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David William Cole, 'The Organization and Administration of the South Carolina Militia System, 1870-1783 (Unpublished Doctor's dissertation, University of South Carolina, 1953), p. 28.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

^{*}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 of not 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

[&]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, 1818, printed a next two order calling for the Seventeenth Regiment commanded by the order calling for the Seventeenth Regiment commanded by Massey to meet at Berson's Old Feld on August 17 and for the Fifteenth Regiment commanded by McDanlet to meet at Toney's Store on August 19. Thomas Bemon's mill was near Travelers Rest and Toney's Store was near Fountain Inn. William Toney built the Mansion House at Creenville Court House in 1824.16 Some versit the uponer regiment mustered as Brutor's Old Field.

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 equip themselves with musket, bayonet, cartouche box, and twenty-four cartridges.¹¹ Pickensville near Easley was sometimes the site for the Fourth Brigade encampment. The Pendictoon Messeager for August 14, 1813, carried an order for the officers to appear there on September 6 A similar encampment was beld at Pickensville in 1817, and in 1820 Deputy Assistant Quartermaster Samuel A. Easley petitioned he legislature to pay sin the forty dollars is cost him to bright tents from the Assemal at Abbeville Court House to the 1817 onclaim.¹²

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

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

¹¹Elliott and Strobel, p. 02.

¹³Military 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

¹³Cecuville Republica, October 7, 1850. Another text 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 up 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

¹⁴The Encyclopedia of American Facts and Dates, ed. Gordon Carruth and Associates (New York, 1956), pp. 178, 180.
19Pendleton Messenger, November 20, 1835.

¹⁶Ibid., 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

^{1*}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

 ³²Ibid., September 12, 1835.
 ²³Pendleton Messenger, November 20, 1835.
 ²⁴Greenville Mountaineer, September 5, 1835. ²⁶Pendleton Messenger, November 20, 1835.

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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

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²⁷Ibid., September 4, 1835. ²⁸Greenville 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

²⁶Greenville Republican, July 28, 1826.
³⁶Ibid., November 4, 1826.

³ Greenville Mountaineer, June 20, 1835. The cornet was a commissioned officer in the cavalty troop who carried the standard. ³ Fendleton Messenger, August 11, 1810. ³ Greenville Mountaineer, June 20, 1835.

³⁴Ibid., 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-

 ³⁸Ibid., July 11, 1835.
 ²⁰Ibid., July 10, 1840.
 ⁴⁰Pendleton Messenger, August 27, 1807.
 ⁴¹Ibid., September, 1807.
 ⁴²Ibid., 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

⁴²Greenville 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

(Greenville, Pendleton, Edgefield, Abbeville)

1819 First Division Mojor Ceneral Butler First Brigade First Regiment

Third Regiment

General McDaniel Colonel Hodges 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 At Court House. Third Regiment 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 Benson's Old Field. October 10 Third Regiment Colonel Gaines

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

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