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- Jennifer Carter
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- Virginia Sanders, Treasurer
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Special points of interest:

- Rosenwald Celebration
- Nature Tourism
- Ann Furr
- Historical Resources Documentation
- Historic Preservation Grants
- Community Conservation Grants

Enhancements at Owens Field Park

In 2012, members of the Rosewood Community Council came to RCCC with a request to improve the trails at Owens Field Park. Staff investigation determined the deterioration of the trails was due to stormwater runoff which had to be resolved first. Although the county owns the Owens Field property, it leases the land to the city for a park. Richland School District 1 owns the adjacent land that was needed to make improvements for the stormwater coming from the neighborhood and Memorial Stadium parking lot. This required several intergovernmental agreements. Gills Creek Watershed Association applied for and received a 319 grant from DHEC to construct stormwater best management practices. Fuss & O’Neill was chosen to design the improvements.

When the city announced it would build a Miracle Field and make other upgrades to the park, it made sense to join forces and hire one contractor. Ground was broken in August 2016. Two bioretention cells were constructed to intercept stormwater and allow much of it to infiltrate into the groundwater. Water that doesn’t soak in



leaves the cell cleaner and makes its way to Devil’s Ditch. Two bridges and three sets of steps were built for the nature trail and disc golf usage and the main trail was made ADA accessible. An entrance gateway, kiosk and pet waste stations were also installed. Total contributions from Richland County Conservation and Stormwater Departments, City of Columbia, the DHEC grant, and School District 1 totaled \$673,813 for the trail and stormwater components.

Councilman Seth Rose, who had pushed for this project from the beginning and helped get funding for it, presided over the ribbon cutting on July 15.

RCCC Purchases Conservation Property

RCCC took a huge step forward in the protection of natural resources when it agreed to purchase the 769-acre Upper Mill Creek tract in Lower Richland in August 2016. The land is adjacent to the Mill Creek Mitigation Bank property the county acquired in 2014 for Transportation Penny projects. Both tracts are very close to the western boundary of Congaree National

Park and share similar geographic and ecological features with the park. The Upper Tract contains several miles of streams, part of Goose Pond, wetlands, hardwoods and loblolly pines, a lodge, and a large picnic shelter. Plans are being developed to use the land for conservation and public recreation.

See map on page 2

History Comes Alive at Pine Grove Rosenwald School

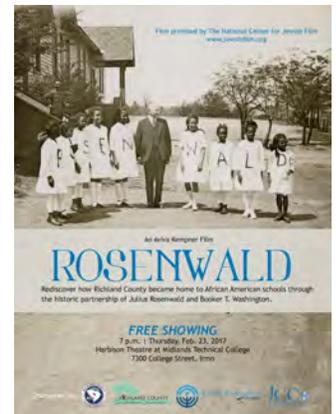


To celebrate Black History Month and bring awareness of the Pine Grove Rosenwald School, RCCC and Council Chair Joyce Dickerson sponsored the screening of *Rosenwald: The Remarkable Story of a Jewish Partnership with African-American Communities* at Harbison Theatre. The documentary tells the impressive story of Julius Rosenwald, son of an immigrant peddler who never finished high school but who rose to become president of Sears and Roebuck, the largest retailer in the world in the early 1900s. Influenced by the writings and friendship of Booker T. Washington, this Jewish philanthropist

joined forces with African American communities to build over 5,000 schools from 1917 – 1932, providing 660,000 black children with access to education in the segregated south. Jim Wright provided an excellent exhibit in the theatre lobby called “When I Can Read My Title Clear: The African-American Quest for Education” with photographs of every black school in Richland County.

On Feb. 25, a heritage celebration was held at the Pine Grove Rosenwald School at 937 Piney Woods Road. The

highlight of the day was a dramatization of Rosenwald and Washington visiting the school. The fictional script was written by Indira Cureton-Cummings, drama teacher at Eau Claire High School, and acted out by her and four students. Former students of the school attended both events. Pine Grove was one of 15 Rosenwald schools in Richland County and is the only one still standing. It was restored with help from several RCCC grants from 2006 to 2010.

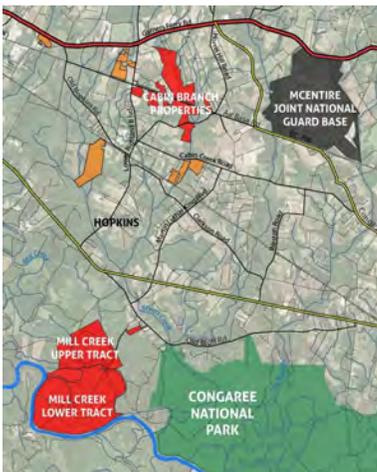


Nature & Heritage Tourism in Lower Richland

Now that Richland County owns property at Mill Creek and Cabin Branch, RCCC recognized the need to develop a conservation and public use management plan for all three tracts. The goal is to develop nature and

heritage tourism at Mill Creek and Cabin Branch while creating avenues for local residents to participate in and benefit from the economic activity needed to grow and sustain tourism.

meet with stakeholders and residents. A public meeting was held in November to gather more local input in the areas of nature tourism, heritage tourism, and small business development. Two meetings in January allowed the consultants to explain the recommendations they'd developed from the earlier feedback and to receive reactions and comments through discussions and a survey.



RCCC chose Asakura Robinson to develop the plan. Their team came to Lower Richland in late September to visit the properties, explore the area, and

A core principal of the draft is the idea that tourism assets and the economic opportunity they generate, must be inclusive and provide economic, recreational, and quality-of-life benefits for local residents, as well as enhancing visitation. (cont'd on page 7)

Honoring Commissioner Ann Furr

Ann Furr joined the Conservation Commission in 2012 with her granddaughter Sarah Bobertz usually at her side. Appointed by Seth Rose for Council District 5, she was an active participant in all of the Commissions' lively discussions (never dropping a stitch in her knitting) and the tours taken to grant projects. Glenice Pearson, fellow Commission member, said of Ann, "She had such a generosity of spirit. She taught us how to live life – to be open to new people, cultures, and experiences – and how to prepare to die."

Ann was stricken with cancer and passed away in October. RCCC honored her with

a tree planting at AC Moore Elementary School where Sarah attends and Ann volunteered. In Sarah's comments, she recalled meetings, tours, and playing the cello at an RCCC event. She said of Ann, "There is only one word I would use to describe her, a sojourner. Sojourner means a traveler, a wanderer. That's exactly what she was. But she was also a helper. She helped out at school and many other places. I think she wanted to help the environment so that's one of the reasons she joined the Conservation Commission. That is why I think she would be glad we are planting a tree for her."



Ann Furr & Glenice Pearson above
Ann & granddaughter Sarah below



Richland County Historical Resources Guide

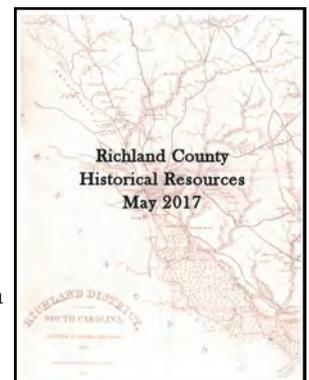
The Richland County Historical Resources Guide was prepared by a research team of graduate and undergraduate students led by Dr. Bobby Donaldson from the Department of History at the University of South Carolina. RCCC requested an inventory of historical resources with an emphasis on the history of communities and people outside of downtown Columbia. The report provides:

- an annotated bibliography of available primary and secondary sources on Richland County history with references to geographic areas and historical time periods

- manuscript records and archival papers housed in Special Collections libraries
- listing of interviews conducted by the Federal Writers Project during the New Deal era
- property survey reports and background studies at SC Dept. of Archives & History
- additional resources and selected news articles
- gaps in the existing literature and a list of recommended topics, structures, personalities, and regions of the county that merit further documentation or investigation.

Many of the important projects and publications identified in this report have not been accessible to the broader public until now. The Guide will be housed at Richland Library as a catalog record & in the digital collection. The catalog link is:

<http://catalog.richlandlibrary.com/polaris/view.aspx?cn=929958>.



FY17 Historic Preservation Grants

Blythewood Historical Society undertook a quilt documentation project to promote the preservation of quilts and the study of the history of quilt making. On September 20, the group processed 63 quilts brought in by community members. Each quilt was tagged, photographed, and information gathered on the maker, date, pattern, condition, etc. The extensive documentation was then submitted to the Quilt Index at Michigan State University. A quilt exhibit was held in June with professional judging.



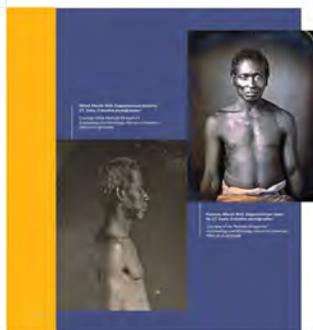
A dilapidated corn crib built in the mid-1800s is a reminder of the agricultural



outbuildings once so common throughout rural Richland County. The log building on **Camp Discovery** property underwent a major restoration to become the centerpiece of a new experiential learning program on farm life a century or more ago.

Volunteers dismantled the corn crib, carefully labeling each piece's location. Then the stone supports were moved a few feet to allow program space around

the crib. Reconstruction took place over several days, ending with a new tin roof, pine planks for the front and back, and a new door for the front. Project manager Joanna Weitzel acquired tools used in growing and processing corn, planted medicinal and cooking herbs, developed a curriculum, and created a teaching area with wooden tables.

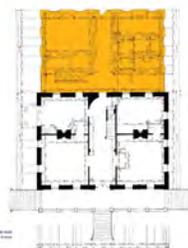


The Human Cost of Luxury

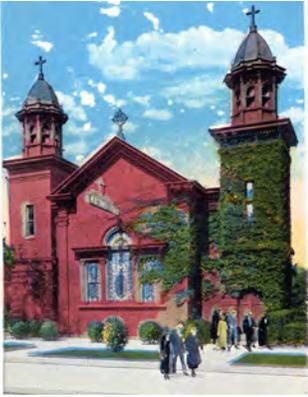
Richard Bowers transformed the mansion between 1848 and 1851. Called "Catherine's House," the mansion's ornate architecture, gardens, and parkland reflected the building's highest and grandest building "style." But the working of the project were powered by the hands of the builders, or more likely and their other source.

Parents and Alfred were arrested from their African American, a separate account of "Historical Perspectives on Colonialism, Alfred Bowers Journal for his owner." (John J. Lewis, Jr.)

Author worked with the construction of many Colonial projects, but falling away for the "Preston." Based on working records, Bowers may have worked on the mansion's reconstruction. These photographs were taken during the reconstruction work. Bowers is still in Columbia in 1851. Against laws to gather information and support for the house, the author sends more a different and reflect on the work with people. This construction "style" was later demolished.



Historic Columbia undertook a reinterpretation of the roles that African Americans played in shaping the evolution of the Hampton-Preston Mansion and grounds. After major research, the results are new exhibits, a computer-based 3-D model of the house and one of the dependencies where enslaved people lived and worked, and a first person perspective video of an enslaved child named Lucy.



An old postcard unearthed in the church archives revealed a fact no one in the church was aware of – cupolas once topped the towers of **Ebenezer Lutheran Chapel** on Richland Street. The church was built in 1870 after the first building was burned when Gen. Sherman came through town. The cupolas probably disappeared in the 1920s from deterioration and/or a storm. Reproduction of the cupolas was based on the postcard. They were assembled onsite and hoisted into place by cranes on February 6, 2017. Ebenezer celebrated the return of the cupolas with a dedication service in the chapel that featured music composed by the architect of the church Gustav Berg.



The Sims-Stackhouse Mansion is one of the oldest buildings in Columbia, having survived the burning of Columbia in 1865. The **General Federation of Women’s Club of SC** owns the house and has been helped for several years with RCCC grants to replace rotten wood and the roof, and restore the front porch. Last year’s grant was for exterior painting of the house, pergola, and the carriage house.



The **Olympia-Granby Historical Foundation** is restoring a house that was used as the first Olympia School from 1901 to 1910 into a mill village museum. A previous RCCC grant provided for the restoration of the windows. These grant funds were used to add an exterior fire escape to meet life safety requirements and a long ADA ramp was constructed that runs from the back to the front. The foundation anticipates opening the museum in 2018.



RCCC was the major sponsor for the 3rd annual **Slave Dwelling Project** Conference which was held here in Columbia in September. Organized by Joe McGill, the theme of the conference was “Using Extant Slave Dwellings to Change the Narrative.” It featured keynote speakers Dr. Bobby Donaldson and Dr. Bob Weyeneth, 23 concurrent sessions, a tour of the Horseshoe to explore the Landscape of Slavery at USC, and an evening at Goodwill Plantation in Lower Richland.



L –R: Jim Thomas, RCCC; Founder Joe McGill; Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin

Below: slave dwellings at Goodwill

Extant slave dwelling behind USC President’s House



FY17 Community Conservation Grants

Critical pollinators like bees, bats, and butterflies are in trouble due to habitat loss, disease, parasites, and environmental contaminants. **Camp Discovery** is doing its part to create a pollinator-friendly place called the Bee Course. The Bee Course incorporates native plantings that attract native bees and other pollinators, learning stations, an outdoor classroom, wildflower garden & demonstration plot, and a bee hive area. Inquiry-based lessons were developed to teach students to study

and observe pollinators with a special focus on bee populations.



RCCC funds were used by **Congaree National Park** to provide supplies and transportation to the park for Richland County students to participate in two programs. The park offers the LEAF (Linking Ecology and Art of Floodplains) program in partnership with the Columbia Museum of Art to engage 3rd graders in the study of soils, landscapes, and soil stewardship. A new program called Tree Stories for 5th graders incorporates social studies through a time machine – using artifacts to learn about the park’s history in the context of US history. The TreEcology Lab teaches students how to collect real field data on trees at the park. Two geoscientist interns were funded as well as graphic design for the synchronous fireflies.





Tree of Life Congregation on Trenholm Road added a pervious pavement walkway which is ADA compliant to the rain garden funded by an earlier RCCC grant. A kiosk panel educates visitors to the purpose and function of a rain garden.

Nature Tourism (cont'd from page 2)

The draft is available this summer for review and comment. Public input is essential to ensure compatibility with community vision and county goals.

Within the draft are scores of recommendations, three proposed capital projects (see boxes below), a sample path for growing a business in each of the sectors, an implementation

The October 2015 flood took its toll on parts of the trail system at Harbison State Forest. The **Friends of Harbison State Forest** used grant funds to reroute an eroded section of the Stewardship Trail out of the flood prone area. The new sustainably built trail is almost twice as long as the old trail which was reclaimed to minimize erosion and facilitate restoration. Two bridges, 23

ft. and 17 ft. in length, were constructed as an Eagle Scout project by Pierce Myrick of Troop 8.



matrix and an opinion of probable costs for the capital projects.

It is hoped this plan will serve as a model for other areas of the county.

To view the draft plan and provide comments, go to:

www.lowerichlandtourismplan.com

Mill Creek Nature Center

- Education and meeting space
- Lodging options – tent & platform camping, lodge, RV parking, rustic river cabins
- Boat and fishing access
- Boardwalk & canopy trails

Hopkins Heritage Center

- Single destination for learning about Lower Richland heritage
- Library and archives
- Covered pavilion for farmers' market and events
- Bandshell

Small Business Incubator

- Hub for education, technical assistance, & networking
- Commercial kitchen
- Co-located at Heritage Center

Richland County Conservation Commission

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Conserving Richland County's Natural
and Historic Legacy

Historic Grants (continued)

The Curtiss-Wright Hangar is coming back to life and usefulness. Built in 1929, it is one of seven remaining hangars of the 85 built by the Curtiss-Wright Flying Service. It was the headquarters for Columbia's first municipal airport and saw distinguished visitors such as Amelia Earhart and President Franklin D. Roosevelt sign the log book.

Vacant since the 1980s, **Hangar Preservation Development** purchased it from the county and began restoration of

the hangar in 2016. A grant from RCCC was used to 1) reinforce and rebuild the hangar door support columns, 2) rebuild the parapet walls, and 3) repair the observation deck, rails, and stair columns. The observation deck will be the place to be when Hunter Gatherer opens its microbrewery in fall 2017.

