



Fairfield Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 23, Number 1

28th Year

January, 2012

The next meeting of the Fairfield Chapter of the SCGS will be Thursday at 2:00 pm., on January 19th, 2012 at the Christ Central Church Community Center in Winnsboro, SC. The church is located right beside the museum on Congress Street. Put this date on your calendar and plan to join us.

It's "Dues Time" again! A form is included.

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Welcome! The Fairfield Genealogy Society Chapter is active again after several years of inactivity, with a newly elected slate of officers and members. We'd like to thank museum director Pelham Lyles, the Fairfield County Historical Society, and the Fairfield County Council for their support in making this happen. We are excited to be back together. We welcome everyone back and would like to encourage each and every one to work together and help our chapter grow.

The genealogy research room, after a year's reestablishment under the Museum roof, has been off and running with genealogy requests coming in through e-mails (fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net), letters, phone calls, and visitors from near and far. Presently there are a number of regular volunteers who are available on a limited schedule to perform the lookups: Eddie Killian, Nancy Brown, Shelbia Trotter, Ben Hornsby, Mary Robinson, Sarah Smith, Dale Connor, Bonnie Myers, Leesa Kemmerlin, Dot Cooper (email/online inquire assistance from fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net), and Linda Frazier. We do not presently have the staffing or capability to help with in-depth professional genealogical searches, but are happy and willing to look up information within the resources collected at the museum for a small fee and cost of copies. We can also now scan documents to send to your email to save on time, costs, and volume. You are welcome to come in person (no research fee) to do your own searching during regular museum hours (Tuesday – Friday, 10 AM – 5 PM and Saturdays from 10 – 3). Call ahead (803-635-9811) for volunteer schedules) if you would like to get assistance while here.

We are still trying to recruit enough volunteer genealogy helpers to fill out a schedule in the research room. The work is exciting, rewarding, and no prior training is required. Another major emphasis of the chapter will be the production of a quarterly newsletter which will include some local family histories, research news, and articles from historical newspaper accounts and other publications. Membership information is available from fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net or Mary Ann at mahollis@sc.rr.com. Information on website and social networking sites will be available shortly. Board meeting schedules will be announced during the year and will be open to the general membership. Several special programs will be announced during the year, along with an annual general membership meeting in the spring.

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:

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

or

Linda S. Frazier
email: lsf_jbf4@truvista.net
fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net

Fairfield Genealogy Society Officers:

President: Eddie Killian– eddie.killian@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Mary Ann Hollis – mahollis@sc.rr.com

Secretary: Ben Hornsby – bfhornsby@hotmail.com

Newsletter Chairmen: Linda Frazier – lsf_jbf4@truvista.net
and Carroll Pope – LCARROLLP@aol.com

Programs Chairman: Frankie O'Neal– francesleeoneal@gmail.com

Web presence Chairman: Debby Van Sant – vansantd@truvista.net

Members and Lines They Are Searching

Information about members and lines they are searching will be in future newsletters.

Grave Subjects:



D/2 Biological Solution's newest distributor:

Granite City Tool Co. of Vermont
Contact: Jerry Mascola 800-451-4570,
granitecitytoolco@myfairpoint.net

Have technical questions? Please contact me:
Ted Kinnari, President,
D/2 Biological Solutions
Westport, MA 02790.
(917) 693 7441

Biological Growth Removal

Albany, NY. Two months after Headstone was sprayed with **D/2 Biological Solution**. No scrubbing or washing. Biodegradable, no bleach, no acid. Will not harm plants, stone or you.

Tested and used by National Park Service, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the Veterans Administration, Georgia Municipal Cemetery Association, Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance, the Association for Gravestone Studies and many Veteran and Civil War Cemeteries:

Andrew Johnson National Cemetery TN
Antietam National Cemetery MD
Congressional Cemetery DC
Natchez National Cemetery MS
New Hampshire State Cemetery NH
Tomb of the Unknown Soldier VA
United States Naval Academy MD
Vicksburg National Cemetery MS

SC Newspapers Online

The University's Ernest F. Hollings Library recently announced that it has digitized 19 SC newspapers published between 1860-1922 as part of **Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers**, a website hosted by the Library of Congress. The newspapers are freely accessible and full-text searchable at <http://library.sc.edu/digital/newspaper> . This development is highly lauded by historians and genealogy researchers alike.

Through the use of appropriate technological standards, the University Libraries endeavor to preserve, encourage use of, and facilitate access to its digital collections. Funding was procured for the increasingly extensive digital collection in order to enhance scholarship and research; to increase access to the U.S.C. Library's holdings; to support the teaching and learning activities of the University's faculty and students; and to promote lifelong learning by the citizens of South Carolina and the public at large.

The Fairfield County Museum has been working with U.S.C. digital collections curator, Kate Boyd, to identify important resources within our collection. We have collaborated with historian Buford Chappell's daughter Mary C. Hill to secure copyright permission for the University to digitize Mr. Chappell's unpublished manuscript of family histories called ***North of the Broad River***, and his out-of-print publication of the ***Winns of Fairfield***. These texts are highly sought after for genealogical research and will soon both be available and searchable on line at <http://library.sc.edu/digital/index.php>.

On **Saturday, Feb. 11, 3:00 PM** in the Christ Central Community Center next door to the Museum, the staff of the USC Digital Resource Program will present a public workshop on using the site for research. The event is free and open to the public. Contact program chair Frankie O'Neal for more information.

North of the Broad River, the Land and the People

By Buford S. Chappell, M.D

A previously unpublished manuscript now searchable online at **The University of SC Libraries, Digital Collections**, <http://library.sc.edu/digital/index.php>.

About North of the Broad River Collection

This collection contains two volumes of local history and genealogical information regarding Fairfield County, South Carolina, including families who settled in the region, as well as related lines in Charleston, Orangeburg County, Richland County, and elsewhere in South Carolina.

The volumes include transcriptions of letters and account books and excerpts from other unpublished documents regarding immigrants from the United Kingdom, Germany, and elsewhere in Europe, as well as other regions in North America, who settled in South Carolina. Some entries document sales or purchases of African American slaves, inheritance of real estate, military service in the American Revolution or Civil War, and related topics.

This digitization project was made possible by the Public History internship (HIST 480) held by Daniel Wise (B.A. Public History, 2011). Wise scanned the items on the Zeutschel scanner and created metadata following Dublin Core Metadata Best Practices. This work could not have been done without the help of Henry Fulmer of South Caroliniana Library and Tony Branch, systems administrator for the CONTENTdm database.

This is a wonderful two-volume collection of families by Buford S. Chappell, M.D. This is the story of the men, women and the land north of Broad River; who they were, where they came from, and how they

prospered. In this book, generalities become specifics and the land people with living beings, their children, and sometimes their grandchildren.

Some of the families in these books include: McCants, Wiricks, Manns, Geigers, Eleazers, Freshleys, Davises, Rhisters, Robertsons, Robinsons, Strothers, Alstons, Rawls, Powell, Woodward, Mays, Entzmingers, Mottes (Mott), Camaks, Bookmans, Boyds, and many more.

Preface: "In the summer of 1751, when Hans and Peter Bat Rebsome [German name for Turnipseed] obtained their land surveys at the junction of the Broad River and Cedar Creek, there were a few scattered settlements of Germans and Virginians along the Cedar Creek, Little River Crooked Run Creek, Crane Creek and Broad River. To the southwest, across the Broad River and in the forks of the Broad and Saluda Rivers, there were a number of German and Swiss settlers and much of the better land had already been taken up. The city of Columbia had not yet come into existence. Only a path led along the banks of the Broad River where a hundred years later steel rails would carry the trains. Within a decade after Peter and Hans Rebsome obtained their land surveys, a human tide would flow up the banks of the creeks and rivers; a short time later, the Protestant immigrants from the north of Ireland would settle what would become Fairfield County, and bring with them their strong religious beliefs."

Chester, SC Historic Land Research and Plat Mapping

(Thomas Mayhugh offers his professional services primarily focused on genealogists interested in their Chester roots.)

If your ancestors owned land in Chester or if you are a current landowner and wish to know the history of ownership of your land, I can research the properties and map them for you. I will locate the property along with the names of adjacent landholders and show the location using current Chester County tax maps.

My research utilizes primary historical material obtained through the SC archives and the Chester County deed records. I am associated with the Chester District Genealogy Society and the Chester County Historical Society.

My custom drawn maps are truly unique and not available through any other source. The maps are available in various sizes. Contact:

Thomas Mayhugh

tommayhugh@truvista.net

(803) 374-1229

Website: www.chesterscancestorland.vpweb.com

Jim Spinelli Letter

(This letter was published in a West Point Military College Alumni magazine and brought to our attention by John and Mary Johnson of Winnsboro.)

Greetings. I just wanted to drop a note and say something about the Winnsboro town museum, which might interest the history buffs in the Society. I recently started working in Winnsboro, and I happened to discover it one day on my lunch hour.

For folks who don't know, Winnsboro is close by, only 30 miles north of Columbia off I-77. The town is small and the museum not hard to find. It is located in the center of town in an attractive, three-story red brick home, built in the 1830s. It is well-restored and by itself is an attraction. Greeting the visitor at the top of the stairs on the second floor landing is the cadet full-dress uniform of 1LT William B. "Boyce" Brice USMA Class of Jan '43, a local boy, and a hero in my book, as I learned he was a member of the ill-fated 106th Division, the Golden Lions, which was thrust into the line in the Ardennes in December 1944. Boyce's unit had been in place only five days when the Germans struck, and he died on the first day of the Battle of the Bulge.

Tourists can also learn the fascinating story of one Pompey Fortune, a slave, who, in 1776 at the outset of the American Revolution, was "assigned" by his Winnsboro-area master to work for the Marquis de Lafayette. The history says that Fortune and the Marquis were together throughout the war years and they became quite close. At the end of the war, Lafayette even offered to take Fortune with him back to France, but the slave declined, wishing to remain in America. But interestingly, the men met again in Columbia in 1825 when the old Marquis came to town on a visit, part of his grand tour of the USA some 40 years after the achievement of US Independence. On a night in March of that year, Fortune rode 30 miles on a pony from Winnsboro and "crashed" a party the governor of SC was holding at the state house for the Marquis! The two old men had a tearful reunion. The story also says that Fortune's owner, a Captain John Buchanan, had rewarded the man for his faithful service with a 20-acre tract of land, including a spring, on the edge of town. Indeed today, Fortune's Park is a very short drive from the museum, where one can see this very beautiful piece of land.

The Winnsboro Museum is located in the Ketchin Building near the corners of South Congress (the main drag) and Moultrie Streets and it has a website. The museum curator is Ms. Pelham Lyles. She and her staff have a wealth of information about their city and its history to share with visitors!

Best regards,
Jim Spinelli '74

Meeting Highlights

September 21, 2011

- The meeting was held at the Christ Central Community Center. In attendance were chapter officers and members, Connie McNeill who is currently president of the South Carolina Genealogical Society and her brother-in-law, Lowrie McNeill and Larry Ulmer who is state treasurer as well as the web master for the state organization.
- Dot Cooper agreed to assist with the e-mail requests coming to the genealogical room at the museum, fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net.
- A motion was made and passed for the society to have a Facebook presence. Debbie Van Sant will assist with this and Larry Ulmer volunteered to be the administrator for the Fairfield web site as well as Facebook page.
- A motion was made and passed to have a chaplain position for the society.
- President Killian passed out copies of the bylaws and the constitution. He asked that these be reviewed and note any changes that need to be made. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- It was noted that the Fairfield chapter needs to select a state representative to represent Fairfield at the January, April, and July state board meetings. Henrietta Morton is currently representing the local chapter at these meetings.
- The state organization has a workshop in July with fifteen sessions. A possible speaker for the 2012 meeting is Tony Burroughs who is a very popular speaker.
- Connie McNeal noted a publications contest which the state organization sponsors and encouraged interest in that. She encouraged our local chapter to send in news to the state publication. Linda Frazier is the contact for that. Her email is LSF_JBF4@truvista.net; address: P.O. Box 89, Winnsboro, SC 29180.

October 19, 2011

- The newsletter will be issued on a quarterly basis with the first one in January, 2012.
- Membership chair: Mary Ann Hollis will keep a membership list.
- Recruiting correspondence: Eddie Killian
- Corresponding Secretary: Dot Cooper
- Newspaper digitization project: A program will be presented by a representative from the USC library on Saturday afternoon, February 4th at Christ Central Community Center at 3:00 p.m.
- New fee structure to be voted on at the November meeting:
 - \$20 for individual
 - \$25 for family
 - \$15 for associate
 - \$10 minimum for email research and \$.25/copy

The newsletter will be sent electronically with hard copies being made for those who do not use email and a copy for the research room.

Microfilm reader: The one we have desperately needs to be replaced. The state-of-the-Arts

digital technology has replaced the large bulky mechanical machines with a computer flat-screen-monitor sized version capable of editing, cleaning up images, cutting and pasting to other documents, etc. The machines currently sell for around \$7000- \$10,000. If there are any generous donors out there who would like to help, it would be greatly appreciated. Otherwise, we will soon be initiating a fund raising project.

There were no meetings in November and December due to the holidays.

Upcoming Meetings

January 19, 2012: General Business Meeting, Membership Drive

February 11, 2012: USC Digitizing of SC Newspapers Program

March 8, 2012: General Business Meeting, Microfilm Reader/Printer Demo

Special SC Confederate Relic Room Tours

The museum is located in the Columbia Mills Building at 301 Gervais Street in Columbia, SC just a few blocks west of the State house in downtown Columbia, South Carolina. The museum shares this building with the SC State Museum.

“Through Fiery Trials: Religion in the Civil War.” “Although not the largest exhibits we have ever hosted, it is one of the best. Written by the inimitable Krissy Dunn Johnson and, ahem, a co-writer, this exhibit has some of the most extraordinary loaned artifacts we have ever had, and we need to take full advantage of the chance for South Carolinians to see them. It’s been up for a couple of weeks now, and standing in the room with General Lee’s devotional Bible (marked at a place in Job sometime in 1864). I still get chills.”

“Religion rarely gets its proper place in our history, being either ignored or misconstrued in textbooks, popular history, and even in museums. Krissy and I feel strongly that this balanced, carefully researched exhibit has been a chance to remedy that. And we need folks to come see it!

An SCV camp, church group, private school, veterans’ organization chapter, or any other group of interested folks can call me at (803) 737-8098, or the front desk at (803) 737-8095, to arrange a tour. \$5.00 apiece, with a dollar off for veterans and seniors – and children, and school groups are free. With a scheduled tour you’ll get additional interpretation and I’ll get my chance to share some of the research we couldn’t fit onto the panels!”

“Please pass the word “Bold Banners” is still up, and “Through Fiery Trials” will be up all winter and into the spring – but the best time for tours is soon, before the rush of school groups starts up.”

Joe Long
Curator of Education
SC Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum, www.orr.sc.gov

(The following three articles were submitted by member John Howell.)

About Hans Wagner

Hans Wagner came to Fairfield County, SC with the Mobleys. They met in NC and Hans decided to travel with them because they were “genteel” people. He settled from Maryland to Forsyte County, NC on the Yadkin River. The Moravians moved into his cabin when he moved across the river and built his mill. They said he was a fair man to do business with. Bethabara Park, NC has reconstructed Hans Wagner’s cabin. This is near Greensboro, NC. Hans built an Indian fort in Fairfield County to protect his family and other families from the Indians. The site may have been recently located. There is a marker on Hwy. #215 near Feasterville erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Hans served with Francis Marion (Swamp Fox) in the upstate Indian wars and remained lifelong friends. He served in the Revolutionary War according to the DAR and died on Wateree Creek. Wagner was pronounced Vahgner. Hans descendants own the Waggoner Ranch in Texas, largest in America with over 500,000 acres. This Waggoner is descended from Hans’ son Isaac who changed the spelling of his name. One of the girls was named Electra. General Motors named the Buick Electra after her. The GM executive and the Waggoners were friends.

John Howell
5th great grandson

Another Fairfield Happening

Hezekiah Roberts was eating supper in his home. This was during the civil war. A shot fired through the window took his life. Hezekiah was married to Sintelia Princilla Shannon. This story has been handed down through the family. It seems that Hezekiah was in an argument with a younger man named Lee. It is not known if Lee was his first or last name. Hezekiah did have Lees within his family. Hezekiah picked up a brick and threw toward Lee. Missing the younger Lee it struck and killed Lee’s father. Lee swore that one day he would kill Hezekiah. Some believe that Lee was the one who shot Hezekiah. Hezekiah Roberts was my great grandfather. My mother said she thought those “Yankees” killed him. Lee was questioned by the law and he may have been given a choice to either join the Confederate Army or leave the state. He left SC vowing to never return.

Bill Roberts contributed to this happening.

John Howell

Samuel Mobley of Fairfield

Samuel Mobley was born in Maryland in 1739, died after 21 December 1801, when he made his will, in Fairfield County, South Carolina. He married 1 May 1761, probably in Fairfield County, South Carolina, Mary Wagner daughter of Hans Wagner, who was born about 1743 and died about 1812. During the Revolution he resided in Fairfield County, South Carolina, then known as Craven District, SC. He served 8 days duty under Capt. Thomas Parrot of Winn's Regiment at Howell's Ferry, including 4 days as an express rider to Colonel William Hill on the Catawba River, in July or August 1781. He served 69 days duty under Capt. Amos Davis of Winn's Regiment at Orangeburgh, as Quartermaster, in December of 1781. He furnished a substitute for service under Lt. Kincaid of Winn's Regt. at the Post of Four Holes for the month of June, 1782. He also furnished a horse for the use of Gen. Henderson's Brigade, Col. Winn's Regt. According to the DAR he was a staff officer. Samuel's plantation was Cedar Shades in Fairfield County, built prior to the Rev. War.

Samuel Mobley was wealthy. He built a plantation for himself, his son John Mobley and for this granddaughter Catherine Elizabeth Mobley who married Rev. James Thomas Jeter. His granddaughter was the daughter of John Mobley. Samuel hired a master builder for all three plantations apparently. They had all the same traits, square columns to hold lanterns and other similarities. The only home standing is of the Rev. James Thomas Jeter's in Carlisle, SC, Union County, known as Woodlands. Rev. Jeter's brother, Thomas Bothwell Jeter was governor of SC in the 1850's.



Mobley-Biggers



Mobley-Oakland



Mobley

John Mobley married Catherine McLean who was the daughter of Captain Andrew McLane of the Rev. War. Catherine was disinherited from her father because of the Mobleys early support of the British. The Mobleys later turned and fought for the American cause. Some historians believe the British lost support because of two of their officers, Banastre Tarleton and William “Bloody Bill” Cunningham. They slaughtered civilians including children.

Some information from William Woodward Dixon’s Book, “Mobleys And Their Connections & Dr. Elaine Jeter who owns Woodlands Plantations.

John Howell
3rd g grandson

(The following articles were submitted by Pelham Lyles).

German POW’s

Interestingly, Fairfield County Sheriff Herman Young told me that he remembered German POWs working on the roads during the late years of WWII around western Fairfield and that the prisoners brought empty bottles to his grandfather Solomon Young’s mineral spring located (and still housed) at the foot of the hill where he presently lives on the ancestral land. They were convinced of the health qualities of such water and enjoyed this special privilege afforded them by their wardens. Herman says that there are others who regularly come from across the south to partake of the beautiful spring’s healing qualities. Notably, Gen. N. Greene, in early July of 1781, after the siege of Ninety Six, gave his army two days’ rest “at the Big Spring on Rocky Creek, in the present District of Fairfield (*W. P. Johnson, in his Sketches of the Life and Correspondences of Nathaniel Greene*). This is the same spring that Herman’s grandfather so carefully preserved by building a cement spring house over it, and it is just beside the paved Old Blair Road.



Museum Volunteers and Sheriff Herman Young inspect the old spring at "Big Springs".

**Cornwallis and Some Drum Court Incidents
Winnsboro, SC**

(Excerpts from Fitzhugh McMaster's History of Fairfield County, SC :)

p. 20

"...(In the Fairfield area, there were)...only two prominent Loyalists or Tories, one Col John Phillips, whom Pearson (see Pearson's Manuscripts)...describes as having had an unaccountable influence over Cornwallis, and in the beneficent exercise of that influence he obtained the pardon for all the Whigs (70-odd) condemned to death at the drum-head court whilst his Lordship occupied Winnsboro.." and "...taken from an anonymous article in *The News and Herald* of Winnsboro, Feb. 29, 1940, 'Upon retirement of the British from Winnsboro, Phillips was left in command of the Tories. The next year he was taken a prisoner to Camden, and condemned to the gallows. The Whigs of Fairfield, almost without exception, united in a petition for his life, and secured the commutation of his sentence to banishment. Col. Phillips returned to Great Britain after the war,...(and) was said to have been an intimate of Lords Cornwallis and Rawdon there, and to have held an office under the crown. The other was Capt. James Phillips, brother of Col. John. He returned to Winnsboro after the war, and was not received at first by his wife and relatives. As passions died he was restored to the esteem of family and friends, who realized that he had been conscientious in opposing rebellion to his sovereign. He is said to have been a crony of Col. Richard Winn and Capt. Hugh Milling with whom he frequently discussed the war as seen from opposing sides.'"

p. 21

"...(also a Loyalist) ...was (S.C. Regulator) Moses Kirkland, of Camden District (who)... fled the country and found protection on a British warship in Charleston Harbor." (Fairfield County was not named in those days but was a part of the Camden District. The Regulator movement before the Revolution assisted backcountry citizens to get Charleston's attention that the lawless frontier needed governmental protections. Some of the Regulators had served the colony as Rangers and militia men during the French and Indian Wars and continued their military roles during the Revolution as leaders in both the Tory and Whig causes.)

p22

"The British are said to have considered every Presbyterian church in the district as a center of rebellion and every Presbyterian Preacher as an agent of sedition. Cornwallis one day summoned before him the Rev. William Martin, a Covenanter who preached occasionally at the Jackson's Creek church. He was brought before Lord Cornwallis at Winnsboro. He stood before him erect, with his gray locks uncovered, his eyes fixed on his Lordship and his countenance marked with frankness and benevolence. 'You are charged with preaching rebellion from the pulpit - - you, an old man, and a minister of the gospel of peace -- with advocating rebellion against your lawful sovereign, King George, the III What have you to say in your defense?' Nothing daunted, he is reported to have replied: 'I am happy to appear before you. For many months I have been held in chains for preaching what I believe to be the truth. As to King George, I owe him nothing but good will. I am not unacquainted with his private character. I was raised in Scotland; educated in its literary and theological schools, was settled in Ireland, where I spent the prime of my days, and emigrated to this country seven years ago. As a King, he was bound to protect his subjects in the enjoyment of their rights. Protection and allegiance go together, and where the one fails, the other cannot be exacted. The Declaration of Independence is but a reiteration of what our covenanting fathers have always maintained. I am thankful you have given me liberty to speak, and will abide your pleasure, whatever it may be.'

Some of the Whigs of Fairfield conceived a plan to ambush and capture Lord C. (Cornwallis)...was accustomed to take a morning and evening ride down the road. Col. John Winn his son, Lieut. Minor Winn, and another Whig concealed themselves in a thicket, rifle in hand, intending to cut him off. They were discovered and apprehended by a band of Tories, and were condemned to be hung on a certain day at 12 o'clock. Minor Winn took the sentence greatly to heart and sent for the minister, Mr. Martin, to pray with him. He was under guard in the woods. The British soldiers had cut down some of the trees for firewood and had piled up the brush in heaps behind which Minor knelt in prayer, and was joined by the minister. Their exercises continued with the gallows in full view 'til the fatal hour. Friends stood listening for the drum and fife as the political prisoners were to be marched to the gallows. Instead of this they were marched to Lord C's. headquarters and pardoned. Minor Winn was persuaded that this was an express answer to prayer, and was subsequently often taunted in his days of frolic, with this forced repentance.

p. 94
(Letter to Tarleton from Cornwallis in Winnsboro, about the supposed Loyalist sympathizers in Winnsboro) '...About the people- - the friends hereabout are so timid and so stupid that I can get no intelligence.'

pg. 209
"During the stay of the British he often sent for John Milling and Watty Robertson to converse with him about matters connected with his command. He said they were men of extraordinary sense, and no doubt often reminded him of victories resulting in no advantage, and triumphs ending in hard knocks and ultimate disaster. Cornwallis ordered the country people to be paid liberally for their produce, and molested no one in the enjoyment of civil rights. With the due military ceremonies and precautions he admitted everyone to his markee who chose to call. Johnny Sarvice visited him. He was a crack old Irishman. 'And who,' said C. 'are you?' 'I am Johnny Sarvice, at your sarvice.' 'Well, what do you want?' 'I want pay for a patch of wheat eat up by the British cavalry.' 'Well go,' said his Lordship, 'to the Commissary, establish your claim, and get your money.' Johnny thought it appropriate to indulge his irresistible propensity for crankiness, and before he left the presence, he inquired of C. 'if he was of any kin to the Wallis' down the road?' "

"John Mills, of Chester, gained admission to the markee. 'And who,' said C. 'are you? Oh, is that you John? Give us a wag of your bone, and help yourself right freely to spirits and water.' John drank, but failed to grace his dram with a toast. 'And have you any business with me, my old friend?' 'Yes, your Lordship, I understand you have it in view to hang a good many of your dam't Whigs, and I had it in mind to say tell ye, that that was not the way to succeed with these people. Besides, nothing is more uncertain than the fate of battles, and your Lordship and your brave men may change places with the Whigs now condemned to die. My son John is one of the damdest Whigs in the colony, and if your Lordship goes on to hang, and you should afterwards fall into John's hands, he would hang up your Lordship like a dog.' Johnny's speech had its possible effect- for nobody was hung- no property plundered or destroyed."

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*The following information was gathered when Steve White posed the query of how a rural African American church standing near Feasterville on State Highway #215 got its name "Hassion Hill." Museum Director Lyles enlisted the input of Henrietta Morton, military historians Charles Baxley, Ken Shelton, and John Allison.*

*Steve's mother, local historian Mary Boulware, was raised "in that neck of the woods" and had always heard that the name came from a skirmish fought nearby during the American Revolution by Hessian military conscripts and local patriots. Steve wrote:*

Well, I searched on the obvious possibility -- that it was named after a person. While there is a family named Hessian / Hassan / Hesson (appears to start with George Hassan who was a Revolutionary War veteran & has an audited account) in Fairfield at this time, they are on Mill Creek & Morris' Creek, extending over to Sawney & Dutchman's Creek. It doesn't appear that any members of the Hessian / Hesson family moved into the Blair / Strother / Feasterville area -- at least not as an original grantee on land.

Certainly, if George Hassan / Hesson or his sons had moved to there, it would have fit perfectly -- a Rev War vet who was a "Hessian". But, as it is, right name but wrong side of the county.

*Henrietta Morton contributed the following thoughts to the conversation:*

### **HESSIANS IN BROAD RIVER AREA**

*Taken from a letter written by Etta Allen Rosson (Mrs. B. H., Jr.) of Shelton, in Fairfield County, to Mrs. Lowell E. Burnell, the National Historian General, NSDAR, in Washington, D. C., dated 30 October 1956. Copy is in Mrs. Rosson's Genealogical Files."*

Replying to your question, "What became of the Hessians?" I give you the following:

My sister-in-law, Aline Harmon Allen joined the DAR on the record of a Hessian, the Reverend John Yost Meetze, and I give you the following proof of his service, which is taken from Salley's History of Orangeburg Co, S. C., 1704-1782, page 27:

"Rev. John Yost Meetze, born Hesse Cassel, Germany, was one of those Hessian soldiers sold by their hereditary Prince to the King of England for the subjugation of the rebels in America. One night he was called from his father's home by a band of soldiers, who seized him and compelled him, against his will, to follow them. He bade farewell to his parents and the rest of the household, and was forthwith shipped to America. Soon after landing he deserted the British at Charleston, S.C. and joined the American forces under Greene at Bacon's Bridge.

"Later, he was captured by the British, taken back to Charleston, where he was subjected to a series of tortures prior to sentence to execution for desertion. By some miraculous manner he escaped and again joined Greene's Army, this time at Cowpens, S. C. He served until the close of the War as private and chaplain."

The above record is also carried in Edwin J. Scott's "Random Recollections of a Long Life."

In addition to the above there is in northwest Fairfield County in South Carolina, in a community called Feasterville, near the post office of Shelton, S. C., a hill known since Revolutionary War days as "Hessian Hill." Two Hessians lived here long after the War, and when the last one died, it is said that one of the ladies in the community wept for him, because he had "lived so far from his own people, and had no one to mourn him except his neighbors." It is possible that these two also deserted and went over to the American forces; but we have no record of their names, nor of their families.

I have read somewhere that the English believed that the German-speaking people, these Hessians, would not be able to talk with the colonists over here, so no danger of desertion; but that when the

Hessians reached the Dutch Fork\* section of South Carolina (in the area between the Broad and Saluda Rivers), they found their own German-speaking people, and immediately "fell in" with them.

\* English interpretation of the German term "Deutsche Volk" or German People.

\*\*\*\*\*

Pelham added: "Including Henrietta Morton in this discussion, as her mother was, like Steve's mother, a resident of the area and steeped in the local history/traditions. Also adding John Allison to the line of discussion (see records of our correspondences below), as he and his father have traversed the hills of western Fairfield for many decades as field historians/explorers. Henrietta had never heard of anything about a battle or skirmish, nor had her mother. But, as you mention the possibility of small skirmishes, it might be something to try to locate the land these two guys lived on and start a metal-detecting search of the area. Have a volunteer who would do a good job and be discreet (not attracting all the treasure hunters to the area). Steve, perhaps you can do a title search (court house and on our microfilm) when you come next week. Try to establish first which property was the original Hassion Hill."

*Correspondence with historian Charles Baxley :*

Mr. White:

Since there was a very active Loyalist militia regiment in the area, Lt. Col. John Phillips' Jackson Creek militia, and the area was traversed many times by groups from both sides, it is possible an undocumented skirmish occurred at the site. There were not very many "Hessians" in the SC Backcountry. They were some posted at Fort Granby, modern Cayce, SC, and some ranged out of Dorchester, SC and were in the battle at Parker's Ferry.

I wonder if it was named in connection with the French & Indian War era Fort Wagner which was close to Hassion Hill. I believe that Fort Wagner was built by Hans Waggoner, a German settler in the area. It would be interesting to plot his land grant plats.

Charles

Dear Mr. Baxley:

Hessian Hill is in the western part of Fairfield County, just to the east of Hwy 215 about 3/4 of a mile south of the Hassion Hill Baptist Church. This was on my mother's land just behind our house. It is about six miles north of Salem Crossroads. My mother, Mary Boulware, told me when I was a child that there was a Revolutionary skirmish there between Hessians and colonists. But so far, I haven't found anyone who knows anything about a battle. I think it was passed down by word of mouth, and the knowledge is now lost unless we can find some documentation.

-Steve

In early summer of 1780, after the capture of Charleston by the British in May and a few days after a June skirmish in SE Chester County (Battle of Beckhamville, victorious to the Patriots), local patriots



attacked a band of Tories who had gathered at a nearby meeting house owned by the Mobley's in an area of Fairfield called "Mobley Settlement". The Mobley's had retained allegiance to the King up until that time. The skirmishes that came in rapid succession after this Battle of Mobley's Meeting House were the series of local uprisings that led to the defeat of the British cause in the Revolution, ending at Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown 16 months later.

*Historian Ken Shelton, a descendant of the Mobley family in Fairfield, responded to the discussion:*

*"Mid to late April 1781, Raid on Mobley and Sandy Run Settlements, Fairfield County, South Carolina - Sumter got revenge on Coffin's raid of the Waxhaws (April 9th) by sending men to burn and kill in the Mobley and Sandy Run settlements. About this same time, Sumter gave Pickens Col. Flagg's regiment to suppress loyalists around Ninety-Six."*

Yes, this report is from Sumter's letters -- he worded it in a letter along the lines that he went into the Mobley Settlement to relieve his friends there (basically, other Whigs). The area itself was about 50/50 - the extended Coleman and Mobley families and others in the area were Tory leaning or neutral during the period of May 1780-late 1781, and the remaining half were Whig. When Cornwallis had fully left the state, and the Whigs re-established themselves back in SC, many of these Tory supporters took the parole offered by the SC State Legislature and joined back over to the Whigs. I reviewed the letter in my book & thought that some authors had taken a bit too pejorative an interpretation of it -- they inserted adjectives to describe the action that were not in the original document. At any rate, the fact that the mini-campaign happened is not in dispute. There were several in the area in and around what is currently called "Hassion Hill" or variants thereof.

Prior to the fall of Charleston, this section was predominately Whig or neutral. Not many open Tory supporters were active -- like the Cunningham's and their associates -- for the obvious reason that they would be arrested and put in jail.

On Thu, Dec 16, 2010 at 4:29 PM, Steven White wrote:

I found this:

<http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/1781s.htm>

The Mobley's were definitely in the area in question.

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