



Dinner Meeting

Monday, March 17, 2014

Dinner at 6:30pm, Program at 7:15pm

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

Upcoming Dinner Program

Scott Syfert: *The First American Declaration of Independence?*

Monday, March 17, 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 reservations for dinner, use the order form on page 3 of this newsletter or email: JJCNC@aol.com.

UNTANGLING MEC DEC.

Our speaker for the March meeting will be our own **Scott Syfert**, Charlotte native and author of *The First American Declaration of Independence?*, published this year, to great acclaim, by McFarland & Company. In this true life historical detective story, Scott lays out all of the evidence, both pro and con, for

the existence of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of May 20th 1775. He also tells the fascinating story of the controversy and arguments which have raged back and forth for nearly 200 years. Scott is a dynamic speaker who knows the subject extremely well and this promises to be an entertaining and illuminating presentation. He will have copies of the book to sell and sign. See the expanded article elsewhere in this newsletter for more information and the review by Dr. Tony Zeiss, president of Central Piedmont Community College.

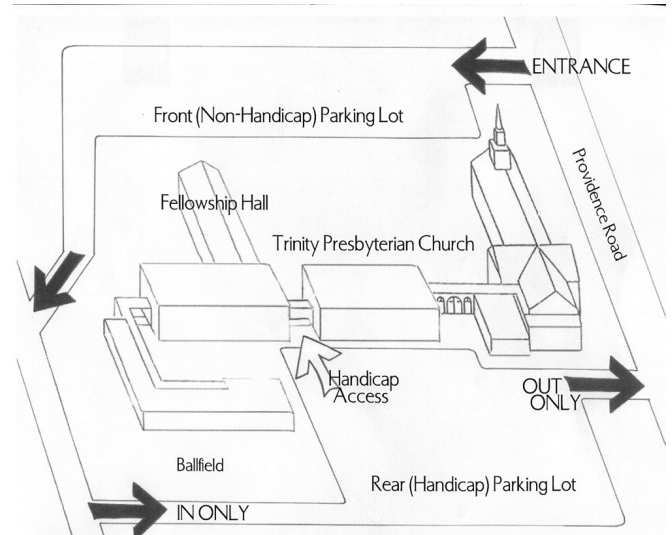


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The MHA meets in the Fellowship Hall at:
Trinity Presbyterian Church
3115 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28211



Remarks from the President

As we emerge from winter and begin a new MHA year, we look forward to excellent programs for our dinner meetings in 2014 in addition to the exceptional work of the MHA Docents, MHA members, and the historic sites we serve. Our first dinner meeting will be March 17 with Scott Syfert as our guest speaker. Please mark your calendars for May 12 when Tom Phlegar will present a Revolutionary War program, September 15 with David Erdman as our speaker, and November 17 when Tom Link will present the History of the Charlotte Fire Department.

On February 3rd, MHA sponsored an all-day Collections Care & Storage Workshop for our region's historic sites, museums and organizations. The workshop "sold out" in advance and twenty representatives from historic or-

ganizations spent the day with the excellent personnel from the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources Office of Archives and History Connecting to Collections program learning hands-on how to care for their archival collections. I have never seen so much valuable information covered in one day plus an entire resource bag of handouts – DVDs, sample materials, resources, organizations, etc. This was definitely time well spent.

On Saturday, March 29, 1:00-3:00pm at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church (see registration info in this newsletter), MHA will sponsor a two-hour workshop open to the public to present information on the proper storage and preservation of your personal family heirlooms – Tips To Preserve Family Treasures. If you have photos, textiles, furniture, or any family item you wish to preserve for future genera-

tions, please register and plan to attend and tell your family and friends. The cost is only \$5 at the door.

It has been suggested that we plan a future workshop on disaster preparedness for the area's historic sites and museums and we will explore that possibility in the near future.

Please contact me with any suggestions to improve MHA and the work we do for our history community. And remember to pass along our membership information to your friends and neighbors. I look forward to seeing each of you on March 17 at Trinity Presbyterian.

Linda Dalton
MHA President
leaseace@aol.com,
(704) 661-8470



The First American Declaration of Independence?

By Scott Syfert

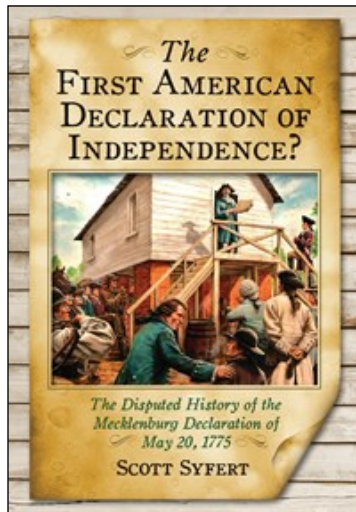
A Review by Tony Zeiss

When you read this seminal work, you will assume it was written by a seasoned, if not revered, author. You will be astonished to learn that this is Scott Syfert's first book. It is brilliantly written with the careful research of a learned attorney who can cite and analyze both the affirmative and negative arguments of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence debate.

Syfert has produced a treasure of historical notes for those who love history and this book, I predict, will become recognized as the most important literary source for all future studies of this intriguing topic. The book represents a fine example for future historic writers, a riveting piece of American history for all readers, and will contribute mightily to the body of knowledge regarding America's great rebellion with the Crown of Great Britain.

This work has been well-planned with an easy-to-read chronological format peppered with many illuminating photographs. Syfert begins the book by framing the disagreements between those who believe the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence was made on May 20, 1775 and those who don't. He expertly presents historical evidence for point-counter-point from both sides of the issue building the suspense of which side is correct until the very last page. In the process, he weaves in his own observations about the human side of those historic figures who

weighed in on the controversy. Most North Carolinians, ever true to their colony, believed the declaration to be true while most Virginians, likewise true to theirs, believed the opposite. No colony could claim a greater position with the revolution than George Washington's home colony.



The narrative is written in the reminiscent style of a good mystery novel. Once reader begins, this book cannot be put down for any length of time. When John Adams' letter to Thomas Jefferson convincingly accuses him of plagiarizing the Mecklenburg Declaration for the country's declaration a year later, one thinks the controversy is about over. Yet, the reader quickly learns it has just begun, especially when Jefferson adroitly counters that the declaration is spurious and fictional. The dialogue about the Mecklenburg declaration among these early giants of our republic provides

keen insight into their debating expertise, no doubt, during discussions about important provisions of the constitution.

I have been an eager student of the controversy for a decade or more, but I learned more from Syfert's research and his insight into the eighteenth century psyche of our Colonial leaders than in my total research over that period of time. Fortunately, this book has an extensive index, a large bibliography, and chapter-by-chapter reference notes which will give researchers a huge leap forward in their work on the subject or related topics.

Scott Syfert has objectively and fairly presented this controversy in historic terms. It is difficult enough to write a scholarly piece supported by extensive research, but it is far more difficult to also entice, engage, and entertain the reader. Syfert has skillfully accomplished this task. By posing sagacious questions Syfert keeps us engaged, and his clear presentation of the major players in this curious, almost "who done it" story, keeps us entertained.

Syfert has a new career in historical writing if he wishes, but if he never pens another book, he has left an extraordinary legacy in this one.

This book is a must read for all who love American history and for all who have any interest in this country's colonial roots. The First American Declaration of Independence? should be required reading for American history college students and it should be read by all North Carolinians, especially those from Mecklenburg County – even Virginians might find it to be illuminating.

-Dr. Tony Zeiss
P.S. It is a two-highlighter book.

Tips to Preserve Family Treasures

Join Mecklenburg Historical Association on Saturday, March 29th, from 1:00-3:00pm at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church, 101 Sugar Creek Road West, to learn about the various dangers that threaten your family treasures at home and strategies for protecting them. Click on the link below to register. Space is limited and cost is only \$5 at the door.

This event is presented as a result of MHA's Catawba River Valley Decorative Arts Survey. Our work on this survey has shown us the public's need for education on how to store and preserve family treasures such as photographs, textiles, furniture and more. Information will be presented by Connecting To Collections from the Department of Archives and History in Raleigh.

Pass this information on to family and friends and please join us on Saturday, March 29th.

Questions, please contact Linda Dalton - 704-661-8470, leaace@aol.com.

<http://surveymonkey.com/s/C2CSugawCreek>

additional celebration along the liberty walk. Details will be in the next issue of the MHA Newsletter.

Plans for the May 20 Celebration of Mecklenburg Declaration Day

After 10 years of overseeing the Meck Dec celebrations and providing a series of excellent speakers, the May 20th Society has decided it is time to pass this responsibility to another organization. Plans are being made for a grand celebration next year on the 240th anniversary of May 20, 1775. This year we will forgo the May 19th speaker and return to the tradition of a simple ceremony on the square, plus possibly an

A Pesky New Tax

As of January 1st the State of North Carolina has levied a new entertainment tax of 7 ¼ % to be collected on all admissions to cultural and history sites and museums. The tax is to be remitted to the state monthly; consequently sites and museums will have more records to keep and forms to fill out. Some smaller sites with limited operating hours and little or no staff may suspend admission fees and encourage donations instead. All sites struggle to make ends meet, so do be generous with your donations, especially to those who forego admissions for donations.

Membership Renewals

It's time to renew your MHA membership for 2014. Please save us the cost of mailing by renewing now. Fill in the form, make your check payable to Mecklenburg Historical Association, and mail to MHA, P.O. Box 35032, Charlotte, NC 28235. If your employer has a matching grant program or if you retired from such an organization, include the matching grant form with your check. *Thank you!*

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

Please send my MHA Newsletter by:

Email U.S. Mail Both

March 17, 2014 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

Race, Class, and Power in the New South City: Revisiting Bittersweet Legacy

Saturday, May 3 at 11 am, Beatties Ford Road Library, call 704-416-0150 to register.

Sponsored by the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library.

In her 1994 study, *Bittersweet Legacy: The Black and White "Better Classes" in Charlotte, 1850-1910*, Janette Greenwood, Ph.D., Professor of History at Clark University, uncovered evidence of political and professional cooperation between middle-class blacks and whites in the generations following Reconstruction. Professor Greenwood is returning to Charlotte to revisit her study in the light of twenty years of subsequent scholarship and to reflect on the importance of community members whose stories, documents, and photos made her work possible.

Hezekiah Alexander House Environmental Improvements Plan Workshop

Thursday March 20, at 10 am, Charlotte Museum of History.

The public is invited to participate.

Two professional consultants have been studying the Hezekiah Alexander Home-site and the collections of the Charlotte Museum of History in order to identify ways to improve the preservation of these valuable structures and artifacts. In this free all-day workshop, participants will work with the experts to understand the current condition and conservation issues, develop a plan to address these issues and strategies to achieve this plan.

The workshop is from 10 am to 2 pm with a half-hour break for lunch, which will be provided for a fee of \$10.00. If you would like to participate, please register online via our website at

www.charlottemuseum.org where you can also pay for your box lunch. If you have any questions, please email Kay Peninger, kay@charlottemuseum.org.

Lions of the West

Fundraising Program for the President James K. Polk State Historic Site

Wednesday, March 26 at 7 pm, Hilton Garden Inn Pineville, 425 Towne Center Blvd.

Robert Morgan, best-selling author of *Gap Creek* and *Boone* will discuss his new book that profiles ten Americans who inspired our nation's westward expansion. A wine and cheese reception will take place at 7 pm, followed by the program and book signing. \$30.00 for both the reception and program, \$20.00 for the program. Books available for purchase for \$20.00. Attendance limited. Register at 704 889 7145 or www.presjpolk.com.

Docent Training for Hugh Torance House and Store

A few new docents are needed to conduct tours of the Hugh Torance House and Store. The site is open to the public on the first and third Sunday afternoons, April through October. Docents generally do 2-4 tours per season. There will be a training session at the site for new docents on Saturday, March 22nd from 1 to 4 pm. From documents kept by the family, you will learn about their mercantile and plantation activity from the 1790s through the 1840s. The House and Store is located on Gilead Road 2 miles west of I 77 exit 23. If you are interested in attending the training session contact nn Williams at 704-365-2402, or ann.williams@mindspring.com, and we will be sure to have an information manual available for you. This is a small lovely site with a large well-documented history. Torance has no staff; all tours are done by volunteers, and we need more helpers.

The History Calendar & Site News

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 www.historicrosedale.org

Honoring Our Heroes – A New Exhibit, March 1 through 29. Experience the years of WW II through the eyes of two families connected to Rosedale plantation in an exhibit covering all four floors of the plantation house. Soldiers, housewives, and even children made contributions to the war effort and experienced the hardship of those years.

Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 5 at 11 am, reservations required.

Explore our enchanting gardens and wander through our ancient boxwood

maze as you and your child hunt for Easter eggs left by the Easter Bunny himself. Children of all ages are welcome and don't forget your Easter Baskets.

Civil War Living History Weekend, Saturday, April 19 from 9:30 am to 4 pm and Sunday, April 20 from 1 to 3 pm. In April 1865 the war has just ended. Charlotte is full of soldiers, transients, civilian residents, prisoners of war and refugees, including the Confederate cabinet fleeing Richmond. Military and civilian re-enactors will bring these characters and events to life on this weekend. Concessions and sutlers will be on site.

Latta Plantation

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

Artisan Event, Saturday, March 1 from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday, March 2 from 1 to 4 pm. Learn about 19th century skills as you watch open-hearth cooking, bookbinding, spinning, weaving and blacksmithing demonstrations. Also, tour the plantation house and outbuildings, and visit the farm animals.

Celtic Festival, Saturday and Sunday, March 15 and 16 from 10 am to 4 pm. All things Celtic with live music from the Thistledown Tinkers and Stirling Bridge, and an event Piper throughout the weekend. See Scottish dancing by Latta's Kilts and Petticoats, meet various Scottish clans and shop with Scottish vendors. Food and drink from The Olde Mecklenburg Brewery and a number of food vendors. Games and storytelling for the children who can also visit the farm animals.

The Charlotte Museum of History
3500 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC,
704-568-1774 www.charlottemuseum.org

Environmental Improvements Plan Workshop, Thursday March 20, at 10 am, the public is invited to participate. See details above in Site News.

America Aflame: God and the Civil War, a lecture by David Goldfield, Friday, April 18 at 6 pm. David Goldfield will speak about America Aflame, his great sprawling meaty book about the Civil War. The story begins in the 1830s as conflicts solidify, continues through the horrors of war, and concludes with reconstruction in the 1870s. Both sides began the fight believing God was on their side, either condoning or detesting slavery. As death, dismemberment, stench and bloodshed seemed endless, both wondered what sort of God could allow such suffering. Dr. Goldfield is an excellent speaker, and brings immediacy to his subject.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site
12031 Lancaster Hwy., Pineville, NC,
704-889-7145 polk.nchistoricsites.org

Lions of the West, Fundraising Program, Wednesday, March 26 at 7 pm. Hilton Garden Inn Pineville, 425 Towne Center Blvd. *Visit website for details.*

Hugh Torance House and Store
8231 Gilead Road, Huntersville, NC
www.hughtorancehouseandstore.org

House Tours, Sunday, April 6 from 2 to 5 pm. Regular tours of the Hugh Torance House and Store resume on April 6th and will continue the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month through October with the exception of Easter Sunday, April 20th. The log portion of the building

was constructed as a residence about 1780. In 1805 it was expanded to include a store which operated until 1825. The site eventually became a 3,000 acre plantation worked by over 100 slaves. Extensive family records allow us to interpret nearly a century of mercantile and plantation history.

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

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams, Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte. 7:30-10:00 PM. Free; donations appreciated. Doors open 7 PM.
-Friday, March 14 – Michael York & the Big Cigar Band plus the Myers Park High School Bluegrass Band performing a pre-concert at 7 pm.
-Friday, April 11 – Irish Singer/Songwriter & Author Danny Ellis.

Matthews Historical Foundation
704-846-6693

Tuesday, March 25, Dr. Tony Zeiss, local historian, author, and current president of Central Piedmont Community College, will become the character "Thomas Young" from his latest book *Backcountry Fury: A Sixteen-Year-Old Patriot in the Revolutionary War*. Dr. Zeiss will present Thomas as he vows revenge against the British Army and the local Tories for the death of his older brother in the spring of 1780. Dr. Zeiss will bring copies of *Backcountry Fury* to sell and sign. This meeting will be held at the Library, 230 Matthews Station Street, Downtown Matthews. Free to members of the Foundation, there will be a \$5 charge for non-members. Southern Gourmet will cater a reception starting at 6:30 p.m. with the program to begin at 7 p.m. For more meeting information, call 704-846-6693.

Tuesday, April 29, Civil War historian and author Michael C. Hardy will present a program titled *1864 - Charlotte and the Civil War*. The author of a large body of work on the Old North State and the War Between the States, Mr. Hardy authored *Civil War Charlotte: Last Capital of the Confederacy*. Mr. Hardy, recipient of numerous awards including the 2010 North Carolina Historian of the Year Award, is a fascinating storyteller. Michael will bring copies of his books

to sell and sign. More information can be found on his website www.michaelchardy.com. This meeting will be held at the Matthews Woman's Club, 208 South Trade Street. Free to members of the Foundation, there will be a \$5 charge for non-members. Southern Gourmet will cater a reception starting at 6:30 p.m. with the program to begin at 7 p.m. For more meeting information, call 704-846-6693.

Mount Holly Historical Society
131 South Main, Mount Holly, NC mhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Founder's Day Celebration, Sunday, March 16 from 1 to 4 pm. Celebrating Mount Holly's 135th birthday, learn about the Revolutionary War, tour historical exhibits and enjoy musical entertainment and light refreshments. At 2 pm Mike Baxter, CPCC History Professor will speak on the Battle of Kings Mountain and the people of Gaston and Lincoln Counties who took part in it.

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

Easter in the Carolina Backcountry, Sunday March 30 from 1 to 5 pm. Celebrate the coming of spring with backcountry settlers! Enjoy displays of eggs dyed with natural materials in a rainbow of colors. 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. Discover the significance of a tansy pudding and why were considered "tonics."

Sheepshearing, Sunday, May 4 from 1 to 5 pm. Each spring the sheep are sheared (given a haircut) at the Backcountry Farm; the sheep are cool in the summer and the wool is made into cloth to keep the Pioneer family warm in the winter. See historical interpreters in 18th century dress card and spin the freshly shorn wool into thread. Try your hand at shearing or the simple craft of weaving on a tapeloom. Discover the difference between a shortgown and a waist coat as youngsters "dress the part" of a backcountry child.

Gaston County Museum
131 West Main Street Dallas, NC.
704-922-7681, #2
www.gastoncountymuseum.org

The History Calendar—page 7 (continued)

Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday, April 13 at 1:30 pm, Free. Families come join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt around the Dallas Town Square! In partnership with the Town of Dallas we are offering this free activity for ages 10 and under. The egg hunt begins promptly at 1:30 PM... so don't be late! Kids bring your Easter baskets and join us afterwards until 3 pm for fun activities including games and crafts at the Gaston County Museum.

Civil War Day, Saturday April 26 from 11:30 am to 2:20 pm, Free. Join us as we remember those that served through the Civil War, both for the Union and the Confederacy. This living history event will include military drills, musket firing demonstrations, camp life displays, and activities to help everyone understand what life was like for those that served during the War Between the States.

Museum of the Waxhaws

8215 Waxhaw Hwy., Waxhaw, NC
704-843-1832
www.museumofthewaxhaws.org

Andrew Jackson's Birthday, Saturday, March 15 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Birthday cake and coffee will be served and there will be crafts for the children. Arthur Lightbody, appearing as President Jackson will visit the Museum at 2 pm and share some stories of his experiences as our seventh President.

Andrew Jackson Southerner, a new book by Mark Cheatham, Sunday, March 16 at 3 pm. Professor Cheatham will speak about Old Hickory as more than a frontiersman: He was also an elite southern gentleman.

Swords and Crosses, Saturday, April 5 from 10 am to 4 pm. The Museum will erect 600 crosses into a War Between the States Memorial Cemetery. Learn about mourning in the 1860s with General and Mrs. Robert E. Lee, and Clara Barton along with a period Blacksmith, Farmer, Spinner, and "Copperhead," plus a display of Civil War artifacts and Artillery.

York County Genealogical and Historical Society

P.O Box 3061 CRS, Rock Hill, SC
29732, www.weblandinc.com/ycghs/member.html

Confederate Park and Unity Cemetery, Fort Mill, Saturday, March 29 at 10 am. Free. Tour Confederate Park and see and hear about the monuments dedicat-

ed to the Catawbas, slaves, soldiers and women "who sacrificed so much from 1861 to 1865." Then at the Unity Cemetery on Tom Hall St. visit the graves of members of the Springs Family plus the World War I plot with several Medal of Honor recipients, ending up at the Fort Mill History Museum. Meet at the Bandstand in Confederate Park at 10 am.

S.C. Department of Archives and History, 8301 Parklane Rd. in Columbia, Wednesday, April 2 at 10 am. Free.

Tour the Research Room and learn what materials are available and how to use them. Visit the stacks to see some of the important documents in the Archives and meet Dr. Eric Emerson, Director of the SC Department of Archives and History.

Historic Brattonville

1444 Brattonville Rd., McConnells, SC,
803-684-2327
<http://www.chmuseums.org/brattonville>

Children's Day on the Farm, Saturday, March 22 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Focusing on farm life in the 18th and 19th centuries there will be a number of hands-on activities including toys and games, candle making plus a blacksmithing demonstration. Visit the museum's new born lambs and heritage breed animals, a 4-H petting zoo. Pony rides, tractor-drawn wagon rides and family-friendly foods will be available as well. Professional story teller Tim Lowery will tell stories about the past to children of all ages. Children's author Sheila Ingle will be signing her book *Fearless Martha*, and we will have a team of plow horses in the field.

Sheep Shearing Day, Saturday, April 12 from 10 am to 4 pm.

It is time for the annual shearing of our flock of Gulf Coast sheep. Along with shearing demonstrations we will have hands-on demonstrations of the processes of washing, carding, spinning, dyeing and weaving to turn raw wool into finished garments.

Union County Public Library

316 E. Windsor St., Monroe, NC,
704-283-8184 www.unionlib.nc.us

Carolina Gristmills, Sunday, March 16 at 2:30 pm, Griffin Room, Free.

Chuck Ketchie has been researching the old water powered mills of North Carolina for over 35 years visiting 140 of the remaining relics (thus far). His talk will use his extensive collection of photos to illustrate the history, beauty and complexity of this grand old industry.

Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site

9621 Reed Mine Rd., Midland, NC 28163,
704 721 GOLD (4653)
www.nchistoricsites.org/reed/reed.htm

Blackbeard's Queen Anne's Revenge: 1718, Exhibit open now through April 5, Tuesday through Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm. Free.

The Queen Anne's Revenge ran aground near Beaufort in 1718. It is only in the past few years that these artifacts have been raised from the depths of the ocean and are now traveling the state, on loan from the N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort. Blackbeard's Queen Anne's Revenge displays artifacts that represent weaponry, nautical tools and personal items. There are several display cases showing artifacts removed from the ship, and fish tanks showing how secretions are removed from the artifacts, as well as several touch screen displays and text panels. A reproduction cannon and mannequins round out the display. As part of the exhibit, children can participate in scavenger hunts to help understand more of Blackbeard and pirates off the North Carolina Coast.

Andrew Jackson State Park

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

Andrew Jackson Birthday Celebration, Saturday, March 15 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Celebrate the birthday of the Seventh President of the United States at his boyhood home place. Join us for a day of living history demonstrations to see what the Carolina Backcountry was like in Jackson's time. See traditional crafters at work. Listen to historians discuss the legacy of Andrew Jackson. Enjoy the beauty of the park as history comes to life before your eyes.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

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

254th Anniversary of the Attack on Fort Dobbs, Saturday, March 1 from 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday, March 2 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Re-enactors representing the provincial garrison and Cherokee warriors will offer on-going interpretation of 18th Century camp life, as well as musket and cannon firing demonstrations.

War for Empire, Saturday April 12 from 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday, April 13 from 10 am to 3 pm. In Fort Dobbs' largest event of the year, join soldiers, American Indians and civilians from the 18th Century as we look at the French and Indian War history

The History Calendar—page 8 (continued)

of North Carolina through encampments, trades demonstrations and battle reenactments.

Kings Mountain National Military Park

SC Hwy 216. I-85, Exit 2 in North Carolina. Follow the signs.
864-936-7921 www.nps.gov/kimo

Spring Encampment with the Backcountry Militia, Saturday and Sunday, April 12 and 13 from 9 am to 5 pm.

Join the Backcountry Militia as they kick off the season with their first encampment. Various Demonstrations including weapons.

Kings Mountain Historical Museum

100 East Mountain Street, Kings Mountain, NC 704-739-1019
www.kingsmountainmuseum.org

Shakespeare's Spear: The History of Heraldry, Thursday, March 27 at 5:30 pm, Free.

Heraldry originated as a method of identifying knights in battle and evolved into a complex system used by royalty and nobility as a sign of status and heredity. Hear the tale behind the grant of Shakespeare's Coat of Arms which helped a once-impooverished family regain their reputation. Create your own Coats of Arms – fun for the whole family.

Cowpens National Battlefield

I-85 South Carolina Exit 83, follow signs,
864-461-2828 www.nps.gov/cowp

Upper Broad Regiment Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, March 15 and 16 from 9 am to 5 pm.

This Regiment is a group of 18th Century Loyalist reenactors. They will have frequent weapons firing demonstrations. On Sunday there will be a book signing by John Buchanan, author of The Road to Guilford Courthouse, at the Visitor Center from 3 to 4:45 pm.

North Carolina Highland Regiment, 71st Highlander Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27 from 9 am to 5 pm.

The 71st Highlanders fought at the Battle of Cowpens. They will have weapons firing demonstrations frequently throughout both days.

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park

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

The Battle of Guilford Courthouse Reenactment. Saturday and Sunday, March 15 and 16.

This battle was truly a turning point in the American Revolution. Visiting the National Military Park is a joy and a wonderful history lesson at any time, but especially on this weekend. The soldiers are encamped for the weekend and reenact the battle each day. This is the largest reenactment in the South every year and seeing this large number of troops in action gives you a true feeling for an 18th Century battle. For details and to plan your weekend, see the web site above.

FOR ADDITIONAL EVENTS, please visit these websites:

- **Andrew Jackson State Park**
www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/1797.aspx
- **Duke Mansion**
www.dukemansion.com
- **Fort Dobbs State Historic Site**
www.fortdobbs.org
- **Historic Camden**
www.historic-camden.net
- **Matthews Heritage Museum**
www.matthewsheritagemuseum.org
- **Mint Hill Historical Society**
www.minthillhistory.com
- **Old Salem**
www.oldsalem.org
- **Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site**
www.nchistoricsites.org/reed/reed.htm/
- **Rural Hill**
www.ruralhill.net
- **Stanly County Museum**
www.stanlycountymuseum.com
- **Union County Public Library**
www.unionlib.nc.us