



# Lancaster County Historical Commission

## *Spring Newsletter 2022*

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### ***The Historical Museum is now open!***

The museum is located on the first floor of the Historic Lancaster Court House.

#### Schedule

Monday & Wednesday (10 am – 2 pm)

Saturday (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month/By Appointment)

To make an appointment, contact Lancaster County at 803-285-1565 or the Historical Commission by email: [lan.historicalcommission@yahoo.com](mailto:lan.historicalcommission@yahoo.com).

## **Celebrating 50 Years of Walking On The Moon**

There are 12 U.S. astronauts who have walked on the moon. One of the twelve is Lancaster's Charlie Duke. 50 years ago, April 1972, aboard Apollo 16; Duke and his crew landed on the moon. Now, 86 and living in Texas, he still travels for speaking engagements, etc.



Charles M. Duke Jr.  
Brigadier General, USAF, Ret.

Lancaster celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Duke's walk on the moon Friday, April 29, 2022; with an event where our Native Son received the Order of The Palmetto, South Carolina's highest honor.

Also, Lancaster County Council proclaimed April 29, 2022, "*Brigadier General Charles M. Duke Jr. Day.*" Several family members visited the museum on Friday for a private viewing of the Duke display case, which includes a scrapbook, painting of Duke on the moon and other memorabilia.

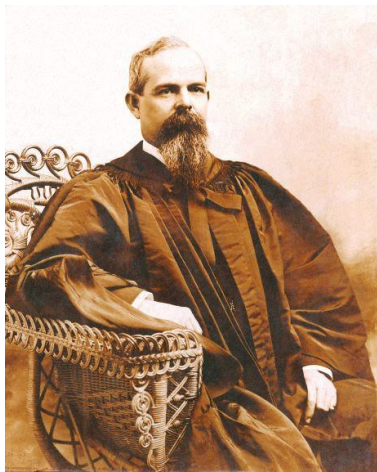
*We are very proud of our native son.*

# Museum Collections

## Desk of Ira B. Jones, Sr. SC Supreme Court Justice

The desk of South Carolina Supreme Court Justice Ira B. Jones, Sr was recently donated to the Lancaster County Historic Courthouse Museum. Jones has prominent descendants known and remembered by many – Francis L. Bell, Jr., attorney, Ira Bell, appraiser, and Susan Jones Connelly, who was a dance teacher, had her own dance school, and the Connelly Building on Main Street is named for her and her husband, Charles K. Connelly.

The desk is a beautiful “partner” desk, which means it has knee openings and sets of drawers on both sides of the desk so it can be used by two people. The desk is in excellent condition and the drawers have a locking mechanism activated by pushing a lever on the top inside of the knee opening with the foot.



Charles DePass Jones’ grandson, Thomas Moore Craig of Spartanburg, SC, author and teacher, donated the desk to the Historic Courthouse Museum, along with Ira Jones Sr.’s official portrait, a picture of him in later years, and news articles about him. John Craig of Lancaster is a cousin of Thomas Moore Craig, and brought the desk from Spartanburg to the Historic Courthouse Museum

Judge Ira Boyd Jones, Sr was the only person from Lancaster to serve as Chief Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court. He was on the court between 1896 and 1912 and was Chief Justice from 1909 to 1912.

Jones was born in Newberry County in 1851, and it is said he came to Lancaster County with only ten dollars in his pocket in 1876. Jones graduated from Erskine College, taught school, and then studied law and became an attorney.

He was very influential in Lancaster, and built a house where the main library is now on Chesterfield Avenue. A fire badly burned the house in 1918. After the death of his wife, the Judge gave the house to his older son, Charles DePass Jones, who was a state senator. C. D. Jones began to rebuild on the same foundation. The house was later the first home of USC-Lancaster.

Jones was elected to the SC House of Representatives in 1890, and became Speaker of the House in 1896. He was unanimously elected an associate justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court when the newly adopted 1895 South Carolina Constitution created a fourth seat on the state's highest court. He was the first person elected to fill the position.

On September 11, 1911, Jones sent his resignation as Supreme Court Justice to Governor Cole Blease, effective January 9, 1912. He ran against Blease in the 1912 Democratic Gubernatorial campaign and lost by a narrow margin. The campaign was typical of the times, venomous and caustic, with Jones calling Blease a fool and a liar and accusing him of trying to set cotton mill workers against farm laborers. The debates were racially-charged with the rights of “negroes” a major topic of contention.

During a debate in Bennettsville, SC the Orangeburg Times and Democrat newspaper said that Jones mentioned newspapers, saying that only a crook (insinuating it was Blease) would be afraid of a newspaper. "Show me a community that has no live newspaper and I will show you a community that is dead," the paper quoted Jones as saying. "We should read them. The influence of a splendid press is a great and noble power. The press should see that no unworthy man, a crook is honored with office in this State."

The museum collection includes a sign from the First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church's first building, which is displayed next to the Jones desk. Ira Jones was one of the founders of this church, now on North Main Street, and gave the land behind his house for the first church building. The church was on the site of the present library parking lot.

*Jones died in Lancaster County in 1927 and is buried at the West Side Cemetery.*

## Timeline Added to Children's Corner

Days before our open house, a timeline of events from 1785 to 1959 was installed in the hallway above our Children's corner. We received many positive comments from folks who attended the open house and visitors who have come through the museum. The items listed on the timeline are meant to illustrate some of the events and changes that happened in and around Lancaster County. In the future we hope to provide some additional information to encourage discussion on science, agriculture, local economy, education and more. Another new addition for our young visitors will be activities and clues in each of our exhibits rooms to provide some added interest to our collections.



# Friends of The Museum

*Do You Like History? Do You Have A Special Interest in the History of Lancaster County?*

If you answered yes, you may be interested in “The Friends of The Lancaster County Historical Museum. Even though we are in the process of organizing, there is still time for you to join. The Friends, just like the Commission, is all volunteer with flexibility of scheduling and the opportunity to work in your area of interest.



*Commission Advisor Marcia Houston shares information at the Open House, February 2022*

## Areas of Support

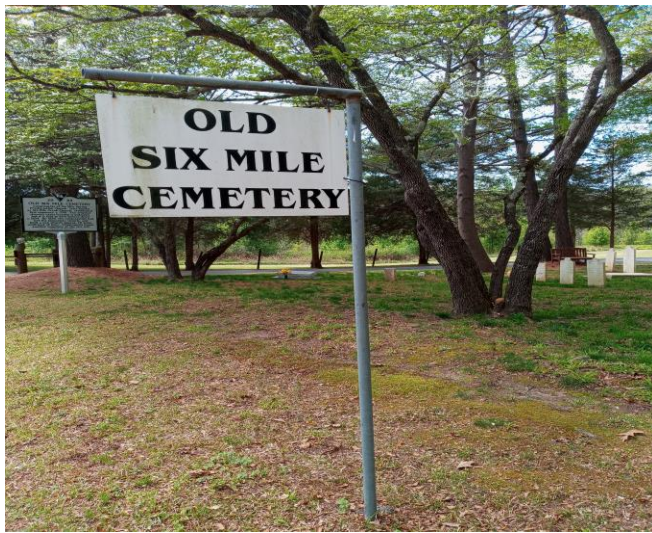
Research  
Assist in Museum Tours  
Museum Programs  
Collections Care

Computer Work  
Education/School Programs  
Exhibits  
Public Relations/Ambassador

A special thanks to everyone who has expressed an interest in our Friends and attended the Open House, Orientation, etc.

*We invite those interested in Lancaster County history and willing to volunteer at the museum to contact the Historical Commission at [lan.historicalcommission@yahoo.com](mailto:lan.historicalcommission@yahoo.com)*





## Old Six Mile Cemetery

*(courtesy of Jerry Marcus II, Commission Advisor)*

The sign in the Museum is the earliest known sign marking the site of OSMC, which was established in the 1770s and was later associated with Six Mile Creek Presbyterian Church. The property is now owned by Faith Presbyterian Church in Indian Land S.C.

Six Mile Creek Church was started by Col. William Hagins around 1765, and he is the first recorded burial in 1790. Col. Hagins was the commander of the Six mile Creek and Mecklenburg Militia during the American Revolution. Additional Revolutionary veterans buried in the cemetery are Capt. Hugh Coffee, Lt. Drury Watson, and Pvt. Joshua Gordan. James McKnight Morrow, a War of 1812 veteran, is also buried on site.

The cemetery has a rich history of notable individuals buried on the property. They include ancestors of the Rev Billy Graham who are Lt. Drury Watson, Susannah Watson Morrow, James Mcknight Morrow, and John M. Coffey. The Morrow and Coffey families are descendants of Richard Warren, a passenger on the Mayflower. There are two original daughters of the revolution, Susannah Watson Morrow and Ann Gordon, both of whom veteran fathers are buried in the cemetery.

A restoration of the cemetery has been conducted during the past six years with assistance from members of Faith Presbyterian Church, American Legion Post 250, and volunteers. Tours of the site are conducted Mondays, weather permitting, from 10 am-2 pm.

*note: Early historical information was obtained from writings of historian Louise Pettus*



## Headstones at Old Six Mile Cemetery



## Friends of Buford Massacre Battlefield Site (Memorial Day Event)



*The Memorial Day ceremony will take place following the Sons of the American Revolution commemorative ceremony on Saturday, May 28 at 10:30 am. The ceremony should last about an hour based on past ceremonies.*

The SC Battleground Trust Preservation Artillery Unit will demonstrate and fire Revolutionary War period cannon and mortars. Also, they will offer instruction on firing the cannons to the public before and after the Memorial Day Ceremony.

The Buford Battlefield is located at 262 Rocky River Road in Lancaster. Parking is available in the field located to the North of the memorial park and watch for the signs. Also, handicap parking will be identified and provided.

VFW Post 12136 of Indian Land will be providing the Honor Guard and firing of the rifle salute. The Choral Society of Sun City Carolina Lakes will be singing several patriotic songs. There will be several speakers from the community, including State Senator Michael Johnson who represents the 16th Senate District of SC.

Please contact Ken Obriot, President of the Friends of the Buford Massacre Battlefield for any additional information. His phone number is 803 517 0064 and email [kcobriot@gmail.com](mailto:kcobriot@gmail.com).

*(image and article from Friends of Buford Massacre Battlefield Site Facebook Page)*



*The Museum is located in the Historic Lancaster County Courthouse at the corner of Main Street and West Dunlap Street in Downtown Lancaster.*

#### **Museum hours**

Monday & Wednesday  
10:00 AM – Noon

Saturday  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> of each month  
By Appointment Only

#### **Contact Us**

[facebook.com/lan.historicalcommission](https://www.facebook.com/lan.historicalcommission)  
[lanhistoricalcommission@yahoo.com](mailto:lanhistoricalcommission@yahoo.com)