

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Promoting Local History through Education and Research



September-October, 2009
Volume 15, Number 4

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From the Chairman

It's HOT OUTSIDE. I hope you all have access to water and that you are in it! The Docents summer started on June 2 with a great picnic at Nell Coward's family farm with good attendance from our group as well as several guests. We were treated to a wonderfully interesting tour as well as some mighty fine country comfort food. After that fine beginning, my husband and I went to Spain and a cruise to the Mediterranean for over two weeks. We had a wonderful time with 17 family members and assorted friends from 5 different states. A word to any who anticipate a trip to Europe, it is really EXPENSIVE. That Euro is not on sale! When we returned we were really looking forward to a trip to the Outer Banks to spend time with our grand baby and her mom and dad. Alas, it was not to be. On July 23, during my water fitness class at the University Y, I became very short of breath and could not seem to overcome it. The life guards, paramedics, fire department, EMTs and an ambulance descended and took me to the emergency room at CMC University where several tests were performed. Everything came out negative for problems until the next day when abnormalities showed up on the stress test. On Monday, July 27, a heart catheterization was performed whereupon I was transferred to CMC Main where two stents were placed in my heart to repair a 95% blockage. This was an amazing procedure and I was awake for the entire thing. That night the monitor revealed that I have an arrhythmia. Good news is that it can be treated with medication.

It is July 30 as I write this. I am looking forward to our Brattonsville excursion on September 1. Our Docent Board meeting is scheduled for August 11 and the MHA board for August 10. The Good Lord willing and the creek don't rise, I will be at all of the above and looking forward to 2009-2010 and seeing all of you again.

Your cards, notes, phone calls and prayers are so appreciated. Thank you all for your kindness.

Jo Anne Dickens,

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the November/December issue of the Dandelion is October 13th. Articles concerning history are always welcome; we appreciate your input in making this an interesting and well-rounded newsletter. Send contributions to Ann and Jim Williams, 1601 S Wendover Road, Charlotte, NC 28211; or email mhadandelion@mindspring.com.

*September and October Programs***Tuesday, September 1, 2009
Farm Tour of Historic Brattonsville**

Most of us have tended a garden, enjoyed its bounty, and found pleasure having our hands in the earth. But can you imagine working a large farm, with your livelihood depending on it, without gasoline, electricity, or scentless fertilizer from a plastic bag? A far cry from our modern urban lives. At Historic Brattonsville, practically in our backyard, we will get a taste of how our ancestors made their living from the land. Historical accounts tell of farmers needing to be on the land from sun-up to dark, even those with slaves to share the labor. From the generations of Brattons that farmed this slice of the South Carolina Piedmont we can learn about the labors that filled those days: How they grew food and a cash crop of cotton while coping with unreliable weather and the erratic cotton economy, and raised livestock from birthing to slaughter for work and for food. A closer knowledge of these farmers and their slaves should be of great value to us in interpreting and understanding our historic Mecklenburg plantations.

Carpools will leave Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church at 8:30 and will return in the early afternoon. Before our tour begins we will have a brief business meeting in the small conference room on site. Rain or shine, wear walking shoes, as we will have farm ground to cover. Admission is \$6.00 per person; if you are a docent in good standing that will be paid for you. If you are a guest we are delighted to have you with us, but please be prepared to pay admission. Box lunches are being prepared for us by the HoneyBaked store in Rock Hill and are \$6.00 per person. Please bring the exact change!!! We will picnic on the site.

Please contact Valerie Jones by Aug. 28th at 704-567-0599 or yvjones@carolina.rr.com with answers to the following:

1. Will you be at Brattonsville on Sept 1? We need a headcount.
2. Are you carpooling, and if so are you willing to drive? Carpool passengers should bring a few dollars for gas. If you're driving independently plan to arrive at 9:45 for our meeting. Travel time from Charlotte is about one hour. Directions are below.
3. If you'd like a box lunch please choose a sandwich (turkey, ham or roast beef) or a vegetarian box that includes hummus. Also choose sweet tea, unsweetened tea or lemonade.

Directions: From I-77 take exit 82B in Rock Hill, SC (Cherry Road, Bus. 21). Follow it through Rock Hill toward McConnells, SC. It will become highway 322. Just before McConnells, turn left on Brattonsville Road. The route is well marked. From the Gastonia area take 321 south. Just before McConnells, turn left on Brattonsville Road.

**Tuesday, October 6, 2009
Early American Jewelry**

The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. Refreshments will be at 9:30 am, the business meeting at 10, followed by the program at 11. Visitors are always welcome.

Our own Pam Dudeck will present a program on jewelry that bedecked our ancestors from the colonial period through the early 1800s. Pam loves jewelry (don't we all!) and began researching its history several years ago for the costume committee. Her primary resource was *Jewelry in America* by Martha Gandy Fales, a book considered the bible of the topic. Her program, replete with many wonderful images, will concentrate on adornments worn by Southerners during the colonial, federal, and antebellum periods. It should be of special interest to all of us in anticipation of our March fashion extravaganza, which you can read about elsewhere in this newsletter.

New Docent Roster

Valerie Jones is in the process of preparing our roster for the coming year. **All MHA Docents, please check your listing on the current 2009 roster**—the lilac one. If any of your information is incorrect, or if you have had a change of address, phone number, or email address let Valerie know as soon as possible. She usually circulates a draft copy of the roster at the September meeting, but since the meeting is off-site this year, she may not have an opportunity to do so. She will be printing the new roster late in September for distribution at the October meeting. Send changes to Valerie Jones at 4700 Coronado Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212; 704-567-0599; or vvjones@carolinarr.com.

MHA Dinner Meeting

Mary Kratt Presents a New History of Charlotte

Monday, September 28th; 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 dinner reservations use the form in your MHA newsletter or contact Kathy Herran at 704-553-0936, or kathyherran@hotmail.com.

Historian and author Mary Norton Kratt will speak about her new book, *Charlotte, North Carolina: A Brief History*, published this summer by The History Press. It is a wonderful overview of the area from the early Catawba inhabitants through modern times. Mary vividly and accurately depicts the events that shaped our community through the personalities of those who were there. Her book will be treasured by long-time Charlotte residents and newcomers alike.

Mary is the author of more than a dozen books of regional history and poetry, and the recipient of several awards for her work. Her enthusiasm for Charlotte and its history will be evident in her lively program augmented by many images from the past. She will have copies of the book to sell and sign.

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 24th 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 of flax breaking and hackling, spinning, weaving, herb dying, open-hearth cooking, broom and shoe making, bookbinding, shingle riving, wheelwrighting, tinsmithing, and moonshining.

To get tickets (\$25.00 each) call the Catawba County Museum of History in Newton on October 1 at 9:00 am (828-465-0383). Keep dialing back until you get through. The tickets will all be gone that day or the next. As participants, we can order tickets for you in advance. 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 10 to get these tickets. We will receive the tickets by mid-October and mail them on to you.

Docent Book Club

The Docent Book Club will not meet after the September meeting since we will be 'off campus'. What will we do when we resume our meetings on **October 6th**? Let's all remember to return the books from our 'borrowing session' last spring. We will happily receive reports from readers of these books then – just tell us what you liked or didn't like and our discussion will proceed from there.

Our Book Club is an informal group of readers who meet, usually, after our monthly General meetings at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. We are alert for unpublished manuscripts, diaries, or letters but when these are not available we read the published ones. Currently we are sharing our own books with members to read and report on to the group. We have found that we own a treasure trove of good books of interest to anyone with even a tiny interest in history.

Anyone is invited to join us; if it suits our schedule we bring a bag lunch, or revisit the goodie table that our generous hostesses provide for the regular meeting. Reader or not, please join us. Rachel Abernathy

Looking to the Future

Biennial Regional History Course

Rachel Abernathy and Alice Bostic have been busily planning our 2010 History Course. The 2008 course was a huge success. If you missed it, or want a refresher, mark you calendar now. The classes will be held on Saturday mornings on Jan 30, and Feb 6, 13, 20, and 27. The committee is lining up presenters and reserving class space – roomier than last time when we had many more participants than expected. The proposed topics are: Pre-colonial regional history; Colonial times; Antebellum period, slavery, and the Civil War; Reconstruction and the New South; and Docents at work interpreting historic sites. Details and sign up info will be in the next Dandelion.

Historic Fashion Show

Plans are underway for a fashion show of historic garb in March 2010. The committee is planning an elegant luncheon followed by men and women modeling fashions from the 1770s through the 1860s. Proceeds from the event will go to our docent lending closet so more of us will be able to dress up for special occasions. If you have reproduction garments that could be modeled, or would like to participate or help in any other way contact June White at 704-333-5912 or logie2@carolina.rr.com, or Sharon VanKuren at 704-846-6187. Many more hands will be needed as the time draws near, so be ready to say "Yes!" when help is requested. Reservation info and details will be in the next Dandelion.

May 20, 2010

Yes, it seems a long time away, but the next Meck Dec celebration will be grander than ever, featuring the unveiling of the long awaited Captain Jack statue. Sculptor Chas Fagan designed the statue and it is now being cast. It will depict the captain's glorious ride from Charlotte to Philadelphia with the Mecklenburg Declaration and Resolves of May, 1775. The statue will be placed on the Little Sugar Creek Greenway adjoining the CPCC campus, just across 4th Street from the Thompson Orphanage Chapel. This will be a great celebration for all our regional history groups. We'll keep you updated.

An Old Urban Myth, Reborn

You may have received an e-mail recently with a subject line like “The Price they Paid.” It purports to tell the fate of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence of July 4, 1776. Well, don’t you believe it. There is a little truth in it and a lot of hoey. This misinformation has been circulating in various formats for at least a decade.

Since we are all interested in History, it behooves us to check into this sort of thing. Just think if we told the public, or even worse, school children, something that was not true. And if it came from the Internet, we have no idea whether there is any truth in it until we check it out and verify all of the facts.

A wonderful site for checking out any kind of rumor is www.snopes.com. They specialize in investigating and exposing this sort of thing.

As to the fate of the signers, here are a few examples of the half-truths and outright lies in this email. These are in addition to quite a number of misspellings of the signers’ names.

- “Five signers were captured by the British and tortured before they died.”
 - True, five signers were captured by the British, but 4 of them were captured in battle as prisoners of war, just like any other soldier or officer. None were tortured, none died in captivity. The fifth one, from New Jersey, was taken prisoner by his Tory neighbors, recanted his signature on the Declaration, swore an oath to the King and received a full pardon. There is no evidence of any torture. He was the only signer to ever recant.
- “Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.”
 - Wrong. Nine signers died during the Revolution, but none of them from wounds or hardships. One signer, Button Gwinnett of Georgia, died from wounds, but those were received not at the hands of the British, but of a fellow officer with whom he dueled in May 1777.
- “John Hart was driven from his wife’s bedside as she was dying...A few weeks later, he died from exhaustion and a broken heart.”
 - John Hart’s New Jersey farm was looted in 1776 by the British, 6 weeks after his wife died. Hart continued to serve in Congress and died of kidney stones in 1779.

Go to Snopes and read the rest of the truth. Better still, don’t believe or repeat anything you see on the internet or get by email excepting, of course, things you learn from reliable sources such as

Your humble servants,
Jim and Ann Williams

P. S. It is true that Thomas Jefferson (and some others) lost their considerable fortunes during the war or shortly afterwards. In Jefferson’s case it had nothing to do with the declaration, or with the war. Poor T. J. was a man who liked to live beyond his means, way beyond. Some human foibles never change.

Returning British Property

On June 26, 2009 The Atlantic Bridge made a special presentation in the houses of Parliament to Baroness Margaret Thatcher. Part of that presentation was a souvenir of the late unpleasantness between Great Britain and the United States. This presentation was made possible by The Southern Campaign of the American Revolution, with a slight assistance from the Mecklenburg Historical Association.

The Atlantic Bridge was founded 10 years ago to “Strengthen the Special Relationship between conservatives in the US and Great Britain.” Their Patron is The Baroness Margaret Thatcher. Occasionally they present the Margaret Thatcher Medal of Freedom (designed by our own Chas Fagan) to an outstanding conservative. This year they made a special presentation of the medal to Lady Thatcher herself.

The Executive Council Chairman of the Atlantic Bridge is Scott Syfert of Charlotte who is also a founding member of the May 20th Society and thus connected with the MHA. In discussing the upcoming presentation, over an English beer, we decided that it would be most appropriate to present Lady Thatcher not only with the Medal of Freedom, but also with some slight remembrance of “The Late Unpleasantness,” our Revolutionary War.



Scott Syfert, Chas Fagan, Liam Fox, Dr. Jesme Fox

We contacted Charles Baxley of The Southern Campaign of the American Revolution who put us in touch with John Allison, a noted historian and collector of historic artifacts. He donated some artifacts and in the end Lady Thatcher’s representative (she was in hospital with a broken arm) was presented with a solid cherry display case containing British musket balls from the battle of Camden, SC, August 16, 1780.

A presentation was also made to Liam Fox, a founder of the Atlantic Bridge and currently the shadow defense minister of the UK. In accepting the musket balls he commented that, given the current defense budget, he might just have to break open the case and use the ammunition. Jim Williams

A Picnic to Remember

Our annual June docent picnic was held at Nell Coward’s childhood home, the 1886 farm house of her paternal grandparents. After a brief meeting we divided into two groups for a tour of the property. Nell and her sister-in-law Wilma Ratchford Craig led us through the house and shared a delightful mixture of history and childhood memories. Nell’s brother Bill Craig also reminisced as we walked around the grounds and outbuildings. Among the childhood tales was a modern one. The farm was the setting for a Hallmark movie, *The Last Brickmaker in America*, starring Sidney Poitier. It was quite an experience having a film crew and actors take over the house. Mr. Poitier slept in Nell’s bed, although he was not supposed to do so. The film may be available to rent; we’ll see about getting a copy for our library.

Sadly we missed seeing the Oreo cows, creatures with black hind and forequarters separated by white middles. It was a hot day and they had wisely retired to the woods. After our tour we enjoyed a covered dish lunch. Ham provided by the docent committee was accompanied by plentiful scrumptious goodies. Among the goodliest was Valerie Jones’ sinfully rich cake. Thanks Valerie, for the recipe! Ann Williams

Butter Pecan Cake

I first tasted this at a Carolina Sampler guild meeting in October 2008 when Barbara Beamer brought this as part of our refreshment spread. I am always happy when folks enjoy food I have prepared and delighted to share how to replicate it.

Cake:

one Betty Crocker Butter Pecan cake mix
 1 cup cool water
 ¾ cup vegetable oil
 4 large eggs, **room temperature**
 1 container Betty Crocker Coconut Pecan Frosting

Preheat oven to 350°. Spray and lightly flour a large Bundt pan or tube pan. Combine cake mix, water and oil and beat until well combined. Add eggs, one at a time, and beat thoroughly after each addition. Add the frosting and mix until well blended. Pour into the prepared pan and bake for about 45 minutes until a toothpick inserted halfway between the center tube and edge of the pan comes out clean. (In my oven that takes 47 minutes) Cool in pan on a wire rack for 10 minutes and then de-pan to a serving plate to cool completely. When cool, glaze.

Glaze:

1 cup powdered sugar
 ½ teaspoon maple extract
 enough pure maple syrup to make a pourable glaze

Briskly stir the three ingredients together until smooth and lump free. Drizzle over the cooled cake and let set before cutting. Valerie Jones

Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley

Summer for the Historical Cooking Guild included a research trip in July and a new domestic skill in August. Seven cooks searched the University of South Carolina Library and Archive for recipes for food, household uses, medicines, animal medical treatments, and for travel and invalid care recipes. In October, we will continue making our painted floor cloths guided by Erica Blake and Olga Sims.

To celebrate the 12th anniversary of the Cooking Guild, we will host Sandy Oliver, Editor of the 'Food History News'. She will speak at the Charlotte Museum of History on Monday, September 21, 7-9 pm. The public is welcome, admission charged. She will be 'on site' at the President James K. Polk State Historic Site on Wednesday, September 23 during regular public hours.

The Cooking Guild will prepare tea for Sarah Polk's birthday event at the President James K. Polk SHS on Saturday, September 5, 10 am to 3 pm. Barbara Goodwin

Book Review

AARON BURR, Conspiracy to Treason, By Buckner F. Melton, Jr.

This is not a recommendation for a light summer read! Historian and Professor of law at UNC-CH, Melton richly details the man, Burr, and his actions, his associates, and his trial for treason.

I became interested in Aaron Burr's legacy after reading about the election of 1800 ("A Magnificent Catastrophe") in which Burr became vice-president and Thomas Jefferson president. Burr is mostly remembered for the duel he

fought with Alexander Hamilton. Melton creates a striking comparison of the two men and the events that led to their actions. His portrait of the two men is painted on a backdrop of the founding fathers of our nation and the election of 1800.

The rest of the story occurs with mysterious actions well documented – even coded letters – and finds Burr accused of treason against the United States: planning with his co-conspirators to capture Spanish-held territory in America and ruling the Western lands (perhaps from Mexico) separate from the United States.

The highlight of the book (and the hardest part for the casual reader) is the 1807 trial of Aaron Burr. The names of the defense and prosecuting attorneys, the judges, and those on trial are familiar. One must remember that the United States was new as was its system of justice and this was the first trial for treason, as well as being the first against a previously elected official. There was little in the way of precedent for Chief Justice Marshall to rely on. Conflicting opinions, personalities, and politics are handled easily and explained at length by the author. A trial of such importance to future courts, for Burr, and those who opposed him took time (not to mention grandstanding by the attorneys!) and it was almost a year before Burr was acquitted.

The author concludes with a brief section on Burr's life after the trial. Stealing away to Europe he found a less enthusiastic welcome than he had expected. After many hardships he returned to New York and practiced law, dying in 1836. Rachel Abernathy

P.S. On a local note, Aaron Burr was held briefly in Charlotte when he was being taken to Washington for his Treason Trial.

Stanly County Museum

Stanly County Museum, Albemarle, NC Online Access to Stanly County's Historic Images

The staff of the Stanly County Historic Preservation Commission and Museum is pleased to announce the launch of a new online database of photographs and archival holdings. The keyword-searchable site contains hundreds of historic images from Stanly County as well as a growing list of archival documents and collections available to the public. The museum's collection contains around 6,000 photos and new ones are being added to the site every week.

The site can be accessed by going to www.stanlycountymuseum.com, then clicking on the Research key. A link to the photograph and archive database is at the bottom of the page. Many of the Museum's images are known to be from Stanly County, but are unidentified or misidentified. The Museum's staff encourages browsers to view the site and email corrections and/or additions to the director, Jonathan Underwood at junderwood@co.stanly.nc.us. The Museum will update the online collections periodically. Images are available from the museum for a small fee. Contact the museum director, Jonathan Underwood, for more information.

Lower Providence Community

The Lower Providence Community House was built in 1939 as a meeting place for the women in the once rural area called Lower Providence. It is a log structure built in the rustic style popular with W. P. A. projects of the time. In celebration of their 70th anniversary they are presenting a lecture series and home tour. Upcoming lectures include: Sept. 20 – Stewart Gray of the Historic Landmarks Commission; Oct. 11 – Gene Stowe author of *Inherit the Land*; and Nov. 1 – “Flaunt your Flowers” with Haskell Eargle. All lectures are at 3 pm at the meeting house and tickets are \$10 each. The log meeting house is at 9734 Community House Road, across from Community House Middle School. On November 7 there will be a Lower Providence Home Tour. Details will be in the November-December Dandelion.

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>

Charlotte Shout, Thursday, September 24, from 1:30 to 3 pm

If you have never had a chance to come and visit Historic Rosedale, now is the time. As part of the Cultural Free for All, admission is free to view this beautiful historic home as part of a guided tour on Thursday September 24th. All those who wish to join us must email Education Director Sara Craig at roseedu@historicrosedale.org at least ten days in advance to reserve your spot as space will be limited.

Spirit Walk, Saturday, October 31, at 6 pm

Listen to tales from staff, visitors and docents about experiences with Rosedale's past of a very different sort. The tour begins under the Swamp Chestnut Oak, near the area where the slave quarters once stood. Walk through the mist and ancient boxwoods where those now long-departed once worked, toiled, played, lived and died, and visit "our ladies" in the basement kitchen. What will you see . . . or hear and from whom?

Midnight Tour, Saturday, October 31, at 11 pm. \$50 Admission

Join those who have had supernatural "experiences" in the house. Who would like to explore the possibility of "the other side"? Will you be the next to see the unexplained?

Space limited to six. Must pre-register with payment by October 28th.

\$50 per person, advance registration required. No refunds under any circumstances.

Latta Plantation

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

The Revolutionary War at Latta**Saturday, September 5, from 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday, September 6, from 11 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 village square; Sunday will feature The Battle of McIntyre Farm that happened on Beatties Ford Road. Period suttlers and a food vendor will be on site.

Ghost Tales in the Dark, Fridays and Saturdays, October 16 & 17 and 23 & 24, at 7, 8, & 9 pm

Tour the plantation by candlelight and hear real ghost stories. Reservations required

Ghost Hunts, Friday and Saturday, October 30 and 31, at 9 pm to 2 am

Join the North American Paranormal Society for a scientific ghost hunt. A brief ghost hunting 101 course will be followed by small group investigations. Digital cameras and recorders are permitted. Space is limited, reservations required. \$60 per person.

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

Cultural Free-For-All Day, Saturday, September 12, from 10 am to 5 pm

Museum general admission is free all day! Guided tours of the historic Hezekiah Alexander Homesite are \$6 per adult; \$3 per child. However, the first 40 people to call in advance to book their tour will be free! Five guided tours

will be given throughout the day, and each tour is limited to twenty people. Reservations, at 704 568 1774, are recommended to ensure your tour time.

Food Historian in the Kitchen, Monday, September 21, from 7 to 9 pm

Food history is full of useful information, including food preservation advice, great and forgotten recipes, and a myriad of alternative, and often “green”, technologies. From early bread pudding recipes to celebrations of fresh fruits of the garden, food historian Sandy Oliver will discuss how decades of historic research has enriched her daily life and can do the same for yours. Reservations required.

Revolutionary Charlotte, Saturday, September 26, from 10 am to 3 pm

Discover the Revolutionary War in the Carolinas by exploring the way soldiers and families lived, worked, played, and fought during this important part of history. September 26 is also **Smithsonian Museum Day** at Charlotte’s only Smithsonian Affiliate Museum. Enjoy free general admission for you and a guest by presenting the Museum Day admission card, available in the September 2009 issue of *Smithsonian* magazine or downloadable via the Smithsonian Museum Day website.

Haunted Homesite, Saturday, October 24, from 6 to 9 pm

Treat your family to a fun evening at the museum’s annual Haunted Homesite event! Families may go on an outdoor tour with some scary surprises on the historic grounds of the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite. Inside the museum, enjoy hands-on activities, crafts, and storytelling. Learn about the Day of the Dead, a special holiday celebrated in Mexico, Central America, and in parts of the United States, on November 1 to honor the dead. The outdoor tour is recommended for ages ten and up. All are encouraged to come in costume and compete for prizes.

Living History Sundays. Interactive demonstrations held the 1st Sunday of each month.

September 6, from 2 to 4 pm. Lisa Jillani will demonstrate natural dying on the grounds.

October 4, from 1 to 4 pm. Traditional foodways with demonstrations, vendors and local farm and food organizations.

November 1, from 1 to 4 pm. Traditional textile production with demonstrations, vendors, and displays from quilting and weaving organizations. Bring your fabric heirlooms and learn tips for their preservation.

Commonplace Books Workshop, Monday, September 14, from 7 to 8:30 pm. For adults 18 and over.

Commonplace books are a version of a journal or scrapbook in which our colonial ancestors kept useful information such as recipes, quotations, proverbs, and tables of weights and measures. Join us to make your own commonplace book and learn about its use in the 18th century. Admission: \$15 for museum members; \$20 for non-members. Space is limited and is availability on a first come, first served basis. Reservations are required.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

Sarah Childress Polk Day, Saturday, September 5, from 11 am to 2 pm

Celebrate the birthday of First Lady Sarah Childress Polk, a remarkable woman who outlived her husband by 42 years! At 11 am and 1 pm hear a talk about Sarah’s girlhood education at Salem Academy. The Catawba Valley cooking guild will host a period tea. Admission free.

1846 Mexican-American War Militia Muster, Saturday, September 26, from 9 am to 4 pm

This program illustrates the life of a common citizen who has been called into service due to the 1846 conflict with Mexico. Visitors will see period costumed interpreters demonstrating military drills and practices, camp life and even rifle firing! Admission free.

James K. Polk Birthday, Saturday, October 13, from 10 am to 4 pm

This living history program will bring back to life the Polk family of Mecklenburg County in November 1795, when James K. Polk was born into the family. Activities will include a historic cooking demonstration, children's games and other hands-on activities. Admission free.

The Carl J. McEwen Historical Village

7601 Matthews-Mint Hill Rd. 704-573-0726

<http://www.minthillhistory.com>

Discover Mint Hill, Saturday, October 10, from 9 am to 9 pm

October 10 is "Discover Mint Hill". The Mint Hill Historical Society and Carl J. McEwen Historic Village are part of a community awareness event to show people the cultural, recreational and educational experiences in Mint Hill. The Carl J. McEwen Historic Village will have old timey exhibits, demonstrators and hands-on activities throughout the village. Also historic double-decker bus tours will be provided.

Rural Hill

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

The Amazing Maize Maze

Thursdays through Sundays, September 10 through November 1, from 10 am to 5 pm each day.

The maze will challenge your skills in problem solving while you look for Kernels of Knowledge as you make your way to the Victory Bridge.

Flashlight Mazes, Fridays, September 18 and October 9, 23 and 30, from 7 to 8 pm.

Bring your own Flashlight! Ticket sales begin at 6:30 pm

Schiele Museum

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

Never Done: Women's Work in Colonial Times, Sunday, September 27, from 1 to 5 pm

Whether dramatic or routine, the lives of women in the late 1770's were an essential part of our history. Discover the daily "drama" of the Backcountry housewife at our 18th Century Farm. Free with Museum Admission

Step Lively! 18th Century Dance Workshops

Tuesday, September 29 and Tuesday, October 27, from 7 to 9:15 pm

You're invited to join us to learn traditional dances and social traditions from days gone by. All skill and interest levels welcome. Free admission. For more information call 704-866-6913.

The Haunted Trail, Saturday, October 24, from 8 to 10 pm

Do you dare to walk our Un-Natural Trail after dark? Join us for an evening of terror, perfect for ages 10 and up. Find out what lies in wait down the path, around the bend – or even behind you? Follow your tour guide to learn about legends, myths and monsters from the dark woods of North Carolina. Tickets \$7.00 / \$5.00 if purchased in advance Call 704-854-6676 for advance tickets.

Scottish Heritage Day, Sunday, October 26, from 1 to 5 pm

Learn about Scots of the American Revolution as we celebrate our region's Scottish heritage with bagpipes, kilts, Scottish country dancing and more. See Border Collie sheep herding demonstrations and Highland cattle. Tickets: \$10 adults / \$7 students and seniors. Includes museum admission.

Historic Brattonsville

1444 Brattonsville Rd., McConnells, SC, 803 684 2327

<http://www.chmuseums.org/ourmuseums/myco/index.htm>**By the Sweat of our Brows, Saturday, September 12, from 10 am to 3 pm**

The African-American journey from enslavement to today will be shared through powerful theatrical presentations, music and hands-on activities. Traditional Southern food and handcrafted merchandise will be available for purchase.

Pig-Pickin' at Hightower Hall, Fundraiser, Saturday, September 12, from 4 to 8 pm

This event will showcase Historic Brattonsville's restored Hightower Hall in a country fair atmosphere. Taste different barbecues, from traditional Southern style to Asian. Enjoy music and entertainment, with lawn games for children and a dessert contest. Tour Hightower Hall. **Cost** \$25 members; \$30 non-members; \$5 children ages 5-12.

Piedmont Pottery Festival, Saturday, September 26, from 10 am to 4 pm

Celebrate the South's rich pottery heritage. See demonstrations by some of the best traditional potters from the Carolinas and Georgia, enjoy pottery sales and talks by noted pottery historians. Bring your own pottery for identification by experts. Local barbecue will be sold.

Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site

9621 Reed Mine Rd., Midland, NC 28163, 704 721 GOLD (4653)

<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/reed/reed.htm>**John Reed's Fall Harvest Festival, Friday and Saturday, October 9 and 10, from 10 am to 4 pm**

Learn about John Reed, the former Hessian soldier, whose son made the first documented discovery of gold in the U.S. From 1799 to 1850 the Reed family developed an impressive mining enterprise, and profited greatly

*Levine Museum of the New South*200 E. Seventh Street, Charlotte, NC, 704 333 1887, <http://www.museumofthenewsouth.org>**Gospel Shout! Tuesday, September 8, at 7:30 pm****United House of Prayer for all People**, 2321 Beatties Ford Road (just south of I-85)

A celebration of religious "roots music" featuring a *capella* singing plus the high-energy trombone "shout band" tradition found only in the United House of Prayer. Admission free. Come early and purchase a soul food dinner in the church cafeteria (written up in *Gourmet* magazine!), opening at 6 pm. Presented by Levine Museum, co-sponsored by Charlotte Center City Partners.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>**Victualling the Troops, Saturday and Sunday, September 5 and 6, from 10 am to 4 pm**

One of the most important considerations 18th century commanders had in maintaining a unit of soldiers was to keep them fed. Learn what types of food the provincial soldiers at Fort Dobbs ate and how they prepared it. Other demonstrations include on-going camp life, military drill, musket and cannon firings.

18th Century Trade Fair, Saturday and Sunday, October 3 and 4, from 10 am to 4 pm

The lives of civilians on the Carolina frontier were disrupted by the French and Indian War. Join soldiers, Native Americans, and civilians as they set up camps near Fort Dobbs and bring to life North Carolina's 1750s colonial frontier. The *Trade Fair* will feature a Cherokee attack and scholarly lectures, as well as on-going demonstrations of 18th century camp life, entertainment, market fair and trades.

Historic Charlotte

www.historiccharlotte.org 704 375 6145

**Mid-Century Modern Architecture, Tuesday, September 22. Social at 5:30 pm, program at 6 pm
The Duke Mansion, 400 Hermitage Road**

Mid-Century Modern is an architectural term that generally describes modern design from 1945 to 1965. Dr. Lee Gray, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Architecture at UNC Charlotte, will present a lecture focusing on the role that modern architecture played in making Charlotte a "New South" city.

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>

Labor Day Weekend Encampment, Saturday, September 5, from 9 am to 5 pm

The park's Backcountry Militia will be camped at the park this weekend. Living History Interpreters will demonstrate military drill, weapons and more.

Battle of Kings Mountain Anniversary Encampment, Saturday, October 10, from 9 am to 5 pm

Join members of the Backcountry Militia and Company of the Overmountain Men as they tell the story of the men who fought at Kings Mountain. Enjoy musket and rifle 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 18-19, 10 am-5 pm

Meet General and Mrs. William Lenoir and tour their 1792 house. The grounds will be peopled with craftsmen, backwoodsmen, and a team of oxen.

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 17, 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.

MHA Docents
Jim and Ann Williams
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