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Yankee Peddlers

“Yankee Peddlers” by Tom Kelleher appeared in the ALHFAM Bulletin. Below is a summary.

In 1818 a young James Guild left Tunbridge, Vermont on his first peddling trip. He wrote in his journal: “At this time I became of age..., and... I sought for some happier situation. My disposition would not allow me to work on a farm, and some other employment I must pursue... I was worth a note of \$70 Dollars... So I had a disposition to sell it for goods which I moved to my great disadvantage. No one knows the feelings of my heart when parting with my little all for a trunk of goods and losing my character, if I had any, by being a peddler. I not only had the disagreeable sensations of leaving my friends, but wondering why, why I should stoop so low as to follow so mean a calling... After bidding all friends adieu I took my little trunk and steers for the west.”

His journal describes illness, misfortune, a day-long walk through a rainstorm, falling into the mud injuring himself and his goods, and crying with homesickness; there is no shortage of self-pity. Yet he made friends, won wrestling matches, and bested local con men. He scratched out his living by peddling, tinkering, cutting profiles, painting portraits, and playing music. He met a wide variety of humanity, both good men and rude, and wrote that “this learns me human nature.” He learned that a low priced item, even if fairly priced, aroused suspicion of inferior goods. Scissors he bought for three cents would not sell for twelve, but he sold them handily at twenty-five cents a pair. Yet kindheartedness led him to give away some goods: “for when I came to a poor house where they wanted a needle...or a few pins, I could freely bestow them on the poor although it was but little I possessed.”

There were many such naïve young peddlers; most did not consider peddling a career, but a path to earn enough to buy a small farm or a permanent store. Some peddlers were worldly and shrewd bargainers, or even cheats. Others contracted with manufacturers to sell their goods across the land. A few peddlers were women. They primarily sold sewing notions, or their own handiwork such as baskets and bandboxes. Women generally sold from their homes or in the village where they lived.



Some peddlers carried their wares in tin trunks. News and a good story were a bonus for customers, as visitors to Old Sturbridge Village can discover. Photography by Katie Boardman.

Itinerant peddlers lodged in taverns or stayed with families along the way. Those with regular routes became welcome guests, bringing news and stories along with their goods. “Sundry goods” hardly describes the variety of their wares: brooms, combs, flutes, wooden clocks, tin, pewter, cloth, buttons, sewing silk, medicines, cheese hoops, Japaned ware, knives, cologne, cosmetics, glass wares; the list is endless. Most required cash for their goods, but those with wagons often bartered for goods to be sold elsewhere. Most peddlers carried “Counterfeit Detectors” to guard against fraudulent banknotes.

Tom Kelleher’s article concentrates on the New England trade, but certainly things were not so different in the South. Both James Latta and Hugh Torance were nearing the age of forty when they established themselves as merchants in Mecklenburg County, and by then they had each accumulated some wealth. But we might imagine them as young men starting out, perhaps beset by homesickness, walking all day through a rainstorm, besting a cunning con man, or giving away a few needles and pins. Ann Williams

All quotes are from “From Tunbridge, Vermont, to London, England – The Journal of James Guild, Peddler, Tinker, Schoolmaster, Portrait Painter, from 1818 to 1824” in the *Proceedings of the Vermont Historical Society*, No. 5 (1937). The original version of “Yankee Peddlers,” by Tom Kelleher appeared in ALHFAM Bulletin, Vol. XXXX, No. 4 (winter 2011): 15-18. Summary and excerpts used here courtesy of the Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums (www.alhfam.org).

From the Chairman

It was a ‘Historical’ summer....regardless....of the extreme ‘historic’ HEAT!

What fun I had visiting historic sites this summer—from the coast to the mountains. Some I visited with family; some I toured with other Docents. And I can say that I am ‘rich’ in newly acquired knowledge and friendship of Docents. We had a few hardships along the way though. My car **overheated** on the way home from Joara, the Indian/Spanish fort excavation near Morganton. Fortunately, we 5 docents were almost to Charlotte when the car started to lose power and the heat needle was rising. I pulled into a gas station with difficulty but we were safe. The car was towed home. Then when five of us Docents went to Raleigh by train—we had a grand time by the way—the train was over 2 hours late on the return trip due to **Hot Rails**. (The train had to slow down and watch for warped rails due to the heat.) I think we got to bed around midnight. All of us would do it again, but not in the summer.

I would encourage everyone to see the new permanent exhibit, North Carolina from prehistory to 1830s, at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh. It is so well done with a lot of information displayed. The second part from 1830s to present will open mid-November. Do not miss the Thomas Day exhibit. Thomas Day was a free man of color, skilled as a furniture maker. He was sought after by the wealthy of North Carolina for his furniture (just before the Civil War). He owned slaves (apprenticed them and protected them). He educated his children by sending them to schools in New England. Then go next door to the North Carolina Natural Sciences Museum and see the special exhibit ‘Batiks of the Barrier Islands’. We spent over an hour in this exhibit learning about the art of batik. The pieces are absolutely stunning!! (This exhibit ends in early November.) I am eager for more historic outings this fall, along with soothing coolness. Audrey Mellichamp

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the November/ December Dandelion is October 17th. Send us all your news, interesting articles, and calendar events. Send them 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 Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. Refreshments at 9:30 am, business meeting at 10, program at 11. Visitors are always welcome.

Tuesday, September 6, 2011 Thunder in Carolina

Thunder in Carolina, a video produced by Donald Devet, tells the story of the first settlers in Mecklenburg County and their hardships and struggles for a just government. Many Mecklenburg pioneers came from the frontiers of Pennsylvania where life was fraught with marauding Indians, and indifferent Quakers. The video follows these Scots-Irish on their trek down the great wagon road to the settlement of a new community in the Carolinas.

Donald Devet is a Charlotte native with 40 years experience in filmmaking. He worked first in Charlotte, then many years in New York on a number of projects including documentaries for PBS. He returned to Charlotte, and has produced many videos about the history of the Queen City. After the video he will be available for questions and discussion. A program not to be missed!

Tuesday, October 4, 2011 Early America's Sleeping Beauty: King Cotton

We all know that antebellum southern plantations were dependant on a single magnificent crop: cotton. But how did it happen? This program will show how the unruly fiber was tamed by Eli Whitney's cotton gin, a device he might never have invented had he not been smitten by Nathaniel Greene's flirtatious widow. Nearly overnight cotton became hugely profitable all over the south, but there was a dark side to "white gold". Its labor intensity revived a demand for slaves, and its role in the national economy was a major factor in precipitating the Civil War.

Ann Williams, a docent at several historic plantations, wanted to know more about plantation farming, especially as it related to slavery, and researched the topic. She discovered that cotton was botanically fascinating, yet wily and difficult. The enormous wealth derived from cotton enriched not only the South, but the entire nation. She will show slides illustrating cotton's quirky nature and back-breaking production and examples of local farm records. Cotton was indeed a King who wielded a mighty and often cruel scepter.

MHA Dinner Meeting

Monday, September 26, 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

Monday, September 26 A Defense of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence

Former Judge and MHA President Chase Saunders will present an examination of the Mecklenburg Declaration from a legal perspective, examining the proofs presented in *Chain of Error* by V. V. McNitt. This paper was first presented at the Horace Williams Philosophical Society earlier this year. Judge Saunders will present the following motions, to wit:

- A motion for appropriate relief seeking the re-examination of the record of history by the academic community and exoneration of the drafters of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.
- A motion seeking the trial of UNC Professor Charles Phillips for academic misconduct in his 1853 publication, defaming the drafters and declaring the episode a fraud, for wanton negligence in conducting his research and

thereby failing to meet generally accepted standards of academic research and materially deviated from said standards.

Judge Saunders is a 5th generation North Carolinian and Charlotte native. He is a former judge and prosecutor, and currently practices business and family law. He is involved in Charlotte Rotary, The Trail of History, The Little Sugar Creek Greenway, and serves as the Chair of Justice Initiatives, a court support non-profit.

October Journey to Asheville

On Tuesday, October 18th the MHA Docents are taking a bus trip to the Zebulon Vance Birthplace and the Thomas Wolfe Memorial. We invite you to join us on a day when mountain autumn color should be at its peak.

In 1830 **Zebulon Vance** was born in his grandfather's farmhouse near Weaverville, a surprisingly sophisticated log home for 18th century western North Carolina. Zeb grew up to be a colorful lawyer and political leader and was considered to be the greatest and most beloved man in North Carolina in the 19th century. When the Civil War began he was a US Congressman who opposed secession. Shots were fired at Ft. Sumter, then Lincoln ordered North Carolina to send troops to the Union Army. Vance changed his position in an instant. He became a Confederate Officer, then North Carolina's governor serving two terms until the war ended. Vance was imprisoned after the war, and on the way there was befriended by a Charlotte Jewish merchant, Samuel Wittkowsky. After Vance's release from Federal prison, Wittkowsky encouraged him to practice law in Charlotte, which he did for a few years. Among his clients was accused murderer Tom Dula, the subject of the folk song "Tom Dooley." He was elected Governor again and then to the US Senate where he served until his death. He was a famous public speaker and gave his Scattered Nation speech hundreds of times over the years. This famous speech praised the Jews and called for religious tolerance and freedom amongst all Americans. There is an excellent article on Vance and the Civil War in the July, 2011 issue of Our State magazine.



The **Thomas Wolfe** Memorial is Wolfe's mother's boarding house where he lived for most of his boyhood. "Old Kentucky Home" – called "Dixieland" in Wolfe's novels – was a prominent feature in his book "Look Homeward, Angel". It was built in 1883, much augmented over the next decade, then improved once again by his mother in 1916. His mother Julia was an opinionated hard-nosed businesswoman obsessed by acquiring property. His father, W. O. Wolfe, was a cutter of tombstones with a fondness for strong drink. He and Julia had a contentious relationship and, though never divorced, lived separately through most of their marriage. Wolfe's novels are highly autobiographical and the characters that inhabit them can

easily be imagined walking through the rooms of the impeccably restored boardinghouse, bickering every step of the way.

Trip Details: The bus will leave Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church promptly at **8 AM**. Travel time to the Vance site is about 2 ½ hours. We'll have ample snacks on the bus in anticipation of a slightly late lunch. After touring the Vance site we'll have lunch at the Stony Knob Café in Weaverville. They have lots of Greek and Mediterranean items as well as American fare. Most are in the \$8 to \$10 range. After lunch we'll tour the Wolfe

site in downtown Asheville. We should be back in Charlotte by 7 pm. The cost of the trip is \$40 per person which includes everything **except** lunch.

We need at least 25 people to make this trip a go, and the bus will hold about 40. So there is plenty of room for spouses, friends, and visitors. Reserve your space by sending a check to Valerie Jones for \$40 by October 4th. **Make checks payable to MHA Docents.** You may give your check to Valerie at the September or October meeting, or mail it to her at 4700 Coronado Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212. This should be a splendid fall day in the mountains filled with lots of interesting history.

Docent Book Club

The book club will meet immediately after the September and October meetings. We will discuss anything written by or about Zebulon Vance and Thomas Wolfe in anticipation of our October trip. There should be lots to say about these very interesting fellows from western North Carolina. Anyone may join us, and feel free to bring a lunch.

What's in a Name?

In 1994 the MHA Docents had a contest to rename their newsletter. "Docent News" was a bit lacking in imagination. There were many entries, and one from Betty Hutchinson won the day. Below is her entry as it appeared in the Dandelion Press, Vol. 1, No. 1.

Stars of the earth
These golden flowers
Emblems of our own great resurrection;
Emblems of the bright and better land.
From *Flowers* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Newsletter Named "Dandelion Press"

The first colonists brought dandelions to America where they have flourished and scattered everywhere. In considering an appropriate name for our newsletter, it seems a fitting symbol for the MHA Education Committee [as we were then known] and the docents themselves.

The dandelion is a hardy plant with deeply notched leaves that reminded the ancient French of lions' teeth: hence dent de lion became Anglicized to "dandelion".

Cutting it off at the surface only encourages the long root to regenerate the plant more vigorously. The root may be dried and used for medicinal purposes.

Longfellow's "stars of the earth" brighten our world and act as harbingers of spring. Perhaps they overdo it a bit when it comes to tidy lawns, but who would eliminate their beauty and cheer from the countryside.

Dandelion greens are best picked and eaten before the blooms appear. Wine can be made from the blossoms. The golden-yellow head is really a cluster of flowers that are self-pollinating.

Beauty continues as the seeds form a perfect sphere on a tall pedestal and later are blown by nature or a child to a random destination.

The docents too, serve as a catalyst for disseminating authentic seeds of knowledge to young and old alike.

MHA Docent Anniversary

The MHA Docents are twenty years old! We will celebrate this grand occasion on Saturday, November 12th with a gala luncheon at Trinity Presbyterian Church. The event is for docents, former docents, their spouses, and invited guests who have been important to our development. We'll have a short program highlighting our

accomplishments these past twenty years (otherwise known as bragging) then ask members of the group to recall their special docent memories. We'll have a table for photos and other memorabilia. So gather a few mementos, and think about your own poignant or hilarious "docent moment".

We have combed old rosters for names of former docents, but have lost touch with some and do not have current addresses. If you have the address of a former docent contact Lisa Tappy, Valerie Jones, or Ann Williams; or email mhadandelion@mindspring.com. In mid-October invitations to the celebration will be mailed which will include further details and cost of the luncheon.

The Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley

In July, Carolyn Dilda and I attended the ALHFAM Conference and Annual Meeting at The Farmstead at Jackson's Mill in Weston, West Virginia. We were among 170 attendees from all over the US. ALHFAM (Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums) is a great tool for staff and volunteers at historic sites and museums. I have been a member for thirteen years, and have attended conferences all over the Southeast. It's always fun traveling with docent friends and this event was no different. Carolyn and I share an interest in hearth cooking and presenting cooking skills of the 18th and early 19th centuries. The Farmstead, constructed in 1921 as the nation's first 4H camp, was a great setting for us.

The topic this year was "Growing History in Good times and Bad." Adam Booth, the keynote speaker, is well known in West Virginia as a gifted and dynamic storyteller and purveyor of tall tales. He holds the title of "Biggest Liar in West Virginia." Each day's sessions included topics such as paper marbling, food ways, plowing techniques, volunteer management, maximizing websites, and many others. We also had tours at nearby historic sites.

I took a dye class at Fort Pickett, visited several historic sites, and rode a restored excursion train through the mountains of West Virginia. Before the conference we took advantage of events planned for early arrivals. In historic Weston we saw a bank that was confiscated by Union soldiers, the first colored schoolhouse, a glassworks exhibit, and toured an insane asylum.

Our cooking guild is well known and our programs can match just about any other. Our guild should be proud of their abilities and contributions to the sites in our area. I learned that all sites are struggling and suffering from the economy. Our docents deserve a pat on the back for all they have done and continue to do for "Growing History in Good Times and Bad."
Sharon Van Kuren

Battle of Asheville

Millie Hodge sent this along in anticipation of our October trip to Asheville.

A historic marker on the UNC – Asheville campus reads:

Battle of Asheville – On April 3, 1865, Union Col. Isaac M. Kirby left East Tenn. with 1100 men on a raid against Asheville. On April 6, Kirby's force was defeated by local militia under Col. G. W. Clayton. Earthworks remain 100 yds. N.

This was not a major battle in the long bloody Civil War, but it was a Southern victory. Asheville was once considered as a Confederate capital; its isolation and mountain terrain would protect it from Union attack. It never became a capital, but as you will see, the reasoning was valid.

On April 3, 1865, Union Colonel Isaac Kirby and his 101st Ohio Infantry were ordered to leave Tennessee and scout in the direction of Asheville. Kirby had 900 Infantrymen, about 200 partisans (including some Rebel deserters), two cannons, and a supply train. They camped the night at Hot Springs, just over the North Carolina

line. The next day, with rations for four days, they traveled up the French Broad River to Asheville. Burning bridges and stealing horses as they went, Kirby came to the farm of Mrs. Sondley. She sent one of her Negroes by horse to give warning. The boy rode into town calling, "The Yankees are Coming!"

General James G. Martin was normally in charge of the military in Asheville, but he was away on other duties, leaving General George Wesley Clayton in charge. Clayton was a West Point graduate who knew what to do even though he had no battle experience. He summoned a meager force composed of 600 whites and Cherokees (known as "The Thomas Legion") along with the "Silver Greys", a home guard of 44 older men and one fourteen year old boy. He also had two small Napoleon cannons. Clayton established a trench position (the earthworks noted on the historic marker). The battle raged from 3 in the afternoon until 8 in the evening. It was a long-range battle, and there were no Confederate deaths. Two Yankees were reported wounded having lost legs from cannon fire. Colonel Kirby made a report of the "scout" and battle saying he could have taken the town, but "had positive orders not to sacrifice the life of even one man."

After Lee's surrender a month later, Union forces agreed to leave Asheville untouched if the town would provide three days rations and allow them to pass through. The nearly starving town met the terms. The soldiers had barely passed through town, when they turned back to shoot people in the streets, rob homes, and burn buildings. They burned the Armory where implements of war for the confederacy had once been manufactured, but later removed to South Carolina. General Clayton never swore to the "Oath of Allegiance" that was demanded by federal authorities. Thus Asheville was never "taken" and never surrendered to Union forces. The Battle of Asheville was truly a Confederate victory. Millie Hodge

Sources: "Battle of Asheville" by Michael Havelin. Old Buncombe County Genealogical Society, May, 2011. *A History of Buncombe County* by Foster A. Sondley, Reprint Publishers, 1977.

Jamestown: The Buried Truth

All of us who love history have a treat in store in September when the Charlotte Museum of History brings Dr. William M. Kelso, Head Archaeologist of the Jamestown Rediscovery Project, to Charlotte. Dr. Kelso will be the featured speaker at their Scholar's Forum Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 7 PM.

The findings of Dr. Kelso and his team are rewriting the history that began in 1607 when John Smith and his followers landed in Virginia and established the first enduring English settlement in North America. The written records of this voyage and the settlement are often conflicting and for many years left American historians with the impression that Jamestown was a failed venture. For hundreds of years it was assumed that this historic site had been swallowed up by the eroding banks of the James River. Dr. Kelso began to question that assumption early in his career. The opportunity to look for the evidence he needed to challenge it did not come until many years later during the preparations for the 400th anniversary celebration of 2007. As he and his archaeological team began to dig deeper than had ever been done before, the soil yielded a new understanding of the early years of Jamestown and the fort built so long ago. More than 700,000 artifacts have been found including suits of armor, tools, wine jugs, pottery and human remains. These discoveries are considered to be among the most dramatic in historical archaeology in America.

Dr. Kelso brings with him pictures and a lively presentation of this fascinating story. His book, Jamestown, The Buried Truth, will be available for purchase. Seating is limited and advance registration is required. Admission is free for museum members and \$5.00 for non-members. Reserve your seat now. Alice Bostic

Mecklenburg Declaration Celebration, May 19 and 20

On Thursday, May 19, the May 20th Society held a reception at the new Mint Museum, uptown. The speaker was Andrew Roberts, historian, commentator, and author of many books on historic subjects. His address was delightful; he led off by saying that he had studied the evidence of the Meck Dec and had concluded, as a historian, that it did, in fact, exist. Here is the text of that portion of his speech:

I'd like to preface my remarks, if I may, by briefly looking at and commenting on the mystery, the controversy surrounding the Mecklenburg Declaration, because I've learned in 20 years of writing history books that because there is no extant contemporaneous document as proof of something, it doesn't mean it didn't happen, that fires that destroy crucial documents are incredibly common throughout history and that oral history can sometimes be more visceral and honest than written history, anyhow. Of course the Mecklenburgers of 1819 couldn't remember verbatim precisely what they declared so bravely in 1775, but that doesn't in any way undermine the likelihood of their having called for independence a year earlier than the revolutionaries of Philadelphia. The 26 North Carolinians say that something took place, my inclination as a historian is to believe them.

What also makes me suspect that the Mecklenburg Declaration did indeed take place is that most of the people on that list were Scots-Irish. You can take it from an Englishman that there are no worse trouble-makers in history than the Scots-Irish.

The reception provided by the May 20th Society was excellent – good food and drink, and lots of it. We heard two pieces of news that evening before we read them in the newspaper the next morning. Tony Zeiss told us that progress was being made in raising money to erect four more bronze statues on the Trail of History, and also that by next May 20th we will have an uptown Charlotte Liberty Walk with new bronze markers, multi-media interpretation, and steel horseshoes in the pavement to guide us along the path. Enhancing the evening was the participation of members of the 6th NC Continental Line and the MHA Docents. Fife and Drum music, musket firings and beautiful ladies always makes the evening more enjoyable.

At noon on Friday, May 20th, we reverted to our previous location, on the square at the intersection of Trade and Tryon Streets. (Last year we dedicated the Captain Jack Statue on Little Sugar Creek Greenway.) The celebration at noon was the same as in years past, with political speeches, the reading of the Meck Dec, and muskets and cannon firing into Polk Park. This year we also re-dedicated two NC Historical Markers that had been reinstalled after many years in a warehouse. The unveiling of the General Greene and Battle of Charlotte markers were moving moments, and the later was enhanced by a photo in the Charlotte Observer the next day of our drummer Tom Phlegar unveiling the marker (the photo was on the second section, page 1, above the fold!). Then we marched to Settlers Cemetery to lay a wreath on the grave of Colonel Thomas Polk to cap the day's festivities.

Jim Williams



History on display at Mec Dec Day uptown

Past Event at the Charlotte Museum of History

The Singgalot Family Free Day held on Saturday August 13 was the first of three family free days to celebrate the Charlotte Museum of History's new exhibit titled *Singgalot: The Ties That Bind*, which looks at Filipinos in the United States. This event included traditional dance performances and demonstrations by Filipino artisans. Approximately 1,300 people volunteered, visited, or participated in this event. There are two more family days associated with Singgalot, which should prove to be just as exciting.

Charlotte on Historypin

Historypin is an award-winning application that allows users to upload and view historic photographs “pinned” to modern Google maps, and to compare modern and historic street views. The global site launched on July 11 and within days local history organizations were adding Mecklenburg images to the map. At the Charlotte Museum of History, summer intern Jess Blossfeld digitized and placed a series of Charlotte street and traffic images from the mid twentieth century. You can view them online at www.historypin.com and even add your own stories and recollections.



700 N Graham



Independence Blvd.

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>

Central Piedmont Community College

CPCC is hosting “Lincoln: The Constitution and The Civil War” through September 9th. The exhibit and lectures listed below are in the Hagemeyer Library, 2nd floor atrium.

- September 1, 4 pm: Civil War Photography, by James Spence
- September 7, 11 am: Lincoln and the Civil War, by Dr. James Hogue
- September 8, 11 am: A War with Many Voices: An Exploration of African American Memory and the Civil War, by Michelle Lanier.

Historic Rosedale

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

Wells Fargo Community Celebration. Thurs. & Fri., Sep. 15 & 16, 1:30 & 3 pm

Tour Rosedale and discover the stories of Charlotte’s oldest and only Federal Style plantation. Learn why it was called Frew’s Folly, and learn how one of its African American inhabitants became one of the wealthiest men in Charlotte. Tours are free with preregistration online at www.historicrosedale.org limited to 15 people per tour.

Victorian Funeral. Saturday and Sunday, October 8 & 9 from noon to 5 pm

Sickness hits the plantation! Pay your respects to the Caldwell family and slaves as they bury their loved ones, and learn the funerary practices of the 1840’s. Discover the customs and superstitions of the time, see a funerary

exhibit and see how African traditions integrated with Victorian customs. Costumed interpreters will portray members of the family and the slaves. Pre-register on-line for admission discount.

Spirit Walk. Saturday, October 29 at 6 & 8 pm

Join us and the Charlotte Paranormal Society as we walk the steps of those who worked, lived, and died here. Actual footage and audio from an investigation will be available. Advanced registration on-line is encouraged. Limited to 30 people per tour.

Midnight Tour. Saturday, October 29 from 11 pm to 1 am

Explore the grounds and house with the Charlotte Paranormal Society. Be the first to witness supernatural "incidents" in the house, and be in the spaces where paranormal experiences have occurred. \$95 per person or \$85 with registration prior to October 25th. Registration closes on Wednesday, October 27th. Limited to ten people. No refunds under any circumstances.

Latta Plantation

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

Revolutionary War Reenactment. Saturday and Sunday, September 3 & 4, from 10 am to 4 pm. Battles at 1 pm each day.

See how Charlotte defended its independence when Cornwallis arrived in 1780. Saturday will feature the Battle of Charlotte which took place at the square downtown. On Sunday see the Battle of McIntyre Farm which happened off Beatties Ford Road. Visitors can visit period sutlers, see soldier camps and demonstrations, and hear Thomas and Susannah Polk talk about the war which has now come to the South.

Folklife Festival. September 23 & 24, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Latta Plantation's 30th Annual Folklife Festival and Craft Show. Enjoy live music, traditional and modern arts and crafts vendors, and many children's activities. Historic interpreters will demonstrate folkways of the past, and open-hearth cooking.

Halloween Activities

All Hallow's Eve – Saturday, October 15, from 10 am to 4 pm

Ghost Tales in the Dark – Saturday, October 15; Friday and Saturday, October 12 & 22
Tours at 8, 9, and 10 pm

Civil War Ghost Walk – Friday and Saturday, October 28 & 29, from 7 to 10 pm

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

Singgalot Family Free Day. Saturdays, Sept. 10 and Oct. 1 from 11 am to 5 pm, free

Celebrate our new exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution, *Singgalot: The Ties that Bind..* Learn and enjoy the rich cultural traditions of the Philippines. See traditional dance performances and demonstrations by Filipino artisans.

Scholars Forum – Jamestown Lost and Found: New Discoveries at 1607 James Fort. Tuesday, September 13 at 7 pm. See related article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Come learn about Jamestown in this lecture given by Dr. William Kelso, the director of Archaeological Research and Interpretation for the Jamestown Rediscovery Project at Historic Jamestown. Dr. Kelso's presentation will include a discussion of new discoveries at the fort as well as what artifacts tell about daily life in early Jamestown.

Revolutionary Charlotte and 18th Century Life. Sat., Sept. 24 from 1 to 6:30 pm

Take a walk back in time and explore varied viewpoints during the Revolutionary War. Patriots, loyalists, and those still undecided share their experiences in interactive vignettes on our historic grounds. Guided tours at 3:30, 4:30, and 5:30; space limited.

Hispanic Heritage: Dia de los Muertos. Saturday, October 15 from 11 am to 4 pm

This program offers families the opportunity to explore the diverse and rich Hispanic culture that is in our community during Hispanic Heritage Month. Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) brings families and communities together to remember those who have passed.

Hugh Torrance House and Store

8231 Gilead Road, Huntersville, NC

Tours will continue on the first and third Sundays from 2 to 5 pm during September and October. During the winter private tours can be arranged. The public tour schedule will resume in the Spring.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

Rounders to Baseball. Exhibit Opening Saturday, October 1, from 10 am to 4 pm

This exhibit traces the history of baseball from its origins as an English game called Rounders through the first professional game played during President Polk's administration. Costumed interpreters will play period baseball and much more.

Rural Hill

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

Amazing Maize Maze. Sept. 3 – 25: Friday – Sunday from 10 am to 6:30 pm

Sept. 30 – Nov. 13: Fridays, from 10 am to 5 pm; Saturday & Sunday from 10 am to 6:30. Flashlight tours on Fridays from 6:30 to 8:30

The Amazing Maize Maze challenges your skills as you look for mailboxes containing clues and "Kernels of Knowledge". Staff and water stations will help when needed. Hayrides, and food vendors will be available. Wear comfortable shoes. On selected weekends enjoy "Cabin Days" at the 1760s homestead featuring open-hearth cooking, blacksmithing and more. See the website for details and to arrange group tours.

Schiele Museum

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

Autumn in the Backcountry. Sunday, September 25 from 1 to 5 pm

Visit the Backcountry Farm to observe how folk in the 18th century enjoyed the fruits of summer. Taste fresh apple butter cooked over the fire. Visit the kitchen garden. And try 18th-century dancing.

Scottish Heritage Festival. Sunday, October 23 from 1 to 5 pm

Explore the Scottish Heritage of the Carolinas with the Loch Norman Pipe Band and the Scottish Country Dancers. On the Backcountry Farm learn about the lives of early Scottish immigrants on the colonial frontier. See cooks prepare traditional Scottish dishes. Ladies and children, try your luck at the Tossin' of the Hagis!

Historic Brattonsville

1444 Brattonsville Rd., McConnells, SC, 803 684 2327
<http://www.chmuseums.org/ourmuseums/myco/index.htm>

Piedmont Pottery Festival. Saturday, September 24 from 10 am to 4 pm

Celebrate the South's rich pottery heritage while shopping for works by more than 25 traditional potters from the Carolinas, Georgia and the Catawba Nation. Enjoy pottery-making demonstrations and talks by Dr. Terry Zug, author of *Turners & Burners: Folk Potters of North Carolina*, and Leonard Todd, author of *Carolina Clay: The Life and Legend of Slave Potter Dave*.

Charlotte Regional History Consortium

The Charlotte Regional History Consortium is an umbrella group made up of representatives from local historic sites and organizations. This summer the consortium elected new officers. They are President, Scott Warren; Vice President, Bill Helms; Secretary, Deborah Hunter; Treasurer, Kristin Toler; and Publicity, Nicole Cheslak. The consortium also decided to meet bi-monthly rather than quarterly. The next meeting will be October 3rd at the Hugh Torance House and Store at 10 am.

Charlotte Folk Society

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte
www.folksociety.org

Gathering, Concert and Jams. Fridays at 7:30 pm. Great Aunt Stella Center

September 9: Traditional Bluegrass by the Rye Mountain Boys; donations appreciated
October 14: Blues-Based Gospel by Bishop Dready Manning; donations appreciated

Wells Fargo Community Celebration. Saturday, October 29 from 10 am to 4 pm

McGlohon Theater, Spirit Square. Gospel, blues, stringband, bluegrass, Americana, and Irish music. Free event.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

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

Living History Weekend. Sept, 10 & 11; 10 am to 4 pm on Sat; 10 to 3 on Sun.

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.

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>

Living History Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, September 3 and 4 from 9 am to 5 pm

Living history interpreters will demonstrate military drill, weapons, colonial medicine and more.

Wreath Laying Ceremony, Friday, October 7, at 11 am

Honor those who fell at the Battle of Kings Mountain with this DAR and SAR ceremony at the US Monument. Overmountain Victory Trail Marchers will arrive at 3 pm followed by the keynote address.

Living History Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, October 8 and 9 from 9 am to 5 pm

Learn about the men who fought in the battle of Kings Mountain. Musket and rifle demonstrations and Children's Militia Drills will be held throughout the day.

Kings Mountain State Park

I-85 Exit 8 in NC and follow the signs

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

Pieces of the Past Living History Demonstration, Saturday, September 3 from 10 am to 4 pm

Demonstrations include blacksmithing, open fire cooking, wood working and more. Come see the many skills needed and the labor involved to live on a yeomen's farm.

Duke Mansion

400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte, 704 714 4448

<http://www.dukemansion.com>

Romare Bearden's Charlotte, 1911. Sunday, September 18 at 3 pm. Free

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the nationally renowned Charlotte born artist, Levine Museum historian Dr. Tom Hanchett debuts an interactive web-based exhibit exploring this city during Bearden's childhood. RSVP's required: pmartin@tlwf.org or (704) 714-4448

Houses of Worship in Mecklenburg County. Sunday, October 23 at 3 pm. Free

An architectural appreciation of Mecklenburg County's landmark religious buildings, presented by Historic Charlotte. RSVP's required: pmartin@tlwf.org or (704) 714-4448

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park

Greensboro, NC. <http://www.nps.gov/guco/index.htm>

Living History Weekend, Saturday and Sunday, September 3 and 4 from 10 am to 4 pm

The men and women of the Guilford Militia, an organization of dedicated Revolutionary War enthusiasts, will present a variety of interpretive programs clad in replica Revolutionary War clothing and carrying the firearms of 1781 while living the life of the 1780's soldier and camp follower.

Matthews Historical Foundation

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

Community Meeting and Speaker, Tuesday, September 27 at 7 pm, free

Speaker Nicole Moore of Historic Brattonsville will present a program on "Slavery in the South". A reception will be held at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.



Lower Providence Community House

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

BBQ and Heritage Day. Saturday, September 17 from 11 am to 6 pm

Enjoy barbecue and heritage at the 1938 log cabin. Women who have come to this cabin for years with their mothers and grandmothers will share the heritage of the area. There will be craft demonstrations, potters, woodworkers, and more. Proceeds will benefit the restoration of the cabin.

Francis Marion Symposium

Friday and Saturday, October 14 – 15. Manning, South Carolina.

The 9th annual Francis Marion/Swamp Fox symposium “Explore the Rev. War Southern Campaign with General Francis Marion” commemorates the 230th anniversary of this vital event. For details, costs, and agenda see: www.francismarionsymposium.com.

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