

Beaufort County Historical Society

2020-2021 Annual Report

May 2021

The pandemic has made this a most unusual year, yet during this time we have striven to find new ways to keep BCHS moving forward. Since the creation of our webpage in 2019, our organization has had more visibility. Because of this we could continue to offer events and programs we could not have otherwise during COVID-19.

To raise awareness of the rich history of Beaufort County, Leah Roche, one of our Board members, this past spring introduced the **"The Marker Mania Challenge"** on our webpage. More than 250 visitors and community members visited the many historical markers in our community, answered a question about the information on the markers, and submitted their completed tally sheet to win a prize. This was the perfect social distancing activity outdoors to relieve the pandemic stress.

The in-person lectures we offer four to five times a year in conjunction with the Beaufort County Library's District Collection would have had to be cancelled had it not been for the ingenuity of Nancy Gilley, our Vice President, and Grace Cordial, Manager of the District Collection. Our last in-person lecture, **"Kate Gleason, Libby Rowland and Beaufort in the 1920s"** presented by Dr. Larry Rowland was given at the St. Helena branch of Beaufort County Library on March 12 just days before the COVID-19 *First Day Stay at Home Directive*. Nancy and Grace then got busy finding an alternative method of continuing to provide our lectures to members and the public. They, together with Maria Benac with her staff at St. Helena library, spent hours filming and editing lectures. Because of their efforts BCHS was able to present **"Women in Reconstruction: The Lives of Susie King Taylor, Charlotte Forten, and Laura Towne"** given by Suzie Parker Devoe; **The Birth and Death of Reconstruction in South Carolina, 1861-1877"** presented by Dr. Brent Morris; and **"The Hidden Senator: The Untold Story of Senator Niels Christensen"** by Anne Christensen Pollitzer. Each could be enjoyed on our website and Beaufort County Library's website for not just one day each but weeks. Consequently, more people have viewed these lectures than we could have ever fit in one room.

The Beaufort historical marker was moved from Boundary Street to Freedom Mall in downtown Beaufort and rededicated on October 4, 2020. A finished marker commemorating the Blue Channel Corporation will be dedicated in the next few months. As of the date of this writing, markers memorializing the P.O.W. Camp located in Pigeon Point and the Carnegie Library are almost ready to be shipped from the foundry. A marker devoted to "The Great Fire of Beaufort" is currently being researched by Linda Hoffman, our Research Secretary, and future markers are under consideration by the Board.

COVID-19 has not quelled our enthusiasm this past year to continue to bring the history of Beaufort to the forefront. We have just had to adjust our strategies. No matter what the future holds, we will continue to bring the vibrant history Beaufort has to offer to our members and the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian M. Haist

President 2019-2021

BCHS