

CHARLOTTE'S INVISIBLE QUEEN

The surprising life and legacy of Queen Charlotte

CHARLOTTE, N.C., Mar. 20, 2018 – Charlotte is often called the Queen City. You'll find references to Queen Charlotte all over town, from statues at the airport and in uptown to the name of landmarks like Queens Road. But as the city approaches its 250th birthday, what do we really know about our namesake monarch?

You can learn more on Saturday, April 7, at 1 p.m., as The Charlotte Museum of History brings Dr. Stephanie E. Myers to town for a free lecture based on her 2017 book, *Invisible Queen*. It tells the surprising story of Queen Charlotte, including her African ancestry and her lasting legacy as a supporter of the Abolitionist movement that ended the Atlantic slave trade.

"Most Charlotteans know that our city and county were named in honor Queen Charlotte, with Mecklenburg County being named after her home province in Germany," said Adria Focht, president & CEO of The Charlotte Museum of History. "Dr. Myers' book unearths new information about our city's favorite queen that might surprise people."

A rare highly-educated woman in the 1700s, Queen Charlotte was originally a German princess. She was recruited to marry Britain's King George III in 1761, and she reigned as Queen of England and Ireland for 57 years. Charlotte spoke four languages, was an early patron of Mozart, and hosted world leaders, including U.S. presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. In addition to having 15 children of her own, the queen was a dedicated aide to orphaned girls. While many historical accounts referenced her style, grace and civic achievements, few mentioned her Moorish and African ancestry.

"For over 200 years, much of the history of Queen Sophia Charlotte has been hidden in plain sight," Dr. Myers said. "This occurred even though there are symbols of Queen Charlotte around the world and across America, including names of places like Charlotte; Charlottesville, Va. and Queens County in Nova Scotia, Canada. Queen Charlotte was



indeed a multi-dimensional woman, with African heritage, who was wife of King George III and Queen of England and Ireland for 57 years; a mother, caregiver, diplomat, abolitionist, philanthropist, musician and much more. Prince Harry's future wife, Meghan Markle, also with mixed race heritage, has a legacy of strong shoulders to stand on, as a future member of the British royal family."

The lecture on April 7 is presented by The Charlotte Museum of History as part of the Ron Hankins "*History Talks*" Lecture Series, funded by the Wells Fargo Foundation.

How to Go

"*Invisible Queen*" takes place on Saturday, April 7, at 1 p.m. at The Charlotte Museum of History at 3500 Shamrock Drive. The lecture is free and open to the public. Register at charlottemuseum.org under the Events tab.

About The Charlotte Museum of History

The Charlotte Museum of History engages a broad audience in the history of the Charlotte region through the stories of its people, places and events to promote dialogue and historical perspective. The museum is the steward of the Hezekiah Alexander House (ca. 1774) and home site, a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the oldest home in Mecklenburg County. To learn more, visit charlottemuseum.org and follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

About Dr. Stephanie E. Myers

Dr. Myers is vice president of [R.J. Myers Publishing and Consulting Company](#), a minority-owned small business in Washington, D.C. that provides capacity-building services, research, book publishing and webcasting to entrepreneurs, local governments, historically black colleges and universities, and national nonprofits. She is the national co-chair of Black Women for Positive Change, a global interfaith network working to change the culture of violence in America and the world. She has written and co-produced three films for Black Women for Positive Change and the Positive Change Foundation, including "Red Flags in Domestic Violence," all of which aim to help youth develop positive lifestyles and prevent violence. Myers served as a presidential appointee in several government posts, including director for the Office of Commercial



Space Transportation at the U.S. Department of Transportation, where she authorized the first commercial space launch. She also served as assistant secretary for Public Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where she managed the “Just Say No to Drugs Campaign” and the first national HIV/AIDS public service campaign. She also was a special assistant in the Office of the Secretary at the U.S. Department of Commerce, where she focused on minority businesses.

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