



Greenwood County Historical Society

P.O. Box 49653, Greenwood, SC 29649

September, 2016

President’s Message - September 2016

Fall is coming.....thankfully! We have survived a hot, southern summer. We are in the midst of a historical election year, one that I truly think will define our future as a nation-state. As an American it is our responsibility to be informed citizens and to vote our conscience for our collective best course. The penny option sales tax, or local option tax, will be on the ballot on Greenwood County. Many are not proponents of additional taxes, and of this I am in agreement, but this all or none tax has many historical renovation projects that would benefit from its passage, including the Railroad Historical Center, Katherine Hall in Ware Shoals, Cokesbury College, and others. For some, this may be the last call on the property. I ask you to study the project and again, vote your conscience. God bless our election and God Bless America! I hope you continue with us as we continue our mission to study, promote, and educate others on our history and its importance in relation to our future.

We hope you enjoyed our last meeting at the Greenwood Library in June on medical history as seen by local physician and historian, Dr. Mims Mobley. This presentation which was full of great information of the change in medical history over time. If you were not in attendance, you missed a great event.

This month’s meeting will be led by Dr. Mike McKenzie, former superintendent of Greenwood District 50 on the topic of the history of local schools and education in Greenwood County. This should be a very informative meeting full of local stories, one you SHOULD NOT MISS! We will meet at the Greenwood Library!

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

It is now time for nominations for our annual Architectural Restoration and Preservation Awards to be turned in! The time is at hand. We will begin our review of nominations in October and plan visits at that time. If you have a nomination of plan to nominate a property PLEASE DO SO NOW. Forms can be found on our website-

<http://greenwoodcountyhistoricalsociety.com/>

Remaining dates for 2016: Our series finishes with the following events relative to Greenwood County.

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|--------------|-------------|--|
| September 25 | 3:00 | Greenwood Public Library - Dr. Mike McKenzie - Greenwood’s Education History. |
| November 20 | 3:00 | Cokesbury College - Rob Jones - A History. |

We appreciate your continued support! We look forward to seeing you at our remaining meetings this year! Please send any ideas or suggestions for meetings for next year to me @ ctinsley63@yahoo.com Also, if you would like to serve on our board, please let me know!!

Yours in History!

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. 81

Saturday, March 7, 1942

Long a prominent resident member of the Bar at Cambridge (Old Ninety Six) was Abraham Giles Dozier. Dozier's family probably came from Virginia; his ancestry is not known. Richard Dozier is listed as a resident of Edgefield county in 1790 and is the only one of the name in this part of the State. A considerable amount of land, after the end of the eighteenth century, in this section appears to have been owned by the Dozier family. There seems to have been a family connection with the Partlow family but the latter do not appear in the census of 1790. The Dozier family burying ground is located on the home place of the late Geo. H. Taylor now owned by his son, A. E. Taylor. Old deeds and plats of lands just east of Greenwood show Dozier lands also.

Abraham Giles Dozier was admitted to the Bar after examination in Charleston in February 1798. He soon became a successful lawyer at Cambridge and, according to O'Neill, had an "immense practice" at Cambridge and in the new court house towns of Edgefield and Abbeville. He handled successfully for his clients the famous "Laurens Land" cases, a legal tangle which lasted, however, almost a century. The lands, for the most part, were in what is now Greenwood county and had been granted to Henry Laurens before the Revolution. Dozier had an unusual habit, tradition records, of frequently having himself sworn as a witness in cases in which he was attorney. One lawyer said Dozier did this so much that jurors had come to believe every word Dozier said was "under oath" and believed his argument for that reason.

Abraham Giles Dozier died in the great epidemic of unknown name of 1815-16. This epidemic was long referred to as "the great plague" and it took the lives of more than ten per cent of the population of this section of the State. It was possibly a form of influenza, later doctors believed.

Mr. Dozier left a widow and four children. His widow married second the Hon. Littleton Myrick, a large land owner and wealthy resident of Cambridge. He represented Abbeville district in the State Legislature at one time. Dr. R. C. Griffin described his appearance as "tall and commanding with a classic profile." His home, "Hickory Hill", Dr. Griffin located "on the road leading to Island Ford on Saluda river and not far from Old Star Fort." At the time of Robertson's map of Abbeville district made in 1820, Mr. Myrick's home was located on what is now the paved highway from Ninety Six to Epworth, near the village of Cambridge.

The four children of Abraham Giles Dozier were:

Charlotte Dozier who married John C. McGehee, a lawyer at Cambridge.

Amelia Dozier who married James E. Broome.

Rebecca Dozier married her cousin, Dr. Dozier of Georgetown.

Albert Dozier.

The "Florida fever", as it was called, affected many people in this section about 1830 and the Dozier children were among those who "went to Florida." Before going, Mr. and Mrs. John C. McGehee, whose home was near the Old Star Fort, the land on which the fort stood and then owned by John C. McGehee, had removed to a new location about eight miles west of Cambridge and which she named "Green Wood" because of the appearance of the forest around the two-room log cabin which was their new home. This was on a site about where Clyde Keller lives on Cambridge street in the present city of Greenwood.

After removal to Florida John C. McGehee became a distinguished lawyer and was a circuit judge of the State. He was honored by being elected president of the Florida State Convention which adopted the Ordinance of Secession. Descendants are still living in Florida.

John C. McGehee was a son of John McGehee, a native of Louisa county, Virginia. The senior McGehee came from Virginia either with or shortly after the group brought here by the Rev. John Waller. John McGehee settled the "Sweet-water place", near Greenwood, now owned by A. F. Snyder, and he conducted there a school for young ladies. Pupils came "as boarders" as well as day pupils. Another son of John McGehee, Scott McGehee, joined his brother, the lawyer, John C. McGehee, in Florida.

John C. McGehee was said to have removed from Cambridge to what is now Greenwood because of the "healthful" climate of the latter area, but the real reason perhaps was that his father lived not far away and an uncle, Carr McGehee, was also located in the same section. Carr McGehee married first Dorothea Waller, a daughter of the Rev. John Waller. They had one son, Addison McGehee, who settled the place long afterwards the home of B. Frank Reynolds on what is now Reynolds street and about where the six hundred block, on the north side of that street is. Carr McGehee married second Mrs. Charles Moseley and their home, "Plain Dealing", was about a quarter of a mile behind the present home of A. B. Sample.

OUR OLD ROADS

(continued from previous page)

Another member of this McGehee family, possibly a brother of Carr and John Sr., was Charles McGehee who lived near Cambridge, the site of his home being not far from the present home of D. B. Vines and he and his wife are buried near that site. The place is now owned by J.M. Marshall. From the grave stones there the following dates are noted: Charles McGehee born Jan. 2, 1772; died Jan. 29, 1816. Mrs. Charles McGehee born Apr. 28, 1772; died Aug. 27, 1834.

Mrs. McGehee was born Joanna Thompson and married first Benjamin Waller, son of the Rev. John Waller. They had three children: John, married Nancy Whitlock; Matilda, one of the wives of Martin Hackett; and Elizabeth, married James Sale. After the death of Benjamin Waller, his widow, Mrs. Joanna Thompson Waller, married second Stephen Watson, one of the sons of the pioneer Edward Watson and his wife Margaret, and they had one daughter, Margaret Watson, who married her cousin, James Franklin Watson, Sr. The widow of Stephen Watson, Mrs. Joanna Thompson Waller Watson, then married third Charles McGehee and they had two children, Almena and Nancy McGehee.

Almena McGehee married William Butler Brooks, previously mentioned as a son of William Elisha Brooks (Revolutionary soldier) and his wife Nancy Butler Brooks. William Butler Brooks built the house afterwards owned by Geo. H. Taylor on the road from Scotch Cross to Cambridge. William Butler Brooks had the following children:

Wesley Brooks and James Butler Brooks, both died at an early age and are buried with their grandparents in the McGehee family burying ground near the D. B. Vines place.

Carolina Calhoun Brooks married Murray Stover and removed to Tennessee.

Charles Elisha Brooks married Elizabeth Benson and had two children. He died in Confederate service, Co. F. 2nd S.C.R. Captured and died in a Federal prison.

Stanmore Butler Brooks married Sarah (Sallie) Sale. Also in Co. F. 2nd S.C.R. Confederate Service.

Elizabeth Brooks married John Moore of New Market.

Pierce Butler Brooks married Miss Rebecca Brown.

Joseph Warren Brooks married a Miss Spriggs and removed to Florida.

Emma Brooks married J. M. Milling.

Ella Brooks married Martin H. Coleman of New Market.

Nancy McGehee, second daughter of Charles McGehee and Joanna Thompson McGehee, married Seaborn Sullivan. For a time they lived in Greenwood where Mr. Sullivan had a store in "Old Greenwood," on the southeast corner of Cambridge and New Market streets. They removed to Florida.

In the McGehee family burying ground, in addition to the names above mentioned, are two other stones, one a field stone marked "H. F. died July 25, 1827" and a marble marker

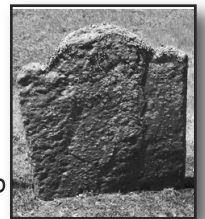
to Francis Owen Smith.

Rebecca Dozier, daughter of the lawyer, Abraham Giles Dozier, who married her cousin Dr. Dozier, removed with him to Georgetown. A large part of this Dozier family removed to California "After the War." Three male members, Dr. Leonard Franklin Dozier, Citadel graduate, Wm. Gaillard Dozier, graduate of the Naval Academy, and Peter Cuttino Dozier, graduate of the University of Virginia, all attended the Cokesbury Conference School before going to the above institutions; and a fourth brother, Melville W. Dozier, was graduated from Furman University and at the time of his death about a dozen years ago was then the oldest living graduate of that institution. All became prominent citizens of California.

Another prominent lawyer associated with Cambridge was John Speed Jeter, who read law under Abraham Giles Dozier at Cambridge and then located in Edgefield, where he was a leading lawyer for many years. He married a daughter of John Simkins, a brother of Eldred Simkins, and was elected solicitor over Robert Starke, the Revolutionary soldier. Jeter was also at one time State Senator from Edgefield. He had two daughters; one married a Mr. Harris and the other the Rev. Mr. Walker. (To be continued.)



Your tombstone stands
among the rest,
Neglected and alone.
The name and date are chiseled out
On polished marble stone.
It reaches out to all who care, It is too
late to mourn.
You did not know that I exist. You died 'fore I was born.
Yet each of us are cells of you, In flesh, in blood, in
bone. Our blood contracts and beats a pulse,
Entirely not our own.
Dear Ancestor, the place you filled, So many years ago.
Spreads out among the ones you left, Who would have
loved you so.
I wonder if you lived and loved.
I wonder if you knew.
That someday I would find this spot. And come to visit
you.



Author Unknown

GCHS News
SC Historical Society
NEXT MEETING
September 25 3:00pm

Greenwood Public Library- Dr. Mike McKenzie- Greenwood's Education History.

Dr. Michael McKenzie

Dr. McKenzie has a bachelors from Erskine, a masters from Furman, and a doctorate from UGA, Athens. He taught in Horry County, was a principal in Greenville Cty, Director of Special Services in Darlington Cty, and served as Assistant Superintendent, Associate Superintendent, Interim Superintendent, and Superintendent in Dist. 50. He also taught undergrads at Erskine and grad students at Furman and UGA. Currently, among other interests, he has volunteered in the Genealogy/Local History Room at the library for the last 6 years. In that capacity, he has designed and taught several classes in beginning genealogy, wrote a study of Native Americans in the Carolinas and their descendants, designed and researched a study of schools in Greenwood County, and assists patrons who want to research their ancestors or South Carolina history.

Mike and his wife live in Greenwood as does their daughter and her family. Their son is a building contractor in the Low Country.



APRIL 29, 2017 FAIR & YARD SALE

Doing your fall cleaning? Don't forget to put aside unwanted "treasures" for the Historical Society fundraising new, used and antique yard sale, a part of this year's 5th annual Antique and Artisan Fair. Donations are tax deductible. This is our only fundraiser and your participation is greatly appreciated!

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE GREENWOOD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Membership renewal occurs in January of each year. Don't let your membership lapse and miss information about upcoming programs or not receive a copy of "Our Old Roads". A return envelope has been provided for your convenience.



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Return Service Requested

