

**Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents**

*Promoting Local History through Education and Research*



January/February, 2009  
Volume 15, Number 1

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*From the Outgoing Chairman*

As we enter a new year we wonder how the last one passed so quickly. It seems like only yesterday that we were worried about the challenges the new millennium might bring. Many of us will make resolutions for changes we want to make in 2009. One of mine will be to slow down, savor the many blessings of my life and spend more time with friends and family. While I have enjoyed my journey as your queen, I do look forward to attending our meetings with no agenda in hand. I am hoping to see you at the January 6, 2009 meeting. Until then, I wish you the quiet beauty of a peaceful holiday season.

Alice Bostic

*From the New Chairman*

Since I have been caught by the dreaded Dandelion deadline, I offer the following (as suggested by "those who know stuff."): My name is Jo Anne (Horton) Dickens and I am the incoming "leader," or "Queen," of the MHA Docent Committee. I am being blessed with fellow board members Hazel White, Valerie Jones, Audrey Mellichamp and Nell Coward plus the incomparable Ann and Jim Williams as editors of the newsletter. I cannot list here all of the docents names but believe me when I say I am counting on each and every one of you.

A little of my background is in order. I was born in Boone, raised in Portsmouth, VA, and moved to Charlotte with my husband's (Reggie) job in 1992. I was educated in the public schools and am a graduate of Old Dominion University with a BS in Business Education. Some of my former jobs and experiences are unique and include teaching, Academic Dean, Office Manager for a private elementary school (I actually ran the whole shebang), legal secretary, ATM mystery shopper when they were only cardboard mockups (you will have to ask me about that one!), Girl Scout leader, president of the Jr. Woman's Club, offices in University Women's Group, Mrs. Claus, and lots of others, as well as lots of stuff in our church. It is my pleasure to plan and implement travel opportunities presently.

Together with all of you I look forward to an interesting, educational and fun 2 years. The retreat has been booked at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian church in the conference room for January 12 (my 45th wedding anniversary), 13 and 14. On these dates the board will be happy to entertain any ideas from any or all of you about trips, programs, raising money, spending money, budget requests, committee responsibilities, expansion or modification, etc. Please be prepared prior to these dates. I am requesting written reports from all committee chairwomen/men about their previous year which should give us ideas on how to go forward, improve or change. Please have those for me at the next meeting, January 6, 2009, at the church. Thank you and God bless you all this New Year and grant you great patience with the new "regime."

Jo Anne Dickens

*Newsletter Deadline*

The deadline for the March – April issue of the Dandelion will be February 16<sup>th</sup>. We solicit and welcome your submissions on historic topics. In addition to MHA docents, the Dandelion now goes to over 400 people by email, so you can see we have a large and very interested readership. Send your contributions to Ann and Jim Williams, 1601 S Wendover Road, Charlotte, NC 28211, or email [mhadandelion@mindspring.com](mailto:mhadandelion@mindspring.com).

*January and February Programs*

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

**Tuesday, January 6, 2009**  
**Show and Tell**

During the business meeting the new officers will be installed: Chairman – Jo Anne Dickens; Vice Chairman – Hazel White; Secretary – Audrey Mellichamp; Treasurer – Valerie Jones; Hospitality – Nell Coward; and Newsletter Editors – Ann and Jim Williams. As outgoing chairman, Alice Bostic will become chairman of the nominating and guidelines committees.

For our “Show and Tell” program please bring something old. Perhaps something very old with an interesting story, something unusual from your treasure trove, or something you’ve acquired along the way and want to know more about. Surely someone in our group can shed some light. Any heirloom, relic, tale, or oddment will do. We did a show and tell program a few years ago; it turned out to be a mix of the awesome and the quirky. We had lots of fun and good laughs.

**Tuesday, February 3, 2009**  
**Love Tokens presented by Valerie Jones**

Ever wonder why we give paper greetings to folks that we love in the middle of February? Or how this all got started? Is this some diabolical marketing plot by a big greeting card syndicate in the mid-west? Exactly what is a love token and how does that fit into this seemingly modern ‘tradition’? February’s program will attempt to answer these questions and clarify what seems to be an extravagant modern exercise in gift giving mostly for the benefit of the distaff side of the world. And in the end, you will create your own love token to be shared with someone you love this February 14<sup>th</sup>.

*MHA Docent Dues*

As the New Year rolls in, it is time to pay your Mecklenburg Historical Association dues. I realize that it seems like we just finished dealing with this, but the truth is an entire year has slipped past. (Our MHA year runs from January 1 to December 31.) Since we docents are a committee of the Mecklenburg Historical Association, we pay our dues to that parent organization. But, to facilitate *our* record keeping, the docent board asks that you pay your dues *through* the docents. The docent treasurer then will remit one large check, along with a detail sheet listing who has paid dues and at what level, to the MHA treasurer. You may receive a dues notification from MHA later this year; if you have already paid your dues, disregard the letter. If you have not yet paid, regard the letter as a reminder to submit your dues to the docent treasurer. **Again, please do not send your dues directly to MHA as this makes it difficult to determine for our records if your dues have been paid.**

Please 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 (increased in 2008)

	<u>Single</u>	<u>Couple</u>
General	\$30.00	\$50.00
Senior (60+)	\$15.00	\$25.00
Patron	\$60.00	\$100.00
Life (single payment)	\$300.00	\$500.00 (unchanged)

### *Book Club*

After the docent meeting in January we will discuss *Cloud Over Catawba* by Chalmers Davidson. This novel is set in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and revolves around the people and events of Mecklenburg history. It is a sentimental read featuring people we have come to know as old friends, and gives us a peek at Davidson's perspective of our history. There is a copy in the public library, there may be one in the docent library, and Lisa Tappy and Ann Williams have copies they are willing to lend.

Suggestions for future books include *When the World Ended* by Emma LeConte, *The Hammonds of Redcliffe* by Carol Bleser, and *A Confederate Nurse* by Jean Berlin. These are not in the public library, so availability may be a problem. Other suggestions are *The Squires of Springfield* by Katherine Wooten Springs, *Undaunted Courage* by Stephen Ambrose, *Ambivalent Churchmen and Evangelical Churchwomen* by Richard Rankin, *Dear Sister* edited by Josephine Martin, and most anything by LeGette Blythe.

Anyone is welcome to join our book discussions, even if you've not read the book. Bring a lunch if you wish. We're usually done by about 1:30.

### *Charlotte Regional History Consortium*

The Charlotte Regional History Consortium was founded in 1994 to promote networking and cooperation among piedmont area historic sites and research institutions. They publish a widely circulated brochure which covers sites in Mecklenburg and the surrounding counties. In addition to historic sites and research institutions, members include professional historians, organizations, and independent researchers. Their goal is to help one another by coordinating programming, sponsoring cooperative events and sharing information, equipment, and other resources. They also hold workshops and roundtable discussions and have the ability to inform member sites and all of their contacts of events by email. If you are interested in learning more about the consortium, visit their website at <http://www.charlotteregionalhistory.org> or contact consortium president, Jan McCormick at [jmccormick@charlottesmuseum.com](mailto:jmccormick@charlottesmuseum.com), or 704-568-1774, ext 132.

### *A Site Worth Seeing*

A Visit to Hancock's Resolution, Anne Arundel County, Maryland

A short visit with my daughter's family in Severna Park, Maryland, took us to a nearby historic site (imagine that!). The house and gardens are situated on the Patapsco River, Bodkin Creek, and Back Creek—all near the Chesapeake Bay. This location made marketing agricultural crops easy and the soil was fertile so the farmland produced tobacco and later truck fruit and vegetables for the Baltimore area.

Hancock's Resolution remained in the hands of the Hancock family from 1733 until 1962 when the last survivor of that name made a provision for a portion, including the house and gardens, to go to an 'appropriate and responsible historical society' to be determined by his executors (Historic Annapolis, Inc.)

We met a delightful docent who kept us interested with stories and history of the site. She was careful to include my 11-year-old grandson. We toured the lower level of the home (some interesting architectural features that reminded me of Rosedale) and the kitchen. There, their 'herb lady' offered rosemary biscuits and herb flavored punch. Then to the gardens! We were fortunate that the 'garden lady' was working there that afternoon and she took time to show us the late summer/early fall plants for the kitchen and for fun. Purple peas with edible pods, Puffs-of-Love, egg plant, and asparagus ferns were there—and she offered seeds of all of them right from the plants (the best way)!

This was an interesting, educational, and broadening experience. The Society in charge has done an excellent job of presenting their site. For a donation, we received an afternoon of attention and a brochure that includes a more detailed history and maps and genealogy of the Hancock family.

Why Hancock's Resolution? The property in the area was originally leased to various farmers from the Eastern Shore (absentee landlords, so to speak). They farmed the land but only visited by boat, weekly or so. As the land was consolidated and offered for sale in various sized plots the deed was said to be 'resolved', thus (Mr.) Hancock's Resolution. Rachel Abernathy

### *Getting a Mint in Charlotte*

Living in or near Charlotte, most of us have heard about the Carolina Gold Rush and the US Branch Mint in Charlotte (which is now the Mint Museum of Art). But there is more to the story than that.

Gold was found in substantial quantities not only in North Carolina but also in South Carolina and especially in Georgia. Lesser quantities were also found in Virginia, Tennessee and Alabama.

The Charlotte Branch Mint was, in fact, the first US Branch Mint to open – by one day! The biggest branch, and the most important one, was not in Charlotte. It was in New Orleans.

Gold was first discovered in North America by 9 year old Conrad Reed. He found a shiny rock in Little Meadow Creek and took it home. His parents used it for a door stop. Three years later his dad, John Reed, took it to a jeweler in Fayetteville who told him it was gold and asked him what he wanted for it. He asked “a big price” of \$3.50, took the money and went home. The solid gold nugget weighed 19 lbs and was worth \$3,500.00. John Reed never felt he was cheated. He got the price he asked for and, besides, he knew where to find plenty more.

For the next 30 years farmers in the Carolina Piedmont panned gold from their streams and fields when they had nothing else to do. They found gold dust and some pretty large nuggets and eventually started to dig deep holes to get at the veins of gold, usually embedded in white quartz rock. They crushed the rock to a fine powder and washed out the gold particles.

However, they had a problem. Figuring out how pure the gold was, and exactly how much it weighed was a difficult thing to do. To do this they had to melt the gold (fluxing) and then treat it with chemicals like mercury and sulfuric acid to determine its purity (assaying). Hardly any one in the area had the skill and equipment to do this, and besides, how did you know who you could trust?

You could take your gold to the US Mint in Philadelphia. There they would flux and assay your gold and press it into US Gold Coins, all for free. But that was a long, dangerous trip and expensive as well. As a result, you sold the gold dust and nuggets to local merchants and to the banks at a value set by them – sometimes 6% less than the true value of the gold.

That is why people began asking for a branch mint to be set up in Charlotte. Then they could exchange their gold dust and nuggets for actual US Gold Coins and be sure to get full value for their gold.

Starting in 1829 numerous private citizens, the NC Assembly, and our representatives in the US Congress tried to get a branch mint here. They gathered lots of information and wrote long and detailed reports, but all to no avail. They couldn't even get a bill passed to put a branch assay office somewhere in the South.

Then, in February of 1835 the US Senate got involved and things began to move rapidly. Sen. Waggaman of Louisiana proposed setting up a branch of the US Mint – in New Orleans. This location had never before been mentioned as needing a mint. Sen. John C. Calhoun of South Carolina added that a second branch should be

“somewhere in the gold region of the South Atlantic States.” A committee was formed of Senators from North and South Carolina, Georgia and Louisiana and, most importantly, included Sen. Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri.

Thomas Hart Benton championed the bill in the Senate, speaking a great length and most persuasively for it. When the bill came out of committee, it was for three branch mints. They were to be built in Charlotte, in New Orleans and in Dahlonega, Lumpkin County, Georgia. Dahlonega?!?

The mint in New Orleans was needed to melt up all of the Spanish Dollars that flowed in from Latin America and also from Europe, and cast them into US coins. The foreign coins came in payment for the agricultural products that were grown in the mid-west and shipped, via the Mississippi River, from New Orleans.

The Mint in the gold district was placed in Charlotte because it was the center of the gold district and had some of the most productive mines. Also, it was close to the South Carolina mines.

The Mint in Dahlonega was in a town that barely existed in a county that was sparsely populated in an area that was very difficult to get to. Senator John C. Calhoun of South Carolina was part owner of the largest mine in that county.

The Senate debated the bill for a two days and a night. The Hard Money Men were led by John C. Calhoun and the Bank Men (paper money advocates) were led by Henry Clay of Kentucky. It was a hard-fought contest with Senator Clay proposing 10 amendments, 9 of which were defeated. Finally the Hard Money Men won the day on a final vote in the Senate of 24 to 19. The House of Representatives considered the bill and passed it on the last day of the session. President Andrew Jackson (a Hard Money Man) signed it that same day.

In due time the three mints were built and put into production. The Charlotte Branch Mint was the first one to strike a coin – just one day before the first coin was struck at Dahlonega.

There is more to this story – the mystery of Bimetallism, The revaluation of gold that occurred in 1834, the ever present conflicts between the “Hard Money Men” like Senator Benton and the paper money men, the constitutionality of building a branch of the US Mint, but those stories are for another day. Jim Williams

### *Shape Note Singing*

At one of the local historic sites, you may have seen a group of men and women sitting in a circle singing old-time hymns without accompaniment. These are The Sacred Harp Singers and what they were doing is called Shape-Note Singing. It is an ancient method of singing, traditional to the Carolina back-country. It was the way people learned to sing in 18<sup>th</sup> century singing schools. Each note has a separate shape which shows you what pitch it is. They sing from a book called *The Sacred Harp* referring to the human voice.

The Sacred Harp Singers are holding a Singing School and All Day Sing and on Saturday, February 7 from 9 am to 4 pm at Archdale Church of Christ, 2525 Archdale Drive in Charlotte. Free admission, donations welcome. Bring a covered dish for dinner on the grounds.

### *Water Mills in Mecklenburg County*

We have been in contact with Doug Swords who is in the process of identifying and photographing all of the existing sites and ruins of water-mills in North Carolina. He did not have any Mecklenburg mills on his list. So far a number of individuals in the History Community have identified five Mecklenburg mills and one in Gaston County. These mills are The Isaac Newton Alexander Mill Ruin, located on the grounds of Myers Park High School, The Torrance Mill, on Torrance creek across the road from Torrance House and Store Historic site, Abraham Alexander Mill pond located on the grounds of Charlotte Country Club, Whitley Mill on Long Creek, just north of Beatties Ford Road, Campbell Creek Mill off Margaret Wallace Rd., and the old Dickey mill on

McGill Creek in Gaston County. If anyone knows of any other mills or mill ruins, please let the editors know and we will pass the information along to Mr. Swords.

### *A Winter Soup Recipe*

The Thanksgiving program at Rosedale featured members of the Caldwell family and their guests having a conversation over the soup course of their harvest feast. Throughout the afternoon soup was served and eaten during a dozen repetitions of the skit, yet it remained tasty the entire time. The recipe was requested. We used "Winter Squash Soup" adapted by Sharon Van Kuren from *The Thirteen Colonies Cookbook* which is a collection of authentic recipes from a number of Historic Sites.

#### Winter Squash Soup

1 onion, chopped	1 teaspoon fresh rosemary, chopped
1 cup celery, chopped	2 cups heavy cream
4 tablespoons butter	Salt and pepper to taste
3 cups chicken stock (low sodium)	Nutmeg
2 packages Birdseye frozen Winter Squash (it comes as a puree)	

Sauté onions and celery in 2 tablespoons of butter. Add stock, squash, and rosemary. Bring to a boil and simmer 10 minutes. And remaining butter, remove from the heat and add cream. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Dust with nutmeg. Heat to serving temperature, but do not boil after cream is added. (Although mine accidentally did and nothing terrible happened!)

Ann Williams

### *Author Review*

If you enjoy historical novels, especially larger than life romps through a pivotal era, you will love Philippa Gregory's tales of Henry VIII and the women in his life. The books are well written, thoroughly researched, and overflowing with details of court life and vibrant characters during the Tudor period. From the childhood of Katherine of Aragon (Gregory spells the name with a "K"; most other sources with a "C") through the reign of Elizabeth I, personalities, motivations, court intrigues, and grasping maneuverings of the nobility shape the course of history. Henry progresses from a handsome, but shallow, lad to an obese self-centered tyrant. Some of the characters are helplessly trapped by circumstance, and even the most despicable have strengths and quandaries that make them human, even sympathetic, at times. The background is immense pageantry. Imagine the frequent moving of the court from one palace to another, hundreds of people and horses and wagons loaded with royal paraphernalia: gowns, silver, crockery, pots, dishes, livestock, falcons, beds, carpets, and more. Yet there is noise, dust, mud, manure, and illness. The workings and protocol of the Tudor Court are fascinating. The books were not written as a chronological series, and need not be read in any particular order. Below are brief summaries.

*The Constant Princess* is the story of Henry's first wife, Katherine of Aragon. She was born to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain during a time of bloody warfare and cruel inquisition. She married Arthur, heir apparent to the English throne, in 1501; he died within five months. Next she married his younger brother, Henry VIII. Was the first marriage consummated? Was she a virgin and entitled to be queen? Why was she so very Catholic and the Pope so slow and difficult? None of this would have mattered had she borne a son; her only child was Mary, subject of another of Gregory's novels.

*The Other Boleyn Girl* is about Anne Boleyn and her sister Mary. Young Mary was instructed to lure Henry into marriage, and she nearly succeeded through audacious behavior way beyond flirting. Henry was smitten, but then noticed Anne and decided to marry her instead. Gradually the girls exchanged personas, Mary became sedate, and Anne became the libertine. She couldn't bear a son either so bogus charges were brought against her ranging from witchcraft to adultery. She was found guilty; off with her head



*The Boleyn Inheritance* is the interwoven story of Henry's fourth and fifth wives, Anne of Cleves and Katherine Howard. He married Anne, an awkward German girl who spoke no English, to form a political alliance. She displeased him at once. He spent their entire short marriage arranging their divorce. He next married Katherine, Anne's lady-in-waiting. Although Henry had a son by Jane Seymour, wife number three who died in childbirth, he wanted another to ensure royal succession. Katherine could not provide; off with her head. Both of these unfortunates were ruthlessly manipulated by Jane Boleyn, sister-in-law to the Boleyn girls.

*The Queen's Fool* tells the story of Mary, daughter of Henry and Katherine of Aragon. It is told by a young court jester, a girl disguised as a boy, hence the title. In many ways this is the most interesting as the narrator is a commoner familiar with poverty. She is a constant presence at court and observes everything. Queen Mary is determined to bring Catholicism back to England, and conducts her own inquisition, as bloody as that of her Spanish grandparents, which earns her the name of Bloody Mary. She is haunted by the violence she commands, yet truly believes it to be God's will.

*The Virgin's Lover* is about Elizabeth I, daughter of Henry and Anne Boleyn. As a child Elizabeth was ignored by her father and kept in isolation as if she didn't exist. Yet she succeeded her half-sister Bloody Mary who had nearly destroyed the country. Were she and Robert Dudley actually lovers? Probably not. She did love him, but she loved power more, and was convinced she would lose it if she married. Consequently she became the most powerful monarch in British history.

Gregory's newest book, *The Other Queen*, is just out. I'm looking forward to reading about Mary, Queen of Scots.  
Ann Williams

### *The History Calendar*

Admission charged at all events unless otherwise noted.

Check the Charlotte Regional History Consortium website for other events.

<http://www.charlotteregionalhistory.org>

### *The Charlotte Museum of History*

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

#### **Women Making History Series; Wed. Jan 7; 11:30 am to 1 pm**

The second of the three speakers in this series features Karen Tumulty, National Political Correspondent for *TIME Magazine* who has written or co-written 30 cover stories for *TIME*. Earlier, Ms Tumulty served 14 years as a correspondent for the *Los Angeles Times*. A native of San Antonio, Texas, she holds a BA from the University of Texas-Austin and an MBA from Harvard Business School. Ms Tumulty recently returned from Jerusalem where she was with Senator Barack Obama and her appearance at the museum will be closely aligned with the impending Presidential Inauguration. \$55 for Nonmembers; \$45 for Members, including luncheon, Reservations required.

#### **Twelfth Night; Sat. Jan 10, 6 to 9 pm**

Join us in celebrating Twelfth Night, including the cutting of the Twelfth Night cake, the Twelfth Night dance, and our annual Toasting competition. Tour the 1774 Hezekiah Alexander Homesite and drop in to the log cabin kitchen to see Colonial cookways demonstrated by the Catawba Cooking Guild. Refresh yourself with non-alcoholic drinks in our "Colonial Tavern," while enjoying the sounds of live Colonial music. Reservations required.

#### **Exhibit: An Invitation to the White House; throughout February**

First Family's New Home: As President-elect Barack Obama and the Obama family adjust to life in the White House, learn more about their new home. Wander through our new exhibit, *An Invitation to the White House* and browse invitations and memorabilia of past inaugurations. Explore the history of presidential entertaining, the

elegance of state dinners, and the stories behind the First Families. Activities for children will be available in the Hands-On History Room.

**Personalized Group Tours:** For a nominal fee we will offer docent-guided, in-depth tours of this exhibit, tailored to the special interests of your group. To allow us time to prepare, please make reservations in advance: call Sheryl Jacoppo at (704) 568-1774, x.126.

**Presidents' Day; Mon. Feb 16; 10 am to 5 pm**

Celebrate Presidents' Day at the museum with "Presidential Prices." Walk in for a Washington (Admission for \$1). Lunch for a Lincoln (Catered lunch for \$5). Join for a Jackson (Individual Membership for \$20). Grab a Family Membership for a Grant (Household Membership for \$50). Enjoy the museum and be a part of the First Family Fun in February promotion. Wander through our new exhibit, *An Invitation to the White House*, and participate in our interactive and educational games, activities, and crafts pertaining to White House and presidential history. Reservations suggested.

**Living History Sundays**

Beginning in 2009, the Charlotte Museum of History will present Living History Sunday on the first Sunday of every month from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Guests may participate in interactive historic demonstrations of colonial skills.

January 4, 2009: Lisa Jillani will bake Shrewsbury cakes in the Dutch oven in our reproduction kitchen.

Participants will join in the preparation.

February 1, 2009: Dick Welch will demonstrate basket weaving. Participants will weave a small mat.

*Historic Crossedale*

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

**Black History Month; Saturday, February 7; 11 am**

Dr. Robert Smith, legal historian from UNCC with interests in the convergence of race and law, as well as African-American history, hosts a panel discussion with members of the UNCC Faculty.

*Latta Plantation*

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

**Civil War Winter Quarters and the Home Front; Sat. Jan. 10, 10 am to 4 pm; Jan 11, 1 to 4 pm**

Learn how families survived while soldiers were away at war, what impact the home guard had on local communities and how soldiers spent their time during brutal winters encamped with the armies. Demonstrations of weaving, cooking, and more!

**Open Hearth Cooking Workshop; Sat. Jan 17, 10 am to 4 pm**

Learn the basics of open hearth cooking as we make a full course meal in the kitchen! \$30 per person (limited to 6 participants).

**Natural Dyeing Workshop; Sat. Jan 24, 9:30 am to 4 pm**

Learn about the chemistry and techniques of natural dyeing. Dye and take home a cotton scarf and silk handkerchief. \$50 per person (limited to 6 participants).

**Back of the Big House; Sat. Feb 7, 10 am to 4 pm**

Hear the story of Sukey and the other enslaved people who lived at Latta from 1800 to 1865.

**Valentine Sweetheart Tours; Sat. Feb. 14, Noon to 4 pm**

Take your sweetheart back in time to the days of courting, homemade valentines, and simple romance. The plantation home will be decorated with period Valentines and tours will include sweetheart stories from the Latta girls.



**Knitting Workshop; Sat. Feb. 21, 9 am to Noon, or 1 to 4 pm (choose either session)**

Learn the basics of knitting: cast-on, knit stitch, purl stitch, basic patterns, cast off. Take home knitting- yarn and needles. \$35 per person (limited to 6 participants per session).

*Schiele Museum*

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

**Uncovering Mysteries of the White-on-White Coverlet; Saturday, February 28; 10 am to 4 pm  
Adult Workshop**

Among the earliest surviving bedcovers from the southern backcountry are white whole-cloth quilts and coverlets, dating from the early 1800s. One such coverlet, a rare and intriguing piece from The Schiele Museum collections, is the inspiration for this one-day symposium featuring Laurel Horton, internationally acclaimed quilt researcher, folklorist and author. Enjoy a day learning about early quilts and coverlets in the Carolina Backcountry, learn common needlework techniques from the 18th and 19th centuries, and bring family needlework treasures for expert analysis. Includes copy of *Decorative Motifs from the Southern Backcountry 1750-1825*. Check web site for costs.

*President James K. Polk State Historic Site*

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

<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/polk>

**Presidents' Day Program; Sat. Feb. 14, 10 to 11:30 am**

This Valentines Day, join the staff and their respected guests at the President James K. Polk State Historic Site as they discuss the role of the first ladies in the White House. Join Professor Emeritus Dr. James Sasser, Scott Warren from the President James K. Polk State Historic Site and Laura Ledford Interpretive Park Ranger from Andrew Jackson State Park in Lancaster, SC, as they discuss the roles of these three First ladies whose husbands all had Carolina ties. Admission free.

*Levine Museum of the New South*

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

**We Shall Overcome; Sun. Jan 18, 3 pm**

Storyteller and musician Kali Ferguson explores the role of protest music in the Civil Rights Era, while Charlotte Symphony musicians perform "classical" music that protests injustice and human bondage. Followed by a panel discussion led by historian Tom Hanchett and civil rights attorney James Ferguson. Free.

*The Carl J. McEwen Historical Village*

7601 Matthews-Mint Hill Rd. 704-573-0726

<http://www.minthillhistory.com>

**Call for Volunteers!** The Historical Village in Mint Hill will have volunteer training on three Saturdays in February; the 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 to noon. Call administrative director, Sue McDonald, at 704-573-0726 if you are interested.

*Rural Hill*

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

**Rural Hill Walk-about & Stone Soup; Thursday, January 1, 2009 - New Years Day**

See Web site for more details

*Gaston County Museum*

131 West Main Street Dallas, NC. (704)922-7681, #2 [www.gastoncountymuseum.org](http://www.gastoncountymuseum.org)

**Book Talk and Signing; Sun. Jan 4, 3 to 4 pm**

Author Larry Nichols will discuss and sign copies of his book *Memories of Cramerton: A Cotton Mill Town*.

**Standing on a Box: Lewis Hine's National Child Labor Committee Photography, Gaston County, 1908 November 8, 2008 through February 21, 2009, free.**

Standing on a Box showcases the 1908 Gaston County photographs of Lewis Wickes Hine, staff photographer of the National Child Labor Committee. Between November 1908 and February 1909, Lewis Hine photographed children in and around nineteen cotton mills in North and South Carolina as part of National Child Labor Committee efforts to document child labor in regional textile mills. Many of those photographs were made in Gaston County, North Carolina.

These images of young Gaston County textile workers were displayed around the country to bring attention to the issue of child labor. Those poignant photographs have been credited as being instrumental to the success of the child labor reform movement to pass state and federal legislation against child labor. Combined with artifacts from the Museum's collection, the exhibit examines a rarely-mentioned but critical part of our local cultural heritage.

MHA Docents  
Jim and Ann Williams  
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