

From: "A Fairfield Sketchbook" Bolick
South Carolina

THE COUNTY'S NAME

Legend gives Cornwallis the honor of having named Fairfield. Certainly he had ample time and opportunity to view the broad vistas during his stay in Winnsboro from October 1780 until early January 1781 when the fair fields could have come under his close scrutiny.

However, the late A. S. Salley, state historian, places the remark "fanciful" by the derivation of Fairfield. Robert Mills in his STATISTICS, describing the area as lying in a region temperate and salubrious, with fine views and in some places mountainous elevations, states:

"By the county court act (the work of the late Judge Pendleton), the upper county was divided into two counties. At that division the name Fairfield was first given to THIS section of the country, and in all probability it owes its name to the mere good pleasure of the author of the act."

By an act ratified in 1769 the Province was divided into seven judicial districts, one of which was Camden District, which was named for the principal town within its border. In 1798 from the Camden District were formed Chester, Lancaster, Fairfield, Kershaw, and Sumter districts. In 1799 Richland was carved from Kershaw.

In 1868 its Constitution changed the entitlement to "County." A part of Fairfield in later years was annexed to Richland, that part nearest to and including the town of Blythewood.

Early records in the office of the Register of Mesne Conveyance of Fairfield go back into the 1730's. These fascinating records of Fairfield's early days — in their fancy Spencerian handwriting and with carefully drawn illustrations in colored inks — are perused frequently by genealogists and historians, who learn much about the people and the little-known facts of their existence, their customs, their adherence to the old English laws.

THE WARS AND THE COLORS

Fairfield's men have always served with honor when the call to the colors came; and often they have been there "fustest with the mostest."

Among the first uprisings against the Crown was one in Fairfield, the affray at Moberley's Meeting House, May 26, 1780; and another, larger one in March 1781 on Dutchman's Creek. In the latter a detachment of New York Volunteers under a Captain Gray attacked a body of militia, with serious losses to the Volunteers.

The Continental or regular army from Fairfield was commanded by Captain John Buchanan. Captain Thomas Woodward, Richard Winn, and Captain Robert Ellison were in command of several companies of state troops.

Among the Whigs of Fairfield who fought as brave patriots for the independence of this country were John Pearson (later a general in the militia), Colonel Aromanus Lyles, John Gray, Benjamin May, William Strothers, John Strothers, William and Joseph Kirkland, Robert Hancock, William McMorris, John Cook, Captain Balar, Captain Watson, Edward Martin, and John Winn, the brother of Richard.

In the War of 1812 there was Captain William McCreight's company of Light Infantry Volunteers; in the Seminole War were the Fairfield Volunteers,

Durham Plantations were on Dutchman's creek.
Capt. Durham's property is marked on 1820 map along Dutchman's Creek. In 1858 Moses Ross Durham sold 534 acres on headwaters of Dutchman's Creek.
The Ross plantation was S. of Camden Road & W. of Cedar Fork of Dutchman's creek.
The Durham and Ross families moved to De Soto Park about 1867 and built new plantations there.
Two of the Jones children lived there with them - 1867 to 1882.
The grandsons & his sister - Emma DeWitt Jones Sarah Elizabeth Jones