

From the Queen...

I recently heard (again) this line, "If the good Lord's willing and the Creeks don't rise, I will be there." Should I have capitalized "Creeks'?" It was my long-held understanding that the creeks referred to in this phrase were the creeks around the Catawba River which tended to flood often in the old days. But a friend corrected me saying that the reference was to the Creek Indians and came into being in South Carolina when the Creeks were a threat to early settlers. Well, the Queen does not know which is true, but will welcome your opinion! She does know that unless there are situations out of her control, she will be at Rosedale on September 7, 9:30 for socializing, 10 for business, and 11-ish for the program. She expects to see you there!

We're ready to begin a new season of Docent work and fun. I look forward to seeing each of you. As usual we will "catch up" on the news and business (such as the Nominating Committee report), and meeting our new group of trainees. They will join us and we will co-train for one of their sessions. Karen McConnell always has an interesting "training plan," so let's have a good attendance.

Sincerely,
Rachel

Program Information

Lisa Tappy

Refreshments 9:30 am — Meeting 10:00 am — Program 11:00 am

- September 7* Karen McConnell will lead an MHA Training Class that will cover the Antebellum Period and Slavery. "Someone" from Charlotte's antebellum past will visit the group!
- October 5* Rev. Jeff Lowrance from Hopewell Presbyterian Church will talk about his recent trip to Great Britain — England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- November 2* Camille Smith will speak on the history of the American flag.
- December 7* A holiday event — our annual Christmas Tea.

Hart Square

Jane Estep

The October 2004 issue of *Early Life Magazine* has an article about Hart Square beginning on page 35. This wonderful outdoor event takes place near Hickory every October on the 4th Saturday. This year it will be held October 23. Information is available from the Catawba County Historical Society, 800-542-2403 or on-line at www.catawbahistory.org. Tickets go on sale the first workday of October and usually sell out by noon.

Learn about Hart Square at <http://www.catawba.k12.nc.us/SchoolPages/Claremont/Hart%20Square>



Fashion Committee Report



Sharon Van Kuren

The Fashion Committee has met several times over the early summer months at the James K. Polk site. Most of the activity involved preparing sewing kits for the children's camps. We traced patterns, cut fabric, tapes, ribbons and prepared instructions for sewing the garments.

I have spent some time reading a journal that has been in my husband's family for many years. The first part of the book is a ledger for St. Lawrence County, New York, from 1863. The purchases made on the accounts are most interesting – the purchase of cotton on July 27, 1863: 5 yards cotton for \$1.65, one hank of thread for \$.06 followed by two spools of thread for \$.20. A yard of print fabric was \$.15 and denim was \$.16. You could purchase a spool of thread and a hook-and-eye for \$.24. The prices sound pretty good to me!

Also, Barbara Goodwin let me borrow a magazine she came across dated 1892. It is called *Eureka, the Standard Silk of the World*. It was published by Eureka Silk Co., Boston. The cover shows a lady knitting silk stockings, around the lady are the words: "Sewing Silks, Machine Twist, Crochet Silk, Knitting Silk, Purse Silk, Art, Rope, Zephyr, Filosene and Embroidery Silks . . . What to Make With It and How To Make It." You could make a crochet umbrella cover or a gentlemen's tie. You could knit knee protectors or a gent's silk mittens. One of my favorites was instructions for a wristlet using several colors "in order to show the beauty of the pattern."

Both books are just so fascinating to the twenty-first century mind. In order to look fashionable there was a lot of cutting, sewing, stitching, knitting and crochet going on!

As always, if you have made a garment, please pass on to me a piece of the fabric and a photo. See you at the Docent Meeting on September 7.

Virtual Leads and Grace Reveals

Pat Veasey

For all of you who were so involved and interested in the exhibit, *Virtue Leads and Grace Reveals*, some outstanding news: the exhibit won a national award from the American Association for State and Local History! You can go to their web site soon (not sure when it will be posted) and check out award winners from the past years and this year. Thank you to everyone who helped make the project a reality with so much pizzaz. Teresa Armour deserves recognition for her dedication to interpreting the material correctly and artistically. She says this makes it the "Triple Crown" with a state award from the South Carolina Federation of Museums, a regional award from Southeastern Museums Conference and now the national from AASLH. Hopefully the CHC will send her to St. Louis the end of September to pick up the award, and I may go with her.

The efforts of all of you brought this together. Again, thanks and congratulations. Women, embroideries and local history forever to the forefront! Spread the word and take credit.

Journal Committee

Karen McConnell

The University of South Carolina Press has expressed an interest in the Journal of Sarah Frew Davidson, presently entitled *Little Incidents of a Pleasing Nature*. The project has been submitted to them for further review.



from PBS Frontline (<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/secret/famous/royalfamily.html>)
 Researched and Written by Mario de Valdes y Cocom, an historian of the African diaspora.

With features as conspicuously Negroid as they were reputed to be by her contemporaries, it is no wonder that the black community, both in the U.S. and throughout the British Commonwealth, have rallied around pictures of Queen Charlotte for generations. They have pointed out the physiological traits that so obviously identify the ethnic strain of the young woman who, at first glance, looks almost anomalous, portrayed as she usually is, in the sumptuous splendor of her coronation robes.

Queen Charlotte, wife of the English King George III (1738–1820), was directly descended from Margarita de Castro y Sousa, a black branch of the Portuguese Royal House. The riddle of Queen Charlotte's African ancestry was solved as a result of an earlier investigation into the black magi featured in 15th century Flemish paintings. Two art historians had suggested that the black magi must have been portraits of actual contemporary people (since the artist, without seeing them, would not have been aware of the subtleties in coloring and facial bone structure of quadroons or octoroons which these figures invariably represented). Enough evidence was accumulated to propose that the models for the black magi were, in all probability, members of the Portuguese de Sousa family. (Several de Sousas had in fact traveled to the Netherlands when their cousin, the Princess Isabella went there to marry the Grand Duke, Philip the Good of Burgundy in the year 1429.)

Six different lines can be traced from English Queen Charlotte back to Margarita de Castro y Sousa, in a gene pool which, because of royal inbreeding, was already minuscule, thus explaining the Queen's unmistakable African appearance.

Queen Charlotte's Portrait

The Negroid characteristics of the Queen's portraits certainly had political significance since artists of that period were expected to play down, soften or even obliterate undesirable features in a subject's face. Sir Allan Ramsay was the artist responsible for the majority of the paintings of the Queen and his representations of her were the most decidedly African of all her portraits. Ramsey was an anti-slavery intellectual of his day. He also married the niece of Lord Mansfield, the English judge whose 1772 decision was the first in a series of rulings that finally ended slavery in the British Empire. It should be noted too that by the time Sir Ramsay was commissioned to do his first portrait of the Queen, he was already, by marriage, uncle to Dido Elizabeth Lindsay, the black grand niece of Lord Mansfield.

Thus, from just a cursory look at the social awareness and political activism at that level of English society, it would be surprising if the Queen's negroid physiogomy was of no significance to the Abolitionist movement.

Lord Mansfield's black grandniece, for example, Ms. Lindsay, was the subject of at least two formal full sized portraits. Obviously prompted by or meant to appeal to abolitionist sympathies, they depicted the celebrated friendship between herself and her white cousin, Elizabeth Murray, another member of the Mansfield family. One of the artists was none other than Zoffany, the court painter to the royal family, for whom the Queen had sat on a number of occasions.

It is perhaps because of this fairly obvious case of propagandistic portraiture that makes one suspect that Queen Charlotte's coronation picture, copies of which were sent out to the colonies, signified a specific stance on slavery held, at least, by that circle of the English intelligencia to which Allan Ramsay, the painter belonged.

For the initial work into Queen Charlotte's genealogy, a debt of gratitude is owed the History Department of McGill University. It was the director of the Burney Project (Fanny Burney, the prolific 19th century British diarist, had been secretary to the Queen), Dr. Joyce Hemlow, who obtained from Olwen Hedly, the most recent



Portrait of Queen Charlotte
by Sir Allan Ramsay

biographer of the Queen Charlotte (1975), at least half a dozen quotes by her contemporaries regarding her negroid features. Because of its “scientific” source, the most valuable of Dr. Hedley's references would, probably, be the one published in the autobiography of the Queen's personal physician, Baron Stockmar, where he described her as having “...a true mulatto face.”

Perhaps the most literary of these allusions to her African appearance, however, can be found in the poem penned to her on the occasion of her wedding to George III and the Coronation celebration that immediately followed.

*Descended from the warlike Vandal race,
She still preserves that title in her face.
Tho' shone their triumphs o'er Numidia's plain,
And and Alusian fields their name retain;
They but subdued the southern world with arms,
She conquers still with her triumphant charms,
O! born for rule, - to whose victorious brow
The greatest monarch of the north must bow.*

Finally, it should be noted that the Royal Household itself, at the time of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation, referred to both her Asian and African bloodlines in an apology it published defending her position as head of the Commonwealth.

More about Research into the Black Magi

In the Flemish masterpieces depicting the Adoration of the Magi, the imagery of the black de Sousas had been utilized as both religious and political propaganda to support Portugal's expansion into Africa. In addition, the Flemish artists had drawn from a vocabulary of blackness which, probably due to the Reformation and the Enlightenment, has long since been forgotten. There was a wealth of positive symbolism that had been attributed to the black African figure during the Middle Ages. (See www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/secret/famous/ssecretum1.html.) Incredible as it would seem to us today, such images had been used to represent not only Our Lady – evidence of which can be found in the cult of the Black Madonna that once proliferated in Europe – but in heraldic traditions, the Savior and God the Father, Himself.

See also <http://www.globalblackwoman.com/winterspring2002-p6.html>

The Mint Hill Country Doctor's Museum and Ira V. Ferguson Store

Violet Hartis

Great things have been happening at Mint Hill. We now have an office and visitor center, and we have finally moved the Ashcraft school house to its new location near the Doctor's museum. Exciting events for the fall include our annual “Miss Susie's Quilting Bee” on Sunday, September 11 in honor of Susie Wolfe DeArmon, wife of our Dr. John M. DeArmon. There will be live quilting demonstrations plus tours of the museum. Bost Mills will grind cornmeal and grits at our site on October 10. November 13 and 14 is our annual “Heroes of the Past: a Salute to Veterans” with exhibits by veterans and a live encampment. And December 12 is our “Old Fashioned Country Christmas.” Our fall fundraiser will be a Womanless Wedding, Cake Walk and Historic Fashion Show on October 16, 7:00 p.m. at Philadelphia Presbyterian Church. The museum is also a drop-off site for used eyeglasses to be given to the Lions Club for their project. For more information about any of these events, please call our office at 704-573-0726.



Tour of Scottish Lowlands and Northern Ireland — Spring 2005

Camille Smith

“Begin at the beginning . . . and go on till you come to the end; then stop.” Shall we follow the advice of the King of Hearts to the White Rabbit?

In the beginning in Scotland . . . how far back should we go? Stone Age? Bronze Age? Alas, no such sites still exist in the Lowlands. Iron Age? Ah, that’s where we’ll start!

After our arrival at the Glasgow Airport, we begin our journey back through the ages in search of the roots of the Scots-Irish. We are looking for sites and experiences that the ancestors would have known. When possible, we will see sites that relate directly to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. But many sites will be of places and people that would have been known to the ancestors, somehow within the possibility of their experiences.

First stop, the Antonine Wall built in 140 a.d. by order of the Emperor Antonius Pius. We continue on to Stirling, the Ancient Capital, where we will spend several days and nights. Our first full day will start with a visit to an Iron Age Scottish crannog. From there we’re off to visit longhouses, traditional structures in which our forefathers might have lived. Next day, time in Stirling to learn about Scottish heroes Robert the Bruce and William Wallace, and about the Battle of Stirling Bridge (yes, Mel Gibson, it was on a BRIDGE!). People and places within the possibility of their experiences.

Moving on – new sights, new sounds, new smells! We’re in Edinburgh, the Capital, the center of the Enlightenment, the heart and soul of Scottish Presbyterianism. We begin at Edinburgh Castle, birthplace of James VI/I who was instrumental in the Ulster Plantation, and where survives the oldest building in the city. More than 900 years old, the Castle Chapel was built by Queen Margaret who introduced the name “Alexander” to Scotland, and hence to Ireland and Mecklenburg County. We then follow the Royal Mile, an old road that flows from the castle like a stream, carrying visitors past buildings with long memories and dark secrets: the High Kirk of St. Giles, the John Knox House, the Tron Kirk, and so much more (oh, and shopping!). The Mile comes to rest at Holyrood House, Scottish residence of the current Queen and the site of the murder of Henry Darnley, husband of Mary Queen of Scots and father of James VI/I.

Just an hour away, Glasgow has long lived in the shadow of Edinburgh. Though it is now stepping out on its own, it still maintains an historic presence. Thomas Polk, founder of Charlotte, is a direct descendant of John Maxwell de Pollok (1270–1306). We will visit the 18th century Pollok House, now a museum. The beautiful grounds have been in the family for 700 years. Nearby is New Lanark Heritage Site, an 18th century cotton mill village. Sound familiar? There are accommodations on this site where we hope to stay.

We continue our journey, now heading south to the Border area of Dumfries. Located here was the seat of the Earl of Maxwell, the family of John Maxwell de Pollok. In 1277 the building of Caerlaverock Castle, home of the Maxwells, began. Today the ruins of this moat-enclosed triangular structure are still impressive. Sir Aymer Maxwell was a signatory to the Declaration of Arbroath (1320), Scotland’s Declaration of Independence. It must have been in Thomas Polk’s blood! Dumfries is also the location of the cottage of John Paul Jones, Father of the American Navy.

Our final stop in Scotland is Ayr on the west coast. It was from Ayrshire that migration to Ireland began. Here we will have the opportunity to visit graveyards and communicate with genealogy societies about the ancestors. We will also visit the Rozzell House Galleries (Rozzell’s Ferry Road comes to mind!). Next we head to Troon, just north of Ayr. We board the ferry and migrate to Ulster. See you there in the next issue of *The Dandelion*!

For information on the tour, call 704-334-7620 or e-mail csmith10@carolina.rr.com



Karen McConnell

Saturday, October 2 – Oyster Roast

Fundraiser

Welcome fall with an oyster roast on the beautiful grounds of Historic Rosedale. Support this historic treasure as you enjoy freshly roasted oysters and listen to live music performed throughout the evening. \$20/adult plate, \$12/child, senior plate

Saturday, November 20 – Williamsburg Style Decorating Workshop

9:30 am to 12:00 noon – You can decorate your house with Williamsburg style decorations. The custom of fastening fruits and dried flowers to wreaths, swags, and garlands traces its roots to the Colonial revival, in the restoration village of Williamsburg. In the 1930's, simple greenery, which may have been used in early years, was enhanced with fruit, borrowed from interior decoration, to brighten the colonial village for the touring public. Williamsburg Style decorating had begun. The use of natural materials, which would have been available to our ancestors, appeals to many historic sites searching for a way to decorate and maintain some historic credibility during the holiday season.

If you'd like to learn the basic skills necessary for decorating your own home in the Williamsburg style, join us at Rosedale for a decorating workshop. You will assemble an "S" shaped table arrangement to take home, plus receive instructions and view demonstrations for making several other types of garland, wreaths and arrangements. The cost is \$45 for members; \$55 for non-members. Reservations are required!

December 11–12 – Candlelight Christmas Tours

5:30 pm to 8:00 pm – Want a break from the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Season? Step back to a time when Christmas was a peaceful time of the year. Tour Historic Rosedale Plantation and view wonderfully decorated rooms in the glow of candlelight, enjoy delightful refreshments, and listen to period music. See how an American Christmas began.

Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors/students, 8 and under free when accompanied by a paid adult. A special family ticket of \$15 is available. Reduced tickets for members of Historic Rosedale are available. Call for more information 704-335-0325.

An Excerpt from "Interpreting Our Heritage"

by Freeman Tilden

Wherever, and whatever, in the places devoted to human history, the objective of interpretation remains unchanged: to bring to the eye and understanding of the visitor not just a house, a ruin, or a battlefield, but a house of living people, a prehistoric ruin of real folks, a battlefield where men were only incidentally – even if importantly – in uniform. I was thrilled once at the sight of a picture of a poor ragged fragment of a defeated Confederate band, straggling past an officer standing on a hillock by the side of the road, and bravely managing a salute out of their remaining morale. Hardly a whole uniform among them! I said to myself, "This was the war."

*MHA Docents Book Club Review**Frontier Women*

by Billy Kennedy

Discussed May 4, 2004

Women of the Frontier, the latest book by Billy Kennedy, Scots-Irish author and journalist, is a compilation of stories about women who made significant contributions in the early settlement of the United States. While most of these names are familiar to us, women in general have been given short shrift in many history books. This book gives them their due.

The majority of the stories are about women of Scots-Irish descent. Since this group founded Mecklenburg County, it isn't unexpected that a few of these resourceful women were from our area. Katharine Steel, "Katy of the Fort," lived on Fishing Creek on the eastern side of the Catawba River near Charlotte. She "was admired as a high-spirited mother and a concerned community leader who made great personal sacrifices for the safety and prosperity of the settlers on this part of the frontier." Eleanor Wilson, whose brother-in-law Zaccheus Wilson was a signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, stood up to Lord Cornwallis when he tried to coerce her to change sides and support King George III. "... rather than see one of my family turn back from this glorious enterprise," she told Cornwallis, "I would myself enlist and show my husband and sons how to fight, and, if necessary, to die for their country."

Mr. Kennedy highlights not only women of Scots-Irish ancestry, but others who exhibited strength and courage – Sacagawea, the Indian interpreter on the Lewis and Clark expedition; Deborah Sampson, of English ancestry, the first known American woman to impersonate a man in order to join the army and take part in combat; and Liverpudlian Ann Hennis Bailey, frontier scout, messenger, spy and Indian fighter who was 19 when she emigrated to America as an indentured servant.

Interspersed in the stories of these gallant women are chapters describing their roles, traits and skills. *Role of Women in a Man's World*, *Selecting a Frontier Bride*, *Hardiness of the Ulster Women*, and *Only Women at a Funeral*, for example.

On March 30, 2004, Mr. Kennedy gave a speech about these frontier women at the Main branch of the Public Library. Before the speech the MHA Docents were privileged to have shared supper and conversation with him. We appreciate his recognition of the contributions and sacrifices made by the women of America.

On September 7 we will discuss *Brave Enemies*, by Robert Morgan.

The Wisdom of Abigail Adams

"I wish most sincerely there was not a slave in the province. It always seemed a most iniquitous scheme to me to fight ourselves for what we are daily robbing and plundering from those who have as good a right to freedom as we have."

1776

"I firmly believe, if I live ten years longer, I shall see a division of the Southern and Northern states, unless more candor and less intrigue, of which I have no hopes, should prevail."

1792

Working with a Hornet's Nest

Keets F. Taylor, Executive Director

Historic Rural Hill Farm has had a unique opportunity to develop an original curriculum for the Davidson one-room schoolhouse. We have worked with Hornet's Nest Elementary School to develop a field study for third grade students. We began our study with Millie Snyder, Principal; D.J. Midgett and Debbie Saunders, Media Specialists at Hornet's Nest School; Rebecca Anderson Hefner, Preservation Projects Manager at Historic Charlotte, Inc.; Tina Brown, RHF Historical Consultant; and Keets Taylor, RHF Executive Director.

We looked at what it would take to make a third grader believe they were stepping back to the 1890 time period. Hornet's Nest has begun a program for research and reporting that they call "Research, Write and Communicate." With this in mind, we came up with questions for the teacher and tools that each child could identify and explain. Tina was drafted to become the school marm to answer questions about her life and teaching experiences. Each student had to come back to the school with the knowledge to communicate all this information in some form.

We didn't want it to be all study, so we also included recess and 19th century games. How many of us can still play hop-scotch, jacks or know the rules for hot potato?

The program was field tested with students from Hornet's Nest during the first week of May. Each day for a week we did a tour for a third grade class, taking a little over an hour each day. We extended the visit with a tour of the paddock area, feeding livestock and a discussion of chores that kids would have been responsible for in the 1890s. This works well with the time schedule that the school system sets up for educational tours. Everyone was pleased with the response to the program from the kids.

Many thanks to all the third grade teachers from Hornet's Nest – Ms. Spearman, Ms. Chambers, Ms. Brooks, Ms. Bailey and Ms. Worthy. Not only was their presence and help beneficial, they loaned Rural Hill items to use as tools. We now even have a school bell for the teacher to ring because the teacher that loaned it was so pleased with her class tour.

Rural Hill Farm has a lot going on. We opened the **Amazing Maize Maze** on August 28. The Maze will be open on Thursday, Friday Saturday and Sunday from 10 am until 5 pm and run until October 17th. The theme of the maze will be *Cannons Over the Catawba*, referring to the Battle of Cowan's Ford. The maze will challenge your skills in problem solving as you explore this story about the American Revolution in the Carolinas. Find clues about the Mecklenburg and Rowan Militia and their valiant stand on the banks of the Catawba River. Learn more about the Battle of Cowan's Ford and the mystery of who shot Patriot leader General William Lee Davidson. Come play with us.

Comments on Backcountry Folk

"As wild as the very Deer . . . No making of them sit still during Service . . . How would the Polite People of London stare, to see the Females (many very pretty) come to Service in their Shifts and short petticoat only, barefooted and Bare legged – Without Caps or Handkerchiefs – dress'd only in their Hair . . . The Men appear in Frocks or Shirts and long Trousers – No Shoes or Stockings."

Rev. Charles Woodmason, 1768

"The house and family bore all the national characteristics [Scots-Irish], particularly that leading trait, a want of cleanliness."

19-year-old William D. Martin on encountering
a Backcountry family, 1809

Rachel Eldridge

We're Still Here, Native Americans in the South

Photographs by Carolyn DeMeritt; Text by Frye Gaillard

September 10, 2004 – February 13, 2005

The exhibit will consist of approximately 50 large black and white images of Southern Native Americans taken by Carolyn DeMeritt, award-winning Charlotte photographer. DeMeritt's photos first appeared in the book she and Frye Gaillard created, *As Long As the Waters Flow*. The show includes Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Seminoles, Catawbans, Lumbees and others. The exhibit will focus on contemporary issues which Native Americans face. Artifacts include Gilbert Blue's Headdress, pots, baskets, dolls and commercial tourist objects.

Living Traditions: Folk Arts of the American South

September 10, 2004 – January 10, 2005.

The exhibit showcases traditional folk arts and folk life from the Mississippi Delta to the low country of South Carolina, from the black belt of Alabama to the Appalachian Mountains. Nine award-winning master artists are featured along with examples of their work. Artifacts include walking sticks, white oak baskets, decorative ironwork, etc.

Gospel Shout Concert

Tuesday, September 14, 7:30–9:30 pm – Free

UHOP on Beatties Ford (2321 Beatties Ford Road near I-85)

Dinner at 6 p.m. for \$10 in UHOP cafeteria

Golden Angels a capella singers, Madison Heavenly Kings string band, Clouds of Heaven shout band

Native American Festival

September 18, 2004, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Free with regular museum admission. Some craft activities will cost extra.

Call 704-333-1887 ext. 238 for details.

Come out to the Museum to learn about the diverse tribes of Native Americans from the Carolinas.

Demonstrations of traditional and contemporary Native American music, dance, and craft.

Fiber Arts Workshop Series

Four Thursdays: September 30, October 7, 14, 21, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Tuition: \$80 member, \$90 non-member

Instructor: Deborah Neuhs.

Members of both institutions are eligible for the discount. Space is limited to 12 participants. To register by phone with a credit card call 704-337-2098. Make checks payable to Mint Museum of Art, Attn: Education Dept, 2730 Randolph Road, Charlotte, NC 28207.

Register online by visiting www.mintmuseum.org. Go to "Programs and Events" and select the program you'd like to attend. Use the secure online registration form to sign up and pay for classes. Your credit card will not be charged until you are guaranteed a seat in the class.

Offered in conjunction with Mint Museum of Craft and Design, this series of evening classes will introduce participants to loom weaving and felting. Participants will complete the series with finished items from both processes.

Southern Conversation in the Neighborhood with the Catawbans

Saturday October 2, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 for members and \$30 for public and include meal and performances. Reservations must be made by September 26 and can be ordered by calling the Museum at 704-333-1887

Travel to the Catawba Cultural Center on the reservation in York County, SC. Tour the archaeological sites, eat a lunch of venison stew and other native foods, watch craftspeople at work and enjoy a performance of dancing and drumming.

News from Latta Plantation



Kristin Toler

This summer has been usual at Latta, as many new and unusual things have taken place. The house has been closed for renovations since June 1st and will reopen at the end of September. The foundation has been redone and the main support beams under the house replaced. The siding is currently being replaced, and when the house reopens in September it will be freshly painted, inside and out! Also this summer, we held our first ever Historic Encounters Summer Camp. The camp was a great success and the children had a blast. We took field trips to the Carolina Raptor and Latta Nature Centers to see what Naturalists of the 19th century would have seen. We went to the Historic Hopewell Cemetery on History Detectives Day to do grave rubbings and learn about the Latta and Sample families. We took a trail ride at the Latta Equestrian Center, and canoed on the Catawba River for Historic Travelers Day. On Yeoman Farmer Day, Harvey Beatty brought his pony mules out, and the children plowed in the cotton field. Kitty Wilson Evans joined us from Brattonsville and did an excellent presentation on slave life as well. The camp was so successful, that we will have two sessions of it next summer. In addition, we will offer three sessions of a Civil War Soldier's Life camp.

With the summer ending, and the school year beginning, we are gearing up for a full season of school tours! Our programs have been reformed to better correspond to the North Carolina Social Studies Curriculum. In addition to our Plantation Life and Life on the Farm tours, we also have a new Civil War Soldier's Life Program. We are excited about offering this program to fifth and eighth graders.

We also have a full calendar of events this year! Our new Executive Director, Jon Gates, has added many new events to an already busy calendar. These events are unique to the area and we are excited about the chance to offer them to the public! The first new event will be a Civil War Ghost Walk at Halloween. For this event we will be partnering with the 30th North Carolina and other local troops to create a chilling, yet historic haunted battlefield, hospital, cemetery, and more! Please check our website for a full calendar of events.

Revolutionary War Encampment – September 18-19, 2004, 10am-4pm

Burn and Scrape Woodworking Workshop – September 24, 2004, 10am-4pm (reservations required)

Old Time Music Jam – September 26, 2004, 1:30pm-4:30pm

Home School Day – October 5, 2004, 10am-4pm

23rd Annual Folklife Festival – October 16-17, 2004 10am-4pm

Civil War Ghost Walk – October 29-30, 2004, 7pm-10pm

Old Time Music Jam – October 31, 2004, 1:30pm-4:30pm

An Excerpt from "What is Ulster-Scots?"

Published in *Ullans, the Magazine for Ulster-Scots*, Nummer 8, Hairst 2001

Prof. Michael Montgomery, South Carolina

Scholars generally consider Ulster-Scots [*Ullans*] to be a regional variety of Scots [*Lallans*]. The latter is a close sibling to English and is the historic language of Lowland Scotland. Any assessment of the status of Ulster-Scots rests on an assessment of Lowland Scots. Having a common source with English in the Anglo-Saxon of a thousand years ago, Scots in some respects has remained closer to its roots than has British English. In the 15th and 16th century it became an all-purpose national language, used as the medium for education, literature, law, and the Royal court in Scotland.



Library Committee

Rachel Abernathy

Janet Dyer, Karen McConnell and I have spent several hours processing and arranging old and new books in the Docent's Library. As you know, this is located in Karen's second-floor Rosedale office. You need to know about the Library – it is for your use and we encourage you to use it! The system is simple: sign-out on the card provided, and sign-in on the same card. Our Library contains research materials that are invaluable and interesting, too.

Our work has revealed that several items are not presently on our shelves. You can help us locate these items by double-checking your own books to make sure that one of ours is not hiding out among yours! Here is a list of what is missing. The September meeting would be a good time to return them to Rosedale.

- *Diary of a Slave Girl*
- *Recollections of Slavery Times*, a microfilm
- *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*
- *My Folks Don't Want Me to Talk About Slavery*
- *Cooking with Mary Alexander*, a notebook
- *Hung, Strung, and Potted*
- *Kitchen Notebook* (research from the Alexander House)
- *Scottish Foods*, a folder
- *What Mrs. Fisher Knows About Southern Cooking*
- *Carolina Folk: the Cradle of a Southern Tradition*
- *Plantation Mistress*
- *Biographical Sketches of the Early Settlers of Hopewell Section*
- *Early Charlotte and Mecklenburg County for Children*
- *Education in Mecklenburg County*, a folder
- *History of Mecklenburg County, 1740–1900*
- *Mecklenburg: Life and Times of a Proud People*
- *Plantation Houses in Modern Mecklenburg County*, a yellow booklet
- *Burwell School in Historic Hillsborough*
- *NC Civil War Documentary*
- *A Goodly Heritage*
- *Stitches in Time*, instructions

We feel sure these are all safe. If you are still using them or want to keep them a little longer, please let us know.

During our work-day, we processed several interesting new titles and thought you might be interested in a few of them:

- *The Last Miles of the Way, African American Homecoming Tradition, 1890–Present* (in the African American section)
- *First Presbyterian Church, the Buildings, 1818–1974* (in the Churches section)
- *Long Creek Presbyterian Church (Gaston County), 1780–1980* (also in the Churches section)
- *Masterpieces of Women's Costumes of the 18th and 19th Century* (in the Textiles section)
- *Yankee Peddlers of Early America, The Village Blacksmith and Masonic Symbolism in American Decorative Arts* (all in the Miscellaneous section).

*Charlotte Museum of History Public Programs for 2004*September**Saturday, September 11, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm – Punch Tin Lanterns**

Discover this centuries old craft of punching a design into tin, creating unique decorations and allowing light to escape your lantern. Make your own design and lantern to take home with you! No reservations required. Free with regular Museum admission.

Thursday, September 30, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Members Preview: African American Quilts

Museum Members are invited to explore the beauty and design of quilts created in the African American community, from historic examples that recorded stories to examples of modern art. This special evening will include a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception and special guest speaker. Reservations required by calling 704-568-1774, ext. 114.

October**Saturday, October 16, 2:00 – 4:00 – Exhibits Alive: 20th Century Charlotte**

“Exhibits Alive” provides visitors a chance to see exhibits in new and exciting ways, as interpreters and activities bring the Museum to life. Explore the development of Charlotte in the 20th century with a mapping activity, photos, objects, and a fashion show. No reservations required. Regular Museum Admission

Saturday, October 16, 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm Civil War Lantern Tour

Join the excitement as you take a walk back in time and relive the Civil War, as you take an in-depth look into the conditions, hopes, and fears that common foot soldiers of the Civil War lived with. As you progress through different camp settings on the grounds of the Homesite, you will see the campfires, smell the cooking, and listen to the stories from the period. Tours conducted on the hour with limited space. Reservations required, by calling 704-568-1774. \$8 adults, \$6 students/seniors, \$4 children.

Saturday, October 30, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Haunted Homesite

Bring the family for an evening at the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite that will include a tour of the house, pumpkin cookie decorating, apple bobbing, fall craft activities, scarecrow stuffing, scary stories around a bonfire, and more. Reservations requested, admission \$6 each.

November**Saturday, November 13, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm – American Indian Traditions**

Saturday, November 20, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm – This Old Rock House Opening

December**Saturday, December 11, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Celebrate the rich Celtic heritage of this region at this annual festival! Enjoy traditional Irish and Scottish dance, bagpipes, contemporary Celtic music, and more. Young people will enjoy Celtic craft making in the Hands-on-History Room. Local vendors will be on hand selling traditional jewelry, clothing, food, and more! No reservations required. Free with regular Museum admission.

from “Your Travel Guide to Colonial America”

by Nancy Day

In Colonial America a wig, like its owner’s real hair, was seldom washed. You might have seen colonists using a special pick to scratch under their wigs – where lice thrived.





*Carolina Piedmont Historic Landscape Represented
in New Exhibition at Museum of York County*

Submitted by Wanda Hubicki

An exhibition that illustrates and interprets the changes in the Carolina Piedmont landscape will open on September 25 and run through May 15, 2005 at the Museum of York County.

Our Changing Landscape: Early Views of People and Place in the Carolina Piedmont, sponsored by PRO CAL Professional Decals, Inc. and Harry and Becca Dalton, will present the landscape of the Carolina Piedmont in a series of dioramas interpreting significant "moments in time" from the prehistoric era through the 1700s.

Through the use of objects, specimens, models, dioramas and historical documentation, the exhibition will show the ways people sustained themselves on the land and the role of the landscape itself in shaping the history of peoples living here.

Dioramas include an elk kill on an ice age savannah, a Native American garden, the meeting of De Soto and an Indian princess, a naturalists field camp, and scenes representing settlement, trade and industry. The travels and works of 18th century naturalists John Lawson and Mark Catesby will be portrayed through interpretation of their writings, field collections and artistic legacies.

This exhibition will be one of the first ever mounted in the Carolina Piedmont supported by primary research that will provide observations and insights into the varied terrain, flora and fauna in this area.

Furthermore, as part of the Culture & Heritage Museums (CHM) ongoing research in the study of environmental history, *Our Changing Landscape* will seek to establish an intriguing connection between the natural and cultural history of the region that will help to enlighten the general public and prepare the way for the expanded story to be told in the planned Museum of Life and the Environment.

The exhibition will begin to explain what it means to be native to one's place. The same natural and cultural elements that created the Carolina Piedmont have also worked to link the region to the South, the South to the Nation, and the Nation to the world. The story of the Carolina Piedmont is the story of our common ground. It is the story of interactions of people and place throughout the world and throughout time.

The exhibition is underwritten in part by the CHM Leadership Circle: Rock Hill Coca-Cola Bottling Company and Williams & Fudge, Inc; and the CHM Counselor's Circle: Comporium Communications, Inc.

Our Changing Landscape: Early Views of People and Place in the Carolina Piedmont will be on display from September 25 to May 15, 2005 at the Museum of York County. Regular admission applies: \$5 adults, \$4 seniors, \$3 students and free to children under 5 and Culture & Heritage Museum members.

For more information about the Museum of York County call 803-329-2121 or visit us online at www.chmuseums.org.

Culture & Heritage Museums
4621 Mount Gallant Road, Rock Hill, SC, 29732
Historic Brattonsville * McCelvey Center * Museum of York County



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MHA Dues

MHA dues are due January 1 each year. Please make checks payable to *MHA Docents*. Give the check to Valerie Jones, docent treasurer, at the monthly meeting, or mail to:

Valerie Jones
 4700 Coronado Drive
 Charlotte, NC 28212

Questions? Call Valerie at 704-567-0599.

Levels of MHA Membership

	<u>Single</u>	<u>Couple</u>
General	\$25.00	\$45.00
Senior (over 60)	\$12.50	\$20.00
Patron	\$50.00	\$90.00
Life (single payment)	\$300.00	\$500.00
Student	free	n/a

