

THE ANDERSON RECORD

ANDERSONVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

At the head waters of the Savannah River, where the Tugaloo and Seneca Rivers meet, once stood a flourishing town. Now the beautiful site is given over to bats and owls except when some camping or picnic party revive for a brief moment youth and life on the deserted spot. Now that area is covered with water beneath that of Lake Hartwell.

Andersonville was founded in 1801, twenty-six years before the current location of Anderson, South Carolina was laid off. An act of legislature of that time created the town on land owned by Colonel Elias EARLE, one of the pioneer settlers of upper South Carolina. General Robert ANDERSON, General Samuel EARLE and Colonel Elias EARLE were appointed to lay it off, and it was named for General Anderson.

Colonel Elias EARLE had been an officer in the War for Independence, and afterwards a member of Congress. He sold some lots in the new town, but retained the greater part for himself; later he sold a half interest to his son-in-law, James HARRISON. With his interest added to his wife's share in her father's estate, Mr. Harrison became the second owner of Andersonville, and the place (in 1928) is still owned by the Harrison family. Only the old Harrison dwelling, the second house built for the family residence, remains to mark the spot. This Harrison residence in 1928, was fast falling into decay.

Mr. Harrison carried on a large mercantile business and amassed a fortune. Later he took as partners Colonel F. E. HARRISON and Mr. John B. WYNNE. Colonel F. E. HARRISON and Mr. Claudius EARLE succeeded this firm as "Harrison and Earle." There were in the town a flour and grist mill, a cotton gin, and iron foundry, and a flourishing academy for young ladies. The town also supported a small cotton factory and a wool factory, and housed the operatives of both mills; there were tailor shop, shoe shop and livery stable in the place, and quite a number of residence. Andersonville was the cotton market for the whole of what is now called the Piedmont Section of the State, and a large area of Georgia; its trade with Hamburg (near North Augusta) and Augusta, GA. was brisk, during the days when river navigation was the means of carrying freight.

After the War Between the States there was a factory established in Andersonville for making yarn from cotton seed. It was probably the only one of its kind ever operated in the South.

In 1840 a great flood and water, known as a freshet, flowed down the Tugaloo and Seneca Rivers and swept away the cotton and wool mills and the cotton gin. They were rebuilt, a second time carried away by the rampant waters of 1852, and never erected again. Andersonville had then entered upon its decline. The buildings of the Columbia and Greenville railroad was a death blow to the river town. Colonel Frank E. HARRISON, the owner at the time, did all in his power to uphold the place; he even tried to get a railroad through it, and one was actually surveyed, but it was never built. The grim monster war was stalking the South, and the town fell to its prey even before its actual horrors were realized.

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Presented by Linda Rogers:

BLOODY THURSDAY

On September 6, 1934, Honea Path and the Chiquola Manufacturing Company were in the nation's spotlight after violence erupted during a labor strike. The United Textile Workers of America, a labor union that had garnered the support of over one half of mill workers in the Southeast, called for a general strike during the first week of September. The members of the union were complaining of low wages, long hours, and untenable working conditions and were hoping that a strike would gain concessions from the mill owners. Over two-thirds of the textile workers in the nation participated in the walkout, including those in Honea Path. On the morning of September 6th, a scuffle broke out between the strikers and a few workers wanting to cross the picket lines. Volunteer security officers, who had been posted at the mill to protect it, opened fire on the crowd, killing seven and wounding fifteen. The deaths brought national attention to South Carolina and indirectly led to the collapse of the United Textile Workers union in the state.

The first week in September caused walk outs of union workers in mills all over the United States. Three people were killed in Georgia on the 5th and 6th. Idle workers in the U.S. numbered 360,000.

The disillusionment of the workers and the outrageous conduct by the mill owners made a strong impression on the Roosevelt Administration. This helped spur passage of the Wagner Act in 1935 and the Fair Labor Standards Act in 1938.

One example was child labor. Before 1938, when the Fair Labor Standards Act outlawed employment of children under sixteen, the concept of "helping" was used in the mills. Very young children were taught factory skills by their parents and soon "helped" by working in the mill to increase the family's small earnings. "Helping" became a form of apprenticeship and a major part of the mill's labor system.

Because this practice is now illegal, children have a better chance at a quality life by staying in school rather than being used as cheap labor. Another reform came in establishing a minimum wage and a 40-hour work week.

From *Numismatics of South Carolina, Merchant Trade Tokens* by Tony Chibarro. and *Appalachian History*. Net.

Continued from Page 1 (Andersonville, SC)

Colonel Frank E. HARRISON had married a daughter of the former owner, Colonel James HARRISON, and so inherited the village. He was the father of a large family, and his beautiful home on the tongue of land lying between the Seneca and Tugaloo Rivers as they come together was for years the scene of gayety and hospitality; now it stands "a ragged beggar sunning," tenanted by rats and owls; but about it lingers the fragrance of other days, and it is a favorite summer camping place for young people fortunate enough to have permission to use it. Today this land is partially submerged under the present day lake.

After the death and decay of old Andersonville, it probably had its most distinguished visitor. On July 24, 1889, Henry Grady attended a political picnic held there, and made one of his brilliant speeches.

Henry Woodfin Grady, (born May 24, 1850, Athens, Ga., — died Dec. 23, 1889, Atlanta, Ga.), American journalist and orator who **helped bring about industrial development in the South**, especially through Northern investments, after the Reconstruction period (1865–77). Henry W. Grady, a newspaper editor in Atlanta, Georgia, coined the phrase the "New South" in 1874. **He urged the South to abandon its longstanding agrarian economy for a modern economy grounded in factories, mines, and mills.**

Vandiver (pages 161 – 162) *Traditions and History of Anderson County*



Peter ACKER—*Some of the Fore-fathers of the Area*

One of the earliest families in the country was that of Peter ACKER. The founder of the family in America was William ACKER, who came from Germany about 1750, having started with three sons, one of whom was lost overboard during the voyage. The two remaining sons were William ACKER, Jr., and Peter ACKER. They settled in the New Jersey area, not a great distance from Philadelphia. Of the elder son, William ACKER, Jr., nothing is known by the southern branch; it is supposed that he lived, died and left descendants in New Jersey.

The other son of William ACKER, Sr., Peter, with his wife, Jane Southerland, moved to Fair Field, South Carolina. Peter, too, may have descendants in New Jersey, as Jane Southerland was his second wife. Peter may have left older children in the Northern States.

Peter ACKER, became a soldier in the Revolutionary War. He must have settled on the public domain in Fair Field, for no record can be found on his having owned any property there. In 1790 Peter ACKER moved to Pendleton District, buying many acres on the Saluda River, near Shady Grove. Peter ACKER died about 1815.

Jane Southerland ACKER's father was Alexander Southerland who came to America under peculiar circumstances. Alexander Southerland was a student at the University of Edinburgh, and with a party of college boys one day boarded a vessel to see the sights. The ship dialed away with them, and upon reaching Boston the students were sold to pay their passage. Alexander Southerland must have liked the new country; at any rate, he remained and later married Mrs. Betsey Williams.

The children of Peter ACKER and Jane Southerland ACKER were William ACKER, who married Miss CLEMENT, Joseph ACKER, who married Ruth ALEXANDER, Peter ACKER who married Susannah HALBERT, Alexander ACKER married Orma BURTON, Mary ACKER married James GRACE, Nancy ACKER married John McDAVID, Elizabeth ACKER married James TAYLOR, Susan ACKER married Sanford VANDIVER, and Amos ACKER, who married Ruth HALBERT.

The children of William ACKER and former Miss Clement were: Mahala ACKER who married Welborn KEATON, Peter ACKER who married Miss STEVENSON, Rhoda ACKER married Daniel BROWN, William ACKER, who married Miss WHITE, John ACKER who married Miss HARPER, Dearborn ACKER who married Miss COX, and Amos ACKER who married a Miss DAVIS.

From Daniel and Rhoda Acker BROWN are descended the family of the late Dr. Ben BROWN, of Williamston; the late Elijah BROWN, of Anderson; the late Samuel BROWN, of Anderson, and others, a numerous connection many of whom have been in the past, and are now useful and prominent citizens of the community.

Vandiver (1928)(pages 137-139) *Traditions and History of Anderson County*

Presented By: Gary Farmer

Matthew Gillespie and Phillip Gillespie

In the eighteenth and nineteenth (1700's and 1800's) centuries there were more than four hundred gunsmiths in North Carolina. Many of them were also blacksmiths, and some of them were also silver-smiths or whitesmiths. In Henderson County there were two families that were famous in the early years of the nineteenth century, in later years, and down to the present time. One of these men was a forge master named Phillip Sitton, and the others were Matthew Gillespie, a gunsmith and the maker of the famous Gillespie longrifles, and his bachelor son, Phillip Gillespie, who was killed on an unknown battlefield and left a legend that persists to this day.

Forge Mountain is aptly named. It is that long mountain in Henderson County that lies between that south fork of Mills River and Boylston Creek. You drive by the road that leads by Mills River, or as some call it, the Hayward Road, to the point just before the bridge that crosses Mills River. There's a North Carolina historical marker there. It reads "Gunshop and forge set up four miles west of here, about 1804 by Phillip Sitton and Phillip Gillespie, and operated until about 1861." Phillip Sitton set up his forge on the side of the mountain and began to manufacture the tools needed by these early settlers, smelted from the ore that was dug from the mountainside and along Boylston, and he wrought them at his forge there alongside the same mountain that took his name and had been known through the years as Forge Mountain. The records show that Phillip Sitton was given a land grant about the time he set up his forge, for three thousand acres of land. To smelt and forge iron in those days here in our mountains required a tremendous amount of wood to make charcoal to feed the fires that melted the ore from which iron was extracted. It is presumed that the large grant of woodland was given to Phillip for this reason. The forge was operated until the early years of the Civil War, when it was moved by the Confederate government and combined with another ironworks on the Davidson River. All that remains today to tell a body that here was once a forge, is the name of the mountain and the pieces of slag and traces of ashes there where Phillip Sitton once operated.

One of the earliest settlers in that same area, and at about the same time that Phillip Sitton set up his forge and began to hammer out the tools of the pioneers, was a man named Matthew Gillespie. The Gillespies were a prolific family of gunsmiths who were famous in Rowan County, North Carolina, for their longrifles before they ever came to Henderson County. The early members of the Sitton family and the Gillespie family worked together, and married together. It was naturally so because Phillip Sitton worked with iron and the Gillespies made the longrifles from that same iron, all there in the shadows of Forge Mountain along the waters of Mills River. Matthew was the first of the Gillespie family in Henderson County to make a rifle gun with the initials MG engraved on it. Even so if they have one with the initials PG, because Matthew's son, Phillip Gillespie, became as famous as his father. And the guns made by both men became widely sought because of their balance and accuracy, as well as simple beauty. Those same guns, rare today as they were plentiful in days now gone, are still eagerly bought by modern-day collectors of guns.

Phillip Gillespie was born in Henderson County and the son of Matthew Gillespie. He was born in 1817, and while growing up worked with Phillip Sitton at his forge. When he figured he had learned all he could about smelting and working with iron, he followed in his father's footsteps. Phillips set up his shop across the road from Phillip Sitton's forge. These pioneer settlers in our mountains of western North Carolina came from near and far to buy the rifle guns made by Phillip Gillespie.

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For those days he was one of some wealth, because in addition to his gunmaking he had a still. The brandy from his still was as eagerly sought as one of his guns. In the days that followed a legend was born, and with it a mystery that has not been solved to this day. Some say that the still with which Phillip Gillespie made his brandy was a government licensed one, while others say it was a homemade mountaineers believed that it was one's inherent right to make and sell brandy, and such fruits of a man's labor should not be taxed. Some say also that it was apple brandy from the apples in his orchard down on the side of the mountain, while others say it was peach brandy from his peach orchard. Be that as it may, the gold coins poured in because that was the only coin that Phillip Gillespie would accept for the fruits of his labor, be those fruits of the Gillespie longrifle or those from the brandy of his still.

There is a secret locked away in some unknown battlefield in an unknown grave that holds the remains of Phillip Gillespie. One can say that secret is hidden in some unknown spot on Forge Mountain. When the Civil War started, North Carolina joined the Confederacy. Phillip Gillespie decided that it was his duty to defend his state from the invasion of the enemy. He cleaned, greased, and shined one of his longrifles made by his own hands, and got his gear ready to start on an early morning. There was one thing more to do before he left. Phillip Gillespie never married and he wanted to have something to come back to at the end of the war. That night when the moon came up, he slipped out, yoked his oxen to the farm sled, and in that sled he put an earthen crock, a crock that his mother kept in the springhouse, and in that crock he packed his leather poke filled with the gold coins he had hoarded through the years. Now, here again the story has been handed down differently; some say he put on that sled a jug filled with the brandy from the last run of his still. Others in the family say it was a fifty gallon oak keg that he filled with his brandy. Carrying his

rifle and a pack and a shovel, by the light of the moon, he led his oxen sled somewhere up the mountainside of Forge Mountain. And in some cave, or maybe hole he dug, he buried his gold and his brandy and covered it so no man could ever find it. Before he marched off to war the next morning, he told what he had done, but he refused to tell where he had hidden it. Phillip Gillespie wanted to be sure his gold and brandy would be there when he came back from the war. But Phillip Gillespie never did come back, and here again the accounts in the family differ. Some say that the news trickled back to those in Mills River that Phillip Gillespie was killed in one of the battles around Chattanooga while firing his longrifle at the enemy. When the war ended and Phillip Gillespie failed to return, people began to remember his hidden crock of gold and the jug or keg of brandy. They began to search the mountainside, and folks have been searching till present day. But Phillip Gillespie had done a good job of burying his treasure, and Forge Mountain has kept the secret very well.

2021 Holiday (Christmas) Dinner

Plans are in the works to have the 2021 Holiday Dinner at our December 6 meeting at Senior Solutions. The meal will be catered by Sherry Hart. Tickets will be \$15.00 each or less once price is confirmed. Tickets must be purchased and paid for by November 29th. We would like for some of the members to do a "Show & Tell" on some of their family artifacts.

Future Newsletters

It has been proposed to start sending the Newsletter each quarter via email. This will be discussed and voted on at the November meeting. Note: The Newsletter is one of our largest expenses each year.

A Shake Down of the Moorhead Family Tree

By Margaret McNab Gale

Years ago, I was talking to Magnolia Cemetery researcher Ted Ashton Phillips, the late husband of a friend of mine. Ted was researching the history of the occupants of Magnolia Cemetery for a book he was writing "City of the Silent: The Charlestonians of Magnolia". I told him that my grandmother, Ruth Moorhead Grist (b. Halloween 1897, d. Sept 17 1956) was buried there. Ever the southern gentleman, Ted told me about his research and tactfully asked if grandmother was a person who was prominent in the history of South Carolina, no doubt looking to see if she warranted inclusion in his book! I told him that I never knew my grandmother (she died when I was very young), but I didn't think that she was a person who would be of interest to most Charlestonians.

This past Easter, I went to visit my grandmother Moorhead's grave site in Magnolia Cemetery. Her grave is adjoined with her parents' graves. My great grandfather was Mance Jolly Moorhead (b. 1872 d. 1940) and my great grandmother was Alice Brown Moorhead (b. 1874 d. 1946). I decided to see if there was any information about my great grandfather on the Internet. I didn't see a lot of information on Mance Jolly Moorhead on Google, but there was a plethora of articles written on a Confederate soldier named Manse Jolly! According to the KnowItAll.org website (operated by the SC ETV), an episode of the "Carolina Stories" series on Confederate Manse Jolly stated that "this program explores the facts and legends surrounding Manse Jolly's life. Jolly became a local icon in Anderson County, South Carolina in the years following the Civil War. He vowed to avenge the deaths of his five brothers and exact retribution from the Union soldiers who occupied the south during Reconstruction". Furthermore, several articles on the Internet noted legend has it that Manse Jolly's brothers were killed in the course of the Civil War, and Jolly swore to kill five "Yankee" soldiers for every brother he lost during the war!

My family records state that another relative of mine was Robert Moorhead.. Speaking of this Robert Moorhead, the Anderson Record, vol.

28, Issue I, Jan/Feb/Mar 2015, pg. 12 (a publication of the Anderson County Chapter of the South Carolina Genealogical Society, Inc.), stated that "Legendary Rebel, Manse Jolly, was the son of his cousin Joseph Moorhead Jolly." This is confirmed in the journal article "Letter from a Reconstruction Renegade", by MUSC Professor of Psychology Dr. Robert S. McCully, published in the South Carolina Historical Magazine, Vol. 77, No. 1 (Jan., 1976), pp. 34-40. Joseph Moorhead Jolly's mother, Jane Moorhead Jolly, is listed in my family tree, and she was the grandmother of Manson Sherrill "Manse" Jolly.

I only wish that Ted was still amongst the living to discuss my relatives who are interred in Magnolia Cemetery, and their familial connection to the infamous Confederate renegade Manson "Manse" Sherrill Jolly!

Margaret McNab Gale, MLS, is the owner, along with her husband Larry Gale, of computer security company Perceptual Systems, LLC, and Larry Gale Photography. She can be reached at mrgale@earthlink.net

2022 Dues

Dues notices will be going out at the end of October. Please update the form with your contact and family information and mail it back with your dues. If you have already paid, we will send you a form to update this information.

2022 Officers

It was proposed at the October meeting to retain the current elected officers for 2022. The officers will be elected at the November meeting. If you desire to serve in one of these offices, have someone voice your name from the floor prior to the vote. The candidate with the majority will be elected to serve. If you desire to serve as Chair of one of the committees, please inform the President Elect.

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

- THE ANDERSON RECORD
- VOLUME 35 ISSUE 3

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

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ANDERSON, SC

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, 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>

Email: acgsresearch@gmail.com

Telephone: 864-540-8300

President: Ted Burgess

Vice President: Shirley Phillips