



Fairfield County Genealogy Society Newsletter

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December 2023

4th Quarter

Located at: Fairfield County Museum, 231 S. Congress St., Winnsboro, S.C

Hunting For the Elusive Cemetery

It's almost January, and in South Carolina it's a good month to search for the elusive family cemetery. January in SC has fewer licensed hunters in fields and woods than other times of the year as well as less greenery to hide gravesites. Don't forget also that in January snakes and lizards are less active although abandoned cemeteries have good hiding places. However, just to be safe wherever you go in the state do contact the SC Department of Natural Resources (<https://www.dnr.scgov/hunting.html>).. There are four Zones covering the state with Fairfield County being Zone 2. Here you will learn the regulations pertaining to each zone and the hunting "In Season" dates for all game.

The regulations relate to the Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and other public and private wild game hunting areas. It is suggested to keep a copy of the online regulations with you in your field research supplies in the event others need to know.

The South Carolina Legislature also has mandated laws pertaining to private cemeteries with which you should be familiar before heading out. The online site (<http://www.scstatehouse.gov>) can be found under South Carolina Law- Code of Laws Title 27, Chapter 43, Cemeteries, Access to Cemeteries on Private Property, Sec. 27-43-310.

The National Park Service supplies links to federal laws, regulations, standards and guidelines, and executive orders about State Laws for Cemeteries and Burials. These can be found at SC Department Archives & History online site (<https://scdah.sc.gov>) under Preservation Laws.

Tombstone hunting is not a new concept as increasing numbers of people are researching their ancestry searching for elusive old family cemeteries. Visiting gravesites has been purposely attended to for centuries. As witnessed in the 19th century, park-like garden cemeteries were established where people could honor ancestors, stroll, picnic, and socialize. There are even modern national holidays such as Dia de los Muertos (or Day of the Dead) celebrations in some areas.

Scouring cemeteries, small and large; public and private; near and far has been a longstanding practice of genealogists at all levels of research. Seeking out an abandoned family or farm cemetery can be an adventure of discovery. Remember, there are many reasons for wanting to visit a gravesite, but the trip can be like stepping back in time as the silence of surrounding field or woodland invokes the pleasures of finding a long-forgotten ancestor.

Whether you are a genealogist or simply curious, cemeteries are excellent resources for many areas of interest: historical, architectural, family relationships, celebrations, and special memorials are just a few. Whether it is a quick pleasure trip, or an all-day research adventure preparation and planning is recommended. Here are some basic tips from the popular Family Tree Magazine recent article "*Tombstone Tourism: Planning Cemetery Visits for Genealogy*" <https://subscribe.familytreemagazine.com>

You will want to be suited for the search so be sure to:

1. Wear proper clothing and footwear fitting the terrain.
2. Carry bug spray for the creepy crawlers and especially fire ants.

(Continued from page 1- Hunting...)

3. Carry a camera and take photos, lots of photos.
4. Water and snacks if you must recharge.

FTM also provides other suggestions to keep in mind on being a good genealogy hunter,

** Plan ahead to ensure there are no services or events that your visit might disturb. At the end of the day, cemeteries are public spaces that we must share with others. To ensure that you are respectful of others' observances and grief, be sure to check that there is nothing going on at the cemetery for the day you book your trip. You can find out by visiting the cemetery's website if they have one or calling the administrative office.*

** Be respectful and follow the rules. This perhaps is understood but remember that you are a visitor and must be respectful of both the living people around you and the dead. Rules may also vary from one cemetery to the next. One may allow you to touch all memorials while others may keep some off-limits. You can usually find a cemetery's rules on its websites and even posted someplace on site.*

The FCGS offers these words of caution for everyone – adults and children – whether you find a list of cemetery rules or not, always remember:

- Iron gates and fences around a cemetery plot can be unstable and fragile requiring caution as well.
Do not enter if the gate is closed and do not lean, sit or climb on the fence.
- Tombstones may be only a simple rock, post, flower container, small funeral home marker, etc.
Do not move or remove as it might be the only item marking a grave site.

South Carolina Legislature Code of Laws

Title 27 – Property and conveyances.

Chapter 43 – Cemeteries.

Article 3 – Access to Cemeteries on Private Property.

Section 27-43-310. Cemeteries on private property; persons entitled to access; purposes; notice; institution of proceedings in magistrate's court; immunity from civil liability.

(A) An owner of private property on which a cemetery, burial ground, or grave is located must allow ingress and egress to the cemetery, burial ground, or grave as provided in this section by any of the following persons:

- (1) Family members and descendants of deceased persons buried on the private property or an agent who has the written permission of family members or descendants.
- (2) A cemetery plot owner.
- (3) Persons lawfully participating in a burial; or
- (4) A person engaging in genealogy research who has received the written permission of:
 - a. Family members or descendants of deceased person buried on the private property; or the owner of record, an agent of the owner of record, or an occupant of the private property acting on behalf and with permission of the owner of record.***

*** Important additional information can be found online: <https://statehouse.gov>.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



HELLO, EVERYONE I HOPE ALL OF YOU ARE DOING WELL.

We trust that everyone has been getting back to normal post-covid-19 days and venturing out to discover the ancestral roots. I have had issues with my knee resulting with surgery and a recovery time. Therefore, I have been out of the library or having to work from downstairs dining room for the last few months. Hopefully, I will get cleared to back to normal duties soon. I have been keeping up with emails and attempting to handle request via email and updating the FCGS Members Only web pages. We are all looking forward to the next quarter being a time of new energy, festivities, and family fun.

I want to personally thank Jon Davis, Madelyn Butts and Danny Justice for coming in weekly and assisting with research and/or cataloging library items. Also, I want to thank Jongy Ward for stepping up and volunteering to be our new FCGS Newsletter Editor. Please consider helping us by volunteering to assist in cataloging and properly storing these invaluable resources or becoming a FCGS Board officer; in which currently we have an opening for the Vice-President (Program Director). We are most appreciative for our new and past volunteers for their assistance with programs, membership, donations, and support!

FCGS has had some great programs this past quarter and opportunities for members to meet new members and some existing and new cousins. In August, FCGS Board Meeting at Sarah N' Geo's was moved to Old Town Hall. In September, FCGS Membership Gathered by the Lake at Madelyn Butts & Dan Justice Wateree Lake Cabin Gazebo. Lunch was provided which included BBQ, Rice & Hash, String Beans, Cole Slaw, Hush Puppies, and Banana Pudding; with 16 in attendance. Also in September, FCGS sponsored a Saturday night DNA program and provided supper at the Coleman-Feaster-Mobley Family Association & Friends annual reunion with 8 in attendance. In October, FCGS Board met for a meeting at Peace on Earth Café. Also in October, FCGS assisted the Ellison, Moore and Weldon families in the cleanup of their ancestor's cemetery. This was in preparation of a Grave Marking Ceremony in their ancestors honor attended by almost 100 including the representatives from the SAR (Sons of the American Revolution), DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) and the Sons of Cincinnati. Afterwards, FCGS assisted in co-sponsoring with the Fairfield County Historical Society, a 250th Celebration event at the Fairfield County Museum with programs, booths, reenactors, small reenactment and light lunch. In November, FCGS Board met for a meeting at Peace on Earth Café.

This past quarter, I have had some time to update our **FCGS Members Only pages**.

Churches, Added: Bethel Methodist,

Updated: Beaver Creek Baptist, Bethel A.M.E. Zion, Bethel A.R.P.

Family Information, Added: Barkley, Blair, Gilbert, Grubbs, Ladd, Ligon, Outen, Outten, Sanders, Smith, Wilson,

Updated: Brown, Buchanan, Coleman, Free, Joiner, Joyner, Seal, Seale, Seals, Woodward,

World Information, Added: Ireland, Scotland.

I would like to thank each of our FCGS members for their membership support. We currently have 50 life-time members and over a 125 renewal or new memberships. I would like to welcome all our new members. FCGS members represent many of the continental states: AL, AR, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, IA, IN, KS, MD, MI, MO, MT, NE, NC, NJ, NY, OH, PA, SC, TX, TN, VA, and WA.

Thank you also, for the continued giving of old, discarded library books, old Bibles, research materials and new publications that help enhance the research library collection and expedite research request resolution. These items are coming in from estates, libraries, member's collections, and other sources. We have received several private collections. Please remember we are a non-profit and can provide a receipt upon request.

(Continued from page 3 – President’s Message)

FCGS plans to conclude this quarter:

- 1) co-sponsoring a Christmas Gala at the Fairfield County Museum open house with the Fairfield County Historical Society, December 3rd, 3:00pm until 5:00pm;
- 2) in lieu of the monthly FCGS Board meeting, an FCGS Christmas party is planned at past-corresponding secretary Betty Carol Luffman’s home, December 14th, 6:00pm- Until.

The first-quarter plans for 2024 include:

- 1) a field trip to Historic Camden and the Camden Archives.
- 2) a field trip to Union County Historical Society Museum and Genealogy Library.
- 3) FCGS plans to have a full FCGS Board meeting at a nearby restaurant.

Check back with us at Library or check out the [announcement page of the FCGS website](#) for the latest details.

Yours in service,

Eddie Killian

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Fairfield County Genealogy Society is to:

- Promote genealogy through education of its members and the public.
- Improve Access to genealogical information in Fairfield County by maintaining an educational research center.
- Foster collaboration among members.
- Assist those researching their Fairfield County ancestors.
- Conduct periodic educational programs and conferences to explore cultural, genealogical and historical topics.
- Disseminate cultural, genealogical, historical, and biographical information to members and to the public.

(Continued from Page 2 – Hunting...)

- Tombstones might appear structurally sound and still be unstable and fragile. They are also very heavy, even the small ones.
Do not lean, stand, or sit on them to avoid being hurt.
- Tombstone inscriptions can be hard to read
Do not clean, scrape, scratch, chalk, the surface to read inscription as the surface will be damaged.
- Tombstones may be only a simple rock, post, flower container, small funeral home marker, etc.
Do not move or remove as it might be the only item marking a grave site.
- Cemetery land and individual grave sites are to be respected.
Do not leave evidence of your visit.

It is further suggested to invite someone who knows the area to join you, especially if you are in woods and/or unmarked fields. Also, carry and know how to use a topography map and compass when venturing beyond public cemeteries.

Disclaimer

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Contact Information

Mail: Fairfield County Genealogy Society or FCGS
P.O. Bos 93, Winnsboro, SC 29180-0093

Location: Fairfield County Museum (2nd Floor)
231 S. Congress St., Winnsboro, SC 29180

Phone: (803) 635-9811 **Fax:** (803) 815-9811

Email: fairfieldgenealogy@truVista.net

Website: www.fairfieldgenealogysociety.org

****** NEW MEMBERSHIP or MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL INFORMATION******

FCGS welcomes you and appreciates your support! The following are some of the benefits we would like to share with you.

- Society Quarterly Newsletters.
- Priority assistance with in-library access to Fairfield County research materials
- Priority assistance with your email queries in finding your ancestors.
- Free research of your queries during membership year, (non-members \$15 per request).
- Free copies of research materials, (non-members \$.30 per copy).
- Queries published free upon request in newsletters.
- 10% discount on books and published materials offered for sale.
- Members Only section available at FCGS Museum website.
- In-library access to online genealogy sites: Ancestry, Black Ancestry, Family Tree, Fold 3, Genealogy Bank, and other organizations.
- Members Only special workshops held throughout the year.
- Members Only invitation to premier exhibit openings at Fairfield County Museum.
- Members, their children & grandchildren (including guardians of) are eligible for FCGS Scholarship Awards.
- Opportunities in sharing your interests in genealogy and history with others.
- Advice and knowledgeable support for organizing family reunions, genealogy events, and acquiring history of Fairfield County.
- Many other benefits as needed.

The Membership year is from January 1 until December 31 of current calendar year. New members enrolled after October 1st of the current calendar year will extend to December 31 of the following calendar year. Members

already enrolled must renew and pay dues by January 31st or membership benefits will no longer be available. The Access Password to Members Only section of webpage is changed on February 1st.

FCGS is a 501-C3 non-profit organization. (Fairfield County Genealogy Society, Federal Employer Identification Number: 47-2246425; Public Charity Status: 170 (b)(1)(A)(vi); Contribution Deductible: Yes.) All tax-deductible donations will be acknowledged. If you would like to donate your support monetarily toward helping us meet our mission, there are several ways in which to contribute specifically. i.e. The Resource and Research Library Collection, family genealogy and history, family personal and business papers, scrapbooks, memorials and recognition of family members or friends.

If viewing online, click here, to pay dues or donate. When mailing send contributions to: FCGS, PO Box 93, Winnsboro, SC 29180-0093 or donate online by way of our Square Online Store.

Membership and Renewal Application Form begins on Page 10

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Perhaps You are Interested in Volunteering?
Training is provided



Contact: Mr. Eddie Killian, Pres.,
FCGS, PO Box 93,
Winnsboro, SC 29180-0093, or
(803) 635-9811 to discuss your area
of interest.

Charlotte & South Carolina Railroad Company

A Brief History of The Railway in Ridgeway, SC

Fitz Hugh McMaster in his 1942 writing of the History of Fairfield County South Carolina¹, states *“In the early 50’s there were only 4 dwelling houses in sight of the depot: these were the homes of Mr. Arthur Craig, the agent who was part of the railroad for so many years, Mrs. Catherine Ross Davis, Col Henry C. Davis, and the handsome early colonial brick home of Mr. Jas. B. Coleman.”* [Original source of this information was not noted by McMaster]. It was from one of these property owners that the Charlotte & South Carolina Railroad Company obtained a right-of-way and additional property in what is today Ridgeway, SC.

The location of the James B. Coleman house in Ridgeway fronts the railroad and the location of the former depot on the opposite side of the rails. The proximity, confirmed by deed, indicates the space now known as “the cotton yard” was originally owned and deeded to Charlotte & South Carolina Rail Road by Mr. Coleman² in 1848. The boundary description in the 1848 Deed corresponds to the boundary description found in a 13 Sept 1949 Plat³ as referenced in Deed Bk CF, Pg. 438⁴. A 17 Oct 1951⁵ plat showing the depot location bears corresponding boundary measurements.

Recorded land deeds in Fairfield District (County) indicate that James B. Coleman was purchasing land as early as 1833 on the waters of Cedar Creek, a tributary of the Broad River in a westward direction of Ridgeway. Additional tracts of land were also purchased between the year 1840 and 1844 for a total acreage of 1,178 acres. The National Register of Historic Places nomination dates the brick house style as ca. 1850.

An article published by The State Paper dated March 7th, 1894, author unknown, reads as follows:

“In the early fifties there were only four dwelling houses in sight of the depot, and these were occupied by Mr. James B. Coleman, Capt. Henry C. Davis, Mrs. Catharine Davis and Mr. A. K. Craig, the agent who was a part of the railroad for many a year. The DesPortes stand was occupied as

*a store by Mr. John C. Boulware, and Mr. Robert Walker had a store on the opposite side of the railroad near where the Thomas Davis store stands now. A blacksmith and wheelwright shop stood near the place on which the drug store now stands. This constituted the hamlet of Ridgeway.”*⁶ Perhaps this article was the source to reference in McMaster publication.

The article’s author further wrote: *“I heard an interesting anecdote connected with the first steps taken for building a railroad. Dr. Palmer says that about the year 1845 the candidates for the Legislature and other offices attended a political meeting at old Concord Spring. It was in the winter and while the meeting was in progress, Mr. Drury Goza’s wagon with only two bales of cotton on it mired down in the road and had to be lightened of its content. General Wm. A. Owens said to Mr. Edward G. Palmer, “Now is the time to make your speech for a railroad, taking this for a text.” Mr. Palmer grasped the idea. A cotton bale was rolled out and he mounted it and made a rattling talk. He called attention to the fact that the mules had been working hard all the year to make this cotton, and when worn out by the toil and heat of the summer were subjected to such treatment as this. “Save your mules. Let them make the cotton. The turn them out to rest and let the iron horse haul your crop to marker.” The idea took like wild fire. The ball was set in motion, and the next session the Charlotte and South Carolina railroad was chartered by the Legislatures of North and South Carolina. When a meeting was held to organize, Mr. McAlily of Chester, asked who was fool enough to try to build a road from Columbia to Charlotte. Mr. James R. Aiken answered that he thought that Mr. Palmer was foolish enough to try and added “Let’s make him President.” The election was made, and the road was built.”*⁷ The first Right-of-Way deed signed was on 20 May 1848 by Edward G. Palmer and recorded in 1850.⁸

It is Deed CF-438 which is next in importance to the citizens of Ridgeway. (See attached copy). Following the opening acknowledgement of the parties involved the deed continues: *“That the Railway Company, for and in consideration of the covenants of the Town upon its part to be kept and performed, as herein after expressed, hereby gives and grants unto the Town the right or license, determinable as hereinafter expressed, to construct and maintain a fire house, in dimensions 16 feet by 22 feet, and to maintain the existing police house, in dimensions 8 feet by 10 feet, upon the depot*

¹ McMaster, Fitz Hugh, History of Fairfield County South Carolina from “before the white man came” to 1942. Page 81, State Commercial Print Co., Columbia, S.C. 1946,

² Fairfield County Office of Deed Registration, Book SS, Pg. 217, 7 July 1848.

³ Fairfield County Office of Deed Registration, Book 4, Pg. 190, 13 Sept 1949.

⁴ Fairfield County Office of Deed Registration, Book CF, Pag 438, 2 Nov 1949. Agreement between Southern Railway Company and Town of Ridgeway.

⁵ Fairfield County Office of Deed Registration, Book 4, Pg. 257, 17 Oct 1951.

⁶ The State Paper, Jan 16, 1934, “Reprint of Ridgeway’s History Written Years Ago.”

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Fairfield County Office of Deed Registration, Bk. SS, Pg. 218.

property of the Railway Company, at Ridgeway, Fairfield County, South Carolina, said buildings are structures being located on the southwest side of Palmer Street west of Ruff Street, and to occupy and use for such purpose two (2) parcels of said depot property having an aggregate area of 432 square feet shown in red outline on blueprint of Drawing No. A10450, dated September 13, 1949, hereunto annexed and made a part of this agreement. See Plat Book "4", at Page 190."

The above statement is then followed by "And the Town hereby covenants and agrees in consideration of said license:..." Thereafter are listed seven (7) covenants to which the town agreed. On November 2, 1949, the Town of Ridgeway Council in session authorized T. J. Castine, Mayor and W. R. Goodson, Clerk and Treas. to sign the agreement, if said request be granted by Southern Railway Co. The Agreement was recorded on December 23, 1949.

[Researched, Compiled and Written by Jon P. Ward, January 2021



South Carolina Railroad Museum (NRHP)

The rails are gone, and train whistles are no longer heard at every old road crossing in many places throughout SC. But in Fairfield County, signs indicating the old train stops of Ridgeway, Simpson, Rockton, and Winnsboro remain visible along that portion of track running parallel with SC Hwy 34 while day and night, the train whistles a signal when a road crosses the track.

Along this same route the South Carolina Railroad Museum can be found. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Museum has accumulated many pieces of rolling stock including various types of engines, freight, and passenger cars. Established in 1973 by dedicated railroad enthusiasts, it received in 1983 the former Rockton and Rion Railway from Master Marietta Aggregation.

Now named the Rockton, Rion, Western Railroad (RR&W), a full program of exhibits and events is available. One of the favorites is the Valentine Day dinner which will be held the Friday and Saturday before Valentine's and it's best to get tickets early for this Special Event. For further information on this and other events for 2024 go online to the Museum website (<https://www.scrm.org>) or call 803-635-9893.



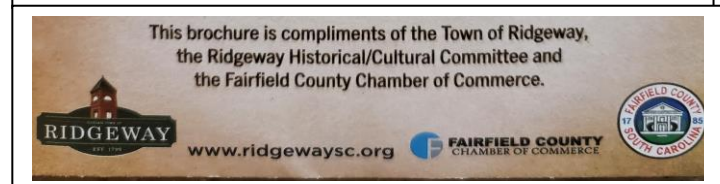
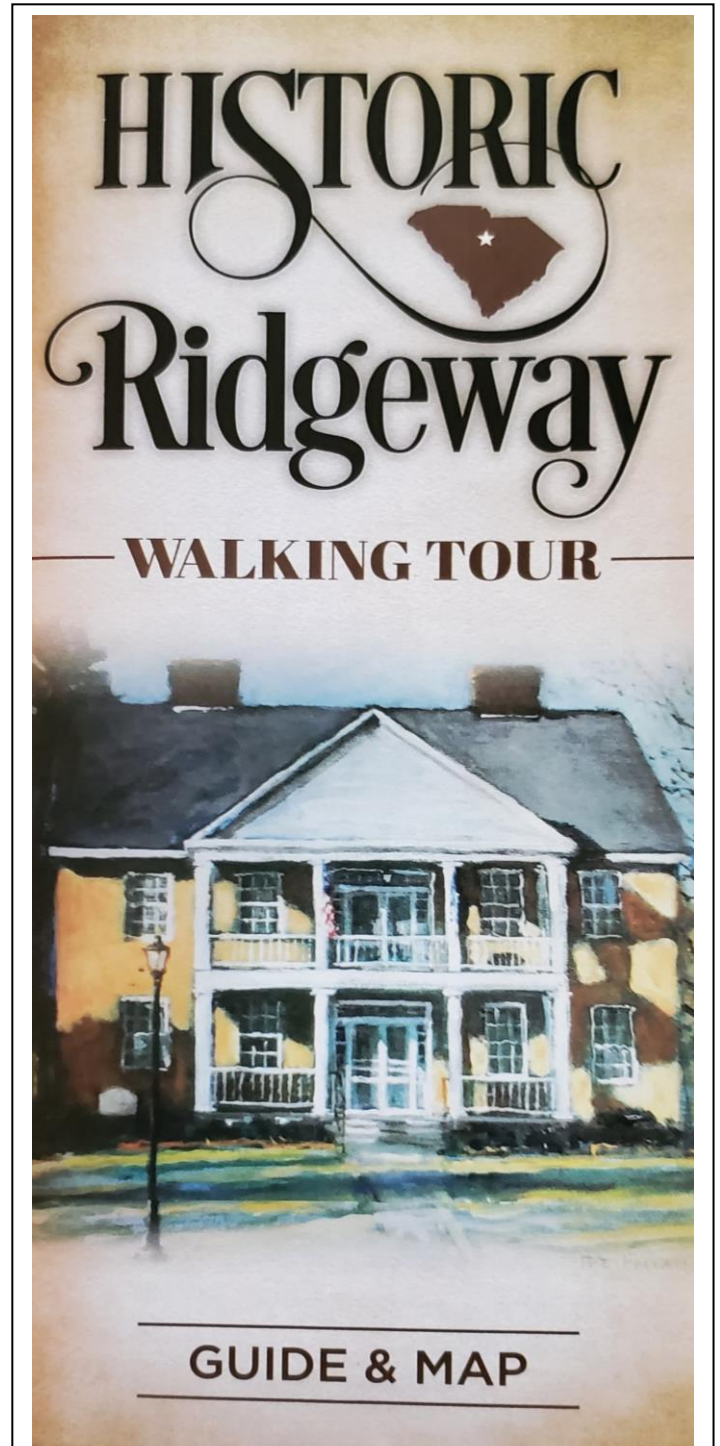
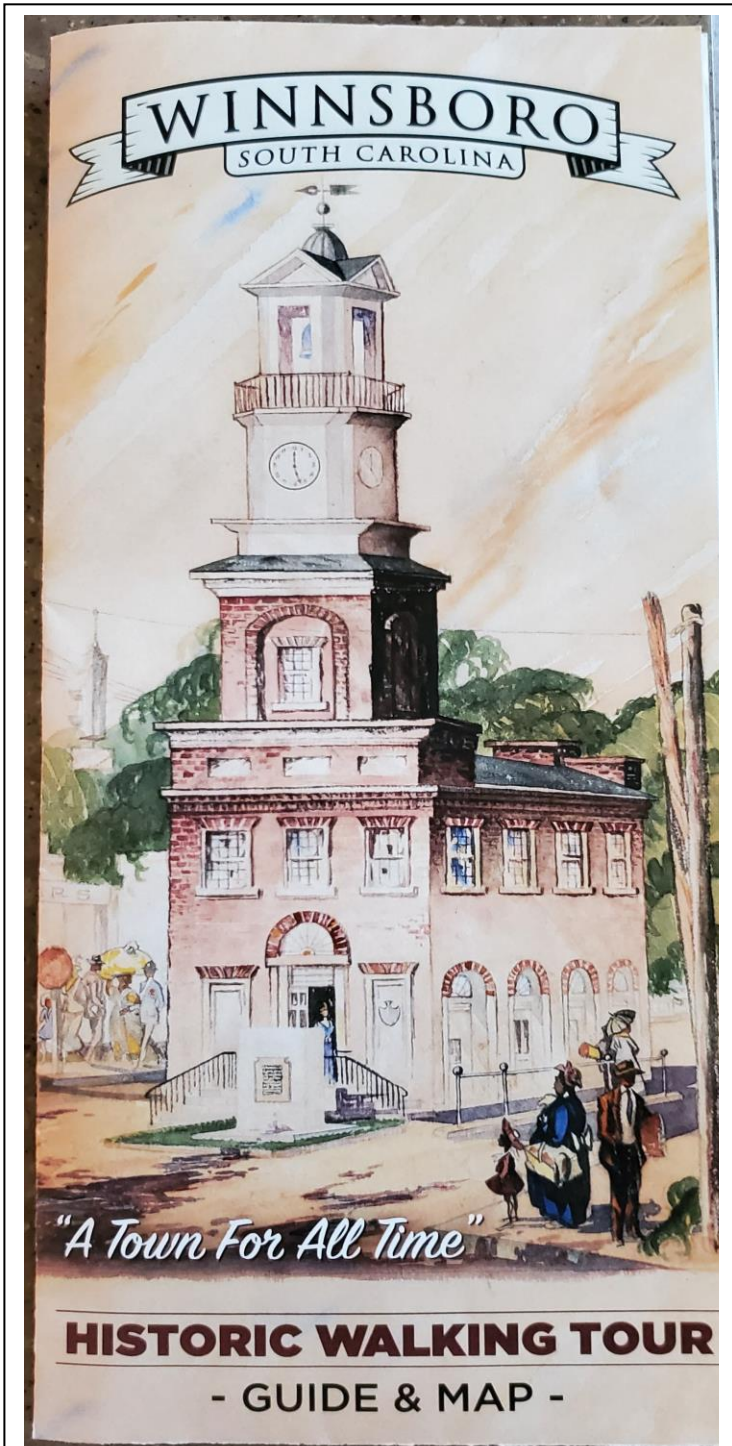
Charlotte & South Carolina
RR House 1

Get to Know Fairfield County

There is more to genealogy than finding your ancestral line in Fairfield County, it is also about knowing the history and places around the county where they settled and lived. Whether you are currently a resident or just visiting, you may enjoy the following three brochures now available online to get you started.

- > **Old English District** – www.oldeenglishdistrict.com . *The Gateway to South Carolina's Past, Present and Future* covers the areas of Chester, Chesterfield, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Union and York.
- > **Winnsboro South Carolina, Historic Walking Tour, Guide & Map** – www.townofwinnsboro.com features the historic district of Winnsboro covering 5.3 miles providing a brief history of fifty-six historical sites and houses.
- > **Historic Ridgeway Walking Tour, Guide & Map** – <http://ridgewaysc.org> features the historic district of Ridgeway providing brief histories on the commercial and residential areas.

Walking Tour Pamphlets with Maps Now Available



Some Early People of Ridgeway & Winnsboro

or

*(This manuscript was given to me by Mother – Louisa Carolina DuBose (Mrs. David Gillard 1809-1902) on Sunday, March 17th, 1895. It was prepared for me, my request.)
Signed H. A. G [Henry Augustus Gaillard]
1837-1921*

In February 1824, Edward G. Palmer, of St. James Parish, Charleston District, having married a daughter of Dr. James Davis, of Col., who was averse to his daughter's living in so unhealthy a climate, prevailed upon him to remove to Fairfield, and to purchase lands near the present town of Ridgeway, called the *Bloomington Plantation*, on Dutchman's Creek, where he built very fine house and surroundings, and changed the name to *Valencia*.

Mr. Palmer was born in 1800, and died in 1867, leaving two sons and one daughter. His grandson, who bears his name, owns Valencia, and lives there.

S. Peyre Thomas was the next. He removed from St. Stephen's Parish in 1827, settled not far from Mr. Palmer's; married Miss Roseborough, and died in 1854, leaving his wife, one daughter and four sons.

Dr. John P. Thomas removed from St. John's Parish, where he had been a practicing physician for several years. In 1856, he also purchased lands in the neighborhood of Ridgeway, where he lived until his death in 1859, aged about 67, leaving a wife, who has since died, and a large family of sons and daughters at Mr. Hope.

In May 1834, David Gaillard, Samuel DuBose and Theodore DuBose, all of St. John's Parish, Charleston District, left Pineville, the pleasant summer resort of the planters in that section of country for twenty miles or upwards around, on a tour of inspection for lands in some more salubrious locality, combining health, with fertility of soil, a very fatal type of fever having prevailed to

"Facts on early Fairfield District Residents from the Low Country"

an alarming extent, for several previous summers in Pineville and the adjacent country. They stopped at Edward Palmer's, friend and companion of their boyhood, who being well acquainted with the country of Fairfield and its prominent inhabitants, was pleased to accompany them in their search after homes. Mr. Theodore DuBose purchased from Mr. John Johnson, who was about moving to Alabama, a large tract of land with a well settled and comfortable residence, on the Wateree Creek, about nine miles above Winnsboro. Mr. Gaillard purchased from Dr. Boyd of Chester, a large and valuable tract of land of about 1200 acres, which was added to from time to time. This place was twelve miles above Winnsboro, intersected by creeks, very fertile and very healthy, but with only a log cabin for a dwelling, compelling him to spend his winters at his home in St. Johns, which he had not yet disposed of. Mr. T. DuBose's place he named *Parmington*—Mr. Gaillard's was *Springvale*, from a very fine spring of delightful water in a valley between two hills. Mr. Samuel DuBose, Senior, also chased a place well settled and salubrious, about two miles from White Oak, where he and his wife and several children spent 6 or 8 summers very pleasantly; but upon the death of his wife and eldest daughter he sold out this place, and afterwards spent his summers and his remaining family, with his oldest son, Theodore DuBose. "his son, Samuel, who married Miss Cloud, also purchased a plantation about 8 miles above Winnsboro, which was *Dove Cote*, but he did not live many years, left a wife and son and 2 daughters all living at this time.

The summer of 1834 proved to be more sickly than the previous ones had been, so that Pineville was from that time a desolated village, very few venturing to return there another season* This resulted in large additions to Mt. Zion Academy, then, and for many years after, kept by Mr. Hudson. Pineville had always supported a large

and respectable Academy, where the classics and higher branches of education were taught, and our young men were prepared for college.

Several families, principally widows, with their sons, came up to Winnsboro to live in preference to boarding them at the school, for the advantages of health, as well as this most excellent school. Mrs. Isabella Porcher, with her four sons and two daughters, rented a house in Winnsboro, and settled herself until her sons had all been prepared for college by Mr. Hudson. Indeed, from 1836 several families came up, some merely for a summer resort, and others for the combined advantages of the school. Mrs. Sarah Couturier, with one daughter, who married Dr. T. T. Robertson, and who, with three sons and two daughters, still survives her mother and husband, Mrs. Elizabeth Porcher, two daughters and two sons, the son a scholar at Mr. Zion, and the family spending for many years the summers with her daughters and son-in-law, Theodore S. DuBose, and the winters at her home in St. Johns,

Mrs. Mary Gaillard, widow of Dr. Edwin Gaillard, of St. Stephens Parish, with one son, Edwin, a scholar at Mr. Zion, and four daughters, she also rented a house and settled herself permanently, as she had intended, but after eight years the marriage of one daughter, and her subsequent removal to New York, and the death of another, and her son studying medicine in Charleston, and then practicing in Florida, where he had a "large and lucrative practice", and where he contracted chills and fever from the effects of which he never recovered but was forced to remove to a Northern climate; all circumstances combined induced her to change her plans and to follow her children to New York, where her other daughters married, son also, all the other with two sons and one daughter, also came with her daughter, Mrs. Mary Gaillard, but lived with her other daughter, Mrs. David Gaillard, until her death in 1848, Old Mr. and Mrs. Sims Lequeux came up also, in order to be with relatives and friends who had

preceded them. They kept living in Winnsboro until their death. Mr. Isaac Dwight, with his wife and five children, for several years, spent their summers with T. S. Dubose. After the death of his wife, the daughters were placed at school in Charleston, the sons at Mr. Hudson's in Winnsboro.

In 1840, Josiah Obear, an Episcopal Clergyman, from Vermont, the Parish being organized, he was elected Rector, and steps immediately taken to build a church, a lot having been given for that purpose by Mr. Evans. Subscriptions were raised, Samuel DuBose, Theodore DuBose, Edward Palmer, and David Gaillard being the principal subscribers, assisted by the inhabitants of the town. Mr. Obear was married in November 1840 in Charleston. In 1841, Jan., Mrs. Obear, an accomplished lady, opened a school for girls, in which Mr. Obear assisted. In 1842, the church, a neat and convenient building was completed, and in September was consecrated by Bishop Gadsden. Mr. Obear remained here as Rector of this Parish until Feb. 1849, when his health failed, he resigned his charge, and returned to his native State, where he engaged in farming, but being much attached to the South and especially to Winnsboro, he returned here in Sept, 1855, when Mrs., Obear reopened her school and, with his assistance, kept it up until in 1880 when he was again elected Rector of the church, not the original church, however, that having been burned in Feb. 1865, near the close of the war, by Sherman's raiders, who caused so much distress and loss of property by fire and otherwise. Another church having been built immediately, in a more central situation, Mr. Obear continued Rector until his death of paralysis in 1882.

I omitted to mention, in the proper place, that Mr. Gaillard, for the benefit and convenience of school and church for his large family, moved from his plantation to Winnsboro in January, 1844, where he lived several years in a hired house, at the same time cultivating a farm one and a half miles from town, and where he built a fine house, which he occupied only four years, when he died

March 1855, suddenly at the age of 56 years, leaving a widow and 11 children.

The War broke in 1861. Two of the sons and a dearly loved nephew fell victims, and two others dying of disease have reduced the numbers sadly. farming in Virginia, near Alexandria, one near Rome in Georgia, and one in Sumter County, three daughters and their aged mother in Winnsboro, and one son at the farm, Clifton, the fine house there burned several years after the war.

In 1888, our second church burnt, in one of the greatest conflagrations ever experienced in Winnsboro. In a few days, steps were taken by the Rector, Rev. James Glass and congregation subscribed \$1200.00, and liberal subscriptions were made by many in this community and friends elsewhere.

Just one year from the burning of the second church, the third was completed, very neat brick church, insured this time, but we are again without a Rector and the congregation small, so many of our young people having moved away to get employment elsewhere.

In 1844, Theodore S. DuBose purchased a residence, *Roseland*, comfortably settled, three miles from Winnsboro, for the advantages of school and church, he also having a large family to entertain during the summer from the low country. There they lived until 1862. In the mist of the War, he died of pneumonia with measles, and his wife two months later.

There followed a breaking up of the family. The sons in the army, only daughters remained at home, and they removed to Winnsboro. The family all gone, except two sons at Sewanee, Tenn.

During the War, quite a large number of refugees came up to Winnsboro from Charleston, most of them having relations or friends or acquaintances living here, and with only 2 or 3 exceptions were all members of the episcopal Church. Most of them returning to their homes at the close of the War, few having determined to remain and make this their home, necessity compelling some to do so. In the four years of the

War several died and with nothing to mark their resting place in the episcopal Cemetery, will be very soon lost to memory, as well as to sight.

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St. Stephens Church, Ridgeway, SC 1



## The Fairfield News and Herald October 10, 1888, Issue

[Following is the article appearing as written  
regarding the town of Ridgeway, SC]

*How It Got its Name - Highest Point South of Rock Hill  
Its Officers and Businessmen, Churches, Amusements and  
Other Matters Concerning It.*

The town of Ridgeway enjoys the distinction of being the second place in the county in point of size and importance, the first place being held by Winnsboro, which has the advantage of being the county seat and situated in the center of the county.

Ridgeway is located on the C. C. & A. R. R., twenty-five miles north of Columbia, and is twelve miles south of Winnsboro, and occupies the highest point on the ridge dividing the Wateree and Broad Rivers, and is also the highest point on the C. C. & A. R. R. south of Rock Hill, being 600 feet above the level of the sea. When the course of the railroad which runs through the town was first being discussed, two routes were proposed from Columbia to Chester.

The one advocated by Mr. Wm. Lyles, of Fairfield, and Mr. Samuel McEvilly, of Chester and the other by Mr. Edward G. Palmer, of Ridgeway, who was afterwards elected president.

Mr. Lyles route was pretty much that followed afterwards by the Columbia & Greenville Railroad as far as Alston, thence across to Chester. Mr. Palmer's route was adopted and is the present bed of the road. This latter route was called the "ridge route" or "ridge way" and this name was given the station.

Mr. McAlilly regularly called it the "Palmer gin house route" as it placed a shipping station within two miles of Mr. Palmer's gin house. Mr. Palmers choice of this route, however lay in the fact that it ran up the back of the ridge, and

crossed only one stream between Columbia and Chester, the wisdom of which has been fully

sustained by the experience of the Greenville Road with the annual freshets and washouts.

The town of Ridgeway was incorporated in 1874, and Capt. R. S. Desportes, now of Columbia, was its first Intendant, in which capacity he served several terms.

At present the population of our neighboring town numbers three hundred souls, [325 in 2023] and the spirit of push and progress which is seen in so many other places in the State is both visible and audible here in the stacks of lumber waiting for the rattle of the hammer, already engaged in some other part of town. The commodious store of Mr. I. C. Thomas, on corner of Palmer and Church streets will shortly be ready for his occupancy. Mr. C. P. Wray's handsome and stylish residence, on Fifth Avenue, under the direction of contractor Alexander, of Shelby, N. C., is rapidly approaching completion. Messrs. A. F. Ruff & Co. have just added an extension to their already large store house. The lumber for the Presbyterian parsonage is on the ground waiting for the carpenter. Mr. Edward Heins is occupying his recently built residence. The railroad authorities are taking steps to erect a much-needed shed over the passenger platform.

The following are in contemplation: Residence, by Mr. W. M. Coleman, and Mr. H. W. Desportes, and store by Messrs. J. M. Wilson & Bro. The present officers of the town are W. H. Ruff, Intendant; I. C. Thomas, S. F. Cooper, R. D. Bolick, W. S. Jones, Wardens; W. S. Jones, Clerk of Council, and J. A. Brown Chief of Police; cotton weighers, S. F. Cooper and G. L. Rosborough.

The business of the community is conducted by Dr. R. H. Edmunds, drugs, I. C. Thomas, J. A. Cloyd, Mrs. W. D. Bolick, J. M. Wilson & Bro., H. W. Desportes, Heins & Pickett, A. F. Ruff & Co., C. P. Wray, A. A. Morris, Jno. A. Desportes, N. H. Ford, general merchandise, Jno.

McIntyre, saddlery, harness, and sewing machines; W. G. Hinnant, agriculture machinery; A. A. Moms, postmaster and photographer; H. W. Desportes, express agent; P. M. Spence, iron and wood shops and cow, S. F. Cooper, and Cooper & Bro., wines and liquors; H. W. Desportes, public gin and Mill; Charles Hays, wood shop; Moses James, blacksmith, Cornelius Means, butcher; Peter Pickens and Argyle Thorogood, shoe shops; J. L. Walling, wood rack, and the health of the town is looked after by Dr. W. R. Mood, who is successfully practicing medicine for many miles around. Mr. E. P. Lipscomb is the accommodating agent and operator at the depot, and I. C. Thomas and G. W. Moore are Notary Publics.

The visitors to Ridgeway are entertained at two hotels - the Coleman House and the W. J. Davis House. Two sawmills are running in the neighborhood owned respectively of Oliver and Morrison, and G. P. Hoffman, the latter of whom has just commenced on a bill for 287,000 feet of lumber to the Chester Cotton Mill. Mr. A. A. Morris has an apiary from which he supplied the market with the choicest honey gathered by the Italian and Albino bees.

Ridgeway draws her trade from the southeastern portion of the county which includes some of the most fertile and productive lands in the upper portion of the State. The rich bottoms lying along the Wateree and its tributaries for fifteen or twenty miles send their abundant products to this point for shipment. One farm in this section, yielded twenty-two hundred bales of cotton one year before the war, which will give some idea of the capacity of these lands. Although wide awake to their material interests the people Ridgeway are not indifferent to more serious matters. There are six churches in town representing the Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, and Episcopalian denominations. The children of the community receive their primary education at the Ridgeway and Mt. Hope High Schools, presided over by Misses Nellie Davis and Henrietta Thomas.

In the way of amusement Ridgeway boasts of a skating rink - Wray, Suttle, and Morris, proprietors - a baseball club - W. H. Ruff, president, W. R. Mood, manager, and W. S. Jones, captain - and a military company is being organized. The Ridgeway Lodge of A. F. M. is the oldest in the county and has H. O. Duke for Master. The Farmers' Alliance of the neighborhood meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month, F. B. Austin, president. Too much praise cannot be given the authority of the town for the good condition of the streets which are lighted up at night by gasoline lamps. New streets are being opened and lots are being laid off to supply the demand. No account of the town would be complete which did not chronicle the fact that Ridgeway is no exception to the rule that every country town has a "Court House Ring".

In this instance the ring is presided over by Justice Meares, assisted by constable R. D. Bolick, and we are glad to state that this, like most "Court House Rings" exists only in the imagination of those who would like to have a ring and get into it.

As a healthy location Ridgeway has not superior, and probably as much money has been made by the merchants as by those of any other place in the State.

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***Wishing Everyone a Joyful Christmas!***

## 2024 FCGS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### ( ) NEW MEMBER: Please complete membership information below.

For FCGS records, please attach to the application your pedigree chart and share any information you have on your family lines if available. The information will be added to our family files and will aid future requests for research and assist walk-in researchers.

### ( ) RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP: Please make any updates below in necessary area(s).

#### (Print or Type)

**NAME(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Given Name + Surname(s)**

Mr. ( ) Mrs. ( ) Ms.( )

Will be published in Newsletter and if name can be used in Publication or Inquiry: Check: Yes or No below.

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Yes / No**

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Yes / No**

**STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Yes / No**

**PRIMARY PHONE: (h)** \_\_\_\_\_ **(cell/work)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Yes / No**

**HIS &/or HER EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Yes / No**

#### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES: Designations and Dues per year :

**INDIVIDUAL:** ( ) \$20.00 – Color Newsletter Emailed Only.

**INDIVIDUAL + USPS:** ( ) \$25.00 – Color Newsletter Emailed. ( ) USPS Mail B/W ( ) Both ( )

**FAMILY:** ( ) \$25.00 – Color Newsletter Emailed. ( ) USPS Mail B/W ( ) Both ( )

**PATRON:** ( ) \$50.00 – Color Newsletter Emailed. ( ) USPS Mail B/W ( ) Both ( )

**BENEFACTOR:** ( ) \$100.00 – Color Newsletter Emailed. ( ) USPS Mail B/W ( ) Both ( )

**LIFE-TIME:** ( ) \$300.00 – Color Newsletter Emailed. ( ) USPS Mail B/W ( ) Both ( )

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** ( ) \$15.00 – Organizations & Libraries Only – Color Newsletter Emailed

**SCHOLARSHIP** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ -- Donation towards Annual FCGS College/Tech School Scholarship.

**DONATION** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ -- Charitable Gift. FCGS is designated 501-C(3) charity. Please indicate:  
( ) Memorial ( ) Honorarium ( ) Project ( ) Other \_\_\_\_\_

(Continues on page 16)

**2024 Membership Application – page 2**

**SURNAMES BEING RESEARCHED:**

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**ADDITIONAL SURNAMES OF INTEREST OR QUERY:**

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**SURNAMES -- RESEARCH COMPLETED – If PUBLISHED please provide depository:**

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**TYPE OF RESEARCH INTERESTED:**

- Native American
- African American
- European American (England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, France, Germany, etc.)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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**DUES and DONATIONS can be paid online, [Click Here](#).**

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