2011

Independent Republic Quarterly, 2011, Vol. 45, No. 4

Horry County Historical Society

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David Joseph “D.J.” Blanton was born c. 1832/33 in the Bulltail Creek section of Sampson County, N.C., to Enoch and Nancy Jane Blanton. While still a young child, his parents moved to Horry District, S.C. In mid-1855, he married Celia Alice Williamson Blanton (December 24, 1824 - March 4, 1907) and had four children: Nancy Orilla Blanton Harrelson (1856-1936); James Madison Blanton (1859-1910); Joseph Oliver Blanton (1861-1881) and Susan Jane Blanton Todd (1865-1937). He was a landowner/planter in the Playcard Community of Bayboro Township.

D.J. and many others who lived in the upper central area of Horry District and in the lower western area of Columbus County, N.C. were recruited by Capt. Levi Grainger on January 1, 1862, and enlisted in Company G, 9th Battalion, S.C. Volunteers Infantry, C.S.A., at Blanton’s X-Roads Post Office (now Green Sea, S.C.). Company G was probably also known as The Floyd Guerillas. About nine months later the 9th Battalion, also known as Nesbit’s Battalion, merged with the 6th Battalion, S.C. Volunteers Infantry, also known as Byrd’s Battalion, to form the 26th Regiment, S.C. Volunteers Infantry. Company K was known as The Eutaw Rifles. Company K of the old 9th Battalion became Company K of the new 26th Regiment. Company K served at Charleston, S.C.,
Secessionville, S.C., Vicksburg, Miss., Wilmington, N.C., Weldon, N.C., Kinston, N.C., Petersburg, Va., Richmond, Va., and places in between.

On February 26, 1865, he died of influenza at Jackson Hospital in Richmond, Va. Along with tens of thousands of his fellow fallen soldiers, he is buried in the Confederate section (grave W-52) of the Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond.

During the three years and two months of his C.S.A. military service, D. J. wrote frequent letters to his wife Celia, which she saved. Celia died in 1907. Many of these old letters were found in the memorabilia of their daughter, Susan Jane Blanton Todd, after her death in 1937. Over the years, these letters have been scattered amongst descendants, misplaced, lost or destroyed. It is an ongoing project to recover others that might still be in existence. Our family has accumulated eleven letters written by D. J. to his wife “Selia.”

I believe that some of the incidents in the letters are of historical significance.

Many thanks to my second cousin, Douglas M. Edgeworth of Kingstree, S.C., for his considerable help in accumulating these old letters and to Mildred Johnson, Linda McNish, and Dr. Arthur W. Bergeron Jr. at the U.S. Military History Institute who have generously shared copies of some of the letters.

Five of D.J.’s letters are included in this article. Additional information has been added in italics and brackets, as well as endnotes. Periods and commas have been added to make the letters more readable.

Letter #3

Camp Hagood, Church Flats was an encampment of Hagood’s Brigade of the S.C. Volunteers Infantry under the command of Brig. Gen. Johnson Hagood. The camp was located at a place called Church Flats, about three miles from Rantowles Station on the Charleston and Savannah Railroad. Rantowles is located on U.S. Highway 17, about 20 miles southwest of Charleston.

November the 16th 1862
Camp Haygood Church Flats, S.C.

Deare Wife and children, It is again that I am permitted to rite you a few lines to let you know that I have improved a grait [great] deel [deal] since I have come back to camps and is almost as harty [hearty] as ever. And I do urnicly [earnestly] hope that this will find you all enjoying the beste of he[alth]. I must say to you that I got back to camps Monday after I lefte Saturday and returned back to my poste as nurse in the Hospital. Thare is none very sick in the Hospital at this time but Isaac Stroud.1 He is the worste sitte [sight] you ever saw. Both of his jaws rise [swelled] and the doctor lanced them. And you never saw such run[n]ing in your life. And you could run your thumb in the holes. You must excuse me for not riting no sooner for I have been bisy [busy] since I came back til I hante [haven’t] had the chance. I muste tel[l] you a story that happened the evening that I got back to camps. Tha [there] came two fine ladys from Charleston, as I thought [then] riding in a too [two] horse carriage and a Negro a driving of them. And tha [they] inquired for headquarter and tha ware [were] invited in. And it paste [passed] on very well. But to my grat [great] surpriz [surprise] when we came to find them out, tha were Strumpets that had the inshorance [insolence] to come tha to make money. But some time after night tha were rou[s]ted by some of the com[m]anding officers and they went away as quick as tha could and the drum a beeting, and the boys yel[l]ing, and such a fus[s] you never did here [hear] in all youre life. You ought to have been here to have heard me laff [laugh]. And we juste drum[m]ed the things out of camp an I was glad. I want you to hire all the worke done that you can and try to get a parde start on your worke. And you must see that the worke is done and see that tha urn [earn] thare [their] mush. And I wante you to get your pap to go and hire Sarvises old Negro if he has to give $100.00 for him. I wante you to bee shore to pay Mis Dormanii that $5.00 that I fetched off the firste chance that I get. And I wante you to keepe youre oxen and donte [don’t] sell nor hire him to nobody. And I wante you to take good care of the horse and make him do your work. And you muste no[t] lende him to everybody. If you do you will soon have him spilte [spoiled] so that you cante [can’t] use him your selfe. I wante you to kepe youre bacon and fat and hire [some] hands and give it to them to eate and pay them the money for thare work for I have got $30.00 more for you and will sende it to you the firste chance that I get. And I wante you to bee shore to pay Mis Dormanii that $5.00 that I fetched off of her money. Selia my deare wife I wante to see you the worse if posable than I did before I came home.111 But I am a heepe bet[ter] satisfied that I [saw you than] before I wente home. For the beste I shall with the helpe of God and what I can do for you threw [through] him that you will keepe breade for the children to eate. And I no if you will looke to him and pray urnicly [earnestly] to him for youre selfe and children, that he will take goode care of you. And I long to see this unholy ware [war] come to an ende so that I can come back to you and enjoing [enjoy] youre loving presants [presence].
the remaining parte of my days. I want you to rite me just as soon as you get this letter for I am ancus [anxious] to here from you to no you are doing. Tell the olde Boss\textsuperscript{iiv} that I hant\textsuperscript{v} forgotten him and I wante to see him very bad. Tell him I would like to here from him. Tell Nancy\textsuperscript{vi} how I am and tell her that I wante to see her bad. So I muste close. Direct your letters to the same plac\textsuperscript{e} in care of Capt. Congdon [Capt. George Reynolds Condon, Company Commander of Company K, 26\textsuperscript{th} Regiment, S.C. Volunteers Infantry, C.S.A.].

D. J. Blanton to Mrs Selia Blanton

\textsuperscript{i}Pvt. Isaac Stroud served in the Company K, 26\textsuperscript{th} Regiment and was D. J.'s first cousin. Their grandfather was my forebearer, Joshua Blanton, the first of that name in Horry County. Isaac was the son of Christian Blanton, who married Meady Stroud. On November 28, 1862, he died of disease at Gen. Haggard's Church Flats encampment.

\textsuperscript{ii}At one point in time, the Dormans might have been the owner of the 300 acres of land D. J. bought from J. T. Moody in 1861. My grandparents, James Madison and Martha Strickland Blanton, are buried in Old Dorman Cemetery on that property.

\textsuperscript{iii}Company Muster Roll states that D.J. was on sick furlough from October 24 to November 7, 1863.

\textsuperscript{iv}In subsequent Letter #13, D. J. refers to “olde boss Jernigan.” It is believed that he was referring to Alfred G. “Olde Boss” Jernigan who was Celia’s uncle.

\textsuperscript{v}Most likely this was D. J. and Celia’s first child, Nancy Orilla, who would have been 6-years-old on November 4, 1862, only 10 days before this letter was written; however, Celia also had a sister, Nancy, who married Waterman Pink Grainger.

\textemdash

Letter # 6

The siege and fall of Vicksburg, Miss. in 1863 was one of the major engagements between the South and the North during the War Between the States. The Army controlling Vicksburg controlled the shipping lanes of the Mississippi River, the critical life’s blood supply transportation route for both sides. Meager forces defending Vicksburg under Confederate commander Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton were being overwhelmed by the vastly superior numbers of Union forces under the command of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant.

On May 15, 1863, James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, C.S.A., ordered Gen. Pierre G. Beauregard to send Evans Brigade (Brig. Gen. Nathan G. “Shanks” Evans), which included the 26\textsuperscript{th} Regiment, S.C. Volunteers Infantry which was under the command of Col. Alexander D. Smith, to Mississippi. Evans Brigade was to join the Confederate forces under the command of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston at Jackson, Miss. with the intention of attacking Gen. Grant’s forces from the rear. Vicksburg fell on July 4, 1863 when Gen. Pemberton surrendered to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. History records that the S.C. brigade was part of Gen. Johnston’s strategic “with-drawl” before Gen. William T. Sherman’s Union forces. With the exception of a few skirmishes during that retreat, Evans Brigade was not engaged in any major battles while in Mississippi. The 26\textsuperscript{th} Regiment returned to its home base at Mt. Pleasant around the last of July, 1863.

This letter was written the day after D. J. arrived with his troop at a camp near Jackson, Miss. and records historical information about this darkest of times in our nation’s existence.

May the 25\textsuperscript{th} AD 1863

Camp Neare Jackson, Miss[ssi]ippi

Deare Wife, It is again that I am permitted to rite you a few lines to let you no that I am well [at] the presente time. [I] hope [these lines] find you in the beste ______ in ______ am_______. We left on the 16th and got in here on the 24th. We was on the [road] 8 dayes. I like this place well but I sup[pose] that we shall have to march [again soon] as I think that this is the very seete [seat] of ware for it’s the moste pe[o]ple I ever saw. And tha [they are] fighting [fighting] here moste every day. Tha brought in 200 Yanke[e] prisoners today and I saw 62 yesterday. Tha say that ______ are tired of the ware_______ , but ______. I think that thare is a heavy fight depending here soon. The troops is geatheren [gathering] her[e] from all quarters. The Yanke[e]s have got Vixburg [Vicksburg] surrounded. Tha have been threw [through] the country here [____ and has done a good bit [of damage]. ____
The Lorde is a just [rewarder] and I no that he will the hap[py] dayes that we have spente together and care of you while you sleepe. Deare Wife to think of have mercy on you and forgive [you of any] sin and take never to go to sleepe at night with out asking him [to] keep in as good spirit as you can and look to god and grieve [grieve] for me but to take to harte [heart]. But [condition that me and you is in]. I wante you [not to] times. So I think of you and lamente this awful babese [babies] I ever saw. So bless you. I hope that I am in lots of trouble about my pore family about burned a railroad and a _____. Deare Wife you no that I wante to see you bad. 0 if you node [knew] the tro[uble] that I am in on ac[count]e of you and my little children. I no that you wood feel for me. O my Deare Wife, I wante you to right to me as often as you posable can and let me here from you for it is all the re[a]l satisfaction that I do see in this world when I get a let[ter] from you and here you are all well. So I cante right much this time. I have been riting soo much. I hope to here from you soon. So I will sende you an evellop [envelope] backed to me. So I wante you to remeber the prare [prayer] that I sente in my laste letter and never forget it. So may the good lord still may bless us, the many miles apart we bee. O if you wood be intereste you more than I wante to see [you] as bad as I can. 0 that the time wood come that I could get back home to you again. O when will that hap[ply] day come? It seems good to me to here the name of home. I hope that you will pray for me and youre selfe that he may bless us, the many miles apart we bee. 0 if you wood be intereste you more than I wante to see [you] as bad as I can. 0 that the time wood come that I could get back home to you again. O when will that hap[ply] day come? It seems good to me to here the name of home. I hope that you will pray for me and youre selfe that he may bless us, the many miles apart we bee. O if you node [knew] the tro[uble] that I am in on ac[e]ounte of you and my little children. I no that you wood feel for me. O my Deare Wife, I wante you to right to me as often as you posable can and let me here from you for it is all the re[a]l [satisfaction] that I do see in this world when I get a let[ter] from you and here you are all well. So I cante right much this time. I have been riting soo much. I hope to here from you soon. So I will sende you an evellop [envelope] backed to me. So I wante you to remeber the prare [prayer] that I sente in my laste letter and never forget it. So may the good lord still may bless us in this world and fit us fore a home in heaven. As ever yours

D. J. Blanton [to] Selia Blanton

Letter #12

This letter tells of D.J.’s involvement in the efforts to re-float the CSS Neuse, a Confederate Navy ironclad ram. This account is the only known documentation of the method used and the wage for labor. During the start of its maiden run down the Neuse River, the CSS Neuse ran aground shortly after leaving its dock at Kinston on April 22, 1864. Its mission was to engage the Yankees who had captured and occupied New Bern, N.C. Only a few days after writing this letter, the vessel refloated itself when heavy rains raised the water level of the river. Other than some token shelling at the advancing of Union Forces between New Bern and Kinston, the CSS Neuse was never in combat. In March 1865, the iron-clad was scuttled by its crew at its Kinston mooring to prevent capture by the Yankees. Ninety-eight years later in 1963, the skeletal remains of the CSS Neuse were raised and are now housed at the CSS Neuse Historical Site at Kinston. This letter has been donated to the museum and will be displayed with a biography of D. J. at the completion of the new museum.

Letter #11

The mention of “a young lady Sergeant Doctor” is of historical significance because it documents that the Union Army had women service personnel.

April the 21st 1864
Camp near Weldon, N.C.
North Hampton County

Deare Wife, I seete [seat] my self this evening to right you a few lines to let you know that I am well and harty [with the] hopes this will reach youre loving hands safe and find you and the children well and harty. Deare Wife, I will say to you that we tuck [took] the train at Wilmington yesterday the 20 of April and run all night. And [have] just got here this eaving [evening] and put up our tents. And it is a right nice place but I cante tell you how long that we will sta[y] her[e]. We may not sta[y] here a weeke. We are only about 20 miles from the va [Virginia] line. There was a fight near this place yesterday and our men tuck [took] a fort and captured some prisoners. And among them was a young lady which was a sergent doctor. Tha cared [carried] her on to richmond this morning under garde [guard]. We loste 400 men out of one Brigade that I hered [heard] of. Deare Wife, I wante nothing to right to you that wood [would] intereste you more than I wante to see [you] as bad as I can. 0 that the time wood come that I could get back home to you again. O when will that hap[ply] day come? It seems good to me to here the name of home. I hope that you will pray for me and youre selfe that he may bless us, the many miles apart we bee. O if you node [knew] the tro[uble] that I am in on ac[e]ounte of you and my little children. I no that you wood feel for me. O my Deare Wife, I wante you to right to me as often as you posable can and let me here from you for it is all the re[a]l satisfaction that I do see in this world when I get a let[ter] from you and here you are all well. So I cante right much this time. I have been riting soo much. I hope to here from you soon. So I will sende you an evellop [envelope] backed to me. So I wante you to remeber the prare [prayer] that I sente in my laste letter and never forget it. So may the good lord still may bless us in this world and fit us fore a home in heaven. As ever yours

D. J. Blanton [to] Selia Blanton

Pot. William E. Gore captured in Richmond hospital on April 3, 1865 and paroled on May 12, 1865.
Letter # 11 — Page 1 and 2 (there were four pages in all).
Sunday May the 15th AD 1864
Kinston, N.C.

Dear Wife, I see my self this blessed morning to right
you a few lines in ancer [answer] to your kind letter of
[May 8th] of this inst[ance] and came safe to hand ——
was gladly received and read with great[great]
[interest]. You can't tell how glad that I was to here
that you and all the children was all well. Thank the
Lord. Now I will say to you that I am well at this time
very bad. If we should stay[ing] in Kinston a
working on a dam across the N[euse] River in Kinston a
working on a gunboat that has run aground. And I
sup[p]ose that it will take some month or 2 to get it
done. And I donte care how long it takes to get done for
I ruther [rather] bee at worke than not. And I get $2.50
aday and I will worke all the time at that until the
ware stops if I could do so. I wood like to have a pare
[pair] of pants for I have loste all my pants on the
march but the ones I have on. And if you can get the
chance please send me a pare. I have shirts enuff
[enough] at presente. I was sor[r]y to here that you
was by your self. Do hur[r]ly and get someone to st[ay] with
you. Have someone. Let the price be what it will. Try
to get Elva Jones. She is a good hand. And donte try to
make your crop by yourself. I was sor[r]y to here that
you had a bad stand of corn. But I think it will come
out now [that] the weather has gotten warm. Thare is
terrible [terrible] fiting [fighting] going on out in va
[Virginia]. I hante [haven't] hern [heard] from Water-
man [probably brother-in-law Waterman Grainger]
since [then]. I was glade to here [hear] that you went to
church. That is right. It makes me [glad] that you [are
tending] to that. That is worth so much. I hope that
you will pray for me and you shal[l] have mine. I hope
the ware will stop soon. I want to hear from Susanah
and Nancy [probably Celia's sister, Nancy Williamson
Grainger] very bad. If we should stay[ing] here till the fall
you must come and see me. It is a very good chance to
come here. It wood not coste more than it wood to go to
Charleston. So I must close for want of room. So may
God ever bless you and pore [pour] out his blessings
upon you.


Letter #13
This letter was written while D.J. was in Columbia,
S.C., evidently en route to Petersburg, Va., only 73 days
before he died on February 26, 1865. It is reasonable to
assume he never returned to his home at Playcard nor
ever saw his family during that time. This is the last
 correspondence we have between D. J. and Selia.

Dec the 15th AD 1864
Columbia, S.C.

Dear Wife, I see [seat] myself for a few [minutes] to
right you a few lines to let you no that I am in Columbia
this eaving [evening] but expects to take ther train this
eaving [evening] at 6 oclock. I have got along very well
as yet. I have seen a cardie mason at worke and knitting
mason today and it was a grait [great] sight to me. I got
Joseph Harrilson[1] to go with me to the Bluff and he
charged me $___.00. And you must pay it to him or Jer-
nigan, as I could not make the change. Columbia is a
nice little town. I will say to you that I am well as
comon [common] hoping to find you an[d] family the
same. I will say to you that I have met up with 3 other
good friends to bear my company on to Petersburg and I
am proud of it. I stayed at your brother Josiah's[2] and
he was fast on the mend, and all the rest of the family
was well. I hope that I shall have good luck and hope
that you will always be blessed in all things. You need
not right me until you here from me again. The Old
Boss Jernigan wants to borrow one of your cartes a
while and you can let him have one for awhile if you
think you can spare it. You must excuse a short letter
as my time is short. I got me 3 big kneedles at $.10
and will sende you 2 of them in this letter. So I hope
you will accept my few lines with as much love as if tha-
were a thousand. So fare you well this time. D. J.
Blanton [to] Selia Blanton

[1]After D.J. died, Celia married Edward W. C. Harrelson
who already had a son named Joseph Harrelson.

[2]Probably Celia's younger brother, Josiah "Joe" William-
son who enlisted at the same time with D.J.

Weldon L. Blanton was reared in the northwestern
section of the county known as Playcard and Green Sea.
After serving in the U.S. Navy in World War II, he
worked 26 years for FCX, Inc., a Carolinas farm supply
company where he became a vice president. He then
served as president and CEO of Agra Land, a Michigan
farmers cooperative. His career finished with an agri-
culture trade association in Washington D.C. His histo-
ry of Horry County post offices, "Mailman's Run," was in
our IRQ, Volume 41. He and wife, Sophie Williams
Blanton, live in Cary, N.C.

Most likely this was John was 2nd Lt. John H. William-
son, Celia's brother who joined on the same day as D.J.;
Jack was John Curtis "Jack" Williamson, her brother
Curtis' son; and, D. was her brother, Lt. William P. D.
Williamson. Five days after this letter was written, Cpl.
W.P.D. Williamson was wounded at Clay's Farm, Va.
and died three days later.
CONFEDERATE DEAD HONORED IN CAROLINA

Memorial Day Exercises Held Throughout the Palmetto State
Appropriate Addresses Delivered, Graves of Dead Heroes
Decorated, and the Living Heroes Not Forgotten.

[The following article appeared in The State
Newspaper, Columbia, S.C. on May 13, 1906. The
article contains reports of Confederate Memorial
Day observances held in Conway, Rock Hill,
Ebenezer, Society Hill, Bishopville, Beaufort,
Yorkville, Florence and Blackstock, S.C. Photos
have been added to the article.]

Special to The State.

Conway, May 12. - One of the greatest occasions in Hor-
ry's history came to a close Thursday afternoon, and
fully 5,000 visitors from the county who had spent two
days in Conway to do honor to the surviving veterans of
the Confederacy in Horry left for their homes inspired
by the occasion and jubilant over its success.

The occasion was that of a Confederate reunion.
Memorial exercises of Horry assembled in a two days'
exercise in honor to the living Confederates. The occa-
sion had been widely advertised and Conway had
spared no efforts to provide for those who might be
here. Despite the fact that Conway, enlivened, rebuilt,
improved, and breathing only the spirit of development,
shines forth in its twentieth century progressiveness,
all business was abandoned on this occasion and she
took unto herself the emblems of the sixties and went
forth in true Confederate style.

Every store and business establishment was be-
decked in Confederate colors, flags were flying and a
welcome to the veterans hung from every eminence and
was felt in every heart. The Confederates took the
town, elected Gen. C. Irvine Walker [Walker (1842-
1927) was an 1861 graduate of the Citadel. He became
an officer in the Tenth Regiment, S.C. Volunteers. He
rose to the rank of general in the Confederate Army
and later commander of the United Confederate Veter-
ans.] their commander in chief and, despite their age,
marched throughout the town with a buoyancy surpris-
ing to their most intimate associates. They lined up
nearly 800 strong [later in the article it says 300] and
every old soldier in the county who could get here was
present. Wednesday, the first day, was set apart as a
day of assemblage as it takes some time for a number of
them to reach the county seat. Even by midday nearly
200 of the veterans were present, as well as a host of
citizens of the county who had come along for the occa-
sion. They assembled on Lake Wood lawn in front of
the residence of Col. D. A. Spivey [Spivey (1868-1945)
was a Citadel graduate and mayor of Conway from
1901-1903. His home, The Oaks, was the former resi-
dence of Thomas W. Beaty, a signer of the S.C. Ordin-
ance of Secession from Conwayborough. The front
lawn was often used as a gathering place for important
events in the community as far back as the 1840s. In
1939 a post office was built on the grounds and later a
bank was added.,] where tents were erected for their
comfort during the day, while they were entertained at
night in the homes of the Conway people. Near noon
the addresses of welcome were given. Mayor L. H. Bur-
roughs [Burroughs (1875-1924) served as mayor of Con-
way from 1905-1906] on behalf of Conway welcomed the
veterans, responded to by Rev. W. S.
McCaskill.
Hon. Jerem-
iah
Smith
[Smith
(1840-
1927) was
elected
mayor of
Conway in
the fall of
1906 and
served one
term. A
Confeder-
ate veter-
an, in
1864
Smith was
wounded at
Riley’s Shop near Richmond, Virginia and later paroled
at Appomattox Court House.], on behalf of the veterans,
welcomed the visitors, and Hon. Robert B. Scarborough
[Scarborough (1861-1927), a prominent local attorney,
served as Lt. Gov. of S.C. in 1889 and was first elected
to the U.S. Congress in 1900, serving until the end of
his second term in 1905.] welcomed them on behalf of
the Sons and Daughters. This was responded to by
Rev. Allan Macfarland of Laurel. It was an occasion of
much eloquence, everyone had reason to justly feel the
welcome which Conway extended and in return Conway
knew that the visitors appreciated the honor of the occa-
sion.

Hon. Jeremiah Smith
Gen. C. Irvine Walker, who had been invited to Horry by the camps of veterans arrived on the afternoon train and spoke at the auditorium of the Burroughs school in the evening. [The Burroughs School, located on the corner of Main St. and Ninth Ave. in Conway, was built in 1905. Its original auditorium was located upstairs in the center of the building.] The general had a heart to heart talk with the "boys" as he called them; recited his experiences during the struggle when many of the Horry boys were at his side; commended them for their bravery and the part they played in that great drama. The large hall was crowd-ed to overflowing and the speaker's strong talk, thrilling experiences and impartial recital of the bravery of those days kept the house in an uproar of applause.

The veterans were given free admittance, while a small entrance fee was charged others. The sum of $75 was raised for the memorial to the women of the Confederacy [This memorial was erected in 1912 and stands on the south lawn of the S.C. statehouse grounds in Columbia, S.C.] and has been forwarded to Gen. Walker. The second day's celebration was a great one. Never before has so large a number of people been seen in Conway. Every street and avenue was crowded and many who came by private conveyance were forced to leave their teams without the corporate limits of the town, while travel on the main streets of Conway was shut off for hours at a time. The most conservative estimates ran around 5,000.

At 11 o'clock the parade was formed, which extended nearly a mile. There were approximately 300 veterans, 700 Sons, the Horry Hussars some 50 in number, near 300 school children and a large number of floats, conveyances and mounts. It was with difficulty that the long line moved among the crowds, it being necessary to post guards at the street crossings. This line marched to the Burroughs & Collins company store [This would have been the original Burroughs & Collins office/store also known as the Gully Store located on the corner of Ninth Ave. and Elm St. in Conway.] where the speakers stand was erected on the large lawn facing the Methodist parsonage. [Across the street from the store was a large open lawn sometimes called "Green Field" where the Taylor house was later built. The Methodist parsonage was located approximately one lot farther north on Elm St. where the A. C. Thompson house was later built. The parsonage having been moved slightly further north up Elm St. and is known as the Bell-Marsh-Pinson house.]

Gen. C. Irvine Walker was first introduced. He was received with applause and spoke for a few minutes only on his work for the monument to the women of the Confederacy, telling them the necessity for such a monument, and the work of the women in the days of the sixties. The veterans of Horry were with the general during the war and they all love him and were glad to again look into his face.

Next came the speaker of the day, Hon. Thomas G. McLeod of Bishopville. [McLeod served as Lt. Gov. of S.C. from 1907-1911 and as governor of S.C. from 1923-1927.] The senator was at his best. It was his first visit to Horry, and besides making an eloquent oration on the scenes which made the occasion possible, he took occasion to praise Horry on her phenomenal progress as exemplified in the surroundings. He said there was work for the younger generation to do, lift high the standard which was set by their forefathers and begged them to be as earnest in their efforts for today as were those who fought for their country. Everyone was well pleased with the speaker, applauded him frequently, and were much benefited by his splendid oration.

Hon. Jeremiah Smith and Hon. Robert B. Scarborough both made short speeches which were well received, as these speakers always get a good hearing before an Horry audience.
Conway had done their part, as they always do, and there were no fears but that the immense crowd would be fed and fed well. The veterans were the first to the table, and given first place in everything, and after them came others, the picnic lasting for many hours. Everyone fared well, even if it did keep the ladies of the town busy supplying the wants of the hungry.

At 4 o’clock in the afternoon a general reception was tendered the veterans at Lake Wood lawn, after which the two days’ celebration came to a close, and today Conway is reaping the effects of a sad stillness after the great celebration.

A number of crosses of honor had been secured for worthy veterans, but on account of some misunderstanding between the management of the reunion and the local chapter Daughters of the Confederacy, these were not presented. Such occasions are seldom in eastern Carolina and few are made a greater success of than the one which marks a great epoch in Horry.
MARKS OPENING OF LONG CANAL
Celebration To Be Held At Socastee On Next Saturday Morning

MANY WATER CRAFT HERE
Bronze Tablet To Be Unveiled, Ribbon Cut To Signify Opening

On next Saturday the opening of the last link in the Intra-Coastal waterway will be celebrated with a promised spectacular program at 11 o’clock, the main features to be at the new bridge over the canal at Socastee. After the initial events at the bridge remaining functions will be carried out at Myrtle Beach.

Judging by reports, everything is in readiness for the celebration. The celebration takes place in Horry County for the reason that the last link in the waterway to be completed appears to be in this section of the country. Other parts of the Waterway were completed and used long before any work was done through Horry County.

Indications now are that one of the largest crowds ever seen in the county or anywhere else will be in attendance. The crowd may be so large that some may be disappointed in hearing some of the speeches or understanding some of the features of the program.

The speakers are Col. Holmes B. Springs, of Myrtle Beach, who will be the presiding officer of the celebration; Governor [Olin D.] Johnston, of Columbia; Major-General E. M. Markham, chief of engineers; Earl I. Brown, division engineer of Richmond; W. G. Caples, district engineer of Charleston; J. Hampton Moore, president of the Atlantic Deeper Waterways association, of Philadelphia; John H. Small, ex-Congressman of North Carolina; Ira G. Hand, Secretary of National Association Engine and Boat Manufacturers, of New York City; Senator E. D. Smith, Hon. A. H. Gasque, Hon. Thos. S. McMillan, of South Carolina; Burnett R. Maybank, Mayor of Charleston; Hon. Walter H. Blair, Mayor of Wilmington; Hon. H. L. Smith, Mayor of Georgetown, and Hon. J. E. Gill, the mayor of Beaufort, S. C.
After the speaking the bronze tablet commemorating the completion of the waterway will be unveiled at the bridge. This part of the exercise will be carried out by Barbara Ann Pearson, young daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Pearson, of Myrtle Beach. Mr. Pearson as manager of the work of the Standard Dredging company, looked after the most of the construction work done in this county on the canal. Two of the company’s dredges, the Tampa and Margate, dug the section of the canal between Little River and Waccamaw River or the greater part of that work. The tablet to be unveiled is made of bronze and was donated to the committee by the Standard Dredging Company.

The next item on the program is the cutting of the white ribbon that will be stretched across the waterway. Miss Geraldine Bryan, Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. [James E.] Bryan [Sr.], will cut the ribbon. The cutting of the ribbon will be celebrated with the usual amount of noise, the ringing of bells, blowing of whistles and automobile horns. The yachts and motor boats that will be assembled in honor of the celebration, after the cutting of the ribbon will parade and pass along the waterway, the fleet composed of many yachts and motor cruisers coming here from Richmond, Wilmington, Southport, Georgetown, Charleston, Beaufort, Savannah and other places. The Federal and State Governments will be represented by crafts belonging to the engineering department, the coast guard and the fisheries commissions and perhaps some navy craft.

**TO HAVE DANCE NIGHT OF 11TH**

The waterway celebration dance will take place at Myrtle Beach on the night of April 11th. The dance is sponsored by Myrtle Beach Post No. 40. It will take place at the pavilion. Bob Pope and his orchestra will be on hand and furnish the music. The dance will be on from 9 to 1 o’clock that night.

From *Horry Herald*, April 16, 1936

**CELEBRATION A GREAT EVENT**

The celebration in honor of the opening of the Inland Waterway marking the completion of this canal that now extends along almost the entire coast of the United States was a great success. The ceremonies were attended by an immense crowd of people, not only local folks but visitors from far distant states.

The program was carried out substantially as previously published. The large crowd attending enjoyed the parade of the boats and listened with attention at the inspiring addresses made by a number of noted people.

**Editor’s Note:**

The work was not completed on the waterway in 1936, dredging and widening continued until at least 1939.

After talking with those who were present the day of celebration and/or some of their descendants, this was a day of much festivities. Vendors were selling hot dogs, balloons, and lemonade for 5 cents a cup. Billy Roberts said there was a circus-like atmosphere.
Watching the Progress of the Intracoastal Waterway, c. 1933

Photos are from the Charles and Maude Snider family collection. Charles Snider is the man in the white suit at the right.
January Presentation by Brandan Scully with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The Horry County Historical Society’s winter membership meeting was held on January 8 at Burroughs & Chapin Center for Marine & Wetland Studies at Coastal Carolina University. Brandan Scully, a Civil Engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District, was the guest speaker.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built and dredged the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) to keep the waterway passages open and safe for ships and boats to traverse up and down the east coast. The Charleston District is responsible for dredging the AIWW from the Little River Inlet to Port Royal Sound. Scully spoke about the methods used to build the AIWW, how the District dredges the AIWW today and showcased old photos, which garnered great interest from the crowd.

“It was obvious that this waterway carries cultural and economic importance to the residents of Horry County,” said Scully. “I am glad I had the opportunity to exchange knowledge about the current and future history of the AIWW with the people who see it every day.”

Members enjoyed the presentation and a lively question and answer period gave evidence of the popularity of Mr. Scully’s subject.

2010-2011 Bryan House Archaeological Investigation & Artifact Analysis

By Susan H. McMillan

The project goal for the Waccamaw Archaeology Partnership was to locate and excavate privy facilities for the Burroughs School that occupied 606 Main Street in Conway from 1879-1903 prior to the building of the Bryan House. Participating in the project was Katherine Durning, Beverly Evans, Louise Krechel, Susan McMillan, Joanne Milnor, Sandy Sheedy, Steve Sheedy, and Hal Vivian. Metal detecting was conducted by Dan Yarrusso of Surfside Beach. Ground round penetrating radar was conducted by Adam Emerick, senior planner for Horry County. Here are the results:

Surface Collection: This assembly consists of artifacts collected from an inspection of the property prior to any excavations: 2 undecorated whit earthen wares, 2 pale green window glass fragments, 1 clear glassware fragment, and 1 milk glass jar lip fragment.

Unit 1: This was a 6’ square unit excavated near the rear property line at the base of the railroad berm: 1 partial chrome plated handcuff with keyhole and cover, 2 bright green glass bottle fragments (Mello Yellow soft drink), 1 undecorated white earthenware, 1 white quartz lithic fragment, 4 pale green window glass fragments, and 9 clear glass bottle fragments (2 with textured embossing).

Unit 2: This was another 6’ square unit located near the rear property line at the base of the railroad berm and north of Unit 1: 1 fossilized coquina shell and 1 unidentified fragment (possibly PVC).

Flag 1: This 2’ square unit in the side yard was chosen for excavation after testing positive by metal detecting: 2 harmonica pieces (metal and wood), 1 harmonica tack, 1 clear glass stemware fragment (small base, possible cordial), 1 metal pencil band for eraser attachment, 1 metal key (marked “Ford, 54”), 1 heart-shaped metal tag marked “Pitman-Moore rabies vaccines, #1556221, 1951”, 1 chrome plated metal cap inscribed with a silhouette bust on its tip (possible umbrella tip).

Flag 2: This 2’ square unit, also in the side yard was determined by ground penetrating radar to contain

(Left to Right) Sandra B. Wrenn, Brandan Scully, and B. Pratt Gasque Jr.
Conclusion: Total Artifacts Found and Identified: 39

The absence of greater artifact deposits would seem to indicate that the school privy site was either beneath the railroad berm along the rear property line or on the south side of the property where a drainage tile was recently installed, causing extensive soil disturbance. Utilization of ground penetrating radar, metal detecting and manual digging resulted in a thorough investigation of the rear half of the Bryan House property using technological and traditional archaeological methodology.

STORIES IN STONE AT LAKESIDE CEMETERY
HISTORIC DOCENT-GUIDED WALKING TOURS
Saturday, March 31, 2012
10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m.
Limited Advance $20 Tickets available until Friday, March 30th at
Conway Visitors Center, 903 3rd Avenue, Conway SC 248-1700

Bryan House Docent-Guided Tours
606 Main Street, Conway—10:30 am, 12:30 pm, and 2:30 pm—$5 per person

Activities at the Bryan House: registrations for memberships in Historical Society + Friends of Bryan House; sale of old IRQs; genealogical opportunities; sale of historical books; book signing by local authors; sale of herbs; and sale of food and drinks
In the fall of 2010 the Ivy Garden Club voted to respond with an enthusiastic, "Yes", to a request from the Horry County Historical Society’s grounds committee to plant and maintain a flower garden at the historic Bryan House. The space selected by our club is on the left side of the front yard, and is referred to as the Sunshine Garden. We gladly accepted the challenge to help preserve and beautify this wonderful resource in Conway, bequeathed to the Historical Society by the late Rebecca Bryan.

In November 2010, we removed the grass in our spot and dug out a large bed, approximately one hundred feet in circumference, filling in with one ton of composted soil. We then planted two hundred twenty five daffodil bulbs, a large white dogwood tree and mulched all plants with fresh pine straw. This was all done with a great deal of joy, laughter and anticipation of what it would look like in the spring. All of our hard work proved worthy when the bulbs began to bloom in early spring. It was a beautiful sight to go by the yard and see all the smiling faces of the daffodils and our dogwood tree blooming.

In the spring of 2011, the Ivy Garden Club planted a large pink crepe myrtle tree and two evergreen pittosporums as a base for future plantings. It didn’t take long for the maintenance factor to kick in with the need to remove the weeds that wanted to join our beautiful flowers and to be sure the Sunshine Garden had adequate water during the hot summer. Members of the club helped with the weeding and watering all summer.

In October of 2011, Ivy Garden Club members went to Timmonsville and purchased four hundred mixed colors of violas (Johnny Jump-ups) from J & W Nursery. Al Rabon, owner and grower, agreed to offer us a generous consideration in pricing on the plants since they were for the Historical Society. The violas, along with six large knockout roses were then added to the bed. This bed is now becoming a showstopper! Planting a border of alternating white perennial candytuft to bloom in late winter to late spring, and purple homestead verbena to bloom from late spring through fall is the Ivy Garden Club’s next goal for the Sunshine Garden.

The Ivy Garden Club is proud to participate in this collective effort to enhance the Bryan House grounds and looks forward to a glorious show this spring, especially when the Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc. comes to Conway for their “Follow the Blooms” Garden Tour. This will be April 14th and will include a stop at the Bryan House to see the lovely yard with an option to take a historical tour of the house for an additional $5.00.

The members of the Ivy Garden Club are dedicated to being a part of this community project for the Horry County Historical Society.

The Ivy Garden Club takes on the Sunshine Garden

Information submitted by Sara Frances Ropp and Shirley LeForce
A BIG THANKS TO YOU!
By Emma Lou Johnson

We did it! We did it! The first historical Christmas Tours at the Brian House were beautifully offered to the public for fifteen days in December. There were a few days when no guest came, but believe me when I say that those who did come just loved it. We received many nice compliments on how the house looked, the delicious refreshments served, and the knowledgeable docents who learned new information about “old time” Christmas traditions. I can’t thank the hostesses and docents enough who gave their precious time in December to help.

I have many others to thank for this success: the garden clubs and the master gardeners who decorated the house, the Coastal Doll Club who let us display some of their beautiful dolls and toys, Friends of the Bryan House who graciously volunteered to help where needed; June Brown, who wrote the additional script; the Horry County Historical Society Board of Directors all donated things to the gift shop; Martha Cline who gave the Kate Smith cup and saucer for the silent auction; the Conway Visitors Center Volunteers who sold tickets for us; The Sun News and The Horry Independent who published articles helping with publicity for the event; and, to all who purchased tickets for our tours.

We all did it together, and we were successful. I hope we can make this an annual event for you to add to the list of “things I want to do at Christmastime in Conway!”