



Greenwood County Historical Society

P.O. Box 49653, Greenwood, SC 29649

June, 2016

President's Message - June 2016

We wish you a great summer full of rest, learning, and service! So much going on in our community and we are glad to have a part in preserving our rich history!

We hope you enjoyed our last meeting at the Greenwood Library in March on James C. Hemphill, Greenwood's Architect. Thank you to Tom Howie for this presentation. It was truly a highlight and filled with information on Greenwood's premier architect! If you were not in attendance, you missed a great event as we saw many familiar homes and buildings designed by Mr. Hemphill.

This month's meeting will be a remembrance of our area's rich tradition of medical history as we have local physician, Dr. Mims Mobley, to share with us. This should be an interesting topic as we look at the many names and faces of our past in the medical field. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, June 26th to hear this great topic. Please bring friends and family that may be interested in this topic. This meeting will also be held at the Greenwood Library!

We enjoyed our fourth annual antiques fair on April 30th at Cokesbury College. For those that were a part of our undertaking either as a participant or worker, we appreciate your help. This was by far our most successful effort as GREAT weather, successful advertising, and a yard full of crafters and sellers made for a GREAT day. See Carol Scales for more information on our 2017 5th annual craft fair!

We thank you for your continued support of the GCHS! Financially, we appreciate the renewals, and in attendance of our meetings and support of our mission. Please join and bring a friend if you have not done so.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to two of our GREATEST leaders and historians that have been under the weather lately....Mrs. Beeka Coleman and Mrs. Jo Wash. Get well ladies, we miss you. Your work and leadership in the past is unspeakable for our local group and we appreciate you so much! Also, to member and historian, Mrs. Ann Bowen who recently relocated to Virginia! You will be well missed!

Please continue to read and inform yourselves on the local option sales tax that is under proposal in Greenwood County and will be on the November ballot. There are several historical venues on the preliminary list (to be finalized in June). We will have Mike Clary from the Greenwood Chamber to give us an update at our September meeting.

If you have nominations for our Architectural Restoration and Preservation Awards please send those in!

Remaining dates for 2016: Our series looks toward topics related to our area.

June 26	3:00	Greenwood Public Library - Dr. Mobley, "Our Medical History".
Sept. 25	3:00	Greenwood Public Library - Dr. Michael McKenzie, "Our History of Education in Greenwood County".
Nov. 20	3:00	Cokesbury College - Rob Jones, "Cokesbury College".

We appreciate your continued support! We look forward to seeing you at our remaining meetings this year!

Yours in History!

Chip

<http://greenwoodcountyhistoricalsociety.com/>

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. 80

Saturday, February 28, 1942

Judge Joseph N. Whitner, grandson of Joseph Whitner who came to Charleston as an orphan lad from Germany, was sent to the South Carolina College, now University of South Carolina, by his father, B. F. Whitner, and was graduated in the class of 1818. It was a class composed of thirty-five members, many of whom became distinguished in South Carolina history. Chancellor Francis Hugh Wardlaw was a member of this class. Judge Joseph W. Whitner, after being admitted to the Bar, settled at Cambridge (Old Ninety Six). He did not remain very long before removing to Pendleton where he formed a partnership with Judge Elias Earle. While at Cambridge he developed a great interest in the cavalry branch of the State militia, succeeding Judge Colcock as captain of the Cambridge Troop. Judge Whitner married Elizabeth Hampton Harrison, the only daughter of James Harrison, Revolutionary patriot. Mrs. James Harrison was a sister of the first Wade Hampton. Judge Whitner and his wife, Elizabeth, were the parents of eight children. Their oldest daughter, Sarah, married Elbert M. Rucker. E. Marion Rucker, prominent lawyer of Anderson, and from 1910 to his death a member of the faculty of the Law School of the University of South Carolina, was one of their children. The late, distinguished engineer, William Church Whitner, a native of Anderson, was also of this family.

Governor B. F. Perry gives this interesting bit of political history in his sketch of Judge J. N. Whitner:

"Some years before his elevation to the Bench, there was an election of Judge before the Legislature. The contest was very close, and one of the votes intended for Whitner was written 'Whiten'. If this vote had been counted, he would have had a majority and been elected. But on the second ballot, Judge Withers was elected. The next vacancy that occurred on the Bench, Judge Whitner was elected to fill, and he remained on the Bench till his death, many years afterwards. Whilst Solicitor, he was put in nomination for Congress, very much against his wishes. There was a high political excitement in the State on the subject of the sub-Treasury. General Thompson, who was then representing the district in Congress, differed with Mr. Calhoun on this subject, and an effort was made by Mr. Calhoun and his friends to turn him out. Judge Whitner, at that time, was perhaps the most popular man in the Congressional district. He was, therefore, put in nomination, but his personal popularity availed him nothing in the excitement. His warmest

and most devoted friends voted against him. The returns from the different precincts in Anderson district were brought to Pickens Court House, whilst court was sitting there. Whitner looked over the statement and said to me: 'I really thought I could have got more votes than I did at some of these boxes, for President of the United States.' Too true it is, that friendship, gratitude and personal respect, are all thrown aside in a political excitement when an election takes place."

One of the first lawyers to locate at Cambridge was Peter Carnes, who was as picturesque a character as his fellow lawyer at Cambridge, already described - William Nibbs; though Carnes was a very much abler man and lawyer. Chief Justice O'Neill says Peter Carnes was a native of Maryland and that he knows his wife was Elizabeth Wirt from the fact of seeing a copy of Carnes's will, which was made by the grandfather of Chief Justice O'Neill at the request of Carnes. There was a tradition, printed in more than one place, that Carnes was the father of William Wirt, Attorney General of the United States, who prosecuted Aaron Burr. Carnes was admitted to the Bar in Charleston on March 8th, 1785, and soon after located at Cambridge.

To Chief Justice Rutledge, and other boor companions, at Ninety Six, he described his life. He said that he began first, as a house carpenter - that this did not at all answer his purposes. He next tried his hand as a mill-wright, then as the manufacturer of balloons. Neither of these prospering, he became a Methodist exhorter. Here again he failed, "which drove him to the Bar". As a lawyer, he said he had succeeded wonderfully. Chief Justice Rutledge said to him, "Brother Carnes, how much would your balloon carry up?" Carnes, looking around and spying Shaw, who was an Englishman - (he was admitted to the Bar, in Charleston, 10th August, 1784) - and a very diminutive man, walked up to him, slapped his hand upon his shoulder, and said, "It would carry up a good, stout chunk of a boy, as big as brother Pop Corn." Shaw was very excitable; this observation filled him brim-full of wrath. Carnes said, "Brother Shaw often provokes me until I am ready to knock him down, but when I look at him, he looks so much like a pretty little gal, that I feel like kissing him." At this moment William Tate, a lawyer remarkable for a frizzly head, entered the room. Carnes, wheeling round and facing him, said, "Enter, Frizzly." Tate, who, like Shaw, was irascible, said, "Mr. Carnes, I should like

OUR OLD ROADS

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to know what you mean?" Carnes said, "Tate, you look like the fragments of a hail storm borne upon a whirlwind."

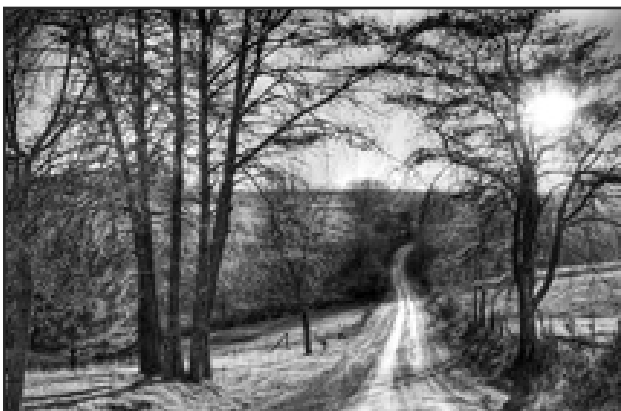
The Chief Justice's shield was all that saved Carnes from the wrath of the two subjects of his wit.

William Tate, mentioned above, was admitted to the Bar, in Charleston, 20th February 1787. He was one of the government recruits for the Revolution in France. He went to France, received a commission as Chef de Brigade, or Demi-Brigade. He was landed as a part of the invading army of Ireland, captured, and after many years' absence – according to O'Neill, about 1819 – returned to this State. O'Neill says he remembered seeing him once – a venerable grey-headed gentleman. What became of him he did not know. His brother, Robert, once owned the plantation north of Saluda, in Newberry (county) opposite to Saluda Old Town, which, about 1820, was the property of Major William Dunlap, and was claimed in a bill in equity by William Tate and others.

In a case of trespass for assault and battery, tried at Ninety Six, William Shaw, about spoken of, continues O'Neill, was the defendant's attorney. Peter Carnes was for the plaintiff. Mr. Shaw pleaded, "molletur manus inposuit." The case turned out, in proof, to be a very aggravated assault and battery. Carnes said to the Judge, when, in his turn, he had the opportunity to address them, said, "Gentlemen, you all know I am no Latin scholar, but I think I can translate the gentleman's plea, "molletur," he mauled, "manus," the man, "inposuit," and imposed upon him. Now, gentlemen, did you ever hear of such impudence – to shamefully abuse my client, and then to come into Court and brag of it?"

Carnes, according to O'Neill, accumulated a "fortune" and when Cambridge began to show unmistakable signs of decline, Carnes removed to Georgia; and it is said that he died in Augusta following a stroke, which came "in consequence of over-exerting himself at the defense of a man for murder."

Possibly Carnesville, Georgia, is named for this remarkable man, whose wit was so long a tradition of the courts of the Up Country. (to be continued. . .)



from the 3rd Annual Antique and Artisans Fair on the grounds of Cokesbury College



GCHS News
SC Historical Society

NEXT MEETING

Dr. Mims Mobley
"Our Medical History"

Sunday June 26 - 3:00 pm

Greenwood County Public Library



Dr. Mims Mobley

Remember this?

"President Truman comes to life in Edgefield"

"EDGEFIELD – Harry Truman came to life for a number of Edgefield residents and visitors last Thursday night at the Edgefield Courthouse. **Dr. Mims Mobley** of Greenwood, a native of Edgefield, portrayed Truman in a one-man play entitled, "Man of Decision: Harry S. Truman, Our 33rd President," sponsored by the Edgefield Regional Arts." July 2009

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE GREENWOOD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Membership renewal occurs in January of each year. If there is a RED DOT sticker on this newsletter, your renewal of either \$20.00 for an individual member or \$30.00 for a family is due. Don't let your membership lapse and miss information about upcoming programs or not receive a copy of "Our Old Roads". A return envelope has been provided for your convenience.



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Return Service Requested

