



Greenwood County Historical Society

P.O. Box 49653, Greenwood, SC 29649

October 2022

Presidents Message - October 2022

Many thanks for the taste of Greenwood! We had a great meeting in July at the Federal Building—Greenwood Arts Center. More than 60 of us listened to John Robert Young present his writings on the original hotels of Greenwood—the Riley, the Moreland, and the Oregon and “How Greenwood Entertained”. Those in attendance were treated to a “taste of old Greenwood” by members using the menus from Young’s research. Thank you to all that helped in this effort. John Robert and his books are featured in the Fall issue of the Index-Journal SO Lakelands magazine.

Cherokee Path to be explored at our October 23 meeting. Mark your calendar for our last meeting of 2022 on October 23 at The Federal Building—Greenwood Arts Center. **Our speaker is Dennis Chastain**, award-winning outdoor writer, historian, tour guide and naturalist who serves as the Blue Wall Vice-President of the Pickens County Historical Society. He is working to secure funding for an historically accurate reconstruction of the colonial era Fort Prince George. Dennis has done much research and will speak on the Cherokee Path in Upstate SC. Once described by the Greenville News as a “modern day Daniel Boone,” he has spent most his adult life exploring, photographing and writing about the South Carolina mountains and has made a number of important discoveries along the way. This includes wildflowers in Pickens County, the remnants of long forgotten roads, Native-American trails, and prehistoric rock carvings on Pinnacle and Table Rock Mountains that he and Archaeologist Tommy Charles documented. Please come and bring a friend!

Membership Update! We welcome new members Becky Bryson, Dr. “Jukie” & Cindy Leary, David & Jeanie Patterson, John & Susan Thompson, and Rob & Courtney Adams Christensen. Our deepest condolences to the family of our benefactor, Joyce Bowden, who passed away in June in Boston. Joyce used time and resources to contribute to the restoration and upkeep of Tabernacle Cemetery. Her family research led her to this Cokesbury community and her Conner family relations. Her book on the Connor family is a must read. We remember her at this time.

2022 ARPA Awards in January. Looking ahead, on January 23, 2023 we will honor two county properties for the annual GCHS Architectural Restoration and Preservation Awards. Please join us.

Yours in history, Chip Tinsley
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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. 102

Saturday, September 5, 1942

Before following the old Blocker road east of the Martin Town road which it crosses at Clegg's Cross Roads, there should be mentioned in some detail the Kemp family who were early settlers on the upper section of the Blocker road as it connected with the Scott's Ferry road.

In the census of 1790 there are no persons by the name of Kemp listed in Edgefield County but there are several heads of families of this name in Greenville county and one in Pendleton. Several of the family given names are the same as those found in the family in the Kirksey section and very probably it is the same family. There are many of the name in North Carolina and in Virginia.

First of the name to settle in what is now Greenwood county appears to have been Wiley Kemp. Wiley Kemp and his wife Nancy, last name not known, were married Dec. 25, 1788. Nancy Kemp, wife of Wiley, died Jan. 28 1928. Wiley Kemp died Dec. 12, 1829. It is believed their home was at or near the site of the home built by their great grandson the late Preston Butler Kemp, near the bridge over Cuffee Town creek. They and others probably are buried in an old family burying ground about one hundred yards from the house. Lower down the road towards Kirksey is the old Lewis H. Kemp home. He was a grandson of Wiley and Nancy Kemp.

The children of Wiley and Nancy Kemp were: Sterling V. Kemp born Feb. 4, 1790; Henry (Harry) J. Kemp born Mar. 12, 1792; Clarissa S. Kemp born March, 1794; Richard Kemp born April 26, 1797, Susanna Kemp born Jan. 25, 1799 and died Nov. 19, 1800.

Records of the descendants of Henry (Harry) J. Kemp, Clarissa S. Kemp and Richard Kemp only are available but the latter only in part.

Henry J. Kemp married Hannah Gorman, born Mar. 12, same birthday as her husband, 1797, though five years younger. She was a daughter of John Gorman and his wife Nancy Nicholson Gorman. Nancy Nicholson Gorman was a daughter of David Nicholson, of North Carolina.

The children of Henry J. and Hannah Gorman Kemp were: Clarissa Kemp born July 23, 1814; Caroline Kemp born Oct. 14, 1816; Lewis H. Kemp born Nov. 27, 1819; Elizabeth Amanda Kemp born Feb. 5, 1823; William L. Kemp born Jan. 6, 1826 and died Oct. 20, 1827; Mary Anne Kemp born April 15, 1828; Frances Kemp born May 25, 1832; John Wiley Kemp born Dec. 25, 1834; and Nancy Rebecca Kemp born Oct. 20 ----.

Clarissa S. Kemp, above, daughter of H. J. and Hannah G. Kemp, married John Durst Nov. 3, 1836. He was born in 1805 and died June 7, 1882. She died Nov. 4, 1880.

John Durst was a son of Peter Durst (originally "Darst" and this spelling is still noted in North Carolina) but Peter Durst is listed with that spelling "Durst" in the census of 1790. It appears to be most probable that this Peter Durst was a son of the first Peter Darst mentioned in the list of Palatines coming to this section in 1764. This Peter, according to family tradition, was thirty-nine years old when he settled here and it seems certain that it was his son Peter who was the father of John Durst.

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Peter Durst in addition to his son John, had another son James Durst and two daughters, Katherine and Elizabeth. James Durst is mentioned in family letters as being in Confederate service. Nothing further is known of him. Katherine (Katie) Durst married Peter Timmerman and died Apr. 2, 1896. She is buried at McKendree Methodist church.

The children of John Durst and Clarissa Kemp Durst were: Thomas Nicholson Durst born Jan. 12, 1838, was member of Company G. Seventh S. C. R. in Confederate service and corporal of the company at its organization. He died in service Nov. 10, 1864 at Winchester, Va. His uncle, J. Wiley Kemp was first lieutenant of this company and appears to have succeeded W. E. Clark killed in battle, as captain. He was called Captain Kemp. If he did not die in service he did not live long after the war. There are many Kirksey community names in this company, including besides Kemp and Durst, M. Ouzts, J. C. Rambo, Thomas Alton, J. S. Alton, W. G. Alton, B. F. Boone, Frank Dean, Carr Williams, Hix Holloway, Dr. D. P. Holloway, J. R. Sentell, and others some miles away like F. A. Townsend, Amon Stallworth Jr., Press Williams, Pinckney Williams, Caleb Walton, Jack Whatley and others.

This company was first organized in April 1861 from the Upper Battalion, Tenth S. C. State Militia with John Hampden (Ham) Brooks as captain and W. E. Clark first lieutenant and later captain, when Captain Brooks went into another branch of the service. H. C. King was second lieutenant; G. J. Strother, third lieutenant; John Wiley Kemp, first sergeant; B. L. Youngblood, H. C. Culbreath and Dr. Carr S. Williams, sergeants; Corporals J. M. Proctor, J. W. Edison, B. G. Smith, R. H. Holloway and R. S. Burnett. The privates included many from around Kirksey and below Ninety Six.

The second child of John Durst and his wife Clarissa Kemp Durst was James Henry Durst born July 3, 1839 and died Nov. 28, 1844.

The fourth child of John Durst and Clarissa K. Durst was Mary Louise born June 30, 1841. She was married Dec. 22, 1868 to Benjamin N. Seago, of Richmond county, Ga. He was born Dec. 29, 1845 and died in Greenwood, Jan. 8, 1912. She died in Greenwood April 15, 1926. They had six children. Mr. Seago came into the Kirksey section as a young man and clerked in the store owned by the Rev. J. P. Bodie, a local preacher of the South Carolina Conference. Mr. Bodie also operated the "jug factory" and pottery plant here as previously mentioned. The place was between the present Kirksey store and the S. P. Mathews home and was later bought by Mr. Mathews. Much pottery of all kinds was made here for years. Mr. Bodie was the father of the late W. W. and W. P. Bodie, of Greenwood.

The fifth child of John Durst and Clarissa K. Durst was Williams Lowndes Durst born Aug. 31, 1843. He was twice married, first to Louise DeVore Dec. 3, 1874; and after her death April 20, 1893, he was married Dec. 29, 1898 to Annie Cothran. Mr. Durst died Feb. 23, 1902. Mrs. Annie C. Durst born May 29, 1865, died Sept. 12, 1933. There were no children by either marriage.

William L. Durst was in Confederate service as a member of co. G., First S. C. R. (Gregg's). When organized in 1862, A. P. Butler was captain and Wiley H. Holloway was first lieutenant. Butler was promoted and Capt. Wiley H. Holloway served through the war. W. L. Durst was fourth corporal at first, promoted to second corporal in 1862, then third sergeant and was second sergeant at the close of service. He was a member of the famous color guard of 13 at Gaines Mill, when every man of the color guard was shot down before the engagement was over. Most of them were killed. Mr. Durst was wounded in the foot and recovered. This affair was one of the most brilliant instances of courage during the war. C. H. Gardner of Kirksey, of this guard was killed in the action.

(to be continued.)

Our next GCHS meeting is Sunday, October 23, at the Federal Building Greenwood Arts Center auditorium at 3:00 pm

Renowned Historian Dennis Chastain to speak on the Cherokee Trail in Upstate South Carolina

Renowned historian and author Dennis Chastain will speak on the Cherokee Trail on Sunday, October 23 at the Greenwood County Historical Society meeting, Federal Building Greenwood Arts Center at 3:00 pm. Chastain has conducted extensive research on the 300 mile long Indian trading path that once ran diagonally across South Carolina .



“Mouzon’s Map” of South Carolina from 1775 showed the entire route of the Cherokee Path from the Charles Town Peninsula to the Chattooga River. With a copy of Mouzon’s map and a state road atlas, Chastain and his wife Jane embarked on an unforgettable five year odyssey. “For at least a hundred years, the



ancient Cherokee Trading Path was like 1-26, the Internet and Facebook, all wrapped up in one. During the Cherokee War of 1761-1762 and campaign of Andrew Williamson during the Revolutionary war, thousands of military troops marched up and down the old Cherokee Path determining the future of not only the South Carolina Colony but also the nation itself,” Chastain wrote.

The presentation will key on important points along the footpath, including those in Greenwood County where preserved segments of the Path are clearly marked.



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