

Hopewell Plantation



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HOPEWELL PLANTATION

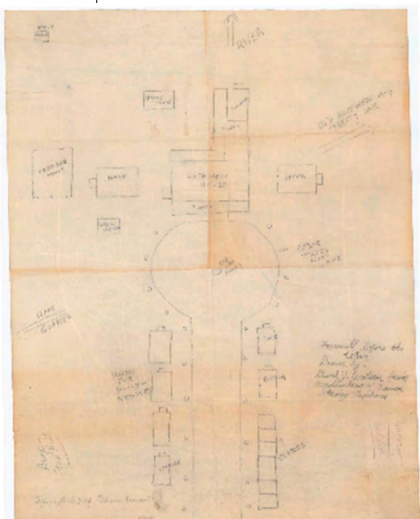
Hopewell, the homesite of the Pickens family, was the plantation site of Revolutionary War Gen. Andrew Pickens. Circa 1785, Pickens moved to the Pendleton District with his wife, Rebecca Calhoun and children. After Andrew Pickens, Jr. sold the property in 1824, the Cherry family was the last private owners of Hopewell, and, as Cherry Farm, the property was deeded to Clemson University in 1954.

Gen. Pickens' selection of property adjacent to the Seneca River was prime real estate — the hairpin-shaped bend in the river made the area very desirable. The Native Americans had recognized the importance of the site, and half of the Lower Cherokee town of Esseneca was founded in the vicinity. The geographical features provided a river crossing at the ford, which would later be a ferry crossing for trade. The lush bottomlands were perfect for growing crops.

PATRIOT AND SOLDIER

During the early part of the American Revolution, as a young captain under the command of Gen. Andrew Williamson, Pickens traversed the terrain when he participated in a battle skirmish against the Cherokees and Tories at the Battle of Seneca





Town in July 1776. In that fateful conflict, his comrade Francis Salvador was killed, and he is recognized as the first Jewish-American patriot killed in the war. Later, as a General, Pickens sometimes garrisoned his militia soldiers at Fort Rutledge, a nearby stockade.

Following the war, Pickens acquired a

land grant from the state of South Carolina of approximately 573 acres on the west side of the Keowee River (known today as the Seneca River) on July 16, 1784. On August 1, 1785, Pickens received 560 additional adjoining acres.

Pickens circa 1785 built a log home on the property near the vicinity that encompasses the Treaty Oak site. The residence in existence today is a substantial home probably built under the direction of Pickens and was later the residence of his son, Andrew Pickens, Jr. It is a log home, but the dwelling eventually became a farmhouse — a structure common in the Backcountry of South Carolina during the early 19th century. Hopewell was a considerable home with a formal parlor and dining room with porches both to the river and the ellipse. Pickens eventually retired to Tamasee to the Red House when Andrew Pickens, Jr. inherited Hopewell. Today, nearby sites include a state highway marker and a historical marker for the Hopewell Indian Treaties of 1785 and 1786 as well as a plantation-era cemetery.

THE TREATY OF HOPEWELL

The Treaty of Hopewell marked a new era of relations between the United States and Native Americans. During his 20-year career as the commissioner of Indian affairs, “Skyagunsta” or the “Border Wizard Owl,” as Pickens was respectfully called by the Cherokee,

successfully negotiated a series of treaties — along with Benjamin Hawkins, Joseph Martin and Lachlan McIntosh on the behalf of John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress — on his Hopewell Plantation that opened up a considerable portion of the western territories to white settlement. These treaties ended years of participation in the Revolutionary War for the Native Americans who had befriended the British and provided for prisoner exchanges, boundaries, trade, peace and perpetual friendship.

Pickens negotiated the Cherokee portion of the treaty with Great Chief Corn Tassel; approximately 36 other chiefs; and nearly 1,000 men, women and children from the Nation. Nanyehi (known to English speakers as Nancy Ward), a beloved Cherokee woman who had apprenticed as an ambassador of the tribe under her uncle Attakullakulla (“Little Carpenter”), also attended the discussions. Nancy said of the treaty negotiations, “You know that women are always looked upon as nothing, but we are your mothers; you are our sons. Our cry is for peace. Let it continue. This peace must last forever. Let your women’s sons be ours — our sons be yours. Let your women hear our words.” The Cherokee treaty was signed under the Treaty Oak on November 28, 1785.

The Choctaw treaty was signed on January 3, 1786. The Nation’s delegation consisted of Chief Yockenahoma and approximately 30 other chiefs.

The Chickasaw treaty was concluded on January 10, 1786. The Nation was represented by Chief and Head Warrior Piominko, First Minister Mingatushka



(a leading chief) and Latopoia (the first beloved man of the Chickasaw). Chief Piominko shared white beads as a token of peace and friendship.

Each treaty concluded with, “The hatchet shall be forever buried, and the peace given by the United States of America, and friendship re-established between the said States on the one part, and the (Native American nation name) on the other part, shall be universe: and the contracting parties shall use their utmost endeavors to maintain the peace given as aforesaid, and friendship re-established.”

As treaties, these negotiations are still applicable legal documents today through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Additional Native American treaty negotiations in which Pickens was instrumental include the Treaty of New York in 1790, the Treaty of Colerain in 1796 and the Treaty of Fort Wilkinson in 1802. His understanding and respect for the Native Americans writes a significant chapter in American history that draws its roots from the Hopewell home site. The Hopewell treaties with the Cherokee, Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes included years of follow-up grievances, while Pickens made further progress with the Creek and Chickamauga tribes. The treaties of Hopewell are nationally significant events in the founding of the United States. Although the course of Native American history is tragically overshadowed by the events leading to the forcible removal of the southern tribes a mere generation later during the Trail of Tears, the negotiations held on the peninsula overlooking the Seneca River had provided peaceful recognition of the Native Americans and brought the tribes within the fold of the newly declared country.

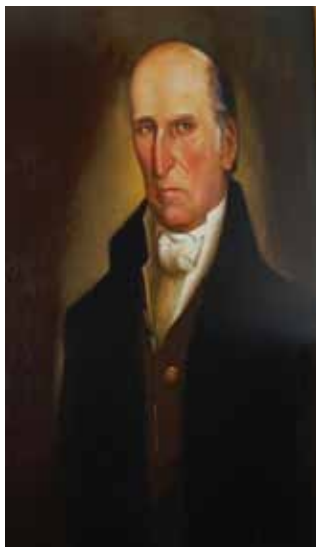
GEN. ANDREW PICKENS: PATRIOT AND STATESMAN

(September 13, 1739 - August 11, 1817)

Gen. Pickens accomplished a great deal in his lifetime, from his birth in Bucks County, Penn., on September 13, 1739, until his death in today's Oconee County, S.C., on August 11, 1817. He is remembered today for both his career and his legacy. He was a militia brigadier general and a hero in the Revolutionary War, who – along with Thomas Sumter (“Gamecock”) and Francis Marion (“Swamp Fox”) – defeated the British and their Loyalist sympathizers in South Carolina.

Dubbed the “Fighting Elder,” Pickens is buried at the Old Stone Church near Clemson. Of Scotch-Irish Presbyterian descent, Pickens was an elder of the Keowee-Hopewell congregation, which built a small-frame church on his property in 1790. He brought the name Hopewell to both the community church and his plantation from his home church in the Abbeville District.

Pickens’ military and diplomatic career with the Native Americans distinguishes him as one of the most revered militia leaders in our nation’s history – so much so that the story of his life and career was portrayed in the movie “The Patriot.” He was awarded a Presentation Sword from the Continental Congress for his valor at the Battle of Cowpens, where the S.C. Militia and riflemen performed “brilliantly and decisively.” During the conflict, the S.C. Militia deliberately withdrew from the battle line, leading the British commanders to believe they were retreating. The British soon found themselves surrounded by Gen. Pickens’ men.



As militia commander, Pickens’ military engagements from 1775 through 1780 include the Snow Campaign, Tugaloo River, the Ring Fight, Tamassy, Florida Campaign / St. Augustine, Kettle Creek, the Battle of Stono Ferry, Charles Town and Ninety-Six – where Pickens surrendered and was paroled.

Pickens re-entered the war in 1781 after James Dunlap, a Tory, attacked Long Canes and burned his home near Abbeville. His military engagements after 1781 include the battles of Cowpens, Hillsboro, Weitzel’s Mill, Fort Galphin and Eutaw



Springs; the sieges of Ninety Six and Augusta (Forts Grierson and Cornwallis); and the last campaign against the Cherokees.

Nationally significant positions held by Pickens following the American Revolution include: S.C. representative (1783-1788, 1796-1799 and 1812-1813), S.C. senator (1790-1791), U.S. congressman (1793-1795) and federal commissioner of Indian affairs (1785-1802). Two sons were S.C. Lt. Gov. Ezekiel Pickens and S.C. Gov. Andrew Pickens, Jr. and a grandson was S.C. Gov. Francis W. Pickens.

Pickens was elected to the S.C. Legislature at a time when his area of the state, the Backcountry (or Upcountry), was receiving greater representation thanks to the Compromise of 1808. The Compromise set up a concurrent majority with a senate controlled by the Lowcountry and a house controlled by the Upcountry in the general assembly in Columbia.

Representing S.C. as one of its first congressmen in Philadelphia, Pickens' indelible accomplishment was as commissioner of Indian affairs.

His epitaph concludes, "His characteristics and actions are incorporated with the history of his country."

S.C. LT. GOV. EZEKIEL
PICKENS
(March 30, 1768 - May
22, 1813)

Lt. Gov. Ezekiel Pickens
graduated from Princeton in
1790 as the valedictorian of
his class. He served as S.C.
lieutenant governor from 1802

to 1804.

Pickens'

first wife was Elizabeth
Bonneau of Charleston.
She was the sister of Floride
Bonneau, who married Col.
John Ewing Colhoun, Sr.
and whose daughter, Floride
Colhoun Calhoun, married
U.S. Vice President John C.
Calhoun. Ezekiel's second



Ezekiel Pickens



wife was Eliza Barksdale, and the couple lived at his home site known as "The Cottage" (a tract of land adjacent to the Hopewell property) until 1859.

S.C. GOV. ANDREW PICKENS JR.

(November 13, 1779 - June 28, 1838) Gov.

Andrew Pickens, Jr. was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Brown University. He was a colonel in the U.S. Army during the War of 1812 and served



as governor of South Carolina from 1817 to 1819. Andrew Jr.'s first wife was Susan Smith Wilkinson, and he later married Mary A. Harrison. He sold the Hopewell property in 1824 to John Carter, and Mary Doyle (a descendant of the Carter family) sold it to the U.S. government in 1936.

In addition, the Andrew and Rebecca Pickens had twelve children, including their youngest son, six daughters who married into prominent families and three children who died young – two sons and a daughter.

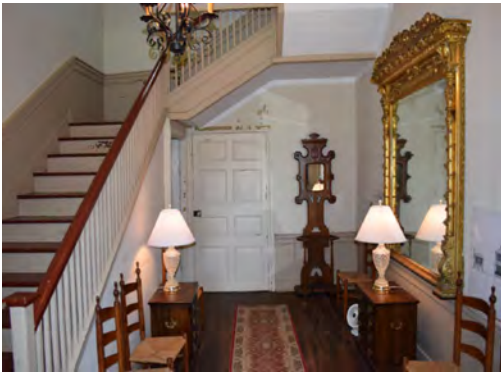
Andrew and Rebecca Pickens' children were

Mary Pickens (1766-1836),
Lt. Gov. Ezekiel Pickens (1768-1813),
Ann Pickens, (1770- 1846),
Son, died in infancy (1772),
Daughter, died in infancy (1773),
Jane Bonneau Pickens (1774-1848),
Margaret Pickens (1777-1830),
Gov. Andrew Pickens Jr. (1779-1838),
Son, died in infancy (1782),
Rebecca Pickens (1784-1831),
Catherine Pickens (1786-1871),
Joseph Pickens (1791-1853).



S.C. GOV. FRANCIS WILKINSON PICKENS (April 7, 1805 - January 25, 1869)

Gov. Francis Wilkinson Pickens was a U.S. congressman from 1834 to 1843. He was appointed as the ambassador to Russia from 1858 to 1860, and he was the governor of South Carolina at the beginning of the Civil War. Francis was married three times, to Eliza Simpkins, Marion Dearing and, lastly, to Lucy Holcombe – whose image adorned Confederate currency. He was the third in the Pickens family to serve South Carolina as a governor or a lieutenant governor.



AFRICAN-AMERICANS AT HOPEWELL PLANTATION

Hopewell Plantation was made possible because of the enslaved Africans owned by the Pickens and later families. The experience of black Americans in the founding

generation is a stark contrast to the antebellum experience immediately prior to the Civil War.

Gen. Pickens had a personal manservant named Richard Pickens — also known as Dick.

Dick Pickens fought at the Battle of Cowpens,

where he procured a pair of boots for his owner from a fatally injured British officer while simultaneously attending to the foe's dying requests for water. Dick Pickens later accompanied Gen. Pickens to the Congress held in Philadelphia.



Gen. Pickens asked in his last will and testament that “Dick (Old Pompey), with his wife, Fillis; Jame and his wife, Seala; Bob and his wife, Clarase; . . . be freed from slavery, and 150 acres of land be reserved for them to live upon and to cultivate ... My executors are hereby directed to give them two young work horses with two plows with gears and tacking, each of them to be given a good weeding hoe, the men each an axe with a pair of iron wedges, the women each a cotton wheel and card; likewise to be given five good young cows and calves, six head of sheep, and for breeding sows, to be supplied with provision for themselves and creatures, . . . from the provision on the plantation, and likewise with three bushels of salt for the first year.”

The fate of these nine enslaved persons is presently unknown. Gen. Pickens’ son, Gov. Andrew Pickens, Jr. sold the property in 1824. The land was subsequently owned by John Carter, Horatio Reese and David Cherry. The estate remained in the Cherry family from the 1830s to the 1930s until Mary Cherry Doyle sold it to the federal government. To this day, the reconnaissance historical archaeology has not determined the



exact locations of the confirmed Hopewell Plantation outbuildings.

A nearby cemetery has only two surviving tombstones of what was once possibly an African-American slave burial site with one antebellum inscription for “Hannah, the wife of James Reese, who died in 1857 at the age of 49” and one early 20th century inscription, “Loutilda Thompson June 10, 1916 – Dec. 20, 1918.”

PRESENT-DAY HOPEWELL PLANTATION

Today, Clemson University owns the Hopewell Plantation house and has a goal is to restore it to interpret the life of Gen. Pickens, the Hopewell treaties of 1785 and 1786, and the African-Americans who lived and worked there. Hopewell is not regularly open for tours but is maintained by the Clemson Research Farms. The Clemson Experimental Forest manages the site of the treaties and opens it to the public from dawn to dusk. The cemetery site behind the Morgan Poultry Center is open by appointment only. For more information, visit clemson.edu/hopewell.





Directions to Hopewell Plantation:

Turn onto Old Stone Church Road.
Travel for approximately a mile.
At the intersection of Old Cherry Road, turn left at a three-way stop, following the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) signs.
Travel half a mile and turn left onto West Queen Street, following the DNR signs.
Immediately past the railroad tracks at the Cherry Farm and DNR signs, turn right onto Hopewell Road to view the S.C. National Heritage Corridor sign.

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