



Fort Mill History Museum NEWS

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Historic Homes Christmas Tour

On December 4, the History Museum will open the doors of some of Fort Mill's oldest homes to offer a rare glimpse into the town's past.

The tour will include such National Register sites as the **White Homestead**, the **Wilson House**, the **Mack-Belk House** and the **Elizabeth Mills Mack Train Car**. There will also be a couple of special tours which will include a visit to the former Springs Executive Building and **Colonel Elliot White Springs'** remarkable office.

The Fort Mill History Museum recently moved to the Wilson House on Clebourne Street. Tour goers will meet at the White Homestead and hear stories about Fort Mill's engaging history.

After visiting other featured sites, tours conclude at the Museum, where refreshments will also be served. Guests will also enjoy refreshments and shop for unique Fort Mill gifts in the **J. B. Mills Gift Shop**.

Tour space is limited and some are already sold out. Reserve your place at www.fmhm.org or by calling 803-802-3646. Ticket cost is \$35 for the basic tour and \$45 for the special tour that includes Colonel Springs' office.



THE MACK-BELK HOUSE

Fort Mill History Museum Grand Opening November 18th



The ribbon cutting ceremony for the Wilson House, the museum's new location, will be held November 18th from 11:50 AM until 12:30 PM. Originally located on Main Street in Fort Mill, the Wilson house is listed on the National Registry.

Built in 1869, the Wilson House (also known locally as the Hull House), was moved to its current location on Clebourne Street in the 1920's to allow for Main Street expansion.

As the museum's new home, the Wilson House includes permanent and temporary exhibits as well as the **John Sanders Research Library** and the **J.B. Mills Gift Shop**.

Christmas 2015 Ornaments

The 2015 Christmas ornaments are now available at the Museum's **J. B. Mills Gift Shop**. This year's ornaments are "**The Wilson House**," inspired by our move to a new home, "**The Fire Station**," and "**Fort Mill's First Firetruck**."

The Fire House and Firetruck ornaments were chosen to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Fort Mill's Fire Department.

All three images are available as ornaments while the Fire Station and Wilson House are also available as stand-up decorations.



GENEALOGY NOTES by Cheryl Hill

If you've thought about your family "trees" and would like to have a fact-based, detailed history of your ancestors, it can begin with you! Genealogy is a fascinating hobby that can provide remarkable insights into your family background.

The study of genealogy has changed drastically since the onset of the computer age. Census records, birth and marriage certificates, military records, and thousands of other highly detailed documents that used to reside in county seats and isolated court-houses are now accessible online.

Some family history websites are free and others are far from it, but all of them make it possible to search databases and records that reach around the world.

But before you turn on your computer and start taking in the millions of facts, photos and stories to be found on the Internet, take stock of the information that you may have taken for granted. Older family members are a prime source of information that may never be found anywhere else. They probably have albums and boxes of old photos to talk with you about. Now is the time to sit and listen to the stories and memories of another generation.

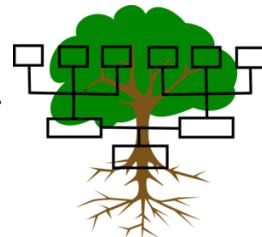
And DNA? Genetic analysis is an amazing process that can give you indisputable leads to far-flung relatives and ancestors. However, DNA is not a magic wand, but one of many tools to use along with other sources to legitimize your work. Use it as one of many important clues in solving the mysteries of your ancestry.

So, start with what you know; record what you're told; remember what you can; ask lots of questions. Where were you born? Where were your parents born? Do you have the names of grandparents or great grandparents? Record birth, death, and marriage dates; even guesses are helpful.

The overwhelming amount of family history information available on the web today means that, once you have accessed genealogy websites and plugged in some basic facts, the information you find is merely the beginning of some really fascinating detective work.

More next month! Let me know what's happening in your family trees:

cherylehill@hotmail.com



Fort Mill Fire Department Celebrates 100 Years of Service

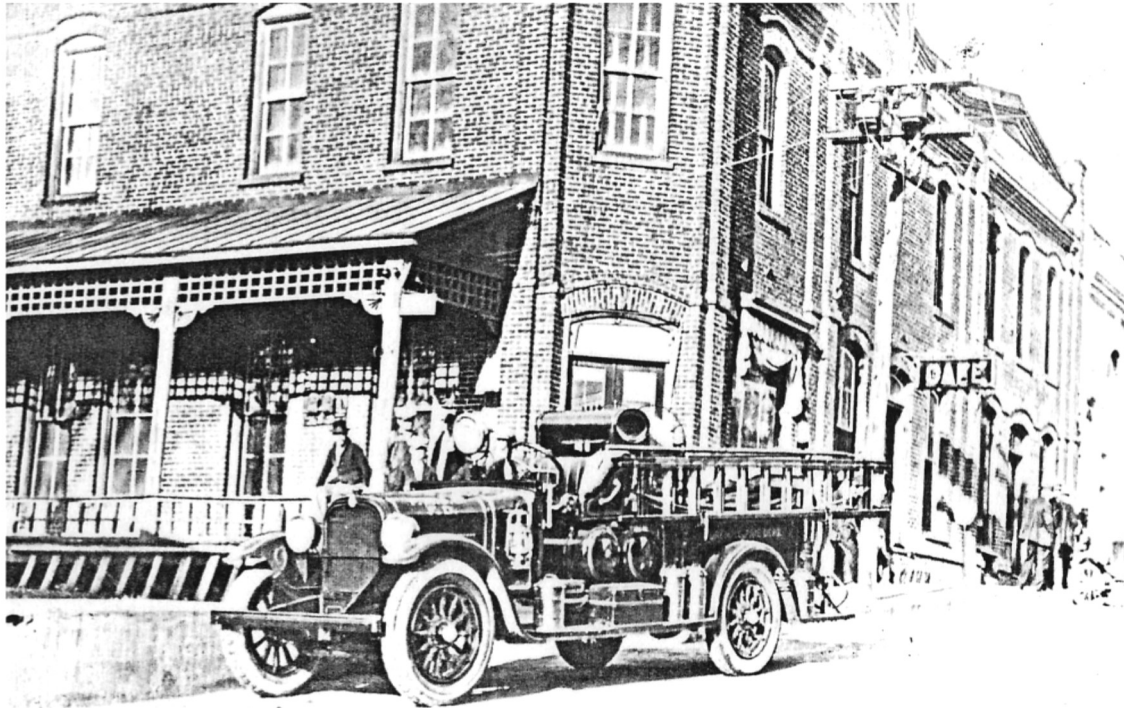
With one hundred years of service now in the history books, the Fort Mill Fire Department continues to protect us, our homes and our property in times of personal and national disaster.

The Museum recently honored the Department with a display in their temporary exhibits.

Established in 1915, the Fort Mill Fire Department was made up of volunteers until December 1994,

when the first paid firefighter was hired by the Town.

Fort Mill's first fire truck, purchased in 1925, is pictured here in front of the old town hall (the porch where Hobo's porch is now located).



First Fire Truck 1925

This photo, which is believed to be a part of the Meacham Collection, was provided by Louise Pettus, a well known local historian.

Today the department has twenty one full-time firefighters operating out of two fire stations.

If you have more facts or additional photos pertaining to the first fire truck in Fort Mill, please email Mike Hill at michaelcasehill@yahoo.com.

"History in a Trunk" Brings the Past to Schools

The Fort Mill History Museum, along with a dedicated group of local teachers, have created a "**History Trunk**" which brings artifacts and history into individual classrooms. The purpose of the program is to bring a local history element to the South Carolina standards for History and to teach across the curriculum with Language Arts and Science.

The first effort, "The River People" focuses on York County's local Native Americans, The Catawba Nation. This first program is directed toward third grade students.

Teachers who would like to schedule the **History Trunk** should call the Fort Mill History Museum for information.



ENJOY FORT MILL'S GROWING HISTORY MUSEUM

Daily Admission Rates

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Adults 19 and up | \$5.00 |
| Children 7 to 18 | \$2.00 |
| Children under 6 | Free |

Museum Members Free

Our museum is an NARM Participant.

Do You Know . . .



This group of men are excited by a new addition to the Bank of Fort Mill. The bank building was located midway down Main Street (now the location of the Spratt Building).

This photo captured the new night depository box that allowed local merchants to drop deposits and other funds into the bank after hours for safekeeping.

Can you identify these local businessmen? Also, do you know when the bank added this new-fangled contraption to its services?

If you can answer these questions or provide other information on this photo, let us know by emailing me at: michaelcasehill@yahoo.com.

MAKING HISTORY 2015:



In November 2015, Fort Mill elected its first female mayor since the town was established in 1873:

Ms. Guynn Hozey Savage.

Mayor-elect Savage is a native of this community; she has a strong sense of its history and years of experience in dealing with the complex issues and decisions that Fort Mill faces in the coming years, as we continue to grow.

Congratulations, Mayor Savage! Serve us well.

In the coming months, the FMHM will highlight some of the political figures, community leaders, and fascinating characters in Fort Mill history that helped to make us who we are.



Become a member of the
Fort Mill History Museum!

107 Clebourne Street
P. O. Box 1047
Fort Mill, SC 29716-1047

*Drop by the museum to
add your name to the
membership rolls.*

Phone: (803) 802-3646
Info@FMHM.org

Hours:
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wed through Sat

Museum Membership

New opportunities for
yearly membership are
as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Patron: | \$35.00 |
| Out of Towner: | \$50.00 |
| Contributor | \$100.00 |
| Sustainer: | \$250.00 |
| Conservator: | \$500.00 |
| Benefactor | \$1000.00 |

*Take part in the activities
of Fort Mill's long-awaited
history museum. Join,
volunteer, and enjoy.*

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

If you have any comments,
suggestions, corrections
or opinions regarding this newsletter,
please address them to:

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