

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents
Promoting Local History through Education and Research

September/October
Volume 12, Number 3

Greetings from the New Editors of the Dandelion Press!

After years of dedication and hard work, Camille Smith has decided to hang up her hat as editor of The Dandelion. We – Ann and Jim Williams – have agreed to take on the task with some trepidation, as Camille's shoes will be hard to fill. In fact it will take two of us to do the job; in general Ann will handle the editing, and Jim will do the technical chores.

The Dandelion is published five times per year, about a week before our meetings in September, November, January, March, and May. We encourage docents, and any other Dandelion subscribers, to contribute articles for publication. Suggestions are: committee reports, book reviews, reports of historic traveling you have done, history trivia, anything at all that might be of interest to the history community. We would especially like to print more after-the-fact items about special events at local historic sites. Whether you were involved in the program, or were simply a member of the visiting public, send along your thoughts and impressions. Our list of email subscribers had grown quite large over the years, so your contributions will reach an audience much broader than the MHA Docent committee. Our deadline for submissions will be about two to three weeks prior to the meetings listed above. In each newsletter we'll give the deadline for the next issue; for the November issue please send us your information by October 20th. Email, snail-mail, or hand delivery are all fine by us.

Thank you, everyone, for the contributions you have made to The Dandelion in the past, and thanks in advance for helping us to continue the fine Dandelion tradition. Thanks especially to Camille for years of excellence. We'll do our best to follow your example.

Your most humble and obedient servants,

Ann and Jim Williams

From the Chairman

Dear MHA Docents,

I welcome you to our autumn series of meetings. Our calendar is filled with topics which will add additional information to that tome called the MHA Docent Notebook. I welcome Ann and Jim Williams who graciously are assuming editorship of our newsletter for the remainder of this year.

On several very hot and humid days in July, our MHA Docent property was inventoried, cleaned, boxed, and transported from Historic Rosedale Plantation to the Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. Truckloads of shelving, books, files, pictures, and equipment which date back to our beginning were moved. The tasks remain of shelving the books in our new library location and completing the inventory of our material. Rachel, Camille, Millie, JoAnne, and Hazel deserve loud praise for their service. We are appreciative to the staff and board of Historic Rosedale for hospitality to us during past years. We thank the congregation and staff of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church for currently permitting us to use its facility for our library and our meetings.

Camille Smith served as editor of The Dandelion for several years. Under her leadership our newsletter expanded into a regional newsletter. Words do not express our gratitude sufficiently, Camille. Thank you, Camille. I join all in wishing you well in your future endeavors. I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting on September 5th. Among interesting features will be the report from the Nominating Committee.

MHA Docent Program Schedule

Wanda Hubicki

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

Both meetings will take place in the Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church, 101 West Sugar Creek Road, in Charlotte. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

September 5, 2006

Dr. Harry Watson, Professor and Director of the Center for the Study of the American South at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will be our guest speaker. He will illuminate the life of William Richardson Davie: Founding Father from the Waxhaws in a program at 11 AM. It seems appropriate during the 250th anniversary year of Davie's birth to recall his contributions to politics, the military, and education during the colonial period and the early days of the republic.



October 3, 2006

Kay Moss, researcher, author, and teacher, will present "Facts, Folklore, and the Prodigious Pig of Knowledge." It will be a program for curious folk, interested in researching and/or interpreting 18th or early 19th-century life in our area. Join in an interactive examination of documents, artifacts, and experiments related to the early Southern Backcountry. Discussion will revolve around what we know, what we don't know, and how to tell the difference. We hope to stir the curiosity of new and experienced docents, as well as armchair historians and antiques enthusiasts. Remember: "We all are smarter than any of us."

Kay Moss is the adjunct curator for the 18th Century Backcountry Lifeways Program at the Schiele Museum in Gastonia, NC. She is author of

- *Southern Folk Medicine, 1750-1820*
- *Journey to the Piedmont Past*
- *A Backcountry Herbal of Plants Both Wild and Cultivated Likely to be Found in Dooryards and Kitchen Gardens in Frontier Communities of the 18th Century*
- *Decorative Motifs from the Southern Backcountry*
- And co-author of *The Backcountry Housewife: A Study of 18th Century Foods*.

Mecklenburg Historical Association Dinner Meeting

The next MHA dinner meeting will be on Monday, September 25th. Bob Deaton will speak on the Catawba Valley Scottish Society and Historic Rural Hill Farm. 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. For details and to make dinner reservation, contact Linda Dalton at 704 364 7435.

Decent Book Club

After the program on September 5th the book club will meet to continue our discussion of John Lawson's *A New Voyage to Carolina*, one of the first books written (c. 1709) describing the colony and its inhabitants. We will focus on the influence of the book, published in England, on European views of America. Of particular interest to us was the portion of the book written about the Waxhaws.

Everyone is welcome to join the discussion, or simply to listen in. We will also choose a book to read next. We usually bring a bag lunch and a drink.

The Busybody, Yet another Contribution to Technology from Benjamin Franklin

When the Cooking Guild visited Philadelphia recently (see story below) several of them were interested in the "Busybodies" they saw on some of the houses. Here is some information from the Internet on this ingenious device.

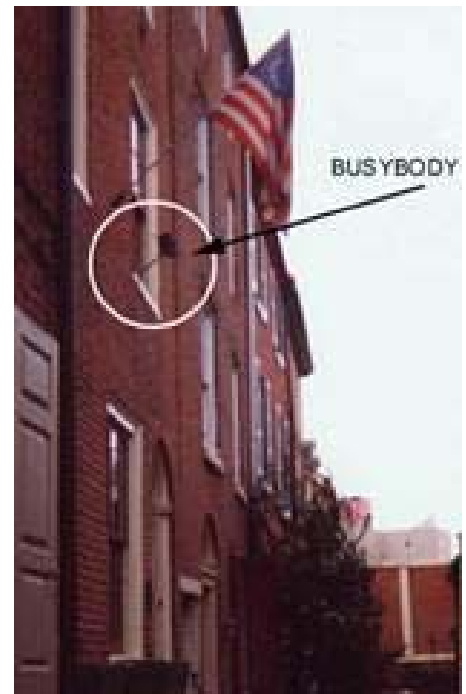
From *The National Geographic Traveler* June, 1992:

"Tree-lined Delancey Street [in Philadelphia] is a favorite of tourists. Brick sidewalks and walkways, black-painted doors and shutters against brick facades, antique fire marks (symbols indicating membership in the earliest fire insurance companies) mounted over front doors. Also, jutting from second-story windows, many busybodies - a term that requires an explanation.

"A busybody is a uniquely Philadelphia gadget, and, like so many other things in this town, is credited to Ben Franklin. Two or three small mirrors are arranged at just-so angles in an iron frame and attached outside an upstairs front window. Thus, without being observed, the homeowner may look down upon whosoever is knocking at his front door. Franklin (the worldly gentleman) is said to have discovered the device when he was in Europe."

In the early 1970s Roger Garrett's family sheet-metal shop in Camden, New Jersey began reproducing busybodies in anticipation of the bicentennial. His device, like Franklin's, consisted of three folding mirrors to be placed outside a second or third story window, and angled to see who was coming down the street, or standing at the front door. That way a resident, undetectable from the outside, could screen potential visitors before answering the doorbell. Garrett based his design on existing busybodies in the Olde City section of Philadelphia, and modified it with a sturdier metal frame.

According to Garrett: "One of our customers says his busybody paid for itself the first night it was installed. Instead of answering the door when his doorbell rang, the customer decided to use his new busybody to see who was there. He discovered the callers were people he didn't know, carrying guns. About two minutes later, police had rounded them up, in answer to the householder's phone call."



Report on Carol Trippe

Most of you remember Carol Trippe, a long time MHA Docent who contributed greatly to the organization we have become. Carol's head full of good ideas spawned lots of special events and programs first at the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite, and later at Rosedale and throughout the community. Among her many contributions were African American research and interpretation, and launching the Charlotte Regional History Consortium. In addition to her nearly twenty years as a docent, she was on the staff at Rosedale. A few years ago Carol moved to Raleigh to be near her children. Last spring she was diagnosed with breast cancer. The treatment was several months of chemotherapy to reduce the size of her tumor followed by surgery to remove it. In July some of us had an opportunity to visit Carol during the "good spell" between the chemo and surgery. She was incredibly upbeat and optimistic. She reported that the tumor, though initially large, was encapsulated and unlikely to have spread. We visited for a while at her house, then all of went out to lunch joined by Carol's daughters Caroline and Katy. We had lots of laughs and shed a few tears; knowing Carol, exactly what you would expect. Her daughters are great troopers, with her every step of the way. She is in very good hands.

Carol had her surgery late in July, and below is a report from her daughter Caroline.

Meanwhile, she would surely welcome cards, letters, good wishes, etc.

Her address is: 3516 Singleleaf Lane, Raleigh, NC 27616.

Carol's daughter, Caroline can be reached at caroline@sixforksbaptistchurch.org

"Hi all,

Mom had her post-surgery follow up appointment today and it went really well! Her incision is healing really well and she was able to get her drain out, which wasn't as painful as we'd anticipated. He did tell us that he did not remove the two lymph nodes that have some cancer in them - they will radiate those. As for the pathology report from the tumor - it had shrunk from 15 cm to 2 cm!!!! Praise the Lord! They did get it all in the mastectomy.

The tumor had grown down to her chest wall, but was not IN her chest wall, which is when they get concerned. The type of tumor she had was not the aggressive kind (which we knew, but was confirmed). Her surgeon said that there is never a 0% chance of recurrence, but the type of tumor she had does not "typically" metastasize. He did stress to us that there are no guarantees, but that of all the kinds of tumors to have, hers was the "best." Needless to say, we were very pleased with everything.

The next step is another appointment with her oncologist next week to discuss further chemo and radiation. Our understanding at this point is that she'll do that for about 4 months - until Christmas or so - and then be able to "fire" her oncologist (his words). I can't say thank you enough for all your prayers and words of encouragement and support. She is really doing well, all things considered. God is certainly supplying her needs - neighbors are cutting her grass, her sisters have both come to help and cook, and Katy was able to get last week off from work to stay with her and nurse and cook (she did a FABULOUS job, by the way!!!). We are so blessed..

With God's love and mine,

Caroline

News of Jeff Lowrance

Jeff is in the middle of a round of chemo. He is handling this therapy fairly well with some stomach upset. His doctor says that it is producing the desired effects. The doctors all say that the nausea & other side effects mean it's working. He has not missed one day in the pulpit due to his illness (since his surgery recovery period), just one Sunday where he requested that the congregation come up to the pulpit to shake his hand after service...he could sit there instead of standing at the door & this was from the side effects of the chemo. I'm sure if you asked him he would say that this round of chemo is not bad, since his hair is back and it's thick & curly.

Tina Brown

Journal Report

Karen, Janet, and I have had a busy spring and summer doing talks and book signings for Sarah Frew Davidson's journal, *A Life in Antebellum Charlotte*. The book has been well received, and thus far we have been able to donate \$3,000 to Historic Rosedale. Much of this profit was due to the contribution by MHA to purchase the first 300 copies. We are not yet worn out; in fact we are still walking a bit above the ground. If you know of any organization that would like to have us do a program, let one of us know. In addition to benefiting Rosedale, we take a lot of pride in sharing Charlotte's history.

Ann Williams

The Art of Craft at Historic Rosedale

The Art of Craft was held on May 13th to benefit Historic Rosedale. The event was sponsored by the Rosedale board; Daisy Bridges headed a hardworking committee of volunteers. The day began with a preview and catered brunch for sponsors, then the gates were opened to the general public. About twenty potters and other craftsmen were on hand in a large tent behind the house to sell their wares. Due to Daisy's connections they were some of the finest potters in the Carolinas. Children's activities included pottery making, storytelling, gold panning, pony rides, 19th century crafts, and more. We had period demonstrations of joinery and bookbinding, a group of local authors sold their books, and a great deal of Carolina barbecue was consumed. In the late afternoon there was an auction of many splendid items contributed by potters and others. The event was very well attended, and the weather was perfect. The Rosedale board took in \$25,000, and cleared nearly \$20,000 after expenses were met. Congratulations Daisy! The board extends their thanks to all the docents who helped; they couldn't have done it without us. The event will be repeated on May 12, 2007. The potters and craftspeople were well pleased, and said they would be back next year!

Old Timers Return to their Roots

Last June the MHA Docents were treated to a program at The Charlotte Museum of History and a tour of the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite. Unfortunately I was out of town, but I was told it was wonderful, and they learned almost as much from us as we did from them. Consequently some of us "Old Timers" were invited to present a program at their docent lunch and learn session. On August 16th, Karen McConnell, Carolyn Dilda, Rachel Abernathy, and I joined them for an informal chat about the old days at the homesite. We told them how we became organized, and shared some history of the site from the DAR days through the opening of the museum

and its early history. They were especially interested in the docent contributions to research and programming, and how our camaraderie developed through trips, social events, and regular educational meetings. They were particularly impressed by the extensive training sessions we had, including those dreaded exams. After the meeting I was approached by a staff member who was very interested in our costume research, and I agreed to share my collection of documentation with her. They were also interested in our upcoming training session on regional history. We encouraged them to take part and attend our meetings, so perhaps we will see some new faces among us.

Ann Williams

Revolution in the Backcountry Pulpit

On May 21st, in celebration of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, the Mecklenburg Historical Association and Hopewell Presbyterian Church presented an 18th century church service. D'oye Moore, a Baptist minister, historian, actor, and backwoods long rifleman, was the guest preacher. In appropriate ministerial garb he assumed the personas of George Whitefield, Samuel Davies, and David Caldwell, all influential adherents of the Great Awakening of our revolutionary period. Rev. Moore leapt back and forth between his powerful characters, pausing from time to time to insert comments and context from the present day. His sermon was filled with the passion and fire of the period, though it did not last the customary three hours. I doubt if anyone would have objected if it had; he was riveting.

The audience was composed of Hopewell's congregation generously peppered with history folks, many in period dress. Enough so to give a real feeling of the time. Among the congregants was Kitty Evans portraying a slave. During the sermon she rose from her seat and began to sing praises to the Glory of God, softly at first then swelling to fill the sanctuary. She was magnificent. Several other times she stood to read haltingly from her Bible, in the perfect voice of a slave only slightly acquainted with the written word. Later in the service Rev. Moore enlisted an eager young man to fight for his country's freedom. It was an exhilarating morning.

After the service we congregated on the lawn for dinner on the grounds. The women of Hopewell provided an excellent feast supplemented by many covered dishes brought by the rest of us. We ate in lawn chairs and at long, long tables. I've never seen so much food. Everyone wanted to chat with D'oye, and he was most accommodating. His wife saved him a plate, and I do hope the poor man eventually got to eat.

On June 24th, he presented a program at the Old Waxhaws Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, SC. This time he portrayed Colonel William Richardson Davie, the subject of the September Docent meeting. After lunch he became David Caldwell and conducted the funeral of his former self. Again he did a wonderful job relating accurate history through well developed characters. Afterwards Jim and I had a chat with him and he expressed how much he enjoyed doing the program at Hopewell. He also mentioned that he and his wife are moving to a country place near Winston-Salem, and being closer by, he hoped to visit our area more often. Great news!

Ann Williams

Cooking Guild

Sept. 18th will be the 9th anniversary of the Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley. We would like to thank all who have participated and generously supported our efforts to maintain an open-hearth cooking program and train others. A summer highlight for the guild was a trip to Johnson and Wales University to visit their library, see their kitchens and classrooms, and visit the outdoor market. A day of fun and laughter was a “Grits” day when we viewed the documentary *Grits* followed by a grits lunch.

Our trip to Philadelphia (see below) rekindled our interest in early American foodways. Our fall cooking sessions will be centered on the receipts of Hannah Glasse. Her British *Art of Cookery* was the most popular cookbook of the colonial period and was popular well into the Federalist period. It was revised many times and was still in use in the late 18th and early 19th centuries along with Americanized British cookbooks and the first American cookbook by Amelia Simmons that used native American foods like squash and corn. British, French, Scots-Irish, German, and other foodways melded together their traditional recipes with available American foods.

Come join us for a cooking experience and history lesson from early America. Everyone is welcome, whatever your cooking skill level. We cook in the James K. Polk kitchen each 2nd and 4th Thursday at 9:00 am. Contact Barbara Goodwin at 704-821-4810, or Carolyn Dilda at 704-596-8834.

Barbara Goodwin

A Cooks Tour of Philadelphia

In April the cooking guild made its long awaited trip to Philadelphia to cook with the Past Masters in Early American Domestic Arts. The Past Masters are nationally known authors, lecturers, researchers, and experts in the field of open-hearth cooking. We traveled by private railcar from Charlotte to Philadelphia. Our private chef prepared three first-class meals on the way up and three more on the return trip.

We met our hosts, Clarissa Dillon, Deb Peterson, Nancy Webster, and Ronnie Pederson at the John Bartram House and Gardens in Philadelphia. This unusual gray stone house was built in 1730 by John Bartram. Botanist to King George III, he traveled through the Waxhaws in the 1780s, collecting and documenting specimens while on his way back to Philadelphia. His son William who accompanied him became an artist and botanist in his own right. We saw their specimen work room. We walked through the formal garden and down through wildflowers to the Schuykill River.

From the Bartram House we were driven to the Thomas Massey House in Broomall, Pa. where we would spend the night and cook the next day. Thomas Massey was a Quaker indentured servant who, when he had fulfilled his indenture, was given the promised 50 acres and 50 more by William Penn. In 1696 he began his brick home which today is stone covered.

After preparing bread dough, we chose our beds for the night, either on the floor or on a rope bed with a straw mattress. At 4:00 am, we woke to start a fire in the bake oven. While the oven heated, we shaped our breads, mixed pound cake, pork-and-apple pie, Shrewsbury cakes, and cinnamon sticks. All day both groups exchanged ideas, experiences, research, and ways to present our program to the public. Saying goodbye to the Past Masters, and inviting them to visit our Cooking Guild, we returned to the historic district.

We toured Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Carpenters Hall, the Ben Franklin Homesite, Christ’s Church, the Betsy Ross House, and many other sites. The Ben Franklin 300th Birthday Exhibit at the Constitution Center was

outstanding. The presentation in the theater-in-the-round was impressive with images projected all around to illustrate the narration. The patriotic music was stirring. In the exhibit were original inventions of Franklin such as the first almanac he published, the glass bottle battery, and his glass armonica to mention a few. We sampled Philly cheesesteaks and famous restaurants such as City Tavern, Bookbinders, and DiNardos. We returned home confident that we could successfully bake in a brick oven and that what we had learned, we will use in our presentations to the public.

Barbara Goodwin

The History Calendar

The history calendar is a listing of upcoming events that may be of interest to those in the history community. We try to cover all local historic sites and museums and special events. Everyone is invited to contribute their events to this calendar. Submissions should be brief and may be edited to fit in the space available.

Charlotte History Museum and Hezekiah Alexander Homesite

For all events except as noted: admission charged, members free. For further information call 704 568 1774

Hands-on-History: Harvest Fun - Saturday, September 9, 2-4 p.m.

An afternoon of harvest activities just for kids; learn how a colonial family would prepare for the winter.

Museum by Moonlight - Thursday, September 28, 5-9 p.m.

This program features an interactive exhibit, *Charlotte Neighborhoods: Plaza-Midwood*. Enjoy light refreshments and a cash bar. Reservations requested.

Brother, Can you Spare a Dime: Music of the Great Depression - Sunday, October 8, 2:30 pm

The Charlotte Civic Orchestra will present music from the Great Depression. Depression-era hands-on activities and storytelling for all ages. FREE ADMISSION. Reserved seating concert, reservations required.

Museum By Moonlight - Thursday, October 26, 5-9 p.m.

A Day in the Life of a Great Depression Family, presented by Ron and Brooks Gullede. Robin Edgar will sign her book on which the exhibit is based.

Haunted Homesite - Saturday, October 28, 6-9 p.m.

Enjoy a ghost tour of the oldest house in Charlotte, as well as cookie decorating and fall craft activities in the Museum. Limited space available, reservations required.

Charlotte Neighborhoods: Plaza-Midwood - Opening August 25, 2006

Plaza-Midwood is the first exhibit in a series exploring changing Charlotte neighborhoods through history, architecture and culture.

Personal Legacies: Surviving the Great Depression - Opening September 30, 2006: Hands-on program and book signing 2-4 PM. See and hear how Charlotteans not only survived, but thrived during the era. Based on a book by Robin Edgar of personal accounts and compelling lessons learned from life in Charlotte/Mecklenburg from 1929 to 1939. Some of these ordinary histories from extraordinary times are included in a documentary by WTVI.

Latta Plantation

Annual Folklife Festival - October 14th & 15th, 9:30am-4pm

The 25th Annual Folklife Festival and Craft Show has the makings to be the best one yet. We are reaching out to more artisans and craft groups and have booked a live bluegrass band! Visitors will be getting folklife, music and living history!

Historic Hauntings - October 27th - 29th, 6pm- 10pm

This year's Ghost Walk will have not only Civil War ghosts, but ghosts from throughout history. From the Revolutionary War to the Charlotte Gold Rush, we'll have ghouls and spooks haunting Latta for three nights this October: Friday 27th, Saturday 28th, and Sunday 29th, from 6pm-10pm

If you can volunteer for one or both events, or have any questions, please contact Rachel Hooey at 704.875.2312 or rhoey@lattaplantation.org.

Levine Museum of the New South

Global Dish: New South BBQ - Saturday, September 9 - 11:00 a.m.

Travel Charlotte's new ethnic suburbs with Dr. Tom Hanchett. The South has become a magnet for newcomers, and all of them seem to bring their own wonderful ways of cooking the pig. Dr. Hanchett leads a bus tour where participants will sample Hong Kong BBQ buns, two kinds of Vietnamese BBQ, Salvadoran papusas and Mexican barbacoa. Cost is \$25 for Museum members \$30 for non-members – reservations required: 704.333.1887 ext. 501.

An Evening with Taylor Branch - Monday, September 11 - 7:00 p.m.

Pulitzer Prize winner and best selling author Taylor Branch delivers a lecture on "Myths and Miracles from the King Years" at the McColl Family Theatre at ImaginOn. Tickets are \$8 for Museum members; \$10 for non-members; call the Children's Theatre of Charlotte Box Office - 704.973.2828.

Gospel Shout! 2006 - Tuesday, September 12 - 7:30 p.m.

Charlotte Shout, Levine Museum and Center City Partners present a free concert at the United House of Prayer for All People, showcasing the powerful music of local gospel and shout bands. 2321 Beatties Ford Road (just south of I85). This concert will feature The Madison Golden Angels (a capella singers), The Madison String Band, and a local shout band, The Madison Clouds Of Heaven. Come early and enjoy a soul-food dinner (\$10) in the House of Prayer cafeteria. Dinner begins serving at 6pm.

New South for the New Southerner - Thursday, September 21 - 5:30 p.m.

Find Charlotte's heart and soul in our newcomer series on Charlotte's history and its future led by historian Dr. Tom Hanchett. Winston Kelley, Executive Director of the NASCAR Hall of Fame will talk about racing and the new museum's future in Charlotte. The program includes wine by North Carolina's Shelton Vineyards, light hors d'oeuvres from City Tavern, and access to the Museum's exhibits. Cost to attend is \$4 per person, Museum members are free. To rsvp; 704.333.1887 ext. 501.

Growing Up in a Small Town with Michael Parker - Wednesday, September 27 - 11:30 a.m.

A reading and discussion with author Michael Parker. Bring your own lunch or order one through the Museum for \$12 by calling 704.333.1887 ext. 501 (must be ordered 24 hours in advance). Michael Parker is the author of three novels: Hello Down There, Towns Without Rivers, and Virginia Lovers, and a collection of short fiction.

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, 5 and under free.

Garden Work Party – Saturday, October 21

Courtesy of the hard work done by Trey Eskridge, the kitchen garden fence is brand new and looks wonderful. The rest of the garden, however, is in pretty bad shape. Come join us and other volunteers in digging, raking, weeding, planting, and socializing. Lunch and drinks will be provided! The program will run from 10am to 2:00pm. Please contact Courtney Hybarger to RSVP and for more details. (704) 889-7145.

Historic Rosedale

Welcome, Deborah.

Rosedale is pleased to announce that Deborah Hunter joined the staff in July as executive director. She has an extensive background in all aspects of non-profit fund raising. Deborah grew up on the coast and graduated from UNC-Wilmington. She is also a graduate of the Duke University Non Profit Management Program. She most recently held a position as a Major Gifts Officer for UNC Charlotte. Her energy, enthusiasm and experience make her a good fit for Rosedale. Some of us have had the pleasure of working with Deborah this summer. She is looking forward to meeting us all.

Thank You, Carolyn

Carolyn Dilda's six-month tenure as Interim Executive Director at Historic Rosedale Plantation came to an end June 30. During this transition she provided leadership, insight and guidance to the staff and volunteers. Her organizational skills, as well as her ability to focus and make decisions, served Rosedale well. We are grateful for her time, knowledge and energy. Thank you, Carolyn.

School Days of Antebellum Charlotte: A Tutor's Instruction - September 10, 1:00 – 4:00

School taught 1840's style through first person interpretation of Miss Mary Ann Frew, tutor to the children of the Caldwell Plantation. At this family event, Miss Frew will conduct classes in geography, arithmetic, manners, deportment and sewing. Admission charged.

Oyster Roast Fundraiser – October 21, 3:00 – 7:00

Welcome fall with an oyster roast on the grounds of Historic Rosedale. Support this historic treasure as you enjoy freshly roasted oysters and chicken, and listen to live music performed throughout the evening. Activities for the entire family. The cost is \$25.00 for adults, \$15.00 for seniors, and \$8.00 for children 6 to 12. There will be plenty of chicken and other goodies for those who do not care for oysters.

Two scouts are working on Eagle projects at Rosedale currently. One project by Colin Poulos involves clearing and preserving the horse barn ruins, preparing a walkway to the site and mounting a box to hold information sheets. The second project by Nathaniel Wood is building a reproduction table and storage shelves for the interpretation of the basement kitchen.

Volunteers –The education staff is pushing volunteer recruitment this summer. Plans are underway to create a Power Point presentation for outreach programs.

Karen McConnell, Ann Williams and Janet Dyer, editors of *A Life in Antebellum Charlotte* have been asked to be presenters at a symposium at Brattonsville this fall. The symposium will be on food, entertaining and society in the Piedmont of NC. Their presentation will be on references to food and society in local journals and other materials.

Historic Rural Hill Farm

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

Amazing Maize Maze - August 26- October 15

Every even numbered year thousands flock to Rural Hill Farm to venture through the Amazing Maize Maze. A different theme is depicted each year representing the farm and its history. It's a great experience for family, friends, youth groups, and corporate teambuilding.

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.

Historic Brattonsville

1444 Brattonsville Road McConnells, SC 29726 803.684.2327 Admission charged unless otherwise indicated.

By the Sweat of Our Brows: The African American Experience – Sept. 16 - 10:00 – 4:00 p.m.

What was life like for slaves in Carolina Piedmont? This annual event focuses exclusively on the African American experience through dramatic presentations of life in the big house, life in the fields and life with family. The story is enriched with songs, dance and storytelling showing where those traditions have come today.

Piedmont Pottery Festival - Saturday October 7 - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

This program celebrates the South's rich pottery heritage. See some of the best traditional potters from the Carolinas and Georgia demonstrate and sell their wares. Talks on southern pottery history will also be presented. Children may try their hand at making clay creations. Visitors can bring pieces to be identified by pottery experts. A selection of pottery from the Culture and Heritage Museums' collection will be on display.