



# Greenville

# Chapter

South Carolina Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 16236  
Greenville, SC 29606

[www.greenville.scgen.org](http://www.greenville.scgen.org)

---

NEWSLETTER: Volume XXXV, Number 2, March 2009

Editor: Susan P. Finlay

## March Meeting

**March 5, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.**

**First Christian Church – 704 Edwards Road**

**“How To Tell Your Family Story”**

**By Hazel Timblin Townsend**

Hazel Timblin Townsend grew up on a small family farm about 50 miles north of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. After attending a one-room school for eight years and graduating from a small vocational high school, she graduated from Maryville College, Maryville, Tennessee. While teaching second grade in Durham, North Carolina, she earned her Master of Education degree from Duke University. In 1958 she married D. Earle Townsend, Jr. They spent most of their married life in Medford, New Jersey, where Earle was employed by RCA in Camden. They have a son, two daughters, and five grandsons.

Hazel began her writing career about 1980 when she published some Sunday school curriculum. After retiring in Greenville, South Carolina in 1994, Earle and Hazel have enjoyed traveling and working on various genealogy projects. Hazel's first major genealogy book was about her mother's family, *Rankin Roots in East Tennessee*, published in 1997. Since then she has published a history of the area where she grew up, *A Town Hidden on a Hill*. Additional publications have been *The Rankin Anniversary Scrapbook*, *Hazel Remembers*, *George's Story* and several other smaller stories.

Hazel will discuss some possible ways to tell your family story and some of the mechanics involved with publishing.

## Greenville Chapter, SCGS Offices and Board Members

---

<b>President:</b>	Patricia Swygert	<b>Member at Large:</b>	Bob Frieler
<b>Vice President:</b>	Sue Webb	<b>Immediate Past Co-Presidents:</b>	Jane W. Chandler Susan P. Finlay
<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	Susan P. Finlay	<b>Corresponding Secretary:</b>	Jean Mundy
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Dot Hawkins	<b>Archivist:</b>	Carol Leake
<b>State Representative:</b>	Pat Frieler	<b>Parliamentarian:</b>	Herb Clark

## President's Message

If you missed January's meeting you missed a lot. Alice Latimer was eloquent in her presentation of our beloved friend and former president, Dr. Charles Latimer. She had many stories and lots of pictures of their time together.

If you missed February's meeting you missed an equally interesting meeting. Did you know there was a museum in Greer? Neither did I, but we learned about it from the Curator of the Greer Museum.

In March, we had hoped to bring "that old thing that belonged to Auntie" and see what it really was (and was worth) when Dennis Gowan would visit to tell about antiques that have passed through his business. However, he has been called out of town and we have a replacement speaker, Hazel Townsend, who has written several books and will tell us how to write ours.

Mr. Gowan has agreed to come later this year to talk about antiques.

Speakers have been planned through September of this year. If you have any ideas or know of a speaker that you would like to have at our meetings, please let Sue Webb know.

We have a need for people to bring refreshments for March and April. As you know, the covered dish dinner is planned for May and then we break for the summer. (The June meeting has been deleted from the schedule and replaced with the December Christmas party.)

If you know of any issues, concerns, projects, or other items that need to come before the group, please let me know.

If you would like to volunteer in any capacity, whether serving as an officer, bringing refreshments, on a committee, or have program ideas, please see me or email [ptswygert@yahoo.com](mailto:ptswygert@yahoo.com).

Thanks,  
Patsy

# CASE'S CORNER

By Suzanne Case

## **SPECIAL FEDERAL CENSUSES:** **Agricultural Censuses**

This month, we continue our look at the Special Censuses by examining the **Agricultural Censuses** available for the years **1850-1880**. In the United States of the 1800's, rural, farm life still predominated, even as the country was transitioning to a predominantly urban culture. Since so many of our early ancestors were engaged in agricultural pursuits of one type or another in the 1800's, the **Agricultural Censuses** are one of the most valuable groups of special censuses that can help us "put meat on the bones" of our ancestors.

There are several caveats to this census, however. For instance, in the years **1850-1870**, it is not possible to tell whether the individual listed in the "names" column was the owner of the farm/plantation or the manager/overseer. Another caveat of this special census is that most of these censuses are not indexed, making them more difficult but certainly not impossible to use. These censuses have not been made available on Ancestry.com and some of the **Agricultural Censuses** have not even been microfilmed! Fortunately for **South Carolina** researchers, the **Agricultural Census for South Carolina** has been microfilmed and the **South Carolina Room, Hughes Main Library, Greenville County Library System** has all of the films from **1850-1880**. Most federal **Agricultural Censuses** available for other states can be located in their respective state archives and/or state historical societies. In addition, some public and academic libraries also house **Agricultural Censuses**. This can be confirmed by checking their respective online catalogs. **Duke University** houses federal **Agricultural Censuses** from a number of states, including several Southeastern states such as **Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee** and **Virginia**. Also, some **Agricultural Censuses** are available through the **Family History Library** in Salt Lake City. (Again, this can be confirmed through their online catalog). You can order microfilms from the **Family History Library** through your local **Family History Center** (located on **Boiling Springs Rd. in Greenville**) or the aforementioned **South Carolina Room** at the **Main Library**.

In the **1850-1860 Agricultural Censuses**, your ancestors should be listed if they had a farm or plantation, which garnered over \$100 worth of produce. In the **1870-1880** censuses, they are listed if they had a farm consisting of three or more acres. Because these censuses had such an extensive number of questions, the user can get quite a bit of detail on his/her early ancestors. Census questions included what types of crops were grown and what types of livestock was raised, whether it was cattle, swine, sheep, etc. Under types of crops produced, the census asked for types of grains, grasses, and crops such as cotton, peas, beans, and potatoes. There were even categories for such things as pounds of cheese and butter produced, orchard products, beeswax and honey produced, gallons of wine produced and pounds of silk cocoons! The detailed questions of this census can help give the researcher a broader picture of the family's financial status.

The **1880 Agricultural Census** is the most extensive of the four agricultural censuses. It has categories for improved and unimproved lands with further breakdowns within these categories. For the first time, it included farm implements under the "farm values" category and even asked for the costs of building and repairing fences. Hired labor is broken down into the number of "white" and "colored" with the total amount paid in wages. For the first time, orchards are broken down into peach and apple and the categories of "market gardens" and "forest products" are added. Also of great value, the **1880 Agricultural Census** is the only one of the four agricultural censuses to make a distinction between the farm owner, a renter who is "renting for fixed capital" or a renter who is "renting for shares of products." This allows the researcher to distinguish between ancestors who were farm owners or sharecroppers. (This was to have an impact in the future of the Carolinas as many small farmers and sharecroppers later moved into areas like Greenville to work in the textile industry).

As you can see from the extensive number of categories, ranging from 46 in the **1850 Agricultural Census** to 104 in the **1880 Agricultural Census**, they are a fascinating picture of the lives of many of our ancestors in the mid-1800's. Next month, we'll look at the industrial/manufacturing censuses. Until then, Happy Hunting!!

## News and Announcements

### Chapter Publications

Please share your family histories, anecdotes, queries, or stories you have written on family history for publication in the chapter newsletter and Journal.

Send to:

Newsletter – Susan Finlay - [Susan17177@aol.com](mailto:Susan17177@aol.com)

Journal – Doris Bramlett– [Bramco@aol.com](mailto:Bramco@aol.com)

### Cemetery Survey Indexes

The indexes of our Chapter's Cemetery Survey Volumes I-VII are now online at [www.greenville.scgen.org](http://www.greenville.scgen.org), scanned by Parliamentarian Herb Clark.

Cemetery GPS locations and Google Maps can be obtained by visiting:

<http://www.gps.scgen.org/23-greenville.html>

To purchase Cemetery Survey books, visit the Publications web page at:

[www.greenville.scgen.org](http://www.greenville.scgen.org)

### Online Library News

One of the sources available in the South Carolina Room is the Greenville newspaper on microfilm dating from 1826. Significant news articles in the *Greenville News* concerning South Carolina and the upstate are indexed from 1991 to the present. The index is available at [INNEWS](#). Also available from [INNEWS](#) are obituary and marriage indexes dating from 1994.

South Carolina Birth Certificates and South Carolina Death Certificates began in 1915. The birth certificates have not been released to libraries, as there is a one hundred year delay before they become public records. The death certificates are released with a fifty-year delay. The microfilmed certificates from 1915 -1956 are available in the South Carolina Room. Also available on microfiche, is an index of death certificates from 1915-1957. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control provides an online index for all the years that have been released. <http://www.scdhec.net/administration/vr/vrdi.htm>

The Carolina First South Carolina Room has the Greenville County Marriage Licenses from 1911-1995 on microfilm. A searchable microfilm index is available at <http://www.greenvillemountain.org/MLSearch/default.asp>.

The South Carolina Room staff is available to assist researchers in person or through the Records Search Form.

<http://www.greenvillelibrary.org/index.php/Documents/South-Carolina-Room-Forms/View-category.html>

## Chapter Minutes

### February 2009 Chapter Meeting :

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by President Patsy Swygert. She welcomed members and visitors. Two visitors were introduced.

### Officer's Reports:

President Patsy Swygert had no President's Report. She did announce the March speaker on behalf of Sue Webb, Vice President/Program Chair and asked everyone to bring an antique for appraisal.

Treasurer Dot Hawkins presented the Treasurer's Reports for January 2009.

Archivist Carol Leake gave the Archivist Report. She announced that Ms. Goss had donated old Journals and materials to the Chapter. She asked what the Chapter wanted to do with this material. A suggestion was made to sell any duplicates to interested people. Carol will keep the materials until a list can be made to put in the newsletter.

A motion to accept the Officers' Reports was made by Bruce Reynolds and seconded by Wanda Randle. The motion passed.

### Old Business:

There was no old business.

### New Business:

A. Patsy Swygert announced that membership renewals are due and those that are not renewed will be taken off the mailing list as of March 31.

B. The Refreshment List was passed around the room for sign up for March and April. The May meeting will be the covered dish dinner and there will be no meetings for the months of June, July and August. Meetings will resume in September. Refreshments are needed for September and October.

C. Patsy Swygert announced that our Chapter had been invited to have a booth at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual African American Family History Workshop on February 7 in Spartanburg. Henrietta Sweeney is attending. A motion was made to let Henrietta man a table at this workshop. There was a second and the motion passed. Henrietta will get materials to take to the workshop from Herb and Dot.

D. Carol Leake announced that there will be a marker ceremony at Reedy River Baptist Church and requested that if anyone had a veteran there to let her know.

Sue Webb introduced our speaker, Joada Hiott of the Greer Heritage Museum, who told about the museum and showed some pieces from the museum. She invited everyone to come to their Open House on Saturday, February 7.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by Patsy Swygert

## Reminiscing with Wanda Randle

My mother's mother descended from the Williams' family in lower Greenville Co., SC and what would be Williamston, in Anderson Co., SC. Her grandparents went to Tippah Co., MS in 1840 with other families who were connected by marriages. They bought adjoining land so many of the people in that area were related. They cut down trees, built houses and eventually, a Baptist Church. Their community was called Pleasant Ridge. My mother was born at home in the house that her father helped to build. Neighbors, who were also relatives, helped each other build houses.

When I was a little girl, my grandmother did her washing in a three-legged black iron wash pot. My grandfather would arrange wood and put the heavy pot over the wood. He would draw water from the well and fill the pot about three-fourths full of water. Then he would get the fire going. They only had one wash pot, but if there was a large family, there might be as many as three wash pots. On occasion, a day was set aside to make lye soap so it would be on hand on wash day. It was made from ashes, lye, and lard, which is fat poured off from meat as they cooked and saved in a jar until needed.

When the water was heated enough, Grandmother would fill a bucket and take it to the edge of the front porch where she had a large laundry tub with a rub board in it and of course, some lye soap. Beside it was another big washbasin that had clean water in it. She had a rub board to help get out the stubborn dirt or stains. She would stand on the ground and it was the right height for her to work so her back didn't ache. My grandfather and uncle were farmers and toiled in the fields first with two mules, "Diamond Kitty" and "Matt" until my uncle was able to purchase a Ford tractor. Their clothes gave off the odor of honest sweat so I was always glad when Grandmother got the smell out of them, and once dried, they were sweet-smelling and clean. Most people hung their clothes over the fence, being careful to not snag them on barbed wire, but Grandmother had a clothesline. When I was about four, I would watch her do her washing. One day I dumped the clothes that Grandmother had just wrung out and put in the clean rinse water, back in the soapy water. She didn't say a word, just turned and went to the peach tree that was nearby, broke off a little limb, and whipped me on the legs. Then I got to wring out the clothes (ooh, the water was hot) and put them in the rinse water. Didn't do that ever again!

I neglected to mention that my grandmother had her arm caught in a washing machine wringer at Blue Mountain College, where she was the laundry supervisor. She hurried to help a worker who was trying to get a garment out of the wringer without tearing it. Grandmother's wrist got pulled into the wringer and crushed. She had to be taken to the Memphis hospital since it had to be amputated. That was a very long trip by wagon. It takes

over an hour from that part of Mississippi today. She was in the hospital for three weeks while the stump of her arm healed. She had been married for almost two years when her first husband's appendix ruptured. He died in the hospital before she had a chance to tell him that she thought that they were going to be parents. My half-uncle was born eight months after his father died. When her child was about three years old, she appealed to a co-founder of the college, a Berry cousin (a great-grandson of Rev Soldier, Hudson Berry of southern Greenville Co., SC) and he gave her the job as supervisor of the school laundry. While she was in the hospital, his wife, affectionately called "Mother Berry," took care of three-year-old Dalton. She would take him by train to see his mother in Memphis every Saturday.

Estella Williams Gober (my Grandmother) married Lon Melton (my grandfather) following WWI. Even with just one hand, she did everything necessary for babies, when first my mother and then Uncle Harold, were born. Many years later when I was born, my father used to sit at her feet when she tended to me, until he realized that she wouldn't drop me.

In the evening, we would walk down to the "bottom land" where the cows liked to be and drive them back up near the house and over to the barn. They didn't need much guidance, as it was routine to them; some just needed to be convinced to start to the barn. There was a spot where heavy rain had washed a gully around a mound of reddish brown dirt; that is where I learned to talk to God. Grandmother told me to go to the other side of the little hill of dirt, and talk to God. She would pray out loud, probably knowing that I would creep up to listen to her; especially since she asked God to excuse some of my escapades. That always made me be a better little girl for a while.

The reason that I stayed with my grandparents was that my father was a principal and a coach of a county school, and needed my mother as a teacher as there was a shortage of teachers. They tried leaving me with a nearby family, only to discover that the man of the house sold hard liquor from his home. I let the secret out by weaving around and pretending to be drunk...."I'm so drunk...." I said. So the only alternative was to take me to stay with my grandparents, whose home was two hours away. I had always loved to visit with them so I was willing to stay. Uncle Harold came home after WWII and knew my grandfather needed his help, so he stayed. He was like a second father to me.

*Write to me or email me with your memories from the past for this new column. [wanda5@charter.net](mailto:wanda5@charter.net)*

*Wanda Randle  
1 Colony Rd.  
Taylors, SC 29687*

## PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Greenville County, S.C., Cemetery Survey, Vol. One. 1977, reprint 2007, 485 p., indexed.  
Includes 105 cemeteries. \$40.00 plus \$3.75 s. & h.

Greenville County, S.C., Cemetery Survey, Vol. Two. 1979, reprint 2003, 489 p., indexed.  
Includes 77 cemeteries. \$40.00 plus \$3.75 s. & h.

Greenville County, S.C., Cemetery Survey, Vol. Three. 1980, reprint 2007, 351 p., indexed.  
Includes Springwood Cemetery and Nazareth Presbyterian Cemetery. \$40.00 plus \$3.75 s. & h.

Greenville County, S.C., Cemetery Survey, Vol. Four. 1982, 3<sup>rd</sup> reprint 2007, 313 p., 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 Graceland Cemetery (West) and Beth Israel Cemetery. \$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.

Greenville County, S.C., Cemetery Survey, Vol. Seven. 2007, 404 p., indexed.  
Includes 55 cemeteries. \$40.00 plus \$3.50 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".

Qty.	Title	Amount	S & H.
_____	Greenville, S.C. Cemetery Records, Vol One	_____	_____
_____	Greenville, S.C. Cemetery Records, Vol Two	_____	_____
_____	Greenville, S.C. Cemetery Records, Vol Three	_____	_____
_____	Greenville, S.C. Cemetery Records, Vol Four	_____	_____
_____	Greenville, S.C. Cemetery Records, Vol Five	_____	_____
_____	Greenville, S.C. Cemetery Records, Vol Six	_____	_____
_____	Greenville, S.C. Cemetery Records, Vol Seven	_____	_____
_____	Mackey Mortuary Death Records	_____	_____
_____	Abstracts.. Newsp. Concerning Black People	_____	_____
_____	1790 Census Index and 1800 Census	_____	_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED		_____	_____

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET/P.O. BOX \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

# 2009 Memberships Are Now Being Accepted

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please use this form to send your 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? (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

Nonprofit Organization  
U. S. Postage PAID  
Permit No. 1086  
Greenville, SC 29602

Return service requested

---

# **March Meeting**

**March 5, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.**

**First Christian Church – 704 Edwards Road**

**“How To Tell Your Family Story”**

**Bring a Friend!!**