



Greenville

Chapter

South Carolina Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 16236  
Greenville, SC 29606

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

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NEWSLETTER: Volume XXXV, Number 6, October 2009

Editor: Susan P. Finlay

## October Meeting

October 1, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

First Christian Church - 704 Edwards Road

*"And What Did Grandma Leave You?"*

Dennis Gowan, Proprietor of Spinning Wheel Antiques, Inc.

Dennis Gowan will join us to share his knowledge of antiques and their value. He has been the proprietor of Spinning Wheel Antiques, Inc. on Wade Hampton Boulevard in Taylors, SC for 35 years, and is considered an expert on appraisals in the Greenville area. Mr. Gowen has written articles for South Carolina Magazine and has co-authored a book on antiques. He has taught courses in antiques at Furman University and Clemson University, and for local historical groups. Mr. Gowan is a 1959 graduate of the Citadel, in Charleston, SC.

Please join us for an interesting evening. Mr. Gowan will be glad to look at that family heirloom or artifact that you have wondered about forever – to you it is worth a million but now is your chance to get an expert opinion!

Hope to see you there!

## 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>	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Dot Hawkins	<b>Archivist:</b>	Carol Leake
<b>State Representative:</b>	Pat Frieler	<b>Parliamentarian:</b>	Herb Clark

## President's Message

We had a very good group for our first meeting of the season, in September. There were several visitors present, and the President of the SCGS, Constance McNeill, also attended along with her cousin Judy Long of the Old Pendleton District Chapter. Ms. McNeill wants to visit every chapter this year, and we are proud that she chose to attend our meeting.

Ms. Long has recently taken on the job of editor of the SCGS publication "The Herald". Ms. Long requests that Greenville chapter members send her articles and research to publish. Publications such as our chapter "Journal" and "The Herald", and our newsletter also, depend on members to submit research for publication.

Our Annual Show and Tell brought several displays and everyone had a good time looking at each other's "stuff." We all have "stuff" that maybe someone else would be very happy to see. That's why I love this particular meeting.

Hope to see you at the October meeting where we will find out what we need to know about our family heirlooms.

See you then!

Patsy Swygert, President

## Program News

By Sue Webb  
Vice President and Program Chairman

Programs are now planned and confirmed for the most part through 2010. Future programs will include:

November 2009 – Claudia Waggoner – "Military Vittles" or History of Southern Cooking".

December 2009 – Chapter Christmas party at Dr. Charles Lee.

January 2009 – Dennis Chastain, "Cherokee Trail".

February 2009 – Dr. Anne Blythe, Curator of Education, Upcountry History Museum.

# CASE'S CORNER

By Suzanne Case

## **BRANCHING OUT INTO ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** **Probate Records**

For the past couple of years, we've studied the censuses in-depth and, as we know, they are an invaluable source of information on our ancestors. In fact, they are often the starting point in our research (after talking to any relatives that might have information to help get us started).

Once we've searched the census, there are many other resources that can give us additional information. These include court, military, church, immigration, vital, and land records. For the next few months, we'll investigate some of these records to see how they can help us.

One of the primary sources of valuable information is the probate record. In South Carolina, probate records can consist of estate records, guardianship records, and lunacy records. Probably the most commonly used are the estate records. If the individual has died testate (with a will), this can be a real gold mine for the researcher, as the will frequently mentions family members by name and gives their relationship to the deceased. Executors or administrators of the estate are frequently related to the deceased individual and witnesses to the will are generally close, trusted family members, friends and/or neighbors. Note all of these names, as there will be a relationship of some sort. If you run into a brick wall, an investigation of some of these names may yield additional information on your ancestor.

Studying the estate inventory will give you a picture of how your ancestor lived, as well as his/her level of prosperity. Slaves are generally listed by name in the inventory and often mothers are listed with their children. Thus, the estate record is also an invaluable resource for those doing African-American research.

Even if your ancestor died intestate (without a will), you can study the documents in the estate records to see how the estate was divided and who the purchasers were. These will usually be relatives, in-laws and neighbors. Note these names, as they are generally important people in your ancestor's life.

If your male ancestor died leaving young children behind, a guardian would frequently be appointed to look after their interests. This was often done even if the mother was still living and the children were living with her. Not always, but in many cases, the guardian was an uncle of the children. Frequently, guardianship would be formally and legally established if both parents had died and the child/children went to live with the guardian. Guardianship records can thus also be used to establish a relationship. Both estate

records and guardianship records may also give you the date that your deceased relative died.

Sometimes, in the process of settling an estate, family members who had moved to a distant location would be named (especially if someone living in the area where the estate of the deceased was probated was named to look after the distant family member's interests). This is another great way to track movements of your ancestors.

In some cases, an estate might be very difficult to settle due to challenges to the will, disputes over the handling of the estate, etc. In those cases, in South Carolina, the settlement of the estate might be referred to Equity Court. The Equity Courts handled difficult cases that were not easily settled in other courts. These cases frequently took years to settle and would often name many individuals and where they were living, making them yet another resource for tracking your ancestors' movements. These courts were set up in each South Carolina circuit court district beginning in 1791. (Note: Greenville County was part of Washington District until it was disbanded in 1800 and many Washington District Equity Court records are now part of Laurens District records. Check Laurens District records if you do not find pertinent information in separate Washington District records).

Most probate records, nationwide, can be located at state archives, county courthouses, local historical societies and/or local public libraries with genealogical collections. Microfilmed probate records for some counties are also available by order from the LDS Library in Salt Lake City and can be ordered through your local LDS Library. In Greenville, the LDS library is located on Boiling Springs Road. The South Carolina Room in the Hughes Main Library, Greenville County Library System, can also order LDS microfilm.

Greenville County Probate records are located at the Greenville County Probate Court office at County Square, as well as in the South Carolina Room, Hughes Main Library. The South Carolina Room also has probate records for other Upstate counties, including Spartanburg, Pickens, Oconee, Anderson, etc. In addition, the South Carolina State Archives has digital images of the "South Carolina Will Transcripts, 1782-1855" at its On-Line Records Index site. These (as well as other records) can be searched at: <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>.

Next month, we'll look at other types of records that can help you connect the dots in your family research. 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)

Write or email Wanda Randle with your memories from the past for this NEWSLETTER. [wanda5@charter.net](mailto:wanda5@charter.net)

**Wanda Randle**

**1 Colony Rd.**

**Taylors, SC 29687**

### 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)

### Greenville Chapter Website

Please visit our website at frequently to see what Paul Kankula has added.

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

### SCGS Annual Meeting

Old Ninety Six Genealogical Society and the Abbeville Historical Society will host the 2009 Annual Fall Meeting to be held October 23-24, 2009 in Abbeville, SC. Contact Belmont Inn in Abbeville, SC at 864-459-9625 or the Holiday Inn Express in Greenwood, SC for reservations before October 1, 2009 and mention the SCGS.

A walking tour of historic Abbeville, including the Opera House, Trinity Church Cemetery, and research in the Probate Judge's Office or the Clerk of Court office will be offered, along with a Friday night reception, which will be held at the historic General McGowan-Barksdale-Bundy house at 305 N. Main St.

Speakers on Saturday will be Mrs. Ann Byrd Bowen, author of "The History of Greenwood County" and Dr. Judith Russell and Capt. Gregory L. Crane, who will speak on "Ask Granny-Creating a Genealogical Gift for your Grandchildren".

## September Meeting

### September 2009 Chapter Meeting:

President Patsy Swygert called the regular monthly meeting of the Greenville Chapter S.C. Genealogical Society to order at 7:00 PM. She welcomed the members and guests. In attendance were Constance McNeil, President of the SCGS, and Judy Long of the Old Pendleton District chapter.

### Reports of Officers and Board Members Present:

President Patsy Swygert reported on the Summer Workshop of the SCGS.

Vice President Sue Webb reported on the programs she has confirmed and told the members that she wants to make each program a learning experience.

Recording Secretary Susan Finlay had nothing further to add to minutes of the May meeting, which were handed out at the start of the meeting. The May minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer Dot Hawkins gave the treasurers report for June, July and August.

State Representative Pat Frieler was absent.

Parliamentarian Herb Clark was absent.

Archivist Carol Leake had no report.

The officer's reports were accepted and approved as presented.

### Old Business:

No old business to discuss.

### New Business:

Patsy Swygert announced that the chapter needs to appoint a Corresponding Secretary due to the death of Jean Mundy. Patsy is also looking for an editor for "The Journal". Constance McNeil gave a report on the Summer Workshop and also urged chapter members to volunteer when the National Genealogical Society has its meeting in Charleston May 11-14, 2011.

Judy Long of the Old Pendleton District Chapter, the new editor of "The Herald", urged members to submit articles and research to her for publication.

Patsy Swygert introduced those members displaying for the program.

### Next Scheduled Meetings:

The next scheduled Board meeting will be Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 5:45 PM.

The next scheduled Chapter meeting will be Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Finlay, Recording Secretary

# Reedy River Baptist Church

By Carol Leake

Reedy River Baptist Church, located at 871 N. Hwy 25 Bypass, Greenville, SC, was established by upcountry pioneers sometime prior to 1789 as Head of Enoree Baptist Society. In 1791 it had forty-seven members. The church grew, ordaining and licensing numerous ministers, both white and men of color.

At least four Revolutionary War veterans who became Baptist preachers were associated with the church: Robert Benson, who was born February 1762 in Virginia, the son of Prue and Elizabeth Benson; William McClanahan who was born 23 February 1732 in Westmoreland County, Virginia, the son of William McClanahan and Martha Smith, and husband of Mary Marshall (the aunt of John Marshall, later Chief Justice); John Tubb, who was born 6 August 1758 in Orange County, North Carolina, the son of William Tubb and Elizabeth Tabor; and Joseph Willis, who was born a slave to a slave mother and plantation owner in Bladen County, NC. Joseph Willis, while still legally a slave but given wide freedom of movement by his owner, fought under Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox, in South Carolina in the American Revolution. It has always been a great source of pride among his descendants that he was one of Marion's men.

The early church members were mostly small landowners, as well as a few well-to-do landowners who owned slaves, who were also members. Around 1819, the church moved to its present location and in 1820 John Salmon gave two acres "lying on the waters of reedy river near where the old meeting house now stands for the full and proper use and benefit of the said church."

Early pastors of note include Abraham Hargess, William King, Isaac Lemons, Samuel Gibson, and James C. Furman. The church cemetery was established in the early 1800's and is significant in that it contains the graves of founders of the area, slaves, 40 Confederate soldiers and veterans, 1 Spanish American War veteran, 14 World War I veterans, and over 40 World War II veterans. Today it is maintained through a Cemetery Trust established in 1977.

Known as the "Mother of Churches", Reedy River sponsored the establishment of several churches throughout the area, including Shoals Creek, Tyger, Rock Springs, Double Springs, Clear Springs, Ebenezer, Berea, Enoree, Forestville, First Baptist of Travelers Rest, Clearview, and Mt. Sinai.

Reedy River Baptist Church, in celebration of its 220<sup>th</sup> anniversary, has several historical programs planned for the public. On September 20<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday morning program was "The mission of Reedy River Baptist Church demonstrated by the life of Joseph Willis: former slave, Revolutionary War Veteran, Baptist preacher, and missionary", by historian Scot Withrow.

Wednesday, October 7 will see the "Dedication of Memorial Marker for William McClanahan, Revolutionary War Veteran & Baptist Preacher" presented by the Sons of the American Revolution. A special service will be held at 7:00 PM that night with descendants of Rev. McClanahan, Larry D. McClanahan, former President General of the Sons of the American Revolution, and Ed Butler, President General of the Sons of the American Revolution, as guest speakers. The public is invited.

## 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	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>		_____	_____

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

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# 2010 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)

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**October Meeting**  
**October 1, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**First Christian Church - 704 Edwards Road**  
**Speaker Dennis Gowan**  
***"And What Did Grandma Leave You?"***

**Bring a Friend!!**