

Mecklenburg Historical Association Docents

Promoting Local History through Education and Research



May, June, July, August 2010
Volume 16, Number 3

Look Inside This Issue

- May is Mecklenburg History Month
 - o Meet Captain Jack
 - o Meet the Sculptor of the Captain Jack Statue
 - o Celebrating the Meck Dec with Captain James Jack
- News from Holly Bend

Meet Captain James Jack

We all know, or I hope we do, about Captain Jack, “The Paul Revere of the South” who carried the Mecklenburg Declaration of May 20, 1775 by express to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. His journey established Charlotte Town and Mecklenburg County as the first to cast off the yoke of British oppression and declare themselves “A Free and Independent People.”

But who was Captain Jack, really?

First of all, he was a tavern keeper. At the time of the Meck Dec he was 45 years old, married with four small children. He and his father owned a popular tavern in Charlotte where citizens often met to discuss current affairs. In those days all men, from 16 to 60, served in the militia. Each Militia Company elected their own officers and James Jack’s neighbors elected him the Captain of their Militia Company.

The Jacks were, like so many early settlers in Mecklenburg County, Scots-Irish. After emigrating from Northern Ireland to Pennsylvania, the Jack family came to North Carolina in 1760. James Jack’s father, Patrick Jack, was such a patriot that when the British General Lord Cornwallis occupied Charlotte in 1780, one of the first things he did was to burn the Jack tavern and home. Cornwallis said "all of old Jack's sons were in the rebel army, and he himself had been an active promoter of American independence." Patrick Jack was, at that time, 80 years old.

Captain James Jack was a patriot. He volunteered to carry the Declaration, and the companion document, the Mecklenburg Resolves, to Philadelphia “by express.” This meant that his only purpose was to deliver these documents and that he would stop along the way to tell others what the patriots in Mecklenburg had done. Even moving as quickly as possible on this journey, it would be over a month before he was back home in Charlotte.

Captain James Jack was a soldier. He served as the Captain of his militia company before, during and after the Revolution, marching out to suppress the Cherokee Indians in 1776 and fighting the British as they invaded North Carolina in 1780 and 1781. As so many true patriots have always done, he gave his own money to support the Revolution and by the end of the war had reduced his fortune considerably. This debt was never repaid.

After the Revolution the Jack family dispersed from North Carolina to Tennessee, Georgia and Texas, among other places. Descendants of Captain James Jack fought in the Texas War for Independence at the battle of San Jacinto and served the Republic of Texas, and later the State of Texas in a number of roles including a Judge of the Supreme Court, a Secretary of State, and as Representatives and Senators.

Captain James Jack – Scots-Irish Tavern Keeper, Patriot and Soldier – “The Paul Revere of the South.” But the greatest of these was Patriot. Many years later, at the age of 88, living in Georgia, Captain James Jack remembered with great pride the part he had taken in the Revolution and his now-famous ride.

Jim Williams

From the Chairman

March 20, 2010, was a perfectly magical day! Through the leadership of Sharon Van Kuren and June White, our **WHATEVER DID THEY WEAR? FASHION SHOW WAS A "HUGE-MONGOUS"** success. I am so proud of their efforts and those of all the docents, cooking guild, etc., whether it was modeling, ticket sales, decorating (thank you Millie Hodge and Linda Dalton) printing, editing, serving (THANKS to June's buddies) cleaning--you name it!



Carolyn Dilda
at the Fashion Show

All the bills have been paid and we did not lose money. How about that? After all was said, done, and paid, we have a profit of about \$440. There are not enough kudos to say to Sharon Van Kuren for the marvelous job of putting together the actual show. It was so well done. The food was delicious, the tables lovely, the music perfect.

Comments heard: "What were those little pie things? I could have eaten a whole plate of just those!" "Everything I have ever participated in by the Docents has been first class." - from a gentleman attendee. "This has been wonderful! The show was even better than 9 years ago." - from 2 attendees of 9 years ago. Overheard in the women's rest room: "I



Colonial Gentlemen

wish they had done a segment on flappers..." Next time, dear ones. "This food was really good." - from many people. From the catering company: "All the plates are coming back clean--a good sign indeed." "This tea is heavenly!" from many.

Now the docents are looking forward to Chas Fagan, sculptor of Captain Jack's statue, who will speak at our next meeting, May 4. At our last meeting for the year, on June 1, we will be taking a field trip and have a covered dish picnic. Further information is in this newsletter. All are welcome to join us! In between our meetings, we will help celebrate Meck Dec day on May 20. There is information on that elsewhere in this newsletter.

Elections are nearing for the Docents, and you too can serve the Docents as an elected officer or volunteer in many roles. Alice Bostic is chair of the nominating committee and she would be overjoyed to hear from you at 704-527-3251. Don't delay--call today!

I am so proud of our education committee and it's remarkable lecture series, and our fashion show committee's wonderful job. Notice that I have a "bustin' out" smile. There will be a trip planned for October wherein we will travel to Mt. Vernon for an in-depth tour and hopefully a meal at the mansion. Keep this in mind when making your fall plans. As soon as I have a firm date and price, we will publish the information.

Happy spring, everybody! Jo Anne Dickens, Docent Chairman

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the September/October Dandelion is August 15th. Send along anything of interest to the history community. Reports on Summer visits to historic sites are especially welcome. Send articles to Ann and Jim Williams at 1601 S Wendover Rd, or email mhadandelion@mindspring.com.

*MHA Docent Programs***Tuesday, May 4, 2010****Sculpting Captain Jack**

The May meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. Refreshments at 9:30 am, business meeting at 10, program at 11. Visitors are always welcome. Please do join us!

The much anticipated statue of Captain James Jack is at last complete and will be unveiled during the May 20th Meck Dec festivities. On May 4th we are honored to have its creator, artist Chas Fagan, speak to us about his work and the process of crafting a large bronze sculpture. The 1 ½-times life size statue depicts James Jack on horseback galloping through water on his way to Philadelphia with Mecklenburg's just-penned documents of Independence.

Chas Fagan, Yale graduate and nationally known artist and sculptor, has created statues of Neil Armstrong, Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush, statues for the National Cathedral, as well as oil portraits of all the presidents. Several years ago Chas and his family decided to move to a pleasant city with a mild climate and a foundry nearby. He chose Charlotte. Seagrove, NC has one of the few foundries in the country capable of casting large detailed bronze sculptures. Who knew!

Chas will talk and show slides about the complicated multifaceted process of creating such a work, and the authentic details of man, beast, and history he incorporates into his work. This will be a fascinating program.

Tuesday, June 1, 2010**Docent Picnic and Lilies Galore**

This year's June picnic will be a treat of history, nature, and great food! Guests and visitors are welcome. It will be held at South Carolina's Landsford Canal State Park. The canal was one of several built in the early 1800s to bypass shoals on the Catawba making it navigable for cotton-to-market transportation. The system was piecemeal, never very effective, and abandoned with the advent of railroads. Portions of the old canal can still be seen.

The park's big springtime attraction is the world's largest population of Rocky Shoals Spider Lilies which are in full bloom from mid May through mid June. These rare and lovely lilies require a specific ecosystem: a shallow rocky river, the very thing that thwarted those early cotton farmers. The lily's roots embed themselves in underwater rock crevices, and the water must be shallow enough for the blossoms to pierce the surface. The massive display is spectacular.

We have reserved picnic shelter # 1. Plan to be there at 10:30 for a short business meeting followed by a walk along the river to see the lilies. The viewing stand where they are most plentiful is about a mile from the shelter. It is an easy walk on a wide flat graveled path, and we will have time for a leisurely stroll before lunch. Bring your camera and binoculars; if the river is high, the most impressive stand of lilies will be on the far side.

Bring a covered dish to share. The docent committee will provide a ham, drinks, paper plates, cups, and utensils. Hazel White is arranging carpools that will leave Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church at 9:30. Sign up to carpool at the May meeting or call Hazel at 704-598-1794. There is an admission fee to the park that will be covered by our program budget. If you are not carpooling from Sugaw Creek, let Hazel know or check in with her at the park to be sure we have an accurate head count.

Directions: Take I-77 to South Carolina exit 77, highway 21. Go south (away from Rock Hill) on 21 for about 16 miles, turn left into the park entrance. Travel time is about 45 minutes from Charlotte.

Last Call for Dues

There are a few of us who have not paid their docent dues. Valerie will remit one check to MHA for our entire group in the very near future. If you've not paid, send her a check made out to **MHA Docents** as soon as possible. Send your check to Valerie Jones at 4700 Coronado Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212. If you don't remember if you've paid, contact Valerie at 704-567-0599, or vyjones@carolina.rr.com.

MHA Membership levels :	<u>Single</u>	<u>Couple</u>
General	\$30.00	\$50.00
Senior (60+)	\$15.00	\$25.00
Patron	\$60.00	\$100.00
Life (single payment)	\$300.00	\$500.00

MHA Dinner Meeting

Monday, May 24, 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 dinner reservation use the form in your MHA newsletter or contact Kathy Herran at 704-553-0936 or kathyherran@hotmail.com.

David Erdman will present the program: **Picturing the Old Streets of Charlotte**. He has assembled over 500 images of Trade and Tryon Streets from 75 to 125 years ago. With his "magic lantern" David will take us on an virtual walking tour of Charlotte as it once was. We'll alight from the train station and stroll by homes, churches, and places of business just as they lay along the streets of the town.

David Erdman is a North Carolina native and Charlotte lawyer with a life-long love of history focusing on maps, engineering, and lovely old buildings.

Docent Book Club

The docent book club will not meet in May or June. In September we'll discuss *Civil War Wives* by Carol Berkin. We'll have all summer to borrow (there are copies in the library) or buy the book; consider it a beach read for those with a bent for history.

May 4th Memorial Fountain Dedication

Four years ago rosebushes were planted at Historic Rosedale to honor three docents who had passed away during the previous few years; one of those honored was Barbara Castro. After the dedication Don Castro, Barbara's widower, gave us a substantial gift in her memory. Since then the docent board has sought the most fitting use for his gift, something we hoped would have most pleased Barbara. After the recent renovation of Rosedale's gardens the answer presented itself. Barbara loved gardens as much as history. She was an active garden club member, and was part of the team that researched and wrote the section on historic gardens for Rosedale's training manual. The garden restoration has a fountain at one end of the path that flanks the pergola. We decided to place a matching fountain at the other end of the path. Historic gardens thrive on symmetry.

After our docent meeting on Tuesday May 4th we will dedicate the fountain in Barbara's memory. We'll meet in Rosedale's garden at 12:30 for a brief ceremony. We will be joined by Don and some of Barbara's garden club friends, and we hope others who remember her and value her contribution to our group. Please join us.

Ann Williams

May 20, 2010: Celebrating Captain James Jack

This year's May 20th celebration of the 235th anniversary of the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence will itself be a truly historic occasion, recorded in newspapers and history books and passed down to future generations, for on that day we will unveil and dedicate an heroic bronze statue of Captain James Jack on horseback galloping off to Philadelphia to deliver the Declaration and Resolves to the Second Continental Congress.



Captain Jack in Clay
Come see him in Bronze

Credit for this statue goes to many people, but perhaps we should start with the Mecklenburg Historical Association when Marion Redd, in the early 1990s, revived the custom of celebrating May 20th as it had been done in the past. Then Judge Chase Saunders, who had a dream – a series of heroic bronzes portraying Charlotte's early history, arrayed along a public thoroughfare. With these in place it would no longer be so easy for us to forget our glorious history. As president of the MHA he spread this dream far and wide. Credit also goes to Dr. Tony Zeiss, President of Central Piedmont Community College and his vision for a Trail of History along the Little Sugar Creek Greenway. In 2003 the May 20th Society was formed, dedicated to enhancing the annual Meck Dec Day celebrations. They soon embraced Chase's idea and began to raise money to build a larger-than-life-size statue of Captain Jack on horseback. And we must thank the sculptor, Chas Fagan, a recent transplant to Charlotte who embraced and supported the project from the beginning and brought it to magnificent fruition. Last, and certainly not least, we owe a debt of gratitude to the members of The History Community – those volunteers, reenactors, MHA members, and others who held the torch aloft, kept the flame burning, and supported in every possible way the leaders who made this project a reality.

The Captain Jack Statue has been fabricated at the Carolina Bronze foundry in Seagrove, NC and transported to Charlotte. Soon it will be set in place at the corner of Kings Drive and 4th Street; across Kings Drive from the Overcash building on the CPCC campus, and across 4th Street from St. Mary's Chapel.

The unveiling and dedication of the statue will actually happen twice. First, on Wednesday evening, May 19, there will be a private celebration, by invitation only, for those who made major contributions to the building of the statue. Volunteers and reenactors dressed in 18th or 19th century clothing are also invited to the event.

Starting at 5:15 pm in front of the Overcash building, we will welcome guests as they arrive. Then at 6:30, when all of the invited guests have arrived, we will move inside to mingle with the crowd, enjoy cocktails and snacks, and hear a short speech or two. At 7:30 Captain Jack will ride up outside, dismount and enter the hall. This will be the signal for us to lead a procession outside and across the street to the statue site, led by an honor guard with fife and drum. There will be a few more brief speeches and the unveiling of the statue to a salute of musket and cannon fire. This event ends about 8:30.

Parking both days is complementary at CPCC's Employee Theatre Deck on East 4th Street (A on the map here): <http://www.cpcc.edu/campuses/central/images/Central%20Map.pdf>.

The official public unveiling of the statue will occur at noon on Thursday, May 20 at the statue site on the Little Sugar Creek Greenway at the corner of 4th Street and Kings Drive. It will include soldiers marching to the fife and

drum, brief political speeches, a reading of the Meck Dec, and the formal unveiling of the statue, accompanied by the crash of musket and cannon fire. An appropriate way to send Captain Jack off to Philadelphia.

Plans are still being firmed up and participants will be informed. If you plan to attend in costume, let us know so that we can keep you informed of the schedule as it develops. If you do not own a costume, plan to attend on May 20, anyway, for a grand spectacle and celebration.

Jim Williams

Many Thanks from the Education Committee

As we enjoy the warm days of spring, memories of this year's challenging winter linger. The Education Committee history series, From Wagon Roads to New South City, is now itself history. The response from the Charlotte community was wonderful with nearly 200 people expressing an interest in the classes. Mother Nature was not so enthused and the cancellation of two of the five classes due to weather did affect attendance. However, each session had almost 100 eager, enthusiastic participants in attendance. The evaluations have been positive and comments throughout the series indicated that long time residents as well as newcomers learned a lot and thoroughly enjoyed the process.

Our thanks go to the Charlotte Museum of History, the Levine Museum of the New South and Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church for providing space for the three sessions we were able to offer. We were so blessed with wonderful speakers for the classes, many of them our own docents. Hats off to docents Barbara Goodwin, Olga Sims, Mary McGinn, Tom Phlegar, Jim and Ann Williams, Carolyn Dilda, BJ Caldwell, and Linda Dalton for their informative and interesting presentations. We were also blessed by museum staff members Leslie Kesler (CMH) and Tom Hanchett (Levine). In addition Charles Jones and Charlene Sawyer added great value to the second and third sessions. We are grateful to Mary Kratt for providing a wonderful text for the series and the History Department at CPCC for the Trail of History films. Our community is indeed fortunate to have such an abundance of historical resources available.

Education Committee: Rachel Abernathy, Barbara Jackson and Alice Bostic

Holly Bend

It was reported in the January/February edition of the Dandelion that the county Parks and Recreation Department had acquired Holly Bend, the c. 1795 plantation home of Robin and Peggy Davidson. Parks and Rec. are researching the property's history and planning for its future use. They are currently hosting open house events so that the public can see this wonderful old structure. The next one will be on Sunday, May 2, from 9 am to noon. Directions: Traveling north on Beatties Ford Road, turn left onto Neck Road (about 2-3 miles north of Hopewell Presbyterian Church). Follow Neck road for several miles. About ½ mile past Rural Hill, Neck Road veers to the right and becomes gravel. Holly Bend is about ½ mile further on the right.

The Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley

Here is another imaginary letter from "Mary Sue":

April 5, 2010

Dear Anny,

The weather has finally gotten warmer so the cooking at the Polk site is better. For several cooking sessions we had a hard time with the fire in the hearth. It was cold and the hearth was wet so it was hard to keep the fire burning and get coals, which is what we use for our cooking. We also had a lot of smoke due to the high winds. This nastiness makes you understand what the conditions were like so many years ago and appreciate today's comforts. Now the fire works well.

Also, since the weather has improved, Patti has been able to work in the kitchen garden. She has, or will, plant herbs and vegetables, in neat raised rows. It is a very pleasant sight. The garden has a twig fence around it to keep out the animals.

In February we cooked a German meal, using receipts from Old Salem and the Pennsylvania Dutch. We cooked rabbit, vinegary lentils, Swiss chard, and an apple pudding made with fresh rye bread crumbs and sweet applesauce. They were simple but very satisfying and I was able to take some of the lentils home. What a surprise to see that the lentils were blue when I went to eat them at home! We cooked the lentils in the liquid we had used for the chard. Because of the problems keeping the fire going and having to close the window shutters, it was so dark in the cabin that I did not see that the lentils were blue when I was eating them. Imagine that, eating in such darkness.

In March, we cooked Scots food including a huge pot of spring soup, fried herring, bannocks (little crepe like things made with barley flour) and turnip purry (puree). The spring soup was really good and included all kinds of lettuce, items we eat raw. I could feel the energy flowing through my veins from all the vitamins. We also had a session in March on native American cooking. This included roast venison, parched corn, leather britches (reconstituted green beans), dumplings cooked in grape juice, and most surprising for me, bean bread. This was made with mashed beans, cornmeal and honey. Did not sound too exciting to me but this is another keeper. The corn flour made for a crispy crust and the honey made it just sweet enough. No obvious taste of beans. Who knew!

Upcoming activities include whitewashing the cooking cabin. I have heard about this and it will be nice to experience it first hand. Later in April we will travel to James K. Polk's home in TN, and cook in the kitchen there.

Oh yes, I almost forgot to mention the fashion show. All the Guild ladies participated in the historic fashion show sponsored by the MHA docents. The Guild ladies wore quite a range of clothing, from our usual cooking clothes to Civil War era mourning dress and others. Sharon did a great presentation, pointing out the trends from era to era.

That's all for now Anny. I will write again.
Mary Sue

Erica Blake

Polk's Wayside Exhibit

Visitors driving into the James K. Polk State Historic Site often notice a beautiful stone monument nestled among shade trees. Those who ventured down to the marker missed out on its full importance, as time and weather had taken a huge toll on the accompanying information panel. Much of it could not be read.

The exhibit received a long overdue facelift as an intern project last summer. The display panel has been remounted, and new information has been added. We spent months researching the minutes of the Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter that dedicated the monument to Polk's birthplace. At the UNCC archives we discovered pages of information about the construction and dedication of the 1904 DAR monument. With the help of local DAR Regent, Courtney Layne, we found articles on the rebuilding and rededication on the monument from the 1960s, as well as minutes from 1904. Maria David, a librarian from the Charlotte Observer, also helped by finding old photographs of the monument. We could not begin to thank her enough.

We hope you can come by the site to see our new wayside exhibit. It tells a fascinating story!

Jaime Torres and Scott Warren

Old Photos Solved a Mystery

The Arches National Park located in southeast Utah features over 2,000 natural sandstone arches and other unusual rock formations. It was one of the places featured in Ken Burns' PBS series, "The National Parks: America's Best Idea." During the program they mentioned that the location of the camp used by the Civilian Conservation Corp

was sadly no longer known. Shelia Bumgarner, Carolina Room librarian and history sleuth was watching. Her father had worked for the CCC at the Arches National Park from 1939 – 1941. She had a collection of his old photos, and perhaps the park would be interested. They certainly were. She sent them the photos which did indeed locate the work camp. The camp housed people who blasted rock for the park's entry road, worked on the stone building which is now its administration building, built a stately stone bridge, and many other things. How wonderful when little obscure bits come together to reveal history. Well done, Shelia!

Ann Williams

Rosedale Training Revised

The last training manual for Historic Rosedale was written for the site's opening in 1993. Research since that time has produced a wealth of new information. The staff decided it was time for an update, and I agreed to take on the project. The original manual, thick with information, was intimidating to potential volunteers, and we wanted a leaner more concise version. In 1993 Rosedale's focus was architecture, therefore the old manual's architecture section was appropriately detailed and thorough. I condensed it to better suit current tours, condensed other sections and eliminated parts not relevant to the site. Then I began to weave in the new discoveries. Genealogical research has revealed much more about the Frews and the Caldwells. A careful study of Dr. David Caldwell's business ledgers has given us a surprising and more detailed understanding of his family and life at Rosedale. The original manual barely mentioned Rosedale's slaves, although we had been give handouts about them from time to time. They are included in the new version. When I finished the project I was amazed at how much we have learned over the past 17 years.

If you have been a volunteer at Rosedale, or would like to be one, and want a copy of the new manual, several are available at the site. Education director Sara Craig has the master in her computer and can print more as needed. I hope you will enjoy the new information.

Ann Williams

The History Calendar

Admission charged at all events unless otherwise noted.

Check the Charlotte Regional History Consortium website for other events.

<http://www.charlotteregionalhistory.org>

Historic Rosedale

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

The Art of Craft: 1830 Fundraiser, Saturday, May 8 from 10 am to 4 pm. Admission \$10.00

Patron breakfast with the artists and advanced viewing from 9 to 10 am, Admission \$75.00

Reservations Required.

Join us for the fifth annual The Art of Craft: 1830, a special event for the whole family. Many of North Carolina's best known potters will have their work for sale. In addition, there will be print makers, basket weavers, fiber artists and other craftsmen. A silent auction featuring donated pieces from many famous potters will be open until 4:00.

Ice Cream Social, Sunday, July 11 from 1 pm to 4 pm

Historic Rosedale partners with the Charlotte Folk Society to present a free ice cream social. Ice Cream and Folk Music – could anything be better? For this event docents will station the house and give tours at a special discount rate.

Latta Plantation

5225 Sample Road, Huntersville, NC, 704 875 2312, <http://www.lattaplantation.org>

**World War II Reenactment, Saturday, May 15 from 10 am to 4 pm,
Sunday May 16 from 1 to 4 pm; Main battle at 2 pm each day**

Relive World War II as the Allied and Axis forces battle across the plantation grounds! Visit the Allied and Axis camps and learn about uniforms and gear; watch weapon, combat, hospital, patrol, and rations demos; tour the house, visit the animals, and more! Free admission to WWII veterans and \$1.00 off to all other veterans and active duty military.

Living History Day Fundraiser, Saturday, May 29 from 10 am to 4 pm

Tour the plantation house and grounds and see blacksmithing, weaving, open-hearth cooking and farm life. Children can make crafts and dance around the Maypole! Free with regular site admission.

Fire Starting Workshop, Saturday, June 19 from 10 am to 4 pm

Learn the basics of primitive fire building. The workshop will cover fire starting with friction, flint & steel and magnifying glasses; making char cloth, and more. The class fee of \$30 includes a basic fire starting kit. Pre-registration is required.

Gold Panning Days: Saturdays, June 26, July 10, July 24 and August 14 from 10 am to 4 pm each day.

Learn about Charlotte's rich gold mining history and pan for gold at the miner's cabin. Visitors can also tour the plantation house and grounds. Free with regular site admission.

Civil War Reenactment, Saturday and Sunday, July 17-18

Relive the battle between North and South as soldiers reenact the American Civil War. The Sample family who lived at Latta from 1853 to 1922 had four boys who fought and survived the war. Visitors can walk through the soldier camps, shop with period suttlers, tour the plantation house and grounds, and watch the main battle at 2 pm each day.

**Civil War Infantry Weekend, Saturday, August 21 from 10 am to 4 pm,
Sunday, August 22 from 1 to 4 pm.**

Soldiers on the grounds providing demonstrations.

Revolutionary War Reenactment Saturday and Sunday, September 4-5 from 10 am to 4 pm

Relive the American Revolution as soldiers reenact local battles. Tour soldier camps, see living history demonstrations, visit the plantation house, and watch the main battles each day. On Saturday soldiers will reenact the Battle of Charlotte which originally took place at the corner of Trade and Tryon Streets in Charlotte. On Sunday, soldiers will reenact the Battle of McIntyre Farm which was fought just a few miles from Latta off Beatties Ford Road.

The Charlotte Museum of History

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

Beneath the Badge Family Days.**Saturdays: May 8, June 12, July 10, and August 14, from Noon to 3 pm each day**

Take in the sights and sounds of the CMPD's specialized units during our Family Day program. In conjunction with the *Beneath the Badge* exhibit, Visitors will interact with the men and women that serve our community. Observe demonstrations by the K9 Unit and view police boats and historical police cruisers. Learn crime prevention techniques and crime scene search tactics. Hands-on activity offerings will be available for museum visitors of all ages

Living History Days:

Ferguson Rifle. Sunday, May 2 from 1 to 4 pm

18th Century Military Life. Saturday, May 22, and Sunday June 27 from 1 to 4 pm

Firemaking. Sunday, June 13, from Noon to 4 pm

18th Century Painting Techniques. Saturday, June 26 from 1 to 4 pm

Living History Workshops:

Advance registration is required for all workshops. Bring knife, notebook and pen. Cameras permitted; bring a lunch. Class fees vary. No refunds unless the class is canceled.

Buckskin Bags. Saturday, May 29 from 11 am to 4 pm

Using tanned deerskin we will make a small bag we can wear around our necks. You will learn sewing techniques, layouts, and how to decorate your bag.

Blowguns. Saturday, June 12 from 10 am to 5 pm

Participants will make a blowgun out of river cane and traditional thistle darts used by Native Americans throughout the Southeast. You will see examples of other types of darts and learn how to shoot your blowgun. Bring work gloves. No one under age 18 may register.

Pendants and Gorgets. Saturday, July 24 from 11 am to 4 pm

Participants will carve necklaces out of stone. We will explore other materials such as bone, shell, and antler.

Cane Items. Saturday, August 28 from 11 am to 4 pm

Participants will use river cane to make knives, vials, net shuttles, whistles, turkey calls, fishhooks, and pea shooters! A variety of items for all ages.

American Military Through the Ages. Saturday, June 5 from 11 am to 3 pm

Walk through the chronology of America's military history on the museum grounds. Learn about the role the military has played in the world and on the home front.

Independence Day Afternoon Celebration. Sunday, July 4 from 10 am to 2 pm. Free

Bring your family and learn about the birth of our country. We will have colonial games, and various family-friendly activities. Bring a picnic lunch and have some fun

President James K. Polk State Historic Site

12031 Lancaster Hwy., Pineville, NC, 704 889 7145

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org

Movie Night at the Polk Site, Tuesday, May 4, doors open at 6:30 pm, Free

This movie screening will feature the 1988 movie "Eight Men Out." Which tells the story of the Black Sox scandal during the 1919 World Series. The film is rated PG

The Polk site has joined with other North Carolina historic sites and museums to present "Second Saturdays". The program, launched by the Department of Cultural Resources, lets artists showcase and sell their work, and broadens audience participation at the sites. The June, July, and August events below are Second Saturday programs.

Shaping the Past: The Form and Function of Pottery, Saturday, June 12 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free

Learn the importance of red ware and various types of pottery in the everyday lives of early Mecklenburg County. Participating are members of the Catawba Indian Nation and various local potters and merchants. This program

will feature hand-on demonstrations in the historic area and a market behind the museum where local artists will sell their work.

The Art of Music in the Mid Nineteenth Century, Saturday, July 10 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free

This program will feature various types of music that were popular during President James K. Polk's administration. The focus will vary from classical to folk music and visitors can participate in making music. Local musicians and instrument makers will be on hand.

Threading the Story: Spinning and Weaving, Saturday, August 14 from 10 am to 4 pm, Free

This program will focus on the process of textiles from cotton to yarn to clothing. Staff will interpret the various steps involved in the fabric-making process. Weavers, spinners, quilters and textile makers will be on hand to display and sell their work.

Schiele Museum

1500 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia, N.C. 704 866 6900 <https://www.schielemuseum.org>

The Secret of the Kitchen Garden, Sunday, May 30, from 1 to 5 pm, Monday, May 31 from 10 am to noon

Visit the Backcountry Farm and enjoy the kitchen garden in its prime! Talk with a backcountry housewife as she tends her garden and prepares for summer. Learn about some of the interesting uses of herbs, flowers, and vegetables grown in early Carolina gardens. Discover that the kitchen garden is much more than a vegetable patch.

Historic Brattonsville

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

<http://www.chmuseums.org/ourmuseums/myco/index.htm>

**Battle of Huck's Defeat, Saturday, July 10 from 10 am to 5 pm,
Battle reenactments at 11:30 am. and 2 pm.**

See how soldiers and civilians in the Carolina Piedmont survived the Revolutionary War in the Carolina backcountry. Two significant battles will be reenacted. Historic music performances, firearms demonstrations, talks by noted experts, and camp life will be shown throughout the day. Younger visitors can explore the Children's Encampment area and experience historic toys and games, take part in military drills and explore a Revolutionary War camp.

Museum of York County

4621 Mt. Gallant Rd., Rock Hill, SC, 803 329 2121

<http://www.chmuseums.org/ourmuseums/myco/index.htm>

The Rocky Shoals Spider Lily, Tuesday, May 18 at 7 pm, Museum of York County

Did you know the world's largest population of Rocky Shoals Spider Lilies is found in your backyard? At Landsford Canal State Park, you can see an incredible display of these spectacular flowers covering 27 acres. Learn more about this spectacular flower and ways you can help preserve it for future generations. Presented by Andy Lazenby, a science teacher at Knox Street School in Clover.

Gaston County Museum

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

Civil War Encampment, Saturday, May 8 from Noon to 3 pm.

The Confederate History and Monument Preservation Society, portraying Company H of the 23rd NC troops will have a display to view, be on hand to answer questions about the Civil War, and give firing and drilling demonstrations. In honor of North Carolina Confederate Memorial Day there will be a wreath laying ceremony on the Confederate Marker at 1 pm.

Charlotte Folk Societywww.folksociety.org**Ice Cream Social, Sunday, July 11 from 1 pm to 4 pm at Historic Rosedale**

Historic Rosedale partners with the Charlotte Folk Society to present a free ice cream social. Ice Cream and Folk Music – could anything be better? For this event docents will station the house and give tours at a special discount rate.

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site

438 Fort Dobbs Road, Statesville, NC 704 873 5882

<http://www.fortdobbs.org>**Living History Weekend: Victualling the Troops, Saturday and Sunday, June 12-13 from 10 am to 4 pm**

The preparation and presentation of food was very important part of everyday life in the 18th century. Compare the simple rations of 1750's soldiers to dishes enjoyed by civilians and officers and have a taste of seasonal fare. Observe the process of baking bread in a mud oven and meet a Moravian potter plying his wares.

Dance is the Thing, Saturday, Saturday, July 10 from 10 am to 4 pm

Music was important to colonists in the 18th century. It provided an entertaining way to connect with others and to keep alive the traditions of the mother country. Listen to the music of the common Scots-Irish settlers, join in song with provincial soldiers, learn the steps to an English country dance and see the present-day continuation of traditional musical styles.

Living History Weekend: Gone for a Soldier, Saturday and Sunday, July 24-25 from 10 am to 4 pm

A recruiting party of the N.C. Provincials will be at Fort Dobbs looking for new soldiers! Visitors will have the opportunity to “enlist” in the company guarding the western frontier and learn first-hand what it took to be a soldier in the 18th Century. Demonstrations of military drill, weapons firings, and camp life will be on-going.

To Master a Trade, Saturday, August 14 from 10 am to 4 pm

While many people living in the vicinity of Fort Dobbs were farmers, others earned their living by performing a trade. Meet tradesmen typical of the 18th Century North Carolina backcountry, woodworkers, metalworkers and artists. Visitors will have the opportunity to purchase their own "piece" of the 18th Century from the artisans and craftsmen plying their wares.

Kings Mountain National Military Park

SC Hwy 216. I-85, Exit 2 in North Carolina. Follow the signs. 864-936-7921

<http://www.nps.gov/kimo>**18th Century Trades and Crafts Fair, Saturday and Sunday, May 1-2 from 9 am to 5 pm, Free**

Artisans and craftsmen/women will demonstrate a variety of trades and crafts such as blacksmithing, woodworking, joinery and carpentry, weaving, spinning, fur trading and tanning. Learn about 18th century herbs and medicine and play 18th century games.

Jaeger Korp and Ferguson Rifle with Ricky Roberts, Saturday and Sunday, May 8-9 from 9 am to 5 pm, Free

The Jaeger Korp were a German mercenary rifle corps employed by the British during the American Revolution. Come learn more about this unit and its unique weaponry. Ricky Roberts will also be on hand to discuss and demonstrate the Ferguson Breech Loading Rifle. This weapon, designed and developed by Patrick Ferguson was revolutionary in its design and ahead of its time. Weapons demonstrations will be held throughout the day.

Military Through The Ages, Saturday and Sunday, May 29-30 from 9 am to 5 pm, Free

Reenactors representing soldiers from each of America's wars from the French and Indian War to modern military will be encamped discussing their weapons and tactics.

Children's Colonial Day, Saturday, June 12 from 9 am to 5 pm, Free

Come play games such as Jacobs Ladder, Game of Graces, Rolling Hoop and more. Learn what breeches, waistcoat, petticoat and short gowns are. Sign the Oath, join the militia and drill. Learn about Thomas Sumter "The Gamecock" and Lord Cornwallis portrayed by Howard Burnham.

4th of July Celebration, Saturday and Sunday, July 3-4 from 9 am to 5 pm, Free

Members of the Backcountry Militia will discuss the Declaration of Independence, its significance, and what it meant then and now. Come sign your John Hancock as the founding fathers did on the document that guarantees your rights and liberties to this day.

71st Highland Regiment, Saturday and Sunday, July 17-18 from 9 am to 5 pm, Free

The 71st Highlanders were one of the more important British Regiments during the American Revolution serving in both northern and southern campaigns. Come learn about more about this unit's history, weapons and tactics.

Backcountry Militia, Saturday, August 14 from 9 am to 5 pm, Free

The Backcountry Militia will be encamped discussing life on the Carolina frontier. A variety of demonstrations will be held throughout the day including weapons demonstrations, cooking and more

Cowpens National Battlefield

I-85 South Carolina Exit 83, follow signs, 864-461-2828

www.nps.gov/cowp All events free

Family activities at the Scruggs House, Sundays, May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22, 1:30 - 4:00 pm

Remember the Revolution, Monday, May 31 from 11 am to 1 pm

Dr. Bobby Moss will tell stories about the Revolutionary War in this area and how it affected the men who fought it and their families. Followed by book signing in the visitor center.

1st Maryland, Southern Campaign Living History Weekend, Saturday and Sunday, June 5 - 6

South Carolina Independent Rangers, Saturday, June 12 from 10 am to 3:30 pm

Fireworks and Family Fun, Saturday, July 3

Check the web site in late June for complete schedule for the day. Fireworks will begin at approximately 9:00 pm. Music by the 246th Army National Guard Band.

Hesse Kassel Jaeger Korps, Saturday and Sunday, July 17 - 18

Encampment and programs.

South Carolina Independent Rangers, Saturday, August 28 from 10 am to 3:30 pm.

Kings Mountain State Park

I-85 Exit 8 in NC and follow the signs

<http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/945.aspx>

Independence Day, 1850, Sunday, July 4 from 10 am to 2 pm

Join volunteer interpreters at the Living History Farm as they help Kings Mountain State Park celebrate Independence Day the way it was in 1850. Interpreters will be demonstrating farming practices as well as the



various ways people celebrated July 4th 150 years ago. There will be many hands-on activities for all ages to participate in.

Duke Mansion

400 Hermitage Road, Charlotte, 704 714 4448

<http://www.dukemansion.com>

Charlotte and the Depression, Sunday May 2 at 3 pm, Free

Tom Cole will tell how economic transitions have been the key to the region's growth, and can be again. His talk will be of historic interest and promises to be an uplifting message during our current uncertain economy. Tom is a former professor of history and staff member at the CMPL Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room.

Railways, Sunday May 23 at 3 pm, Free

Walter Turner and Tom Hanchett will talk about the coming of the railroads in the 1850s, how they transformed the piedmont, and led to Charlotte's growth. They will present railroading history from the beginning to the present, and talk about possible future plans. Walter is the historian at the North Carolina Transportation Museum, and Tom is historian at the Levine Museum of the New South.

Lincoln County Historical Association

www.LincolnCountyHistory.com

(704) 748-9090

Genealogical Workshop Saturday, May 22 from 9:30 am to 4 pm, Lincoln Cultural Center, Lincolnton.

The LCHA and Gaston-Lincoln Genealogical Society are proud to combine efforts and offer this in-depth genealogical workshop, let by Kathy Gunter Sullivan, CG, Robert C. Carpenter and A. Bruce Pruitt, Ph.D.. Registration required by May 15th.

MHA Docents

Jim and Ann Williams

1601 South Wendover Road

Charlotte, NC 28211