

Huntsville, Laurens County, SC

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Many years before Clinton was formed, the main road out of Laurens to the south was to Chappells on the Saluda River. This road followed roughly the A. B. Jacks and Old Milton Roads of today.

The first stop on that road for all stage coaches was at Huntsville. The community boasted a tavern and several homes. In 1836, several members of Beaverdam Baptist Church had begun to complain about the floods on the Little River, which kept them from reaching that church. So these members met with others who had similar problems and a decision was reached to build a church in Huntsville. It was decided that Baptists, Presbyterians and Methodists would alternate using the church on three Sundays, and that if another denomination requested, they could hold services on the fourth. If no one requested the fourth Sunday, the three would draw lots to determine which would have that Sunday service.

A number of notable citizens of Laurens County were laid to rest in the cemetery. Several Baileys were buried there, as well as members of the Gary, Tribble, Martin, Chandler and Irby families. These all lived in that section between the present highways 56 and 72.

When the railroad came from Columbia to Laurens, Huntsville was soon to be a ghost town. The stage disappeared and the stage road became unimportant. The depot for the railroad was to be located at a spot that became the town of Clinton in 1852. The Huntsville Church had a short lifespan and the denominations relocated in Clinton.

