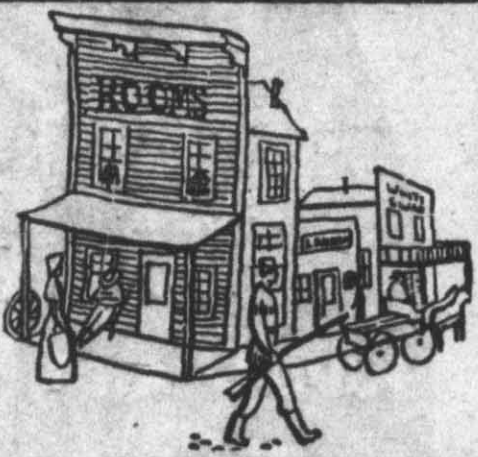


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## They Say . .

Bits taken from our old files—  
History, Politics, Humor! Origin  
Unknown; Contents Good.

"No greater calamity can befall  
a people than to break utterly  
with its past; and if we forget  
our ancestors we ourselves are  
unworthy to be remembered."



### RICHARD WOODS

Richard Woods, one of the four signers of the Ordinance of Secession from Chester District, was born August 10, 1813, in the western part of that district, near Broad River. His parents were natives of North Carolina, but came to South Carolina soon after their marriage. The mother was a Miss Faucett, of Huguenot descent. Mr. Woods, like most of the boys of that day, went to an old field school, where he received a good foundation, which, with his natural ability and his great love of books, rendered him a man of vast and varied information. But his greatest interest lay in the political aspect of his own country, especially that part of it in which his life was spent.

He was a large and successful planter, a kind, indulgent master, was never known to have sold a slave, and the quarters in which his large number of slaves lived was a model of neatness and comfort, the neat frame houses having been built along a regular street, and each having a little garden in the rear.

Mr. Woods was a man noted for his generosity, his heart and purse being ever open to the needy, and it is said of him that he did more for the wives and children, the widows and orphans of the soldier boys than any man in the country. His barn doors and cribs were open to them and they could come and take without asking. He also sent large supplies to the army.

Mr. Woods was married three times. The first wife, Miss Elizabeth Pinchbeck, died while very young, leaving two children. His second wife, Mrs. Susan Kelley Hopkins, only lived a short time, and he afterwards married Mrs. Lett Hawthorne Wilks. His son

went out with the lads of 15 and 16 years of age in '65.

After the war, owing partly to the distance from the towns, and because of his kindness to his slaves in the past, many of the old ones never left him, and consequently, on account of his productive lands, Mr. Woods was able to retrieve his fortunes sooner than most of the men of that time. He still showed his readiness to lend a helping hand to those less fortunate than himself.

His death took place December 16, 1884, and he was buried in the family graveyard on the place, which is still in the possession of the Woods family.

The late Dr. James Woods Babcock of Columbia, S. C., was a grandnephew.

The Chester (S. C.) News,

Dec. 3, 1953