

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Promoting Local History through Education and Research



September/October, 2010
Volume 16, Number 4

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In Memory of Jo Anne Dickens

We open this issue of The Dandelion on a sad note to report that our Chairman, Jo Anne Dickens, unexpectedly passed away on June 3, 2010. When she woke that morning she complained of feeling unwell, and almost immediately suffered a massive heart attack. Only two days before she had been with us at our June picnic filled with her usual exuberance, laughter, and camaraderie. Our heartfelt sympathies go to Reggie and the family. At her memorial service Alice Bostic gave the following tribute on behalf of the MHA Docents:



“Jo Anne was our chair person for the last one and one half years. The chair in our group is informally known as the ‘queen’. As outgoing queen it was my job to install the new queen. To my surprise Jo Anne was more than ready for her new role, having arrived with a cape and scepter to add to the crown I was to place on her head. We knew in that moment that the coming year would be a lot of fun. She was also one of the happiest grandmothers I have ever seen. What joy, Jerry and Stephanie, you brought into her life with her beautiful granddaughter Danielle.

“Jo Anne’s leadership over the past year and a half was splendid and through her efforts we accomplished much. She knew we could produce a very successful historic fashion event and with her encouragement we did. Recently she was with us to dedicate the new statue of Captain Jack on the Sugar Creek Greenway. And last week, two days before God called her home, we all gathered at Landsford Canal State Park to celebrate a year of achievements before our summer break. It was Jo Anne’s birthday and a beautiful day. The sun shown brightly and the famous spider lilies that bloom once a year in the river were in their full glory. We sang Happy Birthday as she blew out the candle on her piece of cake. She was, as usual, upbeat and excited about coming events, a cruise with her family and the trip to Mount Vernon she was planning for us in October.

“Jo Anne was our cheerleader. She dreamed big dreams for us and convinced us that we could do them all. She will be deeply missed. Most of all, she taught us a very valuable lesson. It is not the number of years we have that is important: it is the life we put into those years. Jo Anne lived her life to the fullest and encouraged us to do the same.”

According to our docent guidelines: “The Vice-Chairman shall advance to the office of Chairman if a vacancy occurs.” Our Vice-Chairman, Hazel White, has graciously stepped into position. She will lead us with her own unique style through the projects set in place by Jo Anne. Thank you, Hazel; we will all be with you every step of the way, for we know Jo Anne’s magic slippers will be hard to fill.

Ann Williams and Alice Bostic

From the Chairman

As I sit down to try to write this article I do so with a heavy heart. By now all of you are aware of the passing of my dear friend Jo Anne Dickens, the Chairman and queen of the MHA Docents. Her sudden death in June was a great shock to all of us. Jo Anne as Chairman did a terrific job and we accomplished much under her leadership. She will be greatly missed. Good job Jo Anne, and may you rest in peace.

And now I am left to finish what she started. I will do the best I know how. I have a wonderful hard working board of directors, so that will make the job easy.

I hope everyone had a great summer. I know you are going to say it was hot, hot, hot, but that is over we hope. Now we can get down to our upcoming meetings and wonderful programs that I have lined up for the balance of the year. So mark your calendar for the first Tuesday of each month; I hope to see everyone with smiling faces.

Hazel White, Chairman of MHA Docents

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the November/December issue of the Dandelion is October 14th. Thanks to all who keep us supplied with interesting tidbits and current events. Keep up the good work. Send articles to Ann and Jim Williams at 1601 S Wendover Road, Charlotte, NC 28211 or email mhadandelion@mindspring.com.

MHA Docent Programs

Both meetings will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church. Refreshments at 9:30 am, business meeting at 10, program at 11. Visitors are always welcome. In accordance with our docent guidelines, the election of officers for the docent committee is held during the September business meeting. The nominating committee will present a slate, and nominations may be made from the floor. The elected officers will be installed in January.

Tuesday, September 7, 2010 An Appalachian Story Quilt

Lynn Salsi, from North Carolina's Road Scholars Speakers Bureau, will present a program of Appalachian Mountain humor, songs, superstitions, legends, and customs, highlighting the life and stories of Ray Hicks, renowned teller of Jack Tales. These humorous, clever, moral driven stories were brought from Europe by Appalachia's earliest settlers. Ray Hicks' Jack Tales, and his nearly Elizabethan style of telling them, were drawn from generations of his and other mountain families including his great-great-grandfather Council Harmon. In 1983 Hicks was named a National Heritage Fellow by the National Endowment of the Arts.

Lynn Salsi is an award winning author, teacher, playwright and historian. She has written a number of books including several on Jack Tales, and a biography, *The Life and Times of Ray Hicks, Keeper of the Jack Tales*, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. She may have books available for sale. In 2001 she was named Historian of the Year by the NC Society of Historians. This project is made possible by a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council, a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Tuesday, October 5, 2010 Culture of the Tuscarora People

Ramona Moore Big Eagle will present a program of American Indian culture and history using storytelling, music, drumming, dance, and authentic artifacts and crafts. She erases stereotypes and myths while presenting the culture

of everyday life including lodging, clothing, survival techniques, artifacts, food, dance, stories, language, music and beliefs.

Ramona is Oral Historian and Legend Keeper of the Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina. An enrolled member of the Nation, she has served on the Tribal Council in various capacities. She is the founder and president of the Storytellers Guild of Charlotte, Inc., and a member of the National Storytelling Network. In addition to sharing her culture, she does corporate workshops on leadership and teambuilding. You do not want to miss this lady; she is great.

Docent Book Club

We will meet after the September Docent meeting and discuss *Civil War Wives* by Carol Berkin.

MHA Dinner Meeting



Monday, September 27, at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Dinner is at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:15. Those not having dinner are welcome to enjoy the program at no charge. To make a reservation for dinner use the order form in your MHA Newsletter or contact Kathy Herran at 704-553-0936 or kathyherran@hotmail.com.

Our speaker for September is Dr. Tony Zeiss, president of CPCC. He will be appearing in 19th century dress and speaking in first person about his character's experience as a 16 year old boy in 1780-81 at the battle of Kings Mountain. The background for this presentation comes from the memoirs of Thomas Young who lived in present day Union County and participated in the battle of Kings Mountain. Dr. Zeiss has written *Backcountry Fury, A Sixteen-Year-Old Patriot in the Revolutionary War*, a young-adult book on this subject, and will have copies available for sale.

Dr. Zeiss has been the president of Central Piedmont Community College since 1992. In that time he has taken the college from one location to six campuses, 70,000 students (the largest in North Carolina) and national renown. The author of a large number of books on leadership and education, he has recently begun writing about his heritage, including a novel set in the Civil War.

Trip to Mount Vernon

**A History Lover's Look Into Virginia's Past
October 21-23, 2010**

Join the MHA Docents for a visit to some of Virginia's most significant historic sites in Richmond, Mt. Vernon, and Fredericksburg. We will travel on a Christian Tours Bus and spend two nights in a Washington area hotel. Per-person prices include transportation, hotel, admissions to attractions, two breakfasts, one lunch and one dinner: \$375 (four/room), \$359 (three/room), \$389 (two/room), \$485 (single). Other meals and a \$10 tip for the bus driver are not included. Reserve your space with a \$100 deposit; balance is due by September 21. Contact Audrey Mellichamp at 704-536-2704 or lmellichamp@carolina.rr.com. Make checks payable to Christian Tours.



October 21: We'll travel to Richmond and after a brief tour of the city we'll visit the Museum of the Confederacy to see a comprehensive collection of artifacts, documents, and photographs, and the White House of the Confederacy, an architectural treasure. Dinner in Washington is included.

October 22: After a tour of the George Washington Masonic Memorial, we'll travel to Mt. Vernon for lunch at the Mount Vernon Inn. Next we'll tour Mt. Vernon, its grounds, gardens, tombs, and fabulous new museum. Late afternoon will take us to Washington's gristmill and distillery. Shopping and dinner on your own at Union Station.

October 23: In the morning we'll visit Kenmore Plantation, the 1775 home of Betty and Fielding Lewis, Washington's sister and brother-in law. In the afternoon we'll return to Charlotte.

Hart Square Tickets

For more than thirty years, Dr. Robert Hart of Hickory has rescued and restored life in the Carolinas in the nineteenth century, recreating an entire village, Hart Square – the largest collection of original historic log buildings in the United States. Each year on the fourth Saturday in October, (October 23rd this year), Dr. and Mrs. Hart open this restoration project to the public. Dating from 1782 to 1873, the seventy log structures—chapels, barns, houses, shops, and more—are all furnished, and over 200 volunteer artisans demonstrate the period techniques such as flax breaking and hackling, spinning, weaving, herb dying, open-hearth cooking, broom and shoe making, bookbinding, shingle riving, wheelwrighting, tinsmithing, moonshining, and much more.

Advanced tickets are required since this event always sells out early. You can get tickets by calling the Catawba County Museum of History in Newton on October 1 but, as participants, we can order tickets for you. Make your check out to Jim Williams for \$25.00 per ticket and mail it, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Jim and Ann Williams
1601 South Wendover Road
Charlotte, NC 28211

We must receive your check by September 9 to get these tickets. We will receive the tickets by mid-October and mail them on to you.

Charlotte Regional History Consortium

This Summer the Consortium completed its project of redesigning its brochure featuring regional historic sites, and related organizations and research facilities. The new brochure is every bit as attractive as its predecessor and very up to date. We will have copies to share at the September MHA and MHA Docent meetings. This year the Consortium will have a booth at Festival in the Park, Sept 23-26, to hand out brochures and share history with the community. Member organizations are taking turns manning the booth. MHA Docents Millie Hodge and June McKinney will represent us on the morning of September 24 when the festival will be visited by lots of school groups. They'll have hands-on activities for the kids, and be history ambassadors to everyone. Thanks, ladies.

In Memoriam

Carol Trippe, long-time docent and past Rosedale staff member, passed away on July 29th from complications of breast cancer. A native of Decatur, Georgia, she had lived in Raleigh for the past several years. She will be remembered for her hearty laughter, her wit, compassion, and her slightly devious sense of humor. She was a prime instigator of many successful docent projects including slavery research, the African-American programs at Rosedale, and the group that became the Charlotte Regional History Consortium. She is survived by a son, two daughters, and two granddaughters. We are blessed to have had her in our lives.

May 20, 2010, the 235th anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence
Culmination of a Dream

This year's May 20th celebration of the 235th anniversary of the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence was itself a truly historic occasion to be recorded in newspapers and history books and passed down to future generations, for on that day we unveiled and dedicated an heroic bronze statue of Captain James Jack on horseback galloping off to Philadelphia to deliver the Declaration and Resolves to the Second Continental Congress.

Credit for this statue goes to many people, but perhaps we should start with the Mecklenburg Historical Association when Marion Redd, in the early 1990s, revived the custom of celebrating May 20th as it had been done in the past. Then Judge Chase Saunders, who had a dream – a series of heroic bronzes portraying Charlotte's early history, arrayed along a public thoroughfare. With these in place it would no longer be so easy for us to forget our glorious history. As president of the MHA he spread this dream far and wide. Credit also goes to Dr. Tony Zeiss, President of Central Piedmont Community College and his vision for a Trail of History along the Little Sugar Creek Greenway. In 2003 the May 20th Society was formed, dedicated to enhancing the annual Meck Dec Day celebrations. They soon embraced Chase's idea and began to raise money to build a larger-than-life-size statue of Captain Jack on horseback. And we must thank the sculptor, Chas Fagan, a recent transplant to Charlotte who embraced and



supported the project from the beginning and brought it to magnificent fruition. Last, and certainly not least, we owe a debt of gratitude to the members of The History Community – those volunteers, reenactors, MHA members, and others who held the torch aloft, kept the flame burning, and supported in every possible way the leaders who made this project a reality.

Today the statue of Captain James Jack, fabricated by Carolina Bronze in Seagrove, NC, stands at the corner of Kings Drive and 4th Street as the focal point of the Trail of History in Little Sugar Creek Greenway.

The unveiling and dedication of the statue actually happened twice. First, on Wednesday evening, May 19, there was a private celebration for those who made major contributions to the building of the statue. The event was also attended by more than 30 descendants of Captain



Jack who were guests of honor at the formal ceremony the next day. Volunteers and reenactors dressed in 18th and 19th century clothing, plus Captain Jack himself on horseback, attended the event and provided a historical context for the unveiling and champagne toast. This was enhanced by fife and drum music and volleys of fire from musket and cannon.

The official public unveiling of the statue occurred at noon on Thursday, May 20 at the statue site in the Little Sugar Creek Greenway at the corner of 4th Street and Kings Drive. It included an address to school children by Cokie Roberts, soldiers marching to the fife and drum, brief political speeches, comments by Cokie Roberts and by the sculptor Chas Fagan. The ceremony also included musical selections by the Queen City Brass including the Mecklenburg March which was written for the Meck Dec Day celebration in 1909 by Janie Alexander Patterson. Finally there was a reading of the Mecklenburg Declaration, and the formal unveiling of the statue, accompanied by the departure of Captain Jack on horseback to deliver the Declaration to Philadelphia amid volleys of musket and cannon fire.



For the Bicentennial celebration of May 20, 1975, Jerry Linker rode his horse all the way to Philadelphia where he was welcomed by large crowds as one of the earliest celebrations of the bicentennial of the American Revolution and the founding of our country. This year he reprised that role by taking the Declaration from Col. Thomas Polk and riding symbolically towards Philadelphia.

If you haven't done so already, go visit the Captain Jack Statue. Fourth street is one-way going into town and there is a rough parking lot next to the statue. Look at the water spurting from under the horses hooves. Look into Captain Jack's face and note the air of intensity and dedication there.

Jim Williams

Exploring Joara

Where New Discoveries are Changing History

Twenty years before the English established what we know as the "Lost Colony" on the Outer Banks, Spain was sending explorers into modern day North Carolina in search of an overland route to Mexico. New discoveries on the site of the Native American town of Joara near Morganton, NC are changing what we know about that period in history. This year's archaeology field day at what is known as the Berry site allowed visitors to see the discoveries that are emerging from beneath the farm land of this area. More than 20 other significant archaeological sites are located nearby and there are believed to be hundreds of related sites in the region.

It was exciting to hear archaeologist Dr. David Moore of Warren Wilson College share the results of the archaeological digs done over the last few years. The earth is yielding the story of Juan Pardo and his soldiers who built Fort San Juan in 1567 on this location. 16th century Spanish documents offer glimpses into this story but few details. These Spanish soldiers occupied the settlement for 18 months until relations between them and the people of Joara ended tumultuously and the fort was burned and destroyed. The remains of the burned buildings can be seen at the site today. No one knows what happened to Joara and many other Native American towns that had disappeared by the 1700's. It is hoped that archeological research can begin to unearth this forgotten past.

The Annual Field Day that is held to share this story and invite the public to see the site is scheduled during the month of June. I attended the field day this year and found the artifacts they have discovered and the interpretation of the site fascinating. The web site for the Exploring Joara Foundation at www.exploringjoara.org will list the date of next year's field day. Don't miss it!

Alice Bostic

The Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley

Dear Anny,

August 2, 2010

It has been a long time since I have written so this will be long.

April was quite busy at the Cooking Guild. We cooked a French meal in keeping with our international theme. Some historic things we cooked are still on our menus today: onion soup, frog legs, snow eggs aka floating islands, and hot chocolate, which had no sugar but what was in the semi-sweet chocolate. This was a nice change from the sweet chocolate that we drink today.



A Visit to Tennessee

While he was born in NC, he spent most of his subsequent years in Columbia TN. It is a beautiful home, with a nice garden, very different from the cabin at the Polk site. Those visitors who came were very interested in our discussion, unfortunately there were few of them as we were under a tornado warning a great part of the day. I don't know if the storm shelter, which was our emergency retreat, was period or not. While in TN we also visited President Andrew Jackson's Hermitage, which is in Nashville. Very nice grounds, and we were especially interested in the large kitchen.

In May we had a session on breads and yeast. We tried making milk yeast, but it was not successful. We were given some already made yeast, which did not work in my kitchen when I tried to use it. Yeast making is not the easiest thing and I understand that this has been a problem with the Cooking Guild in the past as well. So this is something to work on in the future.

In July we went on a short tour of some of Charlotte's ethnic groceries. Many of these have ingredients required for our old recipes but which are not available in traditional grocery stores. Tom Hanchett, of the Levine Museum, accompanied us on this tour and gave us some helpful tips.

In August some of our members gave a presentation at the Morganton Library, discussing traveling food and kitchen items.

That's all for now
Mary Sue

The next event was white-washing the cooking cabin. Who has not read about this in Tom Sawyer? I was interested in experiencing this for myself. Lots of work but great fun. We emptied everything out of the cabin and went to work with brushes. This process makes the room lighter and is supposed to keep down bugs. And we found lots of bugs!

Some of us cooked at the Rural Hill Scottish Festival. We cooked traditional Scottish food: potato and leek soup, chicken on a string and made fruit pies. The visitors to the cabin were distinctly different from those we usually see at Polk because a lot of them were Scottish. Many said that their grandmas cooked this food.

Later in April we took a trip to Tennessee, to visit James K. Polk's ancestral home.



Audrey making a Blueberry Pie in Morganton

Erica Blake

Meet Katie McCormick, UNCC Special Collections Librarian

After an extended partial retirement, Robin Brabham is now fully retired as Head Librarian of UNCC's Special Collections Department. We will miss his presence at the library, but Robin promises to stay active in the history community while pursuing research projects that have long been on the back burner. However, we will not have to miss a very knowledgeable and helpful research librarian. His successor, Katie McCormick is up to the task. She has worked with Robin for several years and is an excellent researcher, tech-savvy, and eager to help others. Katie can be reached at 704 687 6288. Welcome, Katie; we look forward to working with you.

News from the Polk Site

This year the President James K. Polk State Historic Site participated in conjunction with all 27 state historic sites to present the 2nd Saturdays Program. This statewide initiative was designed to incorporate artistic media into the educational mission of historic sites. Each site worked with local artisans to present different themed programs on the 2nd Saturdays of June, July, and August.

Our first program, *Shaping the Past: The Form and Function of Pottery*, featured various types of pottery common in North Carolina. In July, *The Music of the Mid Nineteenth Century* was a chance for folk musicians to gather together and expose the public to traditional forms of music including the dulcimer, spoons, and banjos. The site finished the series with *Threading the Story*, a program which focused on various types of textile crafts. Visitors saw spinning and weaving in the historic area and watched the steps involved with painting a floor cloth.

This was the pilot year for the *2nd Saturdays* program and gave the site an chance to work with many new volunteers and artists in the community. It was an excellent opportunity to build new relationships and gather ideas for future programs. We hope to begin planning next years series and seeing new and familiar faces.

Courtney Rounds

Special Museum Exhibit in Raleigh

Discover the Real George Washington

The N. C. Museum of History will host the traveling exhibition *Discover the Real George Washington: New Views from Mount Vernon* during its three-year national tour. Approximately 100 original objects associated with Washington will be on view in this exhibition from September 10, 2010 through January 21, 2011, in Raleigh. The N. C. Museum of History is the only venue in the Southeast on the exhibition's tour. For more information, go to www.DiscoverGeorgeWashington.org

Traveling Exhibit And Program, One Day Only

Nazi P.O.W.s in the Tarheel State, will be in Charlotte on Monday, September 13.

A "Rolling Museum" from Minnesota and a local author combine to tell the story of the 10,000 German prisoners who were held in North Carolina during the Second World War.

Exhibit: 10 am to 1 pm at The Charlotte Museum of History.

Exhibit: 4 to 7 pm at the Levine Museum

Lecture: 7 to 8 pm at the Levine Museum by Wingate University Professor Robert Billinger. Dr.

Billinger's book, *Nazi POWs in the Tarheel State* will be available for purchase.

Francis Marion Symposium

DuBose Campus, Central Carolina Technical College, Manning, SC

8th Annual Swamp Fox Symposium: Explore General Marion and the Southern Campaign. Friday, October 15 from 2 to 9 pm, and Saturday, October 16 from 9 am to 10 pm.

Agenda: Jack Parker: Guide to the Revolutionary War in South Carolina; Val Green: Cofitachequi; Patti Proctor: A Revolutionary War Backcountry Woman; Wright Turbeville: Christopher Gadsden; Dave Neilan: Marion Letters and Research; Nell Davis: Much Ado About Potatoes; Karen MacNutt: Marion Images; Gene Poteat: Marion and His Intelligence Network; An Evening in Rev. History Dinner Theater with our Favorite Historian: Joe Stukes as Col. Otho Williams.

Fee: \$95, or \$165 per couple. Register by October 8, or by September 24 for a \$10 discount. Fee includes all lectures, supper on Friday, and lunch, snacks, and dinner theater on Saturday. To register send name, address, email address, and phone number to: Francis Marion Symposium, C. Hester, PO Box 667, Manning, SC 29102. For more information call 803-478-2645 or email gcsommers@ftc-i.net.

New Book Announcement

The Blood Be Upon Your Head; Tarleton, Buford and the Myth of Massacre by Jim Picuch
Respected historian Jim Picuch provides a new look at the Battle of the Waxhaws, or “Buford’s Defeat” in 1780. Based on original source documents, pension records and recent archeological investigations, it provides an alternative version of this pivotal Revolutionary War battle. It is available from the publisher, The Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution. See <http://www.southerncampaign.org> and click on Publications.

Book Review

Martha Washington, an American Life By Patricia Brady (available in paperback)

This excellent biography of Martha Washington, is timely because of our October trip to Mount Vernon.

After Washington’s death Martha methodically burned all of the letters that had passed between them. She considered their married life private, and knew that all America was keenly interested in every detail concerning the “Father” of their country. So how was Patricia Brady able to construct such a thorough and personal biography? Martha wrote many letters to family and friends, Washington kept extensive daily journals, and letters between other family members are replete with detail. These and other documents were rich sources. Brady’s chief talent, however, is her ability to winnow out nuances of personality and the hopes, fears, and dreams of Martha, George, and nearly everyone in their sphere.

An example is the story of Daniel Custis, Martha’s first husband. Daniel’s parents were rude, obnoxious, cruel, overbearing, and widely known for vicious shouting matches which often occurred in public. Perhaps this was inevitable; their own parents were no better. Daniel’s mother died when he was three. His father, one of the wealthiest men in Virginia, did not remarry having decided that marriage was a miserable state. In his father’s eyes Daniel was a failure; the golden boy was his half-brother Jack, son of his father and a slave. In spite of all this, Daniel managed to become a warm and decent man. Shortly before he and Martha were married the despicable old man died, and with some wrangling Daniel was able to claim his vast inheritance. Seven years later Daniel died leaving Martha with two children (two others were already dead) and an estate nearly without bounds. Stories such as this fill the book; Brady truly brings her characters to life.

She also describes everyday 18th century life in detail that is thorough, but never tedious. For example, among the skills Martha learned at her mother's knee were to "kill, pluck, and draw fowls, from the smallest hen to the largest turkey; track down setting hens, gather their eggs, and candle them; make dyes, spin, weave, and dye wool and linen; make clothes, sheets, towels, pillowcases, mattress covers, quilts, curtains, bed curtains, tablecloths, napkins,... salt and smoke hams, bacon, beef, and fish; make vinegar, sauces, syrups, and jellies;... darn, mend, and patch; and knit, knit, knit" etc, etc. Then on to posture, manners, dancing, and religion. In a few short paragraphs she places us squarely in the time.

Both examples above occur early in the book. I've left the rest of the good stuff for you to read, and it is all good stuff, including a difficult war and wretched winter camps, problems establishing a new government, a frustrating second term that bred factionalism led by the scamp Thomas Jefferson, and ever present deaths and bereavement. George and Martha weathered these impediments with a marriage forged by absolute love and a hunger for one another's advice. The attention to detail and personality, along with a clear well crafted writing style, make this book special. It's one of the best biographies I've ever read. Ann Williams

The History Calendar

Admission charged at all events unless otherwise noted.

Check the Charlotte Regional History Consortium website for other events.

<http://www.charlotteregionalhistory.org>

Historic Rosedale

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

Fool's gold. Saturday, October 16 at 11 am

Steve Gore of the CPCC Applied Technologies Division, will discuss the concept of "Fool's Gold" and how it affected our region during the Charlotte Gold Rush. The remaining mines of Charlotte will also be discussed.

Ghost Walk. Friday, October 29 at 5:30 pm

The tour begins under the Swamp Chestnut near the area where the slave quarters stood. You will walk in the steps of those who worked, lived, and died here. What will you see . . . or who will you hear? Could it be Elbert, former "conjure man" of Rosedale or Archibald Frew, the ill-fated original owner? Advance reservations encouraged.

Midnight Tour. Saturday, October 30 from 11 pm to 1 am

This tour is perfect for those who wish to learn the true intimacies of this charming historic home. Learn about supernatural "incidents" in the house while seeing it as the last two descendants did during the late hours of the night. \$65 per person or \$55 each with registration prior to October 20th. Registration will close October 27th. Limited to ten people.

Latta Plantation

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

The Revolutionary War Comes to Latta! Saturday and Sunday, September 4-5 from 10 am to 4 pm

See how Charlotteans defended their independence when Cornwallis came through the area in 1780! On Saturday, reenactors will fight the Battle of Charlotte, which occurred at the corner of Trade and Tryon Streets. Sunday will feature the Battle of McIntyre Farm, which took place a few miles from Latta, off Beatties Ford Road. The battle is at 1 pm each day. Visitors can shop with period suttlers, see the soldier camps, enjoy numerous demonstrations, and take in a hot meal from the food vendor

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

Cultural Free-For-All Day, Saturday, September 11 from 10 am to 5 pm; House Tours from 1 to 3:30 pm
Museum admission is free! You may purchase tickets to tour the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite.

Living History Days:

Locke's Militia. Saturday, September 11 from 1 to 4 pm

Weaving. Sunday, September 19 from 1 to 4 pm

Cold-Blooded Encounters (Reptiles). Sunday, September 26 from 2 to 3:30 pm

Textile Day. Saturday, October 2 from noon to 3 pm

Weaving. Sunday, October 10 from 1 to 4 pm

18th Century Loyalist. Saturday, October 16 from noon to 4 pm

A Scholar's Forum – The Meaning of Slavery, Tuesday, September 14 at 7 pm

Dr. John David Smith, Professor of American History for The University of North Carolina at Charlotte will discuss the issue of "race" and how it has connected his research and teaching over the last 40 years, linking slavery, antislavery, historiography, the Civil War and Reconstruction, Progressivism, and trans-Atlantic racial thought and anthropology - the subject of his twenty books. Reservations are required.

The Battle of Charlotte and 18th Century Colonial Life, Saturday, September 18 from noon to 5 pm

Listen in as patriots, loyalists, and those still undecided share their experiences in a series of interactive vignettes that will take place on our historic grounds. Other presentations will be going on throughout the day as well.

This Far by Faith: Carolina Camp Meetings, An African-American Tradition, Saturday, Sept. 18 at 1 pm

Professor Minuette Floyd talks about the making of this exhibit which tells the history and captures the spirit of camp meetings through photographs and videos.

Living History Workshop – Basketweaving, Saturday, September 25 from 10 am to 4 pm

Basketweaver Judy Leftwich will teach and discuss the ancient art of basketweaving. Cameras are optional, but please plan to bring a lunch. Registration is required for participation and is limited. Admission is \$30.

Hispanic Heritage Celebration, Saturday, October 2 from noon to 3 pm

An opportunity to explore Hispanic culture during Hispanic Heritage month.

A Scholar's Forum – A Life Worth Knowing, Tuesday, October 12 at 7 pm

Suzanne Cooper Guasco, Professor of History at Queens University will speak on the politics of slavery before the Civil War. Her new book *Confronting Slavery: Edward Coles, Slavery and the Making of Nineteenth-Century American Political Culture* will be published in the spring of 2012. Reservations are required.

Haunted Homesite, Saturday, October 23 from 3 to 9 pm

Encounter colonial spooks on our historic grounds. Enjoy Halloween-themed games and movies on our big screen TV! Take a trip down memory lane with Dirk Allman and his vintage Halloween items. Fun for all ages; the haunted trail is suggested for ages 10 and up. Reservations required; space is limited for the haunted trail.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

James K. Polk Birthday Celebration. Saturday, October 30 from 10 am to 4 pm Free

This living history program will bring back to life the Polk family of Mecklenburg County in November 1795, when James K. Polk was born. Activities include cooking demonstrations, children's games and activities.

Rural Hill

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

Amazing Maize Maze. September 4 through November 7.

The 9th Annual Rural Hill Amazing Maize Maze opens September 4th for a 10 week run this year ending on November 7th. It will be open Friday, Saturday and Sunday each week. Check web site for hours. Flashlight maze walks will begin October 1st. They will begin at dusk each Friday evening in October and also on November 5th. The theme for 2010 is the "Conestoga Wagon," the transportation that many 18th century settlers used to move down the Great Wagon Road from Pennsylvania to Mecklenburg.

Holly Bend

Neck Road past Rural Hill, in Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge.
Latta Plantation Information Center – 704 875 1391

Open House at Holly Bend.

Sunday, September 5 from 9 am to 4 pm, and Saturday, September 25 from 9 am to noon. Free.

Come see the latest historic property acquired by Mecklenburg County. Plantation home of Robin and Peggy Davidson who lived there from 1800 when it was built to 1864 when Peggy died.

Schiele Museum

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

Autumn Ashore in the Backwater. Sunday, September 26 from 1 to 5 pm

Join us on a journey to the early 1700's for a meager encampment of pirates on a backwater farm! In the Golden Age of Piracy, settlement had not yet reached into the Piedmont region. Pirates ashore might travel into backwater settlements or farms along the Coastal rivers such as the Cape Fear, for repairs, rest and recruitment.

Scottish Heritage Festival. Sunday, October 24 from 1 to 5 pm

Celebrate our Scottish heritage in this annual event. Cooks prepare traditional Scottish dishes, while shepherds oversee dog trials, bagpipers play and visitors research their family clans and tartans.

At the Open Hearth: Backcountry Housewife's Cooking School. Surprises for Your Taste Buds, and Food For Thought! Friday and Saturday, October 15-16.

Join other cooks for a workshop and historic foods seminar held at the Schiele's Backcountry Farm. Beginning cooks will learn to use 18th century equipment to prepare ancestral recipes. Experienced cooks will experiment with newly discovered recipes, and expand hearth skills. **Friday, October 15:** 9:00-1:00 – Baking without an oven; 2:00-6:00 – Magic with a pot of boiling water; 7:30-9:00 – Food for thought. **Saturday, October 16:** 9:00-3:00 – Made dishes and more; cleanup; more food for thought.

Fee: \$90. Instructors: Kay Moss, Suzanne Simmons, and Kathryn Hoffmann. Limit: 12 participants. For more information call Suzanne at 704-866-6913, or Kay at 704-869-1031. To register call 704-854-6676 or 704-866-6913.

Lower Providence Community House

9735 Community House Road, Charlotte

Log Cabin BBQ and Heritage Day, Fund Raiser, Saturday, September 11 from 11 am to 7 pm

Funds raised will go to restoring this historic 1938 log cabin. 14 artisans will interpret early crafts.

Andrew Jackson State Park

196 Andrew Jackson Park Road, Lancaster, SC 803 285 3344
www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/1797.aspx

A Day at the Rock, Saturday, September 18 from 10 am to 2 pm. At Hanging Rock State Historic Site, SC.
 Hanging Rock is both a natural phenomenon and the sight of a significant battle during the Revolutionary War. This event combines history, Geocaching (treasure hunting with GPS), and environmental clean-up.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882
<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

Diversions of the 18th Century Soldier, Saturday and Sunday, September 11-12 from 10 am to 4 pm
 Living history weekend. Join the provincial soldiers of Fort Dobbs as they find entertainment through period music, song and games! Demonstrations of military drill and camp life are also featured throughout the day.

Eighteenth Century Trade Faire, Saturday and Sunday, October 2-3 from 10 am to 4 pm each day
 The lives of many civilians on the Carolina frontier were disrupted by the French and Indian War. Join hundreds of soldiers, Native Americans and civilians as they set up their camps near Fort Dobbs. Visitors can experience life on the edge of the British Empire in the 1750's. The event will feature a skirmish between Cherokee Indians and colonial militia, scholarly lectures and on-going demonstrations of 18th century camp life and trades.

Historic Charlotte

www.historiccharlotte.org 704 375 6145

Blast for the Past Preservation Awards, Thursday, October 21 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm
 Historic Charlotte will host its 10th Annual *Blast for the Past* Preservation Awards and Silent Auction at the new Mint Museum Uptown. Host Bobby Sisk will present awards to this year's winners for commercial and residential preservation projects in Mecklenburg County. There will be live music, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, and a silent auction. Celebrate preservation and Charlotte's history with us. Visit the web site for ticket information.

Kings Mountain National Military Park

SC Hwy 216. I-85, Exit 2 in North Carolina. Follow the signs. 864-936-7921
<http://www.nps.gov/kimo>

Military Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, September 4 and 5 from 9 am to 5 pm
 The Backcountry Militia will be encamped at the park. Demonstrations include military drill, spinning, 18th Century medicine, cooking and much more.

The 7th Royal Fusiliers, Saturday and Sunday, September 11 and 12 from 9 am to 5 pm
 Learn more about the 7th Royal Fusiliers as they discuss their history, weapons and other camp activity. Weapons demonstrations will be held throughout the day.

230th Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain, Tuesday, October 7 from 9 am to 5 pm
 Join us as we honor those who fell in the Battle of Kings Mountain. The wreath laying ceremony will be held at 11 am; the Overmountain Victory Marchers will arrive at 3:00 pm.

Battle of Kings Mountain Anniversary Encampment, Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 9-10, 9 am to 5 pm
 Join the Backcountry Militia and other units for the 230th anniversary encampment. Learn about the battle and how the men and women helped win the battle. A variety of demonstrations will be held.

Cowpens National Battlefield

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

www.nps.gov/cowp

South Carolina Independent Rangers, Saturdays, September 18 and October 16 from 10 am to 3:30 pm

South Carolina Independent Rangers will have an encampment and give small arms demonstrations.

Fort Defiance

On highway 268, 5.5 miles northeast of HWY 321, near Lenoir, NC, 828 758 1671.

www.fortdefiancenc.org

Living History Days, Saturday and Sunday, September 25 and 26, from 10 am to 5 pm

Tour the 1792 home of General William Lenoir. The grounds will be peopled with craftsmen, backwoodsmen, and a team of oxen.

Westmoore Pottery

4622 Busbee Road, Westmoore Community, Seagrove, NC

910-464-3700 <http://westmoorepottery.com>

Celebration Of Reenactment, Saturday, September 11 from 9 am to 5 pm

History come alive as we host the 6th NC Regiment. The regiment members will set up an encampment showing the life of 18th century soldiers and camp followers. All reenactors of any part of the time period 1600-1870 who visit Westmoore Pottery on this day in period dress will receive a discount on purchases.

Kings Mountain State Park

I-85 Exit 8 in NC and follow the signs

<http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/945.aspx>

Fall Festival at the Farm, Saturday, October 16 from 10 am to 5 pm

Join us at the Living History Farm for our annual Fall Festival. We will have 1850's demonstrations, pumpkins for the kids, food, live music, hayrides, black powder demos, and much more.

Duke Mansion

400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte, 704 714 4448

<http://www.dukemansion.com>

Charlotte and Gold Mines, Sunday, September 12 at 3:00 pm.

Mike Sullivan, who is a citizen historian, has been researching gold mines for many years and will share his discoveries. It will also include conversations with some families that owned – and own! – gold mines. Finally, Mike Sullivan discovered a community mural of the history of gold mining which has been languishing in a school basement. The mural will be on display!

MHA Docents

Jim and Ann Williams

1601 South Wendover Road

Charlotte, NC 28211