Dinner Meeting

Monday, March 14, 2016
Dinner at 6:30pm, Program at 7:15pm

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

Upcoming Dinner Program

China and Charlotte — The Charlotte Trading Path Goes International

Charlotte owes its existence to its location as the central, East Coast intersection of trade and commerce. From ancient animal migratory trail to Indian migratory and trading route to cross roads for all types of commerce, Charlotte has drawn its commercial attractiveness. From wagons, to rail to train to automobile to air travel, Charlotte’s logistical position has allowed her to flourish. From telegraph, to telephone, to radio, to television, cable, and now Google fiber, the flow of data enhances that position. As Charlotte enters the 21st Century, the location takes on importance not just regionally and nationally, but now internationally. What is the China connection and how did it suddenly happen and why is it a milestone? Chase Saunders will talk about his recent participation in a Carolinas Chinese Chamber of Commerce trip to China, how the trip was received, the first ever visit of the China Ambassador to Charlotte, and what this all means. The events of the past 150 days are part of another exciting chapter in the history of Charlotte.

Chase Boone Saunders is a Charlotte native, member of the Sons of the American Revolution, and former President of MHA. He was the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, Chief District Court Judge and Assistant District Attorney before entering the practice of law. He is now moving into the field of real estate and economic development promotion. His passion is the development of Charlotte as a 21st Century global city of the future….the Charlotte city state.

In October Chase paid his way on a trade promotion mission to China sponsored by the Carolinas Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the Chinese People’s Friendship Society. He was curious about China. He and the NC Leadership Delegation were given unprecedented access to places and people who could satisfy that curiosity. He was blown away by what has happened there and will share the visit and how unfolding events will impact Charlotte and the region. At our March dinner meeting you will learn and see things you did not imagine existed.

Inside this issue:

Remarks from the President 2
North Branch MHA 2
Charlotte Regional History Consortium 2
MHA Docent Programs 3
Membership Renewals 3
Meeting Reservation Form 3
Summer Camps and Hart Square 4
Site News 5
The History Calendar 5-8

Chase Saunders at a tropical island park in Changsha, China — home of Chairman Mao.
Remarks from the President
Happy Spring to our members. It will be good to see all of you at our first dinner meeting for 2016 on March 14th when we have a very unusual and fascinating program in store for you. Charlotte's history definitely informs its present so reach all the way to China, as Chase Saunders will explain.

I am very pleased that the Southeastern Museum Council will have its annual meeting in Charlotte this coming October. Their offer to host two of our historic sites while they are here is amazing and I know Rosedale and Latta will welcome their donated professional assistance.

We thank Robin Brabham for the great job he has done as Program Chair following Jane Johnson's excellent job for several years in this position, but Robin needs to focus on other projects, so if you would be interested in helping us by becoming Program Chair, please let me know. The Board will assist with program suggestions but we need someone to be in charge of coordinating with the speakers, the caterer, and the church.

North Branch MHA
The North Branch of the Mecklenburg Historical Association has announced its spring program schedule. All meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church at 19600 Zion Ave, Cornelius, NC 28031 (off Old Statesville Road) in Cornelius in Room 204 (enter by the cemetery – south side ramp). Meetings begin at 7:00pm.

March 8, we will have a return visit from Robert Ryals who will speak on the Catawba Indian Nation in the French and Indian War and the America Revolution.

April 12, we hope to have our annual road trip. (Alternate date is May 10.) We toured Torance House and Store last year and will tour a different site this year. We are hoping to tour Holly Bend. More details to come.

May 10, Sarah Sue Hardinger will discuss how to go about writing a historically-based novel. If you have ever thought of documenting your family or a time in history, this meeting is for you. As an example, she will use her recently published book, Ring of Luck, a novel based on the founding of Jamestown.

No reservations are required. The meetings are free. If you have questions, contact Sarah Sue Hardinger (sarahsuenc@gmail.com) or (704) 906-6696.

Charlotte Regional History Consortium—Update
In 1994 the Mecklenburg Historical Association Documents had a wonderful idea- to bring together history museums, historic houses, and research facilities from across the region in an effort to foster partnership and mutual support. This idea became the Charlotte Regional History Consortium, known as the CRHC. The CRHC has since grown into a partnership of close to 40 area history organizations. In 2011 it obtained 501(c)3 status allowing it to move forward in an effort to better assist area organizations with marketing and grant opportunities.

Over the past several years, the CRHC has focused primarily on helping its member organizations get the word out about what they do for history in this region. The CRHC has printed out several brochures and rack cards over the years, which are designed to direct people to its member organizations and show potential visitors how much history the Charlotte region has to offer! A new brochure is currently in the works for the beginning of this year. The brochure directs people to the CRHC website (www.charlotteregionalhistory.org) so they can find out about member organizations. Through an interactive Google map, potential visitors can quickly see where regional sites are located, get directions, and link to member websites for more information.

In October 2016 the Southeastern Museum Council will hold its annual meeting in Charlotte. Within the SEMC is a group called the Historic House Museums Affinity Group (HHMAG). This group seeks to offer their services and expertise to area historic houses each year during the annual meeting. Two CRHC members will benefit from this in October. Teams of HHMAG volunteers will travel to Historic Rosedale to whitewash the English Basement Kitchen and to Historic Latta Plantation to assess collections and provide advice for updating its collections care program.

The CRHC meets five times each year, including two socials, designed to give members a chance to get to know each other better and create new partnerships. If you would like to be added to the CRHC email list, please send your information to lattakristin@gmail.com. You will then receive updates of meeting locations (which rotate to different member sites) and times. We invite you to join us on April 6th, 2016 at 3:00pm for our spring social. It will be held at the Kings Mountain Historical Museum. Hope to see you there!

Kristin Toler, President, CRHC

The photos at right are from a recent CRHC meeting at Loray Mill in Gastonia.
**MHA Docent Programs**

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

**Tuesday, March 1**

**The Tryon Resolves**

On August 14, 1775, west of the Catawba, an enraged group of Tryon County citizens convened at the Tryon Courthouse, in response to the horrific Battles of Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts that had taken place several months before. Vowing resistance to “barbarous and bloody actions” by the British Empire against its North American colonies, they formed an Association, and signed a set of resolutions which came to be known as The Tryon Resolves. Join us to learn more about this important regional document and its contribution to the atmosphere of unrest in the Carolina Backcountry on the eve of Revolution. The original manuscript is extant and now resides in the North Carolina Archives in Raleigh. Photographs of this historic decree will be on hand for your inspection.

Suzanne Simmons, a native of Cleveland County and graduate of UNC-Greensboro, joined the staff at the Schiele Museum of Natural History as Environmental Education Program Specialist in 1985. In 2007, she donned the cap as 18th Century Backcountry Lifeways Program Specialist and Pioneer Farm site manager. Now, Suzanne weaves her interests in 18th century life, Native American/Aboriginal folklore, storytelling, and working with children “of all ages” into a fabric of educational programs and activities which bring to life the triumphs and trials of settlement in the late 1700’s in the Piedmont Backcountry.

**Tuesday, April 5**

**Book Discussion:**

*The Uncommon Bond of Julia and Rose*

The Uncommon Bond of Julia and Rose is a history-based novel about an unusually close relationship between a slave named Rose and Julia who was her owner. It is told in their two voices by way of “memory journals” written in the spring and summer of 1860. The book consists of those interwoven journals recounting their fifty years of life together, written against a background of fears and rumors of impending war. Julia has no use for slavery and adores Rose. Rose returns her affection with reservations; she detests being property, but accepts that her life has been easier than most. We hope that by April many of you will have had an opportunity to read about Julia and Rose, so that this program will be much more of a book discussion than a book talk.

Ann Williams, author of *The Uncommon Bond of Julia and Rose*, has researched and written about antebellum plantation life for many years, and has been an interpreter at Mecklenburg's historic plantation sites. She will lead the discussion by telling how the book came to be, and cite historic sources for some of its events. Then she will open the floor for discussion. We hope you will come with questions and comments; but there will be lots to talk about whether you’ve read the book or not. The complex and ever changing institution of slavery should supply plenty of meat to chew on.

**Membership Renewals**

It’s time to renew your MHA membership for 2016. 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 for your interest in history!*

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**March 14, 2016 Dinner Meeting Reservation Form**

Mail to:   Mecklenburg Historical Association  
c/o Linda Dalton, 2401 Sharon Road, Charlotte, NC 28211
or email: leaseace@aol.com

Please make checks payable to Mecklenburg Historical Association.

Questions? Please email Linda Dalton (leaseace@aol.com) or call her at (704) 661-8470.

We must have your dinner reservation (written or verbal) by Thursday, March 10 in order to meet our caterer’s schedule.

Enclosed: $_____________(total) for _______ seats ($12 for Seniors)

$_____________(total) for _______ seats ($14 for all others)

Name Tags:

___________________________________________________________________________
Summer Camps

Historic Latta Plantation Summer Day Camps in June, July and August
Each summer Latta Plantation offers a variety of fun outdoors camps which focus on history, agriculture, and primitive life. Farm Camps are available for children ages 4 to 17 and include age appropriate activities. Historical camps are offered to boys and girls alike, ages 8-12, including Miss. Jane’s Academy, Civil War Soldier Camp, and Revolutionary War Soldier Camp. For a complete listing of summer camp offerings, check the Latta webpage at www.lattaplantation.org Camps fill quickly so be sure to register early.

Polk Summer Camps
Registration is now open for Summer Camp at the President James K. Polk State Historic Site. Visit www.jameskpolk.net for information — space is limited, reservations required.

Hart Square

Behind the Scenes at Hart Square, Saturday, April 16 at 10 am to 3 pm.
Hart Square is the largest collection of original log buildings in the United States. Once each year, on the fourth Saturday in October, docents, artisans, craftsmen and thousands of eager visitors descend upon Hart Square to experience life as it once existed in the North Carolina backcountry.

On April 16 you can enjoy an intimate view of the property and its interpretation of early American life including a special lecture by Dr. Hart himself as well as an up-close view of the village’s architecture, art and antiques. Visit fifteen of Hart Square’s meticulously restored 19th-century log structures, and browse the period-appropriate furnishings and other objects within them. Tours throughout the day will pay special attention to the buildings’ architecture and craftsmanship and the history behind them. Photography is encouraged.

An outdoor barbeque lunch is included and the event will take place rain or shine, so do come prepared. The cost of this special event is $60.00. To purchase tickets contact the Historical Association of Catawba County at (828)-465-0383, cchamuseum@gmail.com or http://catawbahistory.org/events/19/1491
Site News

Reenactment of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Saturday and Sunday, March 12 and 13.
The Revolutionary War Battle of Guilford Courthouse was fought on March 15, 1781 between the American forces under General Nathanael Greene, and British forces under General Cornwallis. Although the British forces were in possession at the end of the day, they were so destroyed, in men and materiel that they retreated back to the coast at Wilmington. From there they went to Virginia and later surrendered at York Town. Guilford Court House is generally considered to be the final turning point of the war.

This battle is reenacted each year on the weekend nearest March 15 and is the largest Revolutionary War reenactment in the South. Unfortunately, as of this date, no information on this reenactment has been made available by the City of Greensboro, the National Park Service or the Guilford Battleground Company. If and when such information becomes available we will publish it in the weekly MHA email. The web sites of these three organizations are:

http://www.greensboro-nc.gov
http://www.nps.gov/guco
http://guilfordbattlegroundcompany.org

The Mummy Treasure of Al Faiyum, Exhibit Opening, March 14 at the Iredell Museum, Statesville. This exhibit features North Carolina’s only Egyptian Mummy. This rare 22nd Dynasty mummy was acquired in 1956 by the Iredell Museums from the Crozier Museum in Upland, PA, where it had been on exhibition since the late 1800s. The style of the mummy’s three coffin ensemble identify it as from Faiyum, Egypt in the Libyan Period (1070-712 BCE). According to Egyptologists at the British Museum, there are few examples of mummys from this time period.

In recent years the museum staff have conducted extensive research and uncovered a number of secrets regarding her mummification. Recent X-rays and CT Scans donated by Iredell Health System documented her condition and answered many questions about her mummy’s health and possible age at the time of death.

Kaye Brown Hirst, Long Time Executive Director of the Rowan Museum is Retiring. The Board of Directors of the Rowan Museum in Salisbury has announced the retirement of Kaye Brown Hirst, effective late spring and are soliciting applications for the position. The Museum encompasses three historic sites and other historic properties in the Rowan County area. Those interested in applying for the full time position should have a background in event planning, collections management, security and safety and leading a non-profit organization plus a knowledge of Rowan County and Salisbury. To apply, mail a cover letter and current resume to: The Rowan Museum 202 North Main Street Salisbury, NC 28144

Employment Opportunity at Historic Camden, SC. Long-time executive director of the Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site in Camden, South Carolina, Joanna Craig has retired and they are searching for a replacement. If you are qualified and interested, send a cover letter, current resume and three references to: Historic Camden, c/o Amy Sheheen, Interim Director PO Box 710, Camden SC 29021

NC’s Southern Boundary: a Refresher Course, Saturday, March 5 at 9:30 am to noon. William P. Cumming Map Society, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, Uptown Branch, Dowd Learning Room. The History and Re-survey of North Carolina’s Southern Boundary: Stephen R. Kelly, author of The Boundary Hunters: Uncovering North Carolina’s Lost Borders” (The Atlantic) and “How the Carolinas Fixed Their Blurred Lines” (New York Times), will discuss the historical background of the boundary between the two Carolinas, and the current status of the recent re-survey to determine its true location.

Prior to Mr. Kelly’s presentation, Jay Lester, author of the North Carolina Map Blog, will give a brief introduction to the variety and frequently peculiar cartographic shapes of the Carolinas.

Sheila Bumgarner, librarian in the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room at the Charlotte Library will have a fascinating selection of 19th century regional maps available for viewing and study. Among these treasures are maps of local gold mines.

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
www.historicrosedale.org

Three Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday March 19 at 10 am, 11 am, and noon. Explore our enchanting gardens and wander through the ancient boxwood maze as you and your child hunt for Easter eggs. Children of all ages are welcome and don’t forget your Easter Baskets. Reservations required and sell out fast.

Archaeology Camp, Saturday, March 26 from 10 am to 1 pm. Be an archaeologist for a day. Join us at our dig site to find artifacts from the plantation.

Oyster Roast, Sunday, April 10 from noon to 4 pm. Good food, live music, games for the kids, house walkthroughs, and alcohol is included... what could be better? $40, advance registration required.

Garden Tour, Saturday, April 30 from 11 am to 5 pm and Sunday, May 1: Noon to 4 pm. Stroll through multiple gardens around town at your own pace. Your final stop is Rosedale at 5 pm Sunday evening for a wine & cheese garden party. $35 in Advance $45 at the door.
Backcountry Explorers – The Environment, Thursday, March 3 from 2 to 3:30 pm or Saturday, March 5 from 10:30 am to noon. Students ages 6-12 will immerse themselves in Colonial history, discover Colonial life at the Hezekiah Alexander Home Site and create hands-on projects.

Backcountry Explorers – Herbs and Medicine, Thursday, April 7 from 2 to 3:30 pm or Saturday, April 9 from 10:30 am to noon. Students ages 6-12 will immerse themselves in Colonial history, discover Colonial life at the Hezekiah Alexander Home Site and create hands-on projects.

Backcountry Explorers – Cooking, Saturday, November 7 at 10:30 am. A hands-on class for students ages 6-12 to immerse themselves in Colonial food preparation. Join us as we discover Colonial life at the Hezekiah Alexander Home Site and create hands-on projects.

Civil War Symposium, Saturday, April 30 from 9 am to 3:30 pm. The Metrolina Civil War Roundtable and Charlotte Museum of History present their Annual Civil War Symposium. Please register before April 22.

- Keynote speaker Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., - The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope
- Dr. Jim Sasser - The Civil War and Individual Valor
- Leonard R. (Deacon) Jones – African-Americans in the Civil War
- Chris Hartley – Who Was the Real D. H. Hill?
- Kay Peninger – The Morrison Sisters: Their Extraordinary Lives and Accomplishment

Sons of the American Revolution

Information contact: Jay Joyce at jay@mecklenburgs.org or call 704-526-9548

Letters from Home, Thursday, May 12 at 6 pm, Hilton Charlotte Executive Park Hotel. "Letters from Home" is America’s Bombshell Duo, featuring their 1940’s style patriotic music, comedy and dance. These dynamic entertainers travel the country honoring our nation’s Veterans, active military heroes and their families by reviving patriotism through their 1940’s style music. Veterans are encouraged to wear their ribbons or part of a uniform to signify their service. Tickets are $29 for adults and $15 for children, including dinner, so buy your tickets now by sending your check, to the Mecklenburg Chapter SAR, c/o Tom Phlegar, 7324 Marlbrook Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212-4770.
Ann Williams has been active in local history for over 30 years, with particular interest in Mecklenburg’s historic plantations: Lat-ta, Hugh Torrance House and Store, Rural Hill, and Rosedale. She has done research at all of them, and tours at most. She is the author of *Your Affectionate Daughter, Isabella* which is drawn from the papers and experiences of the Torrance family of Cedar Grove and co-editor of *A Life in Antebellum Charlotte: the Private Journal of Sarah F. Davidson, 1837*. Books will be available for purchase. This program is free and open to the public.

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

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

polk.nchistoricsites.org

Traffic Pattern Changes at the President James K. Polk State Historic Site. Lancaster Highway (S. Polk St.) is closed near the President James K. Polk State Historic Site while repairs are being made to the Sugar Creek Bridge. Alternate directions are: On Highway 51 traveling toward Pineville just past Carolina Place Mall turn left on Carolina Place Parkway. Turn right where the Parkway comes to an end at Lancaster Highway. Pass the Waldhorn restaurant on the right, and turn right into the Polk historic site.

First Ladies Sarah Polk, Margaret Taylor, and Abigail Fillmore Film Screening, Saturday, March 12 at 10 am, Free. Learn about the lives and legacies of three First Ladies: Sarah Polk, Margaret Taylor and Abigail Fillmore. This documentary is one in a series produced by C-SPAN entitled: “First Ladies: Influence and Image.”

**Historic Brattonsville**

1444 Brattonsville Rd., McConnells, SC, 803-684-2327

chmuseums.org/brattonsville

Children’s Day on the Farm, Saturday, March 26 from 10 am to 4 pm. Learn about farm life in the 18th and 19th centuries with candle-dipping, blacksmithing, and food preparation. See the newborn lambs and pet other farm animals. Pony and wagon rides available for an additional fee. Food concessions available, so come and spend the day with us exploring the past.

Sheep Shearing, Saturday, April 9 from 10 am to 4 pm. It is time to shear the flock of Gulf Coast sheep. Observe a shearing demonstrations and learn about carding, spinning, dyeing and weaving to turn raw wool into finished garments. And be sure to meet our spring lambs while you are here.

**Kings Mountain Historical Museum**

100 East Mountain Street, Kings Mountain, NC

704-739-1019

www.kingsmountainmuseum.org

Kings Mountain Historical Museum’s 30th Anniversary Celebration, Saturday, March 19 from 10 am to 4 pm. A full day of activities with a Battle of Kings Mountain theme: historical craft demonstrations, a firearms demonstration and a program on *Every Insult and Indignity: the Life, Genius and Legacy of Major Patrick Ferguson* by Ricky Roberts, performances by the Log Cabin String Band and a chance to make your own contribution to a time capsule.

**Washington’s 1791 Southern Tour, Presentation and Book Signing**

Thursday, April 7 at 5:30 pm, free. In the spring of 1791, President Washington spent nearly three and a half months traveling from Philadelphia to Georgia and
back – the last of three trips in the first two years of his presidency through all 13 states. Author, historian, and broadcaster Warren L. Bingham will speak about this fascinating chapter in American History during which our nation’s first President promoted the new constitution and brought the face of the new federal government to the people.

The Mauney Brothers’ Civil War, Presentation and Book Talk, Wednesday, April 13, at 5:30 pm, free. Kings Mountain Historical Museum is pleased to announce that the Civil War diary of William Andrew Mauney, which has recently been donated to the Museum by Mr. Frank Summers, has been digitized and published online through the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center. The diary and the museum’s other DigitalNC.org content can be viewed at: http://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/kings-mountain-historical-museum/

To celebrate the publication of this unique primary source material, historian and author Lawrence Lohr will present a program about his book, The Mauney Brothers’ Civil War. The book chronicles the Civil War experiences of the Mauney brothers, Jacob, Andrew, and Peter. The war would claim the life of one of the brothers; the other two would go on to have a major role in the establishment of the City of Kings Mountain and the area’s industries. The book includes photographs and transcriptions of original source materials, including the W.A. Mauney diary.

York County Genealogical & Historical Society
P.O Box 3061 CRS, Rock Hill, SC 29732, www.weblandinc.com/ycghs/member.html

Events Leading to the American Revolution, Sunday, March 20, at 3 pm, free. Scott Syfert is the author of The First American Declaration of Independence? which discusses the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of May 20, 1775. He will give an overview of events in our area leading to the American Revolution. Unity Presbyterian Church, 303 Tom Hall Street, Fort Mill, SC.

FOR ADDITIONAL EVENTS, please visit these sites:
- Charlotte Folk Society www.folksociety.org
- Charlotte Museum of History www.charlottemuseum.org
- Cowpens National Battlefield www.nps.gov/cowp
- Duke Mansion www.dukemansion.com
- Fort Defiance www.fortdefiancenc.org
- Fort Dobbs State Historic Site www.fortdobbso.org
- Fort Mill History Museum www.fortmillhistorymuseum.org
- Gaston County Museum www.gastoncountymuseum.org
- Gregory Creek Homestead & Iredell Museums www.iredellmuseums.org
- Guilford Courthouse National Military Park www.nps.gov/guco
- Historic Brattonsville www.chmuseums.org/brattonsville
- Historic Camden www.historic-camden.net
- Historic Rosedale www.historicrosedale.org
- Hugh Torance House and Store www.hughtorancehouseandstore.com
- Kings Mountain Historical Museum www.kingsmountainmuseum.org
- Kings Mountain National Military Park www.nps.gov/kimo
- Kings Mountain Historical Museum www.kingsmountainmuseum.org
- Kings Mountain State Park southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/945.aspx
- Latta Plantation www.lattaplantation.org
- Levine Museum of the New South www.museumofthenewsouth.org
- Matthews Heritage Museum www.matthewsheritagemuseum.org
- Matthews Historical Foundation 704-846-6693
- Mint Hill Historical Society www.minthillhistory.com
- Mount Holly Historical Society mhistoricalsoociety@gmail.com
- Museum of the Waxhaws www.museumofthewaxhaws.org
- Old Salem www.oldsalem.org
- President James K. Polk State Historic Site polk.nchistoricsites.org
- Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site www.nchistoricsites.org/reed/reed.htm
- Rowan Museum www.rowanmuseum.org
- Rural Hill www.ruralhill.net
- Schiele Museum www.schielemuseum.org
- Southern Campaign of the American Revolution www.southerncampaign.org
- Spencer Doll and Toy Museum www.spencerdollandtoy.com
- Stanly County Museum www.stanlycountymuseum.com
- Union County Public Library www.union.lib.nc.us
- York County Genealogical & Historical Society www.weblandinc.com/ycghs/member.html

Fort Dobbs Historic Site
438 Fort Dobbs Rd, Statesville, NC 704-873-5882 www.fortdobbs.org

War for Empire, Saturday April 16 from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday, April 17 from 10 am-3 pm.