

# THE ANDERSON RECORD

VOLUME 36 ISSUE 1

JAN/FEB/MAR 2022

## PICKENS CHAPEL



*In the last Newsletter I wrote an article about the demolition of Pickens Chapel which was read by the owner of the Chapel and Cemetery. I was very glad to receive a letter from him which explained a few things and I thought it would be appropriate to share it with you.*

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“Dear Mr. Farmer,

I enjoyed your article in the Oct – Dec 2021 issue of the Anderson County Genealogical Society Bulletin that showed up in my mailbox yesterday outlining your visit to Pickens Cemetery in northern Anderson county. It reminded me of a lifetime of memories about the cemetery and my family.

I was born and raised next to the cemetery on part of the Capt. Robert Pickens original land grants of 1784 and 1786. My grandmother, Lura Agnes Pickens Garrison, raised me in The Old Robert Welborn Pickens home from my birth in 1951 until my parents David and Ella Elizabeth Pepper Garrison built a new home 25 feet behind the old home in 1962 where we all lived until I entered the Air Force in 1973 after graduating from Clemson.

In 1946, great grandfather, R. W. Pickens, deeded his entire farm to the youngest two children: Dr. Andrew Lee Pickens, PHD in Zoology, and Lura A Pickens Garrison. Grandma got the “home farm” and the homeplace and uncle Andrew got the cemetery, Pickens Chapel, and approximately 150 more acres of the farm. In 2015, the four grandchildren of Dr. Andrew L. Pickens deeded the church and cemetery to me, as I have been “caretaker” of the cemetery for many years and was very engaged in trying to find someone (or really, some organization) to care for the cemetery grounds after I’m dead and gone – burial there, of course. The organization wound up being Southern Wesleyan University in Central, S.C. and in 2018 I deeded the land to them and set up an endowment to defer maintenance costs after my death. I still maintain the grounds

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## Research Library Visitors

During the first quarter of 2022 we were visited by several people doing research on family members.

On the 25th of January Laura Farkas from Anderson came by to find information on the Waterkotte family and the Stephens family. If you would like to help Laura with her research she can be contacted at [11f916@yahoo.com](mailto:11f916@yahoo.com) or at 217-617-7963.

On the 8th of March Craig Butler visited us all the way from Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was looking for information on several people known to be from Anderson. He looked for information on William Butler (believed to have been born 1790 or about 1820) Elizabeth Hembree (about that same time frame) and James Hembree. Craig can be contacted via [craig@craigabutler.com](mailto:craig@craigabutler.com) or by phone at 505-385-0934. Craig said he would definitely be back. He was finding lots of information.

On 22 March, Anne Medlin was visiting the Anderson County Library and met a couple looking for information and Anne suggested they visit the Carolyn Duncan Research Library. The couple was Bill and Marilyn Simmons McClure from Dickinson, Texas. I believe Bill was from South Carolina but relocated to Texas where he met and married Marilyn Simmons. Bill was looking

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## Family Tree Maker SCGS User Group

The SCGS has organized an FTM User Group to help us all learn more about how to use this software program in our Family Genealogy Journey.

We will meet on April 12th, 2022, the second Tuesday of each month, via Zoom @ 7 PM Eastern Standard Time.

Our first meeting met on February 8, 2022.

We will meet with each other and assess where we are in using FTM. Some of us will be beginners and some of us may have been using FTM for years but there will be something for all of us!

Instructions:

1. We will need your:

Name:

Address:

Phone #:

Email Address:



Please send this to Fran Osburn at [scgen2022@gmail.com](mailto:scgen2022@gmail.com)

We will need this to send you a **Zoom Code for each Meeting**.

2. You will need to have FTM open during the meeting on your current family tree.

A discounted link to buy FTM software:

[https://www.mackiev.com/offers/sig\\_offer/index.html?](https://www.mackiev.com/offers/sig_offer/index.html?coupon=SIG7FWSUYPTYN&edition=us)

[coupon=SIG7FWSUYPTYN&edition=us](https://www.mackiev.com/offers/sig_offer/index.html?coupon=SIG7FWSUYPTYN&edition=us)

If you have questions, please email me [scg-workshopchair@gmail.com](mailto:scg-workshopchair@gmail.com)

*Shelby Hart Lollis*

Continued from Page 1 "Pickens Chapel"

and do research on many of the people in the cemetery, whether or not they are kin to the Pickens family.

A note about the "new" tombstones. There are at least about 275 graves, but many were marked with only field stones, only some of which had any "home made" chiseling on them indicating most of the time, initials and a year, probably of death. Uncle Andrew and great Great-grandpa Pickens, during the late 1920's and early 1930's developed the first map/diagram of the cemetery, "organizing" the graves into 18 rows, and listing all the graves they were very sure of the occupants. I have that list/map and have been adding to it, etc, ever since about 1980-85. In early 2000s, I finally decided the only proper way to try to "publicize" those fieldstone markers was to install modern tombstones with all data I could find. So I bought 55 headstones, had them engraved and installed from 2005 – 2009 and you see the results. More info has come to me since and I'll add to the info on the tombstones in the next year of two. I also have to replace two stones that got installed with too much wrong data or engraving on them.

At least people can now find their ancestors without having to find me first or do their best with the list and maps/diagram I've been printing about every couple of years since about 2004 or so. Ask Anne Sherrif of the Old Pendleton Genealogy Society

for a copy. I'm doing a new one, but it will probably be a year before I get it done. I can send you an old one if you want it.

Over the years, there has been vandalism at the cemetery, and in 1989, vandals did some \$50,000 worth of damage. Most everyone in the community agreed that the old Pickens Chapel building vacant since approximately 1975 or so, was the magnet, as only the "serious" family historian type knew about the cemetery. The chapel was also falling apart with rot and termites, etc. So then Southern Wesleyan University and I agreed that it should be torn down, since the state government of South Carolina in their infinite wisdom said it couldn't be burned down because it would cause bad smoke which might hurt someone. I guess they have outlawed all house fires since then, too!!

Anyway when I come next year, I'll finish cleaning up what was left by the group that tore it down and will clean up everything and make it look nice and make a nice parking lot, etc.

The old chapel building was not the original church building of course. Here is a "brief outline" of churches there:

1785 – 87 Richmond (Presbyterian) (log cabin type building).

In about 1795 – 1800 changed name to Carmel. In 1815, Carmel bought 3 – 5 acres from Ezekiel Pilgrim and then between 1820 – 40 relocated to present day site just over the Pickens County line today. Due to

## PICKENS CHAPEL

Pilgrim's deed restriction, they couldn't have a cemetery at the new site, so they continued to use the old cemetery on Capt. Pickens land. Sometime around 1830-1850? the Methodists, who had built a church about where 3 + 20 Fire Department is today, built a new building on the site of the old log building (which the Carmel Presbyterians had moved to the "new site"). I suspect the old original Methodist building, burned down is why the new one. Then in 1889 William Smith Pickens, my great great grandfather (1823 – 1907) and father of Robert Welborn Pickens, had the present day Methodist building built (for about \$300). The old name was Wesley Chapel, and was changed to Pickens Chapel around 1900 plus or minus a few years. The Methodists closed the church about 1920 – 1930 (see St. Paul and Bethesda and Fairview).

Great-grandpa, R. W. Pickens and then Uncle Andrew rented the building out to various small churches over the years until the state said "No More" because it had no bathroom facilities and Uncle Andrew wasn't going to spend that kind of money on it.

That gives you a short history of buildings on site. If you want more information or want to talk about the churches or cemetery give me a call most any day or time. I love family history, but my memory has almost gone, but I have enough written now that I can keep up with a lot of it.

Thanks much for visiting the cemetery and let me hear from you sometime.

Continued on Page 4



Continued from Page 3 "*Pickens Chapel*"

Thanks much. May God Bless you.

Carl Garrison

Email: [rgarrison51@hotmail.com](mailto:rgarrison51@hotmail.com)"

Thanks Carl for getting back to me, I enjoyed receiving your letter and reading it. Let us not forget those who lived, served and died for our county, State and our Country.

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Continued from Page 2 "*Research Library Visitors*"

for information on Nancy McClure, James Jackson McClure, Jane McClure and Sara McClure. Bill and Marilyn McClure can be reached at [bmcl41@gmail.com](mailto:bmcl41@gmail.com) or by calling them at 832-561-1854.

Also on the 22nd of March Elise Proctor Talbert of Anderson came by researching Wiley Proctor and Nicolas Proctor, both Jr. and Sr. Sue Brewer was instrumental in giving Elise information about corresponding and joining the Daughter of American Revolution, DAR. Elise Talbert has no computer or email address but can be reached at 864-222-6886.

Lastly on 24 March Sarah Sheridan from the Independent Mail in Anderson to research information about Lake Hartwell and the families it displaced. Shirley helped her with much information. Sarah was with us for several hours and was amazed. Sarah Sheridan can be contacted by email at [ssheridan@gannett.com](mailto:ssheridan@gannett.com) or at 864-298-4035.

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**Plan to Return to Having  
Meetings at  
Senior Solutions  
on the  
1st Monday in  
May, 2022**



## *Church Directories*

You may have not thought about it but those old Church Pictorials are very important to individuals looking for pictures of relatives they have never met. If you have pictorials or directories from the Church or churches you have attended the Carolyn Duncan Research Library would appreciate you providing your pictorials for us to copy or be able to show them to those doing research. Let us know if you want to share them with us. Call the Genealogy Library at (864) 540-8300 and leave us a message and we will get back to you.

## Formation of Anderson County and the Beginning of the City

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 Anderson and Pickens, named in honor of two most distinguished and popular Revolutionary soldiers of the section, Colonel Robert Anderson and General Andrew Pickens. The commissioners to divide the county were J. C. Kilpatrick, Major Lewis and Thomas Garvin.

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 the 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 buildings of that earlier time stood close to the road, and neither the dwelling or the adjacent store, or perhaps both, were whitewashed or painted, something unusual in that time and 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 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 between that place and Fleishman's store. Sitting around the door of the tavern discussing the matter on which they were engaged, all at once Mr. "Bobby" Norris (1) 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: None of the gentlemen felt disposed to whip Mr. Norris, so on the spot of his selection stood the first courthouse, and those built subsequently have occupied almost the same place. The commissioners bought from William (Wm.) Magee, Z. Chamblee, Manning Poole and H. (Hezekiah) (1) Rice the property

for the courthouse. The price paid was at the rate of \$4.62½ per acre. On hundred and thirty acres were bought and fifty lots immediately sold for \$8,145.00. The town was laid off by James Thompson, S. J. Hammond, J. E. Norris, (2) Alexander Moorhead and L. L. Goode. A square for business was marked out, and on the same square much of Anderson's business is still transacted. Beyond, about three city blocks, they laid off four boundary streets, thinking they had given their embryo town plenty of room for growth. The contract for building the court house was given to Mr. Benjamin Denham, of the Brushy Creek section, and by him sublet to Mr. Robert Wilson, a brickmason of Greenville. Mr. Wilson moved his family to Anderson, and built a log house about where the Presbyterian manse is now; there he ran the first hotel in the place. Later he built on River Street, where his family lived until recent years.

With Mr. Wilson, when he came to Anderson, was a son ten years old, Jephtha, (3) who lived to become the oldest resident of the town of his time. He had seen Anderson in the making, and to his stories told to the younger generation is due much of the garnered lore of the community. Of the Wilson family so long identified with Anderson, Mrs. George Broyles alone remains now in the place.

The first court held in Anderson was on the third Monday in October, 1828. Honorable John S. Richardson presided; J. T. Lewis was clerk of the court. Theodore Gailliard foreman of the grand jury, John Reeves foreman of the petit jury No. 1, Walter C. Dickson foreman of jury No. 2. The first case tried was the State vs. William Eaton for assault and battery; verdict, guilty. Baylis J. Earle,

later Judge Earle, was the solicitor.

Anderson used to punish her petty criminals by putting them in the pillory. One stood for years on the north side of the courthouse. Probably the last time it was used was an occasion recollected by an old gentleman who died several years ago over ninety years of age. He said he remembered when he was a boy seeing a notorious drunkard and town nuisance pilloried. "Steve" mounted the platform with a grin, and after his head and hands were adjusted he called repeatedly to the jeering crowd below to throw him a "chaw o' backer." Before his release, however, he had become meek and quiet.

The first store in the new town stood on the extreme north end of the west side of the square, long known as "Brick Range." It was a general merchandise store owned by Mr. Samuel Earle, of Evergreen, "and managed by Mr. J. C. Griffin who slept in the store. The building was a two-story wooden structure with a piazza all across the front. From the piazza the store was reached by several steps. Next in line was a one-story building by Dr. Edmund Webb as a drug and book store, to which was later added the business of the post office. After that came the one-story printing office where Mr. J. P. Reed (Jacob Pinkney) published Anderson's first newspaper. Next, the store, also one-story, kept by Cater and Rice. It stood about opposite the place occupied by the Confederate monument. Then came a gap of about twenty-five feet. On the south corner of the row stood another big two-story structure. It was also a general store kept by Mr. B. F. Mauldin, and later by his nephew who had been his clerk, Mr. Baylis F. Crayton. Horse racks in front of the stores, and horse blocks for the use of horseback riders in mounting

and dismounting were indispensable adjuncts to every business house.

J. T. Lewis, the first clerk of the court, died February 11, 1833, while in office, and was succeeded by Mr. Van Lawhorn, who was also Anderson's second postmaster. The first was Macajah Webb. He conducted the business of the post office in the courthouse. Mr. Van Lawhorn was succeeded as postmaster by Dr. Edmund Webb, and as clerk of the court by Mr. Elijah Webb, brothers. The post office and book store business remained in the same family for many years. Dr. Webb's son, the late T. J. (Thomas Jefferson) Webb, was for a time postmaster. The Fant family has a commission issued to G. W. Fant in 1856 as postmaster. He had served before that time, but how long is uncertain. Mr. Fant was also commissioned postmaster by President Jefferson Davis of the Confederate States of America. After the war Mr. Fant, under radical rule, was ineligible to hold office, but his mother-in-law, Mrs. Williamston, was appointed postmistress and he continued to attend to the business. Until about sixteen years after the War Between the States Mr. Fant continued the post office and book store business at the old stand of Dr. Edmund Webb. His successors in office have been Mrs. Grace Cochran, Mr. Charles Webb, Mr. W. F. (William Felix) Barr, Colonel M. P. (Milton Pile) Tribble, Mr. W. W. Russell, Mr. John Cochran and Mr. William Laughlin. Mr. Cochran held the office at the time of his death last fall. Mr. T. E. (Thomas E.) Howard is the present incumbent.

Mr. Elijah Webb was clerk of the court for nearly forty years. Since his death in 1865 the office has been filled by Captain John W. Daniels, whose wife was a daughter

of Dr. Edmund Webb. He held the office for nineteen years. In 1884 he was succeeded by Colonel M. P. (Milton Piles) Tribble. His successor was Mr. John C. Watkins, who was succeeded by Mr. James Poarman, and he by Mr. John C. Taylor.

The first sheriff of Anderson County was G. E. Foster, who lived near Pendleton; his deputy was Perry McKinny, who practically ran the office. Then followed James McKinny, William Archer, A. N. McFall, John Martin, J. W. Guyton, J. D. M. Dobbins, J. B. McGee, William McGukin, James H. McConnell, William L. Bolt, M. B. Gaines, Nelson R. Green, W. B. King, Joseph M. H. Ashley, J. O. (John Olin) Sanders, Guerdon King, W. O. Marett and W. A. Clamp.

Judge Joseph N. Whitner represented Pendleton District in the state senate at the time of its division; and by the active interest taken in the measure, and his superintendence of details, he is understood to have been Anderson's chief sponsor, being regarded more than any other person as the founder of the place. Judge Whitner moved to Anderson in 1830. Out a little to the west of the new town lived a man named Zadoc Chamblee. His house, built of hewn logs and covered with oak boards, crowned a beautiful knoll. Judge Whitner bought the place, and used the strong log house as a nucleus for his own dwelling, which was considered a very fine mansion when completed. He weather boarded over the logs, added rooms, piazzas and pillars, until the house assumed much its present appearance, only new and devoid of the age and ivy which now raps it in a garment of living green. Mrs. Whitner, a flower lover, had the whole hill planted in roses, and named the place Rose Hill.

Before her marriage, Mrs. Whitner was Miss Elizabeth Harrison, of Andersonville.

On the Whitner place which contained about nineteen acres, it is said a tree of every species known to grow in South Carolina was planted. Among others introduced into this section by Judge Whitner is the pecan.

Moses Chamblee, son of the original owner of Rose Hill, lived to be quite an old man; and he used to tell the younger people how in his boyhood he had often gone hunting on the site of the public square, and before breakfast had carried home a deer. Smaller game abounded, and on longer trips he often killed a bear.

A very early hotel stood on the lot now occupied by the G. F. Tolly residence. It is possible that Mr. Wilson lived there rather than across the street. However, from the first owner Dr. Edmund Webb purchased the place, and a part of the present house was erected by him. There his little daughter, Julia, was born. The little girl lived to see the village of her birth grow into a flourishing city. She was the late Mrs. J. W. Daniels. Her last home on the southwest corner of Church and McDuffie streets is one of the most attractive and popular places in Anderson. It is now the residence of her niece, Mrs. Julia Von Hasseln. Across the street from Dr. Edmund Webb's residence, on the lot now occupied by the "Fowler Place," his brother, Mr. Elijah Webb, built a home, and there Mrs. Rebecca Hoyt, his daughter was born – Anderson's first newspaper women.

The next hotel was a more pretentious building. It stood on the corner of Benson and Main streets, now occupied by Evans Pharmacy No. 3. It was a long wooden building of two stores,

running quite a distance down Main Street. It had a long piazza in front, and there before the Benson House. The tri-weekly stage coach, running between Ashville and Augusta, was accustomed to stop with a flourish, heralded by every small boy in the place. The passengers alighted for dinner, and the horses, four in number, were changed. Among the best known stage drivers were Mr. Moses Murphy, Mr. John Skelton, heroes in the envious eyes of the boys of the day.

The first owners of lots in the village of Anderson were J. P. (John Prince) Benson, Mr. McGill, Mr. Lipscomb, Samuel Maverick, K. Prince, Elias Earle, S. McQueen, J. Gray, D. Sloan, Macajah Webb, William McGee, W. S. Acker, Andrew McFall, J. Gilmore, Daniel Brown, J. (John) Brown, Matthew Gambrell, Robert Wilson, J. N. (Joseph N.) Whitner, Christopher Orr, Mr. (James) Mattison, G. E. W. Foster, D. H. Cochran, J. (John) Hodges, John Rosamund, J. (James) Thompson, R. F. Black, L. Barr, N. (Nathan) McCalister, W. Michiel, B. Duncan, D. Norris, J. Haney and J. Masters. They bought property at the first auction. Matthew Gambrell selling for the state, and buying several lots himself. The lots were laid off in half acres, and the town planned in squares.

The original grants on which the town of Anderson were built were made to William Turpin and Adam Crane Jones. Jones conveyed his to Bartholemew White, and Turpin conveyed his to Thomas Wadsworth, who bequeathed it to the Wadsworth School for the poor in Laurens County. The school sold some its inheritance, and leased some of it for ninety-nine years, thereby tying up and confusing titles very badly. The least expired in the last years of the

nineteenth century. Orr Mill is located on some of the Wadsworth property, and it is known to have extended as far as through the W. A. Chapman places on McDuffie Street, and probably farther. It is said that at the time the lease expired, the late Mr. Robert Moorhead was the only living man who definitely knew the boundaries of the Wadsworth property; but he firmly declared that he would die before he would tell, and thereby disturb the security of innocent people in their homes.

Whatever Anderson may have become in recent years in the way of hotel accommodation, it was certainly well supplied in its early history. As just told, Mr. Robert Wilson operated the first inn of the new village. After him may have been one whose name has been lost who entertained travelers where the Old Tolly house now stands, or there may have been confusion as to where Mr. Wilson really lived in that neighborhood. Certainly there is a tradition that the Tolly house was originally a modest hotel. Soon Mr. H. (Hezekiah) Rice built the commodious hostelry later known as "The Benson House" on the southwest corner of the square and Main Street. On the opposite side of South Main Street, where the Bank of Anderson stands, Mr. Christopher Orr built a hotel, and operated it for years in connection with a general merchandise store, and the almost universal bar. Later Mr. Orr moved his hotel further down Benson Street and built almost in the middle of the south side of the square. Some years later the house which he erected there was moved to South Manning Street, where it is still standing, the home of Mrs. Julia Butler. It was the first, maybe the only house ever built in Anderson which had marble mantels, and it was one of the earliest if not the very first to indulge in the

luxury of a basement. The basement rooms were used by Mr. Orr as office apartments.

On the site from which he had his dwelling moved, Mr. Orr built a new and for the time an elegant hotel. In 1876 the house, then become old and worn, was renovated, and in honor of the centennial year of the United States was named "The Centennial House". On the site of the Plaza Hotel, Mr. Daniel Brown kept a hotel known as "The Waverly House"; somebody in Anderson of that day appreciated Sir. Walter. The hotel was a brick building of two stories, quite a handsome place when it was erected. A piazza ran across the whole front of the second story, and it was a favorite "loafing place". The hotel passed through many hands, until it disappeared to make room for a better successor.

In the great fire of 1845 both Mr. Benson's and Mr. Brown's hotels were burned. Both were rebuilt, and of course were better than better than before. Mr. Brown advertises that his new hotel on the west side of the square will contain 35 rooms. Mr. Benson superintended the making of the brick for his new hotel. It took about 530,000 brick. He advertises that now being ready for business he hopes for part of the favors, and states that he would endeavor to make his guests comfortable. He also gives his prices – Man per week, \$3.50; a man and horse per day, \$1.25; man and horse per night, \$1.00; single meal, 25 cents; lodging, 12 cents.

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, 1844, Mr. Christopher Orr advertises his own property for sale. He says: "The main building is situated on the two-acre lot adjoining the public square, fronting 54 feet on Main Street and 84 feet on Fifth Street, containing twenty rooms and twelve fireplaces, handsomely fin-

ished, making it desirable as a commodious private or public boarding house. Immediately on the corner is a large store room well fitted, an excellent location for merchandising. Two law offices on Main Street, kitchen, stables and carriage house, together with a small orchard of choice fruit trees, garden, etc."

In the late eighties was heard the wail, "no decent hotel in Anderson! Why doesn't somebody build a hotel! How can we expect traveling men to stop in Anderson if they can help it when we can offer them no better accommodations?" That old cry that most of us are familiar with.

In 1887 Mr. Frank T. Wilhite got a company interested in the erection of a good hotel in Anderson. The old Waverly House was torn down and the new, elegant Chiquola took its place. It was finished in 1888 and on Tuesday, December 31, was formally dedicated with an imposing ball. The finance committee for the great occasion consisted of R. (Richard) S. Ligon, B. F. Crayton, T. F. Hill, J. G. Cunningham and J. S. Fowler. Invitation committee: A. G. Means, Jr., Julian Bruce, Dr. S. M. (Samuel Marshall) Orr, F. (Frank) T. Wilhite, R. (Richard) S. Ligon, John D. Maxwell. Banquet committee: B. W. Sperry, J. L. (Joab Lawrence) Mauldin, W. F. (William Franklin) Cox. Committee of arrangements: F. (Frank) T. Wilhite, J. (James) L. Tribble, J. E. Peoples, W. B. (William B.) Watson, W. W. Humphries, J. A. (James Albert) Brock, J. J. (Joseph John) Fretwell, J. (John) D. Maxwell, and W. G. (William Gary) Watson.

The afternoon train brought a large party of guests from Augusta, and people came from all the nearby towns. The newspaper write-up of the times says: "It was

about 9 O'clock when the sweet strains of the Italian string band from Charleston was heard, and in a short time twenty-five couples were on the floor anxious to 'trip the light fantastic.'

Dr. S. M. (Samuel Marshall) Orr in his usual graceful style acted as floor manager, and the grand march opened with Mr. G. W. Evans and Miss Kate Marshall, of Abbeville, "leading" – and so on and on, describing a very brilliant function. Other newspapers of the state congratulated Anderson on its beautiful, up-to-date hotel. It was said there was no finer in the south.

Some of us remember when the poor Chiquola was abused and insulted in every possible way, very much like some poor old people, it was outgrown, and had passed its useful days. G. W. Sperry was its first manager.

A few years ago it was freshened up, some changes made, and rechristened "The Plaza." Under the name it is still functioning, but its glory has departed.

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1925, Anderson's fine new modern hotel, The John C. Calhoun, was opened with a brilliant banquet.

*Retyped from the "Vandiver's History of Anderson County, by R. M. Smith, printed in 1970.*

## ***I Need Your Assistance:***

**Let Me Know What You Are Looking For.**

**It Will Help Me Know How To Fill The Newsletter With Helpful Information.**

**Send Your Requests To The Carolyn Duncan Research Center At**

**[ACGSResearch@gmail.com](mailto:ACGSResearch@gmail.com)**



# Captain William Lynch (1742-1820)

## An Intriguing Past, But A Uncertain Future

By Dennis Chastain

They say he was a big man - a man possessed with the physical stature of an Olympic athlete. But everything known about old William Lynch indicates that he was a prominent figure in ways that go beyond physical stature. While living in Pittsylvania Virginia in the mid-1700s, he was a recognized leader in his local community and served as Captain of the local militia. Later, during the American Revolution, he fought under the command of General Nathaniel Greene. Lynch served one term in the Virginia House of Delegates, and by 1836, he had gained sufficient notoriety that no lesser personage than American icon, Edgar Allan Poe, felt compelled to write a commentary in the Southern Literary Messenger about the Lynch Law, naming William Lynch as the author. Lynch later relocated to the Pendleton District, where he became a substantial landowner. His homestead in the Holly Springs community in northern Pickens County was depicted in the Mills Atlas (1820) map of the Pendleton District as the most prominent landmark in the immediate area. And it can now be said with some authority that he was, indeed, the source of the term "Lynch Law", which is a story within itself.

No less than a half-dozen individuals throughout history have been proposed as the source of the Lynch Law, and theories regarding the origin of this controversial system of summary justice abound, but all the speculation can now be put to rest. Just as some of his descendants have maintained for years, it was indeed, old William Lynch, who took matters into hand and initiated the actions that led to

the historically significant phenomenon known as the Lynch Law. The story begins back in 1776 in colonial Virginia, specifically the area around Pittsylvania, near the Dan River along the North Carolina/Virginia border. During this awkward period in American history, the arm of the law was not quite so long as one would have liked. As a matter of fact, it seldom reached beyond the limits of the major centers of population. Lawlessness in the backcountry was rampant and folks in the hinterlands of the colonies were forced by necessity to fend for themselves. It was the same phenomenon that, in the 1760s, led to the Regulator movement in South Carolina.

In Virginia, William Lynch decided to do what he could to remedy the situation. He gathered his neighbors together one Sunday afternoon and established a rudimentary system of summary justice for errant souls and roving gangs of scofflaws that terrorized the colonists. In their written agreement, Lynch and his neighbors, wrote that they had, "sustained great and intolerable losses by a set of lawless men, who have banded themselves together to deprive honest men of their just rights and property, by stealing their horses, counterfeiting, and passing paper currency, and committing many other species of villainy, too tedious to mention, and that those vile miscreants do still persist in their diabolical practices, and have hereto escaped the civil power with impunity" The group decided to form and organization, later known as the "Lynch- men", and vowed to "put a stop to the iniquitous practices of those unlawful and aban-

doned wretches..." That very afternoon they wrote and adopted a set of guidelines for dispensing summary justice, the document that later became known as Lynch's Law. It was a bold stroke of "can do" spirit that even critics described as imminently successful, and a phenomenon that later spread to other colonies and even into Europe.

Much of what we know about William Lynch during his later years in Pickens County comes from the diaries of two 19th century surveyors who boarded with Lynch while engaged in surveying the border of between the two Carolinas and Georgia. First was George Blackburn, a professor of mathematics and astronomy from South Carolina College (later the University of SC). Blackburn surveyed the border between North and South Carolina between Caesars Head and the Chattooga River. He wrote in his journal stories of which he is himself the Hero. He gave us an account of a law called Lynch's law". Blackburn, who was a scientist and a self-styled poet, also wrote a bit of prose about old William Lynch in his journal. George Blackburn, by the way, was a colorful character in his own right. His students, back in Columbia, so despised him that they burned him in effigy one evening. A large crowd gathered, a melee ensued, and the Governor had to call out the state militia to quell the riot. Nevertheless, his journal entries regarding William Lynch are an invaluable resource for those wishing to know more.

Andrew Ellicott, who in 1811 was engaged by the state of Georgia to determine the border between the two Carolinas and

Georgia at the 35th parallel, also spent some time with William Lynch. Notably, Ellicott wrote in his journal, "Captain Lynch just mentioned was the author of the Lynch laws..." Ellicott went on to say that, "I should not have asserted it as fact had it not been related to me by Mr. Lynch himself and his neighbor Mr. Lay, one of the original association together with several other Lynch-men as they were called" It should be noted that George Blackburn, Andrew Ellicott and Edgar Allan Poe were unanimously critical of the principle of summary justice behind the Lynch Law, which they saw as nothing more than vigilantism, but nevertheless Blackburn and Ellicott both expressed a favorable impression of Lynch himself. The truth is that the actions of every man, living and dead, must be judged in the context of the times in which they live. There is no denying that in later years, and particularly in the years after William Lynch's death and up to the time of the Civil War, the principle of summary justice was much abused and probably did, indeed, eventually lead to many acts of pure vigilantism. But one has only to read the text of the Lynchmen's compact to know that their motives were sincere and their goal was noble in spirit.

William Lynch was an important figure in American history and it would only be logical to assume that the gravesite of such an important figure would be a way-point on any historical tour of Pickens County, but few people even know where his grave is. It would seem appropriate that his role in American history would be detailed in his school textbooks, but not a word of William Lynch's residence in Pickens County or the Lynch Law can be found in textbooks on the history of South Carolina. One would expect that, at a

minimum, his gravesite would be maintained and cared for and identified for posterity with a permanent historical marker, but that is not the case. Furthermore, the gravesite is not only poorly maintained, it barely escaped the blade of a bulldozer last year. On an obscure pine knoll in the midst of The Rock resort development, located at the intersection of US Highway 178 and the Cherokee Foothills Scenic Highway in northern Pickens County, the neglected remnants of Captain William Lynch's gravesite lies hidden away. In order to access the grave, one must first obtain permission from the landowner and then try to locate the grave behind a patch of briars and broom straw, and a jumbled mess of storm-felled Virginia pines. All that remains to mark the final resting place of Old William Lynch is a crumbling wall of field-stones and a somewhat primitive granite monument, which has toppled over on its backside.

Except for the efforts of several of his descendants, which led to a recent article in the Greenville News, the gravesite would likely be lost forever. Among William Lynch's many descendants and extended relatives in the upstate, only a small group, led by Karen Patterson, of Travelers Rest and Linda Skelton, a descendant who now lives in South Carolina's low country, has sustained the effort to get recognition and permanent preservation for the gravesite. But despite their dedicated efforts, the future of the William Lynch grave can only be described as uncertain.

*The above article appeared in the Old Pendleton District Newsletter, Vol. 18, No. 5, June, 2004 The Carolina Herald, Summer Issue 2004 Page 24*

## Carolyn Duncan Research Center Hours

Tuesday and Thursday  
10am to 4pm

Located at 110 Federal St.  
At The Art Center,

Beside the Farmer's Market  
Enter the doors for  
Visit Anderson

## SCGS Workshop

July 8 & 9, 2022

SC Archives  
And  
History Center

Columbia, SC  
See Page 12 for details

*The Anderson Record*

*A Newsletter of the Anderson  
County South Carolina  
Genealogy Society*

*Gary Farmer - Editor*



## How to Find Your Own Roots

### Important questions to ask grandmother and other relatives:

*I came across this list of important questions that we should be asking our parents and grandparents before it is too late. I waited too long and I feel I missed my opportunity. It is also a good idea to record the conversations you have with them while they are still with us. You never know when a pandemic may come along and change your plans.*

“Any information your relatives have about the family is valuable, but some is critical, since it helps to lead you back to older, as-yet-unidentified ancestors and their birthplaces across the ocean. The questions below are the most critical and the ones which you should have answered if possible. It is difficult during an interview to ask these questions in any order. While you may start out with several from the list, the interviewee’s recollections will swerve into other channels, which is all to the good. However, from time to time you can insert questions and bring the interview back to this list. And before you close the interview, you can glance through the list to see that all have been answered. If time doesn’t permit more questioning, you can refer to the list in constructing questions for a second interview.

Where and on what date were you born?

Where and on what date was your spouse born?

Where and on what date was your mother born?

Where and on what date was your father born?

What were the names of your grandfathers?

What were the names of your grandmothers?

Do you know where and when any of your grandparents were born?

Did your parents have brothers and sisters?

Can you name them?

Did your grandparents have brothers and sisters?

Can you name them?

Which of the family were the ones who came from the old country? Your parents? Your grandparents? Your great grandparents?

What country did each of them come from?

Do you remember hearing the names of the towns or cities they came from?

Did anyone ever mention the name of a Parish or Church in the old country?

Did anyone ever tell you that you were related to well-known people or families?

When \_\_\_\_ came from the old country, at which port did he land?

What year did \_\_\_\_ come over in?

Where did the \_\_\_\_ family go after landing in this country?

Sometimes those who came to this country remembered the names of the ships on which they came. Do you remember ever hearing any ship names mentioned?

What was your father’s occupation?

Your grandfather’s occupation?

Your great-grandfather’s occupation?



**South Carolina Genealogical Society, Inc.**  
 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Workshop  
 Friday and Saturday, July 8-9, 2022  
 South Carolina Archives and History Center  
**SCGS CHAPTER TABLE REGISTRATION**



Each SCGS Chapter is allocated one display table for chapter publications and membership information *at no charge*. ***One member*** from each chapter may attend the SCGS Workshop at **NO COST** to manage the table provided their registration is returned before **May 1, 2022**. After May 1, there will be a charge of **\$40 for the table**. Chapters may elect to reserve one small table or one full table. If you desire a **second table**, there will be a fee of **\$10.00 for the additional table**. Lunch is **\$7.50 Friday** and **\$18.00 Saturday**. Please use the registration form below to reserve your chapter's table and designate a member to receive the gratis registration. ***This is a wonderful opportunity to sign up new members and to sell your publications.***

- Each Chapter is **requested** to provide **one door prize** to be given during the day on Friday or Saturday. Each prize should be brought to the registration table at the workshop no later than Friday at 8:30 AM.
- Each Chapter should solicit door prizes and Silent Auction items from their members.
- Each Chapter is **requested** to donate \$10 for Refreshments.

- Each Chapter is **requested** to donate Silent Auction items or Sponsorship.

**Any Chapter donations are on a strictly Volunteer Basis!**

**Celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

**SCGS Chapter** \_\_\_\_\_

(Check One) \_\_\_\_ 1 Small Table \$0.00 [6' x 18"] \_\_\_\_ 1 Full Table \$0.00 [6' x 30"] \_\_\_\_ 2 Full Tables \$10.00

**Designated member to staff table:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print)

If the above-designated member desires lunch, include it with the Chapter Table Registration payment.

**Catered Lunch on Friday and Saturday.**

**Friday Pizza Lunch:** ( ) \$7.50 Pizza (select 2 slices per person): \_\_\_\_ Veggie \_\_\_\_ Cheese \_\_\_\_ Pepperoni \_\_\_\_ Supreme. Includes: Dessert, and Drink

Amount Enclosed:

- Friday Lunch \_\_\_\_\_
- Saturday Lunch: \_\_\_\_\_
- Additional 2nd Table: \_\_\_\_\_
- Refreshment /Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday BBQ- ( ) \$18.00** BBQ, Fried Chicken, Hash/Rice, Mac/Cheese, Green Bean, Slaw, and Dessert. Also, Tea, Lemonade, or Water

**Total Amount Due:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Set up on Thursday, July 7, 2022, at SC Archives- **3-5 PM**

For Additional Information- E-Mail:

[scgsworkshopchair@gmail.com](mailto:scgsworkshopchair@gmail.com)

**Make check payable to SCGS 2022 Summer Workshop.**

**SCGS Workshop Chapter Registration**

**Shelby Lollis**

**203 Poplar St.**

**Honea Path, SC 29654**

**Remit to:**

C:\Users\sloll\OneDrive\Documents\2022 SCGS Workshop\Chapters\SCGS Chapter Tables 2022.docx



## *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** - \_\_\_\_\_☐ Cash☐ Check

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: ACGS**

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

## **Organization**

ANDERSON COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE  
SOUTH CAROLINA GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY

110 Federal Street  
Anderson, South Carolina 29625-4363

Phone: 864-540-8300  
Email: [ACGSResearch@gmail.com](mailto:ACGSResearch@gmail.com)

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VISIT US ON THE WEB

[WWW.ANDERSONCOUNTY.SCGEN.ORG](http://WWW.ANDERSONCOUNTY.SCGEN.ORG)

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LET US HELP YOU FIND YOUR  
FAMILY ROOTS.  
VISIT THE CAROLYN DUNCAN  
RESEARCH CENTER TODAY

The Anderson Record is the official quarterly publication of the Anderson County Chapter of the South Carolina Genealogical Society. Contributions of historical articles, family histories, Bible records, notifications of reunions & queries are encouraged and welcome. The Editor reserves the right to edit articles prior to publication. Articles or emails should be clearly written (copy ready preferred) with name of contributor and source furnished. Permission to use material in this newsletter is granted if the source and author are noted. Submission of the article or email authorizes the Anderson County Genealogical Society the right to publish said material.

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### ***How to Find Your Own Roots***

*Continued from Page 11*

Did your father serve in the military or fight in any war?

What branch of the service was he in?

Did you grandfather serve in the military or fight in any war?

What branch of the service was he in?

If any of them had any military service, do you know what battles they fought in, or where they were stationed during service?

Do you know if they were ever wounded or taken prisoner?

Were they officers or enlisted men?

Do you ever remember hearing the names or numbers of the units with which they served --- such as The Fighting Sixty-Ninth?

Do you know where they were living when they entered the service?

Did any members of the family ever receive a land grant from the government?

Did any of the relatives ever take up new land under the Homestead Act?

Did \_\_\_\_ own his own house or farm?

If yes, do you know the year in which he bought it?

Do you know the year in which it was sold?

If the land is still in the family, who owns it now?

Did anyone ever tell you that anyone in the family was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Mayflower Descendants, or any similar heritage organization?

What church did \_\_\_\_ belong to?

Was he active in this church?

Did he hold any positions or titles in the church – minister, elder, deacon, trustee, etc?

Did he ever change church affiliations?

When and where did your father die?

In which cemetery is he buried?

When and where did your mother die?

In which cemetery is she buried?

When and where did each of your grandmothers die?

Where are they buried?

When and where were you married?

When and where were your parents married?

When and where were your grandparents married?"