

# The Connector

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

Fall, 1999

Peggy Strickland & Billie Jo Matthews, Co- Editors

Volume 3 Issue 4

## Heinous Crime in Franklin County

History furnished few more tragical events than the following which took place in Franklin Co. About the year 1755, there was a man by the name of **William Thomas** who had been some time settled on **Flat Rock Creek**. That happened to be an unfavorable crop year and there was little prospect of most of the new settlers' main crops.

He had a wife and seven Children, the eldest about ten years old. He had no meat &

figured to himself that his family must starve. This idea brooded in his mind till he formed the dreadful resolution of putting them to death.

One evening he sent his two eldest,



who were Sons, a considerable distance from the house to burn brush. Having set them to work he returned to the house and cut the throats of his wife, who was far advanced in pregnancy, & five of his Children..

Towards the close of this bloody scene he had cut the throat of his little Girl about six or seven years old. She retreated into a small porch belonging to the house. Having finished the business within he soon followed her. On his advancing she exclaimed, "Pray Dady, don't kill me. Help me to stop this blood." The inhuman monster scattered her brains with a homminy Pestle.

He went back to the new ground where he intended to have thrown his Sons in the brush fire, but, glutted with blood & thinking they might be of service to him, he

**SEE HEINOUS, PAGE 18**

## Tar River Rambler

BY LOUISE FULLER

No one rambles as much as a fox hunter; some rambling takes place after the quest is over, whether it ended successfully or not. One such hunt ended up in court.

**Thomas Howerton**, Esquire and J.P. held court at his **Franklin County** tavern 9 Nov 1844 to hear evidence in the pending case of **Jesse Person vs Harbird H. Hight**. It seems that Harbird H. Hight, one of his sons, two **Mr. Hunts** and **Archibald Yarborough** had taken their dogs hunting in August 1843. Evidence was given by Yarborough's deposition on Person's objection to the defendant for crossing his land in the pursuit.

In his testimony, Yarborough stated the hunters left Hight's place,

headed towards the Tar River between **Levin Perry's** land and the river. The dogs struck trail. In the meanwhile **Matt Smith** and **William Eborn** joined the hunters. They

**SEE RAMBLER PAGE 17**

## Floyd

**Hurricane Floyd** struck eastern NC on Sept. 15-16, turning the placid **Tar River** into a savage torrent. **Nash, Edgecombe, Pitt and Beaufort** Counties were especially hard hit with entire towns flooded and cut off by washed out bridges and roads. Homes and businesses were destroyed by unprecedented flood, wind and falling trees in **Rocky Mount, Tarboro, Greenville, Washington** and numerous smaller towns.

We learned, however, that the spirit of neighborliness which has carried Americans through countless catastrophes is still alive and well!

## Early Mail Delivery

In 1715, a law was passed that required planters to relay letters coming into their possession on to the next plantation, under penalty of a fine for not doing so. This service continued throughout VA and NC prior to the establishing of the government mail routes. In 1794, **Thomas Pickering**, Postmaster General of the US advertised for a bid proposal for "carrying the mail of the United States on a post road from **Petersburg, VA** to **Augusta, GA**, by estimate 441 miles." A note to this proposal: "It is expected that the Post Rider from Petersburg will proceed as far as **Charles Harris'** on **Nottoway River** and there meet the Post Rider from **Warrenton**; and having exchanged mails they will

**SEE MAIL, PAGE 7**



## QUERY GUIDE- LINES

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

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## Camp Fires of the Boys in Gray

By PRIVATE CARLTON MCCARTHY OF THE RICHMOND HOWITZERS

The soldier may forget the long, weary march and the horrors and blood of the battlefield, or he may recall them sadly, but the cheerful, happy scenes of the camp fire he will never forget. It was his home, his place of rest, where he met with good companionship. *Who kindled the fire?* Nobody had matches, there was no fire in sight, and yet, scarcely was the camp determined when the bright blaze of the camp fire was seen.

As soon as the fire is kindled all hands want water. We have a man who knows where to go. He says, "Where's our bucket?" "We hear the rattle of the tin cup as it drops to the bottom of it, and away he goes, nobody knows where. Most men walking a mile from camp will miss water. But that fellow never failed. He would go straight for the spring, or well, or creek, or river.



Having a roaring fire and a bucket of good water, we settle down. Each man and his "chum" picks out a tree, and that particular tree becomes the homestead of the two. They hang their canteens on it, lay their haversacks and spread their blankets at the foot of it, and sit down and lean their weary backs against it, and feel that they are at home.

The man squatting by the fire is a person of importance. He doesn't talk—not he; his whole mind is concentrated on that skillet. He doesn't mix, but simply bakes, the biscuit. Don't suggest anything to him! Don't attempt to put on or take off from the top of that skillet one single coal, and don't be in a hurry for the biscuit. Simply wait. When he thinks they are ready, and not before, you get them. *All right boys!* And now with the air of a wealthy philanthropist he distributes the solid and weighty product of his skill.

The *Recruit* was so interesting. His nice clean clothes, new hat, new shoes, trimming on his shirt front, letters and cross guns on his hat, new

SEE CAMPFIRE, PAGE 17



## North Carolina Collection

BY DR. ROBERT ANTHONY, CURATOR

The North Carolina Collection, housed in specially designed facilities in the Louis Round Wilson Library at the University of NC at Chapel Hill, preserves a collection of literary, visual, and artifactual materials illustrating four centuries of the colony and state of NC. The Collection was begun in 1844 by the Historical Society of the University of NC, organized by former governor and UNC President David L. Swain. At the time of its first report, the Society had acquired 32 publications and 11 collections of manuscripts. It now contains more than 100,000 books, 75,000 pamphlets, and thousands of newspapers, journals, maps, broadsides, audiovisuals, microforms, and other library materials. A clipping file contains mounted clippings arranged by name and subject; the file through 1975 has been copied and bound into more than 350 volumes.

The policy is to collect materials published by North Carolinians regardless of subject or language and those published about North Carolina and North Carolinians regardless of author or language. The "memory" of the Collection is the card catalog, now being supplemented by an on-line catalog which may be searched by author, title or subject. Other special indexes are available. An Imprint File lists books and pamphlets printed in NC from 1749 through 1880 and a Compiled Biography

SEE COLLECTION, PAGE 5

THOMAS HACKNEY BRASWELL  
MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804

CONNECTOR

## Fearless Aunt Abby

During the Civil War, Aunt Abby House was a Florence Nightingale in the rough. Contentious, ornery and hot-tempered, she could out-swear any man living; but the boys in Gray called her "an angel of mercy," and "the fearless woman." Fearless she certainly was—an old woman riding into the thick of battle and tending the wounded with no apparent concern for the shells bursting over her head. It was said that she ministered, in her rough way, to the sick and wounded men on the VA hills. She was present at several battles, and she was said to be as cool and self-possessed as any veteran. On one occasion, while the fight was going on, she was seen in a very exposed place, holding a horse. Someone said, "Old woman, you'd better get out of here before one of those shells tears you all to pieces."

"I ain't gwine a step. I told the Colonel I'd hold his horse til he came back out of the fight, and I'll do it, shells or no shells."

Aunt Abby was with Lee's army when it surrendered, and they told her to wave her handkerchief to let the Yankees know that she was willing to surrender, too. When asked if she waved it, she replied, "Not much. I shook it so, a time or two, and then I stuck my hand behind me. Then I shook it again, and put it behind me. I never was so mad in all my life as I was when one of them Yankees came along and sed to me, 'Old woman, you needn't mind about shaking that rag any more, we don't care whether you surrender or not.' I said, 'Drat your mean soul, if I had a gun I'd shoot you off that horse and leave you here for the buzzards to pick'. He didn't say another word, but rode off looking as cheap as if he'd stole a sheep."

She returned to Raleigh, NC after the surrender, and, as she was getting off the car at the depot, a Yankee soldier, seeing an old woman hobbling out, went to help her down. She raised her stick as he approached to help her down and said, with an oath that shocked him, "Don't you come any nigher, if you don't want your head cracked. No d—d Yankee shall touch me."

Soon after the end of the war, Aunt Abby went to the victors' headquarters in Raleigh to see about some horses that had been taken from her. Governor



Vance's office was being used by the Yankee officials, and when Aunt Abby entered the door, she stopped, leaned on her cane, and with a contemptuous look, gazed all around. At length, she spoke, "Yes, here's where gentlemen used to sit, but now it's a den of thie-

ves." Then, in a very commanding tone, she said, "I want my crap critters."

"Your what?" asked an officer.

"My crap critters—my horses, you fool; my horses you infernal thieves stole from me."

"Ah, that's it; you want your horses. How many did you lose?"

"Two as good as ever pulled a plow," she replied.

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# CROWN SYMPATHIZERS' MEETING HOUSE

BY HELEN WATSON

They pulled the curtains over the narrow windows, drew their chairs up to the table, and as they made their plans, the tin lantern shone on nervous faces of some loyal followers of **King George III**. By morning, they were gone, and that evening, another two or three would ride up to the Inn to take their places.

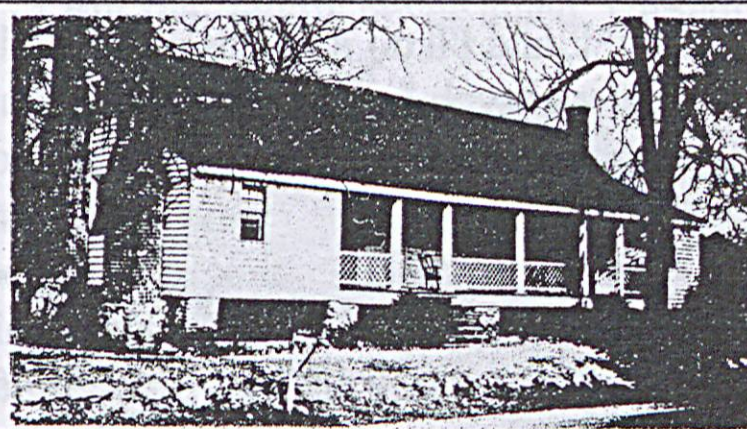
That's the way they say it was at **Tories' Tavern** in **Nash Co.** during the **Revolutionary War**. **David Winstead, Sr.**, who acquired the property in 1794-95, was certainly not a Tory, but **Drewery Taylor**, the original owner, could have been, or **Jesse Battle** who had a tavern across the road, or, more likely, **John Bond**, with **Bond's Inn** just down the road. It is certain that on his famous retreat into VA in 1781, **Cornwallis** camped only a mile or two up the road at **Crowell's** plantation, and perhaps his scouts, familiar

with the tavern and maybe with some of the sympathetic citizenry, influenced the route he took in his withdrawal.

Taverns, sometimes called ordinaries, tippling houses, or victualing houses, were important places in colonial times. Besides being a mail deposit and a perfect spot for political debate, good taverns offered breakfast and supper as well as the principal meal, dinner. Dinner might be a hot or cold meat (beef, venison, mutton, pork, or fish) with wheat bread and beer or cider. Liquors were plentiful. Punch, made from rum and loaf or brown sugar with lime juice added when available, was popular as was homemade beer or that

brought from NY or Philadelphia or even imported. After dinner, before he took advantage of the "lodging in a good feather bed" advertised by some taverns, the traveler might entertain himself with billiards, backgammon, cards or

SEE TAVERN, PAGE 11



## Reader's Choice Local Color



*Lee's Last Major General*—*Bryan Grimes of North Carolina*, by T. Harrell Allen, Pub. 1999: Allen's biography of **General Grimes** depicts one of the South's most courageous men. Based primarily on Grimes' own extensive and unedited papers, it brings forth a man dedicated to his family and to the men he commanded.

The author has woven a fascinating story of a man who survived many conflicts to return to his home in Pitt Co, NC to be snuffed out in a tragic post war murder [reported in the Fall 1998 *Connector*].

Don't turn away from this one. The book is well written and gives insight into Eastern NC's role in the Confederacy.

*The History of Crisp NC: Crisp Then and Now* by Betty B. Reason and Eunice H. Taylor, Pub. 1999: A well documented history of the Crisp community in **Edgecombe Co., NC**. Betty Reason and "Judy" Taylor spent two years putting this masterpiece together and it is a job well done. They have successfully woven a pattern of land grants, people, places, and things from pre-revolution to the present.

Some of the earliest names in this southern Edgecombe community are as follows: **Davis, Scarborough, Eason, Eagles, Johnston, Maund, Harrell, Roberson, Edwards, Wooten, Summerlin, Brown, Phillips, Proctor, Dunnikan, Hearn, Ruffin, Green, Gay, Allen, and Taylor.**

## Acquisitions— Braswell Memorial Library

1. *Somebody Knows My Name: Marriages of Freed People in NC County by County* compiled by Barnetta McGhee White, Pub. 1995.
2. *William Hutchins of Carolina*, Pub. 1995 and *Robert Hutchins of Colonial America*, Pub. 1992 (2 vols.) compiled by Jack R. Hutchins
3. *Nash County North Carolina Deeds, Volume III 1791-1813* abstracted by Timothy W. Rackley, Pub. 1999.



**Halifax:** Monday, January 12, 1807. Married, in **Franklin**, on the 24th ult. **John Hilliard, Esq.** of **Nash county**, to **Miss Betsey Tunstall.**



# Digging City Lake

BY RACHEL BROOKS

**Rocky Mount City Lake**, a well-known landmark today, was dug by hand in the depression days of the 1930's. The land was swampy and all grown up. The trees and shrubs were cut with axes and cross cut saws. There were many blistered, bleeding hands.

The wood was cut up and people from Rocky Mount came with wheelbarrows, children's wagons, and anything they could get, and carried it away to burn in fireplaces and heaters. Big stumps were blown up with dynamite. Smaller ones were dug out with grub hoes. The soil was dug up with picks and shovels, and hauled out with wheelbarrows.

When the lake was completed it was stocked with fish. When the fish were big enough to eat, people were allowed to fish with hook and line without fishing

and hunting licenses.

My husband helped construct the lake. Paul spent the week at my aunt's house about two miles from the work site. On Sunday evenings, Paul would take his clean clothes and walk from **Hedgepeth's Cross Roads**, now known as **Walker's Cross Roads**, to my aunt's house, a distance of at least 15 miles.

The men worked ten hours a day for 20¢ an hour. Friday when he got off of work, Paul walked back to my Aunt Gracie's, got his clothes, and walked home. If he was lucky, he would get a ride with someone on a wagon or a Hoover Cart part of the way home. (Hoover carts were cars that had been cut in two and shafts put on them to be pulled by mules.) I had to wash and iron his clothes on Saturday for the next week. I don't believe there was a pound of fat on his body. But he was a strong young man of twenty four.

*[Former Mayor Leslie B. Aycock was responsible for this WPA Project.]*

ROSE IS ROSE



## COLLECTION, CONT. FROM P. 3

Index provides reference to biographical sketches contained in nearly 500 books and pamphlets.

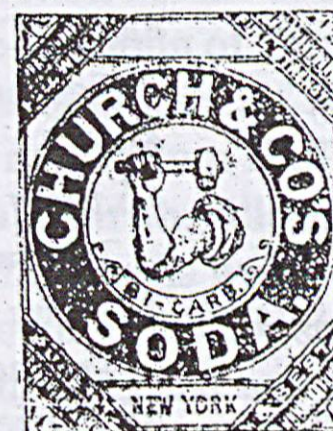
An expanded Gallery supplements printed and manuscript resources with artifacts, artwork, and furnishings associated with the state. Included in the Gallery are the **Sir Walter Raleigh Rooms**; the **Early Carolina Rooms**, featuring interiors from the Quaker plan **Lane House of Nixonton**; an octagonal room based on the library at **Hayes Farm at Edenton**, housing the early library of **James Cathcart Johnston**; a **John Sprunt Hill Room**; and other permanent and temporary exhibits of

textual and nonbook holdings. In addition, the Photographic Archives, built over more than 50 years, include nearly 250,000 negatives, prints, and post cards providing a visual record of people, places and events throughout the state. There is a file for every county; a portrait collection; a group of distinguished collections by individual photographers; and a subject classification.

This treasury is preserved for study and is available to the general public as well as UNC students and faculty. Scheduled 7-days-per-week Reading Room hours are observed. Primarily a research facility, most materials must be used in the Read-

ing Room. For the information of our members, the address is: North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina Library, Wilson Library, C.B. 3930, Chapel Hill, 27599-3930 and the internet address is: [www.lib.unc.edu/ncc/](http://www.lib.unc.edu/ncc/)

**BEST IN THE WORLD!**  
Arm and Hammer Brand.



Show this to Your Grocer.  
April 9, 1880 *Tarboro Southerne*



The **University School** was a private school owned and operated by **William V. Boyle**. Boyle lived at 331 **Hammond St.** where the **Catholic Church** now stands. The school was across the street in the next block. The picture was taken about 1893-94. The school continued in operation until 1902. A list of the names of those in the picture is given below..

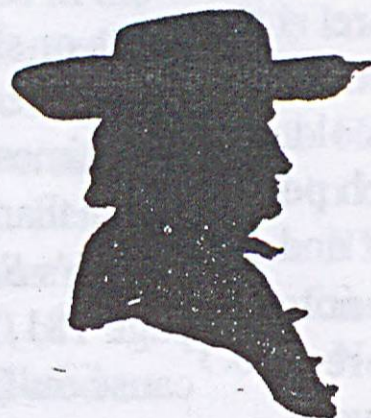


- |                        |                         |                       |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Wm. Vance           | 25. Katie ?             | 50. Joe Fountain      | 75. Richard Gorham     | 101. Hattie Greene    |
| Gupton                 | 26. Iva Winstead        | 51. Charlie Simmons   | 76. Ed M. Gorham       | 102. Pattie Carroll   |
| 2. Chas. O. Hagan      | 27. Orphie? Ricks?      | 52. Conrad Swindell   | 77. Rob Winstead       | 103. Belle            |
| 3. Howard Baker        | 28. Joe Nunnaly?        | 53. Hamner Winstead   | 78. Florence Chalk     | Oppenheimer           |
| 4. John Blount Taylor  | 29. ? Woodruff          | 54. Tempe Whitehead   | 79. Claude Bassett     | 104. Ballard Ramsey   |
| 5. Webb Matthews       | 30. ? ?                 | 55. Blanche Arrington | 80. Nannie Hill        | 105. Susie Huffines   |
| 6. John Edwards        | 31. Add Ricks           | 56. Hattie Hales?     | 81. Eula Griffin       | 106. Estelle Huffines |
| 7. ? Overton           | 32. Paul Daughtridge    | 57. May Harrell       | 82. Mariah Burgess     | 107. Page Gravely     |
| 8. Ash Hines           | 33. William? Ricks      | 58. Christine Horne   | 83. Lula Davis         | 108. Ed Higgins       |
| 9. Vera? Winstead      | 34. Willie Griffin      | 59. Murry Higgins     | 84. ? ?                | 109. Roy Hales        |
| 10. Hattie Battle      | 35. William Breman?     | 60. Lizzie Davis      | 85. Mabel Barrett      | 110. Joe Harrell?     |
| 11. Bessie Bunn        | 36. Della Ricks?        | 61. Vera Gordon       | 86. Gertrude           | 111. F.? Hines        |
| 12. Carrie Hurrell or  | 37. Susan Daughtry      | 62. Sadie Abram?      | Oppenheimer            | 112. ? Greene         |
| Harrell                | 38. Lina Underwood      | 63. J? Chapman,       | 87. Mary Ricks         | 113. Lawrence Horne   |
| 13. Lillie Muse        | 39. Carrie Taylor       | Teacher               | 88. Mrs. Holmes,       | 114. Bazil Muse       |
| 14. Lucy Rieves        | 40. Pearle Taylor       | 64. Effie Woodruff    | Teacher                | 115. Wilbur Davis     |
| 15. Kelly Styles       | 41. Annie Davis         | 65. Constance Clucy,  | 89. Ella Woodruff      | 116. Wiley Barnes     |
| 16. Will Muse          | 42. Priscilla Williford | Teacher               | 90. George Battle      | 117. Lee Gravely      |
| 17. George Leon        | 43. Alice Woodruff      | 66. Wm. Holmes        | 91. Gaston? Ricks?     | 118. Hugh A. Griffin  |
| Dixon                  | 44. Jas. Chapman,       | Davis, Principal      | 92. Lindsay Matthews?  | 119. Meta Winstead    |
| 18. ? ?                | Teacher                 | 67. Thorpe Ramsey     | 93. ? Greere or Greene | 120. Ella Avera       |
| 19. John Mercer        | 45. ? ?                 | 68. Benja,min Bunn    | 94. William Gordon     | 121. ? ?              |
| Daughtry               | 46. Mary Matthews,      | 69. Jim Hines         | 95. Clyde Griffin      | 122. Florence Avera   |
| 20. John Grier?        | Teacher                 | 70. Nellie Jones      | 96. Mattie Barnes      | 123. Jessie Hart      |
| 21. Bettie Ann Gravely | 47. Mary Arrington,     | 71. Brian Higgins     | 97. Fannie Nobles      | 124. Florida Avera    |
| 22. Sadie Dixon        | Teacher                 | 72. Hugh Battle       | 98. Meta Capell        | 125. Annie Sadler     |
| 23. Fannie Phillips    | 48. Lizzie Battle       | 73. Ura Bassett       | 99. Fannie Griffin     | 126. Ray Long?        |
| 24. Annie Lou Bunn     | 49. Jim Thorpe?         | 74. Ben Burgess       | 100. Nannie Daughtry   |                       |



## Friends Movement (Quakerism) Eastern North Carolina

While NC's earliest settlers were Anglican, they were isolated from the influence of the church. When **William Edmundson**, an English Quaker, arrived in Albemarle in 1672, religion was practically non-existent. **George Fox**, a Quaker missionary, visited NC a few months later. Excerpts from his autobiography give a vivid picture of conditions in NC at the time:



"... having travelled hard through the woods and over many bogs and swamps, we reached **Bonner's Creek**; and there we lay that night by the fireside, the woman lending us a mat to lie on. This was the first house we came to in Carolina. ... we went down the creek in a canoe, to **Macocomock River [Chowan]**, and came to **Hugh Smith's** house, where the people of other professions came to see us (for there were no Friends in that part of the country), ... Amongst others came **Nathaniel Batts**, who had been governor of Roanoke; ... and had been a rude, desperate man. ... Not far from here we had a meeting among the people, and ... Then passing down the river **Maratick [Roanoke]** in a canoe, we went down the

bay **Coney-Hoe**, and came to the house of a captain, who ... lent us his boat, for we were much wet in the canoe, the water splashing in upon us. With this boat we went to the Governor's house; but the water in some places was so shallow that the boat, being laden,

could not swim; so we were fain to put off our shoes and stockings, and wade through the water some distance. The Governor, with his wife, received us ... I called an Indian to us, and asked him whether when he lied, or did wrong to any one, there was not something in him that reproved him for it. He said there was such a thing in him, that did so reprove him; and he was ashamed when he had

done wrong, or spoken wrong. ... We tarried at the Governor's that night; ... went that day about thirty miles to the house of **Joseph Scott**, one of the representatives of the country. ... At a house about four miles further, we had another meeting, ... Having visited the north part of Carolina, ... we began to return towards **Virginia**, ... We lay one night at the house of the secretary, to get to which gave us much trouble; for the water being shallow, we could not bring our boat to shore; but the secretary's wife, seeing our strait, came herself in a canoe (her husband

SEE QUAKERS, PAGE 14

### Early Pitt Co. Post Offices and First Postmasters

Name	Estab.	Discont.	First Postmaster
Bells Ferry	1875	1889	Cicero M.A. Griffin
Bethel	1858	1861	David W. Stokes
	1872		Martha J. Whichard
Bensborough	1813	1838	William Atkinson
Blount Hall	1833	1833	William L. Blount
Boyd's Ferry	1853	1866	Norfleet J. Harrison
Contentnia	1844	1853	Richard H. Adams
Coxville	1853	1866	Calvin Cox
	1867	1870	Archabald Cox
	1871	1906	Edward Smith
Cypress Bridge	1811	1823	Oliver Prince
Falkland	1838		James L. Cobb
Farmville	1848		Peter E. Hines
Greenville	1794		Grove Wright
Grimesland	1871	1872	William R. Jarvis
	1886		James O. Proctor
Johnson's Mills	1837	1866	Allen Patrick
Little Creek	1833	1836	Alfred Moye
Marlborough	1853	1889	James Joyner

	1890	1891	Martha L. Moore
Mooring's X Rds	1825	1828	Elisha B. Harrell
Pactolus	1832	1866	Churchill Perkins
	1867		James G. Lewis
Pleasant Mount	1854	1860	Joseph L. Ballard
Rose Hill	1860	1866	Bartholomew Page
Tarville	1853	1853	James H. Taft
Walshville	1852	1854	Allen J. Smith
Willow Green	1861	1866	William May
Winona	1869	1874	Charles W. Smith

### MAIL, CONT. FROM P. 1

separately set out on their return in time to arrive in Petersburg by eleven in the forenoon of Saturday and at Warrenton by three in the afternoon ..." Also in the same bid proposal another route "from **Halifax** by **Warrenton, Hillsborough, Martinsville and Salem**, a distance of 211 miles." These mails were once a week to begin with. This route from Petersburg to Augusta began operation about 1803 and was known as "The Great Southern Mail Route."



# Shoes

BY LOUISE FULLER

Nearly everyone had bad feet in earlier days. Many



poor people in the South seldom wore their shoes except when they were doing dangerous work, when it was bitter cold or when they were "dressed up". Rich people had shoes made for the right foot and the left foot; often the very poor did not, so they were very careful when they removed their shoes to place the one worn on the right foot to the right of the one worn on the left foot. Each wearing shaped the shoes, making them

more comfortable if the same shoe was worn on the same foot.

Old pictures usually show the gentry with shiny



boots or shiny shoes with buckles. The poor are often shown wearing rough looking, well-worn footwear; sometimes those dusty old shoes served the wearer better than shiny ones would have. According to French's *Science of Familiar Things* published in 1853, page 181, dusty shoes are warmer than shiny ones "because dull, dusty shoes will absorb heat from the sun, earth and air; but brightly polished shoes throw off heat by reflection."

## FEARLESS, CONT. FROM P. 3

"Well, madam, just go down to the lot and pick out two of the very best horses there."

"I won't do it. I'll go and get two of the poorest sore-backs I can find. I won't take a fine horse. No Yankee shall ever have it to say I got back more than he stole from me."

Aunt Abby House was a native of Franklin Co., born the latter part of the 18th century. She claimed to be "a right smart gal, enduring of the time of the War of 1812; big enough to have a sweetheart." That sweetheart went to the war, and the news came to her that he was sick at Norfolk, VA. Aunt Abby walked every step of the way from Franklin Co. to Norfolk to see him, arriving there the day after he was buried.

### Marcellus in the Army

Aunt Abby lived much of her life in Raleigh, having moved there from Franklin Co. She had neither chick nor child, but all her affections were centered upon her nephew, Marcellus. Marcellus was no Solomon; he was, in fact, somewhat of a moron in his mental make-up, but he was promptly conscripted for the Confederate service.

Staunch advocate of the Southern cause though she was, Aunt Abby could not bear to think of her beloved Marcellus in the army, and she lived in constant fear that some Federal bullet might find its target in Marcellus. Nothing would content her until she could secure a furlough for Marcellus.

Everybody heard during the war how anxious Aunt Abby was about her nephew who was in the army, and how she importuned Gov. Vance to help her get that nephew out. She was a constant visitor at the Governor's office, and he treated her so nicely that she became a lifelong admirer of him. Gov. Vance, at her

earnest solicitation, did secure a furlough for her nephew, upon the condition that she would be sure to send him back to the army when the furlough expired. But she did not do it. One snowy day she walked into the Governor's office, stamped the snow off her shoes, and sat down by the fire. Lighting her pipe, she gazed into the open fireplace. "Zeb (Gov. Zebulon Vance)," she said, "That boy can't go back to the army. He's sick! He's got the consumption right now, and he'll die in less than a week if he goes back."

"Ain't that boy gone back yet?" asked the Governor, in astonish-

SEE FEARLESS, PAGE 19

## Pension Claim #2791 Pitt Co., July 18, 1885

by Mrs. Jane Carney, age 48

Widow of James R. Carney of Pitt Co.

Co. J. 3rd N.C. Cavalry, 41st Reg.

Who was wounded in the spine on or about June 8, 1864, Isle of Wight, VA. and died 4 or 5 days later on June 18, 1864 at the hospital at Richmond. Reddick Carney, his father, carried his remains to his old home in Pitt Co. for burial.

E.P. Daniel of Pactolus, NC testified in her behalf as well as James L. Moore who was in the same company and regiment. They testified that Jane Carney was the widow of James R. Carney who had died of wounds he had received.



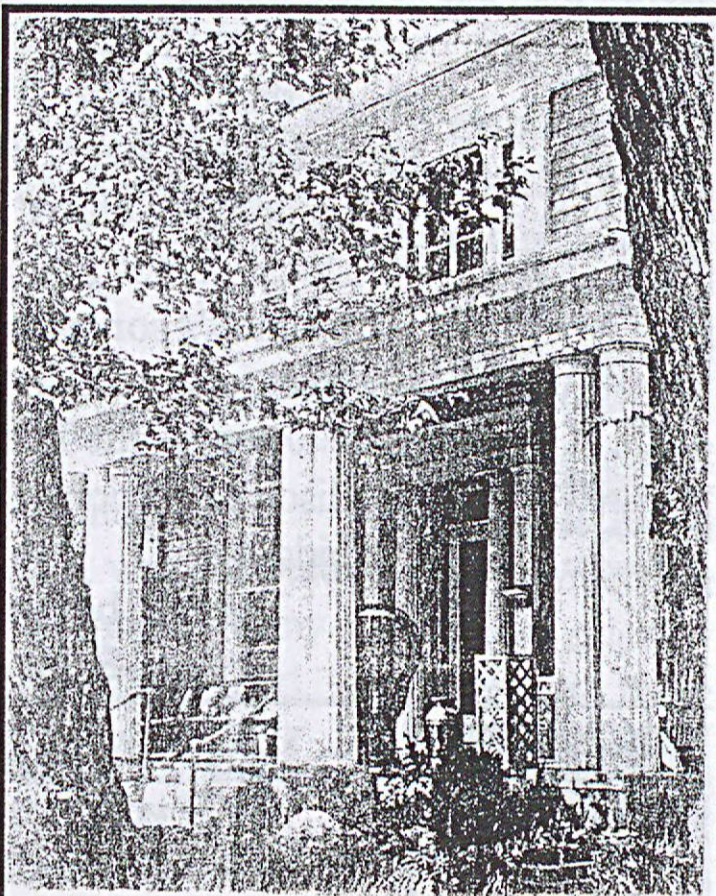
## Christmas in Warrenton

### Early 20th Century Inventor

**W**arren Co NC. native **Dr. William Wallace Whitney Christmas** was a pioneer and a legend in the field of aeronautics. In 1914, Dr. Christmas patented the inset aileron, the panel on the trailing edge of an airplane's wings that allows it to change direction and without which modern aviation would not exist. Perhaps the first American after the **Wright** brothers to build and fly his own plane, 300 inventions, 100 of them in the field of aeronautics, have been attributed to Christmas. In addition, he had a reputation as a prize-winning artist and a gifted musician. But who was the real William Christmas?

Born in **Warrenton** in 1865, William moved, with his family, to **Washington, DC** in 1879. As a young man, the **Washington** press touted William as a fine artist and guitarist and a talented yachtsman.

Little is known of his education and activities before 1909. He



Christmas Home, Warrenton, NC

claimed a master's degree from the **Univ. of VA**, and a medical degree from **John Hopkins**, though neither school vouches for this. He claimed to have learned aviation as personal physician to **Dr. S.P. Langley**, pioneer aeronaut, though no evidence of this has been found.

It is known that, between 1909 and 1912, Dr. Christmas built at least 2 airplanes which achieved some flight. He contracted with the **Post Office Dept** in 1912 to begin the first American airmail service between **NY** and **Washington**, but he failed to fulfill his end of the bargain. He moved his **Christmas Airplane Co.** to **New York** in 1915.

#### Christmas Family

The name Christmas is found often in the **Warren Co.** area. In 1779, the county of **Bute** was divided into the counties of **Warren** and **Franklin**, the line having been surveyed by a Mr. Christmas. **Warrenton**, county seat of **Warren Co.** was incorporated in 1779 and the survey of the town was made in that year by **William Christmas**, a citizen of **Franklin Co.** and later a state senator from that county who also surveyed the city of **Raleigh, NC** in 1792. William Christmas, the surveyor, was great great uncle of William Christmas, the inventor. Prior to a courthouse being erected, an act of the legislature provided that the courts should be held at the home of **Thomas Christmas**. In 1850, a **Thomas H. Christmas** was one of the partners who established the mile long **Warrenton** race track, an elaborate facility with grandstands and stables which had a widespread reputation throughout **NC, SC** and **VA**.

**James Y. Christmas**, father of William, was born in

SEE CHRISTMAS, PAGE 14

## Person County Abstracts

**B**ecause **Person County** does not lie along the **Indian Trading Path** or have large navigable bodies of water, it was not much explored in the 17th century. One of the earliest visitors was **William Byrd** who began a survey of the line between **VA** and **NC** in 1728. Settlers began to arrive in the 1730's. In 1746, the area of **Person County** was trans-

ferred from **Edgecombe Co.** to **Granville County** and in 1752 to **Orange County**. The settlers included Irish Protestants, Germans, Highland Scots, and Scotch-Irish.

**Hugh McAden** was a prominent Presbyterian minister who settled in the area. As he traveled, he kept a diary which gives much information about the people in the area of the 1750's. **Robert Jones**, was one of the largest landowners of the times.

**Person Co.** names of the 1700's include: **Atkinson, Bailey, Baird, Barnet, Blackwell, Bridges,**

**Brooks, Bumpas, Carver, Clayton, Coleman, Day, Dickens, Dickson, Dixon, Dunkin, Ford, Foshea, Fuller, Garret, Gold, Green, Hargis, Henley, Hubbard, Jay, Jones, Knight, Lang or Long, Lawson, Ledbetter, Majors, McAden, Miles, Mitchell, Moore, More, Morrow, Nash, Neeley, Paine, Palmer, Powell, Ragon, Ramsey, Rogers, Satterfield, Tomson, Vanhook, Warrin, Webb, Welch, Whilkins, Whit, White, Wilkins, Williams, Willson, Womack, and Yarbrough.**



# Bennett Bunn Estate Sale

It was Monday, 5 Nov 1849—a cool, sunny day. The sale of the property of **Bennett Bunn** had been widely advertised in various papers including the *Tarboro Press*, the *Raleigh Register*, the *Richmond Whig*, the *Wilmington Journal*, and even the *New Orleans Pickyune*. The yard surrounding the beautiful brick mansion, **Stonewall**, was crammed with horses, pawing the ground, shaking their heads and snatching snippets of grass; mules still harnessed to broad, heavy wagons; and piles of farm equipment and household goods waiting to be sold. The crowd, mostly men, but including a few women, milled about the house and yard. Little groups formed here and there as news was exchanged among people who saw each other only rarely.

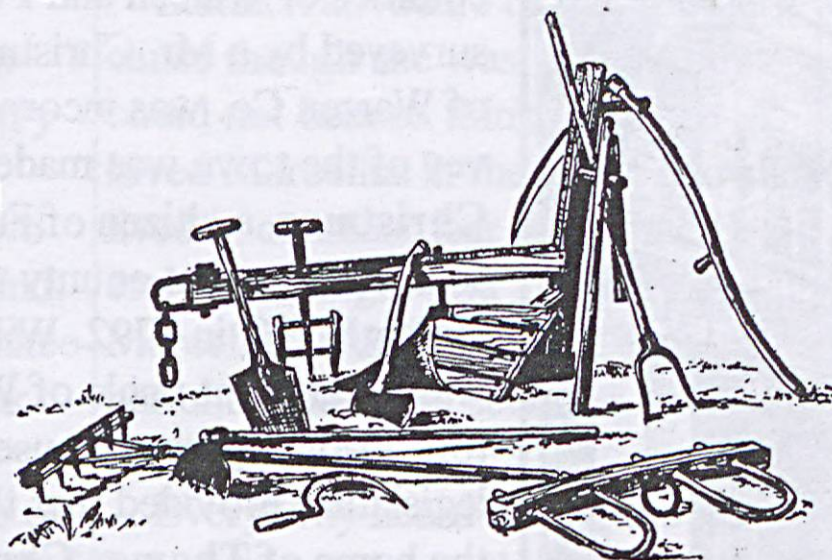
Some had come to buy, others out of plain curiosity.

The atmosphere was somewhat subdued; the sudden death of **Bennett Bunn** on 13 May 1849, of "chlorea morbus", had created problems, both for his family and for the small business community in and around the village at **Great Falls of the Tar River**, recently named **Rocky Mount**. Bunn, a wealthy **Nash Co.** plantation owner and businessman had been a central figure in the activities of the area in the early 1800's. He had owned a great deal of property, including a general store called **Big Falls** which was operated by his

nephew, **Redmun Bunn**, and **Benjamin F. Knight**. In addition to his farming activities, he produced bricks at his brickyard, was involved in manufacturing and owned stock in the **Wilmington and Raleigh [Weldon] Railroad** which crossed his land.

As a frequent buyer and seller of land as well as a borrower and lender of money, his affairs were complex, particularly in light of the absence of a will. **James J. Phillips**, the administrator of his estate, had been forced to schedule the sale—at auction—of his real and personal property to settle the debts of the estate. This was the first day of the sale. Everything was to go including household items, livestock, farm equipment, crops, and the railroad stock. James Phillips huddled with Bennett's son and sole heir, **William**, and auctioneer, **John C. Moore**, as the final details were discussed prior to the start of the bidding.

The sale began with household  
**SEE SALE, PAGE 12**



The John Newton Taylor home south-east of Rocky Mount on Old Wilson Road about 1891. From left to right, 3 tenants, Ernest Lee, Arthur Moses, Eva Taylor Dickens, Sabro Florence, Berthany Proctor (mother), and John Newton Taylor (father)

## JOHN NEWTON TAYLOR CEMETERY

Located in a field 2 miles south-east of **Rocky Mount** in **Edgecombe County**, the **John Newton Taylor Cemetery** has 2 identified graves:

**Berthany Taylor** b. 31 July 1843 d.  
1 November 1893

**John N. Taylor** b. 10 August 1834  
d. 1 October 1897

According to **Bennett Barnes**, TRC member, **Eva Taylor Dickens** is also buried there.



## Search and Research Handwritten Records

A handwritten record with ties to an ancestor gives the family researcher a special thrill. But deciphering it, with its odd spellings and its peculiarly formed letters, often turns out to be a major headache. Here are a few tips to help you make sense of your old documents.

- Symbols such as &, some form of etc., money representations, such as £ for pound, are plentiful.
- Abbreviations that can resemble shorthand hooks abound. Ditto marks or *do* show up often in long lists. Names are shortened and nicknames are much used.

*Alex<sup>r</sup> J<sup>r</sup> Lim*

*Jack<sup>r</sup> Nicol<sup>r</sup> Matth<sup>r</sup>*

- The Gregorian calendar, introduced in 1582, was adopted by a number of countries. Many others, including England [and NC], continued using the old

Julian calendar until 1752. In the old calendar, March was the first month and February the last.

Thus when dates are given numerically, such as 4-17-1543, the fourth month was June, rather than April. Also, sometimes dates were written with the day first, followed by the month, so 7-11-1633 might mean 7th month, 11th day, or it might mean 11th month, 7th day. Some documents indicate two years such as 1743-4 for dates that occur from January-March, which are in the new year on the Gregorian calendar and the old year on the Julian calendar.

- Handwritten records, many of which are transcriptions from other documents, frequently contain errors such as incorrect dates, names, etc. Just as we sometimes write wrong dates on checks, leave off zeroes, or misspell words, our ancestors, with much less education and fewer rules, were even more prone to these errors.

- Word usage has changed greatly over the years. The researcher needs to study the meanings of various titles, unusual words and foreign terms in the timeframe in which they were used. One example is the use of *Senior* and *Junior*. Our ancestors used these words to distinguish two people who had the same name in the same area—not necessarily father and son, or even related. It was not unusual for *Junior* to become *Senior* when the elder namesake died.

- Spelling, capitalization and punctuation are great stumbling blocks to the researcher; there were no apparent rules or grammar. Both words and names were phonetically spelled. Thus, *heir* might become *hair* or *heer*, or some other variation. Punctuation was arbitrary—sometimes omitted almost entirely, sometimes inserted any which way. Many documents will contain capitalized words sprinkled throughout for no

**SEE SEARCH, PAGE 16**

### TAVERN, CONT. FROM P. 4

dice. His horse, of course, was provided for, although one old account of travels through here says that some feed for the horses was so full of thistles that "a horse would have been a fool to eat it."

Tories" Tavern was a handsome place dating from 1766. Descriptions of it mention several alterations and call attention to the "tumbling" of the brick offsets of its three west side chimneys. In its early years it had 3 rooms up, 3 down, and a big cellar. The roof sloped steeply over a deep porch, the ceiling of which was plastered to match the interior of the house. The front doors were

wide with 8 panels and a fanlight over it. The house had a cluster of outbuildings that, by 1900, included a schoolhouse, loom house, smoke-house and dairy house. A kitchen garden was near the well, which was curbed with a hollow log, and a once elaborate flower garden brightened the other side of the house.

The site was still in use as a tavern as late as 1821 and it may have continued to be used as one later.

David Williams Winstead, who owned it from about 1833 until his death in 1883, is said to have added a large room with smaller ones opening from it and to have enclosed the ends of the porch to make addi-

tional space for inn patronizers. However, Mr. Winstead was listed as a merchant in the 1850 census and, as he was a tremendous farmer as well, it is doubtful that he found time to be innkeeper, too. In his will, he refers to the house as "mansion-house" and leaves it to his wife, Susan Rice Winstead for her lifetime and then to his youngest daughter, Susan Ann (Wells). He also left

**SEE TAVERN, PAGE 12**





**TAVERN, CONT. FROM P. 11**

more than \$50,000 in real and personal estate and over 2,000 acres of land. Although none of his deeds makes it clear when he acquired the tract, it was probably bought from his father, David Winstead, Sr., a few months after his marriage and designated as on the south side of **Tar River on the Raleigh Road.**

The tavern was located on the old **Tarboro to Raleigh** stage coach road, at what is now the junction of Hwys. 97 and 58, 10 miles west of **Rocky Mount.** It was moved from its original location and, in the process, lost some of its charm along with its cellar, black jack oaks, diamond-patterned baluster to the front porch. In 1973, an arsonist burned down **Tories' Tavern**, leaving only the chimneys, the smoke house and a lone boxwood.

**SALE, CONT. FROM P. 10**

items. **Sally Bunn**, Bennett's widow, bought numerous items, including a trunk and contents for 10¢, the contents of 2 closets for 25¢ each, 2 spinning wheels for 23¢ and numerous other items of furniture. **Kinchin Taylor** bought 8 stool chairs for 50¢ each, and **Jesse Powell** secured a 5 Vol Encyclopedia for \$4.25.

Later, the sale moved to the barnyard where **Joshua Bulluck** bought an old

Saddle for 25¢, **L. Arington** bought 3 Raw hides for \$1.80, and **Burrell Barnes** won a gal. Pot and funnel



for 38¢. **John W. Bryan** came away with a Mule head Cow for \$13.

On the second day, the sale moved to the William Bennett Bunn residence where **Willie Ricks** bought a Brandy Still for \$23 and **Allen Taylor** got a Tumbling Cart for \$9.50. Later in the day, much of Bennett's **Edgecombe Co.** land was sold to **Richard Harrison.** On Wednesday, the livestock, corn and cotton were sold. **T.L. Mann** received 1st choice of 10 fat hogs in pen for \$6.25 each, while **A. Braswell** got 2d choice of 10 fat hogs in pen for \$5 each. **William**



**Baker** bought the Clay Mare for \$79. **Mary Battle** got a Straw Cutter for \$5.25 and **Martha Gray** received 5th choice of 10 Stacks fodder @ \$2.50 ea. Shares in the **Wilmington & Raleigh Railroad Com.** [common] sold for prices that ranged from \$12.60 to 10.10 per share. The 4th and 5th days saw the sale of slaves, including women, children, field hands, and skilled workers—probably blacksmiths, brickmasons, etc. Also on Friday, the **Nash County** land was sold.

The total value of the personal property and land sold plus debts collected was \$86,673.41. The list of disbursements indicates that \$86,673.62 was paid out for debts and commissions on the sales. The record shows \$.21 due. Nothing appears to have been left for the family of Bennett Bunn.

**Was your ancestor there?**

Following is a list of buyers at the Bennett Bunn Estate Sale: Henry Adams, Ar. H. Arington, John Arington, L. Arington, Peter Arington, Wm. T. Arington, Moses Baker, William S. Baker, Bunyan Barnes,

Burrell Barnes, C.C. Battle, James L. Battle, James S. Battle, James L. Battle, Mary Battle, William S. Battle, Gilbert L. Batts, William Billings?, J. L. Boon, H. Bradley, Willie Bradley, Dorris Brake, Arch. Braswell, John L. Bridgers, Henry Bryan, John W. Bryan, Wm. T. Bryan, Joshua Bulluck, Orren Bulluck, William Bulluck, Sarah Bunting, John V. Ca\_\_throse, John V. Carthan, Stephen \_\_. Chandler, H. T. Clark, Pomeroy Clark, Orren Cobb, Wm. F. Collins, David D\_\_t \_\_n, Jas. Daniel, W.L. Dast?, Reddin Daughtery, T. Davis, Rich'd R. Dednum, Randolph Dixon, M.B. Drake, Geo. A. Dudley, Wyat Earp, Jim Edwards, Josiah Elli \_\_, Jas. Ellinor, Jas. Ellison, Duncan Ferguson, [Ferguson], Thomas Fly, S.R. Ford, D. Furgeson, William Gay, Martha Gray, Bryan Green, R.J. Gregory, Charles Harrison, Rich. Harrison, Richard Hines, William Hines, William H. Hood, Alexander Hopkins, Jas. L. Horn, Caswell Joyner, Moses Joyner, W. E. Lane, William Lane, J.E. Langford, Elisha Lauding, John E. Lindsay, Sam'l Ma \_\_, Thomas L. Mann, Doctor Marriot, David McDaniel, Guilford Moore, Rich'd Moore, S.L. Moore, James Nelson, Thomas Newby?, Stephen Norfleet, Mal Odom, A.W. Pearce, John W. Pope, Jas. J.W. Powell, Jesse H. Powell, James J. Price, Thomas Pritchard, John G. R \_\_, John D. Rag \_\_ng, \_\_ Ricks, Robert Ricks, Telfair? Ricks, Willie Ricks, Henry Sims, James Snow, Sam'l Snow, Benja. Sorbey, Denis Sorey, Robert Sorey, Calocio Spicor, James A. Stone, Allen Taylor, Eg \_\_t Taylor, Elza Taylor Jr., Kinchin Taylor, John E. Thomas, William T. Thorn, James \_\_ Vick, A.J. Viverit, J. J. Viveret,

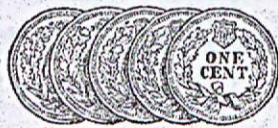
**SEE SALE, PAGE 13**



# ARITHMETIC—THE WAY IT WAS

## ADDITION

1. Richard spent 1 cent for an apple, and 5 cents for an

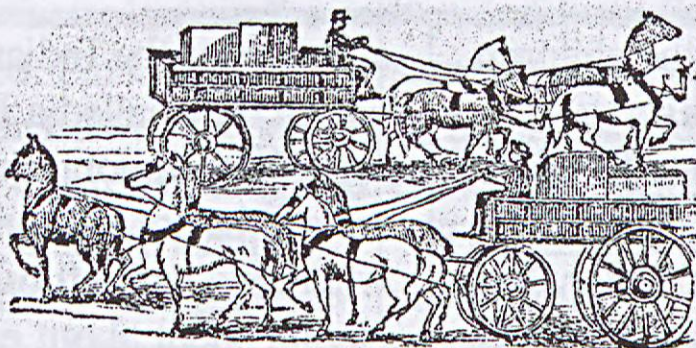


orange. How many cents did he spend for both? 1 and 5 are how many? 5 and 1 are how many? 1 and 5 and 1 are how many?

2. John caught 3 fish, and Richard caught 2 fish. How many did both catch? 3 and 2 are how many? 2 and 3 are how many? How many are 3 and 2 and 1?



3. Five horses are pulling one wagon, and 4 horses are pulling another. How many horses are there? 5 and 4 are how many? 4 and 5 are how many? How many are 5 and 4 and 1?



## SUBTRACTION

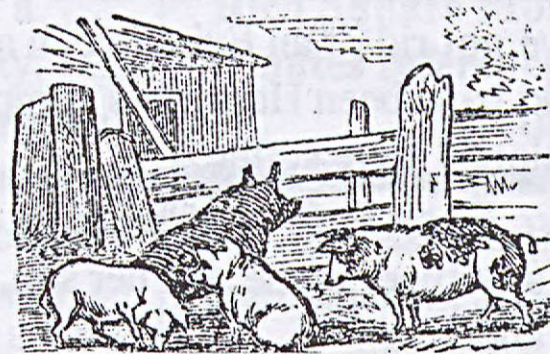
1. Jane had 4 tulips, but gave 1 tulip away. How many tulips had she remaining? 1 from 4 eaves how many?



2. There are six mockingbirds in the yard; 2 of them are on a rose-bush, and the rest are on a cedar. How many are on the cedar? 2 from 6 leaves how many?



3. Nine pigs are in a pen; 1 of them is black, and the



others are white. How many are white? 1 from 9 leaves how many?

[Taken from *Sanford's Primary Analytical Arithmetic* published by J. B. Lippencott]

## SALE, CONT. FROM PAGE 12

W. Watson, Benja. F. Weaver, Joel Wells, Mal. West\_\_\_, Josiah Whitley, B.F. Williams, James T. Williams, William K. Williams, Stephen Wood\_\_\_, John G. Yancey.

### Did your ancestor benefit from the sale?

Following is a list of those receiving money in the disbursement of funds by James Phillips, Administrator: \_\_\_ Arington, William T. Arington, Lydia



Austin, A.B. Barnes [Sheriff], Joshua Barnes, Benjamin H. Blount, John Bryant [Clk], R. Bunn, Mrs. Sarah Bunting, William T. Dortch, John H. Drake, Jesse H. Drake,

Redmund R. Dupree, Martha Hagan, Haywood Hardy, Rich'd Harrison, Rich'd Hines, Mary Jones, Sally R. Jones, Jesse C. Knight, John E. Linsey, Thos. L. Mann, B.F. Moore, John C. Moore [Auctioneer], Thomas Norfleet, William Norfleet for J. Porter, Grisham C. Pittman, Ann Porter, Martha Porter, James M. Redmund, D.A.T. Ricks, Elizabeth Ricks, Milly Ricks, Robert Ricks, James S. Battle for Dr. Sessums, Henry Shirley, Kin. Taylor, William E.J. Thollington, John E. Thorn, John Thorp, Henry Viveritt, James Wadell, Joel Wells, M. Western, Turner Westray, Lewis Wilkies, L.D. Wilson.

[Submitted by Bennett Barnes. Compiled from records of the sale by Gordon Bunn, 1988.]

**Wanted**  
Information on  
Furniture or Houses  
built by  
**Wilson Vick**  
(1746-1794)  
of Nash County  
North Carolina

Contact *The Connector*



## POST WAR CORRESPONDENCE

NEW BERN, 18th June 1782

MY DEAR FRIEND:

...  
When I returned home I found to my very great Surprise that by the arrival of the news of peace I was very much hurt...all my affairs in an embarrassed State, this situation of things has absolutely put it out of my power to return to **Halifax** at the time I promised.—figure to yourself my dear Friend what my Feelings must be when necessity compels me to violate a promise so solemn so sacred,—an Act which I have condemned in others with so much rigour I am now myself guilty of committing, Heavens, you can have no Conception of the pain I have suffered, the Torture and desperation of mind I endure, to have laid hands on myself would have been unjustifiable but to have got rid of an Existence in a more decent manner would have been Happiness compared with the keen sensations I have suffered. ...

I am not certain but that there is a Barrel of Coffee left for me at **Tarborough** in the care of a Mr. **Borniche** or **T. Blount**. I wrote to the latter about it some time ago desiring him to forward it to you, if you should receive it I beg you will apply it as you think proper, it cost me 2 p. per lb.—there is no loaf Sugar in Town—powdered white Sugar sells for 1 p. per lb. I have sent you a stick of Blacking Ball and a few Limes which I make no Doubt will be acceptable. My Brother **Joe** has sent with his Compliments to **Mrs. Daves** a pine apple which is the only one in Town, the wheat I shall send you when I can procure it, a paper of minahin pins is also sent you & a bottle of snuff with my Compl to **Captain Ingles**. —

...  
Your sincere friend

**John Sit [John Sitgreaves]**

### CHRISTMAS, CONT. FROM P. 9

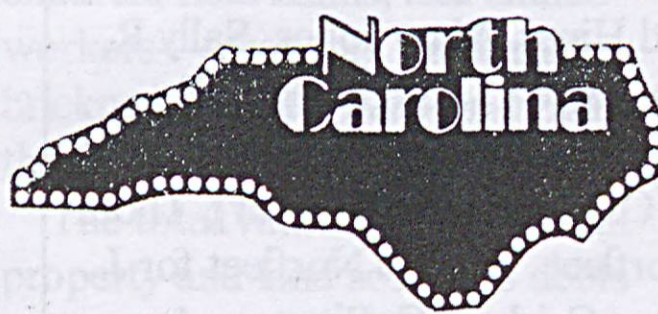
**Warrenton**. He was an officer in the **Confederate Army** and was wounded in the service. Known as the distiller of "**Old Christmas**" whiskey, **James Christmas** has been described as a very handsome man with reddish-blond hair and kindly blue eyes. In 1864, he married **Mrs. Rhoda Whitney Strother**, a pretty woman who sang and played the piano. After her death, in 1878, **James** moved his family to **Washington City**. Although he was known as a very temperate man, gentle and amiable except when aroused, he killed a relative in a boarding-house brawl in 1881.

The mother of **Rhoda Christmas**, **Mrs. Myra Clark Gaines**, believed herself to be, through her father, heir to a large estate that included a large part of the **City of New Orleans**. She spent her life trying to recover her property. From time to time she won minor suits and eventually recovered a handsome sum which she bequeathed to her grandchildren, the

Christmas children and the children of her son, **William Whitney**.

Besides **William**, **James Y.** and **Rhoda Christmas** had 2 other children, **Rhoda**, who married **Dr. Kennedy** of **Washington**, and **James G. Christmas**.

[An article by **Tom Parramore** was used as a source for this story.]



### QUAKERS, CONT. FROM P. 7

(being from home) and brought us to land. Next morning our boat was sunk; but we got her up, mended her, and went away in her that day about twenty-four miles, the water being rough, and the winds high; but the great power of God was seen, in carrying us safe in that rotten boat. Upon our return we had a ... meeting at **Hugh Smith's**; ... There was at this meeting an Indian captain, ... and

also one of the Indian priests, whom they called a **Pawaw**, who sat soberly among the people. ... we got back to **Bonner's Creek**, where we had left our horses, having spent about eighteen days in the north of **Carolina**.

**George Fox** and **William Edmundson** were only in the colony a few weeks in 1672, yet within twenty years **NC** was virtually a Quaker colony. However, the Anglican influence was strong, and it is on record that as early as 1680 nine Friends were imprisoned for refusing to attend military musters: **William Bundy**, **John Price**, **John Phelps**, **James Hogg**, **John Thusstone**, **Henry Prows**, **Richard Byer**, **Samuel Hill** and **Stephen Hancock**.

About 1681, **John Archdale** met **George Fox** and became a Friend, or Quaker. **Archdale** was Governor of **NC** from 1694-1696 and during that time the Quakers controlled the Council and the Assembly of the **Albemarle** region. This was the height of Quaker influence.

SEE QUAKERS, PAGE 15



**QUAKERS, CONT. FROM P. 14**

When **Henderson Walker**, a zealous Anglican churchman, became Governor in 1699, he expressed concern they had been "without priest or altar" for 40 years and asked that a missionary be sent from **London** to the province. **Rev. Daniel Brett** arrived in 1700, but his disorderly behavior resulted in him being called "ye Monster of ye Age." Walker complained, "It hath been a great trouble and grief to us who have a great veneration for the Church that the first minister who was sent to us should prove so ill as to give the Dissenters so much occasion to charge us with him."

The Anglicans and the Friends vied for power in the colony in the years that followed. Finally, in 1711, the assembly under **Edward Hyde** re-established the Church of England and nullified the Quaker-friendly laws established under his predecessor, **Thomas Cary**. Offended, Cary gathered his followers "with great Guns and other warlike stores" to defy Hyde. While Hyde and his advisers, were meeting in a house on the shore of **Albemarle Sound**, Cary, in a ship bearing six guns, approached and fired at the house. Cannonballs landed on the roof and rolled off into the garden. Investigating the commotion, some of **Graf-fenried's** servants, dressed in livery, went outside. Cary thought they were marines, and in his haste to retreat he trimmed his sails incorrectly. Instead of sailing off across the sound, his small ship was driven ashore. Then he and his companions jumped overboard and ran off through the woods. Cary was eventually sent to England for trial but was released for lack of evidence, perhaps because there was no

one to testify against him. Thus ended the episode known as **Cary's Rebellion**.

At least 17 Quaker missionaries visited the colony between 1700 and 1729, and 3 of the preachers were women. However, the wave of Quakerism began to wane. The Friends became unpopular because of their refusal to take oaths, to bear arms, their opposition to slavery, and their objection to tobacco and secret societies. Another potent reason for the decline was the mania for disownment (casting out of the Society) which prevailed from 1730 to 1830. However, women had a unique place within the society. It is the only religious body which gave females, from the beginning, the same standing as men. They could be ministers, elders, overseers or clerks and speak in meetings.

The Rich Square and the Contentnea Monthly Meetings are of special interest to Tar River Connections as it was to these meetings that local Quakers belonged. There is recorded in the records at Jackson in **Northampton Co.**, that **Joshua Daughtry** deeded one acre of land for a Friends Meeting House to **Thomas Knox, Robert Pelle, and Joseph Hollowell**, 25 Sept 1751. Work began on a Meeting House in 1752 and was completed in 1760. In 1760, the group of Friends from **Hertford, Edgecombe, and Northampton** counties was granted a request from the Quarterly Meeting in **Perquimans Co.** to settle a Monthly Meeting at **Rich Square** in **Northampton Co.** At the first meeting **John Page** and **Mary Hollowell** were appointed clerks. **Moses Hall, Bryan Daughtry, Elizabeth Hall** and **Mary Knox** were appointed Overseers. Charter members included **Josiah**

**Brown, Henry Copeland, John Copeland, John Duke, Absalom Hollowell, Joseph Hollowell, William Horne, Thomas Knox, Robert Pelle, Robert Peele, Jr., John Pelle, Joseph Pitman, John Gay, Henry Horne, and James Ross.**

In the records of the early period, one finds references to the Tar River Friends in **Edgecombe Co.** This group was transferred to **Contentnea Monthly Meeting in Wayne Co.** in 1782. **Fishing Creek** became the dividing line between the Rich Square and the Contentnea Meetings.

**Rich Square Monthly Meeting Minutes references to Tar River Meeting:**

**DENSON:** Benjamin & w. Mary; Mary Reakes; Joseph md Mary Watkins; Benjamin, Jr.; Joseph & W. Molly & fam, Mary, John, Jesse, Ann & Elizabeth.

**FLETCHER:** Joshua, Halifax  
**HORN:** William; Ann; Isaac, son of Henry md Elce Richeson; Henry; Thomas & son John Thomas; Sela, w. of Thomas; Jacob

**PITMAN:** Joseph

**RICHARDSON:** Elce, dau. Thomas

**RICKS:** Thomas

**ROSS:** Ester

**RUSH:** Benjamin

**THOMAS:** John; Mark; Mary

**VICK:** Richard & sons, Wilson, Benjamin, John & Henry; Richard' Elisabeth, wife of Henry; John & wife, Sally & fam. Henry, Richard & w Ann, Nathan, Patience, Michal, Achsah, Nancy, Wilson & w. Sophie  
**WATKINS:** Jane; Mary, dau John & Jane md Joseph Denson; Henry; John; James; Littleberry; Elisabeth; Rachel

**WHITE:** Joseph & W. Guli; Armager & w. Absila; Joseph & w. Sarah

**SEE QUAKERS, PAGE 16**



## QUAKERS, CONT. FROM P. 15

WILSON: Elisabeth &amp; Elviria

WISTRA: Samuel

## References in Contentnea Meeting:

DOUDNA: John md Miriam Hall;

Mary, dau John md Isaac Hall

HALL: Jesse, son of Joseph md Peninah Parker

WESTRE: Achsah (Vick); Elizabeth, dau Benjamin Denson



## SEARCH, CONT. FROM P. 11

- apparent reason. This can cause problems as capitalized words might be taken as names when they are not. Be aware that interpretations of old documents can be difficult from a modern frame of reference.
- The way we form letters has changed over time. A lower case "s" often looks like a reversed "f" as below in the name Jesse.

Jesse

- As our alphabet developed, various letters were used for a time and went out of style. One is the often confused with the letter "y". No longer used, it was called *thorn* and represented the *th* sound. Transcribers who did not have thorn in their movable type began to transcribe it with the letter "y". This produced such modern errors as Ye Olde Gifte Shoppe.

Two books helpful in interpreting handwritten records are: *The Handwriting of American Records for Period of 300 Years*, by E. Kay Kirkham, 1973 and *Understanding Colonial Handwriting* by Harriet Stryker-Rodda, 1993.

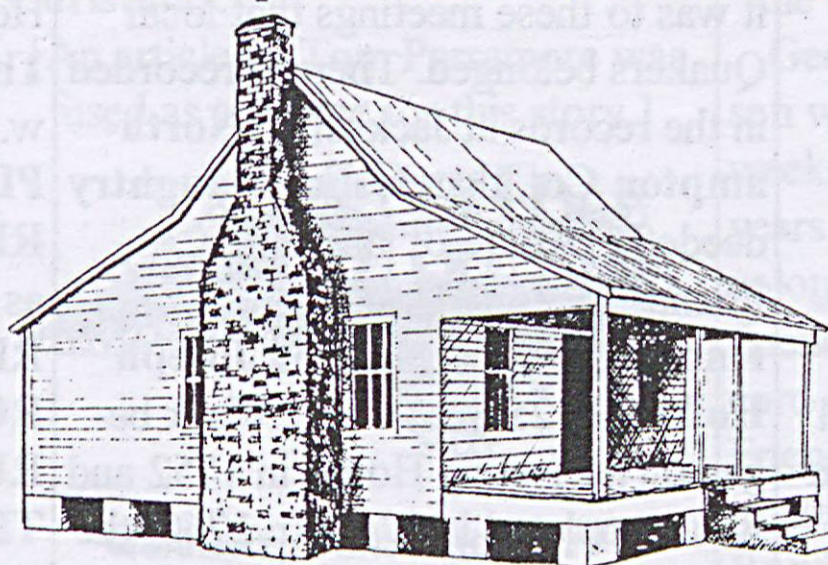
## 18th and Early 19th Century Architecture

BY REID THOMAS, RESTORATION SPECIALIST, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

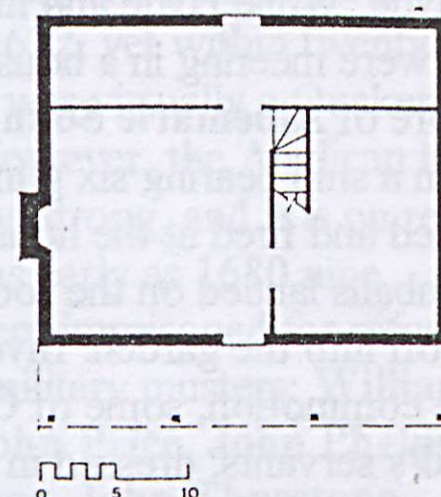
When we think of early architecture, we often think of the large, brick houses which have survived. However, these were not the typical houses of the 18th and early 19th centuries. Our ancestors, even if well off, were more likely to have lived in a simple split clapboard house with no glass windows and a dirt floor. Early settlers were too busy clearing the land, planting gardens and marketable crops, constructing storage buildings, and staying alive to spend much time building a fine house. In the 1720's, over 90% of the people in VA were living in one room houses.

The one room house was also the most common type house found in NC until about 1850. They were square or rectangular, of earth-fast—built on posts sunk in the ground—construction, with hand-split clapboard roof and walls. The chimney may have been inside or outside the house and a staircase or ladder led to the loft. The floors were often dirt, walls were white-washed, and sometimes framing members were exposed. They were occasionally embellished—perhaps later when the family was better established—with beautifully designed stairways, plaster, raised panelling, chair rail, and brass hinges. Some degree of privacy was achieved by arranging the single room into separate spaces, such as eating space, sleeping space, etc., somewhat as we do today with efficiency apartments.

The second most common plan was a hall-parlor or two-room arrangement. The hall was the most important room in the house, where most daily functions took place. The chamber or parlor was more refined, usually reserved for special occasions, but often also used as a sleeping area.



The hall-and-parlor house type.



Other early letter forms, taken from *N.C. Research: Genealogy and Local History* edited by Helen F.M. Leary, C.G., F.A.S.G., published by the N.C. Genealogical Society in 1996, include the following:

z' = c    v = h    w = Mr    J = T    d = d    I = I  
 r = r    u = u    ds = ds    l = l    p = p    W = W  
 e and o = e    L = L    t = t    x = x    v = v

The letter s had many forms in addition to the tailed version: s s s



**RAMBLER CONT. FROM P. 1**

followed the dogs between Levin and Nathan Perry's plantations, crossed the road that leads from Simms Bridge to Hayesville, crossed a branch to Nathan Perry's field and some distance later "came square up to a new field and a log cabin." The dogs continued on a warm trail. When Yarborough asked Hight if the log cabin was an overseer's house, Hight had replied that he did not know but that Jesse Person lived just above where they were. The new field was not cultivated. A pair of draw bars stood by a large white oak; the bars were down. Hight remained on the outside of the bars until Yarborough caught up with him. The dogs "got up" the fox between the fence and the large opening, and **Murray's Spring Branch**. Near the fence in the open field, they caught the fox. Yarborough repeatedly stated the field was not under cultivation but is now in corn. Soon they passed a fine peach orchard near Jesse Person's house where all of them crossed over and "gathered peaches." Hight remarked, "Person was mad with hunters and must have posted his land to keep off fox hunters."

When questioned by the plaintiff, Yarborough said that they were never closer to Nathan Perry's field than 75-100 yards and no nearer to the log cabin than 120-130 yards and that he, Yarborough, had remained with H.H. Hight during all that day.

Can't you just hear Hight saying the dogs were just following a sly old fox through the woods, fields, streams until he was trapped? The hunters had to cross the field to get rid of the fox who had been preying on their children and see that their dogs got home safely.

**CAMPFIRE, CONT. FROM P. 2**

knife, nice comb, nice glass to shave by, good smoking tobacco, money in his pocket—oh! what a great convenience he was. How many things he had that a fellow could borrow, and how willing he was to go on guard, and get wet, and give away his rations, and bring water, and cut wood, and ride horses to water. He knew *so much* about war, arms, tents, knapsacks, ammunition, marching, fighting, camping, cooking, shooting, and everything a soldier is and does. It is remarkable how much a recruit and how little an old soldier knows about such things. After a while the recruit forgets all, and is a ignorant as any veteran.

The *Mischievous Man* was very useful. He made fun. He knew how to volunteer to shave a fellow with a big beard and moustache. He wouldn't lend his razor, but he'd shave him. Very well—he shaves one cheek, one-half the chin, one side of the upper lip, puts his razor in his pocket, walks off, and leaves his customer the most one-sided chap in the army.

The *Forager* was a good fellow. He always divided with the mess. Apples he could smell from afar off. If anybody was killing pork in the county he got the spareribs. No hound had a keener scent, no eagle a sharper eye. Distance, rivers, mountains, pickets, patrols, roll-calls—nothing could stop or hinder him. He never bragged about his exploits—simply brought in the spoils,

laid them down and said, "Pitch in."

The blazing fire lit the forms and faces around it with a ruddy blow, so the soldier pitied the poor fellows on guard in the darkness, and hugged himself and felt how good it was to be with the fellows around the fire. This was the time to fondle the little gifts from home, simple things like the little pincushion, the embroidered tobacco bag, the knitted gloves; the time to gaze on photographs, and to re-read the letter telling of the struggles at home.

The *Singing Man* sung us to bed. How the woods did ring with song. There were patriotic songs, romantic and love songs, sarcastic, comic and war songs, good old hymn tunes. As the trees, swept by wintry winds, moaned around him, the soldier slept and dreamed of home sweet home.

War is horrible, but still it is in a sense a privilege to have lived in time of war. The emotions are never so stirred as then. Imagination takes her highest flights, every noble attribute is brought into full play. The camp fires were not places of revelry and debauchery. They often exhibited gentle scenes of love and humanity. Men learned that life was passable and enjoyable without a roof or a tent to shelter from the story; that cheerfulness was compatible with cold and hunger; that a man without money, food or shelter need not feel utterly hopeless; that, like a terrapin, he might make himself at home wherever he might be.

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## Attention TRC Members

We would like to thank you for your encouragement this year. We have had an outstanding series of meeting. Membership is up and our e-mail contacts have expanded tremendously. The newsletter has been a challenge, but fun to produce. We plan to continue to grow and improve in the year 2000. We are now accepting the \$15 dues for the coming year.



**HEINOUS, CONT. FROM P. 1**

brought them home and spread the alarm that the Indians had committed the murder. The report was generally believed and no further inquiry was made.

He staid some time in the neighbourhood, but shortly after went to a distant Country. The last words of his Infant Daughter sounded hell in his ears. No change of place or situation could efface them. The appeal of the little innocent continually haunted him and stung him more than the murder of the rest. After an absence of two years he returned to the same spot, was taken up on suspicion, confessed his Crimes, was tried and executed at **Halifax**. His wife & five Children were buried in the same Coffin and the grave is still to be seen adjoining the Glebe, the seat of **Alexr Falconer Esqr**. This relation we have from a living Witness who viewed the dead bodies the following morning.

This tragic story, taken from the *NC Historical Review* #6, 1929, is reinforced by the court records. On 26 Apr 1762, the Committee of Public Claims, meeting at **Wilmington**, allowed the claim of **Benjamin Person**, deputy sheriff of **Granville** for £4 19s 8d "for conveying William Thomas, a murderer, from the county jail of Granville to the Superior Court at Halifax." It also allowed the claim of **Thomas Lowe**, jailer of Granville, £5 18s, "for one hundred and eighteen days' imprisonment of William Thomas."



## Weather Alert

A storm, or hurricane, happened in **North Carolina**, which began on Monday, September 20, 1761, and continued till Friday following, but raged with most violence on the 23d.

Many houses were thrown down, and all the vessels, except one in **Cape Fear River**, driven on shore. It forced open a new channel for that river, at a place called the **Haul-Over**, between the **Cedar House** and the **Bald Head**. This new channel was found on soundings to be eighteen feet deep at high water, and is near half a mile wide.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE  
RALEIGH, May 9, 1861

...  
The following companies will be concentrated at the Camp of Instruction of **Weldon, N.C.**, where they will be organized into a regiment in like manner, viz.:

1. **Warrenton Guards**—Captain **Wade**
  2. **Granville Greys**—Captain **George Wortham**
  3. **Halifax Light Infantry**—Captain **Whitaker**
  4. **Nash Boys**—Captain **William T. Williams**
  5. **Warrenton Rifles**—Captain **Jones**
- ...

**J. F. Hoke,**  
*Adjutant-General*

## Early Beaufort Co. Law Enforcement

Prior to 1726, **Robert Route** of **Albemarle**, was Provost Marshal of the entire Province, including **Bath Co.** On 31 May 1726, **John Bonde** of **Bath Town** was appointed Provost Marshal of **Bath Co.**, "as Mr. Route, Provost Marshal of the whole government could get no deputy to serve, and relinquished his interest in the county."

From 1726 until 1738, the principal law officer of **Bath Co.**, later **Beaufort Co.**, was the Provost Marshal. Other early settlers who are known to have served as Provost Marshal of **Bath** or **Beaufort** Counties include **Benjamin Peyton** (1731) and **Robert Tripp**.

In 1738, the title of the principal law officer of **Beaufort Co.** was changed to Sheriff, or High Sheriff. Below is a list of **Beaufort Co.** sheriffs and years of service from 1738 to 1801:

Wm. Ormond, 1738-39  
John Barrow, 1739-40  
No record, 1740-54  
Thomas Williams, 1754-55  
James Ellison, 1755-58, 1760-62  
Thomas Bonner, 1758-60  
Thomas Respass, 1762-64, 1769-71  
Roger Ormond, 1764-69  
Alderson Ellison, 1771-80, 1785-86  
No Record, 1780-84  
Richard Respass, 1784-85  
David Perkins, 1786-87  
Edmond McKeel, 1787-88  
John Kennedy, 1788-91, 92-93, 95-96  
John Smaw, 1791-92, 1793-94  
Isiah Woodard, 1794-95, 1797-98  
Lewis Blount, 1796-97, 1798-99  
James Bonner, 1799-1801



## Letters Remaining in PO at Halifax, 2 Apr 1794

Exum Lewis, Edgcomb  
Tubinon Woolford,  
Granville  
Elizabeth Mahy  
James G. Polk  
Jacob Johnston

John Whittaker  
John Dob  
Miss Lucy Bowler  
Henry Baker  
Marmaduke Norfleet  
John M'Allister  
John Muck

Richard Kay  
Lewis Morris  
G. Sturges  
John Hannon, Halifax  
Col. Daniel Fisher,  
Granville  
Samuel Melburn  
Hezekiah Stone  
Humphry Hardy, Bertie  
Samuel Smith, Beaufort

Thomas Oatis, Plank-  
Bridge  
John Hayin, Alexandria  
Allen Jones  
L. Sheppard  
John Lockhart,  
Northampton  
Amos Johnston  
Nancy Williams  
Jo. Bordin, Edgcomb

**CONNECTOR**  
Wm. Arrington, Nash  
J. Gorham, Pitt  
James Gillaspie, Duplin  
Smith & Richardson,  
Trenton  
I. Conrad, Bethany  
Master S. Loudon  
  
T. Barnes,  
Post-Master

## Free School in Beaufort

Public education didn't exist in colonial NC. Nevertheless, many prominent citizens were vitally interested in the promotion of education. Some left property for the establishment of schools. One of the earliest examples of this is the will of **James Winwright** of **Beaufort** in 1744.

I will and appoint that the yearly Rents and profits of all The Town land and Houses in Beaufort Town Belonging unto me with the other Land adjoining thereto (which I purchased of **John Pindar**) after the Decease of my wife **Ann** to be Applied to the Uses hereinafter Mentioned for Ever (to Wit) for The encouragement of a Sober discreet Quallified Man to teach a School at Least Reading Writing Vulgar and Decimal Arithmetick in the aforstd. Town of Beaufort, wch said Man Shall be Chosen and appointed by the Chair Man (or the Next in Commission) of **Carteret County** Court House and one of Church Wardens of **St. John parish** in the aforesd. County and Their Successors for Ever, also I Give and Bequeath the Sum of Fifty pounds Sterling (provided that my estate Shall be Worth so much after my Just Debts and other Legacys are paid and Discharged) to be applyed for the Building and finishing of a Creditable House for a School and Dwelling house for the said Master to be erected and Built on Some part of my Land, ...and my True Intent and Meaning is that all the yearly profits and advantages arising by the aforesd. Town Lotts and Lands thereunto ... be entirely for the use and Benefit of ye sd. Master and his Successors During his and their Good Behavior, —Also that the sd. Master Shall not be obliged to teach or take under his Care any Scholars Imposed on him by the Trustees herein Mentioned or their Successors or by any other person, But shall have free Liberty to teach and take under his care Such and so many Scholars as he shall think Convenient and to Receive his Reward for the Teaching of them as he and the persons tendering them shall agree.

## FEARLESS, CONT. FROM P. 8

ment.

"No, he ain't, and he can't go, for I tell you he's got the consumption."

The Governor put on a grave face and said: "That will never do. I gave Gen. Lee my pledge of honor that if he would give Marcellus a furlough he should certainly go back when the time was out, and you promised you would send him back; and here it is a month over time and he has not gone. That will never do, Aunt Abby. Gen. Lee will never have any more confidence in my word. Marcellus must go right back."

"Well, Zeb, won't you write a letter to old Bob and tell him how it is?"

Go bring Marcellus here and let me see him, and if I think his case is as bad as you say it is, I will write a letter."

In a few days Aunt Abby brought Marcellus in, and just as he expected, there were no signs of consumption, but a very well-looking man stood before him. The Governor wrote a letter to Gen. Lee which sounded all right to Aunt Abby, but when read between the lines, meant that the young man's complaint was largely imaginary, and was superinduced, doubtless, by his abhorrence of hardtack and gunpowder; in other words, that Marcellus was fit for duty. As the Governor handed her the letter, he said, "Now, Aunt Abby, take this to Gen. Lee and let me know what he says when he reads it. The General don't like me much, and he may try to make fun of my letter." She said she'd do it, and out she went, Marcellus following; but in a few days she came again, saying as she entered the Governor's office, "Zeb, they took that boy and put him right back in the army, and he's gwine to die in less than a month."

"Did you show Gen. Lee my letter?"

"Yes, and when he read it he sorter smiled, and I raised my stick, jess so, and said, 'I dare you to laff at Zeb Vance's letter. I'll crack your head in a minit, if

**SEE FEARLESS, PAGE 20**



FEARLESS, CONT. FROM P. 19

ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804

you do. Zeb told me you upstarts up here didn't like him'."

"And then what did he do?"

"Why, he pretended like he thought a sight of you, but under the circumstances he reckoned he'd have to take the boy back into the army; and so he tuck him right in."

Aunt Abby frequently rode the train. She never bought a ticket, and the conductor rarely got any fare from her. If she had a quarter, she'd give the conductor that, and if he hesitated as if that were not enough, she would threaten to hit him with her stick, and he would move on.

### Aunt Abby and the Church

Aunt Abby joined the **Methodist Church** about 1875, but no preacher, try hard as he might, ever succeeded in refining her vocabulary. Once, in **Franklinton**, during a district church conference, the preacher bore down pretty hard on the sin of taking the name of God in vain. About that time, Aunt Abby, with a cane in each hand, bounced up and went toward the door, about half bent, making as much noise with her feet and two canes as a horse could have done. She halted outside the door until the service was over, and

as the congregation passed her, she was giving the preacher fits, and fully demonstrating that cursing was no new thing to her.

**Mrs. Charles M. Cooke**, who knew her well, gave the following account of the "Centennial of Methodism" in Raleigh in 1876: three bishops attended daily and sat on the stage in Metropolitan hall, and on that same stage over to one side, there sat an old woman whose eyes and ears caught everything, who sometimes smiled and sometimes cried; whose bunch figure, old-time clothes and fly bonnet attracted the attention of every one that entered the hall. That was Aunt Abby.

Once she attended a revival, conducted by **Dr. Yates**. A prominent politician who was addicted to strong drink was induced to go forward for prayer. Dr. Yates knelt and placing his hand on the man's head, began to pray. he asked the Lord to "send conviction and conversion, ...and send him forth again as fragrant as new wine." Aunt Abby, who was sitting a few benches away, arose and shouted to Dr. Yates: "Dr. Yates, for the Lord's sake don't start that man on wine again, for you know it has been his ruin."

There is an unmarked grave close by the roadside between **Franklinton** and **Louisburg**. It is that of Aunt Abby House.

## The Cost of War

In a July 26, 1780 letter from **Col. Benj. Seawell** to **Gov. Abner Nash**, we read: "Your favour by **Mr. Jones** came to hand accompany'd with fifty Thousand Dollars. You mentioned that you had already furnished **Gen. Eaton** with 40,000 Pounds, **Col. Hart** of **Edgecomb** £10,000; that sum, added to the twenty thousand furnished me, amounting in the whole to £70,000, you supposed must be a sum sufficient for **Halifax District** but, Sir, I am convinced you never made a calculation of the matter; as, for Instance, seven hundred Troops is rais'd in **Halifax District**, 400 of which is drafts. Their bounty, at 150 dollars each, is 60,000 dollars, 300 Volunteers at 300 Do. is 90,000 Dollars amounting in the whole to 60,000 Pounds, which is within ten thousand pounds of the Sum already advanced. I am made acquainted with the appropriation of the money **Gen. Eaton** Rec'd., & can inform you he has applied the whole to the public use; & yet the **Warren**, **No. Hampton** & **Nash** men have not rec'd a shilling Bounty;..."

In 1780, **Rev. Mr. Purcell**, in a letter to **Gov. Nash**, complained that the value of "State money" in **Beau-**

**fort**. "There were a delicious variety of Fish & some chicken & Turtle brought to Town. A servant was dispatched to buy some, but the Fellow, brought up with Insolence amidst his scaly Tribe, refused to deliver any without hard Money, and audaciously added, 'Not a d—m'd Son of a B—ch in the Town shall have any with out it.'"

**Brig. Genl. John Simpson** to **Gov. Abner Nash**: "The **Pitt Volunteers**, under the Command of **Col. John Salter** & **Major James Gorham**, ...will want guns and potts. ...I expect the Companies will Consist of one hundred horse & foot. I have sent inclosed my Bond for £1,000 for paying bounty to such as may want, forage for the horses, provisions, &c."

**Col. P. Mallett** to **Gov. Abner Nash**, 26 Aug 1780: "Mr. **Henderson** of **Granville**, offers 50 Cattle for money; they can be here in 4 or 5 days."

**Halifax**, November 13, 1793. **B. Wolfenden** Has just opened in **Halifax**, nearly opposite the Tavern, a very General Assortment of Dry Goods, Ironmongery, Cutlery and Groceries ...

[North Carolina Journal]