



SC African American Heritage Commission

January Newsletter

Welcome to the SC African American Heritage Commission newsletter. In it you will find updates about their activities and events pertaining to African American History in South Carolina!



The SCAAHC hopes everyone had a great and safe holiday season and Happy New Year! We are excited for the activities and events to come in 2025!

SCAAHC Events and Announcements!

46 Days Left to Register!!

2025 Conference Registration is Open!

Registration for the 2025 SCAAHC Annual Conference is officially open! Spaces are filling quickly so we recommend reserving your spot sooner rather than later. Download the flyer for links to more information about presentations and speakers. The registration link can be found [here](#) or on the [Commission's webpage](#). If you have any questions, reach out to Ayanna Goines, agoines@scdah.sc.gov. Hope to see you on Saturday February 22, 2025!!

[Download Flyer!](#)



SC ARCHIVES AND
HISTORY CENTER
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223

Space is limited. Pre-
registration is highly
recommended.

Registration Fee Per
Person:

- Regular: \$40
- Senior: \$20
- Student: \$15

*Lunch is included in
registration fee.
GF/Vegetarian options
available.

For additional conference
information and
questions contact Ayanna
Goines at:
agoines@scahc.sc.gov or
(803)896-8256

2025 SC African American Heritage Commission Annual Conference

Saturday, February 22, 2025

Registration Link: <https://form.jotform.com/243305678390966>

Schedule

8:30AM – 8:55AM Registration

9:00AM – 9:10AM Opening Welcome

9:15AM – 10:25AM 1st Session Block

Leading the Charge: Women & Social Movements

- * The presence of Black women in social movements crosses generations. This panel will start with the Rollins sisters' role in 19th century politics, presented by historian Gracia Rich. Winthrop professor, Dr. Dixon-McKnight will continue the conversation to discuss the Black female hospital workers that organized the 1969 Charleston Hospital Workers' Campaign.

South Carolina's Forgotten Black Union Veterans and Your Community

- * Learn from University of South Carolina Beaufort's Institute for the Study of the Reconstruction Era about the 1st SC Volunteers of African Descent who served in the Union Army and how to determine if your community has connections to Black Union soldiers/veterans.

10:30AM – 11:40AM 2nd Session Block

Putting in the Work: Methods for Preserving Black History

- * Come hear from practitioners in the field on ways they have researched and preserved Black History in South Carolina. Institutions include the International African American Museum, USC Center for Civil Rights History and Research, and the University of South Carolina Beaufort.

Harvesting Heritage: Preserving Black Foodways, History, and Culture

- * This panel, with tasting samples, will discuss the history and impact of Black foodways and the ways we can use them to preserve Black history. Speakers include Ramon Jackson and Meeghan Kane from SC State Museum and Chef Amethyst Ganaway.

11:45AM – 12:55PM Lunch

1:00PM – 2:15PM 3rd Session Block

Student Research

- * Students from University of South Carolina, Allen University, and College of Charleston will discuss their current research pertaining to African American history. Topics include African-derived spirituality, the block of 1500 Harden Street and the Greyhound Bus Station sit-ins in Columbia, and John Henry McCray's papers.

2:20PM – 3:45PM Keynote Address

The Impact of Student Protests during the Civil Rights Era

- * Cecil Williams, South Carolina Civil Rights Museum, Civil Rights Photographer

Conference Speaker Highlight!



This week we are highlighting Gracia Collins Rich!

From Rains, South Carolina, Gracia Collins Rich is a Historian, Independent Scholar, author, journalist, and editor. Her debut thriller, *Handkerchief*, reach #1 on Amazon's Bestseller's list in September 2020.

"On a daily basis, I inspire and educate over 2K followers on my Instagram platform @historywithher on 18th-19th Century American History by sharing it through my collection of mostly historical nonfiction books. I feel that there are many unsung Black women during this time period who have made significant contributions to the American story. That is why I feel spotlighting the Rollin Sisters is so

important. As a historian, I believe that we have to know and understand the past before we can truly change the future.

As an editor of nonfiction anthologies, my role is to proof author manuscripts for grammar and formatting issues, and to ensure that all chapters are written to the company's standards without sacrificing the author's unique vision and/or perspective. You can learn more about me and my work at my website www.historywithher.com."

Gracia has been featured on I Hear That Girl.com, SwagHer.com, Sheenmagazine.com, Glambitious! magazine, Courageous Woman Magazine, and

She is the mother of four wonderful adult children and a grandmother. She has served as a Civil Litigation and Criminal Defense Paralegal. Currently, she is working on her first historical non-fiction work on South Carolina's Negro Act of 1740.

To hear more from Gracia and to learn about the impact of the Rollin Sisters on 19th-century politics in South Carolina register for the conference [here](#).

9 Days Left to Submit!!

Submissions for Green Book Publication Open!

The Commission is still accepting proposals for their Green Book publication. Submissions can cover the topics listed on the flyer or must be closely associated with South Carolina and Green Book sites. **The deadline is January 15, 2025.** Questions? Contact Ayanna Goines, agoines@scdah.sc.gov.



SCAAHC Green Book Call for Proposals/Writers

The South Carolina African American Heritage Commission (SCAAHC) is calling for proposals from interested authors for their publication on the Green Book, edited by Dr. Vernon Burton and Harris Bailey Jr. There are studies of the Green Book, but the SCAAHC's proposed scholarly analysis represents the first state study of the influence of the Green book. This study focuses on South Carolina.

The SCAAHC proposes a series of essays that explore how *The Negro Travelers' Green Book* influenced South Carolina and its citizens. Essays will consider the historical, political, social, cultural, and economic contexts as well as the shifting demographics in South Carolina. Writers are not limited to the following topics, but the publication hopes to cover these areas:

- A biographical sketch of Victor Hugo Green, the founder of the Green Book and his wife, Alma Duke Green, who served as publisher of the Green Book in the 1960s
- How travel for African Americans was impacted by various modes of transportation, like trains, buses, and commercial airlines
- Distinguishing between de jure and de facto segregation and examples of both in South Carolina, maybe a comparison across regions
- A discussion on the articles included in the Green Book and how they change over time
- A comparison of legal jurisdictions by region in South Carolina and how Black travelers navigated the various interpretations. Compare regional differences with sites in the travel guide and how they change over time
- The creation of a Black Middle class. Compare and contrast across regions of the state. Expand beyond businesses listed in Green Book by looking at Black newspaper ads and city directories
- Observing the Black communities and their physical location to Green Book sites, if there were any. Determine why sites are more prevalent in certain cities than others
- A case study on Esso and Amoco, national oil companies, who crossed the color line in the South and extended franchise agreements to Black businesspeople
- Looking at women as business owners, operators, and entrepreneurs. Can be a statistical breakdown of how many women were involved in running a business
- The relationship between the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Black travel. Can also look at the Voting Rights Act of 1965

Writers interested in contributing to the publication will send a 1-2 page proposal, detailing a topic pertaining to the Green Book and South Carolina. Must include the relevancy and importance of the proposed essay to the discussion of the travel guide and suggested methods for research. Accepted essays will vary in length, depending on topics and evidence from somewhere between 5 to 30 pages, with citations. Essays will be reviewed by outside peer reviewers.

Proposals should be sent to Ayanna Goines, agoines@scdah.sc.gov with "Green Book Publication Proposal" in the subject line. The deadline for proposals is **January 15th, 2025.**

Commission Activities

Commissioners have been busy participating in events. See below for a recap!

Dr. Vernon Burton

At the recent American Historical Association conference, Commissioner Dr. Burton presented on the panel "Historians and the Court." On

January 16th, he will also appear as a guest on NPR to discuss the history of democracy within in the context of current events.



Terry James

Under the leadership of Commissioner Terry James, Executive Director of the Jamestown Foundation, Jamestown has been nominated for various awards across the southern region. The nominations pertain to the news stories done on the property that showcase the importance of preserving and protecting family history and Black history in South Carolina. Read one of those stories [here](#).



Recent African American Preservation News

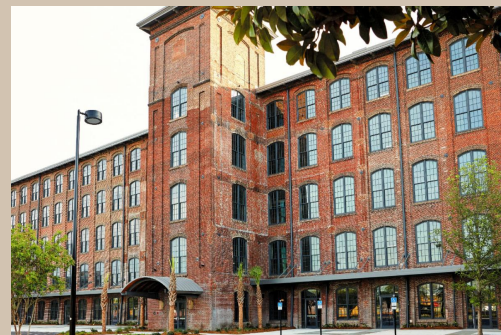


2 African American SC Sites listed to National Register

Edgewood School and Ruffin High and Elementary School have been listed to the National Register of Historic Places. Both were presented at the November State Board of Review and after being reviewed by the National Park Service, have been approved by the Keeper of the National Register and will be listed. For more on the nomination process, visit [this link](#).

Charleston Cigar Factory a National Historic Landmark

The Charleston Cigar Factory has been designated as a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior. This is the highest recognition of a property's historical, architectural, or archeological significance. The factory was the site of the 1945 strike organized by Black women who fought against discrimination, inadequate pay, and poor health benefits. To read U.S. Congressman James E. Clyburn's statement on the recognition, [click here](#).



The Slave Dwelling Project Receives Funds

The Slave Dwelling Project received a \$123,200 grant from the SC 250th Commission. The funding will support the creation of African American living history portrayals from the American

Revolution period (1770-1783). Learn more about The Slave Dwelling Project [here](#).



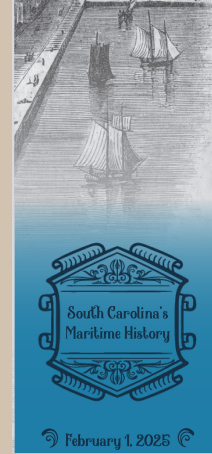
Grants!

- **NEW! National Trust Preservation Funds:** Grants from this program are intended to encourage preservation at the local level by supporting on-going preservation work and by providing seed money for preservation projects. **The deadline for this program in February 3, 2025.** Click [this link](#) to learn more about the program.
- **Civil Rights Microgrants Program:** The Center for Civil Rights History and Research is offering \$500 research and travel grants to faculty, staff members, and graduate students engage in civil rights-related research, teaching, or programming. The application deadline is **January 15, 2025.** Visit [here](#) for more information.
- **SCDAH Federal Historic Preservation Grants:** The Archives is administering federal funds for Survey and Planning Projects or Stabilization Projects. Any local government, non-profit, or institution in SC may apply but the SHPO's first priority will be to fund projects in SC's CLGs. **The deadline for FY2025 applications is May 1, 2025.** Click [this link](#) for more information.
- **Richland County Conservation Commission Historic Preservation Grant:** The RCCC is offering a grant to help non-profit organizations, governmental agencies, institutions, and commercial entities persevere and protect historic buildings in Richland County. **The application will close February 1, 2025.** For more information and eligibility criteria, [visit this webpage](#).
- **The Unity Cemetery Preservation Fund:** The Unity Cemetery Preservation fund provides support for the preservation of historic (dating from ~1800 to ~1900) African American cemeteries. Funds can be used for a variety of projects including: mapping, site assessment, and other data collection; conservation treatments for grave markers and other funerary features; landscape stabilization; and public outreach. **The deadline is February 28, 2025** and more information can be found on [their webpage](#).
- **National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions:** The NEH is offering a grant to help small and mid-sized organizations preserve and manage humanities collections, ensuring their significance for a variety of users. The deadline to submit applications is **January 9, 2025** and more information can be found [here](#).
- **NEH Chair's Grants, 160th Anniversary of Juneteenth:** In celebration of the 160th anniversary of Juneteenth, the NEH Chair invites proposals with request up to \$30,000 to support free Juneteenth Open House events exploring African American history and culture. Funding must explore the theme of freedom and can be used for docent-led tours, lecture series, literary discussion, community archiving, living history, etc. **The application will close January 15, 2025.** For more information, [click here](#).

Upcoming Events & Conferences

- **Tuesday January 7, 2025:** Join the South Carolina Historical Society for a free Zoom program with authors Walter Curry, Jr. Ed.D. and Margaret Seidler

exploring the intertwined histories of slavery, both from the perspective of descendants of the enslaved and the descendants of enslavers and traders in SC. [Click here](#) to register.



- **Wednesday January 29, 2025:** The Heritage Library is offering a class on African American genealogical research. Join experienced researcher Amanda Hughes and expand your knowledge of researching this challenging area of genealogy. [Click here](#) to register.
- **February 1, 2025:** South Carolina's significant maritime history covers wars, commerce, pirates and adventures. Join the Archives to be enlighten and entertained by a group of well-versed speakers discussing SC's maritime history. Find the link to register and the symposium brochure at [this link](#).
- **Saturday February 8, 2025:** Join the South Carolina State Museum and Penn Center for a "Harvesting Heritage: Lowcountry Legacy" event. This event will take place at Penn Center on St. Helena Island and will explore a celebration of Gullah Geechee cuisine, art, and storytelling. Click [this link](#) for more information and tickets.
- **Saturday February 22, 2025:** The SCAAHC will be hosting it's second Annual Conference. Registration is now open and descriptions of the featured panels can be found on the [Commission's webpage!](#)
- **March 2, 2025:** The South Carolina Historical Association will have their Annual meeting with the theme "The Struggles for Democracy." Learn more about the event [here](#).
- **March 12, 2025:** Join the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor for a training that will cover information on land preservation strategies, led by a panel with expertise on land trusts, housing land trusts and conservation. Find more information about this hybrid opportunity [here](#).
- **March 27-29, 2025:** The Confederation of SC Local Historical Societies' Landmark Conference. Held in Sumter, you can find more info [here](#).
- **Friday April 25th, 2025:** SCDAAH will host the Statewide Historic Preservation Conference. Call for proposals is open until December 16. More information can be found [here](#).
- **April 25-26, 2025:** Join the Institute for the Study of the Reconstruction Era for their Spring Symposium. Women, in various roles, are key figures in the history of the 1st South Carolina Volunteers of African Descent (33rd US Colored Troops), the first regiment of Black Soldiers deployed in a combat role during the Civil War. The 2025 symposium will celebrate the many women associated with the 1st South Carolina VAD as well as the impact made by women throughout South Carolina during the Reconstruction Era. Find current info [here](#) or click on the flyer below. Registration info coming Feb. 2025.

Ongoing Events

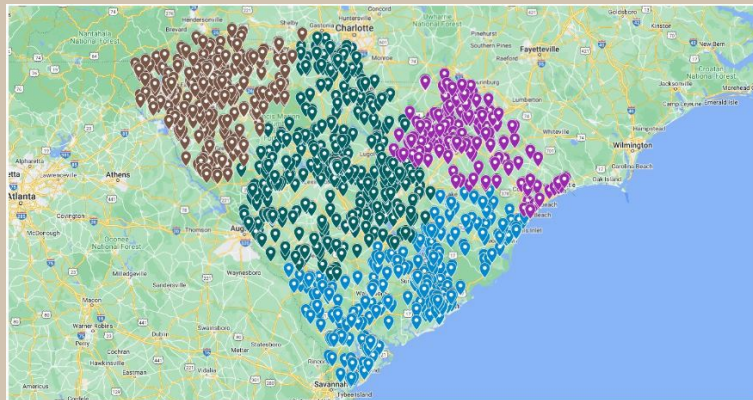
- The SC Dept. of Archives & History has opened a new exhibit called "[*Know Your State and Make It Known: The South Carolina Historical Marker Program.*](#)" Visit the Archives Monday through Saturday from 9am to 4:30pm, except State Holidays.
- The Center for Civil Rights and History's exhibit "[Where Do We Go From Here?](#)" explores Dr. Martin Luther King's questions about the future and illustrates how the passage of major civil rights legislation affected education, housing, health care, employment, and more. This exhibit, housed at the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library at the Thomas Cooper Library can be viewed during the Library's normal hours of operation. Click here for [more info](#).
- Free Admission to the Columbia Museum of Art where visitors can see the "[Our Story Matters](#)" Gallery that discusses Columbia's vibrant Washington

Street Black Business District.

- SC State Museum "[Shared Sacrifice: South Carolina in World War II](#)" exhibit that details the stories of SC men and women who contributed to the war effort, as well as Black South Carolinians' pursuit of "Double Victory" over fascism abroad and segregation at home.
- Tours of the exhibits [The Language of Clay: Catawba Indian Pottery & Oral Traditions](#) and [Sandy Islanders: A People of the Land](#) at the Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage. These guided tours discuss the history and culture of the Catawba nation and Gullah people of Sandy Island. Find more info at this link.



Interactive Map of All Approved South Carolina Historical Markers



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SC African American Heritage Commission

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