

"Preserving History and Enriching Communities of the Lower Richland Heritage Corridor"

P.O. Box 332 – Hopkins, SC 29061 – Website: www.serco-sc.org – 803/788-7185

Non-Profit

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Odyssey Golf Tournament Attracts Crowd

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History Moment

~ Upcoming Events~

April 18 – Earth Day – Hopkins Recycles
Hopkins Rd. @ Lower Richland Blvd.

April 18 – NatureFest
Congaree National Park

April 24 – USC Research Presentation
Hopkins Middle School

April 25 – Sweet Potato Festival
Hopkins Park

May 25 – Memorial Day Observance & Heritage Celebration
St. John Baptist Church / Harriet Barber House

Columbia, Missouri After-School Program Visits Harriet Barber House



County Councilman Kelvin Washington Welcomes Students and Staff of Mrs. J's African American Family Centered Institute

Staff, parents and students of Mrs. J's African American Centered Family Institute from Columbia, Missouri traveled 726 miles to visit the historical Harriet Barber House on Tuesday, March 24, 2009. The school's founder mentioned that they selected the Harriet Barber House for their annual visit just by surfing the net and seeing the historical home's website (www.harrietbarberhouse.org).

Richland County Councilman, Kelvin Washington of District 10, greeted the students upon their arrival at the Harriet Barber House. The group of 35 toured the home which was built in the 1880's, participated in a home-made soap making demonstration, viewed a display containing over 100 inventions by African Americans, learned about a "sweet potato bank" for outdoor winter-to-spring storage and took away home made mini sweet potato pies and pecans from the historical grounds.

Councilman Washington arranged for the group to have a traditional barbecue lunch at Big T's Restaurant and later presented them with a proclamation during the regularly scheduled Richland County Council meeting.

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Missouri After-School Program Visit (continued from page 1)



Marie Adams Begins Tour of the Harriet Barber



Councilman, Founder, Mrs. Stella Johnson & Group



Students Enjoy Traditional Barbeque Lunch at Big T's



Exhibit of Inventions by African Americans



Students and Staff - Mrs. J's Institute

In addition to GED classes and literacy programs for adults and at-risk children, Mrs. J's Institute offers an after-school African American History studies activity which has, for the past thirteen years, included an annual educational trip to locations that reflect the students' heritage and culture. Mrs. Stella Johnson, the school's founder, is a retired educator and provides the major portion of the financial support. All the staff members are volunteers.

During the three day visit, the students were also led on a tour of Benedict College by Vice President Freddie Lewis who graduated from a Columbia, Missouri high school. There were also tours of the African American History Monument at the SC state capital, the Mann-Simmons Cottage, Allen University and the Riverbanks Zoo & Garden.

Before returning to Columbia, Missouri, Mrs. J's Institute students were the guests of honor at a cook-out at the home of Dr. Jabari Simama, Vice President, Economic Development, Benedict College and then traveled on to the Penn Center in St. Helena, SC.

USC and SERCO ~ Partners in Documenting Lower Richland History



Dr. Robert Weyeneth
Director of Public History Program
Professor of History
University of South Carolina



USC students and Marie Barber Adams, SERCO Chair, discuss marker placed for Rev. Sam Barber at the Government Cemetery



Dr. Tom Lekan,
Associate Professor of History
University of South Carolina



University of South Carolina Students Tour Harriet Barber House



Goodwyn Cemetery



USC Students and SERCO Members Depart on Tour

University of South Carolina Department of History Graduate and Undergraduate students, led by Dr. Robert Weyeneth, Professor of History, Director of the Public History Program and joined by Dr. Tom Lekan, Associate Professor of History, visited the historical Harriet Barber House on February 3rd and 9th. After a tour of the home which was built in the 1880's, the students and SERCO members traveled on to visit other sites in the Lower Richland area, including what was once the downtown Village of Hopkins, the Government Cemetery and the Goodwyn Cemetery. Upon visiting the sites and discussing the local history, several students selected specific topics for their semester class projects involving the history of persons who first purchased property between 1872 – 1879 as a part of the South Carolina Land Commission sales.

The Graduate History Seminar entitled: African American History from the Perspective of Historical Preservation, is led by Dr. Weyeneth. Graduate seminar students interviewed descendants who still own the major portion of the land that was originally purchased by their ancestors after Emancipation. A public presentation on the results of their research on the Land Commission study is planned for April 24th at Hopkins Middle School.

STRONG THREADS

Strong Threads II – Held at Historical Harriet Barber House

The Second Annual Strong Threads Celebration was held on Saturday, February 21st at the historical Harriet Barber House in Hopkins, SC. The interactive event is a project whose mission is to bring cultural enrichment/appreciation for diversity to youth and adults. The theme for this year's event was "Strengthening the Present with an Understanding of the Past". Event activities included hands-on arts demonstrations, youth choir performances, NAACP 100th Year Anniversary celebration, a Tour of Africa display, story telling, vocal recitations and tours of the historical Harriet Barber House. The Strong Threads event, described as an inter-active museum, is the brain child of Jewel Moore and Veronica Primus-Thomas.



Master of Ceremony
Stuart Moore, WIS-TV News Anchor



Zuri Wilson, Spoken Word Artist



Historical Harriet Barber House



Kambrell Garvin, Lower Richland
NAACP



Stuart Moore, Aunt Pearl Sue &
Henry Flowers



L/R ~ Aunt Pearl Sue, Gullah Story Teller &
Veronica Primus Thomas, Event Coordinator



Mrs. Bernice Scott & State Senator
Darrell Jackson (represented by



Henry Flowers
Gospel Recording Artist

STRONG THREADS

Scenes from Strong Threads II –



Clafin University Dance Group "PULSE"



Artwork by Hopkins Artist
Valencia Goodwin



Aunt Pearlie Sue & Stuart Moore
Seated: Sala Allen, ~ Augusta, GA



Juried Artists, Painters and
Crafters on Display



Mr. Jesse Sumter
AKA ~ James Brown
(Impersonator)



Clafin University Dance Group "PULSE"



Poster of Eugene Washington,
Former NFL Player and UGA
Hall of Fame Inductee



Georgetown Guests and Locals
Gather Near Stage



Dr. Richie Williams-Reid,
Savannah State University,
Portrays Ms. Sojourner Truth

Kensington Mansion – Preparing African American Exhibit

An Appeal for the Sake of History ...



The Kensington Mansion is preparing a permanent African-American exhibit, honoring the history of former slaves who built the historical plantation home. Ms. Rickie Good, SERCO Board Member and Executive Director of the Scarborough-Hamer Foundation, is leading the appeal for descendants and area families to contribute copies of photos and artifacts from the 1850's - 1940's to the exhibit.

The Kensington Mansion was completed in 1854 and placed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1971. Located in Eastover, it is cited as an architectural treasure. For further information, contact Ms. Good at 803-353-0456.

Odyssey Golf Foundation Junior Tournament

The Odyssey Golf Foundation - Junior 9 Hole Tournament was held at the Linrick Golf Course on Saturday, March 14th. Fifty-four (54) junior golfers and their mentors from several areas of South Carolina participated in the event. The First Place winners in the 7 – 12 years old competition were Saquan Brunson, Ryan Marter and Daniel Montgomery. In the 13 – 17 years old competition, First Place winners were Darrell Clippard, Obie Rutherford and Chase Vaughn.

Mr. & Mrs. Sampson Brown, founders of the non-profit foundation, were the tournament coordinators. The Odyssey Golf Foundation received technical support during the tournament from First T, First Nazareth Baptist Church – Golf Ministry and Ridgewood Baptist Church – Golf Club, Women and Men's Leagues.

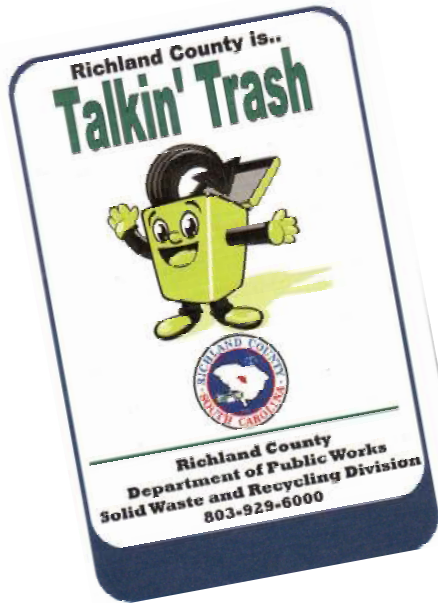


Shown L/R: Ryan Marter and Daniel Montgomery
1st Place Winners, Ages 7 - 12



Shown: Darrell Clippard
1st Place Winner, Ages 13 - 17





“Talkin’ Trash” with Richland County Department of Public Works Solid Waste and Recycling Division

EARTH DAY ~ April 18, 2009

Hopkins, SC

Proud & Green !

In preparation for the **1st “Earth Day”** observation to be held in Hopkins on April 18th, staff of the Richland County Solid Waste and Recycling Division attended the April 1, 2009 SERCO Board meeting. Division General Manager, Paul Alcantar, provided “Talkin’ Trash” pamphlets to the SERCO board members, introduced the division staff members Shirley Mims, Recycling Coordinator; Marlon Henderson, Collections Supervisor; Jerry Gordon, Refuse Control Officer and Prentis Dockery, Collections Officer and joined in planning discussions for the upcoming event.

Notes From The Board . . .

A Message of Appreciation ~ We will attempt to use this column to express our sincere gratitude to those persons who have supported the efforts of SERCO this year. Our “Thanks” to:

Ms. Lori Landmeyer of DHEC for her presentation to the board and encouraging a dialogue which resulted in our planning the first Earth Day observance in the Hopkins community. SERCO believes that environmental stewardship is also an important part of our efforts to preserve the Lower Richland community.

The Columbia Star newspaper for distribution of our fall, winter and spring issues of our newsletter.

Dr. Bob Weyeneth for the valuable partnership we have developed with the USC Public History Program, his associate Dr. Tom Lekan, the graduate seminar and the undergraduate students who have painstakingly examined the history of our families and their homesteads for the past year.

Betsy Newman, ETV producer, who has embraced our cause and set out to capture the Lower Richland Heritage Corridor through a documentary that is nearing completion.

Kelvin Washington, our Richland County Council representative for District 10, who has studied the issues and advised us to reach toward new endeavors.

Thanks to all who assist us in preserving history and enriching communities of the Lower Richland Heritage Corridor!

Marie Barber Adams, Chair
Tracy Swartout, Co-chair

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Gadsden Family & Friends Day

Gadsden Family's and Friends Day will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2009. The fun-filled day will begin at 10:00 a.m., with a Parade starting at the Gadsden Fire Station, circling the "Horseshoe" and ending at Gadsden Elementary School.

There will be several activities especially planned for the youth of the community. Event coordinators, Mr. John Gibson and Mr. Joey Scott, have funded past Gadsden Family and Friends Day events out-of-pocket for the most part and stressed that they have done so to provide an outlet for Gadsden youth and to encourage community pride and unity. Mr. Gibson explained that all persons are invited to attend and have the option of bringing their own grills and picnic baskets and joining in a day of fun. Contact Mr. John Gibson at 803/781-6668 for further information.

~ History Moment ~

Kingville, SC Train Depot

The Kingville Train Depot was located 23 miles, Southeast of Columbia and operated by the Southern Railway Company. The Photo is courtesy of Mr. George Wilson, Kingville native and Ms. Debbie Bloom, Local History Manager Richland County Public Library .

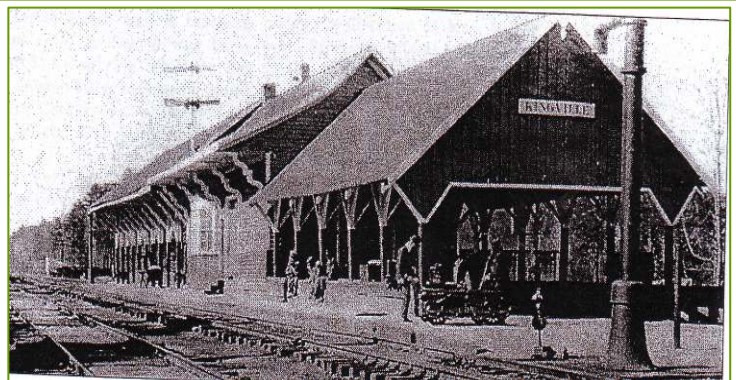


Photo – Kingville Depot – Taken in 1917