

To Be Continued...

A PUBLICATION OF THE UPPER DORCHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

PO Box 15, Dorchester, SC 29437

November 2011

Board of Directors

Phyllis Hughes
President

David Sojourner
Vice President

Bill Herman
Vice President

Mildred Heatley
Treasurer

Jean Behling
Membership Secretary

Laura Westbury
Recording Secretary

Agnes M. Morrison
Corresponding Secretary

Jim Way
Publicity

Frank Thomas
Project Manager

Webmaster: Bill Blakely

Historian: Chuck Spell

Hospitality Committee:

Betty Sojourner

Sandi Reeves

Linda Westbury

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

November is here and our last meeting of the year is Thursday, November 17th. Once again at the meeting, those that have contributed to our mission, "to research, record and preserve our county's history" will be recognized. So many people in our area work hard to preserve our southern traditions.

This year has been another successful year for the society. Much has been accomplished. In March our society hosted the Dorchester County Leadership Group as they visited the Koger House. In April the granddaughter of Fitzhugh Sweatman was married at the Koger House. Also in April the Spring Tea at Brosnan Forest was very successful profiting just over \$3000. In May the Heritage Corridor toured the Koger House and our society was recognized at the Dorchester County Courthouse Dedication for assisting in the creation of a new county flag and seal. In October a group of 50 alumni from Wofford College visited the Koger House and our third historical marker was erected at the St. Paul Camp Ground. We have received \$2000 in accommodations tax to help erect our fourth historical marker in 2012.

On Sunday, November 20th from 2 - 5 PM the Koger House will be opened to the public. All members are encouraged to attend. Docents will be dressed in period. Please encourage all your family to attend. There is no admission fee; however, donations will be accepted.

I would like to thank the directors, the committee chairmen and all of our members for their support this year. Together, we are making a difference.

Phyllis

Membership Meeting
Thursday, November 17 at 7:00 PM
Koger House

Meet Our Lifetime Members

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

Welcome New Lifetime Members

Wheme "Buddy" Byrd Farrell
Sandi Reeves

Welcome New Member

Linda Gavin Manchester, Ga

Special Thoughts and Prayers

The family of Arthur Dukes
The family of Kenny Waggoner

Get Well

Edith Axson
Betty Carol Myer
Sandi Reeves
Fitzhugh Sweatman

Open House Koger House

Plans are underway to have an Open House to allow the public to view the Koger House since the restoration has been completed. The event is being planned for Sunday, November 20th from 2 - 5 PM. Light refreshments will be served. Docents will be dressed in period. If anyone would like to help with this event please contact any of the directors.

Longtime Leader of Dorchester County Dies

County Councilman, Kenny Waggoner died Sunday, August 21, 2011. He served on county council for 34 years from 1976 to 2010. He was a true supporter of this society and will be missed by his family and friends.

Calendar of Events:

Thursday, November 17th, 7 PM Membership Meeting/Awards Ceremony

Sunday, November 20th, 2 - 5 PM. Koger House Open House

Sincere Appreciation

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Wheme "Buddy" Byrd Farrell for her many donations to our society. Mrs. Buddy has donated many items of furniture, including the beds, piano stool, bench and rocker on the front porch, pictures and miscellaneous items. These gifts will be enjoyed by so many that visit the historic Koger House. She is truly a dear friend of mine and our society.

Special Project

Director Mildred Heatley is in the process of researching the many units that camped along the railroad from Summerville to Ridgeville during the Civil War. If you have any information to share please contact her through our website upperdorchestercountyhistoricalsociety.com.

Memorial Stones Cemetery Inscriptions of Upper Dorchester County

The recording of over 15,000 inscriptions in over 150 cemeteries is complete and all information has been turned over to the printing company. Bill Blakely and Phyllis Hughes are working with Jostens in formatting the information. Hopefully the book will be out by Christmas.

They Called Him "Mr. Jack"

The year was 1912. It was the 23rd of October. A baby was about to be delivered in the local hospital in Sumter, S.C. Mamie Hill Robbins gave birth to a boy. She and her husband, George Paul Robbins selected the name Douglas Woodrow Robbins for their new son and, so it was . . . sort of.

According to family members, the nurses at the Sumter hospital thought this baby boy to be exceptionally handsome and - on the spot- decided they would only refer to this baby boy as "Jack." The name selected by the hospital nurses seemed to suit him. . . even as a baby, thus, so it was.

He attended St. George Grammar and High School graduating in 1930. After graduating from high school, he played semi-pro baseball for both Charleston and Greenville teams. Baseball was to remain one of his great loves.

In Charleston, S.C. in the late 1930's he met a dark haired beauty with large dark eyes. She was Ruth Black, formerly of Smoaks, S.C. Ruth worked as head cashier at "Raley's Cafeteria" on King Street, which was very popular the Charleston "down-town crowd" at the time. Jack and Ruth were married in Charleston on October 13, 1938.

Shortly afterwards, they settled in St. George to make their home together. Jack played baseball for the St. George Baseball Team which was a member of the Eastern Carolina Baseball League. He was referred to in the Dorchester Eagle Record articles as Jack "Legs" Robbins.

From the latter part of the 30's up until the early 40's, Jack and his father operated an "eatery-billiards" establishment in St. George on Main Street. The locals would come in, sit at the massive dark wooden counter with its tall stools, and have some of the best hot dogs in town.

Jack's first position as an official with the Town of St. George came when he was appointed fire chief in 1946. A new fire truck was purchased for the town in August of that year. The cost for the new fire truck was \$5,300.00. Jack stated that the older fire truck would be repaired and kept in service for the town according to an August 8, 1946 Dorchester Eagle Record newspaper article. He remained fire chief until 1949.

The year 1989 brought two major changes into Jack's life. He and his wife Ruth, built a new restaurant, the Dixie Diner, on Highway 78 and Jack was appointed Chief of Police for the town. Fate had finally taken him by the hand and led him to his true calling--the word of law enforcement.

One night, in the early 50's, the famous film star, Fred Astaire, was traveling by car from Florida back to New York and as Mr. Astaire pulled into St. George, it was long past midnight and his gas tank was almost empty. He was concerned because every gas station in St. George was closed up for the night. The film star had no desire to stay overnight in St. George and was at loose ends because he soon realized he was stuck in a town with everything closed up for the night. Jack was on duty and noticed a car parked at a gas station which had closed hours before. Upon closer inspection, Jack recognized the movie star and asked if he could help. As soon as Mr. Astaire explained his problem, Jack called the owner of one of the gas stations and asked him to get out of bed, put on his clothes, and come back to the station to be of assistance to Fred Astaire. The gas station owner was kind enough to comply. Fred Astaire left St. George a happy guy. He left Chief Jack and the gas station owner with a "tale to tell."

Jack was Chief of Police from 1949 until 1956. At that time, he joined the county to become a deputy sheriff to the late Sheriff H. H. Jessen. Jack served as Deputy Sheriff with Dorchester County for 6 years (1956-1961).

In 1962, Jack returned to work for the town as Chief of Police (1962-1973). He kept his eye on persons who chose to ignore the speed limits within the town. He was always concerned for young children on bikes as well as the elderly crossing the streets. When Jack would halt a speeding car, sailing through town without thought for anyone's safety, he could be seen approaching the offender with his police cap fixed at that familiar angle, his sunglasses on, and his ticket book in hand.

Jack loved his job as chief. He spent most of his years as chief of police in the cramped, hot quarters of one-half of a very small building on Highway 78 whose other half was used as the local bus station. Yet, if he had been offered a job in another town, he would never have taken it. This was "his town" and he loved and cared very deeply about its people, and most importantly, he had deep respect for the law.

When the new Police/Fire Station was built on Ridge Street, he was proud of the new building which had been so badly needed for such a long time. He enjoyed its conveniences and comforts.

Jack W. Robbins devoted close to 26 years of his life protecting his community, the Town of St. George and Dorchester County. He served almost 20 years as Chief of Police and 6 years as a deputy sheriff.

Jack passed away May 16, 1973. Upon the recommendation of Mayor David C. Sojourner, on May 22, 1974, the mayor and all members of Town Council voted unanimously to name the new police/fire station the "Jack Robbins Building." Jack would have loved that.

By: Jackie Robbins Dack, daughter

Chief Robbins is also survived by two sons,
Douglas Robbins and Donnie Robbins.

Periodicals

There are still a few copies of "The View of the Past" available. This book would make a wonderful Christmas gift.

Also available is the "Diary of David Gavin". Both books can be picked up from the Tri County Chamber of Commerce located in the Klauber Building in St. George.

Reminder

Membership Meeting Thursday, November 17th 7PM
Koger House Open House Sunday, November 20th 2-5 PM