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## **HISTORY MUSEUM COMMEMORATES MECKDEC DAY ONLINE**

**CHARLOTTE, N.C., May 10, 2021** – The Charlotte Museum of History will offer two virtual activities 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 MeckDec is an important point of pride for Mecklenburg County, and on May 20<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate its ideals and remember its history,” said Adria Focht, president & CEO of The Charlotte Museum of History. “We also acknowledge that the ideals of freedom and liberty that the MeckDec espouses are not fully realized. The museum is committed to sharing and interpreting all of this history.”

- **On Tuesday, May 18**, the history museum will premiere a new video with Scott Syfert, who will take viewers inside his extensive collection of MeckDec memorabilia. Syfert is a local attorney and author of “The First American Declaration of Independence? The Disputed History of the Mecklenburg Declaration of May 20, 1775.”
- **On Thursday, May 20, at 10 a.m.** the museum will live stream a reading of the MeckDec from the steps of Charlotte’s oldest house, the 1774 Alexander Rock House. Historic re-enactor Robert Ryals, dressed in period costume, will publicly proclaim the MeckDec as it may have been heard in 1775. The reading will be streamed live on the museum’s Facebook channel, @charlottemuseumofhistory.

Information about tuning in to both events is at [charlottemuseum.org/events](http://charlottemuseum.org/events).

### **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 Charlotte Museum of History**

The Charlotte Museum of History exists to save and share the Charlotte region’s history, helping create a better understanding of the past and inspiring dialogue about the future. The museum is the steward of the 1774 Hezekiah Alexander Rock House and homesite, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the oldest home in Mecklenburg County. Visit [charlottemuseum.org](http://charlottemuseum.org) and follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). The museum is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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