

# *To Be Continued . . .*

**A PUBLICATION OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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

**101 Ridge Street, St. George, SC 29477**

**November 2022**

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.....

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Members,

It is already November; the time has changed and the holidays are quickly approaching fast. Once again, the Society has had a great year. Just being able to get back after COVID has been wonderful.

We did lose two good board members earlier this year but have replaced them with two history-loving board members: Daniel Prohaska and Rodney Canaday. At our meetings this year, we have had great speakers, thanks to Trish Scott, and great refreshments, thanks to Claire. Thank you to Bobbie for putting our meeting notices and articles in the paper and to Bill and Claire for their hard work on getting County accommodations tax grants. Thank you to all the board members for their work behind the scenes and to all our members for their continued support. Without you, none of this would be possible.

On October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, we hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Living History & Education Days. Over 130 people attended. Weeks leading up to the event, board members worked diligently to finish the little store in the Koger House front yard. The old showcase was moved out of the Koger House giving more space in the back room for our meetings. Bill got the steps made for the store and built the handrails attached. Sandy Shelly made curtains and painted the floors and items were donated to sell in the new "Gift Shop" by Rachel Dubois. Thank you to all the sponsors and donors that helped to make this possible. Also, members of the Ivy Garden Club of Dorchester did a wonderful job decorating the house for fall. Both Friday and Saturday nights, Claire lead ghost walks through the house. It was a lot of fun. Mildred, Sandy, Elizabeth Mizell, Coleman Hughes, my granddaughter and I helped. Fun, fun, fun. Thank you, Claire, for all you do.

Our treasurer, Mildred Heatley, will report on the profits from this event. After the first of the year, we will be looking for grants to try and rehydrate the exterior of the house and completely repair and paint all the windows.

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**Membership/Awards Meeting  
Thursday 17 November 2022  
7 PM At Koger House**

**New Member**

**Georgia Goodwin from Summerville**

**Get Well**

**Linda Baker**

**Margaret Spell**

**Bill Herman**

**Joy Kizer**

**### Membership Dues ###**

**Payable by March 1, 2022**

**Annual dues: \$25.00**

**Lifetime Membership: \$250.00**

**Make Checks Payable To DCHS**

**Mail to: Ms. Bobbie McKinnon**

**c/o DCHS**

**101 Ridge St.**

**St. George, SC 29477**

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

**NOTE**

**As of March 31, 2022 all annual (yearly) members who are not current with their dues will have their names removed from the Membership Rolls.**

**THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS**

We would like to thank all members who have made additional contributions to the Historical Society.

Additional funds are still needed to repair the windows throughout this historic house and to oil/stain all of the exterior of the house. If you are able to make a contribution toward this restoration, please send or drop off your contribution to the office at 101 Ridge Street. Claire Mizell is the Director of the Dorchester Heritage Center there, but she is also a Dorchester County Historical Society Board Member.

**DCHS 2022 Calendar of Events:**

**Membership/Awards Meeting**

**Thursday, Nov 17**

**7 pm**

**Koger House**

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

**MEMBERSHIP/AWARDS MEETING**  
**THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2022**  
**7:00 PM**  
**AT KOGER HOUSE**  
**Guest Speaker: Rodney Canaday**

**HISTORY OF DORCHESTER COUNTY**

Over 15 years ago, a group of members of the DCHS started researching and recording the history of Dorchester County with the intentions of publishing the history of Dorchester County. It was just after the Centennial in 1998 and it took a few years to actually get started. We acquired a writer from Spartanburg, Monnie Cannon, to write the book. So many things have happened over the years that paused our efforts of completing this book, but we never stopped trying to finish the task.

Mrs. Jean Behling and I have worked diligently over the past two years to focus on finishing this book. It is an overwhelming job, but we have almost completed the task. Over the past two years, more chapters have been added where initially there were only six or seven. This is due to the archives opening in 2014 in the Dorchester Heritage Center in St. George and the additional history that has been added to the collections.

For the past few weeks, starting at 6 am in the morning, I have been putting together the history of my town, Dorchester. I wrote most of this years ago after interviewing many of the old citizens and recording their oral histories. Jim Way and Mildred Heatley have done a lot of the same. As I sit and record this history, it is sad to think of all the early residents that made this town so wonderful and raised their families here in a time when there were no cars or phones and everyone, including children, worked so hard just to make ends meet. Yet they were God-fearing people who respected others and were always there to help a neighbor.

As their names are recorded in this history, I feel they will not be forgotten. This is what keeps me going. I want their stories shared so that future generations can learn from these pioneers who paved the way.

Many years ago, in trying to research the town's early railroad agents, I found a book that was published on the Town of Dorchester in 1913. The following is just a part of what was recorded in this book. At the time it was found, no one living, at the time, knew anything of a book being published. It just possibly may be the only copy left. Once I complete my task, it will go into the archives for future generation to peruse.

By: Phyllis Hughes

**THE DOORWAY TO OPPORTUNITY 1913**

In 1913, a book was published by Walker, Evans & Cogswell Co. Charleston, SC entitled *The Doorway to Opportunity*. It was published on the Town of Dorchester. The book was an advertisement of sort with the intention of encouraging people to choose Dorchester as the town to live. The book describes Dorchester and its accessibility and distances to larger cities in SC and Georgia. Train schedules and the easy access to the Atlantic Ocean and Port Royal via the Edisto and Ashley Rivers. It talks of a splendid highway soon to be ready for use with the completion of a bridge over Edisto River at Scotsman's Bluff.

Health was an issue covered and included in the chapter is a letter written by Dr. G. B. Harley, MD, "I recommend Dorchester to anyone desiring a home where health is a consideration." It speaks of climate and crops.

W. D. Garrison, recognized as a man of much practical experience in farming, who was connected with the Clemson College Coast Experimental Station, wrote the following letter in reference to the country as a farming proposition. The letter addressed to Albermarle Real Estate Corp., November 1, 1913, states that the 662 acres belonging to Albermarle Farms was of good quality to raise and especially adapted to the growing of cotton, corn, oats, pea vine hay, and rye. Garrison also stated that tobacco could also be raised with great success on these lands.

Note: W. D. Garrison had 10 years' experience in farming and was the manager of the Clemson College Coast Experiment Station at Jedburg thirteen miles from Dorchester for five years at the time of this letter.

*To Be Continued*

