

THE BULLETIN

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THE CHESTER DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

Dues: \$20.00 Per Calendar Year

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MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

President's Message

My third grade daughter is studying South Carolina history this year. It has been interesting listening to her tell what she is learning in school about the early explorers and settlers of South Carolina. She shared with us that the early settlers came to the New World for the three G's: gold, gospel, and glory. As I listened to her share her new knowledge, I recalled many years ago when I, too, was learning about the history of South Carolina. The standard textbook at that time fifty years ago was the Simm's *History of South Carolina*. Later, that standard textbook was revised and became the Mary C. Simms Oliphant text, which was used for many years. The current third grade book that my daughter is using is *South Carolina: Its History and Geography* by Klein and Horne. I am so pleased that elementary school children have the opportunity to learn about their native state and find pride in our State's history, but it is also important that we teach our children our family history so that they will know about their ancestors and their contributions, large or small. My daughter never fails to point out on a trip, "There is a cemetery, Daddy," because she knows that I am interested in cemetery preservation because she has been on many treks with me. As we bring 2004 to an end, I hope that each of our members will plan to spend during the holiday season a little time giving their children and grandchildren a holiday gift of a small family history experience.

The Society is seeking to fence the Burnt Creek Meeting House Cemetery in early 2005. At this time we have about \$3,000, and the fencing will cost about \$5,000. I ask you to send a donation of any amount to assist in bringing this Society project to completion.

I extend to you and your families the best of the holiday seasons and the best of the New Year.

Jim Knox

We want to remind all members that your 2005 membership is now due.

Burnt Meeting House Cemetery needs your help

Submitted by Roxann Yarborough James

Burnt Meeting House Cemetery is located on Mr. Vernon Road, Richburg area of Chester County. It needs to be fenced in to help preserve the vulnerable graves. We currently have donations of \$2,020. and need \$2780. more to have a chain link fence installed on the 1 ½ acres of this Cemetery. A list of tombstones in this cemetery are located in Louise Kelly Crowder's book " Tombstones Records of Chester County, South Carolina Vicinity Vol. 1. Donations can be mailed to Chester District Genealogy Society, PO Box 336, Richburg, SC 29729.

Here is a brief history of the Church and Cemetery: According to *Incidents in the History of Fishing Creek Church* (handwritten notes from Fishing Creek Church, no author or date noted): In 1755 a Mr. Miller was called to congregations along Fishing Creek and he preached in two meeting houses., One on each side of the river. In 1758 they obtained the services of William Richardson. These churches suffered greatly at the hands of the Cherokee Indians. A Mrs. McKenny was captured by the Indians who scalped her and left her for dead. She later recovered from her fearful wounds and raised a large family. The congregations along fishing creek grew in numbers and became two distinct churches, one known as Lower Fishing Creek which afterwards was called Richardson. This was the northeast corner of Chester District and was separated from Waxhaw by the Catawba River. Upper Fishing Creek was higher up the stream from which it gets its name and is the one now know as Fishing Creek Church.

In the book *History of Fishing Creek Church, Chester County, SC* with miscellaneous notes from material gathered by Mrs. Cloud Hicklin by kindness of Mr. Fred Hambright: "Burnt Meeting House" is located ¼ mile west of store and residence of R. H. Ferguson. There is a cemetery there. In this cemetery we find graves of Justice John Gaston, Rev. Hugh Gaston, Margaret McClure, Thomas Howze, Margaret McCreary, sons, Samuel and John McCreary. Justice Gaston was born in 1700 and died in 1782. Mrs. McKenney is also buried here.

The church that formerly stood at this place was a Presbyterian Church and was, and is still one of the oldest church organizations in Chester County. The meeting house was burned by a forest fire. The congregation moved again and built on the eastern side of Tinkers Creek and built on 11 acres of land donated by Benjamin Culp, called Richardson, in honor of their pastor William Richardson. They worshipped quite a number

of years here. Then moved to Cedar Shoals, which was on mile south of the present village of Bascomville.

The church buildings near Lando, and at the Burnt Meeting House and at Richardson were all log houses.

After war, some chose not to take nation's 'bounty'

By Louise Pettus

Reprinted from "The Charlotte Observer"

That's what the 1st pensions were referred to in the early 1800's

The No. 1 hobby in America is said to be fishing. Genealogy is No. 2 (and also No. 2 in Web site hits.)

If you happen to have an ancestor who was a Revolutionary War veteran, he or his widow may have left pension papers behind. All of the applications for the pensions have been preserved by the National Archives in Washington.

But not all veterans have pension papers. If the ancestor was wealthy, he probably had no need to apply. If he and his widow died before June 7, 1832, then there was no opportunity to apply because that was the first time Congress Voted to reward eligible veterans with pensions. In other words, a veteran was eligible for a pension if he lived 50 years after the battle of Yorktown, the last battle of the Revolution.

The surviving veteran had to prove his service at a courthouse or, lacking papers, swear to a judge and come up with witnesses who could testify that he had served. This was labeled "traditinary evidence." The process was easy for a Continental Army veteran but demanding for a local militiaman such as those who served locally in the army of Gen. Thomas "Gamecock" Sumter.

Once a veteran received the pension, his widow became eligible for a reduced pension if the marriage occurred before Jan. 1, 1794. When she died, there was a final "death payment" to her heirs. Never a large sum, it was nevertheless sought by numerous survivors.

The case of Capt. William Davis of the Bethel community in York County serves as an example. William Davis had been a "horseman" in the Battle of Hanging Rock, Sumter's Defeat (Rocky Mount), Guilford Courthouse and the Battle of Kings Mountain. He died in 1820. His wife, Martha Spence Davis, died in 1840. He died before the pension law was

enacted. She married Davis in 1783 or 1784, making her eligible for the widow's reduced pension I 1832.

After Martha Davis died at the home of her son, Thomas, on Nov. 14, 1840, he applied for the "death Payment" for him and his siblings. The Bible record he submitted showed 12 children, the first born in 1785, Thomas was the 11th child, born in 1803. Two brothers were deceased.

A supporting paper came from a neighbor, Mary Patrick, who was then 57 (therefore could not have had any personal recollection of the war). She stated that she was raised within a half mile of the William Davis family and that at the time of his death he was a ruling elder in the Bethel Presbyterian Church.

Apparently, Davis's Children received the "death payment." There was no requirement in the law that the heirs prove any need for the money.

A few eligible never applied out of pride. In Lancaster County's Old Waxhaw Presbyterian cemetery, William Blair's tombstone carries the words: "With his Father's wagon he assisted in transporting the baggage of the American Army for several months. He was also in the battles of the Hanging Rock, The Eutaw, Ratliff's bridge, Stono and the Fishdam ford on Broad river. In one of these battles (it is not recollected which) he received a slight wound: but so far from regarding it, either then or afterwards, when it was intimated to him that he might avail himself of the bounty of his Country and draw a Pension(as many of his Camp associates had done) he declared that, if the small Competence he then possessed failed him, he was both able and willing to work for his living; if it became necessary for him for his country without a penny of pay.

William Blair, a native of County Antrim, Ireland, came to America when he was about 13. He died July 2, 1824, at age 66. When he made the statement that many of his fellow soldiers had taken advantage of the "bounty of his Country," he was referring to his state, not the national government.

South Carolina in 1791 began paying pensions to widows and orphans of militiamen who fought for independence. This was the "bounty" Blair referred to. This system lasted until the federal pensions were authorized in 1832.

List of Members of Company K, 17th Regiment South Carolina

Volunteers

Captain----L. P. Sadler
2nd Lieut.----B. D. Burris
1st Sergeant----E. A. Crawford
3rd Sergeant----P. W. Lindsay
5th Sergeant----S. M. Wylie
2nd Corporal----S. M. Love
4th Corporal----E. B. Russell

1st Lieut.----J. M. Wallace
3rd Lieut.----G. R. Burris
2nd Sergeant----James M. Williams
4th Sergeant----Henry Pratt
1st Corporal----John W. Garvin
3rd Corporal----R. F. Montgomery
Co. Dr.----T. B. Whitesides

Privates

W^m. C. Whitesides
R. E. Ashe
Joseph Abshear
George Burris
Benny Bolin
R. S. Berry
John Cain (Indian)
Guss E. Carroll
J. Childers
John Childers
H. B. Davidson
Green Gorden
Jack Garvin
J. L. How
A. L. Ingram
Pete Laneir
W. A. Love
A. C. McSwain
Dan Mattox
J. A. McGill
John McSwain
T. W. Neil
R. E. Parks
M. C. Russell

George Aken
Harmon Alexander
Jeff Ayers (Indian)
Thomas Bolin
R. G. Bratton
J. Brown
Jack Clinton
Hugh Caldwell
Jos. Childers
Wm. Cauty (Indian)
T. T. Davidson
J. L. Guy
James Garvin
R. L. Hope
Peter Jackson
W. Lowery
John Montgomery
R. A. McConnell
Jeff V. McFadden
W. S. McCullough
R. C. Moore
J. W. Neil
S. T. B. Patrick
A. J. Roberts

U. H. Sutton
L. H. Smith
John Scott (Indian)
W. F. Thomas
Alex Sims (Indian)
William White
Wm. Wylie

J. T. Sumerford
J. A. Sandling
Frank A. Stuart
J. A. Thomas
W. C. Whitesides
B. Frank White
E. G. Williams

The Following is a True Copy of a Letter Written by R. Wade Brice, of Company H. 6th Regiment, South Carolina volunteers. Typed by J. J. Waters, Grandson of the Author of this letter, for The Catherine Ladd Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, May 11th, 1920.

Camp at Centerville, Va.
Sunday Morning, Dec. 22nd, 1861

Dear Brother:

As Captain Means expects to start home this evening, I will try to write you a few lines by him.

I suppose you have heard before this of the fight in which we were engaged day before yesterday.

We were ordered, the evening before, to be ready to march at 5 o'clock Friday Morning, to report to General Stewart, with one days' rations. On Friday at the appointed time, we started and reported at General Stewart's headquarters before daylight. We were Joined by the 11th Virginia Regiment, 1st Kentucky, 6th Alabama, and Georgia Battery Consisting of four Pieces.

After marching about fifteen miles, we were halted, ordered to load our pieces and informed that there was a Regiment of Yankees a short distanct in advance of us. One company of skirmishers was thrown out and a few Calvary went ahead we then marched on nearly a mile, when the fight began-our skirmishers driving their pickets in.

We were not in one of the most dense pine thickets I ever saw, with open ground about two hundred yard in front of us.

We could plainly hear the enemy forming their line of battle. At length the Virginia Regiment was ordered to form a line on the right of the road, and our Regiment on the left, the battery came up and formed on our right, and commenced firing. Our line being formed, were quietly waiting the order to go forward, when the Kentucky regiment, coming up and forming in our rear, saw us in the bushes, and, mistaking us for Yankees, fired into us. They were not more than fifty yards in our rear, and though we cried out to them that we were friends, they thought it was a trick of the Yankees and kept firing at us--their firing told, too, along our lines. One of our Company, Corporal Byars, was badly wounded: in the next Company, on our right--Chester Blues--two were killed, and in the next--York Guards--either two or three were killed. They called on us to show our flag, but unfortunately, the staff was broken, and I cannot tell why the flag was not raised

I heard the officer give the command, "ready, aim, fire" as distinctly as I ever heard anything in y life. I escaped their balls only by lying flat on the ground.

The order to move on was now given, and on we went: every man picking his own way, for it was impossible to keep any kind of line. We moved on until we got within fifty yards of open ground, when the enemy let fly a tremendous volley at us --- We then halted, dropped to the ground and commenced firing. We were on the side of a hill, while the Yankees were on top or rather over the brow of the hill, thus having a great advantage over us. We could see them only when they raised to fire or moved from one place to another.

Almost at the beginning, one of our men, English, fell dead. I was close by him, when he fell, but did not know it for some time, being so busy loading and shooting. Captain Means was very near him. In a few minutes the Captain was shot in the arm, and Corporal Alston was wounded in the hand, close by my side. In a short time afterwards, our 2nd Sergeant, Robert Morris, was shot dead. I was in reach of him when he fell. He never spoke, and breathed only a short while after he fell. I had been lying on my back loading. And turning over to fire, when I got a ball myself. It struck me in the back of the right hip, cutting away the flesh for about two inches long and half an inch deep. I lay still for some time, scarcely knowing where I was struck. At Last the Captain, finding I was shot, ordered me to the rear. I

started off on my hands and knees---was afraid to stand up for the balls were falling thick all around. I was soon joined by Jim Blain, who had a finger shot off so that he could not load his gun. In a few minutes the order was given to fall back-in fact some time before a great many of the men had fallen back and it was said the order had been issued then, but we heard nothing of it.

Although the fight did not last long, not more than an hour-perhaps not quite so long, we suffered heavily. Our regiment lost nineteen killed and more that forty-five wounded. This is a very severe loss when you consider that we had only three hundred and fifteen men, when we fell back we had to leave our dead and wounded on the field, but they have since been recovered.

The wounded were taken to a house nearby and their wounds attended to. Toward night, however, they imagined we had flanked and cut them off, and they left at a double quick. When we left the field we thought they were attempting to flank us, and we fell back to make a stand on better ground. We though, too. That we were badly whipped, but it seems not that it was rather a drew game, each party thinking themselves thrashed. Zeb Mobley was left on the field with a broken leg and fell into the hands of the enemy and was taken to a house near-by but was found the next morning.

Zeb says they had.....officers wounded in the house to which he was taken and the citizens around there say they haled off wagon load after wagon load of dead. They had a bout six thousand engaged and fifteen thousand in reserve. We had about fourteen hundred in all and considerable part of them were not engaged. They say that General McClellan, commanded then in person.

I have just heard that the Alabama Regiment suffered heavily, their loss being eighty killed and wounded. The Virginiaans lost very few, and the Kentuckians none. I think or very few. It is said the Alabama Regiment lost both its Colonel and Lieutenant Colonel. I can not vouch for the truth of the rumor. The fight took place about fifteen miles above here, near Drainsville. We came back to our camp that night. I marched with the Company all the way, wagons being scarce. A great many who were only slightly wounded had to walk. My wound in not serious at all, it is right sore today, but not doubt will soon be well. It puts me to a good deal of inconvenience, as I can not sit down except by sitting on one side---I am lying down while

writing this. I can walk about, but my limbs are very sore from the march. We traveled over thirty miles and got back to camp at 11 o'clock, p.m. Mike was not hurt at all. Thorn Brice was not along, being on guard at the camp. Watt escaped unhurt. Captain Johnson was killed by the Yankees. Jim McKeown by the Kentuckians. Major Woodward was shot in the leg. I had a letter from Johnnie today. He and Boyce are both getting on fine and will soon be well. You must write to me soon. There is some talk of sending all who are shot to the hospital. I scarcely think I will be sent. I wish you could.....(Here the letter ends, the remaining lines being lost.)

Here and There by W. W. Pegram

The first deed recorded in Chester County is that in Book A, page 1, and represents a transaction of fifty acres of land sold by Micheal Dickson and his wife, Sarah, to John Service. The deed, in part says: "This indenture made the 19th day of November in the year of our Lord 1786 between Micheal Dickson, of Camden District, Craven County and Province of South Carolina, planter of the one part, and John Service of the district, county and province aforesaid, weaver of the other part, Whereas in and by a certain grant bearing date the 23rd day of January in the year of our Lord 1773 and in the thirteenth year of his Majesties Reign under the Right Honorable Lord Charles Greenvil Montague, Captain General and Governor-in-Chief in and over the province of South Carolina."

The original grant to Dickson was for 100 acres situate on the waters of Bull Run and bounded by lands of John Walker and vacant lands. Dickson sold fifty acres of this to Service as above stated, for 62 pounds and 10 shillings. The deed was witnessed by William Boyd, John Miller and James McQuiston. Following the recording of the deed we find this notation: "At a court continued and held at the house of John Walker the 20th day of July 1785 Micheal Dickson acknowledged and indenture of Lease and release to John Service to be his act and deed and ordered to be recorded. Rich. Taliaferro, Clerk."

John Service died in 1807 at the age of 80 years, and is buried in Old Purity Cemetery.

The next deed recorded is that of John Walker and his wife, Jane, to John Service for 100 acres on a small branch of Hickory creek. This tract was granted to Walker on Nov. 19th, 1772

The Waxhaws

From the Lancaster News May 22, 1934

The Waxhaws was a vague term by which certain territory lying in what was called Craven County, was known. It was not until 1796 that there was a territory of organization called Lancaster County. Craven was one of the three original counties laid out in the days of the proprietary governors. There were no county governments, no surveyed boundaries. The names were just convenient terms by which to call the lands under the supervision of the three Lords Proprietors, Craven, Berkley, and Colleton. The section of the county (in which Lancaster county lies) which was called Craven County was vaguely described as "extending from the Seewee on the south, northward," which could have meant anything. As a matter of fact Craven County was bounded rather indefinitely by the Seewee on the south, the ocean on the east, and the Broad river on the west. In its environs were the old Claremont County, Fairfield, York, Lancaster, Richland, Chesterfield, and Clarendon Counties.

David Ramsey in his *History of South Carolina*, says that in 1775 there were not twenty-five families living in all that band of country extending from the Waxhaws on the Catawba through to Augusts on the Savannah river. In 1809 when Ramsey's history was published it was reported that there were then over a dozen well established, flourishing communities.

In 1750 when the first families began to see the attractiveness of the Waxhaws, there were Indian tribes still in possession of almost all of interior of the state. The Catawba's occupied a great part of what is now Lancaster County. The evidence of their occupancy is with us even today. There have been bushels of Indian arrow heads found on the old Payseur property on the corner of White and Meeting Streets, and they have long since found their way into the pockets of dozens of little boys. Recently there was plowed up on that property what seems to be part of a stone hammer. The arrow heads ranged in size from tiny white and pink quartz to large spear heads of heavy stone.

Another reminder of the occupancy of the Indian Tribes in that remote past is the miserable remnant if that tribe called the Catawbas which we have so unjustly thrust off into an unproductive corner of the glorious land that was once all their own. There are no doubt proud souls among those people whose hearts are heavy when they think of their lost heritage; when they

recall the stories of long ago when the Catawbas were a powerful, free and happy people.

The first grant of land was made to Robert McElhenny in 1751. With the McElhenny family were six or seven other families which settled in the country know as the Waxhaws. A few more families came in the fall of that year and in 1752 a good number, having heard of the beautiful lands came to join them. The latter were for the most part from Augusta County, Virginia, and the back parts of Pennsylvania, and many grants were taken up in that year. Dr. George Howe in his History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina says that those families from Pennsylvania had been living in the colonies long enough to be good judges of land so they settled their claims along the river and creeks. Those less experienced in appraising the land settled out of thinner plots "towards the heads of water courses and creeks."

It is said that there were many wealthy families among these first settlers. A list of the names could easily be mistaken for a list of the voters of today. There were several families of Dunlap's, White, Foster and Simpson families being connected by marriage. Other names were McClanahan, Crocket, Barnett, Miller, Stephenson, McKee, McElhenny, Thompson, Ramsey and Latta.

These first settlers did not leave a stone to tell of their last resting place, dates of birth and death, although it is said that some of the graves formerly bore the date of 1754 and other 1758.

August 18, 1932

Fishing Creek Battle Marker

Unveiled Thursday Afternoon with Appropriate Exercises Col. A. L. Gaston the speaker.

On a pretty knoll back a short distance from the Catawba River, by the side of the road leading from Fort Lawn to Nitrolee, within the area where the American forces under General Thomas Sumter were surprised and defeated by British troops under Colonel Tarleton one hundred and fifty two years ago, a stone has been erected to call the attention of the passer-by to these facts, and to stand as a perpetual memorial to the valor of the men who

won this country's freedom from the British yoke. Here last Thursday afternoon, August 18th, the anniversary of the battle, a crowd of from 150 to 200 gathered for the dedicatory exercises by the Mary Adair Chapter, D.A.R., which raised the funds, and arranged for the erection of the marker: and for an hour and a half those gathered on this historic spot felt the curtains drawn back, and themselves living in the days when that section of Chester County was accustomed to the footfall of marching troops and the crash of musketry as the contending forces strove for mastery.

The Marker is of a pattern much used for such purposes, beautifully designed, and bearing these words:

Battle of Fishing Creek

August 18, 1780

Americans Under Sumter

Surprised and Routed by

British Under Tarleton

Erected by

Mary Adair Chapter, D. A. R.

August 18, 1930

The marker stands on the farm once known as the Terrell place, and owned before its sale to the power company by Mr. J. Henry Gladden. The original plan was to erect the marker two years ago, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the battle, but had to be delayed pending the final survey and permanent location of the highway.

Recently, all of this was settled, and the Chapter waited for the anniversary of the battle as the fitting time for the celebration of this important event.

With the highway lined with cars, in which part of the audience was seated, and others scattered about the hill-side, Mrs. J. H. McLure, Regent of the Mary Adair Chapter D. A. R., called the assemblage to order, and Dr. Paul Pressly invoked the divine blessing upon the exercises.

The audience joined in singing "America." after which Mrs. McLure announced that inasmuch-as the work of erecting the monument had been conceived and for the most part carried out during the incumbency of woe of her predecessors, Mrs. J. G. L. White and Mrs. C. B. Betts, now of Columbia, she had asked these ladies to assist her in taking charge of the program. Mrs. White then gave an interesting narrative of how the idea of erecting this memorial had been largely the work of Messrs. John M. Bell and S. C. Carter, who had contributed liberally, and was then taken up by the Chapter, which had completed the raising of the funds. Mrs. Betts was then

presented, and introduced Miss Anne White and little Miss. Jean White who gave appropriate reading.

Next, three little girls-Helen Adair Hemphill, Ethel Ann Seideman, and Nannie Mae Gladden-descendants of Revolutionary Soldier, withdrew the red and white bunting from the face of the stone, as Masters Frank Beaty, Halstead and Cornwell Stone, and George Irwin and Little Misses Julia Viola Gladden and Leila D. Nixon bore aloft the Stars and Stripes.

Mrs. John Carroll Coulter, of Columbia, was next presented, and gave a brief account of the work done by the D. A. R.'s of South Carolina in marking so many battlefields and other spots of interest connected with the Revolutionary struggle.

A quartet, composed of Mrs. J. S. Caldwell, Mrs. D. P. Crosby, Mrs. V. V. Richardson, and Mrs. M. C. Crain, sang "The Star Spangled Banner" and Colonel Arthur L. Gaston was presented as the principal speaker for the occasion.

Colonel Gaston pictured the condition of South Carolina after the fall of the city of Charleston when the British determined to carry the war into the interior, exterminate the small bands of patriots who kept the war alive, and overawe and intimidated the general public and compel them to take the oath of allegiance to the British Crown. Col. Gaston paid tribute to the so-called partisan leaders of South Carolina-Marion, Sumter, Pickens, and others- who fought against great obstacles, but breathed their own spirit of defiance into their troops, and strove until the enemy was finally driven away. When General Gates came marching down from the North with his army, the hopes of the harried South Carolinians beat high. Then came the disaster at Camden, and gloom and disaster everywhere. It was a short while later when Sumter by a series of brilliant operations had captured three hundred British prisoners and a large number of wagons with supplies and was marching back to his base of operations when Tarleton pursued him, and coming up on the Americans on Fishing Creek as they were off guard and many of them swimming in the near-by stream, fell upon them and slaughtered a great number. Many escaped minus their clothing, and had to take refuge on the other side of the river, and wear women's garb until they could secure more suitable clothing. Colonel Gaston then branched off and related much interesting Revolutionary history of a local nature, dealing with Justice Gaston and his sons, W^m. Stroud, another Revolutionary hero, Barbara McKinney, who was scalped by the Indians, Katie Steele, and others, all of whom were products of what is now eastern Chester County, and played vital parts in the stirring history of that day and time.

Colonel Gaston concluded with a graphic statement of what we of today owe to those Revolutionary forebears, who paved the way by their suffering and sacrifice for all that this country has and is today. And commended the Chapter for the erection of this marker to honor the men who fought in these various battles that had so much to do with the final winning of Independence.

A short distance up the road, where until the cyclone of 1884, a large sassafras tree is said to have stood, marks the actual spot where the arms were staked, and around which the fiercest of the fighting very likely took place. Sumter's force was much larger than Tarleton's and but for the advantage to the enemy due to the surprise attack, victory would have easily rested with the American arms.

Will of Alexander Walker

September the Second one thousand Seven hundred and Ninety Seven. In The Name of God Amen I Alexander Walker being weak in body but of perfect mind and memory amongst my former Willa I make and constitute this my last will and Testament I Alexander Walker for the Love and good will I bear to my beloved Daughter in Law Rebakah Walker do Will and bequeath to her one certain black mare one cow and two Heefers and all the rest of my Movable property-----

As Witness my hand and Seal this day and date above written

John Clark-----)

)

Samuel Walker)

)

Martha Walker)

his

Alexander X Walker Seal
mark

Probated May 23, 1798

Recorded in Book A Page 356 & 357

Apartment No. 73

Apartment No. 1150

Will of John Walker

In the name of God Amen the twenty Eight day of January in the year of our Lord Christ One thousand seven hundred & Eighty six and in the tenth year and of United States Independence John Walker of Chester County in the State of South Carolina Planter being very sick and Weak in body but of perfect mind & memory thanks be given unto God therefore calling to mind the Mortality of my body and Knowing it is appointed for All men Once to die do make & Ordain this my last Will & Testament that is to say principally & first of all I give and Recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it I recommend it to the Earth to be buried in a Christian like & decent manner at the Derection of my Executors not doubting but at the general Refuerection I shall receive the same again by the Might power of God And as touching such Worldy Estate Wherewith it hath pleased God to Blefs me in this life I give devise & dispose of the same in the following Manner & from first at my Decease I give & bequeath to Jeane my beloved wife on third of my Plantation that I am now living Upon containing One hundred Acres for her Maintenance during her life & at he Decease I give & bequeath to my two sons Samuel & William Walker the whole of the said Plantation to be by them freely pofsed and enjoyed also I give & bequeath my oldest son John Walker one hundred Acres of Land Lying on the Branches of Bulrun & Also one Rifle Gun to be by him freely pofsed & enjoyed also I give & bequeath to my daughter Martha & my son Charles Walker one hundred Acres of Land in Fairfield County on the Branch of Little River called Regnolos Branch to be Equally Divided between them and to be by them freely pofsefsed and enjoyed also I give & Bequeath to my youngest son Alexander Walker A Plantation or Tract of Land containing seventy three Acres to be by him freely pofsefsed & enjoyed for Lastly I do will & Ordain that all the Moveables belonging to my estate by equally divided between my wife & Children & that they shall be equal sharers therein And I do likewise constitute make and Ordain Robert Walker of Rocky Creek & my beloved Wife Jean Walker to be my Whole & Sole Executors of this my last will & Testament And I do here by utterly difallow Revoke & Disanul all & every Other Wills Legacies bequests and Executors by me in Anywise before this time named Willed & bequeathed Ratifying and Confirming this and no other to be my last Will & Testament In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal the Day & Year first Above
Written-----

Signed sealed & delivered

In the presence of

Archebald McQuiston
John Morton
John Fleming

his
John Q. X Walker
Mark

Recorded in Book A Page 9
Apartment No. 70
Package No 1092

Chester County Deeds copied by W. Pegram

Deed Book K, Page 17

Robert Kelsey, wagon-maker, land to Hugh Kelsey, planter, 100 acres on Rocky Creek, part of tract formerly granted to Robert Kelsey Sr., and to Robert Kelsey Jr., by will. Deed dated Feb. 16, 1804

Deed Book K, Page 23

Henry McDonald to James Gellespie 146 acres on waters of Big Rocky Creek being part of a grant to said Henry McDonald for 170 acres dated June 1, 1798 (A Bounty) Deed dated February 3, 1804. Dower signed by Mary McDonald wife of Hugh.

Deed Book K, Page 27

John Harden to Henry Harden 138 acres from 300 on waters of Sandy River bounded by Thomas Walker, William Moats, Thomas Caldwell and John McCombs, and originally granted to said John Harden February 6, 1797. Deed dated March 3, 1804. Dower signed by Hannah Harden

Deed Book K, Page 42

Mannin Gore deeds tract. Dower signed by Frances Gore

History of Richburg Resident – CPT. JOHN GARNER BACKSTROM

By Roxann Yarborough James

I am collecting information on the Backstrom family that lived in Richburg in the 1800's. I have been told that a Lucy Backstrom taught school in Richburg, and that the family owned houses in the area such as the Hicklin (now Ratcliff House), a home adjacent to Mt. Prospect Methodist Church, and the house known as the Marion House. Any information on this family will be greatly appreciated so that I can complete my search of the houses history.

- John G. Backstrom was postmaster at Richburg approx. 1894-95, (pg 84, CDGS *The Bulletin*, September 2003).
- ? Backstrom ran the Depot in Richburg.
- Jonas Backstrom (father of John G., who came to Richburg from Sweden) was the first and only lock keeper of the Rocky Mount Canal
- Ancient Free Mason list John G. Backstrom as Head Master in 1853, 1855, 1867, with J.T. Backstrom continuing 1871, 1879, 1883, 1885, 1891
- Clear trail of deeds of home at 2314 Old Richburg Road, Richburg, SC, cites owner is John G. Backstrom until death in 1883.
- "Inventory and appraisement of the Goods, Chattels, Rights and Credits of the Estate of John G. Backstrom deceased made this the 26th day of Oct 1883" list household furniture and contents of 7 rooms, blacksmith shop, etc.
- Numerous deeds recorded in Chester County Courthouse, one being a deed
 - To John G. Backstrom and others: land for use by Trustees of the Rock Hill Academy of District (Book II 19 Dec 1853), also *the privilege of using water from the spring for as long as the school may continue.*
 - J.G. Backstrom and others deeding: *82 ½ acres near Rich Hill X Roads for the use and occupancy of the Methodist preachers of the Methodist Episcopal church South who may from time to time be appointed in said place.*(TT750 1873)

An Genealogical Look at **BACKSTROM**'s of Richburg, SC

- According to file in CDGS Library courtesy of Backstrom Burnside Neeley:
 - John G. Backstrom b. 1 Oct 1810 in Chester County, died 8 July 1883 and buried in Mt Prospect Methodist Church Cemetery.(son of Jonas and Sarah Murray Lewis Backstrom)
 - + Married 21 Feb 1832 to Lucy Blake b. 24 Sept 1810 (daughter of Joshua K. Blake and Charlotte Vaughn) d. 31 Jul 1890 buried in Mt Prospect Cemetery, event 27 Feb 1844 in her fathers will
 - Children were:
 - James M. Backstrom b. 22 Mar 1833 Chester District, SC, d. 13 June 1861 at his fathers residence, of disease contracted while in camp near Charleston. He was a member of the 6th Reg. S.C.V. He is buried at Mt. Prospect.

- Benjamin Franklin Backstrom b. 6 Apr 1834 Chester District, SC d. 31 May 1862, in the Battle of "Seven Pines" with Co. A 6th Regiment SCV, m. Mary Elizabeth Hardin on 1 Jan 1857.
+ Mary Elizabeth Hardin b. 16 May 1841 d. 14 Oct 1921
 - Elizabeth Russell Backstrom b. 21 Dec 1857 m. 13 Dec 1881 F.W. Culp
 - John Chappel Backstrom b. 20 Mar 1860 in Chester, Chester Co., SC, buried 16 Mar 1932 in Mt. Prospect Meth. Ch., Chester Co., SC, resided lifelong resident of Mt. Prospect Community, Chester Co., SC
+ Harriet Caroline Moore Caldwell
 - Mary Elizabeth Backstrom b. 12 Dec 1894.
 - Jonas Lewis Backstrom b. 19 May 1836 d. Aug 1837
 - Sarah Jane Backstrom b. 20 Jun 1838 in Richburg, SC, d. 18 May 1915, m. Rev. Warren Boyd(NC Presby.)
 - Green Blake Backstrom b. 15 MAR 1840, D. 3 Aug 1844
 - Charlotte Vaughn Backstrom b. 1842 d. Aug 1844
 - John Thompson b. 16 July 1844 d. 21 Feb 1893, served Co. A 6th Rgmt. SCV m. Lucy Ivy (dau. of Rev. Adam Ivy)
 - Christine Lewis Backstrom 29 Aug 1846, d. 4 May 1880, m. 3 May 1866 to William Cloud Hicklin
 - Frances Marian Backstrom, b. 31 Mar 1851 m. William J. Waters
- Jonas (father of John G.) Backstrom and the rest of his children moved onto Nesholm County, Mississippi where he died.

The "Old Marion House" is a two story white clapboard with a long ell. It contains two rooms upstairs and four down with two rooms in the ell. The porch that faces the road runs the length of the house. Local belief is that John G. Backstrom built this house in 1830's, as stated in the book: Historic Sites of Chester County Jun 78.

Please contact me either by phone at 803-789-6475 or email roxannjames@chestertel.com or mail at 3007 Steele Village Road, rock hill, SC 29730.

Chester County Deed

Deed Book W, Page 30 and 31 Recorded December 1, 1825

Silas Kolb, of Monroe County, Mississippi, late of Chester District, South Carolina, as per power of attorney for Jonah Hill, late of Jefferson County, Alabama, sells to Henry Mitchell 101 acres on Waters of Sandy River, bounded by Lee, Pinchback and others.

Fall Term of Court Chester 1817

David Westbrook and Thomas Storment indicted for murder. Stormant not guilty. Westbrook guilty of manslaughter and recommended to mercy.

Andrew Wherry foreman of the jury.

Sentenced—That he, David Westbrook, be branded on the brawn of the left thumb on the last day of the next court and that he be carried from hence to the common goal of the district there to be confined for 12 months.

February 1796 Term of Court Chester County

“Ordered that a bridge be erected over Turkey Creek on most convenient road leading from Chester Courthouse to Pinckneyville.” Clayton Rodgers, James Anderson and Robert Aken were appointed as viewers and ordered to report to the court.

Chester County Deed copied by W. Pegram

Deed Book S, Page 427

William Edgar of Lincoln County, Tennessee, deed tract to John Cooper, Daniel McMillan, Hugh McQuiston and David Smith, representatives of Reformed Presbyterian Congregation of Covenanters of Rocky Creek in Chester District. Tract at the Brick Meeting House.

Deed witnessed by Agnes Adams and Thomas Moore. Dated November 17, 1818

The following obituary was sent in by T. E. Gill, copied from the Rock Hill Evening Herald November 27, 1933.

J. A. Gill is Called Beyond

One of the Few Remaining Vets of Gray Here Passes

James Archibald Gill, 89, one of the few remaining confederate Veterans in this immediate section, died at 5 o'clock this morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. W. M. Williford, on Hampton Street. Mr. Gill had been in failing health for some months and was critically ill some days prior to his death.

He was born December 18, 1844, in the Fishing Creek section of Chester County, the son of Strait Gill and Feriba Steel Gill. He lived in South Carolina until several years after the War Between the States and then moved to Texas and since that time had lived in booth states.

Mr. Gill entered the Confederate service at the age of 16 years. He served for four years in company H, First South Carolina Regiment Cavalry, Hampton's Legion, and was not wounded during the entire war. He followed Hampton throughout his campaign, and helped place him in office during the Reconstruction period. He was an enthusiastic member of the Ku Klux Klan and loved to reminisce of his many and varied experiences during the time he was in the army and service.

Twice married, his first wife was Miss Nannie Partlow and he was married secondly to Mrs. Mary Workman Neely. Surviving are three children from each marriage as follows: Mrs. Louise Gill Simpson, Richburg; Richard Gill, Henrietta, Texas; Mrs. Margaret Gill Williford, Rock Hill; Fred Gill, Texas; Mrs. Essie Gill Freeman, Colorado; W. C. Gill, Texas; Mrs. Gillie(?) Neely Williford of this city is a step-daughter.

Mr. Gill was a gentleman of the "Old South" as well as a man of high integrity. He had a host of friends in this section of South Carolina as well as in Texas, where he formerly lived.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock at Ebenezer Presbyterian Church with burial in the church cemetery. Pallbearers will be: Shaw Harner and Gill Simpson, of Lando; Charles and James Williford and Frank Sherer, of Rock Hill.

A Citizens Meeting in Chester in 1831

A General Meeting of the citizens of Chester District was held at the Courthouse on Friday, November 11, 1831, pursuant to previous public notice. John Roseborough, Esq., was called to the chair and George W. Coleman, Esq., appointed secretary.

On motion of James Chestney, Jr. Esq., it was:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to draft resolutions, expressing the sentiments of the people of Chester District on the present state of public affairs.

Whereupon, John McKee, Thomas McLure, George Gill, James Chestney, Junior, John McCreary, Burr H. Head, and Samuel Lewis were appointed said committee.

The letters of the Honorable William Smith, and the Honorable James Blair, of Yorkville in answer to the committee of invitations, were then read.

William Ellison Esq., of Fairfield, who attended the meeting by invitation was then called on, and entered into an elaborate and finished argument, exposing the fallacy and danger of the doctrine of nullification, and its incompatibility with the best interests of South Carolina and of the Union.

John McKee, Esq., chairman of the committee, then reported a detailed preamble and resolution. After reading of the resolutions a spirited debate ensued as to the form they should assume, in which several gentlemen participated. On the reading of the second resolution R. G. Mills, Esq., desired to be heard in support of nullification which was promptly refused by the meeting, when Major Mills and a few other gentlemen withdrew. The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

A general committee of thirty citizens was appointed to promote the objects of this meeting, and Col. Geo. Gill, William Heath, Robert Fee, Dr. Benjamin Scott, James Anderson, Thomas McLure, Garland Hardwick, Capt. George Gill, Joseph Gaston, David McCalla, William White, Samuel Lewis, Dr., John B. Gaston, James McDaniel, James Harbison, John Rodman, Francis White, William Miller, Peter Wylie, Josiah H. Gill, William Moffat, William Walker, John Kelsy, James Strong, William

McKeown, John Weir, Dr. Ezakiel Hall, and Jas. McClure, together with the chairman and secretary, composed the said committee.

The following letter was written to Andrew Jackson, President of the United States.

“His Excellency Andrew Jackson—President of the United States of America. Dear Sir:-- In conformity with a resolution of the citizens of Chester District, we have the honor to forward to Your Excellency, a copy of the proceedings of a meeting held by them on the 11th, instant. In discharging this duty permit us to express the high regard we individually entertain for your eminent public services and your valuable and useful life, and the sanguine hope we confidently cherish for the complete success of your administration.

Very respectfully, we have the honor to be your Excellency's most humble servants.

John Roseborough
Chairman of the meeting
G. W. Coleman
Secretary

Chester Court House, 12th, November, 1831

President Jackson answered this letter as follows:

Gentlemen:--I received, in due time, your letter of the 12th of November, last, transmitting to me a copy of the proceedings of a meeting of the citizens of Chester, held on the day before, and expressing the favorable opinion which you entertain individually of my character and services.

I hope you will excuse the delay which has occurred in tendering my thanks for so flattering a proof of the friendship and support of a respectable body of my fellow-citizens. The multiplicity of public business with which I have been surrounded for the last two months, not allowing me at the moment of its receipt an opportunity to acknowledge it, prevented also a recurrence to it earlier than this.

The approbation of my fellow citizens, at all times cheering to me was peculiarly grateful, when received under the circumstances which elicited that expressed by the meeting, of it shall be my endeavor as long as I am in the executive chair, by a faithful discharge of the duties confided to it by the constitution, to draw closer the bonds of our Union and promise the welfare and happiness of our beloved country.

The following letters were sent to us and transcribed by Harry McKeown

Greenville C. H. S.C.
December 14th 1862

Dear Sister and Niece.

We are all well this morning by myself. I have not been able to do any duty in Camps since the 24th of last April. I am now up home on a furlow for 30 days from the Collidge hospital Columbia. I shall return to Columbia the 17th of this month. I am in hopes that this will reach you both in good health. I have not heard any thing from you or any of the family since Elizabeth wrote to me of April the 23, 1862.

Dear Sister and Niece, please answer this as soon as it comes to hand. I wish to know all about the boys and what the result has been with then through their trials and troubles in this world. Thank God it is not worse. I think long to hear from you all. I should like to come and see you all if I could make it. So I am anxious to hear from John and Sam and Washington.

I have been informed that John was killed in the Seven days fight. If so please let me know soon. Address me at Greenville Court House, South Carolina. Martha will come and see you if she has chance to come. Our boy Eugene grows very fast looks well. Has good health.

I remain your Brother until death. Farewell
James Wilson
Martha Wilson

Herando County
Florida

January 3, 1854

Dear Father I will try and write a few lines though I have but little time as the mail goes up this morning and I must be in a hurry or it will pass. This leaves us all well and hope it may find you all in the same State of Good

Health. I have nothing of importance to write. Darlen Allen has been here. He came to Palatka and could get no wagon to move him so he & 2 of his Boys took to foot and came down here and he got Ederington wagon and has gone back after his family, his boys, are here and it is likely he may live with me next year though we have made no bargain yet. We have heard nothing of little Sam. Yet only what you wrote, so we have given him out. I suppose he thought it was too far down here. I have not got my Goods yet & just received a letter from Parsons Yesterday stating that the vessel that they were shipped on has never come to the keys yet nor has not been heard of since she sailed from Charleston & there has been two arrivals since she sailed and can't give no account of her & She is suppose to be lost which disappoints me very much though I have my goods insured yet I shall loose a good deal for the People have been waiting for my goods & would not buy elsewhere & now will be compeled to buy from some person else, yet the loss will not be so bad as if I had not insured. As I insured for 10 percent on cost by the disappointment is something right smart. We are grinning & grinding but get on slow & I have as much cotton Engaged to gin as I can give by April. We have had a great deal of cold weather this winter and if I had Kentucky hogs here I could have some good bacon. We have killed some and had some in the woods but I don't know whether we eve will get them or not.

We received your letter stating you had got the money out of Morris. Tell C. W. to sqaese up N. Roberts and try to get some out of him and as soon as he can get enough to square up things & make out fifty dollars I want a check on Charleston for fifty dollars to send to John Coleman in Ala to pay for a claim I have brought from him in Virginia. Send it to me and I will send it on to him.

I thought to write last night but had several letters to write and got sleepy by the time I got them done so excuse my bad wrote note and write me soon and as often as possible for I must stop this and can't write any more at present

Remain yours for ever A & A Mayo

The frost has nipped our potato vines and we are digging them. Little sweet is fat as a pig & has two teeth & John is improved the most you ever saw since he got to eating sugar cane and is as fat and red as an Irishman & tell Sammy he hasn't killed nothing but one sparrow hawk with his gun yet.

History of Woodward Baptist Church and Many of the Faithful Pastors

This history is affectionately dedicated to the memory of my Mother, Margaret Colvin Cornwell, (1865 –1925) truly a daughter of this church.

By Arthur Cornwell

in Colvin Book

The Chester Association has 81 churches, with a total membership of around twenty-seven hundred. Woodward Baptist church, five miles from Chester on the Ashford Ferry road, is one of these churches. If we look back to 1789, we will see the beginning of this church, for on that date the church was constituted.

The present brick building was erected in 1830. Previous to that there were two wooden structures. The first church was down on Sandy River on land owned by Eli Cornwell, who at this time of his death owned around ten thousand acres of land, according to deeds recorded in the Office of Clerk of Court of Chester County. Then around 1800 it was decided to move the church to a more convenient location. The second church was built in 1803, because it was under date of October 11, 1802, that one and one-fourth acres of land were purchased from John Franklin. This purchase was made by Elder William Woodward, Richard Evans, Eli Cornwell, Daniel Price, James Huey, Daniel Trussell, Henry Carter, Mason Huey, Jacob Dungan, Nobley Coates, and Neguens Whitted. These men were trustees appointed for the purpose of buying a site for the church. The amount paid to John Franklin was three hundred dollars. This deed was witnessed by Jacob Bennett and Charles Boyd. It is recorded in the office of Clerk of Court, John Eli Cornwell, in deed book "I", pages 111, 112, and 113, under the date of October 11, 1802.

It is, therefore, probable that the second wooden church was a temporary structure—serving until a brick church could be built. The second wooden church was erected beyond the cemetery in the direction of Chester. Tradition has it that the brick used in the present edifice was brought from England. This is highly probable, as many of the leaders and members of this church were either directly connected with England, or of English descent—many of them remaining loyal to England during the Revolutionary war.

Elder William Woodward, for whom the Woodward Baptist church was named, was the son of Thomas Woodward of Fairfield county. The early settlers were troubled with cattle thieves. The nearest court was at Charleston, a distance of one hundred and sixty miles, and it was almost

impossible to convict a thief as the prosecutor and witness could not always attend the trial. To prevent these outrages a band of honest law-abiding citizens organized a band of rangers, called "Regulators". In Fairfield County the regulation movement was organized and led by Thomas Woodward, a Native of Virginia, who became famous as "Thomas, the Regulator". In the beginning of the Revolution, Thomas Woodward was very influential in arousing his countrymen to action and was foremost in the post of danger. He was an intelligent, honest and influential man, and his example had a good effect in this period of strife. He organized the Whig party in Fairfield County.

Thomas Woodward (born 1712, and died 1779) married Jemima Collins in 1732, had two sons, John and William Woodward. William Woodward, for whom Woodward Church was named--born in 1763, kidded in 1820--was married in 1781 to Nancy Barrett. Miss Barrett came directly from France to America. Like his gifted father, William Woodward was a born leader. And, well was he qualified for leadership--a brilliant man, a medical doctor, a beloved minister of the gospel, and organizer of Baptist churches, and at one time a member of Congress. So, this sacred edifice--truly a friendly little church by the "side of the road" -- bears the name of one of the finest men of all time.

A tablet on the walls of the church bears this inscription: "October 1830. Sacred to the memory of Elder William Woodward, who departed this life in the year of our Lord 1820. on the 23rd day of July: aged 57 years, 9 months, and 18 days."

"This tablet is erected to His Memory by this church which was planted by his instrumentality, through the indulgence of a kind Providence, A. D. 1789. He was, also, the means of planting some, and building up many of the neighboring Baptist churches. In consideration of his many virtues this church has unanimously consented to know for the future by the name of Woodward Baptist Church of Christ."

Tradition has it that Elder William Woodward was originally of the Church of England, but decided that the Baptist faith was the most logical religion for a free country. The democracy of this church seemed, to him, to fit the reorganization of religion in the colonies. This tradition, by the way, was handed down in the family of William Woodward, and not gathered from "hearsay".

The old records of the church were unfortunately destroyed by fire some years ago, and the information herein written has been gathered by diligent effort and painstaking searching of many files and consultations

with many families—now or formerly connected with Woodward Baptist church.

In 1853 the Rev, George Washington Pickett D. D., was called to Woodward to be pastor of this congregation,. Mr. Pickett was born in King George County, Virginia, August 30, 1828, and died April 15, 1907. He was baptized when he was seventeen years old, and was married when he was twenty to Miss M. J. True, of Fredericksburg, Virginia. In 1853 he came to Chester District to become pastor of Woodward church, which he served for seventeen consecutive years. At one time, near the close of his pastorate with this church, he baptized thirty converts, fifteen of each sex. At another time he baptized fifty-seven persons in one day. His ministry both in Virginia and South Carolina was very successful. In 1871 he moved to Texas and located at Richmond, his first and last pastorate in the state. During his ministry he officiated at the marriage of about two thousand couples, three hundred of them in one year in South Carolina, Although the records is incomplete, he baptized three thousand converts. On the night before he died, then in his usual health he stated to his congregation, that he felt like he was on the brink of eternity, and that he longed for that sweet rest which soon awaited. He seemed to “feel” that the work of life was drawing to a close. He died that night. Mr. Pickett was greatly loved by his people. While serving Woodward church he lived in the old Cornwell home on the Fish Dam road. This was the former home of Eli Cornwell and his wife, Rhoda Colvin. Today there remains only a few “broken pieces” to show where the old house stood, but nearby is the Cornwell Family burying ground.

The Rev. Kamilus Jeter, preached for the Woodward congregation for some time—coming over from Santuc. He was a popular preacher, and served the congregation very efficiently and faithfully.

The Rev. Thomas Dixon, Sr., was pastor at Woodward Church in 1855-60. He came down from his home, in Shelby, North Carolina, one Sunday each month to preach at Woodward church. He made the trip on horseback. Mr. Dixon’s wife was Amanda Elizabeth McAfee. He died in Raleigh, NC, in his ninetieth year. Mr. Dixon held a pastorate in Shelby for sixty-four years. He was buried in Cleveland County, and left the following children: Thomas Dixon, the famous author, the Rev. A. C. Dixon,. Pastor of Moody church in Chicago, Dr. Frank Dixon, of Washington a lecturer, and one daughter, Dr. Delia Dixon-Carroll, of Raleigh.

Some years after his pastorate at Woodward church the Rev. Thomas Dixon Returned, as he said, “to preach once more in the dear old church.” Only one person was present at the special service, who had heard him

formerly, as pastor of Woodward, and that was Miss. Betsey Sweatt(who was the housekeeper in the home of John Bennett Cornwell for a number of years).

In the minutes of the church on the fourth Sabbath in November, 1873, the Rev., W. A. Gaines was elected pastor of Woodward church for and indefinite period. Rev. A. P. Pugh, was assisted greatly by the Rev. Gaines in obtaining his education, was the regular supply, preacher every second and fourth Sabbath in each month. Rev. W. A. Gaines was and older brother of the Rev. Tilman R. Gaines. Mr. Gaines lived about a mile from Chester, not far from the home of General Walker, of the Confederacy. He conducted a farm, had a buggy and harness repair shop on Gadsden street in Chester and served Woodward and other country churches. He assisted in organizing the Chester Association at Woodward church, March 1878, which body met in its first regular annual session at Hopewell church in September , 1878. Mr. Gaines was born in 1831 and died in 1916.

He was above the average in intellectual power, although not a graduate of college or seminary. He was a thoughtful preacher, and did a fine work in his ministry in South Carolina, and later in Virginia. In old age, he returned to South Carolina and died at Seneca. He reared a family of noble children, several of whom are leaders in education. His son, R. E. Gaines, is a distinguished professor in the Baptist University at Richmond, Virginia. His younger son, Dr. Frank P. Gaines, was a professor at Furman University, President of Wake Forrest College, and is not President of Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia.

Rev. W. A. Gaines was succeeded at Woodward by the Rev. John D. Mahon—one of the best of men—former student at Furman University, and for seventeen years pastor of Woodward Baptist church. He was a good preacher, quite popular, and was a lovable Christian gentleman. He was very useful. He moved from Chester to Waterloo, Later to /Clinton, and finally died in Union, south Carolina. He was dearly beloved by his churches and his brother-pastors in the Chester Association. Many, not doubt, are in this church today who were baptized and probably married by Mr. Mahon. He married the Widow Durham(formerly Miss Rebecca Shedd). And they had three children: Minnie, Percy and Ernie.

While Mr. Mahon was pastor a Sunbeam organization was promoted. Miss. Linnie Smyer (now Mrs. W. W. Isaacs) was the president. Mrs. Isaacs tells of the first meeting, and how Mr. Mahon sat beside her, as she presided, instructing very patiently in the duties of the office. However, when many began to move away from the Woodward community the Sunbeam organization ceased to exist. But, in 1920 the present Sunbeam was formed

under the splendid direction of Mrs. D. Euta Colvin, who has "carried on" the good work until the present time. To the work among the young people at Woodward much credit is due Mr. and Mrs. Euta Colvin—earnest, consecrated members of the historic church.

Rev. Daniel A. Swindler followed Mr. Mahon in the field at Woodward church. Mr. Swindler was loved by the people—serving this splendid church for several years. Mr. Swindler resigned in November 1893, and was succeeded by the Rev. James Henry Yarborough. Mr. Yarborough served other churches along with Woodward and was a most useful, able preacher, beloved pastor, very affectionate, true and sincere, winning many friends, and leaving a fine impression on his people everywhere he labored.

In the minutes—at church conference—in November 1898, we read: "T, B, Cassells was appointed at the Association to collect from his church all the money he could to relieve the few brethren of Yorkville, who gave bond in paying a debt on the Baptist High School at Yorkville, property which proved a failure after running a short while, leaving a considerable debt by the Baptist of four Counties, York, Chester Lancaster and Union."

Dr. Robert W. Sanders, Of Greenville, South Carolina, that venerable, brilliant, lovable minister of the Baptist Denomination, and for many years devoted pastor of the First Baptist church of Chester, writes: "I assisted Brother Yarborough, Rev. W. A. Gaines, and the Rev., John D. Mahon in meetings at Woodward, Beaver Creek, Blackstock, Fort Lawn, Calvary and other places. Our relations were most fraternal, congenial and affectionate. To part with Brother Yarborough, when I left Chester increased the pain of my departure."

In the protracted meeting at Woodward church in August 1894, the Rev. Langdon Cheves Hinton (born July 1826, died November 1906), and the Rev. H. C. Buckholz, assisted Mr. Yarborough.

A Union meeting of the Chester Association convened with Woodward church, Thursday, June 27, 1895. The following brethren, Hinton, Buckholz, Moseley, Mahon, McManaway, Langston, and the pastor, the Rev. James Henry Yarborough, with an average attendance of thirty delegates were present,. On November 28, 1895, after conference, Deacons, Thomas W. Shannon and C. J. Moore, were elected to serve on the building committee and to confer with like committee from the Blackstock's Baptist church in regard to purchasing a lot and building a parsonage there on and with title of property made to them and their successors in office, as trustees of Woodward church.

About fifty years ago the interior of the present church building was remodeled some and the pulpit and pews changed. Formerly the pulpit was at the rear of the present church--in other words, today the pastor faces Ashford Ferry road, as he preaches to the congregation; formerly, the congregation faced the road.

At one time there was an arbor near the church, where often some of the church exercise were conducted there. One member, living today, said she remembered when this arbor was used, and that he men had some of their meeting in the arbor, while the women gathered in the church building for their services.

Davis Incident

In April, 1865, Mrs. Jefferson Davis, with her children and attendants refugee to Charlotte, North Carolina, in advance of the evacuation of Richmond, where they were given a home and every attention bestowed upon them. From Charlotte they came to Chester, South Carolina. At the station conveyances were ready to take them to their destination for the night, which was the lovely and hospitable home of Mrs. Mary I. Mobley (widow of Dr. Isaiah Mobley), nine miles out on the Ashford Ferry road. Mrs. Mobley's home was called "The Oaks". But affectionately known as "The Nine Mile House" by many war worn Confederate veterans--her doors and her food were always "welcome" to any of the "Boys in Gray".

Conditions were very bad--the roads, the weather, the coming on of night--and so progress was very slow in the trip from Chester to Mrs. Mobley's home. Mrs. Davis thought best to stop at the "little church by the side of the road". This was Woodward church. Because of sheltering distinguished guests that rainy, stormy night, this church has become woven in to the fabric of South Carolina and Chester County's Confederate history.

Next morning, however, Mrs. Davis and her party arose very early, probably from beds on the long, hard pews, though the record does not say this, and continued their journey to Mrs. Mobley's, where a good breakfast was served them. A member of the Mobley family, in writing of the incident afterwards, said that Mrs. Davis seemed hurried and anxious to be on her way, and only spent a few hours in the home. Before leaving, Mrs. Mobley fixed a lunch, and milk for the baby, for the continued trip. She, also took the baby, Winnie, who was in long dresses, and placed her tenderly in the arms of each of her daughters, telling them to remember their beloved President's little daughter--truly a "Daughter of the Confederacy".

The visit of Mrs. Davis to the Mobley home was always a sacred memory and is until this day a precious legacy, handed down to the

descendants of this family. It is not only handed down by "word of mouth", but recorded in the archives of the state.

On April 8, 1900, a conference was called and T. B. Cassells stated that: Mr. Douglas Kennedy wanted to trade a piece of land to the church, as he is working some that belongs to the church. A motion and second was made for the committee to trade and the church gave Mr. Kennedy a deed and Mr. Kennedy gave the church one."

October 27, 1901, a Woman's Missionary Society was organized by Mrs. H. C. Buckholz, wife of the pastor, at the time, of the First Baptist church in Chester. Previous to this time there had been a missionary society, but unfortunately the minutes were not preserved.

Following Mr. Yarborough, came the Rev. Alonzo Finch, in 1902. Rev. J. O. Sessions was elected pastor in 1905; the Rev. H. B. Jordan served for one year, 1907; then came the Rev. J. W. Bishop. Mr. Bishop was the pastor until January 1913, when the Rev. J. Earle Freeman was installed as Woodward's pastor. All of these were able preachers, and very earnest and consecrated workers in the field at Woodward, and the other churches they served.

Under date of February 19, 1912, and Estey organ was bought for the church. It was delivered and opened for use March 8, 1912. Also, twelve Baptist hymn and praise books were bought. Mr. J. Monroe Grant, one of the leaders in the church and very fine bass singer, was chairman of the committee to buy the organ and hymn books. Of course, the church had previously had an organ, this was just a new one—the instrument probably in use today.

On March 23, 1915, after a lecture on Sunday School history, "the pastor and J. Martin Grant and J. C. O'Donnell were appointed to select officers and teachers for the Sunday School, the Rev. J. Earle Freeman was elected superintendent, J. G. Colvin, first assistant, J. Martin Grant, second assistant, T. Clyde O'Donnell, secretary and treasurer. The teachers were: J. Martin Grant, Miss Jessie Wilks, Miss Lucille Cassells, Mrs. J. C. O'Donnell, and Robert Cassells, superintendent of the home department."

The envelop system was adopted at Woodward church, Mary 11, 1913. On June 10, 1917, the Rev. Jessie F. Pitman was called to the pastorate of Blackstock and Woodward Churches, and commenced preaching. On October 8, 1922, the Rev. John S. Harris preached his first sermon. Mr. Harris, resigned on account of ill health Mary 8, 1927, and died, Mary 28, 1927, and was buried at McCormick, South Carolina. Never in its interesting History has Woodward church had two finer workers than Mr. and Mrs. John S. Harris (formerly Miss Bertha Sanders), an ideal

couple for church work. Mr. Harris organized the B. Y. P. U., and worked very earnestly and faithfully. He was one shepherd who certainly merited the "well done" of the Almighty. Rev. A. C. Odom was called as pastor in 1929. He resigned and was succeeded on November 10, 1929, by the present pastor the Re. D. H. Owings. Mr. Pitman and Mr. Odon were greatly loved by Woodward and the other Churches they served. Continuing the good work of other, and adding new enthusiasm and continued Christian guidance, Mr. Owings, the present Pastor is greatly loved by his congregation.

Some Church Officers

C. T. Minors was church clerk in 1874—as far back as the present minutes go. Then came George L. McNeill, and March 11, 1877, John Bennett Cornwell was church clerk. He was church clerk until his death in 1888. W. A. Hardin was in this office until June 25, 1893, when the minutes appear under the signature of Thomas W. Shannon, clerk Pro Tem.

On November 8, 1896, Martin Arthur Colvin (son of N. G. B. Colvin, and his wife, Virginia Cornwell), was elected church clerk. This office he held for nearly twenty-three years—until his death in April, 1919. John G. Colvin, Sr., was acting church clerk until July, 1919, when his son E. Euta Colvin was elected church clerk.

Under date pf December 10, 1876, two deacons were elected: N. G. B., Colvin and Columbus Phillips. Under date of August 10, 1889, W. A. Hardin was elected church clerk and C. J. More, treasurer. In 1892, G. J. Moore and John Greenberry Colvin were elected deacons, T. B. Cassells, T. B. Lee, Robert Cassells William Yongue, John W. Durham, J. C. O'Donnell, J. Monroe Grant, A. E. McKeown, R. T. Mockbee, and Richard Wilks have been deacons at Woodward church. J. Martin Grant was treasurer for about six years. John Bennett Cornwell and Levi R. Wilks were both treasurers at Woodward church. Since the records are incomplete and the old books destroyed, it is impossible to give all of the church officers.

However, the present board of deacons is composed of John Greenberry Colvin, Richard Wilks, A. Edward McKeown, and William A. Cassells.

One interesting fact to note in connection with the finances of the church, is that Woodward church has always supported herself, and received no aid from the state board. This is highly commendable and worthy of recording in the history of this fine church.

The three oldest members of Woodward church are Mrs. Maggie Kennedy Yongue, Mrs. Nannie H. Wilks, and Mrs. Sallie P. Wright.

The Mobleys

There were no more loyal supporters of Woodward church than the Mobleys. Mrs. Mary I. Mobley—upon the death of her husband Dr. Isaiah Mobley, dropped her maiden name of Mary Wagner Mobley and assumed the name of Mary Isaiah Mobley—at one time a very beautiful custom in the South. Mrs. Mobley's life was spent under the spell of three influences: Love of church, love of family and love of country. She loved and venerated Old Woodward church beyond measure: there she communed and her children were baptized—some of them by the Rev. Thomas Dixon. She died, May 23, 1892, in the 73rd year of age.

Dr. and Mrs. Isaiah Mobley had one son, Edward, and five daughters, Mrs. Kate Mockbee, Mrs. Minnie Durham, Mrs. Alice Cornwell, Mrs. Lily Douglas, and Mrs. Susie Cunningham.

Edward, the only son a wonderful specimen of man hood, gave his life in the cause of the Confederacy—a cause so dear to the heart of his splendid mother. The love of these Mobley sisters for each other was beautiful to note. There was not selfishness, though their dispositions and temperaments differed greatly. Their loyalty to their church and pastors was unexcelled. These were noble women, such as helped to make the South so great and glorious, and too much cannot be said in their praise. They are not dead—their memory lives.

References: /Dr. R. W. Sanders (Greenville, SC), Mrs. Nannie Hardin Wilks, Mrs. W. W. Isaacs, Dr. John E. Cornwell, Miss Marion M. Durham, Mrs. Kate Cornwell-Barringer, and the descendants of Elder William Woodward, Mrs. A. W. Brice and Mrs. J. C. Stewart, of Woodward, SC

We would like to thank Alexander Bratton McFadden for the donation of two books that he wrote to our library.

1. The Ancestors and Descendants of Nasa Bratton and Nancy Josephine Lesslie Williams of Lesslie, York County, South Carolina
 2. McFadden Family Cookbook
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QUERIES

- 04---30 **Culp:** Don Culp, Rt. 1 Box 433A, Flemington, MO 65650:
Request information on location of Benjamin Culp's home near Burnt Meeting House. Also looking for information on Benjamin's son Henry, b. 1777 and d. 1853, Wayne Co. TN. Married Mary, b. 1780 and d. 1845, does anyone know her last name? He left SC around 1800, date unknown. Made stop in Rowan, NC and Bedford, TN, before settling in Wayne Co., TN. Any details would be appreciated.
- 04---31 **Culp:** Bill Culp, 11560 Rivercrest, Little Rock, AR 72212:
Looking for a connection to Peedee River Culp's and plat of Tinker Creek land grant of Benjamin and other Culp's.
- 04—32 **Gill:** T. E. Gill, 2805 Marmon Drive, Midland, TX 79705;
tegill@cox.net : Interested in John Gill's et al origin in Ireland? Interested in Family of Christopher Strait Gill (1797-1854). Interested in Nancy A. Partlow (18 Dec 1844- 26 Oct. 1872) and Mary Workman Neely (?), wife of James Archibald Gill (7 Dec. 1844- 27 Nov. 1933)
- 04---33 **Holcombe, McGarity, Little:** Lyle D. Sexton, PO Box 681087, Franklin, TN 37060-1087; Looking for more information on: Phillip Holcombe, John McGarity, George Little. Sarah Farmer wife of Phillip Holcombe.

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