Approved September 8, 2025

Burke County -- America 250 Committee
Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, August 11, 2025
Location: Burke Co. Travel & Tourism office
140 N. Sterling St., Morganton
Time: 1:30 pm – 2:40 pm

Members Present:				Guests Present:
Gordon, Waits		Medford, Sylvia	✓	Tim Barnsback
Hancock, Kevin		Patton, Robert	✓	Mike Stroud
Johnston, Laurie (Secretary)	✓	Phillips, Ed (Chair)	✓	
Jones, Deborah	✓	Smith, Phil		
Lindsey, Dr. Bryant	✓	Swan, Dr. Mike		
Lindsey, Dr. Linda	✓	Welch, Dr. Joel (Vice Chair)	✓	
McKesson, Dr. Leslie	✓	Wilkinson, Sam	✓	
McSwain, Butch	✓			

Call to Order

Committee Chairman, Ed Phillips, called the meeting to order and welcomed committee members. A quorum was present. Quick introductions were made, for the benefit of the guests. Ed introduced and acknowledged the presence of two guests, Mike Stroud, County Commissioner, and Tim Barnsback, teacher at Burke Middle College and America 250 NC Freedom Fellow. Tim explained that he was chosen as one of 15 Freedom Fellows across the state. They are educators who will travel to cultural and historic sites in NC as part of the 8-month program. They have already been visiting sites in NC, including Southport, Fort Fisher, and Raleigh and the entire group of Freedom Fellows will visit Burke County on Sept. 27 as guests for the day. They will go to Fort Defiance on Sept. 28. Their goals include experiencing and exploring the diversity of people and history of North Carolina across the state.

Approval of Minutes from July 14, 2025

Minutes from the July meeting were sent by email prior to the meeting and hardcopies were distributed at the meeting for discussion. No corrections or amendments were noted. Butch McSwain moved to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Joel Welch. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- 2025 Revolutionary War Days Update

Ed Phillips provided a review of plans for the Rev. War Days events for September 26 & 27. The Historic Site Tour will be held on Friday, September 26. Tickets are on sale now through EventBrite. The cost is $30 plus $3.85 in EventBrite fees. The tour will begin at 9am in the Visitors' Center. There will be two small motor coaches. Water will be provided. Two sites will be visited in the morning then lunch will be held at the Community House. Two sites will be visited in the afternoon. There is marketing on Facebook. So far, six tickets have been sold; it is

expected to sell out with a total of 40 seats available. The four site are the Historic Gilboa Methodist Church, Morganton Railroad Depot, Swan Ponds Historic Home, and Quaker Meadows Cemetery. The A.C. Avery House was once considered for the tour but the family who resides there needed to cancel participation due to personal circumstances. There was a request that information about the event be provided in a printout since it is presently exclusively online. There will be a booklet created for tour participants that includes historical information for each site.

Linda Lindsey, who is in charge of the events on September 27 gave an overview of the event details for the Revolutionary War Encampment day at the McDowell House and provided a spreadsheet of stations and contacts (see Appendix). The following activities were mentioned:

- Breezeway filled with gift shop items and vendors.
- People dressed in Colonial dress, including someone dressed as Joseph McDowell.
- The Voelkers create Colonial dress/costumes & will have samples for sales. He makes Colonial games and toys as well, tied to the time period.
- Patricia Cooper Baker, author of 24 published books, 18 set in Burke County, will do "Tales from the Tavern," reading excerpts from her stories. Many are set during Revolutionary period.
- Several authors will attend.
- The house will be full of docents, presenting information and historical artifacts.
- Scott Coley will bring his gun and weapons display.
- We will not be serving Colonial food as has been done in some years past.
- Garden Club will bring pumpkins & gourds to provide decoration.
- There will be a clothesline with dyed fabrics (dyed with plants), string beans/leather britches, dried herbs, lavender sachets, etc.
- Susan Houck will bring supplies and teach children how to make corn husk dolls and the children will be able to keep what they make and take it home.
- Exhibits on weaponry, the OVNCSHT will fire muskets, possibly cannon fire as well.
- Fife & drum crew performance.
- Fire making, scrimshaw demonstrations, basket making.
- Rep. from Hart Square will demonstrate carding wool.
- Demonstrations of sprang, ancient craft that looks like loose macramé in Rev. War men's belts, could be stretched out and used as a gurney. This will be demonstrated by a woman from the NC School of Science and Math.
- 18th century woodworking.
- Campfires and cooking bear, elk, salmon, rabbit, etc. as demonstration of methods.
- Southern Living Historians will be encamped with authentic materials and methods.
- 2 forty-foot tents in front of the house.
- Mary Ervin and kids on fiddles & other instruments will provide music.
- Dr. Sonny Kelley will do performances from the perspective of the Enslaved.
- Mary Charlotte Safford and Rebecca Heacock will do presentations in period dress.
- Presentations on Joseph and Charles McDowell.
- Looking for a glassmaker and shoemaker to do demonstrations.

Ed added to Linda's report on the progress of plans for that day and said it will be like Williamsburg in Morganton.

- He is still working on finding food trucks that will be located probably at the back of the property. Happy Taco food truck is confirmed.
- The NC Department of Cultural Resources will be bringing the America 250 NC Airstream, which contains a walk-thru exhibit.
- Parking will be available at the vacant field adjacent to the McDowell House, as well as Stone & Leigh and old Kmart parking lots as overflows.
- Signs for parking and for what's going on at the site needed.
- America 250 signs will be at the historic sites as well.

Robert Patton offered a suggestion for the location of food trucks on the other side of the tree line to draw people in. He also offered 4 or 5 8x8 foot tall character stand-ins with face cut-outs for photo moments. They were made years ago by Michael Berley for Historic Burke Foundation and would provide photo opportunity for visitors.

Ed said that we have 2 twenty by forty foot tents, 175 chairs, but have no tables and will need tables. There was some discussion about whether picnic tables could be donated. They would need to be very long-lasting, not standard wooden tables. Robert offered 8 six foot tables from the courthouse that could be used. We already have nine sturdy pop-up tents but will need additional tables and tents.

Ed added that there will be a quarter page ad in The Paper in early September and we may be able to do radio promotion as well. Robert suggested the Bill Brown could do the voice for ads.

Deborah Jones asked if a basketmaker was needed and offered to contact a local artisan.

Bryant Lindsey suggested inviting Ansley Wegner from the NC Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources. She is the Director of America 250 NC. Bryan Oliver could do a table for the OVNCST on the 27th.

Ed said this event could be a great opportunity to highlight the work and resources of the Historic Burke Foundation in the public eye, generate memberships, etc. He asked the group for input on charging for parking at the event or having a donation box and there was some discussion about possibly charging $5 or asking for a parking donation.

Ed explained that the America 250 NC AirStream would have a walk thru exhibit and handouts, and we will likely need to provide someone to help supervise or man that area. Ed is working on some Burke County America 250 products and distributed a design for a t-shirt logo, asking for input. Other items mentioned include mugs, collectors items, mousepad, car decals as options.

Ed brought up that our next meeting will be the last one right before the big event on Sept. 27.

Mike Stroud asked if we had considered Native American representation and there was considerable discussion regarding that topic. Around 1780, most Native Americans did not live in this immediate region and the Revolutionary period is a sensitive topic. Ed mentioned that there is an event dealing with the Cherokee being planned for the CoMMA on Saturday, November 1, not coordinated by our county America 250 committee, but involving Lake James State Park.

Tim Barnsback offered his perspective as a Freedom Fellow, adding that part of the fellowship has included discussions of 'untold stories' from the past as well as considering what the next 250 years will/should look like. He advised that we need to exercise caution, that natives are independent nations that do not appreciate being studied or their ancestors being turned into artifacts, and that they will probably not commemorate or celebrate the 250th in the same way that other major populations would. The issue needs to be treated with a respect for learning and understanding.

Leslie McKesson agreed that the issue warrants careful consideration and suggested that we think about Thanksgiving and that they may not want to associate themselves with this celebration as it may mean celebrating the erasure of their culture. Perhaps we could have a speaker series and educate ourselves. We need to consider the things done to indigenous people and have sensitivity to that perspective. We need to avoid being culturally blind in our planning of events.

Tim Barnsback offered to bring the experiences and discussion techniques he has been exposed to with the Freedom Fellows program into a public discussion. He has access to information and resources as well as the direction to make connections across history and geography. He would be happy to speak at local events. His commitment in the Fellows program ends in December.

Linda Lindsey mentioned that, in her experience, it is difficult to find/involve actual Native Americans in planned events. We will need lots of people on Saturday, September 27, so all committee members need to plan to assist where needed that day and recruit others as needed.

Robert Patton recommended that we contact law enforcement, REACT, Public Safety, etc. regarding the event to make them aware. Ed mentioned that off duty officers from the Sheriff's office may be available at a rate of $40/hour. Robert asked Joel Welch and Mike Stroud to assist in talking with law enforcement. It was asked if we could try and get a special event digital sign for traffic notification and Joel Welch said he would help with that.

Wrap Up

In the interest of time, it was decided to wait on discussing 2026 items and that our immediate focus is on the Sept. 27 event and helping Linda Lindsey. Everything needs to go through Linda, as she is coordinating efforts that day and there are lots of moving parts, but she will require a lot of assistance. Tim Barnsback offered to assemble some student volunteers for that day.

Leslie McKesson mentioned that we need to make sure her name is on the email list because she didn't receive notifications of the meeting today as expected. [It was later determined that an alternate address was used, rather than her preferred address. This was noted for future communications.]

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 pm. The next meeting will be Monday, September 8 at 1:30 pm.

Submitted by Laurie Johnston, Secretary
September 5, 2025

Appendix:
Attachment A—Meeting Agenda
Attachment B—Encampment at Quaker Meadows Stations
Attachment C—T-shirt Logo Image

Attachment A

AGENDA
BURKE COUNTY 250th PLANNING COMMITTEE
MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA

Committee Members: Butch McSwain, Deborah Jones, Dr. Bryant Lindsey, Dr. Joel Welch, Dr. Linda Lindsey, Ed Phillips, Kevin Hancock, Laurie Johnson, Leslie McKesson, Mike Swan, Phil Smith, Robert Patton, Sam Wilkinson, Waits Gordon.

REGULAR MEETING **August 11, 2025**

1:30 P.M. **Burke Visitor Center**

I. CALL TO ORDER

1. Purpose of the Committee- Burke County

"To engage all North Carolinians and ALL 100 counties through their many signatures and officially recognized programs, projects and events over the commemoration by inspiring future leaders and celebrating North Carolina's contributions to the nation over the last 250 years."

II. Approve Meeting Minutes from July 14, 2025

III. OLD BUSINESS

1. REV War Days Update- Linda Lindsey/ Ed Phillips
2. Committee Assignments
3. Other Burke County Events in 2025/2026

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Establish July 4, 2026 Sub- Committee
2. Burke Events for 2026
3. Local Logo for Retail Merchandise

Attachment B

8/11/2025

Encampment at Quaker Meadows, September 27, 2025

Name	Phone	Email	Stations	Chairs	Tables	Tent	Lunches
Becca Heacock	818-669-3118	beccabelle17@gmail.com	1st Floor House Tours	1	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Almon Carr	828-439-7529	almon.carr@att.net	Dining Room	1	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Scott Coley	828-403-0019	scottcoleydesigns@gmail.com	Sword Display	1	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Phil Natoli	585-507-1874	natoli@geneseo.edu	2nd Floor House Tours	1	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Jill King	828-413-5315	jwking1@yahoo.com	2nd Floor House Tours	1	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
TBA			Needlepoint, CrossStitch, 2nd Floor	1	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
TBA			Revolutionary Weaponry	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
TBA			DAR Membership Table - 11:00 - 2:15	1	1	FALSE	FALSE
TBA			DAR Membership Table - 11:00 - 2:15	1	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
TBA			DAR Membership Table - 2:15-5:30	0	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
TBA			DAR Membership Table - 2:15 - 5:30	0	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
TBA			SAR Membership Table - 11:00 - 2:15	1	1		FALSE
TBA			SAR Membership Table, 11:00 - 2:15	1	FALSE		FALSE
TBA			SAR Membership Table, Parlor, 2:15 - 5:30	0	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
TBA			SAR Membership Table, 2:15 - 5:30	0	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Michelle Robinson	828-403-1629	raven3011@yahoo.com	Needlework	1	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Sheila Antell	980-241-3440	eswaumsma@yahoo.com	Lacemaking	1	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Beth Spahn	814-282-7816	spahnmom@gmail.com	Garden; Dyes; Sachets; "Leather Britches"	1		1	FALSE
			Garden Club Tent, 11:00 - 2:15	1	1	1	FALSE
			Garden Club Tent, 11:00 - 2:15	1	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
			Garden Club Tent, 2:15 - 5:30	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
			Garden Club Tent, 2:15 - 5:30	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Al Ernest	740-281-9046	alwoodsman@hotmail.com	Campfire Cooking: Bear, Rabbit, Fish, Etc.	1	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
				FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Bobby Denton	403-1617	bdenton121@gmail.com	LongriflesLtd	1	2	1	FALSE
Eric Minetola	828-403-8785	ericminetola@gmail.com	Black Powder Making	1	1	1	FALSE
Jordan Lowdermilk	828-413-7157	jordanl126@yahoo.com	18th Century Militia Kits	1	1	1	FALSE
Gordon Sisk	865-387-8633	7historyham@gmail.com	"What They Carried on the Trail"	1	1	1	FALSE
Clint Byers	828-754-7587	hornandfiber@yahoo.com	Powderhorns	1	TRUE	1	FALSE
Roan Byers	828-754-7587	hornandfiber@yahoo.com	Firemaking	1	1	FALSE	FALSE
Conner Byers	828-754-7587	hornandfiber@yahoo.com	Firemaking	1	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Kim Browning	828-244-5680	Kim.Browning@ncssm.edu	Sprang	3	1	1	FALSE
Annie Hall	404-372-1848	anniehall90@gmail.com	Carding Wool, Flax Wheel	1	1	1	FALSE
Debby Stone	828-262-5290	debby9855@gmail.com	Spinning on a Great Wheel	1	1	1	FALSE
Dennis Voelker	828-765-7874	raine9@rocketmail.com	Colonial Toys and Games/Colonial Clothing	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Lorraine Voelker	828-765-7874	raine9@rocketmail.com	Colonial Clothing	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Susan Houck + 2	828-544-5007	SusanH1042@aol.com	Corn Husk Dolls	4	2	1	FALSE
			Southern Living Historians	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE
TBA + ?			Genealogy Help Desk	2	1	1	FALSE
				FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
				FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
				FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Robert Paganuzzi	828-390-9505	delmoprimo@gmail.com	Late 18th Century Woodworking	1	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Ken Volz	828-443-0986	krvolz@protonmail.com	Late 18th Century Woodworking	1	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
				FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Mary Ervin + 15	828-455-2575	maryervin9@gmail.com	Colonial Music by Morganton JAM	16	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Alan Darveaux	828-584-6768	alandarveaux1@gmail.com	Colonial Dulcimer Music	1	FALSE	1	FALSE
M.C. Safford	828-413-3370	mcsafford2222@gmail.com	African-Americans at Kings Mountain	1	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Sonny Kelly	210-793-5241	legacyhourproductions@gmail.com	Fife and Drum	2	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Ed Phillips	828-205-2000	director@discoverburkecounty.com	Burke America 250th Anniversary	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Ashley Murdock?	828-572-9381	aemurdock@yahoo.com	"Then and Now"	1	2	1	FALSE
Trish Baker	828-926-3837	pbaker2222@yahoo.com	Children's "Tales from the Tavern"	6	1	1	FALSE
Laurie Johnston	828-764-3239	ljohnston@bcpls.org	TBA	1	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
David Doan	423-366-8091	daviddoan@hotmail.com	OVTA Annual Marchers, Storytelling, Musket	16	2	2	FALSE
TBA? K.Allec?	530-919-8491	kevin_allec@hotmail.com	Flags Display	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE

Debbie Hipps?	828-443-8822	hippsnebo@gmail.com	Gift Shop	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
OVTA Marchers	423-366-8639	tpvaughan@aol.com	OVTA Musket Fire	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
TBA			SAR Musket Fire	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Stephen McKee	704-682-7150	stephen.p.mckee@gmail.com	Cannon Fire	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Kim Bradley	828-413-7703	kbradley@gmail.com	Gift Shop	1	3	FALSE	FALSE
Debbie Bradley	828-446-4974	truvybradley@gmail.com	Gift Shop	1	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Willette McIntosh	828-205-3923	wymsical62@gmail.com	Gift Shop	1	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Robert Patton	828-443-3720	robert.patton1@icloud.com		1	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Linda Lindsey	828-448-2923	thelindseys77@gmail.com		1	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
				FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
Bryant Lindsey	828-448-2921	thelindseys77@gmail.com		1	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
? Boxed Lunch in Breezeway at for those who signed up for lunch.							

Attachment C



T-shirt Logo Image