

Ellore Heritage Museum & Cultural Center, Inc.



# MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Volume XI: Number 4

July — August 2019

## 2019 STAINED GLASS SUMMER CAMPS WITH ALICE FRENCH

### Camp #1

Ages: For boys and girls  
entering Grades 2—5 in the fall.

Date: July 22-25, 2019

Monday—Thursday

Time: 9:30 am — Noon



### Camp #2

Ages: For boys & girls  
entering Grades 6—9 in the fall.

Date: July 22-25, 2019

Monday — Thursday

Time: 1:00 pm — 3:30 pm

Camps will be held at the museum. \$35.00 per camper. Space remaining in both camps!

Call the museum at 803-897-2225 to get an application to register.

## 2019 Low Country Boil !! Save the Date!!



The now famous Ellore Heritage Museum's annual **Low Country Boil** will be held on **Saturday, October 5th**. Dinner will be served 5:30 — 7:00 pm. Tickets are still \$25.00. Eat-in or take-out! Call your friends and make plans to be here. This fundraiser and town social event features the delicious South Carolina specialty complete with shrimp, sausage, corn and all the trimmings. All proceeds are for the benefit of the museum.

Tickets may be purchased from a board member or at the museum.

803-897-2225

To the Elloree Heritage Museum Team—

We wanted to thank you all for sharing the rich history of your town & your passion for preserving this history & sharing it with others. Special thanks to our amazing hostess Mrs. Sally Jo. She shared some amazing stories which seemed to bring this awesome collection of artifacts to life for us.

We were all impressed by the size of your facility, the breadth of items in your collection & the authenticity of your displays. Many of us were unaware of this gem in the heart of downtown Elloree & many hope to come back soon for further exploration.

We hope you continue to preserve history & share it with everyone!

Leadership Orangeburg 2019



Orangeburg County Leadership has been bringing their leaders to tour the museum for many years. They take extra time to get a first-hand knowledge about the interesting places in Orangeburg County to promote to visitors. We are grateful for their many visits to the museum and for their promotion of all we have to offer. On June 6th their leaders were here once again. Their note above is a wonderful reminder of what we really have here at the museum in Elloree.



“Once again the lovely quilt ladies have graced the museum with a quilt for our display in the farm wing. We always look forward to seeing what the ladies have created. And we are grateful that they share their talents with the museum members and all our new friends visiting the museum. Be sure to look for it as you tour.”



Taupe / white utensil holder

## Shop Snider's Store!



Various sizes of rope frames.



Bullet Oyster Knife



Rivergrass basket with handles

## Wonderful Volunteer — Now Retiring



**Walter Fogle** is one of the most recognized faces of Ellorece due to his never ending smile and his kind demeanor. His passion for beautiful landscaping has permeated Ellorece over the years and enhanced Ellorece's natural beauty.

He has also graciously donated his talents and abilities to our museum since the very beginning. The grass was always cut, even without asking. He just did it. We would like to thank him for his dedication, time, and talent given to make and maintain the museum's landscape all these years.

Walter is married to Andrea and they have two children: Val, a Citadel Cadet, and Kaylie who attends Calhoun Academy.



Again we thank you, Walter, for exemplifying a servant's heart in a big way over a long period of time. Your volunteer spirit is a great example of how the museum was created and how it continues to thrive.



## Voice Workshop with Deborah Saverance



The workshop will be held on two Tuesday evenings in October and will cover basic classic vocal techniques. If you sing, this workshop is for you, and will greatly enhance your vocal abilities. If you do not sing, this workshop is for you, and will teach you about breathing, projection, and basic techniques.



Deborah is a vocal instructor at Claflin University after singing professionally at The Metropolitan Opera for 23 years. Her experience includes choral conducting from the age of 16, and singing longer than that!! She is a graduate of Augusta University and did post graduate studies at Converse College. A past volunteer for the museum, she is busy now teaching Vocal Technique at Claflin, teaching privately, preparing music for productions at The Cameron Theatre each year, and performing in the area as well. Deborah and her husband Dan Weigand reside in Santee.



**Tuesday, October 15, 6:00 pm — 7:30 pm**

**Tuesday, October 22, 6:00 pm — 7:30 pm**

Location: Ellorece Heritage Museum & Cultural Center, Inc.

Space is limited. Call 803-897-2225 to register now.

***Reservations are required .***



***There is no charge for these lessons, but donations will be greatly appreciated.***

# The Jewish Merchants of Elloreë—Part III—Wolf Rubenstein

by Tom Livingston



Fannie Berger Rubenstein

The patriarch of the Rubenstein family, Wolf, was born in Schtutchin, Poland; a part of The Russian Empire ruled by Nicholas II. He sailed from Hamburg, Germany on Jan. 14, 1907 and arrived at Ellis Island, New York on Jan. 23, 1907. He subsequently moved to Baltimore and worked in a sewing factory where he learned to tan hides and sew men's clothes. There he met and married Fannie Berger in 1910. Fannie was the youngest of four children, having emigrated with her family when she was 13 from a small town near Moscow through Ellis Island.



Wolf Rubenstein

Wolf developed lung problems so he quit his job and went on the road selling wares in small towns. He submitted his letter of intention to become a naturalized citizen on Nov. 20, 1912 in Baltimore. However he must have been visiting because on his official petition for naturalization which he filed on June 19, 1916 he declared that he had lived in South Carolina since Jan. 15, 1911. Family tradition is that he opened his store in Elloreë in 1911, but two other family stories indicate that it could have been several years later. One story is that when he first came to SC he operated a store in Cameron for several years before moving to Elloreë. The other is that the reason they moved to Elloreë was so that Fannie could be near her brother, Isaac, and we previously noted that Isaac said he immigrated in 1911. Any or all of these dates could be in error, but they are on the forms.

Regardless of exactly when they came, the Rubensteins were definitely the longest lasting Jewish family and arguably the most influential on the Elloreë community. From the time Tillie, the oldest child, entered first grade in 1919 until the time the youngest, Morris, graduated in 1950, at least one Rubenstein child was enrolled in the Elloreë Public School System. The Rubenstein family grew along with the town throughout the 1920's, eventually numbering eight children. Wolf was able to bring his parents, Bernard and Lillian, to the United States during this period and his brother Joe was counted in Elloreë in the 1930 census.

After the Bergers left to return to Ga. in 1927, the Rubenstein children were the only Jewish children in town, but they were easily immersed into town and school activities. They made many lifelong friends, participating in all of the town events except religious services. Morris wrote: "I have absolutely no memory of being shunned by the community of Elloreë, or of being treated less than equal. I have fond memories of my childhood and my friends."

Another of Fannie's brothers, Harry, signed as a witness on Wolf's naturalization petition. Harry was a merchant in Williston, SC at the time and remained there at least through 1920. By 1930 his store was located on Railroad Ave. in St. Mathews, SC. His home became the gathering place for the Rubensteins and others on many Jewish holidays.

Fannie was the matriarch of the family and a constant worker in Rubenstein's Department Store (first known as the "Underselling Store") and raising the children. Wolf and Fannie were generous members of the community and upstanding people who contributed to the character of the town. Wolf's health declined while three of his sons served during WWII. His oldest son, Mordie, took over the management of the store in the late 1940's. Wolf died on Sept. 22, 1949 and is buried in Columbia. After his death Fannie continued to be a force in the area. She was one of the founders of the Synagogue in Orangeburg in 1956. She also helped to bring a large employer to Elloreë, the Elloreë Garment Factory in the 1950's.

Part III—Continued

Under Mordie's direction the store continued to be a cornerstone of the Ellore business community until he sold it to O'Dell Austin in 1984. A paragraph written by one of the children says it best: "The Story of Wolf and Fannie Rubenstein is the American Dream come true. Two people came to the United States in search of a better life, worked hard, raised a family, became contributing members of the Ellore community and left the town a better place."



Rubenstein's right after Hurricane Hugo in 1989.

## May and June 2019 Contributions

### Memberships

#### Individual

Vonnette Bailey  
Zunelle Bookhardt  
Hattie Mae Dantzler  
Claudia Polin  
Dot Shirer  
Erline B. Wiles

#### Family

George & Carole Summers

#### Collector's Club

Harry & Barbara Mims  
Judith Rickenbacker  
Jenny Rourk  
Gene Varn

### Endowment Fund Memorial

#### Mike Jeffcoat

Adair Fogle

### Memorials

#### Betty Brandenburg

Judy & Haynie Bull

#### Cholly Clark

Carl & Sally Jo Coulliette  
Willie & Mary Jeffries

#### Eva Mae Felder

Evergreen Garden Club

#### Bill Irick

Carl & Sally Jo Coulliette

#### Emily S. Jenkins

Judy & Haynie Bull  
Charlene Rast Keefe

#### Mike Nettles

Carl & Sally Jo Coulliette

#### Margie W. Rourk

Evergreen Garden Club  
Kay & Glenn Lancaster  
Philathia Class, Ellore First Baptist

#### Robert Burchell "Bobby" Shuler

Harry & Barbara Mims

#### Larry Shuler

Judy & Haynie Bull

#### Alice Troutman

Carl & Sally Jo Coulliette

### Donations

#### General Fund

Class of 1969, Ellore High School  
Evergreen Garden Club

#### Grants

Gary W. Dietrich Family Foundation

### Midlands Gives

#### Donations

Christe McCoy-Lawrence  
Tom Minor  
Susan D. Webber  
Chris Worley

#### Memorial

#### Jane Wilhelmina (Ellis) Kirby

Debra Feda



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**Upcoming Events:**



**Stained Glass Summer Camps:**

July 22-25, 2019

**Low Country Boil:** October 5, 2019



**Voice Workshop with Deborah Saverance:**

October 15 and 22, 2019

**Museum Hours of Operation:**

Wednesday – Saturday

10:00 am – 5:00 pm