

Saxe Gotha Dispatch

Museum To Host Annual Haunted History Program

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The Lexington County Museum will host the seventeenth Annual Haunted History Halloween program at 231 Fox Street in Lexington this year.

As ghoulish guides lead guests on a spooky but not too scary journey of the museum property, visitors will hear ghostly stories, including strange and unusual events in Lexington County's colonial and antebellum history.

Guests will hear amazing stories and meet memorable specters along the way. Visitors will also learn about some of the superstitions held by Lexington County residents. Watch out for



frights and surprises around every corner!

Tours will last around forty-five minutes each and will take place on the evenings of Thursday October 24 and Friday October 25 at 7:00, 8:00, and 9:00 pm. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12.

Members get in free with a membership card. This event

frequently fills up so reservations are required. To make a reservation, call the Lexington County Museum at 803-359-8369 or email the museum at jfennell@lexingtoncounty.sc.gov. This event is a great way to learn about Lexington history and is educational, family-friendly and, most importantly, fun!

Museum Past and Upcoming Outreach Efforts

Museum staff members continue to speak to community groups about the museum and county history. Over the past few months, museum employees have spoken to Laurel Crest Retirement Home, the Lexington Main Library, Pinpoint Community, Gilbert-

Summit Library, the Oconee County Library and others.

In the future, museum staff will speak to the Lexington County Main Library, Laurel Crest Retirement Home, and the South Lake Village.

If you'd like to have a museum staff member speak to your group either virtually or in-

person, 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. Some of the most popular topics include the quilts and other artifacts from the Dutch Fork, Lexington County-made rifles, and the history of alcohol in Lexington County.

Volunteers from Vivid Church Help Repaint Museum's Fence

Despite the summer heat, volunteers from Vivid Church in Lexington came out a couple months ago to help us get a new coat of paint on the picket fence that separates the parking lot on Fox Street from grounds in front of the tour office. The fence was in desperate need of repainting due to weather and the fact that the area is shady. We really appreciated the help and can't think the volunteers enough! Thanks also to Matt Koeln for the great images!



Museum Hosts Author for Talk on SC Dispensary System and Irmo Murders and Mysteries Tour

The museum hosted author Michael Lewis at the museum on Tuesday July 9th for a presentation on the South Carolina Dispensary and the coming of prohibition in the South. The SC Dispensary was a state run entity that was the sole source of legal liquor and beer in SC in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It was created as a way of preventing total prohibition and of adding more revenue to state government but eventually failed. Dr. Lewis, a professor of sociology at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia, discussed its creation and specifically looked at the Dispensary in North Augusta. Around 16 people came out to learn more about this interesting topic. If you missed this presentation, you can learn more in Dr. Lewis' book *The Coming of Southern Prohibition*.

The museum also hosted its Irmo Murders and Mysteries walking tour at the Irmo Town Park on September 13th. More than 120 people showed up to learn about the history of Irmo and the Dutch Fork and hear about some of the spooky and weird stories from Irmo's history. Visitors walked from the Irmo Town Park to the Mathias Lown House (now Irmo's Town Hall) and also learned about some of the historic structures that still exist in the surrounding area. If you missed this tour, be sure to check our Facebook page, Instagram, or website for more info on when the next one will take place. We hope to have a date soon.

Museum's Visitor Service Coordinator Gets 10 Year Award

The museum's visitor services coordinator, Patricia Shandor, received her 10 year service award from the County of Lexington at the County's employee banquet in June. Patricia replaced Bonnie Hix in 2013 and has done a wonderful job. Besides managing the part-time staff and scheduling programs, she has worked with the part-time staff to revamp the current educational programs. She also works as our collections manager and has almost completed digitizing the museum's artifact records. This will make keeping track of the location so artifacts and their condition much, much easier. Thanks so much for your continued service Trish!



Museum Visitation in July and August 2024

Visitation from tourists and locals remained high during the summer months despite the heat.

In July, 375 visitors came to the museum, including visitors from nine states other than SC as well as Germany. In August, the museum saw 365 visitors,

including tourists from ten states other than SC as well as Canada.

The number of school groups visiting the museum was low however we had various public and private groups from Richland and Lexington

Counties come out for field trips.

Museum to Host Lexington Murders and Mysteries Tour

The Lexington County Museum will offer its free "Murders and Mysteries" walking tour of downtown Lexington on October 11 starting at 8 pm. This tour is a great way to learn about the history of the town and hear some very interesting stories along the way. Attendees will learn about some of the murders, trials, and other crimes that occurred on Lexington's Main Street in the 19th and early 20th centuries. This free tour will begin at the town's Icehouse Amphitheater and will last about an hour. Attendees will follow a guide between Church Street and South Lake Drive. Because of the mature subject matter, attendees must be 18 or over or have parental permission. This event is offered at no cost and no reservations are needed. For more information or questions, please call the museum at 803-359-8369 or email us at museum@lex-co.com.



Museum Participated in Juneteenth Celebrations and Ag and Art Tour

The Lexington County Museum had tables at both the Irmo and Lexington Juneteenth celebrations. The museum was able to talk to attendees about the museum, its historic structures, and the work that PT Historical Interpreter Paul Stoetzel is doing with creating a database of every enslaved person named in the papers of John Fox as well as legal documents available to the public.

The museum also participated in this year's Ag and Art Tour over Father's Day weekend. The Ag and Art Tour is a free, self-guided tour of farms and markets featuring local artisans at every stop. During the weekend, 69 people came out to the museum as part of the tour. The museum gave free tours focused on agriculture and allowed visitors to try their hand at indigo dyeing.

Summer Event Photos





Museum Calendar of Events

- October 11 “Murders and Mysteries” Lexington Walking Tour
8 pm
Tour begins at the Icehouse Amphitheater
107 West Main Street Lexington, SC
Free to the public
Attendees will learn about some of the spookier and more gruesome aspects of Lexington’s history as we will discuss murders, crimes, and mysteries that occurred on or near Main Street. Because of the mature subject matter, we ask that attendees be 18 or over or have parental permission.
- Oct. 24 -25 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.
- Nov. 9-11 Veterans Day Weekend
Museum will be closed
- Dec. 8 Lexington County Museum Christmas Open House
Christmas Open House
1 pm to 4 pm
Free to the Public
Lexington County Museum Complex
Many of the museum’s historic structures will be decorated in period fashion. A cooking demonstration will also take place.

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

Lexington County Museum

231 Fox Street
Lexington, SC 29072

Phone 803-359-8369
Fax 803-808-2160
E-mail museum@lex-co.com

A Story Behind Every Door



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 \$290,000 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

This issue's highlighted artifact is a mid-nineteenth century demi-lune table probably made in the Dutch Fork. These tables were quite common in Lexington County and the Dutch Fork. This one was acquired in 2007.



We're on the Web!

<https://lex-co.sc.gov/lexington-county-museum> and
www.lexingtoncountymuseum.org