

Dinner Meeting

Monday, May 23, 2005

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

Fellowship Hall

At Trinity Presbyterian Church

3115 Providence Road



Dinner Program Topic will be:

The Charlotte Trail of History and Capt. James Jack

Judge Chase Saunders will be speaking on "The Charlotte Trail of History and Capt. James Jack." Several years ago Judge Saunders envisioned placing a series of bronze statues of historical Charlotte figures in public spaces to tell the story of Charlotte. He has been working towards the implementation of this vision ever since. Most recently, the Little Sugar Creek Greenway presented an opportunity to locate these statues by the creation of the Charlotte Trail of History. He envisions a bronze statue of Capt. James Jack as being the first of many to tell this story. It would be a statue important to the remembrance of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. Several articles over the last few months have appeared in the *Charlotte Observer* favorably reviewing the concept. He has written about this project in "Remarks from the President" in this newsletter. Judge Saunders will give a masterful, beautiful and exciting presentation which will bring this vision to life.

Judge Saunders graduated from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, with a B.A. in History-English and then received his J.D. from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He began his career as a judge in 1976 and retired as Senior Resident Superior Court Judge of the 26th Judicial District in 1997. He is currently in private practice. Over his career, Judge Saunders has received many awards and commendations, including the North Carolina Order of the Long Leaf Pine for services rendered to the State.

In addition to active involvement with the North Carolina Bar Association and publishing professional articles, Judge Saunders has been active in the Charlotte Rotary Club, is a member of the YMCA Community Planning Committee, a member of the Dowd House Advisory Committee, a board member of the Levine Museum of the New South as well as current president of the Mecklenburg Historical Association.

Also, Charles Fagan, a young artist, plans to attend the dinner. Mr. Fagan has just finished an oil of Capt. Jack leaving Charlotte which will be featured in prints to be distributed by the May 20th Society. He has painted the Presidents, has completed bronzes for the George Bush (Senior) Library in Houston, Texas, has work in the National Gallery and also aboard the aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan! His most recent project was the completion of the official portrait of Mrs. Barbara Bush that hangs in the White House. He has three small children and moved to Charlotte because he and his wife thought it would be a great place in which to raise them.

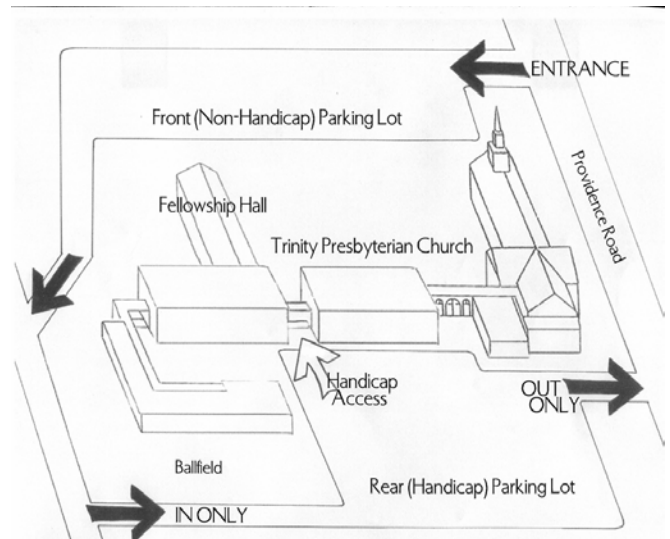
**Reservation Form to be returned by
Wednesday, May 18, 2005.**

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



Remarks from the President...



Two remarkable events:

By the time we hold our next meeting, it will follow the most important celebration of the Mecklenburg Declaration in nearly thirty

years and mark the emergence of another great historical society, the May 20th Society. That organization is being organized by new, young and spirited visionaries such as Charles Jonas, grandson of Congressman Charles Jonas, and David Adams, a member of the MHA and Vice President of the Charlotte Museum of History. It is tapping members of the business, historic consortium, civic, and professional communities of Charlotte to rejuvenate the celebration of May 20th on a scale not seen since early in the last century.

This year will mark its entry upon the scene. They think big and have arranged to block off the Square for a portion of the afternoon as events unfold. The MHA is joining in their efforts this year through events planning, docents and re-enactor participation, exhibitor participation, and a five hundred dollar contribution to their essay or art contest. The schedule of events will be included in this newsletter. It will include speeches, proclamations, ex-

hibitions, a band, and social events! Opportunities to participate as sponsor-hosts through personal contributions are welcomed. Call Marty Viser at 704.563.4871 to see how you can become involved. We need to encourage these new young Charlotte leaders who have assumed the responsibility of fueling those embers which Kay Majeski, Linda Dalton, the MHA docents, Jim Williams with his Re-enactors, and so many of you from this organization have kept alive over the years with great dedication. These young people deserve our support, so please consider a contribution.

So the first remarkable event is that of the passing of the celebratory baton to a new generation. The second remarkable event is complementary. It is the acceptance of a plan for the development of a portion of the Little Sugar Creek Greenway. The Greenway Board, chaired by CPCC President Tony Zeiss approved a plan which calls for the creation of a Charlotte Trail of History to run from Central Piedmont Community College along a newly-landscaped and uncovered Little Sugar Creek to Morehead Street. With a skyline of Charlotte in the background, the vision calls for a series of bronze statues to recognize important people in the history of this community visible as one strolls that portion of the Greenway. This is a long-term project, a work-in-progress; however,

of fundamental interest to the MHA is the recognition that a strong statement acknowledging our Revolutionary War roots should be made. And the way to do it is with a bronze statue of Captain James Jack!

At the meeting, I will make a power point presentation concerning this project. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the MHA as an organization and members to take part in raising the money necessary to leave a lasting tribute to our ancestors. The large bronze piece will be prominently aligned, be accessible to visitors, and bear the names of contributing organizations and individuals at certain levels. It will be a legacy project for us both individually and collectively. This project will cost some money but will be well worth it!

The passing of the celebratory baton; the Captain James Jack bronze project; two goals of the MHA which are gaining traction and will make our city a better place in which to live. Support them both and find out more about the latter at the May 23rd meeting.

Program Speakers...

We are in the process of inviting speakers for the 2005-2006 dinner programs. If there is a topic or speaker you would like for MHA to suggest, please let the president know at chase@chasesaunders.com.

Membership for 2005-2006

Patrons and Donors for 2005-6:

Mr. and Mrs. David Adams
John B. Alexander
Martha B. Alexander
Doris Anne Bradley
Jack E. Claiborne (Life Member)
Mr. and Mrs. Don Davidson, Jr.
William T. Graves
Thomas W. Hanchett
James B. Hunter, Jr.
William E. Keenan
Betty Kuester
Edwin R. McCoy, III
Ralfe Mesrobian
Richard S. Payne

From the Docent Committee...

The MHA Docents will meet on May 3, 2005, at Historic Rosedale Plantation. Refreshments will be served at 9:30 A.M. followed by our business meeting. At 11:00A.M. two of our docents who recently attended a workshop will share information regarding the construction of period undergarments in program entitled "Her Shape She Doth Owe to Her Stays: A Survey of the Construction, Early History, and Associated Fashions of Late 18th Century Undergarments." Please join us for an informative presentation to be given by Sharon Van Kuren and Carolyn Dilda.

There are numerous celebrations this spring. The MHA Docents will participate in the expanded, festive celebration of MecDec Day on May 20th, the June 3rd event of the 250th anniversary of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church, and the Polk Family Reunion, June 10-12, 2005.

Docents are trying to increase awareness of MHA. Join Ann Williams in the writing of letters to the editor of newspapers or choose your own vehicle to inform Charlotteans about MHA, its past accomplishments, and its present contributions to our community.

Cordially yours,
Barbara Jackson
MHA Docent Chair

VISIT US
ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AT
WWW.MECKDEC.ORG

Upcoming Special Events

MecDec Observance Ceremony — The Square / Independence Square Plaza

Friday, May 20, 2005

- 11:30am Bagpiper Regimen begins to play
- 11:50am Opening Remarks
- 12:00pm Reading of Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence
- 12:10pm Invitation to enjoy Colonial Village and Spirit of Mecklenburg interpretative spaces
- 12:15pm The Marching of Colors to Settler's Cemetery
- 12:30pm Laying of Wreath, gun salute, return to Square

Colonial Village — Southeast Corner of Trade and Tryon

- 12:15pm to 6:00pm Official Opening of Colonial Village
- Commencement of interpretative crafts
- Phasing of scheduled demonstrations
- Period musicians roam and play
- 2:00pm Visitation of school children

Spirit of Mecklenburg — Bank of America Corporate Center Plaza (NE corner)

- 12:15pm to 6pm Official Opening of Spirit of Mecklenburg
- Groups begin to display and discuss significant "Firsts" of their organizations in Mecklenburg County and what this has meant to our community
- 2:00pm Visitation of school children

Backcountry Jollification — Bank of America Corporate Center Plaza (NE corner)

- 5:00pm Public welcome to join the party
- 6:00pm Opening of Pat Jack's Tavern with food and band

Historic Rosedale

1815 National Register Federal Plantation House
 3427 North Tryon Street
 Charlotte, NC 28206
 704-335-0325
www.historicrosedale.org

Open for public visitation Thursday through Sunday. Guided tours at 1, 2, and 3 pm. Admission Charged.

May 20 - Rosedale will be open for free in honor of Mecklenburg Declaration Day. Tour at 1, 2, & 3 pm.

June 4 - Rosedale will be open for tours at 1,2, and 3 pm for free, in honor of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church which is celebrating 250 years of operation.

June & July by appointment.

Gift Membership to MHA...

Consider giving a gift membership to family, friends and clients. It's a marvelous way to enjoy outstanding programs on Charlotte Mecklenburg history, dinner and fellowship. The proceeds benefit M.H.A. Checks may be made payable to "M.H.A." per the following table [right]. You may mail your check to:

M.H.A. Membership Chairman
 P.O. Box 35032
 Charlotte, NC 28235

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

category	single	couple
senior citizen (over 65)	\$12.50	\$20.00
general	25.00	45.00
patron	50.00	90.00
life (single payment)	300.00	500.00
student	free	n/a

May 23, 2005 Dinner Meeting Reservation Form

Mail to: Mecklenburg Historical Association
5015 Sharon Woods Lane
Charlotte, NC 28210

Please make checks payable to Mecklenburg Historical Association
 Questions? Please call Kathy Herran, 704.553.0936.

Enclosed: \$ _____ (total) for _____ seats (\$11 for Seniors)
 \$ _____ (total) for _____ seats (\$13 for all others)

 (Name Tag)

 (Name Tag)

Reservations must be made by Wednesday, May 18, 2005.

Mark your calendars now for future meetings of the Mecklenburg Historical Association. The next meeting is scheduled for **Fall, 2005.**



"Preserving Mecklenburg's Heritage"

Post Office Box 35032
Charlotte, North Carolina 28235

ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AT
WWW.MECKDEC.ORG
