

Interview with Gaston Huntley (born Feb. 25, 1849) on Friday, Feb. 11, 1944 –

“Arnold & Cooley, nice clever men. Came here from Conneticut, Middletown I think, before the war and they set up the bayonet factory out on Jones’ Creek. Oh yes, they made other weapons – daggers, bowie knives, and other things. You know every soldier thought he had to take a bowie knife to war. Baucom & Saylor & Fred Wo., Sam Flake worked at the factory and Peter Swink and others.

There was a trough from the big branch and an over-shot wheel to run the factory. Sam Flake married the second time, Baucom’s widow. I would go there with my father to buy guns and things and afterwards I worked, hauling for Arnold & Cooley. The Army paid for the steel of the weapons.

Lots of folks went there and horses were swapped and Arnold & Cooley didn’t have to go to war, or North either- but they were for the South – Saylor too.

I went to school at the Gould’s Fork Academy – right in front of Dr. Joe’s filling station – not so far from Diamond Hill – where Foreman’s made hats (on Charlotte highway). Made me a good one once.

Lots of horse swapping went on at the town well. Used to be in the middle of the Square. A bowie knife that had belonged to Julius Cox, her half-brother, was given to me long ago by Lizzie Williams – daughter of Attrny James A. Hardison, born 19 June 1896, has bought the old Sam Flake place and making it productive as well as beautiful.”

*From “Book of Rememberances” page 301. This book is a one of a kind and does not exist anywhere in print. It is a large ledger book with handwritten articles and original photographs that was put together by the Anson County United Daughters of the Confederacy per request by the county commissioners in the mid 1930’s.*