

THE CONNECTOR

WINTER 2010 VOLUME 14 NUMBER 1

Preserving the Past...For the Future

BRIDGE ACROSS THE TAR RIVER AT FALLS OF THE TAR

Prior to 1871 the line between Nash and Edgecombe Counties ran just east of the Tar River at the Falls. Since the bridge was on the Nash side, Nash had to bear its cost. The cotton mill and other valuable property was barely across the line in Edgecombe County and Edgecombe received the taxes from them. As you can imagine, there was constant bickering between the two counties over this situation..

New Boundary

In 1872, an Act was passed making the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad the boundary between the two counties. The railroad was about 2 miles east of the river and the new boundary gave Nash additional taxable property. Nash County paid Edgecombe the princely sum of \$800 for this adjustment in the boundary.

This account begins with the burning

of a bridge at the Falls of Tar River by United States troops in 1863. There is nothing in the Nash County records to show when this bridge was rebuilt.

In 1872 the following article appeared in a local newspaper:

"It is well known that when petitions were presented last year for the signatures of citizens urging the Legislature to change the dividing line between Nash and Edgecombe we were assured Nash, in case the project succeeded,

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Bridge photo from *A Pictorial History, Rocky Mount*, by Barringer, Barringer and Chesson: 1972

UNDERTAKERS AND FUNERAL HOMES IN GREENVILLE

In the old days there were no professional undertakers or funeral homes and burials were neighborhood affairs. Because there was no embalming the dead were usually buried the same day or early the next day.

There was usually someone in the neighborhood who would keep coffin lumber on hand. In many cases, farmers would have lumber sawed and placed away under a shelter to make coffins for themselves and members

of their family. Some would have their own coffins made years before their death. Coffins used to be made of pine planks wide enough so that the sides and ends could be made of one board. The

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TAR RIVER GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 8764
ROCKY MOUNT NC 27804

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adult_tar_river_connections.htm](http://www.braswell-library.org/adult_tar_river_connections.htm)

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Submissions of Articles

We are looking for articles on the history
and genealogy of the North Carolina
counties of Person, Vance, Granville,
Franklin, Nash, Edgecombe, Wilson,
Pitt and Beaufort which are the north-
eastern North Carolina counties through
which the Tar River flows.

You may email articles to:

sadowski@pbtcomm.net

or mail:

Janet Sadowski
2019 Calks Ferry Road
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LOCAL DOTS

—Mr. **Wm. Parker** was run
over and instantly killed by the
mail train last Wednesday eve-
ning at Enfield.

—We were sorry to learn that
B. H. Bunn had been sick for
several days, but are glad to see
him out again.

—We want to buy a 'possum.
Anybody having one to sell will
please call at this office imme-
diately if not sooner.

—Mr. **Ed Mitchell**, who has
been curing tobacco for Mr. **D.
W. Thorp** of this place, left
for his home at **Henderson**
[**Vance Co., NC**] last Satur-
day.

—Mr. **E. F. Arrington**, of
this place, has been appointed a
Marshal for the **Tarboro** Fair.
A better selection could not
have been made.

—A good many of our citizens
had important business at Tar-

boro and **Wilson** last week.
Of course they attended the
circus while there.

—**C. N. Burnette**, who for
some time has been with Ar-
rington, Muse & Co., is now
with Arrington & Co. where
he will be glad to see his
friends.

—The Tarboro "Southerner"
says that Mr. **S. S. Spiers**,
who keeps a country store in
Edgecombe county, had one
hundred and forty-five dollars
stolen from his on last Tues-
day.

—We are sorry to learn that
Elder **P. D. Gold**, editor of
"Zions Landmark," fell from a
wagon last week and dislo-
cated his arm. We are pleased
to know that he is doing well,
however.

[*The Little Clipper*, Rocky Mount,
NC, 10/3/1885]

Rocky Mount Hotel.

THE Subscriber respectfully informs his friends
and the public that he has commenced keeping

A House of Entertainment,

At his residence near the Falls of Tar River, 18
miles from Tarborough and 55 from Raleigh, on
the stage road between those towns. He will
provide every thing abundantly, necessary for
the comfort and convenience of man and horse,
and hopes to merit and receive a share of public
patronage.

ISAAC W. HORNE.

Jan. 1833.

23

NC Journal Free Press January 29, 1833

DO YOU KNOW?

TRC Member **Hiram Perkinson** found this photo at the Red Oak, NC flea market. He was told it depicts an unknown Nash County Family. He examined the photo and found a couple of clues he has shared. In the right corner of the house is a pointer dog. This probably indicates the owner was a bird hunter. There is also a cemetery in the right corner just beyond the dog. The picture may date circa 1880 based on dress and house features. The foundation of stone may indicate western Nash County.

If you recognize the house, please let us know. Thank you Hiram for sharing!



YEARGAN'S CHAPEL

This is a sketch of **Yeargain's Chapel** as it was supposed to have been, called "*Putting on Sunday Shoes*". Yeargan's Chapel was located on the North side of the Roanoke in the Pigeon Roost Creek area, which is now probably under Kerr lake. According to his travel diary, Asbury preached at the chapel on Christmas Eve in the 1770's. No doubt, many of our Warren County ancestors attended the service. We are indebted to **Bebe Fox**, a descendant of

Samuel Yeargain for sharing this sketch with us.

Bute County was formed from **Granville County** in 1764 and abolished in 1779 when it was divided into Warren County and Franklin County. The courthouse of Bute County was located at a place called "Buffalo Rice Path" on land owned by **Jethro Sumner** about 6 miles southeast of present Warrenton, North Carolina. Most of the records of Bute County are still lo-

cated in Warren County though some may be found in Franklin County.

Submitted by TRC Member



YEARGAN'S CHAPEL
"PUTTING ON SUNDAY SHOES"

NORFLEET HOUSE

The Norfleet Plantation House is nearly 200 years old. It was moved to the campus of Edgecombe Community College to be a heritage center and the headquarters for ECC's historic preservation program and the cornerstone of its historic preservation trades program. Originally, the house was on a 1,700-acre plantation owned by **Isaac and Christina Norfleet**. In 1938, the house was used as the home for the superintendent of the county prison. Following World War II, a house was built closer to the prison and this property was sold, and the Norfleet House was rented to various farm workers for the next 30 years. From *The Daily Southerner*, Tarboro, NC, October 21, 2009 (submitted by TRC Member Debbie Peacock).

Mark Edward Rogers, is a grandson of **Capt. Willie Huester Stell, Sr.** and **Zelma Mae Wilson Stell**, Superintendent of the county prison who lived at the house beginning in 1938. He wrote the following account of their time in the Norfleet House:

Superintendent Willie Huester Stell, Sr. moved his family to Norfleet House in the summer of

1938. My mother entered third grade at **Bridgers School**, with pencil box and one cent my Granddaddy gave her for an "emergency."

Granddaddy had gotten to Eastern North Carolina, first working in Williamson, then Tarboro. How all this came about was, my grandmother; Zelma Mae Wilson Stell wrote North Carolina State and Justice System pleading for a job for her out of work husband. He had in previous years worked in Halifax County at **Caledonia Prison** near Tillery and he returned the family back to Wake County. It is here their home was destroyed by fire.

When the move to Norfleet House took place, the house had been empty for some time. Granddaddy had inmates make the house livable and plant the vegetable garden, etc. LOTS of oak trees, grape arbor, family burial ground, etc. The primary purpose at that time was to work inmates on the roads and the prison was called the prison department (not correction department) that name or title came later. It was the prison department under The North Carolina Highway and Public Works Commission.



Norfleet House being moved to Edgecombe Community College. *The Daily Southerner*, Tarboro, NC October 21, 2009

The Stell family remained at "Norfleet Plantation" until the spring / summer of 1947. The farmland was "worked" with inmate labor. Also, the fire tower was there during their living at the 2 houses provided for them "down the road." My mother having walked all the way to the top. Mostly tomatoes were raised and canned at the cannery at the prison. Corn was raised for livestock.

When the family moved to Tarboro, Edgecombe County in 1938, parishioners from **Saint Anne's Church**, (at the intersection of Howard Avenue Ext and MacNair road) visited the family about membership. The family however joined **Howard Memorial Presbyterian Church** in Tarboro. (**MacNair Road** named after the surname of **Sarah**

Fletcher Bryan's mother. Her father was "Pop" Bryan, owner of the ice plant and co-owner of **Runnymede Mills**. The watering troths at Main and Wilson, she as a young girl used to ride her pony down there for water. She went on The Grand Tour of Europe, danced with The Prince of Norway. She had a shop during the Christmas season downtown with things she made. Her Brother **Henry Bryan**, manufactured "Beautiful Bryan Hosiery" Fletcher handmade a garter to go in "bridal sets." She was a buyer for Lord and Taylor in New York City, and returned home to stay with her mother when her father died. Her mother, **Anna MacNair Bryan**, in the 1930's or so, held a "colored Sunday School

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class for children" over in "**Keech Town**" To the side of The Barracks, the other side of South Howard Circle. Christmas parties for the children at Royester house, Santa Claus.

The back kitchen with fireplace was there when The Stells moved there in 1938. A "Home Comfort" wood stove was used for cooking. The stove had a reservoir for heating water. An inmate, **Dave Richardson** was the cook at this time. He rang the handheld bell when meals were ready. (I have that bell.) A wood space heater was in the living room. After talking to my mother and uncle, they are of the opinion the interior of the house was painted white. Upon entering the house is the living room with narrow staircase. Then the next room, my grandfather's room to the right and to the left, my grandmother's room. By her bed when in season, were honey suckle and gardenia blossoms. Then the kitchen. On the 2nd floor my mother and aunt's room, and my 2 uncle's room. Not much closet or storage space and no indoor bath.

Isham Lidwood Stell, my granddaddy's

brother was Captain of the Guard at the prison. He moved his family to Edgecombe County in the 1940's. Himself, his wife **Sarah**, and two daughters **Peggy** and **Sally**. He remained at the prison as did my granddaddy until his retirement. Mr. **Isham Stell**, was my father's (**Alton Jackson Rogers**) supervisor when he was a guard at the prison and met my mother there which led to their subsequent marriage. On the grounds of the prison were the home for The I. L. Stells and the guard quarters. My father lived at the guard quarters. The guard quarters was moved as well, where I'm not sure of. This moving of buildings was going on in 1975-1976, when I was taking courses at the tech. (My granddaddy being in the kind of work that he was in, before moving to Tarboro, knew of the 2 police officers killed in "the raid" which made news and buried together at Greenwood Cemetery.

The cotton/wine press was moved during the time the Stells lived at Norfleet House. Much of their "living experiences" are detailed in my essay *The Life and Times Of Zelma Mae Wilson Stell*. I mention in that essay my Granddaddy listening to his radio

of news. One of the newsmen he listened to was **Lowell Thomas**, going from station to station on an air lined radio purchased at Montgomery Ward. I have a watercolor of the cotton press The **Rev. Robert E. Burns** painted.

When **Phillip Shugar** purchased the property, the state maintained timber rights. Some or most of the timber was used to build the new superintendent house on the prison camp grounds. (This house was purchased and moved towards Speed when the house was moved off The Edgecombe Technical property, formally Edgecombe County Prison. So, this 2nd superintendent house still exists. Mr. Shugar gave a bar-b-que on the Norfleet property when he purchased the land and Norfleet House. A much published picture exists. What makes this picture special to the Stell family, is that granddaddy is the first man left to right in the photograph facing the camera. Even more so, his father, **O'Hara Cleveland Stell** was visiting and is a few men down from granddaddy. Mr. Brown who owned Coco Cola Bottling in Tarboro, supplied the beverage refreshments.

At the house on the

prison grounds, the inmate **Walter Bell** was the cook. There is a "Dear Aubrey letter to the editor" in The Daily Southerner about ladies going to the prison to "put the inmates in the Christmas Spirit ... in the 1940's. It could be 1950's. Miss **Ruth Denton** was one of the ladies on the committee. And of course Mrs. **Lena Weeks** going out on Sundays to teach Sunday School. **Rev. Chester Alexander** (Presbyterian minister) would come out for worship services on Sundays. This service was mandatory for the inmates. I have one of her books of poetry written during this time. She was sister to **Hobson Pittman**. The prison had its own baseball team as well. Profits from a concession stand would help buy the sports equipment the team needed. A **Mr. Matherson** would bring a team from Princeville to be the other team.

My grandmother would pass away in 1950.

Her friends were **Mrs. John Taylor**, who owned a florist on Howard Avenue, a **Mrs. Cappel** (I expect misspelled) and a **Mrs. Keel**. Her two African American lady friends were "**Mit**" **Whitehead**

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and "**Aunt Sally**" **Pet-away**. As is told through the years, my grandmother would sometimes write letters for inmates, visit them when they were sick, and sometimes carry to them things she had cooked. When she passed away, the inmates were loaded on one or two large trucks, carried to the old **Carlisle Funeral Home** to see her in repose. Inmates weeping. One inmate wrote a poem that was read at her funeral. Their children: **W. H. Stell, Jr.**, retired Director of Finance for the Town of Tarboro; **Frances Stell Gilbert**, retired from Sprint and passed away in 2003; **Samuel Cameron**

Stell, Sr., retired School Superintendent of Whiteville County Schools; and my Mother, **Margie Stell Rogers**, retired supervisor at Sprint.

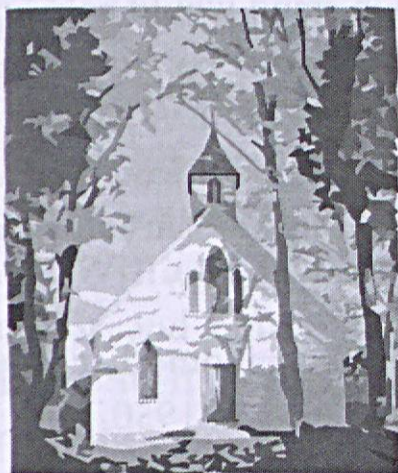
My granddaddy remained at the house on the prison camp grounds, which is now Edgecombe Technical College (the prison camp building still being used by the technical college) with his 2nd wife. He retired in 1957. I was five months old at his retirement. I as a baby did enter in my mother's arms as an infant, in the house once occupied by my grandparents. Mama remembers taking me there Easter Sunday, 1957.

A bit of trivia about

granddaddy's 2nd wife. She was **Annie Virginia Hyatt**. She had never married. They were married at **Howard Memorial Presbyterian Church**, February 22, 1953. My grandmother's funeral was there, granddaddy's, and "Miss Annie's" as everyone called her. Both my mother and aunt were married at this church. Miss Annie's father, **John Blair Hyatt** was the other "white" funeral home in Tarboro. Ceasing operation I would say in the 1940's. John B. Hyatt Furniture Dealer and Funeral Home. Her family home was located at 200 Trade Street, the address used by The Albemarle. Mr. "Johnnie's" funeral home was located at Saint Andrews Street and

Grainger Street. When Belk Tyler opened in 1936, Miss Annie was the 1st employee hired. She was a sales clerk. She remained there until her retirement in 1970 ... I think is the year she finally retired. It was she and Mrs. **Fannie Wagner**, hired 2 weeks after Miss Annie at Belk Tyler, that broke ground for the new Belk store at Park Hill Mall in 1971. A picture of them doing so is in an old edition of *The Daily Southerner* or *The Evening Telegram*. Fannie Wagner showed me this long after Miss Annie passed away.

Submitted by Mark Edward Rogers. Grandson of Capt.. Willie Huester Stell, Sr. and Zelma Mae Wilson Stell



EARLY BAPTIST CHURCHES

The first Baptist Churches in North Carolina were **Free Will Baptist**, known historically as General or Separate Baptists. There were sixteen Baptist Churches in NC in 1752. The following seven churches adopted the Philadelphia confession of Faith when the **Kehukee Association** was founded in 1765: **Toisnot**, in Edgecombe Co.; **Falls of Tar**

River, in Edgecombe Co., now Nash Co.; **Kehukee** and **Fishing Creek** in Halifax Co.; **Reedy Creek** in Warren Co.; **Sandy Run** in Bertie Co.; and **Shiloh** in Camden Co.

The following six churches would not unite with the Kehukee Association when it was organized in 1765: **Perquimans**, in Perquimans Co.; **Gum**

Swamp, in Pitt Co.; **Grimesly** and **Little Creek**, in Greene Co.; and **Wheat Swamp** and **Lousan Swamp** in Lenoir Co.

The names of the remaining three churches are no longer known.

[*North Carolina Disciples of Christ* by Charles Crossfield Ware, 1927]

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would build us a substantial bridge across Tar River at the Falls. Two-thirds of the signers, parties whose rights were most immediately affected, appended their names solely for this reason.

"Now, why, with this additional property to tax, have the commissioners gone back on their promises to the people here, and in fact, all over the county?"

Funds Allocated

Later the same year, the following article appeared:

"With a unanimity very gratifying, the Nash County commissioners agreed (in June) to allow \$9,000 from the county treasury to build a new bridge across the Tar River at the Falls. The contractor is to build on three stone piers, and make a double track." on or under date of Jan. 22, 1879:

"On last Tuesday week the new bridge about two miles above the Falls was swept away and washed down against the Falls bridge, and in coming in contact, knocked the middle arch out, which rendered the bridge impassable, but those energetic and enterprising men, Messrs. **T. J. Reamy** and **Ed Haywood**, soon had a ferry in operation.

"The county commissioners met on last Monday, relative to building a new jail, but I have not heard the results. Have heard several express an opinion to the effect that a good bridge at the Falls was much more needed than a new jail."

On Jan. 30 the following appeared:

"Falls Bridge will soon be passable. Will be completed by Wednesday."

The history of the old covered bridge begins in 1883. An Act was passed authorizing the county to for the purpose of building a county jail and a public bridge at Falls of Tar River.

The contract to build the bridge was given to **Wiley C. Clifton**. It was completed in record time, but before its acceptance it began to lean upstream and it became necessary for the county to have additional work done on it before it could be used, and the final payment due the contractor was held up.

Clifton brought suit to recover the balance he alleged was due him and employed as his counsel **William T. Dortch, Sr.**, **George P. Hart**, and **R. A. P. Cooley**. The county was represented by Bunn & Battle. The case was referred to **H. A. Gilliam**, of the Edgecombe Bar, and the record discloses that

many witnesses were examined.

The county claimed that Clifton owed it an amount in excess of the balance due on the contract work for repair to the new bridge. The result of this long and tedious action was that neither side recovered and Clifton had to pay the cost.

Two Lanes

This covered bridge was a two-lane bridge and proved to be an excellent investment. At one time it was reported that every bridge across Tar River in Nash County had been swept away by high water except this one. In 1903 it was torn down and replaced by a steel bridge and again the bridge was replaced in 1938 by the present concrete bridge which was completed July 31, 1938.

Prior to Jan. 1, 1908, the roads in the county were worked by labor exacted of its citizens and very man between the ages of 18 and 45 had to work as much as six days each year on the road, or send someone to work in his place.

Nash's Bridges

Before the State Highway Commission took over the roads and bridges in the state in 1931 the cost of building and maintaining bridges was on the counties and there were many bridges in Nash County. Tar River traverses the

county from east to west. Also, there are Fishing Creek, between Nash and Halifax counties, Town Creek, between Nash and Wilson counties, and Moccasin Creek between Nash and Johnston counties.

Other water courses are Swift Creek, Compass Creek, Stoney Creek, Saponiey Creek, and Pigbasket Creek. There are many bridges across these creeks in addition to 13 bridges across Tar River: Church Street, Falls Road, and Sunset Avenue bridges in Rocky Mount, and Greens, Lemons, Winstead, Cockrell, Thompson, Strickland Mill, York, Bryant, and Webb's Mill.

When Cornwallis was leading his troops North toward their final surrender at Yorktown, they crossed Tar River at "Lamons Ferry."

Sunset Avenue Bridge

The Sunset Avenue Bridge was first built in 1908 and the bridge for Church Street about 1916. The five bridges across Swift Creek Islands between Battleboro and Whitakers were built in 1926 and Highway 301 was opened to the public in September of that year.

[This story was taken from an account written by **J. P. Bunn**, about 1950. It appeared in the *Nashville Graphic*, 6/3/1975.

PAM'S CORNER

Nash Superior Court

This tribunal was in session the whole of last week—Judge Dick presiding. Much business was done. The case which excited most interest, was that of the State vs.

Jonas and Lawrance Brantly and one **Strickland**, charged with the murder of **Joel Perry**. The trial consumed the whole of Thursday and Friday. The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter as to Jonas

Brantly, and acquitted altogether the others. The judge imprisoned Jonas for two months.

From *The Southerner* April 2, 1859. Submitted by TRC Member Pam Edmondson

CASTALIA ROSENWALD SCHOOL

The Rosenwald School Building Program has been called the "most influential philanthropic force that came to the aid of Negroes at that time." It began in 1912 when Booker T. Washington approached Julius Rosenwald, President of Sears, Roebuck and Company, with an idea for a pilot program that was to have a dramatic impact on the face of the rural South.



Washington's idea eventually led to the creation of the Julius Rosenwald Foundation. This foundation provided seed grants for the construction of more than 5,300 buildings in 15 states, including schools, shops, and teachers' houses which were built by and for African Americans.

Today many of these Rosenwald school buildings are gone, victims of changing times and communities. To heighten awareness of the threats to these historic resources, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Rosenwald Schools to its list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places in 2002.

Built in 1922, the Castalia Rosenwald School has housed tutoring programs, senior programs and health screenings, and has served as emergency shelter since 1999.

The grant funds will be used to install a heating and air-conditioning system. Efforts will be made to improve energy efficiency through the restoration of the original windows and repairs to the roof and siding. Finally, internal plaster walls will be repaired.

Once restored, the building will be able to serve the community year-round, continuing to house community programs and events and serve as an emergency shelter. The community also plans to organize a small museum in the entrance of the school.

The Castalia Community Development Corporation will manage the restoration project.

Submitted by TRC Member Freda Roberts

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widest part was about where the body's elbows would be and narrowed down both ways to the head and feet. The inside was padded with lint cotton and lined with bleached homespun, and the outside of the coffin was painted with soot mixed with kerosene oil. The lid was nailed or fastened on with screws. Many times people were too poor to buy a coffin and there was a "community coffin"

that was passed around. Made of wood or wicker, the dead, wrapped in a blanket, were carried to the grave in the "community coffin" and then taken out of the coffin and placed in the grave.

The earliest information uncovered on undertakers in Greenville goes back to **John Flanagan** (1829-1902) who was born in Pitt County, served his apprenticeship in making carriages in Greenville, left town and for several years and engaged in the same business in Washington NC and Hamilton, NC. He returned to Greenville in 1866 and opened a carriage factory and established an undertaking business. In 1875, **J. D. Williamson** came to Greenville and

joined Flanagan in the carriage making business under the style of "**Flanagan & Williamson**." In Oct. 1883, Flanagan sold his carriage factory, but kept his undertaking business. In Jan. 1884, he sold his undertaking business to **B. F. Sugg** and planned to move but ended up forming a co-partnership with Sugg in the undertaking business, which lasted until Feb. 1886 when they dissolved their partnership. Sugg bought the undertaking equipment and Flanagan opened another undertaking establishment for himself. In Feb. 1888, John Flanagan formed a co-partnership with **Benjamin S. Sheppard** in the undertaking business under the style, "**Flanagan & Sheppard**." They advertised that they kept on hand anything desired from "the finest Metallic Case to a Pitt County Pine Coffin."

In Jan. 1897, John Flanagan went into the undertaking business with **George Asa McGowan** for a short time. Also in 1897, **Robert Greene, Jr.**, who became part owner of the John Flanagan Buggy Co., opened his own undertaking business known as "**Bob Greene & Co.**" Robert Greene, Jr. (1862-1933) began his career as a carriage maker

and later owned an ice factory and steam laundry. He is best remembered for owning the first car in Greenville, NC in 1903.

In November 1897, Greenville had a disastrous fire that burned the entire factory of John Flanagan Buggy Company. They saved their undertaking equipment and moved it into one of the stores in the **Rialto Building** on Evans Street. By 1899, **Edward G. Flanagan** was manager of the **Flanagan Coffin Co.** and opened a showroom on 4th Street across from the Post Office. In 1901, E. G. Flanagan went to embalming schools in New York and Cincinnati and obtained a license from the NC State Board of Embalmers. In 1900, the John Flanagan Buggy Co. added a new Undertakers Shop onto their factory. In Jan. 1903, the John Flanagan Buggy Co. and the Flanagan Coffin Co. consolidated; E. G. Flanagan purchased one-third interest in the buggy company owned by Robert Greene and **Oscar Hooker**, and Greene and Hooker took one-third interest in the coffin and undertaking business.

In 1916, **S. G. Wilkerson** (1882-1948) came to Greenville from Farmville and bought the

John Flanagan Funeral business. It was said that the coffins from Flanagan Funeral business were stored in a barn behind the Barker home on Third Street, behind the Episcopal Church, and folks could buy coffins cheap. S. G. Wilkerson opened an Undertaking and Music Company, selling player pianos, records and used instruments. In Oct. 1921, S. G. Wilkerson Company bought out **Sam T. White's** Piano and Music Company and added it to their remodeled store in the **Taft and VanDyke Building** on Dickinson Ave. In Feb. 1925, **Edward S. Williams** purchased a half interest in the S. G. Wilkerson Undertaking Company and the business was known as "**Wilkerson & Williams**." They added picture framing and an ambulance service to the company. Because of the troubled financial times, Wilkerson sold out his share of the business to Edward S. Williams and Wilkerson became a sales representative for a coffin company.

S. G. Wilkerson left Greenville for a time and returned to Greenville in 1932. In June 1932, S. G.

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EARLY SETTLEMENT AND TAR RIVER MAP, 1704

As early as 1681 mention is found of the **Pamlico River**. The commission of **Captain Henry Wilkinson**, as Governor of Albemarle, issued that year, gave him jurisdiction over "that part of the province of Carolina, that lyes five miles south of the river Pemplico, and from thence to Virginia." Settlers were slow to cross the Albemarle Sound, and as the country of the Pamlico was possessed of so few good harbors, in 1694 Governor **Archdale** was instructed

to offer moderate quit rents and taxes to settlers there. These inducements must have had some effect, for in 1696 the country had enough inhabitants to be erected into the county of Bath.

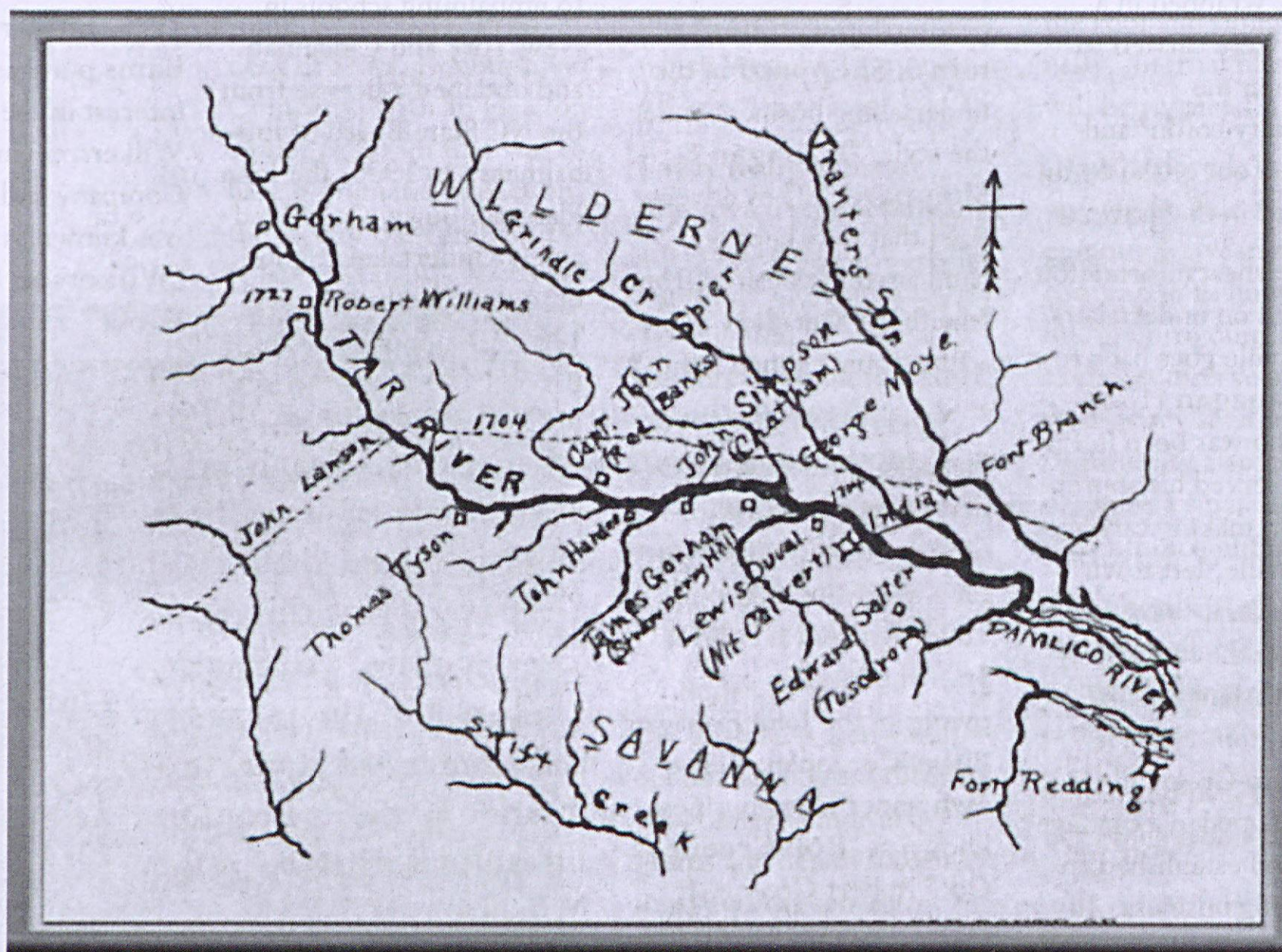
How far up **Tar River** any settlement had been made is unknown. The whole river was then known as the Pamlico, and what is now Pitt County was then a part of the Pamlico country. Traders had no doubt ascended to the

head of navigation and a stray squatter may have been settled on its banks. Pirates were plentiful in Carolina waters and its rivers and harbors often furnished them safety, after a return from cruising on the high seas.

In 1700, **John Lawson**, an English surveyor, arrived at Charleston, South Carolina, and began a tour of survey and exploration. About 1704 he reached what is now **Pitt County**. He came from

the central part of the province and entered Pitt County from Greene. He must have entered somewhere in the Marlboro section, and then have followed an Indian trail, on and across Contentnea Creek, a little below **Tyson's bridges**, on the **Forbes and Moye** lands, to the **Randolph landing** on Tar River. Lawson then went down the river, by land, about six miles, where he spent the night under a very large spreading oak. He states that he was then twelve miles

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Early Settlers Along Tar River and Probable Route of John Lawson through the county. 1704.

(Continued from page 10)

from the English settlements, and that about half way he crossed a very deep creek, [Tranter's Creek] "and came safe to Mr. **Richard Smith's**, of Pampticough."

About two miles above **Bear Creek**, on the **General Grimes** farm, was an Indian fort, which was known as **Indian Fort Branch**. About the fort was a field of about ten acres, cleared by the Indians. **Ucohuerunt**, on Tar River, was one of **Blunt's** chief towns. **Uneray** was his upper town. The location of King Blunt's Town is very uncertain. On an early map of Indian locations, Ocohuerunt is shown on the west side of Tar River, apparently several miles above Greenville. It is said that there was an Indian town about where **Old Sparta** now is and that Town Creek got its name from this. On the same old map is shown "**Ooneroy**," about where Fishing Creek empties into the river, or some above that place. This may have been King Blunt's Upper Town, "Uneray." King Blunt's Old Town must have been on the west side of Tar River, near Penny Hill, perhaps on the **Governor Elias Carr**

plantation or about Old Sparta. Tradition gives Mabry's Bridge, across Fishing Creek or a little above, as the location of an Indian town, probably Urenay.

After the **Tuscarora war**, most of those Indians went north and joined the Five Nations in New York. Blunt and some who had been faithful to the English remained. He was made their king and given lands between the Neuse and Tar rivers and above Bear Creek. Thus with peace restored and no Indians to fear, settlements began to multiply and grow up along Tar River and other streams.

The first man to "patent" land in what is now Pitt County, was **Lewis Duvall**. It was at or very near the present **Boyd's Ferry** and he named it "**Mount Calvert** and **Mount Pleasant**." That was in 1714. That year and the next he patented 1,648 acres, in three tracts. Duvall died, and some years later his daughter sold the land to **Edward Salter**, who had settled at "Tuscarora," the farm now owned by Mrs. **F. C. Saunders**.

The Tuscarora war ended in 1715, and as one

of the aids returned King Blunt for his help, he was given one hundred bushels of corn out of the "Publick Store."

The outbreak of the Indians in South Carolina seemed to have excited the fears of King Blunt and his Indians that they might suffer, and "fearing harm on account of the Indian War in 1717," they asked a settlement on the Roanoke River and were given 53,000 acres of land in **Bertie County**, to which they soon moved. There they lived many years, King Tom Blunt being succeeded by his son **James**. Later they removed to New York, but still held their lands in Bertie and long received rents for them.

Settlements continued to grow along the river. In the next few years they had even passed beyond the Pitt limits and above was rapidly being settled. Capt. **John Spier** settled at Red Banks, and it is said there was a warehouse there as early as 1725 for the inspection of tobacco. **George Moye** had settled below Pactolus, and we find that this year he made complaint to the Governor's Council, at Edenton, that an Indian, belonging to King Blunt's town, had

fired into his house and wounded two of his children. The Council found that as the Indian was drunk and had no malice, and that as the children were likely to do well, he should be fined twelve buckskins and twelve doe skins, to be paid **Robert West**, collector, for George Moye. This was in May, and the skins were to be paid in August. Then the Indian was to be given back his gun. Moye complained at the October sitting of the Council that the fine had not been paid, and the Indian was ordered to appear before the Council.

Settlers were now pushing into the interior. In 1727 **Robert Williams** bought from the Earl of Granville all the lands on the south side of Tar River, between Otter's and Tyson's Creeks, extending several miles inland. Settlements had become many higher up the country, and in 1730 the people between the Roanoke River and Contentnea Creek, above what is now Pitt County, petitioned to form the precinct of Edgecombe.

In 1732 **Governor Burrington** established the precinct of Edgecombe, it being all that territory west of a line beginning at

(Continued on page 12)

NASHVILLE CELEBRATION

The editor of the *TIMES* attended the Railroad celebration at Nashville on Thursday last. A large crowd was in attendance, and everything passed off pleasantly. Gov. [Alfred Moore] Scales was present, and made a good speech. The following gentlemen also made speeches: Messrs. **B. H. Bunn, T. S. Kenan, W. R. Cox** and **E. C. Smith**. The chief marshal, Mr. **R. A. P. Cooley**,

was looking his best, and his squad of fine looking assistants, with their beautiful regalias, kept good order the day through. The ball, at night, was a grand success, and General Manager Green kept the "ball in motion" until some time after midnight.

Notes

Nashville shows signs of improvement. Several new merchants have moved

there to do business.

It was our pleasure, during our stay, to accept the hospitality of that excellent gentleman and efficient officer, **J. G. Sills, Esq.**, Register of Deeds of the county [Nash]. His excellent lady is a pleasant woman, and she makes every one feel pleasant around her.

Franklin Times, March 25, 1887

(Continued from page 11)

the mouth of Conoconaro Creek on Roanoke River, and thence in a straight line down to King Blunt's old town on Tar River, then continuing to Neuse River, and then to the northeast branch of the Cape Fear River. Later in the same year, upon petition of the people, the line was changed to run down the Roanoke River to Hoskin's line at Rainbow Banks, and then in a straight line to King Blunt's old town on Tar River. Justices of the Peace for Edgecombe were appointed by the Governor, and it sent representa-

tives to the Assembly, but the Assembly refused to concur with the Governor in establishing the precinct. It killed the bill for establishing it in February, 1735, though that section continued to be known as Edgecombe.

Tar was now an important article of export, and North Carolina produced more than all the other colonies. Pitt County was a forest of the long leaf pines and furnished a large share of this product. The inhabitants of Tar River numbered twenty families in 1735, and it is said that 1,000 hogsheads of tobacco

were raised in the county at this time.

In 1738, the old division of three counties, Albemarle, Bath and Clarendon, was abolished and each of the precincts became counties. Bath County had comprised four precincts—Beaufort, Craven, Carteret and Hyde. Beaufort comprised about what is now Beaufort and Pitt counties, and the court-house was at Bath.

Source: Eastern North Carolina Digital Library, *Sketches of Pitt County, a brief history of the county, 1704-1910* by Henry T. King 1911

A GRAVE CHARGE

In a recent issue of the *HENDERSON GOLD LEAF* there is a very grave charge made against **N. H. Macon**, one of the members of the Legislature from this county [Franklin]. It stated:

At the late session of the Legislature an effort was made to have the town charter of Henderson [Vance Co.] amended. The bill provided for the extension of the corporate limits of the town and clothed the Mayor and board of Commissioners with certain powers and privileges that they cannot exercise under the present charter.

The bill passed the Senate and was reported upon favorably by the House, the committee directing **Nat Macon** to report the bill to the House. Macon pocketed the bill but failed to do as instructed. About 4:30 o'clock he disappeared and neither he nor the Bill were seen or heard of before the adjournment of the Legislature; and if the gentleman's whereabouts are yet known the *GOLD LEAF* has failed to ascertain the fact up to this writing. ... His room at the boarding house was carefully examined as was also his desk in the House. Telegrams were sent to Durham making enquiry for Mr. Macon but

he had no where been seen. The facts were communicated to Mayor [**J. D.] Cooper** but it was too late to duplicate the bill, on the evening of adjournment, so by a piece of wanton carelessness—the people of Henderson have been defrauded of their rights.

What reason is assigned for the theft we know not, but that a gross outrage has been perpetrated upon us and that is deserving of the severest condemnation and should be punished to the full extent of the law.

The above, if true, is pretty heavy upon the Representative from Franklin. It is not our purpose to defend Mr. Macon, as we do not know that he is innocent, but as he is a citizen of this county (and although he and the editor of the *TIMES* are not on speaking terms) we deem it our duty to allow him the use of our advertising columns to explain his acts in the above matter. [*The Franklin Times*, 4/1/1887]

REPLY

LOUISBURG, N. C. Apr. 6th, 1887.

MR. EDITOR: I see an article in your paper, in which the editor of that paper

does me great injustice as a member of the Legislature in regard to a bill to amend the charter of the town of Henderson.

Now sir, in as much as you have, (although a personal enemy) generously offered me the columns of your paper to defend myself, I thankfully avail myself of the privilege. I will simply give the facts about the bill without comment.

The bill was acted upon by the House committee, of which I was acting chairman; ... the committee requested that I should report the bill to the House. I put the paper in the desk, intending to report the next morning, but the same evening I was requested to go to Durham on business, intending to get back the next day time enough to report both the bill and minority report, but after getting to Durham I found out that I had to go to Greensboro; so I did not get back to Raleigh until Sunday, and on Monday morning I examined the desk intending then if possible, to make the reports; but the papers were not in the desk. I certainly regret the loss of the papers. I would have in my remarks to the Legislature done both of the Hender-

son parties ample justice and then left the matter to a vote of the House.

From what I learned of some of the committee and from what the *GOLD LEAF* says about searching my desk in my absence, all that to my mind accounts for the loss of the papers, and perhaps the Lobbyist of Henderson are responsible for their own loss. They were the only interested party. Now, Mr. Editor, if this statement is not satisfactory to the people of Henderson nothing that I can say will satisfy...

Respectfully, N. H. Macon

[It will be seen from the above that Mr. Macon considers the editors of the *TIMES* his PERSONAL enemy. This is news to us. If the editor has done Mr. Macon a personal injury he is not aware of it, and certainly nothing has ever appeared in these columns that was intended as personal to the gentleman. When a man sets himself up as a target he may expect to be shot at, and he should learn that there is a wide difference between personal and political enemies.—EDITOR *TIMES*.]

[*Franklin Times*, 4/8/1887]

Submitted by TRC Member
Peggy Strickland

(Continued from page 9)

Wilkerson & Sons, Inc. opened in the old Wilson Home on Dickinson Avenue, with his son, **Charles Wilkerson**, as a junior partner. Later, **George, S. Lindsay** and **Norman Wilkerson** joined the corporation. In 1949, the **Wilkerson Funeral Home** opened at 701 Evans Street (now Ham's Restaurant).

In 1932, Edward S. Williams formed a co-partnership with **A. A. Ellwanger**, former Pitt County Coroner, and in Dec. 1932 moved the Williams Funeral Home from Dickinson Avenue into the old Mrs. **Jane Forbes** home on Evans Street, near Five Points. In Oct. 1932, **J. M. White**, a licensed embalmer from Durham, NC joined the firm. In Jan. 1935, **Charles R. Flye** became a partner with Ellwanger in the Williams Funeral Home. In Jan. 1940, The Williams Funeral Home was sold to **Leon P. Andrews** and **W. K. Stewart, Jr.**, of Wilmington, NC and operated under the name of "**Andrews-Stewart Mortuary**." The firm of Andrews-Stewart Mortuary dissolved in Feb. 1941 and the business was sold on July 28, 1941 to S. G. Wilkerson & Sons.

In 1941, A. A. Ellwanger established the Ellwanger Funeral Home at 1206 Dickinson Avenue with **W. H. Smith** and 38 Pitt County stockholders. In 1944 he sold it to **Marshall F. Clark** and it became the **Clark's Funeral Home**.

Over the years there have been innumerable other undertakers and funeral businesses that have come and gone. In 1896, George Asa McGowan (1847-1898) formed a co-partnership with B. F. Sugg under the style, "**G. A. McGowan & Co.**, Undertakers and Funeral Directors." By Sept. 1896, the business was known as "**Harding and McGowan**" and they had received their new hearse for use in their undertaking business. It was white with oval windows on the sides. In Jan. 1897, G. A. McGowan went into the undertaking business with John Flanagan. In June 1910, **J. H. Boyd, Jr.**, opened a furniture and undertaking Company on Evans Street. They sold coffins and had a hearse. He was still in business in 1914.

There were also a number of black entrepreneurs who operated their own undertaking companies serving the black commu-

nity. In the 910's, **Sam Short**, a friendly black man, ran a Transfer Company (horse stable and wagon service) and undertaking business at the corner of Second and Evans Streets. In March 1921, **Rives & Smith**, "colored undertakers and licensed embalmers," with **James H. Whitley** as assistant manager, bought Short's undertaking business. In March 1921, **F. G. Williams & Co.**, undertakers and embalmers, opened an undertaking establishment in the Moore building on Fleming Street. They advertised that they had a complete line of funeral supplies and could furnish either "an automobile or horse-drawn hearse."

In 1922, **George W. Hemby** of Pitt Street, Greenville, invented and patented a new type of coffin, that could be lowered easily into the grave. About 1924, **Walter E. Flanagan** (1898-1984) opened an embalming company in Greenville and started the **Flanagan-Parker Funeral Home** on Second Street, which eventually had chapels all over eastern North Carolina. In April 1935, it was reported that fire destroyed the **Citizen's Funeral Home** on Pitt Street, owned by **Isaiah Baker**.

In 1938, **Phillips Brothers Mortuary** was established on the corner of Douglas and McKinley Streets by **Roderick and Donovan Phillips**, who moved to Greenville from New York. In 1940, **Roosevelt W. Lock** operated **Lock's Funeral Home** on Pitt Street.

In the 1960's, there was **Norcott & Co. Funeral Home** on South Lee Street and **Britt & Farmer Furniture & Funeral Home** on West Third Street.

Submitted by TRC Member
Carol Forbes

FORBIDDEN MARRIAGES

The English act forbidding the marriage of persons related by consanguinity or affinity was also in force in the colonies. The following table, established by the Church of England, was required to be set up in every parish church so that the inhabitants might not be ignorant of the degrees within which a marriage was forbidden:

A man shall not marry his

Grandmother
Grandfather's wife
Wife's grandmother
Mother's sister
Father's brother's wife
Mother's brother's wife
Wife's father's sister
Wife's mother's sister
Mother
Step-mother
Wife's mother
Daughter
Wife's daughter
Son's wife
Sister
Wife's sister
Brother's wife
Son's daughter
Daughter's daughter
Son's son's wife
Wife's son's daughter
Wife's daughter's daughter
Brother's daughter
Sister's daughter
Brother's son's wife
Sister's son's wife
Wife's brother's daughter
Wife's sister's daughter

A woman shall not marry her

Grandfather
Grandmother's husband
Husband's grandfather
Mother's brother
Father's sister's husband
Mother's sister's husband
Husband's father's brother
Husband's mother's brother
Father
Step-father
Son
Husband's son
Daughter's husband
Brother
Husband's brother
Sister's husband
Son's son
Daughter's son
Son's daughter's husband
Daughter's daughter's husband
Husband's son's son
Husband's daughter's soon
Brother's son
Sister's son
Brother's daughter's husband
Sister's daughter's husband
Husband's brother's son
Husband's sister's son

Marriages within these forbidden degrees were voidable and the persons entering such unions and the ministers solemnizing them were subject to severe penalties. A people among whom it was not so very rare for one's grandfather's wife to be a tempting girl in her teens and with whom it was common for dependent relatives, young and old, to live in the homes of their married kin, probably found such restrictions beneficial.

[From *Women's life and Work in the Southern Colonies*, by Julia Cherry Spruill, 1938.]

Submitted by TRC Member Margaret Strickland

EDUCATION IN WILSON COUNTY IN 1860

Colleges, Academics, and Schools:

27 common schools
with 27 teachers and 408
pupils funded by \$740
raised by taxation and
\$1620 received from pub-
lic funds.

2 male schools with 8
teachers and 169 pupils
funded by \$3,960 received
from other sources.

2 female seminaries
with 12 teachers and 189
pupils funded by \$10,160
received from other
sources.

Teachers as identified by occupation in the popula- tion schedule:

William Ellis
L. Mendenhall
Harriet Kent
Annie Honfleur (music)
Mary E. Rice
Lucy E. Williams
D. L. Richardson
(Principal in male school)
Mrs. D. L. Richardson
(Principal in female sch)
C. D. Blackman (music)
Sophia Moranda (French)
Lucy Manard
E.P. Tucke
Mariah Crafton

Ann E. Conner
Jas. D. Radcliff
(Principal in male school)
Mrs. E. L. Radcliff (music)
Ella Normans
(Principal in female sch)
Molly Speed
Amelia Ripley (painting)
J. B. Williams (anc.lang.)
John D. Cawthon
B. B. Smith
Miss O. Smith
Thomas Eatmon

Information from *Wilson County's
Founding Families*, Sue Evans
Powell and Henry Powell, Edi-
tors. Wilson County Genealogi-
cal Society, p. 17

GRASS GROWERS RE-UNION

We had a special reporter
at Bell's Bridge last Satur-
day to take notes of the
great annual re-union of
the jolly farmers of glori-
ous Edgecombe.

For many years the plant-
ers of Edgecombe have had
a custom of assembling
once a year at some pleas-
ant place, where they and
their invited guests enjoy
themselves in a good old
fashioned frolic, at which
good cheer makes good
humor and good humor
makes every body satisfied
with self and neighbor. The
effect of these social re-
unions is said to be fine,
and we do not doubt it.
The name "Grass Grow-

ers" is itself a big joke in
this latitude, as we have
among us the best farmers
in the State.

This year a prominent
feature of the festival was
the large number of beauti-
ful and accomplished young
ladies present. Of course
the beauty, music and
dancing were highly enjoy-
able.—At least our
"spesh," who himself is
some on the "light fantas-
tic," didn't talk about any
thing else but pretty danc-
ers and pretty faces for
three days.

In the evening the fol-
lowing gentlemen were
elected officers for the next
year:

President—**Dr. Joseph
H. Baker**; Vice Presi-
dent—**S.L. Hart**; Secre-
tary—**Charles King**;
Treasurer—**B.T. Hart**;
Attorney—**C.M. Wes-
son**; Surgeon—**Dr. C.L.
Killibrew**; Committee of
Arrangements—**Dr. J. T.
Bellamy**, Chairman, **D.
Barlow**, **James H. Brad-
ley**, **Arch. Braswell**,
John H. Price, **John
Dancy**, **J.W. Johnson**,
Almond Hart.

It will be seen from the
list of officers that the or-
ganization for next year is a
Hartsy one. Look sharp, ye
dinner committee!

[*The Battleboro Advance*, Jan. 3,
1873]

FRANCIS WINFIELD SYKES

Francis Winfield Sykes, physician, planter and State senator, was born April 19, 1816, in Chatham County, N. C., and died January 5, 1883 at Courtland; son of **James Turner** and **Sarah Winfield (Dancy) Sykes**, the former a native

of Fairfax Court House, Va., later a resident of Mobile, commander of the Ktn Virginia infantry in the War of 1812; grandson of **William and Burchett (Turner) Sykes** of Hicks Ford, and Fairfax Court House, Va., and of

Charles W. and Mary (Winfield) Dancy of Edgecombe County, N.C.

The Sykes ancestors came from Wales and every male member in America during the Revolutionary War fought for the independ-

ence of the colonies The male line of descent beginning with **William, Ben, Simon, and Joseph Sykes**.

History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography by Thomas McAdory Owen, Marie Bankhead Owen 1921

OLD TIME DISEASE NAMES

While researching a death certificate and the cause of death listed, I found a helpful web site. There is too much information to list...however, here is a small portion of what can be found. The author states:

"The following is a generalized list of diseases and their definitions that I have found during my research. Some definitions are subject to opinion and/or debate, but should give you a few clues."

The web site is

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njmorris/general_info/disease.htm

AMERICAN PLAGUE	Yellow fever
APOPLEXY	Paralysis due to stroke
BAD BLOOD	Syphilis
BILIOUS FEVER	Typhoid, malaria, hepatitis
BLACK FEVER	Acute infection with high temperature and dark red skin lesions and high mortality rate
BLOOD POISONING	Bacterial infection; septicemia
BRAIN FEVER	Meningitis
CHILD BED FEVER	Infection following birth of a child
CHOLELITHIASIS	Gall stones
DIPHTHERIA	Contagious disease of the throat
DRY BELLYACHE	Lead poisoning
FALLING SICKNESS	Epilepsy
FATTY LIVER	Cirrhosis of liver
GREAT POX	Syphilis
GRIPPE/GRIP	Influenza like symptoms
GROCER'S ITCH	Skin disease caused by mites in sugar or flour
KRUCHHUSTEN	Whooping cough
LA GRIPPE	Flu; influenza
LONG SICKNESS	Tuberculosis
LUNG FEVER	Pneumonia
LUNG SICKNESS	Tuberculosis
MORMAL	Gangrene
PALSY	Paralysis or uncontrolled movement of controlled muscles.
PODAGRA	Gout
POTT'S DISEASE	Tuberculosis of spine
RICKETS	Disease of skeletal system
SCIRRHUS	Cancerous tumors
SHIP FEVER	Typhus
SPANISH INFLUENZA	Epidemic influenza
SPOTTED FEVER	Either typhus or meningitis
SWAMP SICKNESS	Could be malaria, typhoid or encephalitis
TUSSIS CONVULSIVA	Whooping cough
VARIOLA	Smallpox

JOE AND ELLA OTIS RODGERS

"...BESIDE EACH OTHER, WITH A MARBLE COMPANION STONE...SUCH OPULENCE THEY NEVER HAD TOO MUCH OF IN LIFE. "

Joe and Ella Otis Rodgers. Coming together May 7, 1911. He, 21 and she 19. He a barber and city gas plant worker, she a cotton mill laborer. Child labor since she was 8 years old. Leaving the city, "The Falls" of Rocky Mount; in-between 10 children, they begin their farming career as share croppers. Growing tobacco, "burning the barn" all hours of night and day, raising livestock. The "farm hands" would say, "when the sun went down, Mr. JV hung up another." Even after the crops were "in" wood had to be cut during the winter for the tobacco barns. My grandmother often said, "I wish Joe could come back for just 10 minutes, to see how they 'do' tobacco now." Butter being churned, cows to be milked, "flour bread" made. And during the depression, many a morsel was handed out the back door to some hungry, homeless person who disappeared in the night. She would be called upon to "sit up with dead" many the time when death would pay a visit to one of their neighbors. If she could find the time between cooking, raising 10 children, quilting, mending, tatting, crocheting, washing clothes in foot tubs with a washboard, making lye soap, rendering fat, and what ever

else she had to do, in-between all that, she found time to sell "Whiz" candy to make her extra spending money. Or going to town on the bus and returning with a crate of little chicks she would raise in the tobacco "grading room" after harvest to supply her extra pocket money she kept in her tied cotton snuff bag. The oil lamp from that grading room, holds it's place on my breakfast table.

The famous Rodgers Bar-B-Q on the 4th of July, all his family from his native Craven County that could, would come and hers from Wilson and Nash Counties. He would do this when it was time to start barning tobacco. He bar-b-q'ing the pig, and she making Brunswick stew. And them chopping the bar-b-q, and straining the grease through a pillow slip. That cleaver now in my kitchen drawer not having done so, in over 40 years. One of the farms they farmed...for 20 years...the **Gus Z. Lancaster** farm.

The typical farmer home of that time. Peddled pushed sewing machine. Usually a bed in the sitting room, dotted potted plants, the usual Thanksgiving and Christmas cactuses and snake plant. In the spring, touch me nots and four o'clock's would dot

the front of the house. Family portraits from their previous generations, old faded photo albums, of them in their youth. And yes, the family Bible, so inscribed of the comings and goings of life. The kitchen, with the side table for the hands to eat at, the "safe" holding food and baked goods. Her can for her milking cow, that now sits in my kitchen. So many tangible remnants of the passed of them as well as leaning my head back and closing my eyes and a rush of memories flood me. They were retired by the time I came along, but all I have to do is close my eyes and from stories told, I see them there.

They now rest from all this toil, beside each other, with a marble companion stone, with marble urn in-between them, such opulence they never had too much of in life. With the inscription, "In everything give thanks." This is the stuff I am made of.

Granddaddy's parents: **Ithan Phillips and William John Rogers.**

Grandma's parents: **Amanda Ophelia Vivrette and George Washington Lassiter.**

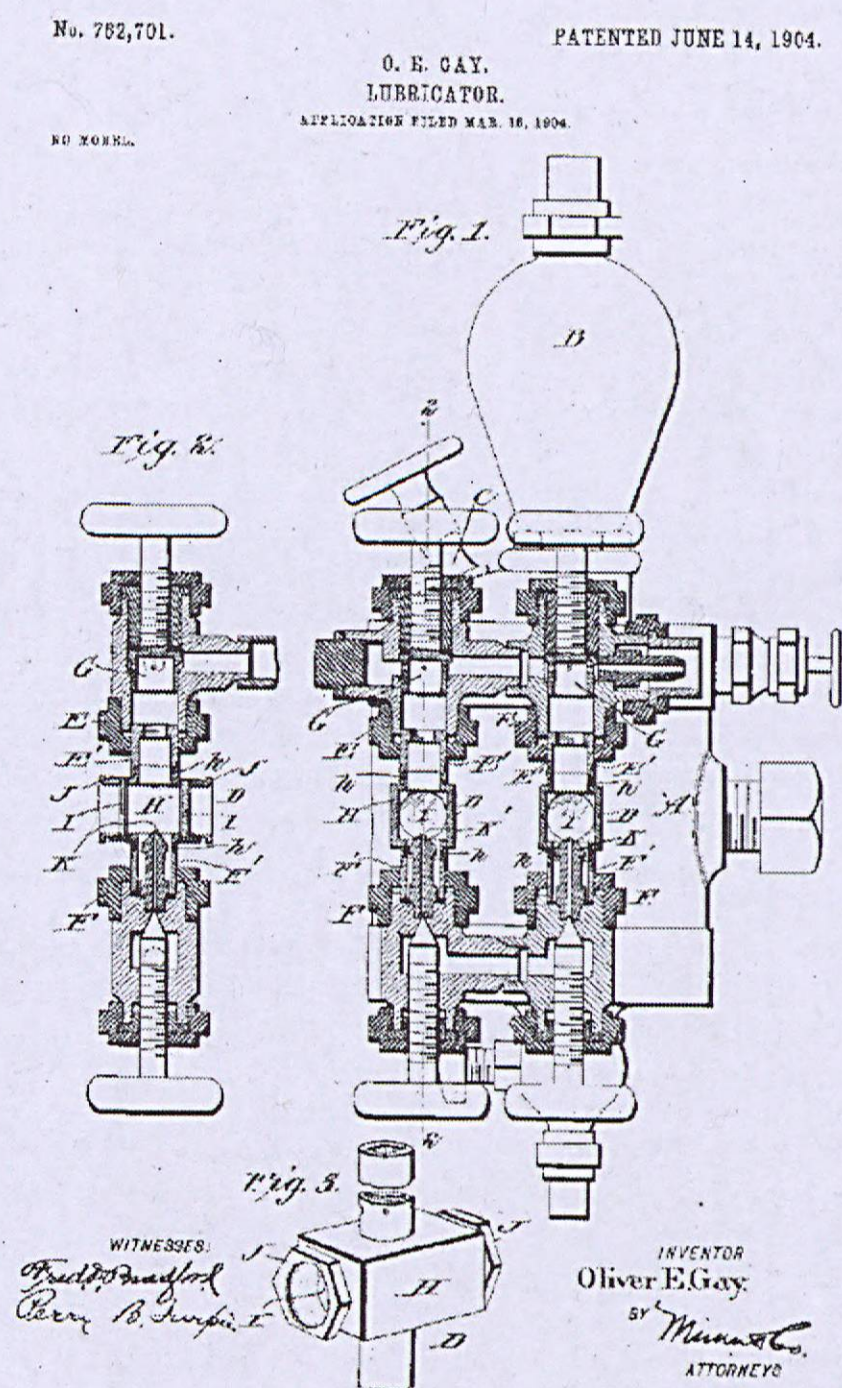
By **Mark Edward Rogers**
December 26, 1999

OLIVER E. GAY 1904 PATENT

Oliver E. Gay of Rocky Mount, NC submitted a patent request to the US Patent Office which was granted as Patent Number 762,701 on June 14, 1904. His patent was for an oil lubricator used in a steam engine. Oliver Gay described his invention as "an improvement in lubricators, and especially in lubricators of the sight-feed

class intended particularly for use on locomotives where several sight-feeds are used in connection with the different cylinders..." witness to his patent were **B. H. Bunn** and **J.P. Bunn**.

Submitted by TRC Member
Danny Bunn.



HENDERSON RICE

The Excitement Killed
Him

From the Wilson (N.C.)
Mirror

On Friday afternoon Mr. **Henderson Rice**, an old and prominent citizen of **Nash County**, dropped dead in the store of **J.D. & S.C. Wells**, in this place, under very sad circum-

stances. He had just had a difficulty with **J. J. Farmer**, of this county, who drew a pistol on him and threatened to shoot if he continued to advance with the knife which he held in his hand. Mr. Rice stopped immediately, and Farmer was induced by some parties to leave the store. In a very few minutes, not exceeding 20, Mr. Rice walked up to

W.W. Hargrave and said: "I think it is cowardly in a young man like that to draw a pistol on an old man like me, and I tell you I am mad about it." And just as the last word died on his lips he fell dead.

The New York Times
Published May 8, 1887

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Braswell, Arch. 16	Forbes, Jane 14	Manard, Lucy 16	Salter, Edward (map) . 10	Ucohuerunt 11
Bridgers School 4	Forbidden Marriages.. 15	Matherson (Mr.) 5	Sandy Run Baptist Church 6	Uneray 11
Britt & Farmer Furniture & Funeral Home ... 14	Fort Branch (on map). 10	McGowan, George A .. 9	Saunders, F.C. 11	Viverette, Amanda O . 18
Bryan, Anna MacNair... 4	Fort Redding (on map) 10	Mendenhall, L. 16	Scales, Alfred Moore . 12	Wagner, Fannie 6
Bryan, Henry 4	Fox, Bebe 3	Mitchell, Ed. 2	Sears, Roebuck & Co... 8	Washington, Booker T. 8
Bryanh, Sarah Fletcher.. 4	Free Will Baptist Church 6	Moranda, Sophia 16	Sheppard, Benjamin S. . 9	Weeks, Lena 5
Bunn, B.H. 2, 12, 19	G.A. McGowan & Co. 14	Mount Calvert 11	Shiloh Baptist Church .. 6	Wells, J.D. 19
Bunn, J.P. 19	Gay, Oliver E. 19	Mount Pleasant 11	Short, Sam 14	Wells, S.C. 19
Burnett, C.N. 2	Gilbert, Frances Stell ... 6	Moye 10	Shugar, Phillip 5	Wesson, C.M. 16
Burns, Robert E. (Rev.) 5	Gilliam, H.A. 7	Moye, George (map) .. 10	Sills, J.G. 12	West, Robert 11
Burrington (Gov.) 11	Gold, P.D. 2	Moye, George (map) .. 11	Simpson, John (map) .. 10	Wheat Swamp Baptist Church 6
Caledonia Prison 4	Gorham (on map) 10	Nashville Celebration . 12	Smith, B.B. 16	White, J.M. 14
Calvert, Nit (on map) 10	Gorham, James (map) 10	Norcott & Co. Funeral Home 14	Smith, E.C. 12	White, Sam T. 9
Cappel (Mrs.) 5	Grass Growers 16	Norfleet House 4	Smith, O. 16	Whitehead, Mit 5
Carlisle Funeral Home.. 6	Greene, Robert 9	Norfleet, Christina..... 4	Smith, Richard 11	Whitley, James H. 14
Carr, Elias (Gov.) 11	Grimes, General 11	Norfleet, Isaac 4	Smith, W.H. 14	Wilkerson & Williams .. 9
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Cawthon, John D. 16	Gum Swamp Baptist Church 6	Old Sparta 11	Spier, John (on map) .. 10	Wilkerson, Charles.... 14
Citizen's Funeral Home 14	Hardee, John (map)... 10	Ooneroy 11	Spier, John (on map) .. 11	Wilkerson, Norman... 14
Clark, Marshall F. 14	Harding & McGowan . 14	Pamlico River 10	Spier, John (on map) .. 11	Wilkerson, S.G. 9
Clark's Funeral Home 14	Hargrave, W.W. 19	Parker, Wm. 2	Spier, John (on map) .. 11	Wilkinson, Henry 10
Clifton, Wiley C. 7	Hart, Almond 16	Perkinson, Hyrum 3	Spier, John (on map) .. 11	Williams, Edward S. 9
Conner, Ann E. 16	Hart, B.T. 16	Perquimans Baptist Church 6	Spier, John (on map) .. 11	Williams, J.B. 16
Cooley, A.P. 7	Hart, George P. 7	Perry, Joel 8	Spier, John (on map) .. 11	Williams, Lucy E. 16
Cooley, R.A.P. 12	Hart, S.L. 16	Peteaway, Sally 6	Spier, John (on map) .. 11	Williams, Robert 10
Cooper, J.D. 13	Haywood, Ed 7	Phillips Brothers Mortuary 14	Spier, John (on map) .. 11	Williamson, J.D. 9
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Dancy, Charles W. 17	Hooker, Oscar 9	Phillips, Roderick 14	Spier, John (on map) .. 11	Yeargain, Samuel 3
Dancy, John 16	Horne, Isaac W. 2	Pittman, Hobson 5	Spier, John (on map) .. 11	Yeargan's Chapel 3
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Denton, Ruth 5	Howard Memorial Presbyterian Church.. 6	Radcliff, E.L. 16	Spier, John (on map) .. 11	
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