

From the President

It is an understatement to say that the late spring and summer months have been hot. I am proud to say that neither heat nor rain kept the MHA Docents from completing our projects. We participated in the Meck Dec Day celebration in May. In June and August we participated in activities commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. Passports were sold at the book fair sponsored for those who receive home schooling. We assisted at the Polk Family Reunion. And, of course, we volunteered at our various sites in their ongoing activities. I thank each one of you who worked under challenging weather conditions.

Sadly, I must report that since our last meeting we have lost two of our members, Barbara Castro and Elizabeth (Betty) Hutchinson. These two women gave significant service at Historic Rosedale, particularly in the formative years of the museum. June McKinney was our liaison with the Hutchinson family. An eloquent tribute to Barbara Castro was delivered by Rachel Abernathy. Several docents attended the memorial services. The MHA Docent board has suggested that we remember Barbara and Betty with rose bushes which will be planted at a time to be announced by Historic Rosedale.

Our autumn season of meetings will commence on September 6th at 9:30am with refreshments. David Erdman, Esq. will present "The Geography of Charlotte" at 10:00am. Our business meeting will follow the program. During the meeting you should tell Valerie Jones about any MHA Docent property in your possession. We are making an inventory of our equipment, books, and materials. The inventory will be complete through your cooperation.

Hazel White is our telephone tree chairman. I wish to thank her for assuming this responsibility. Please be sure that your current telephone number and an e-mail address, if any, are on file with Valerie as she is preparing our address list for distribution.

Docents-in-training will be on the premises at Historic Rosedale beginning August 31st. Please welcome them. They will appreciate any assistance you may give. It is not too late to invite your relatives, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to become a docent. Karen McConnell is the instructor. She can be reached at 704-335-0325 by interested individuals. If you want a refresher course, call Karen immediately.

I look forward to seeing you at our docent meetings and at the MHA dinner meetings this autumn. I promise you that you will be feted gastronomically and intellectually.

Best regards,

Barbara Jackson

Different Continent, Different Names, Same Story

(www.lowcountryboys.com/scotsirish.html)

"...Ulster Scot. This term is preferred to the familiar 'Scotch-Irish,' constantly used in America, because it does not confuse the race with an accident of birth, and because the early immigrants preferred it themselves..."

"The Scot in America and the Ulster Scot"

Whitelaw Reid, 1912



*MHA Docents' Programs*Wanda Hubicki*September 9*

Distinguished Charlotte attorney David Erdman will speak on "The Geography of Charlotte". Every city has a story. David Erdman tells Charlotte's story "from the ground up" as he traces the development of the city from its beginnings as a trading-path crossroads. He showcases the natural and man-made components of the City of Charlotte through 160 projected images and his informed commentary. Whether you are a lifelong resident or a newcomer, you will see the city from an entirely new perspective. David Erdman's fast-paced presentation, which is supported by numerous maps, photographs, and historical facts, will further enlighten even the most knowledgeable Charlottean. Program begins at 10 am.

October 4

Our meeting will take place at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. Linda Dalton will tell us about the church's history and its leaders. An optional cemetery visit will follow the program, so please wear comfortable shoes. Program begins at 11 am.

November 8

The MHA Docents Book Club has been researching information on the "Seven Sisters", the first Presbyterian churches formed in Mecklenburg County. They will share the fruits of their study with us. Program begins at 11 am.

December 6

Bring your favorite holiday delicacy to share at our Annual Docents Christmas Tea.

*The Historical Cooking Guild*Barbara Goodwin

Our speakers for June were Brother Peter Reinhart and Jean Moats of Johnson and Wales University in Charlotte. Peter Reinhart has authored books about baking and breads, and he developed a unique bread called "struan." He discussed history of breadmaking and brought struan for everyone to sample. Jean Moats is Librarian at Johnson and Wales. She showed the oldest and most unusual cookbooks in their collection.

For July our speaker was Dr. Mary Ellis Gibson, Professor of English and Women's Studies at UNC Greensboro. She talked of Southern foods in literature and the history of their origins. In August our visitor will be William Rubel, author of *The Magic of Fire*. The Cooking Guild tested recipes for his open-hearth book.

On September 8th, the Cooking Guild will celebrate our 8th anniversary with the raffle drawing for winners of the October 15th historical dinner. A historical "personage" will draw the winning tickets. The dinner will be prepared by the cooks and served 18th century style. Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$5.00 each until the September 8th drawing. For information call Barbara Goodwin at 704-821-4810 or Carolyn Dilda at 704-596-8834.

Carolyn Dilda has retired as Historical Interpreter at Polk. She began part-time in July 1991 and then full-time in October 1998. Although no longer on staff, she will continue with her historical interests.

Carolyn is highly respected in the history community. Her years of training, docenting, and research, especially of the Polk family, have made her an authority on our history and customs, as well as our period foods and domestic skills. If you wondered if “this” was appropriate or how to do “that,” just ask Carolyn.

She is Past-President of the Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents Committee and has served in various positions and boards of MHA Docents. Carolyn’s interests range from making spoons, sewing stays, surveying, firearms, fashion, fishing in the creek to cooking eggs in hot coals. Carolyn is most proud of her work with school tours and summer history camps. She has led hundreds of wide-eyed children into the past and is always hopeful of creating future docents.

Carolyn is a fantastic teacher with a great ability to share her love and excitement of history. In her quiet way, she makes you get in there and do the task, and if you need help, she is there. Polk’s special events would find Carolyn and her family each doing their part. Until his passing, Carolyn’s husband, Jerry, would portray one of the Polk’s and play his psaltery. Daughter Kimberly was a bride. Grandchildren Robbie and Kayla joined in.

Carolyn had a desire to begin an open-hearth cooking group. In 1997 that dream was realized when The Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley began to cook and teach others this skill. The Cooking Guild has met at the Polk kitchen for eight years.

We wish Carolyn a future with many more great adventures.

*Excerpts from
The Adventure of English*

from a television program written and hosted by Melvyn Bragg

To this day there is only a tiny variation in accents in America compared to Britain, and the further west you go, the more true that becomes. By the middle of the 18th century the absence of regional pronunciations and dialect words had been noted approvingly by upper class English visitors who regarded all such variations as vulgar. In 1764 Lord Gordon wrote, “The propriety of language here surprised me much, the English tongue being spoken by all ranks in a degree of purity and perfection surpassing any but the polite part of London.” It’s a sentiment that would be repeated again and again: That the Americans didn’t speak just good English. They spoke it better than the English themselves.

...Thirteen colonies declared their independence and did so in perfect, what might we call classical English [The Declaration of Independence].

...This [American English] was no longer the King’s English, but the people’s English.

[Bragg offers the following conversation — all Americanisms!]

It’s not my funeral if you fly off the handle because you’ve a chip on your shoulder and an ax to grind. I won’t sit on the fence and dodge the issue. I won’t fizzle out. I won’t crack up. No two ways about it. I’ll knuckle down and make the fur fly. I’ll go the whole hog and knock the squats out of you, and you’ll be a goner. You’ll kick the bucket, so face the music. You’re barking up the wrong tree. You won’t get the drop on me. I’m in cahoots with some people with the know-how. Keep a stiff upper lip and have the horse-sense to pull up stakes. Okay?

Journal Committee Update

Ann Williams

We have a publisher! This summer the MHA journal committee (Karen McConnell, Janet Dyer, and Ann Williams) contracted with The History Press in Charleston, SC, to publish Sarah Frew Davidson's Journal of 1837.

About five years ago Historic Rosedale received a copy of the journal, and a committee of MHA docents set about transcribing it. Although Sarah's handwriting was neat as a pin, it was cramped and tiny, and very difficult to read. Thank you, thank you all who helped with this project.

It soon became apparent that Sarah was telling us precious little about Rosedale, the plantation home of her sister Harriet Caldwell. Instead, she painted a surprisingly intimate and detailed portrait of Charlotte and its surroundings. 1837 was a pivotal year in Charlotte's history. Gold mining was in its heyday, and the Mint was under construction. Mining experts and entrepreneurs were drawn to the area and became part of Sarah's social circle. Sarah also wrote about plantation life, teaching her slave children to read, her teacher and mentor, Susan Nye Hutchinson, and her ever abiding religious concerns. It is a fascinating story.

Over the past several years the journal committee has researched and written an introduction, annotations, biographical sketches, and other supporting material to flesh out the journal. The result, *A Life in Antebellum Charlotte, Sarah F. Davidson's Private Journal, 1837*, is in the editing process, and should be in our hands sometime in November, just in time for the Christmas season. It will be a paperback, and should retail for about \$20. By the time we meet in September we should have the exact price and be ready to take orders.

We hope you will want to buy the book for yourselves and for gifts. In addition we are more than eager to present programs, including book talks and signings, to as many area groups as possible. Please consider this when you schedule fall and winter programs for your book clubs, garden clubs, seniors groups, civic groups, or any other associations you belong to. We told The History Press that we would be able to personally sell at least 300 copies to organizations and historic sites, and knew we could count on you to provide us with the necessary contacts.

Thanks again to all of you who have helped us along the way, transcribing, reading the work in progress, and offering many helpful comments. And thanks in advance for the work yet to be done to present Sarah's story to our community.

A Hornet's Nest

From <http://www.cmstory.org/history/hornets/welcome.htm>

That the British had encountered fierce opposition was readily admitted by the British. Tarleton, summarizing the Charlotte fighting, in his *History of the Southern Campaign, 1780 and 1781*, wrote:

Earl Cornwallis moved forward as soon as the legion under Major Hanger joined him. A party of militia fired at the advanced dragoons and light infantry as they entered town, and a more considerable body appeared drawn up near the court-house. The conduct of the Americans created suspicion in the British; and ambuscade was apprehended by the light troops, who moved forward for some time with great circumspection; a charge of cavalry under Major Hanger dissipated this ill-grounded jealousy, and totally dispersed the militia. The pursuit lasted some time, and about thirty of the enemy were killed and taken. The King's troops did not come out of this skirmish unhurt; Major Hanger, and Captains Campbell and McDonald were wounded, and twelve non-commissioned officers and men were killed and wounded

Summer Came With a Bang!

Kristin Toler

Summer at Latta Plantation was a whirlwind of campers, visitors, and heat! Seven weeks of camp were held at Latta and 160 campers came out to experience history! For the second year, Latta held the Historic Encounters Summer Camp for two weeks. Twenty kids attended each week to learn about life in early backcountry North Carolina. The campers went horseback riding on Historic Travelers day, learned about 19th century naturalists at the Carolina Raptor and Latta Nature Centers, canoed on the Catawba River, took hayrides, worked with the farm animals, cooked over an open fire, learned about slave life, camped out in the cabins on the final night and more! Everybody had a blast and all were exhausted by Friday!

Latta also held five weeks of Civil War Soldier's Camps with twenty-four recruits per session. The campers learned about life during the Civil War through military drills, tactics, special programs and more. Recruits battled on the final day of each camp, so at any given time one could look out a window and see mini Confederates and Yankees running back and forth shooting cap guns and waving flags! At the end of each camp, parents were invited to watch a graduation ceremony where the recruits demonstrated their skills and charged bayonets. In the summer of 2006, Latta will introduce its first Civil War camp for girls. Mrs. Jane's Academy will coincide with the Civil War Soldier Camps. Some of this summer's campers will return in September for a tent campover.



Civil War Soldier's Camp

Thanks to a grant from the Wachovia Foundation this past spring, Latta will begin the *Pieces of Time* Project at the beginning of the 2005-06 school year. The grant allowed for the creation of four traveling trunks to be used by Equity Plus Elementary schools in the CMS System, every year at no charge. We are excited to offer these and hope they will help make history fun for students at schools that need extra resources. The other new program we are offering this school year, began last spring and is called *Back of the Big House*. This program focuses on slave culture and life in 19th century backcountry North Carolina. Over twenty-five of these programs were done this summer and so far have been a great success.

As fall approaches, we are preparing for our biggest season of the year. The Revolutionary War Battle of Charlotte will be reenacted on September 17-18, 2005. On October 14th, we are holding the fall Home School Day, *Celebrating the Harvest*. On October 15-16, 2005 Latta will hold its 24th Annual Folklife Festival and Craft Show. This year the event will be expanded with modern craft vendors. On October 28-29, Latta will have its 2nd Annual Civil War Ghost walk. This event is a blast as visitors are lead by lantern through a haunted and explosive Civil War Battlefield. Last year, over 60 volunteers each night made this event possible! We are looking forward to cool weather and hope that you will come out and join in the fun!

“The possession of facts is knowledge; the use of them wisdom; the choice of them education.”

Thomas Jefferson

Let's Play 20 QUESTIONS

at Rural Hill Farm

Think of this NEW game as a combination of Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune, only played out of doors over a 265 acre historic farm. Choose your companions carefully. Use your skills at navigation, deductive reasoning, data entry and reconnaissance and learn something NEW about your community. Enjoy individual or team play while you enjoy the adventure.

Your game board will be marked with your official Time-In. Use the map on your game board to find the 20 storyboards which are placed 'round and about Rural Hill Farm with QUESTions and Answers. The 20 QUESTions are in five titled categories: *School Daze*, *Natural Resources*, *Mecklenburg & the Meck Dec*, *Down on the Farm*, and *The Davidson Family*.

There are three panels on each storyboard. The first panel tells a story. The second panel poses a QUESTION and offers three possible answers. The correct answer will provide a clue in the form of a letter. Write the letter in the underlined spaces as noted on the third panel until you solve the rhyme.

Strategy Points: The closer the QUESTions are to Time-In the fewer the clues. There are a number of Storyboard in the shade around the Davidson Homestead but the QUESTions that are the farthest away from your starting point will provide the biggest rewards in solving the rhyme. When you have solved the rhyme have your Time-Out officially entered. You may not have to visit all of the storyboards to solve the rhyme but someone has to do it.

Each Saturday July 16 through October 15, 2005

Rural Hill Farm is open at 10 am. Last ticket sold at 5 pm
Adults \$6. Seniors (60+) \$5. Youth (15-5) \$4. Age 4 and under FREE
Reservations suggested. One person 16 or over on each team.

Call for Reservations to receive a discount of \$1 off for groups of 30 or more or to bring your group on a weekday or Sunday afternoon. Get ready for a real challenge.

Rural Hill Farm, settled by John and Violet Wilson Davidson in 1761, is a restoration in progress. John Davidson was a signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and a patriot of the American Revolution. Six generations of the Davidson family lived at Rural Hill for more than 230 years. At one time Rural Hill was one of the finest plantations in Mecklenburg County. Explore the 1890s Davidson one-room school house and see displays in the Davidson Homestead farmhouse.

Rev. Jeff Lowrance — Update

from the Hopewell Presbyterian Church Newsletter: August 1, 2005

“For those of you who no longer live near Hopewell or for those who have been away a lot of the summer, let me give you a health update. I visited my cancer doctor after ten weeks being free of chemotherapy. My CT scan showed that the cancer remaining in my liver had not grown any during the past ten weeks. It has not reappeared in either my colon or my lungs, either. Therefore, I do not need to see my doctor again for the next two months!

From now on, he is going to treat this cancer as a chronic disease. That is, he will keep a regular check on it. When it is inactive, he will not treat me, but when it is active, he will treat me with chemo.”

Culture and Heritage Museums Events

Joetta Talford

Scotch-Irish Settlers: Carolina Pioneers – Saturday, September 10, 10am–4pm

Historic Brattonsville, 1444 Brattonsville Rd, McConnells, SC 803-684-2327

This special living history program highlights traditional Scotch-Irish crafts, music and social customs of the colonial backcountry.

Cost: Adults, \$6; Sr. Citizens, \$5; Students, \$3; children 4 and under & CHM members, free.

Saturday Sampler: Far-Out Snouts – September 17, 10am

Museum of York County, 4621 Mt. Gallant Rd., Rock Hill, SC 803-329-2121

(Ages 5-up with adult)

This 45-minute program let's you find out what some amazing snouts are all about! On tour, we'll locate and learn the adaptations of some noses or snouts that are long, some that are hook-lipped and square-lipped, those that are used as plows and far more Far-Out!

Cost: Free for CHM members; non-members: adults, \$5; seniors, \$4; students and children, \$3 (5-under free); group rates available. Call 803-329-2121 to reserve your space.

By the Sweat of Our Brows: The African American Experience – Saturday, September 24, 10am–4pm

Historic Brattonsville, 1444 Brattonsville Rd, McConnells, SC 803-684-2327

Learn about slave life in the 18th and 19th centuries through dramatic presentations, music, dance, crafts and storytelling.

Cost: Adults, \$6; Sr. Citizens, \$5; Students, \$3; children 4 and under & CHM members, free.

Chanticleer presents "Earth Songs" – Wednesday, October 5, 2005

McCelvey Center, 212 East Jefferson St, York SC, 803-684-3948

German Romantic poet Heinrich Heine wrote, "When words leave off, music begins". No subject has inspired poets and composers more than the beauty and power of nature. With *EarthSongs*, acclaimed 12-man ensemble Chanticleer pairs poets' words with music to celebrate the grace of earth's creatures, the voices of the seasons and the very rhythms of our planet. From delicate madrigals to contemporary settings and evocations of native cultures, *EarthSongs* will resonate long after the final note has been sung. Composers include Palestrina, Monteverdi, Saint-Saëns, Hindemith, Jackson Hill, and more. Hailed by the *New Yorker* magazine as "the world's reigning male chorus." Grammy-Award winning vocal ensemble know for their reputation for its vivid interpretations of vocal literature from Renaissance to jazz and from gospel to venturesome new music.

Cost: CHM Members, \$15; Non-members, \$25; Students, \$8

Group Rate (10 or more): Members, \$12; Non-members, \$18; Students, \$6

Piedmont Pottery Festival – Saturday, October 8, 10am–4pm

Historic Brattonsville, 1444 Brattonsville Rd, McConnells, SC 803-684-2327

This is an exciting new event that celebrates the region's rich pottery traditions through demonstrations, talks, displays and sales.

Cost: Adults, \$6; Sr. Citizens, \$5; Students, \$3; children 4 and under & CHM members, free.

Saturday Sampler: Mask-Maker, Mask-Maker – Saturday, October 15, 10am

Museum of York County, 4621 Mt. Gallant Rd., Rock Hill, SC 803-329-2121

(Ages 5-up with adult) Explore the fascinating collection African artwork on exhibit at MYCO! Take a tour of numerous artifacts on display and enjoy many collection items such as masks, carvings, musical instruments and sculpture. Learn how African art is used in everyday life. Become a mask-maker as you make an African-inspired mask to take home!

Cost: Free for CHM members. Non-members: adults, \$5; seniors, \$4; students and children, \$3 (5-under free); group rates available. Call 803-329-2121 to reserve your space.

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Culture and Heritage Museums Events

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Battle of King's Mountain Reenactment – Saturday, October 22, 2005, 10am-4pm

Historic Brattonsville, 1444 Brattonsville Rd, McConnells, SC 803-684-2327

For the first time ever, Historic Brattonsville will host a reenactment of the Battle of King's Mountain, fought in York County on October 7, 1780. Probably the most famous battle of the Southern campaign, this Patriot victory is often cited as "the turning point of the American Revolution," and has also been described as the Southern militia's finest hour.

Cost: CHM Members – Adults & Seniors, \$4; Students, \$2; children 4 & under, free;

Non-members – Adults, \$6; Seniors, \$5; Students, \$3; children 4 & under free.

Additional \$2 parking fee per vehicle.

Ensemble Galilei with Jean Redpath – Saturday, October 22, 2005, 8:00pm (Doors open at 7pm)

McCelvey Center, 212 East Jefferson St, York SC, 803-684-3948

Ensemble Galilei specializes in the performance of Celtic, Scottish, Early and Original music featuring Celtic harp, fiddle, Scottish small pipes, oboe recorders, penny-whistle viola da gamba and percussion. They will be joined by legendary Scottish folk singer Jean Redpath who will perform some of her famous ballads.

Cost: CHM Members, \$15; Non-members, \$18; Students, \$8

National Chemistry Week 2005 "The Joy of Toys" – Sunday, October 23, 2pm-3:30pm

Museum of York County, 4621 Mt. Gallant Rd., Rock Hill, SC 803-329-2121

In celebration of National Chemistry Week, the Museum of York County will partner for its 6th year with the Winthrop University Department of Chemistry to celebrate this national event. Junior chemists will conduct ongoing demonstrations emphasizing the importance of chemistry in our everyday lives.

Cost: Free with museum admission (Adults, \$5; Seniors, \$4; Students, \$3). For more information call 803-329-2121.

Spooktacular – Saturday, October 29, 1pm-4pm

Museum of York County, 4621 Mt. Gallant Rd., Rock Hill, SC 803-329-2121

Join us at the Museum of York County for this exciting and spooky adventure. The museum is all dressed out for a "spooky" event! This year's theme is Revolutionary War in celebration of the 225th Anniversary exhibit "Liberty or Death: Rebels and Loyalists in the Southern Piedmont."

Cost: Free for CHM members. Non-members: Adults, \$5; seniors, \$4; students and children, \$3 (5 and under free).

From "Interpretation for the 21st Century"

by Larry Beck and Ted Cable

Interpretation toward a whole makes visitors more knowledgeable by communicating facts, it makes visitors wise by attaching meaning to the facts, and it educates them by guiding them through mountains of information, presenting only the most salient and rewarding themes. The key to making this selection lies in theme-based interpretation.

All interpretation, whether written or spoken, should have a theme – a specific message to communicate. Themes are statements (often expressed in one complete sentence) of what the interpreter wants the audience members to understand and take away with them. In the context of this principle, a theme is a "whole."

Thematic interpretation eliminates the tendency to present a collection of unrelated facts. Focusing on a single "whole" directs interpreters only to those facts that must be presented to develop and support the theme. This not only avoids overloading the audience, but it saves time for the interpreter preparing the presentation.

We are excited to invite you to join in our first annual Mint Hill Historical Society Festival of handmade country arts and crafts. It will take place at 7601 Matthews-Mint Hill Road on Saturday, October 1, 2005, 11:00am – 7:00pm. If you are interested in participating, following is information regarding space rental, guidelines, etc.:

Space rental is reserved on a first come basis. E-mail will be accepted as means of reserving space; however we ask that payment and written application must be received no later than four business days after the space has been reserved. Booth sizes are 10'x10'. Attach space fee of \$25.00 with registration. Due to space and demand, booth rentals are available to crafter's making handmade items only (no distributors, franchises, or commercial enterprises). Each crafter or artist is responsible for his own tables, tent cover, table cloths, cash box and bags. MHHS assumes no liability for theft of sale goods before, during, or after the sale.

We will be open for setting up beginning at 7:00am Saturday morning. Any cancellations made less than seven days prior to sale will forfeit the registration fee. Vendor selection is at the discretion of the Sale committee. The right is reserved to ask a vendor to leave who has misrepresented their product. Registration deadline is September 16th. Space availability is limited and will fill quickly. Please register as soon as possible. Spaces will be reserved on a first come basis. However, final space assignments will be determined after all spaces have been reserved. For further information, contact Barbara Lowe at 704-545-3999.

A New Voyage to Carolina

The Travels of John Lawson

Born in 1660 to a London gentry family, John Lawson aspired to a career as a natural scientist. He sailed to the Carolina colony and traveled more than a thousand miles as an employee of the colony's proprietors who were eager to attract additional colonists and foster economic development. He documented native and non-native people, the flora, and the fauna of the region in his journal *A New Voyage to Carolina*, published in 1709. The following is by editor Hugh Talmage Lefler from the Introduction of a 1967 printing of the Journal:

“Leaving the Waterees, Lawson next visited the Waxhaws where, about January 19 to 21, he crossed into what is now North Carolina. Two days later, the party broke ice in a stream, probably a tributary of Lynch's River. Near the present town of Monroe, “Esaw” Indians were encountered on what is probably a tributary of Rocky River. Moving east and north, Lawson passed villages of the Sugarees and, on January 22, spent the night with the chief of the Kadapahaws, or Catawbaws, who lived on the Catawba River near the mouth of Sugar Creek, probably near present Unionville. The party remained with the Catawbaws for three days and then resumed their journey over the famous Trading Path, which led northeast near the present locations of Charlotte, Concord, and Salisbury.”

Upon encountering the Waxhaw Indians, Lawson wrote an extensive description of them and their ways:

“These Indians are of an extraordinary Stature, and call'd by their Neighbours flat Heads, which seems a very suitable Name for them. In their Infancy, their Nurses lay the Back-part of their Children's Heads on a Bag of Sand, (such as Engravers use to rest their Plates upon.) They use a Roll, which is placed upon the Babe's Forehead, it being laid with its Back on a flat Board, and swaddled hard down thereon, from one End of this Engine, to the other. This Method makes the Child's Body and Limbs as straight as an Arrow...”

Whensoever an Aged Man is speaking, none ever interrupts him, (the contrary Practice the English, and other Europeans, too much use) the Company yielding a great deal of Attention to his Tale, with a continued Silence, and an exact Demeanour, during the Oration. Indeed, the Indians are a People that never interrupt one another in their Discourse; no Man so much as offering to open his Mouth, till the Speaker has utter'd his Intent . . . Amongst Women, it seems impossible to find a Scold; if they are provok'd, or affronted, by their Husbands, or some other, they resent the Indignity offer'd them in silent Tears, or by refusing their Meat. Would some of our European Daughters of Thunder set these Indians for a Pattern, there might be more quiet Families found amongst them, occasion'd by that unruly Member, the Tongue.”

The Forces of Mother Nature

One thing we have in common with our ancestors is the fact that Mother Nature rules. It seems that our planet has finally turned on us. Two catastrophic events within a year!

Mother has always let us know that we are not really in charge. Most of the time she's at peace with us. She feeds us. She shelters and clothes us. She seduces us with her beauty. Sometimes her beauty is harsh, but then who doesn't enjoy an occasional summer storm or winter snow.

She usually keeps her violent side reigned in. But have we used and abused her so much that she is now in revolt? There was no beauty in the tsunami. No beauty in hurricane Katrina. No beauty in the eruption of Mt. Tambora.

What was that last one? Mt. Tambora? If you've toured Historic Rosedale Plantation, you know about Tambora.

On April 10, 1815, there was the cataclysmic eruption of a volcano in Indonesia called Mt. Tambora. It reached a height of about 28 miles. The collapse of the eruption column produced numerous pyroclastic flows which, when they reached the ocean, caused additional explosions. An estimated 82,000 were killed by the eruption or by starvation, disease, and hunger. This continued till the middle of July 1815 and was the most violent eruption in modern times.

The effects were felt far beyond Indonesia. 1816 brought temperatures that were the lowest in American meteorological history. That year is known as "the year without a summer." Ash blocked the sun. Reports of unusually cold weather came from Europe, eastern Canada, the northeastern United States, and as far south as North Carolina. "Frosts killed crops in New England and Canada, causing serious food shortages. On June 6th and 8th it snowed in Montreal. Heavy frosts were reported in July and August from interior New England south into North Carolina."*

In New England snow was recorded every month of that summer. Records show that sheep froze in meadows and that a series of killing frosts caused record low crops from southern Canada to North Carolina. Animals and people starved, and wild animals ravaged the frontier.**

Agriculture was imperiled in North Carolina. From an NC Moravian: "The very cool and dry weather in spring and summer hurt our grain fields badly, and it was with sorrowful and troubled hearts that we gathered our second crop of hay and our corn crop, which were so scanty that we reaped only a third of what we usually get, and wonder how we could subsist until next year's harvest."

Tambora has also been cited as the inspiration for Mary Shelley's classic novel *Frankenstein*. During that cold and dark summer of 1816, at the shore of Lake Geneva, Lord Byron was with Mary and Percy Shelley. Due to the cold and damp weather created by the eruption, they were unable to spend the days along the shores of the lake, so Byron suggested a ghost story writing contest for entertainment. Shelley and Byron soon abandoned their efforts, but Mary created the gothic horror and science fiction classic.***

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The Forces of Mother Nature

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Lord Byron later wrote a poem about the event entitled *Darkness*. The first few lines are:

I had a dream, which was not all a dream.
 The bright sun was extinguish'd, and the stars
 Did wander darkling in the eternal space,
 Rayless, and pathless, and the icy earth
 Swung blind and blackening in the moonless air;
 Morn came and went — and came, and brought no day,
 And men forgot their passions in the dread
 Of this their desolation; and all hearts
 Were chill'd into a selfish prayer for light

So how does Mt. Tambora figure into the story of Rosedale, into the history of Mecklenburg County? Builder/Owner Archibald Frew lost his plantation because of it. How? Why? Please visit Rosedale — we'll tell you all about it.

*www.islandnet.com/~see/weather/history/l816.htm

** www.betterfarming.com/index.htm

***webdiary.smh.com.au/archives/pf_journey/000869.html

On Eagle's Wing

Many thanks to WTVI for rescheduling an airing of *On Eagle's Wing*. They had replaced it during the original time scheduled. But they heard from us and they listened! It is a wonderful production of history, song and dance. The following is from their web site (www.oneagleswingshow.com/show.htm):

“The show is based on the history of the Scots-Irish over 500 years, and a celebration of the people that gave America seventeen Presidents (not forgetting some of history's most notorious rogues, rebels and revolutionaries along the way!).

The Narrator commands the stage and the big cast in this huge story of emigration, separation, love and loyalty. He spans the centuries, commenting on the action to the audience. But he also enters the action. He manipulates the characters on stage. He plays the part of a father, he plays the part of a son. At times he becomes the lover, the husband, the priest, the shipping agent, and the American President Andrew Jackson.

Supported by a large cast of actors, 30 professional dancers (modern and traditional), bands, pipes, fifes, drums, traditional instruments and full orchestra, he tells the story of the Scots-Irish through the eyes of individuals throughout their history.



Innovative and spectacular in it's presentation, the story is set in both the past and the present. But the themes are timeless and universal.”