Brass Knobs to Glem

Doors of Stateburg's Old Homes
To Open to Public on April 8

Stateburg, March 24—On Sunday afternoon April 8, the doors of Stateburg's historic old homes and churches will be open to the public with their brass knobs and knocker gleaming.

The tour is being sponsored by the Woman's Auxiliary of the Church of the Holy Cross. The proceeds will go to help pay the remaining indebtedness on a parish house recently erected there.

The Borough House, pre-revolutionary residence with many interesting furnishings will be one of the highlights of the tour.

The former home of the Andersons and the birthplace of "Fighting Dick," Anderson is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. C. Delonne. It was built in 1642 and has been beautifully restored. Six stately columns support the portico. Double drawing rooms have elaborate plaster friezes around the ceilings. The original chandeliers are now electrified.

Through the courtesy of Dr. J. Ralph Dunn the visitors may see Dundell Gardens, a flower land unmatched for natural beauty. Acres of Japanese irises, camellias, azaleas and bulbs surround a historic old mill pond which dates back to the time of Chancellor Thomas Waties.

Moor Hill, an old home recently purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Smith, will be open to the public for the first time.

Cold drinks will be available for sale during the afternoon and tea will be served at the Parish House. Tickets will be on sale at Chamber Store at the intersection of highway 241 and 76 at $2 each.

Maps and histories of places to be visited will be on hand.

The Borough House, which dates from 1758, was built by William Hilton, who that year was granted the land upon which the house stands. Subsequently the place had several owners, and shortly before the Revolution it became the home of Thomas Hooper, and his wife, Mary Heron Hooper.

Thomas Hooper and his brother William, came to the Carolinas from Boston. William Hooper settled in North Carolina, and was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence from that state. Thomas and his wife came to Charleston, from whence they eventually removed to The High Hills of Santee.

Mary Heron was the daughter of Captain Benjamin Heron, R. H., who was for twenty years in the Colonial service in North Carolina, where he became Lieutenant General of Militia, and Chairman of the Royal Council. He married in North Carolina Mary Howe, sister of General Robert Howe of the Revolution. Captain Heron returned to England in 1769, and there at Lexington he died in 1779, and was accorded the unusual honor of burial beneath the pavement of St. George's, the Royal Chapel at Windsor. Mrs. Heron returned to Wilmington after her husband's death, and here her daughter, Mary, married Thomas Hooper. They are buried in a tomb in the lower garden of The Borough House, their home in Stateburg.

On the 200th anniversary of the purchase of The Borough House recently, Mrs. Walter C. White, the present owner, gave a reception at which time Bishop Thomas (retired) and Bishop Carvers of the Diocese of South Carolina re-blessed the house.

During the Revolution General Nathanael Greene was entertained at The Borough House, where he maintained headquarters, which he called "Camp High Hills of Santee." While there he rested and recruited his army. For the convenience of the troops the nearby spring was arched over with native rocks. This arch still remains, and the spot has ever since been called "Greene's Springs." At this time of the occupation of The Borough House, one of General Greene's staff officers amused himself by branding the doors of the sitting room with a red hot poker, the letters C. A., which stand for Continental Army. A letter from General Greene, written from Camp High Hills of Santee, is dated Aug. 6th, 1781.

The map engraved for Johnson's Sketches of the Life and Correspondence of General Greene, shows the line of march of the Armies of Lord Cornwallis, Colonel Henry Lee, and General Greene, all passing through the High Hills of Santee on the old King's Highway, which leads from Camden to Columbia, up into North Carolina. It runs directly in front of The Borough House.

In August 1780, Lord Cornwallis was on his way to Camden, where on the 16th a fierce battle was fought. He made The Borough House his headquarters for a short time. This may have been a visit to an old acquaintance, as well as a military occupation, for he was godfather to a first cousin of Mary Heron Hooper, and she had known him in England.

General Henry Lee, also encamped in The High Hills of Santee, which he called "The Benign Hills of Santee," because of the better climate of this old, range of hills, the first time from the coastal plain. Geologists say they emerged from the sea thousands of years before the Rocky Mountains rose above the waters. In the valleys of the High Hills are to be found many curious fossil remains.

Pre-Revolutionary Village

A small village developed before the Revolution around the foot of the hill upon which The Borough House stands. It was called Clarmont, but seems to have been referred to from very early days as "The Borough." The comion service of the Church which preceded the present Church of The Holy Cross, which was built on the same site in 1850, is marked "Clarmont Episcopal Church." The little borough continued to be called Clarmont until 1783, when General Thomas Sumter, a resident of the neighborhood, and a member of the Legislature, conceived the idea of proposing it as a site for the capital of South Carolina.

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States.” He stood in rank next to the Surgeon General of the Confederate Army, Doctor Moore.

The third son, Capt. Edward McKenzie Anderson, fell at the Battle of Williamsburg in 1862. Doctor Anderson was an ardent supporter of the Confederate cause, and supplied a number of slaves for work on the fortifications of Fort Pulaski.

In recognition of this service, a walking cane was made from the fallen flagstaff of the Fort, and mounted with silver, suitably engraved, and presented to him.

SUCCESSFUL PLANTER

In addition to his medical practices (See Note 2) he was a planter. An eminently practical man, he was six miles from his residence, he planted Cherokee Roses, and a small black cherry rose. A few groups of this planting still survive.

His ideas were progressive, and in a valley near the Borough House he built an icepond. The mild Carolina winters did not always permit the harvesting of ice, but when these sheets were formed, they were cut and piled, and then water was poured over to freeze the ice into blocks, which were then stored for summer use in an icehouse, which had been excavated in the hillside.

Doctor Anderson’s interest in science and botany is attested by his fine collection of books on these subjects. These mutual interests were no doubt the result of his friendship with Joel R. Poineau, who died at the Borough House in 1851, while visiting Doctor Anderson.

He succeeded his father as master of the Borough House, and he practiced medicine until 1911, completing 100 years of practice which had been begun by his father in 1810. Doctor Anderson, the beloved physician, was also a devoted churchman, and was for many years Senior Warden of The Church of The Holy Cross. Upon his death the ownership of the Borough House passed to his daughter, Catherine, Mrs. William L. Saunders. Through purchase of adjoining property, by Mr. Saunders the lands of Borough House were greatly enlarged, and when inherited by their daughter, Virginia, Mrs. Walter C. White, most of the place was refenced, and about six million trees, have been planted.

The only son of Mr. and Mrs. Saunders, Major William Harrison Saunders, graduated at West Point in 1917, and was sent immediately to France. Here he transferred to the Air Force, and received training as an Avro Observer at Valdahon Aeronautical Observation School. After completing this training he reported to a French Squadron. In February, 1918 Captain Saunders attended the Aerial Gunery School at Camars. Completing the course in March 1918 he made the highest average score of any American.

Major Saunders trained, commanded, and was Chief Observer of the 12th Aero Squadron, which was rated in efficiency by our officers, and by the Germans, as one of the two outstanding Observation Squadrons of the American Army, so stated in the Air Service Magazine of April 1919. Major Saunders was the first American Observer to qualify as a pilot, and the First American in Observation Aviation to perform a mission over German lines. His Squadron was the first to be assembled into a division, he received several citations for gallantry in action, and was Posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. In March 1919 he was appointed Assistant Chief of Air Service Operations in Washington.

Doctor Anderson was an ardent devotee of the arts, and was a member of the South Carolina Club, which was named Virginia Cathedral, and is constructed of pise de terre.

CAREFUL RECORDS KEPT

For many years Doctor Anderson kept a careful record of weather conditions. A record which was continued by his son, Dr. William Wallace Anderson. These many years of voluntary service were acknowledged by the Weather Bureau in Washington as being a most valuable record of the locality.

The gardens of Borough House is a magnificent specimen of camelias japonica, which was planted there by Mr. Poineau. The trunk is over a foot in diameter.

The garden is pre-Revolutionary, and there are many old fashioned bulbs and flowers, and a notable collection of old roses. From the front of the house are a few trees, and there are a number of trees of interest. Foremost is the “Spa Oak,” a giant white oak, which is 20 feet in diameter. From its branches three Tory spies were hanged during the Revolution. There are crepe myrtles of enormous size, and a number of King’s oak, which grew from acorns sent thirty years ago by the Duke of Bedford. In the Fall of 1927 were planted three specimens of the Dawn Cypress, a tree thought to have been extint for many thousands of years, until specimens were discovered growing in a remote valley in China about fifteen years ago. It is hoped that they will find the climate of The High Hills of Santee to their liking.

Dr. Anderson performed the first operation on record for the removal of cancerous nodules for cancer. An account of this operation is given in the American Journal of Medical Science, Vol. 19. The patient was Tom, an African slave belonging to Colonel Thomas Sumter. Tom became so devoted to Doctor Anderson during the course of his treatment that he begged Doctor Anderson to buy him, which he did. The operation was witnessed by several army doctors, and since then the form had not been discovered, liberal drinks of whisky were administered to Tom to ease the pain. An account of this operation also was given in Gibbon’s Surgery, a textbook used for many years in the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Doctor Anderson’s personal notes on the subject are among the papers of The Borough House.

The medical office, in which this operation took place, is still standing. It resembles a small Greek temple, and is constructed of pise de terre.

Note 1: Richard Heron Anderson graduated at West Point in 1889. His services during the War with Mexico were distinguished, and were recognized by the State of South Carolina by the following resolutions passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives:

"Whereas: The State of South Carolina recognizes with pride and gratification the military services of her son, Captain Richard H. Anderson, of the United States Army, in the late War with Mexico, as displayed in all the conflicts with the rebels, commencing at Vera Cruz and terminating with the capture of the City of Mexico.

And whereas: It is the high and grateful duty of a State to manifest, by a proper expression, its appreciation of her hero: and patriotic sons—

"Be it therefore, Resolved: That the Governor be requested to procure a sword, with proper and suitable devices, and present the same in the name of the State, to Captain Richard H. Anderson, as an expression of its appreciation of his gallant and meritorious services".

The sword was inscribed:

"South Carolina to Captain Richard Heron Anderson, a memorial of gallant combat in the Army of the Confederate States of America. April 19, 1861, to May 18, 1865. 1919"

The hilt of the sword is surmounted with a wheel of Calhoune, and at the top of the scabbard is a shield of gold, bearing the Coat of Arms of South Carolina, beneath which at intervals along the scabbard are scenes of the battles mentioned, depicted in lower relief.

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