

NAME OF TOWN

When the Charlotte, Columbia and Augusta Railroad (now Southern Ry) was built, probably in the 1850's, the town was named "DOKO". This name continued until about 1877, when changed to Blythewood.

This area at that time had many beautiful stands of original long leaf pine trees, and tradition has it that the name Blythewood denotes "Beautiful Woods"

When the railroad was built, a water tank was erected at Doko to supply water to its steam locomotives. Tradition tells us that the first pumper was a man who drove a "BULL" around a revolving turn-stile affair to pump the water into the water tank. For a number of years Doko and Blythewood was nicknamed "Bull Power", even to this day it is still so called by the older railway employees. The railway maintained a water tank in service until discontinuance of the steam locomotive, when change over to the Diesel engine completed.

The first locomotives on the CC&A Rwy were of the wood burning types. Reliable information informs us that a wood supply facility was erected 2 miles north of Doko at a siding named "BONEY", at which trains could stop and replenish their wood supply on engines.

Painted on the inside wall of the Blythewood Depot was the wording, "DOKO" opened 1870" This depot remained in service until it was closed on June 30, 1968. It was torn down and removed short time later.

~~From~~ During the Civil war years, the Bookhart family operated a finishing school for young women at Blythewood. This school consisted of 3 buildings, located just east of Sandy Level Church, across the road from the present Blythewood Community Center. One of these buildings burned about 1920 and one about 1925. The Bookhart family was very influential in the community and large land owners.

Records in Sandy Level Minutes indicate that on the first Sunday in August 1864 30 to 33 young women from the "Blythewood Institute" united with the church. Penciled notations noted their home towns as Rome, Ga., Marion, Kingstree, Wedgefield, Hopkins, Ridgeway, KY. etc.

I believe a more complete report of the school might be obtained by contacting Mr. William Bookhart, Elloree, S.C. His father Dr. Tom Bookhart moved from this area to Elloree somewhere around 1910 to 1915.

It would be interesting to trace the origin of the name "DOKO".

H. B. McLean, Sr
April 7, 1975