

## Fairfield Museum

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**From:** Kenneth.A.Shelton.ctr@nga.mil  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2015 12:07 PM  
**To:** fairfieldmus@truvista.net  
**Cc:** ashvainmo@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** RE: Jesse Havis

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
=====

Pelham

So, based on the below, I think to your original question to me:

"Ken, Attaching our plans here for a big Feb. event which is taking all of our energies for the moment, but Ed Gates (volunteer) was trying earlier in the year to solve a mystery involving Rev. WAR soldier Col. Jessie Havis (havis, harris, etc.). His home shows up on the R. Mills map (NE of the town of Winnsboro) and his grave was known in past years to exist in that area. As a descendant had sent a bronze plaque from the Feds. to be attached to commemorate his participation in the War, Ed began looking for the grave which had been desecrated. Finally he found that a neighbor had confiscated the slab to use as a picnic table, but in recent years he had been found out and the slab was, instead put into the in-town Sion Presb. cemetery where his wife and her family were buried in a later time. Finding the underpinnings on the timbered and logged over portion of land where we felt the grave had been, was a project that Ed and a friend were finally able to discover from some old cedar stumps and a scattered pile of old bricks that had once supported the slab.

What concerns us is that it seems that his name was misspelled as Harris in historical accounts of Fairfield History. He should be credited with welcoming in the Methodist exhorter \_\_ Jenkins and technically becoming one of the founders of our Methodist church in Winnsboro. However F. McMaster and other sources call him Harris in the accounts about the church. We can't prove it is the same, but circumstances support it. Do you have any knowledge or suggestions about this? After our big Feb. events, we want to seek advice on the best place to put the bronze marker. If we decide to put it back out in the woods, we will have it securely affixed to a granite base and will need to come up with some other security measures to protect it. We will probably leave his slab in the Sion cemetery, but may want to put up a marker indicating that he is buried on his land and that he was one of the founders of the Methodist church (if we get enough evidence that this is right)."

I can't see how to get there without making a countercharge on the Rev. Bynum -- to disprove his contention that (A) the church was founded in 1808, (B) that the "Capt. Harris" is \*not\* "Capt Havis", AND that Jesse Havis belonged to the congregation \*before\* 1809, (C) that a sale of \$20 really is a nominal consideration, and the Rev.'s opinions notwithstanding, Jesse Havis really did, in effect, endow a congregation with a gift of land vice it being a fair-market-price standard sale, and that (D) being a trustee really \*was\* critical and not simply a C02-generating warm body to fill out the roster.

Having said that -- I'm inclined to think:

(A) is probably right -- although he didn't offer any specifics on his "ironclad proof" other than a profession it exists,

(B) I seriously have my doubts based on just the research I've done so far -- I think "Capt. Harris" may well be exactly correct, and there isn't any basis to change it to "Capt. Havis". But even proving that doesn't get you any closer, because now the earliest reference to Jesse Havis being Methodist is the late 1810's on the trustee deed, making your problem worse -- not better.

(C) is going to be debatable -- so they bought a town lot for \$25. Great. So what? An undeveloped town lot for \$25 could have little to no relevance to 3 acres of prime developed land with buildings on it outside town. But we don't know precisely what was on it -- the deed gives the full breadth of the possible -- it conveys rights to literally anything that could conceivably exist on the land without enumerating what is actually there, if anything. So is \$20 fair market or not? It depends. If a house or barn or other building is on it, \$20 is a pittance -- basically giving Jesse Havis back his original grant filing fee for it and nothing more. If it's empty, undeveloped land, then yeah -- \$20 is a fair price for 3 acres. And it makes a huge difference. Endowing a congregation makes you "instrumental" in its founding. Selling land to trustees of a congregation at a fair market price makes you irrelevant to the founding -- you are an interesting historical factoid, but have nothing to do with founding it, really. And if he isn't going to endow a Methodist Church with 3 acres located literally in his back yard -- that 3 acres was carved out of his own grant land -- then why would you conclude he was "instrumental" in founding any other congregation? And if being a trustee is simply a matter of getting 40 men on the opening day baseball roster, then how does that make you "instrumental"? You allowed them to use your name to fill out a quota. Literally anybody could have been asked to do that.

(D) is probably right -- I'm assuming a Rev. knows the formula for trustees. I'm also giving him the benefit of doubt that he knows what the trustee formula was for 1790-1820, not just taking what is today and assuming it was the same back then. I do have questions about his rather detailed story on Monticello's trustee transaction -- unless he has a contemporary document that literally states "...John Buchanan was Judge Ordinary (Probate Judge) in Winnsboro. Montecello was in the western part of the county about fifteen miles from Winnsboro, a good long journey in 1816. Reddick Pierce was a former pastor of UMC Winnsboro who had located near Montecello. He brought a friend to Winnsboro to John Buchanan to help incorporate a new church. John called in his friend and fellow trustee Jesse Havis to help fill out the number of trustees required to incorporate. Thereafter, they probably had little to do with the day by day operation of Montecello church.", this reads to me to be apocryphal. "...John called in his friend and fellow trustee Jesse Havis to help fill out the number of trustees required to incorporate. Thereafter, they probably had little to do with the day by day operation..." -- really? You know they were "friends" as a fact? You have a trustee note that is undated, and can be from any time from 1800 to 1825 -- it could easily date to \*after\* the Monticello instrument, but you conclude it \*proves\* this narrative? Or you have something else that \*proves\* it? But either way -- I don't see how it gets you to your goal. Prove it or disprove it -- it makes no difference to your stated goal.

Thoughts?

Ken S.

-----Original Message-----

From: Shelton Kenneth A Dr NGA-TIC USA CTR

Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 1:12 PM

To: 'BundyBynum'; Fairfield Museum (fairfieldmus@truvista.net)

Subject: RE: Jesse Havis

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

=====  
BTW -- I think we are talking past each other on the "indenture" or "endowment" question -- if you are stating that the opening phrase of the document is "This indenture made the 14th day...", well yes -- that's obvious. That's not my point. My point was whether the deed represented a deed of gift with a nominal remuneration, which is an endowment of real estate to an individual or organization -- hence, Pelham's "Jesse Havis was instrumental in establishing X" -- or, if it is a fair-market-value commercial transaction. Both types of intent on the part of the seller are written identically in the legal document called a land deed or indenture, and the open phrase of both is written the same. What is different is the sale price and, infrequently used, the addition of things like "for love and affection", "for consideration of so-and-so as my child", etc. etc.

If Jesse Havis can be considered to be vital in establishing a congregation, then it is necessary to demonstrate \*how\* his involvement was necessary.

Based on the information provided up to this point, the answer is glaringly "no". You already stated that simply being a trustee doesn't even mean you have to be a member of said congregation, much less "instrumental in its founding". You also now state that he is selling at fair market value a tract of land to Chestnut Meeting House, not endowing it with a gift of land for a nominal consideration. You also stated that, even if "Capt. Harris" is actually "Capt Havis" (which is assumed at this point, not proven), it still doesn't make any difference because you have "ironclad" proof the congregation started in 1808, and this purported "Capt Havis" didn't join until 1809.

So it would be very disingenuous to put on a state historical marker that Jesse Havis was "instrumental" or "active" or really anything of much consequence beyond "member of" and maybe "later Trustee for" the church in Winnsboro.

Ken S.

-----Original Message-----

From: BundyBynum [mailto:bbbynum@truvista.net]  
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 10:03 PM  
To: Shelton Kenneth A Dr NGA-TIC USA CTR  
Subject: Re: Jesse Havis

Kenneth,  
\$20.00 was full value of a piece of property in the country. First Church paid \$25.00 for lot 115 on the corner of Washington and Boundary Streets in Winnsboro in 1810. The church had already been completed a year earlier.  
The long document is simply "the trust clause" by which every piece of property owned by a Methodist Church is held in trust by the Annual Conference/ General Conference. This has been true since John Wesley bought the first property in England in mid 1700. It is still in use today. Since Methodist ministers are appointed by the Bishop and not called, this was/is insurance that a local church cannot lock out a minister that they don't wish to have serve their church. This has been challenged often in various courts, but always upheld.

My son, who is a research historian at the Library of Virginia, and an expert in reading early American script validates my reading of "indenture".  
Sent from my iPad

> On Feb 9, 2015, at 3:18 PM, <Kenneth.A.Shelton.ctr@nga.mil> wrote:  
>  
> Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
> =====  
>

> And if the latter -- then how do you explain the exceptionally detailed language on the construction and operations of the congregation-to-be that follows, none of which would be of the least interest to somebody who is simply selling a tract of land to a set of trustees. It would be legally sufficient to simply say "I, Jesse Havis, sell this land to these Trustees for this Methodist Organization for \$20" and leave it at that. They would only have the rest of it added if it were part of the terms of the agreement, which would not be relevant to a strict commercial transaction.

>  
>  
> -----Original Message-----

> From: Shelton Kenneth A Dr NGA-TIC USA CTR  
> Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 2:13 PM  
> To: 'BundyBynum'  
> Subject: RE: Jesse Havis

> Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

> =====

> Bundy,

> The term is "endowment", in that he endowed the church with land. The legal contract is an indenture -- that's another term for land deed. The act of giving something to an organization for its use with little to no remuneration is to endow it -- e.g. the Carnegie Endowment, etc.

> Now, are you arguing that \$20 constitutes a substantial consideration, and thus doesn't represent a true endowment -- but is more like a straight land sale at full market price?

> Ken S.

> -----Original Message-----

> From: BundyBynum [mailto:bbbynum@truvista.net]  
> Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 2:05 PM  
> To: Shelton Kenneth A Dr NGA-TIC USA CTR  
> Subject: Re: Jesse Havis

> Ken

> The word is "indenture", not endowment. That is actually a deed in which he sold the lot for Chestnut Meeting House to the trustees. I have found no other reference to this meeting house in that area of the county. We have no record of his moving his membership from First Church.

> The founding date of 1808 for our church is ironclad. It is validated by many sources. Hope tis helps. Bundu Sent from my iPad

>> On Feb 9, 2015, at 11:42 AM, <Kenneth.A.Shelton.ctr@nga.mil> wrote:

>> Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

>> =====

>> Yes, this is very interesting.

>> Do you know if he was actually a member of, or simply endowed, the Chestnut Meeting House? I can see both being feasible -- he lived on Dutchman's Creek by that point, so he could be a member. But....given your observation below, it isn't \*necessary\* that he be a member of that congregation.

>>  
>> 1809 is close to, but slightly later than, the founding date given by Pelham for the Winnsboro congregation. How "solid" is the founding date for the Winnsboro Church?  
>>  
>> Ken S.  
>>  
>>  
>> -----Original Message-----  
>> From: FBBynum [mailto:bbbynum@truvista.net]  
>> Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 4:52 PM  
>> To: Shelton Kenneth A Dr NGA-TIC USA CTR  
>> Cc: sarah@fairfield.lib.sc.us; fairfieldmus@truvista.net  
>> Subject: Jesse Havis  
>>  
>> 1. First UMC, Winnsboro owns a copy of Jenkins' book privately reprinted by his family in the 90s. We quote from it extensively in our church history completed in 2008.  
>> 2. What looks like an f in Jesse's name is simply the first s in the double s in German and early American English. See the material sent from courthouse records which shows the same figure used as a capital S and a double s.  
>> 3. Although Jesse was a trustee at Montecello, he was not a member. Even today the laws of UMC allow non-member trustees. John Buchanan was Judge Ordinary (Probate Judge) in Winnsboro. Montecello was in the western part of the county about fifteen miles from Winnsboro, a good long journey in 1816. Reddick Pierce was a former pastor of UMC Winnsboro who had located near Montecello. He brought a friend to Winnsboro to John Buchanan to help incorporate a new church. John called in his friend and fellow trustee Jesse Havis to help fill out the number of trustees required to incorporate. Thereafter, they probably had little to do with the day by day operation of Montecello church.  
>> 4. I believe our Church History notebook has a reference to Jesse Havis' conversion. I quote from Rev. Jenkins' book, "In the spring of 1809 I took Captain John Buchanan and his wife and Captain Harris and his wife to a camp meeting in Richland County (now Mt. Pleasant UMC on Campground Road). At a very early stage of the meeting Harris became powerfully awakened and sought The Lord, both at the altar and in the woods, and before the meeting he and his wife were made to rejoice in the knowledge of sins forgiven." Since we have no record of any Captain Harris elsewhere, I believe that Harris actually refers to Havis.  
>> I hope this is helpful.  
>> Bundy Bynum  
>>  
>> Sent from my iPad  
>> =====  
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RE: Jefse Havis

Monday, February 2, 2015 12:00 AM

From: "Kenneth Shelton" &lt;ashvainmo@yahoo.com&gt;

To: "'FAIRFIELD COUNTY MUSEUM FAIRFIELD COUNTY MUSEUM'" &lt;fairfieldmus@truvista.net&gt;

"Shelton Kenneth A NGA-ASO USA CTR" &lt;Kenneth.A.Shelton.ctr@nga.mil&gt;

"edangates" &lt;edangates@yahoo.com&gt;

"Suzanne Johnson" &lt;spjbcro@msn.com&gt;

bbbynum@truvista.net

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Here is where he endowed the "Chestnut Meeting House" of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

[http://www.ken-shelton.com/Fairfield/Deeds/Deed\\_X/Deed\\_X.htm](http://www.ken-shelton.com/Fairfield/Deeds/Deed_X/Deed_X.htm)

[http://www.ken-shelton.com/Fairfield/Deeds/Deed\\_X/Deed\\_X\\_0356a.tif](http://www.ken-shelton.com/Fairfield/Deeds/Deed_X/Deed_X_0356a.tif)

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It is Deed Book X, p356-359.

I think this is on Dutchman's Creek, though.

**From:** Kenneth Shelton [mailto:ashvainmo@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, February 1, 2015 10:17 PM

**To:** 'FAIRFIELD COUNTY MUSEUM FAIRFIELD COUNTY MUSEUM'; 'Shelton Kenneth A NGA-ASO USA CTR'; 'edangates'; 'Suzanne Johnson'; 'bbbynum@truvista.net'

**Subject:** RE: Jefse Havis

To be clear – are you talking about the First United Methodist Church at 109 West College Street? If so, that equates to the original town lots of parts or all of 36, 37, 148, 149, 152 and 153.

So some indications:

- 1) John Havis owned lot #5 which is across Vanderhorst and down a bit towards Washington Street. He sold it in Feb 1790 to James Workman.
- 2) Jesse Havis owned lots #67 and #68, which are on the other side of Congress Street and slightly down Congress towards Washington Street with #67 fronting on Washington. He sold it to Alexander Stewart by July 1813.

It is proven he was a Trustee of the Methodist Church in Monticello because he was on two legislative petitions to form that church. See <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/RecordDetail.aspx?RecordId=254577> and

<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/RecordDetail.aspx?RecordId=254578>

Series: S165015  
Year: 1819  
Item: 00113  
ignore: 000

Date: 11/24/1819

Description: TRUSTEES OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF MONTICELLO IN FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, PETITION ASKING TO BE INCORPORATED. (2 PAGES)

Names indexed: ALSTON, DAVID; BUCHANAN, JOHN; HAVIS, JESSE; MASON, REUBEN; PIERCE, REDDICK; PROCTOR, SAMUEL

Locations: FAIRFIELD DISTRICT; MONTICELLO

Document type: PETITION

Topics: METHODIST CHURCH; METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF MONTICELLO

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I don't have copies of these two petitions – I have many Fairfield petitions, but not these.

So is there a relationship between the Monticello Methodist Church and the Winnsboro congregation? Is one the successor or child of the other? It seems interesting that both John Havis and his son Jesse Havis owned town lots at one time within a few 100 feet of the current location of the First Methodist in Winnsboro, and Jesse was clearly Trustee for "a" Methodist Church.

Ken S.

**From:** FAIRFIELD COUNTY MUSEUM FAIRFIELD COUNTY MUSEUM [<mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 31, 2015 8:16 AM  
**To:** Kenneth Shelton; Shelton Kenneth A NGA-ASO USA CTR; edangates; Suzanne Johnson; [bbbynum@truvista.net](mailto:bbbynum@truvista.net)  
**Subject:** Jefse Havis

Ken, Attaching our plans here for a big Feb. event which is taking all of our energies for the moment, but Ed Gates (volunteer) was trying earlier in the year to solve a mystery involving Rev. WAR soldier Col. Jessie Havis (havis, harris, etc.). His home shows up on the R. Mills map (NE of the town of Winnsboro) and his grave was known in past years to exist in that area. As a descendant had sent a bronze plaque from the Feds. to be attached to commemorate his participation in the War, Ed began looking for the grave which had been desecrated. Finally he found that a neighbor had confiscated the slab to use as a picnic table, but in recent years he had been found out and the slab was, instead put into the in-town Sion Presb. cemetery where his wife and her family were buried in a later time. Finding the underpinnings on the timbered and logged over portion of land where we felt the grave had been, was a project that Ed and a friend were finally able to discover from some old cedar stumps and a scattered pile of old bricks that had once supported the slab.

What concerns us is that it seems that his name was misspelled as Harris in historical accounts of Fairfield History. He should be credited with welcoming in the Methodist exhorter \_\_\_ Jenkins and technically becoming one of the founders of our Methodist church in Winnsboro. However F. McMaster and other sources call him Harris in the accounts about the church. We can't prove it is the same, but circumstances support it. Do you have any knowledge or suggestions about this? After our big Feb. events, we want to seek advice on the best place to put the bronze marker. If we decide to put it back out in the woods, we will have it securely affixed to a granite base and will need to come up with some other security measures to protect it. We will probably leave his slab in the Sion cemetery, but may want to put up a marker indicating that he is buried on his land and that he was one of the founders of the Methodist church (if we get enough evidence that this is right).

Thanks, in advance, for your expert advice on this!  
-Pelham

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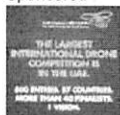
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Re: Jefse Havis

Monday, February 2, 2015 10:17 AM

From: "FAIRFIELD COUNTY MUSEUM FAIRFIELD COUNTY MUSEUM" &lt;fairfieldmus@truvista.net&gt;

To: "Kenneth Shelton" &lt;ashvainmo@yahoo.com&gt;

Cc: "Shelton Kenneth A NGA-ASO USA CTR" &lt;Kenneth.A.Shelton.ctr@nga.mil&gt;

"edangates" &lt;edangates@yahoo.com&gt;

"Suzanne Johnson" &lt;spjboro@msn.com&gt;

bbbynum@truvista.net

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Sorry, I am reading my emails backwards this morning. It does look like Jessie Havis was instrumental in establishing at least two other Methodist churches. Makes it easy to think he was instrumental in establishing First in 1808. -P

**From:** "Kenneth Shelton" <ashvainmo@yahoo.com>  
**To:** "FAIRFIELD COUNTY MUSEUM FAIRFIELD COUNTY MUSEUM" <fairfieldmus@truvista.net>, "Shelton Kenneth A NGA-ASO USA CTR" <Kenneth.A.Shelton.ctr@nga.mil>, "edangates" <edangates@yahoo.com>, "Suzanne Johnson" <spjboro@msn.com>, bbbynum@truvista.net  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 1, 2015 11:16:42 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Jefse Havis

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**Document type:** PETITION

**Topics:** METHODIST CHURCH; METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF MONTICELLO

**Series:** S165015

**Year:** 1819

**Item:** 00114

**ignore:** 000

**Date:** 11/24/1819

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**Subject:** Jefse Havis

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the Feds. to be attached to commemorate his participation in the War, Ed began looking for the grave which had been desecrated. Finally he found that a neighbor had confiscated the slab to use as a picnic table, but in recent years he had been found out and the slab was, instead put into the in-town Sion Presb. cemetery where his wife and her family were buried in a later time. Finding the underpinnings on the timbered and logged over portion of land where we felt the grave had been, was a project that Ed and a friend were finally able to discover from some old cedar stumps and a scattered pile of old bricks that had once supported the slab. What concerns us is that it seems that his name was misspelled as Harris in historical accounts of Fairfield History. He should be credited with welcoming in the Methodist exhorter \_\_\_ Jenkins and technically becoming one of the founders of our Methodist church in Winnsboro. However F. McMaster and other sources call him Harris in the accounts about the church. We can't prove it is the same, but circumstances support it. Do you have any knowledge or suggestions about this? After our big Feb. events, we want to seek advice on the best place to put the bronze marker. If we decide to put it back out in the woods, we will have it securely affixed to a granite base and will need to come up with some other security measures to protect it. We will probably leave his slab in the Sion cemetery, but may want to put up a marker indicating that he is buried on his land and that he was one of the founders of the Methodist church (if we get enough evidence that this is right).

Thanks, in advance, for your expert advice on this!  
-Pelham

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## WOLFE HOUSE

HAVIS — MILLER — McDOWELL — BAILEY — DuBOSE  
WOLFE — BUCHANAN

This delightful old house, in spite of its beauty and elegance, seems doomed to a fate of prolonged deterioration from vacancy and neglect. It could well be one of the show-places of the community if it had but half a chance.

The house was built by John Miller, "the tailor," in the early ante-bellum period. It is well-designed, beautifully proportioned, and handsomely adorned and decorated. The handcarved moldings, doorfacings, mantels, cornices, wainscoatings, and trim, both on the exterior and on the interior, rank among the most artistic work of their kind to be found in the county.

The details and designs are strikingly similar to those of the ALSTON — COOK — CHAPPELL HOUSE in the Jenkinsville community and to those of the EDRINGTON HOUSE next door. It is quite possible that they were all executed by the same artisan, for they are of the same school of design, the ante-bellum at its best.

This is a large, two-story building, covered with beaded siding. It has a graceful hipped roof with a gabled portico extending over the center section of the front of the building.

In the portico gable is an unusually handsome fanlight window. The cornices and dados are edged with finely carved dentil moldings. Both porticoes are supported by graceful, hand-turned columns. The spaces between these columns are slightly arched, giving the house a lowcountry flavor. The porches are enclosed with heavy, well-designed bannisters.

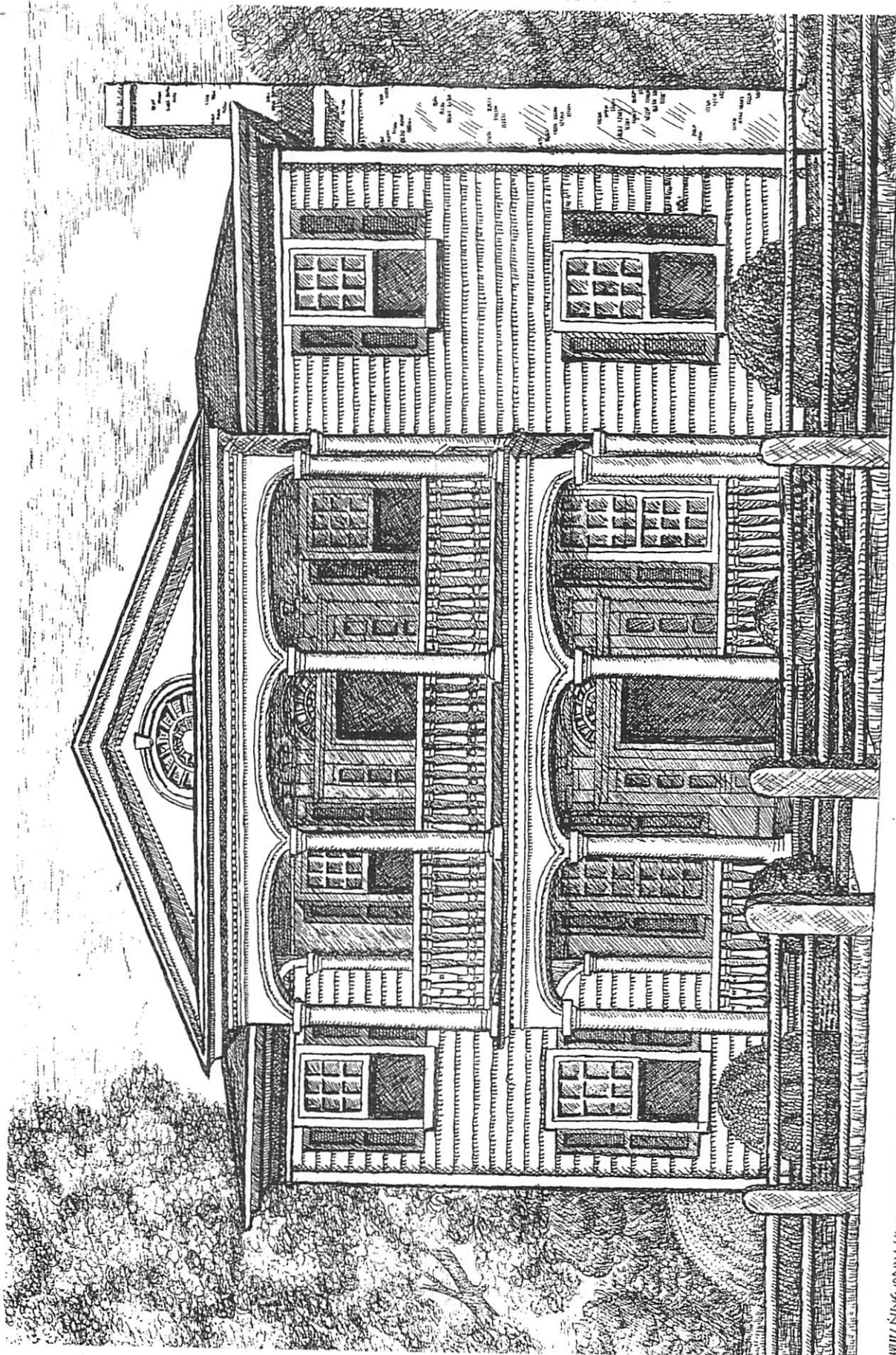
The hall doors are most attractive. Paned and panelled sidelights adorn them, and over the doors are paned fanlights, a repetition of the gable window. The interior is spacious, with high-ceilinged rooms adorned with the same fine decorations as found on the exterior.

The lot on which the house is located was originally owned by Jesse D. Havis, Sr., who deeded it in 1823 to his son, Jesse D. Havis, Jr., along with other properties. In 1830 Jesse D. Havis, Jr., sold this and another lot to John Miller, who purchased other lots from him in 1831 and in 1838.

To satisfy a claim against John Miller in 1845, Shreff J. Cockrell gave a deed to Robert Cathcart and John McDowell. In the same year Cathcart sold his part to McDowell.

The next transfer on record was in 1850, when David M. McDowell sold the place to R. S. Bailey. Bailey held it until 1852, at which time he sold it to Sarah F. DuBose of Lancaster. Samuel DuBose purchased it from Sarah DuBose in 1868, and in 1873 Sarah F. DuBose and Samuel DuBose sold the house to Sarah S. Wolfe, who at the time was occupying the residence.

Sarah S. Wolfe was the wife of Sailing Wolfe, a wealthy merchant and planter. Their home was destroyed by Sherman's troops during the Union occupation. The family took refuge with Mrs. James Henry Rion and later moved into this house. They made this their home, and it became known as and is still called the WOLFE HOUSE. One of their daughters, Belle, married



WOLFE HOUSE

Dr. Simon Baruch of Camden while they were living here. Dr. and Mrs. Baruch were the parents of the world-famous financier and statesman, Bernard M. Baruch, who has now passed ninety years and will go down in history as one of the greatest men of our time. The Wolfe's youngest daughter, Sarah was noted for her beauty and horsemanship. She married a DesPortes and became the mother of the "Winnsboro DesPorts."

This property passed from Sol Wolfe to Dr. John C. Buchanan in 1901. It is still owned by his estate. Since the Buchanans left the place, it has been inhabited by a long succession of tenants. Now it has fallen into very bad repair and for some years has been deserted and vacant, a sad fate for such a dignified old home.

## FAIRFIELD COUNTY COURTHOUSE

1823

The FAIRFIELD COUNTY COURTHOUSE is one of the most stately and imposing buildings in the upcountry. It was designed by the famous architect, Robert Mills, and was built in 1823.

The classic building is executed in the true Mills tradition. It is a large, rectangular structure, covered with a simple but pleasing gabled roof, which extends over the building in the front and covers a broad, flagstoned portico. The four massive columns supporting the portico are well-proportioned and graceful. Originally two flights of wooden steps led up to the second floor but when the building was renovated and enlarged in 1939, the circular stairs of wrought-iron and brass and the landing balcony were added, much enhancing the original beauty of the building.

Ever since it was built, the courthouse and its "yard" have been a part of the heart of the town. Patriarchs gather here to play checkers, watch traffic, reminisce, and swap yarns in the shade of the big trees. Lawyers, business men, and citizens from all classes and walks of life exchange their views here and listen to the local philosophers and politicians.

A little-known story of interest is about the saving of the county, court, and jail records during the War Between the States. At that time Elijah Ollever, a small but stern man of French extraction, was sheriff of the county. When he was informed that the Northern army was moving towards Winnsboro, he made hasty preparations to save the valuable documents, papers, jail and court records. His home and plantations were in the Longtown section, near Ridgeway. Most of the records and books were hidden away in safety in remote places deep in the swampy, wooded areas near his home.

The most valuable of these he left at the house with his wife and sister. They sewed all one morning, making long cloth bags with draw strings and loops at the tops. When they finished, the papers were carefully packed into these sacks; belts were run through the loops and they were fastened securely around the waists of the women and girls in the household, concealed under their full skirts and petticoats.

The sheriff carried the jail records with him in his saddlebags and fled to the Wateree swamp for safety. On the way he was seen by a party of troops, who chased him to the river. To make an escape, he had to swim



0052

Subject: Jessie Havis Grave  
From: Ed Bates <ed@edbates.com>  
Date: 4/25/2014 4:41 PM  
To: Andrew2323@bellouth.net

Hi Mr. Andrew,

I am a volunteer at the Museum. Unfortunately, we have had some technical difficulties with the Museum camera so I took the pictures of the Jessie Havis grave site. I hope these work for you, and I believe that Ed Gates will be getting in touch with you soon.  
Also, I had some trouble getting these pictures to upload so please let me know if you have any trouble opening them.

-Ed Bates  
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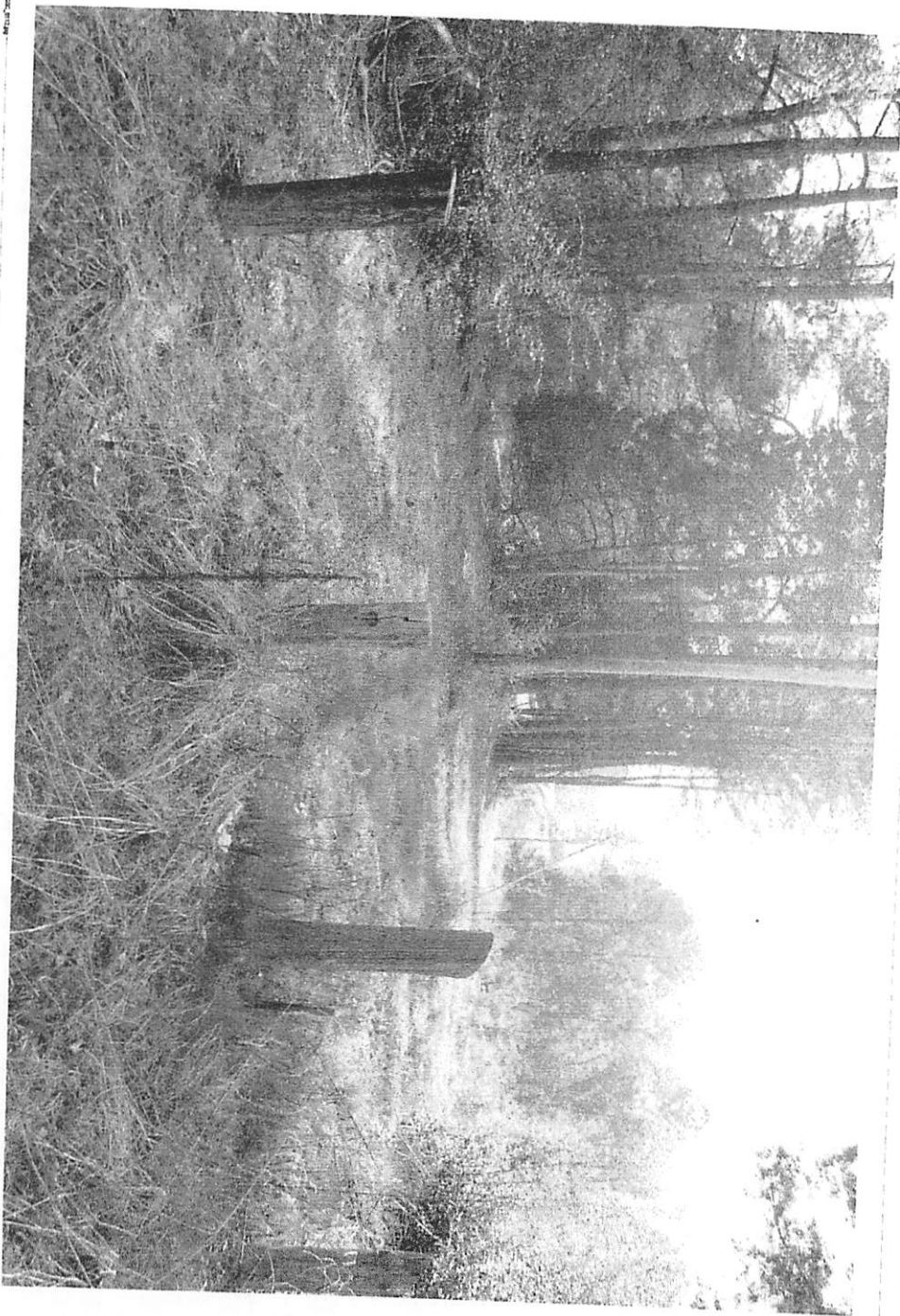
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0042



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John W. Andrews  
2821 Burnt Mill Rd.  
Charlotte, NC 28210

[Andrews28210@bellsouth.net](mailto:Andrews28210@bellsouth.net)

Dear Ed,

About 30 years ago I started preparing a Family History for my Children and Grandchildren with a narrative about as many ancestors as I could put together.

I am enclosing,

1. My narratives on Jesse and Jane Havis McKinney Picket. (My GGGrandmother)
2. Information from SC Archives showing how confusion could be caused by hand writing HAVIS, HOVIS, and HARRIS.
3. Some abstracts of part of Jesse's records. (Church property sale)
4. Copies of Jesse's sale after his death. (Methodist items)
5. The Wolfe House.
6. Two of the pictures taken in the grave area.(Numbers 0110 & 0112) Please tell me where they were taken (view?).
7. Two pictures showing a tree stump (marked). This tree was growing out of the grave on my last visit.

Head or Foot ???

My records show his Revolutionary War service was as an infantryman. So I think the title Col. was an honorary one, as this was done for prominent men in the South. (even today)

Thank you all for all the work you all have done to bring this to a possibility. Keep me informed!!

