

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



*Preserving the past for the future*

Volume 16 - Number 2

November 2015

## From these roots

### *Exhibit to showcase city African American corridor development*

By **KATHERINE H. RICHARDSON**  
Archives Director

In 2008, a group of graduate students from the University of South Carolina's Public History Program produced a study entitled, "The Camden African American Heritage Project." It was the product of a student group assignment conducted in 2005-06.

The students were assisted by many local residents in their search for the history of African Americans in Camden from the Colonial period through the era of civil rights.

Though able to spend only one semester researching and writing, the students pulled together an admirable overview of the lives of African Americans here. In their final recommendations they suggested, among other things, that an African American tour of Camden be produced.

The projected tour area centers around the entire length of Campbell Street, the oldest settled African American neighborhood, with corridors branching out into the business and southern Camden residential districts.

The period of significance for the tour is 1913 to 1940, chosen because we have historical resources which can definitively document those years. We have been in the research phase of the project for the past months.

Research focused on two leading questions: 1.) Why was the African American residential community centered around Campbell Street? 2.) What role did the Lang family, who owned much of that property at one time, have in establishing the Campbell Street neighborhood?

The Lang family in Camden was established by William Lang (1746-1815) who migrated here from Yorkshire, England. Through his marriage to Sally Wyly, daughter of Samuel Wyly, he inherited a vast amount of land in and near present-day Camden.

Their son, William Wyly Lang, purchased lot 674 from the town of Camden in 1814 and built his large dwelling there. The tract of land associated with the house totaled 27 acres, constituting Camden lots 674 through 688.

The large Georgian style house stood at the southwestern corner of DeKalb and Campbell streets on that high hill. He certainly had servants on his land in town, so there would have been slave quarters as well.

After investigation of the Lang land records, I did not find any of the property was deeded to ex-slaves by the family.

William W. Lang migrated to Alabama by 1838, when he received a land grant in Dallas County. In 1847 he sold his house and land in Camden to John Whitaker. By 1867, the property was in the hands of D. A. Amme, who owned a bakery on King Street in Charleston.

In that year, Amme sold the house and 27 acres to Sarah Babcock for \$2,000. Babcock was a northern teacher who had come south after the Civil War to start a school for children of former slaves.

Her acquisition of the property eventually led to the founding of the Browning Home and Mather Academy in Camden, an African American private school which flourished from 1883 until 1983.

So, we find the Lang family did not directly influence the establishment of the Campbell Street corridor, but the land they amassed there and their house became the site of one of the most prestigious African American private schools in the South.

Mather Academy became a nucleus for the African American neighborhood which developed along the Campbell and Gordon streets corridor, but the answer to how the Campbell Street corridor developed lay elsewhere.

One of the earliest houses on Campbell Street was the home of Andrew Henry Dibble, Sr. (1825-1873), an African American tailor, and his wife, Ellie Naomi Naudin Dibble (1828-1920). Both were free blacks before Emancipation.

They married in 1845. Dibble began to acquire property in the town of Camden before 1854, when he sold lots 1145 and 1146 on Church Street to Marceau Naudin, Jr. In 1863 the Dibles acquired city lot 748, now 1216 Campbell Street, where they built a one story gable front and wing Folk Victorian style house. The spacious house was home to the Dibles for 60 years.



**Class photo of the 1930 Mather senior class**



**Mather Academy students**

*Continued on page 2*

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

**Photographs** courtesy of  
Camden Archives and Museum  
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**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  
Rickie A. Good

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

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

**Museum Hours**  
Monday-Friday 8 am - 5 pm  
Saturdays 10 am - 4 pm

Free admission

## From the Chairman

Dear Friends:

I hope you, your loved ones and friends got through the recent flooding unscathed. The loss of life and property damage in our state was certainly beyond belief.

This newsletter is about as diverse as we've previously published. I invite you to see our latest exhibits and look forward to the special events taking place in the coming months to highlight them.

Please take a moment to send a check for the renewal of your membership. Our unique partnership continues to drive the Archives to new heights.

Best Regards,  
Steve Van Horn

## Exhibit features African American project

*Continued from page 1*

The Dibbles had an interesting tie to Mather Academy. When its founder, Sarah Babcock returned to her home in Massachusetts in 1867, the Dibble's fifth child, Eugene Heriot, went with her.

She enrolled him in the State Normal School at Bridgewater, which later became Bridgewater State College. The school, still in existence, provided young Eugene an excellent education at a level which would not have been available to him in the South for some years. After completing his education, Eugene returned to Camden. All of his seven children attended Mather Academy.

Eugene and his brothers became important businessmen in Camden. John Moreau Dibble started a general store in 1873. This store became a mainstay on Broad Street in the business district.

Eugene also started a general merchandise store on the corner of Broad and DeKalb. He and his brothers and mother operated these business establishments until at least 1920. They also acquired a vast amount of real estate in Camden through the years.

In researching the property sold by the Dibble family in Camden after 1840, it becomes clear the Dibbles had a profound impact on the development of the Campbell Street corridor between 1900 and 1940. They sold 24 lots on Campbell Street during that time period.

They had an effect on nearby development, as well, owning and selling 11 lots on Gordon Street, 10 lots on DeKalb Street, seven lots on Rutledge Street, and 12 lots on Church Street, as well as 41 other parcels in town. In addition to those bought and sold, they also leased 10 commercial properties throughout the period.

The Dibble family is remembered for their successful mercantile establishments; they were also, in effect, real estate developers with a lasting impact on the development of the African American business and residential community in Camden.

*The exhibit entitled "The Campbell Street Story" opens February 10, 2016 and continues through July 29. It will be located in the Whiteley Room and will be free and open to the public.*



Among the artifacts in "The Campbell Street Story" exhibit is this one featuring the 1950 graduating class of Jackson High School, which was the public high school located on the Campbell Street corridor. Jackson High School was located on the site where the current Continuous Learning Center is now located.

# Just a good ole boy

## The Bondy Long exhibit: Camden's moment in NASCAR history

National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) history began on the narrow dirt roads of the South when local boys pitted themselves and their cars against the forces of the law... aka running moonshine.

Even after the repeal of Prohibition, moonshine was popular in the South and the delivery drivers still had to outrun the law... aka the reвенuers.

After a hard day's work, drivers would naturally pit their cars and themselves against each other on dirt race tracks in small towns and big cities.

During the 1930s and 1940s, stock car racing became both popular and profitable. By the late 40s, Bill France Sr. and a group of racers, owners, and promoters decided they needed to

From that shop, Long, his drivers, and his crew began a speed-fueled race to the top of NASCAR's Grand National circuit. From 1963 to 1968, Long's Camden-based team ran 206 races with 29 wins, 114 top five finishes and 26 pole positions.

Along the way Bondy Long and driver Ned Jarrett won the 1965 Grand National championship. Although Long left the NASCAR circuit in 1968, Bowani cars, drivers and pit crews remain a part of NASCAR's history.

To celebrate Long's part in NASCAR history, the Archives has organized an exhibit which looks at the history of Bowani racing through photographs, artifacts, and the words of the people who worked long and hard to field the very best cars and teams in the country.



organize the sport with rules, a firm racing schedule and a national championship.

In 1948, NASCAR was born. Today, stock car racing is one of the most popular sports in the United States and Canada with tracks in 39 states. The drivers, owners, and crew chiefs are household names.

Camden's part of NASCAR history began in 1963 when Maynard Bond "Bondy" Long, II formed Bowani, Inc. and set up shop at his home in Boykin.

Shown (clockwise from top left) are images included in "The Bondy Long Story" NASCAR exhibit. Bowani Racing garage at Long's residence in Boykin. Winning NASCAR decals and two Daytona tickets. Driver Ned Jarrett and crew members of the #11 car. Jarrett in 1965 with the #11 car which won the Grand National championship.

Artifacts on loan from Long and Jarrett are on display. The exhibit opened Nov. 10 with some very special guests, including the original #11 Ford that Jarrett drove to the championship in 1965. The exhibit will close on Jan. 29, 2016.

## Calendar of Events

**Now through January 29, 2016 – Exhibit: "Camden's Moment in NASCAR History: The Bondy Long Story."** Come explore Camden native Bondy Long's six-year career in NASCAR racing – and his astounding successes! Free and open to the public.

**February 10, 2016 through July 29, 2016 – Exhibit: "The Campbell Street Story: Camden's African American Tour Premier."** Learn about Camden's African American historic sites, many of which were centered around the Campbell Street corridor. Free and open to the public.

**Ongoing -- Exhibit: "The Ross E. Beard Collection."** This popular exhibit changes as time passes. Come take a look!

**Ongoing -- Exhibit: "South Carolina's little brown dog."** The Boykin Spaniel exhibit has been a huge success and people are still calling from out of state to ask if it is still up. So we have decided to keep it in place indefinitely. Come see Camden's own little brown dog!

## Sibby Wood family loans Archives bronze collection

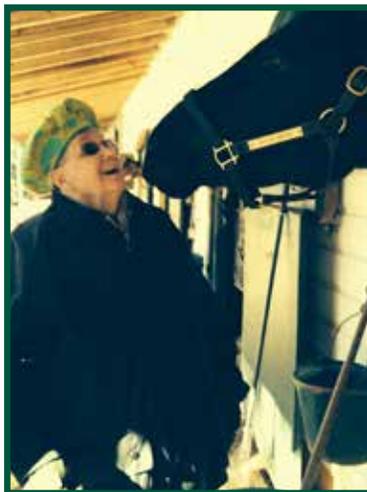
The family of Sylvia “Sibby” Upton Wood (1934-2015) has generously loaned her collection of bronzes to the Archives. The collection is displayed in the main library and in the 1963 wing of the museum.

Wood, a Michigan native, moved with her family to Camden in 1969. According to Wood, after visiting Camden to fox hunt, she decided to move here “because of horses and dogs.”

An accomplished equestrian, Wood and her husband Maxwell bred race horses, including Favorite Trick, winner of the 1997 Breeders’ Cup Juvenile, and the country’s thoroughbred



“Gian-Carlo Menotti”, a statue of one of Wood’s Golden Retrievers by the artist Maria Kirby-Smith.



Wood with “Favorite Trick”. She and her husband Maxwell bred the horse, which was the 1997 U.S. Race Horse of the Year as a two-year-old.

Horse of the Year as a two year old.

Wood also bred and trained champion Golden Retrievers. Two of her retrievers, Casey and Sparky, were both national champions and Casey was one of the best field Golden Retrievers in the country.

Along with her love of horses and dogs, Wood was an enthusiastic patron of the arts. She was founder and chair of the Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County, on the board of Spoleto Festival USA, and founded the Upton Trio.

In 2009, South Carolina presented Wood with the Elizabeth O’Neill Verner Governor’s Award for the Arts to recognize her many contributions to the arts in the Palmetto State.

Wood’s passion for the arts and for the outdoors is reflected in her collection of bronzes on display.



“Casey and Sparky” is a painting of Wood’s champion Golden Retrievers.

## Revolutionary War lecture series popular with patrons

The lecture series focusing on the American Revolutionary War concluded Nov. 1 with a “make-up” lecture by Fritz Hamer, Curator of the Published Materials Division at the South Caroliniana Library.

The great South Carolina flood forced postponement of Hamer’s program on Oct. 4. He lectured on the Cherokee Indians and the American Revolution.

The series focused on different groups of colonial society - women, African Americans, Native Americans and the planter class - and the effect the war had on them.

We had a good turnout for all four lectures and we all came away with a more in-depth understanding of the effect the American Revolution had on



Joann Zeise presenting a program on South Carolina women in the American Revolution.



Professor Donald West presenting a program on African Americans and the Revolutionary War.



Dr. Joseph Stukes presenting a program on Henry Laurens.

## Focus on the collection

# The horror and fun of researching “indefinite” loans

By RICKIE GOOD

### Curator of Collections

At one time accepting an indefinite loan was standard practice for many archives and museums.

An indefinite loan is an item or items a person has loaned to a museum with no set time for its return to the owner. The lender retains ownership of the item and can request return of the item at any time.

Since these items do not belong to the museum, staff is constrained as to what they can do with the artifact. Indefinite loaned items must be stored, exhibited, and cared for as if they belonged to the museum.

As time passes, as the museum's permanent collection grows, and as storage or exhibit space becomes limited, items on indefinite loan can become unnecessary or even detrimental to the mission of the museum.

During the 1970s and 80s, a number of people made loans to our museum. Over the years, staff returned the majority of these loans to their owners or the owners decided to convert the loan to a gift.

### On the hunt

However, several indefinite loans remained in our care. Over the past few years part of my job has been to “work” on these outstanding indefinite loans; to either return them to their owner or to accept them into the permanent collection.

I started with 34 outstanding loans dating from 1974 to 2011. Some of these loans were easily handled as the lender was known to staff or we had a current address or telephone number.

For other loans it was a bit more difficult. Our early loan forms did not list addresses so for some loans we had no contact information. For other loans the contact information we had was 30 or 40 years old and the lender was no longer at that location.

In several cases, the lender was no longer living. We also had a number of loans with

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directories to find old addresses from the date of the loan or current addresses for the lender or a potential family member. I checked obituaries to see if a lender had died.

If the lender had passed away, I looked for the names of surviving family members. Then it was back to the city directories to see if the family members still lived in Camden. When all else failed, and sometimes it did, I used the Internet to search for family names and contact information.

For one 1993 loan received from a woman in Orangeburg, an Internet search led me to her obituary which led me to her son, a county judge. Although his address was not online, a clerk in the courthouse took a message and gave our contact information to the lender's son. It turned out the family had been searching for this artifact for years! They knew the item had been loaned to a museum but never knew where. The family was thrilled to have the object back.

The Internet also proved invaluable for a 1986 loan. The lender died in 2008 and the family did not know the artifacts had been loaned to us. This family, now living in Connecticut, decided that the objects belonged in Camden and they graciously donated them to our collection.

### Lucky lady

For two of the loans, luck played a huge part. After tracking down the telephone numbers of family members and actually talking to the appropriate person, I learned the telephone numbers were to vacation houses.

Having the lender's family at that particular number at that particular time was, according to the owners, “sheer luck.” One of these families lived in Maryland and was only at their beach house for a few weeks out of the year. Had the telephone call come one week later, they would have been back in Maryland and this loan would have still been in the “what else can I do” pile.

Fate also took a hand in finding the owner of a 1984 loan. Discovering that a person with the same name had died in 2006, I sent a letter to “the family” of the lender at the last known address I could find in the city directories.

I had little hope it would reach someone since the property had been sold and subdivided several years before. By coincidence, the niece of the lender worked at the post office. Her co-worker mentioned the letter to the niece and the niece promptly contacted her aunt and both of them came by the museum to pick up the items.

We are now at a stage where I have three stacks. The first, and my personal favorite, are loans that are CLOSED. The second is loans were I am in contact with family members and am waiting to see how the family wants to proceed.

By law, we need a copy of a document designating the family member as the legal heir. Only then can we either return the object or accept it into the collection.

### Your turn

The third pile, and the one over which I continue to sigh, contains four loans. I believe the lenders are deceased but have not been able to locate heirs. These loans must now be processed though the South Carolina Abandoned and Loaned Cultural Property law which can take a year or more to complete. Unless..... perhaps you know something about these lenders or their families?

The Archives needs help in locating the following people regarding indefinite loans:

**Hattie Mae Hasty of Camden**, a copy of the *Waterloo Messenger*, May 31, 1933

**Charles H. DeLoache of Camden**, a letter dated November 8, 1909 re Mrs. Elizabeth Thornton

**G. Eugene McGrew of Camden**, two books: *The Researchers Guide to Genealogy and the Genealogy of Alexander McGrew*

**Mrs. Lamar G. Hammett of Gaffney**, a land grant dated September 4, 1797

Today, most museums will only accept loans for a specific period and for a specific use. Once that time period is over, items are either returned or arrangements are made to renew the loan agreement.

Our collections policy is to accept a loan for a finite period of time and we require detailed contact information.

We also accept long-term annually renewable loans that require the museum and the lender to maintain contact as long as the item is in the museum's care.

This practice protects the museum, the owners, and the loaned object. It also cuts down on “playing” on the Internet during business hours!



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*Names of donors, memorials and honorariums are current through November 1.*

# Why you should join Friends of the Archives

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, 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.

## What is found in the Archives?

The Archives also has a growing collection of photographs and is also the repository for a number of city-related records, including city minutes, early ordinance and many other miscellaneous records. Census records, publications, cemetery surveys, local newspapers, vertical files and SC Death Certificates from 1915-1952 are also available for research. The S.C. Daughters of the American Revolution Library and the S.C. Society Colonial Dames XVII Century Library are housed in the Archives building.

More information about the Archives and its collections can be found on its website at [www.camdenarchives.org](http://www.camdenarchives.org). Features there include a list of records available for further research, a Kershaw County time line, local history books and other documents available for review, and an explanation of research services offered by the Archives staff.

## 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,” says Stephen Van Horn, 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 of your tax deductible donation. Please consider joining by submitting the form on page 8 with your donation. An updated list of donors will be published in the year-end newsletter. Thank you for your consideration and support!

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