

EXTRACTS FROM HISTORY OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA

Wimmsboro is the seat of justice and the town of most importance in the county. It is a healthy and pleasant stop, thirty miles from Columbia and one hundred and fifty miles from Charleston. It is on the dividing ridge between the Broad and the Wateree Rivers. The town stands on an elevation of more than five hundred feet above the ocean. The lands around are fertile, undulating and greatly improved.

By an act of the General Assemble, 8th of March, 1784, John Winn, Richard Winn, and John Vanderhorst were authorized to have it laid out as a town. It was incorporated December 20, 1832. Tarleton says that Lord Cornwallis, after learning of the defeat of Ferguson at Kings Mountain, selected Wimmsboro as a place of encampment in October 1780. It presented good advantages for supplies from the surrounding country. He remained there until January 1781. His marquee was near the oak in front of Mt. Zion College. After inquiry, General Sherman in February 1865 placed his marquee on the same spot. During the Revolutionary War, a large military hospital was located on the premises now occupied by George H. McMaster and was used by both armies in turn. The British dead were buried in what is now the front yard, and the Americans in the rear. Mt. Zion College had its origin before the Revolutionary War. The charter was granted on the 13th of February 1777, by the General Assembly then in session in Charleston, to John Wynn, Robert Ellison, Willian Strother, and others. The School was discontinued when Cornwallis occupied the town in 1780-81. In 1784, Rev. T. R. McCaule, of Salisbury, N.C. took charge of the school and a new charter was obtained in 1785. In 1787 the foundation was laid for a large brick building, 44 x 54 feet, and two stories high, and cabins were built for the accommodation of boarders. "Afterward, during the administration of J.W. Hudson, under whom, from 1834 to 1838, the institution acquired a reputation so extensive within the limits of the Southern States, the building

was greatly enlarged. First a three story brick building was added to the rear and then similar additions were made to the north and south side of the main building. This splended structure was destroyed in May 1867 by an accicental fire, greatly to the grief of the community.

A one story brick building was soon after erected on the original foundation, at a cost of about 3,500 dollars. In 1878 a public graded school was established by the consent of the Mt. Zion Society, under the able management of R. Means Davis. This has been continued under his successors to the present time. In 1885, just one hundred years fron the granting of the original charter, it was determined, if possible, to revive the collegiate feature of the institute and in connection with the graded school to furnish to the youth of our county the opportunity of obtaining a complete, practical education at home at a minimum cost. After various plans had been discussed and abandoned, a joint meeting of the Mt. Zion Society and the citizens of the town was held, at which it was determined to issue bonds of the town to the amount of \$75,000.00, for the purpose of erecting such additional buildings as were needed. Accordingly, on the 25th of May, 1886, ground was broken for the foundation of the large and well arranged brick building. This is just completed August, 1886, and contains eight large well lighted and well venilated school rooms, frunished throughout with improved seats, desks and all necessary apparatus. The Board of Trustees have recently elected Professor W.H. Witherow, of Chester, principal of the school. He was still principal in 1889.

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DAVID R. EVANS ----- RICHARD WINN

(The following furnished by Col. Richard H. McMaster, 1661 Crescent Place, N.W., Washington D.C., and is a re-write of Edrington's notes. The words underscored have been added by whoever edited the article, and may be of help to someone for further research.)

David R. Evans was the first lawyer in Winnsboro. He came to Winnsboro in 1784. He said that there were only three or four houses in the settlement; one, General Winn's, near where George McMaster's house now stands, the other a log college on Mount Zion Hill, Baker's Tavern, and perhaps one or two others. He was then fourteen years of age. His father came to this country from England probably one or two years before they moved to this place. They lived in a house behind the one James R. Aiken recently lived in. He joined the Mount Zion Society and was secretary and treasurer for several years. His son, D.R. Evans, succeeded him in that office.

Mrs. Evans had her old English ideas as to manners, and was unpopular on that account. She was known to order a visitor to clean his shoes before entering her house. I know very little of the early life of D. R. Evans, Jr. He married first a daughter of General Winn. She died in 1806, and was buried behind the house in the garden. The tomb is still there, as well as the graves of two of Dr. Bratton's children, he having also married a daughter of General Winn.

D.R. Evan's second wife was a daughter of Parson S.W. Yongue. There were no children by either marriage. His second wife is buried at Jackson Creek. He died about 1845, and was buried behind the Aiken house, where his mother and father were buried. He had only one brother and one sister - Joseph, the father of a large family, of whom only Mrs. R. A. Herron survives, John Evans having recently died. Joseph's wife was a sister of Colonel Jesse Davis.

An incident worth mentioning is as follows: About the latter part of the last century, a man named Baker had several wagons running, probably to Camden, which was then a considerable town. Baker got into a lawsuit and employed D.R. Evans. The other party employed a lawyer of Camden named Brown. Baker lost the case and was offended at something Brown said, and on his passing out of the Court House, cursed Brown for a "damned saddle-bag lawyer." Brown, being

a small man, could not fight Baker, but on going to his tavern he wrote Baker challenge, which was referred to him by Evans for advice. Evans told him he would have to retreat or give Brown the satisfaction he demanded. Baker would have preferred a "fist fight", but finally accepted the challenge. The duel took place at Rock Creek Springs. Both were killed at the first fire. Baker was brought up and buried on his farm, two miles from Winnsboro. Brown was buried at Camden.

David R. Evans was a member of Congress in 1813-1814, Capt. Hugh Milling took charge of his affairs and physiced his negroes when sick. The old captain was severe on Generals Hampton and Wilkinson and others in regard to their conduct of the war with the British, saying that they could speculate in tobacco better than command armies. D.R. Evans was a venerable, gray haired man. I think he was about 75 years old, as I remember him, when he died. His only sister married Minor Winn, who was a son of Colonel John Winn. He was an unprincipled man,* and Mr. Evans induced his sister to separate from him. Mrs. Winn and her daughter taught school for some years on the General Winn lot, then owned by Mr. Evans. He at that time lived in his plantation where Mrs. Dr. Furham now lives.

✓ Winnsboro was named for Colonel John, William, and Richard Winn. Col. John Winn was a high toned, honorable man. Col. John Winn owned most of the land around Winnsboro and lived at the south end of the town where Dr. Hanahan now lives. William Winn married Rosa Hampton and they returned to Virginia. (My ancestors.)
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✓ General Richard Winn held the rank of colonel in the Revolution. He was a true patriot, and perhaps fought as many battles in the Revolutionary War and with as firm a heart as any man living or dead. He filled a seat in Congress of the United States for many years.

*He had sold house slaves, some his, some Mr. Evans'. So what Minor Winn feared, and designed his will to prevent, had come to pass.

✓ Mills in his statistics of South Carolina, in writing of eminent men of Fairfield, says, "Gen. Richard Winn was also a native of Virginia." At the beginning of the Revolutionary struggle, he entered into the regular service of this state. Having acquitted glory in the battle of Fort Moultrie, he was sent to the Georgia frontier, and commanded a company at Fort St. Illa. The service was a most perilous one and he was selected for it on account of his superior merit as an officer. Shortly after his arrival at the fort, he was attacked by a strong body of Indians and Tories. These he beat off for two succeeding days; on the third, he surrendered with honorable terms to Major General Prevost. At the head of a considerable regular force, supported by his allies. (sic) General Winn returned to Fairfield after his defeat, if it can be properly called one, and to his command of a regiment of refugee militia. He was in several battles, and the success of the affairs of Hook's (Huck) defeat in York, and the Hanging Rock in Lancaster, greatly depended on his heroic exertions. At the latter place, said the great and good General Davis, who commanded a regiment of cavalry, when the firing became pretty warm, Winn turned and said, "Is not that glorious?" He was wounded here and borne off the field about the time the enemy effected his retreat. On his recovery, General Winn continued to afford General Sumter his able support and ceased not to serve his country while a red-coat could be found in Carolina. He was a true patriot, and perhaps fought as many battles in the Revolutionary War, and with as firm a heart as any man living or dead.

General Winn moved to Ducktown, Tennessee in 1812, and died a short time after. And Colonel Winn and family, I think, moved to Georgia.

Winnsboro is remarkable for having been the headquarters of Lord Cornwallis in the Revolutionary War, after the defeat of Ferguson at Kings Mountain, where he retreated from Charleston. I was shown that part of the house in which Cornwallis was quartered, by Mr. Hohn McMaster, who was then the owner of it. I was told by my friend, Dr. G. B. Pearson, many years since, that some of the most eminent men of South Carolina graduated at Mount Zion College.

CREIGHTON BUCHANAN

was too young to accompany his brothers, John and Robert, to America before the Revolution.

He with his wife Mary Millikem, steeled in 1789, on land belonging to his brother John, now owned by Ed. Robinson, near Little River, In 1795 he moved with his wife and children, John, Rachel and Martha, to a place near Jackson Creek church; the church at that time was being built of rough unhewn stones. His mother, who lived with him, died and was buried on the west side of Jackson Creek below the Milling burial ground. He afterwards bought the farm on Little River, now owned by T. Harden. In 1805 he removed to Winnsboro and bought his brother John's tavern. Capt. Hugh Milling and Capt. James Phillips, uncle of Creighten Buchanan, lived near on the east side of the road, leading from Belle's bridge to Columbia. General R. Winn lived on the place now occupied by W. Turner.

Jas. Phillips was a loyalist, though a Scotch-Irishman, who almost universally were rebels. A large proportion of Marion's men were Scotch-Irish, and the history of the county is illustrated by their deeds. The captain had the good fortune never to meet any of his kindred in battle, who were all rebels, being assigned to command at St. Augustine, where he remained during the whole war. He lived in Charleston, but after 1776 his wife with her sons, Smith, Robert, and James, moved to Jackson Creek among her kin. James lived to a good old age, and was a school-master and country surveyor.

When Capt. Phillips returned home after seven years absence. His wife, for a time, refused to be reconciled to him. The Captain being a gentleman of culture and of high moral character, soon mitigated the hospitality of his neighbors and lived for many years highly respected. He, Gen. Winn and Capt. Hugh Milling were born companions and met almost daily at each others houses to read the newspapers and discuss literary and political matters. His elder brother, Colonel John Phillips, also being a Tory, was put in command at Winnsboro when Cornwallis left. He was a just and human man. At different times he saved the lives of Whigs who were about to be executed by the order of Cornwallis, among them being Colonel John and Minor Winn, and he always endeavored to check the rapine and cruelty of his followers.

At the close of the war, he learned that one of his daughters was about to marry a Mr. McMullin at a church in Charleston where he lived. He rushed to the church, forcibly took his daughter, and with his family went back to Ireland, he was appointed a pension officer and held it for life.

Creighton Buchanan spent his last days on his farm, now owned by McCants, near Winnsboro. He was a quiet, intelligent and devout man, and was much respected by his neighbors, He left surviving him by his first marriage, Gen. John Buchanan, Mrs. Rachel McMaster; Martha, a brilliant young lady, had died at 18 years of age. The children of his second wife were Eliza, who married J. McKinney Elliott; Robert, who is now a retired physician residing in Winnsboro, and Calvin, who removed to Texas in 1844. Creighton Buchanan died in 1823, aged 63.