

MHA NEWS



Dinner Meeting

Monday, November 14, 2011

6:00 pm — Holiday Bazaar with Appetizers and Beverages;
6:30 pm — Dinner; program following at 7:15 pm

Fellowship Hall
Trinity Presbyterian Church
3115 Providence Road

November Dinner Program

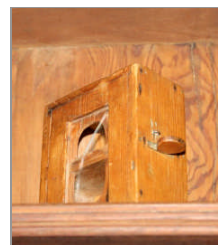
Liberty's Ladies
By Patti Proctor



Our speaker for November is Patti Proctor who will speak on "Liberty's Ladies." This presentation highlights numerous women of the Revolutionary War years from the Mecklenburg County area, detailing their contributions, lifestyles and roles during the War, plus their encounters with the British Army. She will be dressed in clothing typical of the 1780's.

Patti Proctor is a native Charlottean who attended local schools and colleges. Her hobby of Civil War re-enacting for nearly 20 years led her to research women's lifestyles from the Colonial era to the World War II

years. Yearly, Patti presents over 75 programs to a variety of civic and private organizations including historic sites, assisted living facilities, and most recently, a presentation at the 8th Annual Francis Marion Symposium in Manning, SC.



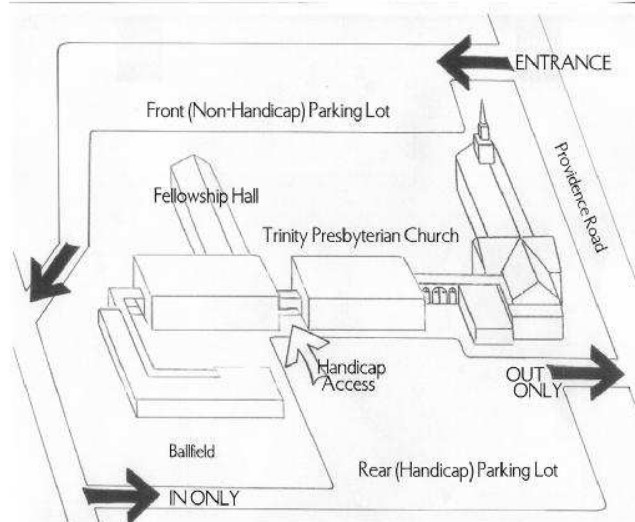
What is this?
See the article on the Docent Field Trip, below

Inside this issue:

Remarks from the President	2
Holiday Bazaar	2
From the Docent Chairman	2
A Princess from Mecklenburg	3
Membership Renewals	3
Reservation Form	4
MHA Docent Programs	5



**The MHA meets in Trinity Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall.
3115 Providence Road**



Remarks from the President

NOTICE THAT THE NOVEMBER 14TH DINNER MEETING BEGINS EARLY AT 6:00 pm THIS TIME! Let's enjoy a few minutes just chatting together and browsing the bazaar for gift items. Bring your checkbook!

Several of our MHA members, including Jim and Ann Williams, Jane and Paul Estep, and my husband Terry and I, had a wonderful day on Oct 22 volunteering at Hart Square in Hickory, as we have done for years. Dr. Hart has just published a beautiful coffee table book about the village and its 93 saved, restored and furnished log buildings. Dr. Hart made his passion a treasure for all of us and it is truly one

of my favorite places on earth. If you haven't visited, make sure to get tickets for next year – October 27, 2012.

We are having some issues at the Hugh Torance House & Store with termites and moisture under the house. We have had professionals review the situation and will be working toward corrections. If anyone has connections with a termite company or a contractor who might help us – not for free, but perhaps at a reduced cost, please let me know. Also, if anyone would like to make a tax-deductible donation specifically for this use, please contact me.

I hope you will take the opportunity to renew your membership

for calendar 2012 with the blank elsewhere in the newsletter. Jim Williams will also be happy to take your renewals at the dinner meeting and will have a list of those who have already renewed, if you need to check. This will cut down on postage for renewal letters in January.

Be sure and review the History Calendar. There are some wonderful Christmas events at history sites in our area.

My contact information:
Linda Dalton, 704 661 8470,
leaseace@aol.com

Have a blessed Christmas and we'll be back together in March.
Linda Dalton, President

Holiday Bazaar

Come early at 6pm to the MHA dinner meeting, Monday, Nov. 14 Do your Christmas shopping early!!

We had such a good time last year, your Board decided to repeat the Holiday Bazaar and cocktail time for this year's November meeting. Join us at 6:00pm before the MHA Dinner Meeting for appetizers, wine and

beverage.

Shop the bazaar which will include a Book Sale hosted by MHA and the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room of the Public Library. The proceeds of the sale will benefit the Carolina Room's book budget. The books will be on a variety of subjects, but are mostly historical in nature. Also, a variety of books by our wonderful local authors will be for sale. What perfect gifts for those on your list who are interested in history! In addition,

pottery from Ceramics by Suzanne and beautiful Queen Charlotte blown glass ornaments will be for sale.

All sales are final and cash or personal check will be accepted for payment.

What a fun way to kick off the holiday season.

Remember - come early at 6:00pm!!

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From the Docent Chairman

Preserving History

I did not survive. I died. And I wasn't even supposed to be there. Jamestown 1607: 104 men and boys, no women, landed at Jamestown, Virginia. They endured the worst year of their lives, and over half of them died.

"Survivor Jamestown – will you survive?," an interactive maze at the Charlotte Museum of History, has now moved on. June McKinney and I wove ourselves through the maze by making choices. We first chose where to build our fort: inland, bay marsh, or bay island. Bay island was not our first choice; we earned negative points. We encountered "Wheels of MISfortune: a log smashes our hand – negative points. We made decisions quickly! Food or gold? Food, of course.

Positive points. Who will work, gentlemen or laborers? Everyone, of course. Positive points. What will you plant in the short season left? Corn, peas. (Turtles are good food and they have their own container.) More Wheels of MISfortune. We are bitten by a cottonmouth. Negative points. Ate Tuckahoe marsh plant without drying it first. Became violently sick, but survived. Negative points. Then the Winter of 1607 hit with extreme cold and snow. June and I decided that we died.

I was surprised by this because I have trained myself to survive in the wilderness, and I know edible wild plants. I know Tuckahoe; but if you are starving, you eat to regret it. (What I learned: I want to try turtle. Can anyone get me a big one? Fresh but not alive, please.)

Several exhibits preserve an artist's and the South's history with the 100th anniversary of Romare Bearden's birth. They are at the Mint Uptown (till early January), the Gantt Museum (in January), and the Jerald Melberg Gallery (till November 12). My family and I viewed the exhibits at the Mint (free on Tuesdays, 5-9 pm) and the Melberg Gallery (free). My favorite is the Melberg Gallery. You can get close to the artwork and the lighting brings out the color of the collages. It's a smaller venue, and you are surrounded by Bearden. My daughter doesn't care for the collages, and that's OK. She doesn't have to like Bearden, but she needs to know about him. I revel in the paper pieces of bright colors depicting his "Southern Recollections", his Southern themes of quilts, music, watermelon, yet the window or train leads us beyond this place in time. Audrey Mellichamp

Audrey Mellich

A Princess from Mecklenburg-Strelitz ascends the Throne of England

On October 11th, the Charlotte Museum of History and the German Language & Culture Foundation presented, "A Princess from Mecklenburg-Strelitz ascends the Throne of England," a lecture by Friederike Drinkuth, PhD, on Queen Charlotte and her fascinating life. When Mecklenburg County was formed and later when the town of Charlotte was founded, Charlotte was Queen Consort of King George III of England. Dr. Drinkuth lives in the Mecklenburg-Strelitz area of Germany and lectures in Germany, Great Britain and the United States. Her latest publication is an anniversary edition about Queen Charlotte which exclusively reveals the true accomplishments of her life with King George III. Copies are available at the Charlotte Museum of History gift shop.

The lecture was fascinating. Princess Sophie Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz was born in Mirow (north of Berlin) on May 19, 1744. She was born to a non-reigning Duke and Duchess of the rural, small and very modest court of Mirow who moved their court to the old Upper Castle in Mecklenburg-Strelitz in 1752. She grew up in the utmost simplicity. English was not part of Charlotte's education, embroidery was one of her favorite pastimes, and her family attended church every week. Her family called her Lotchen, the diminutive of Charlotte. Mecklenburg-Strelitz had about 400 residents.

Charlotte was among eight princesses, all German Protestants, chosen as

possible brides for the future King George III. In May of 1761, at age 17, Charlotte was chosen without George ever having seen her. On August 18th, her carriages left her castle in Mecklenburg-Strelitz. She never returned home again. On August 24th, her ships left for London. Another fascinating fact (contributed by Jim Williams) is that George, Lord Anson, a celebrated English admiral, commanded the escort that brought Princess Charlotte from Germany to England. Anson County, NC, had been named in his honor in 1750. On September 7th, Charlotte landed in London, home of 700,000 inhabitants. On September 8th, she was wed to George at the Chapel Royal at St. James Palace. Yes, she was married the day after she arrived in England! Recorded comments on Charlotte were varied and included "in no way is she literate", "without any ornament", "hopeless at politics". She could be called a German aristocratic hillbilly.

On September 22nd, as long planned, George's festive coronation as King and Charlotte's as Queen took place in Westminster Abbey. At a time when Kings always had mistresses and Queens usually had affairs, Charlotte and George remained faithful to each other throughout their lives and they had 15 children, referring to themselves as "Mr. and Mrs. King." Charlotte was called the "Queen of Botany," had singing lessons with Bach, and was a patron of Mozart who, in 1765, dedicated his Opus #3 to Queen Charlotte. Among contemporaries, their court had the reputation of being the most boring in



Europe as there was a lack of affairs and because both George and Charlotte valued a homely, simple life which continued even after King George became mad from porphyria, a severe metabolic disease, in 1788. In her later years, difficult relationships with their grown children and the burden of the crown made Charlotte increasingly lonely and unhappy. In a letter to her brother, she said, "...I discover, little by little, that the Royal Crown and the title of Majesty do not bear comparison to that of a Christian. The latter not only furnishes me with but also commands me to fulfill the duties of humanity." Charlotte died in Kew November 17, 1818, aged 74.

Dr. Drinkuth doubts that Queen Charlotte ever knew that our city and county were named in her honor.

Linda Dalton

Membership Renewals

Membership renewal letters for the 2012 calendar year will be going out early in the new year. You can save your organization the costs of printing and mailing by renewing now. Please fill in the form, make your check payable to the Mecklenburg Historical Association, and mail it to P. O. Box 35032, Charlotte, NC 28235. If your employer has a "matching grant" program, or you are retired from such an organization, please include the matching grant form with your check.

Membership form:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State and Zip _____
 Email Address _____

category	single	couple
senior citizen (over 60)	\$15.00	\$25.00
general	30.00	50.00
patron	60.00	100.00
life (single payment)	300.00	500.00
student	free	n/a

Please send my Newsletter

By Email _____

By US Mail _____

By both Email and US Mail _____

November 14, 2011 Dinner Meeting Reservation Form

Mail to: Mecklenburg Historical Association
c/o Jane Johnson, 210 Pineville Forest Drive, Pineville, N C 28134
or email: JJCNC@aol.com

Please make checks payable to Mecklenburg Historical Association.
Questions? Please email Jane Johnson (JJCNC@aol.com) or call her at 704.544.0695.
Please mail your check one week before the dinner so we know how many meals we need.
Enclosed: \$ _____ (total) for _____ seats (\$12 for seniors)
_____ (total) for _____ seats (\$14 for all others)

October Outing

The docent bus trip to Asheville to visit the Zebulon Vance Home and the Thomas Wolfe Memorial was delightful! The entire day was sunny and warm, as the predicted rainy cold front was detained. We had a fine group of docents and a number of guests.

On our way home travelers wrote down comments about the day; here is a summary of their thoughts.

Most liked the idea of visiting only two sites and spending two hours at each one. Several people wished we had had more time at the Wolfe Memorial in order to see all of the museum exhibits. This was a pleasant surprise to me as Wolfe is more of a literary figure than a historic one. I guess I underestimated the broad interests of our group. All of our tour guides were excellent, thorough, and knowledgeable. I

did expect that; they know who we are. On the way to Asheville book club members told us what they had learned about Vance and Wolfe. Several people thought this introduction was valuable. We loved seeing Julia Wolfe's dresses (on loan from the NC History Museum), and enjoyed the tour by our own Julianne Ohashi who used to live in Charlotte and is now a Wolfe docent.

The bee box (pictured on the first page) at the Vance site was a big hit. It's a wooden box of about 3 by 5 inches and 2 inches deep. On the top is an oval glass window. After a hive in the woods has been smoked, the box is used to trap a drowsy queen. I suppose you look through the window to be sure you've trapped the right bee. Then you can relocate the queen to a hive on your own property. When a drone gets wind of her delightful aroma, he loses no time in flying directly to her. Hence, "a bee

line." The Vance interpreter said this was their most unusual artifact; I don't think any of us had ever seen one.

Everyone enjoyed the Stoney Knob Café, snacks on the bus, and Fall color at its peak. Altogether we had a most successful journey to the mountains.

Ann Williams



"Preserving Mecklenburg's Heritage"

Post Office Box 35032 Charlotte,
North Carolina 28235

VISIT US ONLINE
WWW.MECKDEC.ORG

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>

A Wartime Christmas – Armistice Day, Saturday and Sunday, November 12 and 13 from Noon to 4pm.

This program honoring World War II veterans, and commemorating Armistice Day, is part of the site's "Wartime Christmas" exhibit. World War II veterans and spouses will be on hand to meet visitors to the exhibit and chat about their experiences. Rosedale's "Wartime Christmas" exhibit interprets the Charlotte home front during the war years. The exhibit runs from Nov. 12 – Dec. 18,

A Wartime Christmas – Pearl Harbor Day, Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4 from Noon to 4 pm, reenactment at 2 pm each day.

This program, commemorating the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, is part of the site's "Wartime Christmas." There will be a WWII re-enactment at 2pm both days. The "Wartime Christmas" exhibit interprets the Charlotte home front during the war years. The exhibit runs from Nov. 12 – Dec. 18,

Latta Plantation

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

Antique Tractor Show, Saturday and Sunday, November 19 and 20 from 10 am to 4 pm

Remember North Carolina's farming heritage at the antique tractor show, sponsored by the Stumptown Tractor Club. There will be tractors on display, a tractor pull contest, frying pan toss, cooking demonstrations, children's activities, and more!

A Plantation Christmas, Friday and Saturday, November 25 and 26 from 10 am to 4 pm

Begin the Christmas season by stepping back into an 1860s Christmas. The plantation will be decorated in keeping with the time period. Visitors will learn about 19th century Christmas traditions, meet a Victorian St. Nick in the plantation house, see open hearth cooking in the kitchen, and much more!

Candlelight Christmas, Saturday, December 10 from 6 to 9 pm

Step into an 1820s Christmas at Latta as you tour the plantation by candlelight. Visitors will meet animals in the carriage barn, see dancing in the house, meet Mr. and Mrs. Latta, enjoy the excitement of children before bedtime, see a Christmas meal being prepared in the kitchen, and more.

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

American Indian Heritage Celebration, Saturday, November 5 from 10:30 am to 4 pm, Free

This celebration has plenty of activities for all ages with educational hands-on crafts, youth targeted tour brochures, free Hoop Dance Workshop by Dennis Zotigh, lectures and presentations about native culture and native artisans. "Native Words Native Warriors," a Smithsonian traveling exhibit will be on display along with performers and artisans from the Navajo Nation.

Our Lives, Our Stories: The Greatest Generation Opening Day, Saturday, November 12

This exhibit looks at those individuals who lived through World War II and how these events shaped their lives. This exhibit will be at the Charlotte Museum of History from November 12th to January 7th.

Civil War Lantern Tour, Saturday, December 3 at 6, 7, and 8 pm.

Tours will be conducted by the NC 43rd and Lantham's Light Artillery, a Charlotte-based Civil War reenactment unit. Interact with foot soldiers, officers, doctors, and civilians as they face the trials of the years between 1861 and 1865. See the campfires, smell the cooking, and listen to the stories, providing an in-depth look at the conditions of the time. Events reenacted on the tour are based on letters, diaries, and other documents and records from the Civil War. Advance reservations are required

**President James K. Polk
State Historic Site**

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

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

**Polk Birthday Celebration,
Saturday November 5 from 10
am to 4 pm, Free**

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

We will also celebrate the opening of our new exhibit, "Rounders to Baseball" which 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 and the impact the game has had on North Carolina and the city of Charlotte. At 11:00 am Dr. Christopher Rounds of Allen University will be giving a lecture on the impact of the Negro League in the Carolinas.

**Christmas with the
Polks, Saturday, December 12
from 11 am to 3 pm, Free**

Visitors will see a living history vignette in the main house. Each building will be decorated in the 19th century style. Come and learn about food and customs from Christmas in 1802.

**The Carl J. McEwen Historical
Village**

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

<http://www.minthillhistory.com>

**Salute to Veterans, Saturday,
November 6 from 9 am to 3 pm.**

Civil War reenactors will show "Campfire," while Generals Lee and Longstreet discuss their strategy for Chancellorsville

around the campfire. There will be a flag display and Boy Scout Troop 144 will do the flag raising at 9 am on Saturday. Veterans of WWII will attend both days and tell stories. One was a witness to the Pearl Harbor bombing Dec. 7, 1941. Another one was in a plane that ditched over Berlin and became a POW from July 1944-April 1945. He marched 700 miles across Poland and was liberated by the British Army. A third speaker was a pilot shot down over Germany who spent 6 months as a POW and is the author of "Furrows in the Clouds".

Rural Hill

4431 Neck Road, Huntersville,
NC, 704 875

3113, <http://www.ruralhill.net>

**Rural Hill Sheepdog Trials and
Dog Festival, Saturday and
Sunday, November 12 and 13
from 8 am.**

Many of the world's best and brightest border collies will be on hand to perform, with their owner, their sheep herding skills. The Trials Dog Festival will also offer historic agriculture machinery, docent demonstrations in the 1760's cabin, pumpkin chunkin', kid's inflatable houses, and more. Gates open at 8 AM each day. Non-competing dogs are welcomed but must remain leashed and under their owner's control

Holly Bend

Neck Road past Rural Hill, in
Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge.

On the right after the road
becomes gravel.

Latta Plantation Information
Center – 704 875 1391

**Open House at Holly Bend,
Saturday and Sunday,
November 12 and 13 from 9 am
to 4:30 pm. Free.**

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

**Lord Cornwallis Retreats, SCAR
Corps of Discovery, Saturday,
November 19, at 9 am, Fort Mill,
SC, Free**

In the fall of 1780 Lord Cornwallis retreated from Charlotte, with his tail between his legs, Winnsboro, SC. We will gather at the Rush Pavilion in the Anne Springs Close Greenway (Coffee at 9, presentations start at 9:30). There will be a car-pool tour of Lord Cornwallis' inglorious retreat from Charlotte; we'll go to Thomas Spratt's home site, site of a colonial fort, and cemetery, cross Steele Creek where Rawdon made the Loyalists act as draft animals; and on to Land's Ford where Cornwallis' Army finally crossed the Catawba River. We have a day full of sites and experts to tell the story of this British "strategic retreat". The public is invited, and will have a moderately-priced "Dutch Treat" lunch catered.