



# ***Greenwood County Historical Society***

P.O. Box 49653, Greenwood, SC 29649

## **President's Report Chip Tinsley**

Jan 2013

Happy New Year to all! My wish is that your year is filled with peace, love, and fulfillment for you and your family!

We send a Thank you to Dr. Mobley for his presentation on Greenwood's rail history using Jimmy Wade's book at our last meeting. It was truly a highlight and filled with information and reflection. If you were not here, you missed a great event. Thanks Dr. Mobley!

This month's meeting will be a celebration of the three properties selected by the Awards Committee for the fourth annual GCHS Architectural Preservation and Restoration Awards ceremony. We thank those interested in this process and seek your input for properties at any point during the year. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, January 27th to congratulate our winners.

We look forward to our first annual antiques fair on April 13, 2013 at Historic Cokesbury College. Please plan to be a part of our undertaking either as a participant or worker. See Carol Scales for more information.

The board has voted to complete the fencing portion of the Tabernacle Cemetery project as outlined by the Tabernacle Committee. This group, led by Ernest Prewett, has been working on a long term plan for the cemetery and will report back with further developments. We look forward to hearing from you again!

We thank you for your continued financial support of the GCHS! January is the time most renewals are due! Please see Carol or mail in your contributions.

Meeting dates for 2013:

January 27

June 30

September 29

No meeting on March 31 because of Easter and Antiques Fair in April.

We will continue our series on the Pillars of Greenwood: The People, Places, and Events that made Greenwood County what it is!

Please send our mission out to your friends as we attempt to spread the word! We look forward to seeing you at our meetings this year!

Chip

# 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. 65

Saturday, November 15, 1941

Of the children of Charles Cooper previously mentioned, only one remained in his native community. This was Reuben Cooper who married Elizabeth Ann Williams, daughter of Col. James Williams. There was another Reuben Cooper who after the Revolution lived in Edgefield county, and he must have been of the same family because of the similarity of given names, but what the relationship was cannot now be given. This second Reuben Cooper died in 1824 and from his will it is noted that his wife was named Elizabeth and they had the following children: Campbell and Hadley Cooper; daughters Sarah Carter and Matilda Dobey (she married Robert Butler first and then John Dobey); and grandchildren, Reuben Cooper, Elizabeth Cooper and Margaret Coleman, all three being, evidently, children of deceased children of Reuben Cooper. This will of this Reuben Cooper begins with an unusual form: "I, Reuben Cooper, Farmer, of Edgefield" and so on. The will of his wife Elizabeth was proved in 1832. The connection of this Reuben Cooper with Charles who married the Widow Griffin may be made clear later.

Reuben Cooper, son of Charles and Francis Beale Griffin-Cooper, and his wife Elizabeth Ann Williams Cooper had the following seven children:

Sarah Cooper married William R. Hilton. Mr. Hilton was a native of Virginia.

Elizabeth Ann Cooper married Francis Asbury Townsend of Cokesbury, a schoolteacher. Mr. Townsend was a son of the Rev. Joel Wilson Townsend, native of Marlboro county who located at Cokesbury when he retired from the Methodist ministry.

J. A. Cooper who died as a young boy.

Charles Cooper who removed to Oxford, Alabama.

Dr. John W. Cooper who practiced medicine for a number of years in and around his native section and lived at the place later known as the Boulware place. He later removed to West Point, Ga., and lived to be over ninety years old.

Frank Cooper who married Miss Williams of Alabama and remained in his native section.

Mary Cooper who married Larkin Griffin Carter.

Reuben Cooper owned several thousand acres of land in and around his home. In his old age he made his home with his son, Frank, and died about 1875. Returning to the last lap of the old County Line road which after passing the old Beal home site--the place is now owned by Panola Mill--the old road runs out into the present paved highway (along here the old Martin Town road), near what once was the site of the "double bridges" over Henley's creek.

Another early settler on the north side of Henley's creek but higher up was John Chiles, Sr., a brother of William Chiles, who with his wife Agnes settled the original Chiles place between Bradley and Hard Labor creek. The two were also brothers of Henry Chiles, the three having come down to this section from Spotsylvania county, Virginia. John Chiles Sr. married Mary Ann White, related no doubt to his brother William's wife. John Chiles, Senior, died in June 1803 and his will was proved at Abbeville not long after. Like most testators of the period who gave land to sons principally, following somewhat the English system, though it was no genuine primogeniture, John Chiles Sr. gives most of his land to his three sons. Walter, as oldest receiving the largest portion, then John Jr., and Thompson Chiles. The rest of the property of John Chiles Sr. was to go to his wife, Mary Ann White Chiles and their daughters, named as follows: Agnes Waller, Anny (Annie) Dawson, Mary Livingston, Betsy (Elizabeth) Gowdey, Nancy Livingston, and Phoebe Mayson.

These six daughters were named as all having children and their children were to receive each a sixth part of John Chiles Sr.'s estate. His lands, he says in his will, were on the north side of Henley's creek and were bounded by lands of Nathan Lipscomb, John Waller (presumably the preacher), and by George White. The daughters and sons of John Chiles Sr. have descendants in this State but two of the sons, Walter and Thompson, appear to have removed to the West. Thompson Chiles located in Alabama. Witnesses to the will of John Chiles Sr. were Thomas B. Waller, Benjamin Waller (both sons of the Rev. John), George White and William White.

The Agnes Waller named as a daughter of John Chiles Sr. was the first wife of Leonard Waller, a brother of the Rev. John Waller, and Leonard and his wife have numerous descendants in this section. Their daughter Nancy married James Coleman, of the town of Old Ninety Six, and frequently mentioned as interested in the library there, in getting up public dinners and other activities of the day. James Coleman and his wife Nancy Waller Coleman had several children but it is believed they removed "Before the War" to Florida along with many other people from this section. After the death of his wife Nancy Waller Coleman, James Coleman married second Agnes White, the widow of George White. George White died in 1814. There is a gravestone to "George White", dates not given, in the family burying ground near Kinard's school house. George White and his wife Agnes Waller White had the following children: William White, Agnes White, John White, Mary Ann White, Leonard White and Richard White.

## OUR OLD ROADS *(continued from previous page)*

Of these children Agnes, who appears to have also had the name Agnes Waller White, married William Bullock. She was born Mar. 25, 1803, and died in May, 1883. William Bullock, her first husband, was born Oct. 22, 1797, according to the family Bible record; but on his tombstone in the old Bullock family burying ground about a mile east of the Mathews road his birth is given as Oct. 22, 1790. He died Nov. 10, 1827. William Bullock and his wife Agnes Waller White Bullock had the following children:

William W. Bullock born April 25, 1820; James L. Bullock born Jan. 11, 1822; Frances A. Bullock born May 6, 1826; and Martin L. Bullock born 1827. James L. and Frances A. Bullock died in infancy.

After the death of her husband William Bullock, Agnes Waller White Bullock married second Vincent Griffin Sr., as previously mentioned. They had the following children:

John Leonard Griffin born Feb. 24, 1836, married Mary Andrews, daughter of Dr. Ephraim Andrews and Elizabeth Bullock Andrews. After the death of Mr. Griffin in 1856, leaving two children, she married second the Rev. R. W. Seymour. They had four children. (Note: his tombstone says John Leonard Griffin was born May 25, 1833 and died Feb. 2, 1860 - unless he and James M. Griffin were twins, the tombstone record is probably correct.)

James M. Griffin, second son of Vincent Griffin Sr. and his wife Agnes, was born Feb. 24, 1836. He was graduated from the South Carolina Medical College, married Ann Key, located at Penfield, Ga., and died there in 1915.

Vincent Griffin Jr., third son of Vincent Griffin Sr. and his wife Agnes, was born Sept. 30, 1837 and died Dec. 5, 1910. He married first Miss Parks, daughter of Dr. Felix Parks, had three children; he married second Miss Bond, no children. He was the second Judge of Probate of Greenwood county.

George White Griffin was born Jan. 24, 1842. While returning to his command in Confederate service in 1862, he fell from the train and was killed. Single.

Thomas Joseph Griffin was born April 1, 1843. Died Nov. 17, 1932. He was a student at the South Carolina Col-

lege when the War Between the States was declared. He enlisted and lost an arm at the Battle of Cold Harbor. After he had been discharged he re-entered the College, now the University of South Carolina, and was graduated in the class of 1867. He was a schoolteacher for many years in the Piedmont section and after the death of his brother Vincent became Judge of Probate of Greenwood county.

An interesting coincidence is that the three Griffin brothers enlisted in Co. F, 2nd S.C. ("Secession Guards") and all three were later transferred to Co. G, 2nd S.C. Cavalry.

After the death of Vincent Griffin Sr., his wife Agnes Waller White Bullock

Griffin married third Larkin Reynolds, who lived for some time in Greenwood before building a home on the Barksdale Ferry road east of what is now Bradley.

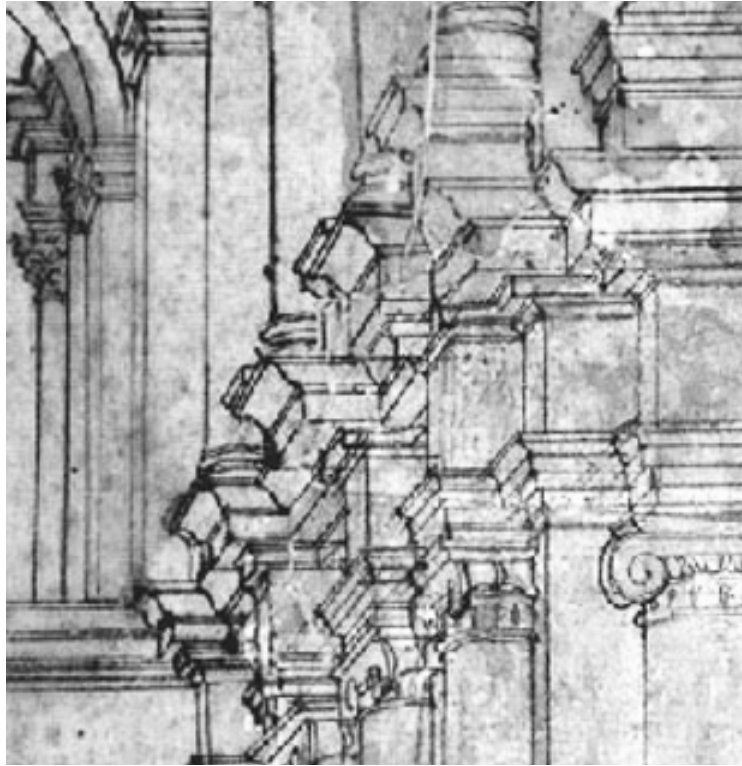
The descendants of the other five daughters of John Chiles Sr. and his wife Mary Ann White Chiles are not known. One, Elizabeth (Betsy) married a Gowdey and he must have been a descendant of Robert Gowdey, the first white settler here. In some old records there is mention of the firm of Gowdey and Chiles at Old Cambridge. Whether this was John Chiles Sr., or one of his sons as partner with Gowdey is not known. Capt. James Gowdey was a son of Robert. Phoebe Chiles, the daughter of John Chiles Sr., married first Archibald Mayson, a son of Col. James Mayson and his third wife Henrietta Hart of Charleston and the one whose remains are buried with Col. Mayson in the D.A.R. lot near the Old Star Fort. Archibald Mayson and Phoebe Chiles Mayson had six children, Emmeline, Mary Ann, Elizabeth, Caroline and Francis Marion Mayson. After the death of Phoebe Chiles Mayson, her husband Archibald Mayson married second Miss Lowe. They had no children. John Chiles Jr., son of John Chiles Sr. and Mary Ann White Chiles, married Sallie Mayson, also a daughter of Col. James Mayson and his wife Henrietta Hart Mayson. Major John Chiles Jr., as he is referred to in a notice in the Abbeville Banner, died on July 22, 1846. He was, the notice said, "at one time sheriff of Abbeville county." He left no children. After his death, his widow Sallie Mayson Chiles married L. B. Holloway.

(To be continued)



Please join us on January 27, 2013 as we present the winners of the 2012 Greenwood County Historical Society Annual Preservation Awards

**3:00 PM – Greenwood County Library ~ Veterans Auditorium**



*If you haven't yet renewed your membership, please send your dues now. Individual \$20. Couple \$30. Make check payable to the Greenwood County Historical Society and send to PO Box 49653, Greenwood, SC 29649*



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**Return Service Requested**

