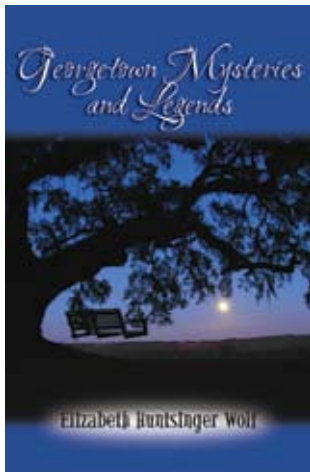


Georgetown Mysteries and Legends

Tales from South Carolina's Shadow History

By Elizabeth Huntsinger Wolf



Georgetown County sits on the South Carolina coast, about halfway between Charleston and Myrtle Beach.

Georgetown County is not a very big place. It stretches from Murrells Inlet in the north to the Santee River in the south, linking the Grand Strand to the Low Country.

A rich history has taken place within those

borders, though, and like most places with a rich history, Georgetown County is home to more than its share of ghosts and folklore.

As a folklorist, storyteller, and tour guide, Elizabeth Huntsinger Wolf is as familiar with that lore as anyone in Georgetown County. In her new book, *Georgetown Mysteries and Legends*, Wolf shares 19 tales of the shadow history of the South Carolina coast.

On a lonely stretch of the Kings Highway, a specter makes a young driver swerve off the road—just in time to miss the oncoming car whose headlights are broken.

In a bathing house on Magnolia Beach, a captured mermaid calls forth a hurricane to set her free—and to wreak a terrible vengeance on the family that held her prisoner.

On the road to Hopsewee Plantation, a figure with colonial garb and a lantern walks alone toward the front door—but always disappears before he reaches it.

“When I moved to Georgetown County in 1985,” Wolf says, “history and ghost stories were in the very

air there; you could almost feel it. I felt as though I was immersed in history. It was all around—and some of it was woven through and through with ghostly legend.”

In fact, so much of Georgetown's history is tied to ghost stories and folk tales that Wolf produced two other collections, *Ghosts of Georgetown* and *More Ghosts of Georgetown*, before this one.

“Although *Georgetown Mysteries and Legends* contains several ghost stories,” Wolf writes in her prologue, “most of the tales in this book detail uncanny, unexplained events that have left no hauntings. They are relics from Georgetown's historic past that are just downright bone-chillingly eerie—and needed to be set down on paper.”

Elizabeth Huntsinger Wolf is a South Carolina native whose mother's family came to the state in the 1600s and whose father immigrated there from Scotland. Her first home in Georgetown County was a 1948-vintage 40-foot mahogany Chris Craft boat anchored in the Waccamaw River. Now a landlubber, she lives in a neighborhood built on the site of one of the area's many rice plantations. In addition to being a full-time storyteller/literacy instructor for Georgetown County preschoolers, she, along with her husband, leads Ghosts of Georgetown Lantern Tours and is an avid Civil War reenactor. Georgetown Mysteries and Legends is her third book.

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