

## Civil War Wedding

Museum-goers learn how vows may have been exchanged in 1860s

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Three weddings held in the commons area at Kings Mountain Historical Museum brought history to life on Saturday. Historians with Carolina Foothills Historical Reenactment Society came to demonstrate the joy and pain of a Civil War wedding ceremony.

At 11 am reenactors Ron and Sherry Deck, of Lenoir, renewed their vows in historical military fashion. A happy occasion, prompted with a caution to the two by fellow reenactor Terry Helmes. "Are you sure you want to go through with this? You know we are in a time of war," he said, with Bible in hand. The two were wed.

A similar ceremony with the same caution and air of foreboding was held at 1 pm with another real-life married couple Joshua and Mary Pennington. The "I do's" were said and the ceremony was sealed with a kiss. Fellow reenactors who stood two by two in lines behind the couple drew their sabers to form a tunnel for the newly weds to escape to married bliss. But their escape was thwarted.

Instead of a honeymoon, a page (Melissa Helmes) ran onto the scene bringing the worst wedding present they could have hoped for - the call to arms. The new husband's troop had to deploy immediately. Pennington said he needed more time, he was just married after all. But more time could not be granted. He and his new wife were pulled apart, she to be comforted and he to fight. With a future so uncertain, many soldiers of the era who chose love were whisked away too soon. Few returned home to the happily ever after they once dreamed of.

The last ceremony was held at 3 pm. All ceremonies were conducted on the steps of the Barber Log House, where the Barber daughter actually wed a Civil War soldier over 150 years ago, with a similar fate. After the weddings, reenactors spoke with those in attendance. Relaying the fact that over 3.5 million horses and mules were killed during the Civil War along with thousands of soldiers, the men were full of history and they said it comes with the territory.

"I've learned so much just being a reenactor," Mr. Helmes said. He added that good and bad could be found on both sides. The Confederate soldiers



Are you ready to say 'I do' again, this time in the middle of a war? Reenactors put on a Civil War wedding at KM Historical Museum Saturday morning. Clockwise, l-r: Joshua Pennington (groom), Daniel Holmes, David Camp, David Smith, Ron Deck, Mary Pennington (bride) and Terry Helmes (presiding).

were not really Rebels because they fought for their central government in the South. The Union soldiers also fought for their central government in the North. Both sides heroically fought and bravely died for what they believed was the good of their country at the time, he said, like our own Cleveland Blues (Confederate soldiers from the Kings Mountain area).

"We are living historians who try to tell the tale," said reenactor David Smith, also known by his colleagues as "Smithy." He joked about them being so incorporated into the history they live, saying that if the power were to go out, they wouldn't know it.

"We do this to let the people know of the soldier's dedication and what they went in to," Mr. Helmes said. All of the spectators who came to watch the Civil War weddings walked away with a piece of that education on the Civil War "wedded" front.

The Carolina Foothills Historical Reenactment Society does not bring the past to life for self-glory, monetary gain or to cast a light on which side was "right." "We do it for the love of history and for the love of community," Mr. Helmes said, adding that through their reenactments they hope to bring travel and tourism back to the area as well.



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This Civil War couple's newlywed bliss is about to be ripped apart as husband Joshua Pennington is called off to war before a honeymoon with his bride Mary.

## Open Gate Garden Club hears program on global warming

Twelve members of the Open Gate Garden Club and one guest met April 11 at Boyce Memorial A.R.P. Church with Margie Bridges as hostess.

After a delicious dessert course was served, Olivia Mayhew, President, welcome members and guest and the Club Collect was read in unison.

Peggy Baird gave a program on the "Environment in Crisis," stating that Global Warming and climate change are probably the "most severe problem that is facing us today, even more serious than the threat of terrorism."

She said causes of climate change and man-made global warming affects the entire planet. The burning of fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere where carbon pollution blanket the earth, traps in heat, and causes global warming.

Electricity generation is the biggest single source of man-made CO2 pollution and steps can be taken to slow global warming by using energy efficient technology and renewable energy resources like wind and solar power.

Around the world, climate

change is threatening wildlife like Polar bears. Global warming causes pervasive damage to the environment. Among the associated environmental impacts are biodiversity loss, sea level rise, increased drought, spread of disease, changes in freshwater supply and an increase in extreme weather events.

Mrs. Baird stated that people can reduce global warming through landscaping homes for energy efficiency, buying a hybrid car, carpooling, reducing garbage, using recycled paper and planting trees.

She also brought to the member's attention the greenhouse effect and how it affects climate and environment.

Betty Alexander gave timely tips. She said to sow seeds of green beans, corn, cucumbers and set out tomato and pepper plants in mid to late April. Avoid blossom-end rot on tomatoes by mixing in a handful of lime to the planting hole of each plant.

Melba Boyles announced that the club would go to the gardens at Tryon next month.

Margie had an arrangement of beautiful blooms of different flowers that were in her yard.

## Esther Plonk hosts Magnolia Garden Club

Mrs. Esther Plonk entertained the Magnolia Garden Club members at the recent meeting. President Maxine Bennett welcomed 10 members and guest speaker Bob Scoggins.

Scoggins presented a program on pruning and thinning Crepe Myrtles, Camellias and other shrubs. He advised when to prune shrubbery and what fertilizer to use.

The business meeting opened with the Club Collect. Minutes were approved and the treasurer's report heard. Flower arrangements made by Mrs. Geneva Caveny and Mrs. Kay Davis were critiqued. Specimens were presented and team points were counted.

After the meeting, Mrs. Plonk served a delicious dessert plate.

## Yarboro graduates basic training

PV2 Hunter Blake Yarboro graduated from basic training at Fort Jackson, SC on March 30. Yarboro will further his training at Fort Eustis, VA and proceed to Fort Benning, GA for Airborne training before his assignment to a permanent duty station.

He is a 2006 graduate of Polk County High School, Columbus, NC.

PV2 Yarboro is the son of Johnny and Sonia Yarboro of Columbus, NC, formerly of Kings Mountain. He is the grandson of the late George and

Helen Ross of Kings Mountain, and Ken Yarboro and the late Diddy Yarboro of Kings

Mountain. He is the great-grandson of Mrs. Mary Yarboro of Kings Mountain.

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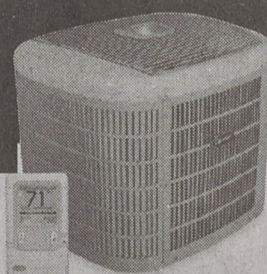
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