

Blythewood Historical Society
Membership Meeting
March 15, 2011
Bethel Hanberry Elementary School

Blythewood Historical Society members met in the media room of Bethel Hanberry Elementary School with approximately 40 members present. President Frankie McLean called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and conducted a brief business meeting. Minutes of the January 18, 2011 meeting were approved as posted on the Society's web site. Vice-President Margaret DuBard reported a balance of \$2,077.00 in the treasury and a current membership of 82. This includes 10 student members. Two honorary members, Frank and Earline Boney, were present and recognized. The next meeting will be held May 10, 2011 at Bethel Hanberry Elementary School.

Committee reports were as follows:

- Oral History: Margaret DuBard presented the goals and procedures of the project and gave the names of those interviewed to date. A written understanding with the Blythewood Garden Club re: use of information provided in the *Blythewood Scrap Book* is needed. She also mentioned the need to work with Blythewood High School to inventory and organize the memorabilia from the old Blythewood School. Lyn King making a contact through the Richland County Public Library to the Caroliana Library and a professor that teaches oral history. This has potential for a good working relationship and access to professional resources.
- Walking/Driving Tours: Karen Kuehner reported that an organizational meeting of the committee has been held. Three areas of interest were defined: Cedar Creek, 25-Mile Creek (driving tours), and the original Town Center (walking tour). Criteria in the Town's historic preservation ordinance will be used as the basis for determining sites/structures to include in the tours. Jeannette Smith will draft the text for the walking tour. A "test walk" is scheduled for March 26 at 10:00 a.m., beginning at Town Hall. All members are encouraged to participate and provide feedback. Lyn King will serve as the committee co-chair with Karen Kuehner.

President Frankie McLean and Historian Wade Dorsey presented a history and exterior/interior photos of the Luther Langford home. Research of plats and deeds indicates the lot was sold to Luther Langford in 1904, and it is likely that the house was built shortly after that. The house belonged to the Langford family until it was sold to Mrs. Cindy Nord in late 1988. The Society continues looking for early photos or recollections members may have of the original appearance of the house.

Following this presentation, Frankie McLean announced to members that Mrs. Nord has most generously made a gift of the house to the Society. Copies of the announcement were distributed, and a moment of silence was followed by enthusiastic applause. Brief discussion followed:

- Margaret DuBard acknowledged both the gift of the house and the financial assistance from the Town that will allow the Society a window of

opportunity for fund-raising efforts through donations, grants and in-kind contributions to restore and sustain the property.

- Frankie McLean stated that a “grand opening” event will be planned for 6 to 8 weeks out. In the meantime, volunteers are needed for house cleaning, yard cleanup, and safety work on the front entrance. The house will be open for members to visit on March 20, 3:00-5:00 and March 21, 1:00-3:00.

In closing comments, members were invited to sign a thank-you letter to Mrs. Nord; the Board will send a letter of thanks to the Town. Frances Jolly announced that she and Fritz visited the Boney family cemetery on Boney Road and took pictures to document it. Richland County has been notified of its location to assure its preservation.

Following adjournment at approximately 8:15, members enjoyed refreshments and social time.

Respectfully submitted: _____, Secretary
March 15, 2011