

Fairfield Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 21 Number 2

21st Year

June 2008

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From the Treasurer

Editing the newsletter is a thankless, but necessary job. Jon and Barbara Davis have done this chore since your treasurer put together Volume 15, Number 1. This is Volume 21, Number 2. That is a lot of effort. They have announced that this is their last year. We owe them thanks not only for the newsletter but also resurveying and publishing our cemetery books. To continue as a society we need someone to take over the newsletter. I will continue to hold down the treasurer post. If you would like to take this on contact me at: jehollis@earthlink.net

John Hollis

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 or queries to be included in your newsletter to:

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or

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December 5, 1935 Issue of the News and Herald

Facts about Fairfield

By W. W. Dixon

The writer will strive to give your readers a weekly letter as hitherto, but the work on the American Guide will preclude the possibility of research work as a characteristic of these letters. Perhaps what they lack in lore and erudition will be compensated in anecdote and fustian humor.

It seems that I will never outgrow the callowness and greenish unsophistication of country bumpkin days, I got lost in South Carolina College Library one day last week and had it not been for a former pupil, Bessie Glenn, of Varnville, S. C., I don't believe I would have found the exit to freedom again. Thanks Bessie, I am sure that I never taught one whose mind was more receptive to the truths of mathematics, more facile in the translation of Virgil and Cicero, and more gifted in composition than yours.

With Miss Glenn's assistance in a few minutes, I ran across the record of a graduate of the institution, Dr. James H. Carlisle, afterward president of Wofford College, Benjamin Wofford, for whom the Methodist school is named, Prof. R. Means Davis, once editor of the *Fairfield News and Herald*, Prof. James Wilson Hudson (he graduated in 1823 and for many years was president Mt. Zion College, Winnsboro. He exercised a wonderful influence in causing the Fairfield students to join the Eupradian literary society at Carolina instead of the Charisophic. It must be declared however that he was not averse to sitting in a game of cards down town occasionally. Then there was Judge Charles H. Simonton, Speaker of the House of Representatives, whose family were Fairfield people. He afterward was appointed by Cleveland, Federal District Judge. We now come to Col. James H. Rion, who on his death bed claimed to be the descendant of the dauphin of France, a great teacher at Mt. Zion, a great soldier, Colonel of the famous fighting 6th Regiment S. C. V. I., a great lawyer, and who repeatedly refused office in this country. His reason was that the oath of allegiance that one has to take in holding an office in this country might jeopardize his inheritance to the Crown of France at some future day, in which the French might tire of their republic and monarchy might be restored. Col. Rion was graduated from the S. C. College in 1850. Next we perused articles in the library written by Gen. John Bratton, of whom we had a sketch last week. We found letters of James Q. Davis giving the list of editors and owners of *The News and Herald* from 1865 to 1900. J. Q. was a graduate and for years was a trustee of the university. He more than anyone else responsible, we think for Dr. L.T. Baker being head of the university today. Again we ran across a name, a boy we admired in youth, now a New Yorker, Ike Withers, brother to Frank C. Next we come to the *vi et armis* kinsman of the writer, Dr. John C. Buchanan who was graduated at the head of the class of 1883. We may get a thrashing for this allusion, but his son's hospital is near and young John C. is a better surgeon than his father. We pass on to Saby Dunn, who was graduated *cum laudamus* in 1887. It is a long time ago, but one looking at and conversing with him would conjecture that he was born about AD 1900. He is still unmarried, prosperous, loves the "movies" and regarded as an available asset in the thoughts of the young women and widows about town. Then come two writers, Fitz McMaster and John McMahan who have been substantial friends of the writer, both in public and private life. And we must not leave out Davis Douglas, whose sobriquet in college, Prof. Spencer at Ridgeway told me was "sugar babe." In fact Mr. Spencer calls him to the day, "Shug Douglas." All these were Fairfield men.

Chancellor Job Johnson, a graduate, was a Fairfield boy. Capt. Tom Lyles enjoyed the honor for some years as being the oldest alumnus of the S. C. University. Dr. Davidson Douglas' father and my grand-dad were neighbors. We grew up together. The foregoing is a cross section on the personnel of the great institution. It speaks well for the work done there in the past. May it future be as gloriously by its graduates as the ones here mentioned have maintained it through adverse and prosperous times.

The owners and editors succeed each other chronologically as follows: J. E. Britton, 1865; Henry A. Gailard, 1866; D. B. McCreight, 1867; Maj. W. H. Herbert, one month, 1867; W. H. Williams, 1867; R. Means Davis, 1868; T. R. Robertson, 1872. R. Means Davis, 1876; J. S Reynolds, no dates; R. Means Davis, 1883; W. L. McDonald, no date; E. B. Ragsdale, 1887; Paul M. Brice, 1888; W. D. Douglas, 1889; McNaul, J. Frank Fooshe, Tom Peoples, P. M. Dees, and now the present management.

December 12, 1935 Issue of the News and Herald

Facts about Fairfield County

By W. W. Dixon

James Glenn McCants

The first notable conversation the writer had with the subject of the sketch was in the spring of 1901. It was on the Sabbath day after services in the Presbyterian Church where he sang tenor note to the choir in the previous service. Afterward we went among the graves to get a date on one of the tombs. Mr. McCants could make any subject interesting. He never asserted but more frequently sustained the suspense of the conversation by the interrogative style. He asked me if I had a hobby or idiosyncrasy, knowing answer would be visiting cemeteries. He asked me how I liked the Moravian plan of green sward lain perfectly flat graves, and if I didn't think it would be a good idea to make our cemeteries veritable rose gardens, pointing out how useful the flowers would be to the community for different occasions and each glebe a spot of beauty in the communities.

Sixty-eight years he was a living, breathing, beautiful soul and now he has gone ere the winter of life puts him to the seve and yellow leaf. How beautiful indeed is life's autumn sunset amid its crimson glow whose golden light lingers gently until the curtain which veils our mortal vision, touched by the invisible, is softly lifted and the radiant dawn of eternal day appears.

When such a man as J. G. McCants lays down the cares and duties of life at the close of a day, well may we dwell upon his career, to hold to emulation his private and public virtues, to get inspiration, if we may, from an example that ought to be held aloft for the good of youth and the guidance of maturer age.

He was born in Winnsboro, April 4th 1850, attended old Mt. Zion College, then the University of South Carolina and afterward the University of Virginia and Yale.

His father, Jas. B. McCants, was a great lawyer before him. This perhaps decided him in his profession and he was admitted to the bar in 1875 and practiced law unremittingly until the day of his death. He was widely known as a persuasive advocate and a wise counselor but this did not affect his mind as it is sometimes the case with men who attain great prominence in the profession. He could not be a slave to precedent, but his mind preserved its native originality and the elasticity of his reasoning facilities was not hindered by what everybody else may have said however great its antiquity. With a delicate sense of justice and power to make active discriminations, he approached every subject and through all of his mental processes the end invariably south was the truth. His great mind never moved in a rut or groove, but rather in the broad field of uncircumscribed research.

In 1906 he was elected the best of the delegates to the legislature from Fairfield, and in that body became at once prominent as a debater on the floor of the house and a safe councillor upon the Judiciary Committee. His greatest work here and that which entitles him to lasting distinction was his bill and advocacy of widening the scope and field of usefulness of the South Carolina College and making of this institution what it is today—A university that any state could well be proud of. His service in the House were

long enough to make a record of achievement that will live as long as scientific research, education and culture are objects of commonwealth concern and appreciation; as long as independence of thought and intellectual honesty are attributes of real statesmanship. There was some courage required of him to introduce the bill to make the college a university at this time, but he did it and rejoiced to see the realization of his vision or dreams, and education today the land over treasure his name s a national asset. A country's real greatness consists not in its unparalleled material riches, but in the moral and intellectual acquirements of the men and women who compose the citizenship, men like J. B. McCants, who have not the dollar so close to the eye that it shuts out the loveliness of the flowers around them and the beauty of the stars above them.

He was a great reader and student of history and literature he knew causes that contributed to the making of great states, the inferences that wrought civilization and the agencies that created the empires of the past and he was also familiar with the influences that caused and are causing their disintegration and downfall. His vocabulary was remarkable, his choice of words, chased and beautiful, his interpretation of stanzas, prose and poetry emotional and profound. He was a scholar with few equals in the state, but as a politician he preferred to be right rather than to be popular.

Some people spoke of him as an idealist, a dreamer. I don't think he denied this, but took it as a compliment, and continued to dream and idealize, to dream on God's love and bounty, and idealize on man's evolution and progress until humanity would rise from its selfishness and dross and mingle with the down stretched things divine. He reveled in the opinion that the man with the vision was the man to lead, though he might not hold the offices nor garner the grain; that the dreamer must be the protagonist of the play though he might not share in the receipts of the performance.

There was a great deal beyond the ken of most men in J. G. McCants. The spiritual predominated over the material in his tastes, as the intellectual was greater than the physical forces of his being. There was a little fragment of prayer he repeated so often to me that it has found lodgement in my heart. It was something like this, though not word for word:

"Let me do my work each day, and if the darkened hours of despair overcome me, may I not forget the strength that comforted me in the desolation of other times. May I still remember the bright hours that found me walking over the hills of my childhood; or dreaming on the banks of the great river, when a light glowed within me, and I promised my God to have courage amid the tempests of the changing years. Spare me from the bitterness and the sharp passions of unguarded moments. May I not forget that poverty and riches are of the spirit. Though the world know me not, may my thought and actions be such as shall keep me friendly with myself. Lift my eyes from the earth and let me not forget the uses of the stars. Forbid that I should judge others, lest I should condemn myself. Let me not feel the glamour of the world, but walk calmly in my path. Give me a few friends who will love me for what I am, and keep ever burning before my vagrant steps the kindly light of friends and home, and should age and infirmity o'ertake me and I come not within sight of my dreams, teach me still to be patient, humble. In sunshine and rain, good and sweet and may eternity's twilight find me gentle still."

(There is hardly anything more beautiful than this.)

There was one little thing of the poet Tennyson he thought precious. So much did he love it that he had it chiseled on his sister's tomb, the last verse. We end our sketch with it.

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning at the bar,
When I put out to sea.

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam.
When that which drew from out the boundless deep,
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark.

For though from out our bourne of Time and Place,
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to meet my Pilot face to face,
When I cross the bar.

[James Glenn McCants is buried in Sion Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Winnsboro, this is a photo of his tombstone.]



January 9, 1936 Issue of the News and Herald

Facts About Fairfield

By W. W. Dixon

There is a young man down in Columbia, native born, and resident of Fairfield, holding down a very responsible job under the Works Progress Administration, and performing the duties connected with it, with consummate ability. He has been a success and never a misfit, nor a small round plug in a big square hole, in anything he has gone at. I refer to S. D. Ellison, formerly attaché of the Bank of Fairfield, once Clerk to the County Supervisor, County Administrator of E. R. A. for Fairfield and now as assistant to Mr. Pinckney, State Works Progress Administrator. He has certainly been just and kind to me. As a testimonial of my esteem and appreciation I use a part of this letter to some historicity of his ancestors.

Snugly tucked away in the archives of the State House records is the following curio, a sheet of legal cap paper folded twice and has this endorsement on its outside:

"To Mr. Robert Ellison, between Wateree and Congaree Rivers. On Simpson Creek, S. C., Camden District."

On the inside of the folded document we find this rude, but pregnant petition:

"We, the undersign subscribers, feeling the wrongs to which all the rights and liberties of this colony are reduced to, by the violence with which all America is threatened, by a wicked ministry do freely unite ourselves a voluntary company of Rangers, and so soon as our number amounts to 30 to 'chuse' and select to the commandant such officers as majority have agreed.

(Continued Next Week)

From the January 16, 1936 Issue of the News and Herald

By W. W. Dixon

(Continued from Last Week)

The personel of the Company of Rangers, formed about 1775, was as follows:

Robert Ellison, captain; James Sanders, first lieutenant; John Ellison, second lieutenant; Alex Rogers, Eliazer Gore, John Ashford Gore, David Hamilton, Samuel Armstrong, James Kennedy, Wm. Martin, John Martin, Cato West, Ed Blanding, Alex McDowell, Wm. Ramsey, James McDowell, David McCreight, James McCreight, Robert Gray, Camuel Dods, James Dody, Wm. McAlister, Wm. McElvey, Robert Potts, Jas. Morrison, Alex Robinson, James McQuestion, Jim Agnew, Jim McMullen, Wm. Yongue, James Hamiter, Thomas Saint, Wilton Wilson, Alex. McQuarters, John Aiken and Andrew McDowell.

More than 30 were subscribed and became a company of rangers under the officers named in the Revolutionary War.

Mr. A. S. Salley has a complete list of Capt. Ellison's company with many other names added during the Revolution.

FRANCIS GREIG

This man's memory is still respected and loved by the older citizens of Fairfield. He was born in Sondershusen, Germany in 1817. He landed in New York July 4, 1847. He came to Winnsboro, July 4, 1848. He married Mary Blonhenstein, of Columbia, S. C. They had 12 children born in Winnsboro. Mrs. C. T. Gooding and Mrs. E. P. Wolfe were two of the daughters. I remember J. J. (Jake) and A. E. (Albert) very well. Laura, one of the daughters, developed into a very charming woman indeed. She married Dr. Stroecker, of Monck's Corner and was prominent on a committee with the writer in Social Welfare work in Berkley County during the World War. Her husband has since died and she is living at Greenville, S. C.

Returning to subject of Mr. Francis Gerig, he enlisted as a Confederate soldier in Capt. Boykin Lyles' company under James H. Rion, colonel of the 6th Regiment. Date of enlistment January 1862. After the war he was the senior member of the firm of Gerig and Seigler, the junior member was the later John W. Seigler who the first time married Mr. Gerig's daughter. Both members of the firm had a county wide reputation for integrity and courteous dealing. Mr. Gerig reminded you of Bismark in appearance, but handsomer. He was tall, erect and distinguished looking. His manners would have graced any society or court and he died as he had lived, a Christian gentleman.

Alexander Pope's Couplet would have been a suitable epitaph over his remain:
"An honest man is the noblest work of God."

[Francis Gerig is buried in Sion Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Winnsboro, this is a photo of his tombstone.]



Hayneville, Alabama
January 4, 1936

Mr. W. W. Dixon,
Winnsboro, South Carolina
Dear Mr. Dixon:

Though I have worked for many years to find out my Robinson ancestry, I found little encouragement until the receipt of your letter of December 6th. I am certain of the Moore connection. And your mention of Major Henry Moore who had been given lands in Louisiana and Ohio blends not only with family traditions, but with the migrations of my Robinson kin.

The children of Hugh Gaston, of Wilcox County, Ala., were my father's first cousins: also the children of Washington Gray, and the children of Rev. Issac Hadden who founded the first Presbyterian church Montgomery, Ala., ever had. Isaac's first wife is buried in Long Cane cemetery, Abbeville.

In this, Lowmes County, which adjoins Wilcox County, I find mention in an old newspaper of Jesse H. Robinson, who married in South Carolina and came here in 1833 from Winnsboro. He was related to my father. And his sons were Jesse, James and John William. They either died, or moved away before I can remember. The name "John William" looks to me like an effort to perpetuate the names of the two Robinson brothers, half brothers of Thomas Woodward, the Regulator.

The three Woodward brothers are written of (separately) in my father's history "Alabama", and mention is made of the Indian blood of Thomas Woodward. Do you know how this Indian blood came into the family?

It would make me supremely happy to learn the names of the children of John and William Robinson, half-brothers of Thomas Woodward. And to whom married.

Thank you very much for answering my letter. It is by far the most satisfactory I have every received in regard to the Robinson family to which I belong.

I subscribe to the Winnsboro News and Herald to benefit by reading your truly interesting and delightful letters. Long may you continue as a "writer of fine writings."

Sincerely yours
(Mrs.) Mildred B. Russell

Some Turnipseed information found in Fairfield County Equity Court Records:

Bill for Partition 1821 #6 filed on May 8, 1820

Jacob Turnipseed died in 1819 and left the following family:

Catherine, his widow,

Sons: Jesse, and Michael

Daughters: Mary Barbara; Mary Christann who married Daniel Scotts; Sibyl; Lavinia; Magadalia who married John Brunt; Elizabeth who married John Turnipseed; Frances who married Thomas Taylor and Catherine.

There are plats of his estate in the bill.

In the bill it states that "Turnipseed" is English for the German "Repsurna".

October 16, 1867 Issue of the Fairfield Herald

History of the Mount Zion Society, and the College Established under its Auspices in Winnsboro, S. C.

By D. B. McCreight

1785. This year opened with fair prospects for the Academical interests of the Society. Still there was need for funds. The Society urged the Committee to exert its every power to gather up the entrances and arrears due by the several members of the organization. The Committee was supplied with blank notes to be filled out and signed by those whose resources were exhausted by the war, which no doubt was the case with all.

These notes read thus:

“State of South Carolina”

“Six months after date I promise to pay or cause to be paid to the Incorporated Mount Zion Society, or their order, the sum of _____ with lawful interest from this date, it being for value received, this 25th day of February, 1785.”

The difficulty on the part of the Committee to collect amounts due from the several country members, became a source of sharp correspondence between the Society and its Committee.

In view of the early arrival of Mr. McCaule, a gentleman was chosen to take the charge of Stewart's Hall. This was Mr. Kemp Tolliver Stother. He gave bond in the sum of five hundred pounds sterling, to be paid to the Directors of Governors for the faithful discharge of his duty. The following are the articles he entered into “for boarding, washing and attending upon all such youths” as were then or should afterwards be admitted into the school, viz:

First. That he shall board each scholar at ten guineas per annum, but to charge for the usher's board. Secondly. That he shall provide three wholesome meals every day, well cooked, at first hours; that he shall give his attendance of meals to see that every thing is in order, or otherwise provide a white man of good character to superintend in his absence. Thirdly. That he shall provide a sufficient quantity of firewood, hauled to the school house. And cut into proper lengths to answer the chimneys. Fourthly. That he shall take care the lesser students' heads are well combed and kept clean; that he shall procure their cloaths to be well washed and ironed, and that in due time, so that they may shift twice a week their beds and bedding to be kept clean, and to be made up every morning and their rooms swept. Lastly. That the scholars shall not be accommodated in a public tavern.

The period embraced in this obligation was one year, beginning the “Christmas-day last” before the date of the bond, which was the 26th of January, 1785. The sureties on this bond were Benjamin Harrison and William Strother; the witness, Thomas Baker. The manner of offering the seal was quite primitive; a small piece of paper, torn from the corner, secured on a line with each signature, by a wafer.

From the wording of this bond it is evident that the Committee had secured the services of a tutor in the interval of Mr. McCaule's acceptance and his arrival to take charge of the school. When the Committee reported to the Society that they would not

engage Mr. Israel Fuller, they would soon procure a tutor for that interval of time. But no mention is made in the record who that tutor was. The probability is that it was a Mr. Yongue.

On the 12th of March official information was sent the Society, by the Committee, of the arrival of Mr. McCaule and his family in Winnsboro. This gentleman at once took charge as Principal of the school.

When Mr. McCaule entered upon his duties, no provision had as yet been made for boarding the students at the Steward's Hall. At that time they boarded at a tavern kept by a Mr. Durphey, or D'Urphey, who came from Rowan County, North Carolina. This tavern stood about the same place now occupied by Mr. Wm. Murray's store; it was known for a long time afterwards as the "old black house." Early in the war 1812-14, it was purchased by the late Col. William McCreight, who in conjunction with Dr. W. I. Kirkland, of Charleston, used the material of it for erecting a factory for the manufacture of bagging, &c.

In the same note given below Mr. McCaule embodied several suggestions relative to the duties of the Steward, and sent it to the Directors, in session of Capt. Strothers.

Here is a copy of that note:

Mount Sion, April 4th, 1785

"Gentlemen: As principal tutor in the school, I beg leave to make the following."

REPORT

1. There is a necessity that the Steward's duty be clearly ascertained, particularly as to washing, diet, firewood, bed dressing, &c.
2. There is an absolute necessity for an old Matron to have oversight of little Masters.
3. There is an apartment of School and College books much wanted, together with maps, globes, and other apparatus.
4. As there is a high probability that students will crowd in upon us immediately after vacation, it would be well to prepare as much as possible, and especially a Dining Hall more convenient than the present. It is impossible for the tutors to make any progress in forming the manners of boys at table while they must diet in a place so much subjected to promiscuous company as a tavern.

No. 21

The College under the Rev. Thos. H. McCaule.

The response of the Directors to the recommendations of Mr. McCaule is contained in the following "Rules and Directions for the Steward of Mount Sion School as directed by the governors 9 April, 1785.

1. He shall furnish all his boarders with sufficient and wholesome diet according to the following bill of Fare:

Breakfast to consist of coffee, tea, chocolate, with steaks, or bread and butter; these may be frequently changed for rice and milk, or grits and milk, or some weak soups. Notice for breakfast to be given 15 minutes before 8 A. M.

Dinner to consist of one plain dish of corned or fresh beef, pork, mutton, fowl or fish, with sufficient quantity of soup and sauce, and plenty of vegetables when to be had. Notice for dinner to be given 15 minutes before one P. M.

Supper to consist of milk with bread, rice or grits, or sometimes tea and chocolate—but coffee to be seldom used. Notice for supper to be given 15 minutes before 8 P. M.

2. He shall furnish the principal tutor and students with a sufficient quantity of firewood cut to suitable lengths for winter consumption during the Winter, and even the Summer when the weather is dull or rainy.
3. He shall procure the students as well as the tutors' cloaths and sheetings to be well washed so as they may have a change of linen twice a week, and of sheeting, once a fortnight, and shall cause to be mended all such wash dresses as may not require new materials.
4. That he shall procure a sober Matron to take charge of the little Masters, whose business shall be to wash, comb their heads, and dress them neatly every morning.
5. He shall procure the rooms to be well swept once every day at such hours as shall not interfere with the school business, and the ground floor shall be neatly sanded.
6. He shall procure the beds to be made every day and the beds and bedding shall be well aired once a week, if the weather permits.
7. That he shall serve up the Commons in the College Hall as soon as the Directors shall have prepared a room for that purpose.
8. That he shall provide a sufficient number of waiters to attend at meal time.
9. That the bread shall be made of undamaged materials and well baked whether composed to the flour of Indian corn, wheat or rice.
10. That he shall provide a sufficient quantity of pure fresh spring water for the use of the students at meal times, no other liquor to be admitted except by the particular leave of the Directors.

The following are appended to these instructions to the Steward:

That he shall find a sufficient quantity of firewood for the private use of the Principal Tutor. for which he is to charge the Society at the rate of 3 and 6 pence per cord.—[or about ninety cents]

That he shall give the free board of one tutor in the pay of the Directors, when resident in College.

That he shall give three months notice before he can resign his place.

Upon entering the school the students were required to pay one-fourth in advance.

There was some apprehension on the part of some that the board and tuition charged at that time were unreasonable. It would seem strange to those contemporary with those charges, if now living, to find that what was an exorbitant price to them is now regarded as the most moderate charges.

Mr. McCaule addressed a letter to the President of Hampton Sidney College, in Virginia, upon the subject, and received information which he laid before the Committee. In his note to them enclosing the letter from President Smith, of Hampton Sidney, Mr. McCaule writes, that from that letter "it appear that our boarding and tuition are very moderate, that the ordinance of the Directors for the students to advance money on entrance is not unprecedented.

In the same note Mr. McCaule takes the occasion again to call the attention of the Committee to the want of a dining hall. He suggested that an out house in the College yard be fitted up for that purpose, in order that the students would "not be under the necessity of eating even an other meal in the tavern.

This history is now brought down to the sixth year of the existence of the subject of it. Having struggled as the Society had done for the building up of an institution to meet the educational wants of the people, it finds its bantling, in the early part of 1785, growing up rapidly, to all appearance, into a fully developed College.

April 16, 1936 Issue of the News and Herald

50 Years Ago in Winnsboro

Former Student Recalls The Good Old Days Spent At Mt. Zion Institute

Notice of the death of Miss Emily Obear, long a faithful and conscientious teacher, calls to memory my short career as a student at Mount Zion (Collegiate Institute, it was called, I believe;) This was fifty years ago. Miss Emily was then a member of the corps of teachers. Prof. W. H. Witherow, white-whiskered and gray-haired, kindly, but firm, was principal. I entered as a member of the junior class in September, 1886, shortly after the earthquake. S. B. Dunn taught mathematics and latin. I remember him as a young man, well educated and as modest as a girl. I think the girls delighted in looking and smiling at him to provoke a blush, which seemed to respond readily to any attention from the fair sex. Besides Miss Obear, other members of the faculty included Miss Nanie Phinney, Mrs. Glover Jordan. Names of others I do not now recall.

My interest in Mount Zion dates back two generations before I became a student there. My grandfather and grandmother, on my mother's side, were students there during the presidency of Dr. Hudson. My father was a student while General Alston was president. At the same time, my mother was a student of Mrs. Catherine Ladd, who conducted a school for girls in a large brick building south of the location of the present bank building. I believe this building was occupied by the Ketchin family fifty years ago.

Measles and a relapse ended my connection with Mount Zion in January or February, 1887, but during my short residence in Winnsboro, I came to know many of the older generations as well as the younger set. I boarded with Mr. J. M. Elliott, who owned the residence across Main Street from the present Methodist Church. The Elliotts, all of them, were fine people, and this includes all Elliotts. Among the older people, I remember well all members of the numerous families of McMasters, George H., Richard, Mrs. Elizabeth, Dr. Riley, their children and grandchildren. Then, there were the Matthews, Douglasses, Rions, (Col. J. H. Rion died while I was there), McCants, Aikens, Hannahans, Withers, Egglestons, Cathcarts, McCarleys, Maddens, Caldwells, Brices, DesPortes, Dwights, Creights, Chandlers, Withers, McDonalds, Buchanans, Boags, Willifords, Dotys, Quattlebaums, Ragsdales, Lyles, Gaillards, Mimnaughts, and many others, who gave to Winnsboro a distinct character for culture and refinement. Many communities within and without the State have been enriched by those who have removed from Winnsboro and Fairfield County and settled elsewhere.

At that time, prominent members of the Winnsboro Bar were Col. J. H. Rion, H. N. Obear, A.S. Douglas, J. E. McDonald, Glenn McCants, Ragsdale & Ragsdale, Neil, O. W. Buchanan, afterwards a Circuit Judge, Chas. A. Douglas, and W. Dave Douglas. G. P. Watson was pastor of the Methodist church, Dr. Jordan of the Presbyterian, Chalmers of the A. R. P., and Carpenter of the Baptist church. I do not recall the name of the Rector of the Episcopal Church, but I attended services at all of the churches, and remember well the high-pitched voice of H. N. Obear when reciting portions of the litany. Usually, he trailed the others, and continued after all others had repeated their parts. Saling Wolfe was the patriarch of the Jewish colony. Dr. Herman Baruch married one of his daughters, and B. M. Baruch is a grandson. Another daughter married U. G. DesPortes and from that union comes Fay DesPortes. Gilbert, tall and alert, was Chief of Police. He interrupted a gay little Halloween party one night in October 1886. His faithful little office dog gave timely warning of his approach, and all was quite "along the western front" when arrived. "Dick" McMaster was another policeman. T. K. Elliott was then Mayor of the town, or Intendent, as then designated. J. Q. Davis was president of the Winnsboro bank. "Bill" Creight was agent of the freight department of the Charlotte, Columbia and Augusta Railroad Company, and Jack Skinner was agent at the passenger station. Wood-burning locomotives were then in use, but coal-burners we installed while I was in Winnsboro. The town was then lighted by kerosene lamps, but in the fall, I saw for the first time electric lights of the arc type in use in Columbia. One of my diversions was to board the northbound passenger train, ride to White Oak, where it passed the southbound train, take the latter, and ride back to Winnsboro. This gave me a feeling of distinction as a traveled man.

I spent several nights in the old colonial mansion of Mrs. Susan Boylston as aide de camp to Shannon McCreight who was care taker during an absence of Mrs. Boylston. The experience savored of spookiness.

General John Bratton and Maj. T. W. Woodward were frequent visitors in town, and I recall many war jokes and experiences related by them.

The old Hall graveyard is located on Horse Creek about seven miles from Winnsboro. To reach it, it is necessary to take the old Peay's Ferry road to the McCully homestead, turn to the left and follow the trail for several miles. There lie the remains of John Hall, one of the pioneer settlers of Fairfield County, his wife, and many members of his family, Halls, Stokes, and others. In harmony with the style then prevailing, slaves were buried in the same plot. A moat surrounds the burial ground. In that community was reared a large family of ten sons and two daughters. Of that number, only Daniel Hall, Sr., Dr. William E. Hall, and Mansel Hall, remained in Fairfield County. Others emigrated to Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Louisiana and farther west. But this is getting beyond the scope of this memoir.

There were open saloons in Winnsboro fifty years ago. Some indulgence in fire water was frequent, but moderate drinking was the rule. I do not recall any disturbances resulting from excessive drinking. Men in those days exercised self-control. Women did not drink. The modern cocktail and cigarette smoking were unknown to women. Their charms were sufficient without artificial aids. Marcelle waives, powdered cheeks, painted lips, and plucked eyebrows were unnecessary. Nature, proper exercise, the open air, and right living gave the color of roses to youthful cheeks and sparkle to feminine eyes. The compact had not then come into existence.

This was fifty years ago. There were no paved streets in Winnsboro then. Portions of sidewalks were paved with flag stones or bricks. Mud, red and sticky, prevailed in wet weather. Many changes have taken place since then. Streets have been paved, mills built, good roads have been constructed, the population has greatly increased. The main building of Mt. Zion, the city hall, the court house, the old hotel at the center of town, and many other buildings have survived the ravage of time and progress to keep the rising generation in touch with the old.

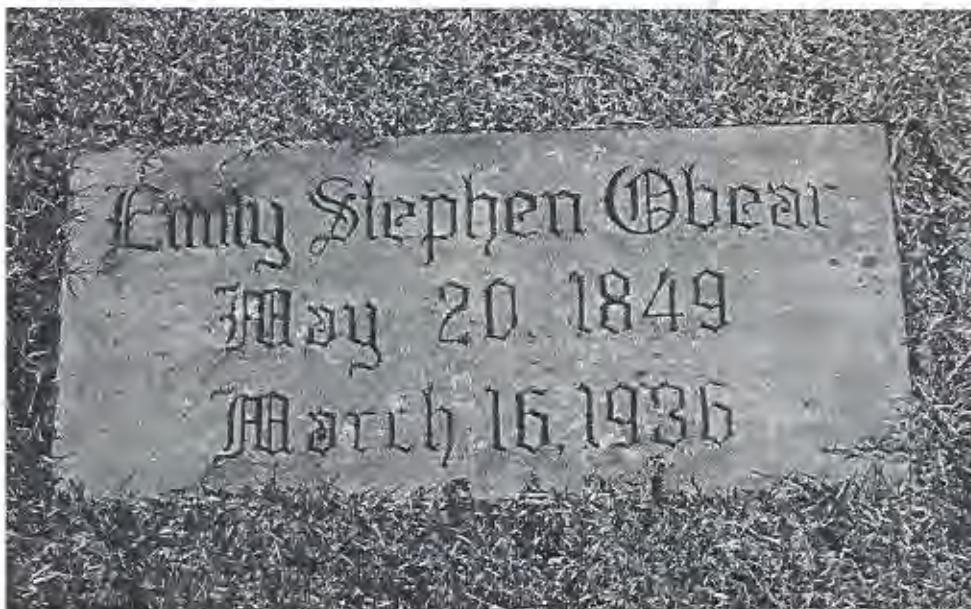
A citizen of Winnsboro, on a visit to Chester, by way of comparison, boasted that Chester was not as well laid out as Winnsboro. The Chester citizen countered by replying that, if Chester was as dead as Winnsboro, it would laid our also. On another occasion a loyal resident of Winnsboro was glorifying its history, and related how that, during the war of the American Revolution, Lord Cornwallis made his headquarters in Winnsboro. One of his hearers remarked that, if Lord Cornwallis should return to Winnsboro, he would have no difficulty in recognizing the site of his headquarters.

Prevailing sports in those days were skinny on the school ground, hunting and jumping. Among the most successful hunters were Joe Elliott, Al Gailliard, John Cathcart of Adger, and the writer. The champion long distance jumpers were Kinney Elliott, Henry Elliott, his brother, David Aiken and the writer. The writer has the advantage of placing himself in the category of heroes with little fear of contradiction at this distant time. A half century has removed most of the witnesses then living.

Occasionally I pass through Winnsboro, but I see few faces that I know; but the images of many that I knew in those days remain indelibly impressed on the retina of my mind.

Mr. W. S. Hall
Gaffney, S. C.

[Emily Stephen Obear is buried in St. John's Episcopal Cemetery in Winnsboro, this is a photo of her tombstone.]





Edward G. Palmer, Sr.

Edward Gendron Palmer, Sr., Esq., died at Velencia, his residence near Ridgeway, on 23rd inst., from influenza, after a short illness, at the age of sixty-eight years.

He was the eldest son of the late Hon. E. G. Palmer.

He graduated high in the class of 1842 at the South Carolina College, and read law with Henry W. DeSaussure, Esq., of Charleston. Admitted to the bar, he pursued his profession at Winnsboro in partnership with Gen. Maxy Gregg, and at once assumed a prominent position at this bar when its reputation was upheld throughout the State by such distinguished lawyers as W. W. Boyce, Jas. M. Rutland, Jos. A. Woodward and James B. McCants—leaders in their profession. The bent of his aspiring mind, however, inclined to politics, and the exciting issues of his day gave him an abundant opportunity.

The great question before the people in 1853 was that of Secession per se or co-

operation, whether it was expedient then and there to take South Carolina out the Union without reference to action of other Southern States. With the ardor of a bright and vigorous intellect he exerted all his powers to induce the State to declare her independence.

In a campaign during that year involving this issue with pen and voice he worked night and day.

He assumed the editorial chair of the *Fairfield Herald*, and also canvassed the district in opposition to his father, W. J. Alston, William Owens, and J. H. Means, afterwards Governor. The campaign resulted in favor of Mr. Palmer's views in Fairfield and his father was defeated for office in this district. About this time, also, Mr. Palmer served this town as intendant.

The consequence of the severe labors he underwent, together with the clean pursuits of his legal studies, undermined Mr. Palmer's health, and that fall he took a voyage to Europe for recreation and study.

The physical benefit he received, however, was slight, as in 1856 at Paris he suffered a stroke of paralysis. The immediate effects were not so serious as to prevent his continued residence abroad until in 1864, when his State finally (but too late for success) had assumed the policy he advocated so earnestly ten years sooner, and he returned to this country.

In getting through the lines, although furnished by President Lincoln himself with a passport, he was detained by, Gen. Dix in Fortress Monroe, and placed there in confinement in a cell. The exposure he suffered brought on at once a second attack of paralysis, when the Federal authorities permitted his exchange as one who could never bear arms in defense of his native State he loved so well. Arriving home his health continued to break and in 1866 he received a third stroke. Notwithstanding his condition, however, Mr. Palmer's faculties have been

such that in the period subsequent to the war, when he came into his large landed estate, he succeeded in a successful management of his planting interests, when many were stronger physically, but less gifted, might have failed.

He was generally known as Colonel, having served upon Gov. Seabrook's staff.

At the closed of his life his sufferings were slight, and his funeral occurred Wednesday at St. Stephen's Church at Ridgeway, Rev. Mr. Mitchell conducted the service. We extend our sympathy to his relations and friends who mourn his loss.

February 19, 1895 Issue of the Fairfield Herald

WHERE IS HE?

Went to the Florida War – Information Will be Appreciated
Grenada, Miss, Feb. 14

Postmaster – Dear Sir: I write to know if you can give me any information of a family by the name of McDill. My grandfather, Richard Nason, once lived near Winnsborough, and my father, John Nason, and Robert McDill both went to the Florida war; probably they were in the same company. I am anxious to correspond with him or any of his relations. I wish to ascertain the name and number of the company or regiment; the name of any of the officers, or any other information in regard to the matter. When they left there I think they went direct to St. Augustine.

Please let me know if any of the Nason's or Millians are living anywhere about there. I will be grateful for the names and addresses of those people it still there; I wish to write to them.

Thanking you in advance, and hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

I remain very respectfully
John T. Nason

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



c
Fairfield Archives & History
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