

# Saxe Gotha Dispatch

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## Friends of the Museum Announce New Date for their Annual Fundraiser

The Friends of the Lexington County Museum have chosen a new date for the annual fundraiser. The gala will now be held on Thursday May 19<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm to 10 pm at Lexington’s Municipal Complex.

The gala this year will focus on the history of medicine in Lexington County. A short lecture will allow guests to learn more about the history of Lexington Medical Center and other clinics and infirmaries in the county’s history. Guests will enjoy delicious food from Hudson’s Catering and music from local band Going Commando. There will also be a silent auction with wonderful items to bid on.



If you have already become a sponsor of the fundraiser, your tickets are still valid for the new date. If you’d like to become a sponsor, please fill out the donation form on page 2 of this newsletter. Tickets for the gala are \$60 in advance and can be purchased at the museum or on our website.

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## Museum Past and Upcoming Outreach Efforts

Over the past few months, museum staff members have led a 2 Gals and a Fork tour, spoken to the DKG sorority, the Lexington Library, and Wellmore.

In the future, museum staff will speak to the Lexington County Library and will begin teaching a class on the

county’s history for the Lex. Shepherds Center.

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.

## Friends of the Museum Fundraiser Sponsor Letter

Please mark your calendar for the Friends of the Lexington County Museum's annual fund-raising gala which will have "*Celebrating the Medical History of Lexington County*" as its theme this year. The **Town of Lexington Municipal Complex** will be the place for food, beverages, and dancing as we celebrate the heritage of the county. **Thursday, May 19th, 2022, 6:00 to 10:00 PM** is the date and time. We are excited to announce that, this year, Lexington's own **Going Commando** will provide the music for the gala.

**Sponsorship** options for this exciting fund-raiser gala are listed below. All net proceeds will go to the repair of the museum's outbuildings and the enhancement of exhibits at the museum. The outbuildings at the museum complex, including the Ridgell smokehouse and potato house, the privy, and the summer and winter dairies are invaluable since many other examples did not survive. These structures also are vital to the museum's mission and allow the museum to better demonstrate life for Lexington County residents in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Despite the ongoing pandemic and no school field trips, 3,000 people visited the Lexington County Museum in FY2020-21, including visitors from 31 states and four foreign countries. The museum was not able to hold any public events due to COVID-19 in 2020 after March but has already held the Herb Fest, two Murders and Mysteries tours in Lexington, and our Halloween program in 2021. Many of these events are offered free of charge thanks to the generosity of donors to the Friends. The Friends organization has raised over \$355,000 to support museum projects since our beginning in 1997. Some of these projects include restoration of the Leaphart-Harman House, the Pigeon House, the Daniel Koon House, the Rockaway Carriage, John Fox House breezeways, and construction of exhibit cases for black-powder rifles and artifacts. Additionally, the Friends have contributed to the maintenance of the Hazelius House and the restoration of the quarantine building and of Ellen's Quarters, one of John Fox's slave houses. We need your help now more than ever to preserve the unique treasures of our Lexington County heritage. Thanks for helping us to continue making our museum one of the finest in South Carolina! Please respond by March 30, 2022 to have your name listed in our invitation.

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**Sponsorship for "*Celebrating the Medical History of Lexington County*" Museum Fund-Raiser Gala:**

_____ <b>Diamond Donor</b>	<b>\$2500</b>	<b>(\$1660 tax deductible)</b>	<b>Includes 14 tickets</b>
_____ <b>Platinum Donor</b>	<b>\$1000</b>	<b>(\$400 tax deductible)</b>	<b>Includes 10 tickets</b>
_____ <b>Gold Donor</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>(\$140 tax deductible)</b>	<b>Includes 6 tickets</b>
_____ <b>Silver Donor</b>	<b>\$250</b>	<b>(\$10 tax deductible)</b>	<b>Includes 4 tickets</b>
_____ <b>Bronze Donor</b>	<b>\$150</b>	<b>(\$30 tax deductible)</b>	<b>Includes 2 tickets</b>

**Name of Donor (as you want it to appear)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Contact Person (if different from above)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to **Friends of the Lexington County Museum**, P. O. Box 637, Lexington, SC 29071  
Payment may also be made through Paypal on our website: [www.lexingtoncountymuseum.org](http://www.lexingtoncountymuseum.org)

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## Museum Presentations at the Library

The museum is excited to announce that presentations by museum staff members at the Lexington County Main Library have resumed. These presentations are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm. Like all of the library's programs, there is no charge to attend. Museum staff members cover a variety of topics in these presentations that relate to the history of Lexington County and the Dutch Fork. In April, museum director J.R. Fennell will be giving a joint presentation along with the curator for the Cayce Museum, Andy Thomas, on the Yamasee War and its effects on the colony of South Carolina. In May, Visitor Services Coordinator Patricia Shandor will be speaking on the quilts and decorative artifacts of the Dutch Fork.

Can't make those but would like to know the topics of other presentations at the library, follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/LexingtonCountyMuseum>) or visit the library's calendar of events page (<https://lexcolibrary.com/programs/>). Hope to see you there!

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## Museum Visitation in January and February 2022

Visitation slowed down in January and February as it often does when the weather turns cooler.

In January, 504 visitors came to the museum, including visitors from seven states other than SC as well as Denmark and Ireland. February's

numbers were not as high as usual. The museum saw 220 visitors, including tourists from two states other than SC.

The number of school groups visiting the museum remains low. No schools visited the museum in January and

we saw a homeschool group from Lexington in February.

## Museum to Host 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Herb Fest

Join the Lexington County Herb Bunch on Saturday, March 26th from 9 am to 3 pm for the 10th Annual "It's All About Herbs" Festival at the Lexington County Museum. Festival admission is free for all. Activities include a plant sale with many varieties of herbs, vegetables, herb and plant related vendors, food vendors, and free herb mini-demonstrations. The circa 1832 John Fox House on the museum grounds will be open for tours as well.

The Herb Fest is great for anyone who has an interest in gardening, cooking, or is just interested in learning more about herbs. Parking will be available in the museum's two lots (one on Fox Street and one off of Columbia Avenue) and along the museum's picket fence on Fox Street. Please refrain from parking in front of our neighbors' houses. For more information call the museum at 803-359-8369



## Museum Holds West Columbia Murders and Mysteries Walking Tour

The museum held another edition of its successful "Murders and Mysteries" walking tour in West Columbia on March 11th. Despite misty rain and somewhat chilly temperatures, around 100 people came out for the tour. Attendees learned about some of the spookier and more gruesome aspects of West Columbia's history as Museum Director J.R. Fennell discussed murders, crimes, and mysteries that occurred along Meeting and State Streets in what was once called New Brookland. This free tour began at the Riverwalk Amphitheater and ended on Center Street in front of what is now Savage Craft Ale Works but was once the old fire station and jail. If you missed it, don't worry! We'll host another West Cola Murders and Mysteries tour in the summer.







## Museum Calendar of Events

- March 26 "It's All About Herbs" Herb Festival  
9 am to 3 pm  
Free to attend  
Lexington County Museum Complex  
Activities include a plant sale with many varieties of herbs, herb and plant related vendors, food vendors, free herb mini-demonstrations, seminars, and a silent auction. The ca. 1832 John Fox House on the museum grounds will be open for tours as well.
- April 19 "Historically Speaking" Library Presentation  
6:30 pm  
Lexington County Main Library  
5440 Augusta Road Lexington, SC  
Free to the public  
Attendees will learn about the Yamasee War and how it affected the colony of South Carolina.
- May 19 "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.  
Visit <http://lexingtoncountymuseum.org/get-involved/> to buy tickets or a sponsorship.

Call the museum at 803-359-8369 or email [museum@lex-co.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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 \$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 rabbit box that was owned by the Kleckley family. Rabbit boxes were an easy to build trap that could be used to capture rabbits and possums. Although this example dates from the 20<sup>th</sup> century, traps such as these were used throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in Lexington County.

