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# MILL PRONG POST

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## Christmas Open House

Much fun was had by all those who attended the Mill Prong Christmas Open House on December 6, 2009. Among the many activities available, those in attendance were treated to period snacks from Mill Prong's Keeper of the Hearth and docent-guided tours while enjoying Christmas melodies performed by the Sandhills Consort. In addition to the festive music and refreshments, the visitors of Mill Prong were able to view early traditions such as the firing of a weapon, which in the early 1800s, alerted neighbors of the start of the Christmas season.

The annual event allowed visitors to experience Christmas traditions of the early 1800's, while helping maintain the preservation of life that the many Scottish settlers of the region shared. The House was decorated for the season with greenery, fruit, and berries. About 100 people attended the annual event.

The Christmas Open House also marked the anticipated unveiling of the Floral College exhibit.



**Mill Prong House, c. 1795**



## Mill Prong's New Floral College Exhibit

As the founder of Floral College, John Gilchrist Jr. played a large role in bringing higher education to women in the South. One of the first colleges for women in the southern United States and the first college for women chartered in North Carolina, Floral College help shape educational, social, and domestic standards for southern women in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

We see evidence of this in the exhibit with letters written from the students to family and friends where social events, church, classes, and everyday life in the eyes of a new college student in the mid-1800's were discussed. Visitors of the exhibit will be touched by a glimpse of the homesickness, disease, and death in letters from the young women at Floral College.

The Floral College Exhibit was commissioned by Mill Prong Preservation, Inc. Shannon Sancartier, graduate student from the University of North Carolina Wilmington developed the exhibit under the guidance of Drs. William Moore and Tammy Gordon of UNCW's Department of Public History.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **MILL PRONG OPEN HOUSE**

**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY** OF EVERY MONTH  
2 PM-5 PM

### **ANNUAL MILL PRONG LUNCHEON**

SPEAKER, DR DAVID MOORE, N.C.  
MARITIME MUSEUM,  
***THE RAISING OF THE QUEEN  
ANNE'S REVENGE AND THE  
LEGEND OF BLACKBEARD***

APRIL 18, 2010  
1:00 PM

### **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE DEC. 5, 2010**

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON  
UPCOMING EVENTS, PLEASE  
VISIT:*

[www.MILLPRONGHOUSE.COM](http://www.MILLPRONGHOUSE.COM)

### **Directions to Mill Prong House:**

***From Raeford, NC:***

**In Raeford, connect with US  
401 South. Follow US 401  
South eight miles to sign for  
Mill Prong.**

***From I-95:***

**Follow Hwy. 20 from St. Pauls  
twenty miles to Raeford and  
then follow directions from  
Raeford.**

## Scotland County Highland Games

With one of the largest concentrations of Highland Scots in North America, it is more than appropriate that Scotland County host The Scotland County Highland Games. The October 2009 event was a huge success.

Held on the grounds of the John Blue Home and Historical Complex in Laurinburg, the games offered traditional Scottish athletic events such as the Scottish hammer throw and the sheaf toss. In addition to athletic events for adults, the games also offered events for children, Scottish musical entertainment, and drumming and pipe competition.

Guests were encouraged to immerse themselves in Scottish-American culture and peruse the clan and society tents which were on display as well as the many vendors which can educate those interested in learning about their own Scottish heritage.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scotland County Highland Games will be held on October 1-3, 2010. To learn more about Scotland County Highland Games please visit the website - <http://schgnc.org/>

