



Fort Mill History Museum

NEWS

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May 2016

www.fmhm.org

MEMORIAL DAY IS MAY 30th

Memorial Day honors the memory of the men and women who lost their lives while serving in the United States Military. Observed on the last Monday of each May, this holiday originated in the years after the Civil War and became a federal holiday in 1971.

Originally known as *Decoration Day*, Memorial Day is observed in many ways throughout the country, but at its core is the recognition of and gratitude to those who paid the ultimate price to secure our freedom and defend our commitment to our founding principles.

Memorial Day originally honored only those lost in the Civil War. However, during World War I the United States was again embroiled in major conflict with many casualties and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars.

**SC Strawberry
Festival
May 6-7
Walter Elisha Park,
Fort Mill**

FMHM "SCHOOL DAY" HELD AT WALTER ELISHA PARK



FMHM School Day Activities, April 2016. Photos: Ann Evans, Rudy Sanders

The History Museum's School Day took place in Walter Elisha Park on April 15 with over 900 third graders from Fort Mill elementary schools. This event is presented as part of the Fort Mill History Days program and is set aside specifically for students from our district schools.

On April 15 students arrived by the busload to take a trip through a living timeline of our town's history. This timeline included a native American potter, Master Potter Billie Anne Mckeller, who demonstrated the creation of the distinctive pots made by the Catawba tribe for centuries.

A Revolutionary War reenactor, dressed as a member of the Whig Militia, walked students through the basic skills taught to these citizen soldiers. Other stations demonstrated games of the era and members of the

museum read excerpts from *Tom and the Redcoats.*, by Barnett Spratt.

One station included a vintage wagon and various farm implements used by the early settlers in the Fort Mill area. This presentation was created and presented by Tommy Merritt of the museum board.

From the 1700's well into the 1900's, cotton was king in the Southern economy. Rudy Sanders (of the museum board) talked about this era and described the process of how cotton is transformed from cotton bolls to clothing.

The Civil War reenactment began with a BANG as the members of the South Carolina 6th Volunteers fired a field cannon to begin the Day. A field camp was set up so that the third graders could see the conditions in which soldiers lived at the time.

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FMHM SCHOOL DAY

(continued from page 1)

A full-scale model of the CSS Hunley (a Confederate submarine) was on site and students also saw displays of military gear and weapons from WWI, WW II, Korea and Viet Nam.

After a full morning of activities and lunch on the park grounds, the third graders boarded their busses and headed back to school more knowledgeable and enthusiastic about local history.

Top right: The Hunley submarine; lower left, the presentation on “King Cotton”, lower right, a Confederate field camp.



Genealogy Notes

Whether or not you choose to subscribe to a genealogy site/or other program such as *Ancestry.com*, please take some time to examine the methods and processes that are a part of these services. They can lead you to a more organized, more complete history of persons and family groups.

Every person in your family tree is a project. You need basic facts (birth, death, locations of these, marriage (when and to whom), death, and other specifics like dates of military service, etc.

If you can document each of these facts with birth and death certificates, marriage licenses, etc., you can find scans of the original records online and they are valuable items to store with your family member's file. This section should also include old letters, certificates and other hard copies that contain information you want to preserve.

Don't forget to save your family photos by scanning them; file them with the family member or group to which they belong.

Locations are usually as important as dates (particularly in the early days), so these need to be linked to life events to broaden your search options and possibly tie your family member to relatives and occupations. If you have census records you may be able to track down nextdoor neighbors who play pivotal roles in your family history.

It is vital to clearly link each family member with his/her parents and their information, along with offspring (which can be linked to one or several marriages).

It is important to be able to view your family tree, whether you use paper and pencil or a computer program. Sometimes this "visual aid" will bring on an epiphany!

Stories about an individual or a family group are vital in fleshing out your history. This includes items from the "legends" department and items you know to be factual.

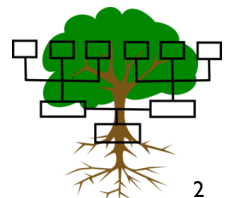
There are often notes or comments that do not fit a specific category but offer some insight into the history of your family member. A section of your records should be set aside for these important tidbits.

You can even record audio and video to capture special moments and special people and attach these files to the appropriate persons.

More later! (And if you're hopelessly frustrated by your family research most of the time, you're doing it right.)

Cheryl Hill

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Spratt's Cemetery Holds Some of Fort Mill's Early Settlers

The mortar is broken and cracked all along the rock walls and the gate is rusted and swings open with a groan. Inside the walls are headstones from generations of early settlers in the Fort Mill area. The Spratt Cemetery is the resting place of Thomas "Kanawha" Spratt.

Thomas's father, also called Thomas, was born in Scotland, immigrated to the American Colonies, and traveled south on the Nations Ford Road (also called the Great Wagon Road) to settle north of Charlotte NC.

It is said that his son, Thomas (Kanawha) yearned for more open land to farm. The younger Spratt and his wife Elizabeth decided to move on to Long Cane Settlement near Abbeville.

When Spratt stopped to camp before crossing the Catawba River at the Nations Ford, he was met and befriended by the Catawba Indians, who offered him good land and friendship.

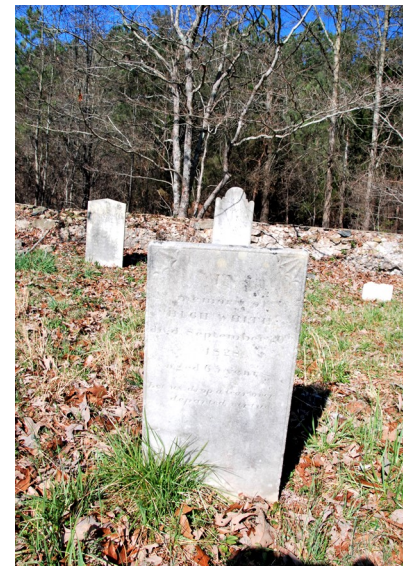


The Scots-Irish were tough people who had moved from conflict in Scotland and Ireland to help defend the borders of the early colonies. Many of them followed the Great Wagon Road and settled in this area.

Writer Jim Webb, in his non-fiction book, *Born Fighting*, recounts the story of the Scots-Irish and their contributions to the American Revolution and every war since then.

Thomas Spratt was no exception. He earned his nickname, Kanawha, when he joined the Catawbans in a battle against another tribe on the Catawba River.

The cemetery, located on Brick Yard Road, contains the graves of three generations of Spratts and other earlier settlers. Of interest in the old graveyard is the grave of Peter Harris, a Catawba boy who was adopted by Spratt when his parents died of smallpox.



Photos by Mike Hill

People of Paradise: Jefferson Mackey

by Cora Dunlap Lyles

Jefferson Mackey was an African-American who served in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War. He was born around 1843 in what was then known as Lancaster District. He was an enslaved man who lived and worked on a plantation in the Cedar Creek area that was owned by John T. Mackey, a farmer.

John T. Mackey's older son, John Frank, was a doctor who graduated from the Medical College of South Carolina in Charleston. Dr. John Frank (J.F.) Mackey enlisted in the Confederate States Army Company H, 2nd Infantry Regiment of the South Carolina Volunteers as a Sergeant. He served on the medical staff as an assistant surgeon. Company H was known as the "Lancaster Invincibles". It was part of the renowned Kershaw's Brigade.

Company H was engaged in many battles during the War and was present at the Battle of Gettysburg in July of 1863. Jefferson served as a personal servant to Dr. Mackey and as a cook for the regiment from January 1, 1861 until April 26, 1865.

Jefferson returned home when the War ended and settled in Catawba Junction where he took up farming.

He and his wife, Jannette Dunlap Mackey, eventually moved their family to Fort Mill. He applied for the Confederate Old Age pension in 1923. Dr. Mackey's children, Perry and Mary Elizabeth, served as his witnesses.

Jefferson received the pension until his death on December 17, 1932 at the age of 89. James Craig Faris, a Catawba Junction grocer, and Judge Ebenezer Gettys Nunn paid Johnie Mae Robinson of the Peoples Undertaking Company of Rock Hill \$25 toward his burial expenses.

Jefferson's son, John Otis Mackey, served as a Private in Company D of the 408th Reserve Labor Battalion during World War I. His grandson, Robert L. Mackey Sr., served as a Sergeant in the Army during World War II. His great-grandson, Robert L. Mackey Jr., served with the 101st Airborne LRRP Rangers from 1966 to 1971 during the Vietnam War.

The flag of the Lancaster Invincibles is a reminder of Jefferson Mackey's commitment to Dr. Mackey and his acknowledged service to Company H, 2nd Infantry Regiment of the South Carolina Volunteers.



This flag also represents the beginning of a family legacy of dedicated military service to the state of South Carolina and the United States of America that span more than one hundred years.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR PHOTOS OF THESE & OTHER LANDMARKS:

The editors would love to see photos of the following and have a chance to scan the images for the museum:

A&P GROCERY STORE
(ANY LOCATION)

THE CENTER THEATRE
(WITH MOVIES ON MARQUEE)

HORNE'S DRY CLEANERS

DOBY'S BRIDGE

HOZEY'S STORE

BOWLING ALLEY (EXTERIOR)

THE OLD FORT MILL GOLF CLUB HOUSE

CAROTHERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

TEXACO STATION AT WHITE ST & US 21 BYPASS)

LUKE PATTERSON'S STORE

PYRAMID GROCERY

EARLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (ONE ROOM, WOODEN) ON N. WHITE ST

CULP'S CORNER

COTTON MILL PHOTOS: FORT MILL PLANT, WHITE PLANT

THE MEN'S SHOP

THE SODA SHOP / PALMETTO CAFÉ

And any others you have stashed away at home!

About 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.



SPRINGS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Seven sculptures erected here in 1993 represent “The values sustaining Springs Industries since 1887” and can be found throughout Fort Mill. “The Springs of Achievement,” the values symbolized by the bronze figures, are universal and apply to not only Springs Industries but also to communities and individuals.

The qualities represented by the statues are: **quality, service, creativity, education, planning for the future, respect for history, and personal and family well-being.**

The sculpture pictured here represents “Service” and demonstrates teamwork, dedication and sacrifice given by individuals for a greater cause.

The statues were commissioned by the Springs family and were created by the award winning Italian sculptor Bruno Lucchesi.

This statue is located on North White Street across the street from Founders Federal Credit Union.

Unity Presbyterian Church

From the Historic Sites Survey, York County June 1975

Unity Presbyterian was the first church in what is now Fort Mill Township. The original log structure was built in 1788 between Steele and Sugaw Creeks in a settlement known as “Little York.”

Another log building was erected in 1804 about 1 ½ miles west of the first church, at what is now the intersection of Unity and Summersby Streets. At this location a churchyard was started, now called the “Old Unity Cemetery.”

In 1839, the second location became inconvenient as the population continued to move westward, so the third building was located on the Old Camden Road, now known as Tom Hall Street. This building was a frame building and was burned in 1880.

The fourth and present building is a brick structure, built on the Camden Road in 1881 about two hundred yards west of the third building. The shifting center of population in the Fort Mill area over the period of about 100 years from the days of the first settlers to the incorporation of the Town of Fort Mill in 1873 is best indicated by the church’s successive moves.

The name “Unity” is believed to be partly derived from the uniting of the settlers of the area between Steele Creek and Sugaw Creek in York County and those from the upper part or “Panhandle” section of Lancaster County into one congregation.

Another theory attributes the name to the uniting of several different branches of Presbyterians into one religious body or congregation.

There is no trace of the original churchyard except one gravestone marked “Andrew Spratt, died in 1807.” The site is now in pasture covered with scattered bushes.

Source:

*Historic Sites Survey
York County*

*Historic Inventory of
York County*

*Prepared by the Catawba
Regional Planning Council*

*Revised Edition, June 1977
First Printing, November 1975*

From (pp 59-60)



FM Landmarks Named for WWI Soldiers Lost in Assault On the Hindenburg Line

Soldiers of Company G of the Fort Mill Light Infantry saw some of the worst fighting during World War I. Many young men from Fort Mill and the area were killed or wounded during the assault on the Hindenburg Line, a defensive line of barbed wire, trenches and gun emplacements on the border between the north coast of France and Verdun.

Australian, British, French and American troops participated in the massive attack and the Fort Mill Light Infantry, part of the 30th (Old Hickory) Division was on the front line of the attack.

Two of the men of the unit still have special recognition in the town:

Sgt. Thomas Lee Hall, for whom Tom Hall Street is named and Sgt. James Eli Bailes, for whom the American Legion Post 43 is named.

Sgt. Thomas Lee Hall was born in Fort Mill to William and Frances Hall. He joined the National Guard

and was with the Fort Mill Light Infantry when they landed in Calais, France in May of 1918. The Unit was moved to the Hindenburg line.

On May 8, 1918, Sgt. Hall succeeded in knocking several machine gun nests. At one point, to avoid endangering his men, Hall single-handedly advanced on an

enemy position, killing the five occupants with his bayonet. Later in the day, Sgt. Thomas Lee Hall was killed by machine-gun fire.

For his actions on May 8, 1918, Sgt. Hall was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. The award was received by his father in a ceremony in Fort Mill's Confederate Park.

Sgt. James Eli Bailes was also killed in action on the May 8th offensive. A first dispatch reported him seriously wounded but a later report confirmed his death. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. James H. Bailes received several letters from the officers in his command who praised Sgt. Bailes "soldierly character". Sgt. James Eli Bailes was killed after being hit by machine-gun fire. He died after confiding to one of his comrades that he was "mortally wounded". *



World War I Helmet with the 30th Division emblem. The Emblem, when shown vertically, forms an O H for Old Hickory with three X's for the Thirtieth Division.

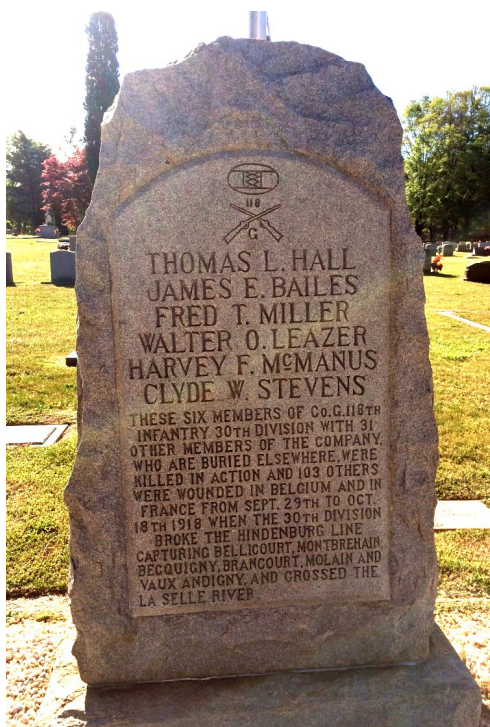
*From *The State Newspaper*

Museum Expresses Appreciation to Continental Tire

Kayla Lynn Petty, Communications Specialist for **Continental Tire of the Americas**, accepts a plaque of appreciation from the Fort Mill History Museum.

This expression of gratitude is presented by Board Chairman Rick Dammann and former Chairman Mike Cookman.

The museum is grateful to the businesses and individuals who offer their support to help us preserve the history of our town.



This monument is located in Unity Cemetery. If you have information about any of the other four men, please send it to michaelsehill@yahoo.com.



This sculpture is one part of the Viet Nam War Memorial in Washington, DC



World War I troops board the train in Fort Mill.

MEMORIAL DAY *** MEMORIAL DAY *** MEMORIAL DAY *** MEMORIAL DAY

Fort Mill began as a small farming and textile town. Yet despite its modest population, Fort Mill men and women have always gone to war when they were needed; many did not return. As a matter of fact, our community has consistently taken great losses in wartime with respect to our size.

Below is a list of soldiers who died in service to our country. If your family lost a loved one in wartime who is NOT listed below, please call or email us and add your soldier to our memorial rolls. It is important to Fort Mill's past and present that we recognize ALL of our heroes.

FEEDBACK?

Do you have additional information, comments, suggestions or corrections for the newsletter? Please send them to Michael C. Hill at michaelcasehill@yahoo.com

Fort Mill Soldiers Lost in Military Service

World War I

James Eli Bailes
 Thomas L. Hall
 Walter O. Leazer
 Harvey T. McManus
 Fred T. Miller
 Clyde W. Stevens
 Carry L. Faris
 William G. Patterson
 William O. Purser
 Seath E. Robbins
 Eugene S. Ross
 St. Clair Sutton

World War II

Douglas H. Nims
 Samuel L. Meacham, Jr.
 William J. McCammon
 Kenneth K. McKenzie
 Samuel W. Smith, Jr.
 Thomas Morrow Bradford
 Nathan T. Steele
 James O. Lamb
 Douglas N. Cranford
 James Mack Harris
 Shelley H. Mullis
 James H. Harris
 Frank B. Stegall
 Voyd L. Faile
 Ruel K. Boone
 Earl C. Coffey
 Clennie E. Brown
 John V. Faulkner
 Johnnie L. Privette
 Charles S. Pettus

World War II (cont'd)

James G. Sumner
 Odell S. Myers
 Charles A. Turner
 Robert W. Self
 James B. Dunn
 Robert Taylor
 Thomas D. Ervin
 Olin Phillips

Korean War

Roy Franklin Howington

Viet Nam War

Sam Henry Boyd
 Charles Reginald Ferrell
 Charles Melvin Goude
 Jerry Donald Helms
 James M. Johnstone
 Johnnie Wylie Potts
 David Wesley Smith
 Raymond Ervin Long
 Freddie Joe Phifer
 Lindell Ray (Butch) Stegall
 Lawrence Edward Scott

Iraq/Afghanistan

Thomas Joseph Dodds Dudley
 Paul M. Neff II
 Cpl. Joshua Blaney (Matthews)

Do You Know?

Three Prominent Citizens Are Dressed for the Fort Mill Centennial . . .

These three longtime citizens of Fort Mill look ready for a drive to the golf course in their plus-fours and hats.

Actually, they are all dressed for the Fort Mill Centennial in 1973. Our town celebrated its 100th year of incorporation with much fanfare that year.

Do you know all three? Let us know who you can identify. Mail us at michaelcasehill@yahoo.com.



The men at the bowling alley in last month's photo have not been fully identified. Linda and Ronald Honeycutt identified Oscar Boatwright (far left); Grady Honeycutt (second from left; Paul Ellis, (far right). We will try to identify the remaining men in next month's issue.



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

Fort Mill Women In History (Part 2)

is now available.



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

MEMBERS RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT!

Join us at the Fort Mill History 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

Hours of Operation:
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday thru Saturday

Admission Rates

Adult 19 and up - \$5.00
Children 7 to 18 - \$2.00
Children under 6 - Free
Museum Members - Free

*FMHM is an NARM Participant.

If you have questions or information for the newsletter, please contact the editors, Mike and Cheryl Hill, at michaelcasehill@yahoo.com.

