

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY
 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
 BEAUFORT COUNTY GOVERNMENT ROBERT SMALLS COMPLEX
 100 RIBAUT ROAD
 POST OFFICE DRAWER 1228
 BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29901-1228
 TELEPHONE: (843) 255-2000
 FAX: (843) 255-9401
 www.bcgov.net

D. PAUL SOMMERVILLE
 CHAIRMAN

GERALD W. STEWART
 VICE CHAIRMAN

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 ROBERTS "TABOR" VAUX

GARY T. KUBIC
 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

JOSHUA A. GRUBER
 DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
 SPECIAL COUNSEL

THOMAS J. KEAVENY, II
 COUNTY ATTORNEY

ASHLEY M. BENNETT
 CLERK TO COUNCIL

AGENDA
 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, November 7, 2016

1:30 p.m.

Executive Conference Room, Administration Building
 Beaufort County Government Robert Smalls Complex
 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort

Committee Members:
 William McBride, Chairman
 Gerald Dawson, Vice Chairman
 Rick Caporale
 Steve Fobes
 Alice Howard
 Roberts "Tabor" Vaux

Staff Support:
 Monica Spells, Assistant County Administrator
 Civic Engagement and Outreach

1. CALL TO ORDER – 1:30 P.M.
2. A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHING A NEW UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN BEAUFORT COUNTY TO REMEMBER THE RECONSTRUCTION ERA ([backup](#))
3. ADJOURNMENT

2016 Strategic Plan Committee Assignments
 Connectivity in Rural Areas / Wi-Fi Expansion
 Smoke Free Campus
 Residential Homes (2) (South)

RESOLUTION 2016 /

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA GIVE FAVORABLE
CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHING A NEW UNIT OF THE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN BEAUFORT COUNTY
TO REMEMBER THE RECONSTRUCTION ERA

WHEREAS, the United States of America has struggled for a century and a half to remember what happened in the wake of the Civil War, reconstruction and the abolition of slavery; and

WHEREAS, most historical accounts of the period are incomplete and many history books have blank pages, which one day must be recorded to guide future generations; and

WHEREAS, throughout Beaufort County all aspects of reconstruction – educational and political opportunities, transitions in the economy, and new religious and social institutions – are well represented in numerous historic buildings and sites; and

WHEREAS, Brick Baptist Church is the most prominent surviving institution of the Reconstruction Era and is historically connected to Penn School, one of the first schools for freed slaves; and

WHEREAS, Beaufort, South Carolina, is the home of Robert Smalls, who escaped a life of enslavement to later become a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, authored state legislation providing for South Carolina to have the first free and compulsory public school system in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has established more than 30 sites that focus on the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has yet to establish a historic site that focuses on the Reconstruction Era; and

WHEREAS, an extensive study, commissioned by the National Park Service, recently concluded that Beaufort County, South Carolina is the most appropriate place in the country to create a park service site dedicated to the Reconstruction Era; and

WHEREAS, in December of 2000, then U.S. Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt visited Beaufort County as part of a personal push to create a park service site dedicated to the Reconstruction Era; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, U.S. Congressman James Clyburn introduced legislation in the U.S. Congress, cosponsored by U.S. Congressman Mark Sanford, to establish a Reconstruction monument in Beaufort County. The sites proposed to represent the Monument include: Darrah

Hall at Penn Center; Brick Baptist Church on St. Helena Island; Emancipation Oak at the U.S. Naval Hospital, Beaufort; Robert Smalls House, Beaufort; and the former Beaufort Fire Station, housed in a two-story structure located on Carteret Street where it remained from 1874 until approximately 1910 when moved to Scott and Craven Streets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Council of Beaufort County hereby adopts a resolution requesting the President of the United States of America give favorable consideration of establishing a new unit of the National Park Service in Beaufort County to remember the Reconstruction Era.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2016.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

BY: _____
D. Paul Sommerville, Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Thomas J. Keaveny, II, County Attorney

ATTEST:

Ashley M. Bennett, Clerk to Council

Resolution

WHEREAS, it is essential that the United States understand all of America's past; and

WHEREAS, our country learns and grows when we harness our understanding of our past as we seek to shape a better future; and

WHEREAS, the United States has struggled for a century and a half to appropriately remember what happened in the wake of The Civil War, Reconstruction and slavery's abolition; and

WHEREAS, most historical accounts of the period are incomplete and many pages of our history books have blank pages, which must one day be recorded to guide future generations;

WHEREAS, throughout the entirety of Beaufort County all aspects of Reconstruction's story – educational and political opportunities, transitions in the economy, and new religious and social institutions – are well represented in numerous historic buildings and sites; and

WHEREAS, in Brick Church which would later transition to become Penn School on St Helena Island in Beaufort County was among the very first institutions established to teach freedmen to transition from slavery to freedom is the most prominent surviving institution of the period; and

WHEREAS, Beaufort was the home of Robert Smalls, a formerly enslaved slave man who became a champion of free public education and was elected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has established over thirty sites that focus on the Civil War: and

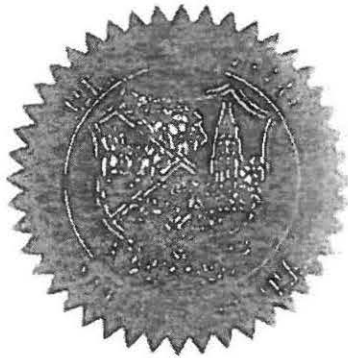
WHEREAS, there is not one single park or monument dedicated to remembering the Reconstruction Era exist in the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, an extensive study commissioned by the National Park Service recently concluded that Beaufort County, SC is the most appropriate place in the country for telling the story of Reconstruction;

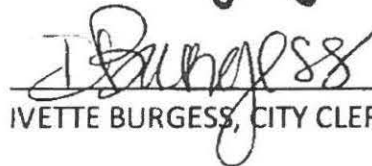
WHEREAS, sixteen years ago, with the help of Beaufort's most accomplished Civil War scholars, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt recognized the importance of the period and the unique role of Beaufort County in all aspects of what took place in the period; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Congressmen James Clyburn introduced legislation in the US Congress, cosponsored by SC First District Congressman Mark Sanford, to establish a Reconstruction Monument in Beaufort, County;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by Beaufort City Council that City Council strongly urges the President of the United States to move forward with the designation of a new unit of the National Park Service in Beaufort County to remember Reconstruction.




BILLY KEYSERLING, MAYOR


IVETTE BURGESS, CITY CLERK

RESOLUTION 2016-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS IN SUPPORT OF DESIGNATING A NEW UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO RECOGNIZE ITS IMPORTANCE TO RECONSTRUCTION.

WHEREAS, it is essential that the United States understand all of America's past; and

WHEREAS, our country learns and grows when we harness our understanding of our past as we seek to shape a better future; and

WHEREAS, the United States has struggled for a century and a half to appropriately remember what happened in the wake of the Civil War, Reconstruction and slavery's abolition; and

WHEREAS, most historical accounts of the period are incomplete and many pages of our history books have blank pages, which must one day be recorded to guide future generations; and

WHEREAS, throughout the entirety of Beaufort County all aspects of Reconstruction's story – educational and political opportunities, transitions in the economy, and new religious and social institutions – are well represented in numerous historic building and sites; and

WHEREAS, Brick Church which would later transition to become Penn School on St. Helena Island in Beaufort County was among the very first institutions established to teach freedmen to transition from slavery to freedom is the most prominent surviving institution of the period; and

WHEREAS, Beaufort was the home of Robert Smalls, a formerly enslaved slave man who became a champion of free public education and was elected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has established over thirty sites that focus on the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, there is not one single park or monument dedicated to remembering the Reconstruction Era in the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, an extensive study commissioned by the National Park Service recently concluded that Beaufort County, SC is the most appropriate place in the country for telling the story of Reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, sixteen years ago, with the help of Beaufort's most accomplished Civil War scholars, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt recognized the importance of the period and the unique role of Beaufort County in all aspects of what took place in the period; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 Congressmen James Clyburn introduced legislation in the U.S. Congress, cosponsored by SC First District Congressman Mark Sanford, to establish a Reconstruction Monument in Beaufort County. The sites of Darah Hall at Penn Center, Brick Church, Emancipation Oak at the Beaufort Naval Hospital, Robert Smalls House in Beaufort, and the Old Beaufort Firehouse have been proposed to collectively represent the Monument.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lowcountry Council of Governments Board of Directors strongly urges the President of the United States to move forward with the designation of a new unit of the National Park Service in Beaufort County to remember Reconstruction.

ADOPTED this 27th day of October, 2016.

BY: 
Gerald Dawson, Chairman

ATTEST: 
Pete Hagood, Secretary





SANTA ELENA
FOUNDATION



October 28, 2016

Mr. Gary Kubic, County Administrator
Beaufort County
PO Drawer 1228
Beaufort, South Carolina 29901-1228

Summary: Beaufort County Mayors' Heritage Tourism Advisory Board support for the establishment of a National Monument in Beaufort County to remember the Reconstruction Era.

Dear Mr. Kubic:

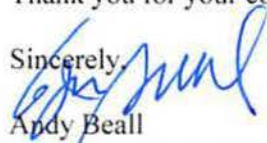
Chairman Sommerville and the Mayors of Beaufort County municipalities formed a Heritage Tourism Advisory Board early this year. Mayors Sulka, Murray, Keyserling, and Bennett named leaders from heritage and cultural organizations across Beaufort County to participate in regular meetings with municipal leaders. The mission of this collaborative effort is *"to celebrate the unique culture and history of the South Carolina Lowcountry by educating, informing and entertaining our local, state, national and global citizens with authentic experiences, access to significant heritage sites and a connection to the culture that makes this place special."*

The current opportunity to pursue a National Monument in Beaufort County remembering the Reconstruction Era as an initiative within the National Parks Service is a project the Advisory Board strongly supports. During the October meeting of the Heritage Tourism Advisory Board members present discussed the initiative and wish to share with you their enthusiasm for this opportunity. The Reconstruction story is integral to Beaufort County history. The more than 100 sites in Beaufort County important to the Reconstruction Era underpin the wisdom to locate the National Monument in our community.

As the facilitator for the Heritage Tourism Advisory Board, I express to you the strong support by our members for this effort and request that Beaufort County Administration and County Council take a leadership role to bring the National Monument to the Lowcountry.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Andy Beall
Chairman Santa Elena Foundation

Cc: Chairman Paul Sommerville, Mayor Lisa Sulka, Mayor Sam Murray, Mayor Billy Keyserling, Mayor David Bennett, and Heritage Tourism Advisory Board Members

PO Box 1005 · Beaufort, South Carolina 29901 · www.Santa-Elena.org

Santa Elena Foundation is a registered non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA TO URGE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE DESIGNATION OF A NEW UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN BEAUFORT COUNTY TO REMEMBER RECONSTRUCTION.

WHEREAS, it is essential that the United States confront all of America's past, particularly the parts about which we know very little; and

WHEREAS, our country learns and grows when we harness our collective power to better understand the past; and

WHEREAS, the United States has struggled for a century and a half to remember what happened in the wake of Slavery's abolition; and

WHEREAS, in Beaufort County all aspects of Reconstruction's story – educational and political opportunities, transitions in the economy, and new religious and social institutions -- are well represented in numerous historic buildings and sites; and

WHEREAS, Beaufort was the home of Robert Smalls, a former slave who became a champion of free public education and was elected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Hilton Head Island is the home of Mitchelville, the first self-governed town of former enslaved people in the United States, where the "Dawn of Freedom" occurred. Even prior to the Emancipation Proclamation, carpenters, blacksmiths, clerks, and cooks and their families -- families who had been enslaved for generations --experienced freedom here for the first time; and

WHEREAS, these industrious new citizens of Mitchelville built homes and churches on neatly arranged streets, elected their own officials, developed laws, and built an economy. They established a compulsory education law for children between the ages of six and fifteen -- the first such law anywhere in the South; and

WHEREAS, after hearing reports of Mitchelville's success, the famous Underground Railroad freedom fighter, Harriet Tubman, was sent to Hilton Head Island to see this bustling town, so she could share the story of Mitchelville's self-governed success with future freedmen towns; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has over thirty sites that focus on the Civil War and not one single park or monument dedicated to remembering the Reconstruction Era; and

WHEREAS, a special study commissioned by the National Park Service has recently concluded that Beaufort County, South Carolina is the most appropriate place in the country for telling the story of Reconstruction;

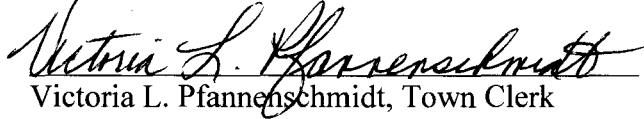
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT, AND IT HEREBY IS RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO URGE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE DESIGNATION OF A NEW UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN BEAUFORT COUNTY TO REMEMBER RECONSTRUCTION.

MOVED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 1st DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2016.

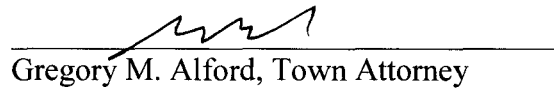


David Bennett, Mayor

ATTEST:


Victoria L. Pfannenschmidt, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Gregory M. Alford, Town Attorney

Introduced by Council Member: WILLIAM D. HARRIS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Council

FROM: David G. Bennett, Mayor

DATE: October 31, 2016

RE: **Resolution Regarding the Telling of the Reconstruction Story
in Beaufort County**

At the request of Mayor Billy Keyserling of the City of Beaufort, I have put forward the resolution urging the establishment of a National Park Service Unit in Beaufort County dedicated to telling the story of Reconstruction in this Country. Mayor Keyserling believes that after many years of effort and study that the time may be at hand for creation of a presence in our County to tell this story. Many individuals have worked for many years on this effort; which fits in so perfectly with the Heritage Tourism efforts that I launched with the other local governments in Beaufort County. This would help us to bring the Mitchelville story to a national audience.

Mayor Billy has been working with Representative Clyburn's office and with the Department of the Interior. There is a hope that the President may act before the end of his term. Broad-based support is thus being sought from Beaufort County Council and each of the municipalities. The City of Beaufort has already adopted a resolution similar to the one that is on our agenda under New Business.

As broadly understood, the National Park Service would establish a presence in the County that would encompass several of the more than 101 sites identified in Beaufort County as being part of the story of the Post Civil War Reconstruction era, including Mitchelville. Visitors would start at this central location and then be guided or directed to the many sites throughout the County.



Council

Samuel E. Murray
Mayor

Tom Klein
Mayor Pro Tempore

Jerry Ashmore
Vernon DeLoach
Mary Beth Heyward

Van Willis
Town Manager

T. Alan Beach
Chief of Police

Jeffrey S. Coppinger
Operations

Linda Bridges
Planning

Resolution 5-2016

REMEMBERING RECONSTRUCTION AND THE PORT ROYAL EXPERIMENT

WHEREAS, the Battle of Port Royal on November 7, 1861 resulted in the liberation of over 10,000 slaves which presented the question of how the society in the area should be reconstructed, and

WHEREAS, as a beginning to Reconstruction, Brigadier General Rufus Saxton, was appointed Military Governor of South Carolina and the Department of the South, and

WHEREAS, on April 20, 1862, Brigadier General Saxton received his orders beginning Reconstruction which orders included "take charge of the inhabitants, with authority to take such measures, make such rules and regulations for the cultivation of the land and for the protection, employment and government of the inhabitants, as circumstances may seem to require, and

WHEREAS, Camp Saxton was formed in the Town of Port Royal as the headquarters from which Saxton and the United States would begin the Port Royal Experiment as the first stage of Reconstruction, and

WHEREAS, Camp Saxton is listed on the United States list of Historic Places, and

WHEREAS, On January 1, 1863 the Emancipation Proclamation was read at Camp Saxton in the Town of Port Royal and former slaves were formally informed of their freedom, and

WHEREAS, the oak tree under which the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation and associated celebrations occurred still stands within the Town of Port Royal, and

WHEREAS, the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Port Royal, the Orders beginning Reconstruction; the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation and the freeing of over 10,000 former slaves is approaching, and

WHEREAS, The Port Royal Experiment and Reconstruction are important events in the history of the Town of Port Royal, the history of Beaufort County, the State of South Carolina and the United States of America, and

Resolution 5-2016

WHEREAS, The elected Council of the Town of Port Royal wishes, in partnership with the United States of America, the State of South Carolina and Beaufort County, to create an appropriate monument and interpretive center to memorialize forever these events and to educate citizens and visitors about this unique time in history.

NOW THEREFORE, the Town Council of Port Royal does hereby resolve to appoint a task force of qualified persons to recommend a site(s) to construct such a monument and center within the Town with the intent of celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Reconstruction period of United States history.

Resolved this 13th day of April, 2016.

Signed by: Jamel E. Munas, Mayor

Witnessed by: Tanya L. Payne, Town Clerk

ADD-ONS

The document(s) herein were provided to Council for information and/or discussion after release of the official agenda and backup items.

Topic: Reconstruction Era
Date Submitted: November 7, 2016
Submitted By: Stu Rodman
Venue: Community Services Committee

Roots of Reconstruction in Beaufort, South Carolina

“Reconstruction”: the period 1865–1877 following the American Civil War, during which the Southern states of the Confederacy were controlled by federal government and social legislation, including the granting of new rights to black people, was introduced.

The post-war task at hand required creation of local and state governments capable of, and committed to integrating, representing, and serving former master and former slave as citizens with equal obligation and equal rights to a common society. Unfortunately, “reconstruction” largely enshrined what was before 1861 into the society that came after 1877. Though “slave” transitioned to “freeman”, the distinction between classes of citizenry would remain profound for nearly another century. But the most seminal of American principles, that all men are created equal endowed with the unalienable right to liberty, was affirmed as the aspirational bedrock of our nation. The concepts of four-fifths of a human being and human bondage could no longer be sustained within the United States. Though imperfect in implementation, in principle, all men were henceforth and forever free.

For those with a general understanding of the Civil War, it might make sense that “reconstruction” would commence with the war’s conclusion in the spring of 1865. But the ironic twist of history made the Beaufort portion of “Beaufort District” (current Beaufort, Jasper, and Hampton counties) both an intellectual epicenter of southern succession (the Maxey-Rhett House) and a Union enclave for almost the entirety of the Civil War. Within the “Port Royal” enclave, as the Union called the occupied portion of Beaufort District, were sown many of the experimental seeds of equality and civil rights that made post-war reconstruction possible as well as providing a hand-book of lessons learned for application during formal reconstruction and beyond.

On 7 November 1861, the Confederate defenses protecting Port Royal Sound collapsed under the weight of the largest American assemblage of ships until D-Day. Assuming a temporary state of affairs, every white citizen abandoned their island property and evacuated to the Confederate mainland. The abandoned property included real estate, livestock, recently harvested Sea Island cotton, and over 10,000 slaves...all of which shared equal Federal legal status as “contraband of war.” Within the next weeks, as news of Father Abraham’s Beaufort enclave spread amongst surrounding plantations on the Confederate mainland, the 10,000 swelled. The Union’s land component commander, Major General Thomas W. Sherman (it would be three years later that MG William T. Sherman would march to the sea to visit Savannah and Beaufort enroute to Columbia and points north) instantly and unexpectedly owned the problem to care, feed, and sustain an ever-increasing mass of “human property” kept illiterate by force of law, and largely dependent by condition of slavery. Sherman could absolve himself by setting the “human contraband” free, but on the islands in the heart of the confederate homeland, where would they go and how would they survive?

The Fugitive Slave Law of 1851 compelled federal officers to return bonded property to the lawful owner upon demand. Throughout 1861 and most of 1862, President Lincoln would have returned the human contraband into slavery if such a commitment would have restored the Union. No one knew how or when the war would end. The white property owners of Beaufort assumed their eventual return would be into a familiar world order; their world would never be the same. Many of the events that

drafted the blueprint of irrevocable post-war change were derived from the uncharted trial and error of the next few years in Beaufort.

From December 1861 through February 1862, MG T.W. Sherman described the problem to his superiors in Washington DC and asked for guidance and assistance. Sherman's dilemma, and his request for assistance set in motion a series of independent, but inter-related events which accumulated into what has retroactively been called the "rehearsal for reconstruction". The following abbreviated list of personalities or events that advanced the transition of former slaves from property to citizens, nudged-forward the proposition of equality, or influenced Union policy ultimately manifested in post-war reconciliation is offered to encapsulate Beaufort's seminal relationship with reconstruction:

- **MG David Hunter:** Abolitionist friend of Lincoln, assumed command of the Union Army's Department of the South (SC, Ga, Fla) headquartered on "Port Royal" (Hilton Head) in April 1862, emancipated slaves on Cockspur Island (Ft Pulaski) and emancipated slaves throughout the Department of the South (Lincoln revoked emancipation on 19 May 1862), personally caused the creation of the Union Army's first black regiment, attracted other abolitionist-minded officers into "Port Royal" military service.
- **The Port Royal Experiment:** The public-private direct response to TW Sherman's request for assistance, the original fifty-four abolitionist volunteers fanned out amongst Beaufort's sea islands in April 1862, literally an experiment to test the proposition that "contraband" could transition from sub-human slave into productive and participatory citizen, conducted in two parts teaching work for wages (mostly male) and literacy (mostly female).
- **The Penn Center:** A direct manifestation of the Port Royal Experiment which outlasted the Civil War, Reconstruction, and served as a venue for the Civil Rights movement into the 1960's. One of many plantation facilities, Laura Towne and Ellen Murray established the archetypical nucleus of education and skill development required to transition slave to citizen.
- **Harriet Tubman:** Endorsed by Massachusetts Governor Andrew, arrived in Beaufort independent of the abolitionists of the Port Royal Experiment in April 1862, hired contraband for laundry and bakery work in Beaufort, assembled a contraband-based intelligence network in support of the Union Army, and may have been the first black woman allowed to testify against a white in court. Responsible for the Combahee Raid of June 1863 which liberated 758 humans from slavery, temporarily housed them in The Baptist Church of Beaufort from which they were injected into the ongoing Port Royal Experiment, and provided a positive role model of what blacks and women were capable of achieving.
- **The Union's First Black Regiment:** George Washington was loathe to allow slaves to serve in the Continental Army on the philosophic point that armed service was an inherent responsibility associated with free citizenry. In April 1862, MG Hunter pushed the bounds of American tolerance by setting in motion not only the arming of blacks, but the arming of "contraband" blacks conditioned by slavery. The argument against arming "contraband" was that they were too illiterate to comprehend orders, would be too downtrodden to fight, or would be unresponsive to military discipline resulting in atrocities against whites. To the contrary, the discipline exhibited by the First SC Volunteers of African Descent refuted the arguments against and accelerated the decision to incorporate blacks under arms. Eventually reflagged and lost to history as the 33rd Regiment of United States Colored Troops, the 1st SCVAD merits a special

place in American history; from 8 May 1862 until present, there has never been a day without blacks serving the nation in the uniform of the United States Army.

- **Robert Smalls:** Reconstruction personified, his life might be the definitive story to illustrate the transformation from slave to citizen and the imperfect struggle for equality through reconstruction. Born into slavery in Beaufort, self-emancipated national sensation of “Planter” fame, Robert Smalls served the Union Navy in war, was a delegate to the post-war South Carolina Constitutional Convention required for re-entry into the Union, served multiple tours in the US House of Representatives, and became one of Beaufort’s leading citizens beyond reconstruction into the 20th Century. In late July 1862, abolitionist Mansfield French and Robert Smalls travelled to Washington DC to consult with President Lincoln and his Cabinet on both the prospect of “contraband” becoming citizens as well as the performance of contraband in uniform. Lincoln was impressed on both accounts, influencing his Emancipation decision, as well as the decision to allow incorporation of blacks into the Union Army.
- **BG Rufus Saxton:** As MG TW Sherman’s logistician on 7 November 1862, Rufus Saxton saw the problem of abandoned “human contraband” first hand and helped Sherman frame the issue in his December 1861 request for assistance. MG David Hunter recognized Saxton as a kindred abolitionist and asked for him to return to “Port Royal” to become the Military Governor of Beaufort. It was under BG Saxton’s domain that the Penn Center came into existence. He oversaw the Port Royal Experiment, empowered Harriet Tubman, fostered the development of black regiments, and stood with the First SCVAD for the first reading of the Emancipation Proclamation on 1 January 1863. After the war’s end, Rufus Saxton headed the Freeman’s Bureau in Beaufort, putting in practice the hard-won lessons learned of transitioning humans from slave to citizen. While William Tecumseh Sherman authored “40 acres” to newly liberated slaves in the Southeast, Rufus Saxton added “and a mule” which enabled former slaves to work their land. By June 1865, most of Sherman’s measures to care for blacks had evaporated under President Andrew Johnson’s administration, but all of Saxton’s measures caring for blacks endured beyond reconstruction. Beaufort’s Rufus Saxton is an unsung American civil rights hero.
- **Mitchellville:** In early September 1862, MG Ormsby Mitchel arrived to replace David Hunter as Commander of the Union’s Department of the South. A month later, Mitchel would die of yellow fever in one of Beaufort’s Bay Street mansions-turned hospital. In one of his only acts, he saw the growing mass of “human contraband” assembling at the “Port Royal” logistics base (Hilton Head) and set aside the grounds of the former Drayton Plantation for the creation of a self-governing town with streets, homes, a church, a school, and the freedom opportunity for contraband to govern themselves. Subsequent to enactment of the Emancipation Proclamation, the newest American citizens elected officials, enacted various laws to include compulsory education, collected taxes, and made a living. Mitchellville was a special facet of the Port Royal Experiment which provided both proof that former slaves could transition into citizens as well as a model for post-war reconstruction.
- **Emancipation Proclamation:** While President Lincoln rescinded MG Hunter’s emancipation of slaves in the Department of the South on 19 May 1862, Hunter’s action, coupled with the heroism of Robert Smalls, along with reports from the Port Royal Experiment and the 1st SCVAD caused and contributed to the Cabinet discussion on the subject throughout the summer of 1862, leading to Lincoln’s August 1862 decision and September 1862 announcement. On the

night of 31 December 1862, the First SC Volunteers of African Descent went to bed as contraband property in uniform, and awoke as free men. The first public reading of the Emancipation Proclamation was to the assembled 1st SCVAD under the live oaks of the current US Naval Hospital.

- **Direct Tax Sale:** In early 1863, the Federal Government authorized the sale of property in arrears to be auctioned. Confederates who had abandoned their property in November 1861, declined to pay money to the Federal government from which they had succeeded. In combination with the emancipation of their human property, the Direct Tax Sale permanently changed the Beaufort landscape. From this sale came the purchase of "Polly's Orchard" for use as the National Cemetery. Occupying northerners speculated on much of the property, but a significant portion of real estate was reserved for the purchase by the newest of American citizens, the emancipated "contraband" who had been earning paid wages under the Port Royal Experiment. While some was sold to individual citizens like Robert Smalls, much plantation property was titled to "Heads of Family". The legacy of this property encumbers present day Beaufort as transactions require a genealogic hunt for wide-spread concurrence.
- **Beaufort National Cemetery:** Predating Arlington National Cemetery, President Lincoln personally authorized BG Rufus Saxton to purchase of land under the Direct Tax Sale for the interment of persons in the armed service of the United States in February 1863. In Beaufort National Cemetery, black soldiers of the Civil War rest under tombstones inscribed by the famed 54th Massachusetts and the more obscure "USCT" (US Colored Troops) in the company of their white counter-parts.
- **"Forty Acres and a Mule":** As a consequence of the Union Army's "March to the Sea" from Atlanta, arriving in Savannah in December 1864, MG William Tecumseh Sherman was confronted with the same problem Thomas W. Sherman faced in November of 1861; what to do with the throngs of emancipated, but illiterate black citizens? After consultation with Beaufort's Military Governor, Rufus Saxton, Sherman issued Special Field Order #15 authorizing up to forty acres per head of black family on the coastal Sea Islands between Charleston, SC and St. Johns Island, Fla. Sherman designated Saxton as the officer with implementation oversight. Subsequent to Sherman's Low Country departure, Rufus Saxton used his discretion to add "and a Mule" to the original "Forty Acre" language. After Lincoln's assassination, the Johnson administration interpreted Sherman's order as a war-time measure with no standing in reconstruction. But all of Rufus Saxton's management of black-owned lands resultant to the 1863 Direct Tax Sale stood the test of time.

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

MG Hunter was the Commander of the Department of the South (SC, Ga, Fla). HQs for Department of the South was on "Port Royal" (Hilton Head). The base was HUGE. "Port Royal" was like Camran Bay in Vietnam. The massive wharf dock poked out into the Broad River from South to North (long gone). I know all of the Navy's logistics used Hilton Head to coal and feed his fleet of warships and ironclads...I'm not sure where the Naval officers lived when on shore. But the naval dimension is a huge story that needs to be told, separate from the Port Royal Experiment. Robert Smalls brought the Planter to "Port Royal" on HHI...originally our Navy used it, but they eventually gave it to the Army because their fleet was coal powered and the Planter burned wood...wanted to simplify their logistics.

While Hunter pondered issues for the whole of the Department of the South, from ~June 1862 Rufus Saxton was the Military Governor of everything from the Whale Branch Ferry through Ladies, to Hunting Island. His responsibilities included Hilton Head, Daufuskie, and Pinckney too, but would have deferred to Hunter since Hunter lived there full time. The 1st SCVAD was originally formed on Hilton Head in May 1862, drilled and deployed from HHI, but was moved (actually reformed) to the Joyner Plantation in October 1862 when their camp was named "Saxton" in honor of the military governor. So "Camp Saxton" was the Regimental Headquarters for the 1st SCVAD. COL Higginson arrived at Camp Saxton to take over the regiment 24 November.

As Military Governor of Beaufort, BG (then MG) Saxton ran his operations from the town of Beaufort (not Camp Saxton).

BG Isaac Stevens lived in Beaufort from Dec 1861 until Rufus Saxton returned (Saxton was a Captain for WT Sherman from Sept 1861-Jan 1862, departed to earn the Medal of Honor at Harpers Ferry, then returned when Hunter assembled his abolitionist minded team). Stevens oversaw all the Union troops from the Whale Branch Ferry to ST Helena, but was never "governor." His HQs was in the house on Bay Street with the fake ornate door (corner of Wilmington and Bay). I think Saxton moved into this when Stevens departed.

Towards the end of the war, Saxton married one of the Port Royal Experiment teachers. I think he bought the Anchorage where they lived while he headed the Freeman's Bureau, but my memory is rusty.

PVT Jaspas would be ashamed of me. It is amazing how big Beaufort District used to be. Hard to tell people now days which part of Beaufort was Union and which Confederate. Pretty much, if it was an island, it was Union.

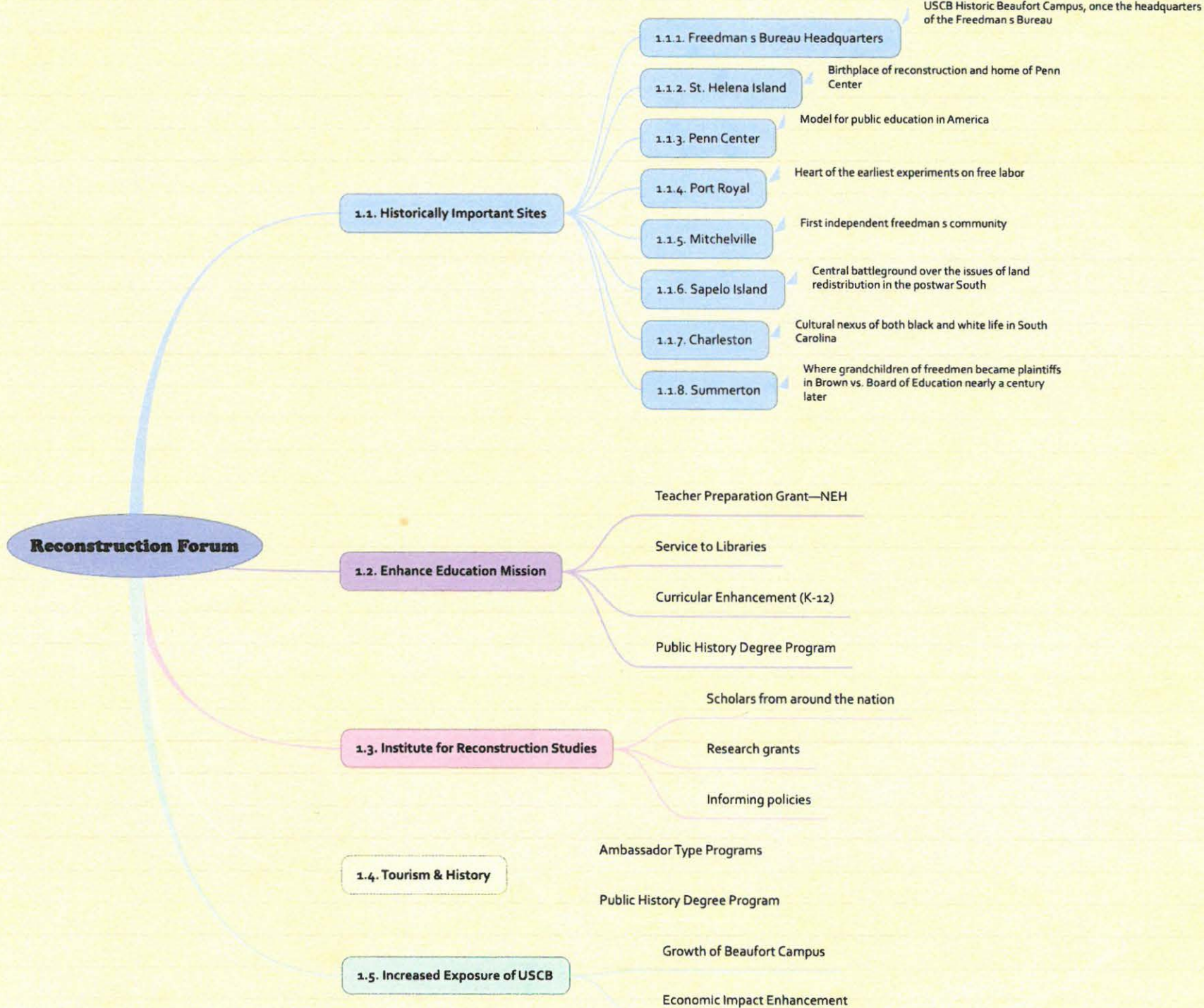
I'll wait a day to let the dust settle, then give you a "final draft" (these things never end) correcting anything else you might see.

I do have plenty of sketches and pictures sufficient to allow an image to be embedded with each "dimension" (includes the painting of 1st SCVAD formal drill and parade on HHI in June 1862). The drawing of the first reading of the Emancipation Proclamation to the 1st SCVAD on Camp Saxton 1 Jan 1863 brings tears to my eyes every time I see it. It should be an iconic image of our home, but very few people know about it. Prince Rivers and Robert Sutton are the two black soldiers depicted...each gave a speech. DR Brisbane (a former slave owner who released his slaves) read the Emancipation. Saxton, Higginson, and some of the key Port Royal Experiment personalities are depicted on the stage. I recommend looking into getting a high quality version of this and using it as one of the anchors for our Beaufort story. The more you know about it, the more powerful an image it becomes.

Chris

Selected Timeline - Camp Saxton and Fort Frederick Historic preserve

- 1730's - Fort Frederick built by British. Oldest tabby structure in Beaufort County.
- April, 1861 - Civil War begins with firing at Fort Sumter
- Nov. 3, 1861 - Union Forces win Battle of Port Royal. Established at Camp Saxton adjacent to Fort Frederick landing. Civil War hostilities end in Port Royal District 7 month after firing on fort Sumter.
- 1862 - US Government issues first orders to Camp Saxton. Slaves seeking freedom arrive by boat at Fort Frederick landing. 10,000 slaves are free. Reconstruction activities are necessary to address the needs for the freed slaves.
- Nov 1862 - 1st SC Volunteer regiment are formed and encamp at Camp Saxton where remnants remain.
- Late 1862 - Mitchelville Formed on Hilton Head as first town of freedman.
- 1862 - Penn School is founded on Saint Helena.
- Jan. 1, 1863 - Emancipation Proclamation read at Camp Saxton with great celebration.
- May 1865 - Civil War ends. Reconstruction era begins in balance across the south.
- 1949 - Naval Hospital Beaufort opens.
- 1974 - Fort Frederick listed on National Register of Historic Places
- 1995 - Camp Saxton listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1999 - Fort Frederick Heritage Preserve acquired by SC DNR. Objectives are "protect the natural and cultural character" and "to provide the maximum public usage - which is compatible and consistent with the character of the area."
- Sept. 11, 2001 Public access to Fort Frederick and Camp Saxton ends.
- 2015 - SC Archaeological study of Fort Frederick finds components of colonial fort, the plantation era and Woodland period Native American Populations. SC DNR plan states "greater significance stems from the events surrounding January 1, 1863, when its walls supported the dock across which blacks and whites walked to the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation."



RESOLUTION 2016 /

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA GIVE FAVORABLE
CONSIDERATION TO ESTABLISHING A
NATIONAL MONUMENT IN BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
TO REMEMBER THE RECONSTRUCTION ERA

WHEREAS, Beaufort County is the home to many historical activities and sites that defined the Reconstruction Era including:

1. The November 7, 1861 Battle of Port Royal that freed 10,000 slaves.
2. The Port Royal Experiment started in 1862 at Camp Saxton in response to first answer the question of how society should be reconstructed.
3. Mitcheville established in 1862 on Hilton Head Island as the first self-governed town in America that ushered in the “Dawn of Freedom” where formally enslaved people for the first time experience freedom; first built and managed their own town; and first established compulsory education in America.
4. The first Union Black Regiment formed in 1862 at Ft. Saxton.
5. Harriet Tubman, known as the “Conductor of the Underground Railroad,” arrived in 1862 and formed a contraband-based intelligence network that supported the Union Army.
6. The Emancipation Oak where the Emancipation Proclamation was first read in 1863.
7. The home of Robert Smalls, who escaped a life of enslavement by commandeering the Confederate Ship Planter to later become a member of the U.S. House of Representatives and author of state legislation providing for South Carolina to have the first free and compulsory public school system in the United States of America.
8. Penn and Mather Schools where recently freed slaves were educated. Dr. Martin Luther King wrote his “I have a Dream” speech at Penn Center.
9. The Brick Baptist Church, the most prominent surviving institution of the Reconstruction Era that is connected to Penn School.
10. The Old Beaufort Firehouse dating back to 1874; and

WHEREAS, Beaufort County is rich in Reconstruction history offering the exciting possibility of both a:

1. National Monument to be located at either Penn Center / Brick Baptist Church site or the Emancipation Oak / Ft. Saxton site;
2. National Historic Trail encompassing approximately 100 sites in Beaufort and the adjacent counties, and

WHEREAS, Beaufort County lies at the center of the Charleston to Hilton Head Island to Savannah coastal corridor that attracts approximately 20 million visitors annually, which forms a ready audience to hear and appreciate the Reconstruction story; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has yet to establish a historic site that focuses on the Reconstruction Era; and

WHEREAS, an extensive study, commissioned by the National Park Service, recently concluded that Beaufort County is the most appropriate place to tell the Reconstruction story; and

WHEREAS, then U.S. Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt in 2000 recommended that Beaufort County be the national site for telling the Reconstruction story; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Congressman James Clyburn introduced legislation in 2016 in the U.S. Congress, co-sponsored by U.S. Congressman Mark Sanford, to establish the Reconstruction Monument in Beaufort County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Council of Beaufort County hereby adopts a resolution requesting the President of the United States of America give favorable consideration to establishing a National Monument in Beaufort County to remember the Reconstruction Era.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2016.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

BY: _____
D. Paul Sommerville, Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Thomas J. Keaveny, II, County Attorney

ATTEST:

Ashley M. Bennett, Clerk to Council