



Dinner Meeting

Monday, September 24, 2012

6:30 pm - Dinner; Program follows at 7:15 pm

Fellowship Hall
Trinity Presbyterian Church
3115 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28211

Upcoming Dinner Program

"Captain Jack Rides Again" By Tony Zeiss

Monday, September 24th, at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Dinner is at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:15. Those not having dinner are welcome to enjoy the program at no charge. To make reservations for dinner use the order form on page 3 and mail to Linda Dalton, 2401 Sharon Road, Charlotte, NC 28211 or contact Linda at 704-661-8470 or leaseace@aol.com.

Dr. Tony Zeiss will appear as Mecklenburg patriot Captain James Jack. We are all familiar with Captain Jack's heroic ride to Philadelphia in 1775 carrying the newly penned Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and the Mecklenburg Resolves to the Continental Congress. But there was much more to the man than this one meritorious journey. Just who was James Jack, and why was he chosen to be the bearer of these treasonous documents We'll hear all about this interesting fellow and the times he lived in from the man himself.



Little Sugar Creek Greenway at the very visible corner of 4th Street and Kings Drive. He has also actively raised funds and planned for future statues and plaques along the Trail of History. Because of his immersion in local history he is one of those en-

trusted to assure that the interpretation along the trail is historically accurate. We are fortunate to have someone of his stature as a major player in this endeavor. Dr. Zeiss is the recipient of the 2012 Whitney M. Young Humanitarian Award presented by The Urban Lengue; the 2012 Jack Callaghan Cornerstone Award presented by Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont, and the 2012 recipient of the UNC Charlotte Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Zeiss and his wife, Beth, have two sons and two grandchildren.

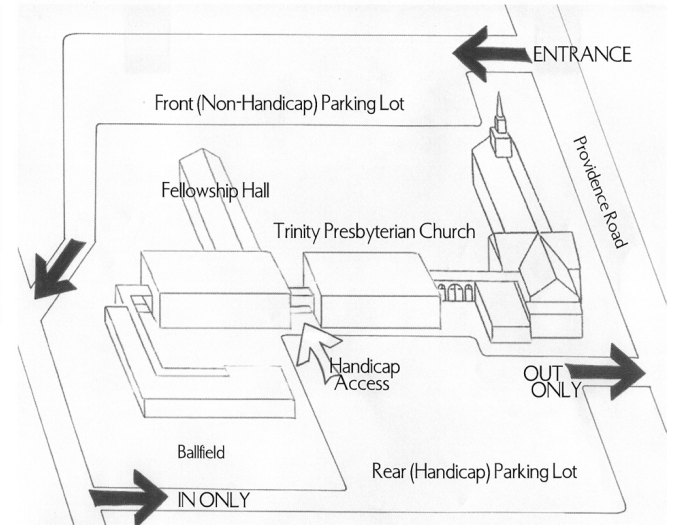
Tony's presentations are filled with humor, enthusiasm, and energy; we're sure to have a rousing good time.

Inside this issue:

Remarks from the President	2
Charlotte Museum of History...	2
Charlotte Liberty Walk	3
Membership Renewals	3
Reservation Form	3
MHA Docent Program	4
The History Calendar	5-6



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



Remarks from the President

Greetings to everyone! The first of our two fall programs will be a great one with Dr. Tony Zeiss coming to us as Captain James Jack. Please don't miss this informative and entertaining program. The installation of the history exhibit on Concourse A at the Charlotte Douglas International Airport is complete, featuring Captain James Jack. We are thrilled with this opportunity to share part of Charlotte's history with all the visitors who come through the airport. The picture of the exhibit includes Audrey Millichamp, MHA Docent Chairman. Please look for the exhibit when you visit the airport.

Our November dinner meeting will be on Monday, November 12th (in order to avoid Thanksgiving week). Jane Johnson has an

amazing program planned for us on the history of WBT radio, which celebrates its 90th anniversary this year. Three Charlotteans decided to pool their equipment and set up a radio station in one of their homes in 1920. In April of 1922, they were issued a license for the first commercial radio station in the Southeast. The call letters were...WBT. Artifacts will be on display for this truly local and interesting program. Please mark your calendars for November 12th.

Special thanks to Jim and Ann Williams who produce the MHA Docent newsletter and allow me to borrow heavily from it! Let me know if you have any suggestions for MHA and please bring your friends to our dinner meetings and encourage them to join.

See you on September 24th to meet Captain Jack!

Linda Dalton, President
leaseace@aol.com
704.661.8470



The Charlotte Museum of History is Not History

In May the Charlotte Museum of History announced that they were temporarily suspending public operations. Financial problems, many resulting from the recession, made it impossible to continue with business as usual. It seemed prudent to step back and explore their options. Meanwhile rumors arose that the museum was permanently closed, and the 1774 Alexander home would be abandoned. These rumors are entirely false. Hezekiah Alexander's beautiful rock house is safe. It is owned by the Methodist Church, and is leased to the museum for maintenance and operation as an historic site. The church and the Aldersgate retirement community have always been good stewards of the historic home and will certainly continue to be so in the future.

The museum is hard at work reassessing their situation and making great progress. The Dandelion editors asked the museum's interim director Kathy Ridge to submit an article outlining their plans and progress. She was delighted for the opportunity. The following is her report.

August 20, 2012

The Charlotte Museum of History regrettably had to close operations to the public temporarily beginning May 26 but is very much alive! Since the temporary suspension of public operations the remaining staff, of program director, historian and curator, and interim director, Kathy Ridge, has been hard at work implementing a six fold plan for the Museum. One part of that plan is looking at the Shamrock Museum

building to see how it might be best used to serve the community. The Museum building was built in 1999 and has 32,000 sq. feet. This building is more than can be supported by the History Museum alone, so we are looking for partners in the nonprofit community to come share these quarters with us. We are reaching out to any nonprofit with education, history or culture in their mission statement and quantitative measures of program excellence.

Another plan underway is looking at how and when we can re-open the Hezekiah Alexander home site and grounds to the public and school tours. We currently offer "Guide by Cell" phone tours for the general public Tuesdays through Sundays from 10 am to 5 pm but we hope to have docents and volunteers recruited to help us make Charlotte's historic home once again accessible to the public and school groups in early 2013. In order to do this, we will have to rely more on volunteer docents than in the past when we had some paid staff to help greet tours, work in the gift shop, and interpret the history of the house and the Alexander family.

We have recently re-opened the Museum building for special events with a contracted professional meeting planner. We evaluated the rates we charged for special events and found our 'advertised' rates were competitive but in reality, we were offered very large discounts to most every group and as a result, suffered financial losses. We have now modified our rates and plan to be consistent in our pricing including offering nonprofit groups a 20% discount. There is information now on the Museum's website including an information request form for any group desiring to rent space for an upcoming special event: www.Charlottemuseum.org

Thanks to dedicated and very conscientious volunteers, we have underway a full inventory of the Museum's collections - over 7,000 items. We are learning that many of these items are not from Charlotte/Mecklenburg. Of course, every item given to the Museum was precious to whoever donated it, but not all are historically significant - toys from the

1960's for example. We want to make sure rare relics of Charlotte's history continue to be preserved and made accessible to the most people possible. We are looking at how best and where best to preserve and offer these items for public study. Some will stay with the Charlotte Museum of History and some might be better offered through other history organizations. I heard a rumor we were selling our collection and that is not only untrue, but not good practice - we were entrusted with these items over past decades and need to respect the intentions of the donors and collectors who shared them with the Museum.

And of course, we are planning our program areas for the future. We are looking at the possibility of bringing history closer to the community by being less bound to the Shamrock Road location, though still using that as our 'base camp.' We are exploring ideas for another location and/or using others' premises to tell Charlotte's stories and share our local history.

On September 15, we are having a one-time special event at the Charlotte Museum of History, An Historic Evening, for the public to experience what the Alexander family life was like at twilight. We will have other history organizations sharing information tables and materials, food trucks in our parking lot for refreshment and some community information sessions for those interested to hear more about what's being planned for the Museum, and to ask questions and share ideas with us. We hope to see many of you there!

*Kathy Ridge
Interim Director, Charlotte Museum of History*

Kathy Ridge is also hosting community input discussions at the Museum during the Sept. 15 event at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 pm. Anyone who wants to know what is being planned or with opinions and ideas should attend and express their views. They really want to hear from you. For details see the History Calendar in this newsletter.

Announcing the Charlotte Liberty Walk

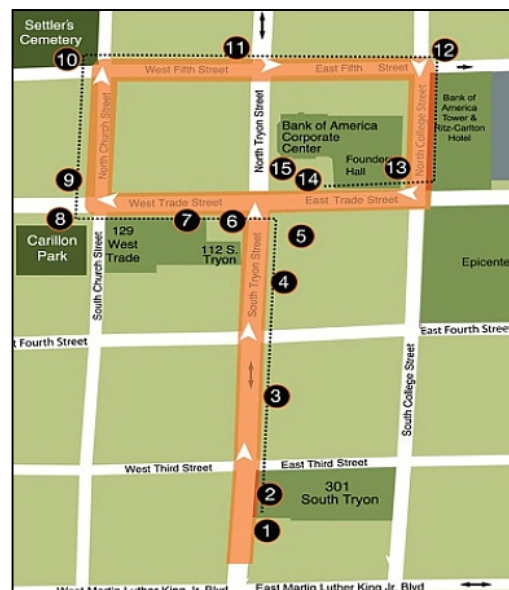


Charlotte has long had a number of bronze plaques in the uptown area

commemorating historical events, but they were difficult to find. This spring a group of historians from the MHA, along with city leaders and led by Scott Seifert of the May 20th Society marked out a path connecting these plaques and adding some new ones. The Charlotte Liberty Walk will be completed at the end of August with the installation of a stone monument with a bronze plaque commemorating the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration on the square at Trade and Tryon. The formal dedication will be September (see Duke Mansion event in the History Calendar). The

Liberty Walk focuses on the period of the American Revolution and extends in a loop about three-quarters of a mile long around uptown. Engraved granite markers with the "Captain Jack on Horseback" logo have been embedded in the sidewalks marking the path.

Brochures detailing the walk are available at the Visitors Bureau uptown and at a number of historic sites. There will also be an interactive video program which can be accessed from your computer or i-phone that tells in more detail what happened at each station and illustrates it with scenes painted by noted local artist Dan Nance. The next time you are uptown, grab a brochure or turn on your i-phone to www.charlottelibrarywalk.com and walk The Charlotte Liberty Walk.



Membership Renewals

Most of you have renewed for calendar 2012. If you have not, or are joining for the first time, please fill in the form, make your check payable to Mecklenburg Historical Association, and mail to MHA, P.O. Box 35032, Charlotte, NC 28235. If your employer has a matching grant program or if you retired from such an organization, include the matching grant form with your check.

Membership form:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

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

Please send my MHA Newsletter by:

Email U.S. Mail Both

September 24, 2012 Dinner Meeting Reservation Form

Mail to: Mecklenburg Historical Association
 c/o Linda Dalton, 2401 Sharon Road, Charlotte, NC 28211
 or email: Leaseace@aol.com

Please make checks payable to Mecklenburg Historical Association.
 Questions? Please email Linda Dalton (leaseace@aol.com) or call her at 704.661.8470.
 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)

MHA Docent Program

The October meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. Refreshments at 9:30, business meeting at 10, and program at 11. Visitors are always welcome.

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

The Wallis's Pay a Visit to Sugar Creek

You may not have heard of Ezekiel and Lydia Wallis. They were not important historical figures, but well positioned to report on those who were. Lydia's daughter was the mother of James K. Polk, and Ezekiel's son was the minister who refused to baptize the future president. Their ties to Alexander Craighead, and the Providence and Waxhaw communities provide excellent fodder for stories, gossip, and rumor, including a bizarre tale that borders on witchcraft. Although members of the Sugar Creek Presbyterian congregation, Ezekiel and Lydia usually worshiped at Providence where Ezekiel's son preached. On October 2, 1803, they'll pay a visit to their home church bringing lots of stories to tell.

Ann and Jim Williams have researched a number of old Mecklenburg families, and done first person interpretations of some of them. Several years ago they did a program for the Providence Presbyterian Church homecoming. They portrayed Ezekiel and Lydia, thinking the opinions of observers of historical events might provide a different perspective from those who were caught up in them. The docent program will draw from that research, but be tailored for the Sugar Creek setting.

The Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley Eatin' High on the Hog When the Power Goes Out

The cooking guild will teach a workshop on Saturday, September 22 showing how historical cooking methods can be utilized in modern emergencies. It seems that some ladies seasoned in hearth cooking became neighborhood heroes during local power failures by sharing their well-honed skills. Many of today's cooks have no idea how to feed themselves without modern conveniences, a situation the cooking guild plans to remedy. Workshop topics include taking stock of equipment and supplies; kitchen safety in the dark; adapting hearth cooking to the fireplace, fire pit, or gas cooker; and washing dishes in a bucket in the sunshine. This is a hands-on workshop, and a luscious meal will be prepared for the group to enjoy. If you are interested in historical cooking, or simply want to be prepared for emergencies, this is a workshop for you.

The workshop will be held on September 22nd, from 9 am to 2 pm at the James K. Polk State Historic Site. It is limited to ten participants, ages 18 and up, and the fee is \$20. To register email Leila Merims at thebulldoggers@yahoo.com.

Hart Square Tickets

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 27th 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 250 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.

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 Monday, October 1 but, as participants, we can order tickets for you. Make your check out to Jim Williams for \$25.00 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 6 to get these tickets. We will receive the tickets by mid-October and mail them on to you.



"Preserving Mecklenburg's Heritage"

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

VISIT US ONLINE
WWW.MECKDEC.ORG

The History Calendar—page 5

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

Historic Rosedale

3427 N. Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC, 704 335 0325,
<http://www.historicrosedale.org>

Victorian Funeral, Saturday and Sunday, October 6 and 7, from 1 to 4 pm.

Sickness hits the plantation! Join us at Historic Rosedale, pay your respects to the Caldwell family and their slaves as they bury their loved ones, and learn the funerary practices of the 1840's. Tickets may be purchased on-line beginning September 24th or at the door.

Spirit Encounter, Friday October 26 and Wednesday October 31, at 8 pm.

Some believe former inhabitants still reside at Rosedale and many believe they visit. Join us as we walk in the steps of those who worked, lived, and died at Rosedale Plantation. Will Elbert, the "conjure man," or Archibald, the ill-fated original owner make themselves known? Tour includes the 1815 plantation house. \$65, on-line registration only; limit 8.

Ghost Walk, Saturday October 27 and Wednesday October 31, at 6 and 8 pm.

Some believe former inhabitants still reside at Rosedale. Join us as we walk in the steps of those who worked, lived, and died here as you hear the stories of those that have experienced the paranormal at the plantation. This tour is on the grounds only. \$15; on-line registration only; limit 20.

Midnight Tour, Saturday, October 27, 11pm – 1am.

Rosedale has been dubbed one of Charlotte's most-haunted houses by the Charlotte Paranormal Society. Spend "the witching hour" inside the plantation house hearing the stories of those who have met some of Rosedale's former inhabitants. \$85; on-line registration only; limit 6.

Latta Plantation

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

World War II Living History, Saturday September 29, from 10 am to 4 pm, and Sunday September 30, from 1 to 4 pm.

World War II is coming to Latta Plantation for Living History based on the Allied Troops preparing for the 1943 invasion into France. There will be many interactive displays, briefings, and demos describing navigation using a compass, simulated rifle / grenade ranges, bayonet training, and much more.

All Hallows Eve, Saturday October 13, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Come experience the history of Halloween and its famous characters. There will be trick or treating around the plantation, Halloween baking in the kitchen, storytelling, pumpkin painting, a costume contest, and more.

Ghost Tales in the Dark, Fridays October 12 and 19, and Saturdays October 13 and 20.

Tour the plantation by candlelight and hear ghost stories from staff and volunteers, and from previous ghost hunts. RSVP is required and the cost is \$12 per person. You must be 10 years or older. Call 704-875-2312 to register. Registration will open late September.

Cooking With Sukey Workshop, Saturday October 20, from 10am to 4pm

Taught by Clarissa Clifton, an experienced food historian, this workshop is a wonderful introduction to the techniques of open-hearth cooking. Pre-registration is required and includes all workshop materials. Check out our website's 'Workshops' page for details.

Ghost Walk, Friday October 26 and Saturday October 27, from 7—10pm

Experience the darker side of Latta and discover what goes bump in the night, at the Ghost Walk. Venture through the plantation on a candlelit tour of historic proportions. Groups will survive an explosive Civil War Battlefield, the haunted plantation house, a cemetery, the old kitchen, an insane asylum, and more. Groups will depart every few minutes. Not recommended for children under 10.

Hugh Torance House & Store

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

Sunday Site Tours, September 2 and 16, and October 7 and 21, from 2 to 5 pm.

The circa 1779 log house and its 1805 Federal addition was the residence of two generations of the Torance family. Part of the building became a store from 1805 – 1825. The site eventually became a 3000 acre cotton plantation worked by over 100 slaves. After the October tours the site will be closed for the winter.

Charlotte Folk Society

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

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering Concert & Jams. Both events free; programs 7:30 pm; doors open at 7.
Friday September 14: African stories, dance and song by The Healing Force.

The History Calendar—page 6

Tuesday October 9: Riley Baugus (banjo) and Kirk Sutphin (fiddle), masters of the Round Peak old time music tradition.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

12031 Lancaster Hwy., Pineville, NC, (704) 889-7145
www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

Matthews Historical Foundation

Programs held at the Matthews Woman's Club,
208 South Trade Street
matthewshistoricalfoundation.org

Charlotte Museum of History

3500 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC, (704) 568 1774
<http://www.charlottemuseum.org>

Special Museum Opening and an Evening at the Alexanders, Saturday September 15, from 5 to 9 pm.

The Charlotte Museum of History will be open for a one-time special public program Admission to the museum is free, with a \$5 fee for a tour of the historic Hezekiah Alexander house. Local historic sites and organizations will share their information with the community. Food trucks will also be here, so come hungry.

Costumed docents will give guests a peek into the lives of the Alexander family after the sun went down. Learn about evening meals, activities, and entertaining in colonial times. Visitors are encouraged to bring flashlights. Explore the museum's permanent galleries, including the Sophie Charlotte exhibit which looks at the life of Queen Charlotte – the English monarch that is our city's

namesake. The gift shop will be open with ALL merchandise at 50% off.

The Museum is also hosting community input discussions at the Museum building during this event at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 pm. Anyone who wants to know what is being planned or with opinions and ideas should attend and express their views. They really want to hear from you.

Duke Mansion

400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte (704) 714-4448
www.dukemansion.com

Charlotte's New Liberty Walk, Sunday September 16 at 3 pm, Free

Why is Charlotte called the "hornet's nest of rebellion?" You'll know the answer when Charlotte's May 20th Society and Central Piedmont Community College unveil the Liberty Walk, a new multi-media resource that lets you explore Charlotte's Revolutionary War sites in the Uptown area. The event is free but reservations are required. To reserve your spot, email pmartin@tlwf.org or call 704/714-4448.

Mount Holly Historical Society Mount Holly, NC

Historic Hoyle Homestead Open House, Saturday September 8 from 10 am to 2 pm, Free.

Come join us at Gaston County's oldest home, the Hoyle House, circa late 1700's, located on the Dallas-Stanley Highway (Near Riverside Fish Camp). Enjoy a fun-filled day of history, crafts, re-enactors, home tours, guest speakers, and BBQ.

Other Sites with Upcoming Events

Andrew Jackson State Park
www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/1797.aspx

Cowpens National Battlefield
www.nps.gov/cowp

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site
www.fortdobbs.org

Gaston County Museum
www.gastoncountymuseum.org

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, www.nps.gov/guco/index.htm

Historic Brattonsville
www.chmuseums.org/brattonsville

Historical Center of York County
www.chmuseums.org/ourmuseums/histcenter/index.htm

Kings Mountain National Military Park
<http://www.nps.gov/kimo>

Kings Mountain State Park
www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/945.aspx

The McCelvey Center
www.chmuseums.org/ourmuseums/histcenter

Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site
www.nchistoricsites.org/reed/reed.htm

Rural Hill
www.ruralhill.net

Schiele Museum
www.schielemuseum.org