

SERCO



South East Rural Community Outreach

Lower Richland
Clean & Green

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

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

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STRONG THREADS



The sixth annual STRONG THREADS FESTIVAL took place on Saturday, March 16, 2013, on the grounds of the historic Harriet Barber House in Hopkins. STRONG THREADS, Inc., celebrates the heritage, history and culture of African-Americans with music, dancing, storytelling, visual and creative arts, and drama for audiences of all ages. This year, the event highlighted the importance of children and fostering the fruits of their spirits. The 2013 Strong Threads Festival was sponsored by the Richland County Council, SERCO, the SC Humanities Council and the Network for STAAR.

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- Eastover Native Sarah Flemming Honored
- Lower Richland History Initiative
- Memorial Day
- Mosaic Richland County
- SERCO Membership Form

~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~

- September 13-15: Kingsville Historic Reunion
- October 4-5: SWAMPFEST – (BBQ, Blues & Jazz & SwampFest at Congaree)
- November 9: LR Veterans Day Parade & Celebration at Hopkins Park
- November 9-13: Mosaic Richland County Summit
- December 7: Annual Holiday Taste & Tour – Lower Richland Heritage Corridor

We Welcome News: Please send news and announcements to SERCO by U.S. mail ~ Attention D.S. Brooks, PO Box 332, Hopkins, SC 29061 or e-mail: sercoevents@gmail.com. SERCO reserves publishing rights. (Photographer, Ken B. James)



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The Lower Richland Sweet Potato Festival

The Lower Richland Sweet Potato Festival was held on Saturday, April 27, 2013, Hopkins Adult Activity Center, 150 Hopkins Park Road. The annual festival has its beginnings in 1981. This year's event began with a Parade, and at the festival site, activities included food and craft vendors, Sweet Potato Pie Contest, Rolling Video Games, Health Fair, and Carnival Rides. Entertainment featured Doc McKenzie and The Hi-Lites, Rev. Matthew Mickens, Zeb Harrison and Sounds of Praise, Mt. Moriah Mime, Lil Phat Daddy, Gentlemen of Distinction, Redeemers, Women of Strength, Zion Pilgrim Praise Dancers, and Host Curtis Wilson.

<http://lowerrichlandsweetpotatofest.com>



Eastover Native Sarah Mae Flemming Honored

Friday, June 28, 2013

BEFORE ROSA PARKS: SARAH MAE FLEMMING AND THE PURSUIT OF EQUAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



Through a collaboration between the city of Columbia, Historic Columbia Foundation, the University of South Carolina and Columbia Metropolitan Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Columbia 63 Committee unveiled a marker at the corner of Washington and Main Streets to rename the corner, Sarah Mae Flemming Way, in honor of the Civil Rights activist, advocate and pioneer. Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin, Richland County Council Chair Kelvin Washington, of District 10, and Asia Hall, grand-daughter of Sarah Mae Flemming, paid homage to the Civil Rights trailblazer. On June 24, 1954, Sarah Mae Flemming, a young African American domestic worker, boarded a bus operated by South Carolina Electric and Gas Company. On that morning, the bus was crowded, and blacks were forced to stand in the aisle to accommodate white passengers. When a seat became vacant near the front, Flemming sat down. The driver demanded she move to the back. Flemming moved to comply but she violated racial custom by attempting to exit the front of the bus because of the crowded rear.

The driver struck and ejected Flemming from the bus on the corner of Main and Washington streets. With the aid of the NAACP, Flemming filed a lawsuit against the bus operator. Flemming's heroic actions provided an important legal precedent for the Montgomery Bus Boycott, inspired by the globally recognized activist Rosa Parks.



L/R: Lincoln C. Jenkins, Sarah Mae Flemming, an unidentified witness, Matthew J. Perry on the steps of the Federal Courthouse, June 1956. The photograph was taken by John Goodwin. Image courtesy of South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Article Extract: *SC Black News* - Columbia SC 63 Honors Civil Rights Trailblazer Sarah Mae Flemming by Renaming Historic Corner
<http://www.sblacknews.com/component/content/article/1/1784-columbia-sc-63-honors-civil-rights-trailblazer-sarah-mae-flemming-by-renaming-historic-corner>. **Photos:** AT&T African American History Calendar - <http://www.scafricanamerican.com/calendar>

Congratulations

Successful Events in Lower Richland Heritage Corridor

35th Annual Eastover Parade and BBQ
May 3-4, 2013

Annual Gadsden Family & Friends Day
June 8, 2013



Grand Re-Opening: Richland Library – Eastover, SC

Richland Library Eastover was established in 1930 and has been housed through the years in several different rented storefronts. In 1985, the library moved to a permanent location, which it quickly outgrew due to community demand. Thanks to a USDA grant and matching funds from Richland County, a new \$1.6 million renovation and expansion of the library's Eastover location was re-opened on April 30, 2013. Ms. Dee Robinson is the Director. Local families and others contributed photos which feature historical Lower Richland, Eastover, and are uniquely displayed throughout the library. One valuable resource for SERCO's history research is Debbie Bloom, Local History Manager at the Walker Local History Room, *Richland County Public Library*. Bloom coordinated the pictorial history project and credits Melanie Huggins, RCPL Executive Director as the impetus for the new library and support of Bloom's idea of highlighting the local history. Several photos from the book, *African Americans of Lower Richland County*, by SERCO members Adams and Brooks, are included in the display (Pg 5). <http://www.richlandlibrary.com/locations/eastover>



Richland County Council Member Julie Ann Dixon, District 9; Bernice G. Scott; Kirby D. Shealy, III, RCPL Board Chair; Honorable Mayor of Eastover, Geraldene Robinson; Melanie Huggins, RCPL Executive Director; and Michelle Cardwell, Acting Community Facilities Program Director, USDA





"The Lower Richland Dream Team"



Dr. Bobby Donaldson, USC, Dee Robinson, Richland Library-Eastover, Dr. Mike Trinkley, Chiora Foundation



Mildred Myers
RC Conservation Commission



Terri Hogan, Congaree National Park,
Nancy Stone-Collum, RC Conservation Commission



Debra Bloom,
Richland Library



Rhudine Robinson, Eastover City Council
Glenice Pearson, RC Conservation Commission



Eugene Washington
Historian/Filmmaker



Present/Not Photographed
John Hammond Moore, Historian/Author
Marie Barber Adams, SERCO,
Deborah Scott Brooks, SERCO

The inaugural meeting of the Lower Richland History Initiative was held on June 26, 2013, at the Richland Library-Eastover. The group was convened by Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Coordinator, Richland County Conservation Commission, and Dr. Bobby Donaldson, Associate Professor of History & Preston Residential College Principal, University of South Carolina-Columbia. The goals set for the meeting were to have an informal discussion about Lower Richland history, to outline available public and personal primary & secondary sources, to reflect upon research that has been completed, and to identify new areas for future investigation. In his overview, Dr. Donaldson referred to the group members present, as the "Lower Richland Dream Team" for future documentation accomplishments.

Permanent History Displays - Richland Library Eastover (Ref. Page 4, Adams/Brooks)



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Memorial Day 2013 – Hopkins, SC



The 8th annual event began with a Memorial Day Commemoration at the St. John Resurrection Memorial Garden (also known as the Government Cemetery), on Ault Road. The SC Combat Veterans Group & Lower Richland Veterans Formation performed a special tribute to commence the solemn ceremony. Special guests included Major General (Retired) Nathaniel James, Founder/President of the 369th Veterans Association, Inc., who lectures on the history of the 369th Infantry Regiment, better known as the Harlem Hellfighters, and the Spann Watson Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., Columbia Chapter. This ceremony was sponsored the J.P. Holley Funeral Home, the Lower Richland Veterans Formation and the SC Combat Veterans Group.

Following at 12 Noon, there was a procession to the historic Harriet Barber House, 116 Barberville Loop – off Lower Richland Boulevard, where the Heritage Celebration continued with a family-oriented day of fun until 4:00 P.M. Major General James brought greetings, and there was FREE entertainment by the Simple Pleasures Band from Columbia and others, a kiddy carnival, hay rides, and food/other vendors. Also, the Mustard Museum was a unique new addition to this year's celebration, sponsored by Sonya R. Hodges, Founder 371st Historical Society, WWI.

This free event was sponsored by SERCO, with funding from the Richland County Hospitality Tax Fund. Richland County District 10 is served by the Honorable Councilman Kelvin Washington, Chair.

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SERCO South East Rural Community Outreach
South East Rural community outreach
Presents
MOSAIC RICHLAND COUNTY SUMMIT
Understanding the Diverse Past & Celebrating the Future!
August 3 – 7, 2013 (tentative)
REV. F -- Prepared by:
Sandi Brewster-walker / L & P International
202-558-7480 / Lpmeetings@att.biz / www.Lpmeetings.biz
Michael E. Freeman / Strategic Outcomes, Inc.
Rudolph Glasgow / Glasgow Investigative, Inc
Bob J. Nash / Nash & Associates
Catherine Fleming Bruce / Sr. Local Consultant

HARRIET BARBER HOUSE
40 168
In 1672 Samuel Barber (d. 1691) and his wife Harriet (d. 1699), both former slaves, bought 42 1/2 acres here from the S.C. Land Commission, established in 1689 to give freedmen and freedwomen the opportunity to own land. Barber, a well-digger as a slave, was a farmer and minister after the Civil War. The Barber family has owned a major portion of this tract since Samuel and Harriet Barber purchased it in 1672.
(Reprinted by permission)

THE INVISIBLE PEOPLE SERIES

Overview

- To highlight the rich history of an invisible community, Lower Richland County and within the city of Columbia.
- To bring together the general public, historians, genealogists, government officials, and academics in a discussion about the invisible people of the County's history and genealogies.
- To share knowledge about Richland County's diverse past.
- To strengthen regional and national identities of local Richland County pride.
- To increase local public participation and understanding in preserving the county's culture and natural heritage assets.
- To support the economic vitality of heritage and cultural tourism.
- To publish and make available the proceeding of the Summit. (pdf)
- To publish online a Historical Richland County *Invisible People Newsletter*.
- To have an impact on heritage tourism through the development of *Diversity Self-Guided Tour* booklet [update with site contact information].
- To publish a survey on Richland County's black farmers and their contribution to the regions' heritage.

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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 : _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Mail completed form and check to:

**South East Rural Community Outreach
Post Office Box 332
Hopkins, SC 29061**

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