

Elloree Heritage Museum & Cultural Center, Inc.



MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Volume XV: Number 2

March – April 2023



Whoaaaa Nellie! ***Down Memory Lane with the Elloree Trials!***

Tuesday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m.



"It's hosses runnin' over hosses," proclaimed Color Announcer Bob Hill at Elloree Trials horse races of years past. Horses, hats, tailgating, beauty queens, skydivers, and a large reunion for current and former area residents are among the many attributes of the Trials. Sixty years ago marked the beginning of the Elloree Trials, one of the biggest annual events to occur in eastern Orangeburg County. Irvin Shuler was one of the Elloree Jaycees who helped start this event in 1963. An ardent supporter for many years since then, Mr. Shuler will discuss the challenges of the early years and the tremendous effort to make the races an annual event. Howard Shuler, another longtime supporter of this event and current President of the Elloree Trials Committee, will discuss the more recent history of the Trials and prospects for the future. In addition to the exhibit of famous local jockey Chris Antley, newspaper articles, posters, pictures, and other memorabilia will be on display for your viewing pleasure.

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



Elloree and Eastern Orangeburg County History

Presented by Dr. Gene Atkinson

Tuesday, May 2, 2023, 7:00 pm at the Museum,

Dr. Atkinson is a retired Orangeburg dentist and local historian. He has been recognized for his civic endeavors, his historical collections, and his contributions to dentistry. His interest in the history of his hometown of Orangeburg, South Carolina, has led to five books on its history, three of which have been pictorial histories. Through the years Dr. Atkinson has been able to collect several thousand old pictures from Orangeburg's past. For a number of years Dr. Atkinson has served as the president of the Orangeburg County Historical Society, where he has helped expand their collections. Additionally he has presented numerous informative slide shows on Orangeburg's history to many local groups. He is married to the former Colleen Casey, and they have three daughters: Liz, Dottie, and Katie.

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

Another Sold Out Oyster Roast!

Oysters, hot dogs, chili, cookies, and drink! Plus great weather and good friends made for a terrific evening. Oyster eaters reported that these were the best ever oysters. Thank you to those who helped with the event and to all those who came to make it a fun time.



Plantations of the Santee Cooper Lakes



Board member, Chip Davis, gave a program on February 21 at the museum. This is the second program the museum has held on the flooding of the lakes. He explained that more than 20 historical plantations rest beneath Lake Marion and Lake Moultrie. A slide presentation showed many of these beautiful plantation homes and gave a glimpse of the personal price paid for progress. Mr. Davis told stories about how the families dealt with this traumatic change in their lives. They were paid an average of \$12.19 per acre for farm land. Today, it is hard to imagine as we enjoy recreation on the lakes that below its surface lies the history of a by-gone era.

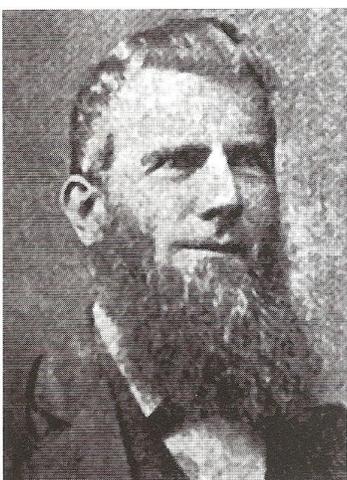


The Birth of Elloreë – W.J. Snider, Founder

By Tom Livingston

The area around the current town of Elloreë was settled by Europeans, primarily by Scots-Irish and Swiss-Germans who received grants of land from the King of England in the 1700's. Prior to that time the land had been inhabited by Indian Tribes for thousands of years. The Elloreë Museum exhibit of Indian relics and the nearby Indian ceremonial mound are remnants of that period.

The area was given the name Poplar because that was the name of two creeks, Big and Little poplar, that ran through the area emptying into the Santee river. The Poplar Post Office was located in several places during the early 1800's including the Bookhart Inn during the mid-1800's. One of the early settlers of the region was Jacob Snider who lived three miles west of Elloreë. His son was the man who had the vision and the means to create the town, Founder William Judson Snider.



W.J. Snider was born on December 1, 1832. He lived on a farm as a young boy and later in life owned large farm properties. He became a well-educated man with a good background in business as well as a strict religious orientation. His business education began as a boy of eleven when he went to work for a merchant in Charleston. He made many friends and contacts which helped him become successful in his business enterprises. In the 1850's he moved back to his home area where, in 1857, he was a minister of the Santee Baptist Church. On June 23, 1857 he was named Postmaster of the White Cane Post Office near Felderville. In 1860 he lived with successful farmer and businessman P.H. Felder in Felderville and managed Felder's store.

When the war started in 1861 Snider was in the saw mill business in Richland County as a partner with William Elkin. That business was successful and may have allowed him to pay others to serve in his place in the Confederate Army. Or he may have been exempt from service because of his role as a Baptist minister. That is unknown but the records show that all exemptions expired in 1864 as the war became desperate for the south. Snider was inducted into the Confederate Army as a private in Company C of the First Regiment of S.C. Rifles (Orr's). He was in the last battle of the war and was mustered out on April 9, 1865 at Appomattox, VA. He probably did not know that a man, Dr. Manly Dantzler – Confederate Surgeon, who would become his neighbor and friend and an early founder of Elloreë, was nearby. Dr. Dantzler was assigned to the 10th Florida Division of Finegan's Brigade and they were paroled two days later at Appomattox.

Snider returned home and in 1866 opened his first solely owned mercantile store in present day Ellore. He was appointed postmaster and the Poplar Post Office was in his store. Three years later he expanded his business and built what became known as the "Cross Roads Store". It was the only store in the area for many years. Snider was a success in other businesses as well; a saw mill, grist mill, and large farm acreages totaling 3,000 acres. In 1886 he decided to create a town and name it Ellore, which was suggested by his wife Lizzie, because it is an Indian word meaning "the home I love." He had part of his property surveyed and laid out with wide streets in an area one-half mile in every direction around his store. However, for the town to be successful he thought it needed a railroad station so he convinced the railroad to build a spur that terminated in the town. To sell this idea he offered to name the town for the railroad executive who approved the venture. The railroad was completed in 1886 and on December 23, 1886 the town was chartered by the State of South Carolina as Harlin City. His decision turned out to be the key to Ellore's early success. By the 1911 there were 4 passenger trains and 3 freight trains stopping at the Ellore Depot each day. Mid-day riders could take the buggy (see photo) to the Bardin Hotel for lunch and then back to the depot for the next train.

On December 20, 1892 the townspeople got their wish and the name of the town was officially changed to Ellore. Mr. Snider died December 10, 1897; but by then the town was well established. Many other people were important to the founding and early success of the town. Subsequent newsletters will highlight some of them.

A. C. L. Depot, Ellore, S. C.



Notice the buggy on the right-hand side of the depot.



The Museum and Quilts

Together from the Beginning

Threads of the Past and Future

Since our Museum opened in 2022, quilts have helped reveal the vibrant history of Ellorece and area residents. Through the years, Lake Marion Piecemakers Quilt Guild has provided quilts on loan for a display board built especially to showcase them in the Museum. Charter members Dot Shirer and Daisy Kolb donated quilts to the Museum, and other members have contributed their heartfelt work. The Guild also furnished quilts for special exhibits in 2005, 2008 and 2015. Another exhibit featuring the work of other Ellorece quilt makers was held in 2021.

Most recently, in February of 2023, the Guild presented the Museum with the gift of “A Quilt for All Seasons”. Unique and colorful squares depicting different seasons and holidays were created by guild members. The completed quilt was presented as a special thanks to the Museum for hosting their 30th Anniversary celebration in February 2022.



Through their love of quilting, members of Lake Marion Piecemakers Quilt Guild continue to inspire Museum visitors and patrons with enduring glimpses of the past and new appreciation



of small-town charm. Of special note and historical value is the Log Cabin Quilt. Its pattern is believed to be one of the earliest American quilt designs, and it was proclaimed by Mayor Vernon Shirer as the official quilt pattern of the Town of Ellorece and a tribute to Ellorece’s founder Mr. Snider. The quilt, made by Dot Shirer, is draped on the railing of Mr. Snider’s cabin in the Museum.



ELLOREE HERITAGE MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership at the Ellore Heritage Museum & Cultural Center provides free admission and other special benefits to members. Please note that membership cards are non-transferable and guest passes are for one-time use only.

Please check a category of membership.

- Individual \$25+**
 - ♦Full membership privileges for one adult
 - ♦Two guest passes
- Family \$50+**
 - ♦Full membership privileges for two adults in the same household and their children 18 years old and younger
 - ♦Four guest passes
- Collector's Club \$100+**
 - ♦Full membership privileges for two adults and free admission for four guests
 - ♦Four guest passes
- Director's Guild \$250+**
 - ♦Full membership privileges for two adults and free admission for four guests
 - ♦One family membership to give as a gift
 - ♦Four guest passes
- Historian's Roundtable \$500+**
 - ♦Full membership privileges for two adults and free admission for four guests
 - ♦Private tour upon request
 - ♦One family membership to give as gift
 - ♦Six guest passes
- Trustee's Council \$1000+**
 - ♦Full membership privileges for two adults and free admission for four guests
 - ♦Private tour upon request
 - ♦Two family memberships to give as gifts
 - ♦One private use of the museum facility (limited to approved facility use activities)
 - ♦Eight guest passes

Name(s) _____

Mailing address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Date _____ (Membership is valid for 1 year from date of purchase)

Please send completed form with your check to: Ellore Heritage Museum & Cultural Center, Inc.
Post Office Box 54, Ellore, SC 29047

Memorials & Honors may be sent to:

Ellore Heritage Museum & Cultural Center, PO Box 54, Ellore SC 29047

Please include complete name and address of the person to whom the museum should send notification of your gift. Memorials and Honors may also be directed to the Museum's Endowment Fund. Please indicate on your check that the donation is for the Endowment Fund.

The museum is a non-profit organization legally chartered by the State of South Carolina and is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization as defined by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. As such, your donation may be tax deductible.

January – February 2023 Contributions

Memberships

Individual

Petey Browder
Judy Bull
Jane Downing
Brenda Humphries
Denise Pfaff

Family

Danny Allman
Gene & Judy Ball
Richard & Beth Bochette
Chuck & Karen Cuttino
Johnston & Jo Dantzer
Harry & Margaret Fouts
Glenn & Kay Lancaster
Robert Mark / Margo Lister
Brent & Judy Pate
C L & Bobbi Roberts
Pat & Kay Williams

Collector's Club

Bill & Barbara Felkel
Howard & Jan Miller
Allen & Dani Reeves
George & Carole Summers

Director's Guild

Catherine & Fred Austin
Virginia B. Vaughan

Memorials

Philip Bardin

Jane Carson
Tim & Marykay Martin

Anne Garrett

Bickley Partnership
Jane Carson

Robin Hood

Jane Carson

Dawn Wactor Owens

Glenn & Kay Lancaster

Arthur Ravenel, Jr.

Celia Ulmer and Family

Honors

Bobby & Debra Shuler

Glenn & Kay Lancaster

George Summers

Carole Summers

Celia Ulmer's Birthday

Marty, Laurie, & Marykay

Cletus & Mary Wyland

Glenn & Kay Lancaster



Donations

Town of Ellore
Ellore B n B

Grants

Junior Service League
of Orangeburg

State Farm Grant
By Jan Miller

Shop Snider's Store!!



Elloree Heritage Museum & Cultural Center

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NON-PROFIT
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BULK MAIL
PERMIT NO. 9000

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Upcoming Events 2023

March 21: Program & Exhibit on the Elloree Trials

May 2: Program by Dr. Gene Atkinson

May 2: MIDLANDS GIVES

Please consider the museum on this day of giving.

Youth Art Camp: Date TBD

Youth Golf Camp: July 24-26

Museum Hours of Operation:

Wednesday – Saturday

10:00 am – 5:00 pm