

The Newsletter of the  
Friends of the  
Camden Archives and Museum  
1314 Broad Street  
Camden, SC 29020



*Preserving the past for the future*

Volume 13 - Number 2

December 2012

## KershawHealth Centennial: The Baruch Connection

*(Editor's note: The Camden Archives and Museum is participating in KershawHealth's Centennial Celebration during 2013.*

*A related exhibit entitled "A Century of Caring" opens on April 25. See the Calendar of Events for details.)*

**BY KATHERINE H. RICHARDSON**  
Camden Archives Deputy Director

In 1947, when he was 77, Bernard M. Baruch said, "South Carolina is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh and although I have lived in New York more than 50 years, the core of my heart remains in South Carolina."

He was born in Camden on Aug. 19, 1870, to Dr. Simon and Belle Wolfe Baruch. Their home stood on the corner of Broad and Walnut streets, up the hill from the main business district near what was historically called Log Town.

That part of town had remained undeveloped for many years after the town plan was drawn by Col. Joseph Kershaw, but there was enough space for the Baruchs to have three acres surrounding the house. Bernard's father called it his "farm" and raised much of what the family needed.

Bernard wrote, "Father was a man worth looking at – six feet tall, erect, military, with a dark beard and mild, unwavering blue eyes. His dress was rather formal. Yet he had a kindly manner, and a soft voice which had no trace of accent to suggest his foreign birth."



**An old postcard depicts the first Camden Hospital which opened in 1913 and stood on Fair Street.**

### Medical Career Launched

Simon Baruch was born to Jewish parents in the village of Schwersenz, Germany on July 29, 1840. He came to America in 1855 to avoid conscription into the Prussian army and sought out another Schwersenz native in Camden, Mannes Baum.

Baum, a Camden merchant, became Simon's mentor and sponsor. Simon worked in his store as a bookkeeper and taught himself English by reading American history with a translating dictionary. Baum and his wife, Eva, sent Simon to study at the South Carolina Medical College in Charleston, and later at the Medical College of Virginia.

In 1862, at age 22, he graduated from medical school and joined the Confederate army as an assistant surgeon. Bernard wrote that his father had never even lanced a boil!

The war soon put an end to that innocence; he was fully engaged in surgery of the most horrific

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## Camden Archives Calendar of Events

Now through December 31 -- Exhibit: "Camden's Baseball Hall of Famer: Larry Doby." In the Whiteley Room. Free and open to the public.

January 8 through March 29, 2013 – Exhibit: "Portrait of Camden." Portraits in the Archives and Museum Collection. In the Whiteley Room. Free and open to the public.

April 24, 2013, 6 – 8 p.m. Gala Exhibit Opening for the Kershaw Health Centennial Celebration. \$75 per person. For information, contact the Kershaw Health Foundation at 803-272-0552.

April 25 through August 31, 2013 – Exhibit: "A Century of Caring: Kershaw Health." Celebrating the first century of Kershaw Health's history. In the Friend's Gallery and the Whiteley Room. Free and open to the public.

September 6 through December 20, 2013 – Exhibit: "Camden in the Civil War: The Home Front." The Camden Archives and Museum's offering during the nation's celebration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, 2011 – 2015. In the Whiteley Room. Free and open to the public.

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Drawing of Camden Archives and Museum by  
Camden architect Henry D. Boykin

**Photographs** courtesy of Camden  
Archives and Museum  
Katherine H. Richardson

Friends of the Camden Archives and Museum is a membership organization concerned with supporting programs, protecting a continually growing collection, and expanding the facility. The purpose of the Archives and Museum is to collect, organize, preserve, and make items of historical interest related to Camden and the surrounding areas available to the public.

The Camden Archives and Museum newsletter is published twice a year.

**Editor**

Ed Garrison

**Writers this issue**

Katherine H. Richardson  
Sarah Murray  
Lon D. Outen

**Consulting**

Mary Ann Blaskowitz

Story ideas, suggestions, and comments are welcomed and encouraged.

**Camden Archives and Museum**  
1314 Broad Street  
Camden, SC 29020  
(803) 425-6050  
[www.camdenarchives.org](http://www.camdenarchives.org)

**Museum Hours**

Monday-Friday 8 am - 5 pm  
Saturdays 10 am - 4 pm  
First Sunday of each month 1 - 5 pm

Free admission

## From the Chairman

Dear Friends of the Archives:

It's a real privilege to bring you greetings from the Friends of the Archives.

By joining the Friends you are giving the Archives staff the ability to react to new opportunities, broaden their scope and plan proactively for the future.

We can't sit still. Great opportunities are before us and our ability to lend our financial support is key. We're part of a three-legged stool as I see it. We have a great facility. We have a great staff. We have the support of forward thinking individuals who want to assure that the mission and goals of the Archives are exceeded.

I sincerely hope that you will renew your membership for 2013.

Thank you and best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

**Stephen Van Horn**  
Chairman  
Friends of the Archives

## From the Archives



**Peggy Brakefield (center) retired from the Archives in August after serving nine years as a researcher who often helped genealogists uncover their family histories.**

### Brakefield retires from Archives staff

Peggy Brakefield, a long-time Camden Archives employee, retired on Aug. 29. After just over nine years of service, Brakefield decided it was time to enjoy spending time with friends and family, and she will be sorely missed.

Brakefield began her employment at the Archives in June 2003 after having worked at the Kershaw County Medical Center and in the hospital's Home Health department.

At the Archives, she was an excellent researcher and helped countless genealogists uncover their family histories, both in person and by mail. She also helped catalog and describe the Archives collections, making those materials accessible to researchers as well.

Brakefield's knowledge and helpfulness will be missed, as will her cheerful attitude and quick smile. We all wish her good luck and lots of happiness in her retirement.

## Doby stamp ceremony a great day at Archives

The morning of July 25 saw busy city employees and U.S. Postal Service employees setting up for the big event of the summer – the official unveiling in South Carolina of the forever stamp for Camden’s native Hall of Fame baseball player Larry Doby.

Quite a party was thrown in honor of Doby. First was a short ceremony with former New York Yankee Bobby Richardson as the keynote speaker.

Then came the first peek at the Doby forever stamp as the cover was lifted off a large print, which was presented to the Archives and Museum.

Doby’s daughter, Kimberly, and Richardson had the honor of doing the unveiling before a crowd of about 200 people. First day cancellations and stamps were sold



*Kimberly Doby, daughter of Camden native and Hall of Fame baseball player Larry Doby, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen and Camden city councilman Walter Long, pose for a photo in front of a print of the Doby commemorative stamp at the unveiling ceremony on July 25.*

## New book focuses on history of Lynches Forks area

A new book on the history of the Kershaw, Chesterfield, Lancaster, Lee and Darlington counties area of Lynches River has been published by Lon D. Outen of the Archives staff.

Entitled “A History of Lynches Fork and Extended Areas on Big and Little Lynches Rivers South Carolina”, the book should be of interest to Native American, American Revolutionary and War Between the States historians as well as genealogists and enthusiasts of gold mining and railroading and ghost buffs.

The Lynches Forks is the land between the confluence of Big Lynches Creek/River and Little Lynches Creek/River in Kershaw County.

The book includes historical places such as Kelly’s Bridge, Tillers Ferry, McBee (McKay), Bethune (Lynchwood), Kershaw (Welsh’s Station), Jefferson (Millersville), the Hanging Rock area, the Flat Creek area, the Haile Gold Mine and the Brewer Gold Mine.

It describes the history of the gold mines in Lancaster, Chesterfield, and Kershaw counties from discovery to their demise. Navigation on Big Lynches is discussed as it impacted Kershaw, Chesterfield, and Darlington counties from the uses of barges, rafts, boats, and steamboat hulls.

The book begins with unusual land and rock formations, bays, and caves. It includes the period of ancient Americans to the Native Americans and early explorers. In the Colonial period religion, taverns, mills, meeting houses and churches are discussed. The Revolutionary War discusses the area known for Patriot support and Tory accounts terrorizing local families on Big Lynches, along with skirmishes and the Battle of Hanging Rock.

Settlers brought with them their religions and established meeting houses. Churches began to appear in the late 18th Century. Some of the earlier churches include Hanging Rock Presbyterian (1790), Hanging Rock Methodist (1794), Flat Creek Church (1776), and Gum Branch Church (1770).

by the postal service afterward as people viewed the Doby exhibit in the Whiteley Room and enjoyed a “ball park reception” on the grounds of the Archives.

The Camden Fire Department grilled the hot dogs and served small Coca Colas, popcorn and peanuts. A grand time was had by all.

We are immensely proud of our hometown athlete who became the first African-American in the American League and the second overall in the major leagues, following Jackie Robinson by only 11 weeks. The Doby exhibit will remain in the Whiteley Room until Dec 31.

The Antebellum period includes plantations in and near the Forks area and identification of families living in the area. Lynches Fork rice plantations were found on both Big and Little Lynches. Sherman’s army came through the Forks area, affecting the Tillers Ferry area, Kelly’s Bridge area and Young’s Bridge area. Union troops caused devastation in these areas and some accounts from families are included.

A brief description of the Reconstruction period and a section on nearby communities are included. The formation of the railroads including the Three C’s, C. M. & C., and SAL including mining and logging railroads in the area are listed. Discussed are the timber, turpentine, logging, and lumber businesses from Colonial times to the early 1900’s. Large sawmill operations, rock quarries, cotton gins, grist, flour, and corn mills are also listed.

Sharecropping and tenant farming was large in and near the Forks area until the building of the cotton mills.

A listing of bridges, branches, creeks, road, fords, ferries, muster grounds, churches (pre-1900), post offices, houses (pre-1900), schools, doctors and dentists, leaders and officials, faith healers, treasure and ghost stories, and some cemeteries are included in this book.

There is also a section devoted to the Sistare Family, a family of ship captains, whalers, merchants, and their role in the import and export business. Discussed is their migration to South Carolina from Connecticut and Barcelona, Spain.

**Books are \$35 each and can be purchased at:**

Camden Archives & Museum, 1314 Broad St., Camden

Books on Broad, 944 Broad St., Camden

Dusty Horseman, 1041 Broad St., Camden

Lon D. Outen, 4110 Coats Road, Kershaw, SC 29067

## Baruch Connection –

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kind. In 1864, he was promoted to surgeon and returned home after the war to become a country practitioner.

Bernard's childhood seems idyllic though he was in the midst of post-war South Carolina during the Reconstruction period. He wrote, "I cannot recall that our family ever suffered real economic adversity. We lived in a large, comfortable house and had about as much of material things as our neighbors."

Bernard was one of the "uptown boys," as opposed to the "downtowners." That hill rising up from DeKalb Street denoted another society in Camden from residents in the lower part of town. Bernard remembers the most striking distinction between all of the town boys who ran barefoot through the streets and countryside was the uptown boys had to wash their feet every night, while those in the lower part of town seldom washed theirs!

His years in Camden ended in 1880 when the Baruchs moved to New York City, shortly after the Cash-Shannon duel, which Simon tried to prevent. The shock wave of this event led Simon to head north,

where he would be surrounded with physicians studying solutions for problems in the field of medicine.

In New York, Simon made a name for himself with his innovations in medicine. His major accomplishments came in hydrotherapy which addressed a variety of ills. Simon pushed the governments of the northeast to establish public baths in an era of widespread unsanitary living conditions for the working poor and poverty stricken unemployed.

One promising application of hydrotherapy was for tuberculosis patients. Simon promoted fresh air and cleanliness for the sick in an era before those were recognized as necessities for health.

Another of his accomplishments was being the first surgeon to recommend and arrange for an appendectomy for septic, critically ill patients. Simon died in 1921 at the age of 81.

### Jewish Heritage

The Baruchs were Jewish and proud of their heritage. In Camden they were part of a relatively large Jewish population, which included integral members of Camden society. They received absolute respect from their neighbors. Camden was a very accepting community; none more so than after the Civil War when they began to welcome northern visitors.

In New York they encountered prejudice against Jews. Standing off with a taunting New York boy calling them "sheenies," Hartwood, his brother, beat the boy so badly in fisticuffs, armed with a wagon spoke, that they were never called "sheenies" again in their neighborhood. But, this incident of prejudice left an impression on Bernard that he carried throughout his lifetime.

### Vision for a Camden Hospital

This encounter with prejudice and the full realization of the service his father performed for the African-Americans of Camden shaped his vision of the Camden Hospital.

The Emancipation Act of 1863 and the end of the Civil War released white southerners from the responsibility of providing health care for blacks. Dr. Simon Baruch treated the freedmen but received little recompense for his services to them.

Simon's biographer wrote, "The freedmen's inability to pay for his own medical care was more than an immediate hardship for doctors." Often blacks were not given timely or effective medical treatment due to their economic situation. His biographer continued, "Baruch saw in this threat to the welfare of blacks a threat to the South itself ... In his opinion, South Carolina could ill afford to neglect the health of its blacks when many were already leaving the state, victims of 'Florida Fever'. He did not think the whites alone could provide for themselves."

So Simon labored to care for the black freedmen seeking his help. Bernard wrote of Camden, "How high the community's regard for my Father was brought home to me rather vividly when I returned to Camden around 1913, more than thirty years after we had left. A Negro driver was taking me from the railroad station. As we passed the house in which we had lived, the Negro remarked, 'A doctor used to live there. The Yankees paid him all kinds of money to come North. After he left, the people around here died like flies'."

Bernard's mother also had compassion for the plight of the blacks. In 1957, Bernard wrote, "One reason I established a second home in the South was that my mother had asked me not to lose touch with the land of my forebears. She also urged me to try to contribute to its regeneration and, in particular, to 'do something for the Negro'."

And here is his statement about his support for the original Camden Hospital. "When the town of Camden asked me to contribute to the erection of a local hospital, I laid down one condition for my support – that a specific number of beds be reserved for colored patients."

The Camden Hospital developed during a significant era in the nature of health care in the United States. Prior to the Civil War, hospitals

## Coming March 29<sup>th</sup>



A ceremony at the Camden Archives March 29 will unveil the statues of Bernard Baruch and Larry Doby that will be placed on the Camden Archives grounds at the corner of Broad Street and Laurens Court. The statues are a gift of donor John Rainey who commissioned artist Maria Kirby-Smith to create the figures. A rubber and plastic mold of the Larry Doby full scale clay model has been sent to the foundry for casting the statue in bronze. Bernard Baruch's mold, pictured above, was sent to the foundry after Thanksgiving. Plans for the unveiling ceremony are still being finalized, and details will be provided to the media as the March 29 unveiling date approaches.

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## Baruch Connection –

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were considered a place for the poor and indigent to receive treatment and wealthier people received private treatment at home.

Drs. McKain and Shannon opened the first “hospital” in Camden in 1848. It was an infirmary for the “chronically ill” which charged patients 60 cents per day – surgery was extra! Later, in 1901, Dr. John Corbett opened an infirmary, later called the first “hospital,” in the little house still standing at 310 Laurens St., next to his residence.

In 1911 the idea of a hospital for Camden began. First, John Burdell left a provision in his will for “The John Burdell Hospital Fund for the Alleviation of Suffering Humanity.” The 1,000 acres of farmland he left in West Wateree was to generate monies for this fund. In response, the ladies of Camden founded the “Women’s Auxiliary to the Board of Managers of the Jno. Burdell Hospital Fund.” Then Mrs. Douglas Boykin issued a call in the Camden newspaper urging both men and women to raise money for a “Memorial Hospital.”

### **The Mission Takes Off**

Independently of these local movements, the Baruch family came quietly back to South Carolina with a mission – and their mission was immediately caught up in a flurry of newspaper articles.

On May 3, 1911, *The State* newspaper ran an article entitled “Memorial Hospital Offered to the State.” The article stated, “Dr. Herman B. Baruch [Bernard’s brother] of New York City is investigating desirable points in this State with a view of placing such a hospital at the most desirable point. This charitable hospital will be a memorial to his late father and mother, formerly residents of Georgetown.”

In all the excitement, *The State* got confused! Dr. Simon Baruch was alive and the Baruchs lived in Camden, not Georgetown

The next day, *The Georgetown Times* reported, “The State says that Columbia will probably have an opportunity to secure a charity hospital costing about \$1,000,000, the erection of which, it is understood, is contemplated by a former South Carolinian, now one of the wealthiest physicians of New York City. The report is that Dr. Herman B. Baruch, brother to the esteemed financier Bernard Baruch of New York City is investigating desirable points in this state with a view of placing a hospital ...”

On May 5, *The Camden Chronicle* reacted with an article on the “Baruch Memorial Hospital.” It stated, “If Camden is to get the Baruch Memorial Hospital it will have to hustle. Columbia has gotten real busy in the matter ...”

Between May 11, 1911 and Feb. 24, 1912, the ladies of Camden worked furiously to raise money. A phone call came in the middle of their Auxiliary meeting on Feb. 24 that Bernard Baruch intended to build the hospital they had been working so hard for. Apparently the orderly, solemn meeting counting their pennies went wild. “... the meeting, which a moment before had been proceeding with due decorum and subdued enthusiasm, became a hysterical mob of excited women, and all business was over for that evening ...”

Then, in a letter to W. R. Eve, secretary of the Camden Chamber of Commerce dated Feb. 26, 1912, Bernard pledged \$20,000 for the hospital. Apparently, behind the scenes, Eve had been working hard in a different vein from the ladies – he had been in correspondence with Bernard Baruch for “some time” regarding the placement of the Baruch Memorial Hospital here in Camden.

Around the same time, Mrs. A. C. Ancrum received a letter from Bernard’s father that he would donate a lot near the old court house worth \$2,000 to the Ladies Auxiliary. The planets lined up for Camden and a new modern hospital.

### **Camden Hospital is Born**

On Dec. 1, 1913, the Camden Hospital opened to the public. Dr. Simon Baruch was in Camden to inspect the building which had been

given in his honor. Designed by architect J. B. Urquhart and constructed by Richland Construction Company with W. S. Peden as foreman, the new hospital was resplendent for the opening festivities. The building was opened, lights blazing, at half past seven on May 1, 1913. Tours of the new facility and addresses by dignitaries took place throughout the evening.

Through the front door of the hospital visitors encountered a reception room and superintendent’s office on the right and a doctors’ clinic and a proposed dispensary on the left. The wards at the rear were reserved for the charity patients, one wing for African-Americans and one wing for whites, with 13 beds in each.

The second floor rooms contained 22 beds reserved for paying patients, 30 when there were emergencies. In the basement were the steam furnace, laundry and kitchen. The Ladies Auxiliary furnished the linens for the hospital, with special mention made of the “good colored women” of the county who “had a big hand in furnishing many of the articles of the linen ... they worked in a quiet way in furnishing many things which will be useful for many years to come.”

At the end of the fund-raising campaign to obtain a hospital for Camden, it was solely Bernard who was credited with the deal-making donation. Other than Herman introducing the idea that a Baruch hospital was a possibility to South Carolina, we do not know the exact involvement of the rest of the family in this philanthropic mission.

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# HELP US MAKE HISTORY.



Since 1913, the lives of Kershaw County residents and their community hospital have been uniquely linked. So we're not just inviting you to celebrate KershawHealth's centennial story, we're asking you to help tell it.

In preparation for this spring's week-long celebration, we want to hear from anyone with historical photographs, stories or artifacts relating to the hospital. Your memories could be featured in the Camden Archives and Museum's Centennial Exhibit.

To share, call **Katherine Richardson** at **803-425-6050** or email her at [krichardson@camdensc.org](mailto:krichardson@camdensc.org). Then join us in April as we build a legacy of caring for the next century.



**KershawHealth** CENTENNIAL 1913  
2013

**KershawHealth100.ORG**

## More Baruch –

*Continued from page 5*

In his presentation before the opening audience, Dr. Simon Baruch praised his son. “The laudatory words ... spoken of my dear boy whose privilege it has been to build this token of love to his native town would have impelled his shrinking nature to contemplate escape if he had been present tonight, so fearful is he of hearing his good deeds publicly commended. I have often rebuked him tenderly for this painful modesty, for I hold that the beneficence of a good deed is diminished by its being held secret.”

Simon went on to say, “When your energetic Board of Trade wrote to my son of the projected hospital, he asked my advice, and I unhesitatingly urged him to build it. I made only one personal request, namely that this hospital should be unique in one respect, in that a part of it shall be devoted to out-door treatment – a dispensary, not the kind that has become odious in these parts, but a place where the toilers of the town and vicinity may come freely and without restraint to seek relief for their so-called minor ailments, which are often more serious than the more dreaded diseases.”

Simon did not want the word charity to overshadow the true purpose of the hospital. He stated that it should “dispense its benefactions as tokens of brotherly love, and not as an act of charity to those whom fate has not favored.”

### **Baruch Support Endures**

Bernard’s care and support for the Camden Hospital did not end with this opening event. It lasted through his lifetime.

As the rebuilding of the hospital proceeded after the fire of 1921, Baruch and Corbett conversed through the mail. Baruch’s concern and

practicality played out in each conversation. In January 1922, he all but scolded Dr. Corbett, who was overseeing the construction and decisions involved in the rebuilding.

In May 1922, Bernard wrote, “Although I could have given all the money, I thought it was better to have others interest themselves in the building and maintenance of the hospital because that increases the general interest in it. We really do not appreciate things unless we have to work hard for them ...”

During the controversial years when building a third hospital at a new site was debated in the community, Bernard was still following the progress of the institution. He mentioned Camden’s proximity to Columbia’s large hospitals and cautioned in a 1954 letter to Mayor Henry Savage, “It will be impossible to have a hospital that will cover all the specialties. It might be well to study very carefully what position the town will find itself in and whether it will be able to support such a venture.”

Baruch made a fortune on Wall Street but knew all too well that money was not the most important thing in life. He owed that knowledge to his father and mother.

He wrote of the time that he told his father he was worth a million dollars: “His kindly face assumed a quizzical expression, as if he experienced some difficulty in grasping the fact of a million dollars ... Perhaps I should not have expected any other reaction. Father had always regarded making money as of secondary importance compared to moral values and one’s usefulness to the community ... Of what use to a man are a million dollars unless he does something worthwhile with

## Archives starts dress pattern series from collection

You may not be aware the Archives and Museum has a small but impressive textile collection down in collections storage. It has recently been processed and re-boxed in acid-free housing.

One of the exceptional pieces in that collection is a beautiful mauve and dark purple jacquard silk dress which dates to about 1858. We know its approximate date because of the style of the dress, but more particularly because of its color. Mauve fabric dye was not invented until 1856.

In that year William Perkins accidentally discovered aniline dye while actually trying to produce synthetic quinine. Mauve was a color impossible to achieve before his chemistry “accident.” Later other vivid purples and blues were developed and these colors revolutionized clothing.



The dress carries its own mystery, having been attributed to Anna Coslin Redmile. Yet, the dates given for Anna Redmile state she was born in 1860 and that the dress dates to 1880. Redmile would have been wearing a sorely outdated dress if she actually made this around 1880. More likely it belonged to someone in her mother’s generation. The staff is still researching the Redmile family and the dress.

Meanwhile, Mackenzie Anderson Sholtz is drafting a museum quality reproduction pattern from the Redmile Dress. The final product will be a pattern sized from women’s 8 to 28 which will be marketed by Dancing Leaf Designs.

Re-enactors and museum living history professionals seek out the patterns from Mackenzie’s company, which has drafted and produced patterns for the Atlanta History Center, the South Carolina State Museum, and the Sumter County Museum. With this dress pattern we start the Camden Archives and Museum Pattern Series with Dancing Leaf Designs!



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*This newsletter and other activities in support of the Archives and Museum are made possible by the generous contributions of the following people and organizations:*

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