

December 13, 2025

Sarah Grant

Today our Daufuskie Island History Museum advent calendar post is about one of the more notable residents, one who many others could well say was responsible for them being here, Sarah Hudson Grant.

Sarah Hudson was born in Albany, Georgia June 2, 1888, first child to William Hudson and Alice Moore. The 1900 census records William Hudson residing on Daufuskie Island with his wife and five children, one of whom was Sarah.

Sarah married Joseph Grant in 1912, and two years later gave birth to their only child, Louis. She began her career as a midwife in 1932 and continued until 1969, delivering 130 babies and never losing one. After each birth, she stayed with new mothers for up to a week, helping with care, chores, and whatever was needed. All for a modest fee of \$5 (later \$10).

In addition to her midwife duties, "Miss Sally" as she was affectionately known, was an oyster shucker and member of the Brothers and Sisters Oyster Union Society, PTA President, a "box manager" for island elections and recognized as Daufuskie Island's unofficial mayor. She was a dedicated member of the First Union African Baptist Church, a choir member, deaconess and Sunday school teacher.

Her husband, Joseph, was the island undertaker until his death, and Sarah took over his duties at his passing. It was a saying on the island that "Granny bring em in en she take 'em away".

Sarah Grant passed away on April 27, 1977, leaving an enduring legacy and eternal footprint on Daufuskie Island.

Sarah purchased the carriage she used for her rounds from Jim Goodwin, a Bloody Point resident. It was donated to the Daufuskie Island Historical Foundation in 2001 in a state of disrepair. The Foundation raised funds for restoration, and in 2015 the carriage was restored to its original appearance by Amish craftsmen in Leola, Pennsylvania at the Leola Coach Shop. Funds were also supplied to build the carriage barn next to the History Museum, where the carriage resides today.

Inside the museum building we also have a display dedicated to Sarah Grant and her midwife duties. Instruments she used as well as a scale for weighing the newborns are shown.



MIDWIFE'S CARRIAGE

The Midwife's Carriage was built in the late 1800s and was used by midwives to transport their patients to the hospital. It was a small, white wooden structure with a gabled roof and a door that could be opened from the inside. The carriage was used for many years and is now a historical landmark.

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