

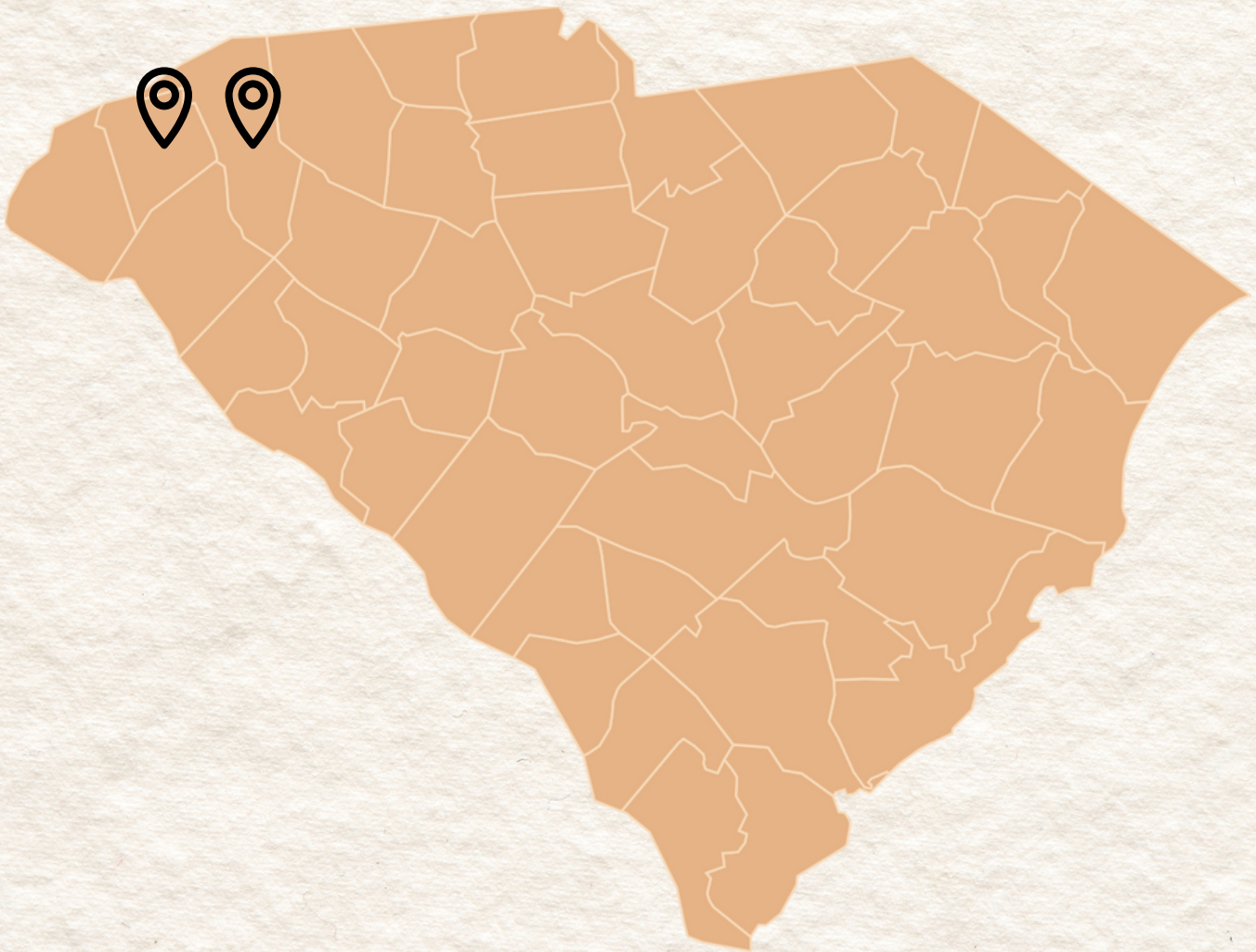
AN ANTI-DEATH PENALTY TOUR OF SOUTH CAROLINA

illuminating SC's death penalty legacy
through relevant sites, figures, and
state history



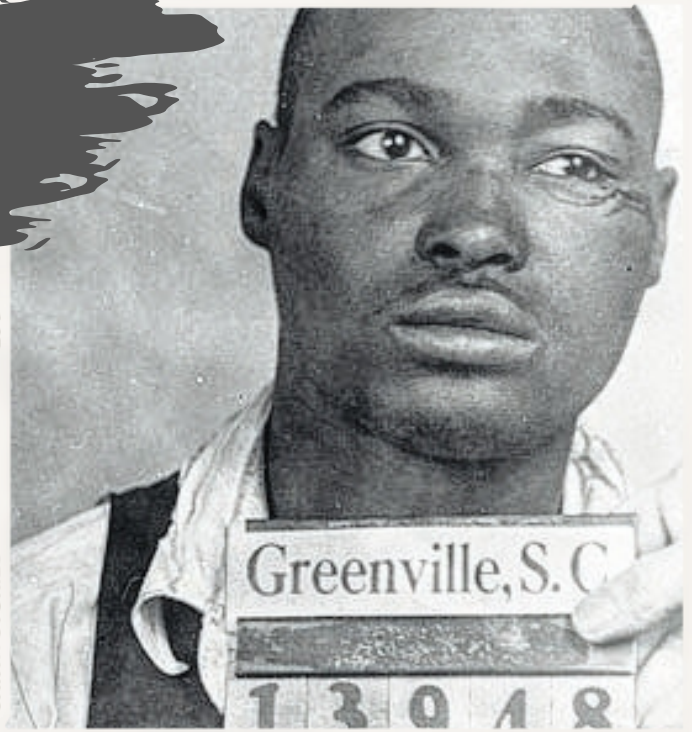
GREENVILLE COUNTY

PICKENS COUNTY



THE LYNCHING OF WILLIE EARLE

In 1947, a 24-year-old black man named Willie Earle was charged with robbing and stabbing a white taxi driver. On the night of February 17th, a white mob broke into and took Mr. Earle out of the Pickens County jail where he was being held. The jailer released Earle and reportedly told the mob, "I guess you boys know what you're doing." The mob took Mr. Earle to a deserted part of the main road from Pickens to Greenville, on the outskirts of Greenville county. They then repeatedly stabbed and beat Earle, shooting him in the body and head.



Earle's death rose to national prominence as the country's largest lynching trial. Press flocked to Greenville, and police arrested 31 men that were supposedly involved with the killing. The 10-day trial took place in the Old Greenville County courthouse, and the jury was made up of twelve white men. During the trial, the defendants chewed gum, laughed at the mentioning of Earle's name. One of the defense attorneys even called Mr. Earle a "mad dog" that deserved to be killed. 26 men admitted to being involved in the killing of Willie Earle. Despite these 26 confessions, the all-white jury acquitted the men on May 21, 1947.



One can visit the old Greenville County courthouse (130 S. Main St.) where these men were acquitted in the lynching trial— a bookstore now is on the bottom floor. Willie Earle is buried behind Abel Baptist Church in Clemson, South Carolina. The Earle family still lives in the Clemson area and forever remains impacted by the death. According to Earle's step-niece, Eloise Earle, Earle's mother "Grandma Tessie" Roseman Earle, never got over her son's death. "It caused distress for the whole family, but particularly for her. Several of Willie's sisters had breakdowns in later years because of the strain of this awful thing." The killing of William Earle is the last documented lynching in the entire state of South Carolina.



EDGEFIELD COUNTY



SUE LOGUE: THE FIRST WOMAN ON DEATH ROW

On January 15th, 1943, Sue Logue was the first woman and only woman to be executed in the electric chair in South Carolina. Mrs Logue, a 43-year-old former school teacher, was convicted with her brother-in-law George Logue and Clarence Bagwell for planning the murder of their neighbor Davis Timmerman.



Sue Logue's husband, Wallace Logue, had previously been shot and killed by Timmerman over a calf. Logue's calf had been killed by Timmerman's mule, and he went to Timmerman's store to demand Timmerman repay him for the calf. After Timmerman refused to pay Logue's new and increased price (of \$40), there was a physical fight, and Timmerman shot Logue twice. He then reported the shooting to the sheriff, and was acquitted by a jury who ruled that he acted in self-defense.



Sue Logue and her husband's brother, George, didn't agree with this ruling. They paid Wallace's nephew, a Spartanburg police officer, \$500 to find someone to kill Timmerman. Clarence Bagwell was selected for the job, and a year later after Wallace died Bagwell entered Timmerman's store and shot him five times from a point-blank range, killing him immediately. After a deadly standoff at the Logue's home, the trio was arrested and tried for the death of Timmerman. During trial four months later, Sue Logue was labeled by prosecution as the "brains" behind the death. The trial lasted three days, and the jury convicted the group after deliberating for two hours. The night before Sue was electrocuted, she reportedly cried as her long, dark hair was shaved completely off. The Timmerman store still stands on Meeting Street, at the intersection of Highway 378 and Highway 430.



RICHLAND COUNTY



BROAD RIVER CORRECTIONAL FACILITY



In January of 1990, the state execution chamber was moved to Broad River Correctional Institution, located in Columbia. All 35 people on South Carolina Death Row are housed in Broad River. The death chamber has recently been renovated at the cost of \$53,600 to accommodate for the addition of a firing squad. With the addition of the firing squad, South Carolina becomes one of only four states that allows for such a practice. Since the U.S. Supreme Court case *Gregg v. Georgia* (1976), South Carolina has executed 43 people. Of the 43, 36 were executed by lethal injection and 7 by electrocution. Law governs the witnesses of an execution: three members of the press can be present, three members of the victim's family, a minister of the gospel, the inmate's legal counsel, the chief law enforcement officer, and the solicitor from the county where the crime occurred.



SUMTER COUNTY

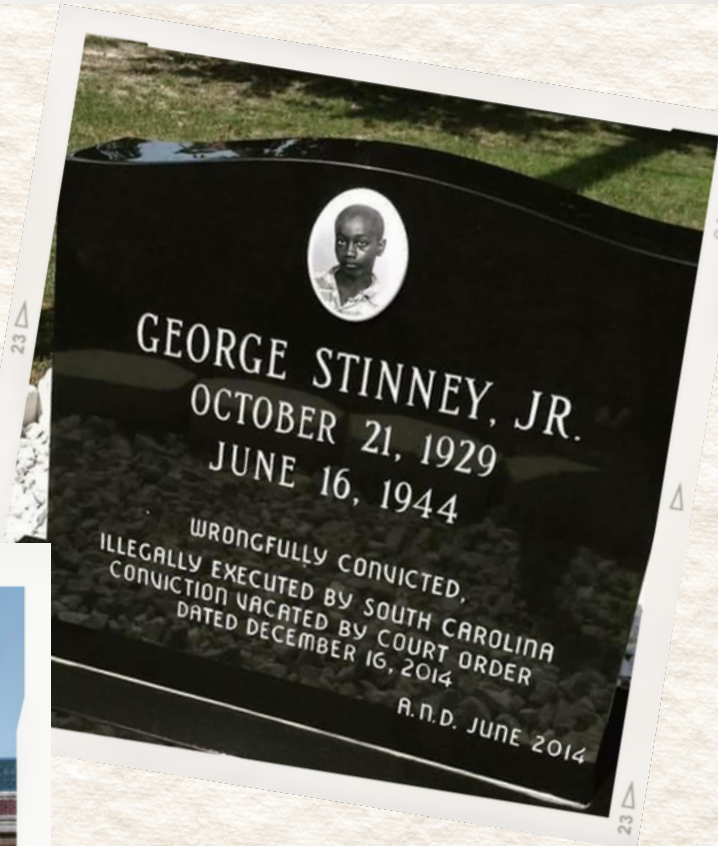
CLARENDON COUNTY



GEORGE STINNEY JR.



In 1944, George Stinney Jr. was arrested and executed for the murder of two white girls. George Stinney Jr., a fourteen-year-old black boy, is the youngest person to be executed in the U.S. in the last century. George was represented by a lawyer that didn't specialize in criminal law, and who did not call a single witness to the stand. Stinney Jr. was questioned without his parents or an attorney present. His trial was held in the Clarendon County courthouse. An all-white jury deliberated for ten minutes before convicting him of the rape and murder of the two girls. No African Americans were allowed in the courtroom. His court-appointed lawyer filed no petitions or requests for a stay of execution. In 2014, a judge threw out his murder conviction on the basis that George was deprived of various due process rights during the two hour trial. His headstone is on display near Sumter highway.



Clarendon County courthouse



📍 *Sumter County courthouse*



CHARLESTON COUNTY



MOTHER EMANUEL AME CHURCH

Since the early 1800's, African Americans used this space as a place to freely worship in the midst of oppression. Founded in 1817, Mother Emanuel AME is the oldest African Methodist Episcopal church in the Southern United States.

White officials raided the church and arrested congregants on several occasions in 1818, 1820, and 1821. In 1822, this abuse of power came to a head when the church was burned to the ground by white oppressors. After this, 35 men, including church founder Denmark Vesey, were executed because of their slave revolt plot. In 1891, after the civil war, the church was rebuilt. This 1891 building is still standing.

 Denmark Vessey Monument



 Mother Emanuel AME



Unfortunately, this was not the end of racial struggles for Mother Emanuel AME. In June 2015, nine church members were shot and killed by a 21-year-old self-named white supremacist. Despite the tragedies suffered by this congregation, they continue to proudly proclaim their faith in God.

To honor the life of Denmark Vesey, you can visit the Denmark Vessey Monument in Hampton Park, Charleston, South Carolina.



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PIRATE EXECUTIONS

In November 1718, 49 pirates were hanged at “the White Point” in Charleston. “The White Point” refers to the southernmost tip of the peninsula of Charleston, one most visible to ships passing by.

This was a deliberate choice, one that allowed everyone coming and leaving Charleston to see what brutal punishment would be allotted to pirates.



OLD SLAVE MART

During the antebellum era, Charleston served as a hub for slave trade. Located on one of Charleston's few remaining cobblestone streets, The Old Slave Mart stands today. The exact address is 6 Chalmers Street. Built in 1859, this building was used to auction off African American men, women, and children. Today, the building is used as an African American history museum.



INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

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CANVA STORIES



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