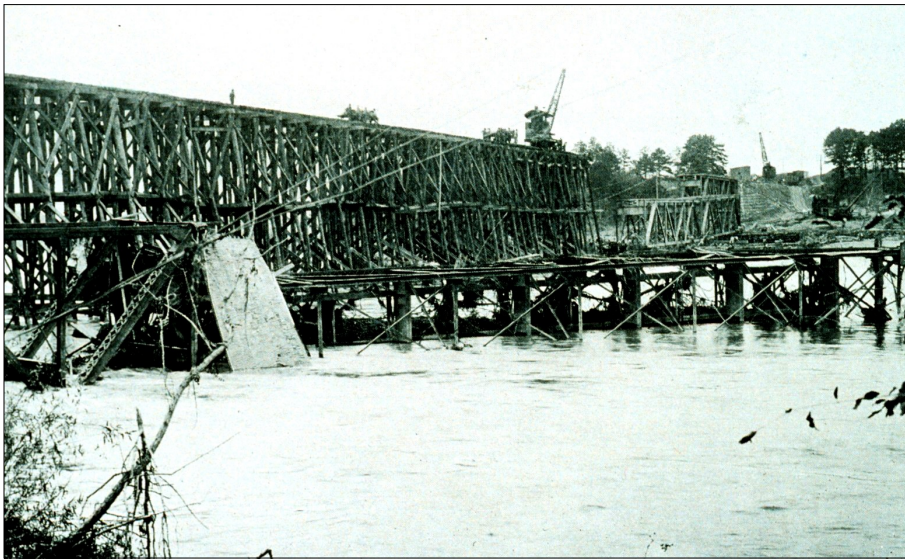


### One Hundred Years Ago

## 1916 Brings Historic Flooding to the Catawba River



Pictured: 1916 flooding at the Catawba River crossing near Fort Mill. A temporary railroad over the bridge was nearing completion at the time. From: "The Floods of July, 1916", copyright 1917, Southern Railway Co.

In July of 1916, a rare weather disturbance caused the most intense flooding in the history of the Catawba River. In early July that year, the first of two category 4 hurricanes moved into western North Carolina from the Gulf of Mexico. The second

storm (also category 4) came in from the Atlantic in mid-July. The convergence of these storms causing more than three days of downpours and the worst flood in history of the Catawba River. Thirteen inches of rain fell over a 24 hour period and

the river rose to 47 feet above flood stage. The flood water was nearly twice as deep as that of any previously recorded flood.

The Lake Wylie dam was destroyed and every bridge across the Catawba was washed out except for one. Rail, telephone and telegraph connections were destroyed. Mills along the waterways throughout the Catawba basin were torn apart and dams were destroyed or damaged.

At least 13 people died when a double-track railroad bridge over the river between Charlotte and Gastonia gave way.

The Great Flood of 1916 prompted renewed interest in damming the Catawba, both for flood control and to generate power.

Read more about the Catawba River, past and present, at:

<http://www.catawbariverkeeper.org/>

## Centuries of Native American Culture Can Be Seen in Local Artifacts

While Fort Mill's **written** history begins with the early Europeans who settled on the land given to them by King Hagler of the Catawba Indian Nation, artifacts found in our area tell of a rich culture that thrived long before the first known explorer set sail for the New World.

Fort Mill sits directly on the Nation Ford Road, a trail used for thousands of years by many Native American tribes as they extended their range

across the country and down the East Coast.

These earliest Americans traveled through the area as early as 9,000 BC and left their stone tools as evidence of their time here. Projectile points from spears and arrows, pottery shards, scrapers, axe heads, and grinding bowls can be found as the red clay so pervasive in our area is plowed up or washed away.



One private collection of arrowheads and points gathered from the Fort Mill area.

*Continued on page two*

## Local Artifacts (continued from page one)

Areas around the Catawba River and Sugar (Sugaw) Creek are especially rich in artifacts because of the rich flint deposits and because they were often the site of villages and long-term encampments.

These stone tools can often be dated by their style or shape. Different tribes created different styles of points and shapes and quality changed over the centuries.

Strange as it may seem, the earliest arrow and spear points were the most finely crafted. In later years, it seems flint knappers found that a roughly-made point was just as

effective and much easier to make than the early masterpieces.

Most projectiles made in this area are made from a dark gray stone called *chert*. White quartz arrow points can also be found here but are rarer because quartz does not flake as well as chert.

Some fine examples of these artifacts can be seen at the Fort Mill History Museum.



Many different types of points are discovered in this area because the Nation Ford Road was heavily traveled by many distinct tribes who traded tools and technology. The large piece is a turtle back scraper used to prepare animal hides.

## The Men's Shop: A Main Street Institution For Our Men About Town

The Men's Shop, which sold clothing ranging from Camel\* brand overalls to Gant\* shirts, was a standby for every fellow in town from the comfortably dressed farmer to the teenage boy getting ready for a date with that special girl.

The shop, owned and operated by Rochelle E. Patterson, operated on Main Street through decades.

Forrest "Frosty" Witherspoon eventually bought in to the store and took over ownership of The Men's Shop when Mr. Patterson retired.

The store offered many high school students their first jobs in retail. The Shop was located in the building which now is home to the Local Dish Restaurant on Main Street.



Rochelle E. Patterson, owner and proprietor of The Men's Shop (1930's—1970's??)

## Do you remember these old businesses?

(From the trusty 1962 *Hill's Fort Mill City Directory* . . .)

### In 1962: FM Beauty Shops

Alice's Beauty Nook, Unity St  
Bea's Beauty Shop, Confederate St  
Bryant's Beauty Shop, Steele St  
Carolina Beauty Shop, Harris St  
Center Beauty Shop, Kanawha St  
Edith's Beauty Shop, Confederate St  
Harriett's Beauty Shop, N. White St  
Model Beauty Shop, Main St

### In 1962: FM Barber Shops

E.S. Arnold, Williamson St  
Bill's Barber Shop, N. White St  
Center Barber Shop, Main St  
Helms' Barber Shop, Main St  
Howie's Barber Shop, Main St  
Palmetto Barber Shop, N. White St  
Paradise Barber Shop, Tom Hall St  
Spratt's Barber Shop, Joe Lewis St



Photo by Margaret Bell-Niven

## FMHM's Garden Party Fundraiser

Museum members and guests at June's Garden Party enjoyed lunch and time with Peter Bonner, American storyteller, actor, writer and historian.

Bonner discussed the "Tara Restoration Project" and entertained with interesting stories about "Gone with the Wind."

The event, presented by the Fort Mill History Museum, was held under blue skies at the lovely White Homestead on June 25th.

## FMHM CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Your company can participate in and support our mission of promoting and preserving local history!

- **This is My Town: Fort Mill History Timeline.**

The School Traveling Exhibit is an imaginative and creative outreach program that brings the history of Fort Mill directly into the classrooms. *This program meets or exceeds the state school curriculum standards.*

**Projected Cost for 2016 School Year: \$2,400.00**

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- **Fort Mill History Days, School Outreach Program 9/23/2016.** Especially for Students.

**Fort Mill History Days 9/24/2016 & 9/25/2016.**  
A trip through the timeline of Fort Mill's history. (All ages)

**Projected Cost of Three History Days: \$9,100.00**

- **Fort Mill Living History Project.**

An ongoing program to collect and preserve first person narratives and videos from longtime residents.

**Projected Cost of Living History: \$6,500.00**

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- **Historic Homes Tour, 12/10/2016.** A chance to visit some of our oldest, most historic homes during the holidays. This year's program offers:

- \* A tour of four of Fort Mill's historic homes.
- \* A tour of Colonel Elliott White Springs' one-of-a-kind executive office.

**Projected Cost of Home Tours: \$5,900.00**

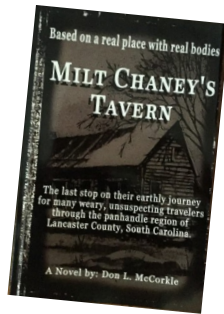
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If your company is interested in funding all or part of any of the above projects, please contact the museum for details: Call (803) 802-3646 or Email: [Info@FMHM.org](mailto:Info@FMHM.org)

## **Notes on Milt Chaney's Tavern** A Novel By Don L. McCorkle

*"The last stop on their earthly journey for many weary, unsuspecting travelers through the panhandle region of Lancaster County, South Carolina."*

When Don McCorkle read an old news story by historian Louise Pettus, it sparked memories of an old mystery that lingered around the village of Osceola in Lancaster Neck, South Carolina.



When travelers began to disappear along the Osceola road, suspicions flew about what was happening to the travelers, who were never seen again.

McCorkle sets his story over 30 years later when the railroad came through the area beside the tavern and shocking new evidence turned up in the red clay excavated by the railroad crews.

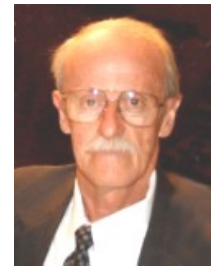
The story revolves around a grandson who desperately wants to find the truth about his grandfather's disappearance in order to give some comfort to his grandmother.

After much research and many conversations, he began a historical novel about the chilling facts around the multiple murders and slave stealing which occurred between 1852 and 1854.

Milt Chaney's tavern was a small dingy place that offered beds, food and drink to travelers on the way south to Lancaster or north to North Carolina. While accommodations were shabby at best, they were better than camping along the narrow wagon trail.

Don McCorkle grew up in the Panhandle region of Lancaster County and holds degrees in History/Political Science, Psychology and Education Administration. He served in the U.S. Army in Viet Nam and

received a Bronze Star for his service.



Don McCorkle

### **THE BUDDY PLAN**

McCorkle has completed a second book called *The Buddy Plan* about the life of Jacky Bayne, a schoolmate and lifelong friend who also fought in Viet Nam and was declared dead twice before a medic noticed a pulse.

Jacky's amazing life during the war and the years after create an riveting story of courage and an indomitable spirit. *The Buddy Plan* is being finalized for publication.

Don, along with his editor and friend, Wanda Mayhugh, has produced a very readable story about a mysterious and dark set of historical events in our part of the country. —

Mike Hill



(PHOTO BY TIMES STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

**Historical Landmark Commission member Harry Hallman, a Fort Mill realtor, in Confederate Park, which is proposed to be Fort Mill's first Historic Landmark.**

### **Looking Back to 1988...**

#### **Confederate Park Named First Historic Landmark** *(This clipping is from the Oct. 19, 1988 issue of the Fort Mill Times)*

Just prior to the publication of this issue of the Times, Confederate Park was submitted for approval as Fort Mill's first historic landmark. The recommendation came from the Historical Landmark Commission, which had been recently organized to officially conserve and protect local places related to the town's past.

Local businessman Buddy Culp was named commission chairman and Barry Mack vice chairman. Other members included Fort Mill residents Mary Jean Byrd, Harry Hallman, and J.B. Mills.

Harry Hallman, pictured here in the park, said the bandstand has been a central meeting place for Fort Mill residents since the early 1900's.

"Originally that's where people would come up on Saturdays and hear the band and other entertainment all through the years. It was where people met when they came to town to shop."

# ACQUISITIONS: NEW TO THE MUSEUM'S COLLECTIONS

By Heather Otis

June was an exciting month for the Museum's Collections Department. Included in the new acquisitions are an original artwork, a historically rich family archival collection, and the first donation related to Praise the Lord's Heritage USA (PTL), a vital piece of the town's history in the late 1970s and 1980s.

Local artist Mary C. Henry's lovely watercolor of the Bandstand in Confederate Park is a wonderful addition to our collection. Mary entered the artwork into the 2013 Strawberry Festival poster contest, which is why she added the strawberry plants in the foreground of the painting.

Since Ms. Henry has generously allowed the Museum to reproduce this work for sale in our gift shop, visitors will soon have the opportunity to own and display this beautiful representation of Fort Mill in their own homes.



Painting by Mary C. Henry

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Vereen Barron Brown donated her aunt Mary Baumgartner Barron's collection of family papers, including three boxes that include photographs, genealogical history, scrapbooks, notebooks, news clippings, postcards, letters and other papers related to and collected by the Barron family, one of Fort Mill's oldest families.



Sgt Walter McFadden, from WWII scrapbook (1941)

Not only is this archival collection relevant to the Barron family history, but it also contains archival material with a broader historical significance. The photograph book from WWI gives us official snapshots of American soldiers in Europe.

Mary's scrapbook of her husband Sgt. Walter B. McFadden's time in World War II is a wonderful assortment of detailed history, heartfelt letters and notes, and memorabilia from postcards to train ticket stubs, capturing the personal experience of a local soldier and his family during the 1940s.

Notebooks in the Barron collection contain minutes and ledgers from the early years (1909-1950s) of the Kanawha Chapter of the *Daughters of the American Revolution* (DAR),

as well as photographs and other documents related to the group (one of Fort Mill's oldest women's organizations) and their community projects.

Our latest acquisition, courtesy of Charles Tate, consists of over 1,000 professional photographic slides documenting the history of the **PTL (Praise the Lord) Club** and Heritage USA from 1978 to the mid-1980s.

An undeniable part of the town's history in the late 1970s and 1980s, Heritage USA was a Christian theme park, water park, and residential complex built by televangelists Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker, who founded the PTL Club.

The park, which covered 2,300 acres in Fort Mill, brought in almost six million visitors a year at its peak in 1986, making it one of the top tourist destinations in the country.

Although Jim Bakker's legal and personal scandals in the late 1980s brought the glory days of Heritage USA to an end, for years it provided thousands of jobs to locals, including Charles Tate, who also donated his PTL security officer badge as part of this acquisition.



Photo of Jim and Tammy Bakker and family, part of the recent acquisition of a collection of photographic slides from PTL.

# People of Paradise: Captain Phillip Thomas White

By Cora Dunlap Lyles

Captain Phillip Thomas White was an educator and a journalist who once served as the principal of the Fort Mill Graded School. He was born in Chester County, S.C. on June 20th, 1866. He was also known as C. P. T. White.



Captain Phillip Thomas White

Captain Phillip attended the Brainerd Institute in Chester County and graduated from Shaw University, a Historically Black University in Raleigh, N.C. He became a professor at the Friendship Institute in Rock Hill in 1892 and served as their financial agent. Two years later he accepted the position of Principal of the Fort Mill Graded School in 1894.

The Fort Mill Graded School was the first public school on record for African American children in the Township. It was also known as the "Old Academy", a church operated school in the former Catawba Male

Academy. It was their school of choice prior to the construction of the George Fish School. The wooden frame building was destroyed by fire around 1924.

Captain Phillip was appointed a notary public by Governor William Ellerbe in 1898. Captain Philip was a member of the Republican Party and was elected secretary of the fifth congressional district of South Carolina in 1900. He served in this position for at least eight years. He also served as a delegate to the National Republican Convention that was held in Chicago, IL in 1912.

Captain Phillip married Lizzie Moore of Charlotte, N.C. They lived in Catawba and eventually moved to Rock Hill where he began the publication of *The Messenger* newspaper. He served as Past Master of the Prince Hall Freemasons Sons of Light Lodge No. 61 from 1912 to 1915. During this time *The Messenger* served as the official means of communication for the black Freemasons within the state. The newspaper was in operation for 25 years. The only known remaining copy of the newspaper is held in the Library of Congress archives.

Captain Phillip Thomas White used his education and journalistic skills to uplift and enrich the lives of others. His newspaper once served as the voice of religious establishments and the source of information about the political activities of African American communities in the piedmont region of South

Carolina. It also provided insight into their daily lives at the beginning of the 20th century. Captain Phillip died in 1949 in the South Carolina State Hospital in Columbia.

## 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.

## CAN WE GET YOUR FEEDBACK?

Do you have stories, photos, comments, suggestions or corrections for the newsletter?

Share them with us!

Please send them to  
Michael C. Hill at  
[michaelcasehill@yahoo.com](mailto:michaelcasehill@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Editors:  
Mike and Cheryl Hill

## Last Month's "Do You Know?"

*Cora Lyles, a featured columnist for the newsletter, sent us some great information on Massey's Drug Store.*

Massey's Drug Store was owned by Dr. James Everard (J.E.) Massey, who was born on January 25, 1849 in Kershaw and died in Rock Hill on January 20, 1913.

He was married twice, first to Alice Amanda Massey and later to Manassas Joanna Withers Massey.

His family appears to have come from the Old Waxhaw Settlement in Lancaster.

Dr. Massey received a medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine and College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1871.

The store's estimated dates of operation are between 1883 and 1925.



Dr. Massey is descended from a soldier from the American Revolution, Henry Massey Sr.

From "Tobacco Culture in This Area," an article by historian Louise Pettus:

In 1883, Dr. Massey set up a tobacco factory in the back of his drug store. He used a "Waxhaw Belle"

label on a small cotton sack to sell his tobacco at five cents a package.

This operation proved to be too troublesome, however, and Dr. Massey abandoned the tobacco business after one season.

Our thanks to Cora Lyles for these remarkable facts about Dr. Massey.



This bronze sculpture by Bruno Lucchesi represents *Creativity*. It is one of seven statues commissioned by Springs Mills to symbolize the "Springs of Achievement."

## Upcoming Events in Fort Mill ...

Fort Mill History Days  
September 23, 2016 –  
September 25, 2016  
Walter Elisha Park

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

# Do You Know?

This month's photo from the 1954 Christmas Parade prompts several questions.

Who is the beauty queen perched precariously on the hood of that 1953 Ford station wagon?

Whose car was it? From what location was the phototaken and who owned that ESSO station on the right?

We don't know most of the answers...Do you?

If you have information about this photo, please email Mike Hill [michaelcasehill@yahoo.com](mailto:michaelcasehill@yahoo.com).



For information on last month's "Do You Know?" on Massey's Drug Store please go to page seven. Thanks to Cora Lyles for her help with this one!



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

The museum shop has books by local authors as well as Fort Mill mementos and gift items.



**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 or with questions:

Phone: (803) 802-3646  
Email: [Info@FMHM.org](mailto:Info@FMHM.org)

[www.fmhm.org](http://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.

## New 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