

September 1982

SOUTH CAROLINA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
PENDLETON CHAPTER

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

More than half of the year has passed and we now realize that members are eager to make contributions. I hope that, at our September meeting, we may have reports from William Allgood on the Pickens County cemetery project and from Ed Vedder on his compilation of the Pendleton Episcopal Church records which he is doing privately.

My wife and I as well as a couple of others from here attended the Annual State Workshop at Columbia College on July 10. The speakers and those who planned the meeting are to be congratulated on the scope and depth of the conference. One of the best presentations was by Beverly Shuler who will make the same presentation to our Chapter in November.

The Annual Meeting of the State Society will be held Saturday, October 16 in Marion. More later at our meetings.

Mrs. Ann Sacritt demonstrated that genealogy can be a part of history as taught in school. We should be willing to pursue this idea further. Why shouldn't each of us invite history teachers that we know to our meetings?

I am asking that you list the names of Family Associations with names and addresses of their Historians (perforce genealogists). We can use this information for speakers and potential new members.

W. C. Nettles, President

MEETING SCHEDULE

The meetings of the Chapter will all be held at the American Federal Bank on 1st, 100 in Clemson, SC at 7:30 PM.

21 SEPTEMBER 1982

EVIDENCE - Speaker, Miss Faith Clayton of our own Chapter. Most of us can benefit from a reminder that real proof is necessary.

19 OCTOBER 1982

IDEAS ON GENEALOGY - Speaker, A. R. Yates who is one of our newest members. We can always use some fresh viewpoints on our favorite hobby.

16 NOVEMBER 1982

MIGRATIONS - Speaker, Beverly Shuler who edits the HERALD. Her topic covers South Carolinians and where they came from. This should be an especially interesting subject.

-----  
The Editors Bulletin Board is being omitted from this issue of the Newsletter to provide room for the rather lengthy article on the formation of South Carolina Counties.

ROBERT E. BABB

The South Carolina Genealogical Society has suffered a great loss and we are all saddened by the passing on July 19, at age 76, of Robert E. Babb, Past President of SCGS. Before retirement, Mr. Babb was an engineer with S. C. Electric & Gas Co. and lived in Charleston. He was also active in the S. C. Historical Society. His work resulted in the microfiche of cemeteries covering much of the state. Our copy was given to Clemson University Library.

## SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTIES

by

Edwin H. Vedder

South Carolina Counties, as they exist today, came into being in a manner much more complicated than in most states. The problem is difficult for genealogists because of the entanglement of administrative and judicial terminology and boundaries. Administrative, election and judicial boundaries have not coincided. All of this creates a major problem of knowing where to look for records in a given time span.

It is the purpose of this paper to show the evolution of today's counties as administrative units which originated as essentially Circuit Court Districts. This should be of help to genealogists in finding records. However, the detailed changes of boundaries may still require searching in a nearby county or in the State Archives in Columbia. The following note in "Guide Maps to the Development of South Carolina Parishes, Districts and Counties" compiled by South Carolina Department of Archives and History tells the problem. "These maps are intended as a rough guide to historical research, not as a completely accurate picture of constantly changing jurisdictions - administrative, electoral and judicial. For the exact status of any one area at any given time, study of the appropriate statutes is necessary."

This paper will first trace the broad historical picture of the evolution of the counties and then show in tabular form how each present county came to be as well as what happened and when to earlier counties or Districts. Judicial Districts are included only as they were geographically the parent area of the present counties.

To quote from the South Carolina Historical Magazine: "The Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina, drawn by the Lord Proprietors in 1669, stated 'the whole Province shall be divided into counties'. Consequently, after the first half century of settlement were passed, the Proprietors, in 1682, ordered three counties laid out. Berkeley County, centering around Charleston, extended from the Stono River on the South to Seewee Creek (Present day Awendaw Creek) emptying into Bulls Bay on the north. Craven County was to lie north of Berkeley; and below Berkeley. Colleton extended to the Combahee River. Later, a fourth county, Granville, was laid out between the Combahee and the Savannah Rivers."

"These early counties never fully lived up to the roles appointed for them. During the first third of the eighteenth century, the parishes of the established Anglican Church became the election districts; the Berkeley County courts extended their authority throughout the whole province and virtually all government was centralized in Charleston. The names of the old counties continued in use until the American Revolution, but largely as a means of locating lands granted or sold and as the jurisdiction of Militia units."

1769 - In 1769, the Province was divided into seven Circuit Court Districts. Note the use of the term "District". Below a line running generally from southwest to northeast about 50 miles from the seacoast, three Districts were formed.

Georgetown - From the North Carolina line to the Santee.

Charleston - Between the Combahee and the Santee.

Beaufort - Between the Combahee and the Savannah.

The other four were

Cheraws - Northeast of Georgetown to the Lynches River on the west.

Camden - West of Cheraws to the Santee-Congaree-Broad River system.

Ninety six - Southwest of the Camden District.

Orangeburg - South of Ninety six District.

Each of the seven Circuit Court Districts had a courthouse town of the same name except Cheraws District Court was at Long Bluff.

1785 - After the Revolution, counties were laid out in each of the seven Circuit Court Districts which had been established in 1769. In 1786, County Courts were authorized to do many things previously permitted only at Charleston. The exceptions were in Georgetown, Charleston and Beaufort which were not required to set up County Courts. Orangeburg District also soon was allowed to discard them. Several of these counties were abolished in 1791. Most of the other counties survived to become ancestors of the present ones. Establishment of the counties and County Courts did not eliminate the old Circuit Courts which continued to sit at the District capitals.

1791 - Equity Court Districts were established but overlaying and having no relationship to Circuit Court Districts. This districting was changed in 1799, 1808 and 1821 when all Circuit Court Districts except Cheraws had an Equity Court.

1800 - There was much dissatisfaction with the County Courts so they were discontinued. Each existing county became a District instead of a County and the old District names of Washington, Pinckney, Ninety six, Camden and Cheraws vanished. Other District names continued.

Between 1800 and 1868, several territorial changes were made and new Districts created. Pendleton District was broken up in 1826.

1868 - All Districts became known as Counties.

1868 to present - Many new counties were created by partitioning older ones.

#### EVOLUTION OF COUNTIES AND DISTRICTS

The following tabulation shows the steps of evolution of each County or District regardless of whether it has survived to the present day. Those with an asterisk beside them are today's counties. The letter "D" in the tabulation means District. Otherwise, the names are for counties.

- \* ABBEVILLE 1868 ; Abbeville D. 1800; Abbeville 1785; Ninety six D. 1769.
- \* AIKEN ; Edgefield 1868; Edgefield D. 1800; Edgefield 1785.  
; Orangeburg 1868; Orangeburg D. 1769.  
; Barnwell 1868; Barnwell D. 1800; Winton 1785, inactive;  
Orangeburg D. 1769.  
; Lexington 1868; Lexington D. 1804; Orangeburg D. 1769.
- \* ALLENDALE 1919 ; Barnwell 1868; Barnwell D. 1800; Winton 1785, inactive;  
Orangeburg D. 1769.  
; Hampton 1878; Beaufort 1868; Beaufort D. 1800; Beaufort  
1785, inactive; Beaufort D. 1769.
- \* ANDERSON 1868 ; Anderson D. 1826; Pendleton D. 1804; Pendleton 1789;  
Ninety six D. 1785; Indian land.
- \* BAMBERG 1897 ; Barnwell 1868; Barnwell D. 1800; Winton 1785, inactive;  
Orangeburg D. 1769.
- \* BARNWELL 1868 ; Barnwell D. 1800; Winton 1785, inactive; Orangeburg D.  
1769.
- BARTHOLOMEW 1785, inactive (Approximately the same as later Colleton Co./D.);  
Charleston D. 1769.
- BERKELEY 1683 (Not the same as the present Berkeley County. Had jurisdiction  
over the whole province until 1769)
- \* BERKELEY 1882 ; Charleston 1868; Charleston D. 1769.

- \* BEAUFORT 1868 ; Beaufort D. 1800; Beaufort 1785, inactive; Beaufort D. 1769  
(Nearly the same as Granville D. formed in 1710)
- \* CALHOUN 1908 ; Lexington 1868; Lexington D. 1804; Lexington 1785, inactive;  
Orangeburg D. 1769.  
; Orangeburg 1868; Orangeburg D. 1769.
- CAMDEN D. 1769 (Obsolete 1804)
- CHERAWS D. 1769 (Obsolete 1800)
- CARTERET 1683 (Obsolete)
- \* CHARLESTON 1868 Charleston D. 1769.
- CHARLESTON D. 1769 (Obsolete 1868)
- \* CHEROKEE 1897 ; Union 1868; Union D. 1804 (Shifted from Ninety six D to  
Pinckney D. 1791.
- \* CHESTER 1868 ; Chester D. 1800 (Shifted from Camden D. to Pinckney D. 1791);  
Chester 1785; Camden D. 1769.
- \* CHESTERFIELD 1868 ; Chesterfield D. 1800; Chesterfield 1785; Cheraws D. 1769.  
CLAREMONT 1785 (Absorbed into Sumter 1800, obsolete); Camden D. 1769.
- \* CLARENDON 1868 ; Clarendon D. 1855; Sumter 1800; Clarendon 1785; Camden D.  
1769.
- COLLETON 1682 (Never functioned. See Berkeley)
- \* COLLETON 1868 ; Colleton D. 1800; Colleton 1785, inactive; Charleston D. 1769.  
GRAVEN 1682 (Never functioned. See Berkeley).
- \* DARLINGTON 1868 ; Darlington D. 1800; Darlington 1785; Cheraws D. 1769.
- \* DILLON 1910 ; Marion 1868; Marion D. 1800 (Part of what was known as  
Liberty Co. 1785 to 1800); Georgetown D. 1769.
- \* DORCHESTER 1897 ; Berkeley 1882; Charleston 1868; Charleston D. 1769.  
; Colleton 1868; Colleton D. 1800; Colleton 1785, inactive;  
Charleston D. 1769.
- \* EDGEFIELD 1868 ; Edgefield D. 1800; Edgefield 1785; Ninety six D. 1769.
- \* FAIRFIELD 1868 ; Fairfield D. 1800; Fairfield 1785; Camden D. 1769.
- \* FLORENCE 1888 ; Marion 1868; Marion D. 1800 (Part of what was known as  
Liberty Co. 1785 to 1800); Georgetown D. 1769.  
; Darlington 1868; Darlington D. 1800; Darlington 1785;  
Cheraws D. 1769.  
; Clarendon 1868; Clarendon D. 1855; Sumter D. 1800; Clarendon  
1785; Camden D. 1769.  
; Williamsburg 1868; Williamsburg D. 1804; Williamsburg 1785,  
inactive; Georgetown 1769.
- \* GEORGETOWN 1868 ; Georgetown D. 1800; Georgetown 1785, inactive; Georgetown  
1769.
- GEORGETOWN D. 1769 (Obsolete 1800)
- GRANVILLE D. 1710 - 1785 (See Beaufort. Obsolete).
- GRANVILLE 1785 (Part of Beaufort D. Never functioned as a county. It had once  
been a part of the old Granville D.)

- \* GREENVILLE 1868 ; Greenville D. 1800; Greenville 1786; Ninety six D. 1769.
- \* GREENWOOD 1897 ; Abbeville 1868; Abbeville D. 1800; Abbeville 1785; Ninety six D. 1769.  
; Edgefield 1868; Edgefield D. 1800; Edgefield 1785; Ninety six D. 1769.
- \* HAMPTON 1878 ; Beaufort 1868; Beaufort D. 1800; Beaufort 1785, inactive; Beaufort D. 1769.  
HILTON 1785, inactive; Beaufort D. 1769.
- \* HORRY 1868 ; Horry D. 1801 (Originally formed 1785 as Kingston in Georgetown D. but was inactive); Georgetown D. 1769.
- \* JASPER 1912 ; Beaufort 1868; Beaufort D. 1769.  
; Hampton 1878; Beaufort 1868; Beaufort D. 1769.
- \* KERSHAW 1868 ; Kershaw D. 1800; Kershaw 1791; Lancaster 1785; Camden D. 1769.  
; Fairfield 1785; Camden D. 1769.  
; Richland 1785; Camden D. 1769.  
; Claremont 1785; Camden D. 1769.  
KINGSTON (See Horry).
- \* LANCASTER 1868 ; Lancaster D. 1800; Lancaster 1785; Camden D. 1769.
- \* LAURENS 1868 ; Laurens D. 1800; Laurens 1785; Ninety six D. 1769.
- \* LEE 1902 ; Darlington 1868; Darlington D. 1800; Darlington 1785; Cheraws D. 1769.  
; Kershaw (See Kershaw for its origin).  
; Sumter ( see Sumter for its origin).
- LEWISBURG 1785 (Abolished 1791. About same as later Calhoun); Orangeburg D. 1769.
- \* LEXINGTON 1868 ; Lexington D. 1804; Lexington 1785, inactive; Orangeburg D. 1769.
- LIBERTY 1785, inactive; Georgetown D. 1769. (Also, see Dillon and Marion)
- LINCOLN 1785, inactive; Beaufort D. 1769.
- \* MCCORMICK 1916 ; Edgefield 1868; Edgefield D. 1800; Edgefield 1785; Ninety six D. 1769.  
; Abbeville 1868; Abbeville D. 1800; Abbeville 1785; Ninety six D. 1769.  
; Greenwood 1897 (See Greenwood for its origin).
- MARION 1785 (Inactive. Obsolete); Charleston 1769.
- \* MARION 1868 ; Marion D. 1800 (Part of Liberty Co. 1785 which never functioned); Georgetown D. 1769.
- \* MARLBORO 1868 ; Marlboro D. 1800; Marlboro 1785; Cheraws D. 1769.
- \* NEWBERRY 1868 ; Newberry D. 1800; Newberry 1785; Ninety six D. 1769.  
NINETY SIX D. 1769 (Obsolete 1800)

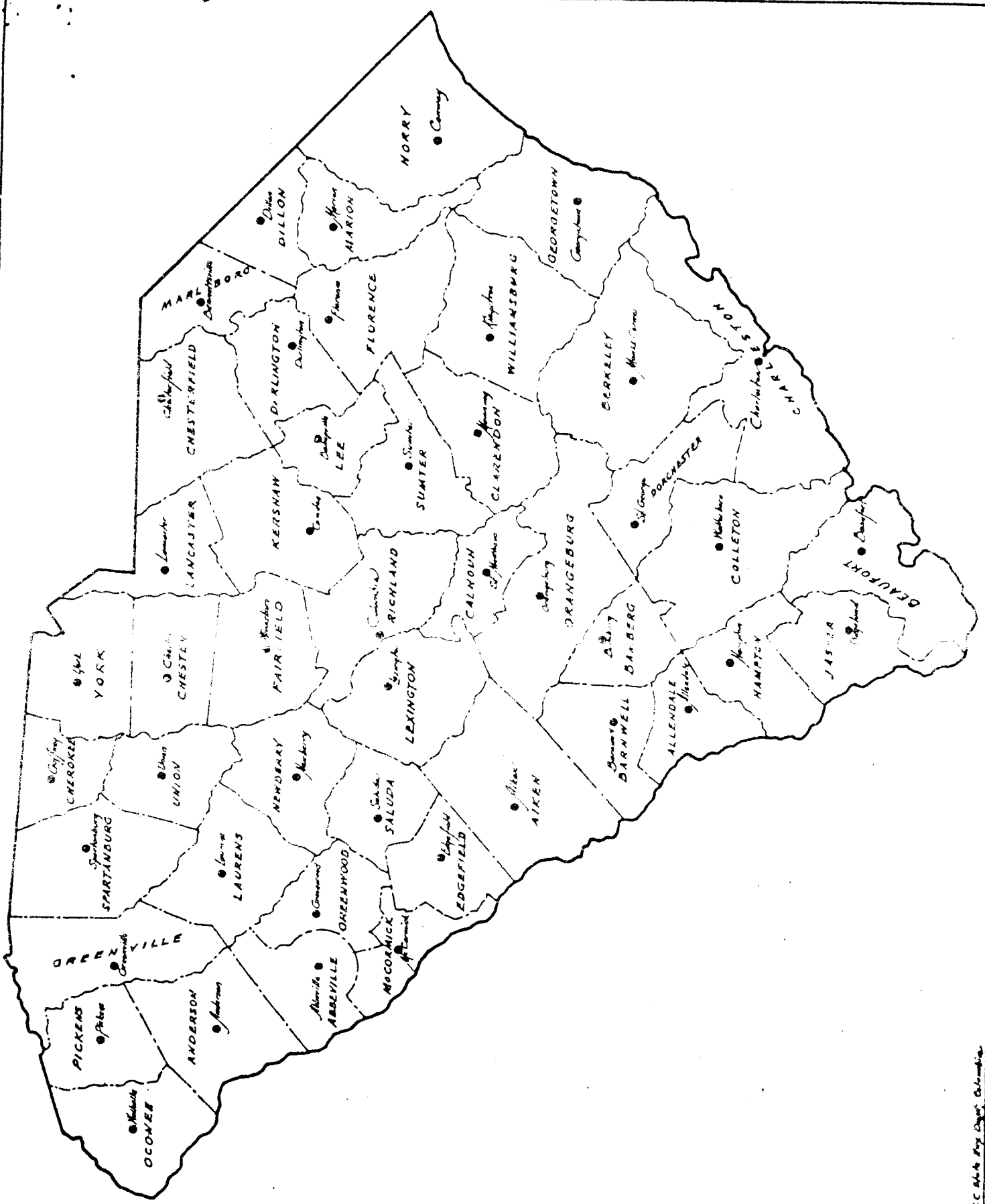
- \* OCONEE 1868 ; Pickens D. 1826; Pendleton D. 1804; Pendleton 1789;  
Ninety six D. 1785; Indian land.  
ORANGE 1785 (Abolished 1791); Orangeburg 1769.
- \* ORANGEBURG 1868 ; Orangeburg D. 1769.  
ORANGEBURG D. 1769 (Obsolete 1868).  
PENDLETON D. 1804 (Obsolete 1826); Pendleton 1789; Ninety six D. 1785; Indian land.
- \* HICKENS 1868 ; Pickens D. 1826; Pendleton D. 1804; Pendleton 1789; Ninety  
six D. 1769; Indian land.  
PINCKNEY D. 1791 (Obsolete 1804).
- \* RICHLAND 1868 ; Richland D. 1800; Richland 1785; Camden D. 1769.  
SALEM 1791 (Obsolete 1800. See Sumter D.)
- \* SALUDA 1895 ; Edgefield 1868; Edgefield D. 1800; Edgefield 1785;  
Ninety six D. 1769.  
SHREWSBURY 1785 (Part of Beaufort D. Never functioned).
- \* SPARTANBURG 1868 ; Spartanburg D. 1800; Spartanburg 1785 (Part of Ninety  
six D. 1785-1791, part of Pinckney D. 1791-1800; Ninety  
six D. 1769.
- \* SUMTER 1868 ; Salem D. 1791; Claremont 1785; Camden D. 1769.  
; Clarendon 1785; Camden D. 1769.
- \* UNION 1868 ; Union D. 1791; Union 1785; Ninety six D. 1769.  
WASHINGTON 1785 (Part of Charleston D. Never activated)  
WASHINGTON D. 1791 (Abolished 1804); Greenville 1786; Ninety six D. 1769.  
; Pendleton 1789; Ninety six D. 1769, Indian land.  
WINTON (See Barnwell)  
WINYAW 1785, inactive; Georgetown D. 1769.
- \* WILLIAMSBURG 1868 ; Williamsburg D. 1804; Williamsburg 1785, inactive;  
Georgetown D. 1769.
- \* YORK 1868 ; York D. 1800; York 1785; (Part of Camden D. until 1791,  
then part of Pinckney D. until 1800).

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

The History of South Carolina by D. D. Wallace, The American Historical Society, 1934. Vol. II, p. 455 and Vol. III, p. 505.

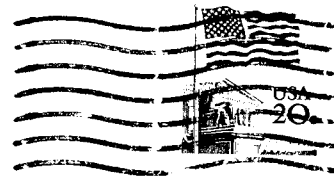
A Brief Guide to South Carolina Genealogical Research and Records by Brent H. Holcomb. Privately printed, 1979.

Guide Maps to the Development of South Carolina Parishes, Districts, and Counties. Compiled by South Carolina Department of Archives and History. From maps in South Carolina Inventories made by the WPA Historical Records Survey.



We regret to announce the recent deaths of both Mrs. Jerome (Ruby) Reel who was last years Secretary of our Chapter and also her husband. They were active genealogists and we will miss them greatly.

Pendleton Chapter  
South Carolina Genealogical Society  
11 Riverpoint Villas  
Clemson, SC 29631



Mrs. Dell W. Miller III  
Rte 2 Cherokee Gardens  
Seneca, SC 29678