

Saxe Gotha Dispatch



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Museum to Hold Annual Halloween Program

The Lexington County Museum will host the Eighth Annual Haunted History Halloween program at 231 Fox Street in Lexington this year.

As ghoulish guides lead you on a spooky journey of the museum property, you will hear ghostly stories, including strange and unusual events in Lexington County's Native American, antebellum, and Civil War history.

Guests will hear amazing stories, learn about weird medical remedies from the 18th and 19th centuries, and meet memorable specters along the way. The jokester Sheriff Amos Banks and the dastardly Black Luke from



Ghouls at the museum's Halloween program

antebellum Lexington may even make a friendly appearance. Watch out for frights and surprises around every corner!

Tours, which will last around forty-five minutes each, will take place on the evenings of Thursday Oct. 16 and Friday Oct. 17 at 7:00 and 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$6.00 for

adults and \$3.00 for children under 12. Members get in free with a membership card. For reservations, call the Lexington County Museum at 803-359-8369 or email the museum at JRFennell@lex-co.com. This event is educational, family-friendly and, most importantly, fun!

Museum Past and Upcoming Outreach Efforts

Museum staff members are continuing to try to increase awareness of the museum and Lexington County history. The Director has given presentations to the Sons of Confederate

Veterans organizations in Lexington and Prosperity in August. He has also given presentations to residents of Deepwood Estates and a Military Order of the Stars and Bars chapter.

Staff members will also speak at a meeting of the Columbia Antique Guild in the coming month.

200 year-old South Carolina Secretary Compliments Collection

“The museum hopes its recent acquisition will bring further attention to their often overlooked collection of South Carolina decorative arts.”

Due to a generous gift of the Lexington Historical Society, the Museum has acquired a new piece of South Carolina-made furniture. The ca. 1780 secretary bookcase is actually attributed to Laurens County but is representative of the type that would have been found in Lexington County during that time period. It is comprised of walnut with yellow pine secondary wood. The piece is currently featured in the Leaphart-Harman House and fits in nicely with the Chippendale architectural features of the ca. 1800 house. The secretary was acquired at Wooten & Wooten Auctions in July 2014 and was said to have belonged to Revolutionary War Captain Robert Pasley III (1746-1818), though this claim has not been investigated by our staff.

The secretary is admittedly in need of some restoration work. At the minimum, the piece requires period-appropriate drawer pulls and a reconstruction of some decorative moldings.

Ideally, the later black finish would be removed and its feet would be re-built. Museum staff and the Friends of the Lexington County Museum have not yet discussed plans for raising funds for these projects.

Even without its complete provenance the piece is an important representation of 18th century backcountry furniture, which has seen resurgence in popularity among academics lately. Dale Couch of the Georgia Museum of Art recently gave a talk entitled, “New Discoveries in Southern Piedmont Furniture” at the Columbia Museum of Art on May 13th. The examples of Georgia furniture Mr. Couch showed in his talk resembled furniture pieces found throughout the 36 structures on the grounds of the Lexington County Museum. Although Mr. Couch did not include pieces from Lexington County in his survey, he did admit in an interview on “Walter Edgar’s Journal” on May 9th that many of the pieces that have been

labeled as “Georgia” pieces by antique dealers and collectors were probably actually South Carolina in origin.

Lexington County often gets ignored due to its proximity to the city of Columbia, scholars often forget that it was a rugged backcountry settlement prior to 1820.

The museum hopes its recent acquisition will bring further attention to their often overlooked collection of South Carolina decorative arts.



Interested in Preserving a Part of Lexington County History?

Zach Liollo, an ironworker, student at the College of Charleston, and volunteer at the Lexington County Museum, has recently started a quest to preserve the historic Red Store. The Red Store, located just over the

county line in Calhoun County (although it used to be in Lexington County), dates as far back as 1808. This store, just sixteen miles from the state capitol, served one of the busiest stagecoach roads in South Carolina for over a century. It

survived the Civil War and served as a post office and polling place into the 20th century. If you would like to help preserve this incredible structure, please visit Zach’s kickstarter page (<http://kck.st/1ASyMwR>) or contact the museum.

Lexington Remembers Tornado Twenty Years Later

August 16, 2014 marked the twentieth anniversary of an F3 tornado hitting the town of Lexington. Many buildings in the town were damaged or destroyed, including many of the historic structures at the museum. The museum's gin house, the Senn Cabin, the Lorick Cabin, and various outbuildings were completely torn apart. Other buildings such as the John Fox House were somewhat spared. The Fox House suffered roof damage and broken windows. As seen in the pictures on the right, the gin house structure was torn from its stilts and thrown into the middle of Columbia Avenue and the Senn Cabin was leveled. Many trees, some from around the time of John Fox, were uprooted and destroyed as well.

Fortunately, no one was killed in the tornado's path and the museum was able to rebuild and restore the historic structures on its property thanks to insurance and the generosity of the county government and various individuals.



Museum Visitation in July and August 2014

Although school groups don't visit as often during the summer months as in the fall or spring, the museum continues to see plenty of tourists.

In July, the museum saw 426 total visitors including

visitors from ten states other than SC as well as six foreign countries.

The museum had a slower month in August but still had 320 people visit, including visitors from sixteen states other than

SC and French Guiana.

Daycares and homeschool groups from Richland and Lexington Counties took part in our free programs for children in July and August.



Museum Calendar of Events

October 16 and 17 – Haunted History Halloween Program
 Free for Members of the Friends with Member Card
 \$6.00 for non-member adults
 \$3.00 for non-member children
 Tours start at 7 pm and 8 pm
 Lexington County Museum Complex

December 14 – Annual Christmas Open House
 1 pm to 4 pm
 Free to the Public
 Refreshments will be served
 Lexington County Museum Complex

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

Museum's Cell Phone Walking Tour Now Available

Want to learn more about the museum's grounds and historic structures but don't have the time to take a full guided tour? Want to visit the museum after our tour hours? That's no problem now thanks to our new cell phone walking tour. The museum has erected signs around the museum's campus that feature a telephone number. Visitors can dial the stop number that corresponds which will allow them to hear a recorded message telling information about the structure near which they are standing. The signs also feature a QR code that links to a site where visitors with a smartphone can see photos of the interiors of the structures. This will allow more people to learn more about the museum and the history of the area. The tour is available at any time and brochures are located on the porch of the tour office, so come check it out!

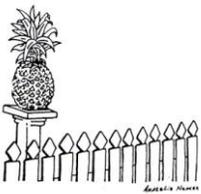


Lexington County Museum

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

The highlighted artifact for this issue is a nineteenth century mahogany clock which is on display in the Fox House. This clock's exterior features a carved eagle and side columns. The interior label reads, "Patent Eight Day Clocks made by H---N and Co, -amburg, S.C." as much of the label has been damaged. It is important to note that although the clock's label states that it was manufactured in South Carolina, this is somewhat misleading. The case was probably made in Hamburg, South Carolina but the works were made elsewhere, usually Connecticut

