



GREENVILLE COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SO MANY STORIES TO TELL

THE NEW GREENVILLE MOUNTAINEER

The Newsletter of the Greenville County Historical Society

Vol. XLIII No. 2 September 2023

Historic Hopkins Farm And the Battle of Great Cane Brake

Sponsored by the Greenville County Historical
Society

Fall 2023 Membership Meeting

Historic Hopkins Farm is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of Upstate South Carolina's most significant sites. Located on a Cherokee trading path crossing the Reedy River near present-day Simpsonville, this historic farm was originally Toney's Store, a trading post for Native Americans and backwoods settlers. The Battle of Great Cane Brake was fought on December 22, 1775, between Patriot militia and Loyalists and was the only Revolutionary War engagement in Greenville County.

Please join us for our Fall 2023 Membership Meeting and Special Presentation: "Historic Hopkins Farm and the Battle of Great Cane Brake"

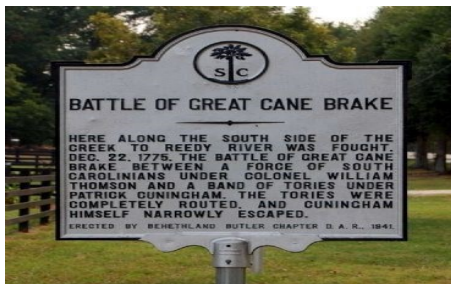
Presenters: Durant Ashmore

When: Sunday, October 8, 2023

Time: 2:00PM

Where: Hopkins Farm, 3717 Fork Shoals Rd., Simpsonville, SC

Free Admittance



In this issue...

Archives and Collections...Fun Facts About Greenville County's History...Recent Donations and Acquisitions of the Society...

Director's Message:

I can't believe how fast summer has flown by and fall is upon us. Pretty soon, the holidays will be here and a new year will be looming in the distance. As we reflect on how fast time passes and the new year approaches, we here at the Society find ourselves working daily with the past. However, lately, I have been looking more and more to the future and what that holds for this special organization. Will we be able to keep the Society open and sustainable for future generations? Our collections are growing as more of the community sees the importance of preserving our past. There are very generous folks in Greenville County who see the importance of preserving the past so the stories can continue to be told and so they entrust the Society with their family archives and histories. We recently mailed postcards to our members, present and past, asking for your renewed and new memberships. Your membership purchases are the life blood of this organization and keep us going, paying the rent, insurance, purchasing the necessary archival materials needed to keep the collections safe and a myriad of other things associated with caring for and operating this important organization. We need your help and we need it right away. In order for us to be sustainable, we need all of you to spread the word. Encourage friends, family, neighbors, work colleagues, friends at church, to join the Society and help preserve our unique and precious stories of the past. And for those of you who are loyal members and continue supporting the Society with your current memberships, we **THANK YOU** so very much! You are the future of this organization! You are the story tellers! **THANK YOU!**

Our website at www.greenvillehistory.org has everything you need to become a new member; renew your membership; make a donation; or volunteer! We hope to hear from all of you soon!

By Darlene Parker Executive Director

Archives and Collections

Many men were called to serve their country in the spring of 1917. The United States had declared war on Germany in April, marking its entrance into World War I, and troop buildup followed. Robert Howard Fowler of Salisbury, North Carolina, enlisted in Company B, 1st Engineers, North Carolina National Guard on 15 May 1917. The unit was soon sent to Camp Sevier, South Carolina, arriving on 16 September. It was there that the unit was designated Company B, 105th Regiment of Engineers, and where it trained and helped build the camp. A component of the 30th "Old Hickory" Division, Company B left Camp Sevier on 18 May 1918 for Liverpool, England, traveling there by way of New York and Montreal. As American Expeditionary Forces, Company B served in France and Belgium, departing France for Charleston on 31 March 1919. Initially serving as a Private, Robert Howard Fowler returned to the United States as a Sergeant 1st Class.

Robert Fowler was a conscientious writer of letters to family at home during his entire military service. Of equal importance is that they saved those letters. Robert's letters chronicle camp life, quarantines, duties in building Camp Sevier, detail in the mountains, preparing for and transporting to England, duties overseas, the German enemy, and returning home. He participated in the Somme Offensive, at Ypres-Lys, and in the Defensive Sector, and one letter describes action at the front. He writes from rest camps at which the Engineers do everything but rest, and notes that they are well taken care of because they are such valuable men. Robert verbalizes the longing for home, and the disappointment when they won't be home by Christmas of 1918, having been moved from the beginning to the end of the travel list.

The World War I letters of Robert Howard Fowler are a component of the Society's Record Group 76, the Robert Fowler Collection. Also contained in this collection are American and Allies service-related documents and decorations, German artifacts, newspaper articles, veterans materials, and service-related photographs. Digital copies of all materials have been created for preservation and are available for research. Materials from the collection appeared in photographs and written text in issues of this newsletter in 2017 and 2018. The collection was shared with the Society by Brann Fowler, great-grandson of Robert Howard Fowler.

- By Frances R. Knight

Preserving A Part of Berea History

The historic Berea School, located on Farr's Bridge Road and built in large part by the WPA, was for decades the heart of the community. Though the school no longer stands, it remains the source of wonderful memories for generations of folks who walked its halls. In the spring of 2021, when a landscaping project began at the Berea Community Center, Berea Events, Inc., saw an opportunity to preserve some of the school's rich history.

The organization was privileged to work with Colin Young, representing Greenville County, to bring a special addition to the landscaping project. The old water fountain and stone markers from the Class of 1939 and subsequent graduating classes from the early 1940s - items that once stood on the Farr's Bridge Road campus - were relocated to the Community Center where they were incorporated in the construction of benches - benches built with bricks that also came from the old school.

This project would not have been possible without the invaluable assistance of the Berea Fire Department and the support of Jevarus Howard and JL Solid Stone, located on Cedar Lane Road.

Berea Events, Inc., hopes this project will preserve a small yet significant part of the community's history and provide fond memories for many of its residents for years to come.

- By Brenda Benton



Recent Donations and Acquisitions of the Society

Steven J. Lambert, "Constitution and By-Laws of The Palladian Literary Society of Chicora College, Greenville, S.C." "The Hampton Chronicle", Chicora College for Women, November 1919, No. 2, Vol. III.

Mary Jane Yates, The Mary Jane Yates Collection containing materials pertaining to Peoples National Bank, First Baptist Church, World War II, and Rowley Henderson.

John Zimmerman, Map - "A Plan of the Village of Greenville, South Carolina, 1830".

Don Koonce, "Map of the State of South Carolina, compiled from Rail-Road, Coast, and State Surveys, 1854". *The Nautical*, May 1922. *Greetings From Greenville, South Carolina: The Golden Age of Post Cards. The Reedy River Report: Managing a Watershed. Greenville, South Carolina: Market Assessment of Tourism Potential.*

Gwenyth Jordan, The Gwenyth Jordan Collection consisting of stereoscope cards by Earle Turpin, Photographer, Greenville, S.C. and photographs of Altamont Hotel and Christ Church.

Larry Voreis, A copy of the article, "A Man and His Land: The Story of Jacob and Frances Madison Hite and the Cherokees", by Mildred Edwards Whitmire.

Hours of Operation

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
11:30am-4:30pm

Society Memberships Available

Individual Membership: \$45

Family Membership: \$75

Conestee Society: \$100

Camperdown Society: \$250

Huguenot Society: \$500

Corporate Partnerships Available
(Call for details)

Email Address :

info@greenvillehistory.org

Do we have your email address and telephone number so we can keep sending you the *Mountaineer*? We never share or sell your information.

Board of Directors

Society Officers

- Robert Benedict, President
- Don Koonce, Vice-President
- Fran Villa, Secretary
- John Zimmerman, Treasurer

Members-At-Large

- Sherry Jackson Terence Brooks
- Archie Black John Nolan
- Sandi Coan Frances Knight
- Yasha Rodriguez Russell Stall
- Michelle Simmons Anatole Upart

Past Immediate President

Tom Cheves

Fall 2023 Meeting Reminder

**Sunday, October 8, 2023
2:00PM**

**Historic Hopkins Farm
Noted Military Historian
Durant Ashmore**

Durant Ashmore will present the story of the Battle of Great Cane Brake as part of his 2023 lecture series on the Revolutionary War in South Carolina. A tour of the farm and the site of the Battle will follow the presentation.



FREE admission
3717 Fork Shoals Rd. Simpsonville

