

★ SPIRIT OF MECKLENBURG — CAPTAIN JAMES JACK ★

On May 19, 1775 a rider raced into Charlottetown with news of the massacre of colonists by the British at the Battle of Concord and Lexington. Angered at this news and already burdened by the oppressive, unjust laws of King George III, tradition says that a band of local patriots met through the night and into May 20th to draft the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence (or MecDec). On May 31, they met again to draft a set of Resolves that outlined how they would self govern. These treasonous documents declared that the actions of the Crown were intolerable and that Charlottetown and Mecklenburg County were no longer under British rule.

A young tavern owner, Captain James Jack, volunteered to take these powerful documents on the arduous journey to the Continental Congress. Knowing full well that if caught he would be immediately hung; he risked his livelihood, property, family and very life to transport these important documents. Slipping past British regulars and spying Tories, Jack arrived in Philadelphia, demanding Mecklenburg County's declaration of freedom be read into record. Just as Paul Revere's famous ride alerted patriots to the British landing in Boston, James Jack's ride helped kindle the embers of revolution in the Continental Congress.

Captain Jack has become a legendary figure in the annals of Charlotte-Mecklenburg history. He is a significant symbol of our community; a community that has risked everything for the rights and protections that we take for granted today. This spirit is what the May 20th Society seeks to honor.



The Spirit of Mecklenburg, a statue of Captain James Jack, will be dedicated in the spring of 2009 at the corner of 4th Street and Kings Drive, with the opening of The Little Sugar Creek Greenway. Join the May 20th Society in bringing this vision to reality. Your tax deductible gift will serve as a testament and tribute to the everlasting values which make our community strong.



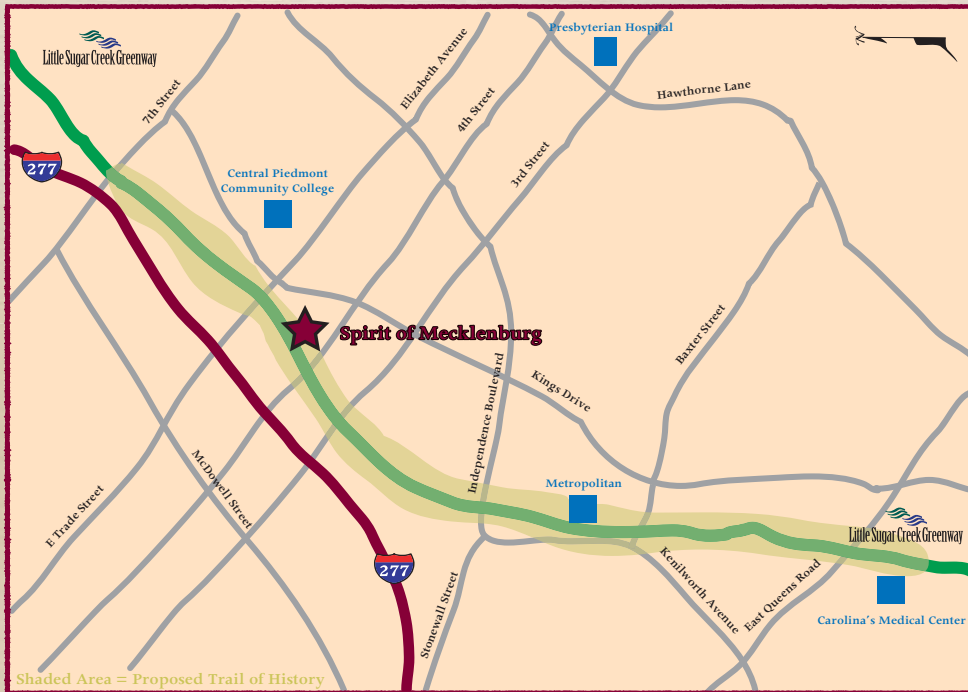
TRAIL OF HISTORY ON LITTLE SUGAR CREEK GREENWAY

Little Sugar Creek is a 16 mile natural treasure running through the heart of Charlotte-Mecklenburg. The creek was rerouted, straightened, and even capped with concrete with the growth of Charlotte in the 1950's. The community is now working to preserve and restore this natural treasure to its original splendor creating one of the most enviable green spaces in the country - The Little Sugar Creek Greenway.

The Little Sugar Creek Greenway will provide walking and biking trails, habitat restoration, and environmentally sensitive green space producing critically important connectivity within our numerous communities.

The Greenway begins in the heart of Cordelia Park in North Charlotte, winds past uptown, through several historic neighborhoods and extends all the way to the North Carolina/South Carolina state line.

The May 20th Society and Partners for Parks are collaborating to create a *Trail of History* within the Little Sugar Creek Greenway, running from the CPCC campus to Carolina Medical Center. This strolling park will illustrate our rich history with bronze statues showcasing the individuals who had a dramatic impact on Charlotte-Mecklenburg.



Local citizens and visitors to our area will enjoy the blending of art, the environment and history along the *Trail of History*. It will be an attraction for students investigating our local history, families enjoying the peace and tranquility of the Greenway and art enthusiasts who appreciate the integration of art and nature.

The May 20th Society would like to thank the following entities for their support in piloting this effort.



PLEDGE FORM



The May 20th Society is an organization that endeavors to capture and celebrate Charlotte's rebellious and visionary spirit. We hope to define our City's future by heralding its rich history.

Charlotte and Mecklenburg County are unique places not because of geography, but because of the people and their desire for personal freedoms. We are a community that has always demanded to go wherever our dreams take us. The legend of Captain James Jack is a notable symbol of the *Spirit of Mecklenburg*. Please join us in memorializing his ride with the first statue in the Trail of History on Little Sugar Creek Greenway.

Yes! I would like to help restore Charlotte-Mecklenburg History.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

I/We pledge a total of \$ _____ in support of the *Spirit of Mecklenburg* statue.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

P.O. Box 30335
Charlotte, NC 28230.

WWW.MAY20THSOCIETY.ORG

The May 20th Society is a 501 ©(3) organization.