

Dinner Meeting

Monday, April 4, 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: John Nolen and Myers Park

Presented by Dr. Tom Hanchett, Historian, Levine Museum of the New South

Tom Hanchett's love affair with the Myers Park landscape goes back nearly 25 years. In 1981, Dr. Dan Morrill brought the young University of Chicago graduate student to Charlotte to research older neighborhoods for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission. Out of that work came a book, *LEGACY: THE MYERS PARK STORY*, in which Hanchett and co-author Mary Norton Kratt chronicled the work of nationally famed landscape architect John Nolen in the neighborhood.

Massachusetts-based Nolen is today ranked among America's most important designers in the early 20th century, known for projects ranging from the Wisconsin State Park system to the city plan of San Diego, California. Nolen considered Myers Park among his finest designs, and he featured it in his book *New Towns for Old* (re-published by University of Massachusetts Press in 2005).

In the process of nominating Myers Park to the National Register of Historic Places, Tom discovered that

many of Nolen's detailed drawings for Myers Park streets, parks and yards still existed in the archives of Cornell University. He'll show us slides from that treasure trove, and talk about an exhibit *JOHN NOLAN: NEIGHBORHOOD-MAKER* that the Levine Museum of the New South will open May 14 at Queens University.

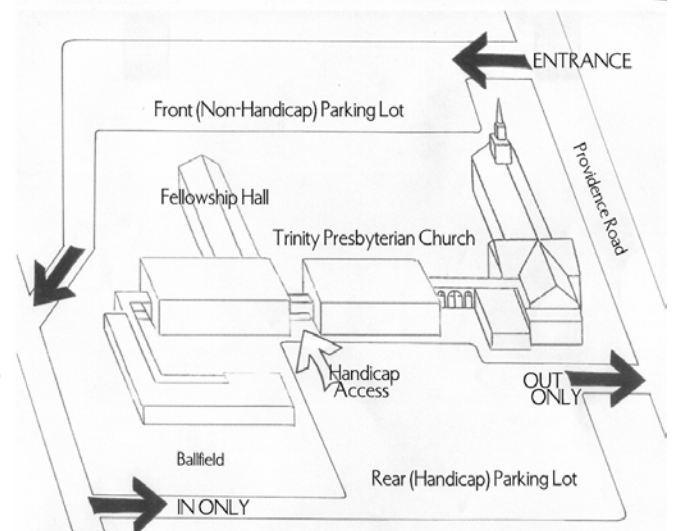
**Reservation Form to be returned by
Tuesday, March 29, 2005**

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



Remarks from the President...



Members of the MHA,

There are lots of great things happening this Spring for history buffs!

On Monday, April 4th at 6:30 p.m. we will meet at Trinity Presbyterian Church for the first of our Spring programs. Tom Hanchett, Historian for the Levine Museum of the New South, will present his well-researched and insightful talks on the history of Myers Park.

April 30th, we have received an invitation to attend the first ever celebration by the Friends of Fourth Ward called the Fourth Ward Frolic! - A Celebration of Art, History and Music. Fourth Ward Frolic will showcase regional history and heritage organizations, local artists and craftspeople and talented area musicians specializ-

ing in North Carolina roots music. Children's activities, festival food and a wine/beer-tasting tent will be available. In addition, the festival will provide a new home to the long-running and popular "Folk Frolic" event, hosted by the Charlotte Folk Society, Charlotte Blues Society and the Afro-American Cultural Center. Guided walking tours of Historic Fourth Ward and various center city attractions also will be offered. Fourth Ward Frolic will be held on Saturday, April 30th and Sunday, May 1st, 2005, from Noon to 5:00 pm each day. The festival will be held in the lovely Fourth Ward Park, at the corner of Poplar & Sixth Streets in Historic Fourth Ward, in the heart of center city Charlotte, NC.

The May 20th Society is planning great events in celebration of Meck Dec Day. We are working with them. They will present events on the Square, a period village on North Tryon Street downtown, and a celebratory event in a local establish-

ment in the evening! The Docents and re-enactors will be center stage as this organization seeks to re-vitalize the great celebrations of the past!

On May 23rd, I will make a presentation at our dinner meeting on the Greenway Trail of History. We are going to launch efforts to finance a statue of Captain James Jack in cooperation with the Greenway Board, Parks and Rec, and Arts and Science. This will be a legacy project in which we can all participate. Tell your friends!

Finally, we are going to have our newsletter formatted in a fashion to allow you to receive it and email it to your friends. Of course, we will mail our letter to those who do not specify a preference.

Sincerely,
Chase Saunders

From the Docent Committee...

Dear MHA Members,

The Docents have planned an ambitious agenda for 2005. We have had two dynamic presentations which gave us information about comfort foods, funeral customs, and the development of Charlotte neighborhoods during the past two centuries. Guests who have attended recent meetings include newcomers to Charlotte, morticians, historians, and writers. Our speakers have been the Food Editor of The Charlotte Observer, Kathleen Purvis, and Dr. Tom Hanchett, Levine Museum of the New South.

The docents' monthly meetings are held at Historic Rosedale Plantation. I invite you to join us for refreshments at 9:30AM on Tuesday, April 5, 2005, followed by our business meeting at 10:00AM. At 11:00AM we will hear Latta Plantation's John Gates. On May 3, 2005, two of the docents, Sharon Van Kuren and Carolyn Dilda will teach us how not to be "loose women".

Our goals this year are to increase our membership and to increase our service. In addition to the services rendered at our sites, as a group we will assist in the special activities at The Reed Gold Mine in April, Mecklenburg Declaration Day full-

day activities in May, and in June for the 250th Anniversary at the Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church, and for the Polk Family Reunion. An education program will begin in August for anyone who would like to become a docent. It is an opportunity to learn about Mecklenburg County and to prepare oneself to share this knowledge with the community. Please inform your interested neighbors and friends to contact Karen McConnell at roseedu@bellsouth.net to register.

Cordially yours,
Barbara Jackson
Chairman

Upcoming Special Events...

"Turning the House Upside Down, Spring Cleaning at Historic Rosedale,"
Sunday, April 17, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
\$5 adults; \$4 seniors and students; free to under 8 when accompanied by parent or guardian; \$4 group of 12 or more with group reservation.

"Fourth Ward Frolic,"
Saturday, April 30th, noon to 5 p.m. and
Sunday, May 1st, 2005, noon to 5 p.m.
The festival will be held in the Fourth Ward Park, at the corner of Poplar & Sixth Streets in Historic Fourth Ward.

Celebration of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence,
Friday, May 20th, noon and following, uptown.

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

The Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley

The Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley was organized in September, 1997, by Carolyn Dilda and Barbara Goodwin. The Cooking Guild meets three needs: to cook regularly to maintain and improve cooking skills; to research 18th c. foodways of this area; and to teach others to cook in the open hearth. Many cooks, trained by the Cooking Guild, now cook at their historic sites.

The Cooking Guild has given interpretation and demonstrations at local sites such as Reed Gold Mine, Bost Grist Mill, Shiele Museum, Hart Square, Rural Hill, Brattonsville and its host site, James K. Polk Memorial.

The Cooking Guild became a sub-committee of the MHA Docent Committee in January 2003. The cooks serve as ambassadors for MHA wherever they go.

The cooks are excited and already planning for their part in the May 20th activities and also for kicking off the raffle for their October 15th historical dinner.

For more information on the Cooking Guild, call Barbara Goodwin, 704.821.4810 or Carolyn Dilda, Polk Site, 704.889.7145.

Gift Membership to MHA...

Consider giving a gift membership to family, friends and clients. It's a marvelous way to enjoy outstanding programs on Charlotte Mecklenburg history, dinner and fellowship. The proceeds benefit M.H.A. Checks may be made payable to "M.H.A." per the following table [right]. You may mail your check to

M.H.A. Membership Chairman
2021 Euclid Ave.
Charlotte, NC 28203.

You may also bring your check with you to the dinner program.

category	single	couple
senior citizen (over 65)	\$12.50	\$20.00
general	25.00	45.00
patron	50.00	90.00
life (single payment)	300.00	500.00
student	free	n/a

April 4, 2005 Dinner Meeting Reservation Form

Mail to: Mecklenburg Historical Association
2401 Sharon Road
Charlotte, NC 28211

Mark your calendars now for future meetings of the Mecklenburg Historical Association. The next meeting is scheduled for **May 23, 2005.**

Please make checks payable to Mecklenburg Historical Association
Questions? Please call Linda Dalton, 704.364.1618 at the Miracle Corp.

Enclosed: \$_____ (total) for _____ seats (\$11 for Seniors)
\$_____ (total) for _____ seats (\$13 for all others)

(Name Tag)

(Name Tag)

Reservations must be made by Tuesday, March 29th, 2005.



"Preserving Mecklenburg's Heritage"

Post Office Box 35032
Charlotte, North Carolina 28235

ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AT
WWW.MECKDEC.ORG
