

The Connector

Newsletter of the Tar River Connections Genealogical Society
Preserving the Past ... for the Future

Winter 2006

Billie Jo Matthews & Peggy Strickland, Co-Editors Volume 10 Number 1

French Connection

Felix Boyer Settled in Rocky Mount

This is the story of the Boyer family of Paris, France and how Felix Antoine Boyer came to settle in Rocky Mount, Edgecombe Co., NC in 1919.

Adolphe Boyer

The first member of the Boyer family to visit America was Felix Boyer's great grandfather, Adolphe Boyer, who was with Lafayette on his last trip to the US in 1824-25. During this visit, Lafayette visited North Carolina. He stopped in Halifax, Rocky Mount and Raleigh where he

was received by Gov. Burton. He was warmly received at each of these places. [For a detailed account of his stops in Halifax and Rocky Mount, see "A Famous Visitor", *The Connector*, Winter 1999] The group arrived in Fayetteville, Cumberland Co., NC on March 4, 1825 in terrible weather. His secretary recorded it this way: "... we reached the pleasant little town of Fayetteville, situated on the western shore of Cape Fear river. The weather

was excessively bad; the rain fell in torrents, yet the road for several miles before we reached the place was crowded with men and boys on horseback, and militia on foot; the streets of the town were filled with a throng of ladies, in full dress, hastening across the little streams of water, to approach the General's carriage, and so much occupied with the pleasure of seeing him that they appeared almost insensible of the deluge which threatened almost to swallow them up.

This enthusiasm may be more readily imagined, when it is recollected that it was expressed by the inhabitants of a town founded, about forty years ago, to perpetuate

[SEE BOYER, P. 4]



Whitaker Family Bonanza for TRC

The Whitaker family is making big news with TRC. Betty Coghill Turner of Rocky Mount recently gave the society access to a treasure trove of unpublished documents relating to the Whitaker family of Enfield, Halifax Co., NC. The papers include 660 receipts, bills and other financial papers, 29 letters and 1 pamphlet.

The documents date from 1743 to the 1880s. They have been scanned and stored on CDs which are available at Braswell Memorial Library. See Page 10 for more details about the collection.

Congratulations on 100th Birthday, Dr. Allen Whitaker



Dr. Whitaker, TRC member, has contributed to *The Connector*: "Local Lad Views Train Wreck," Win. 1998; "Pocahontas and the Whitaker Connection," Sp. 1998; "Rigors of Rural Medical Practice ...," Sum. 1998.

Chinese New Year

The Chinese calendar has a cycle of 12 years, each named after a different animal. The year 2006, which begins on Jan. 29, is the year of the dog, as were 1922, 1934, etc.

The other animals are: 2007, pig; 2008, rat; 2009, ox; 2010, tiger; 2011, rabbit; 2012, dragon; 2013, snake; 2014, horse; 2015, ram; 2016, monkey; and 2017, rooster.

The Chinese clean house before the New Year and no one sweeps or dusts on New Year's Day as that will sweep away the new year's good luck. No one wants to use sharp knives as they might cut the luck out of the new year.

QUERY GUIDELINES

1. Members may submit three queries annually to the address or e-mail below.
2. The query should include a time frame and as much pertinent information as you have.
3. Queries should concern someone who has resided in the following counties: **Person, Granville, Vance, Franklin, Nash, Edgecombe, Pitt, Beaufort**, or adjacent counties linked to the **Tar River** by streams and creeks.
4. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for reply by mail.

Tar River Connections Genealogical Society

PO Box 8764
Rocky Mount, NC 27804

Internet

www.braswell-library.org/gene.htm

e-mail

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Record From Pender Family Bibles



MARRIAGES

William Turner Gray m. William Ann Pender, d/o
William & Ellen Britt Pender, April 8, 1857,

BIRTHS

William Pender	s/o John & Nancy White Pender	8/18/1791
Ellen Britt	w/o William Pender 12/11/1796	
Louis Coe Pender	s/o William & Ellen Pender	9/28/1818
Solomon Pender	s/o "	6/30/1822
Emerelda James Pender	d/o "	6/3/1824
Joshua Pender	s/o "	9/28/1826
William Ann Pender	d/o "	12/27/1835
Ellen Pender	d/o "	6/6/1838

Wm. & Ellen had 12 children—the other 3 dying in infancy

William Turner Gray	h/o William Ann Gray	9/3/1832
Nellie Louisa Gray	d/o Wm Turner & Wm Ann Gray	4/3/1858
William Thomas Gray	s/o "	8/7/1859
Mary Penelope Gray	d/o "	5/30/1861
Eliza Bond Gray	d/o "	1/10/1866
Solomon Pender Gray	s/o "	9/19/1867
Edward Lewis Gray	s/o "	11/22/1869
George Pender Gray	s/o "	4/1/1872
Turner Pope Gray	s/o :	11/30/1874
James Herbert Gray	s/o "	12/5/1878

DEATHS

William Pender		6/16/1852
Ellen Pender	w/o William Pender 6/6/1871	
Ellen Pender	d/o Wm. & Ellen Pender	7/25/1885
Solomon Pender Gray	s/o W.T. & W. A. Gray	9/6/1903
Ellen Louisa Gray	d/o "	1/14/1864
Joshua Pender	s/o William & Ellen Pender	11/8/1845
William Ann Gray	d/o "	6/24/1914
William Turner Gray	h/o William Ann Gray	3/5/1913
Edward Louis Gray	s/o W.T. & W.A. Gray	7/14/1925
Solomon Pender Gray	s/o "	9/6/1903
George Pender Gray	s/o "	1/23/1932
Wm. Thomas Gray	s/o "	7/31/1933
James Herbert Gray	s/o "	1/3/1938

Louis Coe Pender Bible

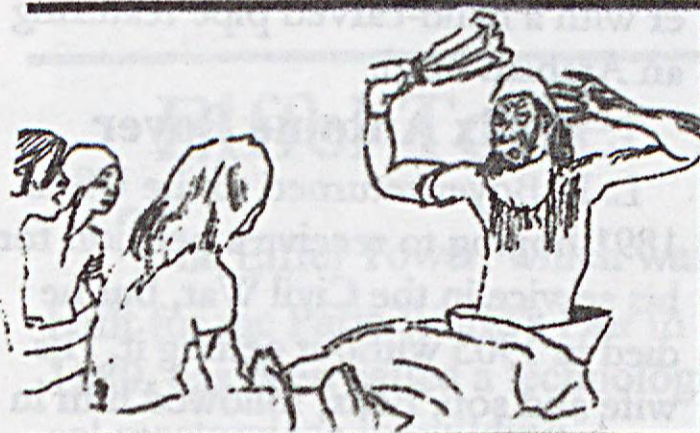
	BIRTHS	DEATHS
Louis Coe Pender	9/28/1818	5/5/1871
Mary Martha Hyman w/o Louis Coe Pender	12/27/1818	3/23/1897
Laura Malvina	9/20/1840	11/6/1918
Wm. Kenneth	9/13/1842	2/8/1891
Walter Frederick	5/9/1844	6/13/1845
Joshua	5/30/1846	1/25/1907
Margaret Ellen	7/21/1848	6/21/1930
James Britt	h/o Margaret Ellen 10/16/1938	2/13/1910
Louis Solomon	4/10/1850	

[PENDER, CONTINUED ON PAGE 9]

Readers Choice Local Color



*Bertie Folklore, Tales from Bertie
County, North Carolina*
FROM THE "STORY TELLER"
HARRY THOMPSON



Folklore reflects the traditional customs, beliefs and tales handed down from one generation to another usually by an elder or storyteller. This special gift was often one who reflected on strange facts passing on the history and culture of the "Old Ones" or those who "Walked Before" when there was no written language.

One such modern day "Story Teller" is **Harry L. Thompson** from Bertie County, NC. Harry not only has the "gift of gab", but also has numerous experiences to draw from. He has taught both young and old, serves as the Curator of the **Port-O-Plymouth Civil War Museum** and has spent numerous years on the Board of **Historic Hope Foundation** in Windsor, NC. The list goes on and on. Harry considers himself blessed. "First, to have been born in a region that has over 12,000 years of populated history— (originally by the native Americans, and lastly, 500 years of European settlement). Secondly, The privilege to teach...watching the

[LOCAL, CONT. ON PAGE 5]

Dastardly Robbery in Halifax!



The Halifax Mercantile Co's store was entered one night last week from the rear through a window. Mr. **Joe McMahon** went by about 11 o'clock to see if everything was safe and detected a pane of glass out of the window, got an ax helve [handle] to hammer the thief, commenced peering behind barrels, and in boxes, and behind counters, run over a pair of shoes with no wearer attached, couldn't use his ax helve to advantage on the shoes, so the search became more animated, and the culprit was finally located on the grocery side behind a barrel of sugar. He was seized, tied, shaken a bit, questioned, and said his name was **Jno. Miller**, from **Petersburg [VA]**. Said he had an accomplice who was a barber and had pawn tickets on his person, and had promised to get rid of all the knives, pistols, razors, watches, etc, that could be gotten. He gave a description of this man, so the next morning about 9 o'clock he was seen in town, arrested and searched. There were pawn tickets in his pocket, one razor in right pants pocket, one in hip pocket, one in left and upper coat pocket. While being searched he was fumbling in his pocket trying to extract a small vial which he tried to throw in Mr. McMahon's face. It was knocked to the ground and broken, the prisoner exclaiming that no child should tamper with it. It was thought by the by standers that it was a poisonous acid of some kind. The thief testified in the magistrate's court that they had the right man, so in default of proper bail they were committed to jail to await further developments.

[The Enfield Progress, Halifax Co., NC, 9/4/1908]



Flight of the Almighty Dollar.

Mr. Wilkins had a dollar, so he guessed he'd pay
A little sum he'd borrowed from a gentleman named Gray;
Then Gray he took that dollar, and he said, "It seems to me
I'd better pay that little debt I owe to McAfee;"
Then McAfee the dollar paid upon a bill to Smart;
By Smart 'twas paid to Thomson, and by Thomson paid to Hart.
And so that coin kept rolling as a very busy "plunk,"
Until it paid indebtedness amounting in the chunk
To more than forty dollars, and it may be rolling yet,
And all because this Wilkins thought he'd better pay a det.
For when a dollar's started on its debt-destroying way,
There hardly is a limit to the sums that it will pay.



[The Enfield Progress, 9/4/1908]

[BOYER, CONT. FROM P 1]

the remembrance of the services rendered by him whom they honored on that day."

Lafayette stayed in Fayetteville only 24 hours, but he was honored by several banquets and receptions, reviewed countless militia and state troops, and had time to inspect the brand new **Lafayette Hotel**, hurried to completion in time for his visit. As he prepared to depart for SC, Lafayette offered a toast to the town: "Fayetteville. May it receive all the encouragements and attain all the prosperity which are anticipated by the fond and grateful wishes of its affectionate and respectful namesake."

What stories Adolphe Boyer must have told his children and grand children about his visit to America with the Revolutionary War hero!

Boyer returned to his print shop in Paris after his trip with Lafayette. He and Lafayette would have had much in common in their beliefs. In 1818, Lafayette was elected to the chamber of deputies in France, where he was a leader of the opposition, opposing the censorship of the press, and voting for all truly liberal measures. At about the same time, Boyer was ac-

tive in the **French Revolution of 1820**. He was also a labor leader and organized a typography labor union in Paris. Boyer was au-

thor of a book *State of the Workmen ...* which was reprinted in 1995. He is also mentioned by several other French writers.

The following is a translation of a quote from his Boyer's book: "Now, with the division of the work, the new procedures and the machines, most of the offices tend to purely become mechanics and the workers of all the professions will be relegated soon to the class of men nonspecialized... " A man ahead of his time!

According to Felix Boyer, Adolphe was killed in his shop in 1841.

Paul-Emile Boyer

Paul-Emile Boyer, son of Adolphe and grandfather of Felix, never visited the US. He continued in the printing business in Paris and received several awards and citations for his excellent typography.

L. L. Boyer

Although Paul-Emile never came to the United States, his son, **L.L. Boyer**, having heard his grandfather's grand stories about this country, came to see for himself in 1862. He spoke no English, but he served in the **Union Army** during the **Civil War**.

He took a rich Yankee's place, expecting to receive \$300 for his service, but he was never paid. One of the reasons may have been that he used a false name, **August Clay**, to keep his father from finding him. He received a medal for distinguished service.*



L.L. Boyer on landing of Eiffel Tower. Souvenir photograph taken in 1889.

CONNECTOR

In 1879, L. L. Boyer returned to Paris. He married and his son, Felix Antoine, was born in 1883. It is not known where L.L. Boyer received his training, but he was one of the main structural engineers when the **Eiffel Tower** was being built. Upon completion of the tower and during the **World's Fair** in 1889, **England's Prince of Wales** presented L.L. Boyer with a hand-carved pipe featuring an Arabian head.

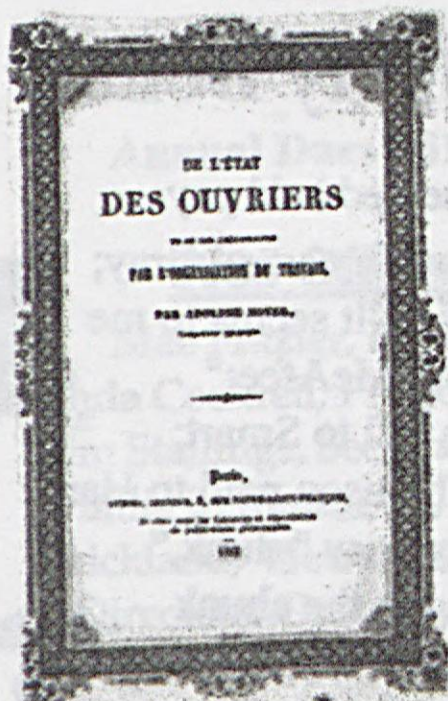
Felix Antoine Boyer

L. L. Boyer returned to the US in 1891 hoping to receive a pension for his service in the Civil War, but he died in 1903 without getting it. His wife and son, Felix, followed him in 1892.

Felix Antoine Boyer was 9 years old when he came to the US. His mother could not speak English. According to Felix, she was unhappy for the 11 years she lived here. Felix was more adaptable. He learned English and went to school in **Indianapolis, IN**. At a young age, he began working on the railroad as a locomotive fireman and worked his way up to locomotive engineer. He moved around to various railroads starting with the **Missouri-Pacific** in **Kansas**. He traveled with various railroads through the west, up into **Canada**, and back to the east coast.

In 1919, nearly 100 years after his great grandfather, Adolphe, visited here with Lafayette, Felix Boyer and his wife, Frances, settled in **Rocky Mount, Nash/Edgecombe Co., NC**. Felix worked with the **Atlantic Coastline Railroad** for 40 years.

Felix Boyer had met **Frances Eva Shirley** in **Fort Scott, Kansas** and they were married in 1906. They had two children, **Josephine**, who was born about 1909 in **Kansas**, and who married **Frank Putman** and lived in **San Francisco, CA** and **Frank Shirley Boyer**, born in **Rocky Mount** and



De L'etat Des Ourriers written by Adolphe Boyer, published in 1841

[LOCAL, CONT. FROM PAGE 3] fascination on their faces as they learned of things, places, and topics, they had never heard about before."

These hand me down stories from older generations have been collected and printed into booklets by Harry Thompson "Story Teller". Often told in several different forms. Some of the intriguing titles of these

tales are: The Witch and the White Doe; The Dead Man's Ghost; The Castellaw Haint; Blackbeard's Treasure; Indian Gallows Tree; The House That Shakes; The great Shoot-out in Kingtown.

The U.S. Government declares that ten thousand years of history and lore told by the Indian tribal leaders to the tribal children are classified as

being 96% accurate. Does this make Bertie's Folklore true too! Rather than spoil this wonderful booklet (the first of three already published) by telling you the exciting tales - purchase an autographed copy. Send \$14 to:

Port-O-Plymouth Civil War Museum
P.O. Box 296,
Plymouth, N.C. 27962

Eiffel Tower

The Eiffel Tower, which was built for the Paris World's Fair in 1889, has been called a technological masterpiece in building history. The design of Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel was selected from over 100 entries. Eiffel was a renowned French civil engineer who specialized in metal construction and who had designed the framework for the Statue of Liberty in New York.



Surprisingly, the Eiffel Tower was completed in a few months, between 1887 and 1889, with a small labor force. His tower started a revolution in civil engineering and architectural design. With the completion of the tower, Eiffel earned the nickname, "magician of iron."

The tower is 300 meters high, the equivalent of 105 stories, and was the tallest building in the world until 1930. It was built of puddled iron (very pure structural iron), yet weighs only 7300 metric tons. It is extremely light; in fact the tower actually weighs less than the air that surrounds it! If a scale model of the tower one foot (30 cm) high were constructed, it would weigh only as

much as a nickel (seven grams)! The four pillars supporting the tower are aligned to the points of the compass. Another unique feature is the tower's base. The four semi-circular arches required elevators to ascend on a curve. The glass-cage machines were designed by the Otis Elevator Company of the United States

The tower moves in the wind. On gusty days, the wind can reach speeds in excess of 100 mph (160 kph) at the summit of the tower. The magnitude of the sway in the

tower, under worst-case conditions, is about six inches. There is no danger of the tower being damaged by wind-induced movement since it is designed to withstand movements easily five times beyond those produced by the highest winds ever recorded. The tower also leans very slightly in bright sunlight, as one side is heated by the sun and expands slightly.

What Makes a Tower

- 2.5 million rivets.
- 300 steel workers to construct it.
- Height varies up to 15 cm depending on temperature.
- 15,000 iron pieces (excluding rivets).
- 40 tons of paint.
- 1652 steps to the top.

BOYER, CONT. FROM P. 4

living in Arlington, VA in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Frances S. Boyer died on 7/6/69. She was the daughter of Frank and Claudia Roberts Shirley and left 2 sisters, Goldie Kendrick and Leota Lockwood in Ft. Scott, KS.

Felix later married Carrie Davis, daughter of William and Rosa M. Robbins Daniel. She died 12/6/70 leaving 2 daughters, Frances McGhee and Helen Price of Rocky Mount.

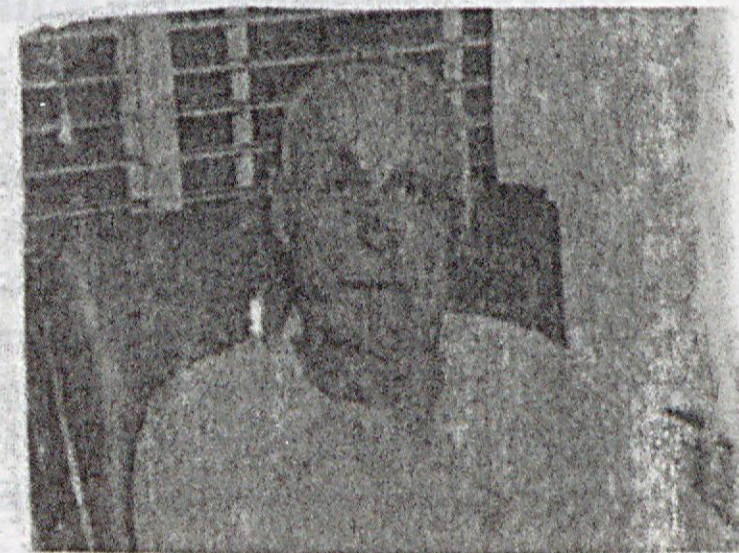
Felix Boyer died 8/23/1971 and he, Frances and Carrie are buried at Pineview Cemetery in Rocky Mount.

Where are the Boyers?

If any of our readers know anything about Josephine Boyer Putman or Frank Shirley Boyer, we would like to hear from you.

* An August Clay, age 19, enlisted in the Union army in NY on 8/26/64 and was discharged 6/30/65 in VA.

[Taken from "Retired Frenchman Enjoys Life in Rocky Mount," *Rocky Mount Evening Telegram*, 8/2/1959]



FELIX BOYER, 1959

Adventures In Tennessee

[N]orth Carolina Revolutionary War veterans were entitled to warrants for land in what was then western NC—later Tennessee. Although the state had published the names of the officers and soldiers entitled to land and had notified them of the warrants, many of the veterans never appeared. Presuming that these delinquents had died without heirs, the unclaimed warrants were claimed by the **University of NC** under the escheats law. A resolution was passed in 1821 legalizing this claim.

As an agent residing in Tennessee was necessary for locating and selling the lands, Colonel **Thomas Polk** selected **Samuel Dickens** of **Madison County** and gave him the power "to do all things to maintain, secure and preserve the rights and interests of the University." He had charge not only of the escheated warrants, but of those given to the University by **Governor Smith** and **Major Gerrard**. His compensation for locating the lands was 16 2/3% of the value of the lands surveyed, payable in land. For selling, collecting and paying over, his commission was 6% at first and later 10%. He had a partner, **Dr. Thomas Hunt**, and the partners had a staff of young men including **Memucan Hunt Howard** of **Granville Co., NC**

In 1883, Tennessee ex-Gov. **James D. Porter** asked Mr. Howard to record his memories of his experiences. Although he was over 80 years old, his memories were clear. He wrote a 90 page document. Mr. Howard died in 1887.

A condensed version of Mr. Howard's paper was printed in *The American Historical Magazine* in Jan. 1902. Both versions are available at http://www.tnyesterday.com/yesterday_henderson/recolltn.htm.

Portions of Mr. Howard's narrative appear below. Two more installments will appear in the Spring and Summer 2006 issues of *The Connector*.]

Recollections of Memucan Hunt Howard Granville County Native

"I was born on the 14th of December, 1798, in **Granville County, North Carolina**, and at the age of twelve years, or thereabout, was taken from school and put into a country store, about a dozen miles from home, where I was to get no wages, but my board only with one of the two proprietors of the store in which a general assortment of such dry goods and groceries was kept as was usual in such establishments; including apple and peach brandy, which were in as active demand in a retail way as any article on hand; especially once a month. On

Saturdays what were called warrant tryings—magistrates' courts where small debts were adjudicated—took place, at which the neighboring people would congregate and often indulge in drinking and sometimes in quarreling and fighting, thus making a most unchristian Sabbath eve, extending sometimes into the ensuing night. I remember well the first whiskey I ever saw was brought to the store in an old-fashioned, short, square, big-mouthed Scotch snuff bottle by an old man named **Ned Jones**, for his own drinking; and when I got him to let me smell and taste of it I found it as revolting in a crude state or with water only as other strong drinks, which should be used only medicinally and but little in that way.

"The War of 1812 with **Great Britain** coming on, [See *The Connector*, Spring 2004, Summer 2004, Fall 2004, & Winter 2005] goods could not be obtained to replenish the store, and when I had been there about seventeen months it was closed, and I made up my few things into a bundle to take home. When about to leave I was agreeably surprised at the gift of twenty-five silver dollars from my employer, and went home in cheerful mood, the richest boy in the neighborhood. All sorts of merchandise became scarce and dear; salt got to be five dollars per bushel; sugar, coffee, iron, steel, etc.; equally exorbitant in price and such produce as the people made for market scarcely worth transportation to one. Money was, of course, exceedingly scarce and every one impecunious.

"I was at once put to work with the negroes on the plantation until an uncle and my father made up a load of manufactured tobacco with which a negro man and I were sent to the lower part of North Carolina to peddle from house to house, camping out at night; and if tar could be had cheap to take that article back, as we did, having procured it for one dollar and fifty cents per barrel of some thirty or forty gallons.

"In this swampy country—near the **Great Dismal**

swamp, where large swamps were called 'pocosins,' there was in common use native tea, secured from a bush resembling the privet of Tennessee, which might become valuable if properly managed,

[HOWARD, CONT. ON
PAGE 7]



Great Dismal Swamp

[HOWARD, CONT. FROM PAGE 6]

and was known there as Yapon. It has been used by some Indian tribes, and known as the "black drink," as I have been informed by R. J. Meigs, of Washington, formerly of Nashville, ...

On another occasion the same negro man and I were sent on another expedition of the kind named to the southern part of North Carolina and the northern part of South Carolina; and again I was sent with another darkie to Petersburg, Va., with a wagon load of tobacco



prized into hogsheads, and a neighbor sent another load under my care.

In this way, and working on the plantation and on

that of a bachelor uncle, who had entered the army, I was employed about two years and until I was offered in November, 1815, after the close of the war, a situation in a store in the country village—Oxford, [Granville Co, NC]—at seventy-five dollars and my board for the first year. In this establishment I became bookkeeper after not many months, was given in charge the key of the safe, and seemed to be more trusted than a young man whom I had found there, several years my senior, and he left. The active man of the firm of two persons who owned the establishment was Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court and it fell to my lot to copy bills, answers, depositions; count every word, and endorse on the copy the number of copy sheets consisting of ninety words for which the clerk's fee was twenty cents per sheet. In addition, one of us had to be at the store at night to charge the day's work of two negro blacksmiths owned by one of our employers, as everything was carried on the credit system.

My employers had also a tan yard and we had to receive hides, weigh and pay for them, send to the tan yard and receive from it and sell the leather. Keeping accounts of these various matters required so much attention that I had sometimes barely time for eating and necessary sleep.



My wages gradually increased to one hundred and eighty dollars per annum when I was offered by an uncle, Dr. Thos. Hunt, who had formed a partnership with Samuel Dickens to locate land warrants in West Tennessee, then known as the Chickasaw or Forked Deer country, the liberal and inviting salary

CONNECTOR

of four hundred dollars per annum, which I accepted. ... I found it an exceedingly rough, hard business, camping in the woods, which I did nearly all the time for about four consecutive years—the latter part on my own account—until sleeping on the ground on raw bear or deer skins, which are impervious to water, became as familiar and as much a matter of course as it is now to sleep in a house on a bed.

My employer made in two years, and mainly from my labor and attention to his business, I suppose more than twenty thousand dollars; which he, being brought up in ease and abundance and being of an extravagant and liberal disposition, soon got rid of, as with a considerable inheritance also; his partner's plan was to get all he could and keep all he got. My wages were to be eight hundred dollars after the first year and for risking my health and life, I got no money but about one thousand dollars in property. ...

My Travels

I left on or about the 28th of March 1820, expecting to return in about a year, instead of more than five years was the case, and the next day joined three other men—all of course on horseback with saddle bags, cloth leggings. None had an umbrella. My horse and outfit I had paid for with part of my earnings, and set out with eighty eight Dollars & 'fifty cents in cash. We entered Tennessee through the "Deep Gap" near the head of Watauger River, ... We travelled on ... by Beans Station, Knoxville, etc. to Campbells Station, ... We travelled across Cumberland Mountain in a somewhat diagonal direction, along the Knoxville and Nashville Road, There were but five settlers on this Mountain at this time, nearly or quite all of whom had located there on the travelled ways for the purpose of entertaining travellers, and movers, ...

I called ... near Franklin to get a mule to use as a pack animal and joined our traveling companions, ... at Nashville, where we supplied ourselves with all necessary articles (Tent excepted) for camping, and left with one horse well loaded with them.

... We purchased cloth at Reynoldsburg for a tent, when we crossed the Tennessee [River] about April 24, 1820. It was then a prosperous village with twelve or fifteen stores, but proving sickly the county seat was moved to Waverly; the last time I was at Reynoldsburg, some twenty-five years ago, it contained but one family which lived in the old court house.

We began camping on the first high land, three or four miles from the Tennessee on the old Natchez road and procured tanned deer skins for leggings to guard against

[HOWARD, CONT. ON PAGE 8]

[HOWARD, CONT. FROM PAGE 7]

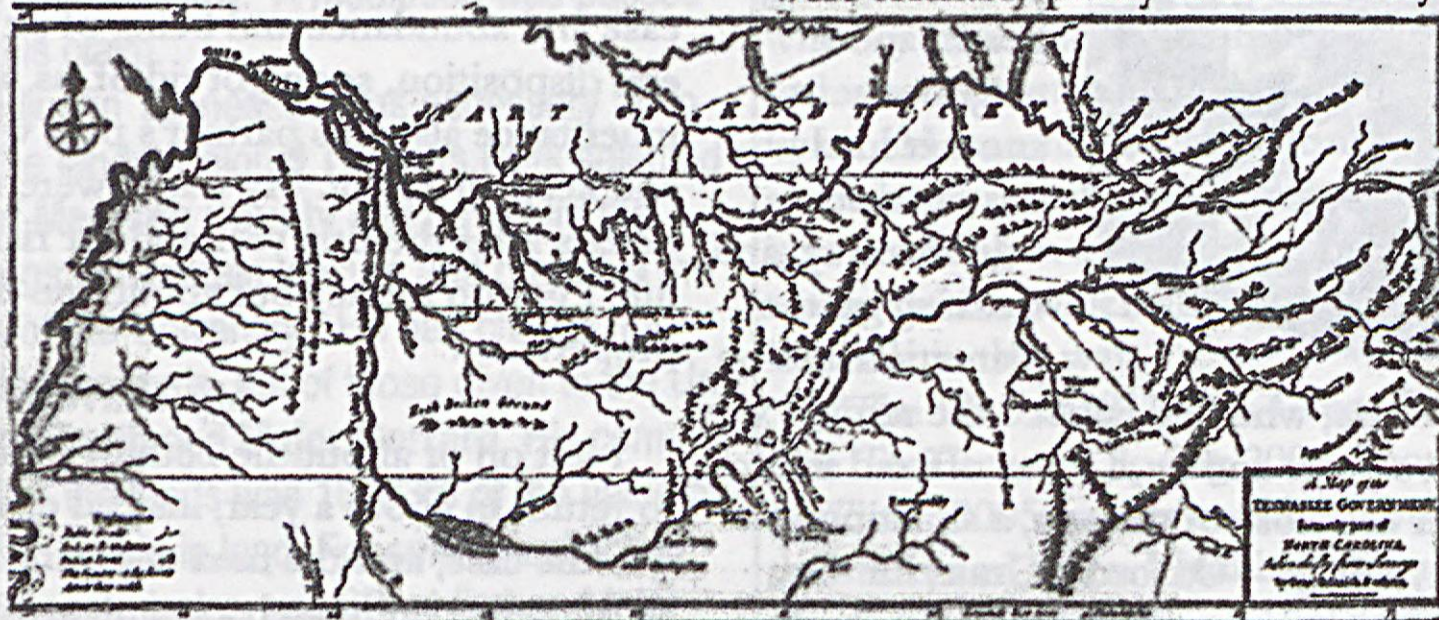
snakes, briars, vines, prickly pears (Indian tear blankets), etc. Our horses not being accustomed to live on the range were exhausted in a few months, but our two mules stood it better.

Mr. Dickens being taken sick with fever on Tennessee river, we provided a log hut ten or twelve feet square covered with boards and floored with puncheons. We had no fireplace and no candles and in it the sick man, **Samuel McCorkle** and I had a doleful time for a week or two.

The sick man became alarmed and requested us to sing for him, he a member of the church and we not. We happened to know a song or two, and did the best we could. McCorkle could sing, but indifferently, and I less. The sick man was soon able to travel and left for Middle Tennessee, never to enter the woods again, and left the laborious and rough business of the Company in my charge.

Surveying

With McCorkle, **Joel Pinson**, **James McDaniel**, **David Moore** ...I proceeded on foot to the Forked Deer and **Big Hatchie** rivers. Our method was to send the two packmen from a section corner along a range or section line for five or ten miles to another section corner, where all were to meet and camp. One of the packmen kept directly on the line, stepping as regularly as possible and counting every other step, having been furnished with a leather strap a foot long which had in it sixteen holes along its middle, and a leather string, longer than the strap run through its holes, both fastened to the breast of the coat. Practiced men knew how many steps would make an "out" and would pull the string out of one hole. Sixteen outs would make a mile. The other men would proceed on lines parallel to these with compasses; those having the short line one day would take the long one the next. We soon became remarkably accurate in our own measurements, nearly as much so as if carelessly measured with a chain. Each party had a horn by which we could generally find each other. The trumpets were carried at our backs to prevent it from interfering with the compass needle.



Early Map of Tennessee

We worked south and west until within sixteen miles of the Bluff (**Memphis**), near where **Fanny Wright** afterward made a settlement she named **Nashoba**—the Indian name of wolf—and went there for a supply of provisions; I got as much flour as we needed and all the bacon (generally called "Old Ned" by the Surveyors) the place afforded, some sixty pounds. Our supply of food consisted entirely of what we could make of flour, or corn meal parched when out of coffee, or sassafras, or spice wood tea by way of variety. In the fall opossum were tolerably plenty & fat and very easily caught, and

was considered very good eating except by Mr. McCorkle who would not eat them. Sometimes a quarter of venison could be had of an Indian for a quarter of a dollar, but rarely. On an occasion or two after this I

purchased and had carried along sweet potatoes when meal or flour could not be had. At another time I paid two dollars a bushel for corn, and we had to pound it in a mortar to make meal of it.

Tim Rackley, TRC member, provided the following information about the ancestry of **Memucan Hunt Howard**.

Ralph Hunt b. 1693; d. Jan 8, 1780, m. **Dinah Anderson** b. 1699; d. 1769. Their 3rd son was **Memucan Hunt** b. Aug 23, 1729; d. 1808 m. **Mary (Polly) Wade** b. Sept 3, 1736; d. 1825. This was **Memucan Hunt Howard's** grandfather who claimed land in Tennessee. **Memucan & Polly's** 8th child was **Jane Hunt** b Dec 23, 1773; d. Jan 8, 1842, m. **Barnett Howard**, March 13, 1794. These are the parents of **Memucan Hunt Howard**.

On the Howard side we have **Groves Howard** (grandfather) who was a brother to **Henry Howard**. **Allen Howard** was the eldest son of **Groves Howard**. **Groves** and **Allen Howard** were the two mentioned in the narrative who served in the Revolutionary War. **Groves Howard** (grandfather) b. Nov 5, 1733, m. **Hannah Allen** March 7, 1760. Their son, **Barnett Howard** b. Nov 4, 1768; died Aug 24, 1824 m. **Jane Hunt**. **Memucan Hunt Howard's** parents.

Source: *A Record of the Howard and Hunt Families*, compiled by **B. A. Howard** from material furnished principally by **Memucan H. Howard** of New York City. Mayfield, Kentucky, 1884(Press of Standard Publishing Company, Cincinnati)

[Continued Spring 2006]

Early Rocky Mount Business

When Eli Epstein, who had been operating a store in Goldsboro, Wayne Co., NC, stopped between trains in Rocky Mount one day in 1905, he decided it was a good place for a store.

His first store was in the old Masonic building near the Post Office at 135 North Main Street.

However, Epstein made news when he bought the site where the business remained for many years. [The building still stands today.] The *Rocky*

Mount Evening Telegram, which itself was in its first year, recorded that "one of the largest and most important trades in city property during the history of Rocky Mount has been closed with Mr. J.W. Hines selling to Mr. Epstein the building recently gutted by fire and the land on which it stands, located on the corner of [East] Main and Tarboro streets."

The 1914 book *Illustrated Rocky Mount North Carolina*, "The City With A Pay Roll" includes the following:

"E. EPSTEIN.-Leading Clothier.-No house in Rocky Mount stands higher in the regard of the best dressed than that of E. Epstein, who has been established in business for the past ten years. He occupies a magnificent new and handsome building, which was erected in 1912, and is located at the corner of Tarboro and Main Streets. Mr. E. Epstein's success might be called phenomenal. He is a gentleman of

enterprise, vast experience, and keeps strictly up to minute in the management of his affairs. He started out in the business ten years ago with the purpose of becoming the leading clothier in the city, and he was not long in reaching the top round of the ladder. He, today, has one of the best appointed clothing houses in the State, and every available space is fully occupied by the immense stock. He handles clothing and furnishing goods suitable for the



Corner Main & Tarboro Streets Looking North

Epstein's

high class trade, his products being made of the best materials, and perfect in fit, elegance and style. Here are to be found all the latest fashions and novelties of the season."

Eli Epstein came from his native Poland to establish a store with his brother in Goldsboro. He was involved in many activities. He helped found the Chamber of Commerce

and Merchants Association. He was a Masonic lodge master, a Shriner, a member of the Old Fellows Lodge, the Knights of Pythias, and the Kiwanis Club. He was one of the founders of the Benvenue Country Club and a founder of Temple Beth El.

[Rocky Mount Evening Telegram, 11/7/65]



Too Many!

A poor man with a family of 7 children complained to his richer neighbor of his hard case, his heavy family and the inequality of fortune.

The other callously observed that whenever Providence sent mouths, it sent meat.

"True," said the farmer, "but it has sent you the meat and to me the mouths."

[Wilson Advance, Jan. 30, 1874]

[PENDER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2]

Frances Marion		
Ivy	12/22/1854	5/5/1855
Mary Anne	2/23/1856	6/20/19??
Leon Hyman	8/17/1858	
Leon Evans s/o Leon H & Sara Evans Pender	6/7/1886	
Children of Louis Pender		
Kate Dunn Pender	10/3/1849	12/10/1875
Maude Louise Pender	7/19/1869	11/14/1875
Amintia Thurston Pender	2/27/1874	922/1875

Maurice Cook s/o Laura Malvina & Capt. Charles Betts Cook

MARRIAGES

Louis Coe Pender & Mary Martha Hyman	10/3/1839
Joshua Solomon Pender & Laura Malvina Pender	9/23/1862
Joshua C Pender, s/o Louis C, & Kate Dunn Pender, d/o Josiah S.	7/14/1868

*Laura Malvina Pender Cook died at Drum Hill in Gates County, NC at the home of her daughter, Fannie, wife of Thomas Riddick.

[Contributed by Hiram Perkinson, TRC Member]

Whitaker Collection

Imagine our surprise to learn of an untapped collection of original documents related to the **Whitaker** family, which has been prominent in our area for centuries. **Betty Coghill Turner**, owner of the papers, very graciously shared them with TRC, allowing them to be scanned and stored on CDs. Images of the entire collection are available at **Braswell Memorial Library**.

Financial Documents

The financial documents were stored in file folders, arranged by year, and they were scanned and numbered for identification in the order they were filed. Where there was information on both sides of a document, both sides were scanned and

labeled *a* and *b*. The earliest of these documents is dated 1743 and the latest 1872. They include references to many local people and businesses and include to some slave names. They provide a graphic picture of life in the area, particularly before the **Civil War**.

The earliest documents relate to the **Fort(e)** family, especially **Hilliard Fort**. Dr. **Matthew Cary Whitaker**'s name appears in 1823. A document dated February 23, 1827 mentions Hilliard Fort's estate, indicating he died about that time.

The largest number of documents are found in the earlier years. By the time of the **Civil War**, the number of documents each year is very small and the collection ends with 1 envelope in 1872. **Matthew C. Whitaker** died in 1873.

CONNECTOR

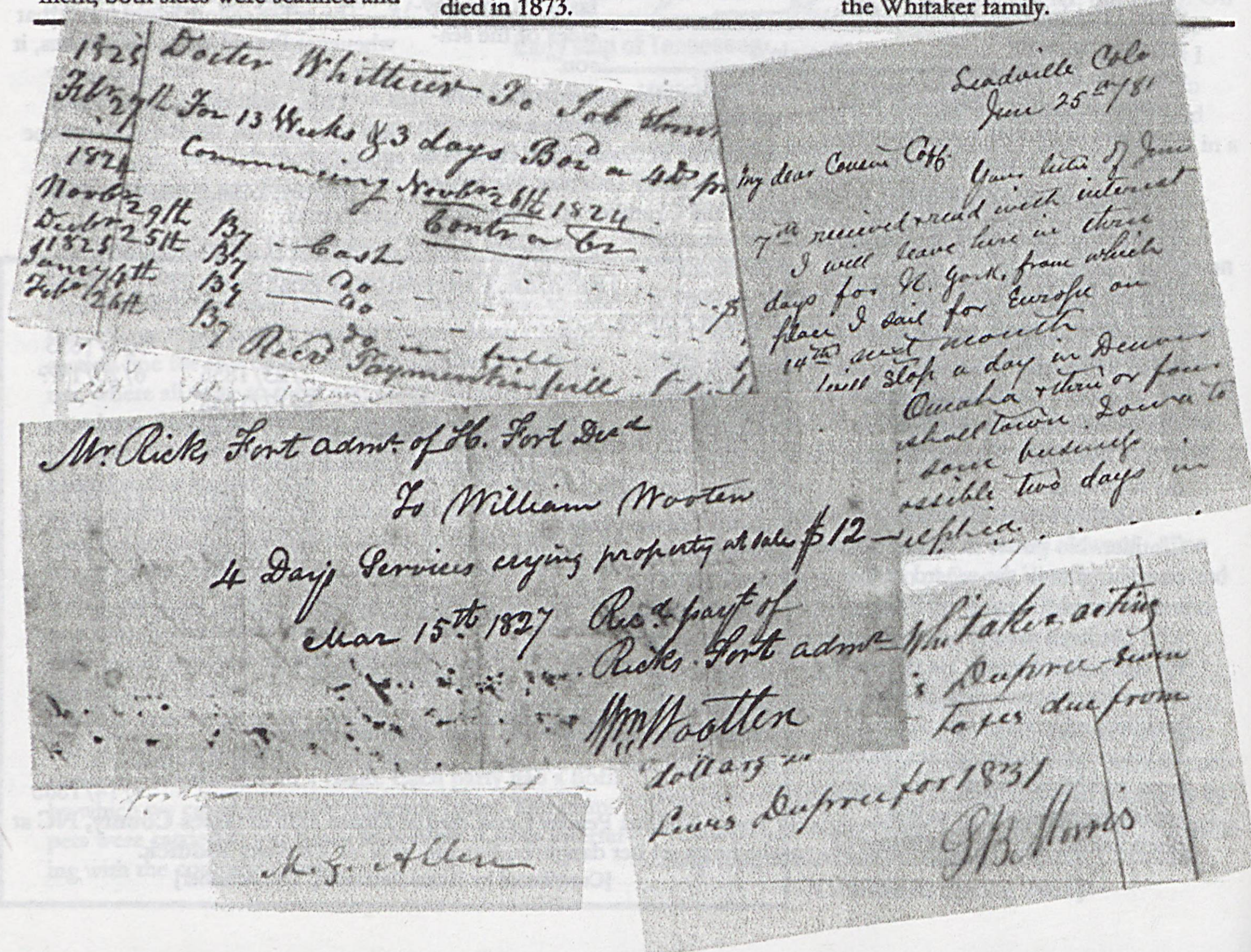
Letters

The 29 letters are being transcribed and the transcriptions will be included on the CD containing images of the original documents.

Many of the letters are addressed to "**Coff**" or "**Coffield**" who is the daughter of **William** and **Gough Ann Whitaker Burstain**. This family lived at **Shell Castle** near **Enfield, Halifax Co., NC** for many years. Some are business letters naming **Matthew C. Whitaker**. Dr. **W.W. Grant** of **Davenport, Iowa** wrote several letters. One of the letters is from **Minnie Ransom**.

Samples

Copies of a few of the document are shown below and on the next page. The Spring issue of *The Connector* will give more information about the Whitaker family.



Enfield, N.C. 1852

CONNECTOR

Miss Cepatra Bailey
 Bot of VICK & WHITAKER,

DEALERS IN
 FANCY DRY GOODS.
 GROCERIES, HARDWARE, STATIONERY, &c.

May 30 To 1 R Pin & Ear Rings 8⁰⁰ / Parasol 2⁰⁰ 10⁰⁰
 " 1 pr Brooches 1⁰⁰ 1⁰⁰
 Sept 21 " 925d Bage 2²⁵ / Do Robe 3⁰⁰ 5⁴⁵
 " 1 pr Velvet 1²⁵ / 4. P. Carnbric 50 1⁰⁰
 " 11 Hock, 1 Eys 05 (22) Hook, 1 Eys 05

Each to the 14th March 1863
 Enfield N.C. March 14th 1863 Recd payment of
 Dr Me to Whitaker for 2000 & Whitaker
 Twenty four dollars & forty cents

to Sept 18 1834
 for Work &
 1000 in left by Eys
 5 y. & month
 11
 no Mass

Doct. to Whitaker
 5/4 B. Chas. 20 Mural - 900
 Paid for 1000
 Oct 1852
 Chas. Williams

Sept & Lawrence began to work for
 me on Monday 28th July & quit Tuesday
 4th Sept. 1826 in which time they worked
 one day each for H. B. Bradford one day
 each for H. Parkdale one day each for
 John Branch one day for F. H. Coffin
 7 days each for Edw. Bradford and
 Scipio lost 12 days & Lawrence 1 day
 all to Whitaker

Last, Feb. They worked for me & Mr.
 Elson 93 days each charge the whole
 time to me that all to Whitaker
 they worked for myself & Mr. Elson

The day which I have entered to Geo.
 Branch, may be charged to some one else
 but Dr. Bradford can tell, better to
 whom it ought to be charged than I.

July 9th day 075¢ in 14
 2522 - 025¢ - 26.97 305.82
 50.97 348.2

Enfield

Wm. H. Whitaker
 1852
 1852

Now and Then.

Below is an extract for the **Tarboro SOUTHERNER** in 1862 giving the enterprises in this town. There is not so many, now, but there has been no retrograding. Those here now are larger and much better equipped and none have gone down except those run by the **Confederate Government**.

If the reader will enumerate these here now he will be impressed with the town's development.

"The town of Tarboro, according to the census of 1860, contained about 750 inhabitants—including the immediate vicinity. It probably now numbers 1000. It contains:

A Court House, Jail and Town Hall.

A branch of the State Bank—**Robert Bridgers**, President; **Russell Chapman**, Cashier.

One newspaper office, The **SOUTHERNER**, published by **Wm. Howard & Co.**

Churches—Episcopal church, **Rev. J. Blount Cheshire**, D.D. Rector; Methodist, **Rev. J.S. Simpson**, Pastor; Missionary Baptist, **Eld. T.R. Owen**, Pastor; Primitive Baptist.

Tarboro Academy—Male Department, **F.S. Wilkinson**, Principal; Female Department, **Miss M.E. Thom**, Principal.

Private School—**Elder T.R. Owen** and lady, principals.

Hotels—**Edgecombe House**, **Dr. Joseph H. Baker**, proprietor; **Tarboro Hotel**, by **Geo. Howard**.

Lawyers—**John L. Bridgers**; **Lorenzo D. Pender**.

Physicians—**Drs. Joseph H. Baker**; **Reuben Cobb**; **Benj. F. Halsey**; **J. Wesley Jones**; **A.H. McNair**; and **W.T. McNair**.

Stores—**Austin, Norfleet & Co.**; **Dowd-Brown & Co.**; **Dozier & Co.**; **Jacob Feld**, embalmer; **Hart, Wimberly & Co.**; **McNair, Bro. & Co.**; **Hoskins & Scay**; **D. Pender & Co.**; **A.A. Willard**.

Drug Stores—**Wm. Howard & Co.**; **A.H. McNair**.

Confectionaries—**Seth S. Hicks**; **John H. Deigh**; **S.E. Moore**; **James M. Redmond**

Milliners—**Mrs. M.E. Bond**; **Mrs. Nancy Hunter**.

Jewellers—**William Dawson**; **Theo Brown**.

Saddlers—**Robert A. Sizer**; **James M. Spraggins**.

Merchant Tailors—**James Mchegan**; **David Neal**.

Coachmakers—**N.M. Terrell**; **Williamson and Stewart**.

Cabinetmaker—**John W. White**.

Carpenters—**Wm. Burnett**; **R.B. Bassett**; **C.E. Bennett**; **John F. Ward**.

CONNECTOR

Painters—**J.H. Allen**; **Wm. Bassett**; **Ed Zoeller**; **A. Sorg**.

Boot and shoemakers—**TC Hussey**; **Theo Lane**.

Bricklayers—**Philip H. Garnett**.

Livery stable—**Robert H. Rowe**.

Bakery—**Lawrence Whaley**.

Gunsmith—**Julius Holtzscheiter**.

Blacksmith—**Isaac Palmountain**.

Hydraulic Engineer—**Michel Cohen**.

Tarboro Branch Railroad—**R.A. Watson**, Conductor; **Thos. Oberry**, Ticket Agent.

Express Office—**Thos. Oberry**, Agent.

Steam, Grist and Saw Mill—**Oberry & Dunn**.

There is also a water-proof cloth manufactory carried on by **T.M. Cook**.

An oil cloth manufactory by **David Pender**.

A whiskey distillery on an extensive scale, by **Michael Cohen**.

A Confederate Cap manufactory in operation by **F.L. Bond**.

A Soap and candle manufactory, by **R. B. Bassett**.

And, a Cotton Seed Oil Mill, connected with the manufacture and repair of Agricultural implements and repairing of machinery, in a state of forwardness by **James P. Smith**.

Lodges &c.—**Concord Royal Arch Chapter**; No 5, **James Mchegan**, High Priest—regular meeting Third Saturday in each month,

Concord Lodge, No. 58, **Baker W. Mabrey**, Worshipful Master—meet third Saturday in each month.

Edgecopmbe Lodge, No. 50, **I.O.O. F. James A. Williamson**, Noble Grand.



Go See Him!

"By referring to an advertisement in this paper, the reader will perceive that our citizens have an opportunity of seeing "the greatest curiosity in the world" in the person of **Col. Chaffin**, of **Bedford county, Virginia**. The Colonel is chatty, witty and full of humor-and visitors are agreeably entertained as well as wonderfully surprised to see the greatest little man of modern times." This intriguing note appeared in the *Tarboro Free Press*, April 12, 1845. The advertisement to which it referred was the following:

THE REAL American Tom Thumb.

THIS celebrated man is now 20 years old, 17 inches high, and 25 pounds weight—beyond any dispute the smallest man recorded in history, and the greatest curiosity in the world, with nothing about him to offend the delicacy of the most fastidious. He has been visited in both the Northern and Southern cities, by thousands of admiring Ladies and Gentlemen, who were delighted to find the Col. so much smaller and more interesting than any possible idea could conceive. This wonderful man has arrived at **Tarborough**, and will be exhibited at **Mr. Pender's Hotel** to-day (Saturday.) We therefore hope the citizens will give themselves the satisfaction to see him, as they will never have a similar opportunity. The Col. will be at **Greenville [Pitt Co]** and **Washington [Beaufort Co]** in a few days.

Col. Chaffin must have covered a good deal of NC on his tour. On Feb. 27, 1845, **William Bagley**, a student at the **University of NC at Chapel Hill**, mentioned seeing him in a letter to his father. [See Page 14]

He ranged even further afield. On April 14, 1846, according to the **Athens, Ga. Southern Banner**, Col. Chaffin, touted as being the world's smallest man, arrived at the town hall of Athens in order to be exhibited from ten in the morning until nine at night.

Little is known of Col. Josephus H. Chaffin except that he toured the south under the auspices of **P.T. Barnum**. He was one of many mid-nineteenth-century performers known as "Tom Thumb."

P.T. Barnum

P.T. Barnum [See "P.T. BARNUM — PRINCE OF HUMBUG..." *THE CONNECTOR*, SPRING 1999] was one of the first men to display human oddities in venues that catered to the macabre and unusual. His most famous feature was the display of **Charles Sherwood Stratton**, or **General Tom Thumb**. Barnum saw something to be gained economically from the absurdly small young man.

Stratton came from a poor family



Mr. & Mrs. Tom Thumb, Commodore Nutt, Minnie Warren & P.T. Barnum

CONNECTOR

and Barnum was able to hire him in 1842 when he was only 5 years old, although Barnum advertised that he was 11 years old. At that time he was 25" tall and weighed just 15 pounds.

Tom Thumb quickly became the talk of NY. In 1844, realizing Stratton's value in the entertainment world, Barnum arranged for a European tour. They were well received and they were soon summoned to appear before **Queen Victoria**.

The visit with the queen was a great success. When it was time to leave, Barnum began backing away across the long gallery. Tom Thumb tried to do the same, but his short legs could not keep up. "Whenever the General found he was losing ground, he turned around and ran a few steps, then resumed the position of 'backing out,' then turned around and ran, and so continued...until the gallery fairly rang with the merriment of the royal spectators."

The next stop on the tour was **Paris** where they appeared before **King Louis-Philippe**. Their success in France was extraordinary. Every move was reported in the press and his shows were sold out weeks in advance.

In 1862, Barnum signed a long-term contract with a female midget, **Mercy Lavinia Warren Bump**. Tom Thumb immediately fell in love with Lavinia. They were married on Feb. 10, 1863. Two thousand guests were invited and hundreds of gifts were received including a Chinese fire screen from **President Lincoln**.

Lavinia and Tom Thumb were happily married for 20 years, until Stratton's death on July 15, 1883. Although he had made millions in his lifetime, the General had also spent lavishly, and his widow was left with a few pieces of property and \$16,000.

William Bagley's Letter to His Father: Sees "Tom Thumb"

My Dear Pa

Chapel Hill February 27th 1845

Your very kind and affectionate letter has been recd & I sit down with a full heart

to answer it. It were vain for me to attempt to describe with what feelings I perused it. I believe, I have never told you, but I did Ma, while at home, last vacation my expectation of going West to seek my fortune among strangers, but how can I leave you! ... Although I have an utter abhorrence to Williamston [Martin Co, NC] ...

... A few weeks ago one of the students went to Hillsboro', became intoxicated & with his fellows, went to one of the hotels & being too noisy, the landlord ordered them off & not obeying he raised a chair at one of them & this fellow immediately shot him, the ball went into his arm near his shoulder. The young man that shot him ... made off without difficulty, he roomed near where I do. I understand the landlord is recovering.—

Last Saturday, the 22nd being Washington's birthday, it is customary for the students to partake pretty freely of the intoxicating cup & about night I observed that they were getting unusually noisy & boisterous, I however retired about ten & had been abed I suppose about an hour when I was aroused ..., I then got up & witnessed the manoeuvres of the revellers, I soon saw Gov Swain, who had come up, accost a student, who raised his stick in defence & Dr Mitchell & Mr Philips the tutor of

Mathematics both being near ran up & seized him, he called lustily for help & one student ran to his assistance & I expected to see a real rencounter but the Faculty did not strike him, their only object being to discover who it was, the Governor, however lost both the buckles off his cloak in the engagement, the fellow whom he rushed upon having collared him. One of the young men was dismissed—the others suspended. Some of the trustees also have been sitting on the cases of two young men today who will be dismissed or expelled & then probably delivered over to the civil authorities. Seven, I believe, will be sent off in all.

I have had the exquisite pleasure of seeing Col Josephus Chaffin alias "Tom Thumb" who made his appearance here last Saturday he is twenty-seven inches high, weighs twenty-five pounds & is in his twentieth year, he is very lively & talkative & appears to be very well contented with his condition, he says he has two brothers who are very large men, one weighing two hundred & the other one hundred & eighty pounds.—

...My very best love to every one of the family, Sis may expect a letter from me soon, & I may probably

write to Miss Helen though I think she promised to write first. I have a geographical enigma for her to solve

W. Bagley
Williamston N.C.

Very sincerely, Nelson

William Bagley, the son of D. W. and Elizabeth Bagley, grew up in Williamston, Martin Co, NC. Although he expressed his desire to leave Williamston, he became a clerk in his father's store in 1845. By late 1849 he had opened a general mercantile in Plymouth, Washington Co, NC with his brother-in-law Henry B. Short.

Faculty minutes for Feb. 24, 1845, report the incident described by Bagley as follows: "On Saturday night

...some riotous persons ... entered Tutor Browns recitation room, threw his table out through the window, proceeded thence to the chapel and did considerable injury to the pulpit. ... [Two students] were found in the campus in a state of intoxication, ...both identified.

An individual at the moment the President was entering ... attempted to strike him with a chair, and another ... threatened to shoot him ... but fled when advanced upon. ...

True and Candid Compositions

The William Bagley letter is taken from a collection of 121 documents written primarily by students attending the University of NC between 1795 and 1868. The collection, called **True and Candid Compositions**, is part of *Documenting the South* at UNC, available at :

http://docsouth.unc.edu/true/browse/all_mss.html

GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN!

Jonathan K. T. Smith has abstracted obituaries from several TN newspapers: *The Western Methodist*, 1833-1834; *Southwestern Christian Advocate*, 1838-1846; *Nashville Christian Advocate*, 1847-1861, 1869-1873, 1885-1919, 1929; *Christian Advocate*, 1874-1884; and *Nashville Daily American*, 1876. Tim Rackley, TRC member has culled information from those records about individuals with connections to the Tar River area. Excerpts from these records will be printed from time to time.

The editors of *The Connector* solicit your help in expanding our information about people who left north eastern North Carolina. If you have an ancestor with ties to this area, we would like to add your information to our files. Please send obituaries, biographies, family trees or other information to: Tar River Connections, PO Box 8764, Rocky Mount, NC 27804.



JESSEE SEARCY b. Granville Co, N.C., 8/1/1784; d. Huntsville, AL., May 8, 1840.

MATTHEW ROGERS b. Granville Co, N.C.; moved to Sumner Co, TN; to Montgomery Co, Tenn., 1821; to Sevier Co, TN, 1836 where he died 5/26/1843.

CATHARINE R. WHITE d/o Maj. Spears, Granville Co, NC; w/o Maj. White, Dresden, TN; died 8/5/1843.

SARAH C. GOLD d/o William & Mary Collins; b. Granville Co, NC, 1800; m. John Gold, Nov 1819; d. Montgomery Co, TN, 11/23/1843

SARAH JONES b. Northampton Co., NC; d/o John & Ann Cone; moved to GA, AL, TN; d. Harden Co. TN; d. 1834

MARY H. S. GREEN w/o Simon W. Green; b. Warren Co, NC, 7/31/1810; d. Hardeman Co, TN, 8/30/1840

ALLEY M. NEELY w/o Rev. Thomas J. Neely, d/o Shadrach & Grizza Collins; b. Edgecombe Co, NC, 2/13/1804; d. Brownsville, TN, 5/8/1839.

NANCY FREEMAN b. Franklin Co, NC, 1768; d. Haywood Co, TN, 8/27/1839

CONNECTOR

Col. THOMAS SHAW b. Halifax Co, NC; d. Robertson Co, TN, Nov. 1839

MARY H. S. GREEN w/o Simon W. Green, Harde-

WYATT H. ELLIS, merchant, Hartselle, Ala.; son of Hicks and Tabitha Ellis; born Warren Co., N.C., March 22, 1814; moved with parents to Rutherford Co., Tenn., 1820 where he spent most of his life; died while in Philadelphia, Pa., July 18, 1846 [possibly while on a buying visit to the city, for mercantile goods for his store]. Presbyterian.

man Co, TN; b. Warren Co, NC, 7/31/1810; d 8/30/1840

Dr. W. WOMBLE b. Edgecombe Co, NC, 3/15/1800; d. Shelby Co, TN, 7/17/1842.

Rev THOMAS LOGAN DOUGLASS d. Franklin, TN, 4/9/1843; b. Parsol [Person?] Co, NC, 1781

EVAND RICHARDS b. Northampton Co, NC, 1777; d. Madison Co, AL, 3/20/1843

CHARLOTTE [REEVES] ROBERTSON, w/o Gen. James Robertson, b. Northampton Co, NC, 1751; d. Nashville, TN 6/11/1843

SION HUNT b. Franklin Co, NC, 3/15/1770; d. Christian Co., Ky., 5/18/1845.

WILLIAM G. WYNNS b. Beaufort Co, NC, 1/31/1810; m. S. E. Atkins, 9/10/1838; d. TN, 6/21/1845

JOSEPH PATRICK b. Pitt Co, NC, 12/15/1794; d. Shelby Co, TN, 7/5/1846
September 28, 1854

JOHN POTTER SMITH d. 9/5/1854, Murfreesboro, TN; s/o Benjamin & Ann Smith; b. Williamsboro, NC, [now Vance Co, NC] 6/2/1827; m. America Johnson

ABIGAIL RICE w/o Rev. Joseph R. Rice; b. Halifax Co, NC, 1803; m. 1819; d. Taylor Co, KY, 12/7/1854

CHARLES WHITE d. 2/13/1854, Nacogdoches Co, TX; b. Franklin Co, NC; moved to Wilson Co, TN, Haywood Co, TN, TX; veteran of the Creek War.

Dr. JOHN R. MERCER b. 4/10/1825; d. Edgecombe Co, NC, 10/22/1894; s/o John and Mary (Routh) Mercer; m. Susan Vick, Nash Co, NC, 1849
July 13, 1905

EMELINE WEBB FREEMAN d/of Isaac & Harriet P. Dickens, b. Person Co, NC, 3/14/1836; [death date not provided];

MARY ANN JONES w/o Simon J. Jones; d/o Simon & Mary Nobles; b. Pitt Co, NC, 2/16/1809; d. 2/1/1844

WILLIAM W. YOUNG b. Granville Co, NC, 12/12/1805; d. 8/14/1855; moved to Maury Co, TN, then Weakley Co, TN. where he died.

Search and Research

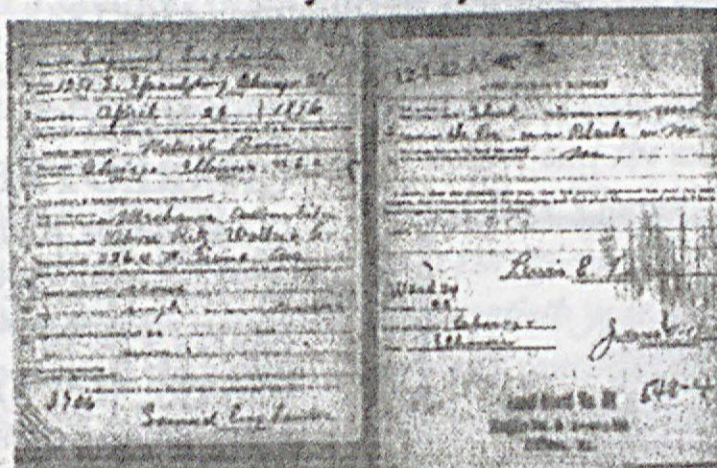
WWI Draft Registration Cards

All men living in the US and born between 1872 and 1900 were required to register for the draft during World War I. The registration cards they filled out are a good source of genealogical information. The information available includes name, birthday, race, citizenship, occupation and physical description.

The original draft registration cards are stored at the National Archives near Atlanta, GA. They were microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah (The Mormons) for the National Archives between 1987 and 1995. The resulting series of 4,383 microfilms comprise National

Archives Microfilm Publication M1509. These microfilms are available at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, UT, and are thus available for borrowing through all local Family History Centers. The films are also available at the National Archives in Washington, and the thirteen Regional Archives have obtained the microfilms for the states corresponding to their regions (e.g. the New England regional archives has the microfilms for the 6 New England states, etc.).

A researcher can view the microfilm at the National Archives or at Mormon Family History Centers.



CONNECTOR

Also, Ancestry.com, which is available at many libraries, has compiled a data base of the registration cards.

You can also have the National Archives staff search these records for you. You will need a "World War I Registration Card Request" form. You can request the form from archives@atlanta.nara.gov or write to: National Archives - Southeast Region, 1557 St. Joseph Avenue, East Point, GA 30344. The Southeast Region archives will search the cards for you, and bill you \$10.00 for each card found. There is no charge for searches when a record is not located. The response time is about two weeks. For each card requested, you must supply: (1) full name; (2) approximate date of birth; and (3) place of residence when he registered.

[Contributed by TRC member Jim Stallings.]

Severe Punishment

Frequently, in the first half of the 19th century, the public in NC was aroused over reform in the criminal code. When Hardy Carroll was hanged in Louisburg, Franklin Co. in the spring of 1845, the press used his case as a means of stirring the public to vote for reform. "Perhaps there never was a case, which more strongly illustrated the want" of change, wrote the *Raleigh Register* of May 6. "He had a monomania for stealing and had been convicted capitally, we believe, three times for Horse stealing, but escaped each time, either by praying the benefit of Clergy, or through some defect in the record." He was finally hanged for grand larceny, the article stolen being a pair of suspenders.

More About Suspenders!

Mark Twain (Samuel L. Clemens) was an unlikely inventor. His first invention, patented on December 19, 1871, was an "improvement in adjustable and detachable garment straps." His straps could be used for "vests, pantaloons, or other garments." The patent describes the buttons and buckles used to hold the straps,

and then explains that the straps should be made out of elastic for reasons that "are so obvious that they need no explanation."

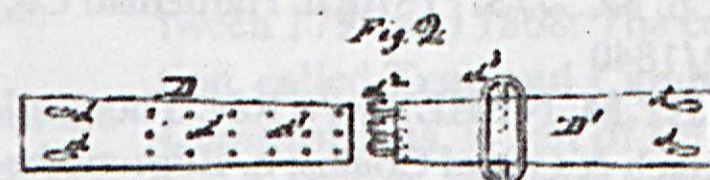
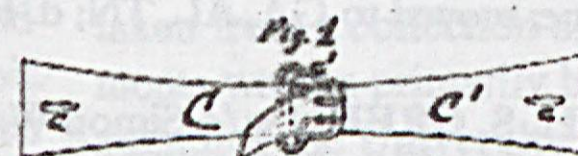
Since his elastic straps could be used for pants, it seems that Mark Twain was the inventor of elastic suspenders. In a funny letter to the U.S. Patent Office, he said he invented the elastic straps as he "lay in bed" one day.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

SAMUEL L. CLEMENS, OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.

IMPROVEMENT IN ADJUSTABLE AND DETACHABLE STRAPS FOR GARMENTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 122,502, dated December 12, 1871.



Witnesses:

Henry A. Miller

C. L. Everett

Inventor

Sam. L. Clemens

per *Henry A. Miller*

Witnesses

Monument to NC Women of the Confederacy

During the first decade of the 1900s, efforts were made to erect a monument to the NC Women of the Confederacy. When no funds were appropriated, Ashley Horne of Johnston County agreed to donate the monument if it was given a place on the capitol square in Raleigh. The monument was erected and unveiled in the city of Raleigh on June 10, 1914, in the presence of the North Carolina Division, United Confederate Veterans, and of an immense assemblage. Ashley Horne died before the monument was complete.

How they lived

Daniel Harvey Hill made the dedicatory address and the following are excerpts from his remarks:

"...She was a woman of metal. ...Mrs. Reuben Jones of Robeson County, when her brood of eleven sons volunteered within a week, 'I cannot hold you when your country calls you,' ...or as Aunt Abby House of Raleigh did to her eight nephews. ... 'I can tell you that not a man of my family would I let stay at home in peace if he was able to tote a musket. I said to them, boys, all 'er you go along to the field whar you belongs, and if any of you gits sick or is wounded, you may depend on your old Aunt Abby to nuss and to tend you. For so help me God if one of you gits down and I can't git to you no other way, I'll foot it to your bedsides; and if any one of you dies or gits killed, I promise to bring you home and bury you with your kin.' ... [See "Fearless Aunt Abby," *The Connector*, Fall 1999]

"Women often tilled fields and reaped harvests. In many of these homes want was felt acutely before the war was over ... women of wealth were forced to join their poorer friends in manual toil. One society belle writes, 'I had eleven ladies working in the field with me today. I have myself recently hoed 2,500 hills of corn.' The fact that during the four years of war 'seed time and harvest never failed' attests the capacity of these women.

"In the inventiveness necessitated by the war, the women took a most active part. ...As soon as the supply of clothing in the stores began to fail, old spinning frames and looms were dragged from garrets and cellars.

CONNECTOR

New looms were constructed. Hands all unused to that work began to ply bobbins and shuttles. Home spun cloth as durable as it was ugly was made in almost every home. ... To relieve its unmitigated ugliness dyes of various hues were concocted from poke-berries, elder berries, and roots in home-made dyepots and boilers.

"The wool from old mattresses was often recarded and spun into yarns for socks to keep the soldiers from having cold feet in battle and in camp. A pair of cards was a treasure and the famous blockade runner, *Advance*, carried few more precious commodities in her hold. Old silken garments were painstakingly separated thread by thread and woven into gloves and stockings. ...

Socks never wear out

"Garments outlived their expectancy on the principle formulated by the old lady who explained that her soldier son's solitary pair of socks never wore out because "when the feet get full of holes I just knit new feet to the tops, and when the tops wear out I just knit new tops to the feet." Slippers were made from rabbit and squirrel fur, and from old tent canvas. Hats

were fabricated from palmetto leaves, from wheat and oat straw and from broad-leaved grasses. Corn husks bleached in water and colored to suit the complexion made bewitching bonnets. Wire grass plaited and adorned with white shavings from cow horns was another source of millinery effect.

"Buttons were made from gourds and pine whittled round and covered with cloth. Children's clothes were fastened with buttons of persimmon seeds. Necklaces constructed from berries served as ornaments for pretentious occasions....

"When oil grew scarce, inventive genius was developed in devising lights for the home. ... In some homes sycamore balls were soaked in fat and burned in pans. Strings twisted hard were thrust into bottles filled with grease, tar, or beeswax and spluttered out light enough to distinguish a spoon from a fork. Soap was made from ham bones already stripped to the point of emaciation by hungry teeth. Every home had its ash-hopper to leach lye. Cartridge belts and boxes were manufactured from layers of cloths sewed together and covered with varnish. Nitre for gunpowder was often dug by the women from old smokehouses and tobacco barns. ...

"Substitutes for [coffee] were made from parched



Braswell Memorial Library Local History Collection Acquisitions

By TRACI THOMPSON



1. *Photographers in North Carolina: The First Century, 1842-1941* by Stephen E. Massengill. (Offers a great overview of the history of photography and the photographic profession in N.C.)
2. *Wake County, North Carolina Census and Tax List Abstracts, 1830 and 1840* by Frances Wynne
3. *The 4th North Carolina Cavalry in the Civil War: A History and Roster* by Neil Raiford
4. *Gold in History, Geology, and Culture: Collected Essays* by Richard Knapp. (Covers various aspects of the history of gold mining in N.C.)
5. *North Carolina and the New Deal* by Anthony Badger
6. *Divided Allegiances: Bertie County During the Civil War* by Gerald W. Thomas
7. *Ship Ashore! The U.S. Lifesavers of Coastal North Carolina* by Joe Mobley
8. *Paving Tobacco Road: A Century of Progress by the North Carolina Department of Transportation* by Walter Turner
9. *North Carolina County Maps: 1800* by Dr A.B. Pruitt
10. *Perquimans County, North Carolina Births, Marriages, Deaths, and Flesh Marks, 1659-1820* by Weynette Haun
11. *Johnston County, North Carolina County Court Minutes* by Weynette Haun. (Series, covering years 1759-1846.)
12. *Wake County, North Carolina County Court Minutes* by Weynette Haun. (Several-volume series, covering years 1771-1811)
13. *Every Name Index: 1870 Census, Johnston County, North Carolina* by Joan Waddell
14. *Perquimans County, North Carolina Deed Abstracts, 1681-1729* by Weynette Haun
15. *Perquimans County, North Carolina County Court Minutes, 1738-1754 (With Deeds 1735-1738)* by Weynette Haun
16. *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct (County) Court Minutes, 1688-1738* by Weynette Haun
17. *Index and Abstracts of Deeds of Record of Pitt County, North Carolina, Vols. 1-4* by Judith Ellison (covers 1761-1832)
18. *Whaling on the North Carolina Coast* by Marcus Simpson
19. *Phantom Pain: North Carolina's Artificial Limbs Program for Confederate Veterans* by Ansley Wegner
20. *The Granville District of North Carolina, 1748-1763: Abstracts of Land Grants, Vol. 5* by Margaret Hofmann

CONNECTOR

21. *Martin County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Will Books 1-4 (1774-1910)* by The Martin County Historical Society
22. *History of Greene County, North Carolina* by James Creech
23. *Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants* (Volume 4, 1732-1741; Volume 5, 1741-1749; Volume 6, 1749-1762; and Volume 7, 1762-1776) by the Virginia Genealogical Society
24. *Searching for the Roanoke Colonies: an Interdisciplinary Collection* by E. Thomson Shields
25. *History for All the People: 100 Years of Public History in North Carolina* by Ansley Wegner
26. *Society in Early North Carolina: A Documentary History* by Alan D. Watson
27. *Northampton County, North Carolina, 1759-1808: Genealogical Abstracts of Wills* by Margaret Hofmann
28. *John Pippin: A New Beginning in Maryland* by James Pippin
29. *The Historic Architecture of Pitt County, North Carolina* by Scott Power

[MONUMENT, CONT. FROM PAGE 17]

okra seed, from parched wheat, rye, and oats and from dried potatoes and cowpeas. ... Tea was brewed from yaupon and from sassafras roots. ... A soup was devised from tallow, persimmons and sorghum. Mrs. F. C. Roberts ... concocted a Christmas cake for her children out of dried cherries, dried whortleberries, candied watermelon rind and sorghum molasses. ...

"Sometimes it took the form of personal service. Randolph Ridgeley lay severely wounded in a Virginia front yard. The surgeon said he could not be moved and that he would die if he did not sleep. A Winchester girl, an utter stranger to the nerve-wracked man, sat down on the ground and taking the young man's head in her lap soothed him to sleep. Then she sat immovable through the chilly damp of the night. Her nobility of nerve saved a soldier to fight for the cause dear to her heart. Hence in the weeks of illness that followed her exposure she rejoiced instead of repined.

"Poor blind Mrs. Roland of Richmond, consumed with a desire to contribute her part in spite of her affliction, groped from day to day to the hospitals and with guitar and songs quieted the restless sufferers. ..."

The Monument to NC Women of the Confederacy still stands on the capitol square in Raleigh.

[The program for the dedication of the memorial was compiled by R D W Conner. It has been digitized and can be seen at <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/>]

She Was Too Young To Know!



Petition of Martha Lawrence of Edgecombe County sheweth she intermarried in 1828 with Arthur Lawrence. At that time your petitioner was both young and inexperienced (being then but 16 years of age) and was

easily deceived by the flattering and false representations of her lover. He represented himself to have lived in the County of Hertford, a man of property and respectable connections. Upon being carried by her husband to his county, she found he had neither property or character, and though his parents were respectable, they had from his bad conduct entirely discarded him. Your petitioner was then brought back to her father's [Moses Baker], and though she would most willingly have toiled through life with the said Lawrence, notwithstanding his want of fortune, she could ill respect a man who had deceived her and was in the daily habit of telling her the most bare faced falsehoods. Still, she submitted to her fate in satirical grief and endeavoured in every respect to fulfill her duties as a wife faithfully and to the utmost of her ability. Nonetheless, said Arthur Lawrence, without cause or provocation, secretly absconded, leaving your petitioner entirely dependent on her father and ignorant of the cause of his flight as well as the place of his destination. The said Lawrence has now been absent near six years and as she learns, the courts of law afford her no relief. She prays for an act divorcing her from the bonds of matrimony from her said husband.

["Divorces and Separations From Petitions to the North Carolina General Assembly from 1779," Ransom McBride: *The North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, August 2002.]

Battleboro News

The fashion for ladies to "bang" their hair is still the rage. Men can't bang their hair, but there is a man who comes to town very often, from towards Whitaker's Mill, with his moustache banded. We would tell who he is, but are afraid he'll bang us.

While Mr. John W. Phillips was out fox hunting near this place last Wednesday, he had the misfortune to break his bridle bit, which left his horse unmanageable. He was thrown to the ground, receiving a severe contusion on the head. His wound though painful is, we are happy to say, not dangerous.

[*The Battleboro Progress*, Jan. 2, 1880]

Help for the Orphans!

Grand Entertainment at Orphan Asylum.

Thursday Night, June 21st, 1877.

GOV. VANCE TO BE PRESENT.

THE LADIES OF OXFORD WILL REPEAT, AT THE ABOVE PLACE AND TIME, for the exclusive benefit of the Orphans, their VARIED AND ATTRACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT, together with many new and interesting features, embracing Dazzling Fairy Plays, Pantomimes, Sketches, Tableaux, Vocal and Instrumental Music, &c., &c.

This Entertainment was received with unbounded applause at its late rendition, and the Managers have added much that will increase its beauty and interest.

His Excellency, Gov. Z. B. VANCE,

has accepted an invitation to be present, and is expected to address the audience on that occasion. The versatile MRS. JARLEY will again introduce her

FAR-FAMED WAX-WORKS,

Having lately procured many valuable additions to her wonderful collection. The Programme is one of the richest and most varied in character ever presented to this public, demanding in everything calculated to please the eye, delight the ear and instruct the understanding.

ICE CREAM, CAKE and other delicacies will be for sale at the close of the Entertainment.

COME ONE! COME ALL!

Don't forget that GOV. VANCE will be present. Let everybody come and, while securing for themselves a fund of amusement, aid in sustaining a great charitable institution.

Remember, Thursday Night, June 21st, 1877!

The Musical Fraternity of the County commences their Anniversary at the Asylum, on the following day—Friday, June 22d.

Admission to Entertainment, 25 Cents.

Our Tickets can be procured at the different Stores in Oxford.

Davis, Blackwell & Co., Job Printers, Durham, N. C.

[Taken from the UNC-CH digitization project, Documenting the American South. <http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/helporphans/helporphans.html>

Justices of the Peace—1823 Beaufort County, NC

Seth Wilson	Tho's Hathan	Jeremiah Cherry John
Kennedy	John G. Blount	Walter Hanrahan
Wm. Worsley	Moses Windly	Thomas Boyd Read-
ing Great	Tho's Elison	John Watson
Wm. Smaw	Slade Pearce	J. O'K. Williams C.
Oven	Benj. Brady	Warren Sealvy
D. H. Williams	Wyrot Ormand	Wm. Vines
Hugh McCuller	Hillory Whitehurst	Henry Clark
Henry Harding	Samuel Hawkins	Samuel Vines
Richard Grist	George Boyd	James Willis
Joseph Tripp	Alex. Latham	Daniel Campbell
Benjamin Eborn	James Elison	Thomas Barrow
John Clark	Eppa Everett	James Satchwell
Thomas Latham	James Latham	John Satchwell
Frederick Barrow	Tho's Allen	James S. Wilkins
Henry S. Latham	John Orrell	Lewis Blount
Josiah Lufton	Jonathan Hanns	William Boyd Jr.

Moses Farmer Will

Moses Farmer's will was probated in Edgecombe Co., NC in November Court, 1844. He made the following provisions:

(1) wife, to have one year's provisions and a good bed and furnishings; (2) son Moses Farmer, mare, bridle, saddle and blanket, bed and furnishings, equal share of other property; (3) son Samuel B. Farmer, equal share of other property; (4) son and executor Larry D. Farmer, equal share including what he already has; (5) daughter Jerusha Farmer, equal share; (6) son James E. farmer, ditto; (7) son John A. Farmer, ditto; (8) son Walter Farmer, ditto; and (9) and Richard Short: "It is my will and desire that my executor complete the contract which I made with John Harper relative to dressing the mill stones and putting a trunk and wheel in Dew's mill."

The Same Old Story!

OUR STREETS.—Our town authorities are engaged in a laudable effort to improve our streets now, but we respectfully submit that the method of applying the remedy is quite as bad as the disease. It would cost comparatively little to wall up our side walks where such is needed, and that is in a few places, and then to be filled up with sand. We would have a good and permanent walk, but to take the mud and leaves out of the ditches, and pile up on the sidewalk merely gives us a fine lob lolly when ever it rains. We suggest to our authorities not to be afraid of spending a quarter to put down a permanent improvement. It will be much better

than fifty cents will, expensed in dribbets of five cents a year.

[Franklin Courier, April 19, 1872]

A LONG WALK.—

Grindle creek has been solidly frozen over this week. People beyond have had considerable trouble getting here. On Tuesday Messrs Sam Whitehurst, Elisha Brown and Mack Bullock walked from Bethel [Pitt Co] here, sixteen miles, because they could not cross the creek and had to come.

[King's Weekly, Greenville, Pitt Co., NC, Jan. 18, 1895]

Running a Newspaper.

Running a newspaper is just like running a hotel, only different. When a man goes into a hotel and finds something on the table which does not suit him, he does not raise Hades with the landlord and tell him to stop his old hotel. Well hardly. He sets that dish to one side and wades into the many dishes that suit him. It is



different with some newspaper readers. They find an article occasionally that does not suit them exactly and without stopping to think it may please hundreds of other readers, make a grand stand play and tell the editor how a paper should be run and what should be run and what should be put into it. But such people are becoming fewer every year.

[The Enfield Progress, Halifax Co., NC, 8/28/1908]

Scraps.

☞: "Do you like novels?" asked Miss Fitzgerald of her backwoods lover.

"I can't say, he replied. "I never ate any, but I tell you I am death on young possums."

☞ Total eclipse of the sun—as he said when he fell into the well.

[American Eagle, Louisburg, NC,

Important Sale OF LAND.

BY virtue of a decree of the Court of Equity for the County of Pitt, at March Term 1845, I shall sell at public sale at the Court House in Greenville, on Thursday the 6th of May, that

VALUABLE AND WELL KNOWN TRACT OF LAND, Five miles above Greenville, on the North side of Tar River, known as the Sherrod Land, and part of the Toney Tract; being lot No 5, which was set apart to the heirs of the late George P. and Francis E. Gorham, in the division of the lands of the late Francis A. J. Gorham, containing 750 acres more or less. Note with approved security, payable at six months, will be required. These lands join the lands of James Clark and Thomas A. Gorham, on the main road from Greenville to Tarborough. Persons wishing to purchase valuable land on Tar River, will do well to examine the premises before the day of sale.

JOHN A. SELBY,
Commissioner & Trustee.

Greenville, March 7th, 1845. 13-6