



Greenwood County Historical Society

P.O. Box 49653, Greenwood, SC 29649

March 2017

President's Message

Spring! A time of renewal and rejuvenation! We hope you are in anticipation for our local history during this time as well! Come join us at one of our meetings! I thank Tom Howie for allowing me to speak to a group of local historians in Abbeville in February to carry some Greenwood history there, although much of our history is shared history due to our birth from Abbeville County. Great group and it was much enjoyed.

We hope you enjoyed our January meeting as we honored three local homeowners for their restorative efforts in three county historical properties! Please see our website for information on all the properties that we have recognized over the past seven years. Thanks to those that make nominations for their efforts as well.

This month's meeting will cover the rich history of the local YMCA and the YMCA program and mission from Jonathan Bass of Greenwood on Sunday, March 26 at 3:00 pm at the Greenwood Library!

We look forward to our Fifth Annual Antiques Fair on April 29th at Historic Cokesbury College. For those that would like to take part of our undertaking either as a participant or worker, we appreciate your help. Neither the rain nor shine will take away from our endeavors. See Carol Scales for more information on our annual craft fair!

Thank you for your continued support of the GCHS! Financially, we appreciate the renewals, and in attendance of our meetings in support of our mission. Please join and bring a friend. If you have nominations for our 2018 Architectural Restoration and Preservation Awards please send those in!

Upcoming dates for 2017: Our series looks toward the local historical themes in Greenwood County.

Jun 25 3:00 Thirty-two Answered: A South Carolina Veterans Story. Local Men Who Fought With MacArthur- Dr. Joe Camp.

Sept 24 3:00 The History of Lander College: Lander from a Personal Perspective- Dr. Dewitt Stone

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

Yours in History! Chip

How good is your history memory?

Carol Scales found this Old Ninety Six "Trivia Game" in an early 1980's era copy of South Carolina Old Ninety Six Vacation Guide while she was going through old Cokesbury papers. She thought our members might enjoy the historical memory challenge but cautioned, DON'T CHEAT and check the answers before you take a stab at the questions!

Old Ninety Six "Trivia Game"

1. Name the United States President who once lived in Laurens.
2. What celebrated U.S. Statesman and Vice President from this country's history was born in Abbeville?
3. Name the contemporary, distinguished U.S. Statesman whose hometown is Edgefield.
4. Name one of Laurens County's "favorite daughters" who was responsible for the preservation of George Washington's home, Mount Vernon, as a National Shrine.
5. How is Patty Hearst, victim of the headline-making kidnapping several years ago, tied to the Old Ninety Six area?
6. The City of Greenwood received a national honor recently. What was it?
7. What city in Old Ninety Six was named for a village in France?
8. What site in Old Ninety Six is featured in the recent bestseller by William Least Heat Moon, entitled "Blue Highways", a national book club selection?
9. Can you name two heroic leaders who died at the Alamo in Texas? How were they related to Old Ninety Six?
10. Name the famous inventor who has a namesake in Old Ninety Six.
11. What religious sect settled in contemporary McCormick County 225 years ago?
12. How is the pop singer of "Ghostbuster" fame connected to Abbeville County?
13. Name two natives of Greenwood who are regularly featured in movie and television roles.
14. What city in Old Ninety Six has the "widest Main Street in the World"?

For answers, turn to page 3

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. 84

Saturday, May 2, 1942

In concluding a sketchy description of the village of Cambridge (Old Ninety Six) which was more or less scattered along the present highway from our present Ninety Six to Epworth and between Ninety Six and Henley's Creek (a "fork" or tributary of Ninety Six creek), the activities of what probably was the last mercantile concern in Cambridge will be described.

Over forty years ago an old "daybook" was found in one of the old houses of Ninety Six and from names inscribed in the front and back it appeared to have been used first by John Grant and later by Milton Grant who had in Cambridge what in other years was designated a "fancy grocery store." This sort of establishment sold eatables and drinkables, and the latter seems to have been the specialty of the Grant concern, rather than "staple" or the heavy and substantial eatables. Almost every one had their own bread and meat produced at home.

The "day book" of John Grant began in January 1828. The first two pages were missing but all were dated "Cambridge." Milton Grant's name appears in the accounts from the first of January 1840 to the last day of December of that year. What became of the Grants is not known.

The list of customers and their purchases give interesting "side-lights" on the life of the period in and around Old Cambridge. There are customers who undoubtedly lived many miles away, some across Saluda river in Laurens county. While most of the items were of the sort that are or were supposed to allay thirst -- the kind of thirst that Rabalais described -- there were others of a different kind. The concern sold such items as "sperm candles", raisins, cheese, crackers, cigars and these were sold by the "bunch", tobacco, candy, and the proprietor acted as neighborhood banker as now and then this item appeared: "To cash lent."

The business was small, as compared with the volume of business of stores today. For example, the first year showed on the last day of December 1848 a total sale of credit items of \$636.27 only. The record showed the total charge sales for each day and by the month. In one of these totals, the bookkeeper showed a sense of humor or strict conscientiousness in making this entry for the total: "Total -- if no mistake -- \$342.47." There were cash sales, of course, but there is no record of these. The cash sales must have been equal if not greater than the credit sales. But even if twice so large, the annual "volume of business" would have been

"around" two thousand dollars and even with the much greater value or purchasing power of a dollar then as compared with today would not have been much of a business.

The list of beverage stuff included whiskey, New England rum, peach brandy, porter and cider. There were three grades of whiskey, starting at one dollar the gallon, the second was one dollar and twelve and a half cents the gallon and the third was one dollar and a quarter the gallon. The sales included "by the gallon, by the half gallon, by the quart, by the pint, by the half-pint and by the drink", the latter being an "over the counter" transaction. The price for a half pint of whiskey was thirteen cents and a "drink" was charged at six cents. The man who bought by the "drink" would have to take a fairly heavy "slug" to get his money's worth in quantity when compared with bulk purchases. New England rum was one dollar the gallon and so was gin.

Cheese was twenty cents the pound and crackers were twenty-five cents the dozen. Presumably they were large crackers. Raisins were twenty-five cents the pound. Rarely noted was "eggs" at twenty-five cents the dozen. Cigars were sixty-two cents the "bunch" and sometimes a sale of "half a bunch" was made. Peach brandy and "rose cordial" were higher both quoted at thirty-seven cents the quart.

In the list of customers given below it must be remembered that by no means all of these bought beverages.

For example, a weekly customer was B. A. Ross but his weekly purchase was "one dozen sperm candles." He later became a noted doctor of what is now the lower section of Greenwood county and as there is no title of "Dr." before his name in his account he may have been "reading medicine" then and used the "midnight candle" every night.

Beginning in 1839, the most frequent item of the beverage type is "bowl of sanger" and the price was sixty-two cents. The proper name, according to the dictionary is "sangaree" and it is a drink made of wine or brandy and water sweetened and heavily spiced and used in the tropics. But it seems to have made a hit when introduced in the Grant establishment at Cambridge for it appears many times on every page for months in 1839.

Here is an alphabetical list of customers with charge accounts at John Grant's for 1838-39:

(Continued on page 3)

Aigen, William; Andrews, William.

Bailey, Madison; Bell, Lemuel; Brooks, Esau; Burnham, John; Burns, Robert; Burns, Wm. C.; Butler, William.

Carharn, William; Cavar, Sherry; Cain, Dr. S. V.; Carter, Charles; Carter, John Thornton; Carter, Daniel; Chaney, William; Chaney, Robert; Chaney, Simeon; Cheatham, John L.; Chappell, T. H.; Cook, Samuel G.; Coleman, Thos. J.; Culbertson, Elizabeth.

Day, John; Day, Samuel; Drummond, Ephraim; Douglas, William.

Forest, Wyche; Fooshe, Charles W.; Fooshe, John W.; Foy, Wm. F.

Gillam, Harris Y.; Glosier, Wm.; Golding, John; Golding, R. G.; Golding, Jackson; Golding, Charles, Griffin, Larkin.

Harden, David; Harris, Green; Hagood, Charles; Hagood, Richard; Hazel, Richard; Hensley, Wesley G.; Holmway, G. W.; Holt, Benjamin; Holt, John; Howle, Alexander.

Jester, William; Jester, Thomas.

Langley, Stephen; Lewis, John D.; Loveless, Thos. H.

Martin, Freeman G.; May, Stanford; Marlow, Wiley; Marlow, John; Mathews, William; Mays, Mathew; Marion, Samuel G.; Maxwell, Thomas; Mims, John; Moore, John; Moore, John M.; Mounce, Wiley D.; Morris, Kenneth; Morris, Obed; McLennon, John; McKinney, Jeremiah; McKinney, James; McCants, Nathaniel; McGowan, John.

Norrel, John.

Osmer, Horace.

Payne, Elihu; Payne, Thomas; Payne, Whitfield; Payne, Meredith; Peart, James; Proctor, Daniel; Purkerson, Ezekiel.

Reynolds, Bennett; Rice, Garland; Ross, Fed (Federick); Ross, B. A.; Ross, Bonham; Roten, Thomas; Roten, Willis; Rogers, David; Rushton, Mathew.

Sale, Johnson; Sheppard, George; Scurry, John; Smith, Wm. B.; Spikes, Henry M.; Still, Richmond.

Tarrant, Robert; Tod and Smith.

White, William; Whitley, William; Wilcox, A. E.; Williams, Williamson; Williams, Henry R.; Wyman, Joshua.

(To be continued.)

Old Ninety Six “Trivia Game” Answers

1. Andrew Johnson, 17th President of the United States, lived in Laurens in the 1820s and operated a tailor shop.

2. John. C. Calhoun, Prominent in United States history. Calhoun also, at one time, practiced law in Abbeville.

3. United States Senator Strom Thurmond.

4. Ann Pamela Cunningham. Ms. Cunningham was born at Rosemont Plantation at Waterloo in Laurens County in the 1800s her portrait hangs in the State Capitol, the only woman among distinguished sons of South Carolina.

5. The Hearst family line in this country began in what is now Greenwood County. Ancestral sites of the Hearst family, some on the National Register of Historic Places, are located throughout Old Ninety Six.

6. Greenwood has the honor of being one of the 20 American cities featured in “The Best Towns in America—A Where-To-Go Guide for a better Life” by Hugh Bayless; published in 1983

7. Abbeville. Named by Dr. John de la Howe after his native home in France.

8. The National Historic Site at Ninety Six is one of several featured scenarios or unusual or unique places throughout the country.

9. James Butler Bonham and Col. William Barrett Travis were both natives of Edgefield County.

10. Cyrus McCormick; inventor of the reaper.

11. French Huguenots.

12. Ray Parker, Jr. who has relatives in Abbeville County, recently purchased investment property near Calhoun Falls.

13. Bo Hopkins; one of the original “Dynasty” stars; has numerous TV and movie credits; usually “villain” roles; is from Ware Shoals in Greenwood County. Granger Hines has regular daytime soap opera roles and has been featured in “T. J. Hooker” and “The A-Team” among others.

14. Greenwood. Main street has a width of 316 feet.

Speaker’s Bio

Johnathan Bass is currently serving as Director of Development for the Greenwood Family YMCA, and has developed a new culture of philanthropy to ensure that the Y is positioned as a charity of choice in the Greenwood community. He is the senior leader among staff with program development and operational experience. His experience began as a child playing sports at the local Greenwood YMCA and soon began refereeing games. In 2001 he began full time duties in the Aquatics Director position and eventually took on the Sports Director’s responsibilities, serving for 5 years. He later served in Irmo as a Branch Executive and two years later in membership for the entire Columbia YMCA, and as Branch Executive for the Uptown YMCA. He later served at Columbia’s Jeep Rogers Family YMCA, a new 42,000 square foot facility serving 10,000 members, before returning to Greenwood with his family.

Johnathan, the son of Beth McKinney Bass, is married to Stacey Sprouse Bass and they have two daughters, Emma (5) and Lily (3).



Greenwood County Historical Society

March Greenwood County Historical Society Meeting March 26, 2017 – 3:00 pm – Greenwood County Library

We will hear about the rich and rewarding history of the YMCA in Greenwood County and how the organization has grown and flourished to become one of Greenwood's jewels in the crown for families throughout the area. Our speaker will be Johnathan Bass who currently serves as Director of Development for the Greenwood Family YMCA, and has developed a new culture of philanthropy to ensure that the Y is positioned as a charity of choice in the Greenwood community.

5th Annual Antique and Artisan's Fair Saturday, April 29th 9am until 4 pm at Cokesbury College

Crafters, Artisans and Antique Dealers

Appraiser on Site for a donation (\$10 for two items)

New or Used Yard Sale Items Needed!

Call Carol Scales (227-0687) for pick up or delivery information

Your donations are tax deductible

2017 Historical Society Dues

If you have a blue "X" on the face of this newsletter you are NOT current with your 2017 dues to the Greenwood County Historical Society. An addressed envelope has been 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

