

Journal

May 2026

Dear Aiken County Historical Society Member:

Thanks to everyone who has renewed their membership or is a new member and paid your 2026 dues. We really appreciated your support. We could not continue to preserve and document the rich history of Aiken County without you.

Since our last general meeting our focus has been on three official State of SC historical markers. The first of the most recent group of three markers that were erected was for the Palmetto Lodge in North Augusta. The Palmetto Lodge was originally a hunting lodge associated with the massive Hampton Terrace Hotel. The marker can be seen from Georgia Avenue and is on a beautifully landscaped area in front of the new North Augusta Department of Public Safety. Thanks to Milledge Murray and the City of North Augusta for their help with the marker. Milledge continues to work on other historical markers in North Augusta on our behalf.

Two more historical marker unveilings were done at the annual meeting of the Friends of Hopelands and Rye Patch on March 29th. The two markers were for the Winter Colony homes Hopelands and Rye Patch. We partnered with the City of Aiken and the Friends of Hopelands and Rye Patch for these markers. Thanks to Anna Dangerfield and Lil Brannon for their research to make the markers possible. That research

was done for their wonderful book entitled, "Hopelands Gardens and Rye Patch: The Friends' Story."

The last historical marker item is that the Aiken Training Track historical marker is still missing. You may recall about a year ago the marker was hit by a car and broken off its post and taken. I thought it would have been found/turned into us by now. At some point soon we will have to order another marker. The \$3,000 fee for the new marker will be "softened" somewhat by a \$1,000 donation (Lifetime Membership) by Mr. James "JR" Stainbrook. We THANK him very much for his generosity. Mr. Stainbrook also donated funds for the construction of the JR Stainbrook Overlook at the Aiken Steeplechases racecourse.

After work was completed on the Warrentville Mill renovation project- changing it into apartments, the focus of Mr. John Gumpert and the Camden Management Group has been transforming the historic Vacluse Mill into apartments also. Work is proceeding nicely on that project. After the Vacluse Mill project is complete Mr. Gumpert will set his sights on renovating the old Aiken County Hospital into apartments.

A newly renovated old Aiken County Hospital will be a great addition to downtown along with the renovated Hotel Aiken, a renovated Rose Hill

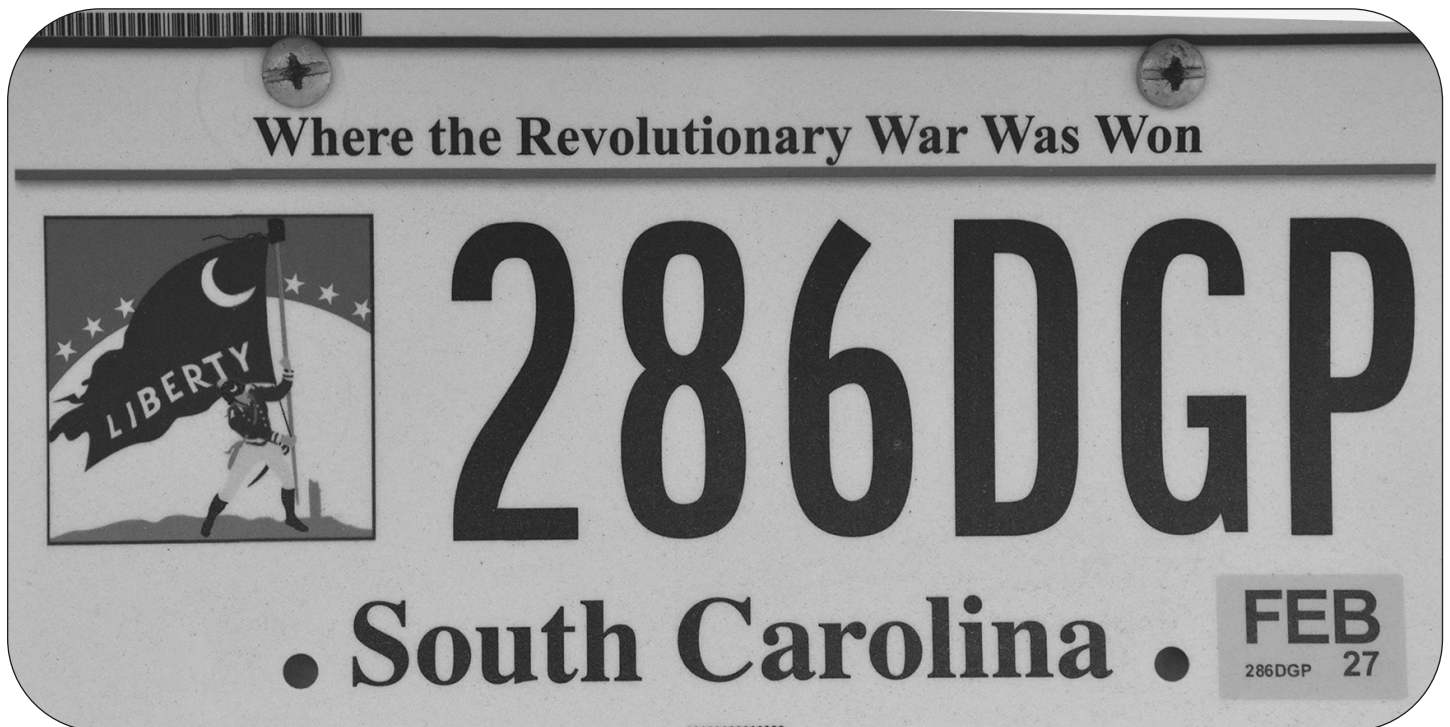
Winter Colony property, and the new hotel (The Laureate Hotel) that will encompass the property of the old Farmers and Merchants Bank at the corner of Park Ave. and Laurens Street. In a few years downtown Aiken will have a somewhat different look, but the old charm of a smaller Aiken will hopefully remain. One thing for sure is that there will be more people downtown in the years to come.

2026 is the 250th anniversary of America's birth. Many organizations are having some type of celebration event. Even the new South Carolina license plates have the wording "Where the Revolutionary War was Won."

"South Carolina- Where the Revolutionary War was Won" will be the topic for our upcoming General Meeting. Our guest speaker will be

USCA History Professor Alexia Helsley. She is a Senior Instructor in History and serves as University Archivist for USC Aiken. She teaches South Carolina, Medieval and Public History. The general meeting will be held on Sunday, May 24th, 3:00 pm at the Aiken County Historical Museum. We really hope you will be able to attend. A reception will follow Professor Helsley's presentation.

History Matters,
Allen Riddick,
Aiken County Historical Society President



The new South Carolina license plate features the wording, "Where the Revolutionary War Was Won."

Notes on George Galphin

By Milledge Murray

George Galphin lived in the area that is known today as the 3,400-acre Audubon Silver Bluff Sanctuary. George Galphin was an important figure in the Revolutionary War. A local descendent has put together some notes on this important man.

George Galphin had two trading posts. One was Galphinton in Queensborough (Louisville, Georgia) and the other one was in what is known today as the Silver Bluff area (Jackson, SC). The South Carolina trading post stood along the Savannah River. He had extensive land holdings in South Carolina and Georgia.

Fort Galphin was designated as the name of Galphin's Trading Post in South Carolina. It was a large storehouse of goods that were sold to local residents as well as Native Americans. It was kind of like the Walmart of the Revolutionary era. Because it was such a large warehouse of supplies and goods and the fact that it sat beside the Savannah River, the British captured Fort Galphin and named it Fort Dreadnaught. It is believed that Galphin died at his plantation in 1780, but no one knows where he is buried. The American Patriots under the command of Light Horse Harry Lee recaptured it for the Americans.

George Galphin's marital relationship with Metawney, a Creek Indian Princess, enabled him to communicate with tribal chieftains and generate positive relationships with Native American tribes. They had two sons (John and George) and a daughter named Julia.

George Galphin was so highly thought of by Native Americans that he settled many disputed among tribes. He was a fair trader with the Native Americans and took twenty to thirty pack horses at a time into tribal lands to do business with the Native Americans. William Bartram visited him and proclaimed that he held much influence among the Native Americans.

In 1774, George Galphin was named Southern Indian Agent for the Continental Congress. His important role was to convince the Indians to NOT join forces with the British and remain neutral in the War.

It is stated in George Washington's papers that George Galphin prevented over 10,000 Native Americans from joining forces with the British.

2026 ACHS MEMBERSHIP FORM

DUES ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED.

Anyone wishing to join the Aiken County Historical Society is cordially invited to do so.

Please complete the application below and mail it with your dues to:

Aiken County Historical Society
P.O. Box 1775
Aiken, SC 29802

Patron:	\$25	Benefactor:	\$500
Corporate:	\$50	Life:	\$1000
Donor:	\$100		

Name: _____ Membership Type: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

One Time Donation: \$ _____

The one time donation is for those members who have already paid their dues, but would like to contribute directly toward our Historical Marker Fund. We also encourage others who may not want to become an ACHS member, but would like to make a contribution to our organization.

Thanking you in advance for your continued and generous support of the ACHS. We could not do what we do without you. Colleen and the Gaston Livery Stable Board also appreciate your help of their ongoing and important project.

2026 GASTON LIVERY STABLE MEMBERSHIP FORM

DUES ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED.

Anyone wishing to join the Gaston Livery Stable is cordially invited to do so.

Please complete the application below and mail it with your dues to:

Friends of the Gaston Livery Stable
Box 5357
Aiken, SC 29804

Friend:	\$25	Lucky Horse Shoe:	\$100
Family:	\$50	Carriage:	\$500
		Winter Colony:	\$1000

Pave the Way: To purchase bricks to be installed in the barn floor. \$5 per brick.

Name: _____ Membership Type: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

One Time Donation: \$ _____



Todd Lista Photography

Left: The Aiken County Historical Society unveiled a historical marker for Hopelands at the annual meeting of the Friends of Hopelands and Rye Patch in March. Pictured are Allen Riddick, Jane Windham Key, Anna Dangerfield and Jane Weeks Anderson. Thanks to Jane, Anna and Jane for helping with the unveiling.



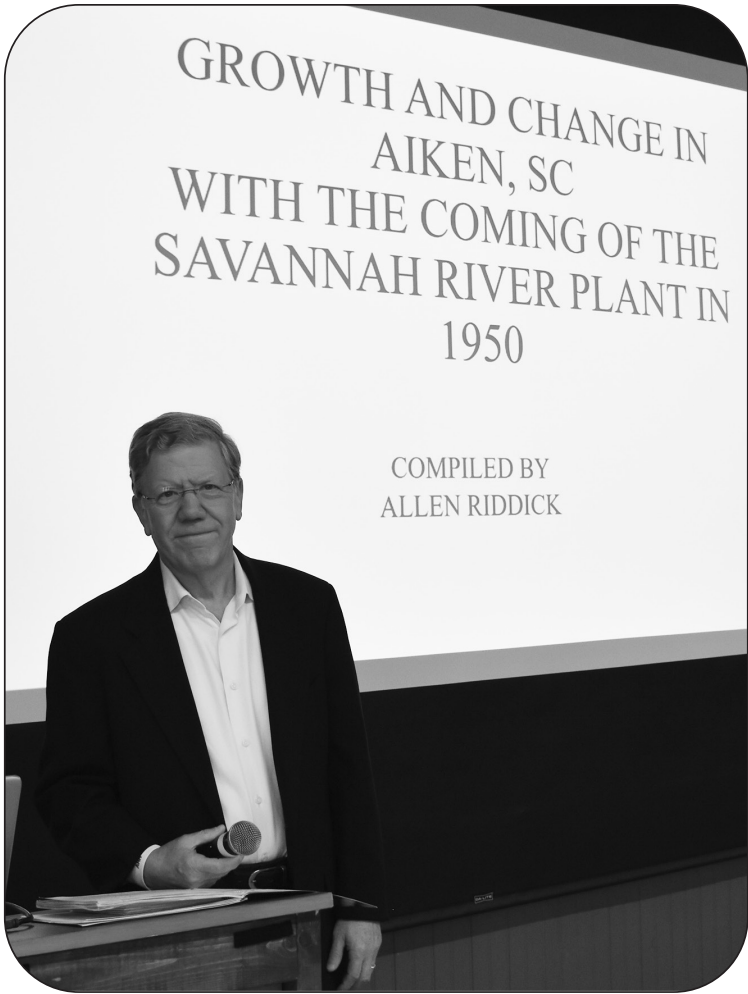
Todd Lista Photography

Middle: The Aiken County Historical Society along with the City of Aiken and The Friends of Hopelands and Rye Patch unveiled a historical marker for Rye Patch at the annual meeting of Hopelands and Rye Patch. Pictured are Friends President Michael Cowen, Ginny Goodyear, Mayor Teddy Milner and Allen Riddick.

Bottom Left: The Palmetto Lodge

Bottom Right: The City of North Augusta and the Aiken County Historical Society unveiled a historical marker in March for the Palmetto Lodge at the new North Augusta Department of Public Safety on Georgia Avenue. Pictured are North August Mayor Briton Williams, Milledge Murray and Allen Riddick.





Top Left: ACHS Pres. Allen Riddick is pictured at the last ACHS general meeting. He had to give the featured program because the scheduled speaker had a last-minute emergency. We hope to have the speaker back at a later date.

Below: North Augusta will soon have this new Lafayette Trail maker in place. Please google Lafayette Trail and learn more about this important event that occurred in 1825 in what was the Town of Hamburg.



Above: The Vacluse Mill is undergoing extensive renovation and is being made into some beautiful apartments. More update on that project in the fall.

Aiken County Historical Society
P.O. Box 1775
Aiken, South Carolina 29802-1775

Visit <http://www.aikencountyhistory.org>



There is a historical marker near the Audubon Silver Bluff Center that was unveiled in 2024. Pictured -L-is Milledge Galphin Murray who is a direct descendent of George Galphin and J. Bobo-R- who was responsible for this and two other historical markers in 2024 concerning the Revolutionary War. The ACHS make a nice donation to the project.