

**Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents**

*Promoting Local History through Education and Research*



November-December, 2009  
Volume 15, Number 5

Look Inside This Issue

- The next MHA dinner meeting will be on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Get your reservations in now. The speaker will be Mildred Lee, youngest daughter of Robert E. Lee, with an exhibit of Civil War artifacts from collection of the Carolina Room at the Public Library
- See pictures of the Captain Jack statue, under construction.
- News and pictures of the Docent trip to Brattonsville
- News of an upcoming Historic House Tour in the Lower Providence Community
- On Monday, November 2, the Docents, and anyone else who is interested, will visit the William Elliott White Homestead in Fort Mill for an inside look.
- Mark you calendars for our free local history course, starting in January.

*From the Chairman*

The docent committee is busy indeed! November will find us at the White farm and busy with our families for Thanksgiving. We wish all of you a good holiday filled with great food (a given!) and may your favorite team win after everyone helps to clean up after the feast. If that is not a given, threaten to hide the remote. And then do it! December 1 we will host our usual fabulous Christmas Tea and hope you can all come. Mary Kratt will be wonderful. I heard her at the last MHA dinner meeting and you are in for a treat. January and February are education months, March 20 finds us celebrating historical heritage with the presentation of the fashion show. April and May will be planning time for that big bash presenting the Captain Jack statue and celebrating Meck Deck on May 20. Whew! Then we will picnic to end our year and sleep during July and August before we start up again. Details for these events will be covered elsewhere in the Dandelion. Please read and mark your calendars. Have a wonderful Christmas celebration and don't forget to start the holidays with our tea!

Jo Anne Dickens

*Newsletter Deadline*

The Deadline for the January/February edition of the Dandelion December 9<sup>th</sup>. We encourage you to send us articles and notices of events that are of interest to the history community. Send them to Ann and Jim Williams at 1601 S Wendover Road, Charlotte, NC 28211; or email [mhadandelion@mindspring.com](mailto:mhadandelion@mindspring.com).

*Programs*

**Please note that both of these programs are not on their usual dates!**

**Monday, November 2, 2009  
William Elliott White Homestead**

The White Homestead could not accommodate us on our usual Tuesday, so we will be meeting on Monday instead. The added advantage is that our journey will not consume a large chunk of election day. We hope this is convenient for everyone; visitors are welcome. A brief meeting will begin at 10 am followed by a tour of the homestead.

Anne Evans will be our hostess and guide. The home, over 160 years old is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a beautiful example of Late Georgian architecture, perhaps a copy of a manor house in Yorkshire, England. Descendants of the builder have occupied the house since it was built and have added special touches of their own, while retaining its elegance and grace over the years. A renovation in 1991 and '92 gave a

view of the original sturdy construction and provided an analysis of original paint colors, marbling, and wood graining. There is so much to see here at this site, please come and learn more about the house, the land, and the family.

Anne Evans was the presenter of the Catawba Indian section of our last history course, and gave a docent program last year on that topic. She is very knowledgeable and an excellent speaker. She is the director of the homestead and curator of their extensive research archives.

Directions: Take I-77 South to Exit 85 (Fort Mill). At the top of the ramp turn left on Highway 160-W. After the 3<sup>rd</sup> traffic light, go about one half mile, look for a sign identifying the Homesite on your left. The big Peach Stand will be on your left at the third light. You'll see a large horse pasture on your left; turn into the drive at the end of the pasture fence.

If you would like to carpool, meet at the Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church where a carpool will leave at 9 am; or at the James K. Polk Historic Site for a 9:15 departure. The carpools will leave promptly; if you are late, follow the driving directions to the site. The Johnny K restaurant is nearby for those who wish to have lunch together after the tour.

**Tuesday, December 1, 2009**

**Docent Christmas Tea featuring Historian and Author Mary Norton Kratt**

We usually hold our Christmas Tea on the first Monday of December, but the Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church was not available that day. So we will meet there on **Tuesday Dec. 1**. The business meeting will begin at **9:45 am** (announcements only) followed by Mary Kratt's delightful program at **10:00**. After the program we will enjoy delicious food and festivity. All docents are asked to bring a treat suitable for a luncheon/tea, and arrive by 9:30 so the tables can be arranged before the meeting begins. Visitors are not only welcome, but encouraged. This is our social event of the year to celebrate with the entire history community.

Mary Kratt, award winning writer of regional history and poetry, will speak to us about her book, *Charlotte, North Carolina: A Brief History* recently published by The History Press. It is a wonderful overview of the area from the early Indian presence through modern times. This is not a dry treatise on what happened when and where, but stories laid out as a portrait gallery of the personalities who shaped our history. She has a true gift for fleshing out our ancestors, and rendering historic events with intimacy. As readers, we feel we were there. She will accompany her talk with rare historical images; she had far too many for the book, so this will be your opportunity to see them. Mary is a beautiful writer and engaging speaker.

Mary's book will be the official text for our upcoming history course (detailed elsewhere in this newsletter). She'll have copies to sell and sign. They make excellent Christmas gifts. The book sells for \$22.99; be prepared with cash or a check.

*MHA Dinner Meeting*

Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>; 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](mailto:kathyherran@hotmail.com).

Nora Brooks, who enchanted us last year in the persona of Anna Jackson, will visit us again as Mildred Lee, the youngest daughter of Robert E. Lee. Nora teaches 11<sup>th</sup> grade American history, and has won awards for teaching and her dramatic portrayals, which are both scholarly and highly entertaining. Mildred Lee will acquaint us with the misery and brutality caused by the Civil War from the point of view of a deeply involved Southern woman.

In conjunction with this appearance, Jane Johnson, of the Carolina Room at the Charlotte Public Library, will display Civil War artifacts from the Library's collection.

*New MHA President*



The September MHA Meeting, on Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> marked the retirement of Judge Chase Saunders, our president for the last five years and the election of our new president, Linda Dalton. Chase's family was in attendance to hear of his accomplishment and to see him presented with a brass plaque recognizing his contributions

During his extended term in office Judge Saunders completed a number of major accomplishments, the primary one being in commemorating the history of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. This started even before he became our president with his vision for a series of heroic bronzes commemorating significant persons and events in Charlotte's history. This was his dream when he entered office and he worked tirelessly to engage various organizations in its accomplishment. The May 20<sup>th</sup> Society took up the baton from Chase, as did Dr. Tony Zeiss, President of Central Piedmont Community College and Chairman of the Little Sugar Creek Greenway Committee. The first accomplishment of this project will be the installation of a larger-than-life-sized bronze statue of Captain

James Jack on horseback, setting out to deliver the Mecklenburg Declaration of May 20, 1775 and the Mecklenburg Resolves of May 30<sup>th</sup> to the Continental Congress then meeting in Philadelphia City. This will be located in the newly developed Little Sugar Creek Greenway, opposite CPCC. Other bronzes and commemorative plaques are planned for the greenway, making it a Trail of History we can all be proud of. Your MHA made a major financial contribution to the execution of this statue and is actively supporting the continuing effort to extend the trail of History.

Linda Dalton is well known in the History Community, having been a prime mover in many projects over the years, most notably the restoration of Settler's Cemetery and the preservation of the Torrance House and Store as a historic site. During her time in office we can expect to see increased membership, wonderful dinners with interesting speakers and to see the MHA continue to support and encourage the telling of our history through the Trail of History, the annual Meck Dec Day celebrations and other venues.

*Newly Revised MHA Website*

The web site of the Mecklenburg Historical Association has been completely redesigned to make it much easier to use and to include a great deal more information. The weekly emails that go out to The History List (now over 550 history minded individuals) will be posted on the web site each week. There is a big section on the history of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and lots of other new stuff. The website name or URL however is unchanged at [www.meckdec.org](http://www.meckdec.org). Go to the new web site, look around, and give us your comments, and most importantly, you corrections and suggestions for expanding the content.

*Decent Book Club*

The book club will not meet in November and December. Ann Williams has a transcribed copy of Sallie Gwyn Lenoir's diary kept in 1859 and 1863 and will bring it to the November meeting. We can circulate it among ourselves while we continue reading other books we have shared until we resume meeting in January.

*The Creation of Captain Jack*



On Thursday, October 8, your editors went to Seagrove, NC, to observe and report on the construction of the larger-than-life-size bronze statue of Captain James Jack. The sculptor, Chas Fagan (pictured below, beside the statue) had nearly completed the work, full-sized, in clay. He showed us the statue and pushed it around so that we could take pictures from various angles. Then he took us on a complete guided tour of the foundry, explained the sculpting and casting process, and showed us other examples of his work.

In the next few weeks this clay statue will be cut into pieces. These pieces will be cast into bronze and then welded back together to make the finished statue. .



As you can see from the photographs, this is a truly magnificent piece of work. Kudos not only to Chas for his excellent work, but to the MHA and the May 20 Society for having the vision, raising the money and selecting the artist. The formal dedication of this bronze statue on May 20, 2010 will be a truly memorable occasion.

Charlotte resident Chas Fagan is a world famous sculptor and painter. His work includes a bronze statue of President Ronald Reagan which stands in the Rotunda of the US Capitol building, statues of President George H W Bush as the youngest navy flier in history and as President, and statues of Astronaut Neil Armstrong and Revolutionary War General Nathaniel Greene.



Chas and his family moved to Charlotte a few years ago from Pennsylvania, having seen the city and fallen in love with it. Another reason for moving here was the proximity to The Carolina Bronze foundry which is “the East Coast’s Finest Art Foundry” tucked away in Seagrove among all of the potters and other artists. We are fortunate to have such a talented artist among us who appreciates the significance of Captain Jack’s mission.

*In Memoriam*

Those of you who are long time docents will remember Carolyn McCormick who was one of us in the late 1970s and 80s. Carolyn passed away on October 13, 2009. She discontinued her docent duties some years ago to go with her husband George when his job took them on numerous temporary assignments around the country. When George retired they returned to Charlotte where they joined MHA and frequently attended the dinner meetings. Carolyn was energetic, funny, and a joy to be with. We'll miss her.

You may also remember Joyce White, the director of the Polk site for many years. Joyce's husband James passed away on October 14, 2009. Joyce was our super cheerleader when the MHA Docents first formed. After we'd found our feet she nominated us for a state history award which we won and accepted at a ceremony in Raleigh. When we did events at Polk she enthusiastically appreciated our help, and saw that we were well fed. We extend our sympathies to Joyce and her family.

*From Wagon Roads to New South City*  
A Free Series of classes offered by the MHA Docents

Recipe for Extreme Happiness:

- Five Saturday mornings in January and February, 2010
- Excellent presenters both professionals and volunteers
- Beautiful, comfortable surroundings at three localities
- A mixture of interested public and enthusiastic docents
- Combine all of the above with your own sweet self and you will experience local history as never before
- Serve yourself a large helping of this recipe and enjoy!

Remember—all sessions are free.

Dates to put on your calendar NOW!! All dates are in 2010. Hours are 9:30-12 noon

January 30, February 6, 2010 – 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries

These 2 sessions will be held at Charlotte Museum of History

February 13, February 20, 2010 – 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries

These 2 sessions will be held at Levine Museum of the New South

February 27, 2010

The wrap-up session will be held at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church

The members of the Education Committee are excited about the presenters who have said 'yes' to our requests. They will be presenting four centuries of regional history and are experts in their areas of study. Our own docents will be taking an important part as well, and we will be asking for your participation during the coming months. So be ready to register for the program and to volunteer your help.

Mary Kratt's new book, *Charlotte, North Carolina: A Brief History* will be the text book for the course. Participants will not be required to purchase a copy, but are strongly urged to read it. It will be for sale at the gift shops of the class locations, and is available at the public library. Class registrations will begin in early January. Details will be in the next newsletter.

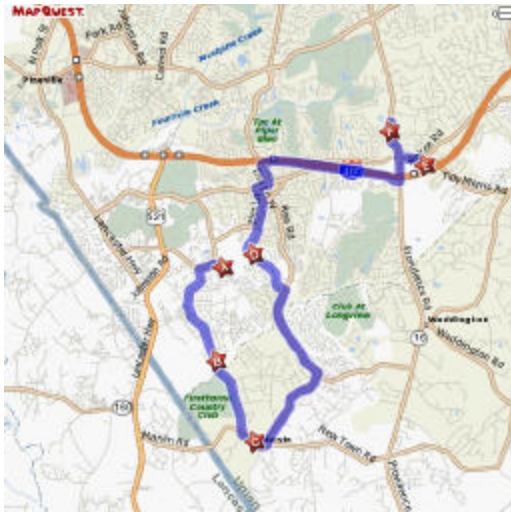
For the Docents, by the Docents, for the good of the community!

Rachel Abernathy

*Historic House Tour*

On November 7th, the Lower Providence Community House will sponsor a historic tour. There will be five historic homes and two historic churches on the tour. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at any of the eight locations. Hours are from 10 am to 4 pm. A bake sale will be held at the Community House, which, oddly enough, is located on Community House Rd. in south Charlotte and across the street from Community House Middle School.

The tour is being held to raise funds for the renovation and preservation of the Community House, a log building built in 1938. This log icon has served the Lower Providence area as a meeting place for many years. It is the place where the ladies of the community met with home demonstration agents to learn the latest trends in "modern" homemaking. It has been the site of community Christmas celebrations, and of church and family reunions. It is a place that needs to be protected as it represents a time when Mecklenburg County was mostly rural. For more information, contact [www.historiccharlotte.org](http://www.historiccharlotte.org) 704-552-6624



**LOWER PROVIDENCE  
COMMUNITY HOUSE**  
9735 Community House Road



**HENNIGAN PLACE**  
3503 Tilley Morris Road



**DR. J. J. RONE HOUSE**  
17909 Marvin Road



**BANKS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
10012 New Town Road



**ROSS FAMILY FARM HOUSE**  
9609 Community House Road



**GRIER HOUSE**  
4747 Grier Farm Lane



**PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
10140 Providence Church Road



**BLAKENEY HOUSE**  
9214 Blakeney Heath Road

*Docent Meeting at Historic Brattonsville*



On Tuesday, September 1, the MHA Docents had a special tour of Historic Brattonsville. Our tour guide was Jon Failor, Chief Farmer and Site Interpreter. He gave us a complete behind-the-scenes tour of the entire site, telling us the history of the Bratton family and of the various buildings. He also told us a great deal about the animals and crops being grown on the site, for this is indeed a working farm. The chickens are Domineckers, a breed that existed long before the American Colonies were settled. It is the same breed as raised at Latta Plantation and provide eggs and meat for the staff and volunteers. The cattle are Red Devon, another old breed. The sheep are the Gulf Coast breed which dates back to the earliest Spanish explorers in America in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. They are

highly resistant to the insects and diseases that plague more modern sheep and represent the type of sheep that were raised at Brattonsville.



Jon showed us the cotton crop and told us about its cultivation and harvest. The variety is one from the early 1900s since they would not be able to raise cotton that was not resistant to the boll weevil. However, it is a very different breed from the ones grown commercially today. The cotton plants are grown in hilled-up rows which keeps the weeds down and makes it easier to cultivate and pick. We saw plants where the bolls on the lower branches were ripe, open and ready for picking while flowers were just opening on the upper branches. For this type of cotton, picking begins in the late summer and is a continuous job until late fall or early winter.

Our old friend Kitty Wilson Evans was on hand to tell us about the role and experiences of the enslaved people of Brattonsville with her usual drama and enthusiasm. She told us something of how she got so deeply involved in Brattonsville and made sure that we did not leave until we had walked back in the woods to the reconstructed cotton gin and seen the large hole in the ground where the original cotton press had been.



In short it was a typical Docent tour. Once our docents start asking questions, and they are not shy, the tour guide realizes they have a group of people who truly understand history in a great many aspects. At that point the tour takes a whole new direction and we see and learn things that ordinary visitors never see.

### *Historic Fashion Show*

Plans are well underway for our Spring Fashion Show featuring the latest styles for men and women of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The show will be on Saturday, March 20, 2010 from 11 am to 2 pm. It will be held at the Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church. The event will include a tour of the historic church's sanctuary and 1837 Academy building, an elegant catered luncheon, and a splendid array of garments modeled by volunteers. Proceeds from the event will go to our docent lending closet of period clothes. Ticket prices have not been set; they will be announced in the next Dandelion. Space is limited, so mark your calendars now. Many hands will be needed to make this a success; if you'd like to help contact Sharon Van Kuren at 704-846-6187.

### *The Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley*

For the Historical Cooking Guild, the highlight of September was the visit to Charlotte by Sandy Oliver, Editor of *Food History News*. The Cooking Guild and the Charlotte Museum of History co-sponsored her talk on September 21 about growing and preserving her own foods and growing "green." For two days she led the cooks researching foods and recipes which were used as our menu for our open-hearth meal together. Our October domestic skill was painting floor cloths, while seasonal foods were cooked. We'll cook at the Polk site on November 14<sup>th</sup> and December 10<sup>th</sup>. On the December 12<sup>th</sup> we'll cook for the James K. Polk Holiday event.

### *Book Review*

*Impeached, the Trial of President Andrew Johnson and the Fight for Lincoln's Legacy* by David O. Stewart

North Carolina claims President Johnson as a 'son' but he was elected from Greenville, Tennessee. Johnson was a Southern Congressman and a Democrat—the only one who stood by the United States Constitution and did not follow his state into rebellion. Perhaps this is why President Lincoln chose him, and the Republicans nominated him, for Vice President in 1862. Lincoln's election as a candidate for President in the Unity party assured Johnson a place in history, but assassination elevated his position, and his own personality and habits brought a new kind of danger to the Republic.

This is a very readable book. It offers an in-depth look at Johnson, sometimes his own worst enemy. Strong currents existed in our government following the Civil War and Lincoln's death. David Stewart makes the characters come alive, especially Thaddeus Stevens, the leader of the Radicals. This book is never dull. From the dust jacket: "Stewart challenges the traditional version of this pivotal moment in American history. He...explains how the Tennessean squandered Lincoln's political legacy of equality and fairness and helped force the freed slaves into a brutal form of agricultural peonage across the South."

If you thought that you had heard enough about 'impeachment' in this century, think again. I am left with a mental picture of Johnson as a piece of wood being swept along a river of swift and treacherous undercurrents and just when you think he will be overwhelmed up he pops in spite of tremendous odds. Good reading!

Rachel Abernathy



*Merry Christmas*

From The Virginia Almanack, 1771:

We wish you health, and good fires;  
 victuals, drink, and good stomachs;  
 innocent diversion, and good company;  
 honest trading, and good success;  
 loving courtship, and good wives;  
 and lastly, a merry CHRISTMAS and a happy NEW YEAR.

Full attribution: *The Virginia Almanack for the Year of our Lord God 1771* in Mary Goodwin, *Christmas in Colonial Virginia*, p. xviii. Reprinted in Williamsburg Christmas: the Story of Christmas Decoration in the Colonial Capital, Libbey Hodges Oliver and Mary Miley Theobald. Harry N. Abrams, Inc., Publishers, 1999,  
 Valerie Jones

*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 Crossedale*

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

**Annual Oyster Roast Fund Raising Event. Saturday, November 7 from 3 to 6 pm**

Fun for the whole family and excellent Oysters.

**A 19<sup>th</sup> Century Thanksgiving Celebration Saturday, November 28 from 1 to 4 pm  
 (The Saturday after Thanksgiving,)**

The year is 1844 and the residents, black and white, are celebrating a bountiful harvest. This is a family celebration as the national holiday had not yet been instituted. You will see these people in their natural setting and eavesdrop on their conversations.

*Latta Plantation*

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

**Floorcloth Stenciling Workshop, Saturday, November 14, from 10 am to 2 pm**

Learn to cut, design, and stencil paint a floorcloth similar to those used in many early American homes. Each participant will receive a kit containing needed supplies including a 24" x 36" canvas to take home as a finished floorcloth. Cost: \$110 per person. Register at the website or call Nicole Cheslak at 704-875-2312, ext. 301.

**A Plantation Christmas, Saturday and Sunday, November 27-28, from 10 am to 4 pm,**

Start the holiday season by stepping back in time for a 19<sup>th</sup> century Christmas celebration. Tour the plantation and learn about early American Christmas traditions.

**Candlelight Christmas at the Plantation, Saturday, December 5, from 6 to 9 pm**

Walk through the plantation by candlelight and witness Christmas celebrations of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century in the barn, plantation house, kitchen, and slave cabin.

*The Charlotte Museum of History*

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

**Civil War Lantern Tour, Saturday, November 21 from 6 to 9 pm,**

Take an in-depth look into the conditions, hopes, and fears of common foot soldiers of the war. Progress through different camp settings on the grounds and see the campfires, smell the cooking, and listen to the stories from the period. Tours, conducted by a Charlotte-based Civil War reenactment unit, are based on letters, diaries, and other Civil War documents.

**Living History Sunday, November 1 from 1 to 4 pm**

Learn about traditional textile production, and its development throughout the years.

**Living History Sunday, December 6 from 1 to 4 pm,**

Experience traditional photography, and its growth to where we are today. Demonstrators, vendors, and experts in the field of photography will be available to museum visitors.

**New Exhibit: *The Carolina Mountains; Photography of Margaret Morley***

Morley, a native New Englander, spent the late 1800s and early 1900s exploring the Carolinas' mountain regions, recording scenes of everyday life in photographs and prose. Her resulting book, *The Carolina Mountains*, was an immediate success and is still considered one of the best books about the region. Turned into a traveling exhibit, Morley's words and images provide an intimate look at a way of life that has vanished in the high country.

**Paper Quilling Workshop, Monday, November 16, from 7 to 8:30 pm**

Paper Quilling is a centuries old art form in which strips of paper are rolled, shaped, and glued together to make decorative designs. This art form was particularly popular in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Learn the basic coil forms and make several items for your holiday decorations.

**Fee:** \$20 for museum members; \$25 for non-members. Recommended for adults, ages 18 and up. Space is limited. To register, please contact Angelica Docog at [adocog@charlottemuseum.org](mailto:adocog@charlottemuseum.org)

*President James K. Polk State Historic Site*

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

[www.polk.nchistoricsites.org](http://www.polk.nchistoricsites.org)

**Celebrating Veterans Day: Life aboard the USS James K. Polk, Saturday, November 14, at 10 am.**

Join Clarence Jordan, former crewman of the USS James K. Polk, as he discusses his time on board and what it meant to serve on this submarine. Registration required Call (704) 889-7145 to register. Free event

**Christmas in Mecklenburg County with the Polks, Saturday, December 12 from 10 am to 4 pm**

Visitors will see a living history vignette in the main house. Each building will be decorated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century style. Come and learn about food and customs from Christmas in 1802. Free event.

*The Carl J. McEwen Historical Village*

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

<http://www.minthillhistory.com>

**Salute To Veterans, Saturday November 7 from 9 am to 3 pm**

Step back in history at the Carl J. McEwen Historic Village and 'Salute the Veterans'! Demonstrators and re-enactors representing the Civil War will be throughout the village. Military memorabilia, uniforms, military equipment, 'sawdust' bread that was fed to POWs in WWII, and much more will be on display in the administrative building.

**Christmas Tea, Thursdays through Saturdays, December 10, 11, & 12 and 17, 18 & 19**

Come celebrate the season at the holiday tea in the Ashcraft Schoolhouse. It is a wonderful time to visit with friends, enjoy delicious treats and old time charm in the schoolhouse. Reservations are now being taken. Call 704-545-4928.

*Schiele Museum*

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

**Backcountry Harvest & Catawba Heritage Day, Saturday November 21 from 10 am to 4 pm**

Since its opening in 1984, the Catawba Indian Village has served as a unique setting for sharing the story of our local Native American heritage. Tens of thousands of visitors have toured the site and participated in school programs, public programs and workshops. Join us as we celebrate 25 years of service with on-the-hour guided tours and presentations by visiting Catawba Indian speakers and artisans. Observe the celebration of the successful harvest of seasonal bounty with traditional cooking. See open fire cooking and hearth skills with baking, roasting and boiling. Visit with re-enactors telling the story of Backcountry bonding - the gift of time earned from a busy harvest season.

*Gaston County Museum*

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

**Christmas Program, Friday December 11 from 3 to 7 pm**

Enjoy the Town of Dallas Christmas Parade beginning at 4 PM, and then join our program. Our free Annual Holiday Open House Program features Christmas traditions and fun for the whole family. See the museum decorated for Christmas, take part in cookie decorating and crafts, hear live music, watch or take part in historic dancing, and sample holiday treats. There will be a visit from Santa Clause for kids this day too! Free Program

*Historic Brattonsville*

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

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

**Christmas Candlelight Tours**

**Saturday December 5, from 3 to 9 pm; Sunday, December 6, from 2 to 8 pm**

More than 80 costumed interpreters will depict holiday life in various aspects from the practices of the settlers in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to those living on antebellum plantations.

*Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site*

9621 Reed Mine Rd., Midland, NC 28163, 704 721 GOLD (4653)

<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/reed/reed.htm>

**A Golden Christmas, Saturday December 5 from 10 am to 4 pm**

Enjoy the only Christmas candlelight tour you can take in the daytime! The underground mine tunnels will be decorated for the holidays and special holiday-themed tours will tell how Christmas was celebrated over the years at Reed Gold Mine by John Reed, and other miners and their families. The Stamp Mill, circa 1895, will also be open for tours. Crafts, historical demonstrations, musical performances, and free refreshments.

*Charlotte Folk Society*

[www.folksociety.org](http://www.folksociety.org)

**CFS Gathering, Friday November 13 at 7:30 pm**

Eleven member acts in concert - everything from Medieval music to stringbands to singer/songwriters. Free - donations appreciated. Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte. Refreshments, song circle, dulcimer group & jams follow concert. Details at [www.folksociety.org](http://www.folksociety.org)

**CFS Holiday Jam, Saturday December 12 from 5 to 9:45 pm**

CFS Holiday Jam & Potluck features a short performance of holiday music by Little Windows ([www.littlewindows.net/](http://www.littlewindows.net/)), known for exquisite a cappella harmonies in the Appalachian and Celtic traditions, a song circle & jams. Dilworth United Methodist Church, 605 East Blvd., Charlotte. Bring a dish to share or donate \$5 towards expenses.

*Andrew Jackson State Park*

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

[www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/1797.aspx](http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/1797.aspx)

**Candlelight Tour, Saturday, November 14 from 6 to 8 pm.**

Catch a glimpse of early settlers living in the Waxhaws. Experience 18<sup>th</sup> century daily life, similar to Andrew Jackson's boyhood experience, and see the events that shaped the community. Tours begin every 30 minutes from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

*Fort Dobbs State Historic Site*

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

**The King's Birthday, Saturday and Sunday, November 14 and 15 from 10 am to 4 pm**

As the King was in supreme command of all British forces, the anniversaries of his birth and coronation were regularly observed by his soldiers in every corner of the empire. Join the provincial soldiers of Fort Dobbs in their celebration. Demonstrations include camp life, military drill, musket and cannon firings.

**Winter on the Western Frontier, Saturday and Sunday, December 12 and 13 from 10 am to 4 pm**

Set on an open hilltop, the military post at Fort Dobbs was a cold, lonely place to spend the winter. Learn how the provincial soldiers stationed at the fort dealt with the harsh season and celebrated the Advent of Christmas. A special evening program will be held at 6:30 Saturday evening.

*Historic Charlotte*

[www.historiccharlotte.org](http://www.historiccharlotte.org) 704 375 6145

**Charlotte: Murder, Mystery, and Mayhem**

**Tuesday, November 10; Social: 5:30 pm, Program 6 pm. The Duke Mansion, 400 Hermitage Road**

Prepare to be surprised and unnerved as the dark side of Charlotte is brought to life by writer David Aaron Moore. Learn about Nellie Freeman, who nearly decapitated her husband with a straight razor in 1926. Discover how the ghosts of Camp Green infantrymen, the doughboys of World War I, still scream in the Southern night. Read about the seventy-one passengers who lost their lives as Eastern Airlines Flight 212 fell to the earth one foggy night in 1974.

*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>

**Veteran's Day Program, Saturday November 7 from 9 am to 5 pm**

Reenactors from the Backcountry Militia will be camped at the park. Visit the militia camp and enjoy weapons demonstrations.

**Howser House Tours, Saturday November 28 from 11 am to 4 pm**

The 1803 Howser Stone House is open once a year to the public.

*Kings Mountain State Park*

I-85 Exit 8 in NC and follow the signs

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

**A Christmas celebration 1850s Style, Saturday, November 28 from Noon to 4 pm**

Reenactors will be cooking over the hearth in our 1800s Homeplace using traditional methods of the period. We will also be making decorations, wreaths, corn husk angels, and decorating our tree. There will be crafts to take home and hot cider to drink. Discover the Christmas of your ancestors as it was just beginning to take its modern form.

*Guilford Courthouse National Military Park*

Greensboro, NC. <http://www.nps.gov/guco/index.htm>

**History of the American Soldier, Saturday, November 14, 10 am to 4 pm**

A living timeline of American military history. Learn about several periods of this nation's military history from the early European settlement to the recent era. Interact with the soldiers to learn about their uniforms, equipment, and weaponry, and the period that they represent. Free.

*Historic Camden*

Highway 521 just South of Camden, SC

(803) 432-9831; Fax (803) 432-3815 <http://www.historic-camden.net>

**Revolutionary War Field Days, Saturday and Sunday, November 7 and 8 from 10 am to 5 pm**

500 re-enactors interpret life on the Southern Campaign trail. Battle reenactment at 1:30 (don't be late) followed by military courts martial, period craftsmen and civilian interpreters, plus shopping on Sutlers Row, a period fashion show and colonial dance demonstrations. Food concessions and free parking.

*Southern Campaign of the American Revolution*

<http://www.southerncampaign.org/cod.php>

**South Carolina Archives and History Foundation 2009 Annual Weekend Program, Camden, SC  
Friday, November 6 from 1 to 9 pm, Saturday, November 7 from 9:30 am to 8 pm.**

A full weekend of Colonial and Revolutionary history. Lectures, tours and evening receptions. Listen to lectures from academic experts in their fields. Participate in tours of battle sites and historic locations led by very knowledgeable experts. \$200 per person. For more information go to <http://www.palmettohistory.org/SCAHFannlmtng.pdf>

*Duke Mansion*

400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte, 704 714 4448  
<http://www.dukemansion.com/>

**38<sup>th</sup> Evacuation Field Hospital Documentary, Sunday, November 8 at 3 pm**

Filmmaker Chris Hudson screens his documentary about the pioneering Army medical unit organized at Charlotte Memorial Hospital and photographed for LIFE magazine by Margaret Bourke White. The idea started at a dinner hosted by Martin Cannon at The Duke Mansion. A photo of Charlotte doctors who participated is in the second floor history exhibit. This idea was the prototype for later MASH units.

***Legacy: The Myers Park Story, Sunday, December 6 at 3 pm.*****Book signing with Tom Hanchett and Mary Norton Kratt**

Tell all your friends who have been waiting for this updated version of the book to attend this event. The Duke Mansion led the effort to raise the money necessary to underwrite the reprinting of this beloved book that has been out of print for nearly a decade. *Legacy: The Myers Park Story* will be for sale at \$ 29.99.

MHA Docents  
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