

Saxe Gotha Dispatch



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Quilts Receiving Attention	2
Trish Shandor Wins Award	2
Exhibit on Fox House	3
Museum Visitation	3
Calendar of Events	4
Xmas Open House a Success	4
Highlighted Artifact	5

Friends Fundraiser to Celebrate Lexington Arts

Please join us on January 25, 2014 as the Friends of the Lexington County Museum will host its annual fundraiser on from 6 pm to 10 pm at Lexington's Town Hall, located at 111 Maiden Lane in downtown Lexington. The theme this year will be on Lexington County's arts. Lexington has produced and been home to many artists, performers, writers, and musicians throughout the years. This gala will celebrate those living and deceased that have helped add to the culture of Lexington.

Tickets to this fun event are \$50 and can be purchased from the museum or at the door on the 25th. Tickets include all you can eat and drink.



Dancing at the 2012 Fundraiser

The Great Society Band will provide music. Sponsorships ranging from \$150 to \$2500 are available and are tax-deductible. The fundraiser will also feature a silent auction.

All funds raised go toward the restoration of interior rooms in the

Hazelius House at the museum and the enhancement of exhibits. We hope to see you at this exciting event! For more information, call the museum at 803-359-8369 or visit the museum's website at www.lex-co.sc.gov/museum.

Museum Past and Upcoming Outreach Efforts

Although December and January are often somewhat slow months, the museum staff members are still active in promoting the museum.

In December, the museum set up a booth at the town of Lexington's Christmas Tree Lighting event. This provided a great opportunity for the museum to advertise the

Christmas Open House.

The museum will also take part in a presentation on Edgefield's Dave the Potter in February at Lexington's Main Library.

Lexington Quilts Receiving National Attention



“Researchers are curious to compare and contrast techniques and stylistic preferences between the quilters of the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Southern states and to set Lexington County into that national picture.”

Antique quilts seem to be more popular than ever. More and more recent visitors to the museum have stated that the reason they chose to visit was to view the famous Lexington County Museum quilt collection. Several quilt researchers from across the country have paid visits to the museum since the American Quilt Study Group included us as a tour stop during their annual conference held in Charleston last year. Of particular interest to the individual researchers is our large collection of locally made quilts in the Fox House which provide researchers the opportunity to study a cross-section of quilts of this region. The collection of quilts spans from the 1840s through the 1940s and reflect generations of tastes and traditions of women in Lexington County.

The museum can thank the efforts of the former Director, Horace Harmon for his enthusiasm and good eye for selecting these important quilts to be

part of the museum’s collection. Credit must also be given to early champions of South Carolina Folklife, McKissick Museum at the University of South Carolina and the South Carolina State Museum who sponsored the South Carolina Quilt Study Project in the 1980s to identify and document historic South Carolina quilts. Early researchers like Laurel Horton who wrote articles on our quilts including one in the publication “Bits and Pieces” published 1991 helped get the word out decades ago. What we are finally seeing in the past year is the resurgence in popularity of antique quilts and the inclusion of many younger people interested in them. Many theorize that this may have to do with the current “Back to Roots” movement in America that celebrates traditional music, cooking and the arts.

It has been said over and over that a book should be published on the museum’s quilt collection though at the moment there seems to be no agreement on where or

how to start that project. Researchers are curious to compare and contrast techniques and stylistic preferences between the quilters of the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Southern states and to set Lexington County into that national picture. The most important outcome of all of this attention is that the hard work of these women throughout the history of the county is continued to be appreciated, celebrated and preserved.

Museum Employee Wins Scholarship to SEMC

Museum visitor services coordinator Trish Shandor won a scholarship to attend the 2013 Southeastern Museums Conference. The conference took place in Savannah, Georgia in October. The scholarship

paid for Ms. Shandor’s conference registration fee, her hotel costs, and some other travel expenses. The scholarship committee picked Trish over many other great candidates. The museum is very

proud of Trish for winning this prestigious award. Attending conferences allows the museum’s employees to keep up with the latest advances as well as network with other museum professionals.

Staff Completing Exhibit on Fox House After John Fox

The museum's employees have recently completed an exhibit on the John Fox House during the time period after John Fox lived in it. Currently, most of the house features period furnishings and is decorated the way John Fox may have had the house decorated around 1850. Fox, who bought the house in 1843, died in 1884. The Fox family and other people continued to live in the house until the mid 20th century. Friends member Marvin Hendrix lived in the house with his family from the late 1930s through the 1950s. The exhibit features photos taken by the Hendrix family during that time period that shows the rock garden then located next to the Fox House as well as a few of the structures that were located near the Fox House. These photos as well as photos of the restoration of the Fox House show how the house and the landscape surrounding the house have changed over time.

The exhibit is located inside the Fox House in what was originally a bedroom.



Fox House Before Restoration



Hendrix Siblings In Front of Fox House

Museum Visitation in Nov. and December 2013

As has been the trend over the past several years, the museum's been very busy the last two months of the year.

In November, the museum saw 1,615 total visitors including visitors from ten

states other than SC.

1,383 people visited the museum in December.

Visitors came from seven states. The museum also gave tours to scout groups and a sewing guild.

School groups from many of the school districts in Lexington and Richland Counties took part in our free programs for children as well.



Museum Calendar of Events

January 20, 2014 - Friends of the Museum Board Meeting, 6:30 pm
Hazelius House Museum Grounds

January 25, 2014 – Celebrating Lexington’s Arts: Sights and Sounds Museum Fundraiser, 6 pm to 10 pm
Lexington Town Hall, 111 Maiden Lane
Lexington. Tickets are \$50.00 and include all you can eat and drink. Sponsorships are available.

May 4, 2014 – Friends of the Museum Annual Meeting, 1:00 pm
Spring Open House 3 pm to 5pm
Free to the Public

Call the museum at 803-359-8369 or email museum@lex-co.com to find out more about these events.

Christmas Open House A Success Despite Weather

Around 350 people braved the rain and cold to attend our annual Christmas Open House on the afternoon of December 8th. The museum staff is delighted to have that many people attend considering the weather. Those that came got to experience the Christmas traditions of the past as we had many of the houses decorated in period fashion. Guest enjoyed refreshments including hot apple cider, gingerbread, stollen bread, and mixed bread (bread made with grits). The Open House is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit and a great way to learn more about the museum and the historic structures on the property.

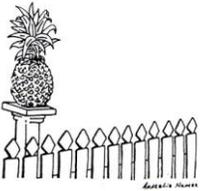


Lexington County Museum

231 Fox Street
Lexington, SC 29072

Phone 803-359-8369
Fax 803-808-2160
E-mail museum@lex-co.com

Gateway to
Yesterday



We're on the Web!
www.lex-co.sc.gov/museum

The Lexington County Museum was started in 1970 to collect, preserve and present the history of Lexington County. After initially having only one historic house, the museum expanded and now has thirty historic structures over seven acres in downtown Lexington. Through exhibits in historic houses, the museum interprets everyday life in the town of Lexington and throughout Lexington County from the eighteenth century to the start of the Civil War. The museum offers guided tours to visitors for a small fee and has thirteen different hands-on programs for school groups free of charge by appointment. These programs attract schools from around the state and educate students about the history of Lexington County and about the everyday life of Lexington County residents in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The Friends of the Lexington County Museum is a non-profit group founded in 1997 with an advisory board, officers, and a board of trustees representing all municipalities in Lexington County. Its mission is to enhance the Lexington County Museum through its duly appointed commission and to support, aid, and assist in the improvement and expansion of the Museum. The Friends group sponsors fund-raising projects to help further the Museum's valuable contribution to the county, including the project described below. The Friends group has raised over \$270,000 for the museum so far. To learn more about the Friends or to join, visit the museum's webpage (www.lex-co.sc.gov/museum).

Highlighted Artifact from the Museum's Collections

This issue's highlighted artifact is a recently-acquired book entitled *G. Buchanan's Paraphrase of the Psalms of David* that originally belonged to the library of the Lutheran Classical and Theological Seminary while it was located in Lexington (ca.1834 to 1855). The book originally published in Edinburgh in 1772, features a label on the inside cover that identifies it as part of the library of the Lutheran Seminary in Lexington, SC. The museum has been given two other books recently that were once in the seminary library and feature identical labels. The museum's tour office was once the seminary professor's house.

