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**“Oldest Living Confederate Widow”
Performed by Jane Holding**

(NEW BERN, NC) ---- Jane Holding, a noted writer and actress, and Allan Gurganus, New York Times best selling author of *Confederate Widow*, will be in New Bern on Friday, September 26 at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens. Ms. Holding has generously donated her performance of “Oldest Living Confederate Widow.”

The benefit performance will take place on Friday, September 26 at 7:00 P.M. in the Tryon Palace visitors’ center auditorium. A reception will follow the performance with Ms. Holding. Mr. Gurganus, currently working on a new book, will also be on hand for a book signing. Tickets are \$25. Reservations are required by calling Cheryl Kite, Director of Development at 252.514.4956.

The benefit will be hosted and sponsored by Bob and Carol Mattocks, David and Elizabeth Ward, and Senator and Mrs. Tony Rand.

Jane Holding is a graduate of Swarthmore College and Cambridge and Stanford Universities. She has collaborated with Allan Gurganus on numerous performances of *Confederate Widow*.

Allan Gurganus has been called “a Mark Twain for our age” and “the heir to Faulkner and Welty.” His *Confederate Widow*, published in 1989, remained on the *New York Times* best seller list for eight months and has sold over two million copies. A widely acclaimed author, Gurganus is a 2006 Guggenheim Fellow. ###

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, located in New Bern, N.C., is an agency of the division of State Historic Sites, N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, a state agency dedicated to the promotion and protection of North Carolina’s arts, history, and culture through such programs as “Telling our Stories,” a yearlong celebration that showcases North Carolina’s arts, heritage, and cultural life. For more information, visit www.ncculture.com

Buildings currently open to the public include the reconstructed Tryon Palace, the John Wright Stanly House, the Robert Hay House and the New Bern Academy Museum. The visitor center and the first floor of Tryon Palace are accessible to visitors with disabilities. For directions and further information about special events, programs or group tours, phone 800-767-1560 or 252-514-4900 or check our web site: <http://www.tryonpalace.org/>

