

To Be Continued...

A PUBLICATION OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mission Statement: To Research, Record and Preserve Dorchester County's History

PO Box 15, Dorchester, SC 29437

August 2017

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DON'T FORGET THIS DATE

Thursday, August 10th 7:00 pm

**Membership Meeting At
Dorchester County Archives
& History Center**

NOTE: LOCATION

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

At our May meeting, members voted to purchase a historical marker for the Williams Memorial School (Ca 1950s) on S. Metts St., built for African American students. It was the successor of the Rosenwald School (Ca 1920s) located on Ann Street. I have applied for county accommodation tax to help defray the costs. This will be our 9th marker: 3 camp grounds, Town of Ridgeville, Dorchester and Harleyville, Badham/Dorchester Lumber and the St. George Graded School/High School. These markers are a beautiful asset to any historical property and a great way to preserve history.

The Heritage Museum hosted 2 successful summer camps for children 9-12. In June the children were taught how to make Native American medicine bags, ink for a quill pen, and corn husk dolls. Instructors were Cathy Nelson, Winnie Mraz, Millie Chaplin, Lori Thomas and Claire Mizell. The helpers were Maggie and Macie Thomas and Elizabeth and Alexis Mizell. In the July camp, the children were taught to paint. Instructors were Delaine Walters, Artist and Heather Herche, Art Teacher. The helpers were Elizabeth and Alexis Mizell and Frances Metts. Snacks were donated by Trish Scott. A very special thank you to Brian Fehr, Chairman & Managing Director of Bid Group, who provided funding for the camps enabling local children to attend.

If you haven't joined the DCA & HC, I encourage you to do so. The benefit of being a member is entrance to the museum during regular business hours. You can call the center @ (843) 931-1020 for an application or go on line at contact-us@dca-hc.com.

Our next meeting is on August 10th at 7 PM. Our guest speaker will be Andrew Gentry who will share history of county newspapers.

I look forward to seeing you there. Please bring a friend.

Phyllis

Get Well

Edith Axson	Linda Baker
Harry Behling	E. O. McMahan
Fitzhugh Sweatman	Martha Sweatman
David Sojourner	Jim Way

Special Thoughts and Prayers

Family of Gene Meyer

Memorial

In memory of Gene Meyer by Phyllis Hughes

Membership Dues

Payable by March 1, 2017

Annual dues: \$25.00

Lifetime Membership: \$250.00

Please Use Envelope Provided And Mail To:

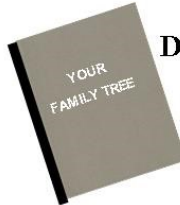
Mrs. Jean Behling

113 Bryant St.

St. George, SC 29477

(Please include current home and email address.)

FAMILY TREES



**Dorchester County Archives and History Center
is now offering printed & spiral bound Family Trees**

Up to 20 Pages \$25.00

Up to 40 pages \$35.00

\$1.00 per page for each page over 40

GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENT

To find if we have your family in our records please contact
Christine Rice at (843)563-0053 or crice@dorchestercounty.net

2017 Calendar of Events:

Membership Meeting	Thursday, August 10	7 pm	DCA&HC St. George, SC
Membership/Awards Meeting	Thursday, November 9	7 pm	Koger House

Please check our website for updates at www.upperdorchestercountyhistoricalsociety.com

MEMBERSHIP/AWARDS MEETING

Thursday 10 August 7:00 pm

DCA&HC

101 Ridge Street, St George, SC

Guest Speaker: Andrew Gentry

NOTE LOCATION

Veteran's Exhibit & Database Under Development

Presently, we are organizing and gathering artifacts for a new Veteran's Exhibit to be included in the Heritage Museum. This exhibit will feature uniforms, artifacts and history relating to past and present veteran/active duty personnel.

On Memorial Day 2018, a ceremony will be hosted by the museum to honor those that served.

Enclosed is a Veteran/Active Duty Information Form. The goal is to create a database of all veterans that were born or reside in Dorchester County. Also, we are interested in documenting all Dorchester County Veterans that have served from the Revolutionary War to the present

If you are a veteran or someone in your family is or was, please complete the form with as much information as possible. The form is also available on the Museum's website at www.dca-hc.com. Upon its completion, please mail the form to the Museum.

If you have a photograph of yourself or loved one in uniform the Museum would love to have a copy. If not in uniform, any photograph of yourself or loved one will do. Please send it to the Museum with the completed form. Include your identifying information on the back of the photo. Unfortunately, these photographs will not be returned.

If you have any items from your military days that you would like to loan or donate to the Museum, they would be greatly appreciated and would be featured in the Veterans' Room exhibit. Any items loaned to the Museum would remain your property and would be returned to you at a designated time. If you have any such items, please check the appropriate box on the Information Form and someone from the Museum will contact you to arrange delivery of the items.

Your assistance in creating this Veteran's Exhibit and county-wide database is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Museum at (843) 931-1020 or (843) 931-1021.

Andrew Gentry

Our Guest speaker will be Andrew Gentry the Editor of 'The Eagle Record'. Andrew will share history of county newspapers.

Electronic Newsletter

Once again we are asking you to share your email address with us so we can send your newsletter electronically to save on postage costs. Please provide your email address to Bill Blakely, Corresponding Secretary, at the address below and put in the subject line "UDCHS Address." Thank you for your continued support.

bill.blakely@upperdorchestercountyhistoricalsociety.com

THE BYRD'S NEST

Before I-95, Highway 15 was the main thoroughfare connecting New York and Miami. Travelers passed right through St. George's Main Street, renamed Parler Avenue honoring the late Senator J. D. Parler. Since St. George was approximately midway between Washington, DC and Miami, it was an ideal place to break the trip.

Among the several accommodations for tourists, one of the most attractive was the Byrd's Nest, owned by Lewis Byrd. Located within steps of the town's only traffic light at the intersection of Highways 15 and 78, and with a restaurant downstairs, rooms upstairs, and cottages in back, the name hinted at cozy lodgings for weary and hungry travelers. The art deco building featured a canopy out front with two gas tanks. It also offered a handy and inexpensive lunch for the locals. Tradition has it, according to Byrd's grandson Bob McKinnon, that the cook would stand in front of the building ringing a cow bell, signaling that the blue plate special was ready. Through the years, a range of people managed the restaurant, among them Mrs. Elma Behling and Mr. and Mrs. Noodie George.

When Main Street was widened in 1957, faces of the stores on the east side were changed. The Byrd's Nest lost its canopy and top floor and was remodeled into three office buildings. The quaint hold-over for two of the offices is the unique pressed tin ceiling with wide tin crown molding.

South of the railroad, Kitt Wimberly operated a gas station with several adjacent cabins for tourists. The sign for Dr. Joseph Byron's dental practice rests atop the base of the gas tanks.

Several homes along Main Street opened their doors to travelers. Among them was the Welcome Inn owned by Mr. and Mrs. Leon Reed. The inn was advertised on the lawn by the first neon sign in town. The home still stands and is located directly across from the Jennie McMahan Library. Just north of the library at 602 Parler, Mrs. Lottie Westendorf also accommodated tourists as well as did Mrs. Annabell Gatch at 705 North Parler.

Main Street sported two hotels. Dukes Hotel also served as the Greyhound Bus Depot and was located at the southwest intersection of Highway 78 and Main Street. Their restaurant was famous for their coconut custard pies and featured rabbit, raised by the family.

The ritzy Palms Hotel, located next to the Citizen's Bank (then Farmers and Merchants) was built in the mid 1930's by Murray Widelitz. The horseshoe drive was lined with palm trees, many of them still standing. The restaurant was known for their 99 cents businessman's lunch. The hotel closed during World War II while Widelitz served in the military. A sign in the window proclaimed "Gone to ax the Axis."

Provided By Ms. Jean Behling

To be Continued.

Memorial Stones

To date over 270 books have been sold. The book contains over 15,000 cemetery inscriptions in all cemeteries in Upper Dorchester County except the St. George (UDC) Cemetery. It also contains 13 cemeteries from Colleton County, and two from Orangeburg County. This book is a wonderful source of genealogy.

A View Of The Past

Recently our society received 200 reprinted copies of *A View of the Past*. This book is a collection of homes and sites in Upper Dorchester County prior to the 1940s. This is our 3rd printing.

If you would like to have a copy of these books for your collection or for a gift, you can pick them up locally at the Dorchester County Archives & History Center, 101 Ridge Street, St. George, ordered from the UDCHS Web Site (www.upperdorchestercountyhistoricalsociety.com) or by mail: UDCHS, POB 15, Dorchester, SC 29437. The books cost \$45. Add \$7 for S/H if purchased through mail or website.

(Payment for books ordered from the UDCHS Web Site must be made via PayPal.)