

MHA NEWS



Dinner Meeting

Monday, September 26, 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: The Geography of Charlotte

Every city has a story. David Erdman, a local attorney, tells Charlotte's story "from the ground up" in a 50-minute presentation, entitled: The Geography of Charlotte.

Mr. Erdman's PowerPoint show and lecture portray the development of Charlotte from its beginning as a trading-path crossroads. He examines the natural and built components of the City of Charlotte through 160 projected images and informed commentary.

Whether you are a lifelong resident or a newcomer, you will see the city

from an entirely new perspective. Mr. Erdman's fast-paced presentation, which is supported by numerous maps, photographs and historical facts, will further enlighten even the most knowledgeable Charlottean.

David Erdman was born in North Carolina and grew up near New Bern in Craven County. He attended Duke University earning a degree in Bio-Medical Engineering and then attended Georgetown University Law School. He moved to Charlotte in 1976 and formed the law firm of Erdman and Hockfield.

You will enjoy Mr. Erdman's comprehensive exploration of the forces that created and nurture this city.

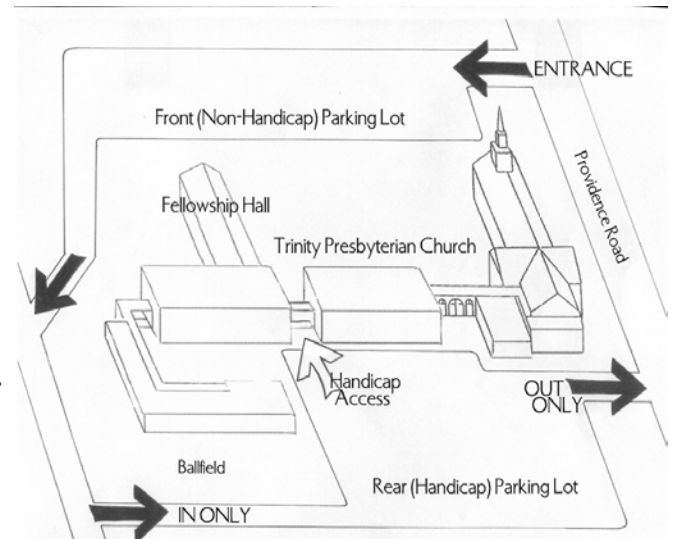
**Reservation Form to be returned by
Wednesday, September 21, 2005.**

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



Remarks from the President...



As we shake off the summer doldrums and face the Fall, your MHA has lots to report!

Programs: Kay Majeski has lined up a great series of programs beginning on September

26, 2005 with a program by David Erdman on the "Geography of Mecklenburg County". This is a very informative program which is worth seeing twice! Other program dates will be: November 14, March 6, and May 22. So mark your calendars.

Membership: Jim Williams reports that we have 197 active members with 19 lifetime and 16 in the patron category. Hats off and Huzzah! Jim has permission from 44 members to receive their newsletter via email transmission. 95 members have given email addresses. If you have email, Jim can keep you updated on all the developments between newsletters in the history community! And email newsletters can be sent to friends who can send them to their friends. Emailing newsletters will save us 22% of the printing budget! Please tell your friends about us and bring them to the meetings!

Our State Magazine: An article in the October issue will feature quotes about the Meck Dec from members of the MHA. Pick up the issue!

Courthouse Inscription: Superior Court Judge Johnston asked us to provide a quote to be inscribed on walls of the new Mecklenburg County Courthouse. I submitted "Resolved...That we do hereby declare ourselves a free and independent people..." from the Meck Dec.

Captain Jack statue: The May 20th Society has agreed to take the lead in fundraising for the project. They are the young dynamic organization which did a fine job of presenting the Meck Dec celebration on the Square in May. We should be receiving a contract committing to a location for the piece in the near future. We will then work with the artist on the design and begin the fundraising effort. All good news!

Maps and Atlases talk: Robin Brabham reports that on Sunday, October 2 in the auditorium of the Storrs Architecture Building, Dr. Don Creswell, co-owner of the Philadelphia Print Shop and map appraiser for the "Antique Roads Show" will give a talk on maps and atlases. Plan to attend!

Cooking Guild: October 15 is coming and the Cooking Guild will host a dinner for eight special guests at the Polk Homeplace as a result of a raffle ended September 8. If you are interested in learning more about this unique cooking experience, please call Carolyn Dilda 596.8834 or Barbara Goodwin at 821.4810

Preyer Lecture: September 29, 2005- Queens University of Charlotte, North Carolina- Dr. Walter Edgar will deliver a lecture entitled "It Didn't Happen Up North: Where the American Revolution Was Really Won" at 7 p. m. in Accenture Auditorium on the campus of Queens. The lecture is part of the Preyer Lecture series, is free and open to the public. For planning purposes, Queens asks that reservations be made by calling (704)-337-2214 by no later than Thursday, September 22, 2005.

Your MHA is a growing and committed member of the history community. We welcome new members to share the neat things being planned for the Fall! Hope to see you at the September meeting!

In our next issue...

The **Catawba River Valley Decorative Arts Survey Committee** will provide an informative update on the vast amount of research it has documented in the next issue of the MHA newsletter.

MHA Docents are constantly researching documents, visiting historic sites, and documenting what is learned. We invite your participation in our programs and projects.

Cordially yours,
Barbara Jackson
MHA Docent Chair

From the Docent Committee...

The hot, humid weather conditions of this summer did not deter the docents from performing admirably at their appointed sites for regular duties and at special events at the Polk site, Historic Rosedale, a book fair, and at events commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church.

On August 30th, the 2005 MHA Docent Education Series began under the leadership of Karen McConnell and Rachel Abernathy. If you are aware of persons who love history and would like to share that love in research, touring, or lecturing, kindly direct them to Karen. MHA members are invited to review or broaden their knowledge of region history on Tuesday mornings during September at 9:00AM. Let Karen know that you are coming at (704) 335-0325.

The MHA Docents will meet this autumn on the first Tuesday morning of each month at Historic Rosedale. Refreshments will be served at 9:30AM. Our schedule follows:

September 6

10:00AM David Erdman
--The Geography of Charlotte
11:00AM Business Meeting

October 4

10:00AM Business Meeting
11:00AM Linda Dalton
--Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church

November 1

10:00AM Business Meeting
11:00AM MHA Book Club
--The Seven Sisters

December 6

10:00AM Annual Tea

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

New Book: The Sarah Frew Davidson Journal



The MHA Docents are pleased to announce the publication of *A Life in Antebellum Charlotte; The Private Journal of Sarah Frew Davidson, 1837*. Sarah was the unmarried daughter of Senator William Davidson, and a sister of Harriet Caldwell whose plantation home is now Historic Rosedale. Sarah's journal, kept for just under a year, was passed down in the family to Mary Louise Davidson and Alice Abel who generously donated it to the manuscript collection at UNCC. A group of Rosedale staff and MHA docents began transcribing the journal about five years ago; then Karen

McConnell, Janet Dyer, and Ann Williams took on the task of researching and writing additional material to provide background and context. Last spring these editors contracted with the History Press of Charleston, SC to publish Sarah's journal complete with an introduction, annotations, maps, and biographical sketches of Sarah and her closest associates. Also included is a beautiful forward by Mary Kratt.

The journal reveals a wonderfully intimate portrait of Charlotte and surrounding plantations in 1837, a pivotal year in our history. Gold mining was in its heyday, and the mint was under construction. Mining experts and entrepreneurs were drawn to the area and became part of Sarah's social circle. Sarah also wrote about plantation life; she taught slave children to read, cared lovingly for ill and dying slaves, yet firmly believed that servitude of Negroes was biblically ordained. Sarah wrote passionately about

her religious convictions and worries. She felt personally responsible for the souls of all she knew. Her journal is a fascinating read.

The book is currently being printed, and should be released by mid November. It will retail for \$19.99. Karen, Janet and Ann agreed to purchase 300 copies wholesale to be resold at historic sites, and at book talks and signings for interested groups. The MHA Board generously offered to underwrite this initial purchase with all proceeds to benefit Historic Rosedale. In addition, royalties on all books sold at bookstores and elsewhere will benefit the historic site. We can take advance orders, and hope to have the books in our hands by the November 14th dinner meeting. Also keep us in mind if you need a speaker or program for you book clubs, garden clubs, etc. When the 300 copies are sold, we can reorder from the publisher as needed.

Rosedale Oyster Roast Fundraiser

Support an important part of Charlotte's history at a fun and relaxing family event. Enjoy delicious roasted oysters and fried chicken on the lovely grounds of Historic Rosedale as you listen to the music of Justin Mychals.

Special activities and menu for children.

Date: **Saturday, October 1, 2005**
Time: 4pm to 8pm
Cost: \$23/Adult, \$15/Seniors
\$15/Children 6 to 12
Children 5 and under free
Beer & Wine for sale

Where: Historic Rosedale Plantation
3427 North Tryon Street
Charlotte, NC 28206

Reservations required, so make them today! Call 704-335-0325

or by credit card online at:
<http://www.historicrosedale.org>

Historic Rosedale is located just 3 miles north of Uptown Charlotte.

September 26 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, September 21, 2005.

Mark your calendars now for future meetings of the Mecklenburg Historical Association. The next meeting is scheduled for **November 14, 2005**.

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 re-

ceive 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. Also, in the last month there have been 5 email announcements sent to the 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.



"Preserving Mecklenburg's Heritage"

Post Office Box 35032
Charlotte, North Carolina 28235

ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AT
WWW.MECKDEC.ORG
