

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Promoting Local History through Education and Research



November/December, 2006

Volume 12, Number 4

From the Chairman

Colorful autumn has arrived with its crisp air, a bountiful harvest, and the promise of happy gatherings around tables filled with fragrant dishes. In this, the last newsletter of 2006, we emulate the seasons with the closing of one term of office and the promise of pleasant expectations regarding the new one to come. During our October meeting we elected Alice Bostic to be our new queen. Working with her shall be Hazel White as secretary, Valerie Jones as treasurer, June McKinney on Hospitality, and editors of THE DANDELION, Ann and Jim Williams. In November we will be presented with the nominee for vice president, June White. The MHA Docent Board has worked diligently for you during 2005-2006. I greatly appreciate the assistance I received from Wanda Hubicki, Valerie Jones, Carolyn Dilda, June McKinney, Camille Smith, and Ann and Jim Williams. The various chairmen of the committees made your organization operate efficiently for the docents, the sites, and the community. My thanks to you, Rachel, JoAnne, Nell, Alice, Janet, Millie, Hazel, Karen, Betty, Sharon, and Lynn. On Monday, November 27, 2006, there will be a joint meeting of the present board and committee chairmen and the incoming officers at 10:00AM in my home. You are welcome to bring a dish you like to make which you may share with those present for the lunch which will follow the meeting.

The poignant ceremony at Historic Rosedale Plantation in memory of Barbara Castro, Betty Hutchinson, and Anne Batten was held on Tuesday afternoon, October 3, 2006. In the spring of 2007 we will be able to admire the beautiful roses planted to honor these three remarkable women. Our appreciation has been extended to Donald Castro for his monetary gift and the donation of Barbara's period clothing to the MHA docents.

Elsewhere in this edition you will read about our program for November: Men's Occupational Dress, 1750-1850. I look forward to seeing you at the business meeting followed by this program presented by Matthew Keagle.

Mark your calendar now for our annual December holiday tea which will be held on the first MONDAY, December 4, 2006. It is our hope that through this change from Tuesday to Monday, more site directors and staff will be free to take tea with us. A very special musical program is planned in addition to the delectable foods which are always part of this event.

At the January meeting the various chairmen will give you a brief report of our activities in 2006. After which, I shall have the privilege of installing our new officers.

My wish for all of you is the joy of an abundant thanksgiving season and the peace promised by the various December holiday celebrations.

Barbara Jackson

Newsletter Deadline

The Dandelion Press welcomes articles of interest to the history community. Deadline for the January – February issue is December 12. This early deadline will allow us to compose the Dandelion before the press of the Holiday season. Send your contributions to Ann and Jim Williams, 1601 S. Wendover Road, Charlotte, NC 28211; or email to mhadandelion@mindspring.com.

MHA Docent Programs

Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church has proved to be an excellent meeting site. It provides easy access for those of us who have difficulty with stairs and offers much more space than Rosedale, which is wonderful when we have visitors for our programs, and on several occasions we have had quite a few. However there is a drawback. The acoustics are far from wonderful. Using the microphone is seldom a problem for our speakers, but is awkward during meetings when any number of people need to give reports or contribute comments. Shouting is awkward and undignified. So we implore you; PLEASE sit up front and close together! The front row is friendly! No one will make an example of you, nor point out your sins, even if we are in a church. This will also make it easier for those coming in for the program to find a seat without feeling as if they are intruding on our meeting. Now sit up front and close together!

The Editors

November and December Programs

Wanda Hubicki

Both the November and December meetings will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church, 101 West Sugar Creek Road, in Charlotte. The public is welcome to attend.

Tuesday, November 7, 2006

Refreshments 9:30 AM – Meeting 10:00 AM – Program 11:00 AM

Men's Occupational Dress: 1750-1850

Matthew Keagle, Historic Interpreter at Fort Dobbs State Historic Site, will present the program "Men's Occupational Dress: 1750-1850." This century saw rapid growth of the Carolina backcountry and an increase in the variety of clothing worn by working men. He will examine the dramatic changes that took place in clothing during this period and focus on examples relevant to interpreting that period of Carolina history.

Matthew Keagle holds a degree in 18th Century Living History and Historical Interpretation from Cornell University where he did extensive research and work revolving around all aspects of life from the early 18th century to the early 19th century. During his studies he has visited numerous collections across the east coast and examined and taken notes on a variety of male garments. These travels to the collections of Colonial Williamsburg, The Connecticut Historical Society, The University of Rhode Island, the South Carolina State Museum, and other public and private collections have given him a unique look into men's clothing from the 18th and 19th centuries. He has worked at Old Sturbridge Village, Colonial Williamsburg, and Historic Brattonsville, and has volunteered at numerous other sites from Canada to South Carolina. At these sites and through independent work he has practiced and learned a variety of trades including shoemaking, tailoring, apothecary, wigmaking, hairdressing, blacksmithing, pottery, milling, and farming.

MONDAY December 4, 2006

Please note the schedule changes for our December Tea. This is our annual social gathering with the broader history community, so it will be held on a MONDAY which is more convenient for historic site staff members. Non-docents are more than welcome, but should RSVP by Friday November 24th to mhadandelion@mindspring.com, or 704-365-2402. **Docents**: please arrive by 9:30 AM with a holiday dish to share with our guests; we will need time before the program to arrange the tables. At 9:50 we will have brief announcements. The program will begin at 10:00 followed by a festive tea and fellowship.

Wayfaring Strangers: Musical Connections between Scotland and Appalachia

Doug and Darcy Orr will use music and song in their program to illustrate mountain folk traditions that crossed the ocean with Scots settlers.

Dr. Doug Orr retired this year from the presidency of Warren Wilson College. One of his first acts during his fifteen-year tenure there was to found the Swannanoa Gathering, a widely respected series of summer folk arts workshops. Both accomplished folk musicians, the Orrs are collaborating with Fiona Ritchie on a book that will tell the story of the musical connections between the peoples of Scotland, including the Scots-Irish, and the Appalachians. Ritchie is the founder and host of *The Thistle & Shamrock* music program, broadcast in this country over public radio stations.

This wonderfully informative and entertaining musicale will be a perfect introduction to our festive holiday tea.

MHA Dinner Meeting

The next MHA dinner meeting will be Monday, November 27th. The meeting will be held at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Dinner is at 6:30, followed by the program at 7:15. Those not attending the dinner are welcome to attend the program at no charge. To make dinner reservations, contact Linda Dalton at 704-364-7435. The program will be Military Music during the American Revolution.

Jim Williams (Fife) and Mack Bailey (Drum) will present a program on how Fife and Drum music was used in the armies of the 18th Century. This lecture/demonstration is one they have performed at various historic sites, including Colonial Williamsburg, Camden, SC and Guilford Courthouse. They will appear in their Continental Line uniforms and explain how music was used to convey orders to the soldiers as well as to entertain them on the march. The talk will be illustrated with the performance of a number of beats, signals and tunes of the period. Questions and comments are encouraged and we expect a lively exchange of information.

Jim and Mack have been making music and reenacting the American Revolution for nearly 20 years. Jim is a retired computer salesman while Mack teaches high school math and science in Rock Hill.

Decent Book Club

The book club is reading *Benson J. Lossing's Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution in the Carolina & Georgia* edited by Jack E. Fryar, Jr. In 1850 Benson J. Lossing published a unique history of the revolutionary war. Fryar states: "He covered more than 8,000 miles in each of the original thirteen states and Canada, recording the story of the war from eyewitnesses and their offspring. The result is a book of monumental girth and value. The two volumes that comprise Lossing's *Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution* recount virtually every clash between the Americans and Great Britain." Fryar's edition contains only those sections concerning the Carolinas and Georgia, complete with Lossing's wonderful illustrations. The book is a large format paperback and costs \$19.95. It can be ordered through Books-A-Million, and probably other sources. It was published by Dram Tree Books in 2005. The book club will meet following our November program. Everyone is welcome, whether you've read the book or not. For more information call Rachel Abernathy at 704-366-2618.

York County Symposium

Karen McConnell, Janet Dyer, and Ann Williams will be among the presenters at a symposium to be held at the McCelvey Center in York, SC on November 18th. Their talk will focus on details gleaned from journals, letters, and other primary sources. It should be an interesting program. We hope many of you can attend.

The Key Ingredients ~

Elite Antebellum Dining, Food, Customs & Material Culture in the South Carolina Upcountry

Saturday, November 18, 2006

9:00 to 3:30

McCelvey Center
212 E. Jefferson Street
York, South Carolina 29745

Sponsored In Part By ~
The Humanities Council^{SC}
Friends of Historic Brattonsville



Featured Topics and Speakers ~

- 9:00 Welcome and Check-in
- 9:15 *Detached Dining Rooms*
Jane Marion, Converse College
- 10:00 *Detached Kitchens*
Nancy Van Dolsen, Architectural Historian
- 11:00 *Dining Practices of South Carolina's Backcountry Elite*
John Sherrer, Historic Columbia

- 1:00 *Entertaining, Dining and Visiting*
Karen McConnell, Janet Dyer, Ann Williams
Historic Rosedale
- 2:00 *Politics, Barbeque and Treating*
Dan Dupre, UNC-Charlotte
- 2-45 *The Influence of Cookbooks on the Gentility of Dining*
Damon Fowler, Food Historian

*Refreshments and lunch are included in the registration fee.
For more information, contact Chuck LaCount at:
803.684.2327, extension 105, or email at clacount@chmuseums.org*

Symposium Registration ~

Please use a separate registration form for each person attending the symposium, and keep a copy for your records.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Cost: \$25 CHM Members \$15 CHM Volunteers
\$25 Non-Members

Registration and payment due by November 10, 2006.
Sorry, no refunds will be issued after this date.



Visit our website at www.chmuseums.org

Call to Register: 803.684.2327, ext. 100

OR: Mail form and payment to:
Key Ingredients Symposium
Culture & Heritage Museums
c/o Historic Brattonsville
1444 Brattonsville Road
McConnells, South Carolina 29726

Payment Method:

Check enclosed for: \$ _____ (make payable to CHC)

Charge \$ _____ to: Visa Mastercard Discover

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____
(please include the 3 digit code on back of credit card if available)

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

In Memoriam

On October 3, at Historic Rosedale a ceremony was held in remembrance of three docents who recently passed away, Betty Hutchinson, Anne Batten, and Barbara Castro. Three rosebushes have been planted along the fence at the front of the property, and a plaque will be installed with their names. These memorial roses are the beginning of a larger rose garden. In the 1920s when Louise Heagy Davidson came to Rosedale as a new bride, she planted a rose garden at the front of the property. The current plan is to emulate her efforts and enhance the property by lining the entire front fence with roses. Below are the remarks that were made on October, 3.

From Barbara Jackson: Welcome, family, friends, and docents, to this MHA Docents ceremony in tribute to three highly regarded women. Longfellow said, "There is no death! What seems so is transition; this life of mortal breath is but a suburb of the life Elysian, whose portal we call death."

We are here this afternoon to remember in a beautiful and tangible manner three of our MHA comrades. These women enhanced life for Charlotte-Mecklenburg residents through their love of nature, history, and humankind. May our contribution to this rose garden be a visible representation of our appreciation for their lives and of our admiration of the service to Charlotte-Mecklenburg by Barbara Castro, Betty Hutchinson, and Anne Jackson Batten.

From June McKinney: It is such an honor for me to pay tribute to Betty Hutchinson, one of my all-time favorite people. I first knew Betty as a teacher of language arts and social studies at Eastway Junior High. Her classroom was a reflection of Betty: an interesting, thought-provoking challenging class for her students.

Betty had a wonderful way with words. She did in-depth research and expressed herself most effectively in writing and speaking. So, what words come to our minds when we think of Betty? Can't you just see her: PETITE--even TINY, METICULOUS in dress (creating many of her own clothes), hair always in place, QUIET, UNASSUMING and, above all, KIND. But there are other words that describe Betty:

COURAGEOUS--perhaps even GUTSY. She never backed away from a challenge. (Karen, Janet, Lisa and I were remembering Betty last week, and Karen recalled an incident at a board retreat at the beach. Betty was in charge of programs. She came with plans already made for programs for the entire year except for one month and asked for suggestions. Someone said she knew of something but it just seemed impossible. Betty's response: No. What is it? I want to do something impossible.

CHALLENGING and CREATIVE: She challenged us to create CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG, THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS, a handbook for elementary teachers in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. So we did! Several of us did research and wrote sections for the book. Betty tied this workbook together with a marvelous, attractive format complete with illustrations, poems, maps, etc. I can see Betty now in her home with pages spread out on the floor, cutting, pasting, collating.

TENACIOUS: She stuck with this project until the notebook was in each school, and then she arranged for a day of teacher training in which we all participated. It was about this time that Betty got a computer--before it was commonplace to have one. She talked to the salesperson; a young man who came to her home and helped her set it up. And with his help, she mastered the computer! She called Karen frequently to ask her questions and discuss computer use.

STRONG SENSE OF RIGHT AND WRONG AND WHAT SHOULD BE DONE. As was mentioned at Betty's funeral, when the first African American family moved into her all-white neighborhood, Betty was the first to visit and welcome them. It was the right thing to do. Betty even confessed to and apologized for negative thoughts. She once attended a docent training session here at Rosedale and was an active participant. Later in the

day, she called Karen and told her had a confession to make. When she heard that Karen was going to use audience participating activities instead of the usual lectures, she said she had her doubts and didn't think it would work--but she confessed that she was wrong. She PRAISED, and she ENCOURAGED.

When I asked several who knew Betty as a docent what things Betty had done in her docent years, replies were often, "Betty was just always there." And she was. She did many, many things; she served as Secretary and program chairman (The Dolly Madison story: Betty arranged for programs and speakers in advance; however, she wanted to be sure that if a speaker did not appear, she would be ready. She prepared a complete program on Dolly Madison and was ready to present it anytime the need arose. No program was ever canceled, so no one has ever heard the Dolly Madison presentation.) She made costumes, was involved in early research on Rosedale, participated in docent training, children's activities, researched and presented The Black Experience & Slavery, and while a Hezekiah Alexander docent presented program on early education. She generously donated many of her books to our docent library. I'm sure there are many other contributions Betty made. She was always where she was needed.

So... COURAGEOUS, KIND, CHALLENGED and CHALLENGING, TENACIOUS, INDUSTRIOUS-- a QUIET LEADER who thought "outside the box"--a truly BEAUTIFUL person. That is the Betty we remember.

From Ann Williams: We are here today because of Anne Batten. Without her leadership and guidance, we would not know this garden, nor would we be planting a rose in her honor. There might not be a Mecklenburg Historical Association, and we would certainly not be MHA Docents. About fifteen years ago a group of Hezekiah Alexander Homesite docents concluded that we needed a new mission. We were seeking a broader, more comprehensive focus, but were at a loss as to how it should be done. It was Anne who suggested that MHA could provide the opportunity we needed. I say "suggested", because that was her way. Anne was not a leader in any traditional sense; she was a herder, always gently nudging her flock into place before her. A quiet word placed here, then there; a subtle hint, a soft smile, until her suggestion was understood and the MHA Docents were born. She was indeed our mother.

Anne is remembered by scores of Charlotteans as a teacher. For many years she taught English at A.G. Junior High School, and was faculty advisor for The Broadcaster, the school paper. A roster of her former students would contain names of many people who became leaders in our community and beyond. One of her most famous pupils was Charles Kuralt, who proudly called her his mentor. Years ago in a television interview he said Miss Batten had put him on his career path. My husband and I looked at each other and asked in unison, "Could that be our Miss Batten?" And of course it was. I've wondered if she directed her students with the same gentle persuasion we came to know. Eighth graders seem to need a harder sell. Yet they all loved, admired, and respected the pretty teacher with the sweet smile, and benefited from her wisdom. I wish I'd known her then.

Fortunately for us, Anne's true love and passion was history. She devoted much of her life to its preservation and propagation. She was deeply involved in MHA, and was a founder of the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite, Latta Plantation, and probably most historic sites in our area. Founding The Museum of the New South was perhaps her grandest achievement. She sought out a former pupil, Sally Robinson, who she knew was perfectly suited for the job, and planted a suggestion. Together they worked for about five years assembling a team of workers and supporters and created one of the largest most successful museums in our region. Her most recent accomplishment was the donation of her extensive library to create the Anne Batten History Reading Room at Queens University, her alma mater. Notice she did not simply donate her books to Queens. Anne's suggestions never had meager results.

Anne never married, nor bore children. Yet she was a mother in a much grander sense. She was our mother. She nurtured us as individuals and as a group. She nurtured her commitment to history by nurturing us, always with her persuasive, engaging smile. At her memorial service last Saturday, the minister remarked he had heard complaints about the brevity of her newspaper obituary. He said it was written at Anne's direction. Anne

despised long flowery obituaries. So to the very end she gently herded her flock into place. I hope this tribute has not been too flowery for her taste, and trust she did not have the same expectations of roses.

From Rachel Abernathy: It is my privilege to speak about Barbara Schultz Castro (Mrs. Donald). Barbara enjoyed gardening and served Garden Clubs in local, state, and regional offices so it is especially fitting that we are planting a heritage rose in her honor. We are especially happy that her husband, Don, could be with us.

Barbara, a native of Kingston, New York, was cosmopolitan—having traveled and lived throughout the world, but interpreting the North Carolina backcountry became one of her favorite things to do. Barbara took her Docent training in 1982. She was interested in all aspects of docenting and represented us well at Hezekiah Alexander Homesite, Hugh Torance House & Store, Polk Homesite, and Rosedale.

Lovely, lively, a person with a wonderful sense of humor, and a love of people, these are some of the aspects of her character that endeared her to us, her Docent friends. She maintained her positive outlook even during her illness. Her commitment, spirit, and determination to do her best will remain an inspiration to us. Rachel Abernathy

The program was concluded with a few moments of silence to remember these three remarkable women.

News from Latta Plantation

October's Folk Life Festival was well attended and a great success. New this year is a gold miner's cabin which is up and roofed. Gold panning was a popular part of the weekend program. Site director Jon Gates said, "Turns out we did not have to use any of our bought gold, as gold showed up naturally in the dirt we were using – bless that good old Charlotte dirt." The weekend also included many vender and artisans, and Chicken Bones, a bluegrass band, did a fantastic job of providing the grounds with music. Everyone loved the festival's new additions.

News from Historic Rosedale From the Rosedale Plantation Newsletter

Rosedale volunteers were honored at the annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner held in the gardens of Rosedale on September 10. The event was a celebration of the volunteer achievements within the last year. Program accomplishments included the Christmas Candlelight tours, and beautiful historically appropriate decorations of the house, two separate Eagle Scout projects, the first "town ball" game, and of course school programs presented to over 2500 CMS 3rd graders.

Rosedale's Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Tom Spada and Jim Williams. Tom provides help with necessary maintenance of the property and house. He does woodwork, plumbing, electrical and yard work, all those things staff cannot handle. Jim also helps with maintenance of the property. In addition he is involved in ongoing research on Dr. D. T. Caldwell's Journal, was in charge of the Town Ball event held in May and supervised the Eagle Scout project cleaning the Old Barn site. You may have seen Jim portraying the Auctioneer of Rosedale at "The Sale" in 2005.

Daisy Bridges was recognized for her extraordinary effort establishing our first Art of Craft: 1830 event.

These three people as well as all the volunteers of Rosedale are the backbone of the site. Thank you for all your hard work and enthusiasm. Once a year is not nearly often enough to extend our appreciation.

Facelift – If you have been to Rosedale recently you may have noticed a team of workers scraping, painting, hammering, and generally fixing things that need fixing. The work is well under way, and may be complete by the time you read this. Research has been completed to insure the color accuracy of the Paris Yellow trim, and the site will soon return to a full schedule of tours. Many thanks to the Philip Van Every Foundation for their generous contribution to this project!

News from The Schiele Museum

Kate Carter

“Red-streaked or Golden Russet?”~ A Workshop on Heirloom Apples and Cider Making

*The farmers take their knurliest fruit
The wormy, bitter, and then to boot
They leave the hulls to make you cough
And don't take half the peelings off!*

*I loathe, abhor, detest, despise
My grandmother's dried apple pies!*

*Then on a dirty cord they're strung
And from some chamber window hung
And there they serve a roost for flies
Until they're ready to make pies!*



“Buckingham”~ one of our favorites!

-From “Apple Pie,” an 18th-century song

On Saturday, September 23rd, participants in the Schiele Museum’s heirloom apple workshop met to learn about some of the delicious, but now rare, varieties of apples enjoyed by previous generations. The morning was spent over the hearth preparing 18th-century dishes that feature apples: sausage and apples, bread pudding with apples, and an Apple Charlotte that would have been delicious had the pot containing the perfectly seasoned stewed apples not jumped right off the crane and onto the cabin floor (quite of its own volition, I assure you!) An assortment of other apple recipes were included in the workshop folders supplied to participants, which are available to any interested parties ~ call Kate Carter at (704) 866-6911.

Lunch was lovely (if one is partial to apples!) and the afternoon started with a formal apple-tasting during which twelve different varieties were sampled. The unanimous favorites were “Buckingham,” “Virginia Beauty,” “Magnum Bonum,” and the sweetest of them all, “Lowry.” We then adjourned to the cider press to chop and grind apples for pressing. Participants were encouraged to bring apples of their own for pressing if they desired to take a jug of cider home with them, and the wide variety of apples brought, when added to the bushel of varied heirloom apples we crushed, made a cider of exceedingly good flavor and sweetness. A good time was had by all, and my mouth is still watering for that wonderful sweet tartness that can only be found in freshly pressed cider!

A Site Worth Seeing

For the past several years Jim and I have had the privilege of participating in the September event at Fort Defiance, the home of General William Lenoir. General Lenoir and his wife Ann were born in eastern North Carolina, and in the 1780s decided to become part of the westward migration. They first settled near present day Wilkesboro, then in 1792 built a fine home in Happy Valley, a few miles to the southwest. Lenoir was a patriot soldier during the American Revolution; he fought and was wounded at Kings Mountain. He was a leading citizen of his community and represented them in the early North Carolina legislature. As a young man he had collected an inheritance from his father, but his considerable wealth was mostly earned by his skill as a surveyor and land speculator. The nearby town of Lenoir was named for the popular General after his death; he wouldn't hear of it during his lifetime. However it is not these little facts that make the site unique.

Lenoir apparently wrote down every thought that crossed his mind, and discarded nothing. These habits were passed on to his descendants who saved every scrap of paper and object that came into their possession. Succeeding generation of the family lived in the home until the 1960s. Whenever a new piece of furniture was acquired, the piece it replaced was carefully disassembled and stored in the attic. After the death of the last family member who lived there (the younger generations preferred more modern quarters), a group of descendants and local historians began a campaign to save the home. Restoration costs money, lots of it. The task seemed insurmountable. Then someone had the brilliant idea that the house could save itself. In addition to the accumulated furniture, the attic contained boxes and barrels of documents: land grants, court records, military papers, and numerous letters and journals in William Lenoir's own hand. It was a historical treasure trove. Would the state be interested? You bet they would! How much was it worth? Enough to restore the house, it turned out. In exchange for the documents the State of North Carolina agreed to restore Fort Defiance to its 1792 appearance. It was a perfect win-win situation. An important historic building was preserved, and an enormous collection of historic records are in a climate controlled archive, available for research.

It is a wonderful restoration furnished largely with the contents of the attic, perfectly reassembled. Hanging on the walls are mirrors that once reflected the faces of William, Ann, and their nine children. In the secretary reside the books Lenoir read and used. Nearly every detail of the restoration could be verified by the records Lenoir kept, including the parlor carpets. He kept the receipt for two carpets he ordered from a company in Glasgow, Scotland. The company was still in existence, and yes they still had that pattern on file, and of course they could reproduce it. It is rare to find a site filled with so many original artifacts, and interpreted by such extensive documentation.

Fort Defiance is open on weekends November through March and Thursday through Sunday in April through October. The hours are 10 AM to 5 PM weekdays and 1 to 5 PM Sundays. Phone 828 758 1671. If you would like to visit, take US 321 north through Lenoir. A few miles north of Lenoir turn right on NC 268. Follow 268 for about five miles; it twists, turns, and forks, but is well marked. Fort Defiance is on the right. An added bonus is the spectacular scenery. It is truly a Happy Valley.

Ann Williams

Folly, Tomfoolery, and Falders

The editors welcome contributions to this section which will be published as space permits.

The following anecdotes were gleaned by Wanda Hubicki from the ALHFAM web site.

I have several favorites that happened when I worked at Ohio Village, an 1860s site. I had one gentleman argue with me that we were not period correct because "They didn't have chairs in Ohio in the 1860s. It was advanced

technology from New England that didn't make it this far west. Instead they only used benches." Little did he know that there was a major chair factory during the time only 10 miles from the site!!!

But my favorite is a strange comment that our tinsmith got. He was working in his shop one day when this husband and wife came in. They conversed with him for a couple of minutes when the wife asked the question "Where do you get your tin?" The tinsmith politely answered "From Wales". At which point the lady asked, "What part of the whale?" At that point the husband walked out of the building and stood out back laughing. He then came back in and ushered her right out the door.

This probably won't surprise any of you: a visitor and I were discussing the lack of rural knowledge of some people and she shared this. While teaching in a mid-west state she was asked to critique a new storyboard a fellow teacher had just finished. She said she couldn't help but burst out laughing. The beautifully designed board depicting a farm scene had one important flaw - the cow's udder was on the wrong end of the animal. When she finished laughing enough to explain that udders were between the back legs instead of the front legs of the cow, the fellow teacher (yes, TEACHER) responded, "But they are that way on a human," to which she explained, "but they are not on that end of a cow."

During one Christmas program at Meadow Farm in Virginia, we had an intern, within days of giving birth and dressed in period costume, manning one of the interpretive stations in the farm house. "Oh," said one visitor, "I didn't know people got pregnant back then."

Now for one experienced by your editor.

Several years ago I was giving a tour to school children at Rosedale. They were students at a local religious school, and therefore were well chaperoned by mothers as well as teachers. I hope the following exchange was with a mother; surely teachers know better. I obviously don't remember our exact words, but here is the gist of a strange encounter indeed. I was in the parlor, and had just shown the children the framed newspaper scrap that we use to date the house. I was well into the next topic when a lady piped up, "When did you say the house was built?"

"1815," I replied.

"Was that before or after the Civil War?"

"Before; the Civil War was in the 1860s."

"Well, how come it's still standing? Didn't Sherman burn everything down?"

"Sherman's march was through Georgia. Most of the Civil War fought in Virginia and Pennsylvania.

There wasn't a lot of activity in North Carolina, no major battles."

"What about the battle of King's Mountain?"

"That was in the Revolutionary War."

"Wasn't Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina?"

"Well yes, but that battle was also during the Revolution."

"I guess I'd better shut up before I show how ignorant I am."

I knew better than to agree with that last statement, and was too flabbergasted to add another word. The children were waiting for the rest of their tour.

Ann Williams

*The History Calendar**The Charlotte Museum of History*

3500 Shamrock Drive

704 568 1774

Civil War Lantern Tour - Saturday, November 4. Tours at 6, 7, 8 & 9 p.m.

Take a walk back in time and experience the life of a Civil War foot soldier. Reservations required. \$8 adults, \$6 students/seniors, \$4 children.

Exhibits Alive: Toys and Games of the 1930s - Saturday, November 18, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Personal Legacies: Surviving the Great Depression comes alive. Learn about and play with the toys and games inspired by those that were popular during the 1930s. No reservations required. Museum Members Free.

Homemade Holiday Fun - Saturday, December 9, 1-4 p.m.

Bring your children to The Charlotte Museum of History to make holiday gifts and crafts, and have their pictures taken with Santa. Ron and Brooks Gullidge will be on hand for storytelling. Children age six and up only.

Reservations required. \$10 Museum Members, \$15 non-members. Children must be dropped off at 1 p.m. and picked up by 4 p.m.

Latta Plantation

November 4 & 5, 10am-4pm-- Civil War Infantry Weekend

November 18, 10am-4pm-- What's Cookin' at Latta (...open-hearth and camp cooking)

November 24 & 25, 10am-4pm-- Plantation Christmas

December 1, 12pm-4pm-- A Homeschool Christmas (for Homeschoolers and their families)

December 9, 6pm-9pm-- Candlelight Christmas Walk

Levine Museum of the New South

Thursday, December 7, 7:00

Deep South Parties: An Evening with Robert St. John, author of *Deep South Parties or How to Survive the Southern Cocktail Hour without a Box of French Onion Soup Mix, a Block of Processed Cheese or a Cocktail Weenie*. Admission \$10

Southern cooks are among the best hosts in the world, setting out spreads of hearty fare, enough to feed an army. No Southerner knows how to entertain better than chef and food columnist Robert St. John. In his new cookbook, *Deep South Parties*, he puts his own twist on cooking for a crowd, what works best for which occasions and how to entertain large groups with ease. Presented in collaboration with the Public Library of Charlotte Mecklenburg County.

Tuesday, December 12, 7:00 p.m.

La Virgen de Guadalupe: The Icon, Her History and Her Place in the New South with Professor Magdalena Maiz-Pena from Davidson College. Admission \$4 members, \$6 non-members

Our Lady of Guadalupe is one of the most respected icons of our time. She emerged from a complex mixture of cultural influences of the Spanish, Moors, Conquistadors and the Aztecs. Epitomizing womanhood, her image personifies a universal spirit of love, hope, and strength. Today the Virgin's image reflects new perspectives of women in a multi-cultural society.

Every Saturday in November and December at 1:00 pm
A bi-lingual guided tour of LaVirgen de Guadalupe and Hispanic traditions.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

President Polk's Birthday Celebration - November 4

This living history program recalls the way the Polk family lived in 1795, the year James K. Polk was born. Activities will include open hearth cooking, children's games, woodworking, and dancing. Visitors will learn about slavery, the local militia, and farm life! We will cut a cake in celebration of the Polk's 111th birthday! 10 am -4 pm. The event is free, donation are accepted.

Christmas Candlelight Tours - December 9

Walk along a candlelit path to see how Christmas was celebrated 200 years ago! Living history vignettes will feature the Polks making plans to attend the Alexander family's ball. Also see the raucous celebrations that used to be Christmas! Cooking demonstrations will feature popular holiday foods! 5-9pm \$2 for adults, \$1 for children 5 to 15, under 5 free.

Historic Rosedale

December 9 & 10, 5:30 until 8:00 pm – Candlelight Tours

Spend an evening experiencing the stillness, peace and inspiration of an age when Christmas was more simple. Enjoy a candlelight tour and natural decorations as you listen to period music. Explore the birth of an American Christmas at Historic Rosedale. Admission \$6 adults; \$4 seniors & children; \$15 family.

Historic Rural Hill Farm

All events are open to the public and admission is charged. Contact; 704 875 3113

12th Annual Sheep Dog Trial Competition - November 3-5

The sheep dog trial, sanctioned by the U.S. Border Collie Handlers Association, will host more than 75 competitors. Also included will be sport dog demonstrations, rare breed livestock exhibits, animal information booths, food and drink vendors, and a vintage tractor show. Guided tours of this historic farm site will be conducted along with hayrides to one of Mecklenburg County's last remaining one room school houses.

1760 Carolina Thanksgiving - November 18-19

Join us in experiencing Thanksgiving as it was celebrated during America's colonial period on the home site of Major John and Violet Davidson. Skilled craftsmen and artisans, musket firing demonstrations, and other activities of the Colonial era will be on site throughout the weekend.

Carl J. McEwen Historical Village, Mint Hill

Everyone is invited to the Salute to Veterans event Nov. 10 and 11, from 10am to 2pm at 7601 Matthews-Mint Hill Road next to the Scottish Bank in Mint Hill, NC. For details, call the office at 704-573-0726.

Bookings for public school tours are picking up since we added plumbing. Private and home schoolers continue coming in record numbers. Scouts, retiree group homes and family groups enjoy the Ferguson Country Store, the Ashcraft One Room Schoolhouse, and the Country Doctor's office. Our library is growing along with the inquiries. The grounds continue to be developed with walking paths improved and more coming when the Beaver barn and gold Assay Building come on line next year.

Our Autumn Jubilee was well covered by The Charlotte Observer's South Mecklenburg section and The Mint Hill Times. Weather was perfect for the exhibitors as well as the Farmers' Market.

Historic Brattonsville

1444 Brattonsville Road, McConnells, SC 803-684-2327

Living History Days, Saturdays, November 4, 11, 18, 24 & 25 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Costumed interpreters will present various aspects of life in the 18th and 19th centuries, with themes changing each week Call ahead to verify scheduled activities. Regular Admission.

Christmas Candlelight Tours, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, December 1, 2 & 3
Friday & Saturday 6-9 p.m., Sunday 4-7 p.m.

Cost CHM members \$5 adult & senior, \$3 student; non-members \$10 adult, \$8 senior, \$5 student. Children 5 and under free. \$2 Parking fee.

This holiday event brings to life the Christmas season of the 18th and 19th centuries. Visitors travel through nearly a century of history discovering how Christmas customs evolved in the region through theatrical presentations. Music, decorations, bonfires, a gift shop, and an 1840's Santa Claus will be on hand for everyone to enjoy. Seasonal refreshments will be available.

Schiele Museum

Harvest Day, November 18, 10am-4pm

Come join us in celebrating the harvest as 18th-century Carolinians might have done! Watch our cooks and bakers at work as they prepare a traditional holiday feast in a spirit of thanksgiving for the season's harvest. Visit with craftspeople and farm folk as they demonstrate early American skills and crafts. This event is free with museum admission. (\$4 for adults, \$2 for students and seniors)

Colonial Christmas, Sunday, December 11th 3pm-6pm

Bring your family and celebrate Christmas in the 18th-century style. Join us in decorating with greenery, singing early American and German carols, and English country dancing, which will be followed by a scripture reading and candle lighting service. Then enjoy our colonial hospitality with a taste of warm Christmas pudding and hot gingered apple cider. There is a \$3 program fee in addition to museum admission. (\$4 for adults, \$2 for students and seniors). No reservations required. Fun for all ages!

Andrew Jackson State Park

Join us on Saturday, November 11, 2006 for our Life in the Waxhaws Lantern Tour. Spend an evening in the 18th-century at the boyhood homeplace of our nation's seventh President. See what life was like during Andrew Jackson's time for settlers living in the Waxhaws and how the American Revolution affected our region. Lantern tours will begin at 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. Visitors meet at picnic shelter #1. Tours will last about 30 minutes each. Fee: \$5.00 per adult and \$2.00 per youth ages 6 to 12. Children under 6 are free. Call (803) 285-3344 or email us at andrewjackson@scprt.com for more information.

Reed Gold Mine

www.reedmine.com 704 721 4653

Saturday, December 2 from 10:00-4:00. A Reed Gold Mine Christmas Celebration. Come enjoy craft demonstrations, punch, cider, cookies, choirs, and special underground tours for this annual Christmas tradition. This is the only place for candlelight tours during the day! No admission charge.

MHA Docents

Jim and Ann Williams

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Charlotte, NC 28211