

MHA NEWS

Dinner Meeting

Monday, November 16, 2009

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

Fellowship Hall

At Trinity Presbyterian Church

3115 Providence Road



Upcoming Dinner Program

Nora Brooks presents Mildred Lee, Youngest Daughter of General Robert E. Lee

On November 16, 2009 we will be blessed again with the presence of Nora Brooks, presenter and portrayer of famous ladies. Nora Brooks is an 11th grade American history teacher at Sun Valley High School who has won awards for her teaching and dramatic portrayals. Last year we were



privileged to have Nora present her rendition of Anna Morrison Jackson, a resident of Mecklenburg and Lincoln Counties and married to CSA General Stonewall Jackson.

At our next meeting Nora will present Mildred Lee, the youngest daughter of CSA General Robert E. Lee. No, Mildred never lived in Mecklenburg County, if some of you are wondering, but she was clearly a Southerner; Nora's program will provide an interesting look into Robert E. Lee and the reminders of the human misery and brutality re-

sulting from our American Civil War in the South.

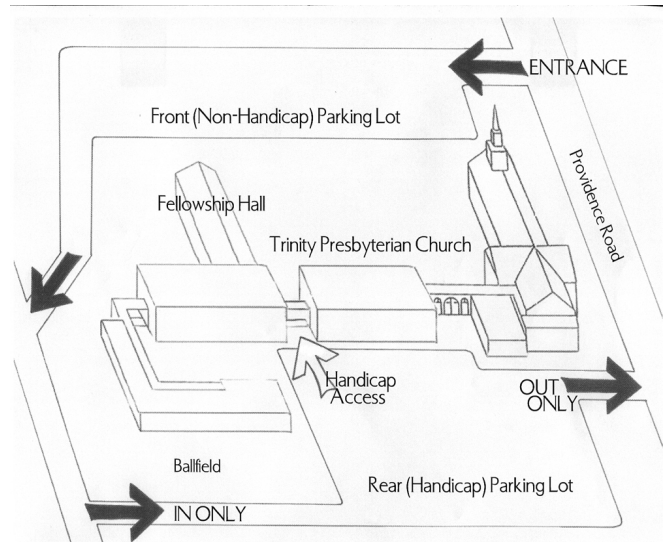
Please mark your calendar for this informative and entertaining program in November and for Tom Hanchett who is scheduled to provide our program on March 22, 2010. The program committee is hoping to have David Erdman speak to us on May 24, 2010 about his detailed maps of the early streets of Charlotte. Bring your friends and enjoy a delicious dinner and a historically entertaining evening with MHA.

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



Remarks from the President

Thanks all of our members for your steadfast support of Mecklenburg Historical Association. I am very proud of our accomplishments over fifty years in preserving Mecklenburg County's history. No other entity fills the role of "umbrella" organization to safeguard history, rescue and organize sites, and provide the manpower (and womanpower!) to keep pieces of our history from being lost. I believe we still have work to do.

One challenge I want us to work on immediately is increasing membership. Your Board of Directors will be organizing a membership drive and will ask each of you to suggest

friends, neighbors, and family who might be interested in joining us. So be thinking of new members.

I also want to address a problem we have had with the sound system at Trinity Presbyterian Church where our quarterly dinners are held. At the last meeting, some of our members could not hear the speaker. We will get this corrected so that all of you can hear Nora Brooks at the November meeting. It will be a wonderful program. Please don't miss it.

We are also looking for volunteers to set up for our dinners at Trinity. It's an easy job and entails being there

about 5:30pm to set the tables. If we can get a committee of four volunteers together, each person could be responsible for one dinner per year and the others could help. If you would like to volunteer or need more information about this, please let me know.

I'm excited to serve as your President and welcome comments or suggestions from you. How do you think we can improve Mecklenburg Historical Association? The best phone number to reach me is my cell - 704.661.8470 or by e-mail at leaseace@aol.com. See you in November!

-Linda Dalton, President

Historic Site News

Upcoming events at local historic sites in November and December

Historic Rosedale Plantation, *3427 North Tryon*

Saturday, November 7th.

Annual Oyster Roast fund raising event. Fun for the whole family and excellent Oysters.

Saturday, November 28, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, A 19th Century Thanksgiving Celebration. The year is 1844 and the residents, black and white, are celebrating a bountiful harvest. This is a family celebration as the national holiday had not yet been instituted. You will see these people in their natural setting and eavesdrop on their conversations.

Historic Latta Plantation, *Huntersville*

Saturday and Sunday, November 27-28, from 10 am to 4 pm, A Plantation Christmas. Start the holiday season by stepping back in time for a 19th century Christmas celebration.

Tour the plantation and learn about early American Christmas traditions. **Saturday, December 5,** from 6 to 9 pm, Candlelight Christmas at the Plantation. Walk through the plantation by candlelight and witness Christmas celebrations of the early 19th century in the barn, plantation house, kitchen, and slave cabin.

Charlotte Museum of History and Hezekiah Alexander Homesite

Saturday, November 21, 6 to 9 pm, Civil War Lantern Tour. Take an in-depth look into the conditions, hopes, and fears of common foot soldiers of the war. Progress through different camp settings on the grounds and see the campfires, smell the cooking, and listen to the stories from the period. Tours, conducted by a Charlotte-based Civil War reenactment unit, are based on letters, diaries, and other Civil War documents.

Sunday, November 1 from 1 to 4 pm, Living History Sunday. Learn about traditional textile production, and its development throughout the years.

Sunday, December 6 from 1 to 4 pm, Living History Sunday. Experience traditional photography, and its growth to where we are today. Demonstrators, vendors, and experts in the field of photography will be available to museum visitors.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site, *Pineville*

Saturday, November 14, at 10 am. Celebrating Veterans Day: Life aboard the USS James K. Polk. Join Clarence Jordan, former crewman of the USS James K. Polk, as he discusses his time on board and what it meant to serve on this submarine. Registration required Call (704) 889-7145 to register.

Saturday, December 12, Christmas in Mecklenburg County with the Polks. Visitors will see a living history vignette in the main house. Each building will be decorated in the 19th century style. Come and learn about food and customs from Christmas in 1802.

From the Docent Committee

For those of you who are long-time MHA members and/or MHA Docents, we have sad news.

Carolyn McCormick passed away on Tuesday, October 13th after a short bout with lung cancer. She was a wonderful person, always bright and cheery, and will be greatly missed.

Carolyn, supported by her husband George, was a very active docent in the early days at the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite and in recent years they have been faithful attendees at MHA dinners and programs.

George's consulting practice took them to distant parts of the US for many years, but they returned to Charlotte for retirement, renewed old acquaintances and made up for lost time. The obituary was in the Observer on Thursday the 14th and memorial service was held on Saturday at Sharon United Methodist Church. The photograph of Carolyn, in costume, at the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite, was on the cover of the memorial service program.



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

November 16th 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 email Kathy Herran (kathyherran@hotmail.com) or call her at (704) 553-0936.
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)

Last Meeting Summary

MHA was so pleased to have Mary Kratt with us at our September 28 meeting. Mary has authored many books and spoke with us about her latest publication, "Charlotte, North Carolina, A Brief History". Mary Kratt has won several awards for her writing in both regional history and poetry. She has won the St. Andrews Writer in Community Award, the Brockman Poetry Book Award, and the Peace History Book Prize, to name a few. Some of her best known

books are the prizewinning poetry book, "Small Potatoes", "The Only Thing I Fear is A Cow and A Drunken Man", and "Spirit Going Barefoot". Her books about Charlotte include and in addition to "Charlotte, North Carolina: A Brief History", "New South Women: Twentieth Century Women of Charlotte, North Carolina" and "Legacy: The Myers Park Story". If you were not present for the meeting and her lecture, we urge you to get a copy of her book at area bookstores and enjoy the stories of our Queen City and its beginnings.

We Have A New Web Site

The web site of the Mecklenburg Historical Association has been completely redesigned to make it much easier to use and to include a great deal more information. This MHA Newsletter will be posted on the web site each time it comes out. There is a big section on the history of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. Lots of new stuff. The website name or URL, however is unchanged at: **www.meckdec.org**



"Preserving Mecklenburg's Heritage"

Post Office Box 35032
Charlotte, North Carolina 28235

ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AT
WWW.MECKDEC.ORG