The Independent Republic Quarterly

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A Journal devoted to encouraging the study of the history of Horry County, S.C., to preserving information and to publishing research, documents, and pictures related to it.

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Society Meetings
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1997

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Mr. and Mrs. R. Grant Singleton Mrs. Harriette S. Stogner
Lewis Avery Jones, 3900 Bonnell Drive, Austin, TX 78731-5848: William LEWIS of Horry County (b. ca 1740, VA—d. Aug. 1811, Sandy Bluff, Horry, SC) was married to Morning VAN PELT (d. ca 1811, Mullins, Marion County, SC). They had a son, Joel LEWIS (b. 18 Apr 1781, Horry, SC—d. 15 Mar 1853, Rankin, MS), who was married to Ruth NORTON (b. 9 Dec 1790, Marion, SC—d. 19 Aug 1832, Rankin, MS). Ruth’s father was William NORTON (b. ca 1750, VA—d. 1 Aug 1806, Horry, SC) who was married to “widow” MILLER (b., d.?). *William Lewis of Horry County* by Mary Lewis Stevenson quotes W. W. Sellers book, *A History of Marion County*, pp. 475-480, that William NORTON was a revolutionary soldier from Virginia. I can not find any documentation supporting Virginia service, nor can I find a service record of William NORTON in South Carolina. If anyone has proof of William Norton’s revolutionary contribution and where the family resided in Virginia, I would appreciate your notifying me.

Carl Gause, P. O. Box 2, Annapolis, IL 62413: I am seeking information on the wife of William Reubin GAUSE. Rebecca Ann CASON was born 1833 in Brunswick Co., NC. She had a sister Isabelle (b. 1840) and a brother John. Isabelle was married to Isaac MIEBIAU and they had a grandson Vince. Isabelle and Isaac lived in Grissettton. Between 1910 and 1918 they made a trip to Wall Springs, Hillsborough County, FL to visit her sister, Rebecca Ann CASON GAUSE, who was living there with her son Robert Edwin GAUSE.

Virginia Dunn Tinkle, Rt. 1, Box 213B, Fredericksburg TX 78624-9534: Would like information about Earl W. DUNN and Catherine; Johnny DUNN and Patricia and their children; and Henry DUNN.

Diana Turlington, 3006 Jefferson St., Tampa, FL 33603: Originally there were 3 Kirtons who came to this country from England. Their names were James KIRTON, Pugh Floyd KIRTON, and A. J. KIRTON (d. 6 Oct 1868). I am a descendent of Pugh Floyd {KIRTON} who was my great, great, great grandfather (grandfather of Rev. William Harlee KIRTON, my great grandfather).

Val T. Short, 302 Old Farm Road, Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870: I am researching the ANDERSON family of Horry County. I am a descendant of Arnold Henry and Sarah Fiske ANDERSON, who were listed on the Census of 1880, Bayboro Township. I would appreciate any information you could share.

Steven C. J. King, 228 South Main Street, Crescent City, FL 32112-2727 (904-698-4756): I have ancestors from the Horry County area (Socastee, Dogwood Neck, etc.) with family names which include KING, EDGE, COX, FULLWOOD, LEWIS, TODD, HARDEE, BROWN, OWENS and MEW. I am interested in exchanging family information with other genealogists working on the history and genealogy of any one or more of these families.

Patty Doss, 909 Baird Street, Cleburne, TX 77031-3001, (1-817-517-5770: My father’s grandparents are buried at Hebron United Methodist Episcopal Church, which was established in Bucksville, SC, in 1848. Possibly due to damage sustained through various hurricanes and in some instances lack of care, some of the graves are no longer marked and sometimes not even detectable. My father would like to place markers on the family graves we can identify. Do you know if there is any way we can find out if any church records exist to aid us in our venture?
A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY OF HORRY COUNTY HISTORY
Compiled by Catherine H. Lewis

10,000 BC  Estimated earliest human habitation of the area.
1521 AD  Spaniards explored the land called Chicora.
1670  British settle Charles Town. Under the Lords Proprietors, present day Horry was part of Craven County.
1730  Robert Johnson, first royal governor, included Kingston Township on the Waccamaw in a plan to develop the province.
1732  Site of Kingston laid out by Alexander Skene and Chief Justice Robert Wright.
1735  First land grants in Horry area.
1740  Rev. George Whitefield traveled the coast road, Jan. 1-2
1760  John Bartram, naturalist, visits and records his discoveries.
1776-83  American Revolution. Small engagements at Bear Bluff and Black Lake. Gen. Francis Marion, the "Swamp Fox," is said to have camped at Kingston overnight on his way to the Battle of Black Mingo, Sept. 1780.
1785  General Assembly authorizes breakup of old Georgetown District which included this area. Kingston County designated as a subdivision of Georgetown District.
1791  George Washington spent the night of April 17 with Jeremiah Vereen. Historic marker on 1801 Highway 17 south of North Myrtle Beach. has been lost.
1801  Horry District was named for Brig. Gen. Peter Horry [1743-1815] and the village of Kingston was designated the county seat and renamed Conwayborough for Brig. Gen. Robert Conway [ca 1753-1823].
1802  First Board of Commissioners [Thomas Livingston, Samuel F. Floyd, Jr., Samuel Foxworth, William Hemingway, William Williams, John Graham, Sr., Thomas Fearwell and Robert Conway] met for the first time, Jan. 3, and authorized a courthouse [on Fifth Avenue] and sale of lots.
1807  First post office was established in Conwayborough.
1824-25  Second courthouse [present Conway City Hall], designed by Robert Mills, cost $9,500. The jail, built later, cost $8,000.
1828  Henry Buck of Bucksport, ME, built his home at Upper Mill, now on the Historic Register. He established commercial lumber industry along the lower Waccamaw River.
1830s  Commercial production of naval stores became important.
1840  Population 5,755. Post offices at Conwayborough, Green Sea, Bayboro, Galivants Ferry, and Bucksport [Port Harrelson].
1857  Conwayborough Academy Association built a schoolhouse on Fifth Avenue, replacing an earlier building.
1861-65  Civil War. First newspaper, The Horry Dispatch, established. First steamboat on the Waccamaw River was Francis Marion, a troopship. The age of steamboats on the Waccamaw lasted until after World War I.
1863  Federal Navy captured Ft. Randall on Jan. 5, but it was recaptured by Confederate defenders.
1876  End of the Reconstruction Era. Marker on oak tree at Fifth and Main St., Conway, commemorates Wade Hampton's speech during his campaign. F. G. Burroughs took over the schools in Conwayborough. In the next few years he built a new schoolhouse at Main St. and Kingston Lake Drive. The old Academy [built about 1857] became Whittemore Academy for blacks.
1883  General Assembly changed name of town from Conwayborough to Conway.
1886  Horry Herald began publication. Charleston earthquake felt here, August 31.
1887  On Dec. 15, the railroad [built by the Chadbourn family] came to Conway. A station along its route was named Loris.
1890s  Commercial tobacco cultivation began. Homewood Colony attracted immigrants from the west. Naval stores declined.
1893  Tidal wave, October 13.
1898  Conway was incorporated. Population 705. Col. C. P. Quattlebaum was elected first intendant [mayor].
1899  Seashore and Conway Railroad began construction of a line from Conway to the beach. The first tobacco warehouse opened in Conway.
1900  Population, 23,364. First train ran to the beach. New Town on coast was named Myrtle Beach for the native shrub.
1902  Wooden bridge at Galivants Ferry opened access to the rest of South Carolina. It had one lane with turnouts. Loris incorporated; D. J. Butler, first mayor.
1906  New Burroughs School opened [9th and Main]. A lot for a new courthouse was purchased. The first automobile came to Conway. New town established at the end of the Conway, Coast & Western Railroad was named Aynor.
1907  Paul Quattlebaum’s new company brought electric lights to Conway.
1908  Present courthouse [3d and Elm, Beaty and 2d] finished and dedicated May 22, 1908. Construction cost was $24,950.40; contractor, H. P. Little. It has undergone renovations and additions in 1927, 1964, and 1982-83.
1914  The road to Myrtle Beach was built. Aynor incorporated.
1917-18  World War I.
1919  Waccamaw Line of Steamers, established in 1880s, ceased operation.
1920s  First efforts to establish a tourist industry.
1923  Statewide law takes effect Jan. 1, ending free range for stock.
1926  In March, Myrtle Beach Farms sold 65,000 acres to Woodside Brothers of Greenville for $850,000, to be paid in six installments through 1932. The venture ended in the Great Depression.
1928  Railroad tracks finally removed from Main Street, Conway.
1930  County population was 39,376, Conway’s was 2,947. The Ocean Forest Hotel opened.
1936  Intracoastal Waterway completed, dedicated at Socastee April 11.
1937  Bridge over the Waccamaw River at Conway opened.
1938  Myrtle Beach incorporated; W. L. Harrelson, mayor.
1940  Horry Electric Cooperative formed 24 April to bring electricity to rural Horry County.
1941  Myrtle Beach Air Force Base established.
1941-45  World War II.
1948  Ocean Drive Beach was incorporated.
1950  Population 59,820.
1953  Loris Community Hospital opened May 15.
1954  Crescent Beach incorporated.
1954  Sun Fun Festival held at Myrtle Beach for the first time.
1958  Hurricane Hazel hit Oct. 15.
1959  Coastal Carolina was established.
1960  County Board of Education became an elected body and the Superintendent of Education an appointive post.
1961  Horry County police established.
1962  Ocean View Hospital opened in Myrtle Beach
1963  Cherry Grove Beach was incorporated.
1964  Population 68,247
1965  Surfside Beach and Windy Hill Beach were incorporated.
1966  Horry-Georgetown-Marion Technical College was established [Marion later dropped out.]
1967  Myrtle Beach High School had its first black students.
1968  Atlantic Beach was incorporated.
1968  Ocean Drive Beach, Crescent Beach, Windy Hill Beach and Cherry Grove Beach consolidated and became North Myrtle Beach.
1970  Population 69,998.
1974  School freedom of choice ended; unified system was established.
1975  South Carolina celebrated the tricentennial of the founding of Charles Town.
1976  Ocean Forest Hotel destroyed on Friday, September 13.
1977  Home Rule Act was passed.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Briarcliffe Acres was incorporated.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>First Horry County Council was elected.</td>
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<td>1977</td>
<td>First Horry County Council was seated. Douglas Wendel, first County Administrator, entered on duty July 1.</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>Horry County Railroad Line established to continue rail service to Myrtle Beach.</td>
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<td>1985</td>
<td>Horry County celebrated 250 years since this area was opened for settlement.</td>
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<td>1989</td>
<td>Hurricane Hugo, September 21-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Population 144,053</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Myrtle Beach Air Force Base closed in March.</td>
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<td>Coastal Carolina, independent of the University of South Carolina, became Coastal Carolina University July 1.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Hurricanes Bertha (July 12) and Fran (September 5)</td>
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**Horry County Townships**
SUGGS-HOLMES WEDDING THURSDAY
IN LORIS, BEAUTIFUL EVENT

Special to The State.

Loris, June 27 [1930].--An event of social interest to many throughout the Carolinas was the wedding of Miss Dalma Suggs and Bert H. Holmes, which took place at 6 o’clock Thursday evening in the Methodist church of Loris.

Skillful hands of loving friends of the young bride had made the church a bower of loveliness. The arch back of the pulpit was filled with lattice work of delicate tracery of Southern ivy. Beautiful ferns, broad palms and tall white baskets of pink gladiolus filled the space within the rail. Against this background dozens of cathedral candles shed their soft glow during the ceremony. The wide central aisle was outlined with tall baskets of gladiolus and the seats for the family and close friends were marked by bows of white tulle. Southern pine at the windows lent its aid in making of the church a scene of rare beauty.
Prior to the ceremony a musical program was rendered. Miss Sarah Heustess of Hartsville sang “O Promise Me” and “for You Alone.” A quartet, consisting of Dr. Hal Holmes, Conway; Dr. Carl Busbee, Conway, and J. C. Graham, Conway, and J. K. Dorman, Columbia, sang “Drink to Me Only With Thine Eyes.” The accompaniments and wedding march were played by Mrs. Charles D. Prince of Loris in her usual graceful style.

Down the white carpeted aisle came two young friends of the bride, Misses Sibyllae Hughes and Annie Lee Singleton, dressed in pink organdies with broad blue sashes. Bearing lighted tapers they touched the tall cathedral candles which shed their soft radiance upon the scene.

First to enter were the ushers, Grover C. Suggs, Loris, and J. C. Graham, Conway. They were followed by two bridesmaids, Miss Janet Suggs, youngest sister of the bride, and Miss Ethel Mae Powell, Poston. Miss Suggs wore green and Miss Powell yellow. Next came two groomsmen, Douglas Bailey of Loris and Charles Hamilton of Conway. Then Miss Willie Allsbrook of Allsbrook, attired in blue, and Miss Aleine Holmes of Conway, a cousin of the bridegroom, dressed in orchid. Following them came J. K. Dorman of Columbia and A. G. Long of Longs.

Mrs. R. E. Naugher, Loris, a sister of the bride, entered alone. Her dainty beauty was set off by a French model of flesh-colored net embroidered in turquoise blue with soft shell pink sash and flower trimmings. Her flowers were an armful of delicately shaded gladiolus, tied with a bow of blue tulle.

Then came the dainty little ringbearer, Annie Ford, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Ford, Loris. She wore pink ruffled organdie. Her golden curls were tied with a tiny band of pink and she carried the ring in the heart of a white lily.

The maid of honor, Miss Grace Suggs, sister of the bride, wore a gown of pink organdie with wide sash of pink ribbon and carried a sheaf of vari-colored gladiolus tied with a bow of pink tulle. The gowns of the maid of honor and those of the bridesmaids were of organdie in pastel shades. They were fashioned with close-fitting bodies with deep cape-collars finished with organdie ruffles. The skirts were circular and flared, cut at the hemline into broad ruffled scallops. In each scallop was a velvet flower in soft shades and each dress had a sash of ribbon in matching tone. The maids all carried hats of shirred pink organdie, tied with tulle ribbons in colors matching their dresses, and filled with sprays of gladiolus and fern. They wore lace mitts and slippers of white.

Two tiny maidens, nieces of the bride, Margaret, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Grover Suggs, and Mary Wayne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Worth Suggs, of Loris wore dresses of ruffled organdie, one in pink, the other in blue. They carried flower-trimmed baskets tied with tulle and scattered rose petals in the path of the bride.

The bride, who entered with her father, L. D. Suggs, has never been more lively than on her wedding day. She wore a gown of ivory satin whose soft folds accentuated her girlish charms. Her dress was cut low, revealing the neck, which was encircled by a string of pearls, a gift from the bridegroom. Her slippers and gloves were soft white kid. The veil of imported net was edged with exquisite lace. It was worn, cap-fashion, with a headband of crystal beads held in place with sprays of orange blossoms and was carried by two little train-bearers, Paul Wood, Jr., son of the Rev. Paul Wood and Mrs. Wood, and David He[n]ford, Jr., son of Dr. and Mrs. D. O. He[n]ford of Loris. They wore suits of white satin, white shoes and socks.

The bride’s bouquet was of bride roses and fern, showered with valley lilies and tied with a large bow of embroidered ivory gauze. She was met at the altar by the bridegroom, who entered from the vestry with his brother, Dr. Hal Holmes of Conway. In the beautiful ring ceremony, performed by the bride’s pastor, the Rev. Paul T. Wood, they plighted their troth, while from the piano came softly the tender notes of MacDowell’s “To a Wild Rose.” As the benediction was pronounced the joyous strains of “The Wedding March” rang out as a recessional.
I am writing this article for two reasons: first, to inform you how Conway got its National Guard unit, and to impress on you the importance of the National Guard. If you will pardon me, I think I can best do this by telling you my personal experiences.

Although three of my ancestors held high rank in the State Militia, a General, a Colonel, and a Captain, I did not join the National Guard to keep up a family tradition, or from patriotism, but for the money. I knew I could make $20.00 a month, which was quite a tidy sum during the height of the depression.
After World War I, which this country thought would end all wars, the United States government had closed almost all military bases, and those that remained had been allowed to deteriorate until they were useless for all practical purposes. The strength of the armed forces had been reduced to a mere 120,000, and most of them were in embassies and ceremonial positions, with little or no effective force capable of carrying out a mission of any size. The National Guard was limited in size, equipped with obsolete weapons, some discarded by the regular army. In fact, when we were sent on maneuvers, we made wooden models for guns.

I was in Battalion S2 at that time, and it was my duty to set up observation posts to gather information for the battalion so that they could be informed of the action of the opposing forces. I remember one report I heard from one of our observers. “Be on the alert, there is a woodpecker flying around here.”

We had nowhere to fire our weapons. We were stationed at Camp Stewart, GA, and the camp was full of farmers and cows. The Colonel detailed me to take two firing batteries and HQ Battery to Fernandina, FL, to fire over the ocean. We rigged up a raft on oil drums, and put a target on it. We planned to tow it out with a boat. This turned into a bigger problem than we had anticipated. Getting that raft over the breakers was no easy task. The raft was overturned several times and the boat was swamped. Looking back, I realize now how lucky we were that no one was seriously injured or drowned. We finally got the target out and when we fired our machine guns, the tracer bullets would hit the waves, and it looked like they were ricocheted right back at us. No one was hurt, but I was pretty nervous.

To shoot our rifles, we would have to find an old barrow pit. The Air force was part of the army at that time, and they were having their own problems. No planes were available to pull sleeves for us to fire upon. We were equipped with the 37mm AA gun, which the army realized was inferior to the new 40mm gun used by the British. So we were sent to England and attached to the British for training. They had considerable experience with the 40mm and gave us excellent training.

To increase the size of the armed forces from 120,000 to 8,000,000 when World War II broke out was no simple matter. You cannot draft a bunch of men and send them to a camp. There have to be trained officers and enlisted men to handle the inductees. These cadres were taken from the National Guard and the regular army. When I was shipped out of this country as a Battery commander, I had lost all my officers and half of my enlisted men to form those cadres. I had all brand new lieutenants and half of my men were new inductees. We also furnished a lot of the new officers. We asked our battery commanders to recommend intelligent good soldiers who had the potential to be officers. We tested these men and if they made over 110 on the intelligence test, we contacted their home communities for a check on their character. If all this checked out, we sent them to Officer Training School. The Grand Old Seventh from New York commissioned a large percentage of its men.

Most people do not realize the time it takes to get an army unit trained and ready for action. On average it takes 12 weeks for basic training of an enlisted man and 16 or more months to train some of the specialists in an outfit. It takes a year or more to get a large unit trained to operate effectively. We were lucky that we had the time we had between the time war was declared and the large landing on D-day, 6 June 1944. Reserves are valuable for preserving specialized skills, but nothing beats the training that is received working with troops and handling the problems that are similar to those that arise in combat. The National Guard and the regular army are the only units that are available in an emergency. The National Guard is the more economical of the two.
After war was declared, the only troops available to send to the Pacific, and other areas in danger, were the National Guard and what was available of the army. In North Africa, where I was sent, the National Guard furnished the majority of the troops. This should make it obvious why I am such an advocate of the National Guard.

When I was discharged from the regular army I went to Columbia and reported to Gen. Dozier, who was Adjutant General of South Carolina at that time, and re-enlisted in the National Guard. I was assigned to my old unit, the 107th AAA Bn.

Like all veterans who returned to civilian life, I had to find a job. Before the war I had a dairy, but when I returned I found that the cows had all been sold and the equipment had deteriorated to such an extent that it was unusable. The business would have to be started all over again, and this I did not want to do. It had taken me six years of hard work and sacrifice to build my dairy, and I did not want to go through that again.

I started looking around. My good friend Charlie Shaw, who was operating Shaw Lumber Company in Florence, SC, suggested that we open a new building supply in another town. We found that Conway, SC, was the only town in the Pee Dee area that did not have a retail building supply, so we opened McIver Shaw Lumber Company there.

Unfortunately for us, four others opened building supply businesses around the same time. Johnson Cotton Company was under the management of J. P. McAlpine. James and Jack Taylor returned from service and added building supplies to their hardware store. Conway Hardware (Gene Stalvey and his father-in-law) added building supplies to their oil company. Henry B. Burroughs opened Waccamaw Supply, which was the forerunner of Pelican and New South Industries.

The first thing I noticed about Conway was that it did not have a National Guard unit. I contacted General Dozier and he told me if I recruited 17 men we could have a unit in Conway. I first contacted veterans from the army, but that was a failure. They had had enough of the army and were enjoying their freedom. One man told me he was never going to join anything except the church and the pressing club. While making a talk at one of the service clubs I quoted Gen. Washington's farewell address where he said the defense of this country should not depend on mercenaries. Col. J. S. Dusenberry, the first West Point graduate from Horry County and a retired army officer, took me to task for my remarks. I assured him that I had the greatest respect for those patriotic professionals who make up our army, and are the repositories of knowledge and experience of the military. They are not mercenaries who fight only for money. We became good friends and he helped me a lot in my endeavor.

The time set for the induction was fast approaching and I did not have the 17 men needed. Luckily for me, I met a young boy, Charlie Allen, who had served in the army and had returned to high school to get his diploma. He was a star on the football team. He told me if I needed men, he would get them for me. He rounded up enough of the football team to overfill my quota, and the Conway National Guard was formed. The first commander was Evan Norton who had lost two brothers in the war and was the city engineer of Conway.

Next I had to find a place for the unit to meet. There was a basement under the high school. Half was used as the school cafeteria, run by Mrs. L. N. Clark, and the other half was vacant. Mr. Colie Seaborn was school superintendent and he was pleased to let us use it. We built a strong room to hold the rifles and other army equipment and were ready to operate. It wasn’t long before the school got so crowded that we had to find another location. I contacted the American Legion Post 111 which had a building which was built on land donated by Col. D. A. Spivey. It was unfortunately entailed. With the help of Mayor Busbee, James Long, Boyd Ludlam and several other World War I veterans we received permission to use the American Legion Hut. We built a second strong room on the rear of the Hut.
About that time a construction program was started to put new armories around the state. The only catch to the plan was that the local units would have to furnish the land. Burroughs and Collins had already given 50 or more parcels of land to churches and other local organizations. It would give us the land, but it would be entailed—which means that if the land was not used for the purpose given, it would return to the donor. The state had lost too many school buildings, which had to be returned to the original owners and would not accept any entailed property. Paul Quattlebaum, who owned some land on the south end of town, told me he would give us a site if the city would put in water and sewer. I went before the City Council to request the necessary funds, but the city did not have money available to make that kind of expenditure.

Next I contacted Craig Wall, a man who knew who owned almost every parcel of land in the county, and asked for his help. He made some contacts and reported that there was a city block of land on 16th Avenue for sale: the price was $4,000. Don Benton, who was the commander at that time, and I called on the owner, who immediately raised the price to $4,500. I contacted Craig and told him our plight. He and Edward Burroughs loaned us the money and we bought the property on which the armory now stands. We put on a fund raising campaign. With the good work of William Avant, the local army representative, Don Benton, and the generosity of the local people, the money was raised and the armory built. The armory has been a great asset to the city, and is used on many occasions by the people of Conway.

We all remember the important role played by the local unit. It provided help when a plane was downed at Myrtle Beach and many men died. During many storms the Guard has been called out to help residents and protect the area from looters. It is always a comfort to know that the Guard is present and able to help in other emergencies.

The National Guard is under the command of the Governor of South Carolina. Its training is done by the US Army. In a national emergency the Guard can be called into the regular army, which is under the command of the President of the United States. Desert Storm is an example of how the National Guard falls under the jurisdiction of the federal government.

The greatest asset of the National Guard is what it does for the men who enlist. The money they earn and their retirement benefits are obvious, but what is more important is that the men learn new skills, have incentives for advancement, meet new friends, and build up their self esteem. The Guard teaches the value of discipline and organization. I do not think that it is an accident that former National Guardsmen are so well represented in state. Many of our most successful businessmen are also former members of the National Guard. My battalion furnished five generals that I know of, perhaps more. Of course the National Guard cannot claim all the credit, but it played a very important role in the success of those individuals.

In the past, evil men and countries seeking power have started wars. Unfortunately, the same thing will probably happen in the future. We all agree that war is the greatest evil that can befall man and should be avoided if possible. However, when countries use diplomacy only for deceit and are not willing to abide by international law, force is the only choice a nation has. We must keep our country strong and our defenses up so that we can survive as a nation. Those who will not profit from the mistakes of the past will surely repeat them.

I trust the people will realize the importance of the National Guard and see that it is properly trained and equipped for any emergency that arises.

An Interview with Ms. Ellen Godfrey, an ex-slave of Horry County

Interviewed by Genevieve W. Chandler
Edited and introduced by Christopher C. Boyle

Today, many people earnestly believe that the inhabitants of Horry County did not subscribe to the most peculiar of southern institutions: slavery. Perhaps many Horryites do not know of their plantation heritage because it is overshadowed by neighboring Georgetown County’s plantation past. In Georgetown nearly 90% of the district’s population were slaves, a factor which usually attracts the attention of historian’s researching slavery and plantations. Well, the truth in the matter is that plantations and slaves are very much a part of Horry County history too. In 1850, for example, over 20% of the district’s population (2,075 of 7,596 persons) were enslaved.

It is true that many of the people who owned plantations in Horry District were wealthy Georgetown planters, including Joshua John Ward, Plowden C. J. Weston, John D. Magill, Daniel Jordan and J. Motte Alston. However, Horry District had its own group of planters as well, such as Henry Buck, John M. Tillman, D. W. Oliver, Peter Vaught, William Gause, Benjamin Eson Sessions the Dusenbury, Keyes, Bellamy, Durant and Nixon families.

Unlike the Georgetown Plantations which grew mostly rice, Horry Plantations produced sweet potatoes, corn and turpentine, as well as rice. Some of the plantations were: Rose Hill, Ark, Longwood, Crab Tree, Snow Hill, Sonwood, Oregon, Bell’s Bay, Keyes Field, Upper Mill, Tip Top (formerly Woodbourne), Oliver, Vaught, Savannah Bluff, Cherry Grove, Windy Hill, Tampico and Cedar Creek.

The first interview in this series is with Ellen Godfrey. Ms. Godfrey was a slave on one of Joshua John Ward’s rice plantations. Ward, who made his home at Brook Green Plantation in Georgetown District, was the wealthiest rice planter in the Pee Dee region. In 1850 Ward owned over 1,100 slaves, making him the largest slave holder in the United States at that time, and the second largest slave holder in United States history. In 1850, Ward owned six plantations, two of which were in Horry District, and cultivated nearly 4,500,000 lbs of rice.

In 1853 Joshua John Ward died. The ownership of his extensive land and human property passed to the sole ownership of his wife. Although Mrs. Ward officially owned the family’s land and slaves, Joshua Ward, eldest of the three sons, ran the family’s rice empire after his father’s death. Upon the death of Mrs. Ward, the estate was officially divided among the three sons. Therefore it is Joshua Ward, the son of Joshua John Ward, that Ms. Godfrey refers to throughout her narrative.

Genevieve W. Chandler, interviewer with the Federal Works Progress Administration recorded this narratives in 1937. For the most part the narrative has not be altered, however, it has been shortened to eliminate repetition. Except to add some translations from Gullah to English for ease of reading, I have not manipulated the text. The narrative is nearly verbatim what Ms. Chandler recorded sixty years ago.
Aunt Ellen Godfrey --- Age 99 years

Interviewer's note. "Aunt Ellen is a misfit in her present environment. Born at Longwood Plantation on Waccamaw in 1837, all she knows is the easy, quiet life of the country. And the busy, bustling 'Race Path' near which her Grandson lives with whom she makes her home doesn't make a fitting frame for the old lady. All day she sits in a porch swing and when hungry, visits a neighbor. The neighbors (all of African descent) vie with each other in trying to make her last days happy days. She says they do her washing and provide necessary food. When you start her off she flows on like the brook but usually her story varies little. She tells of the old days and of the experiences that made the greatest impression -- the exciting times during (what Ellen calls) The Confederick War -- The Reb time day."

Interviewer: "Aunt Ellen home?"

Neighbor: "No'um. She right cross there on the race path" (So called because in Conway's early days horse races were ran on that street).

Interviewer: "Are you one of the neighbors who take such good care of Aunt Ellen?"

Neighbor: "No'um. I'm off all day. I work for Miss Bernice."

Interviewer: "Miss Bernice who?"

Neighbor: "Miss Bernice something nother. I can't keep up with that lady title! See Aunt Ellen white cap yonder?"

Aunt Ellen: (Sitting on chair at back door leaning on cane.)

"I want everybody come to my birthday! Seventh o' October coming be a hundred. Baby one dead jew (due) time! Five daughter -- one sanctify preacher. Seven one - one Portsmouth Virginia. All dead! All dead! Marry three times, all the husband dead! My last baby child -- when the Flagg storm kill everybody on the beach, (1893), the last child I have out my body been a year old!"

"Last time I gone see the old Doctor, rap! rap!"

Doctor: "Come in!" Gone in.

"Great God! Looker Aunt Ellen! For the good you take care Daddy Harry God let you live long time!"
Aunt Ellen starts to talk about the war

Aunt Ellen: “Flat ‘em all up to Marlboro (County). (The Wards moved to Marlboro County with their slaves during the Civil War) Ten days or two weeks going. Pee Dee bridge, stop! Go in gentlemen barn! Turn duh bridge! Been dere a week. Had to go and look the louse on we. Three hundred head o’ people been dare three hundred slaves). Couldn’t pull we clothes off. (On flat.) Boat name Riprey. Woman confine on boat (gave birth). Name the baby ‘Riprey’ Mama name Sibby.”

Neighbor: “Aunt Ellen been looking for you all day! Keep saying she got to go home. A white lady coming and she got to be there.”


(Singing):

“Tech(touch) me all round my waist!
Don’t tech (touch) my water-fall!
Gay gal setting on the rider fence!
Don’t tech (touch) my water-fall!”

Aunt Ellen: “Clothes gone to wash this morning (can’t go today) Clothes gone. I been here so long -- I ax (ask) Jesus one day carry me next day! Can’t make up my bed. Like an old hog sleep on a tussick.”

Interviewer’s note: Four lean cats prowled about sniffing around the wood pile where a boy was scaling some pale dead fish.

Interviewer: “Aunt Ellen, how could you cook on the flat”? (flat bottom boat used for river transportation)


Aunt Ellen: “Dirt camp to stay in -- to hide from Yankees.” (Her gestures showed earth was mounded up).

Interviewer: “Like a potato bank? A potato hill?”
Aunt Ellen: “Dat’s it! Pile ‘em! Gone in dirt camp to hide we from Yankee. Have a street row of house. Yankee coming. Gone in dirt camp. I been weave. My loom at door. Six looms on dat side! Six looms on dis side! I see ‘em coming. Hat crown hidh as this” (She measured off almost half of her walking stick -- which had a great, tarnished platted silver knob). “And I tell ‘em Yankee coming! I talk with Abram Lincoln own son Johnny and, bless your heart I glad for freedom till I fool!”

(Singing): “Freedom forever! freedom everymore! Want to see the debbil (devil) run Let the Yankee fling a ball The Democrack will take to the swamp!”


“Sing and pray all the time. Pray your house. Pray all the time. I wish to God I could get some of your clam! Salem Baptist? I helped build Salem! I a choir in Salem!”

“I’m waitin’ on the lesse (relief). He was to have my birthday the seven of October.”

“Slavery time maussa buy ‘em. We maussa (master) buy me one good shoe. Send slam to England. Gie me (give me) good clothes and shoe. I been a-weave (weaver). When the Yankee come I been on the loom. Been to Marlboro district.
A man place they call Doctor Major Drake. Got a son name Cap. and Pete. Oh, Jesus. I been here too long. In my 99 now. Come seven o’ October (1937) I been a hundred.”

“Three flat (big flat -boats) carry two hundred head o’people and all they things. We hide from Yankee but Yankee come and get we. Ask where maussa! Maussa in swamp! I in buckra (White’s) house. I tell Yankee: them gone, gone to beach! Yankee say: Tell ‘em to be in Georgetown to bow unto flag.”

“That time I been twenty-three years old. Old Doctor Flagg didn’t born then. He a pretty child and so fat. Love the doctor too much. Born two weeks after freedom. He ma gone to town. Melia Holmes? She ain’t no more than chillun to me. Laura and Serena two twin sister. When the freedom I was twenty-three -- over the twenty-five. Great God, have-a-mercy! Mccgill (Dr. John D. Magill was another rice planter that owned plantations in both Horry and Georgetown Counties) people hab to steal for something to eat. Colonel Ward keep a nice place. Gie’em (give them) rice, peas, four cook for chillun, one nurse. Make boy go in salt crick get ’em clam. That same Doctor Flagg Grandpa. Give you cow clabber. Share ‘em and put you bittle for eat.”

“Gabe Knox? ( A very old colored man who had already been dead ten years at the time of this interview.) I nurse Gabe. I nurse ‘em. He pappy my cousin. I been a big young woman when he born.”


“I gone to see Doctor Wardie when I in my 95. He say: great Dow! Looker Aunt Ellen! In you 95! What make you live to good age you take such good care you husband -- Harry Godfrey.”

More Recollections of Aunt Godfrey

“Andrew Johnson? Dropsy? I have wid every chillun -- oh, I buss (burst) one time. Bugs here.” (Illustrating by drawing a line across here stomach) “Till it get to my groin it stop! Every time I get family I swell. Never have a doctor ‘Granny’ for me yet. My Mary good old Granny. Catch two set o’ twin for me. Isaac and Rebecca, David and Caneezer.”

“Sell all my fowl and ting (thing) five dollars -- me and old man two come to town to we chillun.”
"Been Marlboro four year. Yankee foot where they put on stirrup red. Most stand a lak a Mr. Smoak -- big tall -- Abraham Lincoln own son Johnny! "You jess as free as ribbon on my hat." That what he say. I been weave. Sheck!"
(Aunt Ellen worked foot, hand and mouth in illustrating how the shuttle worked back and forth -- and the music it made)."

"Conch? Eat 'm many time! Take 'em bile Grind 'em up."

"Welcome Beas? She got kill in Charston, Welcome Beas son courting my gal. Tom Duncan? He child to me. He wife Suzannah. I know duh fambly. I gone knock to duh door."

"Come in! Come in! Come in! Here duh beard!" (Aunt Ellen measured on her chest to show how long Dr. Flagg’s beard was).

(Singing): “Old Daddy Rodgers and merry wuz she
   The old man wuz cripple
   And Mary wuz blind
   Keep you hat on your head
   Keep your head warm
   And set down under the sycamore tree
   My kite! My kite!
   My kite! My kite!
   Two oxen tripe
   Two open dish 'o cabbage
   My little dog
   My spotted hawg
   My two young pig a starving
   Cow in the cotton patch. Toll boy call dog drive pig out cotton
   Hoah duh song
   Send Tom Taggum
   To drive bone baggum
   Out the world 'o wiggy waggum"

(Aunt Ellen said that ‘bone baggum’ means boney old white cow, and ‘wiggy waggum’ is used to describe the wagging tufts of white cotton).

Editor’s note: While working as curator at the Georgetown Rice Museum I found myself continuously asked questions about local slavery. In an attempt to answer those questions more fully, I began to compile these narratives for the further education of the museum’s supporters and guests. The narrative included in this work is but a sample of the large wealth of information available on this topic. In February, The Rice Museum published a compilation of ten Georgetown slave narratives. The text includes ten previously unpublished photos, and is available for $6.95. For more information call The Rice Museum at 803) 527-7964.
The Histories of Buck Creek and  
North Myrtle Beach Baptist Churches  
By Wynness Thomas

BUCK CREEK

Many years ago in a small community east of Buck Creek called Ruth, South Carolina, a group of consecrated Christians met to worship the Lord under a brush arbor. The road, then known as a “cart path” with only foot logs across the creek nearby, made it very difficult at times for those pioneers to make much progress in church life. Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, the Buck Creek Baptist Church was organized in 1821 after which a small log structure was erected. Three of the charter members were J. Melvin Cox, William Edward Gore, and William Hardee.

Some 75 or more years later William Long, better known as “Uncle William” was Sunday School superintendent at both Buck Creek Baptist and Ebenezer Methodist churches, serving at one church one Sunday and the other the next, with the people of the community attending every service. Although each church had supported its own activities for many decades, this wonderful Christian relationship has extended down through the years.

In those days worship services were held only once a month, and later, twice a month and in 1951, every Sunday morning. Around the 1900s God’s Spirit moved and directed some of the members to organize a church at Mt. Leon and another one at Sweet Home. In 1928 a group felt the need for a church in the Olyphic community, so a third church was organized with Marvin Gore, Mr. and Mrs. Dalton Anderson and Major Gore as four of the charter members, with Dow Harrelson as their first pastor. Out of Olyphic has grown Riverside Baptist Church.

From a small beginning, the Lord has given the increase.

Important events in the history of the church are as follows:

1821: Brush arbor group meeting.  
Buck Creek Baptist Church organized.  
Log structure built east of Buck Creek in the corner of J.M. Cox’s yard.  
C. Hamilton was first pastor.  
A few years later another church building was constructed.

1850: Third church built and changed to west side of the creek - Rev. Josh Soles, pastor.

1892: Fourth building erected on the same site.  
W. L. Hardee was first full-time Sunday School superintendent.

1935: Modern two-story building with Sunday School rooms on first floor.  
Missionary society organized with Mrs. Lucille Butler, president.

1938: First Vacation Bible School.
1941: Dr. Rufus Ford was called as Honorary Pastor for life to preach on fifth Sundays.

1945: Church was remodeled and brick veneered.

1956: Rev. Charles Sneed was called as the first full-time pastor.
      Pastorium was built at a cost of about $15,000.

1959: Church gave 10% of all money received to the Cooperative Program.

1960: Raised gifts to Cooperative Program to 12%.

1962: Ground was broken for new modern educational building.
      Church contributed $1,500 to missions, which excelled prior gifts.
      First Homecoming - attendance was 189, offering $3,900.

1963: Record Sunday School attendance was 214.

1964: New educational building was used for the first time.

1965: Youth choir organized - entered Music Festival and received ‘A’ rating.

1966: First Mother-Daughter G.A. Banquet.
      First Standard Vacation Bible School, and was maintained 3 years.

1967: First Easter Sunrise Service held in the cemetery.

1968: Organ purchased.

1969: Church air conditioned.

1970: Library furnished and dedicated.¹

1973: A huge snow storm of 12-14 inches caused services to be canceled.

1980: Resident members - 205; average Sunday School attendance - 90; offerings totaled $33,168;
      total given to missions - $5,413.

1990: Average Sunday School attendance - 80; an active WMU and Brotherhood which has continued
      through the years. Total given to missions - $8,648.²

“Buck Creek Baptist Church is neither the product of a single mind nor the reflection of one
generation. It is a myriad collection of many people working together to honor the Lord. God’s Spirit has
moved and is moving among us. Our future is before us and is assured only as we relate ourselves to
accomplishing the task of the church in the light of the Great Commission. To God Be the Glory.”³

Buck Creek is located Northeast of Conway near Longs about one mile north of Highway 9 on Highway
905.

¹ The Buck Creek Baptist Church, Sesquicentennial Edition.
² Associational records.
³ The Buck Creek Baptist Church, Sesquicentennial Edition.
BUCK CREEK

C. Hamilton
Josh Soles
Prossie Milligan late 1800
Fletcher Stanley 1892-1921
Gaston Stanley 1892-1921
(These two pastors alternated Sundays)
J. T. Going 1922-1925
Rufus Ford 1925, 1934
S. A. Hatley 1925-28, 1934-38
P. B. Coates 1929-1934
N. S. Blanton 1938-1941
D. E. Vipperman 1941-1943
E. L. Joyner 1943-1954

Charles Sneed 1955-1956
W. F. Chambless 1956-
T. H. Williams 1957-1961
Kenneth Word 1962-1965
Willie Shephard 1965-1968
Odell Scott 1969-1975
Kenneth Moore 1977-1982
Russell Lewis (I) 1983-1986
Robert Miller 1987-1989
Raymond Futch 1990-
Horace Hawes Feb. 1992 - (I)

Buck Creek Baptist Church - 1850s
NORTH MYRTLE BEACH

The history surrounding the First Baptist Church of North Myrtle Beach goes back to the days of farmers and fishermen who occupied the coast in the late 1800s. In 1888, a group of devout fishermen were net fishing on the strand of beach which is presently called Crescent Beach. It was known as Ward's Fishery in those days.

Very much like the fishermen of the New Testament who frequently toiled the night without a catch, these men fished long hours without success. They decided to hold a prayer meeting and built a brush arbor for the service. As they prayed, a great commotion was heard. They ran to the beach and saw fish everywhere. They hauled in so many fish that they were two days in cleaning them.

They continued to hold prayer meetings, and on October 20, 1888, a council consisting of Rev. Asa West, Rev. E.L. Patrick, and Rev. D.M. Edge, together with laymen I.P. Edge, Sr., A. Benton, and J.L. Todd, organized the prayer meetings into a church. Articles of faith and a church covenant were read and adopted. The church was named Mount Ararat Baptist Church, and eleven charter members were received. They were as follows: Rev. E.L. Patrick, Mr. and Mrs. I.P. Edge Sr., Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Osbourne, Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Edge, Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Ward, Francis W.H. Edge, and Noah Patrick. Rev. E.L. Patrick was called as the first pastor and served two years. Mr. I.P. Edge Sr. was elected as deacon, and Mr. Francis W.H. Edge served as the first church clerk.

In 1889, H.J. Vereen donated one acre of land beside the old Kings Highway (Hwy 17.) in the Crescent section for the first permanent house of worship. This building was commonly referred to as the round-top building because of its unusual round roof. A cemetery grew up around this church, which remains today, providing easy identification of this early church site.

Rev. H.K. Marlowe began his work in 1933, and it was during his ministry that the church was relocated. A visiting minister to the strand, Rev. T.L. Cashwell, was asked to hold a revival meeting at the church, and he became instrumental in the relocation. The Ocean Drive Section of the beach was rapidly growing and was clearly becoming the center of the community. Rev. Cashwell advised that the church be moved to this area, and he put down the first dollar on a new building.

The church favored the suggestion and plans were made to move the church approximately one mile north into Ocean Drive. Cathearine M. Ward generously gave the church a beautiful piece of property for this purpose. There were many difficulties, but the work was accomplished by the small, but faithful, membership who gave sacrificially toward this task. It is said that many friends of the church also made liberal contributions. Praise and gratitude were expressed to God in this move. At this time, 1933, the name of the church was changed to the First Baptist Church of Ocean Drive to reflect its new location.

During the subsequent years, additions and improvements were made to the building. Wings were first added to the rear of the structure. Later, the front work was removed, which gave the building a less cluttered look. Rev. C.S. Yawn came as pastor and remained until August 1, 1943. At that time he led in the establishment of Lakeside Baptist Church in Ocean Drive.

During the pastorate of Rev. J.W. Bowles (1949-1952), a mission was begun in Little River, S.C., which was later organized as First Baptist Church of Little River on May 16, 1954.

In August 1953, a large lot adjacent to the present property was given to the church by Mr. I.P. Edge, Jr., for the erection of a new church building. God blessed abundantly, and the new brick sanctuary began to take shape. The old wooden church was converted into educational space and continued to serve the church for more than a decade.
Under the leadership of Rev. A.G. Todd, who came in 1956, the building debt was liquidated, and plans were initiated for an educational wing to be added to the building. These plans were completed under Rev. Fred Kelly who came in October 1967. Ill health led to his retirement in November 1968, and soon afterwards, death ushered him into his eternal reward. The fellowship hall in the new educational wing was named the Kelly Fellowship Hall in his honor.

In 1968, the four adjoining beaches in this area (Cherry Grove, Ocean Drive, Crescent, and Windy Hill) incorporated into one township, and the new city that emerged was called North Myrtle Beach. In keeping with this change, the church immediately voted to change their name to the First Baptist Church of North Myrtle Beach.

In 1975, with gifts from members and a generous gift from Miss Belle Edge, the steeple, along with chimes, was placed on the church. A new, digital computerized Allen organ, given by Mr. and Mrs. Hilburn Edge, floods the sanctuary with beautiful music. Renovation has beautified the upstairs area behind the sanctuary. A piece of property of 2.3 acres around the church has been given to the church for its present and future needs by Mrs. I. P. (Sallie) Edge and her daughter, Miss Peggy Edge.

From THE NORTH MYRTLE BEACH TIMES, October 21, 1988:

"On Sunday, October 23, 1988, the oldest church in North Myrtle Beach, pastored by Dr. Harold Mitchell, will complete the celebration of 100 years of ministry with a special worship service, fellowship dinner, and time capsule burial ceremony.

Dr. Ray Rust, executive secretary of the S.C. Baptist Convention in Columbia will speak at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Friends and members are then invited to a covered dish dinner to be held in the fellowship hall immediately following the service.

At 1:30 p.m. the congregation will gather at the flagpole in front of the church to witness the burial of a time capsule that will remain closed for 100 years. The time capsule contains items of historical and cultural interest.

Hilburn Edge, of North Myrtle Beach, will be among the many friends and church members participating in the special celebration. Edge, whose grandfather and grand-uncles were among the church founders, has been a church member since 1925. He recalls the growth of the church and the changes he has seen over the years."

"The Kingdom's work will continue to prosper at the church founded by the fishermen as long as God finds in His people a willingness to be channels of His mercy and grace and proclaimers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ wherein salvation is made available to whosoever believeth in Him."

*The church pictorial directory 1975.

First Baptist Church of North Myrtle Beach is located about 15 miles north of Myrtle Beach on Highway 17.
PASTORS OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH

1890  D. M. Edge
1894  J. T. Caines
1901  D. M. Edge
1911  J. T. Caines
1914  L. M. Johnson
      W. A. Williams
      Mack Caines
1925  S. J. G. Milligan
      J. H. Edge
      Joe Suggs
1933  H. K. Marlowe
1940  Roy Arnette
1947  C. S. Yawn
1949  J. W. Bowles
1953  Olive Rice
1956  A. G. Todd
1967  Fred Kelly
1968  Chadwick J. Allen
1974  Michael J. Vipperman
1982  Harold M. Mitchell - present
Family's Salt Kettle has a long, colorful history

By Celia H. Hopkins

Noah Scarborough Hardwick was born July 16, 1870 in the Adrian section of Horry County, S.C. He died Oct. 23, 1955 at the age of 85. As a young man he, his brother and other young men of the farming community often traveled by horse or mule drawn wagon to the Horry County coast to fish in the swashes and ocean surf. They fished mostly for spot and mullet using homemade seine. The fish they caught were dressed and preserved in barrels of salt brine to be used during the winter months to supplement foods raised on the farm.

On the fishing trips the men took supplies for overnight camping behind the tall sand dunes near the swashes. During the late 1800s or early 1890s Noah and the other men visited some of the sites of salt works operations along the coast. Noah spoke of how the evaporation pans or kettles had been bricked up in rows. The ones at that site were round and were placed so that a flat side of each rim touched the next one in the row. There was an opening under each kettle for a fire to be lit. What was known as fat lightwood was used to make the hot fires to boil the water. The wood came from the heart of long needle pines.

Noah learned the brick masonry trade and built pillars for house foundations and chimneys with open fireplace for many homes in the county. I heard him tell of building an outside chimney from the ground up to the gable end of the house for a Mr. Edge of Ocean drive Beach. His bill for building the chimney was $10. Mr. Edge offered to pay the bill with ocean front property at twenty-five cents an acre, Noah didn't buy the ocean front property but did buy one of the surplus salt kettles used in the salt works along the coast for $1.00. The kettle is made of cast iron and holds 100 gallons.

Noah built a building with a smoke house at one end and an open shed at the other for the kettle. The kettle was bricked up with an opening for fires under it and a chimney at the end of the shed. The bricks used were made and sun dried on the Hardwick farm on property now owned by Celia H. Hopkins daughter-in-law of Noah S. and Clarkie H. Hardwick. The site of the brick making was near a spring at the foot of the hill. The clay for the bricks was dug nearby, forming a small pond. For many years the cold water from the spring flowed in to the pond. As late as the 1930s and 1940s remnants of the homemade brick were seen as the land at the site was farmed.

The old salt kettle had many uses before and after Noah married his wife, Clarkie Booth in 1902. Their six children: Odell, Oscar, my late husband, Olen, Myrtle, Roberta and Herbert all enjoyed the benefits derived from the use of the old salt kettle.

On wash day clothes were boiled in the old kettle after lye soap cut into small pieces had melted in the hot water. They were stirred and lifted from the hot water with a long handle paddle and rinsed in tubs of cold water which sat on a long bench attached to the inside of the smoke house section.
Syrup making was a slow and tedious job in late fall by Noah and his wife Clarkie. After the juice from the sugar cane had been squeezed out of the stalks by a mule powered mill, it was poured into the kettle and boiled until the water was gone. The juice had to be skimmed often to remove any foam or trash which might be in it. The inside of the kettle from the juice upwards was kept clean with a wet towel or cloth. After several testings the syrup was dipped out and poured into jugs and jars. Some of the best syrup anyone has ever eaten was cooked in the old iron salt kettle.

During hog killing time in the winter the kettle was used to boil water to scald the hogs so that the hair could be scraped from the carcass. Sometimes a hog was put into the kettle of boiling water and turned a few times very quickly by the hind legs, thus making the hair more easily to remove.

The fat trimmed from the butchered hogs was turned into lard by cooking and stirring it in the hot kettle until the grease was out of the meat and crispy cracklings were left. The grease was dipped out and poured through gauze into pails or lard tubs. When the hot grease solidified it became lard.

In the spring enough lye soap was made in the old salt kettle to last a year. boiling water, meat drippings, meat scraps and lye were used in soap making. Some time rose water was added to give it a sweet scent.

One of the most important uses of the old salt kettle was its use as a bathtub. Sometimes for the evening baths during spring and summer water was heated in the kettle just enough to take the chill off before the children took turns bathing. As they grew older they often dipped buckets of warm water from the kettle and took turns pouring it on each other as a shower. A few of the small grand children had fun bathing and splashing in the large old kettle before it fell into disuse.

Each time the kettle was used it was thoroughly cleaned with a long handle brush or broom and rubbed dry.

With the coming of electricity to the area in 1948 and the modernation it brought, the use of the old salt kettle was soon discontinued. It had been in use for at least 55 years on the Hardwick farm. It is now over 100 years old and resting in the Horry County Museum in Conway, S.C. It will be put on public display when a new museum is built or a larger building is provided.
The Hardwick family iron salt kettle

Sketch of old iron salt kettle as used on the Hardwick farm for over 50 years.
Statistics of Horry District: 1826

By Robert Mills

HORRY.

HISTORY OF THE SETTLEMENT—ORIGIN OF ITS NAME.

In the original division of the state Horry was principally embraced within Kingston township, but when it was erected into a district by itself it was named Horry, in honor of Gen. Horry, who so highly distinguished himself during the revolutionary war.

This district was settled about the same time with Williamsburg, namely, in 1733, principally by emigrants from Ireland.

SITUATION—BOUNDARIES, AND EXTENT.

Horry forms the N. E. corner of the state, and fronts on the ocean, which bounds it on the S. E. an extent of 31 miles. It is divided from North Carolina (on the East) by a straight line bearing N. 47° E. 42¼ miles; beginning at a cedar stake, (marked with nine notches,) on the sea-shore of Goat island, about one and a quarter miles East of the mouth of Little river, and runs from thence until it intersects Drowning creek, or Lumber river, (about 5½ miles to the east of Newson's ferry,) thence down Drowning creek into little Pedee, and down this river to the great Pedee, which divides it from Marion on the N. and W.; then from the intersection of the little with the great Pedee, keeping the course of the latter down to its junction with Bull creek; by this creek into the Waccamaw river, and down this river to a point, about half a mile below Prince's creek, where a line stretches over to a cedar post on the sea-shore, bearing N. 86° E. 5 miles 67 chains; all which divide Horry from Georgetown to the West and South. Its average length is 37 miles; breadth 29; and contains about 686,720 acres.

SOIL—PRODUCTIONS—VALUE OF LAND.

On the rivers the soil is rich and highly productive, where reclaimed; the uplands have a light soil with a clay bottom from one to two feet below the surface. Cotton, corn, rice, and a little wheat are the productions, besides potatoes, pease, and pumpkins. The quantity of clean cotton to the acre upon good ground is from 100 to 180 lbs.; of corn from 5 to 25 bushels. The first is valued at from 12 to 15 cents a pound. The latter when sold about 75 cents a bushel. But all the provisions raised are consumed in the district.

The low land swamps, when secured from freshets, will sell for 40 or $50 an acre. The uplands are valued at from $4 down to 25 cents per acre.
PRICE OF LABOR—EXPENSES OF LIVING.

Field hands hire by the year at from 60 to $80 and found. Mechanics from 20 to $30 per month and found. Boarding is from 3 to $5 a month, according to fare.

DISTRICT TOWN—VILLAGES DISPERSER.

Kingston, or Conwayborough, is the seat of justice of the district, and contains 20 or 25 houses, and about 100 inhabitants. The village is situate on the west side of the Waccamaw river at the junction of the Waccamaw lake. It derived its name from the gentleman who first settled the place. There is another settlement made on Little river near the seaboard of about 25 persons, who carry on a considerable trade in lumber, pitch, tar, &c.

LAKES—CREEKS—STREAMS—NAVIGABLE OR OTHERWISE.

The lakes are Kingston lake, near the village, Lake swamp, Black and Chinner's swamp lake, belonging to Pee dee. The rivers are the great and little Pedee; the former navigable for large vessels of 60 tons; and the latter for boats drawing three feet, up to the North Carolina line. The Waccamaw is navigable for vessels of 80 or 100 tons above Conwayborough. The only obstruction is one sand shoal at Cox's ferry, six feet deep at low water. The trees which impede the navigation above the court-house will be removed this year; contracts having been entered into for this purpose. Bull creek is navigable also for large vessels. Little river admits vessels drawing 6 or 7 feet water up into the harbor, 4 miles from its mouth. There is a little difficulty at the entrance, but the harbor is perfectly safe from the effects of storms.

FISH—GAME—BIRDS.

In the waters of this district, are caught, the trout, bream, jack-fish, perch, shad, and herring, in season; besides the usual sea fish; such as mullets, shell-fish, &c. Of game there are the deer, wild turkey, ducks of various kinds, besides foxes, wild-cats, and a few bears. Of birds there are partridges, doves, martins, &c.

TIMBER TREES—FRUIT TREES—MATERIALS FOR BUILDING.

The long leafed pine abounds, also the cypress, live oak, water oak, white oak, &c. The fruit trees are, peaches, apples, pears, plums, cherries, figs; besides strawberries, which grow wild, whortleberries, &c. The forest trees begin to bud in the latter part of March, and the fruit trees in April.

The pine and cypress are mostly used for building, though there is plenty of clay to make good brick. The lime is burnt from oyster shells.
MANUFACTURES.

The inhabitants mostly clothe themselves from their own labor.

COMMERC.

This district exports timber, tar, cotton, and rice. The markets are Georgetown and Charleston. The number of vessels engaged in this business, is between 15 and 20, and from 50 to 100 tons; number of sailors about 80 or 100; wages from 10 to 15 dollars per month.

POPULATION.

The census of 1800 gave this district 2606 inhabitants, of which 708 were slaves. The census of 1820 makes the population as follows: 3568 whites; 1434 slaves; 23 free blacks; total 5,025; making an increase in 20 years of 1,457, although many families, during this time, emigrated to the west.

CLIMATE—DISEASES—LONGEVITY—MARRIAGES.

This district lies so open to the sea, that, except contiguous to the water-courses, it may be considered salubrious. Fever and ague formerly prevailed along the river banks; now bilious fevers. About 30 marriages take place annually. The deaths may average, in the same time, about 15 or 20.

OCCUPATION OF THE INHABITANTS.

These are mostly engaged in cultivating the soil. There are a few mechanics, such as blacksmiths, shoemakers, tailors, hatters, &c.

CATTLE—SHEEP—SWINE—THEIR VALUE.

About 5 or 600 head of neat cattle, 12 or 1500 head of swine, and some sheep, are raised in this district. The value of hogs, is from 2 to 5 dollars a head. For stock cattle 5 dollars a head; those fit for market, 10 to 12 dollars.

TAXES.

The taxes paid yearly by this district, amount to 1117 dollars.

NUMBER OF POOR—EXPENSES—DISTILLERIES—NUMBER OF BLIND, DEAF AND DUMB.

This district has about 8 or 10 paupers, who are supported by a tax, on the general tax, amounting annually to from 3 to 400 dollars. There are two deaf and dumb, but no lunatics in the district.

EDUCATION.

From 10 to 15 private schools are established in various places; price of tuition from 10 to 20 dollars a year. There are 6 public or free schools, supported at the expense of the state, where the children of the poor are taught gratis. The report of the commissioners states, that the last two years, the benefits of education have been afforded to 438 pupils, and the expense eight hundred and twenty-two dollars and twenty-five cents.

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS—CHARACTER OF THE PEOPLE.

The Baptists are the most numerous religious sect, next the Methodists, then the Presbyterians, and lastly the Episcopalians. The people generally are moral and religious in their habits; very little gambling. Hunting and fishing are their chief amusements.

Many of our citizens distinguished themselves during the revolutionary war, for their whig principles, and devotion to the cause of liberty.

NAMES OF PLACES—INDIAN OR OTHERWISE.

The name of Waccamaw is of Indian derivation, as also that of Pedee, Socastee, and Dawsee streams. Bear bluff, on Waccamaw river, above Gaul's ferry, is noted for a battle fought there between the whigs and Tories, during the revolution.

ROCKS, &c.

Compact shell limestone is found on the Waccamaw, a little above Gaul's ferry, and continues up above Bear bluff. Springs are found gushing through the fissures of this rock, which have a sweetish taste.

SOCIETIES—STATE OF THE ARTS AND LITERATURE.

Tract and Sunday school societies are established in the district; a taste for reading is increasing; but only the mechanic arts are attended to. When the people have further advanced in literature, the well informed will see the propriety and importance of establishing a society for the improvement of the agricultural interests of the country; by which our best lands, now lying waste, may be brought into cultivation, and thus increase the wealth and prosperity of the district.

REMARKABLE GOOD OR BAD SEASONS.

In 1823, there were extraordinary crops made here. In 1824, it was remarkably dry.

WASTE LANDS—SWAMPS.

A large quantity of waste lands is to be found in Horry, as well swamp as high lands, only fit for cattle ranges, in their present state. Some of the swamps have been reclaimed, and found very valuable and productive.
Background Reading for Newcomers and Old Timers, Too

Horry County


Collins, Elizabeth. Memories of the Southern States. Taunton, England, 1865. (For excerpts related to Horry County, see IRQ, v. 11.


The Independent Republic Quarterly. Published by the Horry County Historical Society since 1967. Available with membership at $20 annually. The IRQ has completed 30 volumes which are available at public libraries around the county.


Martin, Greg and Ben Burroughs. A Walking Tour of Conway's Historic District. (This pamphlet is provided free by the Chamber of Commerce. It contains a map as well as brief histories of individual buildings.

Norton, James, M.D. Manuscript histories of Horry County available at the Horry County Memorial Library Main Library, Conway. Three MS date from 1930s.


Willcox, Clarke A. Musings of a Hermit. 5th ed. 1979.


Tobacco Culture


Robert, Joseph Clarke. The Story of Tobacco in America. 1949

Robert, Joseph Clarke. The Tobacco Kingdom. 1938.