

## ***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 White Schoolhouse 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).

**1920** County Dock built.

**1934**  Mary Fields 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).

- 1959** Savannah River pollution closed island's oyster beds to harvesting.
- 1962** School segregation ended with graduation of last white student at White School House.
- 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 Fields School closed).

- 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.

## 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.*



**Daufuskie  
ISLAND  
HISTORICAL  
FOUNDATION**

P.O. Box 52  
Daufuskie Island, SC 29915

[www.daufuskiemuseum.org](http://www.daufuskiemuseum.org)  
[dihfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:dihfoundation@gmail.com)

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