

1994

# Independent Republic Quarterly, 1994, Vol. 28, No. 1

Horry County Historical Society

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# The Independent Republic Quarterly

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Vol. 28

WINTER, 1994

No. 1



Flossie Sarvis Morris, of the Bucksville community, is pictured above at a party given by family and friends, at Union United Methodist church, in celebration of her 100th Birthday. Mrs. Morris is a charter member of the Horry County Historical Society and is the Society's oldest member.

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**The Horry County Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 2025  
Conway, S.C. 29526



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**H. T. "Trez" Willcox**

The Society has received a gift in memory of H. T. Willcox  
 from Vera Spicer Harris, 310 Robin Hood Circle, Bay Forest,  
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**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

February 15, 1994

Dear Fellow Members,

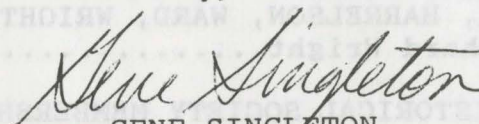
We started the year with a great January meeting and we have a great deal for which to look forward. Ann Long and her committee are planning our Spring Tour and future programs. Member input regarding programs, potential officers and IRQ submissions are encouraged. Your help will be appreciated.

Foster Smith delivered a wonderful program for our January meeting regarding Jeremiah Smith. His book entitled *Jeremiah Smith and the Confederate War* was published by (and is available from) the Reprint Company of Spartanburg, South Carolina. It is an outstanding work of historical documentation that will inspire others to follow suit. On behalf of the HCHS Board of Directors I commend Foster on this fine work.

Vice-President Ann Long and her committee are still in the planning stages for our annual Spring Tour to be held April 23rd in the northwestern part of the county. We will be hearing more about this in the near future. Mark your calendar now so you will be sure not to miss what will be a great Spring Tour.

Although we recently elected officers, it is never too early to begin thinking about next year's officers. We welcome any input from members about officers or any other matter. This is your historical society and you are the reason for its success. Once again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

  
GENE SINGLETON**NOTES**

Received from Mrs. Doreen M. Holtz, 12801 Witherspoon Road, Chino, CA 91710. Abstract of the will of Charles LEWIS, signed 6 July 1839: Wife, deceased. Mentions the land my deceased wife inherited from William VEREEN. Children: Ebenezer LEWIS, son and executor; Rachel, daughter, Mary, daughter, Rebecca L. FULLWOOD, daughter. Grandchildren: Ebenezer LEWIS, Jr., grandson, Rachel LEWIS, granddaughter, Mary LEWIS, granddaughter, Charles Lewis FULLWOOD, grandson. Witnesses: Josiah Cox, Edmund Cox, Elizabeth Cox. Will probated 22 June 1844, Horry County, SC

Received notice from Bob Lay, Sr., 923 Hawthorne St., Tallahassee, FL 323089-5144, of the publication: **Early Carolina Lays--Main Lines, Spur Lines and Zig-Zags**, 600 p., including lines such as Holt, Adams, Long, Hickman, Gore, Frink, Conner, McArthur, Martin, Knight, and Calhoun. "In order to get a reading of how many copies to print, we are asking for reservation at \$25.00 each, final price should not exceed \$35.00. The book should be available by Christmas.

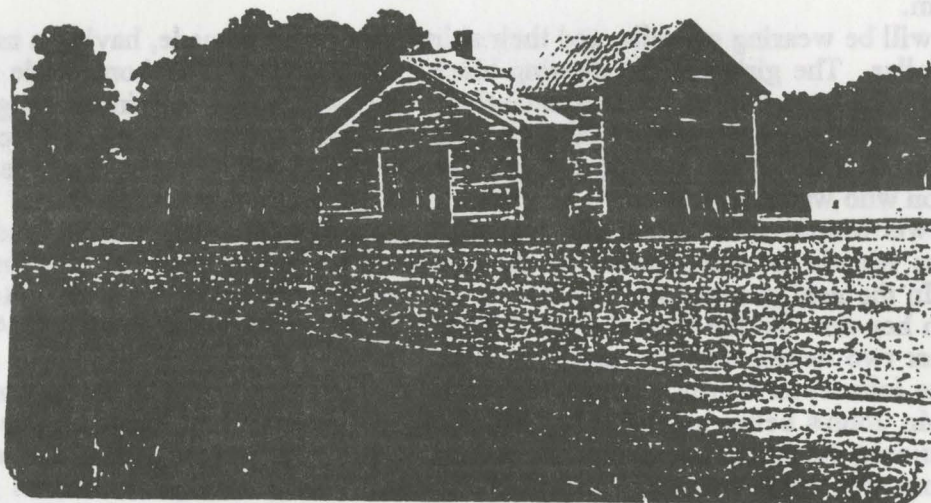
Susan Farner, 603 Eaglescrest Village Lane #16, Roswell, GA 39976, (404) 640-9056: I am an experienced transcriptionist. My specialty is oral history. Please contact me if you can use my services, including all necessary editing & verification. Rates Negotiable.

Penny Forrester, Rt. 4, Box 388, Peniel Rd., Timmons ville, SC 29161. Master in Library Science. Will undertake genealogical research at SC Archives and South Caroliniana Library, as well as county seats, National Archives, etc. Contact for consultation.



## WHITE OAK SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY AS WE KNEW IT

by Doretha M. Long



White Oak School (picture taken 1976)

Travel with me down memory lane for the first half of this century in the White Oak Community with our point of interest being the White Oak School, located south of Allsbrook. This project was undertaken to preserve our heritage in written form, while memory of earlier days is still available to us. Several people who have attended the school and lived in the community were interviewed. In about 1937 this writer attended White Oak School for several days.

**White Oak School #1.** Mrs. Arcie Faulk Todd, the community's oldest resident, at the age of ninety-four, has a keen memory of early days. She recalls hearing her family talk about the first of three White Oak Schools. The building stood on the east side of White Oak Swamp which runs between the Cane Branch Road and Sanford Road, which is known as Highway #19. This little road by which the schools stood is known as Flat Top Road today and was then little more than a cart road running between Cane Branch and Sanford Roads. There was no bridge crossing the swamp, the children using footlogs for crossing. The meanest prank of the day was for one to accidentally bump another off the footlog and into the water or to cause him to drop what he was carrying into the water. The William Fernie (Bill) Faulk family lived near the first building as did Mrs. Arcie's mother's family, the Skippers. Mrs. Arcie did not attend this very first school, but rather heard her family talk about it. She recalls that this building was torn down.

**White Oak School #2.** The Senior Citizens of White Oak Community and those few who moved away readily talked of their days in the second building on the west side of White Oak Swamp. It is said, "The schoolhouse was on the road to George Skipper's house and just beyond William Edward Skipper's house on a cart road."

Beginning about 1900 on Skipper or Harris land the second White Oak School came into existence. Memory records this as a one room building, later divided by a curtain into two rooms. After about 1936 it was used no longer as a school, but remained for many years as a storage barn. When it was no longer needed, it was torn down.

For a moment use your imagination and you will see twenty to fifty boys and girls ranging in age from five to twenty-three, coming from four directions to White Oak School. You get the feel of the time when one person tells of walking on frozen ground all the way to school, coming from the Bug Swamp area. Another person coming from the McNabb Shortcut area tells about



walking to school after the big snow. What fun that must have been! The cool crisp air of the fall adds to the spectacular beauty of the fall colors in the White Oak Community. Trees and bushes showing brilliant color are: red oak, maples, persimmons (juicy and good to eat, too), sweet gum, sassafras (useful for medicine, as well), and wild cherry. Whatever the weather their walking gave them a time to think, to discover and to appreciate God's handiwork and their place in his Kingdom.

The boys will be wearing overalls, and their shirts may be homemade, having a narrow band instead of a collar. The girls will be wearing black stockings, and their homemade dresses are made of calico print from the Prince store at Gurley. They will be walking in family groups with an older family member carrying their "dinner bucket." Some lucky little girl may come riding up to the school in a horse and buggy with her favorite teacher as was the experience of more than one person who was interviewed.

Emma Lewis Martin related that she walked to school with Miss Maude Anderson, her teacher. Miss Maude is remembered as the sister of Levy and Hubbert Anderson of the community. In the next generation Virginia Lewis can be seen riding with Mrs. Reba Prince, her teacher, in her car. To the west there is McNabb Road and coming down it is Amy Harris and in time her two daughters Edna and Ira Mishoe follow. From Bug Swamp or toward the south come the John Tyler family, perhaps the school's largest family. With their nearness to the school, and Mr. John's being a trustee for practically a lifetime, they know all aspects of the school--educational, business, social (school secrets, too). From across White Oak and around the Bug Swamp area come Minnie, Stanley, Quince and Fernie Faulk; the Stevens girls, Jane, Eva and Tempie and the Stevens boys Brooks, Harley, Lewis, and Lucian; Walter Stevens, Bertha Tyler (remembered as a good student), Arthur, Louvenia; Thelma, Lena, Leaman, Newsom, Boyd and Ruby. Living near the school were Norman, Maude and Ruby Skipper, Ora and Cora Harris, Lula and Nina Harris, Ethel and her sister, Cellie Faulk and Mae Bowman. From the north toward Allsbrook come the Lewis family, which was quite large; Gorham, Jesse, Seward, Emma, Pete, Sims, Viola, Will and Winnie Bell, who was the best friend of Grace Tyler, who was interviewed.

Another generation brought the Arthur Tyler family just across the road to the White Oak #3 school. Wilson Tyler, another second generation student, is remembered as helping the little ones from his road get across the water in the road. Little did he realize that he was being a real scout without having the privilege of Boy Scouts. There were Glenda and Nadine Tyler, Virginia Lewis, Josephine and Lavon Pridgen and the Seward Lewis girls: Ethel Lee, Virgil and Lorena. At the corner J. D. Grainger and his brother joined them. This writer gets the feeling that these road groups have been close through the years, always asking and sharing news about each other.

### School Term

Mrs. Arcie and Emma Lewis remember when three months of school was the term, and the term seemed to come when a teacher was available or when money to pay the teacher was available. Word would get through the community that school was to be held. School attendance lines were definite, families keeping each other informed. This was learned from Mrs. Emma Thompson who discovered that her children lived in the Allsbrook area after attending for a while at White Oak. Later all of the older ones interviewed recalled seven months of school. We know this to be true through the 1936-37 school term. In the early years the children arrived home about four o'clock.

### Attendance

It was customary for one to go to school as long as he wished, even to the age of 21 or more. He might not have completed the books taught in his school, or his attendance was so poor that it did not amount to many years of actual learning. While Emma Lewis remembered staying home one day each week to care for the baby and "knee baby" for her mother to do the family wash, Grace Tyler said that the family's needs came first. Hog killing, picking cotton, and clearing



land or cutting wood come to mind as regular excuses reported. Taking care of sheep and doing spring house cleaning by scalding the ceilings on occasion were also mentioned. It was stated that education was not a high priority in the family, especially girls' education. This was the answer Grace Tyler gave when asked if she and her friend Winnie Bell Lewis thought of going on to high school after completing seventh grade at White Oak. Viola Lewis related that she was in the seventh grade when she stopped school to get married. She was not quite 16 years old.

### Water, Lights, Bell, and Other Things

A hand pump was used for getting water, the student drinking from the pump mouth. Viola Lewis Strickland related, "One boy went off some place and got mumps. All the children, including the teacher, took mumps. After that the family had to bring a drinking cup from home or make a cup from a sheet of paper." From the memory box of Emma Lewis Martin several letters speak of the family as having mumps in February and March of 1924. All except two of the family of eleven had the disease. (This story relates to White Oak School #2.)

Ira Mishoe Hucks and Virginia Lewis Hedges recall that their school, White Oak #3, had a long handle pump for water. Electric lights were known to them as well and a hand bell. They also had a privilege that the former school didn't have, that of an outdoor privy, former students having had to use the woods in time of necessity. They had also been called in not by a bell, but by the teacher knocking with a piece of wood on the side of the building.

### Instruction

Each of the three White Oak Schools included Grades 1-7. Mrs. Arcie Faulk and Emma Lewis Martin recall not knowing their grade level until about the 5th grade, when one day the teacher told each student his grade. Until they had only known which book there were in. As a book was completed, a harder one came next. Books were passed down in the family with the older, more advanced family members getting the new books and the younger ones using the old books. Books could be purchased at Burroughs and Collins Co., and at Epps Pharmacy in Conway. Mrs. Viola Lewis Strickland thinks that she recalls some books being bought in Loris at the forerunner of Hardee's IGA.

The two oldest of those interviewed recall using slates in their early school years, being quite happy to replace them with a rough tablet and pencil. Notebook paper was used by students attending White Oak #3 School. Handwriting, as opposed to printing, was used by everyone interviewed, including one who was in the last group attending White Oak #3 School. In arithmetic, as it was called in that day, zeros were called "oughts" and figuring was called "ciphering," a word hard to find even in the dictionary now. Numbers or numerals were called "ciphers." The Baby Ray Reader was known to all those interviewed. There was much emphasis on rhymes, nursery rhymes, the good always winning out over evil. Girls often used verses or rhymes in writing. Several of these verses were found in the memory box of Emma Lewis Martin. Examples from her memoirs include the following:

Think of me in the hour of pleasure,  
Think of me in the hour of leisure,  
Think of me in the hour of care,  
And spare me a thought in the hour of prayer.

Remember well,  
Remember true,  
Remember me,  
And I will you.

One person remembered that one teacher held a very small child on his/her lap while he read for the teacher. Amy Harris remembered helping Troy Tyler with his school work. Student helpers were often used by the teachers. The red back speller was used by the girls for more than spelling. They would wet their fingers, rub them on the spelling book, and then rub their cheeks, thus making their own rouge. Emma and Arcie recalled doing this. The school day might end on Friday with a spelling match and/or recitations and singing. Students looked forward to Friday afternoons.



If a student completed the most advanced books used in the school, he was thought by his family and probably the community to have a good education. This conclusion comes from hearing one person speak of her older brother. There was some emphasis on composition, as recalled by one person. When asked to write about her room at home, she stated that the class was amazed that she slept in a big open space of a room (no partitions), the beds were wooden, the mattresses made of homegrown cotton, feathers or grass. She slept with her older sister. She had failed to mention that this room was a portion of a new addition to the original house consisting of four rooms. As time and money were available the house grew into eight rooms, three porches with eight doors leading to the outside. This may suggest that parents in the early days were both patient and persistent.

While White Oak students did not have a piano, there was always someone who could pitch the tune. Their brown songbook included such songs as these: Dixie, Old Black Joe, My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean, Row, Row, Row Your Boat, I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing By, Yankee Doodle and Carry me Back to Ole Virginy. Some songs were melancholy and lonely; others quite lively, or patriotic.

### Social Activities

The social activities of the community and school probably stand out more with the school which we might call White Oak #2 than the last school. Three of those interviewed remember box suppers and the Christmas Tree. One remembers that as a child her older sister was decorating her box in which to put goodies when she began to beg to go along also. The mother allowed her to go, and they prepared a box for her. A box would contain the best that the girl could get--a slice of cake, fruit, candy, fried chicken.

A boy would bid on the box he thought his friend had brought, hoping to get a chance to sit with the girl and enjoy the goodies. Prices might range from 25 cents up, but never more than 50 cents, according to Cleveland Tyler. One little girl's box was bought by a much older young man than she, him thinking that he was getting his girl friend's box. Can you imagine his surprise! Both he and the little girl have a memory they will never forget. The young man did go on to marry the girl whose box he thought he was getting. The couple was from a neighboring community, as all were welcome to school gatherings.

The end of the year might bring about a program called a "school breaking" with recitations and speeches. Ira Mishoe Hucks vividly remembers that she could not be in a school play which was held at night because she did not have transportation to get to the play.

There were cake walks and again all ages participated. Spin the bottle was played at home parties and sometimes at school parties. The one spinning the bottle took a walk with the girl that the bottle pointed to. Candy pullings were held in the home. Much fun was had in pulling syrup candy or taffy. Sometimes there was banjo playing.

Cleveland Tyler and his sister Grace remember having a very tall and big Christmas tree and program at White Oak #2 School. They remember helping to make the decorations for it. The children, parents and people in the community put presents under the tree. Grace recalls a program at the school with children standing behind a wall sticking their hands up with shoes on them. This made the children look as if they were standing on their heads.

### Dinner Buckets

The school day was begun with first getting the potbellied stove going. Wood was provided by the trustees and was kept in a special place, this being in the cloakroom in the last school. The older students were assigned the job of keeping the stove stoked. Usually this was done by class. Lunch or "dinner" was carried in a "dinner bucket." Mrs. Ida Black Lewis stated that a coffee bucket was used. Bought dinner buckets came later. Grace Tyler said that biscuits with meat or jelly, a sweet potato or beans and rice would be a typical lunch. Buckets were placed on special benches, or in the cloak room, and hung on a tree limb after the lunch was eaten. Recess



was not a word used to describe their outside time, but "noon or dinner hour" was the term used instead. The children had a long time for active play. Climbing trees and playing on the ice when the swamp froze over was great fun. Baseball and running games were common. Children spread out over the area chasing each other. The girls might play hop scotch and jump-the-rope, or even join the boys in a game of baseball. Boys made their balls with tobacco twine. At times the family dog followed the child to school and stayed around. Virginia Lewis remembers that her dog Jake followed her to school, and the teacher sent a note home.

### Discipline

Memory recalls the severity of the teacher's punishment more than the misdeed or transgression itself. More than one person reported that the switch was used and that the culprit got a good whipping for doing almost nothing. Two specific examples of this were given. One example was of a teacher informing a trustee that his son had erred, ending with the father giving his son a good whipping, or tearing up. Reports were that the son had done very little. One boy actually got a bad whipping for doing nothing. A switch was kept in the room for use when necessary. Two particular teachers were known for discipline--one for the severity of punishment and the other for strictness of rules and routine. Generally it was felt by those interviewed that the children behaved well and were obedient and happy to be with each other at school. There seemed to be warmth, love and appreciation for their teachers.

**White Oak School #3.** Grace Tyler cannot remember exactly the year that this last school was built, but she does remember that it was after her mother passed away, which was in 1936. Her mother cooked dinner for the carpenters who built it: Ed Roberts (Grace's mother's brother), Bob Anderson and another man. This building was located out on the Sanford Road (now Hwy #19) on the right side, going toward Allsbrook where the large white oak tree and Todd's Garage stand today. This building was made of fine German siding which has a groove, and it was painted white. It included two large classrooms with a partition which could be folded back, making it into one large area for school programs. Ceilings were very high, even as high as a regular two-story house would be. Inside walls were of beaded ceiling with an attractive break approximately three feet from the bottom with the boards running in a different direction than that above. On the front were two cloak rooms with a porch in between. There were two entry doors on the front, one into each classroom. Across the back and on each end of the main part of the building were large windows.

School was held in this building from 1936 or 1937 until the close of the term of 1947-48. The Horry County School District office furnished this writer with the record for White Oak School term, 1936-37. Listed were the following statistics: G. P. Carroll, principal, grades 4-7; term 7 months; beginning date, Sept. 14; enrolled 42; average attendance 31; trustees: G. C. Harris, H. J. Tyler and M. C. Todd. Mildred C. Allsbrook, teacher, grades 1-3. Address, Allsbrook, SC.

Of those interviewed, Grace Tyler, Ira Mishoe Hucks and Virginia Lewis Hedges attended this school, Grace coming from the other school. Of interest in their recollections is that they remember reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag as well as having Bible reading and the Lord's Prayer in the morning. Grace remembers reciting Bible verses in her old school. They especially remembered the red and gold stars earned for cleanliness of the hands and fingernails as they were inspected. One memory they whispered to each other was the smell of medicine used for head lice.

### Teachers

Lena Norris McCracken was remembered as a sweet lady with one arm. She married a widower, Wade McCracken, who had a son named Honey (o pronounced as in home, not as in honeybee). Honey drove the horse and buggy and took care of the horse during school, watering him at noontime. There was G. Pearly Carroll and Reba Floyd Prince mentioned earlier. Maude Anderson also mentioned. George Skipper was an early one, and there was a preacher-teacher



Todd, a Mr. Gilmore from Daisy. L. M. Hardee came from Beulah and Ruth Sasser, a Peel and an Ingram from Gurley. George Stevens from near the school taught and Austin Powell made a year, as did Mary Stevens Tyler. Others include: Louise Dorsey, just out of Winthrop College, made pretty bulletin boards using colored burlap; a Miss Carter, Arlene Harrelson, Mildred Allsbrook Bedsol, Emma Fowler and Ruby Todd. Of current and special interest to us is Ira Mishoe Hucks, having been both a student and a teacher at the last White Oak School.



Mrs. Mildred Bedsol, teacher. Children (l-r): Alice Barnhill, Pearl Tyler, Elouise Tyler, (next two unidentified), Denise Tyler, Ethel Tyler, Geneva Tyler, Cecile Tyler, Levon Harris, Virginia Tyler, Ethel Lee Lewis, Pauline Tyler, (next not sure), Buddy Tyler, Wilson Tyler, (next not sure), J. C. Tyler, Virginia Lewis, Junior Hatchell, and Virgil Lewis.

### Conclusion

Statistics reported for 1947-48 to the Horry County School District listed as follows: Mrs. Mildred Bedsol, principal and teacher, grades 4-7; Ira Mishoe grades 1-3; term 9 months; beginning date Sept. 1; enrolled 51; average attendance 41. Trustees: J. F. Tyler, Loris, S. C.; C. R. Tyler, Loris, S. C.; Tom Harris, Loris, S. C., Rt. 3. It was at the end of this school term that this school was closed.

The building was later sold for \$2,500 to Dirk Derrick, a young attorney who had planned to make it into a house. He moved the building, minus the front cloak room section, to Hwy 701 on the Julius Derrick land and has not done anything to the building as of this date. Arthur Tyler sold this building. His son, Dale Tyler, owns the land where this last building stood.

### Transition

The transition from White Oak was exciting. Instead of going directly to Clio, the new school, they rode the bus to Gurley for a few months attending school at Gurley. Virginia Lewis Hedges remembers going to Gurley, the older ones meeting in Gurley School and the younger group meeting in Gurley Baptist Church. This was the first opportunity to ride a school bus that White Oak students had known.

At Clio they were met by six teachers: Joe Graham, 7th grade; Worth Abercrombie, 6th; Irene Suggs, 5th grade; Cora Stevens 4th grade and Ira Mishoe and Mrs. Easterling, primary grades. Just as exciting was a lunchroom with full lunches served each day. All that they had known at White Oak were lunches brought in and served from the cloakroom by Ethel Hardee, a young lady who had boarded with the John Tyler family.



## EPILOG

Thus ends the building, but what about the students? From White Oak have come three teachers: Ira Mishoe was the first of these. When Ira Mishoe and Emerson Tyler graduated from 7th grade at White Oak, they were the only two in the class that year. Ira went on to become a teacher herself, graduating from Winthrop College and also getting a Master's Degree from East Carolina University. She taught at White Oak School #3 and moved on to Clio School, the newly consolidated school for White Oak, Allsbrook and Gurley. Ira related to this writer that Mrs. Reba Prince had told her mother, Mrs. Amy Harris Mishoe, that Amy should become a teacher. The mother never fulfilled that dream, but the daughter has ended a career in teaching. J. Boyd Todd, the son of trustee J. Mack Todd and his wife Arcie Faulk Todd, not only became a teacher, but a teacher at Clemson University, from which he graduated, and taught until his retirement. Zelda Tyler, another White Oak student, the daughter of H. John Tyler and his wife Mary Stevens Tyler, went on to graduate from Winthrop College and will soon retire from teaching in Charlotte, NC.

Cleveland Tyler graduated from seventh grade in 1928 at White Oak #2 School before going on to Loris High School. Emmett Tyler became a Baptist preacher, preaching for years at Cane Branch Baptist Church. Cleveland, the first in his family to complete high school, became a successful farmer and active member in his church. Cleveland tells this story. He first walked to meet the bus, as no bus went by his house. Later he was to drive the bus, making it possible for others in his community to get a high school education. During depression years 1931-33, Cleveland was paid twice in vouchers and kept them until his father traded the two vouchers worth \$10 for \$8 worth of fertilizer. He said that he enjoyed driving the bus because it gave him something to do, although money was important to him. He related that Mr. Bullock, the Loris School Superintendent, paid for the gas from his pocket to complete the school year.

Those who we know have business school training include Cecile Tyler, Leona and Ruby Todd, Virginia Lewis, Glenda Tyler. Nursing school claimed Vivian Tyler, Virgil Lewis, Josephine Pridgen and Dorothy Bullock. Emerson Tyler became a long distance truck driver. His brother John Davis Tyler became a policeman in Georgetown. Wilson Tyler, after serving in the Air Force, made a government career in Texas. Buddy Tyler became a school bus maintenance supervisor for Horry County and lives at the homeplace. Grace Tyler remains at the homeplace, the Tyler house with its many rooms. J. W. Grainger made a career as a Greyhound Bus driver out of Raleigh, NC. Virginia Lewis, maybe beginning with her love for Jake, her dog, started early on her career as owner, manager and worker with her own dog kennel, Crooked Pond Kennel, on Long Island, NY. She is retired now, but keeps busy with her farm, volunteer hospital work and some work at a veterinary clinic. Farming has claimed many, some becoming big tobacco farmers, Arthur and Ethel Tyler among them.

[Many thanks to those who made this research possible, including Mrs. Arcie Todd, Mrs. Viola Strickland, Miss Grace Tyler, Mr. Cleveland Tyler, Mrs. Emma Thompson, Mrs. Ida Lewis, Mrs. Virginia Lewis Hedges, Mrs. Edna Mishoe Bullock, Mrs. Ira Mishoe Hucks. Mrs. Peggy Mishoe gave much encouragement. My own deceased mother, Mrs. Emma Lewis Martin, provided me with beautiful memories. My apologies to those who find their names missing and for errors that memory might have made. Each person in the White Oak Community has made his unique contribution to society, whether history records this or not.--Doretha M. Long]

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## FUNERAL SERVICE GREW OUT OF HARDWARE BUSINESS

By W. M. Goldfinch, Sr.

[W. M. "Mac" Goldfinch, Jr. supplied his father's handwritten paper which he believes was written for HCHS member Mrs. Etrulia Dozier, in the 1960s.]

The funeral industry in Conway at first was only selling funeral supplies<sup>1</sup>. I believe the first person to sell coffins and caskets in Conway was W. R. Lewis, who ran a general store on the corner of Main Street and Third Avenue, where the bakery is now located<sup>2</sup>. This was in the early nineteen hundreds.

In 1905 the Kingston Furniture Company was organized and sold funeral supplies, but rendered no service. People bought their supplies and their friends rendered such service as they could. In many instances the coffin was made by a friend and they only bought the necessary hardware and cloth to finish it as best they could. I helped out in the furniture store as a school boy, and helped to open up some of the first merchandise. My father, the late W. T. Goldfinch, bought an interest in this business about 1907 and I went to work with him in 1909.

At that time The Conway Hardware Company also sold funeral supplies. Mr. J. W. Taylor came to Conway and bought an interest in the Conway Hardware Company. He did not like any part of funeral work and when he became sole owner of the business sold his supplies to us.

After I came into the business I became interested in service for the public. After several years I persuaded the other stockholders into buying a horse drawn hearse. There were no motor hearses at that time. Sometime before May, 1915, we purchased this hearse which we used until January of 1920, when the first motor hearse was delivered to us. I made many long trips with the horses, four from Conway to Little River, SC.

In those days there wasn't much demand for bodies to be embalmed or properly prepared for burial. In fact in most cases no one had the means to take care of the added expense. As the need increased, I was not satisfied to handle the business except as it should be done, so in 1923 I went to school and took a course in embalming and passed the State Board that fall and received my Embalmer's License.

We sold supplies to colored people and later made hearse services available to them in the late thirties. I bought a lot and built a funeral home on Highway 378 and Jeff Hemingway lived there and operated it for me. About five years later I sold the business to Green and Manigault and Johnnie Allen operated it for them for a short time. Later I sold the property to the Latimers and they have operated it since. There was a colored man by the name of Frank Brown who gave some service to the colored people of this area in the 1930s.

The colored people had a number of societies that paid a certain amount at the death of each member. One name they used was Sons and Daughters of Zion and I believe Society #1 was in Conway and #2 and #3 were in the St. Paul and Cochran communities. The societies bought the supplies and about all their members assembled for the funeral. These were the days before there was much industrial type of insurance sold.

Until 1938 we operated the Funeral business on Main Street in connection with the furniture business. That year I remodeled my home into a funeral home and lived in it until May, 1959, at which time I built a home on the opposite side of Beaty St. where I now reside.

We then remodeled the place using the entire lower floor for the Funeral Home and put an apartment on one side of the upper floor for one of the employees to live in. The casket show room is also upstairs.

The Thompson Funeral Home operated in Conway during the 1940's having a place for both white and colored. Their colored home was near the colored Masonic Hall. They discontinued business about 1950. At present Goldfinch Funeral Home is the only place in Conway operated for white people.

Latimer-Robinson Funeral Home and McKiever Funeral Home both have places for the colored people now in Conway. Also, I believe there are two other firms which have recently opened in Conway (United Funeral Home and Rhue's Funeral Service).

<sup>1</sup> Funeral supplies consisted of handles for wooden coffins, materials with which to line them and sometimes the coffins themselves.

<sup>2</sup> The building is now occupied by Vanite Beauty Salon, 300 Main St., Conway.



## ROBERT CONWAY

by Catherine H. Lewis

[Note: This paper was originally commissioned by Conway Hospital as one of three lectures presented to the public in celebration of its 60th anniversary. It was presented February 2, 1989.--CHL]

In the Carolina colony the Lords Proprietors established two levels of nobility which carried with them large grants of land. The titles landgrave and cacique conferred a distinction for large landowners, corresponding to, but lesser than English titles. A landgrave could be granted four baronies of 12,000 acres each; a cacique received a smaller grant. Robert Daniell was granted Winyah Barony and the title on June 18, 1711. He held his grant for one only day before he sold it to the second landgrave, Thomas Smith.

As the northern part of Carolina grew, it became necessary to send an administrator there to carry out the policies of the government in Charleston. Robert Daniell was given that position and was later governor of South Carolina.

Robert Daniell's daughter Ann was married first to Alexander Goodbee of Charleston. After his death she married Robert Conway, son of Daniel Conway, son of John Conway.

Robert Conway was born about 1753. The date of his birth is not established by any known record, but is inferred from his obituary which reported his age as seventy years. The young man became a cabinetmaker in Charleston.

His marriage at about eighteen to Juliana Easton was registered at St. Philips Parish on November 16, 1771. The deaths of two sons (John Bennet, d. 13 September 1780, and William Hopkins, d. 21 October 1780) are also recorded at St. Philips. The third child was Amelia, born about 1785, when her father was probably about thirty-two years of age. Twins were born about 1786 after the family moved to Horry District.

Robert Conway served during the Revolution, and was always thereafter mentioned by military title and with respect in public records and the press. Judge Joseph Travis Walsh, who arrived in Conwayborough in the decade prior to the War Between the States, mentions in his autobiography that Robert Conway was a captain under Marion. Gregg's *History of the Old Cheraws* (p. 572), speaks of him as "a colonel of the Sixth Brigade". In spite of the lack of official records one has to accept that he was held in high regard as a result of his military service and that it led to his later commissions in the militia.

Although Kingston Township on the Waccamaw River, surveyed in 1732, was only 100 miles from Charleston, it was still undeveloped except for a few hardy settlers. Why Robert and Juliana Conway decided to migrate to the Waccamaw region is unknown. They may have known others who had preceded them or heard family tales about land speculation by Landgrave Daniell. Perhaps Robert saw an opportunity to build an estate through land granted for his Revolutionary service. Perhaps his business in Charleston wasn't doing well and he hoped for a new start on the "frontier".

The Conways--Robert, Juliana and Amelia--arrived in the Waccamaw region without land sometime in 1785-86. Among their closest friends were John and Mary Baxter, their neighbors on the Waccamaw river front, for whom they named the twins born to them about 1786. The boy and girl were named John Baxter Conway and Mary Baxter Conway.

Col. Conway began to acquire grants of land. Over the next 15 years he received more than 3,000 acres in eleven different grants ranging in size from 100 to 1,000 acres each. On 2 July 1787 he received 223 acres on northwest side of Kings Town Lake, the site of the old township village of Kingston. Since this was a place where others were already in residence, it is not clear why this land was granted to Conway. When the village was later designated the seat of the judicial district, he transferred much of this property to the new district commissioners for a nominal price, reserving to himself his own home site.



**Grants and Plats to Robert Conway as listed in the indexes,  
SC Department of Archives and History**

Date of Plat	No. Acres	Book	Page	Date of Grant	No. Acres	Book	Page
25 Apr 1787	300	18	289	2 Jul 1787	300	21	162
25 Apr 1787	223	18	290	2 Jul 1787	223	22	84
7 Jun 1790	100	26	137	7 Jun 1790	100	65	280
7 Jun 1790	100	26	138	7 Jun 1790	100	65	283
20 Jul 1791	100	26	252	1 Aug 1791	100	65	500
28 Jul 1791	100	26	252	1 Aug 1791	100	65	498
28 Jul 1791	100	26	299	1 Aug 1791	100	65	499
28 Jul 1791	100	26	254	1 Aug 1791	100	66	15
28 Feb 1791	500	26	330	5 Mar 1792	500	66	163
28 Feb 1792	1000	26	329	5 Mar 1792	1000	66	164
26 Jan 1795	330	34	175	3 Aug 1795	330	69	137
21 Jan 1803	336	36	346	7 Feb 1803	366	72	122

Robert Conway built a house for himself, Juliana, and the three children alongside the Waccamaw. The two story dwelling stood on lot #135 on the Hemingway plan for Conwayborough made after the village became the district seat. It was just down river from the confluence of Kingston Lake and Waccamaw River, just below the ferry house. This house stood until the railroad came to Conway in 1887, when it was demolished to make way for a station at the end of the line.

Kingston had been surveyed and laid out first in 1732 and again in 1783, but had attracted few residents. On Sunday, February 8, 1801, about 15 years after Conway arrived and earlier in the same year that Kingston became the seat of the new Horry District, Bishop Francis Asbury, the famous Methodist missionary, spoke in the village. In spite of his great renown and the lovely weather he reported that day in his *Journal*, his audience consisted of not more than 100 persons, "including the colored folks"--a rare glimpse of the town which reveals how few people lived in the vicinity.

Asbury had no church to speak in on that occasion. The "old Presbyterian meeting-house, now repaired for the use of the Methodists", in which he had spoken in 1795 had been destroyed in a storm before the turn of the century. There was no church building in the village again until 1834 when the Methodists erected the first of their buildings. Small groups doubtless met in private homes for religious services. A campground on the old Georgetown highway south of the village (Ninth Avenue Ext., Conway) served as meeting place for larger groups.

There are unresolved questions about the religious congregations which may have met in the area along Conway's river front near where Kingston Lake and Waccamaw River meet. There is a strong tradition embodied in a letter written by Harriet Beaty Cooper (1802-1894) that it was an Episcopal Church. Surely Robert Conway worshipped there. His pew, survivor of the storm which destroyed the church, sat for years on the porch of the hotel which Sarah Jane Beaty Norman ("Aunt Jane" or "Aunt Norman") operated. Later Aunt Jane's daughter, Mrs. Henry Buck, had it at her home, where again it overlooked the Waccamaw River.

On the other hand Paul Quattlebaum in his Presbyterian Church on the Waccamaw (1953) espouses the view that there was never an Episcopal Church on that spot, but that there had been an early congregation of Presbyterians. He marshaled many early records to support this view, which the *Asbury Journal* seems to support.

What is certain is that no Episcopal Church came to be of sufficient importance to achieve parish (and thereby political) status for the area. What is now Horry County formed substantial parts of All Saints and Prince George parishes.

As a large landholder and substantial citizen, it was natural for Robert Conway to become politically active. In 1791, when he was about 38, he was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives for Horry District (at the time still part of the larger Georgetown District). He served through 1807, save for 1798-1799 and 1802-1803 (13th and 15th General Assemblies).



Conway was in the Legislature in 1793 when the people of this area sent to the General Assembly (House Journal, 25 Nov 1793-21 Dec 1793, pp. 276-77, 2 Dec 1793) a petition to prevent three Irishmen from claiming more than half the land area of present day Horry. John Evingham, Joseph Culpepper and Edward Kelly had a plat made and applied for a grant of 391,607 acres. If approved, this grant would have made havoc of those held by settlers who had already developed their holdings.

In great haste the people of the area countered with their own petition (*House Journal*, pp. 342-343, 9 Dec 1793) to the General Assembly as follows:

The petition of the Inhabitants of Kingston County Humbly Sheweth, that the Said Town is Laid Out on a Navigable River where a Vessell of Seventy Tons Burthen Can Come to Said Town, that When Said Town was Laid Out there was Certain lotts of Land Reserved for Public Buildings Such as Court house, Goal [sic] &c.; and as your Petitioners is of Opineon [sic] that a County Court Will Releive [sic] them of many Burdens they now Labour under and also that Kingston (the Place First Intended) is the most Suitable for that Purpose, they therefore pray that permission be Given to build a Court house, Gaol & a County Court may be Establishd. at Kingston, and as in Duty Bound will Ever pray.

This petition was signed by John Cross and 171 other men. It failed, but neither did the General Assembly grant the wishes of Evingham, Culpepper and Kelly.

Conway was still in the Legislature when local men again petitioned to have a court established in the village of Kingston, so that they would no longer have to undertake the rough trip to Georgetown to attend trials and to attend to legal business which had to be entered in the public records. This time the petition sounded less like a Chamber of Commerce promotional piece. It spoke plaintively of the lawlessness which was growing because of the difficulty of bringing wrongdoers to proper trial.

Furthermore, approximately 550 adult males, the qualified petitioners, wanted the new District named Horry and the name of the village seat changed from Kingston to Hugerborough. It was not often in the post-Revolutionary period that place names were changed to remove references to the monarchy, but these people were serious and chose the name of a prominent Huguenot family of Georgetown District. Benjamin Huger, patriarch of the family, had entertained the Marquis de Lafayette on his arrival in Georgetown District to participate in the Revolution. Francis Kinloch Huger was reported to have rescued Lafayette from an Austrian prison later. An exploit such as this might well have captured the imagination of the patriotic men of the area.

At least eleven of these 1801 petitions are preserved at the S. C. Department of Archives and History, some of them addressed to the House of Representatives and some to the Senate. The documents constitute a valuable genealogical record of persons who were landowners in the District at the time.

When the petitions reached the General Assembly, they were referred to a committee composed of Robert Conway, John Nesmith of Williamsburg and Erasmus Rothmaler of Prince George Winyah. The committee reported that the petitioners deserved to have their request granted and asked permission to present a bill to that effect. The bill reached the House late in the session and was passed on Dec. 17 and sent to the Senate. It was signed into law on December 19, 1801, as Robert Conway was ending his fifth term.

When the people of the new district discovered that the name of the village was to be Conwayborough, not Hugerborough, some were not happy. They sent the General Assembly a request that that body undo the action which was "disagreeable to their wish" and make the name of the village Hugerborough.

Three of the men who had been appointed to serve with Conway on the first commission to oversee the governmental affairs of the new district signed it. Thomas Fearwell, William Hemingway and Thomas Livingston must have felt strongly indeed to act against the man with whom they had been appointed to serve. Samuel Floyd, Jr., John Graham, Sr., Samuel Foxworth and William Williams apparently decided not to sign the petition or were not afforded the opportunity. Conway was not in the House the next year when it arrived, but the petition was



ignored by the General Assembly.

While all this political activity was going on, the Commissioners had discovered that Robert Conway owned the village land and were negotiating with him to acquire it. On 6 August 1802 he conveyed to them for five pounds

All that plantation or Tract of Two Hundred and Twenty three acres of Land (more or less excepting one Lott known by lott No. 135 and also one other lot No. \_\_\_ formerly occupied by John Tamplat which land was granted unto me July 2nd 1787 bounded NE and SE by Kings-town Lake and John Baxter's (now Thomas Mitchell's land NW by John Cross land and SW by vacant Land and hath such shape and marks as a plat annexed to Original Grant will fully Shew. [Horry County Deed Book UU, p. 1]

Popular resentment of the naming of the village notwithstanding, Robert Conway continued a preeminent public figure during the first decade of the 19th century. It is not clear in what kind of business he engaged. In papers related to a court case he was referred to as a shopkeeper, but he may also have been a planter and contractor. He held both elective and appointed offices at the local and state level, served as justice of the peace and justice of the quorum, coroner, commissioner of buildings in this district for the erection of the courthouse and jail--the first pair which stood on 5th Avenue in the block between Laurel and Elm Streets. He was re-elected to the House in 1804 and served until 1808, two more terms.

The next year Robert Conway provided for a three-way split of his property among his three surviving children in instruments dated April 1, 1802. [Horry County Deed Book A1, pp. 328-330] Conway divided his land and livestock, his household goods, even his personal effects. He retained life time rights in his property, but made no provision for his wife, Juliana. She is not mentioned. On August 7 in the same year she signed away her dower rights in the land conveyed to the Commissioners. Perhaps Mrs. Conway was provided for in another document which has not been found.

The older daughter was already married when these instruments were written and is referred to as his "beloved daughter" Amelia Porter. She must have been married at age about fifteen. The 1800 Census seems to show this. Her husband may have been Benjamin Porter who owned a lot next door to Conway and who witnessed the deed by which Conway sold Jane Cawsway 1000 acres September 20, 1799 [Book A1, p. 195]. John Rogers, Sr., was made guardian of the twins, who were about fourteen or fifteen when these extraordinary documents were signed.

**Horry District Census Records relating to Robert Conway**

1790	1800	1810	1820
1 male 16+	1 male 10-16	1 male -10	1 male 16-18
1 male -16	2 males 16-26	1 male 16-26	1 male 16-26
3 females	1 male 45+	1 male 45+	1 male 45+
1 slave	1 female 10-16	1 female 16-26	1 female -10
	1 female 45+	1 female 45+	1 female 26-45
	6 slaves	6 slaves	

Note: It is easy to pick out the known family members in this record, but there are unknown males and females: two males in 1800; a male under 10 in 1810; a male 16 -18, another 16 - 26, a male over forty-five, and one female under ten in the 1820 record.

Robert Conway had been named lieutenant colonel of the Twenty-fifth Regiment about 1794 and served in that capacity until he succeeded Peter Horry as brigadier general of the Sixth Brigade of militia in 1803. He served there until 1812. These appointments lend credence to his Revolutionary service.

The death of Juliana Easton Conway occurred on 28 November 1812 (*Charleston Times*, 14 February 1812), forty-one years to the month after she and Robert Conway were married. There



is no record of where she was buried, but it may have been in the community cemetery close to her home which is now the churchyard of Kingston Presbyterian Church in Conway.

In 1790 the Census record show that Conway had one slave, in 1800 and in 1810, he had six. By 1820 he had none. When he made provision in 1802 for the division of his property in the event of his death, Col. Conway was probably considered a well-to-do, if not wealthy, man by the standards of the time and place. The lists of household goods in these documents show that he owned considerable furniture.

Amelia received:	John Baxter received:	Mary Baxter received:
Land obtained from John Wilson	lot where Robert Conway lived	lot # 29
Negro woman named Chloe	2 Negroes, Simon and Allis	Negroes Harry and Dido
1/3 part of his cattle, hogs, household and kitchen furniture	1/3 part goods	1 bay mare
1 feather bed	1 feather bed	1/3 part hogs, cattle, furnishings
1 mattress	1 mattress	1 feather bed
2 sheets	2 sheets	1 mattress
2 blankets	2 blankets	2 sheets
1 bolster	1 bolster	2 pillows
1 bedstead	10 head cattle	1 bolster
1 cypress table	10 head hogs	2 blankets
6 hickory chairs	1 bedstead	1 bedstead
1 tea/coffee pot	1 mahogany desk	1 mahogany tea table
1 set cups/saucers	1 mahogany table	1 cypress table
1 water pitcher	1 cypress table	6 green chairs
6 glass tumblers	6 green chairs	1 tea pot
1 pr. quart decanters	all silver buckles	1 coffee pot
1 set knives/forks	1 tea pot	1 set cups/saucers
1 butter jar	1 coffee pot	1 water pitcher
2 candlesticks	1 set cups/saucers	6 glass tumblers
2 waiters	1 water pitcher	1 pr. decanters
1 trunk	1 china bowl	1 set knives/forks
6 plants	6 glass tumblers	1 butter jar
2 dishes	1 pr. decanters	2 candlesticks
1 tea kettle	1 set knives/forks	2 waiters
2 iron pots	1 butter jar	1 trunk
1 frying pan	2 candlesticks	1 woman's saddle
1 pr. fire dogs	2 waiters	1 bridle
1 ax	1 trunk	6 plates
1 hoe	1 saddle & bridle	2 dishes
1 pr. smoothing irons	1 shot gun	1 tea kettle
1 looking glass	6 plates	2 iron pots
1 salt cellar	2 dishes	1 frying pan
1 milk pot	1 riding chair & harness	1 pr. fire dogs
1 tub and piggin	2 cross cut saws	1 ax
	3 frows	1 hoe
	1 tea kettle	1 pr. smoothing irons
	2 iron pots	6 pictures
	1 frying pan	2 looking glasses
	1 pr. fire dogs	6 silver tea spoons
	1 grindstone	1 pr. silver sugar tongs
	1 ax	1 set casters
	1 hoe	1 pr. salt cellars
	1 pr. sad irons	1 milk pan
	all books	1 pr. fire tongs
	1 canoe	1 shovel
	2 iron wedges	1 pr. bellows
	riding horse	1 pr. mill stones
		2 churns
		2 water pails
		tubs



He also held considerable land, though he had already begun to dispose of it. He sold 1000 acres in 1799 to Jane Cawsway for only 10 pounds. In 1807 Conway sold to John Hughes for 300 pounds silver 500 acres on the southeast side of the Waccamaw, land which five years before he had included in the property assigned to Amelia Porter, plus eight lots in the village. In some manner, though Conway is not listed in the grantee index for the period 1803-1914 in the Horry County land records, he must have repurchased the town lots or Hughes may have defaulted on the deal, for in March 1808 he sold the same lots plus 150 acres on the southeast side of the Waccamaw to his son John Baxter Conway. The purchase price was again 300 pounds silver.

Nine suits are recorded in the *Judgment Book for Horry County Court of Common Pleas* in which Conway is listed as defendant between 1807 and 1813.

#### Horry District Court of Common Pleas Judgment Book 1804-1829

- Roll No. 3 Robert Conway vs Thomas Dawsey. 14 Jul 1802. Jury: Richard Singleton, foreman, John Sarvis, Jr., Samuel Lewis, George Lewis, Henry Elliott, Jesse Smith, James Newton, Adam Jordan, Senior, Moses Milliken, Charles Skipper and Benjamin Stevenson. Judgment for \$100 and cost of suit signed 28 Jul 1804 and given to the sheriff for execution.
- 27 Burwell Vick vs Robt Conway--promissory note dated 16 Oct 1805 to John Taylor for 45 pounds, 13 shillings, 11 pence, half-penny. 24 Jul 1807.
- 45 Benj. Pepson vs Robert Conway--promissory note dated 2 Mar 1807 to Francis G. Delessline \$89.50, note made at Charleston. 22 May 1809
- 48 Joseph Cox vs Robt Conway--"did Break & Enter his timber and trees then growing did Cut down and Carry away his Soil thereon did Subvert and dig up..." Damages sought \$1000. Jury found for plaintiff \$6,000 and costs, all the land contained by the Capital Letter ABCD the line CD being a dotted line on a plat Certified by William Hemmingway the 24th of October 1806. [no plat attached]
- 55 John Haslet, Sr. (assignee for Origen Dwight) vs Robert Conway--promissory note for \$741 for 6 months dated 26 Jul 1802 at Charleston to Dwight, who became insolvent. RC confessed judgment for original amount plus interest and cost. Judgment signed 20 Dec 1808.
- 60 Richard Green vs Robt. Conway--debt of 20 pounds 15 shillings, 11 pence from 1 Oct 1809. Green was surviving partner of the firm of Matthew Fleming and Richard Green. Suit filed 26 Feb 1810. RC confessed judgment for \$111.69. Judgment signed 7 Mar 1812.
- 61 George Smith and Savage Smith vs Robert Conway--[promissory note for 20 pounds 1 shilling, 6 pence for ten days, dated 20 Jul 1809 at Georgetown. The Smiths were survivors of Jerimiah Cuttino (Smith and Cuttino). Judgment signed 18 May 1812.
- 73 Charles O'Henry and Henry O'Hara vs General Robert Conway--promissory notes for \$485.78 and \$279.60 dated 3 Mar 1807 at Charleston. Filed 9 Mar 1812. Default judgment for \$690.06 signed 3 Sep 1812.
- 83 Daniel & Durant vs Robert Conway--bond for \$425 dated 16 Jan 1807. Judgment signed 2 Apr 1814.
- 84 Owin Causey for the use of Willis Rawls vs Robert Conway, Constantine Hughs & Henry Durant--promissory note dated 17 Feb 1813 for \$102.

Note: At the end of p. 88 of the *Journal of the Court of Common Pleas*, 1803- , March term, 1815, there is this comment: "here the original Records stop as abruptly as if they had been Buried Beneath the Ruins of Pompei. I shall leave the opposite Page Blank in case they are ever Exhumed. B." Again at the end of the record for the October term, 1816, p. 99, the recorder comments: "The Balance of the Record for this Court is Lost. B"



All but one concerned promissory notes or bonds. One document in a suit brought by the assignee for Origen Dwight who had become bankrupt accused Conway of "contriving and fraudulently contending craftily and subtilly to deceive and Defraud." The plaintiffs in several suits were from Charleston and Georgetown, suggesting that Conway may have been trying to protect his business reputation in Conwayborough by borrowing money out of town. It may, however, given the economy of Horry District at the time, simply have been that money was available in those two centers and not in Horry. In every case the result went against Gen. Conway.

In spite of his lengthy career of public service, the record is curiously silent about the personality of Robert Conway. No letters or personal papers have been found. In 1802, when he was not in the House of Representatives, but was a member of the governing commission of the district, he was accused of stealing "Eight weight of sugar out of Mr. Fleming's store" in Georgetown. Thomas Dawsey claimed, "He is a Damned old Sugar Thief," and "I can prove him a thief." Conway brought suit on 14 July 1802 against Dawsey for "speaking, uttering and publishing certain false, scandalous and malicious words of him," and asked \$5,000 damages. Through his attorney, Erasmus Rothmaler, with whom Conway had served in the Legislature, he claimed that he had been a "good, true, honest, worthy and faithful citizen ... from the time of his nativity ... held, considered and respected among all his neighbors and other worthy citizens to be a man of good name, Fame, Credit, Character and Reputation [who] has always during his lifetime hitherto lived and continued, free, clear, and unspotted." The case was heard in the Court of Common Pleas, where on 1 November 1802 a jury found in Conway's favor and allowed him \$100 and costs.

Clearly Conway was not seriously injured by this slander, for in 1803 he was named Brigadier General of the Sixth Brigade, succeeding the well-respected Peter Horry. During this period he served in local and state offices, returning to the House of Representatives in 1804 and serving until 1808.

The minute book of the Commissioners of Public Buildings for Horry District provides almost the only record of Robert Conway for the next few years. He was sometimes chairman of this group. On 6 July 1816, Robert Conway being present, the Commissioners "Ordered that Robert Conways Contract entered into 25th May last be void for lack of compliance", but immediately thereafter granted him a *new* contract for repairs to the public buildings:

Ordered that Robert Conway be Contractor of the repairs of the Public Buildings at the Sum of One thousand dollars and that he give Bond and security in the district approved of by Thomas Fearwell, Henry Durant, Richard Singleton, Silvius Sweet and John Dicks who Shall meet at the Court house 20th July Curr. at 12 Oclock noon for that purpose and Signing the contract.

On 13 September 1816 the Commission "Ordered that Robert Conway's Contract entered into 2d of August last be void and of non effect the Contract being relinquished." The Commissioners agreed to meet again on 1 October to contract for the repairs. Conway was also present on 3 February 1817 when the Commissioners agreed on a settlement with Richard Green on his con-tract of 23 March 1802 for the construction of the first courthouse and gaol. In the final reckoning Green had to pay them \$165.

In 1819 when he was about sixty-six years old, after nearly seven years as a widower, Gen. Conway married again. The *Charleston City Gazette* for 7 April 1819 took notice of this union:

Married at Conwayborough (the capitol of Horry District, S. C.) Robert Conway, Esq., late Brigadier General, and a meritorious soldier of the Revolution, to the amiable Miss [sic] Susannah Crowson.

The bride was the widow of Thomas Crowson. Susannah Beaty Crowson, a member of the prominent Beaty family, was about forty-one. The bond for this marriage was executed March 16, 1819.



The record of the offices Gen. Conway held during this period reflect a gradual move to Georgetown. Amelia Conway Porter and her family apparently were already residing there. Conway was coroner for Horry District from 1820-1823, was listed in the 1820 Census as a resident of Conwayborough, but was also in 1821 a Justice of the Peace for Prince George Winyah Parish and in 1823 manager of elections for Georgetown.

General Conway's death was recorded in the register of the Methodist Church of Georgetown, but the 8 December 1823 issue of the *Charleston City Gazette and Commercial Advertiser*, gives the only information available about his funeral.

Died at Georgetown, Gen. Robert Conway, formerly of this city [i.e., Charleston] a soldier of the Revolution aged seventy interred with military honors.

The obituary does not explicitly state that he was buried in Georgetown and there is no known record of his burial there. In his manuscript history, "A Narrative of Horry County History", Dr. James A. Norton records local (i.e., Conway) tradition, "Some say he was buried in the old Kingston burying ground..." which became Kingston Presbyterian Church Cemetery, close to his home on the Waccamaw water front. Was his first wife, Juliana Easton Conway, also buried there?

The widow of General Conway appears as Susannah Conway in the 1830 Census of Georgetown. She does not appear under any name which can be identified in the 1840 or 1850 Censuses. The *Pee Dee Times* of 18 October 1854 carried her obituary:

Died on the 10th inst., Mrs. Susannah Ferari, formerly the widow of the Gen. Robert Conway, in memory of whom as a revolutionary officer, the capital of Horry District took the name of Conwayboro. After the death of her second husband, she kept a tavern in this town--and sustained a good reputation. She was about 76 years of age.

Susannah Beaty Crowson Conway Ferari is buried in the old Methodist cemetery at the corner of Orange and Highmarket Streets in Georgetown.

Robert Conway has many descendants, though none of his surname. John Baxter Conway, the son who survived to adulthood, married first Ann Causey, but this marriage ended about 23 January 1807. John Beaty Conway gave up all claim to the property which she had owned at the time of the marriage. There is no record of children. About 1810 he married Rebecca Beaty, daughter of John Beaty and Elizabeth Mary Prince, but this union produced only daughters: Juliana (b. 1815), Elizabeth (b. 1816) and Margaret (18 May 1822-14 July 1888). The 1830 Census of Horry County no longer recorded John Baxter Conway, so he may have died (or moved elsewhere) before it was taken. The name died with him.

No portrait of Robert Conway is known to exist, but his silver watch, made in London and carrying the letters of his name rather than numerals on its face, was handed down through the Bailey family. On November 15, 1981, the watch was formally presented to the people of Conway in ceremonies at City Hall. It has remained on display in the office of the mayor ever since.

In 1977 research done by J. Ernest E. Harper, a descendant, resulted in an official historic marker being placed in front of the city hall. It reads:



## KINGSTON-CONWAY

By 1733, Kingston Township had been "marked out" in this area, and by 1737 the town of Kingston was in existence. Since many landowners were non-residents, the township did not flourish. In 1801, the town was renamed Conwayborough. Robert Conway had acquired large landholdings in the area, and in 1805\* he conveyed some 223 acres to the town. In 1883 the town name was changed to Conway

\* [This date should be 1802]

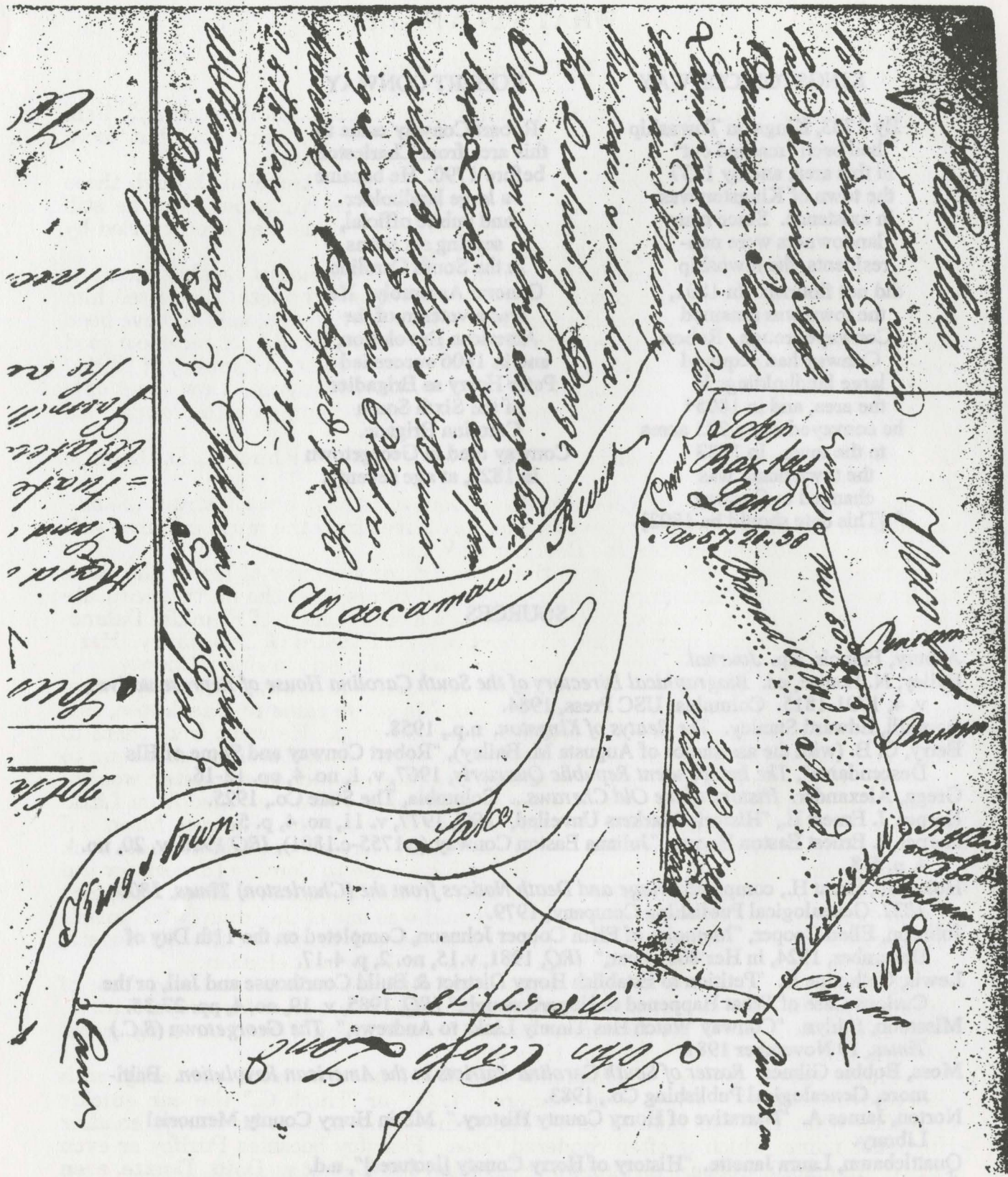
## ROBERT CONWAY

Robert Conway came to this area from Charleston before 1790. He became a large landholder and public official, serving six terms in the South Carolina General Assembly. He was a veteran of the American Revolution, and in 1806 succeeded Peter Horry as Brigadier of the Sixth South Carolina Brigade. Conway died in Georgetown in 1823, at age seventy.

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A tract of land containing 223 Acres surveyed for Robert Conway in 1787.



## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By Catherine H. Lewis

Have you ever wondered why certain names are so common in this county? I am not talking about the usual John, James, William, Mary, Ann, etc., but more unusual given names such as Asbury, Lorenzo Dow, and Jeanwood.

The great Methodist missionary Bishop Francis Asbury traveled through these parts numerous times. He was here when Conway was Kingstown and he still called it by that name, when he visited it in 1801. His name has been carried by generations of Asburys, Asberrys and even Berrys.

Lorenzo Dow (1777-1834) was far too eccentric for the Methodist establishment. Once the clergy accepted him conditionally, but three months later dismissed him from the circuit. In 1802 he preached to the Indians in Alabama, said to have been the first to do so. Returning, he came to Charleston, where he did not receive a good reception from local Methodist clergy. Continuing up the coast in January of 1804, he came to Georgetown and through Horry County to Wilmington. Dow spent only one night in Horry County, but his preaching certainly impressed the locals. All over

the county through the years since, men have been named for him: L. D., Lorenzo Dow, or simply Dow.

Gene Wood, and its variants Jeanwood and Genewood have always struck me as unusual names for women. I believe this name derives from the much admired wife of Conway Methodist minister, the Rev. Lanny Wood.

In the days when turpentine and timber ruled the economy of Horry the Buck family was rich enough to import governesses and tutors from the north to educate their children. Among them was Sarah Delano, a distant cousin of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Miss Delano married the riverboat captain Richard G. Dusenbury. Her presence accounts for the many people who are named Delano in Horry County.

Capt. Thomas West Daggett was much admired and many Horry boys were named for him. He was born in New Bedford, Mass. He came to Charleston, SC, when he was sixteen and began work in a machine shop. He went from there to Georgia, learned the saw mill trade, and returned to South Carolina, this time to the Waccamaw Neck. Now he ran a rice mill, and gradually accumulated wealth. During the Civil War Daggett was made captain of the coast defense from Little River to Georgetown and made the torpedo which sank the Harvest Moon off Fraser's Point in Winyah Bay. The war wiped all his fortune out and he came back to begin again in the milling business. In 1875 he came to Conway to work for the federal government as captain of dredge boat on the Waccamaw River. Daggett rapidly became one of the community leaders and was one of the group who "saved" the election for Hampton in 1876. In 1880 he served briefly in the SC Senate, holding office after the death of William L. Buck until the next election.

The popular Duke has several sources. Sometimes it is a shortened form of Marmaduke. In other families it derives from an ancestor named for a royal figure, as in Duke William. Tilly (for men) comes from William Tilley, an early grant holder in the area of Tilly Swamp on Hwy 90.

Huger is, of course, a Huguenot family name associated primarily with Georgetown District. When it is rendered "U.G." or "Hugh G." the ear quickly identifies what the eye fails to see. The same thing applies to Horry, another Huguenot name, which is often rendered Oree. Peurifoy becomes Purifoy or even Purify. Manigault appears as Manigo or Manago, and Dewitt as Duitt, Duette, even Duet. Lafayette was often corrupted to Laffatte, Layfatte, or Fate.

Military titles appear as Christian names, as in Admiral, Major, and General,



and Lieutenant though I know of at least once instance when General George Washington was bestowed on a child in full. Doctor often appears as a given name (though Dock sometimes may derive from Murdock, rather than a title). I suppose they have somehow been separated from the last names of the men admiring parents had honored. The same principle applies to the patronymics Van, Fitz, and Mc which over the generations lost the names to which they were originally attached.

But who was Thadeus Zabiskie? This appears in various spellings and may be the original form of Bisco or Biscoe. Any ideas?

Materials for publication in the IRQ are welcomed and may be submitted to:  
The IRQ Editor, The Horry County Historical Society, P. O. Box 2025, Conway, SC 29526

### Queries

Jane Anders, 8114 Magnolia Drive, Ethel, LA 70730: My 5-great-grandfather was Joseph DEWITT b. c1777, d. 17 Oct 1847, Horry Co., SC. His widow was Susannah VEREEN Dewitt. Who was his first wife, the mother of his children? Possibly there were three wives. Also, I need a list of his children and a copy or abstract of his will.

Ellen L. Francis Pye, 3 Aintree Avenue, Charleston, SC 29405: Looking for any information about my great-grandfather, Peter J. E. STALVEY, born Oct. 17, 1839, son of James STALVEY and Elizabeth P. of Horry County. Peter J. E. STALVEY married Elizabeth T. JORDAN on July 13, 1862. I have records of two of their children.

Catherine M. STALVEY, age 19, married first Amos Leonard GIESEA, age 33, in January 1884. He was an engineer from Prussia, West Germany. They had one son, Fred GIESEA (no record on him). Her second marriage was to David A. FRANCIS on Oct. 6, 1885. He was a machinist, born in Vermont, and was age 57 at the time of the marriage. His bride was 20. They had one son, David A. FRANCIS, Jr., b. Dec. 6, 1887.

William J. STALVEY married Hattie ADAMS May 23, 1895. His second wife was Lucy HORNBUCKLE. At one time he was Superintendent of the Harriott Pinckney Home for Seamen.

John White, Box 1888, Brooksville, FL 34601, Tel. 904-796-4972: I wish to know the parents of Frances JOHNSON, b. c1880, who was adopted by William C. SARVIS and wife Elizabeth J. SARVIS. His father was George SARVIS.

Mrs. Janice T. Wood, 3680 Buyck Road, Titus, AL36080 Tel. (205) 567-7508: I am searching for information on my LUDLAM-HOLMES lines. John J. LUDLAM, s/o Isaac and Rebecca CONNER LUDLAM and Mary Ann GORE, d/o John George and Mary Ann GORE. I have confusing information and would appreciate help.

Richard Wright, P. O. Box 457, Tabor City, NC: Moses Tyler, d. 1762 in Bladen Co., NC. His daughter Lucretia Tyler m. William Vick. Their daughter Mary Vick m. Josiah Harrelson, Sr. (d. Horry Co., SC, 1823). Their son Josiah Harrelson, Jr. was the father of Benjamin Marion Harrelson (b. near Green Sea, 1805). Benjamin's daughter Anzaline Harrelson m. John William Ward. Their daughter, Lillian Ward (1877-1973) m. Mayon Wright. Would appreciate records concerning Josiah Harrelson, Sr. (has the will). Moses Tyler, Jr. was the son of Moses, Sr. and the brother of Lucretia.



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