

Carson House Newsletter October 2018



A Message from our New Executive Director, Martha Jordan:

The last couple of months have been filled with a whirlwind of

activity! **The Carson House** has been bouncing with events and celebrations as it served as the hub for the **175th McDowell County Anniversary** activities. The Historic Carson House staff and volunteers planned and carried out **five full days of Living History** demonstrations and house tours for over **1,100 students and staff of McDowell County**



Martha Childers Jordan is a native of McDowell County and has family ties to the early settlers in the area. Two of her proven Revolutionary War patriots, Captain John Connelly of Bridgewater and Captain George Ledbetter of Montford's Cove both held land grants in areas of what is now McDowell County. Robert McCall (her 3x great grandfather) and Joseph Conley (her 2x great grandfather) were among the Justices of the Peace that met to found McDowell County in 1843.

Martha grew up on the old McCall family farm in North Cove. She attended North Cove School beginning in the first grade and was in the last graduating class from that school. Her parents, John and Alma McCall Childers were both educators as was her grandmother Lela Marlowe McCall. Martha followed in their footsteps into education. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and taught at Pleasant Gardens Elementary School for 35 years before retiring in 2012. She has four children and four grandchildren. In 2009, she married her high school sweetheart, Ben Jordan.

After her retirement, Martha became more active in historical organizations. She served as regent of the Greenlee DAR (Greenlee Chapter was organized by Nina, Ruth, and Mary Greenlee). One of the favorite projects she liked to do was living history. She began volunteering on a regular basis at the Carson House when school groups were coming for tours. She planned and coordinated living history days at local schools. She also did programs for the middle schools and high school about elements of history in McDowell County.

Some of the items on display at the Carson House hold sentimental values to Martha. The large bookcase in the parlor, the clock on the mantle in the downstairs bedroom, and the surveyor's compass, chains and rods came from her Conley and McCall ancestors.

Martha loves the history of McDowell County and hopes that she can share her love and enthusiasm about the rich heritage of the area to everyone with whom she comes into contact.

Schools. All eighth-grade students from **West and East McDowell Middle Schools**, all fourth-grade students from the **eight elementary schools**, and the second graders from **Eastfield Global Magnet School** got to enjoy a full day of history.

The Carson House Junior Historians have been busy all year. They have participated in Living History Programs, the Car Show, Civil War Days, the Fourth of July Parade, the Fatz Breakfast, the Historic Fun Run, the Afternoon Tea and Fashion Show, and the Musical Concert. They have attended Docent Training and have assisted with set up and clean up for events.

Basic Genealogy Classes will be conducted in the Greenlee Library. Those wanting to learn more about researching their family tree or who have a desire to join a lineage group are encouraged to participate. Call the Carson House for details.

Historic Carson House
Open April – November

1805 HWY 70 West Marion, NC 28752 Phone: 828-724-4948
Wednesday – Saturday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Sunday 2:00 pm-5:00 pm

www.historiccarsonhouse.com
Adults and Children over 12 years - \$7.00

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Mountain Glory Festival The Historic Carson House Partners manned a booth at the **Mountain Glory Festival** held Saturday, October 13, 2018. Partners sold several T-shirts, including some to a few **Carson Descendants** and to a couple of families whose last name was Carson and who were curious as to whether they might be descendants as well. Other items sold were books, post cards of early 1900s Marion Main Street, and pen and ink drawing post cards of the four different rooms of the Historic Carson House. Many HCH brochures and recruitment cards were given away. **A special thanks to all the Partners and Board Members who helped set up the booth, work the event, and take down the booth.**

English Afternoon Tea and Fashion Show The Week of the **175th McDowell County Celebration** began with the *Carson House English Afternoon Tea and Fashion Show*. **Evelyn Butler** chaired the event, and **Nancy Barfield** made and/or secured the scones, the three savories, and the three sweets that were served on **Janet Williams'** beautiful china. Tea donated by *Flavors on Main* was brewed and then served from lovely china teapots. **Mayor Steve Little** welcomed guests, and **Sandi Rabb** and **Leslie Neff** presented a program on "**The Language of Fans**". **Kerry Davis** introduced several young models one by one as she gave the history of the dress style and time period. The gowns, most of which were created by **Kerry Davis**, spanned the 1800s and showed how styles changed during that time span. **Joe Davis** escorted the models into the hall where over 100 guests enjoyed the show.



Dinner on Buck Creek and Silent Auction Our annual **Dinner on Buck Creek and Silent Auction** fundraiser was held on **May 19, 2018** on the **Carson grounds and in the Jubilee Arbor**. **Fred Dodge** was chairman. Despite the rainy week and poor forecast, we were once again fortunate with the weather during the evening.

Clever placement of the tents allowed guests covered paths to the buffet line and back to their tables. As always, our many dedicated volunteers helped with all aspects of the evening from set-up, tickets, catering, tables, decorations, auction, registration, parking, clean up and more!

Because of the weather, our **Auction was held in the Jubilee Arbor**. Chair, **Karen Dark**, and her committee of **Ellen Shelley**, **Crystal Hamby**, and **Amanda Finn** did an excellent job of collecting auction items. Over twenty-five generous auction donors made this event a success.

Rob Noyes and his Countryside BBQ staff prepared an amazing, delicious dinner with all the trimmings. We are privileged to offer such wonderful meals to our guests. **XYZ Spirits** provided a wine tasting and served as bartenders.

Thank you to all our guests for attending; we look forward to seeing you Saturday, May 18, 2019 for our next Dinner on Buck Creek and Silent Auction. Tickets may be purchased from Carson House Partners, Board Members or directly from the Carson house.

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Education Week at Historic Carson House

Carson Partners **Jan Goodson and Barbara Davis** presented a short history of the **Historic Carson House** to the three second grades at **Eastfield Global Magnet School** on September 4, 2018. Students could touch several of the most interesting artifacts from the Historic Carson House. These items included the “**shoo fly**” which was used to keep flies away during mealtimes, **writing slates, an anvil, and corn husk dolls.**



Students asked many questions and then were presented coloring books depicting several scenes of the Carson House to take home. These coloring books were designed by the **Graphic Art students at McDowell High School** and by **Carson Partners Mary Van Dyke, Barbara Davis, and Jan Goodson.** These students took a tour of the Historic Carson House the following week.

Several **OVTA** members, **DAR** Members, **Carson Partners, Junior Historians,** and community **volunteers** also participated in **Education Week at the Historic Carson House.** Several stations were set up and student groups went from one station to another in an orderly manner. **HCH** Docents in period dress taught students about the Carson House and the Carson family and about the artifacts within the house.



Bob Elledge, John Garrou, and Albert Dale taught students about the barn and the wagon, carriage, hand tools, and other artifacts in it. **Elaine Dellinger** had a table with textiles and period clothing for all ages. **Ellen Peppers’ and Janice Pierce’s** table featured hand-made crocheted, tatted, and quilted textiles used in the home. **Sherie Presnell** taught students about food preparation and preservation in the 1700s and 1800s.

OVTA members **Joe Epley, Chivous Bradley, Dennis and Lorraine Volker, and Bob and Carol Martin** shared the **OVTA** story and did presentations on colonial life, including weaponry, music, toys, textiles to name a few. **OVTA** member **Michael Hennigan** played the fife and drum for the students.

Emily Driggers showed students the games and toys common in those days. **Denise Bishop** presented a Basic History of the area, including the Revolutionary War, Over Mountain Victory Trail, Yellow Mountain Trail, and the Civil War. She showed students Native American weaponry and musical instruments. She

explained that stories and news were passed down through song. **Freddy Bradburn,** who wrote the original musical “**Spirit and Bone**”, sang and played the ballad “**Wind and Rain**” on his fiddle to demonstrate how news was made into song and shared among settlements.

WELCOME TO NEW PARTNERS Recently, five new Partners have joined the Historic Carson House group. **Cheryl Kerr, Pam Finlayson, Denise Bishop, Janice Pierce and Michele Jordan** will be helping with all the various Partner support activities. Partners meet once a month, log many volunteer hours on projects, presentations, fundraisers, landscaping, mowing, and being docents at the Historic Carson House.

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The Historic Carson House's Jubilee Arbor and Grounds is a popular backdrop for weddings, meetings, and celebrations. Over 36 events have been held here so far this year, and there eight reservations scheduled already for 2019 and two for 2020. **To reserve a day and time for your event, call 828-724-4948.**

Carson Holiday Luncheon and Bake Sale This fundraiser event will be from 11:00 am-1:30 pm on Friday, November 9, 2018 at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in Marion. Tickets can be purchased from Partners, Board members, or from the Carson House. Chef Redcross of The McDowell Hospital will cater the meal of Hot Chicken Salad, Green Beans, Cranberry Jell-o Salad, Rolls, Tea, Coffee, and Water. Dessert will be cookies made by the Partners.

Carson Society Christmas Candlelight Evening This annual event will be held at 6:00 pm Friday Evening, November 30, 2018. All members are invited to attend. (Please RSVP to the Carson House.)

Historic Carson House Candlelight Tours Tours will be held for McDowell County residents free of charge at 6:00 pm on Saturday, December 1st and Sunday, December 2, 2018. Tours begin at 6:00 pm and will continue every 30 minutes until 8:00 pm. Hot cider, hot chocolate and cookies will be served in the Jubilee Arbor.

CALENDAR

November 30 - Carson House and the Jubilee Arbor closes for the Season

April 3, 2019 – Carson House and Jubilee Arbor open for the Season

May 18, 2019 – Dinner on Buck Creek and Silent Auction – *SAVE THE DATE*