



Greenwood County Historical Society

P.O. Box 49653, Greenwood, SC 29649

March/April 2019

Join us on Sunday, March 31
for the Greenwood Historical Society Annual Meeting
at the Greenwood County Library
from 3:00 until 4:00 pm.

*We are taking a completely different approach
this year and we want to hear from YOU.*

What is Worthy of Preserving in Greenwood County?
What is Worthy of Marking in Greenwood County?
What is Worthy of Remembering in Greenwood County?
What History is Worthy of Celebrating in Greenwood County?

We have invited community leaders, organizational leaders,
our past leaders and family and friends of the
Greenwood County Historical Society
to help us plan for the next decade and beyond.

What should we be working on?
What programming is important to our community?
What is deserving of preserving?

*Join us in a robust and engaging discussion.
We will have snacks.*

*But most importantly we want YOU—
your ideas, your insights and your voices.*

Join us at our Annual Meeting!

GREENWOOD HISTORY: OUR OLD ROADS

By Harry Legare Watson

These sketches about the early travel routes in the area that is now Greenwood County and early families who lived along the old roads were written by the editor of *The Index-Journal* of Greenwood, and were published weekly in this newspaper from August 18, 1940 (with an occasional break) until February 1950, numbered 1-428. They include considerable family history information as well as local and area history. They will be reprinted here in following issues with the permission of the editor of *The Index-Journal*.

No. 93

Saturday, July 4, 1942

After the road from the Dixie Highway at the old "Ouzts Place" out to Epworth, the next feeder road from the west to the Mathews road was the famous Martin Town road, a thoroughfare of greater importance in early days perhaps than the Mathews road, and it has already been described.

There were, however, some spurs off the Martin Town road which have not been mentioned.

For example, just after leaving Kirksey as the old road went toward the "Brick House" on the Mathews road, there was just above Kirksey the old Kirksey school. It has been transferred to the present location on the Dixie Highway where the old Scott's Ferry road comes into this highway.

Above the school house and on a road back from the main old public road was the home of the Rev. John Trapp, one of the best known Baptist preachers of this section and for forty years pastor of Mountain Creek church. He was popular and esteemed and had many namesakes. If you notice a man with the initials "J. T." from a family that lived anywhere near this section, it is safe to assert his name is "John Trapp."

Mr. Trapp was a native of Fairfield county and was born October 27, 1798. He came into this part of the State as a school teacher about 1825. He was teaching a school near Mountain Creek in 1829 when the "great revival" of that year was held and he among many others became members of Mountain Creek church. In a short time it was noted that Mr. Trapp "had the gift" of public speaking and he was encouraged to enter the ministry. He continued to teach school however until 1833 when he was ordained a minister of the Baptist denomination. He was called as pastor of Mountain Creek the following year and served as pastor for forty-two years or until his death on June 27, 1876. On his tombstone in Mountain Creek cemetery this fact is stated and also that he "served Little Stevens creek church, thirty-eight years; Bethany church (near Liberty Hill) twenty-one years and Bold Spring twenty years." Only those churches of which he was pastor for twenty years or more are thus listed, but he was also pastor of several others, including Damascus for sixteen years; Fellowship for about ten years; Providence (now extinct but formerly located between Coronaca and Cokesbury); Fellowship and other churches.

"Before the War" Mr. Trapp owned a water mill on a stream below what is now Kirksey. One night the mill house was burned. It was rebuilt and shortly after was burned to the ground. There was no clue but an incendiary was suspected. The mill house was re-built for the third time and again in a short time it was burned to the ground. Suspicion by this time pointed directly to a slave and after careful investigation by a citizens's court, proof of his guilt was established. He was hanged in a little patch of woods to the right of Kirksey and buried there.

"After the War" Mr. Trapp built near his home a steam mill for grinding corn and wheat and it was operated for well over half a century and was widely patronized. Near the mill at one time was a store owned by Simeon Brooks, a brother of J. Pope Brooks, "Little Lem" and Wright Brooks.

The Rev. John Trapp remained a bachelor until after he was seventy-five years old. He then married Mary "Molly" McCurry who was born May 3, 1856 and was about eighteen years old at the time of the marriage. They had one child, Sallie.

The location of the Trapp home and site of the Trapp steam mill was several hundred yards back of the present home of G. Wallace Pardue on highway No. 25 (Dixie highway).

After the death of Mr. Trapp, his widow on January 20, 1878, married Samuel C. Whatley and they had four children, Cora, Broadus, Crayton and Dawson – the latter died in service during World War One. After the death of Mrs. Molly Trapp-Whatley, Mr. Whatley on Feb. 14, 1895, married Carrie Belle Campbell, native of Cross Hill, and they had nine children, Gilliam B., S. C. Jr., Rebecca, Pope, Hall, Sarah, Alice, Milton, and Pierce.

After 1900, S. C. Whatley bought the old home of P. C. Hollingsworth across Cuffee Town creek on the present Dixie highway and on the left, and there he lived until his death. The place is now owned by G. B. Whatley.

Samuel C. Whatley, known to his family and friends as "Little Sam" to distinguish him from a cousin by the same name and called "Big Sam", was born March 29, 1853 and was a son of Edward Whatley and Mary C. Cook Whatley.

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Edward M. Whatley was born Dec. 3, 1828 and his wife Mary G. Cook was born June 3, 1835. They were married Feb. 12, 1852.

Edward M. Whatley was a son of Shirley Whatley and the old home of the first settler was in the Sand Ridge section of what is now this county.

In the census of 1790 the only persons by the name of Whatley in South Carolina were the four heads of families by that name in Edgefield county. The spelling of these first census takers is not often orthodox as for example in the case of Shirley Whatley who is put down by one of these as Sherley Watley Sr. and the son is put down Sherewood Watley. The other two names are Edmund and Frederick.

The home of the ancestor of the family in this county was nearer Sand Ridge and further reference will be had later.

The next old road which was a tributary to the Mathews Road started at Kirksey and ran in an easterly direction, with some side roads or country roads branching off from it. A number of new roads have been cut in recent years in this whole section, as far down as the Edgefield line so that the old roads cannot be completely followed. One of these old country roads went through the "Deer Lick" community and later went into "Possum Trot" community, names practically unknown or unused today.

On one of these roads or spurs was the home of John W. DeVore, widely known as the father of twenty-four children, eighteen of whom were living at the time of his death on June 17, 1914. Mr. DeVore was on his way home from Kirksey on this road when he was stricken with a fatal heart attack. He was a Confederate soldier, lieutenant in Co. C., First S.C.V., also for years a member of Friendship Masonic Lodge below Kirksey and was buried with Masonic honors at Mountain Creek church June 18, 1842. He was born in this section Feb. 22, 1838.

Mr. DeVore married first Amanda Ellenberg and they had eleven children as follows: William E., Frances Marion, Mary F., John Franklin, James B., Permelia, Emma, William N., David S., T. M., and William Wilson DeVore.

Mr. DeVore married second Frances McManus and they had the following thirteen (13) children: Press W., Carrie, Mattie, Sallie Belle, Fannie, Furman, Edward, Sidney, Katie, Leslie, Ruby and Onie. Of the first set of children two named "William" died young and the third "William" survived his father. Of the second set of children, two, Furman and Ruby died young. Following is a list of the children surviving Mr. DeVore in 1914: P. W., F. M., J. B., J. F., B. S., T. M., W. W., E. F. Jr., S. J. and E. Leslie; and Mrs. L. W. Morrow and Mrs. M. H. Reese of Ware Shoals; Mrs. L. S. Corley and Mrs. Will Wideman of Greenwood; Mrs. Ellie Compton of Ninety Six; and Misses Onie, Sallie, Belle and Katie.

Mr. DeVore had a photograph made of himself and his big family in the Fall of 1905 and at that time President Roosevelt was much in the limelight because of his attacks on "race suicide" and his praise of all married couples with large families. Dr. S. C. Hodges suggested to Mr. DeVore that he should send the photograph to President Roosevelt. Mr. DeVore was quite willing and asked Dr. Hodges to write a letter to accompany the picture. On November 23, 1905 Dr. Hodges received the following letter from President Theodore Roosevelt's private secretary dated at "The White House".

"The President was much interested in the photograph you enclosed with your letter on the 21st., instant, and thanks you for your kindness.

Please convey to Mr. and Mrs. DeVore the President's hearty congratulations and his good wishes for their entire family."

There were several families of DeVore in this part of Edgefield county. The late Circuit Judge J. W. DeVore of Edgefield said he believed the first of the name to locate in South Carolina was Mathew DeVore, a native of France. The name of Mathew DeVore, Senior, and Mathew DeVore Jr., both of Edgefield county in the census of 1790 is spelled "Devoir" and the only other person of the name in South Carolina at that date was "Jacob Devoir" all three being in Edgefield county of Ninety Six district.

(To be continued)



Greenwood County Historical Society

Thank You! Joyce Bowden and Robert A. Waller Chapter United Daughters of the Confederacy

Thanks to the gracious support of \$500 from Ms. Joyce Bowden and the \$700 contribution from the ladies of the Robert A. Waller Chapter, South Carolina Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Tabernacle Cemetery board can move ahead with the cleaning of headstones at Tabernacle Cemetery! The Board sends our deepest thanks and kindest regards, Missy Lowery, Chairman.



Get a jump on your 2019 Dues!

Individual \$20. Couple \$30. Make check payable to the Greenwood County Historical Society and send to PO Box 49653, Greenwood, SC 29649. A self-addressed envelope is included for your convenience. We appreciate your continued support as we plan and offer programs of historical information about our community, our state and our nation!



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Return Service Requested

