

Fairfield Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 16 Number 3

16th Year

September 2003

The next meeting of the Fairfield Chapter of the SCGS will be Sunday at 3:00 pm, on September 28, 2003 at the First Methodist Church in Winnsboro, S. C. The church is located on Congress Street, one block north of the town clock, across from the Winnsboro, S. C. Post Office. Put this date on your calendar and plan to join us for the meeting.

Table of Contents

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Table of Contents | 1 |
| Books-Query | 2 |
| The Fair and Mount Zion Sketch | 3 |
| Captain Joseph Banks Lyle | 5 |
| Rock Creek Sketches | 7 |
| Rocky Mount Articles | 8 |
| Molly Alston Graveyard | 11 |
| 1888 Fairfield County Map | 13 |
| Union Reform Club | 14 |
| Tournament at Salem Church | 15 |
| Captain R. S. Desportes Sketch | 15 |
| Fairfield County Civil War Veterans | 17 |

Articles, Bible Records, Lineage Charts Etc. Needed

Sharing your information, sources, and experiences is a vital part of being a member of your genealogical society. Please submit any information you may have for inclusion in your newsletter to:

Fairfield Chapter – SCGS
P. O. Box 93
Winnsboro, S. C. 29180

or

Jon and Barbara Davis
email: davis925@mindspring.com

Fairfield Chapter Officers

President: Bill Wall – Columbia, SC 803-781-2679

Secretary and Treasurer: John E. Hollis – Chapin 803-345-2877
jhollis@conterra.com

Newsletter Editor: Jon and Barbara Davis 101 Summerfield Drive,
Lexington. S. C. 29072
davis925@mindspring.com

Chapter Director: Mrs. Ted R. (Henrietta Rosson) Morton – Greenwood, SC
hrmorton@emerald.com

Cemetery and Marriage Books

Three Cemetery survey books of Fairfield County are available. Volume One included large cemeteries in the western section of the county, Volume Two in the eastern section and Volume Three includes most family and abandoned burying grounds. The marriage book lists marriages found in the Fairfield Herald and The News and Herald Newspapers from August 1, 1866 to May 6, 1911.

The cemetery books cost \$30.00 each and the marriage book costs \$23.00. They are available at the Fairfield Museum in Winnsboro or by mail from

FAIRFIELD GENEALOGY ROOM
P. O. Box 941
Winnsboro, S. C. 29180

QUERY

HUEY – POPE – CATHCART

Seeking any information about Josie M. (Pope) and J. Edward Huey. They are buried in Lebanon Presbyterian Church Cemetery. Josie died in 1927 and Edward died in 1952. Edward died in Lynbrook, New York. He was living with his daughter, Mrs. Rosser LeGwin.

Seeking any information on a Cathcart Plantation from 1824 on. These Cathcart's were James Sr., James Jr., and Robert Cathcart.

Evelyn C. Murray, 23 Howard Hill Road, Foster, R. I. 02825-1220

This article was in the August 17, 1870 issue of the News and Herald

The Fair

The Fruit Fair held Friday was well attended, and none who saw the beautiful specimens of Fruits and Vegetables exhibited, and doubt our thriftlessness in not having a most abundant supply of the choicest luxuries in the world. We have but to will it, and a few years would make of Fairfield a garden of good fruit.

The following prizes were awarded for the best selections of Fruits and Vegetables, on Friday last:

For the best variety and specimens of Apples, set of Salt-Cellars, R. N. McMaster. 2nd best, Plain Cup, Dr. T. R. Center.

For best variety of Peaches, Syrup Pitcher, Capt. E. J. Means. 2nd best, Fruit Knife, S. B. Clowney

For best variety of Grapes, Gilt Goblet, Mrs. W. R. Robertson. 2nd best, Pickle Knife and Fork, S. B. Clowney

For best Melons, ½ doz. Spoons, R. E. Ellison, Sr. 2nd best, Gilt Cup, W. R. Robertson

For best variety of Vegetables, Fish Knife, Mrs. W. T. Robertson. 2nd best, Butter Knife, Rev. T. W. Erwin

Miscellaneous Fruits, Sugar Spoon, Mrs. H. B. McMaster

This article was in the November 7, 1894 issue of the News and Herald

A Sketch of Mt. Zion

Mt. Zion Society was chartered in February, 1777. The corporators were Francis Adams, ~~Robert Buchanan~~, Robert Ellison, Joseph Kirkland, John Kennedy, John Milling, David Milling, Wm. Strother, ~~Richard Strother~~, Thos. Taylor, John Winn, Thomas Woodward.

There was a school kept but I do not know the teachers previous to 1785. Col. Richard Winn was president of the society in 1783, Col. John Winn in 1784.

Mount Zion College was incorporated in 1785. Rev. Thomas Harris McCaule, of Rowan, N. C., was selected principal. T. W. Yongue, of North Carolina, was tutor. Wm. Davis, Mr. Humphreys, Wm. Strait and J. Wallis, also assisted Mr. McCaule during his presidency of eight years.

Minor Winn was president of the society in 1788. Rev. T. H. McCaule was president of the society as well as principal of the college in 1789.

1792 John Winn was president. July 4th, 1793, Rev. T. H. McCaule resigned his position and must have moved away shortly afterwards as his name is seen last in the minutes of the society on the 20th of July, '93.

1793 Rev. Wm. Nixon principal from July 1793 to March 1794

1794 Rev. T. W. Yongue, principal.

1801 Rev. John Foster principal for three years.

1803 Robert Crawford, principal.

1805 Rev. George Reid, principal.

1808 Rev. John Foster, principal.
 1811 Rev. T. H. Porter, principal assisted by Mr. Anderson.
 1817 Mr. Hollirquest, principal.
 1818 Rev. A. W. Ross, principal.
 1823 George Fitz, who died and was buried in Presbyterian churchyard.
 1824 Robert Munford.
 1827 Samuel Stafford.
 1829 Robert L. Edmunds.
 1834 J. W. Hudson to 1858, 24 years.
 1858 Gen. John A. Alston.
 1860 Wm. Muller.
 1861 Maj. J. A. Leland and L. McCandless. Major Leland raised a company and went to the coast as a captain with O. R. Thompson as first lieutenant.
 1862 W. Rivers
 1863 T. J. Well.
 1868 G. A. Woodward.
 1871 Miles M. Farrow.
 1873 R. H. Clarkson.
 1875 W. M. Dwight.
 1877 R. Means Davis
 1882 D. C. Webb
 1883 Patterson Wardlaw and B. R. Turnipseed
 1885 J. C. Cork
 1886 W. H. Witherow

James Wilson Hudson was the most distinguished teacher at Mt. Zion during this century; but Rev. Thomas Harris McCaule is entitled to the first place, being as it were the founder of the college. He was a graduate of the College of New Jersey. Scarce of medium height, of stout frame, dark piercing eyes, pleasant countenance and willing manners, with a fine voice he was popular as a preacher and a man. Public spirited, he encouraged the Revolution and in the time of the invasion, went with his flock to the camp, and was at the side of Gen. Wm. Davidson when he fell at Cowan's Ford, gallantly resisting Lord Cornwallis. Of so much repute was he as a public spirited man that he was once run for the governor's chair (when patriots held sway) and failed by a very small vote.

During his presidency of the college the sons of the prominent men from all parts of South Carolina attended the school. Gen Andrew Jackson attended school here doubtless under Mr. McCaule.

In 1880 a venerable lady of Charleston, Mrs. Magwood, writes to Mr. J. D. Aiken: "My father, Wm. Cotesworth Pinkney, was a graduate of Mount Zion College either in 1790 or 1791. Unfortunately papers relating to his collegiate course, including his "valedictory address" were lost among other literary treasures during the late *so-called civil war*. According to my impression Judge Charles Jones Colcock, his life long friend and relative, was a member of his class. The president of the college at that time was a Mr. McCaule of whose character and attainments my father after spoke of in terms of warmest commendation, regarding him as a man eminently fitted for the position he held, being highly educated and remarkably pious.

G. H. McMaster

Joseph Banks Lyle, 1829 - 1913

On July 23, 2003 at the Fairfield County Museum there was a Presentation Ceremony of the Confederate Medal of Honor Award. This Award was for the service of Captain Joseph Banks Lyle during the Civil War.



Mr. Michael Thomas of the General Robert E. Lee Chapter of the Son of Confederate Veterans, presents the Confederate Medal of Honor Award to Pelham Lyles. The Medal of Honor may be seen in the Fairfield County Museum in Winnsboro.

Confederate Medal of Honor

Citation

Captain Joseph Banks Lyle
5th South Carolina Infantry, C. S. A.

Battle of Williamsburg Road, Virginia
27 October 1864

“Seeing that the enemy attack upon the works had failed, Captain Lyle watched the foe retreat to the safety of a ravine in the middle of the battlefield. Suspecting these men to be broken in morale and dispirited, Captain Lyle, ignoring two slight wounds received earlier in the day, requested permission to advance the skirmish line and capture them, knowing they would escape under cover of approaching night. When his request was refused, Captain Lyle advanced toward the enemy position alone. Although joined by two compatriots moments later, Captain Lyle realized the danger his two companions risked in accompanying him. Instructing them to halt on a rise overlooking the enemy, he continued forward. Upon hearing the shout of an enemy officer exhorting his men to continue the fight, Captain Lyle ordered his two companions to shoot down the officer unless he stopped his tirade. Advancing alone, Captain Lyle now came under friendly fire from Confederates far up the works as they mistook him for a deserter. When word spread that the distant figure was a Confederate officer, all firing ceased and men up and down the line watched in disbelief as Captain Lyle audaciously ordered the entire force before him to surrender. After half the enemy had filed from the protection of the ravine, another officer challenged him by berating his fellow soldiers for surrendering to a single man whom they could easily overpower and kill. Grabbing a discarded Spencer carbine, Captain Lyle advanced upon the man and threatened to kill him if he did not obey his demand to surrender, dramatically ending any further resistance. In one of the most incredible feats of personal valor witnessed during the War Between the States, Captain Lyle single-handedly captured three strands of colors, several swords and small arms, and between 500 and 600 prisoners. For extraordinary heroism at great personal peril, Captain Joseph Banks Lyle is hereby awarded the Confederate Medal of Honor

From the August 23, 1876 Issue of the News and Herald

Fairfield Sabre Club

At the annual election for officers of this Club, held on Saturday, the 19th inst., the following selections were made:

J. B. Davis, Captain; F. J. Cameron, 1st Lieut.; T. R. Robertson, 2nd Lieut.; J. D. McCarley, 3rd Lieut.; W. J. Herron, 1st Sergt.; T. W. Rawls, 2nd Sergt.; W. W. Brice, 3rd Sergt.; Iraneus Pope, 4th Sergt.; A. E. Davis, 5th Sergt.; J. W. Brown, 1st Corp.; F. A. Neil, 2nd Corp.; J. W. Lyles, 3rd Corp.; J. W. McCreight, 4th Corp.; E. A. Rabb, 5th Corp.; J. W. McCants, Sec. and Treas.; M. F. Pope, Color bearer; Dr. J. C. Mobley, Surgeon. The Club numbers at present fifty-five men.

This is the continuation of the series of articles written by a W. E. This article appeared in the July 24, 1880 issue of the News and Herald

Personal Reminiscences

Prominent Men Of Western Fairfield, Who Lived Long Ago

Rock Creek, July 20 – Near Monticello lived John Rogers, only son of the Rev. Jas. Roberts, Maj. Chas. Wm. Hugh, and David Montgomery; lower down, Col. John Thomson, old Mr. Glenn and his sons. His son Arthur was about my age, and was first clerk in Col. Wm. Kincaid's store. He was a practical farmer, correct land surveyor and deacon of Little River Baptist Church. David Montgomery was a useful citizen, and removed to Starkville, Miss., together with John Rogers, Col. John Thompson, Hugh and Robert Bell to the same vicinity, about 1835. These good citizens we were loth to part with. David Montgomery, Esq., I had the pleasure of visit on a tour of observation in 1856, living near Starkville, Miss. I found him the owner of a valuable plantation and the finest dwelling, with corresponding improvement that I noticed in my travels through that State. He was an intelligent and practical citizen. Soon after he was removed to Mississippi he was elected a member of the Legislature of that State. His hobby and strong forte was to preserve the credit and honor of his adopted State by using his influence against the Repudiation Bill, so he told me, which was not passed into an Act, but the State paid her loan soon afterwards and thereby preserved her credit. He died, as I was told, not long since in a green old age, having served his God and his country faithfully. Below lived Wm. Watt, Sr. and his sons, Wm. Ashley, John A. Martin, Silas Ruff, John and Laban Chapell, Jas. Elkin and Maj. Elliott Elkin, all worthy citizens. John Chapell was noted for his course manners and eccentricities. He would often dean in comparisons or similes. My friend Jas. Andrews used to relate several of his sayings, one of which I recollect in relation to a Broad River contract for the improvement of its navigation for cotton boats. The contract was located, I think , at Chapell's or Summer's shoals. Three men bid for is, which I will designate as follows" Old Johnnie said "A cackled, B laid the egg and C found it." He was induced by his friends on Broad and Little Rivers to allow his name placed in nomination as a candidate for the Legislature about 1825 or '30; and on one occasion, while on visit to Winnsboro, his friend Philip Edward Pearson, as I was told, finding him in dishabille, clothed as at home, induced him to buy a blue broad coat as he would buy nothing else. The next time his friend P. E. P. saw him he could not repress his laughter. He had on his cloth coat with big gilt buttons, copperas breeches, homespun jacket, and it unbuttoned, with one home made "gallows" (brace) and coarse brogan shoes, with a coarse slouched hat, on a canvass of the District. Notwithstanding his oddities, he received a respectable vote. He possessed a retentive memory, sound understanding, was a good judge of human nature, and a man of practical knowledge.

Near Monticello lived Wm. Cato and his sons Stephen and Robert, also George, Col. John James and Peter Dawkins, Wm. Dansby, Wm. Carnahan, Jonathan and his son Burr Harrison, John and George and Charnel James, John Morris and sons. Isaac Morris, as is well known by his neighbors, died since our late war, and was an efficient deacon of Rock Creek Church. His pious sons Robert and William both died, one before him early in our late war, the latter but a few years since. Wm. Martin, James Hugh and Joseph Gladney, Capt. E. F. Lyles, formerly sheriff of our county, lived and died near Monticello, all respectable citizens. Isaac Lowe was an exemplary member and deacon of Rock Creek Church, and removed to Cass

County, Ga., with his respectable son-in-law, Sam'l. Bradford, where they died a few years since. Near Salem lived and died two useful and respectable citizens, Capt. Hugh Milling and Wm. Hamilton, both farmers in the true sense of the word. Capt. Milling was an efficient drill officer and a man of practical knowledge. I have skipped the Gibsons. Mills in his statistics, if I remember aright, states that Jacob Gibson removed here from North Carolina long before our Revolution, as a Baptist preacher, and was an excellent scholar and teacher and a sound and practical preacher. His grandsons lived on Little River, and there some died – all good planters, respectable and useful citizens – Elijah and Joseph Willingham also. Higher up on Little River lived William, Robert and Martin Yongue, Henry and his son Hunt Macons, John Simonton, Alexander Douglass, James, William and Col. Hugh Stevenson, and the Brices. They were the owners of the most fertile land I knew in our county, and they knew how to cultivate them profitably.

As a last token of respect to the memory of my old comrades in the Buckhead corps cavalry, John Simonton and Alexander Douglass, I can say in candor they were s respectable and useful citizens as Fairfield could boast of. Peace to their ashes! And now, last but not least, allow me to record the memory of my dear friend and neighbor, Gen. Wm. Boykin Lyles, and his brother Austin Peay Lyles, who fell in battle in Virginia early in our late war, in defense of liberty and the Constitution. Wm. Boykin Lyles, as is well known, was a captain of a company from this State when he fell. He was a popular officer and kind to his command. Noble, chivalrous and patriotic, he combined all the rare and virtuous qualities that constitute a citizen, officer and gentleman. *Requiescat in pace.*

This is Part III of a series of articles written by L. M. Ford for the Fairfield News and Herald. This article was printed in the March 8, 1905 Issue.

Richard Gaither

Richard Gaither migrated from Maryland some years prior to the Revolution and settled on Little Rocky Creek, Chester County, but spent the greater part of his life in the vicinity of Rocky Mount, where he accumulated a considerable estate and some slaves. Much of this land is still in possession of his descendants. He died in 1825, at more than ninety years of age.

Richard Gaither was a Whig soldier in the Revolution. Very little is now known of his soldier life or military record. At one time he was confined by the British in Camden until he was nearly eaten up by vermin. He was condemned to die and the day of his execution was set and near at hand, when a British officer intervened and his life was spared. It is regretted that the name of this officer has not been reserved in the family. The crime for which he was to die was that he loved his country and fought against the King.

His daughter, Rachel, obtained permission to carry some clothing to take the place of that infested with vermin. After accomplishing her mission she and a neighbor lady Mrs. Ben Land, who had accompanied her, started on their way home, a distance of forty miles through an unbroken forest. They had not traveled more than half the distance when a band of mounted Tories who had no regard for passes commanded the weary travelers to halt. As soon as Miss

Rachel ascertained that they wanted her horses she bestrode the back of her fleet footed animal and used her whip to good advantage. After racing several miles, she made good her escape while her more timid friend gave up her horse and trudged her way home on foot.

On another occasion a squad of Tories came to her father's house and ordered a meal for themselves. Rachel informed them that nothing could be kept on account of the British and Tories. After she was threatened, her mother told her where she could find some coarse meal and to prepare some bread and milk for them. When ready she set before them the milk in an old pewter basin. After they had partaken of the bread and milk, Rachel said to them: "If the basin was melted and poured down your throats, it would be the desert, of all other, that I desire you should have.

This lady had descendants, Bradshaw and others, in York County.

William Lewis

William Lewis came from Virginia before the war of Independence and settled in the vicinity of Rocky Mount where he continued to reside until his death in the thirties at an advanced age, probably more than ninety years. He was twice married and left a large family of children.

The record of Mrs. Lewis in the Revolutionary War was excellent, although little of it is now known. He was a Gates' defeat near Camden, Rocky Mount, Sumter's surprise at Fishing Creek, Hanging Rock, and other places,

Some Tories stole a number of horses and encamped on Big Wateree Creek in the plantation now known as LaGrange and belonging to Mr. John G. Mobley. They had divested themselves of all their clothing save their shirts, and had them hanging around rousing fires to dry them. Mr. Lewis and a few others charged upon, completely surprised them, and captured the horses. But the Tories jumped into the creek in their denuded condition and betook themselves to the woods.

On another occasion he chased a Tory and captured his horse and two sides of bacon which he had stolen from a poor woman.

Reuben and John Pickett came from Virginia and settled on Wateree Creek. They often aided William Lewis in his raids and skirmishes.

A Tory was killed at the spring near the present residence of William S. Sibley and another was shot and killed climbing the fence on the roadside near the house now occupied by Robert Meeks, colored. These were cold blooded and were probably done to expiate some former offense against the Whigs.

Samuel McCraey, Fishing Creek, was an ardent patriot and did much service against the British and Tories around Rocky Mount. When hostilities ended, he secluded himself from his neighbors and friends for ten years. He then joined the Baptist ministry and served his church faithfully until his death. He was pastor of Mt. Zion Church for many years. Mentally he was much above mediocrity. His arguments in favor of the tenets and doctrines of his church were considered the best advanced in his day. His sermons brought delight to the Christian and terror to the sinner.

These are all the Revolutionary incidents we have been able to gather.

Grimkeville

On the crest of the hill west of Rocky Mount ferry the town of Grimkeville was surveyed in 1792. The two main streets, which trended northerly and southerly, were called Washington and Pinckney. The cross streets were Blanding, Manigault, Izzard, Cripps, Barnett, Laughton, Davie, Kean, and Allen.

Among the first lot owners and probably residents were Mr. J. F. Grimke. L. Smith, J. Allen Smith, Manigault, John D. Maxwell, William Houston, and Hugh McMillian. The hill on which this town was built is the true and original Rocky Mount. Lots were reserved for a seminary, parsonage, church, and cemetery. The residence of John G. Johnston stands upon the church lot.

It was named in honor of J. F. Grimke, prominent in South Carolina affairs in his day.

Judge J. F. Grimke owned much land along the west bank of the River. The legislature passed an act Dec. the 18, 1817, to purchase these lands, which purchase was consummated May the 1st, 1818. The price paid was \$19,258. This purchase was probably made preparatory to digging the canal.

This once populous and growing town bade fair to increase in size, population, and importance. It was situated at the head of flat boat navigation, and the bugle blast announcing the arrival and departure of boats was often heard. It was surrounded by field of fertile soil, cultivated by thrifty and energetic husbandmen, and a considerable trade was carried on it. Now the town is desolate and forsaken, no boat now comes or goes. Those who walked to and fro on the streets have passed, and their habitations have moulded into dust. The streets have been obliterated by the plow share. The lowing of cattle on the hill side and the powman's phrases in the cotton field, take the place of the bustle and hum of business on the crowded streets.

Catching Shad

Charles Wald came from Virginia and settled near the Catawba Falls, Chester County, probably shortly after the Revolutionary War.

In his Virginia home shad were caught in a dip net. As he settled near a river in his new home, nothing was more natural than for him to try it in the Catawba. Success crowned his efforts. From this beginnings catching shad and carp grew to be a very lucrative business and continued to be so for many years. Some time after the war, however, the catches began to dwindle and grew less until the State established a fish commission, whose business it was to put millions of young shad in the upper part of the river. After that, fish were caught in increased numbers and became plentiful. To lop off some expense the fish commission was abolished, so that for the past several seasons shad are scarcely caught at all.

The May Picnic

The writer hears Mr. William Nichols, who was born in 1797 and spent his entire life in this vicinity, say he could not remember when there was not a party of some kind at the Falls on the first Saturday in May.

As the proprietors of the fisheries needed their hands on their farms afterwards, the first Saturday in May was the last day on which they fished. Some of the friends were invited to a dinner of fish, cooked on the river bank on the last day. Very likely fish were served in a different ways and everybody partook of the toothsome delicacies until all were satisfied.

May not this neighborly and friendly intercourse with a fish dinner attached be the beginning of what is now a gigantic meeting of people, mostly strangers to each other without the fish dinner.

MOLLY ALSTON GRAVEYARD



This graveyard is located on Mosseydale-Greenbrier Road, just off of State Road 269 in the southeastern section of Fairfield County. There are 30 graves with tombstones, several with just stones and indications of many unmarked graves.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| | 13 | 14 | | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | | | | 19 |
| | | | | 20 | 21 | | | | | | |

22

25

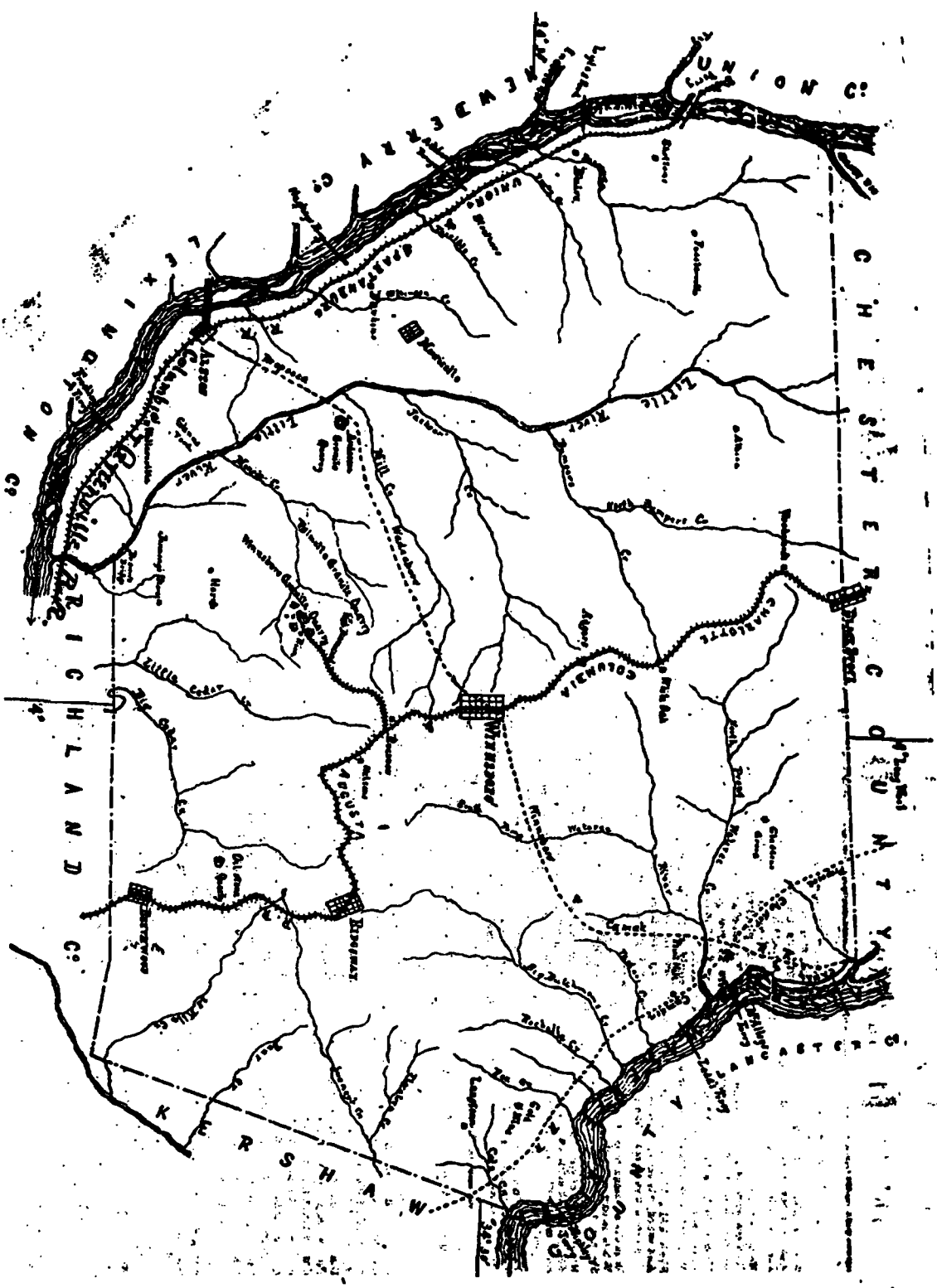
23

| | | |
|----|----|----|
| 26 | 27 | 28 |
| | 29 | 30 |

24

- 1 – Samuel A. McKinstry – no dates
- 2 – Samuel McKinstry – no dates
- 3 – Mary Anna Mckinstry – no dates
- 4 – Jane A. McKinstry – no dates
- 5 – John Alston Jr. – no dates
- 6 – Nancy Alston – no dates
- 7 – John Alston – died June 3, 1787 – aged 48 years
- 8 – Mary Alston – died July 11, 1826 – aged 77 years
- 9 – Samuel Alston – died July 30, 1834 – aged 64 years
- 10 – Agnes Alston – no dates
- 11 – James S. T. Alston – died April 3, 1818 – aged 55 years
- 12 – Mary Alston – born August 24, 1772 – died August 26, 1857 – aged 85 years and 2 days
- 13 – Samuel McKinstry – died May 26, 1836 – aged 67 years, 5 months and 25 days
- 14 – Margaret McKinstry – died September 12, 1832 – aged 62 years
- 15 – George W. D. McKinstry – died September 27, 18?? (appears to be 1840)
- 16 – John W. G. McKinstry – October 15, 18??-October 23, 18??
- 17 – Thomas McKinstry – died April 21, 1833 – aged 54 years
- 18 – Jane Elizabeth Tolafero – no dates
- 19 – Elizabeth Logan – no dates (at bottom of stone-G. Brown, Columbia, 1855)
- 20 – Janet Brown – December 6, 1745-May 30, 1830
- 21 – James Brown – June 1740-March 14, 1821 – born in Fife-Shire, Scotland
- 22 – William B. Thompson – January 19, 1798-April 19, 1830
- 23 – Thomas J. McD. Brown – no dates
- 24 – Nancy McConnell – daughter of James and Charlotte McConnell – born September 28, 1851-unable to read death date – aged 4 years
- 25 – Agnes Boyd – died November 3, 1825 – aged 67
- 26 – George Brown – 1812-October 13, 1888 – aged 76 years
- 27 – Margaret Brown – May 28, 1810 – June 8, 1877 – aged 67 years – wife of George Brown
- 28 – Edward P. Brown – died November 6, 1867 – aged 19 years and 26 days
- 29 – Mary E. McDill – January 1, 1832-October 6, 1887 – aged 65 years
- 30 – Annie McDill – February 16, 1897-October 28, 1895

MAP OF FREDERICK COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA.



County Map that appeared in the April 21, 1888 News and Herald.

September 14, 1870 Issue of the News and Herald

Union Reform Club Appointments:

At a Union Reform meeting, (agreeable to the published call) on Monday last, Baylis Elkin, Esq., was called to the chair, and Dr. Wm. E. Aiken, appointed Secretary.

Mr. Jas. B. McCants was unanimously elected to act as County Chairman for the party in Fairfield.

On motion of Mr. B. R. Stuart, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, that we advocate the union of all citizens, irrespective of differences of political opinion, who favor an honest and economical State Government, low taxes, moderate salaries, and greater material prosperity.

Resolved, That the Chair appoint gentlemen to assist in organizing Union Reform Clubs in every voting precinct, which clubs when formed, are requested to send delegates to a Convention to meet in Winnsboro on first Monday of October, to present a County ticket for the suffrages of the citizens of Fairfield.

In accordance with the above resolutions, as chairman, I appoint the following persons to establish Union Reform Clubs at the several County precincts:

Winnsboro – W. R. Robertson, Thos. W. Woodward, William H. Williams, William E. Aiken, Geo. H. McMaster

Ridgeway – Joseph Lauhon, Howell Edmonds, Robert G. Lamar, John D. McCarley, James F. Kennedy

Doko – Baylis E. Elkin, Dr. S. W. Bookhart, J. W. Starnes, John C. Haigood, L. M. Bookhart

Horeb – John W. Robinson, A. P. Irby, N. C. Robertson, Henry Gibson, Christian E. Leitner

Feasterville – Edward Means, Samuel H. Stevenson, James F. V. Legg, Dr. James McMallum. David Coleman

Yonguesville – W. W. Brice, Theodore Mobly, Dr. Richard Y. Dwight, Burr C. Rosboroughm, R. Wade Brice

Alston – Dr. John M. Glenn, Joseph R. Cook, John W. McMeekin, Geo. W. Gibson, N. B. Holley

Monticello – M. L. Owens, Thos. W. Rabb, Major Wm. Bell, James Gelston, Col. J. T. Dawkins

Gladden's Grove – Capt. James Beaty, Osmond R. Brown, Joseph C. Caldwell, Dr. Ira Scott, Edward P Mobley

Killinsworth – R. R. Vann, William McCully, William E. Yongue, Dr. John Boyd, Austin F. Perry

J. B. McCants, Chairman

August 8, 1878 Issue of the News and Herald

Bound for Texas – Messrs. S. D. Mobley, J. B. Mobley and John Mobley, with their sister, Miss Rebecca Mobley, and Mr. John Erwin, left for Texas on Tuesday. We regret to lose such good citizens, but we wish them every success in their new field.

October 13, 1869 Issue of the News and Herald

Tournament at Salem Church

We had the pleasure of attending the large Tournament at Salem, on last Tuesday, 5th inst., the day was a bright and beautiful one. The beauty of that section graced the occasion with their presence. About 12 o'clock the Knights arrived on the field and took their positions at the head of the track preparatory to the contest. They were all well mounted and handsomely dressed.

The following are names of the Knights and characters:

Jas. M. Milling, Robert Bruce; W. H. McPheetus, Sir Walter Raleigh; J. H. McClain, Scottish Chief; Coleman Lyles, Ocoola; T. Ross Robertson, White Rose; H. J. Coleman, Zouave; J. Q. Bolin, Green Forrester; Hugh Wilkes, Island Hope; Amos Davis, Northumberland; J. B. Turner, Messenger; J. Porter, Crescent City; J. F. Lyles, Little Corporal; D. M. Milling, Golden Star; R. R. Milling, Nameless; C. Rabb, James Fitz James; P. Pearson, Red Cape; R. C. Arnett, Templar; M. Feaster, Golden Horse Shoe; Jno. S. Clowney, Independent; T. D. Owens, Lone Star; R. M. Crumpton, Texas Ranger.

About 4 o'clock the prizes were awarded to the following Knights for greatest number of rings taken.

- 1st prize, White Rose, Saddle
- 2nd prize, Golden Horse Shoe, two Silver Cups
- 3rd prize, Independent, Bridle
- 4th prize, Northumberland, one Silver Cup
- 5th prize, Templar, Spurs
- 6th prize, Little Corporal, Tin Cup, for worst riding

After which the Crown and Wreathes were awarded to the following Knights for horsemanship:

James Fitz James – Crowned Miss Sallie Davis, as Queen of Love and Beauty

White Rose – Selected Miss Mattie Lyles, as first Maid of Honor

Independent – Selected Miss Susan Owens, as second Maid of Honor

Northumberland – Selected Miss Cornelia Williams, as third Maid of Honor

At the close of the day a few of the Knights and a large number of the spectators repaired to the residence of Mr. H. Y. Gladney, and participated in a splendid ball, where the gay and happy danced to their hearts content.

January 26, 1898 Issue of the News and Herald

Captain R. S. Desportes Dead

Captain Richard S. Desportes died at his home in Columbia on Sunday. It was not known here that he was in bad health. Professor R. Means Davis furnishes the Columbia State with the following sketch:

The grandfather of Capt. DesPortes was a Frenchman of the First Empire. He followed the victorious eagles of Napoleon, and as a reward of valor was enrolled in the ranks of the immortal Old Guard. The charge of that body under Ney was a last effort to turn the tide of

battle at Waterloo, and the frightful tragedy of the sunken road into which thousands of the bravest of the brave were hurled to be trampled under foot and destroyed by the mad rush of the survivors needed not the word painting of so great a master as Victor Hugo to impress upon the minds of men as one of the most dramatic of all the incidents of human conflict. Into that excavation this French officer rode among the first, and there his bones lie entombed today.

He left a wife and two children. After the downfall of Napoleon she emigrated to America. Her daughter died, but her son survived. For years he lived in Charleston and then removed to Winnsboro, where he became joint owner of The Fairfield Herald. He was most highly esteemed for his integrity. Richard Smallwood DesPortes attended Mount Zion College and then entered into the drug store of Kitchin & McMaster. Desirous of becoming a physician he read medicine privately, sitting up late at night after performing all his duties in the store. A year or two before the war, the family of Mr. DesPortes was attacked with typhoid fever, and the father, mother and a son died while others were desperately ill. Capt. DesPortes, although quite a youth, manifested at that time all the devotion, energy and forcefulness that characterized him afterwards. He cared for an infant brother as tenderly as a woman, and manfully bore the responsibilities of the support of several younger brothers. All this time he was reading medicine and had completed a large portion of the course when the war began. He was among one of the first volunteers. Later on he was as aide of Gen. French at Wilmington, and then joined the western army. His account of the hundred days' battles in which the army were engaged, which he embodied in a paper read before the survivors of Camp Hampton, is one of the most graphic contributions to our war literature.

Sick unto death he was taken to the hospitable home of Dr. Lowther of Alabama and was nursed to health. Here he met the lady, Miss Susan Lowther, who subsequently became his wife.

This young lieutenant attracted attention and admiration for his great personal beauty, quite dignity and his cool courage under fire.

After the surrender he returned to Winnsboro to find that town in ashes. The material of the Fairfield Herald had been consumed in the conflagration, and Richard DesPortes found himself penniless, save for his army horse which he had ridden home, with two young brothers of tender age dependent on him for support.

By a lucky chance, the marauders of Sherman, in passing through Fairfield, setting the torch to the thousands of bales of cotton stored under ginhouses and in warehouses, had failed to discover four bales lying in an old cabin on a remote portion of the plantation of Col. John L. Black, near Ridgeway. Those bales were sold for \$500. Capt. DesPortes added \$150, the proceeds of the sale of his horse, and the firm of John. L. Black & Co. was established at Ridgeway, in the only store left standing by Sherman. The railroad had been destroyed from Blackstock to Kingville, and all transportation was done by wagon. Capt. DesPortes went to Charleston and purchased his supplies. In a few months, he bought out the share of Col. Black, and conducted business in his own name. No one who was not acquainted with him at that time can appreciate the work that he did.

As a result he built up a prosperous business. In 1880 Capt. DesPortes and his partner, Mr. R. H. Edmunds, removed to Columbia and established a dry goods establishment, to which at various times other departments were added, until at present "The Hub" is one of the most noted establishments in the State.

Richard N. McMaster – Born Nov. 26, 1831, at Winnsboro. Attended Mt. Zion Institute. Entered the Army in April, 1861, in Company F, under Capt. John Beaty. Afterwards transferred to Cavalry service in Virginia under Hampton and Butler. Was sergeant in Capt. Macfie's Division at close of the war. Was for many years on the police force of Winnsboro.

William T. Scott – Born June 17, 1836 in Fairfield County. Entered the Army July 1862 in Company H, 5th Regiment, under Capt. William Stewart. Was wounded twice, at the first battle of Manassas and at the battle of the Wilderness. Now farming. "On my way home just after the surrender I almost starved. I stole the only turkey hen a young woman had, and you know the balance."

Samuel Shirley – Born February 22, 1842, near Woodward. Entered the Army February 23, 1862 in Company H under Capt. J. H. Brooks. Was sick in Brigade Hospital at close of the War. Wounded at Drury's Bluff May 16, 1864. Now farming near Woodward.

Edward Taylor – Born in Fairfield County. Entered Army in 1861 in Capt. Mike Brice's Company. Now farming near Ridgeway.

David W. Tidwell – Born Aug. 24, 1838, at Longtown. Entered Army April 11, 1861 in Company E, under Capt. John D. Kennedy. Was transferred from 6 to 7 battalion. Was wounded at Gettysburg. Now farming.

Henry H. Traylor – Born May 10, 1834, in Pickens County. Entered Army May 9, 1863, in Company H, 6 S. C. Reg. under John Bratton. In Capt. Henry Dixon's Company. Afterwards transferred to Capt. Bob Clowney's Company. Was wounded at Petersburg.



Richard N. McMaster



David W. Tidwell

John Madison Vaughn – Born March 21, 1838, near Simpson. Entered the Army April 11, 1861, in Company C, 12th Regt., under Capt. H. C. Davis. Was wounded at Spottsylvania Court House May 12, 1864. Assigned to conscript department until the close of the war. Now farming near Melson.

William J. L. Weir – Born Dec. 12, 1842, near Blackstock. Entered Army in '61 in Company H, 6th Regt. Was wounded at the second battle of Manassas. "I went out with the Sixth Regiment April 11, 1861. Surrendered with Gen. R. E. Lee at Appomattox Court House, April 9, 1865."

David James Weir – Born March 23, 1848 near Blackstock. Entered the Army in 1865 in Capt. Robertson's Company. Now farming near Ridgeway.

George A. White – Born at Fortress Monroe, Va. Entered the Army April, 1862, in Company F, Harper Rifles, under Capt. D. B. Miller. Was Sergeant at close of the war. Was wounded at Gettysburg and Knoxville. "Being a Virginian, I left South Carolina and joined a company from Portsmouth. It was disbanded, and the men worked on the Merrimac, I along with the rest. After the fight with the Monitor, I left for Columbia, and joined the Harper Rifles."

S. G. Wilson – Born March 25, 1847, in Fairfield County. Entered the Army May 7, 1864, Company E, S. C. V., under Capt. P. P. Galliard. Now merchandising, having recently moved here from Columbia.

Richard Shirley – Born near Shelton. Entered Army in the spring of 1863 in Company B, Lucas Battalion, Heavy Artillery under Captains Pringle and Richardson. Wounded in right arm, below elbow in the spring of 1862. Farming.



William J. L. Weir



S. G. Wilson

Robert William Phillips – Born May 29, 1844 at Winnsboro. Entered Army 1861 in Company B, 7th S. C. Battalion under Capt. J. H. Rion. 1st Sergeant at close of War. Wounded Aug. 19, 1864 at Drury's Bluff, and also at Bentonville. Has been a successful furniture dealer; also conducts an undertaking business.

Lewis Sharp – Born October 21, 1842 in Orangeburg County. Entered Army April 11, 1861 in Company B, First S. C. Regiment under Capt. D. A. Livingston. Afterwards transferred to 20th S. C. Cavalry. Now farming. "We were ordered to Charleston on April 11, 1861, and remained around Charleston until June and then went to Orangeburg in camp for instruction from there to Summerville, S. C., from there back to Charleston, and remained around Charleston for several months. Then we reorganized. I then joined the 20 S. C. Regiment with S. M. Ruff Captain. We stayed around Charleston until May 1864, when we were ordered to Virginia, and remained there until we were ordered back South to meet Sherman in 1865."

Alexander Smythe – Born July 13, 1836, in Ireland. Entered the Army in 1861 in Company A of the 18th S. C. I., under Capt. McCormick. Was transferred to quartermaster's department. Never wounded. Merchandising and real estate. "Prior to the war I was a member of the Carolina Light Infantry of Charleston, S. C. We were ordered into Camps after the Ordinance of Secession passed. We assembled at the German Artillery Hall on Wentworth St. to receive instructions, knapsacks, etc. We were commanded by the lamented J. Johnson Pettigrew. We marched down Meeting to Broad St. thence to Boyce's Wharf, where we boarded the steamer for Castle Pinckney. We found the fort all quite and serene, it having been evacuated the night before. But now the sad part of that trip. Mr. Robert Holmes was corporal of the guard. On his relief was challenged by the guard, who brought his gun to a charge and fired, killing poor Holmes instantly. He undoubtedly was the first man killed in the War. The next morning we took Fort Moultrie, found it too had been left to its fate by Anderson. We were next ordered to Morris Island and were stationed near the gun that was fired at the Star of the West. Mr. G. E. Haynesworth, a Citadel Cadet at the time, fired the gun. I saw him pull the trigger. I could give you a few more incidents, but will not weary you further now."



W. L. Wooten



W. W. Smith

William B. Woodward – Born July 31, 1846 near Woodward. Entered the Army Dec. 25, 1861, in Company H, 2nd S. C. C., under Capt. James Macfie. Was later transferred to Capt. Barber's Company. Went in at fifteen, served about one year, then came home and went back.

W. L. Wooten – Born near Blythewood June 5, 1840. Entered the Army August 21, 1861, under Capt. H. C. Davis, Company C. Farming near Blythewood.

W. W. Smith – Born 1845, near Blythewood. Entered the Army April 11, 1861 in the Cedar Creek Rifles, under Capt. John L. Kennedy. Later transferred to Col. Rion's Company. Now farming near Blythewood. A member of the County Board of Registration.

Joel Washington Wilson – Born April 6, 1837, in Fairfield County. Entered the Army in 1861 in Company D, S. C. Regiment, under Capt. T. J. Warren, who was later succeeded by Capt. C. B. Burns. Promoted to Orderly Sergeant. Wounded at Fredericksburg. Through 23 years old when he entered the war, he had not learned to write, and he only spelled a little. By the assistance of his comrades he learned to read and write, and made considerable progress in his studies.

William Henry Ruff – Born June 21, 1847, near Jenkinsville. Entered Army September 1, 1864 under Capt. McLurkin. Now farming near Jenkinsville, and supplying the passengers on the Southern trains with the best of peaches.

Fairfield Chapter – SCGS
P. O. Box 93
Winnsboro, S. C. 29180

