

# Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center

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## 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 events 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.

In February, we began a project to modernize the Museum's outdated website, which had not seen significant changes in quite some time. A completely new website was developed and launched on April 25, 2011.

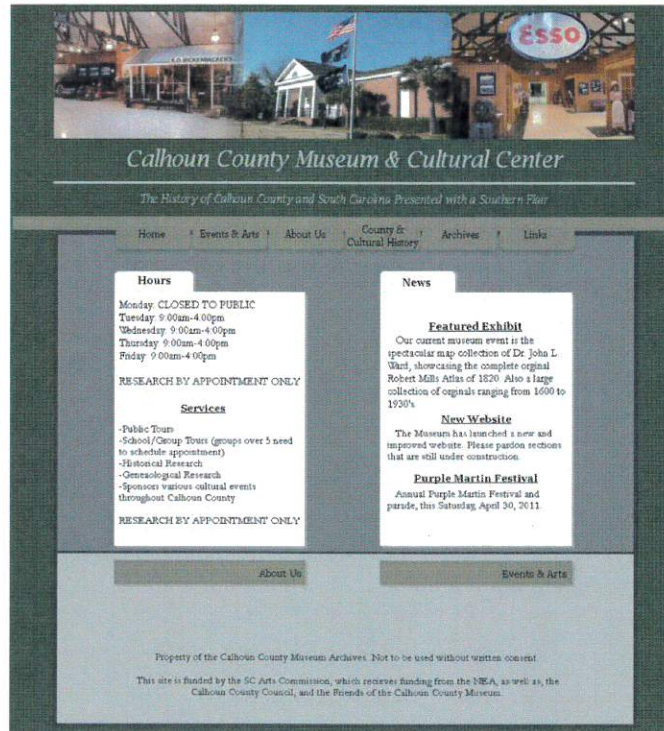
When you visit the website you will notice a new design, new features,

and what we believe to be an easier design to navigate and more efficient website. Some of the new features we are excited for you to see are photo galleries, video tours, and updated calendars.

Another new feature is that current events and news will be directly listed on the homepage under the "News" section.

Museum updates will also be listed under this area.

## New and Improved Website



Although many changes have been made, the majority of the content will remain the same having just received a much needed cosmetic face-lift. You will continue to have access to a list of archived books, a current edition of our Newsletter, a

friends membership form, a constituent survey, as well as a contact directory for all county offices.

Although it is still a work in progress, please feel free to visit the website at [www.calhouncountymuseumandculturalcenter.org](http://www.calhouncountymuseumandculturalcenter.org).



**THANK YOU  
TO OUR  
CONTRIBUTORS**

The Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center would like to extend a heartfelt and deeply appreciated thank you to all those who have contributed and continue to contribute to the Museum and its various funds. Your contributions are the cornerstone of preservation and conservation of our county's rich and vibrant heritage.

Without your contributions, many of our projects, such as the Gala, the renovation of the Cameron Auditorium, Save the Jail, *The Music Man*, educational and cultural enrichment programs for local schools, and many many others, would not have been possible.

Once again we thank you for all of your support and contributions to the Museum. We look forward to having you visit and seeing you at future Museum events.

Have a great summer!

## From the Director's Desk

So much has happened since our last newsletter. We have celebrated 20 years of the friends, partnered with the Calhoun Players to help produce another fabulous show, and have begun several new projects to continue preserving our county's rich history.

Our Gala & 20th Friends Anniversary Celebration was a spectacular kick off to the 2011 calendar year. We were humbled and honored by the turnout. We were pleased to partner with the South Carolina Very Special Arts and the South Carolina Arts Commission that provided us with talented artists, support, and grant funding. Jack Brantley of *Aberdeen Catering*, did an exceptional job on the food, and guests were chauffeured by Eagle Scout Travis Carn and the Boy Scouts of Troop 51. Thank you to all who attended the Gala and those who contributed in making the night a success.

The Calhoun Players Spring production of *The Music Man* was a huge success. None of this would have been possible without the Cameron Community Club and the work they have done to update the Cameron Auditorium. I was honored to serve as director of a fantastic cast, who gave their time and talent



to make the show extraordinary.

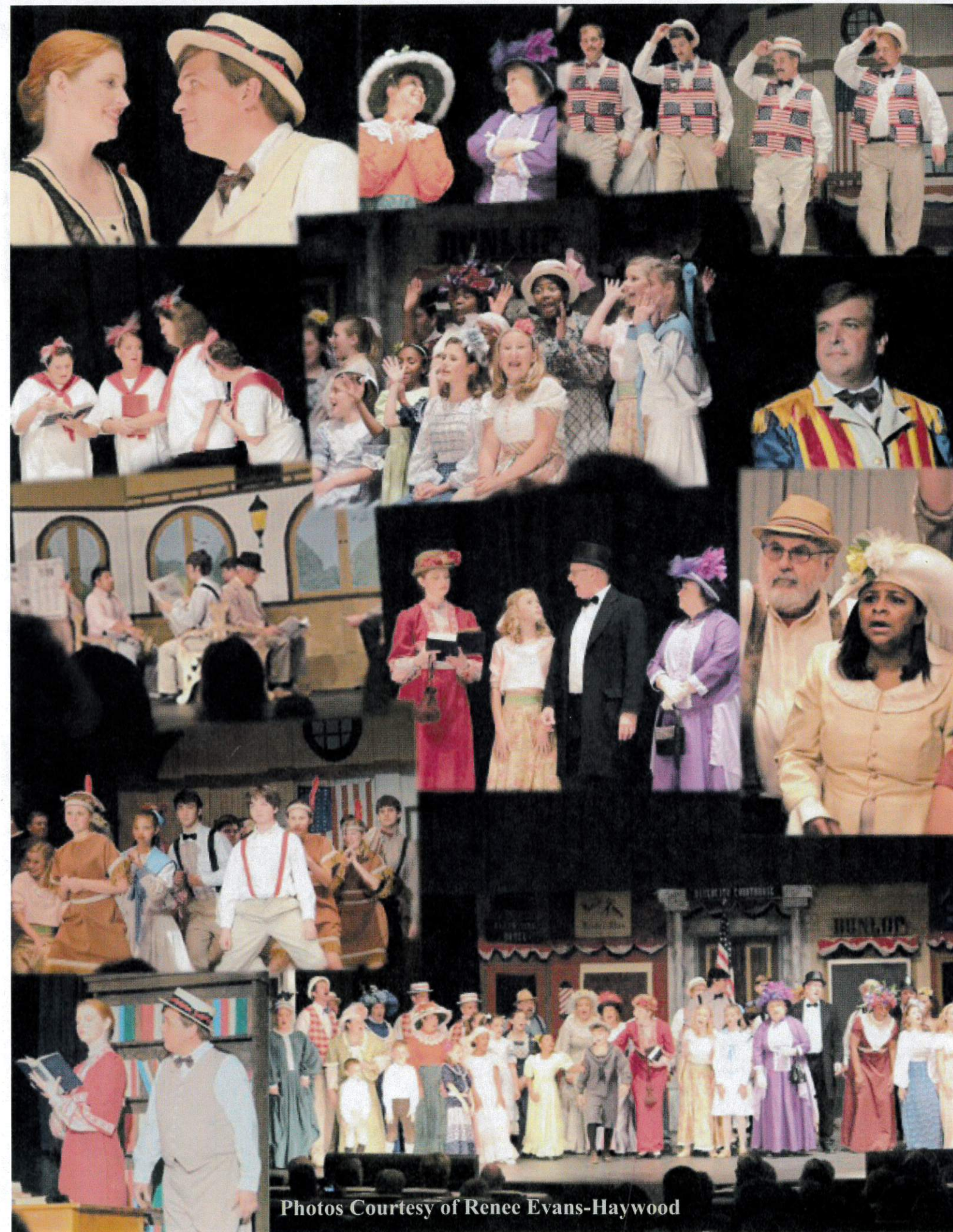
We were pleased to have musicians from South Carolina State University perform in the orchestra.

For the summer, the Museum has two major projects. First, we are happy to announce that work will soon begin to stabilize the old Fort Motte Jail. Your donations kept us from losing this historical landmark. Second, we are deeply saddened by the loss of a major supporter of the Museum, the late Mr. C.R. Banks. Through his generous gift to the Museum of his collection of county and historical artifacts, it is our hope that his legacy will be remembered and the history of our county will be conserved for future generations. We are excited to get to work cataloguing his exceptional collection.

In addition to the projects that the Museum is heading, the Calhoun County Historical

Commission is working on their own projects. One such project is the restoration and unveiling of the New Deal's Works Project Administration's historical marker, Savany Hunt. This marker was broken and has been restored thanks to the dedication of the Commission. It will soon be placed near its original location in Sandy Run. Also, the Commission, in cooperation with the Francis Marion Trail Commission, has decided to take the forefront in gathering donations for a Francis Marion Trail Historical marker, to be placed along Colonel Thomson Highway. This is one of several to be placed throughout our state.

Even with all of these ongoing projects, the continued financial support during these hard economic times has been humbling. Our visitations are up, and our archival researchers continue to span the country and continent.



**Photos Courtesy of Renee Evans-Haywood**



## UPDATES

As a reminder, our Friends drive will begin September 2011.

Also, we are currently working extremely hard and are overloaded with the recent addition to our museum, the wonderful Collection left to us by the Late C.R. Banks.

Staff are currently cataloguing and sifting through the abundance of historical information and artifacts Mr. Banks was able to preserve throughout his lifetime. We are truly lucky to have these additional invaluable historical treasures.

Work will continue through the summer to bring in and archive all the material. It will be a hard job, but the staff is excited to get it completed so that the museum's collection can be further enhanced.

## Stabilizing the Jail

In 2008, as part of the County's centennial celebration, the Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center began raising funds to save the Fort Motte Jail. This historical landmark is the oldest public building in Calhoun County and has served as a library during the Great Depression and a voting center prior to World War II. Overtime the jail has deteriorated due to lack of

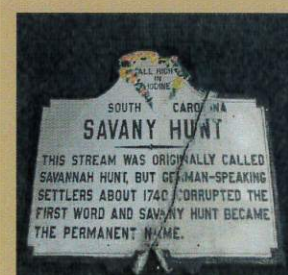
use and is currently in need of repair and stabilization.

We are pleased to announce that work has finally begun to stabilize and clean up this historic landmark. The first step will be to clean the jail of all the overgrowth that has accumulated over the years. Next, the stabilization construction will begin the following week. Although the jail is currently being stabilized rather than

remodeled, this is just the first steps of many in the preservation of the jail.

Your donations were the cornerstone that allowed this project to move forward. We are deeply indebted to all who gave of their steadfast dedication and will power to see this landmark saved for the benefit of our future generations.

## Savany Hunt Historical Marker



As a project, the Museum revisited the idea of fixing the broken historical marker, Savany Hunt. Initial research dated the marker's origin as pre-1954. It was brought before the Calhoun County Historical Commission about repairing and rededicating the marker. The Commission voted to accept this marker as their project for this year. They located a restoration expert, a welding instructor at Central Carolina Technical College named Mr. Axel Reis.

After months of hard work, Mr. Reis returned the restored marker to the Commission for rededication. Currently, the Historical Commission is finalizing plans for the dedication ceremony near the marker's presumed original location along Highway 176, in Sandy Run. Thank you to Dick Watkins for all your help with this project.



Photos Courtesy of Barry Redmond



## Thank You Ms. Julia Helen Garris



**How do we describe Julia Helen Garris?...** How do you hold a moonbeam in your hands?

You have shared your talent with so many of us and taught us to sing, play, dance, and laugh. You have found talents inside so many of us that we did not know we had. You are the best! Thank you for all the years of hard work and dedication.

We love you, forever and ever.

