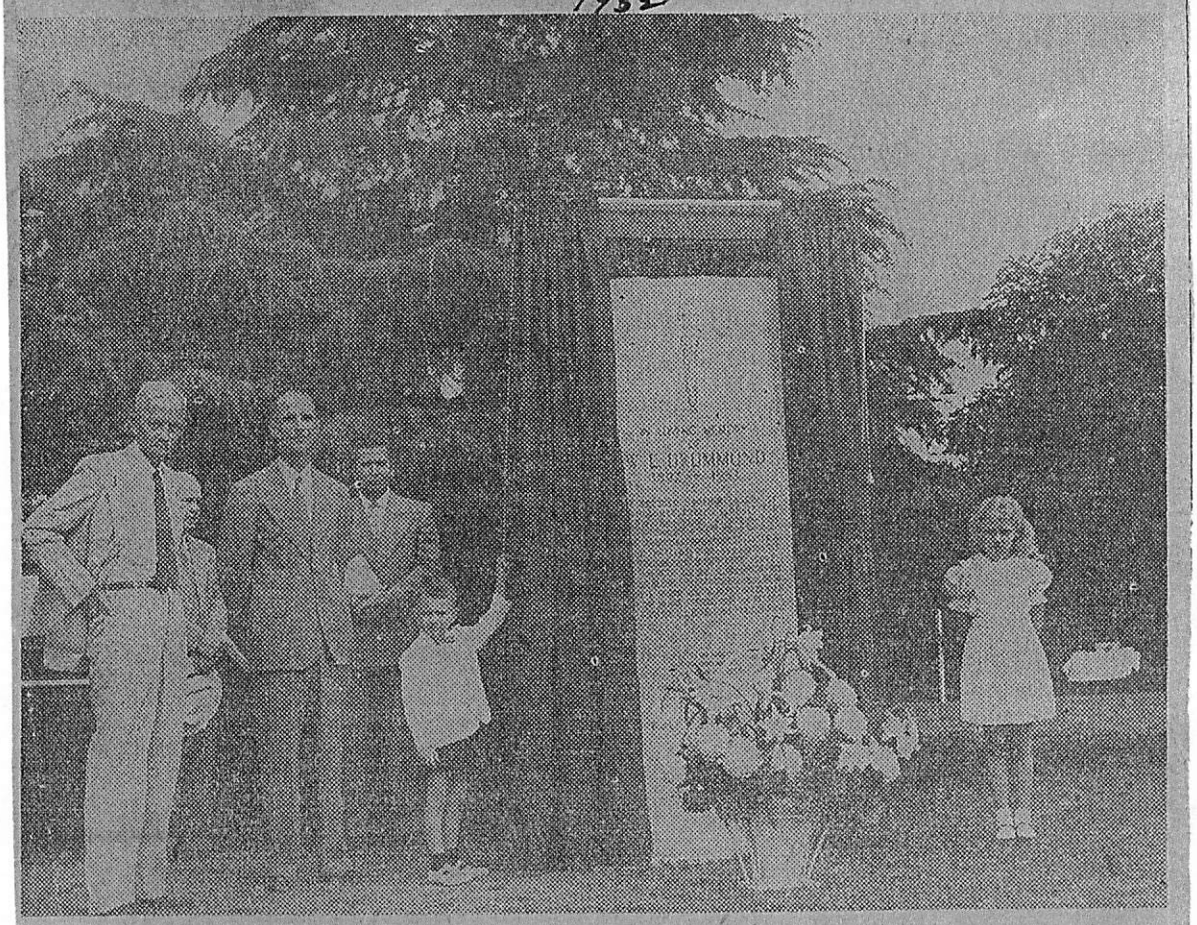
# Memorial to W. L. Drummond Is Unveiled at Jenkinsville

1952



Pictured here is the memorial to W. L. Drummond, longtime superintendent of Jenkinsville schools, which was unveiled Sunday afternoon. From left to right are G. F. Patton, the Rev. Arthur M. Martin, G. P. Crotwell, the present superintendent, the Rev. B. F. Loyd of Jenkinsville, Palmer E. Powell, Jr., and Ruth Lecile Cushman, grandchildren of the late Mr. Drummond, who pulled the cords. The memorial stands on the Jenkinsville school campus.

In impressive and solemn ceremonies, held Sunday afternoon on the Jenkinsville high school campus, a memorial to the late W. L. Drummond was unveiled. Mr. Drummond had served as the beloved and respected superintendent of Jenkinsville schools for 24 years. He died suddenly of a heart attack last February 3, while attending a Greenbrier-Jenkinsville basketball game.

Before a crowd of more than 200 people from every section of county and state, this befitting tribute to a worthy schoolman was paid by G. P. Crotwell formerly principal, now the superintendent, who had been associated with Mr. Drummond for 16 years, brought the message from the school. He spoke of Mr. Drummond's high principles and unselfish service, of his influence for good upon all who came in contact with him, including himself. He said that contributions from students and former students had poured in from every section.

G. F. Patton, longtime Fairfield county educator and an orator of note, made the principal address of the afternoon. Mr. Patton said "this is a beautiful thing you people are doing — more beautiful, perhaps, than even you realize—and in honoring Mr. Drummond's memory by erecting this stone of native granite, you also honor yourselves."

Mr. Patton spoke of the late superintendent's many sterling qualities — of his unassuming modesty, his faithfulness, his character and his humor. He told of the deep friendship which had existed between himself and Mr. Drummond for years — a friendship which ripened and ever grew stronger. He paid tribute to the wife and children of the Jenkinsville educator, said they had been a source of great strength. He expressed appreciation for having been asked to perform this service for his friend, and, in conclusion, he intimated that Mr. Drummond might have been called to a broader field of service in the educational world had he lived—even though he would doubtless have preferred to remain at his beloved Jenkinsville.

The ceremonies were opened with the Scripture reading and invocation by the Rev. B. F. Loyd, pastor of Little River Baptist church. "America" was sung by the first, second, third and fourth grades and the assembly. Walter B. Graham, director of music in the Fairfield county schools, sang two solos, "My Task" and in conclusion, "The Lord's Prayer." The Jenkinsville student body sang the Alma Mater and the Rev. Arthur M. Martin of Sion Presbyterian church, Winnsboro, offered a prayer.

Ruth Lecile Cushman and Palmer E. Powell, Jr., pulled the strings which unveiled the striking stone slab, fashioned from native Fairfield granite. Thereon was engraved the following inscription:

In loving Memory of
W. L. Drummond, 1892-1953

The beloved superintendent of Jenkinsville public schools for 24 years, 1929-1953. Modest, Unassuming Honest, Skillful, Loyal, Patient, Kind, Sympathetic and Courageous — A Constant Source of Strength in the Community — His Humor Always Pleasing, His Judgment Always Sound — His Influence Increased With the Years, Earning Him the Respect and Confidence of All His Fellow Men.

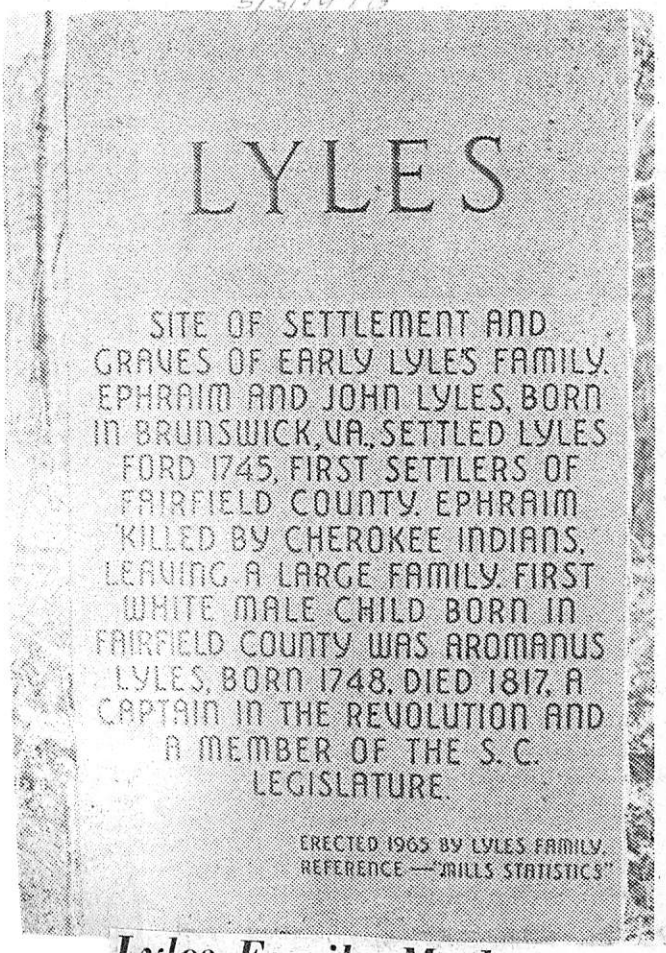
Erected by Students, Former Students and Friends as a Token of Their Regard and Affection
May 1953

In front of the memorial are located three granite seats, one inscribed "Love," another "Children's Friend," the third "Loyalty."

# Settlers Found Going Hard

*Early Gravestone*

5/5/1976




*Lyles Family Marker*

**BY FAYE JOHNSON**

On a grassy knoll sloping upward from the Broad River in western Fairfield County is the final resting place of some of the county's earliest settlers, mostly members of the Lyles family. A more pleasant spot would be hard to find, and a visitor to the remote location might be lulled by the wind singing through the branches of the huge hardwoods into stepping backward into time. The only reminder of more modern times to be seen from the old Lyles' burial ground is the railroad track just barely visible from the knoll.

One warm day earlier this spring a party of four, chauffered and guided by Ray Blair, spent a long pleasant morning partially re-tracking the footsteps of those early settlers. We first visited the knoll, where twentieth century Lyleses have erected a marker in the memory of Aromanus Lyles, born in 1748, the first white child born in Fairfield County.

Aromanus was the sixth and youngest son of Ephraim Lyles, one of two brothers (John was the other) born in Brunswick, Va. With their families they had traveled to North Carolina, then eventually settled at the mouth of Beaver Creek on the Broad about 1745. Earlier members of the clan had immigrated southward from Pennsylvania, and with the settling of Lyles Ford in Fairfield, other families came from that state to build their homes here.

It is thought that John and Ephraim brought their families by boat down the Broad River, stopping at the rapids. Above the rapids is a spot known as Lyles Ford, where the easiest crossing of the river is located. The Indians, here long before the white man, also used this fording place.

Ray Blair pointed out an area under cultivation now, where he said had been earlier located Indian burial mounds. Tractors, preparing the land for crops, still turn up pieces of clay pottery and other artifacts. Among the tribes inhabiting or hunting in the area were the Cherokee and the Catawba.

Life must have been hard for those early settlers. Axes wrested land from the woodlands for crops; the

*Record Tree*

trees were rough hewn into cabins. Food consisted of wild game such as deer, rabbits, squirrels, and probably fish from the Broad, plus whatever could be raised on the land. Life was hard, illnesses came, and the peaceful knoll claimed both old and young.

Indians were an ever-present threat to these early Fairfieldians. Ephraim Lyles fell victim to the tomahawk - the very weapon now in the possession of one of his descendants, Rebecca Valentine Lyles Ellison (Mrs. S.D.) who was named for Aromanus Lyles' wife. Ephraim left a large family.

The Lyles' clan was tough and tenacious; it not only survived floods, droughts, diseases and Indians, but some of its members then and now are listed among the county's most influential citizens. Aromanus served as a captain during the Revolutionary War and was later a member of the South Carolina Legislature.

**BLAIR NOW**

Today, the area where these early Fairfieldians lived and died is in the Blair vicinity. Only a few traces remain of the former inhabitants, among them the cemetery and the site of a water wheel used to grind corn. A later settlement (early 1900s) has also been erased, with the only reminder the granite and stone foundations of an old store.

Gradually the Blair community, named after the Blair family, evolved, with its small nucleus also located near the banks of the Broad River. Farming, of both woodlands and crops, remains the main industry; however, the stone which lies under much of Fairfield County gave birth to the first quarry in the county, now operated by a branch of Lone Star Industries, Blair Crushed Stone. Of late, the deep quarry has been supplying crushed stone by the ton for the construction of SCE&G's new nuclear plant on Frees Creek. The electric company will build a dam which will create a large lake, adding to the sports recreation in the area, which already boasts of deer, wild turkey, fish and small game, just as it did in 1745.

Perhaps the most important industry in western Fairfield is pulpwood, and Blair is recognized as the birthplace of this industry in the state and in South Carolina. Blair also boasts an asphalt plant.

There have been many changes around Lyles Ford since the first settlers traveled its waters, but chances are Ephraim and John Lyles would still recognize it today, for much of it remains in woodlands and about it hangs an air of peace and space aplenty.

# Early Fort Offered Settlers Protection

**FORT WAGNER**

Hans Wagner (Waggoner) came to Fairfield County between the years 1758 and 1760. His family at that time consisted of himself and a number of daughters. He immigrated to South Carolina from the banks of the Yadkin River in North Carolina for the better security of his family of daughters. Soon after his arrival he was involved in the troubles and war with the Cherokee Indians. Hans Wagner and his family of girls settled near Reedy Branch. Past the meridian of life, he was so solicitous of their welfare that he constructed a strong fort of white oak logs, hewn twelve inches square, for their protection, and when there was danger from the Indians the neighbors would gather at this neighborhood blockhouse to defend themselves with Hans Wagner and his girls. The Mobleys had settled on Poplar Ridge, on the east side of Beaver Creek. Tradition says that Hans Wagner furnished two bales of that historic shipment of six bales of cotton to England, when the authorities questioned whether the colonies could produce that much.

Hans Wagner was married five times, the name of his first wife unknown, the second was a Mrs. Fair, then Marie DeLashmette, Elizabeth Johnston, and Margaret (last name unknown). Children by his first wife were George and Isaac, and by his second wife, John, Suka, and a daughter who married George Hill. Hans Wagner died prior to 1790.

The old Hans Wagner graveyard is a few hundred feet northwest of Beaver Creek. It is about a hundred yards from the junction of Reedy Branch and Beaver Creek, at which point Hans Wagner built Fort Waggoner about 1760. He was known as a "miller" and just above his home was a dam across the creek, the remains of which were very clear in 1959. The graveyard is in what was once a field, very level, and on which remains of two houses show clearly, one with two chimneys and the other with one made mostly of stone. This plot, about one hundred feet in diameter, contains ten or more graves with stone markers only, and on the one said to be that of Hans there is the stump of an old cedar tree some 12 inches in diameter. It is now on the property of Miss Pinkey Dickey and before the Civil War and during that war it was on lands of Andrew Feaster, son of John for whom Feasterville was named. Many so called records of Hans Wagner state that he was buried on the Santee River. This was confusing until it was discovered that back at that time the name Santee was applied to both the Saluda and Broad Rivers which form the Congaree River at Columbia, and the Congaree, which with the Wateree, forms the Santee. Monuments had to come from Charleston over forest roads in those days so Hans failed to get one regardless of the fact that he was fairly well off financially.

From Mills Atlas: "Fort Waggoner was erected on Beaver Creek, six miles above its mouth and into this the poor scattered inhabitants flocked and received its protection until the end of the Cherokee War and their meat was obtained by hunting, and their bread was brought on pack mules from the Congaree."

Monument erected on Highway 215 near Beaver Creek reads:

**FORT WAGNER**

"Site one mile east, at junction of Beaver Creek and Reedy Branch. Built in 1760 by Hans Wagner as a refuge from the Cherokee Indians."

# Many Changes Come To Blair Community

1974

Numerous changes are coming to Blair, a peaceful rural area in western Fairfield. This area, near the Highway 34 bridge across the placid Broad River, was planted in cotton before 1925. When King Cotton gave away to pine trees in the 1930's, the area lost population, but has remained home for numerous Blairs and Ragsdales, as well as other old families.

R. M. Blair, long-time civic leader, was the guide recently for a tour of the area named after his ancestors. Blair, owner and operator of the large general store bearing his name, he has been a dealer for Champion Paper Company for nearly 40 years and knows the area well.

The Satterfield Construction Company's new asphalt plant was pointed out by Mr. Blair as one of the changes. The Greenwood firm, highway contractors and builders of municipal utility systems, has constructed the plant, which went into operation last week. Six full-time employees are engaged in making asphalt, and additional employees are engaged in hauling. The company visualizes that this operation could be a permanent installation according to Burris Satterfield, president. Stone from the Blair Crushed Stone plant is used in making asphalt, and was a prime reason for locating the plant in this area.

The Blair Crushed Stone plant, owned by Lone Star Industries, is presently installing a new $500,000 crusher which is expected to go into operation this month. The new crusher covers an area larger than a football field, and takes ton-size rocks and reduces them to fine screenings by means of three separate crushing operations. An additional 10 to 12 employees will be added to the 40-man work force, according to William Ringer, manager.

The large quarry is called "mile deep hole" according to Blair, who says that the name cannot be taken literally. It covers many acres. Large trucks capable of hauling many tons of rocks to the present large crusher, were traversing the winding road into the quarry on the day of our visit. Custom in the past dictated the driver use the left-hand side of the road, but custom has given away to change and the right-hand land was used most of the time although Blair carefully observed the trucks coming toward us. In the winter it is necessary for truck drivers to be alert for rock falls, as the alternate freezing and warming of water in the rock calls large boulders to break off the rock face.

Ton size rocks are dumped into the jaw crusher, and carried by conveyer belts to the top of a tower where additional crushing takes place. There is a total of three crushing operations, and the end result is small rocks out of large rocks. The Virgil Summer Nuclear plant on nearby Frees Creek is expected to take from 700,000 to 1,000,000 tons of crushed stone, and the Blair quarry is busy supplying this demand.

Granite underlies much of Fairfield County, and there is sufficient supply in the area of the Blair plant to last for the forseeable future. This quarry was the first in Fairfield, and Blair tells of the time years ago when a carload of dynamite was used for one blast. "Mr. John Cathcart and other businessmen came out from Winnsboro to see the charge go off," he says.

**PULPWOOD INDUSTRY**

Another scene of activity in the area is the Champion International Corporation 's woodyard, where pulpwood trucks bring in pine and hardwood to be weighed. The wood is then transferred by crane to rail cars for shipment to Champion's Canton, N. C. paper plant. A large amount of hardwood is used in the paper making, and a superior grade of paper results.

John Ragsdale, manager, told us that 90 per cent of the wood coming into Blair comes from privately owned land, and that much of the wood in the yard at this time was harvested in Newberry County as a result of the devastating tornadoes last year. Fairfield usually produces the bulk of the pulpwood coming into the yard. More than 60 men are involved in the production and shipping of pulpwood from this yard.

The Blair community has the distinction of being the birthplace of Fairfield's pulpwood industry, now one of the mainstays of the county's economy and probably was the birthplace of the industry in South Carolina. The Blair-Frazier Company, started by the late L. M. Blair, and the late J. B. Frazier Jr., first shipped cordwood by rail to surrounding mill towns where it was used as fuel for mill houses in 1912.

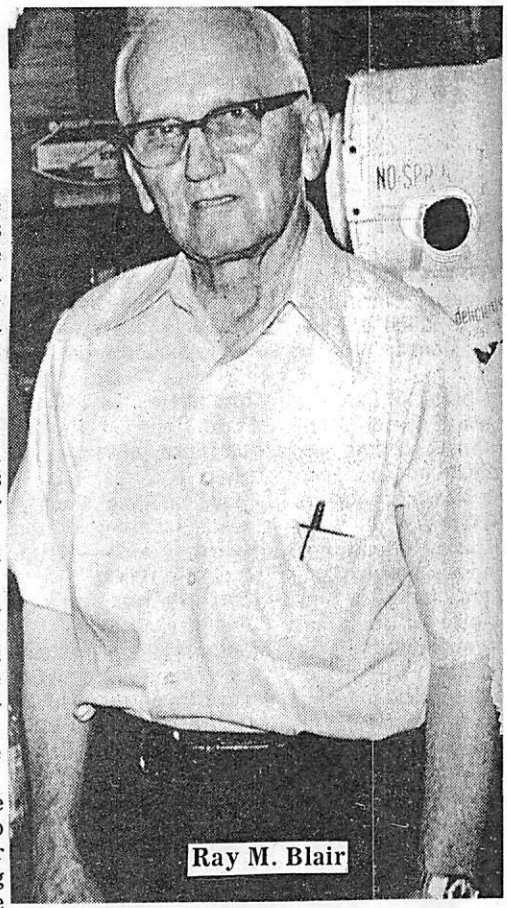
Later the Frazier Pulpwood Company, started by J. B. Frazier, Jr. and now owned by a son, Marion Frazier, began shipping pulpwood from Fairfield in 1929 to the same Champion Paper Company plant in Canton, N. C. where the pulpwood from the Blair yard still goes.

In the first days of the wood industry, according to Blair, dead trees were cut for pulpwood. Later the cutting was done of live trees in the summer, and they were left to dry so the bark could be removed more easily. Farm hoes, straightened in a blacksmith shop, were used to peel the trees, or draw knives were used. The latter were considered less efficient. Marion Frazier tells us that the Canton plant required the trees be very clean, and that each log was polished with jute bags after being peeled and before being shipped. Frazier remembers the first contract his father received for unpeeled wood, a contract with West Virginia Paper Company in 1937.

**RECREATION AREA**

The Blair Community will have a lake in the not-too-distant future, says Blair. The S. C. E. & G. dam at Parr is to be raised, and water will be backed up 10 feet behind the dam up to the area of the old Lyles Ford ferry, three miles north of Blair . Mr. Blair expects to see a vacation-oriented development in the area as a result of the creation of the new lake. "People come here from distances for our excellent catfish and game fish," he says. The area slo has wild turkeys and deer. Foxes, which have been plentiful in the past, have decreased due to disease.

A new post office is planned for the community. Mrs. Gordon Ragsdale is the present postmistress, having succeeded long - time



Ray M. Blair

## *Blair Merchant*

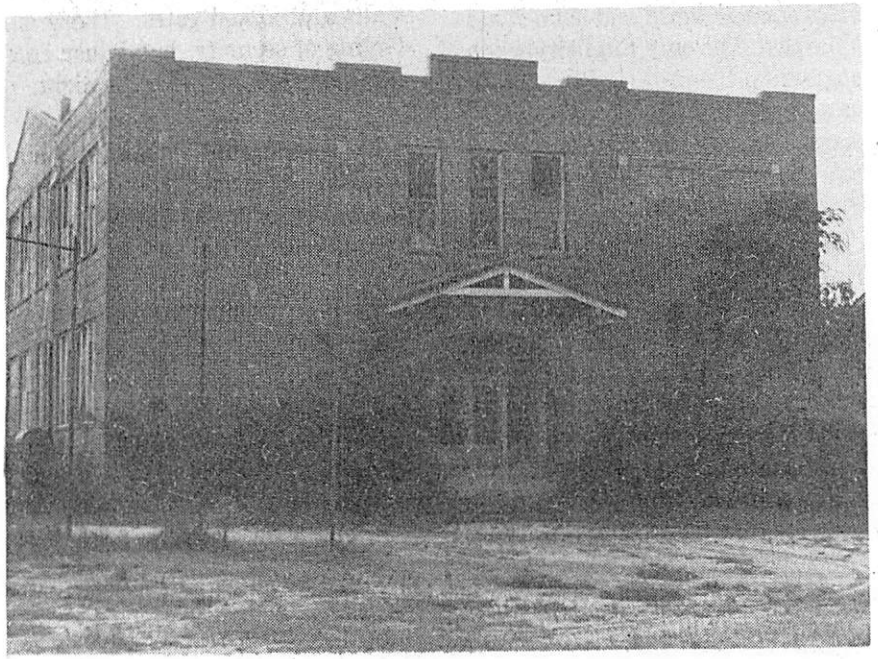
present post office is located on a side of the R. M. Blair, Inc., general store. Bids for the new building are to be let June 18.

R. M. Blair, who operates the large general store bearing his name, joined his father in business in 1822, after his graduation from Wofford College. "I could have gotten a job as a teacher, which would have paid $60 a month, but you were not sure of being paid in those days," he says. His father was a large cotton planter, merchant, pulpwood dealer, and owner of a cotton gin.

The junior R. M. Blair has lived in the area all of his life, and has been a long-time county leader. He was a member of the first Board of Directors for both the Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce and the Fairfield Country Club. He was chairman of the A.S.C.S. office in Fairfield for 20 years, and was one of the founders of the soil conservation office here. He was a director of the Welfare Board for 10 years, and has been an elder in the Salem Presbyterian Church for 30 years.

Blair showed his visitors the many changes he has seen in nearly three quarters of a century, and says that changes are now ac-

# Blackstock School Coming Down



By Faye Johnson

1981

Eighteen years have passed since the sound of children's footsteps were heard treading the halls of Blackstock Elementary School, and twenty-six since high school students attended classes there.

But if one listens closely on a quiet fall day, whispers of those earlier, busy years still linger in the air.

Not for long, however; the two-story school building is being torn down, closing out an era for those who attended it from 1923 until the door closed for good in 1963. A victim of old age, the building's roof collapsed recently, making it a safety hazard for anyone who might enter.

Blackstock School, the gym and another building, are owned by Young Farmer's Organization of Blackstock, and the group meets now in the old gym. Only the school building itself is being taken down.

Robert Shannon, who lives just across the street from the school, remembers when it was built. On Monday he sat on his front porch and reminisced about those earlier days, when the Georgia red brick used for the building cost just over eight dollars a thousand. The roof, he recalled always presented a problem.

Before the 1922-23 building was finished, Blackstock children attended classes in a two-room, two-teacher frame schoolhouse. Each teacher was in charge of five grades. Then several small school districts were consolidated and a large facility was needed. Blackstock School sits just a few yards from the Fairfield-Chester line, and Fairfield picked up the cost for the building and Chester helped with other expenses, and children from both counties were enrolled there.

For a number of years, children from the White Oak area attended the school. Ivor Patrick Stephenson and her twin sister, Hannah Phillips, rode the bus from White Oak to Blackstock for five years before transferring to Mount Zion in Winnsboro for the sixth grade.

Ivor recalls that in her first grade class 50 percent of the students were twins, as she and Hannah and another set of twins made up half the class of eight, taught by Miss Sue White Mills, "the best teacher in the world". Miss Mills taught both the first and second grades, and Ivor says while the teacher worked with the second grade, the first graders played in a sandpile in a corner of the big classroom.

"I enjoyed my five years there," Ivor says now, "and I thought my life had changed when we came to Mount Zion".

At the time the Patrick children attended Blackstock School, there were perhaps 25 to 30 children from White Oak enrolled there, and the principal was B.R. Geddings, known as "Professor" Geddings.

Miss Kathleen Lemmon remembers even further back at Blackstock School, where she taught in the high school for two years. Miss Lemmon says she was forever getting up plays to raise money for indoor plumbing! Mr. Shannon says the school was built without electricity, which came to Blackstock in the late 'thirties, and without plumbing facilities.

Another person who remembers the halcyon years at Blackstock School is Mrs. Kitty Shannon, whose husband, Edward M. Shannon, was superintendent there from 1947 until the school was closed. Two of the Shannon's children graduated at Blackstock and the third at Chester High School.

On Monday, Mrs. Shannon displayed a scrapbook with names of those who attended school reunions. Among the names were Banks, McKeown, Beam, Weir, Knox, McCarley, Campbell, Traylor, Sanders, Montgomery, Bigham, Shirley, Mills, McDonald, Bankhead, Shannon, DeHart, Cassels, Brice, Durham, Lewis, Jeter, Cornwell, Hall and Kennedy - a virtual roll call of the inhabitants of that section of Fairfield County.

The list included two former sheriffs of Fairfield County - Leroy Montgomery and Fred Robinson - a deputy sheriff, Jimmy McDonald, and a pianist with the Syracuse, N.Y., symphony orchestra, Mary Shannon Boyd.

The reunion records included one person who graduated from the old two-room school, Kenneth Kennedy of the Class of 1916. Edward Shannon, Blackstock School's last superintendent, was also an alumnus of the earlier school.

# White Oak

**Reprinted from The Fairfield News and Herald, September 16, 1891.- Editor.**

**A THRIVING COMMUNITY**
**The Village of White Oak...**

Eight miles north of the county seat, on the C.C.& A.R.R. is the thriving village of Wite Oak, and thither the reporter made his way on Friday last to see what was being done by its pushing and enterprising citizens. It was not his first visit, having been there on the last day of the year, 1890, and on his way there the rememberance of that day came across his mind, and the dinner served on that occasion was not forgotten...

The advantages of White Oak as a business centre seem to have been first discovered by Mr. T.G. Patrick, who commenced business there about 1876. He started in business there, and has by close attention, industry and business skill built up probably the largest business in the county. His trade extends for miles in every direction, and his store and warehouses are full at all times with almost any kind of goods a person can call.

Messrs. J.J. Mc Dowell & Co. also have a store at this point, and while they are a younger firm, and have not been established many years, yet they are doing a good business.

White Oak has one white church(A.R.P.), and one black church (Baptist), and a fine school. But the principal point of attraction, and one in which every citizen of White Oak and the neighborhood feels a deep interest is the White Oak Cannery. The cannery may be called the pioneer cannery of this section and deserves all credit for blazing the way into a new and untried field of labor, as far as our people are concerned. Its conception was a novel one, and seems to have been the result of simultaneous thinking. One gentleman met another in the store of McDowell & Co. and said he had been thinking about the matter, the second gentleman said likewise, they spoke to a third and fourth man, and much to their surprise found they had all been thinking along the same line. It was there suggested that the matter be brought up at the next meeting and without a dissenting voice they resolved to start a canning factory...in 1890 they started the White Oak Canning Factory, with a subscribed capital of $1,000.

...Fortunately the day of our visit was a working day, and owing to the bad weather we were not expected, so we saw it in its every day clothes (the way every man ought to see his best girl). The machinery and impliments are the same as those in use by the Clifton Factory, all the cooking and exhausting done by steam. The Superintendent, Mr. Johnston was on hand, and though very attentive in showing the reporter through the establishment, yet we noticed he did not for one minute neglect his business...This day tomatoes and okra were the only vegetables being canned, though they have put up other, and also apples, peaches and grapes.

The reporter has visited the markets of different large cities in the United States... and from what he has seen at Clifton and White Oak has come to the conclusion that the "red hills" of Fairfield must be the natural home of the tomato...the tomatoes we saw at White Oak were fully ripe but sound and firm-no sign of decay or over ripeness ..We noticed with what care the tomatoes were prepared for canning.

...Another feature that ought and will add to (where it is known) the value of their goods is that they pack their tomatoes whole, or as nearly so, as the opening in the cans will permit.

There is no water used except for the purpose of keeping things clean...cleaniness is the order of the day.

...This cannery averages 1,300 cans a day. Working two days in the week they employ sixteen hands, and their daily pay roll is about ten dollars. The amount of money paid for fruit and vegetables vary, fruit being higher than vegetables, but tomatoes at 20 cents per bushel...pay very handsomely...

On our way to White Oak we were impressed with the condition of the road from the four mile post northward about a mile and a half. We understand this road is kept in order by Mr. Sam'l Cathcart, and we think every road overseer in the county ought to visit that section and see "how" to work a road...

## White Oak People Perturbed Over Tennessee Storm

### Homes of Kinfolk in Fayetteville Damaged.

Telephones rang constantly in the White Oak community when the news came that Fayetteville, Tennessee, county seat of Lincoln county, had suffered a severe storm last Friday afternoon at 4:30. 1952

Nearly every family at White Oak has relatives in Fayetteville. Dr. Lex Patrick, the prominent surgeon of that section, is a brother of Miss Janette Patrick, J. H., Paul and R. E. Patrick, and of Mrs. Irene Wren and Mrs. Agnes Wylie.

Christopher Patrick is a son of J. H. Patrick, and Mrs. John V. Matthews is the former Helen Patrick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew W. Patrick, who also have two nieces there, Mrs. Ernest Rees, the former Jane Matthews, and Miss Caroline Kennedy of Sarasota, Fla., a nurse at the Fayetteville hospital.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. John V. Matthews was badly damaged by the storm which destroyed much of the prosperous city of 7,000.

Mr. M.W. Peurifoy, of Saluda, who has been elected principal of the Greenbrier High School, was in town on Friday. He comes to Fairfield highly recommended as a teacher, and the school will doubtless flourish under the management. 1899

Greenbrier School. The work on this building was begun Dec. 19, 1940, and completed Sept., 1941. There are two (additional) units now in process of construction. An auditorium is being built at one end of the main unit, and a gymnasium is being built at the other end. Plans call for the completion of all units by early fall of 1942. All units are being constructed by WPA labor.

The trustees of the school are: Lester B. Robinson, W. M. Estes, Ray Brooks. J. T. McLeod is superintendent. (Photo by Otis Brown)

*The New Greenbrier School House*

# History of Blackstock

**Ed. note: The following article appeared in the Chester's News and Reporter's Progress Edition in April.)** 5/5/1976

**By Catherine Irwin**
**as told by the late**
**Dr. S. B. Latham**

Many years ago Ned Blackstock, an Irishman, set sail from his native land and after a voyage of three months - then considered very rapid - landed at the United States and found his way to the present site of Blackstock. Blackstock established a post office at his home, and he bacame postmaster. At that time the mail was carried by stage coaches. As the stagecoach paused in front of his home, the master of the house dumped out all the mail, took out those letters addressed to him and put the rest back into the bag, together with letters he wished to be delivered. The postage for one letter was fifty cents.

In a few years Ned Backstock died. The postoffice was then moved to a red house approximately one-half mile north of the present site of Blackstock. A man named John Strong became postmaster. The postoffice remained there until his death and was then moved to the home of a Mrs. Bell. At that time Frank De Bardeladen ran a store and a house of entertainment. After his death the place was bought by Mrs. Bell and still continues in the family.

In 1851 the railroad was built and a depot established. The postoffice was moved to the present site of Blackstock and T. M. Boulware became postmaster. The mail was now transferred from buses to the railroad. Up to this time all the land near Blackstock had been owned by Jerry Walker, who sold a large portion of it to David Hemphill. It was he who donated the land to the railroad for a depot to be built.

In the immediate neighborhood of Blackstock there lived one Alexander Skelly, a school teacher, surveyor, Captain of the Militia Company — one of the outstanding citizens in many ways. One of Captain Skelly's past times was writing poetry — of all types and on all subjects.

Among one of his queerest notions he conceived the idea of inventing a machine with perpetual motion. For two long years Skelly worked on it unceasingly. Then at last his dream seemed about to be realized. He felt that he was on the verge of completing the only machine with perpetual motion. One day he invited all of his friends and acquaintances in to witness his machine in operation. When everyone had collected, Skelly pulled the lever — the machine ran — a few minutes — the band broke — and that was the end of "Skelly's Folly".

Skelly's next exploit occurred in 1883. At this time there was great talk of Negro uprisings and nullification. Skelly with his militia stood guard every night to be ready for trouble. One night the company was on duty, stationed near the present Baptist Church of Blackstock. For a long time they stood there, not hearing a word. Suddenly they heard a great commotion in the near-by woods, shouting and crying. The company moved forward stealthily, prepared to fire, and upon arriving in an open space saw the cause of the excitement — a 'possum in the top of a tree, a dog, and two or three men. Naturally the company was very embarrassed and felt that they should do something to save themselves from being the laughing stock of the countryside. Again the company was called to order. Each man promised that as long as two members of the company were living in Chester County he would never disclose the happenings of that night. And these promises were kept. Many years afterward only one member of the militia company was living in the county, an old Irishman. It was he who finally disclosed the secret.

A few years after this incident, Skelly moved to Indiana and was soon lost track of completely.

After the railroad was built, Blackstock began to be built up. T.M. Boulware built the first house which was later burned by Sherman. The first store was operated by Dr. DaVega, who ran it for two years. His clerks were David Fant and Henry Pratt, who later bought the store. Until the War Between the States they ran a dry goods and grocery store and had a flourishing business. Several other stores soon sprang up. A large academy was located near Blackstock and received pupils from all over the state. It lasted until the war. One April thirty-four young men departed to enlist in the Army'. The school degenerated and was never revived. Thus was the end of what has been known as "first Blackstock," for Sherman soon invaded the neighborhood, leaving only destruction in his pathway.

After the war "Second Blackstock" was begun. Alec and William Rosborough opened a store. Other buildings sprang up. Churches — Methodist, Presbyterian, and Baptist — were built. Since that time the town has grown some and is now almost equally divided between Chester and Fairfield counties; the magistrates have jurisdiction in both Counties.

herald bicentennial issue, may 6 life in a small town cm

**(Editor's Note: The following article on life in a small South Carolina town some 50-60 years ago appeared first in the Columbia Record. It was written by John A. Montgomery.)**

Electricity and technology have worked so many wonders that it is hard for the present generation to imagine a world without them. So let's go back just 50 years and see what life was like then in a small South Carolina town.

THE ONLY THING electrical in the house was a telephone on the wall in the hall. It was hand-cranked to call "central." A few affluent homes had Delco systems for electric lights, but they were not bright enough for reading unless the gasoline engine generator was running. There were, of course, no radios, televisions or electrical appliances. Houses were cleaned with brooms and mops, and the best-kept yards were swept clean and free of grass.

Some houses had gas lights, and changing the carbide was the messiest job in the neighborhood. Oil lamps were standard. The glass chimneys had to be cleaned every day. If you got close enough to one to read, you suffered from its heat. Some families had gasoline lights, which were brighter, but the delicate mantles were vulnerable to a strong breeze or the slightest shock, and keeping windows and doors open was the only way to cool the house. In winter, all heat came from open fireplaces.

ONLY TWO homes in town had running water. One pumped water from an artesian well into a tank with a gasoline engine. The other had a windmill. Substitutes for bathrooms were bedroom chamber pots, an outhouse at the back of the garden, a tin tub for Saturday night kitchen baths, a foot tub for nightly use during the barefoot season, and a hand pump over a sink on the back porch. Water from the pump was only for washing; drinking water had to be hauled in buckets from the artesian well.

No roads or streets were paved. Cars often became stuck in the mud or sand, but the sand came in handy for frequent automobile fires. All automobiles were touring cars or roadsters. Curtains with isinglass windows were attached when it rained. It was wise to hire a mechanic as a driver for a long trip of 15 miles or more. Average driving speed was 15 miles an hour. Twenty miles an hour was fast, and only the young daredevils drove 30. Cars had to be hand-cranked, causing many broken arms when they kicked. In cold weather the carburetors had to be thawed with kettles of hot water. Instead of filling stations there were 50-gallon tanks of gasoline and oil at the general stores.

THE STANDARD pay for work was ten cents an hour, but regulars in the mill received a dollar a day which was paid in pasteboard checks that were redeemable at the company store. Starting pay for youngsters in the few jobs available to them was 75 cents a workday that ran from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., with a free hour for lunch.

Football was a game for colleges and large high schools. The small - town equivalent was played in back yards with tin cans for balls. Baseball was the year-

around sport except for the brief marble season in the spring. Every crossroad had a team, so there was no problem scheduling games. Basketball was a sport for girls on clay courts on school grounds. The players wore black bloomers and white middies.

An airplane was something you saw at the county fair, where two could buy a ride for $5. When the first daring couple took a flight in the open cockpit of the biplane, the young swain quipped that he was not afraid of being hurt; he had his nurse with him. Tanks, the military marvels of World War I, also were paraded at the fair, and a Confederate veteran exclaimed, "If we'd had just one of those machines, we would have beaten those Yankees!"

ALL FARMING was done with horses, mules, plows, hoes and human hands. The only insecticide was paris green. "Irrigation" meant open ditches to drain off surplus water. During the curing season tobacco barns were social centers where the all-night temperature watchers invited their friends to chicken bogs, peanut boilings and watermelon cuttings.

Men bought their shaves in barber shops, which stayed open until 11 o'clock on Saturday nights. The only lotion for hair and face was bay run. Women did not go uptown on Saturday because that was the day the drunks came to town and there were frequent fights and shootings.

"STREETCARS" were shoe boxes that were cut out and decorated with colored crepe paper, and lighted with candles. Young people dragged them by strings and paraded in groups around the town, singing songs. The boxes with crepe paper windows were also used in wedding decorations, and every nuptial ceremony was interrupted by at least one fire that brought ushers and groomsmen on the run.

Trains played an important part in entertainment. The whole town turned out for the morning and afternoon arrivals. Children built elaborate make-believe track systems out of wooden blocks culled from construction projects. Every boy dreamed of being a locomotive engineer. Youngsters swung onto cars on sidings and made believe they were hopping the freight. The height of pleasure was to actually ride on the train, smell the smoke coming in the open windows, and get cinders in your hair, eyes, and down your back.

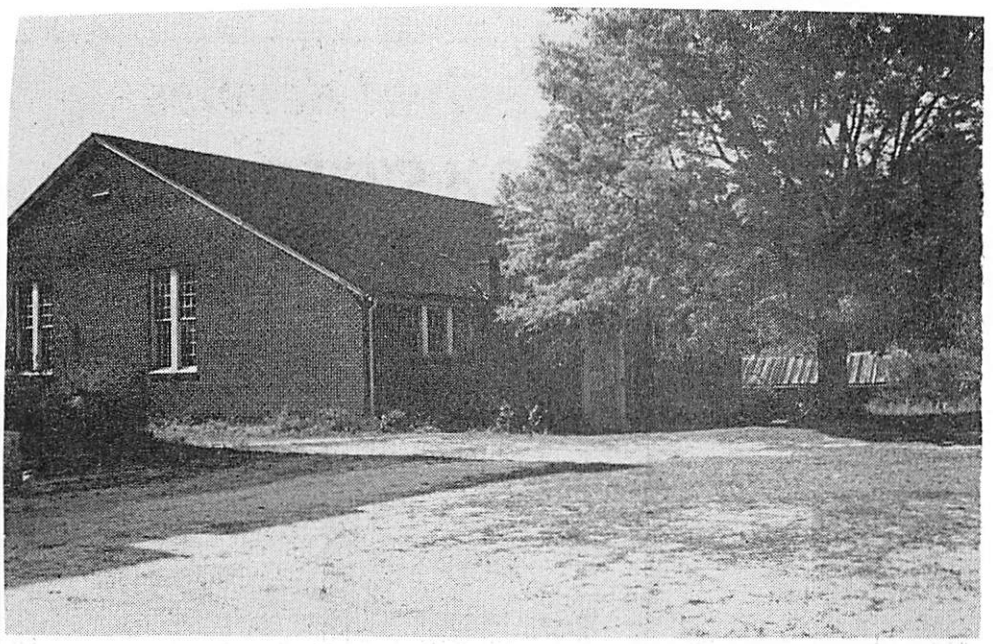
IN THOSE happy days of no inside plumbing, no labor-saving devices, no electric current, when every youngster had ground itch and leg sores and worms, and high living was spending a nickel a week for candy or a Coca-Cola, the new generation had no thought that only five decades later such conditions would be condemned as unbearable poverty.

**HAPPENINGS AT BLACKSTOCK.**

...We are sorry to lose Mr. Danl. H. Stevenson and family from our town town. They will move to your town and take charge of the Winnsboro Hotel on January 1st. What will be our loss will be your gain. 12/31/1890

There will be considerable changing of residences about the first of the year. Dr. J.H. Allen will occupy the house vacated by Mr. D.H. Stevenson, Mr. T.B. McKeown will move to Mr. Hicklin's house, Mr. D.A. Deitz will return to his own residence, the new Board of County Commissioners having elected Mr. Jones his successor as superintendent at the poor House. Mr. Thos. Walker has purchased the new house belonging to Mr. A.B. Douglas and will occupy it another year. Rev. C.E. Wiggins, the pastor of the Methodist Church at this place, will live another year in the house belonging to Mrs. N.E. Faulkner. Rev. R.P. Smith, pastor-elect of the Presbyterian Church, has arrived with his family and lives in the beautiful manse lately built by the congregation. He preached his first sermon at Concord Church on December 21. His installation will take place the third Sabbath in January at Concord Church.

Some of our young people have returned home to spend the holidays with relatives and friends viz: Arthur Cornwell, from the South Carolina University, Jones McCrorey from Furman University, James and Davidson Douglas from Davidson College, Fitz Cornwell from Chester and Lenoir R.R., Reuben McCrorey from Lancaster, where he has a position as telegraph operator. Mr. Fitz Banks, from the Columbia Theological Seminary, is spending the holidays with Mr.W. Banks Thompson, his relation.



## *Old Blackstock Gym*

1979

The old Blackstock school gym is now being used by the Young Farmers, a fifteen-member group headed up by W. W. McKown. The Young Farmers have a shop in the building for the members' use, and also store equipment there, which may be rented by the members. The gym is rented out on Saturdays for square dancing.

K. H. Patrick Is Historian

1959

# White Oak Said Most Charming of Picturesque Villages in "Midlands"

(By John Bigham in The Columbia Record)

When the paved highway bypassed the little village of White Oak many years ago, it removed this Fairfield County hamlet from the eye and mind of the great majority of the traveling public. This was a blow to the community pride and prestige, but White Oak has survived through the years and is today one of the most picturesque and charming small villages in the midlands.

The story of modern White Oak is largely the story of the Patricks, a family group who moved into the area about 1870 from the Bullocks Creek section of York county. In the intervening years this tribe has grown, prospered, and literally put the village on the South Carolina map by their attainments.

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Perhaps the wisest of this clan with respect to the past, present, and future of White Oak is a remarkable gentleman named Killough H. Patrick. It was at his fine home, beautifully located in the midst of magnificent magnolia trees, that we stopped the other day to gather facts and traditions about this Patrick stronghold in upper Fairfield.

Killough Patrick, hale and hearty although he carries the weight of 70-odd years, lives on what amounts to a side street (at least, with references to US Highway 321 which skirts the western edges of the hamlet). We had more sense, however, than to suggest such a thing to him.

The principal avenue in White Oak, as far as the Patricks and other citizens are concerned, is that heavily-shaded and peaceful road which leaves the highway on the lower side, crosses the railroad, and heads off in a northeasterly direction.

The post office is located thereon, but of far greater significance is the fact that before the traveler has gone a half mile along this street he has passed the homes of eight separate and distinct Patrick familles. He has also passed the neat, white Associate Reformed Presbyterian church which had for 80 years has been a sacred shrine to the Patricks and their connections.

Our friend, Killough Patrick, is a man of many parts. He has served as both postmaster and rural carrier at White Oak, and at one time or another has contributed in countless ways to the civic, religious, and educational life of an area much larger than the narrow confines of little White Oak.

But above all, he is a rare type of non-professional historian. It was in this capacity that we chatted with him recently as we sat in his book-lined den.

It was learned that White Oak was once known as Cockrell's or Cockrell's Lane, due to the predominance in the community of this family prior to the Confederate War. The location is mentioned in both the military dispatches and memoirs of Lord Cornwallis, the British commander, and the American general, Nathaniel Greene.

In the years before the Confederate War, Col. Jeremiah Cockrell lived and prospered in a home which stood where the Killough Patricks now reside. He died in 1860 and lies buried today in the nearby church graveyard. Tradition says, according to historian Patrick, that the old Colonel overexerted himself in whipping a slave and thus brought on his demise.

Another bit of interesting White Oak history concerns the tarring and feathering of a northern minister who came to the community in 1840 to survey the slavery situation. Irate at his Northern utterances, local citizens applied the tar and feather treatment and sent him packing. Killough Patrick advised us that this incident took place at a point beside his present home and on a small road still referred to as "The Lane."

This affair, plus the coming of the Columbia to Charlotte railroad in 1851 and the devastation wrought by Sherman's army in 1865, are highlights of White Oak history according to Killough Patrick. The coming of the railroad, which the community in that early day considered the greatest event since Creation, gave the little village its present name. It seems a large white oak standing near the railroad station was the inspiration for the present label affixed to the place.

Old families who once lived at White Oak took off in the difficult years after the Confederate War for points west. The Cockrells (and the correct spelling for the name may be Cockerel) departed, followed by the Vinsons. The latter group settled in Texas, and one member became somewhat famous by being named president of the University of Texas.

As a bit of ancient history, the Patricks moved in to fill the vacancy created by these departing founders of White Oak. Some of the Patricks have migrated to other points, a number of them settling in Columbia. But wherever they go, none of them ever forget White Oak. If they should ever by chance be tempted to forget their heritage and kin, Killough Patrick reminds them forcefully by issuing one of his periodic family newsletters wherein he combines tribal gossip, sound advice, and an entreaty that the farflung Patricks should always stick together.

## *Crosby Academy* 7/9/93

In the upper part of Fairfield near Beaver Creek Church a school was built in 1883. This school was erected by the late David Pierce Crosby and was known as the Crosby Academy. It was a military school and uniforms were worn by the older boys. There was a primary department also in connection with the higher grades.

Near the school building was a large attractive boarding house used by the students who lived some distance away. It was built by Mr. Crosby also.

Mr. David Benjamin Busby, a well known educator of South Carolina was the first teacher of the academy. He taught in Feasterville before going there. Mr. Busby was assisted in the elementary department by Miss Elizabeth Faucette whom he later married and they continued their work together. They taught in this school several years and were succeeded by a Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones taught for several years after which the school was discontinued. The old buildings may still be seen being used now for dwelling houses.

Some of the former students of the Crosby Academy now living are: Mr. Sam Castles, Mr. Sam Clowney, Mrs. Leila Chappell, Mr. Tom Estes, Mr. Will Lemmon, Mr. and Mrs. John Stone, Mrs. Clarke of Gadsden and Mrs. Belle Clarve of Gadsden and Mrs. Belle Broome of California.

Jefferson Donated to Old Academy

# Monticello, Rich In History, Looks Confidently Towards Bright Future

7/16/59

(By John Bigham in The Columbia Record)

The comparatively cool interior of the Monticello Mercantile Co. recently offered us a brief respite from the burning heat. It also ended up being not only a store house of groceries but also of information about one of Fairfield County's most historic and cultural communities.

While the hamlet of Monticello, located 34 miles northwest of Columbia, has no chamber of commerce, Mr. and Mrs. Albert McMeekin proved to be capable substitutes for such a municipal agency. They have long presided over the affairs of this large general store, whose stock is certainly well described by the word "general."

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Their emporium is located in the very center of Monticello, a few hundred feet off Highway No. 215. Not only is it the geographical center of the village, but the impression was received that almost everything and everybody in Monticello will in some manner or other evolve about the large, rambling, and rather ancient headquarters of the McMeekin business interests.

As the ancient Athenians gathered on Mars Hill to hear anything new, so it appears that most inhabitants of little Monticello and the surrounding area will sooner or later come to the mercantile company for the latest news.

One substantial reason for the popularity of the McMeekin store is that Mrs. McMeekin is the postmaster at Monticello. Her postal facilities are set up in one corner of the building, and there she carries on a rather lively trade in stamps as well as dispensing mail to general delivery callers.

Not only does this genial lady represent Uncle Sam in the village, but she also pitches in and helps about the store. But of equal importance to her are the activities in which she engages as a community leader.

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The moment she discovered that we were roaming around the countryside, figuratively pen in hand, she ably and loyally documented for us the cause of this section of Fairfield County, particularly as it is represented by the members of the Monticello-Salem Community organization.

As we paused for a refreshing drink, Mrs. McMeekin dashed to her home and returned shortly with three scrapbooks descriptive of the work of the community group. The good Monticello postmaster is not alone in her zeal for the section; apparently the entire population has become fired up in the last few years. Today the visitor finds boundless enthusiasm mingled with tempered optimism over the present and future of this old western Fairfield community.

Albert McMeekin is also a community booster, and he also approaches being a walking encyclopedia on Monticello. In his role as a store keeper, he knows practically everybody in the countryside. It is evident from his participation in community affairs, plus the conversations which transpire around his big stove in the winter and in the cool recesses of the store in summer, that Albert McMeekin just about knows everything that goes on in Monticello.

As is generally known, Monticello for over a century and a half has been a seat of education. As early as 1801 an academy had been established which down through the Thomas Jefferson presented a hundred dollars to the institution, a gesture which resulted in the school being named after the famous statesman's home in Virginia.

Monticello is also the locale of a number of old homes, rich in history and tradition. An example is the Davis mansion. Now owned by a family of Robinsons, this ancient house was used as headquarters by Union General Kilpatrick, who made a cavalry raid through the area in conjunction with Sherman's visit to the state.

Monticello is wealthy in history dating as far back as the Revolution. It may be a minor fault of some present day natives that they have lived too much in a storied and honorable past replete with cultural and educational attainments.

But on our recent visit we sensed a feeling of confidence in the future. Our conversation with the McMeekins and with others gave the impression that they know the past is in good hands; they feel their responsibility is to guarantee the future of the area. Such ambitions appear to be solidly imbedded in the program and plans of the up and coming Monticello-Salem Community organization.

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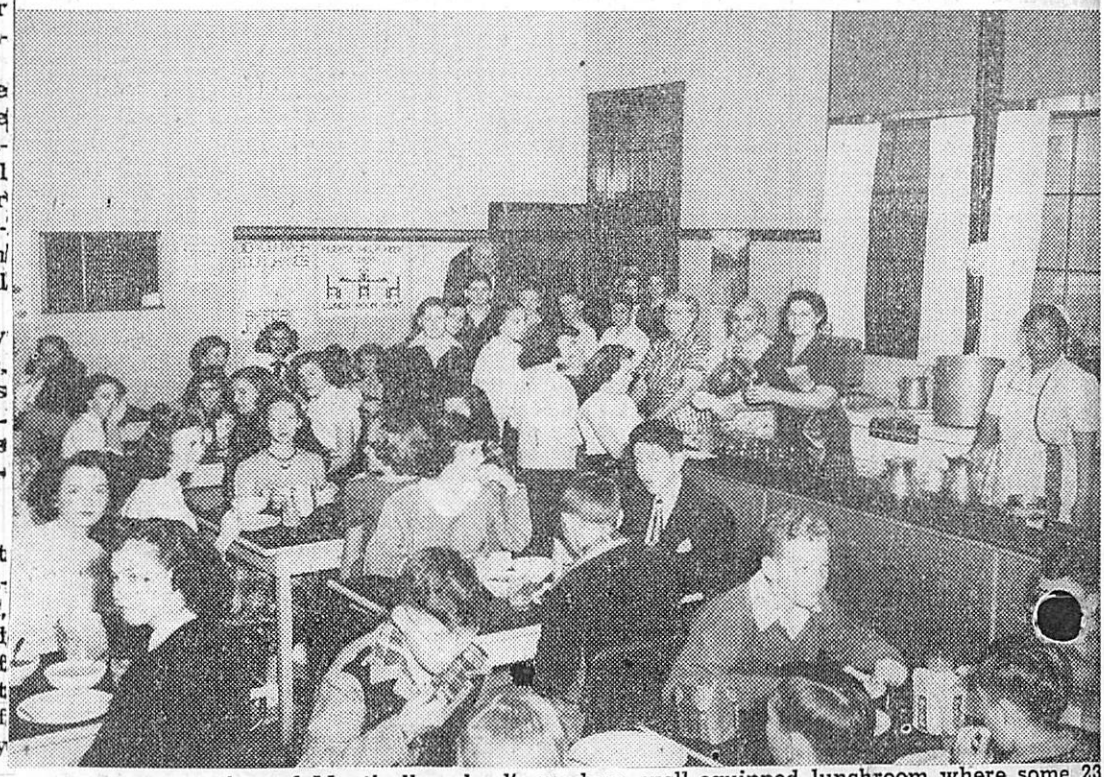
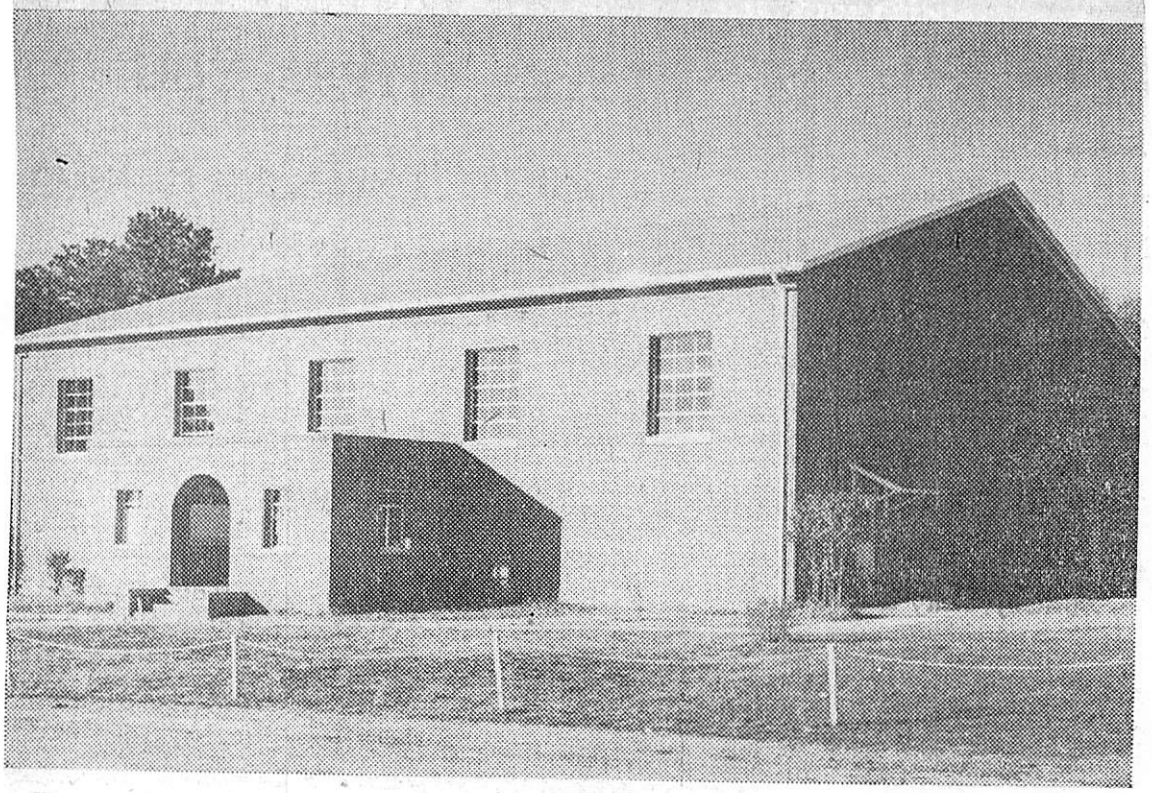
## Monticello School's Modern Lunchroom



Here you see a view of Monticello school's modern, well-equipped lunchroom where some 23 students eat five days a week. It is located in one of the school's regular rooms which was remodelled during the Christmas holidays last year at small cost. The lunchroom is said to be one of the best of its type in this section. Mrs. Marie Burley is the supervisor. 1949

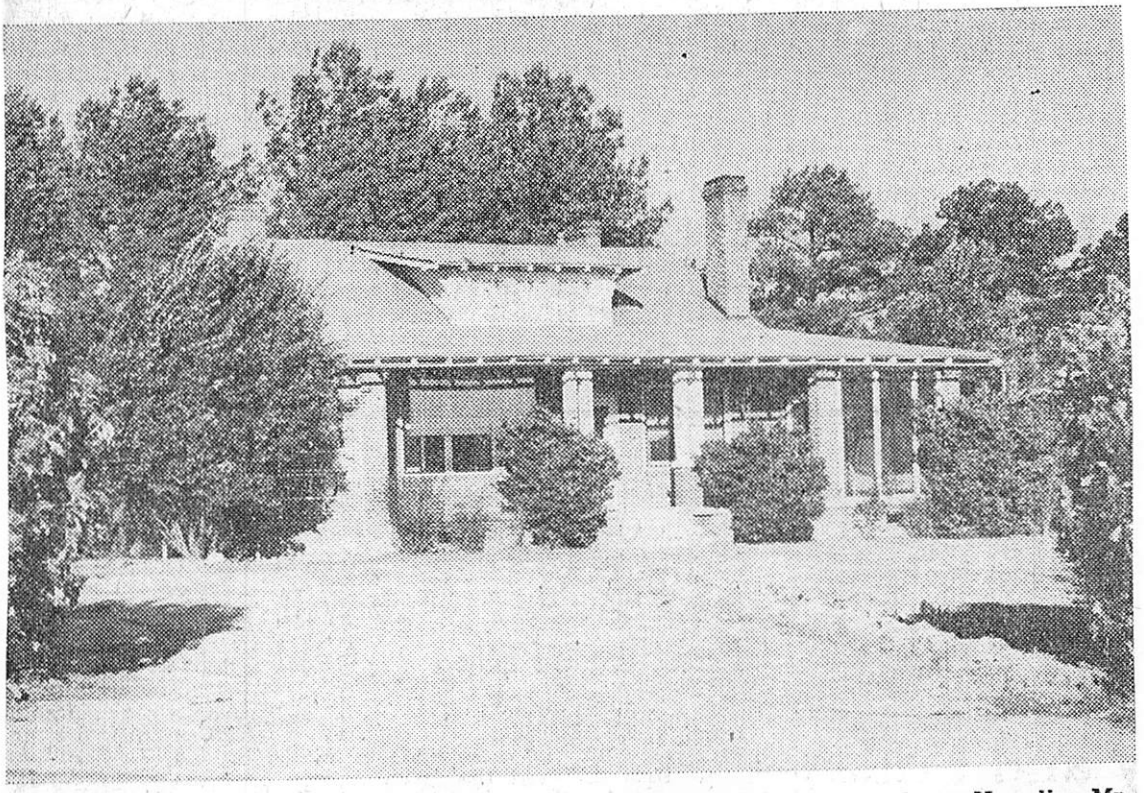
# Monticello's Modern Gym



Here you see a picture of the relatively new Monticello gymnasium, built in 1948, at a cost of approximately $30,000 to replace a structure erected some three years ago, destroyed by fire. Coincidentally, the Blackstock basketball team arrived to play a game the night of the fire, and last year, the same team finally fulfilled this postponed engagement by meeting Monticello in the new building

1949

# Superintendent's Dwelling



The attractive home of the superintendent of Monticello school is shown above. Here live Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Cooley and family.

1949

# Baseball Champions of Districts 4 and 2

THE MONTICELLO BASEBALL TEAM, champions of districts 4 and 2, with its mascot, Randy Watson. 1951

The team has just completed a very successful season, winning eleven and losing four games. As champions of district 4, the team took the district 2 title by winning two straight from Ridge Spring. Calhoun Falls, last year's State Champions, eliminated the Monticello "Panthers" from further competition.

In one of its most outstanding games, Royce Tanner pitched a no-hit, no-run game against Ridge Spring, winning by 1 to 0, with a home run by Tommie Fuller.

This is the third consecutive year that the Panthers have taken district championships, and during that time were under the tutelage of three different coaches.

Front row, left to right—John Owens, Pete Ragsdale, L. B. Anderson, Royce Tanner, Charles McLendon, John Robinson, Leonard Faulkner, and Floyd Tanner.

Standing, left to right—Coach Stevenson, Eldridge McLendon, Billy Tanner, Thomas Fuller, James Berry, Blair Baldwin and Mack Lindler. Absent from picture, Hayne McMeekin and Larry Blair.

Next year Coach Stevenson will have to replace three very valuable men. They are Eldridge McLendon, pitcher and general utility, James Berry first baseman, and Billy Tanner, third baseman. The prospects are good for replacements.

## Monticello Schools

7/18/1965

The name Monticello was given this school, either in honor of or by request of Thomas Jefferson—who contributed liberally to the "Jefferson Institute for Boys." This institute was founded and presided over for 25 years by Rev. James Rogers who came to Fairfield in 1789. Soon after locating in Monticello, Mr. Rogers organized and taught a school in a small school house where the Woodmen Hall now stands. This school grew and developed into the Jefferson institute for boys which was famous in its day. Many men who afterwards became famous in the South obtained the rudiments of an education in this school.

February 21, 1865 was a tragic day in Monticello. On this day Col. Kilpatrick's Company, a wing of Sherman's army burned most of the homes and public buildings in the town, Jefferson Institute included.

The McMeekin home was built by Major Elkin for an Inn and station for stage coaches. In 1864 Rev. John Zealy of the Baptist faith obtained this property and founded a girls' school. He resigned in 1867, and was succeeded by Rev. Abish Cartlege.

In 1871 Public schools were established. Captain Hayne McMeekin was made principal in 1872. The public school continued as Monticello school for many years. In 1929 it was consolidated with the schools of Western Fairfield and moved to Salem. It is now known as Monticello High School.

**ROSTER OF THE TOWN**

INTENDANT-Dr. W.R. Mood.
WARDENS-John A. Desportes, G.W. Moore, W.H. Ruff, S.F. Cooper.
CHIEF-G.W. Moore.
CHIEF OF POLICE-J.A. Brown

MARKET-W.B. Boyle.
BOARD OF TRADE-W.H. Ruff, President; W.J. Johson, Secretary, C.P. Wray, Treasurer.

HOOK AND LADDER FIRE COMPANY-S.F. Cooper, President.
TOWN WEIGHER-J.D. Palmer.
JUDICIAL-R.A. Meares, Trial Justice; R.D. Bolick, Constable.
DEPOT AGENT AND OPERATOR-E.P. Lipscomb.
COTTON BUYERS-A.F. Ruff & Co., I.C. Thomas, C.P. Wray, W.J. Johnson, J.A. Desportes.
COTTON SEED BUYERS-R.R. Rosboro, W.B. Boyle.
BANKERS-A.F. Ruff & Co., W.J. Johnson, John A. Desportes.

MERCHANTS-C.P. Wray, I.C. Thomas, J.M. Wilson & Bro., W.B. Hogan, W.E. Baxter, A.F. Ruff & Co., Mrs. Bolick, millinery, E.C. Heins, W. J. Johnson, Jno. Wilson, Cooper Bros. Jno. A. Desportes, Jno. McIntyre, P.M. Spence, coffins and shop, Chas Hayes, shop, Moses Jones Blacksmith shop, Peter Pickens shoemaker.

GINNERIES-W.H. Desportes, W.B. Boyle.

MEDICAL-Drs. W.R. Mood, S.S. Lender, J.D. Palmer, Sr., R.H. Edmunds, M.D., druggist.

TAVERNS-Mrs. M.J. Simpson, W.J. Davis, Mrs. J.B. Coleman.

EDUCATIONAL-High School, W.T. Edmunds; Mt. Hope School, H.E. Thomas.

RIDGEWAY BAND-W.S. Jones leader, Blake Boyd, R.H. Brown, D.W. Ruff, W.S. Wilson, Jno. Parker, Chevis Wray, Ruff McDowell, E.C. Heines, A.T. Moore.

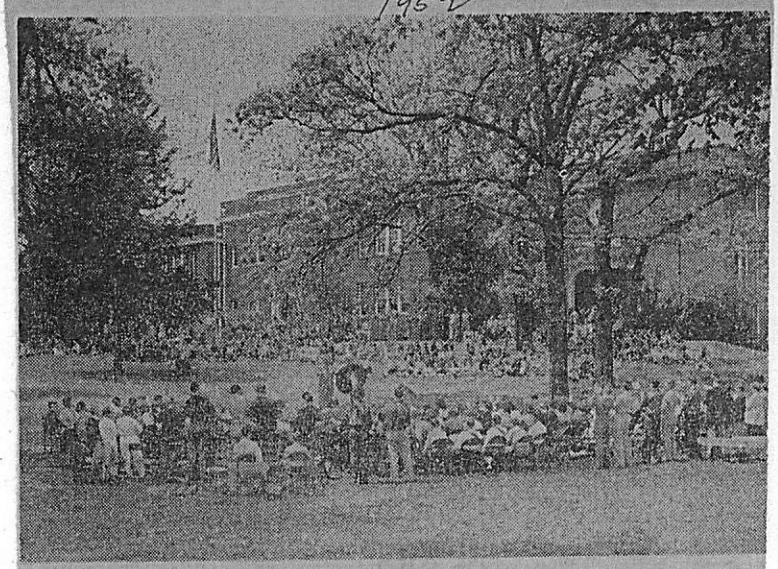
LITERARY-Advertiser, W.J. Johnson.

CHURCHES-Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal.

EXPORTS-Cotton, hay, naval stores, lumber and cotton seed.

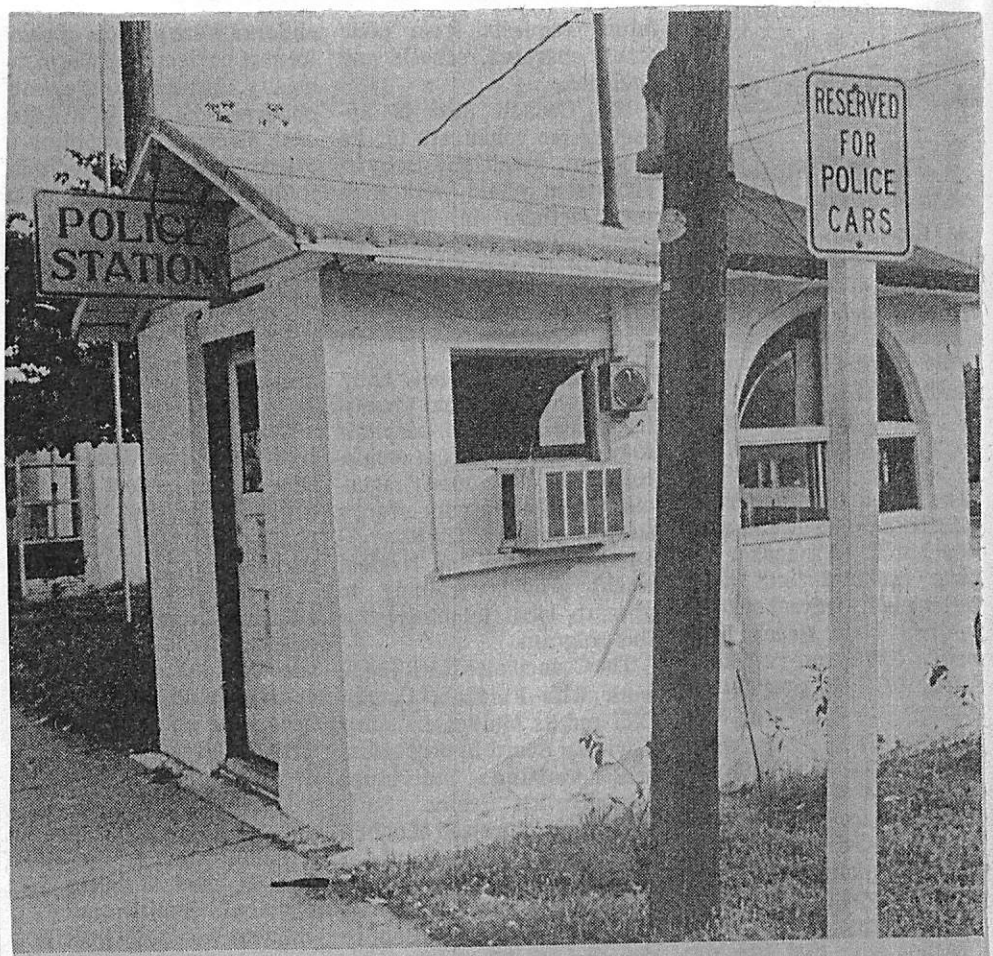
# When the Band Played at Ridgeway

1952



Pictured above is the scene of the Ridgeway school, when band day was held there on April 15. Members of the 150-piece band from the six county high schools had a wonderful time themselves and furnished enjoyment to many other people. A delicious lunch was served.

W. E. Miller is bandmaster and J. T. McLeod is superintendent of the Ridgeway School.




*The smallest jail in the state*

A Fascinating Stop on Tour

5/21/72

# Ruff's Store More than 100 Years Old, Tells History of Bygone Days


David H. Ruff, who built the first store in Ridgeway, was born in 1796 and died 1877. He came here from Richland District before the middle of the 18th Century and later built a handsome residence here. His sister, Nancy Ruff Lawhorn, lived with him and took care of this colonial home, as Mr. David Ruff was never married. He was a surveyor, money lender, railroad express agent, cotton buyer, merchant and a man of deep religious faith.

Mr. Ruff, being a Methodist, and there being no Methodist church in town, secured the lower floor of the Masonic Hall where preaching was held and a Sunday School was organized. This hall stood at the crossroads where the present school building stands. He then set to work to build a church. He had the lumber sawed from choice pine trees growing on his land, using the finest heart-timber cut from these trees. It was then hauled by mule teams a distance of miles to the site of the present church.

The building was erected, painted, and furnished completely, even to the carpet on the floor, a new organ, Bible, hymn books, and a handsome silver communion service. The latter was destroyed by fire when the parsonage was burned during the pastorate of the late Rev. O. N. Roundtree.

Mr. Ruff ordered the bell moulded especially for this church, and while it was being made he stood by and threw into it sixty ($60) silver dollars, giving it a sweet silvery tone.

After the dedication of the church there was a combination of Sunday schools, composed of all the Sunday schools in town, which met in the Methodist church every Sunday afternoon. W. B. Hogan served in the capacity of superintendent for thirty years, with George W. Moore as secretary and treasurer. Richard DesPortes, an Episcopalian, taught the Bible class, and Miss Mat Oliver, a Baptist, played the organ.

David Ruff was a man with rather abrupt manners, but a kind heart, and his word was his bond. He was a big upstanding man with a big voice. He lead the singing in the church and responded loudly with "A-men" to emphasize truths uttered by the preacher. He never married, but his sister, Mrs. Nancy Ruff Lawhorn, lived with him and he often visited another sister. It was while on one of these visits to her that he contracted pneumonia and died. He lies buried just behind the church in the shadow of the pulpit of the church he gave and loved so much.

It is said that he laid out the steets of Ridgeway with his great-nephew, Daniel Walter Ruff (grandfather of the present owner), age 13, helping to carry the chain to measure.

He was in business with H. L. Elliott of Winnsboro in the early 1840's. It is said that at one time he owned Silver Springs in Florida. He owned the Orange Springs Hotel there, and his old hotel ledger shows that in 1857, C. C. Pinckney and family spent part of a month there.

His first store business in Ridgeway was called Ruff & Lawhorn, as his partner was his nephew, Joseph Lawhorn. In the latter part of 1866, his nephew, Adam Fletcher Ruff, (father of the present Fletcher Ruff, Sr., of Columbia) joined him in the store, and the name changed to Ruff & Ruff.

Sometime during the seventies, Thomas Ellison Cloud began working there and it became known as Ruff & Cloud. David Ruff died during the late seventies.

In the later part of the eighties the store was A. F. Ruff & Company, and kept that name until many years later, even after A. F. Ruff had moved to Rock Hill and his nephews, Herbert and Walter Ruff, took charge at the store. They had been helping their uncle in the store prior to this, as their father had been killed in the Civil War.

In 1901, the present Ruff & Company was built and at that time was still called A. F. Ruff & Co., with Herbert and Walter Ruff managing it. At one time after the store was called A. F. Ruff & Co., it was changed to Ruff Mercantile. Walter Ruff's son, D. W. worked there as a boy and then after World War I joined the firm. During a portion of these years Blake Boyd worked there as part-owner of the store.

History of Longtown

# Longtown Began As Indian Fur Trade Route

**(Editor's Note: This article dealing with the early history of the Longtown section of Fairfield County was written for The News and Herald several years ago, and the author is unknown.)**

Longtown, the eastern - most settlement in Fairfield, and the oldest in that part of the county, is perhaps the least chronicled. It is perhaps due to its antiquity that much of Longtown's early history has been lost, for many of its oldest and grandest homes have been destroyed by fire and other ravages of time and war.

"Through the wooded land ran a picturesque Indian trail", is the way one historian has described the beginning of Longtown. This was the Indian fur trade route from North Carolina and the Piedmont area of South Carolina that followed the western slope of the Wateree River south to the Santee River and to Georgetown, Charleston and Savannah. Longtown is said by Fitz Hugh McMaster in his "History of Fairfield County" (Columbia, 1946) to have been first known as "Log-town" because of the log homes built along the Indian Trail, the name later becoming Longtown. In any case, it has been well - named for it is hard to define the limits of Longtown. The "town" of Longtown is that area which borders the old Ridgeway - Camden Road and covers the area from below Fairfield Manor, the old Ridgeway Hunting Club, southeast to the Kershaw County Line, and from the Wateree River to the east to Dutchman's Creek and the old Winnsboro Road to the west.

The earliest settlers in Longtown came from North Carolina and Virginia, and were Quakers, Episcopalians, French Hugenots, Presbyterians and Baptists, and at about the same time came Swiss, Holland and German Roman Catholics, Dutch Huguenots and Lutherans from across the Broad River on the far west side of Fairfield County. Printed records indicate that Nicholas Peay came from Hanover County, Virginia, to Pine Tree, now Camden, about the time of the Revolutionary War, and built "Malvern Hill" in Longtown. At about this same time, Charles Tidwell came down the Indian Trail to Longtown from the area of Jamestown, Virginia, and settled in the Bryant Hill section of Longtown. His grave at Bryant Hill Cemetery, with his birthdate of 1690, might well be the earliest gravestone extant in the county.

Longtown was also discovered by the German and Swiss settlers of Richland and Lexington Counties before the Revolution for we have records of Colonel David Myers of the Brick House, Bluff Road, near Columbia, owning plantations along the Wateree in Fairfield County soon after 1786 when his mother was reimbursed for a "black horse taken for public service" for the use of the Continental Army. His father, Jacob Myers, was paid for "144 days militia duty in 1787-88". Colonel Myers' son, John Jacob Myers, M.D., lived at Solitude Plantation in Longtown, noted as a "luxurious and imposing structure and the scene of lordly hospitality, many celebrities being entertained there." Dr. Myers represented Fairfield in the State House of Representatives in 1840-41. He served as assistant surgeon to a regiment which escorted the Marquis de La Fayette from the North Carolina border to Columbia on his visit to South Carolina in 1824. It is reasonable to surmise from this and the foregoing statement that General LaFayette was entertained at "Solitude" in Fairfield County, as well as in Camden and Columbia.

Other early Longtown settlers were the Matchetts, Wagners and Zeiglers from Holland, Germany and Switzerland, and the Robertsons, Harrisons, Dixsons, Picketts, Haynes, Reeves, Stewarts and Joneses through Virginia and North Carolina from England and France, Scotland and Ireland. The Tidwells were English and the Peays French Huguenots. McMaster writes, "Before the Confederate War much wealth was accumulated, finer, larger homes were built, and so the name of Logtown became Longtown." There was an academy near the Kershaw County Line, with Professor McCandless (or McCandlers) in charge. He was said to have come from Georgia and was an "educator of high type". Boarding students came from Camden and Liberty Hill with day scholars from the entire Longtown area. The professor had many visits from the irate mothers, whose sons he is said to have whipped on frequent occasions.

Austin Ford Peay, the son of Nicholas Peay of Malvern Hall, lived at Flint Hill in Fairfield. He was known as the "wealthiest man of that section". When he made a trip to Camden or Columbia, he traveled at night with a mattress put in his carriage in order not to lose sleep and to be fresh for his day in town. This could well have been the origin of Mr. Pullman's first railroad sleeping cars. When in 1809 there was an embargo on the export of cotton, Mr. Peay in his carriage escorted a long wagon train of cotton to Philadelphia from Flint Hill, which he sold for $25,000 it is recorded. He died at Flint Hill in 1841 and was buried on his plantation, later flooded by the Wateree Power development. It is said that the gravestones can be seen at low water. In the U.S. census of 1860, the farm of the estate of N. A. Peay is listed at $253,000, by far the largest n Fairfield County then.

"Melrose", called the grandest plantation house in upper South Carolina, was built near Flint Hill by Austin Peay's son, Nicholas Adamson Peay. It has been described as "a massive structure of brick, stone and marble of thirty rooms, broad piazzas and wide halls." It was said by descendants of his slaves to have had a garden on the roof with a pool in which fresh fish were kept for use at the table. The mansion was equipped with a water system supplied by fresh springs below the hill on which "Melrose" was situated. Water was pumped to the roof by an hydraulic ram. Colonel and Mrs. Peay, the former Martha Cary Lamar, died before the Confederate War. Col. Peay had served in the Seminole War in Florida in 1835. He represented Fairfield County in the State Senate in 1856, and died in office the next year.

When Sherman's army invaded Fairfield County, Melrose was one of the few plantation homes burned in the southeastern part of the county. The story is that a Union soldier rode his horse up the marble steps through the piazza of Melrose into the front hall. Tieing his horse's reins to the ceiling candle chandelier, the Federal soldier found the wine cellar where he imbibed too long. Soon other soldiers set Fairfield's finest mansion on fire, and this drunken solider and his horse were consumed in the fire.

"Wisteria", the Myers - Tidwell family home which stood just across from the Dixon home (still standing) in Longtown, is said to have been saved by Nicholas Peay Myers, an intrepid Confederate son of the Peay - Myers families of Longtown. Family tradition admits that Nick, a brave young man, acted as a spy for the southern cause. He is reputed to have saved many helpless women and children, and to have even ambushed a few Yankees. He was wearing a Union captain's uniform and insignia when he ordered Yankee soldiers away from Wisteria and saved his home from the torch. It is said that there were Yankee skulls in the attic at Wisteria until Mrs. David William Tidwell (the former Mattie Myers) had them buried with the

family and slaves at Bryant Hill Cemetery sometime before Wisteria was accidentally burned about 1935.

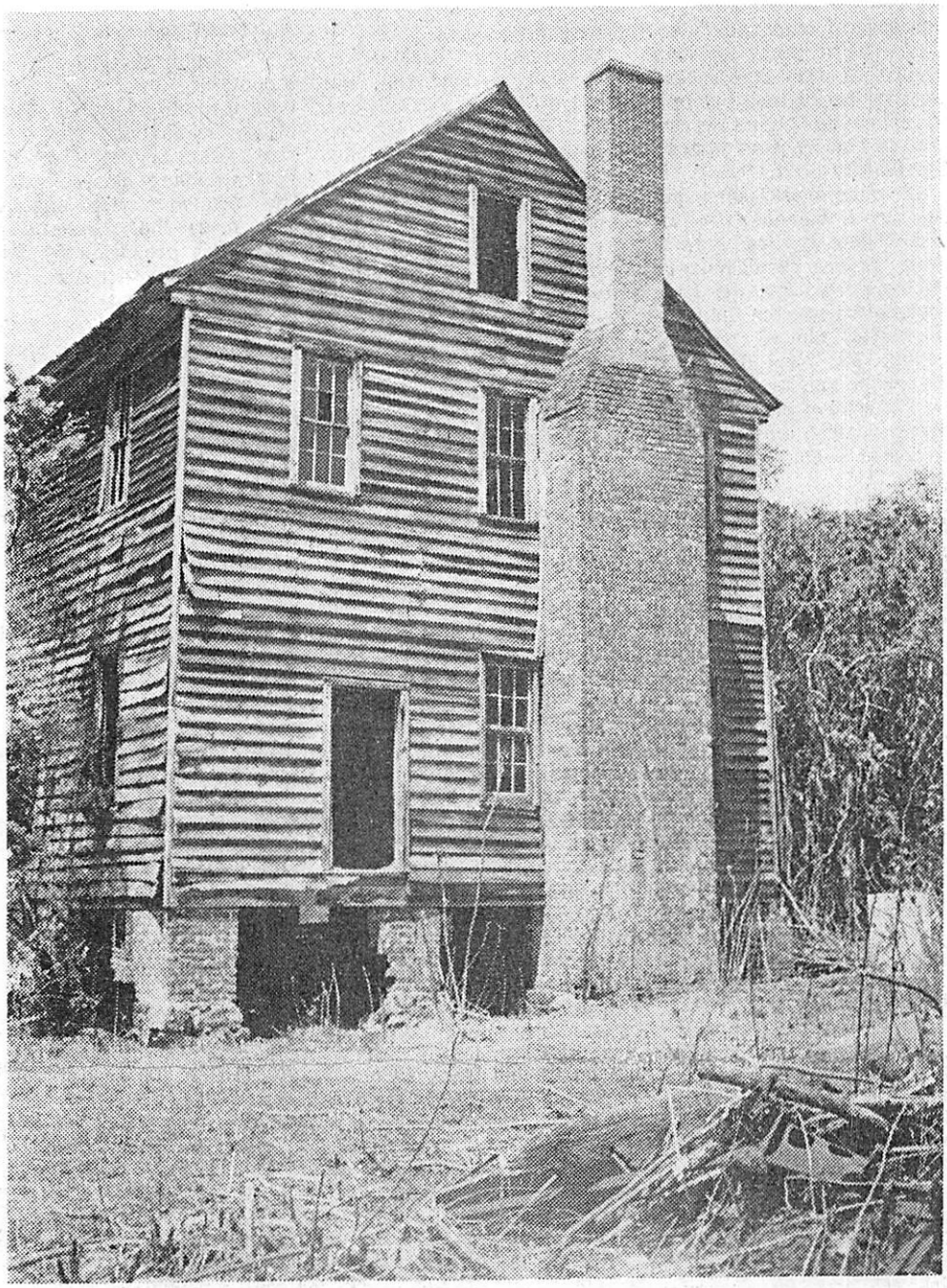
Wisteria was one of the fine Longtown plantation houses full of history, lore and tradition. There were grease spots on the walls and even the ceilings of some of the upstairs closets where the Tidwells hid their hams and pork shoulders before Sherman's raid. These same bedrooms after the war were papered with Confederate money, it having become valueless and paper being scarce.

Longtown's Baptist Church, now gone, was a great force in the early years when Melrose commanded the area. It has been the burial place of some of the earliest families, although the church building no longer remains. The Presbyterian Church, which still flourishes today, has in its cemetery the burial places of many influential Longtown families, some of whom were among the earliest settlers.

In 1854, when the Episcopalians in Ridgeway were building St. Stephen's Chapel, Col. N. A. Peay offered to give $100 on the condition that the new church be built east of Ridgeway on the Longtown road for the convenience of his sister, Mrs. John Myers, the former Sarah English Peay. Col. Peay was not an Episcopalian, and it was understood that Mrs. Peay was not to know of his gift since she would not approve, as the devout member of another denomination. Col. and Mrs. Peay are buried in Longtown's Baptist Church cemetery, with one of the most imposing monuments in the state. Until the days of the Confederate War, Mr. Richard Matchett of Dutchman's Creek and the Longtown Myers attended St. Stephens in their colorful, native Dutch costumes. Contemporaries descrive them: "the men in knee length pantaloons with big silver buckles, and matching silver buckles on their shoes and belt, long, flowing coats with wide leather belts and silver buckles, broad brimmed, low crowned black and white hats; the ladies in long skirts which touched the ground, colorful blouses with full sleeves, bright bonnets with flowing bows, under which hung their long, blonde tightly platted tresses hanging over their shoulders, some below their waists, so long was their beautiful hair". The Dutch - Episcopalians were devout and loyal Huguenots and Protestants.

Wisteria was perhaps most noted for its fox hunts, although it is recalled that "the hounds disturbed Mrs. Tidwell's fine Wagnerian ear". Her descendants inherited her ear for music. There were eight Tidwell sons, and more horses and hounds, so with a few friends a fox hunt was easily organized at Wisteria. It began with a pre-dawn breakfast served by Hence, born a slave at Wisteria. The menu might be steak and eggs, hominy and biscuits, for the day would be a hard one, especially if the fox turned out to be a red one. The hunt crossed Tidwell flats toward the Wateree to the east or Dutchman's Creek to the north and west. If a grey fox was hounded around Bryant Hill Cemetery, the chase might be a short one, but if it was a red fox the hunt could go as far as Flint Hill. However, no matter what time the fox, red or grey, was stopped by the hounds, the hunters returned to Wisteria to find one of Mrs. Tidwell's and Hence's magnificent dinners ready for them.

Dutchman's Creek is another historic landmark of the early influence of the German - Swiss - Holland families, like the Myers, Matchetts, Zeiglers and others who settled this part of Fairfield County and gave the name to the Creek.



## *Long Remainder of Past*

**The Dixon plantation house at Longtown stands still as a lone reminder of the early years of that Fairfield County community, when graceful columned homes stood for a way of life since gone. From such elegant mansions as Wisteria, Melrose, Solitude and Malvern Hill rode forth fox hunters intent on the chase. Melrose, one of the finest of these mansions, is said to have had a garden on its roof. The Dixon house remains in the family; the current owner is John Dixon.**

**WILDLIFE ABOUNDED**

History records the many wild animals of the Wateree to Broad River area of Fairfield. They are listed by McMaster as deer, foxes, raccoons, wildcats, o'possums, cottontail rabbits, gray and flying squirrels, wharf and blue rats, wood and muskrats, mink weasel, leather - winged bats, moles and mice. Among the hundred or more birds are listed many which are still native to the area and others which are extinct today or rare, like pileated woodpecker, blue and white herons, and wild turkeys (ed. note: the wild turkey population in the county is now on the upswing.). Deer are said to have been common in the area until 1880, and about that time, Mr. Hugh S. Wylie is reported to have said that he saw "not thousands but hundreds of thousands possibly millions" of wild pigeons in flight. They would darken the sky. Mr. Wylie said that wild turkeys were plentiful. Both the great naturalists, Alexander Wilson and John James Audubon, described seeing wild pigeons in such numbers as this earlier in the century in various parts of America. (Ed. note: Could these have been passenger pigeons, now extinct?)

But, alas, the glamourous era passed; Wisteria burned in 1935, and the Tidwell lands were bought by Bowater paper Company. Time, war and fire have taken many of Longtown's ante-bellum mansions and its finest, Malvern Hall, Solitude, Melrose and Wisteria. However; many of the descendants of these early Fairfield families remain, some nearby and others scattered throughout the state and nation. Longtown has a proud heritage and a long and rich history, full of thrilling facts and colorful fancy.

## *Early Burial Place*

**The cemetery at Longtown Presbyterian Church has the remains of some of the members of Longtown's most influential families. The church maintains an active congregation, and the building and the cemetery are both well cared for by the membership.**

**Logtown-Longtown**

The settlement known as Longtown was established in this wise:

Through the wooded land ran a picturesque Indian trail. Over the high spots went the trail. This trail was chosen for homes. Long log houses were built, and the settlement was called Logtown. The Peays, Joneses, Harrisons and Dixsons built along the trail. Before the Confederate War much wealth was accumulated, finer, larger homes were built and so the name became Longtown. An academy was also built near the Kershaw line, with Prof. McCandless (?) in charge. The professor was an educator of high type, coming from the family of McCandlers of Georgia. Young women attended from Camden, Liberty Hill and Longtown (the former boarders); a grammar school was connected with the academy. The professor had many visits from the irate mothers of the small boys he whipped.

# Ridgeway in 1890

This is an 1890 account of Ridgeway which appeared in the Fairfield News and Herald Oct. 8, 1890.

**RIDGEWAY IN 1890-**
**IT'S PAST AND PRESENT ADVANTAGES.**
1980

The prosperous little town of Ridgeway may truthfully be said to be a result of the War.

Prior to that unfortunate but inevitable struggle Ridgeway was merely a railroad depot for the convenience of the farmers of the section, many of whom were very wealthy counting among their possessions hundreds of slaves and thousands of broad acres of fertile lands.

From this point were shipped to market the cotton crops gathered from the large plantations of the Peays, Jonses, Robertsons, Cols. Palmer and Clark and others. It is said that one Col. N.A. Peay's crop alone amounted to 1800 vales. There nabobs purchased their supplies in Charleston, Columbia and other large cities and there was no occasion for stores at Ridgeway beyond the selling of tin cups, tobacco and such other articles... The mercantile busines of Ridgeway was then conducted by Robert Walker and James C. Boulware, both of whom enjoyed the confidence of the neighborhood for honesty and fair dealing. Those whose experience runs back to the anti-bellum days will recall the good humor and wit of John Boulware which made his store a pleasant resting place while waiting for the trian. Mr. Boulware is iving and though in the "sear and yellow leaf" of life still has a joke for a friend to enjoy.

No account of Old Ridgeway should be made without mention of Mr. Arthur Craig, who for so many years was postmaster and railroad agent. Mr. Craig's sympathetic nature made him the repository of secrets and the confidential adviser of any having troubles and perplexities. Farmer J.B. Coleman, who by the exercise of commendable economy with industry and thrift possessed himself of a competency, is remembered by the wayfarer as the host at whose board the wants of the inner man were satisfied. These four constituted the citizenship of Ridgeways station.

With the end of the war came the breaking up of the old order of things and the business sagacity of R.S. Desportes, Joseph Lawhorn and David H. Ruff brought them to Ridgeway for the purpose of merchandising. Having returned from the army of the Lost Cause with nothing but a white horse and determination to succeed Capt. R.S. Desportes was first to open a store having converted his horse into a stock of goods which the horse could easily have hauled at one load. The success achieved by Capt. Desportes is abundant proof of the selection of his location.

In 1876 the legislature granted charter to the town of Ridgeway and R.S. Desportes was elected its first Intendant. The town continued to grow and flourish until the present time with its stores. Board of Trade, banking houses, churches, telephone lines, band, fire departments, shops, ginneries, newspaper and school, it is regarded as one of the growing and prosperous young towns of the State, doing a business of over a half a million dollars. A number of handsome residences and stores have been built recently by Contractor Alexander, of Shelby, N.C., and active inquiry is being made for building lots at present, and land owners are opening up new streets and laying off lots to be put on the market.

A remarkable fact in the experience of Ridgeway is that during the whole twenty-five years of its existance the Sheriff's hammer has fallen upon only one merchant, and the commercial rating of its leading business houses is much above many larger and more pretentious towns. Another noticeable fact is that only one or two of its merchants are forty years of age.

Situated on the back of the ridge divising the Wateree and Broad Rivers the natural drainage of the town is perfect. There are no lakes or ponds, hot beds for malaria, in the neighborhood and the health of the place is splendid. As remarked by a resident physician, "There is no local reason why a man should ever die here unless he is a doctor and starves to death for what of patients."

The moral and religious tone of Ridgeway is exceptionally good as attested by the number of new churchers in town. The school house is commodious and the trustees and teachers are active, earnest and progressive.

Ridgeway is supported by a fertile farming section drawing customers from the banks of the Wateree River a distance of twenty-five miles. One farmer shipped over $500 worth of Bermuda hay cut from his bottoms in this section.

While the businessmen of the town are forging ahead some of the young farmers are with them. Noticeably J. Span Edmunds who averages a bale to the acre and on his pet acre this year he will make three bales of cotton.

As a cotton market Ridgeway rivals Columbia, giving the same prices paid in that city.

# Salem Crossroads Said Significant Spot on Map; Recall the Robbery?

(By John Bigham in The Columbia Record)

A recent exploratory venture into Western Fairfield County brought us in due time to Salem Crossroads, a small but significant spot on the map of the Midlands.

The roads which cross at this point, and thus create the name, are highways Nos. 34 and 215. The former is an east-west route which delivers traffic back and forth acros the Broad River a few miles distant. The latter is a north-south highway once popular as a means of transporting Columbians to and from the mountains, but which in recent years has been largely relegated to local usage.

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The hurrying visitor sees little at Salem Crossroads. There is the usual store and filling station at the intersection, and off to the side one observes a school, a church, and some scattered homes. Little else meets the eye. However, if the same visitor will stop and hobnob, as we did, with one or two prominent citizens in the community, he will come away signally impressed by an area which represents much more than a road crossing in the hills and valleys of western Fairfield.

Our first point of call was the home of the Marion Stevensons, situated hard by the Monticello High School and appropriately designated on a small granite marker as "School Daze."

Stevenson is the efficient and popular superintendent of this school. As we approached, he came dashing out of the house. He greeted us cordially, but allowed that "I have two prospective teachers to interview at the school, and I sure don't want to miss them."

For this reason he was excused from questioning, but his good wife was routed out of her kitchen into the living room to supply us with facts and figures about the crossroads area.

"I am busy making bread and butter pickles," she said, "but I will be glad to come out of that hot kitchen long enough to help you, if possible."

Ruth Stevenson, housewife and office worker, is a leader in the Monticello-Salem Community organization. Serving as its treasurer at the present time, she is a fervent believer in the present and future of this Fairfield area. She is also acclaimed as the best cucumber and artichoke picklemaker in the countryside. She was kind enough to give us a jar of bread and butter pickles hot off the stove. These we have accepted as being the best in the world, but real proof will come next winter when they are broken out of the family pantry.

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In the short period of relief from her kitchen which our presence afforded, Ruth Stevenson furnished much information about the crossroads community.

"The Monticello-Salem Community program, now in its third year, has paid off," she advised, "and we want to continue what has been begun. As much as anything, we want to induce desirable families to move into our community and help us make it grow and prosper."

As an aside to the conversation, Ruth Stevenson recalled an event that solidly put Salem Crossroads on the map several years ago. That was the robbery of Ladd's store, wherein two men were convicted of the crime but the money (amounting to thousands of dollars) was never recovered.

The victim has since died, the store has long been abandoned, but the commotion stirred up by the event in this part of the country has yet to die completely away.

"It was the most exciting thing to ever happen here," said Ruth Stevenson, "and I recall that everybody and their brother turned out for the various investigations and the trial."

The Stevenson Park at Salem Crossroads, located between the school and the Presbyterian Church, is one concrete result of the Monticello-Salem Community organization's work. The site was once thickets of briars and honeysuckle vines; today it is a recreational area as attractive and useful as any we have found in our rambles through rural communities.

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Our second call at the Crossroads was made on the Rev. Bob Wallace, pastor of the Salem Presbyterian Church. Founded in 1812, this is one of the most historic rural churches in Fairfield County. Not only is this personable and colorful minister among the community's most loyal boosters, but he is also quite worthy of a story himself.

A native of Alabama and for 29 years a practicing attorney in several southern states, Bob Wallace calling from the law to the ministry. A severe heart attack at that time helped him to make the decision which took him out of the courtroom and into the pulpit.

Our chat with him in his study was short but fruitful, revealing that he is sold on the Monticello-Salem community and its people.

Declining his invitation to stay for lunch, given perhaps seriously, and another invitation to preach for him the following Sunday, given we are certain in a jocular manner, we drove away from the Salem manse and the crossroads, greatly convinced that when it comes to bread and butter pickles, education, community pride, and faith, no place in the world offers a superior product.

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## *ITEMS FROM STROTHER.*

**The Recent Floods and their Effects---Some Account of the Damage.**

STROTHER, May 24.—The recent floods have deprived this section of Fairfield of railroad facilities, and have suspended all communication by mail; consequently we know but little of what is transpiring beyond our immediate vicinity. Your friendly visits no longer greet us. Letters from loved ones do not reach us. We sadly miss the familiar whistle of the Iron Horse which is accustomed to remind us of the arrival of the latest news. Cut off as we are from communication with the outside world, we have no means of knowing how long this unpleasant state of things will continue.

It is said that Broad River was higher, at this point, than it has been in a long series of years. The damage done by the high water and heavy rains cannot easily be estimated. The mill of Mr. Thomas M. Lyles, with its contents was swept away; his oats and Mr. Bailey Suber's which were near the river, were completely destroyed. Mr. Andrew Blair, Mr. Mc. Blair and Mr. Edward Blair all lost heavily. Capt. William Clowney, was, perhaps, the greatest sufferer in this immediate neighborhood. He lost thirty-five head of sheep, almost his entire crop of oats, and a considerable part of his cotton crop. The flats at Capt. Clowney's ferry, and, also, at Mr. Blair's, were carried off. Mr. Joseph Martin had a valuable mule drowned, and Mr. Jesse Martin lost his entire crop. Mr. John W. Lyles and Mr. James Long, whose farms are on the creek, lost very heavily. No adequate idea can be given of the injury to crops and land on the up-lands.

The murderer of Mr. Eli Free is still at large.

June 1.—Since writing the above, I have had no opportunity of sending it to you. I hope, however, that this may reach you. Our disasters from rain, wind and hail still continue. On last Friday we had a severe hail and wind storm, by which quite a number of farmers had their entire crops completely destroyed.

**MEN OF THE OLDEN TIME-Sketches of Dr. William Woodward, Major Arromanus Lyles and Col. Thomas Lyles...**

ROCK CREEK, June 2. At your request, I will give you a few biographical sketches of some of the men of western Fairfield. First, I will mention Dr. Wm. Woodward, who, I was told by my father, removed from the eastern portion of Fairfield about the year 1800, and purchased a tract of land of my uncle of which he lived until 1819, when he removed to Chester county and died not long after. His residence...was not exceeding half a mile from where I was born and reared. I think he was the first Baptist preacher whose pastorate was at the Rock Creek church. I was told he was a self-made scholar and preacher as well as physician. His intellect was certainly of a high order, and no doubt he had the advantages of the present age, he would have taken a high rank in scholarship, and in both his professions. Wm. Woodward was evidently no ordinary man. In stature he was fully six feet in height, of symmetrical form with a physiognomy unexceptionable. He had four sons and five daughters, the youngest of whom was Joseph, my playmate and schoolmate, and who we all know was a member of Congress from our Congressional District some years since...

Next I will give you what I know and was told by my father, of Col. Arromanus Lyles, of Revoluntionary fame, who lived and died near Lyles Ford, Broad River. He was at one time...county judge, a man of decision, of character, bold and adventurous, and took an active part in our Revolunationary struggle, was a partisan officer with Pickens, Sumpter (sic) and Marion, and fought many hard earned battles, one of which was at Eutaw Springs...His father, Ephraim Lyles, was killed in his door by a rifle shot said to have been by an Indian, but Major Thomas Lyles, his grandson, told me he was shot by a Tory. Col. Arromanus Lyles married his third wife and died soon after in 1817.

Maj. Thos. Lyles, son of Col. Arromanus Lyles, born near Lyles' Ford in 1786, as he told me, whose death is of recent date, as most of your readers know was no ordinary man. He was noted for his strength of mind and self-reliance in all matters of public or private nature. He was fond of mills, and possessed as unusual adaptability to mechanism and was a land surveyor and planter, and at one time a merchant. He was an efficient member of our Legislature about 1823-24, was an afterwards an active member of our States Rights party of Nullification and Secession. He raised a company of cavalry at old Buckhead, which he commanded from 1828 to '32, being soon after promoted to majority and colonelcy. He was brave and impulsive, beloved by his command, of which I was cornet, and we would have followed him wherever he dared to lead...It will require several articles to mention all the men of note that I knew in the western and other portions of the county, from 1820 to '40...I may give you a few more in my next...W.E.

**THE OLDEN TIME.**

ROCK CREEK, August 31, 1880-Being at leisure, I thought I would add something in regard to four or five Tunkers who were amongst the first settlers on Beaver Creek that I saw when a boy, viz: Andrew Feaster, Sr., Adam Cooper, William and Isaiah Mobley and Matthew Hoosh, a Hessian. The first four wore long beards and I think the last did also. These were called Dunkards and were the only men seen with unshaven faces then, and forty years afterward. This denomination is called in history German Baptist. Andrew Feaster, Sr., was a native of Switzerland, and removed here from Pennsylvania, as I was informed by his great-grandson. I rode behind my mother about the year 1811 to old Daddie Feaster's, a distance of six miles, her purpose being to get him to cure one of her arms which was paralyzed. On riding up to the house gate my mother halloed, and the first object that attracted my notice was the big white hogs, the next the old man's long white beard, the first I had ever seen. We alighted and were invited into the house by the good old man. I kept my eyes on him until we were seated in a chair when a long hair rope attracted my attention...this was used...for the purpose of drawing up bags of flour into the loft...(After dinner), my mother was seated in a homemade chair. Exposing her bare arms to view, the old many knelt at her side, rubbing her arm from the hand to the shoulder...and muttering unheard of language to me, all the time. This was called "using" for the purpose of curing maladies such as felons, wens, cancers, warts...Whether "using" cured the arm or not, or the faith she reposed in the old mans' mystic art, or time, I know not, but it was after a short time well as before. It was on Andrew Feaster's plantation that Fort Wagoner was built on the first settling of Beaver Creek, before the Revolutionary War, for the purpose of defense against the savage Indians, and used also for some purpose during that war...Near Lyles Ford lived David Shelton Bolen, U.S. Wright, Daniel Mabrey, Esq., Thomas Burns, James Webb, R.G. Mayo, Cleatons, Joseph McDaniel, early settlers, and all died about 1820...

W.E.

**Mossy Dale Dots.**

I am sorry to report the utter destruction by fire of the Mossy Dale Academy. Nothing was saved. There had been fire in the woods, which had burned near the building, but there seemed to be no danger. Mr. T.F. Smith had left but a short time, from looking after the safety of the building, when the fire broke out. It was a new building, nicely ceiled and furnished with new desks. As soon as the materials can be procured it will be rebuilt. 1900

D. W. Ruff with P. R. Scott, (brother-in-law) and later Mr. Ruff's son, managed the store. Walter Ruff, the present owner, is a great-great-great nephew of the founder, David H. Ruff. Daniel Walter Ruff, V, who is in high school, is beginning to help his father at Ruff & Company and the Ruff contribution to retailing in this small community continues.

Ruff's old store, which stands as it did many years ago—though not so isolated — is an interesting addition to the Historical Tour sponsored by the Fairfield Historical Society during Tricentennial Week in Fairfield County. In it are many unusual items, including a wire cheese "cage" for round cheeses which were cut in wedges; a flat iron which was filled with red-hot coals to press ruffled petticoats; a wooden handmade slanted rake and grain cradle, replicas of an agrarian community; a handmade seed rack with packages of seeds dated 1884, and seed catalogues for orders (1879); cooking utensils; bonnets and ladies' dresses. These and many other items dating back to an era dimly remembered by the older generation comprise a stop on the Ridgeway Tour that is a "must" for all visitors.

William Cathcart of Winnsboro who is a grand-nephew of David H. Ruff (several generations removed) has contributed his talents as a display artist in decorating Ruff's old Store.

When General Wade Hampton was campaigning for the governorship in upper South Carolina around Lexington, Edgefield and Abbeville, there was considerable show of Red Shirt, or Hampton Partisan, strength. The Ruff store bought rifles and cartridges for Hampton's men and its basement became a veritable arsenal. The near-by modern Ruff store still has samples of the old cartridges. The basement of the old store still has some of the cartridges displayed. A horse and buggy stand nearby, which could have "whisked" the Red Shirts or ammunition about the country.

Mr. Norman Palmer, Jr., is preparing an extensive garage and soon will be ready to handle new and "sick" automobiles. Other enterprises are "in the air." Go it! We can put Ridgeway on the map. 12/5/1919

Historic Event Creates Goodwill

# Hundreds Attend Ridgeway Bank's Sixtieth Anniversary Celebration

11/20/1958


Pictured here is the regular working personnel of the bank. From Left to right: J. N. Crumpton, cashier; Mrs. James S. Edmunds, bookkeeper; W. R. Goodson, executive vice-president. (photo by Ferguson)

Several hundred people from every section of the county and from various areas of the Carolinas attended the Bank of Ridgeway's Sixtieth Anniversary celebration Friday afternoon, took an interesting and informative tour of the bank and enjoyed a social hour at the town's justly-famous Century House. There were a host of townspeople present, a fine representation from Winnsboro and from other communities of Fairfield, many of whom had had dealings with the institution during the 60 years since its establishment in 1898. Also on hand were a number of banking officials from Charlotte, Columbia and elsewhere.

Friends and patrons first visited the historic banking house, which was attractively decorated for the gala occasion, to be greeted by officers and the personnel of the institution. Here, souvenirs and mementos were passed out and a wide variety of interesting exhibits displayed. Among these were:

A display of currency including bills in denominations of $1, $2, $5, $10, $20, $50, $100, $500, $1,000 $5,000, and $10,000; a card that contained counterfeit bills, difficult to distinguish from the real stuff; a mechanical clown that inflated balloons; a contraption that "blew pretty bubbles into the air" in front of the bank; the original charter, dated in 1898, under which the bank is now operating; a certificate of congratulations from American Commercial Bank, Charlotte, N. C., to the Bank of Ridgeway on reaching its 60th anniverasry of service to the community and outlying districts; 22 beautiful floral arrangements presented by other banks customers, and friends; a fascinating display of items inherited by the Goodson family, one of which dates back to 1837. W. R. Goodson, executive vice president, has served the bank continuously for 30 years.

On hand to welcome the guests were officers, directors and personnel of the bank which included: Dr. John C. Buchanan, president; James S. Edmunds, vice-president; W. R. Goodson, executive vice-president; J. N. Crumpton, cashier; Mrs. James S. Edmunds, bookkeeper; V. E. Barnett, A. B. Heins, B. Y. Palmer, D. W. Ruff, Jr., R. W. Thomas, and W. R. Traylor.

A booklet given to the visitors noted that the bank's assets had grown from 44,952.52 on March 1, 1899, to $931,353.32 sixty years later It was also pointed out that the bank has paid to its stockholders in dividends $168,990, passing a dividend only one time in history (in 1932).

After leaving the bank, the guests repaired to the historic, multi-purpose Century House, where delightful refreshments were served by members of the Rdgeway Garden Club.

Consensus of all seemed to be that it had been a good day for the bank, for Ridgeway and for all of Fairfield County.

# Ridgeway Native Joins Staff of Anderson Bank

Sam A. Taylor, Jr. has joined the staff of the Anderson office of the First National Bank as administrative assistant as announced this week by Donald E. Brown, chairman of the Board of The First National Bank of South Carolina. 1960

Mr. Taylor is the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Taylor, Sr. of Ridgeway and attended Ridgeway High School, the University of South Carolina and Columbia Bible College. He has been active in church work, being a member of Aimwell Presbyterian Church of Ridgeway, and has served on the board of deacons of that church, as superintendent of the Sunday School and a teacher of the Adult Class. He served as vice-president of the Men of the Congraree Presbytery, and is also a member of the Ridgeway Masonic Lodge.

Mr. Taylor went to work with the Columbia office of First National Bank in Columbia in February, 1953, and has been connected with that office since then. In 1959 he was selected to participate in the bank's Executive Training Program from which he graduated in August, 1960.

Mr. Brown stated that the Anderson office feels extremely fortunate in securing the services of a young man of Mr. Taylor's character and ability.

# BUILDING OF RAILROAD IDEA OF RIDGEWAY MAN

3/17/1938

## *E. G. Palmer Worked Without Pay For Realization of His "Dream," Which Was Ridiculed By Many. Line Was Completed In 1852.*

(By Mrs. W. H. Ruff)

In Monday's State we read in "Seen Here & There," "And a railroad was built." One of the roads mentioned was the road from Charlotte to Columbia, our own railroad, completed in 1852. Here is how it began—It was in the winter about the year 1845. The candidates for the legislature and other offices attended a meeting at old Concord (Baptist church) Spring. While the meeting was in progress, Mr. Drury Goya's wagon with only two bales of cotton on it mired down in the road and had to be lightened of it's contents. Gen. Wm. A Owens said to Mr. E. G. Palmer, "Now is the time to make your speech for a railroad taking this as a text." Mr. Palmer grasped the idea. A cotton bale was rolled out and he mounted it and made a rattling talk.

He called attention to the fact that the mules had been working hard all year to make the cotton and when worn out by the toil and heat of summer, were subjected to such treatment as this. "Save your mules, let them make the cotton, then turn them out to rest, let the iron horse haul the crops to market." The idea took like wildfire. The ball was set in motion and the next session the Charlotte and South Carolina railroad was chartered.

When the meeting was held to organize, Mr. McAlily of Chester asked who was fool enough to try to build a road from Columbia to Charlotte. Mr. James R. Aiken assured that he thought Mr. Palmer was foolish enough to try and added "Let's make him president."

The election was made and the road was built. Mr. Palmer was wrapped up in the success of the road and I happen to know that he refused to take a cent of salary as president while the road was building and probably never did accept any. The road was surveyed by Colonel Garnett of Virginia, and by the Rev. Johnson who so distinguished himself as engineer in charge of the defense of Fort Sumter, rector of St. Phillips church in Charleston. The road was called in sport, "Palmer's gin house route" on account of the de flection made in order to follow the ridge between Columbia and Chester.

Ridgeway is no secluded hamlet. The railroad links a great system of roads, a trunk line, three completed highways and others in the making, the highest point between

# News-Events In Ridgeway

**Paved Streets Enhance Comfort & Appearance. Town Council Honors Highway Department With Dinner. Measles Cut School Attendance.**

2/3/1938

The paving of our streets is completed. Those who realize the tenacity of the proverbial red clay of Fairfield can rejoice over the broad expanse of concrete on Main Street. A wonderful addition to both comfort and appearance of our town. Friday will be a gala day for us.

On Friday evening the Town Council is giving at the home of our Mayor, Mr. James Edmunds, a dinner in honor of the Highway Department and assistants. Messrs. Sawyer, Touli, Williamson and MacMillan will be among the guests.

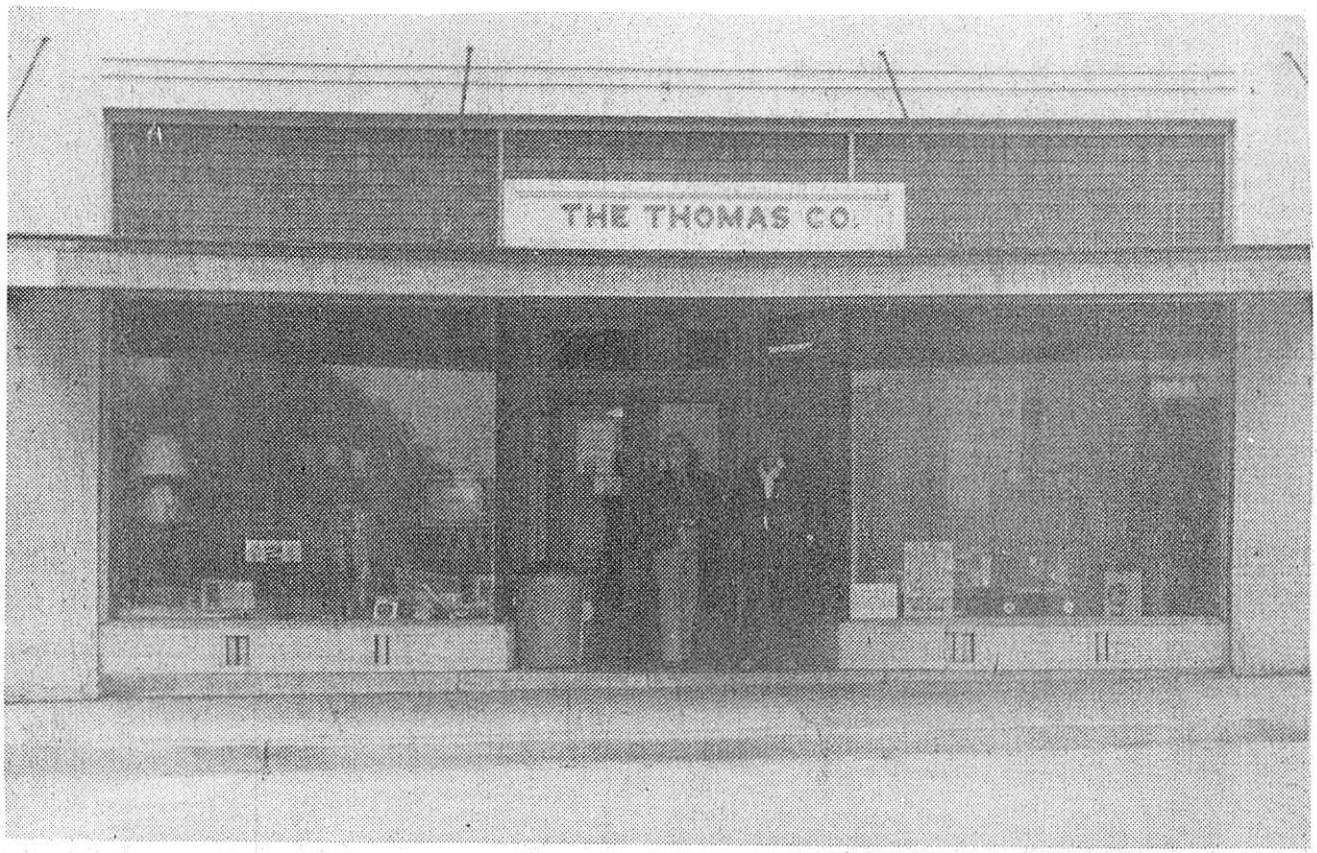
## *Ridgeway Gin Co. Installs New Gin*

The Ridgeway Gin company, of Ridgeway, S. C., announces in this issue of The News and Herald that they have just completed installing a new all-steel Murray Gin, the only one of its kind in Fairfield county. Mr. D. W. Ruff, of Ridgeway, manager, stated while in Winnsboro Monday that this new gin has Mitchell Extractor Cleaners and Dryers, makes better samples and is especially equipped for long staple cotton. Mr. Ruff also stated that as usual they will buy and exchange seed. Several days ago in the Columbia State, J. Roy Jones, commissioner of agriculture, had this to say about gin-cut cotton:

"More than 16 per cent of South Carolina's cotton crop was gin-cut —that is, damaged by improper ginning, or ginning when wet. In Texas, he said, the gin-cut cotton amounted to about 4.14 per cent of the crop; in North Carolina, 7.78 per cent and in Arkansas 3.64 per cent. Some cotton is damaged as much as $10 per bale through gin-cutting and some is scarcely saleable at all."

The Ridgeway Gin company extends to all farmers and anyone interested to visit their gin, located in Ridgeway. 8/1940

# Thomas Co. Observes 100 Years of Operation




**TODAY — This is how the Thomas Company looks today. Standing in the doorway are Mrs. Laura Thomas, vice-president, and Sam Stevenson, manager.**

**By Cathryn Kennedy**

With the birth of the new year, the Thomas Company of Ridgeway has ushered in its second centennial of sales and service to the community.

Begun as the I.C. Thomas Company by Isaac Thomas in 1885, the store, sold general merchandise of every description. Trade was conducted on a seasonal credit basis. "Uncle Ike", as he was affectionately known, sold staples throughout the year and collected payment in the fall when cotton was harvested.

In the early years of the 20th century, Thomas & Company gave full-time employment to between six and eight adult men, including A. Talley Moore, Reid Brown, Jones Magill, Albert Coleman, Prioleau Scott, Samuel P. Thomas, and Robert Charlton Thomas, as well as the owner, Isaac Thomas. "Mr. Ike", as he was known to his clerks, encouraged his sales people to buy stock in the store, which several did. This enabled them to share in the profits of the business. Later on, they sold their stock back to members of the Thomas family.

Back in those early days, business, and therefore Ridgeway, was booming. By the opening years of the 20th century, the town was a flourishing cotton-buying and mercantile center. Six-mule wagon teams hauled fifteen to twenty 500-lb. bales of cotton to the cotton yard at the Ridgeway railway depot, where at least six cotton buyers competed with each other to buy the cotton before it was unloaded. The five large mercantile establishments of Ruff, Wray, Ruff & Edmunds, Johnson, and Thomas supplied every need of farmers over a twenty-mile square area of lower Fairfield County, and parts of Richland and Kershaw counties. The Bank of Ridgeway, now the oldest bank in Fairfield County, was opened with Uncle Ike as vice-president, while numerous small and specialized businesses flourished along Main Street and Railroad Ave. (now Palmer St. and Dogwood Dr.). The prosperous community of 400-500 population boasted two doctors, pharmacies and pharmacists, a dentist, butchers, several grocery stores, a shoe-repair shop, barber shop, ice house, candy and bread stores, a gunsmith, blacksmith, livery stable, mortuary, masonic hall, post office, and hotel. There were also a cotton gin, saw mill, and flour mill. A new public school was built on the site of the old building on Church Street, a second bank, the Farmers and Merchants was opened, and a weekly newspaper, *The Fairfield News*, was published for a year or more in Ridgeway.

### Isaac Thomas

Isaac Couturier Thomas was born in 1853 at Mount Hope, the family plantation near Ridgeway. His people had come to Ridgeway from the town of St. Stephens in the low country. Too young to serve in the War Between the States, Isaac nevertheless remembered how, as a young boy of ten, he watched Sherman's march through Ridgeway, and the pillage of Mt. Hope by Union soldiers while his mother and sisters, aunts and cousins shut themselves up anxiously in the parlor, fearing for their safety and wondering

ned.

As a young man, Isaac Thomas began his business career as a clerk and bookkeeper in a mercantile store in Doko, now Blythewood. He then worked briefly with the A.F. Ruff Company at Ridgeway before starting his own business. Before 1855 he rented a small building at the corner of Church and Main streets in Ridgeway, just across from the present Thomas Company store. He soon built the two-story frame store on the corner, facing Main Street at Church Street, now the site of the present brick store, erected in 1911. The earlier frame building was moved east, facing Church Street, and used as a warehouse for the main store until it became an antique shop ten years ago.

Operated for fifteen years as the I.C. Thomas Company, Merchant and Cotton Buyer, the name was changed to Thomas & Company when Uncle Ike's nephew, Robert Charlton Thomas joined him in the business. Later, the name was changed to The Thomas Company, Inc., which it holds to the present day.

Over the years, Uncle Ike built a reputation for honesty, fairness, and integrity which has been handed down from generation to generation, and which The Thomas Co. still enjoys to this day. Always known for just a moderate mark-up on prices, Uncle Ike never allowed his clerks to mark up more than a certain percentage, even when he was able to get higher prices for his merchandise. Although Uncle Ike operated on the "lien system", he only took his payments in crops or articles which were not family necessities, despite the current practice of some merchants of his day who would foreclose on the family milk cow or mule, leaving people in disastrous circumstances.

Present day families of great-grandchildren of the first I.C. Thomas Co. customers trade in the store because their families have traded there for generations, and that's a long time to keep customers happy. Many local people were reared in houses completely furnished with furniture and appliances bought at the store. It's obvious that a special rapport between customer and store has grown and flourished down through the centennial years.

Uncle Ike retired from Thomas & Co. before his death in 1921, and Robert Charlton Thomas headed the company until his death in 1951. His son, Robert Walton Thomas (Bob), joined the firm in 1933, two years out of college and having some experience in sales with Watkins Products. Bob began working in the store for $40 a month. In 1934, he borrowed $750 to buy 10 percent of the store. At that time his great-uncle owned 20 percent and his father owned 70 percent. He gradually acquired more stock, and after 1951, when his father died, Bob became president of the company, began buying out his brothers' and sisters' shares, and became sole owner of the business in 1961. Robert Walton Thomas, Jr., (Robert) joined his father in the family business in 1969, after a three-year sojourn of study in Germany following his graduation from the University of the South. He is the fourth generation of this family to have operated the mercantile business during the last 100 years.

In addition to family members, The Thomas Company has given a number of young people employment on a part-time and fulltime basis. This has allowed them to complete advanced education and go on to varied careers in sales and service. This list includes, among others, Sam and Rebecca Dixon, Claudie Cooper, Wesley Starnes, Montez Hudson, Mary Carolyn Peay and Georgia Peay.

Present-day employees include Manager Sam Stevenson, who has been with the business about 14 years; Norris Hare, in charge of deliveries and appliance installation, who has faithfully served the company for 41 years; Robert W. Thomas, Jr.; Laura Thomas, vice-president; and Robert W. Thomas, Sr., president, retired.

The years have seen the business change. It ceased to buy cotton in the mid-1930s, after the sale of electric appliances became an important part of the business. Farm supplies are now a small part of the stock, although a wide assortment of household items continue to fill the shelves, including work clothes and boots, shoes, groceries, heaters, kerosene, window shades and curtain rods, and lawn items.

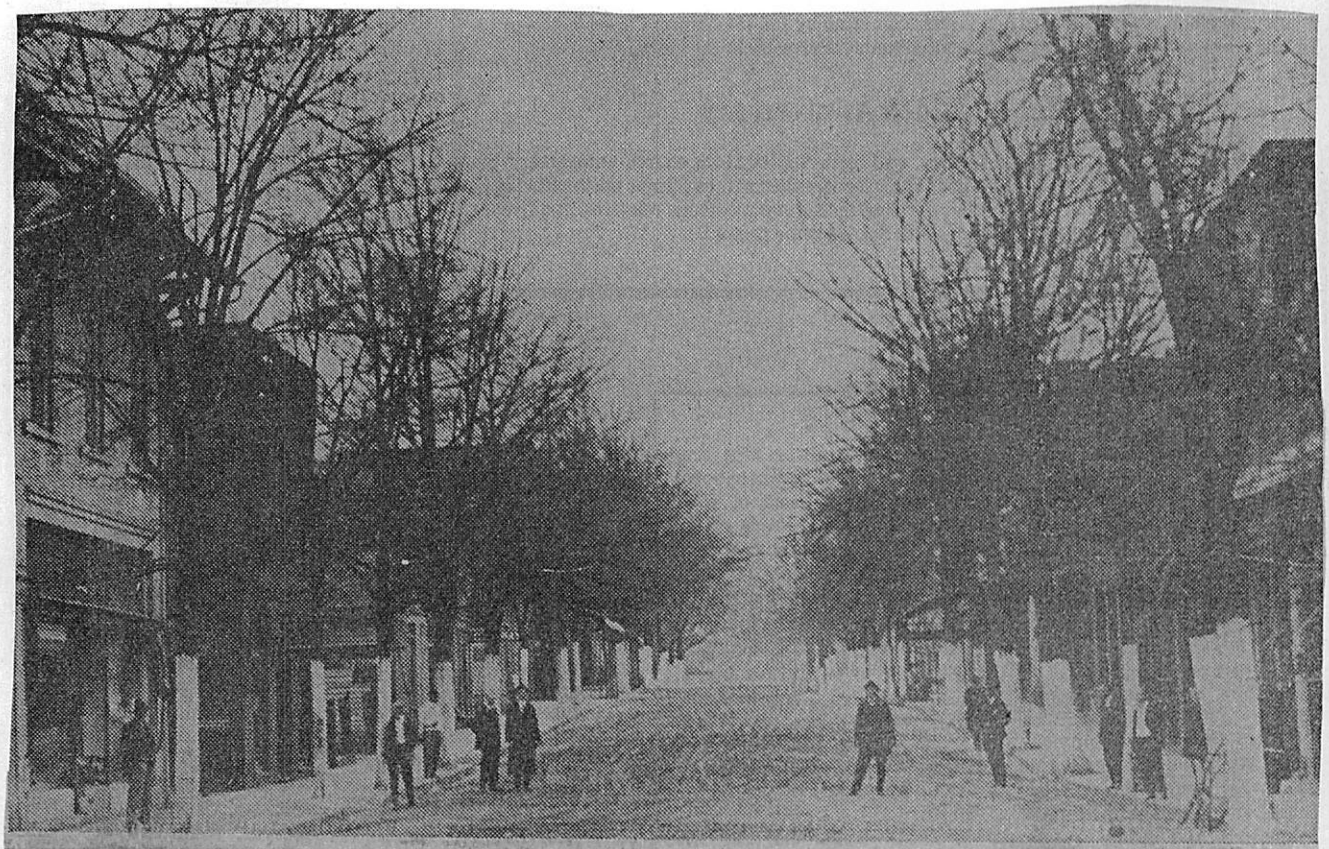
takes care of the office work and bookkeeping, feels there is still a place for the general store. Offering merchandise on credit to people in the community at moderate credit terms allows those on limited salaries to have a better standard of living, says Mrs. Thomas. People like to be able to buy at home and enjoy modern appliances. Mrs. Thomas adds, "The store has always tried to be good to the community, and the community has always been loyal to the store."

# THE THOMAS CO. 50 YEARS OLD

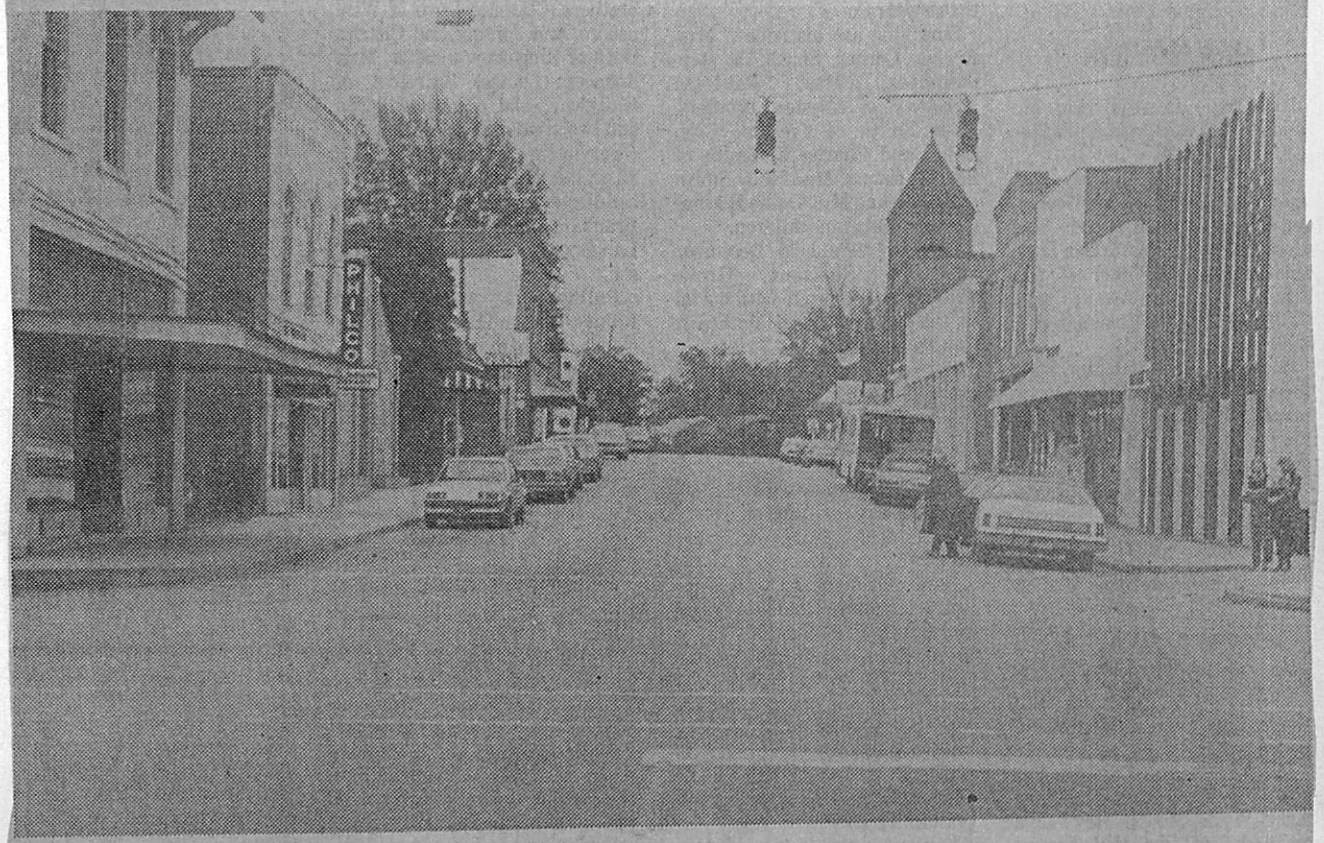
### Is Celebrating Anniversary With Big Sale At Store In Ridgeway

10/1933

Organized fifty years ago by the late Isaac C. Thomas, The Thomas Company of Ridgeway is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. On the back page of this issue will be found the advertisement of this firm, inviting their old friends as well as many new ones to come in and take advantage of the many bargains they are offering in staple merchandise. It has always been the policy of the management of this store to sell only reliable merchandise at a reasonable profit, and they hope to merit the friendship of their customers for many years to come. The business is now under the management of R .C. Thomas, assisted by his son, Robt. W. Thomas, and they, with Mr. Lemaster, Mr. Coleman and Mr. Hinnint are always glad to have their friends drop in.



RIDGEWAY MAIN STREET, 1919 - This is how Ridgeway's main street looked in the early part of this century. The Thomas Company is on the immediate left, with Wilson's Store next door. On right are Wray's Store; Kennedy's Store; Bank of Ridgeway; and, top floor of bank, Masonic Temple.

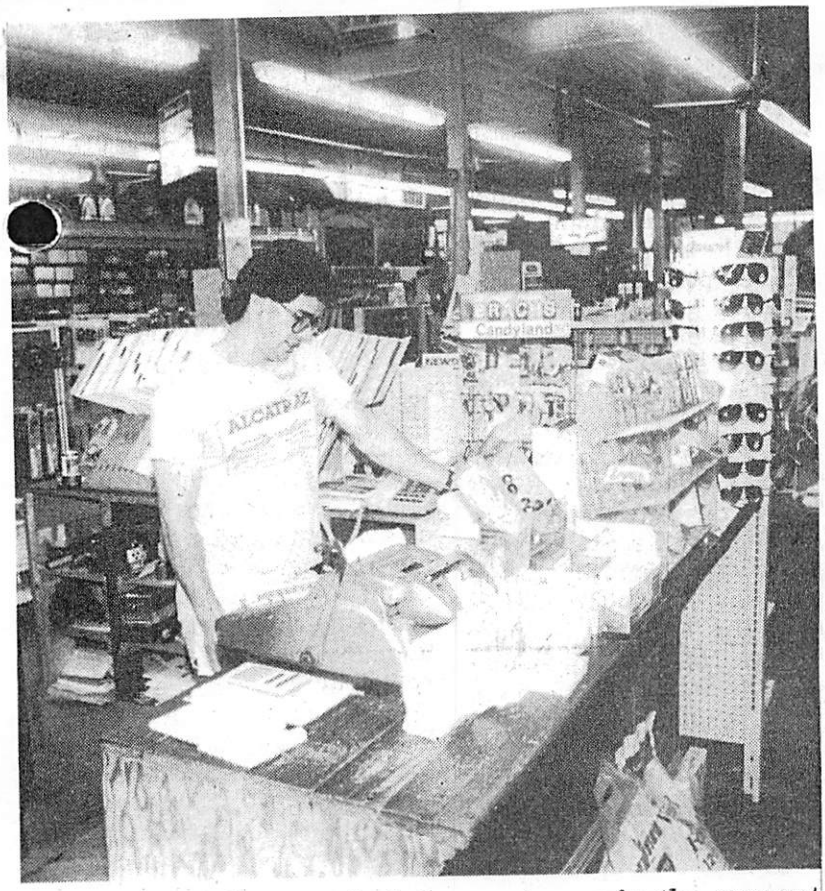


RIDGEWAY'S MAIN STREET TODAY — This photo was taken recently, showing the same view as the 1912 photo.

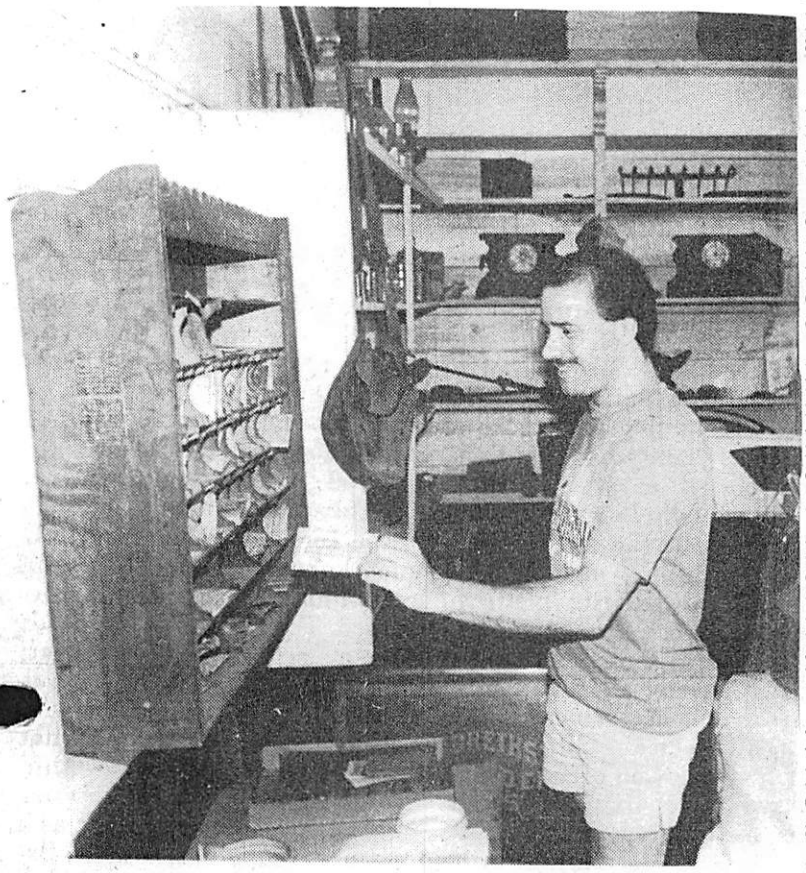

An old valance hangs in the window of Ruff's Hardware Store in Ridgeway. The Ruffs, above, celebrate the anniversary of the store, which has been in their family for 150 years. From left are Walter Ruff, his wife, Nancy, and sons, John and Dan.

# Family ties

## Ruff's has been mainstay in Ridgeway for 150 years



Dan Ruff services a telephone customer in the present store.



John Ruff examines a century-old seed packet which is

By RON WENZELL
State Staff Writer

RIDGEWAY

For 150 years there's been a Ruff's store in Ridgeway and a Ruff behind the cash register to wait on customers.

Walter Ruff, the owner of Ruff and Co., started working there in 1930, when he was 9 years old.

"I helped my father after school and on weekends," he recalls. "I'd sweep up and keep the showcases clean."

The country was in the grip of the Depression, and Ruff has vivid memories of his father helping townspeople survive the hard times.

"The recessions we have today can't compare with the Great Depression," Ruff said. "Large numbers of people were going to bed hungry. I'll never forget one family. They had a crop failure and there were 10 children in the family. My father gave the children clothes at no charge."

The elder Ruff also started a grocery route, delivering food in a horse-drawn wagon to people too poor to come to the store and buy it.

"Delivery days were Tuesday and Thursday," Ruff said. "Eggs were five cents a dozen, for those who could pay it. It cost a dime for a package of sugar and a bag of coffee."

Today, Ruff and Co. is two stores — a furniture store and a True Value Hardware which face each other on Palmer Street, the town's main thoroughfare.

Ruff and his wife, Nancy, are lovers of history and antiquity. She is interested in genealogy and has accumulated old family photos and records. He has ledgers and invoices dating back to the 1800s.

She has a copy of a story from the May 22, 1867 edition of the Ridgeway News and Herald which describes Ruff's warehouse as, "being filled from garret to cellar with corn, bacon, sugars, bales and boxes of goods."

The same article pictures founder David H. Ruff as a man, "with iron energy, vigilant to the smallest matters, always on the go and never tired. His motto is, 'attend to your business and let a man of business attend to his business.' "

The first Ruff's store was built about 1840. Next to the current hardware store, it is still in use as a warehouse. Tradition has it that during the Civil War, the old wooden building served as a Confederate arsenal.

The hardware store was built in 1901. It has been remodeled several

"Our inventory has changed people's needs have changed," Ru said. "We're thought of now as a har ware, feed and seed store.

"When I was a boy, we sold ever thing from groceries, home remedi and dry goods to farm supplies a wood-burning cook stoves. Trav wasn't nearly as easy as it is tod and folks would buy several weeks months supply of goods."

Ruff can remember whe Ridgeway had only four automobile "Everyone else used horses and wa ons to get around."

In the lean economic times of t 1930s, most of the store's custome used their crops and livestock as cre it, Ruff said. "They'd buy what th needed on credit until their crop w harvested."

It wasn't unusual for customers spend the better part of a day brow ing and shopping, he said. In tho days, a lot of customers had a partic lar salesperson they wanted to he them and would wait, no matter ho long it took, until that clerk w available.

Most of the customers patronizi the hardware store today are loc Ruff said. The furniture store, whic became part of Ruff's in 1938, ge most of its trade from the Columb metropolitan area and Rock Hill.

Except for service in World War and going away to school, Walter Ru has spent his life in Ridgeway, wor ing at the store.

He succeeded his father — Dani Walter Ruff — as the store's manag in 1956, and his sons, Dan and Joh will succeed him. Furniture is John specialty while Dan works mostly the hardware store.

Dan and John are the latest in t long line of Ruffs to enter the famil business.

The company's founder, David Ruff, was born near Blythewood 1796. A surveyor, cotton buyer an merchant, he also is credited wi building Ridgeway's first Methodi church.

David Ruff had a partner, Jose Lauhorn, and the store was originall called Ruff and Lauhorn, but chang its name to Ruff and Ruff in 18 when a nephew, Adam Fletcher Ruf bought into the business.

David Ruff died in the late 187 and Adam Ruff continued to run t store as A.F. Ruff and Co. until sho ly after the turn of the century wh his nephews, Herbert and Walt Ruff, took charge.

Daniel Walter Ruff, father of t

**Six generations of Ruffs have been waiting on customers at Ruff and Company in Ridgeway. The fifth generation are (left to right) Nancy and Walter Ruff, and the sixth generation, their sons, are John and Dan Ruff.**

# Six generations:

By Larry Neely
*Editor*

## *Ruff and Co. celebrates 150 years and still going strong*

The pre-Civil War notion of an old country store conjures up images of a hodgepodge of merchandise from clothing, groceries, drugs and hardware to farm implements. Merchandising has changed a lot since the days of the open cracker barrel and cheese and soap both being sold by the pound.

In most places the general store is remembered as a pleasant and important part of the past, but in Ridgeway a slice of that Americana remains. Altered somewhat in keeping with the times, but there nevertheless.

Ruff and Company remains a viable part of the Ridgeway economy. You can't buy your groceries there now, but a few snack items remain on the shelves. The emphasis has gradually shifted over the years and Walter Ruff and his family now focus on hardware and name brand furniture and carpets. There are some jeans and shoes to be had.

The setting has not changed all that much. At least not since the early 1900's when the current building was built. It has been added on to a time or two, and the second floor is now relegated to duty as a storeroom. The original building still stands with the front part set up as sort of a museum of the store's past.

In the old store you can see hand made seed racks still full of packages, many dated before the turn of the century. An old crank telephone is mounted on the front wall just inside the front door. Many of the items in the old store were found in the attic as well as memorabilia from the family of Walter Ruff's wife, Nancy.

Rifle cartridges were found in the basement of the old store. During the Civil War days Ruff's Store as it was known then bought rifles and ammunition for Wade Hampton's Red Shirts. The basement of the store was reputed to have been a veritable arsenal in those days.

The old store, the first to be built in Ridgeway, was known as Ruff and Lauhorn when it was built in 1841. The founding Ruff was David H. Ruff who was born in 1796 near Blythewood in an area known then as Doko. Ruff's partner was a nephew, Joseph Lawhorn. David Ruff never married, but after the close of the Civil War another nephew, Adam Fletcher Ruff, joined David in the business and it became known as Ruff and

Just a few years later a man by the name of Thomas Ellison Cloud began working at the store and it briefly took the name of Ruff and Cloud. By the late 1880's the store had become known as A. F. Ruff and Co., the name that can still be found on the office safe in use today. A. F.'s nephews, Herbert and Walter, had gone to work in the store after their father's death in the Civil War.

When A. F. left Ridgeway and moved to Rock Hill, he turned the store over to Herbert and Walter. Walter's son, D. W. Ruff, who had worked in the store as a boy, joined the firm after World War I. The store was now known as Ruff Mercantile. About that time a man named Blake Boyd became involved in managing the store briefly.

After the death of Herbert and Walter Ruff, D. W. and his brother-in-law, P. R. Scott, took over the store. Later, Ruff's son, Walter, the present owner, took over the store. Water, the great-great-great nephew of founder David Ruff, was joined in the 1980's by his sons, Dan and John.

Walter, who will be 70 later this year, went to work in the store when he was nine years-old. He has seen a majority of the changes in the merchandising at the store.

As a boy he remembers when cotton was the mainstay of the small farms that dotted the landscape as far as the eye could see. Most are now all grown over and gone forever. The families, some share croppers, bought everything they needed at one store.

"The customers were loyal then," Ruff said, "They would come into the store with a list of things they needed, strings to mark the length of shoes they needed for their children. They only came to town every six or eight weeks. If we didn't have something, they went home without it until the next time."

At the time the store did carry everything a family would need, from caskets on. It was not unusual for the store to take a chattel mortgage on that year's cotton crop. When they brought it to the mill, which was also part of Ruff and Company, they would sell the crop and settle up their account.

Over the years Walter Ruff has seen merchandise lines dwindle down to those that they could sell well. Groceries were discontinued for the most part about 15 years ago. The cotton mill building stands, but in the last decade or so all the machinery has been sold.

At the same time the store has expanded, too. The hardware line has taken over most of the building built in 1901. Furniture, which continued to sell well, has been moved to several adjoining storefronts across the street. While the hardware store primarily serves Ridgeway and the surrounding area, their furniture draws customers from all over the Midlands and even from Georgia.

"We give them good merchandise for a reasonable price," says Walter Ruff.

Part of the reasonable price stems from the low overhead. You won't be besieged by anxious clerks on commission. In fact, unless you ring the doorbell by one of the front doors of the furniture showrooms, you might not even see a clerk which would be Ruff, himself, or one of his two sons. They along with their mother and one full time employee, Claude Junior Belton do it all.

Walter didn't encourage his sons to join him in the business. That was a decision, he says, they made all on their own. Dan, a 1978 graduate of Erskine College, drifted away for a few years, but drifted back to the family business. John graduated from Clemson in 1983 and came home to the business, too.

"It seemed just the natural thing to do," John said. He was first majoring in engineering, but later changed to business management.

Dan's wife, Karen, lent her decorating skills in helping to prepare the store for this week's anniversary celebration.

The only one of Ruff's three children to break stride with the family tradition is daughter, Nancy Ruff Campbell. She's a registered nurse and is a national vice president of an Arizona-based healthcare company. But, she'll be here this week for the 150th anniversary of a Ridgeway, no make that an American, institution.

It will be interesting to see what the seventh generation will bring.

**Walter Ruff looks through one of the old catalogues for men's suits that used to be available at the store.**

# Much Local History Comes to Light In Memoirs of a Ridgeway Colonel

(Reviewed by Charles Edward Thomas, Ridgeway Native)

1961

"Crumbling Defenses," the Memoirs and Reminiscences of Colonel John Logan Black, Confederate States Army, formerly of Ridgeway, has been edited by Eleanor D. McSwain of Macon, Georgia. This is a valuable and important contribution to local history and to the enormous number of valuable Confederate documents being published during the centennial of that devastating yet fascinating war.

The 133 page volume is based on the notebooks of Col. Black written in pencil in 1882 for the benefit of his children. They were owned by his eldest daughter, the late Martha Le Compte Black (Mrs. Harry W. DesPortes) of Ridgeway. Shortly before her daughter and not long before her Ridgeway home was burned, Mrs. "Mattie" DesPortes gave the notebooks to her kinswoman, Miss Elizabeth English, librarian at the University of South Carolina. In 1954 Miss English gave the Black notebooks to Mrs. Eleanor D. McSwain, the author of "Crumbling Defenses," and the wife of Col. Black's grandson, Horace Laurens McSwain, II. They are now available in print for the first time.

John Logan Black was born in York, S. C., July 12, 1830, the son of James Augustus Black and Elizabeth Sarah Logan. Col. Black's grandfather, Joseph Black came to Abbeville District from Pennsylvania, as a Revolutionary soldier. He married Mary Burnett. Their eldest son, James A. Black, was born in Abbeville in 1793, and served in the War of 1812. He owned King's Mountain Iron Works in York County. He died in Washington, D. C., April 3, 1847, while serving as a Congressman from South Carolina. Joseph Black and James Augustus Black, grandfather and father of Col. John Logan Black, are buried in the churchyard of the First Presbyterian Church, Columbia.

Col. Black was a cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point from 1850 to 1853, when General Robert E. Lee was superintendent. Col. Black's roommate at West Point was James Abbott Whistler, who did sketches in some of Col. Black's cadet notebooks. He was later famous for his painting, known now as "Whistler's Mother."

Soon after dropping out of West Point, John Black married on December 22, 1853, his cousin, Mary Peay Black. She was born in Columbia, May 26, 1833, daughter of Joseph Addison Black and Martha Keziah Peay. The latter was the daughter of Col. Austin Ford Peay of Flint Hill on the Wateree, and builder of the fabulous Melrose in Longtown. This massive mansion known as the "Palace" or "Peay's Folly" was said to cover three-quarters of an acre and to be the largest dwelling in the state. It was burned by Sherman's army in 1865.

Col. Black and his bride, the former Mary Peay Black, lived at Ridgeway. They became the parents of ten children, four died young, and are buried with Col. and Mrs. Black in Aimwell Cemetery, Ridgeway, where Col. Black's towering monument is the commanding stone in the cemetery. Mrs. Black died March 17, 1881. After her death Col. Black married Eugenia Talley Jenkins, his first wife's cousin. They had one daughter. Col. Black died on March 25, 1902. Two of Col. Black's daughters by his first wife lived in Ridgeway. Martha LeCompte Black married Harry W. DesPortes, and Eunice Black married John Davis Palmer. These two daughters are buried at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Ridgeway, where there are memorials to Mrs. Martha LeCompte Black DesPortes. Both have descendants in the state.

Col. Black was commissioned in the Confederate Army in 1861, and assigned to the 1st Regiment of South Carolina Cavalry, under General Wade Hampton. Douglas Southall Freeman in the opening chapter of volume III of "Lee's Lieutenants" describes Col. Black leading his South Carolina Cavalry toward the Potomac with the Army of Northern Virginia . . . "a sight that made veterans catch their breath and stare and lift their hats in admiration. Hampton's regiments were coming up in magnificent order. On the right, in advance was Cobb's Legion under Pierce Young; in support, and almost enechelon, was Black's First South Carolina . . . Sweeping in splendor across the field abreast of Hampton's column was Hart's horse artillery" . . .

"Young and Black pressed straight on . . . The enemy withdrew . . . Hampton was still advancing . . ." Dr. Freeman concludes.

One of the high points of Col. Black's memoirs is his description of General Lee, Longstreet and Hill at Gettysburg. In Col. Black's own and that too on a memorable field of Battle — Gettysburg. I here saw three men grouped together, immortal names on the pages of future history. General Lee was standing with his back to me. He was the best looking, of course. For me he was the best looking man in the universe — that I always knew. Longstreet was fat and full. A. P. Hill rather slender. I never saw him again or was nearer to him than at that time. Directly the conference ended and all three turned to leave, each in separate direction and each on foot. As General Lee turned toward me I advanced and saluted him. He returned the salute and shook hands, and turning, called Gen. Longstreet and introduced me to Gen. L. and said . . . "I commend Col. B. to you as once a cadet under me at West Point."

The Memoirs are also full of references to Fairfield men. Col. Black refers to General Barksdale reminding him of Governor John Hugh Means, native of Fairfield and governor of South Carolina, 1850-52, and colonel of the 17th South Carolina Volunteers, who was killed at the battle of Second Manassas.

Twice wounded, first at Upperville and later and more seriously at Brandywine Station, Col. Black was ordered back to South Carolina, much to his dissatisfaction. Enroute he stopped in Richmond at the Exchange Hotel, rented as a soldiers' house by the state of South Carolina and kept by "that most excellent gentleman, George H. McMaster of Winnsboro, and supplied by charitable contributions from our people at home. My entire command was fed by Mr. McMaster," Col. Black concludes.

Later Col. Black was in command of units guarding Charleston from James Island. Here Col. William Hans Campbell commanded Legare's Point. A native of Fairfield, Col. Campbell before the war became a lawyer and newspaper editor in Greenville. He signed the Ordinance of Secession for Greenville County. In 1870, Col. Campbell became an Episcopal minister, first serving St. John's, Winnsboro, and St. Stephen's, Ridgeway, until 1875, when he became rector of St. Paul's, Charleston, where he served until his death in 1901.

Another Fairfield related officer at Legare's Point was Capt. Gaillard of Rhett's Regiment "a most excellent officer and accomplished gentleman," according to Col. Black. He was granted a ten days' leave to go home and marry. This was Capt. Gaillard's only visit with his bride,

for he was killed at Bentonville, N. C., after the evacuation of Charleston.

The Memoirs are full of stories that add to the horrors of war, but there are numerous instances of Col. Black's compassion and kindnesses to his soldiers, his orderlies, and his devotion to his family. At the height of the bombardment of Charleston by the Federals, Col. Black received news of the birth of his daughter, Leile, on July 8, 1864. Showing the dispatch to General Talliferro beside him on the gun platform, the General read it, and said, "it ought to have been a boy to make up for some of our losses of the day."

Col. Black's Memoirs are a valuable addition to South Carolina upcountry history, and to Confederate color, gallantry and loyalty. It will remain an important Fairfield County source book. The author also pays tribute to assistance she received from the late Mrs. Eunice (Black) Palmer, and Mrs. Henrietta Eleanor (DesPortes) Peay, both of Ridgeway, daughter and granddaughter of Col. Black, respectively. There is a fine picture of Col. Black as a frontispiece to the book.

The following is a description of life at Ridgeway as seen by the Sage of Fairfield, "Mossy Dale," in a news letter to The News and Herald:

"Speaking of Ridgeway, I reckon there were more money and more families in the class of the Upper Ten than could be found in any other town of the same size. There were the Davises, the Palmers, the Edmunds, the DesPortes, the Ruffs, the Thomases, the Kennedys, the Johnsons, Meares, Bolicks, the Wrays, and many others. If they had pooled their money they could have bought a big share of Columbia."

She Will Be 91 on Sept. 16 1962

# Martha White Moore Cottage To Be Restored, Honor of Former Teacher

Plans are going forward to restore a little house, next to the Presbyterian Church in Longtown, in honor of its former owner who taught for many years in the schools of Fairfield county. A committee (the names appear at the end of this article) has been appointed and the purpose is to pay tribute to Mrs. Martha White Moore (Mrs. George E.), distinguished senior citizen and longtime teacher at Longtown and Ridgeway, on her 91st birthday (Sept. 16).

Born in Anchorage, Kentucky, a suburb of Louisville, on Sept. 16, 1871, Mrs. Moore is the daughter of the late Rev. Mr. William Gardner White and Mrs. Mary Estelle White. Her education was broad and varied for this early period. She attended Miss Martin's School for Young Ladies in Columbia and continued her higher education at the institute which is now Salem College, in Winston-Salem, N. C. She also studied at The Conservatory of Music in Baltimore.

While still a young lady, Martha White moved to California to join her family. (A brother had just returned from China where he served as a missionary.) Later, Miss White came back to South Carolina and was married to the late George E. Moore of Ridgeway. They reared two fine sons, George E. Moore, Jr., and William Ray Moore; both are married and reside in Columbia. She has two grandsons, Nelson Moore and William Ray Moore, Jr.

Mrs. Moore taught kindergarten while residing in California and, upon returning to South Carolina, she taught the elementary grades in Ridgeway five years and in the Longtown graded school 23 years. She also taught in the schools in the Lebanon community of Fairfield and in Waxhaw County, N. C. For 47 years, she was organist of the Longtown Presbyterian Church. Here, several generations were inspired by the beautiful music she rendered on the old-fashioned church organ. She was truly the minister of music at church, at weddings and at funerals. She taught music privately to a number of students in Ridgeway and Longtown.

To know Mrs. Moore is to love her. Her beautiful Christian spirit, her unselfishness and her desire to continue to live for others are traits of character which drew friends and relatives, pupils and associates close to her. Those who studied under her will consider it a privilege to honor her by helping to restore the little home in which she lived for 27 years. This home will stand for the principles which she practiced and will be an inspiration to the many young people who are privileged to attend Camp Longridge and Longtown Presbyterian Church.

(Through the courtesy of The News and Herald, which is circulated in many sections of South Carolina and in other states, the letter which follows is being printed in the hopes it may reach many whose addresses are not available to the committee. Mrs. Moore's present address is 2614 Kiawah Avenue, Columbia, S. C. All communications concerning the birthday celebration should be addressed to any member of the committee listed in the letter below at Ridgeway, S. C.):

* * *

*"A DOLLAR A SCHOLAR"*

A cute little house by the side of the road, next door to Longtown Presbyterian Church, and now a part of Camp Longridge, was the home of one who meant a great deal in your life — your teacher — Mrs. Martha White Moore (Mrs. George E. Moore) who will be 91 years of age on September 16. In this home she lived, loved and served her Maker and her fellowman for a number of years as instructor in the Longtown Graded School after having taught also in Ridgeway. Wouldn't it be wonderful to help restore this home as Martha White Moore Cottage in honor of one who so richly deserves recognition for unselfish and loving service! A donation of A DOLLAR A SCHOLAR would add a substantial sum to the amount already contributed for this great cause. Funds will be used now to begin restoring the house.

Plans are being made to celebrate September 16 as Martha White Moore Day at Longtown Presbyterian Church and Longridge. Scholars, relatives, and friends are invited to come and bring a picnic dinner.

Marie P. Jones, Chairman
J. N. Crumpton, Treasurer
Co-chairman:
Mrs. W. C. Edmunds
Mrs. Dorothy Coleman
Mrs. Sidney Smith
Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Kelly
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Dixon
Mrs. Mary E. Jones Ward

Nation's 1st "$1-a-Year-Man"?

# Vision of the late E. G. Palmer Made Ridgeway Railroad a Reality

(By KATHLEEN LEWIS SLOAN)

1959

In the churchyard of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at Ridgeway, S. C., lies the first president of the Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad. His remains are encased in a metallic casket provided at the time of his death by the Southern Railway which in 1894 assumed control of the small railroad he had nourished and cherished and help build from its infancy, and which he served from 1845 to 1855 as president.

The church itself he established and built with money he obtained from friends and relatives in the low country of South Carolina, and with the Thomas and Davis families of Ridgeway who helped do the work. The stained glass window over the altar of St. Stephen's is dedicated to him.

Not too far away are his descendants in goodly number who are clanned together in homesteads on his original acres. These — his family — speak intimately of "grandfather" — as they refer to Edward Gendron Palmer — almost as if he lived yesterday instead of a hundred years ago. This is plausible, because his personal effects, books are undisturbed and his home "Valencia", on the edge of the town of Ridgeway, calmly awaits the next generation from its lofty brow of a high hill overlooking wide valleys and ridges.

With the exception of the large library and smoker, with two upper bedrooms for guests, which were housed in a separate building to the right of the house and which has been torn away, "Valencia" is just the same as it was when it was built for the Palmers by a free Negro man named Holmes, from Charleston.

From the top of its hill, it peers almost as if looking over its glasses, to the tree-studded valleys which were once cotton fields tilled by the slaves. A little to the left of the front portico, down the drop of a hill, stood the gin to which the cotton from his 6,000 acres and that of neighboring planters was brought.

Inside the drawing room, on the right, the view is magnificent, so pretty that the name for the house was conceived on the spot by a brother of Mrs. Palmer who at that time had recently returned from Spain. "Valencia," however, coincided with what the Palmers were seeking, "good health."

The drawing room is untouched by the 20th century, except that its walls now are hung with interesting mementoes of the old colonel — an honorary title he held; and a glass cabinet, flanking the log-burning fireplace, has been added to hold curios. Among these are a silhouette of Colonel Palmer cut by a woman without hands, using her feet for the tools of her trade; his framed citizenship papers signed by President Andrew Johnson restoring him as a citizen of the United States following the end of the Civil War; a lock of John C. Calhoun's hair which was presented as a custom of the period to his friend Joseph Woodward (whose daughter married his son) who was a pall bearer at the statesman's funeral; and Colonel Palmer's eye glasses.

"Valencia" was the home built for Colonel and Mrs. Palmer after they had first settled at "Bloomingdale" on Dutchman's Creek several miles from Newlands, now Ridgeway. There they had come from St. James Parish, Charleston district, as the first settlers in that part of the upcountry of South Carolina in search of a more healthful climate. But the death of a child prompted the move to higher ground away from the low-lands of the river-like creek.

His lands increased to plantation-like numbers, and official records listed him as one of seventy-two men in the state owning between 300-500 slaves. That they received competent and tender care is evidenced by his account books showing amounts of food and clothing regularly issued and the number of blankets and comforters received by individual families.

The slaves — as well as his lands —increased so rapidly that just prior to secession of South Carolina in the movement of which he was not a protagonist but later succumbed, he had made plans to acquire other holdings in Mississippi on which they could live. This move, of course, was thwarted by the war.

His home was not burned by Sherman's army which paid a more or less social call on "Valencia." The colonel was not at home, having left just previously with a load of fine china, crystal and silver which he hoped to save from the marauders. His mission was not accomplished, however, as in the

"dark corner" of Fairfield County he ran into the other part of the army which had circumvented Columbia! All was not lost, though, as the colonel in anger ripped his watch from his pocket, throwing it far, far into the fields. Long after the war it was ploughed from a field and returned to his family.

Mrs. Palmer, a renowned hostess, served the soldiers breakfast. In so doing, she perhaps saved her home, but lost the smoke-house full of meat which was loaded in the finest carriage and driven away with a hearty, soldierly "good-bye! we left you a little!"

### THE RAILROAD

After Edward G. Palmer came to Ridgeway and began to grow cotton and other agricultural products, he felt the need for a railroad through the area was imperative.

The original idea for the Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad, of course, came from the same promoters of the Charleston to Hamburg Railroad. But it was such men as E. G. Palmer of Ridgeway, Nicholas Peay of Longtown, Colonel Wade Hampton of Columbia, Colonel W. J. Taylor of Camden, and John A. Bradley of Chester, all South Carolinians, who joined with a group from North Carolina to make the railroad a reality.

They attended an initial meeting at Hibernian Hall in Charleston June 12, 1847, where the advantages in relation to the proposed railroad were heard. In the group present that day was Samuel McAlily—the man who later inquired "who would be fool enough to try to build a railroad?"

Someone pointed out that E. G. Palmer would be fool enough.

Why not? He believed as all the other producers did: that cost of transportation ate up most of the profits. He spoke on behalf of the railroad all over the state.

About 1845, candidates for the South Carolina Assembly and other posts were attending a political rally at old Concord Spring (Baptist Church) in Fairfield County, at the height of winter's worst weather.

A farmer's wagon, loaded with only two average-sized bales of cotton, mired up to the axles just as the meeting grew warm and the speeches eloquent. All hands had to spring to the rescue. Not a man to miss an opportunity, E. G. Palmer took instant advantage of the muddy situation and using the incident for a text preached a sermon on the need for a railroad.

Acts were passed by South Carolina and North Carolina December 18, 1846, Jan. 2, 1847, respectively, and a reconciliatory act by S. C. December 19, 1848, to charter the railroad.

Though the road was surveyed by a Colonel Garnett, of Virginia and by the Rev. John Johnson, rector of St. Phillips, Charleston, engineer of the defense of Charleston harbor, Mr. Palmer aided in the initial work. Minutes of the original survey in his handwriting show the extreme interest he had in the undertaking.

He gave the services of his slaves in the actual construction, an action which was common to plantation owners to "pitch in" with every aid. Many men slaves pushing wheel barrows as lightly as if they were feathers and many women slaves with gallon capacity aprons could "tote" away a lot of dirt in a few months' time. Timber used in the construction of the railroad was also a precious commodity, and Mr. Palmer gave generously of his hard-hearted pines.

When subscription day rolled around, Mr. Palmer was present to donate money, because his enthusiasm had never waned from the first mention.

He felt the railroad should touch as many of the large plantations as possible between Columbia and Charlotte, N. C., and this accounts for the hump easily discernible in the railroad track through his home town.

The railroad soon lost its own name and became "Palmer's Gin House Route." But when the train stopped at Ridgeway to load several hundred bales grown from Mr. Palmer's "cotton patch" and those he had ginned from his neighbors' considerable revenue was added to the new line.

The first load of passengers and freight over the road was transported December 17, 1850, although it was only partially finished at the time.

Mr. Palmer was named the first president and probably became this country's first dollar a year man. He never accepted a penny for the presidency while the road was a-building and it is believed that he never did during his term of office from 1845 to 1855. He considered the duties pleasant and his happiness was further enhanced by the engine "E. G. Palmer" which was put into service in his honor.

### EDUCATION, FAMILY

Edward Gendron Palmer was born August 3, 1800, in St. Stephen's Parish, Charleston district, later moving to St. James. The church he founded in Ridgeway took its name from his birthplace.

His children were Edward Gendron, James Davis, Catherine Maria Davis, Harriet Amelia, John Ramsay and George Davis, who were born from his marriage, December 18, 1822, to Caroline Davis of Quinine Hill.

He was a descendant of Thomas Palmer, supposedly coming from England, the first of which the family has knowledge. The original spelling was "Pamor," but in Thomas Palmer's will he requested that the name be changed to "Palmer," retaining the original pronunciation.

Thomas Palmer and his wife, Sarah Saunders, had a son, John, who married Marianne Gendron (pronounced Gen-dron) whose maiden name now appears in the fifth generation of the family, Edward Gendron Palmer, V, of Ridgeway.

Edward G. Palmer was graduated from South Carolina College in 1817. He studied law for two years under Colonel Gregg of Columbia and was admitted to the bar in 1821. He never practiced law, however, having both an ample fortune and a love of the soil.

He and his wife moved to Fairfield district in 1824, living for a while in the town which named a street for him. Shortly after moving to "Valencia" he fitted up a house of worship, Cedar Creek Mission, in 1839 for a small group of Episcopalians. Later he was instrumental in building St. Stephen's (1854) and secured about ten acres for that purpose from his mother-in-law, Mrs. Catherine Ross Davis.

Colonel Palmer was a political associate of the Hon. Joseph A. Woodward who served in the State Legislature and in the national congress. He was a brother-in-law of Colonel William Preston who also served in the legislature and in the U.S. Senate. He, himself, was state senator from Fairfield in the sessions of 1857-59, 1860-63, and 1864. In 1832, he was a member of the Nullification Convention.

Death came to the Colonel at 8:30 o'clock a.m., July 21, 1867, ending the career of the man who had "dispensed charity without stint."

# A Brief Look at the Earlier Days
# In the Historic Town of Ridgeway

(Reprinted from the late Fitz Hugh McMaster's "History of Fairfield Co.")

The situation of Ridgeway defines the line of demarcation between the long leaf pine district of the Low Country and the hardwood timber belonging to the mountains of the Appalachian range.

The Bank of Ridgeway was the second oldest bank in the state, when Mr. Roosevelt closed the banks in 1933. This bank closed its doors but immediately opened when the banks were re-opened.

There are five churches — Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian and Baptist — one Negro Baptist (1942).

About 1845 the railroad between Charlotte and Columbia was built. Edward Gendron Palmer at the instigation of his father-in-law, Dr. James Davis, then residing in Columbia, moved from St. Stephen's Parish in the Low Country to escape the annual epidemic of malaria to the "fair fields" of the upper country, building a beautiful home, "Valencia."

The railroad was called in sport "Palmer's Gin House" route on account of the deflection made in order to follow the "ridge way" between Charlotte and Columbia. Mr. Palmer was made president of the road and served without salary for years.

The road had been completed some time, but the scale on which it was built and managed had no relation to the present condition. The track was laid on light stringer rails, the engine light and small.

The first telegraph wires were stretched from tree to tree, whenever this was possible. Children and ignorant passersby along the line broke the glass insulators and stole the wire almost before the line was completed, so the attempt failed. The only use of dangling wire was to endanger the feet of horses and passing travelers. It remained for the Confederate government to make better provision for rapid communication, and not until later was the telegraphic communication permanently established.

In the early 1850's there were only four dwelling houses in sight of the depot. These were the homes of Mr. Arthur Craig, the agent who was part of the railroad for so many years, Mrs. Catherine Ross Davis, Col. Henry C. Davis, and the handsome early colonial brick home of Mr. James B. Coleman. After the war it was used for a hotel; the young people adored dancing in the large high-ceilinged dining room with its huge open fireplace. There were stores owned by Mr. John C. Boulware and Mr. Robert Walker.

There was no depot for a short time. Passengers came from Camden to catch the train. Should anyone see the carriage or buggy with galloping horses rushing up the Longtown Road the train was held until it arrived and unloaded.

The first depot was a small, rather open building. In the late 70's it was replaced by a large building with a covered shed 200 feet long where the cotton bales were stored during the fall and winter.

There was no auditorium, so when the "Dramatic Club" was organized, sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. Harry Edmunds, the sides were enclosed with bagging. A stage with dressing rooms was built in the far end and here the young actors held forth.

Two of the highlights were, a comedy, "Who's Who," and a tragedy," Lady Andley's Secret," played to a capacity house, a great number coming from Winnsboro in buggies to attend. In the 90's the present building was erected.

In the early history of Ridgeway there were only two churches, the St. Stephen's Episcopal Chapel built in 1854, and Aimwell Presbyterian Church built in 1859.

In the early 70's David H. Ruff moved into the village, coming from the Ruff plantation in Richland County, opening a general merchandise store with a nephew, A. Fletcher Ruff, partner.

After establishing his business he built a handsome early colonial home. Mr. Ruff, an ardent and devoted Methodist, now turned his attention to the need of the Methodists.

At the cross roads just on the edge of the now incorporated limits of the town, the Masons had erected a two-story building for a lodge. Mr. Ruff succeeded in getting the lower floor and opened a Sunday School and Prayer Service. In a short while a thriving union Sunday School was established, Mr. Joseph Lanhorn, leader.

This was a temporary arrangement and did not satisfy Mr. Ruff, who had higher ideals of the obligations of the followers of John and Charles Wesley. He attended conference and demanded a preacher.

Conference sent the Rev. Jesse Clifton, a red headed, fiery, charming, earnest, shouting Methodist. heard of Mr. Clifton was from the mothers of sleeping infants. In those hardworking days mothers carried their offspring, young and old, to church. There were devious ways of keeping them quiet, biscuits, gum drops, and often a new baby was fed from the life-giving fountain, its mother's breast, discreetly covered with a large handkerchief.

Mr. Lanhorn, a large, up-standing man, raised the hymns with a big voice. He was a nephew of Uncle Davy, as most people called Mr. Ruff, and thus began the services in the Masonic hall. Still Uncle Davey was not satisfied. In the late 70's he built a church, large and comfortable.

Neither did this suit Mr. Ruff's idea of the dignity and fitness of worshipping God.

In 1872 Ruff's chapel was completed and dedicated shortly after. In the casting of the bell Mr. Ruff gave $60 in silver to mellow its tone. It was the only church bell in town. In fact there was only one other bell in the entire town, hung in the belfry of the town hall, rung at 9 o'clock in the evening to clear the streets, or for fire or an unusual event.

When the wife of Fletcher Ruff, a niece of Uncle Davey's, gave birth to a son, after presenting him four daughters, the Presbyterian minister, Mr. Wilson, climbed up to the bell, clad in his night shirt, to announce the great event.

The following is quoted from a pamphlet published by the Ridgeway Business League some years ago:

"The Bank of Ridgeway, established 1898, W. Herbert Ruff, president, C. P. Wray, vice-president and cashier, Norman Palmer, teller, has a paid up capital of $25,000, with a surplus of $1,700 and has annually declared an 8 per cent dividend.

"There are now Episcopal, Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches supplied with regular service. Two orders, Masons and Pythians, each with a large membership, with a Woman's Book Club and a Civic League.

"The town is abundantly lighted by a system of arc lamps, 1,000 candlepower each, and keeps in touch with the outside world through an admirable telephone system. Two dental parlors and one drug store, two livery stables and a well-conducted hotel.

"Through recently expending $6,000 for a high school and $10,000 for the erection of a Town Hall, the financial management of the municipality has been so efficiently guarded that the public service is adequately maintained with the low rate of 1½ mills taxation.

"The Enterprise Mill now in erection with a capacity of 600 bushels of meal and hommy per day."

# Writer Calls Ridgeway Lovely Southern Town

8/23/1957

(Reprinted from South Carolina Magazine)

"I can conceive of no finer region, taking into consideration its fertile soil, its mild climate, its long drawn beautiful valleys, and glorious highlands."

The time was 1780, the speaker, Lord Cornwallis, and the scene, Fairfield County. Present day residents of Ridgeway heartily agree with Lord Cornwallis and are positive he must have been speaking of the Ridgeway section of the county.

Ridgeway sits astride the main Columbia - Charlotte highway about twenty-five miles from Columbia. The surrounding countryside is beautiful and Ridgeway's elevation, 625 feet, makes it one of the pleasantest and most healthful spots in the state.

But Ridgeway is more than a small, pleasantly located town. It is a town which has always controlled its particular destiny and one which intends to do so in the future. Ridgeway is small but because her residents liked the quiet and ease of a small town. With changing economic conditions, however, the leading citizens have decided that the establishment of a small industrial plant at Ridgeway would be a good idea. So, they are going about the process of getting such a plant in an intelligent and orderly manner.

An informal survey of the town showed that only one thing might hold back the establishment of an industrial plant. As far as transportation is concerned, the town is ideally located. It is on US 21, the main Columbia-Charlotte highway, and is served by three state highways, one a newly paved road straight in to Camden. In addition, Ridgeway is on the main line of the Southern railroad. Thus, the preliminary informal survey showed transportation and climate excellent. It showed also that Ridgeway is the center of a 3,000 person trading area, an excellent labor source. The one drawback was an inadequate water supply.

Ridgeway immediately sank another deep well (which brought its water supply well above current needs) and had an engineering firm make a formal report on the water situation. The report, prepared by Barber Keels and Associates of Columbia showed that within a mile and one-half radius there was sufficient water for almost any purpose.

Ridgeway gets things done because of the high calibre of her citizens. Ridgeway is led by a group of intelligent and able men who have a deep and geunine love for Ridgeway and South Carolina. With fine resources and excellent leadership Ridgeway undoubtedly will get just the kind of plant it wants.

Ridgeway's mayor is James S. Edmunds, merchant, cotton buyer, and fertilizer manufacturer. Mayor Edmunds enlisted in the army upon his graduation from the University of South Carolina and emerged a captain at the end of World War I. He bought a small interest in Charles P. Wray and Company, a large general department store, and when Mr. Wray died, secured controlling interest. In addition to actively operating the store, he is interested in a cotton gin and in beef cattle. Another activity is his Wrayco Fertilizer factory. At present he ships about 3,000 tons of high quality commercial fertilizer a year and would ship a great deal more if he could obtain adequate supplies. All in all, Mayor Edmunds leads a varied and busy life.

Almost next door to the Charles P. Wray and Company is the Bank of Ridgeway, one of the town's most important assets. Started in 1891 as [illegible] entered as a bank in 1898. Bank of Ridgeway has a record unsurpassed in the State. The bank now has total resources of $667,000 and has accomplished the remarkable feat of paying 104 dividends while missing only two (and those in the dark depression days of 1932).

President of the Bank of Ridgeway is J. W. Palmer, a descendant of one of the town's oldest and most distinguished families, and the son of a former president of the bank. Mr. Palmer started with the bank in 1940 and ascended to the presidency at the beginning of this year.

W. R. Goodson, cashier, has been with the Bank of Ridgeway for twenty-five years, almost half the time the bank has been in operation. Mr. Goodson is originally from old Barnwell (now Bamberg County), and came to Ridgeway on May 1, 1925. Previous to that he had worked with the Liberty National Bank and for the J. W. Condor company, as assistant cashier and bookkeeper. Mrs. Goodson is assistant cashier and the Goodsons are among the town's most ardent boosters.

Oldest store in Ridgeway is Ruff and Company, a large general department store which has always had a Ruff at its helm. In fact, the store may have the record of being operated by the greatest number of generations with the same name. Started in 1840 by David Ruff the store is now under the direction of the fifth and sixth Ruffs—D. Walter Ruff and D. Walter Ruff. Jr.

Mr. Ruff has one all engrossing hobby and that's Ridgeway. A secondary hobby is a small herd of beef cattle he runs on a farm nearby.

the entire state." he says, and he quotes authorities to prove it.

The Thomas Company was started in 1885 by Isaac C. Thomas and the present large three story building was completed in 1901. R. C. Thomas, the present owner, came into the business in 1901 and his son R. W. Thomas, came in as a partner in 1934. R. C. Thomas says that he's about ready to retire, but he has the activity and optimism of a young man and the people of Ridgeway want him to continue to play an active role in the town's affairs for many more years. Asked what he thought about the general business outlook, based upon his fifty years' experience, Mr. Thomas' reply was typical:

"Outlook's mighty good. But, of course, we've got to work for what we want."

TO THE EDITOR, 11/30/1936

News & Herald,

Winnsboro, South Carolina.

Dear Sir:

Please allow me space in your valuable paper to proclaim to the people of Ridgeway the sad state in which we are living by not having an adequate fire department. While the temperature was hovering around 25 degrees Tuesday, someone came up the main street yelling, FIRE! FIRE! FIRE! The first thought was to give the warning by ringing the fire bell in the town hall. And alas—it tapped one time and by doing so gave itself the proverbial gong as the first tone which was also the last one, did nothing more than reach the rear of W. C. Edmund's store. Then to the fire house where this "contraption of a trapeze" which holds the water hose, is stationed, ran a group of asthmatic men pulling it out and starting on their weary way to the fire. On the way, one of the wheels gave way and crumpled to mother earth, leaving everybody concerned in a helpless condition. As it happened, some travelers on the highway and a group of young men from down town had proceeded this hose wheel and had put the fire out before that "man powered vehicle" gave way.

Now—we have all the water that we need, the best pumps that can be had, hydrants and all—save some way of making use of them in case of an emergency. There is too much valuable property here not to be protected by a fire department. Is it not possible to have a group of men paid to fight these fires and by all means have equipment with which to fight them. There are several buildings in Ridgeway that are so high and large that I doubt if there is enough hose on this delapidated flying "Jenny" to reach the tops of them. And would it hurt to have several hose available so as to be able to play more than one stream at a time.

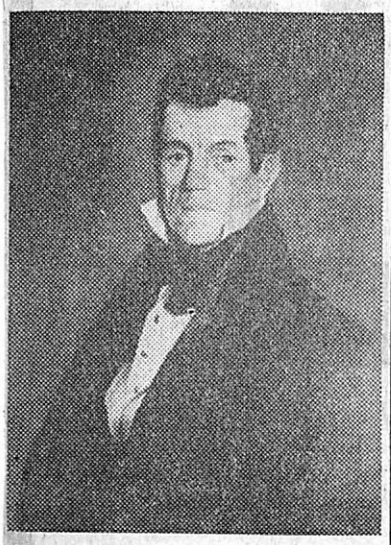
Now public citizens of our beloved little city, it is time that something should be done and that time is NOW.

# Cotton Gives Way to Pine Trees On Ridgeway Ante-Bellum Farm

(The Greenville News, 3/26/61)

By CHARLES E. THOMAS

RIDGEWAY — Although in the line of march of Gen. Sherman's army through South Carolina in February 1865, Mount Hope was saved from destruction by the courage of the women and children left at home when the sons of the family were all fighting in the Confederate Army and Navy.



**RIDGEWAY — This is a photographic reproduction of a portrait of Dr. John Peyre Thomas painted by William H. Scarborough in Greenville in 1835. The artist's fee was $25.**

Built by John Peyre Thomas, M. D., in 1836, the plantation house has been owned continuously by his family. The sixth generation of the family now occupy the three-story brick and frame house in summer vacations.

* * * *

Planted in cotton for more than 120 years, only within the last five years have the cotton fields been planted in pine seedlings. Mount Hope plantation has been certified by the South Carolina tree farm system "for the proper practices of forest management." Managing the plantation for his late father's estate is Robert W. Thomas, mayor of Ridgeway.

Dr. Thomas, builder of Mount Hope, was born at Betaw on the Santee River in 1796. He was graduated from South Carolina College (now the university) in 1816. He took his M. D. degree at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York. Returning to the low country, he married Harriet Jane Couturier. After the death of two of their children, they went seeking a healthier climate. Spending the summer of 1835 in Greenville, Dr. Thomas had the further tragedy of losing his young wife, after the birth of their sixth child.

Mrs. Thomas is buried in Springwood Cemetery in Greenville. After her death, Dr. Thomas went to Fairfield County, where his younger brother, Samuel Peyre Thomas had built Valley Grove after graduating from Harvard College in 1825.

While living with his overseer at Mt. Hope, Dr. Thomas supervised the starting of the building. The next year, he returned to the low country and married his late wife's younger sister, Charlotte Henrietta Couturier. Before his death at Mt. Hope on Jan. 1, 1859, Dr. Thomas had become the father of 18 children, 14 of whom lived to maturity.

* * * *

From 1827 to 1856, Dr. Thomas kept a careful "Diary of Weather and Occurrences," making almost daily entries of his life as a "Physician-Planter." The title of the diary is that of George Washington's famous diary, with which Dr. Thomas was no doubt familiar, for he was born before the first President died. Among the pictures at Mt. Hope are original watercolors entitled "George Washington" and "Lady Washington." Just 100 years after the last entry was made in the Diary of Weather and Occurrences in 1856, Dr. Thomas' diaries were presented the University of South Carolina's Caroliniana Library by his great-grandchildren in 1956.

The four sons of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas who were of eligible military age served in the Confederate Army and Navy. The eldest, Capt. John Peyre Thomas commanded a battery of Citadel cadets in the bombardment of Ft. Sumter in 1861. The next son, Lt. Charles Edward Thomas developed yellow fever at Vicksburg and was nursed back to health by Scipio, his faithful Mt. Hope slave and bodyguard. Francis Marion Thomas was a cadet at the U. S. Naval Academy in 1859-60 and, upon the election of President Lincoln, became the "first cadet from a Southern state to resign from the Naval Academy." He enlisted in the Confederate States Navy.

Third Lt. Peter Couturier Thomas served in the cavalry of the Confederate Army until taken prisoner on March 8, 1865, at Jacksonville (probably North Carolina), and released June 21, 1865, "on taking the oath of allegiance to the United States."

After Sherman's army left Columbia in February, 1865, federal forces marched through Ridgeway for four days, constantly visiting Mt. Hope. A diary kept by a visiting relative at Mt. Hope from New York describes the ordeal, with only women and children at Mt. Hope, and frightened slaves in "the quarters."

The fires of Columbia could be seen glowing in the southern sky at night. Gradually the fires came nearer as the Union Army burned the railroad from Columbia, and eventually the railroad station at Ridgeway.

* * * *

For four days and four nights the ladies did not take their clothes off, and all slept on piles of quilts and clothing in the Mt. Hope parlor. Soldiers, mostly stragglers from the main march of the federal troops, constantly visited Mt. Hope, demanding food, jewelry, watches and clothing.

One soldier even took ladies clothing, for he said he planned to get married when he returned north, and needed a trousseau for his bride. The ladies cooked in the parlor fireplace, and finally had only sweet potatoes and milk the last day.

One soldier drank the last milk out of the pitcher on the piano in the parlor. Sea shells were used for spoons, since all the silver had been buried and hidden away by faithful slaves. All the horses and mules were taken, and some Negro slaves were taken away, although all except one young girl returned within a few days.

The Northern relatives at Mt. Hope were credited with saving the plantation house and barns from being burned, though fires started in the barns one night. Again slaves saved the barns from destruction.

Col. John P. Thomas, the eldest son of Dr. Thomas, graduated first in his class at The Citadel in 1851. He became the first superintendent of The Citadel when it was reopened after the Civil War, in 1882. The

second Mt. Hope son to graduate from The Citadel was Robert Kirk Thomas in 1857. He became professor at Kings Mountain Military School in Yorkville (now York), where he died in 1860.

The 126-year-old house is described as low-country plantation style of three floors. It is now the repository of many artifacts of antebellum plantation and home life as well as equipment used by Dr. Thomas in the practice of medicine.

One of the items in the "summer floor" rooms, the museum of old plantation life, is the "tin fish" weather vane which Dr. Thomas placed on one of the 40-foot-high chimneys when the plantation house was first built.

* * * *

In the museum are also candle molds, wooden utensils, spoons, buckets, tubes, barrels and large boxes cut out of mammoth logs, handmade tools from the blacksmith shop, and many other things that are now strange to modern life.

Also housed in the museum are a coffee grinder, sausage mill, hand irons, tallow lamps, demi-johns, butter churns with hand dashers, cotton scales, Dr. Thomas' medical scales, mortar and pestle, lancet, and handmade tooth puller; buggy whip, saddle, stirrups and spurs, cow bells, butter molds, curd press, horse shoes, soap molds, and a hundred tools not used today.

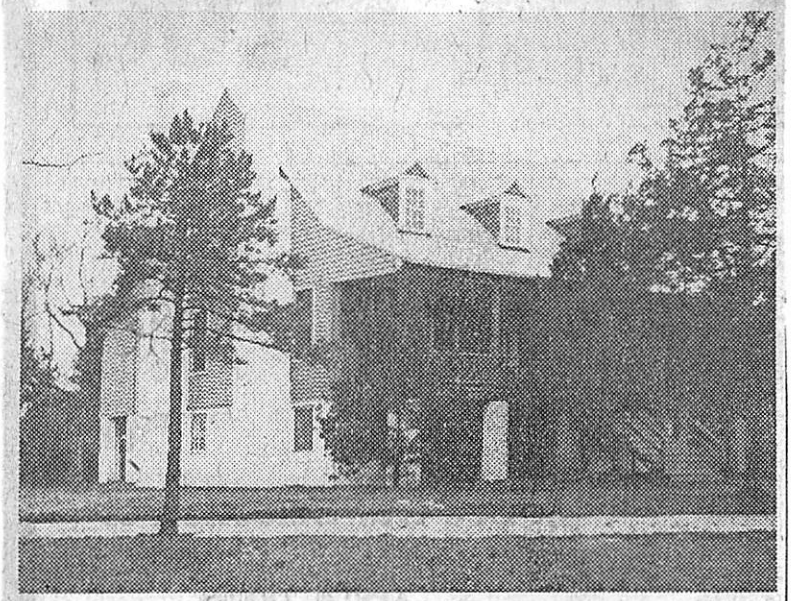
Dr. Thomas' diary records that it required four years to build Mt. Hope. The timber was all cut on the plantation. The hardware, except the large English locks, were made in the blacksmith shop, the ruins of which are still here. The bricks and tiles were baked in the local kiln, as were those for the new chapel, when St. Stephen's Church was built in 1854. The only reference to issuing whiskey to the slaves, except at Christmas, was when the men had to tend the fires of the kilns all night.

* * * *

On the far west side of the pine tree farm that is now Mt. Hope, deep in the forest, are imbedded numerous large rocks, marking the graves of former slaves who tilled the cotton fields, ground meal in the water mill, tended the big plantation house, nursed the 18 children, protected the Thomas family silver when Yankee soldiers came.

When the new public school for Negro children was erected several years ago, it was named the Geiger School, in honor of a long-time teacher, Janie Singleton Geiger, a descendant of these same Mt. Hope slaves.

## Thomas Home Built 126 Years Ago



**RIDGEWAY —This is the Mt. Hope Plantation house in Fairfield County as it appears today. It was built 126 years ago by Dr. John P. Thomas after moving there from Greenville.**

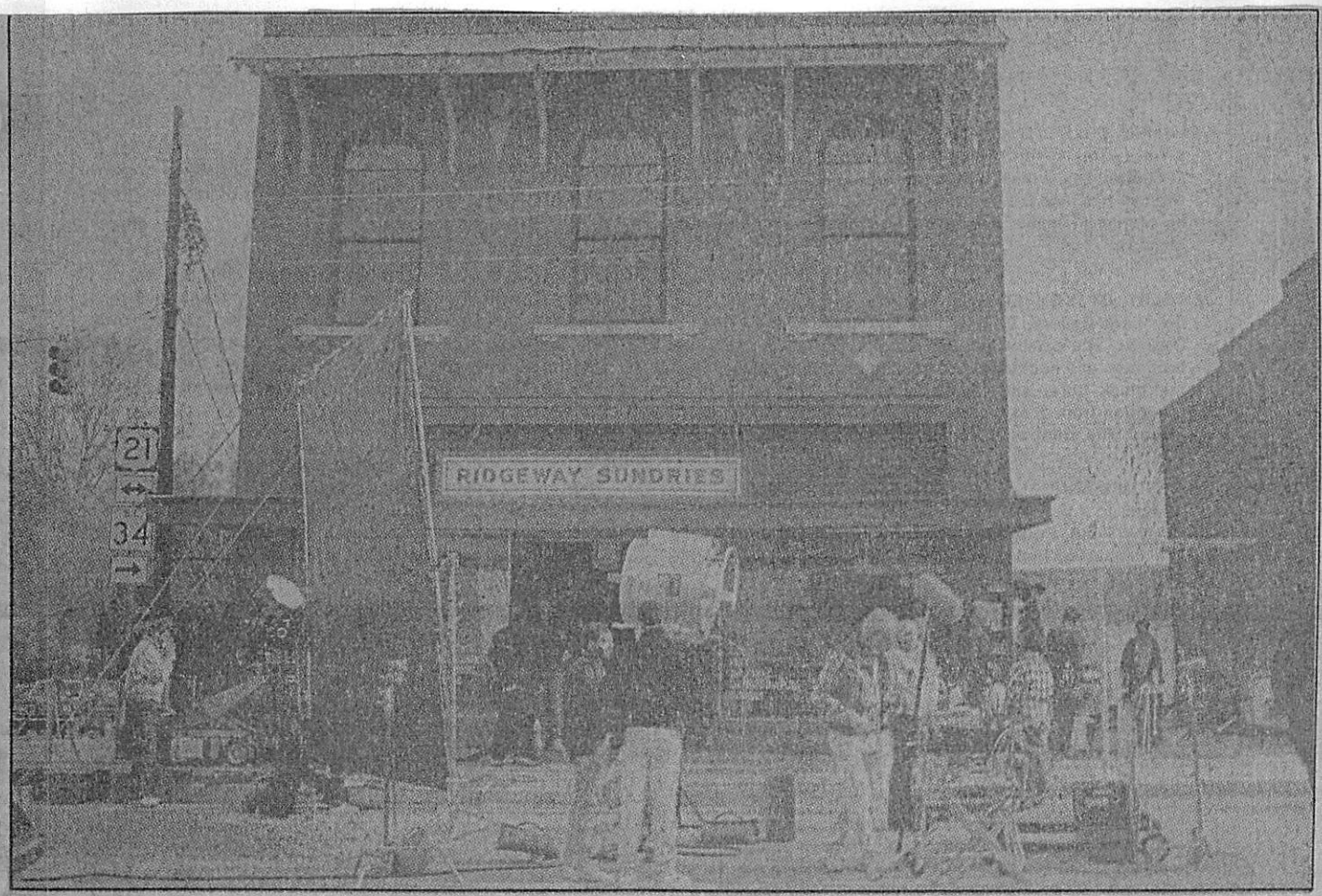
## *Ridgeway Class of '27 Reunion Held May 15*

1977

On Sunday afternoon, May 15, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thomas entertained the Class of 1927, their families and friends at a party in honor of their graduation from Ridgeway High School.

used throughout the spacious rooms where guests visited and reminisced of school days, including graduation speeches, class song, and "fun happenings."

Assisting Mr. and Mrs. Thomas in receiving were members of the class who were present: Mrs. Arrabella Edmunds, Edward Tidwell and Capt. (Ret.) and Mrs. Fred Aull. Also, Mr. and Mrs. Louie Coleman, Mr. and Mrs. Verlin Barnett, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Heins, Mrs. C. F. McCullough, and Mrs. James B. White.




State-Record photo by PERRY BAKER

**Camera crews set up in the little town of Ridgeway** 11/27/87

# Hollywood wins hearts in Ridgeway

By Doug Nye
Television editor

RIDGEWAY — For years truckers have motored through this little town without much trouble, barely slowing down to switch gears.

But during the past seven weeks or so, they've often found it more of an obstacle than a short cut to get to their destination. Little inconveniences like that happen when a Hollywood film crew comes to town to shoot a motion picture.

On this particular cold November morning, the movie people are setting up on Palmer Street, the main street of Ridgeway. They will record a scene which features 16-year-old Sean Astin running down the sidewalk to a store called Ridgeway Sundries. He is to stop out front, ask the proprietor where he might find his brother and then race across the street to continue the search.

Townspeople will be used in the scene as extras. One of them is to drive a car down the street at the time Astin is to dash across.

When the assistant director signals that they are ready to film, traffic is stopped at both ends of the street. The driver of a logging truck looks less than pleased at this holdup. While a couple of others peer out of their windows to see what's going on, the camera rolls.

Everything goes smoothly .... well, almost. During one take, Astin, the son of Patty Duke and John Astin, comes dangerously close to being sideswiped by the car during the run across the street.

"That," said Bob Elsburg, the movie's publicist, "is why we use stunt men so much. If anything had happened to Sean, six weeks of filming could have been in jeopardy."

Astin is one of the key characters in the movie which has the working title of "Boys' Life." He plays one of three brothers whose lives are disrupted when progress comes to a small town. The film is expected to be released in the spring or summer of 1988. Ridgeway, many of its buildings 100 years old, was chosen as the site of the movie after more than 200 towns in North and South Carolina and Oregon were checked out.

Having a movie crew around has naturally disrupted the lives of the citizens of Ridgeway, but few of them seem to mind that fact.

"It's been exciting," says Linda Mattox, a teller in the bank. "They (members of the film crew) have been very nice. They'll come in and explain what they're going to do. They first came in August and went over everything with us.

"I haven't been in the movie, but my son, Ron, has. We're going to miss the excitement after they're gone."

A few steps away, several people are standing inside the bank's doorway. They are more locals who also will serve as extras when the assistant director needs them.

"There's a lot of waiting around," says Bill Bynum, "but it's been fun."

"Look at the pants they gave me," says Louie Hufstetler smiling, wearing a pair

of old, wrinkled trousers with a rip in the crotch. Like most of the other extras, Hufstetler's clothes have a "country" look to them to reflect the poor, small-town atmosphere of the film.

Lee Grant, the movie's director, has arrived. Sipping coffee, she and the crew go over the next scene to be shot. This time it will take place inside the store. One is struck by the almost casual, laid-back approach of all involved.

"Everyone has gotten along fine on this film," said Elsburg. "And the people in the town have just been great to work with. I think everybody working on this film has enjoyed themselves."

There have been some comical moments during the filming, many of them caused by the false store fronts that have been erected in some places.

Andrew Coleman, who runs Discount Auto Parts, points to the Barbershop and Beauty Parlor across the street from his store. Both look like the real thing, but neither is. "We had a couple of people go up there, thinking they could get a haircut," says Coleman with a smile.

While Coleman says having the film crew in town "hasn't hurt," it has been "frustrating at times. Sometimes your customers can't get in (because of the filming).

"But I'll say this, they're the nicest people you'll ever see. If they have to bother anything, they'll compensate you for it.

"You know they built a complete restaurant at the end of the street for the movie. A couple of hunters came in one day and thought they could really get something to eat there. They eventually tore it down."

The restaurant being torn down is one of the key sequences in the film. Bulldozers topple it in the name of progress. It was a shot that almost was bungled.

"We hired some people to drive the bulldozers and they weren't familiar with movie lingo," says Elsburg. "They heard somebody shout something and thought it was the signal for them to tear the building down. Only problem, it wasn't. The camera wasn't running, but here come the bulldozers. We went running up there, yelling for them to stop. We stopped them just in time; some of them were

Had the bulldozers not been stopped, the whole sequence would have been lost.

Midday is approaching and a total of two short scenes have been filmed. It's obvious that moviemaking can be a slow, tedious process. But the slowness of it all has been just fine for the folks in Ridgeway.

Outside a building that says Ridgeway Town Hall, which is really a clothing store, a woman stands watching the crew down the street.

"I think it's been great having them here," she says, but refuses to give her name ("I don't want my name in no newspaper.") "I'd say this is the biggest thing to happen in Ridgeway since the Charm Corporation built a plant here 21 years ago. Charm has been good for the town, providing jobs and all.

"But this (the movie) has been very interesting. All the people have been so nice."

How nice?

"We'd like to see some of them come back here to live."

***ITEMS FROM MORRIS CREEK.***

11/15/1887

*Messrs. Editors*: It has been a long while since your correspondent has appeared in columns. The anxiety of watching, waiting of hoping and fearing and finally bereavement and desolation has crossed his path. So far as my observation extends the past year has been one of unusual mortality, and apart from pulmonary and some other diseases which slowly but surely bring its victims to the grave, many have been sudden and unexpected. But the past year, with all its joys and sorrows, is now a among the things that have been and can never be recalled. All its records against us or in our favor are sealed up never to be changed until the great day of final accounts. Most of the new year so far has been unusually cold, and the snow which fell nearly a week since is still upon the ground, it is probable we shall have a hard winter, and our people are ill prepared for it.

The men at the Patmetto Quarries have been able to do little or nothing for the past week in the prosecution of their work, on account of the cold. So with our steam mills and gins. There will be, after the icy blockade is removed, more changes and moving about, especially among the colored people, than I have known since war, and the last mentioned class as well as many white families are in a worse condition.

Our Morris Creek school is under the supervision of Miss Jemima Smith, one among our best and most laborious teachers. She has as yet taught but little over two weeks, and notwithstanding the severe weather has had seventeen pupils. She possesses the happy but rare combination of winning the love of the children, and yet of maintaining strict discipline. In fact a strict discipline is the only way to secure their esteem, for children have sense enough to secretly despise a teacher who permits them to do as they please.

Our genial neighbor Mr. Robt Crawford and family have determined to remain at their old home near us, and not to return to Columbia whither they went last year for the benefit of the schools, and unfortunately lost while there an interesting daughter. We are glad he has concluded to remain, for he is a kind and obliging citizen.

And last but not least your correspondent received a New Year's present in the shape of five sacks of flour. I believe I would vote for my neighbor, Mr. C. H. S., who made the gift to go to the Legislrture. And a fe[illegible] ays before this Mrs. M. S. sent me a lot of specimens of the very best varieties of cake. The S. in the [illegible] initials stand for Sarg[illegible] Editors if you should happen to vi[illegible] me you may expect us to have "biskits,

MORRIS CREEK

# JENKINSVILLE SCHOOL OPENS. VERK PROMISING YEAR AHEAD

9/5/1919

AUSPICIOUS OPENING OF ONE OF COUNTY'S BEST SCHOOLS ON LAST MONDAY.

**New $8,000 School Building Began Operations With Unusual Crowd in Attendance—Liberal Campus on the School Ground—Baseball Game Between Monticello and Jenkinsville Won by Monticello.**

Jenkinsville school opened Monday under most auspicious circumstances. Practically all of the parents of the district were in attendance for the opening exercises. Every indication pointed to a determination on the part of the teachers, pupils, trustees and parents to make this the best school year in the history of the community nity. A large number of children were present and the teachers assigned regular work for the day.

Jenkinsville community is one of the most wide-awake communities in the county in school matters. For a number of years there has been a community interest in school affairs that has been most marked. The people of the community seem to have caught something of the spirit of the modern effort for education. They have understood the great need for an educated citizenship, both for the good of the children of the country itself. The community of Jenkinsville has for several years taken a lively interest in school affairs and as a result they have one of the best schools in the county. There is probably no community in the county where the people individually and as a whole actually co-operate with the teachers as is the case at Jenkinsville. Instead of continually finding fault with those who are striving to work in the class room with the children, the parents of the community take a live interest in the teachers' problems and are sympathetic and kind in their dealings with those who work in the schoos. In this way the school has been enabled to continue from year to year with the same teachers and these teachers have thus been able to do better work with the pupils and for the community. This year the school is in charge of Prof. McLaurin and two able assistants. Mr. McLaurin was at the head of the school last year and made quite a success of the work. During the past summer he has been at Nashville, Tennessee, taking a course in teacher training at Peabody.

Jenkinsville boasts justly of the best school equipment, building included, of any community in the county. The building is a new one; having just been completed. It is a beautiful brick structure,built on plans furnished by Clemson College and is modern in every way. It is a two story building, having class rooms down stairs and a splendid auditorium upstairs. The auditorium is seated with opera chairs and has a splendid piano. Down stairs the grade rooms have modern desks. All of these are single and one room is equipped with the regulation desk chairs which are adjustable as to heighth. The old building which has not been used since last year, has been moved to one side of the grounds and is being fitted up as a teachers' home. One room in school building is fitted for teaching domestic science. However, the trustees have not been able to get this course in the school as yet. The building and equi[redacted]cost the community about seven thousand dollars. In front of the building there is a lot large enough to be used as an athletic field. Here the boys play their games of baseball. Athletics is encouraged. Announcement was made that at an early date the grounds would be laid off and athletic equipment installed.

The school at Jenkinsville is the result of several districts having combined. The trustees operate a truck to bring the children from one section and a man with a Ford brings the children from another section near Parr Shoals.

The opening Monday was marked by the attendance of the patrons. This is a custom that has grown up and one that is to be commended. Each year an address is made by an invited speaker. For the opening this year the address was delivered by Thos. M. Seawell, editor of the News and Herald. After this address,Prof. McLaurin spoke briefly and there were short talks by members of the board of Trustees and a representative of the patrons of the community.

Dinner was served on the grounds in picnic style. During the afternoon a baseball game was played between Monticello and Jenkinsville in which Monticello was victorious by a score of 5 to 4.


**PLAYERS IDENTIFIED—Thanks to Miss Margaret Ruff, basketball fan extraordinaire, players in the above picture, which first ran in The News and Herald's "Not So Long Ago" picture feature, have been identified. Standing are members of the 1951 Jenkinsville team, Fairfield's top team for that year. They are, from left to right, Larry Corbett, Maurice Grimm, Frank Mann, Bobby Williams, Cecil Grimm, Shealy, Russell Stoudemire, and their coach, the late G.P. Crotwell. Players Kneeling made up a composite team coached by John Harrison. They are, left to right, Coach Harrison, Eugene Whitfield (Greenbrier), Red Smith (Greenbrier), Joe Lee (Blackstock), Billy Price (MZI), Eldridge McLendon (Monticello), Mack Lindler (Monticello), Bobby Price (MZI), Colvin Lee (Blackstock), Billy Weir (Ridgeway), and Howard**

Atom Plant, Fairfield Bridge

# Jenkinsville, Historic Community, Hoping for "Big Things" in Future

(By John Bigham in The Columbia Record)

7/9/1959

A short sojourn the other day in Yarborough's store at Jenkinsville brought out the interesting information that the future may be bright for this Western Fairfield community. The promise of a better tomorrow in Jenkinsville is worthy of mention in view of the fact that for many years this once properous section has been on an economic downgrade.

Optimism on the part of various members of the Yarborough clan with whom we chatted appears to be based on two solid factors. One is the recent announcement that the Highway Department will build a bridge across the Broad River closeby, and the other is the announced plan of private industry to construct an atomic energy plant at Parr, three miles distant.

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The economy of Jenkinsville and its environs is best described as having been stable and properous in the distant past, just so-so in the near past and the present, and definitely looking up for the years ahead.

We were duly impressed by the optimism and confidence in the future expressed by Henry Yarborough and others as we sat and chatted in the family store.

As the conversation jumped from here to there, the "good old days" were recalled. In former times, the village, 26 miles northwest of the State House, was the center of a properous and cultural farming community. On acreage owned by a few families who traced their titles to grants from the British king, thousands of bales of cotton once went to market.

"I would be willing to say," one Yarborough told us, "that 2,000 bales were formerely raised within a three-mile radius of this spot. Today we would be lucky to find 50."

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Venerable, stately, and weather-beaten homes, of the mansion type, still stand in and about Jenkinsville. They are entirely symbolic of the past. The bonanza days when Cotton was King and the old families enjoyed agricultural bounty remain only in the memories of the aged.

On our approach to Jenkinsville we had noticed the apparent predominant Negro population.

"Yes, the colored people outnumber the white by probably 5 to 1," said an informant, adding that "this may be traced to the difference in birthrate, and the fact that down through the years the white population has to a large extent moved away."

The information was volunteered that race relations in the Jenkinsville community have long been good.

If there were Jenkinses in the area who gave their name to the village, they have long disappeared. The dominant families appear to be the Glenns, Yarboroughs, McMeekins and Chappells.

The village claims S. C. McMeekin, president of the South Carolina Electric & Gas Co., as a native son, as well as Claude Jeter, who holds a position high in Ford Motor Co. circles.

"We are proud of these two, and of others who have left Jenkinsville and made their mark in the world," offered one of the store group.

Perhaps there is not too much for the visitor to see in Jenkinsville. A high red clay bank across the road from the Yarborough store gives clear testimony as to the nature of the soil. The Yarborough gin behind the store indicates that cotton has not entirely vanished, although it runs a second to pulpwood as a money crop.

A center of attraction is the high school whose campus is slightly different from the usual village schoolyard. On it is located an impressive granite marker to a former educator. The late W. L. Drummond was for 24 years the beloved superintendent of Jenkinsville's schools, and the esteem in which he was held in the area is represented in part by the suitably inscribed stone marker.

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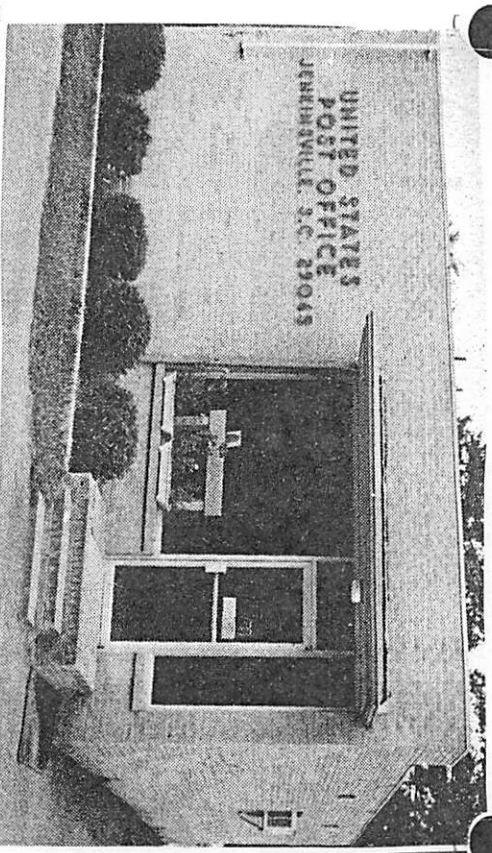
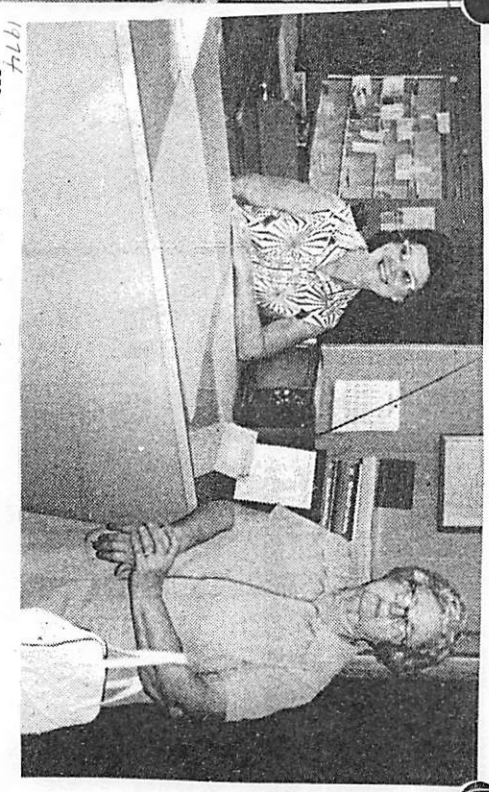
Jenkinsville is an old community, typical of those in the state which have been notably weakened by dependence on agriculture and by the removal of many of its best people. But we left with the definite impression that the section has hit the bottom and may well be on the way up. There appears little doubt that Jenkinsville will share in the good days confidently predicted by many for the Fairfield communities along the Broad River.



The small Fairfield County community of Jenkinsville has been "put on the map" in the past several months, as newsmen and cameramen have invaded the area. Reason for the publicity is the capping of three deep wells drilled by the Jenkinsville Water Company. South Carolina Health Department officials discovered that the wells contain large deposits of radium. (Staff Photo)

1974

Water, and how to get it, is an important topic of conversation in t Jenkinsville area these days. Mrs. Jack Meadows (behind counter) of t Jenkinsville Post Office, and Mrs. W. T. Glenn were pictured one day last week they discussed the unusual situation encountered by the community water co pany. Mrs. Meadows gets all her water from a private well; Mrs. Meado subscribes to the water company. (Staff Photo)

# *Jenkinsville School Reunion*

A reunion of all the students who attended Jenkinsville School will be held Sunday, April 27, from 2 'til 11 p.m., at Pine Island Club on Lake Murray. Reservations may be made by sending $7 per person to Mrs. Zack Crumpton, Rt. 1, Box 25, Jenkinsville, S.C. 29065, by April 15. The supper meal will be catered, so it is important to know the number planning to attend. To find Pine Island, go to Ballentine and take Hwy. 6; signs will be posted.

Do we have the right names for these Jenkinsville students? We think they are: first row, left to right, Jimmie Byrd Keever, Helen Chappell Crumpton, Betty Engell, Doris Mann Hobgood, Margaret Keistler Lattimore, Ruth Jones Hicks, Margaret Bundrick, Fay Ariail Lemmon, Ethel Hagood Edwards, Bessie Yarborough Wood and Carol Reid (now deceased). Second row, Patsy Chappell Power, Frances Sanders Rabb, Lecile Drummond Cushman, Sarah Sternenburg Heron, Grace Chappell Stroud, Hall Yarborough, James Park (deceased), Glenn Yarborough (deceased), Andrew McConnell, William J. Turkett.

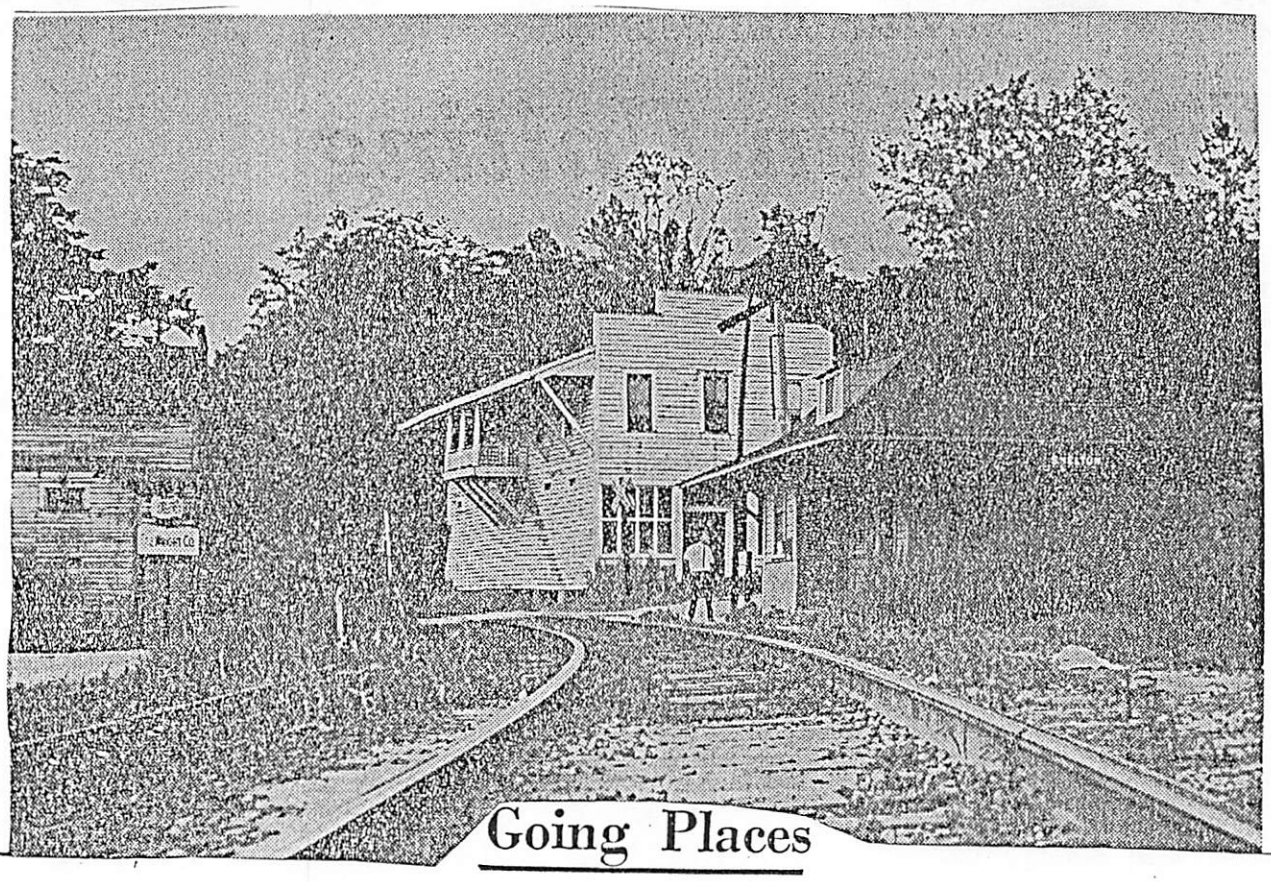
Third row, J.R. Keistler, J.W. Mann, James Lemmon, Lawrence Keistler, Jr., (deceased), Mrs. Lawrence Kestler (deceased), Ira Byrd (deceased), Benjamin H. Yarborough, Bill McConnell, Arthur Turkett and George Turkett. (Picture courtesy of Faye Lemmon)

**Feasterville Items.**

14-74 1897

It has been some time since I se t my last communication, I will ag join the list of your correspondents News of interest is rather scarce at present. Our farmers are about through gathering their crops, which have turned out very well. Several have killed hogs during the recent cold weather and some of them have no doubt killed enough meat to do them until the killing season next year.

There will be several changes among the white people of this section. Mr. D. P. Crosby will commence next week to move to Chester. Mr. Crosby is an enterprising and public spirited citizen and manifests quite an interest in education. In 1892, he built a large boarding house and a commodious school house, at his own expense. The school house is known as the Crosby Institute. The name was given the school by that eminent teacher, Prof. D. B. Busby, whom the patrons elected as principal of the school. The writer is very much indebted to both the owner and the principal of the school, for the advantages afforded by that enterprise in the way of education, and the practical course of instruction given under the efficient management of the above mentioned.



## Going Places

# Shelton Is Sleeping

By COY BAYNE

Out west and in other parts of America, abandoned towns are being restored to attract tourists who enjoy GOING PLACES where there are settings like in the past. Old towns are fixed up, promoted and with a little showmanship (a gun-draw; a ride in a buggy, etc.,) become economy - boosters for otherwise "retired" communities.

There are a number of good prospects in South Carolina. One, Shelton, sleeping at the dead end of a road overlooking Broad River is perfect for the job and quite charming without the promotion angle.

Shelton was once a very prosperous cotton shipping community reaching its zenith sometime between 1900 and 1920. About 1917, as testimony to its growing prosperity, a bank was opened. Then the boll weevil came looking for a home.

Nothing much has changed since then.

The town is as romantic as it was in 1917. Its buildings, save for a few, are empty and weed covered. The colorful railroad station, a general store and the post office are still active. E. Grady Wright operates the very interesting general store and John Wright is the postmaster.

To see Shelton — and its worth a drive from Columbia some 45 miles away — turn west on Road 33 off U. S. Highway 215 about seven miles north of Highway 34 (which links Newberry and Winnsboro.)

Road 33 winds over some lush countryside, passes through a crossroad next to a modern micro - wave relay tower. Then it begins to descend into a world of yesterday.

Near the crossroads is the remains of the famous old Shivar Springs Ginger Ale bottling company where local spring water made a drink sought after all across America. The spring water was regarded as health building.

The road descends sharply toward the Broad River. Approaching Shelton the first resident structure on the left is empty. The next structure, resembling a western town hotel, was once a family residence. On the right is another smaller building with plate glass panes broken out. This was the bank. Opposite is a part - brick, part-frame building which boasts a rusted sign: "FOR SALE."

Below, left, is the marvellously preserved railroad depot that looks like a Hollywood movie set, boasting a time - enduring sign: SHELTON.

The rain barrels are still intact, containing water for fire fighting. In one end is a small waiting room with arm rests, where no doubt many an excited traveler waited for the train to Columbia, or to Spartanburg, or points beyond.

A small bay window provides the stationmaster view of the passing trains; in the old days coal burners. The neat, tidy office, still in use today, is as it was many years ago. A telephone extends from a scissor - like arm. The typewriter is aged and on the desk. The station is a thing of beauty for those recalling the excitement of the passenger trains coming in. There is a messenger box outside the window where freight orders were kept. Up overhead, still in use, are the signals notifying the train engineer to stop.

Overlooking hte tracks on the side of an abandoned store building across the street is a porch where no doubt town folk gathered to spit tobacco and watch the excitement of people GOING PLACES when the train chugged in. There was cotton to ship and people stirring. Soldiers came in with joy, or departed in tears.

Across the tracks is the Wright Company Store, very much in business. Inside is the Post Offive observing regular hours for people in the area who make their living farming or working pulpwood.

A few hundred yards north along the tracks is the railroad trestle over the Broad River. One time, many years ago, a train stopped at the town. A coach was stopped on the trestle. An unthinking passenger stepped from the coach to stretch, but slipped between the crossties into the river below, and drowned.

Just upstream from this trestle was operated a very famous ferry. Slaves ferried stagecoaches across the river, linking the road between Columbia and Spartanburg. Books and records on the ferry are still an heirloom in the Shelton family today of which Mrs. E. Grady Wright descends.

The town used to be famous for its July 4th barbecues.

"We used to have bands here and picnics and dances," Mrs. E. Grady Wright said, "and much political activity was held hereabouts."

In the vicinity are a number of interesting landmarks.

# Shelton

(Continued From Page 3-C)

Just north is Fish Dam Frod where the Cherokee Indians used to trap fish in a rock-rimmed bend of the river. Also, at Fish Dam, General Thomas Sumter was severely wounded while turning the tables on Britain s Major Wemyss, November 9, 1780. Wemyss had boasted that he would return with "the Gamecock" as his prisoner. Instead, Sumter captured Wemyss and in the Britisher's pocket was a list of houses he had burned in Williamsburg County, General Sumter's "stomping grounds."

Also, not too far north is the settlement called Tuckertown, named for a Negro minister who preached for nothing but made a living from a horse races and his racetrack, according to a history book.

South several miles was the scene of famous old Davis House, a plantation home of Dr. James Bolton Davis who retired from medicine to sicentifically farm. When the sultan of Turkey asked President Polk to send a Southern planter to Turkey to show how to plant cotton, in 1846, Davis was chosen. He carried with him six Negroes. On his return he brought nine Cashmere goats and a pair of Braham cattle and black water buffalo. The returned stock was exhibited about the United States and won several medals for Davis as well as the nickname "Goat" Davis.

Near where Road 33 leads off Highway 215 is a plantation home that the Yankee soldiers sought to burn. Only a step was burned, and the stark reminder exists today.

Shelton sits in the heart of interesting country. People who like antiques (there is no furniture for sale here) and people who like railroads (the depot is most photogenic) and people who like to see what a town looked like in the early 1900's would enjoy visiting Shelton.

According to the Wrights, the late Jim Jennings, of Blythewood, once showed up in Shelton on horseback, accompanied by a host of other horseback riders who seriously considered turning the town of Shelton into a western - styled tourist attraction. Shortly afterwards Jennings and his wife were killed in an airplane crash near Atlanta.

July 17, 1966

**HO! FOR SHELTON**

We take pleasure in informing our friends and the public generally that we have entered into a copartnership under the style and firm name of J. B. CROSBY & CO., and will endeavor to supply our customers with everything they may need in the way of Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Clothing, Hardware, Cutlery, and in fact everything usually kept in a first-class retail store. 1880

We are constantly receiving and opening the largest and best selected stock of goods ever brought to this market, and having unsurpassed facilities are prepared to sell them as cheap as any house in the Up Country.

Thanking our friends for the liberal patronage bestowed on the old firm, we solicit a continance of the same.

J. B. Crosby,
D. P. Crosby,
Shelton, S. C.

**VANISHED TOWN — The ruins of an old store building at Shelton attest to the vanishing of yet another small town. This small Fairfield County village once flourished, but has now become a ghost town. The community's chief industry, other than farming, was the old Shivar Springs Bottling Company, which was never rebuilt after being destroyed by fire. (Photo by Dennis Marthers)**

## *Cries of a Strange Wild Beast Heard*

A lady at Shelton sends us the following: 1943

Last Monday, March 15th, The Columbia Record carried an item about an unknown beast that had been heard in the Conway section.

Just a few days before this piece in The Columbia Record, several members of a family heard from their front yard the cries of some animal unlike anything that had ever been heard around here before. A few nights later, the same cries were heard, and from across the hill, similar answering cries. No one knows what the animal is, but presume it is one of the large wild cats, and that since the national forests are extended into this area, that these animals are following this protected area, and coming down to this section for the first time. The cries were very human-like—something like a child's scream of distress, or something of the kind, and it is presumed

# Blythewood, Once "Doko", Celebrates Birthday

Fairfield's neighboring town to the southeast, Blythewood, celebrated an anniversary Saturday- its one hundreth. Blythewood is located in Richland County now, but up until 1913, it was part of Fairfield County. It seems the residents "seceded" from Fairfield because of an argument over school districts.

The town wasn't always called Blythewood, either. It went by the name of Doko until Dr. S.W. Bookhart, founder of the Blythewood Female Academy, changed it. He didn't like the Indian name and gleaned Blythewood from a walk in the woods he described as "blithe and pretty".

Doko is believed to have been the Indian word for "watering place". And that's exactly what Blythewood was back in the late 1800's. Steam engines stopped at the Doko Depot for water. Now that passenger trains no longer run from Columbia northward through Richland, Fairfield and Chester counties, the depot at Blythewood has been closed.

Blythewood's main street is Hwy. 21; much of the traffic over this highway is now being routed onto I-77 from north of Ridgeway on into Columbia. But far from drying up and blowing away, Blythewood's population is growing at the rate of 300 this past year. Many of the newcomers are well-to-do city dwellers seeking fresh air and space, which Blythewood has in abundance. Price of land has jumped considerably. And while I-77 is taking the travelers off the main street, its close proximity to the town may bring in more residents.

On its 100th birthday, Blythewood-ites, oldcomers and newcomers alike, celebrated with an early morning parade, square dancing, a barbecue, gospel singing and baked goods. State Senator Alex Sanders presided over a historical program at noon at the Hoffman House, a perfect example of what newcomers have done to put Blythewood on the map. The historic house was in bad shape when a former Miss South Carolina, Tootsie Dennis Brantley, and her husband rescued it, turning it into an antique gallery and law office. Mrs. Brantley is also a real estate agent.

Although several old, family businesses remain, there are some new businesses, too. Recently a pharmacy and modern grocery market opened; the town also has a dentist and a doctor; and on Saturday the Blythe Wood Stove Company seemed to be doing a brisk business in wood-burning stoves.

What does the next hundred years hold in store for the town of Blythewood? Will the community experience a population growth spurt? Only time will tell, but the next few years should be interesting ones.


## A Century Old

**Blythewood, once a part of Fairfield County, celebrated its 100th anniversary as a township and other activities throughout the day. (Independent photo)**

40 Years Ago

# The News and Herald Winnsboro, SC June 17, 1943

**Editorial Correspondence**

Let the crossing of Little River, near Richtex, and the near-by communities represent one end of a journey to Winnsboro, the old end, if you please, though it is very much alive today, and the other end the Winnsboro Mills, fully alive, the new, if you please.

It is down in the Richtex section where the research student will find the names of Purmont Carey, John Hughes, Daniel Rees, Samuel McCraw, Richard Spencer, and James Leslie in the very earliest records of Fairfield county, even before the names of Lyles and Kirkland, mentioned in Mills. They settled near where the Little River empties in the Broad. Let's leave these ancient days behind and take up the present.

The first stop was at the home of William J. Leitner, who lives in a house built about 100 years ago by James McCants, a Scotsman, a school teacher, who left his impress upon that community. He married Ann Katherine Turnipseed, an honored name which has about disappeared in Fairfield. They had 11 children. One daughter married Hargrove Glenn, who succeeded to the ownership of the house, which Mr. Leitner has owned for about 50 years.

One son of James and Ann Turnipseed McCants was James B. McCants, the patriarchal lawyer and rich man of Winnsboro in the 1870's and 1880's, the ancestor of others of that name who have adorned Fairfield.

Crooked Run Baptist church is in sight and soon passed. This is one of the oldest congregations in Fairfield county, and while the location of the church has not always been the same its history runs back into the earliest days of the county.

Then comes the home of G. Alex Robinson - the house with the windmill - a windmill that before 1906 whirled in Winnsboro and supplied water for George White's bakery. It appears to be just as good now as then. With Mr. Robinson lives his son-in-law S.O. Taylor, who has a good job in Columbia, but who was at home for a furlough helping Mr. Robinson do some very much needed farm work, labor now being very scarce.

Not far distant is Bethel Methodist Church, of which Mr. Robinson has been superintendent of Sunday School for about 25 years.

Then the home and store of Thomas Wat Mann. The Manns are not so numerous in Fairfield as they formerly were, much to the loss of Fairfield, and as his name indicates he is kin to that other prominent family, the Watt family, which brings to mind that excellent woman Mrs. Glazier Watt Rabb, who was such an active member, 60 years ago, of the Old Brick A.R.P. church. There has lived no more capable woman than Mrs. Glazier Rabb. She was in her prime in Reconstruction days and she met and surmounted every obstacle with success.

Without attempting to give them in the order passed, but merely to indicate the high class of people who live along this road, the home of Lloyd Fridy, Preacher Robert L. Hall, W.W. Leitner, O.C. Cauthen, Hamp, Claude, and Wilbur Lewis, Mrs. Sam Castles, Lunce Lewis, John Floyd, Herbert Ligon, Ray Brooks, and Mills Estes. There is life and brains and great promise for Fairfield with such people living within a few miles of each other.

Much ripened grain, oats, and wheat, bordered the road, but the estimate is that not as much is to be gathered this year as last because of the scarcity of labor.

The Greenbrier section comes next. Sixty years ago this was one of the prosperous sections of Fairfield, and it is today, well maintained homes and premises show this. But the Grim Reaper has taken a number of splendid citizens from this neighborhood.

Now we are in the Winnsboro Mills villlage - one of the finest mill villages in the world; every word is weighed and meant - one of the finest mill villages in thew world. Absolutely true. And right here in this village is about one-seventh of the entire population of Fairfield county, and they are the busiest part of the population. Great is the value of products produced here. It is here that labor and brains combined produce results that bless the world...

*A Century of News*

# Revolutionary War Touched "Winnsborough"

5/5/1976

By Benjamin Franklin Hornsby, Jr.
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

When President George Washington arrived in Columbia in 1791 on his goodwill tour of the South, contemporary accounts tell today's readers that many visitors from the communities surrounding Columbia came to pay their respects to the President.

One of these communities was Winnsboro. Many men from that town had contributed strong military leadership in the quest for American independence and had taken an active part in the early formation of the government of South Carolina and the nation.

John and Richard Winn were probably among the Winnsboro contingent to welcome the President. Three Winn brothers had come to South Carolina prior to the Revolutionary War. Like President Washington, two of them, John and Richard, had been trained as surveyors, a skill quite useful in opening the new land in South Carolina. Richard Winn was one of the commissioners appointed by the General Assembly in March 1786 for erecting the new town of Columbia" and one can imagine the pride these commissioners felt when President Washington visited the new capital city.

Winnsboro had made its first progress toward the establishment of a town in the 1770s. By the time of the Revolutionary War, the Winn surname was so thoroughly associated with the place that the borough" adopted it. Today's Winnsboro Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is primarily located within the original grid plan laid out in 1785 by an act of the South Carolina General Assembly. Today it is still possible to see some of the structures that were in Winnsboro at that time.

Clues as to what life was like in Winnsboro can also be found in the 1785 act. The streets and lots for a church and market place were made public property and two fairs were established to be held semi - annually, in May and October, for the purpose of selling horses, cattle, grain, hemp, flax, tobacco, indigo, and all sorts of produce and merchandise. These fairs were festive occasions and many liberties were granted.

For instance, no one was arrested except for treason, felony, other capital crimes, or breach of the peace.

One of the most popular spots in town was the tavern. The county court regulated the price of drinks, meals, and lodgings. A featherbed with clean linen cost only six pence, and a fine dinner could be had for one shilling, two pence. In 1785, several licenses to operate taverns were granted.

Winnsboro's chief association with the Revolution is the result of the Battle of Kings Mountain. When Charleston fell in the spring of 1780, Lord Cornwallis, the British commander in the South, considered South Carolina a conquered province and began his march north to finish his work. However, the Battle of Kings Mountain in October changed his plans.

This Patriot victory was due to numerous and formidable mountain men who came down to attack British Major Ferguson and showed themselves to be the inveterate enemies of the Loyalists and the British," words that Cornwallis used to describe the back mountain men in correspondence to Sir Henry Clinton on December 29, 1780.

After Ferguson's defeat at Kings Mountain, Cornwallis fell back from Charlotte to Winnsboro to consolidate this position in South Carolina. He reached Winnsboro late in October, 1780 and was headquartered there until early in January, 1781. Winnsboro was actually the command post for the British effort in the South at that time. Not only was numerous correspondence dated from there, but many major decisions were made in Winnsboro.

Interesting legends are still told regarding Cornwallis's stay in the town. One of these involved a Whig plan to ambush and capture the British commander. John Winn and his brother, Minor, with another unnamed Patriot, discovered Cornwallis's habit of taking morning and evening rides and stationed themselves along his customary path, rifles in hand, to cut him off. But they were apprehended by a band of Tories and condemned to be hanged.

Minor Winn is said to have taken the sentence greatly to heart" and sent for a minister. Winn and the minister kneeled in prayer for hours with the gallows in full view. At the appointed time for the execution, friends stood listening for the drum and fife as the political prisoners were to be marched to the gallows. Instead, they were marched to Lord Cornwallis's headquarters and pardoned. Minor Winn was persuaded that this was an express answer to his prayers, and subsequently, after days of frolic, suffered with guilt and repentance.

Others say that these Whigs were pardoned by Cornwallis as a result of the efforts of Colonel John Phillips, a Tory whose life had earlier been spared by Colonel Winn. Tradition also states that Colonel Phillips had kept the race horses of Lord Cornwallis's father in England. Still another theory is that Phillips, as a confidant of Cornwallis, warned his lordship of the action that would follow the execution of these Whigs - the execution of a hundred of his majesty's subjects.

By 1787, less than a decade later, the site of the British encampment became the site of Mount Zion School. The Mount Zion Society had been established and incorporated in Charleston in 1777 for the purpose of founding, endowing and supporting a public school in the district of Camden for the education and instruction of youth." The membership was composed of distinguished South Carolinians, most of the charter members being from Charleston.

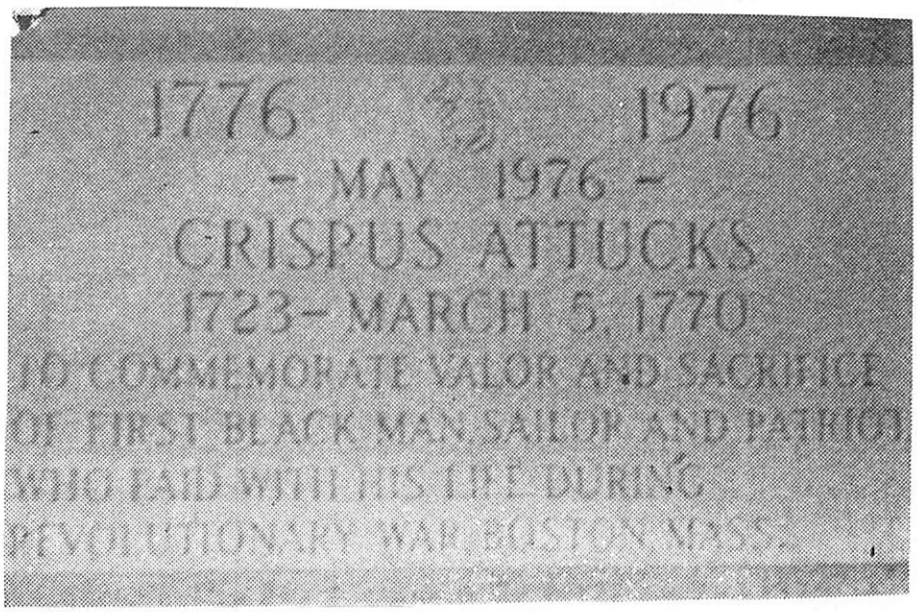
as president, his town as the site of the school, and Robert Ewlison and William Strother two other Winnsboro citiens) as wardens, shows the confidence and regard the Charlestonians held for these men. Andrew Pickens, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Wade Hampton, John Huger, and William Moultrie were among the prominent South Carolinians who were members of the Society.

Today, Mount Zion Elementary School is located on this historic site and a granite marker tells of Cornwallis's encampment. A pre - Revolutionary home nearby is traditionally known as the Cornwallis House, where the British Commander is said to have had his headquarters.

Winnsboro, in addition to the Cornwallis House, were standing at the time of Washington's southern trip and they remain today. Although somewhat altered over the years, these homes are Winnsboro landmarks that are significant to the character of the historic district. Wynn Dee, or the Bratton House, was a 1777 wedding gift from Richard Winn to his daughter Christina and is located across from the Mount Zion campus; the McCreight House, which not only has the distinction of being Winnsboro's oldest home, is also said to be the first board house in town and is located on Vanderhorst Street; Willingham House, allegedly used by British soldiers during the British occupation, is on the Vanderhorst Streets; and the Winn-Hannahan House, originally built as a kitchen for John Winn's main house, is on Moultrie Street.

Although Winnsboro, the county seat of Fairfield County, is off the George Washington Trail, it is an interesting side trip, approximately thirty miles from Columbia on U. S. 321. Visitors wishing to see the historic houses and other buildings in the town can obtain information and maps from the Chamber of Commerce which is located in another Winnsboro landmark, the Town Clock, built circa 1833, and said to be the oldest continuous running town clock in the nation.

Visitors will be welcomed to Winnsboro by an attractive granite and brick sign which reads: Welcome to Historic Winnsboro, 1784.




## *Attucks Marker*

**This Winnsboro Blue Granite marker in memory of Crispus Attacks was made recently by Pigeon Granite Company of Winnsboro. The Rising Sun Baptist Church in Lackey, Va., commissioned Pigeon to make the marker, inscribed: "To commemorate valor and sacrifice of first black man, sailor and patriot who paid with his life during Revolutionary War, Boston, Mass." Attucks, who was born in 1723 and died on March 5, 1770, was the subject of a "Bicentennial Minute" aired over television. (Photo by Steve Robinson)**

## *Red, white, blue proud flag for our new nation*

Legends are legion, but the one thing known for sure is that on June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia adopted a resolution that read:

"Resolved: that the flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

Although Washington begged for the "Standard of the United States," he did not receive a flag until after the Revolutionary War was over, in 1783.

### FIRSTS

Thomas Jefferson was the first President to be inaugurated in Washington, D.C.

Of the first six Presidents of the U.S., four were born in Virginia — Washington, Jefferson, Madison and Monroe—and the other two were born in Massachusetts — John Adams and his son, John Quincy Adams.

# History of Cornwallis In Fairfield County

2/29/1940

There are several traditions concerning the origin of the name, "Fairfield." Of these, the one most popular and most generally accepted attributes the name to Lord Cornwallis. The circumstances of the story are interesting and suggestive. Cornwallis had his headquarters at Winnsboro during the closing weeks of 1780 and the first fortnight of 1781. Six months before, Charleston had surrendered to the British, and General Lincoln with his whole army had been taken prisoners of war. Cornwallis with 4,000 regulars had been left to subjugate the state. The King was informed that the rebellion had been crushed and that South Carolina had been brought back to its allegiance to the Crown.

In August, a second Continental Army under General Gates had been surprised and routed at Camden. British garrisons had been stationed at strategic points with orders to enroll the Tories and to repress every sign of resistance. Many of the Whigs having lost heart took British protection. Only a handful of undauted irreconcilables kept up the fight under their irrepressible leaders. The entire state was overrun, and the British regulars had already marched to Charlotte, N. C., and were waiting there for Tory reinforcements. But Ferguson with his 1,300 Tories was defeated at King's Mountain, October 7, 1780, causing Cornwallis promptly to fall back to Winnsboro. Here he looked about him and perhaps dreampt of success in 1781. He seems to have enjoyed the rolling hills and primeval forests of the district. He must have prized the fertile soil and rich resources of the region. It is here and then that he is credited with saying "what a fair field!" The name stuck, and seventeen years later when the territory was separated from Camden, the new district was named "Fairfield."

Cornwallis was a gallant and skillful soldier, but he must have had in him something of the poet and the nature lover. His Whig enemies and conquerors have not been unwilling to preserve and hand down his appreciation of a beautiful country which he fought in vain to win and hold for his King. There were many other brave men who loved these "fair lands" between the Wateree and the Broad. White settlers had lived there only thirty-five years. Most of them had come from the British Isles. These people were divided about half Whigs and half Tories. One of the latter was Col. John Phillips. He had been born in Ireland, was a man of education and was a Tory from principle. He and his associates had made themselves especially obnoxious to the patriots. Though he was captured his outraged neighbors spared his life. A few weeks later Cornwallis held a drum head court-martial to try and sentence some seventy Whigs who had violated their parole by taking up arms. Phillips pleaded for mercy and "assured his lordship that if these men were executed a hundred of his majesty's subjects would be hung forthwith by the indignant people in retaliation". (Howe's History of Presbyterian Church, Volume 1, Page 502.) His plea was granted. Upon retirement of the British from Winnsboro, Phillips was left in command of the Tories. The next year he was taken a prisoner to Camden, tried and condemned to the gallows. The Whigs of Fairfield almost without exception united in a petition for his life and secured the commutation of his sentence to banishment.

The intercourse between Cornwallis and Colonel Phillips was entirely different from the interview between the British commander and John Mills. This Whig gained admission to Cornwallis. "And who," said Cornwallis, "are you?" "My Lordship," replied Mills, "do not you remember ould John Mills who kept your father's race horse in Ireland?" Oh, is that you, John? Give us a wag of your bone, and help yourself right freely to spirits and water." John drank, but failed to grace his drink with a toast. "And have you any business with me, my old friend?" "Yes, your Lordship; I understand you have it in view to hang a good many of your dam't Whigs and I had it in mind to say til you, that that was not the way to succeed with these people. Besides, nothing is more uncertain than the fate of battles and your Lordship and your brave men may change places with the Whigs now condemned to die. My son, John, is one of the damndest Whigs in the colony and if your Lordship goes onto hang and you should fall into John's hands, he would hang up your Lordship like a dog." Johnny's speech had its possible effect for nobody was hung, no property plundered or destroyed. (Pearson's Narrative History of Fairfield County.)

While Cornwallis had his army headquarters in Winnsboro, he was able to get first hand knowledge of the people of Fairfield and adjoining districts. Many of these folk were Presbyterians. Some of their ministers and ruling elders were descendants of Scotch Covenanters who had come to America for conscience sake. Many of these men were well educated. They veritably incarnated the fine old Scotch principles of honesty, industry, piety, and above all, civil and religious liberty. At least one of their preachers is reputed to have carried not only his Bible but also his long barrelled rifle into his pulpit. These men had built their log churches in the backwoods, had often stood guard against the Indians while the congregation worshipped and now they were again doing the same thing against the marauding Tories. The British are said to have considered every Presbyterian church in the district as a center of rebellion and every Presbyterian preacher as an agent of sedition. In dealing with this situation, Cornwallis one day summoned before him the Rev. William Martin, a Covenanter who preached occasionally at the Jackson's Creek church. He was brought before Lord Cornwallis at Winnsboro. He stood before him erect, with his gray locks uncovered, his eyes fixed on his Lordship and his countenance marked with frankness and benevolence. "You are charged," says his Lordship, "with preaching rebellion from the pulpit — you, an old man, and a minister of the gospel of peace, with advocating rebellion against your lawful sovereign, King George, the III! What have you to say in your defense?" Nothing daunted, he is reported to have replied: "I am happy to appear before you. For many months I have been held in chains for preaching what I believe to be the truth. As to King George, I owe him nothing but good will. I am not unacquainted with his private character. I was raised in Scotland; educated in its literary and theological schools; was settled in Ireland, where I spent the prime of my days, and emigrated to this country seven years ago. As a King, he was bound to protect his subjects in the enjoyment of their rights. Protection and allegiance go together, and where the one fails, the other cannot be exacted. The Declaration of Independence is but a reiteration of what our covenanting fathers have always maintained. I am thankful you have given me liberty to speak, and will abide your pleasure, whatever it may be." (Howe's History Presbyterian Church, Volume I, Page 500.)

By many historians the victory of King's Mountain is considered the final turning point of the Revolution. Cornwallis had good reasons for his encampment in Winnsboro. The Partisans were swarming about the Red Coats like angry hornets. On January 17, 1781, the British met another serious defeat at Cowpens. Continental reinforcements under Green were marching from Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina toward South Carolina. Cornwallis promptly prepared to leave Winnsboro and to march to meet them. But some of the Whigs of Fairfield conceived a plan to ambush and capture him. Lord Cornwallis was accustomed to take a morning and evening ride down the road. Colonel John Winn, his son, Lieut. Minor Winn, & another Whig concealed themselves in a thicket, rifle in hand, intending to cut him off. They were discovered and apprehended by a band of Tories, and were condemned to be hung on a certain day at 12:00 o'clock. Minor Winn took the sentence greatly to heart and sent for the minister, Mr. Martin, to pray with him. He was under guard in the woods. The British soldiers had cut down some of the trees for firewood and had piled up the brush in heaps behind which Minor kneeled in prayer, and was joined by the minister. Their exercises continued with the gallows in full view till the fatal hour. Friends stood listening for the drum and fife as the political prisoners were to be marched to the gallows. Instead of this, they were marched to Lord Cornwallis's headquarters and pardoned. Minor Winn was persuaded that this was an express answer to prayer, and was subsequently often taunted in his days of frolic, with "his forced repentance." (Howe's History of the Presbyterian Church, Volume I, Page 501).

Early in January, Cornwallis broke camp in Winnsboro where he had waited since October 29th. Nine months later, on October 19, 1781, he surrendered to Washington at Yorktown. American Independence had been won in spite of the pride and power of King George III.

The citizens of America can afford to be generous toward the invaders and perhaps tolerant toward the despicable and misguided Tories. But the worthiest monument to Cornwallis in South Carolina today is in "Fairfield." His Lordship was right when he exclaimed "what a fair field!", Although he was wrong in underestimating the valor and patriotism of the men and women he could not conquer.

Vignettes of History—

# It Happened In Fairfield County Just Exactly 168 Years Ago Today

Speaking of the weather in Winnsboro, here is a report on it as of November 25, 1780, as made by General Cornwallis. This interesting memo from the past was sent to The News and Herald by Colonel Richard H. McMaster, retired, loyal native of Fairfield, now a resident of Washington, D. C. The communication which follows is self-explanatory:

**Lord Cornwallis to Lieut. Colonel Balfour**

Wynnesborough, Nov. 25, 1780.

Dear Balfour:

The last nights gale kept me awake. I thought of our friends. Gates is certainly come up toward Charlottetown with all the Continentals he could muster—they say from 700 to 1000 infantry; in these are included Burford's eighteen month men, as they report, 300 cavalry. I cannot conceive, however, that there are above half that number.

I saw two North Carolina men, who met some of Sumpter's fugitives, and who learned from them, that he was speechless, and certainly past all hopes.

We have lost two great plagues in Sumpter and Clarke. I wish your friend Marion was as quiet.

Yours ever,

CORNWALLIS.

CLIPPINGS FROM W. H. FLENNIKEN'S SCRAP BOOK

10/-29/1936

SECOND DAYS ENGAGEMENT AT SEVEN PINES

Our lines were driven back some distance and our wounded fell into the hands of the enemy and were gathered up and taken to their hospital. Among them General Bratton wounded severely in the shoulder. There was a convalescent in the hospital watching the delivery from the ambulance who was impressed by the fine appearance of one man. And from his insignia saw that he was a man of [illegible] After the wounded were taken [illegible] of, the convalescent inquired of the surgeon who that man was covered with blood from his shoulder to his knees. He was told it was General Bratton from South Carolina. He inquired if he could speak to him but was told "No", by the doctor that he was comfortable now and was suffering more from the loss of blood than from the wound. Next morning this man inquired how the General was and asked if he could speak to him. The doctor said yes you can only speak to [illegible] and withdraw as the patient is very weak and we don't want his strength taxed in the least. The man went in and said: "I understand this is General Bratton", General Bratton replied : "It is". The caller said I am General Phil Kerney of Pennsylvania. Both expressed pleasure in meeting.

General Kerney said "On the field we are enemies; here we are friends." General Bratton extended his hand, but was so impressed he could not speak. The first time in his life that his feelings got the better of him .

A beardless boy of eighteen across the aisle, who had lost his leg was frequently in tears. He and General Bratton became acquainted and it proved to be W. M. Grier of Due West, S. C. He was introduced to General Kerney who made frequent visits to the hospital. They all became fast friends that lasted through life. About the third morning General Kerney came in and said: "General Bratton, I have deposited $200.00 in the bank to your credit for yourself and any of your comrades. Here is the certificate of the deposit. Now when this amount is used up you write me or get someone to do it for you and I will make another deposit. Here is my address. "I am speechless" said General Bratton.

After the war, a correspondence started up between them and General Bratton invited General Kerney to visit him for a week on his plantation in Fairfield County, S. C., which he did. General Bratton said no two school girls had a more delightful time than they had seated on a log in the woods conversing. After paying General Bratton a visit Mr. W. M. Grier invited General Kerney and General Bratton to his home. General Kerney went but General Bratton could not go. General Kerney remained four days. Mr. Grier said the visit would have been complete had General Bratton been one of the three.

Was there a more gracious act, than that of General Kerney, toward a stranger and an enemy?

Mr. Flenniken, when he gave the above for publication, made the following personal observations:

When General Bratton enlisted among the first in the war, he did it as a private in the ranks. When the war ended, he was a Brigadier General. He was urged time and again to run for governor of S. C. but declined.

W. M. Grier became and imminent devine and a D. D. Everybody loved and admired him.

# Fairfield County In The Revolution 9/8/1938

Prior to and during the Revolutionary War, Fairfield County was a part of Craven County, of the royal province of South Carolina. Winnsboro, was the headquarters of Lord Cornwallis from October 1780 to January 1781, after the defeat of Ferguson at Kings Mountain, when he retreated from Charlotte. The British General was so delighted with the country around Winnsboro, that he exclaimed, "What fair fields!" After the Revolution, it became part of Camden District, and in 1798 was made into the present county of Fairfield, receiving its name because of the words of Lord Cornwallis.

Two battles, or skirmishes, of the Revolutionary War took place in Fairfield County, namely those of Mobley Meeting House and Dutchman's Creek.

The first was that of Mobley Meeting House, in the year 1780. This year was a dark period for the patriots of Carolina. Charleston surrendered on the 12th of May, and General Lincoln and the American army became prisoners of war. This success was followed up by vigorous movements. One expedition secured the important post of Ninety Six; another secured the country bordering on the Savannah; and Lord Cornwallis passed the Santee and took Georgetown.

The British line ran thru the present counties of Chesterfield, Kershaw, Fairfield, Newberry and Abbeville. They held quiet possession of all the State to the south and east of that line. The Provincial Congress had determined to organize a military force of 3 regiments. The province was then divided into 12 military districts, one of which was Camden, embracing the country between Lynch's Creek and the Congaree, the present counties of Richland, Kershaw, Sumter, Fairfield and Chester.

Armed garrisons were posted throughout the state, which lay at the mercy of the conquerors, to over-awe the inhabitants and secure a return to their allegiance.

For several weeks all military opposition ceased; and it was the boast of Sir Henry Clinton that here, at least, the American Revolution was ended. It was his plan after conquering the South, to carry his campaign to the North. A proclamation was issued, denouncing vengeance on all who should dare appear in arms, save under the royal authority, and offering pardon, with few exceptions, to those who would acknowledge it and accept British protection. The great majority of the people, believing resistance unavailing and hopeless, took the offered protection, while those who refused absolute submission, were exiled or imprisoned.

That there were great differences of sentiment in regard to the Revolution, even among the people of the Low Country of South Carolina, has abundantly appeared in the pages of history. Friends and families were divided in opinion as to its cause, and still more so in regard to the course of events which had followed resulting in the Declaration of Independence. But these differences in the Low Country had caused little bloodshed by native Carolinians at the hands of each other. Few of the Tories in that section took up arms against their fellow countrymen. In the new field of war, alas, the people who had not been interested in the questions which brought on the trouble were to fight everyone against his brother, and everyone against his neighbor, and the most dreadful internecine strife was now to rage throughout the country beyond the falls of the rivers. The Scotchmen in Charleston, especially the Scotch merchants, had almost unanimously opposed the Revolution and so had the many Scotch traders in the Piedmont region. The Scotchmen in Charleston, however contented themselves with passive resistance to the Revolutionary party until the fall of the town, and then did little more than congratulate Sir Henry Clinton upon his victory over their rebellious fellow townsmen. But in the Up Country, they rose with the advance of the British, and with heroism and determination took part in the War.

The fact is recorded that the inhabitants of York District never gave their paroles, nor accepted protection as British subjects; preferring resistance and exile to subjection and inglorious peace. A few individuals who were excepted from the benefits of the proclamation, with others in whose breasts the love of liberty was unconquerable, sought refuge in North Carolina. They were followed by the Whigs of York, Chester, Fairfield, and some other districts bordering on that State, who fled from British troops as they marched into the upper country to compel the entire submission of the conquered province. These patriot exiles soon organized themselves in companies, and under their gallant leaders, Sumter, Bratton, Winn, Moffat and others, began to collect on the frontier and to harass the victorious enemy by sudden and desultory attacks. At the time when this noble daring was displayed, the State was unable to feed or clothe or arm the soldiers. They depended on their own exertions for everything necessary to carry on the warfare. They tabernacled in the woods and swamps, with wolves and other beasts of the forest; and frequently wanted both for food and clothing.

To crush this bold and determined spirit, British officers and troops were dispatched, in marauding parties, to every nook and corner of South Carolna authorized to punish every Whig with utmost vigor, and to call upon Loyalists to aid in the work of carnage. The Tories in this section began to gather and organize. On May 26, 1780, that is, three days before the massacre in the Waxhaws, a party of these marauders assembled at Mobley's Meeting House, several miles west of Winnsboro, in the present County of Fairfield. This meeting house had been built by Edward Mobley, Senior, and his sons, as an Episcopal church. They permitted other denominations to use it, and at this time it had become a meeting place for Whigs and Tories. Colonel William Bratton, of York, Capt. John McClure, of Chester, and Major Winn gathered the Whigs and defeated and dispersed the Tories, who fled at the first crack of the rifle. There is no account of the casualties on either side.

The condition of affairs in South Carolina was without parallel in the history of the Revolution. No other state was so completely overrun by British forces, no other state so divided upon the questions at issue, and in none other did the men of both sides so generally participate in the struggle. In none other were Tory organizations from other states so much used in connection with Royal troops to subdue American Whigs, thus attempting to carry out the British ministerial plan of overcoming Americans by Americans. While South Carolina received but little assistance from the North, her territory was garrisoned by Americans serving in the British Army, enlisted from Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and from Pennsylvania. Northern States furnished also several excellent Tory officers who operated with the British Army in South Carolina. Pennsylvania furnished the notorious Huck. When the report of the disaster at Mobley Meeting House was conveyed to Rocky Mount, in Chester District, Colonel Turnbull, the Commander of a strong detachment of British troops at that point, determined on summary vengeance, and for that purpose sent the Tory, Captain Huck, at the head of 400 cavalry, and a considerable body of Tories, all well mounted, with the following order:

"To Capt. Huck. You are hereby ordered, with the cavalry under your command, to proceed to the frontier of the province, collecting all the royal militia with you on your march, and with said force to push the rebels as far as you may deem convenient."

However, Hucks' career was soon ended by Samuel McConnell, of Fairfield County, who shot him from his horse.

When Washington's corps, on a march through the uplands, halted at Ingleman's Mill, on Wilkinson's Creek, they were wholly out of money and supplies. The Commissary, Mr. Hutchinson, was sent to Mr. Philip Pearson's, nearby, to try to secure meat and bread for his men, and food for his horses. For one week the horses and men were abundantly furnished from Mr. Pearson's farm, and Mr. Pearson waived all compensation. Likewise, Mr. Reuben Harrison furnished Gen. Greene and his men with bread, vegetables, cattle, and sheep, and when Gen. Greene was leaving, he tendered a certificate for the supplies furnished and Mr. Harrison said, "No, we are all engaged in the same great cause—Your success will be my pay."

Andrew Feaster, of Fairfield, in addition to serving as a soldier, furnished a field of grain and a horse without remuneration.

Another interesting incident was after the defeat of the British at Blackstock, when the British troops dropped down to Fairfield County, to the home of Mrs. Martha Dansby. The widow with her children was ordered out of the House. She refused to go; force was threatened. She bid defiance to force: "I will not say what I am, but you say I am a British subject, and if so, I have the rights of a British subject until I am legally divested by the verdict of a jury. If you must need have shelter, go take the kitchen, and make the best of it." They took her at her word, and British officers, richly clad, and trimmed off with laces and decorated with gold epaulets, were glad to find asylum in poor Martha Dansby's kitchen. Many of the British officers and soldiers wounded at Blackstock died here.

**Pearson and Strother**

# Early Settlers & Two Generals of War with England

5/21/1970

**(By Alice A. B. Walker)**

In the immediate area north of what is called the sandhills of South Carolina in the early 1700's came the first settlers of this section. They were English people from Virginia and Massachusetts. The Catawba Indians here were in goodly number.

Almost immediately there arose animosity between the white and red men, and a few atrocities by the Indians were noted. Cattle pens were established by some early settlers in what is now Fairfield County. These were the first commercial ventures.

In early 1700's, pressure from England generated a desire to gain independence from the Mother Country and a great need by the colonists in this "Up-Country," to have means of prompt and greater punishment to growing unlawful acts of poor white roving population bent on thievery for a livelihood.

Scotch, Scotch-Irish and Huguenots added to the growing population. These were educated and religious people. They began to realize with the growing political pressure from England that there was need of independence from England. This appeared the only solution to growth of the colonies and a happy way of life.

This area of South Carolina had produced many men of lofty ideals who had been educated in the British Isles and France.

When action of the American Revolution started, the area known now as Fairfield County had citizens who had accumulated large land holdings and proportionate wealth. The physical efforts of Africans in limited number aided in the growth of agricultural projects. As a result, there were in this section many men that were efficient as leaders in political decisions and in raising of troops and training soldiers. This section and its borders produced a goodly number of valorous men who joined the colonists' cause and became captains and colonels in the militia. Among these were John and Richard Winn.

During the last years of the Revolution much of the action was in South Carolina. Its story is the saga of the heroic struggle of the inhabitants of this part of the country. There were 134 conflicts with the British in South Carolina. In 1786 there were in the state 34 battles and skirmishes in 86 days.

Brigadier-General John Pearson, who first entered service in the Revolution as captain, was born either in Fairfield or Richland County May 30, 1743. He was well educated. When a very young man, he took out generous land grants on Broad River. He married Sara Buford.

Soon after he entered the State Militia, he was elevated to the rank of captain in General Sumter's regiment. On August 27, 1800, he was made Brigadier-General.

After hostilities ceased, Gen. Pearson became a member of the State Assembly as representative of the district between the Broad and Catawba Rivers. He had also served as State Senator for Fairfield, Chester and Richland counties and in 1778-80 as tax

A man of literary accomplishments and marked integrity, he was known over the county for his benign action and Christianity.

John Pearson died October 25, 1817, and is buried in what is now Parr, South Carolina. He left descendants of the highest character.

General William Strother was born in Virginia or South Carolina. He was the son of Charles Strother, who moved from Virginia to Charleston, South Carolina. General Strother married first, Catharine Dargan; second, Dorothy Singleton; third, Sara or Sallie Woodward. He had large land-grants near Winnsboro, South Carolina. He died in 1830 at home on his plantation, which was in the Second Provincial Congressional District between the Broad and Catawba Rivers—1775-1776.

William Strother was a member of the First General Assembly; Commissioner to divide Districts 1783-84; Justice of Peace; Commissioner of Roads; A member of the House of Representatives — St. Davids, 1782-84; Presidential Elector, 1808; South Carolina Senator, 1804-1810 and 1812. He resigned from the Senate to go into U. S. Army in the War of 1812, serving as Major-General of Second Division. In the S. C. Militia, he was brigade inspector and Major-General. He also held the following public offices: Commissioner of Public Buildings; Tax Collector; Commissioner to approve securities; Commissioner to run the line between Fairfield and Richland Districts, 1818; Commissioner of free schools; and Commissioner for navigation of upper Pee Dee River. He was a member of St. David's Episcopal Church and served as Vestryman in 1775 and as its warden in 1782.

He was an incorporator of the Mt. Zion Society in 1777 and served as its warden. He was said to have given much aid to Mt. Zion College when it was founded in Winnsboro.

He left descendants of note in Fairfield, Newberry and Richland counties.

The Thomas Woodward Chapter, years ago with the cooperation of the late Mr. Dan Heyward of Rion, and the assistance of Grover F. Patton erected the handsome gateway to the park, marking in bronze tablet the history of the servant and his master. The gateway was spoken of at the time of erection as being the most impressive marker erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution in South Carolina. The gateway was designed by the efficient engineer, Mr. Joe Timmons, of Winnsboro. The handsome memorial gateway at the entrance of Tamassee School is copied from the drawings of the Fortune Springs Park marker.

The D. A. R. exhibit has been viewed with interest by towns folk and a goodly number of visitors to Winnsboro.

1958

Mrs. J. E. Bruce, Winnsboro, president of the John Bratton chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy has been elected to this office 14 times.

She is now serving her 14th term as president of this chapter and is as energetic and enthusiastic and untiring as she was when first elected.

Each year she tenders her resignation and each year the members refuse to accept it and she is again unanimously elected.

The celebration of the fiftieth anniversary, Thomas Woodward Chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, on Friday, May 21, was an outstanding historical occasion and social event. The tea and reception were held at the Fairfield Country Club.

Attending were many prominent members, including present chapter Regents and former state Regents. Former members of the Thomas Woodward and Richard Winn chapters were invited.

Among the guests present was Mrs. F. H. H. Calhoun of Clemson, former State Regent. In May of 1915, Mrs. Calhoun visited in the home of the late Mrs. David de Vere de Verille Walker, Sr., in Winnsboro, for the purpose of organizing the chapter named after the famous patriot and soldier, Thomas Woodward.

Woodward gained the rank of captain due to bravery and military prowess displayed in the French and Indian Wars, where he fought under General George Washington. He later organized and operated with citizens of Fairfield County a court, "The Regulation," for the purpose of trials for thieves who would otherwise have escaped to the distant Royal Colony capital, Charleston. He also raised and equipped one of the first military companies in South Carolina's "Up-country," a group of horse soldiers who fought in the Revolution. Woodward was mortally wounded while fighting in the Longtown section. He died on May 12, 1779, and was buried in the old Woodward cemetery.

Charter members of the chapter were 12 descendants of Thomas Woodward, and a 13th member who was married to a descendant. The chapter has been awarded honors for its active role in upholding to the highest degree the ideals and carrying out the goals of the Society.

# State Regent Presides at Tamassee

1957

MRS. MATTHEW W. PATRICK

**Mrs. Matthew W. Patrick of White Oak, State Regent of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, and a member of the Thomas Woodward Chapter of Winnsboro, presided at the annual Founder's Day ceremonies at Tamassee the weekend of Oct. 26-27. She was official hostess for the exercises which brought prominent members of the Society from Maine to California to the outstanding D.A.R. School.**

**The school, located a few miles from Walhalla, is supported by the Daughters of the American Revolution for underprivileged mountain children. There are about 213 children living on the grounds and equally as many come in as day students from the surrounding territory. A more complete account of the Founder's Day activities will be published in a latter issue of The News and Herald.**

# *Fairfield Soldiers In The Seminole War*

In the year 1867 Mr. D. B. McCreight published in The News and Herald a history of the Mount Zion society in which the following item appears:

"A digression here, in order to call public attention to a matter worthy of its consideration, will not be amiss. In the course of the proceedings of the committee for the year 1783 it was agreed that the President should get the minutes of the Mount Zion committee fairly copied into a book, and in less than two months that resolution was declared null and void. This action seems to be characteristic of the makers of history.

"There is a felt want of material whenever history has to be recorded, whether it be general or local history. What care then should be exercised to have these details full and fair. Take as a case in point, the history of Fairfield during the past seven years. Where are even the names of those who embarked upon the billows of a stormy revolution seven years ago, and since, where are the events recorded which make up the career of companies and squads from Fairfield?

"One thoughtful Clerk of the Court for this district showed some appreciation of fairly recording passing events. It was when the company of volunteers from Fairfield took up the line of march for the Everglades of Florida. But he stopped short of his undertaking. He simply recorded the fact that these volunteers left this place for Florida on the 11th of February 1826. There is no list of names of the members of that company. That brief record, however, stands among the archives of the district, and is regularly indexed."

It was fifteen or more years ago that I first read the above item; and since that time I have been trying to find the missing roll of the company. My research extended to South Carolina, Florida, and the War department, but without success until recently when I visited the National Archives in Washington. There I was given permission to inspect the Seminole War records, and found the original muster roll of the Fairfield company.

The Fairfield volunteers were mustered in as an independent company of mounted militia, not a part of any regiment, and were listed as coming from Winnsboro instead of Fairfield.

I obtained a photostatic copy of the muster roll from which the following list is taken.

Muster Rolls of Captain D. Smith's company of South Carolina mounted militia, mustered into service February 17th, 1836, for three months:

Officers: Daniel Smith, Captain, Wm. A. McCreight, 1st Lieutenant, Thos. Stitt, 2nd Lieutenant, H. B. Robertson, Ensign.

Non-commissioned Officers: James R. Aiken, Sergeant, Robert Bailey, Sergeant, Josiah Hinnant Sergeant, Franklin D. Bare Sergeant, Thomas Robertson Corporal, Robert E. Ellison, Corporal, F. McDowell Corporal, J. W. Hendrix Corporal.

Privates: James Aldrege, Charles Bagley, James R. Boyd, James Boyd, Jr., Arch. Boyd, Tyrus Bell, John Bush, John C. Boyle, Benj. Bynum, Charles Broom, Jr., Isaiah Bird, David Camack, James Craig, Thos. Craig, Richard Carlton, James Clarke, Henry Carlisle, Samuel Dowd, David R. Evans, Jr., Wm. B. Elkins, James Gibson, Edward Gibson, Bart Gibson, John Harper, Goodwyn Haygood, Peter Hollis, James L. Judge, John Jenkins, Wm. D. Johnston, Joseph Kennedy, Alex Knighton, J. D. Kirkland, Henry Laws, John Land, B. Lumpkin, Edward Lewis, Robert McDill, Alex McDaniel, Wm. McEgan, Robert McMillan, George McCants, John McCreight, John R. Martin, John Martin, Jr., David S. Martin, John Neason, Robert Neil, Benj. Macon, Thomas Pulley, N. A. Peay, William Pickett, John Rawls, Zach Rawls, William E. Ross, John Storman, William Storman, Thos. Sloan, John Stephenson, H. A. Smith, Might Smith, John D. Smith, John Stanton, James Stanton, Benj. Stanton, L. Trence, Charles Tidwell, Mike Thomas, Samuel Wyrick, Jepe Wyrick, John D. Wells, Andrew Walker, Samuel Weldon, Richard Weldon, John Yongue.

Inasmuch as there was no newspaper established in Fairfield county in 1836, it is probable that this roll has never before been published.

Richard H. McMaster

## A LETTER OF FIFTY YEARS AGO.

The following letter which was written about fifty years ago, was kindly given us for publication by Mr. J. L. Brown, a brother of the author of the letter. The letter was written from Vera Cruz during the Mexican war by Mr. Thomas N. Brown, a Fairfield man, who went from South Carolina with the Palmetto Regiment. The letter is very interesting, and was written with ink made from a mixture of powder and water:

Vera Cruz, Mexico, March 30, 1847.

Dear Brother: I take the opportunity of writing a few lines to inform you of our health; and I am happy to say that I am alive yet, and Brother Edward is well also. W. R. C. is tolerably well. He and I have been unwell, but are better now. We are not able to take up marching yet. Our regiment has just left for Alvarado to take the town. We have taken the great city of Vera Cruz without losing but 15 men, and none of them were out of the Palmetto Regiment. Hurrah for that! We were placed around the town in line of battle. We have been clipped pretty close some times with their balls and bombs, but God took care of us. We have never been in a fair battle yet. We were in one scrimmage. Our company did not get to shoot; we were under the hill during the battle acting as skirmishers. Oh, if I could just have gotten a chance to shoot my 26 rounds I think I would have downed some of the bright feathers. But, thank God, there is a chance yet to bring some of them down, if they don't make an accidental shot and get me first. I have picked up their balls that were falling around me. Hurrah for our victory! Hurrah for our victory! We have tolerably tough times, but, however, we will go ahead until peace is made.

Give my respects to all our friends and accept my best wishes for your worldly happiness. Wylie sends his best respects to you all. Edward the same.

I do not have time to write much, and this ink is made out of powder and water, the best we can afford. Brother E. M. B. was all through the town yesterday. He saw destruction everywhere, and the blood that our balls and bombs drew from the poor fellows and the women and children. Our cannon made a lane when she shot into the town, knocking down their walls and houses. We gave them thunder for 3 days. With our cannon we supposed that we killed 25 hundred Mexicans and only lost 15 of our Americans. Hurrah for our victory! Hurrah for Gen. Scott!

No more, dear brother; I have written to you twice and to father once and to William once; but I suppose you have all stopped writing to me now. This is my last time that I intend to write until you write me. Farewell. Edward, Wylie and myself send our love to you all. My respects to you and Jane and Bud and Betsey. Tell little John howdy for me, and all the people about.

Your most loving brother till death calls, Thos. Newton Brown.

Edward M. Brown sends his best respects to Tilman and J. Mathews and to you all.

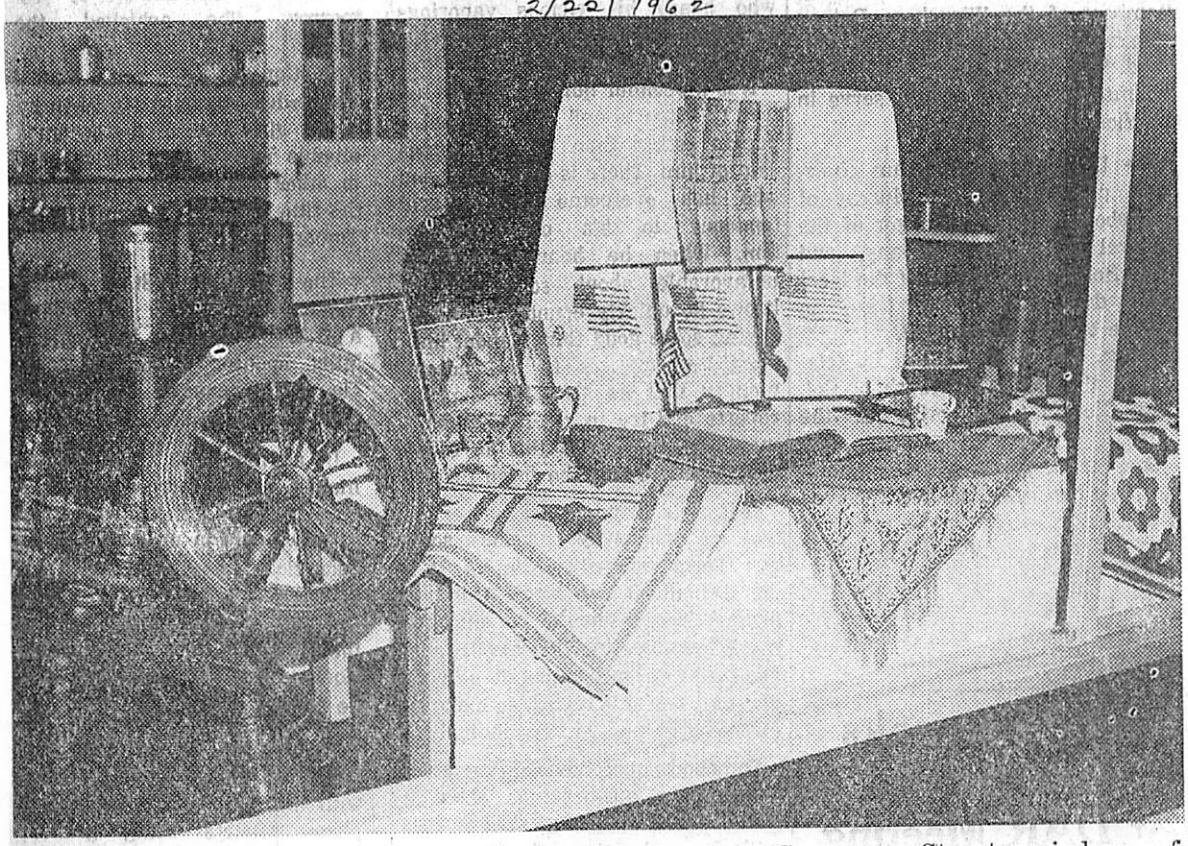
Tell Brother William and all of them to write to me. Be sure you write yourself. Thos. N. Brown.

Story of "Lost Dauphin" Is Revived

# D. A. R. Display of Antique Objects Underscores Fact That Fairfield County Is "Rich in History"

(By Alice A. B. Walker)

2/22/1962



Pictured here are many Historic Articles Displayed in Congress Street window of Ketchin Mercantile Company. (See story for details.)

History is the record of man through the ages — a story of his development in nation, state and intimate locality.

The instinctive desire to tell to later generations of his life struggle, of environmental conditions even in ancient times is proved by the carving on stones and writing of scrolls in many lands.

In our continent, recent discoveries show it is not after all so young formation of the earth as heretofore had been supposed.

Along with the writing of history as a personal deed in satisfaction to pass on to others experiences of the life of a certain period of years the detailed account of our past in nation and state holds peculiar interest to us — but not so deep interest as does the recording of the familiar facets of one's own small locality.

The climbing of man to higher achievement mentally, spiritually and physically is the most vital aim of civilization. And we stop and listen to that which speaks of the near, dear things, places and people.

Without common knowledge of what we have been, known, and our human characteristics, we cannot

ments of the present years nor our conduct and values for the future. On history and immediate events national and world, strategy and developments are marked and decided.

South Carolina, Fairfield County, Winnsboro, have led in patriotism in wars. In early conflicts their men have gone to fight for the right, and the past generations have shown stamina in World Wars.

Fairfield and Winnsboro have had many FIRSTS. And there follows a few historical facts about the county.

In Colonial days, during the Revolution, and afterwards, crime in the "Up-Country" districts developed to an alarming degree. With the state capital in distant Charleston and persistent pleas for help to no avail for relief from this condition, the dangerous brigandry in Camden District became greater. Men of the highest calibre united and organized what was called "The Regulators" in Fairfield County to curb criminality. "The Regulators" held courts and decided on proper penalties, but on the way to Charleston the prisoners were often taken from guards by their sympathizers and relatives. Thomas Woodward was the leader in the movement in Fairfield County

and history says this regulation started the institution of District Courts of the State of South Carolina.

Earliest of any scheduled or systematic study club of the state was a group of outstanding students of the times in Fairfield meeting in private homes to read the rare London Gazette and other pamphlets and books of historic interest. Later the two-room house of what is known now as the Cribb house was used for the meetings of this club which was known as the Mt. Zion Literary Society. A letter, ragged and worn, recently found, speaks of the club as being in existence in the year 1771. The club later, upon the suggestion of Robert Buchanan, of Charleston, who had the first classic school in Charleston, was organized into the Mt. Zion College for young men. The charter was not asked for promptly, but it was granted on application February, 1777, and Robert Mills, historian and statistician, states in his writings, "No man of note in the state did not pass through the halls of Mt. Zion during its flower." And these men, twelve in number, who were charter members builded well, for then Greek, Latin, and Theology were added to the regularly required studies of a

graduating class was made up of five Presbyterian ministers, some of whom later became leaders of Sion Presbyterian Church in Winnsboro.

A few miles from Winnsboro, the county seat of Fairfield, is the old mansion of the gentleman-planter, Colonel James Kincaid, the place now being called Heyward Hall. Here in principal was first invented the cotton gin which to a great degree restored the devastated economy of the South the past 60 years. Many artifacts, photographs, furnishings of the elegant home are cherished by the descendents of Colonel Kincaid in Fairfield and other parts of the country.

Winnsboro boasts the longest continually running town clock in the nation. Although the date of its construction is only approximately known — that being about 1833 — it is thought the resemblance of some of the features and lines of the building to the section of Independence Hall in Philadelphia, designed by the famous Robert Mills — statistician, historian and architect — also architect of our beautiful courthouse and other fine buildings in the state — may prove that the town clock is the product of his mind.

Six miles southwest of Winnsboro is the limitless quarry of silky, gray textured granite of the greatest tensil strength in the world, according to the World's Fair estimate of the product.

In the town of Winnsboro lived and died the son of the Lost Dauphin of France, Colonel James Henry Rion, a brilliant barrister. He served in the Confederate War and bought from the Mansel Hall Estate the house on the corner of Congress and Calhoun Streets, the fine residence now owned by James W. Stephenson, Jr.

Colonel Rion, or James Henry de Rion as he was called, as a young child with his mother (an English Canadian) was brought to Savanah, Georgia and left there for some time hoping that the Royalist cause in France would be strong enough to restore the throne through the child. But it did not prove so, and the boy was taken to the home of his guardian, John C. Calhoun, who reared and educated de Rion as he would a son. Colonel Rion served gallantly in the Confederate army, it being said in a history he is the only Confederate officer known to refuse a generalship, because as he stated, "I wish to stay with my men." In his last days he disclosed the secret of his life — that he was the son of the Lost Dauphin of France who had been secreted to Canada in a ship, and that he and his mother had been brought to Savannah in a certain year. (Letters from the great granddaughter of a Dr. John Buchanan of Montreal, Canada, in the hands of the Rion family verify these facts). Colonel Rion in his last days produced possessions in gold with the Bourbon king's crest, and the cross given his father, the Lost Dauphin, by the Pope in Rome when the young heir was born.

Colonel Rion had one of the first private gas plants for home and ground lighting in the upper part of the state. And Colonel Rion's mother had charge of the Confederate Hospital which stood on the site of the present Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

The local Thomas Woodward Chapter of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, was organized in Winnsboro in 1915 with eleven descendents of Thomas Woodward, "The Regulator," and the twelfth member was the wife of a descendent of Thomas Woodward.

The chapter enrollment now numbers 47 women. This chapter is an active unit of the National Society organized in 1900 and boasting the present membership of 200,000. The Chapter Regent is Mrs. Marion E. (Ruth Mason) Stevenson.

The Daughters of the American Revolution Society is a patriotic organization and has members in the Americas and many foreign countries who congregate in the National Congress that meets in Washington, D. C. Our Mrs. Matthew W. Patrick of the chapter, and White Oak, has figured conspicuously in national and state offices of the Society, and Mrs. George F. Coleman, Sr., is at present State Insignia Chairman. The work of the Daughters of the American Revolution is preserving history, conserving mental, moral, spiritual and physical values, fostering citizenship, good will, marking the important and moral issues of the day with the incentive to make a better world. They also do charity and intensive work in founding accredited schools for the underprivileged mountain children of the Appalachian states with Tamassee, near Walhalla, in our immediate vicinity.

The Society proclaims February as History Month and the Thomas Woodward Chapter, with the aid of townsfolk, are showing an exhibit of historic objects artistically arranged by Miss Joan Fayssoux, a chapter member, placed in the window of the Ketchin Mercantile Company on North Congress Street. The display will be viewed through the month of February. These objects, as listed by Miss Fayssoux and the [illegible] cribed as follows:

- Flag of the United States of America
- Flag of the Daughters of the American Revolution
- Framed Pledge to the American Flag
- Preamble to the Constitution
- The American's Creed
- Pistol of Confederate War
- Picture of the old Daniel Elliott house at Fishing Creek, Richburg, S. C. This is the home of Mrs. T. D. Rivers', Mrs. J. L. Bryson's, and others of Fairfield County, Revolutionary ancestors. (The above are possessions of Mrs. T. D. Rivers.)
- Ancient wine jug
- Family Bible with dates of 1700
- 2 beautiful handmade quilts
- Embroidery paper scissors cutout, "Altar of Sacrifice," done by Mrs. Ruth Mason Stevenson's great, great, great grandmother, Sara Hightower. (These were loaned by the Chapter Regent, Mrs. Marion E. Stevenson.)
- Antique glass wineglasses, pewter pitcher, belonging to Mrs. J. S. Ketchin.
- Colonial flax spinning-wheel, from Alabama, property of Mrs. George F. Coleman.
- Table cover copied from an old Roman Cathedral window, copy of the Mayflower Pact, framed original deed by King George IV of England to land known as the old Ford Place; loaned by Miss Alice Doty.
- Painted china coffee cup of John Woodward, son of Thomas Woodward, "The Regulator," Circa 1779, property of Miss Alice A. B. Walker.

Mrs. T. H. Ketchin, Sr., lent to the Chapter a photograph of the Revolutionary hero, Captain John Buchanan. This photograph is a small copy of the oil portrait owned by Mrs. Ketchin, which was the property of her father, the late George H. McMaster. Captain Buchanan was the great uncle of George McMaster and the late Doctor Robert Augustus Buchanan. He was in several battles of the Revolution, and was said to be the first officer to greet Lafayette when he landed on American soil at Georgetown, S. C. Buchanan shared his tent and servant, Pompey Fortune, with the gallant Frenchman. At the end of the war Captain Buchanan gave Pompey Fortune his freedom and 20 acres of land, which today is the city park and is named Fortune Springs Park in his honor. When Lafayette returned for his visit to Columbia years after hostilities were over Pompey rode donkey back to see again his old friend, "Marse Lafayette," who drank a

Fairfield Centennial Reminiscences

# Much Local History Comes to Light In Memoirs of a Ridgeway Colonel

1961

(Reviewed by Charles Edward Thomas, Ridgeway Native)

"Crumbling Defenses," the Memoirs and Reminiscences of Colonel John Logan Black, Confederate States Army, formerly of Ridgeway, has been edited by Eleanor D. McSwain of Macon, Georgia. This is a valuable and important contribution to local history and to the enormous number of valuable Confederate documents being published during the centennial of that devastating yet fascinating war.

The 133 page volume is based on the notebooks of Col. Black written in pencil in 1882 for the benefit of his children. They were owned by his eldest daughter, the late Martha Le Compte Black (Mrs. Harry W. DesPortes) of Ridgeway. Shortly before her daughter and not long before her Ridgeway home was burned, Mrs. "Mattie" DesPortes gave the notebooks to her kinswoman, Miss Elizabeth English, librarian at the University of South Carolina. In 1954 Miss English gave the Black notebooks to Mrs. Eleanor D. McSwain, the author of "Crumbling Defenses," and the wife of Col. Black's grandson, Horace Laurens McSwain, II. They are now available in print for the first time.

John Logan Black was born in York, S. C., July 12, 1830, the son of James Augustus Black and Elizabeth Sarah Logan. Col. Black's grandfather, Joseph Black came to Abbeville District from Pennsylvania, as a Revolutionary soldier. He married Mary Burnett. Their eldest son, James A. Black, was born in Abbeville in 1793, and served in the War of 1812. He owned King's Mountain Iron Works in York County. He died in Washington, D. C., April 3, 1847, while serving as a Congressman from South Carolina. Joseph Black and James Augustus Black, grandfather and father of Col. John Logan Black, are buried in the churchyard of the First Presbyterian Church, Columbia.

Col. Black was a cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point from 1850 to 1853, when General Robert E. Lee was superintendent. Col. Black's roommate at West Point was James Abbott Whistler, who did sketches in some of Col. Black's cadet notebooks. He was later famous for his painting, known now as "Whistler's Mother."

Soon after dropping out of West Point, John Black married on December 22, 1853, his cousin, Mary Peay Black. She was born in Columbia, May 26, 1833, daughter of Joseph Addison Black and Martha Keziah Peay. The latter was the daughter of Col. Austin Ford Peay of Flint Hill on the Wateree, and builder of the fabulous Melrose in Longtown. This massive mansion known as the "Palace" or "Peay's Folly" was said to cover three-quarters of an acre and to be the largest dwelling in the state. It was burned by Sherman's army in 1865.

Col. Black and his bride, the former Mary Peay Black, lived at Ridgeway. They became the parents of ten children, four died young, and are buried with Col. and Mrs. Black in Aimwell Cemetery, Ridgeway, where Col. Black's towering monument is the commanding stone in the cemetery. Mrs. Black died March 17, 1881. After her death Col. Black married Eugenia Talley Jenkins, his first wife's cousin. They had one daughter. Col. Black died on March 25, 1902. Two of Col. Black's daughters by his first wife lived in Ridgeway. Martha LeCompte Black married Harry W. DesPortes, and Eunice Black married John Davis Palmer. These two daughters are buried at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Ridgeway, where there are memorials to Mrs. Martha LeCompte Black DesPortes. Both have descendants in the state.

Col. Black was commissioned in the Confederate Army in 1861, and assigned to the 1st Regiment of South Carolina Cavalry, under General Wade Hampton. Douglas Southall Freeman in the opening chapter of volume III of "Lee's Lieutenants" describes Col. Black leading his South Carolina Cavalry toward the Potomac with the Army of Northern Virginia . . . "a sight that made veterans catch their breath and stare and lift their hats in admiration. Hampton's regiments were coming up in magnificent order. On the right, in advance was Cobb's Legion under Pierce Young; in support, and almost enechelon, was Black's First South Carolina . . . Sweeping in splendor across the field abreast of Hampton's column was Hart's horse artillery" . . .

"Young and Black pressed straight on . . . The enemy withdrew . . . Hampton was still advancing . . ." Dr. Freeman concludes.

One of the high points of Col. Black's memoirs is his description of General Lee, Longstreet and Hill at Gettysburg. In Col. Black's own words, "I here saw a council of war and that too on a memorable field of Battle — Gettysburg. I here saw three men grouped together, immortal names on the pages of future history. General Lee was standing with his back to me. He was the best looking, of course. For me he was the best looking man in the universe — that I always knew. Longstreet was fat and full. A. P. Hill rather slender. I never saw him again or was nearer to him than at that time. Directly the conference ended and all three turned to leave, each in separate direction and each on foot. As General Lee turned toward me I advanced and saluted him. He returned the salute and shook hands, and turning, called Gen. Longstreet and introduced me to Gen. L. and said . . . "I commend Col. B. to you as once a cadet under me at West Point."

The Memoirs are also full of references to Fairfield men. Col. Black refers to General Barksdale reminding him of Governor John Hugh Means, native of Fairfield and governor of South Carolina, 1850-52, and colonel of the 17th South Carolina Volunteers, who was killed at the battle of Second Manassas.

Twice wounded, first at Upperville and later and more seriously at Brandywine Station, Col. Black was ordered back to South Carolina, much to his dissatisfaction. Enroute he stopped in Richmond at the Exchange Hotel, rented as a soldiers' house by the state of South Carolina and kept by "that most excellent gentleman, George H. McMaster of Winnsboro, and supplied by charitable contributions from our people at home. My entire command was fed by Mr. McMaster," Col. Black concludes.

Later Col. Black was in command of units guarding Charleston from James Island. Here Col. William Hans Campbell commanded Legare's Point. A native of Fairfield, Col. Campbell before the war became a lawyer and newspaper editor in Greenville. He signed the Ordinance of Secession for Greenville County. In 1870, Col. Campbell became an Episcopal minister, first serving St. John's, Winnsboro, and St. Stephen's, Ridgeway, until 1875, when he became rector of St. Paul's, Charleston, where he served until his death in 1901.

Another Fairfield related officer at Legare's Point was Capt. Gaillard of Rhett's Regiment "a most excellent officer and accomplished gentleman," according to Col. Black. He was granted a ten days' leave to go home and marry. This was Capt. Gaillard's only visit with his bride, for he was killed at Bentonville, N. C., after the evacuation of Charleston.

The Memoirs are full of stories that add to the horrors of war, but there are numerous instances of Col. Black's compassion and kindnesses to his soldiers, his orderlies, and his devotion to his family. At the height of the bombardment of Charleston by the Federals, Col. Black received news of the birth of his daughter, Leile, on July 8, 1864. Showing the dispatch to General Talliferro beside him on the gun platform, the General read it, and said, "it ought to have been a boy to make up for some of our losses of the day."

Col. Black's Memoirs are a valuable addition to South Carolina upcountry history, and to Confederate color, gallantry and loyalty. It will remain an important Fairfield County source book. The author also pays tribute to assistance she received from the late Mrs. Eunice (Black) Palmer, and Mrs. Henrietta Eleanor (DesPortes) Peay, both of Ridgeway, daughter and granddaughter of Col. Black, respectively. There is a fine picture of Col. Black as a frontispiece to the book.

# Ridgeway Native Said 1st to Quit Naval Academy

1960

By CHARLES E. THOMAS

The Librarian of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., believes that the "first midshipman from a Southern state to resign after the election of Lincoln on Nov. 6, 1860" was Midshipman Francis Marion Thomas of Ridgeway, South Carolina.

Born at "Mount Hope" near Ridgeway on January 7, 1843, Frank Thomas was the son of John Peyre Thomas, M. D., and Charlotte Henrietta Couturier Thomas. He was prepared for Annapolis by his sisters, Miss Henrietta Eleanor Thomas and Miss Emily Walter Thomas, who after the Confederate War, established and operated the Mount Hope School. He was further instructed by Professor William Davis at his private Ridgeway high school academy, where young Thomas "derived a way of looking at books and acquiring knowledge, which was of incalculable benefit . . . Here was imbibed the very genius of the classics, English, Latin, and Greek".

Admitted to the U. S. Naval Academy on September 23, 1859, Midshipman Frank Thomas was in his second year at Annapolis when he resigned on November 30, 1860.

Returning to his home at "Mount Hope," it was not long before the Confederate War commenced in April, 1861. On June 12, he was appointed acting midshipman of the Confederate States Navy. After a brief tour of duty aboard the Confederate steamship Lady Davis, he was transferred to the C. S. S. Nashville.

Of the five Confederate vessels on which Midshipman Thomas served, none was more colorful than the short - lived 1,200-ton wooden sidewheel steamer Nashville. Her cruising life was less than four months, yet she took two of the most important prizes of the naval war.

According to Dalzell's "The Flight From the Flag," the Nashville "on the night of October 26, 1861, under the command of Captain R. B. Pegram, C. S. N., ex-U. S. N., with a crew of about 40, . . . ran the blockade out of Charleston, steamed to Bermuda where she arrived on October 30, took on a supply of coal, and sailed for the North Atlantic on Tuesday, Nov. 5."

On Nov. 19, the log of the Nashville showed that she was off the Irish coast. There she overhauled the American ship Harvey Birch of New York, enroute from Havre to New York in ballast. She was reported to be worth $65,000.

As the first capture in the North Atlantic ferry lane, the taking of the Harvey Birch was sensational news. It proved to have been unfortunate, for her principal owner was a warm Southern sympathizer. The London times of Nov. 22, 1861, reported from Southampton that "great excitement has been created here by the arrival in our waters this morning of a steamer of war bearing the flag of the Confederate States of America".

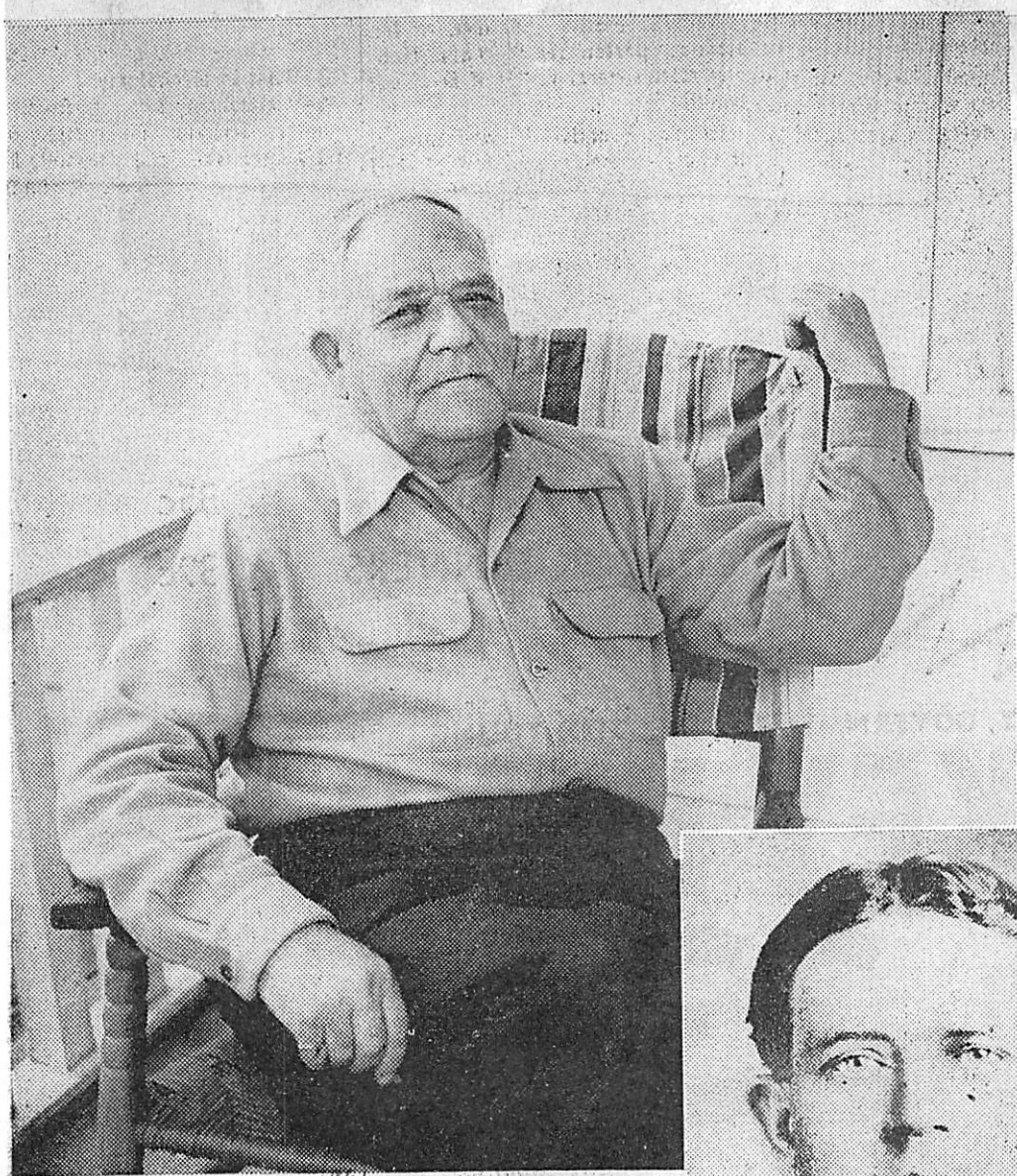
The Nashville went into dock for repairs. There was an effort to set her afire that first night. The English were then strongly anti-Union and pro-Confederate. When the death of the Prince Consort was announced on December 14, the Nashville was one of the first foreign ships to lower her colors in token of respect.

On her return to the Confederate States, on Feb. 26, the Nashville burned the schooner Robert Gilfillan. Capt. Pegram headed for Beaufort, N. C. Only one blockader was on duty, the U. S. S. State of Georgia. Sighting the Nashville at daybreak on February 28 the Union ship gave chase, but the Nashville was faster and easily arrived safely at Morehead City. This caused criticism in the North of the Union Secretary of the Navy for having only one blockade runner where there should have been five or six. Her arrival in a Confederate port ended the Nashville's career as a cruiser. Since her guns were of British manufacture, although installed in Charleston, there was long argument as to the liability of the British government. The argument produced no results, although it marked the beginning of the debate over the rights and duties of neutrals in respect to the armament of belligerent ships.

Midshipman Thomas then served aboard the C. S. S. Huntress, the Patrick Henry, and the Virginia. While on the last named, he was advanced to the rank of Passed Midshipman, serving with the Semmes naval brigade until the close of the war. He was paroled at Greensboro, N. C., April 28, 1865.

The war over, Frank Thomas went into railroad work at Ridge Spring, S. C., where he met his wife, Miss Elizabeth Watson, daughter of the prominent Mr. Elijah Watson. When Grace Episcopal Church was founded at Ridge Spring in 1873, and consecrated two weeks after his wedding, Frank Thomas was among the first communicants. After the birth of four sons and two daughters, Mrs. Thomas died in 1887. Mr. Thomas later married Miss Mary Meynardie in Lancaster. One son now living in North Carolina survives this marriage. The Confederate Navy veteran died at Chapel Hill, N. C., on May 15, 1900. He was buried in Orange County. His monument in St. Stephen's Churchyard, Ridgeway, where his parents and 13 of his 17 brothers and sisters lay buried, shows the anchor and chain of a Confederate Navy passed midshipman, the rank in which he served the South so well.

# "He, Like So Many Others, Fought for Freedom . . ."



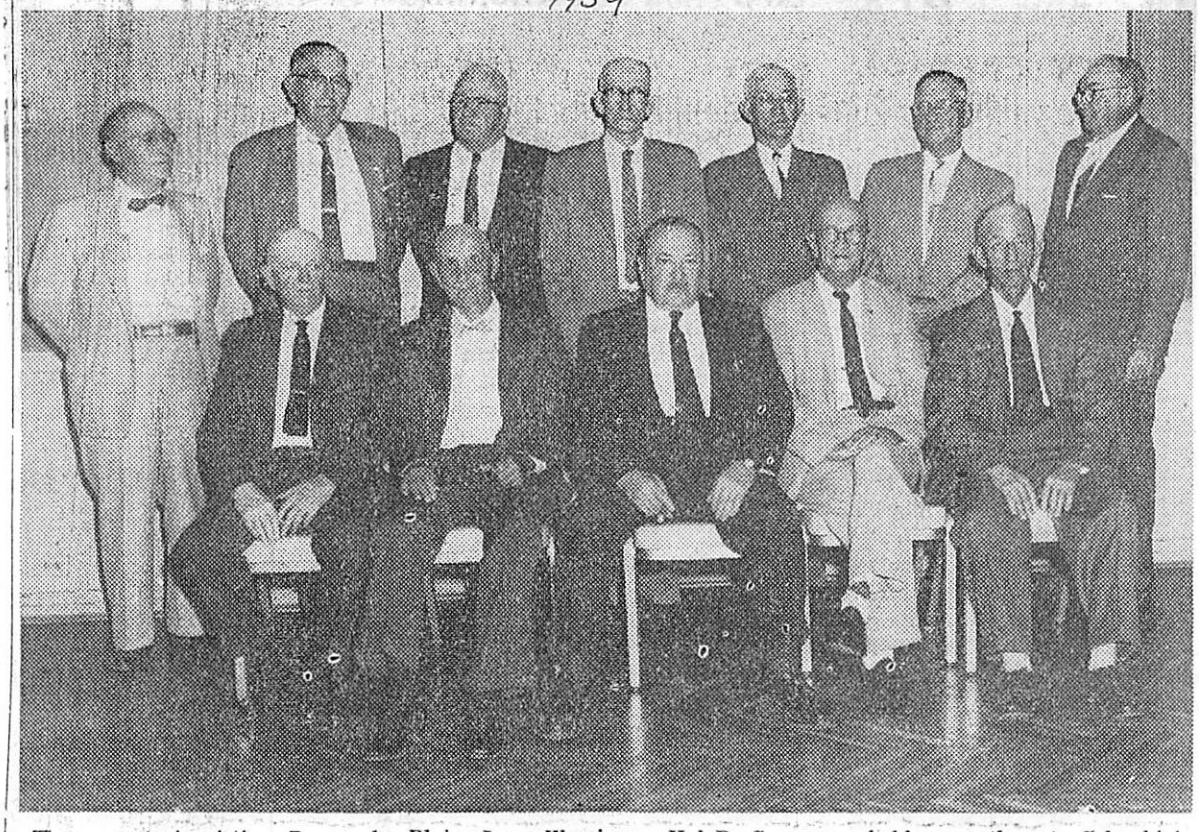
Pictured here (seated) is Major C. C. Freeman, who died on Sept. 22, as he appeared in later life and (at right) as a West Point graduate. These pictures, and the story which follows, was run as a "personality feature" by United States Rubber Company's Winnsboro Mills in The News and Herald of May 19, 1955. It seems tragically appropriate today, with the world again at the crossroads.

"Remember the Maine!" In 1898 this patriotic cry brought thousands of our young nation's finest youths to the colors, in the Spanish-American War. Major C. C. Freeman, U. S. Army retired, was one who answered the call. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1898 and served with distinction in the infantry. Later he served in the Philippine Insurrection, Chinese Relief and World War I. During these years he received many citations for gallantry in action and holds every decoration our country can bestow upon its sons with the exception of the Congressional Medal of Honor, and for action in World War I he was recommended for this high decoration.

Be it "Remember the Maine" or "Remember Pearl Harbor" our nation has always relied on the citizen-soldier in times of stress. Traditionally, our armies and navies have always been made up of a small but efficient and well-trained, core of professionals. But the bulk of our armed forces has been the citizen-soldier serving short enlistments. We are not a militant nation but when freedom is threatened we rise up and strike back with the vengeance of a rattler. The South has given many of her sons to preserve our liberty. As the symbol and representative of all living veterans and in memory of our honored dead of all wars, we salute Major C. C. Freeman.

# "We Won't Come Back 'Til It's Over, Over There"

1959



The recent Armistice Day celebration, now sometimes called Veterans' Day, brought back nostalgic memories of that long-gone World War I to those who served, in the picture above. From left to right, (seated) they are Harold E. Douglas, Sr., Charlie B. Bolick, Bill Herbits, commanding officer, now of Boston, Mass., Wardlaw McCants and Tom Collins. Standing, in the same order, are Eugene D'Oranzio, state adjutant of Florence, E. P. Blair, Jesse Wessinger, Hal R. Castles, Bill Merchant, Jule Scarborough and Chalmers Brown.

This group, which worked in an Ambulance Drivers' Company in the "War to End Wars" forty years ago, saw overseas duty in France and some "old-timers" remember when the local members boarded the train at the now defunct Winnsboro passenger depot to depart on the "long, long trail." Their reunion was held recently at Columbia's Wade Hampton Hotel to organize a unit of the "Ambulance Drivers of World War I, Evacuation Company No. 6." For reasons of "health and business", a number could not attend. The unit is planning a national meeting to be held in New York City next May. (The identifications for the photo were supplied by E. P. Blair, after considerable research).

# Winnsboro Native Is Myrtle Beach Defense Chairman

## Col. Jordan Has Been Active in Civil Affairs Of Resort City.

11/10/1952

T. M. Jordan of Myrtle Beach has been appointed Chairman of the Civil Defense Council for the town of Myrtle Beach, it was announced today by Major General James C. Dozier, State Director of Civil Defense. Formerly Civil Defense Supervisor of communications, engineering and public works, rescue, transportation, and air raid warning and aircraft observer division, Colonel Jordan was named Chairman to succeed Major General G. H. Franke, who resigned recently.

Colonel Jordan states that it is his desire to begin a civil defense educational program soon after the holidays. He hopes to enlist every preacher, teacher, and civic club leader to assist in this project.

A native of Winnsboro, he was educated at Mount Zion Institute and was graduated from Clemson College in civil engineering. He served as a lieutenant of infantry in the Army one year during World War I. During World War II he organized the Fourth Company, First Separate Battalion of the South Carolina State Guard and commanded the First Separate Battalion of the South Carolina State Guard. Colonel Jordan was Chairman of Local Board No. 44, Selective Service, for six and one-half years, for which he received the Selective Service Medal and the Certificate of Merit. From 1920 to 1926 he worked with the South Carolina and North Carolina State Highway Commissions. In April, 1926, he moved to Myrtle Beach and has lived there since that time. In addition to his work as a consulting engineer, he has had a part in the development of Myrtle Beach as well as other sections along the Horry strand.

Colonel Jordan has been a trustee of the Myrtle Beach schools for ten years, a past Commander of the local American Legion Post, a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and is a Mason. He served four years as city councilman and also as Chairman of the Horry County Jail Building Commission. In his leisure time, he has coached baseball and basketball teams.

Colonel and Mrs. Jordan, the former Anne Johnston of Chester, live at 505 Fifth Avenue, in Myrtle Beach. Their only son, Dr. J. J. Jordan, is now serving as Captain in the U. S. Air Force, stationed at Lawson Field, Georgia.

## LIEUT. R. K. M'MASTER GETS PROMOTION

7/24/1936

Richard K. McMaster, who for four years has been an instructor at West Point, was in Winnsboro Wednesday with friends and relatives just for the day. He has just recently received a promotion from Lieutenant to Captain of the Artillery and will leave for his new field of service at Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas, at an early date. His wife, the former Miss Alida Gonzales, is at her home in Columbia, and will accompany him to the new appointment.

# Gallant Soldiers Succor Foes in Sore Distress

## Revolutionary and Confederate War Incidents of Magnanimity—Capt. James Phillips Saves John and Minor Winn From Hanging—Gen. Phil Kearny Aids Gen. John Bratton—Major Simonton Comforts Dr. William Moffatt Grier, and Visits Him After War—Lieutenant McQueen Saves Lives and Property in Columbia and Camden, and Himself Is Tenderly Nursed by Confederates.

BY FITZ HUGH McMASTER.

Warren Harvey Flenniken of Winnsboro, now in his 85th year, has a wonderful scrap book to which he is continually adding but from which come, from time to time, many interesting, and sometimes, forgotten accounts of incidents in the past.

Naturaly there are many items concerning the Confederate war. Mr. Flenniken is the only Confederate veteran now in Fairfield. He was one of the last 15-year-old boys called out in the fall of 1864.

His mother once said that she felt that the world was coming to an end as she stood weeping at the gate of her home in Chester county in the fall of 1864, and saw this her youngest and last child ride off with a dozen 15-year-old lads in high spirits going to join the army. Her only daughter was then a matron of a hospital in Richmond, Va. One son, David R. Flenniken, had volunteered at the beginning of the war in Captain Leland's company at Mount Zion (Winnsboro) cadets. He was at Fort Sumter, Manassas, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg and Appomattox and had never been home for a furlough. In the 1876 campaign meeting in Winnsboro General Hampton called him out of the crowd to the stand and putting his hand on his shoulder declared that Mr. Flenniken, then a boy, had saved his life at Gettysburg. The other son, John C. Flenniken, had volunteered early in the war to take the place of a friend, the only son of a widow. So Mrs. Flenniken, a widow, naturally felt desolate, all of her children gone, left at home with a white companion and the few slaves which she owned.

### Lost Four Sons.

But her case was typical. Some were even more distressing. There was one widow in Winnsboro who sent her four sons, and none came back. There were many others like it in the South in the 60s.

It is doubtless true in all wars. It is to be remembered that Governor and Mrs. Manning sent six sons to the World war. The statement has been published that over 400 old families in England were left without male survivors of the World war.

Returning to Mr. Flenniken's scrap book. He recently showed a newspaper clipping giving an account of the dramatic incident of the capture of Gen. John Bratton, severely wounded, and nursed back to health in a Union hospital and through the ministrations of Gen. Phil Kearny, greatly relieved in prison and giving details not generally known. More of this later; it brought to mind other like incidents.

### Saved by Hanging.

The first was one in the Revolutionary war involving the Winns of Winnsboro, for one of whom the town is named, and members of the Phillips family some of whose kin are still in Fairfield.

Two Phillips brothers, afterwards Col. John Phillips and Capt. James Phillips, emigrated to Fairfield from County Antrim, Ireland, a few years before the Revolutionary war. They had been men of some substance before coming, and had increased their wealth after coming. They opposed the break with the mother country and when the war began they joined the British forces. They were given commissions.

Col. John Phillips was at one time in command of his majesty's forces in St. Augustine. After the war he returned to Ireland preferring not to live in a land which had successfully rebelled against the crown.

Capt. James Phillips did service in South Carolina, and as a Tory, the feeling against him was bitter. He was captured and imprisoned in Camden and sentenced to be hanged. Col. John Winn, who had been a friend of Captain Phillips before the war, interceded and saved the captain's life.

Later in the war, when Cornwallis was at Winnsboro, Col. John Winn and his brother, Minor, were captured and they were sentenced to be executed. Captain Phillips interceded in their behalf and saved them.

There were the three brothers Winn, Gen. Richard Winn, Colonel John and Minor. It was after Gen. Richard Winn that Winnsboro was named. After the Revolutionary war General Winn gave 100 acres of land to the Mount Zion society and on this land Mount Zion college, now academy, was built. Some of it yet remains in possession of the society, which has a partial governing interest in the great school in Winnsboro.

General Winn, though wealthy at one time, through security debts, lost most most of his property, and in his old age in 1812 moved to Tennessee where he died.

### Saved Property in Columbia.

Robert M. Kennedy, librarian of the University of South Carolina, recently told a story at the Kosmos club of Lieut. John A. McQueen, Company F, Fifteenth Illinois cavalry, of Gen. O. O. Howard's escort, of Sherman's army through South Carolina, which cannot be exceeded in general interest. When Columbia was burned February 17, 1865, Lieutenant McQueen gave protection to many women and children and property, especially that of Dr. William Reynolds, who begged him to do like service for the family and property of his brother, Dr. George Reynolds in Camden.

Dr. William Reynolds has a handsome monument in Elmwood cemetery. Near by is the gave of his son, John S. Reynolds, long time a newspaper man in Columbia and one of the wittiest of conversationalists of the city. His son John S. Reynolds, the brilliant telegraph editor of The State before 1917, was killed in France in the World war.

Lieutenant McQueen immediately reported to Doctor Reynolds at Camden, upon the arrival of the Federal army there. He not only protected the family and property of Doctor Reynolds, but those of Robert McKennedy, the father of Robert M. Kennedy of the university and of Bishop Davis of the Episcopal church.

### Wounded in Darlington.

For use in case he needed it, Lieutenant McQueen was given a letter, addressed to General Hampton, telling of his chivalric conduct, and asking for full protection in case Lieutenant McQueen needed it. He did need it when he was severely wounded in Darlington county. This being reported to Camden, Mr Kennedy, with Dr. A. Toomer Porter went to Darlington and brought the wounded men back to Camden, where he was carefully nursed to recovery.

After the Confederate war his friendships with South Carolinians was continued and he aided Doctor Porter in securing funds for Porter's academy in Charleston. A full account of him is given in Doctor Toomer's book, "Led On, Step by Step." He is also mentioned in "Historic Camden," by Kirkland and Kennedy. Doctor Porter visited him at Elgin, Ill.

### Tribute to McQueen.

It is worth while to quote a tribute paid to Lieutenant McQueen by Miss Ann Eliza Davis, daughter of Bishop Davis, in a paper read before the Historical society of Camden:

"And here let me pause for a moment to pay a passing tribute to this our friend, the enemy. This Bayard, whose story is like a ray of sunshine in the darkness. In Columbia, in Camden, wherever we, everywhere heard from, he was the same restraining lawless soldiery, saving burning houses, protecting women and children, putting his own horse in the temple, when no other could be found, to bury the dead in our midst, and then, wounded, left on the field, found by our scouts, a letter found on his person addressed to General Hampton, signed by influential men of Columbia, begging for him the mercy he had first shown to others; and so saved and cared for, paroled and placed in safety. Surely a separate paper should be written of this one knight-errant of the Northern army and kept with the annals of this historic society!"

### Kearny-Bratton, Grier.

The battle of Seven Pines, Gen. Phil D. Kearny of the Federal army, brilliant, gay, chivalric, Gen. John Bratton of the Confederate army, serene, composed in peace, a perfect ajax, a "Son of Thunder" in time of battle and Dr. William Moffatt Grier, as a lad a private in the Confederate army, later a doctor of divinity and president of Erskine college, and if Presbyterians recognized inequalities in the church would have been the metropolitan or patriarch or pope of the Associate Reformed Presbyterians—the psalm singers—make up a story of surpassing interest.

The Confederates had fallen back leaving their wounded on the field. Among these was Gen. John Bratton, who had a severe wound in the shoulder from which he had bled profusely, covering his uniform with blood. Another was a mere lad, a private, William Moffatt Grier, who had a shattered leg. Both were taken to a Federal hospital where Gen. Phil D. Kearny of the Union army was convalescing. Struck with the handsome form of General Bratton and the profusion of blood and noticing the insignia of a general, he asked permission to speak to him. But the surgeon denied it the first day because of the very weak condition of General Bratton. The next day General Kearny was permitted to speak to General Bratton for a few minutes, and to the surprise across the aisle in the hospital the lad's nerves as well as his leg was shattered, and he was weeping bitter-

ly over the loss of the leg. General Bratton and General Kearny did what they could to console him. Out of this grew a very warm friendship between the three, and when General Kearny left the hospital he placed to the credit of General Bratton in a bank $200 with instructions to use it for himself and his friends, and to let General Kearny know if more was needed.

**A Romantic Career.**

Gen. Phil Kearny had one of the most romantic careers in the American army. Joining the regular army in 1837, in 1839 he was in France studying cavalry tactics and fighting with the French in Algeria. In 1846 he was a captain making an assault upon Mexico City and losing an arm. In 1859 he was fighting the Italians under Napolean III, and being decorated with the Legion of Honor. In 1861 he was made a major general in the United States army, and September 1, he was killed at Ox Hill, near Chantilly after a clash with A. P. Hill's corps. Chantilly, it was here two nights before that Jeb Stuart called his staff around a plantation home, and said: "Let's rouse them with a dulcet serenade," and to the chors of Sweeny's banjo and accompanied by Von Borcke's deep bass and his own ringing baritone, awakened the startled family, who invited them all into breakfast when they knew who it was.

This was some of the aftermath of the battle of Second Manassas, in a campaign in which Lee with 55,000 men had defeated and driven to their last ditch 80,000 had killed and wounded 13,500 and captured 7,000 with Confederate casualties of about 10,000.

**Another Gallant Yankee.**

Another Federal officer who became deeply interested in the two South Carolinians was Maj. S. C. Simonton of the Fifty-seventh Pennsylvania regiment. As General Kearny supplied General Bratton with money, so Major Simonton did the youthful William Moffatt Grier. Twenty years after the war Doctor Grier learned the address of his benefactor and upon his invitation Major Simonton visited him at his home in Due West and later Doctor Grier returned the vist to Major Simonton's Pennsylvana home.

Doctor Grier was 18 years when he lost his leg at Seven Pines. He was the youngest man in his regiment, the Sixth South Carolina, and he received his wound before he had fired a shot—which he said was a great satisfaction to him in after life.

The Sixth regment went into this battle with 521 men, and 228 of these were killed, wounded or missing.

**From Private to Brigadier.**

If one will take the first rolls of of the Sixth South Carolina regiment in the Confederate war, which was largely made up of Fairfield and Chester county men, he will find the name of John Bratton as a private in one of the companies. Soon he became captain of his company, and upon the reorganization of the regiment, its colonel. Then he advances to the grade of brigadier general, an advance rarely equalled in the Confederate war for a man without previous military training.

General Bratton was one time comptroller general of the state, and in 1890, with Joseph H. Earle, was a candidate for governor against Benjamin Ryan Tillman, two serene, calm men of perfectly chaste language, one violent, a perfect "Stormy Petrel!" The majority voted for the Stormy Petrel.

**An Error Corrected.**

An account one time published erroneously said that General Kearny (killed in 1862) had visited General Bratton and Doctor Grier. Major Simonton certainly visited Doctor Grier, and probably General Bratton, though the writer has been unable yet to verify this statement.

# LOOKING BACKWARD

The following is an extract from Williams' "Red Shirts", which has just recently been published:

**Hampton's Visit To Winnsboro.**

Hampton spoke at Winnsboro on the 16th of October, 1876, arriving by train from Columbia. The train, of course, was jammed and at every station crowds had gathered to give greeting, cheers and flowers. The Rev. J. H. Miot, of Columbia, introduced a humorous feature of the trip by appearing in black coat and trousers, white tie and waist coat and shouting at every pause some prepared sentences of reasons for turning the thieves out of the state and electing Hampton. The Winnsboro people had been studying the accounts of other meetings and adopted and improved upon some of the best and most impressive preparations of each. Gen. M. C. Butler, one of the handsomest men in the country and a skilled horseman, despite his one leg, and Hampton were provided with splendid horses and rode side by side from the railway station, magnificent figures, Hampton bareheaded, waving his hat and bowing in response, through a lane of red-shirted mounted men all standing in their stirrups, swinging their hats and cheering madly. This plan of forming the riders in open order was borrowed from Camden. As each organization was passed it closed up and fell in behind the two leaders. All stores were closed and all buildings decorated. The stand was in the "Presbyterian Woods" and was elaborately decorated with state and United State flags, with the old banner of the Citadel Cadets at the front. The Sumter idea of a tableau was adopted. A girl prostrate on the ground represented South Carolina and as Hampton approached she was raised to her feet by another girl dressed to represent Liberty, with cap and staff, Justice stood by with scales and sword and thirty-seven other girls in line wore sashes bearing the names of the thirty-seven states then in the Union and a large choir sang patriotic songs, led by two bands, while cannon roared salutes at intervals. The crowd was estimated at five thousand. The Rev. Mr. Chichester offered prayer. Fairfield County made a day and a night of it as two meetings were held, Hampton speaking at both. He once more urged that the troops be welcomed as friends and repeated that the more of them were sent the better he would be pleased. He had held a conference with General Reeger, commanding the forces in the South, while in Columbia the day before, and found him, as expected, a soldier and gentleman, trying to do his duty faithfully. Gen. Bratton read a letter from Bolling Gregory, prominent colored Republican of the county, saying he was convinced the welfare of both races required the overthrow of the Chamberlain government and the election of Hampton. Other speakers were: Colonel Rion, Major Barker, Col. Evins, Mr. Moise, Colonel McMaster and Judge Mackey. The Judge fired his usual epigram with the remark that Chamberlain was an intellectual giant with moral paralysis. The colored Democrats, of whom several hundred were present, unformed and in much glory, were feasted in the college chapel.

A delightful and thrilling incident, recently recalled to mind, marked happily the close of the day meeting. As Hampton was leaving the stand many men crowded about, as always was the case, to shake hands with him. Among them was a small, modest man, making his way forward rather diffidently. The General caught sight of him and promptly pulled him out of the press, exclaiming: "Well, Here's the boy who saved my life at Gettysburg!"

The two had not met since the surrender, but Hampton said he never could forget the face of his old soldier, put a hand affectionately over his shoulder and introduced him to those nearby as David Flenniken, a business man of Winnsboro, who, he said, "saved my life while he was a boy in his teens."

Remarking, that meeting Mr. Flenniken gave him more pleasure than all the demonstrations of the day, he narrated briefly the incident of Gettysburg. He was receiving a report from Flenniken, who was one of his best scouts and couriers, when the latter exclaimed suddenly, "Look to your right!" The General looked just in time to see a Federal soldier deliberately aiming at him with a rifle at short range and instantly rode the man down and sabered him. Mr. Flenniken died not long ago, but his family and surviving fellow citizens recall proudly the day of the Winnsboro meeting and Hampton's final words regarding his former comrade: "He never in the four years failed to deliver an order."

# Thom. Woodward "The Regulator" An Early Patriot

5/21/1970

(By Alice A. B. Walker)

Thomas Woodward's first American ancestor was Abraham Woodward, who came to Virginia with Lord Calvert, Baron of Baltimore, about 1634.

Thomas Woodward was born in Fairfax County, Virginia, 1727 or 1729. He and his wife, Jemima Collins, arrived in Camden District in what is now Fairfield County, South Carolina about 1765, later taking out large land grants.

Sturdy in body, given to study in a number of fields, and with keen interest in military tactics, he promptly joined the ranks of the military group of 1,000 prominent planters called "The Regulators," which was first organized and activated in the years of 1760-61. These men started small local courts to bring to trial and punishment the excessive number of scattered horse thieves and robbers in the up country," these criminals often escaping their captors enroute to the colony courts in Charleston.

Among the names of the Regulators found as of November, 1767, are Thomas Woodward, Moses Kirkland, Barnaby Pope and Thomas McGraw, Sr., of Camden District, South Carolina. Governor Bull of Carolina Colony, seeing the efficiency of the Regulator Activities, started the **circuit courts in Carolina, 1768.** This was the beginning of the judicial system in South Carolina.

Thomas Woodward organized and equipped one of the first military companies in South Carolina for the Revolution, he being Captain of the company called, "Woodward's Horse Rangers." He was in a number of battles and fought valiantly. On May 12, 1779, while routing out a vicious nest of British and Tories near Ridgeway, he was fatally wounded. He died on Jackson Creek and was secretly buried.

There is a granite marker to him in the old Woodward grave yard near the site of his former home at Rockton, near Winnsboro.

Woodward was active when called to survey the controversial state line between the two Carolinas. His survey was accepted by the government.

He was a member of the Provincial Congress of 1775. Also, he had numbers of honors in his late life.

Many descendants of Thomas Woodward are in Fairfield County, South Carolina and in the state of Louisiana. These are men of prominence in the professions.

(Alice A. B. Walker—1970)

Edward Mobley, six of his sons, and two of his sons-in-law, served in the American Army in the Revoluntionary War.

# Revolutionary Guns Discovered In Fairfield County

7/3/1941

Shown here are some of the old weapons that Billy Burgess, 14-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Burgess, 2029 Hampton street, found while rummaging around in the attic of his grandmother's home in Winnsboro several years ago. The house is over 150 years old and has always been occupied by members of the same family.

His grandmother, Mrs. Janie Clark, gave him the weapons after he had found them and since then he has polished them up and even exhibited them at the state fair.

Two of the guns, long and heavy muskets, were very probably used in the Revolution. The date "1812" has been scratched on them and the name "Stephenson," which Billy says is the name of one of his ancestors who fought in the War of 1812.

A sword with the date "1812" was also found in the attic and Billy believes that the two notches cut in the steel mean that two men were killed by the sword. The sword, like the guns, is long and heavy.

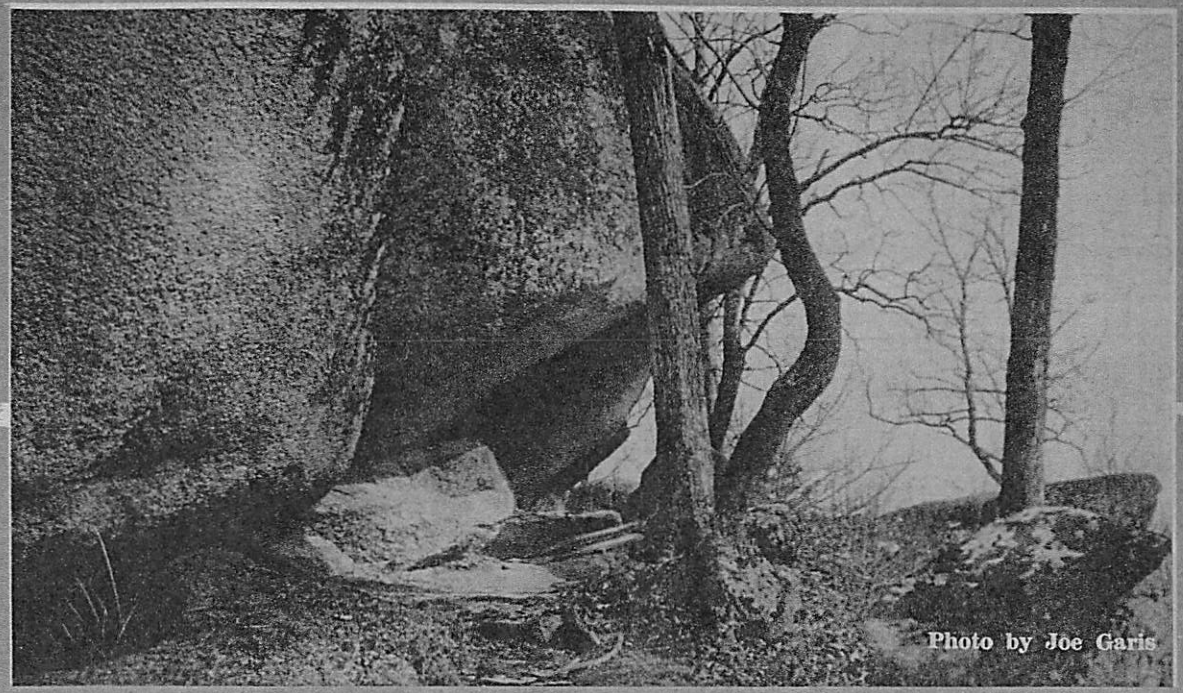
Another gun bears the date "1823" and another "1873." A bayonet was also found which fits on one of 1812 guns.

Two of the guns were bound together with an old cavalry belt but there is no date to determine the age of the belt.

In addition to the weapons Billy found an old Bible containing family records back to 1814 and some almost undecipherable writing from a Confederate soldier in 1864.

# When bullets whistled near *HANGING ROCK*

By Louise Johnston




*The Hanging Rock in Lancaster County*

THE Hanging Rock located a few miles south of Heath Springs in Lancaster county marks the place where one of the best fought battles of the American Revolution occurred.

The large rock lies near the east bank of Hanging Rock creek and is surrounded by numbers of similar but smaller boulders. Beneath the canopy of Hanging Rock, which shelves towards the bank, a large number of men could be sheltered in its spacious concavity.

Near the Hanging Rock on the western side of the creek the British commander of that section had established a post, which was garrisoned by infantry of Tarleton's legion, part of Brown's South Carolina and Georgia Provincials, and Colonel Bryan's North Carolina loyalists, all under the command of Major John Garden, with the Prince of Wales' American regiment numbering about five hundred soldiers.

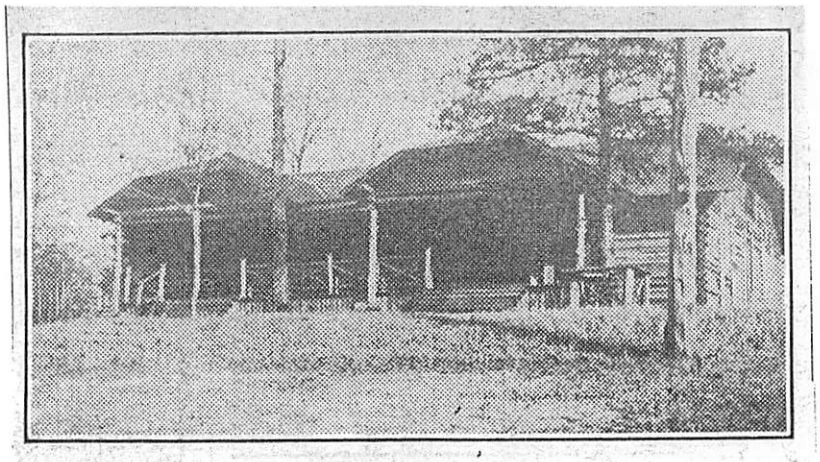
ON August 1, 1780 Major Davie with his cavalry and some Mechlenburg militia made a vigorous surprise attack on the British force and all but a few of the British were either killed or wounded. The spoils of this battle were sixty horses with their trappings and one hundred muskets and rifles.

After a battle fought at Rocky Mount, General Thomas Sumter marched cautiously towards Hanging Rock and approached the British camp in three divisions; the right composed of Major Davie's corps and volunteers, the center commanded by Colonel Irwin's Mechlenburg militia, and the left by Colonel Hill's South Carolina regulars. On August 6, 1780 General Sumter made a second attack on the British post. Colonel Irwin's soldiers led the attack and the Tories soon fled towards the main body of the British army, throwing away their arms as they fled. Brown's corps, which was on the alert, poured a heavy fire from a wood and received General Sumter's men with the bayonet. For a while the issue was doubtful but finally the British yielded and dispersed in confusion leaving arms and ammunition, which were sorely needed by Sumter's men, who had only two rounds each when the attack began.

THE chance for a decisive victory was lost when General Sumter's soldiers in plundering the British camp, already seized, found liquor which they drank freely. General Sumter's ranks became disordered and the enemy rallied for an attack, which was met by two hundred infantry with Major Davie's cavalry. However General Sumter was not to be foiled. With a shout he and a small number of his soldiers rushed forward. The contest was severe for a while and just as the British line was yielding, reinforcements came up, so General Sumter deemed best to retreat. The enemy had been so severely encountered they did not attempt a pursuit. Later Major Davie dispersed a small corps near the Camden road. The engagement lasted four hours and was one of the best fought battles between militia and the British regulars during the Revolutionary war.

A. S. Salley, retired state historian, erected a marker a short distance south of Heath Springs and one that was pinned on the Hanging Rock, which later disappeared.

With Lancaster county funds the Waxhaws chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution sponsored the erection of a granite marker at the Hanging Rock and also a highway marker in the town of Heath Springs.



## HOME OF POST No. 16 AMERICAN LEGION

# VOICE OF THE LEGION

11/30/1936

It probably is natural that some persons should think Legionnaires are militaristic, for no better reason than that we once were soldiers or sailors. The truth is that The American Legion wants peace; it desires nothing more sincerely than that our country never again shall be plunged into the carnage of another war. We seek, however, to temper our natural desire for peace with a reasonable amount of common sense in the interest of our country.

In reaffirming our stand for an adequate national defense, we have at the same time given our unanimous endorsement to the neutrality laws which were adopted to protect the United States against being embroiled in the conflicts and militarism of foreign lands. The American Legion holds that peace is possible and peace should be maintained. We ask only that America shall be prepared to defend itself if an aggressor attempts to violate our sanctity as a sovereign nation.

For more than twelve years The American Legion has worked for the adoption of a Universal Service Act, under which the government would have the right to call upon manpower, capital, and resources with special privileges and profits for none. In other words, demand that the profit motive be taken out of war. When the Legion first began its fight for a Universal Act, we met with little approval. In the last several years, however, great stides have been made toward the attainment of this important objective.

It is probable this law would have been adopted in the last session of Congress if some of those most interested in it had not felt further studies were necessary to porduce an adequate program. We fully expect to see this plan become a law in the coming session. in keeping with a resolution adopted in St. Louis at our last National Convention. When this nation establishes a policy which says that all citizens must share the burdens of war equally, America will have pointed the way toward more permanent peace among all nations.

The general public is familiar with the many shocking disclosures of the methods employed to gain excessive and illegitimate profits during the World War. Conditions which permitted this must never again be allowed to occur. No body of men anywhere has a greater right to ask this, or is possessed of more sincerety in so doing than this great group of veterans of our last war. The placing of the Universal Service Law upon the statute books in the form recommended by The American Legion will make impossible a re-occurrence of such conditions in the event this country is so unfortunate as to ever again become engaged in armed conflict.

Such legislation will not cost one cent. Should our country be blessed, as we hope it may, and there be no more wars, its enactmnet will not affect the life of the nation one iota. But should war be forced upon us, this legislation will place the United States in position to meet it as a truly united country should be—promptly and efficiently, by a nation unified in arms, industry, and effort through equal service from all and special privilege for none.

In the Legion we place nothing above the welfare of our country. That is why our Americanism program has ever been a primary objective. Americanism has been defined as "An unfailing love of country; loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity."

The Legion's Americanism program does not consist of speechmaking and hat-waving. We say in the first place that the principles and institutions upon which this nation is solidly founded must be preserved. We shall fight to the bitter end against those subversive movements which seek to destroy the free democracy we have established. We shall continue that fight until those elements are destroyed or driven from our land. They have no place in the United States of America.

JAMES F. DANIEL, JR.
Department Commander

## A LIST OF LEGIONNAIRES

11/30/1936

The following are members of The American Legion, post No. 16. Come on and join up with your buddies.

J. E. Douglas, Jr., C. M. Matthews, S. E. Nix, A. M. McWhirter, D. W. Ruff, Jr., O. W. Blair, R. Scott, W. G Ragsdale, Raymond Cartadellas, J. G. Woodall, Paul Williams, Jim McDaniel, W. R. Newman, Dalton Lovett, Elijah Wells, H. M. Eleazer, Frank Carnell, Joe Haynes, A. M. Cathcart, D. S. Brown, John Knight, C. L. Baughman, C. L. Cota, Y. E. Park, James L. Bryson, W. A. Robinson, R. L. Martin, G. W. Boulware, Albert H. McMeekin, G. A. Tims, T. W. Shedd, D. E. Aiken, Tom S. Haynes, Dr. C. S. McCants, D. A. Crawford, L. W. Taylor, G. E. Womble, A. F. Blair, James W. Stephenson, Dr. Charles L. Jennings, T. K. McDonald, E. A. Turner, W. R. Rabb, F. M. Roddey, John M. Sims, A. J. Beckham, R. A. Hicks, Joe Owensby, Ben Nelson, Dallas Carey, Elmore Cauthen Jule Price, U. S. Byrd, B. M. Fowler, Dalton Jackson, C. D. Peeples, C. G. Tennant, H. B. McMaster, D. E. Crossland, Wardlaw McCants, E. U. Brice, J. C. Darby, J. C. McMaster, J. S. Ketchin, J. A. Brice, E. C. Williams, J. F. Biddle, E. K. Rabb, S. R. McMaster, J. M. Harden, Jr., M. M. Stewart, J. D. Rutledge, G. R. Lauderdale, J. M. Macfie, A. R. Smarr, E. P. Blair, W. B. McDowell, O. C. Scarborough, and A. H. Harsey.

# S. C. SENDS FIRST MAN FROM FAIRFIELD

11/28/35

**Mr. W. H. Flenniken Writes Interestingly Of War Experiences.**

I noticed in The State recently an item taken from the New York Times, giving an account of the first man drafted or who went over seas to the World War—W. B. (Bill) Love, of Georgia. If South Carolina can't be first, she is first cousin to the first. He and his family are now living in Columbia, S. C., where Mr. Love is in the banking business.

Do you know that the first man to go over seas from South Carolina in he World War was from Fairfield county? He was Randolph Bratton, son of Bishop Bratton, an eminent divine, and a grandson of General John Bratton, a large planter. When men were called to join the Confederate army General Bratton was among the first to enlist as a private in the ranks, with a musket on his shoulded. When the war ended he was a Brigadier General, rising to that rank by sheer merit.

Randolph Bratton received four citations for bravery in the World War. He never refers to them and they are kept in a vault in the bank. His record is enviable and I fear very few are aware of it.

Should we not publish these meritorious deeds lest they may be forgotten?

**(By W. H. Flenniken)**

4/19/1918

More and more of our boys are leaving for service in the army and navy. William R. Rabb, Jr., left for Allentown on Monday; Olin L. Blair and George Crawford have enlisted in the navy, and William Robinson has joined the Quartermaster Corps.

Mrs. U. G. DesPortes and little daughter, Sarah, are visiting Mrs. DesPortes' mother, Mrs. Smith, in Concord, N. C.

Sam Clowney, Jr., left Saturday for Allentown, Pa., as a volunteer in the Ambulance corps.

Dave Crawford has arrived from Sheffield, Ala., and is visiting at his home here.

# TOWN MAY GET LARGE ARMORY

10/6/1938

**Senator J. M. Lyles Thinks Approval of $25,000 Brick Building For Winnsboro Very Likely. It Could Be Used For Various Purposes.**

Some time ago, Senator J. M. Lyles requested Adjutant General James C. Dozier to use his influence to obtain a W. P. A. Armory for Winnsboro, in connection with the local unit of the National Guard. General Dozier immediately put in the application through the proper channels.

The armory, if it gets final approval, will be a $25,000 brick building, with a seating capacity of 1,200 persons. It would supply a long-felt need in Winnsboro and could be used for a variety of purposes—for the county fair, the farm women, as a recreation and social center. The building will come at a very small cost to the taxpayers.

Senator Lyles says that the project has already won approval from the Columbia headquarters and a final O. K. from Washington is thought very likely.

Several counties, including Chester, already have such buildings and they are proving invaluable assets.

For more than a year Winnsboro has had a Medical Detachment of the National Guard. Dr. John C. Buchanan, Jr., is Captain of the outfit.

# IT HAPPENED IN 1944

## Being A Sketchy Review Of An Historic Year For Fairfield County and Winnsboro In Which You May Or May Not Be Interested.

In this, the fourth week of the New Year and the 163rd week of the United States at war, it might prove interesting to turn back the pages of time and recall what transpired in Fairfield during historic 1944. The review, as culled from the files of The News and Herald, will necessarily be brief. Dates listed will generally coincide with the weekly issues of the paper, and will not therefore be the exact time when a given event occurred.

Here we go—by weeks and months.

**JANUARY, 1944**

Jan. 6:—Sgt. Eratus Powell completes 25th mission over Germany in Flying Fortress. More than 200 cases of syphilis under treatment in Fairfield, the Health Department announces. T. J. Estes is promoted to captain. DEATHS: Mrs. Bessie G. McMeekin, Wallaceville; Mrs. J. L. Boyleston, Williston, mother of Mrs. Jasper Bolen.

Jan. 13:—H. C. Schatz heads anti-polio drive. Fourth War Loan Drive gets under way, McMaster announces. Jack Arnette wins appointment to West Point. DEATHS: J. A. Mincey, Winnsboro Mills.

Jan. 20:—Capt. Chris Patrick of White Oak awarded Silver Star. War Production Exhibit comes to Winnsboro Mills. DEATHS: Mrs. G. U. Robinson, Greenbrier section; T. Watt Mann, Bethel.

Jan. 27:—Dick Ferguson is principal appointee to Annapolis DEATHS: Mrs. A. Fletcher Ruff, Rock Hill.

**FEBRUARY—**

Feb. 3:—2,158 people see War Production exhibit at Winnsboro Mills. Marion Boyd Camak speaks at Rotary club Ladies' night. DEATHS: J. H. Feaster, Princeton, Ark.

Feb. 10:—Rep. Hayne McMeekin sponsors bill to eliminate fee system in county offices. Jack DesPortes, formerly of Ridgeway, is major at 23—perhaps one of army's youngest. Rotarians map post-war plans. Col W. O. Brice leading air attack in Southwest Pacific. DEATHS: Mrs. Frank R. McMeekin of Monticello.

Feb. 17:—Rep. Boyd Brown introduces bill to restore power of supervisor. Vern Haugland, star AP correspondent, reports Bonnie Blue flag flies over Brice's headquarters in the Solomons. DEATHS: Mrs. C. B. Rabb, mother of Sheriff E. K. Rabb.

Feb. 24:—Lt. Keigler E. Flake and friends liquidate 54 Japs. R. V. Wood inducted at Fort Bragg. Capt. K. R. McMaster, Jr., returns to States. Capt. T. J. Estes, Jr., awarded Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal for "meritorious service." DEATHS: Mrs. Mary Ann Thomas, 98, Ridgeway, county's oldest resident; Mrs. W. C. Peay; C. R. Brooks; K. S. Fagan.

**MARCH—**

Mar. 2:—Talk of re-establishing Mt. Zion Society, founded in 1777, thus ante-dating U. S. Constitution. Marine Lt. Lavinia Lyles is her company commander at Camp Lejeune. Education forum opens at Mount Zion DEATHS: Mrs. Lucy Peak Braswell.

Mar. 9:—Lt. C. E. Strange back from England. DEATHS: John G. Gladden, Mitford; Mrs. Otis Raines, Blythewood.

Mar. 16:—Sgt. Furman A. Boone killed in North Africa. Capt. T. J. Estes back from war area. DEATHS: Samuel Marthers; W. R. Ashford, Bethel.

Mar. 23:—Col. Brice returns from Pacific area. Boatswain Walter Arnette cited for bravery. 4½ inches of rain falls here in 3-day period.

Mar. 30:—County nears Red Cross goal. Education center closes at Mt. Zion, opens at Everett.

**APRIL—**

Apr.6:—Shelton is host to zone Lions meeting, under auspices of W. B. McDowell. Red Cross drive over the top. Mt. Zion Society is reorganized, names J. Riley McMaster, A. E. Davis and Dr. S. C. Byrd as trustees. Pfc. Tom Hoy among first to set foot on Jap-held soil in Marshalls. DEATHS: J. Alex Robinson, Bethel; Conover Hartin, Galveston, Texas.

Apr. 13:—Col. Brice, speaking at Rotary club, says Japs play for keeps.

Apr. 20—:First Lt. Arthur McBeachhead. Ambassador DesPortes goes to Mayos for treatment. Fairfield may get freezer-locker plant in near future. U. G. DesPortes opens self-service super-market. Lt. K. E. Flake awarded Silver Star. DEATHS: M. B. Jennings, Jacksonville; T. R. Ellison, New York.

Apr. 27:—Town in need of Chamber of Commerce, Dave Skinner tells Rotarains. Site chosen for freezer-locker plant. Cost of Lasting Peace High, Dr. Callcott says at Everett panel. Lt. Tom Murphy and Pfc. D. A. Crawford, Jr., meet in England. H. E. Ketchin observes 84th birthday April 23.

**MAY—**

May 4:—County Convention names uninstructed delegates. Dr. J. D. McMeekin heads Lions club. Sgt. J. R. Bennett reported missing in action (is prisoner-of-war in Germany). Sgt. Bobby Swindler also POW in the Reich. "County May Get Airport Soon".

May 11:—Pfc. Walter Green Cathcart killed on Anzio beachhead April 17. Pvt. Billy Allen wounded at Casa Blanca. Mossy Dale endorses C. A. Robinson for House. DEATHS: William Yancey Trapp, Monticello; Robert F. Mann, Bethel; Job Matthews, Millings Cross Roads; V. Q. Hambright, York.

May 18:—Fairfield's population declines, now is 20,606. Boyd Brown chosen delegate to National Convention as Roosevelt Regulars win in Columbia. DEATHS: B. F. Engert, formerly of Winnsboro Mills.

May 25:—Capt W. J. Spires home after 28 months in Pacific. Capt Joe Milling awarded Purple Heart. Sgt. Clyde Gunter wins medal in athletic contest abroad. DEATHS: Mrs. Nannie Darby, 90, Winnsboro.

**JUNE—**

June 1:— Twenty candidates announce for Fairfield county offices. DEATHS: John A. Wertz, 46; W. D. Creight, 75.

June 8:—Lt. K. E. Flake wins Silver Star. Winnsboro churches have prayer services on D-Day (June 6), as 4,000 ships escorted by 11,000 planes hit the French coast. DEATHS: Mrs. Mary McMaster Boulware, 85; John Cary, 70, Winnsboro Mills.

June 15:—The News and Herald publishes service edition, listing names of 1,600 Fairfield men and women in the armed forces. Fifth War Bond quota is

named "soldier of month" at Lockbourne Air Base, Columbia, Ohio, makes high mark in officer candidate exam. Lucy Hill Doty, Red Cross worker, writes of experiences in Middle East.

June 22:—Shelton is first district over the top in bond drive. DEATHS: Mrs. D. G. Phillips, Chester.

June 29:—Capt. W. Herbert Ruff, Ridgeway, back from Pacific. Lt. Tom Ellison sees much action in Pacific theatre. Marine Charlie Sam, Jr., serving in Pacific. Sgt. David Castles is prisoner-of-war in Germany. Pfc. Eldridge Hutto killed in Italy. Sgt. "Buster" Hudson here after 4 years in Pacific.

**IN MEMORAM**
**(From Service and Subsequent Editions)**

These have made the supreme sacrifice: Walter Green Cathcart, Bernard E. Shealy, Walton Jones, Jennings F. Hatchell, Arthur L. McKeown, Furman Boone, Carswell Vodrick Wheeler, Jr., Arthur Webb Smith, Ira Dalton Byrd, Turner Edward McCarley. D-Day casualties had not been reported at this date.

**JULY—**

July 6:—Lt. Donald Lyles, bombardier, awarded air medal and oak leaf cluster for meritorious work over Fortress Europe. Pvt. Maurice T. George, husband of the former Billy Jean Belk, reported killed in France. Cpl. Willie Edenfield wins Bronze Star in Italy. Wounded: Cpl. Lloyd Jordon at Casino; Pfc. James W. Robertson in France. DEATHS: Mrs. A. B. Heins, Ridgeway.

July 13:—Sgt. Haynes Miller, paratrooper, in action in France. Five boys from Union community take part in invasion: Capt. James C. Lemmon, Lt. R. H. Lemmon, Sgt. John Lloyd Timms, Pvt. Grover Timms. Pvt. James Robertson. Major Cornwell Jennings hurt by robomb in England. DEATHS: Thomas Charles Camak, 89, sage of Mossy Dale and longtime star correspondent for The News and Herald; T. L. Black, 62, Stover; Mrs. Rosa Jordon, 81, Columbia; Bishop Theodore Dubose Bratton, 81, Jackson, Miss.; Thomas C. Hinson, brother of Mrs. Marie H. Mincey.

July 20:—Pvt. Johnnie R. Dove, Ridgeway, helps feed "bambinos" in Italy, where bread is 90c the loaf, meat, $1.50 the pound. More than 4,000 qualify to vote in primary.

ford, Jr., reported killed in action in France on June 7. Lt. Sydney P. Kelly reported missing over Germany since July 7. Lt. David Edgar Aiken reported killed in France July 13. Pvt. Henry Ellenburg, Winnsboro Mills, Pfc. Joe Woodward, Blackstock, reported killed in France. Lyles, Douglas Rabb and Bass elected on first ballot. Lt. Zelma Kelly, Ridgeway army nurse, weds in Italy. DEATHS: Mrs. Jennie Bankhead, 64, Blackstock; Mrs. Saddie Rabb Epting, Monticello; Mrs. Nancy Wilson Drawdy.

**AUGUST—**

Aug. 3:—Ambassador F. A. DesPortes pays brief visit to Winnsboro. Lt. B. H. Yarborough wins Distinguished Flying Cross. T-Sgt. Jerome George and T-Sgt. Roy H. Folk, Strother, awarded Air Medal. Cpl. William Jennings, Greenbrier, serving in England. Cpl. Charles Freeman, serving in New Guinea, pictured with Bonnie Blue Flag. Dr. Oliver Johnson observes 78th birthday.

Aug. 10—Lt. K. E. Flake addresses Rotarians. Sgt. Jess C. Benton wounded in France. S-Sgt. Joe Davis wins Air Medal. Pvt. Bronsell Tarte sees action in Italy. Lt. John T. Johnson promoted to Captain.

Aug. 17:—A. E. Jury returns to Winnsboro. Lt. Thomas F. Murphy reported missing in action since July 18. Wounded: Pfc. Walter Peake in New Guinea Pvt. Woodrow Walker in France. Major George Hagood has served 28 months in Caribbean. Fourth member (R. Lex Montgomery) of Blackstock Class of 1937 dies in action.

Aug. 24:—J. P. Isenhower wins race for House; Dave Crawford elected Game Warden. Lt. Sam Bolick, back from India, addresses Rotarians. Dr. Lois McDonald is appointed member of War Labor Board, being first woman so honored. Wounded: Pfc. R. E. Phillips, second time, in France; Pvt. Samuel Gladden; Sgt. W. J. Sanders; Pfc. T. A. Hinson. Sgt. James C. Young wins Air Medal. Marine General Harry K. Pickett praised by army. DEATHS: S. L. Montgomery, 64, Woodward; Mrs. W. H. Paine, 65, Winnsboro.

Aug. 31:—James M. Dickerson, Blair, dies of D-Day wounds. Wounded: Staff Sgt. Edgar C. Simms; Sgt. Billy Porter. Cpl. Harry Hill wins citation. Capt. M. L. Collins wins majority. Rev. Cliff Hill McLeod predicts Roosevelt's re-election.

Sept. 7:—Capt. Joe Milling returns home after 27 months abroad. Sgt. Charles Traylor, White Oak, missing in action. Major Edwin L. Shull awarded Bronze Medal. Capt. Walter Gray wins majority. Lions club names Chamber of Commerce committee.

Sept. 14:—Winnsboro ministers get ready for V-Day—Victory in Europe—just a wee bit early. "Insurance man tells Rotarians New Deal is unfair to Insurance men." Capt. John T. Johnson is in on capture of Nazi general. Grand Jury says conditions very bad at chaingang camp. Lt. Donald Lyles awarded Distinguished Flying Cross. Fairfield's Negro soldiers doing fine job at home and abroad. DEATHS: Miss Mamie Ashford, 83; Lonnie R. Hagood, 40.

Sept. 21:—Ambassador Fay Allen DesPortes dies in Panama. "County renews efforts to get freezer-locker". Pfc. Jefferson Boulware, Shelton, killed in France.

Sept. 8:—Speaking before Rotary club, Dr. Francis W. Bradley says war with Nazis far from over, may last many months. 4-H Cattle Show opens.

**OCTOBER—**

Oct. 5:—Fairfield gets set to form Chamber of Commerce, 459 beef animals bring $23,000 at county's seventh annual sale. Dr. Austin T. Moore, Ridgeway native, speaks at international surgeon's meeting. DEATHS: William W. Dixon, 76, at Longtown.

Oct. 12:—Pfc. Jimmy McClintock killed in Luxembourg. Sgt. Frank L. Truesdale killed in France. Sgt. Thomas Peake's squadron credited with 141 Jap planes in Pacific. Wendell L. Willkie, great American, dies at age of 52. Richard Branham killed by truck. Sen. Carter Glass cast deciding committee vote in favor of Rev. Marshall Shepard, Negro, as recorder of deeds in District of Columbia.

Oct. 19:—Citizens vote unanimously to form Chamber of Commerce, elect W. B. McDowell, Shelton, the first president. Capt. John T. Johnson wounded second time. Lt. J. C. Culler missing in action. DEATHS: J. J. McEachern, Longtown.

Oct. 26:—Sgt. Stanley DeWitt Arrowsmith, husband of the former Miss Margaret Ligon, killed in France. Pfc. W. E. Peake,