

Saxe Gotha Dispatch

December Events Were a Success

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The museum held two events in December, its annual open house and a Hands-on History program on Christmas Crafts.

Around 300 people came out to the Christmas Open House in early December despite the somewhat chilly temperatures and rain. Visitors were able to learn about Christmas traditions in Lexington in the 19th century. We were fortunate once again to have African-American interpreters from the Slave Dwelling Project help out in interpreting life for the enslaved in Lexington. These interpreters told stories, led a cooking demonstration, and discussed brick making. Attendees were also able to learn about soap making and pewter



casting in the antebellum period. The museum would like to thank all those that volunteered including the staff from the Horry County Museum.

The museum also held a Christmas Crafts Hands-on History program in conjunction with the Granby DAR. Around 20 children came out to learn about making pomanders and

popcorn strings. The museum would like to thank the members of the Granby DAR for all their help putting this program on. The children definitely enjoyed the snacks they provided.

Pictures from these programs can be found on page 4.

Museum Past and Upcoming Outreach Efforts

Museum staff members continue to speak to various groups about the museum and the history of the county. Over the past few months, museum employees have spoken to Laurel Crest Retirement Home, and the Lexington Main Library.

In the future, museum staff will speak to the Lexington County Main Library, Laurel Crest Retirement Home, the B-L SCV, and the Lexington Shepherds Center.

If you'd like to have a museum staff member speak to your group either virtually or in-person, don't hesitate to give us a call. We can speak on a

variety of topics related to the museum, the county, and its history. Some of the most popular topics include the quilts and other artifacts from the Dutch Fork, Lexington County-made rifles, and the history of alcohol in Lexington County.

Meet Historical Interpreter Beth Haggard

Historical Interpreter Beth Haggard is not really new. She has been officially working here for over a year and has been a regular visitor to the museum for years. She was hired in 2022 and began volunteering before officially starting her position in January of last year. Even as a new employee Beth was a natural fit. She embraced giving tours with adults and young children alike while also implementing ideas to enhance the museum's educational programming and interpretation. She has been working on setting up our museum's loom and doing ongoing garden maintenance.

Beth feels a deep connection to history and it shows in her tours and in her enthusiasm for learning about the past. She explains that working here makes her feel connected with her family. Beth is a South Carolinian through and through. Like many in the area, she is a descendant of German immigrants and her maiden name is Fulmer, which originated as Volmar. She was born in Spartanburg, moved to West Columbia, and then on to Prosperity when she was five-years-old. She described her time in Prosperity as an idyllic, "like growing up in Mayberry." When she was 15 she moved to Charleston. Her family's roots were in Newberry and Saluda County. Her great grandfather ran McNairy's Ferry in Saluda before the creation of Lake Murray and she says that many of her family members are buried under the waters of Lake Murray. She remembers visiting relatives in the area while living in Charleston. Her Great Aunt and Uncle in Delmar didn't have running water and she recalls having to use an outhouse in the 1970s.

She inherited her interest in history from her Dad who "was a big proponent of history." He was from Newberry, grew up in the Mollohan Mill Village and was a self-described lint-head. The mill very much shaped his character and life. He became a Lutheran minister and eventually a Chaplain for the South Carolina National Guard. How fitting it is for Beth to work in a building that was once part of the Lutheran Theological Seminary a place that educated so many Lutheran Ministers throughout its nearly 200 year history.

The seminary also shares a history with Newberry College which is where Beth and her father attended. While at Newberry she studied English and Education. That's also where she met Ralph who would become her husband. She taught High School English in Aiken, SC for a little while before moving to Lexington to raise her two children, Ben and Caroline. She got a job at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church where she worked for 25 years, eventually running the preschool program.

Her background in teaching preschool and high school means that Beth has developed the ability to connect with learners of all ages. She enjoys sharing the stories of the many different people who lived in Lexington County. Her favorite buildings on our grounds are the school house because of her connection to education and the Daniel Koon house because of its interesting history and yet another likely family connection. She says "it's interesting to see how far we have come and how much has changed over hundreds of years." She hopes to instill an appreciation of history in our visitors explaining, "knowing where you come from can help you figure out where you're going." We are excited to formally introduce you to Beth and encourage you to stop by to take a tour.



Friends of the Lexington County Museum to Hold Fundraiser on April 20 at Museum

The Friends of the Lexington County Museum has decided to hold the 2024 annual fundraiser on the evening of Saturday April 20th on the grounds of the Lexington County Museum. This fundraiser will be a great opportunity for sponsors and guests to learn more about the museum and its future plans as well as help raise funds to help support the goals outlined by the museum’s strategic and master plans. Shealy’s BBQ will cater. If you’re interested in becoming a sponsor, please fill out the information below and return it to the museum’s PO Box. Payment may also be made through Paypal on our website: www.lexingtoncountymuseum.org

Sponsorship for “Moving Forward” Museum Fund-Raiser Gala:

_____ Diamond Donor	\$2500	(\$1660 tax deductible)	Includes 14 tickets
_____ Platinum Donor	\$1000	(\$400 tax deductible)	Includes 10 tickets
_____ Gold Donor	\$500	(\$140 tax deductible)	Includes 6 tickets
_____ Silver Donor	\$250	(\$10 tax deductible)	Includes 4 tickets
_____ Bronze Donor	\$150	(\$30 tax deductible)	Includes 2 tickets

Name of Donor (as you want it to appear) _____

Name of Contact Person (if different from above) _____

Address _____ Phone _____

_____ E-mail _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make Checks payable to Friends of the Lexington County Museum, P. O. Box 637, Lexington, SC 29071

Museum Visitation in November and December 2023

Visitors continued to come out the museum in November and December.

including tourists from eight states other than SC and Japan.

Newberry Counties come out.

In November, 1,225 visitors came to the museum, including visitors from eleven states other than SC as well as France. In December, the museum saw 739 visitors,

The number of school groups visiting the museum increased as school got underway. We had various public and private groups from Richland, Lexington, and

December 2023 Event Photos



Museum to Host Murders and Mysteries Tour in Lexington

The Lexington County Museum will offer its free “Murders and Mysteries” walking tour of downtown Lexington on March 1st starting at 8 pm. This tour is a great way to learn about the history of the town and the buildings downtown and hear some very interesting stories along the way. Attendees will learn about some of the murders, trials, and other crimes that occurred on Lexington’s Main Street in the 19th and early 20th centuries. This free tour will begin at the town’s Icehouse Amphitheater and will last about an hour. Attendees will follow a guide between Church Street and South Lake Drive. Because of the mature subject matter, attendees must be 18 or over or have parental permission. This event is offered at no cost and no reservations are needed. For more information or questions, please call the museum at 803-359-8369 or email us at museum@lex-co.com





Museum Calendar of Events

- Feb. 17-19 Presidents Day Weekend
Museum will be closed
- March 1 "Murders and Mysteries" Lexington Walking Tour
8 pm
Tour begins at the Icehouse Amphitheater
107 West Main Street Lexington, SC
Free to the public
Attendees will learn about some of the spookier and more gruesome aspects of Lexington's history as we will discuss murders, crimes, and mysteries that occurred on or near Main Street. Because of the mature subject matter, we ask that attendees be 18 or over or have parental permission.
- March 23 Great Outdoors Day
1 pm to 3 pm
Free to attend/Registration Required
Lexington County Museum Complex
Be on the lookout for more information about this program including how to register.
- April 6 "It's All About Herbs" Herb Festival
9 am to 3 pm
Free to attend
Lexington County Museum Complex
Activities include a plant sale with many varieties of herbs, herb and plant related vendors, food vendors, free herb mini-demonstrations, seminars, and a silent auction.

Call the museum at 803-359-8369 or email museum@lex-co.com to find out more about these events.

Lexington County Museum

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Lexington, SC 29072

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*A Story Behind
Every Door*



The Lexington County Museum was started in 1970 to collect, preserve and present the history of Lexington County. After initially having only one historic house, the museum expanded and now has thirty historic structures over seven acres in downtown Lexington. Through exhibits in historic houses, the museum interprets everyday life in the town of Lexington and throughout Lexington County from the eighteenth century to the start of the Civil War. The museum offers guided tours to visitors for a small fee and has thirteen different hands-on programs for school groups free of charge by appointment. These programs attract schools from around the state and educate students about the history of Lexington County and about the everyday life of Lexington County residents in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The Friends of the Lexington County Museum is a non-profit group founded in 1997 with an advisory board, officers, and a board of trustees representing all municipalities in Lexington County. Its mission is to enhance the Lexington County Museum through its duly appointed commission and to support, aid, and assist in the improvement and expansion of the Museum. The Friends group sponsors fund-raising projects to help further the Museum's valuable contribution to the county. The Friends group has raised over \$290,000 for the museum so far. To learn more about the Friends or to join, visit the museum's webpage (<https://lex-co.sc.gov/lexington-county-museum/friends-museum>).

Highlighted Artifact from the Museum's Collections

Dr. Joseph Quattlebaum, a Lexington County native, died in January in 1892. The museum is fortunate to have silver forks that belonged to Dr. Quattlebaum in its collections.



We're on the Web!

<https://lex-co.sc.gov/lexington-county-museum> and
www.lexingtoncountymuseum.org