

Dinner Meeting

Monday, September 27, 2010

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

Fellowship Hall

Trinity Presbyterian Church



Upcoming Dinner Program

Tony Zeiss presents *"Backcountry Fury, A Sixteen-Year-Old Patriot in the Revolutionary War"*

Our speaker for the September 27th dinner is Dr. Tony Zeiss, President of CPCC. He will present a program on his new book, *Backcountry Fury, A Sixteen-Year-Old Patriot in the Revolutionary War*. Dr. Zeiss will appear in 19th century dress and speak in first person as his book's main character. Copies will be available for purchase.



grown from one campus to six and has become recognized as a national leader in Workforce Development.

Dr. Zeiss has authored or co-authored several books on economic development, adult literacy, national workforce development and the Civil War. His most recent publications include four books on creating high performance employees, a book on Community College Leadership, a tribute to John Montgomery Belk, and a novel on the Revolutionary War.

Dr. Zeiss holds a doctorate in community college administration from Nova University and a master's degree in speech (radio and television) and a bachelor's degree in speech education from Indiana State University. In 1992, Dr. Zeiss became the third president of Central Piedmont Community College, the largest college in North Carolina serving approximately 70,000 students per year. During his tenure, the college has

The new book is titled *Backcountry Fury, A Sixteen-Year-Old Patriot in the Revolutionary War*. This story chronicles eighteen months in the life of sixteen-year-old Thomas Young during 1780-81. He lived and fought in the South Carolina backcountry during the Revolutionary War and lived in Union County. His memoirs provide the framework for this remarkable example of sacrifice, courage, and determination in the pursuit of liberty and in the founding of a new republic. He is buried in the old Union Presbyterian Church cemetery east of Union, SC.

This is Dr. Zeiss' 21st book and he wrote it to help people, especially young adults, gain a greater appreciation of their heritage. Dr. Zeiss is a new member of the Sons of the American Revolution after being inspired to join while researching for this book.

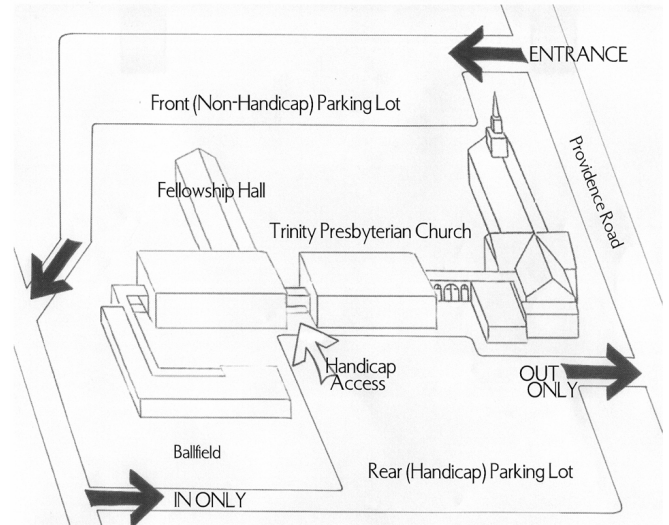


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The MHA meets in Trinity Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall.
3115 Providence Road



Remarks from the President

I'll keep my thoughts short since we have so much information to include in this month's newsletter. Our sincere thanks to Dora Lee Brown who has graciously agreed to provide the table decorations for our dinners. She will be ably assisted by Kathy Herran. Kathy and Jane Johnson are also doing a wonderful job of planning our programs and speakers. Thanks ladies.

Also, mark your calendars now for the November 15th MHA dinner meeting. Our speaker will be David Granberry, Mecklenburg County's Register of Deeds which includes birth/death records, deeds, business records, etc. Mr. Granberry will speak on old records in his files and how the public can access more record information.

One special word on the Hart Square 19th Century Village event on Saturday, October 23 (see additional information in the newsletter). My husband Terry (with his old-time band) and I (as a house docent), along with other MHA docents and members, have volunteered to man this event for years. There are over 200 volunteers who make this event possible each year. It is truly one of my most favorite days of the year. You will experience what an early 19th century village was like as you stroll through over 70 furnished log buildings and see many demonstrations, all in the beautiful Catawba County countryside. If you have never been to this one-day-a-year event, please consider coming this year. If you love history, I guarantee you will enjoy it.

Please visit the MHA website if you haven't seen it recently. We get questions every week through the website and Jim Williams, with the aid the history community, makes a special effort to find information for folks and answer questions and requests. This has become a valuable service offered by MHA.

I hope everyone had a wonderful and refreshing summer and I look forward to working with you to continue our work at Mecklenburg Historical Association. See you on September 27th!

Linda Dalton, President
704.661.8470 | leaseace@aol.com
Mecklenburg Historical Association
<http://www.meckdec.org>

Jo Anne Dickens

It is my sad duty to tell our MHA membership that MHA Docent Chairman, Jo Anne Dickens, passed away very unexpectedly on June 3, 2010.



Following is a portion of the tribute given by Docent Alice Bostic at Jo Anne's memorial service. Docent Vice-Chairman Hazel White has graciously stepped

in to become Chairman.

"Jo Anne's leadership over the past year and a half was splendid and through her efforts we accomplished much. She knew we could produce a very successful historic fashion event and with her encouragement we did. Recently she was with us to dedicate the new statue of Captain Jack on the Sugar Creek Greenway. Two days before God called her home, we all gathered at Landsford Canal State Park to celebrate a year of achievements before our summer break. It was Jo Anne's birthday and a beautiful day. The sun shown brightly and the famous spider lilies that bloom once a year in the river were

in their full glory. We sang Happy Birthday as she blew out the candle on her piece of cake. She was, as usual, upbeat and excited about coming events, a cruise with her family and the trip to Mount Vernon she was planning for us in October.

Jo Anne was our cheerleader. She dreamed big dreams for us and convinced us that we could do them all. She will be deeply missed. Most of all, she taught us a very valuable lesson. It is not the number of years we have that is important: it is the life we put into those years. Jo Anne lived her life to the fullest and encouraged us to do the same."

Trip to Mount Vernon

A History Lover's Look Into Virginia's Past
October 21-23, 2010

Join the MHA Docents for a visit to some of Virginia's most significant historic sites in Richmond, Mt. Vernon, and Fredericksburg. We will travel on a Christian Tours Bus and spend two nights in a Washington area hotel. Per-person prices include transportation, hotel, admissions to attractions, two breakfasts, one lunch and one dinner: \$375 (four/room), \$359 (three/room), \$389 (two/room), \$485 (single). Other meals and a \$10 tip for the bus driver are not included. Reserve your space with a \$100 deposit; balance is due by September 21. Contact Audrey Mellichamp at 704-536-2704 or



lmellichamp@carolina.rr.com. Make checks payable to Christian Tours.

October 21: We'll travel to Richmond and after a brief tour of the city we'll visit the Museum of the Confederacy to see a comprehen-

sive collection of artifacts, documents, and photographs, and the White House of the Confederacy, an architectural treasure. Dinner in Washington is included.

October 22: After a tour of the George Washington Masonic Memorial, we'll travel to Mt. Vernon for lunch at the Mount Vernon Inn. Next we'll tour Mt. Vernon, its grounds, gardens, tombs, and fabulous new museum. Late afternoon will take us to Washington's gristmill and distillery. Shopping and dinner on your own at Union Station.

October 23: In the morning we'll visit Kenmore Plantation, the 1775 home of Betty and Fielding Lewis, Washington's sister and brother-in law. In the afternoon we'll return to Charlotte.

From the Docent Committee

You are cordially invited to attend the MHA Docent meeting - Tuesday, October 5 - Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Fellowship Hall, 9:30am refreshments, 10am business meeting, 11am program:

Culture of the Tuscarora People

Ramona Moore Big Eagle will present a program of American Indian culture and

history using storytelling, music, drumming, dance, and authentic artifacts and crafts. She erases stereotypes and myths while presenting the culture of everyday life including lodging, clothing, survival techniques, artifacts, food, dance, stories, language, music and beliefs.

Ramona is Oral Historian and Legend

Keeper of the Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina. An enrolled member of the Nation, she has served on the Tribal Council in various capacities. She is the founder and president of the Storytellers Guild of Charlotte, Inc., and a member of the National Storytelling Network. In addition to sharing her culture, she does corporate workshops on leadership and teambuilding. You do not want to miss this lady; she is great!

Charlotte Regional History Consortium

This Summer the Consortium completed its project of redesigning its brochure featuring regional historic sites, and related organizations and research facilities. The new brochure is every bit as attractive as its predecessor and very up to date. We will have copies to

share at the September MHA dinner. This year the Consortium will have a booth at Festival in the Park, Sept 23-26, to hand out brochures and share history with the community. Member organizations are taking turns manning the booth. MHA Docents Millie Hodge and

June McKinney will represent MHA, have hands-on activities for kids, and be history ambassadors to everyone. Thanks, ladies.

Membership Renewals

It is that time of the year again when we fund the modest budget of your organization with dues. Please fill in the form, make your check payable to the Mecklenburg Historical Association, and mail it to P. O. Box 35032, Charlotte, NC 28235. If your employer has a "matching grant" program, or you are retired from such an organization, please include the matching grant form with your check.

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 27, 2010 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)

May 20, 2010, the 235th anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence

Culmination of a Dream



This year's May 20th celebration of the 235th anniversary of the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence was itself a truly historic occasion to be recorded in newspapers and history books and passed down to future genera-

tions, for on that day we unveiled and dedicated a heroic bronze statue of Captain James Jack on horseback galloping off to Philadelphia to deliver the Declaration and Resolves to the Second Continental Congress.

Credit for this statue goes to many people, but perhaps we should start with the Mecklenburg Historical Association when Marion Redd, in the early 1990s, revived the custom of celebrating May 20th as it had been done in the past. Then Judge Chase Saunders, who had a dream – a series of heroic bronzes portraying Charlotte's early history, arrayed along a public thoroughfare. With these in place it would no longer be so easy for us to forget our glorious history. As president of the MHA he spread this dream far and wide. Credit also goes to Dr. Tony Zeiss, President of Central Piedmont Community College and his vision for a Trail of History along the Little Sugar Creek Greenway.

In 2003 the May 20th Society was formed, dedicated to enhancing the annual Meck Dec Day celebrations. They soon embraced Chase's idea and began to raise money to build a larger-than-life-size statue of Captain Jack on horseback. And we must thank the sculptor, Chas Fagan, a recent transplant to Charlotte who embraced and supported the project from the beginning and brought it to magnificent fruition. Last, and certainly not least, we owe a debt of gratitude to the members of The History Community – those volunteers, reenactors, MHA members, and others who held the torch aloft, kept the flame burning, and supported in every possible way the leaders who made this project a reality.

Today the statue of Captain James Jack, fabricated by Carolina Bronze in Seagrove, NC, stands at the corner of Kings Drive and 4th Street as the focal point of the Trail of History in Little Sugar Creek Greenway.

The official public unveiling of the statue occurred at noon on Thursday, May 20 at the statue site in the Little Sugar Creek Greenway at the corner of 4th Street and Kings Drive. It included an address to school children by Cokie Roberts, soldiers marching to the fife and drum, brief political speeches, comments by Cokie Roberts and by the sculptor Chas Fagan. The ceremony also included musical selections by the Queen City Brass including the Mecklenburg March which was

written for the Meck Dec Day celebration in 1909 by Janie Alexander Patterson. Finally there was a reading of the Mecklenburg Declaration, and the formal unveiling of the statue, accompanied by the departure of Captain Jack on horseback to deliver the Declaration to Philadelphia amid volleys of musket and cannon fire.

For the Bicentennial celebration of May 20, 1975, Jerry Linker rode his horse all the way to Philadelphia where he was welcomed by large crowds as one of the earliest celebrations of the bicentennial of the American Revolution and the founding of our country. This year he reprised that role by taking the Declaration from Col. Thomas Polk and riding symbolically towards Philadelphia.

If you haven't done so already, go visit the Captain Jack Statue. Fourth street is one-way going into town and there is a rough parking lot next to the statue. Look at the water spurting from under the horses hooves. Look into Captain Jack's face and note the air of intensity and dedication there.



- Jim Williams



"Preserving Mecklenburg's Heritage"

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

VISIT US ONLINE
WWW.MECKDEC.ORG

Upcoming Events

Historic Rosedale

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

Fool's gold. Saturday, October 16 at 11 am. Steve Gore of the CPCC Applied Technologies Division, will discuss the concept of "Fool's Gold" and how it affected our region during the Charlotte Gold Rush. The remaining mines of Charlotte will also be discussed.

Ghost Walk. Friday, October 29 at 5:30 pm. The tour begins under the Swamp Chestnut near the area where the slave quarters stood. You will walk in the steps of those who worked, lived, and died here. What will you see . . . or who will you hear? Could it be Elbert, former "conjure man" of Rosedale or Archibald Frew, the ill-fated original owner? Advance reservations encouraged.

Midnight Tour. Saturday, October 30 from 11 pm to 1 am. This tour is perfect for those who wish to learn the true intimacies of this charming historic home. Learn about supernatural "incidents" in the house while seeing it as the last two descendants did during the late hours of the night. \$65 per person or \$55 each with registration prior to October 20th. Registration will close October 27th. Limited to ten people.

Charlotte Museum of History

3500 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC
704 568 1774 | www.charlottemuseum.org

Living History Days: Weaving.
Sunday, September 19 from 1 to 4 pm.

Cold-Blooded Encounters (Reptiles).
Sunday, September 26 from 2 to 3:30 pm.

Textile Day. Saturday, October 2 from noon to 3 pm.

Weaving. Sunday, October 10 from 1 to 4 pm.
18th Century Loyalist. Saturday, October 16 from noon to 4 pm.

The Battle of Charlotte and 18th Century Colonial Life, Saturday, September 18 from noon to 5 pm. Listen in as patriots, loyalists, and those still undecided share their experiences in a series of interactive vignettes that will take place on our historic grounds. Other presentations will be going on throughout the day as well.

This Far by Faith: Carolina Camp Meetings, An African-American Tradition, Saturday,

Sept. 18 at 1 pm. Professor Minuette Floyd talks about the making of this exhibit which tells the history and captures the spirit of camp meetings through photographs and videos.

Living History Workshop – Basketweaving, Saturday, September 25 from 10 am to 4 pm. Basketweaver Judy Leftwich will teach and discuss the ancient art of basketweaving. Cameras are optional, but please plan to bring a lunch. Registration is required for participation and is limited. Admission is \$30.

Hispanic Heritage Celebration, Saturday, October 2 from noon to 3 pm. An opportunity to explore Hispanic culture during Hispanic Heritage month.

A Scholar's Forum – A Life Worth Knowing, Tuesday, October 12 at 7 pm. Suzanne Cooper Guasco, Professor of History at Queens University will speak on the politics of slavery before the Civil War. Her new book *Confronting Slavery: Edward Coles, Slavery and the Making of Nineteenth-Century American Political Culture* will be published in the spring of 2012. Reservations are required.

Haunted Homesite, Saturday, October 23 from 3 to 9 pm. Encounter colonial spooks on our historic grounds. Enjoy Halloween-themed games and movies on our big screen TV! Take a trip down memory lane with Dirk Allman and his vintage Halloween items. Fun for all ages; the haunted trail is suggested for ages 10 and up. Reservations required; space is limited for the haunted trail.

Historic Charlotte

704 375 6145 | www.historiccharlotte.org

Blast for the Past Preservation Awards, Thursday, October 21 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Historic Charlotte will host its 10th Annual Blast for the Past Preservation Awards and Silent Auction at the new Mint Museum Uptown. Host Bobby Sisk will present awards to this year's winners for commercial and residential preservation projects in Mecklenburg County. There will be live music, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, and a silent auction. Celebrate preservation and Charlotte's history with us. Visit the web site for ticket information.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

James K. Polk Birthday Celebration. Saturday, October 30 from 10 am to 4 pm. Free. This living history program will bring back to life the Polk family of Mecklenburg County in November 1795, when James K. Polk was born.

Activities include cooking demonstrations, children's games and activities.

Rural Hill

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

Amazing Maize Maze.

September 4 through November 7. The 9th Annual Rural Hill Amazing Maize Maze opens September 4th for a 10 week run this year ending on November 7th. It will be open Friday, Saturday and Sunday each week. Check web site for hours. Flashlight maze walks will begin October 1st. They will begin at dusk each Friday evening in October and also on November 5th. The theme for 2010 is the "Conestoga Wagon," the transportation that many 18th century settlers used to move down the Great Wagon Road from Pennsylvania to Mecklenburg.

Schiele Museum

1500 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia, NC
704 866 6900 | www.schielemuseum.org

Autumn Ashore in the Backwater.

Sunday, September 26 from 1 to 5 pm. Join us on a journey to the early 1700's for a meager encampment of pirates on a backwater farm! In the Golden Age of Piracy, settlement had not yet reached into the Piedmont region. Pirates ashore might travel into backwater settlements or farms along the Coastal rivers such as the Cape Fear, for repairs, rest and recruitment.

Scottish Heritage Festival. Sunday, October 24 from 1 to 5 pm. Celebrate our Scottish heritage in this annual event. Cooks prepare traditional Scottish dishes, while shepherds oversee dog trials, bagpipers play and visitors research their family clans and tartans.

At the Open Hearth: Backcountry Housewife's Cooking School. Surprises for Your Taste Buds, and Food For Thought! Friday and Saturday, October 15-16. Join other cooks for a workshop and historic foods seminar held at the Schiele's Backcountry Farm. Beginning cooks will learn to use 18th century equipment to prepare ancestral recipes. Experienced cooks will experiment with newly discovered recipes, and expand hearth skills. Friday, October 15: 9:00-1:00 – Baking without an oven; 2:00-6:00 – Magic with a pot of boiling water; 7:30-9:00 – Food for thought. Saturday, October 16: 9:00-3:00 – Made dishes and more; cleanup; more food for thought. Fee: \$90. Instructors: Kay Moss, Suzanne Simmons, and Kathryn Hoffmann. Limit: 12 participants. For more information call Suzanne at 704-866-6913, or Kay at 704-869-1031. To register call 704-854-6676 or 704-866-6913. *...continued on Page 6.*

Upcoming Events Continued...

Andrew Jackson State Park

196 Andrew Jackson Park Rd, Lancaster, SC
803 285 3344 |
www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/1797.aspx

A Day at the Rock, Saturday, September 18 from 10 am to 2 pm. At Hanging Rock State Historic Site, SC. Hanging Rock is both a natural phenomenon and the sight of a significant battle during the Revolutionary War. This event combines history, Geocaching (treasure hunting with GPS), and environmental clean-up.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC
704 873 5882 | www.fortdobbs.org

Eighteenth Century Trade Faire, Saturday and Sunday, October 2-3 from 10 am to 4 pm each day. The lives of many civilians on the Carolina frontier were disrupted by the French and Indian War. Join hundreds of soldiers, Native Americans and civilians as they set up their camps near Fort Dobbs. Visitors can experience life on the edge of the British Empire in the 1750's. The event will feature a skirmish between Cherokee Indians and colonial militia, scholarly lectures and on-going demonstrations of 18th century camp life and trades.

Kings Mtn National Military Park

SC Hwy 216. I-85, Exit 2 in North Carolina.
864-936-7921 | www.nps.gov/kimo

230th Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain, Tuesday, October 7 from 9 am to 5 pm. Join us as we honor those who fell in the Battle of Kings Mountain. The wreath laying ceremony will be held at 11 am; the Overmountain Victory Marchers will arrive at 3:00 pm.

Battle of Kings Mountain Anniversary Encampment, Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 9-10, 9 am to 5 pm. Join the Backcountry Militia and other units for the 230th anniversary encampment. Learn about the battle and how the men and women helped win the battle. A variety of demonstrations will be held.

Cowpens National Battlefield

I-85 South Carolina Exit 83, follow signs
864 461 2828 | www.nps.gov/cowp

South Carolina Independent Rangers, Saturdays, September 18 and October 16 from 10 am to 3:30 pm. South Carolina Independent Rangers will have an encampment and give small arms demonstrations.

Fort Defiance

On highway 268, 5.5 miles northeast of HWY 321, near Lenoir, NC
828 758 1671 | www.fortdefiancenc.org

Living History Days, Saturday and Sunday, September 25 and 26, from 10 am to 5 pm. Tour the 1792 home of General William Lenoir. The grounds will be peopled with craftsmen, backwoodsmen, and a team of oxen.

Kings Mountain State Park

I-85 Exit 8 in NC and follow the signs.
www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/945.aspx

Fall Festival at the Farm, Saturday, October 16 from 10 am to 5 pm. Join us at the Living History Farm for our annual Fall Festival. We will have 1850's demonstrations, pumpkins for the kids, food, live music, hayrides, black powder demonstrations.

Catawba County Museum of History

Downtown Newton | 828 465 0383

Hart Square Tickets

October 23, 2010.

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 23rd this year), Dr. and Mrs. Hart open this restoration project to the public. Dating from 1782 to 1873, the seventy log structures—chapels, barns, houses, shops, and more—are all furnished, and over 200 volunteer artisans demonstrate the period techniques such as flax breaking and hackling, spinning, weaving, herb dying, open-hearth cooking, broom and shoe making, bookbinding, shingle riving, wheelwrighting, tinsmithing, moonshining, and much more.



Advance tickets (\$25 each) are required since this event always sells out early. You can get tickets by calling the Catawba County Museum of History in Newton on Friday, October 1, beginning at 9am - 828-465-0383.

NC Museum of History

Raleigh, NC | 919 807 7900
www.ncmuseumofhistory.org

Discover the Real George Washington

September 10—January 21, 2011.

The N. C. Museum of History will host the traveling exhibition Discover the Real George Washington: New Views from Mount Vernon during its three-year national tour. Approximately 100 original objects associated with Washington will be on view in this exhibition from September 10, 2010 through January 21, 2011, in Raleigh. The N. C. Museum of History is the only venue in the Southeast on the exhibition's tour. For more information, please visit:
www.DiscoverGeorgeWashington.org.