

December 10, 2025

Child's Pinafore

In simple terms, all history museums collect and preserve artifacts, stories, and items of significance that serve to assemble a story over time about a specific place. The Daufuskie Island History Museum is no different. Our collection of arrowheads and pottery shards, buttons, tools, personal items, documents and photographs help piece together thousands of years of island history, with an emphasis on more recent history, the last 300 years or so. Some items tell a specific story while others only suggest one.

Sometimes an item comes along that fits into the overall story, but can paint dozens of pictures in the mind of the historian. Our most recent museum addition is very personal item that suggests a variety of possible stories That item is a child's pinafore/apron that was found on Bloody Point beach by an island resident. It was brought to the museum for identification, and consultation with an outside historian dated it to the 1880-1920 time period.

The item is made from coarse material and suggested a utilitarian usage, like shellfish harvesting, food preparation or household chores, and the modest ruffles suggest a possible Gullah cultural connection. The time period, location and construction of the apron suggest a possible use in the oyster harvesting/shucking business that existed on Daufuskie during that period.

So, was this apron that turned up on Bloody Point beach the possession of a child working, or maybe just helping, in the oyster business? Did it belong to a child living in the area, possibly helping with cooking or household chores?

We can't know the answer, but we can know that it was once part of a personal story, belonging to a real child of Daufuskie. Come see this latest display and wonder along with the rest of us just who might have belonged to the pinafore. Look over all of our exhibits and take in the "big picture" of Daufuskie history.

