



DORCHESTER COUNTY ARCHIVES & HISTORY CENTER

Inside this issue:

<i>Note from Director's Desk & Paleographic Highlights</i>	2
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	3
<i>Highlight a Hero</i>	4
<i>Highlight a Hero Cont.</i>	5
<i>Archivist Notes & Volunteer(s) of the Month</i>	6
<i>Exhibit Flyers</i>	7 - 9
<i>Mission Statement & Board of Directors</i>	10

Featured Museum Exhibits

The Dorchester County Archives and History Center has two temporary displays that are a must-see for anyone interested in the history of our area. The



Select photographs by Brandon Coffey on display at DCA&HC

first is a collection of photographs of local, historic buildings and landmarks taken by Brandon Coffey. If I had to use

one word to describe the photographs, it would be 'ethereal.' Peruse the display and, if you find a print that you fall in love with or is maybe significant to you or your family's history, you can purchase the print to take home with you! If you cannot decide on just one, there is a calendar that displays many of the photographs also available for purchase. Don't dillydally though! This exhibit will only be available until early May, 2019!

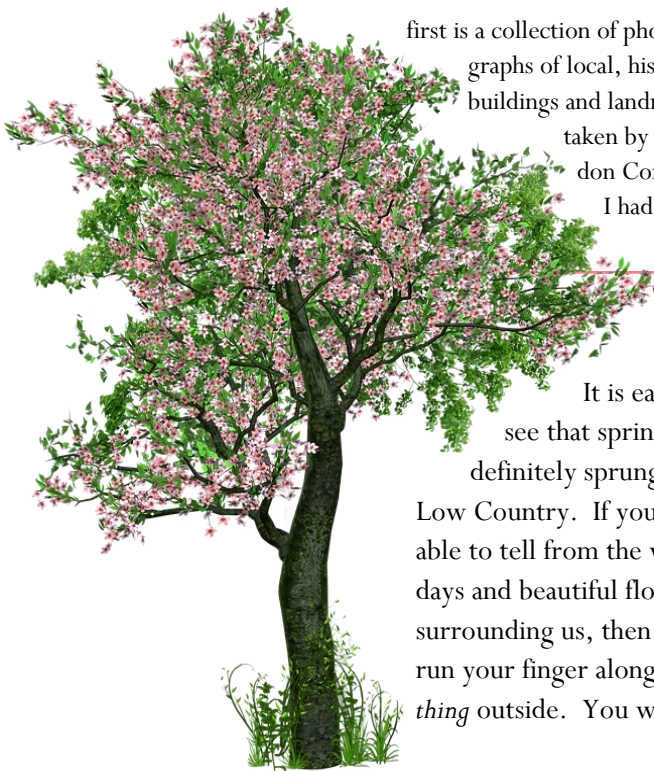
Our second exhibit features items that are a *bit* older. Lee Taylor, a Dorchester County native, has been very gracious in loaning us his extensive, private collection of prehistoric treasures that he has discovered in

various places around the county. There are literally hundreds of shark teeth, arrowheads and vertebrae neatly displayed for your viewing. Have you ever won-



A vast array of shark teeth. Only a small part of the Lee Taylor's Fossil display at DCA&HC

dered how big a whale's vertebrae is? Well, it's probably a lot bigger than you would think it would be! Stop by & see!



Spring Has Sprung!!!

It is easy to see that spring has definitely sprung in the Low Country. If you aren't able to tell from the warmer days and beautiful flowers surrounding us, then just run your finger along *anything* outside. You will dis-

cover an abundant layer of pollen assuring you that Spring is upon us and Summer is only a warm breeze away!

In the spirit of Spring folks at the museum have been busily preparing new exhibits and upcoming events.

Don't forget to check out the calendar of events or the various articles and flyers in the remainder of this newsletter to see what's been going on and what is about to happen! You don't want to miss out on the exciting things that are happening!

A Note from the Director's Desk



Already purchased flags on display for the Flags of Honor in front of the Dorchester County Archives & History

HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS

2019 has begun with the introduction of 3 new exhibits to the Heritage Museum! We are now the “permanent” home and “keepers” of an inland rice exhibit prepared for the Dorchester County Sales Tax Transportation Authority by HW Exhibits and Brockington & Associates of Mt. Pleasant. The exhibit will be loaned out to interested parties but will remain on display here in the meantime. We are also hosting a Brandon Coffey photo exhibit. If you don’t know of Brandon’s work, you need to “get acquainted” with it. He has a phenomenal talent for capturing the essence of places, most of which are historical sites. He has visited a number of Dorchester County sites and has photographed them for us. They will be on display in the Museum until early May. Also, for you lovers of all things prehistoric,

we are also displaying a portion of Dorchester County native Lee Taylor’s private collection of prehistoric sharks’ teeth, sea animal vertebrae and other artifacts. The majority of his items were found during his many dives in the Edisto River, in the local Argos cement quarry or in fields here in Dorchester County. It is truly an awe-inspiring and thought-provoking display.

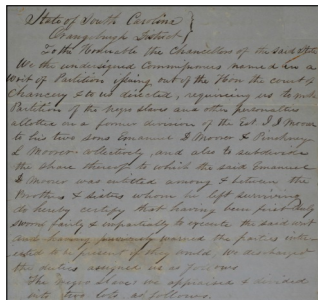
The Museum will be hosting Beginners’ Cake Decorating classes at 10 am on May 7, 14 and 21. The price per participant is \$40 for the series. Naomi Wimberly will be teaching us how to make icing, how to frost a cake, how to make basic decorations using various decorating tips and how to decorate a cake. It will be a hands-on class! Please call (843) 931-1021 or visit the website at www.dca-hc.com to register for the classes. Register early because space is limited!

Be sure to get your Flags of Honor before MAY!! This is an on-going fundraiser for the Mu-

seum. Flags can be purchased in honor or memory of a loved one. Each flag will have a ribbon with the loved one’s name on it and will be displayed in front of the Museum during the months of May and November. During the remainder of the year, the flags will be displayed in the hallway of the Museum. This is a wonderful, patriotic way to honor our friends and family members, veterans and civilians alike! Flags are \$25 each and forms can be obtained from the website at www.dca-hc.com or you can e-mail me at contact-us@dca-hc.com. Don’t forget that any donations made to The Heritage Museum are tax deductible! All donations of any amount are very welcome!

Thanks from all of the staff and volunteers at the Heritage Museum for your continued support! And come to see us soon!!

LaClaire S. Mizell



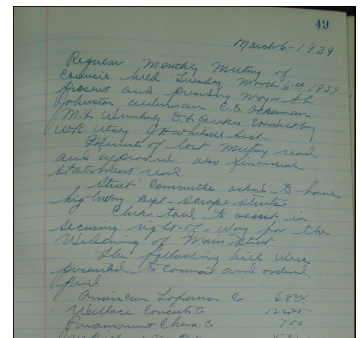
One of the documents from the Estate of Jacob Jenkins Moorer that is being transcribed.

Paleographic Highlights

Curator/Paleographer Patrick Scally has been busy transcribing a “new” batch of some 70+ documents from the Moorer-Murray Collection. The latest transcribed documents are primarily the letters, wills, and estate inventories belonging to Jacob Jenkins Moorer (July 30, 1799 - August 12, 1835) and

his sons, President Pierce Moorer (February 15, 1830 – July 16, 1896), Dr. Pickney Ledbetter Moorer (April 1, 1832 - August 28, 1887), and Emanuel David Moorer (February 16, 1835 - May 28, 1852). In addition to this transcription, Pat continues to work on transcription of the

old Town Council meeting records of St. George.



Calendar of Events

- May 7, 14, & 21 - Cake Decorating Class
- May 12 - Mother's Day
- May 18 - Armed Forces Day
- May 27 - Memorial Day (Don't forget to honor your favorite veteran!)
- June 14 - Flag Day
- June 16 - Father's Day
- June 21 - Summer (officially) Begins
- June 26 - 28 - Summer Camp










In the United States, Flag Day is celebrated every year on June 14th. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777 by resolution of the Second Continental Congress.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14th as Flag Day. Thirty years later, in August of 1946, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress. Although Flag Day is not an official federal holiday, Title 36 of the United States Code, Subtitle I, Part A, CHAPTER 1, § 110 is the official statute on Flag Day.

Source: Wikipedia

May 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 	8	9	10	11
12 	13	14 	15	16	17	18 
19	20	21 	22	23	24	25
26	27 	28	29	30	31	

June 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 	15
16 	17	18	19	20	21 	22
23	24	25	26 SUMMER CAMP	27 SUMMER CAMP	28 SUMMER CAMP	29
30 						

★ Highlighting a Hero ★

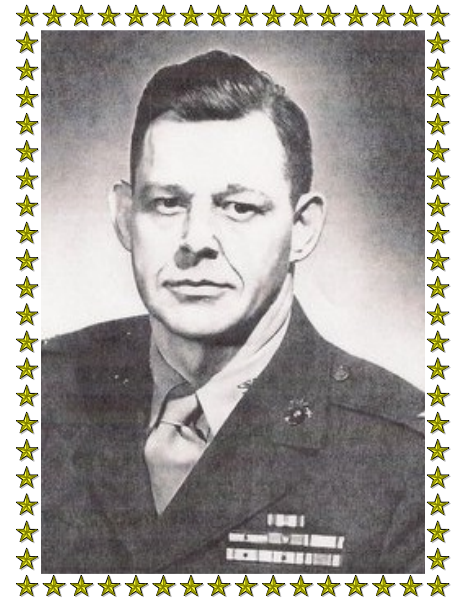
Wesley McCoy Platt, son of Wilkie W. Platt & Bertha L. Murray, was born May 26, 1914 in Summerville, Dorchester County, SC. He graduated from Summerville High School & from there went on to graduate with honors from Clemson University with a degree in Chemistry in 1935. While attending Clemson he was a member of the Corps of Cadets, Blue Key, Scabbard & Blade, Beta Sigma Chi, the Central Dance Association & Captain of the ROTC Boxing Team.

Wesley accepted an appointment as a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corp. & was assigned to the 2nd Marine Brigade in or near Shanghai, China in 1938 & 1939. He was later assigned to the 1st Defense Battalion in Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii. Four months before the Japanese attack, he was sent to Wake Island, a horse-shoe shaped atoll comprised of three small islands, Wake, Wilkes & Peale, located about 2,000 miles west of Hawaii.

By December, 1941 he was known as Captain Platt, second in command of the Marine Detachment, First Defense Battalion, Wake Island, & the strong point commander on Wilkes Island. He was well respected by his men. Cpl. John S. Johnson described him as "a good man & the very epitome of an officer & a gentleman...The more familiar you became with him, the more you respected him." PFC Robert E. Shores added, "He'd get right in there with you...He might not stay there all the time, but he wasn't too good to take one of them shovels or one of those sandbags or whatever...That's the reason we liked him. We'd have done anything for Captain Platt." It was said his men would follow him in to hell & have fun doing it.

On the infamous day of December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor & only five hours later began the bombardment of Wake Island where Captain Platt was stationed with 450 Marines. The bombing continued for four days before the Japanese

attempted their first land invasion on December 11th with three light cruisers, six destroyers and two transports carrying a Japanese Imperial Marine detachment. The Marine Defense Battalion repulsed the invasion without allowing a single invader to reach shore. In the process, they sunk two destroyers, the Hayate & Kisaragi, two destroyer-transport, & damaged two light cruisers & three other ships. The 450 Marines on Wake thus earned the noble distinction of being the only force in the entire war to defeat an amphibious assault. However, their victory did not stop the daily bombing of the island. After 12 days of punishing bombardment, the Japanese attempted their second invasion & landed soldiers on the beaches of Wake & Wilkes Islands before dawn on December 23, 1941. On Wilkes Island, Captain Platt & 70 Marines, armed with little more than vintage 1903 Springfield bolt-action rifles & hand grenades, set one transport on fire & trapped the landing Japanese on the beach. Four hours later, that landing had been defeated, but on Wake Island itself, hundreds of Marines were still battling the invading Japanese forces. Unbeknownst to Captain Platt, Commander Winfield Scott Cunningham, U.S.N., the atoll commander, out of contact with Wilkes, surrendered to the Japanese on Wake Island. Several hours later, Captain Platt & his victorious Marines were moving from Wilkes to reinforce Wake & continue the counterattack when Major Devereux, bearing a white flag & accompanied by the Japanese commander, intercepted Captain Platt & ordered him & his men to surrender. In a tense scene, Captain Platt, leading the charge with two .45 pistols & his Marines behind him, confronted the Major, yelling "Who the hell gave that order?" Witnesses reported a heated debate with Platt fuming: "Marines don't surrender, Major. Let us die right here." & Devereux replying, "I'm not asking you. I'm telling you. This is an order.



Colonel Wesley McCoy Platt, native of Summerville, was a war hero who served in WWII and the Korean War where he was killed in action.

You will surrender." Moments later, Platt threw his pistols to the ground, saying, "___!" The Marines' singular victory on Wilkes Island was in vain, overshadowed by the surrender.

Post war analyses of the Battle for Wake estimated that only 250 to 300 invaders were still alive when the Marines were ordered to surrender. Overall, the Japanese were believed to have lost 1,500 men or more in taking Wake Island, at least 13 killed for every American lost. The first Presidential Unit Citation of World War II, personally signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, went to the defenders of Wake Island & included the statement: "The courageous conduct of the officers & men who defended Wake Island ... will not be forgotten so long as gallantry & heroism are respected & honored."

The prisoners of war from Wake Island were first taken to Yokohama, Japan on the Nitta Maru & then to the Woosung prison camp near Shanghai, China, arriving there Jan. 24, 1942. The month long

★ Highlighting a Hero Cont. ★

voyage was a living hell. They were told, "You will be treated worse than Japanese soldier because you have no honor." Disobeying any one of twelve specific orders would be punished by death. In the manner of bushido, all were beaten unmercifully to teach them humility & to accept subordination. In the most gruesome event on the Nitta Maru, five men were selected for special punishment. In an on deck execution in front of 150 guards, the guard commander read the death sentence in Japanese, "You have killed many Japanese soldiers in battle. For what you have done, you are now going to be killed - for revenge. You are here as representatives of your American soldiers & will be killed. You can now pray to be happy in the next world - in heaven." It was not translated for the men to understand. They were then blindfolded, made to kneel, ceremonially beheaded, their bodies used for bayonet practice & then thrown overboard. At one point, to set an example for violating the no talking rule, Captain Platt, was severely beaten with a club. When he would not cry out, the Japanese struck him harder. Platt gritted his teeth, taking the rest of the beating in silence. Afterward, officers remembered that Platt, still bleeding from the mouth, told them, "Twarn't nothing." Even so, witnesses said Platt was visibly shaken by the severity of this beating. Well after the war, Lt John F. Kinney wrote, "The manner in which Captain Platt withstood this punishment set an excellent example of resistance for the rest of us to follow during our period of captivity. We must never give in. We must always show our enemies that we were stronger - at least in spirit - than they were."

The three following years spent in Woosung prison were not much better. In 1945, Captain Platt & other prisoners were moved from China through Manchuria & Korea to prison camp Hakodate #4, Japan, & held there until the Japanese surrender on August 15, 1945. The camp roster listed: "Platt, Wesley M., Capt, 05130, USA, USMC, 1st Def Bn, Wake" "Given Up for Dead, America's Heroic

Stand at Wake Island" by Bill Sloan gives an in depth account of the battle for Wake Island and the fates of the American military & civilians taken as prisoners of war.

Captain Platt returned to the United States in September 1945 & served in Charleston, South Carolina, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, & Camp LeJeune, North Carolina.

On August 5, 1946 in the Marine Corps Chapel at Quantico, Lt. Col. Wesley McCoy Platt married Jane Avery Price, widow of Captain Thomas Edwin Reagan, U.S. Army, killed in Europe in World War II. Wesley adopted their son, Thomas Edwin, Jr., who was severely stricken with polio. He spent many months personally giving physical therapy to Thomas. Because of Wesley's efforts, Thomas learned to walk.

From October 1946 to July 1947, Lt. Col. Platt was the Commanding Officer of the 4th Marines at the Naval Air Station, Kaneohe, Hawaii.

Wesley & Jane's daughter, Valerie Jane, was born in 1947.

In 1948 he was reassigned to Marine Corps Headquarters, Arlington, Virginia where he was promoted to Colonel in January 1951. Four months later, Col. Wesley McCoy Platt was ordered to Korea. He left Jane, Thomas, 8, &, Valerie, 4, in Falls Church, Virginia to await his return.

In Korea, Colonel Platt was assigned to the Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division. On September 27, 1951, in combat with North Korean & Chinese forces in the "Punch Bowl" in Kangwon province, he was mortally wounded while crossing a bridge when his jeep was hit by an artillery shell. He died at age 37, the highest ranking Marine to be killed in action in Korea.

The colonel's body was returned to Virginia & buried in Arlington National Cemetery on January 11, 1952 with full military honors. His funeral cortege included his bier pulled by six white horses following a company of Marines. Fifty years after his death, Jane was buried beside him.

Colonel Platt's awards & decorations include the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit with

Col. Platt, Highest Ranking Marine to Die in Korea, Buried

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11 (AP)—The Marines today buried their highest ranking officer to lose his life in Korea, Col. Wesley M. Platt.

He died Sept. 27 after being fatally wounded by enemy shrapnel and was borne to his grave in Arlington National Cemetery by eight Marines who served under him in the First Division in Korea.

Col. Platt is survived by his widow, Mrs. Jane Price Platt, and two children. They live at 810 Fisher Ave. Falls Church, Va.

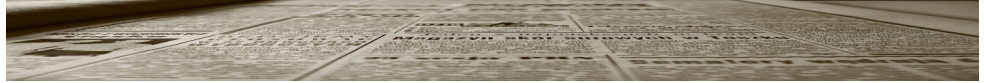
The colonel was born in Dorchester, S. C. and was a student at Clemson College before joining the Marine Corps in 1935. He won the Silver Star for gallantry in the defense of Wake Island early in World War II.

Combat "V", the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal with Wake Island Clasp, China Service Medal, American Defense Medal, Asian - Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, & the United Nations Service Medal (Korea). In other honors: the parade ground at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe, Hawaii, is named Platt Field; a bridge in Korea is named the Colonel Wesley McCoy Platt Bridge; & the Veterans Service Center in Charleston, West Virginia, is named for him.

On April 22, 2011, Colonel Wesley McCoy Platt was honored in a flag re-folding ceremony held at the Roark-Sullivan Lifeway Center (RSLC) in Charleston, West Virginia. The Colonel's funeral flag, donated by Ms. Valerie Platt Aulbert, the Colonel's daughter, is now displayed in the Colonel Wesley McCoy Platt Service Center, opened in 2008 by the RSLC to provide services to veterans in need.

The information composing this article was gathered from <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/26632747/wesley-mccoy-platt>

Archivist Notes...



Most of the calls I field from researchers pertain to wanting to do newspaper and/or genealogy research, or wondering if we have any diaries (or other personal documents) people can look into. Because of this, I usually find myself focusing on digitizing the more personal collections that have been donated or trying to finish digitizing the few Eagle Records we do have in our Archives. I have to remind myself that everything we

receive could contain a tidbit of information important to someone out there.

With that idea in mind, I have shifted focus to the Legare Walker Real Estate Papers. I have only digitized a couple thousand documents so far, but there have been a few hand-drawn plats and, of course, the important information of who owned what land and when. I am positive that this information will be very helpful to

researchers and historians once it's available on our research computers.

The Research Library is coming along nicely. At this time, we have approximately 6,000 documents already loaded onto the research computers. Each week, I add more information to the computers and one day soon all will be available to the public for research!

Christine Rice

Volunteer(s) of the Month!

When trying to decide on a Volunteer of the Month, I decided to instead choose a group of volunteers. The Heritage Museum is blessed with a broad base of adult volunteers who are willing to say "yes" to my pleas for assistance. However, I want to take this opportunity to also point out a wonderful group of young adult volunteers who don't get much

recognition. There are a number of young volunteers – Elizabeth, Alexis, Layton, Taylor, Isabella, Lexi, Trinity and Pollyanna – who are called upon to help on special projects throughout the year. Sometimes the projects are a little boring, sometimes they require manual labor, sometimes they are just plain fun. Hopefully, as these young

adults carry out their tasks, they are learning some valuable lessons – about life, about people and about history! Once again, **Elizabeth, Alexis, Layton, Taylor, Isabella, Lexi, Trinity and Pollyanna — THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for all that you have done for the Museum!**

LaClaire Mizell, Director



"You make a living by what you get.

You make a life by what you give."

~Winston Churchill



Have Some Spare Time on Your Hands?

Would you like to join the Volunteer Team at Dorchester County Archives & History Center's Heritage Museum? If you volunteer only 12 hours per month, you and a guest can get in **FREE** at amazing venues throughout the Lowcountry! These locations include

— Audubon Center at Francis Beidler Forest, Charles Towne Landing, Charleston Harbor Tours, The Charleston Tea Plantation, Drayton Hall, Gibbs Museum of Art, South Carolina Aquarium, Boone Hall Plantation, Magnolia Plantation & Gardens, Middleton Plantation,

& many, many more! If you would like to volunteer, please contact LaClaire Mizell at 843-931-1021 or go to our website and complete & return the Volunteer Agreement Form to LaClaire Mizell at 101 Ridge Street, St. George, 29477.





Want to learn to decorate
cakes?



Join Naomi Wimberly
At The Heritage Museum
For

Beginners' Cake Decorating Classes

Tuesdays, May 7, 14 & 21, 2019

At 10:00 am

\$40 each participant

To register, call (843) 931-1021 or

visit www.dca-hc.com

The Heritage Museum

101 Ridge Street

St. George





THE HERITAGE MUSEUM
AT THE DORCHESTER COUNTY ARCHIVES & HISTORY CENTER
101 RIDGE STREET, ST. GEORGE
(843) 931-1021 **E-mail at contact-us@dca-hc.com**

Beginners' Cake Decorating Classes
 led by **Naomi Wimberly** are being offered at
The Heritage Museum on
Tuesdays, May 7, 14 & 21, 2019 at 10:00 am.

Registration Fee is \$40.00 for the series of 3 classes.

Payment of the registration fee is due at time of registration.

Mail completed registration and payment to:
 Heritage Museum, 101 Ridge Street, St. George, SC 29477
 or register by phone at 843-931-1021.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ 2nd Phone #: _____

Other Comments: _____

_____ Yes _____ No The Heritage Museum has my permission to use photographs that may include me for museum promotional materials.

I, _____ (print name) will not hold the Heritage Museum, Dorchester County Archives & History Center, its staff, representatives, successors and assigns responsible for any accidents, injuries or damages that may occur while attending a program at the Museum.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Dorchester County -
As Seen Through the
Eyes of an Artist

Visit The Heritage Museum
to view a Photographic Exhibit
showcasing the amazing
photographs of
Brandon Coffey.

Photos will be available for purchase,
with delivery following the
close of the exhibition.

101 Ridge Street
St. George, SC 29477
(843) 931-1021
contact-us@dca-hc.com



Want to see evidence of the creatures that
swam in the Edisto River in
prehistoric times?

Or who walked where we walk?

Visit **The Heritage Museum**
to see the Expanded **Fossil Exhibit**,
showcasing the personal collection of
Dorchester County native **Lee Taylor**.

View over 430 prehistoric sharks' teeth,
whale & dolphin vertebrae, arrowheads and
much more!

101 Ridge Street
St. George, SC 29477
(843) 931-1021
contact-us@dca-hc.com

Museum Hours:

Sunday & Monday Closed
Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
(Last tickets sold at 1 hour before closing)

Admission:

Adults – \$5
Seniors (over 60) & Military – \$4
Students – \$3
(\$1 discount for groups of 10 or more)



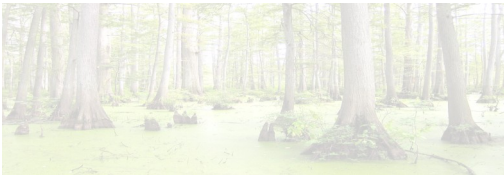
**DORCHESTER COUNTY
ARCHIVES & HISTORY
CENTER**



101 Ridge Street
St. George, SC 29477

Phone: 843-931-1021

Email: contact-us@dca-hc.com



**PRESERVING TODAY FOR
TOMORROW**

We're on Twitter, Instagram & Facebook!



This newsletter highlights the activities & current events at the Heritage Museum at the Dorchester County Archives & History Center. The DHA&HC is a Non-Profit Organization that was chartered in 2014. We believe that 'History is Perishable' and that the best way to care for the past is to tend to our future.

Mission - Preserving today for tomorrow.

Our mission is to preserve the county's heritage for future generations through innovative leadership, education, and programs by redefining the effort of preservation as a future-oriented, proactive set of behaviors engineered to intelligently and continually weave our values, stories, lands, and culture into the fabric of future growth.

Vision - Every man, woman and child mentally and emotionally engaged in the effort of preservation.

We believe that the stories of the people and places of Dorchester County should not be lost. We want families to document their *roots* and we want to interpret how our county has developed. We will base our public programs on research and documentation. We believe history is inclusive and will strive to keep a diverse Board of Directors and offer programs that appeal to all citizens. We will provide preservation oriented education and engagement opportunities and assistance to the people of Dorchester Co. by working with and through existing organizations and institutions.

Values—Our Stories, Our Families, Our Land, Our Culture & Our Future

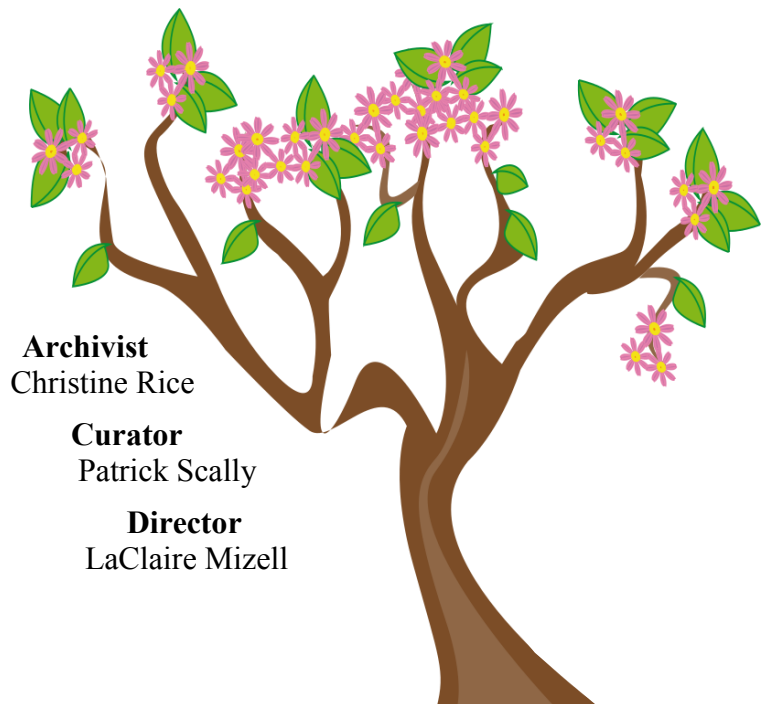
Learning local history helps children build connections to their community. Similarly, the only way we can understand others is by studying their past. We will provide opportunities for the community to engage in systematically archiving and retelling the story of Dorchester County.

Dorchester County Archives & History Center Board of Directors & Staff

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Rudd Smith, Vice Chair
William Blakely, Treasurer
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Ed Carter
Edsel Taylor
Harriet Holman
Monty Jones
Tracey Todd

Diane Frankenberger
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David Dement

LaClaire Mizell, Recording Secretary



Archivist
Christine Rice

Curator
Patrick Scally

Director
LaClaire Mizell