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Horry County Historical Society

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# The Independent Republic Quarterly

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## Calendar Events:

- **April 18—Spring Tour, North Myrtle Beach Museum, Vaught, and Atlantic Beach. Meet at the Carolina Forest Gen. Isaac Huger Park (across from The Farm neighborhood).**
- **July 12—Saundra L. Parler will talk about the Aynor Consolidated School at the Bryan House**
- **October—Little Pee Dee River, more information to follow.**

## The Independent Republic Quarterly

Submit materials and comments for the Quarterly to:

The Editor,  
The Independent Republic Quarterly  
606 Main Street  
Conway, SC  
29526-4340

Telephone:  
843.488.1966

E-mail:  
history@hchsonline.org

Web Site:  
<http://www.hchsonline.org>

## Family Legacy Foreshadowed

By Kathy Rabon Smith and V. Chyrel Stalvey

In Biblical times, Abraham was asked by God to sacrifice his son, Isaac. In obedience to God, Abraham was willing to offer his only son. But God never really wanted Abraham to kill Isaac and sent an angel to stop him, just before he thrust a dagger into the boy. The event tested Abraham's faithfulness, foreshadowing the crucifixion.

Centuries later, a similar scenario played out during the mid-1800s in Horry District over a family disagreement. This time, God had nothing to do with it. The test of faithfulness was between Abraham Sr. and his son, Abraham Jr.

Big Abe took Little Abe with him to teach his brother's sons a lesson. Submissive to his father's commands, Little Abe attacked, stabbing and killing his first cousin. A trial was held and justice was served with Little Abe being hanged by the neck.

Whether or not Big Abe really expected his son to just teach his nephews a lesson or commit murder, we will never know.

The boy was tested; he was obedient. Two young men lost their lives. A disastrous family legacy was foreshadowed.

Various versions of William's (Willis) Rabon's murder have been found. The ensuing events surround the incident as far as we have been able to document from additional records and news accounts previously unknown.

William Rabon Sr. (abt 1775-unk)

had at least three sons living on neighboring plantations in the Poplar section north of Cool Spring about ten miles from Conway. They were William Jr. (abt 1788-1851), Abraham Sr. (abt 1795-1862) and George C. (abt 1796-unk). Two of William's children were George H. (abt 1820-1906) and William H. "Willis" (abt 1825-1849). Five of Abraham Sr.'s children were Abraham Jr. (abt 1830-1851), Duke (abt 1826-1906), George C. (1828-abt 1900), Solomon (abt 1832-1926) and Gabriel Rabon (1833-1862). Four of George's sons were William C. (abt 1825-unk), Abraham B. (abt 1827-unk), Samuel (1829-1897) and George M. (1833-1902).<sup>1</sup>

With their extended families, the Rabons worked their lands.

During the time of free range in Horry District, livestock roamed without fences to contain them and common feeding grounds were shared. Hogs were penned only after they had been fattened, ready for slaughter. Disputes often arose regarding ownership of the hogs and other livestock. In this case, the quarrel was trespassing.<sup>2</sup>

William Rabon's sons were in the habit of feeding their hogs on Big Abe's plantation. On September 3, 1849, they were told to stop or there was going to be trouble.<sup>3</sup> In spite of the warning, brothers Willis and George returned again the next day to feed their hogs. Big Abe took sons Little Abe, for sure, and maybe Duke to confront them and stop the trespassing once and for all.<sup>4</sup>

The resulting altercation ended in Willis' death.<sup>5</sup> An inquest was held at family patriarch William Rabon, Senior's home on September 4, 1849, before Isham Reynolds, Coroner. Three witnesses' stories unfolded the events. (Italicized information is left as seen in the original records.)

*1<sup>st</sup> Witness, George H. Rabon [son of William Jr.] sworn, saith that on the fourth day of September 1849, he the said George H. Rabon was in the woods and heard his brother Willis Rabon calling hogs and went to him. He had called up some hogs, one or two of his hogs, and fed them and started to tolled them off, after we started off with hogs, Abraham Rabon, Sen'r, Duke Rabon and Abraham Rabon, Jr., came to us in the woods near the path between Cooper Branch and Abraham Rabon's plantation and ordered us off and set his dogs on the hogs and cursed me and Brother Willis Rabon. Brother Willis Rabon said to him Abraham Rabon, Sen'r. that if he did not stop his dogs he would kill them—that is kill the dogs—and he did not stop the dogs, and Brother Willis struck one of the dogs on the [head] and Abraham Rabon replied at the time that Willis spoke of killing the dog If he did we will kill you. They all three came at Willis. I saw Abraham Rabon, Junr. with a knife drawn in his hand making great speed toward Willis Rabon nearly in striking distance. I caught Abraham Rabon, Sen'r, and said to him, for God's sake do not kill him, and he fought me struck me with a stick and Duke Rabon caught me by the legs and threw me down and kicked me. When I got clear from them two I looked for Willis and I saw him near me standing with blood running down him and was very bloody. I stopt to him and said brother you are killed and he said yes Abraham has stabbed me. I then took him on my mare and went some forty yds and he there stopped and got down and there expired in or near fifteen minutes after from the stab. Sworn to me before, Isham Reynolds, coroner  
September 4<sup>th</sup> 1849  
(s) George H. Rabon<sup>6</sup>*

Witnesses William R. Hux and W. M. Rabon basically repeated the same story as above.

It was determined that *"Willis Rabon came to his death by Little Abe who did feloniously with a knife against the peace and dignity of this State stab and kill the said Willis Rabon of the State and District aforesaid near Abraham Rabon, Senr.'s plantation in the District aforesaid and further saith that Abraham Rabon, Senr., and Duke Rabon were accessories to the same."*<sup>7</sup> Willis was stabbed on the right side, under the right breast between the ribs with a wound the depth of six inches and breadth of two inches.<sup>8</sup>

Big Abe, Little Abe and Duke appealed the murder and accessory charges before Judge J. Frost at the Horry Spring Term in 1850. *"There was no doubt that*

*Abram Rabon, the elder, and Abram Rabon, the younger, were present, and took part in the commission of the homicide; but the testimony left it doubtful whether the third person, who was present, was Duke Rabon, the prisoner, or one Isaiah Graham."*<sup>9</sup>

Apparently shortly after the stabbing, Isaiah Graham had been arrested and interrogated as well. Upon examination George C. Rabon said, *"[Isaiah]Graham was also charged with the murder. Witness don't know how Graham was charged, except it were by some of his own talk. Graham was carried before 'Squire Potter; witness was present. Both were carried for the murder; he did not hear Graham say that he had any thing to do with the murder. Heard Graham say he was there and saw it. That might be the reason Graham was taken up—don't know it was so. Graham always told witness he saw the murder, and Graham said so before 'Squire Potter. Don't know that Graham told a different story; witness don't know how Graham was discharged."*<sup>10</sup> The court believed that there was enough evidence that Duke might not have been the third party at the incident and a new trial was granted.

Reverend Jamey Rabon, a great-grandson of Joseph Isaiah Graham (1821-1914), relates a family history story passed down by his family that Isaiah and Willis Rabon had been at one of the feeding grounds close to Cool Spring and a fight led to Willis' death. Shortly after the murder, Isaiah fled to Florida, appearing to fear for his life and leaving his family behind. He never returned to South Carolina to live. His actual involvement in the altercation remains a mystery. (In the mid-1860s, Isaiah's daughter, Catherine [abt. 1853-1933], probably married Abraham B. Rabon [1846-1920] who is believed to be George C. Rabon's son.)<sup>11</sup>

The Winyah Observer of Saturday, February 8, 1851 reports Abram Rabon, Snr., Abram Rabon, Jr., and Duke Rabon *"were convicted at the Spring Term of the Court in 1850 of the crime of murder. They appealed for a new trial, and the result has been, that Abram Rabon, Sr., and Abram Rabon Jr., have been sentenced to be hung in April next, and a new trial has been awarded to Duke Rabon...."*<sup>12</sup> Charges against Duke were eventually dropped.<sup>13</sup>

The Winyah Observer of Wednesday, June 4, 1851, reports: *"Abraham Rabon, Jr....had the execution of his sentence respited until the 6<sup>th</sup> of this month, will on Friday next at Conwayboro expiate his offence on the gallows. He is a young man not yet twenty years old, and it was hoped by many that the Governor would have regarded his case as one, where executive clemency could be properly exercised. Strong efforts were made to save his life, but his Excellency did not think he could consistently with his duty grant his pardon. His father was convicted at the same time, has been pardoned and is*

*now out of prison.*"<sup>14</sup> Records of Big Abe pardon have not been found, and it is uncertain why he was.

After Big Abe's release from prison, he petitioned the judge to allow him to take Little Abe home with him because a big crop had to be put in and he was needed to help make it. The family was dependent upon their crops for survival.<sup>15</sup> Did Big Abe just want to selfishly use his son as cheap labor until the day of his death or was he trying to keep him alive a little longer in order to continue efforts to exonerate him? Surely, it was a somber time in the household during the several months leading up to the appointed day.

Other versions of the hanging had it taking place in the fall of the year; however, we know from the above articles that it was on Friday, June 6, 1851.<sup>16</sup> By this time crops like tomatoes, corn, potatoes and beans would have been planted and awaiting harvest.

The story goes that "[o]n the day set for the hanging, Big Abe brought Little Abe on an ox cart and at 11 o'clock that morning he turned him over to the Sheriff [W. H. "Hickory Bill" Johnston and the hangman]. The father had also brought a pine coffin he had made for his son to be buried in. Little Abe was hanged at 12 o'clock that day in the old muster field in Conway [at the corner Sixth Avenue and Beaty Street]."<sup>17</sup>

The event must have been the talk throughout the district, for curiosity drew a large crowd of people coming from miles around. The Winyah Observer reported that "[t]here were about two thousand people present to witness the spectacle, among whom we learn there were about five hundred women and young girls. It is strange that there should be such a morbid desire on the part of so many people to see a human being in the convulsions of death."<sup>18</sup> "It is a melancholy spectacle to see an old man with his son by his side, expiating on the gallows the horrible crime of murder. But distressing as is the case, it is indispensably necessary that murder should be punished by death."<sup>19</sup>



*Photo taken at Pleasant Union Missionary Baptist Church in Horry County. His exact burial place is unknown. Note the incorrect date of death of this new marker—should be June 6, 1851.*

It has been said that after it was over, Big Abe placed his son in the coffin and drove back home in the rain.<sup>20</sup> Even the heavens seemed to have wept for this tragedy.

Although the exact location of Little Abe's grave is unknown, a new marker acknowledging his life has been placed in the Pleasant Union Missionary Baptist Church graveyard in Horry County where other family members have also been buried.

The family reputation of being the "Bad Blood Rabons" was taking root. Additional records give further evidence that the family was constantly in the midst of one conflict or another amongst themselves or with others. Horry District records state that during the 1854 Fall Term, Duke, Abram Sr. and George Rabon were accused of assault and battery. At the 1855 Spring Term, Abraham Sr. was charged with unlawful trading with a slave; and, Abraham Sr. and Duke Rabon and Alex Ludlam were accused of killing a horse in the night time.<sup>21</sup>

On October 8, 1862, Gabriel, Big Abe's son, died intestate. His plantation was purported to have been unproductive and his wife, Mary, was unable to care for it by herself after his death. Her oldest child, Duke, was only seven years old at the time and would not have been much help.

As has been shown, Big Abe was no stranger to the courts and the inclination to intimidate. He brought charges against Mary, and his son, George, for "living an immoral life without being married." (The 1860 Horry District Census lists George and a wife named Mary. Neither her death nor a separation/divorce has been identified.) When George was asked if he had "been living an immoral life with your brother's wife," he responded, "You can't expect me to answer that question. If the place is not sold, I expect to go there if I want to. If I have slept with her, you prove it. [I've] helped her with her crops."<sup>22</sup>

A mêlée ensued for control of Gabriel's property and guardianship of the children. Big Abe asked the court for custody of the four minor children--Duke, Catherine, Jane and Melissa. Furthermore, in order to provide for their support and education, he requested the sale of some property owned by Mary and the children.<sup>23</sup> At the petition of the court in January of 1867, Sheriff Daniel Lewis sold 190 acres, more or less, of Gabriel's land for \$505. Another 75 acres was left to Mary and Gabriel's children.<sup>24</sup> In the end, Big Abe gained custody of the children and the money.

After Big Abe's death in 1872, George petitioned the court and gained guardianship of the children and the remaining land.<sup>25</sup>



The culmination of the Rabon family's tragedies is an altercation taking place at the home of Big Abe's daughter and son-in-law, Polly and Joshua J. Long, on September 7, 1872. Big Abe, Solomon and the Longs lived on neighboring plantations.<sup>36</sup> It is uncertain as to what happened that day, but one is led to believe that there must have been a serious quarrel(s) prior to Joshua pulling out his shotgun and mortally wounding his father-in-law, Big Abe.

During an inquest over the murder, Big Abe's son, Solomon, testified that he was present and saw Joshua shoot his father with a shotgun. He was killed instantly.<sup>27</sup> As the old cliché states, "as ye sow, so shall you reap."

In the end, Little Abe's assassination of his cousin foreshadowed Big Abe's death at the hands of his own son-in-law. Thankfully, this incident is notable because of its rarity and demonstrates the heartbreaking results of extreme acts.

<sup>1</sup>Names, birth and death dates from various records: 1850 Census, 1850 Mortality Schedule of Horry County, Mark Martin Genealogy Web Page (Stumphole Martins), and Various Records Contained in this Article.

<sup>2</sup>Lewis, Catherine Heniford. Horry County, South Carolina, 1730-1993. (University of SC Press:1998), 121.

<sup>3</sup>Appeal at Law, "The State vs Abram Rabon, the elder, Abram Rabon, the younger, and Duke Rabon. Before J. Frost at Horry Spring Term," 1850, 265.

<sup>4</sup>Sessions, Carl. "Three Sensational Hangings," Independent Republic Quarterly Vol. 5:2 (1972), 27-28.

<sup>5</sup>Published in the *Winyah Observer*. Georgetown. Wednesday, September 12, 1849. "We understand a fight took place near Conwayborough in this State, between two cousins by the name of ~~George~~[Abraham Jr.] and Willis Rabon, in which the latter was stabbed in the breast and died in an hour after. ~~George~~[Abraham Jr.] Rabon has been committed to jail to await his trial at the Fall Court."

<sup>6</sup>Horry County Clerk of Court Inquest Book 1849-1874, "An Inquisition taken upon view of the body of Willis Rabon being dead in the woods near the Plantation of Abraham Rabon, Sen'r, 9/4/1849."

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

<sup>8</sup>Richardson, J.S.G. "Reports of Cases at Law Argued and Determined in the Court of Appeals, Court of Errors of South Carolina, Volume IV from November, 1850 to May, 1861, Both Inclusive." (A. S. Johnston: Columbia, SC 1851), 260-261.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid.

<sup>11</sup>Graham, Harmon D. and Betty McCall Graham and V. Chyrel Stalvey "The Grahams of Horry County." The Independent Republic Quarterly. Vol. 39, No. 1-4, 2007. Page 20

<sup>12</sup>Winyah Observer. Georgetown. Saturday, February 8, 1851, 2.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid, 262.

<sup>14</sup>*Winyah Observer*. Georgetown. Wednesday, June 4, 1851, 2.

<sup>15</sup>Lewis, "Memorable Murder: A Man and His Word," 180-181.

<sup>16</sup>*Winyah Observer*. Georgetown. Wednesday, June 4 and June 11, 1851, 2.

<sup>17</sup>Sessions.

<sup>18</sup>*Winyah Observer*. June 11, 1851.

<sup>19</sup>*Winyah Observer*. February 8, 1851.

<sup>20</sup>Lewis, 181.

<sup>21</sup>Bailey, Carl E. and Velma and Wanda R. Causey Research of Horry County Court Records.

<sup>22</sup>Bailey, Carl E. and Velma.

<sup>23</sup>Ibid.

<sup>24</sup>Court Records Sale of Land by Sheriff Daniel Lewis, January 1867.

<sup>25</sup>Petition for the Sale of Land and Custody of Children.

<sup>26</sup>Horry District Census.

<sup>27</sup>Horry County Inquest Book, 1849-1874, SC Dept. of Archives and History, 138-140.

✎ *Kathy Jo Rabon Smith is a life-long resident of Horry County. She has worked full-time as an Administrative Assistance for the Horry County Government since mid-2005.*

## Of Interest to Note...

Over the years it has been said that the first steamboat seen in Horry County was a side-wheel steamer called the *Francis Marion* in 1860. Supposedly, it was picking up troops for Confederate military service.

**Steam Boat for Sale.**

**The light draught, fast going, stern wheel steamer**

**"FAIRY"**

**As she now lies at the wharf in Conwayboro, S. C. The Fairy is the lightest draught boat on the rivers, in good running order and well adapted to the successful navigation of the neighboring rivers at any stage of the water. Terms accommodating, for which apply to**

**June 25 J M L HEATH.**

This newspaper article from the *Pee Dee Times* in 1856 tells of the Fairy, a stern wheel steamer docked at the wharf in Conwayboro, verifying that steamboats were indeed traveling the rivers in Horry District prior to 1860.

# Rebecca Singleton Fearwell Hodges

## By Rebecca Johnson Anderson

Rebecca Singleton Fearwell Hodges was born and reared in Horry District, South Carolina. Having married two elderly widowers—one, Thomas Fearwell of Horry District who died in 1834 and, two, Dr. Samuel Hodges (abt. 1780-1841) of Marion District—Rebecca had no children of her own. Both husbands were considered wealthy and on the “founding father” level in their respective geographic areas. Since Rebecca’s will does not name her Hodges’ stepchildren, it appears she was dispensing her inheritance from her first husband, Thomas Fearwell, to her numerous relatives in Horry County. Upon the death of her second husband, Dr. Samuel Hodges, his children inherited a very large estate from him.

Rebecca’s siblings and their spouses are listed because so many of her nieces and nephews are named and identified as beneficiaries to her estate. Item #17 names my great grandparents, Elizabeth Wilson and Josias Waller. Elizabeth Wilson was the daughter of Sarah Singleton and Samuel Wilson. Elizabeth and Josias Waller’s child, Rebecca Fearwell Waller married Gilbert Johnston Anderson, my grandparents who are buried in the Spring Branch Baptist Church Cemetery in Horry County.

The personal life of Thomas Fearwell is not as well-documented as his public life. It is thought that he was married several times. I am a descendant of Thomas Fearwell and a Wilson wife, but I’m unaware of more than two Fearwell marriages. For so long, I have been perplexed as to why the four McRae children (Items #7, 8, 9 and 10) were referred to as grandchildren of Thomas Fearwell in various documents. Rebecca Hodges’ will reinforces other information that they were her nieces and nephews, children of her sister Mary Singleton and A. W. McRae. Recently I may have been afforded an explanation, completely speculative, with the discovery of Douglas F. Kelly’s Carolina Scots, page 379, that “Alexander McRae married Ann Fearwell.” Dr. Kelly cites the papers of Mary Belle M. Bethea, Mrs. Robert L. (Janie Peterkin) and Anna McIver Henderson Parham as sources for this information. Ann Fearwell was probably a daughter or sister of Thomas Fearwell and likely a former wife of A. W. McRae, preceding the marriage of McRae to Mary Singleton. Thomas Fearwell’s father’s will establishes the fact that Thomas had a sister named Ann, and Thomas could have named one of his daughter’s Ann. The Henry Fearwell will, dated 13 August 1771, Prince George’s Parish, Craven County, S.C., names Henry Fearwell’s wife as Margaret, son Thomas, daughter Ann; and brothers-in-law Jana Woodberry and John Woodberry. If Thomas Fearwell

was the father-in-law or brother-in-law of A. W. McRae, there could very well have been a father-son relationship between the two men.

I have personal knowledge of the strength of such a relationship. The only grandfather I ever knew was my maternal grandmother’s second husband, Calvin Small. He was a super “Pawpaw,” and the bonds were definitely grandfather-granddaughter. Calvin A. Small was the mayor of Fair Bluff, N.C. from 1937 until his death in 1953 and a Columbus County Commissioner beginning in 1936.

Dr. Samuel Hodges, Rebecca Singleton’s second husband, was the son of Mary Lide (1763-1816) and Robert Hodges (1750-1816). Dr. Hodges was first married to Elizabeth Johnston with whom he had at least three children. One daughter, Sarah Ann Hodges, married Col. William Sidney Mullins for whom the town of Mullins, S.C. is named. Col. Mullins gave up his profession of law to manage Sarah’s large inheritance and became active in politics. John Mullins McNeil, a nephew of the Col., married Mary Ann Elizabeth Anderson, my father’s oldest sister. This family lived in Horry County and has many descendants in the area.

### Will of Rebecca Hodges

The State of South Carolina  
Marion District

The last will and testament of Rebecca Hodges of the District and State aforesaid, Widow:

First—My Executor hereinafter named shall pay and discharge, in full, all my just debts, and the Expenses of my decent burial, as soon after my decease as shall be convenient.

Second—I give and bequeath the following negro slaves, Tork (?), Hester, Boylston, Washington, Calhoun, Tildy, Jean and Robeson with their increase born after the Execution of this my will, to the children of my brother, the late Samuel Singleton, by his third wife, that is to say, Carolina (wife of Rev. Abner Ervin), Samuel, John,, Rebecca (wife of Thomas Johnston), Franklin, Joseph, Thomas and Richard, to be divided among them, share and share alike.

Third—To Perry Singleton son of my said brother Samuel, his first wife, and to Maham Tillman youngest child and only son of Adaline Tillman deceased wife of Benjamin Tillman, each I give and bequest the sum of Fifty Dollars.

Fourth—To Thomas R. M. Singleton, son of my brother, the late Richard Singleton, I give and bequeath my negro woman Carredis and the increase born of her after the Execution of this my will.

Fifth—To Amanda Singleton, daughter of the said Richard, I give and bequeath the sum of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300).

Sixth—To John A. Clark and Jonah Clark, children of my sister Hannah Clark, each, I give and bequeath the sum of One Hundred Dollars.

Seventh—To my nephew John A. McRae, I give and bequeath the sum of Fifty Dollars.

Eighth—To my niece Mary R. McRae, I give and bequeath a negro slave boy Castor.

Ninth—To my niece Margaret Gandy wife of Max Gandy of Darlington District, I give and bequeath the sum of Fifty Dollars.

Tenth—To my niece Catherine McColl, wife of Sanders McColl, I give and bequeath a negro slave Emma and the increase born after the Execution of this will.

Eleventh—To the children of my late nephew John G. Willson, living at my death, I give and bequeath two negro slaves Peggy and Sanders with the increase of Peggy born after the Execution of this my will, to be divided among the said children, share and share alike.

Twelfth—To Robert Willson son of my late nephew Frank Willson, I give and bequeath the sum of Ten Dollars.

Thirteenth—To my nephew Samuel A. Willson, I give and bequest two negro slaves, Pinckney and Henyard.

Fourteenth—To my niece Margaret Shackelford, widow of Joseph Shackelford, I give and bequeath, one negro slave Annie and her increase born after the Execution of this my will.

Fifteenth—To my niece Sara S. McMillan, widow of Neil McMillan, I give and bequeath a negro slave called Vander alias Evander, for the term of his natural life and after her death, I give and bequeath the said slave to her son John A. McMillan.

Sixteenth—To my niece Rebecca Vereen wife of Samuel P. Vereen, I give and bequeath a negro slave named Julia and her increase born after the Execution of this my will.

Seventeenth—To my niece Elizabeth Waller, wife of Joseph [Josias] Waller, I give and bequeath two negro slaves Temperance and Nelly, and their increase born after the Execution of this my will.

Eighteenth—To my Grand-nephew Thomas C. Shackelford, son of Margaret Shackelford, I give and bequeath my Sorrel mare, Sla and three negro slaves, Silla, Charlotte and Gwindle, and the increase of the females born after the Execution of this my will.

Nineteenth—To my Grand-nephew Samuel Malcom McMillan son of Sarah S. McMillan, I give and bequeath my negro slaves, Abraham, Tiller and her children, Thomas, Jimmy and Melvina and the increase of the females born after the Execution of this my will.

Twentieth—To my Grand-niece Margaret A. McMillan, daughter of Sarah S. McMillan, I give and bequeath my negro slave Sissy, with her increase after the Execution of this my will, and also, the colt of my mare, Eliza.

Twenty-First—To my Grand-nephew John A. McMillan, son of Sarah S. McMillan, I give and bequeath three negro slaves, Emiline, Sarah and Mazanie (?) and their increase born after the Execution of this my will.

Twenty-Second—To my Grand-niece Elizabeth Oliver, wife of Joseph D. Oliver, and daughter of Sara S. McMillan, I give and bequeath a negro slave Eliza and her increase born after the Execution of this my will.

Twenty-Third—To my Grand-niece Sara Rogers, wife of William Rogers, and daughter of Sarah S. McMillan, I give and bequeath my negro slaves Mandy and her present child Beachman, together with any increase born to Mandy after the Execution of this my will.

Twenty-Fourth—To my Grand-nephew Neil McMillan, son of Sara S. McMillan, I give and bequeath the sum of Ten Dollars.

Twenty-Fifth—To my niece Caroline Ervin, wife of Rev. Abner Ervin and daughter of Samuel Singleton deceased, I give and bequeath, in severalty, and in addition to her equal share in the negro slaves mentioned in the Second Clause above, the following negro slaves, to wit, Louisa, Furman, Henry and Tillman with their increase born after the Execution of this my will.

Twenty-Sixth—To my nephew Joseph Singleton, son of Samuel Singleton, I give and bequeath, in severalty, and in addition to his equal share in the said negro slaves mentioned in the Second Clause, the following negro slaves, to wit, Cate, Marlow(?), Fanny and Caldonia with their increase born after the Execution of this my will.

Twenty-Seventh—To my nephew Richard Singleton, son of Samuel Singleton, I give and bequeath, in severalty, and in addition to his equal share in the said negro slaves mentioned in the Second Clause, a negro slave named Martha and her increase born after the Execution of this my will.

Twenty-Eighth—My Executors hereinafter named shall sell my negro slaves Aaron and Bethel and apply the proceeds of such sale to the payment of debts if any and other pecuniary legacies hereinbefore given.

Twenty-Ninth—All the rest, residue and remainder of my Estate real and personal, I give, devise and bequeath in equal shares to and among all my nephews and nieces, who shall be living at my decease, provided however, that if any of my nephew and nieces, now, or at any time hereafter during my life deceased, shall have left issue at my decease, such issue shall take among them a share of the said residue, to which the parent would, if living, be entitled.

Thirtieth—If any one of those persons to whom legacies, or divisions, are given by any of the provisions of this my will, whether specific pecuniary, or [residuary], shall seek or attempt by any proceedings at Law or Equity, or otherwise, to distort the dispositions of this my will, or to defeat the same, or shall resist the probate after such will. Such person shall thereby forfeit all right and title to every such legacy or division, and the same shall fall into the residue, and from any participation I the distribution of that residue such person shall be wholly excluded.

Lastly—I nominate, constitute and appoint my Grandnephew Samuel Malcom McMillan and my friends Archibald Q. McDuffie and D. Daniel Gilchrist to be the Executors of this my will.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty-ninth day of March in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and fifty eight and in the Eight Second year of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of North America.

Signed: Rebekah Hodges

Witnesses:

C. B. Brown

John A. Inglis

W. Cowpen Inglis

### **Children of Elizabeth Green (1753-1824) and Richard Singleton\* (1750-1807)**

- (1) Sarah Singleton, B. 1775, married Samuel Willson (1777-1830)
- (2) John Singleton (1778-1825)
- (3) Rebecca Singleton, d. 1861, married (1) Thomas Fearwell, (2) Dr. Samuel Hodges
- (4) Hannah Singleton, d. 1829, married John Clark
- (5) Mary Singleton married A. W. McRae

(1) Samuel Grier Singleton, (1794-1852), married (1) Priscilla Ann Hankins, (2) Laetitia Yates, (3) Eliza Tillman

(2) Richard Singleton Jr., d. 1836, married \_\_\_\_ Green.

\*Richard Singleton (1750-1807) was the son of Judith Marion and Ebenezer Singleton, making Richard a first cousin of General Francis Marion.

✎ *Rebecca Anderson Maples, an Horry County native, graduated from USC and the University of Florida. After a 50-year career as an advanced math school teacher, she retired. She is married to Dr. Dwight E. Maples, and they reside in Camden, SC. Their three children all have doctorates: Durham, Dina (Blankenship), and Melanie. She is appreciative of Deryl Young's help in sharing some of this information.*

## **Election Turmoil**

By Carlisle Dawsey

As I have watched debates on television and listen and read the pundits responses, it seems as if the country is sorely divided. I happened upon a newspaper article recently that I thought might bring things into perspective. It is from the *Horry Dispatch* of October 17, 1861.

### ***Election Notice***

*PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election for Representative of the First Congressional District, in the next Congress of the Confederate States of America, will be held on the First Wednesday in November next, between the hours of 9 A.M. and 4 P.M. at the several precincts in Horry District. The votes polled on the first Wednesday in October will not be counted, and those Managers who received votes on that day, should re-open their polls.*

*Managers of ELECTION:*

*All Saints Parish. Little River – W. A. Clardy, Thos. H. Livingston, W.J. Gore. Sterrett Swamp – T.C. Shackelford, J.G. Waller, J.J. Dunn. Socastee – B.A. Tillman, U.A. DeLettre, Thos. King. Troop Muster Ground – Robert Nesbit, W.H. Tucker, W.C. White.*

*Kingston Parish. Conwayboro – G.R. Congdon, I.T. Lewis, P.W. Green. Bull Creek – W.W. Lowrimore, P. Parker, Peter Port. Dog Bluff – J.J. Best, Asa Gore, E.B. Jenkins. Gallivants Ferry – W.I. Gerald, A.B. Skipper, R.M. Powell. Floyds – C. Grainger, J.R. Floyd, Elias Tyler. Green Sea – J.T. Moody, E. Harrelson, R.C. Powell. Simpson's Creek – Wm. Carter, D.M. Reaves, W.E. Gore. Hickory Tree – J.S. Elliott, S.C. Johnson, B.P. Stevenson.*

(Continued Page 11)





**1898 Photograph of Rebecca Fearwell Waller and Gilbert Johnston Anderson Family**

Adults sitting and holding children, L to R: Elizabeth Fowler Anderson (1821-1902), second wife of David Russell Anderson (1808-1895) and stepmother of Gilbert Johnston Anderson. She is holding Leila Mac Anderson (1893-1929). Gilbert Johnston Anderson (1850-1950), son of David Russell Anderson, holding Lutie B. Anderson (1895-1970). Rebecca Fearwell Waller Anderson (1857-1915), wife of Gilbert, holding Fannie Lillian Anderson (1898-1992).

Children in back row, L to R: Derham Wilson Anderson (1890-1979), Alexander Russell (Gibb) Anderson (1887-1944), Charlotte H. Anderson (1885-1944), Mary Ann Elizabeth Anderson (1879-1966), Hattie R. Anderson (1881-1963), Oliver Ulysses (Joe) Anderson (1891-1960) and Bunyon Waller Anderson (1883-1931)

Two additional children were born after the photograph was made: B. B. Anderson (male), 1900, died in infancy and Herman Aleas Anderson (1904-1984).

## Did You Know?

Did you know that tanker hull *USS Waccamaw* was named after the Waccamaw River? She was commissioned on March 20, 1946, decommissioned on February 24, 1975, and out of service in 1989. She received a Battle Star and Meritorious Unit Commendation for

operations in Vietnam and the Meritorious Unit Commendation for support of the Jordanian Crisis operations in 1970.

Information from:  
Bouwman, Vern. Navy Super Tankers (Trafford Publishing, 2004) p. 29.

# The Torpedo Boats

## Horry Herald, October 30, 1913

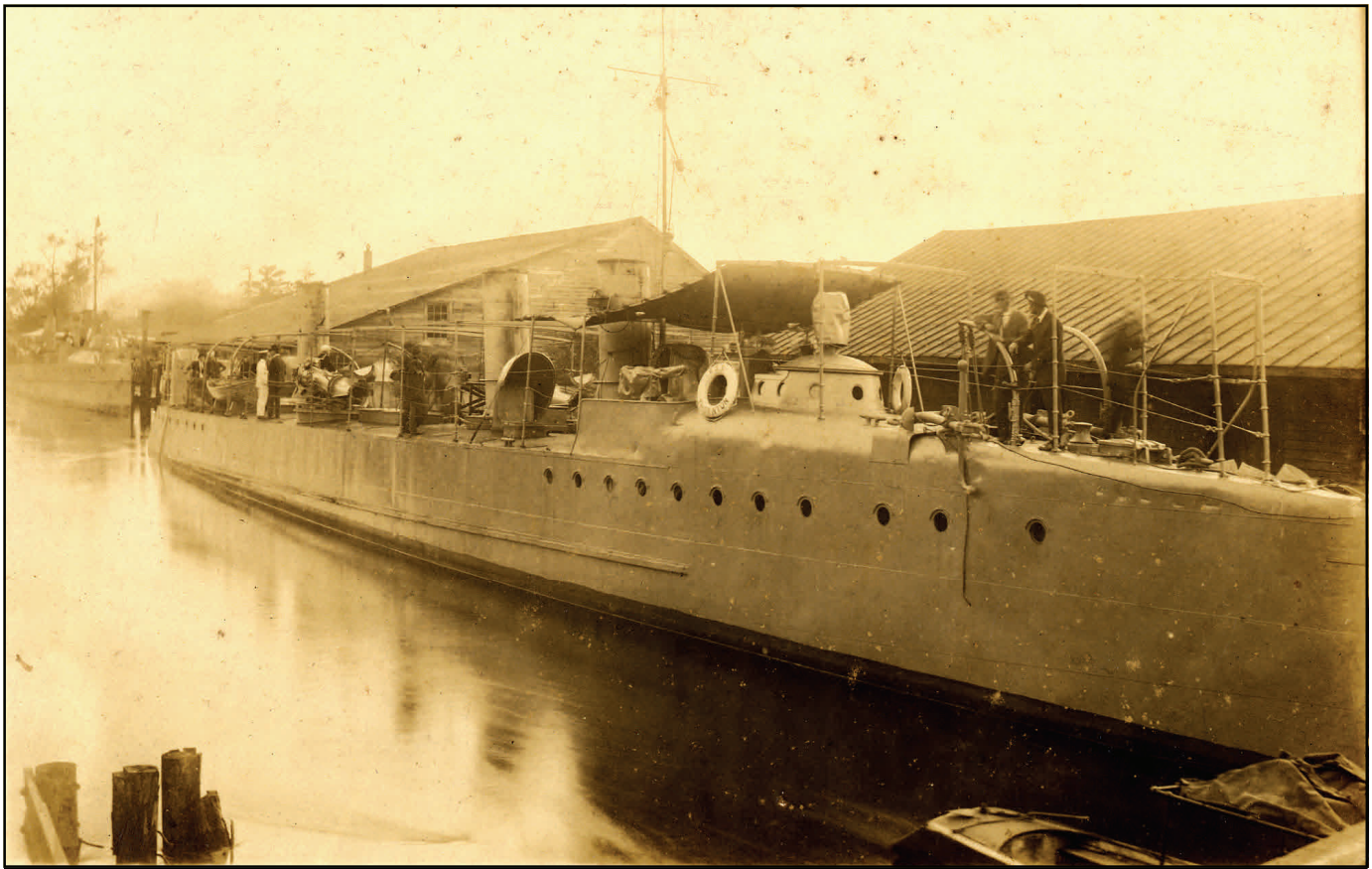
### Spent Thursday and Friday Here During the Fair

Conway had their first view of ... two torpedo boats [last week], the Tingey, in charge of Lieut. Heyward, and the Thornton, in charge of Ensign Lamont, came up the Waccamaw River and docked at the wharves of the Waccamaw Line of Steamers. These boats were the center of a great deal of interest all of the time that they remained. One of the boats got here late on Wednesday, the other arrived by Thursday morning. The presence of the boats here was due to the efforts of Hon. J. W. Ragsdale who undertook to help furnish amusement and information at the first annual fair of the Horry County Fair Association. Through the courtesy of Secretary Josephus Daniels, the boats were turned over to him for the purpose of exhibition at the fair, and he accompanied the boats here from Georgetown and remained with them until they left to return to Charleston on last Saturday.

... Great pains were taken to explain the working of the guns, especially the torpedoes, to everybody who visited these boats. The inside workings and the outside effects of the giant torpedoes appearing on the decks were told over and over again. Many were surprised to learn that one of these torpedoes cost the government \$7000.00.

Several parties arrived in Conway during the week from Georgetown and spent some time enjoying the sights at the fair. On Thursday night the ladies of the civic league of Conway were invited to go over the boats. Quite a number of the members of the league accepted the invitation and the occasion was a very pleasant one.

Each of these boats is of 200 tons displacement, and they measured in length 175 feet, and in width 17.6 feet, and draw five feet of water. Each has a speed of 25 knots, equal to about 27 ½ miles. They are driven by twin screws and have three thousand horse power. Each of the boats carries two officers and thirty men. Several times the powerful search lights were turned on and the working of them explained. The officers and men were found to be very pleasant people by those who met them. The sailors took in the fair and thoroughly enjoyed it.



The torpedo boats were docked just above the Waccamaw River Memorial Bridge. The forefront boat is the Thornton and the Tingey is docked behind it. The two warehouses shown still exist today. Photo courtesy of the Horry County Historical Society



## Horry County Patriot Tree Project

On February 28, the Horry County Board of Architectural Review and Historic Preservation, the Camellia Garden Club of Conway, the Horry County Historical Society hosted the first dedication for the Horry Patriot Tree Project at the Upper Mill Plantation in Bucksville.

The project pairs our current live oak trees with soldiers from Horry County who served during the War Between the States. Each of the trees has a QR (quick response) code marker directing smartphone users to the HCHS website listing the soldier's name, birth date, birth place, death date, burial place and other available detail of soldier's services. Adam Emrick, Senior Planner, with Horry County Planning & Zoning is the driving force behind this project.

Various garden clubs will help determine locations to honor clusters of soldiers in accordance with where they lived and availability of trees.

During the first dedication, 12 trees were dedicated to the memory of local veterans from the Bucksville area of the county including Henry L. Buck Sr., Charles F. Buck, William L. Buck, George O. Buck, Henry McCall, Robert W. Sing, Samuel Harper, J. S. Higgins, Cephas Gilbert, Samuel S. Sarvis, Moses Sarvis, and Joseph A. Sarvis.

After clicking on the QR link for Henry McCall, you find that he was an African-American belonging to Capt. Henry L. Buck Sr., went with the soldiers from Horry in the S.C. 27th Regiment Infantry, surrendered at Appomattox and came home with what was left of



the company. It also lists his February 1830 birthdate and the names of his wife and children.

Emrick says there are as many as 1,000 soldiers and trees to be honored and other dedications will be held at different locations around the county. The next one will be at the Vereen Memorial Historical Gardens.

If you would like to find out about the soldiers identified, click on the Horry County Historical Society's link.

<http://www.hchsonline.org/PatriotTreeProject/PatriotTreeProjectHome.html>

## Conway's Azalea Garden Club Honored Rebecca Randall Bryan on 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

By Janice G. Cutts

The Azalea Garden Club of Conway recently honored past member, the late Rebecca Randall Bryan, with the installation of a historical plaque at her previous residence on the club's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Bryan House, located at 606 Main Street, is located on the original Burroughs Graded School property at a nearby location. The numbers of students grew too large for the building, and the school was moved to a new home a couple of blocks away in 1905. The original school building was rented out as a residence for female teachers until 1912 when fire claimed the old structure. William Lamar Bryan, son of a longtime Horry County family, then purchased the property and had the present house built in the winter of 1912-1913.

Rebecca Randall Bryan, daughter of W.L. Bryan lived in the home until her death on September 25, 1999, and willed the property and house to the Horry County Historical Society. Ms. Bryan was an active participant in the Society and a charter member. She was a past member of the Azalea Garden Club prior to her death.

The Azalea Garden Club of Conway was organized and federated in 1938. It is a member of the Garden Club Council of Conway, The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc. Coastal District and the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. South Atlantic Region.

The Azalea currently has twenty three active members who meet on the third Tuesday of each month.



At a special assembly on October 29, 2013 commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Azalea Garden Club, the members placed the historical marker on the Bryan House property, framing it with the addition of six pink Encore Azaleas signifying the namesake club. The members also planted a single white Dogwood tree in honor of Ms. Bryan on the property.

## Memories of 49 Years Ago

By Steve Lee

After listening to Paul Harvey's, "49 Years Ago" recording of about 1965, I sat back and thought about what I was doing at the time it was recorded. I was fifteen years old, about to wrap up my freshman year at Conway High. I had no car and wouldn't get my own car until three years later after graduation. I had great parents who asked nothing of me but to do my best. Honestly, I didn't. I went to church a minimum of three times a week at First Baptist. We were able to hunt and fish just about anywhere we liked as long as we didn't shoot the livestock or poke holes in the boat that just happened to be turned upside down on the bank of the river or pond.

As far as I know, none of us had ever even heard of marijuana, heroin, LSD, or any of those things. Now, an ice cold Blue from Fisherman's Headquarters, that was another story. We circled Nye's during the day, Randy's at night. Fisherman's about every thirty minutes or so. Blues were thirty cents, a gallon of gas about the same. Cigarettes, for those who smoked, were a quarter out at the Dixie Vim in North Conway. Occasionally, a drag race challenge would take us out to the Maple Stretch

where the quarter-mile was conveniently marked by stripes painted across the pavement. Air breathers would be removed and cutouts uncapped.

Discipline problems in the schools were almost nonexistent. Teachers and the administration pretty much had control over our lives in the classrooms. We respected our teachers and they respected us. The only time I remember anything getting out of hand at CHS was water gun fights. Yeah, water guns! Maybe a spitball now and then.

The Beach Club was our entertainment. Maurice Williams & the Zodiacs, Billy Stewart, Doug Clark & the Hot Nuts. Our Weejuns would be soaked either by spilt beer on the dance floor or urine in the bathroom, or both. Hot expensive beer, good music, a lotta shagging, no fights, no DUI's. Just a lot of teenagers having a lot of fun.

Not a bad time, if you ask me.

Then I listened to the recording again. Kinda saddens me.

✍ *Steve Lee is a 1968 graduate of Conway High School and earned a B.S. in Accounting from Clemson University in 1973. After practicing public accounting for over ten years, he has been a financial advisor for thirty-plus years. Since 2007, he has been associated with LPL Financial, the largest independent brokerage firm in the country.*

(From "Election Turmoil," p.7)

If we think things are contentious now, take a look back to when we were really divided. The United States elected their House of Representatives on even years so the Confederate States elected theirs on odd years. That is the reason for the election being held in 1861. The first election results were contested (does that sound familiar) so the polls were re-opened the following month. The outcome was that John McQueen of Bennettsville was elected from the First Congressional District. As we all know, we slogged on for four more bloody years of war followed by forty more years of slow economic recovery. Yet, we survived and came back together as one nation and regardless of which party wins or loses. We will continue to survive in spite of our differences.

Pray to God we never again resort to brother killing brother over those differences.



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**Cora Beaty (1853-1870] and  
 Charles Pelham Bolton  
 (unk.-1869]**

Although we have heard this story many times, recent availability of historic newspaper obituaries gives us more information than was previously known.

*Charleston Courier*, September 14, 1869  
 On the 23d ultimo [August], at Conwayboro’, S.C., by Rev. J. E. Dunlop, C. P. [Charles Pelham] Bolton, Esq. Editor of the *Horry Sentinel*, to Miss Cora Beaty [1853-1870], daughter of [Mary E. Brookman and] Thos. W. Beaty, Esq.

*Charleston Courier*, September 23, 1869  
**Death of C. P. Bolton, Esq.** – But a few weeks ago we chronicled the marriage of this gentleman, a young lawyer of Conwayboro’, and editor of the *Horry News*, and now it becomes our mournful duty to announce his untimely death. Mr. Bolton was born near Beauty Spot, Marlboro’, a few miles from Bennettsville, the son of a very respectable farmer for many years the Coroner of the District. His mother is a sister of Professor C. P. Pelham. Charles was a boy of considerable promise, and was educated in the Citadel Academy in this city, where he graduated with credit. This was shortly before the beginning of the war. He volunteered early in 1816, and served as Lieutenant, and afterward Captain, with distinguished bravery throughout our unhappy struggle. With the return of peace he settled in Conwayboro’, where he made many friends, in due time was admitted to the Bar; and had a fine promise of professional success. He edited the local paper, and with

**Cora Beaty (1853-1870) and  
 Charles Pelham Bolton (unk-1869)..Page 12**

his good sense and staunch character bid fair to become a prominent citizen of that County. He was married about five weeks ago, and brought his fair young bride to Charleston to spend the honeymoon. He was taken sick soon after his return to Conwayboro’, and died on Sunday last, leaving a widow of sixteen, and mourning parents to lament their loss.

*The Anderson Intelligencer*, Anderson, SC, July 14, 1870 (This was originally printed in the *Marion Star*.)  
**A Sad Affair** – It becomes our painful duty to announce to-day one of the saddest cases of death by drowning, that has probably ever happened in this section. Last Saturday, Mrs. C. P. Bolton, the daughter of our friend T. W. Beaty, Esq. of Conwayboro’, and well known to many of our citizens as Miss Cora Beaty, while bathing with her little sister in a lake near her father’s house, ventured too far, and both were drowned. A colored man seeing their danger hastened to their rescue and was drowned. About eighteen months ago, the deceased, then Miss Beaty, a lovely girl of sixteen, was married to Charles Pelham Bolton, one of the most talented and promising young lawyers in this part of the State, and when we saw them on their return from their bridal tour, we thought that a long and happy life strewed with flowers was before them. But in this we were sadly disappointed, for in less than one month from our announcements of this happy marriage, it was our painful duty to announce the death of Mr. Bolton. And to-day, ere the once happy wife had laid aside the habiliments of mourning for the one whom she had chosen as the partner of her life, we have to announce her demise in the unfortunate manner referred to.—*Marion Star*, 6<sup>th</sup> instant.