Volume 10, No. 4

Mecklenburg Historical Association November 2013

MHA NEWS

Dinner Meeting

Monday, November 18, 2013

Holiday Social at 6:00pm, Dinner at 6:30pm, Program at 7:15pm

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



Upcoming Dinner Program

Doris Duke: Woman of Contradiction

Monday, November 18, at Trinity Presbyterian Church. We will begin with a holiday social and book sale at 6 pm featuring appetizers and festive beverages, followed by dinner at 6:30 and the program at 7:15. Those not having dinner are welcome to enjoy the program at no charge. There will be a special history book sale sponsored by the Public Library starting promptly at 6 p.m. and continuing after the dinner. All proceeds will go to the Carolina Room of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library. Additionally, the family of the late Dr. Norris Preyer asked MHA to assist in placement of his library. Books from Dr. Preyer's collection will also be offered for sale separately with proceeds going to MHA. Cash and checks for both book groups will be accepted, and all sales are final. This will be a traditional book sale and not a silent auction and is open to the public.

Doris Duke: a Woman of Contradiction

Rosalie Reynolds and Pat Martin will present a special program including the personal stories of Rosalie Reynolds, whose mother was a life-long friend of Doris Duke. This presentation is based on the incredible history of Doris that has recently been researched by Mary Samouelian at Duke University. The Doris Duke Collection housed at Duke University contains approximately 1,100 linear feet of letters, financial statements, inventories, memorabilia, architectural drawings, photographs, film, and audio recordings. The personal and the historic sources will give you the sense of a very special and eclectic woman who far too often is known only for the more sensational stories of her life. Doris Duke was so much more than the tabloids reported and her legacy is remarkable.

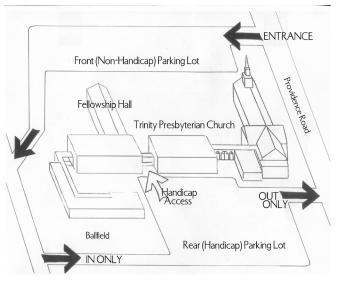


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The MHA meets in the Fellowship Hall at: Trinity Presbyterian Church 3115 Providence Road Charlotte, NC 28211



Remarks from the President

Happy Fall to everyone! What a great time we had at the September dinner meeting at The Reid House and the Matthews Heritage Museum. Thanks to Bill Helms, Paula Lester, and Barbara Taylor for making that evening so enjoyable. A field trip was fun and there will be more of them in the future.

I really look forward to our November 18th dinner meeting at Trinity Presbyterian. Our now annual wine and appetizer time beginning at 6:00 is always fun and a book sale just makes it better. Dr. Preyer's family is pleased that some of his books will be owned by MHA members who care so much about our county's history. We have asked Southern Gourmet (who catered the September dinner) to

provide catering for our November meeting. Please make your reservations now to attend. Mark your calendars for our two Spring Dinner Meetings. Monday, March 17, MHA Past President Chase Saunders will present a program on the History of Charlotte Business. Monday, May 12, our speaker will be Mecklenburg SAR Past President, and Revolutionary War presenter, Tom Phlegar.

I asked Scott Warren, Director of the President James K. Polk State Historic Site to give us an update on their financial situation, which is elsewhere in this newsletter.

We will mail annual membership renewal letters in November. You will find a membership renewal blank in this newsletter. If you would take the opportunity to fill it out and either mail

it or bring it to the November dinner meeting with your check, it will save us postage. Renewals will also be available at the Nov 18 dinner. We need your help to increase our membership, so please share this membership opportunity with family, neighbors and friends who have an interest in history. Bring them to a meeting!

We welcome your suggestions to improve MHA and its contribution to the preservation of Mecklenburg County history. Everyone have a blessed Christmas season and we'll be back together in March.

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

Message from the Pres. James K. Polk State Historic Site

First, I want to say thank you to MHA for the passionate plea for funds in your President's letter sent to the state legislators and from many other MHA members. You have been such a strong proponent of the site for many years and you really stepped up last spring. Your enthusiasm was contagious and it really helped to show the "folks in Raleigh" what we are and what we are all about. Thank you again!

Secondly, I want to brief you on our financial situation. I finally, after many weeks, received a certified budget from the state for FY 13-14.

In comparison to last year's budget, we are actually looking pretty decent. Last year (FY 12-13) my appropriated budget from the state was about \$101,000 of which my final amount spent was \$92,000. This included salary monies, utilities and so forth. This year my appropriated amount for FY 13-14 will be \$103,000, an actual increase of \$2000. Go figure!

All that being said, my repair monies have been drastically slashed. Let's hope nothing breaks down.

If we do receive monetary donations, trust those monies will be deposited with the Support Group and in turn any monies donated go toward our educational programming, maintenance needs or supplies for programs such as the upcoming President Polk Birthday celebration on Saturday, November 2.

Tax-deductible donations can be made to: Polk Memorial Support Fund, Inc., P. O. Box 475, Pineville. NC 28134.

Scott Warren, Historic Site Manager II President James K. Polk State Historic Site NC Department of Cultural Resources P.O. Box 475, Pineville, NC 28134 (704) 889-7145, www.polk.nchistoricsites.org www.presjkpolk.com

- Become a friend of the site on Facebook: facebook.com/JamesKPolkSHS
- Follow us on Twitter: http://twitter.com/JKPolkSHS

DAR Projects at Sugaw Creek's First Cemetery

On October 10, 2013, a joint meeting of the Mecklenburg and Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence Chapters of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was held at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian to celebrate the rededication of the historic stone gate structure and the Alexander Craighead monument there.

Through a grant from the national DAR, the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence Chapter sponsored stabilization of historic stone gate columns containing an early DAR marker at Sugaw Creek's first cemetery on West Craighead Road. Sugaw Creek Presbyterian, established in 1755, was the first church organized in Mecklenburg County. Born in Ireland, Rev. Alexander Craighead (1707-1766) served as the first pastor of the church 1758-1766. Rev. Craighead has been

credited with inspiring the courageous actions of the signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. His is the oldest grave at this cemetery.

In 2010-11, the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence Chapter, NSDAR, organized in 1912, undertook a project to locate and record the condition of each of the historic markers placed by the chapter during its 100 year history. It was learned that the stone gate columns were in imminent danger of collapse. Susan Waldkirch, Chapter Regent, stated, "We are thrilled with the restoration work at this pre-Revolutionary War cemetery. The columns have been stabilized and set on new foundations by Ram Jack and the final repair will be to the stone steps between the columns."

An additional project, sponsored by the Mecklenburg Chapter NSDAR (Anne Glovier, Regent), also organized in 1912, was completed simultaneously. The Mecklenburg Chapter's goal was to properly mark the grave of Rev. Alexander Craighead. Space on his grave marker, placed in the 1930's, allowed wording to be added. Future generations will now be aware of the magnitude of his contribution to Mecklenburg's history. Sugaw Creek's Historic Preservation Committee worked with both DAR chapters and is profoundly grateful to everyone who made this work possible.



MHA wishes to publicize the fact that grant money is available through the DAR to local non-profit organizations, either directly as a 501(c)3 entity or with the sponsorship of a DAR chapter.

A Lovely Christmas Tea

The MHA Docents invite you to attend our annual Christmas Tea on Tuesday December 3rd. Each year for our December meeting we host this event as our holiday gift to the entire history community, especially staff and volunteers at our region's historic sites. We always feature a program that is entertaining as well as informative followed by Tea and refreshments provided by our group. This year we have a special treat.

Tom Hanchett, staff historian of Levine Museum of the New South, will present a program of history and music by Charlotte's Flat Possum Hoppers stringband. Back in the 1920s through the 1940s Charlotte was a hotbed of traditional music, thanks to WBT radio, which broadcast live stringbands and gospel groups daily. Bill Monroe, the father of bluegrass music, waxed his first recordings here and the Carter Family trio cut their last discs in Charlotte. The Briarhoppers, Arthur Smith, and J.E. Mainer's Mountaineers made early records, then stayed on as the mainstay of the local music scene for decades.

The Flat Possum Hoppers formed about 2006 to recreate music of that era. We will hear Tom on the fiddle and former Charlotte Folk Society President Tom Estes on banjo and vocals. Other members of the group who will be with them if possible are CPCC's Dean Mark Helms on mandolin, and CPCC professor John Cone on guitar. Ruth Kee Wherry, who sang with the Mainer band on WAYS radio in the 1950s, plays bass with the group.

After the program we will have our Tea, which always turns out to be an early lunch – our docents all seem to have a way in the kitchen – and enjoy meeting the musicians and other history folks.

We especially want to invite those of you who are interested in becoming MHA Docents to come to the Tea. We'd like for you to meet us and see how much fun we have learning our local history and sharing it with others. We'll begin accepting docent dues for 2014 soon. Just let one of us know you're interested in joining.

The Tea will be on Tuesday, December 3rd in the Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. We'll have a short business meeting at 9:45 followed at 10:00 by the musical program and then the Tea. We hope to see you there.

- Barbara Jackson, Chairman

Now Thrice Welcome Christmas

From "Poor Robin's Almanack" for 1695.

Now thrice welcome, Christmas, which brings us good cheer, Minced pies and plum porridge, good ale and strong beer; With pig, goose, and capon, the best that can be, So well doth the weather and our stomachs agree.

Observe how the chimneys do smoke all about, The cooks are providing for dinner, no doubt; For those on whose tables no victuals appear, O may they keep Lent all the rest of the year!

With holly and ivy so green and so gay, We deck up our houses as fresh as the day, With bays and rosemary, and laurel complete; And every one now is a king in conceit.

 Submitted by Valerie Jones, MHA Docent

Membership Renewals

It's time to renew your MHA membership for 2014. Please save us the cost of mailing by renewing now. 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!*

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

November 18, 2013 Dinner Meeting Reservation Form

Mail to: Mecklenburg Historical Association

c/o Jane Johnson, 210 Pineville Forest Drive, Pineville, NC 28134

or email: JJCNC@aol.com

Please make checks payable to Mecklenburg Historical Association.

Questions? Please email Jane Johnson (JJCNC@aol.com) or call her at 704-544-0695

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)

History Lecture Series

Beyond the Wagon Road

In February, the MHA Docents will hold their biennial series of history lectures. We have a fine lineup of topics and presenters; see the details and registration slip *at right*.

In the past, this series has been popular with both long time and especially with new residents of our area. It is one of the ways we carry out our mission of presenting regional history to the community. Registration is now underway, so do respond as soon as possible to reserve your space, and feel free to share the information with anyone who might be interested. Do include your email address and phone number so we can contact you if there is a last minute cancellation due to weather, as has happened in the past. All three lectures will be held at the Levine Museum of the New South, and the museum invites all attendees to tour the museum after any of the lectures at no additional charge. You may park for free at the 7th Street Station garage; the museum will validate your parking ticket. Saturday validations are good for the entire day.

February 8, 2014

- Agness Caldwell, Enslaved Woman of the Rosedale Plantation: My life before and after the Civil War. Bridget Strong, Historic Rosedale interpreter.
- Civil War Charlotte: Last Capital of the Confederacy. Michael C. Hardy, historian and author.

February 15, 2014

- Native Plants of Colonial Times: From the wilds of Carolina to the gardens of the world.
 Dr. T. L. Mellichamp, Director of UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens
- André Michaux Live: French botanist, explorer, and diplomat. Charlie Williams, retired librarian.

February 22, 2014

- Seven Jewels in the Crown of Queen Charlotte: The influence of Presbyterianism on early Mecklenburg County. Dr. John Kuykendall, President Emeritus, Davidson College.
- The Idea of the New South: 100 Years Ago and Today. Dr. Tom Hanchett, Levine Museum of the New South staff historian.

Registration fee: \$15.00 includes all 3 days of lectures within the series.

To register please complete this registration form by January 31, 2014.

Please make check payable to MHA Docents. Mail check and registration form to:

MHA, P.O. Box 35032, Charlotte, NC 28235

Name:
Mailing Address:
Email:
Telephone (in case of cancellation due to weather):

For more information, email jdyer399@gmail.com.

Lectures will be held at the Levine Museum of the New South from 9:30am-12pm. Doors open at 9am for check-in.



"Preserving Mecklenburg's Heritage"

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

VISIT US ONLINE
WWW.MECKDEC.ORG

Sodoma Law is honored to celebrate a Charlotte and Mecklenburg County treasure by recognizing the 110th anniversary of the Walter Brem House, a Mecklenburg County listed historic property. The event will take place at the house at 211 East Boulevard, on Thursday, November 7. As part of this celebration, Sodoma Law is asking the community to submit stories about, and photos of, the Walter

Brem House. Photos will be showcased inside the house and on social media. For more information and to submit your stories and photos, contact Jan Van Bergen at jvanbergen@sodomalaw.com.

Completed in 1903, the Walter Brem House still exhibits the grandeur of the fine Colonial Revival homes that were built at the turn of the century. As one of Charlotte's first examples of the style, this magnificent two-story residence was designed by C.C. Hook, a prominent Charlotte architect. C.C. Hook also designed other notable buildings such as the Duke Mansion and Charlotte City Hall. When constructed, the Walter Brem House was located on a fashionable residential street, which was the showplace of Dilworth, Charlotte's first streetcar suburb.

The History Calendar & Site News

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

http://www.charlotteregionalhistory.org

Latta Plantation

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

What's Cookin' at Latta, Saturday, November 9 from 10 am to 4 pm.

See open-hearth cooking in the plantation kitchen and cabins. Learn about 19th century cooking techniques, tools, and more!

Blackpowder Turkey Shoot Fundraiser, Saturday, November 16 starting at 10 am. Support history as you shoot a blackpowder musket at a target to win a Thanksgiving turkey. Kids can participate in the rubberband gun shoot and tour the plantation to meet the farm animals. Relays start at 10:00am. To pre-register call 704-875-2312. Turkey Shoot entry is \$10

Miss Jane's Academy for a Day, Saturday, November 23 at 10 am until 4 pm. Girls ages 8-12 can step into the 1860s for a day and learn about English country dancing, natural dyeing, candle making, doll making and 19th century clothing. The cost is \$25 per camper and preregistration is required. See the web site for registration form.

Plantation Christmas, Friday and Saturday, November 29 and 30 from 10 am to 4 pm. Experience an 1860s Christmas as you walk through the plantation; meet a Victorian St. Nick, see Christmas baking in the kitchen, and learn about period Christmas decor and traditions.

Christmas Tea and Craft, Saturday, December 7 from 1 to 3 pm. Enjoy an old fashioned Christmas tea for mothers and daughters of all ages. Take tea, enjoy snacks, learn about Christmas tea traditions, and make a craft. Preregistration is required. Forms available closer to date.

Candlelight Christmas, Saturday, December 14 from 6 to 9 pm. Step into an 1820s Christmas evening as you tour the plantation at night. Meet the animals in the carriage barn, see dancing in the house, share the excitement of children before bedtime, see cooking in the kitchen and a slave Christmas in the cabin.

The Charlotte Museum of History 3500 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC, 704-568-1774 www.charlottemuseum.org

Backcountry Beer Fest, Saturday, November 16 from 1 to 5 pm. Enjoy a sampling of beers crafted by the Crafty Beer Guys. Step back in time and enjoy a sampling of syllabub in the log kitchen. Tour Mecklenburg County's oldest house where tours will be offered hourly. The \$10 admission fee, includes tastings of two different colonial beers, two craft beers, and syllabub.

Twelfth Night, Saturday, January 4 from 6 to 7:30 pm. Twelfth Night was the end of the Christmas season for the Backcountry settlers and celebrated with great revelry. Join with the Backcountry folk as they sing carols around the bonfires, toast the fruit trees, and play colonial games. Learn about the history of Twelfth Night and take a candlelight tour of the house. Enjoy cider and Twelfth Night cake in the log kitchen.

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

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

Christmas in Mecklenburg County with the Polks, Saturday, December 14 from 11 am to 3 pm, Free. Learn about food and customs from Christmas in 1802, with a living history vignette in the main house. Each building will be decorated in the 19th century style.

Matthews Heritage Museum

232 North Trade St., Matthews, 704-708-4996

www.matthewsheritagemuseum.org

Matthews Heritage Museum is now open Thursday thru Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 p.m. The first Saturday of every month is free to all.

Second Saturday Programs for children and adults are held in Studio A, Matthews Community Center. Register by calling 704-321-7275:

-November 9 – Wild Animals – What animals lived around here that don't anymore.? (Turkeys, falcons, grouse, wolves, etc) How did we use them? Why did they disappear?

-December 14 – Antique Toys and Games – Learn about the games and toys of yesteryear. Try your hand at some of them.

Rural Hill

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

Sheep Dog Trials and Dog Festival, Saturday and Sunday November 9 and 10 from 8 am to 5 pm. Watching champion dogs herding sheep is exciting and interesting. The event will also feature historic demonstrations of blacksmithing, spinning, weaving, and cooking in addition to our cabin, antique tractors, and heritage breed livestock.

First Footin' and Hogmanay, Wednesday, January 1 at 11 am, Free.

First Footin', also known as walking the bounds or "beating" the bounds is the traditional walk in the woods and fields around the boundaries of Rural Hill. Dress appropriate to the weather and wear sturdy shoes or boots. Hogmanny, or Scottish New Year is a celebration of the New Year by sharing stone soup with your neighbors. The event is free but bring some vegetables to add to the soup or bring bread or desert.

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Charlotte Folk Society

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

Charlotte Folk Society Gathering & Jams, Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte. 7:30-10:00 PM. Free; donations appreciated. Doors open 7 PM.

-Friday, November 8, The Stray Birds, Folk and Americana.

Holiday Jam & Potluck, Saturday, December 14 from 4 to 9:45 pm at Dilworth United Methodist Church. Seasonal selections by Little Windows, Appalachian and Irish. Bring a dish to share or donate \$5.00. Song circle & jams before and after dinner.

Schiele Museum

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

Backountry Harvest Day, Saturday, November 23 from 10 am to 4 pm.

The Harvest Day Celebration is the 18th century version of our Thanksgiving. Visit the Backcountry Farm as skilled interpreters labor by open hearth and outdoor fires roasting, baking, and stewing a "grand Fare" of traditional delights. Watch as hunters make ready their firearms while swapping stories of the "ones that got away."

Colonial Christmas & Candlelighting, Saturday, December 14 from 2 to 6

pm. Celebrate the Season in the 18th-century style, join in the "Procession of the Yule Log", decorating with greenery, singing early American carols, and English country dancing. As the day draws to a close, gather with our Backcountry family for the traditional Candle-lighting Service and scripture reading. Enjoy colonial hospitality with a taste of Christmas pudding and hot gingered apple cider.

Gaston County Museum

131 West Main Street Dallas, NC. 704-922-7681, #2 www.gastoncountymuseum.org

PREschool PREview Programs, from 10 to 11 am each day, preschoolers 3 years and up.

-Turkey Time, Saturday, November 9. Explore Thanksgiving customs through song, stories and special crafts. -Victorian Christmas, Saturday, December 14. Explore Victorian holiday cus-

toms through stories, songs and crafts.

Victorian Christmas Tea, Saturday, December 7 from 1 to 2 pm, \$15 per adult, /\$10 per child, ages 6 and up. RSVP required: Jason Luker at 704-922-7681 x105. See the museum decorated for Christmas and learn the history of Victorian Christmas decorations. Partake in a tea party with fresh brewed tea or hot cocoa, pastries, and other savory offerings. While dressing up is not required, it is encouraged.

Holiday Open House, Friday, December 13 from 3 to 7 pm, Free.

Enjoy the Town of Dallas Christmas Parade beginning at 4 PM, and then join our program featuring Christmas traditions and fun for the whole family. See the museum decorated for Christmas, take part in cookie decorating and historic crafts, hear live music, watch or take part in historic dancing, and sample holiday treats, plus a visit from Santa Claus.

Historic Brattonsville

1444 Brattonsville Rd., McConnells, SC, 803-684-2327

http://www.chmuseums.org/brattonsville

Cotton: Bolls, Bales, Batts and Beyond, Saturday, November 30 from 10 am to 4 pm. What does it take to get cotton from the field to a wearable garment? Lots of hard work on an antebellum cotton plantation. Come and lend a hand with the costumed interpreters as they pick, gin, dye and spin the fluffy fiber (using 1840's technology) to produce the cotton fabric that we all know and love to wear.

Christmas Candlelight Tours, Saturdays, December 7 and 14 from 3 to 9 pm. Walk the candlelit paths of Historic Brattonsville and experience a Southernstyle Christmas in the Carolina backcountry. Costumed interpreters tell the stories of people who lived here long ago. Meet the new settlers, plantation owners and enslaved African Americans as they bring to life the holiday seasons of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Old Salem

1-800-441-5305, www.oldsalem.org

Christmas by Candlelight 18th Century Tours, Fridays and Saturdays, November 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30 from 6:30 to 8 pm. Candlelit tour, music, games, food and drink. Pre-registration required.

19th Century Christmas by Candlelight Tours, December 6, 7, 13, 19, 20 & 21 at 6:30, 7, 7:30, and 8 pm. Candlelight tours, music and food. Preregistration required.

Saturdays with St. Nicholas, November 30, December 7, 14 and 21 from 10 am to 3 pm. Meet St. Nicholas and enjoy puppet shows, baked treats and holiday shopping.

Salem Christmas, Saturday, December 14 from 10 am to 5 pm. Join us for handson activities and demonstrations. At 5:15 p.m. there will be carol singing and lighting of the Christmas pyramid.

Christmas Week at Old Salem, December 26 to 29. Enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of the holiday season. Experience authentic history and indulge in freshbaked treats. Post-Christmas Holiday Sales will be going on in select retail stores.

Museum of the Waxhaws

8215 Waxhaw Hwy., Waxhaw, NC 704-843-1832 www.museumofthewaxhaws.org

US Military History, Saturday November 9 from 10am to 5 pm, Sunday, November 10 from 2 to 5 pm. In honor of Veteran's Day local Military Historians Jack Clay and Jerry Kocsis will present Exhibits covering U.S. Military History. Free admission to the museum for Veterans and their families. Complimentary cake and coffee.

Catawba Indian Pottery and Tribal History, Sunday, November 17 at 3 pm. Guest Speaker Beckee Garris will discuss the Catawba Indians, their history, pottery and language.

FOR ADDITIONAL EVENTS, please visit these websites:

- Andrew Jackson State Park www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/ state-park/1797.aspx
- **Duke Mansion** www.dukemansion.com
- Fort Dobbs State Historic Site www.fortdobbs.org
- Historic Camden www.historic-camden.net
- **Historic Rosedale** www.historicrosedale.org
- Hugh Torance House and Store www.torancehouseandstore.org
- Mint Hill Historical Society www.minthillhistory.com
- Mount Holly Historical Society mhhistorical society@gmail.com
- Stanly County Museum www.stanlycountymuseum.com