

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

May 2020

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I pray that you and your families are well and that the Coronavirus has not negatively affected anyone. Due to the virus, our annual Spring Tea in April, and our May membership meeting were cancelled. I am hopeful that we can reschedule the tea at a later date. This fundraiser helps to keep insurance on the Koger House.

In December 2019, I put in for a grant to help repair the old horse-hair plaster that encases the stairwells in the Koger House. We just received notice that we will be awarded \$29,500. At this time, with the county's help, we are advertising for bids on completing the work. I will keep you posted.

Back in 2009 when the original restoration was completed, the plaster was in fairly good condition, so nothing was done at that time. Since then, some of the plaster under the 1st level stairwell began to crumble and some in the foyer ceiling, so we had someone put a sheet of lexan plastic sheeting over these areas to stop further cracking. Since 2009, there are many places up the stairwell walls that have begun to crack, so with this grant, we can repair and preserve them.

It is with heartfelt sympathy that I tell you, since our last meeting, we have lost two faithful members; Tim Mizzell died in February and Mrs. Martha Sweatman in March They will sadly be missed. Please remember their families and keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Our next regular scheduled meeting will be on August 20th and I will let you know if we can reschedule the spring tea. Please stay safe and call if you have any questions or concerns.

Phyllis

Note: If you know of any members that are not well, please let us know. We would like to keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

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

Memorials

In Memory of

Douglas MacArthur Koger by **Betsy Alexander-Koger**
Tim Mizzell by **Phyllis Hughes**
Martha Sweatman by **Phyllis Hughes**

Get Well

Linda Baker **Bill Herman**
Margaret Spell **Jim Way**

Membership Dues

Payable by March 1, 2020

Annual dues: \$25.00

Lifetime Membership: \$250.00

Make Checks Payable To DCHS

Ms. Bobbie McKinnon

c/o DCHS

101 Ridge St.

St. George, SC 29477

(Please include current home and email address.)

NOTE

As of March 31, 2020 all annual (yearly) members who are not current with their dues will have their names removed from the Membership Rolls.

DCHS 2020 Calendar of Events:

DCHS Annual Tea	Saturday, Apr 25	Noon	Cancelled
Membership Meeting	Thursday, May 21	7 pm	Cancelled
Membership Meeting	Thursday, August 20	7 pm	DHC St. George, SC
Living History Fundraiser	Sat & Sun , Nov 7-8	9 am-5 pm	Koger House
Membership/Awards Meeting	Thursday, Nov 19	7 pm	Koger House

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

**MAY'S MEMBERSHIP MEETING
HAS BEEN CANCELLED
DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS**

TRIBUTE TO TIM MIZZELL

Timothy Madison Mizzell "Tim" (1935-2020), died on February 25th. He was a faithful member of the Historical Society; always attending the meetings and events as well as helped in many ways. He was part of the group that recorded the names and information, off of the tombstones, in an effort to publish Memorial Stones in 2012.

Publishing this book was a labor of love, sweat and tears. Over 15,000 inscriptions were recorded throughout all of Upper Dorchester County, 13 cemeteries in Colleton County and 2 cemeteries in Orangeburg County. Some of the cemeteries were hidden among trees, overgrown with vines and absolutely abandoned. It took many months to record all of this information. During the summer months, we all feared a snake bite. Luckily we never saw a snake. After the book was finished, Tim was home in his yard, reached down to pull some weeds from around a plant and was bitten by a poisonous snake that put him in the ICU in Trident Hospital. I visited him in the hospital and we actually laughed about crawling around on our hands and knees in overgrown cemeteries for months and never even saw a snake and he gets bit in his clean yard. It was no laughing matter, but it just seemed impossible that this would happen. Tim was a retired educator and loved history and was a faithful member of the Historical Society. He will truly be missed.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARTHA SWEATMAN

Mrs. Martha W. Sweatman (1940-2020) died on March 3rd. She was the widow of Fitzhugh Sweatman. Ms. Martha and Mr. Fitzhugh donated the Koger House to the Historical Society in 2004. Both loved the old place and were so happy to see it restored. Their unselfish gift will be treasured for generations.

They always kept a good eye out for anyone stopping at the house. "They would check 'em out," On occasion, I would run out to the house and they would check me out. I always tried to let them know if we were hosting an event so they would not worry if a crowd gathered. I do miss them riding over on the golf cart and listening to the stories of the old days at the Koger House. Please remember this family in your prayers. God bless them both for their precious gift that will be shared with others for generations.

NEWS FROM THE DORCHESTER HERITAGE CENTER

I certainly hope you are all fairing well throughout this time of uncertainty and anxiety! Because the DHC is housed in a County building, the building has been closed to the public since the middle of March. Then, on March 31, Governor McMaster ordered that all museums be closed until further notice. Although Dorchester County is reopening its buildings to the public on May 18, the DHC is still operating under the Governor's order of closure. At this point, we are uncertain as to when that order will be lifted. Because we're closed to the public, all traveling exhibits, events, classes and activities have been postponed. We are just hoping that we will be able to reopen in the near future. Even though we are technically closed, the employees are still working, either at the DHC or from home. We've also kicked off our 2020 Annual Fund Drive. In this time of uncertainty, funds are needed more than ever! If anyone would like to donate, we will always accept, no matter how large or small!! Please take care and stay safe!!

LaClaire S. Mizell, Director of the DHC

LOCAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS HONORED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Clement Bradley Gruber was born on April 3, 1947, to Owen “Jack” Clement Gruber and Emma Lee Walters Gruber. He was the oldest of four children, Bradley, Patricia, Greg and Deborah Jean, growing up on a large farm in St. George. Bradley helped his father on the farm even after he graduated from St. George High School in 1965. In 1966 he married Pattie Weeks and together they had a son, Clement Bradley Gruber, Jr., born on November 28, 1967.



In 1967, Bradley was drafted into the Army. He was sent to Ft. Jackson for basic training and further training at Ft. Gordon.

On August 23, 1967, he was deployed with the 1st Logistical Command, 446th Transportation Company as a Heavy Vehicle Driver to Vietnam and started his tour of duty.

While serving in Da Nang, Bradley was issued a truck that he dearly loved. He wrote home about his truck and how he could drive it very fast in reverse. Pictures were taken for proof!

While on tour, Bradley was asked to use his truck and fill it with sandbags. He did not want to do this so, instead, he volunteered to go on patrol with his unit.

On March 8, 1968, while on patrol in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam, his unit took on heavy fire and 8 men were killed, including Bradley. They were only a few miles from the DMZ.

Back home in the little country town of St. George, where everyone knew everyone, two military officers came looking for the Gruber home. Local people saw them at the country store asking for directions and figured out exactly why they were there. As they approached Bradley’s parents’ home, his mother was home alone. A friend hurried over on horseback after seeing the men in town.

When Mrs. Emma Lee looked through the window and saw the two men in uniform, she froze. She waited for her friend to approach before she opened the door. They were told that Bradley was missing in action. The news spread like wildfire. His sister and brother were in St. George leaving school when a friend asked if they had heard the news. When they arrived home, vehicles lined the street as neighbors came in support.

One week later, the Army officials came back to tell the family that Bradley was gone. The Army knew all along that he had been killed even though they were first told he was missing in action. The family was told that he was carried to the hospital where he was operated on but died from his wounds. One week later, his body was sent home. Services were held and Bradley was laid to rest in the UDC Cemetery in St. George. Bradley’s name is inscribed on the Vietnam War Memorial, in Washington, D.C. on panel 43E, Line 54.

A few weeks after his death, the family received a letter from Bradley. The letter was filled with excitement. He had received his orders that when he returned home, he was going to be stationed at Ft. Stewart and would spending some time there for training. Bradley was elated and went on to say he only had 20 more days on tour. Those dreams were left unfulfilled, like many others whose lives were cut short in their prime.

Hilbert Marion Singletary, Jr. was born on March 19, 1947 to Hilbert M. and Mary E. Singletary of Summerville, SC. “Marion”, as he was known, attended Summerville High School and was very active, playing football for the Greenwave. Marion graduated from Summerville High School in 1965.



Marion arrived in Vietnam and was assigned to Hotel Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division in 1966.

In late 1965 and early 1966, the Viet Cong (VC) and the People’s Army of Vietnam (PAVN) intensified their military threat along the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). The tactical goal of these incursions was to draw United States military forces away from cities and towns. To counter these actions, the U.S. Military initiated Operation Prairie. The majority of the activities were conducted by the 3rd Marine Division in the Con Thien and Gio Linh regions with the main objective of stopping the PAVN 324B Division from crossing the

Demilitarized Zone and invading Quang Tri Province.

In November U.S. intelligence learned that the 324B Division had moved back north of the DMZ and, while the 341st Division had apparently infiltrated the southern Prairie area, they remained inactive. Faced with the reduced PAVN threat, by the end of the year, III MAF had reduced its forces to just the 3rd Marines. Marion, a rifleman, was about 2 kilometers southeast of Mai Loc Airfield. While participating in Operation Prairie, Marion was killed during an attack in the Quang Tri region of Vietnam by hostile forces.

Marion’s body is buried at Live Oak Memorial Gardens in Charleston, SC. PFC Hilbert M. Singletary’s name is inscribed on the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. on panel 12E, Line 81.