

**Historical Events
Of Union County**

(Continued from page two)

enjoyed the old-time religion, and replaced it with towering steeples of which they are justly proud.

We are told that in ancient times Jonesville, like all other towns in its early history had rowdy amusements. But now, since the churches were coming into play, the evil gave away to the better.

Soon the First Methodist church was planned and in 1878 was erected. With T. L. Hames, W. H. S. Harris and Josiah Foster as stewards, and Rev. J. B. Wilson as pastor, this building was small, having a seating capacity of about three hundred, this being used about thirty-six years, when the congregation and Pastor Cood decided to honor the Lord with a new house of worship, so they replaced it with an up-to-date brick building.

The First Presbyterian church was erected a few years later and its beloved pastor, Rev. A. A. Jones served almost as long as the church. He died one year before the small, but faithful congregation decided to give unto the Lord a new house of worship, which is a credit to them.

The negroes have two neat churches in this town.

Jonesville's first school-house was located on the Baptist church lot, it being a very crude structure, with a seating capacity of about twenty-five, it was stripped up with rough plank; left unceiled or plastered, small stove flue in middle of top. Sam Bagwell being the first teacher of this house of learning. After a number of educators had instructed in this insignificant room, their pupils grew to be men and women that had learned the necessity of better educational facilities, so they built a large two-story wooden building on the Methodist church lot, which was used for twenty years, when it was burned, but as soon as arrangements could be made a large, up-to-date brick structure was under way, which when completed added much to Jonesville's interest, and now the mill village has a well attended school.

In 1897 R. A. Whitlock organized a knitting mill, also a modern ginnyery plant, which was a great asset to the business side of the town.

About three years later J. J. Littlejohn organized the Jonesville Manufacturing Co. which also has been a great advantage to the commercial interest of the town. The McWhirter ginnyery as well since cotton raising is an important feature of that section, although corn, peas, potatoes and hogs have the upper-most place in Jonesville farmers' minds, as well as most others these war times.

It is said the quinces of antebellum times were most abundant in this section, but now all sorts of fruits and vegetables from coon collards to the finest nursery fruit grows luxuriantly here.

The first appearance of any municipal organization was formed in 1878. The government was vested in a town council, four aldermen and intendant, often called Mayor, Gen. B. B. Foster being their first intendant.

Here the excellence of the characters of the Confederate soldiers is attested by a beautiful monument to their memory, by John Hames U. D. C., erected in 1907, in the center of the street near Hotel Jonesville. On this towering shaft are contributed the appropriate words:

The arms are stacked,
The flags are furled,
The sound of battle no longer falls
But our soldiers showed to a waiting world
How to answer when duty calls.

This chapter was organized with Mrs. J. L. McWhirter president and twenty-six charter members. Since their organization they have done noble work, they have contributed liberally of their brave sons to this world-wide struggle, of these patriotic women's sons the Jonesville Coast Artillery was formed about three years ago, with T. M. Ellerbe as captain. These women were more heroic than the old Quaker woman said in time of farmers wars. "Why were men so foolish and even wicked as to go to war and kill one another, if they would only be let alone, they would die of themselves.

But now their arms they have shouldered
The flags are unfurled
The sounds of battle these days doth fall
And now our soldiers are showing to a waiting world
How to answer when their duty calls.

COL. JOSEPH GIST
(By Mrs. Julia Rainey Farr, read by Mrs. Agnes Rice Peake.)

Joseph Gist was born 12th of January, 1775 near the mouth of Fair Forest river, in Union District. He was thirteen years of age when he removed to Charleston, where he went to school. He finally graduated in

the Charleston College, of which Bishop Smith was the president. He studied law with that eminent attorney, Robert Harper. After his admission to the bar, in 1799 he came to the country and was married in the year 1800, to Sarah S. McDaniel and located himself at Pinckneyville, which was originally a point designated for the Circuit Court for Pinckney District, consisting then of Union, Spartanburg, York and Chester, and although the court was soon abolished, and courts established for each of the counties, which were afterwards called Districts, yet the central character of the location made it a very desirable location, one for the practice of the law.

Col. Gist served as the representative of Union eighteen years in the House. He participated largely in the passage of the general suffrage bill. He was the leading member of the upper country. Indeed, when I first saw the House of Representatives, in 1811 I think he and Caleb Clark, Esq., were the only lawyers who were members above Columbia. I remember his speech for Judge Grinke, and his note against the impeachment. This was an unpopular note in the upper country, and especially in Union, but I never heard that it had the slightest effect against Col. Gist. How he got the title of Colonel was an aide to one of the governors, when such an appointment was some distinction. In December 1809, he was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina College and was continued by successive elections until he either declined, in 1821, or had been elected to Congress. My recollection is he was elected to that body in 1820, and took his seat in 1821. If this be so, he was a member of the House of Representatives from 1802.

He was six years in Congress, and in consequence of ill health declined any further service. He died on the 8th of March, 1836 in the 61st year of his age, leaving his widow and an only son John, surviving him. His son, William died before him. His son John, after a short life of benevolence and usefulness, also died suddenly, leaving no children. His widow, Sarah, and his mother, still survive him.

Joseph Gist, as a lawyer, had the singular good fortune to have a large practice, almost from his beginning, and to retain it to the last. His services were so much desired that they were often sought by both parties. An incident of two men of wealth and standing in adjoining districts after a hard run, meeting at his gate to employ him in an important case is remembered by his brother. This is not wonderful for he was indeed the lawyer of the four districts in which he practiced. His influence with the juries was almost irresistible, and was very great with the judges. He was a good lawyer, and understood the few books of his day, and applied them well. His style of argument was plain and clear. In the House of Representatives he was listened to with great attention. His speeches were short and to the point. He was a man or business and discharged a great deal of duty on the different committees. In 1815 he could have been elected a judge, but declined the office, and placed in nomination a gentleman, then little known, Daniel Johnson, and by his influence elected him. This was evidence of his high and just appreciation of an associate. For no man in the State ever filled the judicial office with more honor to himself and benefit to the people, than David Johnson. Col. Gist took pleasure in advancing the interests of young lawyers. Of those who studied with him, and they were many all experienced in a greater or less degree, his kindness, many of them were his partners. Of that number, Nathaniel R. Graves, Esq., of Chester.

I had occasion more than once to experience his favorable notice. In 1819, he caused me to be employed in the great equity case of Reid vs. Norman, and in 1820 induced his friend, Col. Chalmers to employ me in the contested election for St. Andrews between Colonel Cattell and himself. It was a fine trait in his character. That he envied no one in the race for legal distinction. He was a member of the Baptist church for several years before his death, and adorned his profession by a talk and conversation which showed to all men that "he had passed from death unto life." I regret that this notice of a great and good lawyer, and of a useful, good man, should be so meager, but few memorials of the past are kept by relatives and friends. The dead are mourned for a time and then their lives (with a few prominent incidents excepted) are forgotten. The only records, especially in the country, are the short inscriptions on the stones placed over their graves. This is sad! but it is the fulfillment of the Scripture, that "the place that knew them, shall know them no more forever." Page 219 of the Biographical Sketches of the Bench and Bar of South Carolina, by John Belton O'Neal, L. L. D.

KELTON
(By Mrs. Mary Hunter Young)

For much information in this paper I am indebted to Mr. Joe Chambers, Mrs. B. G. Clifford, Miss Eliza Garner and others.

About ten miles northeast of Union, in the Pea Ridge section of this county is the village of Kelton.

Formerly this was the poorest part of the county—and was called Pea Ridge in derision.

In the year 1845, which was known as the "dry year" so little rain fell that crops were a failure, but an abundant crop of peas was made in this section, and it has been called Pea Ridge ever since.

For many years Kelton and the entire Pea Ridge country was rough and wild. The men would collect in crowds at certain places, run horse races, gamble and invariably wind up with several fist fights. A well known minister once said that whenever he went to Pea Ridge to fill an appointment he expected to be invited to join in a horse race or engage in a fight before getting away. There is a wonderful geological rock-formation at Kelton, which covers about 2 acres, and is known as Bald Rock.

This little village has about a dozen residences a few stores a nice school building, and several churches the oldest of which is Flat Rock Methodist church, which was built soon after the Revolution. The original structure was of rough hewn logs, the boards covering the roof were rived in the near-by woods and hung on the roof by wooden pegs made by hand—it was almost impossible then to get nails.

About 1861 this old log house was torn down and in its place was erected a neat frame building, principally by the efforts and generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Foster, who were affectionately referred to by their neighbors and friends as Uncle Si and Aunt Sibbie—these two good people were also the moving spirits in building another of Kelton's best churches—Foster's Chapel, a splendid brick structure—Bethlehem is also of the Methodist persuasion—it was burned about 2 years ago, but was immediately rebuilt. Mt. Joy is a flourishing Baptist church. It is said that once after a heated discussion or church fuss at Mt. Joy, a devout old deacon sitting high in the Amen corner, took up his hat and walking stick and announced to the congregation that he was going to do for that church what the devil had never done, leave it and hobbled down the aisle and out of the door. For many years camp meetings were held at Flat Rock every summer after the crops were laid by—the preaching was done under a large tent and many families would come miles and occupy tents during the meetings. It was a custom to blow a trumpet after the dinner intermission to recall the congregation to the tent for other services. There are two churches for colored people at Kelton that are a credit to the race—good frame buildings neatly painted—Bethel Baptist church had its beginning under a brush arbor on Mr. D. M. Going's plantation.

Ebenezer is a Methodist church and for many years Jackson Foster, a worthy colored preacher directed the spiritual life of this congregation.

In a little grave yard about 2 miles from Kelton is buried the Revolutionary soldier Ellis Fowler, the Fair Forest chapter has secured a government marker for his grave but it has not yet arrived—Ellis Fowler was 1st Lieutenant in Capt. Chas. Sims' Co., of Pickens Command—their commissions were issued them by Patrick Henry when he was Governor of Virginia—and Lieutenant Fowler was mustered into service at Albermarle, C. H., Va., in 1777, when only 17 years old. The will of Ellis Fowler is on record in the Probate Judge's office at Union and bears date Feb. 22nd, 1808. After Capt. Sims was captured and imprisoned by the Tories Fowler was made Captain of the Company and it fell to his lot to accompany Mrs. Sims back to her home in Virginia.

Wm. and Chas. Gault, two soldiers of the war of 1812 are buried at Flat Rock church at Kelton. Government markers have been secured for these two graves and were erected by a descendant, Geo. T. Gault about one year ago. Williams Gault was called "Drummer Gault." The Pea Ridge Volunteers was formed by voluntary enlistment Jan. 5th, 1861 with 99 men and the following officers: Capt. W. I. T. Glenn, 1st Lieut. Chas. W. Scott, 2nd Lieut. Anthony Haney, 3rd Lieut. Ed. J. McKissick, Orderly Sergeant Jas. B. Steadman of Union. This company was well drilled at the old muster ground at Gault's Spring and had reached a high state of efficiency when it was mustered into service, being attached to the 5th Regiment South Carolina Volunteers.

A modern graded school now stands on the site of this old muster ground. Aunt Judy Griffin a famous cake maker of those times, would always come on muster days with a wagon load of ginger cakes to sell to the men. The flag of the Pea Ridge Volunteers was placed in our Carnegie Library in 1904, a gift of Mrs. I. G.

Union Service At Buffalo!

DR. A. H. CLAFLIN
Representing the Anti-Saloon League of America, will deliver an address

AT BUFFALO, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20th
At 7:30 O'clock
At Baptist Church

The congregations of the Methodist and Baptist Church will unite in this service.

DR. CLAFLIN
is a great leader in the cause of Temperance. He has a strong message for you.

Come, Hear Him Wednesday Evening
No Charges For Admission

McKissick—this bag had been a treasured relic of her son, the late Ed. P. McKissick, who prized it especially because it had covered the body of his uncle, Lieut. Ed. J. McKissick, when it was sent home from the battle of Seven Pines. There is also in the Library a famous scrap of the battle flag of the 5th Regiment. This flag was not surrendered at Appamattox, C. H., but was cut in pieces the night before Lee's surrender by some of the men who gathered themselves together in a fence corner—cut up the flag with their knives and divided the small pieces among themselves. This scrap was brought home after the war and carefully preserved by Thos. N. Kelly of the Pea Ridge Volunteers—his widow giving it to Mrs. Clifford, some time after his death.

It was at Kelton in 1861 that Prof. Low landed in a balloon, having started at Cincinnati—the day before some of the folks took him for Northern spy, while other thought he was an embassy of the devil, great excitement prevailed, and he was about to be killed when he gave the Masonic sign for help and protection—immediately several Masons went to his relief, and brought him to Union, where he hurriedly took a train for his northern home.

Kelton enjoys an enviable and unique position because the first woman suffragist in South Carolina hails from her borders—for more than 30 years she has espoused the cause of woman and ably fought for her rights and she is to be congratulated that she lives to see the success of her efforts—I refer to the brilliant and esteemed Miss Eliza Garner.

Speaking of Russia's peace, the kaiser says "it's a moment when we may admire the hand of God." At other moments, Bill is probably displeased with God.—Chattanooga News.

The rich profiteer and the striking worker are two of a kind.—Wilmington Star.

Let Us Grind Your Corn

We have installed one of the largest and best corn mills in the county and are now prepared to grind your corn at any time. We guarantee to give you the best service possible. We have a large rock mill driven by a thirty-five horse power motor. Mr. W. W. Cooper will be in charge of our mill and has the reputation of being one of the best millers in the State. We will make every effort to please you, and ask you to give us a chance to demonstrate to you what we can do. After giving us a trial we feel sure that you will become one of our regular customers.

We will also buy your corn, pay cash, and give you the market price. Any one having a quantity of corn to be ground at one time, we can make special arrangements with you. Our mill is located in the rear of the C. E. Lipscomb building near our store.

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