HOPSEWEE HERITAGE: *Modern History*

In 1945, the Hopsewee home and property were sold to International Paper Company, and were then later sold to Colonel Reading Wilkinson and his wife, who added modern amenities such as plumbing, heat and electricity. Their son, Phillip Wilkinson, recalls there was an elderly black woman living in one of the cabins near the house when he moved there as a young boy. Three slave cabins were still standing; one was occupied by an old man who farmed the corn field wtih an ox-pulled plow.

Along with the addition of moden amenities, two upstairs batherooms were added and cabintes were made for the kitchen with wood from the attic. In 1969, after being widowed and her children grown, Mrs. Wilkinson moved to Meeting Street in Georgetown, swapping residences with Jim and Helen Maynard and their two daughters, Cassie and Betts.

The Maynards obtained National Historic Landmark status for Hopsewee Plantation in 1972, opening their home to the public with the house as a museum. They also purchased land original to the plantation, bringing the property to a total of 70 acres.

Many developers approached the Maynards with plans for their prime riverfront site, but the Maynards were keen to protect the home and property they'd loved and cherished for 30 years from commercial interests. In 2000, under the impression that Hopsewee had been sold, Frank Beattie visited Hopsewee to wish the Maynards well. When the Maynards told him they had not, in fact, sold to developers and informed him of their desire to see the property continue on in the same respectful stewardship as it had for some 260 years, Mr. Beattie was pleased to take on the responsibility of caring for Hopsewee.

Mr. Beattie and his wife, Raejean Beattie, view their ownership of Hopsewee Plantation as a gift from God as well as a trust to the people of South Carolina and to the United States. The house and grounds remain open to the public and is a must-see destination for locals and visitors to South Carolina coast and beyond.