

# The Anderson Record

Volume 37 Issue 2

Jul/Aug/Sep 2023

## A Family Wedding in the Lowcountry

By: Margaret McNab Gale

Like many little girls, I often asked my mother to tell the story of how she first met my father. Curiously enough, she told me how she met her future husband at a wedding they both attended at Trinity Methodist Church in downtown Charleston.

According to the Trinity United Methodist Church records from 1812-1907 and papers at the South Carolina Historical Society, Trinity Church was founded in 1786 as the Cumberland Street (Methodist) Church with an integrated congregation consisting of 35 white members and 23 black members. In 1926, Trinity moved to its current location at 273 Meeting St. where the church and cemetery records are located.

My father and his parents would have been sitting on the bride Blossom McGarrity's side. My grandfather, Robert F. McNab, Sr., was the manager of a Broad St. brokerage firm. I know the McNabs and McGarritys were close friends, so I did a search on Ancestry.com hoping to find a connection between the two families. According to Walsh's 1929 City Directory, Carl H. McGarrity was the chief night operator with Western Union Telegraph Company and resided at 33 George St. At one time brokerage firms required their brokers to live in an upscale neighborhood and the 1928 Walsh's City Directory shows that my dad's family lived downtown, "South of Broad," at 11 Logan St. To make financial transactions in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the head of the brokerage firm would have relied heavily on the services of the manager of the Western Union telegraph company.

My mother and her family would have sat on the groom's side when they attended the wedding of her favorite cousin, George B. Tindall. George was born in 1921 and grew up in Greenville. After undergraduate school, he served in the Pacific Theater as a cryptographer in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. After the war, he received a doctoral degree in history, the start of a long and distinguishing career as an American historian and author.

Wikipedia refers to him as "one of the nation's preeminent historian

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of the modern South." Tindall also served as president of the Southern Historical Association and is still revered as a major authority on Southern literature.

His second doctoral dissertation focused on the struggle of black South Carolinians in the dark days of the post-Reconstruction era. An online article written by the American Historical Association describes his 807-page tome *The Emergence of the New South 1913 – 45* as "superbly researched" and "elegantly" written. They go on to say Tindall introduced "complex ideas to his young readers by placing them in a graceful narrative that emphasized the centrality of culture, religion and politics."

The online South Carolina *Encyclopedia* states that Tindall's book *The Emergence of the New South*, winner of the first Lillian Smith Book Award "is remarkable for balance, grace and objectivity" it was awarded the first. *The New York Times Book Review* called the book one of the "twin peaks of New South historiography." A Library Journal review said that Tindall "has given so full a picture in so readable a style that the work should appeal to laymen as widely as it will to scholars."

In addition to being awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, Tindall was a member of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton as well as a Fullbright Guest Speaker at the University of Virginia and a fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford. George Tindall's book *America: A Narrative History* has been described as a seamless narrative written by a single author that quickly became one of the most popular American history textbooks.

The online publication *PERSPECTIVES ON HISTORY* (the news magazine of the American Historical Association) states that Tindall was a major editor to the eight-pound, 1,656-page *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. Professor William Ferris, former chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities called Tindall "a giant among Southern scholars and a pioneer in the study of diversity in the South beyond black and white, to the recognition of Irish, Jewish, Scottish and other heritages represented in the region".

My parents were pleased to offer their blessings at the Lowcountry wedding of George and Blossom

Tindall, and intellectual pairing that lasted from 1946 until George's death in 2006. George obtained his undergraduate degree at Furman University and his doctoral degree at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. His memorial listed the establishment of the George B. Tindall Endowed Leadership and Scholarship Fund at Furman University.

George B. Tindall was a South Carolina scholar whose work ensures that his legacy will never be forgotten.

*Margaret McNab Gale, MLS is a former reference librarian at the Charleston County Library, the Collage of Charleston, and was head of reference at the Berkeley County Library System. She also worked for many years as a tour guide and docent for the Historic Charleston Foundation. Her articles on history and genealogy have been published over fifty times throughout the state of South Carolina.*

"Charleston Mercury - August 2023"



The Anderson town square and county courthouse around 1908. Anderson County was carved out of the old Pendleton District, created in 1789 from Cherokee Native American lands deeded to the state in 1777. So many settlers flocked to the region, that in 1826 Anderson and Pickens Counties were created. The courthouse site chosen for Anderson was along the General's Road, the highway used by General Andrew Pickens as he traveled between Abbeville and his Oconee County home, Tamasee. The name, Anderson, is in honor of Revolutionary War General Robert Anderson.

Courtesy of the South Caroliniana Library.

# 2023 ACGS Christmas Dinner

Come and Celebrate  
Christmas with Us

**December 4th, 2023**

***Location:***

**Senior Solutions**

3420 Clemson Blvd #17, Anderson, SC 29621

**Anderson, South Carolina**

*Reservation need to be in to the  
Library by*

*November 28th, 2023*

*Menu Includes*

*Choice of Roast Beef w/gravy  
or  
Amish Chicken*

*Three Sides*

*Strawberry Shortcake  
or  
Peach Cobbler*

*Meals include Roll and Tea*

*Cost*

*\$17.00 per person*

## 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**

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

## *Part 4*

### *"Rock Mills"*

So called from the settlement started there by Lewis and Maverick and the great merchant mill with its solid rock foundations which they erected at the place. Rock Mills is one of "the dead towns" of the county. It was at one time a flourishing little village. It was there that the well-known Lesser merchants, of Anderson, started their career in the Piedmont.

Miss Dora Geisberg, for years the popular woman merchant of the town, is a granddaughter of the original Lesser who kept a store at Rock Mills.

### *"Garvin"*

Named for Thomas Garvin, Prominent in Pendleton District when the division was made, a soldier of the Revolution and one of the commissioners appointed to divide the district, the other two being Colonel Kilpatrick and Major Lewis. It lies close to Pendleton and many of the men who were active in the early days of the district lived in what has become Garvin Township.

When Robert Anderson settled on Three-and-Twenty Creek he became one of the first residents. Later there came to the same section Job and Benjamin Smith Alexander Oliver, Peter McMahan and Thomas Hamilton.

The original of Fort Hill Farm, afterwards the property of John C. Calhoun, was Reverend W. W. McElhany, who was an early pastor of Mt. Carmel Church, which was organized by the first residents of the locality.

Probably the most interesting part of the town-

ship from an historical point is Slabtown, a village lying on the public road between Pendleton and Greenville. It received its name from the slabs used in the construction of several of its buildings. The first structure erected was a mill on Six-and-Twenty Creek built by William Rankin. It was long known as "Rankin's Mill". For more than a hundred years it and much of the surrounding property remained in the Rankin family.

Across the creek was erected a store built of slabs from the saw mill, as were a number of cattle sheds and other places for rough use or storage. The bridge over the creek is known as "Slab Bridge." After the war of the 60s the only remaining store was owned by Thomas S. and John Glenn. Both men are buried in the Slabtown cemetery. Near their store was a steam saw and grist mill.

Before the war Squire McCann ran a store there, and not far away was his home. His second wife was Jan Hamilton and their daughter married Christopher Orr. They had one son who succeeded his father. John and both wives are buried at Pickens Chapel.

Ezekiel Long, Sr., and his grandson, Ezekiel Long, Jr., were for years the owners and occupants of the old McCann place. Ezekiel, Sr., is buried at Mount Pisgah Baptist.

Other settlers of that section were named Pikens, Pickle, Mullikens, Wilson and others.

The first merchants were ex-Sheriff James McKinney and George Rankin and William McMurray; the last two formed a partnership. Rankin is buried in Slabtown cemetery.

The first buggy ever seen at Slabtown was owned by Samuel Maverick and was a great curiosity. Parts of the buggy are said to have been used in 1896, and maybe later, by Warren Knight. The stage coach from Pendleton to Greenville passed through the place.

Thalin Academy was its crowning glory.

Some of the people of Garvin Township of the present day have been the Richardson family, the two brothers, Matthias and Newton, who for many years were men of influence and importance in the community. Louis Richardson, a son of Matthias, served in the United States Navy and attained the rank of Captain. Dr. J. G. Duckworth, a loved and trusted physician for a

large section of the county, and his widow, Mrs. Nancy Duckworth, had been a leader in all good works in the community. Her beautiful home was almost a clubhouse for the community. There women held important meetings to plan improvements for Lebanon.

John and James Smith, Thomas McCann and Joshua Smith were merchants of Garvin in 1849.

## ***"Honea Path"***

Honea Path Township was named for the flourishing and progressive town of that name within its borders. The town has been so called since the memory of man runneth not to the contrary and its origin is lost in the mists of antiquity, for the town of Honea Path does not owe its existence to the railroad as do so many stations on its route. There has been a settlement there since white people first came into the section and built their homes near each other for mutual protection.

Even thirty years ago, 1890, the name of the place was distinctly called Honey Path. It is only of late years that the pronunciation has been according to the spelling. The probabilities are that a confused notion arose that the village was named for the family of Honea. But that family did not move to the section until long after the name Honey Path was established.

Naturally many legends grew up around the picturesque and unusual name. Most of them show in their structure, however, that they were suggested by the name and not the cause of it.

The most plausible meaning has been given by Dr. J. W. Daniel, the distinguished antiquarian and student of Indian lore. He says that it was a custom among the Cherokees to make a statement emphatic by repeating it. The town of Honea Path stands on the old Cherokee Trail, or their great road from Keowee to Charleston. In their language the word for path is pronounced very much as is the word honey; consequently when speaking of the great road, they would naturally say "Path Path," meaning the large or important path or trail, and that as they learned to talk with the English they would sometimes use one word and sometimes the other, honea and path, both meaning the same thing, path path or honea honea finally becoming

Honea Path.

As Dr. Daniel is a scholar and has made a study of Indian languages, it seems fitting that those of us who are not scholars and know nothing of the subject, should be wise to accept his solution.

Honea Path has furnished Anderson with some of her best citizens, among whom J. A. Brock holds and honored place.

Other early citizens were David Greer, born in Antrim, Ireland, and came to America in 1779. Landing in Charleston, he drifted up-state and settled first in Newberry, but remained only a few years. Suffering from malaria, he came to what was then Pendleton District and made his home on Corny Creek, about three-quarters of a mile west of where the village of Honea Path grew up.

Henry Purdy built on the same creek, though quite a distance away. Hervey Petty, Nimrod Smith and John Cullins soon followed. William Davis lived on Broadmouth Creek. He was the father of twins whom he named before he had ever seen them. They were born while he was absent from home, having gone to Hamburg to sell his farm produce. On his return he met a neighbor going on the same errand who informed him of the arrival of two boys at his home. He immediately called them Moses and Aaron. What Mrs. Davis thought of the names history sayeth not. If she objected it had no effect, for so her sons were known through life.

The settlement remained but a tiny village until the building of the Greenville and Columbia railroad in 1853. It passed through the town and gave it an impetus toward larger life.

Other settlers were Obediah Shirley, Ansel Massay, O. M. Gent; the locality where he settled became known as "Gentsville." "Old Uncle Neddy Hull" lived where "Due West Corner," now Due West, grew up, and owned the land on which the town is built. He and David Greer married sisters, Peggy and Polly McCormick.

Mills were very important and centers of industry in pioneer days. There was one where Gambrell's Bridge used to be on Saluda River. One was built by "Uncle Dicky Smith" on Broadmouth where Davis and

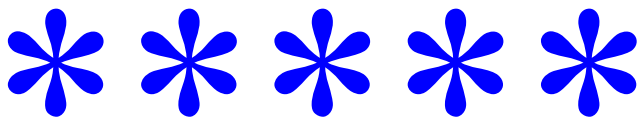
Bigby long had one. Smith sold it to Isaac Clement, who built it over in 1835, and years ago boys playing about the old mill were familiar with a stone in the formation wall bearing the inscription "B & I C 1835,"- Benjamin and Isaac Clement.

One mill could grind for half a district in those days. Little wheat was planted in 1792 and what was made was threshed out with a flail. Five or six bushels was a day's work for one man to clear. Some people constructed rude machines for cleaning away the chaff. Most people "made wind" by using a sheet or large cloth handled by two persons, a third holding the grain in a basket above his head and letting it fall slowly on a cloth spread on the ground. The swaying sheet fanned it clear as it fell. Others had horses "tread out" the grain.

The first seed corn the old David Greer got, he planted in drills like wheat, expecting to reap it like wheat. He thought corn would grow on top of the tassel, and was greatly astonished when he made no corn at all.

Green or Greer was the first settler in the locality and he out lived all who came later among his generation. He died in 1855, one hundred years old.

*There are, 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.*



# The South Carolina man who put the electric in "The Electric City"

Posted by Dave Tabler



Anderson, SC was the first city in the United States to have a continuous supply of electric power and the first in the world to create a cotton gin operated by electricity.



Portman Shoals Power Plant, Anderson, SC. Undated, but clearly 1930s. Photo by Lewis D. Moorhead c/o Green's Studio, WPA Photograph Collection, The South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina.



William C. Whitner, a native of Anderson, was largely the man responsible for the place becoming known as “[The Electric City](#).” Born on September 22, 1864, he attended and graduated from the University of South Carolina with a plan to become a lawyer. After his father talked him out of that career, Whitner went back to USC and worked as an assistant to a mathematics professor while studying civil engineering. He graduated from USC for the second time in 1885.

Whitner’s early work was in railroad engineering, but a severe case of typhoid fever forced him into a long convalescence in his father’s home. While there the town of Anderson hired the 26 year old to build a water works systems and an electric plant. In 1890 he completed a steam-driven electric plant. It turned out to be too expensive.

Whitner conceived the idea of generating alternating current electricity using turbulent river water. For advice he went to New York to see [Nicholas Tesla](#), the great Serbian scientist who had perfected the alter-

nating current motor. A turf war was in progress between Thomas Edison, an advocate of direct current, and Tesla, an alternating current advocate.

[George Westinghouse](#), another associate of Whitner’s, supported AC from the sidelines – and later became the big winner in the deal.

Whitner returned to Anderson in 1894 and leased a plant, in McFall’s grist and flour mill at High Shoals on the Rocky River 6 miles east of town, for his newly formed Anderson Water, Light & Power Company. There he installed an experimental 5,000 volt alternating current generator to attempt to generate and transmit electric power to the water system pumps at Anderson’s Tribble Street power and water yard.

It worked, and ended up supplying enough power to light the city and also to operate several small industries in Anderson. *The Charleston News and Courier* promptly dubbed Anderson “The Electric City.”

In 1897 Whitner’s initial success drew the attention of financial backers, which allowed him to replace the experimental plant with a 10,000 volt generating station at Portman Shoals, 11 miles west of town on the Seneca River. When it was placed in service on November 1, the Portman Shoals Power Plant was the first hydroelectric facility to generate high voltage power without step-up transformers in the nation and perhaps in the world.





These Stanley Electric Company built generators served not only the Anderson water system, the city street lights, other commercial interests and private homes, but more importantly, Anderson Cotton Mill, the first cotton mill in the South to be operated by electricity transmitted over long distance lines.

Stanley Electric Company (now General Electric Company) agreed to build 10-thread, 10,000 volt generators for Mr. Whitner and advised him that these were the first built anywhere in the world for this type of commercial use.

The Portman Shoals power plant was the start of what became Duke Power (now Duke Energy), one of the largest energy companies in the country. Thomas Edison and General Electric had refused to wind a motor for high voltage alternating current, but Whitner proved Tesla to be correct. Building upon his early success in Anderson, William Church Whitner developed hydroelectric power generating stations for a number of communities throughout the South, including Columbus, Griffin, and Elberton, GA.

Today, Whitner is remembered in several places of distinction in downtown Anderson, including a statue in front of the Anderson County Courthouse and a street named in his honor. Also, at the corner of McDuffie and Whitner Streets sits Generator Park. On the grounds of this 10,000 square-foot park stands the century-old generator that was operated by Whitner at the Portman Power Plant.

*sources:* [www.sc.edu/library/socar/uscs/cc/08sprSUPP.pdf](http://www.sc.edu/library/socar/uscs/cc/08sprSUPP.pdf)  
[www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=10697](http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=10697)  
[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~scyork/LouisePettus/indiah.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~scyork/LouisePettus/indiah.htm)  
[www.downtownanderson.com/downtown-guide.pdf](http://www.downtownanderson.com/downtown-guide.pdf)



## York County Library Genealogy & Family History Expo

Saturday, October 14, 2023,  
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Courtyard by Marriott, Fort Mill, S.C.  
(I-77 at Highway 160).

- 12 Sessions from seven speakers, including Sunny Jane Morton, LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson, Craig Scott, Lisa Lisson, and Cheri Passey.
- Topics include Finding the Truth in Old Family Stories, Church Records, Digging for Records on FamilySearch, Overcoming Record Loss, Female Research, Research in South Carolina, and Law & Slavery.
- Exhibitor and vendor section.
- Giveaways and door prizes, including books, DNA testing kits, and free subscriptions to genealogy websites and software.
- Catered luncheon.
- Absolutely FREE.

Registration begins September 1. 803-203-9218. [yclibrary.org/events](http://yclibrary.org/events). John Skardon, genealogy librarian. [john.skardon@yclibrary.org](mailto:john.skardon@yclibrary.org).

**John W. Skardon** Reference/Genealogy  
MSLS Archives & Records Management  
138 E. Black St., Rock Hill, SC 29730  
803-981-5825 [john.skardon@yclibrary.org](mailto:john.skardon@yclibrary.org)

[www.yclibrary.org](http://www.yclibrary.org) | [www.ychistory.org](http://www.ychistory.org)

*South Carolina Genealogical Society, INC.  
2023 Annual Meeting  
Hosted by the Laurens District Chapter  
Laurens County Museum, Laurens, SC  
October 13-14, 2023*

**Join us for a Weekend of Exploring the Revolutionary War Era  
in the SC Back Country of Laurens County**

**October 12, 2023**

**7:00 PM Laurens District Chapter Meeting at the Laurens County Museum - Speaker:  
LaBrenda Garrett - Nelson - How to Present Narrative Genealogies, Lineages, and Predigrees**

**October 13, 2023**

8:00 Registration Open - Laurens County Museum - Coffee and Donuts

**9:00 - 4:30 Laurens County Revolutionary Era Tour**

- Culbertson's Back Country Settlement
- Duncan Creek Presbyterian Church
- 11:45 - 12:45 Lunch - on your own - Clinton, SC
- Clock Restaurant in Laurens
- Hammonds Old Store Battlesite
- Hayes Station Battlesite

Times will be announced

*There will be some walking. Please wear appropriate footwear.*

9:00 - 4:30 Laurens County Museum Events

8:00 - 5:00 Laurens County Museum Open

9:00 - 5:00 Revolutionary War Museum Open

9:00 - 5:00 Laurens County Library - Open

11:00 - 12:00 Tour of County Courthouse - Renita Cooper Allen

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch On Your Own

1:00 - 2:00 Walking Tour of the Historical Laurens Square - Mary Ellen Lives

2:15 - 3:15 Mags Gaulden - Museum - Charles Allen, III, A Serendipitous Hero

3:30 - 4:30 Katherine Bolt Borges - Museum - **Virtual Only**

4:30 - 6:30 Dinner Break

7:00 - 8:00 Craig R. Scott, CG, FUGA - Researching Your Revolutionary War  
Ancestors

8:15 - 9:15 Dessert and Coffee

**October 14, 2023**

**Laurens County Museum**

**8:00 - 8:15 SCGS Committee Meetings Coffee and Donuts**

**8:15 - 9:15 SCGS Board Meeting**

**9:30 - 10:30 Craig R. Scott, CG, FUGA - Pension Research: You Stopped Too Soon**

**10:45 - 11:45 Durante Ashmore - Native American**

**12:00 - 1:00 Lunch**

**1:15 - 2:15 Heroines of the Revolutionary War**

**2:30 - 3:30 Mags Gaulden - Betty Jean’s Story, Adoption and DNA**

***3:30 - SCGS Annual Meeting for ALL Members***

**In Person Registration: \$25.00 [2 Days]**

**Virtual Registration: \$15.00 [2 Days]**

**Catered Lunch Available - [Saturday]: \$15.00 [Pre-order on Registration Form]**

*[Times are Subject to Change]*

**Host Hotel: Hampton Inn**

201 E Corporate Center Drive

Clinton, SC 29325

864-938-1040

Call for Reservations

Laurens District Chapter/SCGS \$119.00 per night

Discount rate applies October 8-14, 2023

***Everyone is Welcome!***

***Open to the Public!***

***Special Thanks to the SC250 Commission***

**South Carolina Genealogical Society, INC.**



**Registration for SCGS 2023 Annual Meeting**

**Hosted by the Laurens District Chapter/SCGS**

**Hampton Inn, Clinton, SC [I-26 Exit 54]**

**October 13-14, 2023**

**2 Day Registration: ( ) \$25.00**

**2 Day Virtual Registration: ( ) \$15.00**

**Catered Lunch [Saturday only] ( ) \$15.00**

**SPONSORSHIP DONATION:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ [Names Published in Program Book]

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State/ Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

(You will be notified that you have been registered by email)

**Total Amount Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_ ( No return on registration fees)

**Registration Deadline October 8, 2023 to ensure Lunch on Saturday**

**Make Checks Payable To: Laurens District Chapter/SCGS**

**Remit to:**

**Laurens District Chapter/SCGS**

**SCGS 2023 Annual Meeting**

**PO Box 1217**

**Laurens, SC 29630-1217**

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

*If you would like to donate a door prize, please bring it with you on Saturday.*

**Friday Lunch - on your own**

**Saturday Lunch Catered by Whitefords's Catering:** Fried Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Sweet Potato Soufflé, Rolls, Banana Pudding

**Drink:** Tea, Lemonade, Coffee or Water

**Host Hotel: Hampton Inn**

201 E Corporate Center Drive

Clinton, SC 29325

864-938-1040 [Call for Reservations-Laurens District Chapter/ SCGS (no code)]

Discount rate applies October 8-14,2023

*Everyone Is Welcome!*

*Open to the Public!*



Anderson public square in the 1930s. From the files of the Works Progress Administration Writer's Program. Photo by Lewis D. Moorhead.

*Courtesy of the South Caroliniana Library.*

Although Anderson itself is primarily an industrial city, it is the county seat of an important agricultural county. Cattle are shown being judged at the "Fat Cattle Show," March 25, 1941, at McGees Stables, Anderson. L.W. Riley photo.

*Courtesy of the Clemson University Libraries.*



# 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.

Here is list of these books:

***Hachette & Oxford Translation Dictionary – Francais – English and English – Francais***

***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.

## ACGS Officers

**Ted Burgess** - Chapter President

**Shirley Phillips** - Vice President & Research Center Librarian

**Marsha Bumgardner** - Book Inventory Coordinator

**Joyce Gibson** - Inventory Organizer

**Sue Brewer** - Scanner Operator & Book Publisher

**Gary Farmer** - Newsletter Editor

# 2023 Shiloh Methodist Men Annual BBQ Fund Raiser

The Purpose of the Fund Raiser is to Raise Monies  
for Supporting Men's Ministries

**October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

From: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Location: Shiloh Methodist Church  
135 Reid Bagwell Lane, Piedmont, SC 29673

\$10.00 a plate

**Plates include:**



ANDERSON COUNTY CHAPTER  
SOUTH CAROLINA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

REVISION 2021-3  
DATE: 07/27/2021

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Publication/Product	Notes	Unit Cost	S/H	Comb-ined	Qty	Total Cost
Membership - Individual – One Person		\$25	n/a	\$25.00		\$
Membership - Associate – For a Member of Another SC Chapter		\$15	n/a	\$15.00		\$
Membership - Family – Two persons in same household, 1 mailing		\$30	n/a	\$30.00		\$
Cemetery Records of Abbeville Co., V. 1 – 52 Cemeteries	**	\$20	\$5	\$25.00		\$
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ANDERSON COUNTY CHAPTER  
SOUTH CAROLINA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

REVISION 2021-3  
DATE: 07/27/2021

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Publication/Product	Notes	Unit Cost	S/H	Combined	Qty	Total Cost
A Combined Index of Abstracts from The Anderson Intelligencer	**/**	\$25	\$5	\$30.00		\$
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\$				<b>TOTAL</b>		\$

Notes:

* When ordering two - five maps, send only one s/h fee.
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*** You may want to purchase a 3-ring notebook. We will plan to add sections to this collection.
**** Newspaper Extracts reflect anyone's name that was mentioned during these years, i.e. births, deaths, marriages, newsworthy articles, etc.
Make check payable to ACGS and mail this form and payment to <i>Anderson County Chapter, SCGS, 110 Federal Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625.</i>
<i>Publication sales, membership fees &amp; donations are the only sources of income for the chapter. Thank you for your support.</i>



## WILLIAM CHURCH WHITNER

September 22, 1864 – May 13, 1940

William Church Whitner, a native of Anderson, graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1885 with intentions of becoming a lawyer. Talked out of this career path by his father, Whitner returned to USC where he took a job as assistant to the professor of mathematics while pursuing a degree in civil engineering. After graduating in 1885, he worked on successive engineering jobs for railroad companies in the southeast. His career with the railroads ended when the mayor and city council of Anderson approached him with the challenge of constructing a system of waterworks and electric light plant for his hometown. Both of these systems were built and the city of Anderson was lit with 75 incandescent lamps powered by electric current from a steam power plant. These investments proved less than profitable and led Whitner to seek less expensive methods of producing electricity.

In 1891, Whitner was convinced by experiments occurring in Europe in the development and transmission of electric power from waterfalls that the water resources of Anderson County were fitting for this purpose. After interviewing Nikola Tesla, who perfected the alternating current motor, Whitner announced that he would attempt to build a plant to generate electric current by waterpower. In 1894, he leased a part of McFall's Mill at High Shoals on the Rocky River, six miles from Anderson, and proceeded to develop his project. He built a power plant that created and transmitted 200 electrical horsepower, lighting the city's incandescent lights, which now numbered 2,000. It also powered the large pumps at the waterworks plant and various smaller industries in the city. This experiment proved Whitner's theory and "electricity was transmitted over wires from the point of generation to a distant point of consumption for the first time in the South, using a 5,000-volt generator without step-up transformers. This was the first 5,000-volt generator in operation in the world."\*

The owners of Anderson Cotton Mill took notice of Whitner's work and discussed with him the possibility of building a mill to be operated solely by water-generated power. Whitner had already found a

site with great waterpower at Portman Shoals on the Seneca River. In 1896, he contracted with the mill owners to supply them with 1200 horsepower. Needing sufficient power to send electricity over eleven miles of wire to Anderson, Whitner ordered a 10,000-volt generator. With this order, he became the first person in the world to make use of such a powerful generator. The Portman Shoals plant was completed in 1897 and Anderson Cotton Mill became the first large cotton mill in the US to use electricity generated at a long distance without step-up transformers. The City of Anderson became the first town in South Carolina to have an unlimited amount of hydroelectric power, thus earning it the nickname "The Electric City."

With his project in Anderson successfully completed, Whitner moved on to other challenges in Georgia and North Carolina. He built at least three plants in Georgia before beginning work building a plant in Rock Hill, South Carolina, on the Catawba River. In 1899, he became the general manager and engineer for the Catawba Power Company and construction began the following year. The plant took over three years to complete, but revolutionized life in that region when put into use. Dr. Gill Wylie, president and chief investor in the plant, sold interest in the company to James B. Duke and they organized the Southern Power Company that would eventually be known as Duke Power Company. From Rock Hill, Whitner moved to Virginia where he became consulting engineer for the Virginia Railroad and Power Company. In 1915, he organized an engineering firm for the purpose of organizing, financing and building power plants. Whitner eventually returned to Rock Hill, where he designed his farm to be "a model for scientific agricultural methods and the latest developments in dairying."\*

\*Quotes from *Six Miles That Changed the Course of the South* by Beth Ann Klosky



*Anderson County Council*  
**and**  
*Anderson City Council*

**We Want to Give You Our**  
*Thanks*

It takes a lot of time and money for the Anderson County Chapter of the South Carolina Genealogy Society to keep open and maintain the Carolyn Duncan Research Library. The Research Center was created in the back storage room of Visit Anderson Visitors Center. Carolyn Duncan had made an agreement with the curator of the Visitors Center, at that time, and took over a corner in the storage room. The Visitor Center allowed us to occupy this free of charge. I am always referring to this library as a "Center" because it is very important to us to help people who visit here looking for information about their relatives who moved to and from and lived in Anderson County.

Over the years after Carolyn Duncan began collecting information, and establishing this facility, we have had visitors from all over the world.

We could not have done it without money and support. The money has come from the sale of books and donations from those who visit the library and would like to see the library continue.

Saying all this we could not have operated as we do with out the support of the Anderson County Council and the Anderson City Council grants. Before the pandemic we requested grant money and received it. With this grant we were able to replace some much needed computers and printers and purchased needed supplies.

Those of us at the Carolyn Duncan Research Library and our current president want to thank the Anderson County Council and the City Council for all their support and consideration. We could not have replaced or purchased the supplies needed to maintain this library and keep it open for so many people to use without their help.

If you happen to bump into a member of the Anderson County Council or the City Council please take a moment and thank them for their support and money. It was most generous of them to provide this help and we intend to use it wisely.



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# The Anderson County Research Center Corner

By Gary Farmer

Well, another quarter has come and gone. Again the Research Center has been busy. We have changed out the display case in the Visitors Center Lobby again that will last for the next 3 months

Sue Brewer continues to scan the Books and other projects. We now have two overhead scanners in the center. We would love to teach anyone interested on how to use them and let you volunteer to help Sue Brewer out.

**Joyce Seabolt**, a new member who join ACGS in June with her husband Danny, has been coming in and helping the Center out, learning how to use the ScanSnap Scanner, scanning other little unfinished projects.

Others have come and visited the Research Center to research their family genealogy: They were,

**Mary Ann Hunter** - Came from Easley looking for information on the Hendrix and Murphy families.

**Kocie Armstrong** - From North Olmstead Ohio visited the Research Center collecting what she could find on the Freeman and Latimer families. Kocie was joined by **Kellie Sullivan** assisting her with her research.

**Gayle McVay** - stopped by to take a look around. I am not sure what families she was researching but I am sure she will return because live right here in Anderson.

**Harold Douglas Burdett** - from Stephens City, Virginia was looking for information on the Burdettes and the Burtons.

**Kathy Parrish** - of Anderson needed info on the Sheorn, Malone, Key and Blakeney families.

**Eleanor Robins** - a member of ACGS, researched the Rankin and Heaton family.

**John Lathan** - from Anderson stopped in at the Research Center looking for information on the Lathan, McGarrit, Bigham and McCammon clans.

**Amanda Bower** - flew in all the way from Birchgrove, Australia with an interesting request to find out about a story her husband, an American from New York and her mother who was born in the upstate of South Carolina and now lives in New York, was told growing up that he was related to Vice President John C. Calhoun. I tried to look back into the family ancestry to find a connection but it appears that they were not directly related but just received the name because of the respect of a great South Carolinian.

**James Michael Wright** - came by from Belton researching the Wright and Royston families.

**Johnny Mack Smith** - came over from Taylors, SC to see if we had information on Jack Stringer Smith.

**Mr. & Mrs. William G. Felder** - of Camden, SC was researching the Shirley, Simpson, Strawhorn and Langford families.

**Danny & Joyce Seabolt** - of Anderson and a new member of our Genealogy Society, were looking for what they could find on the Seabolt, Church and Corbin families. *Thank you Danny and Joyce for joining our group and thank you Joyce for wanting to help in the Center.*

**Yvonne Johnson** - from Belton was looking for anything on the Johnson and Beam families.

**Maggie Elrod** - of Williamston looked for information on George Wilson.

**Kenneth Wheeler** - moseyed on up from Commerce, GA in an effort to find information on James Wheeler of Virginia and George Washington Wheeler to complete his application to the Sons of the American Revolution.

**Jen Taylor** - of Gig Harbor, Washington was here in the Center with a request to find information on the Burdett and Ashworth families.

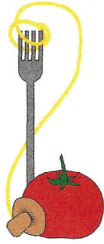
**Michele Sims** - of Eagle River, Arkansas was with Jen Taylor helping with the research.

**Kathy Parrish** - of Anderson was, like earlier, returned to research her families and their place in South Carolina history. She was looking for a reference of the Sheorn, Malone, Key and Blakeney families in Camden, SC.



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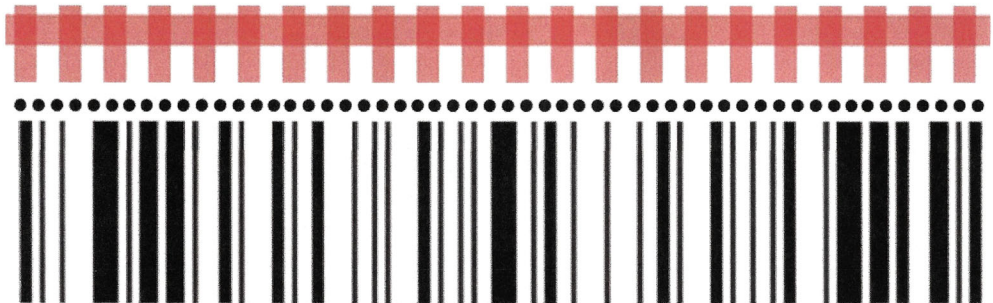
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