

The Post and Courier

The Post and Courier

TOGETHER

YOUR DONATIONS. OUR STORIES. **MAKING A DIFFERENCE.**

By [Robie Scott](#)

Director of Development



Ruth Miller with a friendly goat at Middleton Place

It's not every day you get to interview a living legend, but Ruth Miller is nothing less. She's done just about everything from teaching high school to publishing books. She is most well-known, however, for her role as a founder of Charleston's first walking tour, "Charleston Strolls," in 1979.

"Charleston Strolls" began when Ruth was married to a nuclear submariner with three young children and she joined the neighborhood garden club. Along with members Ann Andrus and Georgie Weddendorf, the friends decided to give a daily walking tour a go, each one took two mornings a week. Tourism was about to explode in the Holy City and

as it did, so did the business. Ruth became a go-to for all things Charleston. If you want to get your facts straight or know the backstory on anything related to Charleston, you can trust that she'll have the answer or know the person that does. That's because she's a stickler for research, "I see so many things in Charleston that lifetime residents never notice." For example, she discovered after visiting the Old Exchange Building that there wasn't a book about it in the gift shop - so with Ann she wrote "Charleston's Old Exchange Building: A Witness to American History." Having sold the business years ago, Ruth continues giving private tours as a certified tour guide.

Just listening to her talk about interviews conducted for her books, including one with Septima Clark, gives an insight to her determination to make "real history" come alive without sugar coating it. With a total of five books to her credit, her most prized literary accomplishment is "Slavery to Civil Rights: A Walking Tour of African-American Charleston" written with Alec Cooley.

Ruth is an adamant supporter of The Post and Courier Public Service and Investigative Reporting Fund. "We the Public need individuals who watch, listen, wait and record what is overlooked or covered up, accidentally or deliberately," Ruth said. She believes that we all have a responsibility to give a voice to the voiceless. "Speak in letters to the editor. Speak by telling a story. Speak by donating to The Post and Courier Investigative Fund. We all have something to give."

It's worth mentioning that part of Ruth's unique persona comes from her hands-on personal touch. She doesn't use a cell phone or text. "I refuse to tie my entire existence to handheld electronics. I read maps and hold real books in my hands. I like to meet real people for real and I know my children's phone numbers. I do have a concession to today's world - using email from my desktop computer," Ruth said.

Not surprisingly, Ruth was once a columnist for The Post and Courier. She wrote "Charleston Charlie," featuring history-based children's activities (now in book form, which continues to delight and teach our next generation.)