

# Davidson Historical Society

Winter 2010

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## Our Purpose

*The DHS promotes an understanding and appreciation of the history of Davidson, North Carolina and its surrounding area.*

## *Welcome to the DHS!*

You say you've been a member of the DHS for years, why is our headline welcoming you? The Davidson Historical Society has been providing quality local history programs for twenty years. We have new things coming for 2010!

Here are some highlights of our changes:

- ◆ Membership year now begins in January. With membership dues now due each January, we hope this will be less confusing for our members. Did you send us a check last fall? Don't worry, your membership will be valid through the end of 2010.
- ◆ Expanded programming to appeal to a wider audience. We'll include more field trips and family-friendly activities. You'll find a DHS program or activity almost every month. Our programs for the first six months of the year will be announced in early January (*see pages 2-3 for this year's programming.*) Don't worry about losing the regular programs you have come to anticipate! We will continue to offer programs on our traditional third Sunday afternoons in January, March, September and November.
- ◆ Re-designed website. We have allowed our current website to get woefully out-of-date. The DHS has entered into an agreement with EyeBenders to provide a new design and flow to the site. There will be more and better content available. Our thanks go to Tim Dreffer for providing a free and beautiful website for the last several years.
- ◆ Member involvement. Re-vamped committees will allow our longtime, faithful members as well as newcomers the opportunity to become more involved with DHS. If you have been attending our programs for years, we hope you will take the next step and find a way to help. The DHS needs many people involved to continue and to expand our relevance to the community. See our enclosed membership form for ways to contribute your time and talents.

Thanks to all of you for your support of DHS. If you have not yet become a member, please consider joining to day.

*Margaret Kuras*

# DHS Calendar January—June 2010

*All programs are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.  
Please note dates, times and locations for each event.*

## African-American Museum of Church History

**Sunday, January 17, 2010, 4:00 pm**

**DCPC Congregation House, 218 Concord Road**

During the years immediately following the Civil War, many African-American churches in the south were established by ex-slaves to create communities and worship in culturally distinct ways. Some of the African-American churches in our area, including Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church (est. 1868) on Neck Road in Huntersville, were founded at this time. Mt. Olive Church is currently spearheading a project to restore and convert a 1916 house across the street to be the **African-American Museum of Church History**. The museum will interpret the 141 year history of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church as well as the history of other African-American churches.



Pearlie Borders, museum project director and member of Mt. Olive Church, will share the plans for this special museum and discuss some of the history that will be included in the museum.

DHS is pleased to partner with Davidson College Presbyterian Church to present this program.

## Tour of Ephraim Alexander McAuley House

**Sunday, February 21, 2010, 2:00 pm**

**14335 Huntersville-Concord Road, Huntersville**



Built in 1881, the McAuley farmhouse is one of seven two-story log houses identified in Mecklenburg county, and the only one erected after the Civil War. The house was remodeled and expanded to the rear in 1914 by John Ellis McAuley, an important local builder and the son of Ephraim Alexander McAuley. The house retains its original I-house form and much of its interior woodwork. The house was moved in 2003 from Alexanderana Road to its current location.

Stewart Gray, preservation planner with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission and DHS Board Member, will lead us on a tour of the home and discuss the renovations currently being done by the Historic Landmarks Commission.

Parking is limited. Please meet at 1:30 pm at Davidson Town Hall to carpool.

*Directions to McAuley house:*

*From Davidson, take NC 115 south to Huntersville*

*Turn left onto Huntersville-Concord Road (Gilead Rd will be to the right) and travel approximately 2.6 miles*

*The McAuley House will be on your left (after passing Asbury Chapel Road on your right)*



## DHS Calendar, continued

### Tour of Cedar Grove - *Members only*

**Sunday, March 21, 2010, 4:00 pm**  
**8229 Gilead Road, Huntersville**

Cedar Grove, c 1831, was the plantation manor house of James Galbraith Torrance, whose 3,000 acre farm was one of Mecklenburg's largest. The home has remained in the Torrance family ever since.

Belle Banks will host the tour of her home. She and her late husband, Dick Banks, a Torrance descendent, moved into the home in 1948 and restored it room by room over the years.

*Please note that this tour is for current DHS members only.*

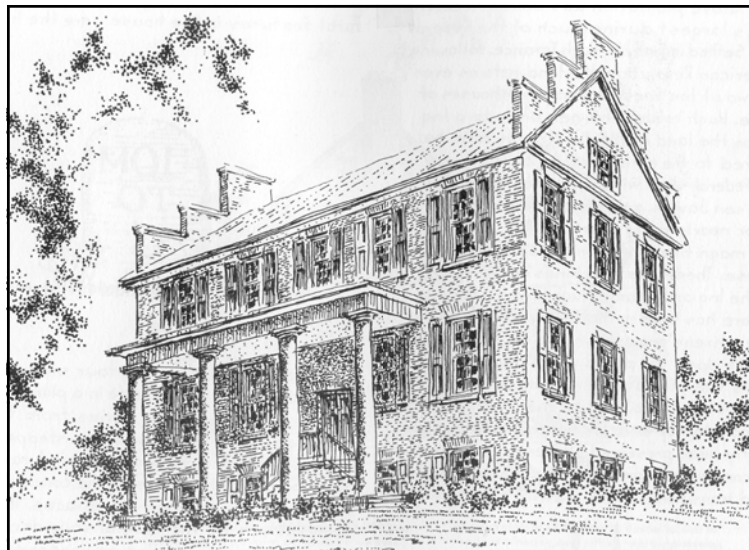
Parking is limited. Please meet at 3:30 pm at Davidson Town Hall to carpool.

*Directions to Cedar Grove:*

*From Davidson, take I-77 to Exit 23, Huntersville*

*From exit ramp, take a right onto Gilead Road and travel approximately 1.8 miles*

*Cedar Grove will be on your right*



*Drawing of Cedar Grove by Jack Orr Boyte.*

### Walking Tours

**April 24-25, 2010, 1:00 pm**

**Art on the Green, The Village Green**

Come join us for a walking tour of downtown Davidson. Tours will be available at 1:00 pm on both Saturday and Sunday and will start from the DHS sign on the Village Green.

### Davidson Town Day

**May 1, 2010, 10:00 am—3:00 pm**

Be sure to stop by the DHS table to see our newest historic photo display and to get the latest information on our programs and activities!

### History, Wine and Cheese

**June, 2010**

Join us for a relaxed evening of wine and cheese mixed with some history!  
 Details to be announced.



## Davidson History on the Web

Have you discovered "Around the D?" Launched in January 2009 by Davidson College archivist Jan Blodgett, this blog features documents, artifacts and interesting views related to the history of Davidson College and the town. The meanings of Davidson Street names, town movie theatres, the Watts dormitory fire of 1921, the history of the Carolina Inn, and Davidson College basketball uniforms over time are just a small sampling of the topics detailed in this fascinating blog.

"Around the D" seemed the logical name for a blog dedicated to exploring bits of Davidson history and lore. According to the blog's first entry, the phrase is more than shorthand for Davidson College. It originally referred to a path that generations of Davidson students walked on and along regularly. In 1868, a contest was organized by a mathematics professor requiring each class to draw a curve on campus. The students in the class of 1869 came up with winning calculations. Their curve ran from Main Street to the main campus building and back to Main Street behind the old chapel building. In the next few years, students planted trees along the path. The "D" was later incorporated in the campus design made by landscape architect John Nolen in 1915 and remained a part of the campus for the next 50 years. By 1960, the original D was lost as new buildings altered the pathways on campus and the area in front of the Chambers Building became known as "front campus." Still, the phrase "see you around the D" remained popular with students and alumni as it came to represent the college as a whole.

To read more about Davidson history, or to share a memory or story, go to <http://blogs.davidson.edu/aroundthed>

And we'll see you around the D!



### Davidson Historical Society

Post Office Box 144  
Davidson, NC 28036

704-892-6022

[www.davidsonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.davidsonhistoricalsociety.org)

*We don't just talk about Davidson's past...  
We are working to preserve it.*

**The Davidson Historical Society** was founded in the late 1980's by a group of concerned citizens led by Taylor and Irene Blackwell. Over the years DHS has presented programs by outstanding local and regional personalities on varying topics, toured historically significant sites in the area, and financed projects which promote the history of the area.