

Preservation

The Newsletter of the Travelers Rest Historical Society

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SOCIETY DONATES RENFREW DOCUMENTS TO CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

The Travelers Rest Historical Society recently transferred a plethora of records from the Renfrew Mill to Clemson University's special Textile Collection at the Special Collections and Archives of the Clemson University Library. Personnel at the archive will inventory, catalog, and preserve the documents and make them available for viewing and research by not only professional historians but also the general public, including interested Historical Society members.



The Society decided to make this donation because it simply did not have space or expertise to store and properly preserve the treasure trove of information represented by the documents. **Brenda Burke**, Head of Special Collections, met with the Board and explained the process of transferring the materials (and what could be done with them) and how they could be properly stored and made available for research.

The Board later decided to accept the offer and signed the transfer papers, and Clemson received the collection on July 6.

The materials were discovered when **Alex Jones**, Executive Pastor of UpCountry Church in Travelers Rest acquired the former mill office building and ran across the documents in the attic during the clean-up process before the church opened for services. The Society is grateful for their donation of the materials to us, but the documents will receive greater use by

others through the transfer to Clemson.

The Textile Collection was created in connection with Clemson's history of textile engineering and research programs. It is a major repository of textile materials for the entire state of South Carolina. In this Collection, the Renfrew materials will be properly preserved, organized, catalogued, and made available to the public.

Some Renfrew items will still be here in Travelers Rest. Excluded from the donated materials were those currently on exhibit in the Museum, items related to railroad history, and additional sample materials that relate to the mill.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Progress on the Spring Park Inn continues. There is still a lot to do, but paint, carpet, drapes, and much of the original furniture will be in place to tell the story of the house when it was a well-known inn at the turn of the century.

Some of us remember our grandmothers or older neighbors having flowers in the yard to provide cut flowers to use in vases in the house or at church. Thanks to the **Travelers Rest Garden Club** for the raised bed “cutting garden” in progress on the Spring Park grounds.

You can help the Society be visible on the trail this fall by helping at the Society’s display tables at Spring Park during the Browse and Stroll Days on October 15 and November 19. Email travelersresthistoricalsociety@gmail.com, or leave a message at the museum phone number, 864-835-7907 for more information.

Thanks to Society member **Robin “Taffy” Lowrey** and her DAR chapter for September’s display highlighting Constitution Day. And another community resident, **Suze Weitzel** with the Handweavers Guild of America, is planning a spinning and weaving demonstration at the gazebo in front of Spring Park Inn on Sunday afternoon, October 9, from 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.



Membership in the Society is moving to a calendar year basis, so if you join or renew in the last three months of this year (October–December), your membership will include all of next year, 2023, as well! Members will be among those getting a “first look” when the Spring Park Inn restoration is complete, so visit the website any time to join or renew or pick up a membership form at the museum, Saturdays 10:00–1:00 or Sundays 1:00–4:00 p.m.

—Rosemary Bomar, President

MOORE INFORMS SOCIETY ABOUT TEXTILE MILL BANDS

Society members and the general public were entertained and informed on August 16 by **Dr. Michael Moore**’s presentation about Upstate textile mill bands of the late 1890s and early 1900s, the same period during which the Spring Park Inn was enjoying its hey-day.

Dr. Moore, a Greenville native and local college professor, shared photos of various bands from the period and discussed the many uniforms and instruments used by such musicians.

Moore helped found the Greenville Heritage Textile Band in August 2007 as a way to preserve an important part of the cultural history of the Upstate. This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of the founding of the Greenville Heritage Textile Band.



Mark your calendar to join us for the Society's final quarterly meeting of the year on Tuesday, October 18. We will vote for officers for the coming year and hear from representatives of the Upcountry Church and Grace Church about the discovery of the Renfrew documents and from Marco Suarez of Methodical Coffee showing how history continues to be made with new uses for the remaining mill properties. As seen on the signage, these facilities continue to benefit and serve the community through worship spaces, manufacturing, and service industries.

SOCIETY AND SPRING PARK INN FEATURED ON WSPA's "ZIP TRIPS"

The city of Travelers Rest was the focus of TV station WSPA's weekly feature called "Zip Trips" on Friday, July 29. The introductory segment showed anchor Fred Cunningham in front of Spring Park Inn, which is fast becoming the central focus of Travelers Rest activities.

One of the several segments of the program emphasized the Travelers Rest Historical Society, the Museum, and Spring Park Inn, during which reporter Christine Scarpelli interviewed Society President **Rosemary Bomar** and our former intern **Ellie Oliver**. The ladies ably represented the Society.

The Society is grateful for the additional exposure such unsolicited attention brings to both the Travelers Rest area and the Historical Society.

SOCIETY CONTINUES PRESENCE IN FALL BROWSE AND STROLL EVENTS

The Historical Society continues to have a prominent presence during scheduled Browse and Stroll events sponsored by the City of Travelers Rest. Various members of the Society work at a table, disseminating information about the Society, the Museum, and Spring Park Inn.

During a typical Browse and Stroll, numbers of interested strollers and bikers stop at the table to get information and ask questions. They are especially interested in the restoration work on and the future of the Spring Park Inn. Volunteers also take the opportunity to inform them about the Society and to encourage them to become members. Through these events, we hope to gain new, enthusiastic members of the Society.

Browse and Stroll events are scheduled for three Saturdays during the fall: September 17, October 15, and November 19.

The September 17 event coincided with Constitution Day, and Society member Robin "Taffy" Mitchell Lowery of the Behethland Butler Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution joined DAR members at the table. Interested individuals who stopped by on that day received free copies of the U.S. Constitution and other information in addition to the normal information about the Historical Society. Other activities also are planned for the October and November Browse and Stroll events.

If you are a member of the Society and would like to help during one of the Browse and Stroll events, email Rosemary Bomar at travelersresthistoricalsociety@gmail.com for more information.

SOCIETY VOTES ON BYLAWS REVISIONS

In a special meeting of the Historical Society general membership on September 13, members approved proposed revisions to the Society's bylaws. The revisions were designed to reflect the expanded mission of the Society following the acquisition of the Spring Park Inn property, improve the operations of the Board, ensure the existence of a volunteer structure, and address the needs of a growing organization.

Among the most notable of the numerous changes made were a gradual increase in the number of Board members, staggered tenures for officers, and moving to a board committee structure to spread out responsibilities.

The members of the Bylaws Committee are Dot Bishop, Valerie Bishop, Nancy Duncan, and Sandra Kidd.

THANK YOU!

The Society offers a big thank you to all who have made donations to the Society and the Spring Park Inn project or who have joined or recently renewed their membership in the Society. Any gift, large or small, is deeply appreciated and helps further the causes of the Society. All such donations are tax deductible. See the website www.travelersresthistoricalsociety.org for complete information.

WHAT IS IT?



If you've visited the Museum in the last several months, you might have seen the item shown here. Do you know what it is?

Most people who think they can correctly identify the object respond confidently and generally with the same answer: "Oh, of course! That's a butter churn!"

They glance up at the docent with a smile of pride in their knowledge of old-time domesticity.

But they (and you, if that was your guess) are wrong!

So, if it isn't a butter churn, what is it? That's surely what it *looks* like. And after all, it's made up of three

parts: the churn itself, the big container; the plunger, or dasher; and the lid. But it's *not* a churn.

It's a *washing machine*!

The big container is where one would put the water and the clothing (admittedly, not many articles would fit, maybe only socks!). The stick (called a plunger or dasher on a churn) is the agitator, which also contains a compartment at the bottom for the soap. And the lid keeps soapy water from sloshing all over the one who is doing the wash.

Just when you think you've seen it all, something new (old) pops up. Stop by the museum to see this new-fangled washing machine. Who knows? You might even see something else you've never seen before!

STORIES ABOUT SPRING PARK INN WANTED

Do you have a story about the Spring Park Inn that you'd be willing to share with the Historical Society? We are interested in collecting stories about the Inn to share with our guests when the Inn opens to the public. If you have any such stories, please share them with Dot Bishop or Rosemary Bomar or any Board member, preferably in writing or in person, by mail to P.O. Box 412, Travelers Rest, SC 29690, or by email at travelersresthistoricalsociety@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for contributing to the preservation of this important part of Travelers Rest history.

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"Preservation is simply having the good sense to hold on to things that are well designed, that link us with the past in a meaningful way, and that have plenty of good use left in them."

—Richard Moe, National Trust for Historic Preservation