

What's Happening at the

# Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center

Fall 2007

## Fall Gala Set For Sunday, October 28

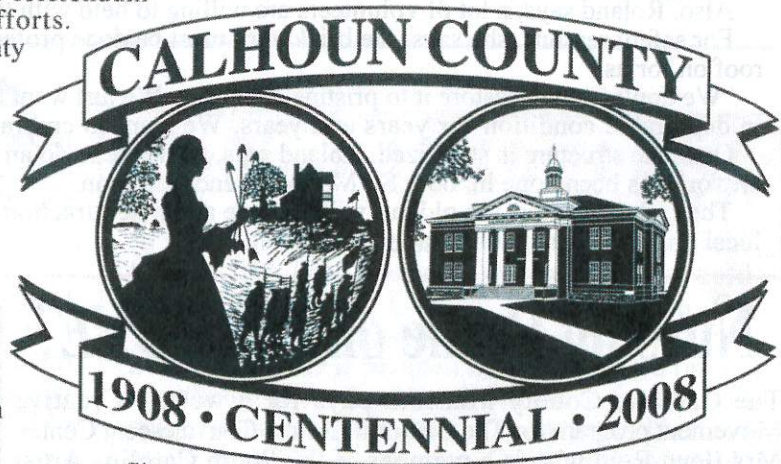
Calhoun County's 100 Year Celebration will begin with the museum's Fall Gala. The Gala is scheduled for Sunday, October 28. This promises to be one of the best Galas ever. Music will be provided by the band, *Reflections*. Jack Brantley of Aberdeen Catering, from Camden, is busy planning a fabulous array of heavy hors d'oeuvres for this special event. This year Mr. Brantley's menu is a secret, but he promises what he is preparing is going to be wonderful.

Tickets for this fun event are \$40.00 per person. Mark the date on your calendar and please get your tickets early. Remember, no tickets will be sold at the door. For the past several years we've sold out early and as a result, many people were unable to purchase tickets. We have already had a lot of people calling to make sure they don't miss this year's Gala, so if you don't want to be placed on a waiting list, get your tickets today!

## Calhoun County Turns 100 Years Old

In the year 1908, Calhoun County was formed from parts of Lexington and Orangeburg Counties. It had taken the future citizens of Calhoun County seventeen years and two referendum defeats before they were successful in their efforts.

In 2008, our county will be 100 years old, and County Council has asked the museum to plan a year-long celebration. The museum is working hard to make this happen. We are embracing and organizing events that you, the citizens, have already planned, and we are adding many more for the upcoming celebration. The entire year will be dedicated to looking back at yesteryear and finding ways to bring the whole county together. Events will be held at least once every month, at various locations around the county. Though many dates have not yet been established, you will find a preliminary list of monthly events throughout this newsletter. Dates will be finalized soon. Events are still being added, so if you would like to sponsor or host an event, please contact us ASAP.



Our primary task is to schedule all events in such a way as to not conflict.

We have established a master calendar so that all of our citizens will be aware of all events that are scheduled. As of now, many events are to take place throughout the county. The goal is to let our citizens have a chance to visit and get to know all areas of our county, and to have a better understanding of who we are, how we live, work and play. We are searching for events that will bring our citizens together in a manner that transcends gender, race and politics. Information is forthcoming. Watch both *The Calhoun Times* and *The Times and Democrat* for updates.

### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE NOW GOING ON!

It's that time of year when all memberships have expired. Our Friends drive is now underway and we need your help. Our friends program began 16 years ago and because of your continued support, we have been able to add special programs and items to our facility.

Come, reach down deep, because we need your help to grow, and continue to be "*The Best Small Museum in South Carolina*". All donations are tax deductible and are greatly appreciated. Special memorials in memory or in honor of individuals will be placed in our Museum's *Book of Memories*. Please make checks out to *Friends of the Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center* or CCM&CC.

We would love to collect as many old photographs as possible about the county and any past events. We can scan them in-house, and they will be returned to you on the same day that you bring them. Additionally, we want to interview our citizens and record as many personal stories about family history, school, community or anything else that relates to the history of Calhoun County. These photographs and stories will be placed in our fireproof vault, and will be saved for future celebrations.

Remember, if you don't take the time to share your information now, your memories will likely be lost forever.



# SAVE THE JAIL

The following is a reprint of an original article by *The Times and Democrat* Government Writer Tucker Lyon, reprinted by permission

"Save the jail" is the rallying cry in Calhoun County, where local efforts are being galvanized to preserve the crumbling Fort Motte Jail, the oldest public building in the county.

"It was built in Orangeburg County in 1907. When we became a county, we inherited it in 1908," said Debbie Roland, director of the Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center.

"The reason for the jail is they were so far away from Orangeburg, if people were unruly on the train, or if someone was disruptive, they were taken off... It was a regular jail, but that was the original idea.

The renovation of the old jail, a landmark in the rural Fort Motte community, is included in the county's plans for the coming centennial celebration.

"It's still there and we want to save the jail as part of the 2008 celebration," Roland said.

"Several people wanted to buy it, so we used 'Save the Jail' (as a slogan). It's a public building; let's save it. It's falling down, and it would be good for the community."

According to Roland, officials from the State Department of Archives and History said it's very difficult to still find a structure like the old jail anywhere around.

"We're trying to raise \$18,000 to save the jail," she said. "We've received about \$8,000. We're selling T-shirts and seeking contributions."

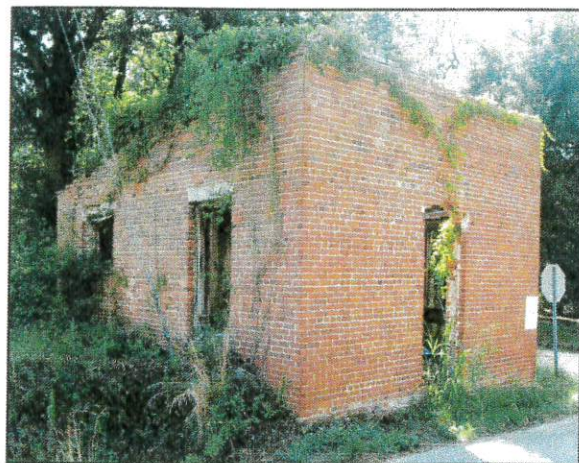
Also, Roland says, a lot of volunteers are willing to help with the actual work.

For safety reasons, she says, the brickwork must be done professionally, but a "group of volunteers will put the roof on for us."

"We don't want to restore it to pristine condition. We just want to keep it from falling down," she said. "It's been in deplorable condition for years and years. We want to embrace what was here when we became a county."

Once the structure is stabilized, Roland says, plans are to do an "architectural illusion" for the windows. Similar artwork has been done in both St. Matthews and Cameron.

Then, she explains, the old jail will become a tourist attraction for the spruced-up Fort Motte community and a focal point of the annual Reunion Festival.



## Nursing Home on the MOVE!

The Calhoun County Museum pays for a weekly Creative Movement program for The Calhoun County Convalescent Center. Mrs. Jean Reid who is a member of the South Carolina Artist Roster is the instructor for this program. Mrs. Reid works with individuals at the Center using music and dance movements to help this community with their circulation, social skills and just having fun. Twice a year Jean takes students from her dance school to perform for the Convalescent Center.

Bringing inter-generational groups together is one of the goals of the museum. If you want to see exciting programs, go and watch this group in action. It's fun to see this group shake, rattle and roll!

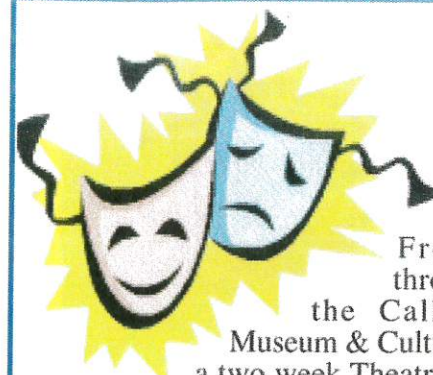


## Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center Mission Statement

The goal of the Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center is to collect, research, interpret, preserve and exhibit the scope of Calhoun County's cultural history.

In seeking to fulfill these goals, the Museum and Cultural Center provides unique educational, recreational and participatory opportunities to serve the diverse heritage and cultural interests of Calhoun County. The Museum provides artistic exhibits and educational outreach programs for visitor enrichment and enjoyment.

As a community arts agency, we seek to increase public awareness of the importance of the county's common heritage.

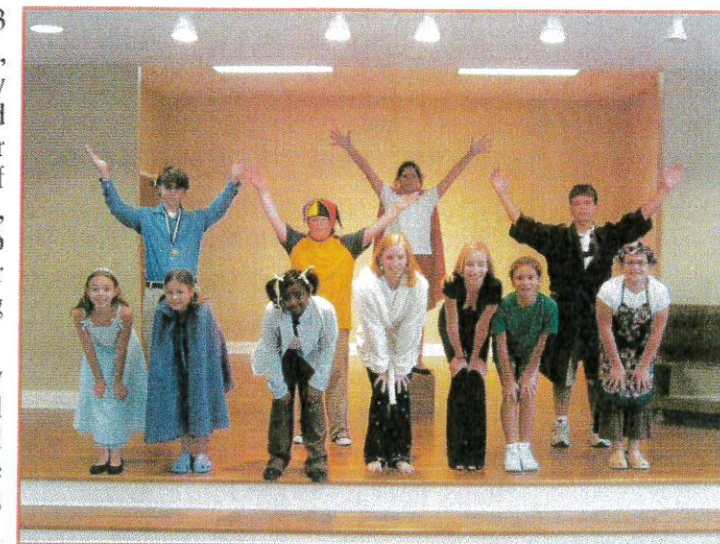


## Calhoun County Museum Hosts Theatre Workshop

From July 23 through August 3, the Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center held a two week Theatre Workshop for students aged 9 to 18. A diverse group of young people participated in the program, learning acting techniques throughout the two weeks. The program concluded with their performance of "Doo Wop Wed Widing Hood" in front of an audience of 90.

Sponsorship of the workshop was provided by the Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center, the SC Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. Please contact the museum to let us know what future workshops you or your children might be interested in.

These programs are successful with *your* input. Thanks go out to Jean Reid, who served as director and drama coach for the duration of the workshop. Congratulations to all who participated, good luck, and we hope to see you again next summer!



## Thank You Veterans

Calhoun County will honor all veterans during our special Centennial Old Fashion Parade. (TBA) We invite each of you to ride on our floats, or you are welcome to use your own form of transportation, such as old jeeps, wagons, golf carts, walking, etc.)

The Andrew Thielen Big band concert has been scheduled for Sunday November 2, 2008. You can count on flag waving patriotic music along with theme songs from each branch of the armed service. Plans are also underway for a special program for the St. Matthews VFW. (TBA)

The citizens of Calhoun County are proud of all of our veterans and thank you for your service to our country. Ask your local American Legion or VFW for more details or call the museum if you want to participate.

## Save the Date: March 10, 2008 for Calhoun County's Bar-B-Q Cook-Off

Calhoun County has some of the best cooks in the state! So let us see if you can practice what you preach. In conjunction with the South Carolina Bar-B-Q Association a cook-off is being planned. Cookers from all over South Carolina will be coming to our county, so come on Calhoun County outdoor cookers and join in the fun. More information can be found on our website [www.calhouncountymuseumandculturalcenter.org](http://www.calhouncountymuseumandculturalcenter.org)

Remember, our archive is always looking for bible records, books, maps, letters, family papers, deeds etc. What someone thinks is junk just might be something we would treasure. So before you throw it away, please bring it our way.

## Calling All Mothers!

In the year 1908, the same year our county was formed, the first formal Mothers Day was held Sunday May 10 in Grafton West Virginia. On Saturday morning, May 10, 2008 a countywide mother's tribute is planned and will be held on the courthouse grounds. All citizens are invited. A roll call in honor or in memory of mothers will be held along with special prayers. On Sunday May 11, 2008, all churches are being asked to take a picture of the oldest mother in their congregation. Along with the picture, the museum would like the church to include a brief history of this person which can include their family members, and stories. Churches may also send a brief history of their church. All of this information will be placed in a special file in the museum's fireproof vault.

Throughout the year, many of the pictures of mothers and their stories will be published in the paper. If anyone else would like to share a photograph and a story of their mother and why she was or is special, the museum would be happy to receive this information. Just think what you share in the year 2008 will be ready for the 2033 celebration when the next generation plans the 125 years of Calhoun County's history.



# CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION CALENDAR

**October** Museum Fall Gala/ 100 year County Kick off (October 28, 2007)

**November** Community Thanksgiving Dinner John Ford Middle School – November 22<sup>nd</sup>

**December** Cameron Community Christmas Concert  
Calhoun County Convalescent Center Tour of Lights  
St. Matthews Garden Club Tour of Homes – December 9th  
Sandy Run Christmas Parade – December 22nd

**Pre-New Years Eve**  
Fire Works Display Calhoun County Convalescent Center

**January** Tribute to Mrs. Julia Peterkin – Sponsored by Friends of Calhoun County Library  
Children's Dance – Line, Bunny Hop, Barn Dance,

**February** Salute to Eagle Scouts in Calhoun County – tentative February 10th  
St. Matthews Fire Department Oyster Roast – February 16th  
L. Marion Gressette Center Dance (Calhoun County DSSNB)

**March** Bar-B-Q Cook Off – March 8th

**April** Tractor Pull – April 5th  
Relay For Life - April 11th  
Jousting Ring Event – April 12th  
Cameron Community Bar-B- Q - April 18th  
S.M.H.S. Reunion of 1950-1959 - April 18, 19, 20  
Purple Martin – April 19th

**May** Salute to Calhoun County Mothers/ County Morning of Prayer – May 10th  
Church Celebrations May 11th  
School Field Day  
County Cycling Tour

**June** Cameron Day -Corn Boil, Town Tour  
St. John High School Reunion and Basketball Game

**July** Fort Motte Reunion  
Fire Works Display – Calhoun County Convalescent Center – July 4th

**August** Good Hope Picnic – August 2nd  
Rotary Club Golf Tournament

**September** Sandy Run Labor Day Celebration - September 1st  
Industry Appreciation Week – September 15th-19th  
100 Year Celebration Parade

**October** Fort Motte Oyster Roast  
EMS Halloween – October 31st  
Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament – October 17<sup>th</sup>

**November** Big Band Salute to Veterans - November 2nd  
Tractor Pull

**December** Calhoun County Public School Christmas Choral Concert  
Sandy Run Christmas Parade – December 20th  
Calhoun County School of Dance - Calhoun Convalescent Center  
Calhoun County Convalescent Center Tour of Lights  
Cameron Community Christmas Concert

**End of Celebration** Fire Works Display – Calhoun County Convalescent Center

**Other Possible Events TBA:** Big Band Jam Session, Sandy Run Family Fun, Children's Talent Show  
Memorial Walk or Wall in Memory or Honor of Veterans, VFW Dance, Public Patriot Concert, Baker House Tour



**Calhoun County 100 Year Celebration**  
313 Butler Street  
Saint Matthews, South Carolina 29135  
(803) 874-3964

Yes I would like to:

- ☐ Volunteer.
- ☐ Add my group or event to the county list.
- ☐ Work at (or with) an event.
- ☐ Help provide corn or peanuts.
- ☐ Find out more about Veteran events.
- ☐ Be a sponsor.
- ☐ Add my name to mailing list.
- ☐ Donate my band to play for an event.
- ☐ Support the *Save the Jail* project.
- ☐ Help with the Bar B-Q cook-off.
- ☐ Receive more information about being in the Bar B-Q cook-off.
- ☐ Participate in the Centennial Parade.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Best time of day to reach me \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be reached by ☐ Email or ☐ U.S. Mail

Comments, about what you would like to do or other information, you would care to share:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Friends of the Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center



Yes, I want to share in the activities of the Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center.

*Please enroll me as a Friend of the Museum!*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Individual                 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Corporate Sponsor      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$55 Family                     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 or more Benefactor    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Patron                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Save the Jail                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C.F. Ulmer Endowment            | <input type="checkbox"/> Darrell Cooper Memorial Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fall Gala                       | <input type="checkbox"/> 100 Year Celebration         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bette Jane Fairey Memorial Fund |   |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to:

**Calhoun County Museum / Cultural Center**

313 Butler Street

Saint Matthews, South Carolina 29135

(803) 874-3964

## Calhoun County Museum Hosts Summer Workshops for the L. Marion Gressette Center

The Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center and the L. Marion Gressette Center have established a partnership to improve the cultural and art outreach of its clients. In order to reach these goals funds were received from the Very Special Arts and the S.C. Arts Commission. Both organizations are working on long and short term goals to improve the quality of life for its clients. Another part of this grant will be to find ways to provide services for those who have hearing loss, Autism, and Alzheimers.

Resulting from this partnership during the month of June from the 4th to the 20th, The Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center hosted a Dance Workshop for the L. Marion Gressette Center. Four groups of clients, with approximately fifteen in each group, came for a one hour workshop each day. The clients, under the instructions of Mrs. Jean Reid, learned how to shag and square dance.

In July, a pottery workshop was held at The Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center. Mr. Keith Tolen, from the Columbia area, taught the clients how to make bowls, ornaments and garden walkway stones. Also from July 23 to August 3, Mr. Tolen held a watercolor and creative art workshop at the L. Marion Gressette Center on Doodle Hill Road.

All of the L. Marion Gressette Center workshops were sponsored in part by a grant from the South Carolina Very Special Arts, the South Carolina Arts Commission which receives funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and special donations from the Bette Jane Fairey and Darrell Cooper Memorial Funds.



## Henry Thomas Car Show



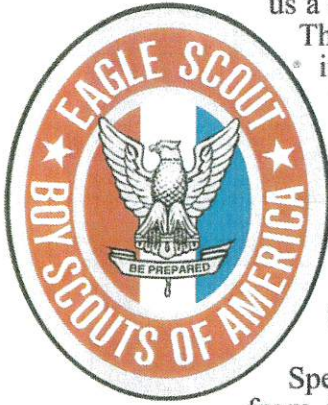
The Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center was excited to host a historical car show on Tuesday, July 17. Friends of the late Henry Thomas, a renowned car aficionado, toured Calhoun County in July. Their very first stop was at the museum. There were over 82 cars, some manufactured as early as 1908, that were parked around the museum for visitors to admire. Car enthusiasts of all ages came to see this rare event. If all goes according to plan many member of this car club will be back for the 100-Year Celebration parade in the Fall of 2008.



# *Last Call for Eagle Scouts!*

For the past 5 years, the museum has made a special effort to research and find all Eagle Scouts in Calhoun County. Therefore, this is our final request. We are asking everyone who knows an Eagle Scout, or who has received this special honor to contact the museum right away. We have a file, which houses Eagle Scout's name, parent's name, scout leaders, pictures, and stories. The museum is also looking for the names and addresses of those who have received the Silver Beaver. We do not want to leave anyone out so please do your part and give us a call or stop by the museum. We really want to know about your scouting experience.

This is an easy process. Do not worry about giving up your pictures. We will make copies in house of the material we receive so your information will be returned to you during your visit or by U.S. mail. As a reminder, we can scan your information on sight and it will be returned to you before you leave the museum.



Scout month is in the month of February and as a part of Calhoun County's 100-year celebration, the museum is planning a reunion of all Calhoun County Eagle Scouts. The museum will honor Tommy Edwards during this reunion and would like to honor other Scout Masters. We will be unable to recognize your scoutmaster if you do not tell us who they were and how we can locate them.

Special thanks to the scout troop of Tommy Edwards. Each family member or Eagle Scout from this troop has come forward with their information. Thank you, Thank you.

Again, do not complain if your scouting experience, troop master or your story is not remembered. We cannot display your information if we do not have it. So please take the time and help us out with this special project.

Let's keep scouting alive in Calhoun County, set a good example for all generations, past, and present. So who was your Scoutmaster?

