2008


Horry County Historical Society

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.coastal.edu/irq

Part of the Civic and Community Engagement Commons, and the History Commons

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.coastal.edu/irq/149

This Journal is brought to you for free and open access by the Horry County Archives Center at CCU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Independent Republic Quarterly by an authorized administrator of CCU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact commons@coastal.edu.
The Case for Gilbert Johnstone Jr.'s Residence during the American Revolution

By Deryl Young

In a letter written in 1790 to his daughter-in-law, Susannah Barefield Johnston, explaining his family's history and activities in Scotland and Ireland and their arrival in America in 1746, Gilbert Johnstone Jr. (1725-1794) makes several statements about his Revolutionary War activities and particularly mentions that Francis Marion, two Horrys, Francis Huger, Hugh Giles and Ebenezer Folsom met at his house and decided that Francis Marion was their choice to be their leader. Considering this amazing statement and the historical significance associated with such a meeting, locating Gilbert Johnstone’s residence during the Revolutionary War became historically appealing and became the object of this project. This meeting could have taken place as early as 1775 and as late as 1780. In following his movements, it is known that Gilbert Johnstone arrived with his father, Gilbert (I), in 1746 at Cape Fear and settled at Brompton Plantation on the southwest side of the Cape Fear River three miles north of present-day Elizabethtown, North Carolina.

Known as “Governor Johnston’s Old Palace,” Brompton was built by the first Gilbert Johnstone’s brother, North Carolina Governor Gabriel Johnston. Gilbert Johnstone (I) died at Brompton in 1775. It is recorded that his wife and sister-in-law died there and are buried on the plantation. Whether Gilbert Johnstone Jr., the author of the letter, was living at Brompton in 1775 is unknown. It is known that he purchased land in 1772 further south in present-day Horry County, South Carolina.

Located in the northwestern corner of Horry County on Lake Swamp, a tributary of Little Pee Dee River, Gilbert Johnston purchased a 200 acre plantation from the original grantee John Lamberd.
Evidence indicates that Gilbert moved into South Carolina as early as 1767 when he is listed as a Petit Juror for Prince George Winyah Parish. Prince George Winyah encompassed that area of Lake Swamp and Horry County that includes the Gilbert Johnston purchase. Petit Jurors were established residents of good standing but not necessarily land holders. In 1778, after his purchase of the John Lamberd grant, Gilbert Johnston is listed as a Grand Juror on the Prince George Parish Grand Jury List. Grand Jurors were land owners as well as residents. Since Gilbert Johnston Sr. arrived in Cape Fear, lived and died at his brother’s Brompton Plantation and since Gilbert Johnston (III) is not of age in 1767, it is safe to assume that the Gilbert Johnston listed on the 1767 Petit Jury list of Prince George Parish is Gilbert Jr. (the writer of the letter) and the Gilbert Johnston listed on the 1778 Grand Jury list is the same individual since he is most probably the 1772 purchaser of the John Lamberd grant. To further support the location of Gilbert Johnston Jr.’s plantation during the Revolution, Henry Mouzon’s Map of 1775, the definitive map of the American Revolution, places two Johnstons on Lake Swamp, waters of Little Pee Dee. Both of the Johnstons placed on the map are on the north side of Lake Swamp, one on either side of Mitchell Swamp, the northern tributary of Lake Swamp. The westernmost Johnston is in the same location as the John Lamberd 200 acre Kings Grant which was purchased by Gilbert Johnston Jr. This places Gilbert’s residence on Lake Swamp in 1775.

Since Gilbert Johnston was a Prince George Winyah Petit Juror in 1767 and a Grand Juror in 1778 in the same Parish, it is likely he was living on the John Lamberd purchase when Barefield’s Tories burned his house and it is probable that the meeting with Francis Marion and the other Revolutionary War notables took place on this plantation.

To locate the Lamberd grant purchased by Gilbert Johnston in 1772, it was necessary to lay out the lands around the original 200 acres. The original grant and associated plat showed a parcel located on the north side of Lake Swamp, waters of Little Pee Dee, surrounded on all sides by vacant land. No other colonial plats were found that joined this property but several post-revolutionary or State plats were located. On February 2, 1787, William Strickland had a 550 acre tract platted and joining westwardly on the John Lamberd grant. Hugh Johnston, son of Gilbert Jr. (who wrote the letter) is listed as the owner of the Lamberd grant. On March 14, 1793, William Strickland has another tract of 2114 acres platted adjoining on the north of the earlier Strickland grant and Gilbert Johnston is named as the owner of the Lamberd grant. On March 13, 1802, Samuel Foxworth had 500 acres platted. The lower or southern portion of this property included Gilbert Johnston’s house and part of his field. The southeastern corner is a 3X8 stake in the field. On November 12, 1814, Samuel Johnston had 54 acres platted showing John Lambert’s (sic) grant adjoining on the southwest. The northwestern corner is a 3X stake in the field and is the same 3X stake denoted on the Samuel Foxworth plat. From this information, it appears that Samuel Foxworth received a S.C. State Grant to a portion of the John Lamberd grant which would explain Gilbert Johnston’s house and part of his field denoted on the plat.

In further explaining the inclusion of the Gilbert Johnston house and field in the Samuel Foxworth grant, it is necessary to mention the earliest Kings Grant on Lake Swamp. On 6 June 1739, Thomas Waring was granted 3300 acres on Lake Swamp and the grant referenced an associated plat certified 5 Feb. 1737. The boundaries of this tract run in a north, south, east and west direction and the eastern boundary is well marked. The northern and western boundaries which would require traversing Lake Swamp have no marked trees and are only denoted on the plat with a corner at the northwestern and southwestern boundary. It was not unusual for the surveyor to avoid running a line through a swamp and to merely denote it on a plat with a corner; thus, the reason for no marked trees appearing on the plat. The swamp may have been flooded at the time or impassable for other reasons. In any event, the southwestern and northern corners become suspect. It appears the distance of the southern line is greater than denoted on the plat and the John Lamberd grant overlapped a small portion of the Waring Grant. Samuel Foxworth’s 500 acre grant appears to be a junior grant or S.C. State Grant to the western portion of the Waring grant and would explain the inclusion of the Gilbert Johnston house and field in this junior grant. To support this scenario, there are two deeds recorded in the Horry County Court House to Thomas Akin Beaty in which he purchased a portion of the John Lamberd grant from the confiscated lands of Penelope (Johnston) Avant and then purchased the entire 200 acre grant from Gilbert Johnston (IV).

On 12 March 1835, Sheriff James Beaty sold the lands of Penelope (Johnston) Avant to Thomas Akin Beaty, 50 acres of which were a part of 200 acres granted to John Lamberd. On 27 May 1837, Gilbert Johnson (IV) sold to Thomas A. Beaty the 200 acre John Lamberd grant. It appears two separate parcels were claimed under the same Kings Grant - 50 acres of the Penelope (Johnston) Avant estate and 200 acres inherited by Gilbert Johnson (IV). On 15 February 1839, Thomas Akin Beaty had 2621 acres surveyed on Lake Swamp adjacent to his land. This plat shows the location of the John Lamberd grant and also shows the location of the lower or southern line of the Thomas Waring grant. No grant was found for the Thomas A. Beaty plat of 2621 acres. This is incidental to this project and does not reduce its importance in helping to place the John Lamberd Grant.
The hand-drawn map on page 6 shows the location of the John Lamberd Kings Grant, the Samuel Foxworth State Grant, the John Manning State Grant and the 2621 acre tract platted to Thomas Akin Beaty is a reasonably accurate depiction of the overlapping grants and, when all factors are taken under consideration, would be a logical explanation why Thomas Akin Beaty needed two separate deed transactions from two different parties to obtain title to the entire John Lamberd grant.

In recapping, Gilbert Johnstone Jr. (the writer of the letter) was living in Prince George Winyah Parish as early as 1767 when he is listed as a Petit Juror and in 1778 when he is listed as a Grand Juror. This, coupled with the 1775 Mouzon map’s placement of a Johnston in the same location as the Kings Grant to John Lamberd on the north side of Lake Swamp, is strong evidence that Gilbert Johnston Jr. was probably living on Lake Swamp during the time period that Barefield’s Tories burned his house and the meeting with Francis Marion and the other Revolutionary notables took place.

1 Gilbert Johnstone letter dated 8 Mar. 1790, “Marion, two Horrys & Francis Huger met Folsom and Giles my house. All chose Marion bar Folsom.”
2 Memorial of Gilbert Johnston dated 16 Mar. 1772 “A memorial exhibited by Gilbert Johnston to be regd. In the Aud. Gen.’s Office agreeable to order of the Council & to a condition of the Grant hereafter mentioned of a plantation or tract of land containing 200 acres situate in Craven County on the NE side of Little Pee Dee River on the Lake Swamp bounding all sides on vacant land. Originally granted the 15th day of March 1771 to John Lamberd. Qt Rt of 3/stg or 4/pro. Money per 100 acres to commence two years from the date and by him and Jane his wife conveyed to the Mem. by Lease and release bearing date respectively the 18th and 19th days of Feb 1772. In witness whereof he hath hereunto set his land the 16th of March 1772 for the Mem. John Graham.”
3 An Accurate Map of North and South Carolina with their Indian Frontiers...from actual surveys by Henry Mouzon and others 1775.
4 Johnston letter dated 8 Mar. 1790, “Barefield’s Tories burned my house to cellar.”
5 S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Colonial Plat series, Microfilm Roll 16, page 270, Item 03[Pursuant to a Precept to me directed by John Bremar Esq Dep. Surv. Genl. Dated the 3rd day of October 1769, I have admeasured and laid out unto John Lamberd a plantation or tract of land containing two hundred acres situated lying and being in Craven County on the NE of Little Pee Dee River on Lake Swamp bounded on all sides by vacant land and hath such shape forms and marks as the above plat represents. Certified this 10th day of October 1769 Pr Hugh Giles D.S.].
7 S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, S.C. State Plats, Charleston Series, Microfilm Roll 34, page 76.
8 3X is a surveying term that shows on the old colonial plats (and current plats). It denotes a property corner for a particular tract of land as averse to a 2X mark which would be a marked tree, strump, stake, etc. along a property line and not necessarily a corner.
10 Horry County Register of Deeds, Book B pages 556-557, James Beatty, Sheriff, to Thomas Akin Beatty- 200 acres situate in the district of Horry on the N.E. side of Lake Swamp waters of Little Pee Dee 50 acres being part of a tract granted (of 200 acres) to John Lambert (sic) the 15 March 1770 (sic) said tract being then bound on all sides by vacant land....
12 Deryl Young, an historical researcher for Coastal Carolina University’s Burroughs and Chapin Center for Marine and Wetland Studies and the proprietor of Ancestral Land Research, specializes in very early native inhabitants and placing the land grants along the Black, Pee Dee, Little Pee Dee, Lynches, Sampit, Santee and Waccamaw Rivers within Old Georgetown District (Dillon, Florence, Horry, Georgetown, Williamsburg and Marion Counties).

Mr. Young would like to express appreciation to Rebecca Anderson Maples for sharing her genealogical research and to Ben Burroughs for his assistance in the research.
Copy of original 8 March 1790 Gilbert Johnstone Jr. letter for Susanna Barefield Johnston is in included in the Johnstone Papers in the Arundel Room at Francis Marion University’s Rogers Library and printed with their permission.
Transcription of Gilbert Johnstone Jr. Letter dated 8 March 1790 for Susanna Barefield Johnston

By J. Benjamin Burroughs


Writ by my hand for Susanna 8th March 1790.

Gilbt. Johnstone, Gentn. [Gentleman]
Gilbert Johnston’s Residence as Determined from Early King’s Grants
By Deryl Young

December 2009
Gilbert Johnston and
Some of His Descendants
By Rebecca Anderson Maples

Gilbert I (ca. 1700-1775) and Gilbert II (1725-1794) Johnston arrived in the country secretly via the Cape Fear area of North Carolina in 1746 as fugitives from Scotland after the defeat at the Battle of Culloden, where Gilbert I received crippling wounds. The Johnstones originated in Scotland and had moved to Ireland (Armagh) well before this battle. Gilbert I’s older brother Gabriel Johnston, Governor of North Carolina from 1734 to 1752, surreptitiously arranged their passage to America and provided them sanctuary at Brompton Plantation, the governor’s home near present-day Elizabethtown, North Carolina, successfully thwarting the King’s vengeance. Governor Gabriel Johnston had married Penelope Galland, stepdaughter of the former proprietary Governor Charles Eden, and she inherited Eden House in New Bern, North Carolina where they were usually in residence. Gilbert Johnston I spent the remainder of his life (almost 30 years) at Brompton, where he died and is thought to be buried. His son, Gilbert II, married Margaret Warburton in North Carolina in 1750, and grandson, Gilbert III, was probably born at Brompton. Gilbert Johnston I and his wife Caroline had seven known children.

The first U.S. Census (1790) lists Gilbert Johnston and Gilbert Johnston Jr., residing in South Carolina, Georgetown District, Prince Georges Parish (present-day Horry County). The record indicates Gilbert Johnston as over 16 years of age, with two females and 18 slaves. Gilbert Johnston Jr., is a male over 16, with two males under 16, three females and four slaves. The two men, father and son, will be designated Gilbert II and Gilbert III because they represent the second and third generations of Gilbert Johnstons in America.

This article continues with information concerning Gilbert II and his sister Isabell.

A matter of confusion warrants early clarification in that both Gilbert I and Gilbert II had daughters named Isabell Johnston. Since both Isabells are important in this narrative, they need to be distinguished. Isabell Johnston, daughter of Gilbert I, married Luke Barfield and is a generation older than Isabell Johnston, daughter of Gilbert II and wife of Francis Floyd. Gilbert II and his sister Isabell probably had families when they moved south toward the Province Line (North Carolina/South Carolina state line) in the Gapway Swamp area. They acquired several patents for property both north and south of the Line, an area where the animosity between Patriots and Tories reached terrible extremes during the Revolutionary War.

Gilbert Johnston II (1725-1794) and wife, Margaret, had four children, as stated by Gilbert II in the 1790 letter he wrote for his daughter-in-law Susannah Barfield-Johnston. The four children are (1) Hugo (nickname for Hugh), (2) Gilbert, (3) Jean, and (4) Isabell. With the exception of Jean, the other siblings remained in or near Horry District, South Carolina. Hugo Johnston married his first cousin Susannah Barfield, daughter of his father’s sister, Isabell. The 1790 North Carolina census of Wilmington District, Bladen County lists Hugh Johnston as a male over 16, three males under 16, three females and 15 slaves. One Columbus County, North Carolina, record (6 January 1810) shows the sale of 100 acres of land lying in the state of South Carolina’s Georgetown District bounding on the North Carolina boundary line, granted to Hugh Johnston 17 May 1787, was sold to Stephen Barfield by the heirs of Hugo Johnston. The heirs were listed as (1) [widow] Susannah, (2) Richard Holmes [husband of deceased daughter Susannah], (3) Jane, wife of Henry Stevens, (4) Gabriel Johnston, (5) Samuel Johnston, (6) James Johnston, (7) Margaret Johnston, and (8) Hugh G. Johnston.

Isabell Johnston (sister of Gilbert II) married Luke Barfield (1730-1788), and two of their children are known: Stephen Barfield (1750-1823) and Susannah Barfield (1760-unknown). One land grant, dated 12 November 1779, was made to Luke Barfield for 300 acres on the south side of Gapway, joining the "Provence Line." In the same year, Stephen Barfield received a grant of 300 acres of land located on the north side of Gapway Swamp in Bladen County and another grant for 100 acres on both sides of Gapway Swamp. The 1790 census of Wilmington District, Bladen County, North Carolina, shows Stephen Barfield living alone and owning six slaves. He was a captain in the militia and became politically active in Columbus County (formed in 1808), North Carolina, where county documents state that court was ordered to be held at his home until the completion of a county courthouse. North Carolina General Assembly Records, Box 3, dated Nov/Dec 1800, contains the record of a petition made by Stephen Barfield of the County of Bladen to change the names of his two illegitimate sons to Jesse Barfield and Allen Barfield. Son, Jesse, was known as "Jesse Hatcher," and son, Allen, was known as "Allen Summersett." Stephen Barfield later married Allen’s mother, Mrs. Frances Summersett. Frances was deceased by 1810 when Stephen Barfield married a woman named Sarah with whom he had four children. Stephen died by 1823 in Robeson County, North Carolina, leaving his four minor children: Susannah, Nancy, Hiram and Gabriel, who were reared by Shadrach Howell of Howellsville, Robeson County, North Carolina. Stephen Barfield’s sister Susannah married her first cousin, Hugo Johnston, and convinced her father-in-law Gilbert Johnston II
Gilbert Johnston III, son of Gilbert II and brother of Hugo Johnston, born about 1756, wife unknown, lived in the Lake Swamp area. He probably had a daughter Penelope and a son Samuel Johnston (1791-1822) as well as other children. It should be noted that both Hugo and Gilbert III had sons named Samuel. The tombstone of Samuel, son of Gilbert III, states he lived 30 years, 8 months, 12 days. Samuel Johnston married first Mary and they had a child Prudence (1815-1826). Samuel's second wife was Dorcas Chestnut (1791-1875) with whom he had four children: (1) Elizabeth Johnston, b.1816, married Dr. Daniel Gilchrist, dentist in Marion County, South Carolina, and had at least eight children; (2) Gilbert L. Johnston married T.C. McLean and had at least five children. One son Gilbert David Johnston (1848-1913) married Eliza Norton (1846-1936), sister of Dr. Evan Norton of Conway, South Carolina; (3) Samuel C. Johnston, b. 1819, married Ann Hill; and (4) Hugh R. Johnston, (1821-1884) married Margaret Fiske Woodberry (1827-1905), had at least eight children and lived in Marion County, (now Dillon County). Samuel Johnston's widow, Dorcas Johnston, married Thomas Akin Beaty (1798-1853) in February 1825 and had other children.

Isabell Johnston (1763-after 1804), daughter of Gilbert II and sister of Hugo and Gilbert III, married Francis Floyd (1756-1804), Georgetown District, South Carolina, currently Floyds Township, Horry County. Their seven children were listed in the 1804 partition of the Francis Floyd estate: (1) Hugh Floyd; (2) Peggy Jane Floyd; (3) Theophilus Floyd; (4) Johnston Floyd; (5) Catherine Floyd; (6) Isabella Floyd; and (7) Francis Floyd Jr. At the time of the partition, Peggy Jane Floyd was married to Jesse Hatcher Barfield, her second cousin. Note that Jesse's grandmother was Isabell Johnston, daughter of Gilbert I, and his mother-in-law was Isabell Johnston, daughter of Gilbert II. Jesse and Peggy Jane moved to Warren County, Mississippi, about 1807, rearing at least 11 children.

This Jesse Barfield, son of Stephen Barfield, should not be confused with the infamous Tory captain responsible for so many murders and house burnings of Patriots during the American Revolution. Captain Jesse Barfield, leader of a large force of Tories, lived near Marion, South Carolina, and is no doubt the subject of Gilbert Johnston II's statement, “Barefields Tories burned my house to the cellar.”

Theophilus Floyd (1787-1842), the third child of Isabell Johnston and Francis Floyd, married Delilah Page (1790-1835), daughter of Joseph Page of Horry County. Theophilus and Delilah moved their family to Barbour County, Alabama, joining their Norton relations who had settled there about 1826. They reared a family of at least ten children and are buried in Pleasant Plains Baptist Cemetery near Eufaula, Alabama. Their eldest son named Francis Floyd did not remain in Alabama, but returned as a young man to Columbus County, North Carolina, married Vivian Coleman and settled at Hinson's Cross Roads near Fair Bluff. Catherine Floyd married Samuel Gerard of Horry County; no further knowledge of Isabella Floyd is known. Brothers Johnston Floyd and Francis Floyd Jr. both moved to Robeson County, North Carolina. Francis Floyd Jr., married Christian Williams and had 12 children. Johnston Floyd married Elizabeth Lee and lived in the fork of Indian Swamp and Ashpole Swamp where they reared a large family.

The writer of this article was reared on acreage in the northwest corner of Horry County that came via Johnston ancestors. The property is isolated and somewhat inaccessible, even today. Until the latter 1960s, the only road into the property was across the North Carolina State line at the extreme upper left corner. The homeplace, with boundaries intact, is currently (2010) the home of my youngest brother Durham Howell Anderson. The two of us, along with our deceased brother Herman A. Anderson Jr., represent the fourth generation of Andersons to reside on the Gapway property. Our father Herman A. Anderson Sr. was the youngest child of Gilbert Johnston Anderson, who was the youngest child of Mary Ann Johnston and David Russell Anderson. Mary Ann Johnston was a daughter of John Johnston, son of James Johnston, who was the son of Hugo Johnston.

John Johnston married Celia Ann Floyd, daughter of Elizabeth Page and James Floyd. Celia and John Johnston had seven daughters, no sons. Their daughters were (1) Margaret Catherine who married James R. Norton, (2) Molsie married Edward Grantham, (3) Celia married Robert E. Price, (4) Mary Ann married David Russell Anderson, (5) Elizabeth married William Williams, (6) Prudence married Edward Grantham, widower of her sister Molsie, and (7) Jane married Joseph Griffin. After the death of first wife, Celia Ann Floyd, John Johnston married Mary Hodges and had four more children, all born in Horry County, but died in Alabama: (8) Patience, (9) James “Jimpsey” (killed in the Civil War), (10) John W. (killed in the Civil War), and (11) George W. Johnston.

About 1846 when John Johnston was well into his senior years, he assembled a large wagon train of family members, slaves, furniture, tools, seeds, horses, cattle, and anything that might be needed for relocation to the wilderness of Alabama. After many Horry County property sales, he left sizeable property holdings and three married daughters with families behind in South Carolina. Married daughters Mary Ann Anderson, Jane Griffin and Elizabeth Williams remained in Horry County. John Johnston died intestate in Barbour...
David Russell Anderson (1808-1895) was the son of David Anderson Jr. (1782-1849) and David Anderson Sr. (died bet. 1820-1830). The elder Andersons began acquiring land grants near present-day Conway by 7 January 1752. David Russell Anderson married Mary Ann Johnston (1816-1852), settled in the northwest corner of Horry County, and had eight children: (1) John Johnston Anderson, 1st Sgt. CSA, killed at the Battle of Gaines Mill in Virginia on 27 June 1862, unmarried. He left a will naming his father, all his siblings and real estate of 466 acres of land situated on Brown Swamp; (2) Margaret Catherine married Archibald Hammond; (3) Mary Ann married Huey Giles Bullock, son of Rev. Zadock Bullock; (4) David Russell Jr., married Martha Hooks and Cady Gerrald; (5) Samuel P. married Celia Brown and Helen C. Sellers; (6) James Fletcher married Sarah Caroline Bullock, daughter of Rev. Zadock Bullock; (7) George W., died unmarried; and (8) Gilbert Johnston married Rebecca Fearwell Waller. Gilbert Johnston Anderson purchased the Gapway property from his siblings 3 February 1877. David Russell Anderson's second wife was Elizabeth Fowler (1821-1902) of Tabor City, North Carolina. They had four children: (9) Sarah Ann married Alexander R. Waller, brother of Rebecca F. Waller, (10) Henry died at age 6, (11) Charlotte died at age 12, and (12) Penelope married James Purdee Edmond. Family graves are located at Spring Branch Baptist Church Cemetery in Horry County.

Gilbert Johnston Anderson (1850-1910), youngest child of Mary Ann Johnston and David Russell Anderson, married Rebecca Fearwell Waller (1857-1915). In addition to being a great-great-granddaughter of Judith Marion, an aunt of General Francis Marion, Rebecca Waller's ancestral lineage reads like a history of Horry County. Rebecca and Gilbert spent their lives residing on the Gapway property and rearing eleven children to adulthood: (1) Mary Ann Elizabeth married John Mullins McNeill; (2) Hattie Rhutilla married Thomas R. Cole; (3) Bunyon Waller "Bud" married Lura Hammond; (4) Charlotte married her first cousin Ransom Bert Anderson; (5) Alexander Russell "Gibb" married Eva Mae Watts; (6) Derham Wilson, never married; (7) Oliver Ulysses "Joe" married Leila Jeanette Rowell; (8) Leila Mae never married; (9) Lutie B. married Charlie Clemson Enzor; (10) Fannie Lillian married Herman W. Gore; (11) B.B. died in infancy; and (12) Herman Aleas married Louvirne Howell. Family graves are located at Spring Branch Baptist Church Cemetery.

Derham Wilson Anderson became a father-figure for his brother Herman A. Anderson, who had not reached the age of six at the time their father, Gilbert Johnston Anderson, died. Derham and Herman Anderson lived together and over time acquired their siblings' interest in the homestead.
Herman Anderson married and reared three children on the Gapway property: Rebecca Anderson, Herman Anderson Jr. (Sonny), and Durham Howell Anderson (Dick). Derham Wilson Anderson never married and was always an important member of the household.

Rebecca Anderson Maples, an Horry County native, graduated from USC and the University of Florida. After a 50-year career as an advanced math school teacher, she retired. She is married to Dr. Dwight E. Maples and they reside in Camden, SC. Their three children all have doctorates: Durham, Dina (Blankenship), and Melanie.
These are three additional land purchases just over the state line in North Carolina by Johnston family members.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
No. 66.  
TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING.

KNOW YE, That We, for and in consideration of the sum of fifty shillings for every hundred acres hereby granted, paid into our Treasury by Gilbert [sic.] Johnston have given and granted, and by these presents do give and grant unto the said Gilbert Johnston a Tract of Land, containing one hundred acres, lying and being in our County of Bladen on both sides of Gapway Swamp Begining at a large pine and running South thirty three chains and fifty links to a pine West thirty chains to a lightwood stump, thence North thirty three chains and fifty links to a stake thence East thirty chains to the beginning as by the plat hereunto annexed doth appear; together with all woods, waters, mines, minerals, hereditaments, and appurtenances, to the said land belonging or appertaining: To hold to the said Gilbert Johnston his Heirs and Assigns, for ever. Yielding and paying to us such sums of money yearly, or otherwise, as our General Assembly from time to time may direct. Provided always, that the said Gilbert Johnston shall cause this grant to be registered in the Register's Office of our said county Bladen within twelve months from the date hereof, otherwise the same shall be void and of no effect.

In Testimony whereof, we have caused our Great Seal to be hereunto affixed. Witness Richard Caswell, Esquire, our Governor, Captain-General and Commander-in-Chief, at Kingston, the eleventh day of November in the fourth year of our Independence, and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine.

By His Excellency's Com'd.  
R. C. Caswell

November 11, 1779  
I. Glasgow, Sec.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
No. 1095.

Know ye that we have given and granted unto Hugh Johnson a tract of land containing one hundred acres lying and being in our County of Bladen on the southwest side of Shoeheel beginning at a large pine in the edge of the swamp just below the mouth of a small branch and runs north sixty-five west twenty-five chains to a stake and four pines thence north twenty-five east forty chains to a stake thence south sixty-five east twenty-five chains to a stake thence south twenty-five west forty chains to the beginning. To hold to the-said Hugh Johnson his heirs and assigns forever. Dated the 19th day of November 1787.

R. C. Caswell  
I. Glasgow, Secretary

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
No. 2176.

Know Ye that we have granted unto Gilbert Johnson one hundred acres of land in Bladen County on both sides of gapway swamp including Johnsons old-improvement, Beginning at a pine on the north side of the swamp and runs South fifty seven degrees West thirty one chains and sixty three chains links to a stake, then north thirty three East thirty one chains and sixty three chains links to a stake then north thirty three West thirty one chains and sixty three chains links to a stake then south thirty three West thirty one chains and sixty three chains links to the Beginning. To hold to the said Gilbert Johnson his heirs and assigns forever dated the 9th of March 1799.

W. R. Davie  
Will White, Secretary

Approximate boundaries of old Gilbert Johnston Anderson property in Horry County, still intact in 2010.
Historians tell us the time honored trade of blacksmithing was for thousands of years the most essential vocation in human history and no colonial village could survive without one.1 No other trade could develop until the blacksmith was established. With forge and anvil, hammer and tongs, blacksmiths made agricultural tools for farmers and iron rims for wheelwrights. Their skill with vise and file served customers as varied as the miller, saddler, coachmaker, and planter. Carpenters bought tools and nails needed for building and soldiers bought weapons and bullets for the army. For the householder, blacksmiths cast, bent, welded and riveted fireplace racks, andirons, pothooks, locks, cooking utensils, and decorative wrought iron. They also repaired many iron objects.2

So, it was in Horry County. In one of the earliest tales of Kingston, later named Conwayborough and then Conway, a blacksmith is mentioned in a trial deposition of 1768. John McDougal was justice of the peace in Kingston and also operated the local tavern… [A] fierce quarrel developed between McDougal and one Joseph Jordan… A fight accompanied by fierce oaths broke out and horsewhips, swords, and knives came into play. In the course of the long altercation Jordan paused to eat the victuals set before him by the serving wench of the tavern, but the landlord refused him any punch with which to wash down the food. Jordan sent to the nearby house of a Mrs. Wilson for his drink. After this lunch break the fight was resumed. McDougal wounded Jordan, pursued him eighty yards to a smith’s shop and there killed him. A Mrs. Gaddis dressed a slight cut in the hand of the justice of the peace.3

Robert Mill’s Statistics of 1826 describes “Conwayborough as a small village consisting of twenty to twenty-five houses scattered over the Waccamaw bluff. There were four or five stores, at least one hotel, perhaps two, a blacksmith and three or four taverns at the county seat.”4

This article will focus on the Conway Blacksmith Shop located on Kingston Lake and built about 1875 by Burroughs and Collins who leased out the business. The shop would not only serve the public at large, but also make the iron work required by the Burroughs and Collins boat yards built about this time.
About Mom and Dad: Reba and Jack Henderson

My Dad, Ralph Jackson Henderson, was a blacksmith and known far and wide as “Captain Jack.” He was highly respected and worthy of the virtues bestowed by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) in his poem “The Village Blacksmith:” “His brow is wet with honest sweat, He earns whate’er he can, And looks the whole world in the face, For he owes not any man.”

Dad was born in Jackson, Georgia on 26 May 1896, the fourth of ten children. His parents were Edward Everett Henderson of Jonesboro, Fayette County, Georgia and Margaret Lucy Alexander of Henry County, Georgia and Dade City, Florida. Dad’s grandfather was a manufacturer of carriages.

My mother, Reba Jane Martin, was born in Horry County on 5 November 1901, one of ten children born to Mary Jane Smart (1865-1936) and Dennis Willard Martin (1860-1927) of Horry County who married on 25 November 1886. The Martin family farm was located on the Kates Bay Road about halfway between Brownway and Cannon Hill.

Some time before 1913, the Henderson family moved from Georgia to Dade City, Florida. Here they owned and operated a blacksmith/carriage shop and operated an orange grove. Dad grew up working in the blacksmith/carriage shop and later in the early 1920s owned a bicycle shop.

During World War I, Dad was a Private in the 829 AERO SQ, serving as a motorcycle mechanic. Returning to Dade City at the height of the Florida real estate boom, he resumed working in the family businesses and dabbled in the real estate market.

After World War I, many people left Horry County seeking better job opportunities in Florida. Mom’s oldest brother, Willard, left early on moving to Dade City where he became friends with the Hendersons. Later on, Mom moved to Dade City and lived with Willard. Through Willard, she met Dad and married in 1925.

That same year, Dad and his two older brothers purchased Star automobiles with plans to open a Star dealership. The Star was an automobile assembled by the Durant Motors Company between 1922 and 1928, envisioned as a competitor against the Ford Model-T. The car dealership plan fell through because of the economy which also bankrupted the Durant Motors Company. An older brother eventually opened a Ford dealership in Florida.

The good news of 1926 was the birth of my oldest brother, Edward Jackson “Jack Jr.,” on August 19. From there, things went downhill.

The Florida real estate boom burst that year. The economy bottomed out, banks failed and bankruptcies were common. Ravaging hurricanes hit southern Florida in 1926 and 1928. Another catastrophe in the form of an invasion of a rare Mediterranean fruit fly followed in 1929 and obliterated 60 percent of the state’s citrus industry. The great stock market crash of 1929 was the beginning of the Great Depression which lasted until the beginning of World War II in 1941. By the time the Great Depression began, Horryites and Floridians had already become accustomed to economic hardship. As if things weren’t bad enough, Grandfather Henderson died in 1927 and Grandmother in 1929.

Over the next four years, our little family travelled around seeking employment, along with countless others displaced because of the Depression. After arriving in Conway about 1927/28, I was born, Kester Vaughn “Bobby,” on 31 July 1928.
By 1930 our family was found living with Dad’s oldest brother in Griffin, Georgia where Dad found temporary work as a carpenter building a new high school. After the project was completed, Dad was unable to find other work there.

Once again about 1930/31, the Henderson family found its way back to Conway seeking employment. This time the stay would be longer. After four years and thousands of job-seeking miles, crisscrossing Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, their Star automobile was worn out and beyond repair.

Dad went to work for 50¢ a day at the Conway Blacksmith Shop which was owned at that time by Dennis Hartford “Hart” Cannon, a relative of mother’s. Shortly thereafter, he bought the shop for $40. He successfully operated the shop until it was destroyed by fire in 1949.

Their third and last child was born on 22 December 1932, Ralph Martin “Buddy.”6

The Great Depression and wartime rationing slowed the decline of blacksmith work for a while. People had to make do with what they had. The citizens of Horry were already used to doing this having lived through hard times since the end of World War I. Although the economy improved because of WWII, new automotive equipment, parts and materials were hard to come by. The blacksmith shop provided badly needed services.

Flashback to Conway ca. 1930

Let’s go back to the mid-1930s and take a look at what was the tract of land between Kingston Street and Kingston Lake, stretching from the church brick wall to Fourth Avenue.

Along the lakefront, there was the Conway Blacksmith Shop and next door was Aunt Julie’s African-American café. North of the café was the town’s public privy that emptied into the lake, boasting a ten-seat capacity. Beyond the privy and at the end of Fourth Avenue was a wharf.

Fronting on Kingston Street at the corner of Fourth Avenue was the Works Progress Administration (WPA) welfare building constructed during the Great Depression. Next, leaving the WPA building towards the church was a cotton gin.

South of the gin and almost directly in front of the blacksmith shop near Kingston Street was once a huge, grand live oak tree. Under this tree, I operated my first private venture, a snowball stand. At 5¢ a piece, I did a good business on Saturdays when everyone came to town. Mother made my favorite mouth-watering flavors—pineapple, strawberry, grape and cherry—using white Karo syrup because sugar was on the wartime rationing list. Block ice came from the old ice plant across from the Paul Quattlebaum house just a few minutes walk from the snowball stand. Most of my customers were farmers who came to town on Saturday and tied their mules and wagons to the old brick wall just a few feet from my stand. Everything was going just fine until the town’s code enforcement officer stopped by for a snowball, and told me I had to buy a $5 city license.

Diagonally across the street from the oak tree on the corner of Norman Alley and Kingston Street was George Martin’s fish market. Not unlike today’s Ocean Fish Market that occupies the old shop site, it featured delicious fried fish sandwiches served between slices of white bread. With a cold Pepsi, it made a great lunch. I always made sure my sandwich was fried bream and not catfish because it was said the catfish were caught in the city privy. I had reason to believe this was true.

Going up Norman Alley towards Main on the left was the Burroughs and Collins Livery Stable where horses and mules were bought or traded in for better ones. If my memory serves me well, a gentleman named Jesse Jones ran it. As I recall, he was something of a Dapper Dan as he dressed smartly and carried a buggy whip. Next door to the stable was a tire recapping business which fared well because you could not buy new tires during WWII rationing.

Nye’s Drug Store on Main Street was where my youngest brother, Buddy, spent many hours reading comic books for free. The drug store was only a short walk up Norman Alley from the shop. It was Dad’s first destination each morning after opening up. Here he purchased and enjoyed his favorite soft drink, a bottle Coca-cola to start the day off right.

At the corner of Norman and Main across from Nye’s was the Horry Drug Store where my oldest brother, Jack Jr., worked as a soda jerk.

More about the Shop

The shop was located on the bank of Kingston Lake at the eastern end of Norman Alley directly
behind but separated from the historic Kingston Presbyterian Church by a brick wall still standing today. This wall was built after the shop picture was taken and replaced the metal fence shown in the picture. The wall was a favorite hitching spot for farmers coming to town on Saturdays. Most of their shopping was at the wall was a favorite hitching spot for farmers coming to town with three forward speeds and a reverse. That was because the drill press was driven by an electric motor, which powered the drill press through the old three-speed transmission salvaged from Dad's old Star automobile.

The electric and acetylene welders and a welding table were in the left corner of the first floor. This area was the domain of Homer Suggs, an electric welding expert and an excellent all-around mechanist. Homer was a former Charleston Naval Shipyard worker who wanted to return home to Conway. Dad paid Homer $1/hour—32¢ more than he made at the shipyard. He was the only mechanic that I ever worked with who would go home at the end of the day with clean clothes while I looked like I had shoveled coal all day. He owned and maintained a beautiful, black 1932 two-door V-8 Ford Coupe that I coveted.

Towards the north side of the first floor was the shop's metal cutting band saw and storage space on the wall for iron stock. In the center of the first floor was a work area, usually manned by James Lee, an excellent automobile mechanic. In the center of his work area was a trap door allowing access to the lower level, through which we passed and stored completed tobacco flue components until the were needed. In the rear, overlooking the lake was Dad's office.

On the right or south side, beyond the forge, was our tobacco barn flue production line, consisting of a foot operated shear, a metal brake, rollers, and sewing stations. This was the domain of our sheet metal (“flue”) workers during flue making time: Catfish and his brother, Charlie, Crick Stevens, Sam Rhode, James Gandy, Carl Bellamy, cousin Hoyt Graham, Dickey
Spivey, and sometimes my two brothers and I. Even Mom helped when flue orders backed up. The flue assembly area also occupied the right rear corner of the first floor where the industrial lathe was located. It was eventually sold to the government, at their request, to support the war effort at the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base’s Machine Shop. The shop machinist, Leo Chestnut, ended up working at the Charleston Naval Shipyard.

The secret of Dad’s success was his innate mechanical aptitude, creativity, and business acumen coupled with his “can do” attitude. The business prospered as he continually upgraded equipment and skills necessary to cope with changing requirements. He soon purchased a home at 1407 Second Avenue and later built a new home on upper Main Street. Over the years, he was able to acquire several other small enterprises and properties.

Blacksmiths were expected to do Many and Diverse Things

The diversity of work is shown by the skills required: blacksmith and wheelwright (builds and repairs wheels), farrier (horseshoe) and gunsmith, welders and machinists, sheet metal mechanics, auto mechanics, painters, carpenters, and laborers.

Examples of diverse work important to the economy of farming, logging, and pulpwod industries of the county included: repairing mule drawn logging carts; repairing farm wagons and implements; building tobacco barn flues; building and repairing logging tongs, ice tongs, and bridle bits; providing farrier services; performing wheelwright and gunsmith work; making leg irons for the county chain gang; restoring wrought iron fence around the Presbyterian church yard and rehung the church bell that had jumped its bearing seats in the steeple; restoring worn out plow blades—repairing tobacco planters and spraying equipment; designing, building and repairing automotive powered skidder rigs; repairing and restoring of automotive, truck, tractor and farm equipment; performing all kinds of sheet metal work; building custom trailers, hitches, and truck bodies, bumper guards; outfitting and repair of pulpwod trucks, and motorized saws, logging trucks and equipment; refurbishing idler rollers and replaced master track pins for tractors; repairing radiators and leaking gasoline/kerosene tanks, etc.; and, repairing large broken drive gear that powered the Ferris wheel at the Myrtle Beach Pavilion.

A sampling of one-of-a-kind jobs designed and built in the shop included: portable gasoline powered coal conveyer; four-wheel gasoline powered riding wheelbarrow; special go-cart for a disabled citizen; dumbwaiter installed in a department store; steel boom used to facilitate setting of Rural Electrification Administration power transmitter poles utilizing a Caterpillar tractor; and, built and installed sheet metal plenum for the first roof top air conditioner in Conway for the Burroughs and Collins Store.

Some customers included the Burroughs and Collins Company, the Jerry Cox Company, contractor H.P. Little, Craig Wall’s Canal Wood Corporation, Goldfinch Funeral Home, other independent pulpwod and logging contractors, Horry County, and the City of Conway.

Speaking of repairing tanks, one job required the welding of an 18 inch stress crack in an over-the-road kerosene tanker. For safety reasons, the tanker was taken to the Burroughs and Collins Lumber Company where live steam was fed into the tank for 24 hours to get rid of fumes. After we took the truck back to the shop, everyone was still apprehensive and abandoned Dad and me. Fortunately, I welded the crack successfully.

However, I was not so lucky when modifying a gasoline tank for a new skidder rig we were building on a new Dodge, long wheel-based school bus chassis. The tank was about 6 feet long and 18 inches square with an 18 inch filling snout on one end. My job was to shorten the filling snout from 18 inches to two inches. This required removing the existing snout, shortening it, and reattaching it to the tank. I erroneously decided to use the blowtorch because it was faster than the soldering iron. After removing the tank, it was laid on the ground near the front of the shop and water ran into the tank all day to force out the fumes.

After emptying the tank, I took it into the shop where it was placed on the worktable with one end towards the rear wall of the shop and the other end facing towards the front wall. The first thing I did was to pass a lighted torch over the filling snout to test for
fumes. Quite by accident and luckily so, the tank was perfectly parallel to the south wall of the shop. The gasoline fumes were still in the tank and created a blast of fire that exploded out of the two inch filler snout, blowing out the entire 18 inch square end of the tank right in front of where I was standing.

Simultaneously, the tank took off like a rocket toward the rear end of the shop barely missing Mr. Gandy who was working at the anvil. The tank stopped after it bounced off the rear wall some 40 feet from its take-off point. Meanwhile, the end of the tank blew out and headed in the opposite direction, bouncing off the front wall about ten feet away.

Luckily, only the tank was ruined. My injuries were only minor amounting to singed eyebrows and wounded pride. Mr. Gandy survived intact. He just stood there eyeballing me and shaking his head from side to side. Instead of the needed square tank, we now had a round one.

**About Manufacturing Tobacco Barn Flues**

Commercial tobacco growing in Horry County began in the late 1890s and became a major cash crop vital to the economy of the county for many years. One of the more important services provided to the farming community was the manufacturing of tobacco barn flues. It was an important and major source of revenue for the shop. Tobacco barn flues look similar to regular six inch stove-pipes, except they were 12 inches in diameter. Tobacco growing and the making of tobacco flues was a labor-intensive process.

In the early days, wood curing tobacco barns were found on every farm. These barns were mostly built of logs or lumber with dirt floors and a brick furnace built in one end.

After gathering the green tobacco leaves, they were fastened with string to a stick by a the process referred to as stringing tobacco. After it was strung on tobacco sticks, they were placed on tiers inside the barn starting at the top and working down to the bottom of the barn. All tobacco barns required flues to properly circulate the heat throughout the barn to cure the tobacco. The curing process was a 24-hour operation taking several days. It was not all bad, especially for the younger set, who enjoyed sitting up around the open furnace eating watermelon. An adult maintained watch on the barn temperature, and stoked the furnace when needed.

Economic survival of the tobacco farmer depended on proper curing of the tobacco. It was the most important step required in order to get top dollar for the finished product. Too much heat and the tobacco would be too dry. Too little heat and the moisture content and color would take away from the quality. If not carefully cured, both the quality as well as the selling price suffered. If the farmer failed to make a profit, he stood to lose the farm to his creditors who financed him during planting and harvesting time.

Tobacco barn flues were assembled at the shop in sections to the individual customer's specifications. Some sections required the joining together of as many as four straight joint flues (each joint was three feet long) riveted to an elbow. Smoke stacks could contain six or more straight joints. They were usually made in two sections to facilitate handling.

To manufacture tobacco barn flues, the shop maintained a production line including a shearing machine, metal brake, roller, and various seaming and crimping machines/stations all manually operated. Eventually, Dad converted some of them to electric driven systems, saving a lot of elbow work and time.

January through July was the tobacco barn flue production season. The metal had to be ordered and was trucked in--mostly 24 gauge sheets of blue steel, 36 inches wide by 80 inches long, with razor sharp edges. The metal arrived by flat bed trailer neatly, and evenly distributed across the trailer bed in six inch high stacks.

The metal was offloaded by hand and carried downstairs for storage. Later, it would be cut by foot-operated shears into sheets long enough to make straight joints 12 inches in diameter and 36 inches long. The end of each sheet was placed into a hand-operated break and bent up at an angle of about 145 degrees, flipped over and repeated on the opposite end. Next it was hand rolled, clipped together and then hand seamed. The last step in making a straight joint involved hand crimping one end of each joint in order for it to fit inside another flue.

Flue making consisted of five principal components: straight joints, elbows, tee joints, fireboxes (straight joints made of thicker material), and tie lugs. Making straight joints, fireboxes and tie lugs were straightforward. Making elbows and tee joints required sheet metal expertise available in two part-time employees hired during the flue season. They were brothers widely known as Catfish and Charlie.

Catfish was the town character and sported the first Afro-hairdo I had ever seen on a white person. His huge head of hair was neatly combed, almost perfectly formed and at least twelve inches in diameter. He was not only skilled at sheet metal work but also in making moonshine whiskey. The latter was his favorite pastime, ranking second only to drinking his product. Catfish kept his modified fishing boat conveniently docked under the shop. He had increased the height of the sides and installed an inboard air-cooled gasoline engine driving a propeller. He used the boat to transport materials and supplies to his still hidden in the swamps of the Waccamaw. Liquor was smuggled into town via the
Early Tobacco Barn—Top View showing installed Flues

“Fire curing tobacco barns were first built in the 1890s. The basic design did not change until the 1940s. Traditional barns were constructed of wood, either log, hewn timber, frame with weather board or board-and-batten siding. All barns had dirt floors. Flues rested on bricks to keep them from lying on the dirt. The barns were always square to rectangular shape—usually with gable roofs of varying pitch. Size of barns varied from 16x16 to 24x24 and were from 14 to 20 feet high. Sheds were attached to the sides.

Not shown are the tiers (small logs reaching the full length and width of the building). The first row about 6 feet above the flues and placed about 4 feet part—extending to the top of the barn—sometimes called rooms. Barns could contain four of more rooms. On these tiers were placed “sticks” of green tobacco until they were cured—usually taking five days.”

Major Tobacco Flue Components

Flue Spec’s: 12” in diameter—straight joints were 32” long made from thin 24 gauge sheet metal—except fire joints—made from heavy 18 gauge—used whenever flues connected to furnace to protect from heat. Fire joints looked same as straight joints without crimped end.

Tobacco Barn, ca. 1928—Photo courtesy of the South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina.

Sketches by K. V. Henderson.
hidden boat dock under the ship in pint bottles or quart jars. After arriving at the shop, the whiskey was hidden in the cemetery. When a sale was made, the whiskey was retrieved and delivered to his customer. To my knowledge, his still was never found by law enforcement nor was he caught selling moonshine.

I digress. An essential part of making the tie lugs required wiring the flue sections together after they were installed in the barn. To make tie lugs, narrow strips of scrap flue metal were first cut into pieces about one inch wide by three inches. Three strips were then bent by hand into a U-shape. The tie lugs were completed after they were struck with a hammer to almost close the “U.” When used, they were riveted to each end of the flue where sections were to be joined. After the sections were installed in the customer’s barn, they were tied together with haywire run through each lug and twisted tightly to hold the sections together.

In the late 1940s wood curing tobacco was in its last phase, being replaced with kerosene and propane gas burners. Dad kept his hand in the business by designing and fabricating kerosene burners used in conjunction with tobacco flues. They were cheaper for farmers who could not afford to buy new prepackaged manufactured kerosene and gas equipment.

The Blacksmith Shop Burns

Blacksmiths are credited with making the first iron tools and planting the seeds of the modern Industrial Age—the fruits of which spelled the ultimate demise of the blacksmith. They literally worked themselves out of a job in America and Europe by the middle of the Twentieth Century. Coincidently, the Conway Blacksmith Shop came to an abrupt end at the same time.

Early one morning in 1949, Dad received a phone call that the shop was on fire. By the time we arrived, flames were spilling out from the rear of the building over the lake. We knocked the lock off the doors to pull them open. Just inside was a Burroughs and Collins truck on which we were building a new stake body that had started burning. We tied a chain to the front bumper and pulled the truck out and away from the fire, but not until it had sustained some damage. The fire could not be brought under control and the shop was completely destroyed. Dad moved to a temporary building space behind the police station. Here the damaged truck was refurbished and all other jobs that could be salvaged were finished.

A short time after the shop burned, the family was back on the road again searching for business opportunities. Dad purchased and operated the Kingsland Motel in Kingsland Georgia, about 35 miles north of Jacksonville, Florida. He was like a fish out of water in the motel business. After a short while, he sold it.

We returned to Conway where he built and operated Henderson’s Repair Shop on lower Third Avenue. After his health failed, the shop was sold and employment was found in Charleston as a bookkeeper/consultant with a large sheet metal company, Picquet & Pelham Company.

Dad died in his sleep at their home on River Road in Charleston on 2 December 1953. Mom died at the Conway Nursing Home on 24 September 1984. They rest in peace side by side at Hillcrest Cemetery in Conway.

3 Meriwether, Robert L. The Expansion of South Carolina, 1729-1765 (Kingsport, TN: Southern Publishers, 1940)
5 Edward Jackson “Jack Jr.” became a geologist and married Elease Holt of Horry County. He died 1 December 1999. They had four children—Craig (deceased), Keith, Kevin and Kathy.
6 Ralph Martin “Buddy” is a retired Air Force veteran and married Pauline Todd. They currently reside in Surfside Beach. Buddy has three children by his first wife--David (deceased), Darrin, and Dennis.

☞ Kester Vaughn “Bobby” Henderson, a retired Navy Comptroller of the Polaris Missile Assembly Facility Atlantic, married Naomi Ruth Snowden of Conway and they have five children—Jackie, Eric, Susan, Sherri and Bobby. The Hendersons currently reside in North Charleston.
D. H. Cannon Blacksmith Shop
By Sharyn Barbee Holliday

Dennis Hartford “Hart” Cannon owned and operated a blacksmith shop during the 1940s and 50s on Powell Street between Third and Fourth Avenues in Conway. It was identified by a simple painted sign, “D. H. Cannon Shop.”

In 1937 Hart bought property at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Powell Street. A house was on the Fourth Avenue side of the property. It is not known whether the large wooden building that became the blacksmith shop was purchased with the property or if Hart built it. This building had two large rooms. One contained a traditional blacksmith shop with a round forge and numerous tools of the trade. Barn type doors and large window openings that could be covered by shutters provided the ventilation needed for the constant coal fire. The second room contained sheet metal and equipment to make tobacco barn flues and provided storage space for the completed flues. The Cannon shop opened in the spring of 1938.

When Hart’s grandson, Ed Causey, was a young boy, he worked in the shop to help construct the tobacco flues. His task was to hold up the end of the flue “just right” so Hart could set the rivet with one blow. Ed earned a little pocket money, but far more valuable was the time spent working with his Grandfather and listening to his stories.

Hart Cannon (left) is standing at the door of the blacksmith shop and Sammy Smart (right) is standing beside him, ca. 1950.

Hart Cannon was born on 8 July 1891, in an area of Horry County called Cannon Town. Current maps identify this area around the intersection of Kates Bay Road and Pee Dee Highway as Cannon’s Hill. His parents were Samuel W. and Thursea Victoria Dennis Cannon and their children were Nola, Henry, Wade, John, Sarah, Agnes, Minnie, Hart, and Mayo. Sam and Vic raised their family on land originally acquired by Sam’s grandfather, Redden Cannon, in the early 1800s.

Sam’s death in 1898 left his wife and young family to earn a living on the farm. When old enough, the younger boys found jobs to supplement the family income. Hart worked in the lumber industry and Mayo was a clerk with the Burroughs and Collins Company.

Henry and Wade stayed home to run the farms at the start of World War I. Hart and Mayo, the two youngest sons, enlisted in the Army. Both registered on 5 June 1917, and entered military service on 24 August 1917 at Fort Screven, Georgia. Mayo was assigned to Co. L, 60th Infantry and was sent to Germany. He received a Divisional Citation for Bravery in Action service and ended his career with the rank of Sergeant. Hart was sent to France as a soldier in the American Expeditionary Forces. His pay record book identifies his grade as “Horseshoer” and his organization as “Co. C, 14th Machine Gun Battalion.” While in the Army, he was a member of his unit’s track team. He told his grandson that there was no training equipment for the track team so their strength training came from lifting each other. Little was shared regarding his military service in France.
Hart returned home from the war to farm and to work in the lumber business. He married Ruthie Maye Hucks (7 October 1900—29 June 1975) in 1921 and built a house on his portion of the family land. Their two daughters Sarah Frances (married Ralph Causey) and Thalia Victoria (married O. T. Barbee Jr. and Charles Terry) had fond memories of growing up in the country surrounded by extended family members who lived on nearby farms. They all worked together during busy times, especially during tobacco season. Friday nights brought the end of the work week, and often became an occasion for a big meal to be shared with everyone.
Sarah and Thalia both agreed that they weren’t required to do much work on the farm. A favorite recollection was going to community square dances as a family where Hart played the fiddle.

By 1940, Hart had moved his family to the house on Fourth Avenue and was operating the blacksmith shop behind it. The business provided a comfortable living for his family. During the next decade their daughters finished school, married and moved out of the home. Hart had more time for hunting, a sport he had always enjoyed. He and Maye missed living in the country and having their own homegrown vegetables.

About 1950 the couple moved to Red Hill on Highway 90. A garden provided them with enough produce to eat and to share, especially the large watermelon patch. Each year the freezer was filled with vegetables and venison. Church and family was always an important part of their lives and Hart continued to travel to Pawley Swamp Primitive Baptist Church for services where his family had always worshipped.

During his sixth decade, Hart began to spend less time working in the shop. He made tobacco flues during the season and a partner, Melvin Lewis, took over the traditional blacksmith work. Melvin continued to operate the shop after Hart retired.

D. H. Cannon died in his home on 13 January 1962. Maye sold the blacksmith shop and property to Hunter Auto Sales, Inc. on 31 May 1965. The Hunter Ford dealership was on Third Avenue in Conway on land adjoining the Cannon property. The blacksmith shop was torn down shortly afterwards. In 2010, the property is now a bus parking lot for Coastal Rapid Public Transit Authority.

Sharyn Barbee Holliday, a retired school nurse and director for the Horry County Historical Society, is married to Frank Holliday. They have two daughters and three grandchildren.

Treadwell Swamp
by Carlisle E. Dawsey

According to his testimony given in open court to receive his Revolutionary War Pension, Reuben Treadwell was born in Bertie County, North Carolina in 1751. He originally enlisted in the North Carolina Militia in December of 1775 and was called into service in January of 1776 for three months. He joined Capt. Steven Anderson’s Company under Col. Caswell’s North Carolina Regiment. General MacDonald had assembled a Tory force of about 1500 men from the Scotch Loyalists near Campbelltown (Fayetteville) and was moving on Wilmington to attack the Patriot forces there to take over their supplies and to then provide troops for the British effort in the south and New York.

The Patriots forces, including Col. Caswell’s Regiment of about 800 men, were under the command of Brigadier James Moore. He moved his army around to the northwest of Wilmington and met MacDonald’s Tory forces at Moore’s Creek Bridge on 27 February 1776. The significance of this is that it was the first major military action of the Revolutionary War in the south. The Tory force was driven back with about 30 killed or wounded; MacDonald himself was captured the next day. The Patriots only had two wounded and one casualty, John Grady. This quieted the Scotch Loyalists in southeastern North Carolina until around 1779.

Reuben continued to be in and out of the service in southeastern North Carolina until 1778. In 1779 he moved across the state line into the Georgetown District and enlisted in the South Carolina Militia. He was drafted for a three month tour in Capt. Benjamin Garrel’s Company under Col. Peter Horry’s command. During this time Reuben met Amelia Dawsey who was the daughter of William Dawsey, Sr. and his wife Sarah living at Galivants Ferry. Reuben and Amelia were married 22 October 1779 and set up house south of Galivants Ferry. Reuben continued to be drafted into the militia until shortly before peace was declared in 1781.

On April 23, 1785 Reuben applied for and received a grant of 250 acres with Treadwell Creek running through it, this is the swamp just south of Galivants Ferry. Presumably since he and Amelia were already living there it was deemed Treadwell Creek (Swamp), pronounced locally as Tredle or Treddle. They eventually had a large family of twelve boys and two girls but soon after the children started coming Reuben decided to move the family west. They relocated to the Sparrow Swamp section of Darlington District and were living there by 1800. Between 1810 and 1820 Reuben moved the family again, to Rutherford County, North Carolina where they were living when he died on May 29, 1833. After Reuben’s death his widow, Amelia, and two of her...
sons moved the family westward again to Marshall County, Mississippi; another family that left their name attached to Horry County and moved on.

*Carlisle E. Dawsey, past president of the Horry County Historical Society, is a realtor in Conway.*

*Sylvia Cox Reddick’s Service Recognized*

At its January 10, 2010 meeting, the Horry County Historical Society presented the Ernest E. Richardson Memorial Award to Sylvia Cox Reddick for her many years of service to Horry County history.

In 1975 the Board of Directors established this award as a way in which the society could express its appreciation to those who have rendered service deemed by the Board to be beyond the ordinary responsibilities of membership or office holding.


**Y-Chromosome DNA: A Molecular Tool for Genealogy**

At the January 11, 2010 HCHS quarterly meeting, Dr. John Hybert Williamson discussed using DNA as a tool for genealogy research. Although it does not replace family records, census data, birth certificates, and death certificates, it is a powerful tool in our search for ancestral relationships.

Y-chromosome DNA requires cells from a direct male lineage with no intervening female. Although there is a cost, it is relatively inexpensive.

After many years of researching the Bug Hill Williamson clan and the Evergreen Williamson clan, through the use of DNA, he was able to that the two clans were closely related. You may reach him with questions at johybert@bellsouth.net.
Included in This Issue:

The Case for Gilbert Johnstone Jr.’s Residence during the American Revolution ........................................ Page 1

Copy of Original Gilbert Johnstone Jr. Letter dated 8 March 1790 for Susanna Barefield Johnston ................. Page 4

Transcription of Gilbert Johnstone Jr. 1790 Letter .......................................................... Page 5

Mouzon Map of Gilbert Johnstone Jr. Property..................................................Page 5

Gilbert Johnstone’s Residence as Determined from Early King’s Grants ......................... Page 6

Gilbert Johnston and Some of His Descendants .................................Page 7

Three Johnston North Carolina Land Purchases.................................Page 11

Recollections of the Conway Blacksmith Shop..........................Page 12

D. H. Cannon Blacksmith Shop.....Page 20

Treadwell Swamp .......................Page 22

Sylvia Cox Reddick’s Service Recognized .............................Page 23

Y-Chromosome DNA: A Molecular Tool for Genealogy Research ..........Page 23

Preparation Begins for Bryan House Historic Tours .............Page 24

Preparation Begins for Bryan House Historic Home Tours

Emma Lou Johnson and the Bryan House Historic Home Tour Committee are readying a script in preparation of tours for the home which will begin later this year. The tours will focus on the history of the house and Horry County with the docents in period costumes.