

THE GENESIS OF AN UP-COUNTRY TOWN*

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About ten years before the Revolution, there trod the boards of our Up-Country stage a colorful colonial figure who was a courageous soldier, an orator of spellbinding ability, and a power in the redman's wilderness. His name was Richard Pearis. He became the first settler in what is now the Up-Country town of Greenville. Born in Ireland, Pearis came to Virginia before 1750. There he served in the military forces with distinction.¹

Pearis married a Cherokee squaw. Through her and his own vivid personality, he acquired great influence in the nation. About 1765, Pearis settled at the falls of Reedy River, almost in the exact center of the corporate limits of the present city of Greenville but then on the fringe of unceded Cherokee territory. It is believed that the government of South Carolina, capitalizing on Pearis' hold on the Cherokees, placed him in the Indian land to watch them. The Cherokees gave him so many of their acres that John Stuart, commissioner of Indian affairs, ordered them to desist.² Tradition has it that these gifts amounted finally to an area ten miles square and included that beautiful monadnock which rises a thousand feet above the central peneplain of Greenville County and bears the name of Pearis atrociously misspelled to agree with that of the chief city of France.

For neighbors in the Indian land, Pearis had a group of Virginia families — the Hites on Enoree River; the Austins near the present town of Simpsonville; the Hamptons near the present town of Greer; the "Red" Earles and the Princes on the Pacolet River; and farther away at the South Carolina settle-

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¹E. Alfred Jones, ed., *Journal of Alexander Chesney* . . . (Columbus, 1921), p. 102.

²R. W. Gibbs, *Documentary History of the American Revolution* . . . 1764-1776 (New York, 1855), p. 160.

ment in the Long Canes the Pickens family. It is probable that Pearis had known most of these neighbors while he lived in Virginia.

Pearis first appears in the South Carolina Revolutionary records as an ally of the patriots. He was their officially designated escort for the party of Cherokees who came to the Congarees in the fall of 1775 to hear the masterly "talk" of William Henry Drayton, a part of the effort by the patriots to hold the restless Indians in line.⁷ Moreover, Pearis was denounced by the English agent among the Cherokees,⁸ and the Council of Safety asked Pearis to explain to the Indians the non-arrival of a present of ammunition which the Council had promised to them.⁹ Suddenly, Pearis aligned himself with the Loyalists and adroitly used the incident of the missing powder to widen the breach between Tories and patriots.¹⁰

Later in the fall of 1775, Pearis was definitely committed to the King's cause when he witnessed the signing of the treaty at Ninety Six as one of the Loyalist party.¹¹ In December, 1775, Pearis was captured with other Tories and sent to Charles Town.¹² On being released, he made his way to British West Florida. During the Indian uprising in the summer of 1776, patriots, under Col. John Thomas, destroyed the establishment of Pearis at the falls of the Reedy and harried his family into exile.¹³ When Charles Town fell, Pearis returned from Florida and took the parole of Andrew Pickens and other patriots. Pearis was made prisoner when the British post at Augusta was captured.

No stranger to hostile frontiers and no coward when bullets whined and acrid powder smoke made him gasp, Pearis ended his days in the Bahamas, enjoying grants of lands and money from the British government as a reward for his services to the

⁷Gibbes, *op. cit.*, p. 192.

⁸*Ibid.*, p. 207.

⁹John Drayton, *Memoirs of the American Revolution* . . . (2 vols., Charleston, 1821), II. 68.

¹⁰*Ibid.*, p. 116.

¹¹*Ibid.*, appendix to ch. XII.

¹²*Ibid.*, p. 128.

¹³*Journal of Alexander Chesney*, p. 103.

King's cause and as a recompense for the loss of his property in what has become Greenville.¹⁰ He probably died in 1804 for in that year his British pension was stopped. The most impressive fact about Pearis was his ability to win and hold through the power of his personality (and to a lesser extent through his kinship by marriage) the admiration of the Cherokees to an extent seldom bestowed on a white man by the Indians.

As a result of the Indian massacre coincident with the attack on Fort Moultrie, General Williamson had swept through the Cherokee country in the summer of 1776, destroying the Indian settlements right and left as he marched. On May 20, 1777, a definite treaty of peace was concluded and signed between the Cherokee Nation and the States of South Carolina and Georgia. By this treaty, what is now Greenville County was wrested from the Cherokees and opened to white settlers. Immediately upon the conclusion of the Revolutionary War the General Assembly passed an ordinance for appointing commissioners in each of the Circuit Court Districts for dividing the same into counties. Among the commissioners appointed were Andrew Pickens and Thomas Brandon. On May 21, 1784, what became officially Greenville County in 1786, was opened for settlement. The land office was in charge of Colonel John Thomas as Commissioner of Location. Samuel Earle was an agent in the land office.

Col. Thomas was the officer who had destroyed the property of Richard Pearis at the falls of Reedy River in 1776. He was colonel of the Spartan Regiment. He was imprisoned at Ninety Six at which time it was that his wife made her famous ride to Cedar Spring near Spartanburg to warn the Patriot camp there of a Tory attack. From Ninety Six Col. Thomas was removed to Charles Town and imprisoned there until July, 1781, when he was exchanged, his son, John Thomas, Jr., succeeding him as colonel of the Spartan Regiment. With his appointment as Commissioner of Location, he took up a large section of land in the Locus section, near the present station O'Neal, not many miles from what became the town of Greenville. Col. Thomas lived there until his death in 1805, he and his son becoming pro-

¹⁰*S. C. Hist. and Gen. Mag.*, XVIII, 97-99.

minently identified with the people of this section. It is interesting to note that his property in the Locus section afterward became the home of Judge John Belton O'Neill.

On the very day that the land office was opened, May 21, 1784, the following grant was made to another Revolutionary officer: "Pursuant to a warrant from John Thomas Esq. dated the 21st day of May, 1784, I have surveyed and laid out unto Col. Thomas Brandon a tract of land containing 400 acres in Ninety Six District on both sides of Reedy River of Saluda, including Richard Pearis' plantation lying west of Indian boundary.

Indian Land,
Surveyed 21 May, 1784,
George Salmon, D. S."¹¹

Thomas Brandon and John Thomas, Jr., both commanded regiments in General Andrew Pickens' brigade of militia. Both were members of the Jacksonborough General Assembly from the Spartan District, and both opposed the Federal Constitution in the Convention which ratified that instrument. The land Brandon took up under warrant from John Thomas, Sr., was the site of the present city of Greenville. On the same day Judge Henry Pendleton acquired title to Cameron's old cowpens, about ten miles south of Pleasantburg.¹² On the next day General Richard Winn obtained a grant from Governor Guerard to property which included "Great Cane Brake",¹³ where the son of Richard Pearis and other Tories had been routed in 1775 at the conclusion of the Snow Campaign. It is said that Winn had been present at the battle and acquired the land through sentiment, though he never lived on it. The sentiment could not have been very deeply founded for two years later he sold the land to James Harrison for £320 Sterling. The deed included "gardens, orchards, fences, ways, wells, easements, profits, commodities, advantages, emoluments, hereditaments and appurtenances".¹⁴ These improvements were

¹¹Location Book A, M.S. (Greenville Court House), p. 1.

¹²Location Bk. A, p. 4.

¹³*Ibid.*, p. 1.

¹⁴Deed Book D, M.S. (Greenville Court House), p. 44.

doubtless there when Winn acquired the property, showing earlier settlement of Greenville than 1784. The Harrison family still owns and lives upon this property.

On the same day John Earle, the "Red Earle", on the Pacolet acquired a tract in the forks of the Saluda under warrant from John Thomas.¹³ David Goodlett and Isaac Brown and James Ritchie obtained a grant from Governor Guerard in 1784.¹⁴ In 1787, Elias, the "Black Earle," obtained title to a thousand acres on the Saluda.¹⁵ Waddy Thompson, the future chancellor, arrived with his new and beautiful wife from Georgia and took up lands at Pickensville Court House (the present site of Easley).¹⁶ Captain Billy Young and his brother, who had been a terror to the Tories during the Revolution, settled on Reedy River.¹⁷ The Townes family¹⁸ and the Blassingames¹⁹ acquired property about three or four miles from Col. Brandon's grant from part of the old Richard Pearis property.

The year the land office opened, a newcomer from another state — the majority of those taking grants had served in the Revolution in South Carolina — arrived and bought 200 acres of land on Reedy River.²⁰ This was Lemuel James Allston from Granville (now Warren) County, North Carolina. The next year he bought 379 acres on the same river.²¹ On the 4th of May, 1788, Allston, in consideration of £217:10, bought from Thomas Brandon "all that plantation containing 400 acres on both side of Reedy River including Richard Pearis' former plantation together with his mill site on said river". The deed was proved by one Samuel Earle in open court.²² From that time on he sold out in 1815, Allston, soon to be the founder of the town

¹³Location Bk. A, p. 1.

¹⁴Deed Bk. E, p. 408; Deed Bk. A, p. 123; Deed Bk. D, p. 299.

¹⁵Deed Bk. A, pp. 121, 123.

¹⁶Deed Bk. F, p. 339.

¹⁷Deed Bk. G, p. 193.

¹⁸Deed Bk. D, p. 317.

¹⁹Deed Bk. C, p. 90.

²⁰Deed Book I, p. 426.

²¹Deed Book A, p. 260.

²²Deed Book A, p. 322.

of Greenville, acquired property in every direction until his accumulated holdings amounted to 11,028 acres.

That the group of people who were settling on Reedy River or in the forks of the Saluda were of prominence in the "Back Country" is attested by the appearance in the Convention for the purpose of ratifying the Federal Constitution in 1788 of Lemuel J. Allston, Samuel Earle, and John Thomas, Jr., representatives from "North Side of the Saluda". In the first day's voting, Samuel Earle and Lemuel Allston voted aye, while John Thomas, Jr., voted no. In the second day's voting, Earle and Thomas both voted aye while Allston withheld his vote. With the third roll, however, all three said aye.²³ McCrady says that the Back Country opposed the Federal Constitution, but this was not the attitude of the three delegates from the district north of the Saluda; nor of seven other delegates from the Up-Country districts.

While Allston, Samuel and Elias Earle, Waddy Thompson, the Townes, the Blassingames, the Youngs, John Thomas, and a great many others were making their settlements in and around what was soon to become the new village of Pleasantburg (Greenville's first name) during the last decade of the eighteenth century, plans were made for the opening of a general store to serve the rapidly growing community. "The following plot or parcel of land containing eight acres, situated upon the Island Ford Road leading from Saluda River to Reedy River is hereby leased for the term of seven years from the first of January next ensuing to the said Alexander McBeth and Co., on the following conditions: that the said, Alexander McBeth and Co. are to erect thereon one frame store house, 30 feet by 18 feet, weatherboarded and shingled, and at the expiration of this lease the same, with any outbuildings they may erect, is to revert to the said John Blassingame."²⁴

The Island Ford Road from Saluda River to Reedy River crossed the old White Horse Road about three miles southwest of Greenville. The section at the crossing of these two roads just

²³*Journal of the Convention of South Carolina . . . 1788* (Columbia, 1928), pp. 20, 33, 46.

²⁴Deed Book C, p. 173.

beyond Brandon Mills has always been known as Tanglewood — from the name of the home of John Blassingame, Jr. — and many of our first settlers established themselves here. The McBeth store was near the intersetion of the roads, not far from the present Tanglewood School House at which (as can still plainly be seen) was a road crossing. Almost within a stone's throw is the site of the Blassingame home, the store being located on the Blassingame land. The White Horse Road is amongst the oldest in the county. It is said to have taken its name from the signboard of an old tavern that once stood at the intersection of this road with the old Asheville road twelve miles above Greenville. John Blassingame's son, John Blassingame, Jr., lived a mile west of his father. His place, known as Tangle Wood, later became the home of Joel R. Poinsett. Col. Crittenden in his history of Greenville states that he remembers many evidences of Poinsett's planting. There is little left now beyond a few old cedars. The Townes and the Easleys also settled in this neighborhood.²⁷

The settlers along the White Horse Road were, of course, ready customers of the McBeth store, but it is amazing to note the size of the area from which the store drew customers. A quaint ledger has survived to tell the tale.²⁸ Its worn cover is lettered nicely "Day Book — A. McBeth — 1794". It records the charge accounts for January, February, and March of that year. Its yellowed pages tell that John Thomas, Jr., some dozen miles distant in the Locus section, owed the McBeths four pounds, six shillings, and three pence in January, 1794. Waddy Thompson, settled at Pickensville, bought everything from buckskin gloves, paper, pins, and ribbon to negro shoes and osnaburgs. In March Lemuel James Allston, then settled where the Greenville High School now stands, bought a punch bowl for one pound, three shillings, and sixpence; three small mugs for five shillings three pence; one large glass tumbler, ribbon, tablespoon, handkerchiefs, nutmeg, and the like. Bayles Earle, away up on the Pacolet, went or sent to McBeth for a pack of cards, a half pint of rum, a pint of whiskey — from the small amount of liquor

²⁷S. S. Crittenden, *The Greenville Century Book* (Greenville, 1903), pp. 18-19.

²⁸In Greenville City Library.

he probably went and drank on the premises. John Blassingame bought such articles as a looking glass, a blue teapot, and six shallow earthen plates. Elias Earle, from his place a mile beyond Allston, went to McBeth for allspice, nutmeg, coffee, nails, an almanac, a padlock, a frying pan, and one trunk. William Middleton — who he was does not appear — bought whiskey and handkerchiefs and knee buckles, six earthen plates, and a snuff box. Thomas, William, and Samuel Townes and Robert Easley were customers during these months. There were a great number of other customers, including Indians. Col. Crittenden remarks that, to judge by the number of entries of deerskins in the old day book, there was abundance of game at that time. Old stands where deer were killed were pointed out to him by the son of an early settler. Col. Crittenden makes the comment that by far the most frequent charge on the ledger is one half pint of whiskey for seven and a half cents.²⁹ McBeth's was evidently a department store with a wide variety of wares and a barroom combined — all in the space of a room eighteen by thirty feet. No doubt McBeth got his stock from wagons from Philadelphia or from Charleston and Savannah by way of Augusta. Certainly it is the case that not a great many years later Theodosia Burr Alston, whose husband, Joseph Alston, the governor, bought a farm in this neighborhood where they spent several summers, in one of her letters to Aaron Burr speaks of the well-traveled wagon road from Augusta and the ease with which baggage may be brought on the wagons coming that way.³⁰ A good many years later Hamburg took the trade from Augusta. In speaking of this route, Crittenden says that "merchants had goods wagoned from Greenville to Hamburg, which was a place of considerable importance. The price was one dollar per hundred pounds. The load would come back with goods. In the very early days, goods were hauled from Philadelphia".³¹ Just as Pearis' trading post at the falls was a rendezvous for pioneers and Indians for a decade before the Revolution, so was McBeth's a favorite meeting place for the

²⁹Crittenden, *op. cit.*, pp. 17-19.

³⁰Mark Van Doren, *Correspondence of Aaron Burr and His Daughter, Theodosia* (New York, 1929), p. 338.

³¹Crittenden, *op. cit.*, p. 51.

post-Revolutionary settlers near the crossing of the roads, a place where they could swap tales, pass on the news of the day, buy what they needed, and imbibe a convivial glass all at the same time.

Having gotten our early settlers all nicely established in the neighborhood, having furnished them with a shopping place and a saloon, and having given them at least three roads, it is high time to give them a town.

In 1793, commissioners were chosen by the General Assembly to select for a courthouse site for Greenville County "some more convenient and central situation than that in which they were".¹² As Greenville County had been established by act of Assembly in 1786, county court obviously had been held since that time somewhere within its limits — perhaps in the old Tangle Wood section on the White Horse Road, or at old Pickensville where Circuit Court was held for Washington District. Wherever the first courthouse was, to the citizens of the county it appeared inconvenient. Not until 1797, however, was Pleasantburg, the courthouse village for Greenville County, laid off, the original plat¹³ showing the courthouse in the central square. The commissioners selected the land around the old Pearis mill site as the location for the courthouse village, the selection due no doubt to the influential Allston who was one owner of the property. Though the progress of a century and a quarter has erased practically every trace of its former beauty, no more idyllic spot could have been chosen for the location of the new courthouse town. Beginning on the east bank of the Reedy River, the town extended, two blocks wide, one block on either side of the main street for four blocks — to the present Washington Street. The little river had cut its bed through a deep valley, rising almost precipitously on both banks. Where Main Street crossed the stream and merged into the road which would through the hills to Pickensville appeared Reedy River Falls, immediately to the left of the crossing, tumbling in an ecstatic spray of white midst, down a sheer cliff of ragged rock

¹²*Acts and Resolutions of the General Assembly of . . . South Carolina . . . 1793* (Charleston, 1794), p. 8.

¹³In Greenville Court House.

to subside peacefully at the foot of the cliff into its winding, sandlined bed. The banks of the river on both sides were decorated as beautifully as though an artist had painted it on canvas with a thick growth of that most beautiful of all the elms — the Camperdown. Here and there were piles of rock among the elms, ideally shaped as benches for lovers' meeting, a suitability apparently appreciated in full by later generations of lovers. Perhaps Pearis' daughters knew this — certainly Governor B. F. Perry courted his lovely Charleston sweetheart there, and so indelibly was the beauty of the spot impressed upon him that he wrote of it years later.¹⁴ Up and down the stream at intervals thick growths of canes gave the river its name. Taking the place of the old foot log, the fine bridge today over the river at the old Main Street crossing with the filling stations and high buildings along its margin have completely obscured this really beautiful scene. By crawling down a precipitous path back of a filling station on the left of the bridge, present day Greenvilleans may glimpse the lovely falls, the boulders on which lovers sat, here and there an elm, the winding stream, still a beauty spot, but cut off completely from the sight of Greenville today.

The village of six blocks lay to the east of the stream. At the fifth block a broad avenue six hundred yards long running at right angles to Main Street and lined with a double row of "handsome sycamore trees",¹⁵ led to a commanding eminence on which stood the spacious home — Prospect Hill — of the grand nabob of the community, Lemuel James Allston. Another "handsome avenue" cut a passage leading from the north front of the house through the woods a quarter of a mile in length and connecting with the "Mountain road" — this was either the old road to Paris Mountain or what was later called the Rutherford Road through Landrum and Tryon. I find no mention of the name Rutherford Road in old deeds until 1813. The grounds on the west side of the Allston mansion, so says a Connecticut traveler of the period, were landscaped beautifully

¹⁴Hexu McColl Perry, *Letters of My Father to My Mother* (Philadelphia, 1889), p. 6.

¹⁵"Extracts from the Diary of Edward Hooker," *Annual Report of the American Historical Association* (hereinafter cited as *A. H. A. Report*). (1896), I. 897.

down to the edge of Reedy River.³⁶ Nearby were the heights of Paris Mountain, afar the dim blue haze of the Blue Ridge, on two sides the broad valley of the Reedy above the falls which gave the name "Great Plains" to the region when Richard Pearis came to settle it. It is no wonder that the beauty of the spot at once suggested a name for the village — Pleasant burg — or that the verdure of the surrounding country should have given the name Greenville to the county.

There has been some uncertainty about the derivation of the name Greenville. In 1826, John C. Calhoun in a toast at a dinner and ball given for him in Greenville at the Mansion House said: "The village of Greenville — picturesque and lovely in its situation — may it so prosper as to be worthy of the memory of him whose illustrious name it bears".³⁷ — obviously General Nathanael Greene. Mr. A. S. Salley discounts this theory, and states that the general's unpopularity among the "Back-Country" people was so great that they would not have given his name to a county established just a few years after the war. Also, it is pertinent to note that the final "e" was never, even in early days, used in the spelling of Greenville.

A second theory advanced by Mr. Salley was that the county derived its name from one Isaac Green who owned a mill on Reedy River. Mr. James Richardson, however, establishes the fact that Isaac Green obtained his land grant on the Reedy in 1785; that less than six months later the act establishing Greenville County was passed, and that it is scarcely probable that, with the many prominent citizens in this section at that time, the name of an obscure stranger should be bestowed upon the county.³⁸ Mrs. C. M. Landrum of Greenville, now an old lady, with a lifetime of historical interest behind her, still doing meticulously careful historical work, tells me that she remembers distinctly that some of the older members of the family of Vardry McBee, who practically bought out the town of Greenville in 1815 when he secured the enormous land

³⁶*Ibid.*, pp. 897, 898.

³⁷From clippings in the collection of the Greenville Library.

³⁸J. H. Richardson, *History of Greenville County* (Atlanta, 1930), Introduction.

holdings of Lemuel J. Allston, told her that it was generally understood that the name Greenville was suggested by the verdant appearance of the country.

The plat of the little village of Pleasantburg was laid off entirely upon the land of Lemuel J. Allston, which had first been the Pearis property, then the Col. Brandon property. The plat was divided into fifty-two lots. In the exact center of the eight squares (six blocks long and two wide) stood the new courthouse, itself placed in a square formed by the lots where the present court house and Chamber of Commerce Building stand, together with little open courts now a part of the property of the Blue building, the Poinsett Hotel, and the Palmetto Building. From the plat of Pleasantburg, one will note that the court house stood in the middle of Main Street and the gaol a block away to the south in the middle of the street near the place of intersection of Fall and Court Streets. Our Connecticut traveler describes the new court house as a "decent two story building" while he waxes more enthusiastic about the gaol, saying that it was "three stories, large and handsome". "The situation and aspect of the village," he goes on to say, "is quite pretty and rural, the streets covered with green grass and handsome trees growing here and there. . . . The place is thought by many to be as healthy as any part of the United States. Not a seat of much business. Only one attorney, and law business dull. One or two physicians in or near the village; but their practice is mainly at the Golden Grove, a fertile but unhealthy settlement ten miles below. One Clergyman within six or seven miles who preaches at the Court House once in three or four week. . . there is a want of good houses — the buildings being mostly of logs. About six dwelling houses, two or three shops and some other little buildings." This is, of course, describing the village itself, not Allston's fine place or the other country seats surrounding the village of which we shall hear more anon. It would be interesting to trace the houses and shops he speaks of within the village.

Allston, of course, owned the whole village. He at once, though very slowly, began to sell off lots. Isaac Wicliff seems to

"A. H. A. Report (1896), I. 196.

have been the first buyer, who for a hundred dollars, on April 22, 1797, bought lots 11 and 12, which included, in part, the present Masonic Temple site with its little court, the Law Range site, and other property back of it.⁴⁰ The lots were large. I can find nothing about Isaac Wickliff. The next year, 1789, John McBeth, the brother of the Scotchman Alexander McBeth, who was at that time operating the famous store in the Tanglewood section, bought for \$600.00, six lots, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 16, 17, 18, which included the entire block directly across from the present post office.⁴¹ A part of this property later came into possession of Governor Perry, and his house and his law office stood upon it for many years, within memory of the older residents of Greenville.⁴²

In 1799, Allston sold Lot 36 on the southeast corner of Main and McBee to Thomas Alexander.⁴³ The same year John Wood bought six lots, Nos. 37, 39, 40, 47, 48, 22.⁴⁴ In 1800, Elias Earle, living on the outskirts of the village, bought a part of lots 11 and 12.⁴⁵ The same year Franky Wickliffe acquired Lot 15, the site of the present post office.⁴⁶ It seems to have been quite common to lease and build on property before buying. John Taylor, in 1804,⁴⁷ bought one lot, and Elias Earle bought another in 1801.⁴⁸

Most important of all the buyers of lots in the village of Pleasantburg as Jeremiah Cleveland who bought lots Nos. 37 and 38 in 1804. Here he erected a small store which was the beginning of a business which resulted in an estate of several hundred thousands of dollars. On Main Street he built his home, on the property now covered by Woolworth's Five and Ten Cent Store. It was a large brick residence, left standing until

⁴⁰Deed Book D, p. 407.

⁴¹Deed Book E, p. 94.

⁴²Mr. C. A. David.

⁴³Deed Book E, p. 359.

⁴⁴Deed Book F, p. 265.

⁴⁵Deed Book E, p. 408.

⁴⁶Deed Book E, p. 419.

⁴⁷Deed Book G, p. 168.

⁴⁸Deed Book F, p. 262.

a few years ago. These owners of lots in the new village must have been among those who built "the two or three shops and some other little buildings and the six houses" (probably their residences near their places of business) on which the Connecticut traveler remarks in the year 1806. This, of course, excepts the large brick residence of Jeremiah Cleveland which must have been erected later, else the traveler would surely have mentioned it.

The name of Pleasantburg seems to have been used only in a few of the earlier deeds to lots in the village. The deeds to property surrounding the village all speak of Greenville Court House, or Greenville District — never of Pleasantburg, with exception of the sale of the first few lots in the town. By 1806 the name Pleasantburg seems to have been relegated to the past.

The estates surrounding the little town seem all to have been built upon decided eminences. Through the great-grandchildren of their builders and through court house deeds I have been fortunate enough to trace the home sites of all I have studied with the exception of one, which I still hope to locate some day. We have mentioned "Prospect Hill," the home of Allston, with its avenue of fine sycamores leading down to main Street. "Prospect Hill" stood until not a great many years ago on the knoll where the Greenville High School now stands. The Connecticut traveler declared that Allston's "seat is without exception the most beautiful that I have seen in South Carolina".⁴⁰ Adjoining the Allston property, on what certainly by 1813 was known as the Rutherford Road and may have been laid out much earlier, stood "The Poplars," the home of Elias Earle, on a commanding eminence sloping down to Richland's Creek, which bounded Earle's property on that side. "The Poplars" was a spacious, rambling structure overlooking a circular drive lined with fine trees.⁴¹ Across Reedy River on the other side of town was the home of Chancellor Waddy Thompson. "Approaching the village of Greenville," says the Connecticut traveler, Mr. Hooker, as he was coming from Pickensville, "we pass in view of Chancellor Thompson's beautiful seat —

⁴⁰A. H. A. Report (1896), I. 898.

⁴¹Within memory of Miss Estelle Earle, Greenville.

quite retired in the woods, about two miles from the Court House."⁵¹ The Chancellor's home stood on another eminence, sloping down to Reedy River — the house in a straight line perhaps not much over a mile from the Allston home. Just beyond Thompson, on the White Horse Road, stood Gen. John Blassingame's home upon a beautiful knoll looking out toward Paris Mountain and beyond to the Blue Ridge. Next door to him was Tanglewood, the place of his son, John, his house also on a commanding eminence. On the same road was the large house of Samuel Townes. It is said that this was a favorite location because of its beautiful outlook and also because its elevation was considered very healthful. Certain it is that just a year or so later Governor Joseph Alston, a summer resident, bought in the neighborhood, and still later Poinsett and C. G. Memminger. Five miles from the village, out on the Buncombe Road, on a knoll looking toward Paris Mountain, was "The Rock House", Captain Billy Young's residence. The place I have not been able to locate at all is the home of Samuel Earle, Clerk of Court for Greenville from 1787-1793, who "before his marriage, about 1785, . . . had moved to the forks of the Saluda to live in his own home, which he called 'Bachelor Hall,' and here it was he brought his bride".⁵²

The Allstons, the Earles, the Blassingames, the Townes, the Thompsons, the Youngs, the Clevelands, and, of course, many other families were thus settled comfortably about the village with the turn of the century, all leading more or less an agrarian life. Allston and Thompson were both lawyers, though the Connecticut traveler speaks of only one in the village. Cleveland and McBeth were merchants. They were several office holders about the court house, two doctors covering a wide range of territory, at least one blacksmith, and undoubtedly other small artisans. But it would be a safe bet that all of them were farmers. Allston, for instance, besides being a lawyer of ability, managed thousands of acres of land.

The early settlers of Greenville lived very largely at home.

⁵¹A. H. A. Report (1896), I, 897.

⁵²Samuel Edward Mays, *Genealogy of the Mays Family* (Plant City, Fla., 1929), p. 106.

There was almost no cotton planted. There was comparatively little slave labor. Wheat and corn were the money crops, ground by little mills built at the swift falls. They raised horses and cattle, plenty of hogs, sheep and poultry. They made their farm implements at home as well as their own whiskey and brandy. When they bought liquor at the store, it was merely to enjoy a social hour. They carried home from the store only delicacies as "sugar and spice and every things nice" such as coffee and ribbons and articles which could not be manufactured at home. Such was the town and the community at the turn of the century.