

# **Edgefield County Historical Society**

**Spring Meeting at Horn's Creek Church  
475 Old Stage Road  
Edgefield, South Carolina**

**Sunday, April 15, 2018, 3:00 p.m.**

**Celebration of the Completion of the Restoration of Horn's Creek Church  
and of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the Church**



*Horn's Creek Church, Founded 1768*

# **Horn's Creek Church**

## **A Brief Overview of the History of the Church and the Restoration Efforts**

Founded in 1768 just a few years after the first settlers arrived in Edgefield County, Horn's Creek Baptist Church was the result of the evangelical mission of the Reverend Daniel Marshall (1707-1784), the renowned Baptist Devine who had founded churches in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. In the years following its founding, as the population of the Horn's Creek neighborhood grew and its agricultural economy boomed, this Church became one of the largest and most influential churches in the County, providing a place of worship for both whites and African Americans. Moreover, as one of the "mother" churches of the region, it spawned a number of important "daughter" churches throughout the County.

By the closing decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Horn's Creek lands, characterized by dramatic topography with high ridges and deep valleys, had begun to wear out from soil exhaustion and erosion, causing many residents to move out. This gradual depopulation of the neighborhood continued for many decades and was rapidly accelerated by the coming of the boll weevil in the 1920s. In 1942, the few remaining members of Horn's Creek Baptist Church met and decided to discontinue services and to turn the property over to the Edgefield Baptist Association for safe-keeping. For the next sixty years the Horn's Creek Church property was under the control of the Association.

In 1976, the County made the restoration of Horn's Creek Church its Bicentennial Project. In that year, many individuals expended an enormous amount of time and effort working on the church building and cemetery. However, in the decades following, due to its remote and unprotected location, the building and cemetery were subjected to terrible vandalism. Although a number of efforts were made to repair the damage caused by the vandals, the defacement continued unabated. Finally, frustrated by the vandalism, recognizing their inability to restore and preserve the Church, yet cognizant of the historical importance of the property, the Edgefield Baptist Association deeded the property to the Edgefield County Historical Society in 2002.

From the beginning, the Society felt the heavy obligation to preserve and restore this historic treasure. It is one of the oldest – if not the oldest – structures in Edgefield County. The best estimate, based upon architectural and documentary evidence, is that the current building was constructed as least as early as 1784 when the property was platted and conveyed to the original Trustees. It is a monument to the beginning of the religious fervor in the South Carolina and Georgia backcountries in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Almost all of the Baptist churches in this region, including Big Stevens Creek Baptist Church in Edgefield County and Kiokee Baptist Church in Columbia County, Georgia, trace their roots to the ministry of Daniel Marshall. The Edgefield County Historical Society was so keenly aware of the importance of this property and the religious revival which started here that it undertook to have a comprehensive history of the early years of the Church written and published several years ago, copies of which can be obtained from the Society.

The Church is also significant because one of Edgefield's most important pottery entrepreneurs, Reverend John Landrum, was the pastor here for nearly forty years. As Reverend Landrum owned the Slave Potter Dave, it is likely that Dave attended Horn's Creek Church from time to time. Horn's Creek Church is therefore one of only two extant structures which can claim a close association with Edgefield's renowned pottery heritage.

The Society's long-term vision for the Church is that it will become a museum for the rich Colonial, Revolutionary and Early National history of Edgefield County, as well as an event center for meetings, concerts, weddings and other gatherings. It is anticipated that the rental revenue derived from events held here will provide the income to maintain the property.

The Society's original efforts at restoration of the Church were frustrated by the destructive vandalism which continued while the property was still uninhabited. It was finally concluded that no further efforts at restoration were warranted until the property could be protected by having someone living on site. The Society made some efforts at temporarily housing a caretaker on site in the years immediately following its acquisition of the property, but it became clear that this would not be enough.

Thus, it was not until 2013 that a decision was made to move forward with the construction a caretaker's cottage. With the support of much volunteer help, generous contributions, and a mortgage loan from a regional bank, construction of a caretaker's cottage was begun in the spring of 2014. A ground-breaking ceremony was held on Palm Sunday, April 13, 2014. By the spring of 2015 the cottage was completed, and is, by all accounts, a very credible structure, much in keeping with the architecture of the Church.

About this same time, the Society was fortunate to secure Barney Lamar, a Beech Island native with deep Edgefield County roots, to be the caretaker of the property. Mr. Lamar is a restorer of fine art and has a good grasp of local history. The Society could not have found a more ideal caretaker for Horn's Creek Church. His wonderful collection of art is beautifully displayed in the cottage and provides another interesting element for visitors to see. With the caretaker living on site, there has been no vandalism in the past three years.

By the end of 2016, although the caretaker's cottage was completed and the property was protected, nothing substantial had been done restore the Church building itself. Then, in early 2017, a one-time grant program of the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor was announced for which the restoration of Horn's Creek Church was eligible. In July, a \$50,000 grant was awarded for the project. The restoration work on the Church began in earnest in the Fall of 2017 and is now nearing completion. The Heritage Corridor grant was a matching grant so that it was necessary to raise \$50,000 in private funds to match the Corridor funds. With the generous support of many friends, the Society has made good progress toward reaching this fundraising goal, but additional funds are still needed. Please join this effort to which approximately 370 people have already contributed by sending your check to the Edgefield County Historical Society at P.O. Box 174, Edgefield, S.C. 29824.

# Program

Processional – "America, the Beautiful" \*

Welcome – William Morgan Benton, President of the Society

Presentation of the Colors – Sons of the American Revolution, Col. Wm. Few Chapter

Invocation – A Representative of Big Stevens Creek Baptist Church, "mother" of Horn's Creek Baptist Church

The Pledge of Allegiance

"The Star Spangled Banner" \*

"On Daniel Marshall and Singing" – Bettis C. Rainsford, Historian of the Society

"Rock of Ages" \*

Introduction of the Keynote Speaker – Mr. Rainsford

"A Voice Crying in the Wilderness: Daniel Marshall and the Separate Baptist Witness at Horn's Creek" – Dr. A. V. Huff, Professor Emeritus of History, Furman University

"Old Time Religion" \*

Message from the South Carolina Baptist Association – Dr. Gary Hollingsworth, Executive Director

Message from Mount Canaan Baptist Church – Dr. George L. Brightharp

"On Parson Mason Lock Weems and his fiddle" – Mr. Benton

Instrumental Presentation of the Fiddle in honor of Parson Weems – Mr. Wetzel & Dr. Kendall

Donor Acknowledgements

"Shall We Gather at the River" \*

Remembrance of John Albert Timmerman (1925-2018), last surviving member of Horn's Creek Church who was present at the 1942 dissolution of the church.

Unveiling of the Memorial Plaque to Henry Tillman Snead (1935-2017), devoted friend of the Society and inspiration for the Horn's Creek Baptist Church restoration.

"Amazing Grace" \*

"My Country Tis of Thee" \*

Retirement of the Colors – Sons of the Revolution

Benediction – Pastor Aaron Tripp, Edgefield First Baptist Church, daughter of Horn's Creek

Recessional – "Onward Christian Soldiers" \*

Musket Salute – Sons of the Revolution

\*\* The music for today's ceremony is provided by Dr. Dorothy Kendall of Eastover and Mr. John Wetzel of Blythewood. The audience is encouraged to sing along with our performers on all of these old time favorite hymns. Words for the songs are to be found in the following pages.

## Our Keynote Speaker

A native of Columbia, South Carolina, Dr. Archie Vernon Huff, Jr. is Professor Emeritus of History at Furman University. He was formerly Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean, and a Trustee at Furman. He is a magna cum laude graduate of Wofford College, with M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Duke University and has a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Yale University. He is an ordained United Methodist Minister. On the Furman history faculty since 1968, he served for many years as department chair. A specialist on the American South and South Carolina, he is the author or editor of six books, including *The History of South Carolina in the Building of a Nation*, *Langdon Cheves of South Carolina* and *Greenville: The History of the City and County in the South Carolina Piedmont*. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He chairs the South Carolina Commission on Archives and History. He and his wife, Kate, have a daughter and a son.

## Our Musical Performers

**Dorothy Fowles Kendall, M.D.** grew up in Columbia, SC singing in the choir at Trinity Episcopal Church and playing piano. She and John Wetzel had their first public performance in 2013 when a friend in Watauga County, NC called in a panic that her band's banjo player had accidentally shot himself and the fiddle player was also missing in action. She plays banjo, accordion and rhythm guitar. Dr. Kendall is a practicing psychiatrist and is married to Dr. Edward M. Kendall.

**John Wetzel** is a long-term resident of Blythewood, S.C. Although he hails from a military family that was often posted to Europe during his childhood, he has been a S.C. native since his teenage years. He makes his living as a Surveyor, but his primary interest is music, especially the traditional music of many cultures, including the music of the American South. He enjoys singing harmony and playing fiddle, mandolin, clawhammer banjo, guitar and Bayan (Russian style) accordion. Together Dorothy and John form an Old Time and Classic Country vocal duo who also play Country Blues, Vintage Pop and Traditional Celtic music. They love reviving great old songs.

## America the Beautiful

Oh, beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea.

Oh, beautiful for pilgrim feet,  
Whose stern, impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare of freedom beat  
Across the wilderness!  
America! America!  
God mend thine ev'ry flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self-control,  
Thy liberty in law.

Oh, beautiful for heroes proved  
In liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country loved,  
And mercy more than life!  
America! America!  
May God thy gold refine,  
Till all success be nobleness,  
And ev'ry gain divine.

Oh, beautiful for patriot dream  
That sees beyond the years  
Thine alabaster cities gleam,  
Undimmed by human tears!  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea.

## The Star Spangled Banner

O say can you see by the dawn's early light  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last  
gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the  
perilous fight  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly  
streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still  
there  
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

## Rock of Ages

Rock of ages, cleft for me  
Let me hide myself in Thee  
Rock of ages, cleft for me  
Let me hide myself in Thee

Let the water and the blood  
From Thy riven side which flowed  
Be of sin the double cure  
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r

Rock of ages, cleft for me  
Let me hide myself in Thee  
Rock of ages, cleft for me  
Let me hide myself in Thee

## Old Time Religion

Give me that old time religion  
Tis the old time religion,  
Tis the old time religion,  
And it's good enough for me.

Makes me love everybody.  
Makes me love everybody.  
Makes me love everybody.  
And it's good enough for me.

Give me that old time religion  
Tis the old time religion,  
Tis the old time religion,  
And it's good enough for me.

It will take us all to heaven.  
It will take us all to heaven.  
It will take us all to heaven.  
And it's good enough for me.

Give me that old time religion  
Tis the old time religion,  
Tis the old time religion,  
And it's good enough for me.

## **Shall We Gather at the River**

Shall we gather at the river,  
Where bright angel feet have trod,  
With its crystal tide forever  
Flowing by the throne of God?

Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
The beautiful, the beautiful river;  
Gather with the saints at the river  
That flows by the throne of God.

At the smiling of the river,  
Mirror of the Savior's face,  
Saints, whom death will never sever,  
Lift their songs of saving grace.

Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
The beautiful, the beautiful river;  
Gather with the saints at the river  
That flows by the throne of God.

## **Amazing Grace**

Amazing Grace, How sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
T'was blind but now I see.

T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear  
And Grace, my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
we have already come.  
T'was grace that brought us safe thus far  
And grace will lead us home.

Amazing grace, How sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost but now am found;  
T'was blind but now I see.

## **My Country 'Tis of Thee**

My country, 'tis of thee,  
Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing;  
Land where my fathers died,  
Land of the pilgrims' pride,  
From ev'ry mountainside  
Let freedom ring!

Our fathers' God to Thee,  
Author of liberty,  
To Thee we sing.  
Long may our land be bright,  
With freedom's holy light,  
Protect us by Thy might,  
Great God our King.

## **Onward Christian Soldiers**

Onward Christian soldiers!  
Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus  
Going on before.

Christ, the royal Master,  
Leads against the foe;  
Forward into battle,  
See, His banners go!

Onward, Christian soldiers!  
Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus,  
Going on before.

Like a mighty army  
Moves the Church of God:  
Brothers, we are treading  
Where the saints have trod;

Onward, then, ye people!  
Join our happy throng;  
Blend with ours your voices  
In the triumph song.

Glory, laud and honor  
Unto Christ, the King;  
This through countless ages  
Men and angels sing.

**The Edgefield County Historical Society  
Expresses Its Deep Appreciation to Those Who Have Contributed  
to the Restoration of Horn's Creek Church**

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### **Donors of \$100 to \$499**

See page 9

### **Other Donors**

See page 10

**The Society still needs to raise additional money to get this project completed. Those who would like to add their names to the list of those who have given to preserve and restore this most important historic property in Edgefield County are invited to do so by mailing your contribution to the Edgefield County Historical Society at P.O. Box 174, Edgefield, S.C. 29824.**

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 Mr. & Mrs. Ed Wood  
 Mr. Jeff Wright  
 Ms. Bessie "Tina" Yarrowborough  
 Col. Wm. G. Yarrowborough

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Ricky Holmes

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Mance Jolly  
Rankin Jolly  
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Mario Luna  
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Steve McCary  
Tracy McCary  
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Richard Miller  
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Jorge Pacifico  
Debra Pacifico  
David Parker  
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Chase Riggs  
Dakota Riggs  
Riggs Mobile Const.  
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Robert Singleton  
Sanchez Singleton  
William Singleton, Sr.  
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