

Superintendent Benjamin Andrew Buckheister

We have recently been contacted by Joe Whittaker who is the great, great grandson of Mr. Buckheister. He has furnished us additional, interesting information about the Superintendent.

My Great, Great Grandfather, Benjamin Andrew Buckheister was known in Spartanburg as B.A. Buckheister. He was a native of Charleston brought to Spartanburg to help establish the Railway system. He was murdered on December 17, 1920 at the railway crossing on East Main Street in Spartanburg by a former employee, G.W. Putnam, who was let go during the railway workers strike of 1919.

Mr. Whittaker has given us a copy of the *Spartanburg Herald* front page from December 18, 1920 on which the shooting is the headline article. It is shown below.



An enlarged portion of the story is shown on the next page with the main details.

GEORGE W. PUTNAM FIRED FATAL SHOTS AT SUPERINTENDENT OF STREET RAILWAY LAST NIGHT

**John P. Eubanks, Only Eye Witness According to
Officers, Says Dead Man Struck Putnam Before
He Shot. Four Bullets Take Effect. No Words
Passed Before Tragedy. Ill Feeling Existed Be-
tween Men. Buckheister Unarmed.**

HOMICIDE OCCURED AT CROSSING NEAR BLACKWOOD'S POOL ROOM

B. A. Buckheister, superintendent of the street railway system of the South Carolina Light, Power and Railways Company, was shot and almost instantly killed at 8 o'clock last night by George W. Putnam, agent of the Virginia Life Insurance Company, in front of the store of Edward A. Farley at East Main Street crossing. Putnam was arrested on the spot by Policeman Ross and taken to the county jail. Mr. Buckheister, in a dying condition, was rushed to the Spartanburg Hospital in an ambulance but expired on the way.