

MHA NEWS



Dinner Meeting

Monday, May 22, 2006

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

Fellowship Hall

At Trinity Presbyterian Church

3115 Providence Road

Dinner Program Topic will be:

“Old Mecklenburg Through the Prism of the Spratt Maps”

Mr. Chuck Ketchie of Carolina Maps will present the program on the history of Mecklenburg as presented through the reading of maps. His primary focus will be on the early Spratt maps of Myers Park and the South Park area and the people who commissioned them. He will also include a review of some of the historical maps of North Carolina.

In the fall of 2005, Chuck began the task of uncovering, preserv-

ing and documenting the Spratt Map collection which covers original land surveys of the Charlotte region from 1900 through the 1960's. It consists of thousands of maps on various types of paper and in various states of condition. Once digitized, the maps will be offered for sale, or loaned for display to interested parties of Charlotte's rich history.

Chuck, a native Charlottean and graduate of Appalachian State University, opened Carolina Maps in

1996 to publish and market the GP Stout Historical Research Maps of North Carolina. Carolina Maps has won two publishers awards from historical societies for this work. He is past President of the North Carolina Society of Historians and currently serves as director and treasurer. He is also President of the Carolina's Chapter of SPOOM (The Society for the Preservation of Old Mills).

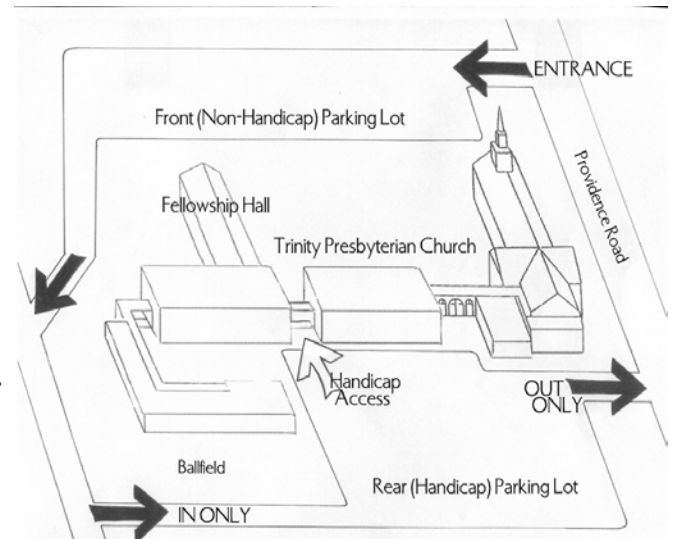
Reservation Form to be returned by Wednesday, May 17, 2006.

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



Remarks from the President...



Spring arrives and the history community in Charlotte is alive and well! April featured activities in which MHA members participated in-

cluded a program on the Catawba Indian Nation, the Dowd House Re-Dedication at Camp Greene with our stalwart member Allen Brooks, a presentation of Celtic music, and continued sales of the Docent's successful publication of *Life in Antebellum Charlotte* under the energetic leadership of Barbara Jackson.

As May advances, our members are

working with the May 20th Society in celebratory events on May 18th at the Morehead Inn, and on May 19th at the Square. On May 20th, D'oyale Moore, a noted historical re-enactor, will deliver portions of fiery Revolutionary War sermons at Hopewell Presbyterian Church. He is not to be missed!

And kudos are in order for Jane Johnson, the Carolina Room librarian for answering the numerous inquiries about local history which we receive each month as well as Linda Dalton who continues to work on the Catawba Valley Arts Survey. To assist that work, Jim Williams, our resident re-enactor par excellence and veteran technology buff, has purchased a

computer and power point projector to facilitate our recording and presentation efforts.

At our Spring meeting on May 22nd, we will hear an interesting program on old Mecklenburg as seen from some extraordinarily detailed maps of the period presented by Chuck Ketchie of Carolina Maps. Please plan to come and bring a friend or two. The MHA depends upon each of you to encourage history-minded folks to join with us the break bread and enjoy stories of our heritage! I hope to see you then and hats off with a big HUZDAH for all of our volunteers!

From the Docent Committee Barbara Jackson, Docent Chairman

MHA Docents continue to be engaged in the numerous activities of the region's historic sites and museums. At our most recent meeting, Sandra Rheinhardt from the Catawba Cultural Center presented an informative slide discussion about the Catawba nation. We were left with the desire to learn more about these original inhabitants of the region through visiting there. Rural Hill was the site of the Loch Norman Highland Games April 21-23. The Catawba Valley Scottish Society has formed a partnership with Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation to preserve this home of the Davidson family. Rural Hill will serve as a regional heritage center where people can learn about the culture, heritage and contributions of the Scots and Scots-Irish inhabitants.

On April 25-25 docents demonstrated lifestyle activities of the early settlers at the annual program the Reed Gold Mine conducts for area school children.

The May program at the annual monthly meeting held at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church on May 2nd focused upon furnishings of region families. Lynda Dalton and Jane Estep have spent ten years documenting items held privately by inhabitants of the region. We anticipate the installation of an exhibit of these furnishings in the near future.

Historic Rosedale Plantation will have a major event on May 13, 2006, a Crafts Fair. MHA docents have been asked to participate. Other Rosedale events will be Ball Day and the Mother's Day tea.

Our major May activity will be the celebration of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence on May 19th at noon at Trade and Tryon. The Charlotte Museum of History also will have celebratory events on that day.

We hope all MHA members will join the docents and the congregation of the Hopewell Presbyterian Church,

Huntersville, for the eleven o'clock services on May 21, 2006, when the Rev. D'oyale Moore, an ordained minister, will reenact a sermon as delivered by an earlier century minister. After the morning services, lunch will be served on the lawn hosted by the church and the MHA docents. We are very excited about our sponsorship of this event.

On June 6th, Camille Smith will conduct a tour at the Charlotte Museum of History after our monthly meeting. We will have a picnic on the premises after the meeting and tour. In July Rachel Abernathy will sell our Passports at the fair given for home-schooled children. Passports introduce the various museums and sites to prospective visitors and offer financial incentives and information.

We look forward to the relative restfulness of summer as many of our committees will continue to meet with the purpose of strengthening our program.

A Special Invitation to All Historians of North Carolina

The North Carolina Society of Historians is seeking nominations for its 2006 awards program relating to the preservation of North Carolina's local, regional, and statewide history.

Awards will be presented for the best Tar Heel history books, historical fiction books, family history books and religious history books published. Awards will also be given for outstanding newsletters, journals, and newspaper and magazine articles that preserve North Carolina history. Writers as well

as publishers and museums will be cited.

In the multimedia category, awards will be given for works in a variety of areas including historical plays, videos, oral histories, presentation boards, poetry, music, web pages, photography, quilts and heirlooms.

Nominations are also sought for the North Carolina Historian of the Year Award.

Deadline for entry is June 30, 2006. Competition is open to all age groups. There are no entry fees. Except in the historian-of-the-year category, an entrant need not be a North Carolina resident.

All entries must be accompanied by an official entry form. For further information and entry forms, check the society's website (www.ncsocietyofhistorians.org) or contact Elizabeth Bray Sherrill, President, NCHS Inc., PO Box 93, Sherrills Ford, NC 28673-0093. Email: ncsh@earthlink.net. Telephone 704-478-2469. Fax: 704-478-2469.

Entry forms may be downloaded from www.ncsocietyofhistorians.org.

Celebrations of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence

Please join The May 20th Society for a weekend of celebration to honor the anniversary of the signing of The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence in 1775. The MecDec, as it is now known, has brought four sitting US presidents to the Queen City for commemoration of this event. If they came, surely you can. A number of events have been planned for this weekend; Please attend as many as your schedule permits.

MecDec Observance & Reenactment

Hear from Honorary Chairmen Pam Syfert, Allen Tate, and Humpy Wheeler. Enjoy a dramatic reading of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence as well as music, muskets, horses, and a procession.

When: Friday, May 19 from 11:45am - 12:30pm

Where: The Square at Tryon and Trade Streets

Cost: FREE

"Jollification"

The celebration continues later in the day at our "Jollification." Eat, drink, and enjoy live music from "The Bad Daddies."

When: Friday, May 19 from 6pm until 9:30 pm

Where: Ri-Ra's Irish Pub (208 N. Tryon St.)

Cost: \$35 per person or \$60 per couple

Includes: appetizers, unlimited beer, wine, and soft drinks

Independence Day in Olde Mecklenburg

Join us at the Charlotte Museum of History to celebrate the MecDec and Mecklenburg Resolves with a visit to the oldest house in Charlotte, owned by Backcountry Patriot Hezekiah Alexander.

When: Saturday, May 20 from 2pm - 4pm

Where: Charlotte Museum of History (3500 Shamrock Dr.)

Cost: Regular Admission Price

Commemorative Sermon

On Sunday, join the congregation at Hopewell Presbyterian Church to enjoy a rousing celebration service featuring a sermon delivered in first-person colonial dialect.

When: Sunday, May 21 at 11a.m.

Where: Hopewell Presbyterian Church (10500 Beatties Ford Rd., Huntersville)

Cost: FREE

May 22 Dinner Meeting Reservation Form

**Mail to: Mecklenburg Historical Association
2401 Sharon Road
Charlotte, NC 28211**

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

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 17, 2006.

Mark your calendars now for future meetings of the Mecklenburg Historical Association. The next meeting is scheduled for **September 2006.**



"Preserving Mecklenburg's Heritage"

Post Office Box 35032
Charlotte, North Carolina 28235

ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AT
WWW.MECKDEC.ORG
