

Saxe Gotha Dispatch



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Museum to Host Annual Spring Open House

The Lexington County Museum will host its sixth Annual Spring Open House on May 3, 2015 from 2 pm to 5 pm.

The public is invited to tour the circa 1832 John Fox House, the 1771 Laurence Corley Log House, the ca. 1815 Oak Grove Schoolhouse, and some new additions as well. Children will be able to participate in a scavenger hunt and participate in 19th century farming activities. Visitors will also be able to learn about historic crafts such as blacksmithing and cloth spinning through demonstrations.

The Museum will have its newest exhibit on Lexington County history on display (including



Learning about games and toys of the 19th century

rarely seen artifacts) and will continue to have an exhibit on the Fox House after John Fox on display.

This event is free to the public. Light refreshments will be served. The Open House is a great time for visitors to learn more about the museum and the county's history and is fun for the

whole family. It also gives visitors the opportunity to explore buildings not normally featured on the typical hour long tour. Visit our website or call the museum for more information.

Museum Past and Upcoming Outreach Efforts

Museum staff members have been busy the past few months getting the word out about the museum.

The director has given presentations to the Lexington Lions Club, the

Newcomers Club, and to patrons at the Main Library.

Staff members will be giving presentations to Mt. Horeb Church and to various Sons of

Confederate Veterans groups over the next three months. If you would like museum staff members to speak to a group you are a part of, please don't hesitate to call.

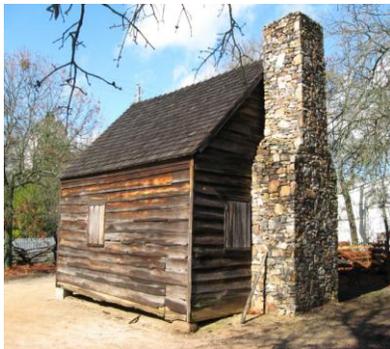
“Remembering General Sherman’s Burning of Lexington 150 Years Ago” Fundraiser a Great Success



More than 220 people helped us commemorate Sherman’s March through Lexington County at the Friends of the Lexington County Museum’s 2015 fundraiser. Guests were treated to drinks and great food by Sweet Magnolia Catering. The Great Society Band of Lexington provided entertainment for dancing.

Many anecdotes and recollections from Lexingtonians in 1865 were read at the fundraiser telling of the damage done by Sherman’s armies. Living historians also gave a presentation on the uniforms and equipment used by Confederate and Union troops in Lexington .

Overall the gala raised more than \$12,000 for the museum’s restoration projects and educational programs. This year’s sponsors are listed to the right. We would also like to thank those who contributed items to the silent auction.



**Oak Grove School House
Built ca. 1815**

Oak Grove School House Celebrates 200 Years

2015 not only marks the 150th anniversary of Sherman’s March through Lexington County but also the 200th anniversary of the construction of the Oak Grove School House now located on the grounds of the museum. Built as a field school, it

Platinum

Celebrations
Kent Collins Law Firm
Great Society Band
Richard and Kristin Hook
Karen and John Wayne Parrish

Gold

BlueCross BlueShield of SC
Charlton Hall Galleries
Law Office of Andrew Farley
Lexington Chronicle
Joanne Flowers Duncan
Edith Harmon
Town of Lexington

Silver

ALSCO
Caughman Harman Funeral Home
Cherokee Trail Veterinary Hospital
Comporium
Barbara Darden
Michelin
Newsome and Company, PC
Doris and Redd Reynolds
Maro and Hugh Rogers
Richard and Sharon Shealy
Wingate by Wyndham - Lexington

Bronze

Ted and Sylvia Clyburn
Charlotte and Jimmy Compton
Chuck and Dawn Corley
John and Mandy Derrick
John and Mary Dozier Ellsworth
David and Becky Hipp
Hoover Building System
Charlie and Jo Mayer
Carol and James Metts
Anida Mims
Mid-Carolina Electric Coop.
Ed and Kelley Mintz
Palmetto Wine and Spirits
Pine Press Printing
Mr. Murray Price
Otis and Melissa Rawl
Walter P. Rawl and Sons Inc.

Rogers Property Management
Linda and Phil Smith
Hal and Carolette Turner
Rose T. Wilkins
Richard and Joyce Wingate

originally stood near the intersection of modern day Mineral Springs and Oak Drive in the Oak Grove area of Lexington County. 15 to 20 students would have attended the school which usually would have had a male teacher before the Civil War.

This school building was used until replaced by another building around 1880. It was then used as a barn and was donated to the museum in the 1980s.

2015 Friends of the Museum Fundraiser Photos



Museum Visitation in January and February 2015

Visitation to the museum typically slows down somewhat during the winter months as fewer people take vacations.

January was still a very busy month for us though. In January, 748 visitors

came to the museum, including visitors from seven states other than SC and two foreign countries. February was a little slower as the museum had 674 visitors, including tourists from seven states as well as

Canada.

The museum didn't see as many school groups these two months but was still visited by various public, private, and home school groups from Lexington, Richland, and Bamberg Counties.

Museum Calendar of Events



- April 11 Herb Bunch's 4th Annual "It's All About Herbs" Festival
9 am to 4 pm
Lexington County Museum Complex
Free Admission (Entry fee required for tea and seminars)
- May 3 Friends of the Museum Annual Meeting, 1:00 pm
Spring Open House 2 pm to 5pm
Lexington County Museum Complex (231 Fox Street)
Free to the Public
- May 5 Midlands Gives! Day - <https://midlandsgives.org/>
Midlands Gives is a local 24-hour online giving challenge,
presented by Central Carolina Community Foundation. You
can help the museum continue to preserve history and offer
free educational programs by donating this day. Gifts made
on this day have the potential to go further as a result of
prizes

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

Museum to Host Fourth Annual Herb Festival

Join the Lexington County Herb Bunch on April 11th from 9 am to 4 pm for the 4th Annual "It's All About Herbs" Festival to be held on the grounds of the Lexington County Museum Complex. Festival admission is free for all. Activities include a plant sale with many varieties of herbs, herb and plant related vendors, food vendors, free herb mini-demonstrations, seminars, and a "tea time" event. Proceeds from the festival will go to several causes including helping fund a scholarship; maintaining a garden on the grounds of the Lexington County Museum; and to provide professional herbalists to educate the Lexington community. For more information contact Herb Bunch member Patricia Gates at patricia.gates@oit.edu.

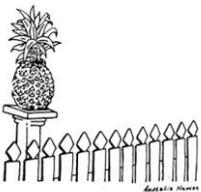


Lexington County Museum

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 in honor of the 150th anniversary of Sherman's March and the ending of the Civil War. It's a letter written in January of 1865 by Adam Stuck of Lexington District. Stuck was serving in the Confederate Army and was stationed in Adams Run, SC at that time. Stuck mainly asks about life back in Lexington and about his farm in the letters.

The Museum is proud to provide this letter for display at the Lexington County Main Library on Highway 1 as part of the 150th Anniversary of the Burning of Lexington commemoration.

