



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHERE TO CELEBRATE THE MECKDEC THIS YEAR

Local history groups offer brewery events, historical reenactments and family-friendly fun to mark the MeckDec's 243rd anniversary

CHARLOTTE, N.C., May 7, 2018 – This year is the city of Charlotte's 250th birthday, and next week, Charlotte will celebrate one of its most important historic moments – the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, or MeckDec, on May 20, 1775. Some historians say the MeckDec was America's original declaration of independence.

[The May 20th Society](#) and [The Charlotte Museum of History](#), with support [from The Olde Mecklenburg Brewery](#), will host events throughout the week of May 14 to honor this legendary piece of Charlotte history.

Monday, May 14 – 6 p.m.

Captain James Jack Colonial Dinner

The Olde Mecklenburg Brewery (OMB), 4150 Yancey Road, Charlotte

Tickets are \$50. Purchase at may20thsociety.org/events/captjackdinner.

The inaugural Captain James Jack Colonial Dinner features three courses, each served with a different OMB beer. Hear from keynote Chas Fagan, the artist behind the *Spirit of Mecklenburg* statue on the Trail of History. Enjoy music by the Loch Norman Pipe Band.

Friday, May 18 – Noon

Annual MeckDec Noon Commemoration

Independence Square, corner of Trade and Tryon streets

Free and open to all.

The May 20th Society's annual commemoration of the MeckDec signing includes military and Colonial re-enactors, historical readings and cannon firing in uptown Charlotte.



Saturday, May 19 – 11-5 p.m.

MeckDec Day Celebration

The Charlotte Museum of History, 3500 Shamrock Dr., Charlotte

\$10 for adults and \$8 for children; free for museum members. Register at charlottemuseum.org/events.

Join The Charlotte Museum of History to celebrate the legendary MeckDec.

- Tour Mecklenburg County's oldest home site, which was standing when the MeckDec was written and where one of its signers lived.
- Experience readings of the MeckDec, a reenactment of the signing, artillery demonstrations and more at a Colonial military encampment provided by local reenactment groups including the Mecklenburg Militia, Kingsbury's NC Artillery Company and Locke's Dismounted Militia.
- Try your hand at quill pen-and-ink writing with History's Kids, and embrace Charlotte's independent spirit by signing your own declaration at the American Freedom Bell.
- Learn about 18th century tavern foods with cooking demos in the historic kitchen.
- Enjoy old-time fiddle music by Scott Stegall and Zach Mahoney (from 2-4 p.m.)
- Visit "Captain Jack's Tavern" in the barn for a Colonial beer brewing tutorial by Carolina BrewMasters (2-5 p.m.), and grab a brew from Bold Missy Brewery.

Sunday, May 20 – 11 a.m.-close

MeckDec Day at OMB

The Olde Mecklenburg Brewery, 4150 Yancey Road, Charlotte

Enjoy a pint of Captain Jack pilsner, watch a movie about the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and browse merchandise from your Charlotte Independence soccer club. Get your photo taken with Captain Jack!

Sunday, May 20 – 2 p.m.

Captain Jack Historical Bike Ride

Starts at The Olde Mecklenburg Brewery, 4150 Yancey Road, Charlotte

Free and open to all.



In the summer of 1775, Captain James Jack rode 450 miles to deliver the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence to Congress. In honor of his historic ride, you can participate in a bike ride to various historical locations around Charlotte that are relevant to Captain Jack. The ride begins and ends at OMB, with a social upon return.

About the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence

The history of the MeckDec began soon after news of the battles of Lexington and Concord arrived in Charlotte Town (present-day Charlotte). The following day, on May 20, 1775, prominent civic leaders adopted The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence (MeckDec) – possibly the first declaration of independence in America. The MeckDec itself is steeped in mystery and controversy. There are no records of its publication before 1819, and many historians doubt it ever existed. But it is memorialized on North Carolina’s state flag and its state seal, where the date May 20, 1775, appears. There is no doubt about the existence of the MeckDec’s companion document, the Mecklenburg Resolves. A committee of local militia members adopted these “resolves,” or resolutions, and signed them on May 31, 1775. They were published in their entirety less than a month later in *The South Carolina Gazette*. They declared all royal authority suspended and laid out a plan for how Mecklenburg County would govern itself.

About The May 20th Society

The Society promotes Charlotte’s rich history of being the first American colony to declare independence from Great Britain. On May 20, 1775, more than two dozen colonial civic leaders from Mecklenburg County approved and unanimously adopted the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. In honor of this historic occasion, The May 20th Society hosts several ceremonial events including live re-enactments, a speaker series featuring renowned historians, and annual noon commemoration in Uptown. For more information, visit www.May20thSociety.org.

About The Charlotte Museum of History

The Charlotte Museum of History engages a broad audience in the history of the Charlotte region through the stories of its people, places and events to promote dialogue and historical perspective. The museum is the steward of the Hezekiah Alexander House (ca. 1774) and home site, a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the oldest home in Mecklenburg County. To learn more, visit charlottemuseum.org and follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

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