



# Fairfield Genealogical Society

# NEWSLETTER

VOL 14 # 4

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December, 2001

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Membership Form included



### Calling all members

Sharing your information and experiences is a great part of your being a member of our genealogical society. Don't put off volunteering an article or a bit of information for YOUR newsletter. Suggestions are always welcome.

### Queries

**WISE:** Seeking parents of Joseph Wise, b 22 January 1830, possibly Horry Co, somewhere near Little Pee Dee River. Parents may have been John Wise & Nancy Allen McLeod possibly an Allen reared by a Mcleod family. Possible relations were McDuffy Sales and Little John Finklea. Joseph migrated ca 1850 to Hancock Co, MS, in area near brother Henry.

Contact: Syble Megehee Pigott, 16240 Orange Grove Road, Gulfport, MS 39503.

### Computer Corner

This article contains Fraudulent Genealogies:

<http://www.linkline.com/personal/xymox/fraud/fraud223.htm>

Barking up the wrong tree:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~rwquide/syft/misc/syftsbs000928.htm>

[http://www.dar.org/cgi-bin/natsociety/pi\\_lookup.cfm](http://www.dar.org/cgi-bin/natsociety/pi_lookup.cfm)

The American Local History Network has finally completed the 1840 census of Pensioners. The url is:  
<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/topic/colonial/census/index.html>

This site will calculate the age using birth and death dates:  
<http://searchforancestors.com/utility/birthday.html>

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### News from our mailbag

#### Revolutionary Roots

Did your ancestors fight in the American Revolution 225 years ago? Thousands of men answered the call to arms in 1776. These thousands probably have many millions of descendants today. Many Americans can find a Revolutionary War veteran in the family tree if they expend a bit of time and effort. Luckily, there are a number of online and offline sources to help you in that search.

Finding Revolutionary ancestors isn't much different than finding anyone else in your family tree. You always start with yourself and then work your way back, one generation at a time. You can search the online databases as well as the traditional resources such as census records, vital records, and especially, Revolutionary War pension applications. However, you should be aware of several unique sources of records that contain information about Revolutionary War soldiers.

One excellent tutorial to read is “Finding Your Patriot: Basic Sources for Starting Revolutionary War Research” by Curt B. Witcher, available on Ancestry.com at: <http://www.ancestry.com/library/view/news/articles/1561.asp>.

Once you have learned the basics of Revolutionary War records, you will want to search the Lineage Books of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The DAR have spent hundreds of thousands of hours compiling Patriot Index lists of Revolutionary War ancestors of DAR members. The DAR Lineage Books are available online to Ancestry.com members at: <http://www.ancestry.com/ancestry/search/3174.htm>. (This database is available to Premium Members of Ancestry.com; a user ID and password are required.)

Here is a typical entry from the online database of the DAR Lineage Books:

“Mrs. Kate S. Higgins. DAR ID Number: 9168. Born in Virginia. Wife of George E. Higgins. Descendant of Col. Benjamin Wilson, of Virginia. Daughter of Rev. William P. Harsha and Martha M. Wilson, his wife. Granddaughter of Benjamin Wilson and Phoebe Davisson, his wife. Benjamin Wilson was lieutenant in the expedition against Dunmore, and in 1775 commanded a company. He was active in warfare against the Indians during the war and rose to the rank of colonel. He died in 1827, aged eighty. (The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Volume 10 page 64).”

You see the DAR member's lineage, plus you also obtain a snippet of information about the Revolutionary War soldier. Armed with this information, you can sally forth into other resources to find more information about the soldier.

Keep in mind that the DAR Lineage Books contain the lineage of accepted members. While these books often provide great clues about the lineage of American patriots, the lineages they provide are often

undocumented; as with any undocumented secondary source, all aspects should be documented with further research. Also remember that they do not list all the Revolutionary War soldiers. These books only list those who were identified as ancestors of DAR members.

More information about the many services of the Daughters of the American Revolution may be found at: <http://www.dar.org>. However, you will not find online databases at that site.

The records of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution are another great resource. Their records are being released on CD-ROM, not online. You can find out more about their Patriot Index database and their Revolutionary War Graves Register at: <http://www.ancestry.com/library/view/columns/eastman/805.asp>.

For more information about the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolutionary, look at: <http://www.sar.org/>

Finally, never overlook the best source of information: your family. Are you attending a family gathering? If so, ask your relatives, especially your older relatives. They may know some family stories that you have not heard before. Keep in mind that many family stories have a mixture of truth and fiction interwoven in them, but they are always worth verifying. Who knows? Your aunt or uncle just may be able to provide a clue that helps you find information that previously eluded you.

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*The preceding article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2001 by Richard W. Eastman.*

### **WHY THERE IS NO RECORD OF A CIVIL WAR PENSION FOR AN ANCESTOR**

*It was need-based. An excellent elaboration on that is from the State Archives of Georgia. For details on sources used, refer to this link: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ncbladen/lookups.htm>*

Since many of the former Confederate states had very little money after the war, the money that was used for pensions was given to those who were destitute or were unable to make a living because of a disability. There were very strict guidelines used to determine who was eligible for a pension.

*Information from "Civil War Sources at the Georgia Department of Archives and History" brochure.*

#### **Confederate Pension Records**

Article VII, Section 1, of the 1877 Georgia Constitution authorized the state to pay for artificial limbs for Confederate veterans.

The Act of September 20, 1879, provided that such claimants could submit proof of eligibility to the governor who, on receipt of the claim, was authorized to draw a warrant on the state treasurer.

Later acts and constitutional amendments expanded the list of disabilities for which confederate veterans could claim state benefits, such as the loss of eyes and hearing (\*1886) and the disabilities of age and poverty (1894).

The Act of December 23, 1890, allowed for pensions to be paid to widows who were married during the war to Confederate soldiers who died in service of afterwards from wounds or diseases contracted in service.

The Act of December 29, 1899, extended this coverage to include widows who, by reason of poverty, age infirmity, or blindness, were unable to provide a living for themselves.

The Act of December 15, 1896, created the position of commissioner of pensions.

Prior to this time, the comptroller general and the governor administered the claims. Between 1896 and 1939 the responsibility for administering the Pensions and Records Department within the state of Georgia.

The Act of March 17, 1960, abolished this department and transferred its records to State Archives of Georgia. Georgia paid pensions to Confederate soldiers and their widows who were residents of Georgia at the time of the application, providing they met existing application requirements. Eligibility requirements changed from year to year.

*Military service or wartime residence could have been in another state. Soldiers and widows who left Georgia after the war were not eligible for a Georgia pension, but they may have been applied in their subsequent states of residence.*

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## **Additional Facts**

**A typical soldier's pension application may include the name of his unit, day of enlistment and discharge, value of personal property, and the number of years that he lived continuously in Georgia, or, in some cases, his exact date of birth. In rare cases the applicant included his discharge and affidavits from members of his unit in order to prove his service.**

**A typical widow's pension application may include the husband's name, name of his unit, date of their marriage, husband's death date, and how she was supported. In some cases, the widow included a copy of the marriage certificate to prove her relationship to the soldier. Not contained in a typical pension application is genealogical data about family members, such as names of parents, wife, or children.**

**A soldier's death date normally is not included in his file but many times can be found on other pension office records. Usually, names of other family members are found only if the pensioner died while still due a pension payment. Pensioners had to complete an application form each year through 1907; therefore, there is a separate application for each year.**

**The most significant information is normally found on the initial application. After 1907, the County Ordinary annually sent to the state pension office an updated list of county pensioners to show changes from the previous years. The applications are currently arranged alphabetically by county and then by surname within each county. State Archives of Georgia created a name index, and a card was made for each applicant and the three witnesses to the initial application. The index card contains the name of the applicant, the husband's name in the case of the widow, the soldier's unit number/name, and the county in which the application was filed.**

*Pamela W. Coleman, Public Programs Coordinator, State Archives of Georgia  
[www.GeorgiaArchives.org](http://www.GeorgiaArchives.org)*

**HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A KING**  
**Lt. Colonel James Henry Rion, C.S.A.**  
**Biography by James A. Gabel**

James Henry Rion was born in Montreal, Lower Canada, on April 17, 1828. Family history tells that his father Henri de Rion had been a Major in the British Army Engineers stationed in Montreal. However, available official British records can not substantiate that fact. His father died on March 7, 1828. His mother, Margaret Hunter Rion, remained with her parents until they too died in August. Mother and son then left Canada, but their exact travels remain clouded in history. By no later than 1841, but possibly earlier, they arrived in Savannah, Ga.

At a young age James Rion began to show that he was not cut from plain cloth. Enrolled at the Chatham Academy at twelve, within two years he had, according to a friend, "mastered everything to be taught at the Academy. He had completed studies of Algebra, Geometry, and Mathematics comprising Logarithms, Mensuration of surfaces, solids, heights and distances, Trigonometry, Surveying and Navigation; ... Caesar, Virgil, Cicero's Orations... together with several French works..." Barnard Bee, who attended Chatham with James, in later life remembered James receiving letters at the Academy from John C. Calhoun, so it may be that the Rions had made connections with the great man prior to their arrival in Savannah in 1841. In any event, in March 1844, Rion's mother became the housekeeper at Fort Hill the home of John C. Calhoun. Thereafter James was raised with and attended the Pendleton Academy with the younger Calhoun boys.

Calhoun made some attempts to satisfy Rion's request for an appointment to West Point but was not successful. Rion was, however, able to obtain a scholarship from the Clariosophic Society at South Carolina College (now the University of South Carolina). This award was augmented by an invitation from the president of the school, William C. Preston, to join his household. President Preston each year invited a couple of students of great promise to reside in his house. Even more beneficial to Rion than the monetary savings and the close association with this "man of thorough culture, a great rhetorician, orator and statesman" was the fact that it was here that Rion met his future wife, Mary Catherine (Kitty) Weir. Kitty had become Preston's ward after the death of her father in 1847.

Rion returned to Savannah in the summer of 1850 and laid out the Bonaventure Cemetery – a place that is admired for its beauty to this day. That December he graduated with the first honors in his class. He gave the salutatory address in both Latin and English. A year later, he married Kitty Weir in Pennsylvania- the home state of her parents. Following graduation, Rion became Professor of Mathematics and History at the Mt. Zion Academy in Winnsboro, South Carolina. It was here in Winnsboro that he began his legal and military career. Upon his arrival at Mount Zion he organized the students into a corps of cadets and became involved in the local state militia unit, the 25th Regiment, 6th Brigade. At the same time he completed the study of law he had begun before going to SC College. In December 1853, he was admitted to the bar. While practicing law he continued his professorship at Mount Zion and rose in the militia. He was elected major, lieutenant colonel and then colonel of the 25th Regiment.

On November 5, 1857, Rion shot and killed John Player, a friend and classmate at college. Apparently, Player had insulted Kitty and then refused to apologize. The authorities would not arrest Rion until he demanded that they do so. He was then acquitted in March 1858, after the jury deliberated for only six minutes.

With the enactment of the Ordinance of Secession, Rion organized the Fairfield Fencibles in January 1861 and was elected captain. When the company became part of the 6th South Carolina Volunteers, Rion was elected colonel. The 6th was sent to the defense of Charleston harbor arriving the evening before the bombardment of Fort Sumter began. The companies were scattered at different posts, and Rion had some difficulty establishing military discipline over the independently minded volunteers. At one point, two companies that were comfortably quartered in the Moultrie House for awhile refused orders to report for duty at the more spartan surroundings of Battery Island.

The regiment took no part in the bombardment of Fort Sumter except as onlookers, and in June was ordered back to Summerville to be reorganized and mustered into Confederate service. There, discontent among the various factions rose to a head. Colonel Rion responded by calling out the regiment. He stated that, while he was not to blame for the unhappiness of the volunteers, since he was elected by popular vote, he would now submit the question of his resignation to the same constituency. All officers and men who desired his resignation should take three steps forward; those who desired him to remain, should stand fast. After heads were counted, Rion had lost the plebiscite by three votes. Rion immediately tendered his resignation and returned home.

By November 21, 1861 he had raised another company, the Lyles' Rifles, "for the war." Many of its members were former 6th Regiment men who had chosen not to remain with that regiment when it was mustered into Confederate service. The Rifles were mustered into the Confederate Army in December and initially were attached to the Holcombe Legion, but by February 22, 1862 it was part of the 7th Battalion, South Carolina Infantry, commanded by Patrick Henry Nelson. Assigned once again to the defenses of Charleston with his unit, Rion was promoted to Major in March of 1863. On July 11th of that year, Rion commanded the 150 man picket force in front of Battery Wagner when the first Union assault was repulsed. Four days later he led a daring night reconnaissance raid against the enemy lines. The raid resulted in approximately 40 Union killed to only one Confederate. Rion twice returned to the scene of the fighting to recover wounded men that were initially left behind.

From September 1863 to February 1864, Rion was in temporary command of the 22nd S.C. Regiment at Battery Marshall and Fort Johnson in the Charleston Harbor defenses. Despite several requests from General P.G.T. Beauregard, he declined to become permanent commander of the 22nd, preferring to remain with the 7th Battalion.

In May 1864, he went to Virginia with the Battalion, which was brigaded with the 11th, 21st, 25th and 27th S.C. Regiments in Brig. Gen. Johnson Hagood's Brigade. In the engagement at Drewry's Bluff, Rion was wounded in the right forearm but stayed with the unit until nightfall. A month later at Petersburg, he was shot through the left forearm while leading the brigade skirmishers in front of Hare's Hill, south of the City Point Road. He was not able to bounce back from this injury as quickly, and after a month in and out of hospitals, he was sent home to Winnsboro to recuperate.

During Rion's two-month absence, Lt. Col. Nelson was lost. He failed to return after leading the spearhead of a Confederate attack along the City Point Road on June 24th. Rumors reached the Battalion through a captured lieutenant that Nelson had been murdered by negro troops while being taken to the rear as a prisoner. In addition, all of Hagood's Brigade suffered severely during the mid-August battle for Weldon Station.

Rion rejoined the Battalion in early September. In November he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, to date from Nelson's disappearance on June 24th. By December 26th, the Brigade had been transferred to Wilmington, North Carolina in response to Federal operations against Fort Fisher. Rion would command

the Battalion and, subsequently, a composite regiment, and finally the remnants of Hagood's Brigade in engagements near Wilmington, Kinston, and Bentonville, culminating in the surrender of General Johnston's command and Rion's parole at Greensboro.

Rion had survived the war, but his mother had not been as lucky. She had been working as a housekeeper in San Francisco, California when the war started. She returned east at the end of May of 1861 on the same ship as numerous like-minded Southerners, most prominent of whom was Edward Porter Alexander, later a Brig. Gen., C.S.A., recently resigned from the U.S. Army. By August she was serving as a nurse at Midway Hospital in Charlottesville - the first established in Virginia by the South Carolina Hospital Association. She soon became Head Matron at Midway and served in that capacity until her death from typhoidal pneumonia on New Years Day 1863. She was buried there in the city cemetery, accompanied to her final resting-place by "all of the men from our Carolina hospitals that were able to be out."

Rion returned to Winnsboro to pick up the pieces of his life. By General Order No. 1, dated December 22, 1865, he was appointed once again to command of the 25th Regiment of the reorganized S.C. Militia. But under the reconstruction laws this appointment never came to pass. Nonetheless, his law practice prospered. Among his many prominent clients was Thomas Green Clemson, who had married John C. Calhoun's daughter Anna Maria. Rion was deeply involved in drawing up the provisions of Clemson's will which eventually led to the establishment of Clemson Agricultural College (now Clemson University). Rion also immersed himself in both politics and commercial enterprises. He was elected a member of the S.C. Constitutional Convention in August 1866, and from 1876 to 1880 was the S.C. member of the Democratic National Executive Committee. In November 1886, just before his death in December, he was elected President of the S.C. Bar Association.

At his death on December 12, 1886, three sons and five daughters, as well as his wife of 35 years survived him. But probably the most interesting legacy that Colonel Rion left was the revelation that he was heir to the throne of France. Rion claimed on his deathbed that his father was the Lost Dauphin, son of Louis XVI and Marie Antionette.

What follows are excerpts from a sworn statement made by Dr. Ralph B. Hanahan, who served Rion during the war as unit surgeon and afterward as family physician.

*On Saturday 11th Dec. 1886 about 2 o'clock P.M. I was requested by Col. Jas. H. Rion to come down and dine with him as it was the 35 anniversary of his wedding day. I reached his house about 3 1/2 o'clock and almost immediately sat down to dinner. There was none but his family present with the exception of myself...After eating we sat around the fire and smoked a cigar., it then being near dark.*

*...he stepped towards the table...placed his hand upon his chest over the region of his heart; exclaiming "My what a pain, what a pain. Angina." We seated him on a chair and he leaned his head upon the table for a few moments, when he raised his head from the table the expression was fearful, his skin was white as marble and as cold, while large globules of sweat stood upon his face, and he kept exclaiming "My what pain, how ! suffer." We laid him upon a lounge near by and I administered different remedies until the brunt of the attack passed off. When comparatively relieved he requested to be raised to a sitting position. Supported on either side by his two sons Willie and Holbrook he spoke of the distribution of his property and expressed to Mrs. Rion his wishes regarding it. Mrs. Rion being hard of hearing it was necessary to repeat to her what was said, and Willie or myself performed that duty. After finishing about his property, he said, "I have a secret, a great secret, I hardly know how to tell it all, but I want you to understand that if I recover, it must never be mentioned or alluded to in any way." He then said "I am the son..." Willie interrupted him and said, "Yes Father we know."*

[What Willie was referring to was the rumor that had been around for many years that Rion was the illegitimate son of Calhoun, based on their intimate association during Rion's younger days.]

*He replied, "But you don't know. I am the son of Louis the XVII. My Father was the Dauphin of France. He was supposed to have died and was buried, but when the grave was examined there were no remains in it. The Duchess D'Orleans substituted a deaf and dumb boy in his place and he, bearing the name of Rion to prevent his being assassinated, was sent to Montreal, Ca.*

My Father lived in Montreal and late in life married a Miss Hunter daughter of Col. Hunter in the British Army. She was uneducated but was a handsome woman. My Father married her, so as to have issue. I was baptized in the Catholic Cathedral in Montreal and you will find the record among the secret annals of the Cathedral. At my father's death I was turned over to Mr. Calhoun, then Sec. of War with papers substantiating my claim so that he could prosecute them." He said also that papers substantiating his claim would be found in the records of the Austrian Court. That he did not know of these facts until he was 21, when he was pledged to secrecy and forbidden to take any steps towards the recovery of his rights unless a French man-of-war was sent to convey him back. ...

He stated also that he had always refused any civil office because taking the oath would invalidate his claim, that military honors he was always fond of and did not refuse. In answer to a question as to who would succeed to this right He replied, Preston his Eldest son and after him Jimmie his, Preston's, son. He was anxious to know if I thought this narrative was the result of delusion produced by Morphine, fear of death or from other extraneous cause. I replied no, that his word was sufficient for me ....

*At 3.15 o'clock he sank to rest as peacefully and quietly as an infant...on Sunday the 12th of Dec. 1886.*

*I have endeavored to set forth all of the paramount facts...I have set down nothing but what I am positive he said and endeavored to give his language as far as I could.*

Much of what Colonel Rion revealed to his doctor as he lay dying of a heart attack had a ring of truth to it. Many historians who had studied the mystery surrounding the fate of the Dauphin had generally concluded that there is a strong likelihood that he was rescued. However, on April 18, 2000, two European scientists announced that they had completed a DNA analysis that proved that the boy that had died alone in a prison cell was, in fact, the son of Marie Antionette. One of the doctors that had been present at the autopsy of the boy had stolen his heart as a memento. The heart passed through various owners until 1975 when it was put into the custody of the Memorial of France at St.-Denis, a private organization that overseas the royal graves. The scientists were able to extract three samples of mitochondrial DNA from the heart and compared them with samples from locks of hair taken from Marie Antionette and two of her sisters and samples taken from two living maternal relatives. In all cases, they said, they found "identical" sequences. This scientific evidence would seem to disprove the claims of James Henry Rion's and all the other claimants that they were the "Lost Dauphin." With familial pride, I can only subscribe to the sentiments expressed by Judge William M. Thomas, who had been Rion's wartime adjutant, in an April 10, 1887 memorial published in the *Sunday News*, Charleston, SC: "Col. Rion was not a man who would nurse a chimera for a lifetime." He must have been told the story of his ancestry by someone who he believed, and he lived his adult life as though the story was fact.

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### Cemetery Books

Cemetery survey books of Fairfield County are available at the Fairfield Museum in Winnsboro or by mail from the address below. Volume One includes large cemeteries in the western part of the county; Volume Two is cemeteries in the East and Volume III is some of the rest including most family and abandoned burying grounds. The cost is \$25.00 each (plus \$5 for each volume if mailed).

FAIRFIELD GENEALOGY ROOM  
PO BOX 941  
WINNSBORO, SC 29180



## **Rural Churches of Fairfield County** **by Nelle McMaster Sprott**

Riding down country roads in South Carolina can be a rewarding experience if one who is interested in old churches. The buildings are appreciated for their style and setting. Typical of many in rural Fairfield County is the white clapboard building, with a small steeple, sitting well back from the road in a grove of oaks and sweet gums. On one side of the church is the cemetery with its variety of markers, ranging from weathered field stones, to leaning wooden crosses, to modern shiny monuments. On the other side of the building, long picnic tables are placed under the trees in readiness for all day singing and dinner on the grounds, that grand occasion of revival sometimes called big meeting. A pathway leads down the hill to the spring, whose refreshments cannot be equaled by piped water.

Usually there is a sign in the front giving the name of the congregation. And what pleasing names these rural churches have, Shady Grove, Cool Branch, Sweet Prospect, charmingly descriptive names which put to shame the unimaginative numerals by which some city churches are called, such as First Church, Second Church, etc.

Generally built in a grove of trees, the church is often named for the grove. On Fairfield County Road 21, near Great Falls, there is a Pleasant Grove Church; on South Carolina 34 is Shady Grove. Pine Grove is on Fairfield 52 near Mitford, as is Gladden Grove. Piney Grove is on Fairfield 115 near the Richland County line. Country Grove is on Fairfield 176 and Leitner Grove is on Fairfield 420. Black Jack (Fairfield 70) was built originally of black gum timber. There are three churches named White Oak, one near Flint Hill, one on Fairfield 43 near Kershaw County and one is in the small town of the same name six miles north of Winnsboro.

Several rural churches have Mt. attached to their names. Three of them are on the same road (Fairfield 22) in the beautiful New Hope section. They are Mt. Pilgrim, Mt. Olive and Mt. Visit. There is a Mt. Pisgah (Fairfield 3) which one would suppose was named for the range of mountains near the Dead Sea, of which Nebo is the summit and from which Moses viewed the Promised Land. On SC 34, near Kershaw County are Mt. Rehovah and Mt. Rehoboth. The Westminster Dictionary of the Bible records that Rehoboth was a well dug by Isaac in the valley of Gerar (Genesis 26:22). Rehoboth means room, or broad places. Near Jenkinsville on SC 215 is Mt. Moriah. In the Bible this was the place where Abraham prepared to sacrifice Isaac, and afterward where Solomon built the Temple.

Mt. Zion is a familiar name in Fairfield, as the first school to be located in the Up Country was so called. The school was founded in 1777 by the Mt. Zion Society, which was organized in Charleston, January 9, 1777, and incorporated, February 12, 1777, for the purpose of founding, endowing, and supporting a public school in the district of Camden for the education and instruction of youth. There is a rural church called Mt. Zion on Fairfield 221 and another called Greater Mt. Zion on Fairfield 234. There is also a Zion on 234, a New Zion near Flint Hill and Zion Hopewell on SC 34.

The red clay soil and rocky foundation of the county are reflected in these names: Red Hill Church (Fairfield 303 near Woodward) and there are two churches called Rock Hill, one on SC 215 near Jenkinsville and the other on Fairfield 101 near the Wateree River.

The following churches take their names from creeks or rivers in the vicinity: Rock Creek (SC 34 near Salem Cross Roads), Cool Branch (SC 215), Little River Baptist (SC 213), The latter is near Gibsons Meeting House, which is thought to have been the first church in Fairfield County. Sawneys Creek is near Centerville, Beaver Creek (Fairfield 18, near Chester County), Morris Creek (Fairfield 48). Old Jackson Creek (Fairfield 38), sometimes called Old Stone Church is in ruins, but it was one of the first Presbyterian

Creek (Fairfield 38), sometimes called Old Stone Church is in ruins, but it was one of the first Presbyterian Churches in this area. The term *run* means creek or branch. In Fairfield there are: Long Run near the Wateree River and Crooked Run near Richland County.

The Gospel Writers are honored in Fairfield's rural churches. On Fairfield 294 there is St. Matthews, on SC 34 is St. Marks, on Fairfield 63 St. Lukes and on SC 213 and US 21 are churches named St. John.

St. Peter's is on SC 215, St. Barnabas, the apostle Paul's missionary companion, is honored by a church on Fairfield 247 near Jenkinsville. St. Mary's is located on Fairfield 303 near Woodward. Which Mary is intended is not known, the Virgin Mary, Mary of Bethany or Mary Magdalene. The name Mary occurs again in Weeping Mary Baptist Church, of which there are two in the county. One is located on US 321 at White Oak and the other is near the Broad River on Fairfield 99. One would assume that this Mary is Mary Magdalene, who was weeping in the garden on the first Easter morning when Jesus appeared to her after the Resurrection (John 20-11-18).

Mary churches have Holy Land names, such as: Lebanon (SC 34), Gethsemane (SC 34), Antioch (SC 215), Shiloh (Fairfield 70), Macedonia (near US 21 at Smallwood), Salem (SC 215), Bethel (US 321 near Woodward and also Fairfield 269), Bethlehem (Fairfield 222), and Bethesda near Mitford (Fairfield 200) and another Bethesda on Fairfield road 269.

The Old Brick Church, (SC 213) between Winnsboro and Jenkinsville, built in 1788, was first called Little River Church, then it was changed to Ebenezer Meeting House and is so marked on the 1820 map which was improved for the 1825 Mills Atlas. Ebenezer, which means stone of help, is a favorite name for Associate Reformed Presbyterian congregations. On the Mills Map all of Fairfield County churches are designated by the title M.H. or Meeting House.

Mt. Olivet Meeting House (Fairfield 20) was called by the unique name of the Wolf Pit when it was first organized about 1773 by the Reverend William Martin, whose anti-British sermons landed him in military prison and afforded him an appearance before Lord Cornwallis in Winnsboro in 1780. Evidently there was a pit or trap for wild animals in the vicinity of the church, thereby furnishing the name. About 1795 the name was changed to Wateree; the Wateree Creek and River are nearby and about 1800 the church became known as Mt Olivet.

One of the more intriguing names is Hessian Hill, located on SC 215 between Salem Cross Roads and the Feasterville section of the county. The present church is across the road from the original location. It is probable that Hessian troops camped on this hill during Cornwallis' occupation of Winnsboro in the winter of 1780-1781 (October-January). Or possibly Hessian soldiers are buried there. This section is near Mobeley's Meeting House where in May 1780 a body of Whigs attacked and dispersed a group of Tories that were gathering at the church. One of the first victories of the Patriots after the fall of Charleston, it was followed by the battle of Fish Dam Ford ten miles north on the Broad River in November 1780 and the battle of Cowpens in January 1781. This country knew well the tramp of British soldiers and their Hessian mercenaries.

Fairfield may not be the richest, or the largest, or the most influential county in the state, but there is one thing that we do have much of that precious ingredient which springs eternal as evidenced in these names: Old Hope Station (SC 215), New Hope (Fairfield 22 and 70), Upper Hope Stations (Fairfield 28 near Chester County), Good Hope (near Wateree River), and best of all, Sweet Hope (SC 215).