks for nearly 30 years. It was interesting to taste differences in the way various cooks made a dish. Much of the discussion was how to clarify original receipts to recreate 18<sup>th</sup> century tastes – not change them to appeal to 21<sup>st</sup> century tastes.

On Sunday we met in the research library at Gunston Hall. We had the opportunity to handle original editions of cook books dating back to the early 1700s. We discussed the methods that the staff and volunteer cooks at Gunston Hall use to adapt period receipts. Most early writers of cookbooks assumed the reader had experience in the kitchen and they often are not clear in their instructions – lack of punctuation can also lead to confusion for the modern cook. We compared receipts from several authors, including a study of Okra Soup from 9 different sources. The receipts and other information will be presented to the Docent Library and to the Cooking Guild.

Carolyn Dilda



The Charlotte Observer  
 Sunday, November 12, 2006

# Living Here

YOUR GUIDE TO THE CHARLOTTE REGION

## Once upon a time, regular guys dressed to the nines

Local history isn't just measured in battlegrounds and buildings. Another window into the life of a past era can be found in its fashions.

Got a question?  
 704-358-5058  
 or Ldyer@  
 charlotteobserver.com

Leigh Dyer



Matthew Keagle, historic interpreter at the Fort Dobbs State Historic Site in Statesville, gave a presentation on that topic last week to the Mecklenburg Historic Association Docents, who meet monthly for programs on local history at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. (The meetings are free and open to the public; learn more at [www.meckdec.org](http://www.meckdec.org)).

He focused on changes in men's clothing from 1750 to 1850, in what "everyday folks like ourselves would have worn," he said.

Standard dress for men at the beginning of the era was a coat, waistcoat and breeches. The breeches typically ended at knee level and fastened with knee buckles. Hats were cut in a perfect circle, but became shaped to the heads of the men who wore them.

Coats evolved from a closely-fitted body with full skirt-like tails behind, to a cutaway front and tails resembling a modern tailcoat.

Breeches grew longer, eventually giving way to full-length trousers by the 1830s. Colors were bright, with coats in bright orange and red and trousers in broad stripes.

"Fashion had perhaps a greater lure for men in those days than it does today," said Keagle. "There was a lot more to choose from in the late 18th century if you were a man."

### Fashion evolution



COURTESY OF MATTHEW KEAGLE

Matthew Keagle (left) models clothes dating from the French and Indian War of the 1750s. The breeches of the mid-1700s (below) evolved to trousers (right) in the mid-1800s.



### Fashion Statement

Leigh Dyer, Observer reporter and stepdaughter of Janet Dyer, attended our November program on gentlemen's clothing, and wrote the following article for the Charlotte Observer. It appeared on November 12, 2006. What great publicity! Thanks, Leigh!

### The Clock is Ticking!

The Catawba Valley Scottish Society and Rural Hill Plantation have been given the opportunity to acquire a very important artifact which is original to Rural Hill, the Major John Davidson tall case clock. The Davidsons built Rural Hill, the first brick mansion in Mecklenburg County, in 1788. Violet Davidson died in 1818 and Major Davidson died in 1832 after giving most of his possessions to his family and moving in with his daughter. A fire in 1886 destroyed the mansion house. Only a few items original to the mansion have been found and have come back to the site.

Provenance research has been done and it documents ownership of this clock by Major John Davidson, his oldest son Robert, his grandson David Alexander Caldwell, his great-granddaughter Sallie Caldwell White, and on through the family to the present owner. This tall case clock was made by Aaron Willard, a noted clockmaker in Boston from 1770-1832. The original label, intact in the clock, documents the manufacture to 1800 in Boston. The clock is in amazing original working condition and has been appraised at \$135,000. It is being offered to CVSS for \$100,000 prior to being placed on the open market for sale. The clock will be a centerpiece for the new heritage center planned by CVSS and will be showcased in Huntersville Town Hall until the heritage center is completed.

The MHA has donated \$500 to the clock purchase fund. If you would like to help, send your contribution to The Catawba Valley Scottish Society, (a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization) at Rural Hill Plantation, PO Box 1009, Huntersville, NC 28070. All contributors will be invited to a special reception to welcome the clock home when the campaign is successfully completed.



*Symposium: The Key Ingredients*

## Elite Antebellum Dining, Food, Customs &amp; Material Culture in the South Carolina Upcountry

On November 18<sup>th</sup> an adventurous Charlotte group set out to discover those facets of meals in the Carolina backcountry. The event hosted by Historic Brattonsville, was held in the McCelvey Center in York, SC. The six presentations summarized here were varied and informative.

A power-point program by Chuck LeCount effectively illustrated the change in architecture and values from frontier struggles to antebellum luxury. The early Scots-Irish, German and English farmers made a modest living raising hemp and tobacco, and took pride in republican simplicity. This changed when the cotton gin increased cotton production. Affluent planters invested in land and slaves. Large ornate houses and elaborate lifestyles demonstrated new wealth. Dinner now consisted of mutton, pork, beef, venison, fowl, vegetables, and deserts, all served by slaves. The early Carolina simplicity was no more.

Jane Marion of Converse College talked of antebellum homes with detached dining rooms. Perhaps they provided better air circulation, decreased household noises, or allowed service by slaves to be more unobtrusive. Jane orchestrated a diner at Historic Brattonsville with participants in period dress dining on the usual fare. They reported that hours at the table were hot, and open windows allowed flies and moths to enter freely. They also thought barnyard smells and sounds were disagreeable, although 19<sup>th</sup> century folks might not have noticed. The serving "slaves" seemed choreographed, quietly and decorously moving about their duties and bringing food from the distant kitchen. The concern of the host was to provide a pleasant experience for his guests.

Architectural historian, Nancy Van Dolsen, discussed detached kitchens. By separating dwellings from kitchens, heat from cooking fires and odors of preparing food would be less obtrusive in the living quarters. In most households the plantation mistress approved menus, selected recipes, and distributed white sugar kept under lock and key, but she was only rarely involved in the activities of the kitchen. Her cook was respected and powerful in overseeing the preparation necessary for meals to be presented in the manner expected by the plantation master.

Drawing on journals and diaries of those times, Karen McConnell, Janet Dyer and Ann Williams from Historic Rosedale presented "A social and Confidential Chat". In an age of difficult travel and slow communications the extensive visits among genteel families provided relief on isolated plantations. Bountiful dinners, gracious teas, dances, and musical entertainment enlivened those occasions. With numerous slaves to handle cleaning, laundry, and cooking, long visits were usual. These visits were documented so they could be promptly returned as etiquette required. The presenters used the words of the journal writers to give authenticity to their voices.

Dan Dupre of UNCC talked of the long tradition of the political barbeque in the south. Slow pit cooking had previously been used by native Americans for venison and wild pig. Barbeque was made in the fall when cool weather made butchering safe. The day long wait for food was filled by races, games, music and dancing and provided a perfect opportunity for hopeful candidates to speak. Their speeches were accented with great amounts of alcohol to insure they were well received. Candidates for local, state and national races delighted in these opportunities to find an assured audience.

Food historian Damon Fowler has studied period cookbooks for food patterns. They were written for housewives who wanted to impress guests, and are a nostalgic reminder of differences in availability and variety of foods. They tell us that once veal was inexpensive, sour milk was prevalent, and game was easily accessible. Foods introduced by slaves, such as Hoppin' John were included. Techniques for preparing foods on open hearths, bake ovens, and ranges indicated progress. Presentation of dishes was important; meats were served first, followed by vegetables so they would not arrive cold. Among his sources were cookbooks by Mary Randolph of Virginia, and Mrs. Hill of New York. Each illustrates a continuing interest in varied dishes for family and friends.

The entire day was leisurely paced with breaks for refreshments. At luncheon participants had a further opportunity to discuss these findings with speakers. What a pleasant way to consider the importance of meals in the fabric of antebellum society.

Georgie Heizer



*The Carl J. McEwen Historical Village*

7601 Matthews-Mint Hill Rd.

Hours Tues. - Sat. 10:00am-2:00pm

Call 704-573-0726

Several years ago I noticed that the McEwen Historical Village had been added to the sites supported by our docents. I had no idea what or where it was, and meant to ask, but somehow forgot. Recently I learned that Margaret Barach, editor of their newsletter, was the go-to person. I was pleasantly surprised to find that the County Doctor's Museum had expanded into an entire village! Margaret provided the article below.

Ann Williams

Mint Hill, NC, along with the Philadelphia Presbyterian Church provided three Signers to the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. Carol and George Timblin arrived some two hundred years later to find the church, early cemeteries and a few old buildings. It was the threatened demolition of Bain Academy that set Carol off on a quest to save something of our beginnings. When Rev. Russell Kerr led a tour of early cemeteries a seed was planted and interest grew.

Becky Junker Griffin saw the crumbling 1880's era doctor's building from her office window and could not stand to think of it being destroyed. A Committee formed in the 1980's drew up By Laws creating the Mint Hill Historical Society as a non-profit corporation.

Carol Timblin, as our first President, wrote for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary newsletter, "As the Society was taking shape, Becky Griffin was very instrumental in persuading the Whitley family to donate the doctor's office building to us. At the same time the McEwen family, led by Bettie McEwen, agreed to give the property on Hillside Drive to the Society. Once all that was in place and we received state grants...we were in a position to move the office to the site."

We grew to include the Ira Ferguson Country Store, the Ashcraft One Room School House, smoke house, chicken house, wagon shed, more land and an office with plumbing. After many years of hosting the public and private and home schools, plumbing qualifies us to be approved for Char-Meck schools.

Historical Architect Jack Boyte worked with Becky and her fearless team on overall site and building plans. The original Assay Building from the Surface Hill Mine has been moved onto our site. We look forward to getting the permits soon so the restoration can proceed. After that project, the restoration of the Beaver Family Barn is in line. An infantryman knows he has to recognize where he came from, so he will occasionally look back. We have lost Jack Boyte and George Timblin now, but new members are added who love the looking back while teaching the young to look forward.

Margaret Hood Barach

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*News from Historic Rosedale*

Historic Rosedale Plantation has announced new hours for public tours. They are being given at 1:30 and 3:00 on Thursdays through Sundays. Need a gift idea? Christmas is past, but gift-giving occasions occur throughout the year. Call or come by the site for Gift Tickets to Historic Rosedale. One size fits all, no dusting required.

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*News from Latta Plantation*

Site director Jon Gates reports that Plantation Christmas, November 24 – 25, was phenomenal with 1,200 people attending. Thanksgiving weekend is a great time for special events; not everyone goes shopping. In fact the whole of November was a very good month. November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> featured the Civil War Infantry, and on November 18<sup>th</sup> visitors enjoyed The Civil War Soldier and open hearth cooking. Both events were well attended.

*The History Calendar**The Charlotte Museum of History*

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

**Twelfth Night: A Scots-Irish Holiday Celebration**, Saturday, January 6, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Enjoy tours of the 1774 Rock House and cooking demonstrations throughout the night. At 6:45 pm gather around a bonfire to learn Twelfth Night history and sing Colonial carols. After the bonfire, guests are invited to a Twelfth Night Ball in the Museum. Admission charged. Reservations requested.

**Realistic Visionary: The Leadership of George Washington**, Thursday, February 22, 7 pm

Dr. Peter Henriques, Professor of History Emeritus at George Mason University will present a program in conjunction with his book, *George Washington: Realistic Visionary*. Book signing and refreshments to follow. Admission charged. Reservations required.

**Charlotte Neighborhoods** opens February 17

The *Charlotte Neighborhoods* exhibit features the Plaza-Midwood neighborhood through February 11. From February 17 to November 10, the exhibit features *Brooklyn to Biddleville*. These are two of Charlotte's oldest African-American neighborhoods. The Brooklyn neighborhood downtown became Charlotte's first urban renewal project and was largely razed in the 1960s. Biddleville rose on the outskirts of downtown, and for the most part escaped urban development, and helped to preserve the memories of Brooklyn. This exhibit shares those memories through photographs, maps and stories.

*Latta Plantation*

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

**Civil War Winter Quarters**, Saturday, January 6 (10am-4pm), Sunday, January 7 (1-4 pm)

See how Civil War soldiers survived brutal winters encamped with the armies. Admission charged.

**Back of the Big House**, Saturday, February 10 (10am-4pm)

Witness the daily life of the enslaved people who lived at Latta Plantation. Learn about their families, work and more. Admission charged.

**Civil War Cavalry**, Saturday, February 17 (10am-4pm), Sunday, February 18 (1-4 pm)

Cavalry soldiers and horses demonstrate their skills and tactics to the public. Admission charged.

*Levine Museum of the New South*

200 E. Seventh Street, Charlotte, NC, 704 333 1887, <http://www.museumofthenewsouth.org>

**Families of Abraham**. Opening Thursday, December 15

*Families of Abraham* celebrates the life and faith traditions of Jewish, Christian and Muslim families in Charlotte. Eleven area families were photographed and interviewed throughout a year of religious observances. The exhibit emphasizes the similarities of the three Faiths. Through May 6, 2007. Related events:

- **January 4:** William Mahoney, chair of Davidson College's religion department, and three of the families in the exhibit. 7 pm. Free
- **January 25:** Harvard University's Diana Eck, author of "A New Religious America." Reception 5:30 pm, talk 7 pm. Admission charged.
- **February 1:** Imam W.D. Mohammed, director of The Mosque Cares in Illinois. 7 pm. Free

- **February 22:** The history and food of the Middle East, with Davidson College's Jonathan Berkey and Creative Loafing's Tricia Childress. 6 pm. Admission includes dinner and program. Reservations required.

**New South for the New Southerner with Dr. Peter Gorman.** Thursday, January 11, 5:30 pm.

Dr. Hanchett will lead a lively discussion on Charlotte's past, present and future. CMS Superintendent Dr. Peter Gorman will join the program to share his experiences as a new resident. Enjoy wine from North Carolina's Shelton Vineyards, light hors d'oeuvres, and access to exhibits. Admission charged. Reservations requested.

**Charlotte Hawkins Brown and Palmer Memorial Institute: From Vision to Reality.**

Palmer Memorial Institute Exhibit Opening Program. Sunday, February 11, 4 pm

View the exhibit and enjoy a discussion with Yale Professor Dr. Glenda Gilmore and Andrena Coleman, Director of the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum. They will explore the dynamic woman that had the vision and the courage to create the Palmer Memorial Institute. Free.

**Freedom Song Workshop with Sandra Thomas,** Saturday, February 24, 10 am

Explore the history of the Civil Rights Movement through stories and songs. Come to understand how struggles for freedom and human rights still are the "ties that bind." Admission charged. Reservations required.

**The Rural African American South with Dori Sanders,** Wednesday, February 28, 11:30 am

Dori Sanders joins us for our lunchtime series *Imagining Southern Places: Spaces and People in the South*. Sanders, the granddaughter of a freed slave, is the author of *Clover* and *Her Own Place*. In both books, Sanders looks at the experience of growing up African American in the rural South. Her family operates one of the oldest African-American farms in the region, on land in York County, SC that her father bought in 1915. The farm grows peaches which are sold at a roadside stand where Sanders recalls the stories of her youth. Free. Bring your own lunch or order one through the Museum for \$12, 24 hours in advance.

*Historic Crossedale*

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

**Unheard Voices Tour,** Saturday, February 10, Tours at 1 and 3 PM

This tour is designed to examine the personal and work life of 20 slaves that inhabited the Caldwell Plantation in the early 1800's. The 1½ hour tour by costumed docents tells the story of Ben, the carriage driver, Jenny, the cook, Cherry, the children's nurse and Nat the blacksmith, and provides insight into the lives of those whose voices are seldom heard. Designed for age 12 and over. Admission charged.

*Historic Rural Hill Farm*

4431 Neck Road, Huntersville, NC, 704 875 3113, <http://www.ruralhillfarm.org>

**Hogmanay and New Years Day First Footin',** Monday, January 1, 11 am

Join us for the walkabout of Historic Rural Hill Farm. Towns throughout Scotland continue an age old annual ritual of a "walk of the town limits" to restate or reclaim the boundaries of the township. This tradition has been adopted as part of the Rural Hill Farm Hogmanay (Scottish New Year) celebration, featuring customary rituals to assure good crops, good health, and good fortune in the coming year. This will be a jaunt around the farm stopping along the way to hear stories of history and folklore. We'll walk approximately 2-3 miles over hill and dale, and through the woods.

The walk will be followed at 12:30 by the play "Stone Soup" and a luncheon at 1:00 pm. The event is free, but we do encourage everyone to bring something for the luncheon, such as canned or fresh vegetables for the soup, bread, dessert, something to drink, bowls, plates, napkins and eating utensils.



*Museum of York County*

4621 Mt. Gallant Rd., Rock Hill, SC, 803 329 2121

<http://www.chmuseums.org/ourmuseums/myco/index.htm>

**Meet George Washington.** Monday, February 19, 11 am – 2 pm

The “Father of our Country,” George Washington, will visit the Museum of York County – a place that he missed on his 1791 tour (because it wasn’t there yet). He will review his eventful life, the role of South Carolina in winning our independence, and his trials and triumphs as President of the United States. President Washington will be portrayed by professional actor Howard Burnham.

*The McTelvey Center*

212 E. Jefferson St., York, SC, 803.684.3948 x 33

<http://www.chmuseums.org/ourmuseums/histcenter/index.htm>

**Soldiers of the American Revolution,** Saturday, February 3, 11 am, Free

Discover how some free African Americans from South Carolina became a part of the fight for Independence with historian Michael Scoggins.

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MHA Docents

Jim and Ann Williams

1601 South Wendover Road

Charlotte, NC 28211