

# THE ANDERSON RECORD

## 2021 SCGS Summer Workshop

The Summer Workshop for the South Carolina Genealogical Society was held this month on July 10th. This year it was a virtual conference and it only cost participants \$25.00 per person. The conference had various guest speakers including: Crista Cowan, the Barefoot Genealogist from Ancestry who spoke on “Getting the Most Out of Ancestry®” highlighting some of the little secrets you may not have found yet. Cheri Passey Hudson who spoke on “Evidence; Direct, Indirect, or Negative?” These two speakers were in the morning time.

In the afternoon Diahann Southard spoke on a favorite topic, “DNA”. She explained why we are paired with all these “4<sup>th</sup> Cousins” and how they fit in to your family tree. The final speaker of the day was Margaret Seidler, “The Accidental Historian” who enlighten us on the Charleston Domestic Slave Trade.

It is the mission of the SCGS that in 2022 they are able to have a conference that anybody and everybody can attend. It was announced when and where but not in time for this newsletter. Have a great year.

### **We sure could use your help.**

As Members of the Anderson County Chapter of the South Carolina Genealogical Society one of the benefits of your membership is receiving a quarterly newsletter. It is our intention that you find the newsletter informative and worthy of reading and keeping a copy for passing it on to others. To do this we want to fill the newsletters with good information about upcoming events, in the chapter, in other chapters and in the state of South Carolina and other states nearby.

We need your help in coming up with articles for the newsletter. Answer these questions: what are you looking for? Is your family from South Carolina or Anderson County if not where are they from. Are you looking for family information? Are you looking for historical information? We don't want to disappoint you or give you a feeling that the newsletter is not worth anything.

We are not asking you to write an article or give us something to fill a space, but if you keep us informed it might help us come up with things to fill the newsletter with interesting articles. Just send us an email to [ACGSResearch@gmail.com](mailto:ACGSResearch@gmail.com) and let us know how we can help you find what you are looking for.

## What do you know about “Century Farms”?

The South Carolina Century Farms Program was created in 1974 to honor families whose farms have been in the same family for one hundred years or more. Since the programs inception, over three hundred properties have been designated Century Farms in South Carolina with more than a third located in the Upstate.

Each year, the organization accepts 10-12 farms into the Century Farms program. In order to qualify, a portion of the original property must remain intact and the line of family ownership must be unbroken. Applicants need to furnish copies of original documents such as deeds and wills to qualify. The program is administered by the Pendleton District Historical, Recreational and Tourism Commission.

According to McCall, “Century Farms are crucial to our economy in that they both represent where we have come from, in South Carolina, as well as where we are going. Many of these farms were around when cotton was king, and now they take on a whole new approach, often a sustainable, greener approach. Many of our Century Farms are on the cutting edge of tomorrow’s agriculture, in that they have embraced sustainable, organic practices on their farms, as well as opening up their operation to the general public, either for tours or on-site markets. This is the most direct kind of ‘buying local’, and we are proud as a program to be a part of South Carolina’s agricultural heritage, by celebrating the past and promoting the future.”

Denver Downs Farm is a local century farm established in 1869 by the Garrison family. It was originally farmed for cotton, until right after World War II when T. Ed Garrison, Jr. returned with 10 Jersey cows and began dairy farming. Eventually the herd grew to about 300 Holstein cows until 1994 when the Garrison family sold the milking cows and changed to farming corn, soybeans, small grains, vegetables and beef cattle. Denver Downs also has a large Farm Market during the warmer months and operates one of the largest Corn Mazes and pumpkin patches in the Southeastern United States.

For more information on the South Carolina Century Farms program, please visit the [Pendleton District website](#).

In Anderson County the following farms are on the list of Century Farms:

Acevedo Farm  
Anderson Farm  
Aubrey Rogers Farm  
Barfield Farm  
Barnett Farm  
Boxwood Manor  
Brenda Hanks Farm  
Cox-Glenn Farm  
Craig Hill  
Crowther Farm  
Denver Downs  
Devine Farm  
Don King Farm  
Elm Hall  
Emerson Farm  
Garrett’s Family Farm  
Gentry Farm  
Glenn Farm  
Hanks Family Farm  
Hanks Farm  
Harold Smith Farm  
Hawkins  
Hawkins Farm  
Hays Farm  
Jim Smith Century Farm  
King Farm  
Level Land Century Farm  
Ligon Farm  
Lila Mae Hanks Farm  
Masters Farm  
McDaniel Farm  
McGee Farm, Tract A  
McGee Farm, Tract B  
Pascoe Farm  
Rocky River/Hencoop Creek  
Sears Farm  
Third Century  
Thomas Earle Farm  
Townsend Farm  
Tripp Farm  
Walker Family Farm  
Ware Farm  
Welborn Farm  
Wigington Farm  
Wood Farm  
Wright Farm



# Mr. Thomas D. Dixon

July 28, 1930 – March 28, 2021

Thomas Dean Dixon, 90, of Lavonia, Georgia, died on Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021, at his Lavonia home, just after witnessing a magnificent sunset with his daughter.

Thomas was born July 28, 1930, in Charlotte, NC, to Willard Rodolph and Bertie Volina (Banks) Dixon.

He was a graduate of Greenville Senior High School with the class of 1948. Thomas continued his education at Furman University but paused his degree program to enlist in the U.S. Air Force. He served as an Electronics & Repair Technician during the Korean Conflict in various postings but primarily on the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska. He returned to Furman University after his enlistment, graduating in 1957 with a bachelor's degree in Business and Accounting. It was at Furman that Thomas met Virginia "Ginger" Dixon (Coleman) of Cross Hill, SC, the love of his life and wife for 60 years.

In his career, Thomas served with Milliken and Company from 1960 – 1995 assigned to textile plants in Greenville and Abbeville, SC; Manchester and Avalon, GA, and at the Corporate Office in Spartanburg, SC. He enjoyed his time at Milliken because of the people he met, the high-level training and travel.

Thomas was listed on the 'cradle roll' at Sans Souci Baptist Church in Sans Souci, SC, beginning his Church membership record that included Bethuel Baptist and Pendleton Street; Greenville; First Baptist Anchorage, Alaska; First Baptist Travelers Rest; West Gantt Baptist; Manchester First Baptist; Abbeville First Baptist; and for 47 years at First Baptist of Lavonia, GA. He served as a Deacon, Men's Sunday School teacher, 'Terrific Tuesday' and Youth Mission Trip Bus Driver as well as a faithful member. He also loved Church music in voice or instrument.

Thomas enjoyed gardening, genealogy, and driving through the Georgia/South Carolina countryside discovering and commemorating his family roots in the farmsteads and church cemeteries of the region. He traveled with his daughter for many years to State Parks and Historic Sites. He was an avid gardener with a green thumb and a keen collector of family history and lineage and eager to share both interests with friends, family or anyone who asked. He continued learning even into his 80s and at 90, most recently graduating with a certificate from Mother Earth News Fair Online: Polyface Farm Tour. He never missed a day spending time in Bible study and talking in Prayer with his Savior. He enjoyed studying scriptures and thinking on how the New Testament is shaped by the Old Testament.

He is survived by his daughter Rev. Rebecca Dixon of the home, son Timothy Dixon, Colonel, US Army (Retired) (Irmgard) of Travelers Rest, SC; his granddaughter Theresa Dixon of Washington, DC and grandson Daniel Dixon (Kirsty) as well as three great grandchildren Nathan, Evie and Ada, of Marquette, MI; his brother J. Rodolph Dixon of Casey, SC; and many beloved cousins.

He is predeceased by his wife, his parents, his sister Bertie Volina Roper (Earle), and his sister Martha Jane Godshall.

Memorials can be made to Furman University -- Shi Center for Sustainability, 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, SC 29613 or Lavonia First Baptist Church, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Mission Offering, 95 Bowman Street, Lavonia, GA 30553.

A memorial service was held on April 10, 2021 at First Baptist Church of Lavonia. Officiants were Rev Dr. Larry Finger and Rev Rodolph Dixon. Burial service were on May 15th, at Greenville Memorial Gardens. To sign the online guest register and leave personal condolences to the family, please visit [stricklandfh.com](http://stricklandfh.com).

# We All Have Stories We Could Tell:

In many respects the experiences we have lived through in the last number of months (feels like years) seem like *daja vu* as we flash back to memories and experiences passed down through our families, the most recent analogous situation, of course, being the 1918 Spanish Flu. For all of us, COVID-19 has caused enormous personal and business interruptions, not to mention health challenges and the loss of friends and sometimes family members. The year 2020, for multiple reasons but most prominently the results of the virus, will leave a permanent mark in our history.

One of the many regrets for the people active in the Anderson Chapter of the South Carolina Genealogical Society has been the forced interruptions of service to the people of Anderson and those interested in genealogical resources available through the Chapter. It has been agonizing to have to keep the doors closed and the telephone unanswered during the period. Several times attempts were made to reopen and it almost seemed as though our efforts to reopen caused a fearful rise in the statistics and obvious danger to personnel and visitors.

We know the medical projections are not encouraging for the rest of the year but we will do our best to be available. Please know that we miss you and will be here as often as possible.

In the meantime, keep in mind that your descendants will certainly like to know from you about your experiences during this historic time. They will be hearing about 2020 for well over 100 years. You have a fascinating and important story to tell, including about lessons we have learned or should have learned.

## James Merritt - Family Lines

James Merritt (Merriott), an emigrant from England, came to Essex County, VA, on the Rappahannock River in 1650 with his wife, Eleanor Ould. James had three sons and one daughter: 1. James Merritt (died 1735), 2. John Merritt, 3. Thomas Merritt, and 4. Eleanor Merritt. They were known as Planters. John Merritt, a constable of Essex County, was the father of our ancestor, Edward Merritt.

Edward Merritt came to Surry County about 1770 with his sons, John Merritt, Sr. (1753-1827), James Merritt (born 1755), William Merritt (Dec. 20, 1762-May 22, 1841), Thomas Merritt, Obadiah Merritt, and a daughter Sarah Merritt. Sarah married a Martin. John Merritt and his brother James Merritt, and a slave are listed in the Surry County Tax list in 1774. John Merritt, Sr., James Merritt, and William Merritt were in the Revolutionary War.

John Stafford Merritt, Sr., is listed as a private in Rowland Madison's Company of the 12<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment – first on Jan. 1, 1777. He appears on the muster rolls until Aug. 1777, when he is listed as “left behind on march from Clove” (Clove is Smith's Clove, an American Fortification just north of

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Sufferin, NY). He is listed in the 1787 Census of Surry County and the US Census for Stokes County in 1790, 1800 and 1810. He is listed until 1816 on the Stokes County Tax List. He is sometimes listed with his son, John Stafford Merritt, Jr., who lived in Stokes County all his life. John Merritt, Sr., was in Hawkins County, TN, in 1808-1810 where his son, George S. Merritt, had a TX Land Grant. His daughter, Lydia Merritt, married Elisabeth Hampton, and they stayed in Campbell County, TX. John Merritt and his sons were in Boone County, KY, in 1810 where his name is on the tax list. John had two daughters, Sarah Merritt and Sally Merritt, who married two brothers by the name of Upp. The Upp family owned land in Paint Township, Highland County, OH, where John and his son, George Merritt, are listed in the US Census for 1820. Charles Merritt, another son of John Merritt's was in Indiana buying land at the Brookville Land Office on which he settled in Marion County. His parents joined him there and died there. John Merritt died in 1824 and Elizabeth died in 1826. John Merritt's son George Merritt, and another son, William Merritt, had land in adjoining Hendricks County. After Charles Merritt settled his father's estate, he began moving west, but was still in Marion County in 1840 as shown in the 1840 US Census. Many descendants of John Merritt, Sr., are now living in Indiana, Wyoming, Utah, and other western states.

Edward Merritt also had a son named Obadiah Merritt. Obadiah Merritt traveled from Virginia to South Carolina and settled in the Brushy Creek area of South Carolina. In his travels he married Zilpha Oldham of North Carolina. They together had four children: Lucy Merritt, Allen Obadiah Merritt, Joseph Mattison Merritt and Nancy Carylton Merritt. Allen Obadiah Merritt married Mary E. "Darcus" Childers on December 12, 1847 and had nine children: Julia Ann Merritt, Edward

Madison Merritt, William Langer Merritt, Allen Copeland Merritt, Rev. Abraham Augustus Merritt, Mary Jane Merritt, John F. Merritt, Nancy Ellen Merritt and Henry Harrison Merritt. Mary Jane Merritt married Abe B. Childers.

I am interested in Allen Obadiah Merritt who married Mary E. Darcus Childers who are my great-great-great-grandparents. They're child Nancy Ellen Merritt married Fair Posey Smith (great-great-grandparents) and produced five children: Dorcus Lenora Smith, Lillie Jane Smith, Arabelle Smith, Amy Belle Smith and Warren Allan Smith. Lillie Jane Smith married William Ellison Davis (great-grandparents) and had six children: William Clayton "Big Bill" Davis, Sr., Charles Archie Davis, Troy Carlton Davis, Sr., Phenie LaBelle Davis, William Warren "Little Bill" Davis, and Lila Mae Davis. Troy Carlton Davis, Sr. born Feb 9, 1910 married Alma Sue Gillespie, born Feb 3, 1910 (grandparents) and had three children: Betty Sue Davis, Shirley Davis and Troy Carlton Davis, Jr. Betty Sue Davis (my mother), born in 1932 married Raymond Mayfield Farmer (my father), born in 1934 in 1954 in Columbia, SC and settled in Anderson, South Carolina after he served over 11 years in the Navy as a Medical Doctor. Raymond M. Farmer set up practice in Anderson and delivered many babies in Anderson. Dr. Raymond M. Farmer died in February of 2018 and Betty D. Farmer died on March 29, 2021.

Compiled by: Louise Merritt from research done by the late Richard Lee Merritt (1924-1980) who did research for more than thirty years on the Merritt Family, and Gary Farmer who modified the ending to explain his relationship with the Merritt Family.

# Why & Where Did It All Begin

From "Traditions and History of Anderson County" by Louise Ayer Vandiver

"The county seat of the new district of Pendleton, called by the same name, early became a popular summer resort of the low country people, and the little town of Pendleton was one of the most cultured and charming places in the South.

As immigration increased and people settled the forests, the huge district was found cumbersome, and another division became necessary. In 1828 Pendleton District disappeared, and was replaced by popular Revolutionary soldiers of the section, Colonel Robert Anderson and General Andrew Pickens. The commissioners to divide the country were J. C. Kilpatrick, Major Lewis and Thomas Garvin.

The town of Pendleton being to near the edge of the new district for the county seat, a new locality had to be chosen. Commissioners were appointed to select a site for the new town" in Anderson County. The commissioners were "James Harrison, Robert Norris, M. Gambrell, John C. Griffin and William Sherard."

"The great highway running from the Cherokee country to Long Cane, a settlement in Abbeville County, was called "The General's Road" because it started near the home of General Pickens and was frequently traveled by him. On that road the new town was to be located, and placed about the middle of the district."

"White Hall" was a residence and store almost opposite the site of the Green home just above

North Anderson. The old house under three fine trees still bears the name. The building of that earlier day stood close to the road, were whitewashed or painted, something unusual in that time or locality. One of the buildings had a cellar in which it was said a murdered man was once buried. Of course it was "haunted" or rather "hanted," and the children of that day scurried by the place with bated breath. The original buildings were blown away in a hurricane so severe that it carried into Spartanburg County a plank which had been built into the gable end of one of the houses, which had painted on it the name of the owner, which was Lipscomb."

"White Hall was considered by some of the commissioners a suitable place for the new town. Others though preferred a point about two miles further south, where the Orr Mill is now located. A Baptist church, Mt. Tabor, with its graveyard, was located there, and it was a popular gathering place."

"Arguing the respective merits of the two sites the commissioners rode back and forth between them, until, becoming weary, they stopped at a backwoods bar which was about half way between the two. There they obtained stimulating refreshment, and watered their thirsty horses. The bar stood about where the Masonic Temple is now, and the spring from which they got water was very near the middle of the street."

"Sitting around the door of the tavern discussing the matter on which they were engaged, all at once Mr. "Bobby" Norris got up, and walking some few feet away planted his heavy walking stick under a towering walnut tree, and exclaimed: "There shall be the southeast corner of the courthouse, and who says no, has got me to whip!" On that spot stood the first courthouse and Anderson was established.

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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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- VOLUME 35 ISSUE 2

ANDERSON COUNTY CHAPTER  
OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA  
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110 FEDERAL STREET  
ANDERSON, SC 29625

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### CAROLYN DUNCAN RESEARCH CENTER

**NOTE: THE RESEARCH CENTER IS CURRENTLY OPEN ON TUESDAY AND THURSDAY IF WE HAVE A VOLUNTEER AVAILABLE. PLEASE CALL THE CENTER BEFORE COMING TO CONFIRM THE CENTER IS OPEN. WE WILL OPEN OTHER DAYS BY APPOINTMENT. AGAIN, CALL TO CONFIRM.**

**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—We have restarted monthly meetings. They 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.

Light refreshment will be provided.

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

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Vice President: Shirley Phillips