

Teaching the 18th century way of life

DAVE BLANTON
dave.kmherald@gmail.com

Visitors to the city's Revolutionary 4th could easily take a step back in time Friday and Saturday by walking a few feet.

There, on what is normally a child's baseball field, they could see pottery made and mingle with men and women who inhabited this part of America nearly three centuries ago. Or at least they were certainly dressed for the part.

Members of the 84th Royal Highland Emigrants historical reenactment group could be seen living in simple tents and keeping campfires going.

The curious could take in a cannon-firing demonstration and learn the ins and outs of ancient muskets. A few wares were also for sale, including Moravian sugar cookies, gingerbread and goat's milk cheese.

Regiment member Timothy Weiss spends several weeks on the road every year, setting up camp at historical festivals and national historic sites in order to teach audiences about what it was like to live and survive in America in the 18th century.

"What we wear is not a costume - it's clothing," said Weiss, who serves as the group's chaplain, referring to the layers of loose-fitting linen and tough leather shoes that may seem cumbersome to the modern American.

This July 4th was Weiss' fifth trip to Kings Mountain's annual event. Next week, he'll journey to Bratonsville, S.C., for a similar festival and reenactment. In September, the regiment (which is modeled after an actual regiment from that time period) will travel to Hiddenite, N.C.

Weiss resides in Statesville and says when he's not traveling with the regiment he's very active with the nearby Fort Dobbs State Historic Site, which provides a window into the tumultuous period of history known as the French and Indian War, or Seven Years War, which took place in 1754 and 1763.

"We try to be as authentic as possible," said Sally Spatz, a member of the group.

Another member, who would later portray Major Patrick Ferguson in a short Battle of Kings Mountain skit set near the walking track, gave a lecture in the afternoon on the physics on

"We try to be as authentic as possible."



Members of the 84th Royal Highland Emigrants demonstrate cannon firing at Friday's Revolutionary 4th.

Photos by DAVE BLANTON

cannonballs and the horrible injuries they can cause to their victims. Those not killed immediately by the heavy projectiles, would likely die a slow and painful death from sepsis or gangrene.

"You'd rather be killed outright or not hit at all than be injured by this kind of weapon," said Vincett.

Certainly, those were different times, with a scarcity of amenities.

"Of all the things I'd miss most would be artificial refrigeration," Weiss said, in talking about how everyday life was tougher in the Revolutionary Period.

The regiment's top commander, Rob Lewis, who lives nearby in Gaston County, said his organization works hard to preserve the past and to pass on what they learn through their own experiences.

"We're considered living-history teachers," he said, adding that the historical group is compensated by donations that help further its reach.



Matt Vincett gives a lecture on the use of cannon balls during the Revolutionary period at the 84th Royal Highland Emigrants encampment in Jake Early Park.

City's intern learning the ropes

DAVE BLANTON
dave.kmherald@gmail.com

For every big event in town - from the Over the Mountain Triathlon to BeachBlast, the Revolutionary 4th and the Christmas Parade - there's a small core of folks responsible for the complex planning that makes them a success: hiring bands, rounding up volunteers and coordinating with other departments like the police and maintenance crews.

Haley Wilson joined that dedicated group in early June as an intern with the Special Events Department of the City of Kings Mountain and all summer has been a vital part of the team that makes such events run smoothly in the town.

She's been working closely with Ellis Noell, the city's Director of Public Relations/Special Events, who's charged with coordinating every public event hosted by the city. "I'm his go-to person for communications," said Wilson, a Fallston native who graduated from N.C. State University in May with a degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management. "I handle a lot of e-mails and post updates the City of Kings Mountain web site. I also place ads for events."

Haley is no stranger to event planning. She's already worked as a volunteer on many city events held in



Haley Wilson

Raleigh, where she attended college. But at her internship under Noell, she says she's gotten more practical experience than ever.

What has she learned during her time so far in historic Kings Mountain?

"Planning is very important - having a plan B - and C and D," she said, noting that she and Noell are constantly thinking of contingencies.

The summer internship has also given her a valuable look into the workings of a city government. She's attended City Council meetings, planning board meetings and utilities services meetings that dealt with the city's ambitious installment of Smart Meters for all its residents.

"I've gained a lot of respect for city government and all those who work in it," said Wilson, who spent some of Friday hanging banners for the city's Revolutionary 4th Independence Day festivities. "It's a lot of work, but it's a lot of fun too. I'm in awe of how connected the community is,"

Wilson said. "So many people care about the little things here."

Outside of event planning and tourism development, Haley has a passion for travel. In 2009, she went on a European tour that took her to Paris, which she described as her favorite city in the world, and the English countryside. She's always visited Los Angeles and southern California, the home of two of her other favorite hobbies - movies and television.

Looking ahead to the rest of her internship, Wilson says she's assisting Noell and other city officials with Saturday's dedication of Mayor Rick Murphrey Children's Park, which was built in 2001 and is located next to the YMCA on York Road. After that, it's the annual Beach Blast at Patriots Park in downtown, which will be a day of live music, barbecue contests and other fun and games.

Wilson has also been asked to give input on the possible redesign of the city's web site and is helping the mayor design and plan for an addition to the children park down the road that will aim to reach children with disabilities.

"She's been a wonderful asset," Noell said last week. "What's nice is being able to work with someone who gets it."

Wilson's internship runs through August 8.



Lillie Bolin, daughter of Tracy and Kim Bolin and Landyn Howell, daughter of Brandon and Stacy Howell celebrated July 4th by offering lemonade on the hot summer day to anyone thirsty trying to beat the heat.

Photo submitted

EXPERIENCED • EDUCATED • ESTABLISHED
ENDORSED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIRE & EMS

CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS

Hello!

My name is Randy Walker and I hope to be your next Cleveland County Coroner. My experience working with Law Enforcement and 911 makes me your ideal candidate for this position. I understand first-hand how critical the role of Coroner can be in the course of an investigation. I understand the care and precision that must be exercised to maintain the integrity of any and all evidence on a crime scene.

I hope that you will take a moment to look over my qualifications, and agree that I am the best candidate for this office. If you do, please join me at the polls on July 15th. I look forward to seeing you there, and I appreciate your consideration!

Experience/Qualifications

- ★ Retired Cleveland County 911 Communications
- ★ Works part-time with Cleveland Funeral Services
- ★ Member, Boiling Springs Fire & Rescue since 1977
- ★ Married to Renee Blanton since 1981
- ★ Member, Flint Hill Baptist Church
- ★ Owner, Boiling Springs Florist & Lock Tite Storage

VOTE JULY 15TH

Randy Walker
for Cleveland County Coroner

Paid for by the committee to elect Randy Walker Coroner