

**Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents**

*Promoting Local History through Education and Research*



March/April, 2007  
Volume 13, Number 2

*From the Chairman*

On a cold February morning June McKinney, Carolyn Dilda, Valerie Jones and I took a walk down memory lane. Our task was to bring order to our storage area at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. Docents are very “hands on” organized people so the work progressed quickly. However, old memories kept surfacing as we unpacked boxes and organized scrapbooks, photo albums, notebooks and craft materials from the past. Fascinating images of our younger years appeared again and again. For me it was a wonderful reminder of our recent board retreat which was also held at the church.

Since our current board is made up of longtime docents and those who joined during the past ten years, we took some time the first day to look at our own history. Those who are relatively new were overwhelmed by the stories of our beginnings and the accomplishments of earlier years shared by Ann Williams and Valerie Jones. Candice Moffit and Carolyn Dilda joined us at lunch to help us look at ourselves as others see us. We were amused by Candice’s assumption that we were natives of Charlotte. We asked why she thought that and her answer was that our dedication to telling Charlotte’s story was so strong that she assumed we were natives. None of the current board members were born here but, our passion for area history is as strong as we would expect from a native. We also took a close look at the makeup of our current membership and acknowledged that we are becoming an older group. Valerie noted that senior memberships now surpass regular memberships. However, two-thirds of the group continue to volunteer on a regular basis or at special events. Dedication to sharing our region’s history over a long period of time is a special characteristic of our members.

Our history is made up of an impressive list of accomplishments. Members of this group have added to our knowledge of this region through research, publications, surveys, classes and training manuals. They have shared Charlotte’s story with thousands of children and adults who come to the sites to learn about local history. They have presented educational programs for the membership and interested citizens at monthly meetings. They have provided countless hours of demonstrations of the daily activities of earlier citizens of Charlotte. The Cooking Guild researches and demonstrates open hearth cooking and trains site staff in these skills. The docents proposed the creation of the history consortium that exists today. They have received many awards from state and national history groups. Everything is done with a commitment to the highest standards of historical accuracy. I could go on and on but, most of you know this story. However, you are a very modest group and rarely take enough credit for all your accomplishments.

As we move forward into spring we anticipate learning about the Buffalo Soldiers at our March meeting. May brings opportunities to assist at special events such as the Art of Craft-1830 fundraiser at Rosedale and the celebration of the Mecklenburg Declaration in the center city. Your participation will be an essential contribution to the success of these and other events. Charlotte is indeed blessed to have the MHA Docents! Alice Bostic

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*Dandelion Deadline*

The deadline for the May-June issue of The Dandelion will be April 16<sup>th</sup>. We do not publish a summer edition, so calendar listings through August can be included. As always, we welcome articles of interest to our readers. We would especially like to have capsule reports of books for summer reading, and of historic sites you have enjoyed for vacation planning. Send us your best stuff!

*March and April Programs*

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

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Henri A. LeGendre: Buffalo Soldiers

We will proudly present a “Living Legend” to tell the story of the Buffalo Soldiers. Trooper LeGendre served with Troop A 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry in World War II from 1942 to 1945. He is chapter historian of the Greater North Carolina Chapter of Buffalo Soldiers. We look forward to hearing LeGendre, a.k.a. “Frenchy” The Mad Cavalryman, present his personal chapter in the Buffalo Soldier history.

Tuesday, April 3, 2007

Kathy Neill Herran: The Morrison Women

Kathy Herran is the author of *They Married Confederate Officers*, the story of the six daughters of Robert Hall Morrison. Morrison was an influential Presbyterian minister, the first president of Davidson College, and the father of ten children. His most famous daughter was Anna, wife of Stonewall Jackson, yet each of the six daughters became important in her own right. The Morrison family, by marriage and association, was connected to many of the leaders of early Mecklenburg. Kathy’s book won the 1996 Willie Parker Peace history book award from the N. C. Society of Historians.

Kathy, a former English teacher, is a member of the MHA board, Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society, and the DAR. She is a direct descendant of John McKnitt Alexander, and has ancestral connections to the Morrison family. She will give an overview of the lives of the Morrison women with emphasis on local history, Davidson College, and the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

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*MHA Dinner Meeting*

The next MHA dinner meeting will be Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Dinner is at 6:30, followed by the program at 7:15. Those not attending the dinner are welcome to attend the program at no charge. To make dinner reservations, contact Linda Dalton at 704-364-7435.

Dr. Tony Zeiss, president of Central Piedmont Community College, will present four characters from his book, *All Were Heroes: A Civil War Reunion Story*. He has authored numerous books including four featuring the Civil War. The most recent is a novel, *Journey to Cherry Mansion*.

In 1992, Dr. Zeiss became the third president of Central Piedmont Community College, the largest college in North Carolina. During his tenure, the college has grown from one campus to six.

Dr. Zeiss is the Chair of the Little Sugar Creek Greenway Committee. In that capacity he has ensured that local history will be memorialized on the stretch of greenway running from Elizabeth Avenue to Morehead Street. The future bronze statue of Captain Jack will lie in the CPCC footprint and have high visibility and easy public access. The area around the statue will be fully landscaped and incorporated into the Trail of History.

There will be a few books available for purchase at the dinner program.

## *MHA Dues*

Dues notices were recently sent to all MHA members. If you paid your dues to Valerie Jones you probably did not get this mailing, and are set for the year. If you have not paid, DO NOT send a check to MHA; send it to Valerie. She will pay for all docents with one check. This is done to keep our docent records up to date. If you think you received (or failed to receive) the MHA notice in error, give Valerie a call at 704-567-0599. Otherwise mail your check payable to MHA DOCENTS to Valerie at 4700 Coronado Drive, Charlotte, 28212. Our docent organization is a committee of MHA and does not collect any dues in addition to those paid the parent group. We pay only MHA dues, and they support our operating expenses. However contributions to the docent hospitality fund are always welcome.

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## *Book Club*

The docent book club meets after the regular meeting each month. Anyone who would like to hear/join the discussion is welcome, whether you've read the book or not. Bring a lunch if you'd like. We're usually done between 1:30 and 2.

In February we discussed *The Historian*, by Elizabeth Kostova. It is reviewed below.

In March we will return to *Benson J. Lossing's Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution in the Carolinas & Georgia* edited by Jack E. Fryar, Jr. In 1850 Benson Lossing's two volume *Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution* was published. It recounted virtually every battle, skirmish, and action of the War for Independence. The version edited by Fryar contains the Carolina and Georgia sections as Lossing wrote them. Of special interest to us is the Mecklenburg section from pages 56 – 62, and after the chapter end-notes, moving west from Charlotte beginning on page 81.

In April we will discuss *Big Chief Elizabeth: The Adventures and Fate of the First English Colonists in America* by Giles Milton. This is the story of the colonization of the New World by aristocrats and privateers of Elizabethan England. Although it covers the period from John Cabot's voyage of 1497, to the settlement of Jamestown in 1611, the primary focus is Sir Walter Raleigh's colony on Roanoke Island, complete with Milton's theories of how the lost colony became lost. Reviews can be read on Amazon.com. The paperback edition, published in 2001, is available at the public library. Used copies can be bought inexpensively from Amazon.

### *Review of The Historian*

This novel by Elizabeth Kostova was quite a departure from our usual studies of regional and American history. It is the tale of three generations of historians who traverse Europe searching for facts and legends of Vlad the Impaler (1431 – 1476), better known as Dracula. The story is told through memories, letters, and journals, and introduces scores of interesting characters; some alive, some dead, and some menacingly undead. It was a wonderful romp. Along the way we learned a lot of European history, especially of its eastern edge, from medieval times through the cold war. The immense beauty and mystery of Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and Istanbul are perfectly portrayed, as are the cultural clashes between the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Islamic religions. It was interesting to see how the main characters collected their history; some of it by painstaking research, some stumbled upon, and some literally thrust in their faces. They dealt carefully with facts, folklore, and that mysterious gray area where one can never be sure. And if you believe in vampires, those borders shift. It is a long book, nearly 700 pages, and all of us were occasionally (but temporarily) lost as the author interwove five decades of experiences of her three historians. She provided an excellent map of Europe with the relevant spots well marked. I dog-eared that page and referred to it constantly. Several of us said we had no interest in Dracula, and would never have read *The Historian* if it hadn't been a book club selection. We were pleasantly surprised.

Ann Williams

### *News from the May 20 Society*

Calling all Docents in Costume for Captain Jack and Meck Dec Day

Mark you calendars for three major events. Details will be forwarded as the plans are finalized.

*Friday Evening, March 29* will be a cocktail party to kick off the fundraising for the Captain James Jack statue. It will be at a large house on Sharon Road and they want Docents and Reenactors in 18<sup>th</sup> Century dress to set the tone. Events include musket firing, a reading of the Meck Dec, and Capt. Jack on a horse. We will mingle with the guests and make them feel at home in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century while partaking of the hors d'oeuvres

*Thursday Evening, May 17* at the City Club downtown, there will be a fundraising cocktail party with, again, as many people in costume as we can gather. This time there won't be any musket firing or horses, but the speaker of the evening will be famed author David McCullough (*John Adams, 1776, The Path Between the Seas*, etc. etc.). We will mingle with the crowd, partake of the hors d'oeuvres, and listen to Mr. McCullough.

*Friday, May 18 at Noon on the Square* we will have the usual festivities. You know the drill. It is being held on the 18<sup>th</sup> because May 20<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday this year, when downtown is a ghost town. We need all of you there to make an appearance in keeping with the party the night before.

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### *News from Andrew Jackson State Park*

Note: The editors welcome and encourage reports on past events. This is how we learn.

*Event Report: Great Wagon Road Conference.* On February 3, 2007, 65 guests gathered at the park for a half day seminar on the Great Wagon Road. Featured were Dr. Bill Brockington, Tom Magnuson, Dale Loberger, and Charles Vaughn. These men combined scholarship, practical field work, and computer technology to offer the guests a fabulous presentation on populations along the road, traveling the road, and where the "roads" actually were in the Carolinas. The audience was a mix of local historians and newcomers to the Carolinas, all interested in this fascinating tale from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The following day, 20 brave souls ignored a stiff wind while hiking the park with Mr. Magnuson to see examples of different roads and paths. Perhaps most rewarding was the overwhelming response to the event and the interaction of people newly interested in local history with old timers willing to share.

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### *News from the Charlotte Regional History Consortium*

From Jeff Pruett – President, Charlotte Regional History Consortium and  
Programs Coordinator, Gaston County Museum of Art & History

The Charlotte Regional History Consortium is dedicated to preserving, promoting, and interpreting the history of the Charlotte Region through cooperation among over 30 of the region's history organizations and interest groups. Founded in 1994, the Consortium holds bi-monthly meetings, which allow the member organizations an opportunity to exchange ideas, arrange cooperative events, and coordinate program scheduling. The Consortium's geographic region covers Charlotte and the surrounding areas. We have recently launched a new website <http://www.charlotteregionalhistory.org/> please check it out when you get a chance.

*Revolutionary War Battle Reenactment  
Guilford Courthouse National Military Park*

On March 17 and 18 Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, Tannenbaum Historic Park, and Price Park (all in Greensboro) will host a slate of events for the annual observance of the Revolutionary War Battle of Guilford Courthouse. The 226th anniversary will feature a weekend of activities including encampments by re-created Revolutionary War military units, military and civilian demonstrations, a formal observance program, battlefield guided walks, military music, and the annual battle re-enactment at Price Park, 3 miles west of Guilford Courthouse National Military Park on New Garden Road. Free. For a complete listing of events, please download a schedule by clicking here [Anniversary Weekend Schedule of Events](#) or go to [www.nps.gov/guco](http://www.nps.gov/guco) and click on 226th Anniversary Schedule of Events.

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*Journal Committee*

The MHA Journal Committee has completed the transcription of one of Dr. David Caldwell's ledger books, and after a bit more tweaking and proofing, will move on to the second volume. Meanwhile Karen, Janet and I continue to give programs on Sarah Frew Davidson's journal for interested groups, and happily sell them a lot of books. In January we spoke to the Charlotte Council of Garden Clubs, and though they are neither book nor history people, about half of them bought a copy of *A Life in Antebellum Charlotte*. A great reward of this project is finding that people really do care about Charlotte's history. In March we will speak to the Colonial Dames. We are still having fun with this, so if you know of a group that needs a program let us know.

Ann Williams

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*Site Staff Announcements*

Bob Remsburg, manager of the Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site, has been promoted to Regional Supervisor overseeing six western N.C. historic sites including Reed, James K. Polk, and Ft. Dobbs. Congratulations Bob! Reed is currently seeking a new director; we'll keep you informed.

Kate Carter, director of the Schiele Museum's backcountry farm, has recently moved to Lubbock, Texas, about as far backcountry as one can go. Her husband recently entered Texas Tech to complete his doctorate degree, and she felt compelled to join him. She is about to begin a museum job there. We'll miss you Kate! Her contact info: 3305 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Apt. 114, Lubbock, Tx 79416. [kate.c.carter@gmail.com](mailto:kate.c.carter@gmail.com).

Leslie Kesler has joined the staff at The Charlotte Museum of History as historian and curator. She grew up in Charlotte, and has returned with a masters degree in history. She has excellent museum experience, most recently at the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh where she worked for 14 years with Debra Nichols who received her original docent training and experience at the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite!

*Courthouse Opening Ceremonies, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007*

Much thanks to all of the docents and other reenactors who came out in 18<sup>th</sup> Century dress for the opening of the new (7<sup>th</sup>) Mecklenburg County Courthouse. We had 12 to 15 people in costume, including 4 men, handing out programs. Lots of pictures were taken, but no history questions were asked. Not even “Why are ya’ll dressed so funny?”

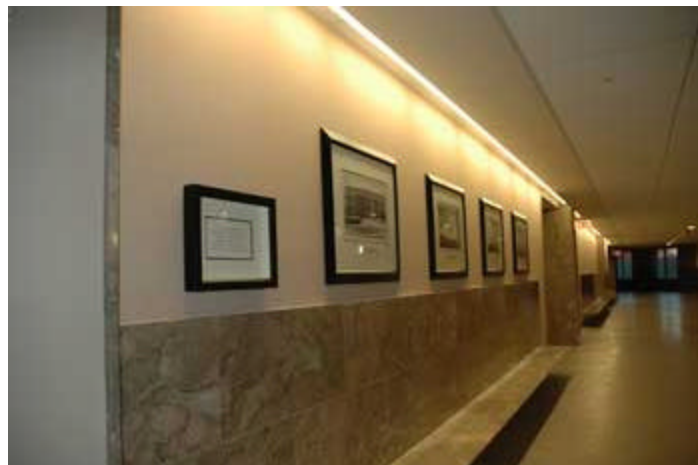
The speeches and ceremony were very impressive as is the new courthouse. Speakers included the Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court and the NC Attorney General. Music was provided by two high school bands and the chorus from the NW School of the Arts. As a part of the ceremony there were dramatic readings of the historical statements carved in Granite around the base of the courthouse, one of which is from the Mecklenburg Resolves.

Along with the programs we handed out a booklet containing the Meck Dec, the 1776 Declaration, and the US Constitution, complete with all the amendments. We did not hand out the Courthouse History, but I did see a copy and understand that they will hand it out to visitors in connection with the gallery of courthouse photos in the main hall on the second floor. This display includes an early drawing of what the first courthouse might have looked like, a new drawing of what the second courthouse might have looked like, and photos of numbers three through six.

We later received a very nice thank-you note from Catherine Hunter of Tribble Creative Group who organized the ceremonies.

You may have read or heard of the central sculpture in the Atrium of the courthouse. It consists of a large number of small pewter sculptures of the heads of selected Charlotte citizens. These hang from the ceiling on wires attached to individual electric motors. They can be arranged in such a way as to form an outline of a face and the shape can be changed from time to time. We discussed among ourselves how long it would be before some of the motors broke and the sculpture could no longer be changed. It took less than two weeks.

Jim Williams



### *Courthouse History Continued - The Rocky River Legend*

While I was researching the history of the first 6 courthouses, I kept running across the story that early in the history of Mecklenburg there was a dispute over where to build the courthouse and that the people in the Rocky River section tried to get it there. The stories implied that Martin Phifer was valiantly trying to get the courthouse built in Rocky River and that Thomas Polk was maneuvering under the table with Lord Selwyn and his agent, Henry McCulloh to get it in Charlottetown.

This would make a good story to include with the histories so I went looking for verification in the historical record. I found the story told in a number of 20<sup>th</sup> Century works, but no evidence in the actual documents of the time.

The earliest instance of this story is in *The History of Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte* by D. A. Tompkins, Charlotte, 1903 and there is no mention of the story in earlier histories, including that of J. B. Alexander, published the previous year. Based on the historical record, I have come to believe that this is an old story retold by Tompkins (or by whatever Observer reporter he assigned to write that particular chapter), or even made up based on a misunderstanding of the historical record.

I have written a paper that tells where I looked and what I found which I would be happy to send to you. Just send me an email asking for it and I will send it right out.

Jim Williams

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### *News from Historic Rosedale*

*Docent Training:* Historic Rosedale is recruiting new docents and will soon begin a training session to be held on two Saturday mornings. Docents are needed weekday mornings for school groups and Thursday – Sunday afternoons for the general public. If you've never been a docent before, or simply want to refresh your memory, these two sessions will supply the information you need. Call Historic Rosedale at 704 335 0325 for details.

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### *News from Reed Gold Mine*

*Volunteers Needed for Carolina Heritage Festival* April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-2:00. This program held on Tuesday and Wednesday is designed for 4<sup>th</sup> graders from Mecklenburg, Union, Cabarrus and Stanly Counties. It includes demonstrations related to Carolina heritage from prehistory to present day. Cooking and domestic skills interpretations from MHA Docents have been very popular each year. If you know of skilled folk music or other craft interpreters who would like to volunteer one or both days (period dress is nice, but not required), contact Susan Smith at 704-721-4653. Approximately 1,500 students come to each day of the event.

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### *"Lower Providence" History Query*

A parent at Charlotte's about-to-open Elon Elementary School, on the grounds of the old Elon Homes for Children, Kennedy Campus, 11401 Ardery Kell Rd., is seeking history about the area. If you have info to share, please contact Lori Carter at [iced\\_coffee@bellsouth.net](mailto:iced_coffee@bellsouth.net)

*Masons Founded Mecklenburg, Still Here Leading After 250 Years*

By Walter J. Klein

Yes, the people of the Charlotte region know about the thousand covered wagons wending their way down the spine of Eastern American from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware since the 1750s. No, they don't know that Masons laid the cornerstone, so to speak, of this great place.

So what? So the imprimatur of Masonry remains forever on these backcountry crossroads that became a boomtown and on the character of those who people it.

Consider. The Masonic fraternity was booming in America a century before independence. Early leadership drew heavily from men who brought their order from England and Scotland and Holland and France. When warring with native Americans subsided and land was going for 22 cents an acre, this region woke up. Masons got all kinds of help from brothers in Philadelphia and Charleston. Quickly they were in charge: Hezekiah Alexander. Thomas Polk. Joseph Dickson. John McKnitt Alexander. Waightstill Avery. Robert Smith. Montford Stokes. Nathaniel Alexander. Ephraim Brevard. Robert Irwin. Hugh McAden. James Houston. David Reese. Alexander MacWhorter. William Davidson. They were more than the school and street names of today. They were Masons who breathed life into Mecklenburg. They were gentlemen, many schooled in Princeton, with honorable heritages going back to Western Europe. Hezekiah realized the need for a fraternal focus and built a duplicate of his Franklin County, PA, house. *Today it is the oldest Masonic meeting hall still standing in America.* What a remarkable place! Hezekiah Alexander incised many Masonic symbols across its south-facing front to entertain local and visiting Masons and prepare them for lodge meetings on the third of its four levels. The inscriptions were cleverly placed so they formed a perfect map of all Masonic lodges: master in the east, senior warden in the west, junior warden in the south and so on. Never mind that it also served as a residence for Hezekiah's huge family and Waightstill Avery (later NC's first attorney general) renting a room.

Think our history isn't here today? Open your phonebook. You'll find countless Alexanders, Polks, Brevards, Reeses, Vances and Davidsons descended from earliest settlers. Both the Philadelphia Declaration of Independence of 1776 and the Mecklenburg Declaration of 1775 were heavily Masonic by every measure. George Washington continued as master of his Masonic lodge while US president. He visited Charlottetown in 1791 to meet with brother Masons and discuss their Meck Dec overnight. Never in his remaining 24 years did he question the authenticity of the Meck Dec. The most beloved, most popular person in NC history was Senator/Governor/Colonel Zeb Vance. He and his family gave ten years to Charlotte, helped found the city's second lodge, Excelsior 261, and lead Mecklenburg County with Masonic brother Sam Wittkowsky. The wealthiest Charlotte Mason was far and away Randolph Scott, a bookkeeper on 10th street who moved to Hollywood, made a hundred movies, paid his dues to Phalanx Lodge here and left his wife and children an estate of one quarter *billion* dollars. Several Masonic American presidents visited Charlotte: Washington, both Roosevelts, Taft and Ford. Two were born here--Andrew Jackson and James Knox Polk. Jackson became Grand Master of Masons--in Tennessee. Eleven Charlotte Masons have made it as Masonic Grand Masters. John Belk, four-term Charlotte mayor, comes from a famed family of Masons. He and former NC governor Jim Martin of Charlotte, lifelong Masonic leader, presided at the inauguration of The American Freedom Bell next to the Hezekiah Alexander house in 1999. The Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas, a totally Masonic institution, raised millions for crippled and burned children. It was played for half a century in Charlotte. Today Mecklenburg remains a fountainhead of leadership fed by 20 freestanding lodges and 12 serving Prince Hall Masons.

Walter J. Klein



*Symposium on Healing and Healthcare in Early America*

George Mason University Friday, March 9, 2007, Fairfax, Virginia, Cost \$65.00, including lunch

*We Are All Well* explores the history of medicine and health care in America from 1750 to 1850. Presentations, costumed interpretations, and tabletop exhibits examine treatment of common illnesses and epidemic diseases, remedies and medicines from the apothecary and garden, training of physicians and midwives, pregnancy and childbirth, medical instruments and other associated material culture.

For additional information, contact the Historic Collections office at George Mason University  
Email: [resources@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:resources@fairfaxcounty.gov) Phone 703 631 1429

*Book Review*

*thirteen moons* by Charles Frazier is an excellent and powerful read. His previous novel, *Cold Mountain*, was a civil war tale set in the North Carolina Appalachians. Once again he takes his readers to his native mountains, this time to the heart of the Cherokee Nation. The narrator, Will Cooper, opens his floodgate of memories as an old man, probably in his 90s in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. He recounts his childhood begun nearly a century before, his orphaning, his abandonment, and his adoption by a Cherokee named Bear. Although the novel touches on Will's entire colorful and eventful life, the crux of the story is his youth and the Cherokee removal of 1838. First we learn how complex Cherokee society was. Bear, a man of the mountain forests, lived much as his ancestors did ten thousand years before. Featherstone owned a grand plantation and many slaves. Major Ridge, also a plantation elite, sent his son to Connecticut for a classical education. (His daughter Sally was educated in Salem. This is not in the book, but I discovered by way of Juliana Conner, that Sally was there in 1827.) Most of the Cherokees had no interest in the Oklahoma Territory, despite the glowing reports they were given. Some resisted removal more than others, and those who resisted had widely different reasons.

The white men enforcing the removal were not universally evil. Some were low ranking soldiers carrying out odious orders. Some believed it was a necessary act, although they abhorred the violence involved. And some of the Cherokee were excessively cruel to their Indian brothers with whom they disagreed. Will Cooper, as a white man, an adopted Cherokee, and spokesman to Washington, moved easily among all these worlds. The aftermath was equally dismal. The white man in the 19<sup>th</sup> century could find no good use for the inhospitable mountain terrain they had shed so much blood to acquire.

Yes, there is a love story, a passionate and beautiful one. Here again the characters are multifaceted, and nothing is ever easy. I had a few problems with the book. Frazier is vague with dates; perhaps it's just me who wants something concrete to latch on to. I caught him riding a train in eastern N.C. probably about 1836, at least a year or two before the removal, and N.C. had no trains then. Otherwise the history seemed good. I'll admit to little knowledge of the Cherokee, but I came to trust Frazier's rendition, especially the wonderful details of life and ritual in Bear's camp.

Frazier's language is rich and evocative. His uses the moons to carry the story from season to season, naming them, painting them, drawing a myriad of emotions from their presence. He is a master storyteller, word smith, and creator of complex characters, the mark of a true writer.

Ann Williams

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

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

**Current Exhibits:** *Personal Legacies: Surviving the Great Depression*, through August 26. Book and exhibit by local author Robin Edgar shares the memories and advice of 25 individuals living in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area during the Great Depression.

*Charlotte Neighborhoods: Brooklyn to Biddleville*, through November 10, examines the history and consequences of urban renewal for two of Charlotte's traditional African American neighborhoods.

*Latta Plantation*

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

**Art of the Blacksmith** March 3 (10am-4pm) - 4 (1-4pm) Admission charged. Blacksmiths will demonstrate 19<sup>th</sup> Century techniques on the grounds of Historic Latta Plantation. The circa 1800 home of James Latta will be open for tours throughout the weekend.

*Levine Museum of the New South*

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

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

*Historic Rosedale*

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

**To Dress a Lady** March 24, 2:30 pm Admission charged

Clothing in the 1840's from stays to mantles. Join Harriet Davidson Caldwell, mistress of the plantation, as she dresses for an afternoon of visiting. Explore fashion and customs of antebellum society as Harriet dons her stays, stockings, petticoats, collars and cuffs and much more to achieve the look of a lady of wealth in early Charlotte.

*Charlotte Folk Society*

**Betty Smith presents Jane Hicks Gentry.** Saturday, April 21, 3 PM, Francis Auditorium, Main Library, 310 N. Tryon St., Charlotte. FREE.

Join us for a one-woman program by Betty Smith, a well-known Madison County storyteller, ballad singer, and musician. Smith has performed, taught, and shared the traditional music of the South for more than 35 years and is the author of *Jane Hicks Gentry: A Singer Among Singers*. She will introduce her audience to Gentry, a North Carolina mountain woman whose life revolved around her family and an oral tradition of story and song. Gentry shared more songs and ballads with British folk song collector Cecil Sharp than any other singer in the southern mountains; 40 of those songs are found in *English Folk-Songs from the Southern Appalachians*. Betty Smith intersperses the program with ballads, songs and stories.

*The Carl J. McEwen Historical Village*

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

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

The Carl J. McEwen Historical Village invites you to its Spring Herb Festival Saturday, April 21st from 9am-3pm at 7601 Matthews Mint Hill Road, Mint Hill, NC 28227 next door to the Scottish Bank (on Hwy. 51). In addition to vendors, look for demonstrations and workshops from hanging moss baskets to hypertufa pots, and yummy herb samplers. We will have seated high teas for \$7.00. Please reserve your spot of tea by leaving a message for Sue McDonald at the office, 704-573-0726 or email her at [historical@bellsouth.net](mailto:historical@bellsouth.net)

*Gaston County Museum*

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

*From Barter to Banks: The American Economy.* Current exhibit through March 4 FREE. This exhibit explores the various forms of money from colonial times to present, the rise and evolution of the banking system, and significant changes in the working of our economy.

*The Nickelman* Sunday March 4, 3-4 PM – Jamie Franki, Associate Professor of Art, UNCC, will discuss his work in the National Endowment for the Art's Artistic Infusion Program to create designs for United States coinage and commemoratives. Franki's designs for the reverse side of the 2005 "American Bison" Nickel and the obverse side of the 2006 (and beyond) "Jefferson 1800" Nickel were chosen.

*Easter Egg Hunt* Saturday, March 31 Free, Edith Poston Park from 2-3 PM. Rain date is April 1.

*Afro-American Cultural Center*

401 North Myers Street (at E. 7<sup>th</sup> and N. McDowell), in the restored Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church  
704.374.1565 [www.aacc-charlotte.org](http://www.aacc-charlotte.org)

**AACC Shotgun House** Tues. – Sat., 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM - Sun. 1:00-5:00 PM

Deeded to the Afro-American Cultural Center in 1986, the shotgun houses, built during the late 1890s, were originally located in the former Third Ward neighborhood called "Blandville." One house is now fully furnished with 1940's period furniture and open to the public. Admission charged except on Sunday

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MHA Docents

Jim and Ann Williams

1601 South Wendover Road

Charlotte, NC 28211