



Greenwood County Historical Society

P.O. Box 49653, Greenwood, SC 29649

September 2017

President's Message September 2017

We wish you a great fall! So much going on in our community and nation and we are glad to have a part in preserving our rich history! Please help in support and works.

We hope you enjoyed our last meeting at the Greenwood Library in June on Greenwoods military in MacArthur's army. Thank you to Dr. Joe Camp for this presentation. It was truly a highlight and filled with information on Greenwood men and their relation to the pacific war effort! If you were not in attendance, you missed a great meeting.

This month's meeting will be a remembrance of our areas rich tradition of educational history as we have educator and historian, Dr. DeWitt Stone to share with us. This should be an interesting topic as we look at the history of his ancestor, Samuel Lander, and the history of this local educational institution. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, September 24 this great topic. Please bring friends and family that may be interested. This meeting will also be held at the Greenwood Library!

Our thanks go to Ms. Carol Scales who recently rotated off our GCHS board after many years of service as our secretary-treasurer! Carol also spent time working with the program, helping at Tabernacle Cemetery, coordinating the spring craft and antique fair, and other works. We appreciate all the time and work you gave to the efforts of the GCHS! You will be well missed on our board!

We remember local friend of history Mr. Emmet Davis who passed away this summer. Mr. Davis donated several historical collections of his Aunt, historian Dr. Nora Davis, to the GCHS. We are in the process of having these digitalized and preserved so our members can use and enjoy them in the future. Our thoughts and appreciation to the Davis family.

If you have nominations for our Architectural Restoration and Preservation Awards please send those in NOW!

Remaining dates for 2017:

September 24 **3:00 Greenwood Public Library - Dr. Dee Stone-
Lander College and Its History.**

November 5 **3:00 Cokesbury College- Mac Wyckoff- Alexander McNeill's
Civil War letters. McNeill was born in the community of Phoenix in Greenwood
County and was a business partner of William Waller.**

We thank you for your continued support of the GCHS! Financially, we appreciate the renewals, and in 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. 86

Saturday, May 16, 1942

Recrossing Henley's creek at the former "Double-Bridges" there is a short section of two old roads which were not described in full in the description of the end of the old Phoenix-to-Ninety Six road, a dirt road not much used today and which will be taken up now.

Not far from the creek, the old Beale place on this road, home of Capt. William Beale, the Revolutionary scout, later owned by George W. Tolbert Sr., was mentioned in detail.

Just beyond this place to the west and adjoining it was the John C. Walker place.

John Chiles Walker was the son of J. M. Walker and his wife Mary Sentell Walker. John Chiles Walker married his cousin, Mary Elizabeth Walker, a daughter of a Methodist preacher, the Rev. David Walker. The Rev. David Walker married Mary Elizabeth Dillborne and they lived in the vicinity of Old Rehoboth Methodist church. Mr. Walker is listed as a local preacher and a member of Rehoboth Methodist church before 1850.

John Chiles Walker had a brother Thomas Walker who married Matilda Griffin. They removed to Greenville county and have descendants there.

In 1853 about two years after the railroad had been completed as far as the present town of Ninety Six, according to the late Dr. Thomas Stuart Blake, the first outsider to locate in the place in 1850 and who with the aged John McLellan made up the total population of the present area of the town, John M. Walker built a "large house" which was used as a hotel. This building stood just about where the brick hotel owned by the late Mrs. Annie Sherard now stands. It was from this hotel then owned and operated by John M. Walker that the procession of distinguished guests and speakers at the celebration in honor of Congressman Preston S. Brooks on Oct. 3, 1856, formed and marched to the stand in a nearby grove where the speaking was held. In the group were Governor J. H. Adams, Congressman Preston S. Brooks, Senator "Bob" Toombs of Georgia, General Samuel McGowan, and many others, the details of this memorable day having already been given.

Sometime "After the War", John M. Walker exchanged this hotel property with William "Billy" Carter for the farm west of Henley's creek mentioned above; and here his son, John Chiles Walker, lived for many years and brought up his family. He and his wife

had five children: John F. Walker; G. L. Walker; Mary Elizabeth Walker, who married W. P. Lipford and had two children; Ella Jane, who was the first wife of Wm. J. Miller; and Rosalee, who married J. M. Calvert and had eight children.

John F. Walker married Annie Benson, daughter of Wm. Benson of the Mt. Moriah section and a Confederate soldier. They had six children. G. L. Walker never married.

John M. Walker, the father of John Chiles Walker, was a native of Edgefield county, having been brought up in the section about midway between Ninety Six and Edgefield. His wife was a native of the Blocker community of Edgefield.

Mrs. John Chiles Walker, daughter of the Rev. David Walker, had two brothers, LeGette Walker and Fletcher Walker, both of whom died in the service of the Confederacy. A sister married William Flynn and they had one daughter who married a Gable. The Rev. David Walker was a brother of Edmund Walker, a patriarch of Old Rehoboth church, as older residents of that community will remember. Edmund Walker married Sarah Ann Drinkwater. They had no children and after her death Edmund Walker made his home with his nephew William G. Walker who lived about four miles below Rehoboth on what is now the Callison highway.

Also listed among the early members of Rehoboth Methodist church was the Rev. William Walker, local preacher, who later transferred his membership to Bethel Methodist church and this probably was a brother of the Rev. David Walker and of Edmund Walker and the father of William G. Walker.

William G. Walker of the Callison section was a son of the Rev. David Walker, the Methodist preacher mentioned above.

Adjoining the land which John Chiles Walker acquired from "Billy" Carter for the hotel in Ninety Six was the farm of William "Billy" Youngblood who married Nettie Lightfoot. She evidently was a descendant of Frank Lightfoot who owned considerable land in this section and is listed in the census of 1790. The Child-Griffin family burying ground not far away and described by the venerable Thomas E. Jester in 1906, Mr. Jester then being over ninety years old, as being "on the Lightfoot place." This "Billy" Youngblood may

have been a descendant of “old John Youngblood” mentioned by Dr. J. H. Logan in his “History of Upper South Carolina” as having removed, about the close of the Revolution, from the territory of Edgefield and settled on the Jew’s land near this place – the home at that time of P. D. Klugh on John’s creek, the place being just over the Abbeville county line on the Calhoun highway from Greenwood to Abbeville.

“Billy” Youngblood and his wife Nettie Lightfoot Youngblood left no children.

The John Marbert home was nearer the creek towards Ninety Six and has been previously mentioned.

Across the creek was the home of William Jester, Sr. and his wife Martha Jester. These were the parents of Thomas E. Jester. William Jester, Sr. was living in 1815 on Horse Pen Creek in Edgefield county and there on April 12, 1814, Thomas E. Jester was born. When he was about six years old his parents removed to the vicinity of Old Cambridge and spent the rest of their lives in that location. Thomas E. Jester spent most of his life in that community and even in his last days had a remarkably clear recollection of the old community and its people. A long interview with him in 1906 printed in “The Greenwood Index” has been quoted frequently as the source of data on the place and people who lived there. Mrs. Thomas E. Jester was living at that time, 1906, and this was the seventy-second year of their marriage. She was Rose Ann Wright of the Upper Long Cane creek section near Due West. The two were married in 1834.

William Jester Sr. and his wife Martha Jester had the following four children:

Thomas E. Jester who married Rosa Ann Wright as just mentioned. They had seven sons and two daughters.

William Jester Jr. who married Carolina Bledsoe. They lived near Fellowship church and Mr. Jester was the custodian of the church, taking, as the late Miss Sue Griffin said, “pride in having the building sweet and neat” and “no one ever found the building neglected in his life time”. He died in 1878 and his wife in 1897. She was born in 1815. They had no children.

Eli Jester, son of William and Martha Jester, removed to Mississippi.

John Robert Jester, son of William and Martha Jester, removed to Georgia.

The children of Thomas E. Jester, son of William Jester Sr. and Martha Jester, and his wife Rosa Ann Wright Jester were:

1. Martha Jester married William Johnson and had three children.

2. John Robert Jester married Mary Malone and had seven children.

3. Thomas E. Jester married Sallie Hamilton and

had seven children. They removed to Alabama and she now lives in Florida.

4. James Wyatt Jester married Mattie Hamilton and had five children.

5. Addey Jester died single.

6. Jesse Jester married Virginia Hamilton and had five children.

7. Eli Jester died in infancy.

8. Drayton Whitefield Jester married first Nancy Milford and had two children; he married second Mary Emma Culbertson and had two children, both died young; and married third Mrs. Lela H. Puckett and had one child.

8. Mary Jane Jester married John Kohn and had one child.

The Misses Hamilton, Sallie, Mattie and Virginia, who married the three Jester brothers listed above were natives of Edgefield county, the lower section of what is now Greenwood county.

Thomas E. Jester died in Greenwood Aug. 18, 1912, at the age of ninety-eight. He and his wife were among the oldest members of Lebanon Methodist church between New Market and Ninety Six. In the interview in 1906, he mentioned the fact that when he was a boy living about a mile below Old Cambridge there was no school there. His first teacher was a Mr. Capeheart who “lived on the east side of Cuffeetown creek, some miles from Cambridge” and his second teacher was a Mr. Walker, who may have been the Rev. William Walker who is noted as owning land between Fellowship and Henley’s creek. Later he went to J. Wesley Child who taught a large school very near Fellowship church for many years. J. Wesley Child was a brother of Capt. Robert “Bob” Child who had a large house not very far from the John C. Walker place and on the same side of the creek. (To be continued.)



Greenwood County Historical Society

GCHS meeting to cover Lander University History by DeWitt Stone on Sunday, September 24



Join the Greenwood County Historical Society on Sunday, September 24 as we review the Lander University History through the view of Dr. DeWitt Stone. The meeting will be held at the Veterans' Auditorium, Greenwood County Library at 3:00 pm, Sunday, September 24.

Dr. DeWitt Stone, whose family is from Williamston S.C., grew up in Maryland and Knoxville, Tennessee. His academic background is in chemistry and chemical engineering. He taught and conducted research at universities in Tennessee and Switzerland, at the National Science Foundation in Washington, and at Clemson University. For about 25 years he has served his interest in local and SC history by writing the history of Evans' SC Brigade (USC Press, 2002) in which his great-grandfather Stone served, contributing entries for the 2006 South Carolina Encyclopedia, including the history of the Piedmont & Northern Railroad that once served Greenwood, and recently writing A Brief History of Lander University (30 pages) for internal use by the university. Presently he is collaborating on a history of the 18th SC Regiment.

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

