



# THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

November 18, 2025

## 2025-2026 Board Members

President Patrick Baker  
Pres Elect Bill Bartee  
Past Pres Kim Brattain  
Secretary Bill Gill  
Treasurer Craig Field  
Exec Dir Christine Cipriano

### Directors 2024-2026

Benton Bragg  
John Cantrell  
Tish Atkins Charles  
Dena Diorio  
Jesse Hite  
Virginia Owen

### Directors 2025-2027

Byrd Bergeron  
Karen Calder  
J Hill  
Ayo Johnson  
Lori Keeton  
Michael Orzech  
Elizabeth Teagarden  
Mike Wollinger

### Membership Co-Chairs:

Linwood Bolles &  
Shelley Dean

### Programs

Elizabeth Teagarden



## *Kendall Kendrick, Executive Director, Trail of History & Charlotte Liberty Walk*

by **Susie Masotti**

In keeping with the Charlotte Rotary Club's love of history (especially in and around Charlotte and Mecklenburg County), the Club welcomed Kendall Kendrick, Executive Director of the Trail of History and Charlotte Liberty Walk. She also serves as Chair of the America 250 Mecklenburg County Commission.

**Dr. Tony Zeiss** introduced Kendall by calling her a real dynamo who has steeped herself in our area's history. In the past, she hosted a radio show for many years while living in Atlanta. Kendall is a dedicated historian focused on the 1800s of the Carolinas. She is the founder of "The Beginner's Guide to the 18th Century" YouTube channel.

Kendall took the lectern dressed in full 1800s attire and teased the crowd that when she is dressed "authentically" she always hopes not to be pulled over or involved in an accident to then have to explain her attire. Kendall explained that her mother is a native of Charlotte which she felt a calling to focus on building her family here.

Kendall began her comments reminding us of all that there are multiple historical walking trails throughout Charlotte. There is an online guided audio tour of the Charlotte Trail of History which is home to 11 statues currently with three more expected soon. The Charlotte Liberty Walk has a total of 19 markers including the Meck Dec and other historic events in our County.

In addition to walking trails, the UNC-Charlotte library has a great collection of historical items for Mecklenburg County, such as photos from 1975 of President Ford speaking to 50,000 at Freedom Park. As always, the James K. Polk birthplace is a great piece of our history had been dedicated a U.S. historic site.

Kendall's enthusiasm for Meck 250 - the semiquincentennial celebration is abundant and clear. She spoke of being a part of the mock trial held by high school students on the truth of the Meck Dec legend. For Meck Dec 250, there was a recreation of the old courthouse square earlier this year, with the phenomenal feat of closing the intersection of Trade and Tryon, where the courthouse originally was located. The largest crowd in decades gathered to celebrate Meck Dec Day.

If you get a chance to walk the Independence Park Tunnel, you'll see the 1775 sign that was completed in May and leads to another pleasant walking trail.

Currently, Kendall's goal is to revitalize the McIntyre Farm site. In October 1780, this was the location of the battle with Cornwallis, where he retreated due to the strong opposition of Charlotteans. The McIntyre Farm is the only intact Revolutionary War site in Mecklenburg County, and with the help of UNC Charlotte, will be working on rebuilding the original cabin (the front stoop is still in place, and the cabin will be built from that spot). A blueprint has already been created and will hopefully revitalize a historical destination, which Kendall's team is applying for both State and National Recognition as a historic site.

Kendall reminded everyone that the American Revolution series on PBS is currently airing. It features 12 hours of content and is a wonderful project. Kendall is proud to have been involved not only by showing how women were a part of the revolution. Episode 6 shows Cornwallis pulling his troops out of Mecklenburg County, and she encouraged everyone to watch!

With that, Kendall took a few questions from the attendees. She was asked to describe her attire. Kendall replied that her clothing is authentic to the 1800s including the type of material as well as the same level of layers that women wore. This includes stockings, a wool skirt and shirt, and a handkerchief draped around her neck. The gloves and shawl she wore were used as protection from the sun for the hands and neck. There are pockets which you can't see but served useful for busy women of the time.

Kendall was asked about serving as Chair of the Mecklenburg 250 celebration. Kendall proudly told the group that she is distantly related to a woman named Dr. Annie, who recently had a statue unveiled on the trail of history. Dr. Annie was the first female licensed physician in North Carolina when she was just 17 years old. She served as President of the Medical Society and as an active surgeon at Camp Greene. Her Father never allowed her to marry. Her Brother passed, and she adopted and raised his five children. Her connection to that history is what makes her proud to be Chair of Mecklenburg 250.

A Rotary member asked specifically about the battle at McIntyre Farm and asked Kendall to elaborate. She explained that you must understand the scope of the situation. Cornwallis marched into Charlotte with 4000 individuals, about 2500 soldiers, and the rest support staff. His expectation was that this small town of only 20 homes at the time would provide food for his troops. Those residents attacked them at every turn to the point that Cornwallis went back to South Carolina in frustration. The story is also told that the guide that Cornwallis had purposefully taken the Army through the swampiest parts on the way back, further frustrating their efforts.

Another member asked how we could learn about live reenactments going on. Kendall said there is not a specific database, but a simple Google search should bring up information. Camden was just a week ago. Most reenactments are south of us, where bigger battles were held. Groups that do

reenactments post on social media, so they are easily found. Probably the Seminole event of the coming year will be on April 12<sup>th</sup> in Halifax, NC, where they will open a 250-year-old time capsule. There is a similar event in Guilford County in March.

Kendall was asked about the economy of Charlotte 250 years ago. She explained that most of the work was in growing and producing food, but there were some merchants who sold other goods in the County.

When asked about the biggest misconception about women during the 1800s. Kendall explained that it is generally thought that women stayed home with family when, in fact, many followed the military and served as cooks, nurses, laundresses, and tailors' assistants. Many made a decent living being paid by officers.

Kendall thanked the group for having her and encouraged everyone to continue to be curious about Charlotte's history.

Here is the recording:

With slides: <https://vimeo.com/1138635461?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Without slides: <https://vimeo.com/1138647887?fl=pl&fe=sh>

The introduction begins at about 31 minutes and 30 seconds.