



GREENVILLE CHAPTER

South Carolina Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 16236
Greenville, SC 29606

www.greenvillegenealogy.org

NEWSLETTER: Volume XXXIII, Number 2, February 2007

Editor: William D. Kivett

February Meeting

February 1st, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

First Christian Church – 704 Edwards Road

"Research at Greenville's Cultural Exchange Center and My Bulter Family History"

by
Ruth Ann Butler

A graduate of Benedict College with a degree in history and social studies, Ruth Ann grew up in Greenville as the child of a Baptist minister, believing that God had a plan for her. It was revealed in 1985, after she visited an African American museum in Tennessee. Butler, by then a history teacher, almost immediately began preserving the history of African Americans in her hometown of Greenville, SC. Convinced of her calling, Butler gave up her teaching career, sketched out a plan, and cobbled together \$10,000 from local government to start what would become the Greenville Cultural Exchange Center.

Not one to ever see limitations, she started the center with an idea and an unshakable faith in God, but with no plan and no money. She then opened a museum with no formal training on how to operate one. She had to learn on the job what it takes to make a non-profit operation run. This included learning fundraising, how to secure core groups of supporters, and how to handle crises. She overcame all of these obstacles in large part by personally pleading for her cause directly to her Greenville community.

Today, the center has its own renovated building nestled in a historic downtown Greenville neighborhood. It features an extensive catalogue of artifacts, oral histories, and records for African Americans who want to search their family histories. There is also a resource center that displays the achievements of local African Americans dating back to the late 1800's. The center has biographical sketches, news articles, tape recordings, photographs and letters of prominent African-Americans. It also includes a research library open to visiting scholars, students and the general public.

This center has been the ultimate labor of love for Butler, who has traced her own family's history back to slavery. Today Butler thinks the center's future is brighter than ever. An increasing number of African Americans are taking an interest in genealogy and history. Since records were not well kept to document the births and deaths of African Americans, and few records exist detailing the lives of slaves, the story of the African American experience is still mostly verbal. A goal of Butler's is to continue to record that history so it will not go to the grave, but will ever live on.

Greenville Chapter, SCGS Offices and Board Members

Co-Presidents:	Susan Phillips Finlay Jane Watson Chandler	Members at Large:	Marion Whiting Wanda Randle
Vice President:	Henrietta Sweeney	Immediate Past President:	Bob Frieler
Recording Secretary:	Patricia Swygert	Corresponding Secretary:	Jean Mundy
Treasurer:	Dot Hawkins	Archivist:	Carol Leake
State Representative:	Pat Frieler	Parliamentarian:	Charles Watson

From the Co-Presidents' Desks

Jane and I have served as Co-Presidents of our Greenville Chapter for one year now, and we hope we know more today than we did when we took office! Or maybe it's a case of "If we'd known then what we know now..."

We were able to reflect on this first year in office as we prepared the annual state report due January 15th on our chapter activities and projects. This report serves as a "State of the Greenville Chapter" address to the State Chapter on what our group accomplished during the previous year. Jane did an excellent job of organizing and reporting the information in this required summary of each local chapter for the year 2006. We were pleased to report to the State Chapter that our Greenville Chapter meeting attendance in 2006 increased 51.3 percent over the previous year. The surveying for our new cemetery book Volume VII is nearing completion, with our chapter having surveyed 25 cemeteries in 2006 to add to the 26 surveyed in the previous two years. Transcription began on the Cannon Mortuary books in late 2006, which will provide a wealth of genealogical data to both white and African American researchers with ties to this area. Membership booklets were sent out to all members containing names and information including lines of research for each member.

Our Greenville Chapter received new recognition in the Greenville area with our active participation in the Consortium for Greenville History, making other groups in this area aware of our projects and activities. We were able to report that our group was directly responsible in 2006 for the discovery and cleanup of the old County Home cemetery, identifying hundreds of burials in this forgotten cemetery as well as Brutontown and Lincoln cemeteries. We were even able to help return a stolen tombstone to its proper place thanks to Jane's good eye at recognizing that the lady in question belonged at Standing Springs church cemetery.

Reflecting on the last year, we can say that the "State of our Chapter" is good, but we can all work to make it better. We have so many good and dedicated workers in our group who are always willing to go the distance, and there is room for anyone who wants to help on any of the projects in progress. Ideas are always welcomed, and whether you are a local member or one who reads of our activities in our newsletter each month, please let us hear your ideas on what we can do to make our organization even better.

We hope to see everyone at our February meeting, when we'll hear Ruth Ann Butler of the Greenville Cultural Exchange give a presentation on this museum, and speak on the challenges facing African American researchers. One thing we can be proud of as a group is that we are actively collecting and presenting data on African American history and genealogy in Greenville County, adding much needed information to that already available, and this program will be informative to all of us.

See you in February!

Susan & Jane

Case's Corner

Using The Census – The 1820 Census

Well, we're now up to the 1820 census, and we see more changes and additions with this census. Important facts to know about this census include:

- This was the fourth federal census taken.
- The census count was begun on August 7, 1820 and was to be completed in six months. However, the completion time was later extended, giving census takers a total of thirteen months to gather the information. (As with earlier censuses, note the date at the top of the page, since your family may have actually been counted in 1821 and this could account for discrepancies in ages. *Also note: this gives your family plenty of time to move and be counted twice).
- Once again, the only names listed were "Heads of Household."
- State, county, and township (if applicable) are listed.
- The census takers were still handwriting their own forms with the required questions.
- Age breakdowns on this census (for both free white males and free white females) are:
To 10 10-16 16-26 25-45 45 and up

*Special Note: For free white males, there is an extra age category thrown in for good measure: males ages 16-18. This confusing age category caused many males to be counted twice – another challenge for all of us researchers.

- This census also asks several additional questions that can help you put "meat on the bones" of your ancestors and give you ideas of additional resources to check. These questions include:
 - Number of foreigners not naturalized
 - Number of persons engaged in Agriculture
 - Number of persons engaged in Commerce
 - Number of persons engaged in Manufactures
 - All other persons, except Indians, not taxed (This included Indians who had severed tribal affiliations, and/or were living among the white population due to marriage, etc.).
- And yes, there are still missing schedules. For Southeastern states, these include: Alabama, Arkansas, Parts of GA, Parts of NC, Clarendon Co., SC, and most of Eastern TN.

The 1820 Census included a separate Mfg. Schedule - more about other kinds of census schedules in the future. The 1790 through 1820 censuses all consisted of a handwritten original, and two handwritten copies which were to be posted in two public places for all individuals to view and check for accuracy. Many microfilmed copies of these years we see today were made from these corrected copies. Until next time and the next census year, 1830 - Happy Hunting!!

- Suzanne Case

Editor's Musings



Far too few of us, who by mere quirk of parental fate became members of what was called the White Race, can ever begin to understand the challenges those with parents of African American ancestry encounter in the search for their roots. The story so eloquently told in the epic series "Roots" is a very rare one. Most of today's Black American citizens will forever be limited to learning some very basic facts about only a few earlier generations of their family.

Many of us frequently toss around the phrase "brick wall". I submit that most researchers will never sense the lonely "Black Hole" of a total records vacuum. In my genealogy classes over the past years an occasional participant of African American ancestry caused me to more directly address this challenge. I was also inspired to personally take on a bothersome uncertainty about the lady lovingly holding my own elder daughter in this photograph made in 1961.

I always knew her as Seelie Cheek. As a youth, I played with her grandchildren who lived on a nearby farm. But just who was Seelie, this lady who had worked for three generations of my family, and was now holding a fourth? Who was her family? I now had to know. Armed with the skills so many of us develop to locate obscure records and form stories from them, I was able to learn about some of Seelie's ancestry: She was born Celia Golston on 13 Mar 1886. I found the names of her parents and husband, and her siblings' names - when she died and where she is buried.

But I was not able to go back beyond her grandparents, both born in the 1820's. There all records of this family stopped. I came to personally feel that deep frustration of likely never being able to know more. I do take some comfort that I had belatedly learned some of the ancestry of this great lady, and know she would have been grateful for my preservation of that part of her heritage. I now proudly include her family in my collection as tiny repayment for all Seelie did for mine. Is there a Seelie in your life? Have you researched her? Might it enrich your genealogy skills, and your life to try?

- Bill Kivett

Genealogy News and Announcements

State Genealogical Society Meeting

The January meeting of the SC Genealogical Meeting was called to order at 11 AM on January 13 by President Dr. Connie McNeill. After the regular reports of the officers the following items were discussed:

The current *SC Herald and Newsletter* editor, Pattie Rivers has given notice that she will definitely no longer be the editor after the current issue of the Herald is printed. Arrangements have begun to transition to another editor. Chapter representatives were asked to encourage their members to still send information of upcoming events, articles or stories of interest for the next edition of the *Carolina Herald* to the current editor, Pattie Rivers. Her email address is: pgrivers@comcast.net or by telephone at 843-795-6528. Items may also be mailed to her at Pattie G. Rivers, 640 Edmonds Drive, Charleston, SC 29412. As this edition will positively be the last issue she will edit, expect new directions for submittals for future issues

The SC State Archives facility is phasing out the large tables which have been used at the State Society July Workshop. After discussion it was decided that rental tables would be used for this year's July 13th and 14th event, the quantity and timing to be determined soon. A slate of potential speakers for the workshop was agreed upon. These individuals will be contacted as to their availability and willingness to present. Names will be published when all have been confirmed. The Marriott has been booked as the host hotel. Those who plan to attend will need to call and reserve their room by July 1, 2007. The cost for a single room will be \$84.00. Each chapter will need to send the State Treasurer, Larry Ulmer, a check for \$15.00 to help defray cost of refreshments at the speaker's reception.

The State also needs volunteers who would be interested in holding a state office. The nominating committee needs to find candidates for four state offices for the year 2008.

The next fall Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Old Edgefield Chapter, on November 2-3, 2007. Anyone who is interested in attending should email their plans to do so to: OEDGS@aikenelectric.net. Information about programs and hotel facilities will be available later.

Plans were begun to provide assistance to the Chesterfield Chapter to help them resolve some of their difficulties so that this chapter will not have to dissolve. The final draft for a rack card to be placed in all South Carolina Welcome Centers was presented to the members for critique. These cards include vital information concerning the State Department of Archives and History, The State Genealogical Society, with location and contact information about each individual chapter. There was no other business so the meeting was adjourned.

Report submitted by Pat Frieler,
State Representative

Our Past Before Us

The Search for the South Carolina Upcountry

On March 8, 9, and 10, 2007, Clemson and Furman Universities will host an interdisciplinary conference on the South Carolina Upcountry. The goal is to frame questions about the Upcountry's past and present in ways that will offer insight into the origins of contemporary challenges. The meetings, which will begin in Clemson on Thursday, March 8, and move to Greenville for the evening of March 9 and all of Saturday, March 10, will feature plenary sessions on each day, interspersed with panel sessions of visiting scholars, students, and other experts. Plenary speakers are expected to include Vernon Burton, Walter Edgar, John David Smith, Theda Perdue, Ron Rash, Lacy Ford, and James Cobb. Sessions will be held on the Clemson campus at the Madren Conference Center, in Greenville on the Furman campus at the Younts Center, and at the Hughes Downtown Greenville County Library.

On Friday evening March 9 at 7:00 Dr. Theda Perdue, distinguished author and professor of history at the University of North Carolina, will be speaking at the library. Her topic is "The Survival of South Carolina's Indian People." There will be a reception at the adjacent Upcountry History Museum beginning at 5:30. Admission to both events are free of charge, and open to the public.

Greenville History Fair

In conjunction with the above conference, The Greenville History Fair will be held on Sat., March 10 from 9 a.m.– 4 p.m. at Furman's Younts Conference Center. It will feature exhibits by historical organizations and institutions from the SC Upstate. These groups will have artifacts, fact sheets, brochures, membership information, materials for sale, etc. Our Greenville Chapter will be one of the exhibitors. Admission to this is also free of charge and open to anyone.

Future Chapter Meeting Plans

March 1st, 2007 - Sallie Anderson, of the Greenville LDS Family History Center will present a program titled "Update on Facility and DNA Project by Church of Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake City".

April 5th, 2007 – The April meeting speaker will be our very own Mary Carlisle, daughter of Tom and Joanne Carlisle. Her topic will be titled "The Impact of the Camera on Visual Arts and Preserving History".

Membership Renewal Time

If there is a **GREEN DOT** stuck on the bottom of this page, and "[2006]" following your name on your address label, there's just very little time left for you to fill out the renewal form included in this edition and mail it with your 2007 dues check to the address shown on the form.

January Mtg. Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Greenville Chapter S.C. Genealogical Society was called to order at 7:05 PM by Co-President Jane Chandler. She welcomed the members and guests. She recognized one new member, John Nolan.

Reports of Officers and Board Members Present:

Jane Chandler gave the Co-Presidents' Report. The work on Volume VII continues, there are still just a few cemeteries to survey and we are proofing and indexing those we have finished. Susan, with the help of Suzanne Case, continues to copy death certificates of those buried at Brutontown, the County Home, and Lincoln Cemeteries, for a more complete survey of these three cemeteries for our book. There are now well over one hundred burials for both Brutontown and the County Home and this is just through the year 1931.

A format has been decided on for the Cannon Mortuary books, and transcribing has begun. Susan will head up this project and members were asked to volunteer to help with the transcribing.

We are planning our Chapter's exhibit for the Greenville History Fair to be held on March 8, 9, and 10, 2007. This will begin on Clemson campus at the Madren Conference Center, on Thursday, March 8, and move to Greenville at the Public Library for the evening of March 9 and then move Saturday, March 10, to the Furman campus at the Younts Center. More information will be available soon and we hope many of our members will make plans to attend.

Susan and Jane attended the Consortium for Greenville History meeting on Dec. 6. Speaking to the group was Bob Morris of the Community Foundation of Greenville.

Vice President Henrietta Sweeney was absent. Patsy Swygert reported that nothing had changed regarding upcoming programs.

Recording Secretary Patsy Swygert had nothing else to report since the November minutes were printed in the January newsletter. The November Minutes were approved as presented.

Jean Mundy was introduced as our new Corresponding Secretary. She reported that her duties will include sending thank you notes to our speakers and sending get well and sympathy cards to our members. Please advise her of people who are sick or have had bereavements.

Treasurer Dot Hawkins gave the Treasurers Reports for November and December 2006.

January Minutes (cont.)

Archivist Carol Leake had no report.

Parliamentarian Charles Watson reported that all was going well with the meeting.

Membership Chair Wanda Randle reported that dues are due now. She also announced that member Jean Smith had died shortly after she sent in her renewal dues. Wanda contacted the family who said not to return the dues. Wanda sent a letter to the family on behalf of our chapter.

A motion to approve the Officers Reports was made and seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business:

There were no reports of upcoming family reunions.

There are still openings for refreshment volunteers.

New Business:

Susan Finlay reported that the Chapter had received an invitation to the SC African American Historical and Genealogical Society Banquet to be held in Columbia on January 20, 2007.

Suzanne Case encouraged everyone to attend the History Fair on March 10, 2007 at Furman University. Admission is free. Flyers are available.

Carroll Smith inquired as to the date of the 2007 State SCGS Summer Workshop. Pat Frieler will be attending the State Meeting on January 13 and she may have information about the workshop after this meeting.

Patsy Swygert introduced Speaker Judith Bainbridge, who presented "Parsing Greenville's Past – Researching a Time and Place" – all about her research of Brutontown to develop an accurate perspective for the latest in the Greenville County Redevelopment Authority poster series. She also brought several copies of her latest book for sale.

Next Scheduled Meetings:

The next scheduled Board meeting will be Thursday, February 1, 2007, at 5:30 PM. The next scheduled Chapter meeting will be Thursday, February 1, 2007, at 7:00 PM. Ruth Ann Butler will help us kick off Black History Month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Patsy Swygert, Recording Secretary

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

* Greenville County, S.C., Cemetery Survey, Vol. One. 1977. 485 p., indexed. Includes 105 cemeteries. \$38.00 plus \$3.75 s. & h.

* Greenville County, S.C., Cemetery Survey, Vol. Two. 1979, reprint 2003. 489 p., indexed. Includes approximately 75 cemeteries. \$38.00 plus \$3.75 s. & h.

Greenville County, S.C., Cemetery Survey, Vol. Three. Springwood Cemetery. Out of Print. Won't be reprinted. Springwood is working on a new book of their cemetery.

* Greenville County, S.C., Cemetery Survey, Vol. Four. 1982. reprint 2005. 313p, indexed. Includes 36 cemeteries. \$30.00 plus \$3.50 s. & h.

* Greenville County, S.C., Cemetery Survey, Vol. Five. 1983. reprint 2005. 346 p., indexed. Includes 2 cemeteries. \$32.00 plus \$3.50 s. & h.

* Greenville County, S.C., Cemetery Survey, Vol. Six. 2000. 188 p., indexed. Includes Christ Church Episcopal and African-American cemeteries. \$25.00 plus \$2.75 s. & h.

Mackey Mortuary Death Records, 1889-1921, Greenville County, S.C. 2000. 502 p., alphabetical and date order. \$40.00 plus \$3.75 s. & h.

Abstracts of Extant Greenville, S.C., Newspapers Concerning Black People Free and Slave, 1826-1865, Vol. II. 2000. 58 p., indexed. \$10.00 plus \$2.75 s. & h.

1790 Census Index and 1800 Census. 1999. 48 p. \$12.50 plus \$3.25 s. & h.

All volumes soft cover, 8½" x 11".

<u>Qty.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>S & H.</u>
_____	Greenville, S.C. Cemetery Records, Vol One	_____	_____
_____	Greenville, S.C. Cemetery Records, Vol Two	_____	_____
_____	Greenville, S.C. Cemetery Records, Vol Four	_____	_____
_____	Greenville, S.C. Cemetery Records, Vol Five	_____	_____
_____	Greenville, S.C. Cemetery Records, Vol Six	_____	_____
_____	Mackey Mortuary Death Records	_____	_____
_____	Abstracts ... Newsp. Concerning Black People	_____	_____
_____	1790 Census Index and 1800 Census	_____	_____
_____	Total	_____	_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED

Make checks payable to GREENVILLE CHAPTER, SCGS, and mail to P.O. BOX 16236, GREENVILLE, SC 29606-6236

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* FOR A LIST OF CEMETERIES INCLUDED, CHECK THE GCSC WEB SITE AT: www.greenvillegenealogy.org OR SEE THE WINTER/SPRING 2006 ISSUE (Vol. 17, Issues 1 & 2) OF THE GREENVILLE CHAPTER JOURNAL.

Several 2007 Renewals are PAST DUE

Please stay with us by completing this form and mailing with your payment NOW

Do you have a genealogist friend or maybe a relative you've just discovered who might like to join this chapter? Please use this form to send their application (or your renewal) and check to the following address:

**Greenville Chapter SCGS
P. O. Box 16236
Greenville, SC 29606-6236**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Permission to publish this information in the chapter directory? (Circle all that apply):

Publish all of the above Omit Address Omit Phone No. Omit E-mail Address

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

New: ____ **Renewal:** ____ (check one)

Membership Type (circle one)

Individual: ----- **\$ 21.00**

Family: (you and one other) You receive one ----- **\$ 26.00**
copy of the chapter publications and the State's
Carolina Herald for two members at the same
address.

Associate: (must be a primary member of another ----- **\$ 15.00**
S. C. chapter to join as an associate)
That chapter pays the State's dues. An associate
receives the local chapter publications, but not the
Carolina Herald. The Herald is sent to the primary
member of the other chapter.

Primary S. C. chapter name _____ SCGS# _____

Surnames of families you are researching : _____

Permission to publish these Surnames? (Circle one): Yes No _____ **(Initial)**

Greenville Chapter
S.C. Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 16236
Greenville, SC 29606-6236

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February Meeting

February 1st, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

First Christian Church – 704 Edwards Road

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and My Bulter Family History"**

by

Ruth Ann Butler

Refreshments are to be provided by Morn Lindsay, Susan Finlay, and Jane Chandler

Bring a friend!!