



# ***Greenwood County Historical Society***

P.O. Box 49653, Greenwood, SC 29649

March 2015

## **President's Message - March 2015**

Greetings to all Greenwood historians! Our speaker for the March 29th meeting will be William Davies from the SC Historical Society who will present on "Robert Mills, America's First Native-born Architect." Please join us as we return to the **GREENWOOD COUNTY LIBRARY at 3:00 in the VETERANS AUDITORIUM on Sunday, March 29** as we welcome Mr. Davies of Columbia to Greenwood. Our 3rd Annual Antique and Artisan Fair will be April 25, 2015- on the grounds of Historic Cokesbury College. Antique dealers, craftsmen, artisans, and antique car owners will set up their wares for the public to come in and purchase or view. An appraiser, Dot Hipps of Ware Shoals, will be on grounds for public to pay to see the value of their "goods." This is a fundraiser for our society to promote historic preservation in Greenwood County. The Board has worked hard to make this a success. Please make this a part of your day and support us in this endeavor with your presence and spreading the word! We appreciate your support.

Congratulations to our 2014 GCHS award winners that were recognized for architectural restoration and preservation at our January meeting: The McDonald House, The Culbertson House, The Davis House, and Riegel Hall. Thanks to our board for their work and those who attended this meeting for your support of our mission in this effort. If you are interested in nominating a home or property for this year's awards, you may do so now. Please see a board member, our website, or email me. We look forward to your nomination.

The GCHS, in conjunction with the Abbeville Historical Society, recognizes the Sesquicentennial of Jefferson Davis's ride through our county and will sponsor ***The Jefferson Davis Driving Tour on November 1, 2015 2:00-5:00 PM***. This will include 5 stops following President Davis's trek through what is now Greenwood County in 1865 as the Confederacy was crumbling and much of the cabinet made its way to Abbeville. We hope you will mark this date and time on your calendar now.

Thanks to Society member Ann Bowen for taking time to work with our board in a "desk audit" of our finances. A clean bill of health was given and we thank her for this work. Also to Carol Scales, our Treasurer, for her time in keeping up with the financials. An outcome with findings and suggestions is available upon request.

Our June meeting will be "Sharing our Local Textile Sports History" by Mac Kirkpatrick and Tom Perry, who have authored a book on the subject.

**Our mission is:** to collect, preserve, and maintain – history of the US, in particular Greenwood County, SC; records & materials of historical significance; to mark or restore historical landmarks; publish material relative to Greenwood County history; and do those things necessary to furthering mission.

We appreciate your continued support! Any suggestions or considerations may be directed to me @ [ctinsley63@yahoo.com](mailto:ctinsley63@yahoo.com) or [Greenwoodhistoricalsociety.com](http://Greenwoodhistoricalsociety.com). I look forward to seeing you on the 29th at the library and also at our antique fair on April 25 in Cokesbury.

**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. 75

Saturday, January 24, 1942

Robert Stark (also spelled "Starke"), the first sheriff of Ninety Six district, elected by the first General Assembly of South Carolina to that office in 1776, had served as Sheriff of Ninety Six district under the English Crown as the following extract from the South Carolina Gazette (Charleston) of June 4, 1772 will show:

"At the adjournment of the Court of Common Pleas on Saturday last, three persons for each district where the circuit courts are to be opened and held, who are to be free holders and residing in each district were nominated, to be presented to His Excellency, the Governor, that he might appoint a Sheriff out of each three. For Ninety Six (district) he appointed Robert Starke Esq., to serve as Sheriff."

The Royal Governor who appointed Robert Stark as the first Sheriff of Ninety Six district was Lord Charles Gre-vil Montagu.

Robert Starke took over the duties which heretofore had been attended to by Samuel Earle as Deputy Provost Marshal. Mr. Earle has many descendants in this part of the State. He had a remarkable memory, according to Governor B. F. Perry, who said that Mr. Earle told him that when he was Deputy Provost Marshal in Ninety Six district he knew the name of every landowner between Columbia and Greenville. But as that was over one hundred and sixty years ago it might not be such a long list as might be supposed.

Undoubtedly courts both of general sessions and of common pleas were held at Old Ninety Six "Before the Revolution" and while South Carolina was still a Royal Province. Sheriff Stark was in office first by appointment in 1772 by Royal Governor Montagu and was elected by the General Assembly after the Revolution had started in 1776.

From old records at Abbeville it appears that the first Ordinary (an office corresponding to our present Judge of Probate) of Ninety Six district was Patrick Calhoun, the father of John C. Calhoun. His title was "Surrogate in the Court of Ordinary" and that is the title used in New York State today. Patrick Calhoun apparently was succeeded after the Revolution by Col. John Thomas, Revolutionary patriot of Spartanburg. What is now Spartanburg county was then a part of Ninety Six district. Presumably this was Col. John Thomas Jr. who succeeded his father as colonel of what Draper calls the "Fair Forest Regiment" in the Revolution. The elder Col. Thomas was put in the jail at Old Ninety Six by

the Tories who had captured him; and it was while Mrs. Thomas was on a visit to him at Old Ninety Six that she heard one night an attack being planned by the Tories on the Patriots of her home community. She saddled her horse and rode all day from Ninety Six toward Spartanburg and was in time to give the warning and thus block the Tory plan. She was the mother of nine children, all the sons being active in the Revolution and so were her sons-in-law. The children, named by Landrum in his "History of Spartanburg County," were Col. John, who succeeded his father as head of a regiment and later succeeded Patrick Calhoun as Ordinary at Ninety Six Court House; Robert, killed in service; Abram, wounded at the siege of Ninety Six; William, a soldier; Martha, who married Josiah Culbertson, the noted Revolutionary scout; Ann married Capt. Joseph McJunkin; Jane married Capt. Joseph McCool; and Letitia married Major Joseph Lusk.

A similar ride by another heroine, Mrs. Mary Dillard, wife of Major James Dillard, is sometimes confused with this ride. Mrs. Dillard made a night ride to warn Sumter of the approach of Tarleton at Blackstock's.

The first clerk of court at Old Ninety Six, from available records, was John Caldwell. He was clerk of court in 1773 when South Carolina was still a Royal Province. His name appears in the South Carolina Gazette with a list of defaulting jurors, grand and petit, for Nov. 15, 1773 and also for Nov. 17, 1774 for the court at Ninety Six. The first list includes John Cowan, William Drennan, Thomas Lee, Samuel Ford, John Cunningham, William Harris, and Leonard Noble.

The second date includes, at court at Ninety Six, Monday Nov. 15, 1774, the following jurors defaulted: Grand jurors, Thomas Walters, Patrick Calhoun, Aaron Smith, LeRoy Hammond. Petit jurors, William Usery, William Clark, Robert Allen, Moses Davis, Joseph Cappock, John Cole, Thomas Ray and James Hultor. Signed by John Caldwell, D.C..C.&P. Also in the South Carolina Gazette of a later date, is a highly significant paragraph in which the sentiment of the Up Country toward the British Crown government is revealed. In substance, the Grand Jury for Ninety Six district on Nov. 17, 1774 condemned attitude of the British government toward the colonies. Presented as a Grievance the fact that the Magistrates for the district were appointed at the behest of the merchants of Charleston.

Signed: Andrew Hamilton, James Mayson, Andrew Williamson, Moses Kirkland, LeRoy Hammond, Aaron Smith, Patrick Calhoun, Michael Watson, Robert Goudy, Benjamin Bell, Benjamin Tutt, James Crawford, Mark Lott, John Caldwell, John Purves.

Some of these grand jurors for the court at Old Ninety Six, it will be noted, are in the list of those who “defaulted,” in failing to appear and the explanation probably is that they did appear later. All are men who were afterwards prominent in the Revolution. One, Moses Kirkland, finally wound up as a leader of the Tories.

Major John Caldwell, who is listed as the Clerk--and it appears also that the Clerks of the Courts in the newly formed judicial districts were ranked as “Deputy Clerks” of the Court with its home in Charleston--was a brother-in-law of Patrick Calhoun who was the first “Surrogate in the Court of Ordinary” for Ninety Six district. Patrick Calhoun was the father of John C. Calhoun.

John Caldwell, a son of William and Rebecca Caldwell, with some, if not all, his brothers and sisters, was born in Pennsylvania. His parents removed to Virginia and later his mother and the children located in what is now Mecklenburg county, N.C. and then came to Mudlick on Little River in Newberry district. The father, William, died in Virginia, it is believed. Major John Caldwell married in Mecklenburg but his wife’s name is not given by O’Neill. They had no children. Major John Caldwell was one of the leading citizens of this section of the Colony and had a prominent part in the Revolution. He was shot down in cold blood while walking in his yard in 1781 by two members of Bloody Bill Cunningham’s band as they were on their way from the massacre on Cloud’s Creek to the massacre at Hay’s Station. The Cunningham party crossed Saluda river at Anderson’s mill, afterwards owned by Cooper Boazman, went up the east side in what is now Newberry county, by the homes of Dan Dyson, John Wallace and Robert Gillam, burning and killing as they went. Oliver Towles and two others are listed as victims before the home of Major John Caldwell was reached where he was shot down by two Tories, Hal Foster and Bill Elmore, while his wife helplessly looked on. Then followed the massacre at Hay’s Station.

Following is a list of the brothers and sisters of Major John Caldwell: William Caldwell, who lived for two years with his brother-in-law, Patrick Calhoun, in the Long Canes and learned surveying from him as well as from his own brother; Major John Caldwell; William Caldwell married Miss Williams, a daughter of Major John Williams. They (the latter) had ten children, five of whom lived to maturity-- John, William Jr., James, Patrick Calhoun, and Elizabeth Caldwell who married F. B. Higgins.

Third brother of Maj. John Caldwell was James, a captain in the Revolution, and he married Miss Elizabeth

Forrest and they had eleven children: Samuel Caldwell married Rachel Golden of Laurens county; Isabelle Caldwell married Alexander Deal; Frances Caldwell married James Sheppard and removed to Alabama; Anthony Caldwell went to California gold-hunting with Irvinne Hutchison and others, returned and married Mary Simmons and located in Georgia; Rebecca Caldwell married James Sproull who built the home now owned by Harry R. Maxon; Mary Caldwell married first a Young of Laurens county and then James Hunter, locating in what is now the Breezewood section, where her brother George Forrest Caldwell had located; James Caldwell; William Caldwell; John Caldwell; and Robert Caldwell. Robert Caldwell married Elizabeth Wardlaw and removed to Georgia.

The eleventh child and youngest son of James Caldwell and Elizabeth Forrest Caldwell was George Forrest Caldwell and he married Edna Brooks, daughter of Capt. Elisha Brooks and Nancy Butler Brooks. They settled the “old Caldwell place” in the Breezewood section of Greenwood county.

The remaining brother of Major John Caldwell was David. He was a mere boy during the Revolution. He was said to have been almost incapacitated by deafness from youth, but he lived however to be an old man and raised a large family. The late James Caldwell of the Stony Point community was a descendant.

The sisters of Major John Caldwell, Revolutionary patriot killed by Tories, were: Margaret who married John Ritchie; Martha married Patrick Calhoun; Eleanor married John Moore; Elizabeth married Robert Gillam and were parents of General James Gillam; Rebecca married Jacob East; and Sarah married Dr. Martin.

Patrick Calhoun Caldwell, nephew of Maj. John and son of William, was a member of Congress from this district 1841-43. He was State Senator from Newberry later. He died in Newberry in 1855.

The late James Fitz-James Caldwell, prominent lawyer of Greenwood and Newberry was not of this family. His father, who was Chancellor James J. Caldwell, was a son of Daniel Caldwell and Daniel Caldwell’s father, John, came direct from North Ireland to Newberry district.

*(to be continued. . .)*

Our thanks to: • Missy Lowry, for her work on the newsletter • Chip Tinsley, for his work as President.  
• Society member Ann Bowen for work in finances  
• Carol Scales, our Treasurer for her work with the financials.

For all others who contribute in one way or another. Thank you.

# GCHS News

## SC Historical Society's Davies to present on Architect Robert Mills March 29th at Library

William S. Davies, Jr., from the South Carolina Historical Society will present the life and work of South Carolina Architect Robert Mills (1781-1855) at the Sunday, March 29 meeting of the Greenwood County Historical Society at 3:00 pm at the Greenwood Library Veterans Auditorium.

Entitled "Robert Mills, America's First Native-born Architect", Mr. Davies will chronicle the rise of Mills from Charleston, SC to a national figure considered responsible for popularizing Greek Revival architectural style in both private and public buildings.

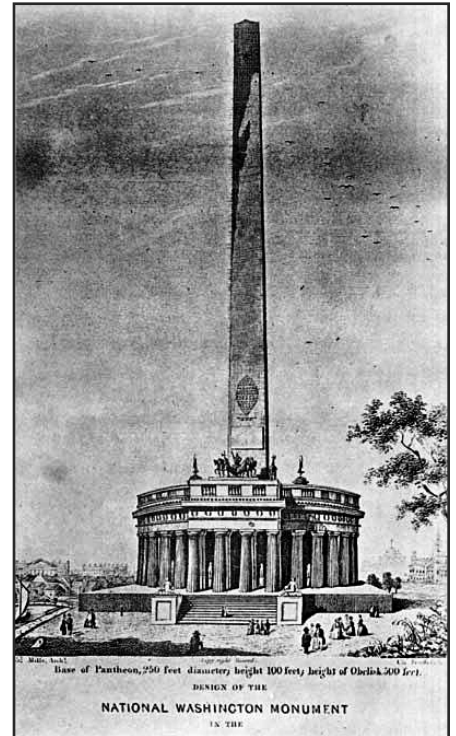
His designs in South Carolina include the Fireproof Record Building, now home to the South Carolina Historical Society, as well as the State Hospital for the Insane in Columbia. He erected the new Treasury Building in Washington DC as well as the Patent Office and Post Office during the 1830's. His design for the Washington Monument was selected in a competition but construction was not complete before his death in 1855.



Robert Mills  
(1781-1855)

Robert Mills private homes and buildings are scattered throughout the South including Abbeville.

Mr. Davies presentation promises keen insights into the man whose life and legend as America's First native-born Architect was remarkable.



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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Greenwood, SC 29649  
Return Service Requested

