

2013

Independent Republic Quarterly, 2013, Vol. 47, No. 3-4

Horry County Historical Society

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Horry County Historical Society, "Independent Republic Quarterly, 2013, Vol. 47, No. 3-4" (2013). *The Independent Republic Quarterly*. 160.
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The Independent Republic Quarterly

A Publication of the
Horry County Historical Society

Volume 47, No. 3-4

ISSN 0046-8843

Publication Date 2014

Grissettes of Rose Lake Plantation

By Sharyn B. Holliday

Calendar Events:

- **Saturday, May 3—
Spring Tour** beginning at 10:00 a.m. at **Union Methodist Church** and ending at **Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge**
- **Sunday, July 13—
"Southern Culture"** with **Bill Brockington**
- **Sunday, October 12 —
"12 Things That Changed Horry County"** with **Dr. Eldred E. "Wink" Prince Jr.**

The Independent Republic Quarterly

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R. G. W. and Ann "Nancy" George Grissette, courtesy of Bill Holliday

Around the beginning of the nineteenth century, a Grissett family lived in the area of North Carolina that now comprises New Hanover, Brunswick and Columbus Counties. Many family members are still there, though others have moved throughout the country. Grissetts are known to have been in North Carolina from the mid-1700s, but the 1820 census identifies "R. George Grissett" as one of that surname in Horry District. The Horry census names "R George," but deeds, estate papers and family records use the name "George R" as will be used here. Brunswick County, N.C. is just

across the state line from Horry District, S.C., so George's property at Buck Creek in Horry District, near the N.C. boundary, was not far from his family home.

Though the 1820 Federal Census for Horry District was the first to identify a Grissett, county records indicate the family was in Horry before that time. In 1807, a "Joseph Griset" [sic] paid Robert Conway an unstated amount for his rights to "the land that my wife Ann Conway possessed [sic]." The land is not identified, nor do we know whether this Joseph was related to George Grissett, though George's brother, William, had a son named Joseph who would have been in his 30s at the time of this transaction. It is the earliest account in Horry land records of a Grissett in the county.¹

Courthouse records for Horry dating from 1769-1802, when it was a part of Georgetown District, were burned in 1865. There are indications that Grissetts were in Horry during that time period, however, definite information about their arrival through property purchase is not available.

Professional genealogist, Neil D. Thompson, discovered records in Brunswick County placing Reuben Grissett, father of George, in that county from 1784 until 1800. He is counted in the New Hanover County Census for 1800. A fragment of county court minutes for 1801 refers to the filing of an account of sales from his estate; so, he had died by that date. The account is dated

October 2, 1801; however, the name of Reuben's wife is not given. His surviving two children, the wife of Thomas Livingston, Mary C. Grissett Livingston, and George R. Grissett, residents of Horry District are named. Years later, in 1814, these children sold three tracts containing a total of 1,040 acres from his estate in Brunswick County, N.C.²

Though Reuben's wife was not named in his estate papers, the identification of her children provides valuable information. Marriage records in both North and South Carolina show the marriage of Edward Conner and Sarah Grissett on January 26, 1807, at least six years after Reuben's death. There were other Sarah Grissetts in the same time period, but Sarah Grissett Conner's will, recorded January 29, 1851, contains a bequest to two of her Livingston great grandchildren, grandchildren of Mary identified in Reuben's estate papers. Sarah is found in the 1850 census at 81 years of age living with R. G. W. Grissette and his family. These facts taken together suggest that R. G. W. Grissette was her grandson from a first marriage to Reuben Grissett.

An 1819 deed describes the sale of "all that plantation or tract of land containing thirty three acres more or less being part of a tract granted to William Hull the second day of June 1772."³ George R. Grissett is selling this land to Edward G. Conner on January 15, 1819, for \$450. The tract is bordered by land that is already owned by Grissett on the west side of the Waccamaw River and by Conner in the Hull's Island area. The deed description states that both men already owned property in the area. The lack of Horry District records for the purchase of lands already owned by Conner and Grissette indicate that they were here before the formation of the county.

The Grissetts were part of a group of related families from southeastern North Carolina who moved into Horry District during the years before the Revolution through the first half of the nineteenth century. Edward Conner came as a child with his parents and served in the Revolutionary War.⁴ He owned large tracts of land near present day Loris, then called Hull's Island, and served on early county boards and commissions. Frances Helen Eliza Grissette, daughter of George, married Thomas Pickett from southeastern North Carolina. Pickett, in partnership with his brother and a brother-in-law, built a steam sawmill on the Waccamaw River that was later sold to Henry Buck to become Buck's Middle Mill.

Why did these men, among others, come to Horry? The often repeated story of a county of subsistence farmers without transportation or commerce certainly does not apply to these men or others like them. Horry, like many other areas of South Carolina and the newly

formed United States of America, was made up of sparsely settled rural villages and communities in the early 1800s. Unlike many of the interior counties, Horry had a network of waterways providing transportation and shipping to move products to Atlantic ports to be shipped to world markets. This access to shipping gave Horry an advantage in marketing timber and naval stores from the vast forests of the day. People traveled easily to Georgetown, Charleston, Wilmington and other ports along the Atlantic coast--portals to the rest of the world.

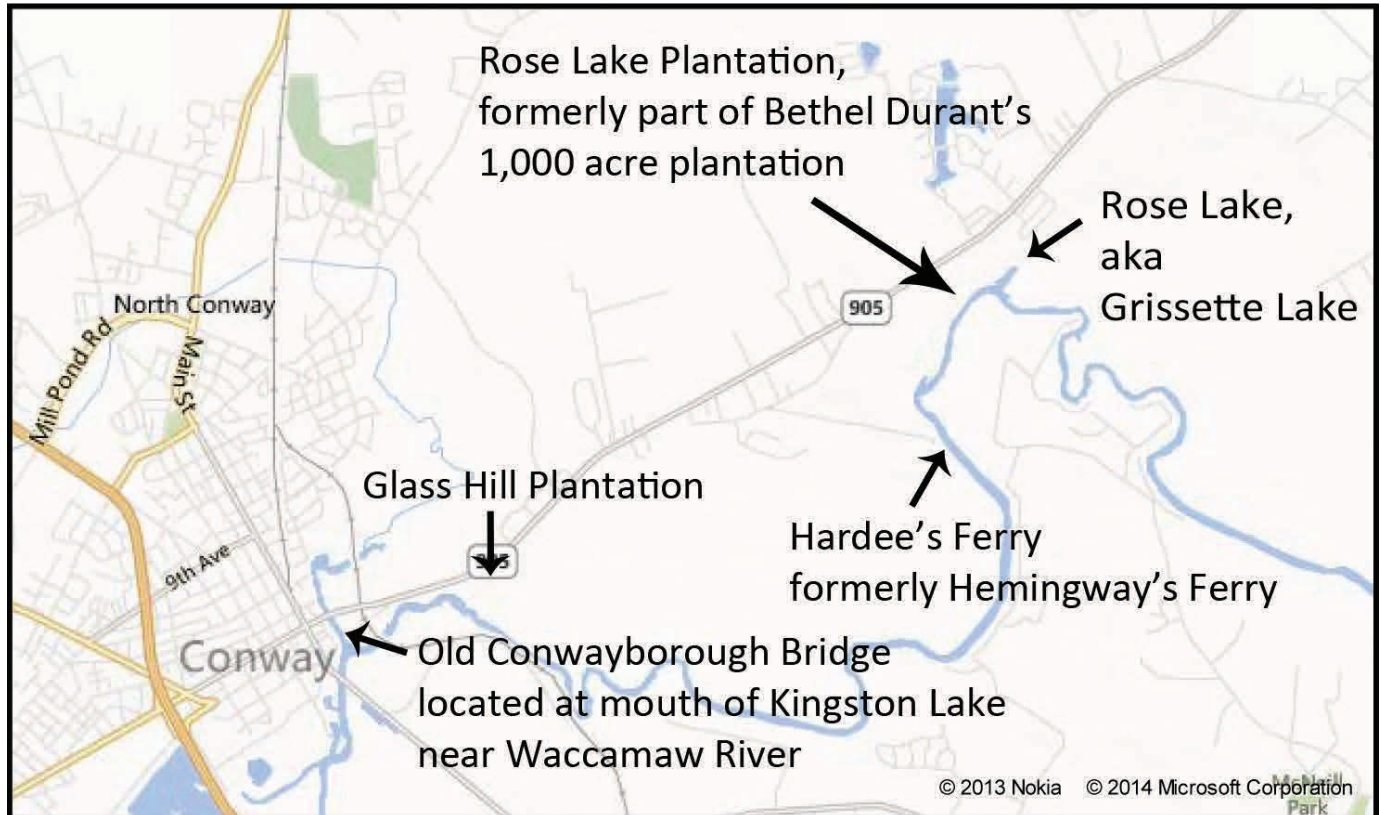
Horry District was developing during the decade of the 1820s; Robert Mills' map shows twenty schools and six meetinghouses. The population was 5,015 in 1820. A second courthouse was built in 1824-1825. (This courthouse is the building that has served as Conway City Hall since a larger County Courthouse was built in 1908.) By 1830 the commercial production of naval stores was important to the economy of the district.⁵

*Naval stores are goods (stores, or things stored for later use) used in building and maintaining ships. Originally, "naval stores" included every thing used to build a ship, including wood and cloth, but by the end of the colonial period it meant tar, pitch, and turpentine.*⁶

*Large scale production dates from 1705 when the English Parliament passed a law providing bounties on naval stores and other shipbuilding articles imported from the American colonies. Soon the Carolinas were leading the world in the manufacture of turpentine, tar and pitch and continued to do so until near the close of the nineteenth century. The naval stores industry thus established was the foundation of the economy of colonial North Carolina and an important feature of the economy of colonial South Carolina...*⁷

*Until about 1720, most of Carolina's naval stores were produced in South Carolina, but as settlers moved up the Cape Fear River in North Carolina, they began to manufacture naval stores there. North Carolina's industry grew so quickly that the ports of Brunswick (established in 1727) and Wilmington (in 1739) grew up to handle exports.*⁸

North Carolina families like the Grissetts who moved into Horry and purchased acres of woodlands after their arrival, appear to have raised limited food crops that would have required cleared land. Instead, they optimized the use of their land by producing naval stores from the native long leaf pines that were abundantly available. The new Horryites combined their knowledge of the naval stores industry with the vast natural resources of Horry to help create a significant industry for the state.⁹



Map by Bing Maps and Ben Burroughs.

Information about the Grissettes is limited. Fortunately, revealing glimpses into their lives are found in letters, family accounts and public records. Taken together, these sources show a family involved in their community and state who contributed to the development of their county.

The 1820 census shows George R. Grissett and his wife with two children. George's wife was Charity Wooten (1787-1833), born in North Carolina. They eventually had four children: Reuben George Wooten (December 10, 1814), Sara Elizabeth (February 16, 1817), Mary Honour (February 5, 1820), and Frances Helen Eliza (March 9, 1822). Sara Elizabeth and Mary Honour had died in infancy.¹⁰

George participated in his community, state and country while providing for his family. He is listed as a private in Gasque's Battalion in the War of 1812. Numerous newspapers in 1820 carried election precinct information for upcoming elections. George Grissett and Edward Conner are named as managers for one of the four precincts in the district.

George R. Grissett died on July 7, 1821 at the age of 31, leaving no will. A Letter of Administration was filed naming John Harris Sr. administrator for his es-

tate. A tax statement dated March 7, 1824, lists the taxable property in his estate as 1,770 acres of land and a lot in the town of Conwayborough.

Reuben George Wooten Grissette was not yet seven years old when his father died. The first two of his three given names were for his grandfather Reuben and his father George, followed by Wooten for his mother's family. He used all three initials of his name throughout his life. He also appears to have been the person to add the "e" to the Grissett name, making it Grissette with the accent on the last syllable.

Charity is shown in the 1830 census as head of household with one male, 15-19 years old and one female, five to nine years old, appropriate ages for her surviving children, Reuben and Frances Helen Eliza. During the ten years between the 1820 and 1830 censuses, two daughters were born. George and two of his young daughters, Mary Honour and Sara Elizabeth, had died. No information has been found to determine the cause of the deaths of half their family. Deadly epidemics during the early 1800s were greatly feared. Though we don't know the cause of the family deaths, there was an epidemic of an unnamed fever in the United States from 1820 to 1823.

Little family information is found in George's estate papers, but two items give insight into Reuben's youth. In 1828, Charles Fullwood was paid tuition, indicating

an education for one or both Grissett children. In 1830, J. G. Belleme [sic] was paid for "board for Master Reuben." The reason he was boarding with Belleme is not stated.¹¹

In 1833, Reuben G. W. and Frances H. E. Grissette paid Ellis Lay \$100 for his right to a tract on Buck Creek that was included in their father's estate. George's legacy gave his children more than adequate means from which to create a good life for themselves and their families.¹²

Reuben married Ann George (called Nancy, born December 6, 1815) from North Carolina on July 29, 1834, when he was 20 years old and she was 19.¹³ They settled in Horry District. The young couple had a large group of relatives in Horry, Columbus, Brunswick and New Hanover Counties with whom they visited and maintained contact.

Winifred Holliday Coles, a granddaughter of Reuben and Nancy, was born the year that both her Grissette grandparents died. She knew of her grandparents as kind people who opened their home to family members and friends in need of help. "Winnie" is the source of family stories repeated in this account. Her stories came from her mother, Mildred Annette Grissette Holliday, the third from youngest Grissette daughter. Winnie passed them on to her daughter, Annette Grissette Coles, and numerous other family members. She also left written notes about her Grissette grandparents.

The location of Reuben and Nancy's first home is unknown. They began their family in 1836 with the birth of a son, George David. The dates of birth of the older children, Serena Malvina "Mellie" (1837), Mary Elizabeth (1837), and Charity Ann (1839) vary slightly depending on the source of information, but in 1840 Reuben and Nancy welcomed their fifth child, Frances Cornelia "Fannie." The other children in order of birth were Judson DeKalb in 1842, Sara Adaline in 1843, Columbia Emiline "Pet" in 1845, Reuben Fourney "Furnie" in 1847, an unnamed infant in 1850, Mildred Annette "Nettie" in 1852, Louise Elnita "Lucy" in 1855, and finally, Ida Adde in 1858. There were 13 children and all but one survived to adulthood. The infant born in 1850 died when only twelve days old.¹⁴

The 1840 U.S. Census gives limited information about Reuben and his family. This is the last census to list only the name of Heads of Household with numbers for males and females in each age group. The Grissette household has two males, one from five to nine years old and the other twenty through twenty nine years old.



Rose Lake today, courtesy of Sharyn Holliday

Reuben, named as head of household is the adult and oldest child, George David would be the younger male. One female, Nancy, was listed as being between twenty and twenty nine years old. One female between five through nine would be "Mellie" and the two under five would be Mary Elizabeth and Charity Ann.

In April of 1843, Reuben purchased a plantation containing 750 acres bordered on the south and south-east by the Waccamaw River. This property was south of the land inherited from his father but in the same area of the district. He paid John Readmon \$2,000 for this property that is on present day Highway 905 about four miles beyond the Kingston Lake Bridge leaving Conway.¹⁵ Rose Lake is the name the Grissettes gave their land, their home and the finger of water formed from the Waccamaw River. Because the land was located on a bluff, it was protected from the frequent "freshets" of the time with gradual slopes to the river in some areas providing landings. A part of this plantation is still owned by his descendants. Their Rose Lake is now (in 2014) called Grissette Lake on some maps.

The land Reuben purchased was perfectly situated to engage in the business of the time, as well as being a good location for his home. There was adequate river frontage for three landings, and it was on the road from Conwayborough to Whiteville, N.C. The river access allowed for travel and for shipment of goods to and from Rose Lake. Family tradition says that Reuben had a store on his property and the presence of a "store landing" described in a deed supports this story. It is known that a descendant who inherited part of his property had a store which also served as the Rose Lake Post Office for a short time in the early 1900s.

Wills and deeds name friends who were neighbors of the Grissettes. John Durant died in 1846 and both Reuben and Ann were witnesses to his will. Durant owned large tracts near the Grissettes. A relative had sold the property on the banks of the Waccamaw to John Readmon from whom it was purchased by Reuben. Thomas Hemingway died in 1847 and nominated "my friends" R. G. W. Grissette and John Readmon and "my brother" H. D. Hemingway as executors. Readmon and Grissette took their positions as executors seriously by providing a home for the sons of their friend. Thomas Hemingway's sons, Thomas and William, are living with Readmon in the 1850 census and with Reuben's family in the 1860 census.

The old Durant Cemetery with the graves of seven Durant family members and two Readmons remain on the property owned consecutively by Bethel Durant, George Durant, John Readmon, and R. G. W. Grissette. A modern brick home now sits behind the marked graves. In a separate area beside the house is a marker for Judson Grissette. Homes built by Durant and Grissette are gone.



Old Durant Cemetery, photo by Sharyn Holliday

Reuben was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives for Kingston Parish, Horry, in 1848, as reported in the *Edgefield Advertiser*. Joel B. Skipper was elected Senator the same year.¹⁶ The *Winyah Observer* in November of that year names the place represented by these men "Horry District."

The April 21, 1848, issue of the *Charleston Courier* carried an article first printed in the *Marion Star*. The disagreements between the South and North that would lead to the War Between the States were clearly evident in Horry District. The following account of the meeting is abbreviated from the article.

...a large and respectable meeting of the citizens of Horry District, held at Conwayboro' on the 3d inst. ... Peter Vaught, Esq. was called to the Chair, and Col. J. Beaty and B. E. Sessions requested to act as Secretaries.

The Chair appointed a committee to draft resolution expressive of the sense of the meeting. T. J. Hewie, Julius Anderson, W. D. Bryant, John Readmon, Alex. Godbold, Thos. Randall, Thomas Sessions, W. H. Johnson, and H. Buck were appointed to the committee.

The Hon. Joel B. Skipper and R. G. W. Grissette were appointed to request His Honor Judge Richardson to address the meeting.

During their absence, the Hon. John McQueen addressed the meeting "at some length with a very forcible and impressive speech." He gave "minute historical detail of the constant encroachment upon the Institutions of the South by the Abolitionists, now called the Free Soil party."

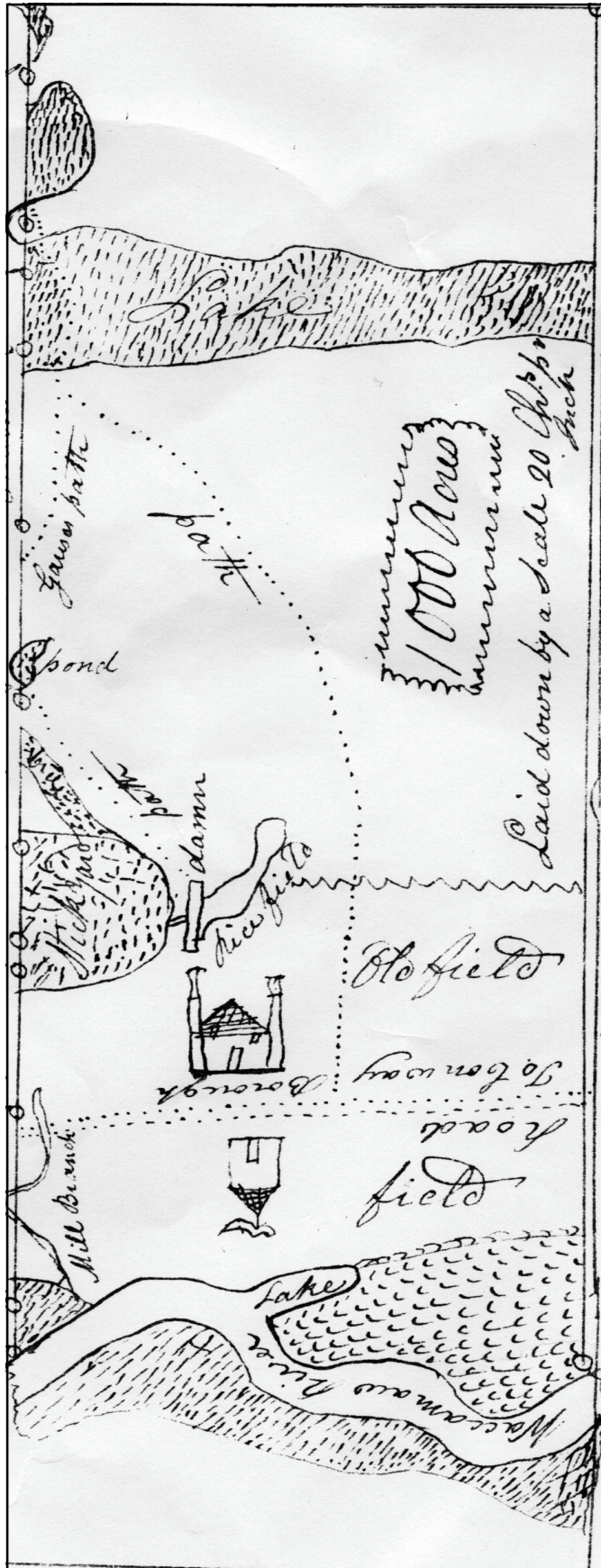
The Resolution Committee reported with a lengthy statement and resolutions. The last two resolutions are as follows:

Resolved, That we will cordially unite with our fellow-citizens of the Southern States in any measure of resistance that may be deemed advisable to check this war of aggression and officious intermeddling with our peculiar institutions.

Resolved, That the Chairman of this meeting appoint a Committee of Safety to consist of ___ to communicate with others of the same character appointed in the Southern States.

Judge Richardson had arrived ... addressed the meeting with the ease and polish which usually distinguishes the venerable orator.¹⁷

The Committee of Safety chosen at this meeting was comprised of the following gentlemen with names spelled as they appeared in the article. Hon. J. B. Skipper, R. G. W. Grissett, Ab. Belleme, W. S. Reaves, W. Todd Sr., T. L. Hardee, T. Sessions, Felix Powell, P. Lewis, T. A. Beaty, Jas. Floyd, J. W. Hardee, J. A. Johnson, Pugh Floyd, J. Kirton, J. Reynolds, E. Skipper, W. H. Johnston, S. W. Norman, J. Manning, W. O. Clark, H. Buck, B. A. Thomson, U. A. Delettre, J. M. Woodward, R. Green, John Causey, Jas. Beaty, J. J. Kirton, W. J. Graham, Hartford Jones, A. Wilson, W. D. Bryan, J. Belleme, Thos. Randall, W. W. Jordan, D. R. Newton, W. W. Waller, S. G. Singleton, B. J. Sessions, D. W. Oliver, Geo. King, W. Phillips and Jno. Tilman.¹⁸



Transcription beside 1823 Grissett property plat
(on the left):

Horry District Records
Plat Book C
page 69

South Carolina

Pursuant to a warrant from John Durant, Esquire
Commissioner of Locations for the District of Horry
- Dated the 7th Day of November 1823 I have ad-
measured and Laid out unto Bethel Durant a tract
of Land containing one thousand acres situate in
the said District on the North West side of
Waccamaw River Bounded North East by said B.
Durants land South East by Waccamaw River
South West by Benjamin Gausens Land and North
West by Land unknown and hath such form and
marks as the above plat represents.

Surveyed the 8th Day of November 1823.
Dan§ [Dennis] Hankins D.S. [Deputy Surveyor]
Entered [sic] this office 12th November 1823

*1823 Plat of Durant Plantation. Reuben Grissette
purchased 750 acres of this land in 1843.*

The 1850 U.S. Census gives a clearer picture of the
Grissette family than that of 1840. For the first time,
each household member is named, though in this case
the census taker used initials for the given names of the
children. R. G. W. Grissette is 36 years old, a farmer.
The value of his real estate is \$7,000. Family members
listed are Ann Grissette 34; Sarah Conner, 81; G D
[George David], 15; S M [Serena Malvina], 13; M E
[Mary Elizabeth], 12; C A [Charity Ann], 10; F C
[Frances Cornelia], 9; J D [Judson DeKalb], 8 ; S A ,
[Sarah Adeline], 6; C E [Columbia Emiline], 4; and, R
F, [Reuben Fourney], 2.

1852 was an eventful year for the Grissette family.
A daughter, Mildred Annette, called Nettie, was born.
Another daughter, Mellie, married James Congdon
Beaty and moved out of the family home. Reuben ran
for the S.C. Senate against incumbent Joel Skipper and
won the election. This resulted in Reuben's continued
involvement in the politics of South Carolina during the
decade leading up to the war.

Personal recollections, as well as a description of
social life in "the Boro," from Grissette family members
is found in surviving letters written in 1855. The first
letter was written by one of the sisters to Charity Ann
who was visiting relatives in Wilmington during the
Christmas season.

*Rose Lake Plantation
December 30, 1855.*

Dearest Charity,

I have just returned home and eaten dinner, and now seat myself to write to you; but I hardly know how to commence. I have been to so many parties, and frolicked so much that I can scarcely think of one thing long enough to write it.

We have frolicked [sic] all the past week until last night midnight. I feel as fresh this morning as ever. If it were not Sunday, I could frolick again tonight, but I must have a little compassion on my poor little innocent soul.

We had a quilting party last Wednesday and the house was full of people. Even the Pa and the Ma played. We danced all night long till broad daylight in the morning. There were some of the prettiest young gentlemen there that you ever saw. Mr. Freeman and Mr. McFadden were there. They have come to the Boro since you left. Mr. Freeman is beautiful. He has got the keenest blue eyes that I ever saw, and is the mildest, most modest and unassuming young man I know of; but for all that he is very lively and funny.

We went down to the John Wilsons on Friday evening last to a party and never got home until today. That was a splendid party. I assure you it was capital, and we enjoyed ourselves to the highest degree. I never enjoyed myself half so well in all of my life of a Christmas as I have this one . . . I will tell you all when I see you. . .

Goodnight. Write soon to your

Darling Sugar Plum.

In 1856, Mary Elizabeth and Charity Ann entered Limestone Springs Female High School in Spartanburg, the forerunner institution of Limestone College. "When Limestone College was established in 1845, it was the first women's college in South Carolina and one of the first in the United States."¹⁹

The following letter from their father was probably one of the first the Grissette girls received shortly after they arrived at the college. Reuben's words give an indication of his character and the expectations he had for his children.

*Rose Lake Plantation
Conway Boro, So. Car.*

My Dear Daughters,

I received your letter and it afforded me a great deal of satisfaction to hear from you and to learn that you were as well satisfied as you are. It is true you com-

plained of your bedding being very hard. Is not your bed as good as the rest of the girls' beds? Do they complain of theirs, or not? You ought to tell Mr. Curtis that you are not used to lying on a mattress and that you do not sleep comfortable, and ask him for a feather bed.

I am in hopes you will become contented when you become better acquainted with the modes and customs, and acquainted with the students. I want you to use all your energies to excell in learning and get your education. It would afford me a great deal of pleasure for both of you to stand at the head of your classes. You are old enough to know the benefit of an education, and to feel the want of it, and to know that it was for your good that I sent you so far from home, that you might see a little of the world and the different classes of society; for I can assure you that it is no pleasure to me for you to be so far from me if I did not think it was for your benefit.

Try to conduct your selves so as to have the good will of the teachers and all that you get acquainted with. Don't use any nicknames, nor treat any with contempt. If you do not like them and cannot make associates of them, treat them courteously and politely, and try to make friends and not enemies; but don't be imposed on by anyone. Be slow to form an intimate friendship with any. . .

You must write to us every week, one or the other of you, if it is only a few lines to tell us how you are. Give us a full description of the school and its management, and how you like the folks and the country and those high hills we saw. If you don't think it is a prettier country than down here. Some of us will write to you often.

Be very particular about what you buy, and take a memorandum of all you buy and the price you give for it.

Charity spoke of taking a frolick of snowballing and that Mary had sore throat. I expect that she ate too much snow, and played in it too much. It is the healthiest to wash in cold water, and not to have fire in the rooms, even if it is not the most comfortable.

You must write soon to let us know how Mary has got of the cold and sore throat, and how both of you are getting along. We never got your letter until this morning.

We all join in sending our love to both of you.

*Yours affectionately,
R .G. W. Grissette*

March 2, 1856.

P. S. You must not think hard of me for not telling you goodbye at Yorkville, or my running away from you. I got home safe on Thursday night after I left you at Yorkville. It rained on me all the way."

Part of another letter from their father dated September 16, 1856, gives an account of their progress at school, as well as happenings at home. That letter states...

I am proud too when I look over the reports sent me and see so few bad marks against you, and the improvement you have made in writing . . . My crop is better than I thought it could be in July . . . I planted no rice this year..... We are all in good health at this time, hoping these lines may find you enjoying yourselves first rate and learning like a mockingbird, and that we may live and meet in December, all well and hearty. All the family, white and black ones, give their love to you both.²⁰

1858 began with a joyous occasion for Reuben and Nancy, the birth of their last child, Ida Adde, on February 7. Sadly, joy was followed by sorrow. George D. Grissette, their first born son, died in Fair Bluff, N.C., on July 24, 1858 at the age of 22. The cause of his death is not known. George had not married; his death must have been a blow to the entire family.

The Georgetown newspaper reported that R. G. W. Grissette, Conwayboro', stayed at the Dorrill House, a local hotel, during February, 1858. It would not be uncommon for an Horry businessman to visit Georgetown, the closest port city through which commerce was conducted. Georgetown also had banks that were not available in Conwayboro'. Commission Merchants conducted business with those shipping products through the port. The Court of Equity for Horry District had not moved from Georgetown until the 1840s, so Horry people still had business connections in Georgetown. River boats traveled between the two towns. It was also a stop for those traveling to Charleston, Wilmington or other Atlantic ports for business or pleasure.

The U.S. Federal Census of 1860 tells of the Grissette family's situation on the eve of the War Between the States. The Agricultural Survey and Slave Schedules provide additional information. R. G. W. Grissette is listed as a 45 year old farmer born in South Carolina. The value of his real estate is \$20,000 and the value of his personal estate is \$32,159. Family members include Ann Grissette, 44 years old, born in North Carolina and their children born in South Carolina, Frances, 20; Judson, 18; Adeline, 16; Columbia, 14; Furney, 12; Mildred A., 8; Louis E, 6; and, Ida, 2. Also in the home are Thomas K. and William C. Hemingway, sons of Thomas Hemingway Sr. Reuben served as administra-

tor for the will of Thomas after his death in 1847 and apparently helped raise his sons.

Farming assets are enumerated in the Agricultural Survey. There were 250 improved acres and 3,850 unimproved acres. The cash value of the farm was \$1500, and the value of farming implements and machinery was \$150. Grissette had four horses, 14 milch cows, 12 working oxen, 60 other cattle and 100 swine. The value of livestock was \$1500. The farm grew 1200 bushels of Indian corn and 300 bushels of oats. The Slave Schedule tells us Reuben owned 28 slaves in 1860.

An available website converts money values from the past into equivalent value of 2012 dollars. Though not exact, it gives us an idea of the present day value of 1860 dollars. Reuben's 1860 real estate value of \$20,000 would be worth \$503,698 in 2012 dollars. His personal estate of \$32,159 would translate to \$809,922.

The census numbers make it clear that Reuben had a source of income that is not clearly shown on the agricultural census. His sizable worth cannot be explained by the sale of the farm products reported. The two most common cash crops of the day, rice and cotton, would have appeared on the survey. He had an abundance of the third cash crop, trees, on his 3,850 "unimproved" acres. Tar, pitch, rosin, and turpentine were supplied by the long leaf pine trees growing abundantly in Horry in the nineteenth century. Lumber came from pine and cypress. It should be noted that the "unimproved acres" item listed on the agricultural survey does not necessarily mean the land was not income producing. The term "unimproved acres" is therefore misleading when those acres are blessed with good stands of long leaf pines and other good timber, as was the case in Horry.²¹

Documentation is difficult to find for individual sales of naval stores and timber. Products were sold through commission merchants to purchasers. The producers, merchants and buyers involved would be the only people to have records of the sales, and few of those records are known to have survived.

There are sources indicating Reuben's involvement in the naval stores industry. The 1889 deed conveying 200 acres of the Rose Lake property to Reuben's daughter, Mildred Annette, gives the boundaries on the Waccamaw River. Three of the landmarks named are the store landing, the timber landing and Grissette landing. The named timber and store landings would indicate their purpose. Cut timber was commonly loaded onto vessels or floated down the river to be milled. The easiest way to transport barrels of turpentine was also by the river.

The division of property between Grissette and T. W. Graham when their business dissolved in 1873



(LtoR) Winifred Holliday (Coles) and Nettie Maude Holliday (Adams), daughters of Mildred Annette Grissette Holliday, courtesy of Christy Douglas

includes the equipment that is used to make turpentine. Involvement in this industry would account for Reuben's financial success. Naval stores were a mainstay of Horry's economy during his lifetime.

A news item in a Wilmington newspaper gives a humorous account of the business climate in Conwayboro in the 1850s.

A fat, jocular old gentleman, writing from Conwayborough, (S. C.) to a young friend of ours in this place, says:-

*There are so many men here hunting Turpentine land, that we can't turn around without getting bruised, or our toes mashed...*²²

Reuben's estate papers contain an account of expenses and expenditures during the years that the estate was being settled. One item of income is rental for "turpentine boxes" used in the production of turpentine. "The predominating forest of trees, at that time, was the long leaf pine from which the sap was extracted. A notch or box, as it was called was cut near the ground in the tree, holding about a quart."²³ The estate administrator was renting the turpentine production from pines on Grissette's property, probably continuing a practice begun by Reuben.

Reuben Grissette's son, Judson, "joined for duty and enrolled" in Co. L of the 7th Regiment of South Carolina Volunteers on June 26, 1861, in Conwayboro. His

muster-in rank was 2nd Sgt. in Capt. W. C. White's Company. He was elected a promotion to Brevet 2nd Lieutenant on September 17, 1862. On September 20, 1863, he was wounded at the Battle of Chickamauga. Because he was "unfit for military duty," there were hospital stays and furloughs. On August 27, 1864, a register from the Medical Director's Office in Richmond, Va., with the heading "Officers recommended for leaves of absence" lists J. D. Grissette. He continued to suffer complications from a pelvic fracture preventing his return to the battlefield. On December 28, 1864, he was acting as an enrolling officer due to a Surgeon's Certificate. An undated and unsigned comment on a roster states, "Gallant and efficient but disabled." The fighting had ended for Judson, though we do not know the date he was discharged.²⁴

The *Fayetteville Observer* of Monday, February 27, 1865, carried the following item. "Married, in Fair Bluff, on the 9th Feb., at the residence of the bride's father, by Rev. C.T. Anderson, Lt. J.D. Grissette of Conwayboro', S.C. to Miss Mary Ann, daughter of Mr. J. B. Fleming of Sumter, S.C."

While his son was away at war, Reuben was contributing to the effort at home. Salt was necessary to feed armies and citizens. "Confederate President Jefferson Davis offered to waive military service to anyone willing to tend coastal salt kettles to supply the South's war effort. In addition to dietary salt, the Confederacy needed the precious mineral to tan leather, dye cloth for uniforms and preserve meat."²⁵ The South Carolina coast was a vital source for salt production from sea water.

The state of South Carolina contracted with local businessmen to deliver the salt so desperately needed by the Confederacy. Gen. W. W. Harlee appointed Joseph T. Walsh to be the agent to make the contracts. Grissette & Co. held a contract, got their salt from "near Little River" and agreed to deliver it "on Waccamaw." Whether the men with the contracts actually collected the salt or acquired it from those who did is not stated.

The Grissette & Co. contract specified the following:

*To deliver on Waccamaw 600 bushels, at \$4 per bushel, at following times: 100 bushels on Nov. 1, '62; 100 bushels on Jan 1, '63; 100 bushels March 1, '63, 300 bushels June 1, '63. Of the advance \$1200 to be cash, and \$1200 on June 1, '63.*²⁶

Other Horry businesses with contracts for salt were William J. Graham; H. Buck & W. J. Graham; T. W. Beaty; Buck & Sarvis; F. Baum & Co.; and, Townley, Stevenson & Waring.²⁷

Like other Southerners who survived, the Grissettes struggled through the War and Reconstruction, but their lives were vastly changed.

Family stories identify Reuben as one of the people who helped start a Baptist Church in Conway. The minutes of the Welsh Neck Baptist Association of November 10, 1866, include the note that the Conwayboro' and Florence Baptist Churches, recently constituted, were received as constituent members. These minutes do not show the names of the ten members who made up the Conwayboro' church. No list of names has been found; however, the traditional list included R. G. W. Grissette, J. A. Mayo, W. C. Ludlam, J. H. Jollie and W. H. Alford, as well as Mrs. Ludlam, Mrs. Jollie, Miss Sallie Jollie and two Grissette daughters, Mrs. J. W. Holliday, Sr. and Miss Nettie. Reuben was a delegate to the Annual Associational Meetings on occasion. Miss Nettie Grissette was one of the first organists, using a "pump" organ. Conwayboro' Baptist Church became First Baptist Church of Conway.²⁸

Two Grissette daughters were married a month apart in 1867. On June 15, Fannie Grissette married B. Lewis Beaty at the residence of Mrs. M. C. Beaty in Conwayboro. The *Charleston Daily News* of July 27 carried a notice about the other daughter. "On the 16th of July, at the residence of the bride's father, by the Rev. W. A. Gregg, Mr. James M. Powell of North Carolina, to Miss C. E. [Columbia Emiline] Grissette, of Horry, South Carolina."

As a result of the War Between the States, the altered circumstance of the Grissette family is seen in the report of the 1870 U.S. Census when compared that of 1860. Reuben is head of household at 54 years of age. The value of his real estate is \$3,000 (\$20,000 in 1860), personal estate is \$250 (\$32,159 in 1860). Family members still in the home are Nancy, 53; Addie, 24; Nettie, 16; Lon [Lucy], 14; Ida A., 12; and Furney, 22.

Chowan Baptist Female Institute Catalog for the Murfreesboro, North Carolina school lists the names of Mildred A. Grissette and Lucy E. Grissette of Horry District in the issue dated October of 1870 through July of 1872. It is interesting to note a few lines from the "Government" section of the catalog stating the behavior expected of students of their day. *"The government is mild and parental...No young lady will be allowed to*

remain long in the school, whose example tends to encourage idleness or subordination ...Pupils from abroad are not permitted to make visits or to receive them, except from relations, or friends from their own neighborhoods. Boarding pupils never leave the Institute premises except when attended by an officer of the Institution or a near relative. ... Costly dressing is discouraged, and the wearing of useless jewelry strictly prohibited."

Winnie Coles left a note about her grandparents' family that said all of their children except their oldest daughter attended college. College attendance has not been confirmed for all their children. However, because of the sentiments expressed in Reuben's letter to his daughters at Limestone and with the knowledge that

two of the younger daughters attended Chowan during the years following the War, it is likely that the Grissettes offered the same opportunity to all their children.

An item in the local newspaper tells a bit about life on the banks of the Waccamaw River in 1871.

Who Can Beat This? – In one day, last week, Mr. R. G. W. Grissett and his neighbor Jones killed in a lake near his house, thirty-five alligators; the next day, returning to the same place, he and his son Furney killed ten

more, making forty five in all. These amphibious animals ranged in length from two and a half to eight feet.

Last week Mr. R. G. W. Grissett and his neighbors killed a fine buck, weighing 121 pounds net. – Horry News.²⁹

On July 5, 1872, an agreement was made between F. A. Higgins, Commission Merchant of New York and T. W. Graham and R. G. W. [Reuben] Grissette doing business under the name of T. W. Graham & Co. The agreement set out terms under which the Horry firm could order merchandise on credit or have cash advanced by Higgins. The Horry business apparently had merchandise shipped from New York for local customers and possibly sold their turpentine in return.³⁰

A second agreement between partners Graham and Grissette is dated January 1, 1873. Isaac G. Long, S. S. Beaty and L. N. Anderson have been chosen as arbitrators to equitably divide the property of the firm of



The original sanctuary of the Conwayboro' Baptist Church congregation, courtesy of Weeza Smith

T. W. Graham & Co. Grissette took the improvements consisting of real estate valued at \$306.25, Spts. [Spirits] shed, glue shed, cooper shop, store house, distiller house and still shelters. Graham took the personal property valued at \$1,411.95 consisting of still and fixtures including glue kettles, two mules, wagon, 1 lot of cooper tools, clamp for scales, ¼ interest in flat, and was allowed seventy five dollars for moving the still. A balance was due to Grissette by Graham of \$477.85.³¹

The 1880 Census shows a small household for the Grissettes. Reuben is 65, Ann "Nancy" is 64. Judson, 39 years old is living with his parents and sisters, working on the farm. Nettie, 26, and Lucy, 23, are both living with their parents and teaching school. Caroline Tyler is listed as a servant.

Two more Grissette weddings took place at Rose Lake. In 1881, Lucy married Samuel Scarborough Sarvis and, afterwards, they made their home in Socastee. Their house is now known as the "Sarvis House" and serves as headquarters of the Socastee Heritage Foundation located on the corner of Peachtree Road and old Highway 544. In January of 1891, Nettie, at 39 years of age, married J. W. Holliday of Galivants Ferry, the widower of her sister, Mary Elizabeth. Mary had died of tuberculosis in Marion at the Planters Hotel on June 10, 1889. The hotel was owned by her husband and managed by some of her children.

Reuben gifted portions of his property during and after 1875. On December 21st of that year, he gave his daughter, Charity Ann Hughes, 400 acres on the Kingston Lake waters of the Waccamaw River.³² On March 10, 1882, Reuben gave the trustees of Hickory Grove Church one acre on the Whiteville Road five miles from Conwayboro for a church.³³ Nettie, the last child at home at the time of the deed, was the recipient of 200 acres "where I now live" on the Waccamaw River at Grissette Landing on January 12, 1889, reserving a lifetime right for Reuben and Nancy.³⁴

It is not known when Reuben and Nancy moved to Bucksville, but both were living there with their daughter and son-in-law, Fannie and Lewis Beaty, at the beginning of 1892. A family story tells of Reuben and Nancy during their final months when they were both ill and in declining health. As they lay in bed, they were content to be together, holding hands at times. Nancy died of old age on January 11, 1892. Less than three weeks later on January 30, Reuben succumbed to pneumonia. Both are buried in Hebron Church Graveyard at Bucksville.

Reuben and Nancy left a legacy of thirteen children and innumerable descendants. The following list of their children is taken from a family history account written in 1952 by Louise MacMillan of Marion, a great granddaughter, in response to a request by Horry gene-

alogist, Paul Quattlebaum. Louise writes that the original listing of children with dates of birth is taken from the R. G. W. Grissette family Bible; however, one daughter is not included in the transcription of birth dates though she is included in the family notes. There is an obvious error in dates of birth of two children reported as being born five months apart. MacMillan writes that the "marriages and deaths have been recorded mostly by Miss Nancy Beaty. She got the dates from the different children mostly." Where possible, her information is supplemented by census enumerations and gravestone inscriptions. The present location of the family Bible is unknown.

R. G. W. and Ann Grissette's children are listed below as they were written in the family Bible transcription. The second part of each listing gives information from the MacMillan letter. The last part has information that was not included in the MacMillan account.

George David Grissette was born January 15, 1836.

- George died July 2, 1858 at Rose Lake near Conway. He was only twenty three and had never married.
- The *Charleston Mercury* of July 24, 1858 reports, "DIED. On the 1st inst. in Fair Bluff, N.C., Mr. George D. Grissette, formerly of Horry District, S.C."

Malvina Serena Grissette was not listed in the birth transcription. The birth date, May 15, 1837, is given on her gravestone.

- "Mellie" married James Congdon Beaty (1833-1897) of Horry October 22, 1852. She died July 9, 1911 at her home in Charleston, S.C. She is buried at Wasamassaw Baptist Church in Berkeley County, S.C.
- She and her children are listed in Charleston City Directories from 1898 through 1908.

Mary Elizabeth Grissette was born October 22, 1837.

- Mary married Joseph William Holliday (1827-1904) of North Carolina December 19, 1859 and died at Planters Hotel, Marion, S.C., June 10, 1889. They had eight children.
- She is buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Marion.

J. W. Holliday was born in North

Carolina but had moved to Galivants Ferry, S.C. before the time of their marriage.



Mary Elizabeth, courtesy of <http://www.knowitall.org/legacy/laureates/Joseph%20William%20Holliday.html>

Charity Ann Grissette was born March 27, 1839.

- She married Frank Dod Hughes (1837-unk) of Horry District. She died September 15, 1915 at the home of her son, Eugene, in St. George and is buried in McClellanville, S.C.
- The 1900 U.S. Census gives 1838 as their year of marriage and reports that five of nine children are still living.

Frances Cornelia Grissette was born July 24, 1840.

- “Fannie” married Lewis Beaty (1842-1913) of Horry District on June 15, 1867. They had one daughter. Fannie died at her home in Georgetown, S.C. December 9, 1921, and is buried in Georgetown.
- Lewis and Fannie are buried at Elmwood Cemetery in Georgetown.

Judson DeKalb Grissette was born March 14, 1842.

- He married Anna Flemming of Fair Bluff. He died April 6, 1893 at the home of his sister, Mrs. Jim Beaty in Allopaha [sic], Georgia and is buried there.
- Judson has a gravestone near the Durant Cemetery at Grissette Landing in Conway. A grave in Alapaha, Ga., was not found.

Sara Adeline Grissette was born October 13, 1843.

- She married Robert Goldsboro Yates at the home of her parents, Rose Lake, Conway, October 20, 1875. Addie died at her home March 12, 1918, and is buried at Fair Bluff, N.C. with her husband.
- Addie and Robert are buried in Powell Cemetery in Fair Bluff.

Columbia Emiline Grissette was born November 9, 1845.

- “Pet” married James William Powell at the home of her parents, Rose Lake, Conway, July 16, 1867. They had “a number of children.” She died July 26, 1904, at her home in Fair Bluff and is buried there.
- The Powells lived in Fair Bluff and are buried in Powell Cemetery.

Reuben Fournery Grissette was born November 9, 1847.

- “Furney” never married. He died at the home of his sister, Mrs. J. W. Powell, December 29, 1895 and is buried at Piney Forest Baptist Church near Grist, N.C.
- Furney’s grave is listed in Piney Forest Baptist Church Cemetery, Cerro Gordo, Columbus County, N.C. on FindAGrave.com. The birth date on his gravestone is November 9, 1848, death date as given above.



James W. Powell and Columbia Emiline Grissette, courtesy of Sarah P. Singer

Infant born April 25, 1850, died at twelve days.

Mildred Annette Grissette was born February 29, 1852.

- “Nettie” married Joseph William Holliday (1827-1904) of Little Washington, N.C. in January, 1891, at the home of her parents, Rose Lake, near Conway. She died at her home at Galivants Ferry, S.C. January 24, 1914. She is buried in the Rose Hill Cemetery, Marion, S.C.
- Nettie and J. W. had three children. J. W. moved to Horry District in the early 1850s.



Mildred Annette, courtesy of <http://www.knowitall.org/legacy/laureates/Joseph%20William%20Holliday.html>

Louise Elenita Grissette was born April 2, 1855.

- She married Samuel Scarborough Sarvis (1843-1931) at the home of her parents, Rose Lake, near Conway, November 9, 1881. They had ten children. She died July 23rd 1896, at her home in Socastee.
- She and her husband are buried at Hebron Churchyard near Bucksville, S.C. Her name is given as “Lucy” in her college catalog and on her gravestone.

Ida Adde Grissette was born February 7, 1858.

- She married James Edward “Ned” Beaty (1844-1897) of Horry District, October, 1876. Ned was a brother of Lewis Beaty who married Fannie, sister of Ida. They had five daughters. Ida died at her home at Murrells Inlet, S.C. on December 10, 1909, and is buried at Hebron Churchyard, Bucksville.
- Ida’s gravestone agrees with the date of birth but has date of death as December, 1910.

- ¹ Horry County Deed Book B1, p.1.
- ² Thompson, Neil D. F.A.S.G., *George and William Grissett of Brunswick County, North Carolina*, National Genealogical Society Quarterly, Vol. 67, No. 2, June 1979, pp. 111-120
- ³ Horry County Deed Book B1, p.193.
- ⁴ Conner, Edward, Revolutionary War Pension Application, fold3.com.
- ⁵ *Brief Chronology of Horry History*, www.hchsonline.org
- ⁶ Walbert, David, *Naval Stores and the Longleaf Pine*, North Carolina Digital History, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-colonial/4069>.
- ⁷ Berry, C. Burgin, *Horry County's Oldest Industry*, Independent Republic Quarterly, 2:1, Jan. 1968.
- ⁸ Walbert.
- ⁹ Burroughs, J. Benjamin, personal communication January 20, 2014.
- ¹⁰ MacMillan, Louise; transcription of R. G. W. Grisette Family Bible and family history account, 1952.
- ¹¹ Grissett, George R. estate papers, Horry County Probate Court, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.
- ¹² Horry County Deed Book B1, p. 504.
- ¹³ MacMillan.
- ¹⁴ Ibid.
- ¹⁵ Horry County Deed Book L, p. 106
- ¹⁶ *Edgefield Advertiser*, "Election Returns," October 25, 1848.
- ¹⁷ "Meeting at Conwayboro," *Charleston Courier*, April 21, 1848, XLVII:14179, p. 2.
- ¹⁸ Ibid.
- ¹⁹ Limestone College History, Limestone College website, www.limestone.edu.
- ²⁰ MacMillan, Montague, *Limestone College: A History*, Limestone College, Gaffney, S.C., 1970, pp. 95-98.
- ²¹ Burroughs, J. Benjamin, personal communication January 20, 2014.
- ²² *Wilmington Journal*, Wilmington, N.C., Jan 28, 1853, p. 4.
- ²³ Baker, A.J., *Timber and Turpentine Industries: Naval Stores Industries*, www.hchsonline.org.
- ²⁴ Civil War Service Records, fold3.com.
- ²⁵ http://www.saltworks.us/salt_info/si_HistoryOfSalt.asp#historywarfare.
- ²⁶ Report of the Chief of the Department of Justice and Police to the Governor and Executive Council, *Charleston Mercury*, Thursday, September 11, 1862.
- ²⁷ Ibid.
- ²⁸ Lewis, Catherine Heniford and Thomas, Eunice McMillan, "History of Our First Hundred Years, Centennial Booklet, First Baptist Church, Conway, S.C," 1966.
- ²⁹ *The Daily Phoenix*, Columbia, S.C., October 13, 1871.
- ³⁰ County Deed Book R1, p. 164.
- ³¹ Horry County Deed Book R1, p. 516.
- ³² Horry County Deed Book S, p. 192.

³³ Horry County Deed Book W, p. 616.

³⁴ Horry County Deed Book CC, p. 61.

∞ 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.

Tyler-Booth: A Civil War Story

By Sharyn B. Holliday and
V. Chyrel Stalvey

Raymond Booth (1922-2000), formerly of the Baker's Chapel section of Horry County, shared the following story about James Thomas Booth (1837-1906), his grandfather, and fellow Horryite Elisha Tyler to *Sun News* writer Peggy Mishoe. The story has been handed down by the Booth family from Civil War days and additional corroborating evidence has been found. Booth descendants owe their lives to a young soldier named Elisha Tyler because of his compassion and determination.¹

Marilyn Hardwick Long, Booth's great-granddaughter, and Kathleen Graham Hunt, great-great-grandniece of Elisha Tyler (1841-1915), have given additional information for these men and their families.

Both Booth and Tyler were from Horry District. Private Booth enlisted in the Confederate States of America Army on December 19, 1863 in Company B, Manigault's Battalion, South Carolina Light Artillery. Private Tyler enlisted on July 11, 1862 as a bugler for Company A, Alston's Battalion, South Carolina Artillery. Tyler was wounded with a concussion around August of 1863 on Morris Island, S.C. After recovering, he returned to his unit.²

Originally South Carolina Artillery Companies A, B, and C were independent companies. Within a few months, they were reorganized as the S.C. Siege Train in three companies as light artillery in an effort to break the hold of Northern forces in Charleston.³ Perhaps Booth and Tyler knew each other from Horry District or maybe they became acquainted when their companies were combined. We do not know. However, there must have had a friendship of sorts.



Clarkey B. Hux and James T. Booth, courtesy of Marilyn Long

In the fall of 1864, Booth was near Charleston when he received a letter informing him that his wife Clarkey Bessant Hux (1841-1917) was ill. He was told if he ever wanted to see her again, he'd better come home.⁴ Muster roll records indicate that he was absent without leave on September 20, 1864.⁵

It was not uncommon for Confederate soldiers who had left their wives and family at home to be torn between two duties--one to the Confederacy and one to their families. A great many Southern men who lived near the front left their ranks to attend to some personal or family emergency or business, like plowing or sickness, and then return to their unit. As a result, some were called deserters. We must be careful as we read their records for not every man marked as a deserter was truly one.

The Booths had a humble log home, making a living on their farm off Baker's Chapel Highway, which at that time was only a wagon trail. Clarkey was a very strong woman but finding it difficult to care for three

(Confederate.)

Manigault's Battalion, Artillery. S. C.

J. T. Booth

Sgt. (1st) Company B, South Carolina Siege Train.*

Appears on
Company Muster Roll
of the organization named above,
for *Nov + Dec*, 1864.

Enlisted:
When *Dec 19*, 186³.
Where *Charleston*.
By whom *Capt Smith*.
Period *Was*.

Last paid:
By whom *Capt Mordecai*.
To what time *June 30*, 1864.

Present or absent *Present*.

Remarks: *Under arrest awaiting sentence of S. C. M.*

* This company was successively designated as Captain Alston's Light Artillery Company, South Carolina Volunteers; Company A, Alston's Battalion, Light Artillery; (1st) Company B, South Carolina Siege Train; and (1st) Company B, Manigault's Battalion, South Carolina Artillery. It was finally paroled as (2d) Company D, Manigault's Battalion, South Carolina Artillery. Manigault's Battalion South Carolina Artillery was organized with three companies, A, B and (1st) C, by S. O. No. 242, Hdqrs. Dept. S. C., Ga. and Fla., dated December 4, 1862. (1st) Company C was exchanged for Captain Zimmerman's Company, South Carolina Artillery, by S. O. No. 105, A. & I. G. O., dated May 5, 1864. Company D was organized about February 14, 1864, by S. O. No. 12, Hdqrs. Siege Train, and was composed of Louisianians transferred from Companies A and B of this battalion. The battalion was also designated at various times as Alston's Battalion, South Carolina Artillery; 18th Battalion, South Carolina Artillery; and the South Carolina Siege Train.

Book mark: _____

W. H. Scott
(642) Copyist.

Booth, James T.
Sgt. Co B,
S. C. Siege Train

Subject: sentence of death
suspended

Title of record: S.O. 10/11
Dept. S. C., Ga., Fla., & Hardee

Date: Jan. 12, 1865.

This record contains information relative to the above named man, upon the subject stated.
(Confederate)

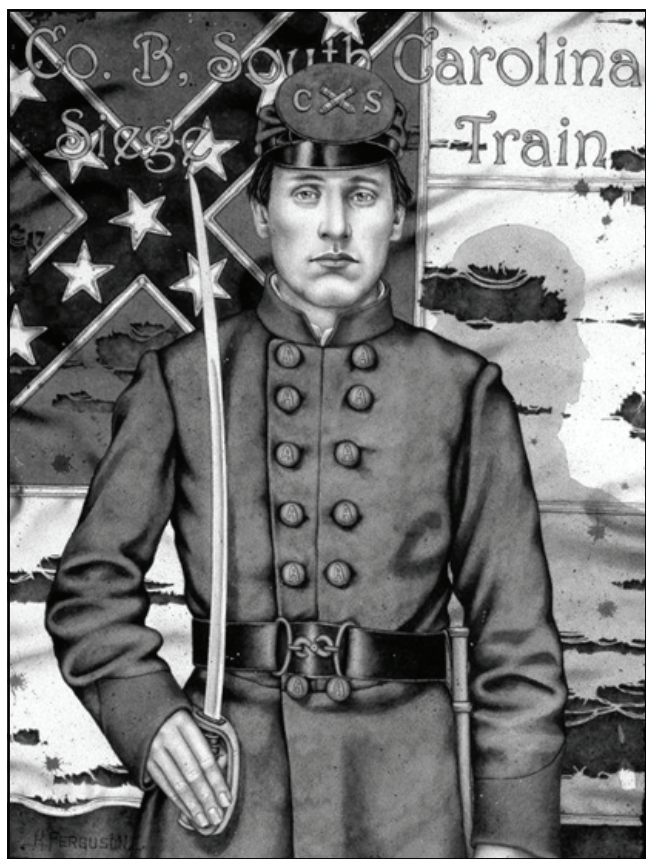
small children, plowing and doing all the other chores. With about 90 percent of the men in the county off at war, there was little help to go around. After she became sick, someone let her husband know of the grim situation at home. Booth left his post in order to help his sick wife and children.

Officials were eventually informed where he was and soldiers came to take him back to Charleston⁶ where he was tried for desertion and sentenced to death on November 16, 1864. He was put in jail to await sentencing by the General Court Martial.⁷

You could say that it was the 11th hour, when Tyler intervened after seeing Booth in a wagon with a pine box that would be used for his burial after facing a firing squad. Tyler got down on his knees and begged the captain not to shoot Booth because he was a good man with three small children at home.

The captain agreed to write a pardon if Tyler could get a commanding officer to agree to it. He gave Tyler a horse who then set out on his mission to save James Booth's life.

Raymond Booth said, "He rode the horse to death



Portrait of Pvt. Elisha Tyler © Kenneth Ferguson, courtesy of Kathleen Hunt

and was able to get the signature."⁸ Booth's death sentence was suspended on January 12, 1865.⁹

At the close of the war in April of 1865, Booth was in a field hospital. When it eventually closed, he is believed to have gotten to Florence by train.

Clarkey, now recovered from her illness, received word that her husband was very sick and probably would not make it home. She sent her brother, Lewis, to look for him.

By the time Lewis got to Galivants Ferry, someone recalled seeing Booth come across the river on the ferry. Lewis turned around and went back home.

Booth finally made it home where Clarkey met him at the door. He said, "Honey, don't touch me. I'm full of lice." While he was away at war, she had made him a new suit. So, he heated water in the wash pot, took a bath and put on his new suit.¹⁰

James Thomas Booth was the son of Olive Holmes and John James Booth. On January 8, 1857, he married Clarkey Bessant Hux, the daughter of Collin Woodbury Hux and Eliza Ann Timothy Baker. James and Clarkey are buried at Poplar Cemetery. Their children were: Waterman Mayberry (1858-1931); Charlotte Urilla (1860-1906); Collin Woodberry (1862-1944); John Asbury (1865-1867); Louisa Jane (Lula) (1867-1945); Olin Fairfield (1869-1964); James Walker (1871-1948); Stannie Hart (1873-1951); Effie (1875-1961); Franklin Burroughs (1877-1939); Mary Eliza (1880-1966); Enoch Sweet (1883-1955); and, Clarkey Bessant (1885-1974).¹¹

Elisha Tyler was born in Columbus County, N.C., and died in the Bayboro Township of Horry County. He was the son of Elizabeth Soles and Jackson Tyler. About 1860 he married Amelia A. King (1835-1906) from South Carolina who was the daughter of Abraham King and Elizabeth "Betsey" Baker King. Elisha and Amelia are buried in the Bayboro Baptist Church graveyard. Their children were: William E. "Ed" (1860-1940); Elisha Jackson (1866-1931); Mary E. (1868-1935); Moses P. (b. 1870); Everette B. (1872-1941); Avy Jane (1874-1937); Potaphair P. (1877-1958); and, Joseph B. (b. 1879).¹²

After the War, Tyler ran a gristmill near Bayboro. When the water was high enough to grind the corn, he would blow his bullhorn to let his neighbors know he was open for business.¹³

The demand for prohibition in the state, supported by Baptist and Methodist ministers, was very strong in the 1880s-1890s. Locals, like most southerners during the years after the war and reconstruction, could not afford to lose a source of income and continued their traditional practice of making their own wine for sale. In 1892 the Horry County Court Sessions Index shows Elisha and

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Horry County Historical Society's Spring Tour Saturday, May 3, 2014 Starts at 10:00 a.m. at Union Methodist Church and ends at Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge at Yauhannah

Amelia, contrary to law, were charged with selling wine. On March 21, 1892, Elisha wrote a letter to the court stating that Amelia was sick at home and unable to attend court, and that she was a material witness in his defense and that he cannot safely go to trial without her testimony.¹⁴

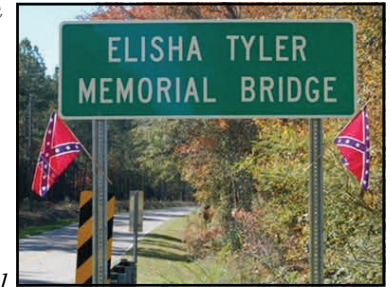
In the 119th Assembly of the state of South Carolina, Bill H3978 was passed on June 1, 2011 which allowed for the naming of a bridge after Elisha Tyler.

The resolution reads: "Whereas, during the early twentieth century, Mr. Elisha Tyler owned and operated

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a successful grist mill in Horry County powered by water from the Old Mill Swamp; and Whereas, his grist mill served the area farmers and residents of its surrounding communities; and Whereas, in addition to being a successful



businessman, Mr. Tyler was a Civil War Veteran and member of Bayboro Baptist Church.....and Whereas, it is fitting and proper for the members of the General Assembly to name a bridge in Horry County in honor of this distinguished citizen of the Palmetto State. ...[Therefore, name the bridge] along Valley Forge Road in Horry County located between its intersection with South Carolina Highway 410 and Louisville Road "Elisha Tyler Memorial Bridge" and erect appropriate markers or signs at this bridge that contain the words 'Elisha Tyler Memorial Bridge.'¹⁵

This inspiring and heartwarming tale is one of selflessness and love for your fellowman.

¹ Mishoe, Peggy. "Soldier Saves Deserter's Life," Sun News, June 24, 1999 and 2006.

² Muster Roll records for Booth and Tyler.

³ Manigault's Battalion, South Carolina Artillery "https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Manigault%27s_Battalion,_South_Carolina_Artillery

⁴ Mishoe.

⁵ James T. Booth Service Records, fold3.com

⁶ Mishoe.

⁷ James T. Booth Service Records, fold3.com.

⁸ Mishoe.

⁹ Muster Roll records.

¹⁰ Mishoe.

¹¹ Long, Marilyn Hardwick. *Booth Family: A partial listing of the descendants of Thomas Booth, a resident of Horry County, SC prior to the Revolutionary War*. Adrian Corporation, 2012.

¹² Jamie Graham and Mark Martin.

¹³ Mishoe.

¹⁴ 1892 Horry County Court Sessions Index, File #714.

¹⁵ Bill H3978 passed on June 1, 2011 presented by Representative Liston Barfield.