Summer Events were a Success

The Lexington County Museum recently held three great events: our annual Family Day, another edition of our Murders and Mysteries walking tour of West Columbia and another edition of our Murders and Mysteries tour in downtown Lexington.

Around 250 people came out for the 2019 Family Day held on June 24th. Visitors were treated to a blacksmithing demonstration, a wheelwright demonstration, bubble making, quill pen writing, and were able to learn more about 19th century agriculture and weaving. Visitors were also treated to activities related to Mark Catesby, an early 18th century naturalist who visited SC. Visitors enjoyed hot dogs and chips as well. The Museum would like to thank all the volunteers who came out for our Family Day. In fact you may have seen an image from our family day on the cover of the Lexington Chronicle!

Earlier in June, museum staff members led its Murders and Mysteries walking tour of downtown Lexington. Attendees were able to learn about the history of the town while hearing stories about crimes and mysteries that occurred along Lexington’s Main Street. More than 250 people came out despite the warm temperatures.

We had similar success with the West Columbia Murders and Mysteries. Around 250 people came out to hear about some of the weird and gruesome events that happened in West Columbia’s history.

Museum staff members continue to represent the museum and speak to community groups.

Staff members have given presentations to the Lexington Library, the Batesburg-Leesville SCV, the Lexington Shepherds Center, and the Boiling Springs Comm. Center over the past few months. Staff members have also given tours to Youth Leadership Lexington and to a quilt guild.

Staff members will be giving presentations to the Lexington and Batesburg-Leesville Libraries, the Gilbert Senior Center, and Lexington Medical Center.

As always, if you’d like to have a museum staff member speak to your group for free, don’t hesitate to give us a call. We can speak on a variety of topics related to the museum, the county, and its history.
Museum Buildings Get New Roofs

Thanks to donors to the Friends of the Lexington County Museum and the County of Lexington, two of the museum’s historic structures have received new roofs and a third is in the process of having its roof replaced currently. The wood shake roofs of the Daniel Koon House and the Loom Room/Senn Cabin were in dire need of replacement due to age and damage from storms and wind. Furthermore, a severe thunderstorm last year caused a nearby pecan tree to fall on the roof of the Loom Room, punching a small hole in the roof. Earlier this year, both of these roofs were replaced with appropriate cedar shake roofs.

The John Fox House is currently having its roof replaced. Age and the inappropriate installation of flashing were causing the Fox House roof to leak in a few places. Furthermore, water had caused several clapboards on the second floor to rot. The company installing the new roof is also replacing the rotten clapboards. The new roof is the same type (5v crimp metal) as the previous roof and is the same color (although it’s a little brighter due to not having been in the sun for years).

The Lexington County Museum would like to thank the Friends of the Lexington County Museum, the donors to the Friends, and the County of Lexington for making this happen!

Museum to Hold Murders and Mysteries Tour in Irmo

Learn all about the murders, mysteries, duels, and lynchings that occurred in Irmo and the Dutch Fork as we take a leisurely walk through downtown Irmo on the evening of September 6, 2019. The tour begins at 8 pm at the Irmo Town Park. This is a free event. Reservations are not needed. Because of the mature subject matter, we ask that attendees be 18 or over or have parental permission. For more information, contact the museum at 803-359-8369 or email us at museum@lex-co.com.
Summer is here, and despite the heat, the museum has been very busy with tours.

In May, 1,024 visitors came to the museum, including visitors from twelve states other than SC as well as France. June’s numbers were high also. The museum saw 1,117 visitors, including tourists from twenty-two states other than SC and the UK and South Africa.

Although the number of school groups visiting the museum decreases during the summer, the museum saw school groups from Richland, Lexington, Florence, and Orangeburg.
Lexington County Museum staff members have given tours to several important groups this summer. The first tour was given to the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts’ Summer Institute in June. MESDA, located in Winston-Salem, NC, is a leader in studying the furniture, pottery, textiles, etc. of the American South. The professionals and students who were taking the Summer Institute were interested in the change over time of historic structures in Lexington County as well as the museum’s wonderful collection of locally-made historic furniture. They were particularly interested in our painted blanket chest and the museum’s pigeon house. We unfortunately could not show them everything they wanted to see due to a time restraint but we hope they will return in future years.

The next tour was given to the descendants of William Corley. Members of this family were interested in their ancestor Laurance Corley’s house and in the items we have relating to African-American history in Lexington County. Despite a miserably hot day, the family members were able to see most of the museum’s historic structures.

The third tour was given to members of the Threads of Time Quilt Guild. The members that came were delighted and surprised by the number of quilts in our collection and their beauty. They were amazed by the quality and the amount of work that would have been put into making a quilt in the antebellum period. Although they did not see all of our fantastic quilts, they were very interested in returning to see the rest.

If you are interested in bringing a family reunion or other group to the museum, just let us know. Museum staff members would love to show off our historic structures and artifacts.

Members of the Corley Family pose for a photo in front of the ca. 1771 Laurance Corley House at the museum.

Visitor Services Coordinator Patricia Shandor shows off an Irish Chain quilt to members of the Threads of Time Quilt Guild.
Basket Weaving Class to Be Held at Museum

If you’ve been to one of our open houses over the past few years, you’ve probably seen Mary Graham-Grant practicing sweetgrass basket weaving. If you’ve ever wondered how she’s able to make such beautiful creations, now’s your chance to learn as the museum hosts a basket weaving class. This class will teach you the basics of basket weaving and working with natural fibers. The class will be held in the museum’s tour office (Hazelius House) on August 24, 2019 from 10 am to 2 pm. The cost of the class is $60. Attendees must bring scissors. All other materials will be provided. Visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/basket-weaving-class-tickets-67230402945 to register for the class. The class size will be limited so don’t wait to register. To learn more about Mary, visit: https://theweaversnookmgg.webs.com/about-me. If you have any questions about the class, give us a call at 803-359-8369 or email us at museum@lex-co.com.
**Museum Calendar of Events**

**Aug. 24**  
Basket Weaving Class  
10 am to 2 pm  
Lexington County Museum Complex  
231 Fox Street Lexington, SC  
$60 per person  

**Aug. 31 - Sept. 1**  
Labor Day Weekend  
Museum will be closed

**Sept. 6**  
Irmo Murders and Mysteries Tour  
8 pm  
Irmo Town Park  
7330 Carlisle Street Irmo, SC  
Free  
Learn all about the murders, mysteries, duels, and lynchings that occurred in Irmo and the Dutch Fork as we take a leisurely walk through downtown Irmo. The tour begins at 8 pm at the Irmo Town Park. No reservations are needed. Because of the mature subject matter, we ask that attendees be 18 or over or have parental permission.

**Oct. 17 -18**  
Haunted History Halloween Program  
Tours start at 7 pm, 8 pm, and 9 pm  
Lexington County Museum Complex  
231 Fox Street Lexington, SC  
Free admission for members of the Friends of the Museum  
This family-friendly event focuses on some of the spookier aspects of Lexington County history.

Call the museum at 803-359-8369 or email [museum@lex-co.com](mailto:museum@lex-co.com) to find out more about these events.
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. The Friends group has raised over $280,000 for the museum so far. To learn more about the Friends or to join, visit the museum’s webpage (https://lex-co.sc.gov/lexington-county-museum/friends-museum).

Highlighted Artifact from the Museum’s Collections

Our highlighted artifact is a circa 1900 quilt made from mourning clothes worn to the funeral of Jacob Mark Harman (1855-1896). This wonderful and unique quilt was donated by Trudy Steele Bouknight, who inherited it from Essie Harman Steele (1890-1980), Jacob Mark Harman’s daughter. This hand-piece and hand-quilted quilt was probably used by the family to remember and mourn him. The quilt was passed to his daughter Essie who was only six years old at the time of his death. Perhaps the quilt provided her with comfort during her time of grieving.