

Calhoun County South Carolina Timeline

BC – 1800

Calhoun County area is under the Atlantic Ocean	1,000,000 BC
Calhoun is included in Old Berkeley County, SC. Home of Congaree and Santee Indians	AD 1682
Lawson, the explorer, visits local Indians	1700
570 acres of land on Lyons Creek, granted to George Sterling	1704
Yemassee War	1715
Nearby Fort Congaree is commanded by Captain Charles Russell	1718
Charles Russell, by then married to widow Mary Sterling Heatly, is living on old Sterling land.	1725
Amelia, Saxe-Gotha, and Edisto (later Orangeburg) townships are laid out	1730
Swiss-German settlers begin arriving	1735
The Reverend J. U. Giessendanner (Lutheran) begins work while living in Orangeburgh	1737
The younger Reverend J.U. Giessendanner begins in Orangeburgh and Amelia. The Reverend Christian Theus (German Reformed) begins what will become half a century of work in Saxe-Gotha.	1739
George Haig of Haig's Hill, Deputy Surveyor, is taken by the Indians and murdered.	1748
Rachel Heatly Lloyd is said to have routed the Devil at Buck Head Hill.	1750
Joint Lutheran and German Reformed meeting house is standing near Sandy Run, Saxe-Gotha.	1751

Amelia Chapel is built for the younger Giessendanner (by then Anglican Priest)	1757
Cherokee War	1759-1761
St. Matthews Parish is established as a religious (Anglican, later called Episcopal) political division	1765
Parish Act is repelled by King George III	1767
Parish Act is re-established	1768
The Reverend Timothy Dargan has a Baptist meeting house (near the later site of Lone Star)	1769
The Reverend Paul Turquand, Anglican Priest of St. Matthews Parish, preaches the opening Revolutionary Provincial Congress at Charleston	1775
Colonel William Thomson and Rangers from Amelia Township help defeat the British at the Battle of Sullivan's Island	1776
Orange Parish is cut off from St. Matthews Parish; Church is separated from State	1778
British over run and fortify Belleville Plantation, as well as Mount Joseph Plantation, which they rename "Fort Motte"	1780
Americans are repulsed at Belleville	1781
Americans capture a British Convoy of supplies at McCord's Ferry.	
Americans win the Battle of Fort Motte. Mrs. Motte provides arrows for them to burn the British out of her mansion. Belleville is evacuated. Both Colonist and British save Belleville from burning. Mrs. Motte served dinner to officers from both sides that night.	
Emily Gieger's traditional ride to carry messages from General Greene to General Sumter.	
Governor of Georgia, John Adam Truetlen, is said to have been quartered by the Tories.	1782

Lewisburgh and Lexington court counties are established.

1785

Belleville and Manigault's Plantations are considered for the site of a new state capital. Columbia is selected instead.	1786
Commodore Alexander Gillion of Gillion's Retreat is on the committee of entertaining President Washington in Columbia. County courts are suspended.	1791
Colonel William Thomson pioneers in planting cotton at Belleville.	1794

1800-1900

Bishop Francis Asbury holds the Methodist Quarterly Conference at Whetstone's Meeting House (later called Tabernacle).	1801
Free schools for the poor are set up in South Carolina.	1811
Earthquake	
War with England; Langdon Cheves is Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives (he later lived at Lang Syne Plantation)	1812
	1827
Sand-clay mixture is used in improving State Road at Beaver Creek	1830
Summer village of Totness prospers	1835
Seminole War	1841
Branch line of the pioneer South Carolina Railroad reaches Lewisville	1846
Mexican War	1850
Totness is incorporated.	
Fort Motte village beginning	1860
Laurence M. Keitt, John C. Geiger, the Reverend John J. Wannamaker are among the signers of the Ordinance of Secession.	1861
Civil War begins.	
L.M. Keitt helps to write the Confederate Constitution	

Colonels L.M. Keitt and Olin M. Dantzler are among those from the area killed in action.	1864
Sherman's Invasion; Yankees burn Totness and many other homes; Confederate calvary attacks Union troops encamped near Savany Hunt Creek. St. Matthews Parish is abolished as a political division. Slaves are now all free; many African American churches begin.	1865
The era of Reconstruction is beginning. Great Drought is an additional blow; food is still scarce.	1866
South Carolina districts changed to counties; Sandy Run section becomes part of Lexington County, while old St. Matthews Parish is included in Orangeburg County.	1868
Town of Lewisville is incorporated	1872
Masonic lodge is founded	1874
Fort Motte is incorporated.	1875
Lewisville's name is changed to St. Matthews Wild political campaigns; "Red Shirts" ride the state, but Democrats win the election.	1876
Record cotton crop. Bennet Jacobson builds the first brick store in St. Matthews (once owned by Juilian Welch).	1879
Charleston earthquake rocks houses	1886
J.E. Wannamaker is named by Clemson Will as a life trustee of the new college.	1888
First newspaper in the area, "The Spectator" is published.	Late 1880s
Attempt to form a new county from parts of Orangeburg and Lexington Counties (to be named for John C. Calhoun) is defeated in the General Assembly.	1890

Unsuccessful attempt to raise \$50,000 to start a cotton mill. Graded schools begin.	1892
Atlantic Coastline Railroad comes through; towns begin growing: Lone Star and the Pine Grove Community, Auburn (near the site of Keller's Store) is soon changed to Creston, and at the crossing of the State Road the Pee Dee Land Company lays out Cameron on land then owned by Dr. J.W. Summers	1894
Tillman Movement produces a new state constitution providing for the creation of new counties by popular vote.	1895
Another effort to form Calhoun County is defeated, this time by voters.	1896
The Fort Motte Guards, the St. Matthews Light Infantry, and others serve in the Spanish-American War.	1898
Sixteen stores and shops burn on a snowy night in St. Matthews	1899

1900 - Present

C.G. Sontag volunteers for yellow fever experiment in Cuba (he later marries and settles in Sandy Run).	1901
Another bad fire takes place in St. Matthews Presbyterians organize in St. Matthews.	1906
Agitation for a new county begins again; an Association is started, headed by Ed Wimberly, after his death, by Dr. Dreher, with T.A. Amaker as Secretary Treasurer, and J.S. Wannamaker, and J.A. Merritt among the the hard workers. St. Matthews guarantees \$20,000 for a court house and jail; election on December 17th results: 603 to 111 in favor of Calhoun County.	1907
State Supreme Court decides in favor of Calhoun County; last minute resurvey of area in a little red car; Calhoun County Act passed and signed by Governor M.F. Ansel on February 14th; Farm Extension work begins.	1908
Dr. S.J. Summers began serving as first Senator, and H.C. Paulling began serving as first representative.	1909

Cornerstone of Courthouse is laid

1913

Courthouse is dedicated, May 18th World War I begins in Europe	1914
US enters World War I; draft board is established. Home Demonstration work begins in Calhoun County	1917
Armistice is signed ending World War I	1918
Record cotton crop of 44,000 bales; price drops nearly three-fourths	1920
Cotton crop is only 3,200 bales; ruined by boll weevil	1921
American Cotton Association, headed by J.S. Wannamaker in St. Matthews, puts on Boll Weevil control campaign.	1923
M.M. Mann is named Judge; J.G. Stabler is selected to State Supreme Court (later serves as Chief Justice).	1925-1926
Low cotton prices and “hard times”	1926
First paved road in the County Julia Peterkin is awarded the Pulitzer Prize for her novel <i>Scarlet Sister Mary</i> .	1928
Stock Market crashes on October 29th, beginning the Great Depression	1929
Many new Government Agencies are started to ease the pain of the Great Depression.	1933
L.M. Gressette is elected to the State Senate.	1936
Southern Methodist organize in Sandy Run and Cameron	Late 1930s
Nazi Germany invades Poland on September 1st, beginning World War II	1939
Selective Service begins	1940
State Guard unit and other wartime agencies are organized	1940s

US enters World War II after Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7th.	1941
Soybeans are beginning as a new cash crop	1942
Saony Garment Factory opens in St. Matthews World War II ends. (V-E Day, May 8th and V-J Day, August 15th).	1945
Calhoun County National Guard unit is organized on September 15th	1947
New Bridge is opened from old Belleville Plantation Lands across the Congaree River. African American Church of God is organized.	1949
Korean Conflict	1950-1953
School Districts are consolidated from twenty-three to two	1950-1954
Senator L. Marion Grissett is named the head of a special school committee called the "Gressette Committee."	1951
School improvement program begins 250th anniversary of the first land grant in the area is noted by a marker. Construction of the National Guard Armory begins in October.	1954
Garage for National Guard unit is built on five acres donated by the town of St. Matthews.	1948
Central Grain Company erects 350,000 bushel capacity grain elevator in Cameron.	1956
Calhoun County Golden Jubilee Celebration unites the County Calhoun County Museum is begun, located in back of the old Calhoun County Library.	1958
Carolina Eastman (Currently DAK Americas) purchases land in Calhoun County.	1962
Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce was formed.	1964

Orangeburg -Calhoun Technical College is built.	1966
Tri-Centennial Celebration.	1970
First Purple Martin Festival L. Marion Gressette Center organized	1973
Teepak buys lands.	1975
Calhoun County Museum moves to new location on Butler Street.	1976
United Technologies relocates Council form of government is adopted	1977
Calhoun Players was organized.	1979
Calhoun Arts Commission begins	1981
New Calhoun County High School opens its doors.	
National Welders Supply (Now AirGas) begins plant.	1982
Calhoun County Diamond Jubilee Celebration	1983