

# MINUTES OF SESSION

*From the most authentic information, Bethel Church, Pickens District South Carolina was organized in the year of our Lord, Anno Domini 1805. The first House of worship was a rough round log House. The first Pastor, Rev. Andrew Brown. The Elders, Gen. Andrew Pickens, Nathan Lusk, Robert White, subsequently a hewed log House was erected. The families composing the congregation were as follows: viz; on Little River, John McWhorter (School Master), Nathan & Henry Lusk, Alexander Keown, John Hughes & Andrew Pickens, Oconee Creek were Thomas Lesly & Francis Jinkens, on Cane Creek Patrick, Andrew, Alexander & John White, James Anderson, Oliver Woods, John McWhorter (Black Smith), John & Josiah Houston, Jesse Neville and Mrs. Ware, and on Conneross Arthur McDow and Abner Steele.*

*in the year 1812 Rev And. Brown commences teaching at Mount Pleasant Academy and taught three or four years, a few year after quite a number of the families composing the congregation immigrated to Alabama, a long interval now ensued which we have no account, as the Church Book has been lost. We again commence at about 1846 or 7, when a new framed house was erected and Rev J. L. Kennedy preached as Stated Supply, at this time, the Ruling Elders were John Todd, Joseph Burnett.*

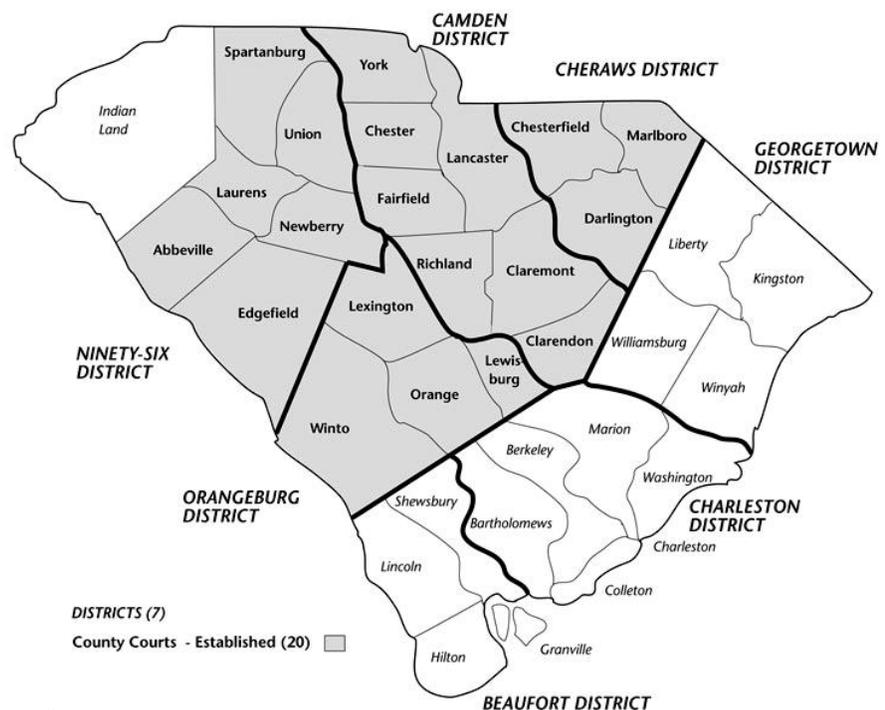
## *From the most authentic information...*

It had been fifty years since the founding of Bethel Church when Samuel McFall wrote those words. All of the founding members were now deceased, the last being John McWhorter (*blacksmith*), who died two months earlier on February 19, 1855. The church book had been lost. The accounts of those first years and the families involved had been passed down through an oral tradition. The account we have of the founding families in 1805 comes “from the most authentic information” available at the time of Samuel McFall’s writing on April 22, 1855, from those who had heard the old stories.

## *Bethel Church, Pickens District, South Carolina...*

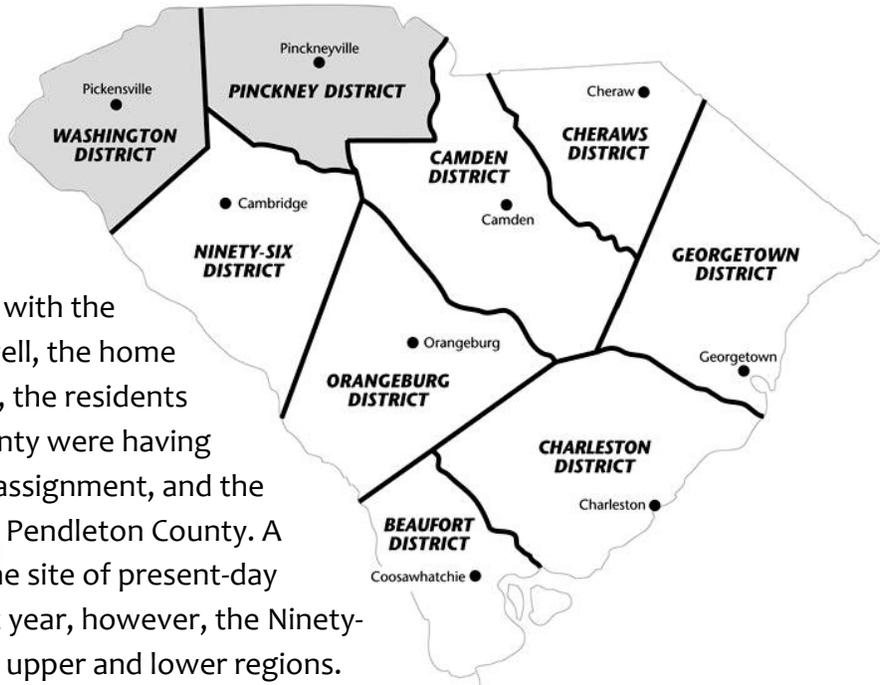
Prior to 1768, the only court held in South Carolina was held at the City of Charleston. In 1768, however, South Carolina was divided into six judicial districts, with courts to be held in each. What is now Oconee County was in the Ninety-Six District. At the end of the Revolutionary War, all of present-day Greenville, Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties were Cherokee land. There was some white settlement in this area, and forts had been erected in various places to protect the settlers. The judicial set-up in South Carolina became quite fluid from this time until 1868. A law passed in 1783 recommended the division of the judicial districts into counties of not more than forty square miles, with each county to have its own courts. This was accomplished by 1785, with the Ninety-Six District being further subdivided into Abbeville, Edgefield, Newberry, Laurens, Union and Spartanburg counties. The lands of present-day Oconee County were temporarily attached to the adjoin counties of Laurens, Abbeville, and Spartanburg.

## SC Counties 1785



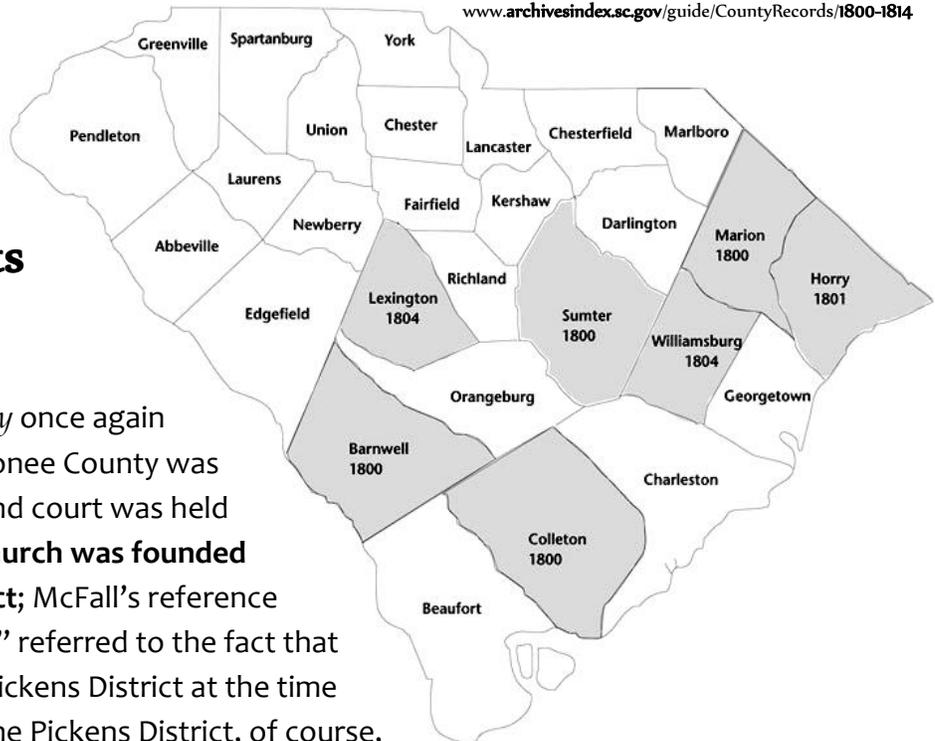
## SC Districts 1791-1799

In 1785, a treaty was signed with the Cherokee Indians at Hopewell, the home of Andrew Pickens. By 1789, the residents of present-day Oconee County were having difficulty with their judicial assignment, and the area was separated off into Pendleton County. A courthouse was set up at the site of present-day Pendleton in 1790. The next year, however, the Ninety-Six District was divided into upper and lower regions. The upper region, composed of Pendleton County and Greenville County, was named the **Washington District**; a district courthouse was established at Pickensville near the present-day town of Easley.



## SC Districts 1800-1814

In 1800 the name *county* once again changed to *district*; Oconee County was in Pendleton District, and court was held in Pendleton. **Bethel Church was founded in the Pendleton District**; McFall's reference to the "Pickens District" referred to the fact that the church was in the Pickens District at the time of his writing in 1855. The Pickens District, of course, was formed in 1826 from the Pendleton District.



### *organized in the year of our Lord, 1805...*

“Reverend Andrew Brown had been settled over Bethlehem and Cane Creek churches on the 18th of July 1799. They had been gathered by him while a licentiate. On the 12th of September 1803, he obtained leave from his pastoral relations to these churches to travel beyond the bounds of the Presbytery. His absence could not have been long, however, for we find him present regularly at Presbytery meetings and he continued preaching to these same churches as a stated supply. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 1805, he reported Bethel as a new church organized by him, which sends up its contribution for ecclesiastical purposes.” (Howe II: 151)

### *The first House of Worship...*

According to George Howe, Reverends Andrew Brown and J. Newton were directed to labor on the frontier of South Carolina Presbytery two months, the former in South Carolina, the latter in Georgia, at \$16.66 per month. In 1797 we find that Mr. Brown was called to Bethlehem and Philadelphia Churches on Cane Creek. The organization of Bethlehem and Philadelphia (or Ebenezer) was effected after the last treaty General Pickens made with the Indians at Hopewell. These churches were evidently the fore-runners of both Ebenezer and Bethel of later date. Reverend Andrew Brown was pastor of both in 1799, but Philadelphia (or Ebenezer) was dropped from the roll of Presbytery that year, and we find no further reference to either Church (Howe I: 641). “Tradition says a forest fire destroyed both churches in 1800, and that Bethel was organized later and built on the site of an old church; and there stands, as evidence the four corner-stones of an old church one-half mile north of the present Ebenezer Church. These churches were built on Indian land, in the fork of Tugaloo River, on Cane Creek and in another place near the Keowee. Both were built on or near the Indian trail leading from Tamassee to Ninety-Six, and equal distance from Cane Creek and Keowee River.” (John W. Shelor, *Richland Church*, 5)

### *The first Pastor, Rev. Andrew Brown...*

“The Reverend Andrew Brown was from Pendleton District, South Carolina, and settled at Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in January 1820. Brown was the first [Presbyterian minister] to preach to wanderers scattered up and down in that wilderness. In 1820 he organized the Bethel Church in Tuscaloosa. In 1821 he organized the New Hope Church in Greene County, Alabama, and in 1823 he organized the Lebanon Church in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. In January 1822, he moved to Mesopotamia, still preaching at most of the churches he had already organized, and here, in the fall of 1823, he called on the Reverends James Hillhouse and Joseph P. Cunningham to assist in organizing the church in Mesopotamia.

“The day for that purpose being set, he went to Marion, Perry County, to attend a meeting of the Presbytery. He died after an illness of five days, near Marion, on the 8th of October 1823, only four days after the adjournment of the Presbytery of Alabama. He died at the house of Jonathan Penroy, a worthy member of the Baptist Church, and was buried in the graveyard at Marion, where the Presbytery had held its sessions. A pious mother in Israel, a Mrs. Munford, erected a monument over his grave.” (Howe II: 157)

### *The Elders, Gen. Andrew Pickens, Nathan Lusk, Rott White...*

General Andrew Pickens had been a ruling elder at Upper Long Cane Presbyterian Church (Abbeville), at Hopewell-Keowee (Pendleton), and now Bethel. “Esquire [Nathan] Lusk was one of the first elders at Good Hope Presbyterian Church [Iva]. He was well acquainted with the doctrines and polity of the Presbyterian Church, a man of prayer and exemplary in all his conduct. He with several others from this church moved to the [Pendleton] District and formed a portion of the Bethel Church.” (Howe II: 148) Robert White had been a ruling elder previously at Roberts Presbyterian Church (Anderson).

### *on Little River, John McWhorter (School Master)...*

David McWhirter [McWhorter] married Mary Poston on March 31, 1766, in St. James Episcopal Church, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. David was a blacksmith. In 1769 David and Mary moved to Rutherford County, North Carolina, where they lived until 1775 before they moved to South Carolina, settling on Hurricane Creek in Abbeville County. Two of their children were founding families of Bethel Church. Their oldest son, John, also a blacksmith, settled on Oconee Creek and married Elizabeth Willson. Their daughter, Mary, married John McWhorter (school master), the son of Moses Allen McWhorter (Bryan Aldridge, 179 Granny Squirrel Road, Robbinsville, NC 28771).

### *on Little River, Nathan & Henry Lusk...*

“**Joseph Lusk** was born about 1654 in the Ulster Province of Ireland. He lived there all his life; he died in 1722 and is buried there. His son **John Joseph Lusk** was born in 1671 in the Ulster Province of Ireland. John Joseph and his wife, **Elizabeth Hayes**, migrated to America with five sons, including **Nathan Lusk**. They settled in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and were living there as early as 1730, the same year Joseph Lusk died.

“This Nathan Lusk settled in Augusta County, Virginia, and married Elizabeth Nevitt. They were the parents of James, Agnes (m. Matthew Young), and John. James Lusk, son of Nathan Lusk and Elizabeth Nevitt, married Eleanor Smith. James Lusk was killed by Indians on September 19, 1786, at Butchers Ford on the Keowee River in the Ninety-Six District of South Carolina. Eleanor died November 5, 1804, in the Abbeville District of South Carolina. Two of their sons were founding families of Bethel Church.

“**Nathan Lusk**, born 1740 in Augusta County, Virginia, and his son, Adjutant James, served in the Revolutionary War with Andrew Pickens. The monument in front of the church lists the names of the first Elders; among them is Nathan Lusk, a great-grandson of the first Nathan Lusk who immigrated to America and settled in Virginia. Nathan built a log house in 1820 which is included in the South Carolina “Inventory of Historic Places” in South Carolina’s Department of Archives and History.

“**Henry Lusk**, born February 27, 1750, in Augusta County, Virginia, also served in the Revolutionary War as a Quartermaster, Lieutenant and Adjutant. Henry served in the militia from 1780 to 1783. He was paid for the loss of a horse in 1780 by Captain Pickens for whom he served 273 days as a horseman and 25 days as a footman. In 1783 Henry married Eleanor McKiddy, and they raised twelve children. They emigrated to the Pendleton District in 1800, bringing their first eight children with them. Henry died at the age of sixty-two and was buried in the Old Henry Lusk Family Cemetery in Salem, Oconee County, South Carolina. Ellen lived until February 6, 1845, and was buried with Henry” ([www.rebelwithaclue.com](http://www.rebelwithaclue.com), December 2011).

### *on Little River, Alexander Keown...*

Thomas Keown and James Alexander Keown were brothers, and so far as it is known were born about 1740 and 1744, respectively. Their place of birth is believed to be the County of Down in the Province of Ulster, Ireland. It is the opinion of others that they were born in Scotland and were members of that large class or element of Irish Society, in the Province of Ulster, known as Dissenters and Presbyterians.

Thomas Keown and James Alexander Keown were both in their thirties when they immigrated to America. Both had obtained a good education, and each had learned the trade of weaver. They, like others, came at their own expense, and consisted of persons employed in the linen manufacture. As farmers in Ireland they were in possession of some property, which they converted into money and brought with them. Thomas and James Alexander Keown, each, after his arrival at Charleston, took up residence there for a time, but eventually moved further inland.

It was about 1770 that **Thomas Keown** and his wife, Polly Caldwell, immigrants from Ireland, landed at Charleston, South Carolina. Thomas and his family moved to the Abbeville District and settled in an area called Ninety-Six, on the upper waters of the Savannah River. James Alexander Keown, younger and unmarried, came afterward.

Three years after the death of his first wife, Polly, Thomas Keown married Elizabeth Young in Abbeville. Elizabeth was the daughter of Agnes Lusk and Matthew Young Sr. Agnes was the daughter of Nathan Lusk and Elizabeth Nevitt. Thomas and Elizabeth had eleven children. The family, or that part of it which had not established homes for themselves in South Carolina and Georgia, moved to Kentucky and settled in Warren County nine miles north of Bowling Green, in the Green River country where he died.

**James Alexander Keown**, younger brother to Thomas Keown, married Margaret Peggy Daniels, a recent immigrant from County Down Ireland. They settled on McKinley's Creek in Abbeville County, where James died in 1816 at the age of seventy-two in the home of his son, Robert, who had succeeded to the ownership of the old homestead. His wife, Peggy, died there in 1800. They had five children, including Alexander Keown.

**Alexander Keown**, son of James Alexander Keown and Peggy Daniels, married Miss Elizabeth Puthuff, whose mother, Mary Walker, was Cherokee. Elizabeth was born about 1790 on James Island, South Carolina. Her parents died on James Island and she was adopted by the family of Nathan Lusk. After the founding of Bethel Church in 1805, Alexander and Elizabeth had by 1810 removed to the Abbeville District.

### *on Little River, John Hughes...*

Both Captain John Hughes and his brother, Colonel Joseph Hughes, were born in what is now Chester County, South Carolina. Their parents, Thomas Hughes and Martha Ann Jolly, had removed there temporarily from a region of Union County on account of Indian troubles. The brothers married sisters named Brown who were lineal descend-ants of the royal house of Stuart, of England. Captain John emigrated to Greene County, Alabama, in 1820 from Bethel Church, Pendleton District, South Carolina. Colonel Joseph Hughes (d. Sept 4, 1834) followed in 1825, coming from Union District, South Carolina. John is next recorded in the 1830 Census for Pickens County, Alabama, where he died.

### *on Little River, Andrew Pickens...*

“Andrew Pickens, soldier and statesman, and Presbyterian by faith, was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, on September 19, 1739. His parents, who were of Huguenot descent, removed in 1750 to the Waxhaw Settlement in Lancaster County, South Carolina. The young Andrew Pickens volunteered to serve in Colonel James Grant's expedition against the Cherokees in April 1761, after which he removed to the Long Canes settlement in Abbeville with the Calhoun families.



“At the beginning of the War he was made a captain of militia, and rose rapidly to the rank of brigadier-general. He kept the field at the head of a partisan corps after the state had been overrun by the British, and in February 1779, with 400 men, he defeated a party of 700 under Colonel Boyd at Kettle Creek. His horse was killed under him while he was covering the retreat at the battle of Stone, 20 June 1779. That same year Pickens inflicted a defeat on the Cherokees at Tamassee. At the battle of Cowpens, 17 January 1781, he commanded the militia, which he rallied and brought a second time into action after the ranks had been broken and compelled to retreat, for which service Congress gave him a sword. He next invested the British forts at Augusta, Georgia, which surrendered after a two weeks' siege. After participating in the unsuccessful campaign of Ninety-Six under General Nathaniel Greene, Pickens followed the retreating enemy toward the coast and participated in the battle of Eutaw Springs, where he led a brigade of Carolina militia and was struck by a bullet which, but for the buckle of his sword belt, would have inflicted a mortal wound.

“From the close of the war until 1794 he was a member of the South Carolina legislature, and also elected to Congress, serving from December 2, 1793, till March 3, 1795. He was a member of the State Constitutional Convention, was made major general of militia in 1795, and served in the legislature in 1801 and 1812. He was a commissioner in many treaties with the Indians, and by that of Hopewell, obtained from the Cherokees the part of South Carolina known currently as Pendleton and Greenville.

“General Pickens built his final home, the Red House, at Tamassee in 1794. Since travel was difficult between Tamassee and the Old Stone Church, Pickens and several other families founded a new house of worship, Bethel Church, in 1805.

“Pickens resided at Tamassee for twenty-three years until his death on August 11, 1817. Tradition informs us that he died in his chair under one of the large cedars in his yard in the seventy-eighth year of his age” (Colonel Robert Thompson, Historical Sketch of Bethel Church, *Keowee Courier*, Aug 1905).

**“General Andrew Pickens  
was born  
13th September, 1739,  
and died  
11th August, 1817.  
He was Christian,  
a Patriot & Solider.  
His character and actions are  
incorporated with the  
history of his country.  
Final affection and respect  
raise this stone to  
his memory.”**

Tombstone inscription for Pickens located in  
the Old Stone Church Cemetery

### *on Oconee Creek, Thomas Lesly...*

Thomas Lesly fought in the Revolutionary War serving with Lieutenant Moses Liddell in Captain Andrew Pickens' Company. He served twice in the South Carolina militia, a Patriot force (June 1777 till June 1778 and again December 1780 till July 1782). Lesly fought at Cowpens, Kings Mountain and other battles including the Siege of Abbeville. After his discharge, he married Mary Harris. In 1785, he moved about forty miles to the Pendleton District, South Carolina, where most of their children were born. In 1819, he moved with his family from the Pendleton District, South Carolina, over the mountains about one hundred miles to Tellico Plains, Tennessee, on property that was located in both McMinn and Monroe counties.

### *on Oconee Creek, Francis Jinkens...*

The Jenkins family is Welsh in origin and has a long history in America. During the late 1600s or early 1700s, Jenkins ancestors settled in Maryland, where, during colonial times, they were tobacco planters. Later generations were farmers in the mountainous regions of western South Carolina and northern Georgia during the early years of the Republic. On September 5, 1801, John Gibson sold 167½ acres of land in Pendleton District, South Carolina, to Francis Jinkens. The land was described as being "where Jenkins now lives on the South fork of Beaverdam of Tugaloo River, part of the tract granted to Samuel Watt by Charles Pinckney." Francis Jinkens had a brother named James and had a wife named Polly. He later conveyed land on the Oconee Creek of the Little River to a man named John Sharp Jr.

### *on Cane Creek, Patrick, Andrew, Alexander & John White...*

The various White families most likely emigrated to the Long Canes Settlement with the Calhoun families and Andrew Pickens. Patrick, Andrew, Alexander Sr., and John White all received land grants in Granville County, South Carolina, in 1765 and afterwards. All four men also served in South Carolina militias.

In the 1790s, in the vicinity of Whitehall, south of Abbeville and Greenwood, Alexander Sr. and Andrew "helped organize a meeting house named Smyrna, which met without a regular session. The people elected Alexander White [Sr.] and Andrew White to the office of ruling elders, into which office they were inducted by ordination. Slowly these men, by deaths and removals, soon disappeared from among the people." (Howe II: 139) Andrew White died prior to 1798, as his will was probated on June 11, 1798, by Jane White, his widow. Both Alexander Sr. and Alexander Jr. had removed to the Pendleton District by 1799. The Smyrna Church struggled with its membership for many years before finally being reorganized and renamed.

The names **Patrick, Andrew, Alexander, and John White** occur together in the records three times. The earliest occurrence was the land records of Granville County. The next record was the 1800 Pendleton District Census (Anderson, Pickens and Oconee counties); and the third occurred in the summation of Bethel Church's beginning history as recorded in the minutes by Samuel McFall in 1855.

The 1800 Pendleton District Census (Anderson, Pickens and Oconee counties) actually recorded Alexander Sr., Alexander Jr., Patrick, John, and Andrew. The Andrew named here may be a junior given that Andrew Sr. had died previously in 1798. Before the 1810 census Patrick had removed to another state or died. In the 1820 census, only Alexander and John White remained. Andrew may have emigrated to Alabama with the Reverend Andrew Brown, as an 'Andrew White' was listed in an 1819 Alabama census.

Alexander White Jr. married Agnes Dewitt. The 1840 Pickens District Census recorded a male and female between the ages seventy and seventy-nine in the home; whereas the 1850 Census listed only Alexander as the oldest person in the household, then eighty-five years old. It has been passed down that they were both buried in unmarked graves in Bethel Church Cemetery, as were some of their children. Their daughter, Catherine DeWitt White, married John Sharp Jr., continuing the presence of this founding family's descendants in the church and into the next century.

### *on Cane Creek, James Anderson...*

John Anderson and his wife, Jean, came from Ireland to Philadelphia. In 1740 they settled in Augusta County, Virginia, bringing with them their three children. Their fifth child was Robert (Nov 5, 1741—Jan 9, 1813), who married Ann Thompson on November 6, 1765, before migrating to South Carolina where he then served with distinction to the rank of colonel under Andrew Pickens.

**James Anderson**, the seventh child of John and Jean Anderson, was born on March 16, 1747, in Augusta County, Virginia. On December 10, 1771, he married **Agnes Craig** (b. Mar 10, 1754—d. 1842 SC). James was one of four brothers who served during the War of Independence. The others were Robert, Andrew, and William.

James and Agnes had eleven children, seven daughters and four sons. In the late 1780s, they migrated with their family to the Pendleton District, South Carolina, where his brother, Colonel Robert Anderson, was already living. Captain James Anderson died on September 9, 1813. His wife, Agnes, lived for another thirty years (Dr. Richard Newman Brackett, ed., *The Old Stone Church*, pub. by the Old Stone Church and Cemetery Association [Columbia, SC: The R.L. Bryan Company], 157-58).

### *on Cane Creek, Oliver Woods...*

The Woods [or Wood] family made the same trek as many others from Virginia through Granville County, North Carolina, to York County, South Carolina. William Wood, along with his sons, Penuel, Bennett, William Jr., and John, were the patriarchs of the migrating Wood family.

Will Abstract for Wm. Woods, Jr. Wife: Margaret Woods. Sons: **Oliver Woods**, Robert Woods (b. 1772; m. Elizabeth Goff). Daughters: Jannet Woods, Ann Woods, Agnes Woods. Three youngest daughters: Martha Woods, Margaret Woods, Rachel Woods. Exor: Wife, Margaret Woods. Wits: Robert Dowdle, Sr., Robert Love, Samuel Given Dowdle. 13 Feb. 1804. Probate: 29 March 1814 [Bk. A. p. 163, Roll 772. Anderson Co, SC].

### *on Cane Creek, John McWhorter (Black Smith)...*

“John McWhorter, eldest child of David and Mary Posten McWhirter, was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on 30 October 1768. Like his father, he followed in the black-smith trade. In 1795, John moved to Cane Creek in the Abbeville District of South Carolina, where he married Miss Elizabeth Willson (called Anderson). Elizabeth was the third child of James Willson and his wife Martha Calhoun. She was five years of age when her father was killed at the Battle of Cowpens on 17 January 1781. Her mother was the daughter of James Calhoun Sr. and a first cousin of John C. Calhoun. Four years after the death of her husband, Martha Willson married William Anderson.

“The true facts of Elizabeth's real parentage have only recently come to light, through the research of a descendant, Shelly McWhorter Wright. At an unspecified date in their marriage, it was learned that William Anderson had a former wife, still living, from whom he had not been legally divorced, so Martha left him. In 1831 (at the age of eighty), she petitioned for reinstatement of pension as the lawful widow of James Willson. Her case was complicated by the fact that she applied for retroactive annuities covering a forty-year span (1785 – 1825), pleading a victim of duplicity and ill health, poverty and sufferance, as well as having been robbed by the Tories of her property and slaves. She was ultimately denied retroactive annuities, but then reinstated by approval of the State Legislature, House and Senate, for current annuities effective December 1824.

“**John and Elizabeth Willson McWhorter** settled on a land grant of one thousand acres at Pickens, in 1805. In that year, John became a charter member of historic Bethel Church. He subsequently became a ruling elder (1813) and Clerk of Session. Elizabeth died on 10 July 1840, and was buried in the church cemetery. John moved to Walker County, Georgia, following his wife's death, and died there on 19 February 1855. He was buried at Fairview Cemetery.” (George Turberville McWhorter Jr./Contributed by Tricia Pettitt)

### *on Cane Creek, John & Josiah Houston...*

Will Abstract of Thomas Houston: Wife: “dearly beloved wife” not named [Agnes Orr]. sons: Thomas, **Josiah and John**. Daughters: not mentioned. Exors: wife, not named, son Samuel Houston. Witnesses: William Woods, William Henry, John Hillhouse. All of the father’s property “lying in Pendleton County” was to be divided equally between three of his sons: Thomas, Josiah and John (26 April 1800. Probate: 14 Oct. 1800. Bk. A p. 12, Roll 318. Anderson Co., SC).

According to the Revolutionary War record filed as John Houston/Mary/S.C., John Houston was born April 10, 1760, in Ireland, fought as a substitute for his father in South Carolina, was wounded, taken prisoner, and then paroled. He married Mary Calhoun in the summer of 1788. Nineteen years after the war, around 1808, they moved from the Pendleton District, South Carolina, to Georgia. Mary was allowed pension in 1843 when she was seventy-five years old. They had a son named Samuel. Josiah purchased two properties, one in 1801 on the Keowee River and the other in 1813 on Conneross Creek. He had removed to Fayette County, Georgia, by 1830.

### *on Cane Creek, Jesse Neville...*

Joseph Neville married Ann Bohannon in Abingdon Parish, Gloucester Hampshire, Virginia, on January 30, 1729. They had ten children, including William Neville. William Neville married Winifred Anne Oldham, the daughter of John Oldham and Mary Cox. Their first-born and oldest son, **Jesse Neville**, was born July 5, 1759, in Fauquier, Virginia, and died in Pickens District, South Carolina. He married Margarette Carter. In the Revolutionary War he served under several officers in North Carolina, Captains Major Parson, Hampton and William Wood.

John Coffee Neville (1825–1911) was the son of Alexander Neville and Nancy Jones, and the grandson of Jesse Neville and Margarette Carter. In February 1900, two sons of John Coffee Neville and Nancy Knox, Jesse Clarence and McCurry, opened a stand [store] owned by Captain William A. Strother (1845–1929) called Neville Brothers Mercantile, now Neville Hardware. They built their own store, thirty feet by eighty feet, in West Union, South Carolina, in 1901 and opened in January 1902.

The hardware store was next operated by Neville first cousins, Jesse Clarence’s son, ‘Mack’ Biemann Neville (1919–1991), and McCurry’s only son, John Lawrence Neville (1926–2009). Mack Biemann Neville also organized the Blue Ridge Bank in Walhalla, which was chartered on June 15, 1957. Both businesses, the hardware store and the bank, still operate; the hardware store by Mack’s son, Jesse Clarence Neville.

### *on Cane Creek, Mrs. Ware...*

James Ware, born November 15, 1714, in Virginia, married Agnes Todd, born December 20, 1714, also in Virginia. Their son, Nicholas, born August 12, 1739, married Martha “Peggie” Hodges in 1762. Once the war was over, Nicholas and his young family moved from Virginia after October 1783 and settled around Abbeville, South Carolina. He would have been about forty-four years old at the time. The specific name of the place was “Ware Shoals”, originating from the name of the owner of the nearby gristmill, Nicholas Ware, and then combined with the river’s shoals to create the name of Ware’s Shoals (later shortened to Ware Shoals). There were other branches of the Ware family in South Carolina at the time, so Nicholas was called “Nicholas of Abbeville” in order to distinguish him from his cousin, Nicholas Ware V, who lived in nearby Edgefield, South Carolina (contributed by Judith C. Ware). Whether the “Mrs. Ware” recorded as one of the founding families was the widow of a sibling of Nicholas Ware is unknown.

### *on Conneross, Arthur McDow...*

Arthur McDow appeared in the 1810 Census for Pendleton District (Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens). He married Margaret Loftin. He and his wife then removed to Greene County, Alabama, around 1818 and appeared on their land records for October 13, 1825. He died May 20, 1839, and Margaret quite a few years later on July 9, 1846.

### *on Conneross, Abner Steele.*

Aaron Steele (b. 1740 New Castle, DE – d. Nov 1795) is thought to have moved to the Abbeville District, South Carolina, around 1773. He first married Violet Alexander. Aaron then married Elizabeth Crosby in 1782 at Long Cane in Abbeville District, South Carolina. The children of Aaron and Violet Steele were William, James, Aaron Jr., and Abner Alexander Steele.

On March 26, 1794, **Abner Alexander Steele** (b. Nov 4, 1768 – d. July 2, 1843) married Elizabeth Deale, the daughter of Clement Deale and Mary Griffin. They were united in life forty-eight years, three months and four days, and buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Eutaw, Greene County, Alabama. They were the parents of thirteen children; all but the youngest were born in Pendleton District, South Carolina. Elihue Rees Steele, second son and third child of this couple, is said to have been the first of the family to migrate to Alabama. He then went back to South Carolina and assisted in the move of the entire family to Greene County. Abner Steele is listed among the founders of the New Hope Presbyterian Church at Knoxville, Alabama, around 1818. The Reverend Andrew Brown was the first minister and Abner Steele was elected a ruling elder on February 18, 1824 (AIGenWeb/Greene).