

From the President

Dear Docents,

A letter to the editor of *The Charlotte Observer* written by docent Ann Williams was published on March 19th (see page 6 of the *Dandelion*). It expressed the hope that all readers would involve themselves in learning the past and shaping the current history of Mecklenburg County. An invitation to join MHA was given. Our goals this year are to increase awareness of and membership in the MHA and to increase our own participation in MHA and docent activities. I encourage each one of us to continue our efforts in accomplishing these endeavors. The MHA dinner meeting will be held on May 23rd. Chase Saunders will make a presentation on the Greenway Trail of History. A new class for docent training will begin in late August. Please invite your relatives, friends, and neighbors to enroll by contacting Karen McConnell at rosedu@bellsouth.net. Our next docent meeting will be held on May 3rd at 10:00am. At 11:00am, two of our docents, Sharon Van Kuren and Carolyn Dilda, will lead the discussion on the creation of period undergarments. They will share some of their needlework skills secrets with us. Be sure to attend.

MHA docents will be an integral part of the Meck-Dec Day celebration on May 20th. Please call Janet Dyer to re-confirm your participation in this event.

We will not have a docent June meeting. In its place we will participate in two historical events. Our participation in the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church will be on June 4th. Linda Dalton is our coordinator for this event. The Polk Family Reunion will be held June 10th-12th. However, Carolyn Dilda would appreciate any help which might be given prior to those dates. Please contact her and tell her when you can assist.

Your time and service to MHA and MHA Docent projects are recognized and appreciated.

Best regards,

Barbara

Program Information

Wanda Hubicki

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

May - Her Shape She Doth Owe to Her Stays

Ms. Carolyn Dilda and Ms. Sharon Van Kuren will present the program "Her Shape She Doth Owe to Her Stays: A Survey of the Construction, Early History, and Associated Fashions of Late 18th Century Undergarments" to the Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents on Tuesday, May 3, 2005 at Historic Rosedale Plantation, 3427 N. Tryon Street, Charlotte.

NOTE: We will not hold a general June meeting because of our participation in both the Sugaw Creek Anniversary event and the Polk Reunion.

The Art of Interpretation
Camille Smith



It's been five years since I gave my first tour. I remember it well – my heart was pounding; I was so afraid of making a fool of myself. But I survived (and if I made a fool of myself, the visitors were considerate enough not to tell me!). I went on to work at a second historic house, and am now trying to find time for a third! I feel comfortable with the visitors and with the information I relay to them. Occasionally a visitor, sometimes another docent, corrects me. I don't mind this – first and foremost I don't want to give inaccurate information. And visitors often provide new information of which I was unaware. This new knowledge is gratefully accepted. Although much of what we interpret about a person, place or event is speculation based on a few known facts (hence, the commonly used phrase “may have been”), we must weed out that which we know to be incorrect. So I'm always grateful for corrections and new information (subject to confirmation). At this point in my life as a docent, revising the facts is easy.

What I continue to struggle with, however, is the interpretation. Is it interesting enough to keep their attention? Have I brought the family, the time, the place, the events to life? Do the visitors go away appreciating, remembering and enjoying their experience with the site and me? Do they feel “pumped up” when they leave? The reason inaccurate historical movies are remembered by the public (*Brave Heart* and *The Patriot* are good examples) is that they are entertaining. Doesn't Hollywood (Mel Gibson – over and over again!) know that “accurate” history (to the extent that we know what is accurate) IS entertaining and extremely interesting?!?! But how do we, as we interpret the history of a site to the public, present it so that we pull the visitors in, keep their attention and ignite their senses (as ours are ignited) with true and accurate information?

I've discovered two books that address this very issue: *Interpreting Our Heritage* by Freeman Tilden and *Interpretation for the 21st Century: Fifteen Guiding Principles for Interpreting Nature and Culture*, by Larry Beck and Ted Cable.

First on Tilden: He believes there are six principles of interpretation:

1. Any interpretation that does not somehow relate what is being displayed or described to something within the personality or experience of the visitor will be sterile.
2. Information, as such, is not Interpretation. Interpretation is revelation based upon information. But they are entirely different things. However, all interpretation includes information.
3. Interpretation is an art, which combines many arts, whether the materials presented are scientific, historical or architectural. Any art is in some degree teachable.
4. The chief aim of Interpretation is not instruction, but **provocation** (*I think this is a wonderful word to remember as we give our tours.*)
5. Interpretation should aim to present a whole rather than a part, and must address itself to the whole man rather than any phase.
6. Interpretation addressed to children (say, up to the age of twelve) should not be a dilution of the presentation to adults, but should follow a fundamentally different approach. To be at its best it will require a separate program.

The following quote from *Interpreting Our Heritage* is one I've previously shared, but is well worth repeating. This book is used at colleges and universities that offer coursework in cultural and environmental interpretation, as well as at interpretation conferences and workshops.

“Visiting the places that have been made famous and treasurable by the acts of men and women, where the story is told of courage and self-sacrifice, of dauntless patriotism, of statesmanship and inventive genius, of folkways, of husbandry or of the class of armed men following their ideals to the valley of the shadow all this offers a very different kind of experience. These places may be physically beautiful, and they may exemplify artisanship of the highest order, and furnishings of the most exquisite taste; but whether they are those things, or whether they are humble log cabins, rudely equipped, in a bleak environment, they all point to the same thing they represent the life and acts of people. Consequently, the interpreter will endeavor, if he is presenting an historic house, to ‘people’ that house. Architecture and furnishings are much; we admire and draw conclusions from them, but **we must find the art to keep them from seeming to have been frozen at a moment of time when nobody was home.** (*Bold is mine.*)

(Continued on page 3)



The prehistoric ruin must somehow manage to convey the notion to the visitor that the ancients who lived there might come back this very night and renew possession, and that there will be a renewal of the grinding of corn, the cries of children, and the making of love and feasting. This must not be taken too literally. I am trying to project a possible feeling. The battlefield of our great fratricidal American war is not merely a place of strategy and tactics; not a place where regiments moved this way and that like checkers on the board; not merely a spot where something was decided that would lead to another decision. It is a place of the thoughts and acts of men, of their ideals and memories; a place where on the evening of a fatal tomorrow men could joke and sing; a place of people, not armies. For we Americans are not descendants of a regiment; we are sprung from men and women.”

In *Interpretation for the 21st Century: Fifteen Guiding Principles for Interpreting Nature and Culture*, Beck and Cable work with Tilden’s principles (as well as those of Enos Mills who wrote *The Story of a Thousand Year Old Pine* and helped establish Rocky Mountain National Park), but take them into the 21st century. As they say in their book, “We aim to sculpt and elaborate upon their contributions.” Following are the 15 principles of Beck and Cable.

1. To spark an interest, interpreters must relate the subject to the lives of visitors.
2. The purpose of interpretation goes beyond providing information to reveal deeper meaning and truth.
3. The interpretive presentation – as a work of art – should be designed as a story that informs, entertains, and enlightens.
4. The purpose of the interpretive story is to inspire and to provoke people to broaden their horizons.
5. Interpretation should present a complete theme or thesis and address the whole person.
6. Interpretation for children, teenagers and seniors – when these comprise uniform groups – should follow fundamentally different approaches. *[Difficult when you have a mixed group. I would like to know how you handle this.]*
7. Every place has a history. Interpreters can bring the past alive to make the present more enjoyable and the future more meaningful.
8. High technology can reveal the world in exciting new ways. However, incorporating this technology into the interpretive program must be done with foresight and care.
9. Interpreters must concern themselves with the quantity and quality (selection and accuracy) of information presented. Focused, well-researched interpretation will be more powerful than a longer discourse.
10. Before applying the arts in interpretation, the interpreter must be familiar with basic communication techniques. **Quality interpretation depends on the interpreter's knowledge and skills, which should be developed continually.** *(Bold is mine.)*
11. Interpretive writing should address what readers would like to know, with the authority of wisdom and the humility and care that comes with it.
12. The overall interpretive program must be capable of attracting support – financial, volunteer, political, administrative – whatever support is needed for the program to flourish.
13. Interpretation should instill in people the ability, and the desire, to sense the beauty in their surroundings, to provide spiritual uplift and to encourage resource preservation
14. Interpreters can promote optimal experiences through intentional and thoughtful program and facility design.
15. Passion is the essential ingredient for powerful and effective interpretation – passion for the resource and for those people who come to be inspired by the same.

Sgt. Joe Friday hasn’t yet been on one of my tours. I must remember that visitors want more than “just the facts, ma’am.” Knowledge and interpretation change and grow – let’s commit ourselves to change and grow with them.

225th Anniversary of the Battle of Buford's Defeat Commemoration

On May 29, 1780, Tarleton's British Legion clashed with Virginia Continental Troops led by Colonel Abraham Buford. The people of the Waxhaws community in the Carolina Backcountry witnessed the brutality of war when they came to the aide of the fallen soldiers by nursing them back to help and burying those who did not survive. Spend a weekend learning how this military engagement shaped the outcome of the American Revolution.

Friday, May 27, 2005

Lecture at the Stevens Auditorium of USC-Lancaster, 7 p.m.

Learn more about the Revolutionary War in South Carolina. Come listen as two scholars share their knowledge as we commemorate the 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Buford's Defeat. Dr. Anthony Scotti, Jr., a reenactor and the author of *Brutal Virtue: The Myth and Reality of Banastre Tarleton*, will discuss the British Legion. Presidential historian Dr. Hendrik Booraem V, author of *Young Hickory: The Making of Andrew Jackson* will discuss Colonel Buford's Continental troops. Join us for an enlightening evening. Admission is free.

Saturday, May 28, 2005

Living History Day at Andrew Jackson State Park, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Join us as we remember our Revolutionary War heroes. Meet reenactors from the Continental Line, the British Legion and the New Acquisition Militia as they portray what life would have been like for soldiers and settlers. Learn about the Battle of Buford's Defeat as Rangers and Historians discuss its affect on the history of our nation. Find out more about the veterans of the battle such as Abraham Buford and Banastre Tarleton. Each unit will demonstrate the types of weapons that were used in the battle. View artifacts from the battleground. Visit the Meeting House to see how the Waxhaw community dealt with the aftermath of the battle.

Park Admission Fee: \$2 adults; \$1.25 South Carolina seniors; age 15 & younger free.

Sunday, May 29, 2005

Memorial Service at Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Cemetery, 9 a.m.

Visit the final resting place of many of the settlers of the Waxhaw community. Learn about how the lives of people buried here shaped the nation that we are today. Join the State Park Service, the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, members of the church and reenactors as we pay tribute to those who endured the hardships of the American Revolution.

Admission is free.

1780s Church Service at Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church, 9:45 a.m.

Step back 225 years to experience a Scotch-Irish Presbyterian worship service. Old Waxhaw Church, the home church of President Andrew Jackson's family and the oldest in the Carolina Backcountry, was the place that the wounded soldiers from the Battle of Buford's defeat were taken to have their battle wounds nursed. Meet with members of the present congregation, reenactors and other history enthusiasts for a service similar to one that would have been held by this church during the Revolutionary War. Admission is free.

Memorial Service at the Battleground, 2 p.m.

Honor the soldiers who fought in the American Revolution by attending a memorial service at the battleground where many lost their lives. Remember the battle where Tarleton's British Legion fought Buford's Virginia Continentals which brought the brutality of war home to the people of Waxhaws. Admission is free.



The "Incident"

The Colonial Records of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC, 1886-90, Vol. V., pp. xxxiv xxxvi

The incident started what McCulloh facetiously called "The Sugar Creek War." When Governor William Tryon ordered him "...to desist from any steps in law to dispossess [the settlers] ... settled on lands of George Selwyn, Esq..." he reported that he did not recollect making any remarks to aggravate the settlers except "now and then telling them (what he thought) that they were a parcel of Blockheads."

Hearth Cooking

Wanda Hubicki

Have an Interest in Hearth Cooking? Join the hearth cooks of Gunston Hall Plantation for a day-long exploration of 18th-century cooking techniques. Adults with all levels of cooking skills are welcome to enroll. Students will make and enjoy a meal together in the reconstructed outbuilding kitchen.

The class will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on these dates (choose one): Saturday, October 1, 2005 and Sunday, October 2, 2005. Call Gunston Hall's education department to register at 703-550-9220. The \$99 fee includes tuition and all materials.

Gunston Hall Plantation is located on Mason Neck, Virginia, approximately 12 miles south of Alexandria, convenient to I-95, Route 1, and the Fairfax County Parkway. The historic site also co-sponsors cooking classes with Fairfax County Adult Education. Daylong beginning classes are planned for Saturday, October 22 or Sunday, October 23. The fee is \$99. To register, call 703-227-2231 to register for class Hi-3881.

Paint Reveals Portrait as a Fraud

News Article Submitted by Ann Williams



The following information from *The Charlotte Observer* and other publications has recently come to light.

"One of the best-known portraits of William Shakespeare is a fraud, experts at Britain's National Portrait Gallery said Thursday. Many art authorities had suspected the work, known as the Flower portrait, was painted more recently than the 1609 date on the image. Tarnya Cooper, 16th-century curator at the National Portrait Gallery, said analysis uncovered chrome yellow paint from around 1814 in the work. Shakespeare died in 1616."

If you've been to Historic Rosedale Plantation, you've seen chrome yellow paint. From the Rosedale flyer: "The neighbors called it 'Frew's Folly,' though the reason remains obscure. Perhaps it was the chrome yellow trim, a shocking contrast to the plank and log style houses common to the backcountry."

Rosedale's training manual states that George Fore, paint conservator from Raleigh, found the original colors. The following is from a letter from Paul E. Fromberg, Senior Restoration Specialist, State Historic Preservation Office, to Ann Glover dated August 11, 1992: "Chrome yellow, also known as Paris yellow, was derived from lead chromate or chrooite which was a relativeley rare ore and apparently not readily available as a paint pigment until about 1814-1815." The brilliant yellow was a new and rare color when the house was built in 1815. (Visit the new Rosedale web site: www.historicrosedale.org)



Letter to the Editor - Charlotte Observer, March 12, 2005



Ann Williams

In response to "A monumental idea to recapture the city's past":

What a great column from Mary Newsom supporting the proposed Little Sugar Creek greenway statues! Charlotte's architectural heritage may be scant, but the people whose ideas and experiences truly shaped us left a fine legacy.

Until the statues appear, other opportunities to learn our history abound. Read the plaques surrounding Settlers Cemetery. Come to The Square on May 20 to celebrate Mecklenburg's Declaration of Independence. Those scrappy freedom-loving Scots-Irish who incited a hornets' nest of rebellion were no stodgy old men in wigs; they were thoroughly "edgy."

Get involved. The Mecklenburg Historical Association's docents program (MHADocents@yahoo.com) is engaged in learning, research and service to historic sites. Our aim is to keep history alive and to have good fun in the process.

Book Review

"George Washington, Spymaster

How the Americans Outspied the British and Won the Revolutionary War"

by Thomas B. Allen

Reviewed by Rachel Abernathy

This little book, only 149 pages, is fun to read and if you want to be a spy when you grow up, it will teach you some of the things you need to know. Most of our favorite founding fathers are in here and did their spy-duties faithfully. Also included is the story of the most unfaithful, Benedict Arnold, whose betrayal brought Washington to tears.

George Washington began his career in spying as a nineteen year old representing Governor Dinwiddie and the King in the days preceding the French and Indian Wars. Washington was commissioned to deliver a letter from the Governor to the French Commander occupying British territory in Ohio. His trip was filled with adventure and established Washington as a man who could be relied upon

Patriots organized Committees of Correspondence in the colonies and these provided a network already in place when hostilities with the British began. The Committees provided Washington with spies who had already been at work – Paul Revere for example. He chose Benjamin Tallmadge who set about organizing the Culper spy ring with codes, invisible and disappearing ink, disguises and aliases. The only problem was that the British were well organized, too, and at times it was difficult to know who was spying on whom. A great deal of spying took place in Britain and France, involving our ambassadors there.

Allen takes a very serious subject and simplifies it and is not tedious. This is an interesting story and the reader will learn much about George Washington and the men who surrounded him during the Revolution. But the book is full of surprises, too – little messages written in code, original illustrations, appendices including a War Time Line and the author's notes. But best of all is "The Code" with which the reader can spend time decoding all the coded messages included! (Congratulations to Allison Abernathy, 9, who broke the special message code. And I did not.)

Heard on a recent television presentation on the history of the Scots-Irish in America:

"The English brought the church, the Germans brought the barn, the Scots-Irish brought the whiskey still."





2005 Southeastern Regional ALHFAM Meeting

Peering Through the Keyhole: Transition & Transformation: February 18-20, Old Salem, NC

Pam Dudeck

The best part in attending an ALHFAM (Association for Living History, Farm, and Agricultural Museums) conference is getting together with folks who all share the same interest and passion for teaching history by “doing.” ALHFAM is special as an organization in the way that professionals warmly welcome volunteers/hobbyists. I have never felt that I was being looked down upon. Maybe this stems from the recognition that it is difficult to make an adequate living doing living history. Therefore many must make it a “hobby” rather than a profession.

This year’s conference was in our back yard – Old Salem. It has been a couple years since I visited Old Salem. There were some significant changes. The new visitors center across the street is now open. The restored Tannenberg Organ is the focus of the large meeting room. We enjoyed a wonderful concert the first night of the conference. The walking tour covering African Americans in Salem was new to me. It includes the Negro Moravian log church and St. Philips Church. The log church has an exhibit where you listen to recordings that tell the stories of different African Americans who lived in early Salem. If you want more information about this tour, there is a brochure in the folder I have prepared for our library. The Thomas Vogler gunsmith shop has been added to Old Salem to demonstrate yet another trade through costumed interpretation.

I toured the Single Sisters’ House as a pre-conference session which is owned by Salem Academy & College. We were allowed to tour the entire building, from the meat cellar to the attic, and everything in between. Much investigation has been done to try to determine the ways the house has been altered since 1785. It was last used as dorms by the school. The beginning of restoration is going on. Some of the rooms now have the original walls and floors and ceilings exposed. The college hopes to give tours to the public by 2007. So we can anticipate this addition to Old Salem in the not too distant future. I was given a 30-page booklet on the history of the “Sisters.” They were remarkable ladies for their time. Their work in the community allowed them to earn wages and they were very successful at turning a profit. Twice the Single Sisters had to pay off the debts of the Single Brothers! When the last “Sister” decided that it was time for the Sisters to come to an end as a formal group, there was quite a tidy sum of money in their account. It was donated to charitable causes via the Moravian Church.

ALHFAMers, who volunteer to talk on a topic, gave the conference sessions, so the quality of these meetings varied. I was a little disappointed in the overall quality of the sessions, and greatly disappointed that the session on Foodways and Community in Moravian Salem was canceled due to the illness of one of the presenters. Maybe the Cooking Guild needs to do another session at a future conference. We have done them twice in the past. If you are interested in the details from the sessions that I attended, you can look over my notes in the folder in the library. I attended the following sessions:

1. Form & Function: The Wearing of Historic Clothes;
2. Drink & Be Merry: Alcohol Beverages in the 18th Century
3. African American Interpretation a panel discussion
4. Transforming Our Exhibits & Programs for a 21st Century Audience

That last session really focused on the message we were hearing from the professionals in the living history field. Historic sites need to adapt and change to meet the needs and desires of their potential audiences. There is tremendous competition in America for leisure time and dollars. If we keep on doing things the same old way, we are likely to find ourselves in danger of facing closure due to inadequate funding or to the withdrawal of public funds to support us when we cannot attract visitors. The American public seems to like living history and having a chance to interact and have experiences where they get to participate. Here in Mecklenburg County, the docents help that to happen at our historic sites. So keep it up ladies!

I would like to thank the MHA docents for giving me a scholarship to help with the costs of this conference. I would encourage others to give the ALHFAM conferences a try. You will learn, be treated with respect, and have some fun. Oh, yes, I guess I forgot to mention our dinner at the Salem Tavern Restaurant, followed by an evening of dancing and gaming in the historic Salem Tavern. Our Cooking Guild group had a rowdy good time!



*A Feast for the Eyes — The History of Cooking*Wanda Hubicki**Exhibition & Lecture:** *A Feast for the Eyes – The History of Cooking*

On May 5, 2005, the New York Academy of Medicine's Rare Book Room will open a new exhibition of books from the Library's extraordinary cookery collection. *A Feast for the Eyes: A Meal in Books* Exhibition Dates: Thursday, May 5th through Friday, August 5th, 2005. Opening Lecture, May 5, 6:00 pm Francine Segan, *DaVinci's Table: Renaissance Feasts* (Book-signing and small reception, 5:30 pm)

Salt, A World History

by Mark Kurlansky

Reviewed by Rachel Abernathy

Salt has permeated our social history as it does a good pot of stew!

Homer calls salt a divine substance; Plato describes it as especially dear to the gods. . .and Mark Kurlansky takes writing about salt to a new height and depth. Salt is the only rock that we eat, and we eat it because it is an essential element in human and animal health. Today it is inexpensive, easy to obtain and, well, common, but don't think that it always was.

Early man, according to the author, found salt by following animal trails which led eventually to a salt "lick" or pool and this probably led to the domestication of some of these animals. The earliest written record of salt productions is from China about 800 BC. Kurlansky then traces the production (mining, refining, distribution) and uses of salt by the Egyptians, the Celts, North Africans, Romans, and medieval Europeans. If you like a lot of "I didn't know that!" with your reading, this is a book for you.

The Chinese had hardly discovered a salt mine when it became something to fight over and this was true throughout history until about 125 years ago. So valuable that it became a kind of currency, salt's availability reflected the strength of the people who were able to reclaim it from the earth and seas. That reclamation influenced our geography (towns grew up near salt mines), government, agriculture, transportation and (I saved the best til last) food preservation.

Lest this begin to sound like a dull history book, Kurlansky "salts" his story with recipes and procedures for food preservation. Think pickles and sauerkraut! And don't forget butter and ketchup! Ketchup? After Cortes' explorations in the New World he introduced the tomato to southern Europe and there originated a thick tomato sauce salted with anchovies. One day someone left out the salty little fish and added salt and had ketchup, catsup, or katchup. Now if we could just learn to spell it!

This book is readable, enjoyable, fascinating world history. It is available at the public library (in large print, too). Salted popcorn, peanuts, or pretzels go well with it.

*The 57th Regiment of North Carolina Troops (Civil War)*Colonel Hamilton C. Jones Charlotte, NC, 9 April 1901

"This Regiment was made up of Scotch-Irish from Rowan, Iredell, Cabarrus, and Mecklenburg. This regiment was engaged in many battles. They fought under the eye of other comrades in the hills, who cheered them with a mighty cheer such was their capabilities. They fought, too, under the eye of their great Commander-in-Chief (Godwin) and he repaid them with a flattering notice in an order. It was written that 'the high-spirited Scotch-Irish of North Carolina are unsurpassed in the qualities that go to make great soldiers. They do their duty well and valorously, and in fighting, in common with their comrades, they have fixed a standard for the American soldier below which it is hoped he will never fall.'"

I, Jay Whittington Lewis, was born June 10, 1847, six miles west of Rutherfordton, near Green Hill Post Office, Rutherford County, North Carolina. Soon after June 10, 1864, I entered the service of the Southern Confederacy as a Private in Company B, 9th Battalion, Junior Reserves, at Asheville, North Carolina. Our officers were Maj. D.T. Millard, Capt. J.L. Eaves, 1st Lt. George Suttle, 2nd Lt. Luther Gross, 3rd Lt. Taylor Blanton, and Orderly, Sgt. Watt Trout. All of our officers except Maj. Millard were reared in Rutherford County, around Rutherfordton, North Carolina. We spent a month or so at Asheville, N.C., then marched to Morganton, N.C., where we remained in Camp Vance about two months. Here many of the boys and I saw a railroad train for the first time in our lives.

We went to Salisbury, N.C., next, where we guarded Northern prisoners for a month or more. After that we spent a short time at Goldsboro, N.C., and then went into winter quarters at Camp Lamb, near Wilmington, North Carolina. Our battalion, with several others, spent Christmas Day (Sunday) Dec. 25, 1864, there. There was very heavy bombardment from 9:00 A.M. until 9:00 P.M., when the enemy landed a considerable force which was repulsed. They got back of our breastworks outside of the fort. Col. Lamb had trouble in getting the men to cease firing. The fort was taken by the enemy, on Jan. 15, 1865. Our command and many others were in the battles around Springfield, N.C., and Bentonville, North Carolina. On the morning of March 21, 1865, while we were contending with Sherman's army, at Bentonville, N.C., I was shot through the left arm just below the shoulder joint, the bone being broken. I was a sharp shooter and was on the picket line when wounded.

Together with hundreds of other wounded men, I spent the first night in the field hospital in the woods near the battlefield, and the second night on the ground at some station on the railroad. The third night we spent at High Point, N.C., in a hospital, which had been the Barbee Hotel. The Government had taken over the hotel for hospital purposes. The furniture was stored in a few rooms at the rear, and all the other rooms were filled with cots for the wounded soldiers. I spent a month or more at High Point, and well remember the visits from the ladies of the town who brought us beautiful flowers and many tracts to read.

I have a vivid recollection of the day when the Yankee cavalry came through High Point and burned a train-load of Confederate supplies that had just arrived from Richmond, Virginia. They also rolled a barrel of whiskey from the freight depot, set it on one end and knocked the head out of the other end. They all got drunk and set fire to the freight depot which was right in front of the hospital (Barbee Hotel). The hospital was saved by stretching long, wide cloths to the eaves of the house and porch, and the people carried water and poured it on the roof, which kept the cloths wet. All the wounded Confederate soldiers were carried out of the hospital and laid on the ground - in a sweet potato field - to the rear of the hospital.

The squad of Northern cavalry, after getting drunk, went to some old barns and stables back of the hospital and went to sleep. If a small squad of Confederates had been there they could have killed or taken the whole company of Union soldiers.

About the last of April, 1865, my grandfather, Col. James Blanton of Polk County, came to High Point to take me home. He slipped me out of the hospital and we started afoot, as there were no trains running. We went probably one-half a mile and I gave out. We returned to the hospital, and the doctors quarrelled with my grandfather for taking me away.

Next day, a train did come along going South, and grandpa got me on a flat car that was already crowded. The train landed us in Charlotte, N.C., and grandpa left me in the hospital there, which was later the South Graded School. I remained in the hospital in Charlotte for a month or more, and then Mr. William Cokely, who lived on the Hickory Nut Gap Road five and one-half miles above Rutherfordton, N.C., came after me in a one-horse wagon. As he could not get the wagon across the Catawba river, he left the horse and wagon at Mt. Holly, N.C., and walked to Charlotte, eleven miles. He then learned that a fishing party was going out to the river the next morning, and arranged for us to go to Mt. Holly on the train. The railroad bridge had been burned by the Union soldiers some time before. When we reached Mt. Holly we started, in the one-horse wagon, to my home, six miles west of Rutherfordton, N.C. I lay on a feather-bed in the wagon and suffered a great deal from the continual jolting over the rough roads. It took two days to make the trip. We spent the first night with a Mrs. Goode, in Lincolnton, N.C., and reached home the next night about nine o'clock.

The Music of Spinning Wheels

Wanda Hubicki

All of these are from the South in the years of blockade, when production of homespun was deemed a matter of Confederate patriotism.

Weekly Columbus [GA] Enquirer, November 11, 1862, p. 1, c. 3

Cloth-Home Made

“... Would to heaven that all Southern ladies were like her! There would be no laziness, no extravagance, no hifalutin tomfoolery, no Miss McFlimseys who think that God created them merely to thumb broken down pianos, screech like night owls, cut fantastic capers in fancy dances, and ‘show off’ merchants’ dry goods and prop themselves up in parlors as pretty toys for men to look at and admire. The best music a female can make these war times is the music of the spinning wheel.”

Washington [Ark.] Telegraph, January 20, 1864

To the Women...

“All that was but the beginning. From garrets and closets, and lumber of smoke-houses came forth the old fragments of long-forgotten looms and spinning-wheels, and a new sound arose in the land; a melancholy humming with a somewhat fierce and energetic close, like the death song of the shell-we all knew it well in our youth. It was the sound of the spinning wheel. It arose from the city and the village, the planter's mansion and the settler's cabin. It was a low sound truly, but could the enemy have been gifted to hear its still small voice through the din of arms, they might have read its terrible meaning. It is this, ‘We are the true amazons who fight thus with our sons and brothers, and lovers. Not on horseback with bows and arrows, and right breasts cut off; but in womanly modesty; with prayerful hearts, we do nobler battle. We enable them to laugh to scorn their dependency on your Lowell Mills. We clothe them, and uphold their hands by our cheerful submission to our share of the ills you have brought upon us. The contest is ours also. Behold how we maintain it.’”

Galveston Weekly News, February 24, 1864, p. 1, c. 2

Home Industry... The Richmond, Va., Sentinel says

“A hundred reasons combine to urge upon every family to look to its own resources. The hand card and the hand loom and the spinning wheel, whose music is sweeter far than that of the piano, should be found everywhere.”

Barefoot and Educated

Governor Dobbs wrote to the Board of Trade in London a description of the people who had settled on his lands around Rocky River:

“There are at present 75 families on my Lands. I viewed betwixt 30 and 40 of them, and except two there was not less than 5 or 6 to 10 children in each family, each going barefooted in their shifts in the warm weather, no woman wearing more than a shift and one thin petticoat; they are a colony from Ireland removed from Pennsylvania, of what we call Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who with others in the neighboring Tracts had settled together in order to have a teacher of their own opinion and choice ...”

Clearly, in the words of the Governor, it was their desire to have a teacher.



Charlotte Folk Society Gathering Concert and Jams

Wanda Hubicki

Performers: Julee Glaub and Joe Newberry: Traditional Irish & Appalachian Songs & Tunes

Date: Friday, May 13, 2005

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Bryant Recital Hall, Sloan-Morgan Bldg., 1220 Elizabeth Ave., main Charlotte CPCC campus; free parking in Staff Deck, accessed from 4th St., between Independence Blvd. & Kings Dr.

Admission: Free and open to the public; donations gratefully accepted.

Information: Wanda Hubicki at 704-563-7080.

Julee Glaub and Joe Newberry perform with mastery, polish, and style. Their beautiful vocal harmonies and first-rate instrumentation are sure to delight and impress their audiences. Julee and Joe exhibit both great discernment in choosing tunes and songs and exceptional support for each other's talents. A concert is sure to include several of Joe's finely wrought lyrics and melodies, as well as traditional Irish and Appalachian selections.

Charlotte native Julee Glaub graduated from Wake Forest University and traveled to Ireland where she spent almost eight years learning the ballad tradition from Irish singing masters and collecting songs. And, as one of her admirers says, "Julee moves seamlessly from the Appalachian music of her native North Carolina to the music of her Celtic roots . . . *Songbird* is a term often used in the 18th and 19th centuries to describe the rare female vocalist whose singing is as natural and pleasing as the singing of a songbird . . . she truly is a songbird." Julee's second CD, *Blue Waltz*, showcases her exquisite voice and her mastery of both the Irish and Appalachian singing traditions. The recording takes its title from Joe Newberry's beautiful *Blue Waltz*. Joe contributes his very fine vocals and instrumentation to the recording, as well. Visit www.juleeglaub.com.

Joe Newberry is a Missouri native and North Carolina transplant who has played music most of his life. His powerful and innovative banjo playing has won contests around the country, including first-place at the Appalachian String Band Music Festival. A fine guitarist, fiddler, and singer as well, Joe also plays with the band Big Medicine, which won first place Traditional Band at the 2002 Appalachian String Band Music Festival (visit www.bigmedmusic.com). Joe often joins the Original Red Clay Ramblers, playing banjo in place of the legendary Tommy Thompson. When not working as a writer and editor, he does solo and studio work, and teaches and performs at festivals at home and abroad. A truly gifted songwriter, Joe will soon be releasing a solo recording, *Two Hands*, which will showcase his vocal, instrumental, and songwriting talents.

Julee Glaub will be teaching Traditional Irish Singing during Celtic Week, July 10-16, at the 2005 Swannanoa Gathering Folk Arts Workshops at Warren Wilson College; Joe Newberry will be teaching Old-Time Banjo and Guitar during Old-Time Music & Dance Week, July 17-23.

Visit www.folksociety.org to listen to selections by Julee Glaub and Joe Newberry.

Charlotte Folk Society Gatherings are free and family-friendly and feature an hour-long concert, followed by a refreshment break and a song circle and both a "fast jam", geared for seasoned players, a "slow jam" for those just getting started or beginning on a new instrument. Visit www.folksociety.org for more information or to request a complimentary newsletter.

This is from the publication *Educate!*, a weekly paper from the Swann Fellowship, a group formed out of concern for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools:

No time: One unintended consequence of *No Child Left Behind* may be the neglect of social studies in the classroom, *Education Week* reported. Teachers are spending so much time prepping students for the standardized math and English tests required by NCLB, they often do not have time for social studies. This may be particularly evident in underperforming schools. The California Social Studies Project found that often children in low performing schools do not see any social studies until they are a sophomore or junior in high school.



Upcoming Events at Historic Rosedale Plantation

Mother's Day Tea

5/8/2005 – Bring Mom for a tour and an afternoon of genteel indulgence as tea is served at Historic Rosedale in honor of Mother.

Mother's free; \$5/adults; \$4/students & seniors; under 8 free when accompanied by parent or guardian; \$4/adult with groups of 12 or more. Group reservations required.

Order tickets online at www.historicrosedale.org.

Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence Celebration

5/20/2005: 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00 Uptown Charlotte—The Citizens of Mecklenburg County declared themselves free of England a full year in advance of the national declaration. Learn about the Meck Dec at this annual observance at the square at noon. Watch for further details.

Rosedale will be open for free tours at 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00 in honor of the day.

Children's Workshops

6/1/2005: Wednesdays and Thursdays, June and July – Hands on activities and role playing allow today's children to explore medicine, education and daily chores of Ante-bellum Mecklenburg County. Dr. David Caldwell and his wife, Harriett Davidson Caldwell, raised and educated eight children on this 911-acre plantation during the early 1800's. Children are invited to join in the lessons being taught by the Caldwell's tutor, and receive instruction in mental math, exploration of the western territory, Presidents of the United States, plus manners and deportment. Chores of the plantation provide hands on experience of a life far different from today.

Workshops last approximately 2 ½ hours. Reservations required.

Designed for groups of children 8 and up, limit 45 per group.

\$4/child.

Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church Heritage Day

6/4/2005: 1:00 till 4:00 – Join the church in the celebration of 250 years.

Rosedale will be open from 1:00 till 4:00 for free in honor of their celebration.

Rosedale Family Reunion

8/14/2005: 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm. – Join us for our annual reunion of descendants of the families of Rosedale.

Missie Hedge

Entertaining the crowds at Rosedale

