



## **Greenwood County Historical Society**

P.O. Box 49653, Greenwood, SC 29649

November 2017

### **President's Message**

**November 2017**

**We hope you enjoyed our last meeting at the Greenwood Library in September!** If you were not in attendance, you missed a great meeting. Dr. DeWitt Stone, educator and historian, and Dr. Paul Crutcher, Lander professor, led a remembrance of and look at the history of Stones ancestor, Samuel Lander, and the history of Lander College. The discussion was great and the video superb! Those in attendance were treated to a wonderful presentation.

Our next meeting will be held at Cokesbury College on November 5! Note the time and venue. Mac Wyckoff former park ranger at Chancellorsville will present on Alexander McNeill's Civil War Letters. Mr. McNeill was a resident of Greenwood, the Phoenix community, and fought in the "war between the states". He was later a business partner of Mr. William Waller in Greenwood. This should be a great topic of interest to many of different persuasions so we ask you to attend and to share the message of this meeting.

**October is Archaeology Month- From: The State Historic Preservation Office- HISTORIC PRESERVATION NEWS AND NOTES** October is Archaeology Month in South Carolina. This year's theme is "Archaeology in State Parks". Dozens of organizations will offer programs around the state this fall and into next year. Visit our website for the events and digital copies of the Archaeology Month poster, which is also available for free at the SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at 1321 Pendleton Street in Columbia. Please check out the ASSC website [www.archaeologysc.org](http://www.archaeologysc.org) and the SHPO website for more information.

January we will hold our Architectural Restoration and Preservation Awards. Also, Mrs. Joyce Bowden will be here to speak on her local family connections to the Cokesbury/Tabernacle community. We look forward to this meeting.

We will partner with the Abbeville, McCormick, history groups, local DAR and SAR groups in February 2018 as we commemorate the rededication of the Long Cane Massacre Site in Troy on February 4 at 2:00. Mark your calendars to be a part of this commemoration—directions will follow

Dates for 2018, topics to follow: January 28, February 4, March 25, June 24, September 30, and November 4

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

*Yours in History!*      *ctinsley63@yahoo.com*

*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. 87

Saturday, May 23, 1942

The home just beyond the John C. Walker place still known in the older generation as the "Jim Griffin place" as previously mentioned, was first settled by Leonard Andrews, brother of William P. and both sons of William Andrews. For some time it was the home of Dr. B. A. Ross who after a few years removed to the house now owned by E. S. Moorner at Gaines. Dr. Ross lived there for many years before he started with his family to remove to Texas. He died on the way.

Just beyond the "Jim Griffin place" was a large old house, which was the home of Capt. Robert Child. The house was burned over fifty years ago. It was on the same side of Henley's creek as the Walkers and Griffins but not on a public road. The present public road which leaves the paved highway from Ninety Six to Epworth a short distance east of W. N. Henderson's and runs to the present Marshall Chapel Colored Baptist church seems to include in part an old road which went not far from both the "Jim Griffin place" named above and the "old Jim Griffin place," home of the Revolutionary soldier. Above Marshall Chapel it must have tapped the very old road from Old Ninety Six to Reid's mill on Long Cane and later known as the Old Abbeville road.

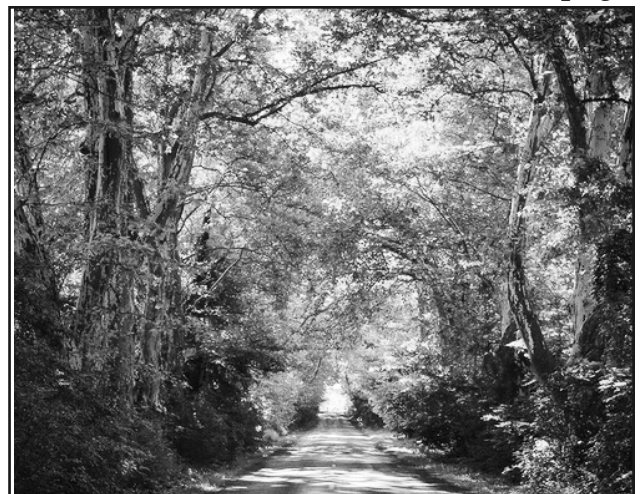
Capt. Robert (Bob) Child, already mentioned, married Sara E. Todd, daughter of the Rev. R. M. Todd. He died Jan. 30, 1846 at the age of 55. His wife died on March 31, 1847 at the age of 25. She may have been his second wife but there were no other children as the only one mentioned in his will is one son, William, the child of Sarah T. Child. The will of Captain Robert Child was dated Jan. 3, 1846, about twenty-seven days before his death. He named his brother, James Wesley Child, as executor. His property was to go to his son, William A. Child, and his wife, Sarah T. Child. If his son William Child should die before reaching maturity or in infancy, then the whole of William's estate was to go to the children of James Wesley Child, brother of Robert. He also left a bequest to his nephew Robert Alexander Child (named for him). The witnesses to the will were Z. W. Carwile, later removed to Edgefield; John R. Tarrant, later located in Greenwood; and Abraham P. Pool. Mr. Pool was a neighbor. Mr. Pool's wife was Jemima Gilliam, daughter of David and Lucy Gilliam. The appraisers of the estate of Capt. Robert Child were Z. W. Carwile, Abraham Pool, John McLennan, the Scot who had had a store at Old Cambridge and later owned most of the site of the present Ninety Six, Nathaniel

McCants, previously mentioned, and William Carter, also a neighbor, then living where John M. Walker later lived, the two exchanging properties.

Sara E. Child, wife of Capt. Robert, died March 31, 1847 and her will was signed March 7 of that year. Her brother-in-law, Patrick Eddins qualified as administrator with will annexed a month later. Patrick Eddins was a son of Wm. Eddins, Revolutionary patriot. He afterwards removed to Alabama. Witnesses to the will of Sara E. Child were her mother Elizabeth Todd, James A. Pope and James H. Wilson. William A. Pope was the owner of "Pope's Still" on Wilson's creek, previously mentioned and also James H. Wilson, son of the merchant and first postmaster of Cambridge. The appraisers of her estate were Larkin G. Carter, Nathaniel McCants, Abraham P. Pool and Dr. S. V. Cain. All her property was left to her son, William Child who removed to Alabama and married in that State.

James Wesley Child, brother of Capt. Robert Child, for years a school teacher at Fellowship Baptist church and later owner of a hotel at Old Cambridge and the last one to survive there, died Aug. 11, 1858. He was fifty-seven years old. Like his brother Capt. Robert and brother John – who never married – he is buried in the Griffin-Child burying ground on the "Lightfoot place," previously located. James Wesley Child was twice married. His first wife, as noted on the grave stone was "M. F. Child" and she died Nov. 20, 1837 at the age of 33 years. James Wesley Child married second Elizabeth Griffin, daughter of Joseph Griffin and his wife Parthenia Coleman Griffin.

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James Wesley Child in his will dated June 18, 1858, not quite a month before his death on August 11, 1858, named as legatees, his wife Elizabeth Griffin Child, and the following children: Louisa A. E. Child who had married William Griffin; Arabella T. Child who had married Thomas C. Griffin; Mildred Child who had married Thomas McCaslan; James W. Child Jr.; Sara R. Child; Robert R. Child; and Rufus Alexander Child. The son-in-law Thos. C. Griffin and a friend, Maj. Z. W. Carwile were executors. Carwile married a daughter of Col. Dick Griffin. The witnesses to the will were D. T. S. Blake, Dr. John Holland and W. S. Blake. The appraisers were Abraham P. Pool, John Gaulden, William Carter, John M. Walker and W. S. Blake.

Louisa Child and Arabella Child were children of the first marriage of James Wesley Child. Their husbands, the Griffin brothers were brothers of Elizabeth Griffin, the second wife of James Wesley Child.

The children of James Wesley Child and his first wife named above who married Griffins have had their children listed. The children of his second marriage removed from this section. Of these was the late Rev. Rufus A. Child, D.D., prominent Methodist minister. Dr. Child was born at Old Cambridge May 12, 1850. He was eight years old at the time of his father's death. He attended the neighborhood schools and as a young man clerked in the store of Sale and Ouzts at Phoenix. He was next a student at Richmond College, now University of Richmond, and after leaving college read law, was admitted to the bar and located at Pickens. In 1878 he represented Pickens county in the State Legislature and was editor of the Pickens Sentinel. He joined the Methodist church in 1882 and became a local preacher. In 1889 he was admitted to the Conference on trial and served a number of important charges, including Rock Hill, Chester, Darlington, and Greenwood in 1899. He was made a presiding elder the following year in charge of Cokesbury district and of Greenville district two years later. From 1905 to 1910 Dr. Child was financial agent of Wofford College and raised over one hundred thousand dollars for that institution, regarded at the time as the most successful campaign of its kind in the history of denominational education in the State. From 1911 to 1913 Dr. Child was financial agent of Lander College. He was already in declining health and in March 1915 he died at his home in Hendersonville, N. C. He had served many years as president of the Legal Conference of his church and held many other positions of distinction and importance. The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on him by Erskine College in 1905. Dr. Child was twice married, first to Essie Holcombe of Pickens county, and some years after her death to Maggie A. Roper of Marlboro county.

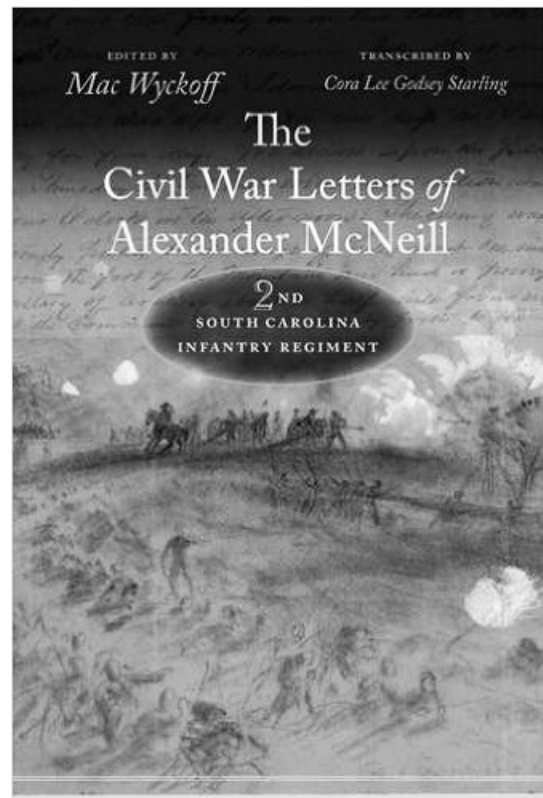
Beyond the Capt. Robert Child lands were lands of Martin Hackett and also Waller lands, previously described. (To be continued.)

**Discover the incredible letters of Confederate Soldier at GCHS Meeting November 5**

The incredible letters from Confederate Soldier Alexander McNeill to his wife Tinie are the largest and best collection of Civil War letters ever seen, Union or Confederate, according to Mac Wyckoff, retired National Park historian and speaker for the Greenwood County Historical Society on November 5, at 3:00 pm at Cokesbury College. Wyckoff is specialist on Kershaw's South Carolina Brigade and re-wrote his book on the 2nd South Carolina after the discovery of the letters.

During the American Civil War, Alexander "Sandy" McNeill, a southern merchant, served in the Secession Guards, Company F, and Second South Carolina Regiment from April 17, 1861, to May 2, 1865. Within three weeks after the war began at Fort Sumter, McNeill wrote his first epistle to his long-time friend, Almirah Haseltine "Tinie" Simmons, in a campaign to win her heart and hand in marriage. The 29-year-old McNeill proclaimed in that letter, "I have always esteemed you as a friend and now I feel stealing over me a feeling which tells me that you are now held in higher estimation than that of a friend."

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## Greenwood County Historical Society

### *Next GCHS Meeting on Nov. 5—Confederate letters, cont.*

With the exception of three breaks in communication, McNeill wrote to Tinie four to five times a week and persisted to the last week of April 1865, more than two weeks after General Robert E. Lee had surrendered at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. In general, letters written during the final six months of the war are hard to find as are many other primary source materials for the waning war. While this is among the largest and fullest Civil War collections, it is the literary quality of McNeill's letters and wide variety of topics reported that distinguish it from others. (1)

Alexander McNeill was born in Phoenix of what is now Greenwood County but also lived in New Market and spent most of his life in Greenwood. Wyckoff found that McNeill wrote regarding 90 of the 170 men from what is now Abbeville and Greenwood counties who served in his company. He also mentions dozens of Greenwood residents—both civilians and soldiers—who lived in the Greenwood area, an unmatched wealth of information about citizens who lived in our city at a different time and under very different circumstances.

Wyckoff wrote that the McNeill letters were saved and treasured by his family and descendants, and in 1965 were organized and transcribed by Cora Lee Starling, his great-granddaughter, of Greenwood. It took Mrs. Starling more than 15 years to transcribe the letters. In 2012, Wyckoff worked to organize, introduce, and provide a bibliography and index and in the Fall of 2016, the Civil War Letters of Alexander McNeill was published by the University of South Carolina Press.

Mr. Wyckoff is a retired National Park Service historian who served at the Shiloh, Chickamauga, and Fredericksburg National Military Parks for forty years. He is the author of *A History of the 2nd South Carolina Infantry, 1861–1865* and *A History of the 3rd South Carolina Infantry, 1861–1865* and coauthor of *The Legacy of a Common Civil War Soldier: Private Thomas Marion Shields, a Collection of 34 Letters, 1861–1865*.

Wyckoff will present the story of the discovery of the letters and how they came to be published at the Greenwood Historical Society Meeting on Sunday, November 5, at 3:00 pm at Cokesbury College, 210 College Drive, Cokesbury, SC. The meeting is free and open to the public.

(1) University of South Carolina Press.

### Get a jump on your 2018 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**

