

Dinner Meeting

Monday, May 13, 2013

Dinner at 6:30pm followed by our program at 7:15pm

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



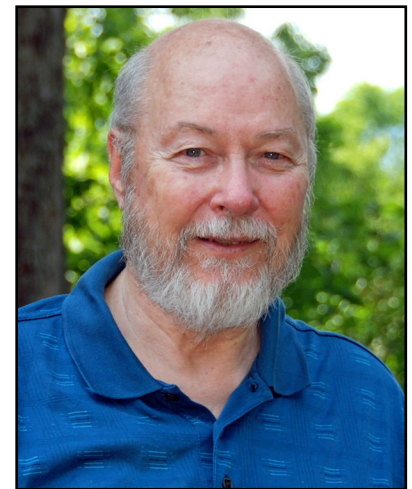
Upcoming Dinner Program

The Turn in the Tide of Success — The Story of the Kings Mountain Campaign

On Monday, May 13, Joe Epley will address the Mecklenburg Historical Association dinner meeting. 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 a reservation for dinner, use the order form elsewhere in this MHA Newsletter.

One of the most significant battles of the American Revolution took place at Kings Mountain near the North and South Carolina border. Thomas Jefferson called it the “turn in the tide of success” in the struggle for our independence. The Loyalist defeat was a major factor in Cornwallis giving up on the occupation of Charlotte Town.

It was the largest American vs. American battle in the war with neighbors and brothers fighting each other, all as a result of a passel of hate that permeated the Carolina backcountry in 1780. The impact of a family split apart is the theme of Mr. Epley's fact-based historical novel, *A Passel of Hate*, about the Kings Mountain campaign. He will speak about the impact on families and neighbors who find those closest to them taking opposing views during the weeks leading up to the brutal Battle of Kings Mountain. Mr. Epley's book will be available for purchase. For details, see his web site www.epleywrites.com.



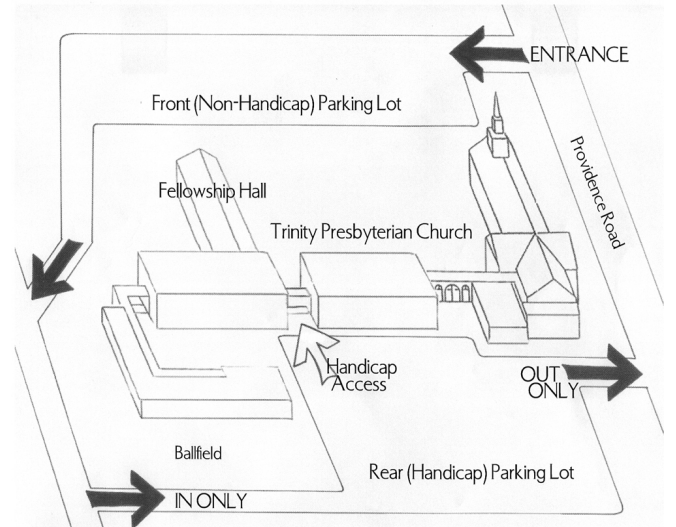
Further information on Mr. Epley can be found on page 2.

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



Remarks from the President

Happy May to everyone! There are a couple of issues I want to emphasize to our members. EVERYONE, please respond to the call for help elsewhere in this newsletter to save the President James K. Polk State Historic Site. I am appalled that our Governor considers the birthplace of one of only two presidents from North Carolina so unimportant as to eliminate its funding and force its closing. Polk is fortunate to have Scott Warren as its dedicated and exceptional site manager. It would be a shame to lose him. This site costs a total of \$110,000 per year to operate. It is free to visit and educates thousands of visitors and ALL Mecklenburg County 3rd graders about the life and times of our 11th President. It is one of the most cost effective of all 27 state historic sites. I find it hard to grasp that our state cannot find the funds to honor this

President. History is most easily and indelibly learned by visual experience and the Polk site provides that. Please sign the petition, write, AND call our legislators and urge them to reinstate the Polk funding in the budget. Take action as quickly as possible before the state budget vote.

Your help is also needed to help Latta Plantation and Rural Hill with their county funding. Call, email, write our County Commissioners and voice your support for these sites.

And finally, the MHA website received a request from a couple in Raleigh about what they describe as the deplorable condition of Elmwood Cemetery. Gravestones severely damaged by mowing equipment, gravestones toppled over, etc. The City's response is that the plots are privately owned and the city

mows and removes trash. If the mowing is causing the damage, the City needs to educate its subcontractors. Several years ago when there was a threat of moving a rail line into Elmwood, there was such an outcry that an alternate route was found. Is there still a group out there to support Elmwood? If anyone is interested in working on this problem, please let me know.

Let's hope for happier days for our historic sites. They are few and far between as it is. Happy birthday to our Meck Dec!!

Linda Dalton
MHA President
leaseace@aol.com
704.661.8470



Joe Epley

May 13 MHA Dinner Speaker

"*A Passel of Hate*, Epley's well-researched story of western North Carolina families and the climactic events which shaped their lives centers accurately around the 1780 British invasion. Their struggles tore families apart and culminated at the Battle of Kings Mountain. The very human side of the military campaign contravened the essence of British Southern strategy, to win hearts and minds as well as military victories. Epley's prose vividly paints the close-up, historic picture of world-changing events that happened in the Carolina piedmont through the words, sights and senses of those common folks, our forebears who lived it. He tells the Kings Mountain story better than I have ever read."

—Charles B. Baxley, Publisher, Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution.

Joe Epley is a guy who has worn many hats over his life -- Green Beret, television journalist, public relations executive, change agent and now, novelist. He has canoed Arctic wilderness rivers, hiked the Australian outback and helped restore homes destroyed by hurricanes.

For nearly 40 years, Joe led Epley Associates, a successful public relations firm in Charlotte, N.C., and achieved international recognition for his leadership in the field. He was president of the Public Relations Society of America, and at various times, head of its prestigious College of Fellows, Counselors Academy, and the PRSA Foundation.

He was a co-founder and global chair of the Worldcom Public Relations Group, the world's largest consortium of independent public relations firms. In addition to lecturing at universities and before professional groups throughout the world, he helped introduce the PR profession to Russia in the waning days of the Soviet Union. During his career, Joe held leadership roles in many organizations. He currently sits on the Board of Directors of The Marketing Alliance, a publicly traded life insurance brokerage firm, and the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation.

Among Joe's honors is the Gold Anvil, the highest award in the public relations profession for lifetime achievement. In addition to his election to the University of North Carolina's Journalism School Public Relations Hall of Fame and the alumni hall of fame for the Defense Information School, he has been awarded of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest award for noteworthy citizens.

After selling his business in Charlotte in 2005, Joe retired with his wife to the wooded hills near Tryon, N.C. where he continues public service work in addition to researching and writing about the American Revolutionary War. He remains active as a public relations consultant and as an advisor for international public relations studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. We are honored to have Mr. Epley speak to MHA.

Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony

On Saturday, May 4th at 10:30am, the Mecklenburg Chapter of the North Carolina Society Sons of the American Revolution, led by Mr. Jim Wood, President, will conduct two grave marking ceremonies in Cemetery #2 at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church, 101 Sugaw Creek Rd W Charlotte, NC 28213. Sugaw Creek is one of the seven original Presbyterian churches of Mecklenburg County before the Revolutionary War.



The ceremony recognizes and honors the service of patriots Abraham and Hezekiah Alexander in the American Revolution, who helped establish the United States of America and secure the freedom of the American people. Both of these men are known as Signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, May 20th 1775, along with other contributions in Mecklenburg County and the State of North Carolina for the Cause of Freedom. The service helps inspire the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers. The public is invited to attend. Meet at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church parking lot to walk (or ride by church van) across Tryon Street to Cemetery #2. Parking is not available at the cemetery.

MHA Docent Programs

Tuesday, May 7, 2013
Connecting With the Past Through Place

The May meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. Refreshments at 9:30, business meeting at 10, program at 11. Visitors are always welcome. Ronnie Schumann will present a program showing how geography and history are intimately linked. Where history happened is just as important as what happened. Learn how distinctive regional cultures evolve, how they are used in restoring historic sites, and how docents and interpreters use place to reveal multiple perspectives on the past.

Ronnie Schumann is a Doctoral candidate in geography at the University of South Carolina. He has had thirteen years of experience in historical interpretation in Louisiana and Alabama, and is a licensed tour guide with the City of New Orleans. For the past four years he has volunteered at Historic Rosedale, and often portrays Dr. Caldwell's son William, and Alfred Shackelford, a poor white overseer.

Tuesday, June 4, 2013
Annual Picnic at Hugh Torrance House and Store

We will meet at **10 am at the Hugh Torrance House and Store** for a short business meeting. After the meeting we will have a tour of the site followed by our annual picnic. The log cabin portion of the structure dates from about 1779 when Hugh Torrance settled in Mecklenburg County. The house, first used as a residence, was added onto over the years, and in 1805 part of it became a store operated by Hugh and his son James. Both men were farmers as well as merchants. By 1825 cotton had become a major cash crop and James closed his store. As James prospered he build an elegant home which still stands adjacent to the old house and store. When he died he was the largest cotton planter in the county. The family left an extensive document collection that is used to interpret this special site.

After the tour we will enjoy a covered dish luncheon. Please bring a dish to share. Ice tea, water, and paper products will be provided. Also bring a lawn chair, and we'll picnic

outside if the weather is pleasant.

Directions: The Hugh Torrance House and Store is on Gilead Road 2 miles west of I-77 exit 23. Those who wish to may form their own carpools.

A History Class at Queens University

This class takes a look at the Old North State through a study of the times as witnessed by its leaders. It will include lectures and site visits of historic places including but not limited to Levine Museum of the New South and Latta Plantation.

Class Dates & Times:

Saturdays, May 11, 18, June 1, 8, 15 (skip Memorial Day Weekend)

Session 1: 1pm - 3pm

Sessions 2-5: 11am-12pm – lecture |break for lunch | 1pm-3pm - site visit

The class will be taught by Dr. Mollie Camp Davis, Professor of History, Emerita, at Queens

Learn more and register at:
www.queens.edu/continuing-education (Program Categories, History and Politics)

Membership Renewals

Have you renewed your membership for 2013? If you have not, or are joining for the first time, please 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.

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

May 13, 2013 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)

May 20th Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence Events

Get out your 18th and 19th Century clothing and get ready for "fun on the square." May 20th falls on a Monday this year so all events will be on that day.

On Monday, May 20th at 11:30 am we will gather at the square with muskets and cannon, and fife and drum for addresses by politicians and other VIPs. The Meck Dec will be read followed by traditional toasts with Huzzahs! and musket and cannon fire. Then we will parade to Settlers Cemetery to honor Col. Thomas Polk.

Interpreters should arrive at the square at 11:30 am, or earlier if possible, mingle with the crowd and hand out Meck Dec copies while the soldiers play music and march up and

down. Parking is available on the streets around the square – 8 quarters for 2 hours. The Monday evening, May 20th event is at The Levine Museum of the New South and the McGlohon Theater uptown. The reception at the Levine Museum is invitation-only, but reenactors and docents in 18th or 19th century dress are welcome, and needed, and get in free. Fife, Drum and Soldiers will all get a chance to show their stuff. Parking at the 7th Street Station parking garage (7th Street at the Light Rail Tracks) will be validated at the Levine front desk.

At 7 pm we will lead the reception attendees in a parade up Seventh Street to the McGlohon Theater in Spirit Square on North Tryon Street. The featured speaker this year is Isa-



bel Wilkerson, author of *The Warmth of Other Suns*. There will be reserved seats for reenactors and docents and invited guests while the general public is invited to attend at a price of \$12.00. Ms. Wilkerson's address will be followed by a book signing.



"Preserving Mecklenburg's Heritage"

Post Office Box 35032
Charlotte, North Carolina 28235
Phone: 704-333-6422

VISIT US ONLINE
WWW.MECKDEC.ORG

The James K. Polk Site Needs Your Help—Now

Dear supporters of the President James K. Polk State Historic Site,

In case you have not heard, in Governor McCrory's proposed budget, the President James K. Polk State Historic Site funding has been eliminated, requiring the site to close to the public. Hopefully you have already signed the online petition to keep this important site open. If not, please do so immediately. Petition information is on www.KeepPolkOpen.com.

We are humbled and excited at the incredible momentum our campaign to KEEP POLK OPEN has gained over the past few weeks. Likes on our Facebook page have mushroomed. It's all because of your love of history and President Polk's legacy that this is possible. We have also made headlines with our effort to KEEP POLK OPEN in the Charlotte Observer, the Daily Tarheel (UNC's student newspaper), WCNC and the Presidential Geeks blog.

Site supporters have met and talked with several lawmakers who have expressed their support for our cause, but there is so much work to be done.

The NC Senate subcommittee in charge of the budget for NC Historic Sites is working now to craft its version of the budget, and this process will continue through April. NOW IS THE TIME TO CALL OR SNAIL-MAIL members of the subcommittee and your representatives and urge them to KEEP POLK OPEN! Emails are good, but PHONE CALLS and LETTERS are what get their attention! Below is the contact information for the Co-Chairs of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for General Government and Information Technology:

Sen. Tommy Tucker, 300 N. Salisbury St.
Room 311, Raleigh, NC 27603-5925,
919-733-7659

Sen. Jim Davis, 16 W. Jones St., Raleigh
Room 2111, NC 27601-2808, 919-733-5875

You can find your Senate and House district representatives on the lists listed below by visiting our website at www.KeepPolkOpen.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! For those of you who live in the Charlotte area, Secretary of Cultural Resources Susan Kluttz will be visiting the Polk site on Tuesday, April 30. We welcome your participation and support. We will keep you posted as details emerge. If you haven't already, please visit our website (www.KeepPolkOpen.com) and Facebook page (www.Facebook.com/polksitenc). We are also on Twitter www.twitter.com/tdcwriter with the hashtag #polksite. And, as always, please **SHARE THIS PETITION!**

Thank you so very, very much for your support!

Sincerely,
The President James K. Polk Memorial Support
Fund Board

Latta Plantation and Rural Hill County Funding in Jeopardy

Latta Plantation and Rural Hill have been notified by Mecklenburg County that their County funding will be completely eliminated. Latta is a small non-profit historic site with only four full time staff members and they do an incredible amount of programming and events.

Their County funding has previously been cut by 50% and now will be totally gone. This will hinder Latta's ability to continue providing school programs for 20,000 school children each year, over 35 special events for the public, daily house tours, and numerous summer

camp and workshops. Go to <http://www.change.org/petitions/mecklenburg-county-commissioners-do-not-eliminate-funding-to-historic-latta-plantation> to sign a petition. Call, write or email your county commissioners and ask them to restore full funding.

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

Family Festival, Saturday, May 18 from 11 am to 4 pm.

This year the festival will include a variety of vendors and some of North Carolina's best artisans including potters, wood turners, quilters, jewelry makers and other artists. For the children there will be a presentation by the Raptor Center, Free pony rides, re-enactors in costume throughout the day, crafts to make and a scavenger hunt. Hotdogs, Hamburgers, Soft Drinks, Beer and Snacks will be available for purchase all day!

A Victorian Wedding, Saturday and Sunday, June 1 and 2 from 1 pm.

Wedding bells are ringing once again at

Historic Rosedale. This year we recreates the wedding of Rosedale bride Miss Sarah Jane Caldwell to Mr. George Donnell. Will fears of secession and war rob this 1860 ceremony of its joy? Will enslaved lovers take advantage of this happy occasion to "jump the broom" themselves? Find out as you watch the Caldwell family portrayed through living history interpreters. See Caldwell family artifacts including Addie Caldwell's 1876 wedding dress, displayed only once a year for this event.

Latta Plantation

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

World War II Reenactment, Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Allied and Axis forces will battle across the plantation. More details to follow.

Living History Weekend, Saturday May 25 from 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday, May 26 from 1 to 4 pm.

History will be brought to life with demonstrations of open-hearth cooking, weaving, spinning, sheep shearing, blacksmithing and woodworking.

Latta Plantation Summer Camps for Soldiers

For all camps, contact Matthew Waisner at 704-875-2312, ext. 305 or mwaisner@lattaplantation.org for registration and more information. All camps are four days, from 9 am to 3 pm and cost \$175.00 per camper.

Civil War Soldier Camps, Mondays through Thursdays, July 22-25 and August 5-8, from 9 am to 3 pm each day. Boys and girls ages 8-12 are mustered into the Union and Confederate armies to experience life as a Civil War soldier. The camp week will end with a major battle engagement that families can watch and a formal graduation ceremony.

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53rd Call To Arms Camp

Advanced Civil War Camp for 13-14 year olds that have graduated out of the Civil War Soldier Camp. July 15-18 ?Experience strategic battle planning, tacticals in the woods, fire starting with flint and steel, campfire cooking, and much more!

Revolutionary War Soldier Camp,

June 17-20 . Boys and girls ages 8-12 can relive the American Revolution as a Patriot or Loyalist, during a fun filled week of drills, battles, learning about soldier life, and much more!

Miss Jane's Academy Civil War

Camps, Monday through Thursday, July 22-25 and August 5-8, 9 am to 3 pm each day, Cost \$175 per camper. Girls ages 8-12 go back in time to see what life was like for women in the 19th century. Hands-on activities include spying, making fans, sewing, open-hearth cooking, and English Country Dancing to name a few. Each girl will receive an apron, bonnet, and t-shirt to keep. Contact Nicole Cheslak at 704-875-2312, ext. 304 or ncheslak@lattaplantation.org for more information.

Farm Camps

For more information and registration, contact Nicole Cheslak at 704-875-2312, ext. 304 or ncheslak@lattaplantation.org.

Mini Farm Camp, Tuesday through Thursday, June 4-6 and August 13-15, from 9 am to noon each day, ages 4-5, cost \$60.00 per camper.

Campers will meet the Latta animals, including chickens, pigs, sheep, goats, a cow, mule, and horse. Each day will include hands-on farm activities, crafts, games, and of course, getting up close and personal with the animals.

Jr. Farm Camp, Monday through Thursday, June 10-13 and July 29-August 1, from 9 am to 1 pm each day, ages 6-8, cost \$100 per camper.

If your children like the outdoors and animals, they will love this experience! In addition to getting up close to a variety of farm animals, campers will learn and participate in farm chores, animal care, natural plants and medicines, and much more!

Farm Camp, Monday through Thursday, July 8-11, from 9 am to 3pm each day, ages 9-12, cost \$175.00 per camper.

This is a very hands-on camp about all things 'farming' for ages 9-12. Campers will learn to care for various farm animals, where food comes from, how to

survive on a 19th century farm, and much more!

Advanced Farm Camp, Monday through Friday, June 24-28, 9 am to 4 pm each day, ages 13-17, cost \$200.00 per camper.

This is an intense, extremely hands-on training course in all things 'farming' for ages 12-17. The course will include animal husbandry, historic natural farming techniques, woodworking, and much more! Participants should be prepared for labor-intensive work and training. This camp is designed for those with a serious interest in learning about farming, animals, and agriculture, as well as those who have a future interest in veterinary medicine.

Mini Pirate For a Day Camp- One day only, Saturday, July 6 from 10 am to 1 pm, ages 5-7, cost \$25.00 per camper, pre-registration required.

Become a pirate for a day! Learn pirate terms, pirate history, go on a treasure hunt, play pirate games, and get a bandanna to keep!

Hugh Torrance House and Store

8231 Gilead Road, Huntersville, NC
www.torancehouseandstore.org

House Tours on first and third Sundays from 2 to 5 pm. May 5 and 19, June 2 and 16, July 7 and 21, August 4 and 18.

The Hugh Torrance House and Store is truly a Mecklenburg treasure. It is the oldest standing store in North Carolina. The log house section of the building was built as a residence about 1780. In 1805 the building was expanded to include a store that operated until 1825. As the Torrance family obtained land and wealth, it became a cotton plantation of 3,000 acres worked by over a hundred slaves. Extensive family history kept through the generations allows us to interpret nearly a century of Mecklenburg's rich mercantile and plantation history.

The Charlotte Museum of History

3500 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC,
704 568 1774 www.charlottemuseum.org

First Saturday at the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite, Saturday, May 4th from 1 to 5 pm.

In May of 1775 revolution is in the air. Hezekiah Alexander and Captain James Jack discuss the events which led to the recently adopted Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and speculate on what lies ahead. Mary Alexander shares her thoughts on domestic duties and the

possibility of war. In the kitchen, an enslaved woman explains that Africans should be included in the talk of liberty. Park in the lot on Shamrock Drive and walk around the main building. Frequent tours begin at the American Freedom Bell and last one hour.

First Saturdays at the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite, June 1, July 6, and August 3 from 1 to 5 pm.

Details to be announced.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

12031 Lancaster Hwy., Pineville, NC, 704 889 7145 polk.nchistoricsites.org

Photography and the White House Exhibit, opened Saturday, April 27, Free.

This exhibit examines the role that this new technology played in the White House during Polk's term in office. Historic cameras are on display showcasing photography advancements one hundred years after Polk's presidency.

Neighbors in Conflict, Saturday, May 18 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Free. This Militia Muster for the Mexican-American War will illustrate the life of a common citizen who is mustered into service during to the 1846 conflict with Mexico. Several living history vignettes around the site will demonstrate military drills and practices, camp life, and musket firing.

Heritage Days Summer Camp, Monday through Wednesday, June 10-12,

9 am to 1 pm each day, boys and girls age 8-13. Trades, Trades, Everywhere! Learn about a variety of colonial trades during the early 1800's in Mecklenburg County. Costumed interpreters will demonstrate and explain the importance of trades and their daily impact on colonial life. Campers will participate in various trades, arts, and crafts! Snacks are provided. Fee: \$40 per child.

Heritage Days Summer Camp, Monday through Wednesday, July 29-31,

9 am to 1 pm each day, boys and girls age 8-13. Backcountry Explorers. Explore history through nature by learning how the Catawba Indians and early settlers lived off the land in Mecklenburg County over 200 years ago! Through a guided nature scavenger hunt, campers will learn about various plants and wildlife that inhabited Polk's backcountry. Camp will conclude with a special wildlife demonstration presented by Emily Walker, a certified naturalist from Chimney Rock State Park. Fee: \$40 per child.

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Charlotte Folk Society

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

- **Bluegrass by Jeanette & Johnny Williams and Scott Freeman, Friday, May 10.**

- **Traditional Appalachian Ballad Singer Elizabeth LaPrelle, Friday, June 14.**

- **Southern Singer/Songwriter Kate Campbell, Friday, August 9.**

7:30 each night. Free/ Donations appreciated.

Mount Holly Historical Society

131 South Main, Mount Holly, NC
mhhistoricalociety@gmail.com

SpringFest Celebration, Saturday, May 11th from 10am to 4 pm.

The MHHS headquarters will be open for visitors and members. Volunteers are needed to greet visitors and give tours of our historic exhibits. Please email if you are interested.

Matthews Historical Foundation

Programs held at the Matthews Woman's Club, 208 South Trade Street

Matthews Remembered, Reception and Video DVD, Sunday, May 19 at 2 pm.

A video DVD Matthews Remembered will premiere at the Matthews Town Hall. The reception will be 2 pm with the DVD presentation at 2:45. This DVD features wonderful stories and fond memories of Matthews in the 1930s, 40s and 50s and will be available for purchase. Following the presentation, guests are invited to preview the new Matthews Heritage Museum.

Schiele Museum

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

Sheep to Shortgown, Tuesday, May 14 at 5 pm, Free. Discover the basic steps our ancestors used to make clothing from raw fibers. See wool from heritage sheep spun by hand on an 18th century spinning wheel. A peek preview for Sheepshearing, below.

Sheepshearing, Sunday, May 19 from 1 to 5 pm.

Bring the family to experience first-hand the process from hand shearing a sheep

to modeling a finished short gown! See wool fibers carded then spun into thread by Backcountry interpreters. Enjoy lively tunes from the 18th century and delicious aromas from the kitchen's open hearth in preparation of a festive meal.

The Dyer's Craft, Sunday, June 23 from 1 to 5 pm.

Throughout history, humans have brought color into their lives in many ways. Visit the Backcountry Farm to see fibers colored with natural dyes such as marigold, madder, and indigo. Watch as an 18th century interpreter stitches needlework with hand dyed thread. Learn how dyestuffs are incorporated into period cookery.

On the Great Wagon Road, Sunday, August 25 from 1 to 5 pm.

By 1776 there were over 250,000 settlers in the Backcountry. The main route of settlement into the backcountry was from Pennsylvania down the Great Wagon Road into the Carolinas and on to Georgia. Why did folks make this journey? What was the means of travel? What did they carry with them? Join us at the Schiele Backcountry farm to learn answers to these questions. Try your hand at loading a kid – size wagon!

Schiele Workshops:

The Dyer's Craft Workshop, Friday through Sunday, June 7-9.

Explore the craft of natural dyes with study of fibers, various mordants and basic dyestuffs and dye techniques. Experiment with primary-source dye recipes from the 1700's using natural plant materials from the Carolina Piedmont and common trade dyes from natural sources to produce a variety of shades and colors. Hands-on experience with primary source materials and dyes used in America in the 18th and early 19th centuries will draw participants into further exploration of this subject which encompasses history, chemistry, botany, textiles and fashion. \$90.00, Call 704-854-6676 by May 17.

Twigcraft & Knifecraft Workshop, Saturday, May 11 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Participants will manufacture more than a dozen stick-projects including: hangers, fasteners, cooking gear, utensils, and a variety of other camp gadgets and gizmos. Likewise, more than a dozen knife skills will be taught: safety, grips, strokes, holding positions and power/control strategies. \$55.00. Contact Steve Watts 704-866-6912.

Classic Candlecraft Workshop, Sunday, May 12 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Candles provided inexpensive lighting for the old-time camper. They also served as ace-in-the-hole fire starting aids on a rainy day. We'll explore period appropriate candle types and the candle holders, stands and lanterns of the classic camp. Participants will then create candles using three different methods: dipping, pouring and molding. \$55.00. Contact Steve Watts 704-866-6912

Schiele Summer Camps

Bones, Drums, & Penny Whistles, Monday through Friday, June 10-14, from 9 am to noon, 3rd to 5th graders.

In the late 1700's Carolina Backcountry, music played an important role in war and peace; from the "All clear" call in the Battle of Kings Mountain, to the ancestral tunes of England and Scotland, and the resounding rhythms of Africa's West Coast. Come along as we explore our heritage through song, dance and music. Learn to play a variety of instruments including bones, drums and penny whistles. It's history with a beat!

Yankee Doodle Dandy Camp, Monday through Friday, August 5-9 from 9 am to noon, 1st and 2nd graders. Music in the Piedmont backcountry was important in war and peace time. After daily chores were done, families often enjoyed pastimes which included music and dance. Come along as we explore our heritage through song, dance and music. Learn to play a variety of instruments including bones, drums and penny whistles. It's history with a beat!

Gaston County Museum

131 West Main Street Dallas, NC.
(704)922-7681, #2
www.gastoncountymuseum.org

For the Summer Program Brochure, go to:

<http://www.gastoncountymuseum.org/documents/2013Summerbrochurefrontsidepdf.pdf>

Preschool Preview Programs: bring your preschoolers to the Museum on these Saturdays from 10 to 11 am for special programs, ages 3+.

-Mother's Day, May 11. Talk about Mother's Day's history, read a story, and make several crafts that will be perfect to take home as a gift for mother.

- Patriotic Party, June 8. Wear red, white, and blue to celebrate our Independence Day just around the corner! Through stories, songs and crafts we will learn all about the 4th of July.

The History Calendar—page 8

- **Horse and Carriage, July 13.** Children and their adult will tour NC's largest public exhibit of horse drawn carriages and sleighs right here at our Museum! As always we will learn rhymes, read stories and make a craft.

- **Clay Play, August 10.** Using special clay just for toddlers we will learn two very basic pottery shapes. Each child will make at least two projects to take home. Clay will air dry and may be painted later. Stories about art and potters will be read.

Mother/Daughter Tea, Saturday, May 11 from 1 to 2 pm, ages 6-up. Learn about Victorian etiquette, manners, and the history of tea in America. Partake in a tea party complete with fresh brewed tea, lemonade, pastries, whipped cream, and other traditional offerings. While dressing up is not required, it is encouraged! Ladies can also wear their favorite hat this day too!

Civil War Living History, Saturday, May 11 from 11:30 am to 2:30 PM. Wreath Laying at 1 pm, Free. The Confederate History and Monument Preservation Society, portraying Company H of the 23rd NC troops will have a display and answer questions about the Civil War, and give firing and drilling demonstrations. The wreath laying at the Confederate Marker in Dallas, at 1 pm will be in honor of North Carolina Confederate Memorial Day.

9th Annual Family Fun Day, Saturday, May 25 from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. Visit the museum, sample free ice cream, take a carriage ride for \$5, participate at our craft table, and play historic games on the back lawn.

Drop-In Day Camps, Thursdays from 10:30 am to Noon, Free, ages 8-12

- June 13 – Natural Fibers
- June 20 – Cotton Production
- June 27 – Dyeing
- July 11 – Summer Fun
- July 18 – Spinning
- July 25 – Weaving

Summer Camps, Fridays from 10 am to 3 pm, ages 8-12

- June 21 – Civil War Soldier
- June 28 – Cartooning with Dave McDonald
- July 12 – Victorian Girls Camp
- July 19 – Pottery Camp
- July 26 – Photography Camp
- August 9 – Civil War Soldier

Historic Brattonsville
1444 Brattonsville Rd., McConnells, SC,

803 684 2327
<http://www.chmuseums.org/brattonsville>

Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Historic Brattonsville will be open to visitors for this special Monday holiday. Come and join us for historic interpretation as we honor all of our veterans and their bravery in the numerous wars in which they fought.

Time Travelers Camp: The Revolutionary War, Monday through Friday, June 10-14, from 9 am to 2 pm,

Grades 4-6, \$185.00. Step back to the year 1780 and experience what life was like in the Carolina Backcountry during the Revolutionary War. Campers will choose a side (Patriots or Loyalists) and learn military tactics that will help them in the Battle to take place at the end of camp. Activities include: hearth cooking, military drilling, quill pen construction, colonial games, and much more! Space is limited, so make your reservation as soon as possible.

Independence Day Celebration, Thursday, July 4 from 10 am to 4 pm.

On this special day, for the first time ever, we will be doing interpretation at Hightower Hall, the 3rd generation Bratton home, built in 1854 by John Bratton, Jr. and recently restored and renovated. There will be games for all, and fun for the whole family. We will read the Declaration of Independence and offer historic toasts to our great state and nation.

The Battle of Huck's Defeat, Saturday and Sunday, July 13 and 14 from 10 am to 4 pm.

This Revolutionary War battle took place on July 12, 1780 will be reenacted along with other Revolutionary War battles. Reenactors will be on site to depict the various aspects of camp life.

Occupations of the Past, Saturday, August 31 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Explore the occupations of our Carolina Piedmont ancestors and see how their lives differed or were similar to ours. Occupations such as weavers, doctors, military men and more will be highlighted by hands-on demonstrations. Costumed interpreters will bring the past to life.

Living History Saturdays at Historic Brattonsville, Saturdays, May 4,11,18,25; June 1,8,15,22,29; July 6,20,27; August 3,10,17,24.

Join us for costumed interpretation as historic interpreters bring to life the many aspects of our ancestors past. The sum-

mer months are busy with gardening, field work, cooking, social time and more. There are always things happening on the plantation!

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

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

18th Century Camp Life, Saturday June 8 from 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday, June 9 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Historic interpreters will present musket and cannon firing demonstrations as well as on-going demonstrations of 18th Century camp life.

Oven Construction, Saturday, July 13 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Lend a hand as historic interpreters build a clay bread baking oven of the type used by many soldiers and settlers in the 18th Century.

The Cherokee Warrior, Saturday, August 10 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Visit with historic interpreters portraying Cherokee warriors from the French and Indian War to learn more about their lives, equipment and weapons.

Stanly County Museum

245 East Main Street, Albemarle, NC, 704-986-3777
www.stanlycountymuseum.com

-Who was John Stanly?

Thursday, May 30, at 6:30 pm with Chris Bramlett. Fellowship Center, Central United Methodist Church, 172 N. 2nd Street – Albemarle

-The Lynching of Alec Whitley

Thursday, June 20 at 6:30 pm with David Almond. Stanly County Public Library, Meeting Room - Lower Level.

-Robert E. Lee Not Just the Soldier

Tuesday, July 30 at 6:30 pm, with Steven Campbell. Christ Episcopal Church, 428 Pee Dee Avenue, Albemarle.

-Confederate Archives in Stanly County,

Thursday, August 29 at 6:30 pm with Ralph Ganis. New London Fire Station, 310 South Main Street, New London

Other Historical Sites:

- **Duke Mansion**

www.dukemansion.com

- **Mint Hill Historical Society**

www.minthillhistory.com

- **Rural Hill**

www.ruralhill.net