

Anderson City Streets Names Stories

Revised 2/16/2019

Virginia Circle and Gilmer Drive

Near Anderson University are two streets that connect – Virginia Circle and Gilmer Drive. Virginia “Jennie” Gilmer was a driving force behind the formation of the Anderson hospital.

Pope Drive

John Linley was the developer responsible for the expansion of Anderson to what became known as North Anderson. As a Citadel graduate and teacher, he had a keen interest in military history, particularly the American Revolution and Civil War. Many of the streets he developed were named after participants in the two wars. Jackson Square was named for Confederate General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson. After Stonewall Jackson had successfully attacked Major General John Pope’s supply depot at Manassas, Jackson was attacked upon his rear flank at Groveton by General Pope. Pope was defeated. Linley placed Pope Drive on the rear flank of Jackson Square.

A prior incident had occurred at the Battle of Bull Run during the Second Manassas engagement. Stonewall Jackson established a line to protect Fort Mayfield against General Pope’s Army of Virginia. The fort was attacked and Jackson rode his horse out waving a white flag as a signal asking the Union troops to surrender. Bullets flew at Jackson. He returned to his lines, rallied his men and routed the Union troops. It is certainly more than coincident that Linley’s Mayfield Drive smacks into Pope Drive right behind Jackson Square.

Barry Knobel Boulevard

When Richard Shirley was mayor of Anderson a beautification project was introduced for downtown that included a tree lined island on Main Street. When the dedication was to be made, Mayor Shirley had to be out of town and he asked County Manager Joey Preston to introduce Judge Barry Knobel to make a few remarks on his behalf. After his introduction, Judge Knobel ascended the podium, turned to County Manager Preston, and quipped with straight face: "I appreciate the honor that the name of Main Street will be changed to Knobel Boulevard." Not long afterward, Judge Knobel was at the county recycling center and saw there was a street on the county property called Barry Noble Boulevard. He called Joey Preston to ask who Barry Noble was and Preston was not in the office. He explained the question to his secretary who said: "How do you like your new street." Judge Knobel was surprised and flattered but told her that wasn't his name. They subsequently replaced the sign to read Barry Knobel Boulevard.

Duckworth Lane

Duckworth Lane should actually be Ducworth Lane and apparently it was originally spelled correctly and then changed for an unknown reason. It was named after Nettie Ducworth who had lived on the street and her husband, or one of his ancestors, had changed his name to take out the "k". A professor from Winthrop told her the Duckworth name originated in England. The family raised Ducks and took them to market for sale. Someone reputedly asked "How much is this duck worth?" (Contributed by Dorothy Garrison)

Mill Village Street Names

Streets in the mill villages generally were just named with letters of the alphabet. Historian Fred Marshall Whitten explained that this created a great source of confusion to the post office and it was insisted the names be changed to distinguish them. Anderson Mill was permitted to retain the alphabet system but Toxaway and Riverside Mills changed to honor World War I soldiers killed in action with street names and Riverside Mill named streets after their overseers. Orr Mill honored its overseers and Equinox used place names.

Carter Hall Subdivision

The Carter Hall Subdivision was developed by Judge Herbert Dean Hall and Lily-Roland Ebert Hall. Lily-Roland Hall was the first woman elected by the South Carolina legislature as a University of South Carolina Trustee and was also President of Anderson Heritage. The development was upon Carter family property along with Harold Ziegler farm properties. Adjoining streets included Carter Hall Drive and Carter Oak Ridge developed and named by H. Dean Hall and Lily-Roland Hall, Carter Oaks Drive developed and named by Architect Reese Fant and Dr. Sam Haddock, and Carter Woods Drive developed by Baylis Maxwell. Downie Lane constituted the historic drive from Concord Road into the Harold Ziegler Farm in the Carter Hall Subdivision and was named by Lily-Roland Hall and H. Dean Hall for Dorothy Downie Anderson, wife of Federal Judge G. Ross Anderson.

Darson Drive

In 1964 the Kenneth Garland family moved onto a dirt road that was later annexed into the City of Anderson. It did not have a name. Jerry Simpson built next door and Kenneth Garland and Jerry Simpson were asked to name the road. They decided on

Garson Drive, combining their names. When signs went up they read Darson Drive. They laughed about it and never attempted to have it changed. (Contributed by Dean Garland)

Shockley Ferry Road

On May 2, 1790, Thomas Shockley, Sr. purchased $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre in Wilkes County, Georgia, on the Savannah River from George Lumkin. Shockley's Ferry was situated on the land. It was a common custom to call the ferry after the person who owned the property and accordingly the road became known as Shockley Ferry Road. (Contributed by Sandra Shockley Gamsby)

Later the ferry name was changed to Brown's Ferry after a change of ownership.

River Street

Louise Vandiver reported that River Street on old maps was Belton Street. She said boys would not call it that and referred to it as the River Road because it led to the river and to their "wash hole". Over time the name appears to have evolved from Ninth Street to Belton Street to Rocky River Street and finally to River Street (Louise Vandiver, *Traditions and History of Anderson County*, the Anderson Village Map and O.W. Grey & Son 1889 Map).

Thomas Street

Thomas Street, according to Louise Vandiver, was named for a black tailor named "Jule" (presumably Jule Thomas) who made wedding suits "and other finery of the beaux of the [eighteen] seventies and eighties where he built his two-story house." She said "it was the only building in that section, and by

far the most pretentious colored house in Anderson.” (Louise Vandiver, *Traditions and History of Anderson County*)

John Street

At the time a street was to be opened in Anderson in the early eighteen seventies, John Cochran was a member of the legislature as well as Mayor of Anderson. Sam Pegg was in charge of the street work and wanted to call the new street Cochran Street. Mayor Chochran declined the honor saying he did not think a street should be named for him while he was Mayor. As a result Captain Pegg named it John Street. (Louise Vandiver, *Traditions and History of Anderson County*)

Patrick Street

Patrick Street runs through property where stood the Patrick Military Institute which, previously, had been the site of Johnson Female Seminary that later became Johnson University. Johnson Female Seminary was founded by Daniel Brown, J.P. Reed and Stephen McCully in 1848 with Rev. William Bullein Johnson as president. Johnson University was closed after Rev. Johnson's death at the beginning of the Civil War. The facility was used as a branch of the Confederate Treasury near the end of the war and afterwards was occupied for several unending educational endeavors.

In 1889 Colonel John B. Patrick, who had been conducted a military school in Greenville, was enticed to move the Academy to Anderson and the Johnson University site. The name was changed to Patrick Military Academy. Louise Ayer Vandiver in her book *Traditions and History of Anderson County* recites that students came from all over South Carolina and from other states. After Col. Patrick's death in 1900 the academy was closed.

The facility functioned as University Hospital in the 1920s. (The name University was derived for the site being referred to as University Hill.

Stories of Streets Not Named for Individuals

Peachtree Street

Where Peachtree Street now exists, there was a peach orchard owned by Rufus Gaines, Sr. Barbara Gaines related that the peach orchard was sold to a developer and funds from the sale were used to take his family, including her husband Robert La Fayette Gaines, to visit the 1939 World's Fair in New York.

Holly Street

Shortly after the law firm of Neely, Otter & Belk moved into its new office at 2001 North Main on the corner of Main and Holly Streets, client and friend Charley Phillips, who owned a Shell service station on South Main, came to the office and plopped on the reception room floor a small holly tree. He said Holly Street had been named for the big old holly tree that stood on their corner before Main Street had been widened and left after telling them it needed to be planted. Rich Otter and his daughter Linne obediently planted the tree. Charley Phillips then sent them the bill for the tree. There is once again a big old holly tree at the corner of Main and Holly Street.

Boulevard

According to historian James E. Harper, Boulevard was originally named by Mrs. Sylvester Bleckley as East Boulevard because it was then the most eastern street in the City of Anderson. Usage dropped the east reference. In the 1970s there was a concerted effort to have the name changed to Lilly

Strickland Boulevard that was vigorously opposed by Boulevard residents and it was not changed. Lilly Strickland was a very accomplished musician from Anderson. Born in 1884, she studied music at Converse College and Julliard and published 395 works. It is said her early works were influenced by folk songs and spirituals. After marriage she lived and traveled in Asia and Africa for a number of years. She received an honorary doctorate from Converse.

Forest Hill Drive

Street names have come from various sources. They are frequently named by developers, builders, surveyors and sometimes government agencies having jurisdiction. Often they have been named for the person through whose property the street has been cut or for the first individual living on the street.

In the case of Forest Hill Drive, Ms. Kathleen Stevenson Lee who was living adjacent to the property was asked to name the newly cut street. Well, it was cut on a hill through a forest. Her answer came easily. (Contributed by Beverly Lee)

County Road Stories

Stephen King Drive

Stephen Richard King was the son of George W. and Fran King of Anderson. He attended T. L. Hanna High and graduated from Clemson University. He was a 1st Lieutenant Naval Flight Officer in the United States Marine Corp. and greatly enjoyed boating at his parent's home in Green Hill Plantation on Lake Hartwell. After he passed away the street that was known as West Point Drive was renamed Stephen King Drive. It had been previously reported in another publication that the street was

named for the author Stephen King and was corrected in a piece by Julie Bailes Johnson in the January 24-February 6, 2019 issue of *The Electric City News*.

Doubletree Drive

Quoting developer Bill Brissey, Abe Hardesty in an article in the *Independent/Mail* dated December 30, 2018 reported that Doubletree Drive was named for two large willow oaks that once stood at the location, one having been determined by Clemson University arborists in the 1980s to have been the second largest willow oak in South Carolina.