

Call & Response

News from the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission

Winter 2012 Volume VII, Number 1



<http://shpo.sc.gov/res/Pages/SCAAHC.aspx>

&

<http://scaaheritagefound.org/>

SCAAHC Board Members:

Mr. Michael A. Allen

Mount Pleasant

Dr. Abel A. Bartley

Clemson

Ms. Felicia Flemming-McCall

Cheraw

Ms. Jannie Harriot

Hartsville

Mr. Bhakti Larry Hough

Hemingway

Mr. Joseph J. James

Columbia

Mr. Terry James

Florence

Dr. Barbara Williams Jenkins

Manning

Mr. Leon Love

Lexington

Mr. Joseph McGill, Jr.

Ladson

Ms. Alada Shinault-Small

North Charleston

Ms. Strauss Moore Shiple

York

Ms. Martha Scott Smith

Columbia

Mr. E. Richard Walton

Greenville

Mr. Bernie L. Wright

Orangeburg

Mr. Michael Bedenbaugh

Ex officio, Palmetto Trust for
Historic Preservation

Dr. Millicent Brown

Ex officio, Claflin University

Dr. Bobby Donaldson

Ex officio, University of SC

Ms. Lisa Randle

Ex Officio, Magnolia Plantation & Gardens

Ms. Denise Riley

Ex officio, The Governor's Office

Dr. Larry Watson

Ex officio, SC State University

Ms. Joy Young

Ex officio, SC Arts Commission

Message from the Chair

Bhakti Larry Hough



If you are tuned in to history to any significant degree, it does something to you, consciously or subconsciously. To engage it becomes an emotional, mental and spiritual exercise - even if you are approaching it from an academic perspective. You realize that it is a part of you and you are a part of it. I am not quite sure when I came to this realization. Perhaps it was around age six, when my father first shared the story of Larry Doby, a native of Camden and distant relative of ours, who had made national history in major league baseball. I can recall the deep feeling of pride of having a biological, racial and cultural connection to someone who faced

formidable obstacles yet overcame and excelled to become a shining example of possibility for people of all backgrounds. At age six and standing little more than four feet tall, I felt considerably taller. Knowing that history did something to me.

Perhaps this realization came at my great-grandmother Blossom Hough's knee in late 1960s and early 1970s as she shared stories of what life was like for the family and for African Americans in general in South Carolina and Darlington County in the first half of the 20th Century. The first time I heard the name Ben Tillman was when she uttered it as she shared with me what could only be described as the fear of Tillman that black people who knew what he was about felt. Learning more about Tillman, a virulent white supremacist, even as a child, I had difficulty understanding how such a person could be elected governor and honored with a statue on the SC State House grounds. South Carolina and the nation honoring racists and bigots caused a great cognitive dissonance for me as young person because the truth so often conflicted with the state's and the nation's PR stories. I have a better understanding now of who and what the people were about then, and to some degree still are today.

But that understanding still does not justify their conduct, and that statue of Tillman on the State House grounds still bothers me. Again, this history did something to me. It made me aware of the very flawed state of the human condition that can lead to great incidents of human inhumanity to fellow humans and that there will always be such people among us. Therefore, the objective must be, in addition to perhaps trying to change their hearts and raise their consciousness,

continued

The mission of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission is to identify and promote the preservation of historic sites, structures, buildings, and culture of the African American experience in South Carolina and to assist and enhance the efforts of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Message from the Chair *continued*

to make sure that the laws of the land are appropriate and adequate to keep bigotry and bias in check until humanity evolves to a higher state of being.

So, it is this emotional relationship with history, and its accompanying mood swings, that I bring to the chairmanship of the SC African Heritage Commission. I am grateful and feel honored to have this opportunity to engage through yet another avenue the history and culture of South Carolina that reflects African American heritage. Though new to this seat, I am not new to the commission, having been a charter member of its forerunner, the South Carolina African American Heritage Council, 20 years ago. Over that time, I have found that, in general, African Americans don't place much value on the preservation of historic properties, structures, sites, and cultural lifeways. I think that is probably an effect of slavery and being divorced from our history and an understanding and appreciation of it as an empowering, life-giving and life-preserving force. As rich and as powerful a history as we have and the lessons and empowerment we could gain from it, it is so often dismissed and ignored by us and left to be appreciated by others outside the race. The positive in this is that it has created for me an even greater sense of urgency as a keeper of the culture and the things that our people have built and created and a promoter of the higher intangible things of history that heal us and make and keep us whole. Therefore, as important as it is for all people to appreciate all history, it is critically important that we as African American people take responsibility for our history and not allow ourselves to become unwitting accomplices to our own malaise, mediocrity and, sometimes failure, by helping contrary forces erase inspiring evidence of our genius and greatness with our indifference. A physical, social and spiritual landscape devoid of the expressions and creations of our ancestors ensures that our progeny see and feel no empowering legacy of power and greatness to embrace, absorb, and build on. And we simply can't have that; the stakes are too high.

That having been said, I am encouraged and grateful that there are African Americans and others who appreciate and seek to preserve African American history and culture in our state. We are a vibrant and important community - a community of cultural values that transcends racial or geographic proximity. A community in which the bond is what is vitally important to us - an understanding of the contemporary relevance of history with its ability to inform, enlighten, inspire, and provoke thought. I trust that you will enjoy the contents of this newsletter as you review what many in this community of cultural values are doing to highlight and preserve our

history and culture. We are excited about the months ahead as the commission puts greater emphasis on the performing arts as a vital part of history and culture, on how we can fully develop the economic components of history and culture in South Carolina and improve the commission's ability to be a greater player in this process by improving our own resource base. Our allocation from the SC General Assembly, though we are grateful for it, is small and limits our ability to do all that we are capable of doing and see the need to do in terms of promoting, uncovering, interpreting and preserving African American history and culture, South Carolina's history and culture. We welcome your input, feedback, ideas, support and collaboration.



In The News *Preserving Our Places In* *History Awards Luncheon*

Friday, January 27, 2012
Archives & History Center, Columbia

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL
AWARD RECIPIENTS & NOMINEES ~
SC IS MUCH MORE RICH BECAUSE OF
YOUR TIME & ENERGY !!**



GROUP OR ORGANIZATION AWARD

Rep. Garrick presents the award to Dr. Russell Horres who accepts it for the Fort Sumter National Monument, National Park Service, Sullivan's Island for their sponsoring educational boat excursions to Morris Island for area students.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
The Honorable Mia Butler Garrick presents the award to Dr. Jack Solomon Bass of Charleston.

PROJECT AWARD
Rep. Garrick presents the award to Ms. Harriet Harvey (left) and Ms. Robin Waites of Historic Columbia Foundation for their *Connecting Communities through History* project.



Photos on pp. 3-4 taken by Terry James

INDIVIDUAL AWARD
Rep. Garrick presents the award to Rev. Dr. Charmaine Ragin from Georgetown. The restoration of Bethel AME Church parsonage and monthly talk sessions with historians are a couple of examples of her recent work in her community.



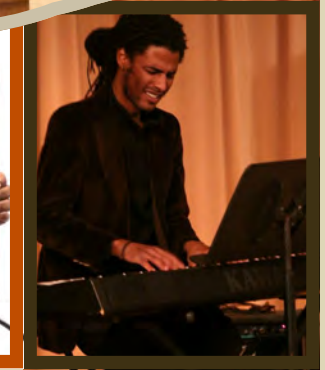
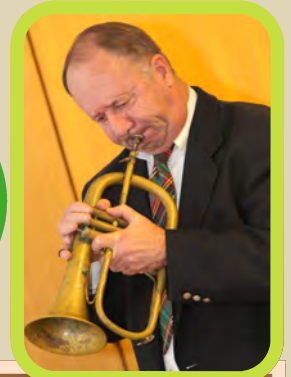
THE SCAAHC HERBERT A. DECOSTA TRAILBLAZER AWARD
Mr. Robert Stanton presents the award to AT&T for the African American History calendar & its companion website. Accepting the award are Ms. Martha Scott Smith (left) and Ms. Pamela Lackey.

Annual Meeting: At A Glance

Preserving More Than Places In History: Celebrating South Carolina's African American Jazz Heritage

Friday, January 27, 2012

Archives & History Center, Columbia



**SCAAHC presents:
2011-2012
Civil War Lecture Series**

Entities throughout the state are taking advantage of an opportunity to present to the general public the stories of African Americans and their roles during the American Civil War.

In December 2011, the SCAAHC announced that it received a major grant from The Humanities Council^{SC} to assist with its African American Civil War Lecture Series. Scholars, historians and re-enactors are covering a variety of subjects. Thus far, lectures have been conducted at St Helena's Island, Charleston, Clemson and Hartsville.

Next lecture :

Thursday, August 23rd, Spartanburg Regional History Museum, 200 E. St. John Street, Spartanburg, 6-8 pm. Speakers: Dr. Veronica Gerald: "Grapevine: How African Americans Communicated During the Civil War"; Dr. Eric Emerson: "The Ordinance of Secession"; Ms. Nicole Green: "Slavery in South Carolina" and Dr. Abel Bartley: "The Causes of the War". www.spartanburghisory.org

Final lecture:

Thursday, October 25th, Archives & History Center, 8301 Parklane Road, Columbia, 6-8 pm. Speakers: Dr. Veronica Gerald: "Grapevine: How African Americans Communicated During the Civil War"; Mr. Ernest Parks: "The Battle of Sol Legare"; Dr. Larry Watson: "Black Confederates" and Ms. Jeannie Cyraique: "The Men at the Meeting with General Sherman". <http://scdah.sc.gov/>

Other sponsors are the South Carolina African American Historical Alliance, the Fort Sumter/Fort Moultrie Trust and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Lectures are free and open to the public. For further info please contact project coordinator Joseph McGill at 843-408-7727.

**A Sesquicentennial Series:
African Americans during the
Civil War -
Stony The Road They Trod
Part 6: Robert Smalls:
Courage Under Fire**

Abel Bartley

Dr. Bartley is Director of the Pan African Studies Program & Associate Professor of African American and Urban History, Clemson University



There are several narratives for the African American experience during and after slavery. For many people, the Civil War represents the dividing line in African American history, the place where Black Americans rewrote the American story forcing Americans to expand their limited definitions of freedom and liberty. During the war years, African Americans successfully redrew the meaning of citizen. Traditional narratives describe passive slaves waiting for the fatherly Abraham Lincoln to free them. As with most historical tales, the truth is much more fascinating and complicated than fiction. As we continue to rewrite Civil War history, the traditional story of Abraham Lincoln freeing the grateful, but helpless slaves has come under scrutiny. Continuing our matriculation through the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and passing numerous important landmarks, let us look back so that we can look forward to understand why the traditional narrative does not fit the facts.

The life of South Carolina's Robert Smalls offers a good example. Like many important historical figures, people have heard about Smalls, but few actually know about his significance. He was born into slavery on April 5, 1839 in Beaufort, SC,

continued

A Sesquicentennial Series: African Americans during the Civil War - Stony The Road They Trod Part 6: Robert Smalls: Courage Under Fire *continued*

the only child of Lydia, a 49-year-old enslaved woman on the John McKee plantation and an unidentified White man, most likely Moses Goldsmith a wealthy Jewish merchant.

From ages 12 to 18, Smalls lived in Charleston working a variety of jobs such as a waiter, lamplighter, stevedore, ship rigger and sailor receiving just one dollar a year working as a hired-out servant. At 18, he and his owner renegotiated his pay whereby Smalls received all but \$15 per month of his pay. Smalls' renegotiated contract demonstrates his tenacious determination, which would later make him famous. On December 24, 1856, Smalls married Hannah Jones, an enslaved hotel maid. Once Robert and Hannah started having children, Smalls negotiated a deal with their owner, Samuel Kingman, to purchase his family for \$800. By 1861, the Smalls family had two children - Lydia and Robert Jr.

The first few years of the 1860s proved to be pivotal years for Smalls and the country. The Civil War disrupted the southern plantation system opening an opportunity for African Americans to take their freedom into their own hands and abscond from plantations in mad dashes to freedom. On September 15, 1861, Mansfield French estimated that 15,000 African Americans had escaped from southern plantations. Confederate Brigadier General H. W. Mercer estimated that 20,000 slaves worth between \$12 and \$15 had escaped by 1862 in Georgia alone. Blacks were not waiting for President Lincoln to free them; they were freeing themselves by running to Union lines.

Early in 1861, Smalls was hired as a deck-hand on the 147-foot Confederate transport steamer *The Planter*. Smalls demonstrated advanced skills at piloting the boat through the unpredictable currents of the Charleston harbor. He became so proficient at his task that his captain made him the boat's pilot. Smalls learned all of the navigation channels in the Charleston harbor as well as all the gun and troop positions of the Confederate armies guarding the

harbor.

At about 3 a.m. on May 13, 1862, while the White crew was ashore, Smalls boarded *The Planter*, which was loaded with armaments for the rebel forts, and quietly sailed the boat to a nearby dock where he loaded his wife, children and 12 other slaves. He then fearlessly sailed the boat through the harbor giving the correct whistle signal as he passed each rebel fort. He then turned the boat towards the nearest Union blockading ship and made a break for it. As Smalls approached the *USS Onward*, the ship's captain prepared to fire. Before the guns were fired, Smalls raised the white flag of surrender. He then sailed *The Planter* alongside the *Onward* and shouted, "Good morning, sir! I have brought you some of the old United States' guns, sir!"



Robert Smalls at age 30. From <http://robertsmalls.org/>

editorial in the New York *Daily Tribune* said, "Is he not also a man - and is he not fit for freedom, since he made such a hazardous dash to gain it? . . . Is he not a man and a hero - whose pluck has not been questioned by even the *Charleston Courier* or *The New York Herald*? . . . What white man has made a bolder dash, or won a richer prize in the teeth of such perils during the war? . . . Perhaps [blacks are inferior to whites] but they seem to possess good material for improvement. Few white men have a better record than Robert Smalls."

Congress was quick to show support. A bill passed and signed by President Lincoln awarded prize money to Smalls and his associates. Smalls was granted an audience with President Lincoln where he helped convince Lincoln to use Black

Smalls was immediately taken to Admiral Samuel F. Du Pont, commander of the blockading squadron. Smalls then gave Du Pont Charleston newspapers, a very valuable Confederate naval code book and information on the location of rebel troops. The northern press celebrated Smalls as a national hero, praising his courage and intelligence.

One newspaper editorialized Smalls' gallantry and how it shattered stereotypes about the capability of Blacks. An

A Sesquicentennial Series: *African Americans during the Civil War -*

Stony The Road They Trod

Part 6: Robert Smalls: Courage Under Fire *continued*

soldiers in the military effort. In 1862, *The Planter* was assigned to transport duty - ferrying Union soldiers during the war. Smalls was appointed Captain of the boat. The ship was moved to Philadelphia where it was retrofitted. While there, Smalls hired a tutor to learn to read and write. He continued to command *The Planter* until it was decommissioned in 1866. Once the war ended, Smalls returned to Beaufort where he bought property, enrolled in school and eventually engaged in politics. He served in the South Carolina militia rising to brigadier general. Smalls was elected to the State Constitutional convention where he helped draft a new state constitution, which officially ended slavery and provided for the first state-supported free public education. Smalls served in the state legislature until 1874 when he was elected to the US House of Representatives. By 1876 South Carolina, like the rest of the south, was changing politically. Wade Hampton and the South Carolina Redeemers used various unethical schemes to return democratic control to the state. Smalls won a hotly contested election, but the Democrats then accused him of accepting a \$5,000 bribe. He was then tried, convicted and sentenced to three years in prison.

He appealed to the federal courts whereby the state worked out a deal in which the state dropped its charges against Smalls in return for the federal courts dropping its charges against the state for election fraud. Governor Hampton then issued Smalls a full pardon ending Smalls' US Supreme Court appeal. Smalls lost a controversial election in 1878 and then won election in 1880. In 1886, Smalls was defeated again in an election. In 1895, he carried on a valiant but unsuccessful effort to block legislators from disfranchising Black voters at the state Constitutional Convention. In 1889, Smalls took the position of Customs Collector for the Port of Beaufort, a position he held until 1912. During the Spanish American War, Smalls was offered a Black regiment. He turned it down. Later he was offered

the position of US Consul to Liberia, again a position he rejected. In 1913, Smalls made his last public action when he prevented two Black men from being lynched by promising the sheriff that Blacks would not burn White homes. The sheriff responded by deputizing a posse to maintain control. Smalls spent his final three years struggling with various health issues. He was suffering from diabetes, and this created numerous health problems. On February 23, 1915 Smalls quietly died at his home in Beaufort. His funeral three days later was widely attended as he was celebrated as one of South Carolina's most significant African American figures.

Smalls' life more than anyone's serves as proof positive that our traditional views of Blacks and slavery were wrong. Smalls started life out enslaved, but through sheer determination and grit rose to the highest ranks in local, state, and national politics - adequately preparing himself for each new role. The gallantry, courage, and skills demonstrated by Robert Smalls, and the hundreds of thousands of other African Americans like him who took their freedom into their own hands, show that African Americans were not passively awaiting some great White savior; but instead, they were active agents who fought slavery, discrimination, and segregation with every weapon in their arsenal. If more people knew the stories of these historic African Americans, there would be less emphasis on flags and mundane monuments and more on ideas like liberty, justice, and freedom.

In Bluffton:



Kinfolks
GULLAH
grubs & seafood
Restaurant

843-815-4782
70 Pennington Drive
Suite 1
Sheridan Park
behind
Sonic Drive In

Kinfolks serving you with kindred spirits!
Hours
Sun 1 - 4
Mon-Wed 10 - 7
Thurs-Sat 10 - 9

Fried Grits and Shrimp \$6.95

Kinfolksoffthefoodsc.com

Preservation Project Profile

Bonds Conway Built House Camden Property of the Price House Commission and the City of Camden

Polly Lampshire
Chairman, Price House Commission



Researchers believe this historic building was constructed by Bonds Conway in the early 1800's. Bonds Conway was a slave whose owner, Peter Conway, allowed him to earn money by hiring himself out to others. In 1793, Zach Cantey purchased Conway using Conway's own money. Cantey then gave up the rights to Conway and he became a free man.

Conway built several houses in the Camden area. This rectangular one-story frame house shown above has one interior brick chimney and a porch with a shale roof. It was previously located at 420 York Street. The Price House Commission through the City of Camden purchased the property in the Fall of 2006 from the Life in the World Ministries and moved it to its present location at 724 South Broad Street.

Using donated funds and a grant from the state of South Carolina, the Price House Commission has been restoring the building for use as an African American Museum. A new foundation on brick piers, a new roof and

flooring have been completed. The chimney has been replaced and the porch rebuilt. All plumbing, mechanical and electrical infrastructure have also been replaced. Windows have been rebuilt and new exterior doors and hardware installed. Wherever possible, the old materials were used as well as the original paint colors which were discovered under subsequent layers of paint.

Early documentation of ownership is not clear, but records show that in 1864, Sally Gibson sold the property to John P. Wilson of Virginia. The Commission has a letter from John P. Wilson stating that he purchased the property on July 9, 1864. Wilson then sold it to John Player of Kershaw District in 1870 for \$100. In 1914, Arthur Brown, a local blacksmith, and his wife Nannie purchased the house. In 1925, Richard Harris, a laborer and his wife were listed as residents of the house. Local resident Mrs. Rollin (Edna) Reynolds' family once lived in the house when it was on York Street. Her grandmother, Mrs. Capel and her mother Ms. Belle Strak, who died at age 95, also lived there.

The Price House Commission is proud of the progress it has made. Although this house is small in stature, its significance is large in heart and heritage.



September 22-23, 2012
Charleston County School of the Arts, Charleston, SC
IN CONCERT WONA WOMALAN & GUEST ARTISTS
SEPTEMBER 22 8:00PM
Purchase Concert/Workshop Tickets Online
WONAWOMALAN.COM ~ 843.532.6476 ~ 803.414.8559

Spotlight on...

Lisa B. Randle Charleston



Lisa Randle has been an ex officio member of the SCAAHC since 2009 when she was the Site Coordinator for the UNESCO Transatlantic Slave Trade Education Project at the College of Charleston for the Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World Program (CLAW).

She is presently a PhD candidate in Historic Archaeology at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. Her dissertation topic is *Using GIS to evaluate perceptions of risk mobility among Africans and African Americans on plantations along the East Branch of the Cooper River in Berkeley County, SC, 1780-1822.*

Previous professional experiences include serving as Public Historian & Museum Education Consultant for Lexington School District Three, for the National Endowment for Humanities Summer Institutes, for Richland One School District, Charleston County School District and for the Greenville County School District. She was also a former Director of Multicultural & Educational Programming for Historic Columbia Foundation.

Recently, Lisa was named Director of Research and Education at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens in Charleston.



Lisa pauses while viewing the slavery exhibit at the George Washington House museum in Bridgetown, Barbados.

News from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Elizabeth M. Johnson
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Recent South Carolina Historical Markers

The Department of Archives and History recently approved texts for the following historical markers associated with African American history. Please note that all of these markers may not have been erected yet. After the text is approved, the markers must be manufactured and installed. Staff contact: Tracy Power (803) 896-6182, power@scdah.state.sc.us.

An online database of historical markers searchable by key word and location is at <http://www.scaet.org/markers/>.

First African Baptist Church, Hilton Head Island, Beaufort County (Front) This church, founded in 1862, was originally the church in the town of Mitchellville, a freedmen's village established on Hilton Head by the United States Army. Rev. Abraham Murchinson, its first minister, was a former slave, and the church had about 120 members when it was organized in August 1862. (Reverse) The church moved to the Chaplin community after the Civil War and was renamed Goodwill Baptist Church. It moved to this site by 1898 and was renamed Cross Roads Baptist Church before retaking its original name; it is the mother church of five Beaufort County churches. The present church was built in 1966. Sponsored by the Congregation, 2012

Inland Rice Fields, ca. 1701-1865, North Charleston vicinity, Charleston County (Front) Embankments and ditches dating from the early 18th century are still visible here and show the elaborate layout of rice fields that were part of Windsor Hill and Woodlands plantations. Before the American Revolution, low-country planters grew rice in inland fields that did not use the tides for flood waters. (Reverse) Windsor Hill was established ca. 1701 by Joseph Child (d. 1717), and Woodlands was established ca. 1800 by Thomas Parker (d. 1821). The remnants of these rice fields are a tangible reminder of the skill and labor of the enslaved people who constructed them, many of

whom had been rice farmers in Africa. Sponsored by Charleston County, 2012

The Seizure of The Planter, Charleston, Charleston County (Front) Early on May 13, 1862, Robert Smalls, an enslaved harbor pilot aboard the *Planter*, seized the 149-ft. Confederate transport from a wharf just east of here. He and six enslaved crewmen took the vessel before dawn, when its captain, pilot, and engineer were ashore. Smalls guided the ship through the channel, past Fort Sumter, and out to sea, delivering it to the Federal fleet which was blockading the harbor. (Reverse) Northern and Southern newspapers called this feat "bold" and "daring." Smalls and his crew, a crewman on another ship, and eight other enslaved persons including Smalls's wife, Hannah, and three children, won their freedom by it. Smalls (1839-1915) was appointed captain of the U.S.S. *Planter* by a U.S. Army contract in 1863. A native of Beaufort, he was later a state legislator and then a five-term U.S. Congressman. Sponsored by Historic Charleston Foundation and the African American Historical Alliance, 2012

Cedar Grove Baptist Church/Simpsonville Rosenwald School, Simpsonville, Greenville County (Front) According to tradition, this African-American church was organized by Rev. Tom Jones shortly after the Civil War. It held its first services in a brush arbor, then built its first permanent church here. The congregation, with a membership of about 250, built a second frame sanctuary in 1938 at a cost of \$3,000. It was covered in brick veneer in 1962. The present brick church was dedicated in 1986. (Reverse) The Reedy River Baptist Association built a school for the African-American children of Simpsonville and other area communities here in 1891-92, on the present site of the church. In 1923-24 the Simpsonville Rosenwald School, an eight-room elementary and high school, was built nearby. One of about 500 schools in S.C. funded in part by the Julius Rosenwald Foundation 1917-1932, it closed after the 1953-54 school year. Sponsored by the Greenville County Council and the Greenville Hospital System, 2012

I. DeQuincey Newman House, 2210 Chappelle Street, Columbia, Richland County (Front) Isaiah DeQuincey Newman (1911-1985), Methodist minister, civil rights leader, and state senator, lived here from 1960 until his death. Born in Darlington County,

News from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History continued

he attended Claflin College and was a graduate of Clark College and Gammon Theological Seminary. Newman, a long-time pastor, was also a major figure in the Civil Rights Movement in S.C. for more than forty years, beginning in the 1940s. (Reverse) In 1943 Newman helped found the Orangeburg branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. State field director of the S.C. NAACP 1960-69, he later advised governors and Congressmen on poverty and on improving housing and medical care in S.C. In 1983 Newman became the first black member of the S.C. Senate since 1888. He resigned in 1985 because of ill health and died a few months later. Sponsored by the South Carolina United Methodist *Advocate*, 2012

2012 Preservation Awards

The 2012 Historic Preservation Awards recognized individuals, organizations and projects that preserved African American history and historic sites. The Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation, the S.C. Department of Archives and History, and the Office of the Governor sponsor the awards. The S.C. African American Heritage Commission is represented on the committee that selects the awards recipients.

If Walls Could Speak- Williams-Earle Slave Cabin:

The Greenville County School District - Roper Mountain Science Center, Thomas Riddle with the Greenville County Historic Commission, and Mountain Sturdy Oak Restoration were given an **Honor Award** for the restoration of the 1840s Williams-Earle slave cabin. The project preserves and interprets the history of African Americans in Greenville from 1790 to 1930 through one of the few remaining Upcountry slave cabins. The cabin, originally part of a National Register property, was planned for demolition but was dismantled, relocated to the Living District Farm of the Greenville County School District, and reconstructed by student volunteers. Middle and high school students are involved in the interpretation process, creating artifact displays and interpretative

panels, and gaining hands-on experience in preservation. The project also included a new social studies curriculum incorporating virtual field trips and video and photographic documentation by students. "If Walls Could Speak" tells the overlooked story of slavery, Reconstruction, and Jim Crow through a single structure and provides social studies teachers with a new, innovative venue to teach their students about the contributions of Upcountry African Americans. (See an image of the house below.)

Penn Center, Inc. National Historical Landmark District: On its 150th anniversary, the Penn Center on St. Helena Island received a **Stewardship Award** for its continued preservation of the material culture, architectural history, environmental stewardship, and ethnography of the Gullah people on the Sea Islands. It was founded in 1862 by Northern missionaries Laura M. Towne and Ellen Murray as the first school in the South to provide education to former slaves. In the 1960s, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference used the site for training and strategic planning for the Civil Rights movement. Penn Center created the Land Use and Environmental Education Program to assist locals in maintaining ownership of their land, and donated 250 acres to a conservation easement. It is the state's only African American National Historic Landmark District, and its campus was converted into a conference center, public museum and cultural center, and early childhood learning center. The York M. Bailey Museum interpreting the site's history is the first African American museum in Beaufort County. Penn Center's continued preservation of Gullah heritage has been a successful public-private partnership meeting the needs of its community.



Williams-Earle House, Greenville From <http://www.nationalregister.sc.gov/greenville/S10817723030/pages/S1081772303001.htm>

continued

News from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History continued

"For Teachers" Webpage

This new section of the SHPO website features links to lesson plans about South Carolina history and historic places ranging from the colonial era to the 20th century. Included are lesson plans on the Stono Rebellion, the Role of African Slaves on S.C. Rice Plantations, Examining Slave Auction Documents, African American Life in the Pee Dee Before the Civil War, Robert Smalls, Rosenwald Schools, Briggs v. Elliot, and Equalization Schools. See <http://shpo.sc.gov/res/Pages/Teachers.aspx>. It also includes links to other sources of information for teachers.

National Park Service

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



PRESS RELEASE

Release date: July 18, 2012
Contact: Michael Allen, NPS Community Partnership Specialist
Phone number: (843) 881-5516 X12

Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission Releases Management Plan for Public Review

The Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission's Management Plan will be available for Public Review and Comment from July 18 to August 17, 2012. Management Plan copies can be viewed electronically at libraries throughout the Corridor.

The long-awaited document is 272- pages, with a CD of appendices. It provides a description of Gullah Geechee people and culture and a brief historical overview. In addition, the Plan highlights examples of important cultural resources throughout the Corridor, summarizes the natural resources of the Corridor,

discusses land ownership and land cover, and briefly touches on the socioeconomic conditions within the Corridor. The Plan also provides readers with a basic level of information about the Corridor to facilitate a better understanding of the future implementation that is outlined in the management approach. The Commission's implementation theme is "Enlighten and Empower Gullah Geechee People to Sustain the Culture."

This very significant document was produced as a collective effort by the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Commission and National Park Service (NPS) partnership since 2007 , with developmental assistance from Denver Service Center," said Ronald Daise, Commission Chairman. "We Commissioners are very proud of the Management Plan's development and are confident it will intrigue the Public, Stakeholders, prospective Partners, and Gullah Geechee community and grassroots organizations. It is based soundly on feedback provided by each group. The Commission is particularly interested in feedback from youths–high schoolers and Generation Y'ers–to ensure that the Management Plan's information targets their needs and views. After all, the plans voiced in this document very soon will sustain their culture and that of their descendants."

Written comments may be submitted by any one of two methods: 1) visiting the NPS PEPC (Planning, Environment and Public Comment) Web site: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/guge>, or 2) mailing: Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission, c/o Commission Chairman, 1214 Middle Street, Sullivan's Island, SC 29482. Additional information about the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor is available on the Commission's website: www.gullahgeecheecorridor.org.



THE CAROLINA-BARBADOS CONNECTION PROJECT PRESENTS THE
MYRIAD SINGERS OF BARBADOS
SCHEDULE OF APPEARANCES

ST. MARKS

Tuesday, August 14, 2012 at 6:30 pm
16 Thomas Street, Charleston, SC

CYDC

Thursday, August 16, 2012 at 9 am
5055 Lackawanna Boulevard, North Charleston, SC
Youth Music Workshop

WINYAH AUDITORIUM

Thursday, August 16, 2012 at 7:30 pm
1200 Highmarket Street, Georgetown, SC

FAMILY LIFE CENTER AT MT. MORIAH

August 17, 2012 at 7:30 pm
7396 Rivers Avenue, North Charleston, SC

CIRCULAR CHURCH

Saturday, August 18, 2012 at 4 pm
150 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC

ROYAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Saturday, August 18, 2012 at 7 pm
4761 Luella Avenue, North Charleston, SC

GRACE ALLIANCE CHURCH

Sunday, August 19, 2012 at 11 am
8108 Northside Drive, North Charleston, SC



The Myriad Singers of Barbados was formed in August 2004 as a benevolent gesture towards the Anglican Church in Dominica, which was raising funds for the refurbishment of the Anglican churches in that country. The success and musical quality of the group became a permanent entity.

What began over three centuries ago in 1670, shall further be perpetuated by this visit to South Carolina by the Myriad Singers of Barbados, thus letting the concept of "Barbados Comes (Back) to Charleston", initiated by Team Barbados, live on and on.

Mark your calendars and be sure to join us to experience and enjoy being part of such rich history shared between two sister-colonies, Barbados and South Carolina.

SPONSORED IN PART BY THE
SOUTH CAROLINA NATIONAL
HERITAGE CORRIDOR



Charles Towne Landing

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
843-559-5156

Greenville Cultural Exchange Center



Save the Date
Greenville Cultural Exchange Center's 25th Anniversary

Kickoff ~ Musical Recital Benefit*

featuring Grady Butler, Baritone

Sunday, August 19th

4 PM Allen Temple AME Church

109 Green Avenue, Greenville

**Donations will benefit the Greenville Cultural Exchange Center*

Drop-in ~ Wednesday, August 22nd

11 AM to 1:30 PM

Greenville Cultural Exchange Center

700 Arlington Avenue, Greenville

Light Refreshments will be Served

Family Festival ~ Saturday, August 25th

11 AM to 2 PM

Greenville Cultural Exchange Center

700 Arlington Avenue, Greenville

Arts, crafts, games and fun for the whole family

Come see the African American Baseball Exhibit!

Call & Response is the official newsletter of the *South Carolina African American Heritage Commission* and is published three times annually; A. Shinault-Small, Editor. Views expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH). Information published is at the discretion of the Editor.

South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation

The South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation supports the efforts of the South Carolina African Heritage Commission to identify and promote the preservation of historic sites, structures buildings, and culture of the African American experience and to assist and enhance the efforts of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Please consider supporting these efforts by becoming a member of the SCAAH Foundation. Members receive:

- ◆ Invitations to all Commission meetings
- ◆ A copy of *African American Historic Places in South Carolina*
- ◆ A subscription to *Call & Response*, the Commission's quarterly newsletter
- ◆ A subscription to *News and Notes*, a monthly online newsletter from the Historic Preservation Division of the SC Department of Archives & History
- ◆ Notification of special workshops and meetings
- ◆ Discount registrations for workshops and meetings



Membership Form

The African American Heritage Foundation's on Facebook !! Click on the link to the SCAAHC web page at the upper left corner of page 1, beneath our logo, then click on the Facebook link. Become a fan and join us there !!!

Please complete and return to: South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation ♦
P.O. Box 1053 ♦ Hartsville, SC 29551 or contact: Jannie Harriot at 843-917-3350
or e-mail scaaheritagefound@gmail.com .

- I would like to become member of the South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation. Enclosed is my \$25 annual membership.
- Our organization would like to become member of the South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation. Enclosed is our \$75 annual membership which allows 4 of our members to get discounted registrations.
- Enclosed is a contribution to the South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

E-Mail _____