

Fall Issue

2013



**Hampton County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 152, Hampton, SC 29924**

## **Spanish Expeditions in Our Area** **7 pm, Tuesday, October 22nd** **@ Hampton Fire Station**

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Did you have any idea that a Spanish explorer was in South Carolina, much less Hampton County area, well before the English appeared on our shores in 1670? Andy Thomas, a past president of the Hampton County Historical Society (2000-2002), will inform us about Juan Pardo, a Spanish explorer, who passed through this area on two expeditions—in 1566-67 and 1567-68. Mr. Thomas will be speaking on an era in Hampton County that is one of his major interests, but one most of us know little. Imagine getting a first-hand description from the writings of Juan Pardo, when this was Indian land and wilderness. The records of these expeditions give us a snapshot of the Hampton County area in the 16th century. Pardo's writings illuminate the massive changes to come in the years that followed, as well as point to the diversity of the region even before the English landed at Charles Town in 1670.

The son of Rhesa and Pat Thomas.

Andy was born and grew up in Fairfax, SC. A 1988 graduate of Clemson University with a Bachelor of Arts in history, Andy went on to receive in 1997 his Master of Arts in history, focusing on colonial South Carolina, from Winthrop University.

Andy is married to Karen Walsh of Hampton. He currently works as an undergraduate advisor with the School of Library and Information Science at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. He is also pursuing his Museum Management and Certificate Program with USC. In addition to all of this, he has a wonderfully, big, furry, black cat named "Porkchop: who likes to eat.

At 7 pm on Tuesday October 22 at the Hampton Fire Station, Andy Thomas will bring alive Juan Pardo and his expeditions through our. This program should also be of interest to students studying SC and American history.

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## **Day Trip to Silver Bluff Audubon Center Nov. 9th**

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On November 9, 2013, the Hampton County Historical Society is sponsoring a field trip to the Silver Bluff Audubon Center, located on the Savannah River in Aiken County just west of Jackson. Dan "Cooter" Connelly of Hampton who managed the Silver Bluff facility for thirty-four years will lead this trip.

The property is composed of 3250 acres and is managed for sustainable forestry with emphasis on promoting songbird and other wildlife habitat. Silver Bluff's historical legacy is rich and dates back to the DeSoto era. A major trading post operated there from 1750 until the end of the Revolutionary War. Lighthouse Harry Lee led a skirmish and fought there on May 21, 1781. A plethora of history pertaining, especially to the ante-bellum era, will be shared.

A caravan will leave from the Hampton County Museum @ the Old Jail promptly at 8:30 am Saturday morning - returning about 4 pm (carpooling is encouraged) or you may meet us at Silver Bluff's education center at 10 am (use 4542 Silver Bluff Road, Jackson, SC, on GPS). We will be visiting several sites during the tour.

A light picnic will be available. Cost for lunch is \$7 for HCHS members, \$10 for non-members and \$5 for children under 12. Reservations are necessary by November 4: call the museum at 804-943-5484, Sarah Jo Withycombe at 943-4865 or mail to address on sidebar to left.



*Brier Creek Road trip in July*  
*Pictures top l-r*  
*Welcome Center–Dan Johnson, speaker - to Brennan's*  
*Bridge & Revolutionary War site– a swimming hole - to R &*  
*D's Restaurant– DAR Trustees speak -on to Brier Creek*  
*DAR's Dell-Goodall House*



## Roaming Through Our Local Museums

Hampton County's heritage is being preserved for us and for future generations through our local museums and societies. Each museum and society has its own specific focus.

- **Brunson Museum and Visitors Center:** (located at 800 Railroad Avenue).
- **Estill Museum:** (located 44 Third Street) Open by appointment only. Please call 843-368-5158.
- **Hampton Colored School:** (located on West Holly Street)
- **Hampton County Museum @ the Old Jail:** (located 702 First Street West )–Open Thursday & Sunday 2 – 5 pm or by appointment. Come see the restored Civil War cannonball in the Military Room.
- **Hampton Museum and Visitors Center:** (located at 15 First Street East) Open Thursday and Saturday from 2 – 5 and by appointment...
- **Historic Preservation Society of Estill:** The Historic Preservation Society of Estill (HPS) received a generous donation of \$305 from the Estill High School Class of 1962. This donation will go towards paying off a \$40,000 loan that was taken out to pay for the painting of the Estill water tower. Funds for this project have been raised through private donations. We would like to thank all those who have contributed. Currently, HPS of Estill owes \$939.85 for the water tower project. Donations are always welcomed (Joe Gray Peeples, Pres., HPS of Estill, 252 Lawton Avenue N, Estill SC

## The Tale of the Cannon Ball

An old cannonball has sat at the foot of this Civil War clad mannequin in the museum for years. Several months ago Dwayne Dobson took this old encrusted cannonball and cleaned it using electrolysis; then he preserved it with paraffin. As you see in the picture, it now is displayed atop the wooden stand Dwayne and his son, Russell, built.

The beginning of September a picture of Dwayne placing this cannonball on the stand was in Lowcountry Life with the question "Does anyone know where it was found?" A call came from a lady saying she had been sitting in the kitchen with her friend in Yemassee one day in 1980 when 8-10 year old James Harvey came running in with this cannonball. Fearing it might be explosive, his mother called Hampton. Bart Chassereau came, identified it, and brought it to the museum as a gift. ... and that's the cannonball tale.



## New Donations to HCM

- Tom Thumb outfit worn by Ralph Stanley in May Day celebration on courthouse grounds
- Old wooden Coca Cola Crate
- Playbill from Hampton High School's 1935 Senior Class production
- Two cases copy paper
- Military documentation for Gregory Hiers
- Umbrella carried by Marilyn Mixson in Watermelon Festival Parade in 1950's
- Three unique bluish glass bottles from residence of H.R. Kinard

*Thanks! Thanks! Keep Remembering!*

*HCM is a Keeper of History*

**Oct. 22: Juan Pardo, Spanish Explorer**  
**Nov. 9: Silver Bluff Audubon Center**  
**Feb. 2014 : Program on Hunley (TBA)**

## Annual HCHS Meeting Highlights May 14, 2013

### Treasurer's Report:

- Structural survey paid through Phase II (Phase III will be 2nd floor stabilization under HC Capital Sales Tax Projects)
- Security and Fire alarm installed
- Lots of note cards available
- The HCHS budget proposed by Executive Board was approved

### Business:

- Dues structure effective 1/14 to be - Member \$20, Couple \$35 and Student \$5
- HCHS expanding programs & trips
  1. July 20- Brier Creek & Scriven Co.
  2. Fall- Silver Bluff Audubon Center
- 167 paid members (47 new 2013)
- New Officers elected
  - Vice-President: Durena Marcum
  - Corresponding Secretary: Marian Platts
  - Members at Large: Miriam Holley and Lawton Maner
- Lena Marker: fence down, coping needed
- Bess Ware turned over completion of Past Presidents List to Betty Ruth Crews
- Plea was made for members to ask for genealogies to made available for research

Chris Crabb's program on Sherman's march through our swamps followed the meeting.

## HCHS and HCM Needs You

### Volunteer Opportunities

- \_\_\_ Be a docent at the museum
- \_\_\_ Bring refreshments for meetings
- \_\_\_ Publicize a specific room or display for a monthly feature
- \_\_\_ Help with developing the Genealogy Room
- \_\_\_ Be a light bulb changer
- \_\_\_ Power wash or clean the ramp
- \_\_\_ Organize and catalogue Vertical Files. One drawer/section..
- \_\_\_ Membership Chairman
- \_\_\_ Type Lists on flash drive

CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER  
 HC Museum 943-5484



Thanks to Lawton Maner for cleaning and resetting the coping and to Stro Morrison for the grounds up-keep, the Historical Marker at Lena is now presentable. HINT! Rocks inside coping would give it a polished look (see Wish List).

**Welcome  
New Members**

Maureen Gaeddert  
John W. Dodge  
Steve & Terri Kemmerlin  
Amy & Jeff Hunt  
Maderia Stanley  
Paul & Polly Knight  
Jerry & Diane Cummings  
Jacob Rivers  
Jimmy & June Bilka

**Wish List**

- Legal size file folders (lots)
- \$\$ for cabinet making/purchases
- \$\$ for framing
- Bag of white rocks for Lena Marker
- Flash drives (6-10)
- Holder/box for CD's in plastic cases
- Volunteers (docents, computer entries, etc.)
- Web Page Design

Special thanks to Lawton O'Cain, Virginia Sinclair, Evelyn Ernst for fulfilling wishes from the previous list.



Note Cards available at Museum

**Still aiming for 200  
HCHS Memberships**

**\$15**  
Per person (Jan.-Dec.)  
for 2013

**Be a Part of History  
Join HCHS**

GO GREEN  
NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

Anyone else wishing to cut down on the use of paper and postage? It's as easy as sending an email to LaClaire (laclairelaffitte@embarqmail.com) and it will be done. Please put HCHS in subject.

**President's Comments**

It has been a busy summer. Vacations kept us scrambling for docents to keep the museum open. Many thanks to each of you. AND we have two new docents— Martha Ann Gooding and Grace DeLoach—who are great assets one Thursday a month. Jeffrey Strickland, who attends Presbyterian College, worked diligently during the summer recording all items on display in the museum. His work is just the beginning of a much needed complete inventory. Every item needs a number, a description, a donor and an accompanying ID photo. WOW! A daunting task. We are so grateful for Jeffrey's dedication and work this summer. It has also been a spring and summer of water at the museum.



- First, the leak in the General Store area threatening our displays was found and fixed—problem windows fixed and limbs on building removed.
- Then came the torrential rains. The basement, which houses heat/AC for the first floor, flooded not once, not twice, but three times. Following several pumpings, a sump pump was installed.



**Hampton County Historical Society  
Executive Board**

President.....LaClaire Laffitte  
Vice-President.....Durena Marcum  
Treasurer.....Virginia Sinclair  
Recording Secretary....Sarah Jo Withycombe  
Corresponding Secretary.....Marian Platts  
Immediate Past-Pres..... Betty Ruth Crews  
Museum Director.....Mary Ann Sowell  
Board Members.....Miriam Holley  
.....Lawton Maner  
.....Christine Peoples

Our July Brier Creek Revolutionary Battlefield Trip was a resounding success. So we're off and running again. Dan "Cooter" Connelly has planned a perfectly wonderful day at Silver Buff Audubon Center. It will be well worth your traveling to Jackson on Sat., Nov. 9th (see p.1).

There is so much going on, so many dreams, so many plans. All can use your time, your talent, your \$\$ to continue the growth of a vital and vibrant HCHS and the development of a HCM that reflects the history and interest of all Hampton County citizens.

Hope your plans can include attending our fall programs.

*LaClaire Laffitte, President HCHS*