

# The Connector

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

Summer, 2001

Billie Jo Matthews & Peggy Strickland, Co-Editors

Number 5 Issue 3

## Ante-bellum Days in Our Nation's Capital

Virginia Tunstall Clay, wife of Alabama senator Clement C. Clay, Jr. describes life in the nation's capital in the 1850's: *The fashions were graceful, rich and picturesque.*

*The beauties of the capital wore their hair à la Grecque, with flowers wreathed over it, or a simple golden dagger or arrow to secure it. Their gowns were festooned with blossoms that trailed over bodice and skirt until not seldom they became, by reason of their graceful orna-*



*ments, veritable Perdidas. These delicate fashions continued until nearly the end of the decade, when they were superseded by more complicated coiffures and a general adoption of heavy materials and styles.*

*By the 60's, women were wearing huge chignons, false hair, and distorting bustles.*

*By 1858-59, the hair was arranged on the top of the head in heavy braids, wound around the head, varied occasionally with a tiara of velvet and pearls, or jet or coral. Ruffled dresses*

*gave place to panelled skirts in which two materials, a plain and embossed or brocaded fabric, were combined, and basques with postillion backs became the order of the day. The low-coiled hair and brow free from frizzes and bangs was the style adopted by the most famous ladies.*

*Low necks and lace berthas were worn almost universally, either with open sleeves revealing inner ones of filmy lace, or sleeves of the shortest possible form, allowing the rounded length of a pretty arm to be seen in its perfection. Evening gloves were half-length only, or as often reaching only half-way to the elbow. They were of kid or silk with backs embroidered in delicate silks, with now and then*

SEE BELLE, PAGE 4

## Tar River Rambler

BY LOUISE FULLER

Our Tar River is fed by many swamps, marshes, creeks, and branches as her waters glide or gush eastward to the Atlantic Ocean. Most rivers retain their name but smaller bodies of water are apt to experience a name change. In our search for the land on which our forefathers lived, the name changes make our research more difficult.

One little branch, Deloach Branch, in Edgecombe County has survived long after the Deloach family left the area. Samuel Deloach and his wife, Mary Boykin Deloach, came to Edgecombe County from North Hampton Co., NC. They lived and died near where De-

loach Branch flowed into Tyan Cokey Swamp, now called Cokey Swamp. The swamp drains into Town Creek, which flows into the Tar River. Both Samuel and Mary Deloach left informative wills. Five sons, four daughters and one grandson are listed in approximately the same order, and each will tells the

SEE RAMBLER, PAGE 7

E

57

JAMES HOGUN

Brigadier general in the Revolutionary War, member of Provincial Congresses. Died, 1781, as British prisoner of war. Home was 60 yds. E. of Hobgood.

NC 125 NW of Hobgood, Halifax Co.

## Across the Line

Hobgood, once a small hamlet

hidden away just across the Edgecombe Co. line in what is now southeast Halifax Co., NC, developed into a small town around the Norfolk and Carolina Railroad tracks. Hobgood can boast of two generals from the American Revolution to World War II. Brigadier Gen. James Hogans lived in the area prior to the Revolution, and Lt. Gen. Frank Armstrong of WW II fame was raised in Hobgood.

The town was incorporated in 1891. A Baptist Church and Post Office were already in existence. From 1885 until its closing in March of 1887, the post office was operated by members of the Hyman family.

SEE HOBGOOD, PAGE 12



## QUERY GUIDELINES

1. Members may submit three queries annually to the address below. A fee of \$5.00 must accompany each query submitted by a non-member.
2. The query should be in the form of a typed or printed letter (easy on the eyes!) and should include a time frame and as much pertinent information as possible.
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 all that you know pertaining to the question you are asking.
5. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Don't expect a miracle!!

### Tar River Connections Genealogical Society

PO Box 8764

Rocky Mount, NC 27804

Internet

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

e-mail: [Turn1104@aol.com](mailto:Turn1104@aol.com)

Annual Dues - \$15.00

#### 2001 Officers

Reese Ferrell, President

Arda Daniel, President-Elect

Barbara Dupree, Secretary

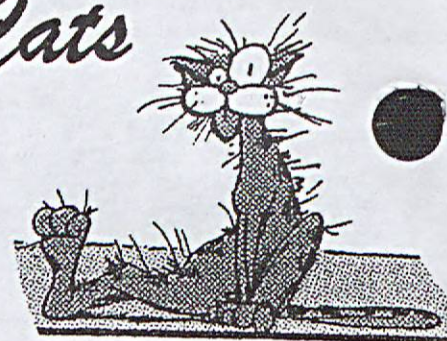
Helen Sharpe, Treasurer

Peggy Strickland, Billie Jo Matthews, Newsletter Editors

Directors: Louise Fuller, Hiram Perkinson, Nancy Matthews

*The Connector*-Published Quarterly

## Cats, Cats and More Cats



A correspondent informs us, that on Thursday of last week a countryman brought to this City a load of CATS! which he stated two or three of our citizens had contracted with him to deliver, *at two dollars apiece!* A crowd gathered round the cart, attracted by so singular a traffic. The persons, on whose assurances this novel cargo of live stock was brought to market, in endeavoring to examine the "article," were so unfortunate (or perhaps *mischievous*) as to "let the cats out of bag," and away they scampered—and away the contractors scampered after them; and, so far as our information goes, the countryman has found but few of the cats, and *none of the contractors*. Late in the evening, he was in search of a lawyer, to advise on the legal course to be taken for the recovery of the value of his cats. Whoever perpetuated this mischief on Innocent countryman, ought to be sentenced to a nightly *caterwauling* for "twelve calendar months, & pay all costs."—*Raleigh Standard*.

[*Tarboro' Press*, January 9, 1836]



## Rocky Mount High School/ Rocky Mount Senior High School Web Site

<http://home.rica.net/rrdl/rmhs.htm>.

Ronald D. Lewis, Rocky Mount High School/Rocky Mount Senior High School graduate, RMHS Class of 1949, is sponsoring and serving as web master for an internet site dedicated to graduates of Rocky Mount High School/Rocky Mount Senior High School. The site now has more than 400 easily navigable pages including areas dedicated to specific classes, a message board, a chat room, copies of old year books, interesting stories submitted by RMHS/RMSHS graduates, Class Reunion news, and other items too numerous to mention, but especially important, an internet version of *The Connector*.

Over 600 RMHS/RMSHS graduates have registered on the site. E-mail addresses are available for most of them. Ronnie and other graduates are anxious to hear from as many more graduates as possible. If you are a RMHS/RMSHS graduate, go to the site and register today! If someone in your family or someone you know graduated from RMHS/RMSHS, direct them to the site today! Ronnie would probably allow you to register parents or grandparents or others who were graduates of RMHS/RMSHS and who might not be online themselves. They would love to read the news from their old high school buddies and perhaps renew contacts with long-lost friends.

It's a wonderful site and no description can do justice to it. We salute Ronnie Lewis for the great job he's doing.





ORAL  
HISTORY  
PROJECT

Nash County Arts Council

## The Devil's Wagon

TOLD BY BERNICE SILLS BRITT OF  
CASTALIA

There's a place on Hwy 56 between Castalia and Louisburg called Flat Rock and there're plenty of flat rocks there. My father, Ernest Sills, said as a teenager he would go by Flat Rock to get to his friend's house. They played cards at his friend's house. My daddy had promised his folks that he was going to stop playing cards, but he went to play again after he said he'd stop.

After they finished playing cards he had to walk home by Flat Rock. Before he got to the flat rocks he heard this mule and wagon in the air over his head. He lived on rocky land, and it sounded just like a wagon going through Grandfather's farm, bumping and knocking and hitting on rocks. He stopped. When he stopped, the noise stopped. He'd walk on, trying to get home, past that noise. The nearer he got to Flat Rock, the more bumpy and rugged that wagon would go, mules and all. He stopped again. The noise would stop. He looked up, and didn't see anything. He listened. He didn't hear anything while he was standing still. He'd take off and the noise would take off over his head. Rough and rocky, the mules would run; and it sounded like the wagon was hitting every rock. He ran fast as he could through the flat rocks. As he got on the other side, down the road past the flat rocks, the noise stopped.

He figured it was the devil after him for playing cards. He never did go back to play cards anymore.

## THE CONNECTOR

### Robbers Threaten

During the late 1860s, there was talk in the Battleboro-Rocky Mount area of a band of robbers lurking around. Walter E. Phillips, in his memoirs, tells of his father, Dr. James Jones Phillips' spree with Mr. Allen Taylor. They met, had a drink or two, and ended up talking old times until after dark. Mindful of the threat of robbers, they went out to check on their horses which were hitched behind a store in Battleboro. Blundering around in the dark, they bumped against each other and Dr. Phillips grabbed Mr. Taylor, threw him down and began pommeling him and shouting, "Hold yours, Allen, I've got mine." He couldn't hear Mr. Taylor shouting, "It ain't a robber, Doctor, it's me," and he held him down until someone brought a light and showed him he had caught, not a robber, but his friend.



There was, in fact, a band of recently disbanded troops camping in the woods north of Tar River, behind Mrs. Lewis' home.\* "One of the band came one night to Brother George Battle's home and without knocking walked into the room where he was sleeping, woke him up and told him about the band, its organization and place of rendezvous. So organizing a posse, he surprised them at their camping place... They showed no fight but ran away or were captured."

"One night after supper Father returned from Dr. Rives' ... and said, 'You mustn't be alarmed, but we are going to have robbers attack us to-night.' ... I went to bed hoping that they would come and that next morning I would see several of their dead bodies lying around in the yard. ... To aid him in defending the house, Father sent for Old Mr. Levi Bryan, ... his overseer at the plantation settlement, and Old Uncle Austin... Their weapons of defense were two old fashioned muskets, a heavy strong shooting revolver and perhaps a double-barrel shot gun... Mother [Harriet Amanda Burt Phillips], thinking that a lighted house would keep them from venturing to attack us, lit candles in all the rooms... In a little while Father would come along and blow all these out. His combative spirit was aroused and enhanced by his sense of outrage at the expected attack. Mother would come along and light the candles again, and again Father would blow them out. I believe that he finally gave in and let her have her way. I remember feeling some disappointment the next morning that the attack had not come off."

\*This is the house now known as Stonewall. See "Stonewall", *The Connector*, Winter, 1997 and "Bennett Bunn Estate Sale," *The Connector*, Fall, 1999.

[Taken from *Memoirs of Walter E. Phillips*. Other stories from the *Memoirs* are "Mr. Ben White—Teacher at Solitaire", *The Connector*, Summer, 2000 and "The Dancing Teacher" and "More about Solitaire—Edgecombe Co. School", *The Connector*, Winter, 2001.]



# Search and Research

## Writing A Family History

Family history is the merging of history and genealogy and draws on such areas as demography, geography, psychology, sociology and literature. The goal of the modern genealogist is to identify and link past generations of ancestors into pedigrees while also understanding something of their lives and times. This joining of facts and understanding can help create a family history treasured by generations to come.

If you have a computer, the physical aspect of compiling your family history is easier than if you do not.

You have the advantage of special genealogical software, word processing and, especially important, spell check. But if you don't have a computer, you can still type or write down the data you have accumulated. And don't leave out the wonderful stories your parents and grandparents passed down to you. Without your efforts, they may be lost forever.

In presenting your charts, take the time to document your information. We all make mistakes in transcribing, but reference to your sources will make it easy to trace the facts you have presented. And, most importantly, check behind yourself; if possible, get others to double-check.

An index will help your readers immensely. Again, with a computer, this is fairly easy to accomplish. If you don't have a computer, perhaps someone in your family will enter the data for you and create an index. If

so, be sure to check behind the typist! Even without a computer, though it is much more time-consuming, an index is well worth the time it takes to create.

There is no single template that serves for every family history. Try to give yours some common theme, organize it so the reader can easily follow your lines, present your documentation, and give thought to the eye appeal of the document.

Two books that you might find helpful are: *The Researcher's Guide to American Benealogy*, 2nd ed., 1990, by Val D. Greenwood, *Evidence! Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian*, 1997 by Elizabeth Shown Mills

Good luck on your family history! [Taken from a presentation to TRC by Leonard Dean, author of *Hobgood Family of Granville County North Carolina before 1850*, Vols. 1 and 2]

### BELLE, CONT. FROM PAGE 1

*a jewel sparkling among the colours. Jewels were conspicuous also in men's dressing. Gentlemen of fashion had varieties of sparkling studs and cravat-pins to add to the brightness of their varicoloured vests. The latter was usually made of richest satin and velvet, brocaded and embroidered. These were worn with swallow-tailed evening dress, supplemented by a tie of bright soft silk, and of ample proportions. President Buchanan always wore pure white cravats.*

*Gloves, fans, handkerchiefs, bonnets, dress accessories, and beautiful gown patterns, ready to be made up by a New York or Washington dressmaker, were all imported from foreign houses. Traveling and consular friends were pressed to select fine laces, shawls, flounces, undersleeves and other fashionable garnitures, and every steamer brought dainty boxes of Parisian flowers, bonnets and other foreign novelties.*

Mrs. Clay, spent her infant days in

Warren Co., NC among the kinsmen of her mother. Her grandfather, **Gen. William Arrington**, of Nash Co., NC, who won his title in the **Revolutionary War**, had been left a widower with twelve children.

Weary of his solitude, he rode over to visit the comely widow **Battle** who also had 12 children. Gen. Arrington was a successful wooer and **Anne Arrington**, Mrs. Clay's mother, was the only child of this union, entering the world with 24 siblings. Mrs. Clay's mother died when she was 3, and her father, **Dr. Peyton Randolph Tunstall**, grief stricken, left NC and his daughter with her numerous relatives. At the age of six, Virginia Tunstall was carried to **Tuscaloosa, Alabama**, to live with her aunt, **Mrs. Henry W. Collier**.

It was love at first sight for Virginia Tunstall and Clement Clay, Jr. They were married less than 2 months after their meeting in Tuscaloosa. Mrs. Clay describes the trip to

Washington, DC after Mr. Clay was elected to the US Senate soon after their marriage: *By this time steam railways had been established, but the cars were primitive. Nevertheless they were marvels of comfort and speed to the travellers of the fifties. Sleeping cars were not yet invented, but the double-action seat-backs of the regular coaches made it a simple matter to convert two seats into a kind of couch, on which, with the aid of a pillow, one managed very well to secure a half rest as the cars moved soberly along.*

In Washington, DC in the 1850's, there was a reckless gaiety everywhere, but especially, "the blandishments of Southern hos-

**BELLE, CONT. PAGE 5**





**BELLE, CONT. FROM PAGE 4**  
pitality" lent charm to life in the Government circles, lifting the capital to the very apex of its social glory. Mrs. Clement C. Clay, Jr wrote in 1858: *People are mad with rivalry and vanity. It is said that Gwin [Senator W.M Gwin] is spending money at the rate of \$75,000 a year. ...*

**William Thomson, Counsul at Southampton, England,** wrote Mrs. Clay, "I did think of sending you and **Mrs. Fitzpatrick** one of the new style petticoats, so novel, it seems, at the seat of government; but, upon inquiry for the material, my bachelor wits were quite outdone, for I could not even guess what size might suit both you ladies! ...A reversible crimson and black striped linsey-wolsey under a white cambric skirt, with five, seven, or nine tucks of handsome work, not less than ten or twelve inches deep. ...would attract amazingly in **Washington** just now."

*A quaint dress accessory for carriage, walking, and dancing dresses consisted of several little metal hands, which, depending from fine chains attached at the waist, held up the skirt artistically at a sufficient height to show the flounces beneath. The handkerchief, often of costly point-lace, was drawn through a small ring that hung from a six-inch gold or silver chain, on the other end of which was a circlet which just fitted over the little finger. As women made moves toward suffrage, the "Bloomer" costume became conspicuous in the capital. "Bloomers are 'most as plenty as blackberries," wrote Mrs. Clay.*

When Mr. Clay came to Washington in 1853, only 4 men wore moustaches. By 1861, almost everyone had them. Men wore their hair rather long. "**Old Sam Houston**",

who towered over ordinary pedestrians, wore a leopard-skin vest with a voluminous scarlet neck-tie, and over his bushy grey locks rested an immense sombrero of grey felt with a brim seven or eight inches wide. Wrapped around his broad shoulders he wore a gaily coloured Mexican serape in which scarlet predominated. He was a constant whittler, and a supply of soft wood was always kept at his desk. Out of it he whittled stars, hearts, and other fanciful shapes while he cogitated, his brows pleated in deep vertical folds.

*For my quicker recuperation after a day spent making calls, my maid, Emily, was wont to get out my "shocking-box", an electrical apparatus, and to a full charge of the magical current and a half-hour's nap before dinner, I was indebted for many a happy evening.*

Mrs. Clay was privileged to witness "**Pocahontas**", a farce which "set all Washington a-laughing"; hear **Mr. Thackeray** lecture on poetry and recite "**Barbara Allen**"; and hear the musical prodigy, **Blind Tom**, play at the **White House**; weekly concerts of the Marine Band on the **White House** grounds overlooking the **Potomac**

*While a visit to the dentist, be he never so famous, may hardly be regarded as among the recreations of Congressional folk, yet a trip to Dr. Maynard, the fashionable operator of that day, was certainly among the luxuries of the time; as costly, for example, as a trip to New York, to hear sweet Jenny Lind. He was not only the expert dentist of his day but he was also*



Jennie Lee, actress

*the inventor of the world-renowned three-barrelled rifle known as the Maynard. His office was like an arsenal, every inch of wall-space being taken up with glittering arms.*

*A peculiarity of Dr. Maynard was his dislike for the odour of the geranium, from which he shrank as from some deadly poison. Upon the occasion of one necessary visit to him, unaware of this eccentricity, I wore a sprig of that blossom upon my corsage. As I entered the office the doctor detected it.*

*"Pardon me, Mrs. Clay," he said at once, "I must ask you to remove that geranium!" I was astonished, but of course the offending flower was at once detached and discarded; but so sensitive were the olfactories of the doctor, that before he could begin his operating, I was obliged to bury the spot on which the blossom had lain under several folds of napkin.*

*Early in the season of 1857-'58, our friend Mrs. Senator Gwin announced her intention of giving a ...fancy ball. When the function was formally announced, all Washington was agog. For the ensuing weeks men as well as women were busy consulting costumers, ransacking the private collections in the capital and conning precious volumes of coloured engravings in a zealous search for original and accurate costuming. ... As the time approached, those who were to attend were busy rehearsing their characters and urging the dressmakers and costumers to the perfect completion of their tasks ... Mrs. Gwin's costume ... had been selected in New York, and rumours were rife on the elegant surprises that were to be sprung upon the eventful occasion. ... Misses Comer, Hilliard and Withers impersonated, respectively, a gypsy fortune-teller, in a brilliant gown that was*



## THE CELEBRATION.

The 6th Anniversary of our Independence was celebrated in a spirited manner, at **Reid's Cross Roads, Halifax County, N.C.** The company assembled at about 12 o'clock under the Oaks, where a stand and seats had been previously arranged for the occasion. A devout prayer was offered up by the **Rev. John F. Speight**, and the **Declaration of Independence** read by **Thomas W. Nicholson**, in a clear, distinct and forcible manner; after which the audience enjoyed the pleasure of hearing a most appropriate and able address from **Capt. J.J. Judge**.

The company then repaired to the table and partook of a splendid, and sumptuous dinner prepared by **Benj. Johnson, Esqr. Dr. James B. Yellowly** acted as President of the day. **Maj. Benj. W. Avent** and **John C.**

**Davis esqrs. Vice Presidents.** The cloths being removed, the following toasts were drank. ... "The Day we celebrate, to free men. May its annual return find us the enjoyment of liberty unimpaired." 3 cheers. ...

[Toasts were offered by **Henry M. Purnell, James Aaron, Wm. E. Yellowly, Joshua Watson, Capt J.J. Judge, James C. Nicholson, Doct. J.D. Matthews, John H. Thrower, John G. Purnell, Littleberry Vinson, I. Matthews, Jr., William Sykes, James H. Simmons** (Short shoes and long corns to all the old Batchellors), **W.W. Jones, Redding A. Hervy, Lewis Pitts, John L. Ousby, Robert H. Arrington** and others.]

[*Halifax Advocate*, March, 1837. Submitted by TRC member Doris Matthews.]

### BELLE, CONT. FROM PAGE 5

*plentifully covered with playing-cards, carrying also a convenient pack of the same with which she told fortunes..., a Constantinople girl, and "Titania", robed in innumerable spangled tulle petticoats that floated as she danced, her gauze wings quivering like those of a butterfly.*

#### Outbreak of war

In the winter of 1859-60, gaiety at the capital was waning. Women went daily to the Senate gallery to listen to the angry debates... When belles met they no longer discussed furbelows and flounces, but talked of forts and fusillades. Such were the scenes, both grave and gay, that preceded what was surely the saddest day of my life—January 21, 1861—when, after years of augmenting dissension between the Sections, I saw my husband take his portfolio under his arm and leave the United States Senate Chamber in company with no other less earnest Southern Senators.

During the War, Mrs. Clay spent some time in **Richmond, VA**, the southern capital. When I had starved in the capital, I dropped down to "Buxton Place" [the Warrenton, Warren Co., NC home of her uncle, Buxton Williams] whence I was sure to return laden

*with hampers of sweets and meats and bread made of the finest "Number One" flour, which proved a fine relief to the "seconds" to which the bread-eaters of the Confederate capital were now reduced. She described her uncle as "an astute man, and when he was assured that war had become a settled fact, instead of hoarding his means for the benefit of invading soldiers, he retired to his country home, bought out the contents of a local store, which he transferred to his own cupboards and pantry, and made "Buxton Place" to kith and kin the most generous and hospitable of asylums. It was a peaceful, happy place, set among ample grounds, with noble trees rising about, in which birds carolled as they coquetted among the foliage and squirrels gambolled at their will through the long, lazy days. No chicory and sugar, adopting the alias of coffee, found place on that sumptuous board in those first years, but only the bona fide stuff! We had sugar in abundance, and pyramids of the richest butter, bowls of thick cream, and a marvellous plenitude of incomparable "clabber."*

*Once, during our wandering that autumn, we slipped over to "Millbrook," the home of my cousins the Hilliards, and thence to Shocco Springs, long a famous North Carolina resort, where, to the music of a negro band, the feet of a merry little company went flying over the polished floor as if the world*

*were still a happy place, despite its wars and swords and graves and weeping women."*

*Life at dear old "Millbrook" or "Buxton Place," rich with a thousand associations of my childhood and family, still ran serenely on. The loudest sound one heard was the hum of the bee on the wing as it rushed to riot the amber honey sacs of the flowers. But whether at "Millbrook" or "Buxton Place," whether we outwardly smiled or joined in the mirth about us, inwardly my husband and I were tortured with fears born of an intimate knowledge of our national situation. ...*

Mrs. Clay describes the sorry state of affairs as the War continued: *As times grew more and more stringent, tea and coffee proved to be our greatest lack, and here, as we had done in the last days at Warrenton, we were glad to drink potato coffee and peanut chocolate. The skin of the raw potato was scraped off—to pare it might have been to waste it—and the potato cut into slices or discs as thin as paper. It was then carefully dried, toasted and ground, and made into what proved to be a really delicious beverage. It was a far cry from those early days in the capital when Virginia Clay was "The Belle of the Fifties."*

[Taken from *A Belle of the Fifties*, Mrs. Clement C. [Virginia] Clay, Jr.'s story of social and political life in Washington and the South, 1853-1866, published in 1904.]



# Acquisitions—

## Braswell Memorial Library

- *The History of Macclesfield, NC, The First Hundred Years*, compiled by Betty Reason, Vera Stallings and Patricia Keel, 2001. Donated by Betty Reason.
- *Hugh Smithwick Descendants*, by William Doab Bennett. Edited by Paul H. Peel, Jr.
- *Firey Dawn, The Civil War Battle at Monroe's Crossroads, NC*, by Sharyn Kane and Richard Keeton. Donated by Hiram Perkinson, TRC member.
- *Sandhill's Families: Early Reminiscences of the Fort Bragg Area, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Moore, Richmond and Scotland Counties, NC*, by Lorraine V. Aragon. Donated by Hiram Perkinson.
- *Cemeteries of Fort Bragg, Camp Mackall and Pope Air Force Base, NC*, edited by Beverly A. Boyko and William H. Kern. Third Edition, United States Army, 2001. Donated by Hiram Perkinson.



"Looking glass" was a common vernacular term for chamber pot during the first half of the 17th century.

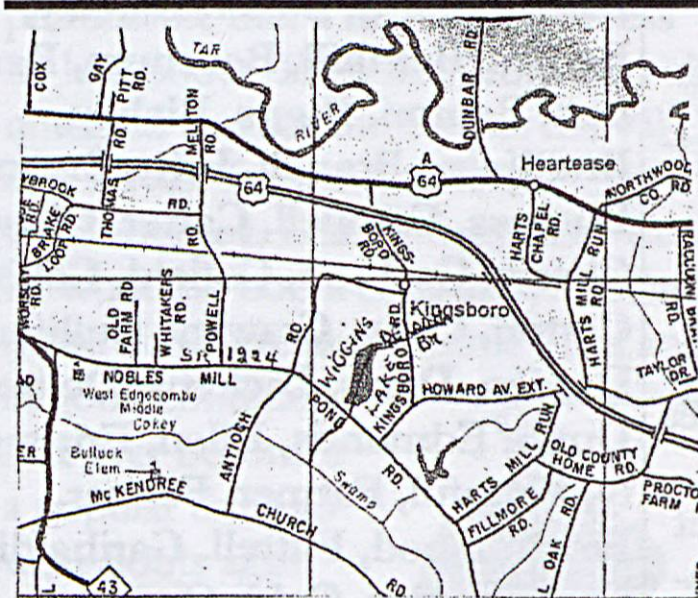
[Oxford English Dictionary]

**RAMBLER, CONT. FROM PAGE 1** each will tell the source of the land they leave to their children.

Samuel Deloach died in 1764; Mary, his wife, died in 1774. She had bought 410 acres from her brother, **Solomon Boykin** and 177 acres from **Jarrett Stevens**. The Deloach brothers, **William, Jesse, John, Samuel, and Solomon**, sold land among themselves so often that it is difficult to know where each of them lived at any given time.

When Edgecombe County was formed in 1758, Samuel Deloach had lived on the North side of Tyan Cokey Swamp for at least ten years (Pat. Bk. 11-181). At **Redman's Old Field**, 27 March 1759, when the

first Edgecombe County Court met, Samuel Deloach qualified as a member of the first Edgecombe Co. jury. His neighbor, **Moses Hare**, was ap-



pointed a Justice. Since the area around Tyan Cokey was so sparsely populated, it was not deemed favor-

able for a permanent court site.

Thus, Deloach Branch was all but forgotten for many years.

The 1790 Edgecombe Census lists 6 Deloach households consisting of 37 whites and 44 slaves, yet not one Deloach appears on the 1800 or 1810 Edgecombe Co. Census.

In 1953 a dam was built on Deloach Branch to create **Wiggins Lake**, a 52 acre public facility for fishing, swimming and boating. Deloach Branch still flows into Wiggins Lake, dividing townships #11 and #12 as it flows across **Nobles Millpond Road (SR 1224)**. Over 30 families live adjacent to the lake but not many know about the Deloaches who once called the same land home.

# WEATHER ALERT

## MACKEREL Clouds\* in the Sky!

Old sayings relating to the weather are often true. These will be right more often than not:

1. Mackerel clouds in the sky, expect more wet than dry.
2. If the sun goes pale to bed, twill rain tomorrow.
3. If the sun sets red, it will be a clear day tomorrow.
4. Ring around the moon is a sign of rain.
5. Moonlight nights have heaviest frost.
6. Rainbow in windward, foul fall the day. Rainbow to leeward, damp runs away.
7. When the barometer falls low, prepare for a blow. When it rises high, let the kites fly.
8. Rain before seven, lift (shine) before eleven.



\*Mackerel Sky: A formation of cirrocumulus or alto- cumulus clouds suggesting the bars on a mackerel's back.

*American Heritage Dictionary, 1969.*



## Reader's Choice Local Color

*The History  
of  
Conoconnara Chapel*



*By  
W. Alfred Cooke*

*The History of Conoconnara Chapel*, by W. Alfred Cooke. Conoconnara Church was established as Church of England about 1747 in what was then Edgcombe, later Halifax, County with Rev. James Moire as the first rector. Rev. Thomas Burgess succeeded him in 1759 and served until the American Revolution. [See "Conoconnara Church", *The Connector*, Summer 1999] After the Revolution, the church became disorganized and, for many years, the history is somewhat obscure. It was associated with the Kehukee Primitive Baptist Assn., the Chowan Baptist Assn., the Pamlico Baptist Assn., the Tar River Assn., the Roanoke Baptist Assn., and finally, in 1933, after almost 150 years of service to the Crowell community, it ceased to exist as an active church..

Mr. Cooke has included in the book, along with the detailed history, a transcription of the church minutes from Dec. 1833 - Nov. 1886. They tell us that, in 1836, the church "sent one dollar to the fund" (the Association), to be carried by Bro. Joseph Pender. By 1886, the amount had increased to \$32. In 1840, it was "agreed to pay to sister Martha Pope

two dollars per year for supplying the elements for the Lord's Supper." In 1882 J.C. Randolph offered 6 acres of land for the church cemetery.

On Dec. 18, 1880, "The following resolution was unanimously carried, viz: that Bro. Vann send a petition to the legislature from this church for the prohibition of the sale, or manufacture of spirituous or intoxicating liquors throughout the entire state of NC.

The minutes list the members, both white and coloured, admitted to or dismissed or expelled from the church. In 1860, Elizabeth Smith was expelled from the church on account of gross unchristian conduct." In 1878, Bro. Flavius Davis was called to "render his excuse for his long absence in attending church..." He reported that "he had been sick and would attend church when he could." In 1882, "Bro. W.T. Baker reported himself for being drunk during Christmas. Asked for forgiveness, ...", and "Bro. Parkes was expelled for drunkenness and dancing ...". Also in 1882, "charges were preferred against misses Betti & Lucy Manning for participating sprinkling of an infant." They were expelled.

The membership roll of Conoconnara Church from 1833-1886 includes the following family names: Adkins, Arrington, Artis, Avent, Baines, Baird, Baker, Barclay, Barnes, Barnhill, Beechum, Bennett, Benton, Biggs, Bishop, Bradl[e]y, Branch, Britt, Bryan, Burgess, Campell, Carter, Chavis, Cherry, Cochran, Cofield, Collins, Cotton, Craig, Crawley, Cullifer, Darden, Davis, Dickens, Dolberry, Dunn, Edmonds, Ellen, Enrough-ty, Faithful, Farmer, Fenner, Finch, Flood, Futrell, Garibaldi, Gay, Godfrey, Gold, Goode, Gregory, Griffin, Hancock, Harper, Harrell, Harris, Herbert, Hervey, Hewey, Higgs, Holliday,

Hopkins, Hubbard, Hudgins, Hufham, Hutson, Jackson, Johnson, Jolly, Jones, King, Kitchin, Kone, Lanier, Lawrence, Lewis, Lowe, Manning, Marshall, McDowell, McGee, Merritt, Millikin, Mincher< Minton, Mitchum, Morgan, Overby, Owen, Parks, Peele, Pender, Perry, Peters, Petit, Phelps, Pierce, Pittman, Pope, Powell, Pride, Pulley, Purefoy, Randolph, Raspberry, Richards, Ricks, Rogers, Rolins, Rummells, Sauls, Savage, Shields, Sikes, Simmons, Smith, Spier, Spiers, Stallings, Stephenson, Strickland, Tanner, Thompson, Tillery, Tune, Tyler, Vann, Vaughan, Vick, and Williford.

If you are interested in purchasing the book, contact W. Alfred Cooke, PO Box 96, Tillery, NC 27887; (252) 826-3674; or e-mail [wacooke@3rddoor.com](mailto:wacooke@3rddoor.com).



### Fresh Garden Seeds

SCS

THE subscriber offers for sale a quantity of fresh Garden Seeds, recently purchased from G.C. Thorburn, seedsman and florist, New York.

Among which are:

Turnip beet,	Green head Lettuce,
Blood do	Imperial do
Early York Cabbage	Drumhead do
" Dutch do	Washington Peas,
" Wellington do	Frame do
" Sugarloaf do	Marrow fat do
: Battersea do	Parship
Late drumhead do	Long Scarlet Radish
Early horn Carrot	Turnip do
Long orange do	Dwarf Beans
Early Cucumber	Lima do
Long prickly do	Scarlet runners do
Short do do	Silver skin Onions
Southgate do	&c, &c

**JAS. M. REDMOND**

January 10, 1839

[Tarborough Press, Jan. 12, 1839]



## Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1938

From 1936 to 1938, over 2,300 former slaves from across the South were interviewed by WPA workers as part of the Federal Writers' Project. These former slaves, most born in the last years of the slave regime or during the Civil War, provided first-hand accounts of their experiences on plantations, in cities, and on small farms. They were collected in all the Southern states, most border states, and NY and RI.

This collection of interviews can be found on the internet at:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html>

There is an interesting account accompanying the interviews which includes the history of slave narratives, a history of the project itself, some of the limitations of the narratives, and their importance as research tools.

The project began with the following instructions: "It should be remembered that the Federal Writers' Project is not interested in taking

sides on any question. The worker should not censor any materials collected regardless of its [sic] nature." The interviews were recorded verbatim, with no holds barred. Only minor grammatical corrections were made and the substance of the narratives were never altered. Narratives were never rejected or revised because of questions about their authenticity.

The narratives, as well as numerous related documents and other "non-narrative materials" (consisting primarily of copies of the following documents: newspaper advertisements of slave auctions and run-aways, state laws and bills pertaining to slavery, tax enumerations on slaves, bills of sale, and so forth), were among the materials called in from the states for permanent storage in the Library of Congress after termination of the Writers' Project. Subtitled "A Folk History of Slavery in the United States," the materials were organized into 17 bound volumes that were then deposited in the **Rare Book Room of the Library of Congress**. They were presented in bound volumes to the Library of Congress in 1941.

### Tar River Narratives

A search of these narratives found 25 from former slaves who

had lived in the area covered by Tar River Connections Genealogical Society. These have been copied from the internet and bound by Braswell Memorial Library where they are available to the public. The names of those interviewed and their counties are:

Adkins, Ida	Franklin
Anderson, Mary	Franklin
Arrington, Jane	Nash
Baker, Blount	Wilson
Baugh, Alice	Edgecombe
Blount, David	Beaufort
Bobbitt, Clay	Warren
Bobbitt, Henry	Warren
Curtis, Mattie	Granville
Davis, Jerry	Warren
Foster, Analiza	Person
Jones, Bob	Warren
Littlejohn, Chana	Warren
Manson, Jacob	Warren
Manson, Roberta	Warren
Mitchel, Anna	Vance
Perry, Lily	Franklin
Pitts, Tempe	Halifax
Robinson, Celia	Franklin
Rountree, Henry	Wilson
Spell, Chaney	Nash
Upperman, Jane Anne	Privette-Nash
Wilcox, Tom	Warren
Williamson, Melissa	Franklin
Yellerday, Hilliard	Warren

## Ancient Boots

Joseph Hopkins, who lives near Spring Hope, has a pair of fine calf skin boots of which he has been the possessor 48 years. These boots were made for him by Phil Tisdale, who was a boot maker at Nashville before the [Civil] war. They were cut from choice parts of four calf skins. Mr. Hopkins wore them for two years all the time, during the time married Miss Rennie Collins, and he wore the boots too for ladies and

gentlemen, in those days it <sup>as</sup> not permissible that a man marry unless he had boots. Then Mr. Hopkins volunteered and for three years did valiant service for the **Southern Confederacy**. During the three years he wore the boots constantly. Today those boots are at his home oiled and in good condition. If it ever becomes a popular thing to wear boots again these calf skins are no doubt good for five years more of service.



Many of our older citizens remember "old man Phil Tisdale", famous shoe maker and fiddler, whose humble home stood on the lot where now stands the handsome residence of Mr. N. I. Strickland

[Nashville Graphic, Feb. 18. 1909.]

W. H. MORGAN,

DEALER IN

**GENERAL MERCHANDISE,**

HUNTER'S BRIDGE,

Beaufort Co., - N. C.





# Gold Found in Franklin Co Clay

## The Portis Gold Mine

"On the land of Mr. Portis, in the vicinity of Ransom's Bridge Post Office and near the place where the counties of Nash, Franklin, Halifax and Warren join each other, a very rich deposit of gold has been discovered. One piece weighing several pennyweights has been found, and smaller pieces in great number.

"It is said to be quite common to make \$5.00 to the hand a day, and there are nearly twenty different places where the precious metal can be obtained in sufficient quantity to reward the searcher for it." This item appeared in *The Halifax Roanoke Advocate* on Nov. 17, 1831, nearly 20 years before the California gold rush.

Isaac Portis owned the gold bearing land which was located in a cranny of Franklin County, just a few hundred yards from the White House Inn. This inn, with its 28 rooms, was an important stage-coach stop between Halifax and Raleigh, as well as between Warrenton and Tarboro. Henry Sims, 1819, and Edward Ransom, 1827-28, were probable owners. It was the scene of political meetings for the four county area and certainly a center of much activity during the gold mine days.

There are two stories explaining the discovery of the gold. One story, told by W.F. Shelton in the *News and Observer* (Raleigh, NC), Sept. 7, 1947, is that Portis offered accommodation to travellers in his cabin. On one occasion a peddler spent the night there, and the next morning, "...was attracted by the tiny specks of gold that glittered in the mud chinking of the cabin. Isaac Portis, when told of this find, said that he had noticed the shiny specks before in the chinking and in the red soil of his fields while plowing. The peddler told Portis that this was surely gold. ... From that day, on Portis began a new method of working the land; not with a plow and hoe, but with a gold pan, sluice box and shovel."

The slightly different story, told by Al Harris in the *News and Observer*, Dec. 21, 1958, is that Portis supposedly "collected some yellow rocks because he thought them attractive. Some time later, a peddler stopped at Portis' cabin. Recognizing Portis' pretty rocks to be gold nuggets, the peddler traded some household trinkets for

them. The news about the gold nuggets spread rapidly and the rush was on."

Mrs. William Horn Battle—born Lucy Plummer, wrote a letter to her husband dated Louisburg, May 8, 1832. "I hear very often from the miners below. They are getting rich extremely fast. Tom was from there about 10 days ago. He said they made about \$1,000 in 7 days and Mr. Alston said they made one day not long ago \$125 from one rocker. ..."

The letter seems to indicate that mining was in full swing at that time. Her brother, Kemp Plummer, Sr. had a store at Ransom's Bridge and eventually owned the Portis mine.

Although NC mining was on a smaller scale than in CA, it had its own violent history. An article in *The State* (Raleigh, NC), Apr. 1, 1972, reported: "... A mining camp sprang up which employed hundreds of people. Whiskey and rum were plentiful and a number of murders caused a small graveyard to spring up near by.

"Claims were soon being worked all over the area and a real mining camp sprang up. From reports handed down in the county, it was apparently similar to most such settlements throughout the world. It was a boom area. Living conditions were very primitive and lawlessness was rampant. Saloons soon sprang up as did other unsavory establishments. Franklin Co. legend has it as on one weekend during the boom period, brawling claimed 27 lives, with each victim being from a different state." It has been said that when they were buried the next day, the cemetery was laid out in the shape of the Union!

Shelton tells us, also: "Word of the Portis strike spread throughout the country and the Ransom's Bridge section became a lusty brawling community. Most of these early prospectors, like those who followed after them in California and Alaskan strikes, spent their dust with gamblers and vendors of whiskey and companionship. Camp followers flocked to the scene. From every state and territory in the union came the young and the old to seek their fortunes; some to take it from the earth and others to take it from those who mined it. Fights and riots were frequent. With tenseness growing between North and the South and the Civil War hovering on



PORTIS, CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



## PORTIS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

horizon, arguments were frequent and violent between Southerners and Yankees. Death and injury occurred often and a miner considered his rifle as much a part of his clothing as his boots. The gamblers and camp followers, however, preferred nasty little derringers easily concealed about one's coat or bodice".

Isaac Portis took little part in this lusty life of a gold mining town. He contented himself with supervising the mining of his lands—the richest gold bearing lands in the area. He also saw that his acreage was preserved for his own exclusive use. The prospector that crossed the Portis boundaries was liable to receive a sudden case of lead poisoning. Few attempted to cut in on the Portis Mine since claim jumping, like horse stealing in those days, was an excellent way to commit suicide.

.. Harris tells us: "The gold was of the placer type. Placer deposits of minerals are caused by the weathering of rocks in which the minerals occur. As gold is heavier than the waste rock, it is gradually separated by erosion of the finer and lighter materials.

.. "One authority has estimated \$3,000,000 in gold was shipped to the US Mint from the Portis mine. The largest nugget found was one of 365 pennyweights, or 18.25 Troy ounces. The real boom of the Portis lasted until the big CA Gold Rush of 1849. Slaves did most of the actual mining during this period. Loading the gold bearing earth into buckets and wheel barrows, they would take it to the sluice boxes in a nearby branch. Here the dirt would be washed away and the gold picked out.

.. "A slave could gather approximately 90 cents worth of gold per day. Figuring the slave's upkeep as 50 cents, this left a profit of 40 cents for the owner."

.. Isaac Porter died in the 1850s and the mine was inactive until after the war.

.. Col. William Sturges, a cavalry officer on the staff of Gen. U.S. Grant, first visited the Portis mine during the Civil War. After the war, he married a Vicksburg, MS. widow, Mrs. Leila Phillips Lindsay, whom he had met when she searched the battlefield for her husband's body. Records show that Sturges and his father, Steven, loaned the mining company \$18,000, taking a mortgage on the property as security. The borrowers evidently defaulted on payment and the Sturgeses bought the property at a Sheriff's sale. He moved his

family to the property. Sturges invested heavily in surveys and the latest gold mining equipment, successfully using the hydraulic method though Gold Mining Creek, which passes through the property, was not always a dependable water supply.

Colonel Sturges died in 1894 leaving a comfortable legacy to his eight children.

Thomas J. Dolan from Philadelphia, PA bought the mine in 1906. He bought heavy equipment from Ledgerwood Co. The equipment was delivered to Rocky Mount by train and was carried back to the mine by mules and wagon. The trip was an all-day affair. Dolan later refused to pay for the equipment, claiming that it was unsatisfactory. He lost control of the mine for a while over the equipment. Although Dolan eventually regained control, little mining was done until 1935 when R.E. Olds, of Oldsmobile and Reo automobile fame, leased the Portis

Mine through the Norlina Mining Company. Olds set up large diesel engines, crushers, screens and mercury plate extractors set on huge concrete foundations. A railroad was built and towers for dragline pulleys erected. In spite of a \$250,000 investment, the mine was not successful and Olds was forced to close it.

. Who knows? There may still be a fortune in gold waiting to be found in the corner of Nash, Franklin, Halifax and Warren Counties.



*Tom Wright, famous old time gold miner who worked on the Portis Mine property. He was photographed during the Depression by Clifton C. Alston.*

## Acts Passed by General Assembly of NC Session 1835

- ...
- 38. To alter the name and legitimate William M. Eaton, of Edgecombe.
- 39. To alter the name and legitimate John Pettis Johnson, of Warren county.
- ...
- 53. To amend an act incorporating the town of Stan-  
tonsbury, Edgecombe county.
- ...
- 70. To incorporate Conetoe Academy, in Edgecombe  
county.
- ...
- 73. Amendatory of the act of last session to establish the  
town, &c. of Leachville in Beaufort county.
- ...



## HOBGOOD, CONT. FROM PAGE 1

Reopened in 1889, Ivey M. Parker, Robert J. Shields, Jennie Parker and Charles T. Lewis served as post-masters until about 1900.

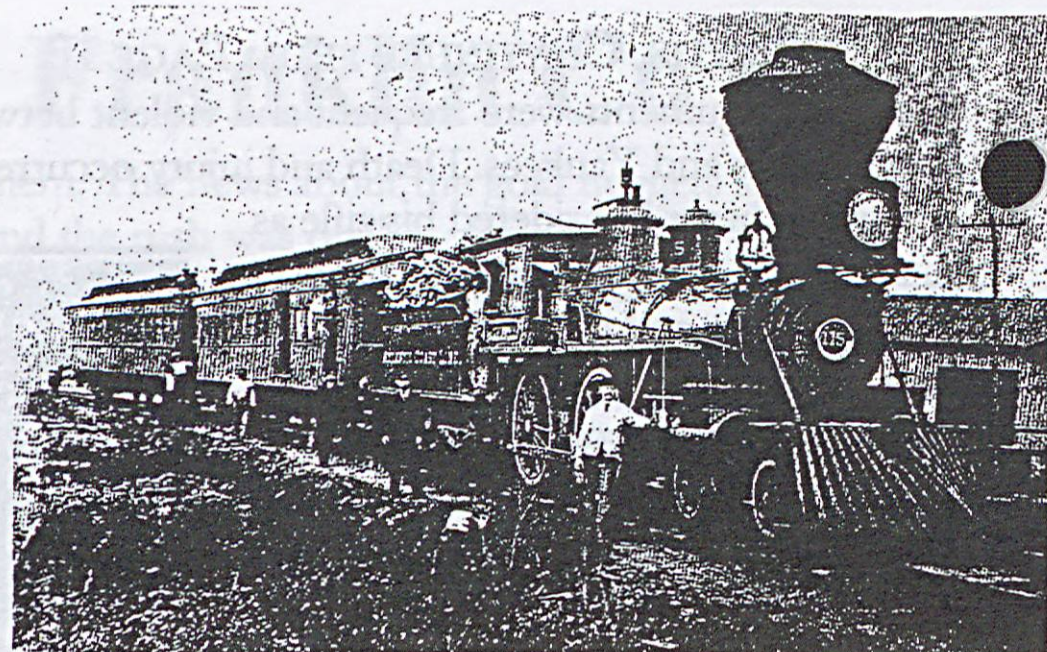
But there is a mystery about Hobgood. No one knows for sure how it got its name. No member of the Hobgood family has ever lived there. The most recent evidence of Hobgoods in Halifax Co. is the 1840 census. So how did Hobgood come to be called Hobgood?

There are two possible explanations. *The North Carolina Gazetteer* by William S. Powell says it was named for Franklin P. Hobgood (1847-1924), an educator and early president of Oxford College in Granville Co.. Mr. Powell has no proof of this story, and is not convinced of its truth.

Local people believe that the community was named for an early Hobgood family that lived nearby. About 1/2 mile south of town, there is a crossroads known as Hobgood Forks that is believed to have been named for this family. It is shown as "Hopgood Forks" on an 1864 map. Land records prior to 1850 also confirm Hobgoods near the present day town. There is a deed from 1746 indicating that Henry Hobgood of Edgecombe Co., NC bought 200 acres from William Killingsworth and the description places it less than 5 miles from the town. Milly Drew sold 200 acres to John Hobgood of Halifax Co. in 1782 near Hobgood Forks.

It'll probably never be known for sure whether Hobgood got its name from Franklin P. or from the earlier Henry or John Hobgood families.

[Taken from *Hobgood Family of Granville County, North Carolina Before 1850, Volume 1*, by Leonard F. Dean.]



Atlantic Coast Line locomotive No. 115, built by Rogers Locomotive & Machine Co., was put into passenger service around 1882 and at Hobgood, NC about 1889. The engine later was used as ACL No. 459 in log train service. On Nov. 3, 1902, Henry Bridgers, president of the East Carolina Railway (See "Riding the Rails in Edgecombe," *The Connector*, Spring, 2000), was at the throttle of Engine No. 97, a work train putting out ties. As the train left Macclesfield, Edgecombe Co., NC, he expected the Eureka log train to be on the siding. As he slowed for a water tank, the log train, pulled by No. 459 came round the bend. Bridgers and the others on the train jumped clear before the two engines collided and no one was hurt, but it was a costly accident. It ended No. 97's service, but No. 459 fared better and served on the A.C.L. for 13 more years before being sold to the Wilmington, Brunswick and Southern in 1915.

[Taken from *East Carolina Railway, Route of the Yellow-hammer*, by Capt. Henry C. Bridgers, 1973]

## Classical School at Rocky Mount

CLASSICAL SCHOOL AT ROCKY MOUNT. The subscribers having engaged Mr. John Edmunds to take charge of the Male Academy at Rocky Mount the ensuing year, would inform the public generally that the exercises of the school will commence on Monday, the 3rd day of January next. Mr. Edmunds offers the most flattering testimonial (as to character and qualifications) from

Presidents Woolsey and Day, and Professors Silliman, Olmstead and others, of Yale College.

Arrangements have been made which will insure the permanency of the School, thereby securing to its patrons an unbroken course of studies and an early preparation to enter any College in the Union.

The academy being situate but one mile from the W. & R. Rail Road, and immediately upon the stage road leading from Raleigh to Tarboro', presents many advantages

to parents and guardians from the Eastern part of the State.

Tuition for the English Branches \$12 per Session of five months . . . Tuition Languages including Greek, Latin and French \$20. Board may be had in respectable families in the neighborhood at \$6 per month. As the school will be limited to thirty students, an early application may be necessary to procure Admission.

BENJA. D. Battle  
REDMUN BUTLER

[Tarboro' Press, 4 Dec 1847]



# A NASH COUNTY LEGEND—MR. BURT FERRELL

By W.H. Davis

Not long since I was riding through a section of **Nash county** bordering on the **Wilson county** line, and passed by the old home of the late W.B. Ferrell, better and more familiarly known ... as Burt Ferrell. ... My memory instinctively drifted back to the days when I used to ... frequently stop at Mr. Ferrell's, where my natural fondness for horses and dogs, etc., could be gratified and also to hear Uncle Burt tell of the many wonderful bursts of speed his horse had shown at times and about the money brought back to good old Nash by the great chicken fighters, **Arrington & Williams** [See "The Sport of Kings", *The Connector*, Winter, 1999], to whom he furnished many of their best birds. For these people to gather up one hundred or more Game cocks and meet their opponents at **Norfolk, Richmond** or some other appointed city, and fight chickens a week or two was in those days a great sport, and is said to have made Nash famous for Game cocks and fire water.

All of which has now passed away and left only the fond recollection of a fragrant Christmas egg-nog for nothing under the sun can give them as delightful taste and rich lingering farewell as a little Nash brandy.

Mr. Ferrell always kept a fine bred stock horse, a bunch of red hounds, a yard full of the best varieties of Game chickens, including the **Tennessee Blues, Kentucky Dominicks, War Horses**, etc. He was so confident of the superiority of the horse he owned. He kept him about 12 years and then raised one of his colts, which he kept 8 or 9 years and then a colt from the son was kept a number of years, making three generations, father, son and grandson. To all these animals he was devotedly attached. The old horse was, he claimed, a direct descendant of Sir Archer [See "Sir Archie—Fastest Horse of His Time", *The Connector*, Spring, 1999], the famous imported **English** stallion. ... When it came down to the lessons which were daily taught in the great university of experience and nature there were few who had learned more than he [Mr. Ferrell] of the ways of man, the habits and instincts of animals, and the flowers and fruits of the field. Mr. Ferrell was a member of a cavalry company in the

## THE CONNECTOR

**Confederate Army**, the late Capt. **F.W. Barnes** was captain of the company and I have heard Mr. Barnes say that when for any reason the commissary of his company became depleted and rations scarcer, all he had to do was call up "Burt" and make it known and next morning for breakfast either chicken, pork or beef was at hand. In other words he could hear a chicken crow, a pig grunt, or a calf bleat further than any man he had in his company.

Mr. Ferrell was an excellent trader and it was a favorite past time of his. Upon one occasion he brought to **Wilson** a milch cow to see and was offering her at a price. Several became interested after Uncle Burt had decanted upon the cow's unusual milk and butter making qualities, whereupon one of the prospective purchasers said if he only knew something of the breeding of the cow he might see his way clear to pay the price. Instantly Mr. Ferrell was equal to the occasion, and said he had letters at home to prove that her dame was brought over from **England** and she was sired by **Blackwell's Durham** bull. Of course the sale was consummated.

[*Wilson Daily Times*, August 8, 1919.

Submitted by Reese Ferrell,  
TRC President.]



## Bull Durham Tobacco

The Bull was advertised only by 24-sheet posters such as this one.

## Blackwell Gets Bull

When Sherman's troops marched through Durham, NC, they cleaned out John Green's tobacco factory. Appreciating its quality, they ordered his tobacco in quantity after the war.. Green's mixture was advertised as *Genuine Durham Smoking Tobacco* with a bull's picture. In 1860, **W. T. Blackwell** bought the *Bull Durham* business and turned it into a major company which was **Washington Duke's** major competition in Durham.

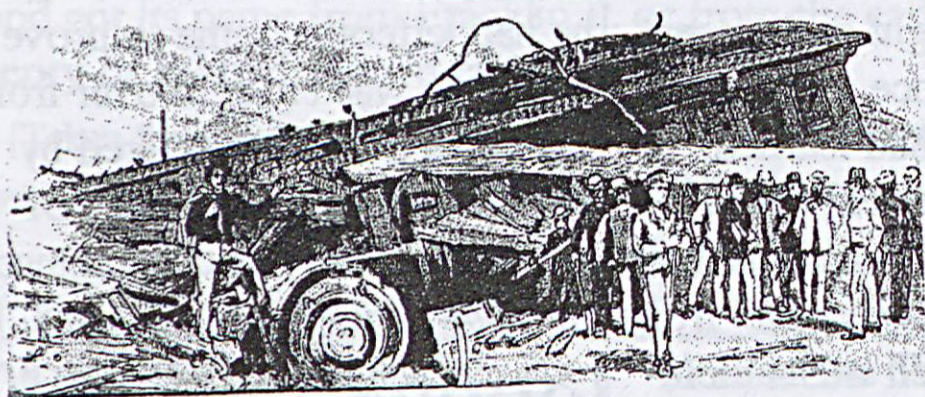


## Broken Rail on Trestle— Train Plummets

**Two Cars Go Through a Trestle—Several Badly Bruised—No One Seriously Hurt—Narrow Escape of the Sleeping Car Crowded with Ladies, &c., &c.,**

Intelligence was received here yesterday to the effect that quite a serious accident had befallen the passenger train on the **Wilmington and Weldon Railroad** which left this city at 10:40 P.M. on Tuesday. From the particulars furnished to **Capt. J.F. Divine**, Superintendent of the road, we glean the following: **Capt. J.M. Howell** telegraphs that the train ran off at **Town Creek** trestle, the first and second class cars being precipitated through the trestle, and that one end of the sleeping car was off. He had taken the passengers in the Express and Baggage cars to **Weldon [NC]**. No one was seriously hurt, but a good many badly bruised, himself among the number.

A later dispatch to Superintendent Divine states that three persons who were on the train are under medical treatment. One of these, a train hand, had his throat cut and head badly bruised. Another colored man, named **Tom**, one of **Capt. Barry's** crank hands, had several ribs broken and leg hurt badly; and the third, named **Cupid**,



## THE CONNECTOR

who is also one of **Capt. Barry's** crank hands, had an arm dislocated. The accident, which happened about 4:40 A.M., was caused by a broken rail which was encountered about fifty yards from the trestle. Since writing above, we have received the following special telegram in relation to the accident:

ROCKY MOUNT, March 26.

The Mail train due at Rocky Mount at 4:30 A.M. encountered a broken rail on the trestle at the north prong of **Town Creek**, 3 miles north of **Joyner's**. [Joyner's, no longer in existence, was in northern **Wilson Co.**, near **Elm City**. The trestle on **Town Creek** near the point where **Nash Co.** and **Wilson Co.** meet.] The engine jumped the obstacle, but the first and second class cars were hurled off into the water below. The sleeping car, in which the most of the ladies were, escaped. The rail was broken by the 2 A.M. southern freight train. Conductor **Howell** and **Prentiss**, Express Messenger, were slightly wounded. Four colored men were more or less injured. Their names are, **Cupid Hollowell**, head crushed in; **Tom Lewis**, three ribs broken and internal contusion; **Daniel Robinson**, left side bruised and paralyzed; and **Tom Blank**, hand lacerated. These patients are now here unable to be moved. They give a terrifying description of the disaster and the wailings of the wounded in the darkness. The sleeping car stopped before it reached the trestle, otherwise its full list of female passengers would have been decimated, as it was the only crowded car in the train. Twenty-four hours will be required to repair the breach.



[Wilmington, NC *Weekly Star*, 1873.]

Submitted by R. J. Cooke of Wilmington, NC.]

## Death of Mrs. Mary Cook Green

Remarkable woman passes away at **Warrenton, N. C.** She had been Postmaster at that place for forty years.

Mrs. Mary Green, mother of **Dr. I.E. Green** of this town, one of the most remarkable women who ever lived in **Warren County, North Carolina** died at her home in War-

renton, Sunday morning [May 20, 1906] at five o'clock.

Mrs. Green was the daughter of **Benjamin Edwards** and **Sallie Marshall Cook**. Her father was for 45 years Clerk of Court of **Warren County**.

In early life she was united in marriage to the late **George Washington Green** and was left a widow after seven or eight years of happy married wedded life. To them were born two sons who survive to mourn their great loss in the death of their

mother, **Dr. I. E. Green** of **Weldon**, and **Benjamin George, Esq.** of **Warrenton**.

Mrs. Green was for forty years postmaster in **Warrenton**, having received her appointment from **President Johnston** in 1866, and she served continuously under every administration until the time of her death. She was a most excellent officer, and was regarded by post office authorities as one of the best in the service. Nothing ever went wrong in

SEE DEATH, PAGE 15



## Hope Plantation Flourishes

**H**ope Plantation, located in southern Bertie County, NC, has been painstakingly restored by the Historic Hope Foundation, Inc. [See "Dressing the Corpse—Memories of Hope Plantation", *The Connector*, Winter, 1998.] Hope was the home of **David Stone**, NC governor for two terms in the early 1800s and later a U. S. Senator. Stone also owned **Restdale**, in Wake County, where he died at age 49 and is buried in the family cemetery. At one time, his two self-contained plantations contained about 8,000 acres. Hope had its own water powered grist mill, still, saw mill, blacksmith shop, coopers shop and houses for spinning and weaving. He grew wheat, corn, oats, rye, flax, and cotton, for which he had a "cotton machine." He also raised cattle, sheep, horses, and hogs.

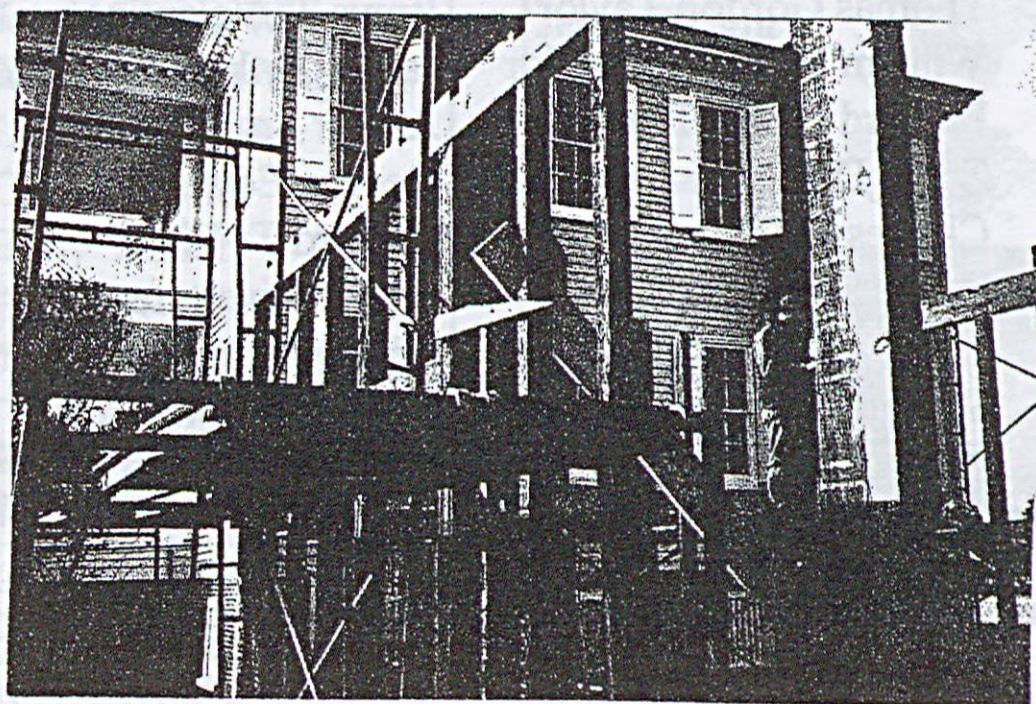
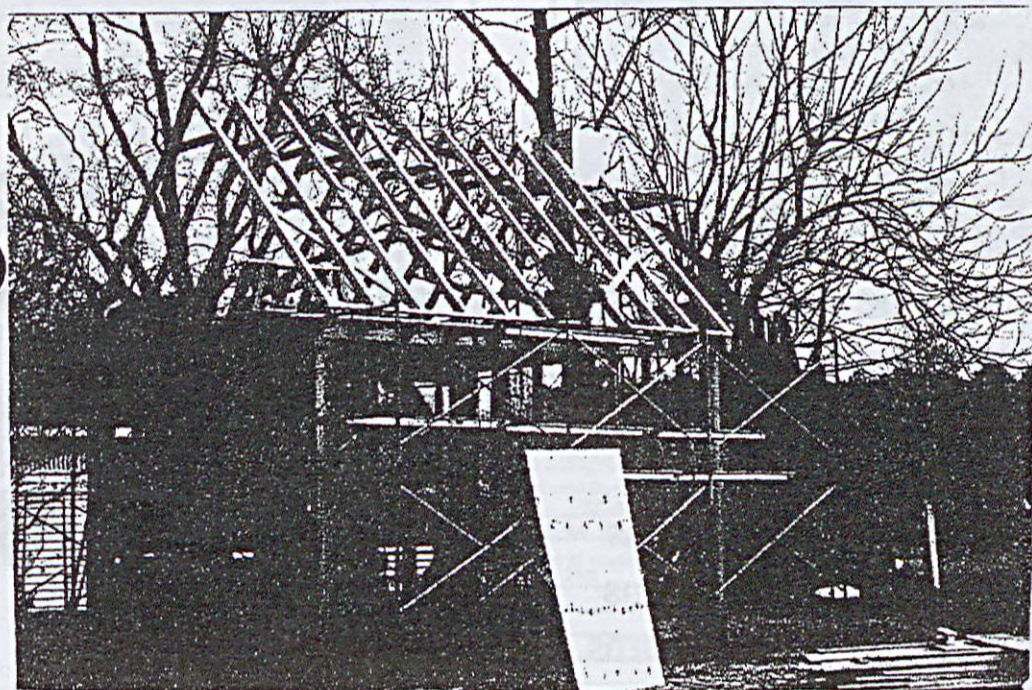
Gov. Stone, a contemporary and friend of **Thomas Jefferson**, owned a 1400 volume library. Many of these

books are housed in the **Heritage Center** at Hope Plantation. His promotion of education in the state was perhaps his greatest legacy.

Recent projects at the Bertie Co. site include paint analysis in the mansion which resulted in colors being changed in several rooms and on the exterior; restoration work on the **Samuel Cox** house, ca. 1800, and the **King-Bazemore** house; and the reconstruction of a detached kitchen. This reconstruction was carried out by **Dean Ruedrich**, an historical restoration contractor. In addition, funds have been secured to perform an archaeological survey to flesh out the remainder of the Hope Plantation, including various outbuildings.

This historic site is well worth a visit if you are in the area. It is located at 132 Hope House Road, Windsor, NC 27983. The telephone number is (252) 794-3140.

[This article was taken from a presentation by Tim Hall, Coordinator of Education and Programs at Hope.]



Restoration of the detached kitchen at Hope Plantation is now complete.

**DEATH, CONT. FROM PAGE 14**  
her office. She took the office at the earnest solicitation of the late **Joseph B. Batchelor** and other prominent citizens of the place; and the people of the community petitioned for her re-appointment under every administration. She was a woman of sterling worth, sprightly manners, sparkling wit and devoted friendship.

She received injuries from a fall, ten and one-half months ago from which she never recovered. For weeks she kept herself alive by her unconquerable will, but Sunday morning she yielded her spirit to

God and passed away in the 85th year of her age.

She made a profession of religion in early life and was a devout member of **Emmanuel Episcopal Church**.

...

The funeral service took place Monday at 4 o'clock from the Episcopal Church, and the interment was in **Fairview Cemetery**. Highly honored and beloved in life, no person who has ever lived in Warrenton was more honored in death. Friends and relatives from all sections of the State were present and the funeral procession was one of the largest ever seen

in that County, and the profusion of beautiful floral offerings all attested the love of the community for the noble woman who had passed to her reward.

[*Roanoke News*, 24 May 1906]

### MARRIED

In this place, on Thursday evening last, by H. Austin, Esq. **Mr. Hansel Cross**, to **Mrs. Susan Braswell**.

Also, in this county, a few days since, by same, **Wm. Adams**, Sen'r, to **Miss Robbins**, daughter of Mr. Jacob Robbins.

[*Tarborough Press*, Jan. 12, 1839]





# Nash County Enlistees And Other Bits



Fourth in

## White

Spencer D. Strickland  
James Strum  
Thomas B. Suiter  
Benjamin A. Sumner  
Harry Mason Swanson  
Edgar Nelms Sykes  
Guy Sykes  
Alonzo Graham Taylor  
James Edward Taylor  
Oscar Lenwood Taylor  
Sid Taylor  
Thomas Gordon Taylor  
William Marcellus Taylor  
Edward Henry Tharrington  
Zollie Daniel Tharrington  
Charles G. Thomas  
B.E. Thompson  
James Offie Thorne  
William Randolph Thorne

A.T. Thorpe  
Daniel Wood Thorpe, Jr.  
Franklin W. Thorpe  
Lewis S. Thorpe  
William L. Thorpe  
Thomas Lee Tracy  
William L. Trevathan  
Leland Leslie Turner  
James L. Tyree  
Carmel Underhill  
Robert Lee Underwood  
Joseph Clayton Upchurch  
Itmus T. Valentine  
James Arthur Vanhook  
Arthur Smith Vick  
George Edward Vick  
Richard T. Vick  
Ernest Viverette  
Edward Dewey Walker  
John Forest Walker

James Lee Walker  
Lawrence F. Walker  
Willie Boone Walton  
Charles Bryan Ward  
Thomas M. Ward  
Luther Thomas Warren  
Henry B. Webb  
Hassell H. Weeks  
Janius Octavious Weeks  
Nathan Edward Weinstein  
Lotis Bryant Wells  
Bennie Wester  
George Wiley Wester  
James Albert Wester  
James E. Westray  
Edward Kress Whitaker  
Jefferson D. Whitehead, Jr.  
Sammie Herbert Whitley  
William Moses J.B. Whitley  
William S. Wilkinson, Jr.  
Aja Williams  
Edgar Allen Williams  
John Turner Williams  
Joseph Vider Williams  
Rufus Mike Williams  
Dr. John A. Winstead  
Orrin Earl Winstead  
Willie Winstead  
Milton Wood  
Alvin Gray Woodard  
Vernie Steven Woodcock  
E. W. Woodruff  
Walter H. Woodruff  
William Woodruff  
Charles Worrell  
James R. Worsley  
Ransome Worsley  
Joseph Wm. Wyenne  
Clarence L. Young



## Annie Oakley Aids War Effort

Annie Oakley, sharpshooter with the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show, and her husband, Frank Butler,



Dave let Annie shoot

moved to Pinehurst, NC in 1915. During the summer of 1918, she toured American army camps, entertaining more than half a million soldiers without compensation. Annie, her husband and their setter, Dave, also raised thousands of dollars for the Red Cross. After Annie's shooting exhibition, a spectator would be

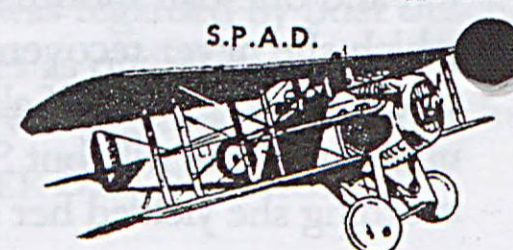
challenged to take money from his pocket, wrap it in his handkerchief, and let Dave smell it. Then, with Dave blindfolded, the money was hidden. If Dave could find the money, it had to be given to the Red Cross; if he failed to find it, the Butlers donated that amount. Dave seldom let them down.



A Sista



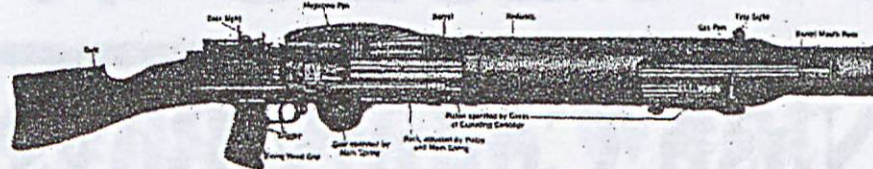
A Blue Devil





# In World War I And Pieces

## A Series



The Lewis Machine Gun  
Used by the Americans in their advance in the Argonne.

ARE YOU  
IDLE  
TO-DAY?  
THE BOYS  
IN THE TRENCHES  
ARE NOT

### Black

Ressie McGee  
Ernest Smith  
John Wesley Smith  
June Solomon  
Pete Stallings  
Willie Stephen  
Badger Stephenson  
Albert Stewart  
Jefferson Stokes  
Daniel Hilliard Stone  
Edward Strickland  
Kelly Strickland  
Benjamin Sumner  
Cleveland Sumner  
Frank Sumner  
Gaston Sumner  
Calvin Tabron  
Troy Tabron  
Lofton Tate  
Ned Taylor  
William D. Taylor  
Walter T. Terrel  
Harrison T. Terry  
Roger Terry  
Edd Thomas  
Lee Thomas  
Luther Thomas  
Louis Thomas  
Claud Thompson  
Edgar Thompson  
Lawrence Thompson  
Elijah Thorne  
Ollie Tucker  
William Vaughan  
Arthur Vick  
Ben Vick  
Dennis Vick  
Leon Vick  
Rowland Vick  
Roy Vick



Clarence Webb  
Walter Webster  
Cary Weldon  
James West  
James Westray  
Plummer Westray  
Arthur Whitaker  
Henry Whitaker  
James O.D. Whitaker  
Lonnie Whitaker  
William Whitaker  
Dannie Whitehead  
Jessie Luper Wiggins  
Jessie Robert Wiggins  
Loomis Wiggins  
Calvin Wilder  
Early Wilder

Lonnie Williams  
Louis Williams  
Matt Williams  
Wesley Williams  
Charley Williamson  
Dock Williamson  
John A. Williamston  
Spencer Williamson  
James Wingate  
Jessie W. Winstead  
Oliver Woodard  
Joseph Worrell  
Jesse Wright  
John Wright  
Sam Wright  
Charlie Young



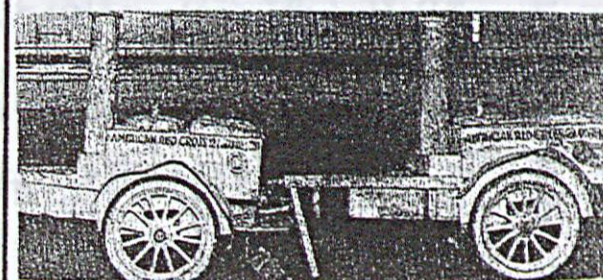
Westry, Plummer	4,452,975	1
(Surname)	(Christian name)	(Army serial number)
Residence: Rockmount	Nashville	NORTH CAROLINA
(Street and house number)	(Town or city)	(State)
Inducted at: Nashville N.C.	Oct 15/18	on 19__
Place of birth: Rockmount N.C.	Age or date of birth: Dec 7/97	
Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers:		
Students Army Air C Negro A&T College Greensboro N.C.		
to disch		
Grades, with date of appointment: Pvt		
Engagements:		
Wounds or other injuries received in action: None.		
Served overseas from 11/18 to 1/19 from 1/19 to 1/19		
Honorably discharged on demobilization Dec 11/18, 19__		
In view of occupation he was, on date of discharge, reported 0 per cent disabled.		
Remarks:		
Form No. 73-1, A. G. O. *Strike out words not applicable. † Dates of departure from and arrival in the U. S.		

Submitted by Lawrence L. Jones, TRC Member  
and grandson of Plummer Westray

Ashley Wilkins  
Henry Wilkins  
Johnnie Wilkins  
John W. Wilkins  
Lemon Wilkins  
Oll Wilkins  
Orlando Wilkins  
Bill Wilson  
Jake Wilson  
Walter Wilson  
Willie Wilson  
Ad Williams  
Archie Williams

Tom Vick  
Bryant Wade  
Arthur Ward  
Floyd Ward  
Will Ward  
Ernest Warren  
Melton Warren  
Solomon Warren  
Geo. Washington  
Clarence Watkins  
Bruce Watson  
James A. Watson

Benjamin Williams  
Chester Williams  
Dudley Williams  
Ephrom Williams  
Grady Williams  
Henry D. Williams  
Himan Williams  
Jack Williams  
Joe Williams  
Jonas Williams  
Leonard L. Williams



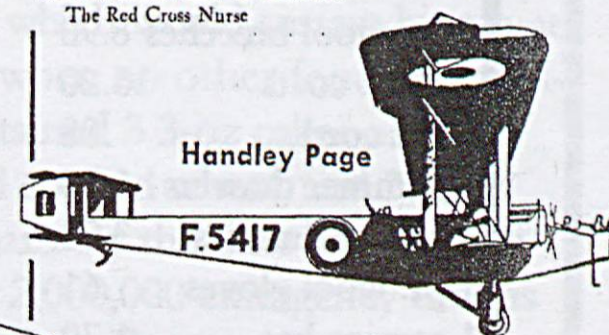
Red Cross "Cocoa Cannons"  
Rolling Kitchen used in France



Drawn by Harrison Fisher. © Brown Bros.  
The Red Cross Nurse

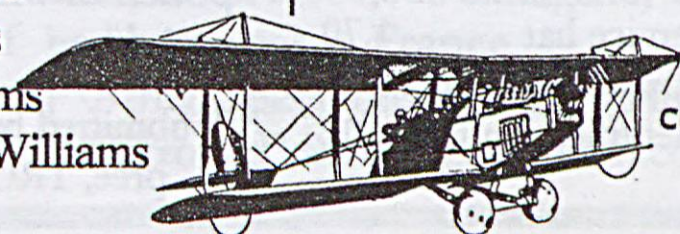


From Missouri



Handley Page

F.5417



Curtiss (Jenny)





# More World War I

## What Nash County Boys Did

Farmer	Public Works Laborer	Mail Carrier	Civil Engineer	Car Repairer	Trestle Laborer
Bookkeeper	Painter	Porter	Shipping Clerk	Blacksmith	Truck Driver
Lawyer	Tobacco buyer	Concrete Worker	Billing freight w/NSRR	Lumber Inspector	Worker in Gas Factory
Shipping Clerk	Sawmill	Bell Boy	Dupont Police	Machinist	Plasterer
Student	Steel Worker	Traveling Salesman	Electric Wirer	Mill Operator	Packing Tobacco
Brick Layer	Lumber Camp	Bedding Factory	Locomotive Painter	Lawyer	Steel Plant
Barber	Servant, Park View Hosp.	Chauffeur	Cotton Buyer	Train Dispatcher	Trucker
Physician	Transfer Man	Stenographer	Barman	Tireworker	A.C.L.R.R.
Butler	Lineman	Canning Factory	Oil Mill Hand	Pipe Fitter Asst.	Hotel Worker
Trunk & Baggage Clerk	Boiler Maker	Orderly	Clothes Presser	Butcher	Draying
Guard	Oil Mill Labor	Miller	Vulcanizing Helper	Secretary	Munition Plant
Railroad Shops	Teacher	Convict	Cashier	Veterinarian	Drug Clerk
Conductor	Baker	Merchant	Foreman Coca Cola Bott Co	Seaman	Long Shoreman
Carpenter	Mechanic	Fireman	Air Brake Repairer	Telegraph Operator	Tobacco Factory
Cook	Road Work	Constable	Insurance Agent	Painter	Car Oiler
Cotton Milling	Millwright	Woodworker	Plumber	Collector	Huckster
Pharmacist	Bridge Worker	Dipper, #10 Nitrogen House	Medical Stu.	Machine Hand	Pool Racker
Co Health Off	Brakeman	Textile Worker	RR Brakeman	Soldier	Banking
Pressman	Powder Fact.	Locomotive Fireman	Locomotive Eng.	Police Dept	Section Hand
				Musician	Spinner
				Cabinet Maker	Jeweller
				Teacher	Dental Student
				Chipper Special	Crane Conductor
				Forge	Rubber Worker
				Fireman	

## Equipping A Soldier

In 1917, the US Government spent \$156.71 to equip a soldier going into training. Itemized figures given out by the War Department were:

### Clothing:

1 bedsack	.89
3 wool blankets	18.75
1 waist belt	.25
2 pr. wool breeches	8.90
2 wool coats	15.20
1 hat cord	.08
3 summer drawers	1.50
3 winter drawers	3.88
1 pr. wool gloves	.61
1 service hat	1.70
5pr. wool stockings	1.50
4 identification tags	.02

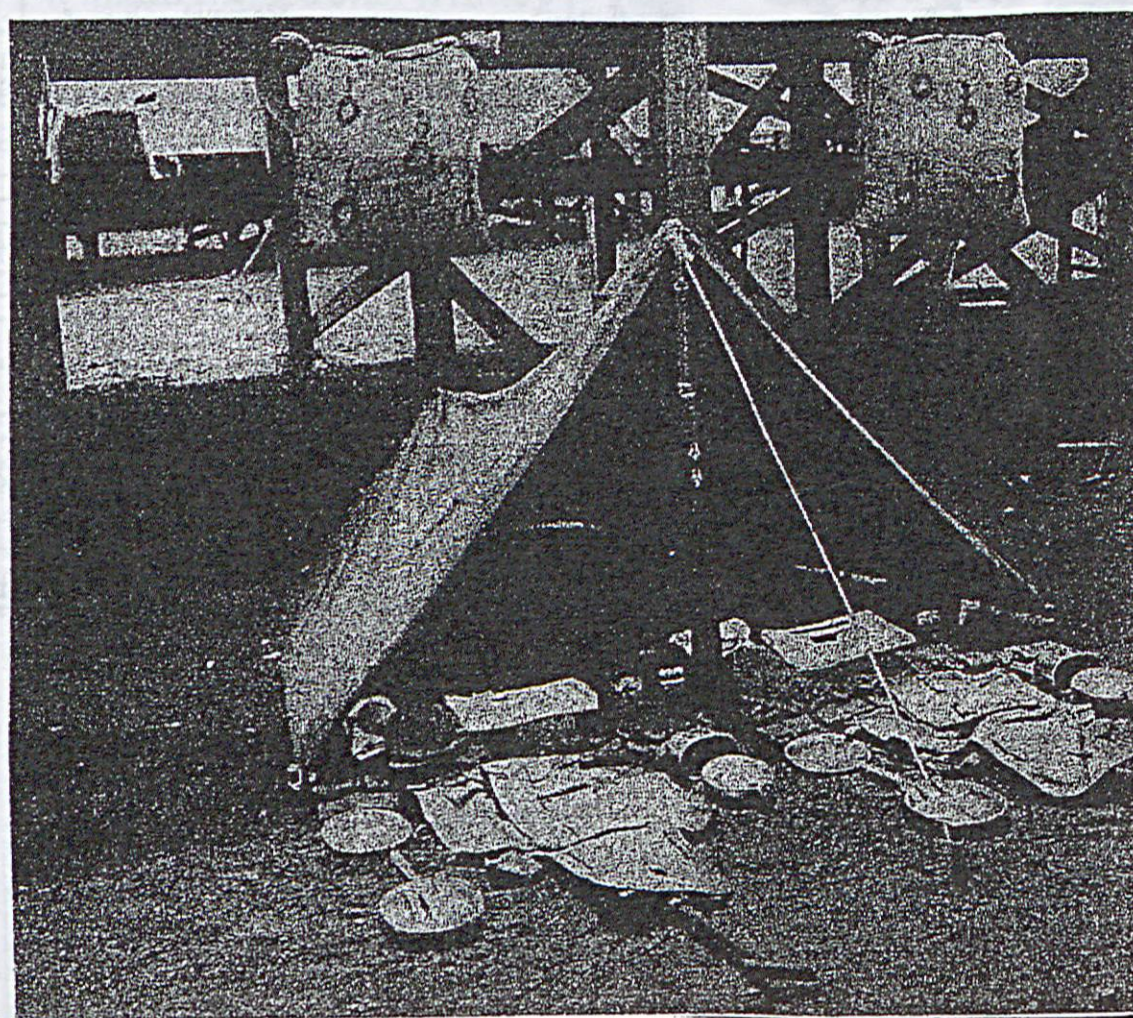
summer undershirts	1.50
4 winter undershirts	4.88
1 overcoat	14.92
5 shelter tent pins	.20
1 shelter tent pole	.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$101.62</b>

### Fighting Equipment:

100 Cartridges	5.00
1 steel helmet	3.00
1 gas mask	12.00
1 trench tool	.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$47.36</b>

Eating utensils costing \$7.73 include the first food issued to each man, canteen, canteen cover, cup, knife, fork, spoon, meat can, haversack, pack carrier, first aid kit and pouch in which it is carried.

[Submitted by Barbara Dupree, TRC member.]

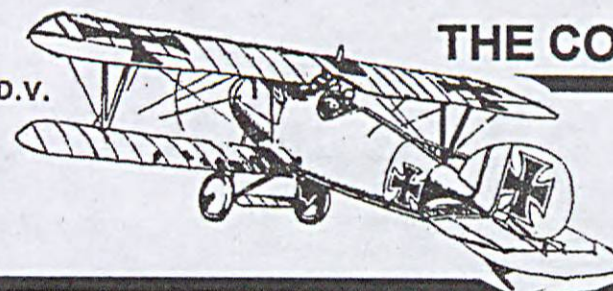


## Soldier Equipment.

Shows what each American soldier carried when in actual service.



# Bits & Pieces



## Where Nash County Boys Went

Camp Grant, Il  
Camp Green(e),  
N.C. [Charlotte]  
Camp Lee, Va  
Camp Meade, Md  
Camp Jackson, SC  
Camp Upton, N.Y.  
Camp Zachary  
Taylor, Ky  
Norfolk, Va [Navy]  
Greensboro, NC  
A&T College  
Training Dept.,  
Greensboro, N.C.  
Camp Sevier, S.C.  
Ft. Myer, Va  
Ft. McPherson, Ga  
Section B.S.A.T.C.  
Camp Greenleaf  
Chick Pk., Ga



Third Liberty Loan Poster

Camp Hancock, Ga  
(Aviation Sig.  
Corps, Spruce Di-  
vision, Vancouver,  
Wash.)  
Fort Oglethorpe,  
Ga  
N.C.A.M. College,  
W. Raleigh, N.C.  
Fort Thomas, Ky  
Camp A.A. Hum-  
phreys, Va  
Syracuse Recruit  
Camp, N.Y.  
A&M College, Tal-  
lahassee, Fla  
Merchant Marine,  
East Boston  
Base Hosp. #65,  
McPherson, Ga

Fort Screven, Ga  
OTC Columbia, SC  
Camp Wadesworth,  
S.C.  
U.S.N.R.F.  
QM Reserve Corps  
Charleston, S.C.  
U.S. Marine Corp.  
Camp Gordon, Ga  
Camp Devens,  
Mass  
Ft. Wayne, Mich.  
Navy Mobilization  
Station, Norfolk Va  
3rd Reg Infirmary,  
Henderson, N.C.  
Entered with Rus-  
sian R.R. Service  
Ft. Slocum, N.Y.  
Ft Royal, Va

Enlisted R.O.S.,  
Hampton Roads,  
Va  
Columbus Bar-  
racks, Ohio  
Ordinance Corps,  
Washington, D.C.  
(M.E.R.C. Kansas  
City, Mo. Enlisted)  
Enlisted N.C.N.G.,  
Goldsboro, N.C.  
Fort Benj. Harri-  
son, Ind.  
Enlisted, Motor  
Truck Co, Raleigh,  
N.C.  
Camp Pike, Ark.  
Camp Wheeler, Ga  
Fort Leavenworth,  
Kansas  
Camp Colt, Pa  
1st Va. Cav.



## Rations in the Great War

World War I saw the development of special-purpose rations. Throughout its history, from the Revolution to World War I, the chief food for the soldier was the garrison ration which consisted basically of meat, bread, and some vegetables. However, World War I brought the special problems of mass movement and mass supply in far off places. The increased ability to produce and store food made it possible to supply the troops with nourishing, if not delicious, food.

The reserve ration was an individual package, carried by the soldier, for use when other food was not available. It included a 1-lb can of meat, such as corned beef, 2 8-oz cans of hard bread, 2.4 oz. of sugar, 1.12 oz. of coffee, and .16 oz. of salt. The food in this package, weighting

2.75 pounds, contained 3300 calories and was good for a day.

The trench ration consisted of enough canned meats and hard bread to feed 25 men for one day. The meats were roast beef, corned beef, salmon, and sardines. Also included were salt, sugar, coffee, solidified alcohol, and cigarettes. It was packed in galvanized containers to protect the contents from poison gas. The alcohol allowed it to be heated, but it was often used without preparation.

The emergency ration, also known as the "Armour" or "iron" ration, was an oval can which would fit into the soldier's pocket and which would sustain him in an emergency when no other food was available. It contained 3 3-oz cakes of beef powder and cooked wheat, and 3 1-oz chocolate bars. By the time the war was over, about 2,000,000 emergency rations had been sent to France.

["Army Operational Rations - Historical Background" at [www.qmfound.com](http://www.qmfound.com)]

## Garbage is valuable

Don't waste it

UNITED STATES FOOD ADMINISTRATION

EXPLOSIVES  
FERTILIZERS  
SOAPS -  
vital War  
necessities  
are being  
made from  
Kitchen  
Refuse

Clean Garbage is also  
excellent food for hogs.  
Keep it free from  
broken Crockery-Glass  
-Tin Cans-Sweepings  
and other household  
Rubbish.

Use every ounce of food for  
human consumption, then -

make the Garbage Pail do its part

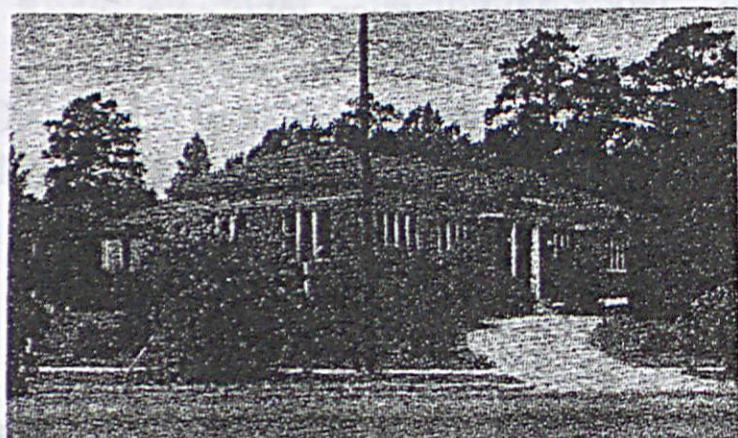


## Braswell Memorial Library

### Rocky Mount, NC

The first sign of a library in Rocky Mount was in 1913 when the **Lyceum Association** found itself in possession of \$100 which it set aside for a reading room or library. In the Fall of 1915, the **Woman's Club** was organized and one of its objectives was to start a library for the town. By 1917, the women had managed to purchase bookcases and about 100 books.

After World War I, interest in



other places and people had awakened our citizens to the benefits of a reading room or library. Again the Woman's Club raised funds and 2 sets of encyclopedias, several sets of histories, and volumes of fiction and literature were purchased. But the club had nowhere to house the collection. The **Chamber of Commerce** allowed the fledgling library to occupy an unused office and in April 1921 the Woman's Club books and furniture were moved there. The Chamber stenographer, **Mrs. Daisy McMillan**, served as librarian. The librarian duties were later taken over by members of the literary committee of the Woman's Club who devoted themselves to their small library. They sponsored numerous fund raisers such as a book party, a bridge tournament, and a fashion

show. By the end of 1920, the library could boast a total of 1013 volumes.

The library was a huge success. As the project grew beyond the ability of the Woman's Club to support it alone, other groups were drawn into the project. In 1922, the city appropriated \$1200 for a trained librarian. A mass meeting was held which led to the formation of the **Rocky Mount Library Association** with a constitution, officers, trustees, and 90 members. This group accepted the books and furniture from the Woman's Club and the library was official.

In 1922, **Dr. Mark Russell Braswell** observed the large the number of people—particularly crowds of children—swarming up the stairs of the Chamber of Commerce Building, each coming down with a book. Dr. Braswell had been seeking a worthy memorial for his only son who died in 1907 at the age of 12. He wanted something more than a marble monument; rather, he was seeking a memorial that would live on and become an instrument of service in the life

of the community. He decided that a library building would be such a memorial. A man of action when once his decision was made, plans were quickly drawn and the beautiful building bearing the name of his dear little son, **Thomas Hackney Braswell**, soon became a reality. It was dedicated Nov. 12, 1923. Dr. Braswell later provided an endowment



## THE CONNECTOR

fund, in the name of his wife, for the upkeep of the library.

By the mid-1930s, the library had outgrown its building and two additional wings were added to the original building in 1936, doubling its capacity. The new addition carried the library until 1961 when the adult circulation area, conference room, staff work room and current periodical area were added. A year later, funds were being raised for construction of what is now the children's room. The size of the library has remained the same since that time—far too small for today's needs.

Thomas Hackney Braswell Memorial Library has had only 6 librarians since 1923. Their names and dates of service are: **Mrs. Jacob Battle**, 1923-1943; **Mrs. Ruth Jeffreys**, 1943-1971 and 1976-1977; **Walter Gray**, 1971-1976; **Jay J. Chung**, 1977-1986; **Anne Marie Elkins**, 1986-1990; and **Martha Turney**, 1990—Present.

The Fall issue of *The Connector* will provide a look at the new Thomas Hackney Braswell Memorial Library which will open in September.

## DIED,

At his residence near Greenville, Pitt county, on Monday last, Major **Jesse M. Cherry**. The deceased was at the time of his death in perfect health, and engaged in attending to his domestic pursuits. A minute or two previous to his death, he was engaged in conversation with a person in his employ; and whilst in the act of turning away, he fell and upon examination it was ascertained that the vital spark had fled.

[Tarboro' Press, November 26, 1836]