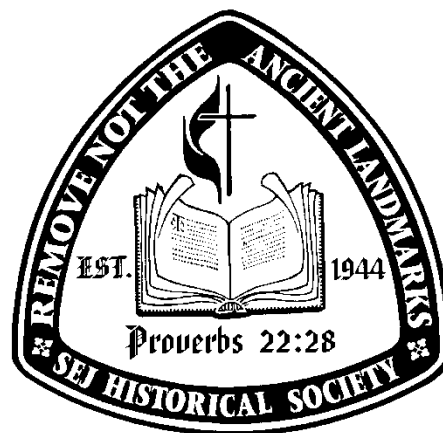


# SEJ / HS NOTES

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Volume 18

October 2018

Number 2

## The President's Message

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. My first thoughts as I prepare this edition's epistle to the SEJ Historical Society members and friends, is to give thanks for the many prayers lifted up, and concerns expressed on my behalf during and after our Williamsburg gathering. I am pleased to report that the health problems I was dealing with, that almost took me down has been conquered. I give thanks to God for his healing touch, and to an excellent internist who diagnosed my condition as (polymyalgia rheumatica) and prescribed medications that eliminated the condition. I am still not at full strength, but fully active. Regretfully, I was unable to participate fully in all of the activities, but was allowed to make the trip to Virginia.



As we move into the Fall season, I pray for God's guidance for the commission's on archives and history and historical societies, and their leaders in the "ministry of memory" in the Southeastern Jurisdiction. May we all be praying for the bishops and delegates who will gather in St. Louis, MO next year, to discern God's will for the "way forward" of the United Methodist Church. The decisions and recommendations passed on to the 2020 General Conference for consideration and vote will potentially have a major impact on the life and ministry of the UMC.

Repeating my reminders (with apologies) from the last SEJ Notes: "Our timeline as the 'People called Methodist' dates back to the mid-1700's, and since the 1784 Christmas Conference we have experienced the founding of various "Methodist" related denominations, then divisions, splits, and mergers. Since 1968, in addition to the UMC, there are still other "Methodist" related church bodies that are still not formally a part of the UMC." (SEJ Notes, April 2018)

Once again we are facing challenges brought about due to theological, social, and ideological movements within the United Methodist Church. "Our history informs us of the many theological and social issues we have overcome and survived over the past 234 years. May we all be praying for the will of God to be made known. That led by the Holy Spirit, the body of Christ known as "Methodists" will continue to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by proclaiming the good news of God's grace, by loving God and neighbor, thus continuing to seek the fulfillment of God's reign and realm in the world." (SEJ Notes, April 2018)

Looking back to our meeting in VA... We are deeply grateful for the hospitality and hard work of the 'historical folks' in the Virginia Conference and the leadership and members of Williamsburg United Church for hosting the 2018 SEJ/HS Annual Meeting. The presentations, tours, and services were especially informative and inspiring. The attendance and participation were the best in several years. Thanks for a wonderful experience.

Looking forward to next year... We are pleased to have received an invitation through Brandon Wason (Emory University) to hold our 2019 SEJ/HS Annual Meeting at the Pitts Theology Library, of the Candler School of Theology, at Emory University, in Atlanta, GA. The dates will be July 09 - July 12, 2019. We will receive more info as plans are completed, and preparations confirmed. We have not yet confirmed a host for the 2020 SEJ/HS Annual Meeting. So, as soon as a location and date is set the info will be shared. We have been notified by the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church (HSUMC) that they would like to meet with us in 2020.

Officers of the SEJHS Steering Committee elected in Williamsburg, for the 2019-2020 term were Rev. Leland T. Carden, President; Grace Yoder, Vice-President; Kerri Shoemaker, Secretary; elected in 2017, Linda Collier, Treasurer; and serving by appointment, Franklin Buie, Membership Coordinator. We covet your prayers as we serve.

Last year, at the Fall meeting of the Executive Committee, a task group was formed to review the constitution and by-laws of the SEJ/HS and bring recommendations for revision to 2018 Annual Meeting. The review committee requested that we take up this matter at the 2018 Fall meeting of the Executive Committee, due to the need for more time to consider major changes to these documents. We will anticipate their report in November.

Have a great Fall! Give thanks for your blessings... prepare your hearts for the New Year, as we anticipate and celebrate Advent and Christmas.

Your servant in Christ,  
Leland T. Carden. Jr.

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## **FOUNDATION, SEJ HERITAGE CENTER TO SHARE SPACE**

LAKE JUNALUSKA, NC, October 1, 2018 -- The Foundation for Evangelism (FFE) and The Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) Heritage Center are pleased to announce that beginning in 2019, the two organizations will be sharing office and archival space at the FFE's headquarters on the campus of Lake Junaluska Assembly in North Carolina. The SEJ Heritage Center will be the second organization to lease space at the location, joining the Smoky Mountain District (SMD) of the United Methodist Church which has housed its offices there since 2012. Although the SEJ Heritage Center will no longer be housed by Lake Junaluska Assembly, it will remain located on the Assembly grounds and its long-time relationship with the Assembly will continue.

Renovations will begin in December 2018 which will allow the SEJ Heritage Center to relocate and occupy a portion of the office space currently utilized by FFE and SMD staff and will

also include storage space to be converted to an area for archives.



Jane Boatwright Wood, President of The Foundation for Evangelism notes that "The cultivating of this relationship has been an ongoing process. We believe that this partnership enhances the ministry of both organizations. Our team is excited to welcome the Heritage Center as they continue to keep alive the unique history of Methodism by preserving and sharing our stories."

Jim Pyatt, Chair of the SEJ Commission on Archives and History, states that this partnership in ministry should be mutually

beneficial. He goes on to note that “The Heritage Center is the repository for the papers of Harry Denman, the founder of the Foundation for Evangelism,” adding that, “Part of the function of The Heritage Center is to preserve and record the story of how the people called Methodist have shared the Good News of the love of Jesus with others. This partnership helps to remind us all of the mission of the church.”

This partnership between the FFE and SEJ Heritage Center will also provide access to onsite meeting facilities including the Reynolds Conference Center which is utilized throughout the year by Methodist-related organizations and churches for retreats, trainings, meetings, and special events. A small chapel is also part of the facility and provides space for worship, reflection, and prayer.

**The SEJ Heritage Center** serves as the Museum and Archives for the Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) of the United Methodist Church and, as such, for Lake Junaluska Assembly, the oldest and largest of the SEJ agencies. In this capacity the center houses the essential historical records for both agencies and is a significant resource for anyone doing research on either the Lake Junaluska Assembly, on the SEJ, or on historical matters related to the United Methodist Church in this part of the United States. Those interested in finding out more or scheduling a visit to the Heritage Center should contact the director at [heritage@lakejunaluska.com](mailto:heritage@lakejunaluska.com)

**The Foundation for Evangelism** is a catalyst to equip disciples to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, continuing a legacy of impacting how Methodist-tradition clergy, lay and youth are prepared to invite all people into life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ. The Foundation makes its impact through promoting, encouraging, and providing resources for evangelism in keeping with the doctrinal spirit of John and Charles Wesley. To learn more, visit [foundationforevangelism.org](http://foundationforevangelism.org) or email [bbowser@foundationforevangelism.org](mailto:bbowser@foundationforevangelism.org)

## More Information Regarding the Heritage Center



For those who are interested in learning more about the decision to relocate the Heritage Center, the following are answers to some of the questions you may have. Please contact

me via email at [nwatkins@lakejunaluska.com](mailto:nwatkins@lakejunaluska.com) or by phone at 828-454-6781 if you have additional questions or concerns.

### Who is paying for the move?

The move is fully funded by cash reserves of the SEJ Commission on Archives and History.

### Did Lake Junaluska Assembly (LJA) ask you to move?

NO! Shortly after I began as director, I was advised that long range plans call for replacing the Harrell Center with a facility that would place parking on the lower level. At this point LJA would no longer provide space for the Heritage Center. Thus, the SEJ Commission on Archives and History (SEJ CAH) recently decided that we should begin planning for the eventual relocation of the Center. Knowing the high cost of constructing or renovating space for such a facility, we were concerned that our only viable option might be to find a UMC - related college or university to accept the collection. This would be a devastating move for the LJA archives. Jane Boatwright Wood, President of the Foundation for Evangelism, was unaware of our dilemma when she called me to discuss the possibility of a partnership.

When informed of the likelihood of our move, Ken Howle wrote a letter to the SEJ CAH assuring us that replacement of the Harrell Center is not imminent and affirming LJA's willingness to continue to provide rent free space for the Heritage Center as they have done since 1988. We celebrate this 30-year commitment and appreciate the support of our work. We feel, however, that this move is in the best interest of the long-term future of the

Center and the preservation of the historical records of Lake Junaluska and other SEJ ministries. This change in location will not reduce the level of service that we provide to Lake Junaluska.

### What are the major advantages?

As stated in my previous message, we believe that this partnership with the Foundation for Evangelism (FFE) enhances the ministry of both organizations. As far as the physical facilities are concerned, unlike the Harrell Center the FFE building is not in a flood plain. The secure storage area for the archives has a dedicated climate control system with emergency generator backup. There are no water lines either above or below the archival storage area. The building provides convenient parking, is highly visible, and in full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Meeting space is adequate. The combined office/research space has ample natural light, as do the meeting spaces.

### What about disadvantages?

The major disadvantage is reduced exhibit space. We will have the use of the majority of the existing exhibit space and there are plans to add more in the future. To compensate, the Heritage Center will continue creating special exhibits like the one in The Terrace lobby that share the unique history and significance of Lake Junaluska. Increased visibility and accessibility help compensate for the fact that the Center will no longer be in a central location.

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## 2018 SEJ/HS PROCEEDINGS

**A Record of the Reports & Actions at the July Annual Meeting – plus Historical Lists.**

**Get Your Copy! – Send your name & address with the \$15.00 cost to**

**Linda Collier, Treasurer  
1903 Shenandoah Trail  
Lebanon, TN 37087**

**by October 19<sup>th</sup>**

## Membership Report

By Franklin Buie, Membership Secretary

Following the 2018 Annual Meeting, the Society claims 48 current Annual Members, 24 of whom will remain current for 1 to 3 years. Seventeen new Annual Members and two new Life Members joined through registration for the meeting. We welcomed four Life Members to the Honorary status at the recent meeting. The Society now has 49 Life Members, 34 Honorary Members, and 3 “Life” Institutional Members. The total membership stands at 159. \$843.00 was received for the Membership Funds per the Treasurer, Linda Collier.

The mailing list includes an additional 171 complimentary subscriptions to the newsletter. That group includes the available names of those who serve on conference Commissions on Archives and History, plus the active and retired bishops of the SEJ, several whose memberships have expired and a few selected friends beyond the SEJ. One retired bishop is a Life Member of the SEJ HS! We send out 83 newsletters by US Mail and 235 by e-mail. The totals differ due to several missing addresses.

The new Life Members are Rev. Lawrence Loveday and Ms. Patricia Stoll; the new Honorary members are Rev. Robert and Mrs. Marilyn Casey and Rev. Carlton and Mrs. Beth Casey, whose service and faithful attendance have lifted the spirits of all who have encountered them over many years.

We invite conference A&H chairs to report changes in their commissions and update addresses when they change. Please e-mail notes to [fbbuie@hotmail.com](mailto:fbbuie@hotmail.com) as you discover changes; please include any new e-mail addresses.

The membership form included in this newsletter may be copied and shared with anyone interested in joining the SEJ HS. Membership renewals may be completed without the form if there are no changes of address. Please make checks out to the SEJ Historical Society. The options for dues and the secretary’s address are listed on the form. Dues received after September are counted for the next calendar year.

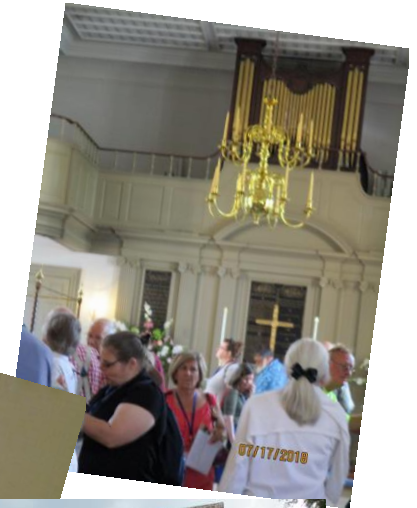


## SEJ/Historical Society 2018 Annual Meeting

On July 17<sup>th</sup> 100 folks (give or take a few) who enjoy “experiencing” history gathered at Williamsburg United Methodist Church in Virginia for the 2018 Annual Meeting of the SEJ/Historical Society. History in Virginia from the Jamestown Settlement to Colonial Williamsburg to the 1968 merger with the Evangelical United Brethren to today and into the future of the United Methodist Church was the focus of the gathering for four marvelous days for celebration and fellowship.

Some highlights in word and pictures – in no particular order:

- ✓ The Old Brunswick Circuit in VA is the longest surviving one in United Methodism – starting in 1776, covered Richmond to Raleigh...
- ✓ Walking through Colonial Williamsburg along old “streets”...
- ✓ Methodism in the Chesapeake area grew to be a vital part of the church in spite of its isolation...
- ✓ Fred Day reminding us that we shouldn’t put our “archives” on the shelf and forget them – they are to be used because they are “active not passive,” and need to “take stuff from the shelf...”
- ✓ Jamestown settlement was not lost in the James River, but was found and is being excavated into the place it was and how it was affected by the status and concerns of the Church of England...
- ✓ Samuel NeSmith’s pride in his wife’s, Brenda’s, presentation...
- ✓ The 1968 merger with the Evangelical United Brethren Church was the one that “took” after several other attempts couldn’t quite settle the differences between the two groups...
- ✓ A super song-fest of beloved hymns lead by the Brethren Quartet after a great banquet celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Uniting Conference...
- ✓ Carlton & Beth Casey and the Robert Marilyn Casey selected our Honorary Life Members for this year...
- ✓ Remembering our beloved friends in our closing memorial service and communion.



**Dear fellow historians,**

The Archives and History Committee and the Moore Methodist Museum staff have been busy the last two years compiling a book which will update the history of the South Georgia Conference and the 610 active churches' histories. The initial *History of the South Georgia Conference* was first published by Marynell Waite, the Museum Director, in 1984 but a great deal of historical events have occurred in the last 35 years and there was a need to publish an updated edition.

Some historical events that have happened in the South Georgia Conference include the appointment of its own bishop in 1988. For the first 122 years, the South Georgia Conference shared their bishop with the North Georgia Conference but, in 1988, Bishop Richard Looney became the first bishop appointed to the South Georgia Conference. Another historical event occurred in 2008 when Bishop James King was appointed as the first African-American bishop to the South Georgia Conference. Bishop King worked with us for eight years before retiring.

Other changes within our churches include the use of technology and the rise of purpose-driven

programs which support a more casual dress code and contemporary musical arrangements. The South Georgia Conference contains two of the fastest growing Methodist churches in America with The Chapel in Brunswick and Harvest Church in Byron.

The updated historical book would be amiss if it didn't remind readers of the importance of those who came before us and the work that these people accomplished. Our fellow members faced great issues with weather disasters, world wars, transportation changes, and societal differences and, yet, the church grew reaching more and more people. As an Archives and History Committee member recently said, "We've been burnt down, torn down, and blown down but still we succeed."

*The History of the South Georgia Conference 1866-2018* will be available for purchase in fall 2018 and can be purchased for \$20 from the Moore Methodist Museum. All proceeds support renovations in the Museum.

[www.mooremethodistmuseum.org](http://www.mooremethodistmuseum.org)

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**WNC CONFERENCE ARCHIVES ARE AT PFEIFFER!**

The WNC Conference, during Annual Conference in 2017, approved a proposal to construct a new conference office building. Part of this proposal included the relocation of the conference Archives to a different location. An agreement was reached to move the Archives to Pfeiffer University.

At the beginning of August 2018 the WNC Conference Archives moved, and are now in the G. A. Pfeiffer Library at Pfeiffer University, Misenheimer, NC. We are getting settled in our new location, and are catching up with the backlog of research requests that were received during the time of transition. We are open most Tuesdays and Wednesdays, but can make arrangements to meet patrons on other days if necessary. We recommend that you make an appointment prior to coming to the Archives.

Our new physical address is:  
WNC Conference Archives  
G. A. Pfeiffer Library  
P. O. Box 1004  
Pfeiffer University  
Misenheimer, NC 28109  
48280 US Highway 52

Our new mailing address is:  
WNC Conference Archives  
P. O. Box 1004  
Misenheimer, NC 28109

You can also contact us by email at [archives@wnccumc.org](mailto:archives@wnccumc.org) or at [jpyatt@wnccumc.org](mailto:jpyatt@wnccumc.org), or you can call 704-961-8450.



Thank you for your patience during this time of transition. We look forward to assisting you!

## First United Methodist Church Warner Robins, GA

March 5, 2018, marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of the city of Warner Robins, Georgia. First United Methodist Church has been an integral part of the community for these 75 years and even longer. The origins of the Methodist Church in Warner Robins date back to 1892, when small societies of Methodists were meeting in the little towns along the Georgia Southern and Florida Railway line. On September 25, 1894, a church site located on Cherry Street (now known as Watson Boulevard) between Third Street and Fourth Street was deeded to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Wellston, Georgia (the predecessor of Warner Robins). Church records from 1895 to 1904 show growth and decline of these church societies along the railway. By 1930, the Methodist church in Wellston closed because of dwindling membership and disrepair of the building.

The 1941 selection of Wellston, Georgia, as the site for the construction of an Air Corps depot brought new growth to the area and a revival of the Methodist Church. On August 31, 1941, the first service for the re-established Methodist Church at Wellston was held at the Community House across the street from the church's previous location. On September 17, 1943, the Trustees of Wellston Methodist Church purchased land on Davis Drive in their city which was now known as Warner Robins. The first service for the Methodist Church of Warner Robins was held at the new building on Davis Drive on January 30, 1944. The building was destroyed by fire two weeks after the opening service. After the fire, services were held in Thomas Elementary School until the burned building could be renovated. At the April 3, 1952, meeting of the Board of Stewards and Trustees, a motion was made and carried changing the name of the church from the Methodist Church of Warner Robins to First Methodist Church because another Methodist Church was being formed in the area. On the day in December 1967 when the first service was held in the current sanctuary, the name on the front of the church showed "First Methodist Church" for the United Methodist organization had not yet been formed. In April 1968, the Methodist Churches united with the Evangelical United Brethren and became known as the United Methodist Church, and the church that began as the Methodist Church of Wellston, Georgia, became known as First United Methodist Church of Warner Robins, Georgia.

First United Methodist Church and the city of Warner



Robins have undergone many changes through the years. The history of the church reflects the history of the community. First Methodist played instrumental roles in the formation of other Methodist churches in the community, including Northview, Trinity, Centerville, and Christ. First Methodist has sponsored a church bazaar/marketplace since 1968, flea markets since 1990, and consignment sales since 2011. They organized the first church-sponsored Boy Scout troop in 1956, opened the first weekday preschool and kindergarten (Cheerful Cherubs) in September 1950, televised worship services since July 1974, installed the city's first pipe organ in 1980, opened the doors to a clothes closet from 1971 until 2013, provided food for families through a food closet from 1983 until the opening of the food pantry in 1991, fed the hungry in the soup kitchen since August 1990, and provided shelter and support to families since 2010.

The history and heritage of First United Methodist Church is a firm foundation upon which the future grows. The church offers programs and opportunities for all ages. The church family demonstrates the power of God's work through spiritual leadership, faith, community, love and outreach – making a difference in Warner Robins and around the world.

First United Methodist Church  
205 North Davis Drive  
Warner Robins, GA 31093  
478-923-3737  
[www.welcometofirst.org](http://www.welcometofirst.org)

## FUMC-Montgomery Celebrates Century of Scouting Support

The symbiotic relationship between First United Methodist Church of Montgomery and Scouting began more than a century ago when the congregation was known as Court Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Early church leaders, and the Methodist denomination as a whole, soon recognized that the principles of Scouting exemplified the character-building attributes of young men and women who would grow up to become church leaders. In fact, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, sponsored more than 2,000 troops within a decade after Scouting was introduced to America.

To recognize its century-long history and encourage continued support of Scouting as a church ministry, FUMC-Montgomery formed a Scout History Task Force in March 2016. The task force requested information from the congregation on several occasions, set up a Facebook page to post old photos, and conducted and transcribed more than 25 interviews. Volunteers spent untold hours poring over records at the local Tukabatchee Area Council, the church archives (newsletters, Sunday bulletins, board minutes, etc.), the Alabama Department of Archives and History, and internet resources. As word of the project spread, church members came forward with personal stories, mementos, photos, and scrapbooks. More than two years of research and writing recently culminated in an illustrated history comprising some 120 pages with some interesting revelations.

Boy Scouts of America believes that no member can grow into the best citizen without recognizing an obligation to God. One founding father of the movement, Washington attorney James E. West, had the wisdom to require reverence, but without ties to any particular denomination, and the foresight to insist on tolerance toward other religions. West was recruited for a six-month stint as Chief Scout Executive in 1911; 35 years later he retired from this position. He advocated for what is now known as the religious principle of the Scout Law and had it incorporated into the BSA constitution.

Montgomery's Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, Baptist, and Jewish community leaders all worked together to keep the fledgling movement alive. Civic leaders in Montgomery quickly embraced the Scouting movement and had a Scoutmaster school in place less than a year after the movement formed in America. Local growth was explosive in 1910–11, to the extent that the Montgomery Council was singled out by the national leadership as a model for other councils and the city was considered for a regional headquarters. Troop 3, formed at the Court Street Church, became the first Methodist-sponsored troop to remain active.



When the Court Street congregation was asked by the Alabama Conference board of education to relocate to the Cloverdale neighborhood in 1929 to support the church-related Huntingdon College, the architect for the new “cathedral in the pines” was instructed to provide a space for Scouting activities. After occupying temporary space at Huntingdon, suffering a devastating explosion during construction, and overcoming several financial crises, the new First Methodist Church was finally able to charter its first Boy Scout troop in March 1940. It has provided meeting space, financial support, and adult leadership for Scouting ever since, including a short-lived Scout Hut, which fell victim to expansion of the church campus.

Over the intervening years, First Church has chartered at least nine BSA units from Cubs to Explorers and has hosted up to 14 different Girl Scout troops. By the mid-1950s, 15 different Boy, Cub, and Girl Scout troops were meeting at the church each week. First Methodist has continuously chartered Boy Scout Troop 15 since March 22, 1940.

FUMC troops and packs have never limited membership to church members, and for some youths this Scouting activity may be the first time they have been inside a church. Scouting can be a low-key but effective way to reach out to unchurched families. The twelve tenets of the Scout Law and the Ten Commandments parallel each other closely, with the desired outcome of endowing young adults with honor and integrity. Having a youth program that aligns with the church's teaching has proven to be a positive ministry over the past century at FUMC-Montgomery.



**IS IT TIME TO JOIN THE SEJ HISTORICAL SOCIETY – TO RENEW  
OR GIVE A MEMBERSHIP TO A FRIEND?**



Annual memberships in the SEJ Historical Society follow the calendar year, but dues paid after September apply to the next year, as all general activities have ended for the current year. Lapsed memberships are easily renewed: send in your dues for the current year! Honorary and Life Memberships do not expire, but gifts are most welcome!

Friends who currently serve on United Methodist Annual Conference Commissions on Archives and History are granted complimentary subscriptions to *SEJ HS NOTES* and invited to join the Society.

Churches, UM Historical Sites and Institutions may officially join to receive and contribute to the newsletter.

**Individual/Institution Membership /// Address Correction \\\ Gift to the Society**

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THE SOCIETY INVITES MEMBER INSTITUTIONS TO SHARE NEWS AND INFORMATION WITH ARTICLES FOR SEJ HS NOTES

SEND ITEMS TO LEAH PITTARD, EDITOR [rockpitt2@verizon.net](mailto:rockpitt2@verizon.net)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SEJ HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEND THIS FORM (OR COPY) ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK, TO:

REV. FRANKLIN BUIE 209 JABAY DRIVE COLUMBIA, SC 29229-4348

OR

E-MAIL INFORMATION TO [fbbuie@umcsc.org](mailto:fbbuie@umcsc.org) AND SEND THE CHECK TO ADDRESS ABOVE.

TO CORRECT ANY ADDRESS OR TO DISCONTINUE MEMBERSHIP: E-MAIL [fbbuie@umcsc.org](mailto:fbbuie@umcsc.org)

**October 2018**

**SEJ/HS NOTES**

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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Copy due: Friday, March 22nd

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