

# MHA NEWS

## Dinner Meeting

Monday, March 24, 2008

6:30 pm. Dinner; program following at 7:15 pm

Fellowship Hall

At Trinity Presbyterian Church

3115 Providence Road



### Dinner Program Topic will be:

### “First Lady of Architecture; the Story of Harriet Morrison Irwin”

Our next meeting on March 24th will feature our own member and author Kathy Herran speaking on Harriet Morrison Irwin, the first woman in America to receive an architectural patent. This story is told in her book *They Married Confederate Officers*, a biography of the six accomplished daughters of Robert Hall Morrison. Although the book's focus is the most famous Morrison daughter, Anna

Morrison Jackson, wife of Stonewall, her older sister Harriet has an equally fascinating story to tell. Although Harriet was largely self trained as an architect, she was the first woman in America to receive an architectural patent. Learn about her unique building style, and the unusual reasons she championed it.

**Reservation Form to be returned by Wednesday, March 19, 2008.**

### Last Program

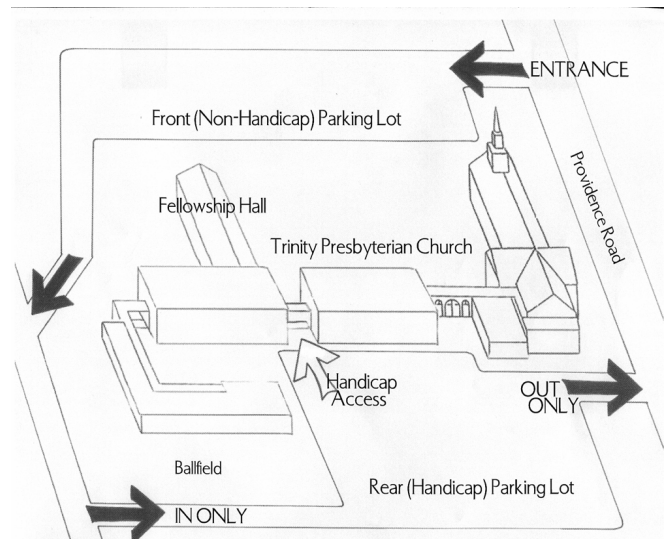
Jane Starnes delivered a wonderful presentation on the history of the Sharon Community. We learned that Sharon was settled from without, i.e. from folks moving from the river and creek lands of Mecklenburg County toward Charlotte. It thrived as dairy country providing the milk and dairy products which fed many of us until the land was re-configured into suburbs and giant malls!

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



## Remarks from the President...



### About MHA

Founded in 1954, we currently have about 150 dues paying members. The MHA has served as the launch pad for many worthy preservation ef-

orts which thrive today. Local historic sites and museums, The Historic Properties Commission, restoration efforts at Settler's Cemetery, the partnership with the Docents and Re-enactors, and now the collaboration with the May 20th Society have all benefited from the efforts of our members. Efforts to raise a monument commemorating the ride of Captain James Jack is succeeding as is the revived celebration on the Square! We have a website and receive frequent requests for information ably handled by Jim Williams and your Board. The Docents keep history alive with their presentations. The Re-enactors are appearing in more ven-

ues, most recently at the Liberty Tree planting at Freedom Park. At that site, a seedling from the Liberty Tree from Maryland was planted. (The Maryland Continentals under the leadership of General Greene were the trained soldiers who fought for our liberty in the South).

### Membership

Facts of life about history organizations. We read. Our numbers are few. History is more important as you age. And usually our numbers are old because young folks do not have the time to attend our programs. So we always need members. If you invite a member who is in his or her 60s, 70s, or even 80s, with modern medicine, they may remain with us for a long time! So bring your older friends. And remember to email your newsletters or request more mailers if you want to send them. Contact any member of the Board who serve you. Call Linda Dalton, Kay Majeski, Jim Williams, Luther Moore, Alice Bostic, Robin Cochran, Kathy Herran, Jane Johnson, or me.

### Participation

Time marches on and we will be making some leadership shifts. We welcome your interest and if you would like to serve on the Board, please contact an existing Board Member. At a future meeting we will announce officers for 2008 - 2009.

### Captain Jack Rides!

Last month, I attended the Board of County Commissioners Meeting at which time Charles Jonas and George Dewey of the May 20th Society offered and received a great welcome with their presentation of the Spirit of Mecklenburg statue to Mecklenburg County. They have raised over \$450,000.00 of the \$535,000.00 to pour and endow it. An artist will be selected this Spring. The monument is anticipated to be ready by 2010 as the Greenway and Trail of History takes shape! It is not too late to contribute and have your name appear with other sponsors. Call me at 704.560.0039 if interested.

**Ken Burns** the famed national, film historian will speak on May 20th in Charlotte! Great news for MeckDec!

## From the Docent Committee Alice Bostic, Docent Chairman

Alice Bostic, Chairperson reports that the docents have had an exciting beginning for the year 2008. The history class series entitled From Wagon Roads to New South City has been a huge success. Rachel Abernathy and Barbara Jackson have worked very hard on this project. Over 100 people asked to register and due to the limited space we had at the Polk and Rosedale sites they had to start a waiting list. We are most grateful to the James K. Polk and Rosedale sites and the Levine Museum of the New South for space and help with presenters. We are also extremely grateful to our wonderful speakers who volunteered their time and expertise. Participants were the most dedicated group of students many of us have seen in a long time. They stuck to their seats as though glued through 2-2.5 hours of instruction with one short break. We had to

borrow chairs from Rosedale and Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church to seat everyone. The classes were held on five Saturday mornings beginning January 26. The group was made up of all ages with the 50 to 70 group being the largest. Some were new to Charlotte. Others were long time residents. All were passionately interested in local history. We are hopeful that some will decide to volunteer at our history sites.

We had our annual board retreat in January. One of the highlights was a luncheon meeting with three of our history site staff, Maile Kim from Levine, Jan McCormick from CMH and Rachel Hoey from Latta. Our focus was looking at their perception of how today's public responds to history sites. Factors they mentioned included an interest in using technology as a learn-

ing tool, a tendency to have a romanticized view of history, a strong family orientation in their response to programs and their short attention spans. All of these factors reflect changes we see throughout our culture on a daily basis. While our teaching focus is on the past, in order to reach the public today we need to use what we know about them to encourage an interest in history.

Our spring programs will take us on the road in March and May and we will focus on the Revolutionary War battle sites in April. A trip to Reed Gold Mine is scheduled for March and a field trip to Fort Defiance in Lenoir is planned for May. Our last meeting this spring will be the annual picnic and we will return to Rosedale for that event. You will find more details in the Dandelion. Do come and join us!

VISIT US  
ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AT  
[WWW.MECKDEC.ORG](http://WWW.MECKDEC.ORG)

## Financial Situation

At present, in uncommitted funds, we have about \$22,000.00 in our treasury. Committed funds donated specifically for Settler's Cemetery and a donation for the Captain Jack bronze earmark about \$20,000.00. An annual budget expenditure of about \$2,500.00 is provided to help operate the Docents program. We run a \$200.00 annual deficit on the programs and meals. As a volunteer organization, you can see that we run on fumes! In an effort to put us on a better footing, we need to raise the meal prices by \$1.00 per person

to reduce the program deficit. The new meal price will be \$12.00 for Seniors and \$14.00 for non-Seniors. We also need to raise dues a few dollars a year to cover increased printing and postage costs. See the new membership fees in the form. Your MHA is the best value for history lovers in the County! If it is to continue, we need your cooperation and the Board would certainly welcome any charitable contributions you would care to make to help us serve present or future programs and projects! This is where you can

help even if you cannot serve in any other capacity!

The increases are:

- Senior Single by 2.50 from 12.50 to 15.00
- Senior Couple by 5.00 from 20.00 to 25.00
- General Single by 5.00 from 25.00 to 30.00
- General Couple by 5.00 from 45.00 to 50.00
- Patron Single by 10.00 from 50.00 to 60.00
- Patron Couple by 10.00 from 90.00 to 100.00
- Life memberships unchanged at 300.00 and 500.00

*The new membership pricing structure is in the graphic below.*

## Membership Renewals

Renew your membership now and save the MHA the cost of mailing you a membership letter. Consider giving a gift membership to someone you know who will be interested in the MHA.

**You may mail your check to:**

MHA  
P.O. Box 35032  
Charlotte, NC 28235

**Membership form:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Please send my MHA Newsletter by:  
Email  US Mail  Both

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

You may also bring your check with you to the dinner program.

## March 24th Dinner Meeting Reservation Form

**Mail to: Mecklenburg Historical Association**  
**c/o Kathy Herran**  
**5015 Sharon Woods Lane**  
**Charlotte, NC 28210**  
**or email: kathyherran@hotmail.com**

Mark your calendars now for future meetings of the Mecklenburg Historical Association. The next meeting is scheduled for **May 19, 2008.**

Please make checks payable to Mecklenburg Historical Association  
Questions? Please call Linda Dalton, 704.364.1618.

Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (total) for \_\_\_\_\_ seats (\$12 for Seniors)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (total) for \_\_\_\_\_ seats (\$14 for all others)



***"Preserving Mecklenburg's Heritage"***

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Post Office Box 35032  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28235

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WWW.MECKDEC.ORG

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