

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 1

June 2012

Larry Doby biographer speaks here July 8 to highlight local exhibit

By Katherine H. Richardson

Camden Archives Deputy Director

Dr. Joseph Thomas Moore, biographer of Camden native Larry Doby, will present a public program on the Major League Baseball Hall of Famer's life on Sunday, July 8, from 3 to 4 p.m. at the Robert Mills Courthouse.

Presented by the Camden Archives and Museum with support from the Friends of the Archives and Museum, Moore's appearance coincides with an exhibit on Doby at the Archives and with the U.S. Postal Service's release of a commemorative stamp for Larry Doby on July 20.

Moore is the author of "Pride Against Prejudice", which has been recently updated and published as "Larry Doby: The Struggle of the American League's First Black Player." The first edition of the biography won the Carter G. Woodson Award for Excellence and has been named one of the 10 best sports biographies ever written. It became the basis for a 90-minute film of the same title broadcast many times on cable's Showtime network since 2007.

The updated version of Moore's book came out in January 2012. Copies of the new book will be for sale, and a book signing will follow his program on July 8.

Moore is Professor Emeritus at Montclair State University in New Jersey, where for 39 years he taught both graduate and undergraduate students United States history and directed a program of study preparing history teachers for public schools. He is the recipient of the university's first Distinguished Teacher Award. Author of four books and a contributor to a fifth, Moore has written articles on topics ranging from sports to war.

His biography of Doby brings together his lifelong interest in baseball and in the history of Black Americans. Moore lives in Ridgewood, N.J. with his wife and dozens of pictures of children and grandchildren.

Moore's program is free and open to the public. Come celebrate the life and career of Larry Doby, our hometown baseball Hall-of-Famer!



Camden native and baseball Hall of Famer Larry Doby will be the focus of an exhibit that will open in July at the Camden Archives. The exhibit and special July 8 program are sponsored by the Camden Archives and are open and free to the public. For more information on Doby, see pages 4 and 5.

Camden Archives Calendar of Events

Now through June 22 -- Exhibit: "Cultivating Camden Style: Camden's Grand Gardens." In the Whiteley Room. Free and open to the public.

June 14, 3 - 4 p.m. -- Gardening program: Howard Wallace from Wavering Place Nursery and Gardens speaking on "Wavering Place Nursery and Gardens: Using and Cultivating Native Plants in Your Landscape." In the Whiteley Room. Free and open to the public.

June 21, 3 - 4 p.m. -- Gardening program: Katherine H. Richardson from the Camden Archives and Museum speaking on "Camden's

Native Son: Inman F. "Cap" Eldredge: Pioneering American For-ester." In the Whiteley Room. Free and open to the public.

July 2 - December 31 -- Exhibit: "Camden's Baseball Hall-of-Famer: Larry Doby." In the Whiteley Room. Free and open to the public.

July 8, 3 - 4 p.m. -- Visiting scholar and author Dr. Joseph T. Moore speaking on "Larry Doby: Camden's Baseball Hall-of-Famer." At the Robert Mills Courthouse, 607 Broad Street, Camden. Lecture and book signing. 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.

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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

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 is a pleasure to update you on the great things the Archives is doing. Your interest and financial help continue to raise things to what I call the "next level."

Take a look at the upcoming events on our page 1 calendar. I hope you'll have a chance to attend the Larry Doby presentation on July 8th. Dr. Moore is Mr. Doby's biographer. Read details about Mr. Doby's life on pages 4 and 5.

See what a professional job our new Deputy Director, Katherine Richardson, is doing in terms of the ongoing need for long term preservation of our treasures and heritage. Read about the staff efforts in these areas on page 3.

In other news, we've further strengthened your Board of Directors with the addition of Ed Garrison. Ed brings a terrific set of skills which will further our efforts.

Lastly, thank you all for your financial help. Please take a moment now to renew your membership for 2012 if you have not already. Your donation is tax deductible. Thank you for your continued support!

Stephen VanHorn
Chairman
Friends of the Archives

From the Director

A number of exciting exhibits and programs are being planned by the Archives. In conjunction with our current exhibit on Camden's historic gardens, our garden lecture series continues. We encourage you to visit the Archives and see all the upcoming exhibits and programs described in this newsletter.

We recently hosted a meeting of the Hobkirk Hill Society. The program was very informative and enjoyable. Our staff also conducted tours and programs for several other groups. We encourage groups to take advantage of the many resources available here.

We are making a lot of progress in upgrading our collections. Because of your support, we have been able to obtain the materials that we need for this important project. Thank you!

Howard Branham
Director





The recently built 43-foot-long replica of the Hunley was on exhibit at the Camden Archives and Museum on May 25. Built by John Dangerfield at the Warren Lasch Conservation Laboratory, where the Hunley is being studied and preserved, the model was parked in the driveway in front of the Archives

and Museum for public viewing. The model was sponsored by the Sons of Confederate Veterans H. L. Hunley Camp #143. Representatives of the Sons of Confederate Veterans from the H. L. Hunley Camp #143 of Summerville and the Joseph B. Kershaw Camp #82 of Camden served as docents.

Hunley crew changed course of naval history

**By Katherine H. Richardson
Camden Archives Deputy Director**

On the evening of Feb. 17, 1864 the moon cast a white glow over the waters of the Atlantic Ocean near the mouth of Charleston Harbor. The USS Housatonic, the Union Navy's largest ship at 1,240 tons, lay at anchor in the ocean two and one half miles outside the harbor entrance. The blockade of Charleston was commanded from her position.

Through the frigid waters, the brave, determined crew of the Confederate submarine H. L. Hunley navigated from Breach Inlet out to sea, moving toward the Housatonic at three knots. By the time the Union lookout on the Housatonic's deck spotted the rippling object in the water it was upon them.

The eight man crew of the Confederate submarine pierced the side of the ship, depositing and detonating a 135-pound torpedo inside her hull. The US Housatonic exploded and burned for three minutes before sinking in the ocean, taking five sailors to their death with her. The Hunley crew

gave a blue light signal to the Confederates at Sullivan's Island, indicating that they were heading back to shore. Then the Hunley disappeared beneath the water, never to surface again for 131 years.

On that moonlit night, the H. L. Hunley became the first submarine to ever sink an enemy ship. Her eight man crew, led by Lt. George E. Dixon, changed the course of naval history.

The final resting place of the H. L. Hunley was discovered in 1995 by the research crew of Clive Cussler's National Underwater Marine Agency. The vessel was raised in 1995 and long years of research and conservation began.

The State of South Carolina created the Hunley Commission to acquire, recover, and preserve the H. L. Hunley for public display. The commission created the Friends of the Hunley to raise money for the study and preservation of the historic vessel and the burial of the remains of its crew.

For more information on the Hunley's history and conservation visit the website of the Friends of the Hunley at www.hunley.org.

Camden Archives staff protects, utilizes entrusted treasures

**By Katherine H. Richardson
Camden Archives Deputy Director**

People often wonder what we museum and archives people do with our time! One of our tasks is to take care of the objects and items donated so your children and grandchildren can see them in the future.

And on occasion, we bring some of those donated items out and put them on exhibit or let you use them in research to help others appreciate and benefit from their historical value.

When a museum or archives accepts an object or document into its collection, it is not simply just put on a shelf or into storage for safekeeping. It enters into an ethical agreement to care for that object or document and preserve it for the future.

The American Association of Museums' Standards and Best Practices states this in museum professionals' language:

Stewardship is the careful, sound, and responsible management of that which is entrusted to a museum's care. Possession of collections incurs legal, social, and ethical obligations to provide proper physical storage, management and care for the collections and associated documentation, as well as proper intellectual control. Collections are held in trust for the public and made accessible for the public's benefit.

That is what we are charged with at the Camden Archives and Mu-

seum. In recent months the staff has spent a little over \$6,000 on new acid free boxes and supplies for our collection. Part of the funding for these supplies came from the Friends of the Archives and Museum.

Slowly, each collection is being transferred to the new housing and stabilized. The archival collections are being processed to remove any metal such as paper clips and staples. Rubber bands are also a "no-no!"

The staff has worked diligently over the past years to enter the collections records in a computer program called "PastPerfect." It is a wonderful and efficient museum management program which addresses collections. It also has museum membership functions.

The program denotes exact locations in collection storage for our materials and, in theory, could store all of our background information on each object, as well as an image of each item in the collection.

Being cautious, though, we duplicate PastPerfect's background information content with the actual paper copies of loan and gift agreements and correspondence regarding each item in our collection so if there is ever any question about an item we have something original to which we can refer.

Being a department of the City of Camden, the Archives and Museum staff really works for you! Come visit us and see how we're doing with "our stuff" and "your stuff." Hopefully you will agree we are taking really good care of it.

Larry Doby: 'part of history' and Hall of Fame

By Katherine H. Richardson
Camden Archives Deputy Director

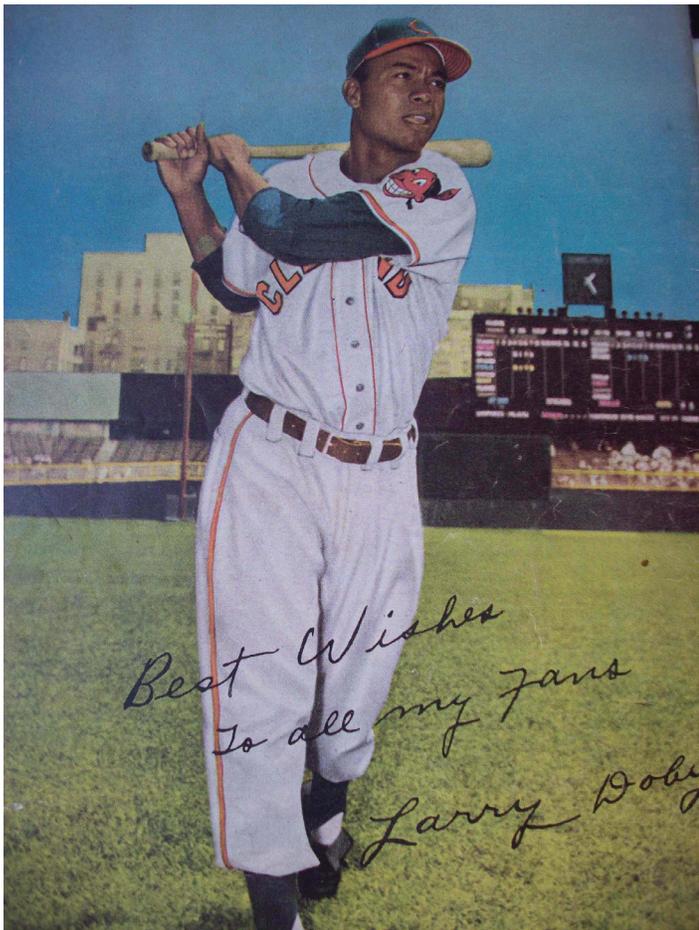
It is 1936. It's summer in Camden. The unbearably hot, humid heat of the day has ebbed somewhat, and a slight breeze rustles the majestic oak trees along the sides of the street. The lightening bugs are starting to show themselves – a twinkle here and a flash there in the bushes. The mocking birds and cardinals chatter their last conversations of the day.

Jim Cooke rocks on the wide front porch at 809 Lyttleton Street while Alice finishes up with the dishes. The kids on Lyttleton Street have finished their evening meals. It's time! The stick ball competition for the evening begins as Larry Doby throws a fast pitch to his cousin Leroy Cooke.

The neighborhood adults wander out on the front porches, one by one, to catch the evening's action. The street game is the best show of the evening on Lyttleton Street. The camaraderie is contagious; the competition is intense. Girls, boys, black, white, all ages are in the jumping, running, balls flying game. A stick and a tennis ball are all that is needed to turn Lyttleton Street into the Camden version of Wrigley Field.

In the summer of 1936, Lawrence Eugene Doby was a rising seventh grader at Mather Academy in Camden. He lived with his Aunt Alice and Uncle Jim Cooke at 809 Lyttleton Street. The trim and quaint Victorian house was a haven for Doby after a tumultuous first 10 years spent living with his grandmother Brooks on Market Street. Here he was surrounded with cousins and a healthy family life.

The Cookes sent him to Mather Academy, where he started the fifth grade. Here he discovered that his last name was Doby, not Brooks.



The Larry Doby Exhibit
July 2 through Dec. 31, 2012
at the Camden Archives and Museum

Hours

Monday through Friday from
8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on Saturday
from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Admission

Free and open to the public

Learning became important to him. And he learned to play baseball.

A baseball career begins

Legendary Camden baseball coach, Richard DuBose, took young Doby under his wing. DuBose sometimes let his age “slip” and played him on his senior team at out-of-town games. “That boy was just a natural player,” said DuBose. “When he was with me I used him as a first baseman, and I still maintain that this is his best position.”

DuBose described young Doby: “He was a thin kid and you would never know the power those skinny arms carried until you saw him throw the ball or swing the bat. I remember when he was just a kid toddling around with his pa, he was always carrying a glove.” The coaches at Mather Academy also nurtured Doby's skills by taking him to baseball games away from Camden as the water boy. And then there were those rousing stick ball games on Lyttleton Street.

Doby's idyllic years at the Cooke's house came to an end after he graduated from eighth grade at Mather Academy. His mother, Etta, insisted that he come live in Paterson, N.J., where she had served as a domestic since he was a very young boy. Doby remembered that he really found himself during his years at the Cooke's home. Despite the difficulties of his young years, Doby developed a sense of self that sustained him throughout his life and kept him grounded.

In New Jersey, life was far different than in rural South Carolina, but it still contained school, basketball, and baseball. He attended Eastside High School, known in the 1930s as one of New Jersey's finest academic schools. Sports topped the list of his main interests. He earned 11 varsity letters in football, basketball, track ... and of, course, baseball. He achieved all-New Jersey recognition in each sport but track.

During high school, he also played recreational league basketball and eventually played for a professional team, the Harlem Renaissance, as an unpaid substitute. He also played semi-professional baseball for sometimes three teams at a time. Doby joined a professional Negro League baseball team, the Newark Eagles, under the alias of Larry Walker. He played for them during the summer before he entered Long Island University. All the while, unbeknown to Doby, controversy festered and broke open in the professional baseball world over segregated teams.

Breaking the barrier

Black newspapers pressured the commissioner of baseball, Judge Kennesaw Mountain Landis, to end the segregation of professional baseball teams in 1942. Little did Doby know that a white man named Bill Veeck was about to become a central figure in his life and career in his

Continued on page 5

Larry Doby -

Continued from page 4

goal to desegregate professional baseball.

A stint in the Navy during World War II, during which Doby served as a physical educational instructor for the Negro recruits, interrupted his progression to a college degree and professional baseball. The three years Doby spent in the Navy saw a decisive change in the race issue in the baseball world.

In 1946, Doby returned to the Eagles team ... and Jackie Robinson was drafted to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers, a white professional team of the National Baseball League. Eleven weeks later, Lawrence Eugene Doby would become the first black player in the American Baseball League when Bill Veeck signed him to the Cleveland Indians.

Sports politics may change, but real world prejudice prevailed after Doby was signed. Indians players threatened to quit rather than play with a black player. In his statement to the team about Doby's hiring, Veeck saw into Doby's future: "I understand that some of you players said that 'if a [black] joins this club' you're leaving. Well, you can leave right now because this guy [Doby] is going to be a bigger star than any guy in this room."

Becoming a 'part of history'

Veeck's words to Doby were, "Lawrence ... you are going to be part of history." Doby remembered his thoughts on those words, "Part of history? I had no notions about that. I just wanted to play baseball."

Play baseball, he did, though not without immense pressure from the issue of racial prejudice. To allay the racial tension, Veeck laid out the lines for Doby, who recalls, "He sat me down and told me some of the do's and don'ts ... No arguing with the umpires. Don't even turn around at a bad call at the plate and no dissertations with opposing players – either of those things might start a race riot."

Doby endured heckling, being spit upon by another player, separate living quarters and eating accommodations from the white players, and insults on a daily basis during his early years on the team.

His memory of his first day on the field with the Indians revolves around his first glimmer of the prejudicial path ahead of him. "The day I showed up in Chicago to join the Indians in 1947 – it was July 5. I felt all alone. When we went out on the field to warm up, to play catch, you know the way we always did, no one asked me to play. I just stood there for minutes. It seemed like a long time. Then Joe Gordon yelled "Hey kid, come on. Throw with me." Joe Gordon remained a life-long hero to Doby.

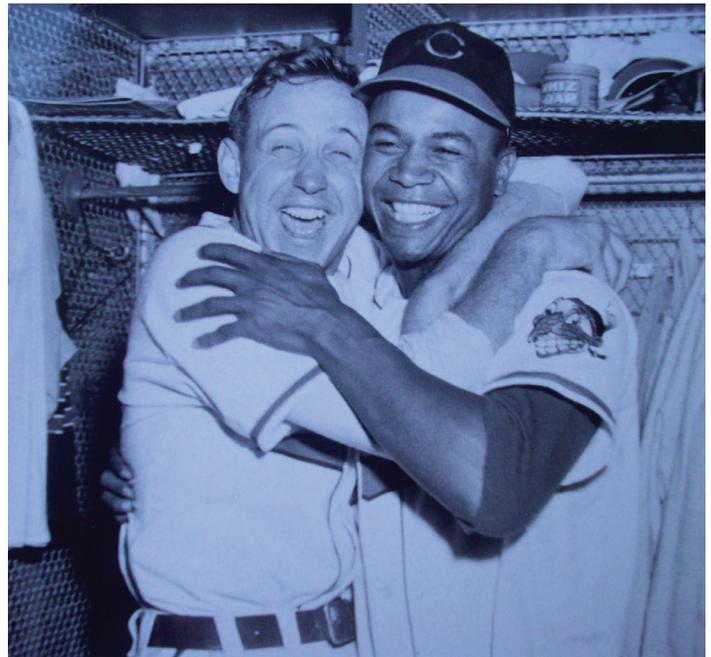
None of this dampened his skill and desire to play the game to the best of his ability. Yogi Berra remembered Doby thus, "Larry Doby could do everything – hit, run, field, and throw."

Former baseball commissioner Fay Vincent wrote of Doby's career, "Larry's role in history was recognized slowly and belatedly. Jackie Robinson, who broke the color line first but in the same year, quite naturally received most of the attention. Larry played out his career with dignity and then slid gracefully into various front-office positions in basketball and then later in baseball ... For me, however, the most vivid memory of Larry is his total lack of bitterness."

Doby said, "I was never bitter because I believe in the man upstairs ... I continue to do my best ... If I was bitter, I was only hurting me. I prefer to remember Bill Veeck ... and Joe Gordon, the good guys. There is no point in talking about the others."

One of the "good guys" proved his worth after the 1948 World Series in which the Indians played the Boston Braves. Doby's home run sewed up the 2 to 1 victory for the Indians. That home run was the first ever hit by a black man in a World Series.

The image of Steve Gromek, pitcher, hugging Doby in celebration became a symbol of this new era in baseball history. It is one of the first photographs during the era of desegregation showing true team ca-



Pitcher Steve Gromek (left) hugs Doby (right) after their team won the 1948 World Series in which Doby hit the decisive home run. This photo made papers all over the world and has come to symbolize the successful, though painful, integration of the game.

maraderie between blacks and whites. This image was cherished by Doby throughout his life.

Known as an outfielder, Doby played first for the Negro National League's Newark Eagles from 1942 to 1943 and 1946 to 1947. Then came his career in the American League starting with the Cleveland Indians from 1947 to 1955 and again in 1958. He was then traded to the Chicago White Sox and played for them from 1956 until 1957 and in 1959, when he also played for the Detroit Tigers.

Reaching baseball's pinnacle

After his retirement from the American League, he was the third American to play in Japan's Nippon Professional League. He coached the Montreal Expos, the Cleveland Indians, and became manager of the Chicago White Sox. Doby was the second black manager in the major leagues.

Inducted into the Baseball of Fame in 1998, his inscription on that plaque reads, "Exceptional athletic prowess and a staunch constitution led to a successful playing career after integrating the American League in 1947. A seven-time All-Star who batted .283 with 253 home runs and 970 RBI in 13 Major League seasons. The power-hitting center fielder paced the American League in home runs twice and collected 100 RBI five times, while leading the Indians to pennants in 1948 and 1954. Appointed manager of the White Sox in 1978, the second African-American to lead a Major League club. Played four seasons with Newark in the Negro Major League. Following player career worked as a scout and Major League Baseball Executive."

What more can we say? Well, Doby had more. Reflecting on his career, he said, "You're proud and happy that you are part of integrating baseball and to show that people can live together, work together, play together, and even be successful together ... If you told me 52 years ago that I'd be standing here being honored by the Hall of Fame, I wouldn't have believed it ... I was born in a little town in South Carolina called Camden ... A lot of people had a lot to do with my success ... I'm just happy I come from South Carolina. And I'm just happy God gave me the kind of ability to be a major league baseball player."

2012 Friends of the Camden Archives & Museum

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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Names of 2012 donors, memorials, and honorariums are current through the end of April.

Have you joined Friends of the Archives for 2012?

With a mission of “Preserving the past for the future,” the Camden Archives and Museum is a treasure chest of Kershaw County history. In its beautiful expanded facility, it offers visitors an opportunity to explore a wealth of artifacts, displays, documents, collections, records, and various other historical research materials.

What happens at the Archives?

With funding from the City of Camden and support from the Friends of the Archives organization, the Archives staff collects, preserves and makes accessible items of importance to the history of the area. Artifacts in the museum represent a diverse collection of items relating to cultural heritage.

The Camden Archives and Museum is recognized throughout South Carolina and the Southeast as having one of the best research libraries for genealogical research. It houses a diverse collection of books, microfilm, maps, files, periodicals and general reference materials which will aid visitors in their research for ancestry.

How can you help?

You can support the efforts of the Archives by joining the Friends of the Camden Archives and Museum. This organization began in 1998 to encourage and manage monetary donations for the betterment of the Archives and Museum.

Since 1999 the Friends group has raised in excess of \$750,000. Most of these funds were used to help finance construction and renovation projects. The Archives has many other needs which exceed available funding. Your donation to the organization will help provide for those needs.

“Friends of the Archives is a great group of folks who recognize the value and importance of maintaining, in most cases, the irreplaceable. Additionally, we all know that our membership is the only way to maintain the level of stewardship to which the core founders of the Friends aspired,” said Stephen VanHorn, president of the Friends of the Archives.

How do you join Friends of the Archives?

You can join “Friends” using the application on page 8 of this newsletter. You can also remember donations to the Archives through honorariums or memorials. Your support will make a difference and help promote the Archives’ mission of “preserving the past for the future.”

As a member of Friends of the Camden Archives and Museum, you will receive our twice a year newsletter as a benefit for your tax deductible donation. Please consider joining by submitting the form on page 8 with your donation. An updated list of donors will be carried in the November 2012 newsletter. Thank you for your consideration and support!

Camden Archives and Museum
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Please make checks payable to *Friends of the Camden Archives and Museum.*

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