Why Digitize the Museum Collection?

Why digitize the Museum collection? That question has several answers. Digitizing is the best way to protect the Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center's vast collection of artifacts. When artifacts are physically handled they can be inadvertently damaged. Damage can include a tear in a document, something being spilled on an item, or even natural oils from the skin being transferred to the item.

Digitizing is also a way for selected pieces of our collection to be made available to new audiences. The Museum has had people from all over the United States as well as other countries contact us regarding pieces in the collection or research material. Having our collection digitized will enable us to assist those who are unable to visit the Museum due to distance or other restrictions.

Digitizing means more than taking a picture. Captions explaining what the piece is must be added as well as when and how the piece was received by the Calhoun County Museum. People must have the facts, year, name and event that are significant to each piece of the collection that is made available digitally.

The digitizing process was started in 2014 using our scanner. However, scanning is not the best way to digitize due to how the pieces have to be handled. Also, we are limited by the size of our scanner.

The Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center recently received a grant which will be used to help offset the expense of new digitizing equipment. We are excited about this new endeavor and look forward to how this process will help preserve our collection while also making it more accessible to the public.

Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center Mission Statement

The Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center collects, preserves, researches, exhibits, and interprets the scope of Calhoun County's history, genealogy, art, and culture while also providing multidisciplinary community oriented arts programming, artistic exhibits, and focused educational outreach to serve the diverse heritage and cultural interests of Calhoun County, South Carolina.

In seeking to fulfill the above mission, the Museum provides unique educational, recreational, and participatory opportunities for citizen and visitor enrichment and enjoyment. The Museum and Cultural Center seeks to increase public awareness of the importance of the County's common heritage through active preservation and interpretation.

The Museum and Cultural Center works as a community art agency by offering diverse cultural programming, exhibits, and learning opportunities. The staff seeks to foster greater community arts appreciation and visitor enrichment through a variety of cultural offerings.

The Museum and Cultural Center has embraced two general long term goals in keeping with the mission statement:

"To encourage, nurture, support, and implement as an integral part of learning for all citizens of Calhoun County and visitors throughout South Carolina, as well as visitors from all over the world.

"To provide multidisciplinary arts and history programs and support services for Calhoun County which serves to stimulate community and cultural and economic growth."

in this issue:

Page 1: Digitizing the Museum Collection ~ Mission Statement
Page 2: 2015 Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center Gala
Page 3: Faces & Places of Calhoun County ~ Friends Membership Drive
Page 4: Museum Programs, Workshops, and Special Events
Insert: Friends Membership Form
Page 5: Upcoming Programs & Events ~ From the Director ~ Meet the Staff
Page 6: Updates at the Calhoun County Museum ~ Tours of the Museum
Page 7: Contributions to the Community/Partnerships
Page 8: Research ~ Fond Memories ~ Museum Contact Information
Gala ~ February 7, 2015

Debbie Roland, Museum Director, with husband Johnny.

Webb Carroll was presented with the Distinguished Service Award by Director Debbie Roland for his continuous support of Calhoun County preservation.

Gala Photographs By Donny Knight Photography

Band of Oz

Special thanks to Jack Brantley of Aberdeen Catering for the outstanding job.

Faces & Places of Calhoun County

In February, the Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center began a huge project in coordination with The Times and Democrat, we brought to the public "Faces & Places of Calhoun County."

This series of one hundred stories began with staff compiling a list as to which faces and places would be featured. Stories needed to have historical value, or a claim to fame achieved by only a few. With list in hand, our staff and members of The Times and Democrat staff began gathering facts, photographs, and writing stories. It was a labor of love. The biggest challenge was to get the stories out before press time in addition to keeping up with our daily activities, tours, and research appointments.

We are very grateful to those we called upon to answer questions and give interviews. Your efforts to preserve the history of our county is greatly appreciated. The wrap up section of Faces & Places of Calhoun County is available at the Museum. The wrap up has a photograph and a brief summary of each article that was written. Please come see us and pick up a copy of the wrap up section today.

Because of your comments and continued support, we see Faces & Places becoming a book in the near future. Be on the lookout for more information!

Willie "Big Joe" Holman

"Shep" Pearlstine

The Red Store

Fort Mott Oyster Roast

C Frederic Utter

display of wedding dresses

Friends Membership Drive is Underway

- When you become a member of "Friends" of the Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center you not only provide financial support for the many great programs we offer, your membership also entitles you to discounts and advanced notice on workshops and events.

Membership is from October 1-September 30 annually. Please see the newsletter insert to join or renew your Friends membership today!
Programs, Workshops & Special Events

Programs, workshops, and special events are a big part of what we do at the Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center. We offer evening classes such as bungee bracelet making, beading, paint & pour, and just about anything else of interest to the community.

We also have morning and summer programs for children. This year we hosted the Columbia Marionette Theatre, which presented Run On Stiltskin, and Sarah Dippity brought her magic to the Museum.

The Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center also hosted music performances including the Calhoun County High School Choir and classical pianist Rachel Fogle.

We had two visual artists present shows at the Museum this year. Yvonne Knight, who specializes in oil paintings, had her works on display from February-April, and James Green had sketches, sculptures, and oils on display June-August.

We are in the process of adding more events, workshops, and programs to our calendar. Please join our Facebook group, Calhoun County Museum Friends, for the latest information.

Upcoming Programs & Events

Crafting Fun with Wine Corks
Delane Siler will be instructing this fun class Tuesday, September 22, 2015. You must call to register.

Spooks & Goblins with Sarah Dippity
Sarah Dippity will be back at the Museum in the fall – just in time for Halloween! Date TBA.

Decorating for Christmas with Delane
With the ability to make and teach anything, Delane Siler will be leading a workshop at the Museum before Christmas. Participants will be making decorations for the holidays. Date TBA.

Community Christmas Cantata
The Cantata will be held at Resurrection Lutheran Church on Cameron on Sunday, December 6. Performance times are 5:00pm and 7:30pm, with a reception between performances in the Fellowship Hall. This event is free of charge and the community is invited to attend.

From the Director

Start spreading the news... It’s time to join the Friends! All memberships expire September 30, 2015. We have been able to offer many of our programs at a reduced price or for free thanks to your donations, and we thank you for your continued support.

This past year we served patrons, visitors, or received correspondence from 22 states. We had cousins who came from Texas, North Carolina, and North Carolina to meet. These cousins found each other through the museum.

Our research room is being re-vamped, offices have been moved, and our collection in storage is being revisited. The raccoons are gone and we are reorganizing our collection.

The museum has been really busy with our after hour programs, family research, and visitors. We love all of the new faces we are seeing and we are finally recovering from our Gala. Set your calendars for the first Sat in February 2017 for our next Gala.

Our partnerships with the Calhoun Players, Cameron Community Club, Fort Motte Reunion, Community Christmas Cantata, Calhoun County Public Schools and more have been very successful. Plans for this year’s programs are underway. You may see TBA by many upcoming programs, so check Facebook, call, or drop by to find out what is going on. Our website will be under construction so hold tight during this process.

Stay tuned for more information about the “Ulmer Scholarships.” Guidelines for those two scholarships, in memory of C. Frederic Ulmer and Jeanne W. Ulmer, will be announced in the spring. Funding comes from your donations and memorials. Thank you for making these dreams a reality.

If you have questions about family information, please call Jeff Reid or Debbie Roland. For museum after hours programs, membership, and events, please call Jacquelyn Fogle.

My door is open to you anytime, and I am excited about this year’s programs.

Staff Changes
Jacquelyn Fogle joined the staff in October 2014. She was hired as a replacement for former employee Patrick Sweeney, who is now attending New York University.

Jacque is a graduate of the University of South Carolina. Prior to joining the Museum, she served as Superintendent of Recreation & Marketing with the City of Orangeburg Parks and Recreation Department for over 17 years. She brings with her many years of experience in organizing and hosting programs and special events, serving the public, and creating newsletters, brochures, and press releases among other things.

Jacque enjoys antiques, research, and spending time with her family. She is married to Sammy Fogle and lives in Cameron. Their oldest daughter, Rachel, attends the SC Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities in Greenville. Erica, their youngest, is an 8th grader attending Calhoun Academy.

Meet the Intern
Jeremy Stroudmemre began working as a summer intern in 2014. He has worked on digitizing various collections, helping to organize the storage room, and the Banks Estate.

We are happy he was able to work again as our intern in 2015. The extra set of hands really helped with our re-organizing projects and summer activities.
From the Director

Start spreading the news... It’s time to join the Friends! All memberships expire September 30, 2015. We have been able to offer many of our programs at a reduced price or for free thanks to your donations, and we thank you for your continued support.

This past year we served patrons, visitors, or received correspondence from 22 states. We had cousins who came from Brazil, South Carolina, and North Carolina to meet. These cousins found each other through the museum.

Our research room is being revamped, and we have moved our collection in storage. The raccoons are gone, and we are reorganizing our collection.

The museum has been really busy with our after-hour programs, family research, and visitors. We love all of the new faces we are seeing and we are finally recovering from our Gala. Set your calendars for the first Sat in February 2017 for our next Gala.

Our partnerships with the Calhoun Players, Cameron Community Club, Fort Motte Reunion, Community Christmas Cantata, Calhoun County Public Schools and more have been very successful. Plans for this year’s programs are underway. You may see TBA by many upcoming programs, so check Facebook, call, or drop by to find out what is going on. Our website will be under construction so hold tight during this process.

Stay tuned for more information about the “Ulmer Scholarships.” Guidelines for these two scholarships, in memory of C. Frederic Ulmer and Jeanne W. Ulmer, will be announced in the spring. Funding comes from your donations and memorials. Thank you for making these dreams a reality.

If you have questions about family information, please call Jeff Reeder at Debbie Roland. For museum after hours programs, membership, and events, please call Jacquelyn Fogle.

My door is open to you anytime, and I am excited about this year’s programs.

Staff Changes

Jacquelyn Fogle joined the staff in October 2014. She was hired as a replacement for former employee Patrick Sweeney, who is now attending New York University.

Jacquelyn is a graduate of the University of South Carolina. Prior to joining the museum, she served as Superintendent of Recreation & Marketing with the City of Orangeburg Parks and Recreation Department for over 17 years. She brings with her many years of experience in organizing and hosting programs and special events, serving the public, and creating newsletters, brochures, and press releases among other things.

Jacquelyn enjoys antiquing, research, and spending time with her family. She is married to Sammy Fogle and lives in Cameron. Their oldest daughter, Rachel, attends the SC Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities in Greenville. Erica, their youngest, is an 8th grader attending Calhoun Academy.

Meet the Intern

Jeremy Stoudenmire began working as a summer intern in 2014. He has worked on digitizing various collections, helping to organize the storage room, and the Bank’s Estate.

We are happy he was able to work again this summer in 2015. The extra set of hands really helped with our reorganizing projects and summer activities.
Updates at the Museum

One of the latest projects taken on by the staff includes the many updates we have made at the museum. After the Gala, staff began cleaning the vault, rearranging offices, and moving displays. Many items that had been stored are now on display throughout the museum, including two large fireplace mantels. Other pieces of various collections have been relocated giving entire displays a new look. The Deed and Research Rooms have been relocated as well as two offices and the supply room. The Media Room has been reorganized and more of the equipment is now being put to use. This was all done in an effort to establish a space to house new digitizing equipment.

The Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center sponsors several events throughout the year.

Tours at the Calhoun County Museum

Not only do we welcome walk-in guests, we also have groups contact us to schedule a guided tour; like The Oaks in Orangeburg. This group visited us in June, and upon returning to The Oaks and telling other residents what a grand time they had, we were contacted to schedule another tour in August for additional residents. The ladies had a ball trying on our cornhusk hat, viewing the collection, and especially when rounding out the tour with a little 'dance time' with our own Jeff Reid.

The Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center was honored to have original works by artist James H. Green, Jr. on display in the gallery from June 1-August 1.

Mr. Green, from Orangeburg, enjoyed art from an early age. He studied at Ohio Wesleyan University, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Boston Museum School of Fine Arts. He returned to Orangeburg at the request of his father in 1962. Due to failing health, he now resides at the Calhoun Convalescent Center in St. Matthews.

Choral Department of Calhoun County High School

Cameron Community Christmas Cantata

Ft Motte Community Reunion Festival

photos courtesy of George Hanes

The Calhoun Players

photos courtesy of Lee Gantt
A few of the things we do best at the Calhoun County Museum . . .

Above: Marcio Miller Santas of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil met his cousin, Nan Loftin, of North Carolina (at left) and her daughter at the Museum earlier this year to work on their family genealogy. Persons interested in genealogy research should call 874-3964 to set up an appointment.

Left: Mr. Arthur Banks is shown holding a toy that was made for him when he was a young child. It was made by his grandfather’s brother, and each male member of the family played with these toys. The toys were gifted to the museum some 20 years ago.

Contact Information:
Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center
313 Butler Street
St. Matthews, SC 29135
(803) 874-3964
(803) 874-4790 (Fax)

Email: CalhounCountyMuseum@gmail.com
(General and Genealogy)
Email: CalhounMuseum@gmail.com (Genealogy)
Facebook: Calhoun County Museum Friends
Website: www.calhouncountymuseumandculturalcenter.org

The Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center is open to the public Tuesday-Friday from 9:00am-4:00pm.

Photo courtesy of Donny Knight Photography