

Daufuskie Island Historical Timeline

ca. 7,000 B.C. Oldest dated arrowhead found on the island.

1520's Spaniards first Europeans to explore Daufuskie Island.

1707 First English land grant on Daufuskie Island.

1715 Skirmishes between Native Americans & Colonists gave Bloody Point its name.

1768 Oakley Hall at Bloody Point Plantation built (torn down in 1938).

1776-1783 Island mostly Tory during War of Independence.

1790's Sea Island cotton replaced indigo as island's commercial crop.

1805 Public road built north to south on the island.

1820 Melrose Plantation Mansion built (burned down in 1912).



1838 Haig's Point Plantation Mansion built (torn down for lumber by Union troops in 1862).

1860

Eleven plantations on Daufuskie at eve of Civil War.

1861-1865

Island occupied by Union Troops.

1865

Freed slaves return to Daufuskie as small landowners or tenant farmers.

1873



Haig's Point Lighthouse commissioned (decommissioned in 1924).

1881



First Union African Baptist Church founded (current building built in 1884 after first building destroyed by fire).

1882

Bloody Point Lighthouse commissioned (decommissioned in 1922).

1893

Powerful hurricane destroyed much of the island.

1893-1903

Maggioni & Co. operated oyster cannery on the island.

1901

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church No. 1 built (destroyed by hurricane in 1940).

1910-1915

Harvested lumber transported via narrow gauge railroad to rafts.

1913



Beaufort County built Daufuskie School for white students.

1917

Boll weevil infestation ended cotton farming.

1919

Oyster shucking factory opened on island.

1919



Brothers & Sisters Oyster Union Society founded. Meeting hall restored by DIHF in 2012. Further restoration in 2019.

1920

County Dock built.

1934



Mary Field School built for African-American children (their first public school building.)

1940



Jane Hamilton School opened for African-American children on north end of island.

1941



Mt. Carmel Baptist Church No. 2 built (became Billie Burn Museum in 2002).

1950

Jane Hamilton School closed (children "bussed" to Mary Fields School).

1951

Electrification of island begun (completed in 1953).

DAUFUSKIE ISLAND HISTORICAL TIMELINE

From pre-historic settlements - to exploration by the Spanish, French and English - to the glory of plantation days and its agony of slavery - to its days of cotton farms - to oyster harvesting and processing - to its decline and rebirth in the late 20th Century, Daufuskie Island has enjoyed a rich and unique history.

2001 Daufuskie Island Historical Foundation founded.

2009 Gullah Learning Center opened in Jane Hamilton School by DIHF.

2011 Rob Kennedy Trail inaugurated by DIHF as self-guided historical tour of the island.

2014 Haig Point restored
Haig's Point tabby ruins.

2014 Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation initiated program to preserve Gullah homes.

2015 Midwife's carriage restored by DIHF.

1959 Savannah River pollution closed island's oyster beds to harvesting.

1962 School segregation ended with graduation of last white student at Daufuskie School.

1969 Island midwife delivered last born-on-the-island baby.

1972 Telephone service came to Daufuskie.

1980 Island's population reduced to 50-60 due to lack of employment opportunities.

1982 Daufuskie Island accepted to National Register of Historical Places.

1984 International Paper bought Haig's Point and began developing Haig Point Club.

1985 Melrose Company opened Melrose Club.

1991 Melrose Company opened Bloody Point Club.

1995 Beaufort County built current Daufuskie Island Elementary School (Mary Field School closed).

2001

2009

2011

2014



2014



2015



Daufuskie
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