

To Be Continued . . .

A PUBLICATION OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mission Statement: To Research, Record and Preserve the History of Dorchester Count

101 Ridge Street, St. George, SC 29477

November 2023

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

The weekend of October 21 – 22 was our annual *Dorchester County Historical Society Living History Days* held at the Koger House. We did not have the number of visitors we had hoped for, but we did have some interesting visitors and had a great time. I would like to thank everyone that helped in any way. Special thanks to Sandy Shelley and Priscilla Elledge for all their work and leading this year's fundraiser. The event brought in about \$1100.

Our November meeting will be held at the Koger house on Thursday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m. This will be our awards night, recognizing anyone who has helped to fulfill our mission of researching, recording, and preserving the history of our county.

A fund has been set up to raise money towards restoring the windows that need repair and re-hydrating the exterior. If you would like to donate toward this, just send your donation in to Claire at 101 Ridge St., St. George, SC 29477, and let her know the purpose of the donation.

I want to thank everyone for all the many years of support, hard work, donations, and your friendship. The years have flown by since the society was chartered in 2004. Next year we will celebrate our 20th Anniversary. A lot has been accomplished over the many years but the friendships that have been made are invaluable.

As the holidays are quickly approaching, I pray that you and your family stay safe and have a blessed holiday season.

Phyllis

HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES PARTICIPANTS IN LIVING HISTORY DAYS

The Dorchester County Historical Society would like to thank all participants, supporters, volunteers, and visitors to their October event at the historic Koger-Murray-Carroll House (ca 1770s). Visitors from across the county and from Aiken to Charleston enjoyed the DCHS Living History Days and learned about life in the late 1700s and beyond. Numerous visitors from the Walterboro area in Colleton County enjoyed learning more about our shared history. A large portion of the current Dorchester County was in the early Colleton District.

A visitor from Charleston, an archaeologist from College of Charleston, studied the house and grounds after his tour of the house with our informative docents. Phyllis Hughes, DCHS President, stated, "He thoroughly enjoyed his visit and was taken to visit nearby cemeteries of interest." Another visitor, Dr. Mark Meyer, from Aiken lives in another house owned by Chancellor James Parsons Carroll. Chancellor Carroll was also a previous owner of the Koger-Murray-Carroll House. Dr. Meyer brought a book honoring Chancellor Carroll printed by the South Carolina State Legislature after his death and after serving in the legislature. He was elected to the S.C. House of Representatives in 1938 and later served in the S.C. Senate. Dr. Meyer plans to share a copy of the book with DCHS. Another visiting family from Colleton County are members of the Koger family and remember some of the same family stories shared by the docents. One shared story involved General Lafayette marching with troops in front of the house this family was currently visiting.

Many participants made this a special event with their talents and presentations. The Historical Society is grateful to the creative Andrea Cayetano-Jefferson, Sweetgrass Artisan, and ballad singer, Jim Bogstad, along with our local poet, Jack Smith. Local antique dealer and appraiser, Andrew Gentry, shared his knowledge and experience, and Gil Shelley and Charles Kizer shared their knowledge of the Revolutionary War times.

Visitors enjoyed demonstrations by Millie Chaplin about colonial life and Heather Tamayo of early cooking and herbal medicine preparation. Volunteer docents presented very interesting tours of the house with lovely arrangements provided by the Ivy Garden Club.

All our visitors and the DCHS appreciated the vendors with their great food and various products! The food items were very popular with the quiches to cook by Brigman Farms, herbs from Debra Lighthart to local honey from Lester Harden, and wonderful lunch food was prepared by Goose Creek Caterers and Big K's Food Truck. Paintings and various creative products were displayed by Cavalier Creations and Creative Designs by Melody.

The Dorchester County Historical Society celebrates all those who contributed to this enjoyable event and for the opportunity to share their historic house and local history with the public. The DCHS is especially grateful to the members of the Events Committee, Priscilla Elledge, Sandy Shelley, and Chuck Spell for their leadership and organization of this event. Their countless hours of planning, communicating, and distributing information made this a special event.



Please Welcome Our Newest Member!!

Judy Phipps from St. George

Continued Get Well Wishes ~

Linda Baker and Joy Kizer

!!! Membership Dues !!!
Payable by March 1, 2024

Annual dues: \$25.00 (*\$30.00 to mail newsletters; free to email)

Due to the increase in postage and handling costs, an additional \$5.00 membership fee will be incurred for those who wish to have their newsletters mailed beginning March 1, 2024. Please send your email address to Priscilla Elledge (elledgep1951@yahoo.com) or text it to (843) 412-6319.

Lifetime Membership: \$250.00
Make Checks Payable To DCHS
Mail to: 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, 2022 all annual members who are not current with their dues will have their names removed from the membership rolls.

DCHS 2023 - 2024 Calendar of Events

November 16, 2023 @ 7:00 PM	Awards Meeting	Koger House
February 16, 2024 @ 7:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Koger House

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

Our annual awards meeting will be held at the Koger House on Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

Revolutionary War History

Ferguson – Koger House – Revolutionary War

Ferguson's Mills (1767-1796) is a site located on the Edisto River about 35 miles north of Charleston. The land immediately adjacent to the mill site is currently an active commercial farm that was cleared more than 250 years ago to feed the sawmills. Ferguson's Mills, also known as the Edisto Saw Mill Company in legal documents or simply, "The Mills," in period literature, is so named after its principal owner, Thomas Ferguson, who bought out his partners in 1779 for 250,000 pounds, current South Carolina money.

The Mills played a significant role during the American Revolution. It was at this spot that Continental troops under the command of Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene crossed the Edisto on December 6, 1781, during the Southern Campaign. Were it not for this critical crossing point at Ferguson's Mills, Greene's southern strategy for containing the British in Charleston and preventing the enemy from making an overland break for Savannah might not have taken shape and the war might have ended differently. Generals Anthony Wayne, Arthur St. Claire, and Mordecai Gist also crossed the Edisto at Ferguson's Mills with their Pennsylvania Lines and Maryland Brigades to join Greene in early January 1782.

It is now thought that Thomas Ferguson, owner of the Mills built the Koger House. It was built in the 1780s. The Revolutionary War did not cease until around 1785. The exact construction of the house is not known; however, it is thought that Ferguson's millworker lived in the house, not himself. The second owner was David Campbell who bought it after Ferguson's death.

The importance of this house as it relates to the Revolutionary War is remarkable. An excerpt from Gen. Greene's papers states:

General Greene's Orders "Camp Edisto River Ferguson's Mills, S.C., Wednesday 5 December 1781. The army will march "Tomorrow" at 9 a.m. and "Cross the River" (69)

General Greene's Orders "

Camp south side of Edisto. "S.C., 6 December 1781.

From Colonel Morton Wilkinson "3 December 1781. He has sent two men to NG who are "well acquainted with the Islands and may be depended on." Discusses arrangements for forwarding provisions to the army. As a party of Loyalists was reportedly at "**the Mills**" two days ago, Wilkinson is sending a small escort for the provision convoy." (75)