

## GAFFNEY, SOUTH CAROLINA - 1870 AND 1923

### The First Settlers

**M**r. Michael Gaffney settled west of the railroad where the town now is. He reared a large family of boys and girls: Henry, Dr. Joe, John, William, and the girls whose names I do not recall. For the most part these, in turn, had good-sized families.

It was at first called Gaffney's Old Field. Some thirty years ago at the request of the citizens that I go down to the legislature in session, I went to Columbia and petitioned that honorable body to change the name to the simple Gaffney.

The Southern Railway built its tracks through the place in 1870. Soon after that the place began its development.

Among the first merchants, according to J. T. Gaudlock, were: R. K. Gaffney, Doc Tate, W. S. Lyon, J. D. Gaudlock, T. R. Gaines, W. S. Lipscomb, B. K. Humphries, E. G. Byers, T. Davenport, Capt. John Brown, J. E. Carroll, and N. Lipscomb. P. O. Lemmons built the first hotel. It stood on the spot upon which the large brick store of H. M. Brown now stands. J. D. Bundy was the first cotton buyer. Sauley Camp put up the first barroom. Dock Ross put one about the same size. Natt Sneed was the first postmaster.

When the new county of Cherokee became a reality as elsewhere recorded, the people in the town said, "Let us have the county seat and the country people may have the offices."

In the first election I ran for supervisor. As I was canvassing the last place on the Cherokee side, I was called home to my wife, who was ill with fever. I did not canvass another day. At the election I beat my opponent seven to one in Cherokee factory. But I have repeatedly said that I lost the election because I was counted out.

But the town has not ceased to grow. It has now a population of about 12,000, and it promises to increase more rapidly in the years just ahead. I would like to see it grow into a large city.

There are four banks doing good business in the city: The First National, the Farmers and Planters, American State Bank, and the Cherokee Savings. The last named institution is building a new and modern structure on the corner of Limestone and Stable streets.

The American State Bank is the youngest banking institution. Its officers are: D. C. Ross, president; B. L. Hames, vice-president; J. T. Daniel, cashier; J. M. McLaughlin, assistant cashier. D. C. Ross is one of the banking pioneers in the town. When the First National Bank was organized with J. A. Carroll, president, and Fred Stacy, vice-president, he [Ross] was the cashier, which position he held until Stacy's death. The company was then reorganized. And, Claude Ross saw that there was room for another bank, The American State Bank, of which he became president.

D. C. Ross is a great grandson of Obediah Surratt, a grandson of Dock Ross and a son of Lieutenant Samuel Ross, whose wife was Erdenia Lipscomb. He is a bachelor, but the writer hopes that he will come in on the home stretch. My blessings upon him.

