



Greenville Chapter

of the
South Carolina Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 16236
Greenville, SC 29606
www.greenville.scgen.org

Volume XXXIX, Number 9, December, 2013

Greenville Chapter, SCGC Officers and Board Members

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Mission Statement

"The objective of the Greenville Chapter, South Carolina Genealogical Society, shall be to raise the standard of genealogical research through education programs and workshops, publication of genealogical data, promotion of the collection of records, the preservation of records, publication of newsletters and journals and to stimulate a general interest in genealogy. Through its member of the State Society Board of Directors, the Chapter shall clear all major projects with the appropriate State Committee or Officer in order to avoid duplication of effort."

From: Greenville Chapter, South Carolina Genealogical Society By-Laws

SCGC-GC Newsletter Editorial Policy: Submissions by members are encouraged and will be used as space permits. Editor reserves the right to edit articles, files, or queries prior to publication. Neither SCGS-GC nor the editor assumes any responsibility for errors on the part of the contributor. Once published, material contained in this publication becomes part of the public domain and may be quoted if credit is given for the source.

President's Message

The December meeting will be at The Cascades on Verdae Blvd. on December 15, 2013.

Thanks to Scott Withrow for his presentation on Native Americans. It was a great program. Thanks to Ellen Rogers for filling-in for me at the meeting.

The December meeting will be our Annual Christmas Drop-In. It was decided that it would be covered dish. I think it might be a good idea to post what you are going to bring on FaceBook.

The officers for 2014-2016 are:

President: Andrea Riddle
Vice-president: Sue Webb

Secretary: Ellen Rogers
Treasurer: Laura Taylor

I've included "Part 8" of Suzanne Case's script she used for the Springwood Cemetery tour. Please remember to give Suzanne credit if you use any of it. Let me know if you want a copy of her bibliography. Thanks Suzanne!

Please visit the SC Genealogy web site at: <http://www.scgen.org/> to participate in the Surname Project. Go to "Current Projects"; then go to "Surname Form" to fill out the form on line. Or, you may download the form, print it, and then mail it. I've also included a copy in this month's newsletter. Deadline is December 31, 2013.

Just remember that this is YOUR chapter and newsletter. Please send in articles, stories, charts, trivia, history or anything related to you (no pun intended) or genealogy. Also bring in ideas for programs and projects. And by all means, if you have been on projects and committees, please let me or one of the officers know so we can better organize ourselves. I'll try not to put you in charge!!!

Directions to Cascades

There should be no problem getting in the gate Sunday. It will probably be open. If not, just tell the person who answers the speaker that you are there for the Genealogy meeting.

After going through the gate, turn immediately left onto Creekridge Rd, then turn right onto Spring Crest Court this will dead end in a parking area. We enter the middle, two-story building at ground level on the right of the building. The Large Meeting room is to the left when you enter.

GPS" 34°49'30.89"N; 82°18'56.64"W

Don't forget to visit the Greenville Chapter's website at:
<http://www.greenville.scgen.org>

Minutes

Greenville Chapter



South Carolina
Genealogical Society

November, 2013 Minutes

The Greenville chapter of the south Carolina Genealogical Society met November 17, 2013 with thirteen in attendance. Secretary, Ellen Rogers presided. The minutes were read and accepted. Brenda Meyer gave a glowing report about the weekend's festival.

Scott Withrow, teacher, presented a fascinating program about Native Americans. Scott included The Trail of Tears and The Wagon Trail.

The proposed officers were accepted:

President: Andrea Riddle Vice-president: Sue Webb	Secretary: Ellen Rogers Treasurer: Laura Taylor
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facebook

Don't forget you can post your queries on the Greenville Chapter of the Genealogical Society FACEBOOK page.

Follow the Greenville Chapter of the Genealogical Society on FACEBOOK at:

http://www.facebook.com/GreenvilleGenealogicalSociety?bookmark_t=page

South Carolina Genealogical Society, Inc.
Surname Directory Information

This form may be submitted online at www.scgen.org or by mailing the completed form to SCGS Surname Directory, 841 Garden Dale Drive, Columbia, SC 29210.

Each member is entitled to submit 10 surnames. Should more than ten (10) surnames per member be submitted, only the first ten (10) will be included in the directory.

If the surname being researched is from a state other than South Carolina, please indicate the state.

Please return prior to the **December 31, 2013** deadline.

Name: _____

Membership Number: _____ Chapter: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Surname	S. C. County	or	State
_____	_____		_____
_____	_____		_____
_____	_____		_____
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Submission of this form authorizes the South Carolina Genealogical Society, Inc. to publish the above information in its upcoming Surname Directory.

Submit to scgssurnamedirectory@gmail.com as an attachment or print and mail to SCGS Surname Directory, 841 Garden Dale Dr., Columbia, SC 29210.

SPRINGWOOD CEMETERY TOUR- 2012

**by Suzanne Case
(Part 8)**

Section F

F14. Sheriff P.D. Gilreath - As we pass by Section F, we're making a stop at the grave of Sheriff Perry D. Gilreath, known more commonly as P.D. Gilreath. In the annals of Greenville history, he is probably Greenville County's best-known sheriff.

A native Greenville Countian from the northeastern part of the county, he was elected sheriff in 1876 just as Reconstruction was ending. For his entire twenty-four years in office, he was known as the "sheriff without a gun" because of his refusal to carry a firearm. He was a man of honor and high principals with a gentle but firm manner.

He was always able to defuse a situation peacefully and bring the accused to jail without a shot being fired. Even in the rough and tumble part of the county known as the Dark Corner, Sheriff Gilreath garnered so much respect he was able to bring the accused to justice simply by talking and reasoning with him, even though some of the perpetrators were accused murderers!

Many tales abound of Sheriff Gilreath apprehending dangerous criminals, but surely one of his most challenging cases involved the murder of his own half-brother. With reluctance, he maintained his position as sheriff rather step down to join the lynch mob that was forming to drag the perpetrator from jail. The situation was eventually defused and after a trial followed by two appeals, the accused was set free. To the end of his days, the sheriff refused to be bitter about the outcome.

In another case, a lynch mob appeared at the jail demanding that a black man who had killed another man in Simpsonville be released and turned over to them. Sheriff Gilreath talked to the mob, calming and soothing them while his deputy slipped the prisoner out the back and hid him in the courthouse overnight. The hapless prisoner was later found guilty at trial and hung.

In one of Greenville County's most notorious cases, young Little Bill Howard, described as a small runty man from the Dark Corner, was accused of murdering a man who supposedly had led revenue agents to some Howard stills. Little Bill was brought peacefully to Greenville by Sheriff Gilreath and remained in jail for several months awaiting trial. Little Bill's young wife, Mary, would walk 27 miles with their baby every weekend to stay with Little Bill in jail. She would wake the sleepy jailer at daybreak every Monday morning to be let out so that she might begin her long trek back home.

Imagine the jailer's surprise when he checked on his prisoner mid-morning one Monday morning only to discover that his prisoner was Mary! To his horror, he realized that in the early morning light, he had actually released Little Bill wearing Mary's clothes.

Little Bill hid out in the mountains with friends and family for about six months until one night he had a little too much to drink. Apparently, he began bragging that "no sheriff could take him." Well, word got back to Sheriff Gilreath, along with his current hideout, of course, and the good sheriff headed out after dark to apprehend him. The sheriff arrived at the cabin where Little Bill was holed up asleep (hung over?), arrested him then and there, and brought him back Greenville, all without a gun being fired or the Howard clan realizing what had happened. As for the sheepish Mary, she was released without charge.

Sheriff Gilreath was so respected as a brave, honest, peace-loving man that he was reelected over and over again with almost no opposition, serving for twenty-four years until 1900. He was one of the longest serving and arguably most well-respected sheriffs in Greenville County's history.

Now, we'll continue our walk towards the entrance gate of Springwood.

Section A

A15. John Garraux - As we pass by Section A again, we are now passing the grave of John Garraux. We learned about the Garraux family of grape-growers, vintners and florists earlier. John was the son of Elizabeth and her husband, Frederick. John served as the section/caretaker of Springwood Cemetery for a time.

Section J

J16. Tweetie Miller Carter - As we pass through Section J, note the unusual stone-covered crypt on the left. This is the grave of Tweetie Miller Carter, the daughter of Dr. W.S and Kezziah Miller of southern Greenville County. The Millers were an old, prominent family from Butler Township and Dr. Miller served as a physician to the citizens of that area.

Tweetie and her husband, R.B. Carter, were married in approximately 1901 and lived in Aiken for a time after their marriage while he practiced law. By 1920, however, the family was living on the old Miller plantation in Greenville County.

Typical of many women in that area and that time, Mrs. Carter was a devoted wife and mother and very active in her church - in this case, Rocky Creek Baptist Church. Sadly, Mrs. Carter passed away in 1931 after suffering for several years from metastatic breast cancer, leaving behind her grieving family, including her youngest daughter who was only eighteen at the time.

You will notice, of course, the stones covering Mrs. Carter's tomb. We have wondered about the unusual look of them and to that end consulted Dr. Mike Trinkley of the Chicora Foundation in Columbia. Dr. Trinkley is one of the foremost experts on tombstones in South Carolina. It is his feeling that this was probably a simple tomb covered in concrete with the stones added to "dress it up" so that it wouldn't seem so plain. Perhaps, the rocks came from the family property? We really don't know. It's a mystery...

J17. Captain Otis Prentiss Mills - We have now arrived at the last stop on our tour of Springwood Cemetery - the grave of farmer and industrialist, Captain Otis Prentiss Mills.

As we know, the growth of the textile industry played a huge part in Greenville's history and development. We've met several of the individuals on this tour who played a major role in developing this industry, to wit, John and Robert Woodside and Fred Symmes. We can also count Capt. O.P. as another of those captains of the textile industry in Greenville.

Capt. Mills was born and raised in Henderson County, NC, where he joined the Confederate Army as a young man. He attained the rank of captain before mustering out at the end of the war.

Not long after the Civil War ended, he moved to Greenville and joined two partners in running a successful mercantile company called Miller, Mills and Patton. After the company was sold in the 1880's, the entrepreneurial Capt. Mills began a dairy farm on his estate. The farm, which he called Millsdale, was located between present-day Mills Ave. and Grove Rd. He brought in Greenville's first registered Jersey cows and began selling butter, milk and cream throughout the city.

In 1890, Capt. Mills started the Greenville Fertilizer Company. It was yet another successful venture for the captain. We're not sure of the makeup of the fertilizer, but perhaps those fine Jersey cows had a hand in the success of the company?

Well, with so many successes under his belt, Capt. Mills, seeing the success of other textile mills in the Greenville area, established his own mill in the 1890's. He named it Mills Mill and appointed himself president and treasurer, a position he held until his death in 1915. His son-in-law, W.B. Moore, served as secretary and general manager. The mill thrived and grew, though not without some rocky spots and rough patches due to underfunding and under-capitalization. However, Capt. Mills and Mr. Moore safely steered it through each crisis until it was on solid footing by the early 1900's. After being in operation for almost twenty years, it had grown from a small operation with 500 spindles to approximately 31,000 spindles.

As with many textile mills, a mill-owned village of houses for workers sprang up around the mill along with a company store, school, church and YMCA. There are still many people in Greenville today who either worked or had family members who worked at Mills Mill.

Beginning in 1916 and booming on into the 1920's, Greenville began to see a rash of subdivisions being built. Capt. Mills' son, Otis P. Mills, Jr., was one of those developers, selling lots for homes carved out of his father's old dairy, Millsdale. The subdivision sprang up in the area we know today as the W. Prentiss Ave. neighborhood. The old Mills Mill on Mills Ave. has now been turned into loft apartments.

Capt. Mills' name and legacy live on in many ways today in Greenville. Just look around when you pass the old Mills Mill, try to image a large dairy farm between Mills Ave. and Grove Rd., see the houses on Prentiss Ave. so named after Capt. Mills, middle name. And finally, when you see Second Presbyterian Church, think of how he guided its building as chair of the Building Committee.

Conclusion

Like all of the people we've visited today, whether wealthy, middle-class or poor; from captains of industry to blacksmiths to teachers to shopkeepers to writers; men and women; from native Greenvillians to immigrants from other counties, other states and other countries, all played their part to make Greenville the city it is today. Their story is Greenville's story and what a wonderful patchwork quilt of stories it is. We hope you enjoyed your tour and you enjoyed learning about these fascinating folks. Thank you for joining us this evening.

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, 3rd 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. (Temporarily Unavailable)
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		_____	_____

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NAME _____
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 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 E-MAIL ADDRESS _____
 TELEPHONE _____

2014 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)

(If pre-paying, please indicate which years)

Individual: ----- \$ 21.00

Family: ----- \$ 26.00

(you and one other)

You receive one copy of the chapter publications and the State's Carolina Herald for two members at the same address.

Associate: ----- \$ 15.00

(must be a primary member of another 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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S.C. Genealogical Society
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December Meeting

**Christmas Drop-In
December 17, 2013
3:00-5:00 p.m.**

**The Cascades
Verdae Blvd., Greenville, SC**

Bring a Friend!