

# CALHOUN COUNTY MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER

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## NEWSLETTER



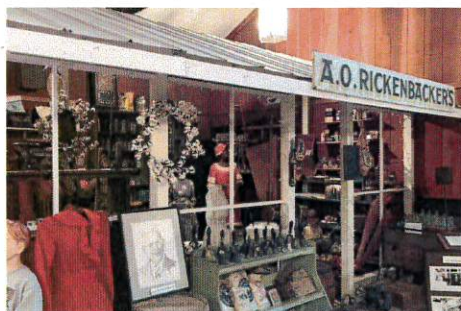
"WHERE EVERYTHING HAS A STORY"

FALL 2017

### CALHOUN COUNTY MUSEUM FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE IS UNDERWAY!

Memberships for the Friends of the Calhoun County Museum run annually in the fall of each year. Memberships end in October, so it is time to join for the upcoming year. By becoming a member of the Friends, you show your support to the mission and goal of the Museum & Cultural Center. You are providing financial support for the many wonderful programs offered. Without your support, the Calhoun County Museum would not be able to offer some of our classes and children's programs to the public for free. Your Friends membership also entitles you to advance notice for workshops and events as well as discounts to some programs where there is a charge. A Friends Membership is also tax deductible, as well as any other monetary donations made to the Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center.

Your support helps to pay for programs that are offered in the area of cultural, art, outreach, archival, and historic programs. For example this past year funding from many helped us to purchase the new camera equipment and a new scanner needed to digitize and preserve our collection of papers and artifacts. Please see the newsletter insert to join the Friends or to renew your membership today. Please make sure to fill out our survey and sign up for our Facebook Group, "The Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center Friends." The Calhoun County Museum thanks you for your Support!



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### Calhoun County Museum & 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."





### Historical Marker Placed for Oldest AME Church in St. Matthews (Lewisville)

The Museum and Historical Commission were delighted to help the Bethel AME Church/school celebrate their 150th Anniversary. Bethel was the first AME Church to be founded in Lewisville, now St. Matthews. The Freedmen's Bureau contributed \$250 at the time to aid in the construction of a school, originally known as the African Methodist Episcopal Church School, to be used by the local African Americans. A South Carolina Historical Marker, city style, was placed for this happy occasion. According to research conducted by Teresa Hair, Bethel AME Church was founded in 1865. First deeded plot was recorded in March of 1867.

Teresa Hair spent years conducting extensive research through the Calhoun County Museum, SC Archives and many other facilities. Teresa and her brother, Guye Guinyard, inventoried the entire Cemetery of Bethel and has provided death certificates when possible. We cannot thank Teresa and Guye enough for their efforts.



## 2017 Calhoun County Museum Gala

The Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center held their Gala on February 4, 2017. This year's theme was "Vintage." Jack Brantley's Aberdeen Catery of Camden, SC created magic through the museum. He surprised the museum with a gorgeous display of vintage pocketbooks that stood over 8 feet tall. Brantley used his southern flare to present delicious creations of a large variety of Aberdeen's special cuisine.

Melissa Bryant Cook, owner of the Flower Gallery in St. Matthews, graced the tables and spaces throughout the Museum with beautiful floral arrangements. Greg Boatwright of Camden played our Baby Grand Piano beautifully for those who enjoyed softer music. The Band of OZ presented great music for those who love to dance. Donny Knight captured these fun moments through the lens of his camera. Becky Ulmer won First Place in the Vintage Attire Contest. The 2017 Calhoun County Museum Gala was definitely a night to remember! If you have not attended this "Friendsraiser" you are missing something special.





## A Note from the Director

Dear Friends,

I cannot begin to tell you how excited we are about our past years' programs and successes. Thank you all for supporting the Museum. Our programs work because of YOU. The museum loves all of our new and old friends. Your financial assistance through membership and donations help us defray the cost of so many programs held within the museum and throughout the county. Thank you for filling out our survey; your input does matter.

Please encourage your teachers, grandparents, friends, schools and day care centers to come visit during our normal working hours. The museum is for all ages. Most programs are Free. "Our Meet Me at the Museum" and Monday at The Museum have been well attended. Our outreach partnerships continue to thrive and your support helps to continue all of these endeavors. Thank you!

The museum has lots of programs planned for this year. Please check us out on Facebook under Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center Friends. You must make a request to join. It is a closed group but not a private group. The museum selected this setting for the protection of so many children's pictures and our visitor's privacy. It is free and all of our extra programs are always listed on this site. If you are not a lover of Facebook, please come to the museum any time day or night and check our information area---events and meetings.

Our museum collection is being moved around for our upcoming Elf Hunt and Winter Wonderland of Lights. This will be held afternoon/night on **Thursday, November 30, 2017**. It's a Family affair and this years is going to be great fun. I am humbled by the family treasures that have been donated to the museum. Our collection is growing! Remember we cannot display, or share what is not donated to us. Remember everything has a story.

Everyone is always asking, about the C.R. Banks property and collection. The museum staff has spent thousands of hours cleaning and sorting this collection. The Commission hired an architectural firm from Charleston who has made recommendations for his house and grounds. So, we are planning to plan.

Thank you again for your support in all of our endeavors. It is an honor to serve as your director. My doors are always open to you.

Debbie Roland, Director

## This Year's Art Exhibits

This year, the museum showcased three great local South Carolina Artists. Beth Rickenbaker, of Cameron, SC, displayed her works of art with her photography collection. Many of the photographs show the landscape of Calhoun County, along with other photos across the state and even a few pictures from Cuba.



Mr. Griffin Miller of St. Matthews showcased his whimsical handcarved trees this year at our Museum Gala. Mrs. Betty Embry of Summerton, SC brought her whimsical collection of fire hydrant paintings to the Museum in her show titled "Fire Hydrants Across the Southeast." Mrs. Embry toured the southeast United States painting pictures of



different fire hydrants that were whimsical and fun. Mrs. Embry will exhibit another show in which her art can be purchased in the winter of 2017-2018. Thank you for sharing your talent.

## Research and Tours

The Calhoun County Museum prides itself on giving personal guided tours, through storytelling of the people and places of Calhoun County, to anyone who visits. This year, we have seen people from all over the Country. Even after the total eclipse, we had guests visit us from coast to coast.



The Museum has its own archives and research room in our building. We love getting to know those who come to ask questions or are on a quest to see how people from Calhoun County (Amelia Township) and surrounding areas lived, or even where they are buried. We are the sentimental journey for many whose relatives or friends who lived here generations ago. Our large collection of archival records, books, and files has helped many with their thirst for family knowledge. Remember we cannot share with the public of today if you don't share your information you have from yesteryear.

We do research by appointment only. Museum policy requires us to give you as much one on one as possible. For whatever question you might have about your family's past, or history of the past, we look forward to making our services available to each of you.



## 2017 Summer Camps at the Museum

The Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center saw great success this year with their children's camp programs during Mondays at the Museum. Throughout the summer, children came for fun times with the museum staff. Sarah Dippity brought her comedy magic show and had the children laughing at all her jokes and magic tricks. The Columbia Marionette Theatre performed "The Tortoise and the Hare" for the children. After the performance, children had the opportunity to see how a marionette puppet worked. Becky's Box of Puppets performed "Sleeping Beauty" for the children, and she also taught the children how to make their own puppets. The museum staff taught the children how to use their imaginations through dances and a rhythm band. For the grand finale, Rapunzel and Flynn Ryder graced the stage and taught the children manners and also had a sing-a-long with the children.

Each summer program had record attendance. The museum could not have asked for a better turnout for this year's summer camps. We look forward to a bigger and better year next year!





## Programs, Workshops and Special Events Throughout the Year

The Calhoun County Museum had a very busy year this past year with different programs and events.

**"A Tribute to Farming Through Changes in Technology"** - The September 2016 after-hours was a documentary film premier created by Dr. Houck Medford which explores the changes in technology with cotton farming. Along with the premier, local schools brought their students to the museum to watch the film and ride the SC Farm Bureau AG Simulator. Thank you South Carolina Certified for your materials and bags. Thank you Farm Bureau Federation for providing the "Ag in the Class Room" program to help students and parents prepare for this special event. The Calhoun County Farm Bureau Women's Committee went out of their way being here to assist students and adults. They provided instructions on how to make butter and how farmers pick crops. Vonnie Knight, SC Farm Bureau Ag Literacy Program Director, was a big help in planning all of the above activities.

**Getting Ready for Christmas** - Our after-hours creative classes are just fun. Brandy Roberson got us ready for Christmas by teaching participants how to make wooden Christmas trees.

**Community Choir** - The Cameron Community holiday concerts are always sponsored by the Museum in memory of C.F. Ulmer. Singers from fourteen churches did a magnificent job sharing their talents with two public concerts.

**"Spring Fling"** L. Marion Gressette Center patrons enjoyed a special Museum program entitled "Spring Fling" with lots of fun, dancing, singing, and great food. Let's not forget their famous rhythm Band concert. If you see anyone from the Center, just ask them how to do the "Chicken Dance."

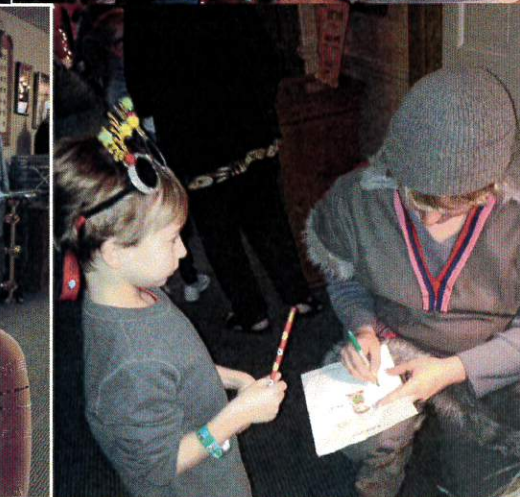
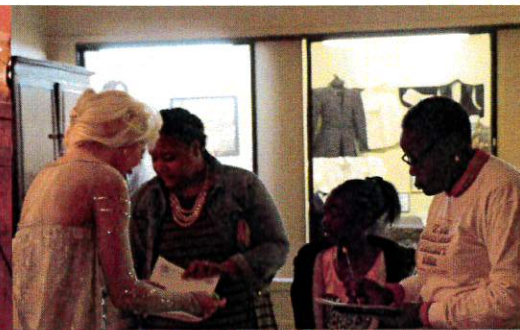
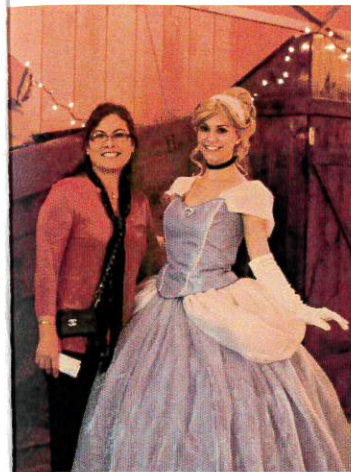
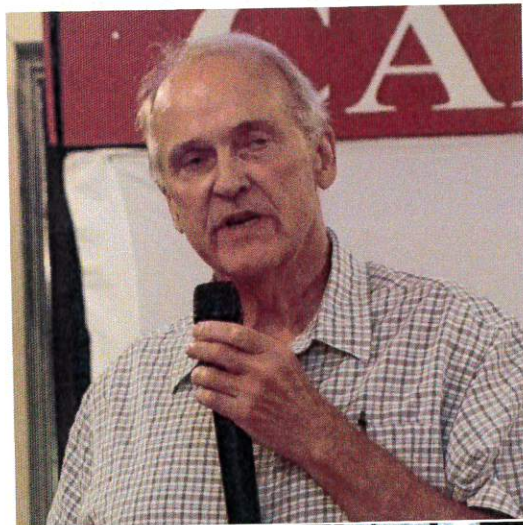
**"Let's Get Organized"** - This after-hours presentation was amazing. What a great turnout. Sandy Davis taught museum friends how to organize their cluttered homes.

**Learning though the Community Arts** - The Cameron Community Club is one of our partners and has been for over 30 years. The Museum provides funds to insure art activity in their building can be offered to the public at a reduced rate. For example, the Calhoun Players receive a benefit by the Museum's support. Other outreach art classes such as dance, etc. were offered also.

**Fort Motte Reunion Festival** - This family affair has been held for over 16 years. During each of these years, the Museum has provided music and entertainment in many fashions. Our hats are off to this hard working group of community leaders, especially George Haynes and his team.

**Bringing People Together Through Prayer Beads** - This after-hours taught people how to make prayer beads. Each person made two prayer beads, one to keep and one to give away.

*The Museum looks forward to another busy year during the 2017-2018 year! Check our Facebook page for upcoming programs.*



## 2016 Elf Hunt and Winter Wonderland of Lights

The Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center held its 2nd Annual Elf Hunt and Winter Wonderland of Lights. This program was a huge success...it was like a children's Gala! Those in attendance enjoyed hunting for elves hidden all over the museum in the collection and exhibits. This educational celebration gives children and adults of all ages the opportunity to enjoy some fun while learning some South Carolina history. Disney-style characters treated the crowd with two concerts. The Museum "Castle" was a great delight along with "Calhoun the Pirate" who was shipwrecked in the Activities Room. Children had the opportunity to mail their letters to Santa in the Museum's Post Office Exhibit. The Museum was decorated in thousands of lights from traditional lights to whimsical lights. The children and adults really enjoyed the evening. Days following the opening night, school groups toured the museum and were awed by the lights.

Please join us on **Thursday, November 30, 2017** for our **3rd Annual Elf Hunt and Winter Wonderland of Lights!** We promise it will be full of surprises.



## Meet Amanda Lee!

The Calhoun County Museum is delighted to have Amanda Lee, formerly of Virginia, as a part of our museum family. Miss Lee grew up in Orangeburg, South Carolina where she graduated from Orangeburg Prep. She received her undergraduate degree in History from Erskine College and a Master's in Public History from the University of South Carolina. Before joining the Museum staff, she was employed by the State of Virginia as a preservationist. Amanda's family made their home in Calhoun County 16 years ago. She is the daughter of Ricky Lee and the late Martha Lee. If you have preservation or National Register questions, please give her a call. Welcome Amanda!



## Museum "Did You Know"

Did you know that the current building that the museum is in today was once the old Calhoun Pecan Company? In 1976, Calhoun County purchased the 5,000 square foot building to house the growing collection of the Calhoun County Museum. The museum started out in a back room at the old library. Today, the museum is a sprawling 20,000 square-foot facility. Come see us today for a personal tour!



### Contact Information:

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Events: [ccm@yahoo.com](mailto:ccm@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.calhouncountymuseumandculturalcenter.org](http://www.calhouncountymuseumandculturalcenter.org)

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

Research is by appointment only.

Your attendance to any Tours or Programs gives the Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center Permission to use any Photographs for Future Publications