

Standard Set For Markers In This State

State - July 13, 1939
BY NORA M. DAVIS

At its annual meeting in June, 1936, the historical commission of South Carolina appointed A. S. Salley, secretary of the commission, Dr. R. L. Meriwether of the University of South Carolina, and Miss Nora M. Davis, director of the historical markers survey of South Carolina, as a committee to design a standard directional highway marker to be used by the historical markers survey in its program of systematically marking the historic sites of general importance on or near state, county and federal highways throughout South Carolina.

From the very outset, this committee was unanimous in its aim: an artistic and durable marker, the effect of which would be pleasing when first seen, and least tiring when frequently seen. At the first meeting two suggestions were offered for the predominant feature of the motif: the state outline and the state seal. The outline was eliminated because it was the less attractive; and the seal was eliminated as impracticable because of its intricate and numerous details. Then the state emblem, the palmetto tree, in a circular inclosure was unanimously chosen. In its efforts to secure a typical cabbage palmetto (inodes palmetto), the species of the emblem, the committee experienced its greatest difficulty. One artist gave a young tree with "basket weave" to the ground; another gave a tree with no "basket weave" at the top; and another gave one with palm foliage on the desired palmetto trunk. Eventually the committee did get the type of palmetto specified with the abbreviation "S. C." at its base, and approved the whole design of the marker December 7, 1936. It was subsequently approved by the historical commission.

The sketched motif was then modeled in plaster of paris by William Sievers, a sculptor of Richmond, Va., who designed, among other statues, the Lee group at Gettysburg, the Stonewall Jackson equestrian statue at Richmond, and the bust of Sam Houston, also at Richmond. By making the palmetto tree stand in higher relief than he did the letters Mr. Sievers secured a very pleasing effect.

For what was the marker designed? South Carolina has played an active and forceful part in the development of our country from its earliest settlement. Among its historical resources are: sites of the early settlements to plant European footholds upon this New World; old forts built as a protection from European rivals; forts built as a protection against the Indians; scenes of the various Indian wars and uprisings and massacre; extinct towns of historic interest; 137 Revolutionary battle and skirmish sites; 215 Confederate battle and skirmish sites; ruins of noted old churches; ruins of sites of old homes, noteworthy because of their architecture or early date of erection or their prominent owners; early schools and colleges; and places connected with the early development of industry. The historical markers survey is necessarily restricted to the use of its

markers for such sites of general historical significance, in contrast to places of purely local interest.

The state highway department is cooperating with the survey to the extent of actually erecting the markers (furnishing both the labor and the material for the concrete base for the standard) and of providing and maintaining a suitable parkway adjacent to the pavement opposite or near the marker so that occupants of vehicles may park clear of the pavement and read the marker without obstructing or interfering with highway traffic. As the highway department will also help in beautifying these parkways, they should be not only safety devices for highway traffic, but also attractive spots for highway motorists.

In pursuance of the original plan and of the continued policy of the survey to establish a statewide uniform system of marking on all highways in the state, the survey appeals to all organizations contemplating the erection of historical markers to consider its standard marker. Only in this way can South Carolina have a standard uniform marker. In almost all other states engaged in similar work, the department of the state or the organization sponsoring it has sufficient funds to erect the desired markers; and consequently those states have the desired uniformity. On the contrary, neither the American Legion of South Carolina, which sponsors this work, nor the state of South Carolina, which supports it, has appropriated funds for the erection of markers; therefore, the South Carolina directional highway markers can be uniform only on condition that the standard marker be adopted by all interested in erecting historical markers upon South Carolina highways. Any organization desiring permission to use this marker should make application either to O. H. Doyle of Anderson, supervisor of the historical markers survey of South Carolina, or to Miss Nora Davis, World War Memorial, Columbia, director.

UNVEIL MARKER AT EDGEFIELD

Chan. Obs. *[Signature]*
Celebrate 100th Anniversary
Of Building Courthouse;

Governor Is Speaker.
July 15, 1939

EDGEFIELD, S. C., July 14.—(AP)—Edgefield county celebrated today the 100th anniversary of the building of its courthouse with more than 2,000 former residents of the county or their descendants present for the homecoming.

Governor Burnet R. Maybank, in the chief address of the day, recounted Edgefield's past history and the number of leaders it has furnished to public life.

Other speakers included Frank Gary of Columbia, who presented a portrait of his uncle, General Martin W. Gary; Mrs. A. G. Walden, who presented a portrait of her father, the late Judge Gaston, former sheriff of Edgefield county, and Mrs. Henry T. McIntosh of Albany, Ga., who presented a portrait of her father, the late Col. O. F. Cheatham, former clerk of court of Edgefield county.

MARKER UNVEILED.

A marker was unveiled to the nine Governors and five Lieutenant Governors furnished the State by Edgefield county or Edgefield district. The unveiling took place on the public square. The marker was unveiled by Mrs. Logan Marshall of Clemson college, vice president general of the Daughters of the American Revolution, assisted by Miss Hortense Woodson, daughter of the founder of the Edgefield chapter.

Dr. J. Rion McKissick, president of the University of South Carolina, made the unveiling addresses, reviewing the careers of the men whose names appear on the marker: Andrew Pickens, Jr., Pierce Mason Butler, James H. Hammond, George McDuffie, Francis W. Pickens, Milledge Luke Bonham, John Calhoun Sheppard, Benjamin Ryan Tillman, and John Gary Evans, who were governors, and Eldred Simkins, John C. Sheppard, W. H. Timmerman, James H. Tillman and James O. Sheppard, lieutenant governors.

Judge J. Strom Thurmond was master of ceremonies at the exercises. A barbecue and picnic dinner was served.

DESCENDANTS INTRODUCED.

Afterward, music was furnished by the Parris Island band. A number of distinguished descendants of old Edgefield were introduced and spoke briefly.

Those included Dr. John Lake, a missionary to China; Calhoun Mays of Greenwood, Ben T. Huit of Atlanta, Ga.; Pierce Mason Butler, 4th. of Nashville, Tenn.; A. S. Salley, State historian; Dr. Proctor Bonham of Greenville, Mrs. Susie Tillman Moore of the Georgia State

Senate, Oliver B. Burroughs of Augusta, Ga., Preston S. Brooks and others.

Present also was Justice Milledge L. Bonham of Anderson, a son of Governor Bonham, but he was unable to appear on the program.

A dance tonight brought the celebration to a close.