

Britton Parker
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was born February 25, 1913, so he was only 8 months old when his Granddaddy died. When I applied for the tombstone, the information I had showed he was born in 1836, so that is what is on the tombstone.

Britton enlisted in the Army in Columbia, SC on July 1, 1862 for a three year period. Since he was born in October 1835, that made him 26 years old at the time. One year later, he was wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania on July 2, 1863. He was captured by the enemy at Gettysburg and had to have his right leg amputated due to injuries received during that battle. I went to that battle field in Gettysburg on April 1, 1996 while on a business trip. It was a very moving experience to know the horror that went on in that field. I walked the entire field imagining how afraid he must have been and how he suffered both physically and mentally when they captured him and then when they had to amputate that leg. I took pictures of that field in honor of him and so I could show my daddy where his Granddaddy had fought in the war.


At the time of his death this is what was written about him in The Charlotte Observer on October 22, 1913: "Mr. Britton Parker of Kershaw, SC, an aged citizen of this place, died yesterday morning at 4:00. He is survived by four sons, Zachary, Lemuel, Amos and John. Mr. Parker lived in this vicinity for many years, was a good citizen and respected by his community. The burial took place this morning at 11:00 at Flat Creek Church.

"The State newspaper in Columbia, SC had this to say on October 22, 1913: "Special to The State. Kershaw, October 21.—Britton Parker, one of Kershaw's oldest and most highly respected citizens, died at his home at 4 o'clock yesterday morning. Mr. Parker had been ill for a long time, his life having been several times despaired of. He leaves four sons, all of this community—Zach Parker, Lem Parker, Amos Parker and John Parker."

The several times despaired of would include being wounded and captured at Gettysburg, losing his right leg due to that injury and also the loss of his little 5 year old daughter. She had gone out to a field with Great Granddaddy Britton for him to burn broom sedge when her clothing caught on fire and she was burned to death. This was the week before Feb. 19, 1885, when it was in the York, SC newspaper, The Yorkville Enquirer. I was unable to find out her name. There were three other daughters, Candis, Mary E. and Lizzie, that I haven't been able to find more information on other than the 1880 Census where they are listed as 20, 14 and 2 respectively. I don't know why they weren't mentioned in the obituaries. I will continue to research that.


In the 1910 Census, Britton, who was 75 years old, lived with his son, Zach, Zach's two daughters Cora (14), Minnie (10) and son Coleman (8). Zach's first wife Eliza had passed away (in 1902) as well as Britton's wife Martha Ann (in 1905). They were both widowers. Zach married Nettie, my grandmother, in 1911, the year after that Census. He was 39 and she was 18. During this time Nettie & Zach had an unnamed infant daughter that lived from April 20, 1912 to May 4, 1912. She is buried by them in the Kershaw City Cemetery. Then on February 25, 1913, my father was born to them. Britton only lived eight months after that. Britton died in 1913, three years after that Census. Since he was in bad health, he probably still lived with them until he died. If anyone deserves to have a nice Veteran's gravestone, it would be Britton Parker. I don't know why he never received one, but we are correcting that today. I was able to gather information and along with information my brother, Kenny Parker, had gathered years ago when he was doing family research, was able to apply for the gravestone on August 13th of this year. Today we are dedicating it's installation. On the 21st of October this year 2018, he would have been dead 105 years. I thought it was only right that we have a service to commemorate the placing of this stone with his family of descendants here to honor him. May he rest in peace. His sacrifices were not in vain and are appreciated.

BRITTON PARKER MEMORIAL SERVICE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2018



Britton Parker: October 1835-October 21, 1913
Confederate Civil War Veteran
Tombstone Installation Celebration

- Welcome family and friends, descendants of Britton Parker
- Welcome Prayer: Sandra Robinson Miller
- Eulogy: Sylvia Parker Rambo
- Poem reading: Thy Will Be Done: Britton Parker Ransom
- Request remarks from attendees
- Song: Battle Hymn of the Republic by Lee Greenwood-sing along
- Confederate Soldier's Prayer: Sandra Robinson Miller
- Taps
- Closing Remarks: Sylvia Parker Rambo




Sylvia Rambo at the Flat Creek Church ceremony. (Photo by Gwynn Leaird)



Parker family members pose for a past family reunion photo.

State Election Commission Celebrates 50 Years
Celebrating the Commitment to Ensuring Every Vote Matters and Every Vote Counts
COLUMBIA, SC (December 27, 2018) – Beginning January 1, the South Carolina State Election Commission (SEC) will be celebrating 50 years of ensuring every eligible citizen has the opportunity to register to vote, participate in fair and impartial elections, and have the assurance that their votes will count. That commitment began on January 1, 1969, when the SEC was formed by the General Assembly as an independent state agency charged with overseeing South Carolina's elections. After 25 General Elections and more than 12,000 other state and local elections, the SEC is celebrating its rich history of service and the importance of having elections run by nonpartisan election professionals. Prior to 1969, the Secretary of State oversaw state elections. The General Assembly created the S.C. State Election Commission as an independent state agency to remove control of the state's elections from a partisan, elected official. South Carolina is unique in that regard with only 11 other states having similar structures. James Ellisor was the first Executive Director of the SEC and was serving as the Deputy Director of Elections under the Secretary of State in 1968. "South Carolina did the right thing when it wasn't a common or popular thing to do," Ellisor said. The move also changed the makeup of the State Board of Canvassers, which decides election protests. At the time, the board consisted of the Secretary of State, Comptroller General, Attorney General, State Treasurer and Commissioner of Agriculture. Ellisor continued, "Governor Robert McNair and others were concerned that five elected officials from the same political party were deciding state and federal election protests. They recognized the need for an independent agency in which voters could have trust and confidence that any contest would be decided on its merits and not politics." Current SEC Executive Director Marci Andino notes that while the election landscape certainly has changed over the decades, the core mission has not. "With the level of technology in elections today, the cyber security required to protect the state's election infrastructure, and the public scrutiny of the election process, the election environment has changed dramatically," Andino said. "But through all that, we're still working towards the same goal – making sure voters are able to register and vote and have confidence that the process is fair and impartial. Over the years, the SEC has held fast to that independent and nonpartisan mandate with extraordinary consistency in leadership. The agency has had only four executive directors over 50 years. In other states, it is common for election administrators to change as new secretaries are elected. Andino worked for all three previous directors. "Our structure as an independent agency has allowed for a remarkable level of consistency, stability, and transfer of institutional knowledge," Andino said. The State Election Commission is made of five board members, an executive director, and 26 staff. In addition, there are approximately 500 county election officials and 20,000 poll managers who serve throughout South Carolina. Key milestones and accomplishments over the last 50 years:
1968 – Legislation passes to create the SEC
1968 – James B. Ellisor named as Executive Director (1968-1992)
1968 – South Carolina becomes the first state in the nation to implement a computerized statewide voter registration system
1969 – Legislation creating SEC takes effect January 1
1986 – South Carolina implements voter registration by mail making registration easier and more accessible
1986 – South Carolina implements the Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act improving the ability of military and overseas voters to cast ballots from remote locations
1992 – SEC and county boards begin conducting partisan primaries previously conducted by political parties
1992 – Lynn McCants named as Executive Director (1992-1993)
1994 – James F. Hendrix named as Executive Director (1994-2002)
1995 – South Carolina implements the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 establishing the S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles and other state agencies as voter registration locations
2003 – Marci Andino named as Executive Director (2003-Present)
2005 – South Carolina implements a uniform, statewide electronic voting system realizing an initiative started by former Executive Director James Ellisor to replace paper ballots
2008 – SEC and county boards begin conducting presidential primaries previously conducted by political parties
2010 – South Carolina implements the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act expanding access to voter registration and voting for military and overseas citizens
2012 – South Carolina becomes one of the first states in the nation to implement online voter registration making registration easier and more accessible
2014 – SEC and county boards begin conducting partisan candidate filing previously conducted by political parties
2017 – U.S. Department of Homeland Security designates elections as Critical Infrastructure
2018 – SEC requests proposals to replace statewide voting system
2019 – SEC celebrates 50th Anniversary
For more information on the South Carolina State Election Commission and other items related to voter registration and elections, visit scVOTES.org.



Sylvia Parker Rambo gave the eulogy. She is the cousin of Billie Parker Deaton, former office manager of the Kershaw News Era, and other family members at the December 29 installation ceremony. (Photo by Gwynn Leaird)



Parker family members pose for a past family reunion photo.



An old photo of Britton Parker with his wife and daughter before his death 105 years ago.

School News and more...

Kershaw County School District's Teacher Career Fair Jan. 26

Kershaw County School District will host its annual Teacher Recruitment Fair for certified teacher applicants on Jan. 26, 2019, at Lugoff-Elgin Middle School from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Applicants interested in attending must complete an online application by visiting www.kcsd.schools.net/fair. All candidates must be certified or eligible for certification and highly qualified (if applicable) by Aug. 1, 2019.

The deadline to register is Jan. 20. Interviews will be scheduled according to availability and by appointment only.

For more information, call KCS D Educator Services Coordinator Lisa Shannon at (803) 432-8416.

School district seeking Hall of Fame nominees

Nominations for the Lancaster County School District Education Hall of Fame will be accepted by the district until Monday, Feb. 4. To make a nomination, a person should submit a nomination form, which can be found on the district's website (www.lancastercsd.com) or at the district office.

The nominations can be mailed to Hall of Fame, Lancaster County School District, 300 Catawba Street, Lancaster SC 29720 or delivered to the district office.

- Nominees may be former teachers, administrators or board members. Community members who have made significant contributions to the district through their work as a civic leader, politician or friend of education may also be nominated.
- A deceased person can be nominated/selected.
- Nominees from the teacher, administrator or board member categories must have completed their educational careers.
- Nominations are accepted from students, educators and the community at-large.

The deadline for submitting nominees is Feb. 4.

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
LANCASTER COUNTY EOC, 111 COVENANT PLACE
JANUARY 3, 2019

January 3, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Invocation
Approval of Agenda
Visitors Comments
Approval of December 6, 2018 Minutes

Information Items

- Grants Update
- Training Report (See Attached)
- Maintenance Report
- Budget Detailed Account Inquiry (See Attached 141 and 144 Budgets)
- Information Request Due Monday, January 28, 2019 by 5:00PM

Action Items

1. Discussion concerning Fire Commission Budget (See Attached Spreadsheet)
2. Discussion concerning Gift Card Distribution
3. Discussion concerning Fire Study
4. Discussion concerning AED Purchasing
5. Discussion concerning Approval of Fire Department AFG Grants
6. Standing Committee Reports
Standard Operating Guideline Committee
Strategic Planning and Governmental Operations Committee Apparatus and Equipment Committee
Budget Planning & Appropriations Committee
Personnel and Interagency Relations Committee
Rescue Committee (See Attached)
7. Commissioner's Comments