

Saxe Gotha Dispatch



Friends Fundraiser to Commemorate 150th Anniversary of Sherman's March through Lexington

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The Friends of the Lexington County Museum will host its annual fundraiser on January 24, 2015 from 6 pm to 10 pm at Lexington's Town Hall, located at 111 Maiden Lane in downtown Lexington. 2015 marks the 150th anniversary of the Union Army's march through Lexington. This gala will allow attendees to commemorate that event and reflect on the momentous changes and damages it caused. A small exhibit featuring artifacts from the museum relating to the Civil War will be on display as well.

Tickets to this fun event are \$50 and can be purchased from the museum or at the door on the 24th. Tickets include



Having a laugh with friends at the Friends Fundraiser

all you can eat and drink. The Great Society Band will provide live music on the dance floor and attendees will be able to bid to win items like gift certificates to local restaurants or bottles of wine at our silent auction. Sponsorships ranging from \$150 to \$2500 are available and are tax-deductible. All funds raised go toward the

restoration of the Corley House and Fox House at the museum, the funding of the museum's educational programs, and the enhancement of other exhibits. For more information, call the museum at 803-359-8369 or visit our webpage. Come join us for this memorable evening and help support a great cause!

Museum Past and Upcoming Outreach Efforts

The holidays usually bring a lull in speaking engagements and other outreach efforts. Museum staff members still gave several tours to senior groups including one from Old Lexington

Baptist.

In the coming months, staff members will give presentations to the Lexington Lion Clubs, the Columbia Newcomers Club, and a few other

organizations.

If you would like museum staff members to speak to a group you are a part of, please don't hesitate to call and ask us.

Burning of Lexington 150th Anniversary Arrives

As mentioned in the article about our upcoming fundraiser, 2015 marks the 150th anniversary of the Army of General William Sherman's march through the state of South Carolina. Sherman's left wing and cavalry under the command of General Judson Kilpatrick came through Lexington County, burning many structures in the town of Lexington Courthouse (modern-day Lexington).

To commemorate that pivotal march, area museums and libraries are hosting events, presentations, exhibits, and performances. The Lexington County Museum is hosting several presentations and events as well. The first event is the Friends of the Lexington County Museum's annual fundraiser which will have Sherman's March as its theme. The next event will be a Civil War encampment on the grounds of the museum on Saturday January 31st and Sunday February 1st. This encampment, which will be

free to the public, will allow visitors to learn more about the daily lives of soldiers in the Civil War, their uniforms, equipment, and weapons. Drill demonstrations will also be performed. The encampment will be open to the public during the museum's regular hours. In conjunction with this encampment, the museum will host a candlelight tour the evening of Saturday January 31. Tours will start at 6, 7, 8, and 9 pm. Visitors will get a tour around the museum's grounds and will experience vignettes based on true events experienced by Lexington County soldiers and civilians during the Civil War. The cost to attend the candlelight tour is \$5.00 for adults and free for children 12 and under.

The museum will also be participating in and hosting presentations on Sherman's March and the history of the county during the war. Museum director J.R. Fennell will be giving a presentation at the Lexington County Main Library on Tuesday

February 10th at 6:30 pm. This free presentation will focus on the history of Lexington County during the Civil War and will feature discussions of firsthand accounts of Sherman's March and the war. On Wednesday February 11th at 6:30 pm, the museum will host Louise Riley, local historian and author of *Sherman's Army Marches into South Carolina and Lexington County*, who will discuss the events surrounding Sherman's army invading Lexington County and the momentous changes it caused. Her presentation will feature many primary sources including photographs and maps from the period.

Finally the museum will be producing an exhibit that will be on display at the Lexington County Main Library. This exhibit will feature some of the museum's artifacts that relate to the Civil War in Lexington County, including letters and a work of folk art produced by a prisoner of war.

To learn more about these events call the museum or check out <http://burningofcolumbia.com/>



Living historian in front of reproduction uniforms and equipment

New Exhibit on Lexington History Completed and on Display

Thanks to the generosity of the SC Humanities Council and the Friends of the Lexington County Museum, a new exhibit focusing on various facets of Lexington County history as well as an overview of its history is on display in the Horace

Harmon Exhibit Hall on the museum grounds. Besides the general history, the exhibit explores Edgefield pottery, the Native American history of Lexington County, slavery, and education in the county in the 19th century.

Many significant artifacts that have never been on display before are in this exhibit. Also on view are wonderful historic photographs from around the county. The exhibit can be seen anytime during the museum's hours of operation.

2014 Christmas Open House a Huge Success

More than 600 people came out to enjoy our annual Christmas Open House as well as the great weather on December 14th. Visitor saw many of the structures decorated in period fashion, learned about 19th century cooking and foodways, saw a blacksmith making mortar, and played with historic toys and games. We also unveiled a historical marker commemorating the Lutheran Seminary when it was in Lexington. It was a great way to get into the Christmas Spirit. Be on the lookout next year for this exciting event!



Museum Visitation in November and December 2014

The museum's busy season continued in November and December as school children and tourists alike visited the museum.

In November, 1,492 visitors came to the

museum, including visitors from eleven states and Germany. In December, the museum had 1,664 visitors, including tourists from eight states as well as the United Kingdom.

The museum again saw

school groups from Lexington, Richland, Aiken, Florence, and Barnwell Counties. These groups came from public schools, home school groups, scout groups, and after school programs.

Museum Calendar of Events



January 24 – “Remembering Sherman’s Burning of Lexington 150 Years Ago” Fundraiser
 6 pm to 10 pm
 \$50 per ticket
 All you can eat and drink
 Town of Lexington Municipal Center (111 Maiden Lane)
 Sponsorships are available

January 31-February 1 – Civil War Encampment and Candlelight Tour
 Encampment runs during museum open hours;
 Candlelight Tours begin on the hour between 6 pm and 9 pm
 \$5 for adult/free for children under 12 for candlelight tour
 Encampment is free

February 10 – “Lexington County in the Civil War” Presentation
 6:30 pm
 Free
 Lexington County Main Library

February 11 – “Sherman’s Army Marches into South Carolina and Lexington County” Presentation
 6:30 pm
 Free
 Lexington County Museum

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



Be sure to check out the Lexington County Public Library’s calendar for more exciting presentations and events relating to the anniversary of Sherman’s March and Lexington County history.

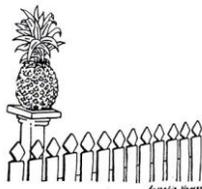
<http://www.lex.lib.sc.us/calendar.asp>

Lexington County Museum

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*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 holidays are over but we're still in the Christmas spirit here at the museum! The highlighted artifacts of this issue are quilts we have had on display this Christmas season. At the top left is a Crown of thorns quilt by Elizabeth Shealy Wheeler, Lexington District, SC, ca. 1850; top right is a detail of a nine block quilt with flower medallion and star appliqué, Dutch Fork area, Lexington County, SC, ca. 1875; the bottom right is a Pinwheel Star pattern quilt by Anna Briggs Corley, Lexington, SC, ca. 1900; and the bottom left quilt is a Star of LeMoyne variation, Unknown maker, South Carolina, ca. 1860.

