What’s Going on...

What Friends are For...

It’s officially summertime and the museum is busier than ever. Thanks to the generosity of the Fairfield County Arts Council and an individual donor, Friends of the Museum seem to be everywhere. These contributions have allowed the museum to add on two additional summer student intern slots that complement the two annually funded positions provided through the Fairfield County Council. John McCants, Albert Jackson, Will Hemlepp, and Anna Mobley have joined our ongoing Captured Moments oral history production team managed by staff members Michaela Brown and Yvette Howard. In addition, Patrice Weldon and Corinne Reed are working as volunteers, giving the museum a total of 6 extraordinary young assistants. The fruits of their labors will be the production of a collection of oral history short films and assisting with a new exhibit to open in a few weeks.

Since last fall, Captured Moment staff has collected over 75 hours of interviews with elder county citizens in varied locations around the area, even traveling out of state to interview some descendants of former Fairfield County slaves. They have gathered material on a variety of topics ranging from wars, periods of world change, religion, farming and country life, through childhood and romance. The first 17-minute production was put together as a recruiting tool for museum partnerships and brought

Our Newest Exhibit Opens...

Please join us on Thursday evening, July 10 (6 to 8 PM) at the museum for an opening reception, hosted by the Fairfield County Museum and Brown Studios, premiering Birthing a Community—Fairfield County Midwives. The exhibit and film production portrays the history of midwifery in Fairfield County from slavery times to the present-day practices of specialized prenatal care and home birthing. The exhibition offers a brief tribute to more than thirty midwives, including Mrs. Verola Maple, the last of a generation of midwives still living in the county today.

The ladies who delivered generations of babies had as much to do with the spiritual health of their patients and communities, as with their physical health and their communities’ survival as stalwart keepers of community trust.

Included in the exhibition are tools of the trade dating back to the 1800s, photos of midwives in training at Benedict College and the Penn School, medical items belonging to Fairfield County’s own Drs Floyd, Buchanan, and McCants. Also on dis-
Achieving our mission goals

For the past three years our museum has received this IMLS Museums for America grant which has allowed the Fairfield County Museum to more fully actualize the tenets of our original mission:

- To stimulate interest and appreciation of the role of Fairfield County in the development of South Carolina and the nation.
- To preserve the history of the county through the collection of significant artifacts and interpretation of the personal stories of its citizens.
- To identify and document historic properties and sites within the county.
- To educate citizens and visitors about the heritage of Fairfield County.

Since its inception in the 1960s, our small-town museum has done an admirable job of preserving and protecting its collection, but with these additional resources, we have been able to discover more thoroughly the history of Fairfield County. Federally administered IMLS funds have allowed us to upgrade our services to industry standards, purchase equipment and supplies, and upgrade collection procedures with a state-of-the-art digital database program which ensures the collection’s long-term preservation and easy retrieval of documentation. In addition, the collection and film documentation of personal stories of our citizens will offer invaluable resources to researchers, exhibitors, genealogists, and others who would benefit from having access to original source material. As electronic media storage systems evolve, we hope that our storehouse of DVDs and film footage can be indexed and catalogued for electronic access.

Opening...

Play will be pieces from private collectors in the county, photos from the Caroliniana Library collection, and items from the Penn Center of St. Helena Island.

Captured Moment Oral Histories is a project funded by a Museums for America grant from the United States Institute of Museum and Library Services. Michaela Brown of Brown Studios and Yvette Howard, in partnership with the Museum, will present a film on midwives featuring interviews with their descendants. In celebration of families, women’s health, and healthy babies, the Fairfield County Museum will host a series of talks and family days as part of our Museum Without Walls programming.

Please join us for a wine, punch, and cheese reception and opening.

Remembering some Friends...

- Bill and Susan Randall and Bubba Lyles gave memorial funds in remembrance of Sally Lyles to help upgrade the film editing computer for Captured Moment.
- A kind gift was given to the Museum by Mark and Marion Timms in remembrance of John Creighton McMaster.
- Sadly, Mrs. Frances Robertson passed away before seeing the finalization of the eighteenth century McCreight log barn that she donated.
- David who died in a plane crash last year. Both of the Foxes labored in the heat of that first work weekend helping to erect the walls of the barn. Mrs. Fox also donated funding for this summer’s additional student interns.
- Others have donated much time, money, and construction resources to the barn reconstruction and other recent projects: George Williams, Curt Turner, Keith Brewington, Pat and Harmon Patrick, Bobby Taylor, Bill Pooler, Doug McCreight, Charles Ketchin, Billy Clowney, Val Green, Ervin Belk, George Langdale, Jimmy Burroughs, and Billy Clowney have given freely of resources and funds. Several members of the McCreight family members not only donated financial resources, but a number of them drove from far-away locations along the eastern seaboard to work on the barn.
- Rufus Timm’s grandfather’s cotton gin is another barn donation that has been waiting in storage for the completion of a secure enclosure of the barn’s exterior shed walls. Currently, the gin is being stored off site until the barn’s exterior shed walls have been completed and can offer a secure home.

How Can You Help?

Statistics show that the roles of cultural institutions communities encompass more than its supporting agencies are often times willing to provide sufficient resources and services for. Libraries, museums, and arts providers are recognized for improving the services and quality of life of its citizens. But often, the economic development benefits of such organizations are overlooked and local government recruits only along conventional industrial avenues.

The Fairfield County Museum needs your support and depends on the support that organizations such as Friends can provide. The staff would like to remind everyone that besides volunteer services, resources are often in short supply. By renewing your annual membership, you can help at any level you are able to give. Please note that if your mailing label on the front of this newsletter has a red star, it is time to renew your membership status. A form is included in the letter. Please take time to send us a check.
Historic Properties

Mt. Zion: The museum has been involved in the movement to save the 1936 Mt. Zion Institute properties that were slated for demolition by the Town of Winnsboro. A temporary “stay of execution” from demolition is allowing the FOMZI (Friends of Mt. Zion Institute) six months to come up with a suitable plan for rehabilitating and reusing the property. Midlands Technical College is being considered as the anchor organization to occupy the ground floor while several educational and cultural organizations are interested in other spaces.

Lyles Ford: In investigating some archaeological ruins of an early settlement near the Broad River and Beaver Creek, further exploration has uncovered some eighteenth century features that figured greatly in the development of our county and in the westward expansion of our young nation. Historical research on our finds reveals that the volunteers have located an intact section of a southern branch of the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road which brought settlers from Pennsylvania, Virginia, and other northern colonies to our area. Two tumbledown sections of parallel stone walls beside the river have proven not to be the previously supposed ruins of an old grist mill. It is now clear that they represent the remains of a canal built as early as 1785 to assist early citizens in getting boats around the dangerous rocky shoals of the river. This crossing, called Lyles Ford in the late 1700s up until its disuse in the early part of the 20th Century, has been used for hundreds and thousands of years for crossing place in the Broad River. An additional site not yet found is the cabin site where Ephraim Liles was scalped in 1761 which was fortified and used as a frontier Indian fort. Volunteers are researching documents in preparation for further field work in the cooler seasons.

Finally, the long-awaited website...

A website is being constructed for Fairfield County which will host several pages promoting our museum and our Friends organization. Go to http://fairfieldsc.test.sturgiswebservices.com/secondary.aspx?pageID=125. This is a long-awaited event for the museum and we thank the Fairfield County Council for making it a reality.

"To identify and document historic properties and sites within the county."
-Mission Statement

Remembering our Helpers...

Thanks to our regular volunteers who have been indispensable during the year with many different projects and programs cropping up around the museum... They are Yvette Howard, Betty Harden, Arlene Mackey, Teresa Ritchie, Joan Conrad, Martha MacDonald, Lorenzo Gary, Susan Jackson, Carroll Pope, Elsie Fields, Charles Clarke, Ed Gates, Rena Spence, Lily Fox, Floyd Johnson, Corrine Reed, Patrice Weldon, and Meg Wylds. Many others have helped through the past years in many capacities.

Thank you, thank you...
Fairfield County Museum

Time to Renew? See Red Star

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RENEWALS: Please list changes only below

REMEMBER: List your email address to help save

Changes:

Category and Amount Included:

Additional donation:

Yes! I would Like to Become a Member!

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