

# Old Pendleton District Messenger

Next meeting

Chris Hansen will talk  
about Liberty History  
Museum

**Tuesday**, March 19.  
2024  
at 7 p.m.

Central Clemson Library  
105 Commons Way  
Central. South Carolina

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Volume 38. No. 3

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April 2024

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## April 2024

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Family Search Library in Salt Lake City. Members Judy Long and Barbara Clark visited the library while were attending the in person **RootsTech 2024 Conference at the Salt Palace Convention Center**, Salt Lake City, Utah Feb. 29-Mar.2, 2024.

## About Our Newsletter

The Old Pendleton District Newsletter is published nine times a year: January through June and September through November; we do not publish in July and August. Please submit materials by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of each month. Submissions by our members are encouraged and will be used as space permits. Send items to Barbara Clark at [bc7621gen@att.net](mailto:bc7621gen@att.net).

Editorial Policy:

- The Editor reserves the right to edit articles, files and queries prior to publication.
- Neither the OPDGS nor the Editor assumes any responsibility for errors on the part of the contributor.
- Once published, material contained in this publication become part of the public domain and may be quoted if credit is given for the source.
- This publication, in its entirety, will be made available in digital format on the State and Chapter websites.
- All submissions become property of the Old Pendleton District Chapter of the SCGS. By submitting materials to this newsletter, you are giving permission for any original materials, including written works and images, to be reproduced in print and digital formats.

## About Our Chapter

The Old Pendleton District Chapter of the South Carolina Genealogical Society is a nonprofit, 12-36-2120(40), educational organization designed to unite those interested in the Pickens and Oconee Counties, South Carolina history and family genealogy; to encourage the preservation of documents and records; to promote educational programs; and to publish local records, history and family genealogy. The Chapter's primary goal is to assist others in their search for their ancestors and origins of birthplace.

The Chapter meets every month, except July, August and December. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Central-Clemson Library.

The Chapter's genealogical and historical archives are housed at the Clayton Family History Center, located in the lower level of the Rickman Library on Southern Wesleyan University campus in Central, SC. This collection contains about 3,500 books and files on family histories, state and county sources, military histories, cemetery records, immigration and passenger lists. For more information send email to [claytonroom@swu.edu](mailto:claytonroom@swu.edu).

The public is welcome to visit the Clayton Center whenever the Library is open. Normal operating hours are Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Friday hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Saturday and Sunday. Hours vary during summer, for holidays and during breaks in the school year. For more information call 864-644-5074, send email to [claytonroom@swu.edu](mailto:claytonroom@swu.edu), or check their website at [swu.edu/academics/library](http://swu.edu/academics/library).

## 2024 OPD Officers

President	Keith Brown	<a href="mailto:bkeith@clemson.edu">bkeith@clemson.edu</a>	864-639-2179
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Treasurer	LaMarr Brooks	<a href="mailto:thomasbrooks1@bellsouth.net">thomasbrooks1@bellsouth.net</a>	864-650-0458
State Representative:	Anne Sheriff	<a href="mailto:claytonroom@swu.edu">claytonroom@swu.edu</a>	
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Past President	Judy Long	<a href="mailto:judysgen@gmail.com">judysgen@gmail.com</a>	864-933-3013

## Refreshments

**January:** Brenda Meyer and Judy Long

**February:** Pat Collins

**March:** LaMarr Brooks

**April:** Katie Gillespie & Nancy Holcombe

**May:** Keith Brown & Anne Sheriff

**June:** Field Trip

**September:** Barbara Clark and Jane Camper

**October:** Alice Shove

**November:** Pot Luck Dinner at Trinity Wesleyan Church

## Minutes of Old Pendleton Genealogical Meeting of March 19, 2024

The Old Pendleton Chapter meeting of Feb. 20 was held at the Central-Clemson Branch of the Pickens County Library System. President Keith Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed with a short business session.

Our newsletter Editor, **Barbara Clark**, spoke on her recent trip to the **RootsTech 2024 Conference** with member, Judy Long. RootsTech is a family history and technology conference and trade show that began in 2011. The in-person conference met in the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA beginning Thursday Feb. 29, 2024 through Saturday Mar. 2, 2024. This year's theme was "Remember". The website for roots tech is [www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/](http://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/).

Barbara used the FamilySearch Library for discovering some unknown information about her 1<sup>st</sup> husband's family. The syllabus for is available at the RootsTech website which includes one syllabus which is over 26 pages long. Those classes can still be found in on line videos. The newest additions included AI possibilities. You can go to the website and view the recorded lectures from this year's session as well as previous years.

There were 10 people in attendance. LaMarr Brooks provided delicious refreshments for the fellowship time. Thank you, LaMarr for taking minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

LaMarr Brooks for Brenda Meyer  
Secretary

### *Jan-Mar 2024 Treasures Report* *Submitted by: LaMarr Brooks*

#### Jan. 2024 Report

<b>Expenses:</b>	
January Printing Newsletter	\$0
January Post Office Mailing Newsletter	\$0
46 State Membership Dues	\$328.00
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$328.00</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
Membership Dues	\$266.00
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$266.00</b>

#### Feb. 2024 Report

<b>Expenses:</b>	
February Printing Newsletter	\$254.00
February Post Office Mailing Newsletter	\$129.02
Speaker-February Meeting	\$50.00
14 State Membership Dues	\$101.00
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$534.02</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
Membership Dues	\$313.00
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$313.00</b>

**Balance: \$19,624.60**

#### Mar. 2024 Report

<b>Expenses:</b>	
March Printing Newsletter	\$209.60
March Post Office Mailing Newsletter	\$127.32
Labels	\$39.21
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$376.13</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
Membership Dues	\$300.00
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>

## The McMahan Family of the 1914 McMahan Dam, West Union, Oconee County, SC

By LaMarr Brooks

**Archibald McMahan** was the first generation of the McMahan Family that came to SC. A membership for the Sons of the American Revolution states that his father was **John McMahan** from Glasgow, Scotland who came with his wife **Jennie Craig** to America in 1740. In 1760 they removed to Orange County, NC. They both died in Hawfields Settlement, Orange County, NC.

Another source list Archibald's father as **Daniel McMahan** of Pennsylvania and North Carolina, born in Ireland, emigrated with his wife and children to America about 1756, and settled in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He removed shortly before the Revolutionary War, with his family to Orange County, NC, Hillsborough District, where he (Daniel) was listed in the 1790 Census. **Archibald McMahan** was born 1760 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

**Archibald McMahan** was a Revolutionary War Soldier.

"He first entered the Service as a volunteer, before he was old enough to be subject to draft, to perform a three-month tour against the Indians and was under the command of **Capt. William Morrow, Major Hugh Sevier, Col. Thomas Taylor**. He entered the said service in Orange County in the State of North Carolina and marched from there to Cashier Fort, remained there for some time, had no fighting, returned again to Hillsborough in Orange County, NC and at the end of the tour he was discharged. Sometime after that himself and two of his brothers were drafted, but an arrangement was made to leave him at home, and his brothers served their tour. Shortly after this he was required to perform the tour for which he had been before drafted and hired a substitute by the name of **Joel Ramsey**. After that he was again drafted to perform another three-

month tour and was stationed at Hillsborough in the State of NC to guard the Gael (Jail) and Prisoners, was in the Battle at Hillsborough and was there taken prisoner and was carried to Wilmington and put on shipboard with a number of other prisoners. Remained there about three or four weeks, then sailed around to Charleston in the State of SC and was there put on board a prison ship called the **Ash**, commanded by **Capt. Chapman, William Bellington & Mate**, and there detained a prisoner for upwards of one year-he thinks about 14 months. After being dismissed from the ship he was furnished with a passport to **Gen. Greene's** headquarters and no further service required of." Record Book E, Vol. M, page 25, File No. 21779. Book E, Vol., 6, may 17, 1833, page 74, NC troops. Inscribed on SC Roll of Revolutionary Soldiers March 4, 1831, when he applied for this pension.

In February 1845, **Ann (Payne) McMahan**, age 80, widow, received a pension as widow of a Revolutionary Soldier. Pension granted October 10, 1845, Record Pickens County Court House, SC.

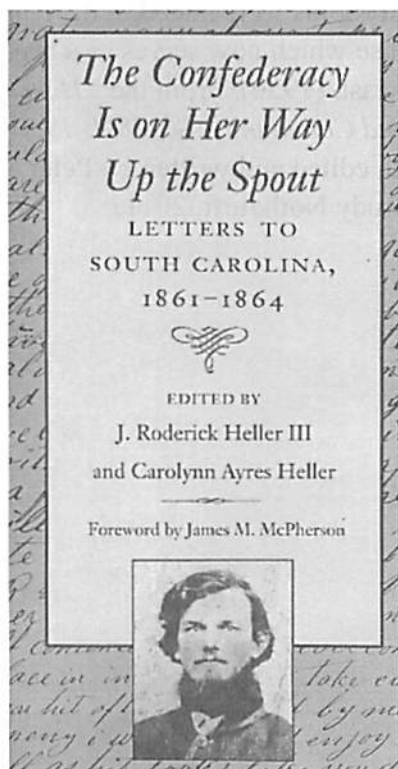


In 1791, he removed with the family of **Thomas Payne** to Greenville District, SC. He married August 13, 1791 **Anne Payne**, born in Virginia (1850 Census says NC), 1765 (daughter of Thomas and Ann Payne of Rockingham County, VA) in Grove Station, Greenville District., SC. Both died in Pickensville District, SC. He died May 26, 1841 and Anne died 1848. Both buried in the McMahan Family Cemetery also known as the Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church Cemetery, 1215 Prince Perry Road, Ealsey, Pickens Co., SC. Land was given by the McMahan's for the building of the Church. The location is now in the woods.

**Archibald McMahan and Anne Payne had the following children:**

1. **Prudence McMahan** was born in Jun 1795 in Greenville Dist., SC. She died in Aug 1860 in Pickens Dist., SC (Cause of Death: Jaundice -she was Widowed).
2. **Alexander Elick McMahan** was born on 21 Dec 1795 in Pickens Co., SC. He died in Pickens Co., SC. He married **Jane Gillespie** (widow of **Kennemore**) on 15 Dec 1840. She was born on 12 Jan 1811 in Pickens Co., SC. She died in Pickens Co., SC. Her marriage has controversies-widow of Kennemore or a Kennemore.
3. **Lurena McMahan** was born in 1800 in Greenville, SC. She died after 1860. Lived with her brothers.
- \*4. **Jesse McMahan** was born on 15 Jul 1804 in Grove Creek, Greenville Co., SC, then Pendleton District. He died on 03 May 1896 in Fairview Community, Oconee Co., SC. He married **Lucretia Caroline Barrett**, daughter of **William Barrett** (1799-1859) and **Mary Bradley** (1804-1862) on February 26, 1848 at Carmel Presbyterian Church in Pickens County. The service was conducted by the **Rev. John Leland Kennedy**. The bride and groom reportedly rode to their wedding on horseback, with Lucretia riding side saddle. She was born on 05 Apr 1826 in Pickens District, SC. She died on 23 Jun 1895 in Fairview, Oconee Co., SC. Both are buried at Fairview Community Church Cemetery.
5. **James Duff McMahan** was born on 06 Aug 1806 in Pickens Co., SC. He died on 16 Jan 1877 in Pickens Co., SC. He married **Frances Oates**. She was born on 08 Oct 1815 in NC. She died on 09 Jun 1894 in Pickens Co., SC.
6. **George Washington McMahan** was born in 1810 in Easley, Pickens Co., SC. He died in Jul 1879. He married **Nancy Emily Perry**, daughter of **Lemuel A. Perry** (1802-1879) and **Martha Horry Rutledge**. She was born in 1826 in Pickens Co., SC. She died in Jul 1879

**\*Jesse McMahan**, the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of the McMahan Family became the Oconee County, SC settler 1869-1870.



OPDC Member, Lauren Finley brought to my attention the book, "*The Confederacy Is on Her Way Up the Spout*" that includes her ancestor, Laban Mauldin. The book contains Civil War Letters and the history of several Pickens Co. families including the **Jesse McMahan** family when they resided at Georges Creek. The **Barrett** and **Bradley** families were their neighbors. **William Barrett** owned a farm of approximately 100 acres on Georges Creek. He and his wife, **Mary Bradley Barrett**, were the parents of Milton, Lawrence, and Benjamin Barrett, whose letters are featured in the book. **William and Mary Barrett** had 4 sons and 5 daughters who lived to maturity. The oldest child was **Lucretia Caroline Barrett** who married **Jesse McMahan**. It is to the McMahan's and their descendants that we owe thanks for having preserved the letters included in this book.

**McMahan family members mentioned in the book, "*The Confederacy Is on Her Way Up the Spout*":**

Page 5: In the Arnold's Mills of Pickens District where the Barretts lived, 27 of the 31 farms were accorded a higher value than the Barrett farm. **Jesse McMahan** had only 50 improved acres, but he owned 175 unimproved acres, and his total farm was valued at \$1,000.00.

Page 135: **James Alexander McMahan**, born in 1844, was the son of **Alexander** and **Jane McMahan**, neighbors of the Barretts. He enlisted on Oct. 24, 1861, with **Benjamin Barrett** and was described in service

records as being seventeen years old, five feet nine and one-half inches tall, with blue eyes, fair hair, and light complexion. He was wounded at the battle of Frayser's Farm on June 30, 1862, and was discharged on Aug. 16, 1862, incapable of further duties. His wound was described as a gunshot wound in the shoulder.

Page 138: **George Washington McMahan** was the brother of **Jesse McMahan**. He married **Emily Berry** in 1848. Both **Washington** and **Emily McMahan** died in July 1879 of Typhoid Fever. Leaving 7 children behind

Jesse was mentioned in an estate settlement on Nov. 24, 1868 as being an heir of a portion of a 100-acre tract of land owned by **William Barrett**, Lucretia's father.

**Jesse and Lucretia Caroline Barrett McMahan** continued to live in the Georges Creek area of Pickens County until 1869 -1870, when he moved his family to Oconee County and settled on Little River now the **Fairview Community**. They had nine children who lived to maturity. Lucretia Caroline died on June 23, 1895. Jesse McMahan lived to be ninety-two, dying on May 3, 1896. Jesse and Lucretia Caroline are both buried at Fairview Methodist Church in Oconee County. It has been reported that the present McMahan House (in 1950) on Bounty Land Road was built in 1870.

### **The McMahan House**

The McMahan House was a two-story house with an ell on the left side. The front had a two-story porch with four columns across and then portico extending out with two more columns. There were two windows, 4 on 4 in front with a door and glass around the door between the windows. This was duplicated on the second floor with a door going out on the second-floor porch. On the left side of the house were windows on the first and second floor and windows on the first and second floor of the ell. On the right side was the same as the left.

The house had two large rooms on each side of the center hall, one on the first floor and one room on each side of the center hall on the second floor. On the back of the second floor were two sleeping porches. Later on, a



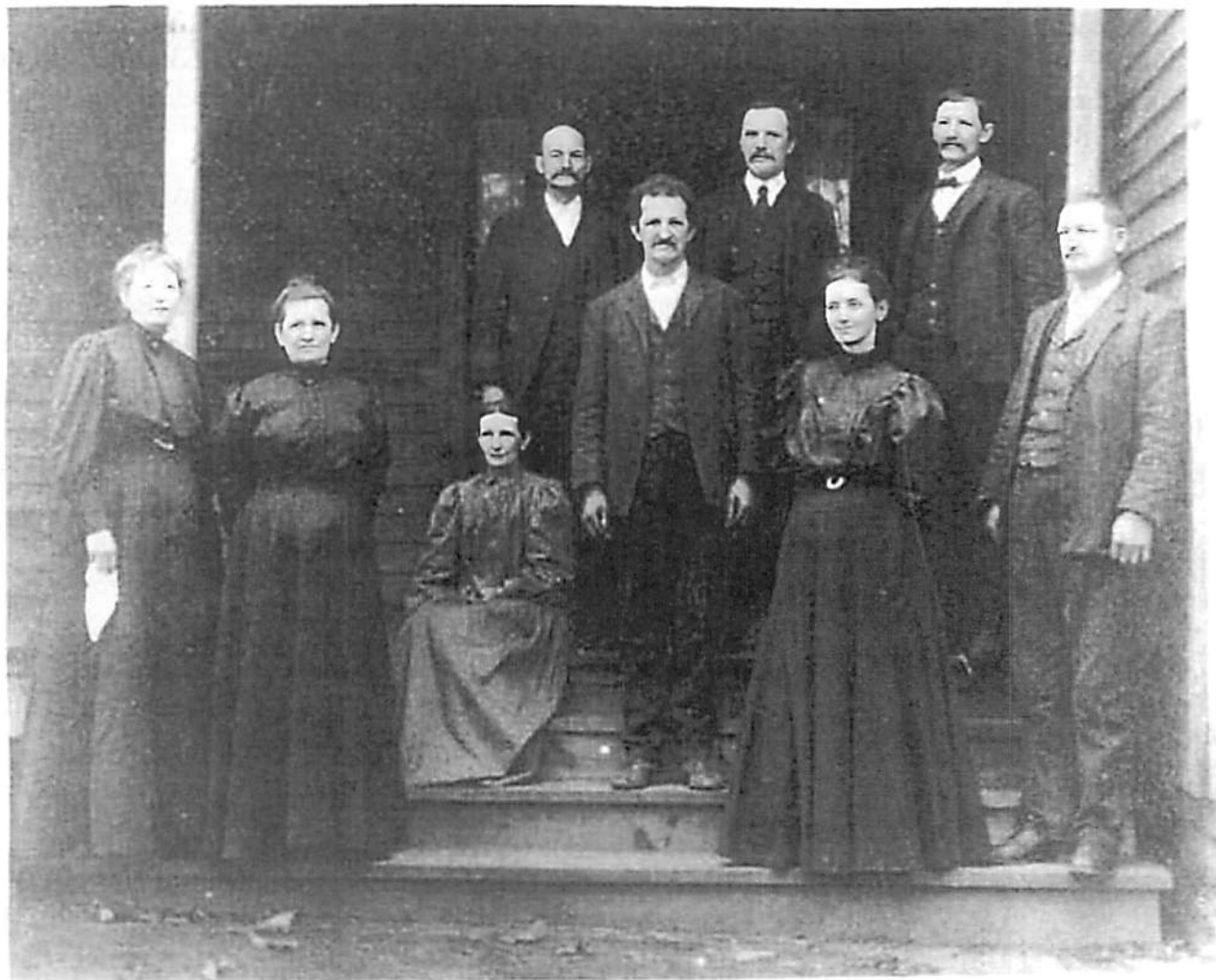
number of rooms were added in the rear of the house which now serves as a bed and breakfast. (1950). From the *"History of Richland Community, SC 1800-1950"* Compiled, edited and written by Peter Boos & Rudy Nothdurft. 2011.

*McMahan House*

## **Jesse McMahan and Lucretia Caroline Barrett had the following children:**

1. **Lurana (Lou) McMahan** was born on 21 Nov 1848 in SC. She died on 05 Sep 1914 in Pickens Co., SC. She married **Elijah Alexander Barron**, son of **Isaac Titsworth Barron** (1810-1898) and **Sarah E. Alexander** (1812-1876). He was born on 08 Jun 1849 in Pickens Co., SC. He died on 28 Feb 1924 in Fairview, Oconee Co., SC. Both are buried at Fairview Community Church Cemetery, Fairview, Oconee Co., SC.
2. **Mary Ann McMahan** was born on 01 Dec 1850 in Pickens Co., SC. She died on 16 Mar 1927 in Seneca, Oconee Co., SC. She married **John Lafayette Smith** son of **Caleb McKendree Smith** (1827-1901) and **Mary Elizabeth Wilson** (1828-1918). He was born on 21 Dec 1850 in SC. He died on 15 Mar 1931 in Seneca, Oconee Co., SC. Both are buried at Mountain View Cemetery.
3. **Lucretia Emeline McMahan** was born on 05 Apr 1853 in Pickens Co., SC. She died on 08 Oct 1929 in Seneca, Oconee Co., SC. She married **Benjamin Franklin Knox**, son of **Robert Knox** (1809-1891) and **Eliza McKinney** (1818-1873). He was born in 1852. He died in 1883 in Seneca, Oconee Co., SC. Both are buried at New Hope Cemetery.
4. **Henry McMahan** was born on 02 Nov 1855 in Georges Creek Community, Greenville Co., SC. He died on 22 May 1928 in Wagener, Oconee Co., SC. He married **Lina Artemisia Taylor**, daughter of **Gustavus Adolphus Taylor** (1830-1863) and **Emily Rachel Cox** (1833-1888). She was born on 20 Sep 1852 in Pickens Co., SC. She died on 02 Feb 1931 in Lawton, Fayette Co., VA. Both are buried at Fairview Community Church Cemetery, Fairview, Oconee Co., SC.
5. **William Lawrence McMahan** was born on 07 Aug 1857 in Georges Creek Community, Greenville Co., SC. He died on 09 Feb 1937 in Fairview Community, Oconee Co., SC buried at Fairview Community Church Cemetery. He married **Ida Virginia Barron**, daughter of **William Alexander Barron** (1834-1916) and **Mary Eliza Stribling** (1840-1889), in 1883. She was born on 11 Sep 1861 in Oconee Co., SC. She died on 01 Jun 1935 in Fairview Community, Oconee Co., SC. **William Alexander Barron** and **Elijah Alexander Barron** m. **Lurana McMahan** (above) were brothers.
6. **Sarah (Sallie) McMahan** was born on 16 Aug 1859 in Pickens, Pickens Co., SC. She died on 22 Dec 1942 in Decatur, DeKalb Co., GA. She married **Frank Jephtha Taylor** son of **Gustavus Adolphus Taylor** (1830-1863) and **Emily Rachel Cox** (1833-1888). He was born on 03 Jan 1859. He died on 18 Apr 1938 in Decatur, DeKalb Co., GA. Both are buried at Fellowship Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery, Tucker, DeKalb Co., GA. **Frank Jephtha Taylor** was the brother of **Lina Artemisia Taylor** (above) who m. **Henry McMahan**.
7. **Jefferson Davis (Jeff) McMahan, Sr.** was born on 18 Aug 1861 in Pickens Co., SC. He died on 05 Feb 1942 in Richland, Oconee Co., SC. He married **Katherine Lou (Kate) Sligh**, daughter of **John Hilary Sligh** (1831-1918) and **Sarah Catherine Neel** (1833-1871). She was born on 19 Sep 1866 in Newberry Co., SC. She died on 27 Jun 1957 in Richland, Oconee Co., SC. Both are buried at Richland Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

8. **Archibald Alexander McMahan** was born on 06 Nov 1863 in Pickens Co., SC. He died in 1943 in Seneca, Oconee Co., SC. He married **Jessie Mae Chalmers**, daughter of **Thomas Young Chalmers** (1855-1919) and **Margaret Ella Calhoun** (1859-1940). She was born on 27 Jan 1884 in Oconee Co., SC. She died in 1948 in Seneca, Oconee Co., SC. Both are buried at Mountain View Cemetery.
9. **Jessie Robert McMahan** was born on 21 Oct 1867 in Pickens Co., SC. He died on 31 Jan 1931 in Woodbridge, VA. He married (1) **Dora Stella Callas**, daughter of **Josiah M. Callas** (1847-1900) and **Amanda Koebler Miles** (1853-1956). She was born on 21 Oct 1867 in SC. She died on 31 Jan 1931 in Concord, Cabarrus Co., NC. Both are buried at Pohick Episcopal Church Cemetery, Lorton, Fairfax Co., VA. He also fathered a child with **Marie Flowers**. She was born in 1857 in Oconee Co., SC.



### **The Children of Jesse & Lucretia Caroline Barrett McMahan.**

It appears that they are wearing funeral clothing. It could have been one of their parents in the year 1895 or 1896.

From left to right: Lurana, Lucretia, Mary Ann, William Lawrence, Henry, Jeff, Sally, Alexander and Bob.



**Jefferson Davis McMahan, Jr.** b. 7 Aug 1901 in Richland, Oconee Co., SC d. 2 May 1982 in Columbia, SC. Son of Jefferson Davis McMahan, Sr. and Kate Lou Sligh, Graduated Clemson College in 1923 with a degree in Civil Engineering.

From his Obituary:

**Jefferson Davis McMahan, Jr.**, 80, of 1801 Belt Line Blvd., died yesterday at Baptist Medical Center.

Born in Richland, he was a son of Jefferson Davis Sr. and Kate Lou Sligh McMahan. He was a member of Shandon Presbyterian Church. Mr. McMahan graduated from Clemson College in 1923 as a civil engineer. He joined the SC Highway Department and began a career that, including three and a half years with the US Corps of Engineers during World War II, extended over a period of 51 years, ending with his retirement in 1974.

From 1970 to 1974, Mr. McMahan was the state highway engineer, one of three positions filled by election of the State Highway Commission. In that position, he headed an engineering division of more than 4,000 employees, carrying out a \$100 million construction program and a \$40 million maintenance program annually on a system of highways that had grown from 4,000 miles in 1923 to more than 37,000 miles in 1974.

In 1926, Mr. McMahan was promoted to resident construction engineer. In 1935 he transferred to Columbia to work as a field bridge engineer. In 1948 he was made construction engineer, responsible for supervision of the entire road construction program throughout the state.

The bridge over Congaree River at Columbia is named "Jefferson Davis McMahan Jr Bridge" in honor of his long public service.

Mr. McMahan, a registered professional engineer, was a member of the emergency planning and the construction committees of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. He was the Highway Department's representative on the Highway Research Board, the National Academy of Sciences and National Research Council and on the SC Water Resources Commission.

In connection with his AASHTO memberships, Mr. McMahan was a member of the task force that wrote the guide specifications for highway construction used by all the state highway departments.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Ethelyn Moye McMahan; three sons, Jefferson Davis McMahan III of Camden, Robert Francis McMahan of Florence and Richard A. McMahan of Deland, Fla.; and five grandchildren.

Plans will be announced by Dunbar Funeral Home, Devine Street Chapel.

Is it possible that his interest in Civil Engineering was created from watching the McMahan Dam construction. He was going on 13 years old at the time it was constructed.

## 1914 McMahan Dam formally the Old Rhett Shoals Dam & THE WALHALLA LIGHT & POWER COMPANY

*By LaMarr Brooks*

From the OPD Messenger, Oct. 2023 page 12, article about the dam included the incorrect location.

A photo of the Walhalla Light & Power Company has been located. It is not on Brown's Lake as thought but on the waters of Cane Creek in West Union, Oconee Co., SC. This photo was located by Leslie White Hagerty former *Director/Curator* of the Oconee History Museum. Thanks Leslie.



### WALHALLA'S FIRST ELECTRICITY SOURCE

From the Keowee Courier April 7, 1993 Page 7

The **McMahan Dam**, located two miles southeast of West Union, began furnishing electricity to the Town of Walhalla in 1914 for \$1,200.00 per year. It was built by **Dr. J. W. Bell** and **Capt. W. A. Strother**. (Photo courtesy of Lib Darby).

From the Keowee Courier Wed Jan 28, 1914, Page 8

**W. A. Strother** and **Dr. J. W. Bell**, promoters of an electrical plant have let to **Quartermus & McDonald** the contract to construct a dam at the **Old Rhett Shoals** for the purpose of generating electricity for power to be used by the **Oil Mills at Seneca and West Union**. The dam will be about 125 feet in length, 15 feet high, 12 feet thick at the base and 2 feet in thickness at the top. Work is to begin at the earliest possible moment after material has been laid down, orders for same having already been placed by **Quartermus & McDonald**.

From: **ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING** March 1914, page 151 Walhalla

The **Walhalla Light & Power Company** has plans for a concrete dam and four miles of transmission system to furnish light and power to Walhalla, West Union and Seneca. **J. L. Linier** of Walhalla is engineer. **WEST UNION**. It is understood that a hydro-electric plant is to be constructed at **Rhett Shoals** on Big Cane Creek, two miles below West Union. **W. A. Strothers** and **J. W. Bell** of Walhalla are interested.

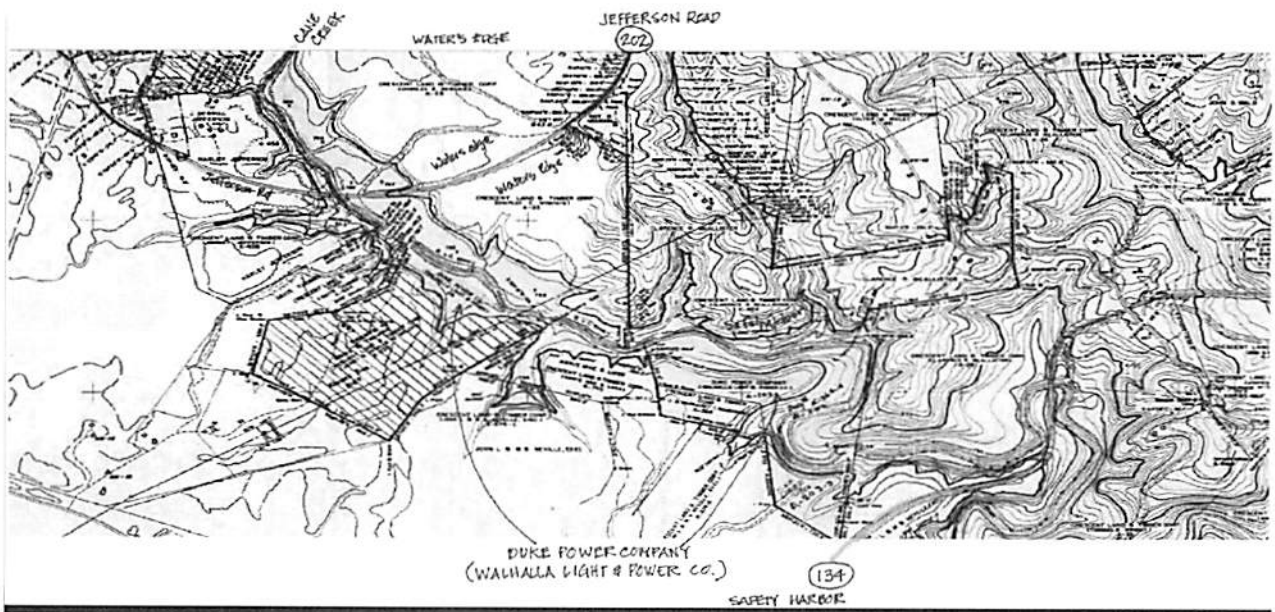
It is questionable that this was the first electrical source. From the book, "*Old Walhalla*" by Charles Sloan Reid page 176: The power plant owned and operated by **R. C. Carter, Sr.**, and **W. F. Hughs** gave good service for several years prior to the town putting in a light system from the **Captain W. A. Strother** and **Dr. J. W. Bell** electric power plant, which was constructed on Cane Creek in 1914.

**Electric Lights**-On February 10, 1914, **William A. Strother** and **Dr. J. W. Bell** obtained a charter from the Secretary of State under the corporate name of **Walhalla Light and Power Company**, with a capital stock of \$10,000.00. They acquired a tract of land on Cane Creek about two miles southeast of West Union on which they erected a dam and powerhouse for the generation of electric current. On June 5, 1914, the Town Council of Walhalla signed a contract for \$1,200.00 per year for lights. On January 19, 1929, **Walhalla Light and Power Company** sold to **Southern Public Utilities Company** and they sold, on April 4, 1935, to **Duke Power Company**, the present owner (March 1, 1950). During the fifteen years that Duke Power Company has owned the property, extensive additions and improvements have been made.

With the help of the Farm Plat Book & Business Guide: Oconee County, SC 1953 -**BLOCK J** at

Maps-Duke Power Company (circa 1965-1970) Sheet No. 05 at

[https://arcserver2.oconeesc.com/docs/K\\_Maps/KMap\\_05.pdf](https://arcserver2.oconeesc.com/docs/K_Maps/KMap_05.pdf) the estimated location can be found between Hwy 202 and Hwy 134 on Cane Creek.



A case against the dam by a member of the McMahan family was settled the year after the dam was constructed. The Amount of \$10,000.00 for punitive damages was requested, the jury rendered \$50.00. Until further research, it appears that this McMahan was **Jessie Robert McMahan** b. 1867 d. 1931, son of Jesse & Lucretia Caroline Barrett McMahan.

From the Keowee Courier Sept 15, 1915

**J. R. McMahan vs. Power Company**

In this case the opinion in full has not come to our view. The fact that the Supreme Court (South Carolina) affirms the Circuit Court in its judgment, however, means that the prior riparian rights of the respondent **McMahan** are held to have been restricted or abridged by the erection of a dam by the Power Company, whose property, recently developed for electrical transmission purpose, lies about three miles above the property of **McMahan**. The contention in this case was, by McMahan, that his mill interests were interfered with by reason of the upper development shutting off the water from his wheels during the day.

The contention of the Power Company was that their (the upper) riparian rights were not subject to those of McMahan, the lower owner; that he must make his development conform to more modern methods erecting a dam sufficient to impound the water, thus preserving his rights on the stream, instead of seeking to utilize only the natural flow thereof without impounding the water.

The Circuit Court held that the Power Company was liable to McMahan for damages so long as water was impounded to his inconvenience, and the Supreme Court affirms this decision.

**Mr. McMahan** was represented by **M. C. Long**, the Power Company by **R. T. Jaynes**.

A Final Decision was made 5 days before the Keowee Courier released the article:

Decision Date: Sept. 10, 1915 **J. R. McMahan** against the **Walhalla Light & Power Company** (No. 91910) Supreme Court of South Carolina. **R. T. Jaynes** of Walhalla for appellant. **Win. J. Stribling** and **M. C. Long**, both of Walhalla for respondent. This action was commenced on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1914, and is for damages, actual and punitive, in the sum of \$10,000.00, alleged to have been sustained by plaintiff. The jury rendered a verdict of plaintiff for \$50.00.

## Oconee History Museum-A valuable resource for researching Oconee families from the Old Pendleton District

Oconee History Museum is located in Walhalla, SC.



**O C O N E E  
HISTORY  
MUSEUM**

Oconee History Museum actively preserves and promotes the history and cultural heritage of Oconee County, South Carolina, through its museums, programs, and community outreach.

Explore the history of Native Americans, immigration, railroads, New Deal programs, textile mills, agriculture and much more as it relates to Oconee County. The exhibit hall offers a self-guided tour of Oconee's history. Popular exhibits include the dugout canoes that have been rescued and preserved by the museum, a walk-in Stumphouse Tunnel exhibit, and a Depression-era tenant farmer's House. The Louise Russell Alexander Children's Corner is a special part of the museum where children can explore Oconee's history in a fun environment.

### Genealogy & Local History Resources

Working on your family tree? Whether you are local or across the country we are here to help. Oconee History Museum staff is always working to make our collections more accessible. Please feel free to contact us with your local history and genealogical questions. We can provide research access to many out-of-print local history books and our archival collections.

**Many genealogical resources for Oconee County are available online! Some of those include:**

#### Maps

Historical Maps of South Carolina (University of Alabama)  
Historical Maps of South Carolina (University of South Carolina)  
Atlas of South Carolina (Pendleton District) by Robert Mills  
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Oconee County (Walhalla, Westminster, Seneca)  
South Carolina Department of Transportation Road Maps of Oconee County  
USDA Historical Soil Survey Map of Oconee County  
Lake Hartwell Project Maps from Oconee County GIS  
Lake Keowee Project Maps from Oconee County GIS  
1953 Oconee County SC "Farm Plat Book & Business Guide" (digital)

#### Deeds & Wills

#### Oconee Newspapers

#### Oconee Cemeteries

#### Oconee County Local History Books (digital)

Many local history books have fallen out of print, but thanks to digitization efforts by the Oconee County Public Library, several have been preserved and are available online.

Oconee History Museum has many local history books available to researchers. Since many are now out of print, we do not loan these titles out. We encourage researchers to call ahead and schedule an appointment to view any of these titles. Museum staff are happy to make copies of relevant pages for you. The following links will provide you with a list of titles available at Oconee History Museum in Walhalla, SC:

#### Access digital version of Remember When? by Jack Hunt

#### Indices of names appearing in Looking Back books by John Ashton Hester

#### Oconee County School Directories 1928-1968 (digital)

#### Hours & Locations

#### Oconee History Museum

*Walhalla, SC*

Tuesday thru Saturday

11:00am – 5:00pm

#### General Store Museum

*Westminster, SC*

Thursday & Friday

11:00am - 4:00pm

Saturday

11:00am - 2:30pm

*Admission is Free!*

*\$3 per person donation is encouraged*

864-638-2224

[info@oconeehistorymuseum.org](mailto:info@oconeehistorymuseum.org)

## Every Month the Museum offers History Events. Upcoming events at the Museum Include:

### **Saturday, April 13th** *An Introduction to Historic Costuming: Victorian Era* 2-3:30pm

Join historic seamstress **Liz Johnson** for an engaging lecture and demonstration on Victorian sewing techniques. Learn the essentials to kickstart your sewing adventure and gain insights into common pitfalls. We will examine reproduction garments and engage in discussions on various foundation garments for achieving accurate historic silhouettes. Unleash your creativity in this workshop blending history and craftsmanship.

Sewing experience is not required. Best for Adults and Teens ages 15 and up.

### **Saturday, April 20th** *Book Talk & Signing: My Place Among Them* 2pm

Join us as we welcome local author **Gwen McPhail** to share the story her great grandfather wrote. Books will be available for purchase. *My Place Among Them* by J. Stanion is a story of resilience and more as it follows the path of John Iron Horse, a twelve-year-old survivor of the massacre of members of the Lakota tribe at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, in 1890. John is thrown into a new world and a new system, including government run schools that indigenous tribes across the nation were forced to send their children to. The government's motto, "Kill the Indian, save the man," sums up what John will experience in his new life. Despite the adversity John faces, he excels as a student and catches the attention of teacher Carter Heath. The two build a bond over time that will be tested by government bureaucracy and politics. *My Place Among Them* includes the tragedy of love lost, a people's struggle to save their culture and the triumph of the human spirit against almost overwhelming odds.

### **Saturday, April 27th** *Plant Swap* 11am-12pm

Join us for a plant swap!

Bring garden plants, house plants, outdoor plants and swap them for some new ones. You can also bring gardening equipment, soil, fertilizers, or anything else garden related to give or swap.

## 20-year Celebration in the Works

The Museum will turn 20 Years Old on Oct. 4, 2024-Look for upcoming Events.

Do you have Oconee County Family History to Contribute? Your input is always welcome along with volunteer work.

**Volunteers** are essential to our operation. If you have special skills or interests, fill out the volunteer application on line at: <https://www.oconeehistorymuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Updated-Volunteer-Application.pdf>. Internships for course credit are also available.

**Volunteer Projects:** Housekeeping, Groundskeeping and Gardening, Docents/Tour Guides: Oconee History Museum and General Store Museum, Guest Services, Workshop Instructors, Advertising and Awareness, Archival Projects, Events and Program Staffing.

### **CURRENT NEWS:**

**Leslie Hagerty** announced in January that she was leaving her role as director and curator of the Museum after almost 15 years of service. She left for a new job as business manager at the Clemson University SC Botanical Gardens. Leslie was an incredible asset to Oconee County's History and brought people together to share that passion, interest, dedication and enthusiasm in the arts and historical community, in addition to providing direction, leadership and support. She was a wealth of knowledge for genealogy researchers and will be missed.



Assistant curator, **Jennifer Moss** who has worked with Leslie for the past 13 years is serving as the interim director/curator while the museum board of directors and the Oconee County Parks, Recreation and Tourism (PRT) Department and PRT director, **Phil Shirley**, work together to find Hagerty's successor. Those of us that know Jennifer, hope she might continue in that position.

**Nick Gambrell**, who has been a speaker for OPDC and featured in past OPD newsletters, was the former director and curator before Leslie served the position.

Available at the Museum-**FREE** Vegetable, fruit, herb, and flower seeds -March till October. The Betty B. Watkins Seeds Library is a resource provided for Oconee residents to obtain garden seeds for free. The BBW Seed Library was started in 2021 using donations made in memory of Betty B. Watkins to the Oconee Library. Mrs. Watkins was an avid gardener and a founding member of the Lazy Daisy Garden Club. During each growing season each person can take up to 10 packs from the collections. Each pack contains 2-10 seeds or a pinch for smaller seeds. In addition to the seeds, each person is given a growing guide that covers all the available seeds.



2024 Old Pendleton District Chapter Membership Form

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Do we have permission to publish the above information in our Member List published in December? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently a member of the South Carolina Genealogical Society (SCGS)? \_\_\_\_\_

SCGS Numbers are issued by the State and will be listed on your mailing label of the *Carolina Herald* (State publication)

Please check: \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Address Change

**Chapter dues cover the entire calendar year and are payable annually by the first of January. Non-payment drop date is March 1 of each year.**

( ) \$27.00 Individual Membership

( ) \$30.00 Family Membership – Two people at the same address

( ) \$20.00 Associate Membership – Must be a paid primary member in another chapter of the South Carolina Genealogical Society to qualify

Please print your name, address and category of membership desired and enclose a check for the proper amount made out to Old Pendleton District SCGS

**Please send dues, membership and address changes to:  
Old Pendleton Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 603, Central, SC 29630**

Surnames: \_\_\_\_\_

April 2024  
Old Pendleton District Chapter  
PO Box 603  
Central, SC 29630

Current Resident or  
PAUL KANKULA  
203 EAGLES LANDING LANE  
SENECA SC 29672

**Upcoming Events & Tentative Speakers**

April 16, 2024	Old Pendleton Meeting – Chris Hansen, Liberty History Museum
May 21. 2024	Old Pendleton Meeting – Josh Johnson of Agricultural Museum
May 31 – June 3, 2023	National Genealogical Society – Virtual
June 18, 2024	Visit to Old Stone Church followed by dinner.
July 12-13, 2024	South Carolina Genealogical Society Workshop in Columbia, SC
March 6-8, 2025	Roots Tech in Salt Lake City, Utah