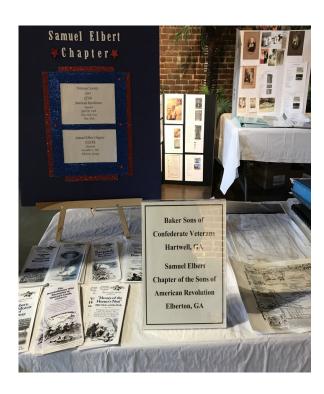
Volume 33, Issue 2



THE ANDERSON RECORD



2019 EXPO

What a great Expo we had this year! Our speaker, Karen Thompson-Ledford ,was just amazing. Mrs. Ledford spoke on the series of books that she has written regarding the internment of Civil War veterans throughout Georgia. We had 25 tables including family, Sons of Confederate Veterans of Hartwell, Richard Otter with his Street Name Project, Linda Rogers on Writing Your History, Hartwell-Savannah River Valley Genealogical Society, Anne Sheriff—Old Pendleton District Chapter, Sue Brewer and her Cherokee family associations, and Justin Atkins with his family history and family business table. We also had Shelby Lollis with information for the State Summer Workshop. We sold many books and talked a lot about genealogy!!

Justin Atkins Table











This year we were asked by Visit Anderson to provide snacks for their Landmark Conference on April 12 and 13 at the Anderson Civic Center. Linda Rogers and Joyce Gibson manned the wonderful snack table. Shelby Lollis had a table on the SC State upcoming conference and sold State Flash Drives which contain the Carolina Herald information. We also sold cookbooks.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH VISIT— MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019

Everyone enjoyed the visit to the First Baptist Church. We were allowed a self-guided tour of the cemetery before dinner. During dinner, Mrs. Romona Hallman provided some lovely dinner music. Pastor Dr. Josh Hunt spoke and gave us the history of the First Baptist Church as well as a talk on Baptist Origins. An optional tour of the interior of the church was also available. Mrs. Hallman played the amazing church organ for the tour.

Ted Burgess has been working hard to put our Resource Room book list on our website. It is there, and it is huge. We have so many great family books and they continue to add up! Thanks Ted! We are so grateful for all your help.

COMING ATTRACTIONS!!

July 1st—This is the month of America's 243rd Birthday. Local historian, Durant Ashmore, will share his program, "The Life and Times of Colonel Robert Anderson".

August 5th—Susan Sitika Rozakos Ehrhard will share her decades-long journey to find her biological mother and biological father.

September—Labor Day—No meeting this month!!

October 7th—The Anderson Werewolf, and the Halloweens of Yesteryear!!

November 4th—Dr. Walter B. Curry, African American professor and member of the sons of Confederate Veterans, will share his family story and book: *The Thompson Family: Untold Stories from the Past 1830-1960.* Dr. Curry will bring his books to sell.

December 2nd — ACGS Christmas Dinner!!!!

The South Carolina Genealogical Society presents

The 2019 SCGS 47th Annual Summer Workshop



Keynote Speaker: Blaine Bettinger PhD, JD

The Genetic Genealogist

Friday and Saturday July 12-13, 2019 8:30-5:00

\$50. For SCGS Members \$55 for non-members

SC Department of Archives 8301 Parklane Rd. Columbia, SC 29223

Your registration includes:

- 24 total sessions
- Program Book with Syllabus
- Vendors on-site
- Access to SC Archives

- FOR MORE INFORMATION
- To register for this event
- Visit the SCGS Website

http://www.scgen.org/

https://www.facebook.com/SCGenealogicalSociety

Host Hotel: Hampton Inn

1551 Barbara Drive, Columbia, SC (803) 865-8000
Reservations at the rate of \$105.00 per night; accepted until June 27, 2019

Group Name: SC Genealogical Society

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The 2019 SCGS will feature the Following Speakers

Katherine Bolt Borges John Smith
Jan Alpert Robin Foster

Lisa Lisson Emily deQuincy Newman

Anita Finger Smith Charity Rouse
Dr. Walter Curry John Andrews
Natonne Elaine Kemp Charlie Black

Durant Ashmore A Visit with Four Revolutionary War

Brent Holcomb Heroines











The article and information on the upcoming pages was contributed by Mr. Charles Kellogg, a visitor to the Duncan Research Center in Summer 2018. Mr. Kellogg was researching the Gassaway and McPhail families. Anyone wishing more information is welcome to contact Mr. Kellogg at his gmail account—griot1229@gmail.com

100 Years

Less than 25 years after the Civil War ended, Mark H. Gassaway, and shortly afterwards his wife, Carrie Walls, had completed their respective degrees at Claflin & Spelman colleges. Each of these former Anderson county residents made great contributions to the county by way of educating thousands of county blacks for over 30 years. Mark Hughee Gassaway (1852-1942) was a product of the Belton, Honea Path area of Anderson County. He was the son of Larkin Gassaway & Louisa McPhail. Louisa McPhail had been taught to read and write and passed that skill on to Mark & his siblings. In 1882 Mark graduated from Claflin College in Orangeburg S.C. He returned to Anderson where he began educating blacks of the community and helping the community by being a leading example of how to prosper in a system that rarely dealt an equal hand to minorities. 1889 was a key year in Mark's life as he married Carrie Walls, a recent graduate from Spelman College in Atlanta G.A. In this same year he was named postmaster of Belton Co. This appointment did not sit well with many in the Belton community and he was forced to leave that post. It has been said that he was granted the principalship of a school in Anderson, most likely Greeley Institute on McDuffie St. The couple had been given great reviews for their school and how it was run from members of the community as reported by local newspapers. As the black community in Anderson sought education at greater rates more schools were needed to meet those needs. In the early 1900's Mark & Carrie moved on to Reed School located in the 300 block of Reed Street. Carrie Walls (1859-1935) was herself a rising star in the black community, first in Atlanta then Anderson Co. Carrie authored a column in the college paper at Spelman called "Children's Exchange" where she interacted with students around the country and even reaching as far as Canada. "Cousin Carrie", as she was known in her articles, would encourage her readers to seek education and to always serve the master. This was done with in-depth historical and biblical knowledge learned in her high school in Columbus G.A. and sharpened at Spelman college. Carrie Walls was part of a group of students that met with John Rockefeller and his wife Laura Spelman. It was after this meeting that Mr. Rockefeller began to fund major projects at the college. This funding relationship continues today through the Rockefeller Foundation. Prior to this meeting the college was known as the Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary, after that day it was to be known as Spelman College in honor of Laura Spelman, John Rockefeller's wife. The relationship between the Gassaway family and the community members of Anderson County was mixed. When Mark & Carrie focused their energies on strictly educating their community they were lauded. On the other hand when Mark asserted the rights of blacks he was scorned as a race agitator. Mark had been living in the area all of his life prior to the incident which led to his forced departure. The year was 1919, commonly known as the "Red Summer", in this year, blacks were unfairly threatened and killed throughout the south. Anderson County was no different. In a newspaper article published in the Anderson Intelligencer, Mark was forced to tender his resignation as principal of Reed school and told to leave town. This was the culmination of many months of attacks by the editor of the Anderson Tribune, which is no longer in publication. While it is documented that Mark had the support of prominent members of the community including the police chief and superintendent of schools, the less educated whites were threatened by Mr. Gassaway's education and the fact that he was chosen to represent the NAACP in Anderson County as its first president.

Initially Mark considered staying and continuing the fight for fairness for blacks, but ultimately the family decided that leaving was the best option to take. He started Gassaway broom company just outside Cleveland Ohio and built this company into a modern broom making enterprise. This company was run successfully for many years after his death by his sons, Harold & Charles Gassaway, also products of Anderson County.

Carrie continued taking classes at both Case Western in Ohio and Cheney State in Pennsylvania. Dedicating the rest of her time in community service in the Ohio area. As long as she was able, she visited the grave of Laura Spelman every memorial day to pay homage to one of the most influential women in her life.

Nothing can change the fact that Mark and Carrie's family was wrongfully forced out of Anderson even though they had lived their life in an exemplary manner, serving humanity while giving glory to God. Countless articles in local newspapers noted the path of Mark Gassaway as emotions changed often from praise to the expulsion, which happened exactly 100 years ago. In recent years, Carrie's articles and experiences are being used for high school and college lesson plans in many places in the U.S. keeping her work ongoing as an educator. Mark has been recognized and honored in Anderson County by being inducted in the Anderson County Museum's Hall of Fame as a 2017 inductee. The pendulum of time swings back and forth between times of true progress and time less so. It may be that the induction of Mark into the County's hall of fame, and the fact that he was chosen as the subject of this newsletter will be part of the swing towards progress and force a hard look at our individual and collective histories.



7. Faculty, Reed Street School

The faculty of the Reed Street African-American High School included Prof. M.H. Gassaway as principal and teachers Mrs. Gassaway, Mr. Todd, Mrs. Todd, A. Anderson, I. Watson, Mr. Rhodes, M. Gassaway, Mrs. Moore, and M.G. Brown. Black teachers' average salaries for 1900 were \$108 while salaries in 1901 were \$113. In 1918 the Reed Street School had an enrollment of 286 students and 11 teachers in the 7 elementary grades and a 3-year high school program.

Gassaway, Price to Join Anderson County Hall of Fame Tuesday

Sunday, October 8, 2017 at 10:44AM Editor

The Anderson County Museum's Hall of Fame will induct its two newest members during a ceremony Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the museum. The ceremony is free and open to the public.

This year's inductees are education pioneer Mark Hughes Gassaway and civic leader and county historian Bruce Walker Price.

Gassaway was born to Louisa McPhail and Larkin Gassaway, Sr. near Belton in 1852. Louisa had been taught by her father to read and determined that all five of her children should be educated. Little did she know that education would come to define her son's life. Mark excelled as a student and graduated in 1883 from Claffin College.

Gassaway married a fellow educator in 1889, Carrie, who had graduated from Spelman Seminary in Georgia and who also became a teacher in Belton. The couple both fostered a passion for educating black youth during a time when quality schooling was often unavailable to the African American community. They moved to Anderson where Mark took a position as principal at Greeley Institute.

In 1901, a postal position opened up in Anderson and Mark Gassaway applied. He scored the highest on the examination and was offered the job. However, when he appeared for the first day of work the Postal Service realized they had hired a black man. They proposed a compromise to Gassaway: in exchange for declining this postal position, the city would construct a new African American school on the west side of town where he would be principal for life.

The satisfied Gassaway accepted this deal and earned fame and favor throughout the county as a master educator and administrator at Reed Street School. From the 1880s through 1919, Mark advanced Anderson's African American community by educating thousands of the county's black children. He and his wife even hosted certain children at their home on Hampton Street which they used as a boarding house for out-of-town students.

Using his connections to wealthy and influential community members, he was able to help black soldiers restart their lives after returning from WWI. He also served as a delegate to the national Methodist Episcopal conference for many years. One of Gassaway's greatest accomplishments in civic leadership was the establishment of Anderson's branch of the NAACP, where he served as the first president in 1919. However, his work with the organization drew the attention of local white supremacists who opposed the group. Escalation led to harassment, intimidation, and death threats against Gassaway who had once been hailed for his achievements in the community. Mark felt forced to pack up and move his family to Cleveland, Ohio where he could continue his work in relative safety.

Mark and Carrie lived out their lives in Ohio where the former principal continued as a delegate to national Methodist conferences and as a Civil Rights activist. He even spoke at a NAACP rally in New York alongside the famed W.E.B. Dubois. In addition, Mr. Gassaway started a broom factory while his sons went on to become lawyers and his daughter a teacher. His passion for education and primacy as an advocate for racial equality make Mark Gassaway one of the most prominent and unique figures in our county history. He and his wife are both buried at Highland Park Cemetery in Cleveland, Ohio.

ANDERSON OBSERVE	₹
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We spent two hours in the Belton Colored High School, and were very much gratified at what we saw and heard. M. H. Gassaway is the Principal, assisted by Carrie P. Walls, of Macon, Ga. The Assistant was giving a lesson in drawing to a class as we entered, and the inspection of the work done was a pleasant surprise to us. A class in geography showed a readiness that has not been excelled, and seldom equalled, in the County. Gassaway and his assistant are doing a good work, toning up the moral and religious sentiment of their race.

OFFENDING NEGRO LEAVES ANDERSON

With Departure of Preacher Fear of of Race Trouble Diminishes— School Teacher Resigns.

The Sate.

Anderson, Oct. 9.—The feeling that race trouble might develop here as the result of statements alleged to have been made by the Rev. Bacheler, pastor of one of the negro churches in this city, diminished considerably today when it became known that the negro preacher had left the city. The situation since Monday afternoon had been tense. Some level headed members of his own race went to the negro preacher and advised him to leave.

M. H. Gassaway, principal of the Reed street negro school, upon request, today tendered his resignation, which was immediately accepted at a special meeting of the board of trustees of the city schools. He has been advised to leave town also. Bacheler is said to have come here about six months ago from Rochester, N. Y. Gassaway has been living here for about 20 years.

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VOLUME 33, ISSUE 2

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OF THE

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SATURDAY 10 AM—2 PM

LOCATED 110 FEDERAL STREET, AT THE ANDERSON COUNTY ARTS CENTER, BESIDE THE FARMER MARKET—ENTER THE DOORS FOR "VISIT ANDERSON"

MEETINGS—Monthly meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7 pm at Senior Solutions, 3420 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.

Refreshments are provided Free before the program and all Regular Meetings are open to the public.

http:www.andersoncounty.sgcen.org

Email: acgsresearch@gmail.com

Telephone: 864-540-8300

President, Shirley Phillips