

Book Announcement

WHERE OUR PATHS CROSSED: THE OLD EDGEFIELD DISTRICT SETTLEMENT OF MOUNT WILLING



Confederate Veterans Meet at Mount Willing in 1897.

The long-awaited history of one of the most important communities in the South Carolina Backcountry is finally off the presses, available now. Located in historic Old Edgefield District and settled before the Revolution, the community of Mount Willing is in what is now Saluda County, South Carolina. John A. Chapman in his *History of Edgefield County* calls the area around Mount Willing at the beginning of the Revolutionary War the most thickly settled area of the county. Many descendants of Edgefield families will find their ancestors here.

Researched, compiled, and written by Bela Padgette Herlong, Carol Hardy Bryan, and Charles Reneau Andrews, *Where Our Paths Crossed* is a must-have for those interested in the families and history of this once influential area. The book is not strictly a narrative history of Mount Willing. It is a significant collection of primary and some secondary information directly related to Mount Willing. The originators of the information often speak for themselves, with editorial comments and analysis from your authors where appropriate. Information comes from many sources, often hard to obtain. There are land grants and deeds, plats and maps, wills and estate records, old family letters and family histories, store ledgers and voting records, old newspaper articles and announcements, memoirs, and excerpts from old history books. While the facts and details are many, the book is filled with interesting stories. Researchers will be amazed at the wealth of information contained in this significant study. There is no doubt that this book will be *the* reference for years to come.

Part One covers the early settlers. Jacob Smith gave the community its name. New information is offered on the historic Bonham House and on Jacob Smith's homeplaces: Flat Grove, Winehall, and Mount Willing. Early settlers include the Allens, Berrys, Butlers, Corleys, Deloaches, Douglasses, Eskridges, Grigsbys, Harrisons, Powells, Wests, Williamses, and Wilsons. Many soon followed. This was the community of the well-recognized Butler and Bonham families. One will read much new information about them. Also in this part is information on the old Mount Willing store and histories of the main churches in the area: Sardis Baptist, Mt. Moses C. M. E., and Emory United Methodist.

Part Two is titled Defense of Home, and here we study Mount Willing during those periods of hostility from Indian wars and the Regulator period through the War Between the States. Special emphasis is given to the American Revolution and the War Between the States, two terrible conflicts that greatly affected the residents of this community. This part contains the most scholarly and thorough treatment ever given to the 1781 Cloud's Creek Massacre. A series of poignant letters, written by Mount Willing residents during the War Between the States, allows the reader to feel what it was like to be in that war.

Part Three tells what happened to Mount Willing and its citizens after the War Between the States, including details on how Saluda County came to be, how it was almost called Butler County, and how the Mount Willing area lost the battle to become the county seat.

Twelve appendices offer much valuable information. The first has over 100 vintage pictures of Mount Willing citizens and their dwellings. There is one appendix in color with early maps of the area, another with family letters of the Bonhams, including some from Alamo hero James Butler Bonham and South Carolina war governor Milledge Luke Bonham. There are appendices on Revolutionary War records, estate records, the 1860 census, voter records, and church records. As part of this intense study, original land grants have been analyzed, located, and mapped in a color appendix.

The three-volume book, many years in the making, is illustrated with 380 pictures, maps, and images of original material. All material is referenced. In the 1,000 plus pages are 1,460 footnotes and a full bibliography. The comprehensive index contains over 10,000 entries of people, places, and events, including over 325 slaves.

A supplemental volume on land transactions is available for those interested in the geographic aspects of Mount Willing citizens with over 350 pages of abstracts of Mount Willing land transactions and over 50 illustrations, collected from plats, grants, deeds, mortgages, and equity partition suits. Many property locations have been identified, and transactions are cross referenced from transfer to transfer.

The authors are people who know Mount Willing best. **Dr. Bela Padgette Herlong** is a long-time educator, chairman of the board and former executive director of the Saluda County Historical Society, and one who grew up, as did her ancestors, in the heart of Mount Willing. **Carol Hardy Bryan** was for over a decade the award-winning editor of *Quill*, the official publication of the Old Edgefield District Genealogical Society. Many of her ancestors lived near the Mount Willing area. Like the other coauthors, **Charles Reneau Andrews** is an historian, genealogist, and writer. His ancestors founded Mount Willing. They are the perfect team to bring you this detailed history. Genealogical researchers as well as those interested in the history of the area will prize this massive and valuable work.

For more information, or to request an order form, contact one of the following:

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Where Our Paths Crossed

The Old Edgefield District Settlement of Mount Willing

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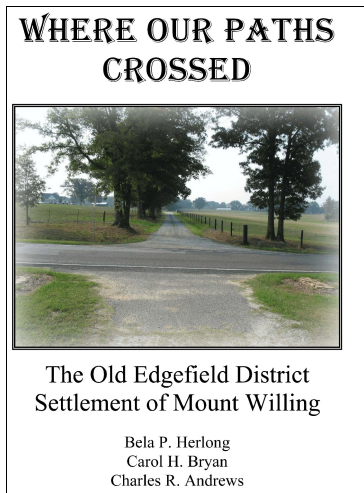
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Mount Willing Land Transactions: Cross-Referenced and Annotated Abstracts of Plats, Grants, Memorials, Deeds, Mortgages, and Equity Records.



**Where Our Paths Crossed: The Old Edgefield District
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