

**The Story of Cottageville, South Carolina**

**And**

**Its surrounding areas as compiled by various individuals and sources**

**(Please remember that these are memories and "hearsays" and there will be  
different views of the same story" )**

The Town of *Cottageville* is located in *Colleton County* in the Southeastern portion of South Carolina designated as the Lowcountry Region (see map 4).

*Cottageville* is bisected by U.S. Highway 17-A and is 10 miles from *Walterboro*, the county seat and chief urban center of *Colleton County*, and 18 miles from *Summerville* in *Dorchester County*. *Cottageville* is within the "commuter shed" or commuting distance to work for the *Charleston* Metropolitan area which has influenced its recent growth and is likely to continue to do so in the future.

The greater community that includes *Cottageville* and *Round O* was once know as "*The Round O*". According to *Cottageville* historian **B.F. Ackerman**, the *Round O* area was settled in the mid 1700's as a buffer zone between *Charleston* and the Native Americans. Transportation, land, tools, and food supplies were provided to those settlers by the English government.

Produce for markets were primarily rice and naval stores. During the Revolution this area saw action including a skirmish at *Round O*, because of its location near *Charleston*, which was then the capital of the state and besieged by the British. After the capture of *Charleston* by British troops,

nearby *Jacksonboro* became the capital of South Carolina. Cultivation of rice in this area was largely abandoned by the time of the Revolutionary War.

From 1830-1850, many people moved to this area to grow cotton.

The *Cottageville* community has its beginnings with a Methodist Church, a parsonage and one house around 1870. First known as *Round O*, the community was named by **Doctor George Pierce**, an Englishman who ran the town's store after the home of the Methodist minister, **Reverend Durant**, who called his home "Our Cottage Home, according to a story written by **Mrs. Alex Durant Williams** in the February 20, 1941 edition of the Press and Standard. **Mrs. Durant** grew up in *Cottageville* leaving in 1893 after the death of her mother.

When the **Durants** moved to *Cottageville*, the Methodist church and parsonage were located near what is now *Spring Hill Baptist Church*. Other residents of the area in the late 1800s included **Dr. A.E. Williams**, **Sarah Ackerman**, **Jimmie Adams**, **Dr. Pierce**, **Mr. Willis** and **Jim Hill**. The town had no school, so **Dr. Williams** hired a governess to teach his children and gave other residents the opportunity to attend the school. **Mrs. Durant's** sister **Ellie** taught school in a small one room school house in the **Durant's**

yard, and **Pauline Williams** taught in the town's *Temperance Hall*. The first public school was started in 1893. Also in 1893 came the famous tornado which blew down trees in the areas by the hundreds, including many around the school house which remained untouched.

As the Village grew the residents wanted a post office and this instigated the changing of the name from *Round O* to *Cottageville*. The first post office was in **Dr. Pierce's** store but it was later moved behind **Joe Ackerman's** house. Later the post office was moved near **Henry Ackerman's** home then to a small store beside **C.K. Ackerman's** home, then back to **Dr. Pierce's** store. The town was first incorporated around 1928 but, according to **B.F. Ackerman Jr**, the town gave up its charter in 1933 because no one would be mayor because the town light bill of \$2 per month was behind and no one would be responsible for it. The town was re-incorporated in 1936 with

**G.W Cone as mayor.**

**Incorporation of the town-second time**

**At a special election held at *Cottageville* yesterday (October 20, 1937), it was voted by 30 to 9 that the town is incorporated, with the town limits extending for a radius of one mile from the *Methodist Church* situated in the present town of *Cottageville***

## Pieces of Cottageville

According to the legend, the name of Cottageville was arrived at by the residents when a post office was authorized. As the village grew, the people wanted and needed a post office. Up until this time the neighborhood and then later the church was know as Round O. Residents had called their little homes cottages, the village soon was named "*Cottageville*"

The village is laid out among a high pine and hickory ridge between the low lands formed by tributaries of the *Edisto* and *Ashepoo* rivers.

September 22, 1946 **W.W. Spell** had started his construction, completing a half block of stores. Each store had a large plate glass window which added to the cheerful look of the interior. His first concern was a modern grocery store, next a hardware store and next to it his variety store. A service station with ample accommodations for cars completed the set up. Adjacent to this was the post office occupied by the post mistress, **Mrs. Ernie Neese**.

On the other side of the street the general merchandise store of **H.L. Rhode** was spreading out. A spacious addition was added on for the new grocery department. Shovels, nails, shoes, notions, and other items were in the older part of the building. Two things contributed greatly to the business district doing well: the fine agriculture section in which *Cottageville* is located and

the logging operations. Also at this time the local people of the community did almost all of their shopping here. They did not make frequent trips to

**Walterboro and Charleston** as we do now.

**E.M.Dandridge** and **Clifton Muckenfuss** went in as co-partners and opened a small eating establishment. Friends often would meet here and talk over lunch. Hamburgers, hot dogs and sandwiches were served along with friendly conversation. Cottageville's theater, owned by **Harry Reeves** operated several times a week. Friday and Saturday night were the big nights. Most of the movies shown were Westerns starring: **Buster Crabbe, Bob Steele and Ken Manard**. This was the communities main source of entertainment. The younger people seldom got to go to *Walterboro* and so they greatly looked forward to going to the theater on the week-end. One movie recalled by **Martha C. Davis** was appropriately named, "The sky's the limit" and starred Fred Astaire. The mayor's office was in the theatre building. The mayor at the time was **Preston Ackerman**.

*Cottageville* had a high school and a grammar school. The small community solved its teaching problems by using local talent. The faculty of 12 were comprised of *Cottageville* residents. (as was told to me) They were :

**J.K East, Superintendent: Madison H. Griffith, Assistant Superintendent:  
Ethel Willis, Janie Williams, Venita Johnson, Martha Davis, Gertrude  
Turner, F.B. Thomas, Carrie Low Ackerman, Mamie Ackerman and  
Margarite Tuten who taught music.**

On April Fool's Day the high school students would cut school and would walk to Walterboro. This was a tradition carried out for many years. Some students made it only to *Round O*, but several did make the complete journey.

*Cottageville* has contributed more profession person (doctors, school teacher, etc) than any town of it's size. The small community is one of distinction, it has lost none of it's charm, nor it's hospitality. You will always find a friendly smile and a welcome hand outstretched. There are many wonderful stories and treasured recollections of *Cottageville's* past and its people.

I only wish I had the time and space to relate all of the wonderful memories.

**Kim B. Davis**



*Cottageville* is a friendly little town with roots go as deep as the 1700's. In those roots stands intrigues and even romance.

Located 35 miles northwest of *Charleston* on Hwy 17-A, *Cottageville* is the axis of several communities within a five mile radius. Residents of *Gloverville, Spring Hill, Rehobeth, Red Oak, Jericho and McDaniel* come to *Cottageville* for groceries, gasoline, mail and other necessities. To tell of how *Cottageville* came into existence, one must first know a little of the history of the surrounding communities. From the early 1700's, what is now known as the *Town of Cottageville* was actually a piece of land included with what was then known as "*The Round O* " community.

About 1756 , a treaty was taking place between the English settlers and the **Cherokee Indians** that involved the **Creek Indians** in the **Cherokee War**. **Cherokee Chief Attakullakulla** was in conference with **Governor Glen**, who advised the Chief to send a good man to the **Creek Indians** to arrange a treaty. The Chief sent **Shaungutton**. The English settlers found it easier to refer to this Indian by the purple medallion tattooed on his shoulder and began to call him, "**The Round O**". At the closed of the Cherokee War in 1761, this moniker seemed to flatter the highly respected for one of the

**Cherokee head men intringly (sp) described himself as " brother of The  
Round O"**

In the late 1880's the post office department omitted the " O" but through the effort of State Historian **A.S. Salley** and **Congressman McMillan** the post office was given the name of the community and it has since been known as

*Round O.*

During the beginning of immigration and settlement in this land, the community offered transportation, land tools, and food supplies provided by the English government. Rice and naval supplies provided the larger part of the economy; however, rice in this area was largely abandoned by the time of the Revolutionary War. In the first three decades of the 1800's the area now known as *Cottageville* and adjacent communities were found to be very sparsely populated. Surrounded by swamps and largely abandoned rice fields, this area contained many thousands of acres of vacant land which the State would gladly sell for ten cents an acre. However, cotton had become a high market demand, selling for \$2.00 a pound and the need to improve transportation was given attention from 1818 to 1828.

In 1832, the railroad was available in **Ridgeville** and **George's Station**, now known as **St. George**.

As a farmer could make a handsome income with cotton, many immigrated to this area from nearby counties as well as foreign lands.

Three such farmers, the **Reeves**, settled in what is now known as *Dorchester*. They were ; **Glen (Reeves)** , with his wife; **George Morgan (Reeves)** with his wife and **Lewis (Reeves)**, a young bachelor.

From Europe came the **Reverend William Fox** who had a large family and some strikingly beautiful daughters, one of who was named **Temperance (Fox)**. **Lewis (Reeves)** courted and married **Temperance (Fox)**.

The other two **Reeves** men and their families settled near what is now known as the **Fox Cemetery** and **Lewis and Temperance (Reeves )** lived across the road in the area now known as the "**The Tillman Bazzle**" place.

The collective community was known as **Sheridan** in the late 1800's and early 1900's and had its own post office.

In the early 1850' these families realized the need for a church in the community, so they organized and became charter members of the **Spring**

**Hill Church.**

With the fortune to be made in cotton, **Lewis and Temperence (Reeves)** were able to save some gold. With the progression of the *War of Northern Aggression*, **Lewis** answered a call to defend his homeland. For fear that the **Yankees** would advance on his homeland and discover the family's gold, **Lewis** directed his family not to watch him as he went to bury their gold. In October 1864, **Temperence** received at least two letters from the **battlefield** in the **Camp of 3<sup>rd</sup> S.C. Calvary** near **Petersburg**. One letter came from **First Lieutenant Ben Willis** and one from **Private J.A. (Squire Jim) Ackerman**. The letter from **Private Ackerman** informed **Temperence** that **Lewis** had been struck in his thighs with a ball. **Captain McTurcosis** ordered a horse to be brought in to take **Lewis** out of the battlefield but **Lewis** did not survive the serious injury before he could get out. **Lewis** was well respected by all who met him and was reported to have fought a good fight. His body and even the horse he died upon were promised to be shipped home to **Temperence** by **Private Ackerman's** efforts if she so wished. The mystery of where the gold is still unknown as **Lewis** had died without a soul knowing where he buried the gold. **Temperence** remarried after the war to **Captain J.R. Hill** but she was struck with tragedy again

when five of their children died of measles. The children are buried in a row  
in Fox Cemetery.

As "**The Round O**" community continued to grow , three prominent  
immigrants came from Europe as well. **Stephen Clyde  
Ackerman** who came from Germany in the 1740's lived in the  
buffer zone between the English Charlestonians and the Indians.  
He settled on the August Hwy. Near **Gruber's store**. **Abraham  
Willis** immigrated from **Holland** in the early 1800's. He ran  
**Givhans's Ferry** and married a local girl whose name was  
**Anna Adams**. **George Peirce** came from **England** in the early  
1850's. He was a peddler traveling the wire road and stopped in  
**Murray's Cross**, now **Grover**, for lodging at the home of  
**Willie Harbeson**. There was a daughter in the **Harbeson**  
household, **Mary Francis Harbeson**, whom **George** married  
three weeks later. He served in the Civil War and later moved  
to what would soon be known as **Cottageville**. **Henry Hill  
Durant**, an immigrant of unknown origin, was a Methodist who  
held services in brush arbors or any building that could be

pressed into service for there wasn't any **Methodist Churches** at that time.

He married a lady, **Miss Lowery from Sandy Dave (Dam?)** and had children. During the **Civil War** he served as chaplain and died with typhoid fever in **North Carolina**. Two of his daughters finished school in **Greenwood**, then was left with no place to live afterwards. A **Dr. Johnson** told them of a place he owned on "**The Round O**", that was a good place for a day school. The **Durant** ladies moved to the area to what is now know as **Gaines Drive in Spring Hill**. Soon their mother and siblings moved there and became involved with the **Spring Hill Methodist Church** that lay across the branch from **Spring Hill Baptist Church**. Tradition indicates that soon the community build a cottage for them and the day school moved behind what is now the **Cottageville Methodist Church**. The cottage still exists as the kitchen part of the two story house directly behind the **Methodist Church**. The cottage is within what is currently the **(Paul) Frasier** home.

The growing **Round O** community, at that time was served by a post office

**Jacksonberg, now Jacksonboro, and smaller communities wanted their own post office as well. As the community, yet to be named Cottageville, sought a name for their post office, Stephen Ackerman, Rev. Dr. George Peirce and Capt. Ben Willis met together in 1878 to consider a name. After considering many names they selected "Cottageville" in honor of the Durant cottage. At the time, the new style of architecture of the cottage was very popular in the region since the 1850's. An application was made to the postal service and in 1879 a post office was granted for Cottageville and one for Round O: therefore, separating Cottageville into it's own community. The Rehobeth/Spring Hill community was served by the Sheridan Post Office located across hwy. 651 from the Tillman Bazzle place. Maple Cane was served by the "Maple " post office near the home of Stoney Blanton.**