

MHA NEWS



Dinner Meeting

Monday, November 14, 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: “Author, Author”

This will be a very special program featuring books on local history written by our own distinguished authors. Each author will give a brief presentation on her publication. The most recently published book will be *A Life in Ante-bellum Charlotte: The Private Journal of Sarah Frew Davidson, 1837* based on the original manuscript. The MHA docents transcribed the journal; then, Janet Dyer, Karen McConnell and Ann Williams wrote additional material to provide background and context. Mary Kratt provided the foreword for the new book. Ann Williams, a MHA docent of much experience, will also present her book, *Your Affectionate Daughter, Isabella*.

Mary Kratt will present her most recent book, *New South Women: Twentieth Century Women of Charlotte, North Carolina*. She is the author of more than a dozen books of history, biography, and poetry. Three of her books focus on southern women, the most recent is *New South Women*.

Linda Dalton, MHA board member, docent and member of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church will feature *The History of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church* as well as the *Sugaw Creek Cookbook*. Another popular book to be presented will be *They Married Confederate Officers* by Kathy Herran, MHA board member. And finally, *Chain of Error* by V.V. McKnitt, an outstanding de-

fense of the existence of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, re-published by MHA.

Plan on meeting and talking with the authors after the program. All the books will be available for sale after the program. Each would make interesting reading over cold winter days as well as a gift for the holidays. Bring cash or checks.

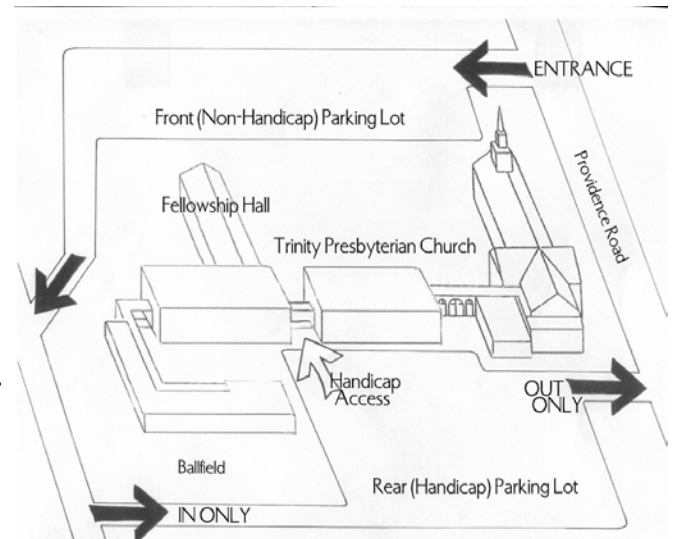
Reservation Form to be returned by Wednesday, November 9, 2005. 21, 2005.

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



Remarks from the President...



Member-Speaker David Erdman gave a delightful presentation of the geography of Charlotte at our last meeting. His many insights and observations put him in the league with Tom

Hanchett, Dan Morrill, and other interesting local historians. Thanks!

Our November 14 program, "Author, Author," will also be interesting. Mark your calendar now for the March 6 program about the preservation of Elizabeth Lawrence's garden.

Special projects. If you have special projects please refer them to me, Kay Majeski, Linda Dalton, or any member of the Board.

Membership. It is always critical. Please copy, email, or let us know who you think should get our newsletter. Kay does a great job of putting it out and it is a great little publication. Pass it around to your friends!

Speakers. Let us know who you want.

See you at the next meeting!

MHA Newsletter now Available by Email

Starting last year we asked our members for their email addresses and started compiling an email list. Then in July we asked those members on the email list if they would like to receive the MHA Newsletter by email instead of, or in addition to, US Postal mail.

Today there are a total of 197 active MHA members (19 of them are lifetime members and 16 support MHA at the Patron level). Of these, 95 have given us an email address and 44 have asked to receive the MHA

newsletter by email. The emailing of the newsletter is starting this month and will result in a savings to MHA of about 22% of our printing and postage expenses or about \$167 annual savings.

We also use this email list to inform these members of upcoming events of interest to the history community. Often this is the only way to get the word out because, by the time the newsletter comes out, the event has passed.

This newsletter is being sent to all of the MHA members on the email list.

If you have access to e-mail and have not received a mailing from MHA, please consider sending us your email address. Simply send an email to james.h.williams@mindspring.com and ask to be added to the MHA email list.

Catawba River Valley Decorative Arts Survey Committee

This is an update on the Decorative Arts Survey. Jane Estep and Linda Dalton have passed the 10-year mark in working on this important documentation project. For those of you who aren't familiar with this project, it involves the documentation of any object that existed in a 10-county area of the Catawba River Valley prior to the Civil War.

We have accumulated over 700 slides and photos of objects from our area. The recent purchase of a digital camera, partly funded by a gift from Sarah Belk Gambrell, has made our work so much easier. We can now photograph an object and later zoom in on any detail of that shot for closer view documentation. We wish this could be our fulltime jobs, but since we both have to make a living, this is a volunteer project. Thus, it is a

slow project. We continue to photograph and document as subjects come to our attention. Recently, we went to a home to photograph one piece of furniture. When we arrived, the owner had about 200 original paper documents laid out on the bed for us to see. It is one of the most amazing collections of family documents we have seen, dating from the 18th century, all of them original. The new digital camera did a wonderful job of capturing the writing. The documents are all legible from the photos. We were able to encourage the owner to donate the collection to UNC-C's Special Collections so it can be preserved and studied.

We have three main goals for this project. One is to make our information available through a database that can be translated into a website, such as the

one for Flowerdew Hundred. This is not as simple as it may sound because of the multiple ways our data must be retrievable. We are researching a database that may work for our needs. The other goals are to have an exhibition with a printed catalog. Our plan is to have the "bones" of the exhibit able to travel to surrounding counties that will add their own exhibit pieces. Hopefully, the exhibit plans will be completed soon and we can share with you this amazing look at early objects from our Catawba River Valley. If you know of any item that should be included in our survey, please contact either Jane Estep 704-541-5011 janestep@earthlink.net, or Linda Dalton 704-364-7435 leaseace@aol.com.

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

From the Docent Committee...

Some new MHA members may not be familiar with the contributions of the MHA Docents to the Charlotte community. I will give a brief description of our group.

MHA Docents work at numerous sites such as the Reed Gold Mine, the Charlotte Museum of History, Latta Plantation, Historic Rosedale Plantation, the James K. Polk Site, and the Carl J. McEwen Historical Village. The docents give tours, work in the gardens and gift shops, give demonstrations of skills used by 18th and 19th century settlers, and serve however else they are needed at the sites. The docents receive instruction at the individual sites where they work. This knowledge is enhanced through the comprehensive MHA Docent education program given by Karen McConnell. North Carolina and Mecklenburg County geography, history, and inhabitants are studied with regard to the influences of each upon the

other and the subsequent social and political development.

MHA Docents have been influential in programming of the Charlotte Mecklenburg story by organizing the Consortium and through being an integral participant in Mecklenburg Declaration Day.

Our docents at the oyster roast at Historic Rosedale Plantation did their usual outstanding guiding. Congratulations to the board, staff, and docents for the evening of food and fellowship.

We are proud of our Historic Cooking Guild which received an invitation to participate at Fort Dobbs. Not only did our guides cook superbly, they were dressed authentically in clothing they had sewn themselves. The Cooking Guild had a successful raffle and will serve an open hearth meal to the winners of the drawing in mid-October.

Recently the MHA Docents spent a morning listening to the history of the Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church and exploring two of its three cemeteries. On November 1, 2005, you are invited to join us for the MHA Book Club's presentation of the Seven Sisters, the seven Presbyterian churches attended by the early settlers of the region. The program will be at 11:00 AM at Historic Rosedale Plantation as will be our concluding program for this year, our Annual Tea on December 6, 2005, at 10:00 AM. We have had interesting, informative programs thanks to the planning of Wanda Hubicki, program chairman.

Happy Holidays!
Barbara Jackson
President

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

November 14 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, November 9, 2005.

Mark your calendars now for future meetings of the Mecklenburg Historical Association. The next meeting is scheduled for **March 6, 2006.**



"Preserving Mecklenburg's Heritage"

Post Office Box 35032
Charlotte, North Carolina 28235

ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AT
WWW.MECKDEC.ORG
