

THE
PICTORIAL FIELD-BOOK

OF

THE REVOLUTION;

OR,

10ⁿ LB 26

ILLUSTRATIONS, BY PEN AND PENCIL, OF THE HISTORY, BIOGRAPHY, SCENERY, RELICS, AND TRADITIONS OF THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE.

BY BENSON J. LOSSING.

WITH ELEVEN HUNDRED ENGRAVINGS ON WOOD, BY LOSSING AND BARRITT.
CHIEFLY FROM ORIGINAL SKETCHES BY THE AUTHOR.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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—OF—

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FRANKLIN SQUARE.

1860.

"We, the rightful lords of yore,
Are the rightful lords no more;
Like the silver mist, we fail,
Like the red leaves in the gale—
Fail, like shadows, when the dawning
Waves the bright flag of the morning."

J. M'LELLAN, Junior.

"I will go to my tent and lie down in despair;
I will paint me with black, and will sever my hair;
I will sit on the shore when the hurricane blows,
And reveal to the God of the tempest my woes;
I will weep for a season, on bitterness fed,
For my kindred are gone to the hills of the dead;
But they died not of hunger, or lingering decay—
The hand of the white man hath swept them away!"

HENRY ROWE SCHOOLCRAFT.

I crossed the Fishing Creek at sunset; and at the house of a young planter, a mile beyond, passed the night. There I experienced hospitality in its fullest degree. The young husbandman had just begun business life for himself, and, with his wife and "wee bairn," occupied a modest house, with only one room. I was not aware of the extent of their accommodations when I asked for a night's entertainment, and the request was promptly complied with. It made no difference to them, for they had two beds in the room, and needed but one for themselves; the other was at my service. The young man was very intelligent and inquiring, and midnight found us in pleasant conversation. He would accept no compensation in the morning; and I left his humble dwelling full of reverence for that generous and unsuspecting hospitality of Carolina, where the people will give a stranger lodgings *even in their own bedrooms*, rather than turn him from their doors.

"Plain and artless her sons; but whose doors open faster
At the knock of the stranger or the tale of disaster?
How like to the rudeness of their dear native mountains,
With rich ore in their bosoms, and life in their fountains."

GASTON

My journey of a day from Fishing Creek to Rocky Mount, on the Catawba, was delightful. The winter air was like the breath of late April in New England; and the roads, passing through a picturesque country, were generally good. Almost every plantation, too, is clustered with Revolutionary associations; for this region, like Westchester county, in New York, was the scene of continual partisan movements, skirmishes, and cruelties, during the last three years of the war. Near the mouth of the Fishing Creek (which empties into the Catawba two miles above the Great Falls), Sumter suffered defeat, after partial success at Rocky Mount below; and down through Chester, Fairfield, and Richland, too, Whigs and Tories battled fearfully for territorial possession, plunder, and personal re-

country south of the Tuscaroras, and adjoining the Cherokees. In 1672, the Shawnees made settlements in their country, but were speedily driven away. In 1712, they were the allies of the white people against the Corees and Tuscaroras; but in 1715, they joined the other tribes in a confederacy against the Southern colonies. In 1760, they were auxiliaries of the Carolinians against the Cherokees, and ever afterward were the friends of the white people. Their chief village was on the Catawba, twenty-four miles from Yorkville. The following eloquent petition of Peter Harris, a Catawba warrior during the Revolution, is preserved among the colonial records at Columbia, in South Carolina. The petition is dated 1822:

"I am one of the lingering survivors of an almost extinguished race. Our graves will soon be our only habitations. I am one of the few stalks that still remain in the field where the tempest of the Revolution has passed. I fought against the British for your sake. The British have disappeared, and you are free; yet from me have the British took nothing; nor have I gained any thing by their defeat. I pursued the deer for subsistence; the deer are disappearing, and I must starve. God ordained me for the forest, and my ambition is the shade. But the strength of my arm decays, and my feet fail me in the chase. The hand which fought for your liberties is now open for your relief. In my youth I bled in battle, that you might be independent; let not my heart in my old age bleed for the want of your commiseration."

This petition was not unheeded; the Legislature of South Carolina granted the old warrior an annuity of sixty dollars.

Great Falls of the Catawba.

Mount Dearborn.

Cotton Factory.

Rocky Mount and its Associations.

venge. Some of these scenes will be noticed presently. Turning to the left at Beckhamville,¹ I traversed a rough and sinuous road down to the banks of the Catawba, just below the Great Falls. Here yet remain the foundations of a projected United States military establishment, to be called Mount Dearborn, which was abandoned; and upon the brink of the foaming waters stands a cotton-mill, the property of Daniel M. Cullock, operated by white hands, and devoted chiefly to the production of cotton-yarns. At this place, in the midst of a fine cotton-growing country, almost inexhaustible water-power invites capital and enterprise to seek good investment, and confer substantial benefit upon the state. The place is wild and romantic. Almost the whole volume of the river is here compressed by a rugged island into a narrow channel, between steep, rocky shores, fissured and fragmented, as if by some powerful convulsion.

VIEW OF THE GREAT FALLS OF THE CATAWBA.²

There are no perpendicular falls; but down a rocky bed the river tumbles in mingled rapids and cascades, roaring and foaming, and then subsides into comparative calmness in a basin below.

It was late in the afternoon when I finished my sketch of the Falls, and leaving Mount Dearborn, crossed Rock Creek and reined up in front of the elegant mansion of Mrs. Barkley, at Rocky Mount. Her dwelling, where refined hospitality bore rule, is beautifully situated upon an eminence overlooking the Catawba and the surrounding country, and within a few rods of the remains of the old village and the battle-ground. Surrounded by gardens and ornamental trees, it must be a delightful summer residence. Yet there was grief in that dwelling and the habiliments of mourning indicated the ravages of death. The husband and father had been an honored member of the Legislature of South Carolina, and

¹ Here was the scene of exciting events during the early part of the summer of 1780. Rocky Mount was made a royal post. Captain Houseman, the commander, sent forth hand-bills, calling the inhabitants together in an "old field," where Beckhamville post-office now stands, to receive protection and acknowledge allegiance to the crown. One aged patriot, like another Tell, refused to bow to the cap of this tiny Gesler. That patriot was Joseph Gaston, who lived upon the Fishing Creek, near the Catawba. In vain Houseman, who went to his residence with an armed escort, pleaded with and menaced the patriot. His reply was, "Never!" and as soon as the British captain had turned his back, he sent his sons out to ask the brave among his neighbors to meet at his house that night. Under Captain John M'Clure, thirty-three determined men were at Judge Gaston's at midnight. They were clad in hunting-shirts and moccasins, wool hats and deer-skin caps, each armed with a butcher-knife and a rifle. Early in the morning, they prepared for the business of the day. Silently they crept along the old Indian trail by the margin of the creek, and suddenly, with a fearful shout, surrounded and discomfited the assembled Tories upon the "old field," at Beckhamville. The British soldiers in attendance fled precipitately to their quarters at Rocky Mount. Filled with rage, Houseman sent a party to bring the hoary-headed patriot, then eighty years of age, to his quarters; but they found his dwelling deserted. His wife, concealed in some bushes near, saw them plunder the house of every thing, and carry off the stock from the plantation. Nothing was left but the family Bible—a precious relic, yet preserved in the family.

This movement of Justice Gaston and his neighbors was the first effort to cast back the wave of British rule which was sweeping over the state, and threatening to submerge all opposition east of the mountains. Judge Gaston had nine sons in the army. When they heard of the massacre of the patriots on the Waxhaw, by Tarleton, these young men joined hands, pledged themselves thenceforth never to submit to oppression, and from that time they all bore arms in defense of liberty.—See Mrs. Ellett's *Domestic History of the Revolution*, pages 169–174, inclusive.

² This view is from the west side of the Catawba, looking northeast, toward Lancaster District.

A Night at Rocky Mount.

The Battle-ground.

Sumter again in Arms.

His Compatriots

in the midst of his useful public life he was thrown from his gig and kil'ed. Yet the light of hospitality was not extinguished there, and I shall long remember, with pleasure, the night I passed at Rocky Mount. Accompanied by Mrs. Barkley's three daughters, and a

VIEW AT ROCKY MOUNT.¹

young planter from "over the river," I visited the battle-ground before sunset, examined the particular localities indicated by the finger of tradition, and sketched the accompanying view of the principal place of conflict. Here, in the porch, sitting

with this interesting household in the golden gleams of the declining sun, let us open the clasped volume of history, and read a brief but brilliant page.

Almost simultaneously, three distinguished partisans of the South appeared conspicuous, after the fall of Charleston;² Marion, between the Pedee and Santee; Sumter, upon the Catawba and Broad Rivers; and Pickens, in the vicinity of the Saluda and Savannah Rivers. With the surrender of Charleston, the hopes of the South Carolina patriots withered; and so complete was the subjugation of the state by the royal arms, that on the fourth of June, Sir Henry Clinton wrote to the ministry, "I may venture to assert that there are few men in South Carolina who are not either our prisoners or in arms with us." Many unsubdued patriots sought shelter in North Carolina, and others went up toward the mountains and gathered the cowed Whigs into bands to avenge the insults of their Tory oppressors. Early in July, Sumter (who had taken refuge in Mecklenburg), with a few chosen patriots who gathered around him, returned to South Carolina.

"Catawba's waters smiled again
To see her Sumter's soul in arms;
And issuing from each glade and glen,
Rekindled by war's fierce alarms,
Thronged hundreds through the solitude
Of the wild forest, to the call
Of him whose spirit, unsubdued,
Fresh impulse gave to each, to all."

J. W. SIMMONS.

Already Whigs between the Catawba and Broad Rivers, led by Bratton, M'Clure, Moffit, Winn,² and others, had smitten the enemy at different points. The first blow, struck at Beckhamville, is noticed on the preceding page. To crush these patriots and to band the

¹ This view is from the garden-gate at Mrs. Barkley's, looking northeast. On the left is seen part of a store-house, and on the right, just beyond the post with a pigeon-house, is a hollow, within which are the remains of houses. At the foot of the hill may still be seen the foundations of the house mentioned in the text as having been occupied by the British when attacked by Sumter. The small log buildings across the center, occupying the slope where the conflict occurred, are servants' houses.

² Richard Winn was a native of Virginia. He entered the service early, and in 1775 was commissioned the first lieutenant of the South Carolina rangers. He served under Colonel William Thomson, in General Richardson's expedition against the Tories, in the winter of that year. He had been with Thomson in the battle on Sullivan's Island. He afterward served in Georgia, and was in command of Fort M'Intosh, on the north side of the Santilla River. He was subsequently promoted to colonel, and commanded the militia of Fairfield District. He was with Sumter at Hanging Rock, where he was wounded. He was active during the remainder of the war, and at the conclusion, was appointed a brigadier, and finally a major general of militia. He represented his district in Congress from 1793 to 1802. He removed to Tennessee in 1812, and died soon afterward. Winnsborough, the present seat of justice of Fairfield District, was so named in his honor, when he was colonel of that district in 1779.

Historical Background of Ridgeway, South Carolina
by Jack Meyer

The Town of Ridgeway (population 437) is located in southeastern Fairfield County, South Carolina. The surrounding area is primarily agricultural. Ridgeway serves mainly as a supply center for the local farmers. The town's one industrial facility, the Charm Factory, was constructed in 1967 and manufactures ladies' clothing. The town is situated on a major north-south highway, US 21, which runs from Columbia, South Carolina to Charlotte, North Carolina. Interstate Highway 77, presently under construction, will pass two miles west of the town, close enough that Ridgeway could potentially become a bedroom community for Columbia.

The Multiple Resource District of Ridgeway contains thirty-five major structures. Approximately 70% of the structures in the District were constructed in a twenty-five year period from 1890 to 1915 in an eastwest linear pattern along two blocks of Palmer (Main) Street. Immediately west of the one block commercial core is a residential block shaded by large trees lining both sides of the street. These buildings are little changed and retain most of the original architectural characteristics of the period. Representing an intact turn of the century county town, the buildings in these two blocks are harmonious in scale, texture and eclectic styling, producing a distinct and unusually well preserved period setting. The commercial block is unified by a predominance of two story brick stores having simple ornamental detailing, frequently of cast iron. The residential block to the west is lined with asymmetrical dwellings of the same period which display a similarity of form, height and texture: predominately wood construction with clapboard siding.

The earliest settlers in the Ridgeway area were Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who began moving into the area as early as the 1770's. Many came from other settlements in the district and from North Carolina. John Rosborough, a prominent settler in Newlands, as Ridgeway was then called, came from Lebanon community, in west-central Fairfield County, arrived in the area about 1790. He founded the first Presbyterian congregation in the area, which met in his home, on the site of the present Century House, until 1799, when the first Aime'll Church was constructed. South Carolina low country planters of English and French Huguenot extraction began moving into the area as early as the 1820's. Edward Gendron Palmer, of Saint James Parish, Santee, moved into the area around 1824 and built Valencia, the main house of his six thousand acre plantation, in 1834. Edward Palmer had a distinguished career as a legislator (S.C. House 1838-48, S.C. Senate 1857-65) and businessman (President, Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad Company 1847-56, President, Columbia and Chalotte Railroad Company 1847-49) as well as a planter. Other area settlers of prominence from the low country were S. Peyre Thomas, James Buchanan Coleman and Henry Campbell Davis. (w)

Until the arrival of the railroad in 1850, the Newlands (Ridgeway) area remained sparsely settled. Cotton was the main crop and local planters experienced considerable difficulty in transporting their product to market. As a result Edward Palmer joined about 1845 with a group of Fairfield County planters and Charleston, South Carolina, businessmen in promoting a railroad from Charleston to Charlotte, North Carolina. The South Carolina Legislature passed enabling legislation for

construction of the Columbia and Charlotte Railroad in December 1846. The North Carolina Legislature passed a similar act the following month. The route followed the ridge of high land running from Columbia to Charlotte, which just happened to pass through Newlands (Ridgeway) and Edward Palmer's plantation. The railroad, which was completed in 1850, became known locally as "Palmer's Gin House Route."

The growth of Ridgeway, as the town which grew up around the Columbia and Charlotte Railroad depot came to be called, was slow. In the 1850's only four houses stood within sight of the depot. One of these, Century House, was built by James Buchanan Coleman in 1853 near the site of the old Rosborough House, which Coleman had purchased from Dr. James Rosborough shortly before the latter moved to Texas. The railroad agent, Arthur Craig, had a house there, as did Mrs. Catherine Ross Davis. Her son, Colonel Henry Campbell Davis had the fourth house, "Longleaf" plantation. Davis served in the S.C. House (1858-60, 1864-65), was a captain in the 12th Infantry Regiment South Carolina Volunteers and was Ridgeway's postmaster in 1885. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church was built in 1854 and the fourth Aimwell Church was completed in 1859. The first general store in the area was built about 1860 by David H. Ruff, who came to Ridgeway from the Fairfield County community of Blythe-wood (called Doko at that time) about the time the Civil War broke out.

The Civil War did not materially effect Ridgeway until February 17-18, 1865, when General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard established his headquarters in the Century House. The embattled Confederates were forced out of the town on February 20th, perhaps leaving behind the Confederate cavalry saber recently found in the attic of Ruff's Old Store. The next day the depot and many of the area houses were burned by General Sherman's troops.

After a period of economic depression following the Civil War, Ridgeway began to develop as a commercial center serving area farmers. By 1880 there were ten stores located in the commercial block. Only two of these survive, Ruff's Old Store (R-6), which is presently used for storage, and Thomas' Old Store (R-19), which was moved from the corner of Palmer and Church Streets to the back of the lot in 1911 to make room for a new store. It is now an antique shop.

With the rise of prosperity among local farmers in the 1890-1910 period, brought about by a rise in cotton production that was accompanied by sustained high prices (the value of the cotton crop in South Carolina rose 23% from 1900 to 1906), Ridgeway entered a period of building actively that is reflected in the extant architecture of the town. Virtually all of the commercial and residential buildings in the multiple resource district date from this period, although some, such as the Bank of Ridgeway building (1899), have been extensively remodeled. It is this architectural unity of period setting which gives the district its cohesiveness.

After 1910 the decline of cotton prices, the boll weevil and severe soil erosion brought a parallel decline in local prosperity and resulted in a developmental lag for the town. In the late 1930's Ridgeway's population was 404; in 1970 it had grown to only 437. Cotton was replaced as the main agricultural commodity by beef cattle and plantation pines. Cotton has so completely disappeared from the economic life of Fairfield County that the county's unofficial title is "the County of Pastures, Pines and Ponds." The construction of the Charm Factory in 1967 had little economic impact upon the town since most of the employees come from other sections of Fairfield County. With the coming of Interstate Highway 77, Ridgeway faces a crucial period in its history. If it develops into a bedroom community for

Columbia, the state capital, the cohesive nature of the District will be threatened by increasing population pressure and demands for growth and modernization. If not, there is every possibility that stagnation and decline will become inevitable. In either case some measure of protection is essential if Ridgeway is to retain its unique character as a virtually intact Victorian town.

Agriculture

Ridgeway is an agricultural supply center and agriculture was a major factor in its growth. The commercial core primarily served the local farmers and the prosperity which the farmers experienced in 1890-1910 is reflected in the predominance of buildings from that period. The merchants also owned farms in the area, generally worked by tenants. David H. Ruff, for example, owned several farms, each of several hundred acres.

Architecture

Ridgeway's architecture is eclectic, with no strong preferences for any particular style. There are a few outstanding examples which may be placed in three major categories of residential buildings.

- 1) Greek Revival is best represented by the Century House. Ruff's Old Store (R-6) and Thomas' Old Store (R-19) are fine examples of a simple Greek Revival style.
- 2) The Decorated Victorian dwelling is represented by two fine examples, the Branham House (#1) and the Thomas House (R-1). Both houses have very fine detailing. The Brown House (R-3) and the Thomas House (R-4), while more restrained in their detailing, are also fine examples.
- 3) The Neo-Classic Wray House (R-2) is beyond question the most impressive house in the District.

The most unusual architectural feature in the District is the Police Station (R-31), which was originally constructed as a well (c. 1890) and expanded slightly in the 1940's to form what may well be the world's smallest police station.

Commerce

With the exception of Ruff's Old Store (R-6) and Thomas' Old Store (R-19) Ridgeway's commercial buildings are brick. The Wilson Building (R-5A) contains some interesting brick detailing. Several of the buildings feature cast iron engaged columns (R-6A, R-9, R-10). Surviving 19th century store buildings are few in South Carolina and Ruff's Old Store and Thomas' Old Store are particularly fine examples. With its group of turn of the century brick commercial buildings Ridgeway possesses an unusually fine townscape.

Politics-Government

Ridgeway's Town Hall (R-8) and the Police Station (R-31) are the only public/governmental buildings in the District. The brick Town Hall is similar to the commercial buildings in the District but its tower gives it an appearance reminiscent of Richardsonian Romanesque. The tiny Police Station was converted from the public well in the 1940's and is probably unique.

Religion

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (1854) is the oldest surviving church in Ridgeway. Ruff's Chapel (#1), a simple clapboard structure with a squat open belfry, was built about 1870 as a Methodist chapel by David H. Ruff, a prominent Ridgeway merchant. It is one of the few surviving examples of a small clapboard country church.

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were everywhere plundering. A silver pitcher was found in the greenhouse, and the walls were soon demolished in search of more silver. The yard fence was burned the first night, as was a large supply house full of tobacco and other stores. The gin house full of cotton seed, the barn and the stables were in flames shortly after the arrival of the Yankees.

During the eight days the soldiers were there, Mr. Johnston recalls, the women lived in terror of having the house burned. General Sherman arrived soon after Feb. 17, 1865, and his soldiers pitched camp at Rocky Mount. He was "striking" in appearance, tall, handsome, clean-shaven, with reddish hair. To the young Johnston boys, who proudly wore brass "rebel buttons" on their jackets, Sherman's shining boots and neat uniforms were envied possessions. He stayed eight days, patiently waiting for the waters of the Catawba to drop and allow his men to pass. When he left it was on a great black horse with a Negro boy as a valet, Mr. Johnston remembers.

Sherman went into the house every day and talked with the women. Miss Sarah Barkley was "high tempered," and her eyes flashed with fire when she had hot discussions with the General. Mrs. Johnston lived in terror that Sherman would grow angry and have the house burned. Usually Miss Sarah and Mrs. Barkley sat by the fire with large bonnets pulled down over their faces.

The officers had their quarters in the house. The first morning after they arrived, Mrs. Johnston invited several of them to breakfast. The menu included rye-coffee with no sugar, bread, and meat. Later the officers showed their appreciation of the invitation by preventing the soldiers from piercing the portraits with their bayonets and breaking the furniture. They also stopped the soldiers from tearing up the floor and using the planks to patch the pontoon bridge across the river. The soldiers gave sugar to the little boys, but they were not allowed to eat it for fear they would be poisoned.

Once, when a soldier saw a barrel of molasses in a room, he slipped into the basement and bored a hole through the floor to try to drain out the syrup. He missed the barrel by inches. The mark is still in the floor.

Captain Isaac Withers of Winnsboro and a young man named Keller from Broad River were held prisoners by the Yankees while they were at Rocky Mount. Captain Withers came to the house for food, but stopped after the soldiers complained to their officers that "rebel" soldiers were being fed. As the Yankees were leaving Rocky Mount, some of Gen. Wheeler's men came up

and there was a brief skirmish about the house. Wheeler warned the women and children to lie flat on the floor during the fight. The Yankees thought Wheeler's entire army was in pursuit and left hurriedly. One of the Rebels chased a Yankee through the house. The Southerner's gun was cocked and fired in the hall, leaving a mark that is still to be seen. Bullet holes in the weather boarding of the house were once visible. During their stay there, the Yankees dug rifle pits in the garden as well as in the old canal near the river. One bridge at the ferry was broken, but the Yankees erected another at the canal.

When the soldiers were gone, there was nothing left but the house and land. The place was bleak and bare. So far as the Barkleys and Johnstons were concerned, the Confederacy was at its lowest ebb. The time for rebuilding had come. Barkley Johnston caught an old crippled horse that had missed being shot. The horse, called Billy Sherman, plowed the first crop after the war.

A small steel mill was found near the camp and this mill ground corn picked up from the camp. There was still meat in the garret. "Those were hard times," Mr. Johnston added as he finished his story. "The present generation knows nothing of such a depression as there was then. I've lived to see and enjoy paved roads, electric lights and the radio."

(This property belongs to Miss Gladys Johnston today. It is to be found two and a half miles off Highway 21 on Catawba Road. On the front porch are columns that were floated up the river from Charleston when the house was built. The reason given for Sherman not burning this house is that Johnston and General Sherman were Masons.)

