

# Farmer, soldier, businessman

■ Through 1800s, Adolphus Eugene Hutchison served his state, county in many ways.

Adolphus Eugene Hutchison was born near the Nation Ford of the Catawba River on March 10, 1826. His family were among the early settlers of the Catawba Indian Land. His parents were David Hutchison and Jane Moore. David Hutchison was one of the Indian commissioners who vigorously pursued a land settlement with the Catawbas. Eugene, age 14, was probably present when the historic Nation Ford Treaty was signed with the Catawbas.

When Eugene Hutchison was 20 years of age, he was first lieutenant of the Ebenezer Light Infantry, a unit of the 46th State Militia. Each unit chose its own uniforms. The Ebenezer Light Infantry wore black hats, white vests and trousers and black boots.

Sometime between 1846 and 1858, besides his farming interests, Hutchison became a partner of G.E.M. Steele in a general merchandise store. When the Civil War came along, the partners dissolved the business and enlisted.

In 1850, Hutchison married Mary Campbell and had two sons, David and William, and a daughter, Lizzie. Mary Hutchison died, and

after the war, Hutchison married Susan Dunlap and had a daughter.

Hutchison was one of the financial backers of Rock Hill's first newspapers, the Indian Land Chronicle, which lasted from 1857 to 1860. Much later in life, he was to be one of the first financial supporters of The State newspaper.

As a planter, Hutchison was interested in improving agriculture. The soil in the area around Ebenezer was deficient in potash. Cotton got a disease called rust, and the corn failed to "french out." Commercial potash was very expensive. Hutchison experimented with kainite from Aiken County and found it satisfactory and much less expensive than potash.

When the Civil War broke out, Hutchison organized and became the captain of the Whyte Guards. He named the company for Archibald Whyte, one of his early teachers. Hutchison became adjutant of the 4th Regiment of State Troops. Toward the end of the war, when South Carolina was desperate to stop the invaders, Hutchison raised a company, of 16-year-old boys.

Hutchison returned from the war to farm. Soon he was serving in the state legislature and was shocked at the conditions that surrounded the "Wallace legislature." He joined Wade Hampton's Red Shirts and helped elect Hampton governor in 1876.



## Nearby history

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In 1880, James Morrow Ivy initiated plans for building the Rock Hill Cotton Mill (the first steam-driven cotton mill in South Carolina). Ivy left others to run the mill, and Capt. A. Eugene Hutchison became the first president. The building, still standing in downtown Rock Hill, is presently occupied by Plej's, an outlet for Ostrow Textile Co. Inc. A biographer once wrote that, more than once, Hutchison "jeopardized his estate" for the cotton mill.

Capt. Hutchison was active in veterans' affairs. With his long gray whiskers and an invariable gray suit, he was a reminder of the Confederacy to which he remained attached as the lieutenant commander of the Catawba Camp, a veterans' organization.

The bearded old gentleman with his courteous manners became a Rock Hill favorite. His cheery home in a grove of trees alongside the railroad became a favorite meeting place for children. His pockets always bulged with goodies for them.

Hutchison, 79, died in Sumter at the home of his youngest daughter, Mrs. George W. Dick, on June 20, 1905. He was buried the next day in Laurelwood Cemetery in Rock Hill.

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