



## Spring Edition

MAY 2021

The mission of the Fairfield County Museum is to preserve the history of the county through the collection of significant artifacts and interpretation of the personal stories of its citizens. The museum not only serves as a repository of the county's rich heritage but also as an active resource for the education and cultural enrichment of our county's citizens and visitors. Housed within the building is a staffed genealogy research facility that assists those researching their Fairfield County ancestors.

231 SOUTH CONGRESS STREET

WINNSBORO, SC 29180

(803) 635-9811

[fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)

[www.fairfieldsc.com/departments/museum](http://www.fairfieldsc.com/departments/museum)



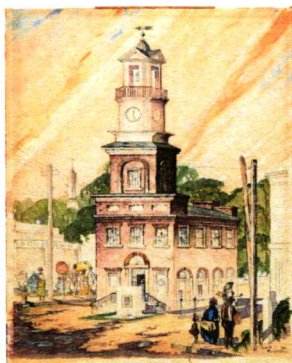
# FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM News

## We're celebrating Spring of 2021 with a bounce in our step and a new look for our newsletter!

*The COVID-19 pandemic has put all of us in a year-long slump, but we are looking ahead now with enthusiasm and optimism. We hope you'll join us on our trek back to normalcy!*

### WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE MUSEUM?

We now have a 19<sup>th</sup> century doctor's buggy! Last fall, before the old Thomas store warehouse in Ridgeway was to be taken down, the family gifted this buggy to the museum. We'll let you know when we get it cleaned up and ready for viewing! For info on the Thomas store, click [here](#).



Gracing the cover of the new walking tour map is a Russell Henderson watercolor. Henderson (1890-1959) was a nationally known cartoonist-artist illustrating in Pittsburg, Chicago, Ohio, and Charlotte. As a distant relative of the late Mrs. Mary McDonald, he spent his last years in Winnsboro creating vignettes of Southern life as well as illustrating for *The State* newspaper. This original painting, donated to the museum by the Blackwell sisters, Betty Cloutier and Mary Kilby, is now displayed in the first-floor hallway.

The Means family cemetery in western Fairfield County is the burial site of the only state governor from our county, John Hugh Means, who died at Second Manassas in 1862. This past November, the vastly overgrown cemetery was cleaned up by volunteers Adam and Edward Clement, sons of Mark and Harriet Clement. Descendants of the governor, Dr. Robert Means and his family, toured the cemetery on a visit to Winnsboro just before Christmas, so the cleanup was certainly timely!



## Director's Update

### We have missed you during this pandemic!

Although the museum was closed, our staff was inside busily preparing exhibits and events that will unfold throughout this year. Here are some of the things we've been doing behind closed doors!

#### BUILDING & GROUNDS RENOVATIONS

Our building was constructed circa 1830 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. As such, any renovations must meet the US Secretary of the Interior standards for the rehabilitation of historic buildings. The restoration ongoing at the museum is the first major work undertaken since the building was given to Fairfield County in the 1960s and restored for its opening in 1976 as the county's historic museum.

The County Council approved a 5-year plan and Year One began in February 2019 with restoration of the front door, new framing, and new gutters.

#### Window restoration

Year Two began in October 2019 with work on the badly deteriorated windows. Seven ground floor and 14 upper floor windows have been restored.

Renovation of the 23 remaining windows was to take place under Year Three of the plan but has been delayed due to cuts in county funding.

#### New plantings

Our back yard is now enhanced with blossom and fruit trees, thanks to the county and local garden clubs! The county purchased several of two varieties of flowering trees -- Weeping Higan Cherry and Weeping Snow Fountain Cherry. The Town and Country and Anemone garden clubs purchased two heirloom Hoover apple trees and a brown turkey fig tree to add to our collection of fruiting trees. Our Kieffer pear tree has already born a few pears in its first season last summer.

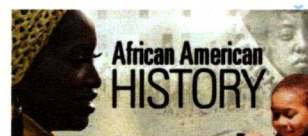
We are in the process of labeling the trees so you can identify them on your strolls through the yard.

#### NEW EXHIBITS

The upcoming *History of Freemasonry in South Carolina and Fairfield County* exhibit will feature artifacts from the late 1800s to the early 1900s. These items were donated by Bill McDonald, whose grandfather, James Edwin McDonald, was a Grand High Priest in the Royal Arch Masons during 1902-1904.



The exhibit will also include a loan of antique masonic jewels from Winnsboro Lodge No.11. These artifacts are said to be the jewels that Catharine Ladd dashed out of her home to rescue from General Sherman's arsonists on February 21, 1865, while her own home on the corner of Moultrie and Congress streets was burned to the ground.



We are currently exploring our records that document the African American history of our community for a new exhibit. Featured will be images and documents from the Revolutionary War through the present, as well as a tour guide of African American historical sites in Winnsboro.

If anyone has photos, documents, or artifacts to contribute to this exhibit, please contact us at (803) 635-9811 or [fairfieldmus@truvista.com](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.com). We are also interested in recording oral histories and welcome individuals' recollections.

*Image courtesy of the National Archives*

**COLLECTIONS DATABASE CONVERSION**

One of the most important resources a museum can have is its collections database. This database helps museum staff both care for the items in the museum and create vibrant exhibits open to the public. Our current database was established in 2008; fifteen years later, we're upgrading to a new cloud-based service. In addition to helping us better manage our collection, this service will also provide the ability to make pictures and descriptions of our items publically available online. This means that researchers and members of our community will be able to digitally "explore" our archives while the objects remain safely preserved in storage.

We'll update you on the progress of this project and let you know when you can access the museum's archives.

**HOORAY! THE MUSEUM IS OPEN AGAIN!**

Pop in to see what's new and linger a bit to appreciate the museum's authentic 19<sup>th</sup> century ambiance.

Visiting hours are:

Monday-Friday	10:00 am -5:00 pm
Saturday	10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Sunday	Closed

**SPRING**  
*Membership Drive*  
MAY 10 – May 24, 2021

**Join or renew your membership now through May 24 and be entered in our raffle for a \$25 Visa gift card!**

Fill out the membership form found on page 7 and mail or drop off at the museum. And, remember, your membership is a tax-deductible donation!



**MEET OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEERS!**

We are extremely fortunate to have three very talented people donating their time and expertise to the museum—Brittany Ashley, Sharon Spicciati, and Phil Jacobs.

Brittany is coordinating our database conversion and working with our archives and textile collections. She comes to the museum with over ten years of experience in records and information management. A graduate of Furman University (BA, History, magna cum laude) and the University of South Carolina (MLIS), Brittany has a deep love of history and culture. An avid weaver, she is always working to expand her knowledge of historical textiles. A special interest is the political economy of handwoven goods, notably overshot coverlets, produced by enslaved persons in the pre-war South. Brittany is excited to work with the museum as it continues to grow in collections management.

Sharon is our media volunteer and will assist with the newsletter, news releases, social media, promotional material, and research. Originally from Wheaton, Illinois, she now lives in Winnsboro and is merrily nurturing a wildflower garden at her new home. Sharon's marketing career spans corporate communications, advertising, editing, and technical writing. She now works with small businesses to help them achieve their marketing goals.

A new resident of Newberry County, Dr. Philip Jacobs became interested in Fairfield County when he discovered that one of his relatives resided here for several years in the late eighteenth century. Having taught in academia in North Carolina, Phil is the author of four academic texts on religious history, religious literature, art history, women's studies, and photographic history.

His research and scholarship have been recognized through grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, New York Council of the Arts, South Carolina Historical Society, South Carolina Humanities Council, the University of Virginia, and the Huntington Museum of West Virginia.

## In Memoriam

### Sarah Symmes Boulware July 31, 1918 ~ February 19, 2021

With great sadness, we acknowledged the passing of a much-loved and respected resident of Winnsboro, Sarah Boulware, aged 102. A 1939 graduate of the University of Georgia in Athens, Sarah taught biology and physical education at Mt. Zion High



School. She married Louis Melvin Boulware in 1942 and during their marriage the couple lived in many places including Penny Farms, FL, New Bedford, MA, and Wyckoff, NJ, moving back to Winnsboro in 1964.

Sarah's life was enriched by her many and varied interests, among them the Fairfield County Museum. In gratitude for her invaluable patronage, the museum presented her with The Distinguished Service Award for Museum Patronage in 2016.

Sarah is survived by three daughters, Meg Hampton, Barbara Nolan, and Betsy Wethersbee, who lives in Winnsboro.

## Cobbler's Bench

This cobbler's bench was recently donated to the museum by Colonel William Haynes from Maryville, TN. It was used in his grandfather's Winnsboro leather shop. Col. Haynes and his wife Caroline also gave us a substantial monetary donation, for which we are greatly appreciative. To all our donors who generously and consistently support our mission, we say THANK YOU!



## Ancient Cooking Pot

### Mississippian Era 1300-1400 A.D. Found in Lake Wateree

The pre-Columbian cooking vessel that came to us several years ago has been restored and is now displayed at the museum.

Archaeologists date the container to 1300-1400 A.D. when Mississippian period lifeways were in full swing in the Wateree Valley. The hallmark of this period was the construction of large earthen ceremonial mounds, around which villages and towns were settled. A number of ancient village sites were flooded in 1919 when a hydroelectric dam was built in the Wateree/Catawba river valley. This earthenware cooking pot was found in the shallow waters of

Lake Wateree in the 1940s by local attorney/historian Norwood Obear. The lake waters had been very low at the time and Mr. Obear was able to see the outline of the rim just under the surface of the water. The pot's surface design was pressed into damp clay with a carved wooden paddle. This particular pattern, known as Arc-Angle Complicated Stamp, is a common design found at the Town Creek Indian mound in North Carolina. Professionals assign the name Pee Dee or Town Creek to the style of the pot.



Mr. Arthur Price and his daughter recently visited the museum to view the Pee Dee pot. Mr. Price is a collector whose artifact collection was featured several years ago in a Native American exhibit and event.

## Ida Lou and James Macfie Wedding Quilt



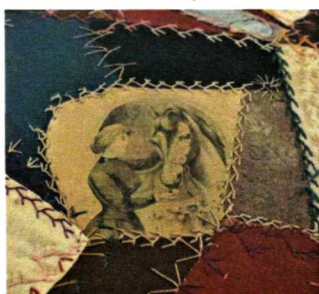
*Crazy quilts, such as the Macfie's above, are patchworks of different designs, colors, and textures. They became popular in the late 1800s.*

This stunning **crazy quilt** was gifted to the museum by Flo Recoulley. It had come to her through the estate of Betty MacFie who was the only child of Mrs. Ida Lou Macfie and Lt. James M. Macfie.

Ida Lou Morgan was a teacher; in 1920 she taught in her hometown of Edgefield and in 1922 she came to Winnsboro to teach at Mt. Zion Institute. Most likely that is how she and Lt. Macfie met—he had served in the military during World War I and became a rural mail carrier for the post office near Mt. Zion.

*A patch from Ida's quilt is shown below. Crazy quilting was fashionable among urban, upper-class women, when fabrics from the newly-industrialized 19th century textile industry became available.*

*Quilters in rural areas and small towns adopted the patterns of the urban quilts but used sturdier, more practical fabrics, and dropped the earlier quilts' ornate embroidery and embellishment.*



The quiltmaker is believed to be Cora McDowell, who was a neighbor and childhood playmate of James Macfie's mother, Lorena Milling. The Macfies, Millings, and McDowells all lived in the Scots-Irish community settlement around Jackson Creek where the old stone church walls stand in a mystically beautiful ancient cemetery. Cora was a dressmaker/seamstress by trade, and undoubtedly was the quilter of the Macfie wedding quilt or assisted the bride Ida Lou in making the quilt.

Drop by the museum or click [here](#) for more info on crazy quilts and the Macfie family.

## Mack the Knife

Robert White of *The Country Chronicle* newspaper interviewed 84-year-old Blair resident Mack Smith at the museum about Mack's lifelong "hobby" of knife making. The museum exhibited Mack's knives during the spring/summer of 2017.

The knives are truly unique in design and material; they do not look or feel like store-bought knives. And, that is what makes them such sought-after pieces.

"People from North and South Carolina seek Smith out to purchase his knives," says White. "He does not have a website, Facebook page, or an email. Customers come to him because someone pulls a knife out of their pocket or tells a story about Mr. Mack the knife maker."

Mack has made skinning knives for deer hunters, cleavers for chefs, folding-knives for gentlemen and machetes for farmers.

And, he plans to keep making them!

Click [here](#) or visit us for full interview.



## Honoring Our Heritage

### To chart our future, we must map the past.

Knowing where we came from can shape the direction of where we're going. Become a part of that journey with a membership in the Fairfield County Historical Society.

Your financial support helps produce programs that promote and stimulate interest in Fairfield County's role in the development of our state and nation. Your volunteer support is also invaluable, as our volunteers assist in the collection of significant artifacts and documents to promote the museum's goals and programs.

Housed within our building is the Fairfield County Genealogy Society. Significant contributions of both the historical society and genealogical society volunteers include the discovery and documentation of historic sites in Fairfield County, such as lost cemeteries, endangered sites, and vulnerable structures. In particular, the recovery of many important documents and photos has given us a greater understanding of and compassion for our heritage.

Your support of the Fairfield County Historical Society enables us to fulfill our mission to educate citizens and visitors by recording and interpreting the stories and history of our area's people.

If you're interested in discovering our county's rich heritage, become a member of the Fairfield County Historical Society.

**Your donations  
are tax deductible  
and very much  
appreciated!**



#### FAIRFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Your membership in the Fairfield County Historical Society helps us with the procurement of museum collection pieces and providing curatorial assistance. The Society produces special events such as the annual



Christmas Open House and special educational programs. Members assist museum staff in the discovery of new artifacts, restoration and repair of antiquities, the production of changing exhibits, maintaining social media platforms, and generating publicity. If you appreciate history and believe it is essential in building civic engagement and community pride, then become a member or donor of the Fairfield Historical Society today.

#### FAIRFIELD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



The Fairfield County Genealogy Society promotes genealogy through education of its members and the public. Through their educational research center on the

second floor of the museum, they provide access to genealogical information in Fairfield County, as well as assistance to those researching their ancestors. Membership helps maintain the research center, as well as provide educational programs and conferences to explore cultural, genealogical, and historical topics. It also allows the FCGS to continue the dissemination of cultural, genealogical, historical, and biographical information to members and the public. Email them at [fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net) or visit their website at [www.fairfieldgenealogysociety.org](http://www.fairfieldgenealogysociety.org).

# Membership Form

Cultivate your appreciation of history by becoming a member today!



## FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Membership Classifications

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Individual 1-year
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 Family 1-year
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$125.00 Corporation/Business 1-year
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$250.00 Life Membership

Make check payable to:

Fairfield County Historical Society

### Special Gifts

Mail form and tax-exempt donation to:

Fairfield County Historical Society  
PO Box 6  
Winnsboro SC 29180

- \$\_\_\_\_\_ The Catharine Stratton Ladd Fund (for the upkeep of the museum's interior)
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Douglass Memorial Fund
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other donation/memorial:  
In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Non-profit 501(c)(3)  
Tax Exempt Number  
57-0763348

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU**



Visit our Facebook page for in-depth info on many locales in Fairfield County.



Like the J. O. Boag store that was a hub of commerce and music in the years after the Civil War. This photo could have been taken between 1870-1890 when Winnsboro had recovered from the war years and its downtown was flourishing. A brass plate with BOAG on it used to be embedded in the sidewalk on a corner of Congress Street. It was likely part of the store's front entrance walkway in the early 20th century. Find us at [#fairfieldcountymuseum](https://www.facebook.com/fairfieldcountymuseum).

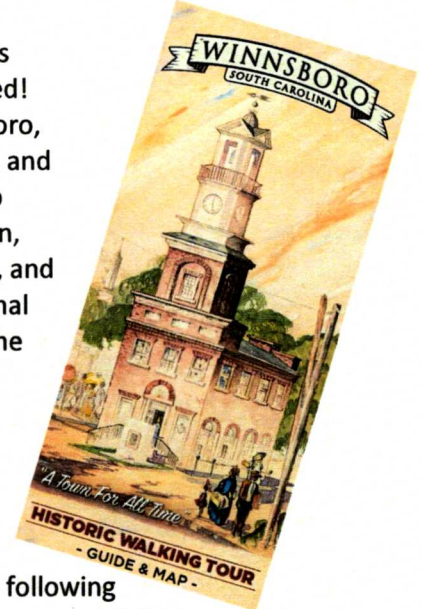


## Just Off the Press. . . New Walking Tour Brochure!

If there is a silver lining to be found within the COVID pandemic, it's that the publication of the Historic Walking Tour guide was achieved! Loaded with photos and historical data on 56 sites around Winnsboro, the brochure highlights homes, schools, churches, public buildings, and other locales. Starting at the Clock Tower (of course!) the tour map takes you through the streets of Washington, Zion, Hudson, Bratton, College, N. Congress, Fairfield, N. Garden, Drayton, Park, Chalmers, and then over to Vanderhorst, S. Garden, Liberty, and Moultrie, with final destination at 601 S. Congress. Put on your comfy shoes to enjoy the entire 5.296 miles of the tour.

In addition to being available free of charge at the Winnsboro Chamber of Commerce, the Fairfield County Historical Museum, and local stores, the Historic Walking Tour brochure will be distributed at all South Carolina visitor centers.

The guide was made possible by contributions and grants from the following organizations: Fairfield County, Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce, Fairfield County Historical Society, Fairfield County Museum, Fairfield Forward, Eat Smart, Move More of Fairfield County, and Town of Winnsboro.



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**231 SOUTH CONGRESS STREET**  
**PO BOX 6**  
**WINNSBORO, SC 29180**



*Weeping Higan Cherry tree in  
back yard of the museum*