

MHA NEWS

Dinner Meeting

Monday, May 19, 2008

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 Colorful History of Elmwood Cemetery"

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, May 19th, 2008 and will feature Paul Buckley and Ellen Poteet who will give a presentation on Charlotte's resting place of many of its Nineteenth and Twentieth Century residents. They will tell us about the early history of the cemetery when the land was first purchased as a gold mine in 1828 and later purchased as the "new town graveyard" in 1864. Part of their program will feature a presentation on the Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society Project which has worked to produce the Elmwood Cemetery book series. Paul and Ellen will end the

program with a discussion of the facts and stories of the famous and infamous folk buried in Elmwood.

***Reservation Form to be returned by
Wednesday, May 14, 2008.***

Last Program

Our own program planner and story teller par excellence, Kathy Herran recounted the life of Harriet Morrison, the first woman in America to receive a patent for a healthful, six-sided house. As one of the six "Morrison girls", she was surrounded by accomplished sisters and

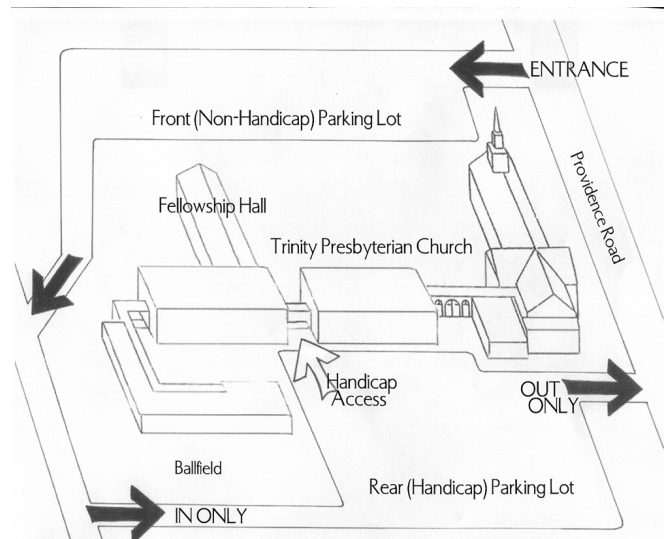
Confederate officers. We also learned of the genesis of Davidson College (from a student who attended Chapel Hill). Kathy also recounted a famous tiff between two of the sister's husbands, General Hill and Rufus Barringer. Hill refused to serve Barringer Communion at First Presbyterian Church because Barringer was much too accommodating of Yankees. Barringer felt that Hill was still fighting the last war so he left and formed Second Presbyterian Church.

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



Remarks from the President...



Spring

Spring has arrived! April brought showers for the first time in years. Welcomed rain and canker worm spray fell upon the earth and helped rid us of drought and pestilence. We are grateful!

Settlers Cemetery

We also give thanks for the work of Jim Williams who is in the process, practically single-handedly, of restoring the brick grave sites at Settler's Cemetery. He and his wife Ann are also participating in many of the activities led by Central Piedmont President Tony Zeiss to bring a greater appreciation of history to Charlotte along the Greenway.

Little Sugar Creek Greenway

I saw a slide show of the Greenway plan for Morehead along Kings Drive to Elizabeth. It was impressive. From a monumental clock at that intersection, down an oak-lined promenade with a landscaped, sloping grade to Little Sugar Creek, fountains, public assembly areas, natural areas, and wildlife will be harmoniously blended! Large fountains, stone-faced bridges, and walk ways will link this portion of the Greenway to the Liz Hair portion running to Freedom Park and to the

northern reaches which are in the planning stages.

Captain James Jack Monument

Of central interest to the MHA will be that portion of the Greenway located at the intersection of Kings Drive and Fourth Street. That location will feature the monument to Captain James Jack named the "Spirit of Mecklenburg." The monument will be located on a plaza with some public parking. A history of Captain Jack's ride will be available for downloading to your i-pods (a personal recording device about the size of a large pack of gum). As this portion of the Greenway becomes the Charlotte Trail of History, other histories will be added and Charlotte will have an outdoor walking tour of history, complete with a recorded script! And the location of the statue at the bottom of the hill with a panoramic view of the Towers of Power along Tryon Street will present a great photo opportunity for the media. Your MHA has been working on this project for more than five years. With the help of the May 20th Society, it will now come to pass.

We are in the final stages of raising money for the Captain Jack statue. A fundraiser will take place at Claudia Belk's home in the near future. It is not too late to contribute and have your name placed near the monument for posterity. And this Spring, an artist will be commissioned to design and mold the piece.

In the years ahead, the Spirit of Mecklenburg monument will serve as a wonderful location for assembly by our Docents and Re-enactors in celebration of our history. So please consider your participation. If interested call me at 704.365.3007.

May 20th Society

A great celebration is planned! Ken Burns of Civil War, Baseball and WWII documentary fame will appear in Charlotte as the guest speaker for the May 20th Society meeting and celebration! And once again, the Square will feature the sound of cannon, musket fire, and the smell of powder! And our members will be there!

Membership and Board Service

Please let us know of new members and Board of Director prospects!

Articles from You!

Many of you have stories to tell and interesting things to relate for the good of the group. Please write them down and send them to the MHA address found in the Membership Renewal portion of this newsletter. By way of a suggestion, I am on the Bar History Committee and we are preparing for a celebration in 2012. If you have any good stories about any of the old courthouses, particularly those located on Tryon Street, please write them down and send them in. If you have any good lawyer stories, consider doing the same!

From the Docent Committee Alice Bostic, Docent Chairman

Opening Salvo - Meck Dec Celebrations through the Years

Many generations of Mecklenburg residents have celebrated our Declaration of Independence at picnics and patriotic gatherings. The Charlotte Museum of History is hosting such a gathering on May 17th from 4 to 9 pm. Representatives from many historic sites including The Charlotte Museum of History, Historic Charlotte, Latta Plantation, Historic Rosedale, Levine Museum of the New South, Lincoln County Historical Association, May 20th Society, MHA, James K. Polk Historic Site, Reed Gold Mine, Rural Hill, and others will be on hand. Each of them will recreate celebrations from the past, or interpret the meaning of the Meck Dec

from the perspective of their site. In addition there will be colonial music and dancing, a slavery interpretation in the kitchen, a reading of the Meck Dec, historic games for children, and the opening of a new exhibit, Charlotte Stories: Our Collections, Your Treasures. The event is hosted by the Emeritus Board of the Charlotte Museum of History, in memory of Betty Nisbet. Museum admission will be free all day; a catered barbeque dinner will be available for \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. Everyone is invited to join the festivities honoring this fascinating event in our county's history. Call The Charlotte History Museum to make a reservation for barbeque.

Revolutionary War Battle Reenactments

On Saturday and Sunday, May 17 and 18, Rural Hill in Huntersville presents a full-scale Revolutionary War Battle Reenactment each day. If you haven't seen one recently, or if you just like the grand sweep and pageantry of these events, start your Meck Dec celebration here. You can walk through the British and American encampments and talk with the participant, the visit the Suttlers' Tents (vendors of 18th century goods). Then enjoy the battle itself with all of the music, pageantry, action and adventure of the original battle of Cowan's Ford. The camps are open to visitors from 9 am to 5 pm and the battles start at 2 pm each day.

Financial Situation

At present, in uncommitted funds, we have about \$22,000.00 in our treasury. Committed funds donated specifically for Settler's Cemetery and a donation for the Captain Jack bronze earmark about \$20,000.00. An annual budget expenditure of about \$2,500.00 is provided to help operate the Docents program. We run a \$200.00 annual deficit on the programs and meals. As a volunteer organization, you can see that we run on fumes! In an effort to put us on a better footing, we need to raise the meal prices by \$1.00 per person

to reduce the program deficit. The new meal price will be \$12.00 for Seniors and \$14.00 for non-Seniors. We also need to raise dues a few dollars a year to cover increased printing and postage costs. See the new membership fees in the form. Your MHA is the best value for history lovers in the County! If it is to continue, we need your cooperation and the Board would certainly welcome any charitable contributions you would care to make to help us serve present or future programs and projects! This is where you can

help even if you cannot serve in any other capacity!

The increases are:

- Senior Single by 2.50 from 12.50 to 15.00
- Senior Couple by 5.00 from 20.00 to 25.00
- General Single by 5.00 from 25.00 to 30.00
- General Couple by 5.00 from 45.00 to 50.00
- Patron Single by 10.00 from 50.00 to 60.00
- Patron Couple by 10.00 from 90.00 to 100.00
- Life memberships unchanged at 300.00 and 500.00

The new membership pricing structure is in the graphic below.

Membership Renewals

If you have not yet renewed your membership for this year, you can use the form below to do so. Or consider giving a gift membership to someone you know who will be interested in the MHA.

You may mail your check to:

MHA
P.O. Box 35032
Charlotte, NC 28235

Membership form:

Name _____
Address _____
City, State and Zip _____
E-Mail Address _____
Please send my MHA Newsletter by:
Email US Mail Both

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

May 19th Dinner Meeting Reservation Form

**Mail to: Mecklenburg Historical Association
c/o Kathy Herran
5015 Sharon Woods Lane
Charlotte, NC 28210
or email: kathyherran@hotmail.com**

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

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

ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AT
WWW.MECKDEC.ORG
