# The Proceedings and Papers

of the

# GREENVILLE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1964-1965



ALBERT N. SANDERS Editor

The Greenville County Historical Society Greenville, South Carolina 1966

The Greenville County Historical Society supplies the Proceedings and Papers to all 18 members. The Board of Directocelects the Editor. The price of the Proceedings and Papers to posses not members of the Society to 2009 per copy. Orders should be sent to the Editor, 441 Longview Terrace, Greenville, S. C. 99005.

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### OFFICERS OF THE GREENVILLE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# 1964-1965

Romayne A. Barnes President
Mrs. R. N. Daniel First Vice-President
Mrs. B. T. Whitmire Second Vice-President
Joseph H. Earle Recording Secretary
Mrs. H. C. Schroder Corresponding Secretary
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Mrs. B. T. Whitmire Chairman-Membership Committee
Mrs. R. N. Daniel Chairman-Program Committee
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Albert N. Sanders Chairman-Publications Committee
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William H. Beattie Director-at-Large
Mrs. Henry T. Crigler Director-at-Large

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY

FALL MEETING, 1964

The Greenville County Historical Society met at the Greenville County Museum of Art on October 24, 1984. After minutes and committee reports were heard, Mrs. A. D. Oliphant proposed and the Society adopted a resolution commending Director John S. Taylor for the publication of his work on the 16th South Carolina Regiment, C. S. A. Mr. Dixon Davis presented to the Society a bronze plaque which had been a part of the Old Record Building, Mr. Marion Hewell introduced Dr. J. Decherd Guess who presented his paper, "Early Doctors of Greenville County," which was received enthusiastically by the Society. A feature of the meeting was the interesting exhibit of early materia medica, pharmach was ranged by the Exhibition Committee chairmen, Mr. and Mrs. T. Charles Gower.

#### WINTER MEETING, 1965

On January 24, 1965, the Society met in the Friendship Room of the Wade Hampton Branch of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association. In addition to the normal reports, the Society heard Mr. Marion Hewell gibe notice of the following propriate amendments to the By-Laws which would be voted on at the spring meeting:

1. The following section shall be added to Article III — Membership:

Section 3. Classes of Members. The classes of members in the Society shall be regular members, sustaining members, and life members.

 Article VI — Dues shall be amended to read as follows: The annual dues of the Society Auli he Two pollars (\$20.0) for regular members. Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) for sustaining members. Fifty Dollars (\$25.00) for pattern members, and One Houdred (\$100.00) for life members. After gayment of \$100.00. Life Members of the Company of the C

for austraining or patton memberahus or any combination thered shall become a life member, and shall not thereafter be required to pay annual dues.

Article IV, Section 4, shall be amended to read as follows: Section 4, Recording Secretary, The recording secretary shall record and keep the mignet of the Society and the Board of Direction. Article IV. Section 6. shall be amended to read as follows:

Section 6. The Treasurer shall maintain the membership roll, shall be the custodism of all funds belonging to the Society, and shall be responsible for the collection of dues. At each annual meeting, be shall render a complete and accurate report of the finances of the Society for the preceding twelve month period.

Add the following Article, as Article VIII, and renumber the following Article to conform:

Article VIII - Dissolution.

In the event of the dissolution of this organization, its assets shall be distributed to the Board of trustees of the Greenville County Library, or its successors.

In behalf of the Society, the President accepted graveyard surveys of the Choice family graveyard prepared by Mrs. Hattle C. Schroder and her daughter, Mrs. Joseph H. Earle, Jr., and of the Blassingame family graveyard prepared by Mrs. Schroder, Mrs. B. T. Whitmus, and Miss Edith Thruston. Mrs. A. D. Oliphant announced that the Colonial Dames was presenting to the Society twenty-two up-country graveyard surveys and delivered them to the President who accepted this gracious gift and valuable addition to the Society Societion.

Mrs. Robert N. Daniel presented Miss Jean Martin Flynn, faculty member of North Greenville Junior College and historian of the college and of the First Baptist Church, Taylors, who presented her able paper, "Musters and Old Muster Grounds." The value of the paper was enhanced by photographs and charts which Miss Flynn used to illustrate her findings.

#### SPRING MEETING, 1965

The Society met for its spring meeting on March 28, 1985, at the Greenville County Art Museum. Mr. W. H. Beattle introduced Joseph H. Earle, Jr., Greenville attorney and the Society's recording secretary who read his paper. The Bench and Bar of Greenville in Anti-bellum Days. Mr. Earle traced the development of the local bench and har from the founding of the county until the War for Southern Independence, including sketches of the careers of such promisent men as the Waddy Thompsons, Benjamin F. Perry, and George F. Townes. In keeping with the theme of the happer, the Ethikhtion Committee had an exhibit of paintings and photographs of early Greenville lawyers and judges together with several interesting old letal documents.

President Romayne A. Barnes announced the publication of the Proceedings and Papers of the Greeneille County Historical Society, 1962-1964. Editor Albert N. Sanders explained that this first volume contained all papers read before the Society in its first two years of existence. Gogether with a summary of the proceedings of the Society, a copy of its By-laws, and the roil of members. The Directors project that the Proceedings and Paper will be published annually with the amended By-laws and an index appearing once in five years.

The President acknowledged gratefully the gift that Mr. and Mrs. William L. Britgham had presented to the Society, in memory of their parents, a copy of the Memorial Addresses on the Life and Character of Joseph H. Earle (Late Senator from South Carollina) Delivered in the Senate and Honse of Representatives Fifty-Fifth Congress, Second Session.

The amendments proposed to the By-Laws at the winter meeting were adopted by the Society.

It was announced that Mr. W. H. Beattle, Director-at-Large, had initiated action to give the Society tax exempt statute under the Internal Revenue Code, Mrs. R. N. Daniel moved to incorporate the Society as an elemonynary corporation, with its divide elected officers designated as incorporators with instructions to make application to the Secretary of State for a charter.

The Nominating Committee proposed and the Society elected by acclamation the following officers:

Second Vice-President: Miss Laura Smith Ebaugh

Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Frances Withington

Treasurer: Mr. Abner D. Asbury

Directors-at-Large: Mrs. John W. Arrington, Mr. William H. Beattie, Mrs. Henry T. Crigler, Mrs. B. T. Whitmire, and Mrs. H. C. Schroder.

#### ADDITIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S REFERENCE "SHELF" IN THE GREENVILLE COUNTY LIBRARY

The "shelf" of books in the Greenville County Library maintained by the Society to serve as research aids in identifying, dating, and studying more appreciably local possessions and lore has been enriched by the addition of the following volumes:

Crigler, Mrs. H. T. (Sara Cossett). Parting the Mists, 1796-1963. Italy, Frama, 1963. 168 pages.

"Education for Girls and Women in Upper South Carolina Prior to 1890 with Related Miscellaneous Articles." Unpublished typewritten manuscript, 191 pages, with illustrations.

# ADDITION TO THE LISTING OF PORTRAITS EXHIBITED OCTOBER 26, 1961, AND OCTOBER 15-21, 1962

One of the portraits exhibited by the Society on October 26, 1961, and October 15-21, 1962, was omitted from the list published in the *Proceedings and Papers*, 1962-1964, pages 16-21. To make the listing complete, the following item should be added:

Blassingame, Ceneral John Westfield A. Portrait owned by Mrs. Agnes Cleveland Sandifer (Mrs. W. S.) of Spartanburg, S. C. Artist unknown.

#### EARLY DOCTORS OF GREENVILLE COUNTY

J. DECHERD GUESS, M.D.

The First Two Centuries of South Carolina Medicine

The history of medical practice in Greenville County began, really, in Charleston when in 1670, a group of settlers from England and the Barbadoes established Charles Town. With them came, no doubt, some rudiments of British medical knowledge, although there is no suggestion that the group included a single practicing physician. Before the middle of the eighteenth century, however, there were in Charleston a group of brilliant physicians. In 1755, there was a "Faculty of Psychic" in Charleston, the first effort at medical education within the colory.

Almost a century later, in 1848, the South Carolina Medical Association was organized. At the organizational meeting of the State Medical Association pother Greenville, Spartanburg, Pickens, Occupee, nor Laurens Districts were represented. At that time Pickens District had two physicians, Laurens had twenty-five, Abbeville had sixty-four, and Greenville District had only seven it was not until 1873, well after the end of the Civil War, that delegates from Greenville County to the annual meeting of the State Association were registered, and it was eighteen years later before the Greenville County Medical Society was chartered in 1891.

The slow development of the medical profession in Greenville County when compared with some other counties was the result of a fact of history and of population growth in South Carolina which is frequently overlooked. Before the American Revolution the northwest corner of the state which now includes Greenville Pickens, and Anderson counties was either a part of the lands of the Cherokee Nation or bordered on them. The area which now comprises Greenville County remained recognized Cherokee land until captured as part of the war effort by the state and was not opened up for settlement until 1784. Population spread in South Carolina had been by two chief routes: either by western movement inward from the coastal area, or by southward movement down from Pennsylvania through Virginia and North Carolina, into the region of the Waxhaws. Thus, Spartanburg and Laurens districts were relatively densely populated before Greenville even became a part of the state.

#### From American Revolution to the Civil War

Within two years after the Creenville District was opened up for settlement in 1784, practically all of the destrable land had been taken. Most of the settlers were Revolutionary War veterans 'clauning out' land as the result of wateritue bounty grants. What is now the city of Creenville had been, before the war, a trading post operated on land purchased from the Cherokees by Colonel Richard Pearis. After the war, this territory was secured by Lennuel J. Atson, who sold the entire one thousand and twenty-eight acres to Vardry McBee in 1815. The village, called Pleasanburg by Alston, became Greenville prior to 1807. By 1800, the population of the district had increased to 11,506. Edward Hooker, who visited the village in 1806, mentioned in his diasy that. 'That place is thought by many to be as healthy as any part of the United States.' He said there were one or two physicians in or near the village at that time.

By 1824 Greenville had already begun to be recognized as a health resort "which appealed, [wrote the editor of *The Republi*can in 1827] to our low country friends whom the fever and musquators [sic] drove from their houses during the summer. . . All get employment but doctors – we have little use for them."

By 1836, twenty-five years before the beginning of the Civil War, the population of the village was about 1,000 and there were five doctors in or near the town.

#### Medical Pioneers

Perhaps the first physician to locate within Greenville District was Dr. Robert Nebous who had served as a surgoon in the American Revolution. Before the Revolution he had lived in Tryon County, North Carolina, but through an adjustment in the boundry lines between North and South Carolina his bome was taken into Spartanburg District. After the war, in 1785, be received a grant of five hundred acres of land in Greenville County on the south side of the Tyger River, an area in the neighborhood of what is now Tigerville. Dr. Nelson's will was recorded in Greenville County on May 1, 1790.

A Dr. Hunter ran for Congress from the Congressional District shortly after Hooker's visit to Greenville in 1806. Whether or not he lived in what is now Greenville County is not recorded. At any rate, he was defeated for Congress "because he was such a good doctor."

By 1836, there were seven physicians in the district, five of whom lived in or near the town of Greenville. One of these early Greenville doctors was Dr. Richard Harrison, who came in 1831, shortly before the village became an incorporated town. Little is known of him, except that his grand nephew, Dr. James Harrison, was in Creenville in 1830 before doctors practicing in Greenville in 1830 were Dr. Thomas Collins Austin (a grandson of Nathaudie Austin, the first permanent settler in the county), his brother Dr. William Lawrence Manning Austin, Dr. Andrew Berry Crook, Dr. Oanyn B. Irvin, and Dr. Robinson M. Earle.

Dr. Thomas C. Austin was born about 1790. After serving as a lieutenant in the War of 1812, he studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He then returned to Greenville, where he practiced medicine until his death.

His brother, Dr. William L. M. Austin was born in 1803. He, too, got his M. D. degree from the University of Fennsylvania. He organized the Davis Guards (Co. F. Hampton Legion, CS. A.), and was elected captain of the company. After the Battle of Manassas, in which he fought, he resigned his commission to become a military surgeon. His untimely death occurred in 1861. A record of the "horrors of war (as he saw them), his tender love for the youthful soldiers, his unselfish dedication of his purse to relieve their suffering" is preserved in a letter he wrote to a niece shortly before he died.

Dr. Andrew Berry Crook is, perhaps, the best known of this group of early Greenville medical pioneers as he was very prominent in the early social, professional, and political life of Creenville. Dr. Crook was born in 1802, studied medicine at Transylvania College in Lexington, Ky, and came to Greenville in 1870; benjamin F. Perry, who came to Greenville to study law, article about the same time. They lived together in an excellent resort hotel, and became devoted friends, a friendship which klasted throughout their long lives. They both entered actively and enthosastically into the social life of the community.

There is a tradition that Dr. Crook continued anatomical dissection in the early years of his career. The cadavers of executed criminals could be had in exchange for a plug of tobacco. Certainby, be maintained an interest in scientific medicine and developed breadth in his clinical attainment for the Greenville Mountainer of August 20, 1847, reported: "Letheon tested in Greenville. Boy ten years old operated on for cataract in both eyes while under the influence of Lethion (derived from the word lethe, meaning complete loss of memory). Administered by Dr. C. Rabe through apparatus of his own contrivance; operation skillfully performed by Dr. Crook. Insensibility to pain perfect. Felt fine after operation and declared himself ready to breathe Ether again." This use of ether for anesthesia in Greenville was five years after Dr. Crawfold Longs unreported first operation under ether anesthesia and only one year after Warren's use of ether in the first public demonstration of its usefulners.

Although Dr. Crook was a greatly belowed family doctor, he found time and interest for many other pursuits. He was widely read and was quite scholarly. He wrote extensively on agriculture, medicine, and surgery. He owned a large plantation, raised fine cattle, and owned a hundred slaves. He was mayor of the town in 1853-34. He was on the Board of Trustees of Greenville Pernale College, now a part of Furman University. He was active in state and national politics, and worked along with Benjamin Perry to prevent nullification, first, and then secession. He was an initimate friend of John Caldwell Calthour. Dr. Crook's manner was brusque and he made enemies. Although he never rought a duel, he was Perry's second, when his friend had to fight one and he instructed Perry in mans/manship.

Although he had strongly opposed secession, after South Caroina had withdrawn from the Union, Dr. Crook supported the Confederacy with enthusiasm. Too old for active campaigning, Dr. Crook hastened to Virginia to give medical care to a friend and protege, a Dr. Hole, who had been wounded there. While in Virginia, he volunteered as an army surgeon, overworked himself: and returned to Greenville to die in 1860.

Dr. Robinson M. Earle was killed in 1838 by William Lowndes Yanesy, later famous as a firey politician and secessionist, who had come to Greenville from Georgia to study law in the early 1830's. Yanesy was accused of the murder but after a dramatic and no-torious trial, he was acquitted. Little more is known of Dr. Earle, although he undoubtedly was an early member of the Earle family, which included a number of romninent doctors.

Dr. James Harrison, a great nephew of Dr. Richard Harrison, Creenville's first physician, was born 1813. After graduating from Yale, he studied medicine and graduated in 1840 from either the Medical College of South Carolina or Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. He settled in Creenville, living in the house that is the present Woman's Chlu, still frequently referred to as the old Beattie home. He had two sons who studied medicine. One remained to practice in South Carolina, and one located in Florida. He was the grandfather of Mrs. Helen Mauldin Powe. He was a public-sprinted citizen, was elected to represent Greenville District at the Secession Convention, and was one of the signers of the Ordinance of Secession in 1860. He deld in 1871.

Dr. Osmyn B. Irvin was born in 1802. He was mayor of Greenville in 1846. It is said that because of his wife's ill health and his own "weak constitution," he retired from practice in early life. After his retirement, he spent his winters in Florida, where he accumulated extensive farming interests. Whether because of his early retirement or the healthful influence of Florida's mild winters, and in spite of his weak constitution, he lived to be seven-ty-eight years of age and died in 1880. Undoubtedly, he had retired before the (abulation of the five doctors said to have been in Greenville in 1836.

Dr. Baylis Earle was born in 1814 and died in 1867. He graduated in medicine in Philadelphia and it has been said of him that he was considered to be "the leading physician of his time. He had a fine personality and mentality."

Dr. Thomas T. Earle enlisted for service in the forces of the Confederacy when he was fifteen years of age. He studied medicine after the war at George Washington University, graduating in 1869. He was president of the South Carolina Medical Association in 1900. He was the father of Dr. Curran Earle, and an uncle of Dr. Joseph Earle. This astute and courtly physician died in 1921.

Not all doctors who came to live in Greenville did so to practice medicine. Of these, one of the most interesting was Dr. Burwell Chick. He came as an early physician immigrant to the relatively young frontier district of Greenville in 1825 from Newberry, Greenville was already recognized as a health resort because of its clear sides, invigorating air, and mild climate. Mineral springs throughout the country had become valued for their real or fancied

that he wrote as his graduation thesis a report based on the successful treatment of forty consecutive cases of typholoid fever. Such a record of cures was unique. His method of treatment was also unique for his day. He ordered it oc cold baths to reduce the fever. He brought the ice on horsehack to his patients from the ice house of John C. Calhoun. Dr. Lewis did not go to war, but rather, as it was said, he remained at home "to care for widows and ormhans."

Dr. J. P. Hillhouse (1827-1872) graduated in medicine from Augusta Medical College, now the Medical College of Georgia. He is described in Echoes and Etchings by E. Alfred Wilkes: "Dr. Peter Hillhouse, when I knew him, was very venerable looking, though not so old. Spare made – long, white, flowing beard, walking cane – wore long dress coat and silk hat," the typical prototype of the physician of his time.

Dr. William James Dargan was the only doctor in Sumter County during the Civil War. After the war he came to Greenville because of failing health. Instead of resunning medical practice, he opened Greenville's first book store. It was said of him that he was truly a gentleman of the old school, cerecising kindness Itelf, and filled with sympathy. He died in Anderson, where he had moved to be near a daughter.

Dr. William Henry Austin, son of William Lawrence Manning Austin, one of the seven Greenville Country doctors listed in 1858, was born in 1859. He lived to be eighty-one years of age, dying in 1914. He began studying medicine under his father's tutelage when he was thirteen. He graduated from the Jefferson Medicial College. Interestingly enough, he was exempted from military duty in 1860 because "he had recently married and was a physician." His father, who was fifty-seven years of age at the time, took his son's place in the service.

Dr. Thomas Blackburn Williams was a Greenville physician during the Civil War period but nothing further is known concerning him.

Dr. David Rose Anderson (1834-1888) had a classical education before beginning medicine. He practiced for half a century in the Fairview community. It was written of him by an admirer: "He loved his profession and practiced it for thirty-four years. He was recognized as one of the best diagnosticians in Greenville County. He could tell what was wrong with a man by looking at him."

Dr. R. D. Long (1845-1886) was a surgeon in Hampton's Legion and was intendant of the Village of Greenville in 1866.

Similarly, Dr. Samuel Hunter (1830-1883) was a surgeon in the Civil War and was mayor of Greenville in 1866-67.

Dr. Benjamin Few was one of the "greats" of the Civil Wardoctors, both in his own right and by reason of the family which he established in Creenville County. Born in 1839, he lived to be ninety-three years of age. Members of his family came to Punnsylvania with William Penn. They were Quakers. When the Wesleys came to America to introduce Methodism, the Fews joined the movement. Dr. Few, after graduation in Charleston, began practice in Marietta. The war interrupted his practice. He became an Army surgeon and served throughout the conflict.

After the war, he settled first at Sandy Flat and then removed to Greer. For many years, he was considered to be the leading doctor of that community. A son, William P. Few, became president of Duke University. Another son studied medicine. He was practicing in Hendersonville, North Carolina, at the time of his death. All of his life Dr. Few interested himself in good works and community service. His interests by in the realm of betterment of public health, his church, and the schools. He was always aligned with great moral and social causes. In his obtituary, it was written of him that 'his community, his country, and his state are richer that he lived."

Dr. J. H. Maxwell was said to have been Greenville's first gynecologist. His practice dealt chiefly with disease peculiar to women. It was said of him that was highly accomplished in his profession, that he was a Christian gentleman of elevated character "as every gynecologist should be." He died in 1915 at the age of eighty-four.

Dr. William Pliney League, Dr. Frank Jenkins, and Dr. Du-Rand Wigfall Youngblood, all were of the Civil War period, and each died after the turn of the century. Each had a remarkably long life and a useful medical career.

This then, is a fleeting view of Greenville's medicine during the first century of its history and of the galaxy of doctors who practiced medicine in Creenville from its beginning up to and through the Civid War period. There was not one of its doctors but who had a medical degree from a good medical school, not one, but who was an outstanding man in his community. Several had had a classical education before they studied medicine. The day of the medical diploma mill had not yet come. These doctors were all outstanding citizens, belowed general practicioners, men interested in politics, and civic and religious leaders. They were not adverse to social life, as was attested by a poker club, nor a social drink. They were adverse to the telephone which at times interrupted the friendly game. They were short on the science of medicine, but they understood and practiced its art. They were admined, respected, and loved by their people.

In 1882, there were fifty-one doctors registered in Creenville County. Thirty-four of these lived in the city. Half of the doctors had studied medicine at the Medical College of South Carolina, a ratio that has persisted rather uniformly up to the present time.

The first quarter of the twentieth century was to see an imputes of medical organizational growth, a trend toward hospital construction, the coming of the Age of Surgery as a speciality, provision for the medical care of the indigent, and a raising of the standards of medical endeaution. It was a fitting produce to World War I and to the new ear in medicine which followed it.

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#### MUSTER AND OLD MUSTER GROUNDS IN GREENVILLE COUNTY

### JEAN MARTIN FLYNN

Militia, citizen soldiers, in South Carolina is as old as the colony and South Carolina citizens have been enrolled by law in regularly organized military units since the first recorded militia ordinance was passed in 1671.3 Militia law has been modified periodically since that date as expansion of the colony and state and changing times required adjustment in the organization. This law required enrollment of all free white men between the ages of sixteen and forty-five and called for regimental musters every two months.2 Eight years later, in 1794, the militia system was overhauled completely to conform to the national militia organization established by Congress in 1792. According to the Act of 1794, South Carolina was divided into two divisions with Washington District, which included the area now Greenville County, being in the Fourth Brigade of the First or Western Division. The two Washington District regiments were the Fifteenth commanded by Allston and the Seventeenth commanded by Wood.3 In 1814, the militia was reorganized again with the state divided into five divisions of which Greenville, Pendleton, Edgefield, and Abbeville were districts formed in the First Division.4 The Report of December 18, 1819, shows still another organizational change. The Fourth Brigade had become the First; the Seventeenth Regiment, the First; and the Fifteenth, the Third.6

The organization at this time ran like this. Each of the five divisions had two brigades, each brigade, four regiments; each regiment, two battalions, each battalion, four beat companies and one company of Light Infantry or Rillemen. Each regiment was allowed an artillery company, and each division was required to

David William Cole, 'The Organization and Administration of the South Carolina Militia System, 1870-1783 (Unpublished Doctor's dissertation, University of South Carolina, 1953), p. 28.

\*\*Both Carolina, Statutes At Large, 1, 12-13. In many cases the command—"South Carolina, Statutes At Large, 1, 12-13. In many cases the command—"South Carolina, Statutes At Large, 1, 12-13. In many cases the command—"South Carolina, Statutes At Large, 1, 12-13. In many cases the command—"South Carolina, Statutes At Large, 1, 12-13. In many cases the command—"South Carolina, Statutes At Large, 1, 12-13. In many cases the command—"South Carolina, Statutes At Large, 1, 12-13. In many cases the command—"South Carolina, Statutes At Large, 1, 12-13. In many cases the command—"South Carolina, Statutes At Large, 1, 12-13. In many cases the command—"South Carolina, 1989.

<sup>\*</sup>Four, p. 131.

\*South Carolina, Statutes At Large, 1, 12-13. In many cases the commanding officers are identified by their last names only in the official documents and newspapers. When possible, given names have been supplied. Where the given names are missing, the author has not been able to identify further those officials.

<sup>\*</sup>Ibid., VIII. 523.
\*Benjamin Elliott and Martin Strobel, The Militia System of South Carolina (Charleston 1835), p. 158.

have one troop of horse. Greenville District militia was in the First Brigade of the First Division and consisted of two regiments: the First Regiment (called the Upper Regiment) composed of the Typer Battalion and the Saluda Battalion, each consisting of the District Companies and one uniform company of Light Infantry or Riflemen, and the Third Regiment (called the Lower Regiment) with the same organization. In addition each regiment had one Regimental Artillery Company

The state militia units after the Revolutionary War used smoothbore filintrock weapons, except the Light Infantry, or Rillemen Company which used rifles with a rifled barrel. The term beat company' came from the patrol service which was necessary after the slave entered South Carolina society. An act of 1740 required the captain at each company muster to "pick off not more than seven men to serve as the slave patrol to enforce the state laws concerning the slaves until the next muster over a circuit on to more than fifteen miles.' Even in those days soldiers were sometimes careless of equipment. An item in the notices in the Pendleton newspaper for August, 1832, reads thus: "Lost rifle gun at muster. New maple stock. Britch broke off at screw and fastened with natl. Pewter sight."

The organized militia was required to muster from time to time for inspection of equipment and training in the rudiments of military conduct and tactics. Companies mustered rather frequentially but the larger units gathered only once a year. In 1833, South Carolina militiamen had to attend company muster six times a year and regimental muster once a year. South Carolina Law of 1841 required the men to muster four times a year in companies, once a year in battalion muster, and once a year in regimental muster. Notices of musters appeared in newspapers of the day. Mil-if year the process of the proces

<sup>&</sup>quot;Ibid., p. xliv.

"H. M. Henry, The Police Control of the Slaves in South Carolina (Emory, Virginia, 1914), p. 34. The term "muster" comes from the Latin, monstrare, "to show," and at each muster each person attached to a company had to ap-

pear. "Elliott and Strobel, p. xl. "David Duncan Wallsco, The History of South Carolina (New York, 1934), III, 148.

7. The Pendleton Menunger for August 28, 1815, printed an executive order calling for the Seveneth Regiment commanded by Massey to meet at Benson's Old Field on August 17 and for the Fifteenth Regiment commanded by McDaniel to meet at Toney's and Toney's Sories and Toney's Sories and Toney's Sories and Toney's Sories was near Pendleton and Toney's Sories was near Foundation Intelligent Toney built to the Mansion House at Creenville Court House in 1824.19 Some vegation and toney's Sories and Toney's

While all troops were expected to mobilize for company muster and regimental muster, the officers only were required to attend brigade encampment at least once in every two years for a period of not more than six days and not fewer than five. They were required to wear full uniform and equir themselves with musket, bayonet, cartouche box, and bwenty-four cartridges.<sup>11</sup> Pickenswille near Easley was sometimes the site for the Fourth Brigade encampment. The Pendicton Messenger for August 14, 1813, carried an order for the officers to appear there on September 8 A similar encampment was held at Pickensville in 1817, and in 1820 Deputy Askstant Quartemaster Samuel A. Easley petition ed the legislature to pay kim the forty dollars it cost him to bring the tents from the Arsenal at Abbeville Court House to the 1817 encampment of the Fourth Brigade. The legislature honored his claim.<sup>12</sup>

Tensions originating from the tariff and multification controversy of the 1887s and the 1387s interfered with the efficient operation of the milita laws during the period and, at one point, all but destroyed the organized militia in Creenville District and upper South Carolina. In the fall of 1826, shortly after its opening, the Mansion House was the scene of a dimer given by proprietor Colonel William Toney for visiting Vice Persident John Caldwell Cathoun and presided over by Majore Waddy Thompson, Jr., of the First Brigade, South Carolina Militia. At that dinner Colonel Toney had proposed a losart to Andrew Jackson: "May as many American

<sup>19</sup>Stephen Stanley Crittenden, The Grecoville Century Book (Greenville, 1903), p. 34.
11Elliott and Strobel, p. 62.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Elliott and brobel, p. 02.

<sup>1</sup>Styllistry Affairs – Petition of 1820. "Petition of Samuel A. Easley praying his claim for moving tents for encampment of Fourth Brigade from Abbeville Court House to Pickensville" (MS, Archives Commission of South Carolina).

sprouts grow up to be Old Hickories as the emergencies of our country may ever require."13 The assembled company applauded.

In the next several years following Colonel Toney's toast, Jackson became President, the Tariff of 1828 passed, and South Caroling issued her Exposition and Protest stating the doctrine of Nullification. The Tariff of 1832 was followed by South Carolina's Ordinance of Nullification. President Jackson proclaimed the supremacy of United States Law over Commonwealth Law and prepared to enforce the tariff despite Nullification. The immediate crisis passed with the Compromise Tariff of 1833 and the South Carolina's revoking the Ordinance of Nullification.14 As this crisis unfolded the western districts of the state, particularly Pendleton and Greenville, had been militantly Unionist, refusing to support both Nullification and the efforts of the state to prepare to resist President's Jackson's determination to enforce United States law in South Carolina. Such was the situation in 1835 when orders went for an encampment of all officers of the First Brigade at Pickensville on August 10, 1835. The State provided the tents, but each officer had to supply five days' provisions.15 The commanding officer was the now-General Waddy Thompson, Ir.16

Shortly before the August 10, 1855, encampment one of the Pendleton companies met at their muster ground at Bachelor's Retreat with around 500 present including General Thompson. During this muster John Honea gave a volunteer toast to General Jackson: "When his time is out may he have to crawl home backwards on his hands and knees so that he neither can be met nor overtaken.""!

Had the men of the Greenville regiments been present they would not have applauded for they were strong Unionists. In fact, their feeling for the Union was so strong that most of the officers

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>Cecuville Republica, October 7, 1850. Another tost given at the dimer should help clear the origin of the name of Generille. The village of Greenville – Flexturespea and lovely in its situation, may it ap proper as to be worthy of the memory of him, whose illustrotes name at least. The theory of the memory of him, whose illustrotes name is least. The theory of the memory of him, whose illustrotes name is least. The theory of the memory of the property of the memory of the property of the memory of the property of the

<sup>14</sup>The Encyclopedia of American Facts and Dates, ed. Gordon Carruth and Associates (New York, 1956), pp. 178, 180. 15Pendleton Messenger, November 20, 1835.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid., May 29, 1835. 17Ibid., July 28, 1835.

of the First and Third Regiments disobeyed orders and refused to attend the Pickensilie encampent. Immediately an order was to inseed putting under arrest all the field officers and most of the Company officers of the Third Regiment and a large portion of the Company officers of the First Regiment for disobeying orders. Or August 15 an executive order countermanded the earlier order except for four men who were to stand trial. If They were Colonal T. P. Bruckman, Colonal Bobett P. Coodlett, Lieutenant Colonal William McNeely, and Major Henry Smith. These officers were charged with winful disobedience of orders in falling to elect or appoint officers as required and "combination with and exciting other forces to defer and resist the laws of the State." S

During the trial each man in his defence made clear his position on the two main points of controversy: the Test Oath and the Palmetto emblem on the regimental flags and on the buttons of the officers' uniforms. The Test Oath had been developed charing the Nullification controversy to assure the unquestioned byady of state officers to the state's rights position. The Oath, passed by the General Assembly in December, 1834, read thus: "I.

do solemuly swear that I will be faithful and true allegiance bear to the State of South Carolina, So help me God," Congratulating the legislature on the passage of the bill, Governor George Mc-Duffie had said that the "most conscientious believer in the supremacy of the Federal Government could not now scruele to take the Oath of office unless he altogether denied to the State the attributes of Sovereignty,"20 The Greenville delegation of the senator and the three representatives filed a minority report stating that in an effort to restore harmony, they would take the pledge but at the same time would swear to the best of their ability to "preserve protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, "11 The four officers under trial took positions similar to that of the District Delegation. In a letter to the Greenville Mountaineer for August 27, 1835, Colonel Brackman defended his action in refusing to appoint officers by saying he swore only to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States.

As part of the Nullification excitement, the state had replaced

<sup>1\*</sup>Greenville Mountaineer, August 22, 1835.
1\*Pendleton Messenger, November 20, 1835.
5\*O'Creenville Mountaineer, December 20, 1834.
3\*Ibid., December 27, 1834.

the "Eagle and Stars" of the United States with the Palmetto emblem on the regimental flags and the buttons of the officers' uniform of the militia. The attitude of the Greenville District Unionists toward the Palmetto emblem was stated by a writer in the Mountaineer for January 4, 1834, who maintained that the Union party of the mountain districts would never suffer the Palmetto buttons to "disgrace their persons until driven across the last ditch" In a letter to the Mountaineer for September 5, 1835, Colonel Goodlett, who had only recently been elected head of the upper regiment to replace Colonel Barton, who had resigned explained that he had obtained officers for every company in Tyger Battalion. But these officers decided to stay at home when they got word of the Pickensville encampment "knowing the differences because of the Palmetto emblem and the flag." Major Smith in a letter to the Second Battalion of the Third Regiment called the Palmetto button "that odious and disgraceful badge of Nullification,"22 Colonel Brockman said he failed to appoint officers because a portion of the men in his regiment were "adverse to being commanded by officers who had torn from their regimentals the Fagle and the Stars and substituted the mock heroics of the Palmetto "28

Such statements of Unionism did little to aid the four officers on trial. More effective was the citing of their records in the militia Colonel Condlett said he was elected to the command of his company without his consent before he was eighteen and after six or eight months made major of the battalion which post he had held six years until his recent election to the colonelcy of the regiment.24 Major Smith said he had been in the militia upwards of twenty-five years and when the War of 1812 was declared, he had volunteered his services and had been where he always expected to be - "arrayed under the Star-Spangled Banner." Lieutenant Colonel McNeely said he had been commissioned for fifteen years.25 Finally, the Court found the officers guilty and handed down sentence. They were cashiered from the service, disqualified from holding a Commission in the South Carolina Militia for one year and fined - Colonel Brockman and Colonel Goodlett, sixty dollars

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup>Ibid., September 12, 1835.
 <sup>23</sup>Pendleton Messenger, November 20, 1835.
 <sup>24</sup>Greenville Mountaineer, September 5, 1835. <sup>26</sup>Pendleton Messenger, November 20, 1835.

28

each; Lieutenant Colonel McNeely and Major Smith, fifty dollars

During the trouble Editor Frederick W Symmes of the Pendleton Messenger and Editor William Loundes Yancey of the Greenville Mountaineer around over the number of officers in the brigade. Yancey wrote that he "understood not more than 160 or 170 officers out of about 400" had attended the encomponent Symmes questioned how he had arrived at the figure of 400. Symmes gave a breakdown of six regiments of infantry each having eight beat companies with four commissioned officers in each company for a total of 192; four troops of cavalry with four officers for a total of 16: one uniform company to each of the six regiments for 24 officers: 21 field officers: and 20 General Staff officers for a total of 273.27 Yancey replied that although he had not counted the number of officers before he arrived at his figure, he felt his count was as correct as that of Symmes. When he gave his breakdown, he agreed as to the number of regiments and beat companies but gave each battalion a uniform company each regiment a troup of cavalry, and each regimental staff a field officer, an adjutant a quartermaster, a paymaster, a surgeon, a surgeon's mate, a sergeant major, a drum major, and a chaplain.28

There are no records to show which editor was correct. Greenville District did have the two regiments: the First and the Third The First or Upper Regiment designated its battalions the Tyger and the Saluda. Tyger Battalion counted among its muster grounds Benson's Old Field. Bruton's Old Field, and Bomar's Old Field. Bates' Old Field, and Piney Mountain were muster grounds for the Saluda Battalion. Third or Lower Regiment had among its muster grounds Toney's Store and Savage's at Fork Shoals. Other muster grounds were Shockley's Bowen's and Cobb's but it is not known which regiment used them. There were at least sixteen muster sites in the county and, the author has located three of these. Shockley's muster ground is on the Old Spartanburg Highway on the T. M. Hudson property. The Shockley burying ground is across the road. Mr. Harold Hammett of the Brushy Creek community gives this location saving it was pointed out to him by the late John T. Taylor of near Greer. The second, Bomar's Old Field was located by Mr. William F. Bomar of Greenville

<sup>25764</sup> 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup>Ibid., September 4, 1835. <sup>28</sup>Greenville Mountaineer, September 19, 1835.

His grandfather told him of it. It is on the Bomar property on Highway 101 in the O'Neal section. The third location is a muster ground of the Typer Battalian but its name is not known. Mr. H. W. Barton of Tigerville locates it on the Old State Road, Highway 414, on Ballenger property. A plat of Mr. Barton's property made in 1852 shows the race track that ran around the perimeter of the muster ground. At that time the property was owned by Captain William Fuller. (A chart of officers, units, and muster grounds mentioned through the years follows this paper.)

Special units were attached to the Greenville regiments from time to time. Other units gave themselves elaborate designations as was the custom. The Greenville Artillery was commanded to appear, armed and equipped, at the upper regimental Muster Ground Bruton's Old Field on August 2, 1826 29 A new company of Light Infantry was organized at the Court House in the fall of 1826 50 In May 1835 Greenville men formed a cavalry unit called the Greenville Hussars. William Lowndes Yancev was Captain: T W Cantt first lieutenant: W C Revans second lieutenant and A. B. Crook cornet 31 There were also the Independent Blues and the Fork Troop of Horse in 1810.32 the Morgan Blues and the Jackson Guards in 1835 33 a Greenville LaFavette Troop of Cavalry34 in 1837 and a Greenville Light Horse in 1840.35

Militia units were the central organizations in many Fourth of July celebrations. In 1826 Captain Earle's Company of Greenville Blues, Captain Benson's Rifle Company, and Captain Cobb's Light Infantry paraded for the assembled citizens.36 At the Fourth of July celebration in 1835 in Cantain Adam Jones' neighborhood, Cantain Wilson's Militia Company, the Morgan Blues, and the Jackson Guards paraded. 37 In another Fourth celebration at Captain Savage's muster ground, Savage's fine horse troop paraded. When the regular toasts were read from the stand by J. H. Harrison. each toast was followed by a round of pistol shots from Captain

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup>Greenville Republican, July 28, 1826.
<sup>36</sup>Ibid., November 4, 1826.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Greenville Mountaineer, June 20, 1835. The cornet was a commissioned officer in the cavalty troop who carried the standard. <sup>3</sup> Fendleton Messenger, August 11, 1810. <sup>3</sup> Greenville Mountaineer, June 20, 1835.

<sup>34</sup>Ibid., June 14, 1837. 36Ibid., July 10, 1840. 36Ibid., July 2, 1830. 37Ibid., June 20, 1835.

Savage's troop. Seventeen toasts were given including one to Davy Crockett 38 At the Fourth celebration at Colonel Hodges' near Saluda Gap in 1840. Captain Fuller's Rifle Company took part.31

Evidence indicates that the men of the First and Third Regiments normally supported the militia system. In August, 1807, Adjutant General met the officers of the Fourth Brigade at their respective muster grounds the day preceding their regimental muster to train the officers preparatory to raising troops to meet the emergency. Drummers and fifers qualified as instructors were also on hand.40 Although the Fourth Brigade's quota was 5700 men, a much larger number than required turned out in every regiment at muster. A Captain Easley (probably Samuel A.), a junior officer. was so anxious to take the first tour of duty he offered the senior captain twenty dollars for his place. Since the volunteers exceeded the number needed, the married men were prevailed upon to retire, and many companies of sixty to seventy were composed entirely of unmarried men. 41

Muster did not interfere with the customs of the community. In August, 1810, the Independent Blues postnoned drill because of the Baptist Associational Meeting, and the Fork Troop of Horse because of the Methodist Camp Meeting.42

Although the Greenville citizens supported the militia, through the years there was criticism of the militia system, not only in South Carolina but throughout the United States. In 1826, the Secretary of War sent out a questionnaire including the query: "From your experience are frequent musters advantageous to the great body of the Militia?" The editor of the Greenville Republican probably voiced the opinion of many when he concluded that "Everyone who has witnessed a muster of the common uniform militia of this State will concur with General Beverly Daniel of North Carolina that no change can be for the worse." General John Belton O'Neal of South Carolina reflected his experience as a judge when he said all the soldier desired was to have the name of mustering to exempt him from the fine imposed by law for failure to attend. A general from Pennsylania was quoted as say-

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup>Ibid., July 11, 1835.
 <sup>20</sup>Ibid., July 10, 1840.
 <sup>40</sup>Pendleton Messenger, August 27, 1807.
 <sup>41</sup>Ibid., September, 1807.
 <sup>42</sup>Ibid., August 11, 1810.

ing that four, six, or eight days of militia training never made a soldier but could make a drunkard and an idler.43 That same sentiment was echoed by the editor of the Anderson Advocate in the summer of 1853 when he stated that the majority of the cases of drunkenness riots, assaults and hatteries, murder and bloodshed had their origin at those "highly extolled musters."44

In 1853 the editor of the Newberry Sentinel attacked the evils of the militia system with satire. He wrote that he got to the "old field" in the buggy of a friend, which ride saved him a walk of six wearisome miles over a dusty road. Once there another friend gave him a gun or he would have been court-martialed for not having a gun or a stick or an umbrella with to present arms. When the adjutant of the battalion mounted "Rosanante" and shouted, "Parade," one company formed a tortuous line in front of a piguen. another rallied at the feed trough, another assembled near the cakeand-beer wagon, and still another lined up in front of a rail fence no more crooked than the line the company presented.46

Defenders of the militia system also appeared. The editor of the Camden Weekly Journal argued that though the system had faults, it should be kept. He was opposed to the "growing and dangerous radicalism that would destroy all the ancient landmarks." He felt there were too many extremists in South Carolina who when they couldn't get things done their way, favored "immediate change, reform, and every other unreasonable, impracticable notion afloat "46

To seek an improved system the General Assembly in 1858 appointed a Military Commission, which presented a plan at the next session. The plan called for a militia of 8000 men composed chiefly of volunteers.42 It suggested dividing the state into two military divisions. Greenville would have been in the Fourth Brigade of the Second Division.48 With a male population of 6648, Greenville would have been liable to have 391 men on duty. They would have been classified thus: one company of artillery with 65

<sup>42</sup>Greenville Republican, March 10, 1827.
44Greenville Mountaineer, May 19, 1853.
45Ourth Carolina Temperance Advocate, May 19, 1853.
44Camden Weekly Journal, September 5, 1854.
44T Plan To Improve the Present Militia System of South Carolina. Submitted at the Session of 1859 by a portion of the Military Commission, appointed by the Legislature of 1858, p. 4. 481bid., p. 7.

members, one company of cavalry with 65- and four companies of infantry with 65 each.40 However, no action had been taken on the proposal when the war came

The War for Southern Independence ended the sectionalism in the state and ex-Unionists and ex-Nullificationists joined forces. As a man from Fort Marion near Columbia wrote during the Nullification controversy in the Mauntaineer that the Revolutionary soldiers were no idle paper volunteers. "'Buttons' then were scarce and hoasting and threatening and holiday parades and 'hut-

tons' formed no part of the tactics of that heroic hand."60 Similarby when the War came South Carolinians were their Palmetto but. tons proudly and sent into their service thirty-five regiments of infantry, seven full regiments of cavalry, two full regiments of artillery, and numerous independent companies. 51 After the War the state militia became the National Guard of South Carolina, which was established by law March 16, 1869.

 191bid., p. 8.
 19 Greenville Mountaineer, January 24, 1835.
 19 Historical Annual of the National Cuard of the State of South Carolina, 1938 (Baton Rouge, 1938), p. 34.

### GREENVILLE DISTRICT MILITIA

1 Inite Officers Muster Grounds 1794

Wood's

First Division General Pickens Fourth Brigade Washington District Fifteenth Regiment Alleton's

Seventeenth Regiment

Regiment under Lieutenant Colonel Thurston and Cavalry under Captain Goode and Captain Earle ordered to muster at Major Benson's on November 7

1813 Fourth Brigade Brigadier General John Blassingame

Fifteenth Beginnent Austin's in vicinity of Court House Seventeenth Regiment Arrowsmith's on September 22 1818

Fourth Brigade Toney's Store, August 19 Fifteenth Regiment Colonei McDaniel Bruton's Old Field Colonel Massey Seventeenth Regiment

Benson's Old Field. August 17

1819 First Division Mojor Ceneral Butler First Brigade General McDaniel First Regiment Colonel Hodges Third Regiment

(Greenville, Pendleton, Edgefield, Abbeville) Colonel Walker

1820 First Brigade First Regiment

Colonel Hodges Usual Place Third Regiment Colonel Walker Toney's Store

1821 First Brigade

General McDaniel First Regiment Colonel Liggen Bencon's Old Field 1822

First Brigade General McDaniel

First Regiment Colonel Liggen Benson's Old Field, January 1823

First Brigade First Regiment Colonel Ligon Third Regiment

At Court House. Colonel Walker Angust 11 1825

First Brigade First Regiment Colonel Ligon Third Regiment Colonel Walker

1808 First Brigade First Regiment Bruton's Old Field. August 2

1897 First Brigade

First Regiment Colonel Liron Benson's Old Field, October 20 Third Regiment Colonel Johnson Toney's Store, October 23 1829

First Division General Wate First Brigade General Whitner First Regiment Colonel Ligon Third Regiment Colonel Gaines

Benson's Old Field. October 10 Toney's Store, October 9 1831 First Brigade

First Regiment

Colonel Barton Benson's Old Field, Third Regiment Colonel Brockman September 18 Taney's Store, September 20

1833

First Brigade General Waddy Thompson, Ir. 1834 First Brigade

First Regiment

Third Regiment

1836 First Division First Brigade

First Regiment Third Regiment 1837

First Division First Brigade

First Regiment Third Begiment

Brigadier General Waddy Thompson, Jr. Major John T. Broyles Colonel Lynch Colonel Cobb

Colonel Wilson Barton Major H. E. Lynch Major Robert P. Goodlett Colonel T. P. Brockman Major William McNealy Major Henry Smith

Major General George McDuffie Brigadier General Waddy Thompson, Jr.

Colonel Charles W. D'Oyley Bruton's, June 24 Lieutenant Colonel Z. F. Westmoreland

Major David Hoke Colonel William McNealy Lieutenant Colonel
William T. Richards
Major Enoch Gaines

Benson's Old Field, August 20 Toney's Store, August 16

# THE BENCH AND BAR OF GREENVILLE IN ANTE-BELLUM DAYS

JOSEPH H. EARLE, JR.

Even in pre-Revolutionary days, the "Back-country" of South Carolina had numerous white settlers, and what is now Greenville County had a few such settlers besides Richard Pearls. As these frontiersmen increased in numbers, they needed some sort of government if they were to have any measure of security. When, as a result of the campaigns against the Cherokees during the Revolutionary War, that part of the state now comprising Greenville, Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties was ceded to the state in 1772, the territory was made part of the Ninety-Six District until 1784. When the court located at Ninety-Six was unable to cope with problems of law enforcement in this wild country, commissioners were appointed to divide the large district into counties.2 In 1785 an act of the legislature established and delineated these new counties, providing that the justices in each county should erect a court house and gaol, together with a pillory, whipping post, and stocks 3

Some modifications followed, and Greenville County was established by act of March 22, 1786, which provided that it should be "entitled to County Courts, to be held on the third Monday in February, May, August and November; which courts shall hold, exercise, and enjoy the several powers and jurisdictions which are by law vested in the county courts heretofore established."4 This organization was short-lived and in the reorganization of 1791 Greenville and Pendleton counties became the District of Washington and had its seat with its courthouse and gaol at the village of Pickensville, near present Easley,5 and courts were held here for a few years. In 1798, the name "county" was changed to "district," and the many different types of courts which previously existed were reduced to two - Courts of General Sessions and Common

Richard Weigh's Simonon Hatony of the Oil Fendleton District (Arder-Son, S. a. 1933), p. 10, b. district, and the Computation of Creentiffe County, South Carolina (Atlanta, 1950), p. 40 ardson, Hatony of Creentiffe County, 24V Statistics of Large of South Carolina (Columbia: 1838), p. 561. 4VII Statistics at Large S, 245. 4VII Statistics at Large, p. 245.

Pleas.<sup>6</sup> The county courts, found unsatisfactory, were abolished in 1799 and replaced by a system of circuit courts.<sup>7</sup>

As is well known, the village of Greenville was first laid out in 1797 as "Pleasanburg" on the property of Lemel J. Alston. Alston was a man of wealth and political influence and may have influenced the decision of the commissioners who had been appointed to select a court house site to locate it on the eastern side of Reedy River near the Richard Pearis mill site on the Alston property. The court house, a two story building of log construction, was erected in 1797 on the city square where Main and Court Street now intersect, and the gool, three stories high and also of logs, was a block to the east, in the middle of Court Street near the present intersection of Court and Falis.

A Connecticut yankee, Edward Hooker, visited the village of Greenville Courthouse in 1806 and noted in his diary that the "courts sit but twice a year and often finish this session in two or three days," and that there was "Only one attorney, and law business dull." Who this one attorney was, Hooker does not say, but Alston himself was a lawyer and "commenced practice in Greenville." a Maton was State Senstor from Greenville, a member of the state convention which ratified the United States Constitution, and a signer for South Carolina of the ratification document. Alston defeated the incumbent Congressman, Col. Elias Earle, in the 1806 election, served two terms, but was defeated in 1810 by the same Elias Earle. Tradition has it that this defeat so disappointed Alston that he sold his estates to Vardy McBee and left Greenville.11 Hooker's diary gives a vivid if unflattering picture of the courses/singlage of 1906.

This part of the State is just now in a state of some agitation on account of the approaching elections . A stranger would be led to think the fate of the United States depended on the choice of which these people are about to make of Capt. Earle, or Col. Alston, or Dr. Hunter for Congressman . . Several hundred people came to

<sup>\*</sup>Ibid., p. 283.

<sup>\*</sup>Bichardson, pp. 60-61; S. S. Crittenden, The Greenville Century Book (Greenville, 1903), pp. 20-22; Lillian Adele Kibler, Benjamin F. Perry, South Carolina Unionist, (Duke Univ. Press, 1946), pp. 38-39. \*Pitchardson, p. 62.

<sup>19</sup> Ebid., p. 60.

19 Ebid., p. 60.

10 Ebid., p.

gether; the houses and streets were througed. The three candidates were present electioneering with all their might - distributing whiskey, giving dinners, talking and haranguing . . . . It was a scene of noise, blab, and confusion . . . Much drinking, swearing, cursing, and threatening-but I saw no fighting. The minds of uninformed people were much agitated - and many well-meaning people were made to believe the national welfare was at stake and would be determined by the issue of this backwoods election. Dr. Hunter conducted with most dignity, or rather with least indignity on this disgraceful occasion - confining himself to a room in the tavern, and not mixing with the multitude in the street - Alston fought for proselvtes and adherents in the street, but took them into the barroom to treat them, but Earle, who loved the people more than any of them had his grog bench in the middle of the street and presided over the whiskey jugs himself. Standing behind it like a shop boy behind his counter, and dealing out to anyone who would honor him so much as to come up and partake of his liberality . . . . 12

Among those present on this "disgraceful occasion" was Chancellor Waddy Thompson, described by Hooker as a "sleek, beauish man of about 30 — whose dress and general appearance as fly accorded with my notions of lugde's gravity as the active part which he was taking in the electioneering squabble accorded with my notions of a Judge's impartiality." <sup>23</sup> A later contemporary, however, remembered Chancellor Thompson as a "noble . . . distinguished in appearance . . . tall and well-proportiened, with an uncommonly fine head and face . . . [who if he had properly] cultivated his talents be might have been one of the great men of America. <sup>214</sup>

A native of Virginia, Waddy Thompson moved first to Georgia and then to Pickensville to enter upon the practice of law when Pickensville was "the seat of justice for Pendleton and Greenville Counties." Thompson was a member of the legislature from Pendleton and was later elected Solicitor of the Western District of the State. This post he held until 1805, when he was elected Chancel-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup>See Richardson, p. 69. <sup>13</sup>Ibid., p. 70.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup>Benjamin Franklin Perry, Reminiscences of Public Men (Philadelphin, 1883), p. 236. The many published works of Perry, covering much of the nineteenth century and reflecting his close association with both political and business leaders of Greenville, constitute a major source of contemporary data and appreciation of many persons discussed in this paper.

lor, or more precisely Judge of the Court of Equity,15 Thompson served in the office until 1828, when he retired under some pressure from the legislature which was involved in a temperance campaign directed principally at the judiciary.16

Contemporary with Chancellor Thompson and also a resident of Greenville in his later years was a law judge, Richard Gantt. Gantt was born in Maryland in 1767, studied law under William Pinkney, went to Georgia in 1792 or 1793, and removed to Edgefield, S. C., in 1794, being admitted in that year to the South Carolina Bar. He then "secluded himself in the woods of Greenville" and practiced until he was elected to the Circuit Court in 1818. In his early days as a lawyer he was a very successful advocate and would have made a fortune "had it not been for his continued habit of change." As a judge, he was criticized as being too lenient with criminals and was once told that he made himself the "advocate of rascality."17 Judge Gantt seems to have been bonest. witty, and eccentric. A contemporary said of him that "he was the most benevolent and kindhearted man I ever knew, but as fickle and whimsical as he was kind an henevolent "18. He disliked being bothered with small cases: in a controversy over \$16.00, he is said to have remarked that a judge should always carry some change with him so that he could pay off such cases and get rid of them. Judge Gantt resigned from the bench in December, 1841, and died October 18, 1850, at the age of 83.10

By the year 1823 when young Benjamin Franklin Perry arrived on the local scene. Greenville had grown to a rude frontier village of about five hundred souls. Perry wrote that when the young men of the village were not fighting in the streets, they, together with some of the old ones, spent their time playing cards and drinking on the streets and in the stores. During Court week and on Sales days, the country boys and girls all came to town and there was horse racing, fighting, carousing, and general pan-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>In South Caroline, courts of coulty and law were separate in Thompson's day and remained to mutil the Constitution of 1888. In 1824, the legislature established: a Court of Appeals to hear appeals from both law and pudges, who were called farmally Charolites.

10 June 1988. The Charleston of the Charolites of the Bench and Bur of the Charolites of

<sup>18</sup>Perry, pp. 229-235.

demonium through all the hours of the night. The village had only one sofa, one carriage, two pianos, and few silver sprops 20 Soon however there were signs of change and growth. By 1894 according to Robert Mills' description of the town, there was a new court house (the Record Building), several handsome residences, and two notable hostelries - one, the famous Mansion House Hotel which Colonel William Toney had just built on the site where the Poinsett now stands and the other probably Crittenden's Hotel across the street 21. There were two physicians - Dr. Richard Harrison and Dr. William Robinson - and three lawyers - Tandy Walker, William Choice, and Baylis I. Earle,22

Tandy Walker was admitted to practice of law in Columbia in 1819.28 but soon became a "very early settler" in Greenville.24 As a young bachelor attorney, he lived at Crittenden's Hotel in company with Dr. Robinson and Baylis Earle 25 but later married the daughter of Colonel William Toney.20 He apparently retired from law practice about 1830, when Perry purchased his library. This "pleasant kind and amiable . fluent speaker and popular in his manner"27 was a trustee of the Fernale Academy 28 and he served several terms in the South Carolina House of Representatives.29

William Choice was born in Greenville District in 1796 and was probably, at the time of his death in 1877, the oldest nativeborn citizen of the District Choice was educated "in the ordinary schools of the county," and at Pendleton Academy. He studied law under a Mr. Tillinghast and was admitted to the bar in 1819. Choice began practice and soon acquired a reputation as the "best and most promot collecting lawver in the Circuit." He formed a partnership with Baylis I. Earle, who was then Solicitor of the Western Circuit and when Farle was elected to the circuit bench he became a partner of David L. Wardlaw, of Abbeville. Subsequently. Choice was elected the first Commissioner in Equity for

PKibler, pp. 41-42 \*\*POTHERMEN, p. 32 \*\*POTHERMEN, p. 14, et seq., O'Neall, p. 185, et seq. \*\*POTHERMEN, p. 14, et seq., O'Neall, p. 185, et seq. \*\*POTHERMEN, p. 43, \*\*POTHERMEN, p. 43, \*\*POTHERMEN, p. 43, \*\*POTHERMEN, p. 30, \*\*POTHERMEN, p. 30, \*\*POTHERMEN, p. 30,

Greenville District<sup>20</sup> and he held this office for many years. He was very fathful and capable in the performance of his duties, and the chancellors complimented him "for the neatness of his dockets, the correctness of his reports, and the promptness which he paid over the funds in his hands." He accumulated a large fortune and left a substantial estate, even though he lost in excess of one hundred thousand dollars as a result of the Civil War.<sup>23</sup>

The third of the lawyers practicing in Greenville in 1824 was Baylis John Earle who was born on January 24, 1795, the eldest son of Congressman Samuel Earle of Pendleton and Harriet Harrison. After graduating from the South Carolina College in 1811 at the head of his class and reading law under Solicitor John Taylor, he was admitted to the bar in 1816 and began practice Greenville as a partner of William Choice. He was elected a member of the State House of Representatives in 1820 and two years later was elected Solicitor of the Western Circuit. Earle was elected a Circuit Judge in 1830, and served until 1843, when he resigned following a paralytic stroke. He died in the spring of the following year, never having married 32.

As Solicitor, Baylis J. Earle sought a conviction only if the circumstances convinced him of the defendant's guilt, but if he believed the defendent guilty, he prosecuted with great zeal. As a judge, he served both at the trial and appellate levels. Judge Earle is described as having been endowed with a stricking appearance and a calm and judicial temperament. On the other hand, Perry, who knew him intimately, wrote that Judge Earle was miserly, sensitive sometimes to the point of morbidity, and when on occasion he took to the bottle, he drank to excess.

Benjamin Franklin Perry, Greenville's best-known citizen of the nineteenth century, was born on November 20, 1805, at his famlly's homestead in what is now Oconee County. Perry's father and his brother had emigrated from Massachusetts to Charleston, South Carolina, shortly after the Revolutionary War to join a mercaultle firm, which perusaded them to try storekeeping in the back country. After trying several locations they established themselves on Choestow Creek in Pendleton District: Perry lived on his fath-

<sup>30</sup>An office similar to the present Master of Equity.
33From a tribute written on Choice's death, Choice family papers in the possession of Mrs. Hattle Choice Schroder.
33Perry, p. 214, et seq.; O'Neall, p. 195, et seq.

er's farm until he was sixteen, and then went to Asheville, North Carolina, to study languages at the Asheville Academy. In his studies there he did well enough, but having heard of the high reputation then held by the Male Academy in the village of Greenville, he entered that institution and Greenville thereafter was his lifelong home.

Perry did not attend college, but in 1824 he entered the office of Baylis I. Earle to begin a three-year course in the study of law. During this period, he joined debating and oratorical societies, and began his career of political journalism by writing articles for the new weekly newspaper, the Greenville Republican. In the fall of 1826, he journeyed to Columbia to take his bar examination. He was examined twice, once in law and once in equity, and did not miss a question. He was admitted to the bar on January 10, 1827, and immediately "published his card" in the Greenville Republican. In a few years, Perry had the largest criminal practice in Greenville and Pickens counties. As his practice prospered he rode the circuit with such friends as Judge Earle and Judge Gantt, later bought a horse for the purpose, and wrote that the 'life of a lawver is an easy and indolent one."83

By the time Perry began to practice law there were two more lawyers practicing in Greenville - William J. Gantt, son of Judge Richard Gantt, and Waddy Thompson, Jr., son of the Chancellor. Cantt was "a carefree village sport rather than a serious rival . . . but Waddy Thompson . . . was a very talented lawyer and a skillful politician as well."34 He was born in Pickensville, South Carolina, on January 8, 1798, but his parents moved to Greenville while he was still an infant. He entered South Carolina College at the age of thirteen and graduated in 1814. After college, he studied law at Edgefield in the office of Judge Joseph Gist with his own schoolmate. George McDuffie. He was admitted to the bar in 1819 and practiced in Edgefield for five years before returning to Greenville to make his home. He was elected to the State Legislature from Greenville in 1896 and served until 1830, but refused to stand for re-election in that year because he felt that his nullification views were at variance with those of his constituents.35

 <sup>33</sup>Kilbler, p. 70.
 34Ibid., p. 64.
 39Helen Kohn Henning, Great South Carolinians of a Later Date (U. of N. C. Press, 1949), pp. 159-161.

He then was elected Solicitor of the Western Circuit when Judge Earle was elevated to the bench.<sup>20</sup>

In the 1820's a political storm was brewing in the state. South Carolina and the Southeast suffered a severe economic depression which was probably due largely to emigrations to the Southwest and the consequent overproduction of cotton, but which most of the people attributed to the protective tariff. Congress passed acts increasing the tariff in 1822, 1824, and 1828. The 1828 "Tariff of Ahomination" aroused the state under its political leader and nearidol. John Caldwell Calhoun, to vigorous counter action. Calhoun propounded his famous theories of nullification and interposition. As a member of the State House of Representatives in 1828. Waddy Thompson introduced a resolution providing that if Congress at its next session did not repeal the tariff acts. South Carolina should call a convention to nullify them.37 However, Greenville did not favor nullification, and soon after Calhoun's doctrines were made public. Benjamin F. Perry began writing editorials against them in the Mountaineer, which had superseded the Republican in 1829. Perry formally took over the editorial department of the Mountaineer in 1820, changing the name to the Greenville Mountaineer and became the leader of the Unionist forces in the uncountry, \$8

The nullification controversy reached its height in the years from 1830 to 1852, and the nullifiers waged a strong campaign for a state convention to consider an ordinance of nullification. When the Greenville members of the state House of Representatives — Waddy Thompson, Tandy Walker, and Dr. William Butler proved to be sympathetic to nullification, they were replaced in 1830 three strong Unionists. In 1832, the Union Party in Greenville, under Perry's leadership, won an even greater victory in the race for the assembly. However, the state as a whole elected a General Assembly that was two-thirds in favor of the nullification and the legislature quickly passed the call for a convention, to be held on the third Monday in November, 1832. In the context for convention delegates, the Union Party of Greenville nominated Perry, Silas R. Whitten, Thomas P. Brockman, and Henry Middleton, of Charleston, a former summer resident. The Nullification party

<sup>36</sup>Ibid., p. 161; Kibler, p. 68.

<sup>37</sup>Richardson, p. 79. 38Kibler, pp. 89-92.

offered Judge Baylis I. Earle, Dr. William Butler, William Thruston, and Colonel Benjamin Arnold. The Unionists won the Greenville race by about four to one and Perry headed the ticket, defeating Judge Earle, highest candidate of the Nullifiers, by 1055 votes to 381. But the nullifiers were in complete control of the convention and the Ordinance of Nullification, declaring the tariff acts of 1828 and 1832 null and void and requiring all civil and military officials of the State, except members of the legislature. to take an oath to enforce the ordinance, was enacted, to take effect on February I. 1833. President Andrew Jackson promotive announced that the laws of the United States would be enforced by the United States Army, if necessary, and the South Carolina legislature in defiance authorized the Governor to enlist volunteers for the defense of the state. The state became an armed camp. and Waddy Thompson became a brigadier general in the militia. The nullifiers, however, received no support from other Southern states. When a compromise tariff of 1833 was passed by Congress, a second convention held in March, 1833, repealed the Ordinance of Nullification and for the moment the storm blew over. 29 Prophetically. Perry wrote in his Journal:

I sincerely believe that there is a disposition to dissolve the Union and form a Southern Confederacy. It will show itself more plainly in the course of a few years. The leading nullifiers have been induced to stop for the present because they saw that the other States would not go with them.<sup>40</sup>

In the heat of the mullification controversy, Perry had several personal clashes with his political emenies, most of which he later regretted. As late as 1830, the code of honor still demanded the defenses and vindication of a gentleman's horors should it be impugned in any way. Although Perry later admitted that he knew nothing about the estiguette of duellists and had scarcely fried a pistoil in his life, he delivered challenges to Waddy Thompson and to Dr. Frederick W. Symmes, editor of the Pendleton Messengers in answer to supposed attacks upon his veractivy. As an aftensity and of the Symmes affair, his schoolmate Henry H. Townes, of Call-houn Mills, sort Perry a challenge which he delayed answering because of injuries which he had suffered in a sully scidlent. While none of these incident duels were ever fought, for one

<sup>391</sup>bid., pp. 92-107 and 137-153; see Richardson, pp. 78-80.
49Quoted in Kibler at page 156.

reason or another, the charge of cowardies in the Townes affair by William Choice resulted in a svicious alteraction in which the the weapons were chairs, walking steeks, bludgeons, and a dick with which Choice was stabbed in the cheef. But the most serious affair occurred when the Nollifiers sent to Greenville a bright young man, Turner Bymun, to start a Cerenville newapaper in opposition to the Mauntaineer. Bymun's Southern Sentimel on August 4, 1832, carried a searrious editorial which contained personal attacks on Perry, Perry challenged Bymun immediately, and it was arranged that the duel should be fought August 16 on an island in the Tugaloo River. Perry published his farewell to the people of Greenville, in which he said of the Nullifiers:

Perry and Bynum met at dawn on August 18, and Bynum freed first, nicking the fulls in Perry's shirt but missing his flesh. Perry immediately returned the fire, hitting Bynum in the abdimen just above the hjp. Bynum died the following day. This was to Perry the most painful experience of his life, but he placed the blame on public opinion which at that time sanctioned dueling. <sup>42</sup>

In 1825, Perry as a Unionist and his fellow townsman, Waddy Thompton, as a Nullifier ran for Congress. Early in the campaign, Perry sustained a severe leg injury in a sulky accident, and was unable to do any active campaigning. On the other hand, Thompson campaigned vigorously but avoided party politics and any personal attacks on Perry, recommended peace and harmony, and

had the active support of John C. Calhoun. When the returns came in, Thompson had won by more than 700 votes, although Greenville had supported Perry by an overwhelming margin.<sup>43</sup>

Thompson served in Congress from 1835 until 1841, and during his tenure achieved faine for his speeches in favor of Texau
independence from Mexico and the annexation of Texas to the
United States. Before the expiration of his first term, however, he
incurred the displeasure of John C. Calhoun, because Thompson
would not follow his whin, during an argument on the Independent Treasury, to leave the White party and rejoin the Democratic.
In the following election Calhoun actively took the stump against
Thompson while Perry supported his former opponent. Thompson's
personality and humor and ability as a stump speaker were more
than a match for the dry logic of Senator Calhoun, and Thompson
was re-elected by a large majority. After serving his second term,
he was invited by President William Henry Harrison to become
United States Anabassador to Mexico.\*\*

When Thompson was appointed Minister to Mexico in 1842. his potential usefulness in the position was hampered since he could not speak Spanish and be was known as a strong proponent of Texas independence and the annexation of Texas to the United States. He quickly learned Spanish, however, and delivered his first speech to the Mexican cabinet in that language. Despite this he received a cool reception, but soon became friendly with Santa Anna, the head of the Mexican government. Thompson worked unsuccessfully to arrange that the United States would buy California from Mexico and to make peaceable arrangements with that country in regard to Texas. On the other hand he did succeed in persuading Santa Anna to release three hundred Texan prisoners. one of whom was a personal friend Samuel A. Mayerick, later a Senator from Texas. He also persuaded the Mexican leader not to exclude citizens of the United States from entering California. Thompson resigned his post in the spring of 1844 and returned to Greenville where he was honored by a spectacular dinner presided over by Perry as the master of ceremonies. 45

During the years 1835 to 1850, Perry's life was quiet, happy, and prosperous. In 1837, he married Elizabeth Frances McCall

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup>Kibler, pp. 160-176; Bichardson, p. 81.
 <sup>44</sup>Hennig, pp. 162-163; Perry, pp. 297-298.
 <sup>45</sup>Hennig, pp. 163-165; Kibler, p. 200.

of Charleston, and a year later they moved into a house he had built on Main Street between Court and Broad. They had twelve or thirteen slaves and by 1847 their union was blessed with two sons and two daughters. His law practice grew and he was emplayed in most of the important civil and criminal cases on the western circuit. Having been elected to the state House of Representatives without exposition in 1836, he served as a member of that body until 1842, and subsequently served in the State Senate from 1844 until the eve of the Civil War On the floor of the legislature he fought for changes in the structure of state government which would give more power to the people; he advocated election of the governor and presidential electors by the people rather than the legislature, and he fought against the parish system which gave unduc representation in the State Senate to the lower part of the state. He also urged the establishment of a state penitentiary and the codification of the common law. While he was unable to accomplish these reforms during his legislative career, they were adopted when Perry was Provisional Governor of the state.46

About the year 1834. William Lowndes Yancev came to Greenville to study law under Benjamin F. Perry and to assume the editorship of the Mountaineer. In the light of Yancev's later career as the leader of secessionist forces in Alabama and the South generally, it is remarkable that as a youth in Greenville he was a strong Unionist. Yancov's career in Greenville was brief but dramatic, for he was the central figure in one of Greenville's most famous trials. To properly set the stage, certain family connections must be explained. In 1835, Yancey married Sarah Caroline Earle, a daughter of George Washington Earle and his wife Elizabeth Robinson Earle, who was a daughter of Colonel Elias Earle, the ex-Congressman. Dr. Robinson M. Earle, a practicing physician in Greenville and a brother of Mrs. George Washington Earle, had married Eliza Thompson, a sister of Waddy Thompson, and their son Elias was a youth in his teens during the late 1830's. After his marriage, Yancey resigned from the Mountaineer and settled down on a furn inherited by his wife. He bought cotton lands in Alabama and spent his winters there but returned to Greenville in the summer. Early in September, 1838, Yancey rode out to a militia muster at which the candidates for Congress were speaking, and in conversing with a group of men he made some disparaging re-

<sup>46</sup>Kibler, pp. 177-216.

mark about Candidate Waddy Thompson which was overheard and resented by young Elias Earle, Thompson's penhew Young Earle called Yancev a liar. Yancev replied by boxing his ears, and young Earle then struck Yancey with his riding whin. Earle was restrained by some men in the crowd, and Yancey attempted to and the matter by telling Elias that he would rather give him his cherished saddle-horse. Salvador, than have a nersonal difficulty with him. All those present, including Waddy Thompson, were satisfied, and the next day Yancey went to Elias' father, Dr. Bob. inson Earle, to express his regret. Dr. Earle, however, renewed the quarrel on the norch of Crittenden's Hotel, and calling Yancey a liar, rushed at him with part of the handle of a grain cradle. Yancev retreated and warned Earle to guard himself, but reaching the edge of the porch with the ground three feet below him. he pulled out his pistol and fired, hitting Dr. Earle in the left side and mortally wounding him.

Yancey was tried in the circuit court at Greenville and was defended by Perry, who was assisted by Armisted Burt and David L. Wardlaw, both of Abbeville. Perry attempted to show that all though Yancey was in the habt of carrying a gun, he had drawn his pistol only after Earle's attack, and that the gun went off accidentally. It was shown that Yancey was a gendleman with a high sense of personal honor who had never before been in difficulty and was not prone to violence. In spite of this defense the jury convicted Yancey of manslaughter, and he was sentenced to a fine of fifteen hundred dollars and twelve months in jail. He had served only three months, however, when Governor Patrick Noble remitted the imprisonment and two-thuids of the fine. Perry said it was the most painful criminal case he ever had, for he was found of Yancey during the days of their association.<sup>17</sup>

George F. Townes, born in 1809, was a contemporary of Petry, but he did not begin law practice in Greenville until about 1834. He had a long and active career, however, not only in law, but in journalism and politics as well. In the 1840s and 1850s he was senior editor of the Mountainner. After the war, he was the editor of the Greenville Enterprise from 1866 to 1871. His Jegislative career began as a member of the State House of

<sup>4</sup>TKibler, pp. 198-199; Joseph Hergesheuner, Swords and Roser (Knopf, 1929), pp. 43-47. This is the same Yancey who, as a citizen of Alabama, later became the "Fire-Brand of Secession."

Representatives in 1849-1851, and he was a member of the first State Senate to convene after the war. He was the father of several important provisions of the State Constitution of 1863, among them the homestead provision, the right of married women to hold property, and the abolition of imprisonment for debt. In addition to his other talents, Townes was an accomplished classical scholar, and it is said that just before his death, at the age of 81, he read Virgil, Horace, Homer, Plato, and other ancient writers in their own tongue-88.

In 1854 Townes and Perry opposed one another in a controversy involving the establishment of the Greenville Female College. They were both trustees of the Greenville Academies, which by the 1850's had been allowed apparently to decline into a dilanidated state. Furman University had already been located in Greenville, and when Perry learned that the Baptist Convention was considering the establishment of a woman's college in the uncountry, he urged the transfer of the academies' property to the Baptist Convention or to Funnan University as a site for the new college. Townes apposed the action on the ground that under the terms of the trust established by Vardry McBoe when he donated the property to the community in 1820, the trustees had no authority to convey the property to the Bantist Convention or to the Furman Trustees. However, a test case was brought and Chancellor David L. Wardlaw upheld the transfer, his decision being affirmed by the Court of Errors. The Female College was thus secured for Greenville 49

In the late 1840's and early 1850's the issue was no longer the tariff and unlification but the abolition of slavery. From the introduction of the Wilmot Provice in 1847 to Henry Clay's Compromise of 1850 secessionism spread in the South, particularly in South Carolina. In October, 1850, every district in the State elected secessionists to the General Assembly except Greenville, which elected Perry and his Unionists colleagues, Thomas P. Brockman and Perry Emory Duncan. The legislative session which followed was a stormy one, with most of the members lavoring immediate secession. On December 11, Perry made a bold pro-union speech which created as sensation and marked the first check to disunion

<sup>48</sup>The Greenville Daily News, April 12, 1891; The Greenville Mountaineer, April 1890; Enterprise and Mountaineer, April 15, 1891.
19Kibler, pp. 309-312.

in the state. He returned to Greenville, resolved to establish a Unionist newspaper in that city, and at some risk to his life and property he began publication of the Southern Patriot. One of his backers in the project was Waddy Thompson, whose sentiments were now Unionist and his co-editor was Charles James Elford. a young lawyer who had recently begun practice in Greenville The Southern Patriot eventually circulated among many influential people over the South and became an important factor in stemming the tide of secessionism at the time. At the secession convention which convened in 1852 at the call of the legislature. Perry and his Greenville colleagues were the only Unionist delegates. A Committee of Twenty-one, appointed to prepare business, reported that the State had both the right to secede and ample justification for secession, but that the time was not opportune. Perry was a member of the Committee and in the minority report he observed, among other things, that the "deen-rooted regard for the Union makes it right and proper . . . that we should suffer while evils are sufferable."50

The crisis passed and it appeared that South Carolina and the South were safe for the union. But the growth of anti-slavery sentiment in the North, the constant republication of Uncle Tom's Cabin, the effect of the Dred Scott Decision on Northern feeling, and the activities of Robert Barnwell Rhett of South Carolina. William Lowndes Yancey of Alabama, and Edmund Ruffin of Virginia fanned the flames of disunion. In the spring of 1860, the National Democratic Convention met in Charleston, and when the Convention rejected Yancev's "Alabama Platform," pledging Congressional protection of slavery in the territories, the Alabama delegation walked out, followed by those of Mississippi and Louisiana and a majority of those from South Carolina, Florida, Texas, and Arkansas. All but two of the South Carolina delegation walked out in spite of the fact that the South Carolina state Democratic convention had rejected the Alabama platform. One delegate who did not walk out was Benjamin F. Perry of Greenville, who arose to address the Convention, amid loud catcalls from the gallery, and pled with all his power for the unity of the Democratic party, contending that upon the unity of the party depended the pernetuity of the Union. When the Charleston Convention was unable to nominate a candidate the party subsequently split and nominated

<sup>501</sup>bid., pp. 239-301 and 314-346.

two candidates. Stephen Arnold Douglas and John Cabell Breckinridge, insuring the election of Abraham Lincoln. Although Perry disagreed, it was generally conceded in the state that the inevitable result of Lincoln's election would be secession, and in Greenville even Perry's moderate friends of earlier days, such as C. J. Elford and Perry E. Duncan, were caught up in the prevailing hysteria. The legislature called a convention to consider secession, and on November 17, 1860, at a meeting held in Greenville, a resolution in favor of secession was adopted, and Dr. James Clement Furman, General William King Easley, Perry Emory Duncan, William Hans Campbell and Dr. James Harrison were elected as Greenville delegates to the Convention defeating the "cooperation ticket" consisting of Perry. Chief Justice John Belton O'Neall (who declined to run), Dr. W. A. Mooney, T. C. Bolling, and James P. Boyce, and Perry was defeated in his own district for the first time in his career. After the convention, which assembled at Columbia in December of 1860, had adopted the Ordinance of Secession, Perry is reported to have remarked to a group of secessionist friends, "You are all going to the devil and I will go with you."51

ford, was born in Charleston on May 11, 1820, the son of a British sea-captain, Capt. James Maud Elford. Both of Elford's parents died when he was a boy, but he was able to study law and was admitted to the bar in 1843. For approximately twenty years, he was Superintendent of the Sunday School at the First Baptist Church, and he was probably a member of the committee which erected the present church structure. During the Civil War, he was the organizer of the 16th South Carolina Regiment, C. S. A., and served as its Colonel from December, 1861, to April 28, 1862. His home was located on North Main Street near Elford Street. which was named for him, and tradition has it that he furnished the land for Springwood Cemetery.32 After the War, he was a member of a mission - which also included Perry and James L. Orr - to petition President Andrew Johnson for the restoration of civil government, and he also acted as agent for pardons of ex-Confederates.53

Perry's co-editor of the Southern Patriot. Charles James El-

<sup>51</sup> Bid., p. 348.
23 Except for the date of Elford's admission to the bar, which appears in O'Neall, this information is derived from John S. Taylor, The 16th South Carolina Regiment, C.S.A. (Creenville, 1964), pp. 16 and 17.
33 Kibler, pp. 364 and 368.

General William King Easley, mentioned above as one of the delegates to the Columbia convention, was born in Pickens about 1825, the son of Colonel John Easley, and was admitted to the bar in 1850. He practiced law in New Orleans for a short time, but was forced to leave by a yellow fever epidemic, returned to Pickens, and some years later he was elected a member of the legislature from Pickens, although by this time he maintained his law office in Greenville. While in the legislature, he was the snonsor of a bill, drawn by Perry, to make the parties in a criminal case competent witnesses at the trial. During the war he raised a company of cavalry in Pickens and Greenville Districts, entered the Confederate Army and became a major before ill health forced his return home. In 1865, he was mouthpiece for Provisional Covernor Perry. He became interested in railroad promotion and, through his influence with the authorities, secured the location through Greenville of the Piedmont Air-Line Railroad (later the Richmond and Danville Air Line Railroad and now the Southern Railway).54

The name of Justice John Belton O'Neall has been mentioned several times. Although he was a native and permanent resident of Newberry County, he belongs to the story of the Greenville bench and har, for he nurchased a farm on the South Tyger River, fourteen or fifteen miles north of Greenville near Milford Church, and spent his summers there over a period of years. O'Neall was born on April 10, 1793, and in 1812 was graduated from the South Carolina College with second honor. He served in the War of 1812 and was admitted to the bar in 1814. In 1825, he was elected a major general of the militia. At intervals from 1816 to 1828, he was a member of the State House of Representatives and in 1826 was elected speaker. He was chosen an associate judge in 1828 and a judge of the Court of Appeals two years later. In 1847 he was elected president of Greenville and Columbia Railroad and succeeded in completing the construction of the railroad into Greenville. In 1850, he became President of the Court of Law Appeals and the Court of Errors. He was a crusader for temperance, making speeches and writing articles on the subject. He also wrote articles on education, religion, and history, and he was the author of Annals of Newhern and Biographical Sketches of Bench and

 $<sup>^{54}\</sup>text{Crittenden}, \, p. \, 64;$  See also Perry. Reminiscences, 2d Series (Greenville, 1889),  $\, p. \, \, 72.$ 

Bar. He was a strong Unionist and gave active support to Perry's efforte to avoid senession 55

There were, of course, other lawyers practicing in Greenville prior to the Civil War. George Washington Earle, an early Greenville Clerk of Court, is among those listed by Colonel R. W. Simpson as advocates who practiced in the old Pendleton District 56 Some Greenville names which appear in O'Neall's Bench and Bar. together with their dates of enrollment, are Elias D. Earle. 1829: Samuel A. Townes, 1829; John Watson, 1835; L. M. McBee, 1838; John W. Stokes. 1843: W. H. Campbell. 1849: Spartan D. Goodlett 1854: T. C. Donaldson 1855 and M. C. Butler 1857. Some of these gentlemen may never have practiced in Greenville, and some of them had successful careers after the War for Southern Independence, Elias D. Earle (1803-1853) was the son of George Washington Earle and the father of a later Greenville lawyer. U. S. Senator Joseph H. Earle. Townes, a brother of George F. Townes, was Commissioner of Equity in the 1850's 57 Watson may have been the same John Watson who served Greenville County for many years as ordinary or probate judge. 58 Stokes was elected to the House of Representatives in 1859.50 Spartan D. Goodlett born in 1831 and the son of another Spartan D. Goodlett who was also ordinary of Greenville County, studied law under Perry and was associated with T. O. Donaldson in the editorial management of the Mountaineer. 50 Donaldson was born at Fork Shoals in 1836. studied law under Waddy Thompson, and became associated with J. C. Elford. Goodlett and Donaldson both served in the Confederate Army, and Matthew C. Butler, who practiced law at Edgefield but claimed Greenville as his home, became a Major General of Cavalry - Greenville's highest ranking officer of the war. 62 Perry's oldest son, Willie Hayne Perry, having graduated from Harvard with honors in 1859, joined his father in law practice just before the war, but soon had to fight against the Union which his father had tried so hard to preserve 63 Greenville fur-

<sup>55</sup>Perry, p. 202; O'Neall, I, xiii-xxv. 56History of the Old Pendleton District, p. 15. 57Records of Creenville County.

<sup>50</sup> Kibler, p. 331.

soRecords in possession of the Goodlett family. at Frank Barnes. The Greenville Story, (Greenville, 1956), p. 218.

<sup>62</sup>Richardson, p. 85. 63Kibler, p. 348.

nished a number of volunteer companies to the Confederate Army<sup>61</sup> and it is apparent that most, if not all, of Greenville's young lawyers answered the call to arms; Perry and Waddy Thompson and George F. Townes were too old for military service, but Perry served the Confederacy as district attorney, state representative, Confederate commissioner, and district judge,65

The war broke Waddy Thompson, and his mansion on Paris Mountain was destroyed, so that after the war he withdrew to a plantation he still owned at Madison. Fla. and lived out his few remaining years. He died November 23, 1886, and was buried in Tallahassec.66 Perry, on the other hand, lived many more fruitful years. In 1865. President Andrew Johnson appointed him Provisional Governor of South Carolina, and his administration was one of the most progressive in the history of the state. He considered the state constitution of 1865, embodying many of his earlier proposed reforms, to be the crowning achievement of his career. Elected U. S. Senator by the legislature, he was refused his seat along with the other Southern senators; but during the Reconstruction era, he waged constant war against the carnetbagger governors and radical legislatures and was an enthusiastic supporter of Wade Hampton in 1876. He lived out his remaining days at his handsome new estate. "Sans Souci." When Perry died on December 3. 1886, memorial services of the Greenville Bar were presided over by George F. Townes for many years his close friend despite their earlier differences. Tributes were paid by Greenville lawyers of a later day - Julius Heyward, Perry's vounger partner; C. M. Furman: Martin F. Ansel, later Governor and Greenville County Judge: and I. Allender Mooney, 97 Perhaps the most proper appreciation is that of Professor Allen Nevins who later wrote:

Of all these Unionists of the Lower South, none is more attractive than Benjamin F. Perry; none had nobler qualities of mind and heart. In no sense a genius, and denied by his unpopular opinions the opportunity to hold high office, he displayed through a remarkably long career a well-rounded array of qualities backed by nerve, persistence, and keen consciousness of duty. "There was something about Governor Perry that drew him to my heart."

<sup>64</sup>Miss Kibler mentions six, but John S. Taylor, in The 16th South Caro-Miss Kibler mentions six, out John S. Laylor, in The 10th 30th Large lina Regiment, C.S.A., asys there were seventeen companies composed wholly or partially of Greenville men. 95kibler, pp. 347-370. 99Hennig, p. 167. 37Kibler, pp. 371-522.

wrote a contemporary after his death. "The State owes him a debt of gratitude that it can never repay." So it does. South Carolina had in his time half a dozen men who were and have remained more famous. But none loved South Carolina more warmly, and none did more for the intellectual, social, moral, and political advancement.\*

The careers of the gentlemen who paid tribute to Perry on that day and their contemporaries are beyond the scope of this paper, but in their time Greenville was entering a period of growth and industrialization. With the growth and expansion of a community, for better or for worse, comes specialization in the practice of professions such as the law, and it is a real lewyer nowadow, who is at once attorney, politician, journalist, and philosopher. As Colonel Clittenden said of the men he hence and wrote about, "there were many strong men in those days"— and not a few of them were members of the bench and bar.

<sup>48</sup>Kihler vii.viii Nevins wrote the "Foreword" to Miss Kihler's work

## MEMBERS OF THE GREENVILLE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## MARCH 1, 1966

(Charter members of the Society are denoted by the asterisk, Addresses are in Greenville, S. C. unless otherwise noted. Numbers in parentheses are telephone numbers, area code 803.)

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(232-4006)
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"Marih, Mr.; Kenneth H. (Blanche), 118 Seminole Drive (239-6558)
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McPherson, Raigh, 204 Elsie Avenue (235-5513) McPherson, Mrs. Balph, 204 Elsie Avenue (235-5513)

"McGParion, Mr. stapin, 2014 Easier Avenue (200-2016); Millio, Fred L. I. E. L. Lonesson, Drive (220-2208); Millio, Fred L. I. E. L. Lonesson, Drive (230-2208); Millio, L. I. E. Lonesson, Drive (230-2208); Millio, J. L. Lonesson, Drive (230-2008); Millio, L. L. Lonesson, Drive (230-2008); Millio, L. L. Lonesson, Drive (230-2008); Millio, M. L. Lonesson, Drive (230-2008); Moreo, Ch. F., All Belmont Avenue (230-2013); Moreo, Ch. F., All Belmont Avenue (230-2013); Moreo, Ch. F., All Belmont Avenue (230-2013);

Moore, Mrs. Otis P., 401 Belmont Avenue (239-6213) Mulligan, Mrs. W. B. (Sudie W.), 2803 E. North Street Extn. (244-0616)

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\*Norrood, Mr. Box E., I. 193 Abstence Prove (258-542)
\*Norrood, Mr. Box E., I. 193 Abstence (252-154)
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\*\*Richardoo, Miss Virgins, 201 Lavinia Avenue
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Sullivan, Craude I., St. P. Faris Robat (235-7316)
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Taylor, John S. (40 McDaniel Avenue (233-7188)
Taylor, Mrs. John S. (Hazel), 640 McDaniel Avenue (233-7188)

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"Robert Company (233-2937)

"Rob

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"Wallace, Mr. William Henry, 235 Foes Avenue Drive (246-3275)
"Wallace, Mr. William Henry, 235 Foes Avenue Drive (246-3275)
"Wallace, Mr. Lander, F. J. Li James Street (235-7329)
"Wallace, Mr. Richard, F. J. Li James Street (235-7329)
"Wallace, Mr. Richard, F. J. Li James Street (235-7329)
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