

Saxe Gotha Dispatch

Spring Events are a Huge Success

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The museum held several events through over the past few months, all of which were very successful. The Friends of the Lexington County Museum held its annual fundraiser on the grounds of the museum again this year at the end of March. Over 130 people came out to learn more about Lexington County's namesake, the Battle of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts, and to enjoy great food and drinks. The Friends group was able to raise over \$6,000 to help upgrade the museum's security systems.

The museum also hosted the annual Herb Fest and the Spring Open House. Over 400 people came out to the Herb Fest at the beginning of April to learn

more about gardening and to purchase herbs for their gardens. The Spring Open House was also a success as around 180 people came out to enjoy the beautiful weather and learn about historic crafts. Volunteers demonstrated blacksmithing, gunsmithing, and basket making. Museum staff members educated visitors about the historic structures on the grounds of the museum.

Finally, the museum participated in the "Shot Heard Round the World" event. This event, organized by the Lexington County 250th Committee, celebrated the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord. Reenactors demonstrated life in the Revolutionary War and even fired a cannon several times. Over 500 people came out to the Old Mill Walking Trail to take part in the event.



Museum Past and Upcoming Outreach Efforts

Museum staff members continue to speak to community groups about the museum and county history. Over the past few months, museum employees have spoken to the Lexington Main Library, Hollow Creek Comm. Center, the Newcomers Club, the Lexington Women's Club,

the Shepherds Center, the B-L SCV, and others.

In the future, museum staff will speak to the Lexington County Main Library, Gilbert Library, and the Chapin Library.

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, Lexington County-made rifles, and the history of alcohol in Lexington County.

Museum to Host Hands-On History Programs for Children

The museum will host a series of interactive programs for children over the summer months. These programs will allow children to learn about different aspects of life in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in Lexington County through interactive activities and demonstrations. These programs are offered free of charge thanks to those who donated to the museum through Midlands Gives. The next program will take place on June 25 from 10 am to 11:30 am on the grounds of the Lexington County Museum. This program will focus on how people kept cool in the hot summer months in SC.

Registration for this program is free but spaces are limited so don't wait to sign up. Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hands-on-history-childrens-program-tickets-1384268647789?aff=oddtcreator>.

The next program will take place on July 16 from 10 am to 11:30 am and will focus on the ways Lexington County residents made rope and yarn in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Be on the lookout for more information including the link to register.



Gardens & Grounds: The Environmental Educators of South Carolina Visit the Lexington County Museum

By John Myers

Thursday afternoon, May 15, the Midlands membership of the Environmental Educators of South Carolina met at the Lexington County Museum for a tour of the grounds and gardens. The visit was hosted by John Myers, LCM historical interpreter and member of the Midlands Nature and Bird Alliance (formerly the Columbia SC Audubon Society).

The tour included a visit to the Colonial kitchen herb plots, the Antebellum Era vegetable garden and the King decorative garden. The vegetable garden is a “real stunner,” commented a local teacher, with thriving kale, carrots, chard, marigolds and onions. All of the plantings represent vegetables that would have been grown in pre-Civil War Lexington.

Our vegetable garden’s beauty can be attributed to the diligent work of LCM historical interpreter Beth Haggard and her husband, Ralph Haggard. This year’s garden has new additions, two trellises for climbing plants and a new walkway through the center of the garden that allows for weeding and watering without damaging fragile plantings.

Even the trees and plants across the museum grounds have connections to American history. For example, the long-leaf pines, found on the museum grounds, were a popular tree for the structural components of house-building in early America, particularly for floors and beams. Camellias, crepe myrtles and azaleas had their first plantings in America in the late 1700s in the Charleston, South Carolina area.

The Lexington Museum offers four programs out of its fourteen programs that directly concern the environment, farming and food styles in early Lexington County. These museum programs include: “Palmetto Patriots and Plants,” “Early Farm Life,” “Native American Culture and History,” and the “the Fox House Backdoor: Kitchen Life.” These educational programs are free for area school group field trips with an appointment.

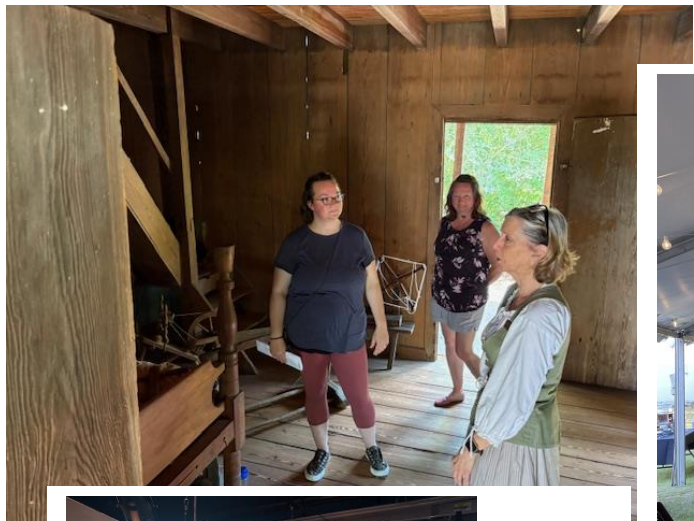
Why not drop by this summer for a general tour of the museum and a tour, by request, of the grounds and gardens that illustrate life in the 18th and 19th century Lexington?

The Lexington County Museum is “one of the Midlands best kept secrets,” commented a visitor and “the garden is one of its jewels!”

Museum Visitation in March and April 2025

Visitation picked up as the weather warmed up and field trips returned.	April, the museum saw 1,937 visitors, including tourists from eleven states other than SC and three foreign countries.	had various public and private groups from Richland, Lexington, and Barnwell Counties come out for field trips.
In March, 1,201 visitors came to the museum, including visitors from ten states other than SC and one foreign country. In	The number of school groups visiting the museum was high. We	

Spring Event Photos



Thanks to all those who donated to the Friends of the Museum's fundraiser and to the museum through Midlands Gives

"Celebrating Lexington County's Namesake" 2025 Fundraiser Contributors

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Museum Calendar of Events

- May 31 Ag and Art Tour
9 am to 5 pm
Lexington County Museum
231 Fox Street Lexington, SC
Free
The museum is participating in the Lexington County Ag and Art Tour. Come out to the museum to visit with artisans and see the museum's historic structures.
- June 25 Hands-On History Summer Program
"Beat the Heat"
10 am to 11:30 am
Lexington County Museum
231 Fox Street Lexington, SC
Free/Registration required
Bring your child/grandchild out to the museum for interactive fun. This program will focus on how people kept cool in the summer in SC. Register [here](#)
- June 27 "Murders and Mysteries" Lexington Walking Tour
8 pm
Tour begins at the Icehouse Amphitheater
107 West Main Street Lexington, SC
Free to the public
Attendees will learn about some of the spookier and more gruesome aspects of Lexington's history as we will discuss murders, crimes, and mysteries that occurred on or near Main Street. Because of the mature subject matter, we ask that attendees be 18 or over or have parental permission.

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

Lexington County Museum

231 Fox Street
Lexington, SC 29072

Phone 803-359-8369
Fax 803-808-2160
E-mail museum@lex-co.com

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 \$290,000 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

The highlighted artifact for this issue is a jo jo flask made for the SC State Dispensary. The state dispensary, which existed between 1893 and 1907, was an attempt at appeasing both those who wanted the prohibition of alcohol and those who wanted liquor to remain legal. The dispensary made it so that the state government was the only legal distributor of alcoholic beverages. Jo jo flasks were the most common bottles produced by the dispensary. It's interesting to note that the logo of the state dispensary, embossed on the jo jo flask to the right, inspired the logo for the University of SC's baseball team.

