

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

President	Dr. James Gill Knox
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President's Page

The annual meeting of the Chester District Genealogical Society was held on August 6, 2005, at the historic Union Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Richburg, South Carolina. Dr. Ron Cox, Professor of History at the University of South Carolina-Lancaster, spoke on "The American Revolution from the British Perspective." The 2006 annual meeting will be on August 5, 2006 at the Richburg United Methodist Church.

Michael C. Scoggins, a research historian and curatorial assistant with the Culture and Heritage Museum in York County, South Carolina has written a very interesting book on the American Revolution in the South Carolina backcountry. I encourage you to read "The Day It Rained Militia: Huck's Defeat and the Revolution in the South Carolina Backcountry May-July 1780," published by the History Press, Charleston, South Carolina. If you have an interest in the American Revolution, may I suggest the following:

"Partisans and Redcoats" by Walter Edgar;
"The Scots-Irish in the Carolinas" by Billy Kennedy; and
"Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution" by Dan L. Morrill.

Over the past two years, I have shared with you the ongoing need to protect from development local historical sites. In the last "Bulletin," I told you how the Lewisville Academy had been saved. We won the battle but lost the war because that old school was torn down in July 2005 by its owner with no community outcry except for a few members of this Society. We cannot change what is in the past, but we can shape the future. I encourage you to become active in your community so that your historical sites may be saved for future generations.

Anne Collins in the March 1, 1967 "Chester News" wrote:

About the year 1882, a new Lewisville school was built by Mr. Pink Polk. The land on which the new school was built was donated by Mr. J.C. Burns. This school consisted of two rooms and a hall. One room was downstairs. In the front part of this room there were shelves used for the dinner buckets. In the back there was a platform. When anyone had to write on the blackboard, they had to go up on the platform to do so. The room upstairs was for the primary department. There were also blackboards in this room.

Josiah Moffatt was the first principal.

A few months after the school was built, there was a windy day. The principal, Mr. Moffatt, sensed the danger and sent all the children home. Within an hour the building collapsed.

While the school was being rebuilt, classes were held in a house on Rev. C.B. Betts' place. The second school was braced, built strong and is still standing.

As we go to press, Hurricane Katrina is making landfall on the Gulf Coast. Dr. and Mrs. Wallace Smith from the New Orleans area, who are members of this Society, are reported safe by their daughter, Sarah. The American Red Cross is undertaking its largest relief effort ever. I encourage you to support these relief efforts.

Jim Knox

The following article was submitted by Jean Nichols. Jean receives a lot of question on the history of Richburg; we hope that everyone will enjoy the article.

“The History of Richburg Is Interesting” by Wade B. Roddey, originally printed in The Chester News on March 20, 1968

There was a preacher by the name of Miller, who came from Low Hampton, New York. He was not an educated man, but he was sincere and was very persuasive. He had worked out a chart that proved to him that the world would come to an end on March 15, 1843. He had lots of followers all up and down the Atlantic seaboard, and they were called Millerites.

The Millerites in this area selected a high elevation from which to view the coming to an end of the world. They put up temporary shacks, settled their affairs, and awaited the coming of the great day. Only the well-to-do people could afford to stop work and live on accumulated supplies of food. The poorer people who could not afford to stop work, ridiculed the Millerites, and called the place where they settled, the Rich Hill. The night before the fatal day the Millerites put on white robes, prayed and sang all night long. Some lost their minds. But the night passed without mishap, and the sun rose as usual the next morning.

The Prophet Miller wanted to revise his chart, but the people had lost faith in him. They found the so-called Rich Hill a pleasant place on which to live, so they went about building permanent homes.

All this is described in a book written by The Rev., L. L. Dunnington, Pastor of First Methodist Church of Iowa City, Iowa. He said he had Prophet Miller’s chart.

TIME, the newsmagazine in its issue of Dec. 31, 1956, showed a picture of Prophet Miller, and claimed that the sect known as Seventh Day Adventists grew out of the movement started by Prophet Miller.

Some people have asked about the people who settled here. They were the finest people in the world. It would take a lot of explaining to tell all about them. In the old days what is now Scotland was know as Alba, and what is now known as Ireland was known as Scotia. The people who live in Scotia were known as Scots. The word Scot means a raider. The Scots crossed over into Alba, and drove the original inhabitants know as Picts, back into the hills, and took over the government, and ruled what is now Scotland for hundreds of years. Alba then became know as Scotia Minor that is Little Scotia.

These people were known as Celts, and their language was Gaelic. See your New Testament, and read St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians.

The people of what is now known as Ireland were converted to the Christian faith by St. Patrick in about 450 A.D. St. Patrick got his religion from Rome, and that is why Ireland has always been so strongly Roman Catholic. The Irish trained hundred upon hundreds of missionaries who crossed over into continental Europe and made converts by the thousands.

The little island of Iona off the west coast of what is now Scotland came near being the center of the Christian religion instead of the Vatican at Rome. This little island is being restored today by a Scottish nobleman, and is becoming one of the beauty spots of the world.

When the English under Oliver Cromwell invaded Ireland in 1650 A. D. the English persecuted the Irish severely. They dispossessed the Irish of their lands and homes, giving them to the English soldiers, so that the Irish had to rent their own land from the English. English soldiers would snatch a baby from an Irish mother's arms, pitch it up into the air catch it on the point of a bayonet, saying "Nits make Lice". The meanest thing an old Irish woman can say to a person she dislikes is: "The curse of Cromwell on you".

When Martin Luther started the Reformation a great many Scottish people joined the Presbyterian Church. There was a bitter struggle between the Catholics and the Presbyterians, so much so that the Scottish king deported thousands of Presbyterians to North Ireland, the places then known as The Plantations. Today this part of Ireland is known as Ulster, and it is still a part of the English Commonwealth.

The people who were forced to settle in Ulster became dissatisfied, and as the New World was then being opened up thousands of them came to the Colonies along the Atlantic coast. In one year one-fourth of the people of Ireland came to the new colonies in America. That is how the term Scotch-Irish. Originated. It does not mean the marriage of the Scots and the Irish, for they are already of the same race. It simply means that the people who left Scotland for Ireland were not satisfied in Ireland, so came on over to the American colonies. Thus they became known as Scotch-Irish.

At first most of the Scotch-Irish settled in the Northern colonies, but when the English general named Braddock was defeated at what is now known as Pittsburgh, all the colonies were exposed to attack by the French and Indians. Great numbers of the colonists were slaughtered. It was then that the Scotch-Irish colonists began coming South. They filled up the Waxhaws, as many as five hundred wagons a day would pass Fayetteville N. C., on the way South. After that part of North Carolina was filled the colonists crossed

over into South Carolina, settling in what are now the five great Irish counties in South Carolina, called Lancaster, York, Chester, Fairfield and Newberry.

During the War of the Revolution Colonel Banstre Tarlton, Lord Cornwallis' cavalry leader said in his memoirs that of all the colonists the Irish were the most averse to English rule. He ought to have know, for after the colonists won the battles of Fishing Creek, Brattonville, and Beckhamville, all in Chester County, the morale of the colonists was so high that they went on to Kings Mountain in York County to wipe out the English army in this part of the Southern colonies.

Let's get back to the day following March 15, 1843. There were already a few houses in this area later to be known as the Rich Hill. Mrs. Sally Barber, wife of Alex Barber, built the first frame house in this locality in 1840. And in the corner of the lot now occupied by the house build by the late J. O. Barber was the Echols home. The house was built of squared logs weather boarded on the outside, and papered on the inside with fine French wall paper. Just across the road and south of the Echols house. In the corner of the lot formed by the old Chester Road running east and west, and by the Columbia road running north and south now called Broad Street was the old Alex Barber store. The main part of the store ran south, and the grocery wing ran west. There was a large porch in front, and during the Civil War the enlistment office of the Confederacy was in this building. The Western Union Telegraph office was in the south end of the building. After the Civil War was over Mr. Alex. Barber took in Mr. James S. Drennan as a partner. Then later Mr. Barber sold his interest to Mr. Drennan and to his brother-in-law Mr. George C. Gill, the firm them being called Drennan & Gill. They did a large country business, had a full time bookkeeper to keep records of liens on crops given by cotton farmers.

The people now wanted a post office, and applied for a post office for Rich Hill. The post office department said that there was already a post office in Lancaster County known as Rich Hill, and that there could not be two post offices with the same name in the state. So it was decided to ask for a post office to be known as Richburg. We do not know the exact date of the founding of Richburg post office, but the writer has some of the cancelled stamps used at that time. They did not have a stamp to cancel the stamps, were cancelled by the postmistress drawing a cross with pen and ink across the stamp. Postage on a first class letter was just two cents.

Richburg became quite a large cotton market; as many as eight thousand bales of cotton were marketed here in a single season. North Carolina cotton mills would keep a cotton buyer here the entire cotton season.

The writer has not investigated the exact date that the Georgia, Carolina & Northern Railway was organized. It was called the great G. C. & N. It was surveyed to run a line from Chester, S.C. to Monroe, N. C. Richburg was on a direct line between these two points, and the engineers drove the stakes on a line right threw Richburg. The writer saw the stakes when he was just a little boy. The Richburg merchants were enjoying a fine country trade then, and they did not want another railroad to be run through here. They said that railroad would bring more stores, and the merchants did not want more stores. So the G. C. & N., later known as The Seaboard Air Line, went around Richburg, building up Edgemoor and Rodman.

The school house was built at the top of a hill just south of the house now owned by Mrs. Joe Anderson. We do not know when the school house was built, but it was the best school in Chester County outside the county seat. The county allowed only twenty-five dollars per month for a teacher, who had to board among the patrons to supplement the meager salary. Most of the teachers out in the county were women. But the local school board took the money allowed by the county, and then asked patrons to pay fifty cents per pupil per month, so as to employ a man teacher. This was purely voluntary.

Richburg School usually had about sixty pupils, but some of these had to drop out at cotton planting time, and again at cotton picking time these pupils had to drop out again to help harvest the cotton crop. These pupils did well to learn to read and write, and get the rudiments of arithmetic.

The writer remembers well his first day in school. Mr. Charles H. Ragsdale taught the older pupils, and his daughter taught the beginners. This arrangement lasted only one year when Mr. Ragsdale took over the whole school. Mr. Ragsdale wanted to build a home here, but not land owner would sell him land, so he had to move to Lancaster.

The next teacher was R. Fred Ezell. I think he was an honor student at Captain Bell's Military Academy in Kings Mountain, N. C.

Following Mr. Ezell came W. P. Crawford, who raised us on the Bible and on Shakespeare. We had to read an entire chapter in the Bible every morning and then we had to read from Shakespeare's plays every morning. When Mr. Crawford read Cardinal Wolsey's soliloquy he made an impression never to be forgotten: "Had I served my God with half the zeal served my king he would not have left me thus in mine old age naked to mine enemies." Next came, J. Marion Moore, Ben M. Sullivan, and John Walkup Douglas, all devoted teachers. When I last heard of Mr. Douglas he was pastor of a large church in Druid Hill, Baltimore.

Many boys and girls came to Richburg and boarded here to get the advantage of our school. Some spent the week here, and rode horses and mules to go home on the week-end.

Lots of people wanted to buy lots and build homes here to give their children the advantage of our school, but nobody would sell them a lot.

Richburg once had a population of about three hundred every census-taking, but that number has now dwindled down to about half that. Some have facetiously remarked that Richburg's future lies in the past. Maybe, but Richburg was once a most pleasant little town in which to live. There were two churches with large membership inside the town limits. There was preaching every Sunday, prayer meeting every Wednesday evening. There were frequent picnics and barbeques when the politicians were running for office, all of them all-day affairs. One of the most delightful affairs ever observed was when the Lancaster Sunday Schools came over and spent the day here, ending up with a big picnic. There were four mail trains a day, and it seemed as if the entire population went down to the station to meet the various trains. We had plenty of preachers, doctors, and druggists by no lawyers. After all it was a real nice place in which to live

The following article came from The Chester Lantern April 17, 1906

Richard Woods

Richard Woods, one of the four signers of the Ordinance of Secession from Chester District, was born August 10, 1813, in the western part of that district, near Broad River. His parents were natives of North Carolina, but came to South Carolina soon after their marriage. The mother was a Miss Faucett, of Huguenot descent. Mr. Woods, like most of the boys of that day went to an old field school, where he received a good foundation, which, with his natural ability and his great love of books, rendered him a man of vast and varied information. But his greatest interest lay in the political aspect of his own country especially that part of it in which his life was spent.

He was a large and successful planter, a kind, indulgent master, was never know to have sold a slave, and the quarter in which his large number of slaves lived was a model of neatness and comfort, the neat frame houses

having been built along a regular street, and each having a little garden in the rear.

Mr. Woods was a man noted for his generosity, his heart and purse being ever open to the needy, and it is said of him that he did more for the wives and children, the widows and orphans of the soldier boys than any man in the country. His barn doors and cribs were open to them and they could come and take without asking. He also sent large supplies to the army.

Mr. Woods was married three times. The first wife, Miss Elizabeth Pinchbeck, died while very young, leaving two children. His second wife, Mrs. Susan Kelley Hopkins, only lived a short time, and he afterwards married Mrs. Lou Hawthorne Wilks. His son went out with the lads of 15 and 16 years of age in '65.

After the war, owing partly to the distance from the towns, and because of his kindness to his slaves in the past, many of the old ones never left him, and consequently, on account of his productive lands, Mr. Woods was able to show his readiness to lend a helping hand to those less fortunate than himself.

His death took place December 16, 1884, and he was buried in the family graveyard on the place, which is still in the possession of the Woods family.

Mr. Woods has only one grandson surviving him, Mr. Harper Woods of Chester, South Carolina. He was one of the families of ten children, most of who lived to grow up, and he is very nearly connected with many prominent families of York and Chester counties.

The late Dr. James Woods Babcock of Columbia, S. C. was a grandnephew.

William (Bill) Harris

Sympathy is extended to Peggy Harris and her family in the loss of Col. Bill. He enjoyed helping with research and looked forward to meeting everyone at our "birthday parties" each year. He was wonderful Christian and so full of life. We will certainly miss his presence this year.

Colonel William (Bill) Franklin Harris died peacefully in his home on Saturday, January 29, 2005. Throughout his battle with cancer he was surrounded by family and friends. He loved his flower garden and continued to tend to it during his illness.

We will all remember him as a "fine handsome fellow who we loved very much...also he was our hero!"

He had been a member of Overbrook Baptist Church in Greenville, SC where he had served as a Sunday School Teacher, Training Union Director and Deacon. He has a special love for his childhood church Cross Anchor Yarborough Methodist Church, the place where his celebration of life service will be held.

Bill Harris was also a retired Colonel in the Armor, USAR. While in military service, he first served in the 79th Tank Company in Fuji Japan and had the great honor and responsibility in his last service to assume command of the 1023d CA Bde in Charlotte, North Carolina.

He was also active in several organizations such as Sons of Confederate Veterans, Sertoma, Reserve Officers Association, Charlotte Claims Managers Council, National association of Arson Investigation and Past Chairman Intercompany arbitration.

His survived by his wife Peggie Hartness Harris, daughters Cathy Bergman wife of Randal J. Bergman of Virginia, Susan Harris of South Carolina and his sister and brother Ann Harris and Joe Harris of South Carolina.

The following article was prepared for the *Sunday News and Courier*, and copied in *The Chester Lantern* under date of April 27, 1906.

John McKee

Mr. McKee was one of the earliest residents of the Village of Chester. John McKee, the oldest signer of the Ordinance of secession. Was born in Rathfriland, County of Down, Ireland, November 4, 1787, and came to America in 1800 with his mother and sisters. Upon his arrival in Charleston, S.C. he found that his father, whom he had come to visit, had died, and the early age of twelve the responsibilities of life were thrust upon him.

He settled in the lower part of Chester district for a few years, then removed to the village and engaged in the mercantile business.

He married in 1818, a Miss Mary Haydon, from Virginia; they were married at the home of a Mr. Chisolm, a relative of the bride. In those days a trip to Virginia was a matter of six weeks time, so Mr. McKee did not further

prolong his bridal trip, but immediately brought his bride to Chester and brought a little home form Mr. McNinch, just on the rise of "the hill" and adjoining the Inn. He enlarged and renovated the house, and built his store adjoining. Connecting all by a piazza at least a hundred feet long.

Mr. McKee was a great traveler for his time and it was the delight of his wife and himself to gather for their home articles of beauty and value rare at that time.

In connection with his mercantile business Mr. McKee was an importer of rare articles from abroad, and conspicuous among them were his clocks, which are precious heirlooms in many homes in this and adjoining counties.

Mr. McKee had one of the most beautiful gardens ever seen in Chester, in fact in any part of the country at that time. It occupied the entire square back of his residence and was surrounded on three sides by a high stone wall. In fact, the house and garden was so different from what one saw generally in those days that it is not at all surprising that the children who had the pleasure of entering could readily believe they were in a veritable fairy land, or like Alice of the present day, had gotten through the looking glass.

Mr. McKee, had a large family of children, but lost all save a son and a daughter in an epidemic of scarlet fever.

In those days and times every man was a politician, so Mr. McKee entered with heart and soul into the issues at stake, and was a member of that convention just thirty years before the signing of the Ordinance of Secession.

In 1845, Mr. McKee, wife and daughter went abroad and remained for a year, leaving his business with his son, and at the beginning of the war, they were still in business at the old stand.

Mr. John McKee Jr. went out with the first company from Chester, but was discharged by the surgeon as unfit for active service. Shortly afterwards his only daughter, who was engaged at the time to one of Chester's most promising young men, gave of her heart's blood for her country's cause, for her lover went out never to return.

Mr. McKee's age 72, precluded active service on his part, but he gave liberally of his means to the cause he loved so well.

During the winter of 1870 a disastrous fire swept over that part of Chester in which he resided, and the loss of what he had spent a lifetime in accumulating was so great a shock that he rapidly failed, and in the early part of 1874, he passed away at the good old age of 82.

The following article does not have a publication date.

Colonel Alexander Quay Dunovant

Colonel Alexander Quay Dunovant was one of the four Chester Signers of the Secession Ordinance.

Alexander Quay Dunovant was born in Chester, S. C. August 18, 1815. He was of unusual physical vigor and mental activity. The pride of an ambitious father centered upon this, his oldest son. And his teacher found gratification in training a mind so precocious, that at the age of ten he stood at the head of a spelling class, composed of the entire school, including grown boys.

The family of A. Q. Dunovant was one of the most distinguished and oldest in Chester. William Dunovant, his paternal grand-father, moved to Chester from Amelia County, Virginia, with his bride, whose maiden name was Nancy Williams. William Dunovant was a planter. His maternal grandparents, Alexander Quay and Catherine Leslie, were also among the pioneers of Chester. His father, Dr. John Dunovant, was a native of Chester. He was a graduate of the Philadelphia Medical College, and Stately Senator for several terms. He married Miss Margaret Quay, of Chester.

Quay Dunovant was a fearless horseman, a graceful dancer, a bright conversationalist, we find him at the early age of manhood the leader in the social life of his native town Chester, the gaiety of the cavalier tempered by an unaffected modesty, and self-reliance modified by calm dignity.

Chester, in those days, was famed for its balls, drawing within their brilliant radius, the belles and beaux of adjoining counties-districts, they were formerly termed. Among the number was Miss Mary Lowry, the daughter of Mr. Samuel Lowry, a planter of York district, and the sister of John Lowry, a young lawyer of Chester. Young Dunovant at once fell captive to the remarkable loveliness of this young lady, and at the respective ages of 23 and 18 they were married, October 11, 1838. From this union there were nine children, six daughters and three sons. Only one son, William and three daughters, Adelia, Mary and Maggie, attained the age of maturity.

About three years after the marriage of Col. A. Q. Dunovant, his father John Dunovant, MD, who had been wealthy, experienced that complete financial collapse, that so often follows speculation in cotton. The energy of Dr. Dunovant wholly succumbed. His son, A.Q. Dunovant, with heroic self-

abnegation, assumed the care of father, mother, and seven brothers and sisters, finding in his wife and unfailing help mate in this devoted duty.

Such generous, unselfish devotion to sisters was paralleled in latter years by his son, Captain William Dunovant, who gave to such relationship an immortality of fame.

Mr. Preston Brooks said of Colonel Dunovant, in conversation with Mrs. Dunovant; "Madam, your husband is remarkable man. He is equally at home with the highest and the humblest." It must have been owing to the fact that he possessed dignity without hauteur, bonhomie without familiarity, cheerfulness without levity, and pride without vanity.

There is a paper of historic interest in the Dunovant family. It is a Certificate of Membership of A. Q. Dunovant in Palmetto Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. It bears date, Columbia, South Carolina, July 1, 1842; and bears the signature of John C. McAlpin, N. G., and James Tradewell, secretary. He represented Chester District in the legislature about 1850, at the time he lived on his plantation on Broad River. He was an active participant in the secession movement in 1852. During the Confederate War he was on Governor's (Gov. Magrath) staff, with the rank of Colonel.

After the surrender, he was while in his home, one afternoon, arrested for resisting the intrusion of United State Soldiers upon his premises, and sent to Charlotte, North Carolina, for trial. A "satisfactory" interview with the "Colonel" in command resulted in his release.

The winter following the surrender, he decided to move with his family to Texas, where he had invested inland before his marriage, and later, about ten years prior to the Confederate War. Located a plantation on Colorado County, but continued to live in South Carolina.

So, to far-distant Texas Mr. A. Q. Dunovant and family went. To this undeveloped country of hardship, struggle and disrespect for law, Col. Dunovant and his son, William, brought the old-time heroic qualities of endurance, courage, and faith. His physical constitution, through unusually robust, possessing not the capacity for resistance in the same remarkable degree, as his son, succumbed, after three years passed amid such changes conditions, to that illness so sudden and fatal in a malarial region a congestive chill. A few brief hours and his tried and brave spirit passed from earthly vision, leaving his devoted wife and three daughters to the tender solicitude and protective care of his son, William, who was the pride and solace of his heart.

As stated, Colonel Alexander Quay Dunovant was one of the four signers of the Secession Ordinance, along with John McKee, Dr. Thomas Wade Moor, and Richard Woods.

The Continuation of the Equity Court Records for Chester County from the June 2005 issue.

Bill 40 1829
Abraham Mayfield vs Patrick Spence
Bill for Relief & Injunction (19 pages)

Bill 41 A & B 1830
John Chestnut et al vs James & Jno. Strong
A & B Bill for Account for Legacy
A (50 pages)
B (115 pages)

Bill 42 1825
Jas. B. Glenn Exr. vs William Foote
Bill for Discovery Account & Relief (52 pages)

Bill 43 1828
James Jameson & Wife vs Patrick Spence & Wife & Others
Bill for Partition (100 pages) (survey map in file)

Bill 44 1828
Robert Owen vs W^m Foreman Exr.
Bill for Account (51 pages)

Bill 45 1830
Juliet Crawford vs Alex Crawford
Bill for Dower (34 pages) (survey map in file)

Bill 46 1830
John Sealy vs Garret Sealy & Others
Answer of Samuel & James F. Sealy & Nancy Morris (53 pages)

Bill 47 1830
James Gilchrist & Mary his wife vs John P. Rowdon & Thomas Rondon
Bill for Injunction & Relief (45 pages)

Bill 48 1829
Hugh Wallace & W^m Wallace vs Samuel Lewis
Declaration in Debt (42 pages) (survey map in file)

Bill 49 1831
George Peay vs John Peay
Bill for Injunction on Account (57 pages)

Bill 50 1831
John M. Barber Sr. Exr. Of Daniel Green vs Daniel Anderson, Daniel G.
Stinson adm. Of Wm Anderson Dec'd
Bill for Account & Relief (52 pages)

Bill 51 1831
Jas. H. Gilmore et al vs Mary Gilmore
Bill for Partition (52 pages) (survey map in file)

Bill 52 1832
Elizabeth Boyd vs Dr. Charles Boyd
Bill for Account (10 pages)

Bill 53 A & B 1823
Jno. McCaw vs Thomas G. Blewit et al
A & B Bill for Discovery Account & Relief
A (55pages)
B (78 pages) (survey map in file)

Bill 54 A, B & C 1831
Thomas Williams et al vs James M. Lowery
A, B & C Bill for Account & Partition
A (18 pages)
B (57 pages)
C (87 pages)

Bill 55 1833
R. G. Mills et al vs W^m Clinton
Bill for Sale of Land (25 pages)

Bill 56 1833
John Johns & Wife vs James S. S. Hill
Bill for Partition (29 pages) (survey map in file)

Bill 57 1833
Richard Crosby & Others vs Fred H. McSham & Others
Writ of Partition (34 pages) (survey map in file)

Bill 58 1832
John Rosborough & Wife et al vs Sally Key
Bill for Partition (22 pages) (survey map in file)

Bill 59 1831
Elizabeth Cabeen vs Carotine Gordon et al
Bill for Relief (61 pages)

Bill 60 1831
Margaret Wiley by her Attorney vs Peter O. Wiley and John L. Young
Bill for Complaint (47 pages)

Bill 61 1833
Joseph Haynes et al vs John Latta et al Exr.
Bill for Partition & Account (48 pages)

Janet Hardin

Sympathy is extended to Miss Nora Hardin and her family in the loss of Miss Janet Hardin. We enjoyed their visits and they shared so much family info on their Hardin line, even compiled a book on the Hardin family which many of our visitors have used in our library. Miss Janet loved Chester County and her roots were definitely here.

Miss Janet Brice Hardin, formerly of Pennsylvania Ave, died on Sunday July 10, 2005 at Seacrest Health Center after prolonged care.

Born on June 6, 1905 in Woodward, Fairfield County, SC, Miss Hardin lived in Chester County and was graduated from Brevard Institute (now College) in Brevard, NC and attended Greenwood Business College in Greenwood, SC.

Several years after her father's death, she moved to Lakeland with her mother and sister in 1925 to be closer to her uncles, The Rev. Dr. Smith Hardin and the Rev., Carter Hardin.

Miss Hardin worked for the Florida Conference Sunday School Board and the Board of Education of the United Methodist Church for forty years.

One of Miss Hardin's favorite pastimes was to travel and she and her sister Nora took many enjoyable trips in the US, Canada, Europe (particularly Ireland) as well as visiting the Holy Land and South America.

Miss Hardin is survived by her sister, Miss Nora Hardin, as well as several nephews and nieces., She was preceded in death by a sister Mattie Bell Hardin Wilson, and two brothers, Joe Nelly Hardin II and the Rev., Harvey M. Hardin.

A Celebration of Life service was held in the sanctuary of Lakeland First United Methodist Church on Wednesday, July 20, 2005 with a reception following the service.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, July 22, 2005 at Capers Chapel United Methodist Church cemetery in Chester County, SC with Barron Funeral Home in Charge of arrangements.

The following are transcribed wills for Chester County that were copied from South Carolina State Archives. These have been copied as written, without correcting the spelling or names.

James Roberson

In the Name of God Amen

I James Robison of the State of South Carolina Chester County Being Very sick in Body But of perfect mind and memory thanks Be Given Unto god Calling Unto mind the mortality of my Body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to Die do make and ordain this my Last Will and Testament that is to say principally and first of all I give and Recommend my soul into

the hands of Almighty god who gave it and my Body I recommend to the Earth to be intered in a Decent Christian manner at the Discretion of my Executors Nothing Doubting but at the general Resurrection I shall Receive the same again by the mighty power of God and as touching Such Worldly estate Wherewith it hath pleased god to Blife me in this Life I give Devise and Dissofo of the same in the following Manner and form---first I Give and Bequeath Unto my Beloved wife Hannah Robison the Benefit of Living Undisturbed on the plantation and premises I now Live on

During her Widowhood or Life and that she Likewise enjoy the Benefits of the Labors of my two Negros Vis Jack and Cloe During her widowhood or Likewise a Large Bald Sorrel Boan horse and Mare that bore the Name of her own and Likewise two cows of her choice out of my stock of Cattle Likewise one feather Bed and furniture also I give and Bequeath Unto my two Beloved sons James and Robert two tracts of Land the one containing two hundred acres and the other containing one hundred and fifty acres to be Equally Divided Betwixt them according to their Value which is to be a certainied by each ones part Likewise the Two Negros bout Named at the marriage of Decease of my Beloved wife Hannah to be divided Betwixt my to sons above Named according to their Value to be ascertained in the manner above of the Land Likewise to my so James I give and Bequeath a Black Mare known by the Name Doll and a sorrel horse and a Young sorrel mare Likewise to my son Robert I give and Bequeath a Black mare known by the name fain and a Dark ay filly with Michael patton Brand on her and a Black Bald Young mare and out Lying horse Creatures (Except Such as was Named to my Daughter Hannah Sinn) to be Equally Divided Betwixt my two sons above Named Item I give and Bequeath Unto my Beloved Daughter Mary Robison a tract of one hundred acres of Land hold by a grant from North Carolina and Recorded in the Auditors office of this State Likewise four head of horse Creatures vis a sorrel mare and colt and a sorrel two Years old horse and a Bay mare know by the Name of Light Foot and ten pounds Sterling to be paid to her by my two sons James and Robert and her bed and furniture Item I give and Bequeath Unto my Grand son Samuel Robison Muclekoy a tract of fifty acres of Land held by a separate grant Containing no more---Item I give and Bequeath Unto my son in Law George Mckleroy thirty acres of Land including his Buildings the Line to Run over the sing he Now takes Water out of the said Land to be Laid off to him before the Divide above Named be made between my to sons James and Robert Likewise the Horse Creatures and Neat Cattle that he Received of me an Now has in possession Item I give and Bequeath Unto my Beloved Daughter Hannah Sinn a Tract of one

hundred acres of Land Lately Surveyed and the Grant Not Yet Received----
Likewise a horse and six head of Neat Cattle Now in his possession likewise
a silver wach and the out Lying horse Creatures above Excepted that Bore her
Name and I do Likewise Constitute ordain and appoint my Beloved wife
Hannah and my son James Sole Executrix and Executors of this my Last Will
and testament and I do hereby Disalow Revoke and Disanul all and every
other former testament wills Legacies Bequests and Executors by me in any
wise before Named Willd and Bequeathed: Ratifying and confirming this
and No other to be my Last will and Testament In Witness Whereof I have
hereunto Set my had ad seal this Twentieth Day of September in the Year of
our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight and of the
independency of the United States of North America the thirteenth
Signed Sealed published pronounced declared by the said James Robison as
his Last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence and in
the presence of Each other have hereunto subscribed out Name

Hugh Whiteside
John fearill
Prudence Patton

James Robinson

Probate 1788
Recorded in Book A Page 24
Apartment No 56
Package No. 901

Elizabeth Gore

In the Name of God Amen

I Elizabeth Gore of the State of South Carolina in Chester County being weak
of body but in perfect mind and memory and considering that all flesh is
mortal and must yield to Death do make this my Last will and testament first
I commit my soul unto the almighty God who gave it and my body to be
Decently laid in the Ground at the discretuion of my Executors & my lawful

debts to be duly paid and my Estate and effects Bequeath and dispose of in manner and form following vis first to my well Beloved Son James Mannin Gore I leave and bequeath one shilling sterling & I leave and bequeath to my well Beloved son Clement Gore one shilling Sterling I leave and bequeath to my well beloved son Michael gore one shilling sterling I leave and bequeath to my well beloved son John Ashford Gore one shilling Sterling I leave and bequeath to my well beloved son Joshua Gore one shilling Sterling I leave ad bequeath to my well beloved son Eliazar Gore all the money he owes me being about twenty seven pounds Sterling money I leave and bequeath to Sarah Wornall my flax spinning wheel and cotton Cards and one Small feather Bed and the furniture belonging to it and likewise the third part of a web of Cloth that is now in the house and the remainder part of the Same to Eleazar Gore and all the rest of my moveable Estate of stocks and household furniture Excepting my wearing clothes I leave and bequeath to my beloved daughter Mary Sanders Easterwood and Elizabeth Noland to be equally divided among them and my wearing clothes I leave and bequeath to my two Granddaughters Millinda Gore, Elizabeth Sanders and Sarah Wornell to be equally divided between the three and Do hereby an nominate and appoint John Ashford Gore & Eliazar Gore my whole and Sole Executors of the my last will and testament and I do hereby Revoke Disallow and Disannul all former bequeath wills and Testament by me heretofore in any wise Left or made Declaring Ratifying and Confirming this and no other to be my Last Will and testament in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this twenty fifth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty eight signed Sealed published and delivered in the presence of us

Joseph Timms
Sampson Noland
Michael Gore

her
Elizabeth X Gore
mark

Probate April 1789
Recorded Book A Page 19
Apt. 21 Pkg. 327

Mrs. Thelma Shannon

Sympathy is extended to the family of Mrs. Thelma Shannon who passed away on August 1st. She was active in the community and church affairs and later got interested in family research. Her book "Some families Who Settled in Chester County in the Late 1700's", has benefited many people in their research for their ancestors. She was a truly Southern lady.

A celebration of the life of Thelma (Burnside) Shannon will be held at Purity Presbyterian church on Thursday, August 4, 2005 at 4:00 PM. visitation will be held 6:00-8:00 PM tonight, Wednesday, August 3, at Barron Funeral Home, Interment will be at Hopewell ARP Church, Blackstock, SC. Mrs. Shannon passed at 12 Noon on August 1, 2005. She is predeceased by her husband James Robert Shannon, She is survived by Children Robert Johnson (Bob) and his wife Pat Shannon of Chester, Jean Kirkley and husband Tom of Lexington, Sally Wilburn and her husband Mack of Ocala, Florida and Douglas Shannon and his wife Janice of Chester. She is also survived by her sisters Margaret Corder (W.R.) of Darlington and Gladys Sanburg (Lee g.) of Charlotte; she has twelve grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She is predeceased by brothers Douglas Royce Burnside and Belvin Randolph Burnside.

Daughter of Isom Leander and Ella Florence Roddey Burnside, Mrs. Shannon was born June 1, 1908 in Chester County. She was educated in Chester Schools and received a B. A. in elementary education at Winthrop College, the class of 1931, and did further work toward a Master's Degree at Furman University.

She taught school in Bethune and Swansea and served as principal of Lowrys Grammar School. She Married James Robert Shannon of Blackstock and lived in North Charleston, where he was a mechanical engineer at Westvaco.

She was active in Community affairs in North Charleston and North Charleston Graded Grammar School in the 1940's. Her husband and she were instrumental in building the Park Circle Presbyterian Church and were charter members. She taught Sunday school and led a Women's circle for a number of years.

After the death of her husband in 1989, she devoted her time to researching her family's history, and in 2002 published that history as, "*Some Families Who Settled in Chester County in the Late 1700's*". She also wrote her memoirs for her family.

Her purpose for writing was to instruct and instill a sense of pride in the descendants of her ancestors. She believed that all people benefited in knowing the strengths of their ancestors. When praised for her dedication and work, she always replied that she was an instrument of God, seeking to do his work.

The following article was submitted by Richard E. Wallace. We want to thank Mr. Wallace for sending in the article.

William Nesbit / Nisbet

By

Richard E. Wallace

William Nesbit is one of those individuals encountered in genealogy where some evidence of his existence may be found, but many pieces of his travel through life remain missing, at least to this writer. According to one source, William was born in Ireland, the son of William and Nancy Nesbitt. He is said to be related to Janet (Jennet) Nesbitt (ca 1774-p. 1821), who married Hugh Knox (1757-1821), and James Nesbitt (1743-1793)

I don't know when William Nesbitt arrived in South Carolina, but he was in Craven County, the part that later became Chester, by October 1769. At that time, he acquired 200 acres on Rocky Creek by lease and release from George Morrow. Since a person had to be 16 years old to acquire land, he probably was born 1753 or earlier. I suspect he was born in the 1740's.

William Nesbitt proved by oath two deeds on 24 August 1782. The land transactions actually took place 17-18 September 1775, witnessed by William. Both tracts of land, transferred from Hugh Wilson to William Moore, lay on Beaver Dam Creek, a north fork of Rocky Creek.

William Nesbitt served in the Revolutionary War, and the Chester County Historical Committee has recognized his service. There is a description of military service for a William Nesbitt in *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution*.

William's name appears a number of times in the Chester County Court Minutes. He often was a member of the Grand Jury, as follows: April 1789, June 1792, June 1794, July 1796, and January 1798. In June 1793, James Nesbitt joined him on the Grand Jury.

For his appearance in June 1792 as a witness for James Gordon in Gordon vs. Robert Miller, the Court allowed William two pounds, two shillings and six pence.

William appeared in the 1790 Federal Census for Chester County as a head of household. To complicate matters, the census recorded two Williams, who were probably related. One household consisted of one male over age 16, two males less than 16 and four females of all ages. The other included the head, two males under 16 and three females. Then there was the James Nesbitt mentioned in the opening paragraph. The numbers for his family are 1, 5, and 3.

Twenty years after the land acquisition on "Rocky Creek, William and his wife Elizabeth sold 100 acres of that tract to James Nesbitt for 90 pounds. Witnesses to the transaction were Philip Walker, John Kell and James Kell. In January 1794, William and Elizabeth sold the remaining 100 acres to Abraham Adams for 100 pounds.

In Late 1793, William witnessed the sale of 163 acres on Rocky Creek from Thomas and Margaret Blair to James Blair.

The above material summarizes what I have been able to learn about William Nesbitt to date. His name does not appear in Chester County will records. He does not appear in the 1800 Chester Census. The same can be said for the other William. I don't know what happened to William after the 1790's. If any society member can provide additional details about the life and family of William Nesbitt, I would appreciate hearing from you. My address is 7725 W. 98th St., Overland Park, KS 66212.

Sources

1. Chester County Historical Committee, *The Revolutionary Soldiers of Catholic Presbyterian Church*, 1978, pp. III, 72 109-110.
2. Holcomb, *Chester County, SC Deeds Abstracts (1785-1799)*, 2005, pp. 132, 172-173.

3. Moss, *Roster of SC Patriots in the American Revolution*, 1983, p. 729
 4. Holcomb, *Chester County, SC Minutes of the County Court (1785-1799)*, 1997, pp. 168, 220, 240, 256, 269, 349, 380.
 5. First Census of the U. S. (SC, Chester Co), pp. 14-16
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NEW BOOK

We are pleased to announce the new book by Louise Pettus, *Leasing Away a Nation*. In its 8 chapters is an account of the leasing system that existed between the Catawba Indians and white settlers from ca 1763 to the Nation Ford Treaty of 1840 which failed to meet its purpose. The Catawbans attempted to regain the land for nearly a century and a half, culminating in a settlement in 1993. The book includes an extensive list of more than 1500 transactions between the settlers and Indians with information on lease sales giving dates, names of parties involved, location, acreage, etc. There are numerous pictures. Contact Katawba Valley Land Trust, P.O. Box 1776, Lancaster, SC 29721. The price will be \$13.00 plus mailing & handling, \$2.00, for total of \$15.00. Make checks to KVLTL which can also be reached at (803) 285-9455; (803) 283-9181, Fax or found the net at www@KVLTL.org.

We want to thank Betty Jean Milles Settlemyer for the donation of the book, "Lessley Family Records" by Samuel Lessley of the Carolina Waxhaws and Descendants this will be a welcome addition to our library and appreciate her thinking of us.

We want to thank Cecilia A. Caton for sending in the following two articles.

SANDERS OF BATON ROUGE DISTRICT, CHESTER COUNTY, SC
Submitted by Cecilia A. Caton

Letter to Cecilia A. Caton from J. Marion Bankhead, M. D. July 22, 1977
“.....There was a small town near here [Lowrys, SC] called Sandersville----
no longer in existence. The information I have on the family dates back to
James S. Sanders, b. Aug. 11, 1780, d. Oct. 18, 1846. His wife was Patience
Smith, (daughter of Moses Smith). There is a grave marker and the chimney
of the old house in a pasture near where Sandersville, was. I have been told
by and elderly lady who lives hereby that she remembers their being a grave
marker to his wife, but it is no longer there. Children of James S. & Patience
Smith: Smith, Ann, Nancy D., Martha Ellen, Andrew P. and Ezekiel. You
and I descend from Smith Sanders who married Pamela Hood. He was born
in 1806. Children of Smith and Pamela: Andrew Jackson; John Calhoun;
Nancy E; Edward J.; Ann J.; James; William Ervin [Erwin?]; and Elizabeth.”

The Sanders were in Chester and later York County. I have concluded that
James Sanders b. 11 Aug. 1780 is the James listed in the children of Ezekiel
Sanders and Catey Moor [Moore?] in the article downloaded from
Ancestry.com, because the birth date and name of spouse match from several
sources, including Dr. Bankhead's letter

Ezekiel Sanders, b before 1773, Chester SC; d. 1822 in Tuscaloosa Co. AL

- *Note: From *Pioneers of Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, prior to 1830*,
by Tuscaloosa Genealogical society, 1981, p. 443: Ezekiel Sanders:
His will entered 28 Jun 1822 and proved 7 Oct 1822 in Will Book 1 p.
34 of Tuscaloosa Co. AL. It lists his heirs as wife Catey and Children:
Mary (Molly) who married Edmond Mayfield, William, Elizabeth who
married Ezekiel “Sugar” Mayfield, Thomas, James and Nancy who
married Thomas Gore. Also in Gandrud's *Alabama*.*

Also from Orphans Court Records, Gandrud's *Alabama*: Sanders, Ezekiel
(note: Sanders in Will). Petition to sell land. Heirs: Mary Mayfield (wife of
Edmund Mayfield, deceased); William Saunders, Elizabeth Mayfield (wife of
Ezekiel “Sugar” Mayfield), Thomas Saunders, James Saunders, Nancy Gore
(wife of Thomas Gore), Elenor Smith (wife of Amasa Smith) and the
petitioner John Saunders are the only distributes. Land in Pickens County.
All of the heirs are over 21 years of age. Thomas, James, and Mary do not
reside within the limits of the state. [Alabama]. 5 Sept 1832, Book 1, p. 34.

Also from Gandrud's *Alabama*: Sanders, Ezekiel, deceased. John Sanders, who was the representative of Ezekiel Sanders in a suit for title has departed this life and administration of estate of John Sanders has been granted to John Sanders, Jr., Asa D. Sanders and Matilda Taylor. Book 1851-54, page 654, 5 Jul 1853.

Romulus: Historical and Genealogical Gleanings Concerning the Community of Romulus, Tuscaloosa Count, Alabama, compiled by Shandry C. Dorroh, May 1988, in Library of Congress, Washington, D. C., page 127: Genealogy Notes on the Sanders Family: John Sanders, son of Ezekiel, owned and operated a ferry in Chester District of South Carolina. In Colonial Plats, Vol. 20, p. 170, Ezekiel and Thomas Sanders own 200 acres on the Sandy River of Baton Rouge, SC. They sold all the land in Chester District on 28 Feb. 1818 for \$2500.00 (Deed bk. 5, p. 366). In 1818 the Sanders family moved to Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, and settled on the west side of the Black Warrior River, Coming with Ezekiel and his wife Catey Moore Sanders, were six of his married children, thus starting five pioneer families of Tuscaloosa and Pickens counties (Warranty Deeds # 2084, 2085). Ezekiel Sanders died in 1822, leaving a will which names his wife, Catey Moore Sanders and children:

1. Mary (Molly)- married Edmond Mayfield
2. William T. G.- married Sally Nix
3. Elizabeth – married [Ezekiel] Sugar Mayfield
4. Thomas – married Anne Darby. Stayed in Baton Rouge, SC
5. James S. – married Patience Smith. Stayed in Baton Rouge, SC
6. Nancy – married Thomas T. Goore [Gore?]
7. John – married Lydia Darby
8. Elender (Elenor) – married Amasa Smith (Will Bk. A, p. 1 Oct. 7, 1822)

John Sander (No. 7 above) and his wife, Lydia Darby, were the first Sanders family to settle in Romulus. The Sanders' Ferry and the Sanders' Ferry Road were named after him. (Warrant Deed # 1913, 143.62 acres in Sec. 33 T. 21S R11W) John Sanders also entered 1,272.27 acres in and around Romulus. He was the first postmaster in Romulus when the post office there was started in 1831. He built the Sanders' home which is now owned by the Dorroh family. From *Heritage of Tuscaloosa County, Alabama*, published by Consultants, Inc., P.O. Box 67, Clanton, AL, 1999: page 355.

Ezekiel Sanders: earliest records for Ezekiel and Thomas Sanders are in Chester District, South Carolina. They owned 100 acres on the branch of the Sandy River, date recorded 2 March 1773. Thomas Sanders fought in the Revolutionary war, but there has been no record found for Ezekiel, The Sanders and Gores intermarried. The Gores were French and came before the Revolutionary War. They laid out a town on the west side of Chester District, SC, and named it Baton Rouge.

Ezekiel Sanders married Katharine "Catey" Moor Sanders began their family and later started buying land and establishing a plantation. In 1788 Ezekiel bought 377 acres from William Young and 109 acres from William Garret in 1800. In the early part of the 1800's land began to be available in the west and south. At the same time, the Presbyterians were harassing the owners of slaves. Ezekiel and his family decided to move south. On 28 Feb 1818, Ezekiel and Catey Sanders sold everything they owned to Eli Cornwall for \$2500.

In 1818 the Sanders family moved to Tuscaloosa County, AL, and settled on the west side of the Black Warrior River next to Choctaw Indians. Coming with Ezekiel and his wife, Catey Moor Sanders, were six of their married children: thus starting five pioneer families of Tuscaloosa and Pickens Counties. Ezekiel Sanders died in 1822, leaving a will which names his wife and children.

The will of Ezekiel Sanders was the first will recorded in Tuscaloosa County, AL, in Will Book A, page 1. His estate was settled 10 Oct 1832.

"I Ezekiel Sanders, of the County of Tuscaloosa, State of Alabama being weak in body but of perfect mind and memory do here [b]y make ordain constitute and appoint thus by last will and testament, vis, I Recommend my soul to God who gave it me, and my body to be disposed of at the discretion of my Executors hereafter named. First I desire all my Just debts paid then I give unto my beloved wife Catey m whole estate during her life and at her decease I give unto my daughter Mary Mayfield, a negro girl named Hannah. Second I give my son William Sanders, a negro girl named Cloe. Third I give unto my daughter Elizabeth, a negro girl named Chainey. Fourthly I give unto my son Thomas Sanders, two negroes names Lesley [or Sisely] and Cindy. Fifth, I give unto my son James Sanders, a negro boy named Wesley. Six I give unto Nancy Gore a negro by the named of Thomas. Seventh I give unto my son John a negro man named Peter and girl named Malinda. Eight I give unto my daughter Elender, a negro named Susan [or Surana] and my will and desire is that my negro woman Sealy is to be free for life and the balance of my estate to be

equally divided amongst m children and two notes, one on Jonathan Bird an one on Samuel Cherry to be divided at the discretion of my Executors hereinafter name and I do nominate constitute appoint and ordain my son William Sanders and John Sanders as my true and lawful executors to this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this my28th day of June 1822 in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-two in the 46th year of American Independence”.

Signed Sealed acknowledge in presence Ezekial (his mark) Sanders, Witness: John Dodds, Obadiah (his mark) Mayfield. Proven in open court this 7th day of Oct 1822. Attest Henry T. Anthony, Clk. CC. A true copy from Vol. 2 page 50, JAH, Clk.”.

Mrs. Mary Brown Craig Powell

Sympathy is extended to the family of Mrs. Mary Brown Craig Powell, who passed away on May 17, 2005. She was very active in her church and the community.

Mrs. Mary Brown Craig Powell, age 79, of 206 Walnut Street died Tuesday, May 17, 2005. Mrs. Powell was the widow of Fred J. Powell Jr.

Born in Chester on June 15, 1925, she was the daughter of the late Alexander Bell Craig and Mary Heath Brown Craig. Mrs. Craig was a graduate of Chester High School, attended Queens College in Charlotte, was a homemaker and a member of Purity Presbyterian Church.

Survivors are two sons, Reverend Fred J. Powell, III of Chicago, Illinois and Dr. A. Craig Powel and His wife Ashley of Clinton; 2 grandsons, Alexander C. Powell II and Robert S. Powell of Clinton. She was preceded in death by a brother, Morgan Jones Craig.

Mrs. Craig was born at 144 York Street in Chester, the home of her parents and also of her aunt and uncle, Samuel Morgan Jones and Dora Johnson Brown Jones. Mrs. Powell was educated in Foote Street and College Street Schools, Graduating from Chester High School in 1942, she attended Queens College in Charlotte, NC, where she was a member of Kappa Delta Sorority. On June 24, 1950, she married Fred James Powell Jr. They subsequently resided in many countries, including Taiwan and England, where he served as a United States Air Force Chaplain. After Rev. Powell’s retirement, they returned to Chester where he accepted the pastorate of Cornwell and Blackstock Presbyterian Churches.

Participating in Numerous community activities, Mary Brown was a founding member of the Spinster's Club, a member of The Palmetto Literary Club, The Violet Sunshine Club, The Old Purity Society, the Chester County Historical Society and served the city of Chester on the Evergreen Cemetery Commission.

Baptized at Purity Presbyterian Church, she was a deacon and later an elder and served as Associate Clerk of Session. She was a dedicated and selfless servant in every capacity: a faithful choir member, chairperson of various committees and active in the Women of the Church.

Mary Brown's quiet and deep faith, her infectious laugh, her smiling countenance, her loving and generous heart, and her confident belief in the good and worth of each individual will be truly missed by those whose lives she touched.

The following two articles came from the files of Ward Pegram. The date of the article is not know.

Home-Sunday morning
March 19th, 1865

My dear brother:

Long, long has been since we hear from you or had an opportunity to write you, but at last opportunity has presented itself, and we avail ourselves of it. A member of your Regt. Mr. Clements from Greenville, stay with us last night on his way to his command, and offered to carry letters from us. He is walking so can take nothing more than a letter. I hope you have heard something upon which you can rely, before this from home. If not I know your suspense and anxiety must be great, since you have heard of Sherman's march through our state. We all in this neighborhood suffered severely, but not more then we expected. Your place came in for a good share of suffering-but I will not go into details as Tillie will write you by this gentleman, and can tell you more particularly of the devastation.

Uncle Billie and John, Aunt Polley, Mr. Boyce, old Mr. Jimmie Douglas, Mrs. Mary Means, Stark Means and Buckhead were burned out. Uncle Billie lost everything, house and is contents and nearly all his

provisions. They burnt nearly all the ginhouses. Robin Brice, Agnes, Uncle Sam & Mrs., Dr. Mobley came off well lost no provisions and nothing burnt.

We concealed our valuables but had to give them up in order to save the house. One vile wretch came to father, put his pistol to his head & told him he would blow his brains out if he didn't procure that pile of gold & finding he couldn't scare him in that way, took a chunk of fire & went out to fire the house & father rather than have everything burnt (for if one house Caught all would go) told him where the things were. They got father's, Micheal's and Scotty's watches; mother's silver and my jewelry, except a few pieces which they overlooked in their search. We all hated to see the things go into their vile hands for we prized them, not for their value, but as mementoes of those to whom they belonged & the many pleasant associations connected with them. They burnt father's ginhouse; took about half of his meat, plundered the house and took nearly all of father's and Tom's clothes, and every horse and mule except the two Tom and Loss were riding. They with cousin John A. & Robin Brice went over the river to keep out of the way of the Yankees. Father talked of going too, but finally concluded to stay at home. They did not trouble him, nor did they say a disrespectful word to any of us, except the one was so ravenous after the gold- he had an oath to every word.

The Negroes behaved fully as well as expected. They all went with the Yankees but came back the next day. Solomon was very faithful. Several Negroes in the neighborhood were shot. Bob Younge and James G. Brice's old Mack, & several others I suppose will be shot if they can catch them. Uncle Douglass and Aunt Jane suffered considerably. Uncle D. left home, They hung Uncle John until he was perfectly senseless to try to make him tell where his gold and silver was. They seemed to think everybody had a pile of gold. Both Mat and Tillie had to give up their watches. They got all of cousin John A.'s money-papers & cousin Nancy's jewelry. Cousin Amanda took refuge in Lancaster & cousin Mary Wade & I came very near going, but it is all well we didn't as they suffered more there then they did here. Cousin Mary got a letter from him yesterday, Uncle Tom and Cousin----- remained there. Their house was fired several times but the negroes and a Yankee succeeded in extinguishing it. They are getting on very well; have received supplies from Augusta, Newberry and Laurens.

We haven't seen Tillie since the Yanks were here. I am nearly crazy to see Walter since he has learned to walk. He has been right sick but was better when we heard. Sam & Louis are up there now, and cousin Mary and I are

talking about walking up next week, but I am almost afraid to attempt it. We have a few old broken-down Yankee horses, but they are kept busy.

Tom went over toward Union last week and engaged two. Solomon has gone for them. Tom has been put on light duty in the enrolling department. He reported to Capt. Withers just before the Yanks came, and will, I suppose, be assigned to duty as soon as things are straightened. Mother says to tell you she got your letter, but put off answering until communication was cut. Do excuse all mistakes, the gentleman is waiting on me, & my paper is so rough, can scarcely write. Hope we will hear from you very soon. Mother, father and all join me in love.

Your effect. sister, R. E. B.

Note from Mr. Pegram:

Understand REB is a sister of Robert Wade Brice and is sister-in-law of Tillie.

14 miles below
Wilmington, NC
April 23rd, 1863

Dear Sister

I take this opportunity of answering your letter which I received by Robin. He arrived at camp safely on Sabbath morning with the box of provisions in good order. We were mighty glad to receive it. Everything was nicely arranged, the box was well packed, and contained the articles needed in camp. Our sincere thanks are due Ma and you for the nice butter etc. I wish I was at home to get some good milk.

Our Regiment is now about 14 miles from Wilmington,. We came here yesterday, we did not bring our tents, nothing but blankets. The reason of this was we do not know, we hear that authorities expected the Yankees to land down in this part but so far we have not heard anything of them.

Rumors of our going to Charleston are still rife. Gen. Evans is still at home again. It is reported that he "ran the blockade" as the soldiers say. The Holcombe Legion is at Charleston yet. I think we will go there also yet.

We were glad to see Robin (?) back, we missed him very much. John and myself are well. Robert is well. Our company had another man to die day before yesterday, inflammation of the Brain, I believe. He did duty on last Wednesday and died on the Tuesday following. His name was J. S. Clark. He leaves behind him a wife and children. How uncertain is life.

I do not know who made the silver wing, I was told a soldier in the 10th Regiment, who makes a great many. The soldiers are getting furloughs again, before my time rolls around, I would like to get home the latter part of July, or August. It is probable that we will return to our camp within a day or two. Our men are all anxious to get back to South Carolina one more. I have nothing more to write at present.

Your brother, Jas.

If Ma will send me a couple pair of socks, part wool and part cotton, I will send my woolen ones home.

J. H.

Note: A letter written during the Confederate War. The original letter loaned by Mrs. Elliott Q. Hamilton (Mrs. John H.) widow of the author's eldest son.

To all member:

As a reminder, we are always looking for article for the Bulletin. Please feel free to sent us any articles that you might like to have printed in the Bulletin. To have articles in the Bulletin, please sent them by the following dates.

January 15th for the March issue

April 15th for the June issue

July 15th for the September issue

October 15th for the December issue

The surnames in the queries are not index:

Queries

- 05---19 Hamilton:** Nancy A. Sicotte, 2047 Byron St., Palo Alto, CA 94301-4004, nansicotte@aol.com : Seek Parents and siblings of John Hamilton (b. 1770/75, d. 1812), who married Martha Greer before 1800. Children: Susannah b. 1800 m. David Reade (Reid) William b. 1802 m. Elizabeth Greer
Ann b. 1806 m. William Blair Nancy b. 1806 m. Hugh Taylor
David Montgomery b. 1809 m. Elizabeth Jane Morton
Margaret Greer b. 1811 m. John Blair Wyatt
The family moved to Lincoln Co. TN about 1810. John Hamilton was killed by a falling tree in 1812
- 05---20 Agurs:** Marianne Stein, PO Box 23, Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487, maristein@juno.com : William Agurs born Aug. 7, 1784 died Mar. 7, 1864 married Margaret Culp. Margaret's will remembers children as follows: Cynthia Kirkpatrick, Martha (Mrs. C.) Kee, Elizabeth (Mrs. H. A.) Drennon, Julia (Mrs. W. F.) Farley, and John L. Agurs and William C. Agurs, also grandson Francis T. Morgan. I am in search of the parents and ancestry of William Agurs born Aug. 7, 1784
- 05---21 Davis:** Libby Stone, 302 S. East St., Cambridge, IL 61238: Jeremiah Davis married Frances (Nix or Jagers) about 1775, in SC. Jeremiah was born abt. 1750 in SC and died about 1810 in Chester Co. SC. Frances was born about 1755 and died before Feb. 16, 1835 in Chester Co. SC. There children were: Caleb b. 1776, Elizabeth b. 1777, Nancy b. 1783, Stephen b. Jan 24, 1788, Samuel b. 1790, William b. Dec. 24, 1791, Rice b. 1812

The following is the continuation of the Member Surname index

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