

The First Fifty Years Ellore Fire Department

1886-1937

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History records the Town of Elloree was incorporated in September of 1886 by a Baptist minister, William J. Snider, whose family were German-Swiss Protestants. When Snider first settled in the area, located in Orangeburg County, he envisaged the creation of a town from the beginning. He built a large country store, and over time, added a grist mill, a saw-mill, and a cotton gin. We are told Mr. Snider even laid out streets one-half mile in every direction from his store, and as the population grew, this visionary preacher donated property for a school and churches. The Town's name, Elloree, is derived from the Indian language which is translated "The Home I Love."

Elloree is a beautiful, diminutive town with numerous charming old homes dating back to the early 1900s or before. There is a lot of fascinating history in this town that typifies its motto, "A Small 'Slice of Southern Living.'" For example, according to an article in the July 6, 1935 edition of The Times and Democrat, *"In 1886, shortly after Elloree was founded a charter was granted for a railroad to pass through the town. In securing the charter an odd phrase was included in the act of incorporation that has never failed to incite interest. This charter was agreed to only on the condition that no trains be permitted to pass through Elloree on Sunday, and to this day this agreement has been rigidly kept."* Whether this condition remains true today is unknown, but it reflects the prominence of religion in the community.

While little written information exists regarding fire protection in those early days, a glimpse into the past would very likely reveal the town experienced frequent fires due in large part to the wooden construction methods of the period. This assumption is based on stories from other villages and towns in the area which share similar accounts about the "fire fiend."

Small towns in the first half of the 19th Century utilized very primitive means to extinguish fires, ie. buckets of water, axes, shovels, blankets and various other limited techniques. Before a church bell could be erected, the alarm of fire was probably sounded by crude but very effective measures...firing shots into the air from a pistol, shotgun, or rifle which mainly got the attention of neighbors and

signaled something was amiss. As a church(s) were built, a town's people would employ the constant ringing of a bell(s) to alert the citizens of a fire or other emergency in the area.

Fire protection in the 1800s was totally dependent on citizen volunteers to respond to alarms of fire. Not unlike today, fires could be contained and property saved only if caught in its beginning stages. However, more often than not, volunteers recognized their limitations and got to work trying to remove contents of a structure as much as attempting extinguishment. When structures were built close together fires spread rapidly from house to house, store to store. Often a fire break was attempted by tearing down walls, out-buildings, fences, wooden sidewalks, or other wooden structures in an effort to limit the fire's spread.

Prior to the organization of a fire department, it has been said that fire was the greatest enemy for a community. From South Carolina's earliest beginnings, devastating fires have taken its toll in injury, death, and ruin of property. Out of necessity, these fires brought attention to the need for creative firefighting methods and ordinances required to prevent and safeguard citizens from unwanted fire.

On **April 15, 1886**, The Times and Democrat wrote about *"The New Town of Elloree"* in an article which provides an update concerning the sale of lots in the brand-new town. *"We mention with pleasure the splendid outcome of the sale of lots at the Town of Elloree, on the projected and surveyed line of the Eutawville Railroad. Twenty-two lots were sold at the public sale on Saturday last, at prices ranging from \$30 to \$106, per lot, and the purchasers were among the best citizens and most successful business men of that section."* The reporter also stated that Orangeburg *"Sends today her greeting and congratulations to the people of that section, and welcomes the birth of her little sister city. Lots are still on sale, parties desiring a safe investment should apply to Rev. W. J. Snider at Elloree. The sale of lots are all made with a guarantee that if the railroad does not come to the place, money will be refunded."*

The Times and Democrat gave an account of a fire in the **April 13, 1887** edition of the paper. *"About three o'clock on the afternoon of the 5th instant a fire destroyed two outhouses on the place of Edward Paulling, near Elloree. Had it not been for the assistance of the neighbors, other houses would have been destroyed."*

The loss in provisions and other farm supplies, will amount to about \$175 worth, which is quite a heavy loss for these hard times. Contributions have been made by the charitable for the relief of the family."

In the same edition of the paper noted above, the editor made some interesting points about fire protection. *"Would it not be well for the people of this place to take the many recent fires in the State as a warning and urge the necessity of more fire cisterns? Or, will they wait until valuable property is destroyed and then have a better supply of water?"*

As Elloreë grew in population, fire protection had to have become a significant consideration by the town's citizens and leaders. The Times and Democrat noted in their **April 17, 1889** printing of the paper that *"the store and stock of goods of Mr. J. C. Harmon at Elloreë was destroyed by fire on Thursday morning. The fire broke out about one o'clock and the building was quickly burned to the ground. The property was insured for \$2,000, but this will not begin to cover the loss. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary."*

In the **March 16, 1898** edition of The Times and Democrat, an article appears that was likely good news for the Town of Elloreë. *"Elloreë has very sensibly organized an efficient fire department. It consists of two hook and ladder companies. No. 1, which is composed of white citizens, is officered as follows: E. H. Snider, President; H. W. Scarborough, and J. W. Zeigler, Directors; W. F. Stokes, Secretary and Treasurer. No. 2, which is composed of colored citizens, is officered as follows: P. L. Green, President; J. E. Windham and Sam Stephens, Directors; Aleck Williams, Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. Jas. R. Tucker has been elected chief of the department by the city council."*

The Times and Democrat records in their **April 27, 1898** printing that *"A novel entertainment, something cut of the usual order, which will charm and astonish the people, will be given by the Elloreë Hook and Ladder Company and their lady friends, about the middle of May. Grand and expensive preparations for same are now being made. A full brass band from Charleston will be one of the features. It will surpass anything ever seen here before. Everybody in the county is heartily invited to come. More on this important subject hereafter."*

Apparently, the peril of fire and the prodding of citizens captured the attention of Elloreë's governing body over time. The Watchman and Southron, a Sumter newspaper, announced on **June 7, 1899** that *"The town of Elloreë is negotiating for the purchase of the old Wide Awakes fire engine. The engine is an excellent machine, though it was in service for many years prior to the erection of the water works system in this city, and it will afford protection against fire in Elloreë for many years to come, if it is kept in repair."*

This writer can only speculate what kind of "fire engine" was being negotiated with the Sumter Wide Awakes. However, it is known that during this period of time the Wide Awakes engine was a hand-drawn, hand-pumped machine/tub that relied on bucket brigades to fill the reservoir or was equipped to draft water from wells. There is no written indication that the purchase was ever made. The Wide Awakes and two other fire companies in Sumter began to die out just prior to the turn of the century, so it makes sense that this company would desire to sell their old apparatus.

Elloreë seems to be well on its way towards establishing an organized fire department as evidenced in an article written for The Times and Democrat on **December 14, 1904**. *"The town of Elloreë will soon have a well-organized fire department with a good fire engine and buckets. Good for Elloreë. She will find a fire department a very convenient article. We hope, however, it will be a long time before the services of the new fire department will be needed."*

Fires continued throughout the years to plague the little town of Elloreë and surrounding areas. The Times and Democrat noted in the **October 20, 1908** edition of the paper that *"the ginnery of J. A. Johnson residing about three miles from Elloreë was destroyed by fire Saturday. The origin of the fire appears unknown. There was no insurance on the property."*

Since the town was officially incorporated in 1886, fire protection for the town was at best primitive as previously mentioned. One of the most limiting factors for extinguishing fires was the general lack of an adequate water supply. Apparently, the town had many private wells and a couple of public wells located throughout the built upon area that were used by citizens in throwing buckets of water and wet blankets on fires that plagued the community. However, in The

Times and Democrat published on **July 2, 1910**, the Town Council of Elloreë began taking steps to remedy the issues of inadequate water supplies.

The article reads, *“A majority of the free holders of the Town of Elloreë, South Carolina, did on the 21st day of May, 1910, file with the Town Council of Elloreë their petition praying ‘the Town of Elloreë to order an election to be held by said Town Council, for the purpose of ascertaining from the registered qualified electors whether the town shall issue coupon bonds in the sum of five thousand dollars for the purchase, erection, construction and operation, within the corporate limits of a plant for electric light works.’”* And, in addition, there is the same proposal to issue bonds of five thousand dollars for a Water Works plant *“for the use and benefit of said Town of Elloreë and to supply the citizens thereof.”*

The Times and Democrat reported on a serious fire in Elloreë in their **October 29, 1910** edition of the paper. *“About half-past 1 o’clock today some cotton on the railroad platform caught fire from the sparks from an engine, and for a time it looked as if there would be a general conflagration. There were about three hundred bales of cotton on the platform and it all burned. The fire then communicated to some box cars, two of which burned, and two were saved by a passenger train, pulling them to a place of safety. The box cars were loaded with cotton. The fire then communicated to the depot, which with its contents, was destroyed. The fire at one time was a dangerous looking affair, and fears were felt for the safety of the town, but the bucket brigade did noble work, and after a two hours hard fight kept the fire from spreading.”*

The article continues, *“When the fire was at its worst, Orangeburg was asked for assistance, Elloreë having no apparatus with which to fight fire. Luckily the fire was subdued before the business part of the town was reached, or it might have been a most disastrous conflagration. The town needs some means by which the fire fiend can be fought.”*

According to records provided this writer, the town purchased a *“modern fire engine”* on **May 11, 1911**, with recognition given to Mayor Bascom Shuler because he *“saw the need of a more pretentious fire fighting apparatus.”* The article went on to say that the old apparatus was a *“chemical pump and was sold to David Rush, an influential farmer residing near Elloreë. The water supply came from large cistern wells which took care of every need. The fire department was*

known all over the county for its efficiency for at the first sound of the gong every man ran to render assistance."

*"Barn Burned Near Ellore" is the caption of a piece found in the **October 10, 1911**, edition of The Times and Democrat. "The two-story barn of Mr. C. A. Jones, who resides about a mile below Ellore was destroyed by fire about one o'clock Thursday. There was a quantity of fodder and feed stuff in the barn and the loss was total. The barn and contents was valued at about \$400, and there was no insurance on the property. The origin of the fire is unknown."*

A lengthy article about Ellore, which appeared in the **January 18, 1912** edition of The Times and Democrat, provides a impressive glimpse of fitness of the town. The writer reports that *"Ellore has never taxed its citizens, maintaining itself in the past by the revenues received from the dispensary, and the only revenues received at present come from the fines and a nominal license tax. While its streets are broad and beautiful, the two main business sidewalks paved, sanitary conditions excellent, the town well drained, there are some things needed, and the citizens no doubt in the near future will tax themselves to maintain a good electric light and water plant. The water supply of the town is good, a number of deep wells having been recently sunk, and the town has good fire protection. A splendid fire engine was recently purchased, and this, with the volunteer fire brigade, gives Ellore splendid fire protection. The removal of some of the frame dwellings in the business block would be a blessing to the town. The insurance rates on these buildings are almost prohibitive, and is an enormous tax on the owners. With a town ordinance prohibiting the erection of frame buildings in certain localities and the gradual replacement of them by brick structures, it is hoped that these fire traps will not be here much longer."*

The Bamberg Herald reported on **August 21, 1913** that *"Lightning struck the Trinity Lutheran Church here this afternoon about 4 o'clock and the building was reduced to ashes in a short while. The building was ignited during a heavy downpour of rain, and the flames had gained considerable headway before discovered and were beyond control before the fire department reached the scene. The building, of wood, was the first of three churches erected here and was valued at \$1,700. There was no insurance. It is very likely that steps will be taken at once to erect a brick edifice on the sight of the burned building."*

News from Ellore posted in the **November 27, 1913** edition of The Times and Democrat says that *“Fire Chief J. T. Owen had his engine out sprinkling the streets. Thanks to Chief Owen.”* Apparently, most of the streets in town were still dirt and created a very dusty nuisance for the citizens, so the fire department was pressed into service to settle the dust on occasion.

A sad story appeared on **December 11, 1913** in The Times and Democrat which states *“the clothes of the little three-year old son of Mr. William Jones accidentally caught fire here last Thursday. Although painfully burned, Dr. Felder says that he will recover.”*

The threat of fire was not the only calamity to be guarded against. The Herald News of Newberry reported on **May 11, 1915**, *“At Ellore a fearful cyclone swept over Ellore Friday afternoon, ranging from a ¼ mile to a ½ mile in breadth and several miles in length, uprooting giant trees and demolishing a number of buildings in its path. The cyclone appears to have started several miles south of Ellore, sweeping over the main business section of town in a northeastern direction towards the Santee River.”*

The Lexington Dispatch, dated **May 12, 1915** tells of a major fire in Ellore that occurred four days earlier (May 8th) that had the potential of destroying the entire town. *“Fire broke out here Tuesday night about 10 o’clock, almost sweeping an entire block on Main Street, entailing a loss estimated at \$11,000, with only a small amount of insurance.”* The details of this fire were also printed in Sumter’s paper, The Watchman and Southron. *“The fire originated in the kitchen of the two-story store of Mrs. Linnie E. Blair, occupied by her as a millinery store on the first floor and dwelling upstairs. The flames had gained much headway before being discovered and a strong wind aided the quick destruction of all adjoining properties. Several hundred people had gathered soon after the alarm was sounded. Six framed mercantile store rooms, together with almost their entire contents, were reduced to ashes, and had the wind been blowing in a southern direction the whole town would have been in imminent peril.”*

The article goes on to say that *“all the burned buildings were of frame structure and owing to the long dry weather the firefighters, who did excellent work were at a great disadvantage in checking the flames.”* In the article, the reporter gave the firemen a great deal of praise for their heroic work. *“Ellore is noted for its good*

fire record and the loss last night is one of the largest in its history. Had it not been for the heroic efforts of the volunteer fire department the damages would have been much more."

The Watchman and Southron reported on **December 4, 1915** that a few days earlier on November 30th that the *"Dispensary was robbed and then set on fire. A robbery took place at Ellore Sunday night when the dispensary there was broken into by thieves and the building set on fire."*

The Times and Democrat reported on **February 10, 1916** that *"the vicinity of Ellore has been visited by three fires in the last few days. Last Friday night about half past one o'clock in the morning D. W. Dority's dwelling in the suburbs of Ellore was completely destroyed by fire, with few of the household effects saved. The same morning about three-thirty o'clock the barn and stables of Messrs. D. Wyman and Cally McEachern were entirely destroyed, together with all their corn and forage. Mr. McEachern had one of his mules burned, and barely saved the other stock. Last night the dwelling of Mr. William Way, his father's old home near Goodby's bridge, on the Five Chop Road, was totally destroyed by fire. This is the second fire to occur in that section lately. Only a short time ago Mr. Way's brother, A. S. Way, lost his home, and the two homes are within a half mile of each other."*

The Times and Democrat reported on **January 2, 1920** that *"Ellore has been surrounded daily with forest fires during the last week. The woods are dry and it is very difficult to put the fire out."*

March 24, 1920 was a bad day for Ellore. The Times and Democrat reported, *"In the large fire suffered early Wednesday morning Ellore sustained a heavy financial loss. The stores destroyed, however, were mainly of wood, and as a matter of fact, the fire was actually stopped by brick walls at the extreme ends of the burned section. A fire loss of approximately \$50,000 is no small fire, even in a larger city than Ellore. It is gratifying that a large part of this amount was covered by insurance, which will probably make certain the rebuilding of the burned stores. The new buildings, we understand, will have to be of brick, and the city will benefit by having better buildings erected on the burned sites."*

The article continues, *“In the midst of the fire early Wednesday morning the Ellore mayor phoned to the Orangeburg fire department for assistance, and the fact that about twenty firemen and the city’s new fire pumping automobile made the twenty mile journey through the country to render whatever assistance possible is a splendid illustration of the readiness of Orangeburg to aid a sister city in distress. And we are sure had conditions been reversed Ellore would have reciprocated willingly. The Ellore spirit will not be downed by the fire. New and better stores will shortly replace the lost ones, and the main business section of the town will soon appear more businesslike than ever.”*

“Disastrous Loss By Fire; Business District Gutted,” were the headlines of the **March 24, 1921** edition of The Times and Democrat. Still another header tells that *“ORANGEBURG SENDS HELP”* and *“Mayor Livingston Along With Chief Fisher and Many Citizens Rush to Aid Distressed Town.”* Now for the story....*“A most dangerous fire occurred in the heart of the business section of this town (Ellore) on Main Street this morning and completely destroyed the stock and fixtures of five places of business, partially destroyed the stock of another, razed two large buildings, partially destroyed two more buildings and caused a monetary loss of approximately \$45,000.”* The article says this was the most destructive fire in the history of Ellore.

The fire is supposed to have started in Rourk’s Barber Shop. The cause of the blaze has not been discovered. D. E. Polin, the town waterman who resides over the store next to Rourk’s Barber Shop stated today that everything appeared all right in the town when he finished his regular round of inspection this morning and went home to sleep at 4:30 o’clock. At five o’clock he was aroused by the fire which he saw burning through the roof of the barber shop. He immediately gave an alarm by rapid firing of his pistol and within a short while citizens had gathered and went hard at work on a fire destined to cause a hard economic blow to this progressive town.”

According to the detailed account of the fire reported by the paper, once the fire destroyed the building in which the barber shop was located, the fire jumped to wooden building occupied by the Stack Company which were three stores. The flames then skipped back to the First National Bank where considerable damage was done. *“When it was realized that the fire was beyond control, Mayor R. Bardin called Fire Chief Herman Fisher, of the Orangeburg Fire Department, and*

appealed for aid.” It took Chief Fisher and his crew only an hour and fifteen minutes to make the run to Ellore. Interestingly, Orangeburg’s Mayor, W. A. Livingston, also made the dash to Ellore.

“The powerful pumper was connected with the various wells throughout the town and all were pumped dry while the firemen threw water on the remaining flames and smoldering ruins. Citizens of Ellore fought to the point of exhaustion the fierce flames as they ate through the town’s main business district. Many heroic efforts were witnessed as citizens struggled to save property or stay the blaze.”

Apparently, Ellore’s fire truck failed to operate properly during this fire as the article states *“the gasoline pumper, capable of throwing a one-inch stream, was brought out but failed to work. It was operated for some time, however, by hand power. The Orangeburg firemen were given breakfast at the local hotel and were served soft drinks and smokes at Houck’s drug store.”*

“After the fire Mayor Bardin, while in conversation with Mayor Livingston, told him that whatever the charges for the services of the Orangeburg Fire Department and firemen were he could render a bill for the same and they would gladly pay it. ‘There are no charges’ responded the Orangeburg Mayor with a friendly smile.”

The Times and Democrat noted in the **February 2, 1928** paper that *“Ellore was visited by a destructive fire for the first time in quite a while, last Saturday morning about nine-thirty or ten o’clock when the Ladies and Men’s Furnishing Store of P. Henler caught fire and the entire stock of goods was either destroyed by fire or damaged by water. Although the fire was confined to this store the adjoining store, a millinery shop, operated by Miss Bessie Rush, was damaged quite a lot by water from the fire fighting apparatus. The local fire department of which Mr. J. W. Zeigler is chief are to be commended on their quick and effective work in bringing the fire under control. In less than fifteen minutes after the alarm had been given three powerful streams of water were in operation against the fire which soon brought it under control.”*

The Times and Democrat dated **May 31, 1928** reported about *“Casualties in or near the Town of Ellore occurred Tuesday night by bolts of lightning. A bolt struck the power line furnishing the Orangeburg Training School with lights and put them out while the school was in the midst of the commencement exercises,*

disrupting them until other lights could be supplied. The other bolt struck and set fire to the barn of Mr. O. F. Ott in the edge of town. The barn was burned with a loss of 100 bushels of corn, one ton of hay, 1,000 bundles of fodder a quantity of oats. In addition a number of farm implements were destroyed by the flames. Fire fighting apparatus was called to the scene but could not extinguish the flames on account of being out of range of the city hydrant system."

The caption in The Times and Democrat dated **September 15, 1928** says, "Auto Catches Fire on Ellore Street: Put Out." *"The shrill cry of the fire whistle penetrated the air last Wednesday about 1 o'clock. Firemen leaned to their places. Out and away down the street went the fire truck with a rush and a clang. Pedestrians scurried along in the direction of the fire truck was going, while the Honk! Honk! of horns announced that automobiles too were part of the procession. 'Where is the fire?' 'Don't you see the smoking automobile in front of the hardware store.' A Hudson automobile belonging to the City Motor Company of Orangeburg and driven by Arthur Smoak, one of their salesmen, was on fire in the middle of the street in front of the store of the Hardware Company. It is said that the float stuck in the carburetor causing gasoline to sprue up rapidly. The wasting gasoline ignited causing fire to cover the engine under the hood and on the ground beneath. Mr. J. T. Owen rushed into his store and grabbed a fire extinguisher with which he put the fire out about the time the fire department arrived, apparently no damage was done to the cars."*

On **January 1, 1929**, The Times and Democrat published an article detailing a couple of fires in Ellore. *Ellore was the scene of a second fire in a week's time when the Fire Department was called to the home of W. E. Fogle on Friday morning. The fire was in the roof of the big two-story dwelling. It is thought that it caught from the live sparks falling from the chimney to the wooden shingles of the roof. The firemen soon had the blaze under control and little damage was done to the roof. About one year ago the same building caught fire and was saved by the fire department. Ellore has been equipped with the water system for the short space of only four years, and this plant has more than paid for itself during this time in preventing destruction by fires."*

The Sumter paper, The Item, reported on **December 31, 1930** that "A fire that was stimulated by a high wind and gasoline tank explosions this morning at 3 o'clock destroyed the garage and warehouse of the Ellore Chevrolet company,

damaged the rear end of the showroom, burned automobiles in the 'used car' lot and reduced to ashes a barn and a shed that stood nearby filled with dry food stuffs. The origin of the blaze has not been determined."

The Times and Democrat reported on **August 13, 1931** that *"the home of B. E. Cuttino, well known farmer of this section, was completely destroyed by fire about 11 o'clock Monday morning. The blaze was burning rapidly when first discovered in the roof of the dwelling, and scarcely any of the furnishings were saved. The home carried insurance."*

Again, The Times and Democrat published an article on **October 8, 1931** which tells of yet another disastrous fire. *"A disastrous fire took place near here Monday afternoon about 6 o'clock when a two system gin and other adjoining buildings including a cotton house, saw mill, seed house and engine shed, owned by Kirby Hipp, prominent farmer of the section was totally destroyed. Two storage houses nearby were saved from destruction only through the persistent efforts on the part of neighbors and the members of the Ellore Fire Department."*

The Times and Democrat reported on **January 21, 1932** that *"Fire last night destroyed the Home Economics building of the negro school here, and an investigation was started at once to determine the cause of the burning of two school buildings in Ellore in less than two weeks. The town's main school building for negro children was burned on January 9. The fire last night was discovered at 11 o'clock but flames had gained such headway nothing could be saved. Bloodhounds brought to the scene early today in the hope of trailing incendiaries, made little headway. Two men were arrested after the fire on January 9, but were later released when they gave satisfactory alibis.*

The article continues, *"Malcolm J. Miller, Secretary of the State Sinking Fund Commission, which insures public school buildings, said today he would ask Governor Blackwood to 'send the best man he has' to investigate the burning of two school buildings in Ellore in the past two weeks. He placed the value of the two buildings at \$12,500."*

On **January 23, 1932**, The Times and Democrat announced that *"a reward of \$100 has been offered by the town of Ellore for the capture and conviction of any*

person or persons guilty of incendiarism in connection with the recent burning of public school building here.”

Sumter's, The Item, reported on **January 8, 1932** that *“Fire originating in a livery stable here early today destroyed that building containing a quantity of feed stuff, four mules and six hogs, a warehouse and several nearby sheds, all valued at a total of about \$11,000. The Orangeburg Fire Department was called to assist the local company (Fire Department) which had the flames under control when the additional apparatus arrived.”*

The Times and Democrat gave an account of a fire in Ellore on **November 10, 1934** which said, *“The roof of the home of Mrs. S. P. Baxter was badly burned by fire this morning at about 11 o'clock. The blaze was burning rapidly and had made much headway before it was discovered. The furnishings of the home were not damaged except by the water.”*

The Item, a Sumter newspaper, reported on **June 1, 1935** that *“A large gin house built of galvanized tin and owned by Fred A. Fair was burned to the ground at 3:30 o'clock this morning. Two complete gins that were installed in the building were also destroyed. The fire was beyond control when it was discovered.”*

Orangeburg's Times and Democrat scripted an interesting story in their **May 21, 1936** paper. *“The store of Nathan Levin was entered and robbed during Tuesday night and around \$200 in merchandise and \$6.00 in cash taken. Officers found that entrance to the building was gained through the use of an axe taken from a truck of the Ellore fire department. The robber or robbers also appropriated one of the rubber coats from the same fire station. The axe and the coat were found at the store.”*

The **August 26, 1937** edition of The Times and Democrat reported that Ellore had recently constructed new facilities for their fire department. The article attributes the newly constructed building to the use of WPA funds earmarked for new projects. *“Both the City of Orangeburg and the County have availed themselves of the opportunity of using the Federal WPA program to provide needed construction in the building or remodeling of city and county property.”* The article states a large number of projects have been completed, among which is *“erecting two story combination city hall and fire house in Ellore for \$6,400.”*

It is with deep satisfaction that this writer now puts his pen down from further research of the Elloree Fire Department. It has been an interesting project to uncover some of this department's stories and legacy which had probably been lost through time or else forgotten by generations long past. Now, the rest of the history of the Elloree Fire Department from 1937 to the present is up to others to complete...that's 84 years of stories yet to be researched and put to pen. It is this writer's hope that someone will take up the challenge, catch up this department's rich heritage, and keep our legacy alive.

Note: Special thanks to Elloree Fire Chief Craig Hill, Kay Shirer, Museum Administrative Manager, and Pat McLaurin, Chairman of Exhibit Committee for their input and assistance with this project.