## THE CONNECTOR

SPRING 2011 VOLUME 15, ISSUE 2

Preserving the Past...For the Future

#### REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERAN EPHRAIM CONYERS

The winds of war had been brewing for some time when a young Scotsman, a new arrival in Georgia, wrote to his Godfather back home concerning the frontiersmen:

"Americans are Smart Industrious hardy people and fears Nothing...I am Just Returned from the Back parts where I seed Eight Thousand men in arms all with Riffeld Barrill guns which they can hit the Bigness of a Dollar between Two

& Three hundred yards
Distance the Little boys
not Bigger than my self
has all their Guns &
marches with their Fathers
& all their Cry is Liberty
or Death..tell all my
country people not to
come here for the Americans will kill them Like

Dear in the Woods & they will never see them they can lie on their Backs & Load & fire & every time they draws sight at anything they are sure to kill or Creple & they Run in the Woods like Horses.."

This cry for Liberty and freedom prompted young **Ephraim Conyers** to respond to the call for arms. He left his native home in NC and ventured to SC where family history says that he lived

with his sister and brother in law in the York District for a period of time. He volunteered for his first tour of two months of duty in 1779 followed by 6 more tours complet-

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#### THE PARENTAGE OF THOMAS COLEMAN

According to research by John K. Brown of Prattville, Alabama, Thomas Coleman was born ca. 1787 in Halifax County, NC, married Martha Burt of Halifax County ca. 1810, and died in 1865 in Autauga County, GA. Mr. Brown

claims Thomas' father was named Thomas, and that Thomas had at least two brothers, **Richard** and **Staton**.

Investigation of this family in published abstracts did not yield direct evidence of Thomas Coleman's parentage, and not much direct evidence of relationship was found for other Halifax County Colemans. However, a plausible theory can be formed from the evidence that was found.

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#### **Submission of Articles**

We are looking for articles on the history and genealogy of the North Carolina counties of Person, Vance, Granville, Franklin, Nash, Edgecombe, Pitt, Beaufort, Warren, Halifax and Wilson which are the northeastern North Carolina counties through which the Tar River and feeder creeks flow.

Email articles to sadowski@pbtcomm.net or mail:

> Janet Sadowski 2019 Calks Ferry Road Lexington, SC 29073

#### CYCLONE IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Houses and Barns Destroyed and People Injured at Several Places.

RALEIGH, N. C., May 3.—At 4 o'clock this afternoon the citizens of Oxford, a town about forty miles from this city on the Oxford and Clarksville Railroad, observed a heavy black cloud approaching from the southwest. The weather has been wet and blustery for three days. The cloud became blacker and denser, and just before 5 o'clock a roar was heard and all at once

wind, rain, and hail dashed over the town.
The wind was terriffic. Houses were blown down, trees were torn up by the roots, and the hailstones were much larger than usual and covered the ground to a depth of four inches and broke almost all the window panes in the town. The rain fellin sheets and torrents, so that the darkness was complete. The terrible rush of wind did not last longer than fifteen minutes, but the rain and hail continued for a utes, but the rain and hail continued for a much longer period.

It was soon ascertained that great damage to property had been done, and people who ventured out into the streets found themselves in total darkness, surrounded by the débris of houses, trees, fences, telegraph poles, and tin from the housetops. About to 'clock the rain and hail ceased, and there was a rift in the clouds and the

and there was a rift in the clouds, and the disaster could be seen.

The storm had swept from southwest to northeast across the town, leaving a mark about 400 yards wide. In this space the frame houses had suffered most. A number were blown down and the timbers blown away. The brick houses were unroofed.

A number of people are known to have been injured, one colored man fatally. The damage to property is estimated at \$200.-000. The track of the storm was from Oxford to Henderson, on the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, and from there, north, down the railroad to Greystone. The distance from Oxford to Henderson is twelve miles, and the swath cut was from a guarantee.

tance from Oxford to Henderson is twelve miles, and the swath cut was from a quarter to half a mile wide. It presents the appearance of having been burned and swept. The trees have been torn up and the limbs blown off the trunks, and the pathway looks like a road that had been cleared of stamps and everything else.

The town of Henderson had the same experience as Oxford. Ten people are known to have been injured, four seriously. Greystone is a small railroad station. All the houses there were blown down. There is a granite quarry there, and a squad of convicts have been worked. Three-quarters of the log houses were razed to the ground. A number of convicts were hurt.

It is learned that there was a second blow, but it knocked down the poles and wires, and no further news can be had to-

wires, and no further news can be had tonight. There must have been another current of wind, because at sundown in this city the clouds had disappeared and the heavens appeared to be filled with leaves. and it was remarked that there had been a cyclone somewhere not very far distant. The wind blew a gale bere, but did no damage.

#### The New York Eimes

Published: May 4, 1893 Copyright © The New York Times

#### CASUALTIES IN NORTH CAROLINA TROOPS—GETTYSBURG

Article appeared in the August 5, 1863 issue of the North Carolina Standard newspaper, Raleigh, NC. Soldiers in Company A and Company D were from Nash County; those in Company B and Company F were from Franklin County; and those in Company G were from Franklin and Granville Counties.

List of the casualties in the 47th Reg't. N.C.T., in the battles around Gettysburg, Penn., July 1st and 3d, 1863.

July 3—Field and Staff. Wounded—Col George H Faribault, contusion of shoulder, wounded in foot; Lient Col John A Graves, Maj A D Crump, and Adjt T C Powell, left on the battle-field within the enemy's picket lines, and supposed to have been wounded.

Company A—July 1st.
Killed—Williamston
Abernathy, Richard H
Dozier, Emerson
Puckett. Wounded—
Lieut G W Westry, in
groin; Lieut B Dunn,
slightly; Sergts J J Barnhill, slightly; G P
Westry, in arm; Cone,
slightly in shoulder and
head; Privates Jonathan
Crockett, mortally in
shoulder; Frank Ed-

wards, in shoulder; Martin Green, in hand. July 3d—Wounded—Lovett Boykin, in breast; Eli Joyner, severely in side; Kinchen Joyner, slightly in both hips; Stephen Lamm, in wrist; William Lamm, severely in shoulder; Wm Riley, severely in both thighs; S H Sellers, severely in abdomen. Left on the battlefield within the enemy's picket lines, 1st Sergt J J Partin, privates Abijah Barnes, Josiah Bissett, Neverson Cone, A J Henderson, Gilbert Lewis, J B O'Neal, J A Berry, B J Strickland, TL Strickland, Wren Tisdale.

B—July 1st—Killed— Jamison Puckett. Wounded—Sergt A Bryan, Leg amputated; Sergt J C Pierce, slightly in head; Chesley Perry, since died; Josiah Green, severely in neck; Wm Gay, severely in both legs; J Stallings, severely in thigh; Abijah Carter, slightly in arm; JT Medlin, slightly in hand; W H Meecam, slightly in thigh; Gideon Phillips, slightly in ankle; R Phillips, slightly in foot.

July 3d—Wounded— Lieut **H H Perry**, severely in leg; Privates **Marion Bunn**, severely in cheek; M J Moss, slightly in hand; A Johnson, slightly in thigh; James Pearce, slightly in arm. Left on the battle field within the enemy's picket lines, Lieut S J Evans, Corpl P H Massey; Privates J G Baker, J W Bunn, T W Cheeves, J D Cooke, Lemuel Cooley, Wm W Cone, Dennis Johnson, Marion Moye, S H Tant.

C—July 1st—Killed— Sergt E C U Green, Private Hansel Pool. Wounded—Capt C T Iredell, arm shot off, since dead; Privates W H Stephens, in wrist; Preston Kelley, in face, hand and breast; N N Bunch, slightly in thigh. July 3— Wounded—Lt M W Norfleet, seriously in groin; Corpl Gaston Utley, mortally; Privates J J Bunch, in leg; J Cates, slightly in head; R Saunders in arm; B Underwood, slightly in leg. Left on the battle field within the enemy's picket lines. Lieut G W Whiting, Sergt L W Green, Corpl R R Beddingfield, Privates John Done, Nicholas Gill, J P House, John Johnson, G W Partin, J W Pilkinton, Joe Woodard.



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#### WILLIAM W. PARKER

"HE WAS ONE OF
THE ORIGINAL
INVESTORS IN THE
ROCKY MOUNT
AND
FRANKLINTON
PLANKROAD
COMPANY IN 1855
AND LATER THE
TARBORO BRANCH
RAILROAD."

William W. Parker was born on January 19, 1821 in North Carolina. (However, the 1880 census lists he and his father as being born in Virginia). His mother was born in North Carolina according to that census. In 1850, Parker was listed as a Clerk living in Nash County. He was one of the original investors in the Rocky Mount and Franklinton Plankroad Company in 1855 and later the Tarboro Branch Railroad. In the 1860 census Parker was listed as living on the Edgecombe County side of Rocky Mount and a merchant with real estate valued at \$4,500 and personal property worth \$20,000.

Some of his property was located along Railroad Street (now Main Street) and contained two small stores, one being the "Red Elephant Store" on Tarboro Street. "Parker's Well" was located on part of North East Main Street, was a well known and popular site in old Rocky Mount, and eventually supplied all the water needs to the early town. Parker purchased three acres of land in 1854 in this general area near the Depot. (Connector 10.2.2)

When union soldiers raided Tarboro and Rocky Mount in July 1863, Parker suffered the theft of \$70,000 in bonds and cash, his horses and mules, a buggy, 30 bales of cotton and the burning of his stables and store. The soldiers also broke into his

bar room stealing all the liquor at his property just east of Rocky Mount.

In the 1867-68 and 1869 editions of Branson's Business Directory of North Carolina, Parker was listed in the confectionary business in Rocky Mount. In 1868, W.W. Parker along with several other Edgecombe County residents were granted relief from political disfranchisement and their rights as citizens restored by Act of the U.S. Congress. By 1870, Parker had acquired considerable additional property in the Rocky Mount area. The 1870 census listed him as single, employed as an Express Agent, and owning property valued at \$30,000. The 1872 Branson's Business Directory added that he also ran a saloon. He was reported by various accounts to be one of the largest land owners after the Civil War and a former slave owner.

He was a charter member and treasurer of the Corinthian Lodge No. 230 founded in 1865. Parker served numerous terms on the Town Commission up to 1881. In 1876 Parker was elected Magistrate and Edgecombe County Treasurer. The 1880 census listed Parker as a farmer, still living alone on the Edgecombe County side of Town. Parker's house and the Express Office were located near the old depot. He was reported to have owned "all the land from East

Thomas Street to Rose Street out beyond the cemetery and fairground". (Life History of the Trevathan Family, R.D. Trevathan, 1940.) When he died, the division of his estate listed 21 tracts of land.

W.W. Parker died on March 7, 1886 and was buried in Pineview Cemetery, Section 6, Row D, Lot 1.



Series: Biographical Sketches of the Original Commissioners of the Town of Rocky Mount, as appointed by the NC Legislature in the Act of Incorporation of the Town of Rocky Mount dated February 19, 1867 by TRCGS Member Stephen W. Raper. October 2010. Because Town records between 1867 and 1881 have not survived, information regarding the service of these elected officials in Town positions is incomplete for these years. The author has attempted to include in the sketches only such information considered reliable from other sources.

(Continued from page 1)

### Rocky Swamp and Brinkley Road

A common thread running through the Halifax Colemans is that of geography, particularly references to Rocky Swamp in Halifax County. In 1756, a Robert Coleman acquired land on the east side of Rocky Swamp. In 1761, Robert (assuming this is the same Robert; there is no indication pro or con) purchased another 100 acres on the west side of Rocky Swamp. In January 1774, Robert Coleman sold 357 acres of his land on the east side of Rocky Swamp to Elijah Humphries.

A Thomas Coleman is first seen in the records consulted in 1766, when he appears as a witness on a Halifax deed. In 1770, Robert Coleman sells land to Thomas Coleman; this land appears to be the 100 acres of land on Rocky Swamp referenced in the 1761 deed of Robert Coleman.

In December 1779,
Thomas Coleman sold to
Christopher Pritchett
the 100 acres of land on the
west side of Rocky Swamp
that he bought from Robert
Coleman, who is at this
time called Robert Cole-

man, Sr. This deed, as well as others, make it clear that their land adjoined that of the Read family. Deeds of 1812 and 1815 also indicate that the Burt family owned land on Rocky Swamp, and link the Burt family to Thomas Coleman.

A Richard Coleman
first appears in the Halifax
records consulted in 1797.
During this year, Richard
bought land adjoining
Shadrack Rogers from
Retts Winter. In 1797
Richard also bought land
from George
Humphries, adjoining
"Brinkley and Reuben's
Branch." (Note that
Robert Coleman sold
Rocky Swamp land to a
Humphries in 1774).

Deeds of both the Rogers and Read families mention Brinkley and Reuben's Branch, including a 1798 deed in which Richard Coleman sold 225 acres "on the east side of Reuben's Branch and Brinkley's Road, joining Shadrack Rogers, George Humphries, and Richard Coleman" to Jesse Read.

Although Reuben's
Branch has most likely been renamed over the centuries, as it does not appear on modern maps, Rocky Swamp still retains its name and is found in west-

ern Halifax County. It flows into Fishing Creek, which forms the dividing line between Halifax and Nash Counties. Just to the west of Rocky Swamp is the area known as Brinkleyville, probably named for the Brinkleys of Brinkley's Road.

This deed evidence supports the theory that the Halifax Reads, Burts, Rogers, and Colemans were all in the same general area.

#### Paternal possibilities

According to his age on the 1850 census, Thomas Coleman was born ca. 1787. The Halifax County records consulted show several adult male Colemans in Halifax prior to that time, mainly Thomas, John, and Robert.

Robert

Robert is the earliest of the three found in the consulted Halifax records and thus presumably the oldest.

A Robert Coleman was a witness on an Edgecombe County deed in 1743/4, and the deed was also witnessed by Susanna Coleman. A Robert Coleman left a will in Edgecombe County, written and probated in 1761, naming wife "Susanor" and his twelve children: Aaron, Cadar, Stephen, Sarah,

Robert, Josiah, Susanor, Jaconias, Grace, Sely, Hardy, and Silpha.

Another Robert Coleman left a will in Edge-combe County, written in 1790 and probated in 1795. He leaves 382 acres of land to his son **John** and sister **Grace**. The will was witnessed by Aaron and Sela. Given the similar sibling names, this is probably the son of the 1743 will Robert.

The Robert Coleman in Halifax County is mentioned at least once as "Robert, Sr.," which indicates there was another, younger Robert in the area. There is at least a 10-year gap in the Halifax references found to Robert, possibly indicating the death or movement of the older, and the one found later being a younger Robert. A January 1774 deed of Robert to Elijah Humphries is the last in which he seems to be directly involved in the transaction; deeds that follow refer to him, but directly involve others. The next reference to a Robert Coleman in Halifax is a 1783 tax list. References to Robert were not found in Halifax after 1783.

John

The first reference to

(Continued on page 6)

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John Coleman found in the Halifax records consulted is a 1763 will on which he is a witness. The next is a 1778 deed witnessed by a John Coleman. A John Coleman appears on a 1782 Halifax County tax list, taxed on 10 acres of land. John is also found on the 1783 Halifax tax list. In November 1783, John purchased 8 acres of land; in 1784, he and his wife **Ann** sell 8 ½ acres.

John is enumerated on the 1785 NC state census with the following in his house: 1 white male between 21-60 (possibly himself); 2 white males under 21 or above 60; 3 white females, and 1 black between 12-50. John also appears on the 1790 Halifax tax list with no acreage listed, but four white polls. On the 1790 U.S. Federal census, John is listed in Halifax County with three white males over 16; two white males under 16; six white females; one "other free", and no slaves. In 1800, John has one male under 10; two males 10-15; one male 16-25; and one male (himself, presumably) over 45; two females 16-25; one female over 45; and one slave. John also appears on the U.S. census in Halifax in

1810, with three males under 10, one male 10-15, one male 16-25, one male over 45; three females under 10, one female 16-25, and two slaves. A John is still present in Halifax in 1820, with two males under 10, one male 10-16, one male over 45; two females under 10, and one female 26-45. John does not appear on the Halifax census after 1820, possibly indicating death or movement.

Deed records indicate that John's wife was formerly Ann Rogers, wife of Francis Rogers, and that her father was Thomas Scurlock; the Scurlocks are found in the same tax district as John Coleman on the 1782 Halifax tax list. The deeds also indicate that John Coleman was the administrator of the estate of Ann's former husband Francis Rogers.

In 1808 and 1809, two deeds mention a land issue between John Coleman, William Gurley, and Thomas Williams, indicating that "a recovery was lately effected in Halifax County Court against John Coleman." It is not clear if this is the same John Coleman as earlier Halifax records, but it possibly is, since the same John seems to be present in Halifax up to 1820, based on census

age. Also, a Thomas Williams and a Thomas Coleman do appear as neighbors on the 1778 deed of **Brown** to **Pendry**.

The John who was son of Robert of Edgecombe County appears from the records consulted to be a different person from the Halifax John; there were probably several John Colemans in Edgecombe. The Edgecombe John(s) apparently owned land near Toisnot Swamp (present-day Wilson County) and Tar River, and do not seem to have left Edgecombe.

#### Thomas

The earliest mention found of a Thomas in Halifax is the name as a witness on a 1766 deed, which also references a Read. There is possibly a relationship between Robert and Thomas Coleman, as Robert sold land to Thomas in 1770, and Thomas witnesses some of Robert's deeds. A Thomas witnesses a deed in 1781, and then references to this Thomas stop; Thomas does not appear on the 1780s/1790s tax records nor censuses of Halifax.

The next reference found to a Thomas in the Halifax records consulted is an 1812 deed from the Burt family to Thomas Coleman; because of the 20+
year gap in references to
Thomas, as well as the relationship between Thomas
Coleman and Martha
Burt, this is most likely
referring to the subject of
this article and not to an
older Thomas.

**A Thomas Clemon** (possibly a corruption of Coleman) shows as head of a household in Halifax County on the 1810 census; his household contained one male under 10, one male 16-25 (probably himself), and one female 16-25. This household makeup is consistent with Thomas Coleman's age, considering the probable birthdate of 1787. A Thomas Coleman is also enumerated on the 1820 Halifax census with one male under 10, two males 10-16, two males 16-18, two males 16-26, one male 26-45; one female under 10, and one female 26-45.

#### Conclusions

Although Robert is most certainly an older relative of Thomas Coleman, the fact that he appears to be gone before Thomas' approximate birth year of 1787 makes him an unlikely candidate for his father.

It is possible that the older Thomas Coleman is

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(Continued from page 6)

the father; however, as not much evidence was found in this research of Thomas after 1781, there is also doubt as to this theory.

The most plausible conclusion that can be drawn from this research is that John Coleman is the most likely candidate for father of Thomas. John is present in Halifax during the appropriate time period, and the tax and census records for Halifax indicate he had several male children in his household during this time period that fit the age pattern of Thomas and his known siblings. Also, according to the research of John K.

Brown, Thomas Coleman named his oldest son John. This may be significant based on the common 18th century naming pattern of giving the firstborn son the name of the paternal grandfather.

It is not clear exactly when John married Ann Rogers; no marriage record was found. The only fact for certain from the records consulted is that Francis Rogers is dead by 1797. The records indicate Ann had several children; the will of **Thomas Scurlock**, written in 1788 and probated in 1792, leaves "daughter **Ann Coleman** 

one-sixth of my estate and at her death her part is to be divided between all her children." Their names are unfortunately not given, although two 1797 deeds between the Rogers and John Coleman indicates Ann probably had at least two sons by Francis Rogers. It is possible that Thomas and his siblings could be by her, or by a former wife of John.

Further research possibilities

Original Halifax County documents should be consulted for further evidence. Any existing evidence relating to inheritance of property by Thomas Coleman or his known siblings through John or Ann should be sought in particular. Only Halifax and its parent county, Edgecombe, were consulted for this article; but due to Nash County's proximity to Halifax, Nash records should be checked during future research for a thorough look at this family.

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Submitted by Traci Thompson, Local History/Genealogy Librarian, Braswell Memorial Library, Rocky Mount, NC

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#### Who was Nathaniel Rochester

There was once a very important man named Rochester who lived in what is now the outskirts of Oxford, Granville Co., NC. He gained distinction by his helpfulness to the American cause during the Revolutionary War. Nathaniel Rochester lived with his mother and stepfather near Harrisburg bridge on the old Henderson road. He was born February 21, 1752 and died May 17, 1831. He was a son of John and Hester Thrift Rochester of VA. After the death of his father, his mother married Thomas Critcher and the family moved to Granville Co. In 1771 Mr. Critcher bought land in the Nutbush section, then a part of Granville but now in Vance Co, NC. Three years later he bought an 800-acre tract lying on both sides of Fishing creek at Harrisburg. The year he moved to this place Mr. Critcher was appointed by the County Court to repair the bridge over the creek. He owned a mill on the creek and at the time of his death conducted an ordinary at Harrisburg village.

Nathaniel Rochester was a member, from Orange Co., of the Halifax Provincial Convention of April 12, 1776. This was the convention that got ahead of the Philadelphia meeting of July 4, 1776, in the matter of a Declaration of Independence. Mr. Rochester was prominent in other civil positions. As a military man one of his jobs was collection of supplies for the Revolutionary Army, his rank being that of a colonel.

Colonel Rochester was appointed a commissionary to establish and superintend a factory at Hillsboro, Orange Co. NC to turn out arms for the army, and went to Philadelphia for iron to be used in this enterprise.

For a while after the Revolutionary war, Col. Rochester was a manufacturer of flour and also of nails and rope at Hagerstown, MD, where he became sheriff. He was also president of a bank there from 1807-1810. In the latter year he went to Dansville, NY where he built a grist mill, a paper mill, and a saw mill.

Prospecting for a site for a new mill, as he so often was, Col. Rochester became impressed by the falls of the Genesee River, not far from Dansville. He bought 100 acres at that

point. On these acres he laid out streets and sold lots. The village of Rochesterville grew and has become the city of Rochester, largely on account of Col. Rochester's mill. Rochester was once known as the Flour City but now calls itself the Flower City.

In some of his ventures Col. Rochester had as a partner his stepfather, Thomas Critcher. Also interested with him at times was Col. Thomas Hart, the same Col. Hart who was associated in the Transylvania Co. with Richard Henderson of Williamsboro and whose daughter, Lucretia Hart, married Henry Clay. [See "A Man With A Vision—The 14th Colony," The Connector, Fall 2001].

[Taken from a paper found in the vertical files at the Oxford, NC Library. The author is not known.]

#### ROBERT D. RICKS

Robert D. Ricks was born on December 23, 1805 in Edgecombe County, North Carolina, son of Eli Ricks (1783-1819) and Millie Bunn (d: 1852) who were married in 1804. He had five brothers and sisters. He married Frances Ann Fort (1823-1882), daughter of Priscilla Horn and Jacob G. Fort, on October 6, 1844 and they had five children: Cornelia Viola, Mary Elizabeth, Robert Henry, Frances Ann and Amelia Irene. The couple attended the Tar River Primitive Baptist Church. He owned properties along Falls Road in Rocky Mount both north and south of the Great falls.

The Ricks and Trevathan families are closely related and lived in the same general vicinity in Rocky Mount. Robert served as an acting Justice of the Peace in Edgecombe County in 1848. It is unknown how many terms he may have served on the Town Commission or as a magistrate.

The 1850 North Carolina Agricultural Census listed Robert Ricks as owning 170 acres of land of which 78 acres were improved farmland with a cash value of \$1,150. The 1860 census showed him owning property totaling \$26,000 in value.

Robert died on February 13, 1873. It is not known where he or his wife were buried but it is highly probable they were laid to rest in the old Ricks Graveyard situated south of the Tar River on land granted the Ricks Family, east of present day Falls Road on Oak Street near Columbia Avenue. Unfortunately, this old graveyard dating back to at least 1800 and containing some of the earliest residents and families of the Rocky Mount Community, was vandalized, neglected and abandoned over the years with many grave markers destroyed. Robert's parents were buried there along with several of his brothers and sisters. Some were later moved to Pineview and re-interred along with some other families. Fort family members were also buried there.

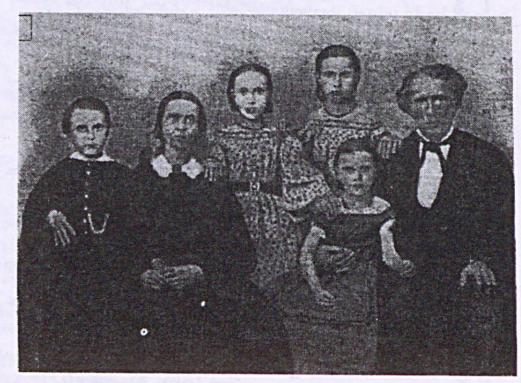
The final insult to this historic place was the construction of duplex houses on the site in 1957 which ultimately destroyed one of Rocky Mount's earliest known "burying" grounds. In approving the "Removal of Abandoned Graves to a Suitable Cemetery", the Town Board of Aldermen found the last known burial was in 1852 and was covered in dense undergrowth which the owner, David G. Braswell, already had cleared and cleaned. While some of the bodies were identified and relocated, not all graves were.

It has since been established

that burials took place there long after 1852.

Series: Biographical Sketches of the Original Commissioners of the Town of Rocky Mount, as appointed by the NC Legislature in the Act of Incorporation of the Town of Rocky Mount dated February 19, 1867 by TRCGS Member Stephen W. Raper. October 2010. Because Town records between 1867 and 1881 have not survived, information regarding the service of these elected officials in Town positions is incomplete for these years. The author has attempted to include in the sketches only such information considered reliable from other sources.





The Ricks Family

#### WILLIAM HAYWOOD LAWRENCE

LAWRENCE, WILLIAM HAYWOOD, planter, was born September 24, 1791, at Raleigh, N. C,. and died June 22, 1858; son of Josiah and Charity (Haywood) Lawrence, the former a native of New Jersey, who moved from that state to North Carolina, and was either a brother or nephew of the naval hero, James Lawrence; grandson of Col. William and Charity (Hare) Haywood, who lived in Edgecombe County, N. C., the former colonel of militia forces of Edgecombe County, N. C., a member of the council for Halifax District in 1775, a member of the provisional congress of North Carolina at Halifax, April, 1776, and November, 1776, a member of the committee in the last named body which drafted the state constitution and bill of rights, a member of the council of state in 1776, and one of the commissioners who signed the Revolutionary currency of North Carolina; greatgrandson of Col. John and Mary (Lovett) Haywood, who came from New York and settled in Edgecombe County, N. C., the former colonel of colonial militia, a member

of the North Carolina assembly, 1746-1752, commissioner of coast fortifications in 1748, treasurer of the northern counties of the colony, 1752, surveyor to Earl Granville who was last of the lord proprietors of North Carolina.

Mr. Lawrence moved from North Carolina and settled at LaGrange, where he built the first college building of old LaGrange college. In 1836, he moved from LaGrange and settled at Tuscaloosa. He was a planter, and was "such a fair and just man that he was arbitrator among his neighbors in many differences and was called 'judge' by his neighbors on account of their appreciation of his fairness among them." Married: (1) to Mary Prince; (2) May 16, 1836, at Tuscaloosa, to Ildegerte L. Anthony, daughter of Henry Tate and Mary Caroline (Lovell) Anthony, natives of Henry County, Va., who were married December 1, 1805, granddaughter of Mary and Nancy (Tate) Anthony, and of William and Mary (Marshall) Lovell, the latter a sister of Chief Justice John Marshall, great -granddaughter of Joseph Tate of Albemarle County, Va. Children, by first marriage: 1. Oliver James, b, December 6, 1818, was graduated from the University of Alabama, A. B., 1840, and A. M., 1841, practiced law at Tuscaloosa, enlisted in the C. S. Army as private in Tarrant's Alabama battery, was wounded at Corinth, Miss., and died as a result of his wounds, 1864, m. Margarie Ridgeway; 2. Charity Hare, d. in Mississippi, m. Mr. Neville; 3. Josiah, d. in 1842, unmarried; 4. Mary, d. at nineteen years of age, unmarried; 5. Arabella Timesia, d. in Greensboro, m. James W. Mc-Crary; 6. Col. Robert J., colonel of the Fourteenth Mississippi regiment, d. at Shubuta, Miss., m. Bettie Ledgyard; 7. Maria, m. Haywood Parker: 8. Harriet, deceased, m. John Colgin; 9. Capt. William Haywood, b. July 30, 1830, became a merchant at Tuscaloosa; enlisted in the C. S. Army as corporal of the Warrior Guards, 1861, was made captain of infantry in 1862, served as captain of cavalry, Eighth Alabama regiment, 1863-64, killed in battle near Rome, Ga.,

October 12, 1864, m. Elvira Caldwell, child, William Haywood, Jr. (q. v.); by second marriage: 10. Lieut. Nicholas P., served with the Fortythird Alabama regiment, C. S. Army, d. in 1867, m. Kitty Vaughn; 11. Lieut. Charles M., served with the Forty-third Alabama regiment, C. S. Army, killed December 14, 1863, at Beanes Station, Tenn.; 12. Sergt. Henry A., served with the Forty-third Alabama regiment, C. S. Army, killed at Petersburg, Va., December 25, 1864; 13. Ildegerte L., d. December 13, 1909, m. Alto V. Lee (q. v.); 14. Sherwood H., d. in 1913, m. Mamie Allen. Last residence: Tuscaloosa.

History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography by Thomas McAdory Owen, Marie Bankhead Owen 1921 (Continued from page 1)

ing a total of 14 months over a period of about five years. He returned to Franklin County, NC, married **Ann Perry**, conceived 10 children and applied for a pension for service before the Franklin County, NC court on 9 September 1833 at age 77.

In February 1779 he volunteered his services for two months in the SC Militia where he resided. He served in **Colonel Neals** regiment and marched un-

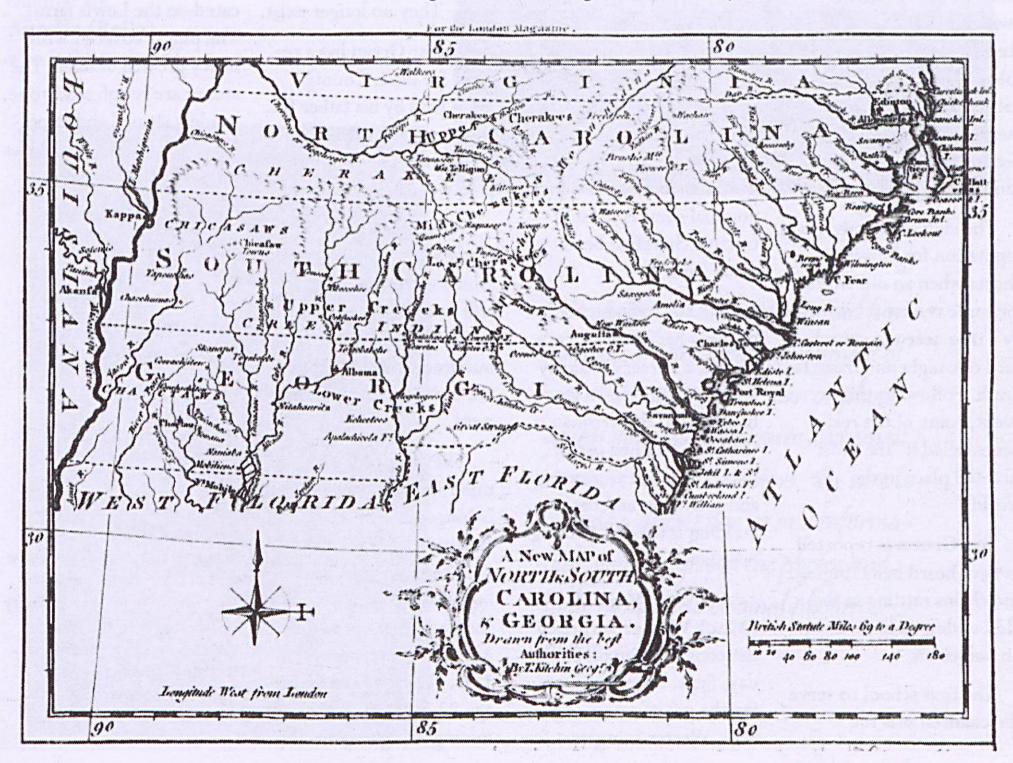
der John Wallace, adjutant where he later joined the army under the command of General Williamson. Orders were received to report to General Ash's headquarters near Briar Creek. During the march the men met another group retreating and learned that Ash had been defeated. Convers group returned to General Williamson's headquarters and after a few days marched with a detachment commanded by Major Francis Ross and Colonel Hammond against

the Indians on the Georgia frontier discovering that the Fort on Ogeechee River had been evacuated and fired by the Indians which was still burning when they arrived. Colonel Hammond gave the command over to Major Ross the group which included Ephraim Conyers and they took the trail of one of the Indian parties. Major Ross was killed when they met up with the Indian group the second day. The Indians had heavy losses. At this point they group returned to Augusta where Conyers

served the remainder of his two months tour and was discharged.

By Late Spring or June 1779 Conyers returned as a substitute for a drafted Militiaman, Andrew Countryman, for a period of two more months. The regiment under the command of Lt. Little marched to Charleston where they were besieged by the British forces for 2 or 3 weeks. After the siege was lifted the regi-

(Continued on page 16)



#### SALEM COMMUNITY—NASH COUNTY

#### CITIZENS TELL ABOUT GOLD MINE, HAUNTED CHURCH

Salem is a small agricultural community located in the northern part of Nash County. Worthy of note is the number of small family cemeteries scattered throughout the area and some of the folk tales related by the older citizens.

#### Named for Church

Salem got it's name from an old Primitive Baptist Church which was located on the farm now owned by **Charlie Armstrong**. No one has been able to say how the church got the name Salem. But there are tales told in connection with its being haunted.

The church already has a reputation for housing ghosts when an old woman for some reason set down by a tree near the church yard one night and froze to death. Following this event, some of the residents called it "the most haunted place in the world."

Joe Green is reported to have heard bells ringing and chains rattling in the old building as he rode by on horseback.

The first school to serve the children was the

**Stallings School**, located on the old Sexton to Hickory road.

The Salem school was opened in 1909 with Miss Bertha Treaothan and George D. Ward as teachers, according to Luther Green. The latest building was constructed in the middle 1920's. The community voted a special tax to pay for the structure.

Due to the fact that the people in the community had played such a part in financing the construction of the building, they were permitted to purchase it from the county at a very nominal sum. A most attractive church as been made from it.

The converted school building has a sanctuary, a chapel, a nursery, Sunday School rooms, and a study. In attrition, the Woman's Club has retained use of two rooms for its meetings and activities, and the building is used as a voting precinct.

Mr. and Mrs. M. W. (Mac) Wester surprised the congregation on Sunday, Sept. 1, by announcing the gift of a new organ. Mrs. Wester is organist for

the church.

Early industry in Salem included a sawmill and cotton gin. Some old timers say the gin was powered by mule power: others say it was steampowered. All agree, however, that the cotton press was mule-powered. The press was used to pack the ginned cotton into bales. The gin and sawmill were located on the **Lonnie Green** farm. They no longer exist.

Luther Green has a receipt for Nash County taxes paid by his father for the year 1900 on a 175-acre farm. The amount paid was \$2.

Salem has a gold mine many years ago. The pits which were dug and are still in evidence are located in the wooded area a few hundred yards in front of the home of Ashley Bennett.

The farm on which the mine was operated now belongs to the J. C. Braswell heirs. During the time that gold was being mined, it was known as the Campbell operation.

Mr. Bennett, age 87, and J. D. (Dave) Edwards, age 92, remember when mining was going on. Ed-

wards stated that one of the pits was dug to a depth of 75 feet. The workers decended and came out by a series of ladders, and ore was lifted out in buckets. A stamp mill was operated to separate the gold from the ore.

There is no large central cemetery in the area, but there are many small family cemeteries. One of the most unique of these is located on the Lewis farm. The plot is covered with heavy growth of lilies. The stones are rough sandstone, crudely shaped and unpolished. The oldest stone was marked MEW d. 1864.

The old timers say that many cemeteries have graves marked only with piles of rocks. Some of these are supposed to be Indian graves.

Source: Excerpts taken from Centennial Series from The Nashville Graphic. This was the first in a two-part series of historical stories on the community of Salem in northeast Nash County, first published on September 17, 1974.) by M. W. Weaver

#### RACKLY FAMILY PHOTOS

Right is photo of Francis (Frank)
Marion Rackley
and his wife Atsie
Batchelor Rackley with their five children.

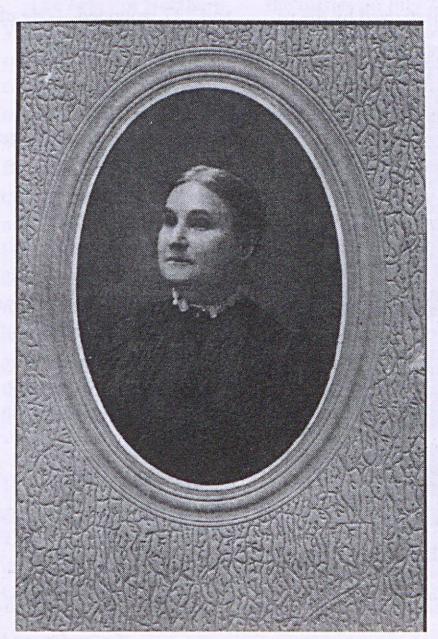
The youngest of the family, Walter, is perhaps 7 or 8 years old and pictured far left. He is the grandfather to our Texas TRCGS Member Weldon Rackley. Other children are Aurella (Rella) who is the second of

the youngest. The twins Ada and Anna are in the row with Marcellus (Dump) who later married Daisey Batchelor.

The photo below is of Julia Warren, Frank's sister. Frank and Julia were children of William Rackley and Mourning Batchelor.

Submitted by TRCGS Members Weldon and Pat Rackley.





We invite you to share your old family photographs for the enjoyment of our members. Please scan or photograph your family picture and email or snail mail to the editors. Be sure to include a description or any information you can give of the photos and your name. No original photos please.

#### Iron Cross Dedication Service for Micajah T. Williams

A dedication service was held March 14th, 2011 for TRCGS Members Debbie Peacock and Helen Sharpe's Ancestor by Sons of Confederate Veterans. The following history of the 30th Regiment Infantry, Company I was read at the service:

Micajah Thomas Williams, 30th Regiment Infantry, Company I resided in Nash County where he enlisted at age 18, May 1, 1862 for the war. Mustered in as Private. Wounded at Malvern Hill, Virginia, July 1, 1862. Promoted to Corporal on June 1, 1863.

Until June of 1862 the 30th Regiment was stationed along the North Carolina coast. But on June 13 they were ordered north to defend Richmond, Virginia. Under the direction of General George Anderson, they were moved to the Chickahominy Bridge on the Mechanicsville Turnpike to prevent Federal troops from crossing. When the Federals retreated the Confederates followed and engaged them at Gaines' Mill. The 30th Regiment, was second from the end of the left of the line and met the enemy in a woods on the edge of the swamp. After a short but bloody contest, the woods was cleared of the enemy. Night brought an end to the fight and the Federal troops made good their escape.

From Gaines' Mill, the
Confederate left wing, now
under the command of
General Thomas
"Stonewall" Jackson,
advanced over Grapevine
Bridge and White Oak
Bridge, having to rebuild
them both because they had
been destroyed by the re-

treating Federals. They joined forces with the right wing of the army and moved to meet the enemy at Malvern Hill.

Late on the afternoon of July 1, a general assault was launched against the Federal position. The confederates advanced across an open field against enemy batteries some 700-800 yards distant and were repulsed with devastating casualties. During the night the Federal troops retreated. During these Seven Day's battles around Richmond the 30th Regiment lost 30 men killed and 137 wounded—one of which was Private Williams.

They were then marched back to Richmond and stayed there until August when the entire division moved to join the Army of Northern Virginia. General Lee's first invasion of the North began on September 4, 1862 when the Confederate army crossed into Maryland. Anderson's Brigade was involved in several skirmishes at South Mountain. By September 15 they had arrived and went into position of the heights east of Antietam Creek then moved to a po-



From left to right Rick Rodgers, Helen Sharpe, Susan Rodgers, Debbie Peacock, Charles Rodgers, Allen Rackley, Web Williams, and Anola Williams

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

sition in front of Sharpsburg between the troops of Jackson and Longstreet. When the Federal attacked, Anderson's Brigade was in the sunken road later known as Bloody Lane. It was during this assault that Anderson was mortally wounded and his brigade was routed. The 30th regiment lost 10 killed, 62 wounded and 1 missing. The night of September 18, the Army of Northern Virginia retired across the Potomac. The Brigade was then under the leadership of Brigadier General Stephen Ramseur.

The Army of Northern Virginia stayed in the Shenandoah Valley until December when Federal troops commanded by General Ambrose Burnside, began concentrating on the Rappahannock River across from Fredericksburg. The battle began on December 13th, the 30th was in the first line of defense but not engaged in the fighting even though they lost 9 men from artillery fire.

It was not until May 1863 that Ramseur's Brigade was engaged again. The Army of the Potomac under the command of General Joseph Hooker at Chancellorsville. The 30th regiment was on the first line and the Confederates were able to chase the Union army back across the Rappahannock River. The 30th lost 26 men killed and 99 wounded. As you may know it was during this battle that Stonewall Jackson was mortally wounded.

By June of 1863 General Lee put his army in motion toward the Shenandoah Valley to begin the campaign that would end at Gettysburg. The 30th Regiment was engaged in battle on July 1 with 6 killed, 36 wounded and 5 missing. They were not in the battles on July 2 or 3, which saved them from the now famous Pickett's Charge.

After recrossing the Potomac River on July 14, they were moved east of the Blue Ridge mountains so they would be between the enemy and Richmond. The 30th was involved in Skirmishes near Warrenton Springs and the Warrenton Court House in October 1863 and at Kelly's Ford in November where they suffered severe casualties after which they went into winter quarters near Orange Court House.

By May 4, 1864, the Army of the Potomac, un-

der the direction of General U.S. Grant, began crossing the lower Rapidan and entered a thicket and vine choked woods of dense scrub oak and pine known as "The Wilderness". There was heavy fighting every day until the 12th. By this time, Ranseur's

Brigade only mustered about 30 men.

Grant tried to move his men to Lee's right and Lee tried to block him as both armies began concentrating at Cold Harbor. On June 3 Grant launched a massive and murderously unsuccessful assault against the six mile long Confederate position. During this battle the federals lost around 7,000 men killed and wounded in less than an hour.

The 30th regiment joined General Jubal Early's troops when they moved toward Washington in July, 1864. Finding the city too heavily defended, they retired toward Virginia.

In August, 1864, the Federals began concentrating a large force at Harpers Ferry under General Phil



Sheridan with the intention of driving the Confederates out of the Shenandoah Valley once and for all. From then through October, the armies were engaged in several battles. But were in winter quarters by December where they stayed until mid March when they were ordered into the trenches in front of Petersburg. On April 2, 1865 Lee ordered the evacuation of the Richmond-Petersburg fortification and a retreat to the west. The Army of Northern Virginia, reduced to a shadow of its former self, began its withdrawal.

On April 9, a surrender was signed and the war was over.

#### A TRUE GENTLEMAN



The true gentleman is the man whose conduct proceeds from good-will, whose self-control is equal to all emergencies; who does not make the poor man conscious of his poverty, the obscure man of his obscurity, or any man of his inferiority or deformity; who is himself humbled if necessity compels him to humble an-

other; who does not flatter wealth, cringe before power, or boast of his own possessions or achievements; who speaks with frankness, but always with sincerity and sympathy, and whose deed follows his word; who thinks of the rights and feelings of others rather than his own; who appears well in any company, and who is at home

when he seems to be abroad- a man with whom honor is sacred and virtue is safe. **Dr. John W. Wayland** .... The Highballer (T C Ry)

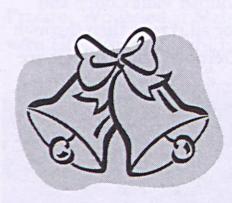
From the Collection of the ACL & SAL Historical Society. Copied from ACL News, Martch 1956 and submitted by TRCGS Member Helen Brabham

#### MARRIED

BEST—BLOUNT

BARNES—WILLIAMS

EXUM—BEDGOOD



At the residence of the bridge's father, in Wilson, on the morning of the 20th inst., Rev. E. A. Yetes officiating, Mr. T. H. Best of Green County to Miss Mollie J., daughter of B. H. Blount, Esq., of Wilson.

On the 12th inst., at the residence of Henry Leonard, by E. H. Cockrell, Esq., James A. Barnes, son of J. J. Barnes, and Miss William Ida Lane, daughter of William Lane, deceased, all of Nash.

On the 10th inst., Thos. Exum and Mrs. Fanny Bedgood, all of Nash.

\_\_\_\_\_

Taken from the January 25, 1876 paper The Rocky
Mount Herald.

(Continued from page 11)

ment pursued the enemy to Ashley Ferry and encamped there until time of service expired.

1780 arrived with Ephraim Conyers being drafted in Colonel Brattons regiment for 2 more months. They marched toward Charleston, SC but learned that the town was besieged by the British and all communications were cut off.

In 1782 he substituted for two drafted Militiamen, Thomas Mobly and John Humphreys.

This entire fascinating Pension account supplied by Ephraim Conyers (S8244) is on line transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. It is interesting to note that he received \$108.32. His memory at age 77 was very clear and concise.

Sources: D.A.R. Patriot Index; LDS Church Ancestral file Index; Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements; Wikipedia — John Dooly

Submitted by TRCGS Member-Fred Conyers (Continued from page 3)

D—July 1st— Wounded-Privates E Coggin, mortally; B Milton, mortally; Larkin Hyatt, slightly in hand; M High, slightly in leg; J B Dean, slightly. July 3— Wounded—Corpl Delbridge, slightly in head; private Hopkins, slightly in arm; Rufus Stone, severely in hip; B F Stone, stunned by shell; E Johnson, severely in bowels; C Joyner, severely in knee; S D Ricks, slightly in thigh. Left on the battle field within the enemy's picket lines—Lieut R F Drake, Corpl R Pullen, privates M Wilder, J B Higgins, C Driver, R E Bell, J R Bottoms, Berry Lee, W J Underwood, R Ricks, R Driver, Sergt W H Drake.

E—July 1st—Killed— Privates LT Medlin, W A Medlin, James Snead, W Wilson, C Raiborn. Wounded—E H Ray, in leg slightly; Lieut L W Robbins, very slightly in ankle; 1st Sergt W K Hunter, slightly in thigh; Corp R D Honeycut, severely in breast; privates Jno McDade, severely in arm and hip; J Upchurch, severe in hip; Benj Smith, slightly in breast; J H Atkins, slightly in thigh.—July

W S Cooper, slightly in thigh; Jas Dew, slightly in foot. Left on the battle field within the enemy's picket lines—Corpl P M Mangum, S Mayner, W C Medlin, W B Marcom, J H Pew, W H Richardson, A Watkins, J Watkins.

F—July 1st—Killed— Privates J P Bragg. Wounded—Sergt T N Haswell, slightly in hand; privates C H Clifton, arm shot off; Thos Fuller, slightly in hand; PH Tharrington, slightly in arm; R C Warmonth, severely in shoulder. July 3d. Wounded—Corpl C B Freeman, slightly; privates J M Dickerson, slightly; J Fulgum, mortally; D W Fuller, slightly in arm; John Mitchell, L Spencer, slightly; A A Williams, severely in breast. Left on the battle field within the enemy's picket lines—Lieuts J S Joyner, S F Gill, Sergts A Dement, H T Coggin, Corpl J D Alley, Privates N T Biddingfield, Wm Dickerson, Jesse Duke, C. W. Edwards, W Harris, Henry Harris, Alexander Holmes, Rufus Holmes, J W Katner, A M Mitchell, W M McClery, W Pearce, T Pruett, J W Sanderson.

G-July 1st. Killed-

Private W Bowden, Wounded—Lt G D Tunstall, in thigh seriously but not dangerously; Sergts L Turner, in breast slightly; E J Jackson, abdomen, slightly; Corpls E A Nutall, leg seriously but not dangerously; J A May slightly; W H Burgs, thigh and foot painfully but not dangerously; privates G J Thompson, neck dangerously; S D Weaver, breast and stomach, since dead; B F Askew, both arms, not dangerously; S F Dement, scalp not seriously; W Hubbard, arm broken; J Phillips, flesh wound in thigh; Sam Hays, flesh wound in thigh; A C Green, thigh slightly; TO'Marar, thigh slightly; D C Tunstall, shoulder slightly, J W Bradford, shoulder slightly; Thos Pulley, thigh slightly; W Dorsey, wrist slightly; S T Nance, side slightly; C Long, thigh and leg seriously, not dangerously; W D Jones, leg painfully, not dangerously. July 3d. Wounded—Lt Gen Williamston, in head dangerously; privates W D Spain, face dangerously; A A Hunt, ankle seriously; H Pleasants, scalp slightly. Left on the battle field beyond the enemy's picket lines—Capt J J Davis, Sergts J Y Moss, L Turner, GW Horner, privates PS Bobbitt, L

Dickerson, W A Stone, E Wilder, Jas Wyche, B F Weaver, A Overton, W H Smith, G M Hicks, Thos O Mara, E Fowler, J Darham, Thos Carr, W H Tharington, H Benton, Wm Batchelor, A McBurth, R Pearson.

Submitted by TRCGS Member Danny Bunn.

NO WORDS CAN PICTURE THE ANGUISH OF THAT ROLL-CALL—THE BREATHLESS WAITS BETWEEN THE RESPONSES. THE "Here" of those WHO, BY GOD'S MERCY, HAD MIRACULOUSLY ESCAPED THE AWFUL RAIN OF SHOT AND SHELL WAS A SOB—A GASP—A KNELL— FOR THE UNANSWERED NAME OF HIS COMRADE.

> - MAJ GEN GEORGE E. PICKETT

#### 1850 Census—Schedules 1, 2, and 3

The 1850 census was the seventh census of the United States. For the first time in the history of the census, the names of every person in each household were listed although not their relationship.

There was greater consistency because enumerators were furnished with printed instructions.

The following categories are contained in the 1850 census: name; age (as of the first day of June); sex; color (black, white, or mulatto); Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each male over 15; Value of Real Estate owned; birthplace; whether married within the previous year; If they attended school within

the year, if they were over 20 whether they could read and write; and whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.

There were two other census schedules done during 1850 which are of interest to genealogists—the Slave schedule and the Mortality schedule.

Slaves were counted separately and this is referred to as Schedule 2 or the "Slave Schedule". Unfortunately, they were not listed by personal name for slaves. Under the name of each slave owner slaves are distinguished by age, sex, and color. Other questions asked include if a fu-

gitive from the state (meaning if the slave had fled and not returned); number manumitted (or freed); and whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.

Enumerators were directed to secure information as to all persons dying within the 12 months preceding the census taking. This list is known as Schedule 3 or the "Mortality Schedule" of 1850. If your ancestor died between June 1, 1849 and May 31, 1850 you should look at this schedule to see if your ancestor is included. Information in this schedule includes: the deceased person's name, age, sex, race, occupation, month of

death, cause of death and sometimes other details. If your ancestor died between census, you only have a 10% chance they died within the year previous to the census, but it's worth investigating. Since this is a time before death certificates, it is one way to determine cause of death.

Sources: Seventh Census of the US, 1850 from The National Archives. Census Bureau online, William Dollarhide, The Census Book: A Genealogist's Guide to Federal Census Facts, Schedules and Indexes, Heritage Quest: Researching Census Records, The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy by Loretto Dennis Szucs; edited by Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Lubking. Written and submitted by TRCGS Member Janet Sadowski.

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Dwelling-house numbered in order of visit	Families numb in the order visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of Jane, 1850, was in this family.	Age.	Ber.	Color.   Meck, or mulatte.	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of such Male Person over 15 years of age.	aive of Real Est owned.	PLACE OF BIRTH.  Naming the State, Territory,  or Country.	erried within the	unded School Within the year.	unes over 25 y'rs of a bo custost read & wy	Whether deaf and dams, blind, inmae, idiotic, pusper, or convict.
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Example of 1850 Census

SCHEDULE 2.—Slave Inhabitants in Danis Dictrict in the Country of Franklin State of Mich., enumerated by me, on the 31 day of August, 1850. Ersh & Sawking for Marshall

	NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.		DES	CRIP	TON.	from the	amenisted.	Denf & dumb,			Blave.	DES	CRIPT	ION.	3	- Park	Desf & dead,
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Example of 1850 Slave Schedule (two columns per page)

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AME OF EVERY PERSON WHO DIED during the Year studing Let June, 1880, whose small Pince of Abode at the Time of his Death wat in thin Family.	•		Color State, or	Pro-or Show.	Married or widowed.	PLACE OF BIRTH.  Numing the State, Territory, or  Country.	The Month in which the Present died.	PROFESSION, OR TRADE.	DESEABL OR CAUGE OF DRATE.	Number of DAYS ILL
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