



Greenwood County Historical Society

P.O. Box 49653, Greenwood, SC 29649

March, 2014

President's Report - Chip Tinsley

We hope all enjoyed the presentation during our last meeting in January as we recognized 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. Those in attendance were treated to a wonderful presentation by member Loy Sartin on Benjamin Mays and his legacy. Congratulations again to Millway Plantation And The Benjamin Mays House!

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. Many activities are planned including an antiques appraiser and an auction. Place this event on your calendar now and share with your friends.

Do you have a historical story to share with us? Email me: ctinsley63@yahoo.com.

Please note your local historical markers in Greenwood County. Several members of the board have recently restored the Francis Salvador marker on Highway 72. It has been relayed to the board from the SCDOT that local historical societies are responsible for restoration and upkeep. This can/could be costly. If you are interested in helping in this endeavor please see me or Carol.

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

Meeting dates for 2013:

March 30: Jim Ravencraft will be our speaker.

The topic will be local cemeteries, how to locate gravesides, and specific work there. He has done such work and his talks have drawn large crowds before. ***Bring a Friend on March 30 - All members—please remember to join us at the Greenwood County Library and plan to bring a friend! See you there!***

June 29: Dr. Vernon Burton will be our guest speaker. Professor of History and Computer Science, Clemson University, author of *A History of Lincoln* and *In My Father's House*, an extensive history of Edgefield.

September 29

November 30

Antiques and Artisan Fair May 3



Jim Ravencraft

Plan on visiting the 2nd Annual Antique and Artisan Fair on May 3rd at Cokesbury College. The Antique Lynx and Model A Car Group will be on site and a live auction of barn equipment and tools from Stony Point Plantation will take place at 11:00 am to benefit the Cokesbury Commission.

Please send our mission out to your friends as we attempt to spread the word! For our next meeting I challenge you to do two things. One, attend, and two, bring someone that is not a member with you. If you have not attended in a while, please come back...We miss you! We look forward to seeing you at our meetings this year!

Chip

Library Display

Carol Scales and members provided an historical society display in the foyer of the Greenwood County Library. Marla Stewart, Dana Ellis, Tommy O'Dell, Jim Ravencraft and Wayne Cameron prepared materials loaned by Betty Coleman. The display will be on view at the library until the end of March.

New Genealogy Published for Greenwood

Four Connor Generations In South Carolina has been published by Joyce M. Bowden. The author tracks the Greenwood area family from 1790 until 1920. The Connor family was instrumental in establishing the Tabernacle community. A copy is in the library historical society display and the library will order a copy for the Genealogy Room.

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. 70

Saturday, December 20, 1941

After giving the details of his first experience in observing the Fourth of July in the South--the year was 1806--Edward Hooker apparently spent the Summer quietly at Old Cambridge and was merely biding the time for the Academy to open in the Fall.

The next entry of something unusual and exciting was on the sixth day of September 1806 which was Muster Day in Cambridge and he notes that there were three companies of the State Militia out in full force to drill and parade. Prof. Hooker notes also as a feature of this Muster Day that there "was much company and much noise." That there was drinking and fighting was to be expected. He also noted there was much "electioneering" going on both by candidates for Congress and for the State Legislature.

One of the three militia companies present at Cambridge on the "Muster Day" of Sept. 6, 1806, must have been the famous Cambridge Cavalry Troop which was organized by Judge C. F. Colcock, native of Charleston, but who bought a tract of land near Cambridge and removed from Charleston to Cambridge to make his home after his admission to the Bar in 1792. He was a member of the Cambridge or Ninety Six Bar for a number of years but after his marriage he sold his place near Cambridge and removed to Beaufort, his wife's native community.

Ten days after the "Muster", Mr. Hooker accompanied by his landlord, the Rev. David Lilly, set out on a horseback trip to the mountains of Upper South Carolina. They left Cambridge on Sept. 16, 1806 and were gone about two weeks. They probably used the old road leading from Cambridge to Capt. Geo. Reid's mill, a part of which is now Cambridge street in Greenwood, on the first stages of their journey. Mr. Hooker describes attending a church service "among the mountain people" at which most of the men were without shoes or coats or as Mr. Hooker noted "in the local expressions were barefoot and in their shirt sleeves." It was hot weather and people were either more sensible or less sensitive then.

Also on this trip, he saw more "electioneering" in the South Carolina manner. Three candidates for Congress, Elias Earle, Dr. Wm. Hunter and Lemuel J. Alston were going over the district and making all sorts of efforts to get the votes of their fellow citizens in the good old manner, even as of today in some respects and in others in a way not seen

today, openly. At a "Muster" at Pickensville, the original court house town but not the present site, he saw free barbecues furnished by two of the candidates and also much free whiskey, one congressional candidate standing behind a stock of it and dishing it out like a regular bartender, Hooker noted. Alston was elected over incumbent Earle this time but he later was defeated by Earle.

Congressman Levi Casey of Newberry was being opposed by Col. Joseph Calhoun. Calhoun was a first cousin of John C. Calhoun but an older man. Joseph was the oldest son of William Calhoun while John C. Calhoun was a son of Patrick Calhoun. Both William and Patrick were of the original Calhoun settlers of the Long Canes.

Old Col. Levi Casey died that year and Col. Joseph Calhoun was named as his successor in Congress. Mr. Hooker noted in his diary that the attacks on Col. Joseph Calhoun were quite severe around Cambridge and elsewhere and he added that the Calhoun family was well thought of generally and that he also thought well of the family. He added that a young member of the family, John C. Calhoun, seemed a young man of much promise. Like Hooker, John C. Calhoun was a Yale man. Whether that had any influence on Mr. Hooker is not known. It is the only mention in his diary of John C. Calhoun, but Calhoun did not become a national figure until after he was elected to Congress, succeeding his Cousin Joseph Calhoun in 1811.

In February of the following year, 1807, Mr. Hooker was offered a place as tutor in mathematics in the not very old South Carolina College and having accepted it he left Cambridge on March 3, 1807 and went to Columbia. Two years later he resigned this place and returned to Yale where he taught three years and then finished his life on his farm near Marmington, Conn.

Probably there was no teacher for some months after he left Cambridge. The next teacher of record was the Rev. C. D. Mallory, Baptist, previously mentioned as a college mate of Stephen Olin at Middlebury College in Vermont and who taught at Cambridge about 1820. The Rev. John Rennie, prominent Presbyterian minister, taught at the Cambridge Academy after Mr. Mallory and some mention him as a teacher before 1820. Undoubtedly the Academy was used in the years between Hooker and Rennie.

(continued on next page)

How many physicians there were in and around Old Cambridge cannot be stated with complete accuracy as some of the names are lost forever. But a number of the older ones are known.

The first doctor mentioned in official records in this part of the State was Dr. John Murray. He received his first grant of two hundred acres of land on "Ninety Six Branch" on Nov. 15, 1758, eighteen years before the Revolution. He is not given the title of "Dr." in that grant but later he was so designated and he acquired rather large holdings in this area and seems to have finally located his home somewhere on Hard Labor creek. A slave belonging to "Dr. John Murray" was mentioned as making his way from Fort Ninety Six at the time it was besieged by the Indians in February 1760 to give warning to settlers in areas to the south of Fort Ninety Six. What became of Dr. John Murray is not known.

The only "doctors" mentioned by the title in Abbeville county, Ninety Six district, in the census of 1790 were Dr. Zachary Meriwether (the name was later spelled generally "Meriwether") on the Saluda river side and Dr. John De La Howe on the Savannah river side. The latter, as is generally known, was the founder of the De La Howe Institute. And there is not a single "Dr." named in the list of inhabitants of Edgefield county, Ninety Six district, in the same census. Undoubtedly there were doctors in addition to these two in the two counties at that time but the census takers did not designate them as such.

Dr. Zachary Meriwether was one of the early physicians of the village of Cambridge. He lived in the house which was long owned and occupied by the late Dr. T. B. Blake, on the left of the Martin Town or Augusta road and above Old Star Fort going from the "double bridges" over Henley's creek to the present Ninety Six. Dr. Blake said in 1911 that this house was built, he had understood, by Dr. Meriwether and later it was occupied "by the Bowie family before this family removed to Charleston." Just which Bowie family this was is not known. It may have been the parents of George Bowie, said to have been the first lawyer in the court house town of Abbeville and of his brother A. Bowie, who removed to Alabama and became Chancellor Bowie of that state. Both the Bowie brothers read law under some lawyer at Cambridge in the opinion of Chief Justice O'Neall.

After the Bowies removed from the Dr. Zachary Meriwether house, the place was next owned by Lyttleton Myrick, a large planter, and for several terms a member of the State Legislature from Abbeville county. After Lyttleton Myrick the place was next owned, Dr. Blake said, by the Rev. Richmond M. Todd. Dr. Blake, who had located in the Cambridge section about 1848, bought the place from the estate of Mrs. Todd when it was offered for sale. Mr. Todd died while living there.

Lyttleton Myrick is put down as the owner on the map of Abbeville county made by Wm. Robertson in 1820 and used in Mills' Atlas.

Dr. Richard C. Griffin, in his *Reminiscences*, gives a list of the doctors of Cambridge in his time which must be regarded as authentic and complete as he himself began the practice of medicine in Cambridge in 1831 as the associate of Dr. F. G. Thomas. Dr. Thomas later removed to a large plantation just below Hodges. He was said by the late J. A. Ellis, of that community, to have been a minister as well as a doctor, either an Episcopal or Methodist minister, but precisely which older settlers could not agree upon. Probably an Episcopal minister, as his step-son, Mr. Arthur was an Episcopal minister in Greenville for a number of years after the War between the States.

In addition to the list of doctors in and around Old Cambridge from about 1800 to 1878, as given by Dr. Griffin, there is in the University of South Carolina library the account book of Dr. Zachary Meriwether, of Cambridge, for the years 1816-17 which gives a list of his patients for these years. The list is of interest and value in that it gives the names of many heads of families and members of families living in and around Cambridge for those years.

The book was presented to the University Library by Motte M. Marshall, of Greenwood, several years ago. The book was owned by his mother, Mrs. J. A. Marshall, nee Logan, whose father, Dr. John H. Logan, author of "History of Upper South Carolina," evidently had the book from his father, Dr. John Logan, who probably succeeded Dr. Meriwether in his practice in the area east of Greenwood.

(To be continued...)



~ News & Notes ~

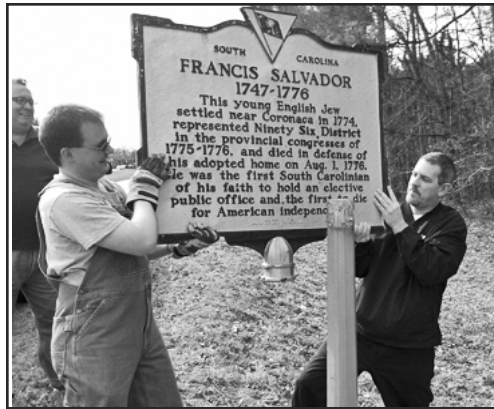
March talk for Historical Society March 30, 2014 – Greenwood County Historical Society welcomes Jim Ravencraft as the keynote speaker for the March meeting as he presents on cemeteries and gravesites. Jim Ravencraft is a retired Greenwood police officer whose hobby is genealogy including researching and recording local cemeteries and their gravesites. Jim will provide insights into cemeteries in Greenwood County, how to locate them and how to locate family graves as well as general advice on exploring and photographing old cemeteries. Please join the Greenwood County Historical Society meeting at 3:00 pm at the Veterans Auditorium, Greenwood County Library on Sunday, March 30.



Jim Ravencraft is a retired Greenwood police officer whose hobby is genealogy including researching and recording local cemeteries and their gravesites. He will talk on cemeteries in Greenwood County - how to locate them and how to locate family graves as well as general advice on exploring and photographing old cemeteries.

Greenwood County Historical Society Repairs Salvador Road Marker

Board members of the Greenwood County Historical Society repaired a downed highway marker honoring Francis Salvador on Saturday, February 22 along Greenwood's Hwy 72. Francis Salvador was South Carolina's "Paul Revere" and was the first Jew to die waging the American Revolution. He moved to South Carolina in 1773 and resided on a 7,000 acre tract near Coronaca, SC. Within a year of his arrival at the age of 27 he was elected to the General Assembly of SC and was elected as a delegate to South Carolina's revolutionary Provincial Congress which met in Charleston in 1775. He urged the Congress to vote



for American independence and chaired the ways and means committee which was responsible for issuing bills of credit to pay the militia. When the Cherokees attacked settlements along the frontier on July 1, 1776, Salvador rode his horse in the dead of night more than 30 miles to give warning and then joined the militia on the front lines defending the settlements under siege. He died in a Cherokee attack, early on the morning of August 1,

Shown from left are board members Rob Jones, Stefan Wiecki and Chip Tinsley reinstalling the Salvador marker.

not knowing that the Continental Congress in Philadelphia had, as he had urged, adopted the Declaration of Independence. - From Missy Lowery, Vice President, Greenwood County Historical Society - 864-377-1181

.....
 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

