

Elloree Heritage Museum & Cultural Center, Inc.



MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Volume XV: Number 4

July – August 2023



Low Country Boil

Saturday, October 21, 2023



Low Country Boil



Live Auction!



Live Music!

This year's Low Country Boil will include a **LIVE AUCTION**, along with a **SILENT AUCTION**. It will be an exciting addition to the event and include a wide variety of items. Everyone get ready for a fun time! More details to come.

Dinner: Eat-In or Take-Out

Includes shrimp, potatoes, corn, sausage,
slaw, grits, dessert, and drinks.



Silent Auction!

Ticket Price: \$30

Tickets available from Board Members and at the Museum !



In September or October, the Museum plans to have an interactive program on cotton that will take participants into the fields and to the gin to experience first-hand how cotton is grown, picked, and processed.

Specific details to be forth-coming.

William F. Stack, Jr.

By Tom Livingston

While W.J. Snider was clearly THE founder of Elloreë, there were a number of others who were instrumental in the success of the town at its founding. In the next newsletters we will highlight a few who assisted Mr. Snider in the very beginning.

William Frederick Stack, Jr. was one of these original founders of Elloreë and one of its leading businessmen for many years. W.J. Snider had the only store in the community which he opened shortly after the Civil War. To create the town Snider offered lots for homes and businesses at affordable prices, and he convinced the railroad to build a spur that came to Elloreë in 1886 when the town was chartered. Stack was among the first to purchase lots for a home and business. Moving to Elloreë in 1886/87 he opened a mercantile business, The Stack Company.

He was one of the earliest civic leaders and businessmen in the community. In the second town election which occurred in 1888, Stack was elected as one of the town's wardens. The next year he was re-elected. He lived the rest of his life in Elloreë and was always active in community affairs.

Stack was born October 19, 1865 in Kingstree, a son of William F. and Wilhelmina Stack, both of whom were immigrants from the European country of Georgia. At an early age he showed his drive towards a career in business and public service. At the age of 14 he left Kingstree to become an apprentice in a German bakery in Sumter, SC. By the time he was 21 his industriousness and character led to an appointment as U.S. Postmaster in Sutton, Williamsburg County, S.C. He was appointed on January 14, 1886 but left the job and moved to Elloreë within a year.

As an astute young business man in the infant town he developed a very successful business. By 1896 he was so successful that he was listed as one of the "wealthy and prominent citizens of Elloreë" who proposed that Elloreë was successful enough to be considered as the county seat for a new county. He later opened several other businesses with other businessmen including the Stack & Ulmer Company in 1901.



Of course, when a small group of the leading citizens of Elloreë met in May 1909 to form Elloreë Telephone Company, Stack was among them. He was elected Vice-President of that company which provided a valuable service for the community. At some point before 1912 he built the first brick building in Elloreë, a building that is still in use today. At that point no citizen had lived in Elloreë as long as he had. At age 47 he was the leading businessman and elder statesman of Elloreë.

The Stack Cotton Co. was opened in 1920. By then he owned and leased a number of buildings in downtown. He had at least 4 buildings damaged or destroyed by fire in 1921. He was also deeply involved in banking, both in Elloreë and in Orangeburg. He was one of the founding officers in the Bank of Elloreë in 1904. It was one of the few banks that survived the depression due to the leadership of the Board of Directors, including Stack. He remained Vice-President of the bank until his death in 1948. Stack was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Planters Bank of Orangeburg, a position he held for many years starting in 1910.

Stack was a committed Christian and leader of the Elloreë Methodist Church. He was on the committee formed in 1892 that had the task of building the Church on the lot given to the church by his friend and neighbor, W.J. Snider. In that same year he was married to Martha Dorothy Rhodus of Williamsburg County.

He was a leader in many civic and social organizations including the Masons and the Knights of Pythias. He built the most beautiful home in Elloreë and that home was used for town social functions and for other community activities including educational functions. That home is still in use today as a funeral home.

Stack was a devoted family man but, like his business life, he was not immune to tragedies – his first three daughters died as infants from illnesses. As in other aspects of his life, his family moved forward, eventually raising five children. Even today his family legacy continues with grandchildren and greatgrandchildren who contribute to the Elloreë community.



In September 1937, late in his life, he was able to celebrate and enjoy the 50th anniversary of the town that he had helped to found and build. When he died in 1948 his funeral service was held in the church he had started in 1892 and the honorary pallbearers were friends and business associates from Elloreë and Orangeburg County.

The name William F. Stack, Jr. should be written on the cornerstone of the town of Elloreë because he was a founder, a builder, and a leader of the community.

Honoring Our Priceless Gift Shop Volunteers



Sylvia Barnes
Manager Snider's Store

Since it's beginning, the gift shop (Snider's Store) has been operated by the selfless efforts of many volunteers, and this year was no exception. A small reward for our active volunteers is an annual luncheon, this year held on Monday, May 8th at the charming Camellia Manor near Holly Hill.

All enjoyed a delicious lunch of soup, their choice of chicken or fish entrée, and dessert.

Gift Shop Manager, Sylvia Barnes, introduced four new volunteers: Karen Cuttino, Dawn McCoy, Peggy Polin, and Sug Williamson. Sylvia thanked the volunteers for their ongoing efforts working in the gift shop. The duties are many and varied. This quote sums it up: "Volunteers don't get paid, not because they are worthless but because they are priceless."

The museum was presented a check from the past year's gift shop proceeds, another testament to the value of our volunteers.



Sally Jo Coulliette, Linda Wood, Shelly Antley, Leslie Collins



Judith Rickenbaker, Judy Pate, Shirley Brandenburg, Mary Franz, Karen Cuttino



Peggy Polin, Sug Williamson, Dawn McCoy, Jan Miller, Dani Reeves, Beth Bochette, Glynda Bullington

On Tuesday evening, May 2nd, **Dr. Gene Atkinson**, from Orangeburg, presented a pictorial history of Elloree and Eastern Orangeburg County. Many of the photos sparked comments from the audience, as well as questions. Other photos stirred multiple memories of the past. The audience was a mixture of long-time residents of Elloree and those who are new to the area. Both groups were very interested in learning more history about the past. Dr. Atkinson has authored several books detailing the history of Orangeburg County and its people. We are grateful that he was willing to share his information and photos through this program at the museum.



May – June 2023 Contributions

Memberships

Individual

Vonnette Bailey
Zunelle Renfroe Bookhardt
Dora Grubbs
Lee Hendren
Lesley Antley Marshall
Cristy Shirer

Family

Kevin & Heather Hess
Warren & Judy Lambert
Claudia Polin
George & Carole Summers

Collector's Club

Katherine Blackman
John & Alison Daniels
Chuck & Jean Felkel
David & Patricia Felkel
Judith Rickenbacker
Jenny Rourk
Jay & Marilyn Tothacer
Eugene Varn
Emory Weisiger & Janice McCann

Director's Guild

Jane Livingston
Tom Livingston
Guy Miller

Memorials

Miriam Burris

Hugh & Pat McLaurin

Marion Sims Dantzler

Fairey Belle Logan

Gayle Rush

Jane Carson

Dot Shirer

Guy Miller

Shelly Shuler

Jane Carson

John Zeigler

Jane Carson

Honors

Bill Livingston

Ken & Gloria Holladay

Donations

Ellore B n B
Ellore Lions Club
Brenda A. Humphries
C. Leon Lee, II
Orangeburg County

Central Carolina Community Foundation's Midlands Gives Day Fund

Doug & Lynn Doster
Debra Feda
Ann Leatherwood
Christe McCoy-Lawrence
Thomas Minor
Karen Parrish
Sidney H. Rex
Howard & Barbara Shirer
John & Jane Singh
Kerry Stubbs
Chris & Rachel Worley

SHOP SNIDER'S STORE

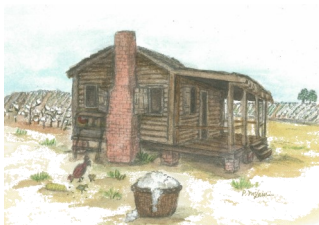


Oyster Shell Items !



A Recent Tour

The Senior Ladies group from St. John's United Methodist Church in Aiken, SC, visited the museum on June 1st as part of a bus trip. Docents Sally Jo Coulliette and Van Stickles directed the museum tours. After that, Hugh McLaurin boarded their bus and guided them in a drive-by tour of the cotton gin, peanut plant, and McLaurin Farms. The ladies truly enjoyed their first trip to Ellore.



Elloree Heritage Museum & Cultural Center

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Marykay Martin

Jane Singh

Ali Weathers

Kim Weeks

Chris Worley

Administrative Manager

Kay Shirer

Gift Shop Manager

Sylvia Barnes

Upcoming Events 2023

Youth Golf Camp: July 24-26



Program on Cotton: Date TBD



**Low Country Boil & Auction:
October 21**



Museum Hours of Operation:

Wednesday – Saturday

10:00 am – 5:00 pm