

# The Orangeburg Democrat.

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Branchville as it was and as it is.

The following historical sketch of our thriving little sister town, Branchville, was prepared and read at the laying of the corner stone of the Methodist Church at that place by Rev. Dr. Thomas Keyser. He said: Seventy years ago the place where Branchville now stands—pulsating with life and trade—was a dismal swamp, known by the not very euphonious name of "Metcalf's Pond." Through what is now Main street, flowed the waters of this pond to "pan branch," and on to the fish-hatch, made famous in history by Carolina's distinguished son, William Claiborne Stims, Esq., who lived ten miles above here, near Midway on the Charleston road. "The people at this period were hardy and self-reliant. Their wants were few and simple. They lived mainly in pole houses, covered with clapboards, and exercised a good deal in the open air. To walk three or four miles to church, or instead to any gathering, and find the baby, with the crop-eared, stump-fall dog barking, was considered no big job. It was of common occurrence. A large portion of the time was spent in fishing and hunting, attending corn-shockings and quiltings, wrestling, juggling, shooting, and "swearing the shabblers," what over that was. There were days of peace and plenty—white pine, long log islands, sick henchmen, head diseases and dysentery when unknown. It is said the first door that E. W. Fairley killed was rotted where now stands the store of A. E. H. Dukes, a prominent and successful merchant of the place. After running through alligator holes, where lives the quiet and modest Dr. Grissell, he ran out by the spire, near where his mill pond now stands, and was left down. The printer has always lived near Brackett's, and his aged father, closely associated with the history of the place. He has gathered considerable wealth, and is to-day still energetic and enterprising. James Hamilton Henry, Esq., another veteran, still lives under the shadow of the town,

while, indeed he gave it this name, the first being Good Store. Mr. Startwell, after accumulating considerable wealth, died here in 1838.

The first store house was put up by Mr. Wm. Fairley, the father of W. F. and J. D. D. Fairley, on the lot where now stands the store and dwelling of J. D. D. Fairley. This store was rented and opened by an Irishman from Charleston, whose name was McKeister. About this period Mr. James Grimms says whiskey was in great abundance, and was sold by the drink at 6 1-4 cents. Dyrnkonnness, horse-racing and gambling were frequent occurrences. It was the custom about this time when a man wanted to have venison at the supper or dinner. He was considered an "unlucky dog" who came to his marriage feast without having venison to eat. When this occurred the man would make witty remarks and the old women, adjusting their spectacles, would say, "Poor Sol! he is given to have a hard road to travel." Mr. James Grimms says he had the honor of killing the buck that graced the marriage table of James Hamilton Henry, Esq. In the year 1750 there came a large colony from Auteckenburg, Germany, and settled in New York. With this colony came the Old family. A part of the family came to South Carolina, and some of them settled near Branchville, and the name has gone into history in connection with the place. Col. Oll, the father of the Doctor, who was prominent in Branchville when as prominent in New York, was a man of commanding presence, remarkable for firmness and business sagacity. Previous to the year 1811—how long before we do not know—the Methodist worshipped in a little pole house one and a half miles northwest of Branchville. Of the history but little is known. It was built by N. Byrd, the present stock of a large and respectable "stickler" of that name in the church by one William Howard organizing a singing school in the church. The result of this effort

Dr. Oll, born and brought up near the place, and whose name is closely associated with it, is the leading physician. He moves about among us with his flowing white beard, having the confidence and esteem of the community. The prominent merchants are A. E. H. Dukes, J. D. D. Fairley, Burns Myers, E. A. Bruce, D. D. Myers, J. Louis Henry, &c. The pastors of the churches are Rev. Thos. Hayson, Methodist, and Rev. Arthur Brist, Baptist. The depot and telegraph office is under the direction of Mr. J. R. Tigon, a moral officer. The express office is in charge of Mr. James Grimms, a man remarkable for honesty and integrity. W. H. Goodish, Esq., a capable, accomplished and popular officer presides over the mail bags. Within the corporation is a steam saw mill, also a grist mill and a gin run by steam, owned and worked by Messrs. Simons & Hyatt, two energetic and enterprising men. The wheatwright business is under the direction of S. S. Walters, a capable workman. W. H. Keeser, a true son of Christen, works efficiently in leather. While Dr. H. Crum, our resident dentist, makes a comfortable living picking the nails from a tooth. To-day, Sept. 8, 1880, we stand here in the presence of a large audience to lay the corner stone of the Methodist church—whose light meeting and blending with the light that shines from the Baptist Church on the opposite hill—will, under God, we trust by the conservative influence and element that is to keep Branchville from the fate of Sedgeon and Gammoch.

An Illinois Social Event.

Chicago, September 20.—One day last week a negro named Sam Monroe was married at Galshburg, Ill., to Miss Nettie Chase, a highly educated daughter of the late Dr. Chase, rector of the Episcopal Church at this place. Monroe had acted as conductor for the young woman's mother, and by some means exerted such influence over the girl as to persuade her to become his wife. The couple departed from Galshburg and were found in a negro's cabin about ten miles distant from that town. The girl was taken care of and the negro was locked up on a charge of kidnaping. Excitement ran high in the town for several days, as the girl's brothers and sisters moved in the highest circles. This morning Miss Chase's brothers undertook to remove her to Teoria preparatory to sending her to a distant State. Monroe, who was on hand, and who had freely boasted of his conquest, appeared at the depot and interceded an interview with his wife. Approaching one of her brothers, whom he addressed as "Brother Horace," he was promptly knocked down. Monroe then drew a revolver and somebody in the crowd then pinned an assassin's weapon in the back of her's hand. Chase shot first and then the negro fled. Another bullet followed him, grazed his cheek and passing through the arm of a by-stander, Chase was then arrested, the negro sweeping unhurt. The Chase went to Point on the next train, but when the brothers return it is expected that the trouble will be "blowed."

An Honorable Man.

We are informed on good authority, that last week a number of rich men waited on Gen. Hancock, and told him they would raise a quarter of a million dollars towards the legitimate expenses of his election if he would permit them to name the Secretary of the Treasury should he be elected President. Gen. Hancock was told that while the Republicans were raising and spending vast sums of money in the campaign, and it was proposed to raise a million dollars by private subscription to insure the election of Garfield the Democratic committee had no funds to speak of, and is obliged to depend upon the spontaneous enthusiasm of the people for contributions. Gen. Hancock listened to their statement with respect, and courteously replied: "Gentlemen, I must decline your offer. If elected to the Presidency I must take the office unpledged." That was the proper answer for a patriot. It was the decision of an honest man. Garfield gave himself away for \$329, and sold the hand that held "the purse strings of the nation," for a \$5,000 fee. General Hancock refused to mortgage a single seat in his Cabinet for \$250,000 even to insure his election to the Presidency. It requires no speculators to see the difference between the two candidates.

Blaine and Maine.

Never was there a more sensible remark than that of Mr. Blaine that if the Republicans are defeated in Maine Hancock will be elected. Let us see what was in his mind. There are 369 electoral votes, 188 elect the President. No fair man will deny that Hancock is certain to receive the following:

Alabama.....	13
Arkansas.....	13
Delaware.....	6
Florida.....	11
Georgia.....	11
Kentucky.....	11
Louisiana.....	12
Maryland.....	8
Missouri.....	15
Mississippi.....	8
New Jersey.....	9
New York.....	35
North Carolina.....	10
South Carolina.....	10
Tennessee.....	19
Texas.....	11
Virginia.....	11
West Virginia.....	7

Total..... 182

Which lacks three only of electing Hancock, if therefore, California 5, or Colorado 3, or Connecticut 5, or Indiana 15, or Nevada 3, or Pennsylvania 20, or Rhode Island 4, should vote for Hancock, he will be President. But Maine, 7, has "wildly" wheeled into the Democratic line and made further votes unnecessary. Therefore it was as Mr. Blaine said, if Davis is defeated Hancock is elected. He understood the case.

Supports Hancock.

The following letters from Hon. Charles Francis Adams, President Lincoln's Minister to England, mis-carried in the mail, but just been received, but eyes cannot take the points away:

John McLean, Edward Cooper and others:

Quincy, August 6, 1880.

Gentlemen: On my return from an excursion to Western New York I had years of the 15th of July, doing the honor to invite me to address a general meeting of the Democracy of the city of New York, assembled for the purpose of ratifying the nomination made by them for the

**A Printer's Dream.**

A printer sat in his office chair, his boots were putched, his coat threadbare, while his face looked weary and worn with care. While gaily thinking of business deals, old Morpheus slowly roused him erept, and before he knew it he dreamily slept; and, sleeping, he dreamed that he was dead, from trouble and toll his spirit had

**A Thin Doggo.**

A prominent merchant of this city received a day or two since a letter from a reputable and leading firm in New York asking if he had any Confederate bonds for sale.

The letter went on to offer 1-8 of 1 per cent., and 3-8 of 1 1/2 in the option of the writer the bonds would be worth 1 per cent., on the day that Hancock is elected, and would rapidly appreciate after that. It is unnecessary to say that the writer of the letter

The Democratic committee has no funds to meet this expenditure of money by the Republican managers. It depends solely on the intelligence and patriotism and principle of the American people for support. And General Hancock, the Democratic

Gen. Hancock listened to their statement with respect, and courteously replied: "Gentlemen, I must decline your offer. If elected to the Presidency I must take the office unpledged." That was the proper answer for a patriot. It was the decision of an honest man. Garfield gave himself away for \$329, and sold the hand that held "the purse strings of the nation," for a \$5,000 fee. General Hancock refused to mortgage a single seat in his Cabinet for \$250,000 even to insure his election to the Presidency. It requires no speculators to see the difference between the two candidates.

Two people was always lived near Branchville, and this being is, directly associated with the history of the place. He has gathered considerable wealth, and is to-day still energetic and enterprising. James Henry, Esq., another veteran, still lives under the shadow of the lawn, of which he has owned a considerable portion. He enjoys a green old age, and furnishes the data that rescues Branchville from oblivion. To-day he is seeing the beginning of what has been the dream and ambition of his life; to wit: A Methodist church, on one of his lots in the town of Branchville. Edward Myers, a quiet and peaceable citizen was the professional hunter and angler of the place. The first house built in Branchville was a double log pen, built by James Cooner for the railroad company. This was about the year 1830. The railroad track was laid at this place about 1831 by Mr. George Walker and Col. Thompson, gentlemen from Colleton County, who had the contract for building the road from Fifty-eight to the Edisto river. The first train of cars ran to this place in November, 1832. Tradition has it that when the first train arrived, a large number of persons, white and colored, were present to see the great sight. When it approached, like a thing of life, spouting water and belching forth volumes of black smoke, the men turned pale and the women screamed. An old woman is said to have exclaimed at the top of her voice, "It is the devil—see the fire and brimstone." Amid the great-est consternation she left, and when she reached her home fell exhausted and enterprising Frenchman whose name was Philip Sharttrand and his body servant, Fortune. He arranged with the company to open a hotel in the double pen he used, where he did host-ness until he built a larger and better house on the South side of the road for hotel and store purposes for himself. There he did business until he built the brick house which now stands between the Columbia and Augusta tracks, and having recently been thoroughly renovated is an ornament to the place. The name of Sharttrand is synonymous with Branch-

ville in good and the population about the present stock of a large and respectable number of the hands in and around the place. Division was caused in this church by one William Board organizing a singing school in the church. The result of this division was that on the 30th day of August, 1811, a lot was bought from George Harrolog for \$1, which now stands Santa's Church, one mile north-east from Branchville. The first church was a small frame building, which gave place to 1872 to a larger and more slightly one. The trustees of the first church were Rev. Jacob Barr, John Rhoad, Jesse Frater, Robert McAlhany, John Felder, Joseph Hare and John Thompson. Of these, not one is living. In 1825 the first Sunday School was organized in Santa's Church by Jacob Kooser. He continued at the head of this school until 1850, when J. H. Berry became the superintendent; in 1874 it passed into the hands of H. P. Bruce. In 1825, says Mr. James Crimes, the Baptists built a church (two and a half miles from Branchville, near where Mrs. Ann Dukes now lives. This church was called Orange. Thomas Adams was said to be its first pastor. The church was built and organized in the town in 1828. Rev. R. J. Edwards was its first pastor. Branchville had but a little trade, small population and a rather desolate existence until the close of the late civil war. Several women conspired to this: First, the railroad owning the land near the track would not sell lots for building purposes, and, second, the place being low and swampy it was thought it was Philip Sharttrand who thought it was better to build a house for the company to open a hotel in the double pen he used, where he did host-ness until he built a larger and better house on the South side of the road for hotel and store purposes for himself. There he did business until he built the brick house which now stands between the Columbia and Augusta tracks, and having recently been thoroughly renovated is an ornament to the place. The name of Sharttrand is synonymous with Branch-

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