

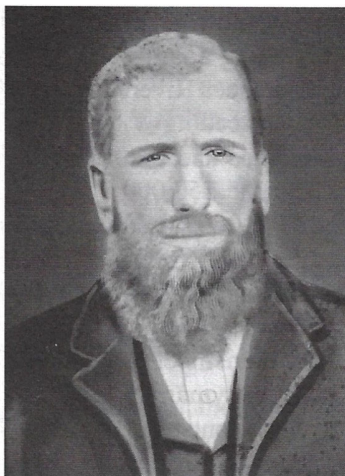
The Anderson Record

Volume 36 Issue 4

Oct/Nov/Dec 2022

A World-Famous *Farmer*

Oliver (Duck) Bolt came from humble stock. He started out as a small dirt farmer who had no formal education, but he believed in the value of hard work, and of taking advantage of opportunity to better himself. That philosophy paid off, for Bolt became one of the most progressive and prominent farmers in Anderson County during his lifetime. He also became a leader in his community and the man who gained fame for operating the first cotton gin in the world powered by long distance electricity.



Born in Laurens County, South Carolina, on April 15, 1847, Oliver was a son of Asa and Hannah A. Bolt. The family later moved to Anderson County where Oliver's father engaged in farming. During the Civil War young Bolt was called to serve in the Confederate Army before he reached the age of 18. He remained in service until the end of the war when he returned to the family farm and worked alongside his father.

Two years later, on February 17, 1867, Duck Bolt married Permelia Abercrombie and rented a farm on his own. He cultivated rented land until 1876. In that year he bought a large farm covering more than 300 acres which was located three miles west of the City of Anderson on the main highway leading to Portman Shoals on the Seneca River (Highway 24). He settled in a small home built of hewn logs on the left side of the road, cleared the land and planted crops. None of the land had been cleared, and it was a back-breaking job that took a long time.

In later years Oliver told his family that he slept with his shoes on for days at a time, often for a whole week. He had one shirt to his back. At night when he took off the shirt his wife would launder it and dry it by the log fire so that he would wear it the next day.

When the fields finally were cleared and planted, Bolt's land yielded successful crops for 46 years. In order to buy the farm, he went into debt for most of the purchase price, but by diligent application, good judgment and a keen business sense he paid off his debt, improved his farm and made it one of the model farms in the county. The Bolt family prospered, and in 1886 Oliver built a large two-story frame home on the opposite side of the road from the old log cabin. This beautiful and spacious country home became the gathering place for the Bolt children and grandchildren.

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In addition to farming Mr. Bolt operated a cotton gin and a grist mill. He also owned and operated a wheat thrasher for many years and gained a reputation for his progressive farming methods. The Anderson farmer was among those who followed with much interest the development of the Anderson Water, Light and Power Company's experimental hydro-electric plant at High Shoals on Rocky River in 1895 and the Portman Shoals plant on the Seneca River that succeeded it in 1897. This plant was located in the vicinity of the Bolt farm. Plans were to run the transmission line across Oliver's land, providing the farmer with what he perceived to be a great opportunity to avail himself of long-distance electric power which would greatly improve his operations and at the same time save money.

After agreeing to allow the power company right of way over his land Oliver announced that he wanted to hook up to the transmission line and operate his cotton gin by electricity. Had his grist mill not burned in 1897, the year the Portman plant began operating, it too probably would have been included in Bolt's modernization plan. At any rate, before the year was out Oliver Bolt's cotton gin became the first in the world to be operated by long distance electricity. The gin and the Bolt country home are both gone.

Mr. Bolt was a family man and a devoted husband and father who credited his financial success to the help of his wife and children. The Bolts had seven children, five sons and two daughters. An active member of New Prospect Baptist Church and a dedicated Christian, Bolt was known as a temperate man who never used tobacco in any form. His active years were spent on the farm but in later life he lived in an historic home on Maxwell Avenue in Anderson. Mr. Bolt died at the age of 75 on December 11, 1922.

"Six Miles That Changed The Course Of The South" The Story of the Electric City, Anderson, South Carolina, By Beth Ann Klosky, Author & Editor Pages 94 & 95

Mrs. Joe Ashely

50 cents Lunches for Hungry Mill Hands

Mrs. Joe Ashley (Martha M. Moore) married Joe Ashley and they moved to Ware Shoals in the 1930's.

"My husband," she says, "worked in the box house." Then he was a gate watchman and it was from this job that he retired.

"I used to cook daily meals for the Ware Shoals area. The whistle blew at noon, and probably about 100 or more came to my house for "noon meals" over a period of five years. The meals were 50 cents each. I cooked on a wood stove that had a water tank on the side. People loved my cakes and pies.

"Some of those who used to come were Mr. Marvin Lindley, Mrs. Ruth Suddeth, Mrs. Mae Gregory, Mr. Murff Simpson, Roy Bell, Mr. Jay Vanadore, Mr. Dump Pitts, and Mr. Leonard McAllister.

"My house was the old 'Newton Rogers' house, a one-story building sitting on the banks of Turkey creek, with the trestle running in front of it. Mr. Guy Hill's county store was in front of my house. It burned in the early '50's."

"FROM HILL TO DALE TO HOLLOW" WARE SHOALS, SOUTH CAROLINA Published by A Town Appointed Committee Page 181.

FARMER'S DAYVORCE

A Farmer walked into an attorney's office wanting to file a divorce. The attorney asked, "May I help you?" The farmer said, "Yea, I want to get a dayvorce." The attorney said, "Well, do you have any grounds?" The farmer said, "Yea, I got about 140 acres." The attorney said, "No, you don't understand. Do you have a case?" The farmer said, "No, I don't have a case, but I have a John Deere." The attorney said, "No, you don't understand. I mean do you have a grudge?" The farmer said, "Yea, I got a grudge. That's where I park my John Deere." The attorney said, "No, Sir, I mean do you have a suit?" The farmer said, "Yea, I got a suit. I wearse it to church on Sundays." The attorney said, "Well, sir, does your wife beat you up or anything?" The farmer said, "No sir. We both get up about 4:30." The attorney then said, "Well, is she a nagger or anything?" The farmer said, "No, she's not she's a little gal, but the last times I seen a doctor he says my faterin days are about over, that's why I wants this Dayvorce.

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** - _____

☐ Cash

☐ Check

Check # _____ Amount \$ _____

Make checks payable to: ACGS

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

Chapter XV of Louise Ayer Vandiver's Book— "Traditions and History of Anderson County"

Part 2

"Townships"

"Belton"

The town of Belton gave its name to the township and it was named in honor of Judge John Belton O'Neal. He was the first president and an ardent promoter of the C. and G. railroad and Belton is a child of the road, having come into existence as a station and junction of that railway. Miss Josephine Brown, daughter of Dr. George Brown, suggested the name for the new town.

When it became certain that the road would be built and pass through that section of country, lots were laid off and sold at public auction. Several acres, including what is now the public square, were given in perpetuity to the railroad company and schoolhouse lot was conveyed in trust to the town for educational purposes. The land belonged to Dr. George Brown, a physician with a large practice all through the section. Soon he and his son-in-law, Major (Witt) Broyles began the erection of a hotel. Mattison Gambrell became its manager. In 1855 the hotel was bought by G. W. McGee, who greatly improved and enlarged it and for many years ran a successful and popular house.

G. W. McGee, G. W. Taylor and A. J. Stringer were among Belton's earliest residents, and they lived in the town until they seemed to become an integral part of it. Among the earliest homes built were those of Colonel William Smith, Alexander Stevens and Thomas Cater. The original

country home of Dr. George Brown stood almost where the residence of Carroll Brown is now located.

Tragedy as well as success attended the development of the infant town. One of the hopeful new settlers was Ephriam Mayfield. Trusting in the boom predicted for the place he ventured too deeply in its promised results and losing everything that he owned in despair killed himself in a woods adjoining his home.

The railroad was completed in 1853, and when in that year the first train, in charge of Conductor Feaster, rolled into the station the whole population, white, black and yellow, turned out to see the train come in. Two months later the branch to Anderson was completed to Broadway trestle.

The first school in Belton was taught by W. Carroll Brown, a nephew of Dr. George Brown, under whom the young man studied medicine while teaching. Dr. Carroll Brown subsequently became one of the wealthiest and most prominent citizens of the community.

The first Belton boy to be sent to college was Judge W. F. Cox. He attended Furman University. Upon his graduation he taught school eight years. Judge Cox became mayor of Belton when he was only twenty-one years of age, and at the same time was made magistrate through the influence of Colonel J. A. Hoyt. In 1887 he became probate judge in Anderson, which place he had adopted as his home.

Belton has given Anderson a number of valuable citizens. The town is fortunate in the number of cultured and talented people who call it home.

The first church in Belton was the Presbyterian, the old Broadway church removed to a new location. Among the earlier members of that congregation were George Harvey, William Telford, Thomas Erskine, Thomas Cox, Thomas Anderson, Robert Smith and Green Taylor.

The limits of the new town were one-half

mile in every direction from the railroad station. Supervisor Chamberlain, of the C. and G. Road, was the first intendant of the town.

Mr. William Holmes gave the land on which the first Baptist Church was built. It stood near the cemetery. Belton feels that it is still indebted to the Reverend Charles Manley who, while president of Furman University, yet found time to be the pastor of the Baptist Church in the little town from 1880 to 1895, and whose influence was all for the highest type of man and womanhood.

Asbury C. Latimer, of Belton, was for many years Congressman from the third district. He was prominent in the Farmers' Alliance movement and was one of the leaders in establishing a large and prosperous Farmers' Alliance store in Anderson, which was under the able management of Mr. R. S. Mill.

"PENDLETON"

Pendleton township of course received its name from the village of Pendleton, which is the oldest and most historic part of Anderson County. Pendleton was old when Anderson was born.

In 1790, a tract of land was purchased from Isaac Lynch, a carpenter who had taken up government lands in the newly opened Cherokee country. His grant is dated July 2, 1787. Lynch was uneducated and made his mark in place of writing his name when he sold the tract of woods, which was laid off into a town, and named in honor of Judge Pendleton, a noted Virginia jurist of early times.

The commissioners for the town were Andrew Pickens, John Miller, John Wilson, Benjamin Cleveland, William Halbert, Henry Clark, John Moffatt and Robert Anderson, "justices of the peace for Pendleton County," or their successors in office received in trust "all that plantation or tract of land containing 685 acres, to be the same more or less, lying and being in the District of Ninety-Six and county aforesaid, on the branches of Eighteen-Mile Creek, and Three-and-Twenty-Mile

Creek," etc., continued in redundant phrases – for the sum of five shillings current money of the said state, to him in hand well and truly paid by the said (commissioners again named), etc., year 1787.

"Witnesses: Henry Burch and Joseph Box, Thomas Pinckney, esquire, Governor, and commander-in-chief in and over the State. Recorded in Grant Book YYYY in the secretary's office in the said state.

The men buying were called "squires" and the men selling "yeomen." The five shillings seems to have been paid at once as a guarantee of the future payment of twenty-five pounds on April 9, 1790. In enumerating what went with the land when sold, the old deed reads: "Gardens, orchards, fences, ways, wells, watercourses, easements, profits, commodities, advantages, emoluments, hereditaments, and appurtenances whatsoever to the said plantation or tract of land." It also says: "Yielding and paying there for unto the said Isaac Lynch, or his executor or administrator, the rent of one barley corn on the last day of the said term if the same shall be lawfully demanded."

In many old deeds one barley corn, one pepper corn, or one ear of corn was to be paid if demanded at the end of the first year of possession if the property was not fully paid for.

The land thus acquired was laid off into lots and streets, all numbered. The first courthouse of logs was built on a small stream known as "Tanyard Branch." It stood near the site of the culvert of the Blue Badge railroad, the spot at which the stage road which ran from Pendleton to Old Pickens crossed the track.

The first court held in Pendleton was on April 2, 1790. It was held by Magistrates Robert Anderson, John Wilson and William Halbert; Samuel Lofton was the first sheriff.

Among interesting people who settled in Pendleton, was "Printer John Miller," a man who had worked in the printing office in London which published the famous "Letters of Junius," which

have named the writer, but as he never did the probabilities are the at he did not know. If he did know, he would have had a stronger guard over his tongue that any man possesses today, to have kept the secret away off in the wilderness of North America, when the whole world was agog to know who the writer might be.

Mr. Miller published the first newspaper in the up country, and there was no other in America published so far west at that time. It was first known as *Miller's Weekly Messenger*, later becoming *The Pendleton Messenger*. Mr. Miller's successor as editor was Dr. F. W. Semmes, who sold it in 1849 to Burt & Thompson. They continued to publish it for a number of years.

A later newspaper published in Pendleton was *The Farmer and Planter*, Major George Seaborn is editor and publisher. Mr. Miller was the first clerk of the court for Pendleton District.

Early in its career Pendleton boasted a jockey club; the people of the district were noted for their fine horses, and the annual races were fashionable, and long anticipated events.

Some of the other original settlers in Pendleton were John Harris, William McCaleb, William Steele, Calhouns, Earles, Harrisons, Taliaferros, Lewises, Adamses, Maxwells, Seaborns, Symmeses, Kilpatrickes, Rosses, Lattas, Shanklins, Dicksons, Sloans, Smiths, Taylors, VanWycks, Whitners, Reeces, Cherrys, Hunters, Clemsons, Millers, Gilmans, Sittons, and Burtses. Most of these early settlers were emigrants from Virginia, Pennsylvania, and colonies farther north. They were Scotch-Irish for the most part, and with them came churches and schools.

Wealthy families from the coast or "low-country" were also attracted to the mountain's regions, as the district was considered then, and while most of them came only for the summer months, many were so pleased with the beautiful hill country that they remained, and their names, too, have become part of the history of this section.

Such were the Pinckneys, Elliotts, Bees, Steveneses, Cheveses, Haskels, Turners, Jenningses, Porchers, Norths, Adgers, Campbells, Wilsons, Trescotts, Cuthberts, Gibbeses, Stuarts, and Hugers.

In 1808 the Legislature passed an act authorizing and directing the commissioners appointed to sell lots into which the tract of land purchased from Isaac Lynch had been divided, to turn over all the money in their hands to certain persons therein named for the purpose of establishing a circulation library. By the same authority other monies and lands were added to the library fund. In 1811 the circulating library was incorporated, and authority was given to the corporation to buy and sell land, and all the remainder of the Lynch tract unsold was by said act vested in the said corporation. The circulating library continued in operation until 1825, when by act of the Legislature the library was incorporated as the Pendleton Male Academy.

In 1815 the men of Pendleton organized a Farmer's Society, which is still in existence. There were few such societies prior to the one in Pendleton. Pennsylvania had one, so did Charleston and Georgetown. Pendleton is justly proud of this ancient and honorable institution. The original officers of the society were James C. Griffith, president; Josiah Gailliard, vice-president; Robert Anderson, secretary, and treasurer; Joseph V. Shanklin, corresponding secretary, and the list of members contains the names of all of the prominent men of the section.

In 1828 the Farmer's Society bought the old courthouse and the new one which had been commenced when the district was divided into Anderson and Pickens. With the material of the old one they completed the new building. Which still stands in the center of the business square and is still the Farmers' Hall. In 1830 the Society had as its president John C. Calhoun, Colonel Clemson, his son-in-law, also served the Society as its presi-

dent. While Fort Hill, Mr. Calhoun's plantation, was just outside of the limits of Anderson District, he may be considered one of the county men, as his law office was in Pendleton, and he transacted most of his business in that town.

No clanging iron tongue from belfry heights marks time for ancient Pendleton. Only the noiseless shadow east by the pointer of a sundial tells how the hours are flying; just as it has told the same story to generations of Pendleton people, who like shadows themselves, have passed across the village life and disappeared forever. The sundial was the gift of Colonel Huger long ago when Pendleton was young.

The Dickinson Hotel, which may be still standing, certainly was a very few years ago, is over one hundred years old. There are, or were, two cedars standing in its yard around which tradition has woven a love story. It was said that long ago handsome young Dr. Cater fell in love with pretty Miss Postelle, who lived at the fine hotel. Laughingly one day Miss Postelle planted two young cedar trees, naming them for Dr. Cater and herself; if they lived their sponsor would unite in the holy bonds of matrimony with the waiting doctor; if the trees died, why, she might not. The cedars flourished like their prototypes of Lebanon and have for many years outlived the laughing girl who planted them. The name of one of Anderson's greatly respected citizens tells the rest of their story. They were the grand, or possibly the great-grandparents of Mr. Postelle Cater.

In later years there was a popular hotel in Pendleton known as "The Old Tom Cherry Hotel". In its long room the young people danced and gave charades and tableaux, and frolicked as young people always have and will. A popular landlord of one of Pendleton's hotels was "Mine Host Billy Hubbard." The landlord of those old hostelries was always an important figure in the social life of the town.

The natural beauties of Pendleton so impressed a visiting Englishman, Lord Lothelyr, that he built a house on the highest point in the town, intending to return often to the pretty, little village hidden among the South Carolina foothills. The house is now known

as "The Trescott Place."

In 1822 Samuel Cherry, Enoch B. Benson and Joseph Shanklin were appointed street commissioners for Pendleton. Ordinarily every male citizen was liable for road work, but later those who preferred might pay 50 cents for each day he was expected to work, which was fixed at twelve days a year. The commissioners were responsible for the roads for one mile beyond the town, and for bridge over Eighteen-Mile Creek. They were elected by those liable for road work.

In 1798 Pendleton district was allowed representation in the Legislature. In 1811 an act was passed establishing free schools in every district, a certain number of school commissioners to be elected in every district. Pendleton district had thirteen, and unusually large number.

The inhabitants of Old Pendleton were a reading and cultured people. In 1818, one William Anderson advertised some of the volumes in his bookstore. First is a long list of medical books. Then an equally long list of theological books. Only eight historical volumes, and among them is included a work on natural history. But then follows a long list of miscellanies showing what the people read. It begins with Shakespeare, includes Blackstone's Commentaries, Homer's Iliad, Cook's Voyages, several of Scott's novels, and the works of several standard English poets, several biographies, and books of letter.

There was a Bible Society in Pendleton very early, Joseph Grisham was its secretary.

In one issue of the paper the munificent sum of six cents is offered as a reward for a runaway apprentice, a boy named William Heaton; the man offering the reward was William Gaston.

John S. Lewis, postmaster in Pendleton in 1818, advertised a long list of uncalled for letters, which he says will be kept for three months, then sent to the dead letter office. William Cleveland advertised a new flat at his ferry on the Tugaloo River, 14 feet long, between 9 and 10 feet wide, "the nearest and best way from Pendleton courthouse to Carnesville, Ga." Sounds quite modern. James Chapman advertised a wool-carding machine just brought from Pennsylvania,

which he has set up to card wool into rolls for spinning or for hatters.

In 1902 Dr. W. K. Sharpe, at Pendleton, owned a trunk which he bought at a sale when he was a boy. It was shallow and oval, topped with raw-hide, made of poplar and native pine three-fourths of an inch in thickness. W. A. Dickson, of Townville, owned just such a trunk, except that his has hair on the rawhide cover. Both trunks were lined with copies of the old *Pendleton Messenger*. The date of the paper in Dr. Sharpe's trunk was 18(?). It contained an advertisement of a lottery held at Pendleton for the relief of sufferers at Pickensville, which appears to have had a disastrous fire. The lottery was authorized by the Legislature, and John T. Lewis, Joseph Grisham, Robert Anderson, Jr., James C. Griffin and Walter Adair were named as commissioners to manage it. These two trunks seem to have been made at or near Pendleton, but there is neither record of tradition of a trunk manufacturer or maker in the district.

Some early lawyers were Pickens & Farrar, Warren R. Davis, Lewis Taylor & Harrison, Taney & Whitfield, B. J. Earle, George W. Earle, Bowie & Bowie, Robert Anderson, Jr., Yancy & Shanklin, Saxson & Trimmier, S. J. Earle, Z. Taliaferro Choice, Earle & Whitner, Thompson Tillinghast, Martin, and George McDuffie, John c. Calhoun.

The justices of the peace seem to have been paternal sort of officers. In the early days one John Ward made a complaint that Samuel Lofton, through his son, James Lofton, had failed to deliver to the plaintiff three wands of tobacco entrusted to the said Lofton by Ward's mother. The complaint was very bitter and the justices before whom it was made were Andrew Pickens, Samuel Taylor, John Hallum and John Miller. They announced their decision thus: "We do award and declare the said charge to be frivolous, and that as the accusation was made publicly, the reparation should be also. We therefore award that said Ward do publicly acknowledge that he is sorry he made such a complaint against his neighbor, Mr. Lofton." Signed with names of the peace commissioners and the seal.

The acknowledgment was made as follows: "State of South Carolina, Pendleton County. I, John

Ward, of the said county, having brought malicious and unjust charge against James Lofton, youngest son of Samuel Lofton, Esq., Sherriff of the county, a charge of such an abhorrent nature as should not even be mentioned among men, do confess myself to have been deceived, and am most heartily sorry for my conduct, and do promise for the future to conduct myself agreeable to good neighborhood, and a good member of society, and do hereby acknowledge the forbearance, tenderness and leniency of Mr. Lofton in pardoning my offence." Signed by J. Miller for "Ward, who made his mark. One suspects that he could not read, either, and that the document he signed was not read to him exactly as it appears to us.

In the streets of Pendleton indignant citizens first kindled a bonfire of abolitionary literature sent into the state.

In Pendleton's soil sleep three admirals of the United States Navy, Thomas Holdup Stevens, William B. Shubrick, and Cornelius K. Stribbling. The latter, when a boy, walked all the way from Pendleton to Charleston to get a job. He got it. He was serving as midshipman on the *Macedonian* when that vessel fought with and captured an Algerian frigate.

William B. Shubrick was a lieutenant on the *Constitution* when she captured the *Cyane* and the *Levant*. He was Commodore during the Mexican War and commanded the Pacific Squadron. He landed and captured the fortified town of Mazatlan from a superior force and held it until the end of the war. He attained the rank of rear admiral in 1862.

Rear Admiral Thomas Holdup Stevens was born in Charleston in 1795. Left an orphan, he was adopted by General Daniel E. Stevens, and was given his name. As lieutenant he commanded the *Trippe* in Commodore Perry's Squadron and took part in the battle of Lake Erie in 1813. For gallant conduct on that occasion, he was presented by Congress with a silver medal, and by the citizens of Charleston with a sword.

In Pendleton is buried Alexander Worley, Captain in the Confederate Navy. There also sleep General Clement H. Stevens and General Barnard E. See.

In 1897 Pendleton held the ninety-seventh an-

nual, ball of the Pendleton Dancing Club. An account of the fancy costumes worn appeared in the newspapers of the time. In *"The Pendleton Messenger"* of 1816 appears the item: "The Pendleton Dancing Club celebrated the advent of Spring with a merry meeting of the young people."

The last man to represent old Pendleton District in the State Senate was Dr. Alexander Evans, Anderson District's first senator was General J. W. Harrison.

When the district was divided there was a new courthouse in process of construction. The contractor was to be paid for any damages he might suffer from the loss of his contract. The remainder of the money appropriated for a courthouse was to be divided between Anderson and Pickens. The records were to remain in Pendleton until the new courthouses were finished, and court held there until further notice. Public officers living in either of the new districts were to serve out their terms in the district in which they lived.

There were some famous men "who practiced law at the old Pendleton bar. Some of them were John C. Calhoun, George McDuffie, Zacharial Taliaferro, Warren R. Davis, Joseph Taylor, Armstead and Francis Burt; the latter was appointed by President Pierce governor of the territory of Nebraska.

All the people who lived in the old district were not good. There was a least on bad man, a desperado whose name was Corbin. He had committed various crimes, among which were several murders, and had successfully defied arrest and trail. The judge knowing his desperate character had issued a bench warrant for his arrest, and placed it in the hands of the Sheriff, with orders to take him at all hazards. E. B. Benson was Sheriff at that time, and he learned that Corbin was expected at a certain house on a specific night. Summoning a posse, the Sheriff went after his man. The men were mounted, and they had to pass through a set of draw bars. All had gone safely through, but his horse stumbled, and the criminal heard and realized what had happened; he sprang out of bed and running out of the back door of the house started on a path towards the spring. He ran into the man stationed there and was shot down. The Sheriff

immediately gathered in his men and made them swear that nothing should ever induce them to reveal who it was that fired the shot that killed the man. This they did; all were arrested and tried. They were defended by Mr. Armstead Burt, and triumphantly acquitted. Mr. D. K. Hamilton was one of the posse that night, and many years afterward his grandson, D. H. Russell, said to him: "All of the men who took part in the affair are dead but you; it can hurt no one now for you to tell who fired that shot, and I should like to know." To which the old man replied: "You'll never know," and the secret died with him.

Among the interesting people who have lived in Pendleton at least during the summer, have been Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, to whom has been attributed the reply to the representative of the French government in negotiation over Algerian matters: "Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute." Mr. Pinkney said that he never made the remark but nevertheless it goes down in history as his, and if he did not say it, he ought to have done so. It is much more poetic and forceful than what he always said he did say: "Not one cent, sir, not one cent."

In Pendleton, too, was the summer home of Mr. Huger, who rescued LaFayette from imprisonment. He it was who gave to Pendleton its ancient timepiece.

And now comes the distressing statement from General Pershing that when he landed in France, he made absolutely no remark to the ghost of LaFayette. If he did not inform that August spook that the Americans had come several million strong to pay him for going to the American colonies and helping Washington fight, why he ought to have said it. And so, somebody kindly said it for him, and we'll go on teaching our children for countless years that Pershing touchingly remarked: "LaFayette, we're here!"

"Fork"

Fork Township lies between the Tugaloo and Seneca rivers. Its boundaries form an almost equilateral triangle about eleven miles in length, with Andersonville at its apex, lying in the fork of the rivers; the name of the section was inevitable, and antedated the

subdivisions of the county into townships by many years.

The first settlers in the region were David Sloan and his wife Susan. The young couple came to try their future in the newly opened highlands of South Carolina. They pitched their tent on the west bank of the Seneca river, at a point substantially known as "Sloan's Ferry." The exact date of their coming is unknown, but they obtained a grant of 1,500 acres of land from the State, and one chimney of their old home bore the date 1794. It is safe to conjecture that they must have been there ten years before becoming able to erect a dwelling that should be occupied as long as the family held together. It was standing in 1896, at that time the property of J. S. Fowler.

They acquired what was wealth for that time, and tradition represents Mr. Sloan as very kind and lovable, and Mrs. Sloan, who was Susan Major, as a woman of unusual intellect. They brought up a large family of sons and daughters. Their eldest son, William, died in 1804, at twenty-one years of age. The second child was a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Jesse Stribbling. The next were twins, David, who married Nancy Trimmier, and Susan, who married Robert Bruce. The next daughter, Nancy, married Joseph Taylor. Next came a little girl named Mary, who lived not quite a year. Rebecca, the next, married Dr. Joseph Berry Earle; Benjamin Franklin married Eliza C. Earle; Thomas M. married Nancy Blassingame; Catherine married J. P. Benson; J. Mattison married Rebecca Linton. The children and grandchildren of these sons and daughters married into families bearing the most respected names, of the section. Their descendants are numbered among the best people of the county.

Some of the other early settlers in the section bore the names Farrow, Anderson, Earle, Holland, Guest and Maxwell.

Colonel Farrow, a soldier of the Revolution, lived in what was known as "The Red House." He was living there in 1793. The house was built on a high hill, had a piazza running all around it, and was painted a bright red. The gay dwelling was the scene of many youthful frolics in old times, as Colonel Farrow loved company, and was a violinist of no mean

ability. He was a man of ample means, and his home was a favorite gathering place for the young people.

About 1790 John Anderson, of Maryland, came to South Carolina with his family and settled on the Seneca River about a mile below Sloan's Ferry. He had been educated for the Presbyterian ministry, in what is now called the Associate Reform Presbyterian Church, then known as "Seceders;" but he abandoned the idea before obtaining a license. The Dickson family of the Fork are descendants of John Anderson.

William Guest settled in that part of the Fork lying between Big Beaver Dam Creek and Tugaloo River known as Cracker's Neck. He was a justice of the peace. The Hollands also settled in Cracker's Neck. They were Virginians. A father and several sons determined to make a home in the newly opened part of the county. They traveled about looking for a spot that appealed to their fancy and one night pitched their tent in that locality; when morning came and they looked about them, they decided that there could be no more pleasing part of the world, and there they remained. Theirs became a large family connection in the community.

Townville is the metropolis of the Fork. There is a tradition that gold is to be found in its soil. The place was founded by Mr. Samuel Brown, and its original name was Brownville, but when a post office was to be established there, it was found that South Carolina already had one of that name, so the postal authorities called the new office and its locality Townville.

One of the original settlers in the county was Matthew Dickson, a Scotch-Irishmen from County Tyrone, Ireland, who, in 1750, emigrated to Pennsylvania. With the great wave of Scotch-Irish people who swept from Pennsylvania into North and South Carolina and Georgia just before the Revolutionary War came Mr. Dickson. He went first into what was then Camden district and lived just about where the town of York now stands. He bore an active part in the patriot army during the Revolution, and a few years later emigrated to Pendleton district and bought land on Six and Twenty Creek. Matthew, Jr., Walter Carson and James Dickson, Sons of the Revolutionary patriot, enlisted in the company formed by Mr. Alex-

ander Moorhead and went to fight Indians under Jackson in Alabama territory. During their absence, while the country was embroiled in its second war with England, Benjamin Franklin Dickson, son of Matthew, Jr., was born. That boy lived to become Captain of Company E, State Reserves, in the War Between the States. His service was along the coast of North and South Carolina. It was said of him by his contemporaries that he knew Macomb's tactics by heart, and that he could handle a company or a battalion with the ease and skill of a West Pointer. Under the old militia regime, he commanded a company in the Fork for many years and was a conspicuous figure at battalion and regimental musters. In 1828 he became a citizen of the Fork, where he spent the rest of his life. He married Miss Matilda J. Gantt, of Anderson County. The only children of this marriage were Reverend J. Walter Dickson, a prominent Methodist Minister, long a presiding elder, and Mr. W. A. Dickson, for many years a conspicuous teacher and newspaper correspondent of the Fork.

A Presbyterian church was organized in Townville about 1803. It stood near where the old Mahaffey home is now, and was called Nazareth on the Beaver Dam, to distinguish it from Nazareth in Spartanburg County. In 1877 it was moved into the village. Some of its pastors have been William McWhorter, J. B. Adger, D.D., J. D. Riley, D.D., and T. C. Ligon, who served there many years.

In 1851 a Baptist Church was organized in the town. Some of its pastors have been David Simmons, E. L. Sisk, J. R. Earle, and J. D. Chapman, as well as others.

The Methodist Church was some miles out of the village, though its parsonage was in the place. The Wesleyans had a small church just outside of the town limits.

Townville was incorporated by the Legislature in 1871, but in a few years the charter was suffered to lapse. In 1862 the place suffered a scourge of smallpox, brought by returning soldiers.

Townville furnished the Confederacy with three Colonels: J. N. Brown, D. A. Ledbetter and F. E. Harrison; three Captains: R. O. Tribble, Samuel Lanford and B. F. Dickson; one Major, D. I. Cox.

The echoes of war had not ceased to reverberate when the people of Townville took up the duties of life. As he trudged homeward from Appomattox, Mr. R. O. Tribble secured the service of B. F. Gantt, a fellow soldier, to teach school when he should reach home. Mr. Gantt taught very successfully for six to eight years. In 1872 the people built an academy commensurate with their means and employed Reverend E. F. Hyde to teach it. Some years later another academy was erected on the Anderson side of the line, and Mr. J. M. Fant taught there for several years.

Broyles is the most thickly settled portion of the township. It has a handsome school building well equipped.

The Farmer family, so well-known and highly respected in Anderson, came from the Fork. Boggs is also a Fork name.

In early times Jesse Dobbins moved from Newberry to the Fork section, and soon became a man of property and note in the locality. He acquired a number of slaves, but like many other Southern men, he was not satisfied as to the moral right to own them, and disposing of his slaves, invested the proceeds in land. Mr. Dobbins was a Universalist in religion. In that early day there were quite a number of that faith who became residents of Anderson County. His wife was Miss Mary Mills. The Dickson and McCarley families are descendants of Jesse Dobbins.

The Fork has furnished Anderson County and city with some of her best citizens.

There are, obviously, more townships in Anderson County and I plan to provide information on all of them in the next few newsletter. Keep your eyes open to our newsletters for the continuation of this topic. There is more to come.

Extra Copies of Books at the Research Center For Sale

The Carolyn Duncan Research Center has noticed that it has some extra copies or duplicate books that are taking up much needed space. We, at the research center, think we need to sell these duplicate books and we want to give members a chance at these books first.

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The Practical Home And School Educator Vol. V – Published in 1912 – This edition like an encyclopedia and covers the letter “S”.

The Practical Home And School Educator Vol. VI – Published in 1912 – This edition covers a range of topics such as Mathematics, Arithmetic, Geography, Nature Study, Agriculture, Industries, Orthography and many more subjects.

Ultimate Genealogist’s Google Toolbox – by Lisa Louise Cooke of the Genealogy Game Podcast.

Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files Volume IV: Index;
Abstracted by Virgil D. White.

Old Pickens District, S.C. – Living, loving, working and dying in 1828-1868 Antebellum; by Jerry Lamar Alexander

American Naturalization Records 1790-1990; What They Are and How to Use Them – by John J. Newman

Ancestors and Decendants of Mary Elise Mauldin Paget and Eilleen Reed Mauldin Mattison – by James Suddath Paget, Jr. – Genealogy Research. (2 copies)

Pickens District, S.C. 1830 Census – by ***Ann Sheriff*** – Cover is slightly stained – all pages are clean and readable.

Around Belfast – Photographic Memories – by Henry Hall. Donated by Carolyn Duncan Cummings and purchased during a trip to Ireland.

Landscapes of Ireland – by ***Michael Diggins***. Donated by Carolyn Duncan Cummings and purchased during a trip to Ireland.

Spartanburg County / District South Carolina: Deed Abstracts Books A-T 1785-1827 by Albert Bruce Pruitt – Published in 1988

The Research Center will sell these items for a good offer or donation.

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ANDERSON COUNTY CHAPTER
SOUTH CAROLINA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

REVISION 2021-3

DATE: 07/27/2021

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