



Greenwood County Historical Society

P.O. Box 49653, Greenwood, SC 29649

January 13, 2014

President's Report Chip Tinsley

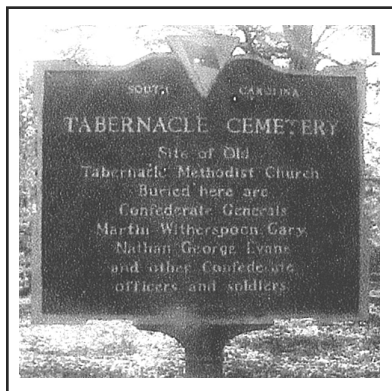
Happy New Year to all! My wish is that your year is filled with peace, love, and fulfillment for you and your family!

We hope all enjoyed the presentation during our last meeting in October on the Calhoun family in Greenwood. I enjoyed the opportunity to present. We enjoyed our time with the Abbeville and McCormick Historical Societies during the Calhoun Country Driving tour. A very informative time was had by those that attended and we hope to join with you again.

This month's meeting will be a celebration of the two properties selected by the Awards Committee for the fifth 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 26th to congratulate our winners.

We look forward to our second annual antiques fair on May 3, 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 fencing portion of the Tabernacle Cemetery project as outlined by the Tabernacle Committee is complete. This group, led by Ernest Prewett, has been working on a long term plan for the cemetery and has been in contact with the state archeology department with hopes to develop a working relationship.



Tabernacle Cemetery

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 26

March 30

June 29

September 29

November 30

Antiques Fair May 3



Cokesbury College

We will begin a series on the "Military Movers and Shakers in the South" and especially those that affected our county. 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

Confederate Soldiers



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. 69

Saturday, December 13, 1941

Here is a third picture of Old Cambridge taken from the diary of Edward Hooker and previously mentioned several times. Edward Hooker was born in Farmington, Connecticut in 1785. His father, Col. Noadiah Hooker, was a Revolutionary officer and a direct descendant of the Reverend Thomas Hooker one of the founders of the colony of Connecticut. Edward Hooker was graduated at Yale in 1805 and immediately went to Columbia, S.C. where his elder brother, John Hooker, was engaged in the practice of law and was having considerable success. Edward Hooker planned to study law with his brother and to settle in the South. However, while in Columbia he was approached by the trustees of the Cambridge Academy (originally designed as the College of Cambridge) to take charge of this seminary, as he called it, whenever they should be ready to revive and put it in operation (it having been for some years neglected) and he accepted the position. After about two years at Cambridge he taught two years in South Carolina College and three years in Yale. He then resigned and spent the rest of his life in the management of his farm and died in 1846. He left three children, one daughter Eliza, who became the wife of the Hon. Francis Gillette, U. S. Senator from Connecticut; two sons, John, a lawyer, who married Isabella the daughter of the Reverend Lyman Beecher; and Commodore Edward Hooker of the U. S. Navy. When Edward Hooker, the first, decided to come South he sailed from Boston for Charleston and arrived there in November 1805. He rode horseback from Charleston to Columbia in company with Col. Wade Hampton, the father of Governor Wade Hampton.

Mr. Hooker, after accepting the offer of the trustees of the Cambridge Academy, set out from Columbia on February 16, 1806, accompanied by his older brother John. They rode twenty-five miles the first day to Williams tavern (precise location not known) and the next day they reached Cambridge. Mr. Hooker notes in his diary that Cambridge was a local but not a legal designation for the village which grew up around Fort Ninety Six. Mr. Hooker then gives this description of the village, or town, of Cambridge:

"The town of Cambridge is nothing more than a snug little village of 15 or 20 houses and stores on the top of a small hill called Cambridge Hill. There is an area in the center of it, where stands an old brick Court House. At a little distance down the hill is the jail--both in a neglected state. Just out of the village in a pleasant plain, quite retired from

noise, is a two story brick building, which was erected for the President's House of the college, but which is now designated by the Trustees for the Academy building itself. As for the other college buildings, they were never anything more than mere log-studies, temporarily thrown up, till better ones could be erected--and they are now in ruins. The Rev. Mr. Springer from Princeton College was at the head of it; and under his direction the institution flourished. He was a Presbyterian divine of great merit. * * * after him several persons had the charge of the Seminary but it flourished less, and finally became quite neglected--in which state it has been for several years past. Though called a College in the Statute Book, yet no regular system of College education was ever established and no degrees were ever conferred. The famous Robert Goodloe Harper was once a student, and afterwards an assistant instructor here, pursuing at the same time the study of law. The Village has seven stores and three taverns. Its appearance is not at all flourishing; and it is said to have been decaying ever since the new judiciary arrangement, by which the courts were removed to Abbeville. The present town has been built anew since the war; the old town of Ninety Six (as it used to be called) having been destroyed by the British."

Mr. Hooker was not favorably impressed with what he called the South Carolina policy in road and bridge matters. He said when he first came to Cambridge he noticed an advertisement (presumably one tacked on the court house door, as there was no newspaper as yet in the village) "the repairing of the bridge over Henley's creek to be let to the lowest bidder." He thought this was useless expense and delay in repairing the bridge, and said that five or six planks would have made the bridge passable but it remained unrepaired and impassable until the third of April, or for six weeks, and this despite the fact that the bridge was on the public road to Augusta and the creek being inconvenient for fording. Mr. Hooker boarded with the Rev. David Lilly, a Baptist minister who lived in Cambridge and was the second pastor of Siloam church. He was very much interested in the magistrate's court, which was held once a month by Magistrate Joel Lipscomb at the tavern which Mr. Lipscomb conducted. Mr. Lipscomb, as has already been mentioned, was the father of Abner Lipscomb who had the unusual distinction of being

(continued on next page)

first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama and later an Associate Justice of the first Supreme Court of Texas.

Mr. Hooker noted in his diary on July 2nd, 1806 that great preparations were being made in Cambridge for the celebration of Independence and said that they were to have "a public dinner in the fields". That was his way of describing our Fourth of July barbecue, and he quotes the ceremonious invitation which was conveyed to him to attend this dinner.

"Mr. Hooker--Presid't of the Cambridge Association College --The managers of a Barbecue given by the citizens of Cambridge and its vicinity, present their compliments to Mr. Hooker--Requesting him to favor them with his company on the Fourth at Cambridge to participate of said Barbecue with said citizens in commemoration of the Fourth of July.

(Signed) James Coleman, Joseph Griffin, Tollver Bostick, William Douglass, Rich Ringold, Tho. B. Waller, James Bullock, Managers.

Mr. Hooker then gives this description of his first experience in the South in celebrating the Fourth of July.

"A very fine morning. We began the celebration of Independence, in the Carolina way, this morning, by participating in a flowing bowl of Egg-Knogg, which Mrs. L. (Lilly) had prepared; and soon after breakfast returned to the village, where, early in the day a large concourse of people was collected. About 11 o'clock the three companies of cavalry, artillery and infantry were arranged and exercised by Brigade Major Butler, and reviewed by Maj. Gen. Butler, of Edgefield. He appears pretty well on horseback, but exhibits far less dignity on foot. His dress is very plain: and his appearance throughout is more like that of an old Warrior (as I suppose he is) than of a mere parade officer. His rank in the militia is very high having under his command half the militia of the State, of which there are nine or ten brigades. He is at the same time a member of Congress. I did not, however, at the dinner, when I was introduced to him, perceive in his honor any striking indications of greatness. He seems to be a man of sense and information; but not much polished and improved by education. The dinner was in a little thicket not far from the village, and consisted chiefly of roast beef and pork-cooked over fires that were kindled in a long trench dug in the ground, about a foot deep. About 200 dined together. The tables were served by negro slaves under the superintendence of the managers. Called in as I often do and had some pleasant chat with Capt. Gowdy. He is an old inhabitant here and almost the only native citizen in the village or its neighborhood. He speaks highly of Col. Cruger the British Commander here while the fort was in the possession of the enemy. Says he was a finished gentleman in all his conduct and treated the inhabitants with much civility, punishing his men for abuses committed and restoring to the owners plundered property. Some of his under officers were also civil--and all of them behaved with a gentleness that was much to

their credit, when compared with the unhuman racapity (sic) of the Tory inhabitants. The siege of Ninety Six is a favorite topic with the people in this vicinity. It is a pleasure to witness the animation that sparkles in their countenances when, in compliance with my request, they narrate the minute incidents of those trying times. Some of the striking particulars are these--the blockading of the British troops in the fort--the extension of a mine under the British works--the sallying out of a British force which in spite of a desperate resistance drove the Carolinians from the mine and surprised unawares the heroic fellows that were almost ready, under ground, to blow the whole garrison to destruction--the marching up of a pick'd company of valiants to haul down with hooks the bags of sand which lay on the top of the entrenchment, while muskets were incessantly blazing from behind them--the act of a courageous Tory who notwithstanding the surrounding crowd of besiegers, galloped through and gained admittance at the gate, with advices of an approaching reinforcement * * * Sat. Aug. 16. Spent the P.M. at Capt. Gowdy's examining the old archives of Cambridge College. Found them quite interesting. Some of the first characters in the State were among the Trustees; but it seems there used to be great difficulty in getting the Board together; and also in collecting the monies subscribed. The institution was founded soon after the war, rec'd a college charter in 1785--began to decline about 1789 or '90 and to have fallen into almost total neglect about 1795 of '96. Great sums were subscribed which were never paid. One or two of the subscriptions were one hundred guineas. Mr. Dassaussure of Charleston appears to have made great exertions in favor of the Seminary."

(To be continued...)



~ News & Notes ~

- **DUES were due in December.** The 2014 Historical Society dues were due in December. Individual member dues remain at \$20.00 and family dues are \$30.00. An addressed envelope has been enclosed for your convenience.

- **Second Annual Antique and Artisan Fair** will be held on Saturday, May 3rd from 9 a.m. until 5. p.m. (rain or shine) on the grounds of historic **Cokesbury College** in Hodges. There will be more antique dealers and more demonstrating artisans. For a small contribution, an appraiser will be on site to look at your personal treasures and give you an estimate of their worth. There will be refreshments available and an opportunity to tour the College. Admission is free.



- **January 26 Meeting** - There has been a change in location for the January 26th full meeting. It will be held in the historical center of the Benjamin Mays Historical complex located at the GLEAMS Center behind the former Brewer school on Cambridge Ave. in Greenwood. This is a one time change.



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



Greenwood County Historical Society

P.O. Box 49653
Greenwood, SC 29649

Return Service Requested

