

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Promoting Local History through Education and Research



March/April, 2008
Volume 14, Number 2

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From the Chairman

The docents have had a wonderful start for the year 2008. The January board retreat was different from past years since June McKinny and June White were unable to join us. However, that did not stop us from setting goals for this year and enjoying some time with Maile Kim from Levine, Jan McCormick from Charlotte Museum of History and Rachel Hooey from Latta. What a joy to hear their enthusiasm for their work and learn from their experience! This younger generation has the same passion for history the docents are known for and that is certainly encouraging.

The Education Committee has enjoyed great success with the class series "From Wagon Roads to New South City." Wanda Hubicki did her usual excellent job sending out the press releases and the response from that effort was incredible. We had over 100 inquiries from people wanting to register for the series. With limited space at the Polk and Rosedale sites, we had to create a waiting list. What would we do without Wanda who quietly makes our publicity happen each time we need her? Thank you, Wanda! It was she who reminded me that the history community always pulls together to get things done when the chips are down.

How do we thank all of the volunteers who have made this series such a success? We are deeply indebted to The James K. Polk State Historic Site, Historic Rosedale and the Levine Museum of the New South for space for the classes and the staff at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church (Thank you Charlene and Danielle!) and Historic Rosedale for chairs and help with moving them. We are equally indebted to Anne Evans, Scott Warren, Jim Williams, Karen McConnell, Deacon Jones, Barbara Jackson, Jim Hogue, Tom Hanchett and the docents for lively and interesting programs that kept our participants in their seats for two and one half hours on Saturday mornings and coming back time after time. The Education Committee, chaired by Barbara Jackson and Rachel Abernathy, has worked hard to make this happen. We had an average audience of 75 people at each session. It was hard work but, what a wonderful challenge to have! We should all be proud of this accomplishment.

As we move into March, we look forward to great programs with our visit to Reed Gold Mine and in April to our speaker, Tom Phlegar on the Revolutionary War battle sites. In May we hit the road again with a bus trip to see Fort Defiance. See the article in this newsletter for more details. Wow! Stick with the docents if you want to learn a lot and enjoy a good time.

Alice Bostic

Newsletter Deadline

As always, thanks to all who submit to the Dandelion. Deadline for the May – June issue is April 15th, an easy date to remember. We do not publish again until September, so be sure to include summer activities and events. Send your contributions to mhadandelion@mindspring.com or by mail to Ann and Jim Williams, 1601 S Wendover Road, Charlotte, NC 28211.

March and April Docent Programs

Tuesday, March 4th

ROAD TRIP! – To Reed Gold Mine

As your docent board was meeting during November last year, the question “what is under those Charlotte streets, ‘paved with gold,’” came up in the discussion. This was prompted because, at the time, College Street had closed because of the work for the new Wachovia building. It seemed that layers of dirt under the street were sliding into the recently excavated foundation area. Wondering if this was a subterranean gold mine issue, I called Reed Gold Mine, a North Carolina state historic site, to see if they could provide our group with a program on exactly what IS under all those streets uptown. Since many of our current docents have not been to Cabarrus County to visit the site, and many others have not visited in a very long time, I made arrangements for us to have our March program there to learn, “What Is Under Charlotte.”

In place of our monthly meeting at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church, we will carpool to Reed Gold Mine on Tuesday morning, March 4. Carpools will leave about 9:00 in order to arrive in time for a short business meeting at 10:00, followed by the program presented by the staff. Afterwards, we will drive into Locust to have lunch at the Old School Mill’s Fresh House Restaurant before returning home. The restaurant serves for lunch, salads and quiches, sandwiches, wraps, and burgers, as well as yummy sounding desserts, including homemade ice creams. Appetizers are \$3.99-6.99; salads \$3.99-6.99; quiche, sandwiches, and burgers \$4.79-6.99; drinks \$1.09-1.39; desserts \$2.99-5.99. I will need to know how many are planning to go, in order to give the restaurant a heads-up count on Monday, the 3rd. Please call me, Valerie Jones, or email me, if you intend to go. (Messages on my phone answering machine are fine.) 704-567-0599 or yvjones@carolilna.rr.com

Several car pools are being organized, and I will co-ordinate that as well. Please let me know when you call or email about your transportation needs, and I’ll fit you into one of the carpools, based on where you live in the area.

It has been a long time since we have been as a group to Reed Gold Mine. I think you’ll enjoy learning about America’s first gold rush, and how it impacted little Charlottetowne. Also we’ll get to meet the new site director, Sharon Robinson. An introduction to Sharon appears elsewhere in this newsletter. Valerie Jones

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. Refreshments: 9:30 am; business meeting 10 am; program: 11 am. Visitors are always welcome.

What Happened Here, During the War?

Local volunteer, historian and interpreter Tom Phlegar will give us an overview of the “late unpleasantness” in the Charlotte region. He will sketch briefly the events of 1780 and 1781 as Lord Cornwallis spent some time in Charlotte, planting the seeds that lead to his ultimate demise and the triumph of Patriot forces over the Army of Great Britain. With this background Tom will delve into the events, underlying reasons and vibrant personalities involved in this fascinating time and place in our American History.

Announcements

We are unhappy to report that at one of our recent meetings several items were stolen from the car of one of our guests. The car was parked in the Sugaw Creek Church lot and was not locked. However the items taken were not in plain view. The person is working with their insurance company, and is not holding either the church or the docents responsible. We print this here as a reminder to always lock your cars.

Several times during the past few months our meetings had to be moved from the Sugaw Creek Fellowship Hall to the church Scout Hut. They have been very accommodating to us, but occasionally conflicts arise long after this newsletter has been sent. They have been great about putting out helpful signage; so be alert for last minute changes.

At the January Docent Retreat the board decided that we would no longer collect and record the number of hours contributed to the community by docents. Years ago we thought this information would be useful if we applied for grants to support our projects. However, we have not applied for any grants, and have never been asked to document our service. The sites we work with keep excellent detailed records as required by the Arts and Science Council, and MHA has been generous in supporting our other activities. Our years of recorded hours will be filed and kept as a reminder of the vast amount of time we have given to the community and the large number of people who have benefited from our knowledge. Thank you, thank you, Nell Coward for being such a good steward of our community service. You are appreciated much more than we can express.

MHA Dinner Meeting

The next MHA dinner meeting will be Monday, March 24, at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Dinner is at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:15. Those not attending dinner are welcome to enjoy the program at no charge. To make dinner reservations contact Kathy Herran at 704-553-0936, or kathyherran@hotmail.com.

Our program, **First Lady of Architecture, the story of Harriet Morrison Irwin**, will be presented by Kathy Herran. Kathy is the author of *They Married Confederate Officers*, a biography of the six accomplished daughters of Robert Hall Morrison. Although the book's focus is the most famous Morrison daughter, Anna Morrison Jackson, wife of Stonewall, her older sister Harriet has an equally fascinating story to tell. Although Harriet was largely self trained as an architect, she was the first woman in America to receive an architectural patent. Learn about her unique building style, and the unusual reasons she championed it.

Dues Reminder

If you have not yet paid your 2008 dues, now is the time. These are MHA dues, however we pay them by way of the docent treasury in order to keep our docent membership information accurate. Make your check payable **MHA Docents**. Bring it to the March meeting, or mail to Valerie Jones, 4700 Coronado Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212.

This year the MHA dues have increased, due to increases in printing and postage expenses. The new dues schedule is shown below. If you have already paid your dues, congratulations! you just saved a few bucks. Otherwise, please pay the rates shown below.

General	\$30.00 (single)	\$50.00 (couple)
Senior (60+)	\$15.00 (single)	\$25.00 (couple)
Patron	\$60.00 (single)	\$100.00 (couple)
Life (one payment)	\$300.00 (single)	\$500.00 (couple)

MECKLENBURG
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
DOCENTS

Since 1990, a unique volunteer group within
the history community of Charlotte and
Mecklenburg County.

Monthly Meetings and History Programs
1st Tuesdays, September through June
Social 9:30 a.m.
Business Meeting 10:00 a.m.
History Program 11:00 a.m.
Sagaw Creek Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall
West Sagaw Creek Road at North Tryon Street
Charlotte, NC 28213

Interested in History?
Visitors are WELCOME!

Docent Book Club

As is our practice, the Book Club met following our February General Meeting. Our program was a little different in that we reported on research that we had done since the previous month. In our reading of North Carolina fiction, certain characters who were real live persons, made appearances and made us want to know more about them. Dolley Madison was one of these; we will probably do more research on Madame Madison since she is so interesting (and surprising!) Others on our list are Henry Berry Lowery, Zebulon B. Vance, and Andrew Jackson. Reports on these people will be presented as research is ready.

In March we will be at the Reed Gold Mine and since it is inconvenient to meet when we are away from 'home' we are looking ahead to April. Our reading will be *A Magnificent Catastrophe* by Edward L. Larson. It deals with the Adams-Jefferson election of 1800 —appropriate for 2008.

Please feel free to join us for conversation and discussion after the April general meeting.

Rachel Abernathy

New Docent Rack Cards

As you read this our new rack cards should be hot off the press. Thanks to Wanda Hubicki and her hard-working committee we now have a wonderful visual to acquaint the public with our organization. We hope they will attract new members, and spread the word about our programs and projects. The distribution plan is still being formulated, but in general they should be available at historic sites and other appropriate places. Alice Bostic will have rack cards at our next meeting. Be sure to take some to share with your history minded friends. If you miss the meeting and need rack cards, contact Alice.

Journey to Fort Defiance

On the 6th of May the docents will travel by bus to Lenoir to visit Fort Defiance. Even though it is only March, we will not have another newsletter until just before the trip, so **consider this your only notice to reserve your space**. Guests are more than welcome!

The March issue of Our State Magazine includes an article by D. G. Martin entitled *Tar Heel Towns – Lenoir*, featuring Fort Defiance! Is this good timing, or what? Fort Defiance is not a fort, but the lovely family home built by General William Lenoir in 1792 in what is now called Happy Valley on the Yadkin River between Lenoir and Wilkesboro. Years before, a palisaded enclosure called Fort Defiance had stood nearby. The earliest settlers had gathered there to protect themselves from the Indians. By 1792 the old fort was long gone, but its name must have been evocative of the defiant pioneer spirit, so Lenoir chose it for the name of his home.

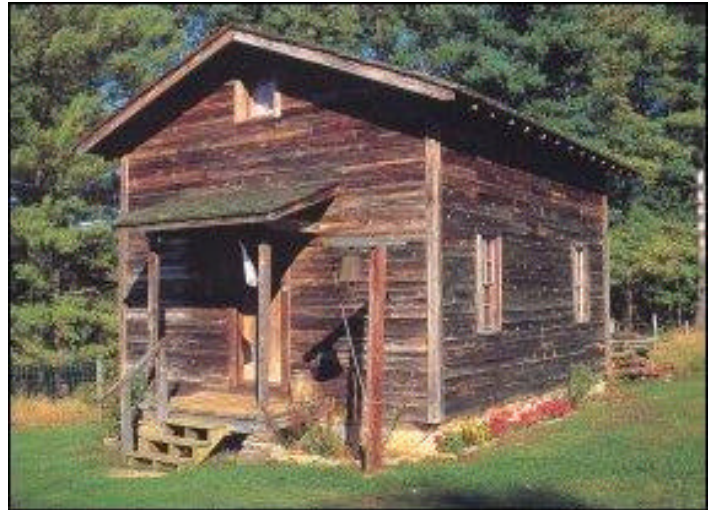
William Lenoir was a hero of the battle of Kings Mountain, and a military and civilian leader in the community for decades. By the time he built his dream home on some of the prettiest land you can imagine, he was in his early forties and had become a financially successful businessman and planter. No expense was spared. All of this would make for an interesting historic site, but Lenoir possessed a quality which makes it a superior one. He wrote extensively about all he experienced, and apparently recorded nearly every thought that crossed his mind. He also



saved papers, books, and anything else that came into his possession. Fortunately for us his descendants did likewise. Consequently the home is filled with original family pieces. Whenever a new item of furniture was acquired by future generations, the item it replaced was disassembled and stored in the attic. It was a restoration gold mine. We hope your appetite is whetted.

The schedule for Tuesday, May 6 is as follows. We will leave the Sugaw Creek Church parking lot by charter bus at 9 am. We'll arrive at Fort Defiance about 10:30 – 11, and

have a tour of the home. Site director Becky Phillips will be our guide for the entire day. The tour will be followed by a box lunch in their large picnic shelter, and a behind-the-scenes talk about the extensive collection of artifacts and Lenoir papers. Ike Forester, Lenoir descendant and historian extraordinaire, will lead this discussion if his schedule allows. We'll get back on the bus and go to the Whippoorwill Academy, a small village composed of reconstructed log and frame buildings. There we will learn more about the history of the area. We'll then travel back to Charlotte arriving about 4:30 – 5. We realize May 6th is primary election day, so the trip has been planned to allow time to vote in the early morning, or late afternoon. There should be plenty of room on the bus, so bring a friend!



The cost of the trip is **\$50** which includes bus fare, the box lunch, and all admissions. Reservations including payment must be in by **April 18**. Use the form below.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Box Lunch selection: Turkey Club _____, or Chicken Salad Croissant _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ 50.00. Make check payable to MHA Docents, and mail with this form to Valerie Jones, 4700 Coronado Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212.

Get Ready for Meck Dec Day!

If you have 18th Century, or early 19th Century dress get it out and dust it off. You won't want to miss the events of May 17-20, celebrating Mecklenburg Declaration Day. This year all of our local historic sites, the MHA, the May 20th Society and Rev War Reenactment groups take the celebration to a new level.

On Saturday and Sunday, May 17 and 18, Rural Hill in Huntersville presents a full-scale Revolutionary War Battle Reenactment each day. If you haven't seen one recently, or if you just like the grand sweep and pageantry of these events, start your Meck Dec celebration here.

On Saturday afternoon and evening, May 17th, representatives from all of the local historic sites will join together on the grounds of the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite to celebrate the Mecklenburg Declaration as it was honored through the ages. Come and support your favorite site and learn about other sites in the region while enjoying music, dancing and pageantry. More details to come

On Tuesday, May 20th the celebration begins with the usual festivities at the square at noon – political speeches, reading of the Meck Dec, toasts and salutes, and the firing of muskets and cannon, culminating with our parade to Settlers Cemetery where we honor Colonel Thomas Polk, the founder of Charlotte.

This year's special guest, courtesy of the May 20th Society, is Ken Burns, whose films you have seen on Public Television. He will meet with school children in the morning and perhaps attend the celebration at the square. In the evening he will attend a reception at the Mint Museum of Craft and Design uptown. Volunteer interpreters in 18th and early 19th century dress are invited to attend this reception and meet Mr. Burns. Then we will all escort our honored guest up Tryon Street, with flags flying, fife and drum, and military escort, to hear his address at the McGlohon Theatre at Spirit Square. Likewise, Volunteer interpreters in 18th and early 19th century dress are invited to attend this presentation.

So dust off your costume, or get started sewing yourself a new one, and get ready for this grand weekend of events celebrating the first formal declaration of independence from Great Britain by any of the American Colonies.

Jim Williams

News from Reed Gold Mine

A warm welcome to Sharon Robinson, the new site director at Reed Gold Mine! The director's chair has been vacant since Bob Remsburg accepted the position as supervisor of Western North Carolina State Historic Sites. Sharon came on board last May 15th. She has a master's degree in history and museum studies, and has had experience at the Edison National Historic Site, and Petersburg National Battlefield. Most recently she was employed at Kings Mountain State Park in South Carolina.

Sharon grew up in Waynesville, NC, and remembers being fascinated as a child by the story of the discovery of gold by Conrad Reed. Now she is learning the fuller story, and still finds it fascinating, every new fact leading to a question. Her passion is to make the story better known; it is not only important to North Carolina, but is a crucial event in US history. Her enthusiasm is contagious, and we're looking forward to meeting her during our March visit.

Ann Williams

News from Rural Hill

"Rural Retreat", a log home built to represent the first Davidson home on the property is now open to visitors. John and Violet Davidson settled at Rural Hill in the 1760s and began raising their family in a simple log house they called Rural Retreat. They lived there, adding rooms from time to time, until the plantation house was built in 1788. This reconstruction is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 am to 4 pm.

A Farewell to Alice Abel

On January 13, Alice Caldwell Davidson Abel passed away in Burlington, North Carolina. She and her late sister Mary Louise Davidson were the last residents of Historic Rosedale. These two ladies were instrumental in seeing that their ancestral home remained in the Charlotte historic community, and they were both deeply involved in saving other local historic buildings. In addition to her passion for preserving history she was a DAR member, and an incredibly knowledgeable antique dealer. Since Rosedale's opening Alice has supplied the site with copious family information, a detailed description of her mother's garden, and a fine sense of what the grounds once looked like. Her passion and her sharp mind will be greatly missed. After a brief graveside ceremony, Alice was buried at Elmwood Cemetery in the Davidson family plot.

Ann Williams

*Book Review**Trail of Tears, the Rise and Fall of the Cherokee Nation* by John Ehle

John Ehle is a well-known writer of historical fiction and non-fiction focused on North Carolina, particularly the mountains. He grew up on land once used by the Cherokee as hunting grounds. This meticulously researched book presents a native people who were caught in a trap of greed for land, divided political loyalties, and attitudes that left them victims of the powerful. Often their plight was worsened by members of their own tribe.

Ehle's focus is on John Ridge who was born in 1771, of Cherokee parents, but whose grandfather was a Highland Scot. John Ridge's upbringing was typically Cherokee and Ehle discusses at length the customs and practices existing among the Cherokees at the time. John became a chief of his people, well-educated, and eventually very wealthy. Traveling often to Washington he was on good terms with President Jefferson and succeeding presidents. Even President Andrew Jackson treated him with respect although Jackson was a notorious hater of all Indians. Ridge had helped Jackson earn his reputation as an Indian fighter serving as a guide and advisor against Florida-based Red Stick Cherokees.

The Old Cherokee Nation was in western North Carolina, northern Georgia and Alabama, and southeastern Tennessee. There the Cherokees lived as their ancestors had, hunting, making war, isolated from the growing country surrounding them. Ehle spends a third of his book detailing the 'old' ways into which John Ridge was born. Presidents Washington and those who followed him in that office instituted policies based on "civilizing" the Indians. Showing some success these policies held until the presidency of Andrew Jackson during which the pressures for westward expansion overwhelmed the Cherokee.

During and after Jackson's presidency the policies became based on "removal". The Cherokee were asked to remove themselves from their ancestral lands to lands in Oklahoma even though much of the new land had already been claimed by Cherokees and other tribes. Although it took place over many years and there was no one trail (there were several routes) the phrase 'trail of tears' has come to symbolize Jackson's removal policies. These policies could also be called those of "broken promises".

Ehle does not dwell on the horrors of the removal itself but rather describes the complicated affairs of the Cherokee leaders. Chief John Ross, who disagrees with John Ridge about the choices to be made by the people (to stay or to go), allies himself with Jacksonians and, though he claimed innocence, brings about the destruction of Ridge and his family. The resettlement in Oklahoma is eventful, but Ehle's main focus in this book is the rise of the Cherokee Nation rather than its fall.

This book is very interesting because of Ehle's ability to write non-fiction that reads as easily as fiction. He reprints many original letters of people that we know from our white history books, Presidents and Generals, and emphasizes the roles of women in Cherokee society. Photographs and drawings add an interesting dimension. Missionaries to the Cherokee are some of the heroes in this story, another major impact on the Cherokee and their

lands is the discovery of gold in northern Georgia. Also very interesting is the story of Sequoia, the Cherokee who developed an alphabet in Cherokee enabling the people to read in their own language.

This is a heart-rending story told by a master writer. It is a story as old as the Cherokees themselves and the repercussions have reached modern times. Ehle treats his subject with care and respect. Rachel Abernathy

The History Calendar

Admission charged at all event unless otherwise noted.

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

African American History in the Queen City March 8, 2008; 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Learn about the experiences of the African American community in Charlotte as we explore the extraordinary history of Johnson C. Smith University. Learn how the university rose from its humble beginnings, became the center of Charlotte's black community, and help shape the history of the city we call home.

Colonial Fair April 12; 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Step back in time and enjoy the atmosphere of a colonial fair. See historic craft demonstrations, such as basket weaving, wood turning, pottery making, and spinning. Tour the 1774 Rock House, observe colonial cooking in the log kitchen, and listen to live colonial music. Children can participate in the games and crafts of the period.

Historic Rosedale

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

Animal totems: Symbolic Signs in Nature March 29; 11:00 am

Naturalist, Faye Wright, a North Carolinian of Native American Heritage, will explain the theories and symbolism in animal totems.

Heirloom Plants April 19; 11:00 a.m.

Andrew King will present a program on heirloom plants found at Rosedale as well as those commonly found in the area, including instructions on how to properly divide and/or propagate the plants. The importance of preserving heirloom plants will be explained and handouts on national organizations for this purpose will be distributed. Paul Zimmerman, from our partner organization, The Rosarium will go into detail on Antique roses, their culture and preservation.

Latta Plantation

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

Art of the Blacksmith March 1; 10 am-4 pm.

19th Century blacksmiths demonstrate their skills and explain their role in the communities during the time period. Dust off your anvils and visit Latta for a great day of learning!

Civil War Reenactment April 5-6; 10 am-4 pm

See soldiers from the North and South reenact a typical battle of the American Civil War. Also enjoy living history demonstrations, house tours, open-hearth cooking, soldier camps, and more!

Backcountry Carolina April 26; 10 am-4 pm

Join Latta for a day of Backcountry life and skills... from cleaning, carding, and spinning wool, to plowing, planting, and living off the land. See how our area's first settlers survived on the frontier!

Schiele Museum

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

Spring Tonic March 30; 1 – 5 pm.

Historical practices and cures have been handed down as heirlooms. See how 18th century folks collected and prepared remedies from field, forest, garden, kitchen, blacksmith shop and even the barnyard! Visit “the herb woman” (AKA Kay Moss) and discover medical theory and practices documented from early Southern journals.

From Sheep to Shortgown April 27; 1 – 5 pm.

Join us as historical interpreters card and spin freshly shorn wool into thread. Try your hand at shearing or weaving on a tape loom. Discover the difference between a shortgown and a waist coat as youngsters "dress the part" of a backcountry child.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

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

Book Signing and Lecture April 10; 7 – 8 pm. Free.

Please join us as we welcome author Walter Borneman to the President James K. Polk State Historic Site. Mr. Borneman will be speaking about his new book, *Polk: The Man who Transformed the Presidency and America*. Afterwards, Mr. Borneman will sign copies of his new book. Pre-registration is required by April 1.

Rural Hill

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

Loch Norman Highland Games April 18 – 20.

Please check our website for details

The Carl J. McLewen Historical Village

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

<http://www.minthillhistory.com>

Herb and Flower Festival April 19; 9 am – 3 pm.

Also featured will be the grand reopening of the Ira V. Ferguson Country Store.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

Living History Weekend March 8-9; 10 am - 4 pm

The fort's garrison shakes off the winter frost and focuses heavily on military drill as the spring thaw opens another campaigning season.

War for Empire 1758 April 19-20; 10 am - 4 pm.

Fort Dobbs comes alive with soldiers, Indians and civilians as we look at NC's role in the French and Indian War. Hundreds of Provincial soldiers from NC served under John Forbes during his successful campaign to capture French Fort Duquesne. The event will feature a recreation of the 1760 attack on Fort Dobbs, as well as scholarly lectures from guest speakers. Donations suggested.

Gaston County Museum

131 West Main Street Dallas, NC. (704)922-7681, #2 www.gastoncountymuseum.org

Orville Hicks, Appalachian Storyteller March 2; 3 pm – 4 pm. Free.

Storyteller Orville Hicks will perform a program of Mountain lore that reaches back to the 19th century. Hicks represents a new generation in a noted North Carolina narrative tradition: the Jack Tale. He will also tell tall tales, jokes, and local legends. Descended from a line of noted storytellers, including the legendary Counce Harmon and National Heritage Fellows Ray and Stanley Hicks, he is a preeminent narrative tradition bearer. The program will include an introduction and commentary by folklorist Thomas McGowan.

Charlotte Folk Society

Old Time Acoustic Music Jams, March 9 and April 13, 2 to 4 pm each day, at the Charlotte Museum of History.

Charlotte Folk Society Concert featuring Piedmont bluegrass band **Wood and Steel** March 14, 7:30 pm at Bryant Recital Hall, Central CPCC Campus.

Carolina Chocolate Drops Concert, April 5, 7:30 pm, Northwest School of the Arts Auditorium.

The Carolina Chocolate Drops, a band of three young and talented African-American musicians, are recognized as leading the revival of the rural antebellum banjo and fiddle musical tradition. They have appeared at major festivals from MerleFest in Wilkesboro, NC to the Festival of American Fiddle Tunes in Port Townsend, Wash.

The Historic Excelsior Club, an anchor of Charlotte's black social life since 1944, located at 921 Beatties Ford Road, will host an affordably priced Family Fish Fry prior to the concert, from 5:50 to 7:30 pm.

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