

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Promoting Local History through Education and Research



May, June, July & August, 2011
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LATIBAH Collard Green Museum

3103 Cullman Ave. (off E. 36th ST.) 704 916 9087

Located within the **Arthouse Center for Creative Expression**

www.latibahmuseum.org



LATIBAH (Life and Times in Black American History) is a new museum in Charlotte that we plan to visit for one of our Fall programs. The following article of introduction was submitted by museum volunteer, Vikkii Graham.

LATIBAH Collard Green Museum might seem to be about the history of a vegetable; this is not true. Although a collard green leaf and an African Ashanti ceremonial symbol combine as the logo to symbolically represent survival, strength of character, and thriving to sustain cultural pride and traditions. You might also expect to get a recipe for cooking collard greens at the LATIBAH Collard Green Museum; this is also not true. Although, you might stumble upon one of the museum’s Food Tastings. These frequently occur in conjunction with the museum’s monthly, history-based, community programs. Also untrue is the belief that all Museums have gilt-framed pictures tucked safely behind velvet cords where the hush-toned mantra of ‘indoor voices please and don’t touch the art’ is often heard. The LATIBAH Collard Green Museum is comprised of touchable, 3-dimensional, installations, exhibits and artifacts of cultural history. The museum represents significant eras in the Life And Times In Black American History forming the naming acronym LATIBAH.

T’Afo Feimster, the Executive Director and Creator, was challenged to typify the hardy endurance and resourcefulness characteristic of this nutritious southern cuisine rather than it’s colloquial reference sometimes implying ‘less than perfect’. In exposing the significance of this vegetable, T’Afo is thrilled with the Museum’s official sponsorship with KW’s Slammin’ Good Collards – canned for sale by Nigerian health food entrepreneur Kizito Wademi,

T’Afo Feimster, a native of Stony Point, NC and an alumni of N C Central University, retired from IBM in 1992. He then reinvented himself artistically as a full-time painter, wood turner, sculptor, playwright, actor and cultural educator. In 2009, through his



A Hold for Human Cargo

passion for art and history, he has researched Black heritage, acquired artifacts and built over a dozen installations to create the Museum. He used old lumber from his family's home site to authentically build a sharecroppers homestead with a front porch, crank well, outhouse, and antique kitchen fixtures and farm implements,

The mission is to educate the public on the full history of Black Americans. The museum's permanent collection starts with life in Africa, moving through the enslavement of Africans, continuing into the American systems of slavery, reconstruction, & integration all the way to today's 44th President of the U.S.A.

During the NoDa 1st and 3rd Friday Gallery Crawls, the museum enhances its educational mission by presenting community programs. These include "LATIBAH Talk", an informative, lecture-discussion series, "LATIBAH Alive", a theatrical, history re-enactment series telling 'the rest of the story' of the periods depicted in the museum; as well as, "LATIBAH Learn", workshops and museum tour packages.

From the Chairman

Learning history by "being there"

When the Docents went to Historic Brattonsville and the Schiele Backcountry Farm last year, I was surprised to hear from several docents that they had never been to these places! But I am guilty too. I had never been to Brattonsville – always wanted to go but never did on my own. So I took the opportunity to go with Docents. The Charlotte area is so rich with historic sites. We need to know about them and go to them to "learn history by being there."

This is why at the last general meeting, April 5th, I CHALLENGED each and every one of us to go to historic places. I and my board are preparing "MHA Docents Passport to History" booklets. We will pass them out at our May and June meetings. "Our CHALLENGE" is for each of you to go to 15 sites within 1 year of starting. You will place the name of the site, the date you visited there, and have a site person sign it and stamp it (if the site has a stamp). Place 2 sites per page. This is your "Passport to History" and you will need to bring it with you when you visit the sites. (I am going to write my name on my passport.) The History Consortium list is a good beginning but any historic site/museum counts, whether local or elsewhere. You may count a site where you volunteer during the year – but only once.

15 sites! Just a little over 1 a month. So get your hats, your passport; call another docent to go with you and Go, Learn, and Have Fun. The Docents will go in May to the Museum of the Waxhaws, in June to Rural Hill and Holly Bend and in the Fall to the Latibah museum and on our day trip to Vance and Wolfe. 6 Sites already.! Everyone completing this Passport by next May (if you start in May), will get a prize. As Valerie says, "a really good prize." The Docent board will pay your dues for a year, or award you with an orchid from UNC Charlotte's botanical sources. The choice is yours. OK. I have my list of 15 sites I want to visit. Some I have attended (exhibits change) and some I have never visited. I am excited about taking on this Challenge. Please join me and take on this CHALLENGE, too.

Audrey Mellichamp

Note: opening July 9, 2011 at the Charlotte Museum of History, "Survivor Jamestown."

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the September – October issue of the Dandelion is August 16. Articles about historic adventures you had over the summer would be most welcome, or anything else of interest to the history community. Send them Ann and Jim Williams at 1601 S Wendover Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211 or email mhadandelion@mindspring.com.

MHA Docent Programs

The next two programs will be field trips to local historic sites. In May we will meet at The Museum of the Waxhaws, and in June we will tour Holly Bend, Rural Hill, and have our annual picnic. Directions are given below. Arrange your own carpools, or call Millie Hodge at 704-598-9584; she will direct you to a driver in your area. Both programs include some outdoor walking, so dress appropriately. As usual, guests are always welcome.

Tuesday, May 3, 2011 A Trip to Union County

We will meet at The Museum of the Waxhaws at **10 am** for a brief business meeting followed by a tour of the site at 10:30. Site director, Scott Farb, will be our knowledgeable and fearless leader. The large and well appointed museum building depicts the Waxhaw area from the time of the early Indians through European settlement up to the early 20th century village of Waxhaw. A lot of history, and very well presented! On the grounds we will see a relocated mid-19th century log cabin and smoke house, a period kitchen garden – which should be lovely in May – and bark houses constructed to represent a Wisacky Indian village. “Waxhaw” may be an alternate spelling of Wisacky.

After the tour we will have lunch at one of Waxhaw’s charming restaurants. We’ll select a restaurant during the business meeting, and Scott will call to make a reservation for us.

Directions to the Museum of the Waxhaws, 8215 Waxhaw Highway: Take Providence Road south until it ends in downtown Waxhaw. Turn left on Main Street – Highway 75. Stay on Main (Rt. 75, Waxhaw Highway) where it forks to the left. The museum will be on the right, .6 of a mile from the turn off from Providence Rd. Travel time from Charlotte is about 40 – 45 minutes

Tuesday, June 7, 2011 A Summer Picnic at Rural Hill



We will meet at **10:30 am** at Holly Bend, which is just beyond Rural Hill. Holly Bend, built about 1800, was the home of Major John Davidson’s oldest son Robin. After a tour of Holly Bend, site director Jeff Fissel will guide us around Rural Hill which was the plantation of Major John Davidson, an influential early settler of the area. The grand plantation home burned in the 1890s leaving only ruins, but there are several period buildings and a reconstructed cabin on the grounds. Next we’ll see the Davidson family Burying Ground, and the schoolhouse. Then we’ll go to the picnic area for a brief business meeting followed by a covered dish lunch. This will be a great follow-up to Jeff’s talk at our April meeting about Rural Hill’s history and the many events being held there.

All docents should bring a covered dish to share. Our dishes will probably stay in our cars until lunchtime, so bring them in coolers if they need to be kept cool. The hospitality committee will provide water, iced tea, paper plates, napkins, etc.

Directions to Holly Bend and Rural Hill:

From Charlotte take I 77 north and take either exit 16 B, or exit 18. From exit 16 B (Sunset Road West) follow Sunset and turn right onto Beattie’s Ford Road, then follow the directions below. From exit 18 (Harris Blvd.) turn left at the top of the ramp onto Harris. Stay on Harris until it ends at Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road. Turn left, go about 1¼ miles and turn right on Beattie’s Ford Road.

From the University area: Go west on Harris Blvd. until it ends at Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road. Turn left, go about 1¼ miles and turn right on Beattie’s Ford.

Once you are on Beattie's Ford you will be heading north. You will pass Hopewell Presbyterian Church on the right. It is surrounded by a low stone wall, and is across the road from the entrance to Latta Plantation Park. About 1½ miles past Hopewell, turn left onto Neck Road. The intersection is marked with a brown sign directing you to Rural Hill. Follow Neck Road for about 2½ winding miles until you pass Rural Hill. Keep going and pass Allison's Ferry Road on the right. Neck Road makes a turn to the right where it becomes gravel. Holly Bend is about ¼ mile on the right. Pull into the driveway and park at the back of the house. Travel time from Charlotte is about 45 minutes.

MHA Dinner Meeting

Monday, May 23, 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 Jane Johnson at 704 544 0698 or JJCNC@aol.com



©Frank Stewart/Black Light Production

Bearden in his New York studio with a picture of his Charlotte great-grandparents Rosa and H. B. Kennedy.

ROMARE BEARDEN'S CHARLOTTE, 1911, is a new on-line exhibit by Levine Museum of the New South in partnership with the Main Street Carolina Project at UNC Chapel Hill. It visually displays Sanborn maps, city directory data and vintage photographs, taking visitors back to Charlotte in the years around the birth September 2, 1911, of the nationally renowned artist Romare Bearden.

Curator Dr. Tom Hanchett will give us a virtual tour.

http://mainstreet.lib.unc.edu/projects/bearden_charlotte/

May 20th Plans

Get out your 18th and 19th Century clothing and get ready for "fun on the square." May 20th falls on a Friday this year and, after last year's extravaganza, we return uptown to the usual spot.

On Friday, May 20th, at 11:30 am we will gather on the square with muskets and cannon, and fife and drum for addresses by politicians and other VIPs. The Meck Dec will be read followed by traditional toasts with Huzzahs! and musket and cannon fire. Then we will parade to Settlers Cemetery to honor Col. Thomas Polk, first stopping at two newly relocated state historical markers for brief dedications.

Interpreters should arrive at the square at 11:00, or earlier if possible, mingle with the crowd and hand out Meck Dec copies while the soldiers play music and march up and down. Parking is available on the streets around the square – 8 quarters for 2 hours.

The speaker for Thursday night, May 19th is Andrew Roberts – the well known English historian and TV personality who is also the author of 12 books. This is an invitation-only event, but reenactors and docents in 18th or 19th century dress are welcome, and needed, and get in free. Tell us if you plan to be there so we can let you know the details as they develop. Don't we have fun when we dress up?

Jim and Ann Williams at

mhadandelion@mindspring.com

Private Unveiling of Capt. James Jack Pilsner

Tuesday, May 10, from 6 to 9 pm, Olde Mecklenburg Brewery, 215 Southside Drive

The May 20th Society and Olde Mecklenburg Brewery are hosting the private unveiling of “Captain James Jack Pilsner” on the evening of May 10th, at the Olde Mecklenburg Brewery. Space is Limited. \$25 per person. Cost includes food, music, beer sampling & 2 pints of Jack’s Pilsner (or glass of wine).

Captain James Jack, a local tavern owner, volunteered at great personal risk to carry the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence more than 500 miles on horseback to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. Olde Mecklenburg Brewery has developed a smooth, refreshing, pilsner beer as a salute to the spirit, courage and resolve of Captain Jack and the members of the Mecklenburg Convention.

To register for this event, please contact Louis Asbury: 704-737-0772, May20rsvpOMB@gmail.com

MHA Docent Dues

If you have not already paid your MHA Docent dues, it is time to do so. Since we are a committee of MHA, our dues go to that parent organization. To facilitate our record keeping, please send your check to docent treasurer Valerie Jones. Valerie will record your membership info, then pay our collective dues to MHA as a group.

Make your check payable to **MHA Docents** and mail it to Valerie Jones at 4700 Coronado Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212. If you have questions, or are not sure if you’ve already paid, contact her at vyjones@carolina.rr.com or call her at 704-567-0599

MHA Membership Levels:	<u>Single</u>	<u>Couple</u>
General	\$30	\$50
Senior (60+)	\$15	\$25
Patron	\$60	\$100
Life (single payment)	\$300	\$500

Docent Book Club

The book club will not meet in May or June. Over the summer we will be reading material related to our October trip (details elsewhere in this newsletter). Read a selection from a book by Thomas Wolfe – anything you please – his works are highly autobiographical. *Look Homeward, Angel* covers the period when Eugene Gant (aka Wolfe) lived in his mother’s boarding house in Altamont (aka Asheville).

You may also read about Zebulon Vance. Sharyn McCrumb’s novel *Ghost Riders* that we read several years ago is partially based on Vance from his youth through the Civil War when he was governor of North Carolina. There are a handful of books about Vance in the Charlotte Public Library. A couple of them are available only in the Carolina Room and don’t circulate. Vance is also featured in many general North Carolina histories.

October Getaway

On Tuesday, October 18th the MHA Docents are planning a day trip to the Asheville area. We will visit two State Historic Sites and enjoy a day of “leaf peeping” in what should be the peak of Autumn color.

We will go by bus from Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church probably leaving at 8:30 am. We should arrive at the Zebulon Vance Birthplace about 11 for a tour of the site. “Log Cabin” does not do justice to the very large and well built home, extremely sophisticated for 18th century western North Carolina. Born in 1830, Vance had become a lawyer, important North Carolina leader and US Representative by 1860. He opposed secession until



President Lincoln ordered North Carolina to send troops to serve in the Union Army at the outbreak of the Civil War. That Vance could not condone. He became an officer in the Confederate Army and was elected Governor of North Carolina, serving until the end of the war. When North Carolina was occupied by Federal Troops, Vance was arrested and imprisoned in Washington D.C. On his way to prison, under military guard, when all others turned their backs on him, he was befriended by Samuel Wittkowsky, a Jewish merchant. After Vance's release from prison, Wittkowsky influenced him to establish a law office in Charlotte. Vance was forever afterwards a champion of the rights of Jews.

After our visit to the Vance homesite we will have lunch at the Stony Knob Cafe, a lovely mountain restaurant which comes highly recommended. Lunch may be around 1, but not to worry, snacks on the bus will tide us over.

Next we will go to the Thomas Wolfe home in downtown Asheville. Wolfe grew up in his mother's boarding house in the early 1900s. She was an astute business woman, a bit eccentric, and her business practices were sometimes sharp to the point of family embarrassment. But it was she who kept the family provided for. Wolfe's father, who lived elsewhere in town, was a stone cutter with an artistic bent. His work can be seen in Asheville cemeteries. Wolfe's parents were a contentious match. His novel, *Look Homeward, Angel* is based on his childhood lived in a boarding house amid a most unusual family. The title refers to his father's enigmatic graveyard angels.

The Wolfe site suffered a terrible fire in the 1990s. However most of its contents were saved and it has been completely restored. In fact good research has made the restoration more accurate than its pre-fire condition. You truly feel as if you've wandered into an early 1900's boarding house. We'll return to Charlotte after the Wolfe site, probably getting back between 6 and 7 pm.



The cost of the trip should be about \$35 to \$40. This includes the bus, a gratuity for the driver, snacks on the bus, and an honorarium for each site. It does not include lunch. If gas prices rise above \$5 per gallon, the price will change, and we will reconsider our options. The exact details will be in the September – October Dandelion. We will not be taking firm reservations until September but if you would like to go, please let Valerie Jones or Ann Williams know so we can get an idea of how many are interested. We will need at least 25 – 30 people to make this an affordable trip. The bus holds about 45 people, so do invite your friends, spouses, etc. The trip is open to anyone who would like to explore history during October's fabulous foliage.

Southern Campaign of the American Revolution, Corps of Discovery

Lord Cornwallis's March to and Retreat from Charlotte, 1780, Saturday, May 21, Free

Corps of Discovery field trips are informal tours organized upon invitation of a host and guide. SCAR publishes a meeting date, time, and place of the Revolutionary War related sites to be visited. We invite all interested to carpool, join the hike and enjoy informal on-the-ground, interpretive presentations of research. See web site for current information.

The Charlotte Corps of Discovery starts at Providence Presbyterian Church at 9:00 am for a brief introduction and a driving tour of the route Cornwallis' army took into Charlotte on 24–26 September 1780 – including the Battle of Charlotte – and the British Army's retreat on 12–13 October 1780. There will be personal appearances by Gen.

William Davidson and Col. Thomas Polk. Fife and drum music is expected. The tour will include riding the Lynx light-rail train into uptown Charlotte and having lunch at the EpiCentre. The tour will end back at Providence Church with a book and art sale. For more details, go to <http://www.southerncampaign.org/cod.php>

Bear Hunting with a Switch

Mt. LeConte, in the Smokey Mountains, is the 4th highest peak in the Eastern US at 6,593 feet. Since the 1920s there has been a lodge on top of LeConte that can only be reached by hiking or on horseback. The 5 trails to the top are 5 to 8 miles long and ascend 3 to 4 thousand feet in altitude. In the lodge there is an account from 1949 that reminds us how life used to be in North Carolina not so long ago. This account was written in 1971 by a man remembering the adventures of his youth.

The year was 1949. It seems that this man and another young fellow, just having graduated from high school and getting ready to go off to college, decided to spend a few nights on Mt. LeConte. They couldn't afford \$3.00 per night (including meals) to stay in the lodge and camped out on top of the mountain near the lodge. The second afternoon, as they were cooking a supper of fried chicken, a large black bear ambled into their camp. The cook, deciding to save their dinner, rapidly climbed a nearby tree and placed the pan in the branches. While he was on the way down, the bear passed him on the way up and knocked the pan to the ground. The bear then scampered down and proceeded to eat not only the fried chicken but everything else they had with them, including canned goods, destroying their packs and camping equipment in the process.

The boys decided that retreat was the only safe course and walked to the lodge to see if they could get something to eat. They had a grand total of 17¢ between them, but after they told their story, the owner took pity on them and fed them in the kitchen. The owner then turned to his 8-year old son saying "Jason, it sounds like Old Sally is acting up again. Run down there and take care of her won't you?"

After eating, the boys walked back to the camp site with young Jason. Along the way the boy cut a switch from the brush along the trail. When they got to the camp site, Old Sally was still presiding over the remains of their food and camping equipment. Jason commenced to yell at Old Sally and switch her behind. She looked ashamed and sorry and slowly shuffled off into the woods with Jason following her every step of the way. Jason then left, wishing them a pleasant night.

The boys built up the fire and sat down to wait out the night keeping an eye open for the big black bear. They didn't have long to wait for soon Old Sally came ambling back into the camp and settled down by the fire. It seemed that even though she had eaten everything there was to eat and destroyed everything else, she just liked to sit by the fire. The boys spent the night wrapped in their blankets on one side of the fire with Old Sally on the other side. At first light they took what remained of their equipment and hit the trail, hungry, tired, and a great deal wiser. They had always heard of "going bear hunting with a switch," but had never before seen it done.

Jim Williams

A Yummy Recipe

June McKinney brought a wonderful chicken salad ball to our April meeting, and there were requests for the recipe. Thanks, June, for sharing it!

Chicken Salad Ball

2 packages of cream cheese, 8 oz. each
 1 ½ cans of Swanson Chicken, drained
 (9.75 oz cans)
 1 tbsp A-1 Steak sauce

½ cup chopped celery
 ½ cup minced onion
 ¼ tsp curry powder
 salt and pepper to taste

Mix ingredients, form into a ball, and roll in chopped nuts. Serve with crackers.

*Site News***The President James K. Polk State Historic Site is Recruiting Volunteers
Saturday May 21, from 11 am to 3 pm.**

A few hours a week or month is all you need to give to make friends and support your community. J Michelle Lanier, the Curator of Multicultural Initiatives with North Carolina's State Historic Sites, will give a presentation about African-American Interpretation. There will also be a presentation on the Mexican-American War by Professor Matthew Stevenson from Seminole State College in Orlando, Florida. For more information please visit our web site (www.nchistoricsites.org/polk) or call us at 704-889-7145.

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>

The Arts Festival at Historic Rosedale Plantation, Saturday, May 7, from 10 am to 4 pm.

This Pottery and Craft Festival on the 8-acre grounds of Rosedale Plantation will feature works for sale from some of NC's finest artists, demonstrations of colonial crafts by costumed craftsmen, historic hands-on crafts for children, free pony rides, demonstrations by the Carolina Raptor Center, a raffle for one-of-a-kind pottery by HAT Thompson, and afternoon tea. Food and beverages will be available on site

General admission tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and students ages 5-18. Children 4 and under are free. Family passes are \$25. Rain or shine. A patron ticket for \$75 gives 9 am early access to the craftsmen and a wonderful preview breakfast.

Old-Time Music Jam & Ice Cream Social, Sunday, July 10 from 1 to 4 pm, free.

Free Ice Cream plus Storytellers Guild of Charlotte, song circle, lap dulcimers, slow & fast jams, and clogging demonstration. Free parking. Historic Rosedale house tours available at half price.

Latta Plantation

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

World War II Reenactment. Saturday and Sunday, May 21 – 22, from 10 am to 4 pm

Celebrate Armed Forces Day at Latta at this event held in honor of veterans. See the Allied and Axis forces recreate a battle of the French countryside. World War II veterans will be admitted free and all other veterans and active duty military will receive discounted admission.

Living History Weekend. Saturday, May 28 from 10 am to 4 pm; Sunday, May 29 from 1 to 4 pm.

Support Historic Latta Plantation at this living history extravaganza! See demonstrations and participate in hands-on activities across the plantation, including open-hearth cooking, spinning, weaving, beekeeping, dancing around the maypole, woodworking, fire starting, old-fashioned games, and craft activities to name a few. Enjoy a hot meal and listen to live music!

Hugh Torance House and Store
8231 Gilead Road, Huntersville, NC

Regular Tour Schedule Resumes. 1st and 3rd Sundays, May through September, 2 to 5 pm.

The site is located two miles west of I 77 exit 23 (Gilead Road). With an enthusiastic group of new docents, we have increased our Summer tour schedule from one Sunday a month to two. In the late 18th century Hugh Torance built a fine log home. At the turn of the 19th century it was modified to become Mecklenburg's earliest store, and later became part of the county's largest antebellum cotton plantation. Come visit the site and learn nearly a century of rural, mercantile, and plantation history from a family that kept extensive records through the generations.

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

CMPD Family Day, Saturday, May 28 from noon to 3 pm, free

On the closing weekend of the Beneath the Badge exhibit, Family Day visitors will have the opportunity to interact with some of the men and women that serve our community. Observe demonstrations by the Canine Unit, SWAT Team, and Bomb Squad. Learn crime prevention techniques and crime scene search tactics.

Life in the 18th Century Summer Camps. July 11-15 and July 25-29

4 to 6 year olds, from 9 am to noon, 7 to 12 year olds 9 am to 3 pm

Explore colonial life at our Life in the 18th Century Summer Camp. Campers will learn about colonial trades, cooking, the lives of soldiers, and more. Activities will include living history demonstrations, crafts, games and historical reenactments. Admission: \$70 for 4 to 6 year olds, \$170 for 7 to 12 year olds; discounts for members.

Digging Through the Past Archaeology Camp, July 18-22 and August 1-5

4 to 6 year olds, from 9 am to noon, 7 to 12 year olds 9 am to 3 pm

Delve into history through objects at our Digging Through the Past Archaeology Camp. Campers will investigate how archaeologists discover treasures, and how they learn about the lives of people in the past. Admission: \$70 for 4 to 6 year olds, \$170 for 7 to 12 year olds; discounts for members.

Registration for camps is available online. Please contact Elizabeth Huseman at ehuseman@charlottemuseum.org or 704 568 1774 x130 for additional information.

Hezekiah Alexander Homesite Twilight Tours, Saturday, June 4 at 6; 6:30, 7, and 7:30 pm.

Special tours in the summer twilight, with refreshments.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

Living History, Saturday, May 14 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free.

The site will feature civilian and military life in the 19th Century. There will be interpreters depicting the lives of soldiers during the Revolutionary War and the Mexican-American War. Activities include open hearth cooking, bookbinding, woodworking, spinning and weaving, and 19th century games for visitor participation.

Second Saturday Programs.

All events are from 10 am to 4 pm. Admission is free.

Threading the Story: The Form and Function of Spinning and Weaving. Saturday, June 11

This program will focus on the process of creating fabric from cotton fiber to yarn to clothing. Staff will interpret the various steps that are involved in the fabric making process. Visitors will learn about spinning, weaving, knitting, and dyeing. The market area will feature the creations of local artisans.

The Art of Music in the Mid 19th Century. Saturday, July 9

This program will feature music that was popular during President James K. Polk's administration, from classical to folk, and visitors will get the chance to try their hand at making music. We will have artisans who will sell instruments and sheet music plus a hands-on area where visitors can make simplified versions of instruments.

Breaking the Mold: Mixed Media Creations, Saturday, August 13

This program will focus on utilitarian and decorative objects from wood, metal, and clay. See a blacksmith demonstration, learn about the art of woodworking, and meet with local potters. The craft area will give visitors an opportunity to try their hand at creating pottery. We also will have local artists on hand to sell their work.

Living History Day Camps

All camps are for boys and girls from 8 to 12 and will be held on Mondays from 9 am to 3 pm. The cost is \$35 per child. Contact the site for more information and to register.

Mecklenburg County Early Settlers' Camp. July 18.

Children will try surveying, gold panning, building a log cabin, and prepare lunch over a campfire.

Young Artisans' Day Camp. July 25.

Campers will create pottery, try quill writing, design tin punch decoration, and learn about blacksmithing, period music, and more. Lunch provided.

A Day on the Farm Camp. August 1.

Children will make soap and toys, and learn period chores. They will cook lunch over an open hearth.

Rural Hill

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

North Carolina Brewers and Music Festival. Saturday, May 14

Contact site for times and more information

Camp Mecklaration: Tories Vs. Whigs. Mondays through Thursdays, beginning June 27.

A series of four-day educational camps will be held from 9 am to 3 pm. for children from 8 to 12. Education director Zac Vinson will teach early Mecklenburg history, especially as it relates to the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence using nature, creative writing, and colonial skills. Camps are limited to 15 children each week; \$120 for Rural Hill members; \$140 for others.

Schiele Museum

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

A Day of Clay, Sunday, May 22 from 1 to 5 pm.

The Piedmont region is defined in part by the well-known red, iron-rich soils. Explore the wonders of clay and its many uses in the Backcountry - cooking and storage, cabin construction, games & pastimes, and medicine. See a meal prepared in redware dishes at the open hearth. Try your luck in a game of draughts (marbles) or try your hand at chinking a cabin wall!

Backcountry Frolick, Sunday, June 26 from 1 to 5 pm

Enough of the hard work – time for some frivolity and fun! We will have an assortment of traditional games familiar to Backcountry folks – card, dice, marbles, string figures, and board games. Be sure to save energy for a round of dance and a reel or two stepped to the lively tunes played by our fine musicians.

We Therefore...Unite Ourselves: The Tryon Resolves, Sunday, August 28 from 1 to 5 pm

The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence is well known in the region, yet few local folk know about the Tryon Resolves. The Tryon Resolves were a declaration adopted by citizens of Tryon County in the Province of North Carolina in the early days of the American Revolution. In the Resolves, adopted in response to the Battle of Lexington, the signers vowed resistance to coercive actions by the British Empire against its North American colonies. The document was signed on August 14, 1775, predating the United States Declaration of Independence by almost 11 months!

Gaston County Museum

131 West Main Street Dallas, NC. (704)922-7681, #2 www.gastoncountymuseum.org

Civil War Program, Saturday, May 7 from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm

The Confederate History and Monument Preservation Society portraying Company H of the 23rd NC troops will have a display set up, be on hand to answer questions about the Civil War, and give firing and drilling demonstrations. In honor of North Carolina Confederate Memorial Day, at 1 pm there will be a wreath laying ceremony on the Confederate Marker in Dallas, NC.

Blues out Back Concert Series - Bring your lawn chairs for free concerts at 6:30 pm

Friday, May 13, David Holt with Josh Goforth.

Friday, June 10, Abe Reid

Historic Brattonsville

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

<http://www.chmuseums.org>

County Court Day. Saturday, May 7 from 10 am to 4 pm

Costumed interpreters will recreate an actual York County court case of the late 18th century. What will the charges be and how will judges decide the fate of the defendants?

Sunday Stroll. Sunday, May 8 at 1:30 pm.

Enjoy a 45 minute stroll featuring either wildflowers and native plants or our historic gardens. What we see will be "Nature's Surprise" as our landscape is always changing.

Memorial Day, Monday, May 30 from 10 am to 4 pm

A day of remembrances will honor not only the Bratton family and their many contributions to war in the 18th and 19th centuries, but also the sacrifices of United States veterans to the present day. Costumed interpreters lead activities such as weapon demonstrations and children's military drills.

Battle of Huck's Defeat. Saturday, July 9 from 10 am to 4 pm; Sunday, July 10 from 10 am to 3 pm

See how soldiers and civilians survived the Revolutionary War in the Carolina backcountry. Two significant battles will be reenacted. Historic music performances, firearms demonstrations, talks by noted experts, and camp life will be shown throughout the day. Younger visitors can explore the Children's Encampment area and experience historic toys and games, take part in military drills and explore a Revolutionary War camp.

Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site

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

<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/reed/reed.htm>

Pan-O-Lympics, Saturday, June 11 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free

Visitors will gain a better understanding of the kinds of work and tools miners used to extract gold from N.C. in the 19th century. Visitors may participate in a variety of activities related to gold mining. This event will also include the 22nd Annual NC Open Gold Panning Competition. 10 am to 4 pm. Fee and registration required for NC Open Panning Competition.

Levine Museum of the New South

200 E. Seventh Street, Charlotte, NC, 704 333 1887, <http://www.museumofthenewsouth.org>

Freedom Riders. Monday, May 9. Reception at 6 pm at the museum; film preview and discussion from 7 to 9 pm at First United Presbyterian Church, across the street from the museum.

May, 2011 is the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Ride, one of the best-known episodes of the 1960s Civil Rights movement. An interracial group of student activists called attention to ongoing segregation by simply riding together on Greyhound and Trailways buses, then going into bus stations and ignoring the "White" and "Colored" signs. One rider was jailed here in Charlotte May 8-9, 1961. Another participant, future US Congressman John Lewis, was beaten at the Rock Hill bus station on May 9th. Charlotte's own Charles Jones joined the Ride as it moved further south.

The Levine Museum, in partnership with WTVI, will be part of a national commemoration of those events. A student group is retracing the trip in conjunction with a PBS television documentary FREEDOM RIDERS that will air later in the month. The students, along with veterans of the 1961 Ride, will arrive at The Levine Museum for the reception followed by the discussion and film preview. Dr. Mia Bay will be the featured speaker. Freedom Ride historian Dr. Raymond Arsenault will host the program at First United Presbyterian Church.

Charlotte Folk Society

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte

www.folksociety.org

The Briarhoppers in Concert, Friday, June 10 at 7 pm, Free

Hear The Legendary WBT Briarhoppers performing old-time and early country music, plus refreshments, song circle, lap dulcimers and slow & fast jams following the concert.

Andrew Jackson State Park

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

Buford's Defeat, Saturday, May 28, check web site for times and details

Commemorate the Anniversary of Buford's Defeat in the Waxhaws, including speakers, living history demonstrations, colonial church service, and memorials services. Living historians include Continental Line, British Legion, and Militia Units.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

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

Living History Weekend. Saturday, May 28 from 10 am to 4 pm; Sunday, May 29 from 10 am to 3 pm

Re-enactors representing the provincial garrison of Fort Dobbs will present on-going demonstrations of 18th Century camp life, as well as featured musket and cannon firing demonstrations.

Second Saturday Event: Soldier Life. Saturday, June 11 from 10 am to 4 pm

Gain insight into the lives of the provincial garrison of Fort Dobbs through weapons demonstrations, and hands-on military drill and construction programs.

Second Saturday Event: Archaeologist for a Day. Saturday, July 9 from 10 am to 4 pm

Archaeology is vital to our understanding of Fort Dobbs. Kids can try their hand at a simulated dig site while learning about the process of this valuable science. Dr. Larry Babits of ECU will speak about his digs at the site.

Living History Weekend. Saturday, July 23 from 10 am to 4 pm; Sunday, July 24 from 10 am to 3 pm

Re-enactors representing the provincial garrison of Fort Dobbs will present on-going demonstrations of 18th Century camp life, as well as featured musket and cannon firing demonstrations.

Second Saturday Event. Native Carolinians. Saturday, August 13 from 10 am to 4 pm

Learn about the South Eastern Indians of the 1750's through interactions with historic interpreters and modern craftsmen. Robert Rambo will present a performance of "Attakullakulla: Cherokee Peace Chief."

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 Through the Ages, Saturday and Sunday May 28-29 from 9 am to 6 pm

Re-enactors representing soldiers from the each of America's wars from the Revolution to modern military will be encamped discussing their weapons and tactics. Come and discover the evolution of America's Armed Forces as we honor those who have served and are serving our nation this Memorial Day Weekend.

Children's Colonial Day, Saturday, June 11 from 10 am to 5 pm

Kids will get a chance to dress and play as 18th century kids did. Come, play games such as Jacobs Ladder, Game of Graces, Rolling Hoop and more. Learn what breeches, waistcoat, petticoat and short gowns are. Sign your Oath, join the militia and drill.

Signing the Declaration of Independence, Saturday and Sunday, July 2 and 3 from 9 am to 5 pm

Members of the Backcountry Militia will be on hand to discuss the Declaration of Independence, its significance, what it meant then and now. Come and sign your John Hancock as the founding fathers did on the document that guarantee your rights and liberties to this day.

Jaeger Corp and Rick Roberts, Saturday and Sunday, July 16 and 17 from 9 am to 5 pm

The Jaeger Corp was a German mercenary rifle corp employed by the British during the American Revolution. Come learn more about this unit and its unique weaponry. Ricky Roberts will also be hand to discuss and demonstrate the Ferguson Breech Loading Rifle. This weapon, designed and developed by Patrick Ferguson, was revolutionary in its design and ahead of its time. Weapon demonstrations will be held throughout this event.

Backcountry Militia Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, August 13 and 14, from 9 am to 5 pm

The Backcountry Militia will be encamped discussing life on the Carolina frontier. Various demonstrations will be held throughout the day including weapons demonstrations, cooking and more.

Historic Camden

Highway 521 just South of Camden, SC
(803) 432-9831 <http://www.historic-camden.net>

Spring Market Day, Saturday, May 14 from 9 am to 1 pm, Free

Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site's 17th annual Spring Market Day. Buyers and browsers, come early -- you'll be amazed what you can purchase for a dime! Vendor booths will offer everything from antiques and crafts, including custom-made jewelry, to "attic finds," plus heritage plants and nursery plants and shrubs.

Battle of Camden Remembrance Day Saturday, August 13 from 10 am to 4:30 pm, Free

Redcoats return to Camden! Some 20 British soldiers stationed at the Kershaw-Cornwallis House interpret life in occupied Camden ca. 1780 from the King's point of view! "Crimes & Punishment," a spellbinding skit about the events surrounding the August 16th Battle of Camden, featuring British actor Howard Burnham as Lord Cornwallis, will be performed at 10:30 am, 12:00 and 2:15 and 3:30 pm. Colonial games, light refreshments, an enlightening half-hour SC ETV documentary on the battle, and the SC Philip Simmons Blacksmith Association working the forge from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm complete this fun-filled family outing.

Old Salem

<http://www.oldsalem.org>

George Washington Visits Old Salem, Saturday, May 21

George Washington visited Salem in May & June of 1791 as part of his Southern Tour. We are commemorating his visit with a variety of activities, and the return of George himself! Dean Malissa, who portrays him for Mount Vernon, will visit Salem as Washington on his 1791 Southern Tour. Throughout the day he will offer speeches and interact with visitors. Check web site for times. Featured Activities include Fire Engine Drills, Hearth Cooking, Hoe Cakes with butter & honey (hands-on), Currency, Apothecary, Creating Washington's headquarters Flag (hands-on), 18th Century Dancing demonstration & instruction, and a Puppet Show: The Legend of Betsy Ross, at 11:30 am, 1, 2 and 3 pm.

A Washington Seminar, Saturday, June 4

A morning seminar will focus on objects that surrounded George Washington. It will feature Carol Borchert Cadou, Vice President of Collections and Senior Curator at Washington's Mount Vernon. Registration required. Visit www.mesda.org

George Washington's Music, Saturday, June 18. Check web site for times.

This weekend will feature music throughout the district

- David & Ginger Hildebrand: George Washington: Music for the First President.
- Violin music at the Tavern
- Period organ music in the Single Brothers' House. Music like George Washington heard at the Singstunde (song service) he attended in Salem.
- Moravian Brass Band throughout the day

Historic Forte Piano Music, Sunday, June 19, at 3 pm., Gray Auditorium

Renowned forte pianist, Andrew Willis, will perform on a historic instrument. He is Professor of Music at the University of North Carolina Greensboro and is recognized for his performances on historic pianos.

Duke Mansion

400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte, 704 714 4448

<http://www.dukemansion.com>

What's Up with Charlotte's Historic Landmarks. Sunday May 15 at 3 pm

Dr. Dan Morrill, longtime consulting director of Charlotte Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, looks at preservation successes – and challenges. Hear the stories behind the headlines of efforts to save the Dr. George E. Davis House at Johnson C. Smith University, Davis Brothers Store near Huntersville, the Piedmont and Northern Railway Station in the Thrift community, as well as the vanishing rural built environment of Mecklenburg County. Program is free; reservations are required at 704-714-4445 or pmartin@tlwf.org.

Matthews Historical Foundation

Programs held at the Matthews Woman's Club, 208 South Trade Street

<http://www.matthewshistoricalfoundation.org>

Spring Open House, Saturday, May 14 from 2 to 4 pm

Both the Massey-Clark House and the Reid House will be open for visitors. There will be entertainment along with an old-fashioned Strawberry Social. The Fullwood Restoration Award winners will be announced.

Lincoln County Historical Association

www.LincolnCountyHistory.com (704) 748-9090

Battle of Ramsour's Mill: Celebration and Reenactment. Saturday and Sunday, June 18 and 19, from 10 am to 4 pm. Ramsour's Mill Battleground, 301 Jeb Seagle Road, Lincolnton.

The Battle of Ramsour's Mill will be reenacted by members of Locke's Militia and other reenactment groups from across North Carolina. There will be a wreath laying at the mass grave site, music from Ken Bloom, and Cricket matches in which the public can participate.

Book Signing: *Dreaming of Dixie: How the South Was Created in American Pop Culture* by Karen Cox.**Thursday, June 23 at 6:30 pm, 36th Street Bakery, Lincolnton**

From the late nineteenth century through World War II, popular culture portrayed the American South ensconced in its antebellum past, draped in moonlight and magnolias, and represented by such southern icons as the mammy, the belle, the planter and white-columned mansions. In *Dreaming of Dixie*, Cox shows that the purveyors of this constructed nostalgia for the Old South were outsiders, especially advertising agencies, musicians, publishers, writers, and filmmakers marketing the South as a region still dedicated to America's pastoral traditions.

Lower Providence Community House

9735 Community House Road, across from Community House Middle School.
<http://www.lowerprovidencelogcabin.org/>

Revolutionary War at Clem's Branch. Sunday, June 12 at 3 pm

Dan Nance, local artist and historian brings military history to life through art. \$10 at the door.

Davidson's Fort Historic Park

Off I-40 between Marion and Black Mountain www.davidsonfort.org

Spring Muster. Saturday May 14 from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, May 15 from 1 to 5 pm.

Davidson's Fort was built in the 18th Century as a place of refuge during Indian attacks, and a garrison for defense. See how life was on the Western frontier during the Spring muster. "Settlers" from around the area will gather to shop, trade, drill, and socialize. Meet trappers, farmers, craftsmen and Indians carrying on their daily activities.

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