



Greenwood County Historical Society

P.O. Box 49653, Greenwood, SC 29649

August 2020

President's Message

Greetings to all Greenwood historians! It has been a while since we last met and much has happened since. Unfortunately history is again under attack in our community, state and nation. As local historians, we have a duty and honor to promote, preserve and recognize the history of our area. History cannot be changed, added to or removed—it is critical for the prosperous future of a republic. We will champion this with passion and yet a listening ear. We hope you enjoy this newsletter and others to come in place of physical meetings for the foreseeable future--until we can meet again.

At our last meeting on January 28 we heard from Mack Baltzeger on “Life and Lessons from Connie Maxwell” with more than 40 in attendance. On February 2, more than ninety of us celebrated the 260th commemoration of the Long Cane Massacre as we unveiled the national historic marker at the massacre site in Troy and heard comments from Paul Reuwer, SC Battlefield Preservation Trust, on their work in battle site preservation in the state.

We have several nominations for the annual Architectural and Historical Preservation Awards. It is not too late to nominate another building. Forms can be found on our website www.greenwoodcountyhistoricalsociety.com

Thank you to the following who made donations to GCHS in memory and honor of Mr. Ernest Prewett – Mr. A. Lutynski & Ms. Joyce Bowden, Bill Morton, Suzy Holloway, Mr. & Mrs. Damon Haley, Mary Francis, and Deborah Norman. And thank you all who continue to be active financial members of the GCHS and support our efforts and mission.

Any suggestions or considerations may be directed to me @ ctinsley63@yahoo.com or 864-374-7416.

Yours in history, Chip

Ctinsley63@yahoo.com or 864-374-7416

Our April and July meetings had been cancelled due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Rather than put our members in harm's way, we hope to gather on October 25th for our next scheduled meeting—but we will need to wait to make a final call. We will be in touch with you and appreciate your understanding and support.

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. 97

Saturday, August 2, 1942

In the section east of Kirksey, as has been noted, there were several early settlers of the DeVore family, and it was noted that the opinion of the late Circuit Judge James William DeVore, of Edgefield, was that the DeVores of Edgefield county were all from the same ancestor, Matthew DeVeore. The name, as also noted before, is spelled "Devoir" in the census of 1790, but this matter of spelling by ear was common to the first census takers. It is possible that a grant of land to "Mathias Devore" on the waters of Stephens Creek after the Revolution was to the first Matthew DeVore. The census of 1790 lists Matthew Devoir (DeVore) Sr.; Matthew Devoir (DeVore) Jr.; and Jacob Devoir (DeVore) as residents of Edgefield county.

The will of Matthew DeVore Sr recorded at Edgefield mentions his sons: John and Jonathan, who were twins; Matthew Jr. and Luke DeVore. The wife of Matthew DeVore Sr. was named Rebecca and it has been suggested that she was a daughter of James Adams, a very early settler on Horn's creek. A son of James Adams, named Drury, had among several children, a daughter named Mary Adams who married Jonathan DeVore and who were the grandparents of Judge DeVore and the parents of Elbert DeVore who lived west of Kirksey and who, with his descendants all from his first wife Caroline Sheppard, have been mentioned.

The marked similarities of given names of many of the DeVores who lived east of Kirksey indicate strongly that they were of the same family and had the same ancestry.

About three-quarters of a mile east of Kirksey at the present home of Lawton M. Whatley was the home of Jonathan DeVore who with his wife, who was Mary Ann Whatley, was the ancestor of a number of DeVores of this county.

This Jonathan DeVore, from the family Bible records, was a son of William (Billy) DeVore and his wife, whose first name was Sallie, but her last name is

not known. William (Billy) DeVore died in 1827. William DeVore's father, the family tradition has it, came to this country from England – Judge J. W. DeVore believed the first of the name came from France – and was a Revolutionary soldier.

The name of the mother of William (Billy) DeVore, as well as the first name of his father, are not known; but she was said to have been very young at the time of her marriage to William DeVore's father. There was a daughter in addition to William DeVore but her name is not known.

William DeVore and his wife Sallie had the following children: Rebecca, Permelia, Cynthia, William Jonathan, Elias and Mary.

Who the daughters married is not known or who the son Elias married; but the son, William Jonathan, as mentioned above, married Mary Ann Whatley. William Jonathan DeVore was born Oct. 16, 1826; married Jan. 19, 1851; and died August 1, 1887.

Their children follow: Rebecca DeVore married Berry Horne; James DeVore married Sudie Harris; Mattie DeVore married Robert Dryman; Elbert Filmore DeVore married first Fannie Still, a daughter of William Still and his wife Permelia Ouzts Still, and he married second Fannie Austin.

Elias Newton DeVore married first Lucy Callahan, and second, Mrs. Anna Callahan Lewis.

William Jonathan DeVore Jr. married Mattie Lou Davis and they had three children.

Sallie DeVore married George Ellison.

Mary DeVore married Walter Fleming.

Milledge Manuel DeVore married Tabitha White.

John DeVore died in infancy.

Of interest to a number of families other than the descendants of William (Billy) DeVore are some relationships mentioned by the late F. P. Johnson in a

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letter to a member of the DeVore family under date of November 13, 1924. Mr. Johnson was then eighty-four years old. He was known generally by relatives and friends as "Pick" Johnson. He was an uncle of Judge D. B. Johnson of Greenwood. Mr. Johnson said that the wife of William Jonathan DeVore Sr., who was Mary Ann Whatley, was a great granddaughter of a Mrs. Clegg whose maiden name was Flipp. At least he thought it was Flipp, but he did not know her first name nor the first name of her first husband Mr. Clegg. Mr. Johnson added that she was a native of Germany and came to America as a little girl and lived to be one hundred and ten years old. She was married three times: first to a Clegg; second to a Glanzier; and third to a Polatty. Mr. Johnson, who was a grandson of the old lady, said he remembered her only as Mrs. Polatty and that she was buried in an unmarked family burying ground in the country. This is probably in what is known as the Clegg family burying ground which is located about a mile and a half southeast of Pittsburg school house and is just over the line in what is now Saluda county.

Mr. Johnson continued his account of this very interesting old lady by saying that by her first husband she had two daughters, Elizabeth and Nancy (from whom he was descended) and two sons, Campbell Clegg and Jonathan Clegg.

Campbell Clegg married Nancy Faulkner and among their children was a daughter who married a Whatley; and it was their daughter Mary Ann Whatley who married William Jonathan DeVore.

Among the other children of the Miss Clegg, daughter of Campbell Clegg who married a Whatley, were Nancy Whatley, Liney Whatley, Savannah Whatley, Densley Whatley and Isom Whatley.

Savannah Whatley married a Murphy and removed to the West.

Nancy Whatley married Samuel Harris and they lived on the Martin Town Road below the Brick House on the west side of the road going toward Kirksey. They had Thomas Harris, William Harris, Filmore Harris, Isom Harris, John Harris and Jennie Harris.

Lindy Whatley married John Corley, and they had Jesse Corley, Densley (Dense) Corley, Isom Corley, John Corley and others.

The family of Cleggs mentioned above, Mr.

Johnson says, all removed to the West and also Isom and Densley Whatley and their sister Mrs. Savannah Murphy.

The other son of the old lady who lived to be one hundred and ten and who married a Clegg first, then a Glanzier and then a Polatty, Jonathan Clegg was, according to Mr. Johnson, the ancestor of all the Cleggs in Greenwood and Edgefield counties.

Mrs. Glanzier, above, first the wife of a Clegg and second married a Glanzier, had two children by this marriage: John and Sophia Glanzier.

By her third husband Polatty, the Johnson letter continues, she had two children: George Polatty and Sarah Polatty.

Sarah Polatty died single while George Polatty married and raised "a large family and all the Polattys around Greenwood are descended from him".

Among other descendants of the little girl who lived to be one hundred and ten and had the three husbands, Clegg, Glanzier and Polatty was the late Dr. Hodges Timmerman and his brother Douglas Timmerman and their large connections. Dr. Hodges Timmerman was a grandson of Jacob Timmerman who came with other German settlers to Edgefield county several years before the Revolution.

The name which F. P. Johnson thought was "Flipp" must have been "Flick", as it is noted that on December 24, 1764, among the grants of land issued to German Protestants lately arrived in the colony was a grant of 450 acres to Johannes Flick and it was in what is now the lower part of Greenwood county. Among others receiving grants here at the same time was Peter Darst (afterwards Durst and ancestor of the family here), Timmermans and other well-known names of today.

(To be continued)



VERDERY

by Henrietta R. Morton

Some years ago while attending a meeting of the Greenwood High School Band Booster Club, I sat next to an attractive lady. So we introduced ourselves and each of us knew the other's "band child." When I asked where she lived, her reply was, "down at Verdery."

"Verdery," I repeated in surprise, "Are there any Verderys in Verdery?"

She responded that there were none; and she had no knowledge that any had ever lived there, although she had lived there all her life. She had no idea how the little community had gotten that name.

I told her that I was interested in the name because my grandmother was a Verdery who had lived in Augusta and later in North Augusta; and that was where all the others of that name that I had known had lived.

My grandmother Verdery had two brothers whose careers took them "nawth" – that is, to Virginia and Pennsylvania; but there were other cousins left in the Augusta area who were Verderys. And some are there still. So how did this little community in southwest Greenwood County get its name?

Determined to find an answer, I went to some family records accumulated by my mother in the 1920s and 1930s. These records solved the mystery. The Verderys immigrated to the Augusta area in the late 1790s from what is now Haiti to escape a large slave uprising in that French colony. That uprising was successful in driving out most of the French colonists there. Many of them escaped by boat to Charleston, SC. In a short time some of these refugees secured land grants above Augusta, Georgia, on the west side of the Savannah River. Many years later descendants of these refugees were able to secure financial restitution from the French government for their lost Caribbean properties. The family name in France and the Indies was spelled deVerderie.

Among these refugees were members of a Verdery family that received land above Augusta adjacent to Fort Gordon's present location. I recall that when I was a child, an adult Verdery cousin took me and others to the site of the old Verdery family graveyard in the woods across from an entrance to Fort Gordon.

The mystery of the community of Verdery in Greenwood County was not solved, however; how did it get its name? No one has any record of any of that name having lived in Verdery.

Well, according to a Miss Emily Prather from Georgia who accumulated family records and published a Verdery Family History in 1940, Mr. Eugene Verdery, an attorney in Augusta, was president of the Augusta and Knoxville Railroad, which laid a line from Augusta to Asheville, NC. This line passed through what is now Greenwood county. In Mr. Eugene Verdery's honor a little "whistle stop" on that route was named for him. And so that little community became known as Verdery. And this is the end of the story – there are no Verderys in Verdery!

* The name Verdery was originally deVerderie and although the spelling was modified after the family left France in the 18th Century, the pronunciation has remained the same. It is Ver DREE' with the emphasis on the second syllable.



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Return Service Requested

