

# *To Be Continued . . .*

**A PUBLICATION OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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

**101 Ridge Street, St. George, SC 29477**

**February 2021**

**Board of Directors**

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- LaClaire Mizell  
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- Webmaster: Bill Blakely
- Historians: Chuck Spell  
Dean McCracken
- Hospitality Committee:  
LaClaire Mizell

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Happy New Year! Another year has passed and hopefully this year we will experience the end of this pandemic. It has been a challenging year for all and our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones due to the Covid-19.

Our first meeting of the year is always scheduled for February but, due to the virus, this meeting is being cancelled. I am hopeful that we will be able to meet in May.

In November, our Society held its 3rd annual "Open House Living History & Educational Days" at the Historic Koger House. This event was created by Mark Clark and out of love and respect for him, artisans that have helped over the past 3 years came out in support of this fundraiser. Mark was truly missed by all who were present. I would like to thank all who helped to make this fundraiser successful, especially Claire Mizell for setting up all the beautiful quilts loaned to the society by Nancy Postell, Kay Fender and Jean Behling. Special thanks to our historian, Chuck Spell, who contributed by performing as the house docent. Also thank you to all board members who donated drinks and snacks and worked the event. Due to the Covid-19, this was the only fundraiser that the society was able to have during 2020. At least 100 visitors attended.

Just after Christmas, IP Builders began work, repairing the original plaster in the foyer and up the stairs. Last Monday, Bill, Claire and I met with the contractor to inspect the final product. There were a few minor things to be done but, all in all, the work is complete. We are now going to focus on repairs to some window frames (water damage) and the exterior.

Our membership secretary, Bobbie McKinnon, is in the process of sending out reminders along with donation forms. If anyone would like to donate toward the growing list of repairs, please do so.

The Historic Koger House (1780s) is the oldest house in Upper Dorchester County. Our society is so blessed to call it our own. Maintaining and preserving this historic home is a great responsibility yet, to date, through the generosity and hard work of all of our members, this priceless treasure perseveres.

Thank you all for your continued support and stay safe.

Phyllis

**DUE TO CORONAVIRUS  
February Membership  
Meeting Has Been  
Cancelled**

## Memorials

In Memory of:

Herbert Hughes      by Phyllis Hughes  
Jo Ann Simons      by Phyllis Hughes

## Get Well

Linda Baker      Bill Herman  
Margaret Spell

## ### Membership Dues ###

**Payable by March 1, 2021**

**Annual dues: \$25.00**

**Lifetime Membership: \$250.00**

**Make Checks Payable To DCCHS**

**Ms. Bobbie McKinnon**

**c/o DCCHS**

**101 Ridge St.**

**St. George, SC 29477**

**(Please include current home and email address.)**

### **NOTE**

**As of March 31, 2021 all annual (yearly) members who are not current with their dues will have their names removed from the Membership Rolls.**

## DCCHS 2021 Calendar of Events:

Membership Meeting	Thursday, Feb 18	7 pm	Cancelled
DCCHS Annual Tea	Saturday, TBD	Noon	TBD
Membership Meeting	Thursday, May 20	7 pm	Koger House
Membership Meeting	Thursday, August 19	7 pm	DHC St. George, SC
Living History Fundraiser	Saturday, Nov 6	9 am-5 pm	Koger House
	Sunday, Nov 7	9 am-4 pm	Koger House
Membership/Awards Meeting	Thursday, Nov 18	7 pm	Koger House

Please check our website for updates at [www.scdchs.com](http://www.scdchs.com)

**FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING HAS BEEN  
CANCELLED  
DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS**

**THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS**

We would like to thank all members who made additional contributions to the Historical Society in 2020. These funds made possible the repair of the wall plaster in the foyer and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor stairwells.

Additional funds are needed to repair the windows throughout this historic house and to oil/stain all of the exterior of the house. If you are able to make a contribution toward this restoration, please send or drop off your contribution to the office at 101 Ridge Street. Claire Mizell is the Director of the Heritage Museum there, but she is also a Dorchester County Historical Society Board Member and receives our mail at the museum office. Thank you so much for being involved and supporting the Dorchester County Historical Society and all of our local preservation efforts. We will continue to work together to make sure our history will be preserved and remembered by future generations!

**PARISH - COUNTY - DISTRICT  
by Phyllis Hughes**

The land patents for the area known as the Carolinas were granted by King Charles II on 24 March 1663.

Shortly after receiving their Charter for the Carolinas, the Proprietors set up three Counties stretching inland from the Atlantic Ocean and extending from about where Georgetown, SC is now located, to the Combahee River, just north of where Beaufort, SC is now located. These counties were named Craven, Berkeley and Colleton, after three of the Proprietors.

As settlement of South Carolina grew, the areas along the Atlantic coast were divided into "Parishes" starting in 1706.

By 1785, with further settlement, the state was divided into a number of counties, each with a county courthouse and jail. In addition, seven district courthouses were established, each providing a "seat for justice" for a group of counties.

As the number of residents in the counties increased, the circuit court districts were also increased, and by 1790 there were nine districts and nine district courthouses. IAlso in 1790, the first meeting of the Legislature was held in Columbia, the new state capital.

In 1800, county courts were abolished and replaced with courts for new judicial districts, many of which had the same boundaries as the previous counties. In 1803, the state legislature decreed that counties were to be abolished and the county courthouse buildings and jails sold. New courthouses were to be built as near as possible to the geographic center of each district.

In the period 1816-1821, the state of South Carolina contracted with various local surveyors to produce maps of these districts. In 1826, Robert Mills brought all these maps together, resurveying and updating them where necessary, and published them as Mill's Atlas of South Carolina, the first atlas of an American state.

When the new Constitution for South Carolina was adopted in 1868, a provision therein changed the designation of South Carolina "districts" to "counties" in order to agree with that used by most other states. Thus, up to 1800, post offices were located in "parishes", "counties" or "districts"; from 1800 to 1868 they were in "districts" and from 1868 and on, in "counties" again.

To be continued---

## NEWS FROM THE DORCHESTER HERITAGE CENTER

It's so sad to think that we have been dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic for almost a whole year now! Things are different and may never return to the "normal" as we knew it before. But even in this craziness, Dorchester Heritage Center continues with its mission of PRESERVING TODAY FOR TOMORROW! We are still open, though by reservation only. We are still saving items from possible destruction and for future generations. Within the past several months, we have received donations of Ancestral Research magazines and reference books to be used in genealogy research, books for the military research library and a late 1800's or early 1900's bootjack. In addition, the daughters of late DCHS member JoAnn G. Simons recently donated yearbooks from St. George High School from the late 1950's and 1960's and items from her time spent in the DAR and VFW. These items are ALL wonderful additions to DHC!

At DHC, we focus on Dorchester County's history. Does that mean the history from other counties or states is not important? Certainly not. Our history, their history, an individual's history, a family's history – it's all interconnected and entwined with each other. Very few things, with the possible exception of specific weather events, are not felt and experienced by many people, regardless of where they live. Many times, I tell visitors to DHC that the items displayed in the museum exhibits focus on local, Dorchester County and Inland Lowcountry history but they didn't happen in a vacuum. Such is the case with war. As DHC builds its collections, we are gratefully receiving a number of items. A recent donation includes military items that belonged to Ray Phipps from Maryland. But he didn't live in Dorchester County, you might say. No, he didn't but his daughter and grandson live in Ridgeville. His history is their history.

Mr. Phipps served in World War II on the USS Bluegill, a submarine. The USS Bluegill was commissioned in Connecticut on November 11, 1943. One of the many interesting items in the collection is a first-hand account written by one of Mr. Phipps' Bluegill shipmates, George Folta, assigned to the Bluegill following his completion of submarine school. It includes a description of the events that happened off the coast of Sonsorol in April of 1944, an encounter with a Japanese light cruiser, the Yubari. It gives detailed conversations with the commanding officers. What struck me the most, though, were the first-hand accounts of the events that occurred – seeing the Japanese cruiser in the distance through the fog, firing torpedoes at the cruiser, one torpedo hitting the cruiser but not destroying it, the uncertainty of the impact from depth charges dropped by enemy airplanes designed to locate the submarine and destroy it. After not knowing what the initial "wham" from a depth charge was, Mr. Folta was told that closer charges would be much louder. And they were. He explains that the close ones not only shook the boat but they shook him as well. He states, "There is nothing like being depth charged in a submarine, and the submariner who does not fear the depth charge does not exist. For one thing, he is in surroundings from which there is no escape. There he waits motionless, in a state of suspense for the next explosion. Too much time to think. Too much time to imagine consequences." Such was the life of young Americans on submarines during wartime. As it turned out, the Yubari was damaged so badly that it eventually sunk two days later.

No, this probably doesn't have anything to do with a Dorchester County veteran. But how many Dorchester County veterans were in the same situation on another submarine, in another war or conflict ... had the same thoughts and fears as Mr. Folta? Mr. Phipps and Mr. Folta have both passed away, as have many other WWII veterans. The USS Bluegill was decommissioned for the last time in 1969 and was sunk, with military honors, in deep waters off the coast of Hawaii in 1983. They are gone now but this story ... and so many others ...live on at DHC!

If you have items that you are getting rid of because of downsizing, spring cleaning or you just have no more use for, please contact us and see if the items are things that would be good additions to our collections. Please call (843) 931-1021 or e-mail us at [contact-us@dhc-sc.com](mailto:contact-us@dhc-sc.com) to make those inquiries.

Stay safe, friends!

Submitted by LaClaire Mizell, DHC Director