

HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING
February 8, 2018 ∞ 9:35 a.m.
Cario Middle School
3500 Thomas Cario Blvd. ∞ Mount Pleasant, SC 29466

MINUTES

Members Present: Rick Gutowski, Chairman; Patrick Morrissey, Vice Chairman; Heidi Schless and William Ray

Excused Absence: Robert Macdonald and Ken Shortridge

Staff Present: Chris Luly, Planner

Mr. Gutowski called the meeting to order at 9:41 a.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Morrissey moved for approval; seconded by Mr. Ray. All present voted in favor.

II. Public Comment

[None]

III. A Brief History of Mount Pleasant / Michael Robertson

Michael Robertson, Principal Planner for the Town of Mount Pleasant, provided a brief history of the Town of Mount Pleasant.

IV. Staff Update

Mr. Luly stated that if the Commission is going to present the Plantation Singers with an honorarium, it would need to be voted on today.

Mr. Ray made a motion to provide the Plantation Singers with the same honorarium as last year; seconded by Ms. Schless.

Mr. Morrissey stated that this was covered in a previous meeting. He said the Commission already approved the cap budget for Black History

Month, and as long as the honorarium is within the budget authority, it should be covered.

Mr. Luly stated that he was advised by staff that the Commission needs to have a motion for the honorarium for the Plantation Singers.

All present voted in favor.

Mr. Gutowski advised the students that this is the fourth year the Historical Commission, a commission appointed by the Mayor of the Town of Mount Pleasant, has promoted and supported Black History Month. He stated that in February, there are free events each Saturday promoting the rich cultural history of Black History in the Town.

V. Committee Reports

QUICK FACT FRIDAYS

Ms. Schless provided a presentation to the 8th Grade Cario students regarding Quick Fact Fridays and the Commission's involvement in the publishing of the QFF's. She said that these are sent out via email or on the Town's Facebook or Twitter accounts to provide brief pieces of information on the history of the Town. She stated that she would like to raise awareness of the QFF's and explained the purpose and background of the QFF's.





BACKGROUND

- Launched by the Communications Office June 2015
- Transferred to Historical Commission February 2017
- Focus on Mount Pleasant history
- Topics first jumped era to era
- Focus now on monthly themes, important dates in history & special announcements of Commission initiatives & programs

QUICK FACT FRIDAY

Town of Mount Pleasant
Historical Commission

Ms. Schless discussed the various themes and topics covered in QFF's published in 2017 that are assigned to Commission members to write.



THEMES & TOPICS COVERED IN 2017

- Black History Month Events
- My How We've Grown
- Our Maritime History
- Historic Churches in Mt Pleasant
- The Revolutionary War in Mt P
- The 1700s in Mount Pleasant
- Local Transportation through the Centuries
- Historic Neighborhoods of Mt P
- Natural Disasters in Mt Pleasant
- Founding Fathers with Ties to Mt P
- Museums & Historic Sites in Mt P
- Cresco Award
- Our Oral History Program
- Carolina Day
- Online Sources of Historical Information on Mt Pleasant
- Happy 180th Birthday, Mt Pleasant

QUICK FACT FRIDAY

Town of Mount Pleasant
Historical Commission

She also reviewed the various topics the Commission members are proposing to cover in 2018.



THEMES & TOPICS

PLANNED FOR 2018

- Black History Month Events
- Notable Residents
- Origin of Town Street Names
- Military Presence over Time
- The Civil War in Mt Pleasant
- Maritime History (cont'd)
- Recreation, Parks & Gardens
- Historic Churches (cont'd)
- Famous Visitors
- The British in Mount Pleasant
- The Old Village
- *Our History* section of Town website
- Archive Room & Donations
- Historical Marker Program
- Community Outreach Program
- *Mount Pleasant Historical* app

QUICK FACT FRIDAY

Town of Mount Pleasant
Historical Commission

Ms. Schless provided students with a sample of what a QFF looks like.

SAMPLE QFF

THEMED
TOPIC



QUICK FACT FRIDAY



Charles Pinckney

This month, the Historical Commission's Quick Fact Fridays feature four Founding Fathers of our nation who were born, owned properties, and/or had close family living in colonial Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. Today we acquaint you with Charles Pinckney.

Charles Pinckney was born in Charleston, South Carolina on October 26, 1757, and died on October 29, 1824. Pinckney was the fourth son of eight children born to Col. Charles Pinckney and Frances Brewton Pinckney. The Pinckney family owned several properties including two in Mount Pleasant: One was a country estate on Long Point Road called Snee Farm Plantation, and the other was a Haddrell's Point summer house named Shell Hall.

Charles Pinckney founded the Democratic Party in South Carolina and managed Thomas Jefferson's South Carolina political campaign. He worked diligently in that capacity to negotiate the treaty to purchase Louisiana. Pinckney also urged the South Carolina legislature to support meaningful reforms, including free public education for the state's children. During his illustrious political career that covered South Carolina, the United States, and Spain, Pinckney proved himself one of the key political intellects of the nation's foundational period.

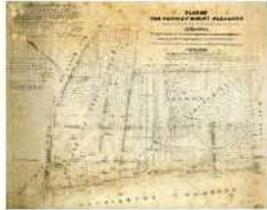
Text and image credits and for more information: [Town of Mount Pleasant website](#) and [mountpleasanthistorical.org](#).

SAMPLE QFF

HISTORICAL
DATE



QUICK FACT FRIDAY



Happy 180th Birthday, Mount Pleasant

Next Wednesday, December 20th, marks the 180th birthday of our town. On that day in 1837, the South Carolina legislature passed An Act to incorporate the Town of Mount Pleasant. This first town government was to consist of an Intendant and five Wardens, to be elected annually. Describing the new town as "dwelling houses in the Villages of Mount Pleasant and Greenwich, lying opposite to the City of Charleston, on Madrell's Point, in Christ Church Parish", the Act named Andrew Hibben, Joshua Tourner, Samuel Yerning and Elias Whilden - names that still mark our landscape - as Commissioners to designate the boundaries of the Town and to produce a plat. The plat by surveyor Edward White, pictured above, followed in 1838. The full text of the 1837 Act of incorporation can be found under the *Our History* tab within the Town's website, and the page is linked below.

Happy birthday, Mount Pleasant!

For more information: [Town of Mount Pleasant website](#) and [mountpleasanthistorical.org](#).

Image credit: [White, Edward B., surveyor, Plat of the Town of Mount Pleasant, July 1838, courtesy of the South Carolina Historical Society.](#)

She stated that this year in February, the Commission will feature Black History Month each Friday in February and showcase the free events held every Saturday in February.

SAMPLE QFF

COMMISSION
INITIATIVE



QUICK FACT FRIDAY

Celebrate!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 2018

Join us for this **FREE** series of cultural programs to celebrate African-American History and the Gullah Heritage of Mount Pleasant!

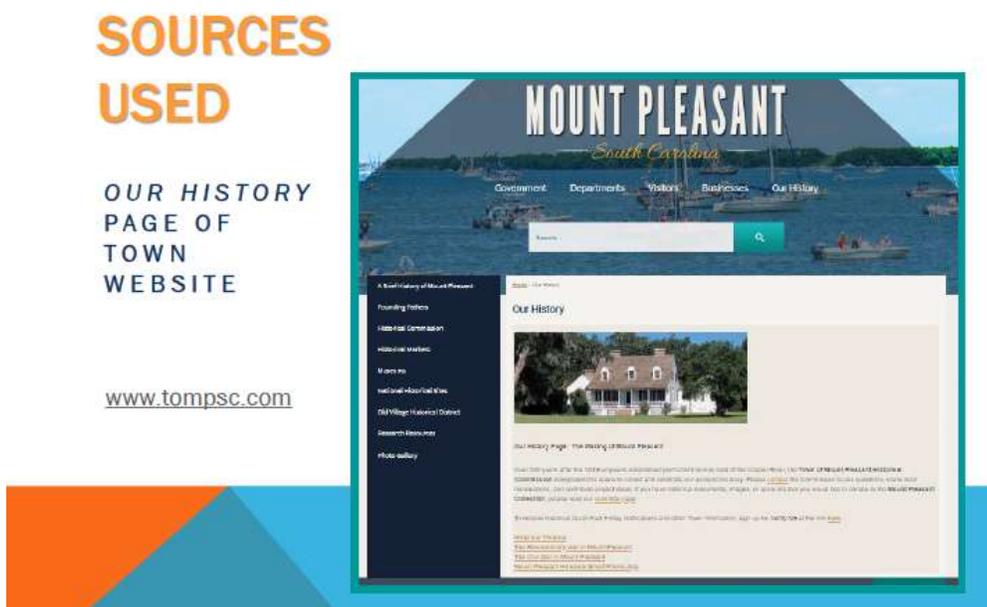


SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3 - 7PM Cliff University Choir Choral, Pop, and Classical Performances Dr. Isiah R. McDee, Director St. Andrew's Church 440 10-John Street Mount Pleasant
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10 - 7PM Plantation Singers A Capella Performers of Spirituals Lynette White, Director Christ Church 2208 Highway 17 North Mount Pleasant
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17 - 7PM U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps Generals South Carolina State Nurses History Symposium Greater Goodwill AME Church 2328 Highway 17 North Mount Pleasant
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24 - 7PM Local History Panel and Vocal Performance Principally AME Cultural Arts Choir Friendship AME Church 204 Royal Avenue Mount Pleasant

She stated that on the bottom of QFF, there is a standard area which points to the primary sources and how you can sign up to receive QFF's or access them.

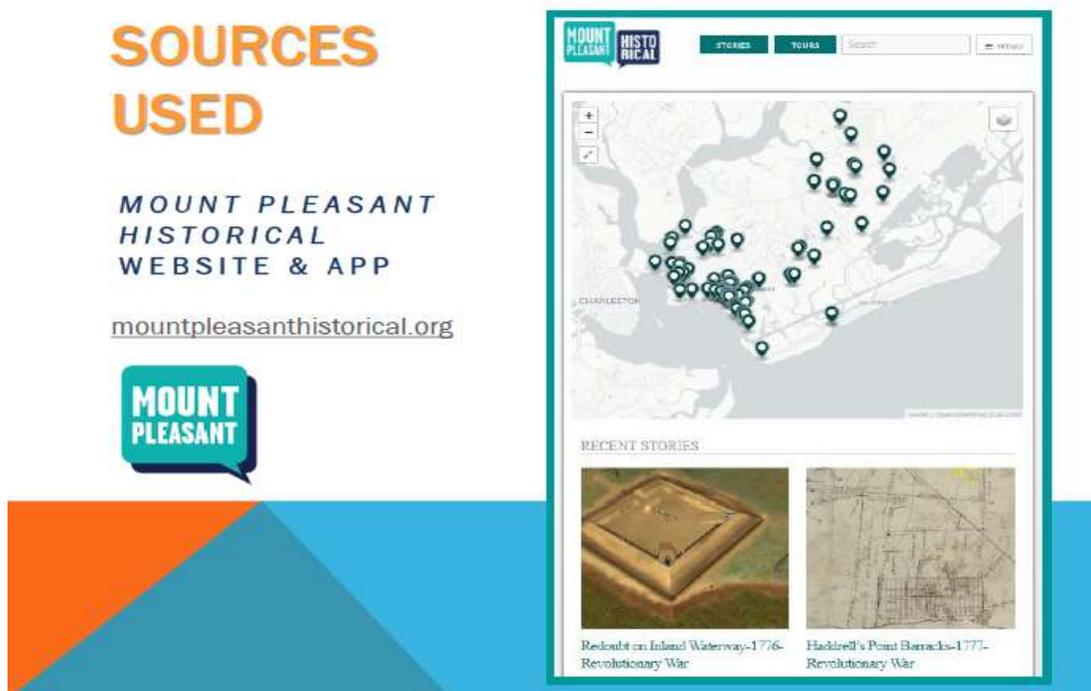


Ms. Schless showed the home page for the Town of Mount Pleasant's website, and by clicking on "Our History", how it will take you to the history page shown below.



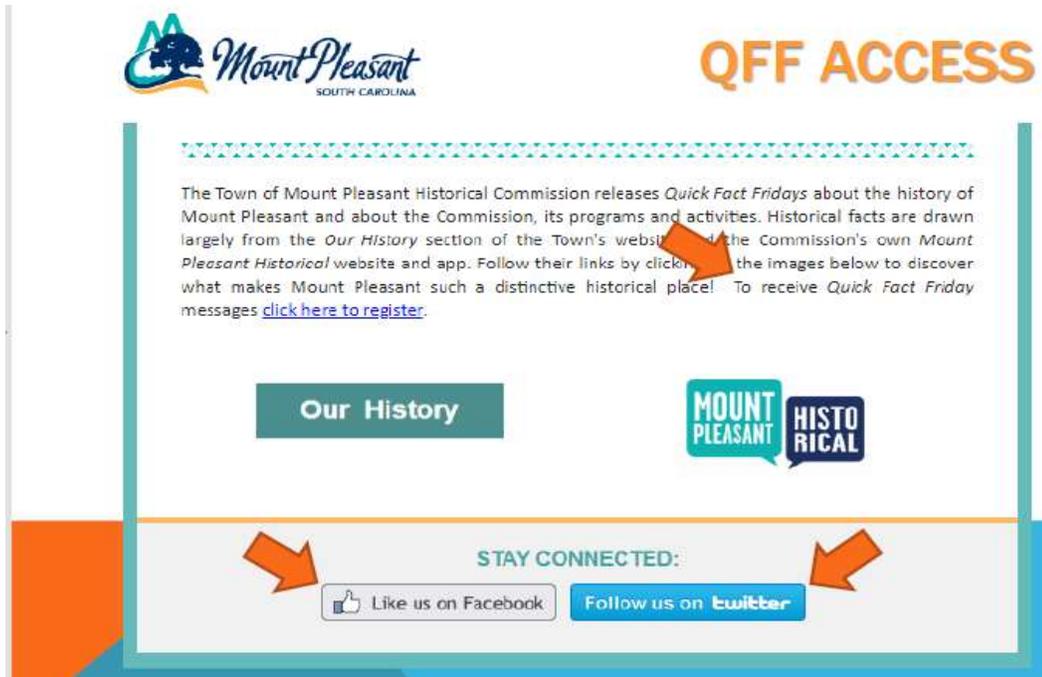
She stated that this page will have additional links to the Historical Markers in the Town, the Founding Fathers, Museums, Historical sites, as well as a list of oral histories that were recorded and transcribed.

She added that the Historical Commission also has their own website and app, and if you click on any of the map markers, an image and the story behind the story will open. She stated that there are topics on Historic Plantations, Shem Creek, and other different Mount Pleasant historical sites.

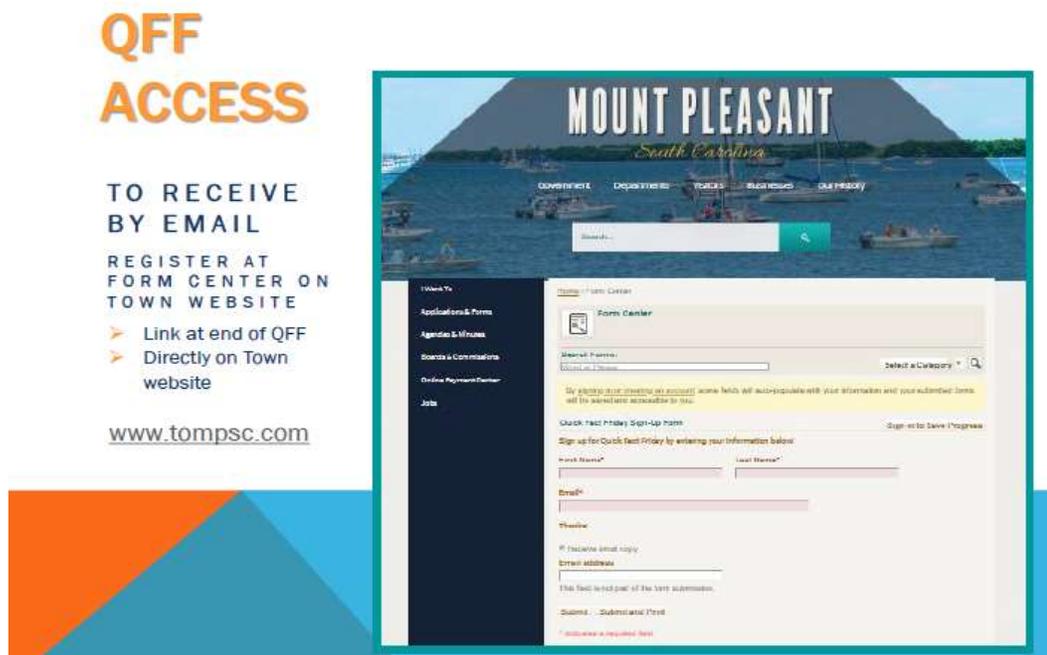


She stated that these are the two main sources that are utilized in the Quick Fact Fridays, as well as other sources. She mentioned that Mary Julia Royall, one of the honorary members of the Historical Commission, is also the Town's historian and has written two books on the Town of Mount Pleasant's history, which are available in Cario's library.

She stated that the bottom paragraph of each QFF has a link that will instruct you on how to sign up to begin receiving QFF's.



She stated that if you click on that link, it will take you to the Town website shown below, which will allow you to sign up to receive various notifications for Town events of interest.



She said you may also click to like the Facebook page or follow on Twitter. She said that each Friday, QFF's are posted.

Ms. Schless asked the students for their help in growing readership of QFF, which has grown over the years. She stated that the Commission would like to increase readership to 20,000 by the end of the year, as the Town is growing.



She asked for topic suggestions as well as target markets, such as girl scout/boy scout troops, and ideas or recommendations to help the Commission grow their readership. She said the students could put their ideas and suggestions together and provide them to their teachers and they will send them on to Mr. Luly at the Town of Mount Pleasant.

Mr. Gutowski showed the students the two books mentioned by Ms. Schless that were written by Mary Julia Royall, and donated to the school. He said that Ms. Royall is the Town Historian, as well as a standing member of the Historical Commission.

ARCHIVE ROOM

Mr. Morrissey stated that regarding the archive room, the furnishings have not yet arrived and as he understands through Purchasing, the Town is coordinating an order for the remaining items to complete the Town Hall outfitting and does not have a confirmation that the Archive Room furnishings are on that list. He will follow up.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Ray had nothing to report at this time.

VI. General Discussion – Items of Interest

Mr. Morrissey stated that if any of the students or their parents have an interest in hiking trails in the Town, one of the things that the Historical Commission is involved in is Christ Church line, which is just across the Long Point Road intersection to Highway 17. He said during the Civil War when the Confederates were concerned with Union attack, Robert E. Lee was in charge of the Southeast Coast and he designed the defenses of Charleston. He said part of the defense on the northern flank was called the Christ Church line, because the line went through the parish grounds of that church. He said if you are on Highway 17 and drive by, you can see a small berm where the dirt stands up, and that line went from Boone Hall Creek all the way to the marsh where the Oyster Point neighborhood now sits. He said portions of that line are still preserved and Highway 17 goes through it. He said if you go to the Oyster Point neighborhood, the developer worked with the Town and donated some land. The public can walk where the berm once was and the fortifications where the cannons were in place to go over the marsh to protect Dewees and Capers Islands are there, and they built an observation tower. He said there are some private lands, but there are easements to try and protect that berm. The new developer is on Six Mile Road and is also working on extending the trail. He said as part of the Town's Comprehensive Plan, the Historical Commission is trying to obtain some enthusiasm or involvement with protecting the points that already exist and connect them with a history trail, but also as a hiking

trail that will extend from the Pinckney Plantation, Boone Hall, across Highway 17 and go down to the already existing trail at Oyster Point. He said that he has already discussed with the Comprehensive Plan group that where it is available, to try and reach out toward Laurel Park and make some type of biking/hiking comprehensive trail for the Town. He said if the students or their families have an interest in this, they can go online to the Town's website and there is an area where you are able to put in your comments or ideas for the Comprehensive Plan. He said if there is enthusiasm for it, the Town will possibly consider developing this.

VII. Adjourn

Mr. Ray moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Morrissey. All present voted in favor.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Ashe
February 8, 2018