

MHA NEWS



Dinner Meeting

Monday, September 21, 2015

Dinner at 6:30pm, Program at 7:15pm

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

Upcoming Dinner Program

What is Under Lake Norman? A Community History

Monday, September 21, 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 a reservation for dinner use the order form (page 3) or contact Robin Brabham at 704-543-7519 or Mecklenburg1775@yahoo.com.

In 1958, Duke Power Company announced plans to build a new dam and hydro-electric plant on the Catawba River. The flooding of the land meant the loss of part of the heritage of four counties while leading to the creation of new economic opportunities and recreational facilities. Using the process of crowd sourcing—asking a diverse group of people to contribute source material for a project—the Davidson College Archives seeks to gather the stories

and photographs of properties under the lake and to encourage the study of ecological, economic, and social change in the surrounding area. This talk will focus on the project, what's under the water and what new stories are being uncovered. For a sample of the discoveries, please visit: <http://sites.davidson.edu/archives/community/under-lkn>

Jan Blodgett, our speaker, has been College Archivist at Davidson College since 1994. She has a master's degrees in library science and history and a Ph. D. in American Studies. She is the author of three books, the most recent being a history of the town of Davidson, *One Town, Many Voices*, co-written with Ralph Levering.

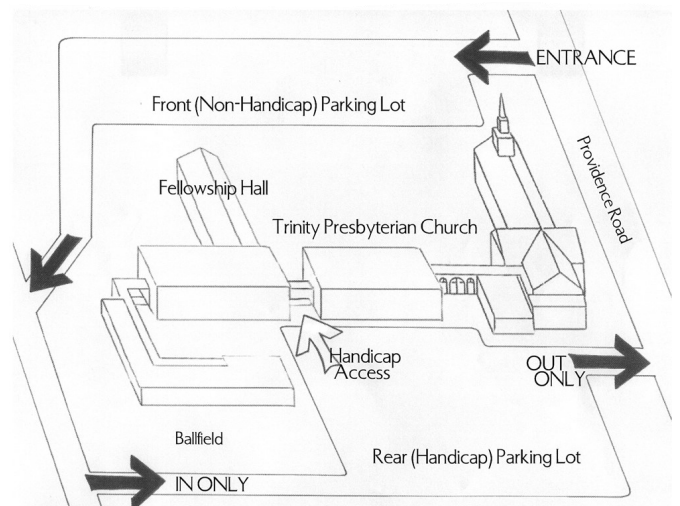


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The MHA meets in the Fellowship Hall at:
Trinity Presbyterian Church
3115 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28211



Remarks from the President

Hello everyone! Please join us for our September 21st dinner meeting when Jan Blodgett will share the story of what's under Lake Norman. Jan presented this program to the North Branch MHA several months ago and everyone enjoyed learning about this piece of our history. Also, mark your calendars now for our November 16th dinner meeting at Trinity Presbyterian.

Several people have expressed concern to MHA about damage done to some of our local Confederate monuments. I hope all of you read Mark Washburn's commentary on this subject in the Charlotte Observer on July 19th. Reprinted elsewhere in this newsletter is his thoughtful and, in my opinion, accurate commentary. It is my personal opinion that the monuments themselves are historic artifacts that must be preserved and protected. As Mr. Washburn said, we and future generations should use them to remind us of our past and learn from them.

New Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence Developments

Since the publication of my book *The First American Declaration of Independence? The Disputed History of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of May 20, 1775* late last year, I have received numerous inquiries and tips from interested parties on the much mooted question of the veracity of the "MecDec." Usually, these retrace familiar ground or the usual historical rabbit holes. Recently, however, two new interesting developments have occurred, neither of which to my knowledge was known previously.

The first development was the discovery of references to MecDec found in several Revolutionary War pension applications. This was made possible by a new searchable electronic database of these applications. To give but one example, the testimony of William Culbertson, Sr., made in October 1832, which (after the oath formalities) begins as follows:

"The first service he performed in the South was as a private in a company of Captain Oliver Wiley in the County of Mecklenburg North Carolina in the year 1775 or early in the year 1776 just as the Patriots of Mecklenburg had declared themselves independent of the British Government ..."

For those interested in this topic, please see an article I wrote earlier this year in the (online) *Journal of the American Revolution* entitled "The Mecklenburg Declaration in Revolutionary War Pension Applications."

<http://allthingsliberty.com/2015/03/the-mecklenburg-declaration-in-revolutionary-war-pension-applications/>
A second more recent tip was sent to the MHA by an intrepid researcher named Rebecca

Fried. Ms. Fried found a reference to the MecDec in the April 14, 1801, *Raleigh Register and North-Carolina Weekly Advertiser* (issue 78). The article records a gathering of "[t]he Republican citizens of the village of Charlotte, in Mecklenburgh County" in celebration of the election of President Jefferson. The gathering was "convened at the house of Mrs. M'Combs on the 17th ult." and records a series of toasts, including the following:

"10. The citizens of Mecklenburg, being the first in their declaration of Independence, may they ever be the first in resisting usurpation by defending their civil right." [sic]

To my understanding, this is now the earliest contemporary reference to MecDec of record. The "rough notes" of John McKnight Alexander and the Moravian diaries might, in each case, be earlier, but in both cases the exact date of those documents cannot be precisely dated to everyone's satisfaction.

Similar references to MecDec have been found in 1808 and 1809 (including a similar set of toasts from an article in the same paper in 1808); however the reference Ms. Fried found is seven years earlier. What's more, because the (ceremonial) language used in both cases (1801 and 1808) is so similar, it hints that earlier such toasts might even pre-date 1800. In any event, it proves conclusively that the story was considered true and part of local lore as early as 1801 (if not earlier).

A principal argument made by MecDec skeptics is that the story was not locally celebrated or even known until after the Jefferson-Adams letters were published around 1829 (ten years after their actual correspondence in the sum-

mer of 1819). According to this line of argument, no one really knew or talked about MecDec before Jefferson made it a sore subject with his "spurious" comments to Adams.



For the first time since 1982, NCDMV now offers a "First In Freedom" license plate with both the Meck Dec date and the Halifax Resolves date on it. It is one of two free plates, the other being First In Flight. The First In Freedom plate was first offered in 1975 in honor of the nation's 200th birthday. Obtain yours when you renew for free or any time with a small fee. Bravo to those who made this happen!

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



Rebecca's discovery of an explicit and verifiable 1801 reference to MecDec comprehensively demolishes this argument, and proves beyond any doubt that the MecDec story was commonly known and locally celebrated in the area, almost two decades before the Adams/Jefferson letters took the story "viral."

It's ironic that although the MecDec Controversy has been at a stalemate for decades, important research is coming out of the woodwork due to advances in technology and a fresh look at the facts. What could be next?

—Scott D. Syfert

Hart Square Event

October 24

For more than thirty years, Dr. Robert Hart of Hickory has rescued and restored 19th century life in the Carolinas, recreating an entire village, Hart Square – the largest collection of historic log buildings in the US. Each year on the fourth Saturday in October (this year October 24) Dr. and Mrs. Hart open this restoration project to the public with the help of 275 volunteers. Advanced tickets are \$40 and are required since this event sells out early. You can get tickets by calling the Catawba County Museum of History, (828)-465-0383, at 9 am on Thursday, October 1.

MHA Docent Programs

Both meetings will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church, 101 Sugar Creek Road West. Refreshments at 9:30, business meeting at 10 and program at 11. Visitors are always welcome. Note that the first Tuesday in September is the first day of the month. We meet before Labor Day this year, so mark your calendar!

Tuesday, September 1, 2015

They Came Through Here: Mecklenburg's Connection to the Battle of Kings Mountain

Newly developed history about the Battle of Kings Mountain reveals an exciting connection for the residents of Mecklenburg County and the surrounding area. Our presenter, writer and storyteller Randell Jones, has done copious research on the topic and is the author of *Before They Were Heroes at Kings Mountain*. More info - www.danielboonefootsteps.com Randell is a Road Scholar speaker. This project is made possible by a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council, a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Toward an Integrated Interpretation of the Enslaved at Rosedale Plantation

Uncomfortable feelings, lack of primary source material, and difficulties with supporters are all challenges faced by the staff of historic plantation sites as they wrestle with how to interpret the enslaved to the public. Beth Harris, former

curator of education at Historic Rosedale, will present her research regarding the enslaved of Rosedale. You will be amazed at the information she has found.

MHA Docent Field Trip

South Carolina Excursion

The MHA Docents invite you to join us on Tuesday, October 13, on a bus trip to two wonderful upstate South Carolina Sites: Historic Camden and Pearl Fryar's Topiary Garden. Please refer to the May 2015 MHA Newsletter for more details.



Historic Camden

We will leave the Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church parking lot promptly at 8 am; plan to be there by 7:45. We'll arrive at Camden about 10, have our guided tour of Joseph Kershaw's fine home which was occupied by Cornwallis

and have lunch in Camden at the Hifalutin Restaurant. Then we will go to Pearl Fryar's topiary garden in Bishopville and hear Mr. Fryar speak about his work.



Pearl Fryar's Topiary Garden

We should be back in Charlotte by 6 pm. The cost of the trip is \$45, which includes the bus, admissions, and a donation to Pearl's scholarship fund, but not lunch. We need twenty-eight people to cover the cost of the bus, and we can take about a dozen more. Guests are both welcome and encouraged! We'll begin taking reservations September 1st, and we must have your check by September 23rd. Please register quickly so we can finalize arrangements; your check will be returned if the trip has to be cancelled. Make your check payable to **MHA Docents** and give it to Valerie Jones at the September 1st Docent meeting, turn it in at the September 21st MHA dinner meeting, or mail it to Valerie Jones at 4700 Coronado Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212.

May 20th—A Shared Heritage?

On May 20th as we assembled in Settlers' Cemetery to honor Thomas Polk, we noticed another group there, a group of black men and women dressed in colorful African garments complete with bright turbans and red fezzes. We were curious as to why they were gathering at a place so heavily identified as Scots-Irish, so several of us stopped to chat. They said they were Moors (an Islamic sect) whose ancestors came from what is now Morocco, and they were celebrating the birthday of our namesake, Queen Charlotte,

who was one of their own. She was born on May 19th, but they considered Meck Dec day an appropriate time to celebrate both events.

Some historians believe that Queen Charlotte had ancestors in the African branch of the Portuguese Royal House. Other historians deny it. African Moors took over the Iberian Peninsula in the 8th century and ruled for about 300 years. Their presence in Spain and Portugal remained for much longer. It is said that the German nobility was proud of their connection with African nobility, but when Charlotte married

the English King that history was downplayed. Slavery was very much a fact of life in England and her colonies. Perhaps most interesting of all is that two very different groups met that morning in Settlers' Cemetery, each proudly celebrating their disputed history.

—Jim Williams

September 21, 2015 Dinner Meeting Reservation Form

Mail to: Mecklenburg Historical Association
c/o Robin Brabham, 7412 Red Oak Lane, Charlotte, NC 28226
or email: Mecklenburg1775@yahoo.com

Please make checks payable to Mecklenburg Historical Association.

Questions? Please email Robin Brabham (Mecklenburg1775@yahoo.com) or call him at (704)-543-7519.

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)

Name Tags: _____ , _____

Icons of Past Mark Progress, Too

Commentary by Mark Washburn – reprinted from the *Charlotte Observer*, July 19, 2015

Do they stay or should they go?

Sprinkled across our region – in cemeteries, public squares and on courthouse lawns – are dozens of memorials to the Lost Cause. A few are more contemporary, but most were erected within living memory of the Civil War.

My travels took me to Shelby a few weeks ago, where I discovered a Confederate memorial beside the old courthouse, now a museum. “In honor of the Confederate heroes of Cleveland County” says the memorial, erected in 1906. Atop a granite column stands a bronze statue of a Confederate sentry on perpetual watch, facing north. I wonder if there’s a county seat anywhere within 500 miles that doesn’t have one.

Whenever I find such a thing, it strikes me as an anachronism, a relic of a distant period where nearly everything – fashion, technology, social thought – was a product of an ancient culture. I find them provocative, in a positive way. Their

words, etched in stone or cast in bronze, were meant to endure, to carry a message deep into the unfathomable future that says, “This is who we were. This is what we valued.”

You don’t have to value it. You don’t have to support the Southern cause in the Civil War or the peculiar institution of slavery that tore the nation asunder to respect the message our ancestors were sending.

They were tending the last embers of the great conflict and measuring the sacrifice it brought, as alive to them then as the scars of Vietnam are to us today. War for war, Vietnam also tore the nation along cultural and moral fault lines. But no one calls for the removal of monuments to its heroes. We revere them as courageous men and women who served honorably in what is widely viewed as a dishonorable conflict.

Some can’t see the difference between the Confederate battle flag flying over South Carolina’s Capitol and monuments to the war.

There is a big difference – the flag rose daily in ceremonial glory and insulted many of the state’s citizens. Memorials rest silently and their sentiments are frozen in another age.

Some say the Civil War monuments should fall because they honor those who rose in rebellion. But so do statues to Revolutionary War heroes. Our nation was hatched in rebellion, and many in the cause never knew whether they’d be honored in bronze or hanged from a bough.

I think we make a mistake when we assume those who defend old monuments are defending the intellectual causes the structures represent. Monuments are merely milestones tracking the march of civilization. They tell us where we’ve been and remind us how far we’ve come. They don’t tell us where to go. That’s up to us. But they do serve to remind us of something worth remembering: At some point, as a culture, we will send a message to the future that says, “This is who we were. This is what we value.”

That’s what we should be debating.



"Preserving Mecklenburg's Heritage"

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

VISIT US ONLINE
WWW.MECKDEC.ORG

Site News

News from Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

The Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room has partnered with the Main Library to provide shelf space for a circulating collection for several hundred history and genealogy books that can now be checked out and used in the comfort of your own home. There are currently 400 titles on the shelf with more being added daily. You can check a book out for 3 weeks and renew it up to 2 times, unless someone has it on hold. This collection is shelved at the end of the 900s on the 2nd floor of the Main Library or they can be sent to your home branch. Find a book in the on-line catalog, reserve it and request it be sent to your branch of choice. These books can be returned at any branch library.

The Trail of History Scheduled Programs

The Trail of History is a weekly half-hour program on WTVI PBS Charlotte, 42, Time Warner Cable 5, each Tuesday at 8:30 pm. Producer John Branscum and Presenter Garry Ritter have produced over 100 segments telling the history of the Charlotte area. The schedule for September is:

-September 8: The story of the bronze statue

of Jane Wilkes which stands in the Trail of History on Little Sugar Creek near uptown Charlotte. This show tells who she was and what she accomplished plus how the statue was produced.

-September 15: The importance of the region of the Waxhaws in early Mecklenburg history and of the present day town of Waxhaw in Union County, NC.

-September 22: The story of the bronze statue of Thomas Kanawha Spratt and Catawba King Hagler which stands in the Trail of History on Little Sugar Creek near uptown Charlotte. Spratt was one of the first settlers in the area and Hagler was the chief of the Catawba Indians at that time. They were great friends and typify the relationship between the Catawbas and the early Scots-Irish Presbyterian settlers.

-September 29: This is the premier presentation of the bronze statue of William Henry Belk on the Trail of History in the Little Sugar Creek Greenway, near uptown Charlotte. Belk was the founder of Belk department stores and built them into the institution we know so well today.

Francis Marion Symposium

The Swamp Fox Murals Trail Society will present their annual Symposium on Friday and Saturday, October 23 and 24. This is a series of eight lectures by talented amateurs and professional historians Saturday on the subject of Col. Francis Marion, The Swamp Fox, and the American Revolution in the South. For details and reservations see www.FrancisMarionSymposium.com

The Fort Mill History Museum is Moving

This summer The Fort Mill History Museum will move from North White Street to the historic Wilson House at 107 Clebourne Street. The Wilson house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as of 1992. Built in 1869 by Stewart Wilson, it a significant example of Victorian architecture. It was one of the first homes built on Main Street and was moved to its present location in the 1920's to make way for commercial expansion. The new location will put the museum in the heart of downtown, and present new opportunities to promote the community's culture and rich history. The museum closed in July. The grand opening at 107 Clebourne Street will be after Labor Day – date to be announced.

The History Calendar

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

www.charlotteregionalhistory.org

Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

310 North Tryon Street,
Charlotte, 704-416-0150
www.cmlibrary.org

Charlotte in World War II: on the Home Front and in Battle, Exhibit, September 7 through January 30. The department will display a wide array of it images, ephemera and artwork that capture the war both at home and overseas. Exhibited in the Carnegie Gallery & Carolina Room, 3rd Floor, Main Library.

Genealogy 101, All Genealogists Welcome, Wednesday, October 21 from 2 to 4 pm.

University City Regional Library,
301 East W.T. Harris Boulevard.

Historic Rosedale

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

Feast of the Hunters Moon Antebellum Dinner & Bicentennial Auction, Saturday, October 17 at 6 pm. This is our signature fundraising event, a multi-course farm to table dinner with wine pairings. For our bicentennial year we will be having both silent and live auctions of one-of-a-kind pieces.

Paranormal Grounds Investigation, Friday and Saturday, October 23 and 24 at 7:30 pm. The Charlotte Area Paranormal Society will lead you through the plantation grounds & basement. Registration required.

Paranormal House Investigation, Saturday, October 24,

from 8:30 to 10:30 pm. The Charlotte Area Paranormal Society will lead you through the plantation house in groups of no more than 8. Who knows what you may find... or what may find you! Registration required.

Midnight in the Garden, Saturday, October 24 at 11:30 pm. Is it good? Or evil? You decide! Hear the real tales and ghost stories of encounters and experiences of staff and volunteers since 2006. Registration required.

Spirits of Rosedale, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 29, 30 and 31 from 7:30 to 9:30. Let the spirits themselves transport you through the history of this mysterious place in a family friendly Halloween program.

Latta Plantation

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

Revolutionary War Reenactment, Saturday and Sunday, September 5 and 6 from 10 am to 4 pm. This annual event includes reenactment of The Battle of Charlotte and The Battle of the Bees, celebrating events that occurred in Mecklenburg County in the fall of 1780. Battle reenactments at 2 pm each day plus a number of timed and ongoing demonstrations and talks including weapons, artillery, uniforms, cooking, life in the Army, and 18th century drill.

Connect with Culture Day, Saturday, September 19 from 10 am to 2 pm, Free this day only. Enjoy a day of Living History demonstrations, self-guided grounds and exhibit tours, and a visit inside the Latta home for free this day, sponsored by the Arts and Science Council.

Friends & Family Reunion and Fundraiser, Saturday, September 19 from 5 to 8 pm.

Are you related to the Latta, Sample, Alexander, or Henderson families? Do you simply want to know more about Latta Plantation? If so, join us for our first Friends & Family Reunion Fundraiser and enjoy an evening of historical demonstrations, live music, BBQ and fellowship.

Ghost Walk Haunted Trail, Friday and Saturday, October 23 and 24th, at 7 pm. Walk the haunted trail through the dark forest and visit the haunted plantation home. Terrifying sights will send goosebumps up your arms. Not recommended for children under 10.

All Hallows Eve, Saturday, October 31 from 10 am to 2 pm.

This Halloween Festival celebrates the roots and history behind costuming and jack-o-lanterns with a costume contest and trick-or-treating for the children.

Hugh Torance House and Store

8231 Gilead Road,
Huntersville, NC
hughtorancehouseandstore.com

House Tours, First and Third Sundays from 2 to 5 pm, September and October.

The Hugh Torance House and Store is truly a Mecklenburg treasure. The log house section of the building was built as a residence about 1780. In 1805 the building was expanded to include a store that operated until 1825. As the Torrance family obtained land and wealth, it became a cotton plantation of 3,000 acres worked by over a hundred slaves. Extensive family history kept through the generations allows us to interpret nearly a century of Mecklenburg's rich mercantile and plantation history.

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

On The Way to Here: Adventures In Photography, Music And Life. Exhibit Opening, Wed., October 8. This new exhibit of the works of photographer Daniel Coston illustrates his travels in Europe and the US as he covered musicians and artists for TV networks and major publication in the US and Europe. In his work for the Charlotte Observer, he documented the changing scenes of North Carolina society. This exhibit illustrates his insight on these subjects.

Magna Carta Day, Saturday, September 12, Starting at 10 am. Magna Carta, the great charter sealed by King John and his rebellious barons in 1215 at Runnymede, listed a series of rights and duties, including that

the king was subject to the law. For over 800 years the document has been cited as legal precedent. Four sessions explore the history of the great charter, of rights and freedoms in the Middle Ages, and the influence of Magna Carta on our own national Constitution and Bill of Rights. There will be kids activities such as jousting and castle making.
-10 am: Rights and Freedoms in the Middle Ages
-11 am: What led to Magna Carta?
-12 pm: Magna Carta and our Founding Documents
-1pm: Medieval Art

Backcountry Days with the Charlotte Folk Society, Saturday, September 19 from 1 to 5 pm, Free.

Join us for a free celebration of the Piedmont Backcountry with musical traditions from the Charlotte Folk Society. This free family event features music, storytelling, free ice cream, and kids crafts. There will also be demonstrations of eighteenth-century crafts.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

1846 Mexican American War Militia Muster, Saturday, October 3 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free.

Look into the life of a common citizen called into service for the 1846 Mexican War. Living History reenactors will drill, demonstrate domestic lifestyles and speak with visitors about what life was like in Mecklenburg County in 1846.

Matthews Heritage Museum

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

Matthews Alive Annual Parade, Saturday, September 5 at 10 am. Downtown Matthews. The Matthews Heritage Museum will participate in this annual parade.

Exhibit Opening, Eighty Years of Scouting, Saturday, September 5. From Daisies, to Brownies, to Cadets, to Leaders, girl scouting has provided educational opportunities for all girls. See the changes of uniforms and practices over time. Girl scouts who visit will add their thumb print to the thumb-print tree. We invite all troops in the area to visit with us and schedule a tour.

Walking Ghost Tour of Downtown Matthews, Saturday, October 24 at 7 pm. Meet the ghosts who haunt the town and learn about our history. The Museum will open at 6 for touring before the walk. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a flashlight. Reservations suggested.

Matthews Historical Foundation

Unless otherwise stated, Programs held at the Matthews Woman's Club, 208 S. Trade St.

The Catawba Indians, a Presentation by Dr. Wenonah G. Haire, Tuesday September 29 at 6:30 pm, at the Matthews Public Library. Dr. Haire is executive director of the Catawba Cultural Preservation Project. She will be dressed in full Catawba regalia.

The Preservation of the Loray Mills, Tuesday, October 27 at 6:30 pm at the Matthews Women's Club. Billy Hughes, founding principal in JBS Ventures and Historic Preservation Partners will speak on the preservation of the Loray mill site.

Charlotte Folk Society
Great Aunt Stella Center, 926

Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte
www.folksociety.org

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering Concert & Jams

All programs are held at the Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte. 7:30 pm; doors open 7 pm. Free; donations appreciated.

Friday, September 11, Steph Stewart & The Boyfriends, a NC band performing original tradition-based music.

Friday, October 9, The Red Clay Ramblers, the band that helped to fuel a revival of NC old-time music and went on to win Tony Awards on Broadway.

Ice Cream Social and Backcountry Days, Saturday, September 19 from 1 to 5 pm at the Charlotte Museum of History, Free.

Sons of the American Revolution

For information contact:
Tim Berly, tberly@carolina.rr.com
704-849-7886

Myths of the Revolutionary War, Saturday, September 12 at 10 am. McCelvey Center, Ferguson St., York, SC Public Invited, Free. At this meeting of the Sons of the American Revolution, author M.C. Beckham will speak on "Myths of the Revolutionary War" exposing some of the misinformation in the history of the Revolutionary War. There will also be a tour of the Southern Revolutionary War Institute conducted by Michael Scoggins. <http://scssar.org/>

Historic Brattonsville

1444 Brattonsville Rd.,
McConnells, SC, 803-684-2327
chmuseums.org/brattonsville

By the Sweat of Our Brows, Saturday, September 12 from 10 am to 4 pm. This special event tells the story of the plantation's enslaved from colonial times through the Reconstruction. The program's narrative includes both scholarly research and the collective memories of descendants of Bratton slaves. This year the event features African American descendants of the Bratton family who will be on site in person to share their stories. Referred to as the "Seven Sacred Families of Brattonsville," they are Bratton, Cathcart, Crawford, Feaster/Femster, Lowry, Moore, and Smith.

From 10 am to 2 pm enjoy historic cooking demonstrations, watch interpreters make bricks out of mud hauled up from the creek, and take guided tours of the plantation buildings, while children make rag dolls and play African-American folk games. Then meet in front of the Big House for a formal program to honor those who were once enslaved. The descendants will share their family stories and showcase artifacts passed down for generations. This will culminate with the 'calling of the names' from the 1865 "Freedmen's List." Nationally acclaimed poet Glenis Redmond will honor the voices from the past and beckon the voices of today.

Piedmont Pottery Festival Saturday, September 26 from 10 am to 4 pm. In addition to over twenty potters from both North and South Carolina, including contemporary Catawba Indian potters, the Piedmont Pottery Festival will explore how pottery moved civilization from creekside to the table. The Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley will be in the plantation's McConnell House demonstrating 18th century cooking with pottery on the open hearth and will present historic methods of food preservation using clay crocks.

In Historic Brattonsville's Orientation Room - at 11 am Dr. Stephen Criswell, noted scholar on the re-

gional history of pottery and director of Native American studies at USC Lancaster, will speak on contemporary Catawba Indian pottery. At 1 p.m. Buddy Wingard will present his award-winning documentary film about the outstanding work and life of a slave potter from Edgefield, SC - "Discovering Dave: Spirit Captured in Clay."

Regional barbecue by Gardner's BBQ, Hash & Fresh Country Sausage will be available for purchase.

Schiele Museum

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

Magots, Rants, and Giggs, Sunday, September 27 from 12 to 5 pm. Music was an integral part of life in the Carolina backcountry – a source of entertainment and a break from monotonous chores. Enjoy the sounds of 18th-century tunes played on a variety of instruments. Learn the story of Bryan O'Linn, a song vital to the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Autumn in Early Carolina, Sunday, October 25 from 1 to 5 pm. Visit the Backcountry Farm to observe how early settlers prepared and enjoyed the fruits of autumn. Taste homemade apple butter; pick up an 18th-century recipe for a delicious apple dish. See backcountry folk in period dress demonstrate skills from 250 years ago.

Museum of the Waxhaws

8215 Waxhaw Hwy, Waxhaw, NC 704-843-1832
http://museumofthewaxhaws.org

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans, Saturday, October 3 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free. This long-

overdue Welcome Home starts with a ceremony at 11 am and is followed by a USO Style Show with singing and dancing at 1:30 pm. There will also be the museum exhibits, gold panning and games for the children. Bring a blanket or chair and your favorite Vietnam Vet to enjoy the day.

Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site

9621 Reed Mine Road
Midland, NC 28163
(704)-721-GOLD (4653)
www.nchistoricsites.org/reed

End of Panning, Saturday, Saturday, October 31 from 9 am to 4 pm. Our panning season is coming to a close. The last day visitors will be able to pan for gold in 2015 will be on Halloween, Saturday, October 31st.

North Branch MHA with Davidson Historical Society: The American Revolution as Occurred in the Carolinas
Sunday, September 20, 2015 at 4:00 pm. Davidson Town Hall 216 South Main Street, Davidson. Did you know that more battles occurred within 100 miles of Charlotte during the eight-year period of the Revolutionary War than all the rest of the thirteen colonies combined?

FOR ADDITIONAL EVENTS, please visit these sites:

- **Andrew Jackson State Park**
www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/1797.aspx
- **Charlotte Folk Society**
www.folksociety.org
- **Charlotte Museum of History**
www.charlottemuseum.org
- **Cowpens National Battlefield**
www.nps.gov/cowp
- **Duke Mansion**
www.dukemansion.com
- **Fort Defiance**
www.fortdefiancenc.org
- **Fort Dobbs State Historic Site**
www.fortdobbs.org

- **Fort Mill History Museum**
www.fortmillhistorymuseum.org
- **Gaston County Museum**
www.gastoncountymuseum.org
- **Gregory Creek Homestead & Iredell Museums**
www.iredellmuseums.org
- **Historic Brattonsville**
www.chmuseums.org/brattonsville
- **Historic Camden**
www.historic-camden.net
- **Historic Rosedale**
www.historicrosedale.org
- **Hugh Torance House and Store**
www.hughtorancehouseandstore.com
- **Kings Mountain Historical Museum**
www.kingsmountainmuseum.org
- **Kings Mountain National Military Park**
www.nps.gov/kimo
- **Kings Mountain State Park**
southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/945.aspx
- **Latta Plantation**
www.lattaplantation.org
- **Levine Museum of the New South**
www.museumofthenewsouth.org
- **Matthews Heritage Museum**
www.matthewsheritagemuseum.org
- **Matthews Historical Foundation**
704-846-6693
- **Mint Hill Historical Society**
www.minthillhistory.com
- **Mount Holly Historical Society**
mhhistoricalsociety@gmail.com
- **Museum of the Waxhaws**
www.museumofthewaxhaws.org
- **Old Salem**
www.oldsalem.org
- **President James K. Polk State Historic Site**
polk.nchistoricsites.org
- **Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site**
www.nchistoricsites.org/reed/reed.html
- **Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library**
www.cmlibrary.org
- **Rural Hill**
www.ruralhill.net
- **Schiele Museum**
www.schielemuseum.org
- **Southern Campaign of the American Revolution**
www.southerncampaign.org
- **Spencer Doll and Toy Museum**
www.spencerdollandtoymuseum.com
- **Stanly County Museum**
www.stanlycountymuseum.com
- **Union County Public Library**
www.unionlib.nc.us
- **York County Genealogical & Historical Society**
www.weblandinc.com/ycghs/member.html