

## MECK DEC COLLECTION, 1831-2015

2 drawers

### ABSTRACT

The Meck Dec Collection consists of a variety of items from Charlotte and Mecklenburg County concerning the celebration of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, or "Meck Dec."

This collection includes advertisements, correspondence, invitations, programs, publications, and three-dimensional items.

### ACCESS

This collection is open to the public without restriction. The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

### PREFERRED CITATION

Cite as: Meck Dec Collection, 1831-2015, Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

### ACQUISITION

Processed by Hannah Cox, 2016.

### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Meck Dec Collection is a small collection formerly from the Ephemera Collection. The bulk of the collection is from 1892-1976, with several earlier and later pieces. Materials are arranged by date within the collection.

### SERIES LIST

CONTENTS	DRAWER
<b>1831, Declaration of Independence Booklet</b> Booklet of the Declaration of Independence with accompanying documents and the proceedings of the Cumberland Association published by the Governor. Published by Lawrence and Lemay: Raleigh, North Carolina, 1831.	4
<b>1875, William Graham Address</b> Hard-bound copy of <i>The Address of the Honorable William Graham on the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of the 20 May 1775</i> . "Delivered at Charlotte, on the 4th Day of Feb'y,	4

1875 by Request of the Citizens of Mecklenburg County. With Accompanying Documents, Including Those Published by Order of the Legislature of North Carolina in the Year 1831." New York: E. J. Hale & Son, Publishers, 1875.

**1875, Harper's Weekly Article**

Photocopies of Harper's Weekly describing the 1875 Celebration of the Mecklenburg Declaration in Charlotte, North Carolina. 4

**1875, Meck Dec Oration**

Printed *Oration Delivered at the Centennial Celebration of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence by the Honorable John M. Bright of Tennessee*. Roberts & Purvis Book and Job Printers: Nashville, Tennessee, 1875. 4

**1892, The Twenty-Seven Signers**

The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence Written in 1800, *The Twenty-Seven Signers Forged in 1892, This Question in Politics*. Brown-Morrison Company: Lynchburg, Virginia, 1892. 4

**1895, Meck Dec Program**

*The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, May 20, 1775* by Dr. George W. Graham. Wonderful program highlights all the activities of the Meck Dec festivities in 1895 and features photographs of the participants and the businesses sponsoring the pageant. 4

**1898, Commemorative Pin**

White enamel pin with word "President" inscribed at the top of a white ribbon with Mecklenburg Monument Association in gold letters. Below the pin is a white enamel button with a picture of the monument and the words, "Declaration of Monument to the Signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence May 20, 1775, Unveiled May 20, 1898." The unveiling coincided with the Mecklenburg Declaration Celebration of 1898. 4

**1898, Monument Unveiling**

*Unveiling of the Monument to the Signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence at Charlotte, North Carolina, May 20, 1898*, published by the Mecklenburg Monument Association in June of 1898. Hardbound copy was once part of the Charlotte Library & Literary Collection and one of the first books cataloged for the 1903 Carnegie Library.

**1900, Meck Dec 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program**

Program of the Celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence by the Dorcas Bell Love Chapter DAR Waynesville, North Carolina, 1900. 4

**1906, Commemorative Pin**

Enamel covered pin holding a small American flag with a button at the bottom of the flag. The button has a picture of President Taft, the keynote speaker at the Mecklenburg Declaration 4

Celebration in 1906, Charlotte's motto, "Watch Charlotte Grow" with the city's population, and the dates May 20, 1775 to May 20, 1909.

- 1906, Meck Dec Souvenir Program**  
*Official Souvenir Programme Celebration Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.* D. Hatcher Watkins and Charles G. Mullen, Publishers, Ray Printing Company, 1906. The celebration ran from May 21-26th, and the program contains details of all the activities surrounding the event. 4
- 1906, Meck Dec Souvenir Program**  
*Souvenir Program 141st Anniversary Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence May 20 1775 Defense of Charlotte,* September 26 1780, Washburn Press, Publisher, 1916. 4
- 1906, Mecklenburg Celebration Stationery**  
Blank piece of Mecklenburg Centennial Celebration stationery from 1906. 4
- c. 1908, Noppen Publication**  
*The Mecklenburg Resolves of May 31, 1775 vs. The "Mecklenburg Declaration of May 20, 1775"* by Charles L. Van Noppen, Publisher, c. 1908. 4
- 1909, Meck Dec Souvenir**  
*Souvenir Edition of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence,* 1909. Copyright by The Queen City Printing and Paper Company, 1898. (Two copies). 4
- 1916, Commemorative Pin**  
Blue button with words, "Member of Mecklenburg Declaration Society Charlotte, North Carolina, 1914" with red, white and blue ribbons below. 4
- 1916, Meck Dec Anniversary Pamphlet**  
Pamphlet published in honor of the 141st Anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration. Describes city life in good detail. 4
- 1916, Meck Dec Anniversary Souvenir Program**  
*Souvenir Program 141st Anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.* Washburn Press: Charlotte, North Carolina, 1916. The program contains the history behind the celebration, names of participants, photographs of distinguished politicians, businesses and other points of interest. 4
- 1924, Graham Publication**  
*Prologue Events Forming Background of Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence* by Dr. Alexander Graham. Published by Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, 1924. (Two copies). With reprints, 1929, 1931. 4
- 1925, Fore Correspondence**  
Correspondence between local historian Cornelia Berry Fore, wife of James Albert Fore, and a Mr. Starnes regarding preparations and histories to be written in honor of the 4

sesquicentennial anniversary of the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. Many of her articles appeared in local newspapers under the name Mrs. J.A. Fore. For more information regarding the life and activities of Cornelia Fore, see the vertical file Mr. and Mrs. James Albert Fore.

**1925, Pageant Program**

Official Programme [sic] The Pageant of Charlotte & Old Mecklenburg by Thomas Wood Stevens, Charlotte, North Carolina, May 18-22, 1925. 4

**1929, Grady Publication**

*The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of May 20, 1775 Delivered Before the New Hanover Bar Association, May 14, 1929* by Henry Grady, Judge of the Superior Court of North Carolina. (Two copies). 4

**1929, Graham Publication**

*Prologue: Events Forming Background of Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence May 20, 1775* by Dr. Alexander Graham. Published by the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, 1929 and printed by the Queen City Printing Company. Attempts to provide documentation of a variety of sources to substantiate the validity of the Mecklenburg Declaration. 4

**1939, Commemoration**

Charlotte "The Friendly City" and Mecklenburg County Welcome the General Assembly of North Carolina in Special Session, Charlotte, North Carolina, February 22, 1939, in commemoration of the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. (Two copies). 4

**1940, Meck Dec Program**

Program for the Mecklenburg Independence Festival of 1940 contains information regarding the activities, photograph of the festival queen, advertisements (both commercial and political), and the names of the participants. 4

**1947, Graham Publication**

Prologue Events Forming Background of Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence May 20, 1775 by Dr. Alexander Graham. (Two copies). Published by the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce: Charlotte, North Carolina, 1947. 4

**1948, Shout Freedom Souvenir Program**

Souvenir Program *Shout Freedom* Presented by Mecklenburg Historical Society May 20 – June 3rd. This symphonic drama in two acts was written by Legette Blythe and took place at the Southern States Fair Grounds in Charlotte, North Carolina. The program contains the history of the event, names and photographs the actors and actresses as well as local officials. (Two copies). 4

**1950, Collection of Verse**

The American Trust Company of Charlotte Presents A <i>Collection of Verse on the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence</i> . Edited by Chalmers Davidson, 1950. (Three copies).	4
<b>1954, Miniature Meck Dec</b>	
Miniature bound copy of the Mecklenburg Declaration that was published by Doris Welsh at the Newberry Press in Chicago, Illinois. 4.5 mm x 5.5 mm.	5
<b>1954, Meck Dec Eisenhower Official Souvenir</b>	
Official souvenir of the May 18, 1954 Mecklenburg Declaration Celebration when President Dwight Eisenhower came to Charlotte. See Photographs from this event.	5
<b>1955, Mecklenburg Historical Association Publication</b>	
<i>Cradle of Liberty: Historical Essays Concerning the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence by May 20, 1775</i> . Published by Mecklenburg Historical Association On the 180th Anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence: Charlotte, North Carolina, 1955.	5
<b>1955, Cradle of Liberty</b>	
<i>Cradle of Liberty Historical Essays Concerning the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence May 20, 1775</i> by Dr. Archibald Henderson, Mecklenburg Historical Associations, 1955.	5
<b>1961, Book Review</b>	
Book review by Dr. Chalmers G. Davidson, Professor of History of Davidson College of the book, <i>Chain of Error and the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence</i> by V.V. McNitt.	5
<b>1964, Advertisement and Correspondence</b>	
Advertisement of the North Carolina National Bank honoring the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence was sent to the public library by John Tate, Senior Vice President of NCNB, now Bank of America. Correspondence between Tate and Hoyt Galvin, Director of the Library, is included.	5
<b>1967, Alexandriana DAR Chapter Brochure</b>	
Brochure of the 1967 Alexandriana DAR Chapter program commemorating the events leading to the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.	5
<b>c. 1970s, Charlotte, Bicentennial Committee Packet</b>	
Press kit in a saddlebag designed envelope from the Charlotte- Mecklenburg Bicentennial Committee.	5
<b>c. 1975, Mecklenburg Singers Article</b>	
Article by Pratt Covington McSwain of the Stanly County Historical Society discussing the Mecklenburg Singers from counties other than Mecklenburg.	5
<b>1975, Bicentennial Coins</b>	
Two commemorative coins, one pewter and bronze from the 1975 Mecklenburg Bicentennial.	5

<b>1975, Mecklenburg Bicentennial Coins Article</b>	
The Charlotte News newspaper clipping titled “Mecklenburg Silver Coins Will Be Sold For \$20 Each,” advertising a bicentennial souvenir. 4,000 specially minted commemorative silver coins were made to celebrate the 200 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Meck Dec. President Ford received the first one.	5
<b>1975, Ford Flyer</b>	
Flyer announcing President Gerald Ford’s speaking engagement on May 20, 1975 at Freedom Park.	5
<b>1975, Meck Dec Bibliography</b>	
<i>A Bibliography of the Material on the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of May 20, 1775 in the Carolina Room of the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County</i> compiled by Dr. R. Whitney Tucker and edited by Wyatt Helsabeck.	5
<b>1975, Tag</b>	
Licenses Tag “Mecklenburg Declaration” for 1975 Bicentennial from Dr. Chalmers Davidson to Mary Boyer.	5
<b>1976, Mecklenburg Historical Association Brochure</b>	
Brochure by the Mecklenburg Historical Association for a program honoring the signers of the honoring the signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence on May 20th 1976.	5
<b>1976, Meck Dec Commemorative Copies</b>	
Commemorative copies of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence that were published by the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce during the American Bicentennial.	5
<b>1990, Mecklenburg History Month Proclamation</b>	
Proclamation of May as Mecklenburg History Month, signed by Carla DuPuy, Chairman of Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners on May 7, 1990.	5
<b>2001, Meck Dec Historical Account</b>	
Historical account of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence prepared by Cornelia Wearn Henderson of the Mecklenburg Historical Association. (Two copies).	5
<b>2004, Commemorative Coin</b>	
The May 20th Society minted these coins in honor of the Mecklenburg Declaration Celebration on May 20, 2004.	5
<b>2004, Masons Document</b>	
Document signed by the Freemasons of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina attesting to the “validity” of the Mecklenburg Declaration. Signatures by former Governor James G. Martin appears on the document. An image of the masons in front of the Hezekiah Alexander House is also included.	5
<b>2006, Meck Dec Celebration Invitation</b>	
Invitation to the Meck Dec celebration hosted by The May 20 <sup>th</sup> Society, composed of four events from May 19 – May 21, 2006, including an observance & reenactment, jollification	5

performance of “A Time to Decide” at the 1774 home of patriot Hezekiah Alexander, and an 18<sup>th</sup> century sermon by Reverend D’Oyle G. Moore. On the back are a description of the mission of The May 20<sup>th</sup> Society and the 2006 honorary co-chairmen, board of advisors, and sponsors. Enclosed is an RSVP card for the Jollification at Ri-Ra’s Irish Pub.

**2006, Meck Dec Celebration Pamphlet**

Meck Dec Observance & Reenactment at The Square in uptown Charlotte on Friday, May 19, 2006 hosted by the May 20<sup>th</sup> Society. Speakers included Honorary Chairmen Pam Syfert, Allen Tate, and Humpy Wheeler. Later celebration called “Jollification” at Ri-Ra’s Irish Pub. Lists board of advisors, executive committee, and sponsors. (Two copies). 5

**2006, The May 20<sup>th</sup> Society Information Sheet**

Michael Beschloss, NBC News Presidential Historian, commonly appearing on meet the Press, Today, and other NBC news programs, appeared at Imaginon on May 18, 2006 as part of the May 20<sup>th</sup> Society’s Meck Dec celebration and jointly presented by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library. Information sheet describes Beschloss’ various accomplishments and publications. 5

**2008, Meck Dec Celebration, Ken Burns**

Ticket to the May 20<sup>th</sup> Society’s presenting Ken Burns at McGlohon Theatre in celebration of the Meck Dec on May 20, 2008. 5

**2008, Meck Dec Celebration Pamphlet**

The May 20<sup>th</sup> Society’s Celebrate Meck Dec pamphlet promoting the Meck Dec speaker series, and Ken Burns visit in particular. Also a brief history and timeline of Meck Dec, and the executive board and sponsors of the May 20<sup>th</sup> Society. 5

**2012, May 20<sup>th</sup> Society Invitations**

Two event invitations: 1) the Charlotte Liberty Walk Unveiling on Friday, May 18, 2012, and 2) the Bridge Unveiling and Street Party on Saturday, May 19, 2012. 5

**2015, May 20<sup>th</sup> Society Invitation**

The May 20<sup>th</sup> Society’s invitation to the 240<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Speaker Series featuring famed historian Neil Howe on Tuesday, May 19, 2015. 5

**Undated, Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence Copy**

Reproduction of the text and signatures of the Meck Dec, as well as a summary. Prepared by the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. Signed by Ken Burns and also includes a signed photo of the same. 5