

INTERESTING INCIDENT CONNECTED WITH FLOOD OF 1852 AND FURMAN UNIVERSITY

"The Immersion of Furman University," In Actual Fact, And Part Played By Mr. Philemon Huff, Father of Mr. A. Huff of Laurens.

(By S. E. Boney.)

There is a bit of history connected with Furman university the great Baptist institution of South Carolina, and the terrible August flood of 1852, that is probably not generally known. While everybody or at least those conversant in such matters, knows that Furman university is distinctly a Baptist institution, they may possibly not be acquainted with the fact that the very building, the largest and original structure on the campus is truly Baptist, having been thoroughly immersed; not merely sprinkled by the many kindly showers that have fallen in the half century of its existence, but really and truly immersed in the waters of old Reedy river.

A few of our oldest inhabitants recall the great downpour in 1852; the rains began on August 28th, and continued almost incessantly until the 30th. The whole Piedmont section of the state was flooded and there was great loss of property, both public and private. Almost all the mills and bridges along the streams were swept away; the old Columbia and Greenville railroad, then struggling in its infancy, sustained heavy losses, and it was at this time that William Spencer Brown, chief engineer of the road lost his life in an endeavor to cross the Congaree near Columbia after a tour of inspection over the road. The havoc wrought by this flood is recalled by some of Laurens county's oldest citizens, among whom is Mr. W. D. Sullivan, who lives at Tumbling Shoals on Reedy river. Mr. Sullivan says, however, that the flood of last year exceeded that of 1852; there is an old water-mark at his mill on the Reedy, which indicates that the waters rose at least ten feet higher last year than during the freshet of 1852.

But about the immersion of Furman university. It is recalled that during this year of 1852, the main building of the university was in the course of construction. The contract to furnish all the heavy timbers for the build-

ing was let to Mr. William J. West, who owned and operated a saw mill on the Reedy river, about thirteen miles southeast of Greenville and three miles west of Simpsonville. All the large and heavy timbers had been cut prior to August of 1852 and were lying in the yards of the mill. When the rain began swelling the stream far out over its banks, these timbers, one by one, were carried away. During the three days of the flood and for several days afterwards they were in the waters of the Reedy some being stopped by obstructions and others being carried miles below the mill.

But the timbers were not lost; every one, save one, was recovered and brought back to the mill; they are today part of the frame-work in the main building on Furman campus, Baptist in fact. But what of the missing timber? It was never found though diligent search was made for it. Was it bad omen? Is there a missing factor in the construction of the great institution, would the lost part have been the "Keystone of the arch"? The fifty-odd years of proud history of the university disprove the superstition.

Possibly there are some in Greenville today who recall this flood. There may be many who will recognize the names appearing in the following account, taken from the Southern Patriot, date of September 2nd, 1852:

"There was never before, since the settlement of the county, such a freshet as we had last week in Greenville district. The water courses were much higher than they were ever known to be before. All the bridges, and a great number of mills, have been swept away. The corn on the low grounds is destroyed, or most seriously injured. In several places the embankments of our railroad have been destroyed and several of the culverts carried off, or entirely demolished. The cotton factory and paper mill of Mr. McBee, and the paper mill of

Greenville Manufacturing company, have been greatly damaged. We have not heard from the other factories in our district. All communication from the surrounding country has been cut off, by the loss of bridges, and the difficulty of fording the creeks and rivers.

"The Reedy Falls, in the village of Greenville, were quite an object of attraction on Saturday. They were Niagara in miniature, and our citizens and the visitors, men, women and children, turned out, en masse, to witness the grand spectacle presented by the raging and foaming waters dashing over the falls and down the precipice.

"Every day the most distressing accounts are brought to us of the injury done by the late flood of rains. Lester and Kilgore's wool factory, saw-mill, blacksmith shop, are all carried off, their office turned up side down, and in the cotton factory everything covered with mud. Their loss is estimated at \$2,000.

"The factory of W. Bates & Co., is very seriously injured. The factory of John Weaver, Esq., injured considerably. The Greenville Manufacturing Company have sustained several thousand dollars damages. The mills throughout the country have been swept away."

The West mill, where the timbers above mentioned were, while considerably damaged, was not destroyed. It was operated for several years after the flood by Mr. West. When the flood occurred, Mr. Philemon Huff father of Mr. Augustus Huff of Laurens, was an uncle of Mr. West, living in the neighborhood; he helped Mr. West haul the timbers back to the mill. The property is now owned by Mr. Paschal D. Huff, eldest brother of Mr. A. Huff. He still resides at the old place and takes much pleasure in telling the story of "Furman's immersion" handed down to him by his father.

4 Good Attractions 4

The management Opera house Newberry have secured the following high class attractions for December.

Wednesday, Dec. 8 "Knight for A Day."

Friday, Dec 10, "Polly Of The Circus".

Thursday, Dec. 16, "House of A Thousand Candles."

Wednesday, Dec. 22, "Lena Rivers."

All seats for out of town people carefully reserved. For further particulars write Earhardt & Baxter, Mgrs.

LOCAL AND PERSONAL MENTION.

Dr. John Kennedy of Bennettsville visited his kinsman, Mr. L. C. Gooch during the past week.

Sheriff John D. Owings and family spent Thanksgiving with friends at Rowan ton.

Miss Bessie Barnett of the city schools spent the Thanksgiving holiday at Chapin with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Bragg visited in Spartanburg last Thursday.

Mrs. W. A. Campbell has returned from a pleasant visit to relatives and friends near Clinton.

Mrs. M. L. Smith and little daughter are visiting in Spartanburg.

Messrs H. B. and C. B. Roper of the Hickory Tavern section were business visitors to the city this week.

Mr. L. M. Higgins of Gray Court, R. F. D. 2, was in the city Tuesday.

Mr. Eugene Crisp of Clinton was in the city yesterday. Mr. Crisp leaves in a few days for Chester where he has accepted a position with the Stricker jewelry concern.

Messrs Carlos Mosley and William Bruce Copeland have returned to Wolford college after spending Thanksgiving in the city.

Mrs. R. F. Jones has returned from a visit to relatives in Clinton.

Miss Della Roland has returned from a visit to Kinkstree.

Mrs. John E. Carlisle is visiting her mother, Mrs. Mary Roland.

Mrs. Etha L. Cavis has returned to Spartanburg after a visit to Mrs. H. W. Anderson.

Miss Lint Jones spent last week in Spartanburg with her sister, Mrs. O. W. Leonard.

Miss Rosa Hart has returned from a visit to Cokesbury.

Mrs. W. R. Riehey, Jr. has returned from a visit to Columbia.

Miss Helen Goggans of Newberry spent the week-end with friends in the city.

Carnival May Come Here.

A representative of the Osterling Amusement company applied to the city council last night for a license to show here during Christmas week. The council, however, declined to issue the license, but informed the advance agent that if he could secure the signatures of two-thirds of the business men of the city to a petition asking for the carnival, it would be given license. Will it come?

Patients Are Doing Well.

The latest news from the Columbia hospital is to the effect that both Mrs. Sue Milam and Mr. William Irby of Laurens county are doing well and are on the rapid road to recovery. Mr. Irby's improvement is very slow and it will be a long time before he will be able to leave his bed. Mrs. Milam's condition is encouraging.



Rev. J. Ernest Thacker.

Will Move Into Todd Building.

Mr. H. Nichols, the photographer, will on January 1st, move into the Todd building on East Main street, occupying rooms on the second floor. Mr. Nichols has secured a three years lease on these quarters. It is understood that in the near future Mr. Nichols will also open a branch establishment in Clinton.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

Miss Marie Gray, was the charming hostess to a number of friends, last Friday evening. The principal feature of the evening was a conventional contest, in which Miss Helen Sullivan, won the prize, a very pretty box of paper. Much amusement was derived from the candidates for the "Hats without Shoes" society. Miss Thuma's corner, being by far the most amusing, in her mysterious order. At the conclusion of these games Misses Zelene and Virginia Gray most gracefully served blanchette mange au gelée.

Among those present were: Misses Ruth Easterly, Marguerite Simpson, Marguerite Tolbert, Rebecca Dial, Altrice Watson, Kathleen Sullivan, Shirley Hix, Abbie Franks, Ely Trumble, Julia Childress, Emma Cooper, Helen Sullivan, Nellie Payne, Mark Philpot, Mary Posey, Ethel Cromer and Messrs. John Terry Poole, James Todd, Douglas Featherstone, Grove Riehey, Moore and Hastings Dial, J. Bus and Ose Stigroaves, Tom Lake, John Bolt, Charles Fleming Leon Dodson, Sam Bolt, James McLean, Harry Gasque, Job Little, Richard Dunlap, Erskine Todd, J. D. Sullivan, Willie Nelson, Earle Owings, James Milam, Earle Caine, Dick Fuller and Tom Bennett.

Miss Susy Gray spent Thanksgiving day with friends in Greenville.

The Thanksgiving dance on Thursday evening of last week was the most pleasant social feature of the holiday week, there being an unusually large number of young people present besides a number of welcome visitors. During the evening delightful refreshments were served. At 12 o'clock the german was danced, led by Mr. S. R. Todd. Among the visitors present were: Misses Eunice McCrary of Clinton, Mae Kinlock of Barnwell, Kilgo of Woodruff, and Messrs. Gillard, Sullivan and Owens of Clinton and W. R. Darlington of Abbeville.

Misses Leila Barry of Greens, Etha Barry of Welfor and Minnie Sparrow of Gastonia, spent Friday and Saturday in the city the guests of Rev. and Mrs. W. E. Barre.

Miss Mary Smith's Thanks.

On behalf of my daughter, Mary Smith, and for my entire family, I wish to thank the people of Laurens county for the valuable aid they have given us in securing one of the prizes in The Advertiser's "Great Popularity Contest." We appreciate everything that was done to help her win, and through the columns of the paper we wish to express our appreciation.

J. M. Smith
Waterloo, S. C.

It is better to make a few mistakes than to do nothing at all.

DO IT NOW!

This is the time to do your Christmas shopping and Simmons is the place to do it. We have everything you could ask for in the way of Dry Goods, Notions, Millinery, Shoes, and Ladies Ready-to-wear Coat Suits, A beautiful line of ladies Handkerchiefs and Neckwear, just the thing for Christmas Gifts.

We have only a few Coat Suits left and to close them out before the holidays, we are making special prices. Come and get yours while this great bargain sale is going on. A word to the wise is sufficient.

All \$35.00 Suits, reduced to	\$22.50	All 18.50 Suits, reduced to	15.00
All 30.00 Suits, reduced to	20.00	All 15.00 Suits, reduced to	12.00
All 25.00 Suits, reduced to	20.00	All 13.50 Suits, reduced to	11.00
All 22.50 Suits, reduced to	18.00	All 10.00 Suits, reduced to	8.50
All 20.00 Suits, reduced to	17.00	All Ladies' Cloaks going at 1/2 price.	

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Get your Christmas Cards here 20 for 5 cents

O. B. Simmons & Son