

Saxe Gotha Dispatch



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Museum’s Annual Christmas Open House

The staff of the Lexington County Museum and the Friends of the Museum invite you to come experience Christmas traditions of the past at the Museum as it hosts its Annual Christmas Open House on December 8th from 1 pm to 4 pm. Many of the thirty historic structures on the Museum complex will be open and will feature period Christmas decorations. The event is **free** to the public! Light refreshments, including hot apple cider and gingerbread, will be served. Friends member Constance Caractor Flemming will be singing and playing live music in the John Fox House.

The Christmas Open House is a great way to explore the museum’s



Fox House Parlor Decorated for Christmas

structures and collections on your own time and get into the Christmas spirit.

The Town of Lexington will hold their Christmas parade to December 8th, so after exploring the museum and learning about historic Christmas traditions, you can wander over to Main

wander over to Main Street and watch the parade.

For more information, call the museum at 803-359-8369 or visit our webpage at www.lex-co.sc.gov/museum.

Museum Past and Upcoming Outreach Efforts

Museum director J.R. Fennell spoke to groups about the superstitions of the Dutch Fork and Lexington County at Lex. Medical Center Extended Care, the Lex. Main

Library, the Pelion Ruritan Club, and at the Irmo Branch Library. The staff also gave a tour to the managers of the SC Welcome Centers. The Director taught a 6 week

class on Lexington County history at the Lexington Shepherd Center. In the next month, the staff of the museum will give a quilt tour to a Columbia sewing guild.

Meet Historical Interpreter Glenn Neeley



“Glenn sees the museum as an invaluable asset to the community and believes its role is to keep the community rooted in its past, especially as the area continues to grow and attract more residents.”

Fellow staff members refer to Glenn Neeley as the museum’s Renaissance Man. When he’s not leading tours, educating children or otherwise occupied with the museum, he keeps himself busy with hobbies and spending time with his family. His hobbies include painting watercolors, fossil collecting, woodcarving, reading, cooking, writing poetry, camping and gardening, to name a few. He also plays instruments including the harmonica, Native-American flute, dulcimer and hand bells at church. Glenn says he still wants to learn how to play the guitar.

Glenn’s mother and his mother-in-law were longtime friends and Glenn asserts that he knew his wife Jeannette ever since she was born. They not only grew up together, but they also have practically been together their entire lives. Next year they will celebrate their 48th anniversary. They have three children and nine grandchildren. Glenn and

Jeannette have traveled the world together and visited places like Alaska, the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, Panama, Central America and have traversed much of Colorado and Arizona where one of their sons lives. Glenn is also an active member of St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church in Lexington and especially active with youth programs and scouting. In fact, he is the Scout Committee Chairman.

A longtime history buff, Glenn liked to drag his family all over South Carolina to visit historic sites. So it is surprising to learn that Glenn had never visited nor heard of the museum before he saw an ad in the newspaper for a job as a part-time historical interpreter. For some reason he cut out the ad and posted it on his refrigerator. Glenn says that the moment he set foot on the museum property he immediately knew that this was the job for him. He settled right into the job and has worked here for over

six years. Aside from giving house tours to visitors he also enjoys doing the educational programs for students. His favorite school programs are the Native American tours where he can feature his Native-American flute playing and storytelling skills and the old schoolhouse program where he likes to imagine himself an 1850s schoolmaster. Glenn sees the museum as an invaluable asset to the community and believes its role is to keep the community rooted in its past, especially as the area continues to grow and attract more residents.

It probably goes without saying that Mr. Neeley is a creative person. His inclusion as a member of the staff has resulted in many enhancements to the educational programs as well as dynamic changes to events held at the museum. Glenn’s ideas, enthusiasm, initiative and work ethic help keep the museum fresh and the entire staff inspired. The visitors and school groups that return year-after-year benefit from his efforts. We are all definitely grateful for Glenn.

Haunted History Program a Great Success

The museum held its seventh annual Haunted History Halloween program on the evenings of October 17th and 18th. Around 145 visitors came over those two days to learn about some of the spookier aspects of

Lexington County history. Visitors learned about the Weberites that flourished in the early 1760s as well as Marie Boozer and some of her adventures. Be on the lookout next year for information of the next Halloween program.

Friends Fundraiser to Celebrate Lexington County Arts

The Friends of the Lexington County Museum will host its annual fundraiser on January 25, 2014 from 6 pm to 10 pm at Lexington's Town Hall, located at 111 Maiden Lane in downtown Lexington. Lexington has produced and been home to many artists, performers, writers, and musicians throughout the years. This gala will celebrate those living and deceased that have helped add to the culture of Lexington.

Tickets to this fun event are \$50 and can be purchased from the museum or at the door on the 25th. Tickets include all you can eat and drink. The Great Society Band will provide music. Sponsorships ranging from \$150 to \$2500 are available and are tax-deductible. The fundraiser will also feature a silent auction. All funds raised go toward the restoration of interior rooms in the Hazelius House at the museum and the enhancement of exhibits. For more information, call the museum at 803-359-8369 or visit the museum's website at www.lex-co.sc.gov/museum.



Crowd at the 2013 Fundraiser



Dancing at the 2012 Fundraiser

Museum Visitation in Sept. and October 2013

The Museum has been very busy with school groups coming the past two months.

In September, the museum saw 852 total visitors including visitors from twenty-two states as

well as visitors from Germany.

School groups from Florence, Lexington, and Richland Counties took part in our free programs as well.

2,446 people visited the museum in October.

Visitors came from twelve states and three foreign countries. The museum gave tours to scout groups and a group from the Lexington Shepherd's Center.



Museum Calendar of Events

November 18, 2013 - Friends of the Museum Board Meeting, 6:30 pm
Hazelius House Museum Grounds

December 8, 2013 – Christmas Open House, 1 pm to 4 pm
Museum Grounds, 231 Fox Street Lexington
Free to the public

January 25, 2014 – Celebrating Lexington’s Arts: Sights and
Sounds Museum Fundraiser, 6 pm to 10 pm
Lexington Town Hall, 111 Maiden Lane
Lexington. Tickets are \$50.00 and include all
you can eat and drink. Sponsorships are
available.

Call the museum at 803-359-8369 or email museum@lex-co.com to
find out more about these events.

Restoration of Quarantine Building Completed

The restoration of the circa 1800 slave quarantine building at the rear of the museum’s property has been completed thanks to the generosity of those who donated to the Friends’ fundraiser and Museum Commission president Bill Kiesling. The slave pen, which was used to hold and/or quarantine slaves being bought or sold, was brought to the museum from the Silver Lake area of the county and damaged by the tornado that struck the museum in 1994. Danny and Dusty Gleaton created a new historically accurate foundation, replaced several beams, stabilized the walls, and replaced the roof.

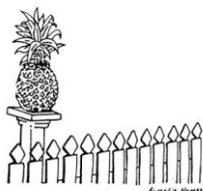


Lexington County Museum

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*Gateway to
Yesterday*



We're on the Web!
www.lex-co.sc.gov/museum

The Lexington County Museum was started in 1970 to collect, preserve and present the history of Lexington County. After initially having only one historic house, the museum expanded and now has thirty historic structures over seven acres in downtown Lexington. Through exhibits in historic houses, the museum interprets everyday life in the town of Lexington and throughout Lexington County from the eighteenth century to the start of the Civil War. The museum offers guided tours to visitors for a small fee and has thirteen different hands-on programs for school groups free of charge by appointment. These programs attract schools from around the state and educate students about the history of Lexington County and about the everyday life of Lexington County residents in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The Friends of the Lexington County Museum is a non-profit group founded in 1997 with an advisory board, officers, and a board of trustees representing all municipalities in Lexington County. Its mission is to enhance the Lexington County Museum through its duly appointed commission and to support, aid, and assist in the improvement and expansion of the Museum. The Friends group sponsors fund-raising projects to help further the Museum's valuable contribution to the county, including the project described below. The Friends group has raised over \$270,000 for the museum so far. To learn more about the Friends or to join, visit the museum's webpage (www.lex-co.sc.gov/museum).

Highlighted Artifact from the Museum's Collections

This issue's highlighted artifact is a circa 1870 bench which came from a school for the education of freed slaves and their descendents, established by Judge Lemuel Boozer of Lexington. The school was located on West Main Street in Lexington near Judge Boozer's house, which is still standing at 320 West Main Street.

Although Judge Boozer owned slaves, he was against South Carolina's secession from the Union and became a Republican after the Civil War. The bench features the names of students who have carved their names into the rear. Legible names include Ella and Hattie.

