

# The Yorkville Times

Yorkville Historical Society  
P.O. Box 1122 • York • SC 29745



The White Rose of York

## Plots and Plans

By Marguerite Neary

If you have ever gardened, you know how difficult it can be to move a plant that has happily established itself in one place to another spot. You wait for the most propitious moment, uproot it as gently as you can (telling yourself that perhaps the plant doesn't even know what's going on), and you shake some of the original soil from its roots ... as you promise it new ground with better conditions and a secure future. Maybe it was in the way of construction work or maybe the angle of the sun was not the best. Maybe your decision was a random one, based on the idea of redesigning a flowerbed, or maybe it was your final offer to a plant that refused to thrive.

People are moved around like plants. Sometimes carefully removed from their original habitats, other times rudely wrenched from familiar surroundings. If they are lucky, they find a flowerbed that brings the sunshine and warmth they need in order to thrive. Sometimes that flowerbed is a charming historic town that offers the very nurturing a geographical transplant needs to put down roots and grow.

The Yorkville Historical Society provided a path to new gardens for me some ten years ago when I was trying to sort out how to survive in my (then) new hometown of York, South Carolina. Joining the society opened up a whole new world filled with interesting and enthusiastic people who never seemed to run out of ideas about how to enrich the area and preserve its history on a variety of levels. ....(continued on page 2)

### Board Members

Anne Allison	Peggy Palmer
Mary Byrum	Russell Propst
Nancy Cumbie	Pam Schronce
Bobbie Hawkins	Linda Simpson
Scott Hollis	Grace Ulbricht
Linda Lennert	Issac Wright

### Officers

President.....Marguerite Neary  
Vice-President....Edward Wood  
Co-Treasurers....Linda & Dennis Lennert  
Secretary.....Mary Montgomery

### NEXT MEETING

Join us Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30  
pm at the McCelvey Center

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The Yorkville Historical Society meets four  
times a year  
(January, April, July & October)



### Nearby ... Plots and Plans

Whether promoting Historic York through a Christmas tour of homes, setting up markers for significant sites, or decorating Moore Park and downtown, the Historical Society works tirelessly to remind us that our town can only continue to blossom if we continue to plant.

To that end, we have planted signs and markers, ideas and dreams (many of which, like the downtown clock, have come true). It is my hope that we become, literally, historic gardeners, reminding ourselves and visitors how important it is to preserve historic plants and to recapture the scent and spirit of our grandmothers' gardens. To help us discover how we can do this, Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens Head Gardener, **Doug Ruhren**, **will be our guest speaker at the April 27th meeting**, where he will guide us towards selecting and preserving heirloom plants. Hopefully, when we put on our gardening gloves and beautify our own properties, we will renew our energy and continue the beautification of York as we work towards the restoration of our historic caboose. This project will offer us yet another opportunity to continue our mission of preserving local historic artifacts before they are lost for all time. I am excited at the prospect of restoring such a gem and am looking forward to watching the project grow. Like the native plants we preserve or recover, the historic caboose can continue to serve as a marker for the care and attention we give to our gifts from the past.

# I can't take it with me...

By Ken Spaulding



Some of us are born with a mutant gene called “*the collecting gene.*”

This gene is not malignant but often times causes us to find ourselves with overcrowded lifestyles and in sometimes unpleasant situations, especially, when downsizing or moving into different housing. As a real estate broker and an auctioneer, I have dealt with the mutant collecting gene both personally and professionally many many times over the years.

My grandmother always said that there was always more than one way to skin a cat. I find that maxim especially true in dealing with the mutant collector gene. Here is a little practical advice should a move threaten the mutant gene collector in your life.

**DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DO THIS ALONE!** Most people collect things for a number of reasons. It could be a tangible connection to a past loved one or a personal memorable event that has caused us to hang on to some of the things we no longer need. My mom had wedding photos from her sister's first unsuccessful marriage that we had to dispose of when mom passed...Ask someone you trust if they agree that the collected treasure, that you're hanging on to, is actually worth keeping.

**GIVE IMPORTANT OR TREASURED THINGS TO THE PEOPLE YOU WANT**

**TO HAVE THEM NOW!** For many people this is especially difficult and sometimes impossible to do. I am working with some dear elderly friends who are considering a move. “We want Robert to have this”...Arrange for Robert to come and pick it up was my advise. Before my grandparents made their last substantial move we were all invited to choose anything that we wanted that would remind us of them and instructed to pick up the things that my grandparents had set aside for each of us. I chose a brass horse plaque that had hung in their home all of my life. I was given a bisque doll that my grandmother had purchased which was very important to her, as well as a china headed doll I had made for her in ceramic class as a very young child. Grandpa wanted me to have his father's gold pocket watch. As the years have passed, these items have become even more important to me. When my grandmother passed at 91 years of age, an out of state cousin stopped by for the services. He commented on the number of items I had displayed in my home that he remembered from his own childhood visits to our grandparents...

**DON'T SADDLE YOUR LOVED ONES WITH THINGS THEY DO NOT WANT OR EVEN LIKE.** Often times we forget that not everyone shares our memories. Not long ago I was asked to sell a large group of unnamed early 1900s photographs for another dear friend. These photos belonged to her late mother's very best friend. The friend had also passed leaving no immediate family or next of kin. My friend had packaged these photographs and stoically moved them with her a number of times over the next twenty to thirty years.

Spaulding ... **I can't take it with me...**

Often times I look at possible auctions where deceased family members treasures have been packed away and stored for many years in unopened boxes.

**LOOK AT ALL SALES OPTIONS AND CHOOSE THE ONE (OR ONES) THAT WORKS BEST FOR YOU.** We are blessed with many avenues and options to dispose of unwanted or unneeded items today.

Being an auctioneer I have always preferred selling my unnecessary things at **Public Auction**. This method is usually the cleanest and quickest way to get the job done. Your auctioneer arranges to advertise and market your goods either on site, at another agreed upon location or an auction facility. I have found that most often things bring about 30% more if sold on site at the home location. The auctioneer receives a percentage of the sale and sometimes his direct sale expenses from you for getting the job done. Sometimes public auction is not possible due to parking, weather and other conditions.

**Direct Buy Out.** Ask a reputable dealer or an auctioneer to make a cash offer on the goods you have gathered or even the entire contents of your home. This works out nicely if you are moving out of state and need to sell your items quickly. The buyer is then responsible for removing everything including the debris from the property within an agreed upon time frame. Remember the buyer is purchasing your goods to resell and potential profit is the name of his game.

**Estate or Tag Sale.** A knowledgeable responsible person will come into your home to price, arrange, and market your items at an open public sale, normally, held at your home over a two day period. You will pay the marketing costs, as well as, an agreed upon commission to the person conducting



your sale. On the second day prices on remaining goods are slashed and whatever is not sold when the sale closes is packed and removed or sold in bulk. Make certain that people you choose to represent you have good references and a good track record when using this method of marketing.

**Garage Sale.** This is without a doubt the most commonly used method of selling unneeded or unnecessary items. It is also the riskiest. Over the years I've made a number of great buys by attending garage sales held by unknowledgeable sellers. I remember a cute old four poster doll bed, which was purchased for \$2 and sold later the same day for \$50 and a 10¢ Coke tray that sold for \$40 or \$50. I recently purchased several genuine Longaberger baskets

Spaulding ... **I can't take it with me...**

for \$2 or \$3 each and quickly resold them at a handsome profit. My son laughed when I bought a tattered quilt last summer at a yard sale for 25¢ and later resold it for \$26!

**ON LINE or eBay.** Many of my friends and I have found on line selling to be a very profitable sideline. It can be labor intensive as you not only need to photograph and describe your goods, but must package, and ship them once they are paid for and sold. I recently sold several pieces of pink Depression glass for my mother in law. At first I called it a different pattern than it actually was and was promptly corrected by numerous eBay experts. Once I corrected my error I sold the glass at a very nice price to satisfied buyers around the USA and Canada.

Once again knowledge is the key. In order to sell things for a good price it is critical that you KNOW what they are or that the person assisting you is knowledgeable in that genre of goods. I've been buying, selling and collecting for thirty or so years now, *and I must confess I am pretty good at knowing the accurate up to date value of most items in many different categories*, but even I get fooled once in a while. Several years ago I purchased the complete boxed contents of a closed church rectory that was to be torn down. There were some neat religious items included. In the past I had found religious items extremely difficult to sell so I placed an engraved gold colored chalice on eBay at a \$9.95 starting price. Imagine my joy and my chagrin when the chalice closed in excess of \$200.00 a week later!

I've discovered that using any of the above methods in total and in part helped me sell many personally collected and varied goods for customers, clients, and friends with good results. I have also reluctantly discovered that once I sell something or clear a shelf or a cupboard I'll find several some things or a new collection to fill its place. Collecting is a dreadful affliction.... It is also a very rewarding although an incurable one!



# YORK HISTORIC CABOOSE RESTORATION

By Grace Ebersold Ulbricht



When our society approved the idea that we look into the restoration of the caboose, many of you agreed to serve on the committee, I was thrilled. I still am, and I have more good news for you.

I was told that the Chamber was interested in restoring both the station and the caboose so I drove to town to talk to Paul Boger. Both, he and Mayor Eddie Lee, agree that the caboose could be a real asset for tourism promotion and education of our students.

Paul told me that John Bechtel from the Southern Railroad Museum in Spencer, NC was coming to inspect both structures. So I waited until Paul had more information before I returned this week.

John Bechtel is a RR engineer. He examined both the station and the caboose. I will report about just the

caboose. John was quite impressed that the inside was still intact. Most cabooses of that vintage have been stripped. Ours looks just like it did when it was first put into service in the 1940's. We should be happy nobody has messed with the inside of it. Right now it is only used for storage.

The outside needs a lot of work. The metal has rusted in a few places and has to be cut out and replaced. The roof is in bad shape. There are structural problems; holes in the roof have leaked water between the walls. The window frames have rotted and the glass has fogged so badly it also needs to be replaced. Mr. Bechtel is going to write up a cost estimate and send it to Paul.

More good news: There is grant money in the S.C. Dept. of Transportation that Paul will apply for as soon as he has the information needed for the application. We all know that when you apply for a grant, the community has to come up with a percentage.

So, right now we can only sit back and wait until Paul hears from the engineers regarding cost and problems. So ... you wonderful people that agreed to serve on this committee...Thank you for your willingness to help. I'll be sure to let you know when we can do more. For now, put your energy on hold while we wait for word from Paul. The Chamber is handling all the details. I am sure we will be needed down the road. I will keep in touch with the committee and Paul as we wait for word on what part we can play.

## News and Events

By Jan Ramsey

Tuesday morning, **March 14**, Anne Allison accompanied Peggy Palmer and other members of the UDC on a tour of the Latta House, and later she conducted a tour of the Presbyterian Church for the group. The ladies enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Garden Café. This is just one of the many ways to promote beautiful historic York.

Scott Hollis, Mary Montgomery, Anne Allison, and I attended the quarterly meeting of the Broad River Historical Society Tuesday, **March 14**, at Hill's Store in Sharon, S.C. The speaker was John Carter whose family owns and operates the business. He presented an interesting history of the Hill family and the store before leading us on a tour of the first and second floor of the four story building. Refreshments were served and we met people who, like us, want to preserve history.

The second annual White Rose Sprints were held Friday, **March 31**, from 6 9pm on Congress St. in York. Approximately 200 riders competed in this fast paced event sponsored by the Rock Hill Bicycle Club along with the City and the Downtown Business Association. Music was provided and food and drinks were available. It was an entertaining and enjoyable evening, and again, a great way to promote York.

Long time Society member, Robbin Hughes, was honored at a birthday drop in party Sunday, **April 2**, from 2 4pm at the Gillispie House on East Liberty St. Her family and many friends enjoyed being with her on this joyous occasion.

Several members of the Society attended the Sunday, **April 2**, seasonal opening of the Museum of Western York County in Sharon, S.C. A war room and restored 1930's class room are a part of the new and expanded exhibits. The displays include items from all over Western York County. The museum is located at 3716 Woodlawn St.. in Sharon and hours are 3 5pm Sundays and by appointment.

Summerfest is scheduled for Saturday, **August 26**. This is a one day festival that attracts over 50,000 visitors each year. It is sponsored by the Greater York Chamber of Commerce and the City of York. The Society has always taken a part in this event by renting a space to sell our items and pass out literature. Mark your calendar now and plan to donate a couple of hours of your time to work in the Society's booth. You will enjoy the activities and meeting and greeting the crowd. It really is a fun day!



# Something Different...

By Ken Spaulding

What do a fish fry, a wedding shower and an evening full of laughs have in common? Plan on attending the upcoming dinner theater at the pavilion next to the Garden Café on May 11, 12 and 13th to learn the answers...Ken Spaulding and our own resident playwright Laura Pfenmayer have teamed up once again to co-produce and direct another of Laura's delightful plays.

Last fall you met the Whitfield family when the Yorkville Players produced Waiting Rooms at McCelvey Center. Mamma Alma, the family matriarch, was dying and her outrageously eccentric family shared those wild, crazy and unforgettable moments. In **Crystal & JT's Wedding Shower and Fish Fry** Mary Lee and Montgomery's only daughter is planning to get married.

You are invited to join in the fun.

Who is Big Arthur, Savannah's philandering husband, calling and why? What is Mr. Greenfield's big secret? How will the now deceased Mamma Alma save the day for Charlotte and Davey? Whatever happened to tranquilizer popping Savannah's dog, Champion? Even the good natured Mary Lee will be at wit's end before the shower ends...

Your own great neighbors and good friends; George Amer, Renee Graham Barker, Thea Norman and Deanna Brock reprise their WR roles. The talented Vicki Rose, Greg Griener, Tonya Whitehead, Josh Lindorf and Lisa Stewart join them. Also making his York stage debut is our infamous mayor Eddie Lee as Mr. Greenfield. Jonette Wilson and Tom Stamp round out the talented cast.

## Reservations are Requested

Show-only tickets are \$8 each or 2/\$15  
Tickets for dinner & show are \$24.50 per person

Dinner will be served at 7 PM  
The show starts at 8 PM

Tickets may be purchased at the Garden Café (684-7019), from any cast member or at the door.

We hope to see you there. Plan now to attend.

# YORK's Mrs. Francis Barron

By Rena Strawhorn



East Liberty Street is home to a few significant York treasures... one of these is Mrs. Francis Barron. On January 2, 2006, Mrs. Barron celebrated her ninety seventh birthday. Francis is frequently seen in her manicured yard weeding, pruning or purposefully marching behind her lawn mower. Recently, she bought a John Deere riding mower for the benefit of those friends who occasionally come by to help maintain her lawn.

Fifty years ago, I remember this perky bookkeeper at York Tire Store and her admiring husband, Mr. Archie. She came to York from Tizah over 70 years ago to work for Mr. Simrill doing bookkeeping. Mr. Archie worked near by and really liked her figures. They were married and raised two fine boys. They lost their oldest son to heart problems at age 49.

Mrs. Barron, her brother (Ralph Martin) and a friend , Roy Whitesides, partnered and opened a business at White Oak Manor's present site. Later they opened a larger store across the street and expanded into appliances and tires – leaning away from the service station type of business.

As we sit talking, it is amazing how Mrs. Barron is ever mindful of things to do.

She said that she loves to stay busy and to work. Her memory is not that of a sixteen year old anymore but she is anxious to stay on schedule and to complete her chores. At Christmastime she was doing her best to remember how to put together the traditional goodies to take with her to Archie, her youngest son, and his family. They steal her away as often as they can but she must be home to attend her “beloved” church, circle meetings and “attend” to her yard. A charter member of the York Historical Society, she seldom gets out at night now ... but she can get from her feet to her knees in 2 seconds flat!!!

As chance would have it, a friend of mine now assists Mrs. Barron with meals and appointments. She is never neglected by Archie who comes over once a week to take her to lunch. It took a few weeks for her caregiver to win her confidence and Francis was initially a little offended. She didn't need people checking up on her ... so she says!!! It just wasn't necessary!!! With the caregivers winning way and gentle nudging Mrs. Barron is now more receptive to the ones who come and go. Once efficient in her little kitchen, which she won from General Electric, my friend thrills her by cooking in her kitchen so she can see the preparations and help. She wants to do the dishes in her own way and eat on her timetable which means she eats at dark because only then will she come in from the great outdoors. A lover of nature and routine, she has more zest for living than many 50 year olds that I know. Her personality surfaced again as she told me to call her Francis.

It is incredible that such a dainty lovely lady has been alive since before TV, rockets, nuclear reactors and computers.

# Yorkville Historical Society is Growing

By Scott Hollis

I would like to thank everyone for paying dues and returning their membership forms to me. I am working on a new membership list for 2006.

I am writing this letter as Chairman of the Membership Drive. I would like to report that we have grown by 27 new members in the last two years. The bad news is ... we lost 15 members from the 2004 membership roster.

I have had a great turn out on the new membership list as of March 30, 2006.

The only way the Yorkville Historical Society can work on saving historical sites in York is with the members' help and dues. We are starting a new year with new officers and new board members. I know we can all work together to preserve a "special" city like York.

I would like to thank Jan Ramsey and Mary Montgomery for all their help with the new membership list.



Photo courtesy of Emma Coleman

## Remember

All members are asked to fill out new membership forms.

This will provide the necessary information to update the membership list.

Mail To: Yorkville Historical Society  
P.O. Box 1122  
York, SC 29745



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

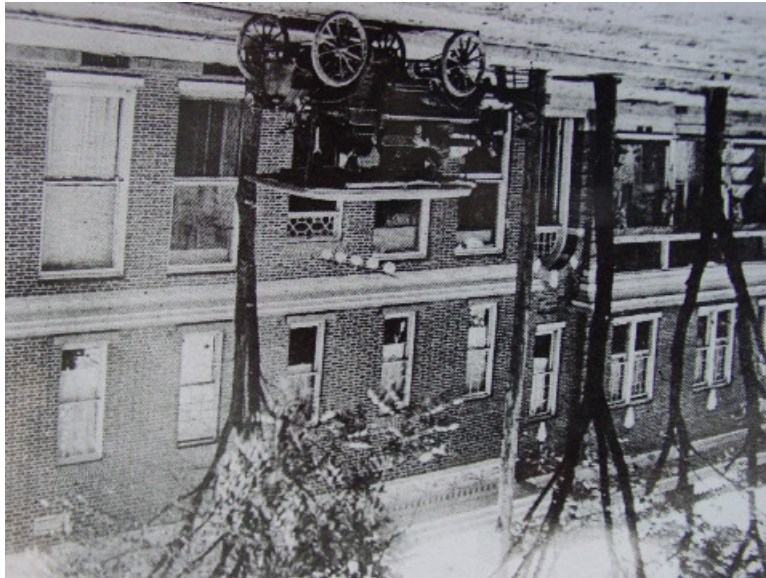
### Type of Membership

Single- \$15

Family- \$25

Student- \$5

Patron- \$50



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