

THE BULLETIN

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From		
VOLUME XXVIII, NO. 1		MARCH, 2004
President's Page	Page 1	
Items from The Reporter of March 20, 1890	Page 2	
Mrs. Jane Thomas	Page 3	
Mrs. Daniel Hall	Page 5	
Rev. Mr. William Williamson to Polly Buford	Page 5	
Abraham Gibson	Page 9	
Some Prominent Fairfield Families 1901	Page 12	
The Woodward Family	Page 17	
Concerning Armenia	Page 19	
The Carolina Planter	Page 23	
Mrs. Winnifred Atkinson	Page 25	
J. H. Gladden	Page 26	
Grant	Page 27	
The Andrew Jackson Vase	Page 28	
Queries	Page 31	
Index	Page 35	
Robert William Patton, Sr.	Page 40	
Publications for Sale	Inside Back Cover	

From		
VOLUME XXVIII, NO. 2		JUNE, 2004
President's Page	Page 41	
"Birthday Time"	Page 41	
Some Early History Concerning Chester	Page 42	
Hugh Knox	Page 47	
Thank You	Page 49	
Harriet Davis Stringfellow Turner and The Reverend Daniel McNeil Turner, DD	Page 49	
The Weirs of Wateree Creek	Page 53	
Samuel Woodburn: A Search for His Ancestry	Page 61	
The Covenanters	Page 69	
Nancy Crocket	Page 73	
Queries	Page 74	
Index	Page 75	
Genealogists Companion & Source Book	Page 80	
Publications for Sale	Inside Back Cover	

From		
VOLUME XXVIII, NO. 3		SEPTEMBER, 2004
President's Page	Page 81	
Lancaster County Boundary Lines	Page 82	
Men of Note in West Chester County	Page 92	
Covenanter Minister, Rev. William King	Page 96	
Revisiting "Just Rolling Along the Way"	Page 98	
The Weirs of Wateree Creek	Page 102	
Carrie Moore Adamson	Page 110	
Migrations: The Great Philadelphia Wagon Road	Page 112	
William Hall Stringfellow Letter	Page 116	
Index	Page 118	
Publications for Sale	Inside Back Cover	

From		
VOLUME XXVIII, NO. 4		DECEMBER, 2004
President's Page	Page 125	
Burnt Meeting House Cemetery needs your help	Page 126	
After war, some chose not to take nation's 'bounty'	Page 127	
List of Members of Company K, 17 th Regiment South Carolina	Page 129	
True Copy of a Letter Written by R. Wade Brice, of Company H. 6 th Regiment, South Carolina volunteers	Page 130	
Here and There by W. W. Pegram	Page 133	
The Waxhaws From the Lancaster News May 22, 1934	Page 134	
Fishing Creek Battle Marker	Page 135	
Will of Alexander Walker	Page 138	
Will of John Walker	Page 139	
Chester County Deeds copied by W. Pegram	Page 140	
History of Richburg Resident-Cpt. John Garner Backstrom	Page 141	
Obituary of J. A. Gill	Page 143	
Chester County History - Written on October 14, 1941	Page 145	
Letters Transcribed by Harry McKeown	Page 147	
History of Woodward Baptist Church and Many of the Faithful Pastors	Page 149	
The Mobleys	Page 157	
Queries	Page 158	
Index	Page 159	
Publications for Sale	Inside Back Cover	

THE CHESTER DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

Dues: \$20.00 Per Calendar Year

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The President's Page

Coy Stroud in 1979 in *The Bulletin* wrote, "We have come a long way since our first *Bulletin* a year ago which contained only four pages and was mailed to less than forty members." Mr. Stroud, I believe, would have been delighted with the wonderful turnout of about seventy members and guests at the Society's Birthday Celebration on August 7, 2004. The guest speaker was Carrie Moore Adamson from the Augusta Genealogical Society. Mrs. Adamson's topic was "The Great Philadelphia Wagon Road from Scotland to Ireland, to Philadelphia, and south to Augusta, Georgia." Mrs. Adamson said there were approximately 200,000 Scotch-Irish settlers in America and that there is no wonder there are a lot of their descendents here in South Carolina.

George Harvey Moore was recognized for his years of service as President of the Society. Mr. Moore was elected President Emeritus and was presented with a beveled plaque with the Society's Coat of Arms, which stated:

Chester District Genealogical Society
Recognizes
George Harvey Moore
President
1985 – 2004

The Society also recognized the last two charter members, Jean Agee and Jean Hicklin Nichols, both of Richburg. Society members sent a card to Mrs. Agee and acknowledged the years of Mrs. Nichols' service to the Society. Mrs. Nichols is editor of *The Bulletin*, and she asked that members submit articles to her for future publication. Also, the Society wants to acknowledge the work of Ellen and Jim Clarke of Columbia, South Carolina, for their technical assistance in the publishing of *The Evergreen Cemetery* book. Mrs. Ellen Schuster was also recognized for her work in cataloging and organizing the Society's books, articles, and materials in the library at Richburg. The success of the Society, the publication of *The Bulletin*, and the operation of the library are all dependent upon the work of volunteers. If there is an area that you would be interested in working, we would welcome your assistance.

Several things that may be of interest to you are planned in the community. On September 11, 2004, at Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church, three Revolutionary War Patriots (Samuel Kelso, Jonathan Jones, and John Downing) are being recognized with the placement of bronze medallions on their graves by the Sons of the American Revolution. The program begins at 1:00 p.m. The third South Carolina Reunion of Hicklins will be held on October 2, 2004 at the Chester State Park at 10:00 a.m. This includes descendents of Arthur who came to South Carolina in the 1760s, Thomas who came to Virginia probably prior to 1760 and remained there, Pennsylvania Hicklins, and even English Hicklins. On Sunday, October 3, 2004, the Lewisville Preservation Society and Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church will be dedicating a monument to the Reverend John Simpson, who was Pastor of Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church and a Patriot of the American Revolution. This marker will be placed and dedicated on the grounds of Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church at 3:00 p.m.

The Society wants to move forward with the fencing of the Burnt Meeting House Cemetery, also known as Lower Fishing Creek. Justice John Gaston is buried there with Barbara McKinney, who was scalped by the Indians and lived to raise a family, and many others, including the grandparents of Martha Mitchell, wife of Attorney General John Mitchell of the Watergate fame, and it needs to be preserved. If you would like to donate to this cause, please send your donations to the Society.

I look forward to seeing you at our next Society meeting on Sunday, October 17, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. in Richburg.

Jim Knox

Lancaster county Boundary Lines

by

*Nancy Crockett, Viola Gaston Floyd,
and Perry Belle Bennett Hough*

During the year 1950 a rather short lived movement to set up an additional South Carolina county with the town of Kershaw as its county seat drew attention to the boundary line between Lancaster and Kershaw counties. That interest brought to the fore the fact that about one hundred and sixty years prior the Lancaster-Kershaw boundary was being widely discussed. At that time the line was the subject of such keen interest that the South Carolina Assembly was petitioned to take a hand in the matter and to extend the southern Lancaster boundary line to the Granny Quarter Creek ford in Kershaw County. The Lancaster citizens felt that they had been unjustly treated when their county was divided.

Prior to 1785 there was no Lancaster County. When South Carolina was first settled it was roughly divided into three counties, namely Berkley, Colleton and Craven. This was done for the convenience of granting land. Later Granville was set off from the lower part of Colleton County. Of course these counties did not extend very far inland at first. Craven included only the lands above the Scewee River (Awendaw Creek) along the coast to the Santee River just a few miles above it. But in 1733 Craven was extended from the head of the short Scewee River by a line northwest to the Santee River and thence upward along the line of the river, the county to include all lands northward of the Santee which lay within the province of South Carolina. The northern boundary of South Carolina being a disputed question, which we shall discuss later, made the northern boundary of Craven a disputed question.

In addition to being divided into the four counties South Carolina was also divided into parishes. As early as May 6, 1704 the South Carolina Assembly passed an Act by which the Church of England was made the established church of this province. But the South Carolina dissenters raised so much objections to the law which included a number of objectional riders that the Act was repealed in 1706 by order of the Queen. The Assembly left off the objectional riders and on November 30, 1706 passed Act 256¹ which made the Church of England the established church of South Carolina. The same Act provided for the establishment of ten parishes. Craven County was so sparsely settled that only one of these parishes was provided for that county, the parish being the Saint James, Santee which was set up at the request of the French who had settled on the Santee. But by 1734 Craven county population had increased so much that Prince Frederick parish was set up that year. This parish rather indefinitely included the lands around and about the present town of Camden thus indefinitely including Lancaster. About the same time the Fredericksburg Township was laid out in the vicinity of present Camden. Gradually the population of Craven continued to increase so that in response to the demand Saint Mark's parish was set off in 1757 from Prince Frederick parish. Saint Mark's parish definitely included what is now Lancaster County for by then quite a few

settlers had come into this area. Saint Mark's parish church was built in what is now Clarendon County. The commissioners appointed to levy the taxes for the building of the church and to attend to having it built were **Richard Richardson, Joseph Cantey, Matthew Nelson, Isaac Brunson, James McGirt, William Cantey and John Cantey**. Since the Assembly had passed an Act in 1716 which made the parishes the legislative units the first settlers of what is now Lancaster County had to journey all the way down into what is now Clarendon County if they wished to cast a vote for the two representatives allotted Saint Mark's parish.

Even though the parishes became the legislative units the counties of Granville, Colleton, Berkley and Craven continued to serve as judicial units until 1768. Miss **Janie Revel** has published a pamphlet in which she included a list of the South Carolina justices for the year 1765 as copied from the October 21, 1765 issue of the *South Carolina Gazette*. There were seventy-seven justices appointed that year for Craven County. Among the justices known to have been residents of what is now Lancaster County were **Thomas Wade** whom **Meriweather** tells us had a store at the Hanging Rock Creek Catawba Trail Crossing in 1762, and **Glass Castor (Caston)** who had bought land on Lower Camp Creek in 1763 and in 1765 had received two grants of land in that same section. Another of the seventy-seven, namely, **John Pickens** may also have been living in Lancaster County at that time.

On April 12, 1768 "An Act for establishing Courts, building Gaols, and appointing Sheriffs and other officers" was passed by the Assembly. By this Act the province of South Carolina was divided into seven judicial districts. These **districts were Charles-town, Georgetown, Orangeburg, Cheraws, Ninety-Six and Camden**. Camden District was composed of the whole area later broken into the counties of Lancaster (Lancaster and Kershaw), York, Chester, Richland, Fairfield, Claremont and Clarendon (the last two named being later combined to form Sumter County). The justices serving Camden District for 1773 from what is now Lancaster County included one of the same justices who had served as a Craven County justice. The Camden District justices for that year were: **James Cook, Joshua English, John Witherspoon, Robert Carter, George Sanders, Glass Caston, John Chestnut, James McGirt, Thomas Sumter, Robert Belton, James Cantey, Moses Gordon, John Gamble, Jasper Sutton, John Cantey and Joseph Kirkland.**²

In an article, "Evolution of Lancaster County", published in the Lancaster News in 1941 A.S. Salley said, "When a call was made in 1774 for an extra-legal assembly called a provincial congress the upper part of South Carolina was cut into extra-legal units called election districts. At the election held in December, 1774, for the delegates to the first congress the 'District Eastward of Wateree River' included what is now Lancaster County. That district was allowed ten delegates. Those elected were: **Col. Richard Richardson, Joseph Kershaw, Matthew Singleton, Thomas Sumter, Aaron Loocock, William Richardson, Robert Patton, Robert Carter, William Wilson, and Ely Kershaw**. Most of these men lived near Camden, but I believe **Robert Patton** lived in what is now Lancaster County. "The **William Richardson** was not the **Reverend William Richardson** of Waxhaw, for he had died in 1771. Salley also says that in

² Kirkland and Kennedy, *Historic Camden*, Vol. I, pp. 96-97.

August of 1775 an election was held and that “the first seven named of the previous delegation were re-elected. Three new delegates replaced Carter, Wilson and Ely Kershaw. One of these was **William Massey** who undoubtedly lived in what is now Lancaster County.” This second provincial congress became the first general assembly of the new state of South Carolina in 1776. Thus what is now Lancaster County as a part of the “District Eastward of Wateree River” had at least one representative if not two in the first South Carolina state Assembly.

On March 12, 1785 the South Carolina Assembly passed Act 1263 which provided for the dividing of the districts into counties.³ Camden District was divided into Lancaster, York, Chester, Richland, Fairfield, Claremont and Clarendon (not present day Clarendon County which is of more recent formation.). According to an Act passed on March 24, 1785 Governor Moultrie appointed seven justices for each county. Those appointed to serve the first year in Lancaster county (which included what is now Lancaster County and the greater part of what is now Kershaw County) were: **Isaac Alexander, Adam Fowler Brisbane, Samuel Dunlap, Robert Dunlap, John Craig, John Marshall and Andrew Baskins.**⁴ This same source also lists other justices who served Lancaster County (Lancaster and Kershaw) from 1787 until 1791, some of them serving only one year, some serving longer. These were: **John Lowery, George White, Joseph Lee, Richard Champion, John Chestnut, Hugh White, Benjamin Haile, Robert Crawford, James Craig, Robert Montgomery, Jesse Tillman and Samuel Dunlap, Jr.** Of this number those who served the longest terms were **Samuel Dunlap, Sr., Joseph Lee and Robert Montgomery.** We readily recognize these as including a number of men known to have been living at that time in what is now Lancaster County.

It might be well here to get definitely in mind just the area this first Lancaster County did cover as laid out by the Act of the Assembly in the year 1785. Its boundary lines were thus laid out in Act 1263. “One county, beginning at the mouth of Pinetree Creek, thence up the river to the mouth of Twelve Mile Creek, thence to the North Carolina boundary, thence along said boundary to the North branch of Lynch’s Creek, thence down the same to the fork thereof, thence along the line of Claremont County to the beginning, and shall be called and known by the name of Lancaster County.”⁵ The boundary of Claremont County which the boundary of Lancaster was to follow was from “the mouth of Pinetree Creek, thence along the said creek to Cantey’s Bridge, thence in a straight line to the fork of Lynch’s Creek.”⁶ (see map no.)

But by 1790 a movement was on foot to set up Kershaw County. Just what caused the desire for the division we do not know. With Camden so far from the center of the county a good guess would be that the residents in the upper part of the county might have been desirous of moving the county seat from Camden to a more central place. The Camden residents could have foreseen this and forestalled the move by making application for a new county to be set up. All this is merely conjecture as to how the movement began. Act 1558 passed in 1792 fixed the boundary line between Lancaster

³ South Carolina Statutes at large, vol. IV.

⁴ Revill’s *South Carolina Counties*, pamphlet published.

⁵ *South Carolina Statutes at Large*, Vol. IV.

⁶ Ibidem.

County and Kershaw County. We do know that an Act was passed in 1791 authorizing a new county to be called Kershaw surveyed. It was then that the citizens of the upper part of the county became alarmed and protested the boundary line as proposed to be run between the new county and the Lancaster County portion left. So dissatisfied did the remaining Lancaster County citizens become with the small portion of land allotted them that they carried the matter to the South Carolina Assembly by petition. Their complaint was that before the convention undertook to divide the county it was already smaller and less populous than many other counties in the state. They charged that the division had been made "through the undue influence of some of the Gentlemen members who resided in what is now called Kershaw County, there not being a Member in convention who lived within the limits of that part of the county which bears the name of Lancaster to oppose them." It was also declared that the resulting shape given Lancaster County was one that would defy geometric definition.

The following is an exact copy of the petition of 1792 which is on file with the South Carolina Historical Commission, Columbia, South Carolina. It includes also the one hundred and two names of the Lancaster County citizens who signed the petition. The petition reads thus: "To the Honorable Speaker and the members of the House of Assembly of the State of South Carolina the Humble Petition of the Inhabitants of Lancaster County respectfully sheweth_____

"That the size of the County before the late Convention undertook to Divide it was small and the Number of Inhabitants few in comparison with many Other Counties. Yet the Convention thought proper (Through the undue influence of some of the Gentlemen Members who resided in what is now called Kershaw County, there not being a Member in convention who lived within the limits of that part of the county which now bears the name of Lancaster to Oppose) to Dispoil us of nigh Thirty Miles of our Narrow County. Though may it please your Honours if the Line had not been directed to run in so Crooked and Evidently a Partial manner we should not have taken up your precious time with the perusal of the petition-----but we do aver to your Honors as a most Certain Fact that the Direction of the Line between the aforesaid Counties Traverses nearly half the Compass and we verily believe would puzzle the Ablest Geometrician to find a name for the Awkward Shape of our County, we therefore most humbly beseech your Honours to Direct that the said Division line may be run from the Catawba River five Miles below Stark's Ferry to Granny's Quarter Creek Ford on the Waggon Road & thence in a Direct Line until it strikes the Cheraw Line and your Petitioners as Duty bound will ever Pray."

Robert Dunlap, Willm. Simpson, Andw. McIlwain, Walter Carsen, Jno. Simpson, George White, Thomas McDow, Wm. Barkley, Nathan Barr, Charles Miller, Tho. Dunlap, Thomas Everard, James Crawford, Robert Montgomery, Sandas Reden, Jas. Johnston, John Hood, Tho. Kohls, Jno. White, Senr., Jno. Caskey, Jno. Johnston, Esmont Hull, James Taylor, James Craig, David Adams, Thos. Croffard, Jas. Craig, Joseph McMeen, William McMeen, Wm. Farrell, Geo. Dunlap, Jno. Crockett, Jno. Kenndy, Ike Donnom, Wil Wren, Robert Davies, John Davies, John Dunlap, Timothy Anderson, Hercules Huey, Thos. Neill, Jno. Taylor, John McMurray, William Barr, Wm. Nisbett, James Montgomery, John Craig, John Craig, Junr., Wm. Faulkner, Jas. Faulkner, William McMeen, James McMeen, Samuel Dunlap, Sen., Samuel Dunlap, Junr., Nathaniel Cousart, Robert Carns,

William Taylor, John Latta, And. Herron, Jonathan Smith, Charles Clybon, Hugh White, Thos. White, Samuel Findley, John McDow, Robert McDow, William McDow, James Delaney, Ranson Harville, Jno. Thomlinson, Nathan Thomlinson, George Wren, James Dunlap, James Strain, Sam'l Furr, Moses Stephenson, John Stephenson, Geo. Douglass, William Blair, John Lessley, James Moor, Henry Foster, William Dunlap, Wm. Gamble, Andw. Gamble, Jas. Cousart, Ananias Black, James Ramsey, Alexander Thompson, Thomas Thompson, Robert Barkley, John Nisbet, Jas. Moor, Junr., Thomas Blair, John Blair, John Foster, Joseph White, Sam'l Dunlap, Wm. Baird, Thos. Stephenson, Elijah Crockett, James Blair."

The petition proved futile. The South Carolina legislators ratified Act 1558 on December 21, 1792 which specified that the boundary line between Lancaster and Kershaw Counties should "commence at and run from Stark's Ferry, on the east side of the Wateree River in a direct line to the ford of Hanging Rock Creek, on the main road leading from Camden to Waxhaw's, (Why does this line not run in a direct line now? When was the offset below Beaver Creek Baptist Church made?) from thence down the main Charleston road to **George Miller's**, thence in a direct line to **Harrison's Ford** on Great Lynch's Creek." That boundary line is approximately the same line that stands between the two counties today. One stone marking the county line is placed near the crossing on Hanging Rock Creek and another is near the Bethel Presbyterian Church not far from the road.

It is our opinion that a close check of those who signed this petition would reveal that the majority of them lived in the upper part of the portion of Lancaster County left. Whether or not this signifies anything we cannot say. But at least those living on the lands nearer the North Carolina line had been in the center of a boundary line dispute so long that boundary line disputes were their meat, so to speak.

The boundary line dispute between North and South Carolina was a dispute which had begun during Proprietary days and had lasted through the years. Under Proprietary rule no definite boundary line between North and South Carolina had ever been specified. **A.S. Salley**, author of "The Boundary Line Between North and South Carolina", Historical Commission of South Carolina Bulletin No. 10, has presented therewith a comprehensive study of the dispute between the two Carolinas concerning the boundary line. From this we shall choose the parts relative to the formation of the Lancaster County boundary lines on the North Carolina line.

"One of the first acts of the Crown after acquiring Carolina was to officially divide it into the two provinces."⁷ At once the governors of the two provinces petitioned the Crown to have the boundary line between North and South Carolina run so that they could "mark the Line upon a Map". **Mr. Salley** quotes from the British Records of the London Board of Trade whose files carry a record of the dispute through the years. On June 10, 1730 the London Board of Trade, in response to the request of the governors of the two Carolinas, issued a set of instructions to be followed in running the boundary line. The

⁷ A.S. Salley, The Boundary Line Between North and South Carolina, South Carolina Historical Commission Bulletin No. 10 (the State Book Company, Columbia, S.C. 1929) page 1.

original instructions were that the line should begin at the sea coast at a point thirty miles below the mouth of the Cape Fear River, unless the Waccamaw River (mouth) were closer than thirty miles to that of the Cape Fear River. From that point it was to be run in a northwesterly direction until it reached the 35th Latitude and should be run thence west to the "South Seas". The reference to the Waccamaw River proved to be a snag which kept the line from being run at once, a dispute Salley sets forth in full. That difficulty was finally ironed out and at a meeting of the Board of Trade held July 29, 1735 the following entry was recorded in the minutes:

"Letter from Mr. Fury dated July 29, 1735 enclosing an Extract of one from Mr. Abercrombie signifying that ye Boundaries Between North and South Carolina are settled to general satisfaction was read."⁸ As later events proved it was not settled to the general satisfaction of all. The line was run from a point on the coast thirty miles below the mouth of the Cape Fear River and is the line today which runs thus from the coast in a northwesterly direction. However, instead of running as far north as the 35th parallel as it was supposed to be run the surveyor stopped, as it was later learned, eleven miles short of that parallel. But, even the line as surveyed was run out under great difficulty as is shown in the following quotation from the surveyors' report when they made their application for pay:

"That Your Petrs continued for the space of seven weeks with Extraordinary fatigue Running the said Line most of that time thro' Desart and uninhabited Woods in many places absolutely impossible until your Petrs had cleared the same added to this the many large and Rapid Rivers as well as Creaks your Petrs had to pass by the assistance only of Large Trees Cut down and Dug for that purpose."⁹ It would seem here that the Petitioners (Petrs) exaggerated somewhat as to the number of rivers they had to cross but even so the difficulty must have been great. But regardless of the difficulty attending the surveying the boundary line the fact that it was run no farther began causing trouble within a very few years particularly in the Waxhaws section of the state. Many settlers in the Waxhaws were given their grants from the North Carolina government and thought they were citizens of the North Carolina province. This was particularly true of the settlers who came from Virginia and Pennsylvania. Those who came from Charleston and the lower part of South Carolina applied to the South Carolina government for their grants. **Meriweather** tells us that as early as 1749 a Charleston bricklayer applied to the South Carolina authorities for a grant in the Waxhaws. For some reason he finally selected land on the Santee. In "1752 Will McKee from the northward" applied to South Carolina for a grant and was given one hundred acres on Hanging Rock Creek, "a south fork of Little Lynches Creek,"¹⁰ **Benjamin Maddox** applied to South Carolina for a grant and in 1752 stated that he had built a house in the Waxhaws and moved his family there. His warrant was surveyed at the juncture of Cane and Camp Creeks. He complained to the South Carolina authorities that the day after he moved his family to his new home that a surveyor and ¹¹a "Good many people belonging to No. Carolina" came

⁸ Salley, *Ibid.*, p. 13.

⁹ Salley, *Ibid.*, p. 14

¹⁰ R. Meriweather, *Expansion of South Carolina*.

¹¹ Meriweather, *Ibid.*

and surveyed his land claiming that it was a part of North Carolina province. A second warrant made to **Maddox** by the South Carolina government showed that Maddox carried his point that he was in South Carolina.

Meriweather also tells us of **Richard Cousart** who claimed that after he had settled himself in the Waxhaws he was visited by a North Carolina surveyor who came to him and threatened to shoot him or any South Carolina surveyor who attempted to run out any land for him in this section as a grant from South Carolina. Despite the threat Samuel **Wyly**, the Camden (Pinetree Hill) surveyor, surveyed for **Cousart** four hundred acres on a branch of Cane Creek. Again **Meriweather** tells us of Ralph Jones who was given a survey on Cane Creek from the South Carolina government but became so frightened at the threats against him and his family that he sold his land to **John Douglas** and left. A North Carolina surveyor then laid out the same tract as a grant to **Captain William Moore**. The struggle for possession began. One claimed that the other plowed up his turnips while the other claimed that the one turned his cattle into his wheat.¹² At first **Andrew Pickens** seemed to have no doubt but that he lived in North Carolina. In 1751 while living in the Waxhaws he served as a justice of peace under the North Carolina government. He was the captain of a North Carolina militia group made up of Waxhaws settlers. But by 1757 Pickens had command of the Waxhaws group under the South Carolina authority.¹³

South Carolina warrants carried a clause forbidding surveyors to run out claims nearer than thirty or forty miles to the Catawba nation.¹⁴ Of course this had no effect on the North Carolina government. **Meriweather** says that in spite of South Carolina's restriction that by 1760 about seven thousand acres had been surveyed in the Waxhaws on grants from South Carolina. To this he adds four thousand acres granted by the North Carolina government to make a total of about eleven thousand acres with a population of about five hundred people in the Waxhaws by 1760.

In 1760 in order to obtain the assistance of the Catawba Indians during the Cherokee Indian war the South Carolina government built a fort for the Catawbias at the mouth of the Twelve Mile Creek on the North side. In return for this protection afforded their women and children thus the Catawbias agreed to help in the war and thereafter to confine themselves to a territory of fifteen miles square in an area on both sides of the Catawba River and above the Twelve Mile Creek, that creek being one boundary line.

"In November, 1762 **Charles Garth**, Agent of the Province of South Carolina in London, submitted a memorial to the Board of Trade."¹⁵ In this he stated that in 1758 South Carolina had planned to reopen the boundary line question, "but the Invasion made by the Cherokee Indians at that time put a stop to an application of this nature." After reviewing the work already done in surveying the line the Board of Trade stated that when the first line was run in 1735 that the surveyors began their work at the coast May

¹² Ibid. pp.137-139.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Salley, *The Boundary Line*, p. 16.

¹⁵ Ibid.

1st of that year and worked up as far as Little River. They then “separated, agreeing to meet again on the 18th of September following and that if either party failed to come the other the other should continue the Line which should be binding on both The northern Commissioners attended accordingly and (those of the southern government not being arrived) proceeded Northwest about 70 miles. The southern commissioners arrived in October, and follow’d upon the Line forty miles, and finding the work right so far, they sent a Draught of what they had done to this Board. And nothing has since been done towards the completion of this work, except that a Deputy Surveyor took the Lat of Peedee at 35 degrees and set up a mark which has ever since been deemed the limit at that place.”¹⁶

The Board of Trade then advised that if the line had not already been run to the “35th degree of North Latitude” that it be run to that point and proceed “from thence due west until it meets the Eastern limit of he Lands claimed by the Catawbias. And that no Settlement whatever shall be made or Jurisdiction of either Province exercised upon the Lands claimed by the said Indians until the said claims be finally adjusted.”¹⁷

The Crown accepted the advice of the Board of Trade and on April 29, 1763 instructions in accordance to that advice were issued the governments of North and South Carolina.

In the fall of 1763 a congress of governors of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia met in Augusta with **John Stuart**, British Agent of Indian Affairs and the **Creek, Cherokee, Catawba, Chickasaw and Choctaw nations**” the treaty of 1760 between the Catawbias and the South Carolina government was ratified. On August 20, 1764 **Lieutenant Governor Bull** of South Carolina reported that surveyors were at work on the Line and that he did not expect it to be completed for at least another month. “On October 8, 1764 **Governor Bull** again wrote to the Board of Trade:

‘I have the Honour to Acquaint your Lordships that the Commissioners for running the Temporary Line of jurisdiction between No. and South Carolina in obedience to His Majesty’s commands finished that work the 28th of last month. They acquaint me that the Line did not strike the Eastern Bounds of the Catawba Lands but ran a little Southward of that Line, and that the Line of Jurisdiction if continued will strike their South West boundary. They have therefore stopt at a road running thro’ the Catawba Lands to a Town called Salisbury in North Carolina.”¹⁸ (Reference to the fragment of the Map on file with the South Carolina Historical Commission in Columbia, South Carolina will show this road running to the east of the Catawba fort, crossing Twelve Mile, being labeled on this map ‘road from Charleston to Salisbury’.) The Governor’s report continued:

“The Commissioners have now separated, but I shall give one of them who lives near the Catawbias orders to carry on the Line till it strikes the Catawba South-West Boundaries which is but a very few Miles that your Lordships may have a particular view thereof. As

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸Salley, The Boundary Line, p. 19.

they have suffered so much fatigue during their work, with the Rains, the hot weather and the insects, they beg leave to take some rest, and propose to be in town towards the end of this month with the Report of their proceedings at large.”¹⁹ The Governor then entered a plea, which Mr. Salley quotes, setting forth his reasons as to why the Catawba Nation should be in South Carolina. He stated that South Carolina had cared for them for many years as friends. That in 1760 South Carolina had gone to the expense of building the fort for them. That the Catawbas were a great help to South Carolina in keeping down slave insurrections among her large slave population and that whereas North Carolina did not have as great a slave population as did the southern government that South Carolina needed them worse for that purpose. The Indians themselves were desirous of being in South Carolina. Other lesser reasons were listed.

In 1769 **Governor Montagu** of South Carolina included in his report another report that a committee of the Council of South Carolina had made on the boundary line dispute. This report stated that “it appears that the line run in 1764 which ends at the Salisbury Road near the Catawba River is eleven miles south of what His Majesty intended. By some mistake in the observation of Latitude taken by the commissioners in 1764 by which Error this province loses about 660 square miles or 422,000 acres.*****If the Line of 1764 is continued due West which is found to be Eleven Miles south of the 35 degrees of N degrees Latitude it***will contract the parts of this province to a small compass.”²⁰ And if that line had been continued thus Lancaster County would have none of her panhandle section.

Salley again quotes the instructions by the Board of Trade this time issued on May 29, 1771. In that part relative to the boundary of present Lancaster County the instructions were that “the boundary Line from the said Salisbury Road, where it now ends, along the said Road to where it enters the Catawba Lands, from thence along the Southern, Eastern, and Northern Boundary of the said Lands on the North”²¹ should constitute that part of the boundary line between North and South Carolina. The line was run in accordance with the instructions and reported completed by July 27, 1772.

When Camden District was divided into counties in 1785 for the purpose of holding lesser court sessions the nine districts of which Camden District was one in South Carolina were not abolished as judicial districts. But by Act of Legislature passed December 21, 1798 the nine districts of South Carolina were divided into 24 districts and the name of Camden in reference to a district was discontinued. The counties and county courts were discontinued and the name district was used instead. Thus Lancaster County became Lancaster District in 1798 and continued to be called a District until 1868 when the constitution of the state drawn up following the War Between the States again changed the name to districts. In 1798 the present boundary line between York and Lancaster districts was defined thus as being.

¹⁹ Salley, The Boundary Line, p. 20.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, page 25-26.

²¹ *Ibid.*, p. 29.

²² The New Facsimile Edition of the Original Mills' Atlas of the State of South Carolina (Lucy Hampton Bostick & Fant H. Thornley, Columbia, S.C., 1938.)

But even then all the boundary line disputes of Lancaster County (District) had not been settled. It will be recalled that in 1771 instructions issued by the Board of Trade pertaining to the eastern boundary line of south Carolina from the point where the surveyors had left off in 1764 had stated that from that point on the "said Salisbury Road where it now ends, along the said Road to where it enters the Catawba Lands from thence along the Southern, Eastern, and Northern Boundary of the said Lands on the North," as stated above. This settled the boundary line from the intersection of the Catawba line with the Twelve Mile Creek but still left the section of the boundary line between the corner of 1764 and 1772 and the Twelve Mile Creek unsettled for a road can be a very unsatisfactory boundary line. That was particularly true in the early days when a mud hole or the building of a new home could cause quite a shift in the course of a road. Therefore in 1813 after the final boundary line disputes concerning the extreme section of the state had been finally and completely settled it was also decided to run the eastern panhandle boundary line straight from the corner of 1764 and 1772 to Twelve Mile Creek a distance which when surveyed proved to be exactly eight miles. A corner stone was set up on the old corner where the line had terminated. On the north side was cut the inscription, "N.C.", and on the south side, "S.C." and on the west the date, "A.D. 1813". Act 2034, passed in 1813, legally attached this portion of the territory to the state and thereby to Lancaster District.

About 1818 the General Assembly decided to have maps made of each district in South Carolina. In the Introduction written for the 1938 issue of facsimile copy of Mills "Atlas of the State of South Carolina" **Francis Marion Hutson** has written the following:

"In the Journal of the House of Representatives under the date of December 20, 1820, we find that **Robert Mills** was elected as one of the commissioners of the Board of Public Works along with four others.

"Maps of the various districts of South Carolina, together with a large map of the entire State, had been ordered by the General Assembly to be made prior to this date, as the following citation will show: 'Some time prior to December 1818, the General Assembly adopted resolutions looking to the preparation of a map of the State, showing a separate map of each district thereof. In 1818 an appropriation of \$9,000.00 was made toward procuring such a map, and in 1819 a like amount was appropriated toward the same cause. In 1820 an appropriation was made for the engraving and publishing of the map and for paying the compiler the balance due him and the Board of Public Works was directed 'as soon as the said map is engraved and struck off, to reserve for the use of the State, fifty copies and then to sell the copyright in the map to the highest bidder, and report their proceedings to the General Assembly at its next session'. A further appropriation of \$3,522 was also made to cover additional work. In 1825 an Atlas was formally published and eighty copies were turned over the State in conformity with the report of the committee and the sum of \$1,200.00 was paid to Robert Mills, the compiler of the Atlas".²²

Since Mill's Atlas was first published other counties, as the districts are now called, have been formed but Lancaster County remains the same as the Lancaster District of Mills map as drawn in 1820. Just where he got his authority to make the Sugaw Creek the boundary line between Lancaster and York we have not been able to learn but that boundary has been accepted for these many years and we in turn accept it even though we still reserve the right to continue to search for the Act which so set the boundary.

Men of Note in West Chester County-----

Originally written in 1927 by Thomas J. Robbins

I have been requested to write something about the old men of this section. What I shall write will be from memory of what others have told me, and what I know of them, and some little facts of history.

The old mustering ground is a little above the Carter schoolhouse, on the northeast side of the road where they met to muster for the Civil War, and fought chickens for sport. There was a school house there on the edge of the mustering field. **Alex McCluney** taught school there in 1866 or 1867. It was a log school house with a dirt floor, two doors and one window, a 1 by 7 foot chimney, split logs for benches, planks for writing desks, 1 by 8 feet, where the children would take turns writing.

About three-quarters of a mile from the mustering ground, lived **Mr. Bobbie Coln**, who ran a tanyard, to tan leather. The process of tanning in 1867, when I knew it was: A long vat in which the hide was placed together with red oak bark—a layer of hides and a layer of ground red oak bark. It took a good long while to make leather by this process, I think about 12 months. Some people would have hides tanned on shares.

In those days and before this time, shoes were made in the family home. A shoemaker would go to the home and make shoes for all the family. I think the price was fifty cents and board for the making, and the leather would cost about fifty cents, making a pair of shoes cost one dollar besides the shoemaker's board. One pair a year was all they had, and some did not get even one pair, but had to go barefooted all the time, especially among the children.

Bobbie Coln lived to a good old age. I believe he was buried in the Hollow cemetery in York County. He had four sons, **I.S. Coln, Alexander, Tresvan, and Lorenzy Coln**. **Lorenzy** died just after the Civil War. He was never married. He served four years in the Confederate War. Old folks of north-west Chester do not know where he was buried.

Tresvan lived to a good old age, and his body lies in the New Bethel cemetery. **Alexander** served through the Civil War, went to Mississippi and stayed a few years, returning to Chester County. He made his home in Chester. His body was laid to rest in the cemetery in Chester. **I.S. Coln** was a blacksmith and a mechanic, and could make anything in wood or iron. He served four years in the Confederate War as blacksmith for

the cavalry. He had the pleasure of shoeing **General Robert E. Lee's** horse, Traveller. He lived to be an old man, and his body rests in New Bethel cemetery.

Joe Hancock was a carpenter. He lived to a good old age; I am not sure where he was buried.

There was a man who lived in this section at one time, by the name of **Macaulay**. I do not know his given name--also another man by the name of **Billie Roundtree**. I do not know what became of them.

M.M. Johnsey liked to and could tell a good joke and never laugh. He served four years in the Confederate War in the artillery division. He lived to be an old man, and his body rests in the Mt. Pleasant cemetery.

Thomas Robbins, my great grandfather, came from Virginia about 1752, and settled and built him a home one and one-quarter miles from my home in the fork of Susie Bowl and Turkey Creeks. He was a colonel in the Revolutionary War, and was in the Battle of King's Mountain, which was the turning point of that great war. While he was fighting to free our great country, my great grandmother would take her five boys and hide in the large cane brakes near her home, from the Tories. The Tories were men who aided the English government, and would sometimes kill men who were fighting to free our country of English rule. He died at 90 years of age. His body rests in the Bullock Creek cemetery. His sons were **Elijah, Obadiah, James, Thomas and Joseph**. **Elijah** went west in 1823. I do not know anything now of his family, except I met a man in Fort Worth, Texas in 1920 who said he married **John Robbins'** daughter. **John Robbins** was a descendant of **Elijah Robbins**. **Obadiah** had two sons, **Chelsey** and **William**. He died here and was buried in Bullock Creek cemetery. **Chelsey** was a slave trader before the Civil War, had trading places over in Georgia, one of them being the home town of **Alexander Stevens**. **Chelsey** died about the age of 75, and was buried in the Atkinson cemetery, below New Hope Church. **William Robbins** died about the age of 72, and was buried at Bullock Creek. **James** and **Thomas Robbins** were deaf and dumb, and weavers by trade. They wove counter panes (bedspreads). We still have one in our family. Some of their woven counterpanes are 150 years old. They died here and their bodies rest in Bullock Creek cemetery. My grandfather, **Joseph Robbins**, was born in 1770, and died in 1863, at the age of 93 years, and rests in the Bullock Creek cemetery. He was a captain in the War of 1812, was for a long time a magistrate for Baton Rouge township. He had most of his property in negro slaves. At his death, he owned more than 100 negroes. I am glad to say he was as kind to them as he was to his own children, and when he would hire them out to others, that was one of the concessions, that they should not be ill treated. He had four sons, **Edward B., Obadiah C., Thomas and Varda**. **Thomas** was in the Mexican War of 1845, and was in all the battles of the Palmetto Regiment. I have in my possession the silver medal given to him while in this regiment. He died from disease contracted in that war, in 1846. His body rests in the Bullock Creek cemetery. **Obadiah** was born July 24, 1830, and died December 18, 1903. He served four years in the grand old Sixth Regiment when they first went out; they were taken near Charleston, S.C. One night Uncle **Obe Robbins**, as he is better

known, was on guard duty there. There were a whole lot of shells on the beach, the tide being down. A dog came around, and **Uncle Obe** shot at the dog, or shot to scare the dog, and of course this aroused the whole company. They inquired of him what was the trouble. He stated, "Do you not hear him picking them up and setting them down?" The dog was running over the shells on the beach. I am sure the **Hon. A.W. Wise** will vouch for this statement. He lived to a good old age, and is also buried in the Bullock Creek cemetery. **Varda Robbins** was deaf and dumb and was educated in Cedar Springs near Spartanburg. He was a farmer and wagon maker by trade. He accumulated some property. He died about 1870, and was buried in Bullock Creek cemetery, also. **Edward Bell Robbins (Uncle Birdie)** was born March 4th, 1817, and died January 3rd, 1907, nearly 90 years old. He served as Elder in Mt. Pleasant Church from its organization until his death. His body was laid to rest in the Mt. Pleasant cemetery. He went out in the Civil War with the 60 year old men. He was brave and fearless. When **Wheeler's** men went through this section, he had five mules and one mare in one stable, which was locked. When a bunch of soldiers came to get his mules, he took his shot gun and told them he would shoot the first man that placed his hands on the lock. They went away and did not attempt to take his mules. He was faithful in doing his part in the Reconstruction days, had his 16-shooter and sure would have used it had it been necessary.

William J. Robbins, son of **E.B. Robbins**, was born September 4th, 1841, and died in 1907. He served four years in the grand old Sixth Regiment in the Confederate War, and was in all the battles of that regiment. He was wounded once, shot through the hand. He told me on one occasion, in retreating he had to go through an opening and decided to trot, and his foot hung under a vine which tripped him. When he fell the Yankees sure yelled. He knew now he had to run, so when he got up, he got up running. He said he could hear the bullets whistling by him, and he wasn't long getting over the ridge. He was twice married, his first wife being **Mittie Barnes**. They were blessed with five children, four boys and one girl. His second wife was **Mattie E. Lathan**, mother of nine girls and one son. They are all living except two boys and two girls. He was a faithful deacon in Mt. Pleasant church, where he was buried. In the **Ku Klux** time, he was a member of that **Klan**, and was never molested by the Yankees while they were here, though they camped near his home for a long time. No negro ever reported him and he was never suspected of being a member.

William Carter, son of **Silvanus Carter**, was born December 31, 1838. He also served four years in the Confederate War, went out in the Sixth Regiment. I do not know how long he served in the infantry. He joined the cavalry, and was wounded in the shoulder. He was an honest and upright man, a Christian and a loyal friend. He was a member of Brushy Fork Baptist church. He died May 24, 1916, and was buried in the Brushy Fork cemetery. In the hottest of the Yankee rule, 1873, **William Carter, M.P. Faris, Garland Smith and Walker Smith**, out-witted the negroes and Yankee troops for nearly a year. They would lie out at night, and in the day time they would get up on the hills of west Chester County and watch the Yankee troops search around in the valley below them. They all four had Winchester rifles. At times it was all the other three men could do to keep **Garland Smith** from shooting up the Yankee troops. They would stay a

while in Chester County, a while in Union and York Counties. They were loyally entertained by friends, and went to rest on a good feather bed, a great improvement on a quilt in a pine thicket. **William Carter** had a narrow escape from being caught by the Yankee troops. He was at his home when the dogs warned him, and when he went to the door the troops were in fifty yards of his house, on horses, coming in a run. There happened to be two rail fences, one about 30 yards, and the other about 100 yards from the house. Carter ran and jumped the first fence, and was over the second fence by the time the troops got their horses over the first one. That was the last they saw of Carter, as he went on over the hill, waded Turkey Creek, got some dry clothes at the home of **J. Craig Kirkpatrick**, and kept going.

M.P. Faris also had a narrow escape from being arrested by the Yankee troops. He went to bed with **E.L. Gaston**, in the home of a man by the name of **Rennells**. This house had a potato cellar, which was entered by raising some planks from the floor. When the Yankees surrounded the house, **Faris** being a small man, got into the cellar, while **Gaston**, being a larger man, could not get in. When the troops entered the house, they could see that there had been two men in the bed, but could only find one, **Mr. Gaston**, who was arrested and carried to jail. They didn't find **Faris**, who stayed in the cellar until they had gone. **Faris** served in the Confederate War along with the others that have been mentioned before. He was an elder for a long time in the Presbyterian Church. He lived to be a good old age, and was buried in Bethany cemetery, ten miles above Yorkville, S.C., on the King's Mountain Road, among kinfolks and old friends.

Walker Smith died at the old homestead, and was buried at the Bullock Creek cemetery.

Garland Smith went to the great state of Texas, was elected an elder in an ARP Church, which I am sure his old friends in this country are glad to learn. He died in the Lone Star State.

Andrew Sanders lived to be an old man, and I think he was buried in the Bullock Creek cemetery.

James Sanders, son of **Andrew Sanders**, was a school teacher. He was the first teacher I went to school to. Later he entered the mercantile business at Lowryville, and died there. His body rests in the Bullock Creek cemetery, also.

William Sanders, another son of **Andrew Sanders**, volunteered in the Civil War at the age of 16, and I think served four years. He lost one arm in the War Between the States. After the war he studied law, and was admitted to the bar. He practiced in Chester, S.C., where he died. I do not know where he is buried.

James Sanders, son of **Zeke Sanders**, served in the Confederate War. He was also a member of the **Ku Klux Klan**, and was sent to the penitentiary in Albany, N.Y. After his return home, a wagon ran over him. This happened on Susie Bowl Hill. This accident caused a painful death. I think he was buried at New Bethel cemetery.

J.M. Sanders, another son of **Zeke**, was an elder in the Mt. Pleasant church. He died at Lockhart, S.C. about the age of 68, and was buried by the side of his wife at Pacolet, S.C.

Rhet Sanders, a brother of **J.M. Sanders** and **James**, went to Houston, Texas, and died there.

Another brother, **Lee Sanders**, lived a long time at McConnellsville, S.C., later moving to Yorkville, where he died at the age of 65. He was buried at Yorkville.

James, J.M., and Lee, all sons of **Zeke Sanders**, married sisters, the **Misses Bennett**.

Dr. William Barnes practiced his profession in this section. He lived to be a very old man, and was buried at Bullock Creek. His son, **William**, was in the Civil War. I do not know where he died, but I think in East Chester.

James Parks lived to a good old age, and his body rests in the Bullock Creek cemetery.

J.T. Love was a deacon, and later an elder in Mt. Pleasant church. He was a jolly, whole souled man, and liked a joke fine. He died with heart trouble at his home near Mt. Pleasant. He was buried at Bullock Creek cemetery.

Harrison Love, J.T. Love's father, was a great poetry writer. When anything happened in this section such as stealing hogs, sheep or chickens, **Harrison Love** would rhyme it into poetry, and a man by the name of **Billie Roundtree** would put the music to it, and sing it to the hearty content of all this section. **Harrison** was buried at Bullock Creek. I do not know what became of **Billie Roundtree**.

J. Craig Kirkpatrick was as honest a man as Chester County ever had. He was magistrate for a while. He lived to a good old age. He was a Christian gentleman. He was buried at Bullock Creek cemetery.

Covenanter Minister, Rev. William King

I have mentioned the old Covenanter preachers who resided in Chester County more than 100 years ago in this column, but I want to have something more to say about one of them, **Rev. Wm. King**. He did not reside in Chester County very long---just a few years as best I can find. He died August 24, 1798 and is buried in the Old Brick Covenanter church graveyard a short distance off the Peden's Bridge Road some eight or nine miles from Chester. He was about 50 years of age when he died.

In looking through state papers, I find that the citation notice was read on March 14, 1799 by **Rev. John Hemphill** who was the 2nd pastor of Hopewell Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. On the back of the citation notice it says: "This citation read at a meeting of a congregation near Rocky Creek C. by me. **Jno. Hemphill.**"

Appraisers of the estate were **Jno. Kell**, **Jno. Rock** and **James McQuiston**, however, the latter died before he had an opportunity to sign the appraisal papers. At the bottom of the appraisal I find: "N.B. The appraisement being carried over to the Waxhaws **James McQuiston**, being the third appraiser, deceased before he had an opportunity of signing."

John McCreary, Esq., was authorized to administer the oath of the administratrix and to take bond in the sum of 200 pounds of **Agness King**, by **Saml. Lacy**, clerk. The sale of the personal property, or movable property as it was called at that time, took place at "the house of **Rev. Wm. King**, deceased, later of Beaver Dam on the waters of Rocky Creek."

I find in the papers a letter from **Agness King**, wife of **Rev. King**, reading as follows: "To the Honorable **Jos. Brown, Esq.**, Judge of the Court of Ordinary for Chester District. The petition of **Agness King** showeth: That our petitioner, the widow of the late Rev. Wm. King, deceased, being left in a distressed sickly situation at the death of her husband and being obliged to remove out of the county to her father's as soon as possible and not having the opportunity from the peculiar situation that she was then in to apply to the County court for letters of administration at that time, had all the property belonging to the estate of her husband regularly appraised and inventoried by three good substantial freeholders of the settlement and sold at public sale to the best advantage (except the books which have been since appraised and remain unsold) but the appraisers neglecting to sign the appraise bill at the time of making and it being carried with my other goods over the river out of this county, one of the appraisers, viz.: **James McQuiston**, died before he had any other opportunity of signing, which appraisements and inventories your petitioner is ready to exhibit into your court agreeable to the commission received from you and although your petitioner did not in the first instance from the peculiar circumstances that she was then in, act strictly agreeable to law, yet she trusts she has acted honestly and uprightly and managed the estate to the best advantage. All of which is humbly submitted to your Honor and your petitioner as in duty shall ever pray. **Agness King**."

About 1792 or '93 **Rev. King** was sent out by the Scottish presbytery. After an extended tour through the North and East he settled on the north side of Mt. Prospect church, and on the south side of Beaver Dam creek, on the plantation, which in 1888, was owned by **Mrs. Backstrom**. He left two children, both daughters, one of whom was married to **Abram White** (a note is penciled above this entry saying, NO) and was the mother of Rev. W.G. White, who, a number of years ago was pastor of Tirzah and Douglass churches in Lancaster county, the former church I think is in the section where **Andrew Jackson** was born. The other daughter married **Archibald McClurken** and emigrated to Illinois. **Hugh McQuiston** married the widow of **Rev. King**. They had three children, a son and two daughters. They, too, moved west, going to Ohio.

In this line of papers I have gone through there is nothing to show who Mrs. King was before she married. I am of the opinion that she was possibly a daughter of **Thomas Neill**, of Lancaster County. I find that he signed her bond and I also note that Neills were among the purchasers of the sale of the property. Above it will be noted where Mrs.

King stated that she went to her father's home in the Waxhaws. I am taking a shot, so to speak, in connecting her with the Neill family. The papers also give an approximate date of the death of **James McQuiston**, one of the appraisers. I do not recall ever having seen his tombstone in either of the Covenanter cemeteries I have visited. I am sure he has no tombstone at the Brick church or at Paul's cemetery. There are **McQuistons** buried at Hopewell A.R.P. church cemetery but I do not think there is any marker there to **James**.

In looking through old estate paper and in going through many cemeteries I find that in almost all cases the women lose their identity. You see a marker saying May, wife of James Jones, and that's all you find. The women should sign their given names, maiden name and the name of their husband, thus: Mary Smith Jones. A larger percentage of the women retain their identity in Mt. Prospect cemetery than any place I have visited. The practice should become more universal.

[This article was written by **Ward W. Pegram**. He cites references at the end to: Deed book V., page 260 when land sold to **Hugh McQuiston**, married the widow **Agness King**. **Richard McClurkena** mar. **Sarah**, a daughter and it appears that **John Croper** (sp.?) mar. another daughter **Agnes**.]

Revisiting "Just Rolling Along the Way"

[We thank Louise Pettus for sharing this article with so many Chester families. It was originally published under the title, "Just A-Rolling Along the Way, Log of Yorkville Enquirer's Reporter As He Journeys Here and There In York County" by **A.M. Grist**, in the **Yorkville Enquirer** on **April 24, 1934**. We reproduce it here as it originally appeared so that our readers may get the feel and sound of Mr. Grist's homey dialogue style of writing.]

Friday afternoon I decided I would visit Chester for a little while. Had no particular business down there--just wanted to call on a few of my good friends down that way, who I am always glad to see, and whose friendship I value.

Going down the road noticed the **Cameron, Garrison** and **Land** peach orchards. Their rank greenness just now makes a beautiful sight. So far the prospects for a bumper fruit crop next July and August is most promising, and I am hoping that nothing happens in the way of severe cold weather or extra dryness later in the year to cut off the crops. And further I am hoping the orchardists realize good prices for their fruit when the time comes to market it.

● * * * *

Stopped a little while at McConnellsville to visit with **J.P. Williams** and **Brice Bankhead**. Talked with Mr. Williams for some minutes. He had been in business there for more than a quarter of a century, supplying a good portion of the folks of that sector

with their grocery and farm needs. He doesn't talk overly optimistic about business conditions as they are today. He just doesn't see any very bright spots ahead for next fall, with the cotton acreage reduced and no guarantee of a better price for the staple than exists just now. Along with merchandizing Mr. Williams is a farmer, and under the allotment of land to be planted in cotton this spring his average crop will be reduced upward of 25 bales---quite some drop for one grower, if you ask me. But then he feels quite sure that he is willing to take this along with others and make the best possible out of the situation.

● * * *

Leaving McConnellsville I rolled on toward Chester. Found that stretch of sand-clay road between the county line and Chester city limits in pretty good condition---much smoother than it has been in past times when I drove that way. Reaching Chester I parked on "the hill" along with numbers of other cars. Then I walked in to see my friend **Will Erwin**, the editor of the Chester Reporter. Found Mr. Erwin in pretty good humor and we talked over our mutual troubles in trying to make ends meet in the newspaper game under existing conditions. That is some task, if you'll let me tell you. But then there are others who are also having their troubles.

While in the office of The Reporter, **Colonel L. T. Nichols**, long time general manager of the Carolina & Northwestern railway, dropped in and we had a very pleasant three-cornered chat, until presently **Senator John M. Wise**, who has represented Chester County in the general assembly's upper house these last eight years, came in. A very pleasant and interesting gentleman is Senator Wise. He talked of many things and stated that unless there is a very decided change in his present sentiments, he will not offer for office again this summer. He has had about enough of the game. Doesn't talk like one who is especially proud of the way things are run in the senate. There's too much waste of time doing what could easily be done in the 40 days allotted to the job by the constitution of this state of ours. But then, "What's the constitution among friends."

Some of the things the senator had to say about the doings of the senate---or lack of doings---were most interesting, and yes, rather disgusting to the fellow on the outside looking in; but then how are you going to change it.

● * * *

In the course of his chatting Senator Wise let out something that is tremendously interesting to me and I am sure will be to all of the readers of these sketches and many who do not read them when they hear about it. The senator said he was going to Columbia on Saturday, accompanied by **Representative Josiah Jordan**, with the papers all signed up to present to the State Highway Department with a view to securing a "reimbursement" contract for Chester County for \$105,000, the money to be used for what do you suppose? Yes, that's right. To build that stretch of road from the York County line to the Chester city limits. Now ain't that sumpin'? Gee, here's hoping that the senator and representative get the name of the highway department's head kick on the dotted line of that contract.

No, it isn't the plan to hard surface that road. Plans are for building a top-dressed-granolithic road from the county line to Chester. There will be quite a few changes in the present road. That is, it will leave the old road just above the Lowrysville Baptist church and come into the road again near the railroad line at the edge of Lowrysville. In general the new road will follow the lines of the old road into Chester, on the east side of the railroad track. To get into Lowrysville by the new route a certain part of the railroad's right of way will be condemned and there will be other condemnation proceedings of railroad going into Chester.

I remarked to Colonel Nichols that the railroad would have less property to pay taxes on when this is done and the colonel came right back with this: "Yes, but our taxes will not be reduced, and we have been paying taxes on that right-of-way since 1848 and 1852." The new road location will probably cross the railroad at the upper end of the switch north of the village instead of at the crossing as now located.

• * * *

Colonel Nichols kidded me a bit for not calling on him in his office in the Agurs building, saying that he always calls on The Enquirer when in Yorkville. I replied that I didn't like to call on busy folks and take up the time they would be using to better advantage. However, he insisted that I call on him when next in Chester and I'll do that.

• * * *

Then I dropped down towards the office of The Chester News to call on **W.W. Pegram**, but got stopped before I got there by **Albert Henry**, son of **Hon. J. K. Henry** and we had quite a chat, and also talked quite a little while with **Dr. W.L. Davidson**, a friend of many years. After a bit Mr. Henry and I called in at the office of **Angus Macaulay, Esq.** I tried to learn whether or not he was seriously considering the proposition of running for congress this summer. He wouldn't commit himself definitely on the point. Sure, he was appreciative of the suggestion of some of his friends that he offer for the place and their promise of support, and from what he said I take it that he is interested, is giving the matter serious consideration, but he wouldn't say he was going to do it. He has quite a lucrative law practice. However, other Chester folks to whom I talked, said that they would like to see Mr. Macaulay in the race and expressed the opinion that he would certainly run strong in Chester county.

It was getting late, after 6 o'clock, and though I had promised to be back home before 7 o'clock, I took time off to call on my venerable friend, **Mr. Samuel B. ("Boss") Lathan**, who on May 2d will celebrate his 92 birthday anniversary, and here's hoping he celebrates many more of them. He is a delightful "young" gentleman. Yes, that is right. He is young in heart and mind. He says there's nothing old about him except his knees and they won't work like they did 50 years ago. Otherwise he feels as young as he did 50 years ago.

Interesting? Well, I should say so. I could easily spend two or three days with him and learn lots of things I want to know, and would if I thought I would not wear him out too much. He says he reads these sketches with a great deal of interest. "I read your sketches

the first thing as soon as I get the Enquirer," he remarked. "I like them because you write of many people and incidents that I know about and the sketches bring them back to my mind." Thank you.

• * * *

Then, among other things, Mr. Lathan corrected me in a story printed several months ago about **William Ferguson**, he who lived many years ago in western York county in the Beersheba section, and who as the story was related to me, disappeared from that section and it was a legend that he was murdered up in the Bethany or Kings Mountain section, perhaps for his money. Mr. Lathan says that while he was teaching in the section of York county in the sixties (1860's), a niece of Mr. Ferguson told him the story of his disappearance, which really was more or less of a mystery. According to the story as related to Mr. Lathan, Billy Ferguson went down to Alabama in the vicinity of Montgomery and Selma with **Dave Jenkins** of Gaston County. Jenkins was a slave trader and Ferguson was a stock dealer. After transacting their business in Alabama Mr. Jenkins returned to his home, while Ferguson remained at Selma to clean up some loose ends of business in connection with his business affairs. He never returned home and nothing further was heard of him according to the story of the niece; but Mr. Jenkins came back and in later years became treasurer of North Carolina during the reconstruction period, and believe it or not, had the very enviable reputation of being about the only honest man connected with the Republican or Radical party which had control of the state's affairs during that period. Descendants of Mr. Jenkins are scattered all over North Carolina today and are people of affairs and reputation.

• * * *

Mr. Lathan taught school in the McConnellsville section in the late sixties (1860's) or early seventies (1870's), and says that all the places he ever taught school, that section then was the best and was peopled by the most delightful, hospitable people, who got the most out of life that he ever contacted. It is changed a lot since then---sixty years and more ago---but it is a delightful section of the county yet.

Mr. Lathan gave me a suggestion or two about matters that might be reproduced in these sketches that would be of much interest and I'll follow the suggestions just as soon as I can get around to it and find the things he was talking about. But for the present, "Good night." **A. M. Grist**

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.¹ 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 David Weir and John Gillespie, the third great-grandfather of this compiler. The 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., SC 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., IN. 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..."² 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,

¹ The Bulletin, Vol. 27 June, 2003, No. 2, pp. 59-62.

² State Grants, Vol. 10:510, State of South Carolina.

1839, Aged 68 years. Born in Co. 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 3rd of May 1798³ 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 16th 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 20th of October 1797.⁴

*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 Bulletin⁵ 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 establish conclusively. I know he is my 4th 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 mentions ‘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 23rd 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 16th 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].

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

⁴ 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.

⁵ The Bulletin, Vol. VII, March 1984, No. 1, p. 32.

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 Genealogy Room, who took the time and made the effort to locate the original, hand-written 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 17th of January 1800.⁶

The first deed of James Weir, son of David [1797], revealed a lease on the 29th 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.⁷ The lease was transferred into a deed on the 30th 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 31st of January 1794, James received 88 acres from Nezerus Whitted.⁸ 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 10th of February 1794, James received 50 acres from John Whitted.⁹ The 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.¹⁰ When this lease was transferred into a deed on the 24th 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 Whitted in 1794 was not a son of David [1797] but rather a son of John Weir who died between 20 May 1801 and February 1805 in Chester Co., SC.

⁶ Deed Book F:49, Chester Co., SC.

⁷ Deed Book K:89, Fairfield Co., SC, Recorded 17 Dec 1795.

⁸ Deed Book K:87, Fairfield Co., SC, Recorded 17 Dec 1795.

⁹ Deed Book K:84, Fairfield Co., SC, Recorded 17 Dec 1795.

¹⁰ Deed Book K:93, Fairfield Co., SC, Recorded 18 Dec 1795.

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:

- 1) K:91, 20 Jan 1795, Fairfield Dist., SC: James Weir purchased from the heirs of William Whitted 100 acres on the N. 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 Morris 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 sid by the Said David Weir and James Weirs Land and on the East side part 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 originaly 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 begining where the original William Hill Line cross the Creek then with the same NE..."

On the 1st 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 conveyd by Said Martin by Deed to Ely Kirshaw and by him Conveyd to Micajah Pickett and by him conveyd to Wm Whitehead and after his deseased Sold and Conveyd by the Executors of the Said Wm Whitehead to Said James Wear also a part was Granted to Minor Winn Containing fifty acres and Conveyd by him to Nazerus Whitehead also (omitted) acres was granted to Said Whitehead Last and Conveyd by Said Whitehead above mentioned and Conveyd 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 folwes 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..."¹¹

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.¹² 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

¹¹ Deed Book T:199, Fairfield Co., SC, Recorded 7 Nov 1810.

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

that of David Weir [1831].¹³ 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.

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.¹⁴

"Know all men by these presents that we david Weir Wm Weir 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 intrest 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].¹⁵ 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 Conveyd to the Said James Weir..." 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 13th of March 1817, whereby James, David [1849], and Archibald recognized a debt of \$750 to John McCrory.¹⁶ 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.¹⁷ The tract was on the road leading from Winnsboro to Chester. The neighbors were Plunket, Cockrell, Nesbit, Hamilton, and Boyd.¹⁸ David would remain on that tract for less than a year. On the 4th of February 1818, he obtained a release from Jacob Hartin¹⁹ so that the land could be sold to Robert Brice.²⁰ The neighbors were

¹³ 1800 Federal Census, Fairfield Co., SC, p. 237: David Wear, 237 23010-10010-00.

¹⁴ Deed Book V:253, Fairfield Dist., SC.

¹⁵ Deed Book X:52, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 31 May 1815.

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

¹⁷ Deed Book B₂:44, Fairfield Dist., SC, Dated 19 Apr 1817.

¹⁸ S213192, vol. 44, p.444: 1817/09/19 Wier, David plat 300a Wateree Creek and Dumpers Creek Henry Moore, Jese Cockrell, Nesbitt, Gardner, Peter Hamilton, John Boyd, Christopher Plunkett.

¹⁹ Deed Book Z:214, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 15 Apr 1818.

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 274¼ acres for \$1,098.

James' son George also purchased land for his own account. In 1814 he bought 100 acres from Robert *Foster*.²¹ 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.²² 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 29th 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.²³ 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 Wear [1849] is shown with five children and one person engaged in agriculture.²⁴ George Wear [1845] had four children and one person engaged in agriculture.²⁵ John Wear [1850] had one child and two people engaged in agriculture.²⁶

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 3rd 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 122¾ acres to William Weir.²⁷ 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.

²⁰ Deed Book Z:221, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 15 Apr 1818.

²¹ Deed Book W:184, Release, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 1814.

²² Deed Book Z:542, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 16 Oct 1818.

²³ Deed Book AA:95-97, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 6 Feb 1819.

²⁴ 1820 Federal Census, Washington Co., IN, p. 210.

²⁵ 1820 Federal Census, Washington Co., IN, p. 201.

²⁶ 1820 Federal Census, Washington Co., IN, p. 201.

²⁷ Deed Book BB:283, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 7 Aug 1820.

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 23rd of September 1809, he sold 64 acres to his son John.²⁸ 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 thereafter, however, son John Weir decided to leave the state and, on the 4th 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..."²⁹

In 1811 David Weir [1831] 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 2nd 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 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 October in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and Eleven at the suit of Daniel McCullough against David Wier 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..."³⁰

Further evidence of the financial predicament of David Weir [1831] 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 26th of June 1795, in Chester Co., SC, David Weir was appointed guardian of William Hughes.³¹)

"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..."³²

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

²⁸ Deed Book T:193, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 7 Sept 1810.

²⁹ Deed Book Z:185, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 14 Apr 1818.

³⁰ Deed Book X:133, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 14 Nov 1815.

³¹ Holcomb & Parker, Minutes of Ct, p. 289.

³² Deed Book Z:318, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 1 Jun 1818.

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 29th 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..."³³ On the 24th of Jan 1827, Josiah sold to William Hughes 116 acres "originally granted to Josiah Perry, after said decease conveyed by son James Perry to Daniel Wright from said Wright conveyed to David Weir and by me by James Barkley sheriff..."³⁴

Son Francis also seemed to believe in keeping the land in the family. In a deed dated the 18th 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.³⁵ 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.³⁶

David Weir Senior died in 1831 at age 70 and is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Fairfield Co., SC.³⁷ According to his estate settlement, he had five sons: John, Francis, James, Josiah, and David, and one daughter: Elizabeth. The final accounting given by his son Francis 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 \$4.97 David Weir \$4.97 Elizabeth Weir \$4.97."³⁸

Comments may be sent to zulia@aol.com

We are reprinting this entire article exactly as submitted to us by the author. It has come to our attention that there were many typographical errors in the last "Bulletin" on this article.

I hope that she will accept our apology and continue to send us articles from time to time.

We do try to be accurate and certainly do appreciate every one of our friends that send us articles to publish.

³³ Deed Book BB:202, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 18 Apr 1820.

³⁴ Deed Book HH₁:184, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 17 Apr 1827.

³⁵ Deed Book LL:169, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 8 Apr 1834.

³⁶ Deed Book LL:170, Fairfield Dist., SC, Recorded 8 Apr 1834.

³⁷ Fairfield County Cemetery Records, Vol. II, p. 105.

³⁸ Estate Records 13:287-292, Fairfield Dist., SC.

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She is a Past President, Friends of Augusta Public Library. She served on the Commission for the 250th Celebration of Augusta's founding as Chair of Local History, Genealogy, and Publications. She is Chartering President and lifetime Honorary President, Augusta Genealogical Society, and Editor of *Ancestoring*, *Southern Echoes*, and the Ancestoring Monograph Series, all Society publications. She is Editor of over 40 volumes of Society publications, to include a prize-winning genealogical how-to volume, *Genealogical Letters: When Your Ox is in the Ditch*, published by AGS in 1992, and reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, in 1995. She is Librarian, AGS Library, for their wide collection of historical and genealogical research material.

She has served as a regular lecturer for AGS classes since 1979 on diverse subjects of genealogical/historical interest, and for historical and genealogical societies throughout the Southeast. She also conducts classes for Augusta State University's Continuing Education, the Richmond County school system, and for the Georgia Institute for Teachers. She has lectured on Georgia History and Research at Birmingham's Samford University's Institute for Genealogy and Historical Research since 1990, and lectured at National Genealogical Society's Annual Conferences.

In 2000, she took part in a Humanities Lecture Series on early Georgia settlers with her presentation, "The Saga of the Scotch-Irish: From the Land of the Celts to a Boisterous New World." She has traveled to Ireland, Scotland, England, and Wales a number of times on research trips.

She conducts historical cemetery interpretive tours for Augusta State University, Elderhostel, garden clubs, architectural and history classes, and civic groups. In 1996 she received a Certificate of Commendation from the American Association for State and Local History for Cemetery Research and Interpretation. She is a Board Member of the recently-formed Historic Cemeteries of Augusta Foundation.

An awareness of migration patterns and their importance in genealogical research has long been one of her favorite lecture topics. That interest has spawned presentations on a wide variety of migration routes, with accompanying maps.

Note: Mrs. Adamson has served as AGS's Librarian for the past 21 years. She is responsible for adapting the system (modified Library of Congress classifications) under which the Library operates. A specialty system places genealogical and historical references in logical order in categories easily identified by genealogists, to facilitate productive research. The Library contains approximately 15,000 volumes. Focus is on several areas of special interest, including Virginia, New England, Pennsylvania, the Civil War, Revolutionary War pension records, family histories, cemeteries, immigration lists, migrations, maps and an especially useful section on Historic Perspectives as well as private collections, surname area files, computer files, & more.

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"The Saga of the Scotch Irish: From the Land of the Celts to a Boisterous New World"

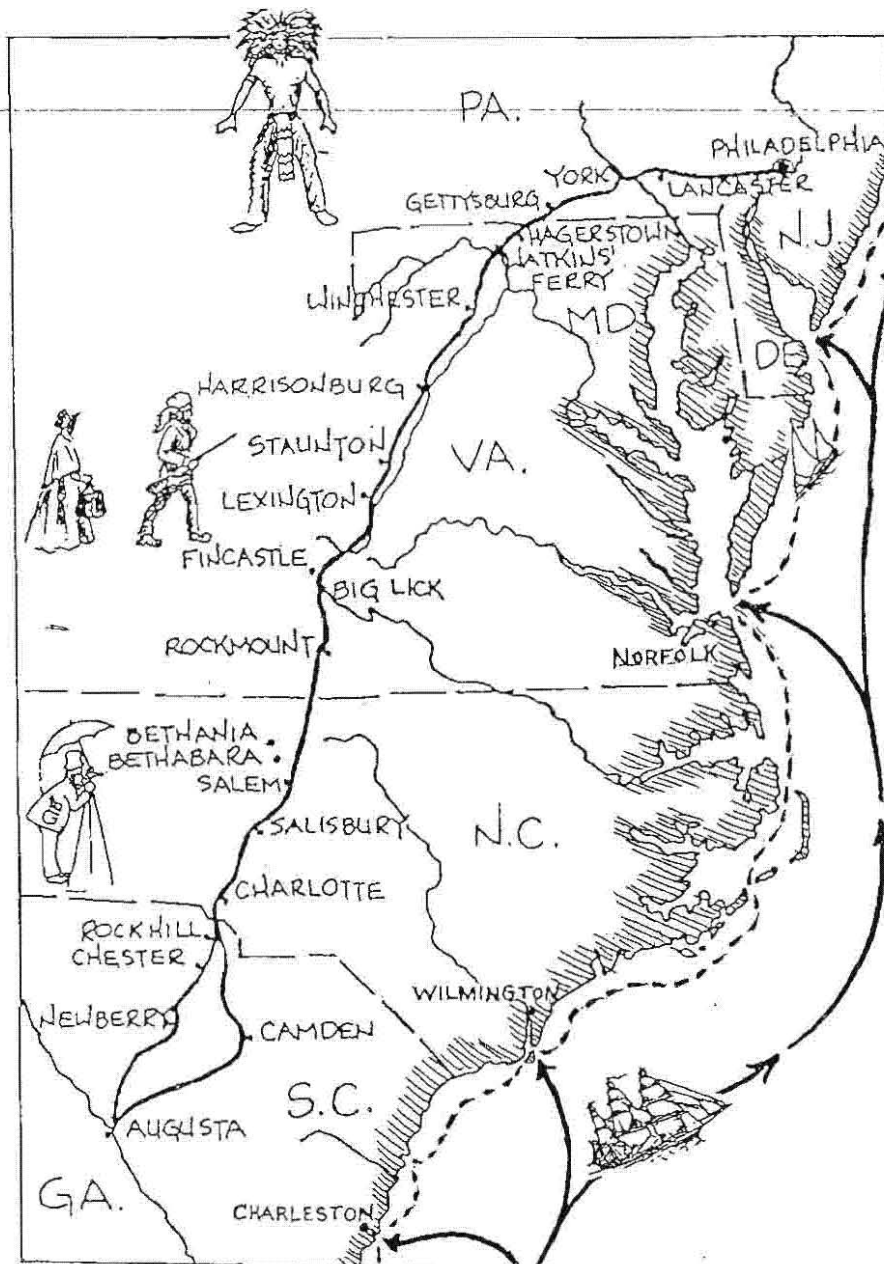
The intent of this presentation is to draw a profile of the Celtic people called "Scotch Irish" from the 16th century through their 18th century emigration to America to the substantial role they played in the formation of our country. The theme will be developed through documented sources to describe the reasons why they went to Ulster in the 17th and 18th centuries, and why they left in the 18th and 19th centuries. From the crucible of broken English promises, rack rents, trade restrictions, religious constraints, etc., together with the traits inherited from their Celtic forebears, came the self-reliant, tenacious, independent traits that served them so well on the American frontier. Maps will be used to trace their movements out of the British Isles to their destinations--particularly to the South, as they traveled the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road (Great Wagon Road). Color slides will recreate the journey. Attention is given to their interaction with other ethnic groups, their "planting" of schools and churches on the frontier, and to the important roles they played in civil and military positions.

Presenter: Carrie Moore Adamson

Mrs. Adamson has spent many years attending national conferences to add to her knowledge of the Scotch-Irish people, and has lectured on many facets of their role in our country's early history. Research trips to the British Isles provided opportunities to research in Archives in Cardiff, Wales and in the Welsh National Library in Aberystwyth, Public Record Offices in London, Belfast, Northern Ireland, and Edinborough, Scotland; The National Library in Dublin, and the British Museum Library in London, all of which provided interesting perspectives to the people known there as "Ulster Scots."

She has an ABJ degree from University of Georgia, summa cum laude, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi. She also has done graduate work there. Augusta is her home.

She was the Chartering President of the Augusta Genealogical Society in 1979, and is Honorary President now. As Editor of *Ancestoring*, the Society's journal, and of *Southern Echoes*, its newsletter, she remains active in research and educational projects within the Society.



ROUTE OF THE GREAT PHILADELPHIA WAGON ROAD

Peopling of Early America: Reasons for leaving their homelands

THE SCOTCH-IRISH/IRISH

Rent Increases/Tithes
 Religious discrimination
 Crop failures/hunger
 Wars in the 1640s & 1690s
 Woolen & linen industry decline
 Opportunities to own land in
 New World/Religious freedom

THE GERMANS AND SWISS

Severe winters
 Crop failures/hunger
 Wars of French King Louis XIV
 Recruitment/Advertising
 Floods
 Opportunities to own land & have
 better life/Religious freedom

THE ENGLISH

Economic opportunity
 Religious unrest
 Civil War
 Population increase
 Government encouragement
 Landownership/New life

THE AFRICANS

Enslavement of tribal
 war captives
 Activities of European/
 American slave traders

Related Suggested Reading on Migrations: The Great Philadelphia Wagon Road

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Migrations: The Great Philadelphia Wagon Road
Carrie Moore Adamson

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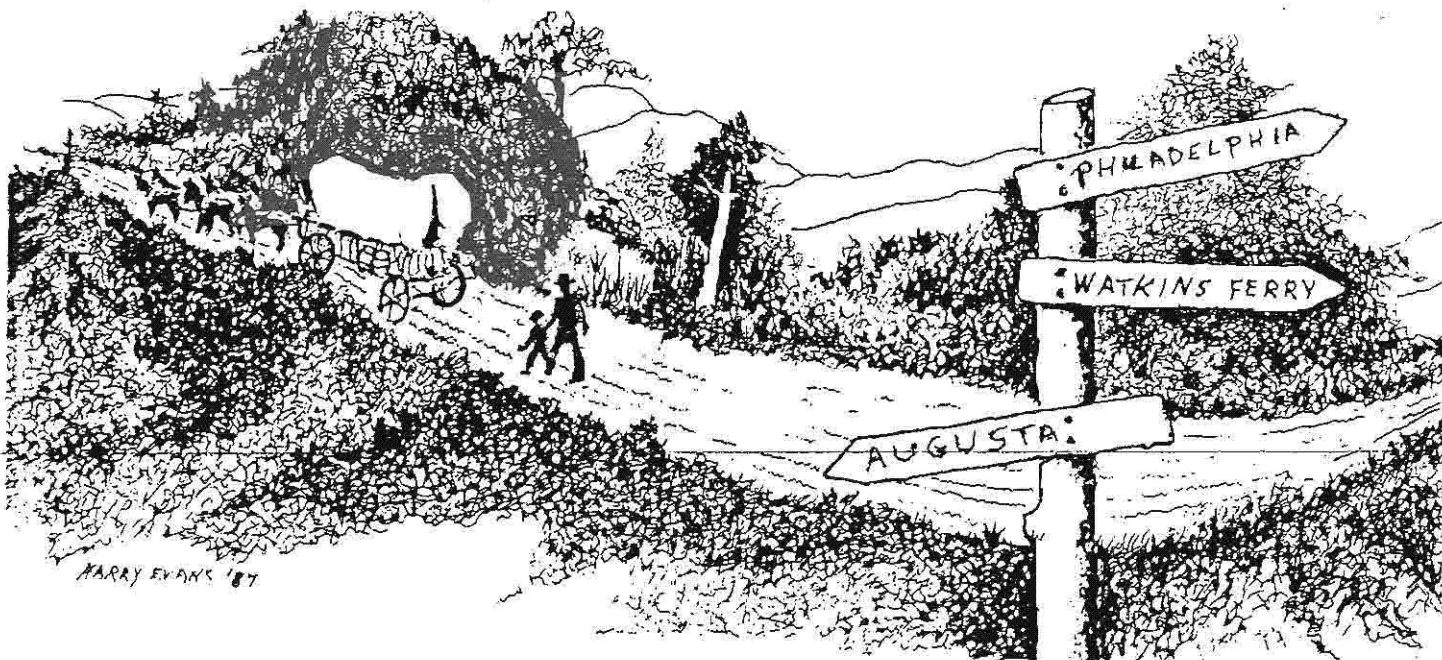
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Scene along The Great Philadelphia Wagon Road, drawn by Augusta Genealogical Society artist Harry Evans. He depicted the travelers having left Philadelphia, crossed the Potomac River via Watkins Ferry at Williamsport, and heading on Southward toward Augusta, Georgia. The Road was a major emigration route during the 18th and into the 19th century.

William Hall Stringfellow letter-----

Mrs. T.S. McKosky of 1001 S. Harper St., Laurens, S.C. sends us the following letter:

"I have found a letter that I thought was interesting. Maybe you will think so, too. It is from **William Hall Stringfellow** (1818-?) to his brother, **Robert Henry Stringfellow** (1812-1889)---two sons of **Patience Buford** (1784-1843) and **Capt. Wm. Stringfellow** (1780-1849). It is just about in shreds, so excuse the _____'s."

Gainesville [Florida]

June 26th, 1866

Dear Robert,

I am sorry to find from the tenor of your letter (which was received a few days since) that you are really thinking of going to Brazil--you have never yet made a _____ start in a new country--think of it--a stranger in a land where your language is unknown without any labor you can command and no shelter for yourselves or your little ones--and at your time of life [Robert was 64]. I know we have no rights & but few privileges here--but we can support & educate our children & they can go in manhoods time to make their fortune in some other & more favored clime.

I with **Col. L. A. Harden** entered some months since into a land purchase--he writes the trade is confirmed & all right--if so, we own 20,000 acres of choice land on the coast of Georgia between the St. Mary's & Duck Rivers [I have not found this so far]--Much of the land had been cleared & highly improved, but all the _____ houses were destroyed by the opposing forces during the war. My propose was to advise you to sell out and pay all your debts and then join us in occupying those lands. There you could make more than you could _____ & get as much land as you could cultivate free of any expense but simply improving it. The region is very healthy, or I would _____ I could in fitting your _____. The chief difficulty here is to obtain labor. I have this year a very fair crop, 140 acres of corn & 270 of cotton. The corn will field near 20 bushels per acre & the cotton bids fair to do well. It is from knee high to four feet in height. My expenses are heavy but cotton at one dollar per pound will bear heavy _____ and still pay well.

If you will go to Brazil, send your boys out to make ready & you & Maria with the four little ones come to Florida & stay one year & make one crop of long cotton. This, I think a much wiser course & if you will try this plan & I will promise at the end of another year (it you are not satisfied to remain here) to see you safe to your new home. I have great _____ in _____ of ever visiting Carolina _____ but if you will go I will come out to see you before you leave. The idea of a man at your time of life going to a new country to settle in the woods is to my mind extremely hazardous. You would almost certainly become a perfect bankrupt in money & home before two years would _____ away _____ besides what of the health of the climate. What of the state of society--you have daughters-- what will be their future? Reflect well before you take such a step. If you wish it I will pay the debt to **Monfosets[?]** children & will do all I can for you

besides. As to **Edwin's** [one of Robert's sons and the writer's nephew] investment. I have been looking around but have seen nothing that would warrant me in advising him to enter into. Let him keep the money or invest it in cotton which will not go lower than at the moment & next year seek good land _____ & make a large crop. This would be a safe move. _____ says I will not keep my promise to see you safe to your new home. I tell he if you came out here you will never go there.

I am sorry you did not write more fully of **Maria's** situation & what she was taking. I have been very solicitous about her. I wrote my nieces of her case but do know from _____ letter if you read the communication. I would like much to get a letter from **Jas. Gaston** giving a full account of his trek--_____ his book if it is ever written [**Dr. James Gaston**, a cousin, led a small group of 30 odd families to Brazil at this time. He with many others, had gone down at the invitation of **Dom Pedro II**, to explore the land up the Amazon and had returned to take this expedition up the Igaupe River and Sao Paulo. He did write his book called "Hunting a Home in Brazil." These were the Confederates disenchanted with the post war South and who tried to set up the plantation system in Brazil. Some 20,000 went to Brazil and other South American countries; about 30% returned. Most colonies failed and the remaining descendants of the Confederates now live in or near the town of Americana there. Dr. Gaston did return, however, his two daughters married missionaries and stayed.) I should like much to know what I owe in Chester—I owe nothing here—did you have anything on the **Gray** note; as I lost the ___ I _____ I would like to _____ paying that note. I sold cotton low to pay my debts there & the money _____ in my _____. I did not send it to you because you wrote it would not be taken. My family are all well & join in much love to you, **Maria** & the children. Kiss **Kit** for me. Tell her I have a little boy **Clarence** by name to _____ to be as great a performer as she is said to be. Write soon to your _____ brother.

W.H. Stringfellow

Submitter's Note: I know that **Robert** and **Maria** went to Florida about this time with other members of the family. Their youngest, **Mary Jane**, was about 10 and she and a cousin would run along beside the covered wagons and play en route. I'll have to look up my grandmother's notes about the trip. I know that **Lucius** [another son of **Robert's**] went to Florida and stayed there and his family near Sanford, FL. He was into orange groves. One of his daughters, **May Stringfellow Dickens**, after she was widowed, lived with and took care of Aunt **Mary Jane** in Chester (she who was blind and deaf from age 13). One of **May Dicken's** nephews, **Russell Wallace**, did a lot of research for me in the cemeteries there. As a child, he used to spend his summers in Chester. I don't know how long **Robert** and **Maria** stayed down there, but they came home with their children and went to live with another of their sons **Mr. J.J. Stringfellow**.

INDEX

A

Abercrombie	
Mr	89
Adams	
David	85
Adamson	
Carrie Moore	110,111
Adgers	
William	107
Alexander	
Isaac	84
Anderson	
Timothy	86
Arnet	
George.....	107
Arnette	
Sarah Wylie.....	103,104,107
Ashcroft	
Kay.....	103
B	
Backstrom	
Mrs.	97
Baird	
William	86
Bankhead	
Brice.....	98
Barber	
James	108
Robert G	108
Barkley	
James	108,109
John	109
Robert 86	86
William	85
Barnes	
Mittie.....	94
William	96
William, Dr.	96
Barr	
Nathan	85
William	85

Baskins	
Andrew.....	84
Bell	
John.....	105
Belton	
Robert.....	83
Bennett	
Miss.....	96
Black	
Ananias	86
Blair	
James.....	86
John.....	86
Thomas.....	86
William	86
Boyce	
Agness.....	105
David.....	105
Boyd	106
Brannon	
Samuel.....	107
Brice	
Robert.....	106,107
Brisbane	
Adam F.....	84
Brown	
Jos., Esq	97
Brunson	
Isaac	83
Bull	
Lt. Governor.....	89
C	
Cameron	
Cantey	
James.....	83
John.....	83
Joseph.....	83
William	83
Carns	
Robert.....	86

Carsen		
Walter.....	85	
Carter		
Robert.....	83,84	
Silvanus.....	94	
William.....	94,95	
Caskey		
John.....	85	
Castor (Caston)		
Glass.....	83	
Champion		
Richard.....	84	
Chestnut		
John.....	83,84	
Clybon		
Charles.....	86	
Cockrell	106,107	
Coln		
Alexander.....	92	
Bobbie.....	92	
I.S.....	92,93	
Lorenzy.....	92	
Tresvan.....	92	
Connery		
John.....	104	
Cook		
James.....	83	
Cousart		
James.....	86	
Nathaniel.....	86	
Richard.....	88	
Craig		
James.....	84,85	
John.....	84,86	
John, Jr.....	86	
Crawford		
James.....	85	
Robert.....	84	
Crocket		
Nancy.....	82	
Crockett		
Elijah.....	86	
John.....	85	
Croffard		
Thomas.....	85	
Croper		
Agness.....	98	
John.....	98	
Sarah.....	98	
D		
Davidson		
W. L. Dr.....	100	
Davies		
John.....	85	
Robert.....	85	
Delaney		
James.....	86	
Deutsch		
Charlene G.....	102	
Dickens		
May Stringfellow.....	117	
Donnom		
Ike.....	85	
Douglas		
John.....	88	
Douglass		
George.....	86	
Dunlap		
George.....	85	
James.....	86	
John.....	86	
Robert.....	84,85	
Samuel.....	84,86	
Samuel, Jr.....	84,86	
Samuel, Sr.....	84,86	
Thomas.....	85	
William.....	86	
E		
English		
Joshua.....	83	
Erwin		
Will.....	99	
Everard		
Thomas.....	85	
F		
Faris		
M.P.....	94,96	
Farrell		
William.....	85	

Faulkner	
James.....	86
William.....	86
Ferguson	
William.....	101
Findley	
Samuel.....	86
Floyd	
Viola Gaston.....	82
Foster	
Henry.....	86
John.....	86
Robert.....	107
Fowler	
Adam.....	84
Furr	
Samuel.....	86
Fury	
Mr.....	
G	
Gamble	
Andrew.....	86
John.....	83
William.....	86
Gardner	
James.....	107
Jane.....	102,107
Margaret.....	102,107
Mary.....	102
Garrison	107
Garth	
Charles.....	88
Gaston	
E.L.....	95
James, Dr.	117
Gillaphigs	
Mary.....	104
Gillaspy	
John.....	103,104
Thomas.....	104
Gillespie	
James Weir.....	102
James, Sr.....	102
John.....	102,103
Thomas.....	102,103

Gordon	
Moses.....	83
Grist	
A.M.....	98,101
H	
Haile	
Benjamin.....	84
Hamilton	106,107
Hancock	
Joe.....	93
Harden	
L.A., Col.....	116
Hartin	
Jacob.....	106
Harville	
Ranson, Jr.....	86
Hemphill	
John, Rev.....	97
Henry	
Albert.....	100
J. K.,.....	100
Herron	
Andrew.....	86
Hill	
Charles.....	106
William.....	105,106,107
Hood	
John.....	85
Hough	
Perry B.....	82
Huey	
Hercules.....	86
Hughes	
William.....	105,06,08,09
Hull	
Esmont.....	85
Hutson	
Francis Marion.....	91
J	
Jackson	
Andrew.....	97
Jenkins	
Dave.....	101
Chestnut	
John.....	83

Johnsey
M.M. 93

Johnston
James..... 85
John..... 85,105

Jones
James..... 98
John..... 102
Mary Smith..... 98
May..... 98

Jordan
Josiah, Rep..... 99

K

Kell
John..... 97

Kenndy
John..... 84

Kershaw
Ely..... 84
Joseph..... 83

King
Agness..... 97,98
Mrs..... 98
Wm., Rev..... 96,97

Kirkland
Joseph..... 83

Kirkpatrick
J. Craig..... 95,96

Kirshaw
Ely..... 104,05

Kohls
Thomas..... 85

L

Lacy
Samuel.....

Lands
John..... 104

Lathan
Mattie E..... 94
Samuel B..... 100

Latta
John..... 86

Lavender
David.....

Law
James..... 105
Margery..... 105
Martha..... 105
Sameul, Jr..... 105

Lee
Joseph84
Robt E., Gen..... 93

Lessley
John..... 86

Loocock
Aaron..... 83

Love
Harrison..... 96
J.T..... 96

Lowery
John..... 84

M

Macaulay..... 93
Angus..... 100

Maddox
Benjamin..... 104,05,06

Malone
Linda..... 104

Marshall
John..... 84

Martin
Benjamin..... 104,05,06

Massey
William..... 84

McCluney
Alex..... 92

McClurken
Archibald..... 97

McClurkena
Richard..... 98

McCreary
John..... 97

McCrorry
John..... 105,06,09
Molly P..... 105

McDow
John..... 86
Robert..... 86
Thomas..... 86
William..... 86

McGirt		
James.....	83	
McGirtt		
James.....	83	
McIlwain		
Andrew.....	85	
McKee		
Will.....	87	
McKosky		
Mrs. T. S. -----	116	
McMeen		
James.....	86	
Joseph.....	85	
William.....	85,86	
McMurray		
John.....	86	
McQuiston		
Hugh.....	98	
James.....	97,98	
Meriweather -----	83,88	
Miller		
Charles -----	85,105	
George.....	86	
Mills		
Robert.....	91,92	
Monfoset -----	116	
Montagu		
Governor.....	90	
Montgomery		
James.....	86	
Robert.....	84,85	
Moor		
James.....	86	
Moore		
Henry.....	106	
William, Capt.....	88	
Moultrie		
Governor.....		
N		
Neill		
Thomas.....	86,98	
Nelson		
Matthew.....	83	
Nesbit -----	106,07	
Nichols		
Colonel.....	100	
L.T., Col.....	99	
Nisbet		
John.....	86	
Nisbett		
William.....	86	
O		
Owens		
Elisha.....	105	
P		
Parks		
James.....	96	
Patton		
Robert.....	84	
Pedro		
Dom, -----	117	
Pegram		
Ward W.....	98,100	
Perry		
James -----	109	
Josiah.....	105,109	
Pettus		
Louise.....	98	
Pickens		
Andrew.....	88	
John.....	83	
Picketts		
Micajah.....	105,106	
Plunket -----	106	
R		
Ramsey		
James.....	86	
Reden		
Sandas.....	85	
Rennells -----	95	
Revel		
Janie.....	83	
Richardson		
Col Richard.....	83	
Richard.....	83	
William.....	84	

Robbins		Stevens	
Chelsey.....	93	Alexander.....	93
Edward B.....	93,94	Strain	
Elijah.....	93	James.....	86
James.....	93	Stringfellow	
Joseph.....	93	Edwin.....	117
Obadiah.....	93,94	J.J.....	117
Obadiah C.....	93	Lucius.....	117
Thomas.....	93	Maria.....	117
Thomas J.....	92	Mary Jan.....	117
Varda.....	93,94	Patience Buford.....	116
William.....	93	Robert.....	117
William J.....	94	Robert Henry.....	116
		Wm. Hall.....	116
		Wm., Capt.....	116
Robinson		Stuart	
George.....	107	John.....	89
Rock		Sumter	
John.....	97	Thomas.....	83
Roundtree		Sutton	
Billie.....	93,96	Jasper.....	83
S		T	
Salley		Taylor	
A.S.....	86,87	James.....	85
Sanders		John.....	86
Andrew.....	95	William.....	86
George.....	83	Thomlinson	
J.M.....	96,97	John.....	86
James.....	95,97	Nathan.....	86
Lee.....	96	Thompson	
Rhet.....	96	Alexander.....	86
William.....	95	Thomas.....	86
Zeke.....	95,96	Tillman	
Simpson		Jesse.....	84
John.....	85	Turner	
William.....	85	Isabella.....	105
Singleton		John.....	105
Matthew.....	83	Wm. A.....	105
Smith		W	
Garland.....	94,95	Wade	
Jonathan.....	86	Thomas.....	83
Walker.....	94,95	Wallace	
Stephenson		Russell.....	117
John.....	86	Watson	
Moses.....	86	Ephraim.....	106
Thomas.....	86		

Wear		Whitted	
David.....	107	Elizabeth	105
George.....	107	Gideon.....	105
James.....	105	John.....	104,05
John.....	107	Nezereus.....	104,05
Josiah.....	108,09	William	105
Weir		Wier	
David.....	102,03,04,05,06,07,08,09	David	103
David H.	106	James	103
Ebenezer.....	102,05	Wiere	
Elizabeth	102,06,08,09	James.....	103
Francis.....	102,06,09	Williams	
George	103,04	J.P.....	99
James	102,03,07,08	Wilson	
John.....	102,05,06,07,08,09	William	84
Josiah	102,06,08,09	Winn	
Mary	102,03	Minor.....	104,05,08
Mary Lynn	103	Wise	
Nancy	102	A.W.....	94
Salley.....	102	John M.. Senator	99
Sarah B.....	102	Witherspoon	
William	102,05,06,07	John.....	83
Wheeler	94	Wood	
White		Ruthie.....	103
Abram	97	Wren	
George.....	84,85	George.....	86
Hugh.....	84,86	William	85
John.....	85	Wright	
Joseph.....	86	Daney	105
Thomas.....	86	Daniel.....	105,09
W.G.....	97	Wyly	
Whitehead		Samuel	88
William	105		

DONATIONS APPRECIATED

The Chester District Genealogical Society acknowledges with gratitude the following individuals for their thoughtful and valuable additions to our library: Mrs J. Norris Kinnion for her donation of her mother's 1925 Chester Yearbook; Scott Coleman's donation of "The Squires of Springfield" by Katherine Wooten Springs; and "Descendants of Ulster McFadden Settlers of Chester County, South Carolina, 1710-2004" by William Thomas Skinner.