

Fairfield County Museum
Winnsboro, South Carolina

July 25, 1991

Dear Volunteers:

It has taken me some time to get back to you since my visit in late June but I wanted to have "news" for you before I wrote again. On June 26 after visiting you I ventured on to Jenkinsville where I found the home, Mayfair, with the help of the folks at Yarborough's store and Mr. Bob McMeekin. The home is in bad shape but still retains some of the grace and charm that surely made it a beautiful home at one time. Mr. McMeekin's niece still owns the home and he is very ashamed that she will not keep it up. We took many pictures to remind us of our first visit. We also visited the graves of Burrell Brown Cook and his wife, Mary Honoria who are buried in a woodland cemetery close by the house.

The good news is that since that visit I have located the old Cook family cemetery the description of which you have on file in the Cook family folder in the museum. The paper is entitled Cook's cemetery--unused and abandoned. Mr. Bob McMeekin was just a wealth of information in finding this cemetery as he put me in touch with a Dr. Pinner of the area who lives within walking distance of the graves. Dr. Pinner, who practices in Peak, S.C., is a historian and avid forester who roams the woodlands of the Jenkinsville area. His home is located on acreage that was once a part of the Burrell Cook estate on the Broad River. The graves, however, are located on property that is part of a Yarborough estate. After a phone conversation, Dr. Pinner verified that the cemetery was still there and took us to it yesterday. There, we were able to authenticate some of the inscriptions on the markers as being Cooks. Sadly, the area is badly overgrown, accessible only by hiking or a four-wheel drive. The markers are in near ruin due to elements of nature. We did acquire a few pencil rubbings which prove beyond a doubt that it is the Cook family burial plot. Dr. Pinner also had his son take us across the acreage to another area where there is a solitary grave marked William Cook, son of Burrell Brown and Mary Honoria who died October 12, 1820 at age 11 months. This was their first born and is not, for some reason, located with the others. We feel there is some possibility that Burrell Cook, Burrell Brown Cook's father, whose grave location is not known, could very well be buried near this site. Unfortunately, there is nothing to go on at this point. However, I am very much encouraged that if anyone can locate it or has an interest in finding it, that Dr. Pinner will be the one to do so. He is extremely interested in history and has no desire to disturb anything of historical value. He owns considerable acreage of the original estate and plans to clear some of it out. Perhaps he will be the one to find out more about the Cook family in Jenkinsville.

I thought you might want to know of him since he seems to be a wealth of information about the Jenkinsville area and in case someone else inquired about the Cooks in that area.

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I also need to ask another favor of you. When I was there you gave me a handwritten page from an 1850 census that listed several Cook families. I need an official copy of that page if it came from a book and the copyright date of that book. This is for DAR and I must provide sources.

The 1850 census also listed JW COOK and wife Caroline who was the son of Burrell Brown Cook. JW is my great-great grandfather and I must establish proof of his existence through some official record. The census record would suffice if it were an official copy from a book complete with a xerox of the title page and a copyright date. JW and Caroline also had a son, Joseph Newton Lewis Cook, who I assume was born in Fairfield County. I've contacted the State Archives for information but to date nothing has come up. If you have copies of the 1860 and 1870 census in Fairfield County and could check JW's family to see if Joseph Newton Lewis Cook is listed among them, that could aid my search tremendously. Again, I would need official proof, like a xerox of the page plus a xerox of the title page and copyright page to verify the information.

I thank you for any help or direction you can provide as I am determined to see this through for future generations. I am one of the last surviving Cooks and hope to conserve this for my family. Again, I will gladly pay for any postage and xeroxing expenses.

Sincerely,

Beverly Cook Putnam
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