

# THE GAFFNEY LEDGER

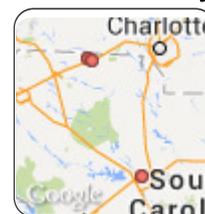
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## Cherokee County History and Arts Museum celebrating fifth anniversary

### “Pirates, Privateers and Buccaneers” exhibit, Pirate Party and Swashbuckler’s Soiree will highlight gala month

Where's the story?



3 Points Mentioned



Five years ago this May, the Cherokee County History and Arts Museum opened its doors to the public at 301 College Drive.

The museum, a goal of the Cherokee Historical and Preservation Society Inc. since 1969, has now been visited by approximately 15,000 guests and has become one of the most sought after rental facilities in the area.

The museum is preparing a series of activities to celebrate the five-year milestone and will be open extended hours.

Quartermaster Edward Bright and other members of the Charles Towne Few, South Carolina's largest pirate re-enactment group, will be on hand at the Cherokee County History and Arts Museum's Pirate Party on Saturday, May 18.

Pirates will invade the museum's Event Hall when a special exhibit – Pirates, Privateers and Buccaneers – comes to town May 8-31. The exhibit was developed by the South Carolina State Museum with the Cherokee

County History and Arts Museum's exhibit including components from the Schiele Museum of Natural History.

“With such a combination of display and interactive materials, Pirates, Privateers and Buccaneers is sure to entertain those of all ages,” said CHAPS board president Dinah Hamrick.

Visitors will be able to hoist the Jolly Roger, learn to tie knots, get their photo in the stocks,

steer the ship's wheel, dress up like pirates, and more. In addition, they will learn about famous and infamous pirates like Blackbeard, Anne Bonnie, Mary Read, Calico Jack and others, as well as see how they lived and survived through displays about pirate weapons, what pirates ate, seafaring punishments, navigating the seas, the lure of treasure, and other exciting topics. The exhibit will be open Wednesdays-Saturdays from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. including a free family night on May 9 from 4-7 p.m.

Everyone is invited to come to a Pirate Party on Saturday, May 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the first 200 children under 12 years old receiving a free pirate prize. In addition, the Charles Towne Few pirate re-enactors will be on hand. Members of the Charles Towne Few are a pirate crew organized to increase public knowledge of the period from 1690 to 1820. The Charles Towne Few perform in authentic period pirate dress and use period weapons and swords during historical interpretations. Pirates and a mermaid will appear during the Pirate Party and will demonstrate their weaponry during the appearance.

May 18 is also be the date for the 11th annual Potters on Gaffney's Old Field Pottery Show and Sale. The Pottery Show was one of the first annual events planned by the Cherokee Historical and Preservation Society Inc. to raise funds to open a history museum in Cherokee County. Potters from across the Southeast will set up on the historic mustering grounds in front of the museum. Guests to the Pottery Show also receive admission to the museum galleries and the pirate exhibit.

The fifth anniversary celebration will culminate on Saturday, June 1, with the Swashbuckler's Soiree. This piratethemed party is limited so contact the museum at 864-489-3988 to purchase tickets as soon as possible. There will be plenty of dancing, food and fun for those 21 years and older only. Door prizes and other gifts will be awarded to winners of various treasure hunts and pirate games with a special award for best pirate costume. Guests are invited to dress like a pirate, but it is not required to attend. The Swashbuckler's Soiree will be from 7-11 p.m. in the museum's Event Hall.

The Cherokee County History and Arts Museum will be open 10-4 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays from May 8-31. For questions or more information, visit [cherokeecountyhistory.org](http://cherokeecountyhistory.org) or call 864- 489-3988.

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