

# THE BULLETIN

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## THE CHESTER DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 336,  
Richburg, S. C. 29729

Dues: \$20.00 Per Calendar Year

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|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| President .....         | Dr. James Gill Knox            |
| Secretary .....         | Mrs. Debbie N. McMinn          |
| Treasurer .....         | Mr. George H. Moore            |
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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Our newest book, Evergreen Cemetery, should be a welcome tool for those interested in genealogical research. Chester County, like most places has many cemeteries that are well kept and many that are in need of preservation. Louise Crowder in 1970 published Tombstone Records of Chester County, South Carolina and Vicinity, Volume 1 in which she identified 141 burial sites and abandoned family graveyards. Also, Jean Agee, a member of this Society, provided a great deal of energy and passion in trying to preserve many of these sites such as Paul's Graveyard outside Richburg. When Mrs. Agee resigned as Chairman of the Abandoned Cemetery Commission, the Chester County Council passed that responsibility to the Chester Historical Society.

Chester native Brigadier General John Dunovant, C.S.A. who was killed in action near Petersburg, Virginia, October 1, 1864, is buried about three miles east of Chester on a track of land currently for sale. The cemetery is known as the Dunovant Burying Ground, and it is in need of preservation. One can only hope that the new owners of this property have an appreciation of history and the sacredness of burying grounds. Reenactors who wanted to have a memorial service for General Dunovant were not permitted to go on the property.

We cannot afford to lose these old burial sites and abandoned graveyards. In another 100 years many of these cemeteries may no longer exist, and their valuable records will pass with them. If you have an interest in genealogy, as I know you do since you are a member of this Society, or local history you need to become involved in saving these sites. The Chester District Genealogical Society should be the leader in this endeavor. The Evergreen Cemetery Book, is a great beginning.

Jim Knox

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### "'Birthday Time'"

It is "Birthday " time again. The date is Aug. 7th. It is a casual affair, shoes and shirts are required. We will meet at "Russell's again this year. It is located on Gadsden Street at the foot of the hill, in downtown Chester. We will have our lunch at 1:00 pm and the speaker will follow. Our speaker this year is Mrs. Carrie Adamson. She is from the Augusta Genealogy Society. She will speak on the "The Great Philadelphia Wagon Rd from Scotland to Ireland, to Philadelphia, and South to Augusta Georgia.

The cost is \$10 per person. Please have your paid reservation to us by July 31<sup>st</sup>. Send your check to The Chester District Genealogical Society (CDGS), P O Box 336, Richburg, SC. 29729..We are looking forward to seeing you there!!

## SOME EARLY HISTORY CONCERNING CHESTER

Copied From the Columbia State

Of September 20, 1907

First Settlers were Scotchmen Who Located Near the Mouth of Rocky Creek as early as 1732.

### Traffic with the Indians

One of the grandest inheritances of any country is a splendid history. Rich in all those associations that endear the past to the present, the history of Chester has been handed down from generation to generation, growing in those exploits that command the admiration and respect of the world and binding the succeeding generations closer together. The son is made to strive after better and nobler things when he is told of the records and the service that his fathers performed. The daughter's heart is made to beat quicker and her aspirations are raised to a higher level by hearing of the noble devotion and sacrifices that her mother made. Such are the inheritances that have come down the successive generations and are today cherished and retold by the elders to their children teaching them a high ideal of love, devotion and self-sacrifice.

The inhabitants of Chester, like the rest of the upper part of South Carolina, are of Scotch-Irish descent. It is related that the covenanters, fleeing from the wrath and persecution of Stuart kings of Scotland, settled in this section of country for a while, but not liking the idea of slavery, removed to Illinois, although some of their descendants remained and made splendid records for themselves

### EARLY SETTLERS

As early as 1732 a few Scotchmen settled near the mouth of Rocky Creek and commenced trafficking with the Indians. The Indians in this section were prosperous and were not bothered by the whites until after the settlements had been made on the coast for some years. By that time the Indians had acquired some knowledge of firearms so that when the white men came to this section he found the Indian ready to turn his own weapons against him in the defense of his home. The inhabitants came slowly at first, probably preferring to remain near Charleston, where they could flee to the protection of the forest. In those days when there were no roads and travel was done either on horseback or by water it took a man of courage to leave his settlement to push on into the wilderness among the Indians and wild beasts. But the Scotchmen were men who know not fear and they came on driving before them the Indians, wild beasts, cutting the forest and making out of the barren wilderness a veritable flower garden. Along about 1755 the immigrants began to come in large numbers and from that time to the Revolution the

number increased. When the colonists resisted the tyranny of King George and determined to throw off his yoke the men of what is now Chester were among the first to take the lead and declare that the British rulers should cease to trouble the men of this new fearless republic.

### SUFFERED MANY HARDSHIPS

It is said that the early settlers suffered many hardships and tradition has it that they often lived on bread and water. In the first days of the settlers the Cherokee Indians, who lived in the western part of the state, gave them much trouble. The Cherokees were strong tribes and living among their mountains fastness they would swoop down on the colonist, scalping the men, women and children and leave rain and desolation in their wake. Before a rescuing party could be assembled they would be far away among their mountain homes. In order to protect themselves against these Indians the settlers of Chester county built two stone forts. One of these forts was built on Fishing Creek and was known as Steel's fort. The other was built where Landsford now stands and was known as Taylor's Fort. In 1761, a party of Indians appeared very unexpectedly in the Fishing Creek neighborhood near the residence of William and James McKenny who were absent at the time on a trip to Camden. Several of the neighbors assembled at the house of William McKenny for defense against the Indians. The next morning there being no Indians in sight, Mrs. McKenny ventured out to milk the cows. While milking several Indians crawled to where she was. She made no effort to escape, but agreed to go quietly to the house with them. As they came near the house Michael Melbery shot at and wounded the Indian that held Mrs. McKenny by the arm. She broke loose and ran towards the door, but as Ferguson opened the door to let her inside he was instantly killed and his mother mortally wounded by shots fired from the rifles of the Indians. Then the door was closed and after several of the Indians had been wounded by shots from the defenders they retired taking with them Mrs. McKenny. When they had taken her about half a mile from the house they tomahawked her in the back and head, scalped and left her for dead. After a while she regained consciousness and crawled back home. The wound in the head of Mrs. McKenny never healed entirely, but she lived for many years and had born to her several children. One born, three months after she was tomahawked, was plainly marked, with a tomahawke and drops of blood, as if running down the side of her face. This child was living as late as 1837 in Tennessee, the wife of John Steadman. Mr. John C. McFadden, who held the office of clerk for so many years, is a great grandson of Mrs. McKenny.

### RETURN OF THE INDIAN

When the Indian came back in the neighborhood of Rocky Creek they killed John McDaniel and his wife and carried off his seven children, the oldest being a girl of 15 years. These brutal acts so aroused the people that a rescuing and avenging party headed by Thomas Steel was organized and followed the Indians. They followed them almost to the border of the Cherokee nation and there falling upon them in the dead of night they killed most of the savages, put the rest to flight and rescued the children. It is related that Thomas Garrett of Rocky Creek killed the one who had tomahawked Mrs. McKenny and actually found her scalp in the shop bag of the savage.

After the power of the Indians was broken the settlements continued to grow and at the commencement of the Revolutionary War the whole country was pretty well peopled. When the war broke out the men of Chester were found almost unanimously for the side of the colonists. This was natural, for these men were Scotch descent and their forefathers in days past had resisted the persecution of the kings in Scotland and they had come to this new country for freedom. Liberty was their watchword and they risked life, liberty and their all to obtain it.

The first resistance to the British in this part of the States was made at Beckhamville, in the southeastern part of the country, early in 1780. A British officer with a command of 100 men was sent to Beckhamville. He issued circulars to the surrounding country commanding the inhabitants to come in and take the British protection and swear allegiance to the British crown. Among the important and influential men of that section was Justice John Gaston and every inducement and argument was offered to get him to swear allegiance. Instead of doing this he began to make preparations to take care of the side of patriots. He was at the time 80 years old and too feeble to bear arms, but he had nice brave and sturdy sons who were willing to follow liberty's call. Runners were sent through the country and notified the people to assemble that night at the house of Justice Gaston to perfect some means of preserving the liberty. That night 24 men joined the gathering and these with the nine Gaston Brothers determined to attack the British. This was done early the next morning and force of enemy was utterly routed, many being killed. It said that eight of this party of patriots were from the immediate vicinity of what is now Chester city and that two of them were named Walker and some of their descendents are living there today.

#### CAPT. McLURE'S PARTY

A short time after this Capt. McLure, who had commanded the patriots in the attack on the British force a ? . This force had been sent there to enforce the inhabitants to swear allegiance and they, like the others were routed and driven in headlong flight from the country.

The battles of Sumter's defeat and Fishdam Ford was fought in Chester County. Dr. G.B. White has now in his possession the gun that was used by his great-grandfather in these and other battles of the Revolution. Until a few years ago there was living in the county, a few miles south of the city, a real daughter of the Revolution. She lived to the ripe old age of 99 years and to the last remained a vivid recollection of the things that had occurred in her young days. Her father was Capt. Hugh Knox, who with four brothers served through the Revolution and was engaged in several battles. Mrs. Knox has often told Dr. White that she had often heard her father tell of his experience in the battles of Hanging Rock, when his troops were utterly routed by Tarleton. He said that as he stood beside one of the Gaston brothers mentioned above, fighting hand to hand with the enemy, Gaston fell dead in front of him. The powder from the gun that fired the fatal shot burned his face (Capt. Knox) leaving a scar which he carried to his grave 40 years afterwards. When this battle ended three of the Gaston brothers lay dead, the body of one

lying across the other. The fourth brother Joseph Gaston, a boy of 16 lay severely wounded in the face. Capt. McLure, their cousin, was mortally wounded and died a few days afterwards at Charlotte, N. C. This Joseph Gaston was the ancestor of the Gaston now living in our city.

### THE HARDEST FOUGHT BATTLE

Gen. Adair, a native of Chester county, and who served in many battles of the revolution, declared that the battle of Hanging Rock was the hardest fought battle of the war. Gen. Adair was born nine miles north of Chester on the plantation, now owned by Mr. John O. Darby. He moved to Kentucky some time after the Revolution, commanded the Kentucky troops and was second in command at the battle of New Orleans in the war of 1812. After he returned to Kentucky he was elected governor of that state. Gen. Adair was a grand uncle of the late Hon. James Hemphill.

One of the historic places of the county in Mount Dearborne, situated on the banks of Catawba falls. This fort was named in honor of Gen. Dearborne who was secretary of war during the administration of Thomas Jefferson. This place was first owned by Gen. Sumter and was sold by him to the United States government in Jefferson's term of office. A United States military post was established on this site and maintained for some years. The ruins of several brick buildings surrounded by brick walls were plainly discernable for many years. Gen. Scaif, a celebrated civil engineer, who surveyed the old Santee and Catawba canals, is buried on Mount Dearborne. Tradition says that the United States academy at West Point came within one vote of being located at this point.

Chester county for a long time was a part of Craven county with the county seal at Camden. This county included a large strip of country in this section. About the year 1785 the county was surveyed and its present boundaries established. The new county was called Chester district and a district court was organized and held at place called Walker's near the present village of Lewis Turnout on the southern Railway.

### LOCATION OF COUNTY SEAT

About 1795 commissioners were appointed to locate a county seat and erect a courthouse. The center of the county is about two miles south of the city about where Purity church now stands. This is the geographical center of the county and all thought that the county seat would be there, and the commissioners were at first disposed to locate the courthouse at this place. But at the time Gen. Lacy, who was one of the heroes of the Revolution, owned and was living on the land on which the present city of Chester stands. He was a member of the legislature at the time and had much influence. It is said that he brought undue influence to bear on the commissioners and they decided to locate on the present spot.

Chester was first incorporated as Chesterville. It is said that a great many of the Irish called it "Chester Hell," not that they meant to convey the impression that it was a

bad place but that was the way they pronounced the work hill. One of our neighboring cities suffered from the same pronunciation sometimes yet.

The district court was held from 1785 until 1800 when the circuit court was organized. Mr. John Roseborough was elected clerk of the court in 1800 and served for 20 years. The first courthouse stood on the public square just in front of the National Bank. The building stood until 1855 when it was torn down and the present courthouse erected.

### HELPED TO SHAPE THE GOVERNMENT

Through the period of the Revolution and during the following years the men of Chester were found in the highest council of the nation helping to shape her policies and guiding the bark of the young republic over the shoals. After the war her citizens settled themselves to build up their country and improve their opportunities. There were little interruptions until the outbreak of the Civil war. It is true that there were many fierce campaigns when the question of slavery was shaking the republic and threatening its very existence. South Carolina was the first to secede and Chester was among the rest. Companies were organized and hurried to the front. On many hard fought battlefields with Lee and Jackson in Virginia, with Johnson and Beauregard in the West our men showed that they were willing to die for their rights. While the men fought the women stayed at home tending the farm and children and trying to keep the fathers, sons and husbands supplied with food and clothing. Then came Sherman leaving in his wake ruined homesteads and starving women and children. What a spectacle for the Confederate soldier as he came back, worn out, penniless and in misery!

Following the war came the dark days of reconstruction. Under the rule of the carpetbagger, the scalawag, the Negro, and all ignorance Chester suffered terribly and the people groaned under the heavy taxes. White men were turned out of their homes. But the spirit that had animated the whites from the time when the world first began soon asserted itself. Arising from the ashes of stupidity and crime Chester citizens began a new era. Justice soon held away and the poorest and humblest could come and get their rights. The South prospered and passing from the field of manufactures and diversified farming. Her products found a ready market and soon all along the streams manufactures sprang up. Chester joined the ranks. The city of today with her splendid manufactories, macadam streets, paved sidewalks, electric lights, water works and sewerage, fine churches and schools. Excellent railroads, telephones and telegraph, free rural and city deliveries of mail, public library and all modern improvements and conveniences and the improvements look far different from the Chester of even 20 years ago.

### A SPLENDID PAST

With such a splendid past, having all these rich heritages, the minds of all naturally turn to the future. And what a glorious future it is bound to be. With all the natural advantages, with a fine, sturdy stock of people, with a fine farming country and with all the electric power that is being developed on the rivers that comprise our eastern

and western boundaries. Chester is bound to grow by leaps and bounds. There has always been and is now a steady, healthy growth, and there has never been that "boom" that is followed by the inevitable crash. Our people are cautious and never go at things impulsively. Taking a question or proposition from all sides they see the best and then go after it with their whole souls. This is shown by the business organization.

Realizing that there should be an organization to look after the city's welfare, the men of our city organized a chamber of commerce.. The fee is small and there is a secretary who tends to the office and takes care that the city is advertised to the world and that prospective investors are looked after and that people hunting homes are put in possession of the facts about our city. All communications are answered promptly and strangers are looked after.

One thing along that makes our people sanguine of the future is the growth in the past few years. According to the census of the United States the population of Chester in 1890 was 2,703 and 1900, 4,075, an increase of 50.8 percent. The population now is close to 8,000 and this does not take into account the two cotton mill settlements and other suburbs which have some 2,000 people so that our whole numbers close to 10,000 souls. This steady growth is going on every day and as soon as a new house is erected it is promptly taken and there are cries for more houses. With the coming of the Southern Power company this growth is bound to receive and impulse. This company is now spending hundreds of thousands of dollars developing the water power along the rivers on both sides of the county and they are constructing a line into Chester in order to place the power here. This will make the manufactures, both small and large, seek this field for this, added to our railroad facilities and natural advantages in the field and to the best field they will go. Once more let us turn to the future. Look into it and you will see the coming Chester. This city of hills, like Rome of old, is destined to be the mistress and she is coming into her own. Here's to Chester's futures: May she grow on and on until she has attained that place fixed for her in the coming South, the finest place in the world.

---

### HUGH KNOX

#### Revolutionary Soldier of Catholic Presbyterian Church

"As a godly ancestry is the best heritage that can be given a man," the subject of this sketch, born in old Ireland in 1755, was greatly blessed.

In 1755 he came to the new world of America, by way of Pennsylvania, with his parents, John Knox and wife, Elizabeth Gaston. John Knox settled first on Fishing Creek. In 1768 he had a land grant on Bull Run creek, the old Knox place of today. Their children were John, who died a wealthy bachelor; Rev. William who was educated in Belfast, Ireland, became a Presbyterian preacher, located in Williamsburg County, S C, lived and died at Black Mingo; Sarah who married John Johnston of Fishing Creek; Dr. James Knox, surgeon in Sumter's command; Robert whose descendants were merchants



near Charleston, S C. and Hugh, the youngest, who with his wife, Jennet Nesbit, lived and died on the old home place on Bull Run.

Elizabeth Gaston Knox (mother of Hugh) was a daughter of Willaim Gaston of Clough Water, Ireland and his wife \_\_\_\_\_ Lemon Gaston, were John, a Justice under the Crown; Elizabeth, who married John Knox; Hugh, Mary, who married James McClure; Robert, Jenney who married Charles Strong (father of James, Sr.), William, Martha, who married Alexander Rosborough and Alexander Gaston. All the daughters in this family came to America and the sons, John, Robert and William.

Hugh Knox and wife Jennet Nesbit and ten children, Dr. John, William, Robert, Nancy, Betsy, Sarah, James Nesbit, Polly, Lucretia and Hugh Boyd Knox. This may seem a formidable array of kin but I have touched but lightly on these family lines, and should I record all the connections, by descent and by marriage of these two families of early settlers, many more familiar names of the Fishing Creek and Rocky Creek sections, as well as others all over Chester county, would be on the list.

There were no better soldiers in the Revolution than the Rocky Creek Scotch-Irish. Their sons and daughters counted no sacrifice too great and without any of the paraphernalia of war defeated the British regulars on the field of battle. I quote from a letter, written July 4, 1830, by Dr. John Knox, son of Hugh, to Dr. James Douglas, "I remember with much vividness the tales of those times heard from the lips of my Father, from those his compatriots who suffered extremes of every deprivation.....When our Progenitors were writhing under tyrannical rulers, when their fields were laid waste, their houses burnt and made desolate, relatives and friends separating never again to meet on earth."

Hugh Knox had an excellent record of service. In 1776 he enlisted as a private, in Capt. William Brown's company, South Carolina Regt., Col. Thomas Sumter. He was with this company on an expedition to Florida and one against the Cherokee Indians, being regularly discharged in 1777. Reentering the service under Capt. McClure, his first cousin, and later, elected Capt. of a company formerly commanded by Capt Mills, and was attached to Col. Lacy's Regt. He was wounded at Rocky Mount, was in the hard fought battle of Hanging Rock where so many of his relatives and neighbors were killed; in Sumter's Defeat at Fishing creek, Fishdam; Blackstock's Ford, Tyger river, and King's Mountain. It is recorded that in one of those engagements, the fighting was so close Hugh Knox's face was burnt by powder. Details of these times are meager but having handled the old flintlock rifle that Hugh Knox carried through the war, I feel sure, from the weight and length of his old gun, with a pocket full of pewter bullets added, that if his heart ever quailed or his courage faltered, it must have been easier to stand the fight than to run away. After the war Hugh Knox took up the battle of peace on the old homestead, where he lived and labored until his death in 1821.

He was a Justice of Peace for several years and later, Sheriff of Chester.

One of his daughters, Sarah Knox Wallace was a "Gold Spoon" member and one of three original daughters of the American Revolution. In South Carolina, when the Columbia Chapter was organized in 1898 or 9, her membership was transferred to the "Mary Adair" Chapter of Chester when it was organized in 1900.

Our late, beloved, W.D. Knox Superintendent of Education in Chester county for forty-two years and for forty-eight years a ruling elder in Pleasant Grove and Purity Presbyterian churches, was a grandson of Hugh Knox. --Mary W. Strange for the Catholic Memorial Association.

The above article was sent to us by Mr. Bob Knox of Chester. It was published in the Chester News on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 1933. Mr. Knox says he has seen the old letter mentioned in this. It is in the Archives at Winthrop University.

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**THANK YOU**

The Society would like to thank Dr. Cloud Hicklin, M.D., for the book he donated to us. The title, *DEAR CAROLINE AND ANDREW*, is a story of The Hicklins of South Carolina.

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**HARRIET DAVIS STRINGFELLOW TURNER**  
**And**  
**THE REVEREND DANIEL McNEIL TURNER, DD**

Harriet Stringfellow was the seventh of eight children of Capt. William Stringfellow and Patience Amelia Buford Stringfellow. She was born on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 1820. She married the Reverend Daniel McNeil Turner, DD, the 29<sup>th</sup> of August 1839. They had 6 children. She died 23<sup>rd</sup> of June, 1889, in Chester, SC, and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery (the City Cemetery) in the Stringfellow/Mills lot, adjoining Mr. J. J. Stringfellow's (her nephew's) lot.

We don't know too much about her life, but we do know that as a young girl she went to the Salem Institute in Yorkville (York), at which time she did the needlework in the sampler and the mourning picture.

We don't know where the Rev. Turner came from. He was born the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, 1813, and died the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 1897. We do know that he came from a large family and attended school in Charleston, and at the time of his death there was only one sister left, a Mrs. M. M. Holmes, who was living in Orlando, FL.

We know very little about their children, either, except their names. The only one we have a record of is their oldest, Frances, called Fannie Davis Turner. The others were : Daniel McNeill, Jr., Harriet Hall, Thornton Stringfellow, George Reynolds and Ann Amelia. We do know that George was an engineer and was killed in Mexico by bandits.

Fannie married Samuel Webb, MD. They were married at Woodlawn in Clairborn Parish in Louisiana, by her father. She must have been widowed fairly young. We have a letter from her shortly after she arrived at Brownville, TX, to take a post of teacher in a school there. She had a delightful trip, stopping along the way to visit friends and family. She speaks of spending some time with McNeil, her brother, in Galveston, TX. In fact, one of the ladies who arrived to welcome her in Brownsville was a good friend of McNeil's. The letter is postmarked October, 1890. This was a year after her mother died. I don't know the year she married, but she was born in 1842, so she would have been 48 at this time. Fannie died at "Faith Cottage" at Thornwell Orphanage in Clinton, SC, and was buried next to her mother in Evergreen Cemetery in Chester, SC. She was probably a matron at "Faith Cottage."

We also know that Harriet and McNeil, Sr., lived in Corpus Christie, TX, for awhile, which may account of the fact that when the Rev. Turner died they were finally able to contact his son, McNeil, Jr., in Texas

The Rev. Turner was quite a prolific writer, writing long letters to sister-in-law Maria Gray Stringfellow and to Patience Stringfellow, a neice, as well as others. He was left a widower in 1889 when Harriet died, and 1895 he accepted a call to the Presbyterian church in Morrilton, AK. He was installed on May 21<sup>st</sup>, his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday. A clipping from "The Pilot" a newspaper in Morrilton, which was forwarded to the Chester paper, "The Palmetto Standard" reports as follows:

"On last Tuesday night, May 21, 1895, the Rev. D. McNeill Turner was installed as pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Morrilton, AK, with a beautiful and impressive ceremony. It was the celebration of his eighty-second birthday. It was a beautiful sight to see this grand old man of God taking the vows of the pastorate."

We have a detailed account of his last days, a little less than 2 years later. He was taken into the home of a Mr. Irving, one of his elders, and tenderly looked after for these last few days. Mr. Irving wrote Mr. J. J. Stringfellow upon hearing from his inquiring about his uncle's death. "On the 10<sup>th</sup> the Dr. preached twice with his usual vim and interest. I invited him down home to spend Monday Evening and night with me. In the evening, after supper, I noticed he had a slight tendency to cough and on speaking to him about it he said he had caught a slight cold in the early part of the day which he thought he would just sleep off."

The Rev. Turner passed away a few days later, and the elders were then in a quandary about what to do with him. Mr. Irvine continues: "No mention had been made of his last resting place. We did not know where Mrs. Turner was buried. I believe that if he could have spoken in his last days, that is what he would have told us. I had written his son in Corpus Christi several letters whilst the Dr. was sick and telegraphed him after his death. My telegram was answered from Austin that it was impossible for him to be here, for us to act for him as he would for us under similar circumstances and that explanations would be by mail. On receipt of this, arrangements were made to bury the body here and on Monday evening he was laid to rest in the K??? Cemetery in a lot secured by the church for that purpose. Up to this minute McNeil Turner, Jr., has not written us, at least no communication had reached us. Since the death, I have even written him to Austin and to Corpus Christi.

Dr. Turner had purchased, sometime ago, a new marble monument to be erected to the memory of his wife and daughter and for himself and just before his death he had paid the balance (Total \$225). Since the funeral, we have been told by a lady, that she understood his desire to be buried beside his wife, but even the lady did not know where she was buried. I understand, too, an enquiring as to the monument that the Dr. objected to the base which contents were a lime of sandstone and when he found this he would not have it and for a consideration of \$10 still to be paid the marble man agreed to put a marble base in place of the rock and I understand that marble piece is now in Charleston or Chester. The monument is in the marble yard here. I have written his son in regard to this and am glad now that you have come into correspondence so that it is likely something may be done.

I have always wondered why he was not buried with Harriet and why there was no marker at her grave nor at Fannie's. In a later letter I read where somebody was going to see about putting markers on their grave. I wonder what ever became of the monument in Arkansas. I am sorry that I did not know all this when I was in Arkansas. I would have made a special trip to see where he was buried. It was only a few miles from where our son and daughter-in-law, were living in Conway. The next time I'm in Chester, I'm going out to Evergreen and look for Harriet and Fannie's graves. Something I read said they were next to J. J. Stringfellow's lot.

I have also always wondered why we had so many of Harriet's things when she had 6 children. I guess she and Dr. Turner were living in Chester when she died, and probably with the family so that is where her things ended up. The children must all have been out in Texas. Mr. J. J. Stringfellow was the "caretaker" of the entire family. He looked after his parents, his uncles and aunts, his brothers and their families, his blind and deaf sister, etc., etc. He was a druggist there until his sight got so bad he had to give it up. However, he was also a "farmer" having a number of plantations in the area.

I have not read all Dr. Turner's letters when I wrote the above and a little more information has been elicited from his letters. He had connections in N.C. because after his wife's death, he became seriously ill and stayed with a Mrs. Virginia Patton and her 3

daughters in a part of NC that he called "the land of the sky." He was there for 5 years and says, "I can never be too grateful to Mrs. Patton and her 3 daughters for the care bestowed upon me during the spells of severe illness which neither my devoted nurses nor Dr. Hunt had any hope of my recovery. When I accepted this call to Morrilton, AK. two years ago, it was a part of my call that I would receive a 2 month vacation every year."

A letter received by J. J. Stringfellow, after his death came from Mrs. Patton from a Ecusta(?), NC, I cannot find that town (or anything like it) on the map, but he recounts in his description of his trip from AK to NC, in one of his letters, that he arrived at Asheville and acquired a conveyance to take him 16 miles to the home of Mrs. Patton, "and deposited my baggage in a cozy room which I occupied for several years."

In Mrs. Patton's letter she talked about some land he had owned in that area, and told Mr. Stringfellow that if he wanted to see about it, they would be glad to take him around. I don't know if he ever went up there or not. This would lead me to think that perhaps Dr. Turner had originally come from somewhere around there.

I also found out how he met Harriet Stringfellow. In this same letter to his sister-in-law, he tells her: "I presume, that none of you are aware of the facts, but your Aunt Harriet was the very fruit of my labors, as a Licentiate this was in 1837, while supplying the place of Mr. Douglas in his absence (Purity Pres. Ch, in Chester). My stopping place at the old "village,; (Chester) were the homes of your aunts, Amelia and Catherine. (That's correct, they were her aunts). In walking to and from the place of worship from time to time, with their lighthearted niece, (I think his memory has failed him here and he is mistaken, I think she was their younger sister, or else my genealogy records are incorrect. Amelia and Catherine were 32 and 28 respectively, married and had children, Harriet was 17 at this time and Dr. Turner was 24, she married him 2 years later). I endeavored to excite in her an interest on the subject of personal piety. I scrupulously avoid the unmeaning chat of most young. She seemed to listen attentively, but, as she confided to me in after years, she rather made sport of the young preacher. I had well nigh despaired of making any impression on her, for I observed her very closely, but, on the last Lord's Day on which I preached in Chester, during that visit, while I was preaching on the text, "Behold the Lamb of God," she broke down, and, as I discovered from the pulpit, her tears flowed freely. She did not unite with Purity Church until a year after, but, it was my privilege to do for her, as Andrew for his brother, Peter, "I brought her to Christ." A year after that sermon, she promised to become my wife. I can tell you something more, that some of you know. Mr. & Mrs. Thornwell had a hand in that pie"

The above article was sent to us by a member of the Society, Mrs. T.S. McKosky, 1001 South Harper Street, Laurens, SC 29360. We wish to thank her for sharing with us.

## THE WEIRS OF WATEREE CREEK

Charlene Gillespie Deutsch, Ph.D

February 14, 2004

In 2003 this compiler wrote an article entitled "David Weir of South Carolina" to identify several men named David Weir who either lived in the area known today as the counties of Chester and Fairfield or descended from those who did.<sup>1</sup> Since then, additional information has revealed that some of those Weirs lived in the Wateree Creek area of northeastern Fairfield County, beginning in 1793. Furthermore, an in-depth study of documents involving those Weirs has help make the connection between one certain information came primarily from wills and deeds, the majority of which were obtained from Linda Malone, a volunteer at the Fairfield Genealogy Room in Winnsboro South Carolina.

The following brief outline of the persons in this report may serve as an aid in reading it.

David Weir, d 23 Jun. 1797, had three sons and one daughter, (Not in birth order.)

George, d. 1 May 1837, Chester Co., m Mary Weir, dau of John.

James had five sons and one daughter ( Not in birth order.)

David, b c. 1781, Ire. d. 1849, Wash. Co.,I. Wife Jane Gardner.

William

Archibald

George, b c. 1788, Ire. d 1845, Wash. Co., IN. Wife Margaret Gardner.

John, b 1800, SC d 1850, Wash. Co., IN. Wife Mary Gardner

Mary, b c. 1781 d 1840, IL.

David, d 13 Jan 1821, Fairfield Co., SC Wife Salley.

Mary, m: Thomas Gillespie

John Weir, d bef Feb. 1805

David, d 1831. He had five sons and one daughter. Wife Elizabeth

John, of legal age by 1810.

Francis, age 55 in 1850 census

James

Josiah, m by 1820. Wife Nancy

David, m 1831

Elizabeth

Ebenezer, b c. 1771

On June 5, 1785, John Gillespie, "in consideration of eight pounds three shillings and four pence sterling money," received a grant of 350 acres on "Singletons Creek on the N.E. side of Wateree River."<sup>2</sup> The specifics of the arrival of John Gillespie in South Carolina continue to allude this compiler. The assumption has been made that his wife was Sarah B. Weir. This is based on the tradition of naming the second son after the mother's father. James Weir Gillespie is buried in Old Salem Cemetery, Washington Co., IL His tombstone reads: "In memory of JAMES GILLESPIE, SR., DIED Feb. 13,

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<sup>1</sup> The Bulletin, Vol. 27 June, 2003, No. 2, pp. 59-62

<sup>2</sup> State Grants, Vol. 10-510, State of South Carolina

1839, Aged 68 years. Born in Antrim, Ireland, Removed to South Carolina, Chester Dist. about 1786. Removed to Ill. Dec. 1830. Died in Washington Co. Ill.”

After more than a decade on Singletons Creek, John Gillespie sold his grant of 350 acres to George Weir on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 1798.<sup>3</sup> for \$100. The deed, witnessed by John Jones, identified the tract being conveyed as “Shingleton’s Creek, NE side of Wateree River granted to John Gillaspay 5 June 1786.”

The father of George Weir was the David Weir who signed his will in Fairfield County on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 1797\*. The will named three sons: George Weir of Chester, James Weir, and David Weir. It also named three grandsons named David, i.e., David son of George, David son of James, and David son of Thomas Gillespie. Thomas Gillespie was the first son of John and Sarah (Weir) Gillespie. He married Mary Weir, the daughter of David {1797}. The will was probated on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 1797.<sup>4</sup>

\*Hereafter, certain persons will be identified by their first name followed by the year of their death in brackets, e.g., David {1797}

On March 27, 1984, the late Sarah Wylie Arnette of Winnsboro, SC, responded to an inquiry placed in The Bulletin<sup>5</sup> by Mrs. Mary Lynn Weir expressing her belief that she was a descendant of the grandson of David {1797}. Sarah wrote, “My descent from the elder David has not been established conclusively. I know he is my 4<sup>th</sup> great grandfather but some in the family say we are descended from the son David. However, from the will I believe we are from James because the will mention “Young David, son of James.” This Young David (born 1796) is buried in the cemetery with David (\_\_\_\_-1797).” Unfortunately, Sarah, distracted by the word young, overlooked clues to the approximate age of David, son of James. The first was in the very sentence containing the word young: “...Sorrel mare Together with my Saddle and bridle and *bit* Coat which I leave to young David Wier Son of James Wiere The other clue is found a few lines farther down: “I leave and allow James Wier to give to his Son David Wier the whole Sum of Money which he now Stands indebted to me; which Sum of Money is Eighteen Dollars.” James’ son David was old enough to ride a horse and big enough to wear his grandfather’s coat. Born in c. 1781, young David was approximately sixteen years old in 1797 and, therefore, old enough to receive money. The bequest of David Weir [1797] seems to be a harbinger of things to come for son James.

Mrs. Arnette decried the fact that she had been unable to locate the original 1797 will and thus had to rely upon the W.P.A. version, which she thought was poorly typed. A short time later, Mrs. Arnette wrote an undated letter to Mrs. Kay Ashcroft in which she stated that David Weir had died on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 1797 at the age of 75 and that he was buried in the Weir-Rawls Cemetery in Fairfield Co., SC. Sarah wrote a third letter, dated the 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 1985 to Mrs. Ruthie Wood asking for help in making the connection between Thomas Gillespie who married Mary Weir, the daughter of David Weir {1797}. Sarah wrote that in the W.P.A. version of the will she had found the surname “Gillaphigs” which might be Gillespie in the original will which she had been unable to locate. In 2002 this compiler was fortunate in finding Linda Malone of the Fairfield

<sup>3</sup> Deed Book D: 229, Lancaster Co., SC, Recorded Chester Co., SC, 27 July 1798

<sup>4</sup> Wills of Fairfield Co., SC, Vol. 1, 1787-1819, Will Book 2 page 101 Apt 7 File 229. Recorded in Book 2 pages 165-166 October 20, 1797.

<sup>5</sup> The Bulletin, Vol. VII, March 1984, No. 1, p. 32

Genealogy Room, who took the time and made the effort to locate the original, handwritten copy. A comparison with the W.P.A. version revealed that the typist had omitted one complete line and had typed the word wife for wise. And “Gillaphigs” was Gillaspy, the same spelling of Gillespie used by John and his son Thomas when signing a deed on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 1800<sup>6</sup>

The first deed of James Weir, son of David {1797}, revealed a lease on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 1793 from Nezerus Whitted for 62 acres “situate lying and being on a branch of the Wateree Creek in the County aforesaid bounding NE on Benjamin Martins land....” for twenty pounds sterling.<sup>7</sup> The lease was transferred into a deed on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 1794. The witnesses were John Connery, John Whitted, and George Weir{1837}. George Weir and James Weir were brothers, sons of David {1797}. On the following day, the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 1794, James received 88 acres from Nezerus Whitted.<sup>8</sup> The deed was also the result of a year’s lease. The tract was “situate and lying on the North side of the Wateree Creek in the state and District aforesaid bounding North on land at that time Vacant NW on land laid out for Ely Kirshaw South West and South East on land laid out for Benjamin Martin.” The witnesses were the same as those in the previous two deeds. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 1794, James received 50 acres from John Whitted.<sup>9</sup> Thee deed, again the outcome of a year’s lease, was for a tract “lying on a branch of Wateree Creek Bounding East on land now belonging to the said John Whitted South by Nezerius Whitteds land west on Micajah Picketts land North on an old line Unknown being part of a tract of land containing three hundred and Thirty Eight acres Granted unto Minor Winn Esqr....” It was witnessed by John Connery, Nezerus Whitted, and George Weir{1837}

In her 1984 letter, Sarah Wylie Arnette wrote of David {1797}: “His sons, James & David bought land in Fairfield Co. in 179?” In June of 1793, David Weir of Chester leased 200 acres from John Whitted.<sup>10</sup> When this lease was transferred into a deed on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 1794, the land was described as “lying on a branch of Wateree Creek Bounding East on land now belonging to the said John Whitted South by Nezerius Whitteds land west on Micajah Picketts land North on an old line Unknown being part of a tract of land containing three hundred and Thirty Eight acres Granted unto Minor Winn Esqr...”, with the witnesses being John Connery, John *Lands*, and James Weir. It is easy to understand Sarah Wylie Arnette’s assumption that James and David were brothers. However, the analyses of all the deeds involving James and David {1831} as well as those of the David Weir who died in 1821, indicate that the David Weir buying from the Whitted in 1794 was not a son of David {1797} but rather a son of John Wier who died between 20 May 1801 and February 1805 in Chester Co., SC.

David Weir, son of John {1805} and James Weir, son of David {1797}, became neighbors on Wateree Creek. Each of them continued to purchase tracts in the Wateree area among which were the following:

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<sup>6</sup> Deed Book F-49, Chester Co., SC.

<sup>7</sup> Deed Book K-89, Fairfield Co., SC, Recorded 17 Dec 1795

<sup>8</sup> Deed Book K-87, Fairfield Co., SC, Recorded 17 Dec 1795

<sup>9</sup> Deed Book K-84, Fairfield Co., SC, Recorded 17 Dec 1795

<sup>10</sup> Deed Book K-93, Fairfield Co., SC, Recorded 18 Dec 1795



1)K-91, 20 Jan 1795, Fairfield Dist., SC: James Weir purchased from the heirs of William Whitted 100 acres on the North side of Wateree Creek for 60 pounds. The witnesses were Ebenezer Weir, David Weir, Elizabeth Whitted, and Elisha Owens. Ebenezer and David were sons of the John Weir {1805}. The heirs of William Whitted were Nezerus, John, and Gideon.

2) A2: 24, 13 Apr 1803, Fairfield Dist. SC: David Weir plat for 50 acres "situate in said Dist on Morrises Creek Waters of the Wateree Creek a Branch of the Wateree River..."

3) R:236, 30 Dec 1807, Fairfield Dist., SC: David Weir 17 acres and 66 acres from Heirs of John Turner. The heirs were John McCrorey, Molley P McCrorey, Wm A Turner, Isabella Turner, Samuel Law Jr., Margery Law, James Law, Martha Law, David Boyce, and Agness Boyce. The witnesses were John Bell and William Hughes.

4)T:58, 11 Jan 1810, Fairfield Dist., SC. David Weir 200 acres on Wateree Creek from Daniel Wright "lying on the waters of the Wateree Creek bounding on the west side by Micajah Picketts Land and on the South West said by the Said David Weir and James Weirs Land and on the East side past of the said David Weir and John Dickey's Land on the North by the said Daney Wrights Land and hath such Shape form and marks as appear in the margin herof it being part of a tract originally granted to Josiah Perry"

5)T:60, 20 Jan 1810, Fairfield Dist., SC: James Weir 42 acres from Micajah Pickett "Situated in the District & State aforesaid on the north fork of the Wateree creek beginning where the original William Hill Line cross the Creek then with the same NE.."

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 1810, James Weir, now indebted to John McCrory, gave A mortgage on the 462 acres. The description of the several parcels was as follows:

"...whereon Said James Wear now Lives containing four hundred and Sixty two acres of Land lying and being in Fairfield District and State aforesaid on the waters of the Wateree Creek (omitted) acres of which was Granted to Benjamin Martin and conveyed by Said Martin by Deed to Ely Kirshaw and by him conveyed to Micajah Pickett and by him conveyed to Wm Whitehead and after his deceased sold and conveyed by the Executors of the said Wm Whitehead to said James Weir also a part was granted to Minor Winn containing fifty acres and conveyed by him to Nazereus Whitehead also (omitted) acres was granted to said Whitehead Last and conveyed by said Whitehead above mentioned and conveyed by said Whitehead also the above mentioned 50 acres to James Wear also a part was granted to granted to Charles Miller and Micajah Pickett Junr containing 40 acres by said Pickett to James Wear Bounded as follows west by land now belonging to John Johnston North by Land Belonging to David Wear east by land now belonging to John McCrory and South by land known and distinguished by the name of Knoxes Quarters..."<sup>11</sup>

James Weir not only had large landholdings, he also had a large family. In the 1800 census the household of James Weir consisted of seven males and two females.<sup>12</sup> Five of his sons, namely David {1849}, Archibald, John {1850} William, and George {1845}, are identifiable from the deeds. The 1800 census shows the next farm from James' was

that of David Weir{1831}<sup>13</sup>. David's sons Francis, David H., John, Josiah, dau Elizabeth and *step-son* Wm Hughes were principals in the various deeds examined by this compiler.

<sup>11</sup> Deed Book T: 199, Fairfield Co., SC, Recorded 7 Nov 1810.

<sup>12</sup> 1800 Federal Census, Fairfield Co., SC, p 237: James Wear: 23101-10001-00

This second generation of Weirs living in the Wateree Creek area was aware of their father's misfortune. Several deeds show that James' sons attempted to help him recover from the indebtedness. In 1812 James Weir sold 422 acres to John McCrory. The deed included a quit claim deed whereby sons David {1849}, William, Archibald and George{1845} released their right, title and interest in the property.<sup>14</sup>

“Know all men by these presents that we David Weir, Wm Wier, Archibald Weir and George Weir of the District of Fairfield and State aforesaid for divers Good Causes and Conditions have remised released and forever Quit Claim and by these presents do Remiss release and forever Quit Claim unto the within named John McCrorey all Such Right estate title interest and Demand Whatsoever as we or either of us had or might Have if these presents had never been made of in or to the premises in the within deed Of Conveyance mentioned or described...”

In spite of the assistance of his sons, James' financial problems continued. In 1814 he sold the 42-acre tract on the north fork of Wateree Creek to sons Archibald and John{1850}.<sup>15</sup> The tract was bounded by a grant to William Hill and a grant to Benjamin Martin. It was part of the grants to Charles Hill and Micajah Pickett. It was further described as “the property of the Said James Weir Sold at Sheriffs Sale at the Suit of William Blair and purchased by Ephraim Watson and Conveyed by said Watson to John McCrory and by the Said John McCrory Conveyed to the said James Wier..”. The witnesses were James' sons David {1849} and William.

One might see as a sign of desperation on the part of James the naming of son John {1850}, a minor, as one of the principals in the 1814 deed. That fact was acknowledged in another deed dated the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 1817, whereby David {1849}, and Archibald recognized a debt of \$750 to John McCrory.<sup>16</sup> The words: “the said John Weir when he arrives at or attains the age of twenty one years” were contained in that deed.

Even while trying to help their father, at least two of James' sons bought land in their own right. In the spring of 1817, Henry Moore laid out a tract of 300 acres for David Weir, Jr.<sup>17</sup> The tract was on the road leading from Winnsboro to Chester. The neighbors were Plunket, Cockrell, Nesbit, Hamilton, and Boyd<sup>18</sup> David would remain on that tract for less than a year. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 1818, he obtained a release from Jacob Hartin<sup>19</sup> so that the land could be sold to Robert Brice.<sup>20</sup> The neighbors were Cockrell, Nesbit, Gardner, and Hamilton. David's wife Jane relinquished her dower rights in both deeds. The sale from David Weir and wife Jane to Robert Brice was for 274 ¼ acres for \$1,098.

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<sup>13</sup> 1800 Federal Census, Fairfield Co., SC, p 237: David Wear, 237 23010-00

<sup>14</sup> Deed Book V: 253, Fairfield Dist., SC.

<sup>15</sup> Deed Book X: 52, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 31 May 1815

<sup>16</sup> Deed Book Y: 427, Fairfield Dist., SC Recorded c. 12 Aug 1817.

<sup>17</sup> Deed Book B2: 44, Fairfield Dist., SC, Dated 19 Apr 1817.

<sup>18</sup> S213192, Vol. 44 p.444” 1817/09/19 Weir, David plat 300a Wateree Creek and Dumpers Creek Henry Moore, Jese Cockrell, Nesbitt, Gardner, Peter Hamilton, John Boyd, Christopher Plunkett

<sup>19</sup> Deed Book Z: 214, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 15 Apr 1818

<sup>20</sup> Deed Book Z 221, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 15 Apr 1818

James' son George also purchased land for his own account. In 1814 he bought 100 acres from Robert *Foster*.<sup>21</sup> This tract was on the McMorris branch of Wateree Creek. When George and his wife Margaret sold the land to Samuel *Brannon* for \$500 in March of 1818, their neighbors were George Arnet, James Gardner, and William Adgers.<sup>22</sup> George Robinson, one of the justices of the peace for said county, witnessed the signature of Margaret Weir wife of George Weir when she relinquished her rights and interest in the land.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 1818, James and his sons Archibald and John sold the 42 acres on Wateree Creek where William Hill's line crossed the creek.<sup>23</sup> The proximity of the dates of the sales by sons David and George and the one by James, Archibald, and John suggests the family had a new plan. They had made the decision to leave South Carolina. They would go to Washington Co., IN, where they had heard land was fertile and affordable.

In the 1820 Federal Census for Washington Co., IN, David Weir{1849} is shown with five children and one person engaged in agriculture.<sup>24</sup> George Weir {1845} had four children and one person engaged in agriculture.<sup>25</sup> John Weir {1850} had one child and two people engaged in agriculture<sup>26</sup>

This compiler continues to search for documentation that will reveal what happened to James Weir, the father of those who went to Indiana. Sarah Wylie Arnette wrote in 1984: "In trying to establish James as my 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather, I checked the State Archives for his estate records. They are listed as 'missing.'" She suggested they might have been mistakenly filed with those of another James Weir. Some claim James died in 1837 in Washington Co., IN, but no documentation has been offered. nor have the whereabouts of sons Archibald and William been found. Was one of them the other person in agriculture living with John in the 1820 census? Is son Archibald the Archibald Weir buried in Oak Grove Cemetery, Franconia, Pickens Co., AL? Did he marry Jane Coleman? Did son William remain in South Carolina? In 1819 David Aiken sold 122  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres to William Weir.<sup>27</sup> The witness was James D. Weir. Ultimately this compiler hopes to determine the relationship of Sarah Weir Gillespie to David Weir{1797} and to John Weir {1805}. Hopefully someone reading this account will know the answers to these questions.

About the time James was struggling with mounting debts, David Weir, seeing the plight of James, must have come to the realization that he too had become over extended and decided to take a preventive measure. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 1809, he sold 64 acres to his son John.<sup>28</sup> The land was bounded by James Weir and Perry's old line. It was part of Minor Winn's 1786 grant for 338 acres. The deed, witnessed by James Barber, David Lavender, and Robert G. Barber, mentioned Camden road. Shortly

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<sup>21</sup> Deed Book W: 184, Release, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 1814

<sup>22</sup> Deed Book Z: 542, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 16 Oct 1818

<sup>23</sup> Deed Book AA : 95-97, Fairfield Dist., SC, recorded 6 Feb 1819

<sup>24</sup> 1820 Federal Census, Washington Co., IN, p. 210.

<sup>25</sup> 1820 Federal Census, Washington Co., IN, p.201.

<sup>26</sup> 1820 Federal Census, Washington Co., IN, p. 201

<sup>27</sup> Deed Book BB: 283, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 7 Aug 1820

<sup>28</sup> Deed Book T: 193, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 7 Sept 1810

thereafter, however, son John Weir decided to leave the state and, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 1811, sold the 64 acres to his mother Elizabeth Weir and brother David. The sale was a conditional release with terms as follows:

“..to my mother Elizabeth Weir and my brother David Weir allowing my mother to have the use of it her life time if she should stand in need of it and then be for the use of my Brother David for ever. If I should die or never return and if I return “Back to this State the above land I reserve for my own use and this instrument of writing to be void and of none effect other wise if I never return as above Said I do freely and willingly give & relinquish my right and title to the Same unto my mother Elizabeth Weir and David Weir...”<sup>29</sup>

In 1811 David Weir<sup>{1831}</sup> was sued by Daniel McCullough and , as a consequence, his 400 acres were sold by the sheriff in October of that year. This information came from a deed dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 1815 by which James Barkley, Sheriff of Fairfield District, gave title to Josiah Weir. That deed contained the following explanation:

“by virtue of a certain writ of fieri facias issued out of the Court of Common Pleas held for the District of Fairfield seated the third Monday in Oct in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and Eleven at the suit of Daniel McCullough against David Weir Senior described in all and Singular the Sheriffs of the said State greeting commanding them not to delay that of the goods and chattels houses lands and other hereditaments and real estate of the said David Weir to bring the sum of one hundred and ninety five dollars and forty five cents...”<sup>30</sup>

Further evidence of the financial predicament of David Weir<sup>{1831}</sup> comes from the Bond of Support made in 1818 by William Hughes and three of David`s sons. The words “their mother” in the bond suggests that David`s wife was the widow of Unknown Hughes. (On the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 1795, in Chester Co., SC, David Weir was appointed guardian of William Hughes.<sup>31</sup>)

“William Hughes of the State of South Carolina and Chester District Josiah Wear Frances Weir and David Weir Junr of Said District are held and firmly bound unto Elisabeth Weir their Mother in the Sum of two thousand Dollars. that the above Elisabeth Weir their Mother be properly and Decently maintained in Every thing that she stands in need of in what ever Station of life she may be in and see that she is well\_\_ and taken care of during her natural life...”<sup>32</sup>

After participating in the bond of support for his mother, David`s son Josiah began dividing with his brothers the 400 acres of his father`s property purchased at the sheriff`s sale. Josiah, with an offer of \$200, had been the highest bidder at that

Sale. He did not receive title to the property until 1815 because the sheriff, John Barkley died before giving title. His deed of the 29<sup>th</sup> of Nov 1819 shows him selling to Francis and David, Jr. “two thirds parts of all that certain piece or parcel or tract of Land formerly the property of David Weir Senr and Conveyed to me by James Barkley Junr Sheriff...”<sup>33</sup> On the 24<sup>th</sup> of Jan. 1827, Josiah sold to William Hughes 116 acres “originally granted to Josiah Perry, after said decease conveyed by son

<sup>29</sup> Deed Book Z: 185, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 14 Apr 1818

<sup>30</sup> Deed Book X: 133, Fairfield Dist. ,SC, Recorded 14 Nov 1815

<sup>31</sup> Holcomb & Parker, Minutes of Ct, p. 289

<sup>32</sup> Deed Book Z: 318, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 1 Jun 1818

<sup>33</sup> Deed Book, BB: 202, Fairfield Dist, SC, Recorded 18 Apr 1820

James Perry to Daniel Wright from said Wright conveyed to David Weir and by me by James Barkley sheriff...<sup>34</sup>

Son Francis also seemed to believe in keeping the land in the family. In a deed dated the 18<sup>th</sup> of Nov 1833, he sold 91 acres "...lying on the waters of the Wateree Creek in the state & district aforesaid, bounded by lands of William Hughes John McCrory and David Weir..." to Elizabeth L. Weir, in all probability, his sister.<sup>35</sup> And in another deed with the same date, he sold "...a tract of land containing fifty five acres & 15/100 lying on the waters of the Wateree Creek bounded by lands of David Weir, John McCrory.." to his brother David.<sup>36</sup>

David Weir Senior died in 1831 at age 70 and is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Fairfield Co., SC.<sup>37</sup> According to his estate settlement, he had five sons: John, Frances, James, Josiah, and David, and one daughter, Elizabeth. The final accounting given by his son Frances Weir indicates David never recovered from his financial problems: "To Elizabeth Ware the widow one third \$14.90, 5 John Weir \$4.97 James Weir \$4.97 Josiah Weir \$4.97 Francis Weir \$4.07 David Weir \$4.97 Elizabeth Weir \$4.97."<sup>38</sup>

Comments may be sent to [zulia@aol.com](mailto:zulia@aol.com)

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<sup>34</sup> Deed Book HH: 184, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 17 Apr 1827

<sup>35</sup> Deed Book LL: 169, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 8 Apr 1834

<sup>36</sup> Deed Book, LL: 170, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 8 Apr 1834

<sup>37</sup> Fairfield County Cemetery Records, Vol. II, p 105

<sup>38</sup> Estate Records 13:287-292, Fairfield Dist, SC

## SAMUEL WOODBURN: A Search for His Ancestry

This paper grows out of an effort to determine if there was a possible kinship between Samuel Woodburn (1802-1860), a native of Ireland, who lived for a number of years in Chester District, SC, before moving to Pontotoc County, Mississippi, and James Lilley/Lilly (1776-1863), who emigrated from Ireland to the United States in 1798<sup>1</sup> and resided in Chester District from at least 1802<sup>2</sup> to about 1846.<sup>3</sup> James Lilley/Lilly married Sarah Gill, daughter of Colonel Archibald Gill<sup>4</sup> of Chester District, SC, December 11, 1806. She died June 4, 1843, and was buried in the Fishing Creek Cemetery, Chester County, SC, next to her mother, Mary Ann Mills Wilson.<sup>5</sup>

James Lilley/Lilly, along with other relatives, left Chester District in about 1846 and traveled westward almost a thousand miles to establish a new home in northeast Mississippi, an area that had only recently been ceded to the United States by the Chickasaw Indians, following the Treaty of Pontotoc Creek.<sup>6</sup> These settlers from Chester District named their new community in Pontotoc County—"Chesterville"—after the town of Chester, South Carolina, which was formerly known as Chesterville.<sup>7</sup> Samuel Woodburn was to follow them to Pontotoc County, Mississippi, in about 1858.

Samuel Woodburn was born in Ireland in 1802 and immigrated to the United States in 1820, settling first in Fairfield District<sup>8</sup>, South Carolina, then moving to adjacent Chester District and later to Pontotoc County, Mississippi, in about 1858.

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<sup>1</sup> Petition for Naturalization dated 30 October 1810, Old Naturalization Book A, p 123, Office of the Clerk of Court, Chester, SC

<sup>2</sup> Deed of land from Peter Wylie and dower by his wife, Margaret Youngue, to James Lilley dated 1 November 1806 recorded in CM Deed Book O, p 32, Office of the Clerk of Court, Chester Cnty., SC

<sup>3</sup> James Lilley is listed in the household of his son, Robert Gill Lilley, in the 1850 US Census, Pontotoc Cnty, MS, p 108B. The obituary of Robert Gill Lilly/Lilley, which appeared in *The Pontotoc Sentinel*, Pontotoc, MS,

<sup>4</sup> Last Will and Testament of Col. Archibald Gill names among his children, "my daughter Sarah (which I had by Mary Mills)", recorded in Book C, pp 77-78, Office of the Probate Court of Chester County, Chester, SC

<sup>5</sup> Holcomb and Parker, *Early Records of Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church, Chester County, South Carolina 1799-1859*, (Columbia, SC, Brent Holcomb, C.A L S., 1980) p 151

<sup>6</sup> The Pontotoc Creek Treaty of 21 Oct. 1832, provided for cession of over six million acres to the United States and removal of the Chickasaws to the west Callie B. Young Ed., *From These Hills: A History of Pontotoc County*, (Pontotoc, MS, The Pontotoc Woman's Club, 1978), p 54. James Lilley/Lilly died in Chesterville in 1863 and is buried in the Chesterville Cemetery (sometimes referred to as Lilly Cemetery) in Pontotoc County, near the Lee-Pontotoc County line, West of Tupelo, MS, Northeast Mississippi Historical & Genealogical Society, 1981), p 83

<sup>7</sup> *From These Hills: A History of Pontotoc County* p 78; Anne P. Collins, *A Goodly Heritage: History of Chester County South Carolina*, (Columbia SC, Collins Publications 1986), p 220; Mills Atlas Map of Chester District, SC (1825)

<sup>8</sup> Counties in South Carolina became known as districts in 1800. The term county was resumed in 1868, Brent H. Holcomb.

The search for a connection between Samuel Woodburn and James Lilley/Lilly stems from an examination of a small number of documents passed down among descendants of James Lilley/Lilly, including: (1) pages copied from an old Lilly family Bible<sup>9</sup> containing entries pertaining to Samuel Woodburn and his daughter, Elizabeth Agnes; (2) a letter to Samuel Woodburn at Youngsville, Fairfield District, SC, dated August 7, 1833 from his uncle, James McQuillan, at Lakeview near the town of Antrim in County Antrim, Ireland, and (3&4) two certificates issued by Masonic Order Lodge No. 487 of Ahoghill, County Antrim, concerning Samuel's membership in that Lodge. Ahoghill is a small town near the west end of the town of Ballymena.<sup>10</sup> At this point there is insufficient evidence to draw a conclusion that Samuel Woodburn and James Lilley/Lilly were related, and the ancestors of Samuel Woodburn have not been positively identified. However, some records have been found, including those mentioned, which provide us with a small glimpse into the life of Samuel Woodburn and his family.

The surname of Woodburn does not appear often in extant records of County Antrim. The Hearth Money Rolls for 1666 and 1669 list a John Woodburn in Carnaghts townland in the civil parish of Connor, County Antrim.<sup>11</sup> The Poll Book for County Antrim's General Election of 1776 lists a Samuel Woodburn whose freehold and residence was in Ballymarlagh townland and parish of Ballyclug, County Antrim.<sup>12</sup> Also, in 1825, a Samuel Woodburn resided in the townland of Liminary, parish of Ballyclug, County Antrim.<sup>13</sup> From James McQuillan's 7 August 1833 letter to Samuel Woodburn, we find that at some point after Samuel came to South Carolina, his parents lived in "Ballyminister."<sup>14</sup> From there, they moved to a farm at "Craigbilly,"<sup>15</sup> where Samuel's sister "took a disease in her leg" and later died.<sup>16</sup> Samuel's mother "from fatigue & grief lingered about two years after her & died."<sup>17</sup> According to James McQuillan, Samuel's mother died about six years prior to his letter, or in about 1827.

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<sup>9</sup> The Lilly family Bible was one kept by the family of Robert Gill Lilly, a son of James Lilley/Lilly.

<sup>10</sup> Ordinance Survey Map of Northern Ireland Discoverer Series: Sheet 8, (Belfast, Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland, 2002).

<sup>11</sup> S.T. Carleton *Heads and Hearths: The Hearth Money Rolls and Poll Tax Returns for County Antrim 1660-1669*, (Belfast, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, 1991), pp 7-8.

<sup>12</sup> Terry Eakin, "Poll Book for Co Antrim General Election of 1776; an index to the freeholders voting at this election". *Directory of Irish Family History Research*, No 22, (Belfast, Ulster Historical Foundation, 1999), pp 72,80. Ballyclug Parish adjoins Ahoghill Parish on its eastern side.

<sup>13</sup> Family Archive Viewer, CD262, *Index to Tithe Applotment Books, 1823-1838* (The Learning Company, Inc. 1999).

<sup>14</sup> Ballyminstra is a 620 acre townland in the civil parish of Ahoghill, District Electoral Division of Cloghogue [38], barony of Upper Toome, Poor Law Union of Ballymena, County Antrim, Ordnance Survey sheet 37. Letter from Dr. Brian Trainor, Research Director, Ulster Historical Foundation, 18 August 2003.

<sup>15</sup> Craigbilly or Creagebilly was a former name for the townland of Crebilly in the civil parish of Ballyclug, County Antrim. See *Heads and Hearths: The Hearth Money Rolls and Poll Tax Returns for County Antrim 1660-1669*, *supra*, p 5.

<sup>16</sup> Letter from James McQuillan to Samuel Woodburn, 7 August 1833.

<sup>17</sup> *Id.*

Samuels father also had a farm in nearby Baltee<sup>18</sup> which he sold before his death.<sup>19</sup> All of these townlands are near the outskirts of Ballymena.<sup>20</sup> Samuel's father subsequently moved to Ballymena and presumably died there.<sup>21</sup>

In his letter, James McQuillan also mentions Samuel Woodburn's uncle, Robert Woodburn. A Robert Woodburn is listed in Ballymarlow (Ballymarlagh) townland, Ballyclug Parish, in 1825.<sup>22</sup> In 1835 Robert Woodburn is listed as being in nearby Lisnawhiggle townland, Connor Parish, County Antrim.<sup>23</sup> The only listing in the Index to Griffith's Valuation of Ireland, 1848-1864, for a Robert Woodburn in County Antrim lists Robert Woodburn at both Ballymarlagh townland and Liminary townland, in Ballyclug Parish.<sup>24</sup> It appears that Robert Woodburn lived at Liminary and leased land at Ballymarlagh, since, in 1864, Robert Woodburn, a farmer of the townland of Liminary, obtained from Henry H. Hamilton O'Hara a lease of 7 plus acres of land at Ballymarlow, which was located on the east side of the road between Craighilly and Ballycowna.<sup>25</sup> Thus, in 1864, Robert Woodburn resided in the same townland of Liminary as a Samuel Woodburn died in 1825. This appears to point to Samuel Woodburn of Liminary as being related to the Samuel Woodburn who emigrated from Ireland to the United States in 1820.

Samuel Woodburn was born on 12 February 1802<sup>26</sup> in Ireland. On 23 March 1818, at the age of 16, he was admitted to Masonic Lodge No. 487 in Ahoghill, County Antrim, Ireland, and, on 30 August 1819, he was issued a certificate under seal by the Master Wardens of Lodge No. 487, certifying that he was a regular, registered Master Mason of the Lodge,<sup>27</sup> and another certificate certifying that he had been dubbed a Knight of the Order.<sup>28</sup> Samuel Woodburn presumably requested the certificate for use in his plan to immigrate to the U.S. He apparently delayed his departure for the United

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<sup>18</sup> The townland of Ballee is in the civil parish of Connor, District Electoral Division of Kells [49], barony of Lower Antrim, Poor Law Union of Ballymena, Co. Antrim, Ordnance Survey sheet 37. Letter from Dr. Brian Trainor, Research Director, Ulster Historical Foundation, 18 Aug. 2003.

<sup>19</sup> Id

<sup>20</sup> Ordnance Survey Maps of Northern Ireland, Discoverer Series: Sheets 8&9. (Belfast, Director, Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland, 2002)

<sup>21</sup> Letter from James McQuillan to Samuel Woodburn, 7 August 1833.

<sup>22</sup> Family Archive Viewer, CD262, *Index to Tithe Applotment Books, 1823-1838* (The Learning Company, Inc, 1999)

<sup>23</sup> Id.

<sup>24</sup> Family Archive Viewer, CD188, *Index to Griffith's Valuation of Ireland, 1848-1864* (The Learning Company, Inc., 1998)

<sup>25</sup> *O'Hara and Wardlaw families of Crebilly Estate papers and deeds 1631-1920*, D1911/2/5B.lease No. 245 dated 18 February 1864, (Belfast, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (P.R.O.N.I.))

<sup>26</sup> Loose page from a Lilly Family Bible.

<sup>27</sup> Certificate issued by Master Wardens of Lodge No. 487, Ahoghill, certifying that Samuel Woodburn was a Master Mason, 30 August 1819.

<sup>28</sup> Certificate of Ahoghill Masonic Lodge No. 487 certifying that Samuel Woodburn had been dubbed a Knight of the Order, 30 August 1819.



States until the fall of 1820, leaving from the port of Belfast on the ship Robert Fulton, and arriving at the port of Charleston, SC, 3 November 1820.<sup>29</sup> Although he was only 18 at the time, his age was listed as 21 and occupation that of “farmer.”<sup>30</sup>

Upon his arrival in Charleston, SC, Samuel Woodburn appears to have wasted no time going to Fairfield District, South Carolina, where he met and married Elisabeth Lowry,<sup>31</sup> daughter of William Lowry/Lowery (b 12 June 1747-d. 12 Sept. 1804)<sup>32</sup> and Agness Strong (b abt 1751-d. 16 July 1819).<sup>33</sup> Elisabeth Lowry was the widow of a William Lowry, deceased, who had died prior to 6 May 1819.<sup>34</sup> William and Elisabeth Lowry had a son, James Alexander Lowry, who was born 21 October 1818, but died on 21 July 1820, and was buried in the Lowry Family Burying Ground in Fairfield District.<sup>35</sup> Elisabeth Lowery is listed in the 1820 U.S. Census of Fairfield District, SC, as living alone and being between the ages of 16 to 26.<sup>36</sup> James G. Lowry, a son of William and Agness Lowry of Fairfield District,<sup>37</sup> and brother of Elixabeth, was one of the earliest settlers of Lowrys, formerly called Lowryville, in the northern section of Chester District. He came from Fairfield District in the 1820s and gave the community its name.<sup>38</sup>

Samuel and Elisabeth Woodburn had a daughter, Elizabeth Agness Woodburn, who was born on 25 November 1822.<sup>39</sup> In April 1823, Samuel Woodburn was admitted, upon examination, as a communicant in the Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church in Chester County.<sup>40</sup> On 27 April 1823, Elizabeth Agnes Woodburn was baptized in the

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<sup>29</sup> Brent Holcomb, *Passenger Arrivals of the Port of Charleston 1820-1829*, (Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Col, 1994), p 11.

<sup>30</sup> Id.

<sup>31</sup> A Quitclaim Deed from Samuel Woodburn and wife, Elisabeth Woodburn, to Alexander Lowry dated 18 July 1821, conveyed an inherited interest in land originally granted to William Lowry, deceased, father of Elisabeth. Deed Book FF., page 310, Clerk of Court

<sup>32</sup> William Lowry was a Revolutionary War soldier buried in the Lowry Family Burying Ground, which is located 15 miles north of Winnsboro and about six miles southeast of Blackstocks, near the “Old Douglas Place” in Fairfield County, SC. Louise Kelly Crowder, 1970), P. 11: Record of Markers-Revolutionary Soldiers Graves, South Carolina Daughters of the American Revolution, Thomas Woodward Chapter.

<sup>33</sup> Crowder, *Tombstone Records of Chester County, South Carolina and Vicinity*, Vol I, p. 11; Record of Markers-Revolutionary Soldiers Graves, South Carolina Daughters of the American Revolution, Thomas Woodward Chapter, Will of Agness Lowery dated 6 May 1819, Proven 3 August 1819, Recorded 5 April 1820. Will Book 7, page, 254, Apt. No. 23, File No. 323, Probate Records, Winnsboro, Fairfield County, SC.

<sup>34</sup> Will of Agness Lowery, *supra*, refers to her daughter Elisabeth as widow of William Lowery, deceased.

<sup>35</sup> Crowder, *Tombstone Records of Chester County, South Carolina and Vicinity*, Vol I, p. 11.

<sup>36</sup> 1820 U.S. Census, Fairfield District, SC, at p. 154.

<sup>37</sup> Will of Agness Lowery, *supra*.

<sup>38</sup> Collins, *A Goodly Heritage: History of Chester County, South Carolina*, *supra*, pp. 305-306

<sup>39</sup> Loose page from a Lilly family Bible.

<sup>40</sup> Holcomb and Parker, *Early Records of Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church, Chester County, South Carolina, 1799-1859*, (Columbia, SC, Brent Holcomb, C.A.L.S. 1980), p. 43. Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church is in the northern part of Chester District, near the boundary line with York District, and was probably more than twenty miles north of Samuel Woodburn’s home in Fairfield District.

Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church.<sup>41</sup> S. Woodburn and A. Woodburn were dismissed from Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church during the period April 1824-1825.<sup>42</sup> One possible reason for their remaining at Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church for such a short time might have been the long distance they had to travel to attend church services.

On 15 November 1826, Samuel Woodburn reported to the Court of Common Pleas at Winnsboro, Fairfield District, SC, and gave notice that it was his intention to become a U.S citizen, stating that he had resided in Fairfield District since his arrival in the United States.<sup>43</sup> Samuel Woodburn is listed in the 1829<sup>44</sup> local census of Fairfield District, SC, as head of a household of four persons. In the 1830 Federal Census of Fairfield District, he is listed as head of a household (age 40 to 50), with one female (age 5-10), one female (age 20-30), and one female (age 40-50).<sup>45</sup> Samuel Woodburn was only 28 years old in 1830, so the census data as to his age is incorrect. His daughter, Elizabeth Agnes, was eight in 1830 and was the female child, age 5-10. One would presume that the female age 20-30 was Samuel's wife, but this is open to question, as there was another female listed as between the ages of 40-50, and the date of birth of Samuel's wife is not known.

On 24 January 1835, Samuel Woodburn and his wife, who was identified as Agness Woodburn, of Fairfield District, in consideration of \$525.00, conveyed 150 acres located in the district to John Young.<sup>46</sup> After selling the property in Fairfield District, Samuel Woodburn and his family apparently moved to Chester District, because on 7 November 1835, he purchased from David Boyd and his wife, Martha N. Boyd, in consideration of the sum of \$1300.00, 185  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres, more or less, situated on a small branch of the South Fork of Fishing Creek, beigh adjacent to the lands of the Estate of Charles Boyd, deceased, Wilmot Gibbes, James Drennan, Colonel George Gill and David Boyd.<sup>47</sup> The land conveyed was part of a tract originally granted to William Mc Clure. A plat of the land conveyed to Samuel Woodburn by David Byod was recorded in the land records of Chester District and depicted the property as actually consisting of 190 acres.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Id. A study of the church record indicates that this was the infant daughter, Elizabeth Agnes Woodburn, and not the wife of Samuel Woodburn. During the year April 1823-April 1824, a total of eight adults and twelve infants were baptized at Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church. See listing in *Early Records of Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church*, p. 43. The list of names of these persons states that the eight adults were black. One is therefore left with the conclusion that the remaining persons named were infants.

<sup>42</sup> Id. At 49. A letter of dismissal, signifying a member's good standing in the church, was apparently used in seeking membership in a different congregation. It is unclear whether "A. Woodburn" as listed is Samuel's wife or their infant daughter, Elizabeth Agnes. James Lilley's wife, Sarah Gill, had previously been a communicant of Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church and had been dismissed in bout 1811. Id. at 30.

<sup>43</sup> Naturalization Petition of Samuel Woodburn, 4 April 1848, Naturalization Book B, pages 152-153, Clerk of Court, Chester County, SC.

<sup>44</sup> Fitz Hugh McMaster, *History of Fairfield County South Carolina* (Spartanburg, SC, The Reprint Company, 2002), p. 187.

<sup>45</sup> 1830 U.S. Census, Fairfield District, SC, page 377.

<sup>46</sup> Deed Book LL, pp.387-388, Clerk of Court, Fairfield County, SC

<sup>47</sup> Deed Book AA, p 302, Clerk of Court, Chester County, SC

<sup>48</sup> Plat recorded at Deed Book EE, p. 232, Clerk of Court, Chester County, SC.

The 1840 U.S. Census for Chester District, SC, listed Samuel Woodburn as head of Family (age 40 and under 50), with two females (age 15 & under 20), and one female (age 40 & under 50).<sup>49</sup> Samuel and Elisabeth Woodburn's daughter, Elizabeth Agness Woodburn, died on 16 February 1841,<sup>50</sup> at the age of 18. The location of her burial is unknown. Samuel Woodburn made his application for U.S. citizenship on 4 April 1848, in Chester District, South Carolina.<sup>51</sup> In his application, Samuel Woodburn stated that he arrived in the United States at Charleston, South Carolina, in mid-December 1819 and was at that time about eighteen years of age.<sup>52</sup> He said that he had since then resided in Fairfield District, South Carolina.<sup>53</sup>

On 20 October 1849, upon examination, Samuel Woodburn was once again received into the membership of Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church.<sup>54</sup> In the following year, the 1850 U.S. Census for Chester District, SC, listed Samuel Woodburn (age 48) as head of household No. 840, farmer, value of real estate owned \$2820.00, born in Ireland.<sup>55</sup> Also listed in the household were Agnes Woodburn, age 70, born in Ireland, and female M. C. Boyd, age 16, born in South Carolina.<sup>56</sup> The census entry for Agnes Woodburn raises a question as to whether she was the same person as Samuel Woodburn's wife, Elisabeth Lowry, because of the age listed for Agnes Woodburn (age 70, thus being 22 years older than Samuel) and the place of her birth being Ireland. Elisabeth Lowry's father, William Lowry, had fought for the United States in the Revolutionary War,<sup>57</sup> and Elisabeth Lowry had passed away before 1850 and that Samuel Woodburn, by 1850, had remarried an Agnes, who was born in Ireland.

On 1 July 1854, Samuel Woodburn was elected a deacon in the Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church.<sup>58</sup> At a Session meeting of the church held on 17 January 1857, it was noted that Samuel Woodburn applied for a certificate of membership for himself and his wife,<sup>59</sup> who was not named. The certificates were to be used in transferring their memberships to a church in Mississippi. A certificate was granted as to Mrs. Woodburn,

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<sup>49</sup> 1840 U.S. Census, Chester District, SC, page 34. Samuel's age is once again recorded incorrectly, as he became 38 in 1840.

<sup>50</sup> Loose page from a Lilly family Bible.

<sup>51</sup> Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina Naturalizations: 1783-1850*, (Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1985), p 176

<sup>52</sup> Naturalization Petition of Samuel Woodburn, 4 April 1848, Naturalization Book B, pp. 152-153, Clerk of Court, Chester County, SC. Samuel Woodburn actually arrived in the U. S. in November 1820, as reflected in Holcomb, *Passenger Arrivals at the Port of Charleston 1820-1829*

<sup>53</sup> Naturalization Petition of Samuel Woodburn, *Supra*.

<sup>54</sup> Holcomb and Parker, *Early Records of Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church*, p. 82. It would appear that the property purchased by Samuel Woodburn in 1835, located on a branch of the south fork of Fishing Creek, would have been very close to the church.

<sup>55</sup> 1850 U. S. Census, Chester District, SC, page 55.

<sup>56</sup> *Id.*

<sup>57</sup> Bobby Gilmer Moss, *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution*, (Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1983), p. 585, Crowder, *Tombstone Records of Chester County, South Carolina and Vicinity*, Vol. 1, p.11

<sup>58</sup> Holcomb and Parker, *Early Records of Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church*, p. 108.

<sup>59</sup> *Id.* at 114

But declined as to Mr. Woodburn, due to a rumor charging him with certain unchristian conduct, until he should appear and have the charges investigated.<sup>60</sup> On March 1857, Mr. Woodburn's case was called up before the Session, and "owing to his leaving our bounds with a view to a return this fall," the Session deemed it "best to defer it until his return for investigation."<sup>61</sup> On 9 January 1858, the Session met, and it was recorded that "Mr. Woodburn having returned to our bounds a communication was received from him stating his inability to meet the Session today and that he wished to return West soon asked a dismissal, confessing that he had drank more than he should have done, asked forgiveness, professing repentance, denying the truth of other rumors. Session having no evidence against him to substantiate the reports charged on motion granted a certificate to join the church in whose bounds he might have his future home."<sup>62</sup> Samuel Woodburn apparently left South Carolina during or after January 1858 and moved to Chesterville, Pontotoc County, Mississippi.<sup>63</sup>

Samuel Woodburn died on 7 February 1860 and is buried in the Chesterville Cemetery in Pontotoc County, located west of Tupelo, Mississippi, near the Lee-Pontotoc County line. The dates of his birth, arrival in the U.S. and death are recorded in loose pages from the Robert Gill Lilly family Bible. The 1860 U.S. Census of Pontotoc County, MS, taken after Samuel Woodburn's death, lists a household with Thomas Fulton, age 56, farmer, born in Kentucky, Ann Fulton, age 54, born in Kentucky, Charles W. Fulton, age 19, born in Alabama, Rhody A. Fulton, age 16, born in Alabama, and James P. Rowan, age 7 born in Mississippi.<sup>64</sup> Nancy Woodburn is also listed on the 1860 Personal Tax Roll of Pontotoc County, MS.<sup>65</sup> She would appear to be the same person who was listed in the 1850 Census of Chester District, SC, as Agnes Woodburn, age 70, born in Ireland.<sup>66</sup> No record has been found as to her date of death or place of burial. The few surviving pages from the Lilly family Bible do not mention Samuel Woodburn's wife, either by the name Elisabeth, Agnes, or Nancy, and no further records have been found concerning Samuel Woodburn's wife.

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<sup>60</sup> Id. The sternness of Scotch-Irish religion in its early history was reflected in its control over the personal lives of church members, who might be brought before the Session for a trial upon allegations that might appear absurd to modern reader. Such offense included, *inter alia*, violation in some manner of the Sabbath, fighting, swearing, and family disagreements. James G. Leyburn, *The Scotch-Irish, A Social History*, (Chapel Hill, The University of North Carolina Press, 1962), pp. 292-293. Traveling on the Sabbath was still considered a serious offense at Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church as late as 1852. See, Holcomb and Parker, *Early Records of Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church, Chester County, South Carolina*, pp 94-98, 101-104.

<sup>61</sup> *Early Records of Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church*, p. 115.

<sup>62</sup> Id. at p. 121.

<sup>63</sup> Samuel Woodburn is listed on the Pontotoc County, MS, Personal Tax Roll for 1859. Miss. Dept. of Archives & History, Jackson, MS, Microfilm Roll No. 2340

<sup>64</sup> 1860 U.S. Census for Pontotoc County, MS, Poplar Springs division, Page 17. Nancy Woodburn was the only person with the surname Woodburn listed in the 1860 Census of Pontotoc County, Mississippi.

<sup>65</sup> Microfilm Roll No. 2340, Miss. Dept of Archives & History, Jackson, MS.

<sup>66</sup> Nancy is a nickname for Agnes.

As previously stated, Samuel Woodburn's ancestors have not yet been identified, although the evidence points to the Woodburns in the Ballymena area as being his relatives. Questions concerning Elisabeth, Agnes and Nancy Woodburn remain unresolved. It is possible that there may have been some connection between Samuel Woodburn's family and that of Ellen Wylie (b. 14 December, 1819-d. 7 May 1863),<sup>67</sup> daughter of Duncan Wylie (b. 1780-d.12 June 1840),<sup>68</sup> Ellen Wylie was the first wife of Robert Gill Lilly (b. 13 September 1818-d. 7 December 1908),<sup>69</sup> and she may have been the person who made the Woodburn entries contained in the Robert Gill Lilly family Bible. The Wylie family was originally from the village of Moylurg in the parish of Craigs in County Antrim.<sup>70</sup> Moylurg is less than five miles north of Ballymena.<sup>71</sup>

Thomas G. Lilly  
Jackson, Mississippi

18 January 2004

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<sup>67</sup> Birth and death dates are those recorded in Lilly Family Bible. *Lee County, Mississippi Cemetery Records, 1820-1979*, Chesterville Cemetery (Lilly Cemetery), No. 22, *supra*, p. 81 (Birth date in the publication incorrectly states that she was born 14 December 1818 instead of 1819.)

<sup>68</sup> Crowder, *Tombstone Records of Chester County, South Carolina and Vicinity*, Vol.1, P. 109.

<sup>69</sup> *Lee County, Mississippi Cemetery Records, 1820-1979*, Chesterville Cemetery (Lilly Cemetery), No. 22, *supra*, p. 82.

<sup>70</sup> C.C. & P. Miller, *Northern Ireland*, The Bulletin, Vol. XIX, No. 3, (Richburg, SC, Chester District Genealogical Society, Sept. 1995), p. 110. Moylurg is listed as being in the Parish of Craigs, Barony of Toome, in *Heads and Hearths: The hearth Money Rolls and Poll Tax Returns for County Antrim 1660-1669*, pp 160-161, A John and William Willey are listed at p. 163 as householders in the Hearth Money Roll for 1669 for the Galgorm Estate which transgressed parish boundaries and included the townland of Moylurg. See note 2 at p. 163

<sup>71</sup> Ordnance Survey Map of Northern Ireland Discoverer Series: Sheet 8, *supra*.

## THE COVENANTERS

From

*The Lantern*

June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1908

By L.M. Ford

A Noble people Who Came Here for Consciences' Sake and Left for the Same Reason.

This is the name by which the Reformed Presbyterians were known for many years. At different periods of their existence they were called Cameronians (for Richard Cameron who fell at Airdsmore), Hill Folk, Society People, Strict Covenanters and simply Covenanters. They may be described as the somewhat rigid and severe Puritans of the great Presbyterian body. They are the successors of the Scottish Presbyterians, who, in the seventeenth century, time and time again entered into the Solemn League and Covenant, believing as they did that nations, as such, are bound to the worship and service of God.

By the persuasion of the younger Sir Henry Vane, and English nobleman, was framed at Edinburg that Solemn League and Covenant which effaced all former protestations and vows taken in both kingdoms, and long maintained its credit and authority

In this covenant the subscribers, besides engaging mutually to defend each other against all opponents, bound themselves to attempt without respect of persons, the extirpation of popery and prelacy, superstition heresy and profaneness to maintain the rights and privileges of parliaments together with the king's authority, and to discover and to bring to justice all incendiaries and malignants, and vowed also to preserve the reformed religion established in the church of Scotland.

It was agreed that this bond of union with each other and covenant with God be signed at Greyfair's church on the afternoon of Feb. 28, 1638. As the hour drew near, people from all quarters flocked to the place, and before the hour arrived the church and churchyard were densely filled with the gravest the wisest and the best of Scotland's pious sons and daughters. The venerable Earl of Sutherland, an aged nobleman, stepping slowly and reverentially forward, with throbbing heart and trembling hand subscribed to Scotland's covenant with God. Name followed name in quick succession till all within the church had given their signatures. It was then removed to the churchyard and spread out on a level gravestone to obtain the subscriptions of the assembled multitude. Here the scene became more impressive. The intense emotions of many became irrepressible, some burst out into a shout of exultation, some opening a vein signed with their warm blood. Names were added until no space was left. There was a pause. The nation had formed a covenant in former days and violated its engagements, hence the calamities in which it had been and was now involved. If they too should break this sacred bond, how deep would be their guilt? Such seems to have been their thoughts. As if moved by one spirit with low heart-wrung groans and faces bathed in tears, they lifted up their right hands to heaven, avowing that they had now joined themselves to the Lord in an everlasting covenant that should not be forgotten. Nobleman, barons, knights, gentlemen,

citizens, burgesses, ministers of the Gospel, and commons of all sorts in Scotland, England and Ireland subscribed.

Their political creed is embraced in the following sentence: "We do declare that we shall set up over ourselves and over what God shall give us power, government and governors according to the Word of God, that we shall no more commit the government of ourselves and the making of laws for us to any one single person, this kind of government being most liable to inconvenience and aptest to generate into tyranny. "This was known as the Queensferry Paper and was adopted June 3, 1680. It contains the essence of the Declaration of Independence by Thomas Jefferson nearly one hundred years later. They were organized into a presbytery in 1743, when they took unto themselves the name of Reformed Presbyterians.

Their love of liberty and hatred of tyranny made them objects of persecution by the government, also brought on personal encounters with the royal adherents, and these sometimes resulted in death.

The youthful and pious James Renwick was put to death in 1688 on account of devotion to religious duties. From then until 1707, nearly twenty years, these godly people met in societies on the Sabbath and read the scriptures and sang David's Psalms.

They were a peculiar people, not reckoned with the other inhabitants of the nation. They were not awed into silence by the finger of scorn and contempt being pointed at them, nor persecuted out of existence by the sword.

Soon after the battle of Bothwell Bridge in 1679 these people began to leave their native land and seek homes in other regions. Some went to Ireland and from Ireland they came to America. As early as 1685 a number of these people came and settled in New Jersey. From New Jersey some emigrated to Pennsylvania and from Pennsylvania some afterwards came to North and South Carolina. On reaching America they immediately formed societies as had been done in Scotland and Ireland. The first covenanter minister that came to America was John Cuthbertson. He landed August 5, 1757.

In nearly every Scotch-Irish settlement on both sides of the Catawba river north of the mouth of Big Rocky Creek, were several families who were covenanters or in sympathy with them. Wherever as many as two families were, a society was joined. In some communities these societies were large but generally they were small.

One of the earliest Scotch-Irish settlements in the upper part of South Carolina was in Chester county in the region now known as Richburg, about 1745, also in the south-eastern section on the waters of the two Rocky Creeks, in the neighborhood of Catholic Presbyterian church about the same time. In 1768 the settlement was greatly increased by immigrants direct from Ireland. Again in 1772, a large number of Scotch-Irish emigrants came to South Carolina. Most of these were related or intermarried. It was their desire to settle in the same community, but conditions did not favor.

Among the families who came over were the McCaws, Cherrys, Stinsons (Stephenson), Andersons, Martins, Knoxs, Kells and John Lynn. One John Lynn came over previous to 1758. This John Lynn was one of the original trustees of the Waxhaw church property. Many of these people settled on Rocky Creek. Those who settled about Richburg worshiped near the present site of Union A.R.P. church, while those of Rocky Creek worshiped at Catholic. This at first was a union church, the Presbyterians, Associates and Covenanters worshiping together and on this account it was called Catholic.

It was first served by Rev. William Richardson, a Presbyterian divine, pastor of Waxhaw church.

In 1770 the Covenanters withdrew from the others at Catholic and held society meetings. They wrote the Ireland for a minister and in 1772 Rev. William Martin came over, bringing a colony with him. These took up bounty lands, one hundred acres to each head of a family and fifty for each child.

Their first church was built in 1774 about two miles east of Catholic, near the residence of the late William Westbrook, of Rossville. This church was later burned by the British and Tories. After the Revolution, another church was built farther east than the one burned. Here they worshipped for many years with Mr. Martin as pastor.

During the summer of 1789 Rev. James Reed, of Scotland, came to America on a missionary tour, visited the societies in South Carolina, set in order the affairs of the church as representative of the Scottish presbytery, dispensed the sacraments and organized the Rocky Creek congregation. The elders were Samuel Loughridge, Adam Edgar, John Wyatt, Thomas Morton, James McQuinston and afterwards John Kell, David Stormount, John Rock, Robert Hemphill, Hugh McMillan and Archibald Coulter were added to the session. These represented the different societies of Chester, York and Fairfield counties.

In 1792 Rev. James McGarragh was sent out by the Reformed presbytery of Ireland, and some members came with him. He settled in the Beaver Dam Society, a branch of the Rocky creek congregation. His old home is now owned by W.A.Drennan, Bascomville, and is known as the McGarragh place even until this day.

In 1793 Rev. William King was sent out by the Scottish presbytery. After an extended tour through the north and east he settled on the north side of the Mount Prospect Methodist church. This branch was called Kings branch for many years, but it is not so know in this day.

In 1793 Revs. McGarragh and King constituted a committee to judicially determine the affairs of the church in South Carolina. They restored Rev. William Martin, who had been suspended on account of intemperance, but had continued to preach. The membership was large and so scattered that it required the time of three ministers. As the lands in South Carolina were cheap and well adapted for farming and grazing, many of the Covenanters who came to America settled there.



Mr. McGarragh became intemperate and was suspended by the committee in 1795. Mr. King died in 1789 and Mr. Martin was again left alone.

In the spring of 1798, the Reformed presbytery was reorganized in America at Philadelphia. The Revs. James McKinney and S. B. Wylie were sent upon a commission to South Carolina to rectify disorders and banish slave holders from the Covenanter Church. This commission was constituted at the Rocky Creek meeting house (widow Edgar's), on Jan. 28, 1801, by Revs. James McKinney and S. B. Wylie, with Thomas Donnelly, a licentiate, who had preached for more than a year. At the sitting of this court Thomas Donnelly was ordained and installed pastor of the societies, S. B. Wylie, was called as colleague, William Martin was deposed for holding slaves and for being habitually intemperate and James McGarragh's suspension was continued. James Harbison, Alexander Martin, Hugh McQuiston, John Cunningham, David Smith, John McNinch, John Cooper, William Edgar, James Montgomery and Robert Black were chosen ruling elders. Mr. Wylie declined the call and Dr. Connelly understood to supply all the societies as best he could.

In 1802 Rev. James McKinney was transferred from Galway, N. Y., and took charge of the Brick church society. In a few years he died and Mr. Donnelly was again left alone. He bought a farm on the north side of Bog Rocky Creek of Stephen Harman. For eleven years he ministered in South Carolina without any assistance. In 1813 Rev. John Reilly took charge of little Rocky Creek and Beaver Dam churches. He died in 1880. For two years Mr. Donnelly was alone. In June 1822 Rev. Campbell Madden was ordained and installed pastor of the Richmond church, preached at the tent of John Orr and taught school at Glendon's Grove. At the same time Rev. Hugh McMillan took charge of the Brick church, where he also conducted a classical school. Campbell Madden died in August 1828. Hugh McMillan emigrated to Ohio, with many of his congregation about this time. Then set in an emigration to the northern free states on account of human slavery, and during the next ten years the cause in the south became weak. Mr. Donnelly remained and preached until his death in November 1847. He was the last Covenanter minister in the South and soon the cause became extinct.

At one time there were over five hundred Covenanters in South Carolina, and the comprised congregations of Rocky Creek, Big Rocky Creek, Little Rocky Creek, Beaver Dam and Bethesda.

Among the names not before mentioned are the families of McMillan, Cooper, McKelvey, Hemphill, Woodbourne, Montford and others at the brick church; of Erwin, McHenry Ervin, Todd, Kell, Rock, Lynn, Little, McFadden, McClurkin and Simpson at Beaver Dam; of Martin, Dunn, Wright, Hood, Sproull, Henry, Stormont, Cathcart, Robinson, McMillan and Richmond at Richmond, or Big Rocky Creek; of McNinch and Crawford at McNinch's church; Smith Faris, McDonald, Coulter, Wright, Wilson, Orr, Wylie, Black, Henkle, Hunter, Boyd, Neil and McDill at Little Rocky Creek church. In the old grave yard of the Brick church lie the remains of Revs. William King, James McKinney, John Reilly and Thomas Donnelly. Dr. Campbell Madden is buried at Winnsboro, James McGarragh at Paul's graveyard,

and Rev. William Martin in a private burying ground near his humble abode. This is now known as the Talford grave yard.

Many of the names of the Covenanters are familiar in the county at this day, others are extinct either by death or emigration to the free states, as then called

It is said that no noble or royal blood coursed the veins of any. In fact, they had resisted the encroachments of the nobility and king in their civil and religious rights for many years, and they spilled much blood on hotly contested battle-fields. Their failure caused them to seek the wilds of America, where they could worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences and where no one dared to molest or make afraid. Their experience prepared them for their duties in the new world. Their suffering had cemented their friendship that they might work together for the good of all. Their reliance on God and dependence on their own exertions made them the best pioneers in Europe at that time. Remembering their treatment in their old homes in former times made them willing to take the side of the whigs in the Revolution. Their service was not only valiant and valuable and changed apparent defeat to glorious victory on more than one bloodyfield.

It has been said that Burns "Cotter's Saturday Night," truly pictures the homes of many original settlers as well as their descendants in this day. Had the other churches taken a firm stand, and dealt as vigorously with their members regarding slavery, the face of the country might have had a different aspect. We should have had few Negroes, no race problem, and best of all the bloodiest war of the century might have been averted

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### NANCY CROCKET

*The Herald/Monday, May 3, 2004*

Miss Nancy Louise Crockett, 91, of Riverside Road died Sunday, May 2, 2004 at Westminster Towers in Rock Hill

The funeral will be 2 pm Wednesday at the Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church. Burial will be at the church cemetery.

A native of Lancaster, Miss Crockett was a daughter of the late Rufus Calhoun and Nannie Estelle Lathan Crockett, and is survived by a brother, Rufus L. Crockett of Florida. She was a member of the Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church and was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Miss Crockett graduated magna cum laude from Winthrop College in Rock Hill in 1933, and was an elementary and high school teacher and retired as principal from Rice Elementary School in Lancaster.

She assisted local historian Louise Pettus in the writing of "The Waxhaws". She was dedicated to preserving the history of the Waxhaws.

Her genealogy records are in the Caroliniana Room at The University of South Carolina. She was a noted genealogist for Lancaster County.

## QUERIES

- 04---25---**McClure, Gillespie:** Ira McClure, 3134 Walter Ave., Maplewood, MO. 63143-3914—Looking for information on Alexander McClure. Alexander McClure married Jane Gillespie 1828. Both believed from the Fishing Creek, Chester Co., SC area. Alexander and Jane had a son, James M. McClure, Born Aug. 1827 in SC.
- 04---26-**Culp:** Wylma (Culp) Ficco, 121 Wexford, Paducah, KY. 42003. I am hoping to make contact with anyone who may help me. I read with interest the article of the Knox family. I had just placed in my files an article where a James Knox was involved in an estate sale concerning the Culp brothers. Johannes Casper Kolb/Casper Culp lived in Chester Co. until his death in April 1770. He had 9 children
- 04---27-**Terry;** Lyndi Farmer, 196 Nutley St, Ashland, OR 97520;  
Farmbugs@mind.net: Looking for any information on Joseph R. Terry Born Nov. 11, 1883, d Jan 26 1915. Living in Chester in early 1900's Buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Married to Mary Brenan Hendrix 1912.
- 04---28-**Agurs, Allen, Morgan;** Marianne Stein, P O Box 23, Wadmalow Island, SC 29487; maristein@juno.com- Interested in information on the following Ancestors, S William Agars 8/7/1784-3/7/1864, married Margaret Culp, both buried Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church.: Ancestors of John Allen, died 1838 Chester, SC. Name of John Allen's wife. Their children are Nancy Cherry, Sons George. Myrick, Mark, Hugh and daughter Margaret, second wife of Turner Morgan-their children James Ramsey Morgan, Epinitus Morgan, Louiza Morgan and Turner Gray Morgan who married Frances Agurs; Name of wife of Jarred Morgan, born before 1755 probably in South Hampton. Father of Gray Morgan, Mary Morgan married Giggers? Turner Morgan married (1) Elizabeth Ferguson, (2) Margaret Allen and James R. Morgan
- 04---29-**Bigham-**Jill King Lyles, 325 Kingston Dr., McBee, SC 29101-mssngdale@aol.com- Seek proof of parentage of Newton Bigham. Born 26 Oct. 1823, died 21 Aug 1907. Buried Union ARP Church, Richburg, SC Wife: Margaret Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_? Is he son of Isaac & Rachel Weir Bigham? Any help appreciated.

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The Society wishes to thank Ms. Emily Croom for sending us, *Genealogist Companion & Source Book*, for our library. This is the second edition of Mr. Croom's book. It was published in August, 2003.