

From the Chairman

To the Docent Committee Members:

After many years of having events at the Historic Rosedale Plantation, the MHA Docents have changed our meeting site to the Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church Parish Hall. We are appreciative to the board and staff at Historic Rosedale Plantation for their splendid hospitality through the years. It is fortunate we made the site change when we did for we had an unprecedented number of 49 guests at our February meeting. Our program chairman and vice-president, Wanda Hubicki, has outstanding publicity techniques which have brought MHA and docent programs to the attention of the history community and the public. We look forward to having our meetings at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. The secretary, Phyllis Rosinus, staff, and Charlene Sawyer and her daughter, Danielle, in particular, have been hospitable and gracious regarding matters related to using the facility.

Nell Coward, our statistician, reported that in 2005 docents gave a total of 3782½ hours of service. 14,486 individuals benefited. This means that we gave an average of 315 hours a month to 1207 members of the public. Even though these numbers are impressive, I feel they do not reflect every docent's total hours donated to MHA and the sites. Please be sure to give or mail Nell your hours report each month. The MHA Docents are remarkable individuals who work at numerous sites in the region. Your board members devote time beyond site involvement to continue the traditions set by previous boards. I wish to commend them and acknowledge the service of Wanda Hubicki, Valerie Jones, Carolyn Dilda, June McKinney, and Camille Smith. Thank you, ladies.

The board proposed the following goals for 2006 at the February meeting. The MHA docents commit ourselves:

- ◆ to increase awareness of and membership in MHA Docent Committee
- ◆ to inform the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community of the remarkable history of the region by expanding our education programs
- ◆ to strengthen the ties and outreach between the MHA Docents and the historic sites and museums

Our library will be relocated when its new quarters are prepared. JoAnn Dickens, Lisa Tappy, Hazel White, Pam Dudeck, and June White have volunteered to be on the library committee. I request that you give them whatever assistance they may ask of you.

The Education Committee has formed with Alice Bostic, Lisa Tappy, Millie Hodge, Camille Smith, and Barbara Jackson. Karen McConnell will serve as advisor. The committee has been charged with expanding our education/training program, involving historic sites, and attracting current and prospective docents to its offerings.

Any docent who wishes to work on these committees or on the Cartography, Nominating, or Rack Card Committee should contact me.

Remember that dues were payable January 1. There are some who must fulfill this obligation. You know who you are and so does Valerie. Please send your check now.

I am very excited about our excursion to the Great Wagon Road on March 14th. I hope you will be on the bus with us.

Great Wagon Road Trip

Wanda Hubicki



The MHA Docents have some seats left on the bus! We invite you to join us in traveling portions of the Great Wagon Road on Tuesday, March 14th, with our guide, Rod Meyer, recently retired director of Historic Bethabara Park, the site of the earliest Moravian settlement in North Carolina.

This is our itinerary:

7:30 AM – Depart Rosedale by motor coach. Morning snack & beverage provided.

9:00 AM – Pick up Rod Meyer and travel Great Wagon Road

1:00 PM – Lunch at the Old Salem Tavern

Choose one: Moravian Chicken Pie or

Quiche (spinach and Swiss cheese) & Salad

Lunch includes choice of beverage.

2:30 PM – Tour in Old Salem

Tickets will include access to both the town and MESDA (Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts). We would recommend touring either MESDA or the St. Phillips Complex, which documents African American history in Old Salem.

4:30 PM – Depart Old Salem for Charlotte

Cookies and beverage on return trip.

6:00 PM – Arrive at Rosedale

The price of the trip per person is \$60 and includes the cost of the coach, a donation to Historic Bethabara Park in appreciation of Mr. Meyer's services, lunch at the Tavern, and a ticket that will admit you to both Old Salem and MESDA.

If you'd like to join us, please give Valerie Jones a call at 704-567-0599 or email her at jvkjones@bellsouth.net to make a reservation. Then, mail a check made to "MHA Docents" to Valerie Jones, MHA Docent Treasurer, 4700 Coronado Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212 to reach her by Wednesday, March 8th. Please indicate your choice for lunch on the memo line on your check.

Please share this information with any staff, volunteers, friends and family you think would be interested. Thank you.

Wanda Hubicki, Program Chair
MHA Docents Committee
704-563-7080



The Great Wagon Road in North Carolina

Dale Loberger

The best rough placement between Salisbury and Charlotte would probably be along Highway 29 through Concord where it split and one part continued along Highway 29 to Tryon Street. The other part went down toward Camden following Flowes Store Road in Cabarrus County and Rocky River Road in Union County (formerly Mecklenburg). Another southerly route to here was from Davidson and likely followed near Highway 115 to Charlotte. Yet another route to the west toward Mount Holly crossed Cowan's Ford. There were also multiple roads heading south from Charlotte. One probably followed Highway 521 across the Nations Ford and another further to the east (perhaps somewhere around Old Monroe Road, but that is still conjecture in my mind.) The important thing to note is that there were multiple roads in this area. Was one called the "Great Wagon Road"? I sincerely doubt it as they all were important for different reasons, but none seemed more popular than the rest. The other congested area for colonial roads was around Bethabara and Salem. There were many roads crossing that area, but no clear "single best path" as there was from the North in Virginia. Keep in mind that the path that followed modern US Highway 11 (near I-81) was known as the "Great Wagon Road" and connected the city of Philadelphia to the Carolinas, but it split into many pieces once it came into the Carolinas and each carried a different local name.

The Great Wagon Road

By Parke Rouse, Jr.

Mile by mile, the Wagon Road spread further into the Deep South. After Ingles' Ferry was established, travelers by horse and wagon could travel with some assurance down the Appalachians as far as the Yadkin River in North Carolina, though the road grew progressively worse. Once the Yadkin River was reached, the road branched into several old Indian trails which had developed in earlier days between the villages of the Oconneechee, Tuscarora, Catawba, Shawnee, Cherokee, and other tribes. The growth of the Moravian settlement of Wachovia after 1753 increased travel from Virginia south to that region. So many settlers were now coming into piedmont North Carolina that the frontier county of Rowan was created in 1753 and the county seat of Salisbury established thirty miles south of Wachovia . . .

Thirty miles south of Salisbury was Charlotte, named for the young wife of George III . . . South of Charlotte, the Great Road branched in several directions. One course led southward to Georgia, while another followed the eastward flow of the Catawba River to Charleston via Camden.

(Quoting historian Carl Bridenbaugh)

Like most of our historic highways, the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road followed the meanderings of old Indian trails . . . Year after year, along this narrow-rutted intercolonial thoroughfare coursed a procession of horsemen, footmen, and pioneer families "with horse and wagon and cattle." In the last sixteen years of the colonial era, southbound traffic along the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road was numbered in tens of thousands; it was the most heavily traveled road in all America and must have had more vehicles jolting along its rough tortuous way than all other main roads put together.

In Mecklenburg County court records from 1807, one John Crawford sought permission to build a bridge across the Waxhaw Creek where the Great Road ran from Charlotte to Camden and Augusta.

Washington Never Doubted the Meck Dec or Its Signers

Walter Klein

It is Saturday, May 28, 1791, just before 3:00pm. President George Washington arrives in Charlotte. (Since he was the foremost Mason in the country, Freemasons were usually involved in welcoming ceremonies.) Enthusiastic crowds gathered in the towns and often could be seen along the road as he passed in his white carriage, equipped with venetian blinds and glass windows and pulled by four horses. A white riding horse, given to him by Emperor Frederick the Great of Prussia, was led behind the carriage for the President's use whenever he stopped.)

He has just come from the Harrison place in South Carolina, 13 miles south of Charlotte. With him are 14 cadets selected from a company of 55 in Salisbury who went to the South Carolina line to meet the President and escort him into Charlotte. Heading those cadets is Charles Caldwell, 19, who, on facing Washington, promptly forgets his welcoming speech.

To put him at his ease, Washington invites Caldwell to ride beside him at his left and suggests the other 13 uniformed cadets follow behind. Caldwell later wrote these revealing words:

(Washington) "During the late war, if my information is correct, the inhabitants were true to the cause of the country, and brave in its defense."

(Caldwell) "Your information is correct, sir . . . In Mecklenburg County, where we now are, and in Rowan, which lies before us, a Tory did not dare show his face – if he were known to be a Tory . . ."

(Washington) "Pray, what is the name of that town?"

(Caldwell) "Charlotte, Sir, the county town of Mecklenburg, and the place where independence was declared about a year before its declaration by Congress."

Caldwell wrote, "He at length inquired of me whether he might expect to meet in Charlotte any of the leading members of the convention which prepared and passed the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence . . . I replied that . . . Dr. Brevard, the author of the Declaration, was dead; that of the members of the convention still living I knew personally but two – Adam Alexander and John McKnitt Alexander, his brother, who had been its secretary."

The 14 cadets deliver the President to a reception committee in Charlotte and withdraw. Washington meets with his host, General Thomas Polk, "and a small party invited by him, at a table prepared for the purpose." The location is Polk's house, on the Square – the same house British General Cornwallis had appropriated for his headquarters and the only painted home in a log house community. It sits across the street from the Mecklenburg Courthouse where the Meck Dec was proclaimed sixteen years earlier on May 20, 1775.

Washington, Polk, Adam Alexander and John McKnitt Alexander are all Masons. This becomes known the instant they all shake hands. They then surely talk about the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

Washington's diary continues. "Sunday, 29th. Left Charlotte about 7 o'clock, dined at Colo. Smith's 15 miles off, and lodged at Majr. (Martin) Fifers 7 miles farther."

Washington was such a beloved and respected Freemason that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania unanimously elected him "Grand Master of Masons throughout the United States." He was so devoted to Masonry that he declined a superb design by Thomas Jefferson for the new city of Washington in favor of another drawn by a Mason to make Washington a Masonic image city.

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Washington Never Doubted the Meck Dec or Its Signers

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An exchange of letters in 1819 between Adams and Jefferson – neither of them Masons – touched off the argument about validity of the Meck Dec. By then Washington had been dead 20 years, Jefferson was 76 and Adams was 84. It was 44 years after the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, not at all contemporaneous.

Adams wrote Rev. William Bentley, “I was struck with so much astonishment on reading this document that I could not help inclosing it immediately to Mr. Jefferson, who must have seen it, in the time of it, for he has copied the spirit, the sense and the expressions of it verbatim into his Declaration of July, 1776...”

George Washington lived 24 years after the signing of the Meck Dec in 1775 until his death in 1799. He personally met and talked with Thomas Polk, the Meck Dec leader, and two other signers. In all those years Washington never expressed any doubt in the integrity of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence or its signers.

Backcountry Freedom Ways: The Border Idea of Natural Liberty

From “Albion’s Seed” by David Hackett Fischer

The backsettlers, no less than other colonists in every part of British America, brought with them a special way of thinking about power and freedom, and a strong attachment to their liberties. As early as the middle decades of the eighteenth century their political documents contained many references to liberty as their British birthright. In 1768, the people of Mecklenburg County, NC, declared, “We shall ever be more ready to support the government under which we find the most liberty.”

No matter whether they came from England or Scotland or Ireland, their libertarian ideas were very much alike – and profoundly different from notions of liberty that had been carried to Massachusetts, Virginia and Pennsylvania. The traveler Johann Schoepf was much interested in ideas of law and liberty which he found in the backcountry. “They shun everything which appears to demand of them law and order, and anything that preaches constraint,” Schoepf wrote of the backsettlers. “They hate the name of a justice, and yet they are not transgressors. Their object is merely wild. Altogether, natural freedom is what pleases them.”

Hey Y'all!

From http://www.ianjamesparsley.net/ullans_intro16.html

Given the undeniably huge impact Ulster Scots (or “Scotch Irish” [Scots-Irish] as they are usually known in the United States) have had elsewhere, particularly in North America, it is hardly surprising there are traces of their linguistic habits elsewhere as well! Words such as redd “tidy” or feard “afraid” are as likely to be heard in Tennessee as in Ulster, and it is likely that popular American terms and names such as “cracker” (from “crak” – crack, gossip, fun chat) and “y’all” (modern Ulster-Scots yis aa – literally “you all”) were brought across the Atlantic by Scotch Irishmen and women. There are also noticeable similarities in accent (particularly intonation) across the American South and in parts of Canada.

Charlotte Museum of History – Freedom and Liberty

Thursday, April 6, 7:00–9:00 p.m.,

Examine the symbols of Freedom and Liberty used by Americans through history with a lecture and book signing by American Visions of Liberty and Freedom author David Hackett Fischer. Light refreshments will be served. No reservations required. Regular Museum admission. Veterans and students receive Free Admission.

*Hares*Valerie Jones

The first sampler I ever worked appealed to me for several reasons, not the least of which were two, what I supposed to be, rabbits in the farmer's apple orchard. But upon researching this needlework motif, I realized that these weren't bunnies at all, but hares, a subspecies of Leporidae, herbivorous mammals that include rabbits as well as pikas, the smallest of the rabbit family.

Hares generally have longer ears and hind legs than rabbits and move by jumping rather than running. Unlike rabbits, hares are born covered with fur and with their eyes open. Hares are native to Eurasia, Africa and North and South America and have in recent times been introduced into Australia. They range in weight from 3 to 13 pounds and from 13 to 25 inches in length. They are usually brown or grayish in color, but northern species turn white in winter. Hares live in meadows, brushy country, and woodland clearings and are largely nocturnal, although if undisturbed they will forage during the day. Members of most of the hare species, rest in shallow hollows, called forms that they make in vegetation and have regular trails from these forms to their feeding spots. Females make nests of their own fur for receiving the young. Hares feed on grasses, leaves, and bark.

Most North American hares are very large, with extremely long ears and are called jackrabbits. Other North American species are the snowshoe rabbit, the Arctic hare, and the Alaska or tundra hare. The large brown hare is a native of Europe where it is valued as game. Introduced as a game animal in the NE United States it has become an agricultural pest. A side note: bred for hunting these animals, a harrier is a hunting dog resembling a small foxhound, but larger than the largest beagle.

"Mad as a March hare" is a common English phrase, appearing as early as 1546 in a collection of published proverbs. Based more on popular belief than science this appellation refers to the hare's behavior at the beginning of the long breeding season which lasts from February to September, when unreceptive females use their forelegs to repel overenthusiastic males. Lewis Carroll used this proverb to name a character from the tea party scene in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Alice hypothesizes, "The March Hare will be much the most interesting, and perhaps as this is May it won't be raving mad at least not so mad as it was in March."

The hare was not the only "mad" character at the tea party. There was also the Mad Hatter. Lewis Carroll did not invent the phrase, although he did create the character. The phrase "mad as a hatter" had been in common use in for many years before Carroll applied it to the character in his *Alice* story. The origin of the phrase, it's believed, is that hatters really did go mad. The chemicals used in hat-making included mercurious nitrate, used in curing felt. Prolonged exposure to the mercury vapors caused mercury poisoning. Victims developed severe and uncontrollable muscular tremors and twitching limbs, called "hatter's shakes." Other symptoms included distorted vision and confused speech and advanced cases developed hallucinations and other psychotic symptoms.

But I digress. The March hare is an ancient Celtic symbol of fertility and bounty gone mad, and the progenitor of the Easter bunny. The miraculous rabbit who delivers eggs and candy, still a potent symbol of fecundity in the 21st Century, has his origins in the Celtic fertility spirit known as the Pooka. (The Pooka appears as a 6" tall white bunny in the story *Harvey the Rabbit* as the pal and hard-drinking buddy of the main character, Elwood P. Dowd.) The Pooka is remembered in recent history as a trickster figure; it is from the name Pooka that the term boogey man was eventually derived. There is much conflicting information about the pooka, with not only the Celts but other ethnic groups claiming him as well. The word "pooka" is so very similar to pika, the name of the smallest rabbit cousin, that I wonder if that might be the derivation of that name.

Hares are a common sampler motif and the casual perusal of any book of samplers will turn up many examples, including hounds chasing this quarry.

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Hares

(Continued from page 6)

Proverbs about hares

The rabbit gets fat on what the hare misses. – Irish

You cannot run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. – Nigerian

Even a hare will bite when cornered. – Chinese

Many hounds are the death of the hare. – German

Even a hare will insult a dead lion. – Latin

Program Schedule

Wanda Hubicki

Refreshments 9:30 am – Meeting 10:00 am – Program 11:00 am

March 7, 2006

We have been invited to hold our March meeting at the Afro-American Cultural Center. Vikkii Beckwith Graham, Director of Community Cultural Programs, will lead us on a tour of the AACC and exhibits in honor of Black History Month and South By South Africa, an exciting partnership between Charlotte and South African museums (exhibits and programming January-May 2006).

April 4, 2005

Sandra Reinhardt, staff archaeologist at the Catawba Cultural Center in Rock Hill, SC, will present a program on the life of the Catawba people, both before and after European settlement of the Carolinas. (Tentative; to be confirmed.) Do you know that these former British allies fought with the colonists against the British and the Cherokee in 1776?

May 2, 2005

Linda Dalton and Jane Estep will present an update on the Catawba River Valley Decorative Arts Survey and the status of plans to establish a Survey website and hold an exhibition with a printed catalog.

Latta Plantation

March 4 (10:00 am-4:00 pm)-5 (1:00 pm-4:00 pm), 2006 – Art of the Blacksmith: 19th Century blacksmithing techniques will be demonstrated

March 18 – Civil War Soldier for a Day – Boys and Girls, ages 8-12, will step back in time and become soldiers, as they learn to march, drill, and battle on the grounds!

March 25-26, 2006 (10:00 am-4:00 pm) – Civil War Battle

April 8 (10:00 am-4:00 pm)-9 (1:00 pm-4:00 pm), 2006 – Civil War Medicine: Experience medical practices of the American Civil War. Hosted by the 13th North Carolina Field Hospital and the 27th NC Regimental Surgeons

April 15, 2006 – Latta Easter Egg Hunt!

April 19, 2006 (10:00 am-4:00 pm) – Spring Home School Day, Life on the Farm This living history day will be packed with animal presentations and demonstrations, crafts, spinning, carding and weaving in the cabin, natural Easter Egg dyeing in the kitchen, house tours, home school and food vendors, and much more!

April 29, 2006 (10:00 am-4:00 pm) – Discover Latta Plantation



Historic Rosedale Calendar of Events 2006

Karen McConnell

<http://historicrosedale.org>

May 6, 1 until 4 pm: Town Ball at Rosedale — Learn about the beginnings of our own American pastime, baseball. Join us for a game of town ball. America's Pastime, baseball began in the fields and streets of early America. The game was played by ordinary men and boys and became known as town ball. During the early 1800's the game of town ball was played throughout America. It began as a schoolyard amusement for children and eventually grew into a sport for adults as well. The rules of town ball varied widely from town to town. Something about this sport appealed to the everyday man and interest blossomed until in 1845 the first organized professional teams began to play under more structured rules. A picture of prisoners in the 1860's at the Salisbury Confederate Prison shows Federal detainees playing town ball within the prison walls. Join costumed interpreters as they teach us the delightful game of town ball. All children who arrive wearing a baseball uniform get in free and will be invited to join the team. \$5/ adults; \$4/ seniors and students.

May 13: Art of Craft 1830, Fundraiser — An arts festival and crafts fair for the entire family. Activities include a craft and pottery sale featuring well-known North Carolina artists, refreshments, period costumes and games for children of all ages. A special patron breakfast will be served from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Doors will open at 10:00 for patrons to preview the show and make purchases. Cost for patron ticket and breakfast is \$75.00. General admission cost for adults is \$10 (18 years and up). Children and students (3-18 years) are \$5. Children under 2 are free. Special rate of \$25 for families with children. Early 19th century crafts for children are planned with items they can make and take home. There will be pony rides for the children as well. (You can attend for free by volunteering to help MHA Docents with children's activities)

May 14, 1 until 4 pm: Annual Mother's Day Tea — Bring Mom for a special treat: a tour of one of Charlotte's finest antebellum plantation homes, followed by tea in the gardens. Mom's are free when accompanied by loving family members. \$5/ adults; \$4/ seniors and students.

Wednesdays of June and July, 9:00 - 12:00: Children's Day Camp — Experience children's life on a backcountry NC plantation. Hands on activities and role-playing allow today's children to explore medicine, education and daily chores of ante-bellum Mecklenburg County. Picking herbs from the herb garden, carrying water from the well, washing clothes on a washboard, drilling just like the militia and taking lessons from the plantation tutor are all activities children will enjoy. Designed for children 8 and up. \$10/child, groups of 8 or more \$6/child. Call for schedule.

August 13, 1:00-4:00 pm: Rosedale Family Reunion — Historic Rosedale Plantation will host some very special people at their annual Family Reunion. The Rosedale family includes descendants of the Frew, Caldwell, Hutchison, and Davidson family and the slaves and laborers who worked on this farm throughout the last 188 years. The guest list also includes friends and neighbors, former volunteers, board members and donors who worked to establish Rosedale as an historic site. The gathering will give Rosedale families and friends an opportunity to renew ties, meet 'long lost cousins' and find answers to history and heritage questions. Of course, we look forward to sharing research and genealogical information the site has collected with everyone; and we have a special program planned for you. We will have free tours of the house, demonstrations and a watermelon cutting just like the Davidson family did in the past. So if you are part of the family, join us on August 14th. This event is free and open to the public.

October 14: Oyster Roast Fundraiser

December 9 & 10, 5:30 until 8:00 pm: Christmas Candlelight Tours — Set aside one evening this holiday season for something a little different. Spend an evening experiencing the stillness, peace and inspiration of an age when Christmas was more simple. Enjoy a traditional candlelight tour and view stunning natural decorations in the glow of candlelight as you listen to period music. Explore the birth of an American Christmas at Historic Rosedale. Tickets at the door: \$6 per adult; \$4 per senior/student; 8 and under free when accompanied by parent; \$15 per family.

Mint Museum's Costume Gallery

Pam Dudecki

Last November the Mint Museum of Art opened a new gallery that will allow it to display clothing and accessories from its collection of over 7,500 pieces. The collection was started in 1972, but has not had its own display area until now. The Costume's Gallery first exhibit is "Dressed to Impress: 18th and 19th Century Fashions from the Historic Costume Collection." The display showcases formal wear from 1740 to 1895.



The gallery is nearly 2,000 square feet. One wall has exhibit cases containing accessories. These include hats, shoes, jewelry, parasols, pipes, combs, handbags, pockets, patch boxes, and more. The costumes are displayed on mannequins. Some reproduction accessories are used to make the outfits complete. Most of the collection features women's clothes, but there are a few men's and children's garments. One of the men's outfits is a three-piece suit sold in 1890 at the first Belk store in Charlotte.

When interviewed by the *Observer* last November, curator Charles Mo said his favorite garment is the wedding gown from 1884 worn by Alice Faye Otis of Boston. "It's the most gorgeous construction of cut velvet," said Mo. "The train is over 100 inches long and when you lift it, you see row after row of lace that no one would have even ever seen."

I saw the exhibit last December and would recommend it to any one with an interest in historic American clothing. Like Alice's gown, most of the garments are made of beautiful, even luxurious, fabric. My one disappointment with the exhibit was that the arrangement of some of the mannequins and the dim lighting do not allow the viewer to fully appreciate the fabric and exquisite details and trim of every outfit.

Change is Good!

Our newsletter, *The Dandelion*, has provided information to us through changing boards, presidents, editors and membership. Now it's time to change *The Dandelion*. The MHA Docents' Board has approved renaming this newsletter. But we need your help! We are open to any and all suggestions! Please submit your clever ideas to Camille Smith at MHADandelion@yahoo.com.

It's also time to change editors. Camille will be stepping down as editor after the November/December 2006 issue. The new editor won't have to go it alone for the first issue - help will be available. If interested and willing, please contact any Board member.

Docent Dues - 2006

Dues are payable January 1 each year. Our "dues" year runs from January 1 -December 31. Please make checks payable to "MHA Docents." Give checks to Valerie Jones, docent treasurer, at the monthly meeting or mail to her at 4700 Coronado Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212

Questions? Call Valerie at 704-567-0599 or email her at jvkjones@bellsouth.net

Levels of Membership

	<u>Single</u>	<u>Couple</u>
General	\$25.00	\$45.00
Senior (over 60)	\$12.50	\$20.00
Patron	\$50.00	\$90.00
Life (single payment)	\$300.00	\$500.00
Student	Free	N/A

NOTE: All docents should pay through the committee and NOT directly to MHA facilitating our record keeping. Thank you.

*"Southern Women During the Civil War" from *Women and War* by Jean Bethke Elshain*

Southern Women: "My Country Right and Wrong (Sung to the tune of "The Bonnie Blue Flag")
 O yes, I am a Southern girl, and glory in the name;
 And boast it with far greater pride than glittering wealth or fame.
 I envy not the Northern girl, her robes of beauty rare,
 Tho' diamonds grace her snowy neck, and pearls bedeck her hair.
 Hurrah! Hurrah! For the Sunny South so dear!
 Three cheers for the home-spun dress that Southern ladies wear.

Quoting James Reton, Jr:

"Sherman expressly set out to make Georgia howl. But neither states nor soldiers howl; civilians do, particularly women. It took someone who knew the South and Southern pieties well to understand just how effective making war on women could be. The problem with historical writing about the end of the Civil War is that its language is gradiosely and deliberately imprecise. Sherman would break 'the will of the South' to fight, but his technique was to demoralize the women back home, and let that have its effect on the soldiers at the front."

Had Southern women not constituted themselves as Spartan mothers, the Sherman strategy would have been unnecessary. Understanding that the will to resist turned on the support of the civilian (female) population for the war effort, Sherman's strategy of (near) total war obliterated any distinction between the battle front and the home front, a distinction Southern women themselves actively disdained.

A monument to Confederate women, on the grounds of the South Carolina State House plaza, "Their unconquerable spirit strengthened the thin lines of gray. Their tender care was solace to the stricken. Reverence for God and unfaltering faith in a righteous cause inspired heroism that survived immolation of sons and courage that bore agony of suspense and shock of disaster. The tragedy of the Confederacy may be forgotten, but the fruits of noble service of the daughters of the South are our perpetual heritage."