

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Promoting Local History through Education and Research



May, June, July, August 2009
Volume 15, Number 3

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From the Chairman

Wednesday, April 15, may have been a very black day for some, but for the Docent Committee it was a perfect day of fully cooperative sunshine, gentle breezes, a positively grand tour of Lincoln County with a guide who was truly a "walking, talking encyclopedia" of knowledge for Lincoln County. A comfortable coach took 28 of us over, around and up and down on this delightful day trip. The highlight was a visit to Woodside Plantation, built in 1795 where the furniture in the historical part of the house is all handmade and loaded with "surprises" which astounded us all. There were hidden bars, secret drawers, intricate carvings, and hiding places – it was so cool! One of the sideboards has rifles as the legs and one of the mirrors had all the items needed for horseback riding except they were all carved of wood, but looked so lifelike. What a great adventure! We were even serenaded on a musical saw! Following that we had lunch at Aunt Bessie's Porch where they had 20 meals below \$7. Everything was homemade and I heard no complaints. That alone makes it a successful trip. Our guide, Mr. Darrell Harkey, has been officially retired as the historical "guru" but is willing to share his knowledge. Rachel Abernathy did an outstanding job in planning and executing this trip with the able help of our ever faithful guardian of the funds, Valerie Jones.

We continue to welcome all to our meetings, held the first Tuesday of each month from September to June. Our meeting in May will be at the botanical gardens at UNCC. Come join us at 9:30 a.m. for a delightful morning featuring the husband of our secretary Audrey Mellichamp. In May we will enjoy a good meal and a very interesting tour of the ancestral home of Nell Coward. There will be cute lambs to pet, and "Oreo" cows to stare at. Information on both of these events is located elsewhere in this newsletter. I urge all of you to join us. We have such a terrific group of people and we are all a lot of fun! Don't forget that our September meeting will be held at Brattonville. Details will be in the September-October Dandelion. Jo Anne Dickens

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the September/October issue of the Dandelion will be August 11th. Our first Fall meeting is on September 1st. Take note of the date; it will precede Labor Day this year! Send your always welcome contributions to Ann and Jim Williams, 1601 S Wendover Road, Charlotte, NC 28211, or email mhadandelion@mindspring.com. Have a happy summer everyone!

*May and June Programs***Tuesday, May 5, 2009
UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens**

This is a wonderful time to tour the gardens with azaleas and rhododendrons blooming. We will see the new Asian garden and pond feature in the exotic gardens, and more natural things in the glen. In the greenhouse orchids, cacti, and pitcher plants abound. Also featured is a tropical rain forest and dinosaur garden.

A short business meeting will begin **promptly** at 9:30 am in the Greenhouse classroom. At 10 we'll have a walking tour of the garden led by the Director of the Gardens, Dr. Larry Mellichamp (husband of our own Audrey) and Paula Gross, assistant director. At 11 we can tour the greenhouses. Wear good walking shoes and dress for the weather; there are good paths, but it is hilly.

Directions: Enter the campus at the main entrance at the traffic light on US 49 between Harris Blvd. and Suther Road. Take the first right from the traffic circle onto Mary Alexander Road. Go through the second traffic circle staying on Mary Alexander. Turn at the next left onto Craver Road, then take an immediate right to the parking area. Get a permit from the Parking Service Building at that lot. Walk over to the greenhouse to the glass door of the 1st greenhouse wing. If that lot is full (only six spaces), go back the way you came to the visitor parking deck. Audrey will have tokens for the deck so you'll not have to pay when you leave.

Because parking is limited, carpooling is **strongly** encouraged. You may arrange your own carpools, or Audrey will be at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian church at 8:30 am for those who wish to carpool from there. She will leave for UNCC at 8:45. Please allow plenty of time to find a parking space and walk to the greenhouse. There will be no refreshments at this meeting; those who wish to may plan to do lunch after the meeting.

**Tuesday, June 2, 2009
Annual Docent Picnic**

The June picnic will be held at the Gaston County childhood home of Nell Coward. It was built about 1886 for Nell's paternal grandparents, replacing an 1813 house that has subsequently been used for storage. The two-story farm house was constructed of heart pine harvested on the land. Bricks for the chimneys were made of clay dug on the farm and fired in a charcoal kiln. A log barn, corn crib, smoke house and well house survive. All the land owned by Nell's father is now possessed by family members. Nell's brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Wilma Ratchford Craig own the buildings and manage the farm for cattle, pasture, hay fields, and forest. The Craigs are looking forward to our visit.

Plan to be at the farm about 10:15. We'll have a brief business meeting, followed by a tour of the farm and lunch. A ham is being provided by the docent committee; everyone should bring a covered dish to share, a lawn chair, insect repellent, and a sun hat. Paper products and drinks will be supplied. Spouses and guests are more than welcome. The picnic will be held rain or shine. If it rains we will eat on the porch.

Directions: From I 85 South take exit 26 (Belmont Abbey). Turn right (south) on Main Street. Go through Belmont, cross the railroad, and continue on Main street which will become Armstrong Ford Road. Turn left at the light onto New Hope Road. Go 1/10th mile and turn right onto Union New Hope Road. In 2.8 miles turn left on Craigland Lane (a gravel road; it has a sign). The Craig house (118 Craigland Lane) is the only one on the road. Travel time is about 45 minutes from the Cotswold area, about 30 – 40 minutes from Sugaw Creek Church. Those who wish to carpool, meet at Sugaw Creek Church at 9:30 for a 9:45 departure.

Last Call for Dues

There are a few of us who have not paid their docent dues. Valerie will remit one check to MHA for our entire group in the very near future. If you've not paid, send her a check made out to **MHA Docents** as soon as possible. Send your check to Valerie Jones at 4700 Coronado Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212. If you don't remember if you've paid, contact Valerie at 704-567-0599, or vyjones@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

A Conversation with Thomas and Susannah Polk

Monday, May 18th; 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 dinner reservations use the form in your MHA newsletter or contact Kathy Herran at 704-553-0936 or kathyherran@hotmail.com.

The date is May 18, 1793, and the Polks wish to thank the citizens of Charlotte for proudly remembering that daring declaration made nearly twenty years ago. They will talk of the early days in Mecklenburg when they were among the first settlers, and the events that led to the document severing all ties to the King. They will discuss the glorious, yet horrendous, war that followed, and how they have fared in the subsequent peace. Feel free to engage them in conversation in the 1793 mode, and when they are done Jim and Ann Williams will magically appear for a more modern discussion.

The Williams have thoroughly researched the Polks and other historic folks of the area, and occasionally appear in the personas of our ancestors.

Docent Book Club

Since we are meeting off-site in May and June, the book club will not meet. Keep reading your individual selections, and the next newsletter will contain our fall schedule.

May 20th - Mecklenburg Declaration Day

May 20 falls on a Wednesday this year. Both Trade and Tryon will be blocked off – not for us, Speed Street starts that day – so we can have lots of room to do our thing including, again this year, The Cannon. What a thrill to see the windows on the bank buildings bulge and hear the car alarms go off. The replica courthouse will again be constructed on the corner. At noon they will block off traffic and we will move to the area in front of the replica courthouse. The cannon will be positioned pointing into Polk Park with the muskets flanking it. We will have the usual political speeches, the reading of the Meck Dec, the toasts from 1825, with the Huzzahs!, and the firing of the muskets and the cannon. We will fire the cannon 5 times, just like last year. With the streets blocked off, we will parade to Settlers Cemetery and honor Thomas Polk with wreath, fife tune and volleys

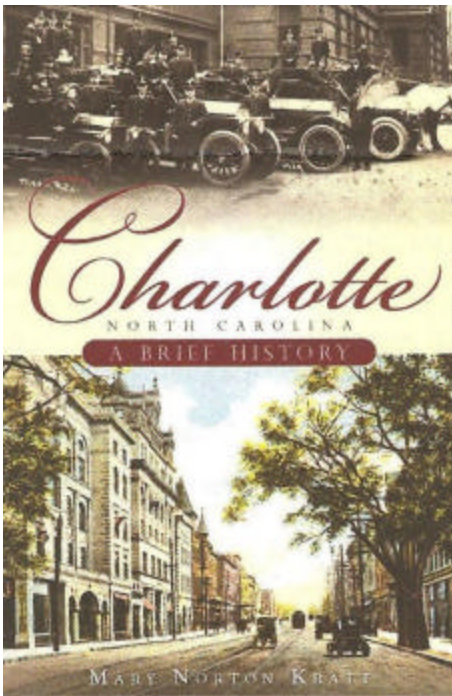
Interpreters should arrive at the square at 11:00, or earlier if possible, mingle with the crowd and hand out Meck Dec copies while the soldiers play music and march up and down. Parking is available on the streets around the square – 8 quarters for 2 hours.

This year's special guest, courtesy of the May 20th Society, is Doris Kearns Goodwin, author of presidential biographies including *Team of Rivals* about Lincoln's cabinet, and also a commentator on several of the TV

networks. She will meet with school children in the morning and perhaps attend the celebration at the square. In the evening she will attend a reception at the Mint Museum of Craft and Design uptown. Volunteer interpreters in 18th and early 19th century dress are invited to attend this reception and meet Mrs. Goodwin. Then we will all escort our honored guest up Tryon Street, with flags flying, fife and drum, and military escort, to hear her address at the McGlohon Theatre at Spirit Square. Likewise, Volunteer interpreters in 18th and early 19th century dress are invited to attend this presentation free of charge. For those in 21st century dress the cost is \$35.00. Mrs. Goodwin's presentation starts at 7 pm. Don't we have fun when we dress up?

If you are able to participate in any or all of this, email Jim and Ann Williams, or call us at 704 365 2402 by May 16 if at all possible. So dust off your costume, and get ready for this grand weekend of events celebrating the first formal declaration of independence from Great Britain by any of the American Colonies.

A New Book on Regional History



Park Road Books will launch *Charlotte, North Carolina: A Brief History* by Mary Norton Kratt with a reading and signing at Park Road Shopping Center in Charlotte from 6:30 - 8 pm on Thursday May 14. This paperback book with 80 black and white photos is \$22.99. You can also order it from The History Press, 18 Percy Street, Charleston, S.C. 29403, for \$25 which includes shipping. This is what the History Press has to say about Mary's new book.

"Founded in 1768 at the crossing of two Indian trails, Charlotte has a rich heritage to match its age. In this thoroughly researched volume, accomplished author and historian Mary Kratt chronicles the history of Charlotte from the earliest Catawba inhabitants to the development of finance, culture and transportation, still centered on those ancient crossroads. Hear the personal voices of discovery, hardship, wars, privation, segregation and achievement from village to boomtown. Whether detailing the cotton fields and textile mills of yesterday or the banking center of tomorrow, Kratt's account is a fascinating history of the people who have made Charlotte a queen among southern cities."

During last year's docent history course many participants and historic site staff members asked about a book on local history. We had little to recommend other than Mary's previous book, *Charlotte, Spirit of the New South*, published in 1992. Although near perfect in content, it is a large-format, extensively illustrated (and somewhat pricey) volume whereas they were interested in a concise affordable book; a jumping off point for further study. We relayed this request to Mary, and learned that she was considering rewriting her book in just that way. She contracted with The History Press for the project, and has spent a busy winter writing, rewriting, and editing. The result is a wonderful book. I've read the proofs; it's well organized, beautifully written, and brings meaning and personalities to the events and people of our past.

This new edition incorporates recent research into the past, and events of the last two decades. It is shorter than the previous volume, and contains fewer photos, but it fills a gaping hole in the available literature on Charlotte. The extensive bibliography leads readers to topics they may want to explore more thoroughly. Mary is an excellent writer, and her new book is a jewel.

Mary Kratt will be speaking to the docents at our Christmas Tea, but you don't need to wait until then to get your copy. Come to the reading at Park Road Books or check at other bookstores and historic sites later in May. We'll keep you posted about other book signings and related events.

Ann Williams

MHA Docent Road Trip

Well, who would have thought?...There's history 'cross the river in Lincoln county!



Magnolia Grove

Wednesday, April 15, twenty-seven docents and guests boarded our bus, left behind Sugaw Creek Presbyterian church and headed off to Lincoln County for a day trip arranged by Rachel Abernathy. In downtown Lincolnton we stopped to pick up our tour guide Darrell Harkey, a walking encyclopedia of regional history; born, raised, and related in one way or another to everything and everyone in the county.

As we left town, Darrell explained that Water Street in Lincolnton was named for the three public wells conveniently located there, but later were closed due to contamination from pranksters. We passed Eureka Foundry, also closed, begun by a Colonel Stubbs, a northerner, who fought on the Southern side in the Late Unpleasantness. Heading out into the countryside, Darrell pointed out the remnants of the

Tuckaseegee Road, a thoroughfare between Charlotte and Ramsour's Mill during the Revolutionary War, which we crossed and re-crossed multiple times during our day's travel. Research is currently on-going to map its complete route which ran from Wilmington to Asheville. Parts of it were once paved by felled logs laid end to end forming a plank road, today remembered by that very name, Plank Road. (A similarly paved road where logs are laid crosswise is called a corduroy road. And that is the sum total of my knowledge of road engineering.)

Our first stop was at Magnolia Grove, a beautiful brick Federal style house built in 1824 by David and Elizabeth Smith. Her father was the first ordained Lutheran minister in Lincoln county; the east side of the county where the house is located was a 'hot-bed' of Presbyterianism. The property was originally owned by Henry Dallinger who operated an ordinary on this site, where Tuckaseegee Road and Beatty's Ford Road intersected. André Micheaux identified the large leaf magnolia here, which gives its name to the house. The current owners were not at home, so we were unable to go inside, but their guard dogs let us know that they were on duty, even as they barked running backward from us up the drive way.

Our next stop was at Macpelah Presbyterian Church, build around 1848. There was a burying ground at the site



Woodside Plantation



Sharing the Road – Sort of



Ceiling Medallion in the Music Room



Hunter's Sideboard

prior to the church being erected; the first burial was one of the young daughters of Alexander Brevard who owned and operated Mount Tirzah Forge just up the road. Many forges were located in this area of Lincoln County, as iron ore was plentiful from a belt of gray hematite that runs from here through Georgia and Alabama. With an abundant supply of iron, the forges turned out all sorts of iron goods to supply a growing population. Robert Hall Morrison, father of the five daughters who all married Confederate officers, and first president of Davidson College, was one of the first pastors at Macpelah. The church itself no longer shelters an active congregation, but Easter sunrise services are hosted by the community. We were again unable to go inside, but peering through the windows, one could see beautiful wood pews, a simple alter and pulpit, and a wood burning stove in the middle of the room with the flue reaching up two stories to exit through the roof. (Gives new meaning to 'central' heating.) Two doors side by side in the plain front façade allow entrance into the sanctuary, as the parishioners were separated by gender upon entering and leaving. There is also a loft that appears to be an addition to the original building. Whether this was used for an expanding congregation or was used by the enslaved servants of those on the main floor was not clear. The cemetery shelters the remains of many Brevards, Grahams, Hunters, and Morrisons. One of the Hunters buried there was a free black man who had fought for the Confederacy. Today his descendants are reluctant to acknowledge or talk about his service.

Our third stop was Woodside, built in 1798 by Lawson Henderson. Another lovely Federal style house that has been altered somewhat by subsequent owners, it is still a stately structure, the front partially covered with ivy from Sir Walter Scott's house in Scotland. We were welcomed by the braying of several burros which alerted the current owner, Rick Ramsaur, that we had arrived. After a brief introduction on the porch he led us to a roofed



Did Jean Laffite Sleep Here?



A Bar in Hiding

arbor on one side of the house that shelters an un-restored, low-slung carriage used by Thomas and Anna Morrison Jackson. The house has a hall and parlor floor plan similar to that at Historic Rosedale. Occupied by the same family except for a brief period, the house is filled with hand-carved furniture, mostly mahogany, created by the owner's father and his great uncle, T. J. Stone. Clever, whimsical, humorous, each piece showcases the wood worker's creativity. Whether a side board, a coat rack, a table or a small cabinet, each item is not only beautifully carved, but filled with secret compartments within secret compartments released only if one knows where the latches are located. Surprises, jokes, hidden meanings, personalization for a family member; each piece also has a theme – fishing, hunting, a bookcase that is not a bookcase, but a desk, a desk that conceals an organ or an organ that conceals a desk. Drawers don't pull out as one would expect, they swing wide; moldings turn out to be latches that release drawers. Lovely ceiling medallions are not cast plaster, but carved wood painted to resemble plaster, and themed for each rooms use—formal leaves and grapes for the hall, musical instruments for the parlor/music room, fruit and vegetables for the dining room. Magnifying the effect of the carver's slight of hand, our host showed himself to be a magician, performing several tricks to delight us. He is also a raconteur, telling us of an early ancestor whose tragic love story morphed into a ghost story. Upstairs in the three bed chambers, we saw more beautifully carved furniture and heard the story of a mysterious boarder who was rumored to be the pirate, Jean Laffite. Climbing even higher, our host showed us the garret where he and his sister slept as children. The garret is now filled with souvenirs from the family's many travels, from textiles to snakes skins. Descending the stairs, we exited into a log addition two and half stories tall that is the modern living area. One end was filled by our host's musical instruments.

The last story we were told was of the musical abilities of the family – his mother taught piano, he plays multiple instruments, and his father played the saw. His mother, recently deceased at 99, insisted that when folks come by, they could not leave without having heard some music played. So Mr. Ramsaur delighted us with "Edelweiss" played on a saw. What a gracious, loquacious, charming host to have us in his house and revel in showing us his treasures. As we left, the burros brayed us adieu.

After a restorative lunch at Aunt Bessie's, we made one last short drive to the site of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill. It was a steep climb to the top of the hill (now occupied by a school) where the engagement took place. Darrell explained the troop movements and fortifications and pointed out the memorials, including the spots where the Tories buried their dead and the patriots theirs. Seventy bodies went unclaimed after the battle and the mass grave was only recently identified and marked. This was the first patriot victory after the defeats at Charleston and Camden, and ahead of King's Mountain, Guilford Court House and Yorktown.

A day full of history, good food and, great companionship. If you had to miss the trip, crush any obstacle to be with us next time we go on the road in search of history.

Oh, before I close, if you want to sound like a native and speak fluent Lincoln County-ese, you should never, ever speak of any place as being across the lake (Lake Norman). The lake has only been in place for a generation. The river was never much of a barrier to travel and natives always, always speak of places as being across the river. So, don't betray your newbie roots, if you have them. Refer to places on the other side, as being across the river.

Valerie Jones



The Saw Serenade

Confederate Hospital at Rosedale



Probing for a Bullet

During the Civil War, Charlotte was home to a succession of military hospitals. At war's end these hospitals expanded to handle the flood of sick and wounded escaping from Richmond, Columbia and other points. On Saturday, April 11 a Confederate Hospital was set up on the grounds of Historic Rosedale representing these hospitals. In addition to the confederate surgeon described below there were also Lisa Wilson in the person of Mrs. Mrs. J. H. Wilson, Chair of the Ladies Hospital Assoc. of Mecklenburg County, and Deacon Jones representing a free black Confederate Soldier. This resulted in the Observer article shown below.

Reenactors take Rosedale guests back in time

By Kathy Haight, The Charlotte Observer

On a wooden table covered with a sheet, a Civil War soldier lay bleeding Saturday from a bullet wound in his chest. His surgeon in the medic's tent at Historic Rosedale Plantation was having a tough time finding the painful piece of lead.

"If the bullet hit a bone, it shattered into a million pieces," said Rex Hovey of Mint Hill. He portrayed the surgeon, and a mannequin played the soldier at Saturday's Civil War hospital reenactment at Rosedale in north Charlotte. Visitors to the

plantation were transported to April 1865 by more than a dozen history buffs in period clothes. Once you tuned out the traffic noise on busy Tryon Street, it wasn't hard to imagine what life was like in a 19th century field hospital.

During the Civil War, Charlotte had a military hospital near the site of what is now the Dowd YMCA on Morehead Street, said Rosedale board member Jim Williams. But with more than 1,000 wounded soldiers in town when the war ended, about 11 field hospitals were set up in warehouses, back rooms of stores, private homes and tents. The Rosedale Plantation was not a hospital site. But newspapers at the time described a tent city of about 500 sick or wounded men on the grounds of a military school on what is now Morehead Street, Williams said. Saturday's reenactment had the feel of that tent city on a smaller scale.

Reenactors dressed as Union and Confederate soldiers gathered near canvas tents pitched on the front lawn of the white-columned plantation house. Women wearing bonnets and long skirts rolled bandages near the medic's tent where the surgeon worked to save his mannequin's life. All reenactors were in character, which meant the surgeon asked visitors in jeans and T-shirts if they'd brought food or chloroform for the soldiers, since supplies were running low. The women in bonnets asked if visitors had any bed linens to spare for making bandages. "Excuse me, ma'am. Do you know who I am?" asked 12-year-old Issac Christenbury of Lincoln County. He was dressed as a drummer boy who lost his memory after being hit in the head with a musket.

"History is not just about memorizing dates and places," said Historic Rosedale director Deborah Hunter. "It's the essence of the times then. What might it have really been like?" All it took to find the answer Saturday was a short walk from Rosedale's parking lot and into the Charlotte of 1865.

It Began in the South After All

If it has been a long time since you visited Jamestown, Va. you might want to go again. A lot has changed, especially during the last fifteen years. The archeological digs that Dr. William Kelso has led during this time period have added important new knowledge to what we know about the earliest continually inhabited English settlement in North America. My childhood history lessons led me to the “Yankee-centric” view that the first such English settlement was at Plymouth, Mass. The community at Jamestown was dismissed as a failed venture and it was thought that the original settlement was buried under the James River. However, the work of Dr. Kelso has revealed that the original fort has been there under the earth beside the river for over 400 years. We now know that while that group of people struggled against incredible odds that included the worst drought in 800 years, they were successful in establishing the first permanent English settlement. This community has existed until the present day and was the location for the first meeting of a representative governmental body under the rule of English law in North America. That event took place before the Pilgrims had even arrived!

As you plan a trip, it is important to remember that there are two Jamestowns. One is the site known as Historic Jamestowne where the dig at the original 1607 fort, the church tower and the Archaearium museum showcasing the findings from the digs are located. Arms and armor, trade beads, scientific equipment and other items reveal a new story of the people who came together at this place and began a new nation. Walking tours are conducted by federal park rangers who manage the site in cooperation with APVA Preservation Virginia. Archaeologists still work on the site seasonally, weather permitting, and visitors often share a moment of discovery. The original 17th century church tower is still there along with the foundation of the church. For history buffs, it is a “must visit” place.

Nearby Jamestown Settlement is managed by the state of Virginia and includes beautifully designed new galleries and an extensive living history museum with re-creations of the fort, a Powhatan Indian village, and replicas of the ships that brought the settlers to the new world. Throughout the site costumed interpreters bring the story to life. It is a wonderful way for both adults and children to experience this story. During March I joined an enthusiastic group of Elderhostel volunteers for a service learning week at Jamestown Settlement and Yorktown. It was very interesting to work behind the scenes sewing 17th century petticoats, assembling mats for the Indian Village houses, freshening up the grounds and preparing materials for summer teacher institutes. I learned that these sites, along with Williamsburg, are laying off staff in response to current economic realities. Our work was truly appreciated and we were also able to tour the sites and enjoy lectures given by their wonderful staff. I guess you could call this a dream vacation for a docent!

Alice Bostic

Book Review

Unwise Passions; A True Story of a Remarkable Woman—and the First Great Scandal of Eighteenth-century America by Alan Pell Crawford

The Remarkable Woman: Anne Cary Randolph, called “Nancy”.

The Scandal: Nancy is accused of bearing a child then discarding the newborn on the nearest trash heap. The baby’s father and Nancy’s co-conspirator was Richard Randolph, husband of Nancy’s sister.

The Locale : Scene 1: The tobacco plantations of the Randolph family in the state of Virginia. Scene 2: New York state and the homes of Gouverneur Morris and family.

Nancy Randolph (1774-1837) becomes the target of relentless, horrendous rumors when only 18 years old. She is eventually exiled from Virginia and experiences unknown hardships, arriving in New York where she seeks refuge from an old family friend, Gouverneur Morris. Morris is considered “nobility”, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a former Minister to France. He befriends Nancy, they fall in love, marry, and have a son. At his death, Nancy’s reputation again comes into play when Morris relatives seek to deny her son an inheritance. Nancy handles the situation and lives up to her motto: “I shall rally again”.

This is a very interesting, complicated story. The author relies on correspondence of the time, newspaper articles, and family papers to present tales of lifestyles that vary from near-poverty to elegance in early America. He adds interest to the story by including historically familiar figures: Patrick Henry, attorney for the defense of the “fetching” Nancy. Washington, Jefferson and his daughter, Patsy. Included is a map of Randolph plantations and a genealogical chart that is helpful since Randolph cousins tended to marry cousins.

This is a grand story witnessing the demise of a family within the demise of an economy based on tobacco. In other words, a period of monumental change in the American scene. Rachel Abernathy

A Particularly Good Magazine

I just received the newest issue of Early American Life magazine (June 2009) and it is a worthy read for all who are interested in the multi-facets of American history. Lengthy articles on spinning wheels, a newly restored house in Charleston, SC, antique roses, planting a colonial kitchen garden, and silhouettes, plus several other articles as well are included. Worth looking for on newsstands if anyone is not a current subscriber.

The last issue (April 2009) had, among others, great articles on the Kentucky rifle, bed hangings, naming children during colonial days, and John Bartram, an American who was named the King’s Botanist to George III in 1765. I do not know about the availability of this issue but it might still be out there. Valerie Jones

Disaster Recovery Workshop

The Charlotte Regional History Consortium is holding a disaster recovery workshop on Monday June 1, from 8:30 am to 4 pm at the Charlotte Museum of History. Attendees will learn how to salvage and limit damage to collections resulting from fire, flood, or other disasters affecting museums, historic sites, libraries, etc. They will also learn which local individuals and institutions have expertise, equipment, or other valuable assistance to offer. The presenters are Martha Battle Jackson, curator for North Carolina Historic Sites, and K. Sharon Bennett, consultant for the College of Charleston Special Collections.

The morning session is devoted to creating and/or updating a site specific recovery plan and making a contact list of experts and volunteers. The afternoon session is a hands-on workshop to give participants practice in all aspects of salvage and recovery. By handling various types of damaged items, they will be better prepared to write a realistic and comprehensive plan for their individual sites.

The cost of the workshop, including a box lunch, is \$50 for non-members, and \$10 for Charlotte Regional History Consortium members, or designated representatives of member organizations. If you wish to attend make your check payable to CRHC and send to Historic Charlotte, PO Box 33113, Charlotte, NC 28233 by May 18th. RSVP or for more information: Leah@HistoricCharlotte.org.

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>

Spring Fundraiser: The Art of Craft: 1830, Saturday, May 9, 10 am to 4 pm.

This is the 3rd annual Art of Craft show and sale, featuring 24 of the finest potters and other craftsmen in the Carolinas. Also featured is a Colonial Village with a joiner, bookbinder, blacksmith and other craftsmen demonstrating their crafts. There will be free pony rides and colonial games for the children. The patron preview (\$75.00, reservations required) at 9 am features breakfast with the potters and an advanced look at the show and sale.

Ice Cream Social, Sunday, July 12, 1 to 4 pm

The Charlotte Folk Society Old-Time Music Jam & Ice Cream Social will be hosted by Historic Rosedale. Free

Latta Plantation

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

Civil War Soldier Weekend, Sat., May 2 from 10 am to 4 pm, and Sun., May 3 from 1-4 pm

Civil War soldiers will be on the grounds providing demonstrations and talking to visitors. Experience the sounds of musket fire and commands being given as soldiers drill. The plantation house and grounds will also be open for tours as well.

Bluegrass and Barbecue Fundraiser, Saturday, May 2 from 4:30 to 8 pm

Enjoy 'all you can eat' barbecue and live bluegrass. Plenty of activities will be available for the kids. There will be a silent auction of artwork, pottery, and more, all made by local artisans. All proceeds benefit Historic Latta Plantation, a non-profit historic site and living history farm. Tickets are \$20 each for ages 13 and up, children 6-12 are \$10, and children ages 4 and under are free. Call 704-875-2312 for tickets.

Living History Day, Saturday, May 23 from 10 am to 4 pm

See the plantation come to life with period demonstrations of blacksmithing, weaving, spinning, bookbinding, open-hearth cooking, and much more! Traditional May Day celebrations will be in full swing, despite the non-traditional date! Participate in dancing, games, and crafts. RSVP now for a spot at the Victorian Tea Party, where ladies can learn fan and handkerchief "language" and make a decoupage craft. The Tea Party is an additional \$3 per person.

Pan for Gold! Saturdays, June 27, July 11 & 25, Aug. 15, from 10 am to 4 pm

Learn about Charlotte's rich gold mining history and pan for gold at the miner's cabin! Also participate in regular guided house tours, explore the grounds, and visit the animals! Free with regular admission.

Civil War Infantry Weekend, Saturday and Sunday, August 22 & 23, 10 am to 4 pm

Civil War soldiers on the grounds providing demonstrations. Free with regular admission.

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

Living History Sundays. The first Sunday of each month guests may participate in interactive historic colonial skills. The demonstrations will take place at various locations around the museum and homesite.

Living History Sunday; May 3

Amy Morgan will demonstrate loom weaving in the Hezekiah Alexander House during regular tours at 1:15 pm and 3:15 pm.

Meck Dec Celebration; Sat. May 16, 5-8 pm, Free

Join us at the Charlotte Museum of History to learn about the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and its local observances from many of Charlotte's historical sites and organizations. Walk through the grounds and experience each respective organization, their specialties, and how they would have celebrated the Meck Dec. Picnic on the lawn and enjoy family-friendly entertainment and live colonial music. Food and beverages will also be available for purchase.

Current confirmed participants include Carolina Maps, Charlotte Folk Society, the Charlotte Museum of History, Fort Dobbs State Historic Site, Historic Brattonsville, Historic Latta Plantation, Historic Rosedale Plantation, Historical Center of York County, James K. Polk State Historic Site, Lincoln County Historical Association, McGill Rose Garden, the Museum of York County, the Public Library of Mecklenburg County, and Rural Hill.

WWII Encampment, Sat. June 6, 11 am-5 pm

Experience life during World War II at this event of reverence and commemoration. Come see interpreters of both the Allied and Axis armies as you learn about the war and its effects on Charlotte. The events will include many activities and games for children, and conclude with a Remembrance Ceremony.

Living History Sunday; June 7, 2-4 pm

Doug Meyer and Robert Likas will demonstrate primitive firemaking and other skills used by backcountry settlers.

Independence Day Afternoon Celebration; Sat. July 4, 10 am-2 pm, Free

Are you home for the 4th of July? Bring your family and learn about the birth of our country. We will have colonial games, and various family-friendly activities. Bring a picnic lunch and have some fun before your regular nighttime festivities.

Living History Sunday; July 5, 2-4 pm

Doug Meyer will demonstrate fishing lines and lures and other skills used by backcountry settlers.

Living History Sunday; August 2, 2-4 pm

Brandie Macdonald will demonstrate tending of colonial herbs and plants in the garden beside the Hezekiah Alexander House.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

Fundraising Raffle. The President James K. Polk SHS is holding a fundraising raffle to support its annual children's summer camps. The grand prize is "A Night On the Town" which includes a gift certificate for dinner at Maestro's Bar and Bistro, two tickets to Regal Cinemas, a night's stay at the Hilton Garden Inn, brunch at the Walddhom German Restaurant, and a signed copy of *Polk: The Man Who Transformed the Presidency and America* by Walter Borneman, a total value of over \$200. Second prize is a signed copy of the book; third prize is

two Regal Cinema tickets. Raffle tickets are \$5 each and may be purchased at the site, or send you check made out to President James K. Polk SHS to: PO Box 475, Pineville, NC 28134. The drawing will be on June 6.

The Carl J. McEwen Historical Village

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

<http://www.minthillhistory.com>

Farmers Market

The Mint Hill Farmers Market opens for the season on Saturday, May 2nd and is open each Saturday, May through September from 9 am to 1 pm.

Assay Office Reconstruction will be ongoing all summer at the village site.

Schiele Museum

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

Backcountry Farm Inspired by Nature, Sunday, May 31, 1 to 5 pm.

Explore the Backcountry Farm to see a variety of botanical motifs, flowers and foliage, carved, inlaid, painted and stitched by 18th-century interpreters. Learn a new skill as you draw rosette designs.

By the Bamboo Fire, Saturday, May 23, Adult Workshop

Learn to make fire by friction and bush cookery the tropical way. Course includes fire making with the bamboo fire saw and three primitive cooking methods using bamboo.

The Stone Pipe, Sunday, May 24, Adult Workshop.

Manufacture a tubular and an elbow-style soapstone-smoking pipe based on archaeological examples from the North American Southeast. Both Stone Age and historic tools and techniques will be used.

Family “Out-Back” Camping Trip, Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3, from 5 pm to 9 am.

Bring your family and camp “out-back” at the Schiele! Pitch your tent in the natural areas along our nature trail. Enjoy a bonfire, weenie roast, marshmallows and campfire stories. Learn about camping in the “old style.”

Gaston County Museum

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

North Carolina in a Bottle: An Overview of the State’s Wine Industry; Sat., May 2, 2-3 pm. Free

During this program, Joseph Mills, PhD will give an overview of the history of wine-making in North Carolina, detail its current growth, and consider some issues that may affect the industry’s future.

At the beginning of the 20th century, North Carolina was the number one producer of wine in the United States. After Prohibition, it took almost the rest of the century for the state’s industry to get re-established. The last twenty years have seen phenomenal growth. North Carolina is now the tenth largest wine and grape producer in the nation, and has more than 350 vineyards and 60 wineries, with new ones opening almost monthly.

Blues Out Back Concert – Abe Reid; Friday, May 8, 6:30-8 pm. On the lawn behind the Museum; free
“Abe Reid is full of soul and emotion. He’s got a voice that’ll make you clap your hands and shout Amen!”

Creative Loafing: Charlotte. The museum encourages folks to bring along blankets, lawn chairs, and a picnic for an evening of great music with friends and family. There will be sidewalk chalk, a large checker board, and a food vendor as well.

Mother/Daughter Tea; Sat. May 9, 11 am to noon

For mothers and daughters ages 6 and up, RSVP required by May 1. During this special program mothers and daughters will learn about the history of etiquette, tea, and manners during the Victorian Period. Participants will also partake in a sit down tea complete with tasty treats. Come dressed in your Sunday best!

Blues Out Back Concert – John Dee Holeman; Fri. June 12, 6:30-8 pm. On the lawn behind the museum; free event

John Dee Holeman is a storyteller, dancer and blues artist. He possesses an expressive blues voice and is a wonderful guitarist incorporating both Piedmont and Texas guitar styles. The museum encourages folks to bring along blankets, lawn chairs, and a picnic for an evening of great music.

Drop-In Day Camp; Thursdays June 11,18, 25 & July 2,9,16, 10:30 to noon each day

Ages 5 – 12. Historic themed activities, crafts, and a snack. Free

Cartooning Camp; Tuesday 23, 10 am-noon, or 1-2 pm; Ages 10 – 12.

Want to learn how to draw cartoons or become a better artist? Author and illustrator Dave McDonald who has over 25 years experience will present a fun and exciting one day camp on cartooning and basic drawing.

Historic Brattonsville

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

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

Celebrate American Independence, Saturday, July 4 from 10 am to 4 pm

Historic readings, militia muster and firearms demonstrations, cooking demonstrations and stories from slaves.

Battle of Huck's Defeat, Saturday, July 11, from 10 am to 5 pm.

This Revolutionary War reenactment brings to life the war in the Carolina backcountry. During the event three significant battles will be reenacted including Huck's Defeat. Other activities include camp life demonstrations, music, firearms presentations, and theatrical performances. Children's Encampment area will have historic toys and games, military drills, a Revolutionary war camp and kid friendly ghost stories. Battle reenactment take place at Noon and 2 pm.

Charlotte Folk Society

www.folksociety.org

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams, Fridays at 7:30 pm. Great Aunt Stella Center, Free.

- May 8. African culture with storytelling, music & songs by The Healing Force.
- June 12. Down Home Stories With H. A. "Humpy" Wheeler and Dr. Tom Hanchett.
- August 14. The Snyder Family Band (bluegrass).

Old-Time Music Jam & Ice Cream Social, Sunday, July 12 from 1 to 4 pm at Historic Rosedale, Free.

Andrew Jackson State Park

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

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

Pinetuckett In Concert; Fri. May 8, 6:30 pm

Join us for an evening of bluegrass and gospel music from *Pinetuckett*. The music begins at 6:30 p.m. in the park amphitheater. The concert is free with park admission. Pack a picnic for supper and head on out to the park for a night of fun, music and fellowship.

Spring Living History Day; Sat., May 9, 10 am-4 pm

Discover some of the chores that settlers would be busy doing as spring arrived in the Garden of the Waxhaws. Learn how the settlers met some of their basic needs through gardening and open hearth cooking.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

Diversions of the 18th Century British Soldier; Sat. & Sun., May 9-10, 10 am-4 pm, Free

Join the provincial soldiers of Fort Dobbs as they find entertainment through period music, song and games! Demonstrations of military drill and camp life are also featured throughout the day.

Gone for a Soldier; Sat. & Sun., July 25-26, 10 am-4 pm, Free

A recruiting party of the N.C. Provincials will be at Fort Dobbs looking for new soldiers! Visitors will have the opportunity to “enlist” in the company guarding the western frontier and learn first-hand what it took to be a soldier in the 18th Century. Demonstrations of military drill, weapons firings, and camp life will be on-going.

Red Hills English Country Dance Society

Historical Spring Ball, Sat. May 23, 8-11 pm

You are cordially invited to spend the evening in dance and music from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries at the Fellowship Hall of St. John’s Methodist Church, Rock Hill, SC. Dance master is Cynthia Jentz, with live music by Nash Lyle and friends. Refreshments provided, and a photographer will be available. Attire: Period dress or black tie. Cost \$10 per person. Limited to those 14 years of age and above. Dance lessons available from 7-8 pm. For additional information or to register, email redhillsdance@gmail.com.

Historic Charlotte

www.historiccharlotte.org 704 375 6145

May is Preservation Month for Historic Charlotte. Mid 20th century events include:

- **Artevation at Kugler Studio**, Thursday, May 7 from 5:30 to 8 pm, Latta Arcade, Free
Photographs of Mid-Century Modern Charlotte architecture and style.
- **New Guided Mid-Century Modern Uptown Walking Tour**, Thursday, May 7, 5:30 to 6:30 pm
Guided by Tom Hanchett. Reservations required at www.museumofthenewsouth.org.
- **The Civic Impact of Mid-Century Modern Architecture**,
Tuesday, May 12 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm Free. Panel discussion, Museum of the New South.
- **Mid-Century Modern Home Tour**
May 16 -17, Saturday 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday noon to 4 pm.
Tour 18 outstanding South Charlotte Mid-Century Modern Homes.

Volunteers are needed to man the various sites on the home tours. If you are interested contact Diane Althouse at 704-375-6145.

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>

Trade and Craft Fair, Saturday June 27, from 9 am to 5 pm.

A variety of crafts people will demonstrate skills such as blacksmithing, woodworking, weaving and many others.

Sign the Declaration of Independence on Independence Day, Saturday July 4 from 9 am to 6 pm.

Members of the Backcountry Militia will talk about the Declaration of Independence. Why it is important, what it meant then and now. You will have a chance to sign the document with a quill pen.

South Carolina Rangers Encampment, Saturday, August 8 from 9 am to 6 pm.

South Carolina Rangers will set up camp at the park. Learn more about the South Carolina Rangers as they talk about their unit and demonstrate weapons firings and other camp activities.

Ken Bloom in Concert, Saturday, August 15, Check web site for times.

Ken Bloom, a talented musician will be performing in the visitor center. The performance will feature Celtic and Early American Colonial Music.

Backcountry Militia Encampment, Saturday, August 15 from 9 am to 6 pm

The Backcountry Militia will discuss life on the Carolina frontier. A variety of demonstrations will be held including weapons firing, cooking and more.

Kings Mountain State Park

I 85 Exit 8 in NC and follow the signs

<http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/945.aspx>

Independence Day at the Living History Farm, Saturday, July 4 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Interpreters will be demonstrating farming practices as well as the various ways people celebrated July 4th 150 years ago. There will be many hands on activities for all ages to participate in.

Southern Campaign of the American Revolution

<http://www.southerncampaign.org>

Corps of Discovery Tour, Saturday, May 9, 10 am, Cherokee County, SC

Led by Prof. Bobby G. Moss. Visit Grindal Shoals of the Pacolet River; Gen. Daniel Morgan's camp; Col. Charles McDowell's militia camp at the Cherokee Ford of the Broad River; Whig Hill Cemetery. Visit the web site for the directions to the meeting place. <http://www.southerncampaign.org/cod.php>

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