

lifestyles



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Museum launches virtual reality tour

The Cherokee History and Arts Museum, in conjunction with Limestone College's Digital Communication students, launched a Virtual Museum Tour on Tuesday.

Until recently, virtual reality existed only in the fanciful dreams of science fiction; however, this emerging technology is now poised to become part of our everyday lives. The Cherokee County History and Arts Museum has just added their first "Virtual Museum Tour" to its website, www.cherokeecountyhistory.org.

The Virtual Reality Tour was developed by students in Dr. Randy Nichols' Digital Communications II class at Limestone College and offers "virtual visitors" a chance to see each of the museum's galleries and to take a closer look at selected artifacts within the exhibits. The Limestone students used special spherical cameras to capture the 3D images from the museum and constructed the tour in the viewer software, adding conventional images and descriptive text for virtual visitors to engage. Viewers will be able to go online or use their smartphones or tablets to "walk through" each exhibit as if they were actually touring the museum from inside.

The Cherokee County History and Arts Museum is one of the first museums in South Carolina to feature a VR tour for online guests.

The project also involved assisting the museum with updating its website and social media sites with virtual reality links.

Three years ago, one of Nichols' classes created QR (Quick Response) Code labels at several different displays for the museum. Those matrix barcodes contained data that when scanned by a smartphone or tablet provides visitors with video presentations about the respective displays.

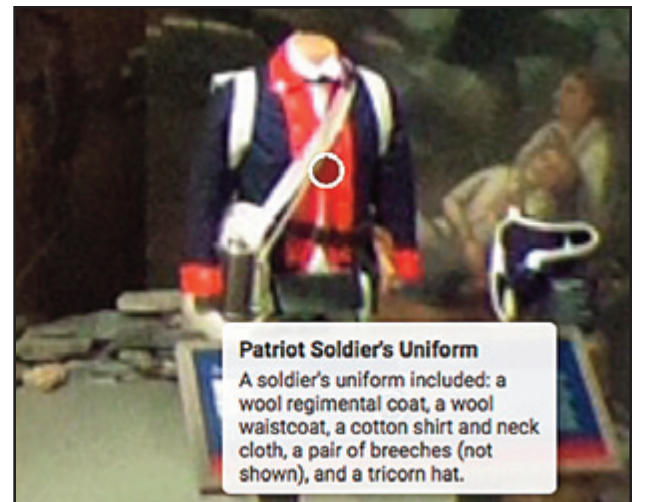
"Limestone College has clearly messaged that they



Those wanting to visit the Cherokee County History and Arts Museum can now do so virtually. Below is one of the selected artifacts highlighted on the virtual reality tour

want to be fully integrated into our community," said Pam Cazel, the Executive Director of the Cherokee Historical and Preservation Society (CHAPS). "This project is another great example of the students engaging with our cultural landscape to make the City of Gaffney and Cherokee County a better place. Dr. Nichols' class delivers the wow factor again with this virtual reality project."

The Cherokee County History and Arts Museum, located at 301 College Drive in Gaffney, is operated by CHAPS, which was formed in 1969 by a group of local citizens concerned about the rapid loss of Cherokee County's historical heritage to development and progress. The organization has taken great strides to educate the public about the significance of the county's numerous historical sites.



Limestone College Digital Communication Students who built the Virtual Reality Tour for the Cherokee County History and Arts Museum. From Left to right are Aaron Able, Cameron Felch, Camille Haus, Ruby Kubac, Mallory Gardner, Caleb Barnes, and Ashley Mitchell.