

## Dinner Meeting

Monday, September 28, 2009

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

Fellowship Hall

At Trinity Presbyterian Church

3115 Providence Road



## Upcoming Dinner Program

### “Charlotte, North Carolina: A Brief History”

Jane Johnson and Kathy Herran, our Program Committee Co-chairs have done it again! They have arranged a great lineup. Mary Kratt will speak on September 28, 2009; Nora Brooks will speak on November 16, 2009; and Tom Hanchett is scheduled for March 22, 2010. Our May 24th 2010 program is in the planning stages.



**Mary Kratt** will speak on the topic of her new book: *Charlotte, North Carolina: A Brief History*, to MHA at Trinity Presbyterian Church on 9/28/2009.

Mary Kratt is the author of seventeen books of regional history and poetry. A prizewinning author, her work includes biography, women's history, and lively stories of the South. She won the St. Andrews Writer in Community Award, the Brockman Poetry Book Award, and the Peace History Book Prize. She earned a B.A. from Agnes Scott College and in 1995 a M.A. in English from UNC-Charlotte where she subsequently taught American Studies and English for several years. Her most recent books include *Charlotte, North Carolina: A Brief History* (The History Press, Charleston, S.C.) and *Small Potatoes*, (a prizewinning poetry chapbook from St. Andrews College Press).

Mary Kratt's books of poetry include *The Only Thing I Fear Is A Cow And A Drunken Man* (Carolina Wren Press); *Spirit Going Barefoot* (Briarpatch Press); *On The Steep Side* (Briarpatch Press); *Small Potatoes* (St. Andrews College Press); and *Valley*, (Sow's Ear Press). Her poems have appeared in *Shenandoah*, *Tar River Poetry*, *Stone Country*, *New Mexico Humanities Review*, *Greensboro Review*, *Nimrod*, *Yankee* and others. Mary Kratt was a 1996 North Carolina Arts Council fellow at the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, New Hampshire.

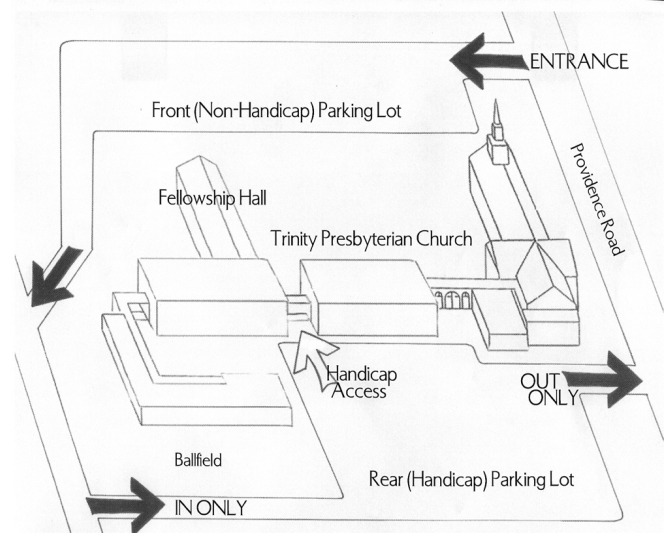
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The MHA meets in Trinity Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall.  
3115 Providence Road



## Remarks from the President

### Your New President



Your new President is Linda Dalton, a descendant of the signers and veteran in local historic affairs. She was responsible for efforts to clean up and return dignity to Settler's Cemetery. The grant money she raised was used to

restore many of the above-ground grave sites. She also co-chairs the Catawba River Valley Decorative Arts Survey. We are fortunate to have her strong leadership. I enjoyed my time as President and will remain active with increased participation in the Trail of History Project and planning activities for the May 2010 celebration. I am pleased to report that we have a strong Board of Directors, great programming, an upgraded website, and \$40,554.59 in unallocated funds in the bank. Not bad for an organization with no staff! This is a real tribute to devoted members! -Chase Saunders

### Trail of History Update

CPCC President Zeiss has formed a Trail of History Committee and a 501©(3) will be created. This will be the vehicle for funding statues of at least 20 historical personages or historic events along Little Sugar Creek between CPCC and East Morehead Street. Anchored by the statue of Captain James Jack on horseback, Indians, founders, industrialists, retailers, politicians, teachers, and all manner of people who led our community will be featured. The pieces will be unique in their design and placement along the Greenway in order to enhance a memorable walking tour. This venue will be a wonderful way to educate our children about the people who were instrumental in the development of our community.

### The Updated Website

Jim Williams took the lead in updating the Meckdec.org website with our service company Charlottezweb. The new website will permit us to store more information and update that information without additional cost. The design and graphics are great. The new web site will be up this fall and we will announce it to the world when it is finished.

### Update of Captain James Jack

Captain Jack and the Spirit of Liberty under construction in Seagrove. Five or six years ago Kay Majeski, our former President introduced me to a young artist who had just moved to Charlotte, Chas Fagan. I met him and we discussed the Meck Dec and Captain Jack legacy and he painted a quick oil of what might be a model for a bronze. Introductions to Charles Jonas, the passionate leader of the May 20th Society, and CPCC President Tony Zeiss, the Trail of History visionary, followed. Money was raised and after a global search for an artist, Fagan was selected.

This was a good choice as he has now been recognized as one of the best artists in the United States and his work appears in the National Cathedral, the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, the Capitol Rotunda, the NYC Union League Club, and various state and national monument sites. And Chas is now working on a 13 ½ foot tall bronze of Captain James Jack to be cast in Seagrove, N.C. The design of the monument will feature Captain Jack riding across a stream with splashing water from the passing hoofs! It will be located at the intersection of Kings Drive and Fourth Street across from St. Mary's Chapel and the CPCC auditorium complex. With good fortune, it will be dramatically unveiled in a once-in-a-lifetime celebration on May 20, 2010! Charles Jonas is leading the planning effort for a grand event which will certainly include the Docents and Re-enactors. It is still not too late to contribute!

### Planning for the MeckDec 2010 Spring Celebration; Requests for Invites

Your MHA will participate in next year's grand celebration of Meck Dec Day. We need your help. If you would like to make a contribution toward the celebration, we will designate it toward that project. If you are a descendant or have friends who are, tell them that something unique is in the planning stages. Nothing like it has happened in the history community since the historic obelisk was rededicated on East Trade Street in the 1920s.

### Historic Fashion Show

Reprise! Several years ago, the Docents held a historic garb fashion show which was well received. They are going to do it again! Plans are underway for a fashion

show of historic garb in March 2010. The committee is planning an elegant luncheon followed by men and women modeling fashions from the 1770s through the 1860s. Proceeds from the event will go to our docent lending closet so more of us will be able to dress up for special occasions. If you have reproduction garments that could be modeled, or would like to participate or help in any other way contact June White at 704-333-5912 or logie2@carolina.rr.com, or Sharon VanKuren at 704-846-6187. Many more hands will be needed as the time draws near, so be ready to say "Yes!" when help is requested.

### Docent Book Club

Do you love history? Our Docents offer you something special. The Docent Book Club is an informal group of readers who meet, usually, after our monthly General meetings at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. We are alert for unpublished manuscripts, diaries, or letters but when these are not available we read the published ones. Currently we are sharing our own books with members to read and report on to the group. We have found that we own a treasure trove of good books of interest to anyone with even a tiny interest in history. Anyone is invited to join us; if it suits our schedule we bring a bag lunch, or revisit the goodie table that our generous hostesses provide for the regular meeting. Reader or not, please join us. Contact Rachel Abernathy at 4347 Woodlark Lane, Charlotte, N.C. 28211 for further information.

### The Answer Man & Answer Lady

Members Jim Williams and Jane Johnson have also performed invaluable services in answering inquiries which come to us via the Internet. Inquiries for maps, family history, participation in next year's events, old documents, etc. are quickly answered as a public service.

### Last Meeting

We were privileged to have Jane and Thomas Polk attend our last meeting. They arrived from the late 1700s and shared their experiences. We learned of Polk's arrival in Charlottetown and his long and successful marriage and family. We learned of his presence as head of the Mecklenburg militia in Valley Forge and connections to George Washington. After the winter in Valley Forge Col. Polk returned to Charlotte to lead the militia and to collect and provide provisions for the war effort.

## From the Docent Committee

The Docent Committee is busy planning and has had its first board meeting for the fall. On September 1 we traveled to Brattonsville for an in-depth look at actual farming as it was in the heyday of plantations. We had a catered meal on the grounds for lunch and had a great time.

Our October 6 program, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church, will feature period jewelry and presented by our own Pam Dudeck. We welcome visitors, so join us!

On November 3rd we will visit White's Homestead in Fort Mill. Particulars on this field trip are to be announced.

The committee planning our Regional History education series for January/February 2010 is meeting, planning, and deciding. This venture, which was wildly successful two years ago, will be bigger and better, I am sure. Rachel Abernathy, Barbara Jackson and Alice Bostic make a formidable team. Our plans for an historical fashion show continue and we will be looking forward to each and every one of you to be in atten-

dance. The date will be sometime in March, probably. The committee planning has a lot a decisions to make and I will let you know as soon as I know!

We have talked about an in depth tour to Mt. Vernon and will continue to investigate a possible 3 day trip in October of 2010. We can't fit it in for the spring--as you have read, we are busy. To those of you wishing me well after having stents placed in my heart to fix a 95% blockage, I thank you.

*Submitted by Jo Anne Dickens,  
Chair of the Docent Committee, MHA*

## 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

## September 28th 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.

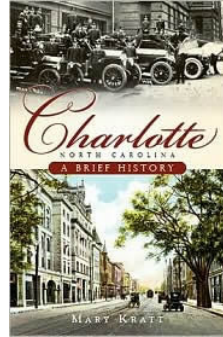
Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (total) for \_\_\_\_\_ seats (\$12 for Seniors)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (total) for \_\_\_\_\_ seats (\$14 for all others)

...continued from page 1: “Charlotte, North Carolina: A Brief History”

Twice winner of the Blumenthal Writers and Readers Series sponsored by the N.C. Writers Network, she won the Fortner Writer-in-Community Award from St. Andrews College in 1994. In 2000, her book, *Small Potatoes*, won the Brockman/Campbell Book Award for poetry and *Spirit Going Barefoot* won the Oscar Arnold Young Award in 1982. She has seventeen published books of poetry, history, and biography, and served on the Speakers Bureau of the North Carolina Humanities Council, and as an associate editor of the *Southern Poetry Review*. She wrote two published walking tours of uptown Charlotte and led history tours for teachers and residents for the Museum of the New South. She lives in Charlotte, North Carolina and taught part-time at UNC-Charlotte 1992-7.

Her degrees from Agnes Scott College (B.A.) and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (M.A.) are in English literature.

Her books about Charlotte include *Charlotte, North Carolina: A Brief History* (The History Press, Charleston, S.C. 2009), *New South Women: Twentieth Century Women of Charlotte, North Caro-*



*lina* (Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, 2001), *Remembering Charlotte: Postcards from a New South City, 1905-1950* (UNC Press, 2000); *Charlotte: Spirit of the New South* (John F. Blair Publisher, 1406 Plaza Drive Winston-Salem, N.C. 27104, 1993); *Legacy: The Myers Park Story* (Myers Park Foundation, 1986); and about the South, *Southern Is...* (Peachtree Publishers Ltd., 1985).



**“Preserving Mecklenburg’s Heritage”**

Post Office Box 35032  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28235

ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AT  
[WWW.MECKDEC.ORG](http://WWW.MECKDEC.ORG)