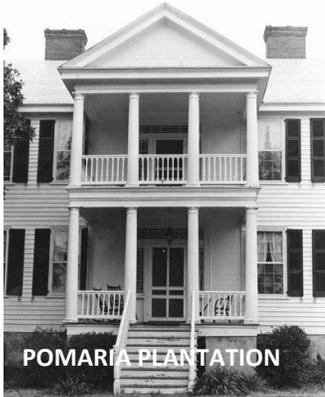


## Announcements and Spring Events at the Fairfield County Museum

The Fairfield County Historical Society and the Museum invite everyone to the annual spring membership meeting on Sunday, May 17. The program opens at 3 PM with a short business meeting in the Pine Tree Players Theater across the street from the Museum, followed with a presentation by **Dr. James Kibler** about his research on the **19<sup>th</sup> Century Pomaria Nursery** located across the Broad River in Newberry County. It was the first major nursery to develop in the lower and middle South and became the center of a bustling town that, today, bears its name. Owners Adam and William Summer were leading figures in the mid- Nineteenth Century agricultural reform movement and their commercial nursery provided the landscaping materials for many notable gardens and plantations across the South. The Summers pioneered a scientific approach to horticulture with their new techniques for fruit tree and flower breeding and the nursery introduced new ornamentals to the American continent. Many identifiable specimens of early

horticultural stock have been documented through original ledger invoices, some individual plants surviving in the gardens of Fairfield County's historic homes. Interested historic structure owners may discover the history of their garden plantings in Dr. Kibler's compilation of the nursery sales records to area residents in the 1800s.



Following the program, a reception will be held in the Museum. Dr. Kibler, in addition to several other historians, will be on hand for conversation. Notably, Linda Jack, of the Nevada County California Historical Society will be visiting Fairfield and attending the May 17 presentation, hoping to meet descendants of some South Carolinians that she has been studying. Her current work researching Southerners in the California Gold Rush of 1849 involves her search for details about two brothers of Dr. James Bolton Davis, whom

students of history will recognize as the builder of a palatial Antebellum home overlooking Lake Monticello in western Fairfield. Dr. Davis spent some years in the 1840s as the Agricultural Ambassador to the Sultan of Turkey and brought back some of the first Brahmin cattle, cashmere goats, and black water buffalo to South Carolina. His brothers Jonathan and Nathan Davis had gone to California to join the Gold Rush. A fascinating incident in 1854 involved Jonathan, Jr. and two companions who were beset by a gang of 14 goldfield cutthroats in a California mountain pass. Captain Davis's two companions were killed outright, but he stood his ground with a pair of Colt Revolvers and, one after another, put the attackers in the dirt. When the attackers closed on Davis with Bowie knives; one wielded a sword. Davis drew his own Bowie, parried one thrust and stabbed the sword wielder to death. Then he disarmed another assailant with a stroke that severed a finger from his attacker's right hand, followed by a backslash that took off the man's nose. Two remaining miscreants went down before the South Carolinian's slashing blade. Another miner witnessed the affray from a high ridge and the affair has been memorialized in history and art.

Another project that will be announced in the meeting is a campaign to raise funds for the restoration of the iconic Ebenezer Old Brick Church's historical cemetery. Church chairman Oliver Johnson is spearheading a survey to locate descendants of the families associated with the church and buried within its picturesque walled enclosure. Readers of this message are requested to contact Oliver at (803) 815-0664 or by email at [oj68wp@gmail.com](mailto:oj68wp@gmail.com) to help him with this task.



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