

# Charleston Club Tattler

Volume 17, Issue 79

A publication of The Charleston S.C. Club of Washington, D.C. Area

Website: <http://charlestonclub.com>

December 1, 2014



## Hampstead Village ~ The East-Side

### Hampstead Square - Charleston's Eastside

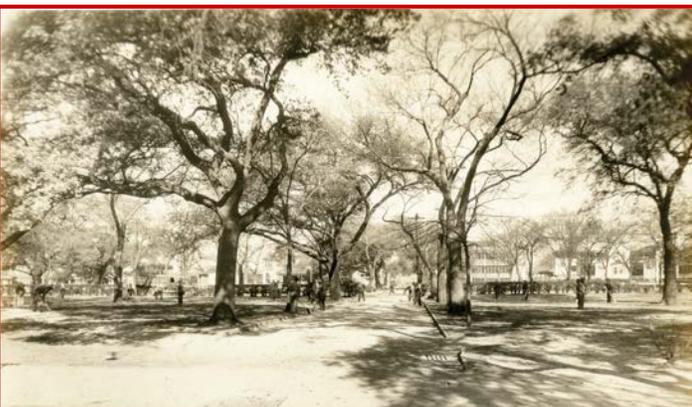
The Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture sponsored a very interesting and informative community symposium entitled *Hampstead Square: The Heart of Charleston's Historic Eastside Neighborhood* on October 27<sup>th</sup>, at the Palmer



Campus of Trident Technical College. The symposium was free and open to the public; its ads guaranteed that you would learn a few new things about Charleston history and see some rare images of Hampstead's colorful past. The five member panel was moderated by retired Judge Arthur C. McFarland, Esq.

Did you know that Charleston has/had a 25 square-block living time capsule virtually untouched for 125 years and in an advanced state of disrepair called Hampstead Village? This living museum is the only neighborhood in Charleston to be designed after the traditional English town model of centering a community on four adjacent parks known as "the commons." This neighborhood was virtually forgotten by the 20<sup>th</sup> century with almost no new construction but now faces rapid change and growth which threaten the historical integrity of the area. Hampstead Village is, as Charleston was at the beginning of WWII, a place preserved by its poverty. Hampstead Village is what is now commonly known as the East Side.

The "Neck" of Charleston, (the area above Calhoun Street) was incorporated into the City in 1849. This area of land was divided into four quadrants. The term "East Side" was originally used to describe one of these quadrants which stretched from Calhoun Street to the Cooper River Bridge, and from King Street to East Bay. At that time, the



East Side was comprised of Wraggborough, Mazyckborough and Hampstead Village. In the early 1900s many of the city's blacks held wedding receptions on "the commons." In the mid-1900s, the name Hampstead Village was lost and the term East Side which used to refer to a general quadrant of the city then became the name of a neighborhood. All that is left of the original name of Hampstead is Hampstead Park, one of the four parks at the intersection of America and Columbus Streets that formed the original nucleus of the neighborhood.

Hampstead Village is also unique in Charleston in that it was one of the first neighborhoods developed and built speculatively. The construction of small wood-framed "single" houses began in earnest in the 1830's. Entire streets such as America Street were built using the same house design within a 5 year period around 1835. The new owners were typically tradesmen who otherwise might not be able to afford home ownership. The fact that the neighborhood was outside of the city limits at the time allowed the builders to use wood sided houses which were forbidden for fire safety reasons in the city.

From 1870's until the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, another building boom resulted in the addition of Victorian houses and freedman's cottages. To this day, these three types of houses still remain the dominant structures in the neighborhood. The greatest threat to Hampstead Village remains demolition by neglect. There are over 100 abandoned houses in this small area. The devastating effects of Hurricane Hugo (Sept. 1989) combined with the strangling grip of the drug trade caused many people to walk away from their houses and leave them to rot. Hampstead Village is at a true crossroads in its history. After a half century of neglect and abandonment, many of these buildings are barely standing. The rich history of the neighborhood from its origins as part of Kings Grant Lands to its development with Mazyckborough and Wraggborough to form the "East Side," to its layout on an English Town plan, and to its speculative housing construction all need to be recognized and celebrated. Over the past two and half centuries, Hampstead Square has weathered some of the most dramatic episodes in Charleston's history; a major slave revolt (Denmark Vesey) in 1822, Civil War (1861-65), major earthquake (1886), two World Wars, Civil Rights demonstrations (1960s), and Hugo (1989); and still retains much of its original character.

### The Worst Voter Turnout in 72 Years (Charleston Chronicle)

The abysmally low turnout in November's midterm elections - the lowest in more than seven decades - was bad for Democrats, but it was even worse for democracy.



In 43 states, less than half the eligible population bothered to vote, and no state broke 60 percent.

In the three largest states - California, Texas and New York - less than a third of the eligible population voted. New York's turnout was a shameful 28.8 percent, the fourth-lowest in the country, despite three statewide races (including the governor) and 27 House races.

Over all, the national turnout was 36.3 percent; only the 1942 federal election had a lower participation rate at 33.9 percent. The reasons are apathy, anger and frustration at the relentlessly negative tone of the campaigns.

Republicans ran a single-theme campaign of pure opposition to President Obama, and Democrats were too afraid of the backlash to put forward plans to revive the economy or to point out significant achievements of the last six years. Neither party gave voters an affirmative reason to show up at the polls.

Poor Participation in Democracy was the turnout in November; it was the lowest in any federal election since 1942. The states with the biggest turnouts tended to have well-publicized and competitive races, but even competition was no guarantee that voters would show up. Georgia and North Carolina, which had two highly contested Senate races, did only slightly better than the national average for turnout (36.3%). Some of that is because of regional differences; northern states generally have higher turnout than southern states, as they did this year, because voting tends to correlate with education and income levels.

In northern states, there was a lack of interest, too. The overall vote total dropped by 42 percent compared with 2012, and the decline was particularly acute among younger voters, who made up 13 percent of this year's electorate compared with 19 percent two years ago. The turnout among young and minority voters was slightly higher than it was in the 2010 midterms, perhaps reflecting new organizing efforts, but the number remained far too low. (Republicans have continued their effort to suppress the turnout of young, poor and minority voters, although it was hard to make a definitive link between those laws and Democratic losses this year.)

### Sen. Tim Scott Wins Historic Senate Election

U.S. Senator **Timothy Eugene "Tim" Scott** became the first African-American elected to the Senate from SC and the first black elected to a statewide office since Reconstruction on the Nov. 4th election night. Scott, a Republican, defeated his black Democratic challenger, Joyce Dickerson of Columbia, and Tega Cay's Jill Bossi, a candidate in the newly formed American Party.



South Carolina voters faced a rare occurrence since both U.S. Senate seats were filled this year. Rep. Lindsey

Graham was re-elected to the seat he has held for two terms. The second Senate seat normally would not be filled for another two years (2016). Sen. Scott who is from North Charleston, was appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley in December 2012 to fill the seat Sen. Jim DeMint vacated. DeMint took the job leading the conservative Heritage Foundation. Scott ran in a special election for the final two years of DeMint's second term.

In November 2010, Scott was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for SC's 1st Congressional District, and served from 2011 to 2013. The first Republican African-American Congressman from SC (specifically, since 1881), then the cultural conservative Scott, was endorsed by The Tea Party groups. He served one term in the SC General Assembly (2009-2011); prior to that, he had been on the Charleston County Council from 1996 to 2008.

**Sen. Timothy Eugene Scott** was born on Sept. 19, 1965 in North Charleston to Frances Scott and Benjamin H. Scott, Sr. His father was stationed with the Air Force in Colorado for most of Scott's childhood, leaving his mother, a nurse's aide to raise Tim and his older brother, Ben, Jr. His parents divorced when Tim was 7 years old; and the family grew up in the Hanahan area. Scott got his first job, changing oil at a gas station, when he was 13 years old. Sen. Tim Scott attended R. B. Stall High School where he played football and had an after school job at a Chick Fil-A, while struggling to "do well" in school. The franchise's owner, John Moniz, became Scott's mentor and convinced Scott that he could use his intelligence and problem-solving skills to find a way out of poverty and become successful. Muniz died of a heart attack when Scott was in his senior year. To cope with the loss, Scott focused on implementing Moniz's inspirational advice. By graduation from Stall High School, Scott had improved his grades and stepped up his game enough to qualify for a partial football scholarship to Presbyterian College. Scott is close to his older brother, Benjamin H. Scott, Jr. who is a Sergeant Major in the U.S Army; and a nephew, Benjamin H. Scott, III.

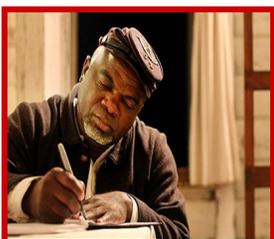
Sen. Scott attended Presbyterian College (PC, Clinton, SC) from 1983 to 1984, on a partial football scholarship. He later transferred to Charleston Southern University (founded in 1964 as Baptist College) and graduated from CSU in 1988 with a B.S. in Political Science.

Sen. Tim Scott owns an insurance agency, works as a financial adviser and is a partner in Pathway Real Estate Group, LLC. Scott is a devout evangelical Christian and a member of The Seacoast Church, a large evangelical church in North Charleston; he is a former member of that church's board. The GOP leadership has praised Scott's background as an example of achieving the American dream according to a Conservative model.

### Visit Every Former Slave Dwelling in the United States...

One Man's Epic Quest to visit every Ole Slave Dwelling came to a close for the year 2014 on Friday and Saturday, Nov 14th & 15th in Mt Pleasant at the Boone Hall Plantation. Plans are in the works for the group's 2015 visits.

Joseph McGill, is 53 year old, a descendant of slaves, has devoted his life to ensuring the preservation of these historic sites. McGill has a desk job in Charleston and a family, and isn't fond of sleeping rough. He also recognizes that re-inhabiting places of bondage "seems strange and upsetting to some people." But he embraces the discomfort, both physical and psychological, because he wants to save slave dwellings and the history they hold before it's too late. "Americans tend to focus on the 'big house,' the mansion and gardens, and neglect the buildings out back," he says. "If we lose slave dwellings, it's that much easier to forget the slaves themselves."



A century ago, the white-washed cabins of former slaves remained as ubiquitous a feature of the Southern landscape as Baptist churches or Confederate monuments. Many of these dwellings were still inhabited by the families of the four million African-Americans who had gained freedom in the Civil War. But as blacks migrated en masse from the South in the 20th century, former slave quarters - most of which were cheaply built from wood - quickly decayed or were torn down. Others were repurposed as tool-sheds, garages or guest cottages. Of those that remain, many are now endangered by neglect, and by suburban and resort development in areas like the Georgia and Carolina Low Country, a lush region that once had the densest concentration of plantations and enslaved people in the South.

McGill has witnessed this transformation firsthand as a native South Carolinian who works for the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Charleston. But it wasn't his day job that led him to sleep in endangered slave cabins. Rather, it was his weekends as a Civil War re-enactor, wearing the uniform of the 54th Massachusetts, the black unit featured in the movie *Glory*. Donning a period uniform and camping out, often at antebellum sites, "made the history come alive for me," he says. Re-enacting the 54th has also drawn public attention to the pivotal role of black soldiers in the Civil War. So in 2010, when Magnolia Plantation near Charleston sought to publicize restoration of its neglected slave cabins, McGill proposed sleeping in one of them.

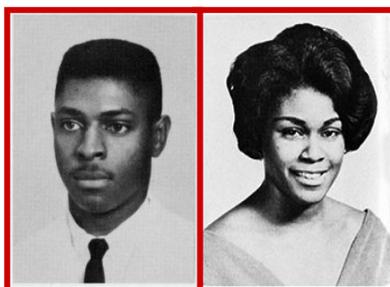
"I was a little spooked," he says of his overnight stay. "I kept getting up hearing noises. It was just the wind blowing limbs against the cabin." His simple bedroll, laid on the hard floor, also didn't make for a comfortable night. But the sleepover succeeded in drawing media attention to the slave cabins, which have since been opened to the public. So McGill began compiling a list of other such structures and seeking out their owners, to ask if he could sleep in them.

The Slave Dwelling Project's mission is to identify and assist property owners, government agencies and organizations to preserve extant slave dwellings. The purpose of the work is to become a clearinghouse for the identification

of resources to document and preserve these slave dwellings. It is essential that the Slave Dwelling Project serve as a conduit for the identification of preservation resources for owners of slave dwellings that have a desire to save these dwellings. The group also seeks to assist in the acquisition of slave dwellings within a community in order to mitigate the possibility of demolition. Their goals are to bring historians, students, faculty, writers, legislators, organizations, corporations, artists and the general public together to educate, collaborate and organize resources to save these important collectibles of our American history. The group is a State of South Carolina incorporated nonprofit organization; a 501(c) 3 organization with Tax Exemption from the Internal Revenue Service. More information on [MEMBERSHIP](#) is available [here](#).

### 50th Anniversaries for the Meriwether Family

**Delano Meriwether** and his sister **Sue Meriwether** had 50th anniversaries for being the first African-American students in 1963 and 1964 at Duke and Winthrop College. Both Delano and Sue served as



honorary co-chairs of their 50th anniversary committees. These pioneers set their universities on paths toward becoming a more diverse, global institution over the past half century. Since then, both have made far-reaching contributions to their communities and the nation.

Last year **W. Delano Meriwether** (Burke '60) returned to Duke University for celebrations on his admittance and arrival to Duke's Medical School in 1963. Born in Nashville, TN, Delano was raised in Charleston, and did his undergraduate studies at Michigan State University where he graduated in just three years. When applying to medical schools, his father urged him to consider Duke. Under its new admissions policy, Duke had begun recruiting African-American applicants to the School of Medicine. After an initial hesitation, Meriwether applied and flew down to Duke for an interview in the spring of 1963. Rather than be turned away by the still present signs of segregation in the Durham community, Meriwether became determined and decided to enroll as the first African-American medical student at Duke.

Meriwether went on to receive his MD in 1967 and to complete an internship at the University of Pennsylvania before doing his residency at Ohio State University. Meriwether also became an accomplished runner, setting a record 6.0-second 60-yard dash in the winter of 1970-71. He later won the 1971 national Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) 100 yard dash, which garnered him on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*.

Professionally, Meriwether worked in a hospital ER in Washington, DC, from 1978 to 1983 and as a missionary doctor in South Africa from 1984 to 1990. Since return-

ing to the United States, he has continued to work in emergency rooms in Pennsylvania and Maryland.

**Sue Frances Meriwether-Steed** (Burke '63) was one of the four first African-American students at Winthrop College (now Winthrop University); she was the first to earn a degree from Winthrop in 1967. Sue transferred to Winthrop in the fall of '64 from Tennessee A&I State University (now Tennessee State University). Meriwether-Steed credits her father, the late Wilhelm Meriwether, with enrolling her at Winthrop, where she roomed with Delores Johnson Hurt '68 and the late Arnetta Gladden Mackey '67.

Sue earned a B.A. in biology at Winthrop and intended to pursue a degree in physical therapy. However, after graduation she took a job teaching at Laing High School in Mt. Pleasant, which led to a 39-year teaching career. She retired in 2006 from Wando High School and now works part-time with Kaleidoscope, an afterschool program provided by the Charleston County School District. The Lowcountry area native, who helped Laing Middle School students adjust to integration during the late 1960s, said she's grateful to have played a part in Winthrop's integration, which she called an "once-in-a-lifetime experience."

"This was a time when life changed for a nation – a nation undergoing serious growing pains and adjustment pains. I'm honored that I was a part of that," said Mrs. Steed. She added that she looks at the experience as "an adventure that caused me to focus on the fact that people are people regardless of what color their skin is."

### Charleston Club Tattler ~ One liners ...

- It will be 50 years ago this December 10, 2014 that civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner (October 14, 1964), **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, arrived with his wife, **Coretta Scott King** to deliver the traditional Nobel Address at the University of Oslo Festival Hall on Dec. 10, 1964.



- Did you know that Dr. King's legal name at birth was **Michael Lewis King, Jr.**, but his father changed both of their names in 1934 following a trip Daddy King made to Germany to attend the Fifth Baptist World Alliance Congress (in Berlin) in honor of the German reformer Martin Luther.

- The **Charleston Club's Holiday Social** will be on **January 17, 2015** at **Waterford at Springfield, VA** 6715 Commerce St, Springfield, VA 22150 (703-719-5700). The event is from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the beautiful **Waterford**. Cost is **\$50.00** per person with Live Music, Dinner, Dancing, Door Prizes, and Much More! POC is Norma McKayhan at [lilmacnj21@gmail.com](mailto:lilmacnj21@gmail.com) or send checks to: Norma McKayhan, P.O. Box 1036, Woodbridge, VA 22195. Final Payment is due by January 3, 2015.

- The **32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Penn Center Heritage Days Celebration** returned to **St. Helena Island** this Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> through Sat. Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the history & legacy of the Gullah culture & the Lowcountry's ties to West Africa. The festival took place on the historical campus of Penn Center, a

museum & cultural center situated on the site of the first school for freed slaves established during the



Civil War. Charleston Club member and web-site director, **Bobby Brown** and his family joined in the festivities and learned about their own family's history and legacy on St. Helena Island. Bobby says the entire family learned more of their history and had FUN! Heritage Day events showcased Gullah cultural connections & immersed visitors in West African traditions through both educational & entertaining events, including: An art exhibition featuring, an old-fashioned prayer service and founders' memorial. There was also a fish fry, oyster roast and blues night entertainment.

- Roundtrip to/from Charleston** introduction fares **\$100 to \$120** dollars until Sept. 15, 2015. **JetBlue Airways** has added daily flights from Charleston to Reagan National since June 19, 2014. JetBlue picked up the Washington routes because of the merger of **American Airlines** and **US Airways**. The merger required the new American Airlines, the world's largest air carrier, to give up 52 landing slots at Reagan National to offer more market competition.

- President Barack Obama** awarded the **Presidential Medal of Freedom** on Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> to the three civil rights workers killed on June 21, 1964, near Philadelphia, MS. Family-members of **James Chaney**, **Andrew Goodman** and **Michael Schwerner** were on hand to receive the award in the White House ceremony. Also awarded was African-American golfer **Charles Sifford** (92 y.o.), considered "the Jackie Robinson" of golf. In 1961 Sifford broke the game's stringent color barrier and became the first black athlete to compete on the PGA tour. Other winners were: NBC News' **Tom Brokaw**, **Ethel Kennedy**, **Meryl Streep**, **Marlo Thomas** and **Stevie Wonder**.

- The Charleston Club extends its condolences to the entire McNeill Family. **Gary Keith McNeill**, the son of **Jacqueline McNeill** died on November 12<sup>th</sup> in New York City. Gary was the nephew of Charleston Club members **Clarence McNeill** and **Sandra McNeill**; and the cousin of **Ralph McNeill**. Funeral Services were Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at Unity Funeral Chapels in New York City.

## Happy Birthdays!

### December Birthdays:

**William Perry**-Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Rhonda Garvin Barnes**-Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Philip Magwood**-Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Marjorie Paris**-Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Ellis Green**-Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Adrienne "Mimi" MacBeth**-Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Dolores Abrams**-Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Gwen Felder**-Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Irene Fields**-Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Margo Williams**-Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>.

~ *The Fly on The Wall!*