

JOE WILSON
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April 11, 2018

Ms. Lynn Thompson
President
Olde Towne Preservation Association
PO Box 7915
North Augusta, South Carolina 29861-7915

Dear Lynn,

Congratulations on being featured in *Aiken H&L*. This is quite an honor and I wish you continued success.

Your accomplishments and involvement have earned you great respect and admiration in the community.

It is an honor to represent the people of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina, and I value your input.

If I may be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

JOE WILSON
Member of Congress

JW/SB

Lynn Thompson: Champion of Our Local History

Lynn Thompson sometimes wonders if she is in a time warp as an 18th-century woman living in the 21st. That's how much she is fascinated with the era—its history, ways of life, its people. Even her wedding a few months ago in January was stylized to the period, from the garb, to the music, to the food. As president and chairman of the North Augusta Living History Park for 26 years and 20-year-president of the Olde Towne Preservation Association, which manages the 7.5-acre park, Thompson is committed to keeping history alive. The association was established in 1991 to help preserve the heritage and character of North Augusta through a bucolic outdoor venue for historical demonstrations, an artisan's fair, and other community events. Listed as part of the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor Tour, the Living History Park attracts more than 20,000 people each year who come to discover colonial times.

What do you love most about your work at the park?

Watching people of all ages learn about the trials and hardship of colonial life. Some of the families that come have never cooked on an open fire. They try to turn on the lights and ask where the TV is. Many people do not realize the challenges that people faced centuries ago.

Which park event is your favorite?

If I had to pick I would say Christmas in the Back Country, which is the Saturday after Thanksgiving. It attracts out-of-towners who are experiencing the park for the first time. Since it's a smaller event, park staff can really spend time with the visitors and share the history of the colonial era.

What piece of American history inspires you most?

I am intrigued by colonial graves and enjoy reading the inscriptions. Sometimes I can't believe how young people were when they died back then. I also enjoy visiting colonial-era churches. This past summer I spent a week in Williamsburg and also went to Mount Vernon and Monticello.

Anything new or upcoming on the park docket that people should know about?

We are changing the fundraiser dinner that we do in April to "A Night at the Tavern," with games, songs and dance. Stay tuned! We will also be finishing the Indian traders cabin.

For a complete list of events and features of the North Augusta Living History Park, visit www.colonialtimes.us.

a-list

AIKEN PEOPLE, PLACES...AND ANECDOTES
BY MONICA DUTCHER



PHOTO BY LARRY GLEASON