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The Independent Republic Quarterly

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Calendar Events:

- **“Stories in Stone” on April 12-13, 2013, including First Methodist Church in Conway and Hebron United Methodist Church in Bucksville.**
- **Spring Tour on April 20, 2013—Tour North Island with Dr. Roy Talbert Jr., history professor at Coastal Carolina University.**
- **Membership Meeting, July 14, 2013.**
- **Membership Meeting, October 13, 2013**

The Independent Republic Quarterly

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Sawmills on the Lower Waccamaw River and Bull Creek By Sharyn B. Holliday

Horry County’s historic Bucksville-Bucksport section is located a few miles south of Conway between Highway 701 and the Waccamaw River. Today this area is quiet and peaceful, a rural setting with scattered farms, homes, and river houses. Near the banks of the river, a few miles distant from each other, are two tall brick chimneys that recall an earlier era when the rivers were the highways of the time.

Land travel in areas of Horry District in the early 1800s was difficult. Roads were dirt tracks through the forests, difficult to maintain. Ferries were required for crossing rivers, and swamps prevented direct travel through large areas. The rivers were a major means of transportation, with vessels of all sizes carrying people and goods. River property with landings that could accommodate ocean going ships to be loaded with products for sea travel became business sites.

Old maps and deeds from the 1830s identify Rothmahler’s Bluff, Hilling’s or Hillen’s Landing and Murdock Landing as locations on the river where ships could be loaded, making them choice locations to build sawmills. The Waccamaw River along this southern stretch in Horry District was deep, wide, and straight enough to be navigable by ocean going vessels. Prime pine and cypress logs could be floated down from upriver, milled, and loaded onto shipping vessels. Ships would carry the lumber to



Upper Mill Chimney © Joanna Thurman

lucrative U.S. and foreign markets — Philadelphia, Nantucket, New Bedford, New York, Barbados, and the Windward Islands. News articles of the 1830s and 1840s give evidence of the formation and growth of a lively, productive community around this developing industry.

Early colonial mills were primitive, and logs were cut using two-man teams who laboriously hand sawed boards. A hard day’s work yielded anywhere from 100-200 board feet of sawn boards. (A

board foot is a unit of volume for timber equal to 144 cubic inches.) This technique was used until the Civil War. The next technological advancement was the conversion to water power using a Muley saw consisting of a saw attached to a waterwheel from which it derived its power. This system was capable of sawing 8,000 board feet a day. By far the greatest improvement in technology for sawmills was the introduction of the steam engine. Steam-powered sawmills were developed in the United States in the 1830s and further increased output and timber production.¹ They were far more efficient than older mills. Scrap lumber from the mill provided a fuel source for firing the boiler.¹

When Robert Mills compiled his famous *Statistics of South Carolina* in 1825, he mentions that the area exported timber but does not reference the presence of a lumber industry (that is, timber processed by milling) in Horry District.³ Contemporary news accounts and records from the period give a glimpse into the development of the lumber industry on the Waccamaw River during the first half of the 19th Century. There were other sawmills on the Waccamaw, the Great Pee Dee and the Little Pee Dee in Horry District, though the ones mentioned here were probably the largest and most productive during this time.

Due to his service in the Revolutionary War, James Woodward Sr. (abt. 1755-1820) was granted several tracts of land in 1791 and was an early property owner on the banks of the Waccamaw River near Hillen's Landing. In Woodward's will recorded on September 4, 1820, one item confirms the importance that men of the early 19th Century placed on their timber lands with the following conditional bequest: "...to *Uriah and Hezekiah I Give and bequeath the Cypress timber on a track [sic] of land in Allsaints [sic]. If they See Proper to work Sd timber of five hundred acors [sic].*"⁴

Advertisements in Charleston and Georgetown newspapers indicate that forest products from Horry District were sold in the coastal areas of South Carolina from the beginning of the 19th Century. "Waccamaw shingles," lathes and staves were advertised for sale in Charleston's *City Gazette* of 1805. (Lathes were strips of wood used to make interior walls which were covered with plaster. Staves were the wooden strips that formed the sides of barrels.)⁵ Another ad tells of 140,000 "prime Waccamaw Shingles now landing at Champneys wharf." The 1816 *Gazette* had an ad for "Shingles and Staves Afloat For Sale. 72,900 best Waccamaw SHINGLES, and 13,300 STAVES. Apply to Cleary & Guieu, Vendue Range," and another ad a month later added the availability of "400 Juniper POSTS." On September 17th, 1822, *The Charleston Courier* tells of "105,000 PRIME Waccamaw SHINGLES, 25,000 LATHS, For sale on board the Schr. Benjamin, at Gibbs & Harper's wharf."

On March 3, 1819, Richard Green (1779-1855) offered "timber for frames of buildings of any dimensions, of the best materials" in the *Winyah Intelligencer* published in Georgetown. Green would contract to deliver the timber to his landing on the Waccamaw or to Georgetown. Those "desirous of contracting" could leave a bill stating the width and length of the pieces at "A & A S Marvin's store." Green had served in Peter Horry's regiment during the Revolutionary War.⁶

Joshua S. Norman (1781-1848) sold Horry forest products in 1819 by placing an ad in the *Winyah Intelligencer* on August 28th. Norman contracted to deliver to Georgetown up to 500 pine logs, 50,000 good cypress shingles and 50 or 60,000 rice barrel staves. The staves were delivered to any rice plantation, if desired. "Reference to be had to Mr. Solomon McCall in Georgetown or JOSHUA S. NORMAN." Joshua's wife, Jane Beaty Norman (1791-1881), ran a successful boarding house in Conwayborough. Their daughter, Frances Norton Norman (1818-1885), married Henry Buck (1800-1870) in 1838.⁷

Commercial.

U. S. Bank Shares at Philadelphia 23½ inst. 108½.

Prices Current at Georgetown, Oct. 29.—Cotton, short staple, lb. 10 cents; Rice, prime, 100 lbs. \$3; ditto middling, \$2 75; Corn, per bushel 80 cts; Tar, bbl. \$1; Pitch, 1 50; Turpentine, soft, \$1 50; Rosin, 2; Waccamaw Shingles, 1000, \$3 50; Country Lumber, 13; Beeswax lb. 28 cents.

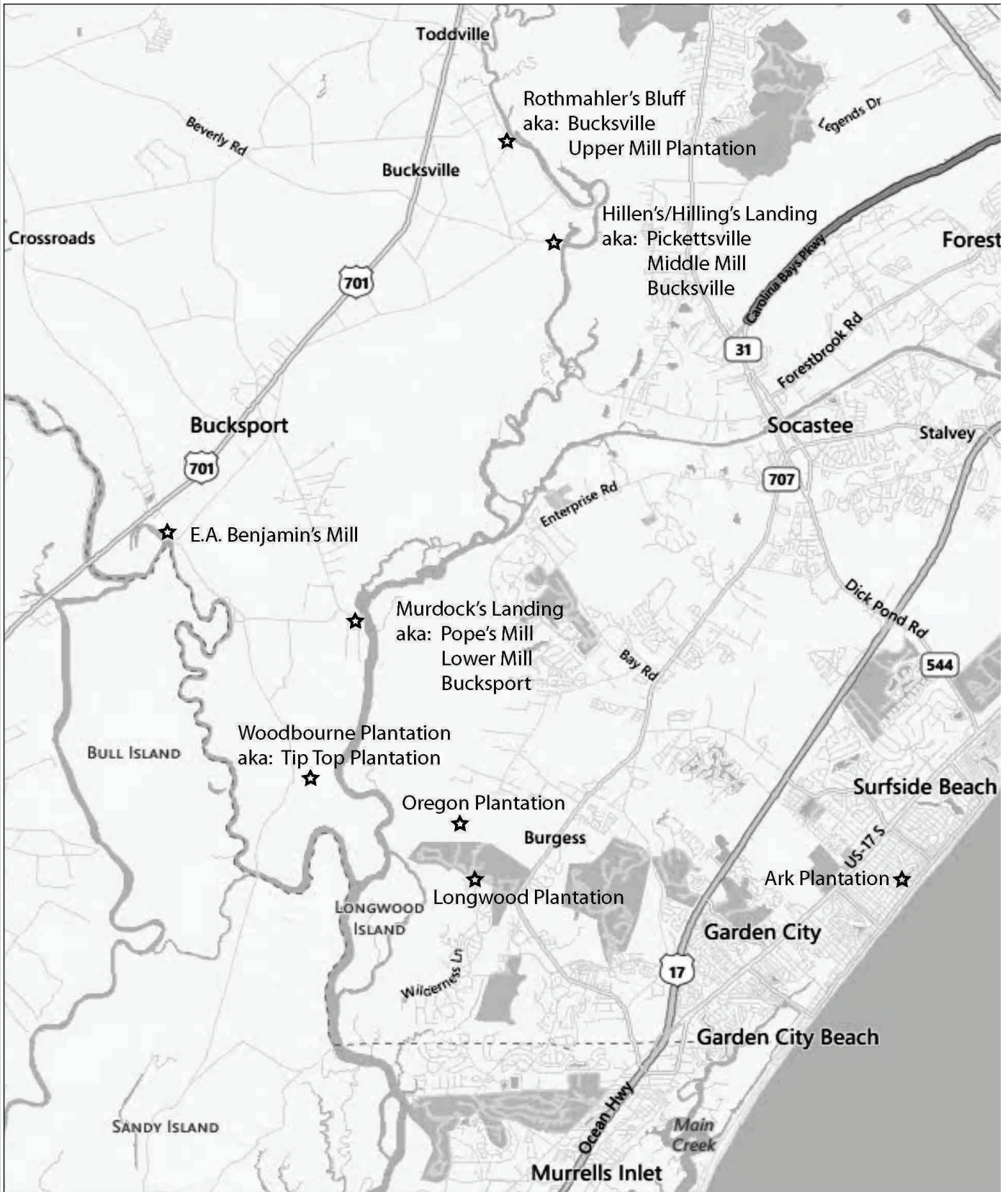
Charleston Courier, October 31, 1823

Marine news in coastal papers record lumber shipments in the 1820s. (Please note the following ads provide: name of the ship/schooner, captain's name, port departing from, and the duration of voyage.)

1826: APR 12, *Georgetown Gazette*, Marine News Arrived since our last. L.L.P. Schr William Henry, Keen, New York, 4 days—bound up Waccamaw for lumber.

1826: APR 25, *Georgetown Gazette*, Marine News Arrived since our last Schr. Decatur, Green, New-York, 10 days—bound up Waccamaw for lumber

1827: APR 20, *Carolina Gazette*, Charleston Ship News, Port of Charleston Sloop Maid of Mill, Tobey, Waccamaw, 1 day Shingles and Staves. To the Master.



Map of the lower Waccamaw River in Horry County showing some of the early steam-powered sawmill sites and the various names by which they were known. Submitted by Quayle R. Trimble and Ben Burroughs. Base map courtesy of "Bing Maps."

1827: May 9, Carolina Gazette, Charleston Ship News, Port of Charleston Schooner Commodore Perry, Bull, Waccamaw 1 day, Shingles. To J Woodward

Lumber was plentiful and in large enough demand to promote the building of multiple steam sawmills on the banks of the Waccamaw River in Horry District. Deeds and news articles give some insight into the efforts of early lumber men and the partnerships they formed to start their businesses. Unfortunately, the exact locations, dates of operation, or level of success are unknown for some.

Many sources have identified Henry Buck as the sole owner and builder of three steam sawmills on the lower Waccamaw River. Though he had obtained ownership of the mills by 1850, the full story of the earlier years include other men who participated in the development of the lumber industry in this area.

Henry Buck built his first mill at Rothmahler's Bluff on the Waccamaw at the site of present day Upper Mill Plantation. Buck came to Horry District from Bucksville, Maine, in the 1820s and by 1837 had built a home and a steam sawmill with the large brick chimney that remains. He came from a family of shipbuilders and timber men. This background provided the connections and knowledge to establish and promote the lumber industry in his new Horry home.

The first index page for early Buck deeds is missing from the Horry County Court House, so the exact date that Buck built his home and nearby sawmill is unknown. The earliest land deed indexed is dated January 7, 1837.⁸ This deed verifies that the property listed was in existence and that Buck had a financial partner in his first sawmill from 1837 until 1844.

"I, Henry Buck, of the State and district aforesaid For and in consideration of the sum of ten thousand dollars to me in hand paid by George W. Olney the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have bargained and sold and by these presents do bargain and sell unto the said George W. Olney one mailey or half part of the said singular my Steam Saw Mill situate on the River Waccamaw at Bucksville in the State and District aforesaid as also one half in and to the tract of Land upon which the said mill is situate known as Rothmahly [sic] Bluffs containing fifty nine acres more or less and hath such forms and marks as a reference to a platt [sic] and survey bearing date the 24th December 1828 will more fully show. Also one half part in and of the following negroes rights Celesistina, Prince, Daniel, George, Robin, Dick, Peggy and Hester also the full half part of all and singular, the houses out buildings flats boats, two yoke of oxen, two carts and all other conveniencies[sic], attached to or belonging in any wise to the same, the said George W Olney to be

lawfully entitled to the possession use increase and enjoyment of the lands & houses, one half of said half part I do hereby warrant and forever defend to the said George W Olney..."

There is no indication that Olney was present or actively participated in the running of the mill. The only other mention found of the Olney-Buck partnership is the note entered vertically across the first page of the original deed.

"Charleston, So. Ca. For value received I hereby transfer all my right title & interest to within instrument of writing to Henry Buck.

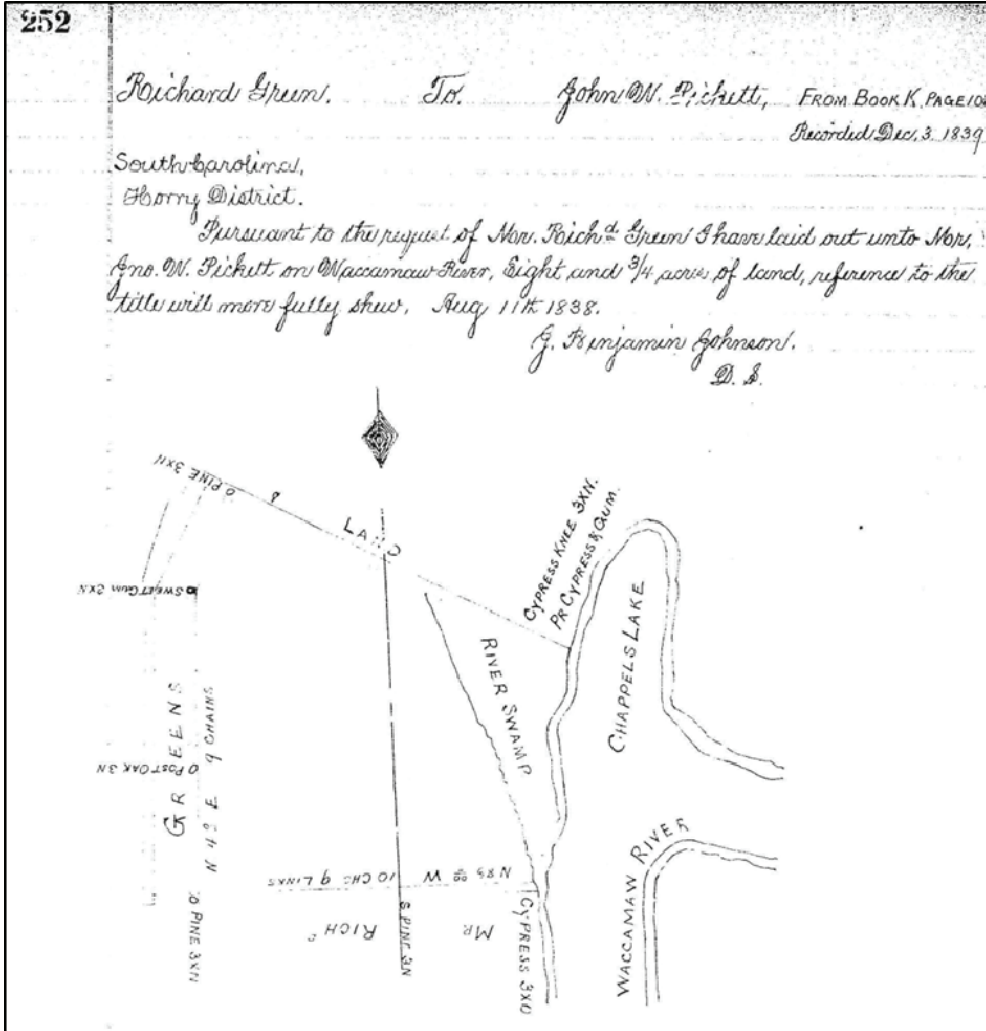
*Geo. W Olney
Signed Sealed and delivered in presence of Bushrod M. Singleton, W. A. Deletter
Recorded April 14, 1844"*

George Washington Olney (1789-1880) was born in Providence, R.I. and moved to Charleston after the War of 1812. He established a business as a Commission Merchant on Vendue Range. The nature of his connection to Henry Buck is unknown, but Buck's regard for Olney is clear in his naming a son George Olney Buck (1847-1865). Interesting similarities in the lives of these two business partners go beyond their northern roots. George O. Buck died of disease on January 22, 1865, as a Citadel Cadet in service to the Confederate States of America⁹ and is buried in the Buck Cemetery at Hebron Church in Bucksville, S.C. Olney's son, Sgt. Alfred Lee Olney (b.1839), CSA, died of disease in Richmond, Va. on July 6, 1864, while serving in the Washington Light Infantry, S.C. Volunteers. Both Buck and Olney had another son who fought for the Confederacy and survived the War.

On August 11, 1838, John W. Pickett (1798-bef 1848)¹⁰ purchased eight and three-quarter acres known as Hilling's or Hillen's Landing on the west side of the Waccamaw River, from Richard Green for \$150. The deed states that this small parcel was part of a larger tract of 470 acres granted to Samuel Wragg on the 14th of October, 1774.

An agreement dated December 12, 1838, names John W. Pickett, Thomas S. Pickett (1804-1866)¹¹ and Samuel N. Cannon (1806-1882) as partners in a steam sawmill on the banks of the Waccamaw on land John had purchased. The agreement states, *"whereas a Steam Saw Mill is now in progress of being built at a place known by the name of Hillens Landing on the Waccamaw River in the District and State aforesaid which said Mill is now nearly completed."*¹²

The Pickett-Cannon agreement describes the Picketts as "of the District of Horry and State aforesaid [South Carolina]" with the additional note for Cannon,



Pickett, shall transact the general business of said Mill, shall keep books and make due entries of all receipts and expenditures and shall attend to all sailes [sic] and shipments of Lumber in the name of and make due returns thereof to him the said John W. Pickett and also shall furnish their own board and other necessary supplies for themselves individually without any charge on him the said John W. Pickett, until such time when the nett [sic] proceeds arising from said Mill when in full operation shall have fully reimbursed him the said John W. Pickett the amount principal and interest money which he may have expended in the purchase of the Land, the erection of said Mill and advancements for Timber and other necessary costs and charges; Then and in that case, he the said John W. Pickett covenants and agrees that the one third part of said Mill, one third part of said land together with the profits, rights, members, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging do and shall vest in him the said Thomas S. Pickett and shall be his right and property, and also in like manner, the one other third part of said Mill, one third part of said Land together

1838 land plat of John Pickett's purchase of eight and three-quarter acres at Hillings/Hillen's Landing from Richard Green.

"late of the town of Wilmington and State of North Carolina but now of the District and State first aforesaid [Horry, South Carolina]." The exact wording from the agreement:

"John W. Pickett is to advance and pay, and will have advanced and paid out of his own individual funds and property the full and entire amount necessary for the completion of said Mill and the site therefor [sic], and whereas the said Thomas S. Pickett and Samuel N. Cannon are to afford and render certain services for certain compensations and claims in regard to said Mill hereafter fully and expressly agreed upon: Now the said John W. Pickett on his part covenant and agrees with the said Thomas S. Pickett and Samuel N. Cannon in consideration that they and each of them shall well and faithfully superintend and conduct the runng [sic] of said Mill when in operation subject To the direction and controal [sic] of him the said John W.

with the profits, rights, members, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging do and shall vest in him the said Samuel N. Cannon and shall be his right and property, And the said John W. Pickett further covenants and agrees to furnish sufficient force to wit: Engine Workmen timber and repairs and to bear all contingent expenses on and about the Mill necessary to keep said Mill in full operation during the superintendence of them the said Thomas S. Pickett and Samuel N. Cannon in name and form as aforesaid, and the said Thomas S. Pickett and Samuel N. Cannon severally covenants and agree that by reason of and in consideration of the aforesaid premises they will diligently, faithfully and according to their several best skill and ability conduct the operations of the aforesaid Mill and discharge all and singular the duties and trust herein prescribed according to the operation of said Mill..."¹³

John W. and Thomas S. Pickett were brothers born in New Hanover County, N.C. Samuel N. Cannon was born in Stratton, Conn. and moved to Wilmington, N.C. where he was Secretary of the Wilmington Mutual Insurance Co.¹⁴ He married Sarah Ann (1809-1854), a sister to the Pickett brothers. All had family connections in Horry District.

John W. Pickett was Horry District's Representative to the South Carolina General Assembly from 1832-1835.¹⁵ He was listed with his family in the 1840 census. In 1823, Pickett married Helen Conner, daughter of Edward Conner (1757-1837), a Revolutionary War soldier from Horry District.¹⁶ Edward Conner lived at Hull's Island, near the present day town of Loris and was prominent in politics of the time.

Thomas S. Pickett lived in Horry for a time, was listed in the 1840 census, and was Post Master for Conwayborough in 1841.¹⁷ He was married to Frances Helen Eliza Grissette (1822-bef 1860), the sister of Reuben George Wooten Grissette (1814-1892) who had a plantation north of Conwayborough on the Waccamaw on present day Highway 905. R. G. W. Grissette served as Horry District Representative to the S.C. General Assembly from 1848 to 1851 and as State Senator from 1852 through 1856.¹⁸ One account identifies Henry Buck's first endeavor in Horry District as a store he operated at Grissette's Landing. After Frances's death, Thomas Pickett married Elizabeth Carter.¹⁹

The only mention found of Samuel N. Cannon in Horry is in the sawmill agreement. Notably, his name was missing when the sawmill was sold. No children were born in the marriage of Sarah and Samuel. After Sarah Pickett died, he married Sarah E. Freeman (b. 1801) in 1855 in New Hanover, N.C.²⁰

In a deed dated September 9, 1839, John Pickett sells "*one undivided fourth part of all that certain tract or parcel of land containing eight acres and three quarters... lying and being in Horry District on the West side of the Waccamaw River called Hilling's Landing... Bounded on the East by Waccamaw River and Chappels Lake and the Steam Saw Mill and other buildings thereon.*" Beulah H. Jacobs paid "*Twenty seven hundred and twenty four dollars 56 and one fourth one hundredths as a Trustee under a deed of Post Nuptial settlement bearing the date 1839 between Archibald Collins and Mary Eliza Collins, his wife.*" Ms. Jacobs name was also missing when the sawmill was later sold and her further involvement in the sawmill is unknown.²¹ Archibald's wife was Mary Ann Eliza Pickett (1807-1839), sister to John and Thomas.²²

Henry Buck and Samuel Pope (1810-1863) jointly purchased 432 acres on the west side of the Waccamaw River "embracing the place called Murdock Landing" on the 24th day of February, 1837, from James Newton.²³

The deed contains no indication of the future use of the acreage.

As the following items will show, Buck and Pope conducted business at a sawmill in this area shortly after this date. The advantage, as the newspaper ads point out, is that this mill was below the Pickett Mill on the Waccamaw and thus nearer to Georgetown and its harbor. It is also easy to imagine that Buck would prefer that his business, with the noise and activity accompanying a sawmill in operation, be more distant from his home than the one adjoining his house.

No deeds or documents have been found concerning the end of the Buck/Pope partnership. John P. Carrette reported that "John [believed to be Samuel] Pope, a northern man, was doing business at a lumber mill at Bucksport, then called the lower mill, before coming to Conway."²⁴

Pope came to Horry from Wells, Maine,²⁵ and became an active part of the communities where he lived. After leaving the lumber business, he moved to Conwayborough where he operated a store and married Sara Eliza Richwood (1829-1914). Both are listed as charter members of Kingston Presbyterian Church, with Samuel named as a Ruling Elder.²⁶ He was named as Junior Warden for the newly formed Masonic Lodge No. 65 in Conwayboro in 1843.²⁷ Pope had a home built at the foot of Main Street (currently 203 Main Street) where he and Sara began their family. The Samuel Pope home stood until it was torn down to make way for the Conway Chamber of Commerce headquarters that was built in the latter 20th Century.

Advertisements and marine news notes in Georgetown newspapers verify that these mills and others were in business and tell a story of the opening, activity, and competition among Waccamaw mills. The first two entries indicate that there was a brickyard in 1837 and 1838 but brick sales are not mentioned again after these early years of building. The brickyards may have been used to provide bricks for the construction of mill chimneys.

It should be noted that the names referring to the locations in the advertisements have changed over the years. Buck's Mill refers to the northernmost mill on Rothmahler's Bluff. It was also known as Buck's Upper Mill and Bucksville. Pickett's Mill refers to the location at Hillen's/Hilling's Landing also known as Pickettsville. After it was sold to Henry Buck, it became Bucksville or Middle Mill. Pope's Mill refers to the mill at Murdock Landing built by Henry Buck and Samuel Pope, later known as Lower Mill or Bucksport. After Pope left this mill, it is referred to as (Augustus) Smith's Mill in some of the newspaper ads.

1837: OCT 14, Georgetown Union*Bricks for Sale*

One hundred and fifty thousand superior BRICKS are offered for sale at the Brick Yard Hillings Landing, in lots to suit purchasers. Apply to H Buck, Bucksville, Waccamaw.

1837: DEC 23; 1838: JAN 13; JAN 27, Georgetown Union*Superior Bricks*

Two hundred thousand superior bricks for sale in lots to suit purchasers—Apply to Samuel Pope Bull Creek Ferry or at the Steam Saw Mill at Bucksville Waccamaw.

1838: DEC 22, Georgetown Union*Steam Saw Mill*

Dr. E. A. Benjamin Steam saw mill on Cowford, near Bull Creek Ferry, being completed, will supply orders with dispatch, for Pine or Cypress Lumber. Address Dr. E. A. Benjamin Conwayborough Horry District S.C. July 14, 1838

Limited information has been found for Dr. E. A. Benjamin and his sawmill. A mortgage document of 1839 is found in Deed Book C1, page 239 at the Horry County Court House. The following excerpt has been copied exactly as written with no corrections.

“Whereas I, the said E. A. Benjamin in and by a certain bond or obligation bearing date the 22nd day of July A.D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine, stand firmly held and bound unto William Woodbury of the District of Marion and State aforesaid in the penal sum of Eight Thousand Dollars, Conditional for the payment of the full and just sum of Four thousand Dollars on the 1st day of January A. D. one thousand eight hundred and forty as in and by the said bond and condition, reference being had will more fully appear.

Now know all men that I, the said E. A. Benjamin in consideration of the said debt and sum of money aforesaid and for the better securing the payment thereof unto the said William Woodbury according to the condition of the said bond and also in consideration of the further sum of three dollars to me the said E. A. Benjamin in hand paid by the said Wm. Woodbury the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have bargained, sold, granted, released and by these presents do bargain sell grant and release unto the said Wm. Woodberry all that parcel or track of land whereon my Steam Mill is situated lying in Horry District on the East side of Bull Creek on the waters of said Creek near the Bull Creek Ferry together with the said Steam Mill Machinery & Fixtures there unto belonging & appertaining, together with all and singular the rights, members, hereditaments and or appurtanances

there unto belonging or in any wise incident appertaining thereto in any manner whatever.

To Have and to Hold and singular the said premises Steam Mill Machinery Fixtures and &c to the said Wm. Woodberry his heirs and assigns forever and I the said E. A. Benjamin do bind myself my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, to warrant and forever defend the said premises Mill Machinery Fixtures &c unto the said Wm. Woodberry his heirs and assigns against me and my heirs, executors, administrator, and assigns and all other persons whatsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof, Provided always nevertheless and it is the true intent and meaning of the parties to these presents that if I the said W. A. Benjamin do and sell and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said Wm. Woodberry his certain attorney heirs, executors, administrators or assigns the said debt or sum of money aforesaid with interest thereon if any should be due, according to the true intent and meaning of the said Bond and the condition there under written then this deed of bargain and sale shall cease determine and be utterly null and void otherwise it shall remain in full force and virtue.

And it is agreed by and between the said parties that the said E. A. Benjamin shall hold the said premises Mill Machinery &c until default of payment [sic] shall be made.

Witness my hand and seal this 22nd day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine and in the Sixty third year of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of America.

E. A. Benjamin

*Signed Sealed and Delivered in presence of
T. M. Grier, Thomas Saunders.”*

No other documents have been found to indicate the length of time this mill was in business or under whose ownership.

1839: MAR 1, Charleston Courier

STEAM SAWED LUMBER—JOHN W PICKETT, having recently erected and put in operation a steam saw mill on the Waccamaw River, is now prepared to execute orders for YELLOW PINE LUMBER of any description. Orders left with the subscribers will be attended to and executed with dispatch.

Apply to Street and Boinest, 6 Boyce & Co's Wharf.

1839: JUN 8, Georgetown Union*Marine News, Port of Georgetown*

Schr Caleb Nichols, Rowe, 7 days from Philadelphia—Lime to E. Waterman, and steam saw mill machinery to Buck, Pope & Co, of Waccamaw.

1839: JUN 8; JUL 13; JUL 27; AUG 31; NOV 9,
Georgetown Union

"Hillings Landing, 30 May, 1839"

The subscriber having recently erected a steam saw mill at Hillings Landing, on the Waccamaw river, four miles below Buck's mill, respectfully informs the citizens of Georgetown and the planters on the Pee Dee and Waccamaw rivers that he will execute all orders directed to him with dispatch; his prices are _____ orders left with E. Waterman will be strictly attended to.
Jno W. Pickett

1839: AUG 17; NOV 30, Georgetown Union
Steam Mill, Waccamaw

The above Mill now in operation, is situated 28 miles from Georgetown, 8 miles below Pickett's Mill and opposite the Timber Dock, on the Waccamaw River; orders for every description of Sawed Lumber will be executed with dispatch as cheap as at other Mills, on application at the mill or to G.R. & W. P. Congdon in Georgetown.
H. Buck, S. Pope

1839: NOV 9, Georgetown American

Jno W Pickett Hillings Landing May 1839 has recently erected a steam saw mill at Hillings landing on the Waccamaw River 4 miles below Buck's mill.

1840: JAN 11; JAN 24; JAN 28; JAN 31; FEB 4,
Georgetown American

The subscribers having their Mill in successful operation, will execute all orders ... Mr. Robert Cooper is our agent in Georgetown who will attend to all orders handed him. J. W. Pickett & Co. Waccamaw Run

1841: JAN 6 Georgetown American

Port of Georgetown

Arrived

Jan 3d—Schr Enterprise, Colson, N. York, 10 days.

Bound up to Picket's mill.

Jan 3d—Schr Mary, Pope, 21 days from the island of Trinidad, bound up to Pope's Mill

1841: APR 10, Winyah Observer,

Marine News, Port of Georgetown

Arrived

Schr. Mary, Pope, Martinique, 16 days—Molasses to S. Pope

Found Adrift,

3 Rafts Ton Timber, marked 'Picket' containing 44 logs—and one Raft, not marked, containing 15 logs.

The owner or owners are requested to apply to Wm. P. Vaux

1841: JUN 2; JUN 16; JUN 23, Winyah Observer

"Pickettsville, May, 1841 The subscribers offer Steam Sawed Lumber at the following prices [price list] all which they will sell for cash at their Saw Mill on the Waccamaw River. Persons desirous of making con-

tracts, will please apply to E. Waterman at Georgetown, or to the subscribers at the mill. J.W. & J.S [sic] Pickett N. B. — Delivered at Georgetown, for \$4 per 2 M. extra. "

Pickettsville, May, 1841.

THE subscribers offer Steam Sawed Lumber, at the following prices:

Flooring Boards.....	13,00
2d quality.....	7,00
Edged inch Boards,.....	12,00
2d quality.....	60
Wide Boards moulded.....	10,00
2d quality.....	5,00
Scantling of all kinds,.....	11 00
2d quality.....	5,00

all which they will sell for Cash, at their Saw Mill on the Waccamaw River. Persons desirous of making contracts, will please apply to E. Waterman at Georgetown, or to the subscribers at the Mill.

J. W. & J. S. PICKETT.

N. B.—Delivered at Georgetown, for \$2 per M. extra.
May 22—6w.

Winyah Observer, May 22, 1841

1841: JUN 23, Winyah Observer

Port of Georgetown Marine News

Arrived

Brig Grand Turk, of Providence, R.I. one hundred and seventy three tons burthen, from New York, 6 days, Nathaniel W. Henlon, Master, bound to Pope's Mill, to load for St. Thomas, W. I.

A deed dated November 8, 1841, documents the end of the Pickett Brothers' lumber business on the Waccamaw and the expansion of Buck's enterprise.

*Thos S Pickett & Jno W Pickett to Henry Buck
State of South Carolina, Horry District*

Know all men by these presents that we Thomas S Pickett and John W Pickett of the district aforesaid for and in consideration the sum of Six thousand dollars to us paid by Henry Buck, have bargained granted sold and released and by these presents do bargain grant sell and release unto the said Henry Buck all that peice [sic] or parcel of land situate ly ing and being in the district aforesaid on the west side of the Waccamaw River Known by the name of "Hillens Landing" measuring and containing Eight and three fourths of an acre of Land bounded on the East by the Waccamaw, to the north on Lands of the said Henry Buck, to the South on Woodward Land and to the West on lands of the said H. Buck

together with the Steam Saw Mill and all other buildings and improvements thereon, also all the Black Smith tools oil Stands _____ and all other implements, used in carrying on the operation of said "Mill" Together with all and singular the rights, members hereditaments and appurtenances to the said premises belonging or in anywise incident or appertaining To Have and to hold all and singular the premises before mentioned, unto the said Henry Buck his heirs and assigns forever, and we do hereby bind ourselves our heirs Executors and Administrators to warrant and forever defend all and singular the said premises unto the said Henry Buck his heirs and assigns against ourselves and our heirs and every other person or persons when serving lawfully claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof.

Witness our hands and seals this eighth day of November in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight hundred and forty one and in the sixty-sixth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

Thos. S. Pickett Jno W. Pickett
Signed Sealed and Delivered in the presence of
Robt Murro____ Alva Smith

Henry Buck had acquired his Middle Mill. "Pickettsville" became an expansion of the Bucksville Community growing into a village larger than Conwayborough, almost becoming the county seat for Horry. It appears that Buck moved his business to this middle mill site where he would have room to expand. The chimney from this mill is the only structure that remains to indicate its presence.

1842: FEB 26, Winyah Observer, *Marine News*, Port of Georgetown
24th Schr Brutus, Cottrell, 30 days from New York, bound to Pope's Mill.

1842: MAR 5, Winyah Observer, *Marine News*, Port of Georgetown
3d Schooner Mary, Pope [Captain], 1 day from Charleston, bound to Pope's Mill.

1842: MAR 12, Winyah Observer, *Marine News*, Port of Georgetown
Arrived:
10 Schr Eveline, Cottle, 15 days from Nantucket bound to Pope's Mill
Several vessels passed up the river yesterday from Charleston.

1842: APR 30, Winyah Observer, *Marine News*, Port of Georgetown
--D Patmos, Rackett, from Charleston bound to Pope's Mill.

1842: MAY 28, Winyah Observer, *Marine News*, Port of Georgetown
Arrived:
May 21st, Schr. J & W Erricson, Smith, 1 day from Charleston bound to Buck's Mill
27 Schr Mary, Pope, 15 days from Gandaloupe [sic] bound to Pope's Mill.

Cleared:
21 Schr. Halcyon, Patterson, wita [sic] 82 thousand feet of lumber for New Bedford from Pope's Mill.
26 Schr. Ann, Clark, with 71 thousand feet Lumber for Nantucket, from Pope's Mill.

1842: JUN 11, Winyah Observer, *Marine News*, Port of Georgetown
Cleared June 9 Schr. Louisiana [sic], Marsh, for New York—with 65 000 feet lumber, from Pope's Mill
Cleared – Schooner Mary, Pope, Kennebunk, 60 000 feet lumber from Pope's Mill



Raft of Tethered Logs in Georgetown courtesy of Georgetown County Digital Collection

1842: JUL 30; AUG 6; AUG 16; AUG 20; SEP 3; SEP 10; SEP 17; OCT 1; OCT 8; OCT 22; OCT 26; NOV 2; NOV 9; NOV 19; NOV 30; DEC 30, Winyah Observer "Notice: The copartnership heretofore existing under the firm of Pope & Smith in the lower Steam Mill, on Waccamaw—also in the store in Conwayborough is this day dissolved by mutual consent. The debts due the firm to be settled by A. Smith." Signed: Samuel Pope, Augustus Smith

NOTICE.

THE copartnership heretofore existing under the firm of **Pope** & Smith in the lower Steam Mill, on Waccamaw—also in the Store in Conwayborough is this day dissolved by mutual consent. The debts due the firm to be settled with A. Smith.

SAMUEL POPE.,
AUGUSTUS SMITH.

Horry District, }
July 20-30 th }

The absence of information about this partnership with Augustus Smith and its dissolution leaves us with questions and bits of answers. Mention of Smith has not been found beyond this public notice nor has his name been found in recorded deeds or censuses. Ads and marine news before July, 1842, frequently mention Pope's Mill. After this date there is mention of Buck's or Smith's Mill. "Pope's Mill" is not seen again. Was this the mill on the property purchased by Buck and Pope? Documentation has not been found to provide an answer, although available information at the time of this writing indicates that it was.

In the 1850 and 1860 censuses, Pope is living in Conwayborough with his trade listed as merchant. In 1846 Pope purchased four lots in Conwayborough and in 1847 purchased two more. Pope's presence as an active member of the Conwayborough community is well documented. His exact death date is unknown, but the minutes of Kingston Presbyterian Church contain the note, "On March 28, 1863, the Session passed resolutions on the death of Captain Samuel Pope, ruling elder of the church."

1842: OCT 1; OCT 8, Winyah Observer, Bucks-ville, Aug. 30, Henry Buck

BOARDS

Offers 300,000 feet of superior refuse boards, for sale at either my upper or lower steam mills on Waccamaw. Price at the mills \$4 per M—delivered at the Waccamaw or Pee Dee plantations at \$5. These boards are very prime for the name, they being the turn out from large logs used to supply a special contract with the government.

1842: OCT 15 Winyah Observer

Henry Buck, Bucksville selling lumber at "either my upper or lower steam mills on Waccamaw".

1842: NOV 26, Winyah Observer, Marine News, Port of Georgetown

Cleared:

Nov 25 brig Watchman, Clenk, Barbadoes [sic] and a market—from Smith's mill with 100 M. feet lumber.

1842: DEC 17, Winyah Observer, Marine News, Port of Georgetown

Cleared: "Schr Ann, Pope, Barbadoes [sic], with 80 m feet lumber."


1844: MAY 11, Winyah Observer

Steamboat excursion up the Waccamaw "will go up as far as Smith's Mill and to Buck's Mills if time will permit."

1844: MAY 18, Winyah Observer

Excursion—The steamer Anson, Capt. White, made an excursion up the Waccamaw as far as Smith's mill on Wednesday last to the great gratification of a large company. In addition to a large number of citizens from town, there were on board planters from the upcountry, and from the adjacent neighborhood, who had an opportunity of viewing the growing crop on the best rice lands in the Southern country. The day was cloudy, with a fresh breeze, and what with the band of music, a good dinner, and the refreshments which had been provided for the occasion, every passenger appeared to be highly gratified.

Steamboat excursion up Waccamaw.



The steamer ANSON, WHITE master will make an excursion up the Waccamaw on Wednesday next, and will go up as far as Smith's mill, and to Buck's mills if time will permit—and will return to town the evening of the same day. Fare \$1—children and servants half price, to be paid the Captain as the passengers go on board. E. WATERMAN,

The boat will depart for Charleston at 11 o'clock to-day and on Thursday morning.
at 7 o'clock. May 11.

The lumber business was now firmly in place in the Bucksville and Bucksport communities. Eventually, Henry Buck owned three mills on the Waccamaw—Upper, Lower and Middle Mills-- and the business he established survived the Civil War and prospered until the end of the 19th Century. The Upper Mill Plantation home he built at Rothmahler's Bluff in Bucksville still remains.²⁸

Accounts of the South Carolina economy from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War frequently concentrate on rice and cotton cultivation, with good reason. Though there is recognition that the naval stores and lumber industries were important to the state and county, the probability of Horry's numerous "uncultivated acres" being the source of trees and timber for these industries frequently appears to be overlooked. U.S. Census Agricultural Surveys did not include timber as a cash crop to be counted as income. The result of this omission is that most of Horry District appears to be made up of subsistence farmers with a small number of "improved acres" and very little profit. More probable, based on the development of the lumber industry in Horry, is that they were farming the virgin forests nature had provided.

Horry had large areas of widely sought after prime timber. Old growth pine and cypress were plentiful and growing conditions provided superior quality lumber. The forests of the Northern and Central States were rapidly being depleted. Though the rivers and swamps made land travel more difficult from the rest of South Carolina, they were the means for shipping lumber, turpentine, tar and rosin to a world that needed these products, as well as for bringing people into sparsely settled areas. Early residents and the men who were drawn to the area by the forests recognized their value and built an industry on Horry's native timber.

Endnotes:

¹<http://nationalregister.sc.gov/SurveyReports/SingletonSawmillSMextractedcontext.pdf>

² <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawmill> and <http://www.ledyardsawmill.org/types-of>

³ "Timber and Turpentine Industry: Naval Stores" Horry County Historical Society website.

⁴ Horry County, Will Book B, 7.

⁵ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawmill>

⁶ <http://files.usgwarchives.net/sc/military/revwar/service/g6500010.txt>

⁷ Cutts, Eugenia Buck, "Frances Norton Norman Buck (Mrs. Henry Buck) 1817-1885," IRQ 20:4:12.

⁸ Horry Count Deed Book B1, 582.

⁹ <http://www.researchonline.net/sccw/rosters/citcadb.htm>

¹⁰ Pickett, W. James III, "Cape Fear Picketts," 2008, 52.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Horry County Deeds, Book A No. 1, December 12, 1838, 415.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Google Books, The Insurance Year Book for 1879-80, Vol. 7, NY, Chicago, The Spectator Co. 1879.

¹⁵ Bedford, Goff, Dr., (1989). A Survey History of Horry County South Carolina (Revised Edition), 175.

¹⁶ South Carolina Marriages, 1641-1965, Ancestry.com, from Marriage and Death Notices, Southern Christian Advocate.

¹⁷ Thomas, Wynness and Boyle, Christopher C., "Postmasters of Conway from 1807-1933," IRQ 31:3:11

¹⁸ Bedford, 176, 183.

¹⁹ Cutts, Eugenia Buck. "Industry in Bucksport, S.C.," IRQ 3:1:31.

²⁰ Pickett, 57.

²¹ Horry County Deed Book K, 108.

²² Pickett, 49.

²³ Horry County Deed Book B1, 599.

²⁴ Cartrette, John P. "Industrial Development in Horry County," IRQ 7:4:5-10.

²⁵ Horry County Deed Book B1, October 22, 1835, 508 (Power of Attorney).

²⁶ Minutes of Kingston Presbyterian Church, Organized May 30, 1858, Conwayborough, S.C.

²⁷ Cartrette, J. Osby. "Early Masonic Lodges in Horry County," IRQ 17:1:1.

²⁸ Additional articles written by Eugenia Buck Cutts, great-granddaughter of Henry Buck, give accounts of the Buck family and their businesses in the following IRQs 3:1, 11:4, and 14:4.

☞ Sharyn Barbee Holliday is a director with the Horry County Historical Society. Now retired from Horry County Schools as a school nurse, she and husband, Frank, live in Conway and have two daughters and three grandchildren.

HCHS Spring Tour Saturday, April 20, 2013

Tour North Island where General Marquis de Lafayette landed in America and Peter Horry spent his summers. Dr. Roy Talbert Jr., history professor at Coastal Carolina University, co-editor of The Journal of Peter Horry, South Carolinian: Recording the New Public 1812-1814 will be the tour guide.

Boat tour cost is \$32.00 per person. Depart the Georgetown dock promptly at 9:00 a.m. (Park on the streets around the Town Clock.)

**For reservations contact Cap'n Rods Tours
843-477-0287 or e-mail: ladyfranada@aol.com**

(The boat has clean, modern restrooms, snacks and drinks available, and is handicap accessible.)

Thomas S. Pickett Murdered and Two Daughters Wounded

By Sharyn B. Holliday and V. Chyrel Stalvey

The following newspaper articles relay the unfortunate events involving former partners in Pickett's Mill at Hillen's Landing—the Cannons and Picketts—who are mentioned in the preceding article.

In September 1865, all African-American soldiers stationed in North Carolina were ordered to be mustered out. Some were stationed at Ft. Fisher near Wilmington. The presence of these troops on the local African-American population was thought to be very dangerous. Apprehension was felt by the general population, fearing an insurrection. The condition of affairs became so tenuous that General Thomas H. Ruger, commander of the Department and District of North Carolina, forbade any African-American soldiers to leave the fort unless accompanied by a white officer.¹

In spite of efforts taken, a tragedy took place at the home of Samuel N. and Sarah E. Cannon on the Cape Fear Sound. Sarah's brother, Thomas S. Pickett, and his wife, Mary, and two daughters were visiting them. Thomas was murdered and other family members were harmed by three soldiers from the African-American garrison at Fort Fisher in company with an African-American man from Wilmington.

Wilmington Herald, Tuesday, January 16, 1866
On Wednesday night [January 10] about 11:00 pm, a party of Negroes came to the house of Mr. Samuel Cannon on the Sound, about 5 miles from this place, and after the family had all retired, except Mrs. Pickett and knocked at the door and in answer to her inquiry as to who was there, they replied, "Friends, and no one to hurt you." She then called out to her husband, Mr. Pickett, to go to the door, which he immediately did, but on opening the door, he was shot by some person or persons outside, the ball entering the breast and passing through his body and coming out of his back. Mr. Cannon, who was aroused by the noise of the firing, jumped out of bed and got as far as the door and seeing a negro in the yard who called to him and told him he had better get back or he would shoot him, he accordingly turned back and ran out of the back door and went over to one of the neighboring houses and got the gentlemen at whose house he reached to go back with him and assist him arresting the parties, but arriving back to Mr. Cannon's house, the Negroes were nowhere to be seen. In the meantime, while Mr. Cannon was gone, and after Mr. Pickett was shot, 2 Negroes entered the house, one of them armed with a large holster pistol and the other

with an axe and cried out, "Kill her, Kill her." [Mary Pickett], whereupon she pleaded for her life and told them to take what they wanted and leave, but instead of doing so, they approached Mr. Pickett's [23 year-old] daughter, Caroline and one of them struck her over the head with a shotgun, which was in the house, belonging to Mr. Pickett, which inflicted a severe wound in her head, cutting a gash about 3 or 4 inches long. Miss Carter, Mr. Pickett's step-daughter, was also seriously wounded in the head from a blow inflicted by a pistol. Mrs. Cannon was shot at several times, but made her escape by crawling under the house and remaining there until these inhuman wretches had gone. Coroner Wood yesterday went down to the place and called a jury and held an inquest over the body of Mr. Pickett. The jury returned a verdict, "That the deceased, Thos. S. Pickett, came to his death by a shot wound, inflicted by some person or persons to the jury unknown." No arrests have as yet been made, although suspicion points strongly to certain parties of Negro Soldiers as having been implicated in the affair. The Journal says: In reference to this outrageous murder of one of our most respectable citizens, it is proper to remark that the murderers were Negroes, but there is no certainty whether they belonged to the Army or not. We are assured that the military authorities will cooperate with the Coroner of the County, John C. Wood, Esquire, in ferreting out the perpetrators of this blood thirsty homicide. We understand the Miss Carter, a daughter in law of Mr. Pickett, was struck in the head with a gun. The daughter of Mr. Pickett also received a severe wound on the head in a similar manner. The wounds of these two ladies may not prove fatal, still they are considered dangerous. The murderers should be bought [sic] to justice, if it is possible to ferret [sic] them out.

Wilmington Herald, Thursday, January 18, 1866
The murderers of Thos. S. Pickett. It gives us great pleasure to be able to state that, through the untiring exertions of the military authorities, combined with the citizens, four of the supposed murderers of the _____ye gentleman, at the house of Samuel N. Cannon, Esquire last Wednesday night [January 10, 1866], have _____fied. There is still one more, at least, yet out. He will, in all probability, be secured in due season. It may not be out of place here to state that a number of the colored population have aided materially in ferreting out the murderers and too much credit cannot be given them for the active part they have taken in this matter.

Wilmington Journal, Saturday, January 20, 1866

Miss [Caroline] Pickett, the daughter of the late Thos. S. Pickett, the lady who was seriously wounded at the time her father was murdered, is yet in a very critical condition, so much so that very little hopes are entertained of her recovery. Her friends are desirous of moving her to this place, so as to obtain the constant care and attention of her physicians, but she is in no state to undergo a removal.

The articles give conflicting accounts of whether Miss Carter is a stepdaughter or a daughter-in-law. We do know that Thomas' second wife, Mary P. Carter who he married in 1858, had children from a previous marriage and believe that "Miss Carter" is his stepdaughter. The 1860 New Hanover Census gives further evidence that it should be Thomas's stepdaughter, Mary's daughter. After Thomas' death Mary ran a boarding house in Wilmington.

Although the African-American population assisted in finding the men, Thomas' death was widely reported and was used as a prime example of why African-American freedman troops should be withdrawn from North Carolina.² Upon Governor William W. Holden's complaints, the garrison at Ft. Fisher was removed.³

Endnotes:

¹ Hamilton, Joseph Gregoire de Roulhac. Reconstruction in the North Carolina by Joseph Gregoire de Roulhac Hamilton (Edwards & Broughton, 1906), 146-147.

²Pickett, W. James III, "Cape Fear Picketts," 2008, 49-52.

³ Hamilton, 147.

HCHS Tours the New Horry County Museum

At its membership meeting on January 13, the Historical Society received a sneak preview of the newly renovated Horry County Museum at Ninth Avenue and Main in Conway. Museum Director Walter Hill led the tour.

This has been a work in progress since 2003 when Horry County Council designated the Burroughs School for use as the Horry County Museum. Many visitors recalled memories of attending the old Burroughs School.



The architectural addition of the helical staircase lends a dramatic air as visitors enter the building.



.....More Museum Photos Courtesy of Janice G. Cutts



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The Independent Republic Quarterly Staff

V. Chyrel Stalvey.....Editor
 Staff: J. Benjamin Burroughs, Janice G. Cutts,
 Carlisle E. Dawsey, B. Pratt Gasque Jr., and
 Sharyn B. Holliday

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STORIES IN STONE

HORRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In Partnership with

Peter Horry Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution and Sons of Confederate Veterans Litchfield Camp 132



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CONWAY - 1898 Sanctuary & graveyard

HEBRON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - c. 1848 Sanctuary & graveyard

BUCK FAMILY CEMETERY - established 1865

All sites are listed on The National Register of Historic Places

Combination Package: \$30 per person

Friday, April 12, 2013

Tour A: First Methodist 9 a.m./Hebron & Buck Cemetery 11 a.m.

Tour B: Hebron & Buck Cemetery 1 p.m./First Methodist 3 p.m.

Saturday, April 13, 2013

Tour C: First Methodist 9 a.m./Hebron & Buck Cemetery 11 a.m.

Tour D: Hebron & Buck Cemetery 1 p.m./First Methodist 3 p.m.

BRYAN HOUSE DOCENT-GUIDED TOURS

606 Main Street, Conway S.C.

\$5 per person

Friday & Saturday, April 12 & 13, 2013

10:00 am & 2:00 pm



TICKETS

LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS AVAILABLE FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE BASIS

Upon receipt of your "Advance Ticket Request Form", tour ticket(s) will be mailed to you.

- Pick up forms in Conway at: Conway Visitor Center - 903 Third Avenue; Conway Chamber of Commerce - 203 Main Street; and Bodega - 301 Main Street
- Online: Horry County Historical Society website - www.hchsonline.org
- On home page click on "Stories in Stone - Advance Ticket Request Form"
- Email: cutts@hchsonline.org
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