

## Minutes – History Council

February 13, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:15PM at the Smokey Yolk restaurant at the corner of Dills Bluff and Camp Road

In attendance: Jim Morrisette; Michael Williams; Mile Corbo; Paul Hedden

**Historical Marker for June 10, 1862** - to be placed near junction of Sea Water Road on East side of Grimball Road (approx. 32°42'38" N; 79°58'38" W). the marker is ready for placement, suggest placement of marker be scheduled for early June, 2024 (Saturday June 8?)

Michel Williams prepared re-cap of potential problems surrounding the **re-internment of Simeon Pinckney**: site of present grave: Now grave on property of Ms. Mary Murray. (see attached)

- Discussion:
1. re-internment may find Simian Pinckney grave may be one of many in slave cemetery on grounds of former Lawton/Stiles plantations;
  2. what Pinckney family descendant could authorize the re-internment;
  3. process of re-internment would effectively, permanently disrupt yard and gardens of Ms. Murray and her mother.

Alternative: Leave grave *in situ*, put a memorial on grounds of Pinckney Park

Michael Corbo is moving forward with research of **James Island and its airports**. CAP site on Riverland Drive within Dill Reserve; James Island Airport at intersection of Julian Buxton and Dills Bluff Road; a lower James Island airport (in the Bee community?) and the site of the first Charleston Airport (now the golf course at Maybank Hwy. and Riverland Drive.

**Mission Statement** of the History Council: Satisfactory as it stands; may need some tweaking.

Council desires to expand programs. (New venues, monthly, quarterly lectures?)

**Charleston250** – discussion of grant application deadlines; defer decision making re grants for James Island (expand present programs (First Shot; Stamp Act revolt). Develop new programs: work with SC Battleground Trust, American Battlefield Trust, Mosquito Beach, Sol Legare Fishermen and Farmers Lodge, Charleston Museum, McLeod, etc.

**First Shot Memorial** (Sunday, April 15, 2024) - reenactors; artilleryists must be contacted. First draft of flyer attached

Adjournment

Next Meeting: March 5, 2024

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Michael Williams <[michael@calaveratoolworks.com](mailto:michael@calaveratoolworks.com)>

**To:** Paul Hedden <[paulghedden@yahoo.com](mailto:paulghedden@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 05:40:45 PM EST

**Subject:** Simeon Pinckney Gravesite

Hello Paul!

As a bit of a recap of my efforts related to Mr. Simeon Pinckney's gravesite, here's the rundown.

First, and quite importantly, the gravesite is not on the Shapiro property at all, but in fact on that of Ms. Mary Murray, who lives at the corner of North Sterling and Sweetbay.

Mary and I visited the gravesite on Sunday and there is what appears to be a hand-carved stone grave marker there now, although it (and the grave itself) are somewhat sunken into the ground. (I'm no expert, but this could easily have been caused many, many years ago by the collapse of the coffin or any sort of vault that may have been employed)

Mary and I agreed that if someone starts digging, they are likely to discover quite a bit more than just Mr. Pinckney, since it is likely that this was a community graveyard in previous times.

Further, and even more important... we discussed (and absolutely agreed) that this specific spot is where he and/or those responsible for his burial chose to inter him in the first place. Therefore, it seems best that Mr. Pinckney's remains stay put.

All that said, I do believe that all parties would be well-served by both a resolution to this matter and some attention to the current gravesite.

So after a thoughtful and productive conversation with Ms. Murray, here is my suggestion:

- 1) Remove the current headstone for display at Pinckney park, since it carries historical significance.
- 2) Address issues with the current gravesite (simple leveling of the ground may be all that is required).
- 3) Install a new, marked stone or slab to better mark and protect the actual gravesite for years to come.

Costs to address the current gravesite and to install the existing gravestone in the park will certainly need to be addressed. However, I believe this proposal serves to respect the gravesite and Mr. Pinckney's wishes, while placing an artifact of significance at the homestead park where people can see and visit it for generations to come.

Please let me know if you have any additional thoughts or related questions and I will do my best to address them.

All the best,

Michael

## **History Council Mission Statement**

The mission of the Town of James Island Historical Commission is to discover, document, promote, and preserve historical events, culture, and biographies of individuals which have shaped life on James Island. The Commission is to enhance awareness of James Island history through public activities, signs and markings, preservation of significant locations, and availability of reference and promotional material. The Commission is to work with historical organizations in the low country to further advance James Island's role in the development of the area.

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### **Goals (multi-year) and Objectives (specific activities achievable within a year)**

Goal 1. Research and document known, or insufficiently explored, aspects of history and cultures on James Island. Resulting documents and any related material are to be available to the public.

Objective 1.1 Identify known areas where research is needed along with Committee member interests. Document what future efforts members will be engaged in.

Goal 2. Provide permanent and sustainable information on the site of historical activity.

Objective 2.1 Identify potential and pursue specific sign marker(s).

Goal 3. Develop promotional material the public will use to identify and locate historic sites.

Objective 3.1 Develop proposal for historical trail on James Island.

Goal 4. Sponsor activities to engage the public in historical events.

Objective 4.1 Sponsor and deliver First Shot remembrance.

Objective 4.2 Sponsor and deliver Stamp Act remembrance.

Goal 5. Engage with historical organizations in low country to advance James Island's contributions to history.

Objective 5.1 Determine which groups would be useful to work with and how we can contribute.

Author: Jim Morrissette