

Dinner Meeting

Monday, May 21, 2018

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

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



Upcoming Dinner Program

Trinity Presbyterian Church. Dinner is at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:15. Those not having dinner may enjoy the program at no charge. To make a reservation for dinner, use the order form in this Newsletter or contact Barbara Taylor, 1016 Goshen Place, Charlotte, NC 28211, (980)-335-0326 or btaylor797@aol.com.

In the early days of our country Upland Cotton that grows across the American South had botanical factors that kept it from being profitable. This was a great frustration to farmers, that is until Eli Whitney invented a new kind of gin. The program will address the botany of cotton, Whitney's improved gin, and how it complicated his sad love life. We will also hear about the labor intensity of cotton farming, its huge impact on the national economy, and its role in precipitating the Civil War.

Ann Williams has been involved with local

Early America's Sleeping Beauty: King Cotton

antebellum historic sites for many years. About ten years ago she began researching cotton to better understand plantation life. More recently she published *The Rural Hill Farm Journals of Adam Brevard Davidson, 1834-1856*. She will talk about transcribing the journals, the advent of Scientific Farming in 19th century agriculture, and the how the vastly detailed farm journals added to her research.

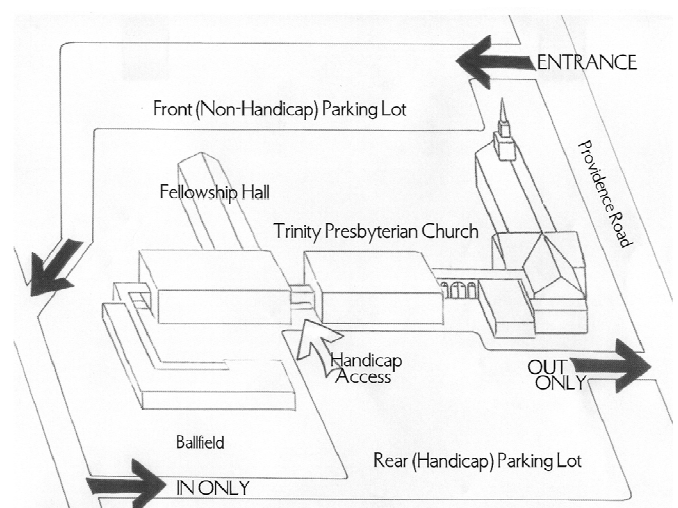


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The MHA meets in the Fellowship Hall at:
Trinity Presbyterian Church
3115 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28211



Remarks from the President

Greetings to all our MHA Members and others interested in Mecklenburg's history! Please be sure you have renewed your MHA membership for 2018. We need your support. Membership blank for renewal or for new membership can be found in this newsletter. Also, please make your reservations now for our May 21st Dinner program. I'm really looking forward to Ann's program on "King Cotton." Stay tuned for our September and November dinner programs. Barbara

Taylor, our Program Chair, is working with a really great list of suggested speakers.

I am on the Board at Hugh Torance House & Store and thought you might like an update on the work to replace the HVAC ducting chewed by critters. Thanks to a special appropriation from the Town Council in Huntersville and generous Go Fund Me and other donations from many of you, we have replaced the damaged ducting and the HVAC is up and running. We now will plug holes discovered in the stone foundation where animals might enter (even

though we have a wire barrier in place inside the sealed crawl space) and then, with the addition of caps on both chimneys, hopefully we will win the battle with the critters at Torance for the foreseeable future.

I hope all of you have a wonderful and safe summer. Please contact me with any suggestions for MHA.

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



Fifty Years of Special Collections At UNC Charlotte

On April 3rd Robin Brabham spoke to the MHA Docents about his years at Special Collections at UNCC.

With two Masters degrees, Robin came to work at the University in 1969, just four years after it came into existence. This was a fortunate decision for him, for the University, and for the History Community in Charlotte. Their hope was that UNCC would become a research university like UNC Chapel Hill and for that they needed a suitable library collection to support the research. Today the Adkins Library contains over 2,000,000 volumes.

Miss Bonnie Cone was the founder of the University which began as Charlotte College and eventually became a part of the UNC system. When Miss Bonnie retired in 1966 and Dr. Colvard took over, her files as president of Charlotte College were transferred to the library; and the University Archives were born.

When Robin started at the library there was already the beginnings of a rare book collection. It had been the anonymous gift of the widow of a Davidson professor and contained a small collection of historic erotica which was quite popular with the students and some of the faculty.

The first major collection was the papers of Harry Golden, a bestselling author, newspaper reporter and publisher, civil rights activist and public gadfly.

The second important manuscript collection was the papers of Charlotte Mayor Stan Brookshire and today Special Collections contains the papers of all Charlotte Mayors since that time.

The new library building was built in 1971 and the tower was named for Harry Dalton, a local philanthropist who had been stationed at Camp Greene during

the First World War and married a native Charlottean. Over the years the Daltons would add much to the cultural resources of the Charlotte area and make major donations to the rare book collection and to construct the Dalton Rare Book and Manuscript Room on the 10th floor of the Dalton Tower. Today that rare book collection includes a number of first editions by writers such as Walt Whitman, Herman Melville, Louisa May Alcott, and William Faulkner. In 1973 Robin was appointed Special Collections Librarian, due in great part to the generosity and influence of Harry and Mary Dalton.

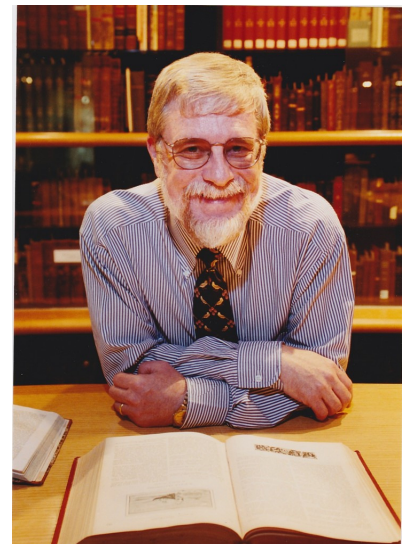
Over the years Atkins Library Special Collections has continued to grow, competing as an equal, for collections and staff, with the major research facilities of the state – N. C. Archives and History, the Southern Collection at UNC Chapel Hill, The Rubenstein Library at Duke University and the Carolina Room at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library.

They have entered into agreements with Archives and History to be a repository for certain materials which, by law, belong to the state archives but now reside at UNCC. This brings major research material to a place where it can be organized properly and made available to researchers in the Charlotte area.

In the early 1980s Robin joined the Mecklenburg Historical Association and made the acquaintance of a number of the members. He got to know Dick Banks, a newspaperman and owner of Cedar Grove, possibly the most spectacular antebellum plantation house in the state, and with the assistance of Mrs. Mary Boyer, convinced him to allow his family papers to be microfilmed, a total of 28 microfilm reels. This led to the eventual donation of the entire collection of 16,200 papers to Special Collections.

Robin also got to know Mary Louise Davidson and Alice Davidson Abel, two sisters who lived at Rosedale, their ancestral home. They eventually donated their family papers and some very old books to Special Collections. This material supports and enhances the interpretation of this important Charlotte historic site. Another major collection is material from Florence, S.C. on NASCAR and automobile racing which comprises 171 linear feet of manuscripts. There is also a large collection of material from Spartanburg, S.C. on the Ku Klux Klan.

Since Robin retired eleven years ago, Special Collections has continued to grow, now having 19 employees. Construction is under way to make more room for the collections as they continue to expand. UNCC Special Collections today stands high among the ranks of North Carolina history collections, forming a firm basis for scholars to study and understand the history of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County and "The Carolina Backcountry."



MHA North Branch Meeting Tuesday, May 8 Merino's Furniture Warehouse.

David Stockwell will host our meeting at Merino's Furniture Warehouse, 500 S Main St, Mooresville. Merino's occupies an early 20th century cotton mill and has maintained much of the original character of the structure. A tour of the facility by the owner will begin at 7 pm. Some of us will gather before the meeting at The Barcelona Burger and Beer Garden at the north end of the building, at 5:45.

May is Mecklenburg History Month The Inaugural Captain James Jack Colonial Dinner Monday, May 14 at 6 pm, \$50.00.

Join us for a three course colonial themed dinner with each course paired with a different beer from The Olde Mecklenburg Brewery. Nationally renowned art-

ist Chas Fagan will discuss his image of Captain James Jack he used in the *Spirit of Mecklenburg* statue on The Trail of History. Reservations required at

<http://may20thsociety.org/events/captjackdinner>

Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence Celebration Friday, May 18 at noon Independence Square, Free

This year May 20th falls on a Sunday so in keeping with long-standing tradition, the MHA will hold our annual celebration on Friday, May 18 at Independence Square (the corners of Trade and Tryon Streets in uptown Charlotte).

2018 marks the 243rd anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of May 20, 1775. This was the first time that the people of the colonies de-

clared their independence from the King and Parliament of Great Britain. At noon there will be political speeches followed by a reading of the "Meck Dec" with musket and cannon fire. The event is free and the public is encouraged to attend, so come to Independence Square and join in the celebration.

Captain Jack's Historic Bike Ride Sunday, May 20 at 2 pm Olde Mecklenburg Brewery

In the summer of 1775, Captain James Jack, a local tavern owner, rode 450 miles to deliver the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia. In honor of this historic ride, there will be a bike ride from the Olde Mecklenburg Brewery to various historical locations around Charlotte, ending with a social at OMB.

Membership Renewals

You can join the MHA or renew your membership using this form. 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.

Thank you for your interest in history!

Membership 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

Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Email Address	

Membership type: (Please check one)

- ☐ General Membership
☐ MHA Docent Membership
☐ North Branch MHA Membership

Please send my MHA Newsletter via:

- ☐ Email
☐ US Postal Mail
☐ Both

If you have access to email, we would prefer to send the newsletter to you that way. This saves considerable time and expense for MHA.

May 21, 2018 Dinner Meeting Reservation Form

Mail to: Mecklenburg Historical Association

c/o Barbara Taylor, 1016 Goshen Place, Charlotte, NC 28211

or email: btaylor797@aol.com

Please make your check payable to Mecklenburg Historical Association.

Questions? Please email Barbara Taylor (btaylor797@aol.com) or call her at (980) 335-0326.

We must have your dinner reservation (written or verbal) by Thursday, May 17 in order to meet our caterer's schedule.

Enclosed: \$ _____ (total) for _____ seats (\$12 for Seniors)

\$ _____ (total) for _____ seats (\$14 for all others)

Name Tags: _____ , _____

The Mecklenburg Chairs

Examples of a small group of stylistically related chairs, known as "Mecklenburg ladder back chairs", have been documented by the Catawba River Valley Decorative Arts Survey, a project of the Mecklenburg Historical Association

These circa 1780-1800 ladder back side chairs share some distinctive characteristics—the central ball turnings of the front stretchers, also reflected in the feet, and the unique pendant drop on the bottom edge of the arched slats. Some examples retain remnants of original paint.

The Mecklenburg chairs were brought to light years ago in an in-depth article published in the May 1988 Journal of the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) entitled, "Four Mecklenburg County, North Carolina Chairs: An Examination of Style and Technology" by Dale L. Couch. A thorough description and

examination of construction details was provided, as well as a discussion of similarities seen in chairs from the Delaware Valley of Pennsylvania. Exciting provenance pointing to the north Mecklenburg County Latta and Torrence families will no doubt spark local interest.

Two examples are shown here. The first, described in the Journal article, is in MESDA's collection. The second is privately owned. A third, not pictured, is currently on loan at the Charlotte Museum of History.

Voices From The Past

April 14th was our 2nd Annual presentation of Voices From The Past, the cemetery tour of Settlers' and Elmwood/Pinewood presented by the MHA Docents. Once again nature sent us a spectacular day – a fine warm sun tempered now and again by little breezes and a scattering of clouds. Just as last year we had about fifty portrayers; eighteen were newcomers, the rest repeat performers. The crowd was estimated at 400 which is a lot of folks to share history with in a single afternoon. The MHA Board thanks Lynn Mintzer who chaired the event, her amazing committee and volunteers for a job well done.

The comment we heard over and over: "The portrayers were all so very, very good!" What else would you expect? They worked hard, they learned their stories, and truly assumed the personas of their characters. And they had lots of fun doing so.

Volunteers manning the information tables and assisting visitors helped things run smoothly. The addition of "Southern Belles" at Elmwood was a great idea. They were properly attired young ladies from the Children's Theater who strolled the grounds helping visitors locate the various portrayers.

We would also like to thank our Event Sponsors, Harry & Bryant Company and Charlotte Center City Partners for continuing to support Voices From The Past.

Look for announcements in the fall; there will be opportunities for portrayers, volunteers, and those who just want to enjoy the day.



"Preserving Mecklenburg's Heritage"

Post Office Box 35032
Charlotte, North Carolina 28235

VISIT US ONLINE
WWW.MECKDEC.ORG

Eminent Charlotteans

A New Book by Scott Syfert

The author of *The First American Declaration of Independence? The Disputed History of the Mecklenburg Declaration of May 20, 1775* (Jefferson, N. C., McFarland, 2014) has written a new book published by McFarland. It is available on Amazon and will soon be in better book stores, including Park Road Books in Charlotte.

Eminent Charlotteans contains historical profiles of twelve selected figures from Charlotte's past including:

King Haigler. Leader of the Catawba Indian Nation during the mid-1700s. He kept the Nation together amidst the storms of European settlement, internecine warfare and smallpox. He befriended a Scots-Irish leader in Mecklenburg named...

Thomas "Kanawha" Spratt. By legend, the first family to cross the Yadkin River in a wagon. Thom Spratt personified the Scots-Irish frontiersman that the British would later hate and fear during the American Revolution (they called them

"crackers"). As one British officer described Spratt and his kinsmen: "This distinguished race of men are more savage than the Indians and possess every one of their vices but *not one* of their virtues."

Ishmael Titus. This slave from Rowan County was sent by his master to fight against the British for the freedom of America. He was promised his own freedom if he served honorably. After fulfilling his promise and fighting in the Revolution, his master refused to keep his promise of freedom. Titus then escaped to Massachusetts where he lived free the rest of his life.

Captain James Jack. The "South's Paul Revere," Jack delivered the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence to the Continental Congress in the Summer of 1775. Or did he? What papers was he carrying?

Thad Tate. Born of slaves in 1865, Tate became the leading African-American civic leader in Mecklenburg,

working to establish libraries, schools and businesses for the black community, while acting as a celebrity barber.

Dr. Annie Alexander. The first female physician in North Carolina, she broke the glass ceiling in a time when women doctors simply *didn't do*.

Hugh Crotts. A quiet man, he taught American history in the Charlotte school system for decades. His students never knew of his actions as an infantryman and tank spotter at the battle of Tarawa, one of the most savage engagements in the Pacific in the second world war, until well after his death. He personified the greatest generation.

The stories of Alexander Craighead, Joseph Graham, Thomas Polk and William Shipp round out the twelve. Those familiar with the writing of Syfert have anticipated this book for some time. Those unfamiliar with his writings should look forward to an accurate, carefully researched and very enjoyable read.

History News

The Battle of Buford's Defeat, Saturday May 26.

On May 29, 1780, Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton's British Legion attacked Virginia Continental Troops led by Colonel Abraham Buford. British brutality at this battle galvanized support in the backcountry for the American cause and "Tarleton's Quarter" quickly became a rallying cry.

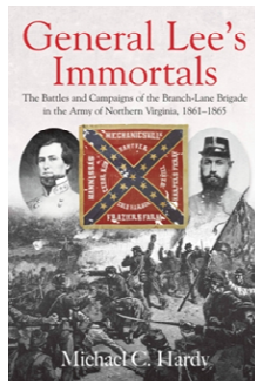
Celebrate the 238th Anniversary of the Battle of Buford's Defeat on Saturday, May 26. The battlefield is located in the Buford Community, just south of the intersection of South Carolina Highways 9 and 522. The celebration begins with a Memorial Service at 10:30 am with a laying of wreaths by the DAR, SAR, the Children of the American Revolution, and others at the mass grave on the battlefield. Reenactors will fire a salute to the fallen and rangers from the South Carolina State Park Service will provide information about the battle and its aftermath. Learn more about the efforts to protect and care for this hallowed ground.

General Lee's Immortals,
Book Signing, Saturday, May 5 at 1 pm,
Barnes & Noble, Carolina Place Mall.

In this deeply researched work we witness the experiences of North Carolina's Branch-Lane Brigade in nearly every major battle fought in the east, including that infamous

day at Chancellorsville when its members mistakenly shot Stonewall Jackson. Two months later they were in Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg, and thereafter throughout the titanic battles of 1864. In the meantime, we learn of the camp-life and the hard winters of Lee's army. Yet when Lee finally surrendered at Appomattox it was the Branch-Lane Brigade still with him, no longer victors but yet unbowed.

Michael Hardy's *General Lee's Immortals* is the first comprehensive history of the Branch-Lane Brigade, and fully meets Captain Gatlin's challenge by setting forth the complete story of these "more than immortal men." This book is based on many years of study and grounded on a vast foundation of sources that relate every aspect of the career of this remarkable fighting command. The reader will come to think he has met, marched with, fought alongside, and bled with these North Carolinians.



The History Calendar

Admission charged at most events unless otherwise noted.

Many of these events sell out so it is best to register at the web sites.

Check the Charlotte Regional History Consortium website for other events.
<http://www.charlotteregionalhistory.org>

The Charlotte Museum of History

<http://www.charlottemuseum.org>

The Council of Defense in WW I, Thursday, May 10 at 6 to 8 pm, Free.

Matthew Peek with Archives and History will tell how this home front organization was created to mobilize civilians in support of the war effort. Presented by the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, The Charlotte Museum of History, and UNC Charlotte

Colonial Gem Fundraiser, Thursday, May 17 from 6 to 8:30 pm, \$100.00.

Celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of Charlotte and support the county's oldest home, the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite.

Charlotte Museum of History (Continued)

Meck Dec Day Celebration, Saturday, May 19 from 11 am to 5 pm.

Celebrate the Mecklenburg Declarations of Independence of May 20, 1775 with a reading of the Meck Dec, tours of the house and a military encampment.

Teas of the British Isles, Sundays at 4 to 5:30 pm, \$40.00, Reservations Re- quired and Sell Out Early.

June 24 – The London of Sherlock
Holms.

July 29 – Dicken's England.

August 26 – Spies and Spymasters.

September 30 – Mecklenburg
County during the Revolution.

Fourth of July Celebration and Natu- ralization Ceremony, Wednesday, July 4 from 10 am to 2 pm, Free.

Speaking Easy in the Queen City, Sat- urday, July 7 from 6 to 9 pm. \$65.00.

Enjoy prohibition era cocktails, dance to the jazz band and play speakeasy games.

Historic Rosedale

<http://www.historicrosedale.org>

Gardening In Charlotte, Saturday, May 5 from 9 am to noon, \$20.00.

Distinguished botanist Larry Mellichamp, author of *Native Plants of The Southeast* and three other books, will present a lecture and workshop about gardening in the Queen City. Dr. Mellichamp is a professor emeritus and former director of the botanical gardens at UNC Charlotte. He will discuss pruning, bulbs, soil types and local weather. Reservations required.

Hats off To Mom, Thursday through Sunday, May 10-13, Tours at 1:30 and 3 pm, plus 11 am on Saturday.

Wear your favorite hat and come to Rosedale for a special tour chronicling hats through the ages. A highlight of the tour is our prized green silk bonnet, one of the oldest locally made textiles. Light refreshments will be served in the English Basement Kitchen.

Paranormal Grounds Investigation, Friday & Saturday, June 15 & 16, Check in 7:30, tour from 8 to 9:30 pm, \$20.00.

Join professional ghost hunters as they take groups of 20 guests through the grounds of Rosedale's 200-year-old plantation, and attempt contact with the beyond. You will use the latest technology in partnership with the Charlotte Area Paranormal Society. Their team will lead the investigation. Please wear flat, quiet, comfortable shoes and bring a small twist top flashlight. You never know what you may find... or what may find you!

Summer Solstice Experience, Thurs- day, June 21 at 7:40, gates close at 7:45. \$65.00, Reservations required.

On this longest day of the year, Rosedale's Summer Solstice Experience will be led by Reiki Master and Cherokee Shaman descendant Faye Wright. Honoring the four directions plus heaven and earth, the evening will include an intimate session (no more than 12 participants) on how to cleanse yourself and your personal space with sage through the art of "smudging."

Sew to the Point: Textile Exhibit, Open June 20 through August 19.

This exhibit includes quilts and textiles that have rarely been seen on display in the home. Including locally made pieces of exquisite hand craftsmanship and a piece belonging to the family who lived at Rosedale. This special exhibit is only here for a limited time and can be seen during our regular house tour or by appointment.

Rosedale Summer Camps

**Fairy Camp, Tuesday, July 24 at
10 am to 1 pm.** Have your wee ones visit Historic Rosedale for this half day camp. They will explore our urban shire and hunt for fairies that hide all around while learning about the whimsical folklore behind some of their favorite characters, and create enchanting crafts that would impress the most finicky of fairies. Snacks and water are included.

**Pirate Camp, Wednesday, July 25
at 10 am to 1 pm.** Arrrrrg...

you ready for adventure? Learn about North Carolina's rich pirate history in this swashbuckling half day camp. Create jolly good crafts, hunt for buried treasure, and find out how pirates and the open seas could affect life back here in Charlotte. Young landlubbers will also receive snacks and water.

Take a Walk on the Wild Side (Nature Camp), Thursday, July 26 at 10 am to 1 pm. Buzz

around like a bee in this fun and educational half day camp where kids connect with nature in a unique historic setting and urban green space. The camp includes educational games about the local surroundings, plants, and animals as well as insect themed craft activities. Pollen and nectar (snacks & water) will also be provided.

**Old Timey Picnic, Friday, July 27 at
11 am to 1 pm.** Come as you are or dress up for this fun filled festivity. Our counselors will don their Antebellum finery to serve our picnic. Receive a brief lesson on the life and etiquette of those who used to live in the plantation house. Campers who join us for all four days of camp will also receive a certificate during the festivities. Parents are welcome to join in on all the fun.

Charlotte Folk Society www.folksociety.org

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams, Friday, May 11 features a CFS Member Showcase, Free.

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte. 7:30 PM. Doors open 7:00 PM. Family-friendly & Free; donations appreciated. Free parking. Refreshments, song circle, songwriter's workshop, and jams follow concert. Accessible entry & elevator on ground floor. 704-563-7080; www.folksociety.org

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams, Friday, June 8 featuring Joe New- berry and April Verch, Free.

Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte. 7:30 PM. Doors open 7:00 PM. Family-friendly & Free; donations appreciated. Free parking. Refreshments, song circle, songwriter's workshop, and jams follow concert. Accessible entry & elevator on ground floor. 704-563-7080; www.folksociety.org

**Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room,
Charlotte Mecklenburg Library**
<http://cmstory.org>

**The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King,
Jr. in Charlotte, Saturday, May 12 at 10
am, Community Room, University City
Library, 301 E. WT Harris Blvd, Char-
lotte.**

North Carolina State Senator Joyce Waddell, Mecklenburg County Commissioner Vilma Leake, and historian Dr. Willie Griffin will talk about Charlotte's civil rights movement and how it responded to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968. [Please register online](#) for this event. Call Thomas Cole at the Carolina Room (704-416-0150) with any questions.

Duke Mansion
<http://www.dukemansion.com>

**The Duke Mansion Home and Gar-
den Tour, Sunday, June 10 from 1
to 8:30 pm, Free.**

Enjoy a self-guided tour inside the historic landmark home on the National Register of Historic Places. Get a glimpse inside many of the exquisite rooms and explore the manicured 4½ acres of gardens. Wine, beer and cocktails will be available for purchase throughout the afternoon as you tour the grounds. In the evening enjoy music and small bites from Duke Mansion Chef Harrison Booth. Learn the history of The Mansion and experience its setting in one of Charlotte's most historic neighborhoods. Free valet parking on site. Reservations required at <https://homeandgardentour2018.eventbrite.com> or call 704-714-4453.

Historic Latta Plantation
<http://www.lattaplantation.org>

**WWII Battle Reenactment, Saturday
and Sunday, May 5 and 6 from 10 am
to 4 pm each day.**

This annual battle reenactment showcases the lives of Allied and Axis troops during WWII, both at home and abroad. Glimpse the lives of both soldiers and civilians and learn about how their lives were impacted by the war. Enjoy food

vendors, self-guided tours, visiting with reenactors, and a live battle each day at 2 pm. Bring a chair and extra cash to shop with vendors. Picnic areas available.

Hugh Torance House and Store
www.hughtorancehouseandstore.com/

**House Tours on first and third Sun-
days from 2 to 5 pm, May through Oc-
tober.**

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 which operated until 1825. As the Torance 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.

**President James K. Polk
State Historic Site**
www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

**The Historic Southern Kitchen: A
Class on the Old Southern Way of
Cooking, Saturday, May 5 at 9 am to 2
pm, \$60.00.**

Learn the traditions and techniques of the Historic Southern Kitchen from trained chef and historic cook Cheryl Henry during this half-day class. Students will prepare a three-course meal from scratch in the rustic environs of the log kitchen house at the President James K. Polk State Historic Site.

**Music, Dance, n' Que Festival and
Fundraiser, Saturday, May 19 from 11
am to 3 pm, Free.**

At this annual festival hear live bands, enjoy plates of local BBQ, pours from local breweries and dessert from the ice cream truck. Visit historic log cabins and interact with living historians. Do some shopping in the Vendor Village and there will be a raffle with prizes donated by local artists, businesses, and sponsors. Proceeds will go to the Friends of President Polk Birthplace, a support group that helps fund educational events and field trips.

**Gathering Gourmet: An Introduction to
Wild Edibles, Saturday, June 2 from
Noon to 4 pm, \$30.00..**

David Williams will show you how to find tasty foods growing right outside your doorstep, learn how to identify the wild edibles found all over North Carolina and sample natural food and drink prepared from local fare. Expect a 30-minute to 1-hour easy to moderate hike. No experience necessary. Children younger than 12 must be accompanied by parents.

**Apron-Making Workshop, Saturday June
16 at 2 to 4 pm, \$10.00.**

Historic re-enactor and avid seamstress Mia Dappert will teach you 18th century sewing techniques and stitches. Then, you will put your new skills to use creating an apron like those worn by women during the 18th and 19th centuries. All workshop materials will be provided. Pre-registration is required.

**3rd Annual Bubble Day Celebration, Sat-
urday, August 11 from 10 am to 1 pm,
\$5.00 per Car.**

This program features activities for very little ones, including arts and crafts, bubble-making, and a water play table. Light, cooling refreshments and take-home treats will be provided.

The Schiele Museum
<https://www.schielemuseum.org>

**The Story of Flax: Plant to Petticoat,
Sunday, June 24 from 1 to 5 pm.**

Long before cotton became King in the South, the early settlers in the Carolinas relied on the strong fibers of the flax plant for processing into linen thread and fabric for hand-sewn clothing. Visit the Backcountry farm to see period interpreters processing flax in the 18th century fashion. Try your hand at braking, scutching and hackling and discover the many other virtues of flax.

**A Rendezvous of Idlers,
Sunday, August 12 from 1 to 5 pm.**

An 18th-Century traveling clergyman, Charles Woodmason observed "these Assemblies at Private Houses for Singing... is reprehensible... these Singing Matches lie under the Imputation of being only Rendezvous of Idlers". Assemble with the Back-

country folk at Moss Station for an idle afternoon of music, dance, and intrigue in the Carolina Backcountry in August 1775.

Iredell Museum

<http://www.iredellmuseums.org>

Tom Dooley Day Festival, Saturday, May 5 from 11 am to 4 pm, Free.

At this history festival, enjoy the music, meet the characters from the Tom Dooley Project, meet authors of some great books about Tom Dooley, learn more about Statesville history and enjoy some great food and beverages.

The Tom Dooley Project, a play in two acts preceded by a mini-concert will be presented at the Iredell County Courthouse Wednesday through Saturday, May 2 through 5 at 8 pm and Sunday, May 6 at 3 pm.

The story of Tom Dooley has been passed down in song, folk tales, books, plays, and movies. After 150 years, Tom Dooley's story continues to mystify and intrigue people from all over North Carolina and beyond. Statesville is where the drama reaches its conclusion. It's a unique opportunity for us to tell the story in one of Statesville's historic buildings.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>

Militia Muster, Saturday June 30 from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday, July 1 from 10 am to 3 pm, Free.

All males ages 16-60 were required by law to serve in North Carolina's militia during the French and Indian War. These civilians would gather at appointed times during the year to practice military drill and could be used to quickly form an army for defense at times of invasion or insurrection. Historic interpreters representing the Rowan County militia will offer on-going displays of military camp life, as well as featured musket and cannon firing demonstrations.

Kings Mountain Historical Museum

www.kingsmountainmuseum.org

A Century of Fashion in Kings Mountain, 1880-1980, A New Exhibit Open June 9 through October 13, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm, Free.

This parade of fashion across a tumultuous and exciting century explores the relationship between the changes in the world and the changes in clothing. It highlights some of the peaks of Kings Mountain fashion and showcase some hidden gems in our collection.

A Century of Fashion, 1880-1980 Costume Party and Sneak Preview, Friday June 8 at 5:30 pm.

Enjoy dressing up? A fan of the 60s? Come and get a sneak preview of our fashion exhibit and enjoy food, music, and dances of the 1960s.

Summer Reading Program: Dancing Through the Ages, Wednesday July 18 from 10 am to noon at Central United Methodist Church, 113 S Piedmont Ave, Kings Mountain, Free.

Mauney Memorial Library and the Museum sponsor this part of the Summer Reading Program, beginning with the Gaston County Museum interactive program, "Dancing through the Ages" at the Church. Afterward the Museum's historic houses (right across the street) will be open to tour and there will be crafts, historic games, face painting, and live music.

Historic Brattonsville

<http://www.chmuseums.org/brattonsville>

Time Travel Tuesdays, each Tuesday in June and July plus August 7 from 10 am to 4 pm.

On these Tuesdays costumed interpreters will present special focus days. Join them and explore the many aspects of 18th and 19th century life for the Bratton family and others in the Carolina Piedmont.

Sheep Shearing, Saturday, May 12 from 10 am to 4 pm.

This is the annual shearing of our sheep. Along with shearing demonstrations, costumed interpreters will highlight the many processes such as carding, spinning, dyeing and more to turn raw wool into finished garments. And be sure to meet our spring lambs while you are here.

Independence Day at Hightower Hall, Wednesday, July 4 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Our 1850s Independence Day Celebration includes activities to honor the holiday as our Carolina Piedmont ancestors did long ago. There will be historic cooking demonstrations, children's military drills and toys and games. The program will climax with the reading of the Declaration of Independence from the front steps of Hightower Hall.

Battle of Huck's Defeat, Saturday, July 14 from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday, July 15 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Captain Christian Huck and his Loyalist troops were soundly defeated in the early morning hours of July 12, 1780, in a battle that took place at the home of William Bratton's neighbor, James Williamson. This victory inspired confidence for backcountry Patriots and began to turn the tide for success in winning Independence from King George. Reenactors recreate these battle activities and more during our annual reenactment weekend.

Kings Mountain National Military Park

<http://www.nps.gov/kimo>

Fourth of July Encampment, Saturday June 30 and Sunday, July 1, from 10 am to 4 pm, Free.

The Backcountry Militia will be encamped this weekend demonstrating a variety of skills from the 18th Century.

Jaeger Korps Encampment, Saturday and Sunday, July 28 and 29 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free

Learn about the Jaeger Korps during the American Revolution. Weapons demonstrations and more.