

Historic Carson House

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October 2019

Historic Carson House

1805 HWY 70 West

Marion, NC 28752

828-724-4948

Open April-November

Wednesday-Saturday
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sunday 2:00-5:00 pm

Guided Tour Fee \$7 Adults
& Children over 12 years

Historic Carson House

is a 501 c (3) tax-deductible organization. As a member, you receive free admission to the house, the Newsletter, and invitations to special events. Join via www.historiccarsonhouse.com or email at historiccarson-house@gmail.com

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McDowell County Commissioners Meet at Carson House

McDowell County was created by action of the General Assembly on December 19, 1842. The legislation specifically named the home of John Logan Carson as the seat of County Government until a courthouse could be built. The first meeting of the Justices of the Peace took place on March 13, 1843 at the Carson House, and business was conducted to name officers and to determine where Marion would be located. The Carson home would serve as the seat of government, hold court and house administrative functions for a two-year period until the first courthouse was completed.

In 1991, the Board of Commissioners and the Carson House Board of Directors agreed that the County Commissioners



would hold an annual meeting at the Carson House in honor of the special historical significance of the home. The County Commissioners have met in October of each year and conducted county business in the dining room of the Carson House.

The 2019 meeting of the Board of Commissioners (the 28th year) was held on October 8th of this year. Executive Director Martha Jordan and Chairperson Chuck Abernathy gave an

overview of Carson House programs and accomplishments over the past year as well as future plans. Board Emeritus Dr. James Haney blessed the dinner that was provided. Commission Chairperson David Walker thanked the Carson House Board and Partners stating, "The Board is honored to carry on the tradition of local government in the location where it all began."

Carson House Gets a Facelift

Blessed with some grant money from the **Covington Foundation**, **McDowell TDA**, and **McDowell County**, the Historic Carson House finally had a badly leaning chimney replaced and two hearths done. Repairs were also made to the second-floor porch, and three sides of the house were painted. If you haven't seen the house lately, come by and see how beautiful it looks!

American Battlefield Weekend Held

The Historic Carson House kicked off its opening season **April 5-6, 2019** with the **American Battlefield Trust Weekend**, formerly known as the Civil War Trust Weekend. On April 5, about 200 students and adults participated in Living History Demonstrations and toured the Carson House. They saw what a Civil War Period Camp might look like and listened to stories. Over **40 volunteers** came on April 6th to do spring cleaning, plant trees, spread mulch, pick up branches, clean gutters, and do many other chores. On that same afternoon, the general public enjoyed watching Re-enactors from local **CSA Camp 379** and other Camps from Western North Carolina present Living History Demonstrations and a Skirmish. Guests also enjoyed live music performed by **Hobo Bill (Bill Morris)**.



Dinner on Buck Creek

Dinner on Buck Creek was once again a well-attended and much-enjoyed event. Carson Partners decorated the Jubilee Arbor beautifully and created lovely table decorations. The meal catered by **Rob Noyes of Countryside BBQ** was delectable. The wine and cheese tables were very popular as usual, and the debut of the **Carson House Ale** brewed by **Mica Town Brewery** and bartended by **XYZ** piqued the interest of many. A special thanks goes to **PG Fire Department** for managing the parking. We also wish to thank co-chairs **Diane Judd, Evelyn Butler, and Janet Williams** for all their hard work for planning this event. A big thanks to all other **Carson Partners** who spent many hours making this elegant evening possible.



Benefit Car Show Held

On Saturday, June 1st, the Carson House hosted the **Eleck Willis Hensley Benefit Car Show**. The **Route 70 Cruisers** and the **Mountain Gateway Mopar Association** sponsor this event every year with proceeds going to fund the **Heart of a Lion Scholarship** which benefits deserving **McDowell High School** students. Features of this event included live music from **Rick Smith and the Lonesome Carolina Band**, raffles, a bake sale, booths with items for sale, face painting, and a **Best of Show Trophy**. We wish to thank the **Carson Partners** for working to make and sell the hot dog and hamburger plates for this event.



World War II 75th

Commemoration Event

On Thursday, June 6, 2016, the Carson House hosted the **World War II 75th Commemoration Event** held in the **Jubilee Arbor**. **WWII Veterans** and their families had provided pictures, newspaper articles, discharge papers, uniforms, letters, and diaries for displays in the Carson House Library, hall, porch, and office areas. During this deeply touching patriotic program, **Alan Main-er** with **American Legion Post 56** presented certificates to each WWII Veteran who attended and to the families of deceased veterans.

The **McDowell High School Chorus** sang patriotic songs, and the **McDowell High NJROTC** presented the colors. **Marion Mayor Steve Little** and **County Commissioners** David Walker, Lynn Greene, Tony Brown, Brenda Vaughn, and Barry McPeters all assisted in the program. After the program, veterans and their families viewed the many veteran displays and reminisced about those who lived, served, and died during that dreadful time in our history. The **Greenlee Chapter DAR** purchased flags which members of the **McDowell High School NJROTC** placed along the driveway from the highway to the Carson House. The **Greenlee DAR** also provided cookies and lemonade to attendees. **Eighteen living World War II Veterans** were present for the program and were the honored guests.



Back to School Bash

On Saturday, August 17, 2019, the **Carson Partners** sponsored the **Back-to-School Bash and Fashion Show** at the Marion Community Center. This event was free to the public, but local vendors paid a nominal fee to set up booths within the building to sell such items as art, crafts, Tupperware, Scentsy products, Papparazzi jewelry, Mary Kay products, and delicious baked goods.

Nancy Jordan emceed the **Fashion Show** as models from **Catos, Aria Rose, and Peebles** modeled items from their collections. Children's clothing was modeled by **Natalie and Remedy Rose Queen** and **Hunter and Finley Ray**, granddaughters of **Debbie Queen** and **Martha Jordan**, respectively.

A delicious chicken salad and club sandwiches, fresh fruit salad, cupcakes and drinks were sold to hungry attendees. To culminate the event, door prizes and special coupons and discounts were given to winning ticket-holders.

Thanks to all who helped to make this first-time event a successful fundraiser for the Carson House.

Revolutionary War Days with OVTA

As always, September finds the **Overmountain Victory Trail Association** members camped upon the grounds of the Historic Carson House. This group, dedicated to keeping alive the story of the harrowing journey of the **Overmountain Men to Kings Mountain**, presented a program free to the public in the **Jubilee Arbor** on **September 29, 2019**. This group arrived dressed in 18th century period clothing and told an eloquent story of the mountain settlers' strenuous march to **Kings Mountain**. They experienced freezing cold, torrential rain and even snow on their way to encounter **Patrick Ferguson** and his forces. Re-enactors, both men and women, fired several volleys from their long rifles, adding a solemn, but victorious note to the conclusion of the program. The generous ladies of the **Greenlee Chapter DAR** again provided a delicious meal for the **OVTA** and **Carson House volunteers**.

On Monday, September 30, 2019, the **OVTA** members and **Carson House staff**, assisted by the **Junior Historians** and **Carson House Partners**, presented to **400 McDowell County 4th graders** a dozen exhibits of **Living History** which included Textiles, Food Preservation, Fife and Drum, Medicinal Plants and Herbs, Colonial Toys, and gave them a tour of the Historic Carson House and barn.

On Thursday, October 3, 2019 more than **250 East McDowell 8th graders** came to experience similar **Living History Exhibits** and tour the house and barn.



Upcoming Events

Nov. 8 Holiday Luncheon & Bazaar

Dec. 6 Carson Society Party

Dec. 7 & 8 Carson House Candle Light Tours

Dec. 10 Historic Homes of Marion Tour

April 1, 2020 Carson House Opens for the Season

April 4-5, 2020 American Battlefields Weekend

May 15, 2020 Dinner on Buck Creek