

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Promoting Local History through Education and Research



March/April, 2009
Volume 15, Number 2

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From the Chairman

MHA Docent Committee is chugging along even though the DDD (Dreaded Dandelion Deadline) has caught up with me---again! The programs for March and April have been planned as follows: March 3 will feature a first person interpretation of Clara Barton by Lisa Williams. I am sure all will find this a most enlightening presentation. Don't forget that we meet at 9:30 a.m. for outstanding refreshments, 10:00 a.m. business meeting and the programs start at 11:00 a.m. We hope to see all of you there. Parking is free! In April we will hear about "Hard Times in the Mills--working lives, past and present" by Dr. Roxanne Newton. If you have not been to the Museum of the New South, you might want to consider seeing their permanent exhibit about living in Charlotte in the heyday of the mills prior to this program. It is a great exhibit and will bring this program to life even more. Other events coming up include a day trip to Lincoln County with guide, transportation and lunch on April 15. Deadline for reservations is April 1. Join us for a day to forget about the IRS, have a good meal and socialize with some wonderful folks. See details on page four of this newsletter.

The Docent Committee has voted unanimously to support a FASHION EVENT in the near future which will be held in an historic venue, with really good food, featuring historic clothing, from underwear on out (!). This is a "not to be missed" program which was wildly successful about 10 years ago--has it really been that long?? Those of you who were there will remember how terrific this was. Any profit made will go to our historic clothing closet. Further information will follow as soon as we make arrangements. Jo Anne Dickens

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the May/June issue of the Dandelion is April 16th. As usual any articles concerning our history are welcome. We do not publish in the summer, so be sure to include your calendar items through August. Send your contributions to Ann and Jim Williams, 1601 S Wendover Road, Charlotte NC 28211, or email mhadandelion@mindspring.com.

March and April Programs

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



Clara Barton, AKA Lisa Wilson

**Tuesday, March 3, 2009
Clara Barton**

Lisa Wilson will present a “Living History” program on the life of Clara Barton, Civil War nurse, and founder of the Red Cross. She will acquaint us with the fascinating life of Miss Barton, “The Angel of the Battlefield,” from childhood to old age. Although Miss Barton did no nursing in Charlotte, a constant stream of wounded soldiers were sent here by rail for treatment. Our local “angels” must have shared Barton’s experiences.

Lisa Wilson has studied and taught units on the Civil War for several years. She is a volunteer at the Carl J. McEwen Historic Village.

**Tuesday, April 7, 2009
Hard Times in the Mill**

Dr. Roxanne Newton will talk about our cotton mill history in her program “Hard Times in the Mill: Working Lives Past and Present.” Dr. Newton is the director of the Humanities and Fine Arts division at Mitchell Community College in Statesville. She is an author, and a daughter and a granddaughter of mill workers.

MHA Docent Dues

If you have not already paid your MHA Docent dues, now is the time to do so. Since we docents are a committee of MHA, our dues go to that parent organization. However to facilitate our record keeping, please send your check to docent treasurer Valerie Jones. Valerie will record your membership info, then pay our collective dues to MHA as a group.

Make your check payable to **MHA Docents** and give to Valerie at our next meeting, or mail it to her at 4700 Coronado Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212. If you have questions, or are not sure if you’ve already paid call her at 704-567-0599, or vvjones@carolinarr.com.

MHA Membership levels:

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

MHA Dinner Meeting
Anna Morrison Jackson

Monday, March 30th; Trinity Presbyterian Church. Dinner is at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:15. Those not having dinner are welcome to enjoy the program at no charge. To make a dinner reservation use the form in your MHA Newsletter or contact Kathy Herran at 704-553-0936, or kathyherran@hotmail.com.

Historian Nora Brooks will portray Anna Morrison Jackson, the widow of Stonewall Jackson. Anna, a native of our area and a member of a prominent family, returned to Charlotte after the Civil War, and dedicated the rest of her life to keeping Stonewall's memory alive.

Nora Brooks teaches in the US History honors program in the Union County school system. She has received many awards, and has presented Anna to audiences in Charleston, Richmond and Raleigh.

Docent Book Club

The book club will meet following our programs in March and April. We will discuss the books we have been reading as individuals, and continue to trade titles with one another. Anyone is welcome to join the discussion, and bring a lunch if you wish. Encouraged but not required: an interesting book to share, or a suggestion to check out from the library.

Announcements

Weather Cancellation Policy: We will follow the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System for canceling meetings due to foul weather. When weather threatens, listen for their announcements; if school is cancelled we will not meet. If our meeting place is closed, even though schools are open, you will be notified by our email/telephone tree.

Meeting Place: Occasionally our meetings have to be moved from Sugaw Creek's Fellowship Hall to the Scout Hut. This is usually for family visitation following a funeral, so there is little advance notice. They have been very accommodating by putting out helpful signage; be alert for last minute changes.

Docent Library Policy: The docent library located at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church is now open and available for use. Docents may check material out of the library; non-docents may use the material, but may not remove items from the library. The library is always open during docent meetings. At other times check in with the church secretary, and someone will unlock the room for you. There is a sign-in sheet in the library. Please sign in whether you check out material or not. We have a wide array of books, and other materials, both on local and general history. A recent addition is a CD of the wonderful film on John Adams produced last year by HBO.

Docent Scholarships: Scholarships are available for docents in good standing to attend symposiums, conferences, or other history related educational venues. The maximum scholarship amount has recently been increased to \$150, limited to one grant per person per year. Recipients are asked to make copies of notes, handouts, etc. for the docent library, present an oral report at a docent meeting, and present a docent program if requested. Applications for scholarships can be made to the docent board. This is a great opportunity; see Carolyn Dilda's report in this newsletter!

Hospitality Fund: Perhaps you've noticed the little basket of money on the refreshment table at docent meetings. This collection is for our hospitality supplies, such as paper products, coffee, tea, sugar, etc. It is also used for cards sent to members who are ill, celebrating birthdays, or need cheering up. None of these expenses are covered in the docent budget. Do make a contribution from time to time.

A Heads Up for Future Events

The Latest in Style: About ten years ago the docents held a fashion show featuring clothing styles from history. Because of recent requests, we have decided the time has come for an encore. The previous show opened with a divine luncheon at the Charlotte Country Club, followed by men and women modeling fashions from the 1770s through the 1860s. A running commentary explained some of the curious notions our ancestors had about the proper dress.

A committee is at work planning a similar event for the fall, probably in October. Many more garments and new costuming research have come to our attention in the past few years; even if you attended the last show, there will be new things to see. If you have reproduction garments of the period you would like to model or lend, contact Sharon VanKuren at 704-846-6187. If you have antique garments, they might be displayed; modeling them would be too stressful for old cloth and fragile threads. The date, place, and other details will be announced in future issues of the Dandelion.

Regional History Class: Last January and February the docents held a five session regional history course that was hugely successful. It was decided to make the course a biennial event, and it will be offered again in January and February of 2010. It will probably consist of five consecutive Saturday morning sessions; exact dates, sites, topics, etc, have yet to be determined. Registration information and other details will appear in the Dandelion as plans progress. If you would like to be put on a preliminary list of attendees, contact Barbara Jackson (704-503-1370 or rtbjmjack@aol.com), or Rachel Abernathy (704-366-2618 or deaber@bellsouth.net).

Road Trip to Lincoln County



Machpelah Presbyterian Church

On Wednesday, April 15, the docents will embark on a grand tour of Lincoln County. Darrell Harkey, Historical Coordinator of Lincoln County, will accompany us on our bus as we visit a number of historic sites. Darrell is a master of everything Lincoln, from the earliest settlement through the civil war and beyond. He will share his wealth of knowledge while we travel, and interpret the sites we visit.

Of special interest is the Machpelah Presbyterian church and cemetery. The cemetery was established in 1801 as a family graveyard located midway between Joseph Graham's Vesuvius Furnace and Alexander Brevard's Mt. Tirzah Forge.

In 1848 the church was erected; its first pastor was Robert Hall Morrison. The church features pews and a slave gallery, thought to be original, and separate doors for men and women. Graham, Brevard, Morrison, and some of their family members are buried there. We'll also visit Woodside, the historic home of James P. Henderson who became the first governor of Texas; the Madison – Derr Furnace, an historic iron works; Ramseur's Mill, the site of a minor, but extremely bloody Revolutionary War battle; other historic churches; and much more. If there is anything historic in Lincoln County you'd like to see, Darrell can find it. Many early Mecklenburg and Lincoln families were closely knit by marriage and kinship, the rocky shoal-filled Catawba being hardly a barrier to travel, so Lincoln's history is much intertwined with ours.

We will meet at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church at 8:45 am, and leave promptly at 9. We'll arrive at Darrell's office about 10, and have a short break to freshen up. Darrell will board our bus and we'll be on our way. Midday we will stop at Aunt Bessie's restaurant for lunch. We're told it has a large selection of salads, sandwiches, and full plate meals, most under \$7. Aunt Bessie comes highly recommended, and is well accustomed to dealing with large groups. We'll continue our tour after lunch, and should be home about 4:30.

Cost will be **\$35** per person which includes transportation, fees, and snacks on the bus; we'll pay "Aunt Bessie" individually. We need at least 23 people to make this trip a go; the bus holds 40+, so guests are more than welcome. Make your check payable to MHA Docents, and bring it to the March meeting or send it by **April 1st** to Valerie Jones at 4700 Coronado Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212.

Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley

The Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley is offering a one day course in 18th Century open-hearth cooking on Saturday, February 28th from 9 am to 4 pm. The class will be taught by members of the Cooking Guild and will focus on basic issues of historic hearth cooking.

This class will give hands-on experience in different cooking techniques, as well as an understanding of seasonal food, working with historical receipts and ingredients, and dealing with fire. The aim will be for participants to be able to cook at the hearth and to do an interpretive presentation of historical hearth cookery.

Location is the President James K. Polk State Historic Site in Pineville, NC. The cost is \$40.00. Make checks payable to the MHA Docents, marked for cooking class. Mail checks to Barbara Goodwin, 616 Greenbrier Drive, Matthews, NC 28104.

Participants should wear clothing of natural fiber, such as jeans and a long sleeve shirt. Shoes should be leather. Please bring a paring knife. Lunch will be what you cook.

For additional information contact Carolyn Dilda at cdilda@gmail.com

American Revolution Magazine

A new magazine about the American Revolution has appeared on the scene and we are very excited about it. It is called, appropriately, *American Revolution* and is a delightful read for anyone interested in our history. You can get a free trial copy by simply sending your name and mailing address to the editor, David Reuwer, at Davidreuwer3@aol.com or by mail at American Revolution, PO Box 1716, Camden, SC, 29021. We will also have copies available for purchase at \$8.95 at the next Docent meeting and MHA dinner meeting.

American Revolution is published by SCAR, the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution. This is a volunteer, non-profit organization of professional and amateur historians and others interested in our history who are dedicated to researching and preserving our past. For the past five years they have been holding symposia, field trips and roundtables while publishing an internet journal, all in preparation for this moment.

American Revolution is a professionally produced slick-paper magazine (74 pages in the current issue). It contains a mix of well documented scholarly papers on campaigns and battles plus news such as the planned American Revolution Center Museum at Valley Forge, the endangered Princeton, NJ battlefield site and Horn in the West Historical Drama in Boone, NC to name just a few. We think that you will enjoy reading this magazine and will subscribe once you have seen it. And the first copy is Free! Please feel free to pass this announcement on to anyone or any organization you feel might be interested in this fine publication.



Settlers Cemetery

The current phase of Settlers Cemetery repair, funded by your MHA, has been completed. This involved rebuilding the brick boxes and replacing the table stones on eight graves, including those of Thomas and Susannah Polk and several family members. We will be continuing other repair work in the coming year which will exhaust the current Settlers Repair Fund. Contributions to this fund of any amount are most sincerely welcomed as there is still a good deal of repair to be done.

Thomas and Susannah Polk say "Thank You, MHA"

News from the James K. Polk Historic Site
First Ladies of Carolinas' Presidents

On Saturday, February 14, the President James K. Polk State Historic Site presented a Presidents Day program, "The Three First Ladies of Carolinas' Presidents." The turnout exceeded our expectations with about 40 people attending the program. Laura Ledford, Interpretive Ranger at Andrew Jackson State Park, presented a program on Rachel Donelson Jackson. Scott Warren, Site Manager for the President James K. Polk State Historic Site, presented a program on Sarah Childress Polk. The third and final speaker was Dr. Jim Sasser, retired professor of History from Central Piedmont Community College. Dr. Sasser presented his program on Eliza McCardle Johnson. Each speaker presented a 20 minute Power Point presentation on the lives of the First ladies and the roles they played in their husband's administration. Each was followed by a brief question and answer session. Between sessions, refreshments were offered to visitors.

Scott Warren

U.S.S. JAMES K. POLK (SSN -645)

The Polk, commissioned on April 16, 1966, was the navy's 57th nuclear powered submarine. She started her service as an SSBN (ballistic missile submarine) armed with 16 Polaris nuclear missiles. The Polk was 425 feet long with a beam of 33 feet. Displacing 8000 tons when submerged, her diving depth was in excess of 700 feet and her submerged speed exceeded 20 knots. She carried a crew of 14 officers and 126 enlisted men.

Known throughout the submarine service as the "Jimmy K", the Polk served her country during the Cold War as a nuclear deterrent to the Soviet Union and other countries considering military action against the United States. She conducted 66 "Strategic Deterrent Patrols" each lasting approximately 70-75 days, completely submerged. In 1994, the Polk's missiles were removed, and she was converted to a fast attack submarine (SSN). Her remaining years were spent conducting special operations in support of navy SEAL teams. She was decommissioned on July 8, 1999.

Jim Reece

Foodways from Across the Pond

The Association of Living History Farms and Museums (ALHFAM) southeastern conference was held in Staunton, VA on February 6-8, but that was also about the time that Jackson David Shaw was suppose to make his first appearance. What's a grandmother to do? Wonderful little boy that he is, he was born on January 28th, so grandmother got to go to both.

The theme of the conference was "Finding a Balance Between Tradition and Technology: Living History in the 21st Century" and many of the presentations focused on doing more with less. For my own personal interest in foodways the host site, Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia, is a dream. Classes were held on the German, Irish, English and American farms. I spent a morning in Germany and afternoon in England - so to speak. The interpreters on these farms are well trained on the historic culture of the countries that they represent. In Germany the petticoats were shorter in length.

Germans are proud of their multi-grain breads, and spelt, a very old variety of wheat, was one of the main grains used. Since Germans were not allowed to cut trees in the forest, children were sent to gather twigs and other downed wood. The hearth in a German kitchen was usually raised several inches off the floor, and the cooking fire was small. Other interesting facts about German foodways: they were among the last Europeans to accept the potato, and elderberries were dried as the poor man's raisin. Our menu included making noodles and dumplings. We had bratwurst and sauerkraut that was made on the site earlier this year. At the English farm we baked raised meat pies in the small oven in the hearth, Peas in oil, a boiled oat pudding and pippins in cream. This farm was built in England in the 1600s. Each farm was very generous with receipts and discussions to help put our meals in historical context. I look forward to returning to the museum next year after the West African complex opens. Thank you, Docent committee, for your generous educational stipend.

Carolyn Dilda

Unheard Voices at Rosedale

Several times a year Rosedale docent Barbara Jackson leads an “Unheard Voices” tour which reflects the slave experience on the plantation. Barbara portrays Jenny, the woman who was probably the cook for the Caldwell family. The following was excerpted from an article on the website Q City Metro <http://qcitymetro.com>, “I can feel their anguish” by Glenn Burkins.



Ghosts. A first-time visitor can almost feel them. Inside the big plantation home. Out where the slave quarters once stood. Especially near the old horse barn. Maybe it's the gnarly trees. They seem to beckon from another time, a distant age, a painful past.

Jenny is not a creation of Jackson's mind. Plantation records show she lived and worked there. And so did the other slaves about whom Jackson speaks – Ben, the carriage driver; Aggie, who worked inside the big house; Cherry, who nursed the owners' children; and Nat, the blacksmith. Little is known about who they were, what they hoped, how they dreamed. (Records show Jenny was purchased from a neighboring plantation to be with Ben, her husband.) Even less is known about the slaves who toiled outside the big

house. Jackson says her job is to give them voice. “Some people are afraid of what they might hear because slaves were considered inferior people,” she explains. “The purpose of the tour is to point out that these were not inferior people. They were not to be thought of as less because they were enslaved. “We certainly feel some of their pain,” she continues, “when their families were separated, when they were treated insensitively by their owners.”

And just like that the ghosts are there, down the brick steps that lead under the big house, down into the basement kitchen where Jackson is speaking. The room is large, dusty and cold. A fireplace for cooking stands to one side. The floor is made of rough-hewn bricks; in the days of slavery it was packed earth. “People come wanting to be amused,” Jackson says. “I try to do more with how the people must have been feeling in relation to what was going on.” Jackson says her tour does not ignore the truth about slavery -- the separation of families, the fear of being sold, the hard work. One of the greatest fears for Charlotte-area slaves, she says, was being sent to work in the region's gold mines where conditions were especially harsh. But at the same time, Jackson says she also believes there must have been some closeness in plantation life, even among slave and owner. “They must have had love enough that they could take care of themselves and take care of this family, who maybe did not show them as much regard as they should have,”

Jackson does not attempt to speak in dialect, though some have suggested she try. And so the woman who once led tours inside the Philadelphia Museum of Art and speaks with perfect diction might seem odd talking through the lens of a slave woman. “I can't speak in dialect,” Jackson explains. “I've tried it but I can't do it. The truth is we really don't know how the people talked anyway.” Preparing for the tour, she says, can be draining: “It bothers me for weeks. I'm thinking about it during the night when I should be sleeping. What do I say this time? What points do I want to put across, and what should I be feeling? “I can get emotional when I think about how families were displaced,” she adds. “For example, when the first family lost the house and the slaves were wondering what their role would be... if they would be separated. These things can definitely stir up emotions and spill over into the tour when I'm giving it.” Her black guests, she says, often have stronger reactions, are more likely to speak up, quicker to agree, quicker to smile. “You definitely know how they feel when they are on the tour,” she says.

The History Calendar

Admission charged at all events unless otherwise noted.
Check the Charlotte Regional History Consortium website for other events.
<http://www.charlotteregionalhistory.org>

Historic Rosedale

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

Getting Started with Genealogy; Saturday, March 14 at 11 am

Genealogist Jane Johnson of the Charlotte Public Library outlines the basic steps of genealogy, including where to find information and how to document and organize what you find.

Confederate Hospitals in Charlotte, Saturday, April 11 from 10 am to 4 pm

Although there was no fighting near Charlotte during the Civil War, it was none-the-less a hub of activity. Three railroads converged here and the Confederate Naval Works were re-located to Charlotte early in the war. There were hospitals in Charlotte from 1862 to care for sick and wounded soldiers on their way home and on returning to the army. This medical activity intensified right up to the end of the war as Union General Sherman advanced from the South and General Grant from the North, and wounded Confederate Soldiers were moved to Charlotte to escape the fighting. This year the Living History Association of Mecklenburg will present a hospital with surgeon Rex Hovey, accompanied by Lisa Wilson as a Charlotte resident volunteering to nurse in the hospital. Dr. David T. Caldwell of Rosedale will assist the Surgeon in ministering to the soldiers.

Beekeeping; Saturday, April 18 at 11 am

Rosedale is home to two separate wild beehives, located in separate trees. It is highly unusual to have two wild hives so close together anywhere, much less in the middle of a city such as Charlotte. Master Beekeeper, Richard Flanagan, from the Mecklenburg Beekeepers Association, will present a program on beekeeping.

Treasure and Ancient Tree Program; Wednesday, April 22

As we celebrate Earth Day, come and learn about our unique and "treasured" trees.

The Art of Craft Fund Raiser; Saturday, May 9 from 10 am to 4 pm

This will be Rosedale's fourth annual craft show and sale featuring many of North Carolina's finest potters. A must do for collectors. Other craftsmen include basket makers, metal artists and more. Costumed interpreters will demonstrate period crafts such as bookbinding, joinery and blacksmithing in our Colonial Village. You will also enjoy a silent auction, a story teller, children's crafts, pony rides, and a visit from the Carolina Raptor Center.

At 9 am there will be a sumptuous patrons' breakfast and sneak preview of the show at \$75 per person. For reservation call Historic Rosedale or visit their website.

Latta Plantation

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

Art of the Blacksmith; Sat. March 7 from 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday, March 9 from 1 to 4 pm

See 19th century blacksmithing skills demonstrated on the plantation grounds. Colonial gunsmithing will also be demonstrated. Regular hourly house tours will be available throughout the weekend.

Civil War Reenactment; Saturday and Sunday March 28-29 from 10 am to 4 pm

Watch the North and South battle it out across the plantation grounds. Both Confederate and Federal camps will be open for the public. One main battle each day at 2 pm. Shop with period suttlers and purchase a delicious meal from the food vendor. Admissions benefit the Capital Campaign to Save Mecklenburg's Oldest Log Cabins.

Ghost Hunting Exploration; Fri. and Sat. April 3-4 from 9 pm to 2 am each night

Join NAPS (www.north-american-paranormal-society.com), a group of local paranormal investigators, for an evening of ghost hunting at Latta Plantation. Small groups will be investigating different locations across the plantation. Bring your own cameras and recording equipment. This is a unique chance to search for haunts with the guidance of trained professionals. Reservations are required – no exceptions! The cost is \$50 per person. Some restrictions will apply. Contact Karen Thompson at 704-875-2312, ext. 302 or kthompson@lattaplantation.org

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 11, check web site for times

Bring your children to hunt for Easter eggs across the beautiful grounds of Historic Latta Plantation. Thousands of toy and candy filled eggs will be hidden for children to find, and there will be grand prize eggs for each age group. Pre-registration is required.

Discover Latta Plantation; Saturday, April 25 from 10 am to 4 pm

Girl Scouts who trained in March will return to demonstrate their living history skills to other girl scouts and the public. Demonstrations will include house tours, sewing, dancing, cooking, tape weaving, butter churning, cornhusk dolls, candle dipping, herb bracelets, and more! Admission includes all craft activities.

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

“Light the Hill” Fundraiser; Sunday March 1 at 2 pm

The Daughters of the American Revolution will host a tea featuring a talk by Haskell Eargle, nationally acclaimed floral designer. Mr. Eargle has earned many awards in his field, and has been a judge for the Tournament of Roses Parade. There will be a silent auction for one of his creations. All proceeds go to the “Light the Hill” project to provide authentic illumination for evening events at the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite. For tickets send \$20 to: Treasurer, District III NCS-DAR, 1800 Cross Point Road, Matthew, NC 28105. Tickets will be mailed; seating is limited.

Living History Sunday: Paper Marbling; March 1 from 2 to 4 pm

Jan McCormick will demonstrate paper marbling. Participants will be able to marble a sheet of paper to take home.

Women Making History: Marie Brenner; Thursday. April 2 from 11:30 am to 1 pm

The final of this year’s series will feature Marie Brenner. Ms Brenner is an author and Writer-at-Large for *Vanity Fair*. Her recent books include *Apples and Oranges*, *My Brother and Me*, *Lost and Found*, and *Great Dames: What I Learned from Older Women*. Ms Brenner joined the staff of *Vanity Fair* in 1985 and has contributed articles to *New York Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, the *New York Times Magazine*, and *Vogue*. Her expose of the tobacco industry, “The Man Who Knew Too Much,” was the basis for the 1999 movie *The Insider*, which was nominated for seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture. \$55 for Nonmembers; \$45 for Members; luncheon included, reservations required.

Living History Sunday: Fire Starting; April 5, 2 – 4 pm

Tom Phlegar will demonstrate fire starting. Participants will be able to practice their fire starting skills.

Colonial Fair; Saturday April 18, 11 am – 4 pm

Ring in the spring with our Colonial Fair. See local artisans practice crafts that celebrate Charlotte’s historic past as you search for unique gifts. Enjoy a day full of revelry with games and historic demonstrations including blacksmithing, paper marbling, basket weaving, soap making, pottery, wood turning, and many more. Children can participate in hands-on activities, play games, and watch puppet shows.

Gaston County Museum

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

Tales through time: A Storytelling Event; Sunday, March 1 from 2 to 5 pm

Fun for the whole family. Join us for an afternoon of storytelling from distinguished storytellers.

Storytelling from:

- Orville Hicks, traditional Appalachian Jack Tale Storyteller – Winner of the Brown Hudson Folklore Award (2 pm)
- Chetter Galloway, African and African American Folktale Storyteller (3 pm)
- Chief Donald Rodgers, traditional Catawba Stories (4 pm)

Free program.

Schiele Museum

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

Easter in the Carolina Backcountry; Sunday, March 29 from 1 to 5 pm

Celebrate the coming of spring with backcountry settlers. Watch the process of dying eggs with natural dyes, or decorate your own egg with 18th century designs etched with a pin. Search for the hidden nest of the “Oster Hare” to learn if the children have been good or bad this year.

Uncovering More Mysteries of the Coverlet -- A Backcountry Lifeways Workshop

Tuesday, March 3 & Tuesday, March 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Investigation continues into The Schiele coverlet as participants learn needlework techniques common to the Carolinas in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Replicate stitches and motifs found on the museum’s piece. Lucinda Thornburg makes stitchery fun and easy to learn! Call 704/854-6676 to register.

Coverlets in the South Carolina Upcountry; Saturday, March 21 from 8 am to 6 pm

Join us as we travel to Woodburn, the summer home of South Carolina’s former Lt. Gov. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, to see two white-on-white coverlets stitched in fine fashion, portraying both common and unique motifs from the late 1700s to early 1800s. Participants should wear shoes for easy walking and clothes appropriate for March’s unpredictable weather. Bring money to cover lunch and other goodies that may turn up along the way. Transportation, entrance fees and beverages/snacks are included in the fee. Register at 704/854-6676 by March 6.

Beaded Buckskin Bags; Saturday, March 21 or Sunday, March 22, 9 am to 4 pm

Create a beaded buckskin neck bag in the Eastern Woodland Indian style. Course includes ethnographic and replicated examples, design, bag construction and appliqué bead-working techniques. Guest instructor: Pam Perkins. Call 704/866-6912 to register.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

Neighbors in Conflict; Saturday, April 18 from 9 am to 4 pm

This program illustrates the life of a common citizen who has been called into service during the 1846 conflict with Mexico. Visitors will have an opportunity to experience costumed interpreters demonstrating military drills and practices, camp life, and even rifle firing! A period cooking presentation will show what most people in mid 19th century piedmont North Carolina lived on, as well as soldier’s fare during the war. Free event

Rural Hill

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

Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games, April 17–19

The event opens on Friday evening with “Call o’ the Clans”. Saturday and Sunday will be filled with Scottish heavy athletics, and a variety of competitions open to anyone. Also featured are children’s activities, a Tartan Museum, Scottish genealogy, Highland Cows, Scottish and Celtic Music, demonstrations, seminars, and more. A Scottish Country Dance will be held Friday evening, and a concert and jam on Saturday evening. See the website for fees and details.

Historic Brattensville

1444 Brattonsville Rd., McConnells, SC, 803 684 2327

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

Seeds of Secession; Saturday, March 7 from 10 am to 4 pm

Learn how South Carolinians responded to protective tariffs passed in 1828 and 1832. The Seeds of Secession began to take root when South Carolinians felt the Federal Government was protecting Northern manufacturers more than they were Southern agriculturalists. As a result, the state adopted The Ordinance of Nullification, declaring these tariffs null and void within its borders and bringing us to the brink of secession. Participate in debates over the issue of nullification, witness a 19th century militia muster and firearms demonstrations and hear stories of the slaves who endured these times.

Children's Day on the Farm; Saturday, March 28 from 10 am to 4 pm

This annual event features hands-on children’s activities relating to colonial and antebellum farm life. Some of the day’s activities include children’s crafts, kid’s military drills, toys and games, candle making and story telling. All kinds of farm animals will be on display including the site’s newborn lambs. A 4-H petting zoo, pony rides, tractor drawn wagon rides, and family friendly foods will also be available.

Sheep Shearing Day, Saturday, April 18 from 10 am to 4 pm

Watch living history interpreters shear sheep, wash, card, dye and spin the wool with historic methods.

Andrew Jackson State Park

196 Andrew Jackson Park Road, Lancaster, SC 803 285 3344

www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/1797.aspx

Andrew Jackson Birthday Celebration; Saturday, March 21 from 10 am to 4 pm

Celebrate the birthday of the Seventh President of the United States at his boyhood homeplace with living history demonstrations to show what the Carolina Backcountry was like in Jackson's time. See traditional crafters at work. Listen to historians discuss the legacy of Andrew Jackson.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

With the Greatest Attention to Command; Saturday and Sunday, March 21 and 22 from 10 am to 4 pm

After a long winter, the garrison of provincial soldiers at Fort Dobbs practice their military drill as they prepare for a new campaign season. Musket and cannon firing demonstrations as well as 18th Century camp life are featured throughout the day.

The War for Empire: 1759; Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19 from 10 am to 4 pm

In the spring of 1759, the western frontier of the Carolinas and Virginia was engulfed in warfare as the Cherokee War began. Join hundreds of soldiers, Native Americans and civilians from the 18th Century at Fort Dobbs as we look at this crucial time in our province's history. Events include on-going demonstrations of camp life, military drill and colonial trades, as well as a re-created Cherokee attack and scholarly lectures.

Historic Charlotte

www.historiccharlotte.org 704 375 6145

Pinewood/Elmwood Cemetery Tour; Tuesday, April 28. Check web site for times and location.

Ever wonder who is behind the names of Charlotte places like Myers Park, Wilkinson Boulevard or Brevard Street? There's a place in Charlotte where you can go to find who many of the city's important early residents were and when they lived. Explore Charlotte's historic cemetery this spring on a guided tour lead by local experts Lynn Weis and Bill Hart.

Kings Mountain National Military Park

SC Hwy 216. I-85, Exit 2 in North Carolina. Follow the signs. 864-936-7921

<http://www.nps.gov/kimo>

Militia Encampment; Saturday and Sunday, March 21 and 22 from 9 am to 5 pm

The Backcountry Militia will set-up a colonial backcountry camp as they share the story of the Battle of Kings Mountain. Militia will demonstrate the Brown Bess Musket and the Long Rifle.

Colonial Dance Program; Saturday, April 18 from 6:30 to 8 pm

Learn 18th Century dance steps. Experienced dancers will perform and teach. Participation is encouraged.

MHA Docents

Jim and Ann Williams

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