



A World of Knowledge

**MAIN LIBRARY
CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
115 West C Street
Newton, NC 28658**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Balls Creek, Reunion topics at library

**By Tammy Wilson
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NEWTON—August in Eastern Catawba County means two things: camp meeting and Reunion Week.

Both are part of the local fabric dating to the 19th century.

Two local raconteurs will share the stories behind the history on two successive Tuesday evenings at Catawba County Library. Both programs are free and open to the public.

Sidney Halma, former executive director of the Catawba County Historical Association will join forces with Sylvia Ray, local journalist and historian, for two evenings of anecdotes and historical facts behind these enduring traditions.

The Balls Creek talk will begin at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 4. Soldiers Reunion will be the topic at 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 11.

If you've never been to Balls Creek Campground, you've missed a rare chance to step back in time. Stroll the avenues lined with porch swings, peer into wooden tents with sawdust floors and see what life used to look like when evangelists and church hymns were the cogs of society. This year's session is Aug. 9-23.

The complex is located on Buffalo Shoals Road southeast of Newton. The yearly two-week revivals at the campground continue to the present day. The grounds and its several hundred tents are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Old Soldiers Reunion, or as it's been called since 1930, The Soldiers Reunion, is one of the longest running events of its kind in the United States. Almost every year since 1889, during the third week in August, veterans gather in Newton for a week-long celebration. Though it originally featured Confederate veterans and picnics around the town square, the celebration

has expanded over time to include a variety of music, dancing, contests, classic cars cruising, speeches, salutes to veterans and a long parade at 5 p.m. Aug. 20.

Catawba County Library has a variety of local history sources for further reading including histories co-authored by Halma as well as monographs, photos and other resources within the Rhodes Local History Room. For more information, log on to <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/library> or call the Main Library at 464-8664.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please pre-register for computer classes.

Main Library, 465-8664

- Preschool story time Thursdays at 10 a.m.
- Family story time Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
- Intro to Computers, 10 a.m. Aug. 6
- Summer Reading closing, 3-5 p.m. Aug. 6
- Teen Book Talk, 4 p.m. Aug. 10
- Intro to Word, 10 a.m. Aug. 11
- Soldiers Reunion history talk, 5:30 p.m. Aug. 11
- Teen talk about military, 4 p.m. Aug. 18
- Blackberry class, 4:30 p.m. Aug. 18
- You & Me Baby session, 10 a.m. Aug. 19
- Game Day, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Aug. 21
- Teen Advisory Board, 2 p.m. Aug. 22

Conover Branch, 466-5108

- Story Time, 10 a.m. Aug. 5
- Summer Reading closing, 3 p.m. Aug. 5

Claremont Branch, 459-9311

- Summer Reading closing, 4:30 p.m. Aug. 5
- Intro to Computers, 10 a.m. Aug. 19
- Friends of Library, 6 p.m. Aug. 25

Maiden Branch, 428-2712

- Toddler stories 9:30 a.m. & preschool 10 Wednesdays.
- Knitwits needlecraft/book talk group, 6-8 p.m. Tuesdays
- Summer Reading closing, 3-5 p.m. Aug. 6

St. Stephens Branch, 256-3030

- Preschool/toddler story time 10 a.m. Thursdays
- Computer Forum, 10 a.m. Aug. 5
- Buster Bus, 10 a.m. Aug. 13
- Tall Tales Story Time, 6:30 p.m. Aug. 17
- Intro to Computers, 10 a.m. Aug. 19 • Music Makers 10 a.m. Aug. 20
- Hooks & Books crochet book talk, 6:30 p.m. Aug. 25

Sherrills Ford Branch, 478-2729

- Toddler/preschool stories Wednesdays, 10 a.m.
- Toddler/preschool music time, 10 a.m. Thursdays
- Friends of the Library, 7 p.m. Aug. 18

Southwest Branch, 294-2343

- Toddler/preschool stories, 10 a.m. Wednesdays
- Free GED classes, 6-8 p.m. Thursdays. Sign up at CVCC.
- Teen Journaling, 3 p.m. Aug. 6

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