

Dinner Meeting

Monday, September 30, 2013

Meet at 6pm for dinner followed by a tour of the Matthews Heritage Museum

Reid House
134 West John Street
Matthews, NC 28105



Upcoming Dinner Program

Dinner at Reid House and Tour of the New Matthews Heritage Museum

ATTENTION: THE SEPTEMBER 30th DINNER MEETING WILL NOT BE HELD AT TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — FOR THIS ONE DINNER, WE WILL MEET AT THE REID HOUSE IN MATTHEWS AT 6:00pm.

The next MHA Dinner Meeting will be held Monday, September 30 at the Reid House in Matthews and at the new Matthews Heritage Museum. We will meet at the Reid house at 6 pm for an excellent dinner catered by Southern Gourmet. They also cater events of the Matthews Historical Foundation and you are in for a delicious treat. After dinner we will walk or drive over to the new Museum for a tour. It is only three short blocks, so if the weather is fine, some of us may want to leave our cars at the Reid house and walk. Space at the museum is limited, so feel free to go over to the museum as soon as you

finish dinner, or wait and talk to your friends and go over later. Our host at the Museum will be its new director and our friend, Barbara Taylor, whom some of us remember from her work at the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite so many years ago.

The Historic Reid House is located at 134 West John Street in downtown Matthews. It was built in 1890 by Edward Solomon Reid and is one of the few remaining Victorian houses in the area. The Reid House is owned and operated by The Matthews Historical Foundation.

The Matthews Heritage Museum opened this June and is located in the Massey-Clark House at 232 North Trade Street in downtown Matthews. It tells 150 years of Matthews' history in

three galleries and is open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. For more information, please visit:
www.matthewsheritagemuseum.org

Driving and Parking Directions: The Reid House is in Matthews at 135 W. John Street (at Freemont Street and West John Street) in the center of Matthews, one block north of Trade Street. Parking is in a lot directly across Freemont Street from the Reid House. The Museum (in the Massey-Clark House) is one block up North Trade Street from John Street. On-street parking is available near the Museum building.

Inside this issue:

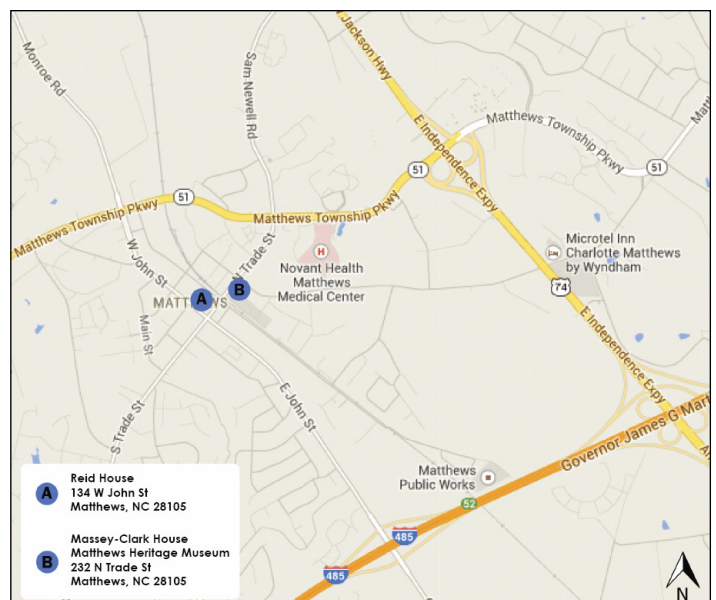
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The Reid House



Massey-Clark House



Remarks from the President

It's hard to believe that summer has come and gone and September brings the beginning of MHA's new year of dinner meetings. We are very excited to take a "road trip" to Matthews for the September 30th dinner and visit the new Matthews Heritage Museum.

Please also mark your calendars for Monday, November 18th and a wonderful program by Rosalie Reynolds and Pat Martin on "*The Doris You Never Knew - The Life of Doris Duke*." This meeting will be back in our regular location at Trinity Presbyterian Church on Providence Road. We will enjoy appetizers and beverages at 6:00 and another very special book sale by Jane Johnson from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library. All proceeds go to support the library.

I hope all of you read the article in the Sunday, September 1st, Observer Living section about our area's interesting cemeteries. Kathleen Purvis wrote the article and told me this issue

should be called the Not Living Section. I am very proud of MHA's ongoing support of Settlers' Cemetery, which began with the restoration in the late 90's. The City (which is responsible for Settlers, Elmwood, Oaklawn, the three Pinewoods, and Evergreen cemeteries) continues to be very responsive to MHA on issues concerning Settlers'. I get a call every time anything goes on there and the City consults us before any work is done or decisions made concerning its care.

The City has committed, at our request, to reset the bronze information markers along 5th Street which give a thumbnail sketch of Mecklenburg's history. MHA is working on a new project for Settlers' to install QR codes to tell the story of some of the most prominent people buried there. I take our responsibility to protect and preserve Settlers' very seriously and I pray that future generations will do the same.

We owe huge thanks to Scott Warren, Site Director at the James K. Polk State Historic

Site, his tenacious and wonderful wife Tapitha, the Polk staff, the Polk Support organization, and it's President, our own Sharon Van Kuren, for their tireless work urging the State Legislators to reinstate the funding for the Polk site. Thanks to all of you who signed petitions, sent emails, and made phone calls. Without you, I'm convinced that site would be closed now.

If anyone would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the site to help close the \$10,000 funding gap imposed by the State, make your check to: James K. Polk Memorial Support Group and mail to: James K. Polk State Historic Site, P.O.Box 475, Pineville, NC 28134.

Please contact me if you have any comments or suggestions concerning MHA.

Linda Dalton
MHA President
leaseace@aol.com,
(704) 661-8470



Hart Square Tickets

Note that the admission price has increased this year to \$35.00 each – Still a bargain.

For more than thirty years, Dr. Robert Hart of Hickory has rescued and restored life in the Carolinas in the nineteenth century, recreating an entire village, Hart Square – the largest collection of original historic log buildings in the United States. Each year on the fourth Saturday in October, (October 26th this year), Dr. and Mrs. Hart open this restoration project to the public. Dating from 1782 to 1873, the ninety-four log structures—chapels, barns,

houses, shops, and more—are all furnished. Over 275 volunteers docent the buildings and demonstrate period techniques such as flax breaking and hackling, spinning, weaving, herb dying, open-hearth cooking, broom and shoe making, cotton baling, bookbinding, shingle riving, wheelwrighting, tinsmithing, moon-shining, and much more. 10% of the proceeds go to the Catawba County Historical Association and 90% go into a fund to carry on the festivals after the Harts can no longer do it themselves.

Advanced tickets are required since this event always sells out early. You can get tickets by

calling the Catawba County Museum of History in Newton at 9 am on Tuesday, October 1 (828-465-0383) but, as participants, we can order tickets for you. Make your check out to Jim Williams for \$35.00 per ticket and mail it, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Jim and Ann Williams
1601 South Wendover Road
Charlotte, NC 28211

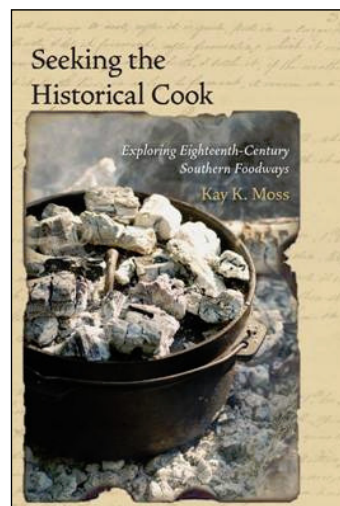
We must receive your check by September 12 to get these tickets. We will have the tickets by mid-October and mail them on to you.

Inviting the Historical Cook into Your Kitchen

Introducing Kay Moss' new book *Seeking the Historical Cook*

On Thursday, September 12 from 4 to 6 pm at the Schiele Museum Kay Moss will speak about her new book and sell and sign copies. She will be in the new demonstration kitchen in the Schiele Museum to prepare ancestral receipts (recipes) that are likely to become your new favorites. Ann Tippitt, Suzanne Simmons, and Kay Moss will lead cooking demonstrations. Afterwards we will settle down for a tasting party and informal chat about early flavors and twee touches. Bring along your

favorite teacup, old or new, if you wish. Whether you cook in a thoroughly modern kitchen or at an open fire, tasty new ideas await in our Southern ancestor's receipts. There is no admission charge, but seating is limited so reservation are required by September 6th to dawng@cityofgastonia.com (704) 866-6901



History is Alive and Well!

We previously made you aware of potential financial peril for four of our local sites: James K. Polk State Historic Site, Charlotte Museum of History, Latta Plantation, and Rural Hill. We are happy to report that the summer has been productive, and a fine harvest is in. Many thanks go to all of you who signed petitions, wrote to legislators, and volunteered to save our sites. Yet there is still work to be done.

Polk and three other state sites were threatened with temporary, perhaps permanent, closure. The Governor's proposed budget eliminated all their state funding. Happily the proposal was amended due to a massive petition initiative, and most of the funding has been restored. Scott Warren, site director, and Sharon Van Kuren, head of the Polk Memorial Support Fund extend their heartfelt thanks to all of you who signed the petition, attended rallies, and communicated with your legislators. This year's state funding will still be \$10,000 less than last year's allotment. Generous contributions to the Support Fund

and volunteering at the site can go far to close the gap.

The Charlotte Museum of History, privately funded, is making great progress in its year-long struggle to recover from near financial ruin. Kay Peninger, the new site director, and Mary Turk-Meena, board chairman, have made great strides in bringing the site back to health. As you may remember, the museum building was closed, and tours of the Hezekiah Alexander Home site were reduced to one Saturday a month. A portion of the museum has been reopened for office and docent use, and for restroom facilities. House tours are now being offered every Thursday through Sunday at 1:15 and 3:15 each day. The 1774 rock house, Mecklenburg's oldest, is invaluable to our history, and we appreciate the community's affectionate response to keeping it open and available.

Latta Plantation and Rural Hill are both county sites, and were dealt the prospect of losing all county funding, but thanks to petitions and public response property taxes were in-

creased and all funding has been restored. Both sites extend a huge "Thank You" to all who made their voices heard. Yet they too are not quite out of the woods. In the past several years county funding had been significantly decreased, and both sites are operating on bare bones budgets. Latta receives only about 15% of their total budget from ASC, Mecklenburg County, and the Town of Huntersville. About 85% is earned income. Rural Hill's situation is similar.

How can you continue to help? Visit the sites. Even though you've probably done so before, their many special events will extend your knowledge, appreciation, and enjoyment of our regional history. Take out-of-town visitors to the sites and show off our area's uniqueness. Please don't neglect those donation boxes! Site admissions cover only a small portion of their expenses. This goes for all historic sites everywhere. Donations are imperative. And do volunteer. Every volunteer hour is worth an hour of a paid staff member's time. Thanks again to everyone who pitched in to make this recovery happen. With your continued help the harvest of historical knowledge will be bountiful indeed. —Ann Williams

Francis Marion Symposium

Francis Marion and the Southern Campaign, October 18 and 19.

Immerse yourself in Francis Marion's world and the significance of the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution. General Francis Marion played a major role in the American Revolution. Many of these engagements took place in the Clarendon County area. According to Professor Henry Lumpkin, about a third of all the battles in the American Revolution were fought in South Carolina and Marion had a hand in roughly a third of those.

The symposium will be held on Friday afternoon and evening and all day Saturday on the Dubose Campus of Central Carolina Technical College in Manning, SC. In addition to a

number of distinguished speakers, Christine Swager will introduce her new book on the Southern Campaign and we will be visited by the Marquis de Lafayette for dinner.

For costs, list of speakers and topics, registration information, and other details see: www.francismarionsymposium.com



History Lecture Series

In February 2014 the MHA Docents will offer their fourth biennial series of History Lectures. These will be held on three consecutive Saturday mornings in February beginning February 8, with two speakers each day. Once again we have an excellent line up of presenters and topics: Agness Caldwell, Enslaved Woman at Rosedale Plantation by Bridget Strong; Civil war in Charlotte by Michael Hardy; Native Plants of Colonial Times by Larry Mellichamp; Andre Michaux Live by Charlie Williams; The Influence of Presbyterianism on early Mecklenburg by John Kuykendall; and The Idea of the New South by Tom Hanchett. Details and registration information will be in the November issue of the MHA Newsletter.

September 30, 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)



"Preserving Mecklenburg's Heritage"

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

VISIT US ONLINE
WWW.MECKDEC.ORG

Admission charged at all events unless otherwise noted. Check the Charlotte Regional History Consortium website for other events.
<http://www.charlotteregionalhistory.org>

Hugh Torance House and Store

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

The Hugh Torance House and Store has suffered a lean summer, but not from financial woes – although the site has those aplenty. Due to recent rains, a large sink-hole opened up in early July on Gilead Road just west of the site. A barricade was put up closing Gilead Road from McCoy Road westward, making the site inaccessible to the public. Consequently there were no tours in July or August. The repairs to the road are scheduled to be completed by the end of August, but if the rains continue, this may not come to pass. The site hopes to reopen September 1st. We'll keep you informed. The regular tour schedule is the 1st and 3rd Sundays, from 2 to 5 pm through October.

Historic Rosedale

3427 N. Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC,
704 335 0325 www.historicrosedale.org

A Victorian Funeral, Saturday and Sunday, October 5 and 6 from 1-4 pm.

Sickness has hit the plantation! Join the Caldwell Family and members of the enslaved community as they bury their loved ones. The house will be decorated in period style with a funerary exhibit on display.

The Feast of the Hunter's Moon, an Antebellum Dinner Fundraiser, Monday evening October 21 at 6 pm.

This period candlelight dinner will be coordinated by Master Chef Geoffrey Blount of CPCC in association with a number of celebrity chefs. It features a five course meal and each course is complimented with a special wine pairing. The evening begins with cocktails and butlered hors d'oeuvres inside the 1815 plantation house and then adjourns to a tent in the garden amid the 200 year old English Boxwoods and the ancient Treasure trees on the Plantation grounds. Attendance is limited to 150 guests. Tickets are \$150 and are available online at www.historicrosedale.org. All proceeds benefit education and preservation. For more information visit the website or call 704-335-0325.

Spirits of Rosedale, Friday and Saturday, October 25 and 26 from 6:30 to 8:30pm.

A Spirited Performance of ghosts stories from Rosedale and the Piedmont where the Spirits of Rosedale come back to life. Discover why they remain in this 200 year old plantation. Let the spirits transport you from the Native Americans who first inhabited the area to the Davidson family who restored its gardens in the 1940's. Meet spirits bound here because of epidemics, insanity, greed, and hope for freedom on the Underground Railroad. Be careful not to linger too long with the spirits.... they are dying to take in new boarders.

The Spirits of Rosedale takes visitors on a tour through the home's first floor, kitchen basement, and gardens. This innovative living history program is appropriate for audiences age 8 and up. Tours start every 15 minutes beginning at 6:30pm. Last tour begins at 8:30pm. Each group is limited to 15 people, tours last about 40 minutes.

Latta Plantation

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

The Charlotte Gold Rush, Saturday, September 28 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Learn about Charlotte's rich gold mining history and pan for gold at the miner's cabin.

Fall Farm Festival, Saturday, October 5 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Experience life on a 19th century farm as you meet rare and endangered breeds of farm animals, participate in farm chores and learn about farm skills.

Ghost Tales in the Dark, Fridays and Saturdays, October 11, 12, 18 and 19, tours at 7, 8, 9, and 10 pm.

Take a candlelit tour of the plantation night and hear real ghost stories from Latta staff and volunteers. Pre-registration is required call 704-875-2312

Cooking With Sukey Workshop, Saturday, October 12.

Learn to cook over an open hearth with Clarissa Lynch, author of One Hearth, One Pot. To register go to www.lattaplantation.org. The cost is \$60 per person.

All Hallows Eve, Saturday, October 19 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Learn about the history of Halloween and meet some of its famous characters throughout history. Children can trick or treat around the plantation, participate in costume contests, and make crafts.

Civil War Ghost Walk, Friday and Saturday, October 25 and 26 from 7 to 10 pm.

Join us for this spooktacular historic event as you are led by a guide through a haunted site filled with numerous historical scenarios. Venture through the explosive battlefields, witness a family mourning their lost loved ones in the parlor, make your way through the haunted field hospitals and creepy cemetery.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

Matters of Grave Importance, Saturday, October 12 from 10 am to noon. Free.

Glimpse into the past, present, and future of local cemetery history. Explore first-hand the Polk Family Cemetery and the importance behind the preservation of this historic landmark.

Rural Hill

4431 Neck Road, Huntersville, NC,
704 875 3113 www.ruralhill.net

Revolutionary War Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, September 20 and 21 from 10 am to 5 pm.

Reenactors representing the Hesse Kessel Jaeger Korps will demonstrate life in a Hessian camp during the revolution. Rural Hill docents will be at the cabin demonstrating blacksmithing, weaving, spinning, cooking, gardening, and more.

Matthews Heritage Museum

232 North Trade St., Matthews,
704 708 4996
www.matthewsheritagemuseum.org

Second Saturday Programs.

-September 14, Uses of Herbs – Medicinal, Culinary and Household. What purpose did they serve?

-October 12, Tools of Yesterday – The tools our fathers and mothers used are sometimes unrecognizable to us today. What did they look like? How were they used? We will focus on woodworking and kitchen tools and utensils.

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Matthews Historical Foundation

All meetings begin at 6:30 pm with a reception followed by the program at 7.

For more meeting information, call 704-846-6693.

Food from Home, Tuesday, Sept. 24.

Dr. Tom Hanchett, staff historian at Levine Museum of the New South, will present this program exploring the food we eat, past and present. Held at the Matthews Library, 232 Matthews Station Street.

Halloween Past, Tuesday, October 29.

Patti Proctor, costumed storyteller, will present this program exploring past Halloween customs and traditions. Held at Matthews Woman's Club, 208 South Trade Street.

Charlotte Folk Society

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

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams, Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte. 7:30-10pm.

Free; donations appreciated. Doors open 7 PM.

-Friday, September 13, Whitetop Mountaineers (old-time & early country duo).

-Friday, October 11, Si Kahn & The Looping Brothers (bluegrass),

Schiele Museum

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

Tinsmith: An Artisan's Trade, Sunday, September 22 from 1 to 5 pm.

The trade of Tinsmithing came to the Colonies around 1720. A tinsmith (also called whitesmith or tinner) makes and/or repairs items of tinsplate such as boxes, scoops, pans and cake cutters. Visit the Pioneer farmsite to see a tinsmith at work in 18th century fashion. Search and find tinware in use... in the kitchen, the Main House, and all about the farm.

Frontier Frolick, Sunday, October 20 from 1 to 5 pm.

Surely there is no place in the World where the Inhabitants live with less Labour than in N. Carolina... where Plenty and a Warm Sun confirm them in their Disposition to Laziness for their whole Lives -William Byrd, *Histories*

Imagine a crisp autumn day in the 18th century backcountry. With the early harvest behind them, families and friends

gather to rest and recreate. Join us for a lazy day of Piedmont pastimes, games and amusements.

Animals from the Farm, Saturday, November 2 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Meet some live animals at the Backcountry Farm. An assortment of domesticated breeds of rabbits, goats, and sheep will be available for hands-on learning and exploration. Farm animal caretakers will be on site to answer your questions and guide your live encounters.

Frontier Skills Intensive Workshop at the Schiele Museum. Saturday and Sunday, November 2 & 3 from 9-4pm.

The Schiele Museum's 18th Century Backcountry Lifeways Program presents a practical workshop designed especially for historic site personnel, volunteers & Backwoods history buffs. Join us for two days of historical perspectives, intensive hands-on learning, new techniques for old skills, camaraderie and fun. Sessions include: New Insights into Frontier Fire, The Cutting Edge, Bone Working Basics, Pocketbooks or Wallets, Cane Patch Technology and Trail Foods. The registration fee of \$80.00 includes all 6 sessions and the registration deadline is October 15. To register or for more information contact Suzanne Simmons at suzannes@cityofgastonia.com.

Gaston County Museum

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

Preschool Preview Program, ages 3 and up, 10-11am.

Parents, grandparents and others are invited to stay with their youngster and enjoy time in the museum as well.

- September 14 – Life in the 1800s.

- October 12 –Victorian Halloween.

Laughing with my Three Favorite Presidents, Saturday, September 21 at 1pm.

Rick Dominy shares many of the humorous stories he has enjoyed about his three favorite presidents, Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan. By hearing the stories these men told about themselves and others told about them we'll find that it's easy to laugh with these presidents because they all laughed at themselves.

Carolina's South Fork Boys Charge into History, Saturday, September 28 at 1 pm.

CPCC & Belmont Abbey History Instructor Mike Baxter discusses The Battle of Kings Mountain with a focus on

the local people from present day Lincoln and Gaston Counties that fought at the battle. In particular, he will focus on the South Fork Boys.

Historic Brattonville

1444 Brattonville Rd., McConnells, SC,
803 684 2327
<http://www.chmuseums.org/brattonville>

By the Sweat of Our Brows, Saturday, September 14 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Follow the life of a former Bratton slave who defied stereotypes and purchased land in the 1870's. Meet nationally recognized historian Joseph McGill with the Slave Dwelling Project. Enjoy theatrical performances, craft vendors, food vendors, music and bus tours.

Piedmont Pottery Festival, Saturday, September 28 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Celebrate the South's rich pottery heritage and shop for pottery created by some of the best traditional potters in the Carolinas and Georgia. There will be children's activities and talks by pottery historians. Regional barbecue will be available.

Spirits and Stories, Brattonville by Twilight, Saturday, October 12 from 3-9pm.

Learn the historical significance the ghost stories and legends of Historic Brattonville as they are portrayed through scripted scenarios. Also, relax by the fire and listen to a professional storyteller. Food will be available for purchase.

Civil War Reenactment, Saturday and Sunday, October 26 and 27 from 10am to 4pm.

The Civil War will surround Hightower Hall as reenactors gather for a weekend reenactment. There will be afternoon battles, tours of Hightower Hall, and 19th century life portrayed throughout the camps. Food will be available for purchase.

Living History Saturdays, September 7 and 21 and October 5 and 12 from 10am to 4pm.

Come and join costumed interpreters as they portray 18th and 19th Century life in the Carolina Piedmont. Activities vary by the season and include hearth cooking, quilting, and farming.

Other Historical Sites:

- The Charlotte Museum of History
www.charlottemuseum.org

- Duke Mansion

www.dukemansion.com

- Mint Hill Historical Society

www.minthillhistory.com

- Mount Holly Historical Society

mhhistoricalociety@gmail.com

- Stanly County Museum

www.stanlycountymuseum.com