



FAIRFIELD COUNTY MUSEUM NEWS

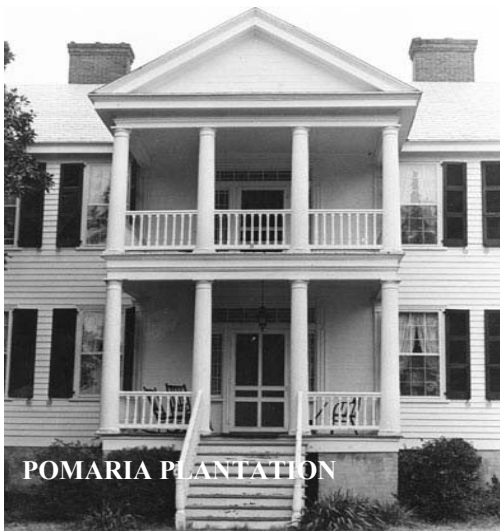
SPRING/SUMMER, 2015

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 the 19th 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 or-

namentials 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.

The 2015 William Banks Patrick Award for historical restoration and the Distinguished Service Award for Volunteerism will be announced. The program will then adjourn for a reception in the museum's dining room where 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.

Jonathan Davis



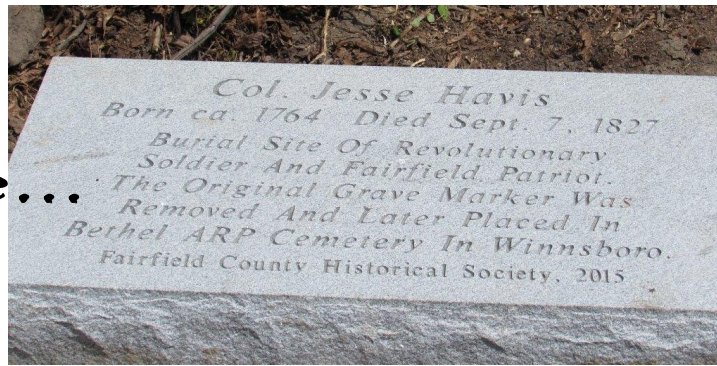
**Dr. J. B. Davis
homeplace**



A Tale of the Missing Tombstone...

Volunteers Ed Gates and David Wright have erected this handsome monument, paid for by historical society funds, to mark the final resting place of Revolutionary patriot Col. Jesse Havis near the property where his home place once stood. The 1820 Robert Mills survey map of Fairfield District shows the approximate location of his or his father's colonial period land grant located 1/10 of mile on north side of US Highway # 200 near the fork of County road #41 in the woods, and old records told of Col. Havis's request to be buried there. For many years, a large granite slab marked this spot until it was stolen a few decades ago.

John Andrews, a Havis descendant from Charlotte, had located the burial spot nearly 20 yrs. ago. It was a difficult task finding the remains of the grave, but he had kept careful notes on how the remaining support stones and old brick foundations were found.



Neighbor Ed Arnette helped find the remains and also located the missing slab that was being used as a picnic table by a neighborhood resident. As there was uncertainty about where to relocate the large slab, it was placed in the old Bethel ARP cemetery in Winnsboro near the graves of Havis's wife's family members.

Intervening years of tree growth and timbering operations had scattered the bricks and stones that had remained to mark the grave, so Ed and David's sleuthing of old records and maps were essential to finding the sunken grave depression. Mr. Andrews had applied for a Veterans' Affairs bronze

marker which was delivered to the museum in 1998 with no notice of why or who had sent it to the museum. I found a blatant misspelling of the word Revolutionary and returned it to the Veterans' Affairs office.

About a year ago, the corrected cast bronze marker was delivered to the museum. A letter from Mr. Andrews accompanied it and Ed contacted him. With his health problems, Mr. Andrews couldn't get back to Winnsboro to try to relocate the grave, so Ed and David took it upon themselves to relocate the grave and the historical society opted to fund the creation of a new granite grave marker.

In late April, Ed, Suzanne Johnson, and Joe Green constructed the mold for mounting the new marker in cement at the grave site. David used his new front-end loading tractor to install the massive granite marker after delivery by Phillips Granite. Ed has since been working on doing some cleaning up of the forestry operation debris which had littered and disguised the site for several years.

Col. Havis (1764-1827) not only was a Revolutionary War Patriot, but was also instrumental in establishing Methodism in Fairfield Co. His name is on the document of trustees for the First Meth. Methodist Meeting House in Winnsboro and on two other documents establishing Methodist churches in nearby communities. These connections tie him into the establishment of Methodism in our area. **Rev. Bundy Bynum** is working on a project to erect a historical marker in the cemetery of First Methodist because of this important history.



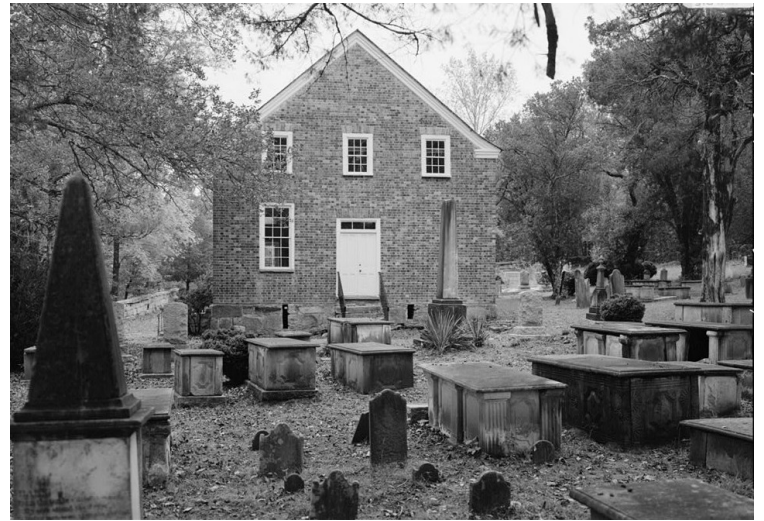
David and Ed Hard at Work

OTHER EXCIT- ING GOINGS ON IN OUR COMMUNITY

**OTHER ITEMS TO MARK IN
YOUR NOTES AND CALEN-
DARS:THIS MONTH:**

Another project that will be announced in the May 17 meeting is a campaign to raise awareness for the restoration of the iconic Ebenezer Old Brick Church 's his-

torical 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 to help him with this task.



HISTORIC EBENEZER A.R.P CHURCH AND CEMETERY

SATURDAY, MAY 16

HOME & GARDEN TOUR



May 16 Ticket Sales: 245 Walnut Street, Winnsboro, SC

11 Venues in Historic Winnsboro & Ridgeway SC
May 16, 2015 • Saturday 10-4

\$15 Advance • \$20 Day of Tour
Proceeds benefit Mt. Zion Institute

For Information and tickets:

www.mtzioninstitute.com • fomzi@mtzioninstitute.com
Telephone: 803/712-9428

MEMORIAL DAY, MONDAY, MAY 25

Installation of the **Heroic World War II monument** honoring the fallen soldiers .The program will start with a Memorial Day Parade on Congress St. from the south end of town to Mt. Zion campus at 4 PM. There will be WWII reenactors, military transport for our 10 surviving WWII veterans, dignitaries, and officials in the parade.

At the monument on the campus there will be a program featuring keynote speaker Vietnam Veteran Lieutenant Cleve McClary, who is supporting the

Wounded Warriors Project. Lt. McClary was wounded in service and has 3 purple hearts and several silver and bronze stars.



There will be on display military memorabilia and the WWII veterans will be presented and honored along with the unveiling of the new monument with bronze eagle. There will be a 6 pm – 8 pm reception after the dedication in the Mt. Zion Memorial Park area..



FAIRFIELD COUNTY MUSEUM

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Winnsboro, SC, 29180

Phone: 803-635-9811

<http://fairfieldsc.com/secondary.aspx?pageID=125>

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Please Join Our Museum Support Organization

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

I. Individual for one year \$ 15.00

F. Family for one year \$ 20.00

Corp. Business for one year \$125.00

Life. \$250.00

Special Gift for:

“The Catharine Stratton Ladd Fund” \$ _____

A fund for the upkeep of the interior of the Fairfield County House Museum

“Douglass Memorial Fund for Shutters” \$ _____

A fund for the purchasing of window shutters for the exterior.

Optional donation/memorial: \$ _____

In Memory of: _____

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

Please inform us of address and family member changes. Send your renewal and tax exempt donations to

The Fairfield County Historical Society

P. O. Box 6

Winnsboro, SC, 29180