

THE ANDERSON RECORD

Volume 31, Issue 4

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER , DECEMBER 2018

Christmas in the American Civil War

Christmas in the American Civil War (1861-1865) was celebrated in both the United States and the Confederate States of America although the day did not become an official holiday until five years after the war ended.

Soldiers not actively campaigning celebrated Christmas in several ways. Union soldiers would use salt pork and hardtack to decorate Christmas trees. Others were treated to special meals; a captain from Massachusetts treated his soldiers to foods such a turkey, oysters, pies and apples. However, many soldiers received no special treats or privileges. In one incident on December 25, 1864, 90 Union soldiers under the direction of General Sherman, dispensed "food and supplies" to poor Georgians, with the mules pulling carts decorated to resemble reindeer by having tree branches tied to their heads.

Christmas was not allowed. On December 25, 1862, soldiers of one unit were punished for celebratory gunfire for the holiday, when actually the gunfire was for a funeral salute.

Carols, hymns, and seasonal songs were sung during the period. Although popular in Europe at the time, Christmas cards were scarce in the United States, and would not enjoy widespread use until the 1870's.

For children, Christmas was altered during the war. Presents were fewer, especially in the devastated South. In *We Were Marching on Christmas Day*, author Kevin Rawlings notes that some southern children worried about the Union blockade. Some fathers on both sides were allowed furlough, and children were said to react to their fathers as if seeing "near strangers". Excuses for a lack of Santa include "Yankees having shot him!" Many southern children were told that "Santa was a Yankee" so Confederate pickets would not let Santa through. Many women, both north and south, spent their Christmases making clothes for soldiers, tending to the sick and wounded in hospitals, or preparing holiday food boxes—a gift from home that soldiers keenly anticipated. Holiday boxes and barrels from home containing food, clothing and small articles of comfort were highly anticipated by soldier recipients. Depending on their duty assignment, Christmas dinner may have consisted

ACGS Christmas 2018

This years Christmas Gala was an exciting event. We had a new caterer for the event that provided Amish chicken, roast beef, mash potatoes , gravy, veggie casserole, green beans and home made red velvet cake. The food was outstanding!



Aside from the food many members shared heirlooms that were of great value to them. Kay Burns shared her mom's Shirley Temple doll.



Sue Brewer shared a tale of a French girl in search of a WWII pilot (Albert Cullins) that she had stopped hearing from. To find out he and his friend were killed in an wreck. Even more surprising, and this was contributed by Joyce Gibson, the young pilot was the first to be buried in New Silver brook cemetery!

Shelby Lollis brought a piggy bank that she believed was bought for her brother that passed. It was a Dumbo piggy bank that was purchased from the Woolworth's store.

Justin Atkins brought a picture of his relative's grave. He and a coworker stumbled upon an unmarked cemetery and went on a search to find who was buried there. In doing so he found that it was not only his relative but his co workers as well!



We had a great turn out over half of our members attended this year !

Christmas facts and trivia !

Why do we decorate trees?

Decorated trees were used in winter celebrations long before the advent of Christianity . Plants and trees that remained green all year had a special significance for people who lived in cold climates.



Ancient people hung evergreen boughs over their doors and windows. Some believed that evergreens kept witches, ghosts, evil spirits and illnesses away.



Romans decorated evergreen trees with trinkets and topped them with an image of their sun god. Druid sorcerers hung golden apples and lit candles on oak trees to celebrate the winter solstice.



Christian Christmas celebrations did indeed begin using the evergreen as a symbol about 400 years ago in Germany. This Christmas practice spread to most of northern Europe by the 19th century.

Why to we give gifts?

Have you ever wondered where the custom of giving gifts originated from?

The ancient romans gave each other gifts on the calends (first day of January) and the practice spread through out the Roman Empire.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW !

**we will be closed from December 20th through January 2nd.

**we will not be having a meeting in January 2019. our next meeting will be in February on Monday February 4th, unless otherwise stated.

**Kay Burns is still working on the schedule of guest speakers for next year. You all will receive a copy of the schedule as soon as they are complete. It will also be posted for your reference.

**we are discontinuing the use of our post office box and will be using the following address for our mail now :

110 Federal street Suite 8
Anderson, SC 29625

WELL KNOWN CITIZENS OF ANDERSON CO.

Capt. J. B. Patrick

Intelligencer—21 July 1887

Greenville News: "It is not necessary to commend Capt. J. B. Patrick to the confidence or good will of any community in this State. His ability as an educator, and his qualities as a man are widely known, and are testified of by many living witnesses throughout the country. It is proper to say, however, that the announcement of his purpose to leave here will be received with deep regret in this community, where he has lived and labored with so much credit to himself and advantage to the public. As a teacher and a citizen his value can not be overestimated; his private life and work are as good and useful as his teaching is thorough and sound, and he has brought up sons who follow in his footsteps. General knowledge and appreciation of his character and work make the good will and good wishes that will accept him, and his, from here, very warm and heart.

Benjamin Mauldin

1849 Businessman List

B. F. Mauldin, Calhoun, 14 miles east of Anderson, is 35 Years old, married and has children, has been in Anderson since he was grown, first at Greenville, moved to Anderson 12 years ago, & 8 years ago to Calhoun, is a merchant and farmer, brother to S. & J. Mauldin at Greenville, uncle to the Craytons of Anderson. Some one of these firms go North every summer and buys for all. B. F. is a Baptist preacher, a man of character, is an industrious, business man, owns land worth \$4,000., several negroes and has considerable capital, owes very little at home, pays promptly, buys mostly for cash, sells on credit, does good business, is independent, and good for anything he promises.

WELL KNOWN CITIZENS OF ANDERSON CO.

Mr. M. B. Arnstein

Intelligencer—21—July 1887

Mr. M. B. Arnstein has sold the stock and good will of the New York Cash Store to Messrs. Louis Sharpe and T. S. Crayton Jr. who will continue business at the old stand. Messrs. Sharpe and Crayton are well known to our people, having been born and reared in Anderson, and having been engaged in business here since their boyhood days. They are worthy, energetic young gentlemen, and are bound to meet with success. Their good taste and experience will enable them to keep a stock of goods that will suit every class of trade. We regret to see Mr. Arnstein leave Anderson. During his residence of nine years in our midst, he has conducted a most successful business, and his customers were not confined to our County, but extended through all the neighboring Counties. His establishment was second to none in upper Carolina, and he carried a line of goods seldom found outside of large cities. Mr. Arnstein is a thorough business man, as his success in Anderson proves. He was liberal in the use of printer's ink, and when he wanted to close out certain goods, he marked them down and informed the people of it, consequently his shelves never became dusty or filled with old goods. He knew the people's wants, and it was always a pleasure to him to gratify them.

A.B. & J. Towers

1849 Businessman List

A. B. & J. Towers, Anderson. These are young men both lately married. Alexander B. was for 2 or 3 years one of the firm of Earle & Towers at Evergreen 12 miles below this place. He is the businessman of the firm, has good English education, is industrious, sober, and good merchant, is worth \$1500. in money, no property of consequence, married the daughter of a man who is well off, & will sooner or later receive something from her father. Joel has no experience in business, is an industrious, honest man, is a good Scholar, has charge of our male academy, but its profits will not be large, report says he received \$1500, by his wife. These are honest young men, of as much character as any, and those who know them would not hesitate to credit them.

This Family Tree Quilt Stitches 2600 Relatives Together

A giant family tree quilt documents 9 generations and just over 2600 family names. Here's how the quilter completed this beautiful family heirloom.

This article was from a local news outlet about the White family celebrating its 104th reunion. That's quite an accomplishment, but what *really* caught my eye was the heirloom on display: a family tree quilt so large it couldn't easily fit in a single photograph.

I tracked down the designer and creator of the family tree quilt. She's a busy young mom named Jennifer Reiter. "Before we had our 100th reunion, I was reading a book with my girls about pioneer days," she says. "A little girl was traveling. When they arrived at their destination, they made a quilt with all the memories from their favorite dress material. I got a crazy idea to do something like that for our family's 100th-anniversary reunion: a quilt with everyone's names on it."

It wasn't an easy undertaking. Jennifer took the names from a family history book her mother-in-law had. The founding couple from the 1700s had four children. Jennifer designed the quilt such that each quadrant of the quilt would represent one branch of the family. She sketched out her design across 46 pages from a notebook. Then she copied everyone's names onto quilt block templates that were sent each out to volunteers in the family to help hand-stitch.

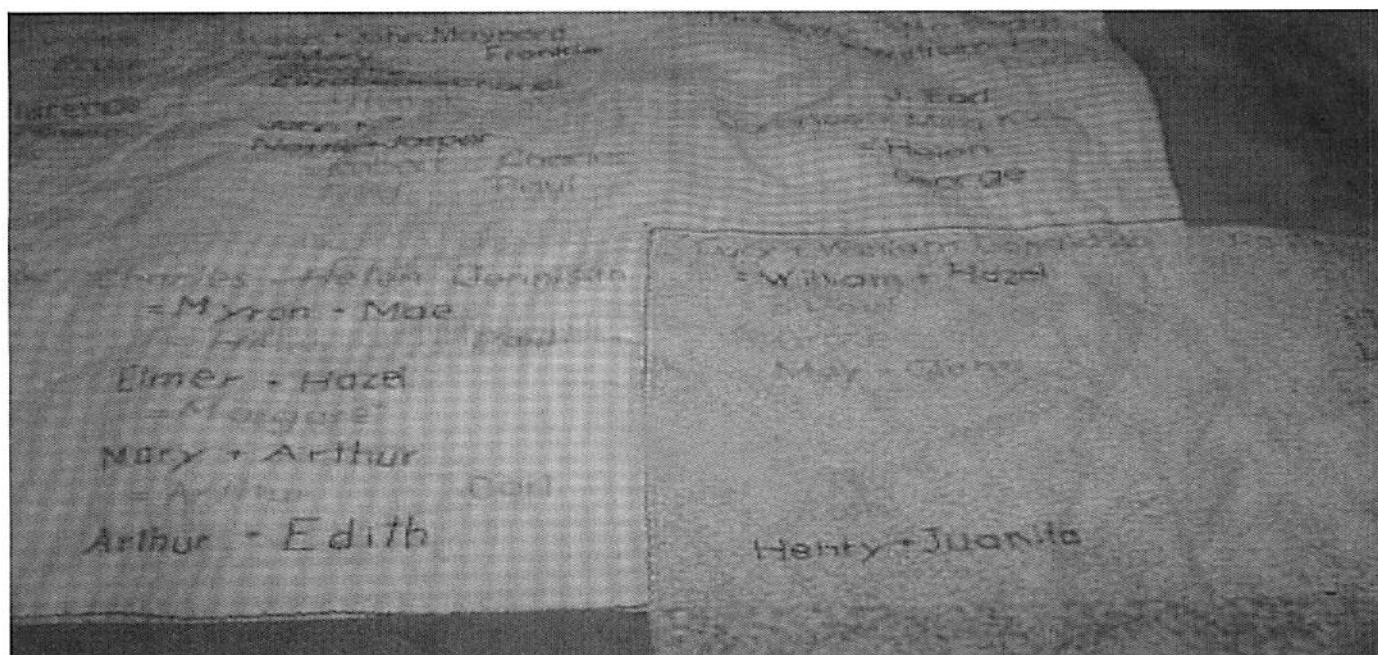
All the descendants' names are on the quilt, Jennifer reports. "Each family unit appeared on one square. If a child got married and had a family, they got another square of their own. Each generation was a different color thread. My color is orange, so I can easily see who else is from the same generation I am. I tried to keep the colors of the fabric about the same, family-wise, too."

"It took a year," Jennifer says. "I didn't get quite as much help as. The final quilt documents 9 generations with 2601 names in it on a quilt that's larger than king-sized. There are 256 quilt blocks, each of them 6" square.

The quilt made its debut appearance at the 100th White family reunion, and a few years since then. It also took an honorable mention in the county fair. But she learned a lesson about letting it out of her sight too often: "There were a few years it was missing after it got left at the reunion. Someone went to the camp and they were looking for it again. The secretary had it. Now I have it my possession permanently."

What an amazing accomplishment—and what an heirloom for the White family!

WELL KNOWN CITIZENS OF ANDERSON CO.



THE ANDERSON INDEPENDENT—OCTOBER 26, 1940

TENTS ARE READY AT FAIR GROUNDS

Construction is ahead of normal schedule. Preparations for the Anderson Fair continue at a rapid clip at the Fair Grounds.

The Merchants and Manufacturers tent is up and ready for the placing of exhibits. The Womens Division tent is also up and carpenter work completed. Also in place is the Livestock Division Tent. Carpenters are now engaged in building pens.

Outside decorations were yesterday being put up. The School Division Tent and Refreshment Tent are scheduled to go up Tuesday.

Several food concessions are already in operation at the Fair Grounds, catering to the small army or workmen there. "We are far ahead of normal schedule." J.A. Mitchell, secretary of the Fair Association, said

Coming next newsletter—stories/information about the Patrick Military Institute . If you have anything you wish to contribute, please email us at: acgsresearch@gmail.com

Anderson County Chapter of the
South Carolina Genealogical
Society, Inc.

110 Federal Street

Anderson, SC 29625-4363

<http://www.andersoncounty.scgen.org>

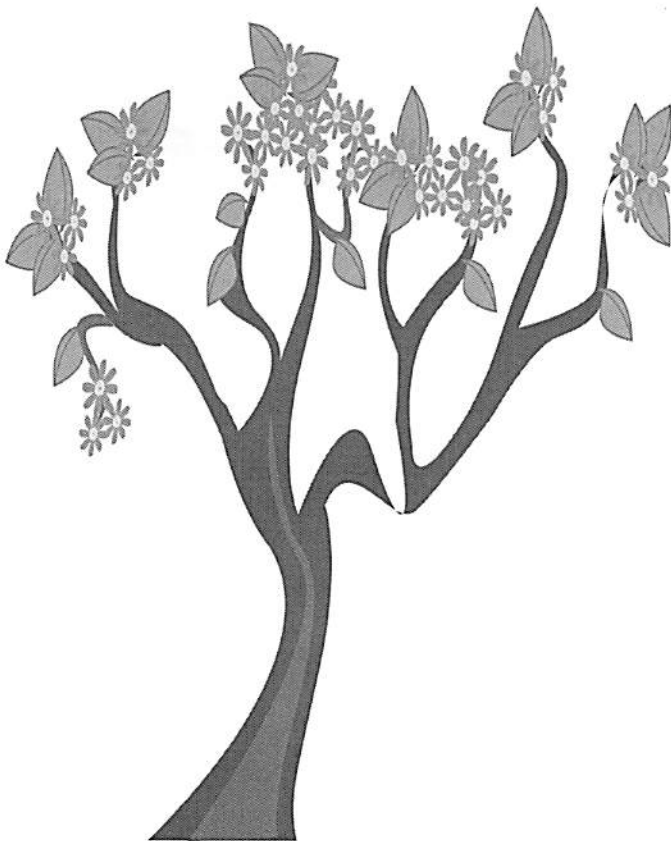
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Seneca, SC 29672-4708



NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Please email to: acgsresearch@gmail.com,
Subject line: Newsletter. You can also
mail your contributions to

110 Federal Street
Anderson, SC 29625

Center Hours—

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday—
10 am— 4 pm**

Saturday: 10 am to 2 pm

Meetings

Monthly meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7 pm at Senior Solutions, 420 Clemson Blvd., Anderson, SC

Each month a program is presented that is of interest to genealogy researchers. Come early and discuss your family with our members.