



**GREENVILLE COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

SO MANY STORIES TO TELL

THE NEW GREENVILLE MOUNTAINEER

The Newsletter of the Greenville County Historical Society

Vol. XLIV No. 3 April 2024

SPRING 2024 NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY

Sponsored by the Greenville County Historical Society

Spring 2024 Membership Meeting

On Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 3:00pm, the Spring 2024 Membership Meeting was held at the Sigal Music Museum at Heritage Green. The program was titled "Listening to Greenville's History" and was presented by Greenville Music Preservation and its co-founder, David Sims. The presentation gave a broad overview of the development of music in Greenville in the 19th and 20th centuries. Important artists, venues, radio stations, and recording studios were talked about and we explored Greenville's history through the lens of music. Recordings from area musicians such as Josh White, Esquerita, Charlie Spivak and others were played and examined. There were also a large amount of items from the GMP collections on display. There was an excellent turnout by members and the public.

The new fiscal year 2024-25's business was conducted and a new slate of officers and members-at-large were voted in. We would like to welcome our new President John Nolan and members-at-large, Candace Boatwright and Tom Cheves. We said good-bye to our outgoing President Robert Benedict and we thank him for his dedicated service to the Society. Robert continues to be our preservation expert and he will continue to work closely with the Society helping to maintain and preserve Greenville's history.



In this issue...

Archives and Collections...Fun Facts About Greenville County's History...Recent Donations and Acquisitions of the Society...

From The Director's Desk:

I enjoy writing this column because I can talk about and share with you, things that I discover around here that are surprising, fascinating, things I know that will surprise and fascinate you! I was asked recently, if I had to choose the ten most important collections from our archives, what would they be? I instantly knew that would be impossible for me to do as I know there are many more than ten. I cannot tell you how many times I have gone to the research room of the Society in search of something to help someone with a question or project, only to look up and realize hours have gone by and I am surrounded by files, maps, books and photos of things totally unrelated to the task at hand! One specific question around here, and you can fall into 100 other rabbit holes and learn something new every time! That is the fun of history and a typical day here at GCHS! How many of you know that at one time in Greenville, there was an opera house downtown, or have you ever checked out our Greenville City Directories dating from 1883-2008; did you know the Poinsett Hotel had a swimming pool on the roof of the parking garage?; and I recently discovered a journal of the work of City Hall from 1879-1880. I could go on and on, every day, and talk about some new discovery in our archives. There are not enough days in the week to write about everything we have in our collections.

I want to invite you to stop in and take a look at what we have. I guarantee you, there are way more than ten! You should expect to take that same journey down the rabbit hole that I take all the time, and you will learn something new and fascinating. Just be sure to tell the story when you do.

By Darlene Parker
Executive Director





News You Can Use from GCHS

In an effort to lower our costs, communications coming out of the Society to our membership will most likely be electronic moving forward. That means it is very important that we have your correct email address. Please let us know if your address has changed or be sure we have one for you. You don't want to miss all the news and happenings.

Remember we exhibit small exhibits in our lobby, free of charge and always fun and interesting! Stop in Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday to take a look! Currently, it is a fun postcard exhibit *Travels Around Town*. Let us know what you would be interested in and we can try to set up an exhibit on that topic!



Calling all savers, collectors of old stuff! What are you saving in your closets, basements and attics that may enjoy a home at the Historical Society? Things that tell your story and those of your family? Think 50-100 years from now and would your items tell a story about Greenville and Greenville County? We cannot receive Grandma's hoosier cabinet or rocking chair, but we can certainly give a home to her letters to Grandpa, your photos of downtown festivals, building your new house, sporting events around town that tell a story. Who was at the opening of Unity Park and did you snap any photos of the river after a good rain or when a historic building downtown got a facelift during all of our new developments around town? These are stories that will be important and told in the future. Contact us and we can chat about what you have before you throw stuff in a dumpster.



Recent Donations and Acquisitions of the Society

David Schmidt, Old Hickory Medal, 30th Division Veterans' Reunion, 1919 (Camp Sevier)

Diane Cochran, Invitation—Commencement Exercises, Greenville High, 1914.

Nikki Guy Latham, Her book *Daisy and Bob: Letters, 1939-44*.

Mary Jane Yates, An additional donation to the Mary Jane Yates Collection consisting of Civitan Club Membership Director, 2 V-mails, ribbon, and DMV tag.

Anonymous, *Greenville Green Book: Classified Business and Numerical Directory, August 1921. Greenville, S.C. Telephone Directory, September 1947*.

Margaret Praytor, The Blake Praytor Collection containing photographs and negatives from the collection of Blake Praytor.

Alvin Schaut, An additional donation to the Alvin Schaut Collection consisting of 3 postcards—St. Mary's Church; Main Building and Bell Tower, Furman University; and Hill Skills 1975.

Hours of Operation

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
11:30am-4:30pm

Society Memberships Available

Individual Membership: \$45

Family Membership: \$75

Conestee Society: \$100

Camperdown Society: \$250

Huguenot Society: \$500

Corporate Partnerships Available
(Call for details)

Email Address :

info@greenvillehistory.org

