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The Crowning of King Cotton

Cotton, the primary cash crop of Mecklenburg's plantations, was indeed King in the Antebellum South. In order to better understand how it affected the South and the entire country, here is an overview of cotton agriculture, its economic importance, and its impact on society.

Cotton, from the Arabic word "Qutum", has been cultivated by man since prehistoric times. It exists as four species of Swamp Mallows; two of which grow in the new world. *Gossypium Barbardense* is a long staple cotton of which Sea Island is a variety, and *Gossypium Hirsutum* is a short staple plant which includes Upland Cotton that grows in the American South. Before Eli Whitney's improved cotton gin of 1793, the world relied on Sea Island cotton and *Gossypium Arboreum*, an old world species grown in India. The Sea Island variety has long fine fibers; Indian cotton has short coarse ones. Both have hard black seeds, that were easily removed by roller gins. Upland Cotton has short fine fibers but its soft sticky seeds were crushed by rollers, ruining the cotton and the machinery. Whitney's gin had wire hooks that reached through narrow slits in a hopper to retrieve the fibers leaving the seeds behind. It was an innovative, yet simple machine that was readily copied and transformed the American South.



Gossypium Hirsutum

In the 19th century Upland Cotton seeds were planted, about 100 pounds per acre, when frost danger had passed, locally about mid April. The rows were hilled to allow for hand thinning and cultivation with hoes. Hoeing, or chopping cotton was constant, hot, and repetitive labor from early spring to mid summer. By then the crop was well established and was "laid by", meaning it needed little attention, until late Autumn's harvest. A handy schedule since cotton's lay-by was harvest time for most other crops.

In early summer white cotton blossoms began to appear. The blossoms turned pink then developed into leathery 5-bract bolls. When ripe the bolls burst open revealing a mass of fiber and seeds. By then the bracts had become woody with tips as sharp as needles. Cotton grew from two to five feet tall. Bolls ripened over several months, and each field was picked many times as the bolls ripened. The varying height of the plants, the sharp bracts, and the long picking season made the harvest labor intensive, backbreaking work. Depending on soil and weather an acre could produce up to 1,000 pounds of raw cotton. About 2/3 of this weight was seeds. Some cotton was

produced on small farms; most grew on mid-sized to large plantations worked by slaves. Modern cotton varieties are low growing and ripen all at once to permit mechanical harvesting.

New England spinning mills had long been consumers of Sea Island Cotton from coastal Georgia, South Carolina's low country, and the West Indies. When Upland Cotton became available their production mushroomed. Enormous quantities of ginned cotton were also shipped abroad, some from southern ports, but most from the North. By 1821 cotton was America's leading export, an economic bonanza. At the approach of the Civil War cotton comprised 60% of all American exports. This was especially troubling in New England as the abolitionist movement expanded. Northerners were well aware that a large portion of the nation's economy depended upon southern slave labor. Hence many northerners opposed the expansion of slavery, but did not favor abolition. However New England, where abolition was strong, did curtail its spinning and shipping activities.

Early European settlers in North America imported slaves to work labor intensive crops of tobacco, sugarcane, rice, and indigo. By the 19th century tobacco, though still fairly profitable, lost its dominance of southern agriculture. It quickly robs the soil of nutrients, so its cultivation spread to many other parts of the world. Indigo never became a viable cash crop due to a superior variety grown in India. Rice and sugarcane production persisted, but only in the tropical micro-climates of coastal Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana. Cotton, also labor intensive, quickly took the place of those declining and geographically limited crops, growing well across the entire American South. If it were not for cotton with its immense growing area and importance to the national economy, slavery would have died a natural death long before the Civil War.

Mecklenburg's red clay soil is well suited for growing cotton. However Mecklenburg was only a moderate producer due to lack of transportation. The Catawba was not fully navigable, and the railroad did not arrive until 1852. Sending cotton by wagon to Charleston or Cheraw, the closest point of reliable river navigation, was expensive. The Hopewell area grew the most cotton in the county, and several of its residents became extremely wealthy. For more information about this fascinating crop read *Big Cotton* by Stephen Yafa; it's in the Charlotte library.
Ann Williams

From the Chairman

What beautiful weather we are having. I hope everyone is enjoying it, after the summer we had we can sure use it. So now everyone can get back to the MHA Docents meetings, the weather is just perfect to get out of the house.

Try to attend to all of our meetings as we have informative speakers and they leave us with so much historical information. History is what we are all about so bring a friend to our meetings; everyone is welcome.

If any of you would like to make a suggestion please feel free to contact me or any one of the board members and we will be happy to discuss it at the next board meeting.
Hazel White, Chairman of MHA Docents

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the January/February issue of the Dandelion is December 8th. Everyone has been great about sending information about events in the area. We'd like to see more general articles about history, regional and otherwise. Send them to Ann and Jim Williams at 1601 S Wendover Road, Charlotte, NC 28211 or email mhadandelion@mindspring.com.

MHA Docent Programs

Tuesday, November 2, 2010
Life in the Backcountry

Our November meeting will be a trip to the Schiele Museum's Backcountry Farm. Gastonia's Schiele Museum uses their backcountry farm as a teaching and research facility to explore 18th century farm life. They present frequent public programs and workshops about the life of ordinary small farmers, both Scots-Irish and German, who settled our area. It's quite the contrast from the plantation environment of many other historic sites. The farm consists of two cabins, a barn, garden, blacksmith shop, and many interesting farm animals. Their thorough research touches on more topics than one can imagine. Their knowledgeable staff and volunteers promise an excellent program.

We'll meet at the museum at 9:45 a.m. for a brief meeting followed by the program at 10. At 11 you may tour the Natural History Museum's extensive collections (admission charged), or walk the nature trails, tour the Indian Site, or linger at the backcountry farm. Afterwards we'll have lunch at Jackson's Cafeteria.

Directions: To the Schiele – Take I 85 to exit 21 in Gastonia (Cox Road). Go south across Franklin Blvd.; Cox Road will become Armstrong Parkway. Turn right on Garrison Blvd. The museum is about 1 ½ miles on the right, 1500 Garrison Blvd. Travel time from Charlotte is about 45 minutes.

To Jackson's Cafeteria – From the museum turn left onto Garrison Blvd. Take the first left onto Burtonwood. Stay on Burtonwood to the Target Sign. Go left to the end of the parking lot. Jackson's, 1543 Franklin Blvd., is on the left by Shomars. There is a room in the back of the main dining area with long tables where we may all sit together.

Those who want to carpool can meet at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church; carpools will leave at 9 a.m.

Tuesday, December 7, 2010
Christmas Tea

Please join us for the MHA Docent Christmas Tea, our social event of the year celebrated with the entire history community. The Tea will take place in the Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church at 10 a.m. Sharon VanKuren will lead a program of remembering Christmas's Past. We'll have a table of historic clothing appropriate to the season, and everyone is encouraged to bring a special memory, ornament, recipe, or anything you'd like to share from your own past Christmas's or those of your ancestors.

We'll begin at 9:45 with a brief business meeting followed by the program at 10. After the program we'll enjoy delicious food and festivity. All docents should bring a treat suitable for a luncheon or tea, and arrive by 9:30 in order to arrange the tables. If your food is inspired by a Christmas memory, write it down on a card and place it by the dish. Visitors are not only welcome, but encouraged.

MHA Dinner Meeting

The MHA dinner meeting will be Monday, November 15 at Trinity Presbyterian Church. We'll meet early at 6:00 p.m. for wine and appetizers and a special Holiday Bazaar. The Charlotte Mecklenburg library will have a silent auction of history related books; plus books will be for sale by local authors as well as other gift items. Do your early Christmas shopping (checks or cash only), and enjoy the goodies. Festive attire will be fun.

Dinner will be at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:15. David Granberry, Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds will be our speaker. Since taking office in 2008 he has been making lots of changes to the Register of Deeds Office to make it easier for researchers to use. Most of the deed indexes are now on the internet so you can do lots of primary research from home. The really old deed books have been moved to the second floor for increased security. It also gives us a better place to do our research. David will tell us how to access and use the Deeds Office and discuss the other types of records in the office, in addition to property deeds. 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 Herrin at 704-553-0936, or kathyherrin@hotmail.com.

Docent Board Retreat

The annual Docent Board Retreat will take place on January 10 and 11 at the Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. The Board members will meet in the church session room from 9:30 to 3 each day. All committee chairmen should make a written report of their past year's activities to be presented to the board at the January meeting or at the retreat. Committee chairmen or anyone else who has a item to be presented to the board should contact Audrey Mellichamp at 704-536-2704 or lmellichamp@carolina.rr.com. She will schedule a time for your presentation.

Memorial Gifts

This year we were saddened by the loss of three members of our docent family, Jo Anne Dickens, Jama Mooney, and Carol Trippe. The board has decided to make a memorial gift to the Docent Library in each of their names. Each gift will reflect that docent's specific interest: for Jo Anne, a travel book featuring historic sites; for Jama, a book on general North Carolina history; and for Carol, a book on slavery. If you have a specific title to suggest, please pass it along to a board member. They will decide which books to buy at the board retreat.

Docent Book Club

You never know what the Book Club will come up with! Lots of laughter at our last meeting thanks to Kat McAdams and her discovery in Albion's Seed. Roger, Kat? Over and out. You had to be there, or ask someone who was! We briefly discussed a primary source letter that exposed a person's true feelings regarding enslaved persons. If readers have questions or want further discussion about this letter we can do that in January.

We will not meet in November or December. For January we'll read *Martha Washington* by Patricia Brady. This book comes highly recommended by Ann Williams who wrote a review for the last "Dandelion" Be sure to check that out before January comes around, you will then want to read the book for sure. We had several suggestions for future reading and will happily accept others. Join us after the January meeting. Rachel Abernathy

News from America

From *The St. James's Chronicle; Or, British Evening-Post.*
 Price Three-Pence From Tuesday, July 29 to Thursday, July 31, 1777 (No 2557)



[Several years ago Greg Nichols of Raleigh discovered three original issues of this newspaper in a junk shop in Nashville, Tenn. Here is an extract from one of them. In reporting maritime affairs, a ship is referred to by its name and its captain, e.g. Caesar, Fitzgerald is the ship Caesar, captain Fitzgerald.]

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Paris, July 9. If certain Letters from London may be credited, the Ministry endeavour to conceal that Gen. Burgoyne has been beaten, as well as Gen. Cornwallis; and that the Rebels took several Prisoners. It is said to be a Fact that the Rebels last Month have taken and brought into our Ports 28 English Ships, the Cargoes of several of which are valued at above a Million of Livres. —*Brussels Gazette.*

Dunkirk, July 18. The American Privateer which was in our Port, put to Sea last Night at the Moment it was least expected, as our Admiralty had, by Order of the Court, seized her Sails and Rudder, which have been restored this Morning at Ten o'Clock, by Order (as is said) of the Court. The Privateer, it seems, has directed her Course Northward.

We are assured that there are no less than 13 English Frigates, Snows, and Cutters, stationed between Calais and Zealand, to attack and sink the American Privateers; but they will find some Difficulty to succeed.

LONDON

By Letters from Corke an Account is given that the Caesar, Fitzgerald, has brought intelligence that there had been Advices received at Hallifax a few Days before the Caesar left that Place, which confirmed the Report of a Party of British Troops being attacked near St. John's, and defeated with the loss of 250 Men killed, and a considerable Number wounded; and that it was given out Gen. Washington was determined not to hazard a Battle in Case of any Attempt made by Sir William Howe, but that his Orders were to retire up the Country, Skirmishing as he has hitherto done from fortified Outposts and occasional Intrenchments. Captain Fitzgerald, however, says, that there was a general prevailing Opinion of Peace being restored by a Treaty of Accommodation then said to be on Foot.

Letters from Hanover mention, that the Troops of the Electorate are now completed to their full Complement, and that a large Body of Men are kept in Readiness to embark for America on the first Notice.

A Gentleman who arrived in Town on Monday from Lynn-Regis, gives an Account, that Capt. Cunningham's Privateer, from Dunkirk, took three Prizes of Barnham Flats, on the Coast of Norfolk, on Friday Morning last; and that the next Day he sent the Master of one of them, with six other Prisoners, in a Boat to Lynn, demanding a considerable Sum to be immediately raised for him, and in Case of Refusal, he declared he would burn the Town. This insolent Message was treated by the Corporation with the Contempt it deserved. After tacking several Times towards the Lincolnshire Shore, a fresh Gale springing up, he stood out to Sea, directing his Course due North.

Jim Williams

The Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley

The Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley is up and running (read up and cooking) for our 13th year. October had Carolyn Dilda leading the group in Irish Soda Bread and interesting information about early Irish Cooking that she learned while traveling in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Carolyn and granddaughter Kayla were at the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh, Northern Ireland on the 4th of July. So were the Red Coats, but Carolyn and Kayla spent most of their time in the Irish and American kitchens. In October Leila Merims presented a program on root vegetables in the south and how to store them for winter.

Potato Famine

Famine in Ireland (and rest of Europe) began in 1845 when the potato blight hit. 1847 was the worst year for deaths, an unknown number of people died. It is estimated that the number is between one, and one and a half million. About the same number left Ireland.

Ireland was under the rule of the English king. An Irish person could not own land in Ireland under his own name. He lived on and farmed land owned by an English nobleman. While grains, dairy products, wool and linen, and dried fish were being produced, these had to be exported to pay the rent and taxes. The English did not want the potatoes, that was about all the Irish had left.

If the taxes and rents were not paid, the family would not only be starving, but also homeless. We were told on tours in Ireland, that the English government did not do anything to help for the first year and a half. At that point they eased the export quotas and gave those who wished to leave money for passage on a boat, usually headed for America, Australia, or the Carribean.

Emigrating became a fact of Irish life throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Ireland lost more than half of its population in less than 5 years. There is still resentment against the English.

Quakers and other religious groups tried to help by importing maize, or Indian Corn, but without instructions on grinding and cooking, the Irish had no way of knowing what to do with these strange kernels. Maize is still little used in the British Isles. It is mixed into tuna salad and served in tossed salad.

The blight ended as quickly as it started in 1851. However, disease and destitution continued. 1854 was the peak year for emigration.

Carolyn Dilda

Hugh Torance House and Store

The Hugh Torance House and Store invites you to a Gala Open House on Sunday, November 14th from 2 – 5 p.m. Board members will serve wine, punch, and festive snacks, give mini tours, and tell visitors about this special site. Hugh purchased the land in 1779 and lived there as a merchant and farmer. Shortly after 1800 he enlarged his log

house to include a residence and store for his son James who kept the store from 1805 to 1825. James later became Mecklenburg's most prosperous cotton planter, and built Cedar Grove, the adjacent 1830's grand plantation house.

The site has generally been open one Sunday a month from April through September. They would like to enlarge this schedule, so they are holding the open house to increase public awareness and attract potential volunteers. The event is free, although donations will be gladly accepted. Everyone is welcome!

Directions: Take I 77 to Huntersville exit 23, which is Gilead Road. Turn west (away from Huntersville) on Gilead Road and follow it for about 2 miles. The Hugh Torance House and store will be on your left, 8231 Gilead Road.

The History Calendar

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

Historic Rosedale

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

Oyster Roast and Low Country Boil. Saturday, November 6 from 3 to 6 pm

Come to Rosedale's annual fund-raiser and enjoy a delicious spread on the plantation lawn. The house will be open and there will be activities for children. Bluegrass music provided by the "Flat Possum Hoppers". Advance adult tickets are \$35; at the gate: \$50. Children 4 – 12, \$12; under 4 are free. Make advanced reservations by October 29, by visiting the web site or mailing a check to the address above.

Wartime Christmas. Saturday, December 4 from 1 to 4 pm

What was Christmas like for the typical family during World War II? Historic Rosedale will honor the strength of our nation by examining the practices of those preparing for hardship, struggling for peace, yet finding joy during the holiday season during the Second World War. Admission for World War II veterans is free.

Wassailing Across the Color line: An Antebellum Christmas.

Saturdays and Sundays, December 11, 12, 19, and 20 from 1 to 4 pm

Dr. David Caldwell and his wife Adeline invite you to visit their home and enjoy Christmas preparations with their family, and learn about slave Christmas traditions from their Negroes. The time will be the 1850s, Adeline is the "new" mistress of the house, and Victorian decorations have become the vogue.

Latta Plantation

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

Charlotte Gold Rush. Saturday, November 6 from 10 am to 4 pm

Learn about Charlotte's rich gold mining history and pan for gold at the miner's cabin while listening to live music. Visitors can also tour the plantation house, grounds, and outbuildings, meet the farm animals, and see the honeybee exhibit.

World War II Living History. Saturday, November 13 from 10 am to 4 pm, and Sunday, November 14 from 1 to 4 pm

World War II soldiers will be on the grounds providing weapons demonstrations, displaying period vehicles, and talking about life during the war.

A Plantation Christmas. Friday and Saturday, November 26 and 27 from 10 am to 4 pm

Begin the Christmas season by stepping back into an 1860s Christmas. The plantation will be decorated for a time period Christmas. Visitors will learn about 1800s Christmas traditions and meet a Victorian St. Nick in the plantation house, see open-hearth cooking in the kitchen, and a slave Christmas in the cabin.

Candlelight Christmas. Saturday, December 4 from 6 to 9 pm

Step into an 1820s Christmas at Latta as you tour the plantation by candlelight. Visitors can meet animals in the carriage barn, see dancing in the house, meet Mr. and Mrs. Latta, enjoy the excitement of children before bedtime, see a Christmas meal being prepared in the kitchen, a slave family celebrating in the cabin, and more!

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

Living History Days

Weaving. Various techniques with Kenneth Webb. November 6 and 21, December 5 and 18; 1 to 4 pm each day.

18th Century Loyalist Soldier. Discussion by Stacy Brogden, December 11 and 19; 1 to 4 pm each day.

A Scholar's Forum – The Touch of Civilization Means Death to Them: Comparing American Colonization of the Sioux and Russian Colonization of the Kazakhs, 1850s to 1930s.

Tuesday, November 9, from 7 to 8:30 pm

Lecture by Steven Sabol, Associate Professor of History, UNCC, Editor-in-Chief, First World War Studies. Sabol's first book, *Russian Colonization and the Genesis of Kazakh National Consciousness*, examined the emergence of Kazakh intellectuals and efforts to create a national identity among nomadic peoples. In addition, he is the Director of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Center at UNC Charlotte and directs the Native American Studies Academy. Reservations are required.

American Indian Celebration. Saturday, November 13, from 11 am to 3 pm

Join us to honor American Indian Heritage through traditional song, dance, art and storytelling. See how the American Indians have sustained traditions, beliefs, and a true record of their past through ceremony, song, dance, and art.

Civil War Lantern Tour. Saturday, November 20, from 6 to 9 pm

Relive the Civil War as you take an in-depth look into the conditions, hopes, and fears of common foot soldiers. As you progress through camp settings on the grounds of the Homesite, you will see campfires, smell the cooking, and listen to stories from the period. Reservations are required.

A Scholar's Forum – We Are What We Eat: Food as Methodology in Cultural Analysis. Tuesday, December 14, from 7 to 8:30 pm

Lecture by Debarati Dutta, Professor, UNCC. Dr. Dutta's interactive presentation will use personal observations, experiences, ethnography, and literary analysis to present an alternative way of examining how foods of a culture can be used as a tool to understand narratives of migration. Reservations required.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

Christmas in Mecklenburg County with the Polks. Saturday, December 11 from 11 am to 3 pm

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

Hugh Torrance House and Store
8231 Gilead Road, Huntersville, NC

Gala Open House. Sunday, November 14 from 2 to 5 pm

The Hugh Torrance House and Store invites you to join them for refreshments and a tour of the site. See details elsewhere in this newsletter. Free event.

The Carl J. McEwen Historical Village
7601 Matthews-Mint Hill Rd. 704-573-0726
<http://www.minthillhistory.com>

Salute To Veterans. Friday and Saturday. November 5 and 6

Friday at 7 pm. "The Last Meeting" General Jackson and General Lee will meet around the campfire to plan the battle at Gettysburg. Bring a blanket or chair.

Saturday from 9 am to 3 pm. Exhibits of military memorabilia will be on display, along with demonstrators and re-enactors representing the Civil War era. Flag retirements by Boy Scout Troop 144.

Rural Hill

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

Amazing Maize Maze. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, November 5 – 7. Flashlight Maze will begin at dusk on Friday, November 5.

The 9th Annual Rural Hill Amazing Maize Maze is ending on November 7th. Check web site for hours. The theme for 2010 is the "Conestoga Wagon," the transportation that many 18th century settlers used to move down the Great Wagon Road from Pennsylvania to Mecklenburg.

Annual Sheep Dog Trials. Saturday and Sunday, November 13 and 14.

Gates open at 8 am each day

Over 100 herding dogs will compete for points toward the national championship. Sanctioned by the United States Border Collies Handlers Association, the Trials are open to any herding breeds, but the majority of entries are Border Collies. The Sheep Dog Trials are based on tasks that a working dog is asked to do on the farm. Points are earned for each phase of work. In addition to the regional sheep dog competition, Rural Hill will offer a variety of family activities including hayrides around the farm, an antique tractor display, logic mazes, the Rural Hill Highland Cattle, and more! The 1760's Davidson Family Homestead site will be open for visitors with open hearth cooking and blacksmith demonstrations.

Schiele Museum

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

Harvest Day. Saturday, November 20 from 10 am to 4 pm

Skilled interpreters labor by the open hearth roasting, baking, and stewing a salmagundi of 18th century delights. Hunters make ready their firearms while swapping stories of the "ones that got away". At the close of the day, costumed interpreters sit down to partake of the Harvest meal in the manner and spirit of our ancestors.

Colonial Christmas. Saturday, December 11 from 2 to 6 pm

Celebrate Christmas in the 18th-century style. Join us in the "Procession of the Yule Log", decorating with greenery, singing early American carols, and English country dancing. As the day draws to a close, gather with our Backcountry family for the traditional Candle-lighting Service and scripture reading. Enjoy a taste of Christmas pudding and hot gingered apple cider.

Gaston County Museum

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

Book Talk and Signing. *The History of Gastonia and Gaston County NC: A Vision of America at Its Best* by Robert Ragan. Saturday November 6 at 1 pm

This new work encompasses early settlement, agriculture, mining and timber industries, followed by the founding and development of the textile industry which dominated the commerce and culture of the region for over a century. It tells the history of Gastonia – which grew from an inconsequential village at the crossroads of two railroad lines in 1876 into one of the largest textile centers in the country.

Annual Holiday Open House. Friday December 10 from 3 to 7 pm

Enjoy the Town of Dallas Christmas Parade beginning at 4 PM. Our free Annual Holiday Open House Program features Christmas traditions and fun for the whole family. Take part in cookie decorating and historic crafts, hear live music, and sample holiday treats.

Historic Brattonsville

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

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

Living History Days: Preserving the Harvest**Saturdays, November 6, 13 and 20 from 10 am to 4 pm**

Costumed interpreters bring to life the 18th and 19th centuries. Witness life in the Carolina Backcountry through historic farming, food preservation, and open hearth cooking. Learn about historic methods of preservation including the secrets of our eggs that have been preserved without refrigeration for the past 18 months.

Through the Looking Glass: The Brattons in Black and White**Sunday, November 14 at 1:30 and again at 3 pm**

Step through the looking glass during this 45-minute tour and discover what the Brattons valued: freedom, family, work and home. Ponder what the world was like on the other side of a mirror's reflection as you learn how the Bratton slaves defined the same values.

Living History: Hearth to Table, Saturday, November 27 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Examine the role food played in people's lives in the past. Travel through the 18th and 19th centuries and see how different people prepared and consumed their foods, from the earliest colonists in the 1760s to the slaves and wealthy planters of the 1840s. Experience the preparation, cooking and ceremony behind the food we all take for granted.

Living History Days: Christmas Preparations, Saturdays, December 4 and 18, from 10 am to 4 pm

Costumed interpreters bring to life the 18th and 19th centuries. Witness life in the Carolina backcountry through activities such as hoeing cotton, open hearth cooking and weaving.

Christmas Candlelight Tour, Saturday and Sunday, December 11 and 12 from 3 pm to 9 pm*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 4 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. The celebration continues in the Visitor Center with crafts, historical demonstrations, musical performances, and free refreshments.

Andrew Jackson State Park

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

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

Candlelight Tours, Saturday, November 13, from 6 to 7:30 pm

Join us for a candlelight tour and catch a glimpse of early settlers living in the Waxhaws. Experience 18th century daily life, similar to Andrew Jackson's boyhood experience, and see the events that shaped the community as you step back in time. Designed for all ages.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

Soldiers in Iredell County. Saturday and Sunday, November 13 and 14, from 10 am to 4 pm

Historic interpreters will present a timeline of the soldiers who have passed through the area over the past 250 years. Visit with Cherokee warriors, militia of the Revolution, Johnny Reb and Billy Yank, World War II GIs and modern servicemen. Weapons firing demonstrations will be featured, as well as on-going demonstrations of 18th Century camp life.

Winter on the Western Frontier. Saturday and Sunday, December 11 and 12, 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 deal with the harsh season and celebrate the Advent of Christmas. Demonstrations include on-going camp life, military drill, musket and cannon firings.

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>

Veterans Day Encampment, Saturday, November 13 from 9 am to 5 pm

Re-enactors from the Backcountry Militia will be camped at the park. Visit the militia encampment and enjoy weapons demonstrations.

Cowpens National Battlefield

I-85 South Carolina Exit 83, follow signs, 864-461-2828

www.nps.gov/cowp

Howser House Open House, Saturday, November 27 from 11 am to 4 pm

The 1803 stone Howser House will be open to the public for tours. The house is open twice 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>

Christmas on the Farm, Saturday, November 27 from 11 am to 3 pm

Come join us for a Christmas celebration 1850s style. 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 also 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.

Southern Campaign of the American Revolution

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

Southern Campaigns Revolutionary War Roundtable, Saturday, November 13, from 10 am to 4 pm.

SC Archives & History Center, 8301 Parklane Road Columbia, SC

Our Roundtable is a participatory sport; bring your research to share, questions for help and show 'n tell. We will also tour behind the scenes this first class archival and research facility. We will break around noon for a "Dutch Treat" lunch. Free event, public invited. For more information, see <http://southerncampaign.org/rt.php>

**Corps of Discovery Revolutionary War Sites Tour, Saturday, December 11, from 8:30 am to 5 pm.
Beaufort, South Carolina.**

SCAR and the American Revolution Association sponsor a tour bus based Corps of Discovery of Revolutionary War sites in the Beaufort District. Light walking. For more information on sites scheduled and the fee, and to reserve your seats go to <http://southerncampaign.org/cod.php>.

Duke Mansion

400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte, 704 714 4448

<http://www.dukemansion.com>

Duke and Lee: Electrifying the Carolinas. Sunday, November 14 at 3 pm

Members of the Lee family led by Tom Hanchett will bring the story of the Lees and Dukes, and electrifying the Carolinas, to life with personal stories and reflections. Free event.

MHA Docents
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