

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

William Julian Elliott

½5/1858 - 9/13/1929

Mr. William Julian Elliott was once the editor of The News and Herald Newspaper in Winnsboro, South Carolina. He wrote articles for the newspaper in 1915 and 1916 called "Random Recollections of Fairfield County". This book is a collections of the articles that could be obtained. These articles are word for word as he wrote them.

Compiled by: Linda M. Malone

Fairfield Archives & History

Winnsboro, SC

2004

The news and herald. (Winnsboro, S.C.) 1901-1982, March 30, 1916, Image 6

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RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

(BY W. J. ELLIOTT.)

South Carolina has always had a place on the map since the county was first settled and Fairfield county was always in evidence in all matters of war and peace. The Mexican war called a goodly number of Fairfield county men to the struggle, though I do not remember even having heard that any Fairfield county men were at the Alamo. (Can some student of history tell us?) I've seen the Butler-Dickinson-Gladden medal, which was presented to Mexican veterans from our old county. General Gladden, of Mexican fame, was a brother of Mrs. Powell, mother of J. W. Powell, now of Columbia. One old veteran of two wars, a native and life long resident of our county was Richard Jackson Gladney. He had one of the above mentioned medals and was proud of it. Mr. Gladney told me on a certain occasion that while he was in Cherubusko, Mexico, he was boiling some soup for Gen. Maxcy Gregg who was confined because of a wound and that the

near the light. Waiting around on the outskirts of the camp till toward morning they saw a Yankee come from his tent undressed. Slipping up to the fellow Kellar told him to keep quiet or he would be a dead man. Of course the command was obeyed. On this cold February night Kellar mounted this man on a Yankee horse without allowing him to dress and by breakfast time turned him over to Wade Hampton who was at the time in Chester. The town was full of men and women, when Gen. Hampton came out and arrested the man for appearing in company in that undressed condition, understanding full well why he was not dressed. The Yankee replied, "General, your men would not give me any chance to dress." The fact of this man's appearance in this guise at Chester is recorded in history and Walter Keller told me he was the man who captured the Yankee on the Adger place. In fact, he told me of the incident before I read it in (I think) Butler and his cavalry, by Brooks.
For a number of years after the war it was not safe for Confederates of Tennessee and Kentucky to return home. Some men from Tennessee stayed in

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was in Cherubusco, Mexico, he
was boiling some soup for Gen.
Maxcy Gregg who was confined
because of a wound and that the
Mexicans were at the time shell-
ing the town during an earth-
quake. He said they were up
stairs in a stone or cement build-
ing and that between the shells
and the earthquake he would
"sware pint blank" the jarring
"shuck" the soup off the riddle
and broke the stitches in Maxcy
Gregg's wound. He was very
fond of talking of Maxcy Gregg.
Mr. Gladney was a soldier in the
"Uncivil" war and was a good
fighter. It was told of him that
he was very fond of one of the
Jeters from Union county and
was always apprehensive that

Chester. The town was full of
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For a number of years after
the war it was not safe for Con-
federates of Tennessee and Ken-
tucky to return home. Some
men from Tennessee stayed in
Fairfield county. Two men whose
names I remember were Fitzger-
ald and Bishop. They spent a
good part of their time in wes-
tern Fairfield and the negroes
were very much afraid of them.
Fitzgerald married a Miss Hen-
derson, sister of Mr. Stuart Hen-
derson of Newberry county. Mr.
Stuart Henderson married Miss
Ella Milling of the Salem section;
I have been with them at their
home near Blairs by the New-
berry side of the River within
the last six years. Mr. Fitzger-
ald died a year ago. On my trip

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ne was very fond of one of the
Jeters from Union county and
was always apprehensive that
some disaster would befall Jeter.
So on a certain night while the
Yankees were shelling our men
he ran out and said, "Men, great
God, look at that shell; I wonder
where Jeter is"—and yelled out,
"Look out Jeter, here comes a
shell."
At a reunion of the Mexican
veterans in Washington, D. C.
Tom Mackey, who was a Mexican
veteran, met Mr. Jack Gladney
and inquired of him: "Now Mr.
Gladney what branch of the ser-
vice did you occupy in the Mexi-
can war?" Mr. Gladney replied,
"Only a private Judge Mackey. I
fought through the Mexican war
and through the Confederate war
as a private." Taking Mr. Glad-
ney by the arm, Judge Mackey
said, "Come with me to the ros-
trum." Calling the assembly of
veterans to order Tom Mackey
addressed them: "Fellow com-
rades of the Mexican war, allow
me to present to you Richard
Jackson Gladney, of Fairfield
county, South Carolina, the only
surviving private of the Mexican
war." Old man Jack had not
learned the art of acquiring a
post between army title.
There was quite a number of
Sherman's men killed near Jack
Gladney's house and they lie

the last six years. Mr. Fitzger-
ald died a year ago. On my trip
to Mr. Henderson's I met Fitz-
gerald's brother from Tennessee
who told me that it was not an
uncommon thing to hear three or
four shots at night and when
morning came to find two or three
dead men in the neighborhood.
The place was thickly settled and
it was neighbor against neighbor.
He explained to me that this con-
dition prevented his brother from
coming home. So he married a
congenial woman in a congenial
clime. The visiting brother told
me we had no conception of the
condition in his state after the
war.
I don't know when Bishop was
from but he was, I think, from
the same state. He was a terror
to negroes. Some of the O'Neil
negroes came to Winnsboro to
work for my mother and they
regaled us at night with the
terrors of Bishop. We were afraid
to go to bed for fear we would
dream of Bishop. The negroes
seemed to fear him especially.
He was killed by the negroes near
or on the Furman place. He was
expected along there and the
negro who fired the shot was in
the yard and took the advantage
of an opening in the field from
ambush. I remember the time of
the trial. Col. Rion defended
the negroes charged with the

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Sherman's men killed near Jack Gladney's house and they lie buried in the pines near the road. Three pines were known as the "Yankee pines" for a long time. Mr. Gladney was in no way connected with their death, so far as I know. Three of Sherman's men lie buried beyond the three-mile post near the home of Hugh S. Wylie and I know who killed them. I have also been informed as to who was in pursuit of the men killed near Jack Gladney's place. But after a lapse of so many years I presume its best that the names be kept from the public.

When Sherman's army was camped in Fairfield county some of his men were having a dance with negro women on the Adger place where Mr. Samuel Cathcart's present residence is located. The music was going at a great pace and all was merry. Walter J. Keller, who was a Confederate scout, in company with one or more of his comrades fed their horses from the troughs of the Yankke wagon in the camp at Adger. These scouts wore Yankee overcoats and it was hard to distinguish them from the regular Yankees. They witnessed the dance from the outside, as they could not venture

the trial. Col. Rion defended the negroes charged with the murder and I heard him say that word was sent him by Bishop's friends that they would kill any lawyer who undertook to defend the negro. I heard the Colonel explain, in this connection, why he occupied the desk to the Judge's left. He stated that because of his seniority he was entitled to the seat of honor, on the right of the Judge. But owing to the fact that he carried his pistol in the left pocket of his coat skirt, he chose the position so he could hold the left side of his coat with the left hand and draw and fire with the right, the position giving him the advantage of having the Bishop crowd more at his front than his rear.

Col. Rion had his own peculiar ideas about all matters. During a very exciting time in the court house yard in 1878 he said to me, "Elliott, where have you got your pistol?" I replied, "In my hip pocket of course, Col". He said, "Look down this roll of law paper in my left hand, and therein what appeared to be a judgment roll he nestled a 32 Smith and Wesson, saying, "I can pull my pistol without being suspected. You may be shot while reaching toward your hip pocket. I never was shot. I am thankful to say."

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