



Press Release

Morris Center Launches Exciting New Exhibitions for 2016

Ridgeland, South Carolina, December 29, 2015: The Morris Center For Lowcountry Heritage announces three exciting new exhibit themes this coming year. Kicking off in March is a fun, family-friendly traveling exhibit called *Pirates, Privateers, and Buccaneers of the Carolinas*. On April 29 the excitement continues with the center's second curated exhibit called *Roots: The Lowdown on Lowcountry Cuisine*, and in August the state's popular traveling exhibition comes to the museum called the American Revolutionary War highlighting the major role that South Carolina played in the war for independence. Each exhibit has interactive elements such as a life-size pirate for selfies.

March 2016- July 2016

Pirates, Privateers, and Buccaneers of the Carolinas

Visitors to the Morris Center's first exhibit of 2016 will learn all about the pirate's life. "Life on the seven seas was a hard, cruel existence," said Chief Curator of History, Fritz Hamer of at the South Carolina State Museum. "Some turned to piracy as a means to gain wealth and to avoid the harsh conditions on naval ships or merchant vessels." Many myths about pirates are dispelled in the exhibit, and one is that pirates frequently sank other ships. Perhaps a warship in combat would be sunk, but pirates rarely sank a ship they wanted to capture because that would be counterproductive. Their loot and captives would go down with the ship.



One of the most feared pirates of all was Blackbeard, who was said to weave lit fuses into his beard for battle to increase his fierce countenance. The story of Blackbeard, who blockaded

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Charleston Harbor in 1718 prior to his death in North Carolina can be found in this exhibit, along with the stories of many other pirates.

This exhibit was developed by the South Carolina State Museum with research, collaboration and assistance from the North Carolina Museum of History, the Queen Anne's Revenge Project of the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology and the North Carolina Maritime Museum.

April 29, 2016 – February 2017

Roots: The Lowdown on Lowcountry Cuisine

Roots: The Lowdown on Lowcountry Cuisine exhibit will give a taste of the complex intertwined history of the region's first recorded cooks. On the menu will be secrets of traditional foods that shaped Lowcountry cooking and created distinct signature dishes deeply rooted in its people. Lowcountry culinary cuisine was developed by the Native American contributions of corn, Carolina gold rice from African slaves, European influences of swine and spices from Latin America. These ingredients, the diversity of its people and the rich history of the region has created Lowcountry cuisine.

August 2016- January 2017

The American Revolutionary War in South Carolina

This exhibit examines the major role that South Carolina played in the Revolutionary War, where over 200 battles and skirmishes took place, more than any other colony during the war. The panels will also highlight major battles that took place in South Carolina, including the Battle of Sullivan's Island, the Cherokee Attack and the Battle of Cowpens, as well as the role that African Americans and women played in the war.



The Morris Center For Lowcountry Heritage is open 10 am -5 pm, Tuesday through Saturday.

Admission is free.

About The Daniel O. Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage

Located in the heart of downtown Ridgeland on US 17, the Daniel O. Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage is a learning and exhibition center dedicated to preserving and nurturing the history, culture and spirit of Ridgeland and its surrounding counties. Housed in a collection of vintage buildings, with the architecturally distinctive Sinclair Service Station as its focal point, the center will feature ever changing exhibitions, interactive and dynamic learning opportunities, cultural offerings, storytelling and other art forms. The center is made possible from a trust left by the late Daniel “Danny” Morris, an entrepreneur and community leader who was active in the historical preservation, education and economic development of the area he called home.

For more information please contact us at 843-284-9227 or visit us at:

Morrisheritagecenter.org and Like us on [facebook.com/MorrisHeritageCenter](https://www.facebook.com/MorrisHeritageCenter)
