



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

George "Buddy" Wingard shows a pot made by David Drake in the 1800s that was found at the Savannah River Site in 2006 during the Historic Aiken Foundation's meeting Sunday at the Aiken County Historical Museum.

Pot discovered by Dave Drake shown at Aiken Historic Foundation meeting

BY DEDE BILES
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Near the end of the Historic Aiken Foundation meeting Sunday, Owen Clary announced that he had a surprise for the people who had gathered in the Aiken County Historical Museum's ballroom.

Clary then introduced a man, identifying him only as "Mr. Smith." The man was carrying a basket, and in that container was a recently discovered piece of stoneware by the famous slave potter David Drake.

"This is its first showing ever in public," said Clary, who is the Historic Aiken Foundation's president.

Because of the pot's great value, Mr. Smith wished to remain anonymous, but he did provide a little bit of information about it.

The vessel belongs to his father-in-law, and "it was basically sitting out in a dog pen in the eastern part of Aiken County" before its connection to Drake was known, Mr. Smith said.

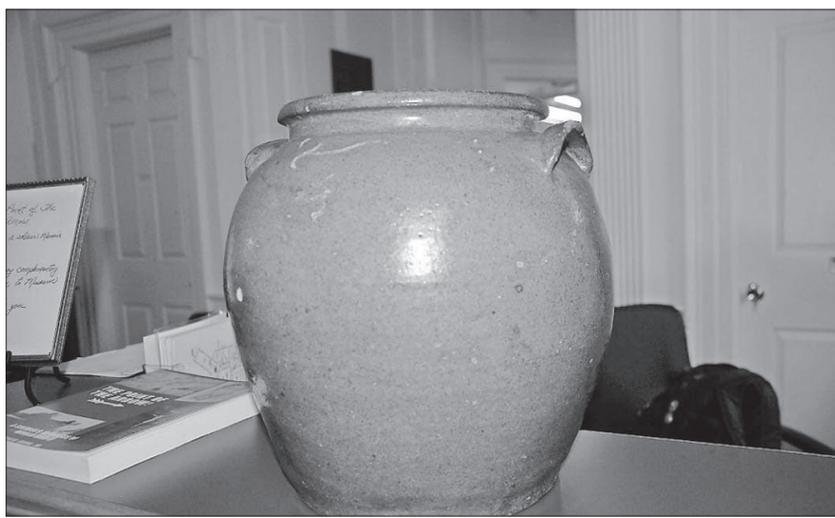
In the past, the pot had been used in making pickles.

"It's in amazing shape, especially since it has been outdoors," Mr. Smith said.

The pot has "LM" carved into it, and those letters are part of the evidence that Drake made it because he worked for Lewis Miles, who owned a pottery.

Earlier this year, Drake, who also was known as Dave the Slave and Dave the Potter, was inducted into the South Carolina Hall of Fame.

"It is a beautiful example of



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

This pot made by David Drake, which recently was discovered in eastern Aiken County, was shown in public for the first time during the Historic Aiken Foundation's meeting Sunday at the Aiken County Historical Museum.

Dave's work, one of the best," said Clary of the pot. "It's probably worth between \$75,000 and \$100,000. When I saw it about four months ago for the first time, I couldn't believe it."

George "Buddy" Wingard, who is the administrative manager of the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program, was the featured speaker during the Historic Aiken Foundation meeting. He brought a pot made by Dave with him that was found at the Savannah River Site in 2006 in an area near what was once the community of Hawthorne.

The residents of Hawthorne had to leave when the Savannah River

Site, which once was known as the Savannah River Plant, was built in the 1950s. Only remnants of Hawthorne remain.

Wingard and Mark Albertin produced an award-winning documentary film about Drake called "Discovering Dave: Spirit Captured in Clay."

Wingard said that Drake probably produced between 60,000 to 80,000 pots in the 1800s, but that there are only around 200 remaining today that have been definitively identified as his work.

The pot found at the Savannah River Site was broken, and its pieces were put back together.

Wingard also said that he had

teamed up with Patrick Hayes to produce a film about Hawthorne called "Hawthorne Reconstructed."

Hawthorne had a post office, a general store and a Masonic Lodge, and they all were in one building. There also was a school for African-Americans in the Hawthorne area.

George Heath and Henry Brown, who lived in Hawthorne when they were young, have provided Wingard with details about what life was like in their community.

Heath is a volunteer with the Archaeological Research Program.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

S.C. Sen. Tom Young, R-Aiken, right, presents the Rev. Jeffrey Kirby with the Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest civilian award. The Rev. Kirby formerly was at St. Mary Help of Christians Church.

Former St. Mary priest gets Order of the Palmetto

SUBMITTED ARTICLE
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The Rev. Jeffrey Kirby, who was the parochial vicar at St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, received the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian award, on Tuesday.

He received the award in the central lobby of the South Carolina Statehouse in Columbia.

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley designated S.C. Sen. Tom Young, R-Aiken, to preside at the ceremony.

"We're told to expect the unexpected," Young said in his opening remarks. "Having grown up a Southern Baptist and becoming a Methodist, I never would have expected that I would be giving the Order of the Palmetto to a Catholic priest. Expect the unexpected."

In her letter granting the award, Haley wrote: "As a priest in the Catholic Diocese of Charleston, and as a guide for young adults in the process of vocational discernment, you have been a source of encouragement and guidance for countless people. Through your spoken and written words, you exemplify faith, love and service in action, and your works will inspire others for generations to come. In the world of making a positive difference, you have been an incredibly effective leader to those around you."

Presenters also read comments by the Honorable Jean Toal, the first Catholic justice of the S.C. Supreme Court.

U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-S.C., Fifth Congressional District, and the Rev. Ronald Cellini, vicar of priests for the Diocese of Charleston, also attended.

Kirby was parochial vicar at St. Mary for two years before going to Rome, Italy, to complete his studies.

He also was in Aiken for several months this year as the administrator for the St. Mary Help of Christians parish while

the church's pastor, the Rev. Gregory Wilson, was on sabbatical.

Kirby was ordained a priest on July 27, 2007, by Bishop Robert Baker. He was a priest in the Diocese of Charleston since his ordination. In particular, Kirby was the diocesan vicar of vocations from 2010 until 2015.

Currently, he is the administrator of Our Lady of Grace, the newest parish in the diocese, in Indian Island, South Carolina. He also is the administrator of St. Joseph's parish in Chester, South Carolina.

Kirby grew up in a military family that made South Carolina their home in 1989. He graduated from Lower Richland High School in Columbia and attended the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio before entering seminary at the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

He has a doctorate in moral theology from the Holy Cross University. He is an author and teacher through St. Benedict Press and the Catholic Scripture Study. His latest work is a DVD entitled "Luke: The Gospel of Mercy."

Kirby is an adjunct professor of theology at Belmont Abbey College near Charlotte, North Carolina.

In his comments when he accepted the award, Kirby thanked Bishop Robert Guglielmo of Charleston, his parents and other family members and friends.

Kirby concluded, saying, "Most of my work has been — and is — motivated by the strong conviction that religion has a place in the public forum and that its contribution can edify and enrich public life."

"Contrary to the religious extremism we see in our day.

My work has been to show that good religion can bring about good things, very human things, things that make society and culture a better place to live and a more nourished environment in which the human spirit can flourish and soar."

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