



Greenwood County Historical Society

P.O. Box 49653, Greenwood, SC 29649

November, 2014

President’s Message - November 2014

Greetings to all Greenwood historians! Thank you to anyone that made a nomination for the 6th annual ARPA ceremony to be held on January 25 2015. Please join us as we reward our winners. Forms can be found on our website @ www.greenwoodcountyhistoricalsociety.com if you wish to make a nomination for next year. For any questions, please see me, or other committee members, Stefan Wiecki, co-chair, and Bill Ambrose. We appreciate your continued support of this endeavor.

Thanks to “Bo” Bowman for his presentation on aviation history in Greenwood at our last meeting. This topic was very good and we were treated to a very informative talk! Those in attendance gained a new understanding of our history in aviation and how it touched the world...

On Tuesday September 30 an historical marker was unveiled at Ware Shoals High School by the SC Historical Society. Thanks to those that supported this endeavor. I have been appointed to a committee to help save a local county landmark in the Ware Shoals area Katherine Hall. It is listed as the number one most endangered building in South Carolina by the SC State Preservation. If you would like to support this endeavor please let me know.



Our **upcoming** meeting on **Sunday November 30 will be held at COKESBURY COLLEGE**. Missy Lowery will present on Francis Salvadore. We anticipate this presentation from Missy.

Our proposed slate of 2015 meeting topics are listed below. We have been working on this and look forward to a great lineup! Some are still in the works and we continue to update. If you have any suggestions or ideas please contact me.

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. January 25 | 3:00 | GCHS | Greenwood Public Library | ARPA Ceremony. |
| 2. March 29 | 3:00 | Greenwood Public Library | | William Davies, SCHS |
| | | | Robert Mills, SC Architect. | |
| 3. June 28 | 3:00 | Greenwood Public Library - TBA | | |
| 4. September 27 | 3:00 | Greenwood Public Library | | Karen Stukes, “Sherman’s Path Through South Carolina”. |
| 5. November 1 | 2:00 | Jefferson Davis Driving Tour. | | |

Details to follow

We appreciate your continued support! Any suggestions or considerations may be directed to me @ ctinsley63@yahoo.com. I look forward to seeing many of you at our next meeting!

Chip

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. 73

Saturday, January 10, 1942

Dr. E. R. Calhoun says that when he located in Cambridge he boarded at the tavern kept by William Collier, and that he had come to Cambridge upon the kind and pressing invitation of the Hon. Littleton Myrick, mentioned as a member of the Legislature and a resident of Cambridge. Dr. Calhoun adds that when he arrived in 1824 Cambridge had fifteen families, four merchants, as many lawyers, hotel keepers, tailor, blacksmith, carriage and harness shop, and three physicians with whom he was to measure arms for victory or defeat. Dr. Calhoun continued that the most prominent physician in Cambridge at that time was Joseph Dogan, "the father of our generous hearted and jolly friend, William Dogan, who was never known to laugh but once a day, and then with all the melodious noise of a railroad engine when cows are on the track, or the depot agent asleep." On the day Dr. Calhoun opened his office, his friend, Littleton Myrick, reminded him of Benjamin Franklin's adage: "Keep your shop and your shop will keep you." He says he obeyed the suggestion for about two months during which time he was kept out of the sun and out of the rain. His shop was kept in nice condition--medicines all properly arranged, mortars and pestles as clean as the day they left the factory, but his account book was destitute of all signs of being in second hands. As a result he was kept in doubtful credit with his landlord and merchants, and he said on the whole he did not like that sort of "keeping." A shoemaker might make a living by keeping his shop, but a doctor had to do it by keeping out of his. The first sally out of his office was on "mail day," which was Friday, and a great day in Cambridge--"the day on which the wealthy, reading and intelligent planters of the country came in town to learn what was going on in the outer world--the day on which fighting rowdies, horse thieves, chicken fighters, card players, and all that genus came to ply their respective callings."

Dr. Calhoun, on his first sally in public, made directly for the Post Office which he said was the headquarters of the town. On the second floor of the building in which the Post Office was located was the Cambridge Library to which he made his way with a two-fold view of "escaping the confusion and dangers below so as to enjoy a quiet and safe retreat above." He continues with the statement that "there were a number of members of the Cambridge Library Association present and all closely engaged in reading the papers preparatory to a general discussion of the news and politics

of the day, and they were as much shocked at seeing me there as though I had just been liberated from the penitentiary." He continues: "My highly esteemed and venerable friend, James Coleman, arose from his seat and proposed that I should be immediately initiated into the club as a regular member, and observed that the ceremony was very short and simple--that I would only be required to drink the width of my finger in a tumbler of the best Irish whiskey." Dr. Calhoun said that he had no serious objection in the whiskey feature of the ceremony, but preferred their leaving that out and electing him only to an honorary membership, as he expected very soon to be so busily engaged in attending to their sick families that he would be barred the privilege of weekly attendance at the club. A general laugh followed, he went on, but he added as a singular fact that every member of the club present became afterwards his warmest friends and most liberal supporters.

Of his landlord, William Collier, in whose hotel Dr. Calhoun boarded, he says, "Collier was a small man of low stature and of the bony order. He was a great reader, had a retentive memory and could expatiate well upon history and other subjects." Mr. Collier, Dr. Calhoun continued, "appeared to have many parts of a good mind, but in its demonstration he always reminded one of a door hanging on only one hinge, and that hinge the bottom one. Although he was intelligent, social, hospitable, generous and of undoubted honesty, nothing prospered in his hands. He was once engaged in the mercantile business but a collapse soon ensued, the sheriff convincing him that it was not his appropriate calling; and if he was cut out for a hotel keeper one could not exactly see the fit." Continuing in a humorous vein, Dr. Calhoun said that when he sat down to his first dinner at Mr. Collier's hotel he felt that he had gotten into the right box. The table literally "groaned" under the rich viands of the country and especially under the ponderous weight of a large turkey; but subsequent experience suggested that this latter was the last of the breed. "Our host seemed to think we could eat enough that one day to last us through the year. * * * The hotel bell was a small article with a feminine sound, and it was the duty of Winnie (a slave) to announce with it the meals, except on extra occasions when chicken would be served. Then she was placed in a more menial position, Mr. Collier, as host, claiming that honor for himself. It was amusing to see the adroitness with which he performed that

duty, always visiting the barroom beforehand, which seemed to give his arm a peculiar twirl making the bell sing out with alto note-- 'chicken, chicken, chicken.' The boarders, understanding the language, would charge to the front with an impetuosity equaled only by our Virginia soldiers when they rushed to the commissary to draw their rations of Hampton's Yankee beef after a long abstinence behind the ramparts on the bloody field of battle."

Dr. Calhoun continues with his description of Cambridge in 1824 by saying that "the once populous place was on its last legs and making its last dying struggle to retain a portion, at least, of its ancient renown. Every citizen, as the population decreased, had to put himself on double duty. The merchant had to do his own drumming, sell his own goods, smoke and chew his own tobacco and drink his own liquor without the assistance of clerks. The lawyer, knowing no plaintiff, no defendant, attended to both sides of the case, settling all litigations on an equitable basis and to the entire satisfaction of both parties. Shoemakers, blacksmiths and other mechanics acted each their respective parts as "boss" and apprentice, and after the labors of the day were ended would assume the usually assigned duties of the latter and enjoy themselves in the proper manner. Our hotel keeper began to be able to attend to his reduced table without the help of the slaves he had once used. A noted character of the village was Charles Patterson, the tailor, who was a great mimic and added greatly to the merriment of the village on various occasions."

Dr. R. C. Griffin, as previously mentioned, began the practice of medicine at Cambridge in the year 1831, with Dr. F. G. Thomas who had been engaged in the practice of medicine for several years prior to that time. The only other doctor in the village was Doctor Frank Williams who, as has been mentioned, was an Episcopal minister as well as a physician, and after a few years removed to a large plantation near the present town of Hodges. Dr. Thomas married first, Miss Mary Ann White, the sister of R. M. White (Dick White of Greenwood) in the spring of 1830. She died in a few years, leaving a little daughter who became the wife of "Bix X" Suber, as he was called of Newberry, who removed to Mississippi. Dr. Thomas married second a widow, Mrs. Arthur.

Dr. R. C. Griffin was then left alone as the only doctor in Cambridge and remained several years longer in the once thriving village which was then reduced to a cross roads, one store, one hotel and one doctor; and then he finally removed to Georgia and located in the sand hills of Richmond county, in the former residence of Governor Schley, within four miles of the city of Augusta. There he spent the rest of his life operating a small truck farm which he said was "worth more than a 100 acre cotton plantation." And he lived to a ripe old age. Dr. Richard C. Griffin was a son of Joseph Grif-

fin and Parthenia Coleman Griffin. He married Mary Carwile and they had the following children: Miss Goode Griffin, married James Burton of Newberry; Elizabeth Griffin and Rebecca Griffin, who were the first and second wives of Dr. Robert H. Land of Augusta.

Dr. Robert H. Land and his wife have a son, Richard Griffin Land, buried in the old Joseph Griffin burying ground at Kinard School house. He died in 1868 at the age of four. Dr. Land was a leading druggist in Augusta for sixty-two years. His firm was long the distributor of the famous "Two States Almanac," a yellow back pamphlet with two hands, representing Georgia and South Carolina, clasped on the front cover. This "Two States Almanac" was considered as indispensable in the average home of the two States as the family Bible. That was in the days when rural sections all "went by sun time" and when people kept up with the phases of the moon and the signs of the Zodiac for various and sundry operations from cutting green wood to killing chickens and hogs for food.

Dr. Richard Griffin's father, Joseph Griffin, was one of the seventeen children of Richard Griffin and Nancy Clarke Griffin. Larkin Griffin, another one of the big family, married a sister of his brother Joseph's wife. The latter was Jemima Coleman.

A daughter of Dr. Robert H. Land and his wife, Elizabeth Parthenia Griffin Land, Margaret Lee Land, married John Martin Kinard, long a prominent business man and banker of Newberry; and the other daughter married Mr. Kinard's step brother, J. Y. McFall of Newberry.

(to be continued. . .)



Greenwood (from <http://www.cityofgreenwoodsc.com/aboutgreenwood>)

The town of Greenwood was named around 1824 for the plantation of an early resident, John McGehee, Jr. McGehee's wife Charlotte is credited with naming their 600-acre plantation "Green Wood." While there are mixed opinions as to how Greenwood received the designation the "Emerald City," most would agree that it has something to do with the green landscape that is so cherished by the local community.



The City of Greenwood, the county seat of Greenwood County, was chartered in 1857 and is today the seventeenth largest City in South Carolina with a 2006 Census estimated population of 22,407. The 2006 Census estimates the population for all of Greenwood County at 68,213. Greenwood is economic center of the Upper Savannah Region. Upper Savannah is comprised of Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Abbeville, Edgefield, and Saluda Counties of South Carolina. The 2006 Census estimates the regional population at 219,068.

Two major highways access Greenwood. US Highway 25 provides a four-lane northern access to Greenville in Upstate South Carolina and a two lane southern access to Augusta, Georgia. State Highway 72 provides a four-lane eastern access to Interstate 26 and a four-lane western access (under construction) to Athens, Georgia. Highway 72 ultimately connects with Atlanta, Georgia. Greenwood is also provided rail access by CSX. [Click here](#) to download a regional map.

The Railroad

The history of Greenwood evolved around the development of the railroad. At one time, nine railroad tracks crossed through "Uptown Greenwood," Greenwood's central business district. Greenwood got its first railroad, the Greenville & Columbia, in 1852 as an effort to locate the first track in Upstate South Carolina. Slowly by the 1930s and 40s, Greenwood became one of South Carolina's leading rail centers. With the development of the automobile in the early 1900's, the importance of rail for daily travel declined. Efforts began in the 1930's to seek the removal of the rail system from Uptown Greenwood. It was not until 1982 when the final train came down the center of Main Street into Uptown Greenwood.

If you haven't yet renewed your membership, please send your dues now. Individual \$20. Couple \$30. Make check payable to the Greenwood County Historical Society and send to PO Box 49653, Greenwood, SC 29649



Greenwood County Historical Society

P.O. Box 49653

Greenwood, SC 29649

Return Service Requested

