

# Saxe Gotha Dispatch

## Friends of the Museum to Focus on Lexington County's Namesake at 2025 Fundraiser

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The Friends of the Lexington County Museum are pleased to announce they will be holding their annual fundraiser gala at 6:00 pm on Saturday March 22.

Like last year, the fundraiser will be held on the grounds of the Lexington County Museum with parking available at St. Stephens Lutheran Church. A shuttle will be available to take people to/from the parking lot. Tickets will be \$60 in advance and \$65 at the door. Sponsorship opportunities, which range from \$150 to \$2500, are available and are tax-deductible. Your ticket allows you to:

- Learn more about the Battle of Lexington and



Concord which gave Lexington its name.

- Hear wonderful music provided by the Gatch Trio

- Enjoy dinner and drinks. This year we're pleased to announce that Hudson's Catering will be providing dinner.

- Bid on silent auction items, ranging from zoo tickets to Blowfish tickets to gift

certificates from your favorite Lexington businesses.

All funds raised will go to assist the museum in improving the security at the museum.

Donations are tax-deductible. To learn more about the gala or to find out how to become a sponsor, just give the museum a call at 803-359-8369. You may also purchase tickets or sponsorships here: <http://lexingtoncountymuseum.org/get-involved/>.

## Museum Past and Upcoming Outreach Efforts

Museum staff members continue to speak to community groups about the museum and county history. Over the past few months, museum employees have spoken to the Hollow Creek Community Center, the Lexington Main Library, Generations of Chapin, the Gilbert-Summit Library, the

Cayce-West Columbia Library, and others.

In the future, museum staff will speak to the Lexington County Main Library, South Lake Village, the Shepherd's Center, and the Pelion Library.

If you'd like to have a museum staff member speak to your group either virtually or in-

person, don't hesitate to give us a call. We can speak on a variety of topics related to the museum, the county, and its history. Some of the most popular topics include the quilts and other artifacts from the Dutch Fork, Lexington County-made rifles, and the history of alcohol in Lexington County.

## Lexington's Bicentennial Celebration

At the Friends of the Lexington County Museum board of trustees meeting in December, Friends board member Mr. Hugh Rogers, mayor of Lexington from 1967 to 1975, gave a presentation on the town of Lexington's Bicentennial celebrations in April 1975. On April 19, 1975, the Town of Lexington in conjunction with the Lexington Bicentennial Committee held a series of events to commemorate the Battle of Lexington and Concord. The Battle of Lexington was not only a major battle that was the first battle of the American Revolution but was the namesake for Lexington County and the Town of Lexington.

The April 19, 1975 commemoration started at 9 am with a muster of troops at the Lexington County Museum and then a march to the courthouse. The living historians then marched down to the intersection of South Lake Drive and Roberts Street and the bridge on South Lake that crosses the Mill Pond. The S Lake and Roberts Street intersection served as "Lexington Green" while the bridge over the Mill Pond stood in for the Old North Bridge. Drivers can still see a wooden sign on South Lake identifying the bridge as the Old North Bridge. As in the real battle, Patriot forces succeeded in driving back British troops. The commemoration ended with a ceremony at the Lexington County Courthouse (now called the Old Courthouse). The master of ceremonies for the event was Mr. A. L. Harman. Mrs. Judi Hiller sang the National Anthem and Reverend James B. Adams of St. Paul's Baptist Church offered a prayer of thanks.

Mr. Rogers also told the crowd that the intersection of South Lake and Main Street was painted and that fire hydrants were also painted red, white, and blue to celebrate the anniversary. We thank Mr. Rogers for shedding light on this commemoration.

Currently, the Lexington County Sestercentennial (250<sup>th</sup>) Commission is planning an event to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Lexington. Details about this event, which will take place on April 19, 2025 at the town of Lexington's new walking trail around the Mill Pond, will be released soon. We hope that the 2025 event will be as well-attended and as impactful as the 1975 celebration. The photo below is taken from the *State Newspaper*.





## Several Structures Get New Roofs

Thanks to the County of Lexington, several structures on the grounds of the museum have gotten new roofs. The ca. 1772 Laurance Corley House, the 1857 Wadlington Pigeon House, and the ca. 1840 Blacksmith Shop have gotten new cedar shake roofs. These roofs are historically appropriate and will help ensure the preservation of these structures for years to come. We would like to thank the County of Lexington for their support!



## Museum Visitation in November and December 2024

Visitation was high in November and December as many field trips came and the museum held several events.

In November, 1,061 visitors came to the museum, including visitors

from nine states other than SC. In December, the museum saw 920 visitors, including tourists from four states other than SC.

The number of school groups visiting the

museum stayed high as well. We had various public and private groups from Florence, Richland, Saluda, and Lexington Counties come out for field trips.

## Museum to Host Irmo and Lexington Murders and Mysteries Tours

Learn all about the murders, mysteries, duels, and lynchings that occurred in Irmo and the Dutch Fork on Friday February 21<sup>st</sup> as we take a leisurely walk through downtown Irmo. The tour begins at 8 pm at the Irmo Town Park (7330 Carlisle Street Irmo, SC). This is a free event and reservations are not needed. Because of the mature subject matter, we ask that attendees be 18 or over or have parental permission. For more information or questions, please call the museum at 803-359-8369 or email us at [museum@lex-co.com](mailto:museum@lex-co.com).

Museum staff members will also host the Lexington Murders and Mysteries Tour. This tour will begin at the Icehouse Amphitheater in downtown Lexington at 8 pm on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Similar to the Irmo one, this tour will focus on the history of downtown Lexington. Attendees will learn about the crimes, duels, and strange occurrences that happened along Lexington's historic Main Street.





# Christmas Open House Photos





## Museum Calendar of Events

- Feb. 15-17 Presidents Day Holiday  
Museum will be closed
- Feb. 21 “Murders and Mysteries” Irmo Walking Tour  
8 pm  
Tour begins at the Irmo Town Park  
7330 Carlisle Street Irmo, SC  
Free to the public  
Attendees will learn about some of the spookier and more gruesome aspects of Irmo’s history as we will discuss murders, crimes, and mysteries that occurred in Irmo and the Dutch Fork. Because of the mature subject matter, we ask that attendees be 18 or over or have parental permission.
- Feb. 28 “Murders and Mysteries” Lexington Walking Tour  
8 pm  
Tour begins at the Icehouse Amphitheater  
107 West Main Street Lexington, SC  
Free to the public  
Attendees will learn about some of the spookier and more gruesome aspects of Lexington’s history as we will discuss murders, crimes, and mysteries that occurred on or near Main Street. Because of the mature subject matter, we ask that attendees be 18 or over or have parental permission.
- March 22 “Celebrating Lexington’s Namesake”  
Friends of the Museum Annual Fundraiser Gala  
6 pm to 9 pm  
Lexington County Museum Complex  
231 Fox Street Lexington, SC  
Parking available at St. Stephens Lutheran Church  
(intersection of Fox and Meetze)  
Enjoy dinner and drinks as we help raise funds for the Friends of the Lexington County Museum.

Call the museum at 803-359-8369 or email [museum@lex-co.com](mailto:museum@lex-co.com) to find out more about these events.



### Lexington County Museum

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*A Story Behind  
Every Door*

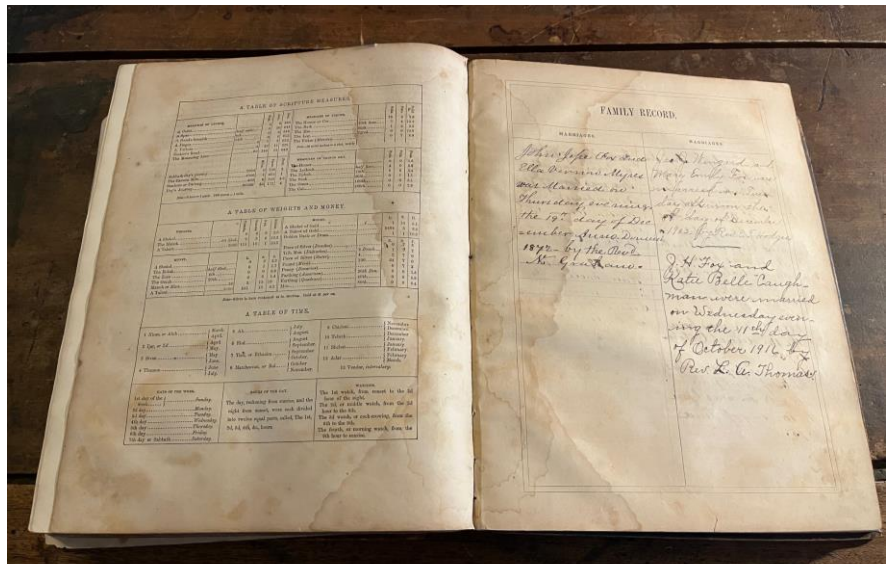


The Lexington County Museum was started in 1970 to collect, preserve and present the history of Lexington County. After initially having only one historic house, the museum expanded and now has thirty historic structures over seven acres in downtown Lexington. Through exhibits in historic houses, the museum interprets everyday life in the town of Lexington and throughout Lexington County from the eighteenth century to the start of the Civil War. The museum offers guided tours to visitors for a small fee and has thirteen different hands-on programs for school groups free of charge by appointment. These programs attract schools from around the state and educate students about the history of Lexington County and about the everyday life of Lexington County residents in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The Friends of the Lexington County Museum is a non-profit group founded in 1997 with an advisory board, officers, and a board of trustees representing all municipalities in Lexington County. Its mission is to enhance the Lexington County Museum through its duly appointed commission and to support, aid, and assist in the improvement and expansion of the Museum. The Friends group sponsors fund-raising projects to help further the Museum's valuable contribution to the county. The Friends group has raised over \$290,000 for the museum so far. To learn more about the Friends or to join, visit the museum's webpage (<https://lex-co.sc.gov/lexington-county-museum/friends-museum>).

### Highlighted Artifact from the Museum's Collections

Mr. Russel C. King III recently donated the Fox-Wingard Family Bible published in 1873 to our museum's artifact collection in honor of his grandmother, Beulah Fox Wingard King. The Bible contains the names and dates of the ancestors and descendants of Beulah Fox Wingard King whose childhood home, the ca. 1832 John Fox house, is the centerpiece of our museum. It is fitting that this book be included in our collection among the other Fox and Fox-Wingard family items we house comprising furniture, photographs, books and documents. These items allow us to continue the story of the descendants of John Fox and their lives and impact in Lexington well into the 20th century. We look forward to sharing these items with the public through our tours, displays and research.



**We're on the Web!**  
<https://lex-co.sc.gov/lexington-county-museum> and  
[www.lexingtoncountymuseum.org](http://www.lexingtoncountymuseum.org)