

# Saxe Gotha Dispatch



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## Museum to Host Annual Halloween Program

The Lexington County Museum will host the Seventh 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 colonial, antebellum, and Civil War history.

Guests will hear amazing stories, learn about the notorious Weberites of Saxe Gotha, and meet memorable specters along the way. The friendly pastor Christian Theus from eighteenth century Saxe Gotha may even make a friendly appearance.



*Ghosts at the Haunted History Program*

Watch out for frights and surprises around every corner!

Tours, which will last around thirty minutes each, will take place on the evenings of Thursday Oct. 17 and Friday Oct. 18 at 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, and 8:30 pm. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and

\$3.00 for children under 12. For reservations, call the Lexington County Museum at 803-359-8369 or email the museum at [JRFennell@lex-co.com](mailto:JRFennell@lex-co.com). This event is educational, family-friendly and, most importantly, fun!

## Museum Past and Upcoming Outreach Efforts

Museum director J.R. Fennell spoke to a middle school iCivics group about the history of the county and its courthouses at the end of July.

Furthermore, the museum has installed a small exhibit at the Lexington Main Library on the South Carolina Dispensary.

The museum is also continuing to help the River Alliance's efforts in creating a "12,000 Year History Park" off of Congaree Creek just below Cayce.

## Meet Historical Interpreter Lisa Mallory



*“The museum is insurance that our rich historical roots and our small beginnings will not be forgotten”*

Lisa Mallory has worked at our museum for seventeen years, the longest of anyone currently on staff. How she came to work at the museum is a story in itself. A native of Lexington County, she was looking for ways to give back to the community after spending eleven years raising her three children. She happened to see a notice in the newspaper asking for volunteers for the Lexington County Museum. Like many residents of Lexington, she had always thought that the actual Museum was the cotton gin building, visible from Columbia Avenue, and never paid much attention to it.

She soon realized that the museum was much more than just a single building. She recalls that when she found out what

the museum had to offer she became convinced that it was a great way for her to give back. She volunteered for two years before taking a part-time job as an interpreter with the museum. She now works just about every other weekend here. Her favorite part of the job is meeting people. She says that she actually learns something new during each tour she gives as so many of the people who visit the museum have a unique perspective, family story or tidbit that they are eager to share.

Giving back to the community is still one of Lisa’s passions. She spends a lot of time volunteering at a variety of organizations in the county. Even her full-time job at Trinity Presbytery is service-oriented. She works as the Registrar for the Fellowship Camp and

Conference Center and is also the secretary.

Ironically, Lisa admits that in the past, visiting historic sites was not a priority for her. But since working at the museum she has learned how important history and museums are to communities. Now when she travels to other cities she tries to visit their local museums and learn more about their history as a way of acquainting herself with the community. She considers the museum Lexington’s hidden jewel and believes it is a great educational tool for visitors and residents alike. As the town of Lexington continues to grow each year it is important, says Lisa, to keep the connection with the past. “The museum is insurance that our rich historical roots and our small beginnings will not be forgotten.”

## A Destination for Historic Quilt Lovers

Members of the American Quilt Study Group will take a special side trip to visit the museum on September 19<sup>th</sup> as part of their annual seminar which will be held this year in Charleston. The group is excited to view

the famous Dutch Fork Quilts and other unique locally made quilts from the museum’s collection.

A selection of these quilts handpicked by renowned quilt historian Laurel Horton will be on display

in the Hazelius House and Fox House beginning the week of September 16<sup>th</sup> and ending the week of the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Restoration of the ca. 1800 Slave Pen Gets Underway

Work has begun on the restoration of the circa 1800 slave quarantine building at the rear of the museum's property thanks to the generosity of those who donated to the Friends' fundraiser and Museum Commission president Bill Kiesling. The slave pen, which was used to hold and/or quarantine slaves being bought or sold, was damaged by the tornado that struck the museum in 1994. Although it was stabilized, the pen was never completely repaired. The tornado had partially knocked the building off its foundation, which led to some of the timbers coming in contact with the ground, causing rot and structural damage. The stress caused by the building's lean was causing damage to the walls of the façade as well. In order to restore the building, a few of the logs will be replaced, a new foundation will be constructed, the building will be reassembled, and the roof will be replaced. This will ensure the preservation of this vital piece of history.



***Slave Pen Before Restoration***



***Taking the Roof Off the Pen***

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## Museum Visitation in July and August 2013

The Museum had two more fantastic months in terms of visitation

In July, the museum saw 588 total visitors including visitors from sixteen states other than SC as well as visitors from Canada,

China, Egypt, Iraq, Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and Spain.

In August, the museum saw 367 total visitors including 72 children that came with school groups. Visitors came from

thirteen states other than SC as well as Canada and Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean.

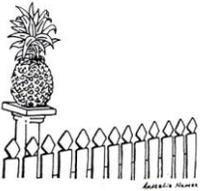
School groups from Florence, Lexington, and Richland Counties took part in our free programs as well.

## Lexington County Museum

231 Fox Street  
Lexington, SC 29072

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*Gateway to  
Yesterday*



**We're on the Web!**  
**[www.lex-co.sc.gov/museum](http://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](http://www.lex-co.sc.gov/museum)).

## Highlighted Artifact From the Museum's Collections

This week's artifact is a circa 1836 clock once owned by Reuben Gross (1811 - 1887) of Lexington. Gross wrote on the clock that he "bot" it on January 4th 1837. Reuben Gross and other members of the Gross family lived in the museum's Hazelius House at one point and are buried by Flight Deck restaurant in downtown Lexington. The clock itself features a label that says it was made by Markham and Case of Columbia, SC. However, it was probably just sold by Markham and Case. Most likely, it was constructed in Connecticut (possibly by Birge-Gilbert & Co. in Bristol, CT) and shipped to South Carolina.

