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CHARLESTON, S. C.

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INSCRIPTIONS FROM BEAVER CREEK CHURCHYARD, KERSHAW COUNTY

Contributed by PERRY B. BENNETT HOUGH¹

Beaver Creek Presbyterian Church, located about six miles west of Kershaw in Kershaw County, has been in existence since 1771. An interesting link in the chain of its unbroken history may be found in a secluded spot several miles from the present building and cemetery. It is the old burying ground marking the site of the first house of worship erected in 1772 near the creek whose name it took. For more than fifty years this was the only Presbyterian Church within a day's ride on horse-back. This building continued to be used until 1856, when it was abandoned because of its dilapidated condition and isolated location. The congregation moved to the offspring chapel "Mount Bethel," formerly called "Millers," which took the name Beaver Creek and continued the old organization in the new location.

There is no visible evidence of the site of the original meeting house. The grounds have reverted to their primeval state and the roads to trails. But the embankment surrounding the few remaining time-worn tombstones clearly outlines the old burying ground now overcast by trees.²

About 1852 the children of William and Nancy Louisa Cunningham McWillie financed the construction of a hewn granite enclosure for the McWillie graves. This 30 x 40 structure, built under the direction of William M. Shannon, Sr., of Camden, contains eight marked graves.

[Graves within enclosure]

Sacred to the memory of Col. Adam McWillie who departed this life on the 23rd of April 1827 in the 61st year of his age. He was a native of Ireland but early in life, removed to this neighborhood where he continued to reside until his death. He left a wife and seven children to lament their bereavement.

T. WALKER.

¹ Mrs. Ben C. Hough, Jr., 410 Chesterfield Avenue, Lancaster, S. C.

Mrs. Hough, past regent and historian of the Waxhaws Chapter, D. A. R., is secretary of the Lancaster County Historical Commission.

² Those interested in visiting this churchyard are directed as follows: From Heath Springs follow State Highway No. 522 to Stoneboro. Passing C. V. Hammond's store (on right), travel 8 miles south on dirt road connecting No. 522 with No. 265, crossing 2 small wooden bridges over Beaver Creek. Continue one-half mile on this road up the hill, then, by foot, about one-fourth mile eastwardly along an old wagon road, which is often filled with undergrowth and difficult to trace. The old cemetery with the McWillie enclosure lies on the right, easily visible, in a grove of old oak and other hardwood trees.

Sacred to the memory of Adam McWillie, Junr. who departed this life on the 21st of October 1829 in the 23rd year of his age.

T.WALKER.

Sacred To the Memory of James Davidson McWillie Who departed this life on the 3rd of October 1823 Aged 18 years 11 months.

Sacred To the Memory of Albert McWillie who departed this life on the 14th of September 1822 In the 23rd year of his age.

T.WALKER, Charln.

To the Memory of Mrs. Nancy Louisa McWillie Wife of William McWillie, Eqr. who died on the 6th of April 1827 in the 29th year of her age.

T.WALKER, Chston.

To The Memory of Margaret Jane Daughter of Wm and Nancy L. McWillie who departed this life November 15th 1824 Aged 15 months and 21 days.

T.WALKER, Chston.

Sacred To the Memory of George Sarsfield McWillie who departed this life on the 18th of October 1815 Aged 5 years and 7 months.

Sacred to the Memory of Dr: John Mackey who departed this life on the 31st of January, 1826, in the 31st year of his age. He was an Irishman by birth and received his education in Glasgow. He died in the morning of his usefulness, leaving a wife and two children to lament his untimely death.

T. WALKER.

[Graves outside enclosure]

Margret Carruth

In memory of Col. N. Barber who departed this life June 6th 1832 in the 52nd year of his age.

A. BROWN, Columbia

In memory of Mary Barber wife of Col. N. Barber who departed this life September 11th, 1836 in the 52nd year of her age.

Sacred To the Memory of Andrew B. Shannon who departed this life October 24th, 1813 Aged 29 years: Leaving an affectionate wife and freinds to deplore his loss.

This Monument Is dedicated by an only and disconsolate Son, to the Memory of Elizabeth Dunlap who departed this Life August 17th, 1800, Aged sixty-seven Years.

Sacred To the Memory of Sam'l McKee who departed this life July 24th, 1815. Aged 50 years: leaving an affectionate Wife and friends to deplore his loss.

To the memory of William A. Russel who died May the 2nd, 1822, Aged 31 years and 11 months and 17 days.

To the memory of Emely Lenora Russel the Daughter of William and Elizabeth M. Russel who died Sept 7th, 1827, aged 8 years and 7 months and 9 days.

To the memory of Esther Hood who died Oct. the 3rd, 1817. Aged 69 years.

⁶⁹
1748

To the memory of William Hood, who was born May 18th, 1750 and died Jan. 25th 1828.

To the memory of Jane, wife to William Hood, was born in 1757 and died Jany 28th, 1828.

To the Memory of William J. son of Samuel and Eliza J. Hood who departed this life January 20th 1832. Aged 5 months and 4 days.

To the memory of Eleanor Thompson wife of Peter Thompson She was born in the year of our Lord 1763 and died the 28th of Oct. 1825 She was a Presbyterian by Profession and died in the faith.

W. Thompson son of Peter Thompson and Eleanor his wife. He was born on the 26th of Novr A. D. 1787 And died the 10th of Octr A. D. 1826.

Secred To the memory of Sarah Thompson wife of William Thompson and daughter of James and Elizabeth Shropshire Born A.D. 1793 and died the 12th of May A.D. 1819.

Sacred To the Memory of John Shropshire son of James and Elizabeth Shropshire He was born July 16th A.D. 1796 and died February 18th 1825.

To The Memory of Agness L. Dye wife of Charles L. Dye who died on the 26th of July, 1832 in the 33rd year of her age.

RECOLLECTIONS OF JOHN SAFFORD STONEY, CONFEDERATE
SURGEON

Contributed by JOHN LAURENS TISON, JR.*

Edited by SAMUEL G. STONEY

The original of these memoirs cannot be located. The present copy, made by Dr. Tison's father, indicates that Dr. Stoney must have written long after the events, and also that he was gifted with a family weakness in orthography. Wherever possible, errors in names have been corrected.

John Stoney (1780-1838), a native of Beaufort District, came to "town" at the turn of the century and became a highly successful business man. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Capt. Peter Gaillard of the Rocks. He planted Calibogue and other plantations on Hilton Head and in what had been Devil's Elbow Barony. In 1827 he bought the William Rhett House (built c. 1712), which had belonged to Christopher Fitz Simons and to the second Christopher, husband of Stoney's daughter Elizabeth,¹ and was living here when this narrative begins. His eldest surviving son was Peter Gaillard Stoney (1809-1884), who married Anna Maria Porcher (1811-1896). Their oldest child, John Safford Stoney (1832-1897), was born the year before his parents settled in the old Van Arsens house (built 1686) on the Medway, or Back River. Enlarging the plantation, Peter Gaillard made brick and rice and raised Stoneys and race horses. His second son, Thomas Porcher Stoney, was a "Forty-niner" or almost one. Returning from California, he fought for the Confederacy, then went back to a highly successful law career in San Francisco. His wife and child were at his father's in '65.

I was born in the village of Pineville, in what was St. Stephen's Parish, Charleston District, South Carolina, on the 30th day of June, 1832. Pineville was at that time a prosperous village and the summer resort of all the planters in that section of the country.

About the earliest event that I can remember was going on a steamboat to Calibogue Plantation on Hilton Head Island. There was no wharf, but when the steamer arrived opposite the plantation, the bell was sounded and a large row boat came out for us and we were taken out in the arms of the negro women and landed on land. We remained on the island sometime, and I remember my first horseback ride was taken

* 182 Greenwood Court, Athens, Georgia.

¹ Elizabeth Fitz Simons later on came into possession of the Rhett House, which she sold in 1873. Her son, Dr. Christopher Fitz Simons, practiced in the Back River neighborhood.