

# *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**

**February 2014**

### **Board of Directors**

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### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Members,

Happy New Year! January 2014 was our society's 10th anniversary. Congratulations and thank you to all our faithful members. Everyone should be proud of all that has been accomplished.

Speaking of accomplishments, Dorchester County Council has approved a proposal brought before them last February, that will allow our society to create and organize a Dorchester County Archives & History Center in the former courthouse. Phase I will include establishing a Genealogy Library, Preservation Room, Children's Learning Center and a Gift Shop. A Board of Directors and an Advisory Board are in place, as well as a Genealogy Committee. Christine Rice will manage the center on a day to day basis. Volunteers are needed. If you would like to help, contact me or any of the directors. Our society's mission is to research, record and preserve the history of Dorchester County. This facility will give us a place to do just that. A collection of historic documents, maps, photos and books will get underway soon. Please talk to your family and friends and encourage them to donate these items. Items on loan will also be accepted. All documents will be digitized and cataloged for public viewing. Rare documents will remain protected in the fire-proof Preservation Room. This room will be climate controlled and the documents will be kept in Mylar and placed in fire-proof cabinets. This center will be an asset to the county and will help revive the Town of St. George.

Our next meeting is Thursday, February 20th, 7 PM at the historic Koger House. Billy Syfrett, expert on the Civil War era, will be our guest speaker. He has spent years gaining knowledge of this era. Please come and bring a guest.

I look forward to seeing you on Feb. 20th

Phyllis

**DON'T FORGET THIS DATE**  
**Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM**  
**Membership Meeting**  
**At Koger House**

## Meet Our Lifetime Members

Deborah Appleby	Bob McKinnon
Coe McMahan Atherton	Bobbie McKinnon
Edith Axson	E. O. McMahan
Ann Bailey	Diane Minus
George Bailey	Dickie Minus
Dr. Ed. Behling	Timothy Mizzell
Jean Behling	Charlie Mooror
William Blakely	John Mooror
Mattie Lee Browning	Agnes Morrison
Ed Carter	Margaret A. Myers
Theresa Carter	Mary Pearson
Jessie Cockcroft	Dickie Phalen
Terry Collier	Peggy Phalen
Frances George Connelly	Florence A. Pitts
James Connelly	Mary Platt
Dr. Paul Cooler	Douglas Reeves
Richard Cooler	Sandi Reeves
Mary Walters DeAntonio	Danny Rhode
David Felkel	Mary Margaret Riser
Randy Floyd	Robby Robbins
Frank Furtick	Marguerite Wamer Sanders
Andrew Gentry	Laura Knight Schipman
Harold George	Linda Skelton
Beverly Gilmore	Jack Smith
Susan A. Greene	Betty Sojourner
Mildred Heatley	David Sojourner, Jr.
William Herman	David Sojourner, Sr.
Darrell Hinton	Charles Spell
Sissy Williams Howell	Fitzhugh Sweatman
Carrie Jane Hughes	Martha Sweatman
Herbert Hughes	Frank Thomas
Phyllis Hughes	Marie Thomas
Heyward Hutson	Janice Walker
Wehme A. Hutto	Grace Walters
Mayor Anne Johnston	Hugh Walters, III
Will Kirby	Jim Way
Mike Kizer	Pete Weathers
Wallace Kizer	Dr. Frances Welch
Sheriff L. C. Knight	Dr. Brunson Westbury
Rep. Patsy Knight	Laura Westbury
Douglas M. Koger	Robert Williams
Jack Limehouse	Dr. Chris Wimberly
Dean McCracken	

**Welcome New Lifetime Members:**  
**Robby Robbins**                      **Summerville, SC**

**Special Thoughts and Prayers**  
**Family of Catherine "Doll" Infinger Hughes**  
**Family of Pierce Berry**  
**Family of Lynette "Nettie" Bailey Postell**

**Get Well**  
**Edith Axson**                      **Linda Baker**  
**Mattie Lee Browning**        **Grace Walters**  
**Fitzhugh Sweatman**        **Ernest Westbury**  
**George Howard Muckenfuss**

**### 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.)

### 2014 Calendar of Events:

<b>Membership Meeting</b>	<b>Thursday, February 20</b>	<b>7 PM</b>	<b>Koger House</b>
<b>UDCHS Annual Tea</b>	<b>Saturday May 10</b>	<b>12 Noon</b>	<b>Brosnan Forest</b>
<b>Membership Meeting</b>	<b>Thursday, May 15</b>	<b>7 PM</b>	<b>Koger House</b>
<b>Membership Meeting</b>	<b>Thursday, August 21</b>	<b>7 PM</b>	<b>Koger House</b>
<b>Membership/Awards Meeting</b>	<b>Thursday, November 21</b>	<b>7 PM</b>	<b>Koger House</b>

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

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
AT KOGER HOUSE  
Guest Speaker Billy Syfrett  
Thursday 20 February 7:00 PM**

**MEMORIALS GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

<b>Catherine "Doll" Infinger Hughes</b>	<b>By Harry &amp; Jean Behling</b>
<b>Lynette "Nettie" Bailey Postell</b>	<b>By Phyllis Hughes</b>
<b>Wilbur McPerry "Mac" Rumph</b>	<b>By Mildred Heatley</b>
<b>Lynette "Nettie" Bailey Postell</b>	<b>By Mildred Heatley</b>

**§§§§ MEMBERSHIP DUES §§§§**

**Just A Reminder Annual Membership Dues Are Payable By  
March 1, 2014**

**Annual dues: \$25.00**

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

**Please Mail to:**

**Mrs. Jean Behling 113 Bryant St. St. George, SC 29477**

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:bill.blakely@upperdorchestercountyhistoricalsociety.com)

## **Edisto Bluff & Edisto Fort**

The Edisto River is the longest black water river in the United States and is the southernmost boundary of Dorchester County. The Indians called it “Adusta”, which meant black. Tannic acid makes the water dark, but in reality, it is very clear and pure. The river has its source in two small branches of the Santee River. These two, the North and South Edisto, meet in the middle of the state and flow for several miles to where Four Holes Creek flows into the Edisto, about one mile upstream from the current Givhans Ferry State Park. There the river makes a 90 degree turn to the south because it encounters a high marl bluff. When the European settlers began to make their homes along the Edisto River, some of their earliest maps show an old Indian trail that led from Charleston to a place near the big bend of the Edisto. The path ended at a small area where the high bluff tapered down to a gentle slope. The trail ended at the water’s edge and was known as the Savannah Indian Path.

On September 1, 1704, James Moore, an Indian Trader, received a royal grant of 720 acres on both sides of the river at the bluff. The Indian path was on that land. The area became known as the Edisto Bluff. He sent furs and other items down the river by canoe to the Atlantic where they were met by ships which carried furs, deerskins, and other merchandise to England. Moore died of yellow fever in 1706 and the land was sold to James Rawlings to satisfy debts of Moore estate.

During the Yemasee Indian War (1715-1717), there was an order by the government that a fort be built at Edisto Bluff or Rawlings Bluff. In the spring of 1715, a fort was established on the Edisto River called Edisto Fort. The initial order by the governing council was for 10 soldiers to man the garrison. Several months later, an Indian trader by the name of John Jones, with a garrison of 15 men, was ordered to the fort. A few boats, piraguas, were sent for transporting supplies and munitions. Later gunboats were also sent to the fort. The garrison was to protect the inland plantations from attack from the river, keep communications open to Fort Moore (Augusta, Georgia), and protect supplies brought up the Edisto from Savannah. The site became the strategic point on South Carolina’s western frontier.

Edisto Fort was one of three forts that continued when others were disbanded in 1716. In 1717 more men and boats were sent to the fort. On page 9 of “Colonial Forts of South Carolina, 1670-1775” by Larry E. Ivers, there are one hundred men stationed there in the spring of 1717. The men were known as the Western Rangers. At that time, Jones and some of his men rode 300 miles into the Creek Nation near present-day Columbus, Georgia, to conduct peace negotiations. The fort continued into 1718 and then was abandoned. (Note: The Yemasee War was a conflict between British settlers of colonial South Carolina and various Native American Indian Tribes).

Records indicate that Rawlings was still living there in 1733. During those years, the area was known as Rawlings Bluff and sometimes as Edisto Bluff. On April 21, 1732, Rawlings was given title to 700 more acres that bordered his 720 on the east side.

No record has been found of the 1420 acres after 1744 until Dr. John Swint sold two tracts of land (which he had received as grants in 1765), 1200 and 600 acres to Philip Givhan in 1777. The grants evidently included the Rawlings place, because Givhan moved his family to property that contained the old fort site and the ferry. For over 150 years, the “Ferry Place” has totaled about 1200-1400 acres. Since all Colleton County deeds were destroyed in 1865, there is no way of knowing just how it came to be carved from the 1800 acre Givhan purchase.

To be continued....