

September 1981

SOUTH CAROLINA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
PENDLETON CHAPTER

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I do hope that each of you enjoyed a wonderful summer and that your research proved beneficial.

We are now entering our last quarter of this year with only three meetings left. Remember that we do not convene in December.

Please make every effort to be present for the remaining meetings and bring a guest. Election of 1981-82 officers will be held during the November meeting.

Serving as your President has been an exciting and learning experience for me and again I thank you for the opportunity to serve the Chapter. My thanks to the officers for their support and to everyone who contributed to the Chapter this year making it interesting and educational for all.

William Allgood, Pres.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The meetings of the Chapter will all be held at the Home Savings and Loan building on Route 123 in Clemson, SC.

15 SEPTEMBER 1981

ANDERSON COUNTY SKETCHES - Speaker, Mrs. Elizabeth Belser Fuller

20 OCTOBER 1981

LAND RECORDS - especially grants and precepts - Speaker, Mrs. Jo Hendrix

17 NOVEMBER 1981

Election of Officers, Program to be announced.

EDITORS BULLETIN BOARD

Surname Index

The South Carolina Genealogical Society Surname Index is now available. With it, you can determine what other Society members are researching the same surnames that you are. It includes members up to number 1212 with all surnames submitted to the Society prior to cut-off date for publication. Order by mail from Bruce Pruitt, 25 Heatherwood Apts., Greenville, SC 29607. The price is \$10 including postage. However, he will bring copies to the September meeting at a price of \$8 because of no postage. Make checks payable to SCGS.

WPA Cemetery Index

SCGS, in cooperation with the Charleston Historical Society, has completed putting on microfiche 90,000 index cards of the WPA gravestone readings throughout the state, made in the 1930s. Each Chapter of the Society will receive a full set of the microfiche cards. Our Chapter will have to decide where they should be located.

"The Humanities" Seminars

The Pendleton Historical and Recreational Commission is sponsoring a series of seminars on Politics, Persuasion (Religion), People and Progress. The first three have already occurred with the last to be October 27 at Farmers Hall, Pendleton. The one on People was directed primarily to Family History with a panel consisting of Donna Roper of the Commission staff, Dr. Eugene Sneary of the Greenville Chapter and your Editor. About 45 people attended the two hour meeting including several from our Chapter.

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THE CRAIGHEAD FAMILY: Early American Ministers

by

Julia R. Hagg and Nancy V. Robertson

The Craigheads were ministers of the Presbyterian Church in Great Britain and later in the American colonies. The Rev. Robert Craighead, a Scot, was one of the thirteen ministers of the Presbytery of Lagan in Ireland where he gained prominence in the late 1650s and remained for thirty years. The Cromwellian revolution in England had overthrown King Charles I and given a greater degree of religious liberty to the Presbyterians. However, when Charles II ascended the throne and reestablished the Episcopal Church in Ireland, the Presbyterians were persecuted. A proclamation was issued forbidding all unlawful assemblies and directing the sheriffs to disperse them. This was intended to prevent the meetings of Congregations and Presbyteries. As a result, in Ulster alone, sixty one ministers were deposed and ejected from their parishes, and curates were sent to take possession of their churches. Among those ministers was the Rev. Robert Craighead, the ancestor of a number of American ministers. When Charles II was succeeded by James II, the new king attempted to restore the Catholic church in Ireland. Conditions became so difficult for a large number of the Presbyterians that they determined to emigrate to the American colonies.

The Rev. Robert Craighead's son Thomas was educated in Scotland as a physician and married a daughter of a Scottish laird. After practicing medicine for a time, he followed the call into the ministry. He was pastor for several years in Ireland, principally at Donegal. In consequence of the oppressions endured by the Presbyterians from the government and the established church, Thomas Craighead joined many of his people and emigrated to America. He came to New England in 1715, accompanied by the Rev. William Homes, who was married to Thomas Craighead's sister Catherine. Mr. Homes settled at Martha's Vineyard and is buried with his wife at Chismark. Their eldest son, Robert Homes, was a sea-captain who resided in Boston and married Mary, a sister of Benjamin Franklin.

The first public mention of Rev. Thomas Craighead in America was made by Cotton Mather who spoke of him as preaching at Freetown, about forty miles south of Boston. Craighead later was in "the Jerseys", in the spring of 1723. In 1724, he accepted a call from a church at White Clay, Delaware where he remained for several years. He removed to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1733 and ended his ministerial life at Hopewell, Pennsylvania, where he died in April of 1739. He had four sons and one daughter: Thomas, a farmer at White Clay Creek; John, who was a landholder in Pennsylvania; Jane, who married Rev. Adam Boyd; Andrew, who died unmarried at White Clay Creek, Del.; and Alexander, who was early introduced to the ministry and was installed over the church at Middle Octorara, Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania in November 1735.

The Rev. Alexander Craighead was the son and grandson of Presbyterian ministers. So far as is known, he studied divinity under the direction of his father. With an ardent love of personal liberty and freedom of opinion, he was also far in advance of his ministerial brethren in his views of civil government and religious liberty. An event occurred during the period of his residence in Pennsylvania which exhibits the actions of his future years. He gave his views to the public in a pamphlet which attracted so much attention that in the year 1743, Thomas Cookson, one of His Majesty's justices for Lancaster Co., appeared and laid it, in the name of the Governor, before the Synod of Philadelphia. Though published anonymously, its authorship was generally attributed to Alexander Craighead. The Synod unanimously agreed that the pamphlet was "full of treason and sedition,"

and declared their abhorrence of "the paper", and with it, all principles and practices that tend to destroy the civil and religious rights of mankind, or to foment or encourage sedition or dissatisfaction with the civil government that we are now under, or rebellion, treason, or anything that is disloyal. If Mr. Alexander Craighead be the author, we know nothing of the matter." This was one of the chief causes of his leaving Pennsylvania and seeking a home where he could find greater freedom.

Alexander Craighead removed to Virginia in 1749 and settled in the Cowpasture River area. A settlement had been formed there earlier by farmers from Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania. It was on the frontiers of the state and under repeated Indian attack. Craighead remained there until 1755 when he and most of his congregation moved to Mecklenburg Co., North Carolina, making his home at Sugar Creek. In this area, he had the opportunity he had so long desired, to fully express his sentiments respecting freedom of the individual conscience and political liberty. He died in March, 1766, having presented his ideas of political and religious freedom to the area. The members of the Convention at Charlotte, North Carolina, who framed the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence on 20 May 1775, and whom Alexander Craighead affected strongly, were all connected with the seven Presbyterian churches of the county. Although Mr. Craighead was not permitted to live to see those principles of civil and religious liberty, of which he had so long been a champion, embodied in the Mecklenburg Declaration, his congregation and countrymen were able to enjoy the freedom attained in later years.

Alexander Craighead was the father of eight children. Thomas, born 1750, married Elizabeth Brown. Robert, born 1751, married Hannah Clark. Nancy married first, Rev. William Richardson and later George Dunlap. Rachel married Rev. David Caldwell. Jane married Patrick Calhoun (who by his second wife was the father of John C. Calhoun). Margaret married James Carruth. Mary, 1730-1796 married Samuel Dunlap, one of the founders of the Waxhaw Presbyterian Church, and one of the early settlers of the South Carolina Piedmont area. Elizabeth married Alexander Crawford.

Sources: The Craighead Family, 1876 by James G. Craighead, unpublished files in the Pennsylvania Historical Society, Philadelphia and research in the Waxhaw region of South Carolina.

EDITORS BULLETIN BOARD (from p. 1)

Pickens Co. Cemeteries

The problem here is to get one typist to do the whole job or several using the same or identical typewriters. Any suggestions or volunteers will be appreciated. Contact our President or Mrs. Woodson.

SOCS Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held in Columbia in late October or early November. Election of officers for 1982, luncheon and speaker are scheduled. You will get details by mail.

Research in Scotland

I visited the General Registry Office for Scotland in 1975. While some changes may have been made, the following may be useful for those wishing to do research there in person or by applying by mail.

The General Registry houses all the vital statistics for all of Scotland consisting of Parish Registers from 1553 to 1854 and Civil Registers from 1855 as well as many other valuable sources of genealogical data.

The Civil Register is beautifully indexed separately for births, deaths and marriages. There are census records for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881 and 1891. Later ones are not open for search unless opened since 1975. The Parish Registers, some 4000 books, have no general index. It is necessary to know the parish in which the person was located.

I have some information not included here which I will be glad to share with anyone interested.

The Registry staff will conduct certain limited searches for a fee. To obtain current information on this, write for Pamphlet RAN1 and ask for current prices for services. The pamphlet will include some independent researchers who will do more extensive work than the staff will undertake. Address to General Register Office for Scotland, New Register House, Edinburgh, Scotland

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