



Fort Mill History Museum NEWS

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www.fmhm.org

History “School Day” Serves Local Third Graders

September’s successful **School Day Program** brought the history of our area to over 500 third graders from several of Fort Mill’s elementary schools. Moving from station to station, the students learned about the cotton economy of the area, the dances of the Catawba Indian Nation, Fort Mill’s participation in wars from the Revolution through modern times, the story of slavery in the South, early pioneer games and more.

With re-enactors demonstrating the uniforms and daily life of their eras, demonstrations with herbs, tools and crafts produced by early pioneers and even a glimpse into the ¾ scale model of the *Hunley* submarine, students gained an up-close, hands-on experience of the people and events they study in class.



Beautiful baskets and other items are crafted by hand of sweet grass in a weaving process developed in our Low Country .

The Museum’s Outreach for Schools: THIS IS MY TOWN

One very popular museum outreach is the “**THIS IS MY TOWN/ History Trunk in the Schools**” Program. This local history teaching tool was developed over two years by Cindi Lightsey, Brenda Honeycutt, Darlene Kerr, Ann Evans, Mary Ann Hoffman and Charlotte Adkins.

This project includes a trunk filled with Catawba artifacts that are on loan to the museum and a slide presentation on local history. The history trunk is accompanied by current and former educators that have a strong sense of our history.

The project was developed around the second and third grade South Carolina Dept. of Education Social Studies Standard and teaches students about the culture of the Catawbans and their interaction with the settlers. Over 900 third graders from Banks Trail, Fort Mill, Pleasant Knoll, Riverview, Sugar Creek, and Tega Cay Elementary schools have taken part in the “**This is My Town**” program.

The most recent addition to “**This is My Town**” (prepared for eight grade and middle school) includes a general local history highlighted by screens, a history trunk, and a slide presentation together with lessons that outline the chronology of Fort Mill’s past. This unit is based on the eighth grade SC Dept. of Education Social Studies Standards.

The project is called **Fort Mill People and Places--Past and Present**; it is divided into first and second semester units.

Continued on page 2...



FMHM Board Member Rudy Sanders describes a time when “cotton was king.” Mr. Sanders is a popular speaker at “School Day” and other events.



Mrs. Charlotte Adkins (left) serves on the FMHM Board of Directors and Ms. Mary Ann Hoffman (right) is an ardent volunteer at FMHM. Seen here with their “history trunk” cargo, both are retired educators from the Fort Mill School District.

FMHM Outreach: *This is My Town* _____

Continued from page 1...

Presenters for this program are Vereen Brown and Stormy Young (both longtime Fort Mill educators). They will go into each of the four middle schools in October and May.

A separate program for the second grade was created around the second grade state Social Studies Standard

of Community and how it has changed over time.

This unit includes a field trip to the Ann Springs Close Greenway and the Museum. After lunch in Walter Elijah Park, students then travel to Confederate Park where they learn the history of the unique statues.



Museum volunteers present local history in the classroom.

Then the students go to stations in the museum where they learn about the Catawbas, "Tom and The RedCoats", the story of cotton, and a children's militia drill.

The Fort Mill History Museum is proud of its collaboration with and enhancements to the Fort Mill Schools' curriculum and to the community.



SCHOOL DAY AT WALTER ELISHA PARK: Teacher Lucy Wright poses with some of her third grade students from Pleasant Knoll at FMHM's School Day in September..

Use Amazon *Smile* to Help the Museum



With the holidays coming up quickly our thoughts turn to getting the perfect gifts for everyone on our list. If you are an Amazon shopper, you can support the museum **without spending an extra penny!**

The **Amazon Smile** program donates a portion of the cost of your purchase to your selected non-profit organization or charity. Everything else remains exactly the same. Nothing changes about your shopping experience except that you use the **Amazon Smile** web address.

It's easy and seamless and so far the program has donated over 32 million dollars to organizations like ours.

How can you make sure your Smile dollars go to support the mission of the Fort Mill History Museum?

It's very simple. Just go to:

www.smile.amazon.com

Type in "**Fort Mill History Museum**" when prompted and that's all there is to it. Now, whenever you make a purchase through Amazon, remember to start at smile.amazon.com and the contributions will be automatic.

When you shop at Amazon's Smile" web address, you'll find the same low prices, selection and convenient shopping tools you see at **Amazon.com**. The only difference is that Amazon

will donate a portion of the purchase price to the museum.

REMEMBER, you pay NOTHING extra.

Please pass the word to your friends and neighbors and help support the preservation of Fort Mill history for future generations!

For a complete explanation of Amazon Smile, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/aw/ch/about>.

The Fort Mill History Museum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions, membership dues and sponsorships are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. No goods or services are provided in exchange for these donations.

New Genealogy Programs Coming to York County Library

Interested in genealogy? Need help with your research? A small genealogy support group meets once a month to discuss research techniques and new sources to help one another learn more about family history. Call [803-981-5847](tel:803-981-5847) to register.

Dates: Saturdays, Oct. 1, Nov. 5,
Dec. 10, Jan. 7, Feb. 18, Mar. 4;
10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

York County Library,
138 E. Black St., Rock Hill

Genealogical Research in South Carolina with Brent Holcomb

Learn the unique records and sources for conducting genealogy in South Carolina.

Brent Holcomb has been a professional genealogist since 1973 and has edited *The South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research* since 1977.

He is the author or co-author of more than 100 books on the Carolinas. A small selection of his works will be available for sale and signing at the event.

Call [803-981-5845](tel:803-981-5845) to register.
Tue., Oct. 4, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

York County Library,
138 E. Black St., Rock Hill

Debbie Turner
Community Relations Manager
York County Library

Phone: [803-981-5837](tel:803-981-5837)

E-mail: debbie.turner@yclibrary.net
Visit us online at www.yclibrary.org

FORT MILL MEMORIES.... by Tony McMehan

Back in the mid 1950's my father, George McMehan, built this service station/ bar & grill on Highway 21 in North Fort Mill.

The structure still stands and is located right across the street from the Regent Park entrance. It is currently *Styles Hair Salon*.

My family ran the store at first, then dad started leasing it to other people to run, hence the name "Roberts" on the storefront in this particular photo.



As a kid, I hung around this place a lot when my folks ran it.

It was heaven...Free hot dogs, hamburgers, soda pop, candy bars and milk shakes!

The building was well lit with numerous neon lights that beamed brightly at night.

During the summer months the bright lights drew all kinds of insects around the front of the building. The insects provided an all you could eat frenzy for the frogs that lived underneath the building. They grew to huge proportions.

In one photo you can see our house beyond on the top of the hill. During the summer nights with no air conditioning, my bedroom window would be open and I would listen and be lulled to sleep by the music playing on the jukebox on the outdoor speaker (which was there for folks who parked for curb service).

There were 4 booths and a bar with 5 stools in the front of the building.

One day while I was playing inside, I saw Dad talking to a man at the bar. Dad saw me and motioned me to come over.

He said, "Do you know who this man is?" I said, "No."

Dad told me, "This is Fireball Roberts, the race car driver."

I timidly said hello and he shook my hand.

A week later in what was supposed to be his last race before retiring, Fireball Roberts died in a fiery crash at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

So many memories...mostly good but some sad.

— Story and photos, Tony McMehan



The Fort Mill School System: A Primer. (Part 2)

The First Riverview School

Riverview School was built in the early 1920's. The old building was retired before the 1975-1976 school year when the new Riverview Elementary Complex opened at the US 21 Bypass and Harris Street.

Riverview traditionally held grades 1 – 6 for students living on the west side of the 21 Bypass. At the grade seven level, the students generally joined the classes at A.O. Jones School or (later) Fort Mill Junior High School.

This school stood where the entrance to the main road into Baxter Village runs today.

Riverview students seemed to maintain a bond throughout the rest of their school years and even into adulthood.

(Please correct us if these are NOT all Riverview photos.)

(Images and facts also found in *Images of America: Fort Mill*, by LeAnne Burnett Morse.)



These photos were contributed to the Facebook pages of Old Fort Mill and Riverview School. Thanks to Julie Atkins Blaylock for her photos, both personal and from the Museum Archives.



WE NEED MORE SCHOOL PHOTOS OF THE OLD FORT MILL SCHOOL SYSTEM. NONE OF THE BUILDINGS ARE STANDING TODAY.

WE PARTICULARLY NEED ADDITIONAL RIVERVIEW PHOTOS AND A SCHOOL YEARBOOK OR PHOTOS FROM FORT MILL JUNIOR HIGH.

People of Paradise: Order of the Eastern Star Peep of Day Chapter 124

By Cora Dunlap Lyles

This is a picture of the members of the **Fort Mill Order of the Eastern Star Peep of Day Chapter 124**. The chapter is a Prince Hall Affiliate and falls under the auspices of the Fort Mill Masonic Golden Rule Lodge 102.

Member Information:

Jeanette Kiser

Anna Potts Dixon's parents were Austin and Ella Stewart Potts. She married Edward Dixon.

Wilma Miller Wilkes' parents were Elliott and Minnie Cureton Miller.

Maggie Lean Dunlap Brice's parents were Nathaniel and Lillian Thornwell Dunlap. She married Robert Brice.

Irene Barnes Patterson's parents were Robert "Bobby" and Lottie Barnes Mackey. She married Willie Patterson.

Rinda Spratt Graham's parents were Tom and Rinda White Spratt. She married John Graham.

Ethel Mae Green Davis's parents were John and Lillie Green. She married Charlie Davis, Sr.

Anna McGee Watts White

Doretha Potts Gilmore married Walter Gilmore, Sr.

Ella Potts Dixon's parents were Oscar and Ella Stewart Potts. She married James P. Dixon, Sr.

Hattie White Culp's parents were Peter and Ella Stewart White. She married Ernest Culp, Sr.



Front and center: Jeanette Kiser, Grand Worthy Matron; 1st row: Anna Potts Dixon, Ella Mae White Potts, John Samuel Sanders, Sr., Simon A. White Jr., Mildred Virginia Faulkner Miller, Addie Faulkner White; 2nd row: Mary Elizabeth Robinson Perry, Wilma Miler Wilkes, Irene Barnes Patterson, Ethel Mae Green Davis, Doretha Potts Gilmore, Ella Potts Dixon, Hattie White Culp; 3rd row: Maggie Lean Dunlap Brice, Rinda Spratt Graham, Anna McGee Watts White, unknown

The parent organization was created in 1874 in Washington, D.C. It is the oldest sorority-based African-American women's organization in America but is open to women of any race.

The picture was taken around 1954. At that time John Samuel Sanders, Sr. served as the Worshipful Master and Simon A. White, Jr. served as Past Master of the Lodge. Jeanette Kiser served as the Grand Worthy Matron of the chapter.

The purpose of this article is to record information about the former members and to acknowledge some of the historical familial ties and relationships within the Paradise community where possible. Any information to help identify then unknown member will be greatly appreciated. All corrections and updates are welcome.

Ella Mae White Potts' parents were Charlie and Rebecca White. She married Otis Potts.

John Samuel Sanders, Sr.'s parents were Solomon and Catherine Archie Sanders. He was married to Lillie Campbell Sanders and then to Hester White Sanders.

Simon A. White, Jr.'s parents were Simon A. White, Sr. and Lela Viola White. He married Addie Lee Watson White.

Mildred Virginia Faulkner Miller's parents were Herman and Addie Faulkner. She married Mervin Miller.

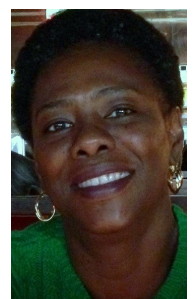
Addie Reid Faulkner White's parents were John and Agnes Springs Reid. She married Herman Allison Faulkner. Mary Elizabeth Perry's father's name was George Robinson. Her daughter was Ella Perry Howie.



Cora Dunlap Lyles:

Ms. Lyles is a former Fort Mill resident who currently resides in Maryland. She holds a BS in Information Systems Management and an MS in Information Technology from the University of Maryland.

Ms. Lyles is a member of the Fort Mill History Museum and the York County Genealogical & Historical Society.



Samuel Elliott White and the Monument To the Confederate Soldier

by Louise Pettus

The monument to Fort Mill township's Confederate soldiers that stands in the town's unique Confederate Park was the brainchild of Samuel Elliott White, who has often been termed the "Father of Fort Mill." The monument bears the names of 171 soldiers who served in the Civil War from Fort Mill township.

White, a captain, was twice wounded in the war. He inherited a large piece of property from his father and was known as one of the best planters in the area. In 1887, he took the lead in establishing Fort Mill Manufacturing Co., forerunner of today's giant Springs Industries, Inc. White was the company's first president. White lived across the street from the mill in what is now known as the Founder's House. . . .

White not only had ideas, he was quick to implement them. He decided Fort Mill needed a statue to honor the veterans. Although he could have afforded to erect the monument with his own money, it was characteristic that he thought everyone should have the opportunity to contribute.

"Cap'n" White organized the Jefferson Davis Memorial Association, the first branch in South Carolina, and became its first president in 1889. This organization preceded the United Confederate Veterans.

White contracted with L. D. Childs of Chester to build the 9-foot-tall base of the monument. The name of the sculptor of the 6-foot white marble Confederate soldier is not known. (It is known that a Connecticut marble company furnished a "generic" Confederate statue and a "generic" Union statue.) Perhaps Childs had the statue executed locally. White is always given credit for the conception and for the successful fund drive.

The subscription list for the Confederate monument was headed, "We agree to pay the Same annexed to our names for the purpose of erecting a monument to the Confederate soldiers to be located at Fort Mill, S.C. May 6, 1891". This was followed by the names of 105 subscribers.

Sam White's name led the list with \$25 subscribed, later increased to \$100. The second-largest amount was \$40, subscribed by Mrs. J. M. White; J. M. Spratt paid \$35 and J. B. Mack \$25. J. H. Bailes paid \$15 in memory of

J. P. Bailes and Joseph Bailes, who were killed in the war. Most subscribers gave \$5 each. Most were veterans.

On Dec. 22, 1891 the statue was dedicated . . . Capt. White made the main address. At the end, "six maimed heroes drew the cords that unveiled the statue."



Portrait of Samuel Elliott White from the Springs Close Family Archives.

White did not stop with one statue. He was also the force behind the erection of a monument of the women of the confederacy (sculpted in Italy of fine Parian marble), one of a slave (the only one of its kind anywhere) and, with John McKee Spratt, a monument to the Catawba Indians who faithfully served in the Revolution and in the Confederate Army.



Tribute to soldiers of the Confederacy, Confederate Park, Fort Mill.

When White died in 1911 there was a funeral parade from the train station to Unity Cemetery. The parade passed by the statue to the Confederate soldier, which was draped in black for the occasion.

(Edited for space; printed with permission.)

Appeared in the York Observer, 1988.

Louise Pettus is a prominent local and state historian, as well as an Alumna and Professor Emerita of History at Winthrop University. Her weekly columns ran for 21 years in York Observer, edited the YCGHS Quarterly for 16, and has written a variety of books on the history of South Carolina and York and Lancaster Counties in particular. Her long and distinguished career has been recognized through countless awards and honors in her field.

Third Thursday at the Museum

On the third Thursday of every month, the History Museum will invite speakers to entertain members and guests with presentations on history and other programs of local interest.

Third Thursday will begin on October 20th at the Wilson House (the home of the Fort Mill History Museum).

LeAnne Burnett Morse will be the featured speaker.

Get more information on *Third Thursday* by calling the Fort Mill History Museum at 803-802-3646.

The Haunting of Harris House as retold by Mike Hill

The old Harris House stood on the corner of White Street and Business 160 beside the current statue of the woman inspecting cloth. The house was haunted by the untimely death of several of the grown children of Rob Harris and his wife Daisy. One was killed at Normandy, one fell to his death from the second floor, one, a Policeman, was shot and killed by the wife of a man he was arresting.

One day Alice came home. Carrying a small suitcase, she just showed up, her face drawn from tears and worry.

She didn't say much, just kept to herself. Alice's husband called from their home and was relieved to find that she was there. "She has been really sad," he said. "I'm afraid she'll have a nervous breakdown." (That's what they called severe depression in those days.)

Alice was in her room for several days, the family only saw her scurry furtively down the hall and then back to her room.

On the early morning of November 4, 1943, Rob Harris was in the back yard near the shed he used as a

Magistrate's Office, getting ready for what he thought was his regular work routine.

The routine was abruptly interrupted when a young black boy came running around the house with a

terrified look on his face. The words seemed to burst out of his mouth.

"Mr. Rob!" he shrieked, "There's a ghost in the front yard."

Rob Harris, slightly bemused, walked around the house to the front yard.

There was no ghost, there was only Alice, still in her nightgown, suspended by the neck from the rope swing that hung from the big oak tree.

For years, workers coming from their shift at the mill stayed on the other side of the street as they passed the house and the tree and imagined the specter of Alice swaying there.

The house and the oak tree are gone now, erased by progress. Maybe that's good for a family so haunted.

Editor's note: The story is true. Descriptive language has been added for effect.

— Mike Hill.



The story that is most chilling is the story of their sister, Alice. Fragile and frail, Alice had married and moved away with her husband. Sometimes family rumors hinted that she was unhappy and even worse.



From Last Month's "Do You Know?"

(L to R) Harold M. "Mac" McCallum; O.T. "Buddy" Culp; J.H. "Hoss" Nesbitt; Bill Stroup; Dr. Max Culp; Bill Bradford; Dr. Bob Martin; Lunsford McFadden; Bill Kimbrell; Bob Hill; Phil Ray; Walter Elisha. Far back right: Lad Barnes.

Upcoming Events in Our Community ...

Christmas Tree Lighting

December 1, 2016
Confederate Park

Fort Mill Christmas Parade

December 3, 2016
Downtown Fort Mill

Historic Homes Tour

December 10, 2016
Sites to be announced





If you can identify any or all of these gentlemen, please email Mike Hill at michaelcasehill@yahoo.com.

Do You Know?

These five brothers all heard the call and enlisted to serve in World War II. Three went to the US Army, two to the US Navy and one to the US Army Air Corps (later called the US Air Force).

Do you know the family name and/or the brothers' names? We only are sure of one. Help us identify all five.



See the identifications for last month's photo on page 7.

Be sure to visit our
J. B. Mills Gift Shop
for great items related to
Fort Mill's history.



**The new FMHM
Christmas ornament will
be announced soon and
available for purchase!**

***Museum members receive
a 10% discount on
gift shop merchandise!***

Join us at the
Fort Mill "Museum!"



Fort Mill History Museum
107 Clebourne Street
Fort Mill, SC 29716

Contact us for membership
information:
Phone: (803) 802-3646
Email: Info@FMHM.org

www.fmhm.org

Hours of Operation:
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday thru Saturday
*Business and Individual
Memberships Available.*

*FMHM is an NARM Participant.

Admission Rates at FMHM

ADULTS

\$3.00 EACH FOR WALK IN
GROUPS OF THREE OR
MORE; \$7.00 MAXIMUM

SCHOOL CHILDREN

K-12: \$1.00

COLLEGE STUDENTS & MILITARY PERSONNEL

WITH ID: \$1.00

CHILDREN UNDER 5:

FREE

MUSEUM MEMBERS:

FREE