

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

November 2014

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Great news! The Dorchester County Archives & History Center's Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is set for Sunday, November 16, 2014 at 2 PM. Our guest speaker is Dr. Ed West from Summerville.

To date, Director Christine Rice has digitized over 7000 documents. Collections are coming in weekly and we have received a wonderful photo collection, donated by E. O. McMahan, in the last couple of weeks.

Also, Heather Judy, Teacher of the Year, from Dorchester Academy, has come on board as the Education Coordinator. She has 20 students signed up as volunteers and they have been working for several weeks. They are digitizing, summarizing, and identifying items and artifacts that have been donated to the center.

Two of our members, Linda Baker and Anne Irick, have started bringing in the Moorer/Murray Collection. This collection has been passed down through these two families since the 1700s and has never been seen by the public. Thus far, they have brought in a Kings Grant, printed on animal skin with a large wooden seal still attached, original Civil War letters, and documents signed by Charles Pinckney, William Moultrie and John Drayton.

For generations, family members have tried to find a safe place to donate this collection; its value cannot be measured. I am so thankful that Linda and Anne chose to keep these documents in Dorchester County. The Collection will stay in tact, digitized and made available for public research.

If you or anyone you know has anything regarding Dorchester County History, please bring it to the archives and allow Christine to digitize it. She prefers the item to be donated, however; if you just want to loan it, so that it can be added to the database, we ask that you allow the center to keep it for at least 90 days. (See Message Page 2)

DON'T FORGET THIS DATE

Thursday, Nov. 20th 7:00 PM

**Membership/Awards Meeting
At Dorchester County Archives
& History Center in St. George**

NOTE: NEW LOCATION

MESSAGE

(Continued From Page 1)

History is Perishable and we owe it to our children and grandchildren to preserve it. Please come forward and donate. Family trees are also very important. To date we have over 71,000 names in our family tree database. Make sure your family genealogy is added.

Membership to the DCA & HC is now open. Charter Membership is \$100 and only available through Dec. 31, 2014. Annual membership is \$50 and Teacher/Student membership is \$25 annually. Any membership paid by December 31, 2014 will not be due again until Jan. 1, 2016. The benefits of becoming a member are: unlimited research, updated printed family tree every 3 years, provided you give updated genealogy to the center and an invitation to an annual reception. Volunteers are also needed. If you or anyone you know may be interested please call the center.

In other news, the Harleyville Historical Marker is in and I am trying to work with Mayor Ackerman on a dedication date. Please keep an eye out for this on our website.

Billy Syfrett will be our speaker at our November 20th meeting at 7 PM. He is a Civil War Historian and will speak on the Confederados. Also, to enable our members to see the archives first hand, the meeting will be held at the DCA & HC. This is our awards night as well. This is a time for us to recognize anyone that has helped to fulfill our mission to research, record and preserve the history of Dorchester County. If you know of anyone that should be included in this list, please let me know asap.

Please come out to the ribbon cutting ceremony and to our meeting on November 20th. Remember, all of our events are open to the public so invite a friend.

Phyllis

**MEMORIAL GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
Marci Behling by Phyllis Hughes**

Membership Dues
Payable by March 1, 2015
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 Marci Behling

Get Well
Edith Axson Bettie Berry
Grace Walters Fitzhugh Sweatman
Bobby McKinnon

**Donation in Honor :
Harry & Jean Behling's Birthdays by Mildred Heatley**

2014 Calendar of Events:

DCA&HC Ribbon Cutting & Open House	Sunday, November 16	2 PM	DCA&HC St. George, SC
Membership/Awards Meeting	Thursday, August 20	7 PM	DCA&HC St. George, SC

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

MEMBERSHIP/AWARDS MEETING
At Dorchester County Archives & History Center
101 Ridge Street, St. George, SC
Thursday 20 November 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 November Membership/Awards Meeting will be Mr. William Franklin “Billy” Syfrett of the Colleton Rangers, Camp 1643, Sons of the Confederate Veterans. He will speak on the Confederados, Confederates that emigrated to Brazil after the War Between the States.. 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.

DCA & HC

Phase I of this project is 90% complete. The only part not complete is the gift shop and this will be put together after the first of the year.

Phase II is the History Center. The Board of Directors is working on another proposal to ask DC Council Members for the rest of the downstairs in the former courthouse. The History Center/Museum will display artifacts, audio and visual aids and more in an attempt to tell a comprehensive history of Dorchester County from its earliest beginnings.

If you have anything that you would be willing to donate to the center please call Christine at 563-0053 and let her know.

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

Membership/Awards Meeting Change Of Venue

Remember the change of venue for the November Membership/Awards Meeting, it will be at the Dorchester County Archives & History Center, 101 Ridge Street, St. George, SC

Moorer-Murray Collection

Documents in this collection have been accumulating for nearly 300 years. Descendants of the first settlers of the Indian Fields area of present Dorchester County have been gathering and protecting an unbelievable amount of documents and various items. They range widely and pertain to family property, wills, letters, receipts, Bible records of deaths, births, marriages, history of local churches and Indian Field Campground, college diplomas, appointments to government offices, letters written home during the War Between the States, portraits and daguerreotypes, lists of church members, doctors who served the area, items sold at home sales and estate settlements, eulogies, all documenting daily life, religion, and education of early colonial times. These numerous compilations provide much information to be gleaned about life as it was long ago. These papers attest to the fact that Indian Fields Community was one of the earliest areas settled as people ventured inland to the backcountry from Charleston, SC. The Edisto River was easily navigable to reach this area which offered a plenteous water supply found in the swamps and natural springs. The earliest King's Grant in this collection is dated 1727 from King George II of England. The waters of Indian Fields Swamp and Four Holes Swamp are referred to as being boundaries on many of these 1700s plats and deeds. This collection includes more than 100 Kings Grants, Indentures, Memorials, various types of documents used to convey land.

The Indian Fields (earliest spelling has an s on the end) was a vast space of acreage between present day St. George, Harleyville and Bowman. The Indian Field Methodist Episcopal South Carolina at what is now Rosinville, was the center of early life for the entire area, and this church served most of the early settlers before towns and town churches existed.

When linked together, this collection of documents will map out the story of how the land was first granted in huge blocks, then subdivided as time went by due to wills, sales, and acquisition of additional adjoining properties. The surnames of most of the original grantors have died out, however, many of the families who presently own land in this area are linked directly to these old plats and deeds. The names of some of the plantations and landmarks in the area mentioned are as follows: Buck Springs Plantation which lay along Hwy 15 between St. George and Rosinville; Buckingham Plantation, located off Gavins Road-Hwy 15 area; Sycamore Lodge , located on Hwy 78 between Harleyville and Rosinville; and the Bay Dam and Murray Farms, both along Seven Mile Road. There are two family cemeteries within the area used by the owners of this property; the Old Moorer-Murray Cemetery on Gavins Road and the Buck Springs (Murray, Gavin, or Harper) Cemetery off Hwy 15 about two miles from St. George.

The Moorer and Murray families were two of the large land owners and lived on adjoining plantation. Many marriages took place between members of the two families. Records of these as well as births and deaths were maintained in these papers.

Contributed by Linda Baker and Anne Irick, *To be Continued....*

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.