

Call & Response

News from the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission

2011 In Review

Volume VI



<http://shpo.sc.gov/res/Pages/SCAAHC.aspx>

&

<http://scaaheritagefound.org/>

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Message from the Chair

Leon A. Love, Chairperson



WOW, what a year this has been and I'm excited to report to you that the African American Heritage Commission and Foundation are both active and very involved in preserving and recognizing the contributions of African Americans to South Carolina. While I cannot take credit for our accomplishments, 2011 was one of our most productive.

I've endured a fight with bone marrow cancer. Our vice chair and other board members have stepped up and moved forward without missing a beat. I thank each of you for your prayers and support throughout the year. You've helped me to make it and now the treatments have ended, the cancer is in remission, and I'm improving daily.

I know you've missed your quarterly newsletter, but there was just too much going on. However, we plan to resume our regular schedule of a quarterly publication. You'll see documentation of some of what was accomplished by the Commission, associate members and others around the state featured in this 2011 in review issue. Know that this issue only highlights a smidgen of the various programs, events, media arts, advocacy, etc. that occurred last year under the umbrella of documenting and preserving our state's African American history and culture. It's awesome what can be done when we expand our army to include those who subscribe to our mission. I have long maintained that our history resides in our families, churches, and businesses, and I trust that we'll continue to reach out to these institutions for their involvement.

I'm about to end my tenure as your chair, and it's been great. I remain committed to both the Commission and Foundation in helping fulfill their missions. And speaking of the Foundation, let me again encourage you to become a member. **The SC African American Heritage Foundation supports the efforts of the Commission, and we need your help to continue to "Preserve Our Places in History."** Please see our membership form on pg. 17.

I hope to see all of you at our upcoming annual meeting and concert on Friday, January 27th as we celebrate our state's African American jazz heritage! See pages 2-3 for more info.

The mission of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission is to identify and promote the preservation of historic sites, structures, buildings, and culture of the African American experience in South Carolina and to assist and enhance the efforts of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

*Preserving More Than Places In History:
Celebrating South Carolina's African American
Jazz Heritage*

THE SOUTH CAROLINA AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
ANNUAL MEETING 2012 & PRESERVING OUR PLACES IN HISTORY
AWARDS LUNCHEON



FRIDAY, JANUARY 27TH 11:30 am - 3:30 pm
SC ARCHIVES & HISTORY CENTER
8301 Parklane Road, Columbia



11:00 am ~ Registration

11:30 - Noon ~ Greetings, Welcome, SCAAHC overview

Noon ~ *Preserving Our Places In History* Awards Luncheon
Keynote Speaker : Mr. Robert Stanton, Senior Advisor to the US Secretary of the
Department of the Interior

1:15 pm ~ *Preserving More Than Places In History: Celebrating South Carolina's
African American Jazz Heritage*

Session One will chronicle the historical and cultural contributions of African Americans to
one of America's most popular musical genres, complete with live musical accompaniment.
Session Two will offer updates on the state's various jazz initiatives.

Annual Mtg./Awards Luncheon - \$20 SCAAH Foundation members, \$25 non-members



Then join us for
a nightcap ~
An elegant evening of
Live Jazz featuring
The Skipp Pearson Jazz Ensemble

&
The Bhakti Project

Reception at 6 pm Concert at 7 pm

The SCAAHC's Trailblazer Award will be
presented during the evening

Archives & History Center
\$15 SCAAH Foundation members, \$20 non-members

For further info, please call
843-917-3350
Registration form on next page

Registration for SCAAHC Annual Meeting/Awards Luncheon 2012 & Evening Jazz

Please return by January 20, 2012

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I/we will attend the Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon | \$20 members/
\$25 non-members |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I/we will attend the Reception & Evening Jazz only | \$15/\$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I/we will attend the Annual Meeting, Awards Luncheon, Reception & Evening Jazz | \$30/\$40 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> After January 20th, the Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon will cost \$30 p/p; The Reception & Evening Jazz will cost \$25 p/p and the cost for all 4 events will be \$50 p/p | \$ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I/we would like to join the SC African American Heritage Foundation. Annual membership dues are tax-deductible & includes a copy of the 2009 edition of <i>African American Historic Places in South Carolina</i> | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I/we will not be able to attend, but accept a tax-deductible donation | \$ |

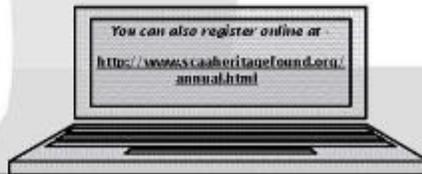
Overnight accommodations can be booked at the Hilton Garden Inn, 8910 Farrow Rd., Columbia: 803-807-9000 for \$85 + taxes/night. Mention SCAAHC - the deadline is January 13th.

Total: _____

deadline has passed

Name _____	Method of Payment:
Organization or Agency _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard
Address _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Discover Card <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX
Phone _____	Credit Card # _____
E-mail _____	Name exactly as it appears on card _____
	Expiration Date _____
	VCODE, 3 digits from back of card _____
	Signature _____

Make checks or money orders payable to:
SC African American Heritage Foundation
 POB 1053, Hartsville, South Carolina 29551
 For more info please contact:
 Jannie Harriot @ 843-917-3350 or
 scaaheritagefoundation@gmail.com



In The News *Preserving Our Places* *In History 2011* Bhakti Larry Hough

The South Carolina African American Heritage Commission (SCAAHC) will continue its mission of promoting the preservation of African American historical traditions while establishing new ones with its upcoming annual meeting on January 27, 2012 at the South Carolina Archives and History Center in Columbia.

In addition to the usual educational and informational presentations on various aspects of African American history and culture, SCAAHC will again present an evening musical concert, a tradition started during last year's annual meeting when it presented the African American opera company, Opera Noire of New York, at the Township Auditorium.

SCAAHC believes that performance art is an integral part of African American history and culture in SC that should be celebrated and studied. SCAAHC will continue its emergence as a presenting organization this year with an emphasis on South Carolina's jazz heritage.

It is difficult to consider the history and culture of African American people in SC without celebrating the integral role that the arts and humanities have played in our evolution as a people. Therefore, responding to the positive feedback we got and building upon the momentum we gained with the presentation of Opera Noire of New York last year, this year we will present an evening public jazz performance in celebration of this great art form that has a rich history in the state and continues to thrive in the palmetto state today.

Each year during the annual meeting, SCAAHC presents its *Preserving Our Places in History Awards*. SCAAHC established the awards to encourage the preservation of the African American experience in SC and recognizes individuals and organizations that have been instrumental in that process. In 2011, a Pee Dee area community activist, a Charleston jazz and arts educator and two cultural organizations were recipients of the sixth annual *Preserving Our Places in History Awards* at the meeting in January.

The *Individual Award* recognizes a person who has demonstrated or made an outstanding accomplishment in preserving and interpreting SC African American history and culture in during the past year. Dr. Karen Chandler, associate professor in Arts Management at the College of Charleston, received the award. She was nominated for her work as co-principal of the Charleston Jazz Initiative, which included gathering archival materials, collecting oral histories, and other related academic pursuits. She has published several articles that have documented and dispersed information about the unique



contributions of Charleston's African American community to American Jazz.

Dr. Karen Chandler, left, receives her award from SCAAHC ex officio member Dr. Larry Watson.

The *Group or Organization Award* recognizes a group or organization that has demonstrated or made an outstanding accomplishment in preserving and interpreting African American history and culture in during the past year. South East Rural Community Outreach (SERCO) received the award. SERCO is an organization whose mission is to create partnerships within the Lower Richland community to provide charitable, religious, educational and scientific programs to strengthen and expand the capacity of the community for a better quality of life for its residents. SERCO plans to develop the Lower Richland Heritage Corridor in partnership with the Harriet Barber House, the Kensington Mansion and Congaree National Park.



SERCO members are pictured along with SCAAHC member Bernie Wright (far left).

The *Project Award* recognizes a project that has significantly and dramatically influenced the preservation and interpretation of African American history and culture in SC during the past year in a permanent way. The Seashore Farmers' Lodge Museum and Cultural Center received the award. The Seashore Farmers' Lodge No. 767 (circa 1915) is significant as an illustration of the importance of fraternal orders in the cultural life of the Lowcountry African American community in the early twentieth century. Lodges such as Seashore Farmers' Lodge No. 767 were, along with the church, the heart of the community. Communication and cooperation with other lodges in the area, annual lodge parades and gatherings helped cement ties with the wider African American community. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 3, 2007. The Seashore Farmers' Lodge Museum and Cultural Center opened on James Island in April, 2011, just in time for the Sesquicentennial observances of the Civil War.



Corrie Hipp accepts the award for the Seashore Farmers' Lodge Museum & Cultural Center.

The *Lifetime Achievement Award* recognizes a person, group or organization that has made a notable, successful, sustained and lasting contribution to the preservation of African American history and culture in SC. Wilhelmina P. Johnson of Darlington received the award. Johnson has been a public school educator, local politician, and social activist. Her career in the public schools began in 1970, teaching home economics at St. John's High School, which later merged with Mayo High and became Darlington High School, until she retired in 1997. Even while teaching school, Johnson stayed busy outside the classroom. She founded and became director of the Darlington County Cultural Realism Complex, Inc. (CRC) in 1973 and has been director of the Darlington County Historical Museum of Ethnic Culture since 1976.

She founded the Cultural Realism Complex Vision Center in 1995 and coordinated local participation in major national efforts like the 1981 Youth Summer Food Program. The center has programs to teach life skills to young people and parenting skills to young families and to instill self-esteem and dignity among African Americans of all ages.

In addition to promoting ethnic participation in political and social causes, the CRC has an interest in arts and entertainment. Johnson also promoted and presented the South Carolina Hal Jackson's International Talented Teen Pageant for almost 30 years. Johnson says she has always been interested in promoting community

involvement and cultural preservation and has worked closely with the Darlington County Historical Commission to erect four markers denoting important sites in local African American history.



Wilhelmina P. Johnson (right) pauses for a photo opportunity with SCAAHC Vice-Chair Jannie Harriot.

POPIH awards photos on pp. 4-5 by Terry James



Photos provided by ONNY



*Opera Noire of New York
For Thee We Sing ~
A Musical Celebration
Honoring the Past, Embracing the
Present and Looking to the Future*

*January 28, 2011
Township Auditorium, Columbia*

A Sesquicentennial Series:

Part 5: The Sesquicentennial from an African American Perspective

Abel Bartley

Dr. Bartley is Director of the Pan African Studies Program & Associate Professor of African American and Urban History, Clemson University



As South Carolinians join the rest of the nation in preparing to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, there are several elephants in the room, which cry out to be addressed. Slavery is the dominant subject, which underlines the war and the commemoration. To discuss the Civil War without talking about slavery is the equivalent of talking about the American Revolution without talking about taxation or representation. For African Americans, the unwillingness to own up to the moral questions surrounding slavery suggests that those who defend the Confederacy are insensitive to the reality of slavery and racism and the role they played in the coming of the war. As South Carolina's leaders signed the nation's first secession document on December 20, 1860, I wonder what the 412,320 African American slaves thought as they witnessed this unprecedented event.

The enslaved African Americans had no idea how their journey would end. Few could have imagined that one of their hue would rise to the presidency. Yes, we have made some progress, yet we still wonder when racism will fully disappear in this great land.

Anniversaries are like road signs. They tell travelers how much farther they have to travel before they reach their destination. During the past one hundred and fifty years, African Americans have been transformed from chattel into full-fledged citizens. However, they continue to receive far too much of what is bad and far too little of what's good, leaving them behind others in wealth, education, and healthcare.

Much of the rhetoric surrounding the sesquicentennial revolves around the question of "commemorate what?" As African Americans, it is vitally important that we not miss this opportunity to have our say. We cannot allow this hour to pass without pushing for an open, honest dialogue

about the war and how we remember it. We must not surrender this ground to those who would use this anniversary to push a reactive agenda. Instead, we can use it as a teachable moment and an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to democratic principles.

The Civil War gave Americans an opportunity to reaffirm our belief in the guiding principles on which our nation was founded: *We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal and endowed by our creator with certain inalienable rights among them life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness.* No matter how you view this, the Confederacy posed a threat to those ideas. The men and women who supported secession ultimately violated the very principles upon which they claimed to be fighting. The 185,000 African Americans who fought to preserve the Union were just as patriotic as the men who fought to break the Union apart. Also, the men who fought to uphold the principles of racial equality are just as significant as the men who fought to deny it. Thus, if you believe that the Civil War was simply a fight within the family, African Americans have to make the argument that we were part of the family and our story is important also.



The SCAAHC visited Rock Hill and McConnells during the summer for its annual strategic planning retreat. Commission members and friends are pictured with Miss Kitty (1st row, second from the right), a former interpreter at Historic Brattonsville. She shared one of her powerful monologues on enslavement in the York County area for the group during its meeting at the former plantation.

Preservation Project Profile

MUSC dedicates a state marker for the former McClennan-Banks Memorial Hospital in Charleston

Barbara Williams Jenkins

On Saturday, February 26, 2011, a state historical marker in memory of the predecessor to the former McClennan-Banks Memorial Hospital was dedicated at 135 Cannon Street in Charleston.

McClennan-Banks Memorial Hospital was originally known as the Hospital and Training School for Nurses and as the Cannon Street Hospital, and was established in 1897. Dr. Alonzo McClennan (1855-1912) was one of its six founders. The institution was established to provide training for black nurses and to provide healthcare for the African American community. In 1956, Dr. Thomas C. McFall headed a campaign to build a new hospital - McClennan-Banks Memorial Hospital, named for Dr. McClennan and Nurse Anna DeCosta Banks (1889-1930). The building was constructed on Courtenay Drive and served the African American community until it closed in 1976.

Participants on the dedication program were Dr. Sabra Slaughter, Medical University of SC chief of staff; Dr. Raymond Greenberg, MUSC president, Dr. Patricia Lessane, Avery Research Center executive director; Ms. Susan Hoffius, curator at MUSC's Waring Historical Library and The Honorable Joseph Riley, the City of Charleston's mayor. An eloquent and informative dedication address was given by Dr. James Tolley, an MUSC assistant professor. Dr. Tolley recalled many of the early hospital staff members that he knew while growing up in Charleston.

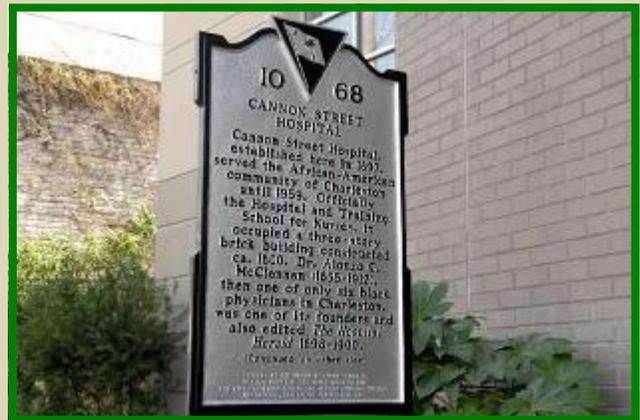
Recognition was given to numerous segments of the Charleston community who were in attendance, to include former staff members and descendants.

Michael Allen and I represented the SC African American Heritage Commission. Identifying and preserving

former African American hospitals in SC is an ongoing project of the SCAAHC. The Commission applauds MUSC for recognizing one of our state's former medical icons.



SCAAHC members Dr. Barbara W. Jenkins (far left) and Michael Allen (rear) stand in front of the newly-dedicated Cannon Street Hospital historical marker along with two community members.



Front view of the Cannon Street Hospital marker. Photos from http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/musc/news/univ_news/mar2011_cannon.htm

Spotlight on...

Strauss Moore Shiple York



Strauss Moore Shiple is Projects Manager at South Carolina's Olde English District. The District is one of eleven tourism regions in the state. The name refers to the region's early settlement by the English and the Scots-Irish in the mid-1770s. She has been with the Olde English District since 1996. Her duties include group tour promotions, website development/management, and brochure development and production. Prior employment consists of 8 years with the Texas Department of Human Services, and 8 years in the United States Army where she was a Korean linguist.

Strauss has a strong interest in African American history, in general, and local African American history in particular. Hence, she is a volunteer at Historic Brattonsville, a 775-acre historic site (McConnells) that presents the history of the Scots-Irish in the South Carolina upcountry largely through preserving and interpreting the story of the Bratton family. Interestingly enough, Strauss is a descendant of the Bratton family slaves. To help preserve the history and tell the story of these enslaved Africans, she is a founding member of We Are Brattons Too®, an organization comprised of descendants of the Bratton family slaves. For her efforts, she was recognized in 2008 as a

"Keeper of the Culture" by the Culture and Heritage Museums of York County. Upon receiving the award, Strauss noted, "They persevered. So, too, must we."

"History is very important for several reasons," says Strauss. "Through history we hear voices today that did not have the opportunity to be heard in their day and time. Also, knowledge of history helps us avoid past mistakes. And finally, knowing our personal history provides us with a sense of who we are, and instills within us the awareness that we have a duty to others."

In her other vocation, Strauss is a minister. Although duly licensed and ordained by the Baptist denomination, she has served as pastor of Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church in York since April 2009. This appointment has a deeply felt historic meaning for Strauss. Her mother, Lula D. Bratton (cf. Historic Brattonsville), grew up in this church, and maintained membership there until she was married. Oh, yes, history matters!

Strauss serves on the Board of Directors with the following organizations: the Greater York Chamber of Commerce (Education Committee), Good Folks of York County (2010 Chair), the Carolinas Student Travel Connection, and the Sandy River Baptist Association—Upper Division (Treasurer). She is also a member of the York County Accommodations Tax (ATAX) Committee, the Broad River Basin Historical Society, the York Historical Society, Baptist Women in Ministry (BWIM), and the International Association of Women Ministers (IAWM).

A graduate of Wake Forest University and an avid Facebook fan, Strauss also owns a desktop publishing business. Her future goals include writing a couple of books (for which she already has ideas), completing her seminary degree, and meeting her soul mate (although not necessarily in that order).

News from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Elizabeth M. Johnson
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

200th South Carolina Historical Marker Associated with African American History

In September 2011, with the approval of the text for the historical marker for "The Hundreds," in Pendleton in Anderson County (see below), the South Carolina Historical Marker Program reached a milestone of 200 markers associated with African-American history approved by the program since its inception in 1936. 169 of those markers have been approved since 1995, in large part due to the efforts of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission in identifying historic places across the state that should be marked and in encouraging organizations to propose and sponsor historical markers for them. The South Carolina Historical Marker Program and the Department of Archives and History are grateful to the commission for its valuable support of this popular and important program.

Recent South Carolina Historical Markers

The Department of Archives and History recently approved texts for the following historical markers associated with African American history. Please note that all of these markers may not have been erected yet. After the text is approved, the markers must be manufactured and installed. Staff contact: Tracy Power (803) 896-6182, power@scdah.state.sc.us.

An online database of historical markers searchable by key word and location is at <http://www.scaet.org/markers/>.

Fountain Inn Rosenwald School, Fountain Inn, Greenville County

(Front) The Fountain Inn Rosenwald School, also known as the Fountain Inn Colored School, was a complex of several buildings built here from 1928 to 1942. The first school, a frame seven-room elementary school for grades 1-7, was a Rosenwald school, one of 500 rural schools in S.C. funded in part by the Julius Rosenwald Fund from 1917 to 1932. It was built in 1928-29 at a cost of \$7,200. (Reverse) The Fountain Inn Colored High School, a frame three-room high school for grades 8-11, was built in 1930. A frame teacherage was built in 1935 for principal Gerard A. Anderson, and by 1942 this complex included a library, gymnasium, and three new classrooms. The high school closed in 1954, and the elementary school closed in 1960. The 1935 teacherage is the only building standing; the rest were demolished in 2000. Erected by the City of Fountain

Inn and the Greenville County Historic Preservation Commission, 2011

Pine Hill A.M.E. Church/Pine Hill Rosenwald School, Latta, Dillon County (Front) This church, founded in 1876, was in Marion County before Dillon County was created in 1910. At first on S.C. Hwy. 34, the church acquired this site in 1891 when Alfred Franklin Page (1863-1929) and his wife Laura Willis Page (1886-1963) donated 1.97 acres here. The congregation built a new Pine Hill A.M.E. Church shortly afterwards. This sanctuary was built in 1977. (Reverse) Pine Hill Rosenwald School, one of the first ten Rosenwald schools in the state, was built here in 1917-18. One of 500 rural black schools in S.C. funded in part by the Julius Rosenwald Foundation 1917-1932, it was a frame two-room school. With two to four teachers, it reached a peak of 208 students in grades 1-7 in 1938-39. The school closed in 1957 and burned in 1977. Erected by the Congregation, 2011

Old Bethel Methodist Church, Charleston, Charleston County

(Front) This church, built in 1797 in the meeting-house form, was dedicated in 1798 and completed in 1809. It is the oldest Methodist church standing in Charleston. Originally at the corner of Pitt and Calhoun Streets, Bethel Methodist Church was a congregation of white and black members, both free blacks and slaves. Many blacks left the church in 1833 during a dispute over seating. Though some later returned, many did not. (Reverse) In 1852 the congregation moved this building west to face Calhoun Street, to make room for a new brick church, completed the next year. This church, called "Old Bethel," was used for Sunday school before its black members acquired it in 1876. They kept the name Old Bethel and moved the church to this location in 1882. Old Bethel Methodist Church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. Erected by the Congregation, 2011

Fort Howell, Hilton Head Island, Beaufort County

(Front) This Civil War fort, named for Gen. Joshua Blackwood Howell (1806-1864), was built by the U.S. Army to defend Hilton Head Island and the nearby freedmen's village of Mitchelville from potential Confederate raids or expeditions. That village, just east of here, had been established by Gen. Ormsby M. Mitchel in the fall of 1862 and was named for him after his death. (Reverse) This fort was an enclosed pentagonal earthwork with a 23' high parapet and emplacements for up to 27 guns. It was built from August to November 1864 by the 32nd U.S. Colored Infantry and the 144th N.Y. Infantry. Though Fort Howell never saw action, it is significant for its design and its structural integrity. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2011. Erected by the Hilton Head Island Land Trust, Inc., 2011

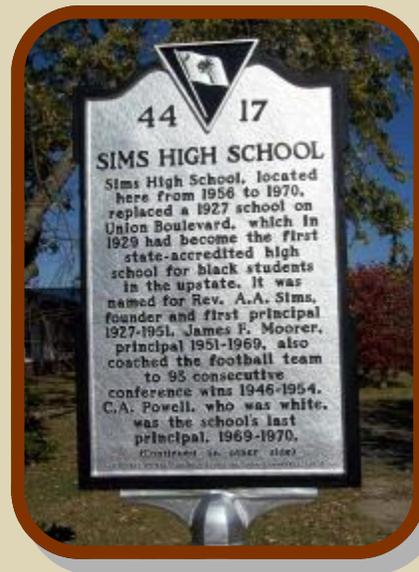
News from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History continued

Flat Creek Baptist Church, Darlington vicinity, Darlington County (Front) This African-American church was founded in 1877, with Rev. Daniel Jesse as its first pastor. It held its first services in a brush arbor, and acquired a site about 2 mi. SE on Flat Creek Rd. in 1881, building a frame sanctuary there. The church, known through the years as Simmons' Flat, Summer's House, the Grove, and Marggie Branch, was renamed Flat Creek Baptist Church by 1927. (Reverse) In 1913 Rev. Henry Hannibal Butler (1887-1948), newly ordained, came to Flat Creek Baptist Church as his first pastorate. Butler, principal of Darlington Co. Training School / Butler School in Hartsville (renamed for him in 1939), was later president of the S.C. State Baptist Convention and president of Morris College. The congregation moved here and built the present brick church in 2000. Erected by the Congregation, 2011

St. Paul Camp Ground, Harleyville vicinity, Dorchester County (Front) This Methodist camp ground, one of four in Dorchester County, was established in 1880. African-American freedmen in this area held services in a brush arbor at the "Old Prayer Ground" nearby as early as 1869. By 1873 they acquired two acres nearby and founded St. Paul A.M.E. Church, building their first permanent sanctuary just southwest. (Reverse) In 1880 four community leaders purchased 113 acres here and deeded it to trustees for a new St. Paul Camp Ground. "Tents," or rough-hewn cabins, form a circle around the "tabernacle," the open-sided shelter where services are held. This camp ground, in session the week ending the third Sunday in October, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1998. Erected by the Upper Dorchester County Historical Society, 2011

Sims High School, Union, Union County (Front) Sims High School, located here from 1956 to 1970, replaced a 1927 school on Union Boulevard, which in 1929 had become the first state-accredited high school for African-American students in the upstate. It was named for Rev. A.A. Sims, founder and first principal 1927-1951. James F. Moorer, principal 1951-1969, also coached the football team to 93 consecutive conference wins 1946-1954. C.A. Powell, who was white, was the school's last principal, 1969-1970. (Reverse) A new school was built here in 1956. Notable alumni include the first black head

coach in NCAA Division I-A football, the first coach of a



black college basketball team in the National Invitational Tournament, and the first black Chief of Chaplains of the United States Army. Sims High School closed in 1970 with the desegregation of Union County schools. This building housed Sims Junior High School 1970-2009. Sims Middle School opened on

Whitmire Highway in 2009. Erected by the Sims High School Reunion Committee, 2011

Monroe Boykin Park, Camden, Kershaw County (Front) This five-acre park, laid out in the 1798 city plan, features large pine trees reminiscent of the area before the Revolution, when Camden was known as "Pine Tree Hill." In 1912 it was named Monroe Boykin Park for Rev. Monroe Boykin (d. 1904), longtime pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist Church, one of Camden's oldest African-American churches. Boykin, born a slave, had been owned by Judge T.J. Withers after Withers's marriage to Elizabeth Boykin in 1831. (Reverse) After emancipation Monroe Boykin was given two acres here by Withers's heirs. In 1866 he and other freedmen withdrew from First Baptist Church of Camden to form a new congregation. Ordained by Northern missionaries, Boykin became the first pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist Church and served for 34 years. He also founded many churches in Kershaw, Lancaster, Sumter, and Clarendon Counties. In 1912 the city developed a part of Boykin's land here into Monroe Boykin Park. Erected by the City of Camden, 2011

"The Hundreds," Pendleton, Anderson County (Front) This area was a hub of African-American life from the late-19th to mid-20th centuries. Anderson County Training School, built ca. 1922 as a Rosenwald school, closed in 1954 under the equalization program for black and white schools. It burned in the 1960s. The agricultural building is now a community center. The Faith Cabin Library, built ca. 1935 by a program to give black schools their own libraries, is one of only two such libraries still standing in

News from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History continued

S.C. (Reverse) A frame store built nearby by Benjamin Horace Keese (1881-1975) and long known as the “Keese Barn” was a favorite gathering place for many years. Built ca. 1900 as a grocery store, it was later expanded and served as a cafe and antiques store/auction house. In 2003 Clemson University architecture students dismantled the Keese Barn and reused its historic materials to build the Memorial Block, to honor the store and its significance in Pendleton. Erected by Pendleton Pride in Motion, 2011

William Simmons House, Hilton Head Island, Beaufort County (Front) This house, built in 1930, is typical in materials and methods of construction of those built on the S.C. Sea Islands from the end of the Civil War to the mid-20th century. It was built on land bought after 1865 by William Simmons (ca. 1835-1922). Simmons, born a slave, had served in the U.S. Army during the war, enlisting in the 21st U.S. Colored Infantry as Ira Sherman. (Reverse) William Simmons’s granddaughter Georgianna Jones Bryan (1900-1989) built this house in 1930 for her brother, William “Duey” Simmons (1901-1966). It illustrates everyday life and the persistence of Gullah culture in an African-American farm community until after a bridge was built from the mainland in 1956. It was renovated in 2010-11 as the Gullah Museum of Hilton Head Island. Erected by the Gullah Museum of Hilton Head Island, 2011

Retreat Rosenwald School, Westminster vicinity, Oconee County (Front) This school, often called Retreat Colored School, was built in 1923 for the African-American students in and near Westminster. A two-room, two-teacher, elementary school, it was built by local builder William Walker Bearden of Oakway at a cost of \$2,300. It was one of more than 500 schools in S.C. funded in part by the Julius Rosenwald Foundation between 1917 and 1932. (Reverse) This public school replaced a one-room private school established by Pleasant Hill Baptist Church about 1870. About 50-60 students a year, in grades 1-7, attended Retreat Colored School from 1923 until it closed after the 1949-50 school year. The school was sold to Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in 1950. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2011. Erected by Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, 2011

Cook’s Old Field Cemetery / Copahee Plantation and Hamlin Beach, Mount Pleasant vicinity, Charleston County (Front) This plantation cemetery predates the American Revolution. It was established by early members of the Hamlin, Hibben and Leland families. James Hibben (d. 1835), one of the founders of Mount Pleasant, is buried here. Generations of both white and black families are interred here. In 2003 this cemetery was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. (Reverse) Thomas Hamlin established Copahee Plantation here in 1696. Later divided into Copahee and Contentment Cottage, it is now known as Hamlin Farms. In 1881 African American farmers bought 31 ten-acre lots from the Hamlins and founded the Hamlin Beach community. White and black descendants still live here today. Sponsored by the Christ Church Parish Preservation Society, 2011

Preservation Conference March 29 & 30, 2012

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming statewide historic preservation conference to be held March 29 & 30, 2012 at the S.C. Archives and History Center in Columbia. Information about registration and sessions will be posted online at <http://shpo.sc.gov> or you can contact Jennifer Satterthwaite (803) 896-6171, jsatt@scdah.state.sc.us to receive conference information.

We are currently accepting proposals for a poster session at the conference. Posters will highlight research or projects related to the history of South Carolina. Posters should include visuals such as photographs, websites, or maps as well as text to explain and highlight the topic. There will be space near the posters to provide handouts, brochures, or other “take-aways” for attendees of the conference. For more information, contact Rebekah Dobrasko at Dobrasko@scdah.state.sc.us. **Proposals are due by January 31, 2012.**

Historic Preservation Fund Grants

We are currently accepting applications for FY 2012 historic preservation fund grants. This year applications are being accepted from organizations and governments across the state for the Survey and Planning Grants. Stabilization Grant applications are still limited to Certified Local Governments and organizations within their boundaries. To learn more about the matching grants, types of projects funded, and to access the application go to <http://shpo.sc.gov/grants/preservationgrants/>. **Applications are due February 3, 2012.** Contact Brad Sauls at (803) 896-6172, sauls@scdah.state.sc.us.

New SHPO, Agency Websites Coming Soon

The South Carolina Department of Archives and History is in the process of updating its websites. We anticipate that the updated websites will be available in the next month

News from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History continued

or so. The new look and organization should make it easier to find the information you are seeking. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience that may occur as links to pages may need to be updated.

Recent National Register of Historic Places Listings

Fort Howell, on Hilton Head Island in Beaufort County, was listed in the National Register on June 15, 2011. Fort Howell, a Civil War earthwork fortification constructed in 1864, is significant in military history for its role in the Federal occupation and defense of Hilton Head Island; for its association with United States Colored Troops and the role they played in the occupation and defense of the island, and particularly in the construction of this fort; and for its association with Mitchelville, the nearby freedmen's village it was built to defend. The fort, an essentially pentagonal enclosure of built-up earth, is quite discernible despite natural erosion and vegetative growth over a period of almost 150 years. It is owned by the Hilton Head Island Land Trust and is open to the public during daylight hours. See <http://www.nationalregister.sc.gov/beaufort/S10817707070/index.htm>.

The **Fountain Inn Principal's House and Teacherage**, in Fountain Inn in Greenville County, was listed in the National Register on June 27, 2011. Built in 1935, this house is significant for its association with the Fountain Inn Negro School and African-American history in Fountain Inn. It was constructed originally as a home for teachers and by the 1940s housed teachers and the principal and his family. The house is the only remaining building historically associated with the Fountain Inn Negro School complex, which included the grade school (1928), high school (1930), library, and the Clayton "Peg Leg" Bates Gymnasium (1942). Although this house was constructed after the end of the Julius Rosenwald Fund school program in 1932, its design is nearly identical to Plan No. 301 ("Teachers Home for Community Schools") for teacherages supported by the Rosenwald Fund. See <http://www.nationalregister.sc.gov/greenville/S10817723070/index.htm>

The **Retreat Rosenwald School**, in the Westminster vicinity of Oconee County, was listed in the National Register on September 15, 2011. The school is significant for its association with African American public education during the first half of the twentieth century and as an example of a school funded in part by the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which sought to improve schools for African Americans in the rural South. The Retreat Rosenwald School was completed in 1924 at a total cost of \$2,300, including \$700 from the Rosenwald Fund. The building has three main rooms consisting of two classrooms and an industrial room. The school served the African American community in the Westminster area until 1950, when it was closed because student enrollment had decreased significantly. It is now owned by the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. The Retreat School Committee is seeking funds to restore the school to contain interactive classes and tours, a museum, and community meeting room. See <http://www.nationalregister.sc.gov/oconee/S10817737018/index.htm>.

The **Jacob Bedenbaugh House**, in the Prosperity vicinity of Newberry County, was listed in the National Register on October 6, 2011. Built circa 1860, this building is significant in social history because the original occupants, Jacob and Sarah Bedenbaugh, were an interracial couple who weathered the prejudices of a society that was bent on keeping whites and blacks as separate as possible. The home has been continuously owned by the same family since its construction. Jacob Bedenbaugh purchased the property in 1858 and the two-story I-house was constructed shortly thereafter. Sometime between 1860 and 1864, Bedenbaugh entered into a relationship with a mulatto woman named Sarah. The couple never married, although Sarah took the Bedenbaugh name. They remained together for approximately 42 years and produced eight children. Jacob died in 1915 and Sarah died in 1936. See <http://www.nationalregister.sc.gov/newberry/S10817736034/index.htm>.

Guest Corner

Exhibition Show Launches New Civil War Children's Book

Jannie Harriot

Charlestonians were treated to an exhibition of original artwork at the Fort Sumter Visitor Center on March 12th. The author, artist, and models Joseph McGill and Josh Sherrill were on hand to meet guests and sign copies of the newly released book. The twenty-three paintings on display, created by Kate Sherrill, formerly of Charleston, depict scenes in Charleston and Fort Sumter during the Civil War.

Painstakingly researched for historical accuracy, the paintings illustrate a story about Jack, a most unusual cat that served at Fort Sumter during the war. Loosely based on a real garrison cat at the fort, Jack is born into a wealthy Charleston family, where he is befriended by one of the family's slaves, Mauma June. He sees the contrast between the lives of the master and the slaves, and Mauma June confides in Jack her desire to be free to come and go just like him. Before long, all are swept up into the coming Civil War, and Jack is called to Fort Sumter to do his duty in defending the fort against mice and sea gulls. There he witnesses war first hand and is comforted by a sweetgrass basket that Mauma June made for him. On his return to the destroyed city at the end of the war, Jack finds his family evacuated and only Mauma June left to take care of him. The story reaches its climax when an African American soldier arrives to tell Mauma June she is free.

The story was written by Russell Horres, Jr. a long-time volunteer at Fort Sumter who recognized the need to connect children with history. The book, five years in the making, is a keepsake of the Sesquicentennial that focuses on the most important aspect of the Civil War – the ending of slavery in America.

Copies of the book are available at the Fort Sumter National Monument stores, the Charleston Museum, or online at Fortsumterscat.com.



Joseph McGill, SCAAHC member and a Civil War re-enactor, stands next to the illustration in which Mauma June is told of her freedom.



Josh Sherrill, Confederate soldier model; Russell Horres, author and Kate Sherrill, artist stand next to a portrait of Jack the Cat.

Guest Corner

Historic Mitchelville, SC, 1862 African Americans' Dawn of Freedom Ben Williams, Ph.D. Mitchelville Preservation Project Board, Hilton Head Island

Hilton Head Island, known for its sunny beaches, golf courses and Gullah people; also claims a significant place in American history. Now, a diverse group of citizens is working to commemorate the site on Hilton Head Island on which stood the first town governed by former African slaves. The group has dedicated its energies to the important work of uncovering the story of the town and exploring the contributions it promises to hold that may broaden our understanding of the era of the Civil War and the dawn of African American freedom. Preserving the Mitchelville site as a destination for heritage travelers and an educational experience for school children is the aim of the work.

During the Civil War, Union troops captured Hilton Head Island at the Battle of Port Royal and established the Department of the South in 1861. As a result, Africans escaping enslavement from surrounding areas saw Hilton Head and the nearby Sea Islands, as a place of refuge. Historian W.E.B. DuBois, in *Souls of Black Folk* (1903), describes the confusion that developed among Union leaders around the question of what to do with these Africans who had escaped slavery and rushed behind Union lines. Some officials suggested sending the escapees back to their masters while others saw the escapees as a source of labor for the Union Army in the field.

In the mind of the African slave, the purpose of the Civil War was to eliminate an abominable system of enslavement that had existed for generations of memory. Their escape from southern plantations, by the thousands to places behind Union lines such as Hilton Head in 1861, forced the issue of their freedom to the center of the agenda of the War.

Willie Lee Rose in her book *Rehearsal for Reconstruction* (1964), describes the great upheaval in the Sea Islands after the Battle of Port Royal. Again, the question was what should be done with the Africans who had stayed behind as their masters fled Beaufort County ahead of Union forces for other

parts of SC. Into this upheaval the northern missionary was asked to come south to assist in socially preparing the African for self-dependence. Many of the programs and policies of the reconstruction era: education, work for wages, and medical care services were patterned after the missionary programs implemented by northern missionaries in the Sea Islands.

It was during this period, in 1862, that the Commander of the Department of the South on Hilton Head Island had a radical idea. General Ormsby M. Mitchel planned an idea to provide the opportunity for African slaves to experience freedom through self-determination. His thinking was that the Africans ought to be provided an opportunity to provide for themselves by learning citizenship, to own land and to exercise the vote for those among his own group who he believed could represent his interests. The plan included the designation of a large plat of land outside and away from Fort Walker, the Department of the South compound. Those who desired to govern themselves moved to this designated area.

General Mitchel speaking to the African slaves participating in the plan said: "Good colored friends, you have a great work to do, and you are in a position of responsibility. The whole north and all the people in the Free states are looking at you and the experiment now being tried. This experiment is to give you FREEDOM, position, homes and your own families, wives, property, your own soil. You shall till and cultivate your own crops, you shall gather and sell the products of your own industry for your own benefit; you shall own your own earnings...It seems to me that there is a new time coming...a better day is dawning."

The town, later named Mitchelville, was laid out, lots were selected, lumber was cut, homes were built and the population grew. The Africans governed themselves. They elected town officials and adopted the first compulsory education law in South Carolina. The population established two churches on Hilton Head Island which still serve the religious needs of the community and trace their roots to early Mitchelville. "At Mitchelville...Africans diligently prepared to live as free people as family ties were tightened and education and religious institutions were established," Emory Campbell remarked in *Prologue to Hilton Head Island* at the Mitchelville Inaugural Forum in 2011.

Mitchelville is historically significant. It is a place where Africans in America, in 1862, governed themselves. In their journey of freedom, they shaped a unique culture of courage, struggle, and perseverance, the roots of which runs through Birmingham, Selma, and Memphis. In 1986, an archeological excavation completed by the Chicora Foundation of SC established

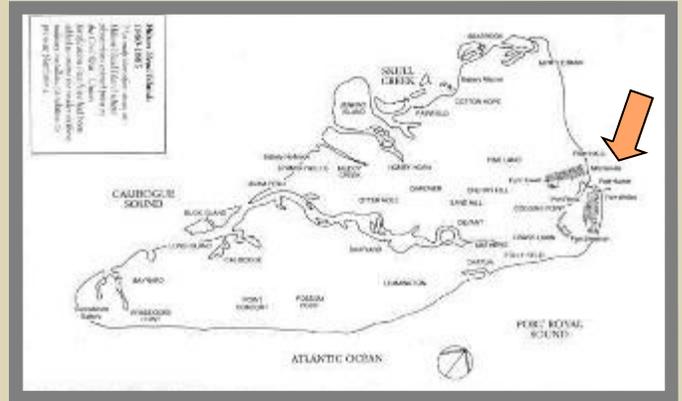
Guest Corner continued

that a section of the historic site is one of the richest African American archeological sites in the southeast. The excavation yielded some 25,000 artifacts that help to explain how the freedmen lived. A few of the pieces have been exhibited at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C.

William Fitzhugh, a former African slave, like Crispus Attucks in the American Revolution, was the first African to die at the Battle of Port Royal which later led to the establishment of the town of Mitchelville. The 32nd Colored Infantry built Fort Howell near Mitchelville for the protection of the town and the Fort has recently earned its place onto the National Register of Historic Places.

The Town of Mitchelville has been swept away by wind and time, but its memory rests in the hearts and minds of the African Americans of Gullah descent living on Hilton Head Island. Their ancestry developed and governed the town for well over two decades. This experience during an era of war and reconstruction revealed an African culture that had survived enslavement and demonstrated how deeply the ideas of self-dependence and freedom remained embedded in the minds of the Africans in America throughout the years of bondage. The courage, the perseverance, and resourcefulness of the Mitchelville freedmen ushered in the dawn of the birth of freedom for 4,000,000 southern slaves.

Over the next several years "Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park" will be created on a 20-acre footprint of the old Mitchelville site. Central to the development process is the idea of a place of continued learning. Represented on the site will be stories that have framed the arc of the African American journey in America. On your next visit to Hilton Head Island, explore what is now the beautiful park site. Go to South Carolina Education Television's "CONNECTIONS" to order the full story of this historic site. Be inspired by visiting www.mitchelvillepreservationproject.org to contribute and to follow the progress and shaping of this chapter of the SC Lowcountry African American experience.



Mitchelville is located on the eastern part of the Hilton Head Island coastline, below the arrow. This map can be found at :

<http://mitchelvillepreservationproject.com/photogallery.html>.

Editor's Note: See pages 9 and 12 for further information on the recent state and federal designations for Fort Howell.

Call & Response is the official newsletter of the *South Carolina African American Heritage Commission* and is published three times annually; A. Shinault-Small, Editor. Views expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH). Information published is at the discretion of the Editor.

Charles Pinckney National Historic Site
1254 Long Point Road, Mt. Pleasant, SC
843-881-5516



Gullah Heritage

2012 Saturday series 2 pm

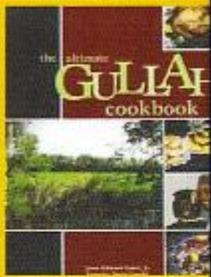
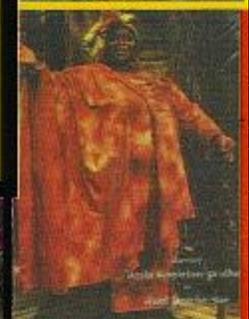


Feb 4 **Carolyn "Jabulile" White**, Sea Island storyteller
Vera Manigault, sweetgrass baskets

Feb 11 **Anita Singleton-Prather, "Pearlie Sue"** Gullah tales
Vera Manigault, sweetgrass baskets

Feb 18 **Sharon & Frank Murray**, rice production
Elijah Ford, sweetgrass baskets

Feb 25 **Ann Caldwell & the Magnolia Singers**, spirituals
Jeannette Lee, sweetgrass baskets



Mar 3 **Veronica Gerald & Jesse Gantt**, Gullah cooking
Alada "Muima" Shinault-Small, African tales
NIA Productions, African drumming & dance

Mar 10 **Greater Goodwill AME Male Chorus**
Vermelle & Andrew Rodrigues, quilting & toys
Vera Manigault, sweetgrass baskets
Charles C Williams, castnet making & woodwork

Mar 17 **Dorothy Montgomery**, quilting
Elijah Ford, sweetgrass baskets

Mar 24 **Anita Singleton-Prather, "Pearlie-Sue"** Gullah tales
Vera Manigault, sweetgrass baskets

Mar 31 **Ann Caldwell & the Magnolia Singers**, spirituals
William Rouse, sweetgrass baskets



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South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation

The South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation supports the efforts of the South Carolina African Heritage Commission to identify and promote the preservation of historic sites, structures buildings, and culture of the African American experience and to assist and enhance the efforts of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Please consider supporting these efforts by becoming a member of the SCAAH Foundation. Members receive:

- ◆ Invitations to all Commission meetings
- ◆ A copy of *African American Historic Places in South Carolina*
- ◆ A subscription to *Call & Response*, the Commission's quarterly newsletter
- ◆ A subscription to *News and Notes*, a monthly online newsletter from the Historic Preservation Division of the SC Department of Archives & History
- ◆ Notification of special workshops and meetings
- ◆ Discount registrations for workshops and meetings



The SC African American Heritage Foundation's on Facebook !! Click on the link to the SCAAHC web page at the upper left corner of page 1, beneath our logo, then click on the Facebook icon. Become a fan and join us there !!!

Membership Form

Please complete and return to: South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation ◆ P.O. Box 1053 ◆ Hartsville, SC 29551 or contact: Jannie Harriot, Commission Vice Chairperson, at 843-917-3350 or e-mail scaaheritagefound@gmail.com .

- I would like to become member of the South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation. Enclosed is my \$25 annual membership.
- Our organization would like to become member of the South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation. Enclosed is our \$75 annual membership which allows 4 of our members to get discounted registrations.
- Enclosed is a contribution to the South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation.

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