

Friends of McLeod, Inc.

Volume II, Issue 4, June 2007



A Letter from the Chairman

We are delighted to announce our Third Annual Meeting, which will show your history. Three of our Board members will introduce you to this. John Meffert, a preservationist and author, will tell you what we have done in the past year - and that's our history. By popular demand, Eugene Frazier will return with a brief view of the history of McLeod Plantation and he will tell you of conversations with the descendants of slaves. Carol Jacobsen will introduce an amazing part of our program which will include artifacts from the fields of McLeod Plantation, and maps of all of James Island, dating from 1780. You will be able to see the artifacts and maps and stay for a reception. Invite your friends and neighbors to come because this is YOUR history, too. Someone said that McLeod represents a microcosm of American history. Come and see for yourself.

Jerry Owens, Chairman,
Friends of McLeod, Inc. Board of Directors

Join Us For a Special Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 19 at 7 p.m.
St. James Episcopal Church
in the new Ministry Hall
1872 Camp Road on James Island

This is a special meeting. For the first time, you will be able to view a collection of surface artifacts collected from the fields of McLeod Plantation as well as a portfolio of reproduced maps of James Island spanning the period from 1780 to the early 20th century. You are most cordially invited to share in this glimpse into our history.

Why should this be important to you? The College of Charleston and the Charleston Museum's Field School of Archeology said this; "McLeod Plantation has functioned as a plantation for nearly 300 years. First designated on a 1695 map, the property changed hands several times before purchase by William Wallace McLeod in 1851...The property is unique in its proximity to Charleston and the survival of a large number of antebellum plantation buildings, including a row of slave quarters." Most of us have driven past that row of tiny cabins by Folly Road never realizing that the main house is still there, as well as the old dairy, laundry, and kitchen buildings. The gin house, though suffering termite damage, still stands, as does a barn, a livery, and even the privy. It seems so close to Charleston - and yet, so far.

McLeod Plantation was and is a gateway to the Sea Islands. Goods and farm produce came to McLeod's landing on Wappoo Creek from all parts of the island. Our maps show the old main road for James Island from the landing to Ft. Pemberton and Riverland Drive where it split into branches leading to Grimball's fields or across Camp Road to Ft. Johnson Road. Although there have been great changes since those old maps were drawn, history's stamp is still clear on much of our island.

To learn more about the history surrounding McLeod Plantation and our unique Sea Island, visit our website to see photos of some of the artifacts, including colonial pottery, Revolutionary War buttons, slave-made hoes or delicate flatware. Even better, you can see some of these treasures on display at our annual meeting on June 19th.

Come join our effort to save the buildings, these last remaining fields, the burial grounds. To many, McLeod is an emotional experience. People speak softly while visiting: history for South Carolinians, both black and white, runs strong and deep here. McLeod has survived wars, disasters, and many hard times. It would be a tragedy to lose it now. McLeod Plantation - Walk with History.

Friends of McLeod, Inc. P.O. Box 13021 Charleston, SC 29422 www.friendsofmcleod.org

Friends of McLeod, Inc. is a recognized 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, non-profit organization.

Willie's Gift

In accepting Willie McLeod's gift of McLeod Plantation, the website for Historic Charleston Foundation had the following words: *it is an opportunity to interpret the contributions and influences of the rural and agrarian South,...thus saving the plantation, the complex of antebellum outbuildings and archaeological resources from future development.*

Friends Membership Cards

The new 2007-2008 membership cards are ready. Become a member today! We offer no benefits except for the pleasure of sharing part of history and joining in our fight to save this historic plantation.

Coming Events...

June 28-July 2 - Island Heritage Festival. The Festival this year focuses on Sammie Smalls, the original "Porgy" of *Porgy and Bess*. From the opening ceremonies on the grounds of Dubose Heyward's home on Folly Beach to musical productions of *Porgy and Bess*, the Festival also includes Gullah food, tours of James Island, and a dedication of a highway sign about Sammie Smalls. For more information, www.islandheritagefestival.com. Reservations may be made at islandheritage06@aol.com.

Dec. 2 - Friends of McLeod 4th Annual Oyster Roast Sunday, Dec. 2, at Bowen's Island. Eat your fill of oysters, barbeque and hot dogs, while placing your bid on Christmas presents at our silent auction. Beer, wine and soft drinks included in the price. \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door.

*Everyone is Welcome to our Special Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 19 at 7:00 p.m.
St. James Episcopal Church in the new Ministry Hall at 1872 Camp Road on James Island.*

Friends of McLeod Inc.'s Mission Statement:

Friends of McLeod, Inc. is dedicated to preserving and protecting all aspects of McLeod Plantation, including its house, slave cabins, outbuildings, cemetery, oak allees, woods, and character-defining fields. Friends of McLeod, Inc. will inform and educate the public on the plantation's historical importance, military history, and particularly its importance in African-American history, from slavery to the Civil War to freedom. Friends of McLeod, Inc. will inform and educate on the plantation's agricultural history as a Sea Island plantation, and will work to protect its remaining rural vistas. The organization is also dedicated to protecting the plantation as one of South Carolina's most valuable Archaeological sites. Friends of McLeod, Inc. is a recognized, 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible, following the rules of the Internal Revenue Service.



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