

Saxe Gotha Dispatch

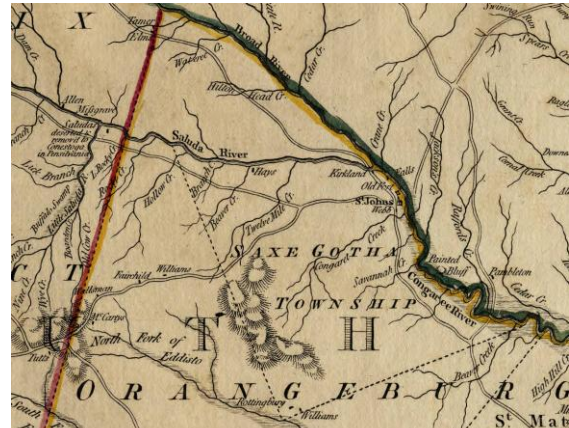
Friends of Museum to Host Lecture Series on American Revolution

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The Friends of the Lexington County Museum organization is excited to announce a summer lecture series focusing on the American Revolution.

These lectures will feature three different speakers who will focus on a different aspect of the American Revolution in South Carolina. The first presentation, scheduled for June 25, will be museum director J.R. Fennell giving an overview of Lexington County in the American Revolution. The second presentation, scheduled for July 23, will be Dr. Sean Gallagher of the Univ. of SC speaking on the American Revolution in SC and the third, scheduled for Aug. 27,



will be Josh Shumak presenting on Native Americans in the American Revolution in SC. These lectures will be held at the Lexington Municipal Complex and will begin at 6:30 pm with wine and cheese for guests. Tickets are \$40 per person per lecture or \$100 for all three. Tickets may be purchased at [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/revolutionary-war-summer-](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/revolutionary-war-summer-speaker-series-tickets-1990117023590)

[speaker-series-tickets-1990117023590](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/revolutionary-war-summer-speaker-series-tickets-1990117023590). All funds raised will help the Friends support the museum.

For more information, call the museum at 803-359-8369 or email us at museum@lexingtoncounty.sc.gov.

Museum Past and Upcoming Outreach Efforts

Museum staff members stayed busy throughout the spring of 2026 speaking to community groups about the museum and county history. Over the past few months, museum employees have spoken to the Lexington Main Library, Laurel Crest Retirement Home, the Gilbert-Summit Library, St.

Andrews Optimist Club, and the Batesburg-Leesville Library. In the future, museum staff will speak to the Lexington County Main Library, Laurel Crest Retirement Home, the Gilbert-Summit Library, and the Presbyterian Retirement Home. 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 Summer Programs

Come out to the Lexington County Museum every Thursday in June at 10:00 am for a children's Hands-on History event. This free program will feature a different activity each occurrence and is a great way for kids to learn about history while having fun. Registration is required for this event. To register, email Beth Haggard at bhaggard@lexingtoncounty.sc.gov or call her at 803-359-8369. This program is open to children aged 4 to 12.

kids

HANDS ON HISTORY

at Lexington County Museum

231 Fox St, Lexington, SC
www.lexingtoncountymuseum.org

10:00 - 10:30 am
Thursdays in June

Programs are
Free

- June 4 Colonial Games
- June 11 Paper making
- June 18 Make a buzzsaw
- June 25 Scavenger hunt

You must be registered to attend

Call (830) 359-4369 or email Beth at: bhaggard@lexingtoncounty.sc.gov

Friends of the Museum's Historic House Tours a Great Success

The Friends of the Lexington County Museum hosted its first historic house tour on April 27. More than 120 people came out to see inside four privately-owned historic homes, including the ca. 1855 Henry Meetze House, the ca. 1905 GT Graham House, the ca. 1895 CE Corley House, and the ca. 1890 Dantzler Harman House. Although many of those homes had changed over the years, they kept their historic integrity. Attendees were able to learn the history of these houses, see how different generations of owners adapted the houses to their needs, and to learn how the current occupants have built on to the structures. Attendees were treated to snacks and beverages at the Town of Lexington's historic Palmetto Collegiate Institute after the tour ended. We'd like to thank all who purchased tickets and/or helped out at the tour. A special thanks goes out to those who opened up their homes for the tour.

Meet Beth Haggard

Get to know me! My name is Beth Haggard and as of this past January I am the new Visitor Services Coordinator for the museum. I have previously been a Lexington County museum interpreter since December 2022.

My roots go way back to the beginning of the Dutch Fork when my father's family came over on the ship the Caledonia with relatives settling in the Newberry, Saluda and Lexington County area. My mother's family were Scots Irish and traveled the Great Wagon Road to settle in Kershaw County. I have lived in various areas of South Carolina (Aiken, Charleston, Prosperity, Newberry, West Columbia and Lexington) I graduated Newberry College as a Bachman Honors graduate with a degree in English and Education. I have taught in public and private schools and worked in the private business sector as well.

I am married to my husband, Ralph, a nuclear engineer who graduated with a dual degree from Newberry College and Georgia Tech, and who has deep ties to Lexington County, particularly in the field of education. Together, we have two children, our son Benjamin who is an electrical engineer and married to Joy Pouncey, and our daughter, Caroline who is a civil engineer.

I am thrilled to be working at Lexington County Museum, and I am working hard to continue to bring focus to our museum and to teach others about the rich history of our area. If I can ever help with field trips or tours, please contact me!



Museum Visitation in March and April 2026

Visitation picked up as the weather warmed up and folks started traveling more.

In March, 1,275 visitors came to the museum, including visitors from sixteen states other than

SC and the UK. In April, the museum saw 1,365 visitors, including tourists from seventeen states other than SC and the UK.

The number of school groups rose as schools went on spring field trips.

We had various public and private groups from Richland and Lexington Counties come out for field trips.

Spring Events Photos



Museum Calendar of Events



- Thursdays
In June
- “Hands-On History” Thursdays
11:00 am
Lexington County Museum Complex
231 Fox Street Lexington, SC
Free to the public/Reservations Required
Call 803-359-8369 to make a reservation
This free program will feature a different activity each occurrence and is a great way for kids to learn about history while having fun.
- June 25
- Summer Lecture Series Lecture #1
6:30 pm
Town of Lexington Municipal Complex
111 Maiden Lane Lexington, SC
\$40 per person/\$100 for all three/Reservations Required
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/revolutionary-war-summer-speaker-series-tickets-1990117023590>
Attendees will learn about Lexington County in the American Revolution.
- July 4 - 6
- Independence Day Weekend
Museum Closed
- July 23
- Summer Lecture Series Lecture #2
6:30 pm
Town of Lexington Municipal Complex
111 Maiden Lane Lexington, SC
\$40 per person/\$100 for all three/Reservations Required
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/revolutionary-war-summer-speaker-series-tickets-1990117023590>
Attendees will learn about South Carolina in the American Revolution.

Call the museum at 803-359-8369 or email museum@lexingtoncounty.sc.gov 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 \$300,000 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 flyer advertising the "petrified man." This supposedly real curiosity was found in Lexington County and traveled across the state during the late 1890s.

