

HISTORIC CAMDEN

1815.—The *City Gazette and Daily Advertiser* of Charleston states that the ladies of Camden had subscribed liberally for the purchase of a service of plate to be presented to the Hero of the West, General Andrew Jackson. The "rich and elegant silver vase" was duly presented the next year. General Jackson in his will says that the vase was given him "by the ladies of Charleston." (?)

1816.—The *Camden Gazette* of April 4, 1816, states that Broad Street was one mile long and contained one hundred and twenty dwellings, stores and shops. There were thirty stores, "wholesale and retail". Four religious denominations were represented, all but the Episcopal having "convenient houses of worship". The Society of Free Masons had a handsome brick Hall. Other public buildings were "a large framed Court House, an elegant brick market and Library Room, a large wooden building originally intended for an Academy belonging to the Orphan Society, a handsome brick Arsenal, a jail and two fire-engine houses". Seventeen or eighteen districts in which cotton was the chief staple, between the Yadkin River in North Carolina and the Broad in South Carolina, were tributary to the town. The only drawback was the want of banks. Cotton was selling at 23-25 cents, corn \$1.50, bacon 13-15 cents, tallow 16-18 cents, beeswax 25 cents.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY: 1816-24.

(From advertisements in Camden papers.)

1816-24—Phineas Thornton, Groceries, Garden Seed, Raccoon Skins, etc. (one door below Market, on Broad).

J. B. Mathieu, Groceries, also profiles taken (above ditch, near DeKalb Street).

Josiah Smith, Postmaster.

Henry Abbott, Dry Goods, etc. (upper part of Camden, in new building opposite Mr. James Clark's residence).

A. & M. DeLeon, Drugs.

Frank A. DeLiesseline, Lawyer.

W. Blanding, Drugs.

Charles and John Meugy, Dry Goods, etc.

Kohler & Miller, Tan Yard (formerly of James Clark).

Lee & DeLeon, Dry Goods, Groceries, etc.

William Brown, Dry Goods.

PEN PICTURES—COMMERCIAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC

Jumelle & Young, Patent Medicines.

Francis S. Lee, Sheriff, Kershaw District.

William Brasington, Jailor, Kershaw District.

Samuel Mathis & Co., Dry Goods, etc.

Jonathan Eccles, Groceries, etc.

James K. Douglas & Co., Dry Goods, etc.

Mrs. Carpenter, Mould Candles.

Hugh McCall, Dry Goods.

Shannon & Ballard, Dry Goods, etc.

Coleman & English, Dry Goods, etc.

Alexander Young, Patent Medicines, Jewelry, etc.

J. Lyon, Dry Goods.

Robert Mickle, Dry Goods.

E. M. Bronson, Tinware.

Francis & John Cook, Bricklaying & Plastering.

James Clark & Co., Dry Goods.

Levy Solomon, Fancy Goods, etc., (at Mr. McKain's house near Big Ditch).

Uriah Blackmon, Wines, Crockery, etc.

B. Carter, Tan Yard.

Joseph Thornton, Dry Goods.

William C. Adams, Hair Dressing & Shaving.

Peter Warren, Shoes, etc.

William Parker, Gold & Silver Work (at "Magazine").

Allen Jones & Drury Campbell, Gin Making (King Street next to Printing Office).

William Atkinson & John Workman, Saw Gins made and Repaired (at sign of Sheaf, Rake & Hoe).

Trapp, Patterson & Willie Vaughn, Dry Goods.

General Cantey's New Store.

Latta & Foster, Merchants.

J. & F. Blair, General Merchandise.

Gilkeyson & Blair, Tailors.

Samuel Lopez & Co., Merchandise (corner Broad & DeKalb).

Hodges & McCaa, Dry Goods, Cognac, Brandy, etc.

William Matheson, New Store (two doors from Masonic Hall, opposite J. & J. W. Cantey).

Latta & Kilgore, Merchandise.

H. Levy & Company, Merchandise.

C. Emile Catonnet, Fruits, etc.

John Kershaw, Lumber Mills.

George Forbes, Bookbinding, Stationery.

Abram Blanding & James G. Holmes, Lawyers.

John B. Morin, Hair-Dresser, Hair-Worker & Barber ("lately from Paris: teaches small sword practice at Havis' Ball-Room").

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Camden Medical Association: A. DeLeon, William Blanding, E. H. Anderson, B. W. Carter, Alfred Brevard, John McCaa, W. B. Whitaker.

Ilai Nunn, Dancing.

MacFeat & Thompson, Furniture.

Thomas E. Baker, House & Sign Painting, Gilding.

A. Matheson & Co., Dry Goods, etc.

J. White & Co., Boots & Shoes.

W. E. Johnson & Co., Merchandise.

Murray, Robinson & Co., Merchandise.

W. Olds, Boots & Shoes.

E. Hurley, Dentist.

Alex. Rodgers, Auction Room.

H. R. Cook, Carriages, etc., Made and Repaired.

I. Wood, Tailor.

William Blanding, Drugs, Wholesale & Retail.

Charles A. Bullard, Lawyer.

A. Burr, Boots & Shoes.

John Workman, General Merchandise.

L. F. Breaker, Boots & Shoes, Wholesale & Retail.

Dr. S. Blanding, Physician.

William B. Hart, Lawyer.

Charles Jugnot, Groceries.

Henry G. Nixon, Lawyer.

Jonathan S. Jenkins, Vocal Music (over Market).

"Camden Book Store".

Coe & Strong, Penmanship (in Council Room).

"Camden Candle Manufactory".

1822.—Long before the advent of modern water works, a tax on water was imposed in Camden, as we see by this published notice: "All persons owning occupied tenements within the town of Camden (not having wells thereon in good order) are hereby required to pay their well-tax to the recorder, on or before the 1st of April next.

WILLIAM G. O'CAIN, Recorder."

1824.—*The Southern Chronicle and Camden Aegis* says that Camden had seemed dead from 1818 to 1823; but the establishment of the Branch Bank of the State in 1822 and the building of the Orphan Society Academies and the Presbyterian Church on DeKalb Street, in 1824, marked the beginning of better times. Seven boats with cargoes of various descriptions arrived on December 28 and other boats were engaged from Columbia and elsewhere to "carry off the large quantities of cot-

PEN PICTURES—COMMERCIAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC

ton filling the stores and streets". Camden was drawing cotton from within sixty miles of Charleston.

1825.—LaFayette's visit to lay the corner-stone of the DeKalb monument is treated in another chapter.

Cotton sold at thirty cents on June 4 of this year.

1826.—Mills ("Statistics") says that, in this year, river lands near Camden were selling for thirty to sixty dollars per acre, best uplands from five to ten dollars, while pine lands near Camden would bring scarcely fifty cents per acre. The new court house building at Camden "will be superior in its design to any in the state, both for convenience of accommodation, beauty and permanency". The town hall, containing a market place and a subscription library, was across the street. The high tower of this building, ornamented with a clock and surmounted by a conspicuous spire, gave "an air of importance to the place". The consummation of the great public works on the Catawba River—the Wateree and Rocky Mount canals—"will open great facilities of communication with a rich and extensive back country", extending into North Carolina. Twenty thousand bales of cotton were purchased in Camden during 1825. Subscriptions were raised for the "Jefferson Relief Fund": Thomas Jefferson was about to lose "Monticello".

1827.—Census of Kirkwood: Whites 45; Blacks 59.

1828.—The *Camden Journal*, of December 6, states that Broad Street had for several days been literally choked with wagons, carts and all the various vehicles ever made use of in the conveyance of produce and merchandise. "On Wednesday, eighty-four wagons were counted at one time, loaded with cotton, corn, wheat, flour, iron, etc., and upwards of one hundred and fifty arrived during the course of the day. Thirty-three river boats arrived on Tuesday." A boat load of Camden flour sold in Charleston at six dollars per barrel; twelve thousand, nine hundred bales of cotton were purchased in Camden from September 1st to December 27th.

1829.—This was the year of the great fire; eighty-five buildings burned.²

Postage rates, as published, were: Letters, thirty miles, six cents; eighty miles, twelve and one-half cents; one

¹Robert Mills himself was the architect of this building, as of the Presbyterian Church and the DeKalb Monument.

²See *Historic Camden*—Part I.