



Fairfield Genealogical Society NEWSLETTER

Volume 23 Number 3

28th Year

September 2012

The next general meeting of the Fairfield Chapter of the SCGS will be announced. Please note the upcoming 25-MILE YARD SALE and workshop on Ancestry.com.

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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. Please contact Pelham Lyles @ fairfieldmus@truvista.net. Membership information is available from fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net or Sherry Cashwell at sbcashwell@aol.com.

Sharing your information, sources and experiences is a vital part of being a member of your genealogical society. Do you have any suggestions or comments about our newsletter? Ideas or stories about your family for future articles? Would you like to post a query in the newsletter and network with fellow researchers? Please submit any information or queries to be included in your newsletter to:

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or

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Web site: www.fairfield.SCGen.org

We have Wi-Fi and Ancestry.com in the research room.

If you are planning a reunion or family event, please contact the Genealogy Room (803) 635-9811, email fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.com. It would be our privilege to join you in the celebration of your family to assist future generations searching for answers to their family heritage.

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Note from the President

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Hello distant cousins,

I am writing this note to let you know who I am and why I am interested in our county Genealogy and History. My father's side: Counties: "Dark Corner" of Fairfield with surrounding Chester, Newberry and Union and Highway 34 from Salem Crossroads to Ridgeway; Surnames: Killian, Brown, Lipford, Kitchens, Melton, Perry, Taylor, Chapman, Poole, Lyles, Jeffares, Rainey, Coleman, Mobley, Danby, Humpries, Bennett, Roe, Fox and Mathis.

My mother's side: Counties: Chesterfield and Lancaster; Surnames: Hunter, Whitaker, Aldridge, Ellis, Adams, Gardner, Roberts, Horton, Harvey, Ruth, Singleton, and Miller.

I am Robert "Ed, Eddie" Edward Killian, Jr., as you can see above my roots go back for most of my family surnames to Fairfield County, South Carolina. I currently live in Lexington County with mailing address of

Gaston, South Carolina. My wife is Loretta Gleaton Killian and she grew up in Lexington County, near Dixiana, with mailing address Cayce, South Carolina. We have been married 29 years as of this past March 26th and have three sons, Robert “Rob” Edward Killian, III (26), “Hunter” Lee Killian (24), and “Kyle” Ryan Killian (21). I attended the University of South Carolina (1976) and Loretta attended Columbia International University (1976) and the University of South Carolina (1978). I retired April 1, 2011 from Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina (20 years), ending a 34 year career in Information Technology. Started a sole-proprietorship small business group called: Killians Palmetto Group, (www.killianspalmettogroup.com); whereas hopefully I can have time for my hobbies and interest in Genealogy and History. Loretta, a South Carolina Certified Elementary Education/Resource Teacher is still teaching.

I am proud of the outstanding distant cousins I have come to know and their accomplishments toward our county Family Genealogy and History to whom our chapter and organization would have not grown to what it is today. Congratulations and gratitude for all the efforts, sweat, and many hours of time and dedication to those that have made it happen. We can all be proud of the timeless memories and history that has been made for our future generations. I have met new cousins, new lifelong friends, seen and obtained family information and pictures, visited cemeteries, listened to programs with great speakers, taken tours, visited museums, the “Barn”, and the list goes on.

As we all know, we have had time to catch our breath and some have stepped back up to the plate; now is the time for all of us to get involved once again. Please start making plans to attend our Fairfield County Chapter meetings and events. The latest information can be found within this newsletter. If you have any suggestions or comments to make this chapter the best ever, please contact me or someone else in the chapter. Please consider taking an active role in our chapter to help it grow and prosper.



REASONS FOR TRACING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

1. For the sheer enjoyment of discovery.
2. For health reasons: discovering genetic patterns could save your life.
3. It challenges your mind and keeps your thinking sharp.
4. It brings out the detective in you.
5. It is a way for generations to bond; children, parents, and grandparents find a common interest.
6. You should preserve your family history for future generations.
7. Many earn an enjoyable living as professional genealogists.
8. You can enjoy the friendship of others with a common interest.
9. The local genealogical society is a great place to meet nice people.
10. You can help yourself or someone else with a family history research project for school.
11. You can trace your family history or someone else’s family history and present it as a unique gift.
12. You will get to know the ancestors whose blood runs through your veins.
13. You will have more reason to enjoy a family reunion.
14. You will be able to finally identify people in old family photographs.
15. You will have a new appreciation for what your ancestors went through in their lifetime.
16. You may inspire younger generations with stories of the real heroes in their family.
17. You will be in the company of millions of other Americans who are involved in tracing their family history.

From: FAMILY HISTORY Made Easy by Loretto Dennis Szucs

THE JONATHAN DAVIS INCIDENT

SITUATION: You're surrounded by an armed gang, and your two companions are shot down next to you. Your response?

LESSON: "Outnumbered" doesn't mean "hopelessly outnumbered"...one determined, skilled armed man can do more than most would think...backup weapons are important...and we are reminded "If it was not documented, it didn't happen."

Jonathan R. Davis was born in Monticello, S.C. in 1816. Following his education at the University of South Carolina, he enlisted in the Palmetto Regiment of Volunteers and was quickly promoted to lieutenant. Davis fought with distinction in several battles in the Mexican War. He was wounded at Churubusco in 1847, along with over 1,100 other American casualties. In those days, simply surviving one's wounds and the inevitable infections was too much for all but the toughest of men. Jonathan Davis proved to be made of boot leather and barbed wire—a tough man indeed.

Davis mustered out of the Army in 1848 with the honorary rank of captain, and, along with hundreds of other veterans, cast adrift after the war; he later headed for the gold fields of California. There, his soldierly demeanor, skills with arms and unblemished character earned the respect of his fellow prospectors. He was known as a superior marksman, and described by a friend as "second to none in the state as a fencer." He was never seen without his two Colts and a big Bowie knife.

The Gold Rush drew dreamers, dilettantes and desperadoes from all nations, either to seek their fortunes in the streambeds and hills, or to prey upon those who did. Since most honest prospectors were armed and determined, the predators frequently formed murderous gangs and operated by raid and ambush. One such gang was made up of two Americans, five Australians, two Britons, four Mexicans, and a Frenchman. In just the two days previous to December 19, they had robbed and murdered six Chinese and four Americans. Ambushing three men in a lonely canyon must have seemed like plucking flowers. But one of those men had never been anybody's daisy.

The Incident

As the three prospectors made their way through a remote area known as Rocky Canyon in the foothills of the Sierra Nevadas, they were caught in a very effective ambush. In the first few seconds of gunfire, Mr. McDonald was killed outright, before he could raise a finger to protect himself or his companions. Dr. Sparks was able to draw his revolver and get off two shots. It's unclear whether he hit any of his antagonists before being shot, himself.

Sparks then collapsed, so severely wounded he could no longer fight. Only one of the party was left standing. He was Captain Jonathan Davis, his rank earned in the Mexican War between 1846 and 1848. He had seen heavy combat, had survived being wounded at the Battle of Churubusco in 1847, and had earned a reputation as a master at wielding both gun and blade.

It was a reputation that would be tested, and reinforced, in the minutes to come. Davis was armed with two cap-and-ball Colt revolvers and a large knife. This, obviously, was a time to shoot. The ambush had found the party outnumbered by more than three to one. Now, Davis stood alone against as many as 14 armed opponents. He instantly began to return fire.

His skill rapidly changed the odds. One by one, bandits fell. By the time his second and last revolver ran dry, Davis had shot seven of the murderers to the ground.

Writer Fournier notes, "Ammo rapidly depleted on both sides." It was at this time, apparently, that four of the remaining bandits decided to close in and finish off the sole apparent survivor with edged weapons. One of them was armed with what various accounts describe as "a cutlass," "a short sword," a "sabre" and a "4-foot cavalry saber." He is generally attributed the role of leader. The others were apparently armed with substantial knives.

So, however, was Davis.

As the four outlaws closed on him, Davis drew his final weapon, generally described as a Bowie knife. When they came within a few feet, Davis lunged to meet the attack. In moments, three of the four were out of the fight, mortally wounded or already dead. The swordsman was described by one researcher as “disarmed” by Davis with a flurry of slashes. He tottered away from the scene hideously mutilated, his amputated nose and right index finger on the ground behind him. He would die in a matter of hours.

Historians generally agree the final tally was 11 men killed single-handedly by Captain Jonathan Davis, seven with hot lead and four with cold steel. The remaining three, by some accounts, fled the scene. But there were witnesses who said that only 11 men had ambushed Davis’ party, and that he cut them all down, and that the “14” number came from papers found on the bodies of the deceased indicating the gang had originally had that many members.

Now the last man standing, not just of his own party of three, but of all 14 to 17 men involved, Davis became aware of three more men coming toward him. He drew the unfired revolver from the holster of the dead Alabaman, James McDonald, and braced himself for another deadly fight. Fortunately, the three newcomers came in peace: they were miners who had been hunting on a nearby hillside, and though out of range to assist, had witnessed the entire affair.

As the sun went down, three wounded bandits died. The noseless leader confessed to his gang’s 10 murders on the 17th and 18th. He died the following day. One of the miners counted six bullet holes in Jonathan Davis’s hat and 11 more through his shirt and coat. The bandits’ bodies yielded \$491 in gold and silver coins, nine watches (two silver and seven gold), and 4 ounces of gold dust. Davis informed the group that Dr. Sparks, who was still clinging to life, had a home and family in Coloma; he urged that all the ill-gotten plunder should go to Dr. Sparks’. They agreed. They helped to bring the gravely wounded Doctor Sparks off the mountain, but his wounds were too terrible for medicine of the day to successfully treat. Dr. Sparks died a week later.

Accounts seem to agree that Davis emerged with only two minor flesh wounds. It’s unclear whether they were bullet grazes, or cuts from the final encounter. His clothing had been torn by many near misses.

www.hubpages.com says: “It was reported there were 28 bullet holes through his hat and clothes...17 through his hat and 11 through his coat and shirt.” Author Fournier puts it only six through the hat, but the same tally of 11 through shirt and coat.

The Gang

Richard Fournier described Davis’ opponents as “One cutthroat gang roaming the prospecting paradise (which) consisted of two Americans, one Frenchman, two Britons, five Australians and four Mexicans – the equivalent of an Army infantry squad in number. This assortment of criminal scum had just murdered 10 people, including four Americans, the day before taking on Davis.” However, reports from the newspapers of the time indicate there had been two prior attacks by the bandit gang, numbering 10 murder victims. When the dying leader confessed to the rescuing miners, according to Placerville’s Mountain Democrat newspaper in a reprise of the incident published Nov. 28, 1946, “He said also that they had just commenced operations – having killed six Chinamen 3 days ago, and four Americans, on the day before yesterday.”

Searching the bodies found at the scene, historians seem to agree, Davis and those who came to his aid found the slain criminals to have between them “\$491 in gold and silver coin, four ounces of gold dust,” and assorted gold and silver watches, at least some of which were later traced to their previous 10 victims.

Important to Document

In researching this case, I found an amazing dearth of information. The telegraph had come into being when Samuel Morse sent his famous “What hath God wrought?” message in 1844, but the first transcontinental telegraph network wasn’t established until the 1860s. Teletype, pooled news services, and of course the Internet were far, far away in the future. It has long been a truism that “If it wasn’t documented, it didn’t happen.”

Jonathan Davis found this out. He got back to civilization and told his story, and was met with the 21st century equivalent of “Yeah, right...” (insert rolling-eyes Internet emoticon here).

Stung by the disbelief greeting his account when he reached a populated area, Davis rounded up the witnesses to the incident who had come to help him. All agreed to give sworn statements under oath as to the battle they had seen. The newspapers of the time seem to have taken this as proof positive the incident did, indeed, occur as Davis described.

Respected Western historian Bob Boze Bell wrote in *True West* magazine, “Three months after the battle,

Davis and three eye-witnesses to the fight – John Webster, Isaac Hart and P.S. Robertson – appeared at the offices of the *Mountain Democrat*. Before Judge R. M. Anderson and a delegation of prominent citizens, the men presented written and verbal depositions of the fight to everyone's satisfaction." Thereafter, the doubters seem to have faded away for the most part, though there would always be questions.

And the lesson we learn is, *document such an incident you might be involved with, archive it, and make sure there's something to solidly prove you did the right thing, even after you're dead.*

What We Don't Know

What's generally available as research on this issue does not address exactly how far the good guys were from the bad guys when the bullets were flying. Anthony Belli, written in the *Mountain Democrat* in more modern times, could conclude only that it happened "at close range." Nor do we know the exact kind of weapons used. Did the bandits have rifles, single shot pistols, revolvers, or ...? It's generally agreed Davis was armed with a brace of Colt percussion revolvers, but it's unclear if they were the recently introduced .36 Navy model, or .44 Dragoons dating to the previous decade, or the even older Patersons, or the .31 caliber Pocket Model that historians say was a popular concealment gun among those who took part in the Gold Rush.

Technique? We don't know. Artists' illustrations of Davis depict him with a Colt in each hand, but it is unclear from what I've found so far whether he fired them simultaneously, or sequentially, or emptied one and only then resorted to the other. The exact duration of the encounter seems likewise murky. It is reasonably safe to go with Richard Fournier's conclusion in *VFW* that Davis "methodically picked off seven bandits with lethal accuracy." It's unclear how many of those "Unlucky Seven" required more than one shot, or how many others may have been wounded by Davis's fire, but remained ambulatory.

The 1946 reprise by the *Mountain Democrat* says that "Seven of the deceased robbers were shot in the heart." Two, five- to six-shot revolvers, 10 to 12 shots means that's seven heart hits – and *what?* Were the other shots misfires, or hits elsewhere unrecorded, or simply misses? At this point in time, that seems to be a matter of conjecture.

Another lesson: Don't assume your opponents to be wimps, but don't necessarily assume them to be supermen, either. It appears that if 14 thugs were present, at least three of the bandit gang *didn't* charge Davis' position when they realized his guns were empty. In his *True West* account, Historian Bell stated the last two attackers Davis killed with his knife were "weakened by their wounds from previous raids." This may have been true of the gang members who hung back and at last fled, and for some of those killed earlier in the fight as well. Those three might have hung back far enough to have gone unnoticed by the distant witnesses who counted only 11.

As to the "weakened" ones, the *Mountain Democrat* of Dec. 30, 1854 published an allegation that two of the four slashed down by Davis at the end of the fight were so crippled by previous wounds as to be ineffective fighters. There is no way to know at this point in time if that was true, but even if it was, there would have been no way for Davis to assess the physical capability of each of the men charging him, and his killing them in self-defense would have been entirely justified by every standard, then or now, under the circumstances.

Important lesson: Experienced in combat, Jonathan Davis was a hardened warrior, a tempering that served him well on Dec. 19, 1854. He had developed the necessary skills before the event in Rocky Canyon occurred. Anthony Belli wrote in an August 11, 2000 article about the incident in the *Mountain Democrat*, "In the diggings, Davis was known as an expert pistol shot, and 'second to none in the state' for fencing."

Interesting Parallels

We live now in the time of the Internet, and gun folks being technical folks, the gunnies go to the Net early and established a very strong presence there. Defensive firearms use being a life or death issue after all, it's no surprise gun-related forums stir some heated debate about armed self defense, some of which seem to reach the intensity of religion-based warfare. Let's look at some of the now commonly seen threads and themes there, and how they relate to a battle that occurred 158 years ago.

One often-voiced theory is, "Armed citizen don't need spare ammo! Show me just one case where anyone did! *Show me the link!*

Well, as they say on the Net, "Bwahahaha!"...Google "Captain Jonathan Davis."

Long since mustered out of the Army after the Mexican War, Davis was an armed citizen. He had to empty two revolvers, and was *still* in the fight against multiple armed men. When the last of his opponents had fallen or fled, he was approached by still more strangers, whom he had no reason to initially believe had benevolent intent. At this point he took recourse to a third loaded revolver, taken from one of his downed companions. Fortunately, he did not need to use it.

Lesson: No one knows what attack they will face, nor how many attackers will comprise that assault, nor how many shots they'll need to fire to come out alive.

Another question is, "Ain't it kinda paranoid to carry more than one gun?" Well, the anti gunners will say that it's paranoid to carry *one*. Jonathan Davis is believed to have been carrying two revolvers... to have shot them both empty...and to have downed seven attackers before his guns ran dry. Whether each revolver was loaded with five bullets or six, and irrespective of how many shots it took to put each of those seven members of the killer gang on the ground, it's probably safe to assume that he wasn't putting one double-neutralizing bullet through two bad guys with any given shot.

A cap-and-ball revolver is a particularly laborious thing to reload. A powder flask needs to dump a charge carefully into each and empty chamber. A ball must be inserted over each charged chamber, the ramrod lever had to be precisely pressed down to seat each and every one and the fired percussion caps must be plucked off the nipples at the back of the cylinder one by one, and then replaced one-by-one. All of these are fine motor skill tasks having to be accomplished at high speed with the shaking hands and trembling fingers of a man presumably in full-blown "fight or flight" response, which is well known to destroy fine motor coordination.

Spare pre-loaded cylinders? They were used, for sure, in the Civil War (and even in at least one Clint Eastwood "spaghetti Western" movie), but that was in the future when Jonathan Davis fought his fight, and exchanging cylinders was not exactly a simple gross motor skill, either. It's irrelevant in any case, because there is no reason to believe Captain Davis *had* spare cylinders.

Another common weapon discussion today is, "Knife to back up a gun? Come on! That will never happen in real life!" Umm...sorry, it appears it did happen more than a century and a half ago. The last four opponents who were trying to kill Davis were taken out of the fight with his blade after his two guns were depleted. Was the recourse from gun to knife a unique thing that only happened once, all those years ago? No.

In the past year, 2011, a police officer in Tennessee was attacked from behind by a man who tried to rip his Glock 22 out of its holster as the officer stood at a urinal. Responding instantly, the officer secured his .40-caliber pistol with his dominant hand, drew a knife with his non-dominant hand, and proceeded to literally carve the attacker off of his gun.

Many thanks to the readers who alerted us to the Fournier article in VFW, and particular thanks to researcher extraordinaire Rita Ackerman. The Davis incident reminds us all that the hardware, the clothing, and the surroundings may change, but the essential elements of strong-minded armed citizens using weapons to fight off murderous criminals remain pretty much the same over not just the years – but the centuries.

Special Thanks To: John Boessenecker, noted frontier historian and prolific author: Without his probing, scholarly research the Jonathan Davis story and many others might never have been brought back to light.
By John Connor

Contributed by: Creighton B. Coleman, State Senator

Creighton B. Coleman is descended along the same lines as Jonathan Davis although he is not a direct ancestor.

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The following article about Elizabeth Austin of Fairfield County, SC was submitted by Jane Austin Bruckner.



# Austin Families Association of America Newsletter

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<http://www.afoa.org/>

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## Elizabeth Austin of Fairfield County, South Carolina American Patriot, 1718 -1803

By Jane Austin Bruckner

Elizabeth Austin is a daughter of South Carolina, strong as the palmetto tree on the State Seal and as visionary as the figure of Hope carrying a laurel branch for an independent America.

During her life Elizabeth Austin was the proverbial woman of noble character: strong, wise, getting up early to read and pray before baking bread and making breakfast. She knew the value of bread and of sharing it with others. Her husband Bartholomew Austin, son of William and Elizabeth Austin, had full confidence in her; she bought property and oversaw their home and grist mill. She could spin wool and weave cloth. She opened her arms to the poor and extended her hands to the needy.

She kept the books for the family grist mill on *Austin Mill Creek in Craven Co. (now Fairfield Co.)*, South Carolina and at home; she was known for her gardening, good food and hospitality. Grist mills were the center of community activity; some even had post offices. People liked doing business while catching up on the latest news and visiting with neighbors. Her sons and daughters worked at the grist mill before the American Revolution.

During the Revolution, October 1780 to January 1781, Lord Cornwallis and his British troops occupied the area, with headquarters in Winnsboro, later the county seat of Fairfield Co. However, Elizabeth Austin, then a widow, gave food and provisions to the Revolutionary soldiers. Her patriotic service, recorded in SC Stubs, Invents, N. 69, Book W, was honored by the U.S. Government and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

As she went about her work, helping the Revolu-

tionary cause in her home area, four of her sons were off fighting on the Loyalist side of the conflict. Bartholomew, Drury, Joseph, and John Austen were on Colonel Richard Winn's list of soldiers who had joined the British (Tory/Loyalist) forces. [Whig Militia Commanders' Enemies Lists of 1783]

Born in 1718 in King and Queen Co., Virginia, Elizabeth Pigg was the daughter of Paul and Elizabeth Osborne Pigg. She had two brothers, Paul Pigg Jr. and John Ghent Pigg, born between 1714 and 1718. After Elizabeth's mother died, her father married Sarah Osborne, had more children and moved to Amelia Co., Va., where William Austin and his son Bartholomew Austin lived.

The Pigg families of Virginia were known as large landowners and for their successful grist mills. The Pigg River in Virginia was named for them. Elizabeth's father, Paul Pigg, was born 1698 in King and Queen Co., Va. to John and Elizabeth Mott Pigg. In his will, recorded in Antram Parish, Halifax Co., Va. 1 Sept 1766, Paul Pigg named his wife and children, one of whom is his daughter, Elizabeth Osten.

Bartholomew Austin and Elizabeth Pigg met and married about 1736 in Amelia Co., Va., where they lived before moving to Craven Co., SC in 1764. Bartholomew served in the Cherokee War, in Captain James Leslie's Company, under the command of Col. Richard Richardson, from 8 Oct 1759 to 8 Jan 1760.

Land records show where the Austins lived in Virginia: On 5 June 1736 in Amelia Co., Va. William Austin of Hanover Co., Va. paid 40 shillings for a tract of 98 acres in Amelia Co., on upper side of Flatt Creek, on both sides of Fergusons Horse-pen branch. The 1737 Amelia Co. Tithable List records

Please see "Elizabeth Austin" on page 5



<http://www.afoa.org>



Elizabeth Austin, continued from page 1

Bartholomew Austin, 1 tithable. The 1738 Amelia Co. Tithable List "above Flatt Creek" includes Bartholomew Austin 1 tithable and Richard Austin 1 tithable.

Two documents show when Bartholomew and Elizabeth Austin settled in South Carolina. On 27 Aug 1764, Bartholomew received a Colonial Plat for 200 acres in Craven Co. SC. on Jackson's Creek, branch of Little River. On 14 June 1766, Bartholomew received another Colonial Plat for 200 acres in Craven Co. (which became Fairfield Co. in 1785). Bartholomew died on 27 Mar 1771, in St Marks Parish, Craven Co., SC. The will of Bartholomew Austin, a miller, of St Marks Parish, Craven Co., SC, dated 6 Oct 1768, states: "I give my Old Plantation between Broad River and Little River, a tract of one hundred fifty acres on the Austin Mill Creek and Runs to my Mill for my son Joseph Austin and his heirs, if he dies, then to the next youngest, that is Edith. I give and bequeath the hundred acres on Mill Creek to the three executors to be sold to pay debts. I also give and bequeath to my most Dearly Beloved wife Elizabeth Austin, a tract of one hundred fifty acres on the Mill Creek that runs to my Mill for and to her own disposal. I also leave my most loving wife Elizabeth Austin, my son Drury Austin and my son John Austin whom I constitute my only executors of my last will and testament."

[Bartholomew does not mention some of his adult children in his Will, although he had others who were of age at this time. He also had several minor children who are not mentioned.] On 2 May 1803, Elizabeth, age 85, died in Fairfield Co., SC, beloved by family. The will of Elizabeth Austin of Fairfield Co., SC, dated 4 Aug 1802 and recorded in Will Book #4, page 170-173, names her children: John, Edith Hatcher, William, Drury, Davis, Bartholomew, Mary Newman, James and Joseph; and grandchildren Elizabeth Ferrel and Bartholomew Austin Busby. [Researchers think there may have been another son Paul.]

Read about Elizabeth in *History of Fairfield County, South Carolina*, by F.H. McMasters, page 194. Bartholomew and Elizabeth Austin can be found on the Austin Families Association of America website. Follow the links for Research: Southern Databases: William Austin of Craven Co., South Carolina.

**Jane Austin Bruckner**  
jane@janebruckner.com

*Jane Austin Bruckner is indebted to Austin family researchers who collect and share information through the Austin Families Genealogical Society and the Austin Families Association of America. She is interested in learning where Bartholomew and Elizabeth are buried, and invites additions and corrections.*

*Jane also appeals to a male Austin in this Craven/Fairfield Co. line to participate in the Austin DNA Project, to discover possible connections with other Southern Austin lines. To participate go to the Family Tree DNA website (familytreedna.com) and search for the Austin-Austen project.*

Also look for Austin DNA Project at [afaa.org](http://afaa.org) and click on Projects.

**Historical Note:** In 1664, when the new colony of Carolina was established and divided into three counties by the Lord

<http://www.afaa.org>

Proprietors, Craven County was considered to be the southern part of the colony, extending below the Cape Fear River to include present-day Georgia and northern Florida and extending to the west as far as the Pacific Ocean!!! It can be argued that all of the existing counties within the state of South Carolina were derived from Craven County. In 1706 the "Parish System" was established, under jurisdiction of the Church of England (Anglican), not only to administer the church's day-to-day activities but also the governmental activities within South Carolina. All courts and records were held in Charles Town (Charleston) until 1768, when seven "Districts", with governmental seats in each district, were established and all counties were eliminated. After the American Revolution, in 1785, South Carolina re-established the concept of counties and 34 "new" counties were established. The area where the Austins lived became Fairfield County.



An old water powered grist mill typical of the type owned by Bartholomew

Robert Wilson Austin (continued from previous page).

Mississippi City, Harrison County, Mississippi U. S. Census of 1920 lists the inmates of Beauvoir Soldiers Home. Included are Robert W. Austin, 74, married, born in Tennessee, parents both born in Alabama, and his wife, Mary M. Austin, age 81, born in Alabama. Her parents were both born in North Carolina.

The Beauvoir Cemetery records on Findagrave.com show photos of the memorial markers for the graves of Robert W. and Mary Austin. Robert W. died on January 19, 1925 and his wife died almost three years later on December 3, 1927.

**Sources:**

- Website for Beauvoir Confederate Soldiers Home <http://www.beauvoir.org-vetshome.htm/>
- Website for Sons of Confederate Veterans [http://www.mississippiscv.org/ms\\_Units/11th\\_MS\\_cav.htm](http://www.mississippiscv.org/ms_Units/11th_MS_cav.htm)
- Beauvoir Cemetery photos and listings <http://www.Findagrave.com>
- "Descendants of John Austin of Southside Virginia" <http://www.AFAOA.org>

**Helen Cook Austin**  
AustinART@bellsouth.net

## REGINALD'S STORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This story from our last newsletter generated a lot of interest from our readers. We would like to thank Rebecca Starr for sharing and allowing us to publish it. She lived in Columbia, SC for over 20 years, but left for postgraduate study in history at Oxford University, and is descended from the Starke, Ragsdale, Stevenson, McCullough, Grafton, Thorn and Wall families of Fairfield and Chester counties. She would be very glad to hear from any members of those families at [rbcstrr@aol.co.uk](mailto:rbcstrr@aol.co.uk).

We are sad to report that Reginald Stone died recently along with his wife.

We and our readers appreciate the sharing of stories and would love to hear from others. You can email them to me or Carroll Pope (see contact information on the first page).

## WITCHES – FAIRFIELD COUNTY

The Salem witch trials were not the last of its kind to be held in North America. In 1999 I visited the history museum in Fairfield County, South Carolina and was shown some news paper articles and one article from FATE magazine that all referenced a manuscript written before 1854 by Mr. Philip Edward Pearson. It talks about an illegal trial where a lady named Mary Ingelman was accused, found guilty and tortured for being a witch in 1792 in my county. I had always thought that in America there were no other witch trials after 1692. Now I wonder how many other "witch" trials have been held in our country, hidden away and not talked about.

Mr. Pearson practiced law in South Carolina and had served for many years as the Solicitor of the South Carolina Middle Circuit which included Fairfield County. He later moved to Metagorda Texas, but not before selling his manuscript, **History of Fairfield County, South Carolina** to a Dr. John H. Logan. The manuscript ended up in Mr. Lyman C. Draper's historical source-material collections which is now in the library of the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin.

In the year of 1792 in Fairfield County there were many strange things happening to the people that lived there. At that time, in a neighboring county, a group called the Gifted Brethren were broken up for practicing hypnosis and mis teaching the trinity of the Christian church. One of its founders was tried in Charleston S.C. for heresy and found guilty and hanged. Also in 1792 many cattle got sick and people began to act possessed.

Four people were accused of witchcraft, including Mary Ingelman. She was accused by Rosy Henley for putting a spell on her and her sister. Both Henley and her sister were reported to have been levitating and could not be held down "by the utmost exertions of four strong men." Another accused person was Mr. Joe Fairs of Lower Fairfield County who supposedly afflicted Drury Walker's two children in a similar way.

Mary Ingelman was also accused by her son from a previous marriage, Adam Free, for causing one of his cows to spring up into the air and fall down and break its neck. Adam Free's son, Jacob also testified that Mary Ingelman turned him into a horse. A second person also accused her of turning him into a horse and rode him to a "grand convention of witches" where the devil complimented Mary Ingelman on her horse. She replied "Ah,...This is that rascal Collins!"

The four accused individuals were taken from their homes to Mr. Thomas Hill's farm 5 miles south of Winnsboro. Mr. Hill was chosen as the "judge" in this illegal trial. The "sheriff" and "executioner" was a poor man by the name of Mr. John Crossland. The only evidence presented were the depositions of the people who claimed they were afflicted. The accused offered no defense. They were found guilty and tied to the building's joists and were flogged severally. Then their feet were held "to a bark fire and confined there until the soles popped off." After this hideous torture they were let go. But Mary Ingelman did not get far from the Hill's farm before she was assaulted

yet again by a man who threw her down and put a pine log across her neck. She was saved the next day by a kind person who came across her on the path.

Mary Ingelman was the only one to get a judge, Rev. William Yongue, to issue a warrant for the arrest of Mr. John Crossland who was tried and found guilty of aggravated assault and fined five pounds. He never paid the fine and left the county after his trial.

From the manuscript Mr. Pearson described Mary Ingelman as a "neat, tidy and descent old lady." She was born in Germany and was knowledgeable in pharmacy and "her application of simples in the cure of country complaints was the result of much observation and gratuitous practice...."

In the archives of the History Museum of Winnsboro are some photos of Mary Ingelman's house taken before it was torn down in the early 1970's. On the side of the chimney was a rune which are commonly found on many traditional buildings in Northern Europe. One of the reasons runes are placed on houses is for protection. The rune on Mary Ingelman's chimney was a diamond shaped rune which is the Germanic traditional version of the rune Ingwaz. This is the rune of fertility, good fortune and creative power. Inguz is the name of a Fertility God and God of fire and is the guardian of the hearth fire. Also the word "inglenook", which is Scottish in origin, means chimney corner. Also note the similarity between the Mary's last name and the rune's name.

Mary Ingelman very well may have been a Christian of German decent who came to America for religious freedom, like the women of Salem Massachusetts in 1692. From the rune on her home and the description of her being an herbalist and healer there is no doubt she was knowledgeable in some old way like many of our ancestors were that came to America. They brought with them their stories, folklore, traditions and healing crafts which have slowly been dying out over the last 200 years. With the revival of Paganism in the US many new generations of Witches and Wiccans are either rediscovering their Pagan roots or are lucky enough to have been passed on the healing arts from their parents, Grandparents, or Great-grandparents.

#### **Bibliography:**

Gandee, Lee R. "The Witches of Fairfield, S.C."

FATE Jan. 1970: 36-44

Letter between P. Edw. Pearson and Dr. Thomas Cooper, April 26, 1837.

Dickson, Frank A. "Fairfield 150 Years Ago Letter Written by P. Edward Pearson of Winnsboro In 1837 Tells That "Burning & Beatings" Were Resorted To Here In 1792", (2/8/1940) ----Can't read what news paper it was copied from

By Will Kale, submitted by Pelham Lyles

#### **GRAVE SUBJECTS**

You may want to check this resource in cemetery preservation. It is a very good handbook online - <http://shpo.sc.gov/pubs/Documents/silencities.pdf>.

Jon Davis is working with local landowners to get access to cemeteries. The committee will work to GPS three cemeteries in the Blair area that were visited in the spring.

#### **BOOKS AVAILABLE IN THE RESEARCH ROOM**

A listing of books will be available on our web site [www.fairfieldSCGen.org](http://www.fairfieldSCGen.org).

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS– AUGUST, 2012

- Eddie Killian noted he is serving on the state board replacing Henrietta Morton who had been representing the local chapter. He reported on a meeting of the state board that he had attended. It was suggested that the local chapter should submit its newsletter for the state competition next year.
- The president noted that the local chapter was thinking of hosting a beginning genealogy workshop and possibly a DNA one.
- Pelham Lyles noted that her letter to the editor had generated a check for \$50.00 from a former Winnsboro resident who wanted to help with the microfilm printer project.
- Cemetery: Jon Davis is working with local landowners to get access to cemeteries. The committee will work to GPS three cemeteries in the Blair area that were visited in the spring.
- Linda Frazier will keep a spreadsheet of those visiting the genealogical research room and will send them a copy of the newsletter.
- Membership/Fund Raising: Chapter will have a booth at reunions and special events.
- The local society will participate in the September 7/8 25-mile yard sale connecting Blythewood, Ridgeway, and Winnsboro. Any funds from this event will go toward the purchase of a microfilm reader/printer. The chapter will continue to look for sources of funds and grants for the purchase of the needed equipment.
- Other matter noted: Jon Davis has a spreadsheet with thousands of names of Fairfield citizens and families and Linda Frazier is requesting a one page pedigree chart from members which can be used in the newsletter. Both of these can be of assistance to people looking for their Fairfield roots.

## TIPS FOR TRACING YOUR ROOTS

Having trouble finding someone on the census? Try searching with a woman's maiden name. The enumerator may have misheard your ancestor, or your ancestor could have given her former last name.

EBay <ebay.com> is a goldmine of antique genealogical documents if you know how to look. The best way? After registering for an Ebay account, use the advanced search option. Enter the surname you are looking for and any relevant key words, select the "search title and description" option, and make sure your preferred location is worldwide.

Once the search is complete, select "save this search," so every time an item is listed that matches your search criteria, you'll receive a notification. You can also exclude search terms to help narrow down your search results.

Online auctions on historical or antique auctions can quickly fluctuate out of your budget. Before the sale, ask the seller if they can scan the document and email it to you for a fee if you lose the auction. Usually sellers will oblige if you explain to them the genealogical significance.

If you are researching a unique surname and you hit a brick wall, consider a one-name study (find one at <one-name.org>). These allow individuals to collect and share information about people with the same last name, potentially opening up your tree to lines you may have never considered before.

*R.J. Heaton / Family Tree "51 Best Tips for Tracing Your Roots"*

**New links** have been added to our web site. Please let us know if you find web sites that would be helpful to other researchers.

**Ancestor/Pedigree Charts** – We are asking our members to share their charts with the Society for our family history files and (with your permission) for publication in future newsletters.

These can be emailed to [fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net) or mailed to Fairfield Genealogy Society, P.O. Box 93, Winnsboro, SC 29180 0093.

## QUERIES

**Dr. R.L. (Bob) Uzzel – Pastor.** Researching the Durham family which appears to have diminished much over the years in Fairfield County. The Durhams and Woodards who live near Fairfield, Texas are definitely related. I would like to talk with anyone with info on white or black Durhams. I hope to complete my book before the end of 2012 and find a publisher in 2013.

[drbobuzz@yahoo.com](mailto:drbobuzz@yahoo.com)

**Linda Peyman** – Researching **Marrs**. I was just reading about Loyalists in SC with a google book..... If James Marr's Father was Andrew Marr, a merchant with international trade business, he was probably a Loyalist and would explain why the James in his will was left.....was it one shilling? And I think the notice had to be included in the will.....the heir at law. The Fairchild line would have been Andrew's wife.....Ann Fairchild Marr.....and there was one notation that she might have been pregnant at the time of Andrew's death.....Perhaps this was the James, or maybe from an earlier marriage.....both had been married before. Anybody know anything?

I can add **Woodward, Pearson, English**, and especially the Marr connection, with one lady suggesting that both James and Celia were buried at the Moore farm cemetery. Think there was some military Moore I ran across....SC or NC. Seems this Marr family had Loyalists and Patriots and a big split. Hoping to verify the parents of James Mar(r)?

Also researching..Rochelle...Ruff.....Rutland...Nelson.....Fairchild and some interconnection to the Cantey and Brown lines too.

I have found out that both Ann Fairchild Marr and Andrew Marr, supposedly James Marr's parents according to some.....were buried in the Presbyterian (Scots) church in Charleston, and James could have been the unborn child of Alexander, her first husband, died before birth. I would love to know where James Marr was born, who his parents were and where he and Priscilla Rochelle were buried.....another amateur genealogy buff mentioned something about Moore's farm cemetery.....??

Trying too to connect the Rochelle line to VA and their early movement....We have a bunch of legal Rochelles here in VA, but no real primary proofs.

[ljp58172@verizon.net](mailto:ljp58172@verizon.net)

## UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** to be announced.

**The Big Grab - 25-MILE YARD SALE** that will connect Blythewood, Ridgeway and Winnsboro is planned for Friday, **Sept. 7 (noon - 8 p.m.) and Saturday, September 8 (7 a.m. - 2 p.m.)**. From I-77, Exit 24 State Hwy 21 through Blythewood to Ridgeway. Picks up State Hwy 34 through Ridgeway to Winnsboro. Joins US Hwy 321 south of Winnsboro, takes US 321 Bus through downtown to State Hwy 200, turns left, to US Hwy 321 Bypass/State Hwy 34, and turns left on to 321 Bypass.

For more information please contact Terry or Susan at Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce 803 635-4242.

**Many items donated for sale may arrive on Friday at the Museum by covered wagon. The wagon will be on display at the Museum during the two days of the sale.**

**The Fairfield COUNTY GENEALOGY CHAPTER AND FAIRFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY ... has numerous antiques that have been donated for The Big Grab – 25 mile Yard Sale September 7 & 8. Several very fine pieces have been given by families to benefit the Museum just for this sale. These will be available at the 25-mile SALE on Friday and Saturday. Money collected at this sale will be used for TECHNOLOGY NEEDS in the Museum. Contact Pelham Lyles or Linda Frazier if you would like to volunteer to help with this.**

***Note: This sale is not INSIDE the museum, it will be on the side between the museum and Christ Central Community Center and in the back of the museum.***

## WORKSHOP ON ANCESTRY.COM

We are having a workshop on Ancestry.com on **September 20<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 PM** at the Christ Community Center next door to the museum. This is being presented by Tally Johnson, Chester County Library Special Services Coordinator. Johnson is interested in history, including Great Falls history and local family stories. Everyone is invited to come. There is no registration for this event. We encourage you to join us. If you have any questions regarding Ancestry.com, please send them to Frankie O'Neal at [francesleeoneal@gmail.com](mailto:francesleeoneal@gmail.com) by noon on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

**ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK FESTIVAL-** October 5 & 6 – Friday parade starts at 7 PM, stump speeches by local political candidates and street dance featuring Coast Runners band 8-11 PM. Food Vendors. Saturday 10 AM – 3 PM. Huge car show, live music on stage all day, Arts & Crafts vendors, exhibitors, children's amusements. Local favorites Reunion Bande plays 1-3 PM on main stage.

Contact Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce (803) 635-4242.

**The SC Genealogy Society, Fairfield County Chapter will be having a booth Friday 10 am - 5 pm and Saturday 10 am - 3 pm. Please stop by and meet your local chapter members.**

**October 6 – Caboose Days at South Carolina Railroad Museum.** All rides in caboose cars. Rides 10 AM & 1:30 PM. Advance ticket purchase on line [www.scrm.org](http://www.scrm.org) or may purchase on site. 110 Industrial Park Road, Winnsboro.

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**FAIRFIELD COUNTY CHAPTER  
SOUTH CAROLINA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **CURRENT MEMBER? YES/NO**

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE (\_\_\_\_)** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:**

**\$20 Individual**

**Other Member Name (If Family Membership)**

**\$25 Family**

\_\_\_\_\_

**\$15 Associate**

**Are you currently a member of another chapter of**

**The South Carolina Genealogical Society?**

**YES ( ) NO ( )**

**Chapter Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**SURNAMES YOU HAVE RESERCHED AND ARE PLANNING TO RESEARCH:**

**SURNAME:**

**Location of Research:**

**Okay to include surname search and contact information in the Fairfield Genealogical Society newsletters?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please use the back of application for additional surnames.**

**Mail Application/Renewal and check to:**

**Fairfield County Chapter, SCGS  
Post Office Box 93  
Winnsboro, SC 29180-0093**

**Financial donations as well as in-kind are always appreciated.**