

Saxe Gotha Dispatch

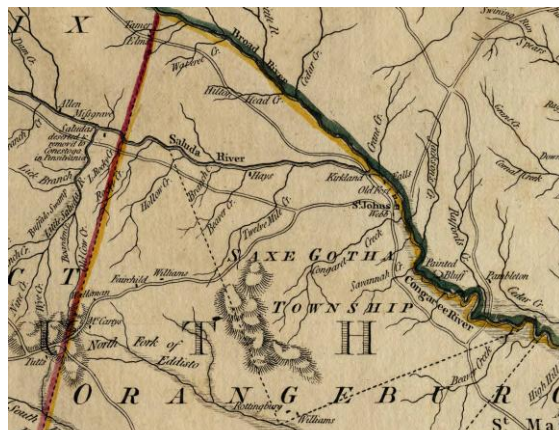
Friends of Museum Lecture Series on American Revolution Continues

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The Friends of the Lexington County Museum organization announced a summer lecture series focusing on the American Revolution several months ago. Tickets remain available for the July and August presentations

The upcoming lectures will feature two different speakers who will focus on a different aspect of the American Revolution in South Carolina. The second presentation, scheduled for July 23, will be Dr. Sean Gallagher of the Univ. of SC speaking on the American Revolution in SC and the third, scheduled for Aug. 27, will be Josh Shumak presenting on Native Americans in the American Revolution in



SC. These lectures will be held at the Lexington Municipal Complex and will begin at 6:30 pm with wine and cheese for guests. Tickets are \$40 per person per lecture or \$60 for both the remaining presentations. Tickets may be purchased at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/revolutionary-war-summer-speaker-series-tickets-1990117023590>. All funds

raised will help the Friends support the museum.

For more information, call the museum at 803-359-8369 or email us at museum@lexingtoncounty.sc.gov.

Museum Past and Upcoming Outreach Efforts

Museum staff members stayed busy throughout the spring of 2026 speaking to community groups about the museum and county history. Over the past few months, museum employees have spoken to all ten of the Lexington Library branches, the Presbyterian Retirement Home, the Retired Federal

Employees organization, Still Hopes, and others. In the future, museum staff will speak to the Lexington County Main Library, the Cayce West Cola Library, the Cayce Museum, and Cornerstone Church. If you'd like to have a museum staff member speak to your group either virtually or in-person, don't hesitate to

give us a call. We can speak on a variety of topics related to the museum, the county, and its history. Some of the most popular topics include the quilts and other artifacts from the Dutch Fork, the history of Lake Murray, and the history of alcohol in Lexington County.

Museum Helps Celebrate Carolina Day and Independence Day

Staff members from the Lexington County Museum participated in several events surrounding the 250th anniversary of Carolina Day and the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Museum director J.R. Fennell brought interactive activities to the SC State Museum on July 27 in conjunction with the opening of their new Revolutionary War in SC exhibit. In addition to educational material about the Revolutionary War in Lexington County, those who stopped by could play with historic toys and games and even write with a quill pen, just like John Hancock and Thomas Jefferson. He also did the same at Segra Stadium for Fireworks with the Phil. Both events allowed the museum to get publicity and to help educate the public about the Revolution here in Lexington and in SC.

Museum staff members also participated in Independence Day celebrations in Lexington and in Batesburg-Leesville. In Lexington, staff members brought toys and games and quill pens to allow children and adults to learn about life in the colonial period through hands-on activities. They also brought fans that helped cool those in attendance. At Batesburg-Leesville's celebration, museum staff members created a pop-up museum that helped showcase the history of Batesburg-Leesville. Staff members brought items including a ca. 1930 soda bottle from Leesville, items from Gilbert, a ca. 1850 rifle made by Elijah Hall of the Samaria area, and others. Museum director J.R. Fennell also gave a presentation on the history of Batesburg-Leesville and the American Revolution in Lexington County.

Thanks to everyone who stopped by the museum's table at these wonderful events.



Friends of the Museum's Historic House Tours a Great Success

The Friends of the Lexington County Museum hosted its first historic house tour on April 27. More than 120 people came out to see inside four privately-owned historic homes, including the ca. 1855 Henry Meetze House, the ca. 1905 GT Graham House, the ca. 1895 CE Corley House, and the ca. 1890 Dantzler Harman House. Although many of those homes had changed over the years, they kept their historic integrity. Attendees were able to learn the history of these houses, see how different generations of owners adapted the houses to their needs, and to learn how the current occupants have built on to the structures. Attendees were treated to snacks and beverages at the Town of Lexington's historic Palmetto Collegiate Institute after the tour ended. We'd like to thank all who purchased tickets and/or helped out at the tour. A special thanks goes out to those who opened up their homes for the tour.

Cultivating History

By Beth Haggard

Our museum garden, located in the field behind the Senn cabin, received a fresh dose of mushroom compost this past January in anticipation of growing our heirloom plant varieties. Many of these varieties would have been planted in the 1700 and 1800's here in Lexington. Visitors to the museum are very interested in the varieties we grow, so I thought I would share some information about the plants we now have in the ground.

Seeds planted in February included kale, lettuce, mustard and Swiss chard. These are traditional cold-weather crops that would have been grown in the 1800's. These are mostly at their peak now and will be gone soon.

In March, we added **Cherry Belle radish** (an All-America Selection 1949), **Scarlet Nantes carrots** (1870) and **Clemson Spineless okra** (1939)

Another variety that we are currently growing is the **Dutch Fork Half Runner bean** that was brought to South Carolina in 1752 by German immigrants and it is specifically adapted to the Dutch Fork region (Lexington, Newberry, Richland counties). It is a white bean and a heavy producer.

We've also added the **Dutch Fork Pumpkin** and **Odell's White Watermelon**.

The Dutch Fork Pumpkin was cultivated by Cherokee, Congaree and Catawba indigenous people and later maintained by German settlers in the Dutch Fork area of South Carolina starting in the 1750's. It is typically 15-25 lbs., irregularly shaped with a tan or light-orange skin and ideal for making pies, soups or for roasting.

Odell's White Watermelon was bred in the 1840's by an enslaved African-American man at Pomaria Nursery in Pomaria, SC. These melons grow to 30-35 lbs. and have a pink flesh, known for a sweet flavor and having a white rind for pickling

Recipe for Honey Roasted Scarlet Nantes Carrots servings: 4 (courtesy of Todd's Seeds)

Ingredients

- 1 lb Scarlet Nantes carrots, scrubbed
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp honey
- Salt and pepper to taste

Optional: 1 tbsp fresh thyme or rosemary

- 1.Preheat your oven to 400 degrees. Trim tops and slice carrots lengthwise if they are thick to ensure even cooking.
 2. In a bowl, toss the carrots with olive oil, honey, salt, pepper and herbs.
 3. Spread the carrots in a single layer on a baking sheet. Roast for 25-30 minutes, or until tender and caramelized, turning halfway through.
- Serve immediately and enjoy!

Museum Visitation in May and June 2026

Visitation continued to be high as we headed into the summer months	visitors, including tourists from eleven states other than SC. We also had visitors from Czechia and Guatemala.	summer. We had various public and private groups from Richland and Lexington Counties come out for field trips.
In May, 750 visitors came to the museum, including visitors from twelve states other than SC. In June, the museum saw 864	The number of school groups declined a little as school was out for the	

Summer Events Photos



Museum Calendar of Events



- July 23 Summer Lecture Series Lecture #2
6:30 pm
Town of Lexington Municipal Complex
111 Maiden Lane Lexington, SC
\$40 per person/\$100 for all three/Reservations Required
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/revolutionary-war-summer-speaker-series-tickets-1990117023590>
Attendees will learn about South Carolina in the American Revolution.
- Aug. 27 Summer Lecture Series Lecture #3
6:30 pm
Town of Lexington Municipal Complex
111 Maiden Lane Lexington, SC
\$40 per person/\$60 for both/Reservations Required
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/revolutionary-war-summer-speaker-series-tickets-1990117023590>
Attendees will learn about Lexington County in the American Revolution.
- Sept. 5 - 7 Labor Day Weekend
Museum Closed

Call the museum at 803-359-8369 or email
museum@lexingtoncounty.sc.gov to find out more about these events.

Lexington County Museum

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A Story Behind Every Door



We're on the Web!

<https://lex-co.sc.gov/lexington-county-museum> and
www.lexingtoncountymuseum.org

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. The Friends group has raised over \$300,000 for the museum so far. To learn more about the Friends or to join, visit the museum's webpage (<https://lex-co.sc.gov/lexington-county-museum/friends-museum>).

Highlighted Artifact from the Museum's Collections

This issue's highlighted artifact is an H and R "Sportsman" revolver that was given to George Bell Timmerman Jr. upon his election to the governor's office in 1955. This nine shot .22 caliber pistol is engraved with Governor Timmerman's name. Come visit the museum to see this and all the other historic weapons in our collection.

