

#265Y  
YC

S.C. - Homes, Historic - York County

# THE EVENING HERALD

ROCK HILL, S. C.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 2, 1948.

SECTION TWO

## Old Snyder House At York Has Interesting History

### C. R. Gilliams Now Occupy Home Which Dates Back To 1876

BY ELIZABETH REED

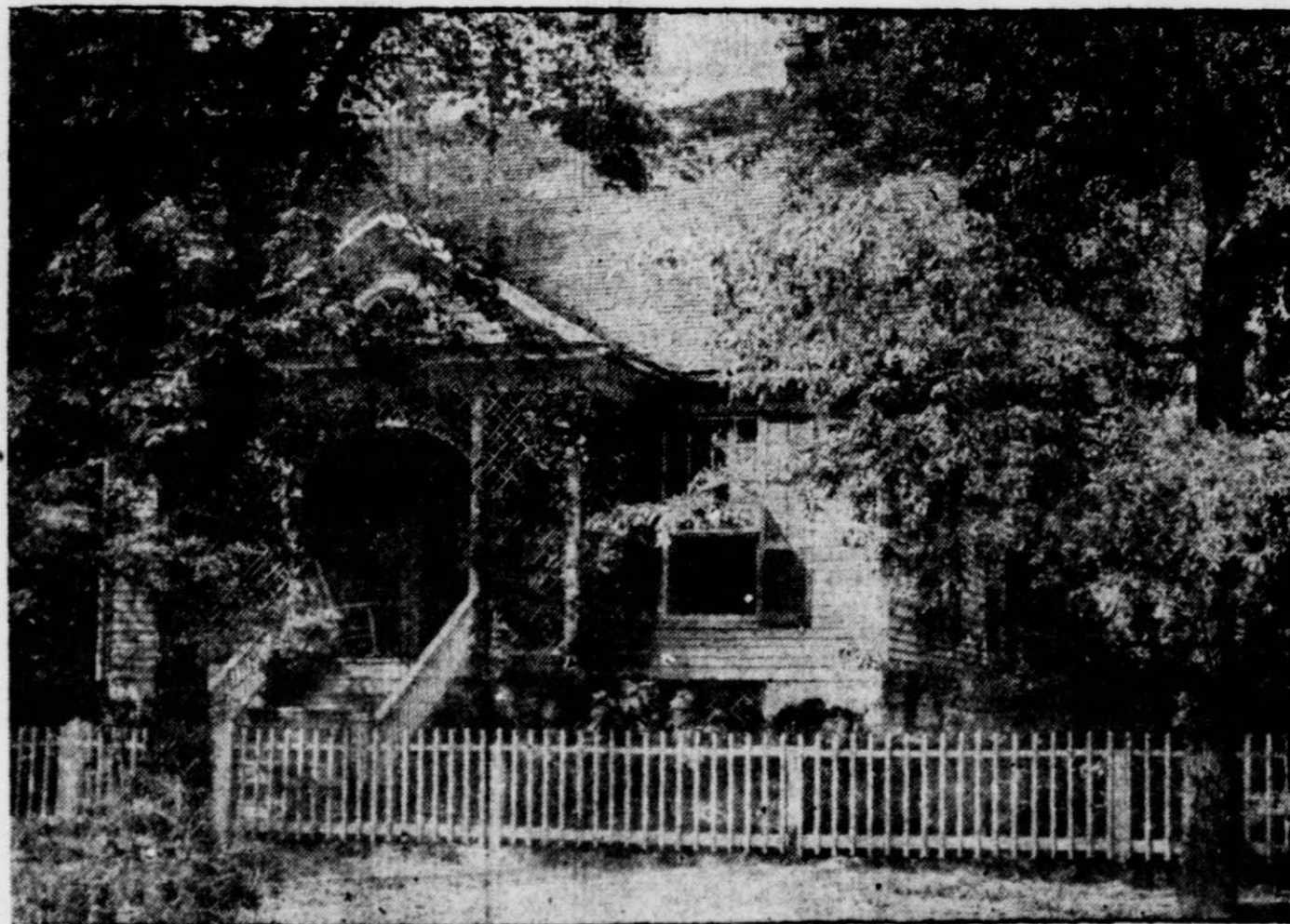
No one knows the exact age of the Snyder House in York or who built the staunch three story home. However, courthouse records show that S. Rufus Moore, trustee for J. Amanda Stoney, deeded the house to Margaret A. Snyder, January 24, 1876. For about 75 consecutive years the house was in the Snyder family, until the death of Miss Minnie Snyder in 1936.

When the house passed out of the Snyder family it was deeded to Miss Ethel Latimer and Mrs. Elise Latimer Atkinson of Columbia. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gilliam moved into the house in 1937 and gave it the first coat of paint in its long history. Several year ago the Gilliams bought the house.

The 20 by 40 foot first floor is half under ground and half above, and contains small latticed windows. Where the plaster has fallen from the ceiling, its hand hewn laths stand today as firm as the day they were hewn. Here, shortly after the War Between the States, a part time school for boys was taught.

It seems that the Langham Branch school was located on the outskirts of town, but in inclement seasons school sessions were held in the house and taught by the Rev. Robert Latham, an A. R. P. minister. A book of Virgil found a few years ago in the school room is revealing. In its brown and crisp pages are to be found—not Greek exercises, but the roll of the Langham Branch baseball nine, the roll is indicative of good old York county family names. Some of the stalwart names on the team were J. Evans, John A. Barron, Dan Latham, Beard Nance, Barry Glenn, M. E. Davison, T. M. Lowery, M. J. Lowery, W. T. Barron, J. D. Jones, A. Wil-

Famous Old Snyder House



The exact age of this dwelling is not known, but records dating back to 1876 are available concerning occupants of the house.

son, B. Owens, R. Latham, S. McLean, J. W. Bratton, T. Wyndhym, B. McCleave, Burris Moore, J. Lindsay, S. Wilson and P. M. Burris.

This particular sheet of foolscap was dated March 28, 1870, showing that in the spring boys for many years have turned their thoughts to baseball. The school was taught between the years 1865 and 1870.

Another insight into the character of the Langham Branch school body was the sketch of the professor and a pencil sketch showing Helen of Troy being carried away by the gallant Paris.

The school room contains two fireplaces, one for students to recite by and the other where their mid-day lunch was prepared. Oh, yes, they stayed all day in the good old days.

The main body of the Snyder house is today as it was when built. A narrow stairway leads from the first floor to the main story of four rather small rooms. These have random width floor boards and Mrs. Gilliam still possesses the bunch of heavy brass keys for its doors.

### The Unfinished House

The house is known as the Unfinished House because its third floor was never completed. No stairway leads to its rooms.

In the period of the Gay Nineties, Misses Minnie and Rosa Snyder, designers of the very latest in women's apparel, lived in the home. Still to be seen are copies of Demorest Magazine for March 1877, showing milady in the latest of the period, not so different from the "new look" of the atomic age.

The many cabinets in the kitchen were used by the Misses Snyder for holding bolts of damask and fine silks ordered from Paris and used by them to make the gowns of Yorkville belles of the nineties. At that time the old Yorkville Female College was diagonally across the street. The college today is a part of the York Graded school.

### Kitchen

The original kitchen stood a short distance from the house in accordance with the custom of the period. Today it has been removed a little back and is the garage of the home. In its garden still grow Christmas roses, moss roses and York-Lancaster roses, planted by hands now dust.

The English design cottage is today strong and sturdy. An authority on architecture has placed its construction about the revolutionary war period. The mantel in the living room is put together with wooden pegs. Its foundation is of granite and home baked bricks. The home is furnished throughout in keeping with the architecture and interior design. In the near future Mr. and Mrs. Gilliam plan to tear off the rooms to the rear that were added after the home was built. They hope to restore the whole house in keeping with the main part.

Editor's note: This is one of a series of articles on older York county homes.