

THE ANDERSON RECORD

We pray that everyone is staying safe during this Covid-19 Pandemic. You and your families are in our prayers.

The following article was submitted by Linda Rogers.

1918 Flu Pandemic

One hundred and two years ago the 1918 influenza pandemic devastated entire communities and took an estimated 675,000 American lives. It was the most severe pandemic in recent history, sweeping the globe quickly and killing more than 50 million people. It is estimated that 500 million people or one-third of the world's population became infected.

Unlike today's pandemic, mortality was high in people younger than 5 years old, 20-40 years old, and like today, 65 years and older. The high mortality rate in healthy people was a unique feature of this pandemic. With no vaccines or medicine, control efforts were limited to non-pharmaceutical interventions such as isolation, quarantine, good personal hygiene, use of disinfectants, and limitations of public gatherings, which were applied unevenly.

The timeline is interesting:

March 1918-Outbreaks of flu-like illness are first detected in the U.S. More than 100 soldiers at Fort Riley, Kansas, became ill with flu. Within a week the number of flu cases quintuples. Flu activity spreads unevenly through U.S., Europe and Asia over the next six months.

April 1918-first mention of influenza appears in an April 5 weekly public health report.

September 1918 - The second wave of flu emerges at Camp Devens, a U.S. training camp just outside

of Boston. The second wave was highly fatal and responsible for most of the deaths attributed to the pandemic. By the end of September, more than 14,000 flu cases are reported at Camp Devens, about one fourth of the total camp, resulting in 757 deaths. Flu first appeared in South Carolina in Abbeville Co., due to its direct connecting railroad to Kansas (the first place the flu appeared in the U.S.), dense population, cotton mills and military bases.

October 1918-The virus killed an estimated 195,000 Americans in October alone. In the fall, the U.S. experiences a severe shortage of professional nurses, because of the deployment of large numbers of nurses to military camps and the failure to use trained African American nurses. Philadelphia is hit hard with more than 500 bodies awaiting burial. Cold-storage plants are used as temporary morgues, a manufacturer of trolley cars donates 200 packing crates for use as coffins. San Francisco's Board of Health requires any person serving the public to wear masks and suggests all residents to wear masks. New York City has a 40% decline in shipyard productivity due to the flu, in the midst of World War I. South Carolina issued a mandatory order to shutdown all places of public gatherings, including schools and mills.

November 1918-The end of World War I enables a resurgence of flu as people celebrate Armistice Day. Salt Lake City officials place quarantine signs on front and rear doors of 2,000 homes where occupants have been struck with flu.

December 1918 - Public health officials begin education programs about dangers of coughing and sneezing and careless disposal of tissues. The American Public Health Association encourages stores and factories to stagger opening and closing hours and for people to walk to work.

January 1919-A third wave of flu occurs in the winter and spring, killing many more. The third wave subsides in the summer. In San Francisco, 1800 flu cases and 101 deaths were reported in the first five days of the month. 706 cases of flu and 67 deaths were reported in New York City.

February 1919-Flu appears to be nearly eradicated in New Orleans. Illinois passes a bill to create a one-year course to become a “practical nurse,” in an effort to address the nursing shortage.

Mid 1919-South Carolina flu cases slowed down. The flu had struck a major blow to the economy here.

In the February 16, 1999, issue of the Greenville News: “Every so often a strain virulent enough to kill millions emerges and experts warn that the world is overdue for another pandemic.”

*And yet we survived that pandemic, **as we will the current one!** We can stay isolated until this wears itself out or a vaccine is created. Stay well.*

For Black History Month, February, the two following articles have been submitted by Charles Kellogg.

**Respect the past, honor the present and
look to the future**

In 1889, Anderson County appointed a new postmaster, that man was Mark H. Gassaway. “Mark H. Gassaway was the first Colored man from Anderson County to graduate from any school whatsoever.” (Voice of the Negro, 1905, Google books). Mark was an 1882 graduate of

Clafin University. Appointing Mark Gassaway was amazing in the fact that he was a black man, not so amazing was the reaction of the community. The Intelligencer in June of 1889 announced Mark Gassaway’s appointment to the office of Postmaster, in that same edition they, quite forcefully encouraged him to leave that post. (The Intelligencer Thurs., June 20, 1889)

In the 1800’s the postmaster was one of the more prominent positions in any county. The postmaster was accountable for keeping communities in contact with each other on both a personal, business and governmental level. There were no phones, televisions, or even radios at this time so the postmaster actually filled in for all of these modern day inventions. State and federal offices counted on the local postmaster to give facts and honest opinions about the area for which the postmaster serviced. At this time in history the postmaster was an appointed position in virtually every county in America, so it is safe to assume that this was the same in Anderson County.

This means that there was at least one prominent white official in the county that made the appointment of Mark Gassaway in the first place. Unfortunately, Mark did not keep the position of Postmaster but was able to parlay his forced resignation into a principal position and the expansion of educational opportunities for African Americans in Anderson County.

Today in Anderson, I see a black mayor in Terrence Roberts, black city councilperson Dr. Beatrice Thompson, Anderson county representative, William A. and Gracie Floyd. Terrence Roberts, a local man that was educated here in Anderson, the son of an educator and a successful businessman in his own right. Mayor Roberts has won several elections that have kept him in office for over 14 years. Mayor Robert’s has presided over and contributed to the development

Carrie Walls/Gassaway

A Special woman of Anderson County

1889 was not the best time in our nation for African Americans or women, but some were able to excel despite the odds being stacked against them. This is a story of one of those special women and her connection to Anderson county.



Carrie Walls was an educator in Anderson county at a time when

education was just starting to gain momentum in the African American community. Carrie came to Anderson after graduating at the top of the second graduating class of Spelman seminary. Immediately after graduating from Spelman she moved to Anderson county and married Mark H. Gassaway, an established citizen of Belton. Together they worked first at Greeley institute, then Reed school.

In order to get a better idea of this extraordinary woman, we need to look at the years that preceded 1889 to see the path that led Carrie P. Gassaway Nee Walls to Anderson county. Born before the end of the civil war, Carrie was marked at an early age for her potential as a beacon for the advancement of her race. Carrie Walls was educated in Columbus G.A. by Freedman's societies based in the Massachusetts area. Because of the promise she showed she was blessed to be able to attend Atlanta's Baptist Female seminary. Carrie was in attendance at the seminary for pivotal years for the education of Blacks and women. Today we know Spelman college as a leading institution in the education of African American women, but prior to 1885 the institution was named the Atlanta female seminary. The founders of the seminary, Sophia Packard and Harriet Giles had long been looking for long term funding of their school. To that end a meeting was set up for John Rockefeller and his wife Laura B.

Rockefeller Nee Spelman to meet some of the top students of the school at that time. Carrie was one of the students chosen to meet the Rockefellers. After this fateful day the Rockefeller family became major funders of the college, the first investment came weeks after the meeting with those special women. In a letter written to a former president of Spelman Carrie recalls the new dormitory that was built and named Rockefeller hall " I was a member of the class which first moved into the dormitory rooms. I cannot tell you how happy we were with the lovely rooms so nice and new and great."

It was directly after this, that Sophia Packard told the students that the new name of the institution would be changed to Spelman in honor of Laura Spelman.

This so touched Carrie that in her later years, she began to visit the grave of Laura Spelman Rockefeller every Memorial Day until her death. This practice has been resurrected by her descendants who visit the same grave at least once a year.

While at Spelman Carrie Walls authored a column in the college paper, The Messenger. Carrie's article ran in most editions from 1885 -1888. The column was named "Children's Exchange", where ongoing discussions and lessons were covered in her articles. Carrie's article was a correspondence with students around the state and as far away as Massachusetts and even Canada. The "Children's Exchange" was just that, an "Exchange" between her and her readers, a place where black youth were able to see their letters in print with a response from "Cousin Carrie". Cousin Carrie was the persona taken on by Carrie Walls to help create a national family. This national family created by Carrie was held together until her graduation from Spelman and transition to her teaching position in Anderson County. Even after her new life had started in Anderson, Carrie occasionally

of downtown Anderson; and worked hand in hand with state, Federal and private concerns to bring about a better Anderson. One of Mayor Robert's proudest achievements is the growth of the MLK Breakfast given every year for over a decade. This is a great accomplishment because this event exemplifies MLK's dream; and it has been embraced by all cultures of Anderson County, and is supported by the City Council.

Mr. William A. Floyd who has established a legacy on the Anderson County Council. Mr. Floyd was elected to the Anderson County Council as the first African American ever. He held this position over several elections until his untimely death in 1999. Prior to his death, Floyd helped oversee the development of the county, and spearheaded several projects that added to his legacy. William's contributions to the citizens of the county have been commemorated by the naming of the amphitheater in Anderson as the William A Floyd Amphitheater. After Mr. Floyd's death, the void on the county board, was fortunately filled by his most capable wife, Mrs. Gracie Floyd. Mrs. Floyd, like her husband, devoted much of her life not only to serving the citizens of Anderson County, but also educating them as a teacher. In the past 20 years, Mrs. Floyd is currently the longest serving member of the board. Over the years both Mr. and Mrs. Floyd has served the Anderson community as responsible servants of the community.

Dr. Beatrice Thompson was the first black woman elected to the Anderson City Council, a position that she currently holds and has since 1976. Dr. Thompson came into the City Council with more degrees than any of her other council members, a Bachelors and two master's degrees. Two years after her election she added to that total by earning her P.H.D. Dr. Thompson has gone on to be re-elected not because of her color or her degrees but because she excelled at serving her constituents. Dr. Thompson's service to the City

of Anderson did not start with her election to the City Council, for years she had been educating the youth of Anderson County. Dr. Thompson was born and reared in Anderson County and can recall the times in the past when she did not get the respect that she has earned today.

There is a common theme that connects all of these individuals. That is that they were able to form coalitions that were made up of both African American and white citizens of Anderson County. While the unfortunate events of 1919 led to the forced departure of Mark Gassaway, he most certainly had the respect of many in Anderson County. The December 1919 issue of W.E.B. DuBois' Crisis magazine stated that "The superintendent of schools and the police chief knew and respected Mr. Gassaway and were not influenced by the attacks". The "attacks" referenced in the quotes were verbal attacks issued by the editor of the Anderson Tribune, a now defunct newspaper. Mark Gassaway and his family had to leave Anderson County in October of 1919, due to the national heat that was burning all over the country, more than to any unique nuances of Anderson County. All of the current African American office holders in Anderson County, Dr. Thompson, Gracie Floyd, and Terrance Roberts have been able to win re-election for years and each have established their own legacies.

February has long been seen as a month set aside to recognize African American accomplishments. The fact is that African American history is not separate at all from the fabric of the history of North America. February was the month that Abraham Lincoln signed the 13th amendment and so it is appropriate that this is the month chosen to recognize and celebrate African Americans and our history. African American history is American history, there is no reason to confine it to any single month.

sent news back to Spelman, updating the readers on her life in Anderson, and encouraging them to work hard and give glory to God. It is an amazing fact that we have written history from a black women's perspective in 1885, over 130 years ago.

Carrie's reach to educate the youth of the country did not stop when her time in Anderson, her writings have been used as primary source material for both High school and college students. In the Atlanta school system at least one educator used and published his lesson plan that utilizes Carrie's column to provide insight into a time when education for African Americans was a luxury. Dave Winter has developed a lesson plan that asks students to analyze and respond to one of Cousin Carrie's articles written over 100 years ago. On the collegiate level Sarah Robbins of Texas Christian University, not only uses Carrie's examples for her students but has also written about her in her book Learning legacies. In that book, referring to Carrie's "Children's Exchange" column, Sarah states "...Walls And her periodical stories built community across otherwise-separate social spaces "

Unfortunately, Carrie's face to face teaching days ended in October of 1919 when the family fell victim to the national heat of those "Red Summer" months. Fortunately for Carrie, her legacy could not be contained by exile or time. Her legacy will continue to grow and educate students in coming years. This is, a portion of, the story of a special African- American woman that brought her talents to Anderson County, raised her family there and educated thousands.

Excerpt from Housekeeping in Old Virginia by contributions from two hundred and fifty of Virginia's noted housewives, distinguished for their skill in the culinary art and other branches of Domestic Economy and edited by Marion Cabell Tyree. 1879

HOUSE-CLEANING

Do not clean but one room at a time, as it is a bad plan to have the whole house in confusion at once. It is best to commence with the attic.

Before beginning on your spring cleaning, remove the curtains, all the movable furniture and the carpets. With a broom and dust-pan remove all dust from the floor. Then with a wall-brush thoroughly sweep and dust the ceiling and side-walls, window and door frames, pictures and chandeliers. Then go over the floor again, removing the dust that has fallen from the ceiling and walls. Then proceed to wash all the paint in the room. If it be white paint, use whiting or such other preparations as are recommended for the purpose in the subsequent pages. If it be varnished, or in imitation of oak or walnut, wipe with a cloth dipped in milk-warm water. If the wood work in the room be of unvarnished walnut or oak, wipe it off first, and then oil it, rubbing in the oil well.

Then with a soft flannel rag and a cake of soap clean every piece of marble in the room. Next wipe the mirrors carefully with a flannel rag, wrung out of warm water and dipped in a little whiting, or you may rub a little silver soap on the rag. The gilding must be merely dusted, as the least dampness or a drop of water will injure it.

The windows (sash and all) must then be washed in soap and water, with a common brush such as is used for washing paint. A little soda dissolved in the water will improve the appearance of the windows. It is unnecessary to use such a quantity of soap and water as to splash everything around. After being washed, the windows should be polished with newspapers. Except in general housecleaning, windows may be cleaned by the directions given above for mirrors.

The metal about the door-knobs, tongs, etc., may be cleaned by electro-silicon, and the grates may be varnished with the black varnish kept for the

purpose by dealers in grates, stoves, etc. Every chair and article of furniture should be carefully cleaned before being brought back into the room, and linen covers should be put on the chairs. If you are going to put down matting, do so before bringing back the first article of furniture. Some housekeepers, however, allow their matting to remain during the winter under their carpets. Spots on matting may be removed by being scoured with a cloth, dipped first in hot water and then in salt. This, however, will cause wet spots to appear on it in damp weather. After the spots are removed, scrub the matting with dry corn-meal and a coarse cloth. Sweep it over several times, till all the meal is removed.

For persons who do not use matting in summer, a recipe is given later for beautifully coloring the floor with boiled linseed oil and burnt sienna. Where different woods are used alternately in the floor, this oil answers better than revarnishing the floor every spring.

As soon as the carpets are taken up, have them nicely shaken, swept, and brushed on both sides. Every spot should be carefully washed and wiped dry. The carpets should then be rolled up smoothly, with tobacco sprinkled between the folds, sewed up in coarse linen cloths, and put away till autumn. A cedar closet is an excellent place to keep carpets as well as other woolens. If you have no cedar closet, however, a cedar chest will serve to protect your woolen clothes against moths, and it is better to preserve them in this way than to sprinkle them with tobacco, which imparts an unpleasant scent to them.



Anderson - Edward Findley Hillhouse, Sr. passed away on March 19, 2020 at the age of 98, with family by his side. He was born in Anderson, South Carolina, on August 17, 1921 to Rufus

Hardy Hillhouse and Elinor Burriss Hillhouse. He was the youngest of four children...

Ed was a founding member of Providence Baptist Church where he served as Treasurer and Chairman of the Board of Deacons. He was active in many organizations, serving as President of the Anderson County Historical Society, the Anderson Chapter of the South Carolina Genealogy Society, and the General Andrew Pickens Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. He was awarded the Certificate of Distinguished Service by the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. He was a long-time member of the Golden K Kiwanis Club...

Instrumental in founding The Anderson County Museum, he then served on its Advisory Committee and as a member of the Anderson County Museum Commission...

Go to McDougald Funeral Home website or the Anderson Independent Mail to read the full obituary.

June 1, 2020 Meeting - 6:30 PM - Big Creek Baptist Church, Big Creek Rd, Williamston, SC.

This will be a covered dish dinner. ACGS will provide the meat, so bring some of your favorite side dishes and desserts to share with the church and our members.

Come early and walk through the grave yard to see if you have relatives buried there.

A presentation on the History of Big Creek Baptist Church will be presented by Dr. Ron Fousek

Go to: <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=8441> to read more about the church.

Contact Shirley Phillips or Ted Burgess for more information.

Membership Application

Date: _____

Last Name: _____

Are you on Facebook? YES NO

First Name: _____

Is this a change of information? YES NO

Middle Name: _____

Maiden Name: _____

SC Genealogical Society – State Number _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Surnames being researched:

Please list below the Family Surnames of those you are researching. Please include full names, known dates, and areas in Anderson and surrounding counties. *Use the back of this form if you need more space to add a surname.*

Surname, Given	Locations (City or County)	Dates

New Member

Renewal

ASSOCIATE - \$15.00 - I am a primary member of another SCGS Chapter.
 SCGS Chapter _____ SCGS Member # _____

INDIVIDUAL - \$25.00 - Membership for one person.

FAMILY - \$30.00 - Membership for 2 people, within the same household.
 Name of 2nd person: _____

Donation - _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Cash	<input type="checkbox"/> Check	Check # _____	Amount \$ _____
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Make checks payable to: ACGS

Mail to: ACC, SCGS, 110 Federal St, Anderson, South Carolina 29625

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Address label contains Membership # and Current Dues Status. If it indicates 2019, please send in a membership form with your 2020 dues as soon as possible.

CAROLYN DUNCAN RESEARCH CENTER

NOTE: THE RESEARCH CENTER IS CLOSED THROUGH END OF APRIL

MAY SCHEDULE WILL BE ANNOUNCED TOWARD END OF APRIL

NORMAL RESEARCH HOURS: TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY—10 AM TO 4 PM

SATURDAY 10 AM—2 PM (OTHER HOURS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)

LOCATED: 110 FEDERAL STREET, AT THE ANDERSON COUNTY ARTS CENTER, BESIDE THE FARMERS 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.

Programs are presented that are of interest to genealogy researchers. Check the website for program topics. Come early and discuss your family research with our members.

Refreshments are provided prior to the program, however Members are encouraged to bring food items.

All Regular Meetings are open to the public.

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

Email: acgsresearch@gmail.com

Telephone: 864-540-8300

President: Ted Burgess

Vice President: Shirley Phillips