

The Charlotte Observer

Arts & Living

SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2007

THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER | www.charlotte.com

Living Here

YOUR GUIDE TO THE CHARLOTTE REGION

Take a trip into the past with free historical events

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Want to know more about Charlotte's history? Three free events are coming up, starting today.

First off, newcomers may be wondering why they keep hearing the word "MeckDec" in May. It refers to a Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence signed by local patriots on May 20, 1775. The anniversary date has become a favorite for local civic events. However, the event is controversial because no original

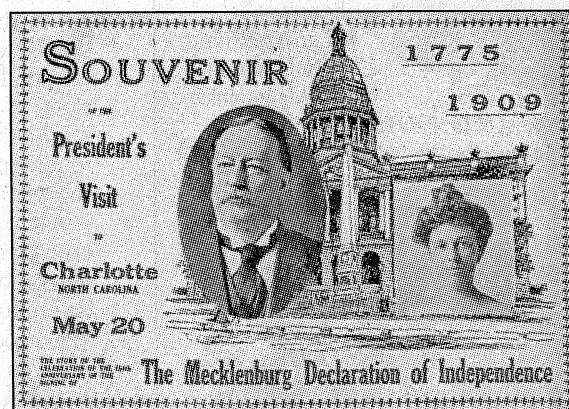
copies of the document have been found, leading some to question whether it ever existed.

Carolina Room librarian Jane Johnson and Levine Museum of the New South historian Tom Hanchett host a free discussion session on the topic at 3 p.m. today at the historic James B. Duke Mansion in Myers Park, 400 Hermitage Road, 704-714-4448.

You can mark your calendars ahead for two other events coming up: On Aug. 26 at 3 p.m., Hanchett will present a slideshow on Myers Park architecture, and librarian Shelia Bumgarner of the public library's Carolina Room will give pointers on how to uncover the history of your own home.

And Oct. 7 at 3 p.m. brings Family Genealogy Day, with public library genealogy librarian Rosemary Lands exploring the histories of the Myers and Duke families and giving introductions for anyone who'd like to research their own ancestors. Both events are also at the Duke Mansion.

Meck Dec Memories



COURTESY OF THE ROBINSON-SPANGLER CAROLINA ROOM
AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Local celebrations for the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence once drew presidents William Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson, Dwight Eisenhower and Gerald Ford to Charlotte. The souvenir cover pictured is from Taft's 1909 visit.