

**BACKCOUNTRY DAYS FOLK FESTIVAL INVITES YOU TO KICK BACK AND  
LISTEN TO LIVE MUSIC OR KICK UP YOUR HEELS AND JOIN IN**  
*Visitors will be the first to see the museum's latest exhibit,  
"Furnishing the Backcountry"*

**CHARLOTTE, N.C., August 27, 2018** – The Backcountry Days Folk Festival returns to The Charlotte Museum of History on Saturday, Sept. 7, from noon-5 p.m. The annual free event is held on the historic site of the 1774 Alexander Rock House and includes folk music and dance performances, as well as demonstrations of artisan skills from the Colonial Carolina Backcountry. Visitors can try their hand at clogging or Irish dance and join local musicians for jam sessions on the lawn.

"Backcountry Days is one of our most popular events each year because it lets people experience the historic music and cultures that continue to impact our artistic expression in Charlotte today," said Adria Focht, president and CEO of The Charlotte Museum of History. "We invite everyone to bring a chair or blanket and enjoy a day of live music on the lawn of Charlotte's oldest home."

At the event, the museum will debut its latest exhibit, "Furnishing the Backcountry." The exhibit features furniture and pottery made in 18<sup>th</sup>-century Charlotte and the surrounding areas. The pieces showcase a unique decorative arts culture with influences from Africa and Europe, as well as from the arts and cultures of indigenous peoples. The exhibit will be on display through January 2020.

**Performance Schedule**

The festival will feature a variety of musical styles, from old-time and Celtic, to bluegrass, country, contemporary folk and crossover.

Noon	Hem & Haw
12:30 p.m.	Tom Eure and Amelia Osborne

1 p.m.	PJ Brunson
1:30 p.m.	Native American storyteller Ramona Big Eagle
2 p.m.	River Ratz
2:30 p.m.	Province of Thieves
3 p.m.	Lisa and Marc
3:30 p.m.	A Sign of the Times
4 p.m.	Musician Laura Boosinger will discuss the history of North Carolina music and demonstrate shape-note singing. Boosinger's performance is part of the Ron Hankins "History Talks" Lecture Series, sponsored by Wells Fargo.

### Activities

- Visit with artisan musicians who make guitars and dulcimers and get up close with instruments at our Instrument Petting Zoo on the lawn, provided by Arts+.
- Enjoy demonstrations on the lawn and in the historic kitchen and garden by costumed interpreters, who will share skills necessary to survive in the Colonial-era Backcountry, including basket weaving, herbal medicine and cooking.
- Learn about preserving your family's history with the Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society.
- Join Clayworks for a pottery demonstration and try using a pottery wheel.
- Kick up your heels in an Irish dance workshop with Walsh Kelley School of Irish Dancing from 2:30-3 p.m.
- Examine Native American artifacts and reproductions, including an *atlatl* hunting sphere, from the collection of the USC-Lancaster Native American Studies Center.
- View artifacts from the 1774 Alexander Rock House and see some of the archaeological tools used in excavations at this historic site.
- Tour the first floor, kitchen and gardens of the 1774 Alexander Rock House, Mecklenburg County's oldest home.
- Make your own storytelling gourd and try your hand at archaeological excavation at our activities for kids, families and the young at heart.



Food and sweet treats will be available for purchase from The King of Pops and Chimi Spot food truck.

The Charlotte Museum of History and the Charlotte Folk Society present Backcountry Days in partnership with other local organizations, including Arts+, the Charlotte Herb Guild, Clayworks, Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society, USC-Lancaster Native American Studies Center and the Walsh Kelley School of Irish Dancing. This free event is made possible with a Cultural Vision grant from the Arts & Science Council.

### **How to Go**

This free event is Saturday, Sept. 7, from noon-5 p.m. at The Charlotte Museum of History, 3500 Shamrock Drive. More information at [charlottemuseum.org](http://charlottemuseum.org) or by calling 704.568.1774.

### **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](http://charlottemuseum.org) and follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

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