

Ann White, well-known name in Rock Hill history

■ A chapter of United Daughters of the Confederacy is named for her.

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The large home at East White Street and Elizabeth Lane in downtown Rock Hill with the historical marker in front is known as the White House. George Pendleton White built the home for his wife, Ann, in 1837.

This makes the home one of Rock Hill's oldest. It predates the town, which only goes back to 1852 when the railroad came through.

In fact, the building of the railroad was probably the cause of George White's death. He was working on the difficult "cut" when he contracted pneumonia and died in 1849. Ann White became one of Rock Hill's best-known citizens.

She was born on her father's plantation at the Nation Ford crossing Jan. 9, 1805. Her father, David Hutchison, had three wives and 15 children. Ann White's mother, Nancy, was his first wife.

Ann Hutchison married George White in 1830. Six years later, George White began building the homestead using supplies brought in by wagon from Charlotte. The first house, still standing, was behind the present large house. The first house was built of chinked logs and was lived in for a year while the larger house was being built.

The couple's first child, Mary, was born in the log house and so were the three children who followed.

The White farm made up a considerable part of Rock Hill. Over the years, bits and pieces were sold to buyers who wished to be near the train depot. In this way, Ann White increased her income



Nearby history

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and nicely furnished her spacious home. Her brother, Hiram Hutchison, handled her business affairs.

As a civic-minded person, White was undoubtedly pleased to deed land near her house for a school. The 1854 deed reads in part: "Ann White in consideration of seven shares of Rich Hill Academy or Seminary, at \$5.00 per share, as assigned by the stockholders on Aug. 31, 1854, has sold to Wm. P. Broach, Joseph A. Steele and Isom Kirkpatrick lying in the Indian Boundary . . . in a Pine Grove some 250 yards northeast of my present dwelling about one-half mile from the Depot on the Charlotte and So. Car. Railroad, known by the name of Rock Hill which lot was surveyed by John Roddey Esq. Dep. Surveyor. . . one acre, also a road from the lot 20 ft. wide leading to the Yorkville & Landsford Road and a short distance from the dwelling . . . also a road about 20 ft. wide from the same lot to a spring about 125 yards distant."

The story is told that once some of White's less desirable neighbors planned

to build a "grogshop" not far from her home. So she got on her mule and rode for some distance to find the landowner and persuade him not to allow his land to become the site of a barroom.

White Street, in front of the house, was the major thoroughfare leading from Chester to Charlotte; at that time, it was called Old Nation Ford Road. Many of the area's leading citizens traveled on that road. Ministers were always invited to stay at the house. A register of the guests was kept from 1848 onward. A second-floor room was set aside for visitors. Since so many were men of the cloth, the room came to be called the "prophet's chamber."

White's devotion to the Confederate cause was as great as her devotion to her church. Her two sons, James Spratt White and Andrew Hutchison White, enlisted. When raiders came through the spring of 1865, according to legend, she showed her husband's Masonic ring and kept the house from being burned.

White's door was always open to Confederate veterans. Her living room displayed portraits of Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee and Wade Hampton. It is no surprise that Rock Hill women later formed the Ann White Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Ann Hutchison White died June 21, 1880.

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