

Fairfield Family Histories

(1700s-1982)

**Acknowledgements:
Nelle McMaster Sprott
Walter Woodard Lewis**

**Their help and support contributed greatly
to the publishing of this book.**

*Ed, check this out.
Also, I saw Bundy
today. He has Asbury's
books and said
there is no
mention there.*

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 - ▶ Suggestions

| Record | Description | Date | Image |
|--|--|------------------|---------------------------|
| Series: S165005 Year: ND00 Item: 03890 Page: 009 Record 1 of 35 records View all index terms | LIST OF APPOINTEES TO VACANT OFFICES IN FAIRFIELD, CHESTERFIELD, NEWBERRY, AND BEAUFORT DISTRICTS AS JUSTICES OF THE PEACE AND QUORUM, CORONERS, NOTARIES, AND COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PUBLIC SECURITIES, AND FREE SCHOOLS. (2 PAGES) | No date | No online image available |
| Series: S108092 Reel: 0068 Frame: 00417 ignore: 000 Record 2 of 35 records | HAVIS, JESSE, ACCOUNT AUDITED (FILE NO. 3441) OF CLAIMS GROWING OUT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. View all index terms | 1776 C. or later | No online image available |
| Series: S213190 Volume: 0027 Page: 00332 Item: 001 Record 3 of 35 records | CRAIG, ROBERT AND JESSE HAVIS, PLAT FOR 330 ACRES ON REEDY FORK, CAMDEN DISTRICT, SURVEYED BY J. WINN. View all index terms | 10/1/1791 | No online image available |
| Series: S213190 Volume: 0032 Page: 00006 Item: 002 Record 4 of 35 records | HAVIS, JESSE AND WILLIAM COGGAN, PLAT FOR 263 ACRES ON WATEREE CREEK, CAMDEN DISTRICT, SURVEYED BY RICHARD FRANCIS WINN. View all index terms | 4/30/1793 | No online image available |
| Series: S213190 Volume: 0032 Page: 00193 Item: 002 Record 5 of 35 records | HAVIS, JESSE, PLAT FOR 150 ACRES ON KINGS BRANCH, CAMDEN DISTRICT, SURVEYED BY JOHN SMITH FOR JAMES HAWLIS ON APRIL 28, 1773. View all index terms | 9/5/1794 | No online image available |
| Series: S213190 Volume: 0033 Page: 00079 Item: 003 Record 6 of 35 records | HAVIS, JESSE, PLAT FOR 401 ACRES ON HORSE BRANCH AND MILL CREEK, FAIRFIELD COUNTY, CAMDEN DISTRICT, SURVEYED BY ANDREW MCDOWELL. View all index terms | 9/5/1794 | No online image available |
| Series: S165015 Year: 1797 Item: 00119 ignore: 000 Record 7 of 35 records | HAVIS, JESSE, PETITION ASKING FOR PAYMENT OF HIS ACCOUNT AS DEPUTY SHERIFF OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY. (2/2 PAGES) View all index terms | 11/1797 | No online image available |
| Series: S213192 Volume: 0037 Page: 00033 Item: 003 Record 8 of 35 records | HAVIS, JESSE, PLAT FOR 275 ACRES ON DUTCHMANS CREEK, FAIRFIELD COUNTY, CAMDEN DISTRICT, SURVEYED BY ANDREW MCDOWELL ON JANUARY 25, 1796. View all index terms | 3/31/1798 | No online image available |
| Series: S165015 Year: 1798 Item: 00105 ignore: 000 Record 9 of 35 records | HAVIS, JESSE, SHERIFF OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY, PETITION ASKING THAT HE MAY BE GRANTED COMPENSATION FOR TRANSPORTING PRISONERS TO THE DISTRICT GOAL AT CAMDEN. (2 PAGES) View all index terms | 11/30/1798 | No online image available |
| Series: S165005 Year: 1798 Item: 00093 Page: 000 Record 10 of 35 records | COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE PETITION OF JESSE HAVIS CONCERNING HIS ACCOUNT WHICH CANNOT BE PAID DUE TO THE ABSENCE OF THE SHERIFF OF NINETY SIX. (2 PAGES) View all index terms | 12/6/1798 | No online image available |
| Series: S213192 Volume: 0037 Page: 00370 Item: 001 Record 11 of 35 records | SMITH, JACOB, PLAT FOR 180 ACRES ON DUTCHMANS CREEK, FAIRFIELD COUNTY, CAMDEN DISTRICT, SURVEYED BY ANDREW MCDOWELL FOR JAMES LUES ON APRIL 9, 1799. View all index terms | 9/20/1799 | No online image available |
| Series: S213192 Volume: 0037 Page: 00508 | HAVIS, JESSE, PLAT FOR 290 ACRES ON DUTCHMANS CREEK, FAIRFIELD COUNTY, CAMDEN DISTRICT, SURVEYED BY ANDREW MCDOWELL. View all index terms | 4/1/1800 | No online |

| | | | |
|---|---|------------|---------------------------|
| <p>Item: 001 Record 12 of 35 records</p> | | | image available |
| <p>Series: S213192 Volume: 0037 Page: 00509 Item: 002 Record 13 of 35 records</p> | <p>HAVIS, JESSE, PLAT FOR 99 ACRES ON WATEREE, FAIRFIELD COUNTY, CAMDEN DISTRICT, SURVEYED BY ANDREW MCDOWELL. View all index terms</p> | 4/1/1800 | No online image available |
| <p>Series: S213192 Volume: 0038 Page: 00056 Item: 002 Record 14 of 35 records</p> | <p>HAVIS, JESSE, PLAT FOR 101 ACRES ON THORNTREE, FAIRFIELD COUNTY, CAMDEN DISTRICT, SURVEYED BY ALEXANDER KENNEDY FOR JAMES SEAL ON JANUARY 13, 1800. View all index terms</p> | 8/27/1800 | No online image available |
| <p>Series: S108093 Reel: 0011 Frame: 00181 Item: 000 Record 15 of 35 records</p> | <p>AUSTEN, JAMES OF FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, FAIRFIELD COUNTY WILL TYPESCRIPT (1 FRAME) (MSS WILL: FAIRFIELD DISTRICT ESTATE RECORD BOOK B, VOL. 4, PAGES 11-12; ESTATE PACKET: FILE 8, PKG. 1) View all index terms</p> | 5/14/1801 | Online images available |
| <p>Series: S213192 Volume: 0038 Page: 00394 Item: 000 Record 16 of 35 records</p> | <p>HAVIS, JESSE, PLAT FOR 409 ACRES ON LITTLE DUTCHMANS CREEK, FAIRFIELD DISTRICT; SURVEYED BY HENRY MOORE. View all index terms</p> | 8/15/1801 | No online image available |
| <p>Series: S213192 Volume: 0038 Page: 00547 Item: 002 Record 17 of 35 records</p> | <p>TRUSSEL, WILLIAM, PLAT FOR 113 ACRES ON REEDY CREEK, FAIRFIELD COUNTY, CAMDEN DISTRICT, SURVEYED BY JOHN MILLING FOR JESSE HAVIS ON SEPTEMBER 2, 1786. View all index terms</p> | 12/31/1801 | No online image available |
| <p>Series: S108093 Reel: 0011 Frame: 00317 Item: 000 Record 18 of 35 records</p> | <p>STARKE, THOMAS OF FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, FAIRFIELD COUNTY WILL TYPESCRIPT (2 FRAMES)(MSS WILL: FAIRFIELD DISTRICT ESTATE RECORD BOOK C, VOL. 5, PAGE 146; ESTATE PACKET: FILE 31, PKG. 477). View all index terms</p> | 3/16/1807 | Online images available |
| <p>Series: S108093 Reel: 0011 Frame: 00272 Item: 000 Record 19 of 35 records</p> | <p>HAVIS, JOHN OF FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, FAIRFIELD COUNTY WILL TYPESCRIPT (2 FRAMES)(MSS WILL: FAIRFIELD DISTRICT ESTATE RECORD BOOK C, VOL. 5, PAGE 180; ESTATE PACKET: FILE 18, PKG. 221). View all index terms</p> | 8/15/1807 | Online images available |
| <p>Series: S213192 Volume: 0041 Page: 00388 Item: 002 Record 20 of 35 records</p> | <p>HAVIS, JESSE, PLAT FOR 124 ACRES ON REEDY BRANCH, FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, SURVEYED BY JAMES STEWART. View all index terms</p> | 12/17/1808 | No online image available |
| <p>Series: S108093 Reel: 0011 Frame: 00383 Item: 000 Record 21 of 35 records</p> | <p>STEWART, ALEXANDER OF FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, FAIRFIELD COUNTY WILL TYPESCRIPT (2 FRAMES)(MSS WILL: FAIRFIELD DISTRICT ESTATE RECORD BOOK D, VOL. 6, PAGE 185; ESTATE PACKET: FILE 31, PKG. 490). View all index terms</p> | 7/22/1813 | Online images available |
| <p>Series: S213192 Volume: 0043 Page: 00427 Item: 003 Record 22 of 35 records</p> | <p>SMITH, WILLIAM, PLAT FOR 75.75 ACRES ON HORSE BRANCH, FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, SURVEYED BY JAMES KENNEDY. View all index terms</p> | 10/21/1813 | No online image available |
| <p>Series: S213192 Volume: 0043 Page: 00501 Item: 002 Record 23 of 35 records</p> | <p>FERGUSON, ABRAHAM, PLAT FOR 61 ACRES ON DUTCHMANS CREEK, FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, SURVEYED BY ABRAHAM FERGUSON. View all index terms</p> | 2/23/1814 | No online image available |
| <p>Series: S213192 Volume: 0044 Page: 00121 Item: 002 Record 24 of 35 records</p> | <p>PICKETT, JOHN SR., PLAT FOR 9.9 ACRES NEAR DUTCHMANS CREEK, FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, SURVEYED BY JOHN WOODWARD. View all index terms</p> | 12/21/1815 | No online image available |
| <p>Series: S213192 Volume: 0044 Page: 00126</p> | <p>HAVIS, JESSE AND ARTHUR YARBOROUGH, PLAT FOR 414 ACRES ON BEAVERDAM BRANCH, FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, SURVEYED BY JOHN A. THARP. View all index terms</p> | 1/2/1816 | No online |

| | | | |
|---|---|------------|---|
| <p>Item: 001 Record 25 of 35 records</p> | | | image available |
| <p>Series: S213192 Volume: 0044 Page: 00157 Item: 003 Record 26 of 35 records</p> | <p>HAVIS, JESSE AND SAMUEL S. GAMBLE, PLAT FOR 420 ACRES ON WATEREE CREEK, FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, SURVEYED BY HENRY MOORE. View all index terms</p> | 3/8/1816 | No online image available |
| <p>Series: S108093 Reel: 0011 Frame: 00478 Item: 000 Record 27 of 35 records</p> | <p>WOODWARD, JOHN OF FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, FAIRFIELD COUNTY WILL TYPESCRIPT (11 FRAMES) (MSS WILL: FAIRFIELD DISTRICT ESTATE RECORD BOOK E, VOL. 7, PAGES 122-127; ESTATE PACKET: MISSING) View all index terms</p> | 1817 | Online images available |
| <p>Series: S108093 Reel: 0011 Frame: 00489 Item: 000 Record 28 of 35 records</p> | <p>YARBOROUGH, JOHN OF FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, FAIRFIELD COUNTY WILL TYPESCRIPT (2 FRAMES) (MSS WILL: FAIRFIELD DISTRICT ESTATE RECORD BOOK E, VOL. 7, PAGES 84; ESTATE PACKET: FILE 36, PKG. 586). View all index terms</p> | 3/20/1817 | Online images available |
| <p>Series: S165015 Year: 1819 Item: 00113 ignore: 000 Record 29 of 35 records</p> | <p>TRUSTEES OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF MONTICELLO IN FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, PETITION ASKING TO BE INCORPORATED. (2 PAGES) View all index terms</p> | 11/24/1819 | No online image available |
| <p>Series: S165015 Year: 1819 Item: 00114 ignore: 000 Record 30 of 35 records</p> | <p>TRUSTEES OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF MONTICELLO IN FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, PETITION ASKING TO BE INCORPORATED. (2 PAGES) View all index terms</p> | 11/24/1819 | No online image available |
| <p>Series: S213192 Volume: 0047 Page: 00349 Item: 001 Record 31 of 35 records</p> | <p>KNIGHTON, SAMUEL, PLAT FOR 2.7 ACRES IN FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, SURVEYED BY WILLIAM MCDANIEL. View all index terms</p> | 2/18/1825 | No online image available |
| <p>Series: S108093 Reel: 0011 Frame: 00725 Item: 000 Record 32 of 35 records</p> | <p>PICKETT, FRANCIS OF FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, FAIRFIELD COUNTY WILL TYPESCRIPT (MSS WILL: FAIRFIELD DISTRICT ESTATE RECORD BOOK H, VOL. 10, PAGE 209-210; ESTATE PACKET: FILE 61, PKG. 937) (2 FRAMES). View all index terms</p> | 1827 | Online images available |
| <p>Series: S108093 Reel: 0011 Frame: 00683 Item: 000 Record 33 of 35 records</p> | <p>HAVIS, JESSE OF FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, FAIRFIELD COUNTY WILL TYPESCRIPT (MSS WILL: FAIRFIELD DISTRICT ESTATE RECORD BOOK H, VOL. 10, PAGE 224; ESTATE PACKET: FILE 51, PKG. 792) (4 FRAMES). View all index terms</p> | 1/2/1828 | Online images available |
| <p>Series: S108093 Reel: 0011 Frame: 00649 Item: 000 Record 34 of 35 records</p> | <p>BOULWARE, MUSCO OF FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, FAIRFIELD COUNTY WILL TYPESCRIPT (MSS WILL: FAIRFIELD DISTRICT ESTATE RECORD BOOK H, VOL. 10, PAGE 137; ESTATE PACKET: FILE 39, PKG. 613) (5 FRAMES). View all index terms</p> | 4/30/1828 | Online images available |
| <p>Series: S108093 Reel: 0011 Frame: 00904 Item: 000 Record 35 of 35 records</p> | <p>ASHLEY, WILLIAM OF FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, FAIRFIELD COUNTY WILL TYPESCRIPT (MSS WILL: FAIRFIELD DISTRICT ESTATE RECORD BOOK M, VOL. 14, PAGE 223; ESTATE PACKET: FILE 37, PKG. 596) (3 FRAMES). View all index terms</p> | 7/7/1834 | Online images available |

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AROUND THE MUSEUM

DECEMBER 2015

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT

OPEN HOUSE AND RECEPTION AT THE MUSEUM

The Fairfield County Museum announces its Annual Christmas Open House at its 231 S. Congress St. location in Winnsboro on December 6 from 4 to 7 PM. In addition to the gala event, museum volunteers have assembled two very interesting new exhibits. On the ground floor there is a display of antique sleigh bells from the collection of Ed Gates. A room on the second floor has been fitted up as an old-timey country store, with artifacts from several Fairfield County commercial establishments representing the late 1800s up through early 1900s periods.

Many volunteers annually contribute to this event and several organizations participate in preparing for the festivities. Our community's beautiful 1830 Museum building will be decorated for the season in



period fashions by the ladies of several partnering garden clubs. The Fairfield County Historical and the Genealogy Societies will provide refreshments for all. A slate of local musicians will perform in the parlor and the 1854 square Rosewood piano is being tuned to accompany performers and participatory caroling along with several other offerings. There will be a children's bell choir, a brass duet, a classical string performance, and some traditional vocal/string performances. The museum is promoting two other in-town offerings earlier during the afternoon with Handel's *Messiah* to be

performed by community singers at Bethel ARP church beginning at 3 PM. The Pinetree Players will be presenting their Christmas play, *Dashing Through the Snow*, also at 3 PM.

Both of these programs take place within walking distance of the Museum. The public is invited to join us to herald the Christmas season in our community.

Additional information can be gotten at 635-9811 or by writing fairfieldmus@truvista.net.





AROUND THE MUSEUM



It's that time of year again! In a few days, the garden club decorators will be towing in bags of holly and cedar, red nandina berries and smilax swags. The historical me-mand genealogicsociety members are joining forces to produce the setting. The cheerfulness and dedicated passion of caring and volunteerism is something I have contemplated a lot about in recent times.

Most of you know that I had a scary time of unexpected health issues and surgery just after my 65th birthday this summer. I see that this was my wake-up call precipitating an opportunity to view my life with a different pair of glasses. I have had no end of re-thinking the importance of living in the moment and not taking connec-

tions in life for granted. While I was out of work for about 2 1/2 months, the museum elfish force of volunteers lovingly picked up all the loose ends and pushed ahead with museum programs, exhibits, and research requests.

Eddie, Ed, Suzanne, Shelbia, Susan, Claudia, Jon, Betty, Lee, and countless others stepped in with their shirt sleeves rolled up. I returned to the museum to witness the results which will be shared with the public on Dec. 6. Ed Gates's special work with the old store exhibit on second floor and the sleigh bells collection downstairs is not to be missed!

Contributions have come in as Fairfield County Historical Society donations and annual membership dues over the year in record receipts. With your help, Ed and Suzanne have been able to make some valuable purchases for the collection from the Columbia auctions of Mrs. Pauline Lauderdale's wonderful Fairfield County antiques. In addition, we were sent a sizable donation from the descendant of Revolutionary soldier Jessie Havis, who was one of the founders of the Methodist Church in Winnsboro. Ed had researched old records and maps of the rural area east of Winnsboro where Col. Havis's previously lost burial site was rediscovered. The volunteers, including David Wright on his fancy farm tractor, installed a newly minted granite monument to mark the place. Mrs. Sharon Havis's donation covered the historical society's expenses and the remainder was given to the Methodist Church where Rev. Bundy Bynum had a similar marker placed, along with his bronze soldier's plaque in the

Methodist cemetery.

Jim Young is another new volunteer from Rock Hill, retired from his television videography work with Charlotte television. He is now working on a documentary chronicling the sensational 1915 "Winnsboro Massacre" when Sheriff A.D. Hood, Deputy Raleigh Boulware, prisoner Jules Smith, and assailant Clyde Isenhower were killed. An article on the project published this summer in the Herald Independent can be read at <http://heraldindependent.com/news/232/hc-did-his-duty>.

In addition Jim is volunteering to renew our online oral history project with stories and interviews. A recent addition, author Pat West's interview with Brother Lyles about the Bratton family can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wu3yM0pDZ80&feature=youtu.be>. Incidentally, the Youtube site offers several other interviews of Fairfield citizens that should be enjoyed if you have not.

January is annual membership renewal month and a form is attached on the next page. Why not avoid the year-end hassle and join the several others who have joined our ranks as Life members.



This year marks the passing of one of everyone's favorite Museum volunteers, the talented Susan Miller.