



Dinner Meeting

Monday, March 26, 2012

6:30 pm - Dinner; Program follows at 7:15 pm

Fellowship Hall
Trinity Presbyterian Church
3115 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28211

Upcoming Dinner Program

"Eight Courthouses: History of the Mecklenburg County Legal Profession"

By Judge Chase B. Saunders



Monday, March 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 on page 3 or contact Jane Johnson at 704-544-0698 or JJCNC@aol.com.

Chase Saunders, retired Judge and MHA Past President, will talk about the eight courthouses in Mecklenburg County and how they fit into the fabric of the community. The presentation is particularly timely in that the Mecklenburg County Bar is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year. Chase served on the Bar History Committee which engaged Howard Covington and Marion Ellis to write a book, "An Independent Profession: A Centennial History of the Mecklenburg County Bar."

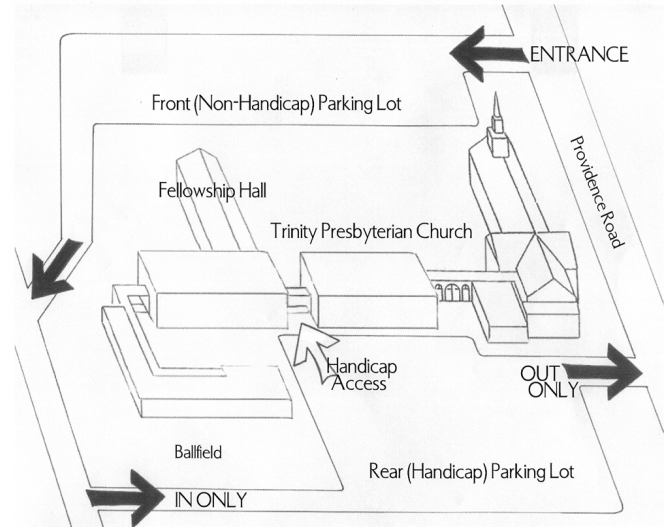
It traces the growth of the bar from one attorney (although a number of locals claimed to be lawyers) in the 1760s to 4,400 lawyers today! It covers social trends, important cases, and provides interesting anecdotes about local lawyers. Chase will draw on that book for his talk.

Inside this issue:

Remarks from the President	2
MHA Docents, and a Summary of the Docent Board Retreat	2
MHA Docent Programs	2
Charlotte Douglas International Airport To Unveil History Exhibit	3
Membership Renewals	3
Reservation Form	3
The History Calendar	5-6



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



Remarks from the President

Welcome back to all our members! It's time to come together for another wonderful MHA Dinner Meeting on March 26th. Thanks so much to Chase Saunders, our Past President, for sharing his informative program on Mecklenburg's Courthouses. We look forward to it. Please also mark your calendars now for the May dinner meeting on Monday, May 21st.

We made a special effort to include a personal note on your membership renewal letters. If you have not renewed your MHA membership for 2012, please use the form in this newsletter and mail it in today.

You may also turn in your renewal at the dinner meeting.

We value each membership. You make the work of MHA possible and I believe your dues and contributions are used carefully and wisely.

Here are your MHA Board members: Allen Brooks, Robin Cochran, Linda Dalton (President), Jane Johnson (Program Chair), Kay Majeski, Audrey Mellichamp (Docent Chair), Luther Moore, Marion Redd, Chase Saunders (Past President), Jim Williams (Secretary/Treasurer). If anyone would like to recommend an additional MHA Board member, we welcome your suggestions.

I am very excited about our joint project for the Charlotte Douglas International Airport. What an opportunity to share our history with every single visitor to the International Concourse of the airport! Please read about it elsewhere in this newsletter.

If anyone has suggestions to improve MHA's service to our membership and our community, just let me know. Your Board and I would love to hear from you.

Linda Dalton, President
leaseace@aol.com
704.661.8470

MHA Docents, and a Summary of the Docent Board Retreat

My first year was a wonderful year featuring local speakers and sites. Many of the programs were given by our docents, showcasing their talents and skills. We Docents are a very knowledgeable and interesting group. My board took on huge events like the Day trip to Asheville and our 20th Anniversary luncheon and program willingly and expertly.

This year we will again feature local speakers and sites. In March, we will have Part 2 of "Where in the world has your passport taken you." In October, Ann and Jim Williams will do first person. Valerie Jones will talk with us about the Plimoth Jacket in Novem-

ber. Sharon Van Kuren will host "Fashions of our sites" at the Christmas Tea. Docents are going off site too. We will travel to Historic Rosedale, the Doctor's Museum in Mint Hill, and a day trip to Historic Salisbury.

Besides the 2012 programs, at the Board Retreat, we discussed the 2012 Education classes, "From Wagon Roads to New South City." Kudos to Alice and Rachel for a great series and to our new 'partners' in this on-going endeavor – Charlotte Museum of History and the Levine Museum of the New South. Since our mission is to share and keep history alive in our community, these lectures allow us to bring our local history to the community. And they do come. We had almost 150 people register for these classes.

The board also passed our budget for 2012. In addition to our usual expenses we budgeted seed money for the 2014 series of history lectures, and money for the cooking guild's presentation of "When Is Catsup Not Red?" at the regional ALHFAM meeting at Historic Bratonsville. The budget, which includes our request for MHA funding, has been approved by the MHA board.

After hearing from several people representing the 'Liberty Walk' project, this board wants to share their local history passion and support them in developing a Liberty Walk for Charlotte, so we will do what we can to help with this project. All involved hope that the project will be far enough along to give docent-led walks at the May 20th event and then special walks for the DNC.

—Audrey Mellichamp, Docent Chairman

MHA Docent Programs

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Where in the World Has Your Passport Taken You? – Part II

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

In January several docents working on the passport challenge gave us armchair tours of nearby sites, and some as far away as Mount Rushmore and Israel. It was fascinating, and we didn't begin to hear everyone's adventure. So our March program, by popular demand, will be Part II.

Tuesday, April 3, 2012

A Journey to Mint Hill

We will meet in the schoolroom at Carl J. McEwen Historical Village in Mint Hill for our business meeting at 10 a.m. After the meeting there will be a tour of the site. We'll hear about the schoolhouse, see the doctor's office, the country store, the assay office, an herb garden and more. Most of the buildings date from 1890 to 1900. The historical village in an ongoing project of restoration and interpretation and there are always new things to see.

Directions: The village (7601 Matthews-Mint Hill Road) is 11 miles from the center of Charlotte. From South Charlotte take NC 51 (Matthews-Mint Hill Road) north. The site is on the left 0.3 of a mile past Lawyers Road. From North Charlotte take Albemarle Road to Lawyers Road (just beyond W. T. Harris).

Turn right on Lawyers Road, and left on Matthews-Mint Hill Road. The site is 0.3 of a mile on the left. These are winding country roads. Allow plenty of time. Arrange your own carpools; if you need help finding a ride call Millie Hodge at 704-563-7080. There are several interesting cafes in Mint Hill for those who would like to stay for lunch. We'll select a place that morning.

Liberty Walk

Last year when city officials and other VIPs visited Boston, Mayor Anthony Foxx was most impressed with the city's Freedom Trail. Being a history major (how about that!) he said, "Charlotte needs one of these." And so we will have one. The May 20th Society and CPCC, with the assistance of the MHA, are designing a walk through uptown Charlotte where plaques along the way will tell the story of our Revolutionary War history. The nine block walk will begin on South Tryon near 3rd Street then go to the square, circle around several blocks, and end up back at the square. Many of the plaques already exist and several others are in the works. Markers will be implanted in the sidewalk to show the way, and brochures will be printed for self-guided walks. The project will be complete by the time of the Democratic National Convention, and perhaps by May 20th.

As MHA Docents we have been asked to help by occasionally giving guided tours, either in costume or street clothes, for groups. The board agreed to help as much as we can. These plans are in their infancy, and we'll keep you informed.

A New Event in Cornelius

Stopover at the Springs: A Revolutionary War Encampment

This new event is free and will be held on Saturday, March 24th from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, March 25th from 10 am to 4 pm at Legion Park in Cornelius (21214 Legion Street). Park at the town hall (21445 Catawba Ave). There is handicapped parking at the park. This event will focus on the typical times between battles in a Revolutionary War soldiers' camp when they were joined by townspeople such as a blacksmith, leather maker, etc. Reenactors will conduct musket drills and demonstrate fire starting, low country basket weaving, camp cooking, music and dancing, repairing equipment, and working with the local tradesmen.

The **Olde Mecklenburg Brewery** has produced a wonderful product that promotes our local history. It is Capt. James Jack Pilsner, which includes the story of Captain Jack and the Meck Dec right on each bottle. It is available at Harris Teeter, Total Wine, Fresh Market, etc. plus lots of restaurants. You can contact the brewery for more information and to arrange a tour to see it made at their facility. OMB was founded in 2009 to bring ultra-fresh, premium quality beer to the Charlotte area. The OMB owner, John Marrino, says Captain Jack's is a great story and he deserves a beer named after him. Just thought you would enjoy knowing about this "historic" product.
www.oldmeckbrew.com - 704.525.5644



Charlotte Douglas International Airport To Unveil History Exhibit

Last year, MHA was asked to join a committee to plan a possible history display at Charlotte Douglas International Airport. Linda Dalton and Jim Williams were asked to represent MHA, along with representatives from the Trail of History, CPCC, May 20th Society, and the airport. We were pleased to learn that Jerry Orr, Airport Director for the last 21 years, is very interested in our region's history. Of course, his family name goes way back in Mecklenburg County. The airport was interested in a possible concourse display with a local history theme. Work began with Magnolia Marketing leading the discussions. Our immediate suggestion was to use Captain Jack as the centerpiece for the exhibit.

The resulting display on one of the most prominent locations at the airport, the entrance to the International Concourse, will be amazing. It will be unveiled by the end of April in plenty of time for the DNC. We have included a picture of just a portion of the display. It covers all four sides of an enormous 10' tall free-standing oval in the center of the concourse entrance!

Featured prominently are huge images of Captain Jack, both a painting and a photograph of the statue by Chas Fagan. One side has a continuous



video produced by the May 20th Society which tells the story of the Meck Dec and Captain Jack's ride along with photos and information for six prominent people from our history including Jim Williams portraying Thomas Polk. The other side has mapping of the Trail of History and contact information from Mecklenburg Historic Sites, including MHA.



Original painting by Chas Fagan

Over 39 million travelers visited the Charlotte Douglas International Airport in 2011. What a rare opportunity to share a piece of Charlotte's history with so many people.

Thank you, Jerry Orr!

When you're in the airport, please take a look.

Membership Renewals

Membership renewal letters for the 2012 calendar year have been mailed. 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 _____

E-Mail 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

March 26, 2012 Dinner Meeting Reservation Form

Mail to: Mecklenburg Historical Association
 c/o Jane Johnson, 210 Pineville Forest Drive, Pineville, NC 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)



"Preserving Mecklenburg's Heritage"

Post Office Box 35032
Charlotte, North Carolina 28235
Phone: 704-333-6422

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.
www.charlotteregionalhistory.org

Historic Rosedale

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

Easter Egg Hunt , Saturday, March 31 at 11 and 11:45 am.

Explore our enchanting gardens and wander through our ancient boxwood maze as you and your child hunt for hand painted Easter eggs left by the Easter Bunny himself. \$6.00 per child. Each child is allowed one free adult admission. Additional adult admission is \$6.00 per person. Advance registration required. There will be two separate sessions for hunting. One will be at 11:00am and one at 11:45am.

Latta Plantation

5225 Sample Road, Huntersville, NC, 704 875 2312,
www.lattaplantation.org

Irish Heritage Day, Saturday, March 17th from 10 am to 4 pm.

Celebrate Irish heritage in North Carolina's history! James Latta came to America from Ireland in 1785, when he was thirty years old. Tour his plantation and learn about both the Irish and Scots-Irish in Mecklenburg County, hear Irish stories and traditions, see Irish cooking over the open-hearth, and more!

Charlotte Museum of History

3500 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC, 704 568 1774,
www.charlottemuseum.org

Woman's Making History Luncheon, Linda Hooper, Tuesday,

March 27 at 11:30 am.

Linda Hooper is a middle school principal and consummate educator, who once asked her students to collect six million paper clips as a way to visualize the magnitude of the Holocaust. A firm believer in the power of education as a vehicle to tolerance, Linda Hooper speaks movingly about teaching to change the world. Her luncheon topic will be "The Power of One." Luncheon tickets will go on sale on the museum website on February 1, 2012. Members \$45, non-members \$55, tables of 10 \$500

Hugh Torrance House and Store

8231 Gilead Road, Huntersville, NC,
www.torrancehouseandstore.org

House Tours. Sundays, April 1 and 15 from 2 to 5 pm.

The Hugh Torrance House and Store is truly a Mecklenburg County treasure. The log house section of the building was built as a residence about 1780. In 1805 the building was expanded to include a store which operated until 1825. As the Torrance family obtained land and wealth it became an enormous cotton plantation of 3,000 acres worked by over a hundred slaves. Extensive family history kept through the generations allows us to interpret nearly a century of Mecklenburg's rich mercantile and plantation history.

The Hugh Torrance House and Store begins its regular season of house tours on April 1st. Tours will continue on the 1st and 3rd Sundays through October. The site is located on Gilead road, two miles west of I-77 exit 23.

Rural Hill

4431 Neck Road, Huntersville, NC, 704 875 3113, www.ruralhill.net

Dyeing Eggs the Natural Way, Saturday, March 31 at 10 am.

Use everyday materials to dye eggs as it was done years ago, go on a hay ride, and take the eggs home with you. Registration required for this class.

Community Easter Egg Hunt and Great Spoon Race, Saturday, April 7, 10 am to 2 pm.

Free. Watch your weekly MHA email for more details, closer to the date.

Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games, Saturday and Sunday, April 21-22.

Scottish heavy athletic competition, piping and drumming, highland dancing, Scottish country dancing, children's activities and an historic encampment. Festivities will begin with the Friday evening traditional "Call of the Clans." Friday and Saturday evenings will once again host Scottish country dancing at Hopewell Church. Saturday will offer the Professional Scottish Heavy Events plus the Saturday evening concert.

Bark in the Park at Rural Hill, Saturday, April 28.

This is a Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation event; Rural Hill is the host site.

See the website for details and to arrange group tours.

Duke Mansion

400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte, 704 714 4448, www.dukemansion.com

Mr. Duke's Railway: The Piedmont & Northern, Sunday, April 1 at 3pm.

April 2012 is the 100th anniversary of the P & N electric interurban railroad. Cousin to the streetcar, it connected Charlotte with the textile towns of the North Carolina and South Carolina up-country. Today plans are afoot to revive part of the line running west from Panthers Stadium with the much-loved

The History Calendar

vintage Charlotte Trolley. Bill Jeffers, researcher for Charlotte Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, shares his knowledge.

The Duke Mansion- & The Duke Family – 100 Years, Tuesday April 24 at 6:30 pm.

Rosalie Reynolds and Pat Martin will tell about the Duke Family and Duke Mansion history – a celebration of contributions that have been made over the last 100 years – and its place in Charlotte history.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

12031 Lancaster Hwy., Pineville, NC, (704) 889-7145
www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

Mexican American War Militia Muster, Saturday, March 31 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free.

Illustrating the life of a citizen-soldier during the 1846 Mexican-American War, period costumed interpreters will demonstrate military drills and practices, camp life, and rifle firing while women support the soldiers with spinning and weaving, soap making, and cooking. Dr. Christopher D. Rounds, professor of American history at Winthrop University will speak on “Mexican War Soldiers turned Civil War Generals” at 11 am and 2 pm.

Political Conventions Exhibit. Opening April 14, running through November 9. Free.

Learn about the history of political conventions in the United States and the role that these meetings play in American politics, concentrating on the 1844 Democratic Convention in Maryland and James K. Polk’s presidential nomination.

Volunteer Orientation, Saturday, April 28 from 10 am to 2 pm, Free.

Learn about being a volunteer The

President James K. Polk State Historic Site.

Schiele Museum

1500 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia, N.C. 704 866 6900
www.schielemuseum.org

Backcountry Easter, Sunday, March 18 from 1 to 5 pm.

Dye, Scratch & Pick: Celebrate the coming of spring and learn about Easter Customs in the Carolina Backcountry. Discover the wholesome beauty and vibrant colors of eggs dyed with natural materials. Try your hand at “egg picking!” or decorate your own egg with 18th century designs scratched with a pin. Search for the hidden nest of the “Ostr Hase” (Easter Hare) to learn if the children have been good or bad this year.

Clothing the Backcountry Housewife: 18th -Century Skills Series: Caps: Proper Head Gear. Tuesday and Wednesday, April 10 and 11 at 6 pm.

Registration deadline: March 15. The cap is undoubtedly one of the pieces of clothing which, upon completion of hand sewing, produces great satisfaction for the seamstress. A variety of caps will be available for participants to try on and compare styles. Once a style is selected, the pattern may be laid out and the cap pieces cut with instructor assistance; participants will be ready for stitching! Registration fee includes instruction, fabric, pattern and materials. Space is limited – 8 participants maximum.

Carl J. McEwen Historical Village

7601 Matthews-Mint Hill Rd.
704-573-0726
<http://www.minthillhistory.com>

Discover Mint Hill, Saturday, April 21 from 9 am to 3 pm.

“Discovery Square” at the intersection of Bain School Road and Matthews-Mint Hill Road, will feature a variety of activities and demonstrations including hour-long historical tours on a double-decker bus, old-time craft demonstrations, panning for gold at the Assay Office, the Bost Grist Mill grinding corn meal on site, boiled peanuts and Wilgrove steaks.

Other Sites with Upcoming Events

Gaston County Museum
www.gastoncountymuseum.org

Historic Brattonsville
www.chmuseums.org/ourmuseums/myco/index.htm

Andrew Jackson State Park
www.southcarolinaparks.com/parkfinder/state-park/1797.aspx

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site
www.fortdobbs.org

Cowpens National Battlefield
www.nps.gov/cowp

Kings Mountain State Park
www.southcarolinaparks.com/parkfinder/state-park/945.aspx

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park,
<http://www.nps.gov/guco/index.htm>

Matthews Historical Foundation
Programs held at the Historic Massey Clark House, 232 North Trade Street, Matthews.

Sons of the American Revolution
Information contact: Tim Berly,
tberly@carolina.rr.com 704 849 7886.