



Greenwood County Historical Society

P.O. Box 49653, Greenwood, SC 29649

January 2020

In Memoriam

Ernest Wroten Prewett, Jr., 82, died at Hospice of the Piedmont on January 8, 2020. He was a son of the late Ernest W. Prewett, Sr. and Martha Butler Prewett, of Colleton County. A native of Walterboro, he attended the public schools of that city, serving as President of the Student Body at Walterboro High School. He earned the Baccalaureate (A.B.) degree from Wofford College; the Master of Divinity degree from Emory University's Candler School of Theology; and the Master of Education degree from Clemson University.

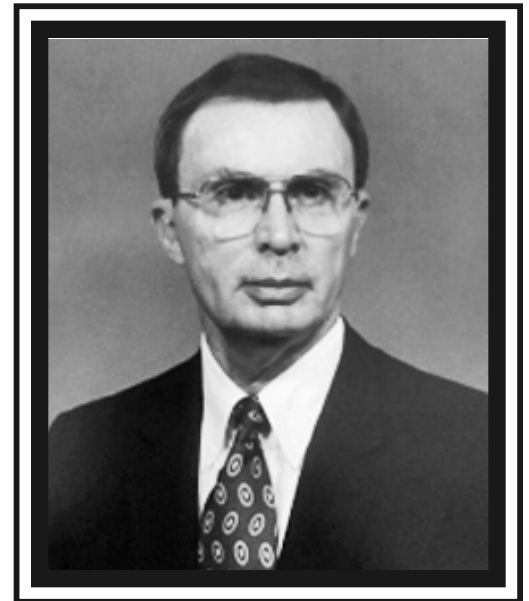
While at Wofford College, Ernest was a member of Kappa Sigma social fraternity, Blue Key National Honor Society, and was named Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges. He was editor-in-chief of the *Bohemian*, the college yearbook. At Emory he was editor of the *Candler Advocate*, a literary journal.

From 1959 until 1961, Ernest served on active duty with the U.S. Army. He was a first lieutenant in the Field Artillery. His duty stations included Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

A minister in the United States Methodist Church, Ernest was ordained as a deacon in 1963 and as an elder in 1967. As a seminary student (1962-65), he served as Minister to youth at First Methodist church, Atlanta. Appointments in the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church included the Little River and Wampee churches (1965-68) and Tranquil church, Greenwood (1968-70). In 1970 he assumed the status of "Honorable Location", removing himself from the itinerant system practiced by the United Methodist Church in the appointment of ministers. He retained his ministerial credentials, however, and served a number of Greenwood area churches in interim pastorates.

In 1970 Ernest became a staff member at Piedmont Technical College, Greenwood. Over the course of his career, he was Director of Public Information, Dean of Student Services, and Executive Assistant to the President. Endowed scholarships in his name have been established by the Piedmont Technical College Alumni Association and Beta of South Carolina, the college's chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society.

Ernest was President of the Greenwood County Historical Society for ten years. He was a former member of the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce, the Greenwood Rotary Club, and the Board of Directors of the Greenwood Rehabilitation Center. He was also a member of Main Street United Methodist Church in Greenwood. He authored *The History of Piedmont Technical College*.



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. 96

Saturday, July 25, 1942

About a mile down the road from the "Criss" Williams place, going toward the present Pittsburgh community, a road leads off to the right and this goes by Carmel Methodist church, formerly called Mount Carmel. Most of the old family names in here are no longer to be found as land owners.

A mile northeast of Pittsburg and about two miles south of Mountain Creek Baptist church is the site of the first settler of the Rambo family in what is now Greenwood county. This pioneer was Jesse Rambo and he bought from his father Jacob J. Rambo a tract of land of ninety-eight acres here on Nov. 20, 1820. Jacob J. Rambo does not appear to have lived here himself. He was a son of Lawrence Rambo who is the first of the name as a matter of record in Edgefield county.

The Rambo family appears quite definitely to have been of Swedish origin as in the list of members of the colony of Swedes who were the first settlers of Delaware the Rambo name appears and that of Peter Rambo Sr. heads the list of members of the Old Swedish church in 1693 in that State. Immediately following his name are the following other Rambo names: Peter Rambo Jr., John Rambo, Anders Rambo and Gunnar Rambo. These were heads of families along with many others who settled New Sweden in the Delaware Valley.

How or when Lawrence Rambo came into Edgefield county is not known. He became the owner of considerable land on Horn's creek and had a large family; several of his sons are listed as Revolutionary soldiers in the Revolutionary Book of Indents issued by the South Carolina Historical Commission.

Lawrence Rambo made his will June 11, 1775, before the Revolution. He may have lived until after that war closed as his will was not recorded at Old Cambridge, county seat of Ninety Six district, until August 16, 1782. The will was "proved" before Patrick Calhoun, surrogate of Ninety Six District on that date. When the first counties were formed after this, this will with all other records at Cambridge were removed to Abbeville. Witnesses to the will of Lawrence Rambo were John Rainsford, John J. Rothbuck and Rebecca Adams. The

latter may have been a daughter of Lawrence Rambo who had married an Adams, son of James Adams, and the owner of land which joined Lawrence Rambo. Lawrence Rambo, Benjamin Ryan and five or six others were founders of Horn's Creek Baptist church in 1768, one of the oldest Baptist churches in this part of the State.

The children of Lawrence Rambo and his wife Mary Rambo were Reuben, Benjamin, Lawrence Jr., Joseph Jacob, and daughters Olender, Elizabeth, Rebecca (married Adams), Margaretta and Ruth, who married a Herndon.

Jesse Rambo, son of Jacob Joseph Rambo and grandson of Lawrence, was born about 1790. He was married first to Emily Bledsoe and after her death to Sophrona Starnes. He brought up his family on the place named above two miles from Mountain Creek church and died Dec. 2, 1859 and with his wives is buried in the Rambo family burying ground near the home of the late Hon. Robt. T. Strom and not far from the old Blocker road which goes by this place.

The children of Jesse Rambo and his first wife Emily Bledsoe Rambo were: Robert Rambo, Warren Rambo, Kinchen W. Rambo, Clinton Rambo, Simeon Rambo, John C. Rambo, Susan Rambo, Mary Rambo and Sarah Rambo. By his marriage with Sophrona Starnes, Jesse Rambo had a daughter who married a Roton.

Robert Rambo, son of Jesse Rambo and Emily Bledsoe Rambo, was born Feb. 1, 1823. He built a house on the old Blocker road which is still standing and is now occupied by Frank Strom. Robert Rambo died in Confederate service in 1865. He and his wife Christia A. Rambo are buried at Mountain Creek church. They had the following children: James M., William M., Annie Sallie, Martha, Mary Jane, Fannie, and Tresia Rambo.

Warren Rambo, son of Jesse Rambo and Emily Bledsoe Rambo, married Nancy Starnes and they had the following children: Ardelia, Cornelia, Hattie, Sadie,

(continued on next page)

Lee Anna and Robert Lee Rambo. Warren Rambo is buried in Cambridge street cemetery in Greenwood. He was in Confederate service.

Kinchen W. Rambo, son of Jesse Rambo and Emily Bledsoe Rambo, was born in July 1834 and died July 1, 1916. Lived in the Sand Ridge community of this county and was farmer, merchant and postmaster at Rambo's post office. He married Jane Brooks. Both are buried at Mountain Creek. The children of Kinchen W. Rambo and Jane Brooks Rambo were: Benjamin Trapp Rambo, Artemecia, Jennie and Emmie Rambo.

Simeon Rambo, son of Jesse Rambo and Emily Bledsoe Rambo, born in 1824 or 1825 and died Sept. 1859. He was then living near the Pine House. He married Martha Coursey and they had one child, Emily, born Mar. 25, 1854, who was raised by Mrs. Mary Rambo Lewis, wife of Thomas Lewis. Emily Rambo married John L. Terry. Mrs. Terry and her husband removed to Piedmont, died and are buried there. They had several children.

John C. Rambo, son of Jesse Rambo and Emily Bledsoe Rambo, married Tabitha Moore and lived near Old Cambridge and Ninety Six. Was a Confederate soldier. He and his wife are buried at Good Hope church in Saluda county. John C. Rambo and his wife had two children, Clinton Rambo and a daughter who died in infancy. Clinton Rambo married Bettie Ann Hastings and they had ten children.

Clinton Rambo, son of Jesse Rambo and Emily Bledsoe Rambo, married Dora Seigler. Lived first in Mountain Creek neighborhood and removed to Aiken county. They had the following children: Walter, Edward and Annie Rambo.

Mary Rambo, daughter of Jesse Rambo and Emily Bledsoe Rambo, married Thomas W. Lewis. They had the following children: Lee Anne Lewis married John D. Williams; Sara Harris Lewis was the first wife of Dock Bruce of near Johnston; Annie Lewis married Hon. Robert T. Strom, Greenwood county; Narcissa Lewis and Mary Emma Lewis never married.

Susan Rambo, daughter of Jesse Rambo and Emily Bledsoe Rambo, was the first wife of Orion Whatley. They had one child who died in infancy and is buried in the Bullock-Whatley family burying ground. They lived on the old Carr place near Epworth. After her death Orion Whatley removed to the Chotee section of Edgefield county and married an Ouzts.

Sara Rambo, daughter of Jesse Rambo and Emily Bledsoe Rambo, never married. Buried at Mountain Creek.

James M. Rambo, son of Robert Rambo and grandson of Jesse Rambo and Emily Bledsoe Rambo, was born May 2, 1845 and died Feb. 8, 1926. Married Mary M. Corley and lived near Kirksey. They had six children. Both buried at Mountain Creek. The other children of Robert Rambo and his wife Christia A. Rambo were: William Rambo married Bettie Harling; Sallie Rambo married Mr. Street; Martha Rambo married Luther Harling; Mary Jane Rambo married George Timmerman; Anna Rambo, one of twins, married first J. Knox DeVore and second Jim C. Lowry; Fannie Rambo married Morty Harris; and Tressia Rambo was the first wife of James (Jim) Harvley.

The children of Warren Rambo, son of Jesse Rambo and Emily Bledsoe Rambo, married as follows: Ardelia Rambo married Arthur Eidson of Ward; Cornelia Rambo married Mr. Russel of Greenville; Hattie Rambo was the second wife of Dock Bruce of near Johnston and they had two children; Sadie Rambo married John McKissick and they had five children; Lee Ann Rambo married a McQuay and they had one child; Robert Lee Rambo died single.

The children of Kinchen Rambo, son of Jesse Rambo and Emily Bledsoe Rambo, married as follows: Benjamin Trapp Rambo born August 5, 1859 and died Sept. 1914, married first Elizabeth Sarah Whatley and they had five children, and he married second Lola Pratt and they had two children, donors of "Ellenberg Home" at Connie Maxwell Orphanage; Jennie married "Ky" Timmerman and they had six daughters; and Emmie Rambo was the first wife of J. W. Lipford, Sr., and they had two children.

(To be continued)



Submit your nomination for 2020 Architectural Renovation and Preservation Award

Applications are being accepted for the 2020 awards—for application forms go to our website www.greenwoodcountyhistoricalsociety.com or contact Chip at ctinsley63@yahoo.com If you wish to make a nomination, you may mail it to PO Box 49653, Greenwood, SC, 29649.

Greenwood County Historical Society

GCHS Meeting – January 26 – An artist’s view of life at Connie Maxwell

South Carolina Artist Mack Baltzegar lives in Greenwood but he grew up at Connie Maxwell Children’s Home. On Sunday, January 26 at 3:00 pm, he will share memories and recollections as well as his artist’s view at the meeting of the Greenwood County Historical Society, to be held at the Greenwood County Library. Mack is a graduate of Furman University and Famous Artist’s Correspondence School.

A former art teacher in the public school system and a counselor with the South Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, he is now retired and owns Unique Art Service, a picture framing and art service business. Mack enjoys working in all mediums, but his favorites are pen and ink sketches along with watercolors. Join us for a very special view of life at Connie Maxwell.



President’s message

With heartfelt sadness we share our condolences with the family of Ernest Prewett. Earnest was our President for 10 years and was a kind and gentle leader who shared his love of history as a mentor to us all. Under his leadership we established the ARPA awards and he spearheaded the conservation of Tabernacle Cemetery and its placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

260th Anniversary of Long Cane Massacre – on Sunday, Feb. 2, GCHS will join Abbeville History Friends and dedicate a National Historic Marker at the Long Cane Massacre site. Meet at Lower Long Cane ARP Church, 1592 Long Cane Road, Troy, SC (GPS 33.99484 – 82.33935) at 3:00 pm. David Paul Brewer will update us on work underway to renew the Liberty Trail which focuses on linking SC’s revolutionary war sites and their importance to our state. We will then proceed to the Massacre site to dedicate a National Historic Marker.

Yours in history, Chip

Ctinsley63@yahoo.com or 864-374-7416

Get a jump on your 2020 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!



Greenwood County Historical Society

P.O. Box 49653

Greenwood, SC 29649

Return Service Requested

**Next GCHS Meeting is Sunday, January 26
at 3:00 pm at The Greenwood Library**

