

History Commission Agenda November 13, 2018

6:00 PM – Meeting call to order

Welcome to visitors – introductions

Old Business -

- Review Guide to Historic James Island Draft w/Rachel
- Fort Johnson as a National Historical Site: Draft of letter to Dr. Eric Emerson, SHPO, Department of Archives & History draft letter
- Status of efforts for participation in the Dec. 16, 2018 Victory Day Celebration by the Town of James Island: Motion passed by Town Council July 12, 2018

Jl HS ROTC; Boy/Girl Scouts participation

Ft. Johnson Flag no cost to Jl; (we get to keep it).

American Legion/VFW Participation

New Business -

Notes on Upcoming Opportunitites/Events -The Charleston Museum has opened a newly renovated permanent exhibit, *City Under Siege: Charleston in the Civil War*. The exhibit, which tells the story of Charleston's role in the conflict from a range of perspectives, features updated exhibit panels, new images and additional pieces from the Museum's collections.

Charleston was the birthplace of secession, the scene of the war's first shot, and under constant threat by Union military forces from 1862 to early 1865. The impact of the war on the soldiers who fought in battles around the city and the inhabitants, both enslaved and free, was dramatic.

07/20/18

Mr. Paul G. Hedden

Chair

Town of James Island Historical Commission

James Island, SC 29412

Dr. Eric Emerson, SHPO

Department of Archives & History

8301 Parklane Road

Columbia, SC 29223-4905

Sir:

The James Island Historical Commission began its mission of cataloging, presenting and promoting the rich, and multicultural, history of James Island, South Carolina in February of 2015. There exists so much to the story of this small island that has played a role in European and colonial history; the Revolutionary War; the Antebellum period; the Civil War; Reconstruction, and on through the twentieth Century to the present.

Since our inauguration the Commission has been busy collecting and collating detailed information on the multiple events and places on James Island. In our continuing review of one of our most important historical locations, we have noted that the study of Fort Johnson has been greatly enhanced through study and action since the 1972 National Register of Historic Places document was completed. There now appears to be much more than the originally cited Marshlands Plantation House and the Fort Johnson Powder Magazine to be recognized.

We are requesting your aid in updating the particular sites within Fort Johnson by assisting the Town of James Island History Commission in working with the Medical University of South Carolina, the South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources, and the College of Charleston's Grice Marine Laboratory to identify and mark more individual sites within the confines of historic Fort Johnson.

Among these sites are the remains of the Martella Tower, the remains of the earthworks constructed in early 1861 and originally referred to as the West battery, now better know as Battery Harleston. The history of the Fort dates back to circa 1704 and has played a major role in the often bloody history of Charleston, South Carolina and the United States and should be memorialized and not forgotten.

Thank you,

Mr. Paul G. Hedden, Chair

Town of James Island Historical Commission

cc: Medical University of South Carolina

South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources

Grice Marine Laboratory