



Greenwood County Historical Society

P.O. Box 49653, Greenwood, SC 29649

July 2019

President's Message

Greetings to all Greenwood historians! At our last meeting on March 31 we held a roundtable discussion for direction and guidance for the GCHS. This included 10 members and Ms. Ginny Zemp from the SC State Historical Society. There were some good thoughts that led to great talking points in our board discussions over the past 4 months as we began to set course for this year and beyond. Those in attendance gained a new understanding of our mission and our place in the context of local history and our goal to collect, share, inform, involve, and educate our public in local Greenwood history. Some of our outcomes were:

- 1- Hold meetings once per quarter (January, April, July, October) on the last Sunday at 3:00. The January meeting will include the annual report.
- 2- Hold the meetings in places relevant to the topic at hand, so the location may change dependent upon the topic of the meeting—an effort to bring history to the people.
- 3- Involve other historical groups in the efforts of the GCHS as much as possible. For example, collaborate on oral history projects.
- 4- Produce/create an historical pamphlet that can be given to visitors or community members to aid in the historical education process.
- 5- Update/modernize the GCHS website so that it can be a digital home to any documents and can be used by visitors, citizens, or those out of town.

We would like to welcome **John Robert Young** to our board as our Secretary. He is a native of Greenwood with a wealth of knowledge of local history and has already jumped in to create our local history pamphlet. Also, we bid adieu to **Dana Ellis** on our board who has retired. She has worked with us for many years and has been a great asset and will be missed!

We did not hold our ARPA awards in 2018 due to lack of nominations. If you are interested in making a nomination for the annual ARPA ceremony to be held in January, please make those nominations now. Forms can be found on our website @ **www.greenwoodcountyhistorical.com** or contact me directly.

We are working on topics for our 2020 meetings now—January 26, April 26, July 26 and October 25, 2020. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please contact me.

Our **next meeting on Sunday July 28 will be held at the Greenwood Public Library at 3:00**. Josh Skinner and Kyle Campbell will present on the need and desire of public and private partnerships in local historic preservation.

We appreciate and need your continued support, financially, in attendance, and with assistance! Any suggestions or considerations may be directed to me @ **ctinsley63@yahoo.com** or 864-374-7416. I look forward to seeing many of you in July.

Yours in history, 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. 94

Saturday, July 11, 1942

On the road previously mentioned which branched off the road from Kirksey out to Sand Ridge and which ran through the "Deer Lick" community, there was an offshoot which led into what is now a top soil public road from Mountain Creek to the Mathews road, coming out where the big tree sign of the National Forest boundary stands; and about three miles down the road from the Mathews road stood the "Criss" (short for his full name "Creswell") Williams house and it was here that the famous killing of a man named Faulkner by what was supposed to be a party of his fellow members of the Ku Klux in June 1871 took place.

The old Mathews road, as has been noted, today is practically covered by paved highway No. 178 from Greenwood to the Saluda county line.

This old Williams house was burned about eight or nine years ago.

Criss Williams was living there in 1871 and so was his father Williamson Williams, who married Eliza Moore, as already mentioned.

Criss Williams and his brother James "Jim" ran a store a short distance down the road where the settlement road just mentioned comes out into the road running east to the Mathews road just above where the store building stood. They also had a mill and gin there.

About 1890, Mr. Williams sold the place, farm and store, to S. J. "Sam" Horne who lived in the Williams house and had a store in the old store building until about 1900 when he removed to Troy. After living here a short time Mr. Horne and his family returned to the Williams place but in a few years returned to Troy.

The site of the old Williams house can be recognized today but there are no buildings of any kind left. The place is on the left going from Mountain creek out to the Mathews road or on the right coming from the Mathews road; and the Mathews road is much nearer the Williams house than the church.

The old house did not face the road but was somewhat at an angle with two chimneys toward the public road. It was a two-story house of seven rooms and the room in which Faulkner was shot and killed was nearest the road and on the first floor. This room could be reached without having to go through the front of the house; and after killing Faulkner, it was easier for the killers to make a getaway to their horses than if they had to retreat through the main body of the

house.

The room in which Faulkner was in bed opened on a porch and Faulkner's bed was diagonally opposite the door and on the northeast side of the room. The fireplace in this room was almost opposite the door of the room. The two who began shooting at Faulkner lying in bed had the advantage of a clear view from the open door while he was in bed and not in position to return the fire with any sort of accuracy even if he had had a pistol ready to use instantly.

As long as the house stood the dark blood stains marking the scene of the tragedy remained on the floor of the room and on the wall against which his bed stood. The Williams family and the Horne family who later occupied the house kept these stains covered with rugs or mats, but stains were there just the same.

It is a tradition in the Williams family that Williamson Williams, father of Criss, and the latter were "covered" by the strangers with their pistols and told that they would not be harmed if they made no move. It was also said that one of the four who made up the visiting party was recognized by Williamson Williams.

It was also a family tradition that old Mr. Williamson Williams sat up all night on the front piazza with his shot gun across his lap and almost shot his own son, Jim, who had been away from home on a visit and did not return until about midnight that Sunday night and had not heard anything of the shooting at his home. The father, it was said, recognized his son's walk, otherwise he might have fired without warning at the man approaching the house.

There are varying accounts as to the details of the shooting of "the man Faulkner" on a fateful, for him, Sunday afternoon; but when closely examined the neighborhood tradition and the official report, as it might be called, of Federal District Attorney D. T. Corbin, made to the Congressional Committee named in 1871 to investigate the alleged activities of the Ku Klux Klan in the South do not differ in any material manner.

The neighborhood tradition is that one day in June 1871, a covered wagon was stopped by the drive in front of the Criss Williams house, already located, and permission was asked to leave "a man with a broken leg" there for a few days, that he was on his way to Georgia and was in so much pain he could not continue the journey. Mr. Williams and

(continued on next page)

his wife finally agreed to take him in. His companions, the story went, said they would come back for him in a week or so.

The following Sunday, it was said, four men rode up on horseback late in the afternoon. Two of them dismounted, leaving their horses to be held by the two still on horseback. The two men on foot then went up to the house and told Mr. Williams they wanted to speak with the man in bed in his house. Mr. Williams replied he would see if the sick man would see them. Faulkner, it was said, agreed to see them and the two went in and after closing the door talked with Faulkner for some time, then came out and walked back to where their two companions on horseback were waiting. The two men on foot mounted their horses and the two who had been sitting in their saddles dismounted and walked rapidly toward the house and without saying anything to any one, walked right to the door of the sick room and as soon as they got sight of Faulkner, began shooting and in a few minutes the killing was over. The two strangers ran to their horses, their flight being covered by their two companions with pistols, so that Mr. Williams could not have stopped them if he had had a mind. Just as soon as the two who had done the shooting swung into their saddles the four horsemen were off in a gallop and no one around there ever saw them again.

Another feature of the neighborhood story is that after the first two men had talked so long and had gone out, that Faulkner asked Williams's wife to hand him his pistol, and when he got it he put the pistol under his pillow. But he never had a chance to use it.

The only printed official references available to this killing of "the man Faulkner" are to be found in the report of the Congressional Committee named in 1871 to investigate the alleged activities of the Ku Klux in the Southern States and these references are in Volume One of the printed series of the report, which includes testimony of many different kinds and classes of persons.

There was at least one Democrat on the Committee, Congressman P. Van Trump of Ohio, and he took a keen interest in the testimony and showed clearly that his sympathies were with the Southern whites.

Some of the testimony was taken in Columbia and some in Washington where the witnesses were summoned to appear.

The Faulkner case had its beginning in certain conditions obtaining in Newberry county in early Radical days. Among several colored officers of Newberry county, one Young, his first name also not given, had made himself exceedingly obnoxious to the white people of Newberry county. Young was one of the county commissioners of Newberry county and he was charged with various sorts of misdemeanor in office, a slight one being the purchase of a horse and buggy for himself with Newberry county paying the bill. Many such incidents were reported and he was so arrogant in his loose handling of public funds, tax money paid practically

entirely by the whites, that public protest was loud and frequent.

About the middle of May in the year 1871, a party of men visited Young and surrounded his house. It was at night.

Young may have been expecting this or some visit and was ready with firearms. He and his wife both fired several times in the dark and one member of the visiting party was hit in one leg. He was not able to stand and the other members of the party either rode off without knowing he was left behind or for reasons they seemed sufficient he was left. It appeared from some references that he was "left on the streets" of Newberry, indicating that he may have been removed from the vicinity of Young's house and that it had been arranged for him to have medical attention.

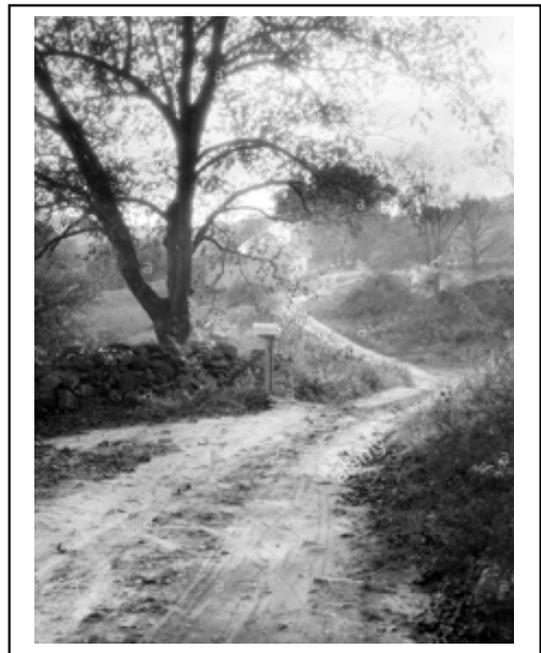
Members of the party which went to Young's house were "not recognized" by any witnesses.

It appeared to be a general system to have such parties made up of men from outside or adjoining counties so that possible recognition and prosecution under the Anti-Ku Klux law recently adopted by the Congress could not so easily be had.

Either the day after he was wounded or the following day, Faulkner was removed to a house about four miles from Newberry, according to Federal District Attorney D. T. Corbin and up to that time officers of the law, either State or Federal, had not taken any move. However, on information received by Federal Commissioner Boozer in Columbia that Faulkner was about to be moved out of the State, District Attorney Corbin "suggested" to the Sheriff of Newberry county that Faulkner should be arrested.

Before this could be done, however, a party of white men went to a livery stable in Newberry and "compelled" a colored man there to hitch up a team and carry Faulkner "out in the country" to a house about four miles from Newberry.

(To be continued)



Greenwood County Historical Society

To Rescue or Remove? That is the question. . .

Join the Greenwood County Historical Society on **Sunday, July 28, at 3:00 pm** for a discussion on the role of private and public organizations in architectural and historical preservation. We will be joined by Kyle Campbell, owner of Preservation South, a Greenville consultancy that specializes in the rehabilitation of historic properties and Josh Skinner, an historical contractor and planner, and currently coordinator for the CPST projects for the City of Greenwood.

Architectural and historical preservation are at the center of what makes some cities unique and magnets for tourism and industry alike. Think Charleston, Savannah, Boston or even San Francisco. Managing the forces for growth with the responsibilities for preservation can sometimes be an uneven battle especially when resources are scarce. Citizens, property owners and their neighbors, community leaders, industrial designers and elected officials all have a stake.

What is the balance that must be struck and how can we, as a community, encourage the appropriate direction for development?

Greenwood's growth in the 19th and 20th centuries was fueled by trains and textiles. As we move into the 21st century, what vestiges of this past could we and should we preserve?

That question is at the center of the debate now underway regarding the historic Greenwood Mill Village and the beautifully built, but now derelict, Greenwood Mill Recreation Center on Jackson Avenue. What are the implications of this debate for the city today and tomorrow? And more broadly, how can organizations work with the community at large to help drive the development of tomorrow's Greenwood.

Bring your ideas and vision for a lively conversation. The meeting is free and open to the public.



LOST: Penn Station in NYC
The 1963 demolition of the Beaux-Art Penn Station shocked all of New York and led to creation of New York City's Landmark law—one of the strongest in the country.



SAVED: Mount Vernon
The Mount Vernon Ladies Association organized to purchase Mount Vernon in 1853 and saved it from demolition in 1858, restored it and continues to support it. The founder of the MVLA was Ann Pamela Cunningham, born in Laurens County, South Carolina.

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

