

The Connector

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

Spring, 1998

Peggy Strickland, Editor

Volume 2 Issue 2

Robert Potter: 1820's Halifax, Granville Politician

Pistols, knives, cudgels and challenges the order of the day!

Robert Potter, a violent, quarrelsome man, was born on a small farm near Williamsboro in Granville County in 1800. By the time he arrived in Halifax in 1823, he had served 5 years in the navy, had already fought one duel and carried the scar of a pistol bullet. He quickly made friends with Thomas Burges, a Halifax attorney who opposed the incumbent representative, Jesse Bynum. Bynum, a 27 year old bachelor who was as quick to scowl

as he was to smile, gloried in his position in the legislature. The stage was set for political fireworks that kept Halifax entertained for months.

It was on 5 Jul 1824 on the piazza of the Halifax tavern, Mansion House, at an Independence Day dinner that war erupted. Potter and Bynum, with a number of others, sat down to eat heartily and probably to



Robert Potter

drink heartily as well. Bynum quarrelled with Robert A. Jones. Robert Potter shoved between the two men and Bynum then turned on Potter, scolding him hotly. Potter responded with a string of sailorly oaths. The two men were separated or blood might have been shed then and there.

Election Time

The next day, just five weeks from election day, Potter announced that he would run for Bynum's legislative seat. Halifax, a borough then

SEE POTTER, PAGE 11

Down, Down The River—Granville County, Then and Now

BY LOUISE FULLER

The Tar River winds its way from its tiny beginnings in Person County through the gently rolling farm land of Granville County, gathering its forces as it goes. Granville, named "in honor of the owner of the soil"—Lord Granville, was created in 1746 from Edgecombe County; St. John's Parish was created at the same time and had the same boundaries as the new county. In 1752 the western part of Granville County was cut off to help form Orange County. By 1758 Granville Parish was established in the western part of Granville

County; St. John's Parish remained in the eastern part until 1764 when that part of Granville became Bute County. In 1779 Bute was divided into Warren and Franklin Counties. Vance County was created in 1881 from Granville, Warren and Franklin.

The names of the inhabitants who petitioned 18 June 1746 for creation of the new county are listed on page 10. Some of these names are still found in present day Granville County.

Many mills were built up and down the Tar, harnessing power to grind corn and wheat. Best remembered are those of Gooch, Kimball, Cannady, and Lyon. Most of the

See Down, Down, Page 10

A confederate cap manufactory was in Tarboro in 1862. It was operated by F.L. Bond.

Tarboro Southerner, Feb. 1862

The Trip

BY MCLESTER TURNER

No one now knows the real reason for the trip, but in November 1864, as the war was going badly for the south, Henry Gray Turner, Captain C.S.A., disabled and assigned to the hospital at Kittrell Springs, NC, received a message from his brother, Captain Vines Edmund Turner, to prepare for a trip south with a small group, well camouflaged, if possible.

Henry Gray devised a plan whereby he, a wounded, disabled veteran, would take some orphans south to their uncle. About 8 miles from the hospital, he picked up 2 young first cousins, Patrick Henry, and Lewis Baws Turner, age 14 and 9 respectively. Their mother, Margaret M. (Peggy) Hunt Turner, had died

SEE TRIP, PAGE 16



King Cotton

By the 1830's, cotton had become the primary money crop for eastern NC. The second cotton mill in the state was established in Rocky Mount in 1818, and this convenient outlet led to even more cotton being produced.

In the 1850's, Panola, the Edgecombe Co. plantation of John S. Dancy and Robert Norfleet was

considered the best cotton plantation in the state, and perhaps, in the south. They were the first to use a newly invented cotton seed sower.

In 1854, 220 of Panola's 908 acres were planted in cotton and the yield was 219½ bales, each weighing about 400 pounds.

CONNECTOR

History in a Nutshell 1863 Letter From Col. Gray Hammond

BY EUGENE VIVERETTE

George W. White resided in Edgecombe County and was by occupation a farmer prior to enlisting in Nash County at age 24, 12 June 1861. Mustered in as Private, he was appointed 2nd Lieutenant to rank from 2 May 1862. He was present or accounted for until wounded at Malvean Hill, VA, 1 July 1862. He was promoted to 1st Lieutenant 16 July 1862.

White returned to duty prior to 13 Dec 1862 when he was wounded in the shoulder at Fredericksburg, VA. He returned to duty prior to 1 Jan 1863 and was promoted to Captain on 20 March 1863. He was present or accounted for until killed at Bristoe Station, VA, 14 Oct 1863.

The letter below, submitted by Roy Wilder of Spring Hope, was written by Col. Gray Hammond to Mr. & Mrs. Joseph H. White after his death. Col. Hammond's wife was Louisa White, sister to Capt. George W. White.

[Letter from Roy Wilder, Spring Hope.]

Mr. & Mrs Jos H. White

I have to inform you [of] the death of you[r] son Capt G.W. white who was killed in battle at Bristow Station on the 14th of this month he was killed leading his men [in] a charge to the rail road. he was shot through the left brest dead on the field. he was a gal-lant officer loved by his men and officers of the Regt and stood high with his commanding officers as a brave man and a soldier. it is with great pain that I have to communicate this to you and familey his death and that his remains had to be buried on the battle field but thare was no other chance but to have them buried thare all the officers that was killed in Cookes brigade was buried on the field. I stayed with his remains next day until thu [?] when buried and had him buried as decently as I could on the field. and had his grave marked so it could bee told knowing you would want his remains brought home [as] soon as you could get them a way-- [?] should had them brought a way if thare [page ends] [page begins] had been any way to of done so but thur was not and has not been any chance since that time if thu had been any I should had them removed before this time. I have learned to day that Mr MacKnight of NC went to see Genl Lee to see if he could go after his son who was killed in the same battle and was a Lieunt in the 27th N. C Regt and he told him thare was no chance to go now that the any [enemy?] was in possession of that place. I will let you know as soon as thare is any chance to have them removed or will have them removed my self as soon as we get in possession of that place if I am living and with this army I will have them removed. I have written home all the particulars of it and Loue can tel you all about it. I hope and trust that you all will not blame me for not bringing his remains a way for I certainly did all I could for him. I send a letter from home and am afraid that Loue thinks hard of me for not bringing his remains a way but thare was no chance to do so. Witch I am very sorry for (I sympathise with you all of his death [torn portion] I am shure ____ no one can regret it ...

Capt. George W. White, KIA 14 Oct 1863, Bristoe Station,

Tar River Connections Genealogical Society

PO Box 8764

Rocky Mount, NC 27804

Inernet: <http://www.ncwc.edu/~necn/TRCGS/TRCHP.HTM>

Annual Dues - \$10.00

1998 Officers

Billie Jo Matthews, President

Eugene Viverette, President-Elect

Jean St.Clair, Secretary

Helen Sharpe, Treasurer

Peggy Strickland, Newsletter Ed.

Directors: Bettie Arthur, Louise

Fuller, James Price

Members may submit 3 queries annually. 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.

The Connector-Published Quarterly
Membership & Surnames-Annually

The high demand for cotton to supply mills induced farmers to concentrate on this crop, which lessened the diversification of the area. This has remained a problem even in modern times.

Josiah Vick, born 4 Feb 1797, in Nash Co. left an account book in which he recorded numerous business transactions of various kinds. An article in the Evening Telegram, 30 Dec 1962 gives the details of some of these transactions. Among these are records of the purchase and sale of bales of cotton in 1842-44. The records show the bales weighed from 333 to 426 lbs. The prices recorded in the account book indicate the price fluctuated from 7¢ to 8½¢ per pound.

Included in the account books is a list of the names of numerous farmers, the number of pounds and other items about the transactions with these individuals. **This list of farmers can be found on page 14.**

Land Grants in NC

BY DR. BRUCE PRUITT

In 1662 and 1665, King Charles II gave the land that makes up NC, SC and GA to 8 Lords who had helped him regain the English throne. They authorized the sale of the land (or grants) in May 1668 and grants began about 1669. Over time, a procedure for handling these sales (grants) to private individuals evolved into the following steps:

1. A vacant tract of land is found.
2. A land entry is made at the colonial land office and a fee is paid.
3. After a waiting period, the names are read in a Council meeting and a land warrant is issued to the Surveyor General who passes it to a local (deputy) surveyor. There were very few disputes or caveats.

That Famous Nash Brandy

TEXT AND CARTOONS FROM AN ARTICLE BY ROY WILDER

Nash County Brandy has been around for a long time. **James Braswell, Jr.** wrote in his will, probated 30 Nov 1778, "I also will and desire that my bay horse called Darby, one barrell brandy and two suits clothes may be sold to the highest bidder and the money arising from the sale thereof be appropriated to the use of paying my debts."

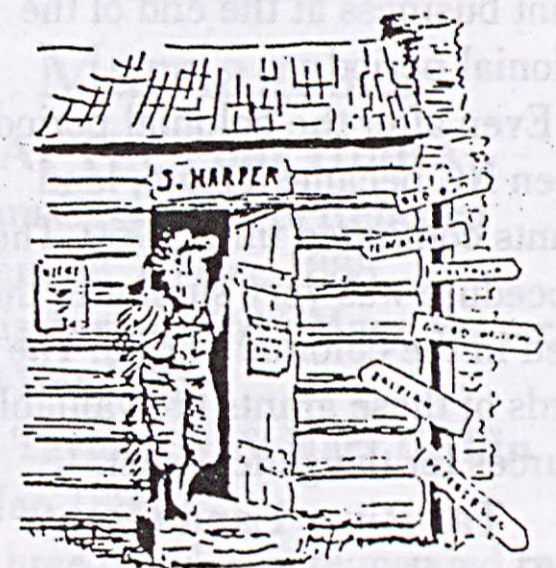


Even more generous was **John Cooper** whose will, probated 28 Dec 1784, states: "I give and bequesth to my son **Mark Cooper** one still, worm and cap, to him his heirs and assigns forever. Six years later, **Solomon Wells** willed to his son **John** all his "Cyder Casks except six new barrels with brandy in them."

Also interesting to historians and toppers is the story, written by the late **Colonel Fred A. Olds**, historian and collector of artifacts, that "a quart of the famous Nash County brandy" was among the dedicatory articles placed in the cornerstone when the courthouse, made of brick manufactured near the site, was built in 1833. There being no record of the proceedings of the laying of the cornerstone, the cornerstone's whereabouts and contents, or even if there is a cornerstone, is an unsolved mystery.

In his history of Nash County, written in 1850, **Wheeler** used the phrase "celebrated even to this day," to describe Nash Brandy. What or who made it celebrated is unknown, but perhaps credit goes to **Nick Arrington**, Nash's greatest sportsman, who flourished in the early 1800's. When flushed with victory of his fighting cocks, he often swept the board with an irresistible invitation: "Boys, come to see me. I've got the prettiest girls, the best brandy, and the easiest melting sugar in Nash County."

W.D. (Cousin Willie) Rice of Rocky Mount told the story of **Sam Harper**: "Sam Harper had a distillery at a crossroads in the Castalia neighborhood and the closest way to go anywhere was by Sam Harper's." Harper was married several times. With each new marriage he acquired more apple orchards, thus enabling him to manufacture more brandy. He kept a half-barrel sampler and a gourd handy in his log office. Cousin Willie, born in 1878 and a teetotaler, claimed that, as a child of 10 or 11, he swilled some of Harper's "low wines," from which brandy was to be distilled, and "never got over it."



Harper was a leading member of **Red Bud Baptist Church**. Once, when criticized for being late to preaching, he explained that rain the night before had put out the fire under his still. That ended censure. His distillery was a Reconstruction industry. After the Civil War, Nash's soldiers had come home to poverty and run down farms. But Sally Grey and Haus apples were plentiful, so the returned veterans made brandy.

SEE BRANDY, PAGE 12

4. A survey is done and a fee is paid. A warrant and 2 copies of the survey are returned to the land office.
5. Grant fees are paid and a grant is issued.

Note: The description of the land in the entry and the warrant are the same, and are a little vague on purpose. The description of the land in the survey and the grant are the same and more precise.

In 1729, 7 of the Lords Proprietor sold their shares of the remaining ungranted land back to the King. In 1744, the King and Lord Earl of Granville, who refused to sell his share back to the King, agreed on division of the land. After 1735, there were 2 land offices, one for Granville's District, the northern part of the colony, and one for the southern one-third of the colony which belonged to the King. Granville's office opened about 1748 and closed in 1763 when the Earl of Granville died. The office never reopened. The King's office was open from about 1735 to 1774. There were no new claims after that, but surveys and grants continued until about May 1775. The closed land offices created a "backlog" of land grant business at the end of the colonial period.

Even after the colonial period, when NC became a state, land grants continued until 1960. The procedure was very similar to that used in the colonial period. The records of these grants are valuable sources for the genealogist.

Tar River Land Grants

The following is information about Nash and Edgecombe land grants taken from *Abstracts of Land Entries: Edgecombe Co, NC 1783-1784; Nash Co, NC 1778-1794; Halifax Co, NC 1778-1795; Northampton Co, NC 1778-1794*, by Dr. A.B. Pruitt.

Mail for Prisoner of War



This is a copy of a 5½x3 in. envelope mailed to L.D. Rackley at Point Lookout Prison, 12 Jan 1865. Nashville, NC was a CSA Post Office. The letter went by flag of truce to Old Point Comfort, arriving on 7 Feb 1865. This was a U.S. Post Office and the U.S. stamp was applied there. The **R** in the lower left corner indicating "Rebel" mail and the faint **NC** slightly to the top right were applied at Old Point Comfort. The date, **12 Jan 1865**, across the left end and **From Mrs. F.T. Rackley, Nash County, NC** written vertically near the center, were probably applied by a Union censor at Point Lookout Prison.

[We would like to thank Phil Perkinson of Norlina, NC for the copy of this envelope and the explanation of the various marks and writing on it. A color copy has been placed in the vertical files under "Rackley" at Braswell Memorial Library.]

These are the grants that mention the Tar River in their descriptions. Each listing includes the name of the grantee, the number of acres, the date, and any other names included in the abstract of the grant.

Edgecombe Co.

John Howell, 50 ac, 24 Oct 1783,
Simon Harrel, Noah Sugg, Randolph Mitchel

Woody Ring, 50 ac, 12 Apr 1784, John Ring

John Barns, 250 ac, 5 Jun 1784.
Phillip Thomas, John Battle

Joseph Davis, 200 ac, 2 Sep 1784, John Fort, Solomon Bracewell, Sampson Bracewell

William Fort, 20 ac, 15 Sep 1784, **Elias Fort**, **Thomas Ellinor**, **Solomon Bracewell**, 300 ac, 25 Sep 1784, **Gereldus Fort**, **Jacob Fort**, **Sampson Bracewell**, **Solomon Bracewell**, **Richd Bracewell**, **Elizabeth Bracewell**

Nash County

Micajah Thomas, 640 ac, 20 Apr 1778, **Chapman**, **William Braswell**, **Bunn Benjamin jr** [sic], 150 ac, 20 Apr 1778, **Daniel Bunn**, **Nicholas Skinner**, **Arthur Oneil**, **Jacob Stallings**

William Horn, 10 ac, 20 Apr 1778, **James Ricks**, **Edward Pursel**, 640 ac, 20 Apr 1778

Edward Nicholson, 100 ac, 24 Apr 1778, Jacob Strickland, Edward Clinch

Samuel Bryant, 200 ac, 12 May 1778, Robert Wilder

Newit Lane, 350 ac, 4 Jun 1778, Samuel Bryant, William Hendricks, Joseph Sumner

Edward Moore, 300 ac, 9 Jul 1778, Kitt Taylor

William Andrews, 640 ac, 15 Sep 1778, Charles Britain, Edward Pursell, Sampson Powell

Matthew Carter, 640 ac, 17 Oct 1778, Micajah Thomas, John Melton, Thomas Warren

Joseph Sumner, 400 ac, 28 Nov 1778, Haygood

Edward Moore, 300 ac, 11 Dec 1778, Henry Atkins

Jacob Carter, 640 ac, 12 Dec 1778, Robert Young, Pursel, William Braswell

Henry Atkins, 150 ac, Henry Strickland

Duncan Lamon, 1000 ac, 29 Dec 1778, Solomon Carter

Duncan Lamon, 240 ac, 29 Dec 1778, James Morgan, Benj. Tann

Henry Deans, 640 ac, 30 Dec 1778, William Ross, William Andrews, Benjamin Tucker, William Harris, Edward Russell, Wm Ross [sic]

William Parks, 640 ac, 31 Dec 1778, Janus Taylor, Thomas Lewis

Ruben Williams, 640 ac, 1 Jan 1779, William Bracewell, Charles Pope

Ruben Williams, 300 ac, 9 Jan 1779

Edmund Branch, 640 ac, 9 Apr 1779, Matthew Drake, Jacob Braswell, Thomas Beckwith, Henry Beckwith, Cooper Jones

Benjamin Atkinson, 350 ac, 22 May 1780, Arthur Allen

Archibald Stokes, 100 ac, 13 Aug 1787, Park, Taylor

Julian King, 300 ac, 8 Dec 1787, Ruben Williams

Jeremiah Buntin, 50 ac, 1 Feb 1790, Henry Strickland, Solomon Carter

Sion Hill, 400 ac, 11 Jul 1791, John Warren, Isaac Hendrick, John Lane

Hardy Pridgen, 200 ac, 12 Sep 1791, Duncan Lamon, Dixon Marshal

Philander Williams, 125 ac, 14 Feb 1792, Joiner, Lamon

William Bryant jr, 55 ac, 1 Jun 1793, Samuel Bryant, Thomas Warren

William Andrews, 50 ac, 4 Sep 1793, Julian King, Ruben Williams

[NOTE: Dr. Pruitt has abstracted numerous volumes of land entries. Those that relate to the Tar River Connections' geographical area are: *Brunswick Co, NC Land entries 1778-1770; Bute Co (1778-1779), Franklin Co (1779-1781) & Warren Co (1779-1791) Land Entries; Edgemcombe Co (1782-1784), Nash Co (1778-1794), Halifax Co (1778-1795), & Northampton Co (1778-1794) Land Entries; Granville Co, NC Land Entries 1778-1877; Pitt Co, NC Land Entries 1778-1797.* For a complete list of books or to order a book, contact Dr. Pruitt at Box 815, Whitakers, NC 27891.]

Ancestor Held at Point Lookout, MD

BY NINA JEAN FUSSELL ST. CLAIRE
& CARRIE BELL FUSSELL

Richard Kinion and Mary

Ann Hill were our great-great paternal grandparents. They had twelve children. James Henry Kinion was the youngest child and was our great-grandfather.

CONNECTOR

Two of their sons served in the Civil War: child number one, Robert Kinion, and child number six, Benjamin Franklin Kinion. They were our great uncles.

By the spring of the war's fourth year, the Army of Northern Virginia was in critical condition. Federal thrusts at the weak Confederate lines during the nine-month siege had drained much from "Lee's Miserables." Sharp clashes, such as occurred at Ream's Station, Deep Bottom, Globe Tavern, Boydton Plank Road, Tom's Brook, Weldon Railroad, and Hatcher's Run, reduced Lee's ranks and tightened the Federal noose. Sickness, malnutrition and lack of clothing accentuated the suffering.

Robert Kinnian [Kinion], Private, Co. I, 44th Reg., NC Troops, who was born in Craven Co., NC, where he resided as a farmer prior to enlisting in Craven Co. at age 32, 8 Mar 1862, was present and accounted for until captured at Hatcher's Run, VA, 2 Apr 1865. He was confined at Point Lookout, MD, until released on 6 June 1865 after taking the Oath of Allegiance.

Marriages...

At The Poor House

William Dixon, 35, & Rebecca Bowden, 38, 30 Dec 1888.

Francis Joyner, 56 & Mary Vester, 45, 10 Mar 1895.

W.H. Taylor, 50, & Mary Griffin, 51, 5 Jan 1888.

All three couples were married by T.H. Matthews.

At Argo

Albert Allen (col) & Annie Pearce by George B. Cooper, 2 Aug 1888.

Burt Hilliard (col) of Halifax Co & Agnes Cooper by Frank Cooper, 24 Nov 1897.

William Dickens, 35, & Cora Walker, 21, by G.B. Cooper, 24 Aug 1902.

Robert E. Johnson, 27, & Nannie Griffin, 23, by M.R. Pernell, Aug 1895.

Sam W. Nelms, 23, & Bettie L. Leonard, 20, by W.H. Califer, 4 Aug 1897.

W.M. Radford, 24, & Nannie Pirvett??, 17, by G.B. Cooper, 4 Jan 1893.

W.J. Taylor, 25, of Davidson Co., & Elizabeth Taylor, 16, by G.M. Duke, 24 June 1888. [Place given as Mann Arrington Gold Mine.]

John W. Thomas (col) & Rebecca Pearce, by Frank Cooper, 16 Mar 1897.

James Varker, 35, & Sarah E. Moseley, of Franklin Co, by G.B. Cooper, 26 July 1888.

[Submitted by Timothy Rackley who is now working on *Nash Co. Marriage Book #3*]

Pocahontas and the Whitaker Connection

BY DR. ALLEN WHITAKER

The English settlers at Jamestown, in 1613, captured the young Indian maiden, Pocahontas, holding her hostage with the idea that her father, Powhatan, would trade English captives for his favorite daughter.

Powhatan released 5 of the English captives and furnished corn and other supplies to the settlers in a



Pocahontas

gesture of reconciliation. Still not satisfied, the settlers retained their captive.

Alexander Whitaker was the preacher at that time. He lived in a fine glebe house, large and surrounded by a sturdy wall - the nicest house in the settlement. It was decided that Pocahontas would be housed there. Whitaker arranged for the women of his congregation to teach her how to dress, how to eat properly and how to behave in polite society. Whitaker taught her about the Bible, helped her to refine her English and instructed her in the catechism. He gave her the Biblical name, **Rebecca**.

In fact, they made a lady out of Pocahontas. Soon after, **John Rolfe** came to **Sir Thomas Dail** and asked permission to marry the Indian girl. Dail and Powhatan, her father, both agreed to the match, and so, in 1616, they were married.

Soon after the marriage, John Rolfe and Pocahontas went to England where Pocahontas was treated as royalty. It has been said that she acted like a real princess.

Pocahontas never returned to America. As the party prepared to return, she was taken ill at **Graves End, England**, and died there, possibly of tuberculosis. John Rolfe and his only son came back to America to live and, today, there are many who can claim to be descended from the Indian Princess.

Whitakers Ordinances-1935

- 1.No person shall ride or drive a horse or other animal at an unusual or dangerous gait on the streets, under a penalty of \$2.
- 2.No person shall tie a horse or other animal to an electric light, telephone, telegraph pole or shade tree, under penalty of \$1.



NCAC

ORAL
HISTORY
PROJECT

Nash County Arts Council

Remembering Old Maude and a Fringe-Topped Surrey

TOLD BY DOROTHY WARD SKINNER

I was eleven years old when we moved into this house, and that was the year I started driving the balking horse to **Salem School**, which is between five and six miles from here. Her name was **Maude**, Old Maude. We hitched her to a two-seated buggy, a surrey, with fringe around the top.

We went to school every day, rain or shine. In the wintertime, Daddy (**John Robert Ward, Jr.**) would heat bricks at the fireplace in the kitchen and wrap them in a tow bag and put them in the foot of the buggy to keep our feet warm. Then we put this real heavy buggy blanket over our feet and legs and lap.

I would leave here in the buggy with my sister and brother, **Dewilla** and **Lycurgus**; and we would pick up Daddy's first cousin's children down the road, three of them. They rode in the back, and they didn't have the bricks and blanket to keep them warm. We also picked up the two little **Bennett** boys who would jump on the back and hold on to the post as we were going around the curve just before we got to school.

When we got to school, I unhitched Old Maude. If it was cold, I put that blanket over her back. At lunchtime, I would go out and feed her. When it was time to go home, we pulled the surrey down a slope to the road and brought Maude to the road to hitch her up. We did that

because we had trouble with her balking, particularly if it was cold or raining.

I would get the other five children in the buggy, then push the buggy up on Maude's haunches. I would have to do that two or three times before she struck a notion to go; and when she did, she took off like a streak of lightning.

I would grab the post and swing up on the axle. One time I lost my balance and got my raincoat caught in the wheel. It cut a hole in the back of my coat before I finally pulled up and got around to the front of the buggy. She'd come down by **Mr. Ashley Bennett's** place, round the curve, and go through his sandbar with the wheels weaving, then on down **Herbert Hill**, a steep, red clay hill, and through the swamp in a dead run. She knew the way home.

Lights

BY RACHEL LEONARD BROOKS

Of course everyone had kerosene lamps and candles to light the house. Every morning it was someone's duty to clean the chimneys, trim the wicks, and fill the lamps.

After a few years carbide lights became available. Carbide was a white substance that was mixed with water and formed a gas that was piped into the houses. There was a light from the center of the ceiling. As soon as they were available, Papa Daddy installed lights.

Carbide lights were also used on early automobiles.

[George Lawrence Winstead, "Papa Daddy," lived in the Philadelphia Community of Nash Co. He was the Grandfather of Rachel L. Brooks.]

Reader's Choice



Local Color

Home Grown, by Dennis Rogers: Three years on the road with Dennis Rogers sharing life's stories with eastern Carolina folk. He makes you laugh. He makes you cry. It's just plain down home.

Mabrey Bass's Tarboro From 1950 to 1990, edited by Roland Taylor: Share Editor Mabrey Bass's "life-time love affair with his home town", Tarboro, through his Rambling Round column in *The Daily Southerner*.

Life In The Fast Lane

This is the age of High Pressure. Men eat faster, drink faster, talk faster than they did in our younger days and in order to be consistent in all points, they die faster. It is to be feared that the invention of the telegraph will give an additional go-ahead impulse to humanity, equal to that imparted by the rush of steam. If so, Progress only knows where we shall land.

Raleigh Register, 1850

Which Hunt?

BY TIMOTHY W. RACKLEY

One researcher's published account for **Sarah Hunt** that married **Claiborne Finch** in **Granville Co.** concluded she was the daughter of **John Hunt** and **Frances Penn** of the **Oxford** district. The source was information taken from **John Penn**

Hunt's Book of 20 Jan 1845 by Mrs. **Elvin Parham** of the **John Penn Chapter D.A.R.**, **Oxford, NC** 1935-35. "It is obvious that all records were not written by one person, such is the span of years, but this is the family of **Sarah Hunt** who married **Claiborne Finch**." The account goes on to list their children as **Mary Hunt**, b 26 Feb 1773; **Sarah Hunt**, b 13 Mar 1775; **Frances Hunt**, b 12 Mar 1777; **James Hunt**, b 7 Jan 1779; **David Hunt**, b 30 May 1781; **Elizabeth Hunt**, b 4 Mar 1783; **Patsey Hunt**, b 4 Oct 1784; **Thomas Hunt**, b 3 Mar 1787; **John Penn Hunt**, b 8 Jul 1789; **Mourning Hunt**, b 17 Jan 1792; **Ann Taylor Hunt**, b 27 Jul 1794.

"Under deaths there is the following entry (one of several dozen): **Sarah Hunt** departed this life 4 Feb 1792. If this is Sarah, above, then the Sarah who married Claiborne is perhaps a cousin."

Years later another researcher was to conclude Claiborne Finch's wife, **Sarah Hunt**, was a daughter of **John Hunt** and **Hannah Parks** of the **Epping Forest** district in **Granville Co.** This conclusion was reached based upon public records such as tax lists, deeds, marriage bonds, and the last will and testament of this **John Hunt** which was proven in Nov. Court, 1789.

Let's begin with this **John Hunt's** last will and testament which was dated 17 Sep 1784. "I lend unto my loving wife during the natural time of her life all my estate of what name, quality of property soever, by no means to be interrupted by any of my children or any other person whatsoever. And after her decease I will and desire that my lands be equally divided amongst all my sons then living and that my youngest son may inherit that part that in-

The Wages of Sin Or Who's Got the Whiskey?

The County Recorder had again to deal with F.B. Robbins and M.S. Joyner, who plead guilty last October to violations of the state prohibition law. They were under orders which required them to "go and sin no more" and to file an itemized inventory of all liquors they had on hand and to keep an accurate account of all liquors disposed of by them (if disposed of) these itemized reports to be made to the court every ninety days. The defendant failed to file reports in conformity with the orders made, but resumed the even tenor of their way and for the past 3 months have been disposing of their stock in a very novel way.

Mr. Joyner's stock consisted of about 250 gallons. He did not file any report as to his holdings until last Monday when "jacked up" by the Prosecuting Attorney Barnhill. Joyner came into court and drew up a report of his operations; how he had disposed of the

250 gallons of liquor, estimated value at about \$1,500. His report filed shows he "gave away" the booze in quantities ranging from 1 quart to 149 gallons at a time, this amount being given to his children, 50 gallons to his mill hands and 24 gallons to his wife.

Robbins had followed a similar method of "giving away" about 100 gallons in quantities ranging from one gallon to 35 gallons. Robbins also filed a supplementary report, an itemized statement of how, during the past 3 months he had "given away" about 70 gallons in various quantities ranging from 1 drink to 2 gallons, divided up as follows: 18 gallons in 1 and 2 gallon lots, 21 quarts, 5 pints and 1,646 drinks, the largest number of drinks to any one person being about 200, and to one person he had given "enough to make him drunk" and to another "some drinks."

As Joyner and Robbins had not complied with the orders of the court, Joyner was sentenced to jail for 30 days and in Robbins' case the prayer for judgement was continued until next Monday.

[Nashville Graphic, ca. 1915]

...my plantation. I give, will, and desire that all and the remainder of my estate of what kind or property soever after the decease of my said wife be equally divided among my daughters then living". This instrument was witnessed by William Cook, Jurat; Wm Hornsby, and Thomas Hayes, Jurat.

Granville Co. Deed Book Q, page 16, told the researcher the land was divided among Samuel, James, and Jonathan Hunt. The last will and testament of Moses Parks [Franklin Co.] provided the name of John's wife as Hannah. No document was found to reveal the names of the daughters other than the following:

1. Marriage bond of Samuel Hunt and Mary Ransom, 10 Oct 1788, William Hanes.
2. Marriage bond of Jonathan Hunt and Dicey Smith, 6 Dec 1792, Williamson Finch.
3. Marriage bond of James Hunt and Amy Jones, 30 Aug 1806, Goodman Smith.

4. Marriage bond of Mary Hunt and Blanton Cook, 17 Jan 1786, William Cook.

5. Marriage bond of Sarah Hunt and Claburn Finch, 26 Jan 1790, John Finch.

6. 1786 census for Epping Forest: Thomas Smith [father of Goodman Smith]..., William Hornsby..., John Hunt, John Finch Jur, John Haynes, Blanton Cook..., William Cook..., John Finch Senr..., Williamson Finch. [Thomas Hayes and William Haynes were across the line in Franklin Co.]

7. 1792 Epping Forest district tax list; William Cook..., Hannah Hunt, James McDaniel, William Floyd Jur, John Finch (red head), Claborn Finch, etc.

Claibourn and Sarah Hunt Finch moved to the Middlesex/Bailey area of Nash County by May of 1805. The couple had at least 10 children ranging from birth years ca. 1791 to 1805. If Sarah was the daughter of John and Frances Penn

Hunt, then she was 15 to 16 years old when the first child was born.

The birth year for Sarah, daughter of John and Hannah Parks Hunt is not known. Census records do, however, show birth years for their children range from roughly 1765 to 1775. It is therefore probable that this Sarah was a few years older and more likely to have been Sarah Hunt Finch.

The second researcher also reviewed the last will and testament of John Hunt, husband of Frances Penn. It was written 2 Jan 1816 and proven in August Court 1818. It made no mention of children named Sarah, James and Elizabeth. At the death of wife Frances, the remainder of personal property was to be divided among seven of my children.

Which Hunt? Who reached the correct conclusion as to the parents of Sarah Hunt Finch? Send your vote for Researcher 1, Researcher 2, or Neither is Correct to TRC.

Historic Preservation

John Duke/John Lawrence House

BY HIRAM PERKINSON

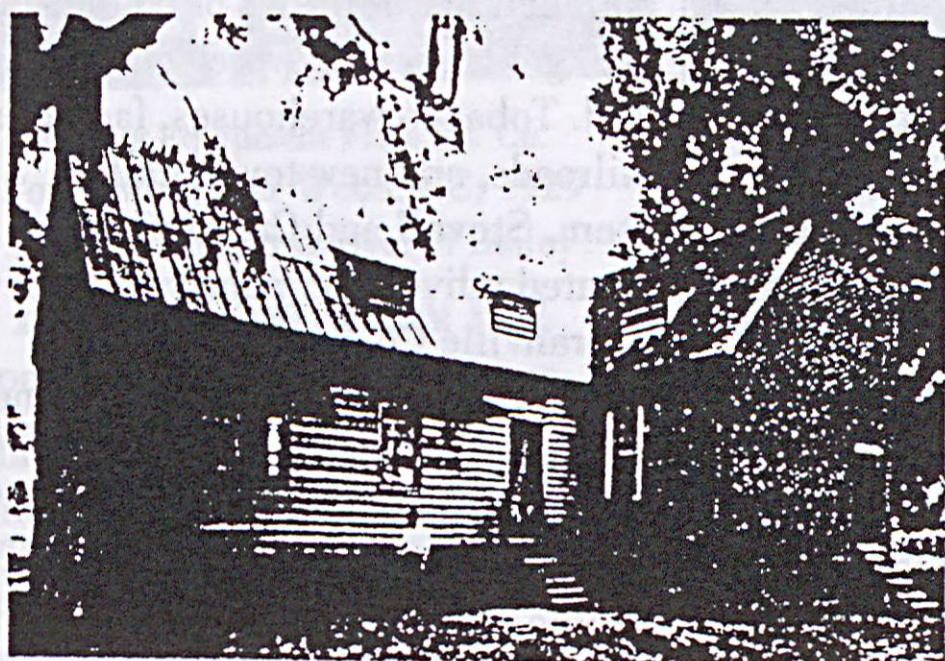
[Hiram Perkinson, a resident of Tarboro, NC, has a special interest in the preservation of our early architecture and furniture. He gave a slide presentation at the February meeting of Tar River Connections. The pictures and below are samples from his fascinating collection.]

In 1747, **John Duke** built a one-and-one-half story frame house near **Rich Square**, an area of **Quaker** settlement. About 20 years later, his son-in-law, **John Lawrence** added the two-story brick addition. Notice the roof line of the brick addition. The "chicken coop" dormers are not original, and when the house was

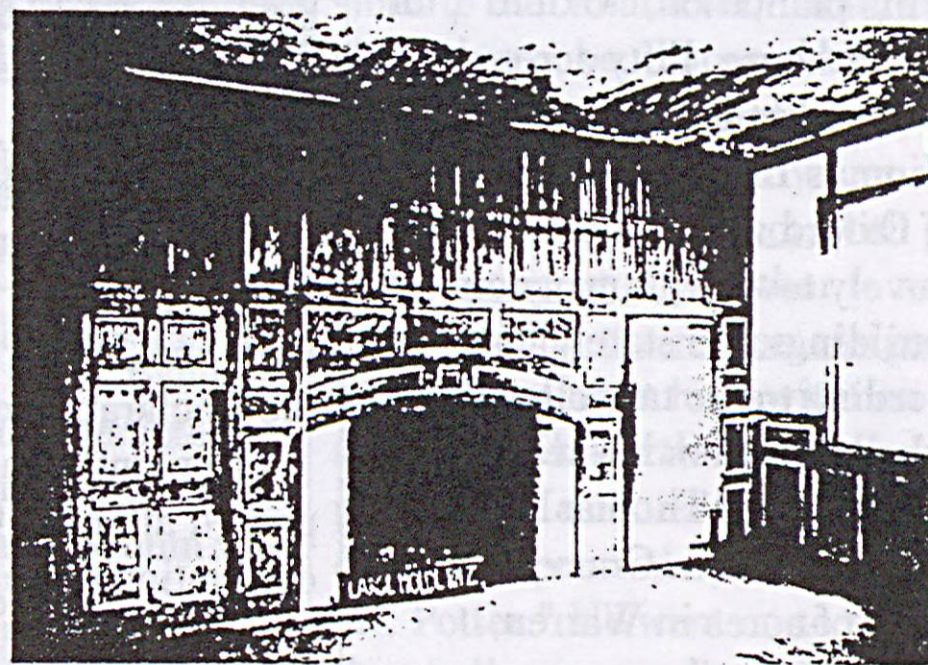
renovated by Ed Regan, they were replaced with pedimented dormers. The Regans also added cedar shake shingles to the house.

Inside, the house was beautifully finished with entire fireplace walls embellished with up to six tiers of raised panels, some designed to accommodate the segmental arches of the fireplaces. Other walls had plaster over panelled wainscot. The hall contained a closed-string stair with elaborately turned balusters. The interior of the Duke/Lawrence house was gutted when it was bought by Ross Millhouser, once President of Phillip Morris. The interior was installed in his home in Richmond, VA which later became the Willow Oaks Country Club.

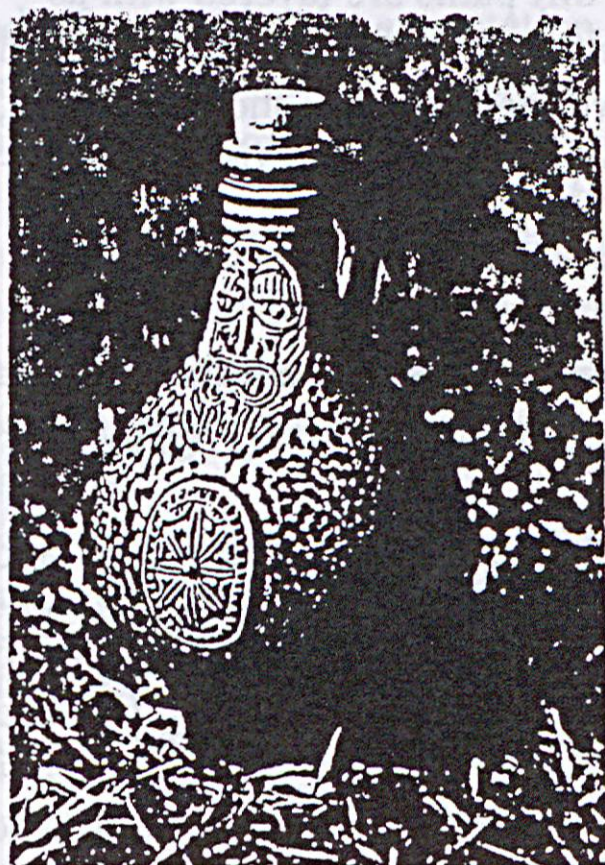
The 2 photographs below were taken in 1932 and are housed at N.C. State University.



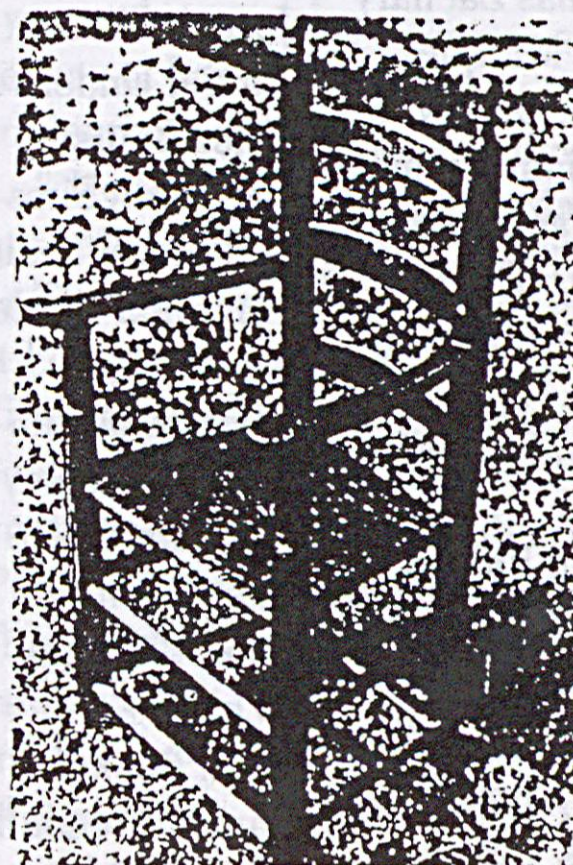
Above, the exterior of the Duke/Lawrence House. The original double doors are now on Willow Oaks Country Club in Richmond, VA.



Above, older part of Duke/Lawrence House. The curved molding above the fireplace is a poor fit indicating that it may have been moved from elsewhere.



German stone-ware face bottle, left, called a witch bottle because of the grotesque face. In New England, they were hung in chimneys to ward off evil spirits. Fragments of a similar bottle were found in the Newbold-White House in Hertford, NC.



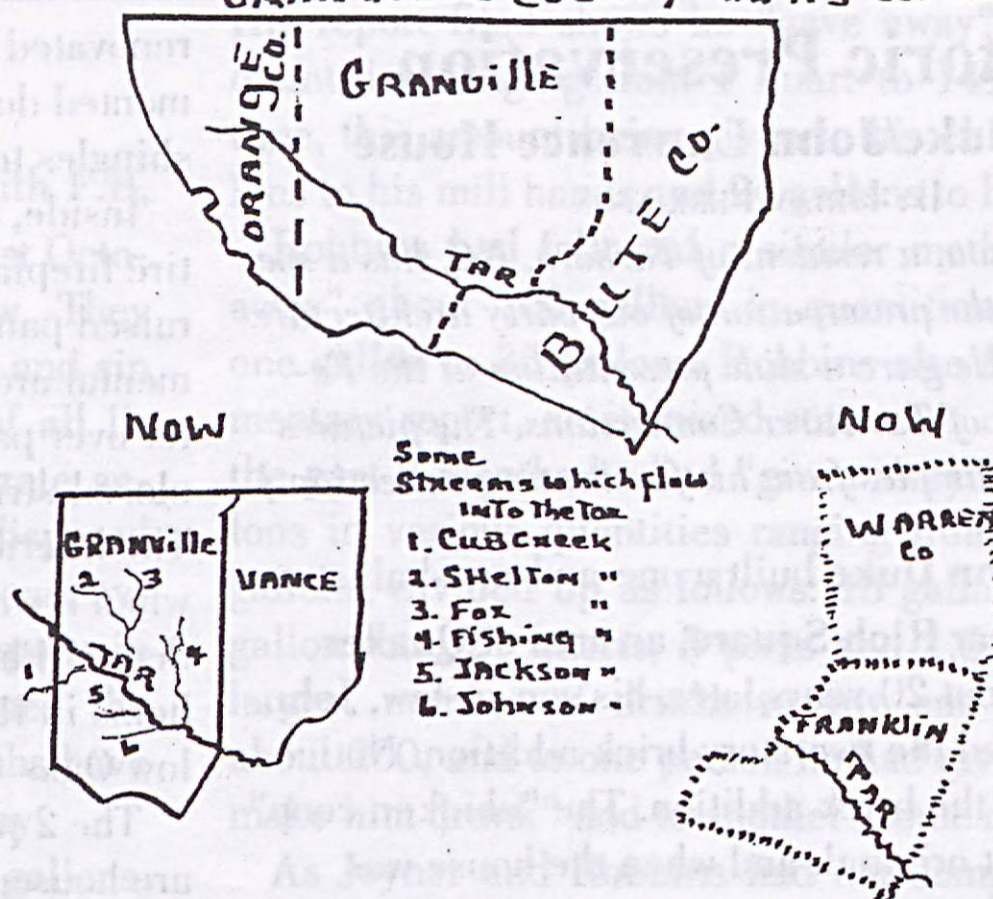
The ladderback chair, left, was the primary seating provided in early NC. This example is from Warren Co., NC. It belonged to Miss Lizzie Tudor, coming to her through the Whites.

Down, Down Cont. From P1 Granville houses near the Tar were crude and small, often bordered by a small branch or creek, seeking its way to the river. These branch and creek names often changed with each new landowner or because of duplications of names. The river, the Tar, however, remained the same.

The first court house in Granville County was erected in the village of **Harrisburg** at **Rocky Creek** near **Boiling Spring** (Boulding Spring), a feeder of Fishing Creek, which empties into the Tar. In 1764 **Samuel Benton** gave an acre of land of his plantation, "Oxford", for a new court house. Fifty acres around the court house was bought from **Thomas Littlejohn** and the town of Oxford was laid out. Today, it is a lovely town with many old brick buildings and stately homes.

According to the tax rolls of 1788, the largest landowner in Granville Co. was **Thomas Person** with 34,760 acres in Granville and thousands of acres in Warren,

GRANVILLE COUNTY WAS DIVIDED.



Franklin, Caswell, and Halifax Counties, and in Tennessee. There were many other large landowners including: **Chesley Daniel, John Dickerson, Charles Parker, Zeb Veasey, Joseph Taylor, William Gill, and John Penn**, the signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The plantation system disappeared after the Civil War, but the cultivation of bright leaf tobacco helped the county flourish into the

20th century. Millions of pounds of the "golden weed" were sold in Oxford. Tobacco warehouses, factories, railroads, and new towns called **Stem, Stovall** and **Creedmoor** created a lively economy.

Granville Co. is no longer the agricultural giant of years past, and its future lies, not in the bright leaf, but in business and industry. Then and now, its greatest treasure is its people. The crude early houses of are gone. The roots of the orchards and crops, once so painfully watered bucket by bucket, are now watered by huge watering systems. The old dirt paths are layered with asphalt, and the bare feet that walked down them are now shod. The river, however, is still "the river", our river, our mighty Tar.

Petitioners For Granville County

Edward Young	Thomas Zachary
Robert Phillips	Ellis Marques
Abram Bletcher	Theo. Goodwin
Denis Linsy	William Thomas
Shurley Whatley	George Bledsoe
Falton Eaves	Aaron Tussell
John Dickerson	Reuben Lawson
Robert Day	John Terrell
William Forkner	H. Staford Wil-
Emanuel Forkner	liams
William Phillips	David Phillip
John Phillips, Sr.	John Crook Shanks
John Phillips	John Brantley
Ino Gibbs	Benjamin D. Ward
Henry Thornton	Wm Kimball
John Martin	Thos. Cooke

Wm Beckam	Rich'd White
John Hose/Hale	Athentus Thomas
Daniel Higdon	Henry Ivy
Jepthah Terrell	John Rives
Joseph Sims	Abner Gay
Daniel Underwood	John Bishop
Giles Bours	Alex Southerland
Benjamin Sims	Wm. Southerland
William Wheeler	Rob't Southerland
Haywood Worley	Robert Smith
Thos. Ray	Charles Smith
Thomas Masen	William Simes
William Stacey	James Basford
William White	John Linch
John White	Wm Eaves
John Plowman	Thomas Thornton
White	Moses Eaves
John Booker	Thomas Linch
James Arendall	Joseph King
Samuel Benton	David Roles

Largest Land Owner

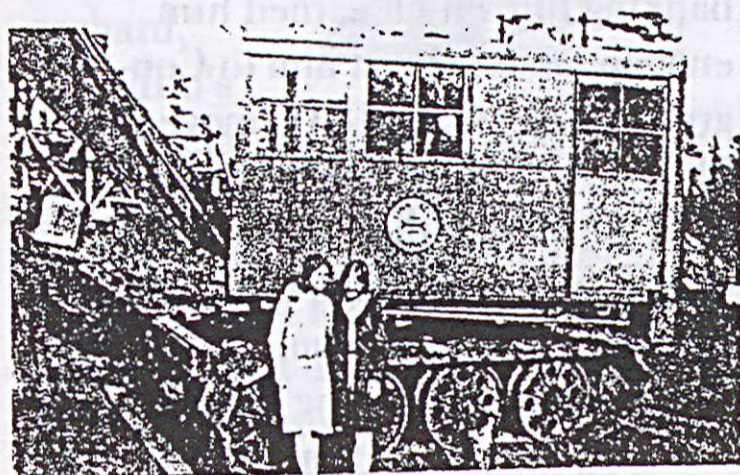
In 1784 the largest single land owner in the eastern part of NC was Granville County taxpayer **Thomas Person** who listed 67,437 acres.

NC Historical Review, April 1939

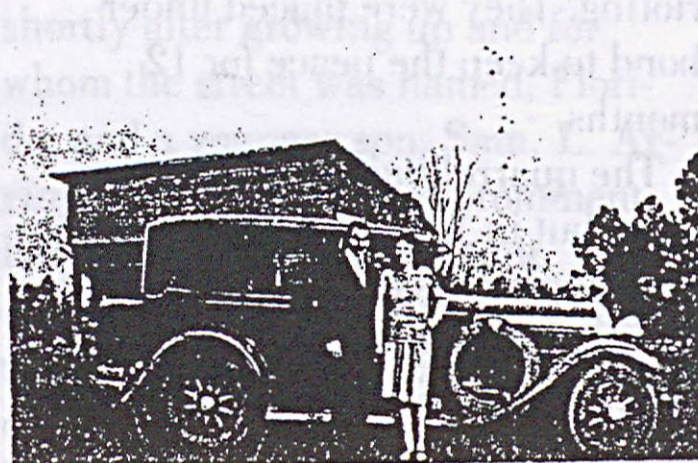
A GOLD DIGGER?

A Story Told BY RACHEL LEONARD BROOKS

Argo Mine had been closed down for a number of years. In 1929, a company from Philadelphia, PA leased the Argo mine and opened it up. They hired 4 Brooks brothers from Spotsylvania. The company set up real nice tents for them. They had a tent to live in and a kitchen tent. They worked the mine for a few months and found it not to be profitable. They moved to the Portis Mine at Wood in Franklin Co., NC. I married one of the boys. My friends called me a *gold digger*.



Mining Equipment From Pa. Co.
Portis Mine near Wood, NC; 1929
Rachel Leonard & Evelyn Bailey



The Company Car
Paul Brooks & Rachel Leonard
Spring, 1929, Portis Mine

POTTER, CONT. FROM P. 1
empowered to elect its own representatives separately from the county, had only 50-60 qualified voters, and Bynum addressed them thusly: "It is true I have not given universal satisfaction, but Christ, the only son of God, failed when upon earth to please everybody, and was sacrificed by those He came to serve." Fractiously, he continued, "I had offered under the expectation that there would be no opposition, and that the people would continue in harmony and friendship, but the demon of discord has come." Potter accused Bynum of blasphemy and described him as a "ranting demagogue, the butt and jeer of the Legislature."

Election day was hot and humid. Voters gathered at the courthouse expecting a spirited contest and several of the would-be voters were challenged by the candidates. Sometime that afternoon, the two men met inside the courthouse and

exchanged heated words, but again, bystanders separated them. Bynum later remarked, "Potter attempted to dictate to me and I put him down."

At the end of the day, Bynum was declared the winner by a decisive majority. The next day, Potter wrote to Bynum, "...I understand you have renewed your vamping today; indeed, you appear to have a wonderful itching to riot in the van of mobs. This is to invite you to the field of combat, I cannot say of honor, your presence would deprive any spot of that character. ..." He sent a reluctant Thomas Burges to deliver the missive at **Fenner's Tavern**.

Bynum declared that Potter was no gentleman and declined to meet him, but challenged the ill-starred Burges for bringing him the message, writing "Of Mr. Potter I know nothing. Judging from his conduct, however, during his residence in this place, I do not think him entitled to the standing of a gentleman, and shall therefore take no

CONNECTOR

further notice of his insolence. But, sir, I believe you to have the standing of a gentleman, and I consider you to have insulted me, by being the bearer of such a communication from such a person; I therefore demand satisfaction of you." This note was carried to Burges by Jesse A. Dawson.

Burges refused to fight but felt compelled to respond to the note and wrote to Dawson: "From a perfect knowledge that Mr. Potter has always been considered, and as I am fully satisfied ever will be a gentleman, and supposing that Mr. Bynum had, at least, some pretensions to that character, I was, as I shall always be, disposed to serve Mr. Potter in an honorable way. The communication of Mr. Bynum is of a character which I cannot, with propriety, consent any further to notice; for were I, for the reason assigned by him, to accept his invitation I should exhibit to the world the appearance of acquiescing in the opinion expressed by Mr. Bynum of Mr. Potter." He went on to refuse the challenge, sending his angry note by Potter to Dawson. When the hapless Dawson read this epistle, he declared, "I regret having participated in the affair at all."

Potter was still enraged. On Aug. 19, he nailed placards to the pillar of the courthouse and to the signpost of the Mansion House: "JESSEE A. BYNUM HAVING BEEN CALLED TO ATONE FOR HIS UNGENTLEMANLY CONDUCT, AND HAVING REFUSED SATISFACTION I PUBLISH HIM AS A POLTROON AND A COWARD. ROB. POTTER." A week later, he distributed a fiery 11 page pamphlet, titled: "A STATEMENT BY ROB. POTTER OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES CONNECTED WITH THE AFFAIR BETWEEN JESSE A. BYNUM AND HIMSELF." which must have fascinated the citizens of quiet little Halifax.

Although Bynum did not answer this diatribe directly, both men went armed and they continued to take verbal potshots at each other.

The next documented confrontation occurred 26 Jan 1825 when both men attended a dancing party. Bynum learned that Potter was carrying a dagger and he sent **John W. Simmons** to fetch him a similar weapon as well as a pair of pistols. **Wade Bynum** sent for a sword cane. About that time, Potter asked **Miss Lavinia Barnes** to dance. Bynum objected and a fierce exchange of threats and insults ensued. The enraged Potter stormed from the house, accompanied by **Thomas Burges**. **Jesse Bynum**, **Wade Bynum**, **William Amis** and **John R. Daniel** dashed after them.

In the cold winter night, the brawl escalated with insults hurled in all directions. **Wade Bynum** struck out with the sword cane. **Burges** grabbed it and the shank came away, leaving the sharp blade free. Bynum stabbed Potter in the ribs, injuring him slightly. Another combatant ripped a limb from a tree to use as a weapon. Potter and **Burges**, outnumbered, retreated.

The next morning, Potter armed himself with his dirk, two small pistols and a stout cudgel and stalked down the street to **Fenner's Tavern**, ignoring pleas by **Burges** that he drop the quarrel. Bynum and several friends stood on the tavern piazza as Potter approached. Undaunted, Potter leaped up the steps and brandished his club over Bynum's head. "Draw your dirk, for I intend to kill you," he shouted and proceeded to slash Bynum's face with his dagger. Only slightly injured, Bynum drew a pistol, whereupon Potter turned and ran. Bloody-faced and howling with rage, Bynum chased after him.

Rushing into a store belonging to a man named **Holliday**, the two men met again. Potter thrust his small pistol against Bynum's chest and fired. The bullet barely penetrated the skin and Potter tried his other pistol full in his enemy's face, but it failed to fire. The battle continued until **Sheriff Pettway** arrived and arrested them, charging them with rioting. They were placed under bond to keep the peace for 12 months.

The quarrel quieted down for a time, but in July, 1825, after again announcing his candidacy for Bynum's seat, Potter issued a bitterly vituperative 35-page pamphlet entitled: "AN ACCOUNT OF THE ATTEMPT MADE BY **JESSE A. BYNUM**, ATTENDED BY SEVERAL ARMED ASSOCIATES TO MURDER **ROBERT POTTER** AT MIDNIGHT ON THE 6TH OF JANUARY LAST: AND OF THE AFFRAY AND RECONTRE WHICH AFTERWARDS ENSUED, IN WHICH **POTTER** WAS ENGAGED ON ONE SIDE, AND **JESSE A. BYNUM**, **WADE BYNUM**, **WILLIAM AMIS**, and last and least, **JOHN REEVES JONES DANIEL** WERE LEAGUED ON THE OTHER." The text, too long for this article, makes fascinating reading.

Jesse Bynum responded with: "AN EXPOSITION OF THE MISREPRESENTATIONS CONTAINED IN A PUBLICATION ISSUED BY **ROBERT POTTER** AGAINST **JESSE A. BYNUM** AND OTHERS." More fascinating reading.

The town election of 1825 found partisans of Bynum and Potter involved in a pitched battle with guns, knives and clubs employed on both sides. Election officials left their duties to throw themselves into the fight. When it was over, one man had been killed and several others were severely wounded. The election was declared illegal and **Halifax** had no representation that year. Disappointed Potter left **Halifax**,

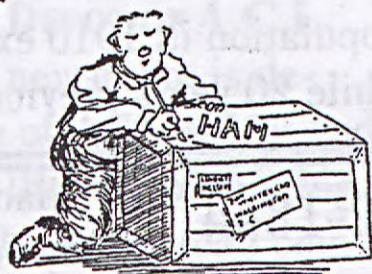
returning to his native **Granville County**, leaving behind his most entertaining pamphlet, a 17 page diatribe entitled: "THE HEAD OF MEDUSA, A MOCK-HEROIC POEM FOUNDED ON FACT-IN WHICH 'THE WORD IS SUTTED TO THE PHRASE, AND THE PHRASE TO THE ACTION.' BY **RIENZI**"

Granville County sent Potter to the Assembly where he introduced a banking bill which earned him enough fame to send him to Congress. However, in 1831, moved by "Jealousy, that green-eyed monster, That doth mock the meat it feeds upon," he committed a brutal mutilation on two men who, he claimed, were seducing his wife. He went to prison for a time, and the General Assembly made his crime a capital offense. Although he was re-elected to the House of Commons, he was later impeached and expelled when he took back, at pistol point, money he had lost at cards to a fellow member.

He emigrated to **Texas** where he achieved some success as secretary of the Texas navy. He found time to try to murder a neighbor and to steal another man's wife. An armed posse dragged him out of his house in his night gown, gave him a head start of fifty yards, and, when he dived into a nearby lake, shot him to death as he swam.

Brandy, Cont. from Page 3
Close by **Tumbling Run Creek**, near **Castalia**, was the bonded still of **Henry R. Griffin** which began operation in 1900 and ceased in 1912. For the last year or so, it produced "prescription brandy" for medicinal purposes only for "brandy was the only remedy—it was good for anything." The copper and pewter still ran day and night from July through September, some-

times producing upward of 3,000 gal. per year. **Roscoe Griffin**, one of six sons of the distiller, claimed he could turn the hand-operated cider mill and get a tub of pressed apple pulp before pausing. He and his brother **Sam** often made four barrels of cider a day, "an' toted the apples from the orchard."



Griffin's commercial brandy was sold locally at a store on the stage road. The price was \$3 a gallon for a 50-gal barrel, and \$4 for a single gallon; 10¢ for a 2-oz drink. This at the time when cotton sold for 4¢/lb and you could get a pair of shoes or 2 dress shirts for \$1. Two-horse wagonloads, of four 50-gal barrels were regularly hauled to **Rocky Mount** to **J.H. Short's** saloon, located on land later occupied by **People's Bank**.

NC went dry in 1908, but brandy manufacturers were federally licensed, so most law enforcement officers turned a blind eye. With saloons out of business, bonded distillers sought out-of-state markets. In the past, they had often used the **Atlantic Coast Line Railroad** to ship their product. Now they had to ship it in secret. Packing their bottled goods in protecting boxes, they labeled the parcels "ham."

A Look At Main Street

Rocky Mount, Early 1900's

BY SAM GORHAM

I was born 26 Aug 1909 in a two story house on **Hammond Street**. The **Ricks Hotel** was on the eastern

side and a frame hotel, the **Arlington**, was on the western side. We faced **Florida Avenue**, which was a one block street bounded on the east by the railroad passenger station. The **YMCA** was at the end of the street, on the south western corner lived **Mrs. Arrington**. She had 3 children. The oldest grew up to be cashier of a bank in **Wake Forest**; there was a daughter who died shortly after growing up and for whom the street was named, **Florida**; and a younger son, **Sam. L. Arrington**, who became a prominent lawyer here in **Rocky Mount**.

The following (and to be continued in later issues) is an effort to set out those who had businesses on **Main Street**. The first building north of the railroad station on the west side of main street was the **Ricks Hotel**, a large brick building, owned largely by **Mr. Robert Henry Ricks** and **Mr. T. L. Bland**. **Mr. Bland** was the resident manager and he later had some other hotels under his control in **Raleigh** and **Durham**. They catered to the traveling public, many of whom were traveling salesmen who came and went on the railroad.

In the early days of the life of the hotel, most of the roads out of **Rocky Mount** were unpaved, and there were only a few automobiles. The traveling salesmen would come in on the train, get a room at the hotel, and then rent a horse and buggy and fan out to call on all the small towns and stores round and about. There were three livery stables that would rent out horses and buggies by the day. A buggy was a vehicle with four wheels, one seat, and a top to keep off sun and rain.

The hotel had an open porch on the south eastern corner where the travelers could sit on an evening and swap tales and smoke cigars.

CONNECTOR

Adjoining the hotel was a newsstand that sold newspapers and magazines. Then came a restaurant operated by the hotel. Then, I believe, came a drug store operated by **Mr. B.C. Moore**. The thing I remember about **Mr. Moore** was that, from time to time, he would put an ad in the newspaper for a new soda jerker. In this ad he would close with a postscript saying "PS I do all the loafing."

Then came the **Western Union Telegraph** office with a **Mr. Black** was the manager. After that was a pool room where billiards were played by the general public. Then we had one block **Coast Line Street** from **Main Street** westerly to **Church Street**.

Next came an open area which later became the bus station. Then came a drug store run by a **Mr. McColl**. I do not recall much about the remainder of that block. On the south western corner (**Church Street**) was a large two story dwelling with an ornamental fence. Here lived **Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Cochran**. He had a men's clothing store midway the next block.

Mr. Cochran had a son, **David**, and a daughter, **Helen**. Their house was moved westerly along **Nash Street** to the west side of **Howell Street**. **David** moved up around **New York** and **Helen** continued to live in **Rocky Mount**. After she finished college, she married **Julian Whitehurst**, brother of a local dentist. **Julian** died young. They had one child, a daughter who now lives in the north. **Helen** later married **Mr. D.S. Johnson**, the retired school superintendent.

This brings us to the intersection of **Main Street** and **Nash Street**, where we will take up in a later issue.

More Main Street

The "downtown" area of Rocky Mount grew as a result of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Depot at the southern end of what was once Railroad Street, later Main Street. Travelers as well as locals patronized the thriving businesses near the de-

pot. Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce regularly published promotional books extolling the positive aspects of the city. The 1907 book called Rocky Mount "the peer of any city in the good old North State in the rapidity of its growth and development" and featured a picture of the new passenger

depot of A.C.L. Appreciative of the importance of the railroad, it went on to say, "No less than 70 trains come in and depart from the town every day of the year." The 1911 edition called Rocky Mount "the gateway of eastern NC." The city's population in 1910 exceeded 8,000 while 20 years previously, it had

Josiah Vick's Account Book: Cotton Transactions — 1842-1844

Continued from Page 3

Lewis Vick	Mumford Pippin	Emey Pridgion	Levi Winstead	William A. Pridgion
William B. Thompson	Janey Tant	Creasey Pridgion	Jacob Strickland	Sally Pridgion
David W. Winstead	Reuben Strickland	William Coalson	Irvin Cobb	Nancy Sherrod
Sherrod Williams	Drumer Locust	Pilgrim F. Williams	Willie Turner	Polly Strickland
Curtis Hinton	Willie W. Winstead	Burgess Mullen	John Pitman	Nancy Hoggor
Wesley Richards	Claborne Finch	Blake Baker	Ann C. Perry	William Johnson
Redin Richards	William B. Bryant	Bayley Gay	John Farmer	M. Holland
Nancy Leigh	William Williams	Dew Farmer	Fletcher B. Williams	Betsy Williams
Cissey Locus	Josiah Farmer	Abijah Morgan	Aquilla Williams	S.D. Parker
John Driver	Isaac Strickland	Calvin J. Parker	Samuel Williams	William Cooper, Sr.
William Williams	David Taylor	Thomas Joyner, Jr.	Zilpha Williams	Samuel Farmer
Dempsey Barnes	Henry Taylor	Frances Lewis	N. Rice	Nelson D. Pair
Joseph Barbee	Kisiah Eure	Elisha Cockrell	Irvin Finch	Simon Robbins
James W. Winstead	Joseph Poland	Alfred Eure	Calvin Strickland	N. Eatmon
Wright Batchelor	Guilford Poland	Jeremiah Winstead	Jacob Barnes of Nash	Levi Edwards
George R. Bell	John Poland	Dempsey Parker	Vincent Barnes	David M. Deans
Sparlin B. Lewis	Duncan Baker	Josiah Parker	John C. Taylor	Janett Parker
H. Leigh	M.D. Ricks	Piety Bone	Orren Cobb	Kisiah Locus
Phil Williams	Theophilus Parker	Drewry Bone	Drewry Joyner	Thomas Dor[aw]son
William Row	Henry Vick	Tabatha Brantley	Drewry Taylor	Sarah Dawson
Isaac Farmer	Dorsey H. Bunn	Dempsey Winstead	Micajah Viverett	Sukey Rountree
Stephen Wells	Berton Ferrell	Zachariah Hoket	Drewry Bailly	Nancy Thorn
Griffin Bird	David Snipes of Wake (Hocutt)	Berry Hinnant	William Haines	Hardy Pridgion
John Sylavent	James Ferrell	Applewhite Rich	Allen Taybourn	Warren Driver
(Sullivan)	William D. Strickland	Benjamin Whitley	Osburn Strickland	Thomas Joyner, Jr.
Wright Woodard	William Mason	Henry Vick	Payton Blackwell	Harris Powland
William E. Perry	Samuel Westry	Joel Barnes	Joseph Bryant	Blewford Williams
Thomas Boon	Merit Horn	Dawson Cobb	Jaylor Israel	Jeptha Lindsey
A.B. Baines	Jacob Alfred	Benjamin J. Glover	Cordy Strickland	Jacob Lamb
William Dew	John B. Poland	Hudson Finch	Joseph Jones	David Winstead, Sr.
Willie Bone	Jaylon Izeal	Susan Rountree	D. Cobb	John Rice, Sr.
Weeks Parker	James Sylvant	James Todd	Rebecca Wells	Nelson Bone
Alfred Eason	John J. Morgan	Jesse Anderson	A.D. Taylor	Marmaduke Ricks
Berry Denton	Gray Morgan	Edward Taylor	A.L. Bottoms	Nathan G. Joyner
Benjamin Glover, Sr.	Moses Morgan	John Williams	Arthur D. Farmer	Sarah Barnes
Henry Winstead	John Vick	Arthur Robbins	Charity Langley	A.B. Baines, Jr.
William Alford	Thomas C.H. Coulson		Jourdan Horn	John H. Rice
				Dinah Taylor, Sr.

been a village of about 800. The number of trains passing through daily had increased to 98. The following are excerpts taken from the 1907, 1910 and 1914 volumes describing some of the businesses on the west (Nash) side of Main St.

PASSENGER DEPOT OF A.C.L.

In 1907, the new depot is described as "one of the costliest and handsomest on the line of that big system. In 1911, the railroad company had here its own electric lighting systems. The station was described as one of the prettiest on the line and a contract had just been let to "provide that the present passenger station shall be made two stories over its entire length, and that wings extending about fifty feet further west be added to each end of the building. The present mail and express rooms will be thrown into the other waiting room and the mail and express rooms placed in the South wing. This remodeled building will be equipped with entirely new modern plumbing and steam-heating facilities.

HOTELS

The first outlook of the traveller in coming to a city is to find a good hotel, and there is nothing which adds more to the prestige of any place than the possession of a high class hotel, with homelike accommodations. Main Street, Rocky Mount, boasted two hotels: the

Ricks, built on the site of the older Cuthrell Hotel which was moved to another location, and the Cambridge. The Ricks, which opened in 1909, was described in 1911 as "a 4-story structure of stone and pressed brick. It has 75 bedrooms, 40 rooms with private baths, telephone (both local and long distance) in every room, and at every table in the dining room. Its lobbies, parlors, and writing rooms are handsomely furnished; the spacious auditorium, billiard and pool rooms, barber shop and pressing club, as well as soda fountain and drug store add much to the pleasure and convenience of the guests. It has its own cold storage plant, and printery, and is equipped with an electric elevator." In 1914, The Ricks was "... widely recognized for its high standard of excellence, and highly appreciated by the fastidious and discriminating travelling public. The popularity of this hotel has been acquired by reason of the excellent cuisine and service, and the hotel has established an enviable reputation for catering only to persons of discrimination, and every element that makes for better living finds apt expression in this hotel, from the ground floor to the very dome.

The Cambridge Hotel, prior to the building of the Ricks, was operated by Mr. W.E. Porch and "had been renovated throughout, and

made into what would be considered a really modern hotel under ordinary circumstances." It was later bought by Mr. R.H. Ricks and Mr. T.L. Bland, who built the Ricks Hotel. Mr. Bland, who managed both hotels, was congratulated as "his success in the conduct of The Cambridge was the cause of universal comment among all of the traveling men that touched this city." It was further described, "it is three-stories, has 42 rooms, thoroughly modern, telephone in each room, private baths in a large portion of the rooms."

ABRAM BOOK COMPANY

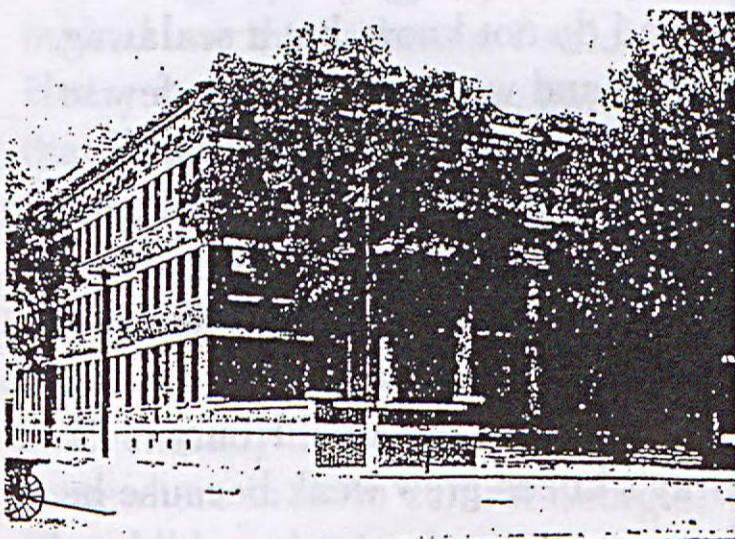
Owned by Mr. Harry Abram, "this is one of the most complete stores of the kind in the South. The stock carried is enormous, and consists of everything in the line of high class stationery, school books, fiction, the latest novelties, office supplies, office furniture, typewriters, pictures and picture framing, etc."

OPPENHEIMER'S DEPARTMENT GROCERY STORES

Founded by Mr. M. Oppenheimer and his two sons, S.B. and W.L. Oppenheimer, eleven people are employed. "The stock is beautifully arranged in the departments, including groceries, fresh meats, fish, oysters, fruits, vegetables, table delicacies, etc. They have three phones, Nos. 185, 186, and 527.

STANDARD HARDWARE CO.

Owned by Mr. J.R. Sorsby, "who enjoys the proud distinction of being the first established merchant in Rocky Mount. He has been successfully operating the business for 34 years, ever since 1881." The stock includes farm supplies, tools of all kinds, builder's supplies, cooking and heating stoves, tinner's supplies, mill supplies, sporting goods,



The Ricks Hotel



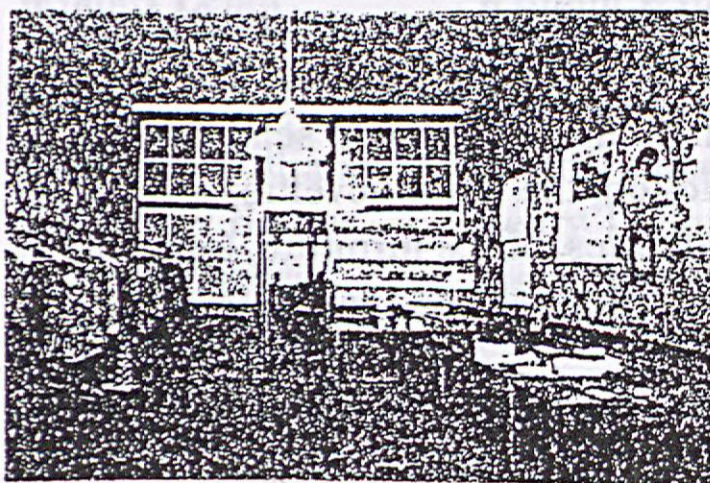
pipe and pipe fittings and blacksmith supplies.

SAGAMORE CLUB

"This institution is the most popular social organization in the city. It has handsome club rooms on Main Street, and its membership is composed of our leading citizens. It is purely a social club for business men, and is conducted on a high plane—no drinking or gambling at all being permitted."

QUEEN CITY PRESSING CLUB

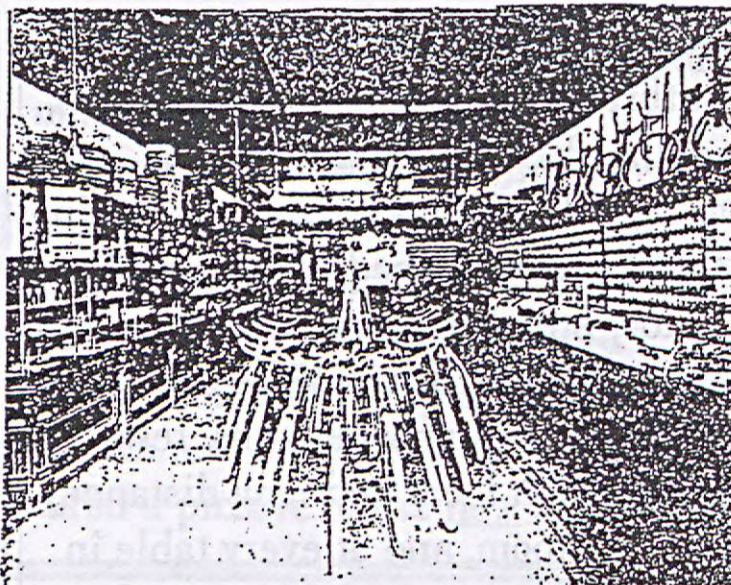
Owned by George W. Moon and W.E. McLemore, the Queen City Pressing Club was described as "The Most Popular Concern of Its Kind in the City". Further more, "...the people of Rocky Mount, or a great per cent of them, have been



having their clothes pressed and cleaned at The Queen City Pressing Club, 'phone 144. Equipped with the latest and most improved appliances, and employing only expert help, this Pressing Club is daily adding to its fine reputation for high-class work and satisfactory service."

GEORGE F. HARRELL, OWNER

"Proprietor of the Leading bicycle and Sporting Goods Store", Mr. Harrell's establishment carried bicycles made by: Racycle, Rambler, Cleveland, Reading Standard, Iver Johnson, and Eagle. He also carried Edison Phonographs and Victor Talking Machines "from the cheapest to the costliest types"; Eastman Kodaks; Spaulding's Baseball and sporting goods; and a "full



stock of up-to-date phonograph records." In addition, 'the electrical department of this store has lately grown into an important division, and is doing inside wiring in some of the most elegant Rocky Mount residences."

[If you have additional information about early businesses in the Tar River Connections area that you would like to share, please send it to us. Pictures add to the interest.]

Trip, Cont from P. 1

some years prior to this and their father, **James Patrick Henry Turner**, was in **Richmond** entertaining the troops. Permission for the trip was sought and obtained from an older brother of the two boys, **Lemon Thales**, and from the spiritual head of the family, the Rev. **Moses Jackson Hunt**.

Lewis Baws Turner, though now 9 years old, could easily have passed for 5 or 6. After his mother's death, he had perfected the art of tearing up while looking at people with a hurt and pained look on his face whenever it suited him. Because he looked so much like an innocent baby, his method of avoiding trouble was very effective.

Patrick Henry, on the other hand, had always tried to give the appearance of being a little man. He had early learned that if he would go to his little brother's aid and console him during his little act, he would

usually receive as much praise and reward as he could have hoped for.

On a warm October day in 1864 the Turner children hitched up the mule and wagon and left their home above the **Tar River** at **Lyon's Mill** near **Gray Rock, NC**. They crossed the bridge at **Lyon's Mill**. Around the curve past Grandfather **Jonathan Hunt's** old house and up to the crest of the long hill, they doffed their hats as their mother taught them to do as they passed the family cemetery where their grandparents, **Jonathan and Dicey Smith Hunt** were buried. They went past **Gray Rock**, through the little village of **Fairport**, and on to the hospital at **Kittrell Springs** where they delivered their wagon to **Henry Gray**.

Within a day or so, they were on their way. Baws wondered why they were taking the family Bible and a few pieces of his mother's furniture and all of his and Patrick Henry's clothes along with a few pots and pans, but he held his peace, and after a day or two of walking, he thought no more of it.

Going in a southwesterly direction and avoiding towns, life was uneventful though tiring as they neared SC. Having stopped for the night and in the act of preparing the evening meal, a group of deserters heading south happened upon them. This group had no leader, but the biggest, meanest one among them had by far the biggest voice. His name I do not know, but a scalawag, ruffian and worse, there were few to match him. To say that he would have killed this wounded veteran and the children for their supper was an understatement. As the ruffian jerked little Baws to find out what they had of value, Henry Gray's knees grew weak because he

knew that they didn't have a prayer. Patrick Henry was terrified.

Little Baws, though, with the tears in his eyes sparkling in the firelight and the hurt look on his face, looked him square in the eyes and sobbed, "Poppa." The ruffian knew he was softening and looked toward Henry Gray for an explanation. Henry Gray explained that his parents had been killed, probably by Yankees and that he was trying to deliver the children to their uncle in Georgia. By this time, Patrick Henry had regained his composure and had moved over to console his little brother. Little Baws knew he was winning as he continued to sob, "Poppa" until the ruffian put his arm around him and began to console Baws himself. As he was telling Baws that he would be proud to have such a boy for a son, Henry Gray realized a danger he hadn't foreseen, someone might actually want to take Baws. He quickly explained that the uncle and aunt had no children and were anxious for these children to arrive. The ruffian turned to his group, who were moving in to take whatever they wanted, and ordered them out. They obeyed, but not without snarling and cursing.

The ruffian dug deep into his pocket and found a one dollar gold piece which he presented to Baws with a big hug and repeated that he was a fine boy. The group then melted into the darkness. Patrick Henry stood where he was, hoping that he had not wet his pants. Baws admired his gold piece. From that day forward it was hard for Henry Gray to find any fault with little Baws.

Eventually they found themselves somewhere in north central Georgia. The children, having long ago tired

of the journey, were becoming somewhat sullen when they happened upon a little isolated farm cabin. This was the place of **Widow Davis**. This lady had been informed that her two sons had been killed, but she refused to believe it, and she was waiting for their return when she saw Patrick Henry and Baws coming across the field toward the house. She cleared the porch in one leap - this mountain of a woman - and across the field of weeds and bushes that had not seen the plow in years - she ran. She bore down on the boys at full throttle, bellowing her praise to Jesus for bringing her boys home. Needless to say, the boys froze. Patrick Henry didn't know whether he could outrun her or not, but he was certain that Baws couldn't. But, as she reached them and grabbed them both into her arms and began to dance around with them, kissing them, crying, and thanking God, they knew there was nothing to fear. Henry Gray could only shake his head in amazement.

By the time Henry Gray had taken care of the mule, Mama Davis was cooking and singing. She seemed not to notice Henry Gray, all her attention being on the boys, but she prepared a place for him and they had the best meal they had eaten in a long time..

Patrick Henry slept with Henry Gray. Mama Davis took Baws to bed with her. Henry Gray and Patrick Henry were moved as they listened to her and Baws prayers. As they drifted off to sleep, they could hear her humming a tune for Baws. As for Baws, he didn't hear the tune for he had gone to sleep before he finished his prayers.

For two days and three nights, they stayed and this lady wouldn't let Baws get more than an arm's

length away. Patrick Henry could go two arm's lengths away because he was older. During the third night, they rose in the very wee hours of the morning and dressed. Baws left her a note to tell her he loved her and his prized gold dollar.

Life from there to **Brook Co., GA** was uneventful. The boys and Henry Gray enjoyed their stay with the **Mortons** and returned to NC by a different route, catching a train in **Mayfield Ga.**

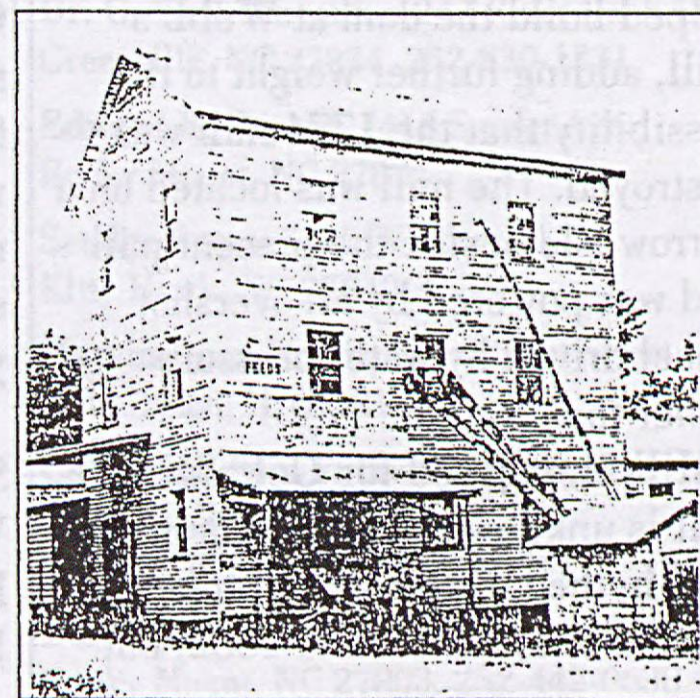
[This story was submitted by Timothy Rackley. Henry Gray Turner later moved to GA and was on the GA Supreme Court; Lewis Baws Turner lived in Oxford, NC and was a trustee of Duke University; Patrick Henry became a farmer.]

Webb's Mill and James T. Webb of Spring Hope

BY ANNIE PEARL BRANTLEY

Court records of Edgecombe Co. show that in 1774, **William Braswell** petitioned to build a water grist mill on **Turkey Creek**. This was in an area which three years later became **Nash Co.**

In the mid-1800's, there is a petition from **Jacob Strickland** to erect a public saw and grist mill at a place called "**Benjamin Braswell's**



A Cure for an incurable disease.—Baron Cramer, a celebrated German, has found out a method of making the most confirmed tippler have the greatest loathing and repugnance to all sorts of spirits and strong liquor. Take one teaspoonful of tincture of calamba, one teaspoonful of the tincture of cascarilla, one teaspoonful of the compound tincture of gentain, a wine glassful of the infusion of quassia, and twenty drops of elixir vitriol; mix, and take twice or thrice a day, and have a jug of cold water dashed over the head every morning coming out of bed, and the feet bathed in warm water every night. Continue this for six or eight weeks. Dr. Roth, of Swinemunde, has succeeded with this remedy in curing many poor creatures, both men and women, who were killing themselves by continual tippling and drunkenness.

(Tarboro Free Press, 27 Aug 1824)

Fish Trap Falls." At this point we might question if the original Braswell mill and the Fish Trap Falls were at the same location. It appears that they were. If this be true, the mill was probably destroyed and the dam became the falls for fish traps. Grandchildren of **Madison Strickland**, who was son-in-law of Jacob Strickland, said that Madison helped build the dam at **Webb's Mill**, adding further weight to the possibility that the 1774 mill was destroyed. The mill was located on a narrow isle beside the present mill and was powered by an overshot wheel driven by water pressure rather than weight.

Mill Mortgaged for Gold Mine?

It is unknown as to why **James T. Webb**, then owner of the property, needed \$21,000 around 1882, but

in order to acquire the money, he mortgaged property including the saw and grist mill for that amount. It is possible that Webb needed the money to finance the operation of his **Ivey Bluff Gold Mine**. Nothing is known about this mine other than its being listed in *Branson's Business Directory*. It is known that gold was panned from a stream approximately one mile south of the mill. The crossroads of **Gold Valley** was named for this little stream with its gold. There are also indications that mining was done in the rocks on Turkey Creek behind Webb's home.

Electricity Generated

In 1909, **J.L. Barbee**, then owner of the site, constructed a three story frame building to be used as a roller and grist mill along with other smaller buildings. Three turbine water wheels, turned by water weight, were installed and still [in 1990] slowly turn the two flat stones in the wheel house to grind corn into meal. The top stone spins, grinding the corn, and the bottom stone is stationary with grooves which allows the finely ground meal to move down. Barbee employed **Owen Gup-ton** as his miller.

In 1915, Barbee established **Eastern Power & Light Co** and the mill generated electricity for **Spring Hope** for 12 years at 15¢/kwh.

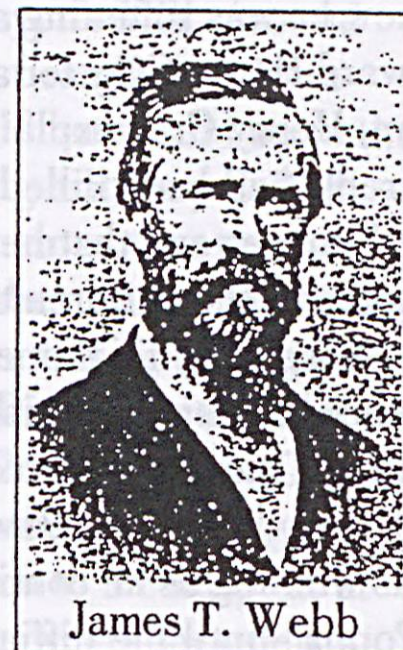
James T. Webb

Born 9 Feb 1830 in **Granville Co**, **James T. Webb** was descended from the early Webbs who came from the **Essex, VA** area into **Granville Co**. On 22 Aug 1850 he married **Mary L. Daws**. They had one son, **Thomas L. Webb**, who died young.

Peachtree Church minutes of Sept 1857 record that **James T. Webb** was received by letter from **Mt. Zion Church** in **Granville** and **Mary** was received in December.

On 18 Nov 1857, Webb purchased, from **Alsey Jackson Taylor**, 202 acres on **Tar River** known as the mill tract. This preceded the founding of the town of **Spring Hope** by 30 years.

During the War Between the States, Webb enlisted in Company A, 47th Regiment, made up mainly of Nash Co. men. He was captured 2 Apr 1865 in VA, imprisoned on



James T. Webb

Hart's Island, New York Harbor, and only three days later, 10 Apr 1865, **General Lee** surrendered at **Appomattox**. Webb was released June 18 and returned home to **Ivy Bluff Plantation** which still stands about 300 yards from the mill.

He resumed his mill responsibilities and served as banker for many farmers trying to resume production. Loan extensions were given but often he ended up buying the land. In 1877, he bought the plantation of **A.J. Taylor**, 500 acres and a mill, thus becoming owner of two of the largest mills in southern Nash Co.

Ephesus Baptist Church

From *A History of the Tar River Association*, we are told that Webb was a devout, consecrated Christian and loyal Baptist. He was Moderator of the Assn from 1877-1882. On 14 Aug 1880, Webb chaired a meeting to organize **Ephesus Baptist Church**. In 1882, the members were able to erect a wooden church with timber donated by Webb who had moved his membership to Ephesus. Webb was one of the early supporters of the **Thomasville Orphanage**

and one of the five members of the Assn, who each gave \$1000, to begin the present endowment of **Wake Forest College**. He remained a member at Ephesus until his death, 30 Oct 1887, when he was "promoted to the General Assembly and Church of the First Born on High."

Ephesus Church raised funds for a stone and iron fence for his grave at Ivy Bluff. As the years went by, the graveyard fell into disrepair, especially with no living relatives to maintain it. The fence fell down and the tombstone was bulldozed into the woods. The stone was later found and kept in the mill office for several years until 1988 when the Spring Hope Historical Assn placed the stone in the old section of Oak Dale Cemetery with a marker stating that Webb was buried at Ivy Bluff.

Owners of Webb's Mill To 1920

William Braswell	1774-1796
John, Benj, Wm Braswell	1796-1798
Benjamin Braswell	1798-1827
Chloe Braswell	1827-1843
Braswell Heirs	1843-1850
Jacob Strickland	1850-1857
Alsey Jackson Taylor	1857
James T. Webb	1857-1885
C.W. Gandy Family	1885-1903
H.L. Smith	1903-1905
John Lucian Barbee	1905-1917
C.W. Lassiter, L.M. Edwards, J.B. Privette, J.H. Privette	1917-1920

Braswell Memorial Library Acquisitions

- 1.9 new reels of The Nashville Graphic, 1900 - 4 May 1944.
2. Daughtridge Family. Courtesy of Bennett Barnes
3. Halifax County, NC, Abstract of Deeds From Book One, 1732-1741 Plus Index to Book

Two, by Leslie W. Anderson. Gift from Bennett Barnes.

4. The Family of John Thomas Sharpe and Nancy "Nannie" Farmer, Compiled by Helen Sharpe.

The Courthouse Bible

Belonging to no one and to everyone, this little bible has found its way from the office of the Register of Deeds to the courtroom and back again. It has a unique history. **Will BUNN**, Register of Deeds, entrusted it to the care of **Rachel JOYNER**, now Clerk of Court, when he retired.

According to Will BUNN, this bible was once owned by Old Doctor **BRANTLEY** from Spring Hope, who had a habit of writing in the bible the births of babies he delivered. The names and dates are recorded in the margins of pages scattered throughout the book with no apparent rhyme nor reason for their placement. The bible has been used at least once as proof of birth when there was no birth certificate.

The bible is kept in the office of the Register of Deeds.

Births

Annie Doris TYSON	27 Oct 1946
Clarence NEWELL	14 Sep 1929
Lollie Ascor JOYNER	29 May 1897
Bessie Mae BOTTOMS	13 Jan 1901
McFarland ? TAYLOR	10 Sep 1907
Delores Dell LEWIS	5 Mar 1935
Perry Clay WILLIAMS	3 Sep 1923
Helen Isabelle WILLIAMS	29 Ap 1925
Jean LaVerne HATHAWAY	10 Aug 1932
Carl Willis STRICKLAND	3 Oct 1936
Melvin Oscar DRIVER	5 Jul 1934

CONNECTOR

Alex ODAMS, Jr.	8 Dec 1933
Wm Ed SWANSON	17 Jun 1919
Bruce WILDER	3 Sep 1918
Fannie Marie COGGIN	18 Mar 1928
Benj F MOORE	18 Nov 1897
Billy ROWE	26 Jun 1937
Curtis Lee BOTTOMS	18 Nov 1901
Sammie Lee PARKER	13 Sep 1947
Jas Thomas LUCAS	19 Oct 1946
Daisy Mae HUNTER	4 Mar 1946
Lois BRANTLEY	22 Oct 1922
Katie Lee HORNER	13 Oct 1907
Annie ALSTON	19 Feb 1908
James Astor SYKES	7 Oct 1884
Bettie Laura BASS	11 Feb 1894
Virginia Ruth SYKES	15 Jul 1921
Magnolia ARRINGTON	27 May 1922
Wm Harvey HOLDER	1 Dec 1927
Edna Carol DIXON	1 Jun 1938
Clifton H MANNING	8 Mar 1932

TRC New Members

Leah V. Manning, 3028 Essie Ln Nashville, NC 27856, 252-443-5536
Carol Cartwright, 3118 Marshland Rocky Mount, NC 27803, 252-446-3448
Janice A. Cutchin, Route 3 Box 325 Tarboro, NC 27886, 252-823-1607
Harriette T. Kent, 8808 Brawner Dr. Richmond, VA 23229
John Daniel, 204 Shady Circle Dr. Rocky Mount, NC 27803, 252-446-1780
Frank & Jan Harper, Route 1 Box 321 Whitakers, NC 27891, 252-641-4615
Stella P. Massey, PO Box 441 Zebulon, NC 27597, 919-269-7537
Dr. G. Earl Trevathan, 242 River Bank Ln Greenville, NC 27834, 252-830-1331
Edward R. Bryant, 1416 Sunset Ave Rocky Mount, NC 27804
Sandra Byers, 5140 Windsor Pl Kitty Hawk, NC 27849
Marvin Dean Norris, 301 S. East Street Wilmington, IL 60481
Capt. Benjamin F. "Ben" Strickland 7148 Knollwood Dr. Navarre, FL 32566, 939-0364
Barbara Bailey Long, 605 Clayton St. Rocky Mount, NC 27803, 252-442-0638

Robert G. "Rob" Lewis
551 Indian Creek Estates
Goldston, NC 27252, 919-898-4349

Fred & Jackie Davidson, 121 Southall Ct.
Rocky Mount, NC 27804, 252-451-1768

McLester Turner, 210 Chesnut St.
Wake Forest, NC 27587, 919-556-5229

Brenda J. Jackson, 7645 Swan Terrace
Landover, MD 20785, 301-808-3254

Castalia

Castalia, near the Franklin Co. line, came into existence just 3 miles south of Belford, the large plantation of the Sills family and location of an early post office and stagecoach stop. In 1853, enough people lived in the new settlement to justify the opening of Castalia School by **R.D. Richardson**, who is credited with naming the village. The name was taken from Castalia Fountain on Mt. Parnassus in Greece. Anyone drinking water from that fountain was supposed to be able to write poetry.

Capt. **Adams Harrison** owned much of the land around Castalia. Other estate owners during this early period were **Taylor, Hedepeth, Harper, Arrington, Wheless, and Braswell**.

As the town grew, the post office was moved from Belford to Castalia, and the town was incorporated in 1873 with **W.T. Taylor** as mayor and a population of 163. Land values were quoted at \$4 per acre. One

gallon of brandy could be used to purchase one acre of land.

Castalia School was followed by Castalia Academy which began in 1880 with **W.O. Dunn** as headmaster. The Academy was a boarding school and dormitories for both girls and boys were provided.

Primitive Baptist Church

This church was constituted 17 Apr 1874 by Elders **Bennett Pitt** and **William Woodard**. Brothers **Samuel Lancaster** and **William Odom** served as Deacons until Brother Odom took a letter of dismission and joined the church at the Falls of Tar River. Elder **Russell Tucker** served as pastor from June 1875 to Nov 1876. Elder **William E. Bellamy** served for some time. **Joseph Harper** was the messenger to represent the church at the Kehukee Primitive Baptist Association meetings. In 1886, there were 18 members.

Mr. H.T. Stewart

Please allow me space in your columns to chronicle the death of our beloved brother Deacon **H.T. Stewart**, who died suddenly of heart failure October 16 [1920]. In him the church has lost a faithful member, his wife a devoted husband, and the children a loving and kind father. His father's name was **Henry Elim Stewart**, his mother's maiden name was **Mary White**. He had two brothers, **Wm. and Ashbury**, three own sisters **Carrie, Elizabeth and Josephine**. His father and mother are both dead, his father having died in one month after having served through the four years of the war between the States. His mother died 20 years ago, at the age of fifty five. He joined the Primitive Baptist church at the Falls of Tar River

CONNECTOR

30 years ago, and a more wonderful experience I've never heard. After a long and painful illness the doctor going every day, and he getting no better, 'til he had a dream and in the dream he was led to a river and going on he heard some one behind him, he looked and saw a black woman coming, then looking again he saw a mulatto woman coming. But when they came to the river Jesus appeared and took those three in a canoe and carried them down the river and baptized them. After this dream he regained consciousness, and the very next day, after having been sick a month, he went to the church and was received and those two colored women came also, and I think he said Brother Gold baptized them together.

Brother Baptists, is not this plain? Who can doubt that he is now with his Savior? Dear Mrs. Stewart, dry your tears, and dear children, I hope God will give you the faith to follow his beautiful example.

BETTIE Z. WHITLEY

Washington, N.C.

[*Zion's Landmark*, Primitive or Old School Baptist Magazine

15 Feb 1921

Contributed by **Bennett Barnes.**]

Statue Language

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle; if the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle; if the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

News and Observer, 26 Feb 1998

The Steamer Cotton Plant,
WILL COMMENCE HER REGULAR
trips on MONDAY,
10th., Dec.—Leaving
Washington on Monday,
Wednesday and Friday at 7 o'clock am,
and **Tarboro** on Tuesday, Thursday
and Saturday at 9 o'clock am, touching at
all the intermediate landings.
☞ Freight taken and delivered at all
points on the River at Flat Boat Rates!
☞ Passengers taken at Moderate Rates!
☞ **This Steamer** will connect with the
Norfolk & New York Steamers.

Tarboro Southerner, 3 Jan 1867