



Greenwood County Historical Society

P.O. Box 49653, Greenwood, SC 29649

October 2021

A Celebration!

Help celebrate our 2021 ARPA Awards!

Please join us on Sunday, October 24, at 3:00 at the Federal Building (Arts Center) in Uptown Greenwood, as we honor the winners of the 2021 Architectural Restoration and Preservation Awards. It has been three years since our last awards—and these homeowners have done a magnificent job of preserving and restoring the history and dignity of these amazing homes. We will also be joined by author Marion F. Sturkey to discuss his book “The Bald Eagle of Edgefield”, Cokesbury’s Martin Witherspoon Gary.

Great story of Hodge’s Jackson Station & special memorial for Hodges

On July 28 we met at Hodges Town hall to hear Dr. Daniel Harrison from Lander University discuss his book “Live at Jackson Station”. It was an informative and entertaining story of the history of the Hodges Depot, the musicians that played there, and the tragedy that ended it all. We were delighted when John Robert Young, GCHS secretary, presented Renee M. Tinsley, member of the Hodges Town Council, with a transcript of the council’s minutes from 1896 through 1984. John Robert had transcribed the original journal to allow people to learn of Hodges’ interesting past without damaging the fragile original document—testament to the mission of historic preservation.

Welcome new members and a new timeline for membership renewal

Our new members are Ms. Lara Litwer, Mr. Robert Tinsley, Sr., and Perry & Mary Pinson. We also want to thank the Gary Foundation and Old Edgefield Chapter SCV for their generous contributions to the upkeep of Tabernacle Cemetery. Given the pandemic and time lost for meetings and activities, the GCHS Board has voted to set a new membership period from January 1 2022 to December 31, 2022 for all members. For those of you who renewed in 2021, your membership will be extended into the new time frame. If you have a return envelope in your newsletter—please renew now for 2022.

Mark your calendar – meetings for 2022

Our 2022 meeting dates will be January 23, April 24, July 24 and October 23—looking forward to an engaging year!

Yours in history, Chip Tinsley, President



The Werts House ca 1901
Built by John Rufus and Lula Culbreath Werts, Sr. Zach and Julia McClanahan, Owners. 226 Main St. W, Ninety Six, SC



The Buchanan House ca 1895
Built by Francis A. and Sarah Buchanan Buck and Jean Griffin, owners 1223 Hwy 246 N, Greenwood, SC



The Willard House ca 1885
Built by John H. Willard Jamie and Amy Reese, owners 733 Willard Rd., Greenwood, SC

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. 99

Saturday, August 15, 1942

Running on the west side of Mountain Creek church, after crossing diagonally the Martin Town road at Clegg's Cross Roads below Kirksey, is quite an old road known as the Blocker Road.

On the west side of the Martin Town road this Blocker road appears to have had its beginning on that side at some point on the Scott's Ferry road which has been previously described. And this connection further appears to have been in the community in which Dr. Ephraim Andrews, Elbert DeVore and others lived. Or perhaps somewhere near the home of the late Press Kemp.

Before reaching the fork of the road, west of the home of the late Will H. Clegg, which leads out into this area cut off from Greenwood for McCormick county and between the Kemp settlement and this fork was, eighty-odd years ago a well-known school, Olive Branch, and also the Olive Branch Baptist church. There are no signs of the school building or the church. The church, from older residents, was on a hill after leaving the Kemps, to be noted later, going toward Kirksey, and just before reaching Horse Pen creek or Horse Pen branch which presumably runs into Horse Pen creek.

"Horse Pen", to this generation may seem an unusual name, but it was a rather common name in the early days and is thus explained by Bishop Alexander Gregg in his History of the Old Cheraws: "Large numbers of wild horses and cattle...were found by the first settlers in the woods of Carolina. Many were caught and domesticated and stock raising became a prolific source of wealth...The wild stock were caught by the simple contrivance of a large and well secured pen in the fork of two branches or larger streams (of water) into which the frightened and over-powered animal was driven. In some cases where the banks of the branches were boggy and could not be entered upon, a fence was built some distance above the point of junction and this was the only enclosure required. Some of our smaller streams are yet found to retain the name "horse pen", indicating that they were made to serve the purpose above indicated. The stock (thus captured) were driven to Charleston and other places on the coast as well as to more distant markets."

Olive Branch, above mentioned, is a tributary to Horse Pen creek.

Before the church was organized, the school there was quite a flourishing one. One teacher "Before the War" who was often mentioned by older residents was Thomas P. Moses. Mr. Moses not only taught the rudiments and fundamentals but he was quite a musician and artist. Many of his pupils in music and art came from other sections. Some of the pictures, both by the teacher and by pupils, including portraits, were still in existence in this community, at least up to a few years ago.

Olive Branch Baptist church was formed in 1856 and the formation was said to have been due to some disaffection among the members of Mountain Creek Baptist church. Elbert DeVore, whose home was not far away, was one of the leaders in forming the new church. It was in 1855 and 1856 that Rev. John Trapp for two years broke his long pastorate at Mountain Creek, returning in 1857 to remain pastor till his death in 1876, and this may have some connection with the Olive Branch organization. The last pastor of Olive Branch church was the Rev. John H. Dargan and after his resignation in 1877, the organization finally went to pieces, most of the members returning to Mountain Creek.

After passing this location of the church and the school, coming towards the W. H. Clegg place and reaching the fork of the road above mentioned, the road branching off here and running southwest goes by the old original Joshua Harris place. Joshua Harris was the father of Joshua W. Harris and John Harris. The latter died young and the former removed to Southwest Georgia in the Nineties when there was such an exodus of farmers from this part of South Carolina to Georgia.

Much of the land beyond the Harris place was the LaGrone lands, owned by E. F. and E. V. LaGrone at the time of the formation of Greenwood county.

Beyond these was John B. Harrison whose house was one of the largest frame houses in this part of the State.

(continued on next page)

Part of the frame is still standing but it is almost a total wreck. In front of this house and across the road stood Mount Vernon Methodist church, one of the old Methodist churches of Edgefield, later Greenwood and now McCormick counties. Quite some distance to the southwest is the old G. W. Lanter home, a large house but also in a state of decay.

Mount Vernon church, according to tradition began with a preaching service held under an arbor of brush—as did many others in pioneer days. There was later a log house also used for a school and then a frame building, later replaced by a larger building. This building was destroyed by fire last year. The fire began in the roof, possibly from sparks from the stove, and in a short time the building was burned to the ground. The grave yard in the rear of the building contains some of the older residents of the neighborhood.

From an old record book, in existence in 1911, it was noted then that the Mount Vernon church building was “commenced in December 1830 and was ready to preach in when the preachers returned from Conference in 1831”. The record begins: “A true account of the year that Mt. Vernon church was built.” Later it was stated: “John R. Cobourn preached the first sermon in it. Joel W. Townsend and John R. Cobourn rode this circuit this year 1831.” The name should be “Coburn”, as listed in Shipp’s History of Methodism in South Carolina. Mr. Coburn was a native of Charleston and had been a member of the South Carolina Conference only two years when he preached the first sermon in the Mount Vernon Building. Mr. Coburn died in Florence in 1880 at the age of eighty-two. The Rev. Joe W. Townsend, frequently mentioned, finally located at Cokesbury and died there.

The members of Mount Vernon in the 1831, listed in the record were: John Davis, Stephen Langley, James Harrison, Allen Clegg, Hester Buffington, Mary Langley, Roseanna Langley, Mary Harrison, Jane Clegg, Margaret Walker, and Elizabeth Langley. Eight slaves were listed.

The next year, 1832, the preachers riding the circuit were Joel W. Townsend and Allen Hamby. Following were new members for the year: James J. Langley, John Green, Solomon Johnson, John Ballard, Sarah E. Harrison, John W. Ballard, Sarah Ballard, Elizabeth Shirley, Margaret Langley, and Zare (?) Langley. Only one new name appears the following year, 1833, and this was William Rhodes. An entry of the following year, 1834 follows: William Rhoades (Rhodes) died on Nov. 24th. It is also recorded: “There were no whites received on trial, none dropped, received into full

fellowship, put back on trial, expelled during the year, but Sarah Harrison withdrew and no one removed this year.” Another entry: “Sarah Harrison was married on Feb. 18th.” It is not recorded to whom she was married. Her marriage was, evidently, before she “withdrew.”

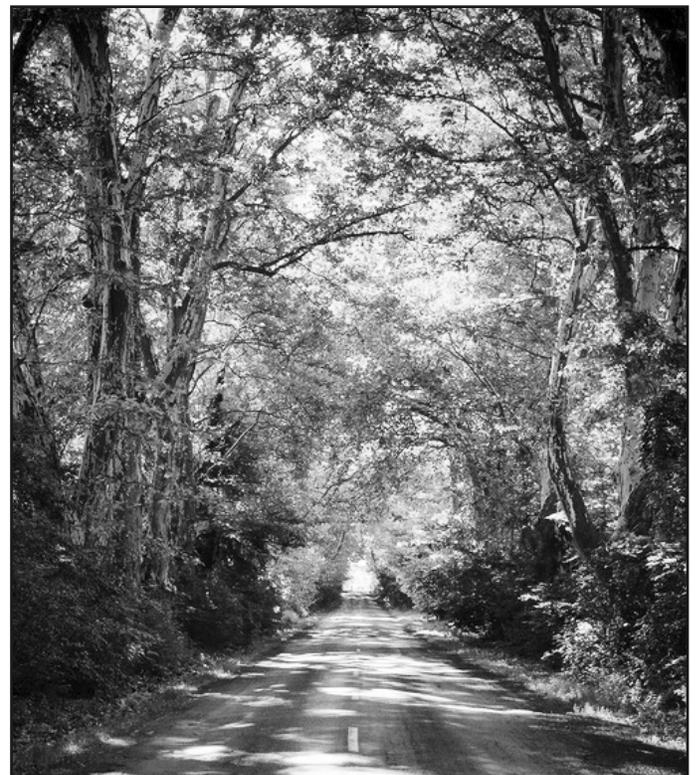
From year to year growth was slow, a few names being added each year. In 1841 it was recorded that a “camp meeting held at Mt. Vernon this year commencing on October the 1st, and broke up on the 5th...and 77 joined the church during the meeting, 12 white and 65 colored.” The names of new members include: Martha Arthur, Zilla Ramsey, Margaret E. Harrison, Amanda Rogers, Emela Holloway, Elizabeth Clegg, Clary Stalnaker, Martha Smith and Eban Vaughan. Margaret E. Harrison, in this list, died in November, two months after uniting.

The next list of new members is for the year 1849. John E. Harrison, Stephen Langley, James H. Mayson, Caroline Langley. Among those “removed” were Abner Wideman, Martha Cox, Sarah Hill, Mary Vaughn, Hezekiah Cox and Francis Cox.

The old record closes with the year 1852 but the entries include only the names of the preachers who served in the interval between 1850 and 1852.

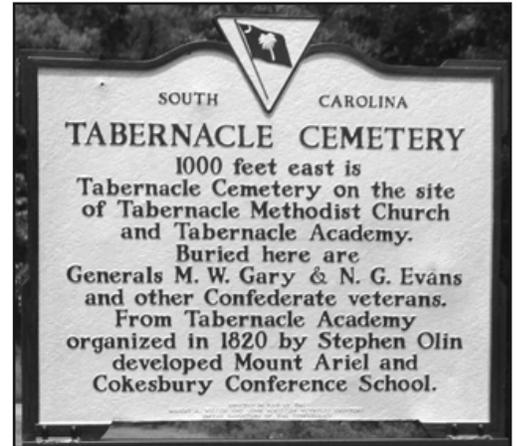
The presiding elder for 1852 was Samuel Leard; the preacher in charge of the circuit was L. H. Brown and the junior preacher was G. W. Ivy.

(To be continued)



Author to present on Martin Gary October 24 at 3:00

Martin Witherspoon Gary was born in Abbeville County, South Carolina, a son of Dr. Thomas Reeder Gary and Mary Ann Porter Gary. His early studies were at Cokesbury Academy and he graduated from Harvard University in 1854. A fervent secessionist, Gary was elected to the S.C. House of Representatives. After secession, he joined Hampton's Legion, as an infantry captain but served to the war's end, participating in every major engagement in which the legion fought. By May of 1864, he had attained the rank of brigadier general and took command of a cavalry brigade in the defense of Richmond. At Appomattox, he refused to surrender and took a troop of 200 to escort Jefferson Davis and his cabinet south from Richmond. He escorted the party as far as his mother's home in Cokesbury, where he turned over his command and ended his career as a Confederate soldier. But this was just the beginning.



South Carolina author **Marion F. Sturkey** through *"The Bald Eagle of Edgefield"*, has created a studied view of Gary in this, his 16th book that has been called a precedent for recording history, a story with no stone left unturned, and the way to become acquainted with this period in South Carolina history.

Join us on **October 24, at 3:00 at the Federal Building (Arts Center) in Uptown Greenwood** as Marion Sturkey discusses this legendary figure. Marion Sturkey served as a combat-assault helicopter pilot in the U.S. Marine Corps during the war in Vietnam. He served as a commercial pilot and later worked as a manager at AT&T for 25 years. Military history, aviation history and American history are his focus and he lives in his original rural hometown, Plum Branch, South Carolina.



Marion F. Sturkey

Greenwood County Historical Society

P.O. Box 49653

Greenwood, SC 29649

Return Service Requested

