



South East Rural Community Outreach

P.O. Box 332 ~ Hopkins, SC 29061 ~ www.serco-sc.org ~ sercoevents@gmail.com ~ 803/788-7185 ~ Non Profit

Preserving History and Enriching Communities of the Lower Richland Corridor

2019 Special Edition

Historic Harriet Barber House To Host SwampFest Weekend!

The 17th Annual SwampFest Weekend offers a unique opportunity to celebrate the rich & diverse heritage of Lower Richland County. This year, both days of the SwampFest Weekend will be held on the grounds of the Historic Harriet Barber House. Tickets will be offered for the Friday night BBQ, Blues & Soul Concert, and guests will have options to purchase meal/refreshments from food vendors. Admission to Saturday's SwampFest Family Day is **FREE!** Activities include displays; carnival rides; food/non-food vendors, and stage entertainment. Parking is **FREE** for both events. A **FREE** shuttle will be available to transport visitors to the Congaree National Park.

TWO DAYS OF FUN IN ONE LOCATION – MORE DETAILS SOON!

SAVE THE DATES!

SwampFest Weekend
2019

Details Soon

Two Days - Two Events - - - One Location

Grounds of Historic Harriet Barber House . 116 Barberville Loop, Hopkins, SC 29061

BBQ, BLUES & SOUL
FRIDAY - OCTOBER 4TH
7:00 P.M.

SwampFest Family Day
SATURDAY - OCTOBER 5TH
12:00 Noon

sercoevents@gmail.com 803.261.5596

~ IN THIS ISSUE ~

- .Harriet Barber House Hosts Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit: *CROSSROADS-CHANGES IN RURAL AMERICA*
- .Crossroads Exhibit Grand Opening
- .Strong Threads
- .Book Signings and Oral Histories at Jerusalem Baptist Church
- .Front Porch Music at Harriet Barber House
- .Barber Family Reunion
- .Ag + Art Farm Tour
- .Central Ohio Bus Tour
- .Zion Baptist Senior Day Camp Ministry - 7th Annual Picnic at Harriet Barber House

~ Upcoming Events ~

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Oct. 4 & 5 | SwampFest Weekend 2019
4 th - BBQ, Blues & Soul Concert
5 th - SwampFest Family Day |
| Sept. 21 | Hopkins High Alumni Banquet
25th Year Gala |



****Congaree National Park In Planning Stage****
November 2020: "WATER/WAYS"
Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit Coming To The Congaree National Park

We Welcome News – sercoevents@gmail.com
Ken James, Events Photographer

dscottbrooks



HARRIET BARBER HOUSE HOSTS SMITHSONIAN TRAVELING EXHIBIT - *CROSSROADS: CHANGE IN RURAL AMERICA*

Grand Opening & Humanities Visual Arts Show



Ulysses R. Barber Auditorium at Hopkins Middle School



Ulysses R. Barber
 1913 -2004
 "Prof"



Carrie Barber White (L), greets
 Conservation Commission Coord.
 Nancy Stone-Collum

Exhibit Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting



Ribbon Cutting by Tim McSwain, Conservation
 Commission member and Marie Barber Adams.



Entrance to Crossroads Exhibit: Change in Rural America

The Historic Harriet Barber House, along with SERCO and the Lower Richland community was expressly chosen by SC Humanities through a competitive application process to host **Crossroads: Change in Rural America**. The exhibit, which is a part of the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition's Museum on Main Street Program, was on display from **February 11, 2019 through March 24, 2019 in the** Historic Harriet Barber House. Visitors came from all across South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida and Georgia to view the exhibition and attend associated humanities programs hosted by SERCO.

The first of four humanities programs was a **Visual Arts Show, presented as a part of the Grand Opening Reception**, and was held in the Ulysses R. Barber Auditorium at Hopkins Middle School. After the welcome message by Mary Barber Kirkland, remarks were made by SERCO Board Member Reverend Dezmond Sumter; Clemson University Professor and SC Humanities State Scholar Dr. Kenneth Robinson, and special speaker, renowned artist Jonathan Greene, who spoke on *The Importance Of Art In The Community*. Musical entertainment was provided by accomplished saxophonist, Feleighta Green. In addition to folk art sculptor Jimmy Dinkins, other local artists displayed their paintings. After the grand opening event, guests caravanned to the Historic Harriet Barber House to attend the Ribbon Cutting for the **Crossroads** traveling exhibition.



CROSSROADS EXHIBIT – VISUAL ARTS SHOW & GRAND OPENING RECEPTION



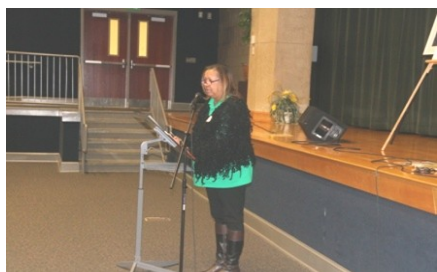
Jimmy Dinkins, Folk Artist (Repurposing)



Jean Barber Grant travels from Jacksonville, FL. (Far R), and is often joined by friends Linda Sheridan of Panama City, FL (R), and Arlene Overstreet of Jacksonville, FL (not pictured), to volunteer at SERCO events.



Park Ranger Gregory Cunningham (Standing)



**Mary Barber Kirkland
Program Hostess**



**Dr. Kenneth Robinson
SC Humanities State Scholar**



**Rev. Dezmond Sumter, MD
SERCO Board Member**



**Jonathan Green, Artist
Special Guest Speaker**

"The Importance Of Art In The Community"



Feleighta Green, Saxophonist



**SC Humanities Staff (Standing L/R):
Laura McGuinn & Gail Lyles**



L/R: Maj. Darryl Kelly, JROTC Instructor-Lower Richland High School, Cheryl Harris. School Board Chair & State Senator Rev. Darrell Jackson.





HISTORIC HARRIET BARBER HOUSE HOSTS CROSSROADS EXHIBIT



Ribbon Has Been Cut; Marie Barber Adams (L) Welcomes Guests



SERCO Board Members: Mary B. Kirkland, Rev. Dezmond Sumter Carrie B. White, Marie B. Adams, Yvonne Brown, Thomas Gunter Jennifer Shiver and Sampson Brown.



The "Barber Sisters" are the granddaughters of Sam & Harriet Barber. They grew up on the property and headed the restoration/preservation of the home, originally built in the early 1880's. The Historic Harriet Barber House is listed on the National Register of Historic Properties. Front Row (L/R): Mary Barber Kirkland – Carrie Barber White (Twins). Back Row (L/R): Marie Barber Adams– Jean Barber Grant.



In addition to the Smithsonian Crossroads traveling exhibit, SERCO presented four associated SC Humanities programs which were free to the public. The first of the four humanities programs is the previously reported Visual Arts Show which was presented at the exhibit's grand opening reception (See page 2). The remaining humanities programs were **Strong Threads**, **Oral Histories & Book Signings** and **Front Porch Music**.

STRONG THREADS

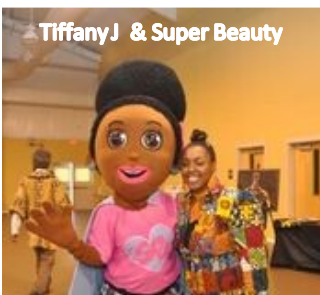
Strong Threads was held at the St. John Holistic and Wellness Center, 230 J.W. Neal Circle Hopkins, SC and featured music, dancing, workshops, history/information displays, food, vendors and stage entertainment. The Mistress of Ceremonies was Regina Skeeters, Singer/Recording Artist. The STRONG THREADS event presented a unique opportunity to celebrate and educate the community through entertainment about African American History and culture and the rich heritage of Lower Richland County.



Dr. Ursula Robinson
SC State University Storyteller



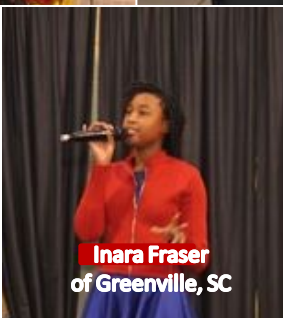
Kevin Washington, Jr.



Tiffany J. & Super Beauty



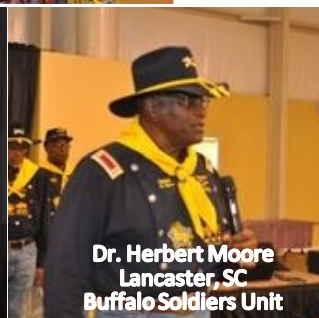
Prodigal Sons Quartet
of Columbia, SC



Inara Fraser
of Greenville, SC



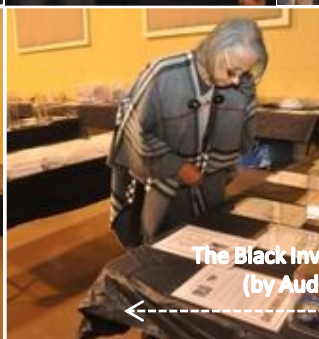
Katrina Garvin
of Columbia, SC



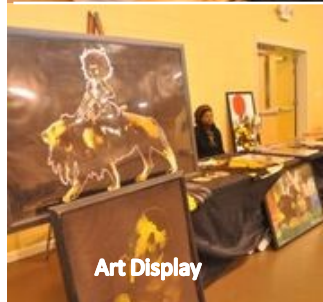
Dr. Herbert Moore
Lancaster, SC
Buffalo Soldiers Unit



ABATSU
Drum & Dance Group



The Black Inventors Museum
(by Audrey Smalls)



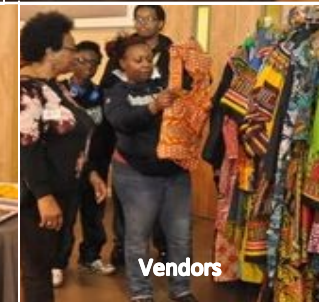
Art Display



Games



RICHLAND LIBRARY
access freely.®
Information

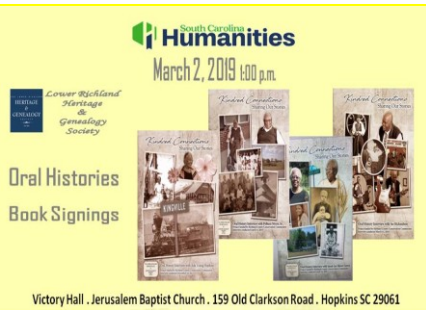


Vendors



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ORAL HISTORIES & BOOKS SIGNING

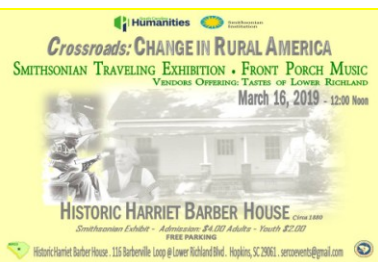
The Lower Richland Heritage & Genealogy Society presented a screening of Kindred Connections: Sharing Our Stories at Jerusalem Baptist Church in Hopkins, SC. Oral History Interviews presented were of **Ada Young Hopkins** of Kingsville; **Joe Richardson** of Lykesland; **Pelham Myers, Sr.** (late) of Hopkins, and **Sarah Shiver Green** of Gadsden. Also, local and other noted authors participated in book signings.



Oral History Interviews
Sarah Shiver Green
Joe Richardson



Book Signings - Local Authors
Left/Right: Leroy Bennett, Rev. Jack Wilson, Effson Bryant, Tiffany J. Wider, Sonya Hodges Grantham, Marie Barber Adams, Jackie Whitmore and Rev. John A. Middleton



FRONT PORCH MUSIC

The late John Barber, Jr. recalled sitting on the front porch of the Harriet Barber House and hearing distant dueling guitars playing the Blues on Friday nights at Alston's Cafe' or the Gorman Store in Hopkins. He also remembered sitting as a young boy with a bunch of Neal cousins' on their long front porch, singing or listening to "cup" music from a Victrola. SERCO presented the **Front Porch Music** event with musicians Tom Cooledge, Kevin Washington, Jr., Debra Watkins of the Pickin' Parlor, and Larry Jacobs. Food Vendors offered **Tastes of Lower Richland** by Country Smokehouse Restaurant's BBQ

Sandwiches, pork skins and more. Other indigenous foods included Jalepeno Jelly samples, Sweet Potato cookies and min-cakes by Laverne & Marvette Megette. Guests also were able to view the Smithsonian Exhibit – CROSSROADS: Change in Rural America. Min. Tina Kight offered prayer and Portia Shiver was Program Hostess.



Portia Shiver –R
Min. Tina Kight-L



Debra Watkins



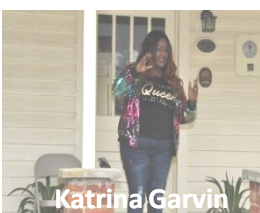
Kevin Washington, Jr.



Tom Cooledge



Larry Jacobs



Katrina Garvin



Meggette Family
Low Country
Sweet Potato Specialties



Country Smokehouse
BBQ



Central Ohio Underground Railroad Study Group Discovers Commonality: Harriet Barber House - Quilt Display



Photo (L/R): Marlene M. Ford of San Antonio, TX; Sandy Benjamin Hannibal; Monique Mapp, and Karen Irick



The quilt on display at the Harriet Barber House was donated by Barber relative Rachel Reeves Simpson. It was handed-down to Rachel's late husband, Willie Simpson. The quilt was given to him by his mother Lucy Chatham Simpson of Marshall, Texas. As the Central Ohio Underground Railroad Study Group toured the Harriet Barber House, they immediately recognized the quilt as one of those made and hung in safe homes along the Underground Railroad route. These patch quilt symbols provided route directions and other messages.

The Central Ohio Underground Railroad Study Group is made up of senior citizens who study US and international history surrounding the Underground Railroad. Every year we travel the country "touching history," visiting historical sites we study about throughout the year and many times we are blessed to learn new things such as the Harriet Barber House. The study of slavery before and after the Civil War is important to our American history and sites such as the Harriet Barber House helps us fill the terrible gap that is not covered in our national history books. We were so blessed through Ms. Karen Irick to be able to add the Harriet Barber House to our tour and our current study which we are sharing with others. I should also point out that our "annual trip" is opened to anyone and we have been blessed to have visitors join us from Texas, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Florida and California.

-by Monique Mapp, Central Ohio Underground Railroad Study Group

Lower Richland Guided Tours by SERCO

SERCO was represented by Veronica Primus on a tour of Lower Richland sponsored by Dr. Erika Hursey, principal of Lower Richland High School. About 60 faculty and staff traveled in buses tracing the route of their high school students. Dr. Hursey's theme is "Building Bridges to the Community." SERCO provided the informative *Lower Richland Heritage Corridor Visitors' Guide*. Pictured, L/R: Veronica Primus, Levola Taylor, Dr. Erika Hursey, Cynthia Fleming, and Titus Duren.





A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

--As told by Hopkins Elementary Fifth Grade Students

The history of Hopkins, South Carolina, has roots that extend through the grounds of the Harriet Barber House, preserving memories of family life that encompass the Reconstruction Era to present day. In order to connect young people to the significance of this historic site, Marie Adams and Mary Kirkland, descendants of former slaves Samuel and Harriet Barber, collaborated with Principal Audrey Garner at Hopkins Elementary School when the Smithsonian traveling exhibition: *Crossroads -Change in Rural America*, was on display at the Historic Harriet Barber House. Fifth grade students linked their studies of post-Civil War Reconstruction to explore the effects of this tumultuous time in their Lower Richland community. They toured the Barber House which is on land purchased by former slaves in 1872. They also interviewed George Wilson, a former member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, who shared personal and historic stories about the Lower Richland area. A portion of the video is narrated by Carrie Barber White. On June 3rd, students premiered what they learned to over two-hundred people!

-by Shannon Sullivan Program Coordinator, Museum on Main Street Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service



George Wilson
Former SC Representative
Lower Richland Resident



Students and Parents at Video Viewing

**Students Tour
Crossroads
Exhibit – Harriet
Barber House**



**Hopkins
Elementary
School**

ZION BAPTIST CHURCH SENIOR DAY CAMP MINISTRY - 7TH ANNUAL PICNIC AT THE HARRIET BARBER HOUSE

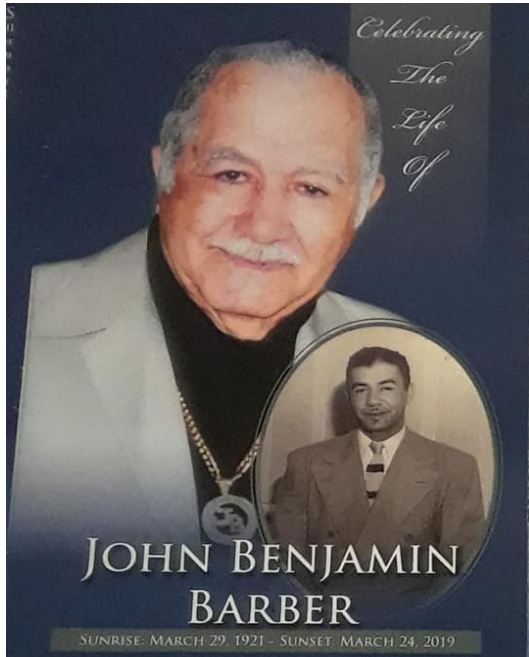
The Zion Baptist Church Senior Day Camp Ministry held their 7th Annual Picnic at the Harriet Barber House on Wednesday, August 22. Doretha Walker-Thompson is the Group Leader.



Note: Daughter of Sam and Harriet Barber, Maria Barber Goodwin (born 1855), was a member of Zion Baptist until her death. She lived on Park Street in Columbia and worked in a flower shop on Main Street.

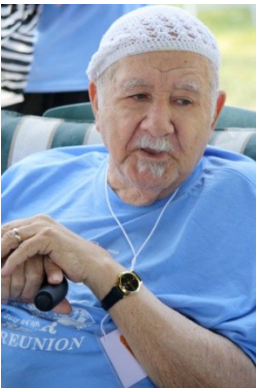


IN DEDICATION TO JOHN BENJAMIN BARBER, JR.



A RENNAISSANCE MAN

John Benjamin Barber, Jr. (3/29/1921 – 3/24/2019) was born in Hopkins, SC. He joined the Navy out of Booker T. Washington High School; became a part of the Detroit-based B&J Construction Company, and retired from Ford Motor Company. Earlier in life, he owned a CB stack unit; traveled across country in the early version of a motor home, and was still using the computer and any other technology associated with it at the age of 98. A talented artist as well, John Barber had a photographic memory of his early life in Hopkins. His sharing and documenting Lower Richland's history will continue to be valuable to relatives and SERCO.



-and John Barber came into my life

You led me to my past, for I did not know the way
-and told me where the lilies grew and where Momma stopped to play

Our wagon rolled on freedom's road to new land by the creek
-and patiently you guided me through mysteries I did seek

I heard my grandpa's thunderous voice and learned his gentle ways
-and then we watched the games of boys on balmy summer days

I heard the sexton ring the bell and crossed the dusty field
-and praised the Lord on wooden floors that thundered as we reeled

I saw them move in rings of shout and swayed to every beat
-and heard them sing the Zion hymns and heard each sound repeat

We watched the games of baseball and shared an ice cream cone
-and then we sat down on the porch and you played the gramophone

You said Ain' Haagar gave the wood; t'was us who built the hall
-and the train is coming down the tract 'cause we heard the conductor's call

I see the tasseled hat and coat that sat on the bureau's top
-and we spoke of their secret meetings and the local blacksmith shop

You drew the maps and buildings and they leaped out off the page
-and then you talked of hanging hams and dried fish in Gorman's cage.

We tease 'bout high-heel sneakers and snake-hipping into a trance
-and we sing the blues from days gone by when guitars played the dance

We know that fairies spread their wings and dust the earth with love
-and each night I say a thankful prayer for you when I speak to my God above

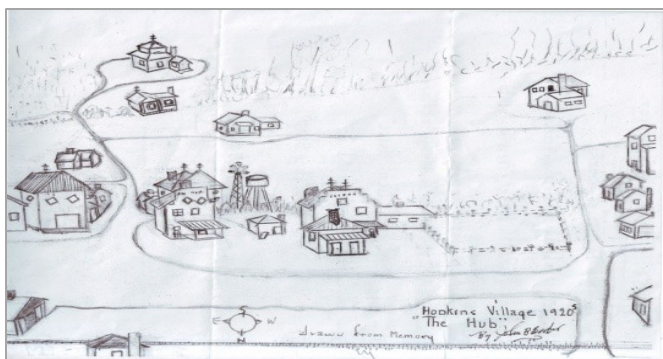
We talk of can-cow coffee and "hoe" cakes with ribbon cane
-and John Barber came into my life and made me smile and laugh again...

'lil Litch
Deborah Scott Brooks
6/25/09

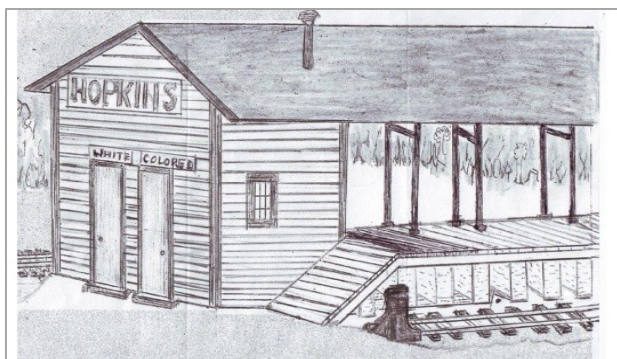


DRAWINGS & HOPKINS, SC HISTORY LESSONS BY JOHN B. BARBER, JR.

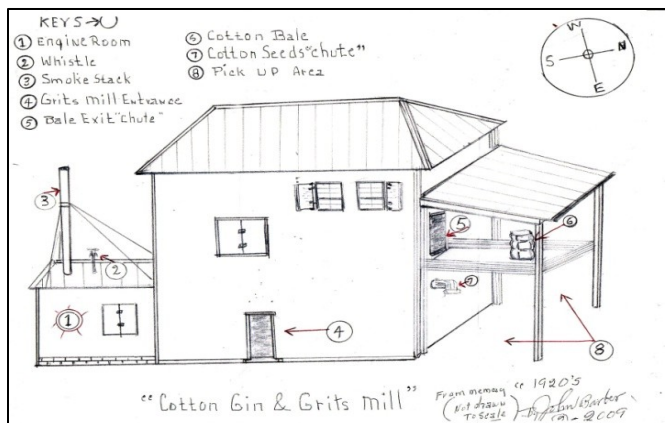
John B. Barber, Jr. began creating these drawings from his memory at the age of 88 years old. He also provided detailed, and often colorful background history. The railroad system is intertwined with the heritage of the Village of Hopkins. History tells us that this was once a bustling location, originally named "Hopkins Turnout" between 1836 and 1842, when the S C Railroad from Charleston completed a turntable there. Through the 1920's, the Village of Hopkins was thriving with general stores, gin mills, industries, residences and a Town Hall. Per John Barber, the Hopkins Town Hall was called Hagar's Hall by locals who were aware that the building's lumber was donated by Hagar Chapell Alston. SERCO has taken on labors of love to recreate a similar atmosphere for our past 1-day annual Taste & Tour Events but has hopes that supporters and preservation/conservation agencies will be our partners to restore this historically significant Village. With historical restoration, we may be able to encourage the Norfolk Southern Railroad Museum Car to stop in the Village at our history-focused events, as it has twice in the past.



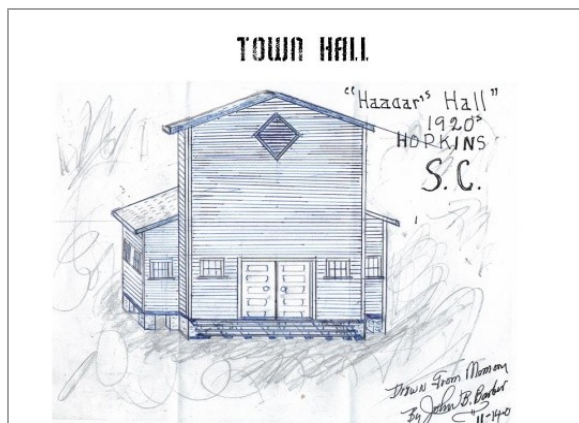
Village of Hopkins, SC



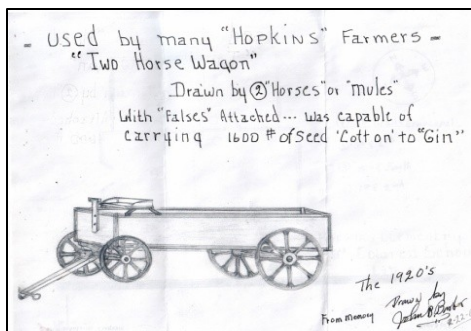
Hopkins Train Depot



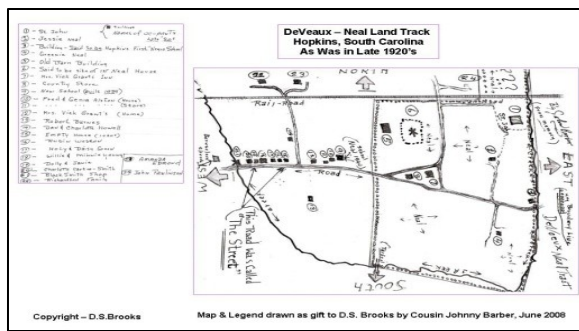
Cotton Gin & Grits Mill



"Hagar's Hall"



Two-Horse Wagon



Neal Property – 1st School in Fodder Barn



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BARBER FAMILY REUNION - 2019



Barber Family Reunion
Visits Congaree National
Park



Barber Family Tours
Wavering Place
Plantation.



Marie Barber Adams (L), provides a history
lesson to Barber family during bus tour.



Chase Melvin Nelson, NEWEST ADDITION
to the Barber family pictured with Kirsten
Barber of Jacksonville, NC, Janet Barber
of Tallahassee, FL (holding Chase) and
Jean Barber Grant of Jacksonville, FL.



Please Join Us . . . The mission of SERCO is to create partnerships within the Lower Richland Community to provide charitable, educational and scientific programs to strengthen and expand the capacity of the community for a better quality of life for its residents. SERCO invites you to become a part of the outreach movement by supporting our Lower Richland Heritage Corridor events and programs throughout the year:

SOUTH EAST RURAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEMBERSHIP FORM

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES:

\$20 INDIVIDUAL \$40 FAMILY \$75 ADVOCATE \$100 PARTNER \$500 PATRON

ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES & CORPORATIONS:

\$1,000 BENEFACTOR \$2,000 CORPORATE SPONSOR

SUBMIT INFORMATION:

NAME _____

ADDRESS : _____

HOME PHONE: (_____) _____ **WORK PHONE:** (_____) _____

FAX: _____

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AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

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