

To Be Continued...

A PUBLICATION OF THE UPPER DORCHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

PO Box 15, Dorchester, SC 29437

August 2014

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Exciting news! The Dorchester County Archives & History Center is organized and our director, Christine Rice, has already digitized over 5,000 historical documents. On Saturday, July 19th, the Summerville/Museum transferred over 200 boxes, 300 maps and numerous framed pictures to the archives. Christine has not had a chance to go through the collection yet, but many of the files came from the law office of Legare Walker who wrote a history of Dorchester County in the 1940's. Hopefully, many early deeds and plats will be found within this collection. Another collection on its way is the Moorer/Murray Collection. There are documents dating back to the 1700s in this collection.

Plans are underway to have a ribbon cutting ceremony/open house possibly in October. I want to encourage everyone to donate and ask others to donate any document, map, school memorabilia, books, pictures, etc. pertaining to the history of Dorchester County. If someone passes away, please ask their family to donate anything of this nature to the center in memory of their loved one.

Our mission is to: Research, Record and Preserve the history of Dorchester County. Our goal is to: house a complete history of Dorchester County under one roof.

The annual spring tea at Brosnan Forest was a success. The society profited roughly \$2,000. Thank you to all who helped.

Billy Syfrett, Civil War Historian, will be our guest speaker at our upcoming meeting, August 21st. He spoke in February and told the group that he would like to come back and speak on the 13 battle flags. The society welcomes him back. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to learn this rich history. I look forward to seeing you on August 21st and please bring a friend.

Phyllis

DON'T FORGET THIS DATE
Thursday, August 21st 7:00 PM
Membership Meeting
At Koger House

**MEMORIAL GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
Betty Carole Meyer by Larry & Carole Meeker**

Membership Dues

Payable by March 1, 2014

Annual dues: \$25.00

Lifetime Membership: \$250.00

Please Mail to:

Mrs. Jean Behling

113 Bryant St.

St. George, SC 29477

(Please include current home and email address.)

Special Thoughts and Prayers

Family of Carrie Jane Hughes

Family of Betty Carole Meyer

Get Well

Edith Axson

Linda Baker

Grace Walters

Fitzhugh Sweatman

Dorchester County Archives and History Center

Located in the old County Courthouse at 101 Ridge St, Saint George

Weekly collections every Tuesday 8am-11am and 12pm-2pm

Examples of items accepted for donations or loan:

(pertaining to Dorchester County)

- **Documents (letters, diaries, journals)**
- **Books • School Memorabilia • Maps • Photographs**

The DCA&HC is equipped with a fire and flood proof Preservation Room to safely and properly house your historic documents for future generations.

The DCA&HC is a 501 3-c organization. Your gifts may be tax deductible.

DCA&HC is in need of volunteers if you would like to volunteer or have questions please contact

Christine Rice at (843)563-0053 or crice@dorchestercounty.net

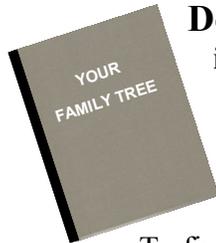
2014 Calendar of Events:

Membership Meeting	Thursday, August 21	7 PM	Koger House
Historic Homes & Sites Tour	Saturday, TBD	11 AM— 5 PM	
Membership/Awards Meeting	Thursday, November 21	7 PM	Koger House

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

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING
AT KOGER HOUSE
Thursday 21 August 7:00 PM
Guest Speaker William Franklin “Billy” Syfrett**

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

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

William Franklin “Billy” Syfrett

The Guest Speaker for the August Membership Meeting will be Mr. William Franklin “Billy” Syfrett of the Colleton Rangers, Camp 1643, Sons of the Confederate Veterans. He will speak on the 13 Confederate battle flags. Syfrett’s interest in the War Between the States was piqued by the discovery of his connection to the Confederacy through two great-grandfathers on his father’s side and a grandfather and two great-grandfathers through his mother’s ancestry.

Memorial Stones

To date over 270 books have been sold. This book is a wonderful source of genealogy. You can purchase through the mail or pick up locally at the Tri County Regional Chamber of Commerce in St. George. (843-563-9091). The book cost \$45 add \$6 for S/H if purchased through mail.

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 for your collection or for a gift, you can pick up locally at the Tri County Chamber of Commerce, Main Street, St. George or by mail: UDCHS, POB 15, Dorchester, SC 29437. The book cost \$45 add \$6 for S/H if purchased through mail.

Electronic Newsletter

Once again there has been another postal increase so 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

ST. GEORGE OFFICIALLY A TOWN

In 1878, the town of St. George was incorporated under the name of George's Station. The official charter is dated December 23, 1889 and gives the town's name as St. George's. The first town council meeting was held February 27, 1875, with W.J. Bryant, Intendant and D.L. McAlhany, Emory Murray, Dr. P.I. Moorner, and E. Connor named as Wardens. Capt. Lewis E. Parler served as Town Clerk and Treasurer, recording the minutes and ordinances in beautiful Spenserian penmanship.

Issues dealt with by the first town council were uncomplicated. First ordinances state: "Any merchant or shopkeeper who shall within the corporate limits of George's Station keep open his, her, or their store or shop or sell or expose for sale any goods, wares, or spiritual liquors on the Sabbath except in case of necessity of which Council shall judge shall for each and every offense be fined in a sum not exceeding Ten Dollars." "And be it further ordained by authority foresaid that no public sport, horseracing, games, pastimes, firing guns, pistols, or other firearms or other amusements shall be allowed under penalty not exceeding Ten Dollars."

"A fine of \$20 will be imposed on anyone who injures or destroys public property such as hitching posts." "Firing firearms at night, knocking down fences, or otherwise to disquietude or terror of any citizen shall for each and every offense pay a fine not exceeding Ten Dollars."

"That hereafter no show, circus, menagerie or other exhibition for gain or reward shall be allowed to exhibit in the corporate limits without first taking out a license paying for the same a sum not exceeding Twenty Dollars per day."

Council held "regular meetings, irregular meetings, special meetings, extra meetings, and called meetings." Minutes usually stated that the meeting was held at the "regular" time which may vary from 10:00 AM to 6 ½ PM to 9:30 PM and disparate times in between. Much of the meetings' agendas was taken up with hearings and dispensing penalties for such crimes and misdemeanors as discharging firearms after dark, allowing livestock to run loose in the street, and fighting and disorderly conduct. Minor misdemeanors merited a fine of one dollar, 5 days' work on the street, or 2 days in jail. Attention was given to licensing businesses, especially taverns or businesses which sold "spirituous liquors."

One of the first ordinances commissioned a Board of Health which would consist of two physicians, "one of whom shall be a member of the town council, and one layman, all of whom should be citizens of said town. The members of the Board of Health shall be elected by ballot at the first regular meeting of the Council in March each year and shall continue in office during the official term of the Council by which they were elected."

Though pages 31-53 are missing from the town minutes book and therefore the records of the first meetings, Dr. P.I. Moorner may be presumed to have served as chairman of the first health commission as he was the only physician on the first council. Duties of the Board of Health were outlined as follows: ". . . to supervise health of the town, to take measures to prevent origin, introduction, and spread of contagious infections and epidemic diseases, and to limit extension of such diseases."

Minutes are missing from December, 1888 until May, 1913. A notation inside the front cover of the 1913 minutes book citing from census record shows the population of St. George at 269; by 1920, the town population had grown to 1,386 with the county's at 19,459.

The official charter dated December 23, 1889, gives the town's name as St. George's.

The missing minutes would reveal how the name change was decided upon, but it has been assumed that Saint was added as a bow to the county's having formerly been a part of the old St. George's Parish. The apostrophe 's' was dropped by the Postal Department.

Contributed by Jean Behling, *To be Continued...*