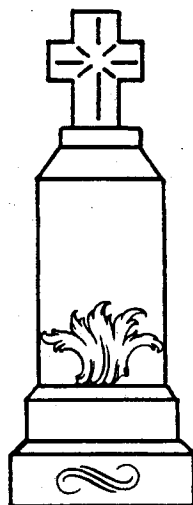


OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA CEMETERY SURVEY

Volume One



PENDLETON CHAPTER
OF
SOUTH CAROLINA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

INTRODUCTION

A project of the newly organized Pendleton District Genealogical Chapter of the South Carolina Genealogical Society was to read and publish inscriptions from family and church cemeteries of Pickens and Oconee County. Old Pendleton District was a gateway to the West for the migration from eastern United States. Many people from the East came to this area after the Revolutionary War; some made permanent homes while others went on searching for better and bigger things. This area was formerly Cherokee Indian Territory, ceded to the new Federal government by the Treaty of 1777. Heretofore, very few white settlers located in this northwestern section of Ninety-Six District until after the War for Independence.

The two counties, similar in nature, are typical foothills of the Blue Ridge chain of mountains. Settlers were granted land by "headrights" and settlements sprang up near rivers and creeks. There was a common characteristic of the people in these counties — they were rugged, industrious and accepted the challenges of both nature and man. However, the seat of government was in Charleston — the entire length of the state away. This was inconvenient for the settler due to travel by horseback or wagon over Indian trails.

The area, named Pickens District, was carved out of Pendleton District in 1826 and a courthouse was built near the geographical center and was known as "Old Pickens." In 1868 the District was divided into present-day Oconee and Pickens Counties with courthouses at Walhalla and at Pickens for the counties, respectively.

The pioneers who went west left kinsmen here. Now their descendents are tracing family history and often the answers to their inquiries are found in our early family, church, and community cemeteries. For this reason, the reading and publishing of cemetery data became our priority project. This mammoth undertaking required dedicated and competent persons to perform the task due to the large number of these cemeteries and the great distances to be traveled searching for them.

We had the good fortune to find a native Oconee County couple, Mr. and Mrs. B.W. Roach, who had already read most of the cemeteries in Oconee County. Mr. Roach moved to Greenville County with his family when he was about ten years old, attended Greenville Public Schools, served in World War II, and afterwards was employed by Southern Railway Company. Due to health problems he retired in 1978 and along with his wife, Sarah, a graduate nurse and mother of four children, he returned to Oconee County.

Being an industrious person and with "time on his hands," he and his wife began to research their own family lines. They found old cemeteries fascinating and rewarding and began the task of keeping a record for possible publication. When members of the Pendleton Genealogical Society learned of this, a volunteer committee headed by Mrs. Anne Sheriff offered to help. Mrs. Sheriff undertook the responsibility of typing and making the arrangements for the publishing of this work. Mrs. Judy Millar contributed by verifying Corinth and Hopewell cemetery inscriptions.

Mrs. Bess Bowen located cemeteries, verified information, found church histories, and contributed several of the church and family inscriptions. Mrs. Sally Harbin supplied the history of many of the churches of Oconee County. Without their help, this volume would not be as informative concerning early religious life. These two ladies have proven themselves to be true researchers and historians of Oconee County.

Mr. and Mrs. Roach would be happy to correspond with you or supply further information concerning this volume. Please feel free to write them at Grace Apartments, Seneca, South Carolina 29678.

Written by Dr. Faith Clayton
Charter Member of the Pendleton Genealogical Society

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