

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Promoting Local History through Education and Research



November/December, 2007
Volume 13, Number 5

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From the Chairman

Lately I have been thinking about talent and commitment, both of which are evident in great abundance in our history community. Those of us who attended our October meeting at the Carl J. McEwen Historic Village in Mint Hill witnessed an unusual combination of both characteristics as we listened to the stories and enjoyed a wonderful lunch that day. That was true southern hospitality!

We will learn more about a group of our own at our November 6th meeting. The Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley will present the program as they celebrate ten years of studying open hearth cooking. This unusual group of women first came together in September of 1997. Barbara Goodwin, Carolyn Dilda, Sharon Van Kuren and Janet Dyer shared an interest in gaining the knowledge and skills needed to prepare meals as it was done in the back country in the eighteenth century. Over the years they have added members, grown in knowledge and friendships and now possess skills that surpass similar groups elsewhere in the country. These women believe in learning by doing. Unlike most cooking guilds who only meet to hear speakers, they don their 18th century clothing and work over an open fire, trying recipes, training museum staff and gaining knowledge of every-day life in the back country. They are a welcoming group and enjoy bringing new members in to learn with them. They are also adventurous and willing to go anywhere in the world to learn more. We are privileged to have them among us. I hope everyone can come to hear the stories and learn more about Harvest Time in the 18th Century.

Mark your calendars for our annual Christmas Tea. It will be held on Monday, December 3 and we will have a wonderful program presented by Kitty Evans from Historic Brattonsville. We will enjoy some lovely holiday treats and have time to visit with our museum staff friends who we hope can join us on a day they are usually closed to the public. As you open up your new 2008 calendars you will notice that the first Monday in January is New Year's Day. Therefore, we will meet on the second Tuesday, the 8th of January. As we end this year, my wish for you is that you will experience a joyous holiday season filled with the laughter of friends and family and some quiet moments too!

Alice Bostic

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the January – February issue of the Dandelion will be December 12th. We hope to have lots of interesting articles to begin the New Year. Send your contributions to Ann and Jim Williams, 1601 S Wendover Road, Charlotte, NC 29211; or email to mhadandelion@mindspring.com.

November and December Docent Programs

Tuesday, November 6, 2007
Harvest Time in the 18th Century

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. Refreshments: 9:30 am; Business meeting: 10:00 am; program: 11 am. Visitors are always welcome.

Our program will be "Harvest Time in the 18th Century," presented by the Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley. The Guild, dedicated to open hearth cooking, is celebrating their tenth year of researching, developing and maintaining competence in historic cooking ways. They are a respected resource to the historic community, sharing information, experience and research with cooks of any level of cooking skill.

The panel discussion by members of the Guild will include 18th Century harvest time activities and a reflection on Guild history. An open question and answer section will follow the program.

Monday, December 3, 2007
Annual Docent Christmas Tea

The Christmas Tea will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. As usual, it will be on a **Monday**, so that historic site staff can join us. The business meeting will begin at **9:45 am** (announcements only) followed by a wonderful program at **10:00** presented by Kitty Wilson Evans. Kitty is a treasure and a compelling presence; you won't want to miss this one. After the program we will enjoy delicious food and festivity. All Docents are asked to bring a holiday treat, and arrive by **9:30** so the tables can be arranged before the meeting begins. As always, visitors are welcome.

We are honored to have Kitty presenting "Christmas in the Quarters," a program from the context of her eighteen years as a full-time slave interpreter at Historic Brattonsville. Preparation for "The Big Times," as the Christmas season was known in the slave quarters, included making toys for the children, decorating the Big House, and seasonal singing among families, as the holiday afforded them more time together.

When invited to become an interpreter at the site, the former kindergarten teacher prepared for her role by interviewing local professors and Brattonsville historians and gathering background information. Kitty is a widely respected and valued member of the region's history community.

The 2007 Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History was held October 3-7 in Charlotte. Kitty Wilson Evans, Elisha Minter, Sheryl Mosley, and Kali Ferguson were presenters of "Tales from Time: Stories from the African American Diaspora." Kitty shared stories of The Crossing as part of the program.

On November 3-5, 2007, Kitty will participate in Plantation Days at Middleton Place Plantation, located between Charleston and Summerville, South Carolina. (www.middletonplace.org)

January Meeting

The first Tuesday in January is New Year's Day, so we have moved our January meeting to Tuesday January 8. Details will appear in the next issue of The Dandelion.

MHA Dinner Meeting

The next MHA dinner meeting will be on Monday, November 26, at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Dinner is at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:15. Those not attending the dinner are welcome to enjoy the program at no charge. To make dinner reservations contact Kathy Herran at 704-553-0936 or kathyherran@hotmail.com.

The program will feature a history of the Sharon Community. In celebration of its 175th year, Sharon Presbyterian Church published *Sharing Our Heritage: 175 Years of Faith, Fellowship and Food*. Featured within the cookbook is a history of the area known since the 1970s as South Park. "Sharon: Church and Community 1830-1960" is the work of church member, Charlotte native and professional historian Jane Starnes. Jane directs research operations for the Office of Development at Winthrop University.

Book Club

The Book Club will meet after the November Meeting to discuss *Nowhere Else on Earth*, by Josephine Humphreys. This novel centers on the plight of the Lumbee Indians during the Civil War. Being neither white nor black, and not recognized as a tribe, they were regarded as non-people. Their peril was increased by their sympathies for the Union. It's a fascinating story and beautifully written. Anyone may join the discussion whether you've read the book or not. There will be no book club in December. Give Rachel your ideas for books to read in the new year.

Announcements

The Library Committee is pleased to announce that our library is at long last out of boxes and on shelves in our storage room at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. Books can be checked out at docent meetings. Arrangements are being made to make the library available anytime the church office is open. When the system is in place, you will be informed.

Mary Jo's Cloth Shop in Gastonia currently has a large assortment of fabrics suitable for 19th century clothing. If you would like a gown of the period, and are unsure about fabric selection, google "19th Century Fabrics", or contact the costume committee.

At the last docent meeting we voted to follow the recommendation of the board and the guidelines committee, and cancel the docent meeting on any day the Charlotte Mecklenburg schools are closed due to inclement weather. Should the church decide to close when the schools are up and running, the telephone tree – email connection will let you know. If the schools are closed, you will not get a call.

Liberty Tree

On Sunday, November 11, The May 20th Society, assisted by MHA Docents and other historic interpreters will dedicate the North Carolina Liberty Tree. This is a 12 foot Yellow Poplar descended from one of the original Liberty Trees of the American Revolution. It will be located prominently in Charlotte's Freedom Park, surrounded by an iron fence, and a brass plaque will record the details of the dedication. The May 20th Society, the organization that sponsors the Mecklenburg Declaration celebrations each year in Charlotte, will dedicate the tree, supported by an honor guard with muskets and cannon and the MHA Docents huzzahing and cheering loudly. The event takes place on Veterans Day, November 11th, from 3 to 5 pm, near the band shell in Freedom Park.

For docents and reenactors the festivities will begin earlier. The May 20th Society wants to honor and reward the docents and reenactors for all of the support they have provided over the years and will host a Carolinas Barbeque

luncheon just prior to the event. Arrive between 1 and 2 to enjoy the feast. Anyone in 18th century dress is invited to come. See what good things happen when you dress up?

Docents who attend the event in modern dress should wear their MHA Docent name tags. We want to show that we have a broad presence in the history community.

What is a Liberty Tree?

In the years prior to the American Revolution, patriots often gathered under a large elm tree on Boston commons. They called themselves The Sons of Liberty and this tree came to be called The Liberty Tree. In 1765 two Stamp Tax collectors were hanged in effigy from this tree. In late 1775, while Boston was under siege by the Continental Army, Tories cut down the Liberty Tree and used it for firewood.

During the Revolution virtually every village and town planted or designated a Liberty Tree. The last surviving one of these was a yellow poplar in Annapolis, Maryland. It was felled by a hurricane in 1999. 14 saplings have been raised from the seeds of that last Liberty Tree and are being planted at the White House and in the 13 original states. The North Carolina Liberty Tree is being planted in Freedom Park in Charlotte and will be dedicated on November 11, 2007.

Why November 11th?

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918 an armistice was signed by the German Army of Kaiser Wilhelm and the Allied Forces, ending the First World War. This date was celebrated for many years as Armistice Day and now is celebrated as Veterans Day, honoring veterans of all of America's wars.

Come join with us in celebrating this occasion and honoring American's heroes.

Regional History Course **From Wagon Roads to NewSouth City**

The MHA Docent Committee will once again offer a short course on regional history. The course is free and open to anyone interested in our heritage. We especially encourage docents, potential docents, and staff at area historic sites to enroll. The course will consist of five sessions beginning the last Saturday in January and continuing through each Saturday in February. The topics for each session are as follows: 1. Native Americans and Early Settlement. 2. Charlotte's Beginnings. 3. Antebellum Charlotte and Slavery. 4. The Civil War, Reconstruction, and the New South City. 5. Historical Interpretation. Each session will run from 9:30 AM to 12:30, and will include time for discussion and questions. Each attendee will receive handouts, and a comprehensive bibliography. A course notebook packed with information will be available for purchase. Registration deadline is January 20th. To register contact Rachel Abernathy: 704-366-2618, deaber@bellsouth.net; or Alice Bostic: 704-525-3251, alice.bostic@cpcc.edu. Spread the word. All sites need volunteers, but taking this informative course does not commit you to become one.

Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley

Since our log-cabin kitchen is still in renovation, the Historical Cooking Guild is using this time for cooking at other sites, holding special meeting at the President James K. Polk Visitor Center and learning more about research sources in our areas. We are hopeful of returning soon to our cooking sessions and welcoming all who will join us to cook.

At Quaker Meadows in Morganton, NC, on September 29, the Cooking Guild gave an outdoor demonstration. Quaker meadows is the name of the area beside by the Catawba River where the Quakers traded furs with the Indians. It is also the name of the 1812 McDowell House, the oldest Quaker or Pennsylvania style house in Burke County. Our cooking was well received by many families that attended.

In September 1780, Charles and Joseph McDowell gathered patriot militia under a giant oak before marching to Kings Mountain and the defeat of the loyalists under British Major Ferguson. Charles and Anna McDowell had six children and took in three orphaned children, one of whom was Harriet Espy, who became the wife of Zebulon Vance, the famous North Carolina Governor during the Civil War. The two-story brick house with detached kitchen has been restored to the way it looked in 1812 with an elaborate mantle, wainscoting and reproduction wallpapers. A two-hour drive on interstates from Charlotte, it is well worth a visit. It is located at 119 St. Mary's Church Road, 0.2 mile from intersection with Hwy 181 North and is open Sunday afternoons 2-5 pm, April through November, and by appointment, so you should call ahead to 828 437 4104. Admission charged.
<http://www.historicburke.org/quakermeadows.html>

We cooked for visitors to the McConnells House in Brattonsville on October 11. On November 8 we will cook at Latta for school groups.
 Barbara Goodwin

Carolyn's Perfect Vacation

In September Carolyn Dilda attended a cooking class in the tiny village of Shap in England's Lake District. She was one of ten students who studied under Ivan Day, an expert in British foodways. On October 25th she shared what she learned with the cooking guild. She talked about the evolution of cookbooks from the extravagant excess of the royals, whose cuisine was primarily French, to simpler books written for the ordinary home. And she showed us examples from her own vast collection. Her talk was illustrated by slides showing the techniques the class used in the preparation of meats, desserts, and pastries. The food looked beautiful, although some of it seemed odd to the modern palate. She promises a full report in the next newsletter.

Exhibit of Revolutionary War Battle Flags

Four Revolutionary War battle flags claimed as trophies by the British are heading back to Virginia. Colonial Williamsburg officials announced that the flags - a Connecticut cavalry flag and three that flew over the 3rd Virginia Detachment - will go on view Dec. 22 through Jan. 9, 2009, in the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum.

The display is a coup. The flags were owned by the descendants of a British officer for more than two centuries, then sold in a New York City auction last year to an anonymous bidder for nearly \$17.4 million. After the sale, it was unclear whether the public would get to see them again. "Having four flags from the Revolution here is right on target with what we do," said Ron Hurst, chief curator and vice president of collections and museums for Colonial Williamsburg. "And the fact that three of them were associated with a Virginia regiment makes it perfect for us."

The three Virginia flags, slightly tattered and faded, include the main battle flag made of gold silk. It is the earliest surviving documented American flag bearing 13 stars and has a painted emblem of a beaver chewing a palmetto tree and the motto "Perseverando." The two smaller flags, one blue and one gold, display the word "Regiment." The Connecticut cavalry regiment flag is the earliest surviving American flag with 13 red and white stripes. They are among perhaps 30 flags to survive the fight for independence.



The exhibit will consist of panels telling the story of the participants and histories of when the flags were captured along with a musket, sword and cavalry pistol. "We don't want to overwhelm this exhibit with too many objects," said Erik Goldstein, curator of mechanical arts and numismatics for Colonial Williamsburg. "So we are keeping it simple." Following the exhibit, the flags will return to a private setting.

All four flags were initially captured by Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton or his troops and whisked to England, where they remained in his family until they were sold last year by his great-great-great-nephew, Capt. Christopher Tarleton Fagan. The Virginia flags flew above the 3rd Virginia Detachment - led by Col. Abraham Buford - on May 29, 1780, at the Battle of the Waxhaws in South Carolina. The Connecticut cavalry regiment flag was captured by Tarleton a year earlier during an engagement at Bedford/Pound Ridge, N.Y. Goldstein thinks the Virginia flags were sent back to England before Tarleton surrendered at Yorktown. "Probably the last time they were in Virginia, they were heading south with Buford's column on their way to their capture," he said.



The fragile flags will be getting special attention. "They are very light-sensitive, so we are going to be paying a huge amount of attention of how much light is cast on these things," Goldstein said. "The usual temperature and humidity controls will be closely monitored. These objects have already been conserved and framed, so they are very well compartmentalized and pretty much ready to go."

"I think for an awful lot of people who go to historic sites, one of the things they really want is to see the real McCoy," Hurst said. "Reproductions can be very terribly useful telling a story, but there's something very powerful about the object that was actually there. And battle flags captured by the enemy 200 and more years ago, and now returned to Virginia soil, I just think that's going to be a very powerful thing for a lot of our visitors." The flags will be on view Dec. 22 through Jan. 9, 2009, in the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum in Williamsburg.

The DeWitt Wallace Gallery is included as part of many Colonial Williamsburg ticket options. Otherwise Gallery admission is \$9.00. Museum hours: 10 a.m.-7 p.m. daily now through the end of the year; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily Jan. 1 through the middle of March.



From and article by Roy A Bahls, in The Virginian-Pilot, October 16, 2007

Settlers' Cemetery - A Work in Progress

Settlers Cemetery on Fifth Street behind First Presbyterian Church, is the oldest burying ground in Charlotte. It has no connection to the Church, but is owned and maintained by the City of Charlotte. The oldest grave in the cemetery is that of Joel Baldwin who died in 1776. Also buried there are many notable characters including Thomas and Susannah Spratt Polk, William Polk, Governor Nathaniel Alexander, Dr. David T. Caldwell of Rosedale, and a host of others. Over the years the cemetery has been subject to a good deal of damage and has been refurbished at least 4 times, most recently in 1998. That work cleaned and stabilized the cemetery, but left as a future project the repair over 100 broken gravestones.

The current project is to repair 10 ledger stones and 8 monuments. The ledger stones (or table stones) are large horizontal stones supported on brick boxes. Many of these boxes have suffered from neglect or from misguided maintenance, and some of the table stones have been shifted out of place and broken by the curious or malicious. Restoring these gravesites requires moving the stones aside, demolishing the old boxes, building new ones, and replacing the stones, using stainless steel pins and epoxy to keep them firmly in place. This work is being financed by a generous contribution from Hugh and Jane McCall. Jane is related to the Polks whose graves are among some of the most prominent in the cemetery, and among those in the worst condition.

Our thanks go to Carolina Brick in Salisbury who donated 750 hand-made brick for the boxes, Stool Pigeon's Restaurant who kindly allowed us to use their restrooms and The Churchill condominiums which has allowed us access to their water tap.

The current phase of work began on October 1 when Quin Hall of the city landscape department brought a team of men to Settlers. They removed 8 ledger stones and set them on timbers to keep them off the ground and protected. It took 6 to 8 very strong men to lift and carry each stone and our thanks go to these men as well as to Quin.



The city workers who moved the stones



Jim Williams (the younger) demolishing a box

In order to make our funds go as far as possible, we agreed to demolish the brick boxes and build the new ones with volunteer labor. Chicora Foundation of Columbia, SC are the cemetery experts who will do the stone work, representing the bulk of the cost of this work.



Richard VanHooser cleaning up



Jim Williams laying brick

Jim Williams and his son Jim destroyed the old brick boxes and hauled off most of the broken bricks, salvaging some for use in the interior of the new boxes. On October 10, Mike Trinkley of Chicora came up to show Jim Williams and Richard VanHooser how to lay brick in an authentic, historic manner. Since then they have constructed several new boxes on the original foundations. The work progresses, albeit slowly. In mid-October Mike Trinkley and his crew came up to repair various monuments. They will return and finish the job when all of the boxes are completed.

Two problems remain that you may be able to help with. We need a gang of 6 to 8 strong men to lift the stones back in place when the boxes are ready. Do you know of anyone who can supply such a gang at a reasonable price? The second problem is that we still have about 80 broken tombstones in storage at the city warehouse. It will cost about \$1,000 each to repair them and put them back in place. Is there an Angel out there who would like to help? The cause is worthy and the funds will be well spent. Contact Jim Williams or Linda Dalton.



Chicora team repairing a ledger stone



Brick box under construction

Happy Anniversary, Westmoore Pottery

On Saturday, November 10th, Westmoore Pottery celebrates 30 years of pottery. In 1977 David and Mary Farrell began making handmade pottery, most of it in the traditional style of early North Carolina. They have researched and recreated a broad assortment of vessels typical of those used by early English and German settlers, as well as Moravian goods. Much of the reproduction redware pottery used in regional historic sites has been made by the Farrells. On the 10th they will be selling some of their earliest pieces, have a kiln opening, and much more. The event runs from 9 am to 5 pm. Westmoore Pottery is at 4622 Busbee Road, just off highway 705, near Seagrove, NC. Details: Visit their website, <http://westmoorepottery.com>, call 910-464-3700 or email westmoore@rtmc.net.

Book Review

Ghost Riders by Sharyn McCrumb

This was our book club selection for October, and is a wonderful read. The novel opens with a handful of Civil War reenactors and a few locals in the North Carolina mountains. These modern people, briefly woven into the larger story from time to time, are perplexed by sightings of a strange soldier authentic in every detail including his emaciated condition, and frightened by mysterious soldiers on horseback – the Ghost Riders. Fortunately most of the novel is set in the past and revolves around real and imagined people who lived through the war in far western North Carolina.

Larger than life is Zebulon Vance. Through hard work and determination he grew from a humble boyhood to become a lawyer, politician, Confederate Colonel, and governor of North Carolina. Like many western North Carolinians he did not believe the country should be split apart, nor did he condone slavery. When Ft. Sumpter was fired upon, he gave up his Union leanings and sided solidly with the South. He could not tolerate an invasion of our sister state. Vance was a complex man, good hearted, straight thinking, though sometimes contentious. Then, as now, western Carolinians had precious little clout in the east, yet Vance was admired by people from all across the state. McCrumb fleshes him out beautifully using his many papers and letters. They are cited in the book's three page bibliography.

Malinda and Keith Blalock were also real people, two of many hardscrabble mountaineers scattered throughout the hollers. Keith, like many of that ilk was itching for a fight, so he joined the rebels planning to turn coat as soon as he got near the Yankees. Malinda couldn't stand idle, so she dressed as a boy and followed him. One adventure led to another and they became outliers, then outlaws. Their wild tale is true.

Another real person who made an appearance was William Holland Thomas, a white man adopted as a boy by the Cherokees. He developed a talent for moving seamlessly between the Indian world and the white one, all the way to the halls of congress. Thomas was the inspiration for Will Cooper in Charles Frazier's *thirteen moons*. McCrumb is an excellent story teller. *Ghost Riders* is packed with good history wound in fascinating yarns. Nothing about the Civil war is simple. If only she'd left out the unnecessary window dressing of modern people seeing ghosts.

Ann Williams

P.S. Jim and I visited the Zebulon Vance State Historic Site near Asheville this summer and had a wonderful tour. Our guide was very knowledgeable, and had many great Vance stories to tell. Did you know he was highly accomplished at cussing? The museum also has a good film and fine exhibits. Worth a trip.

<http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/hs/vance/vance.htm> Vance Birthplace, 911 Reems Creek Rd. Weaverville, N.C. 828 645 6706, Tuesday - Saturday 9 am - 5 pm (April - October) Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (November-March).

Historic Site News

The Charlotte Museum of History

The Charlotte Museum of History has hired Jan McCormick as Director of Education. Jan has worked for the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona, Florida and at their satellite sites: Old St. Augustine Village, and Gamble Place at Spruce Creek. She has developed docent training manuals, and supervised volunteers. Developing creative educational programs for children and adults is her passion. Welcome, Jan; we're looking forward to getting to know you!

James K. Polk State Historic Site

Site manager Scott Warren reports that many exciting developments are underway. The repairs to the kitchen building are nearly complete, and it should be open and functioning by the Christmas event. Next the main house will be refurbished. Several logs need replacing, and the entire house will be appropriately chinked. The visitor's center has a new roof, and new chairs. Soon the cemetery will be restored. All of these necessary projects come just in time for the site's 40th anniversary next year. We look forward to hearing the plans for the celebration.

Latta Plantation

The Folklife Festival, November 13 and 14, went wonderfully. Over 700 people on Saturday and 500 people on Sunday came out to the site to enjoy the novelty of fall weather, well over 30 traditional and modern artisans, live music, and living history demonstrations. Thank you to all who contributed as volunteers and visitors; we can't wait until next year!

The History Calendar

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

Civil War Lantern Tour. On November 17th take a walk back in time and relive the Civil War, as you take an in-depth look into the conditions, hopes, and fears that common foot soldiers of the Civil War lived with. As you progress through different camp settings on the grounds of the Homesite, you will see the campfires, smell the cooking, and listen to the stories from the period. Admission charged. Reservations required.

Latta Plantation

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

Gold Panning November 3, 10am-4pm : Try your hand at panning for gold down by Latta's newest addition, the miner's cabin. Be sure to ask about North Carolina's gold rush! Regular Admission.

Plantation Christmas. November 23-24, 10am-4pm: Celebrate the season with Christmas tours of the plantation home, open-hearth cooking in the kitchen, and more! A fantastic way to entertain out-of-town guests. Regular Admission.

Candlelight Christmas. December 8, 6pm-9pm: One of the site's most beautiful events... Please join us for a candlelit evening filled with the sights, sounds, and smells of a Christmas from the past! Regular Admission.

Levine Museum of the New South

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

Marian Anderson: Activist and Diva with Dr. Betty Walker and the Marian Anderson String Quartet
Sunday November 4, 4:00 p.m. First United Presbyterian Church, across the street from the MNS.
Admission charged.

The Marian Anderson String Quartet, originally known as the Chaminade Quartet, won the International Cleveland Quartet Competition in 1991, becoming the first African American ensemble to win a classical music competition. Since then, the Quartet has brought inspiration to every segment of American society. With performance venues ranging from the concert stage to soup kitchens and from presidential inaugurals to juvenile correctional facilities, the Quartet continues to uphold its mission of creating new and diverse audiences for chamber music.

The quartet took their name from world renowned Contralto Marian Anderson Not only was she known for her vocal talent, but she was also a very early Civil Rights Activist. In the 1930s, Ms. Anderson became the country's third highest concert box office draw. Her success, however, did not exempt her from racial discrimination. She was often refused accommodations at restaurants, hotels, and concert halls.

The most highly publicized incident involving Anderson occurred in 1939 when officials from Howard University tried to arrange a concert for her in Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. The hall's owners, the Daughters of the American Revolution, sparked national protests when they refused to allow her to sing there.

In answer to the protests, the United States Department of the Interior, with encouragement from First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, scheduled a concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on April 9, 1939. The Easter Sunday program drew a crowd of 75,000 people and millions of radio listeners. The episode caused the news media to focus greater attention on cases of discrimination.

Doug Marlette's South. _Thursday November 15. 6:00 reception; 7:00 panel discussion. Free

Using Doug Marlette's writings, political cartoons and his Kudzu comic strip, panelists will examine themes in his work and his thoughts about The South. The moderator will be Ed Williams, editor of the Charlotte Observer editorial page. Other panelists are Mark Ethridge, Bland Simpson, Kathleen Parker, and museum historian Dr. Tom Hanchett. Ethridge was managing editor of the Observer when Doug worked there. Simpson directs the creative writing program at Chapel Hill, and is a member of the String band *The Red Clay Ramblers*. He also collaborated with Doug on *Kudzu: The Musical*. Parker, a nationally syndicated columnist was Doug's close friend.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/polk>

President Polk's Birthday November 3, 10 am – 4 pm Free admission; donations accepted.

The annual Polk Birthday Celebration will feature a variety of living history presentations including blacksmithing, cooking, African American story telling, cobbling, music, and much more. About noontime, enjoy a slice of birthday cake.

Christmas at Polk December 8, 11 am – 3 pm Free admission; donations accepted.

Enjoy holiday festivities and the re-creation of the wedding of Sam and Jane Polk. They were married on Christmas day in 1794.

Historic Rosedale

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

Palladio in America. Saturday November 3, 4-7 pm

Anticipating the 500th birthday of Palladio, 16th century Italian architect, the Institute of Classical Architecture, Classical America and Historic Rosedale will partner and present author, lecturer and eminent historian, Calder Loth under a grand tent with Rosedale as the backdrop. Wine reception & hors d'oeuvres. \$75.00 person

Preparing For Winter: "It's Okay to Slow Down" Saturday November 10, 11:00am

Native American Study of Signs in Nature. Well known local naturalist, Faye Wright, a North Carolinian of Native American Heritage, will conduct the first of two classes about signs in nature and how to interpret them within the greater scope related to everyday living. Admission charged.

Thanksgiving at Rosedale Saturday November 24, , 1 – 4 pm

Our holiday drama will feature the Caldwells and guests as they sit down to enjoy a harvest feast in 1844. Visitors will hear them discuss family and plantation matters, and the concept of establishing a national day of Thanksgiving. The drama will be repeated throughout the afternoon. Before or after a performance enjoy refreshments in the basement. Admission charged.

Rosedale Tour with Christmas Tea Sunday, December 23, 1:30 & 3:00 pm

Take a closer look at a traditional antebellum Scotch-Irish Christmas in North Carolina backcountry. Admission charged.

Historic Rural Hill Farm

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

13th Annual Rural Hill Sheepdog Trials Friday-Sunday, November 2-4,. 9 am to 4 pm each day. Admission charged.

These Sheep Dog Trials are sanctioned by the US Border Collie Handlers Association and many dogs at these Trials will go on to the National Competition. Sheep Dog Trials have been held in the United Kingdom since 1873 when the first formal trials were held in Bala, Wales. The trials are a competition in performance not conformation. The competition is based on daily tasks that the dog is asked to do on the farm. Points are allotted for each phase of the work and the team of dog and handler who can do the work with the most precision and in the time interval allowed will win the most points. The Trials are an open competition and any breed may enter. However, the only breed represented in previous Trials at Rural Hill has been the Border Collie. For details, visit the Rural Hill web site at <http://www.ruralhill.net>.

The Carl J. McEwen Historical Village

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

Hours Tues. - Sat. 10:00am-2:00pm <http://www.minthillhistory.com>

Salute to Veterans - November 10 – 10 am to 2 pm

Along with interesting displays of memorabilia, re-enactors will have Civil War camps set up all around the village including a surgeon's tent and a recruitment tent. Students will also find out about Rosie the Riveter and rationing. Bring your old and worn flag to the museum on or before the event so it can be respectfully retired by the VFW and Boy Scouts. Flag retirements will take place on Saturday. This year we are hosting a blood drive with the

Community Blood Center of the Carolinas - "Where every drop stays here. Saving local lives." Call the office to reserve your seat for donating "in honor of..." or "in memory of..." someone in the military, or just because!"

Historic Brattonsville

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

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

Christmas Candlelight Tours: December 7 & 8 from 6 – 9 p.m. Dec. 9 from 4 - 7 p.m. Admission charged.

A holiday tradition for more than 25 years, Historic Brattonsville's Christmas Candlelight Tours brings to life the festivity of the Carolina Piedmont's Christmas past. More than 60 costumed interpreters will depict how Christmas celebrations evolved in the Carolinas from the 1780s to just before the Civil War. See how our modern Christmas customs came to be, and interact with interpreters in a variety of scenarios including a group of gunners "shooting in" the holiday, a minister discussing Colonial Christmas customs, the Brattons hosting a "wassailing" party, enslaved African Americans discussing their Christmas customs, a Christmas ball, and a German family lighting their Christmas tree.

Schiele Museum

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

Harvest Day, Saturday, November 17, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Celebrate the harvest as 18th-century Carolinians might have done! See cooks and bakers at work preparing a traditional holiday feast in a spirit of giving thanks for the season's harvest. Visit with craftspeople and farm folk as they demonstrate early American skills and crafts.

Colonial Christmas, Sunday, December 9, 3:00 - 6:00 pm Admission charged.

Bring your family and celebrate Christmas in 18th-century style! Join us in decorating with greenery, singing early American carols, and English country dancing, which will be followed by a Scripture reading and candle lighting service. We'll treat you to a taste of warm Christmas pudding and hot-tingered cider.

Gaston County Museum

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

New Exhibit – Pieces of Our Past: Stitched Memories Through January 12.

The exhibit will explore the history of quilt making in this country and particularly our region. In addition to nine quilts from the Museum's collection, the exhibit will contain objects featuring quilted construction as well as sewing equipment. Objects include slippers, jackets, and hats, sewing machines, and sewing kits. Free.

Trinkets & Treasures: What's it Worth? Sunday November 4 – 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM – \$5 per item brought

Do you have an item you would like to know more about and learn its estimated value? During this program, two appraisers will be available to examine visitor's objects brought to the museum. Objects considered for appraisal this day will be porcelain, toys, furniture, glass, silver, ceramics, collectibles, etc. Please note, there will be NO appraisals of fine art, coins, stamps, or weapons this day. All program proceeds will go to benefit the Gaston County Museum. Come and join us!

Coffee with the Curator - What are those things from your attic? Nov 7 and Dec 5, 10:30-11:30 am, Free.

Curator, Aimee Russell will identify objects and provide preservation assistance on pieces brought to the museum by visitors. If objects are too large please bring photographs. Object donations to the museum will also be

considered. Please note – there is a three item limit per person and there will be no monetary appraisals at this program.

Annual Holiday Open House, Dec 8, 3-8 pm, Free.

This special day features Christmas traditions for the whole family. See the museum decorated for Christmas, take part in cookie decorating and crafts, hear live music, and sample holiday treats. There will be a visit from Santa Claus for kids! The Museum Shop will feature crafts by local artists, traditional wooden toys and contemporary items. At 6:30 PM join the Town of Dallas (across the street from the museum) for Carols on the Square which includes a reading of the Christmas Story, a carol sing and the Christmas Choir.

Andrew Jackson State Park

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

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

Life in the Waxhaws Lantern Tour Saturday, November 10., 6 to 8 pm, admission charged.

Join us for a candlelight tour and catch a glimpse of early settlers living in the Waxhaws. Experience 18th century daily life and see the events that shaped the community as you step back in time. Meet at Shelter #1. Tours start at 6, 6:30, 7 and 7:30 pm.

MHA Docents
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