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Interesting Facts Concerning Cheraw,
S. C.; "The Tip Top Town"



IN LINE with last week's story on Fayetteville we are printing the following concerning Cheraw, one of the most picturesque communities of the "old south."

CHARMING CHERAW;
"THE TIP-TOP TOWN"

The town of Cheraw was laid out in 1766, though long before this it was a trading-post with the Indians. The tribe of Indians that lived in that section were the Cheraws, probably a detached tribe of the Cherokees, the name "Cheraw" being a contraction of "Cherokee."

St. David's Episcopal church, the original building now standing, was built in 1770. This church was used by Cornwallis' soldiers during the Revolution, and in the summer of 1780 the famous Scotch regiment, commanded by Col. McArthur, was stationed here. Some fifty of these died in the church, an epidemic of small pox raging at the time. These soldiers are buried in front of the church in one grave. The commander, Col. McArthur, is also buried there; his grave is near the gate under a brick mound.

Near the front of the church is the grave of Capt. Daniel Elkin, who was captain of the steamship "Savannah," the first steamer to cross the Atlantic. The "Savannah" sailed from Savannah to Liverpool in 1819. When the steamer came in sight of Liverpool, the citizens seeing the smoke and not knowing a steamer was coming, hurried the fire department down to the wharf to meet the boat.

In one corner of the church-yard will be seen the grave of Mr. William Robbins, a philanthropist originally from Boston. The epitaph on his tomb was found in his papers after his death:

"My name—my country—what are they to thee!
What—whether high or low my pedigree.
Perhaps—I far surpass all other men!
Perhaps—I fell below them all—what then?
Suffice it stranger, thou seest a TOMB—
Thou knowest its use—it hides—no matter whom,

Directly behind the church is the grave of Bishop Alexander Gregg, the first Bishop of Texas, the great historian, and who was rector of St. David's when elected Bishop of Texas.

The Confederate monument erected in the southern part of the yard was the first built in the South.

A drive through the eight miles of streets of the town, all a hundred feet wide with three rows of trees, in the spring will convince you that "Cheraw is the prettiest town in Dixie."

On the public square the old market-house and town hall stand. One block up Market street the old Cheraw hotel stands. This house was the tavern for the stage coaches, Cheraw being a point on the Metropolitan stage line that ran from New York to New Orleans. From this tavern, branch stage lines radiated, connecting with this through line;

stages left daily for Charleston, Charlotte and other cities.

On the corner of Kershaw and Third streets stands the McKay house. Lafayette attended a ball at this house in 1824. Note the construction—a wide hall runs through both ways, crossing in the middle of the house.

Nearly across the street stands the Hendrix house, which was the home of Chancellor Inglis, who was chairman of the Committee on Resolutions at the Secession convention, and wrote the ordinance of Secession when South Carolina seceded, which brought on the war.

Many of the homes are over a hundred years old and have local histories.

The Hartzell house, built about 1800, was the headquarters of Gen. Sherman in 1865 while on his march through here.

Sherman's soldiers, under Gen. Benj. Harrison (afterwards President), fought the Confederates at the river bridge, the Confederates retreating across the river and setting fire and burning the bridge as the Federal soldiers entered the bridge on this side.

In 1780, after the battle of Camden, where Cornwallis defeated Gates, Gen. Nathaniel Green was sent South to take command of the American army. General Green took command of the army two miles from Cheraw, on the road to Rockingham, in the field near Kollock station, and from this point he marched to Guilford court-house, North Carolina, and fought Cornwallis. In this battle the British lost so heavily they retreated to Yorktown and later surrendered there.

Soon after crossing the railroad track near Kollock, on the right of the road, will be seen a clump of trees which is a cemetery. This is in the same field where General Green took command of the army. This cemetery is the burial-place of the Wilson family. The father and mother of John Lide Wilson are buried there. John Lide Wilson was Governor of South Carolina in 1821, and wrote the famous "Wilson Dueling Code," the code that was observed in all of the duels in anti-bellum times.

NOTE—Other journeys to follow.

Everywhere the Holiday Spirit

There's a half-hour's delight awaiting the Christmas shopper at the Department Store in examination of the exquisite display of Holiday novelties which range all the way from dinner favors to the more elaborate mechanical toys. And as for "useful articles" there's everything from the traditional slipper to the much-abused box of cigars. ¶ In the jewelry shop adjoining you may spend one dollar or one hundred with equal satisfaction, and you'll also find a visit to Merrow's worth your while. ¶ Everywhere the Holiday spirit pervades the atmosphere. Holly greets you on all sides, native boys are offering the mysterious mistletoe, high up in the long-leaf pine the mocking bird sings faintly his Christmas carol and good-bye!

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