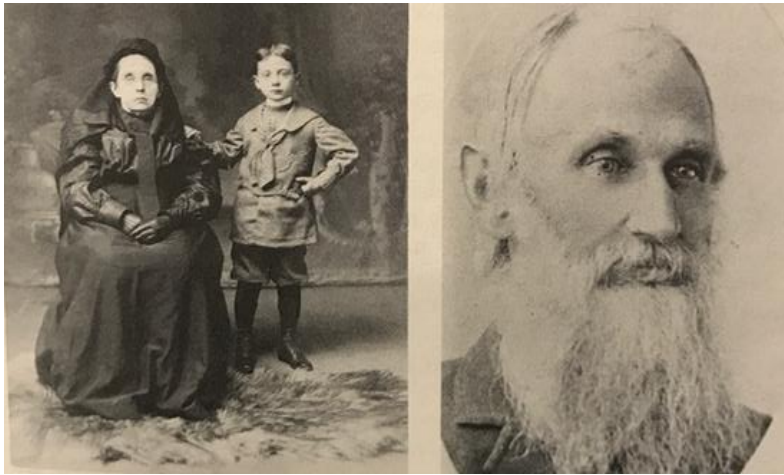


The Pictorial History of Chapin, SC

Developed by
Jaime Bohnke & Bill Rudis

Chapin's Early Years...



Martin Chapin (June 5, 1821 – August 31, 1894) worked at *Columbia Hotel* (current location of *Macy's* department store) and *Laura Chapin* and her great grandson *Page Gregory*.



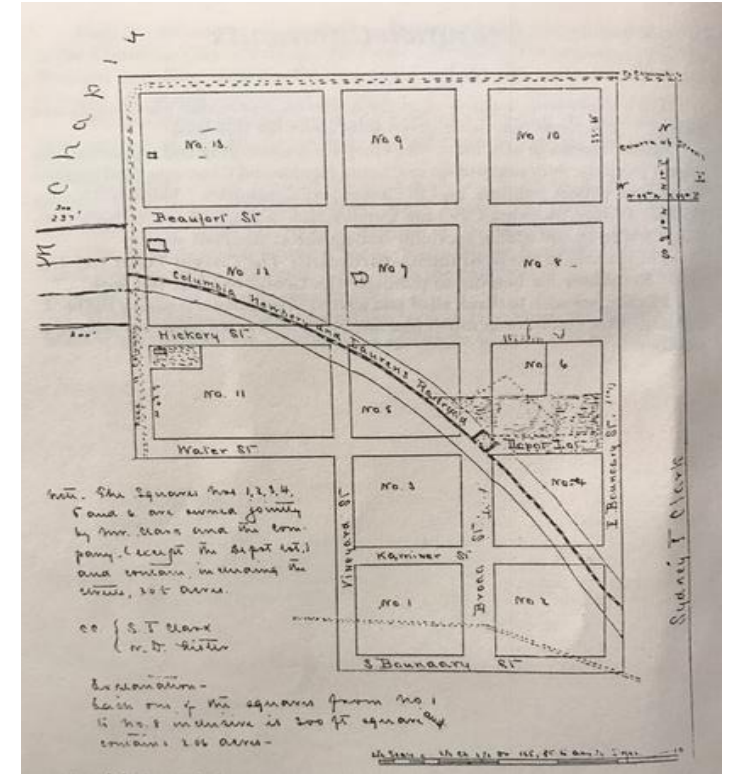
Mr. Martin Chapin is buried at "*The Summer Cemetery at Pomaria*", located on *US highway 176*



When *Mr. Chapin* passed, *Mrs. Chapin* moved into "*The Chapin Hotel*" located near the railroad tracks.

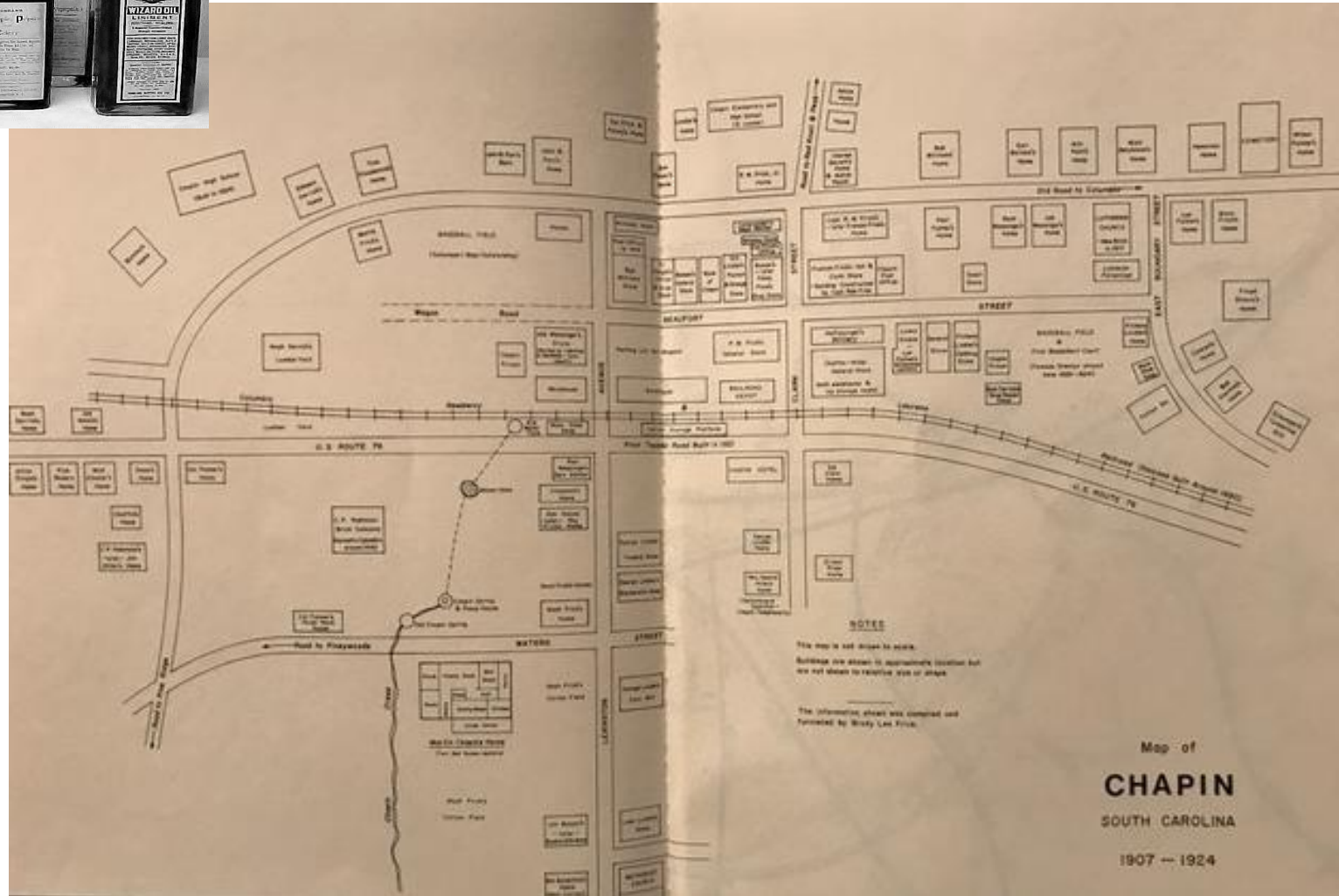


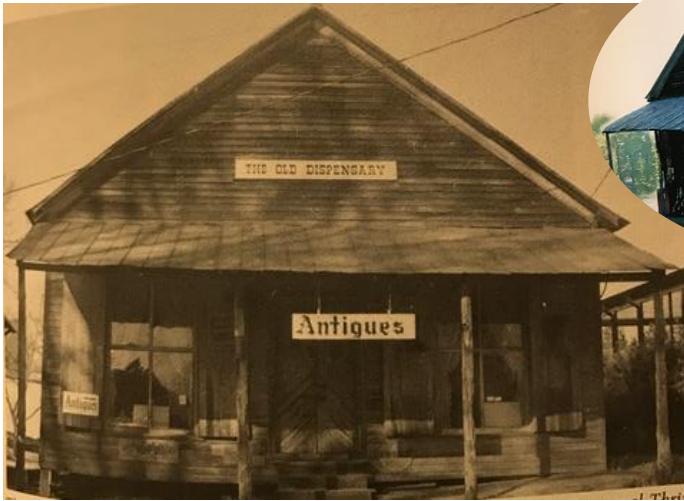
The Chapin Depot for the *C, N & J Railroad* and *Chapin Water Tank*



Town of Chapin Map – July 24, 1890
Chapin Town Incorporated December 24, 1889. Along with strict provisions that "no license for the sale of spirituous or malt liquors, wines, bitters, or other beverages of which spirituous liquors from an ingredient, shall be granted by the municipal authorities"


1892 liquor was coined "Demon Whiskey" and Mr. Martin Chapin objected to alcohol. According to *The Lexington Dispatch* (local newspaper), "the Lexington County grand jury was concerned about reports that Chapin had unlicensed barrooms known as literary or social clubs in which intoxicating liquors were being sold and enjoyed".





The Old Dispensary
Built in 1901 as housed many businesses over the years and sits at 300 Clark St.

Mary Pickford



Mary Pickford

- America flocked to the movies to see the Queen of Hollywood, dubbed "America's Sweetheart" and the most popular star of the generation - "Our Mary" Mary Pickford.
- She had been a child star, and had worked at Biograph as a bit actress in 1909, and only ten years later was one of the most influential figures in Hollywood at Paramount.
- In 1916, she was the first star to become a millionaire.



Chapin's original horse-drawn hearse belonged to Lindler's Funeral Home and was used in the Centennial Parade.



Frick's General Store



1908 Chapin's "Loyal Temperance Legion" and South Carolina's Secretary of the WCTU. Did you know: During the National Prohibition (1920-1933), the Legion was active in every state and across 50 countries. It's goal was to enroll one million boys and girls as 'National Prohibition Guards.' Members across the country peaked in 1890 at 240,000 members, dropped to 56,945 in 1929 and an estimated 400 in 1989.



Chapin Public School 1905-1906



1912 Chapin HS Graduating Class



1905 Chapin Public School - All Grades

1900's Chapin Industry...



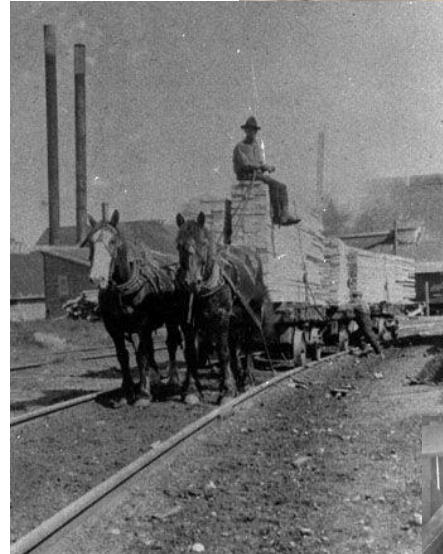
Turpentine & Rosin Still opens 1916 located near the railroad tracks. With a copper kettle, a metal coil and large vat of water. Shipped to Columbia via Rail.



Logging, Sawmills & lumber



In 1890, the Chapin boom entices other industry to supplement farming. Railroad enabled goods to move to Columbia faster and more efficiently.



R.W. Frick Store Built 1908 and moved to its present location about 1950.





Molasses business opens 1893. Mr. Henry Summer known as the "Sweet Man" - Produced in Chapin and shipped to Columbia via Rail.



Corn Mills In 1887 the *Lexington Dispatch* asked a young man just returning from Columbia about the Cotton, he said, "Cotton here, cotton there, cotton all around O I never seed so much cotton in all my life"



Cotton Gins with the railroad stop in Chapin - Cotton became king! It enabled the small ne-horse farm to give way to larger enterprise as hauling goods to market, receiving supplies and commodities from distant ports, for transportation to and from the state's capital city.

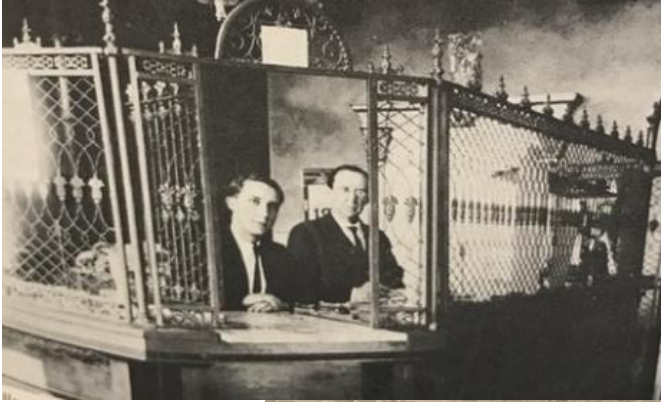


Old Country Band Soldiers carrying the rebel flag would roll into town in search of good barbeque and music.



Early 1900's infrastructure popping up...

1908 President of The Bank of Chapin



Harry and Murray Wessinger in The Bank of Chapin



First Bank of Chapin Organized by a Wessinger, Frick and Honeycutt on March 28, 1907. Bricks from the local Fry Construction company were used to construction on Beaufort St.



1920 Beaufort Street

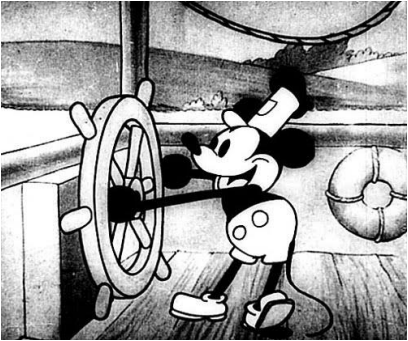
By 1916 Chapin had 13 Stores – a bank two drug stores, a meat market, barber shop, livery stable, three blacksmith shops, a ginnery, a lumber manufacturing plant, a sash and door factory, two grist mills, one standard cotton warehouse and one brick plant.



Chapin Train Depot Looking north on Clark St., the depot stood next to P.M. Frick's store, where many school plays were held by the teachers upstairs.



Chapin and the Roaring 1920...



Chapin's 2nd School Building
The old brick school on Peak St. replaced wooden school building. It housed the elementary school in later years before it was abandoned.



1928 *Decked in her bloomers for playing Chapin High School basketball*



Chapin School 1927 *This building was the first built at the location of what is now the Chapin Recreation Complex.*



The Creation of Lake Murray...

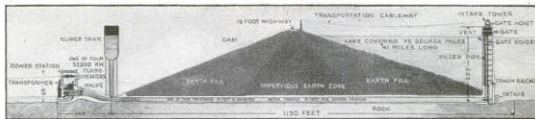
Construction begins on a dam across the Saluda River
The work being done for the Broad River Power Company, with promise that it would provide abundant hydro-electric power for South Carolina's midlands.

Hundreds of families had to sell their homes and their farms to the power company, often for very little pay to make room for a lake which was to rise to be 14 miles wide and 40 miles long. Many of these families had lived on the land for almost 200 years.

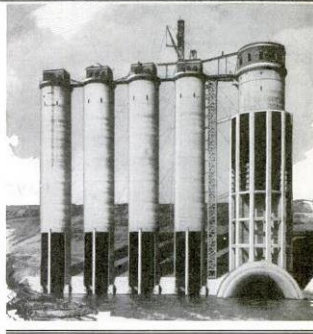
Chapin

Lake Murray named after one of the engineers **William S. Murray**

1927



One of the largest sources of hydroelectric power in the world is made possible by an earth dam nearly a mile and one-half long which is more impervious to water, according to engineers, than concrete would be. This is the recently completed Saluda dam, near Columbia, S.C., which spans the Saluda river and valley for 7,838 feet, the fill being 1,150 feet wide at the base and rising 208 feet above the river bed. It retains a lake over forty miles long and fourteen miles wide, draining an area of 2,400 square miles. The reservoir, containing 763,000,000,000 gallons of water could supply 160 cities of 50,000 population for a year, and more than 170,000 horsepower has been conjured from the river. Nearly 100,000 acres of land were purchased for the project, including 1,100 tracts occupied by 4,000 people, and schools, churches, cemeteries and homes were moved from the area. The interior of the dam was formed by the washing in of fine clay to make a water-tight core. A power station below the dam has an ultimate capacity of 200,000 kilowatts.



Above, Cross Section of Saluda Dam and Power Project; the Dam Is Made of Earth; Below, the Intake Towers

Generators weigh 340 tons each, and the water wheels that drive them weigh thirty tons each. Water to turn these turbines flows beneath the dam through four huge penstocks, the water entering the penstocks through four large intake towers, thirty feet in diameter and 223 feet high.

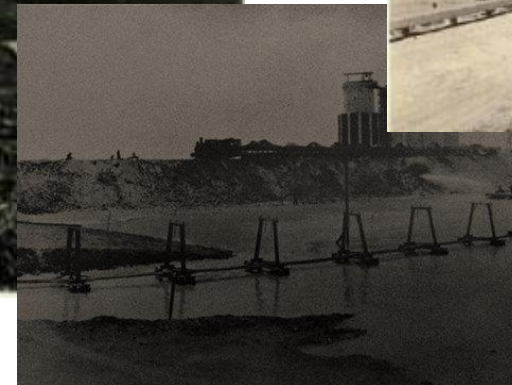
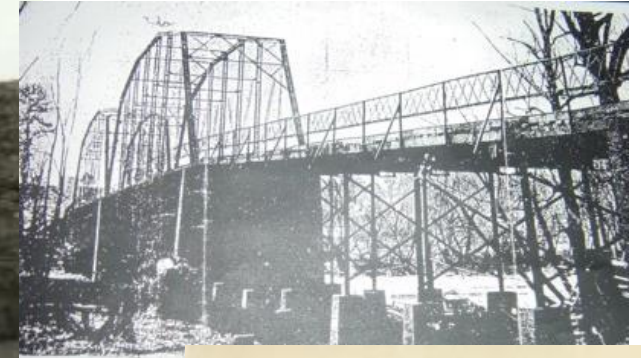
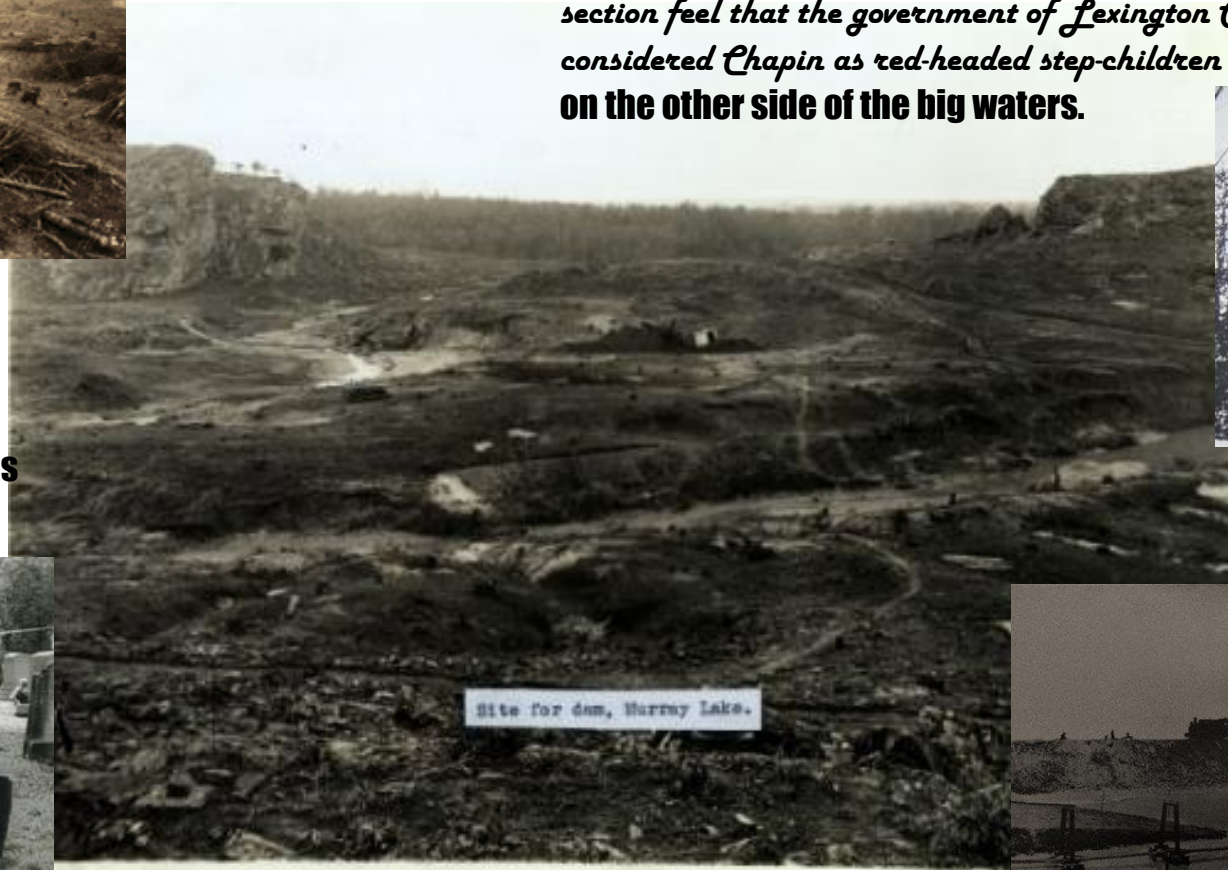
The final load of dirt was dumped on top of the new dam on June 28, 1930. The process of clearing the land for the lake had taken 2,000 men working and 37 saw mills operating to clear the high water mark in just over a year. Workers were paid \$7 a day and families who had never had any money were able to sell their land to the power company at \$15 per acre, and thus realize \$1,000- \$2,000.

Moving earth, uprooting lives...

The Chapin-Lexington Road and its steel Wyse Ferry bridge across the river, were flooded by the waters, cutting off easy access between Chapin and the county seat, a situation that over the years made people in this section feel that the government of Lexington Country considered Chapin as red-headed step-children – the land on the other side of the big waters.



The power company was faced with the task of removing 193 graveyards containing 3,323 graves.



1930's the Great Depression in full Swing...

It was a rude awakening when on October 17, 1931 the Bank of Chapin failed to open for business. The town council voted in November to put Chapin's \$93,000 in the South Carolina National Bank located in Columbia.



Chapin Lumber Company *fails through the depression due to no demand, but endured by selling different services and products.*



Hoover Carts *Affording gas was out of the question, so people jack up their old automobiles up, take the hind wheels and put chairs on them. Then they would hook them up to a Mule and ride them around.*



1934 Black Widow Spider Anti-toxin Discovery *New practicing resident Dr. Robert Graham could barely pay rent due to servicing the ill off only bartering.*



1935 New Mayor and Reduced Taxes *Worth Goza was not only Mayor of Chapin, but he was the owner the Chapin Mercantile Company. As mayor, all back taxes were reduced,*



1932 Chapin Mercantile Company *located at the corner of Hwy. 76 and Columbia (eagles corner) remained in operation until 1962.*



Mt. Horeb Rock Wall *The cemetery has been existing since before 1903. Under the direction of the Ladies Aid Society, workers were commissioned to build wall with native rocks from fields and woods during the dark years. They paid \$2.00 for the front gate. The church had 33 members at the time that would bring eggs to meetings to sell, as a way of paying for cement for the project.*



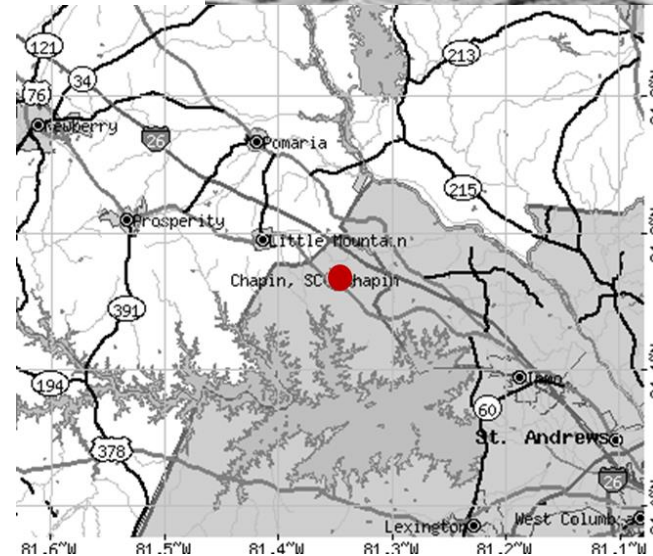
September 5, 1935 Tornado ...

Disaster touches down at 3:00am

- *Turning the Methodist Church into Shambles – a new brick one stands in place today*
- *Tearing up Derrick's Cotton Gin – destroying all business records*
- *Ripping apart picket fences around homes*
- *Sticking boards like toothpicks through roofs*



Chapin Methodist Church *Demolished during the tornado and replaced by this brick sanctuary. Today it houses the Christ Church's House of Prayer.*



Bomb Island



Photo # 80-G-41196 B-25 lifts off from USS Hornet on Doolittle Raid



The 1940's brought hope...



Chapin High School *Public school system only consisting of 11 grades at the time and then would transfer to Irmo. At the end of 1939 school year, the first 19 seniors graduated.*



Chapin High School Girls Basketball Team - 1940



The Block C Club- 1940



Chapin HS Men's Basketball Team - 1947



Chapin's First Town Hall – Built in 1949 *Used until a new Town Hall/Fire Station was constructed in 1970.*



1940's Brought Four Filling Stations *Opened until 11pm.*

The 1940's found people crowding into Chapin and as it is today (2017) parking places where hard to find. People came walking, by cars, horse-draw wagons and buggies. And the Chapin Merchants welcomed them. Some of the notable business included; Shoe Repair Shop, Carpenter's Shop, Meat Market, General Merchandise Store and a Mercantile Company.



1945 World War II Ends *Chapin Chief of police received a salary increase from \$25 to \$35 per month. The council approved the hiring of a second officer. The council voted in law that states businesses will be closed on Sundays between 10-12:30 or suffer punishment.*



Shoe Shop on Clark St. *Willie Wessinger busy at work.*

1950's...



Chapin Train Depot *Waiting on the steps for the next train.*



New Post Office – Built in 1951 *The old Original Post Office was moved in the back as seen in the picture – the building still exists on the corner of Beaufort and Clark Streets.*



Public Library Established *First located at the old guardhouse remodeled to accommodate the county and the community with a book library. The one room building still stands on Beaufort Street near Texchine and is used by Mr. Horeb for storing newspapers.*



Chapin's Clark Street during the 1950's *A painting by Rita M. Smith completed in 1968 depicting the 50's..*



First Street Lights *In 1956 Chapin got it's first blinking light at Hwy 76 and Lexington Ave. In 1957, an additional 18 were installed and everyone celebrated dinner at the H&S.*



Chapin Depot Porch *Frick watching at Train goes by.*

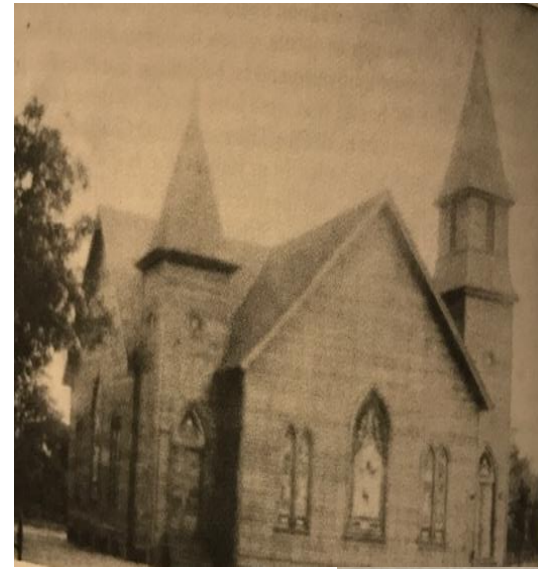


Frequent Train Stops in Chapin *Orders being passed to Engineer.*

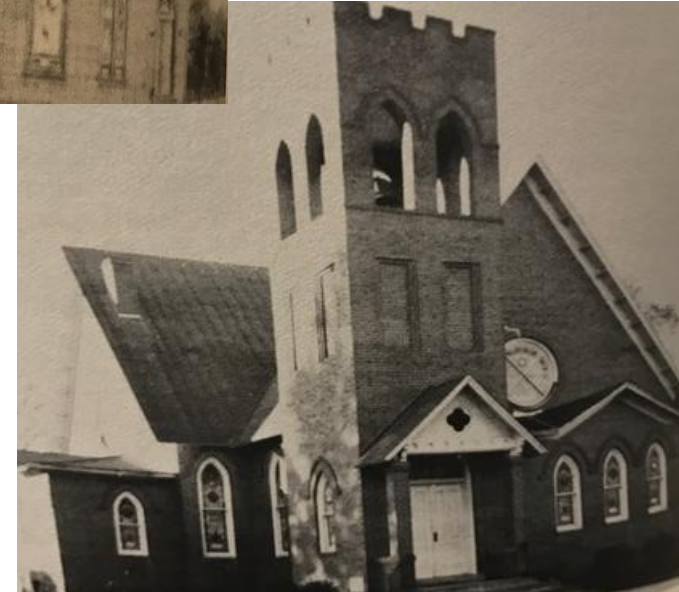
1960's beyond...



Chapin High School *This building was the HS until 1970. Then it housed Chapin Elementary School until a new school was built in 1977. Then it was demolished except for the auditorium which remained as part of the Chapin Recreation Complex..*



Mt Horeb Lutheran Church 1893-1917
Destroyed by the 1935 Jornado



Mt Horeb Lutheran Church *Established in 1917 new sanctuary built in 1963..*





South Carolina

