

Saxe Gotha Dispatch

Museum Announces the Return of the Haunted History Halloween Program

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The Lexington County Museum will host the fourteenth Annual Haunted History Halloween program at 231 Fox Street in Lexington this year.

As ghoulish guides lead guests on a spooky but not too scary journey of the museum property, visitors will hear ghostly stories, including strange and unusual events in Lexington County's colonial and antebellum history.

Guests will hear amazing stories, learn about the amazing Daniel Koon, and meet memorable specters along the way. Visitors will also learn about some of the superstitions held by Lexington County residents. Watch out for



frights and surprises around every corner!

Tours will last around forty-five minutes each and will take place on the evenings of Thursday October 21 and Friday October 22 at 7:00, 8:00, and 9:00 pm. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12.

Members get in free with a membership card. This event

frequently fills up so reservations are required. To make a reservation, call the Lexington County Museum at 803-359-8369 or email the museum at JRFennell@lex-co.com. This event is a great way to learn about Lexington history and is educational, family-friendly and, most importantly, fun!

Museum Past and Upcoming Outreach Efforts

Museum staff members continue to give presentations around the state on the museum and the county's rich history. In the past few months, staff members have spoken to the Cayce Museum, Lexington Rotary Club, Columbia DAR, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and to interns at SC DNR.

In the future, museum staff will speak to the Gilbert-Summit Senior Center and the Lexington County 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, the Quattlebaum and Hall families and the rifles they made, and the history of alcohol in Lexington County.

Fox Family Artifacts Donation

By Patricia Shandor

When the infamous tornado struck Lexington back in 1994, the director of the museum Horace E. Harmon, Jr. ducked for cover as the buildings he cared for his entire working life blew to pieces. He spent the following days engaged in endless cleanup work that made the acknowledgment of the innumerable losses inescapable. Horace recalls one day taking respite by the well when a man approached him and asked him how he was doing. He remembers laughing at the futility of the question. The man said "I'm about to make your day much better." He informed Horace of his desire to gift the neighboring piece of property to the museum in memory of his mother, Beulah Wingard King. This property became the land where the current formal garden stands today. The man was Russell Calvin King Jr., descendant of John Fox, the man after whom the Fox House is named.

The late Mrs. Beulah Wingard King was the daughter of Mary Emily Fox, the granddaughter of John J. Fox (1845-1911) and the great granddaughter of John Fox (1805-1884). All four generations lived in the same house on Fox Street.

This summer a chance tour of the museum prompted Mr. King's widow, Kathy, to remember that she still had original photographs and furniture from the John Fox House that she inherited from her late husband. She reached out to us to see if we were interested in receiving these items as a donation.

People are often surprised to learn that many historic house museums do not have the original furnishings. While we have locally made period-correct furniture in the Fox house, we were excited that Mrs. King presented us with this opportunity. We now look forward to displaying some of the original Fox house furniture and contents. The 19th century furniture pieces donated to the museum consist of a 5-piece parlor suite and a pine cupboard that came out of the Fox house parlor and kitchen respectively. The cupboard is especially interesting as it was likely originally constructed and used by those enslaved on the property in the middle of the 1800s.

Among the donated photographs is a ca. 1860 photo of John Fox's wife Eliza Poindexter in its original frame and one of the earliest photos of the Fox House itself probably taken sometime around 1890. The other photos show Fox family members and their descendants posing together on the porch or the grounds of the house. The photos provide clues as to the appearance of the house, including its old side porch and original railings. Also of interest are the variety of plants that are featured on the grounds including long-gone rose bushes and an enormous azalea hedge. It is invaluable to have a record of this historic place in time and to see the many faces of the people who called this house "home."

We are looking forward to sharing these pieces with visitors in upcoming exhibits.



Emma Fox Wingard by Fox House



Fox Cupboard

Oh, What a Country!

Celebrating 2022: the Tricentennial Year of Natural Scientist Mark Catesby in Carolina

By John Myers, Historical Interpreter

In May 1722, 300 years ago next year, English citizen-scientist Mark Catesby (1683-1749) arrived in Charles Towne, the capital of the South Carolina Colony. His purpose was to collect nature's seeds and specimens and to draw flora and fauna, particularly American birds and other creatures, for his English sponsors, the leading scientists of the age. His arrival would be the beginning of a remarkable adventure.

It is "one of the sweetest countrys," [sic] Catesby reported.* Despite the imminent danger of potential Native American uprisings, exposure to sub-tropical disease and the political unrest of the recent past, Catesby trekked across the Lowcountry, midlands and piedmont of today's South Carolina. Catesby would draw "109 birds, 33 amphibians and reptiles, 46 fishes, 31 insects, 9 quadrupeds and 171 plants."** His illustrations and narrative primarily on Carolina's wildlife, geography and culture would become the most important book on natural science of the 18th century.

One hundred years before John J. Audubon, Mark Catesby would combine birds with plants that were food sources in his drawings and later report on the realities of bird migration and the geographical differences of Carolina regions from the coastal plain to the piedmont. Catesby would work on his illustrations and texts for the next twenty years after his return to England in 1726. He would be rewarded for his work with a fellowship to the Royal Society of London and an audience with Queen Caroline, the regent and spouse of George II of England.

This coming year, across the state of South Carolina, plans are being made to celebrate Catesby's historic visit. 2022 Events include:

"Catesby at the Congaree," Congaree National Park, Hopkins, SC. Earth Day Weekend (April 22-24, 2022), Weekend Long Bird Walks/Talks by the Columbia Audubon Society, Presentations on: Native American Bird Lore, a Mark Catesby monologue and state and natural science groups, to include the SC Wildlife Federation.

"A Catesby Celebration Concert," Columbia Baroque Society, the University of South Carolina's Recital Hall, Columbia, SC. (May 10, 2022), Bach, Handel and Other Baroque Masters. 7:00 pm.

"Catesby at Charles Towne," Charles Towne Landing State Park, Charleston, SC' (May 14, 2022). Bird Walks/Talks by the Charleston Audubon Society, reenactments, 18th century music and presentations by area history and natural science groups to include museums and the SC Wildlife Federation.

"Catesby at the Savannah," Audubon Bird Preserve, Jackson (Aiken County), SC. Bird Talks/Walks by the Augusta/Aiken Audubon Society.

For further information contact on Catesby events, contact: John Myers at jlmyers2001@gmail.com. Join us in 2022 for an exciting year!

*Nelson, E.C. and Elliott, D.J. (Eds.). *The Curious Mr. Catesby*. (Athens; University of Georgia, 2015).

**Feduccia, Alan. *Catesby's Birds of Colonial America*. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1985).



2022 Friends Fundraiser to Celebrate Lexington County's Medical History

Although the pandemic forced the Friends of the Lexington County Museum to cancel the 2021 fundraiser, the Friends have been hard at work trying to plan 2022 annual fundraiser. For this coming year's fundraiser, to be held on February 26, 2022 at the Lexington Municipal Complex, the Friends group has decided to celebrate the medical history of the county. The fundraiser will specifically focus on the infirmaries and hospitals of the early to mid-twentieth century Lexington County. Attendees will learn about the Jones Hospital of Leesville as well as the iconic Liverman Hospital of Lexington.

As always, the fundraiser will feature dinner, drinks and dancing. Stay tuned to learn more about what's in store for the fundraiser. If you'd like to help out with planning

the fundraiser or to learn more about donating, please don't hesitate to call or email us.



Museum Calendar of Events



- Oct. 21 -22 Haunted History Halloween Program
Tours start at 7 pm, 8 pm, and 9 pm
Lexington County Museum Complex
231 Fox Street Lexington, SC
Free admission for members of the Friends of the Museum
This family-friendly event focuses on some of the spookier aspects of Lexington County history.
- Nov. 6 “Murders and Mysteries” 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, lynchings, and mysteries that occurred in downtown Lexington. Because of the mature subject matter, we ask that attendees be 18 or over or have parental permission
- Dec. 12 Lexington County Museum Christmas Open House
Christmas Open House
1 pm to 4 pm
Free to the Public
Lexington County Museum Complex
Many of the museum’s historic structures will be decorated in period fashion. A cooking demonstration will also take place.
- 2022**
- Feb. 26 “Celebrating the Medical History of Lexington County”
Friends of the Museum Annual Fundraiser Gala
6 pm to 10 pm
Lexington Municipal Complex
111 Maiden Lane Lexington, SC
Enjoy dinner, drinks, and dancing as we help raise funds for the Friends of the Lexington County Museum.

Call the museum at 803-359-8369 or email museum@lex-co.com to find out more about these events. Events may be canceled due to COVID-19.

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



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

This issue's highlighted artifact is a 1908 calendar advertising the Home National Bank in Lexington. The Bank was then located in the Kauffman Drug Store Building on Main Street which burned in 1912. The bank then had the building on the northeast corner of South Lake and East Main Street constructed.



We're on the Web!
<https://lex-co.sc.gov/lexington-county-museum> and
www.lexingtoncountymuseum.org