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Horry County Historical Society

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# *The Independent Republic Quarterly*

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## *Calendar Events:*

- **Stories in Stone at Lakeside Cemetery Saturday, March 31, 2012 9 a.m.-5 p.m.**
- **Garden Club of S.C.'s Follow the Blooms Tour—Bryan House Yard Saturday, April 14, 2012**
- **Spring Tour—to be announced**
- **Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, July 8, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.**
- **Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, October 14, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.**

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## **Pvt. David Joseph Blanton (c. 1832/1833 - 26 February 1865) Co. K, 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment, S.C. Volunteers Infantry, C.S.A. Letters to His “Deare Wife Selia” Celia Alice Williamson Blanton (December 24, 1824 - March 4, 1907) *By Weldon Blanton***



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 (1824-1907) 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, 9<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, also known as Nesbit’s Battalion, merged with the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, S.C. Volunteers Infantry, also known as Byrd’s Battalion, to form the 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment, S.C. Volunteers Infantry. Company G of the old 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion became Company K of the new 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Company K was known as The Eutaw Rifles. D.J.’s company 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 [heartly] as ever. And I do urnicly [earnestly] hope that this will find you all enjoying the beste of he[a]lth. 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.<sup>i</sup> 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 muste 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 lades 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 heade quarters and tha ware [were] invited in. And it paste [passed] on very well. But to my grait [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 wente 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 aught 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 muste 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 get him for I think that it will be your best chance. I wante you to try if posiple [possible] to get youre fence made and to try to get all that lande in if posiple. I wante you to keep the 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 keepe 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 Dorman<sup>ii</sup> 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.<sup>iii</sup> But I am a heepe bet[t]er 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 le[t]ter for I am ancus [anxious] to here from you to no you are doing. Tel[l] the olde Boss<sup>iv</sup> that I hant[haven't] forgot[ten] him and I wante to see him very bad. Tel[l] him I would like to here from him. Tel[l] Nancy<sup>v</sup> how I am and tel[l] her that I wante to see her bad. So I muste close. Direct your let-ters to the same plac[e] in care of Capt. Congdon [Capt. George Reynolds Condon, Com-pany Commander of Company K, 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment, S.C. Volun-teers Infantry, C.S.A.].

D. J. Blanton to Mrs Selia Blanton

<sup>i</sup>Pvt. Isaac Stroud served in the Company K, 26<sup>th</sup> 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. Ha-good's Church Flats encampment.

<sup>ii</sup>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.

<sup>iii</sup>Company Muster Roll states that D.J. was on sick fur-lough from October 24 to November 7, 1863.

<sup>iv</sup>In subsequent Letter #13, D. J. refers to "olde boss Jer-nigan." It is believed that he was referring to Alfred G. "Olde Boss" Jernigan who was Celia's uncle.

<sup>v</sup>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; howev-er, Celia also had a sister, Nancy, who married Water-man Pink Grainger.



## 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 de-fending Vicksburg under Confederate commander Lt.*



*Gen. John C. Pemberton were being overwhelmed by the vastly superior numbers of Union forces under the com-mand 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 in-cluded the 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment, S.C. Volunteers Infantry which was under the command of Col. Alexander D. Smith, to Missis-sippi. Evans Brigade was to join the Confederate forces under the command of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston at Jack-son, 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. John-ston'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<sup>th</sup> 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 his-torical information about this darkest of times in our nation's existence.*

May the 25<sup>th</sup> AD 1863

Camp Neare Jackson, Missi[ssi]ppi

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[p]ose 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] fiting [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] surround-ed. Tha have been threw [through] the country here [\_\_\_\_] and has done a good bit [of damage]. \_\_\_\_\_



burn[ed] a railroad and a \_\_\_\_\_. Deare Wife you no that I am in lots of trouble about my pore family about you and them little ones whome I love so well. I [dreame] last nite of beeing with you. And [\_\_\_\_\_] lap and I thought you had one of the sweetest little babese [babies] I ever saw. So bless you. I hope that the time will come when I can set [sit] with you many times. So I think of you and lamente this awful [condition that me and] you is in. I wante you [not to] greeve [grieve] for me but to take to harte [heart]. But keep in as good spirit as you can and look to god and pray to him to tak[e] care of you and children. You ought never to go to sleepe at night with out asking him [to] have mercy on you and forgive [you of any] sin and take care of you while you sleepe. Deare Wife to think of the hap[p]y dayes that we have spente together an[d] the Lorde is a just [rewarder] and I no that he will manage all things for the beste. Deare Wife, I wante you to rite to me as often as you can. It will take some 6 to 8 dayes for a let[t]er to go and come. We are something over one thousand miles apart. Tho we are so fare apart in bode [body] I hope we are together in harte [heart]. For I no that my harte bleeds for you and I believe yours does for me. I want you to rite to me [if you got] them thing I sente you. I sent you 20 dollars by [Wm.] E. Gore<sup>i</sup> and \$40.00 by olde Yancy Hardy. An if you got the \_\_\_\_ I wante to no what you got in it. I wante to no that you is getting on with your crop. When you writ direct your let[t]ers to Jackson, Missi [ssi]ppi, the 26<sup>th</sup> Regemen[t], S.C. \_\_\_\_ in care of Capt. Geo. R. Congdon Co. K. So I muste come to a clos[e]. Excuse bad riting and bad spelling for I hante any chance only to set flat down on the ground and not eaven a borde [board] to lay my paper on. So I will say to you that I wante to see you bad. Well I say bad it is worce [worse] than bad. So pray for us that we may meete in heaven. So farewell to you my love.

D. J. Blanton [to] Selia Blanton

<sup>i</sup>Pvt. William E. Gore captured in Richmond hospital on April 3, 1865 and paroled on May 12, 1865.



#### 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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] juste 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 [Virgina] line. Thare 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 sergant 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 hant got nothing to right to you that wood [would] intereste you more than I wante to see [you] as bad as I can. O that the time wood come that I could get back home to you again. O when will that hap[p]y 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[u]ble that I am in on ac[c]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[t]er 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 evelop [envelope] backed to me. So I wante you to remember the prare [prayer] that I sente in my laste letter and never forget it. So may the good lord still 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.*

April the 21<sup>st</sup> 1864  
 Camp near Wilsons C<sup>y</sup>  
 Port Hampton County  
 Deare wife I subt my self  
 this evening to right you  
 a few lines to let you  
 no that I am well and  
 hartz hopes that this will  
 reach you're loving hands  
 safe and king you and  
 the children well and  
 hartz Deare wife I will  
 say to you that we tuck  
 the train at Wilmington  
 yesterday the 20 of appr-  
 and run all night and  
 has just got here and  
 put up our tents and  
 it is a right nice place

But I can't tell you how  
 long that we will sta here  
 we may not sta here a week  
 we are only about 20 miles from  
 the V. A line there was a  
 fight near this place yester  
 and our man tuck a forte  
 and captured some prisoners  
 and among them was a young lady  
 which was a Sergeant Octor the  
 cared her on to richmond  
 this morning under garde  
 we lost 400 men out  
 of one Brigade that is herde  
 of Deare wife's hante got  
 nothing to right to you that  
 good interest you more  
 then I wante to see



Sunday May the 15<sup>th</sup> AD 1864  
Kinston, N.C.

Dear Wife, I seete my self this blessed morning to right you a few lines in ancer [answer] to your kind letter of [May 8<sup>th</sup>] of this ins[tance] and came safe to hand \_\_\_\_ was gladly received and read with grait[great] [interest]. You cante 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 ever hoping that this will reach you safe and fine [find] you and [the] children still in the enjoymente of good he[a]lth. I got a letter from Ady and Bety roat [wrote] on the 9<sup>th</sup> and tha are both well. John and D. and Jack<sup>i</sup> was all well two dayes ago. I ante [ain't] with them no longer. \_\_\_\_ off and am staing [staying] in Kinston a working on a dam across the N[e]use River to pond the water to move 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 untill 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]y and get someone to sta[y] 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 terable [terrible] fiting [fighting] going on out in va [Virginia]. I hante [haven't] hern [heard] from Waterman [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 sta[y] here till the fall you muste 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.

D. J. Blanton [to] Selia Blanton - right [write] soon.

<sup>i</sup>Most likely this was John was 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John H. Williamson, 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.



### 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 15<sup>th</sup> AD 1864  
Columbia, S.C.

Dear Wife, I seete [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 carde mason at worke and knitting mason today and it was a grait [great] sight to me. I got Joseph Harrilson<sup>i</sup> to go with me to the Bluff and he charged me \$\_.00. And you muste 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<sup>ii</sup> 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 herr 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 \$1.00 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 thare were a thousand. So fare you well this time. D. J. Blanton [to] Selia Blanton

<sup>i</sup>After D.J. died, Celia married Edward W. C. Harrelson who already had a son named Joseph Harrelson.

<sup>ii</sup>Probably Celia's younger brother, Josiah "Joe" Williamson 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 agriculture trade association in Washington D.C. His history 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.

## 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 Horry'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 occasion 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 bedecked 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 Veterans.] their commander in chief and, despite their age, marched throughout the town with a buoyancy surprising 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 occasion. 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 residence of Thomas W. Beaty, a signer of the S.C. Ordinance 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. Burroughs [Burroughs (1875-1924) served as mayor of Conway from 1905-1906] on behalf of Conway welcomed the veterans,

responded to by Rev. W. S.

McCaskill.

Hon. Jeremiah

Smith

[Smith

(1840-

1927) was

elected

mayor of

Conway in

the fall of

1906 and

served one

term. A

Confederate

veteran,

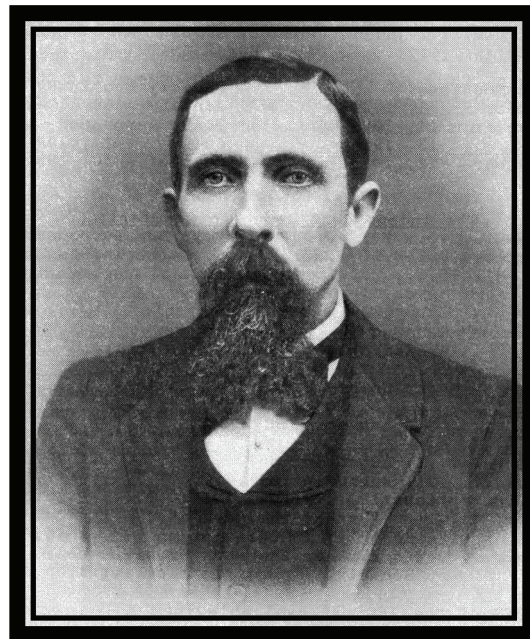
in

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 1899 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 occasion.



Smith was 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; com-

mended them for their bravery and the part they played in that great drama. The large hall was crowded 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.



*Robert B. Scarborough—Photo contributed by Robert B. "Bobby" Scarborough IV*

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.



*Thomas G. McLeod, 95th governor —Photo courtesy of SC University Library*

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



*Photo courtesy of S.C. Department of Archives and History.*

**[The following article appeared in the *Horry Herald*, Conway, S.C. on April 9, 1936. Photos have been added to the original article.]**

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 at-

tendance. 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.





*Olin D. Johnston, 98th governor -  
Photo courtesy of Wikipedia*

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.



*Intra-Coastal Waterway  
Little River to Winyah Bay, S.C.*

*The last section of a continuous inside passage along the eastern coast of the United States begun December 19, 1932. Completed April 3, 1936  
United States Corps of Engineer, W.G. Caples, Colonel, U.S.A.  
Standard Dredging Co., Contractor  
T.P. Pearson, Supt.*

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 11<sup>TH</sup>

The waterway celebration dance will take place at Myrtle Beach on the night of April 11<sup>th</sup>. 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.



(Left to Right) Sandra B. Wrenn, Brandan Scully, and B. Pratt Gasque Jr.

## 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



a buried object: 1 metal cylinder (5" long X 1" diameter—possible window weight, 3 pale green window glass fragments, 1 pale green bottle glass fragment (slightly calcined/burned)



**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.

(Left to right) Top photo: Sandy Sheedy, Katherine Durning, Beverly Evans, and Louise Krechel Bottom photo the man in the background is Steve Sheedy.



## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



# The Ivy Garden Club takes on the Sunshine Garden

*Information submitted by  
Sara Frances Ropp and Shirley LeForce*

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 pitosporums 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.



### ***2012 Horry County Historical Society Officers***

|                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| B. Pratt Gasque Jr.....        | President      |
| Carlisle E. Dawsey.....        | Vice President |
| Shirley Long Johnson.....      | Secretary      |
| J. Benjamin Burroughs.....     | Treasurer      |
| June Thompson Brown.....       | Past President |
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### ***Web site Administrator***

J. Benjamin Burroughs

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## **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!”