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CELEBRATE CHARLOTTE'S MECKDEC

Local history groups offer brewery events, historical reenactments and family-friendly fun to mark the MeckDec's 244th anniversary

CHARLOTTE, N.C., May 6, 2019 – Join local history groups for three days of events starting May 18 to honor Charlotte's most legendary moment, the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, or MeckDec, on May 20, 1775. Some historians say the MeckDec was America's original declaration of independence.

[The May 20th Society](#) and [The Charlotte Museum of History](#), with support [from Olde Mecklenburg Brewery](#), will host a bike ride, dinner, family fun day and the annual noon commemoration of the MeckDec signing on the square at Trade and Tryon streets.

This year's MeckDec events honor the city of Charlotte's 250th birthday and are part of #CLT250 celebrations.

Saturday, May 18 – 12-4 p.m.

“Step into the Hornet's Nest” MeckDec Day Celebration

The Charlotte Museum of History, 3500 Shamrock Drive. Free.

Register at charlottemuseum.org/events.

Join The Charlotte Museum of History to celebrate the legendary MeckDec.

- Tour Mecklenburg County's oldest home site, which was standing when the MeckDec was written and where one of its signers lived.
- Experience readings of the MeckDec, a reenactment of the signing and more at a Colonial military encampment provided by local reenactment groups including the Mecklenburg Militia, New Acquisition Militia and the Piedmont Partisans.
- Learn about 18th century tavern foods with cooking demos in the historic kitchen.
- Enjoy old-time fiddle music by Scott Stegall and Zach Mahoney (from 2-4 p.m.)



- Visit “Captain Jack’s Tavern” and grab a brew from Olde Mecklenburg Brewery.
- Kids can learn and practice important skills like stitching and button sewing that aided in the Revolutionary War effort and still can be useful today.
- British General Cornwallis supposedly called Charlotte a “hornet’s nest of rebellion” when he invaded the city during the American Revolution. Learn about all the local groups that have embraced Charlotte’s “hornet’s nest” image in their names, their logos and their commitments to building a stronger community in the Queen City. Representatives will be on hand from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, Charlotte Fire Department, Hornet’s Nest Girl Scouts Council, the Hornet’s Nest District of the Boy Scouts of America, Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation and more.

Sunday, May 19 – 2 p.m.

Captain Jack Historical Bike Ride

Starts at Olde Mecklenburg Brewery (OMB), 4150 Yancey Road. Free and open to all.

Sign up at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1067955313411910/>

In the summer of 1775, Captain James Jack rode 450 miles to deliver the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence to Congress. In honor of his historic ride, The May 20th Society invites you to participate in a bike ride to various historical locations around Charlotte that are relevant to Captain Jack. The ride begins and ends at OMB, with a social upon return, as part of OMB’s Annual MeckDec Day.

Monday, May 20 – 6 p.m.

Captain James Jack Colonial Dinner

OMB, 4150 Yancey Road. Tickets are \$50. Purchase at may20thsociety.org/events/captjackdinner.

The May 20th Society’s Second Annual Captain James Jack Colonial Dinner features four courses, each served with a different OMB beer, including Captain Jack Pilsner and



Hornet's Nest Hefeweizen. Local artist Dan Nance will be the featured speaker. Nance, a native North Carolinian, has been painting stories of American history for over 25 years. His paintings are housed in private and government collections, including in Gettysburg National Military Park, the South Carolina State Museum, Kings Mountain National Military Park, Patrick Henry College and The Charlotte Museum of History. Nance is a proud contributor to the Charlotte Liberty Walk, and his images of the Battle of Charlotte and the Reading of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence appear on two granite monuments located in Uptown Charlotte.

Monday, May 20 – Noon

Annual MeckDec Noon Commemoration

Independence Square, corner of Trade and Tryon streets. Free and open to all.

The May 20th Society's annual commemoration of the MeckDec signing includes military and Colonial re-enactors, historical readings, military parades and cannon firing in uptown Charlotte. In honor of #CLT250 The May 20th Society is giving away 250 small North Carolina flags. Visit the Charlotte Independence table to register to win merchandise and pick up free giveaways. Don't miss this event celebrating Charlotte and its people!

About the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence

The history of the MeckDec began soon after news of the battles of Lexington and Concord arrived in Charlotte Town (present-day Charlotte). The following day, on May 20, 1775, prominent civic leaders adopted The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence (MeckDec) – possibly the first declaration of independence in America. The MeckDec itself is steeped in mystery and controversy. There are no records of its publication before 1819, and many historians doubt it ever existed. But it is memorialized on North Carolina's state flag and its state seal, where the date May 20, 1775, appears. There is no doubt about the existence of the MeckDec's companion document, the Mecklenburg Resolves. A committee of local militia members adopted these "resolves," or resolutions, and signed them on May 31, 1775. They were published in their entirety



less than a month later in *The South Carolina Gazette*. They declared all royal authority suspended and laid out a plan for how Mecklenburg County would govern itself.

About The May 20th Society

The Society promotes Charlotte's rich history of being the first American colony to declare independence from Great Britain. On May 20, 1775, more than two dozen colonial civic leaders from Mecklenburg County approved and unanimously adopted the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. In honor of this historic occasion, The May 20th Society hosts several ceremonial events including live re-enactments, a speaker series featuring renowned historians, bike ride, dinners and annual noon commemoration in Uptown. For more information, visit www.May20thSociety.org.

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](#).

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