

Elloree Heritage Museum & Cultural Center, Inc.



MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Volume XI: Number 2

March — April 2019

THE ELLOREE HERITAGE MUSEUM

invites you to

Spring Follies

Saturday, April 27, 2019

Time: 7:00 — 10:00 pm

Enjoy a casual but festive evening at the museum.

Ticket price: \$40

Contact a board member or call the museum at 803-897-2225.

Dancing with D J Joe Pendarvis —
Jim Bowers Group

Heavy Hors d'oeuvres
Full Array of Beverages

From Fillies & Follies . . .



. . . To Spring Follies

2714 Cleveland St., Elloree, SC 29047

See Sponsorship Form on page #7.

Oyster Roast January 12, 2019 **SOLD OUT!**

The following message was received by email from a first-time Oyster Roast / museum attendee. Subject: Oysters in Ellore, SC

The Ellore Heritage Museum in South Carolina honors the region's agriculture and rural commerce. What better way to celebrate this history than to throw an oyster roast for 150 of your best friends? Actually all the tickets were snatched up immediately for the event. As a Presbyterian minister, I was in Orangeburg to preach at First Presbyterian Church and share our mission work with a wonderful congregation. Howard and Barbara Shirer, good Presbyterians and board member of the museum, invited me to the roast as their guest.

The museum takes its visitors back in time. From the pharmacy to a general store to a cotton gin to a stuffed mule; the learning opportunities are endless! And yes, that's right, Ruby Doo the mule is on display!!

As much as I enjoyed the museum, the oysters were calling! Mark Crump, who works with retired game warden, John LaRoche, filled the back yard with Chesapeake Bay oysters and steam! Shuckin' gloves and knives were scattered all around. 151 of us stood shoulder to shoulder representing folks from the region and from as far away as Thailand and the Philippines! Teams of men carried bushels of steamed oysters and dumped them on the tables! As soon as they hit, the shuckin started! Very few words were spoken until the oyster hit some mouths. A collective "OOOOOOHHH" rose from the crowd as bushel after bushel was consumed with glee! John McLaurin, President of the museum, did double duty. He not only met each attendee, but ran the hot dog grill as well! Homemade chili, condiments and dessert (homemade cookies) filled tables set up next to cold drinks, beer and wine!



The Ellore Heritage Museum is located at 2714 Cleveland Street, Ellore, SC 29047 and worth the visit! Be sure to look for Ruby Doo, the stuffed mule, and let her know how much I enjoyed the oysters and the new friends in Ellore!

Dr. Ben C. Mathes, Dawsonville, Georgia

The **Winter Wonderland Tea** hosted by the Victorian Committee on January 26 was enjoyed by sixty plus ladies. A variety of beautiful china and silver set each table along with some unique tea pots. An assortment of teas were available for everyone and an abundance of delicious delicacies served. The tea party was full of old friends having time to visit and new friends meeting for the first time. Guests were from Ellore, Santee, Vance, Columbia, Orangeburg, Bamberg, Cameron, Manning, and Summerton.

The event concluded with a concert by soprano soloist Sarah Massengale, accompanied by Gay Brangle.



History of Santee Cooper and the Lake System

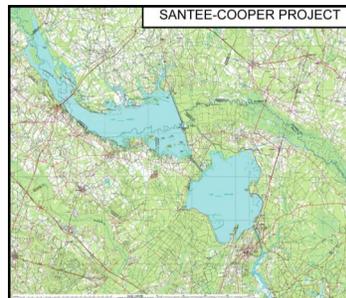
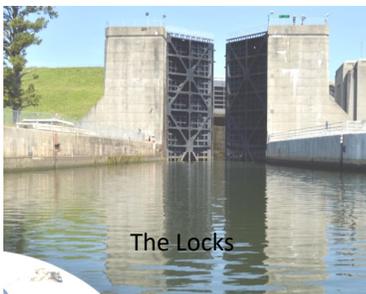
Thursday, April 11, 2019, 7:00 pm at the museum



Mr. Willard Strong from the Corporate Communications Department of Santee Cooper will present **The History of Santee Cooper and the Lake System** at the museum on April 11, 2019. He has been with Santee Cooper since 1989 and serves as editor of the weekly employee newsletter, internal communications coordinator and writer for their quarterly corporate magazine, *PowerSource*. He will also be fine in “answering any and all questions about Santee Cooper, including the nuclear situation,” “why the lakes were so high this winter,” or any others.

He is a former features reporter with the **Post and Courier** and news editor of **The Berkeley Democrat** (now **The Berkeley Independent**). A native of Kingstree, he is a 1981 graduate of The University of South Carolina’s School of Journalism and a former vice president of the Lowcountry chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

In 2000, he was commissioned by the University of South Carolina to write the Berkeley County entry for the South Carolina Encyclopedia project edited by noted historian Dr. Walter Edgar. In 2006, he was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Berkeley County Museum and Heritage Center in Moncks Corner.



There is no charge for this program, but reservations are required.
Call the museum at 803-897-2225

Note on the History of Elloreë's Jewish Families by Tom Livingston

Elloreë was chartered as a town in 1886. The earliest record of a Jewish family in Elloreë was in 1894, J. J. Karesh. The last Jewish owned store, Rubenstein's Department Store, was closed in 1984. During that period a number of Jewish families came and contributed to the growth, prosperity, and culture of Elloreë. This is the story of those families and the legacy they left behind.

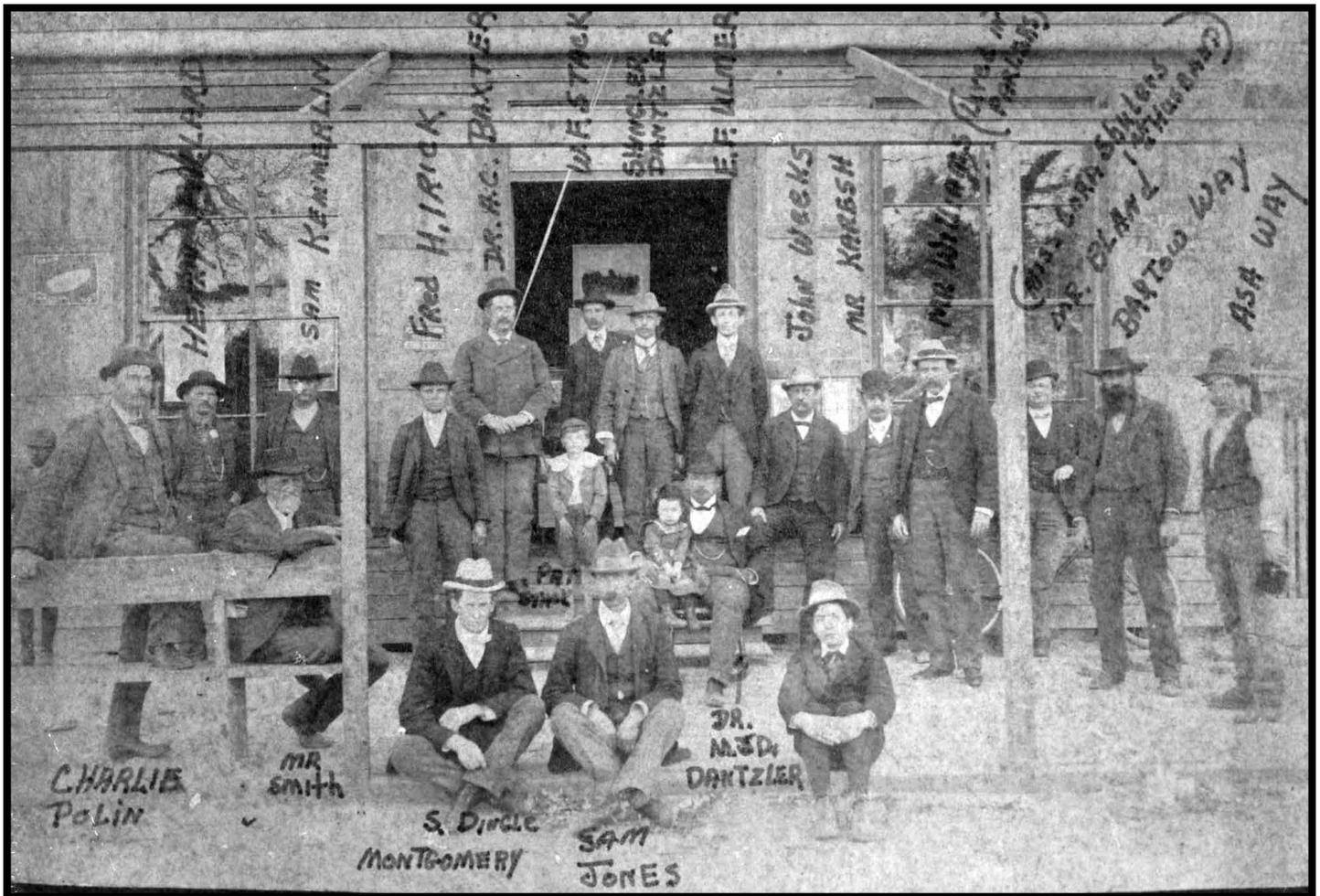
The Elloreë Museum tries to preserve items that are of historical significance to the area of Orangeburg County. One of the best exhibits in the museum is the Main Street diorama which has items that were a part of the early stores in downtown Elloreë. One of these merchant exhibits is of Rubenstein's Department Store, but that represents only one of a number of Jewish businesses which contributed mightily to the success of Elloreë. I have been asked to gather some information about these Jewish merchants to present in a brochure which will document their contributions to Elloreë. In the process I hope to put a note in the upcoming newsletters containing portions of the writing I am doing for that document.

Most of this research has been done over the past 10 years by Becky Ulmer, one of the founders of the museum. She provided much of the script that is used in the audio that explains our Jewish history to visitors who tour the museum exhibits. She has given me her notes of personal interviews, correspondence and her library research and notes that she has obtained over the years. I just have to organize and write it in final form. As background for the Elloreë Jewish story it is helpful to note that Elloreë was not alone as a small town in our area that welcomed Jews into their community. The Journal of the Jewish Historical Society of SC which was published in 2015 contained a series of articles about the Jewish Merchants in Elloreë, Orangeburg, Holly Hill, St. Mathews, Bowman, Branchville, and Eutawville. Many of the families were related and some owned stores in more than one community.

Deopold Louis is considered the first Jewish merchant in Orangeburg, opening his store on Russell Street in the 1830's. Prior to this time most of the S.C. Jewish immigrants in the 1700's lived in Charleston. In the early 1800's some of the Jewish families moved to Columbia. In both cities they were prominent citizens in business and community service. For example Columbia had at least two Jewish mayors before 1860. But small towns were not easy for Jews to live in because there were no local synagogues and travel was not easy. Like the Jews, most of the people who lived in our area had immigrated to find personal and religious freedom. In the 1700's a large group of German Lutherans came to the area as well as many Scots-Irish Presbyterians and Episcopalians—later Methodist and Baptists. The early citizens of Elloreë when it was founded in 1886 came from these groups. There were no Jewish families listed. The first Jewish name that we have discovered at this point is Joseph J. Karesh. He is pictured in the included photograph taken in the 1890's with other prominent Elloreë businessmen. While I have not found an in depth biography of his life, I have pieced together some of it.

Joseph was born on May 15, 1869 in Russia or Poland. He listed Russia as the place that he immigrated from on the census forms, but his son-in-law listed Poland as his birth place on his wife's death certificate. Other researchers note that many of the SC Jewish families including Karesh, emigrated from the same place, Trestina, Poland. Joseph immigrated to America in 1887 when he was 18. I have yet to find his Immigration and Naturalization documents, but he probably came to New York. Six years later he married Annie Needle, born June 1873 in New York—her parents were from Russia.

We know that Joseph and his bride were in Elloreë in 1894, only a year after their marriage, because in that year, as a young businessman he ran afoul of a new Elloreë Town ordinance. The backstory is that the founder of Elloreë, William J. Snider, in addition to being a successful farmer and merchant, was also a Baptist minister. In the original town charter there was a provision that outlawed the sale of liquor within the town limits. Citizens later complained and in 1893 a change to the charter was approved by the state legislature which eliminated that provision. In January of 1894 a dispensary was approved by the town wardens for the sale of alcoholic beverages in Elloreë. The license and taxes paid to the town were a major source of revenue in lieu of charging the citizens property taxes.



The Jewish connection to this event was that Mr. J. J. Karesh was arrested later that year for selling liquor. Karesh however redeemed himself in subsequent years. In 1897 he bought a lot on Main Street and was appointed as a member of the town Election Commission. In 1898 he was elected as a town warden and given a contract to print the town license forms. In 1900 he was again elected as a town warden and appointed as a Street Commissioner. We have yet to determine where he worked. In the 1900 census he lived on Main Street with his wife Annie and their three young daughters, all presumably born in Ellore in 1895, 1897, and 1899 (although the youngest daughter's death certificate said she was born in Bamberg, SC—if correct there may have been relatives who helped her.) He said he owned his own store and he owned his home, but it was mortgaged. We are not sure when he moved from Ellore, but by 1906 he lived on Warren Street in Charleston. He probably moved so his young girls would have access to the synagogue. By the 1910 census he and his family lived on Radcliff Street in Charleston and he was the proprietor of a shoe store. Also in this census he listed two more children; Sadie, born in 1902 (probably in Ellore), and Harry, born in 1908 in Charleston.

He moved his family again in 1915, this time to Boston where he was in shoe sales. According to the 1920 census Joseph and his family lived in the Dorchester area of Boston and he had added a fifth daughter, Rita, born in 1915. Mary and Rachel (Raye) no longer lived with him. Raye remained in Charleston and married Moses Prystowski. Eva later returned to Charleston and married Mitchell Robinson. Joseph died in Boston on January 9, 1927, but was transported to Charleston for burial in the Brith Sholom Congregation Cemetery.

Like many of our Jewish Merchants, Joseph J. Karesh did not live his life in Ellore, but while he was there he contributed to the community. Next I will document two of our more prominent Jewish merchants—the Rubenstein and Berger families.

January and February 2019 Contributions

Memberships

Individual

Edith Ann Brandenburg
Hinchie A. McGee
Irene A. Seadale
Carol Walker

Family

Gene & Judy Ball
Glenn & Kay Lancaster
O'Dell & Connie Shuler

Collector's Club

Bill & Sybil Brandenburg
John & Ruth Davis
Bert & Jeanne Gue
Lawton & Lane Irick
Luther & Doraine Wannamaker
Pat & Kay Williams
Russell Wolf

Historian's Roundtable

William & Dawn Robinson

Memorials

Charles Winfield "Cholly" Clark

William & Joan Jameson
Willie & Mary Jeffries
O'Dell & Connie Shuler

Jerri McDonald

Ray & Nancy Oliver

Addie Sturgeon Felkel

Bill & Barbara Felkel
Hugh & Pat McLaurin

Robert Burchell "Bobby" Shuler

Tom & Linda Bryant
Judy & Haynie Bull
Bill & Patricia Clark
Will Fogle
William & Joan Jameson
Robert & Darlene Lavisky
Hugh & Pat McLaurin
Frances O'Kelley
Michael & Janet Pond
Matt & Taylor Pond
Kay Shirer
O'Dell & Connie Shuler
Cheryl & Michael Spiers
Celia & Jim Ulmer & Family
Carol Walker

Memorials

Wanda Hill Summers

Kay & Glenn Lancaster

Alice Troutman

Hugh & Pat McLaurin

Daniel Wallace Werts

Tommie Crim
William & Joan Jameson

June Brunson Willson

Tommie Crim
Kay & Glenn Lancaster

Endowment Fund Memorials

W. D. Fogle, Jr.

R. S. Weeks, Jr.

Adair Fogle

Donations

Adair Fogle



Donations

General Fund

Elloree Garden Club
Orangeburg County

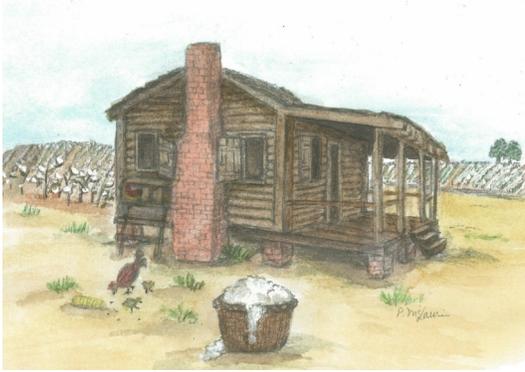
Grants

Junior Service League
Joe J. Miller Foundation

Shop Snider's Store

Easter's on its way!





Sponsorship Form

SPRING FOLLIES !

Saturday, April 27, 2019

Time: 7:00 --- 10:00 pm

Ellore Heritage Museum & Cultural Center, Inc.
2714 Cleveland St., Ellore, SC

The Ellore Heritage Museum & Cultural Center, Inc. is a non-profit museum that is open to the public because of donations like yours. Your financial support will provide the Museum the opportunity to maintain facilities, expand programs, enhance exhibits, and increase tours for all to enjoy. Thank you for your sponsorship of this event!

Dancing with a DJ

Heavy Hors d'oeuvres

Dress: Outdoor Casual

Sponsorship Levels:

- _____ Platinum - \$3,000 (8 Complimentary tickets to event.)
- _____ Gold - \$2,000 (6 Complimentary tickets to event.)
- _____ Silver - \$1,000 (4 Complimentary tickets to event.)
- _____ Bronze - \$ 500 (2 Complimentary tickets to event.)

The museum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt organization as defined by the Internal Revenue Service.
As such your donation may be tax deductible. Please retain a copy of this document for your records.

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Museum Representative: _____

Would you like to be included in publicity for the event? Yes _____ No _____

If Yes, please email logo to elloreemuseum@ntinet.com.

Please make checks payable to: Ellore Heritage Museum
Mailing address: Ellore Heritage Museum, P. O. Box 54, Ellore, SC 29047
Phone: 803-897-2225



Elloree Heritage Museum & Cultural Center

P.O. Box 54

Elloree, SC 29047

www.ElloreeMuseum.org

E-mail ElloreeMuseum@ntinet.com

Phone (803) 897-2225

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
BULK MAIL
PERMIT NO. 9000

Calendar of Events

Board of Trustees

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Patricia Bochette Felkel
Sammy Fogle
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William Jameson
Kay Dantzler Lancaster
Ruby Livingston
John McLaurin
Dawn Robinson
Howard Shirer

Administrative Manager

Kay Shirer

The History of Santee Cooper and the Lake System

Thursday, April 11, 2019

Spring Follies

Saturday, April 27, 2019

Museum Hours of Operation:

Wednesday – Saturday

10:00 am – 5:00 pm