

The Connector

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

Fall, 2001

Peggy Strickland & Billie Jo Matthews, Co-Editors Volume 5 Number 4

A Man With a Vision—The 14th Colony

Six creaking wagons rumbled along the dusty road in the early days of 1775. The wagons were heavily laden with corn, flour, salt and casks of rum; blankets, bearskins, ribbons, booting, shirts; a vast assortment of trinkets as well as guns, powder and lead. A tall, dignified figure rode at the head of this caravan. **Col. Richard Henderson**, retired Superior Court Judge of North Carolina from

Granville County (now **Vance**) was about to put together one of the biggest real estate deals in history.

Col. Henderson, president of the newly formed **Transylvania Com-**

pany, was on his way to the **Cherokee Nation** to rent or purchase a certain Territory lying on the west side of the mountains of the **Mississippi** from the **Indian** tribes now in possession thereof. This scheme had been in the making for some time.



Meeting of Transylvania House of Delegates, May 1775

Henderson used all his legal skills to research the disputed territory west of the mountains now held by the Cherokee Nation, and he became convinced that the Indians had the right to sell or rent this land to private

SEE MAN, P 6

Tar River Rambler

BY LOUISE FULLER

FRUSTRATION! Have you ever found the name of a creek on several documents and yet the name does not appear on any map? *Vedito Creek* in **Nash Co.** is an example! The very name "creek" conjures up a body of water larger than a branch. Some branches are named on maps, so, *Vedito Creek* should not be hard to find.

Not so! Some maps today show **Biddie-Toe Creek** just where *Vedito Creek* should be. Other maps just ignore its existence.

After the **Revolution** when land could be procured from the **State of NC**, **Reuben Williams**, **Charles Rollins**, **Daniel Owen**, and **Julian King** obtained N.C. state land grants

on or near *Vedito Creek*. Making maps for **Reuben Williams'** land, **Daniel Owen's** Land and **Julian King's** land was easy. None of the **Nash Co.** deed books contained a grant for **Charles Rollins**. Both **Nash Co.** Deed BK 3-52 and 3-93 reveal that **Charles Rollins'** land adjoined the land of the 3 named above.

SEE RAMBLER, PAGE 7

G

62

RICHARD HENDERSON

—...—

Founder of **Transylvania Colony** (Ky) & **Nashville** (Tenn), author **Cumberland Compact** (1780), judge, member **N.C. Council of State**. Grave 1 mi. N.

SR 1319 (*Satterwhite Point Road*)
north of **Henderson**, **Vance County**.

Wood Molded by Gold & Timber

The spark of **Wood**, **Franklin Co**, **NC** was struck in the late 1700s when **Stephen Gupton, Sr.** married **Nancy Portis**. Both were from what was then **Bute Co.** and their great-grandson, **Thomas Buck Gupton**, owned the land that now makes up the town. His daughter, **Lula** married **Charlie Wood** and it is from this couple that **Wood** got its name. It was the great nephew of **Stephen** and **Nancy Gupton**, **Issac J. Portis**, who found gold in **Franklin Co.** in 1838. [See "Gold Found in **Franklin Co.** Clay," *The Connector*, Summer, 2001.]

Of course, gold was very important to the fledgling town, but more significant in modern times were the

SEE WOOD PAGE 17

QUERY GUIDELINES

1. Members may submit three queries annually to the address below. A fee of \$5.00 must accompany each query submitted by a non-member.
2. The query should be in the form of a typed or printed letter (easy on the eyes!) and should include a time frame and as much pertinent information as possible.
3. Queries should concern someone who has resided in the following counties: Person, Granville, Vance, Franklin, Nash, Edgecombe, Pitt, Beaufort, or adjacent counties linked to the Tar River by streams and creeks.
4. Please include all that you know pertaining to the question you are asking.
5. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Don't expect a miracle!!

Tar River Connections Genealogical Society

PO Box 8764

Rocky Mount, NC 27804

Internet

www.braswell-library.org/gene.htm

e-mail: Turn1104@aol.com

Annual Dues - \$15.00

2001 Officers

Reese Ferrell, President

Arda Daniel, President-Elect

Barbara Dupree, Secretary

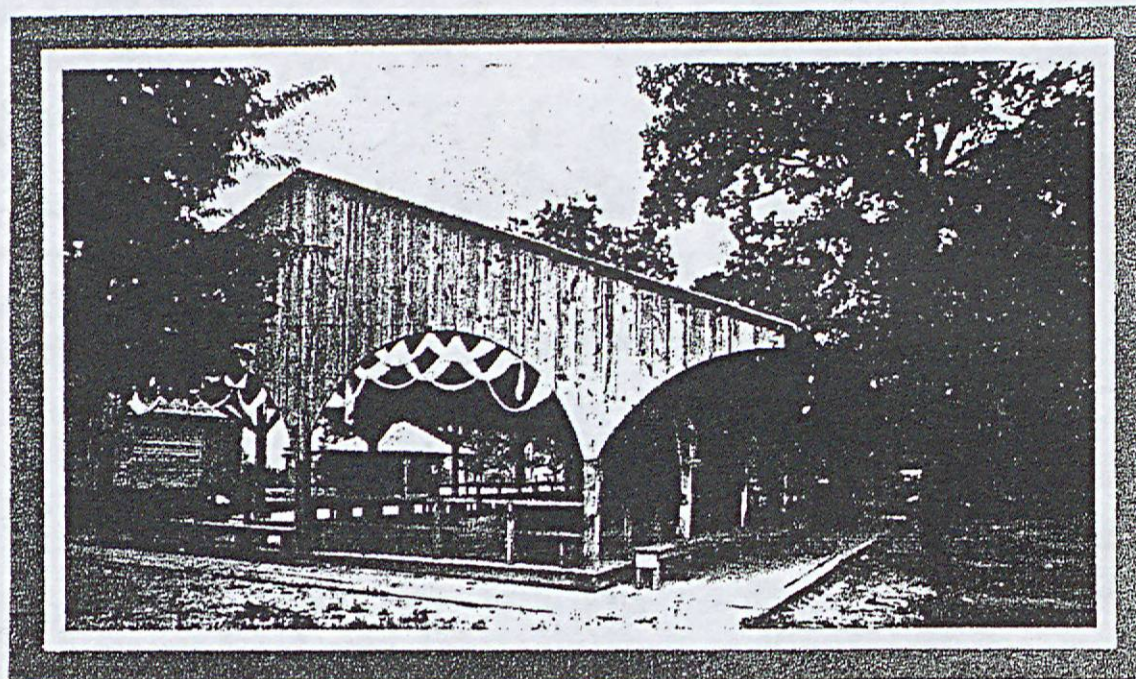
Helen Sharpe, Treasurer

Peggy Strickland, Billie Jo Matthews, Newsletter Editors

Directors: Louise Fuller, Hiram

Perkinson

The Connector-Published Quarterly
Membership & Surnames-Annually



Oakland Park on Tarboro Street, [Rocky Mount] covering almost a whole block has been established for years. Here, during the summer, the city is treated to vaudeville and comedy performances of a high order. The park also has an excellent dancing pavillion, and a good orchestra is employed during the whole season.

[Rocky Mount, 1911. p. 18. Picture Courtesy of NC Division of Archives and History]

Candy Vendors

CANDY VENDORS. - With some friends we took our stand near the entrance of the show at Nashville [NC] last Friday and witnessed the operation of the "candy men," who plied their arts and deceptions with more brazen impudence than at any show we ever saw. As soon as a lady would enter she was handed a stick of candy, as was likewise her escort and all the little children, the candy was taken, most frequently mechanically, by our modest and unsophisticated country lasses who were politely asked to "walk in now-and see the show," but before going half a dozen steps the escort was reminded that he owed twenty-five or fifty cents for the candy, and here a halt was made, an animated discussion indulged in, which generally we are glad to say, resulted in the return of the candy to the basket and a flush of indignation to mantle the cheek of the fair one as she would "give the fellow a piece of her mind." Some we saw who were taking their sweethearts in and had no loose change about their pockets after paying for their tickets it was in such cases real excruciating to witness their look of despair and shame as they unwittingly expressed the fact instead of knocking the imposter down. We noticed one young man (with a girl hanging on his arm) consent for his pockets to be searched, which was done in a very confident and professional way. This speaks bad for Nell's circus or any other concern which allows such practices to be carried on. We are informed that the side show was a regular gamb.

[The Rocky Mount Mail, 29 October 1875]



ORAL
HISTORY
PROJECT

Nash County Arts Council

Rocky Mount of 1914

TOLD BY ANNIE BELL THOMPSON

In 1914, I was a student at **King's Business College** in **Raleigh**. **Mr. Wilcox**, who ran the **Anchor Store** in **Rocky Mount**, called the college and said he wanted someone to work in his office. The college told me to come here.

I arrived in Rocky Mount by train. **Mr. Fountain** had charge of the baggage and got my trunk off the train. The train station looked very much as it does now. **Main Street** had a surface of some kind of shell on it. They'd take shells and beat them up and lay them around. That made a right good, hard road. A part of **Sunset Avenue** was paved when I arrived here, but that's all the pavement that I can remember.

I went to room with **Mrs. Taylor** on **Nash Street**. She was from **Baltimore**, and she came here as a milliner. I didn't eat at her house. I just had a room there. **Pearl Roberson** from **Henderson [NC]** also roomed there and worked in an office.

When I arrived in Rocky Mount, **Ricks Hotel** was right there by the train station. It was very nice in those days. I went there for lunch one time. The stores I remember were the **Anchor Store**, where you could buy dry goods for making clothes, and they also had clothes already

SEE ORAL, PAGE 15

THOMAS HACKNEY BRASWELL
MEMORIAL LIBRARY
ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804

CONNECTOR

Where's My Brandy?

MR. HOWARD: I see a publication in your paper, signed **D. Knight & Co.** of a most mysterious barrel of brandy, which I feel called on to correct some errors, and say something about seeming inconsistencies. It is true I purchased a barrel of brandy of **Squire Joseph John Phippen**, who delivered the brandy at the warehouse of **D. Knight & Co.**, in **Tarboro' [NC]**. I paid him the money, and by the consent of **Mr. Knight** the warehouse door was opened I believe by **Mr. Weldon Hunter**, and the barrel rolled in the house. I applied to **Mr. Knight** to guage the barrel—agreeably to his account it guaged 33½ gallons, for which I paid \$26 and some cents. I think **Mr. Hunter** received the brandy in the warehouse himself. When **Mr. Knight** had guaged the barrel, I requested the barrel should be placed where it would be most out of the way, for I did not know when I would take it away. I did not expect to send for it until I delivered my cotton, not needing the brandy for present use.

The plot thickens

And when I was delivering my cotton to **Mr. Knight** before the warehouse door, that being open, I stepped in to take away my brandy, my wagon being present and a convenient time to carry it away; but my brandy was

not to be seen. I then inquired for my brandy. **Mr. Knight** appeared astonished—why have you not received it? No, I have never seen it since I left it here. **Mr. Knight** said, when I went to the north I left it here, & when I returned it was gone. I expected you had got it & I did not inquire about it. **Mr. Hunter**, says **Mr. Knight**, is not at home, but he must account for it. Nothing more said at that time.

Unknown man takes brandy!

Next news I heard, **Mr. Hunter** said a white man came in my name, he did not know him, nor ask his name; he **Hunter** rolled out the brandy to the man, and that is all he knew about it. Here lies one of the inconsistencies. **Mr. Hunter** being fully acquainted with all the circumstances about the brandy being in the warehouse, and **Mr. Knight** should be so particular as to tell **Mr. Hunter** I had a barrel of brandy in the warehouse and the particular room, when he **Hunter** was well acquainted with the circumstance. Another strange circumstance: **Mr. Knight** says a white man came in the store and interrogated him **Hunter** thus: Haint **Squire Baker** got a barrel of brandy here? Yes. He has sent me for it and told me to tell **Mr. Knight** to send it to him. **Mr. Hunter** being busy at the time he took the keys, delivered the brandy to a man he did not

SEE BRANDY, PAGE 12



Illustration by Paul Gay

From *The North Carolina Miscellany* by Richard Walser

Nathaniel Macon—Early Warren Co. Patriot

CONNECTOR

Nathaniel Macon, a native of Warren Co., NC, had a long and brilliant political career throughout one of the most exciting times of our country—the period during and just after the **American Revolution**. Born in 1757, Macon returned to Warren Co. from **Princeton University** when it was closed due to the impending war with **England**. He volunteered in the army as a private although he was offered a position as an officer. During his time in service, "he refused and never received a cent from his suffering country." While still in the army and without his knowledge, he was elected to the state Legislature. For a time, loyalty to his comrades in arms caused him to resist leaving the army; however, he was persuaded by his commanding officers to take up the elected post where he served for several years.

In 1791 Macon was elected as a representative to Congress where he served until 1815. He was Speaker of the House from 1801 to 1806. In 1815, he was sent to the Senate where he remained until 1828, filling the post of President Pro Tem for 3 years. He served during the administrations of Presidents **Washington, Adams, Jefferson, and Madison**. He believed in the wisdom of the masses and was willing to trust the people "further than Jefferson would have ventured, far beyond Washington, and to an extent that **Hamilton** would have pronounced anarchial."

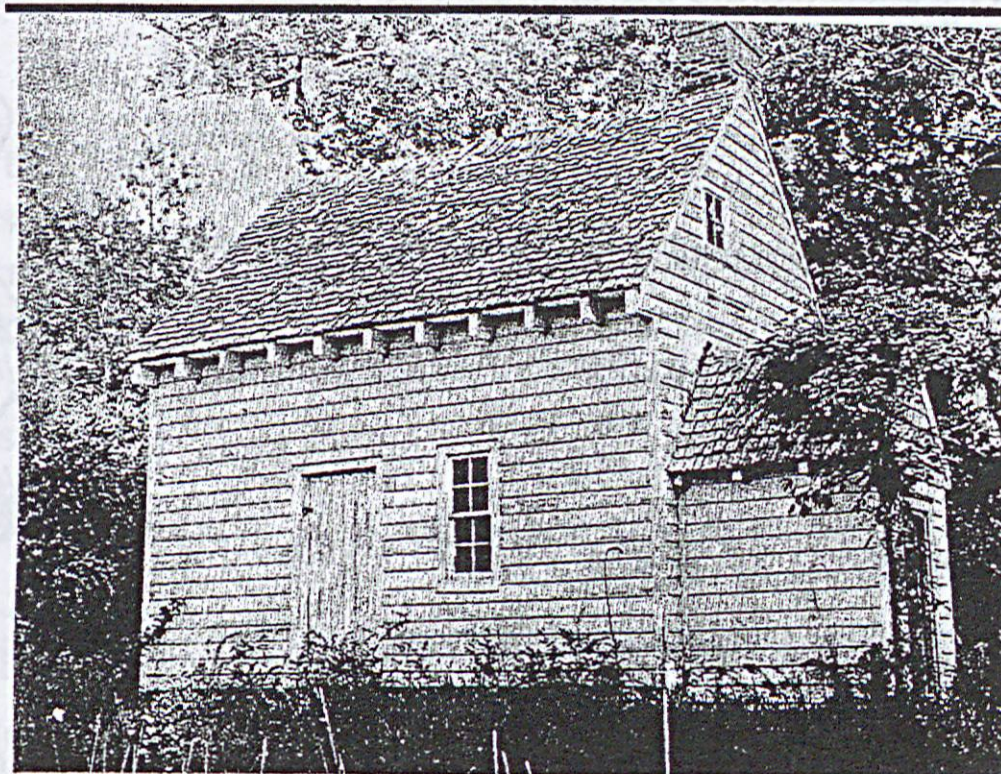
Macon's father, **Gideon Macon**, left him 500 acres on **Hubquarter Creek** in northeastern Warren Co, about 12 miles from **Warrenton**. Here, in 1781, he cleared the timber from a small hilltop, hired a carpenter, and built a sixteen foot square house with one room on each floor and a wine cellar beneath. It was built of heart poplar, hand-smoothed. A similar house nearby served as a kitchen. He named it **Buck Spring**.

I cannot give you up...

Mary Hayes Plummer, widow of **George William Plummer**, built a house in Warrenton and it was here Nathaniel courted her daughter, **Hannah** during 1781

and 1782, eventually driving away all her suitors except one. Macon proposed to his rival, in the presence of Miss Plummer, that they should play a game of cards for her hand. This was agreed to. They played and Macon lost, upon which he exclaimed, "*Hannah, I have lost you fairly, but love is superior to fortune! I cannot give you up; I love you yet.*" He won the lady's hand and they were married. They eventually had 2 daughters.

Macon had rules for everything. One of his rules was that no living thing was to suffer for food. He always rose early when at home, fed his own stock, and saw his people at their work before he ate breakfast. He expected loyalty from his employees. Once he left a written order that his flock of sheep should be kept in a certain enclosure until he returned from **Washington** the next spring. **Mr. Eaton**, his son-in-law, happened to



Reconstruction of Nathaniel Macon's House

passing by and told **Mr. Lewis Shearen**, the overseer, that the sheep were dying for want of better pasturage and suggested that they be turned out in the woods. The old man replied, "No! Mr. Macon directed the sheep to remain in that place, and there they must remain; I had rather lose every sheep than disobey Mr. Macon." The sheep nearly all died. Macon, however, was pleased with the fidelity of Mr. Shearen. His theory was, if he had

disobeyed and saved the sheep this time, he might disobey him at another time.

A generous man, Macon expected truthfulness in return. A neighbor borrowed his cart and oxen, promising to return them by a certain time. The time came and passed, but they were not returned. When they were returned, Macon said nothing of the lateness. The same neighbor returned later and asked to use the cart and oxen again. He was told by Mr. Macon that "he could not have them; that he could have his wagon and horses, but never the cart and oxen again, as he had told him one falsehood about the return of them, and he did not wish him to have it in his power to repeat it."

Macon was known for his brevity as this circular sent to every postmaster in his district shows:

WASHINGTON, JUNE 18TH, 1812.

SIR: War was declared against **Great Britain** yesterday.

Yours, &., NATHANIEL MACON"

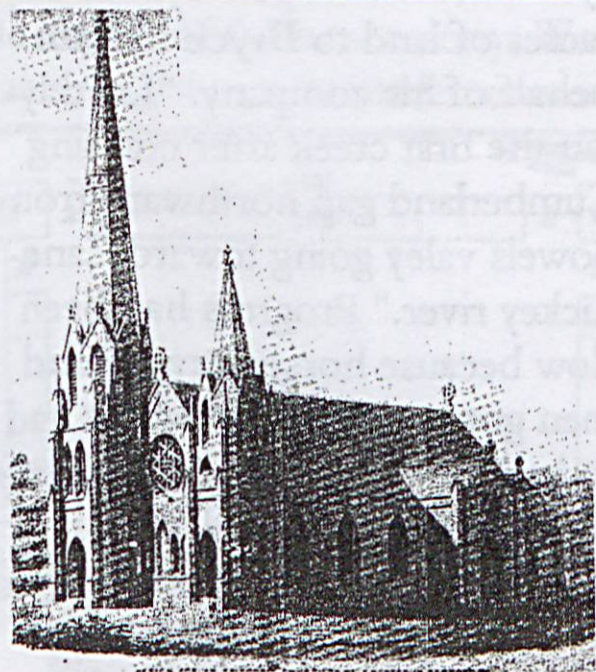
SEE MACON, PAGE 13

Reader's Choice Local Color

A Goodly Heritage: The Story of Calvary Parish, by Jaquelin Drane Nash, 2nd Ed., 1982: Although its roots go back much further in time, the present **Calvary Episcopal Church** in **Tarboro** was built during the war years, between 1859 and 1868 while **Rev. Joseph Blount Cheshire** was minister. Thirty-three ambitious communicants and architect **William Percival** planned a church which would seat 500 in a town with 1200 inhabitants.

No debt for church

They began with a subscription of \$9,000, and when that was depleted, the congregation gave another \$9,000. As war approached in 1860, with the towers, spires, roof, and floors complete, the windows and doors were boarded up and remained that way until 1866. A good crop of cotton allowed an additional \$10,000 to be collected and the Church was consecrated on May 10, 1860. Furnishings included items carved by an English craftsman from oak left from the building of the **Confederate Ram Albemarle**. [See "Ironclad Scrap Not Wasted," *The Connector*, Summer, 1999].



Architect's Drawing, 1860

Magnificent Churchyard

The beautiful and unusual churchyard was the particular pride and joy of **Rev. Cheshire** who came to **Calvary** in October 1842. He prevailed upon the church fathers to fence in the Churchyard. He then planted an arboretum of carefully selected trees and shrubs of foreign as well as native stock. He ordered stock from Europe and Asia, paying for these himself. Many of these remain today and are permanently labeled. They include English yew, live oak, Japanese magnolia, American holly, Chinese fir, incense cedar, hemlock, silver fir, Lebanon cedar, Chinese hawthorn, magnolia macrophylla, osage orange, ginkgo, buckeye, and a gnarled old cork tree. Dr. Cheshire often told of the old black man who stopped to watch him one day and commented, "Mr. Cheshire, sir, you is doing wrong, sir; you is making this yard so pretty, you is 'ticing folks to die."

The book looks at the forces that shaped the church in its earliest days, its role in **Tarboro** through the years and includes events of note through the time of its reprinting in 1982.

Search and Research

The Stallings Family in Franklin Co.

By CALLIE J. "JIM" STALLINGS

Who were the pioneers in the **Stallings** Family of what is now **Franklin Co., NC**? Where did they come from? Research based on extended families, whole families, and neighbors is called "Cluster Genealogy" and this technique has helped un-

ravel the **Stallings** Family genealogy in **Franklin Co.**

The first record of a **Stallings** in what is now **Franklin Co.** is a **Bertie Co.** deed dated 13 Mar 1756

through which **John Stallings** of **Granville Co.** and **Elias Stallings (Jr.)** of **Bertie Co.** convey land which had been granted to **Elias Stallings** in 1755. This seems to put **John Stallings** in **Granville** before 1756. **Elias**, who married **Susannah Arnold**, daughter of **Edward** and **Pleasant Arnold**, was the son of **Elias Stallings Sr.** and grandson of **Nicholas Sr.** and **Anth Stallings** of **Nansemond Co., VA.**

The first mention of **Elias Stallings Jr.** and **Susannah** appears in 1729 when they bought 100 acres in **Bertie**. This land was sold in 1741. In 1738, **Elias** bought 317 additional acres of land where the family lived for the next 25 years. In 1759, **Elias** conveyed 275 acres of this land to his son, **Josiah Stallings** with the stipulation that he have life time living rights to the property. In 1741, **Elias** bought 350 acres in **Chowan Co.** and sold 100 acres of it to **James Ellis** who had land adjoining it.

In Court Minutes, **Bertie Co.**, 8 Feb 1742, **Elias Stallings Jr.**, proved his headrights *videlicet*; **Elias Stallings**, **Susannah Stallings**, **Elias Stallings**, **Moses Stallings**, **Judah Stallings**, **Jesse Stallings**, **Josiah Stallings**, **Margaret Stallings**, **Susannah Stallings**, whites and **Sarah & Phillis**, black indentured. They were likely listed in order of birth; **John** and **Mary** are missing and were probably established elsewhere. **Elias** made his will in **Bertie** on

SEE STALLINGS, PAGE 19

CONNECTOR



Stallings

MAN CONT. FROM P. 1

individuals if they desired. The original group in the Transylvania Company consisted of **Nathaniel, Thomas and Daniel Hart, John Luttrell, James Hogg** (whose family surname was changed to **Alves**), **Leonard H. Bullock**, and **William Johnston**.

The Cherokee, previously agreeing to sell to the Transylvania Company the land lying between the **Cumberland and Kentucky Rivers**, sent **Chief Attakullaculla, Little Carpenter**, to NC to select ten thousand pounds' worth of serviceable goods as a fair remuneration for the 20 million acres of land in question. It was this group, Col. Henderson, Nathaniel Hart and the Little Carpenter, that guided the rumbling wagons of goods from NC into the **Virginia Valley at Flower Gap**, down the **Great Road** of the **Holston** to the **Watauga** settlement, arriving in early February.

Enlisting the aid of an experienced hunter who understood the Indians as well as nature's rhythms, Col. Henderson promised 2000 acres of land to **Daniel Boone**. Boone waited anxiously for the party to arrive on the Watauga. He had just returned from **Dunmore's War** with a single minded obsession to return to **Kentucky**, the uncharted territory known by a few as the land of the plenty. He agreed to act as an agent and adviser in cutting a road through the wilderness to a prearranged site on the **Kentucky River** where he was to establish a fort.

From December 1774 to February 1775 Richard Henderson advertised land in Kentucky soliciting settlers to move there. Just as soon as the chiefs of the Cherokee Nation signed the treaty Henderson would be well on his way in creating his dream of a 14th Colony.

The treaty was finally realized at **Sycamore Shoals** on the southern bank of the **Watauga River**. This little valley was covered with more than a thousand Indians from all the various Cherokee councils. The son of Little Carpenter, **Young Dragging-canoe**, was against selling the land of his people at any price. He shouted out in indignation, "You have

bought a fair land, but there is a cloud hanging over it. You will find its settlement dark and bloody." His words would be long remembered.

After the first treaty was signed by all parties Richard Henderson asked for one more agreement. On March 17, 1775 he asked for a wide strip of land extending from the Watauga River through the **Cumberland Gap** to the newly bought empire, **Kaintuckee**. Once the deal was completed the casks of rum were brought out and the celebration began.

Boone had left seven days before the signing of the treaty and deed to gather woodcutters to cut the **Wilderness Road**. He gathered a company of 30 mounted axmen. Most of



Judge R. Henderson
Political father of
Kentucky, Kentucky
Progress Magazine,
Vol. 8, 1935.

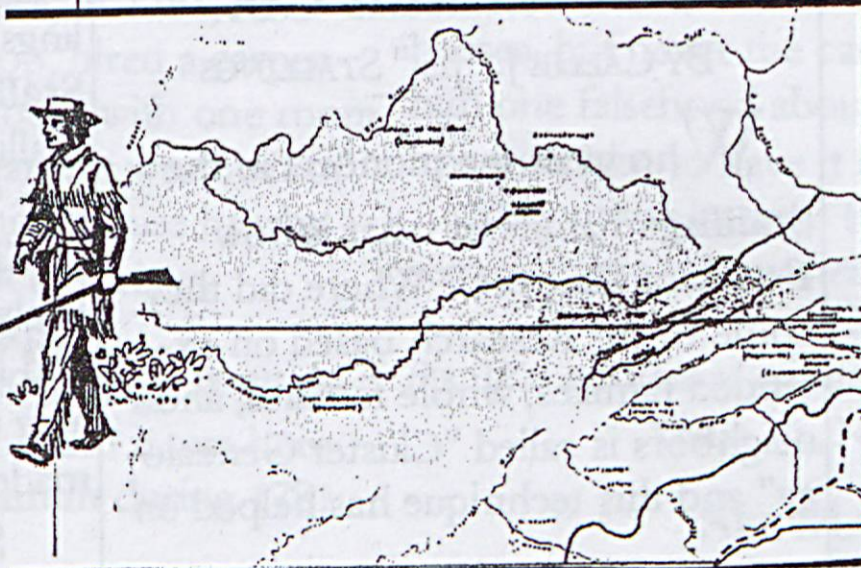
these trained woodsmen were friends. He solicited the aid of **Captain David Gass** and **Captain William Bush** who fought with him in Dunmore's War, **Colonel Richard Callaway**, a neighbor on the **Yadkin River** in NC along with his negro woman cook, his brother **Squire Boone**, son-in-law **William Hays**, **Michael Stoner**, **Benjamin Cutbirth**, and eight men sent by Col. Henderson; **Captain William Twetty**, **Samuel Coburn**, **James Bridges**, **Thomas Johnson**, **John Hart**, **William Hicks**, **James Peeke** and a negro servant, **Sam**. One young man, **Felix Walker**, decided to go along for the adventure. The other names are not known.

Attacked by Indians when the woodsmen were within fifteen miles of their destination, Sam, the negro servant and William Twetty were mortally wounded. Boone dispatched a letter to Henderson, "My advise to you, sir, is to come or send as soon as possible. Your company is desired greatly, for the people are very uneasy, but are willing to stay and venture their lives with you, and now is the time to flusterate their [the Indians] intentions and keep the country, whilst we are in it. If we give way to them now, it will ever be the case."

Approximately 40 to 50 individuals were with Henderson when he reached Cumberland Gap. He had already made the first conveyance of 500 acres of land to **Bryce Martin** on behalf of his company. "Land lying on the first creek after crossing Cumberland gap northward from powels valey going toward Cane-tuckey river." Progress had been slow because horses strayed and men got lost. Supply wagons had to be taken apart and carried over some of the rugged hills.

After receiving Boone's letter asking for help, Col. Henderson

MAN, CONT. ON PAGE 7



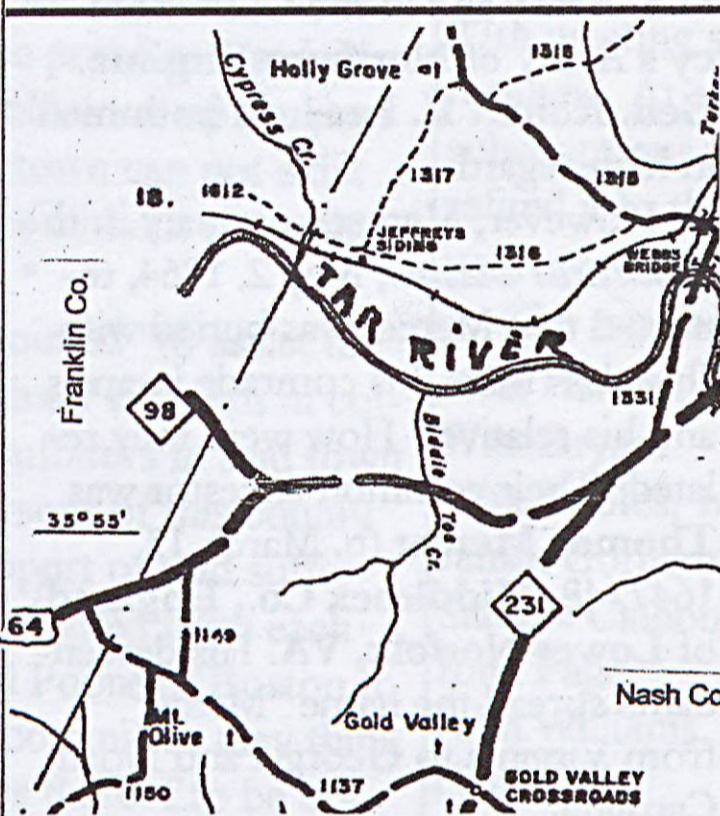
RAMBLER, CONT. FROM PAGE 1

Books 4-218 and 4-20 give a date of Charles Rollins' N.C. State grant as 30 Nov 1784, for 350 acres, that Rollins sold the 350 acres to **William Williams** of **Franklin Co.** in 1785, and Williams sold the land to **Benjamin Perry** in 1790.

Charles Rollin[g]'s grant was not recorded in Nash Co., but the grant can be found in the **Archives in Raleigh**. Rollin[g]'s probably never lived in Nash Co. He is on the 1782 **Wake Co. Tax List** as owning 200 acres in the area above **Moccasin Creek** which soon became Franklin Co. Next to Rollin[g]'s was **Thomas Ingram** who had bought 300 acres from **John Ferrell** on **Turkey Creek**.

I should have quit while I was ahead! In the Nash Co. Court Min-

utes, August Court 1793, I quote: "A deed of sale from Charles Royslens to **William Perry** was proved by the oath of **James Strother**" and "a deed of sale from William Williams to Benjamin Perry proved oath of **James Perry**."



They, too, should have left the issue alone! James Strother was a witness to both of the early deeds, and was a proper person to help prove a valid deed. A bad mistake was made. How could Williams sell the land that Charles Royslens sold William Perry? Somehow the wrong name was inserted in the first deed at the Nash Co. 1793 Court! I wanted to put more than their toes in Biddie-Toe Creek!

Charles Rollings had bought 100 A 25 Aug 1767 (Bute 2-77) from Nathan Hall. His name still appeared on **Bute Co.** deeds in 1776.

Richard Williams' 1761 **Bertie Co.** will bequests to his sons, **Simon** and **Reuben Williams** his plantation on **Tar River** at **Cypress Landing**, which was the same year Rollings buys land close to *Vedito Creek*.

MAN. CONT. FROM PAGE 6

dispatched a letter to his partners in NC. "...We are all in high spirits, and on thorns to fly to Boone's assistance, and join him in defense of so fine and valuable a country." The party of men finally arrived at **Fort Boone** on April 20, 1775 saluted by a running fire of about 25 guns.

Col. Henderson immediately took command. He started a new fort closer to the banks of the river and opened a store and land office. The new fort, **Boonesborough**, named in honor of Daniel Boone, was to be the capital of the new colony. Word was sent out to new settlements in

the area asking for representatives to be sent to Boonesborough to adopt a constitution for the new colony. On May 24, the first assembly of the **Colony of Transylvania** was held near the fort under a huge elm with 17 delegates in attendance. Nine laws were enacted:

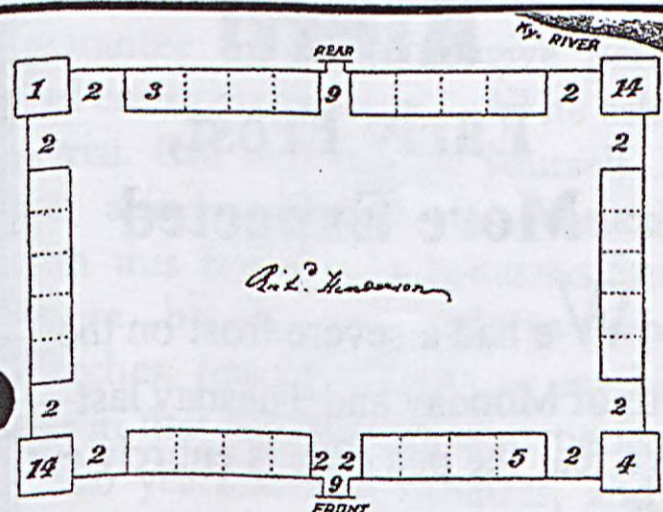
1. establishing courts of jurisdiction and regulating the practice thereof
2. regulations for a militia
3. punishment of criminals
4. preventing profane swearing and Sabbath breaking
5. for writs of attachment
6. ascertaining clerks' and sheriffs' fees
7. preserving the range
8. improving the breed of horses
9. preserving game

Opposition to the new colony came from all sides; the settlers themselves, from the authorities in **Virginia** and NC, **Lord Dunmore** and **Gov. Martin**, and from the Indians. Col. Henderson's real estate deal was declared illegal and the 14th Colony ceased to exist.

However, the abortive colonial enterprise opened up the Western frontier. Daniel Boone and his woodsmen hacked the road through the wilderness, and Henderson started the settlers over the wilderness trace. Boonesborough became the buffer against the Indians south of the **Ohio**. Col. Richard Henderson and his colleagues did a major service in building our nation.

[Daniel Boone never received the 2000 acres of land promised by the Transylvania Company for his services. His son, **Nathan**, said his father took the loss well and troubled himself no further about it. Col. Richard Henderson was given a consolation grant of 200,000 acres of land on the **Ohio River** by the Virginia Assembly. North Carolina gave his company 200,000 acres near the junction of the **Clinch** and **Powell Rivers** in compensation for the path deed.]

[Sources include the *Draper Mss.*, Wisconsin State Historical Society and *The Wilderness Road* by Robert Kincaid]



Plan of Fort Boonesborough

Officers and Kin—Buried Together at Calvary

Buried side by side in the **Calvary Episcopal Church Cemetery** at **Tarboro, Edgecombe Co., NC** are two of the Confederacy's fallen heroes: **Maj. Gen. William Dorsey Pender** of

Edgecombe Co., NC, the "boy general of the Confederacy," who fell at **Gettysburg**

on July 3, 1863 at age 33; and **Col. John Thomas Mercer** of **Lee and Terrell County, GA**, killed leading his **21st Georgia Infantry Regiment** to victory at the **Battle of Plymouth, NC** on April 18, 1864 at age 34. That these two men share the same final resting place should not be a surprise. Plymouth was not far from Tarboro and



Col. John Thomas Mercer

Mercer and Pender graduated together in 1854 from the **U.S. Military Academy**. They later served together as officers, both in the pre-Civil War **U.S. Army** and in the **Confederacy's Army of Northern Virginia**. **Gen. Robert E. Lee** held both men in high regard.

However, Mercer's obituary in the *Fayetteville Observer*, May 2, 1864, reported that Mercer was buried with "his class mate, his comrade in arms and his relative." How were they related? Their common ancestor was **Thomas Mercer** (b. March 13, 1647/48, **Middlesex Co., England**) of **Lower Norfolk, VA**. His descendants spread the name "Mercer" from Virginia to Georgia and North Carolina.

Thomas Mercer's third son, **Joseph Mercer** (b. 1680, d. May 1735) was the **GGGGrandfather** of Col. John Thomas Mercer. Col. Mercer's line is from Thomas to **Joseph** to

James to **John** to **Leonidas**, his father. It was James Mercer, son of Joseph Mercer who apparently moved his family to GA. He died in **Wilkes Co., GA** in 1790.

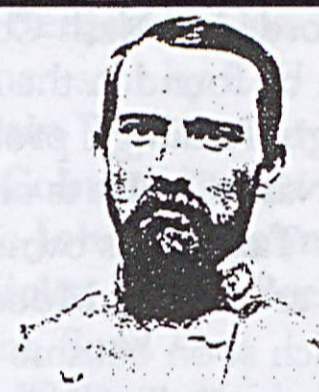
The fourth son of Thomas Mercer, John (b. c1690, d. by June 1777)

was **GGGGrandfather** of Gen. William

Dorsey Pender. General Pender's line is

from Thomas to **John** to **John** to **Nancy Wilkins** to **Mary Routh** to **Salley Pender**, his mother. The first Thomas' grandson, John Mercer, apparently moved his family to NC as he died in Edgecombe Co., NC after 1784.

[From an article by Robert S. Davis, Jr.
Contributed by Eugene Viverette]



Gen. William Dorsey Pender

List of Letters

Remaining in the Post Office at Tarboro the 1st of Oct. 1836, which if not taken out before the 1st of Jan. next, will be sent to the General Post Office as dead letters.

Bradley, Sarah Mrs	Horne Guilford
Bradley Eliza Miss	Hare Lewis
Bradley James	Hall T.H. Dr
Bradley John	Jane servant of
Britt Joseph 2	S D Cotten
Barnes James A	Jenkins Roberson
Barnes James	Irwin H L Dr
Barnes Maj E	Jones Macguilbry
Burnett William 2	Kea William 2
Bell Marmaduke	Knight William
Bell William	Knight James
Bell Alexander	Lane Levi
Barron James	Lawrence Jos Dr.
Bowers George Maj	Mathewson John H
Brady I B Mrs	Manning John 2
Bennett Susan Miss	Moore Moses

Bond Mary Mrs	Manning Micajah
Campbell F Miss	Medicine Vendor of
Crockat William	Mizells Perry
Cherry Cader	Mayo Frederick
Dixon Henry Sen	Pender James
Draughan Eliz Mrs	Powell Joseph J W
Davis Jonathan	Purvis Sovereign 2
Dancy Edwin C Dr	Paul Sarah Mrs
Deans Daniel	Parker Mary R Mrs
Etheridge Lewis	Pender J J B
Etheridge Redick	Ragsdale M T Miss
Edmundson Joseph	Ragsdale A M Miss
Ellis William	Ruffin Etheldred
Edwards Jacob	Renick Robert M
Freeman Josiah 2	Speight Eliz'h V Miss
Fountain Spencer	Shff Edgecombe Co
Folk Mary E Miss 2	Spicer Moses
Felton Jobe	Saulsby W C
Foxhall Sarah Mrs 2	Smith John
Garrett John	Sugg P Dr
Gray E Maj	Singletary J Rev 2
Grimes Thomas	Tolston Moses
Hyman John	Turnbull James
Hines Richard	Thigpen Jobe

Hawkins John	Terrell N M
Hyman Wm Elder	Ward J T
Higgs Caroline Miss	Worsley William
Hines William H	Wilson L D Gen 2
Hatheway John	Wilkins Willis

Jas. M. Redmond, P.M.

[Tarboro' Press, November 5, 1836]

Weather Alert!

Early Frost, More Expected

We had a severe frost on the 9th of Monday and Tuesday last—We fear the pea crop is entirely cut off.

[Tarboro' Press, Oct 5, 1839]

Pitt Co. to Aid Boston's Poore

As the Revolution loomed, North Carolina citizens took note. On November 3, a Pitt County standing committee met and took up the business of the "unhappy situation of the inhabitants of the town of Boston, and the miserable distress the poor inhabitants of said town are reduced to ..." The problem was laid at the door of English Parliament "blocking up the port and harbor ... and the poor of said town can not exist nor support themselves and families without the assistance of the neighboring collins ..."

A special committee was appointed "to assist the gentlemen of the vestry of St. Michael's Parish in collecting for the support of the said sufferers in said town of Boston, from such generous persons of this county as may give by subscription for support of said sufferers, ... which donations are to be collected from each ..., to be shipped for the benefit of said Poore of Boston to any port on the continent, that the committee may think most Beneficial, all the net proceeds thereof to be ordered into the hands of the committee appointed to receive the several donations from the different countys, towns &c., on the continent in said town of Boston."

Help of Hindrance?

On February 11, 1775, John Simpson was authorized to find a vessel to carry the donations from Pitt

CONNECTOR

Co. to Boston. On March 10th, the Committee learned that Amos Atkinson, Solomon Sheppard, and John Tison had "in many Instances Obstructed the Contribution for the Relief of the poore of Boston, etc., Ordered that the Chairman Address the Sd Gentlemen, so they may appear at the next meet'g of the Committee, and Justifie Themselves in that Particular." At the May 27th meeting several donations for Boston relief were received. At an August meeting, some who had taken subscriptions for the relief of Boston were ordered to refund it to those who had donated. Whether any relief was ever sent to Boston is not known.

The members of the committee were:

John Hardee, Esq., Chr.	Robert Salter
Wm. Bryant	James Latham
John Knoles, Jr.	David Perkins
James Gorham	Godfrey Stancel
Samuel Calhoun	John Tison
John Page	Allen Sugg
John Williams	Aaron Tison
Henry Ellis	Charles Forbes
George Evans	James Brooks
George Moye	Jacob Blount
William Travis	Laz Paine
James Armstrong	

[Taken from *Sketches of Pitt County*, by Henry T. King, 1911]

Photographs! Photographs!

J. L. Winner, formerly of Philadelphia, late of Washington, N.C., respectfully informs the public that he will remain at Rocky Mount a few days for the purpose of taking Photographs, Porcelain Pictures, Large Painted Work, Watch-Dial Pictures or any other kind. He has been in this business for 17 years, and will guarantee his work to give perfect and entire satisfaction.—All he asks is a trial. Call and see for yourself. He has also established, in connexion with this business, a JEWELERS SHOP, where he is prepared to repair Watches, Jewelry, Clocks or anything else in that line. He has an experience of 20 years in this business, and ... guarantees satisfaction.

[Rocky Mount Mail, May 28, 1875]

PHOTOGRAPHS.—Mr. J.L. Winner will remain in town a few days longer, and we take this occasion to say that he is the best artist that has ever visited this place. His Porcelain pictures are splendidly executed, and his cheaper work does him great credit. To the people in the country is now offered an opportunity to have their pictures well taken, which may not soon be again presented. Mr. Winner's stay in Rocky Mount is limited.

[Rocky Mount Mail, May 28, 1875]

Early Nash & Edgecombe Photographers

Rocky Mount

Brown, C.O.	Dempt, H.
Harrell's Ideal Studio	Murray, W.A.
Nunn, Archie	Pool & Garret

Rhodes, J.M.	Webb, J.C.
--------------	------------

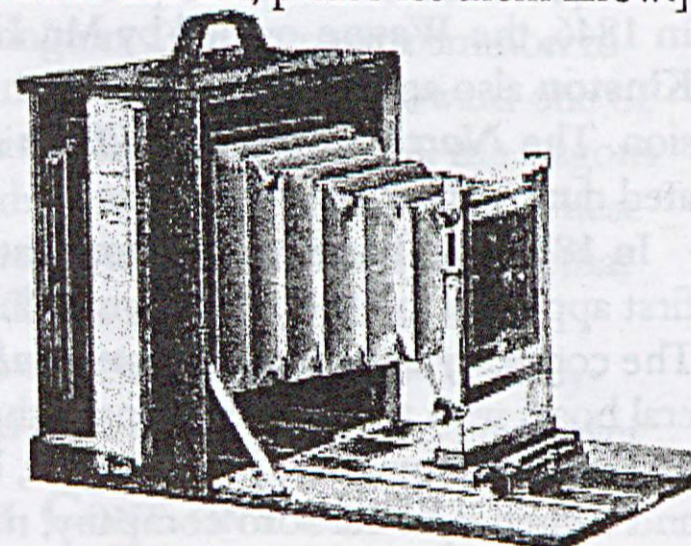
Tarboro

Alley, S.R.	Staples, W.F.
Zoeller, W.H.	Mallon, M.M.
Wormell, E.S.	Battle, Mary C.
Bennette, John	Hightower Studio

Spring Hope

Batoon	Hester, Thomas
--------	----------------

[NC Archives and History compiled this list of early photographers in our area. If you have found local names not in this list, please let them know.]



Steamboats on the Tar

Although the first steamboat was built in 1787, steam didn't arrive on the **Tar River** until the early 1800s. The *Petersburg*, a side-wheeler built in NY in 1819 was one of the earliest steamships to traverse the river. She was a side-wheeler that served first in VA, then was moved to NC to the **Roanoke River**, and later, the Tar. The *North Carolina*, another early steamboat, was launched in 1829 and sent to the Roanoke. Although she was built to meet the challenge of shallow water, she still drew too much and was eventually sent to the Tar. It is likely that these boats stayed on the lower part of the river and did not reach **Tarboro**.

Excursion

In 1835, Mr. Wm. Tannehill and Mr. Lavender had the **Myers Shipyard** in **Washington, NC** build the *Edmund D. MacNair*, a beautiful little side-wheel steamer, to tow rafts to Mr. Tannehill's lumber mill at Washington. It first traveled west to **Greenville, NC** in 1836. Mr. Tannehill decided to expand his activities and navigate the Tar River to **Tarboro**. News of the

steamer's arrival traveled quickly and hundreds of people gathered at the landing to observe the curiosity. The next day, an excursion was planned. "Many excursionists crowded her decks. At 11 o'clock, when the *Edmund D. MacNair* swung around, blowing her whistle, she was greeted with loud cheers and booming of cannons, as she sped her way eastward..." to **Sparta** and back. "The day was uncommonly pleasant, and music, dancing, and refreshments gave zest to entertainment which will long be remembered by the joyous and highly gratified company." The *Edmund D. MacNair* ran on the Tar until 1839. In 1846, the *Wayne*, owned by Mr. Harlow Dibble, of **Kinston** also appeared in **Tarboro** and gave an excursion. The *North State* and *William P. Graham* operated during the same time frame.

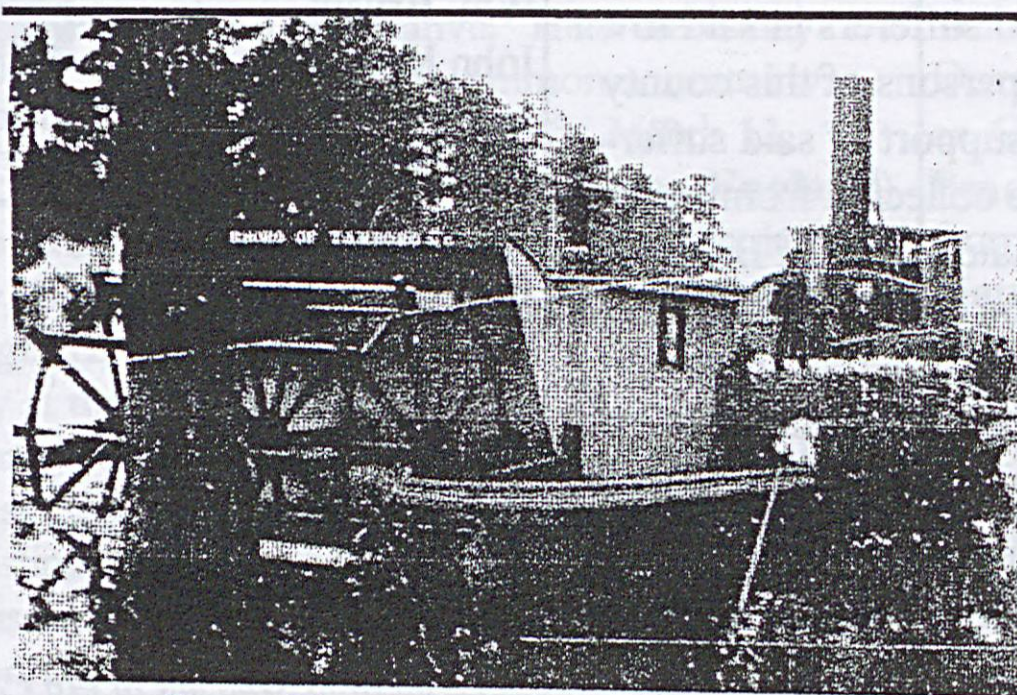
In 1848, the **Tar River Steamboat Company**, which first appeared in 1810, was revived in **Edgecombe Co.** The company bought the *Edgecombe*, the first of several boats with that name, to make the trip between **Tarboro** and **Washington**. The *Oregon*, built in **Baltimore** and owned by a **Tarboro** company, made several trips in

CONNECTOR

the late 1840s. She was intended to carry passengers and freight between **Tarboro** and **Washington**. Unfortunately, her size was too great for the Tar and she was sold at public auction in 1849.

Amaidas well outfitted

The first boat assigned permanently to the river was the *Amaidas*, described as having comfortable cabins tastefully finished and furnished. It also had a large promenade deck and conveniences to make the traveler feel at home. The *Amaidas* entered service on the Tar on 26 Oct 1843, and on 27 Oct 1849, she made history when she left **Washington** for **Tarboro**, pulling four flats loaded with goods for **Tarboro** merchants. Before this, goods that reached **Greenville** by water were wagoned from there to **Tarboro**.



Rear View of paddlewheel *Tarboro*.

[Heritage Collection, Lenoir Community College]

John Myers and Sons

sent ships north and south and, before the **Civil War**, built steamboats, tugs, schooners and barges in **Washington, NC**. A list of Myers' ships includes the *Amaidas*, along with the *Gov. Morehead*. With the completion of a plank road from **Wilson** to **Greenville** in 1852, the *Governor Morehead* was put on the river to meet the stage at **Greenville**. She was taken to **Tarboro** and burned rather than allow her to be surrendered to the

Northern forces during the **Civil War**. The *Wilson*, built by **Havens, Wiswall and Havens** in 1855, ran to **Greenville**. It was bought by Myers in 1859 and sold off the line.

Civil War Interrupts Travel

During the **Civil War**, normal traffic was about at a standstill on the Tar. The *Cotton Plant* a flatboat with a stern wheel, also a Myers' ship, transported troops until the fall of **Roanoke Island**, saw action at **Hatteras** and **Plymouth**, and was eventually captured by **Federal** troops. After the war, it was sold and brought back to **Washington**. In 1869 **Capt. Hattan** resumed navigation on the river with the *Cotton Plant*. Although this boat was described as too small and insufficient for the job, it operated for a number of years. She eventually burned and sank to the bottom of the river around 1880.

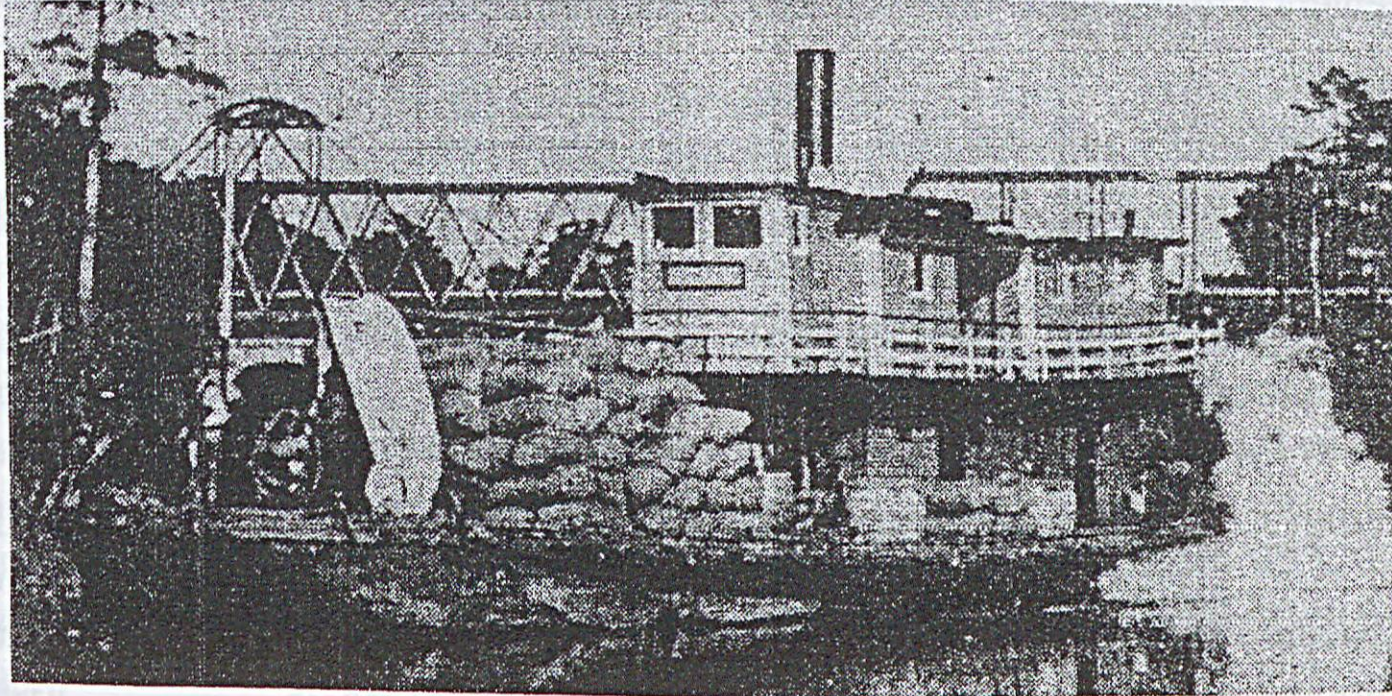
Capt. A.P. Hurt put into service a larger steamship, also called *Edgecombe*, under the charge of **Capt. A.W. Styron**. She had a screw propeller, with a 30 hp engine,

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

enabling her to carry 220 bales of cotton and 60 passengers. Capt. Hurt maintained a satisfactory schedule and was able to offer fair freight rates, thus earning a good patronage. This enabled him to build more boats and within three years, the *Greenville* and the *Tarboro* were also in operation. By the early 1880s, the railroad had taken a chunk of the freight business and the *Edgcombe* and the *Tarboro* were discontinued.

Golden Age

The 1880s and 1890s have been called the golden age of steamboats along the Tar. The *Cotton Plant*, the *Greenville*, the *Tarboro*, the *Shiloh*, and the *R.L. Meyers I* and *II* were among work horses of the Tar.



Shiloh, decks loaded with cargo.

[Heritage Place Collection, Lenoir Community College]

Meals served on Meyers

The *Meyers* made daily trips between Greenville and Washington. It had an upper deck for passengers, who were served meals as well at a cost of \$1 for the trip.

Capt. Parvin of the *Meyers* was known as a poker player. He joined the drummers in their games as the steamboat plied its way up and down the river. It has been told that, "if the captain happened to be losing, he would excuse himself, drop the anchor, and then return to the game, informing the gamesters that they couldn't proceed until he was winning. Sometimes, the *Meyers* would stay in one spot for 24 hours or more."

The *Meyers* also served as a timepiece for the farmers along the river who had no clocks or watches. When the boat reached certain points along the river, it blew its whistle, the mellow sound rebounding across the small waves created with its propellers. Farmers could determine the time of day with great accuracy. The boat usually made Greenville about noon.

Whistle frightens populace

The *Tarboro*, a stern wheeler, had a shrill siren which sounded continuously—a sound unfamiliar to the local populace. On its first voyage to Greenville, while the shrill sound of the siren echoed over the fields, "laborers cutting wood near the banks of the Tar left their work and dashed for what they thought was safety; old Negroes trailing ploughs ...got down on their knees and began praying for last-minute redemption, in that they believed Gabriel had blown his horn, while others

dashed to their homes and sought refuge under beds or under barns and packhouses.

In 1887, Capt. Styron introduced the *Beta*, a 760 ton freighter capable of transporting heavy merchandise. Built to navigate shallow water, it drew 8 inches and had a flat bottom. There were 3 lines operating boats, the *Farmer's Co-op*, the *Old Dominion Steamship Line* and the *Clyde*.

By this time, they were bringing cotton seed to the *Tar River Oil Co.* at *Shiloh* in *Edgcombe Co.*

where it was processed into oil and cottonseed meal. The *Shiloh* was a screw-driven boat while the *Tarboro* was a shallow-draft

paddlewheeler that traveled far up *Fishing Creek* to collect seed. The two old mill boats were the last commercial boats to serve the ports along the Tar and continued in service until about 1919.

A baseball story

There was a time around the turn of the century when baseball rivalry between Washington and Greenville grew so fierce that games could not be played in either town. The teams resorted to the woods, going by boat to *Yankee Hall Landing* (so named because a group of *New Englanders* settled there about 1810), to play. The bitterness grew to such proportions that the final game in the woods ended in a big fight between the teams and their rooters. Each crowd finally reached its boat, and as they drifted apart the groups threw at each other baseballs, bats, mitts, and everything else that was handy. Baseball and other competitive sports between the two towns was not resumed for many years.

There were steamboat stops other than *Tarboro*, *Greenville* and *Washington*. It was not uncommon to see horse-drawn vehicles moving slowly toward one of the landings on the river. In most instances, the wagons carried cotton and other products grown locally. These goods were exchanged by merchants for materials that could be retailed in villages stores of eastern NC.

A dock at *Hardee Creek* was known as "*Old Cypress*." It was named for a nearby hollow cypress over

Nash County Bridge Records—1802

To the Worshipful Court of Nash County

The Petition of Sundry Inhabitants of Nash County whose names are hereunto Subjoined humbly sheweth that the great Disadvantages we frequently lie under in Crossing **Contentnea Creek** at or near **Horns ford** renders our Passages Inconvenient Troublesome (and sometimes dangerous) &c.

Your petitioners Therefore Humbly Conceive that it would tend to the Great Ease and Convenience of many of the Inhabatants of the said county and also of the Adjacent Counties and Travellers in General passing that way that a Free Bridge be Established at or Near the above mentioned place Horns Ford as may be most Convenient wherefore Your Petitioners humbly pray that you would grant an Order for Building a Bridge at the above mentioned place.

We hope you will grant Our &c. July A.A.D. 1802.

Request herein And as in Duty Bound Your petitioners will ever pray

Benja. Cobb	John Joyner	Dannel Grizzel	Willis Odom	William Sanders
William Grisel	Bartley Deens	Irvin Eatman	Jeremiah Nicols	Owen Sillevent
William Moore	Samul Devanghan	Hardy Boykin	Benjamin Driver	Rideck Driver
Nathanel Powel	John Sanders	Nathnl.. Moore	Josiah Davis	Joseph Davis
John Lewis	James Deans	Laban Pugh	Moses Smelly	Joseph Williamson
Enoch Moonham	James Boykin (??)	M. Horn	Joel Williams	Joel Eatman
Theophilus Grice	James Huag (Hoag)??	Lemuel Wright	Wm Horn of Thomas	John Eatmon
George Green	James B. Crowell	Theophilus Eatman	Nichs. Thorn	Robt. Eatman
James Stephen	Wm. Horn			

[Nash County, North Carolina Bridge Records, 1779-1834
Submitted by Helen Sharpe, TRC member]

BRANDY, CONT. FROM P. 3

know, nor where he came from or where he went. Is it not strange he should be busy trading. Mr. Knight does not say trading, but one of his friends says he told him he was trading; I say is it not strange that Mr. Hunter was trading, busy trading, as his friend says, and nobody heard the interrogatories in the store but himself? Mr. Knight puts me in mind of the negro's master, he is so straight that he seems to lean over. He says the barrel of brandy was to be taken away in a few days, and it had lain in silent repose for more than three months.

[O where is my brandy?]

That is agreed, I did not send in that time; but it was understood the brandy was to be put where it would be most out of the way not knowing when it would be sent for.

He would further make you believe I went in an abrupt manner—O where is my barrel of brandy? If this is not leaning or putting unfair coloring on the business, I do not understand what is unfair. As I have stated, I was delivering my cotton before the warehouse door, that being open. I went in for the purpose of taking it the brandy away—it was gone. All this took place before I made any inquiry. When I made the inquiry, I merely asked where it was, expecting it had been removed to some other room. No warm feeling, but all friendly. Mr. Knight agreed they would pay for the brandy, but afterwards refused, believing they were not bound. Next news I heard from Mr. Hunter, he was inquiring to find out if I had not received my brandy previous to my applying for it myself. If Mr. Hunter believes I could be

guilty of such an act, he should push the inquiry; and to aid him, I will pay twenty-five dollars, besides giving up the brandy, if they bring out the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth respecting the barrel of brandy, who got it, and how.

MOSES BAKER. March 4, 1840

[Tarboro' Press, March 8, 1840]

NEW HOUSE!

THE
St. Cloud,

OPPOSITE
r.r. WAREHOUSE,

At which will be kept, at all times, the Finest Liquors and Cigars.

Dec24-tf

W.B.JORDAN

Too Much to Drink?

Granville Man Dies in Waggon

On Saturday evening the 19th inst. the lifeless body of a Mr. Jno. Hunt, a citizen of Granville County, was brought to Enfield [Halifax Co., NC] and delivered to the Coroner, by a Mr. Gordon, who was in the employment of said Hunt, trading with Tobacco.

Gordon gives the following account of the matter: Himself and Mr. Hunt left Scotland Neck [Halifax Co., NC] on Saturday morning last with a waggon, on their way home. Having sold out their load, they had proceeded on their way a few miles when Mr. Gordon according to the request of Mr. Hunt, laid said Hunt in the waggon (in a state of intoxication) and covered him up in his cloak—he Gordon then drove on until time to get breakfast, when he called on Mr. Hunt to know what he would have prepared to eat; he to his great astonishment, received no reply; he was then led to examine the cause, when on examination he found him a lifeless corpse. Gordon then endeavored in several places to get assistance in having something done with the body, but could not obtain assistance; he then drove on to Enfield, a distance of 12 miles, when as before stated, Mr. Gordon gave himself and the body up to the Coroner.—*Halifax Adv.*

[Tarborough Press, Jan. 9, 1836]

Valuable Lands FOR SALE.

The undersigned offers for Sale, in lots to suit purchasers, the tract of land on which Mrs. D. Dortch resides, containing 1,800 acres, in Nash county five miles above Rocky Mount.

There is not a more healthy location in the county. There is a fine Dwelling and outhouses on the premises. A good Mill Site on a never failing stream. A large quantity of valuable swamp land and a large body of good upland, never cleared, well wooded with Oak, Hickory, and Dogwood.

Also a tract of 50 acres adjoining and to the South of the above, on the Nashville road.

Apply to B.H. BUNN or the subscriber.

W. T. DORTCH

[The Rocky Mount Mail, 18 Feb, 1876]

MACON, CONT. FROM P. 4

Nathaniel Macon offered advice to Thomas Jefferson in several letters. Here are some excerpts:

"Warrenton, 20 April 1801 ...If you should wish to appoint more than one commissi[one]r from this State to treat with the Indians, I do not think a second could be found that would do better than Major Absalom Tatom of Hillsborough: ... we have too many ministers in Europe ... That some of the Collectors, perhaps all, had better receive a fixed salary, than commissions—That the army might safely be reduced ..."

"Buck Springs, 1 May 1801 ...I wrote you some days past recommending Mr Henry Potter of Raleigh, as Judge ... [Jefferson offered the judgeship to Henry Potter]"

"Buck Spring 24 May 1801 ...I have been informed that the collector at Edenton, was during the war, a New York Long Island Tory, but of the fact I have not sufficient in-



Nathaniel Macon's Grave, covered with rocks

formation to speak positive, if it be so, ought he to be continued, ... Your acquaintance Mr. Willie Jones is I fear not long for this world, he is unable to walk, and there is no probability, that he ever will again ..."

[Willie Jones died 18 June 1801]

Louisiana Purchase

"Buck Spring 2 Sept 1803 ... The acquisition of Louisiana has given general satisfaction, ...We have tolerable crops in this county though in

some degree injured by hard winds ..."

"Washington 13 Feby 1804 ... I have written another friend for information concerning the grapes as soon as I can hear from him, you shall be informed, whether more sorts can be obtained. ..."

Pile my grave with rocks

Nathaniel Macon died on 29 June 1837. He had selected a burial site many years before his death—a spot unlikely to be cultivated—and employed two of his neighbors to make his coffin, of the plainest material. He saw that it was paid for before it was used. He ordered that rock be brought from a certain field and piled upon his grave, "so as to keep the cattle from molesting it. And there he sleeps 'till the resurrection of the just!"

Recent surveys of Macon's property located the boundaries of a slave cemetery, the house, the kitchen, Buck Spring, and the Macon cemetery where Nathaniel is buried.

General James Hogan— Revolutionary War Hero

It is not known when **James Hogan [Hogun]**, of Irish descent, came to **North Carolina**, but he settled about 2 miles from the present town of **Hobgood**. [See "Across the Line," *The Connector*, Summer, 2001] and married **Ruth Norfleet** in 1751. When the **Provincial Congress** met in **Halifax, NC** in April, 1776, Hogan, a delegate from **Halifax Co.**, was enthusiastically in favor of the resolution for independence. He was present again in November for the Congress and the **Constitutional Convention**. However, early in the session he was elected Colonel of the **Seventh NC Continental Regiment** and at once resigned from the Congress.

Col. Hogan led his troops north to join **Gen. Washington** and take part in the disastrous battles of **Brandywine** and **Germantown**. Gen. Washington sent him back to NC to recruit reinforcements, and he soon raised another regiment of 600 men. He rejoined Washington at **Valley Forge** and remained with the Army of the North during 1778 and 1779.

When **Gen. Robert Howe** was promoted to the rank of Major-General, **General Washington** praised

Hogan's gallantry at **Germantown** and recommended he be commissioned Brigadier-General to fill the vacancy left by **Howe**. His brigade consisted of the 4 NC regiments then with Gen. Washington.

In February, 1780, when the war moved south, Hogan's brigade was sent to relieve **Gen. Lincoln** at **Charleston, SC**. The brigade passed through **Halifax**, reaching **Charleston** in April. He found **Lincoln** holed up in **Charleston** with less than 1200 men. Even the addition of Hogan's 1500 men was not enough to restore confidence and **Lincoln** surrendered on May 12, leaving Hogan and most of the NC Continentals prisoners of war. With the exception of a few officers home on furlough and several troops of militia, the entire NC fighting force was out of the conflict.

Gen. Hogan and his brigade were in the prison at **Hadrell's Point, SC**, near the present town of **Mount Pleasant**. The troops endured extreme suffering from the lack of food and the ravages of disease. Even permission to fish was denied. They were threatened with deportation to the **West Indies**. Gen. Hogan was offered a parole to return home, but he elected to remain with his men. No more is heard of him after this, and it seems certain that he died in the prison camp at **Hadrell's Point**.

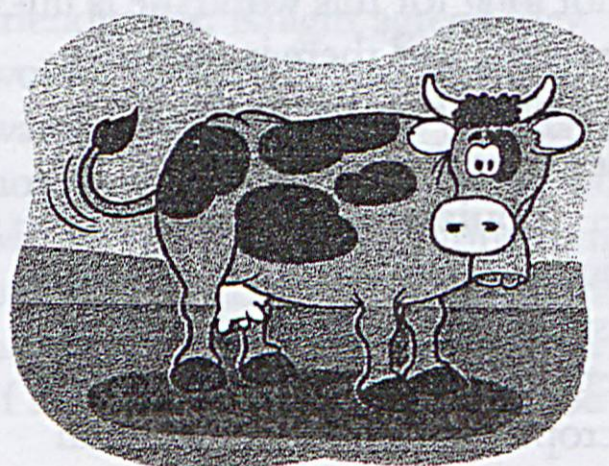
Horse Bites Cow!

A singular and we believe unprecedented instance of the effect of passion in a brute animal, was witnessed in this city not long since. A horse whilst paying his respects to a trough of provender, was somewhat annoyed by a cow, who seemed determined to participate, without ceremony in the good things he was so eagerly discussing. She so far accomplished her intentions as to protrude her head into the trough, and was in the very act of commencing her operations, when the horse, convinced that the moment was a critical one, and forgetful of that nobleness of character for which he has been characterized, caught the tongue of the cow between his teeth, and in an instant severed it in twain!

The cow languished a short time and died.

We feel confident, that if a certain gentleman in a northern state, who had lately to pay \$5000 because his wife officiously thrust HER TONGUE into the concerns of other people, should hear of the fate of this poor animal, he will drop a tear of heartfelt sympathy to her memory; having learned himself, from sad experience, the direful consequences of an unbridled tongue.—*Raleigh Reg.*

[*Halifax Free Press*, March 26, 1824]



Dumpling Town

Dumpling Town was an early **Halifax Co.** precinct, probably named for a contest among the women of the town. The women spent the day preparing dumplings while the men, who served as judges, sampled the wares, pretending they couldn't pick a winner.

In the 1840 election, it is claimed that **Dumpling Town** voted for **Harrison** and **Tyler**, as did **Scotland Neck**. The citizens of **Scotland Neck** had a celebration and invited their **Dumpling Town** neighbors who prepared—what else?—enormous apple dumplings. **Mrs. L.G. Baker** supervised the dumpling preparation.

[Taken from *Halifax Heritage*.]

Old Dan Tucker



"Old Dan Tucker was a fine old man,
He washed his face in the frying pan.
On Christmas morning he got drunk,
and fell in the fire and kicked up a chunk.
Get out of the way, Old Dan Tucker,
You've come too late to get your supper.



Old Dan Tucker ate raw eel,
And combed his hair with a wagon wheel.
He gave his neighbors the squarest deal,
And died with a toothache in his heel.
Get out of the way, Old Dan Tucker,
You've come too late to get your supper."

Dan Tucker, born in London in 1714, came with his family to Bath, Beaufort Co., NC where he lived until 1740. At 26, he married his sweetheart, Margaret DeVane, and they moved west to what is now Randolph County, carrying with them only the barest necessities for survival.

The area where the Tuckers chose to settle was a wilderness whose primary inhabitants were wild animals, snakes and Indians. Their first home was a simple lean-to constructed of poles roofed with pine and cedar branches, but close to a clear mountain stream. Their bed was a pile of sweet smelling, but not very comfortable, pine and cedar boughs. They had few tools—an ax, two wedges, a hatchet, hammer, auger, gimlet and drawing knife—but the resourceful couple hewed logs for a cabin and pegged it together. They chinked the cracks with clay and dried moss and built a chimney of rocks,

sticks and mud.

Dan Tucker and Margaret lived 3 miles from the nearest neighbor and far from any store. They subsisted on wild game and fish cooked in their open fireplace with their 3 simple utensils—a 12-inch spider, a frying pan, and a 3-legged iron skillet. They had cornbread made from meal brought with them from Bath.

Dan had a horse and wagon, but the wagon was useless as there were no roads. He cleared his land and planted corn using his homemade plow, a hoe and a pick. He hunted with his gun, hunting knife, pocket knife, and a steel tomahawk. As a farmer, hunter and trapper Dan Tucker made out fairly well. Once a year, he carried his furs and skins to the store 100 miles away where he was able to trade them for things he and Margaret needed.

Eventually, the hunting trails became roads and the area became more thickly settled. Dan was a good neighbor, visiting often, but he never stayed for a meal, preferring not to sponge on his friends. Kind, honest and good-humored, Dan Tucker never borrowed but he was always willing to lend what he had to someone in need and had a reputation for fair dealing. His thrift was legendary, giving rise to the joke that he washed his face in a frying pan and combed his hair with a wagon wheel. His neighbors fondly viewed him as an eccentric and made up the song about him, which Dan enjoyed singing as much as anyone.

Dan Tucker lived to be 100 years old. Legend has it that he was plowing when he stepped on a sharp stone and it became imbedded in his heel. He removed the stone with his pocket knife and continued plowing, but he developed lockjaw and died 3 days later.

[Taken from *THE STATE*, April 28, 1951]

ORAL, CONT. FROM PAGE 3
made. There was a furniture store. Yes, and Rosenbloom-Levy was on Main Street. The Rocky Mount Shoe and Clothing Co. was here on the Nash side. On the other side was the W.D. Weeks Co. That was a feed and seed store run by Dr. Weeks' father. Belk-Tyler wasn't here when I arrived.

Do I remember my [first] automobile ride? Oh, yes. A fellow named Otty had a car, and he was a friend of my husband. That was a date, to get out and ride in a car. On my first ride, I went with my husband and

another couple to Ward's Drug Store in Nashville.

[*Nashville Graphic*, May 13, 1999]



Snake Charmer

SNAKE CHARMER. - It may not be generally known that we have a real snake charmer in our midst, but so it is, in the person of Mr. C. T. Burford. Mr. Burford went up to Weldon inst. Monday to take charge of Reamy's bear, which is on exhibi-

tion at the Fair. Before going he went into the woods and caught two moccasins, two black snakes, two king snakes and some adders, which he at once began to handle, put in his pocket, breast, &c. He has a bear-snake show in Weldon this week.

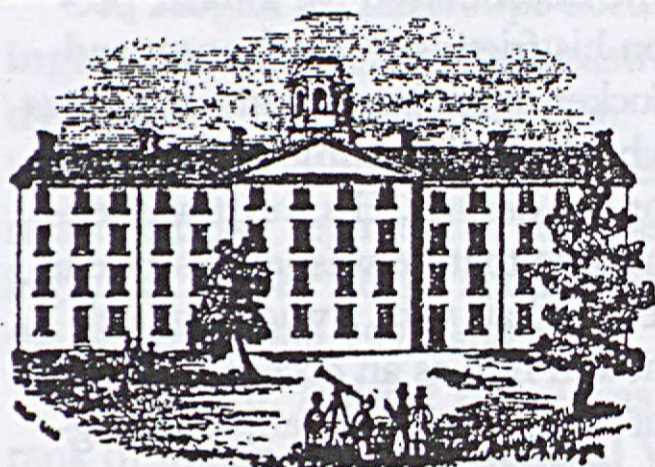
[*The Rocky Mount Mail*, 29 Oct, 1875]



Early Students At Randolph-Macon College

Randolph-Macon College was established in 1830 by the VA **Methodist Conference** which included parts of VA and NC. Its location, in **Boydton, VA**, isolated it from the "unhealthy and immoral influence of urban centers." It was named for **John Randolph** of VA and **Nathaniel Macon** of NC.

RANDOLPH MACON COLLEGE.



The student body of Randolph-Macon came from all over the conference, as well as from **South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Missouri**. It is likely that the families of most of the students from these states had once lived in the area, and the great majority were probably Methodists.

In the *Matriculation Book*, from which these names were taken, each student wrote his own information. The transcription of the nearly 500 names was done by **Richard Slatten** and published in the *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* in August and November, 1984. The information in the table to the right includes only those names with **Tar River** connections.

Early Randolph-Macon Students Include Local Boys

List Taken From the First Matriculation Book

Transcribed by Richard Slatten, *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy*, Vol.

22-Aug 1984-#3 and Nov 1984-#4

Age	Name	Parent of Guardian	Residence
1837			
21	Jas. M. Fitts	Rev. Henry Fitts	Warrenton, Warren, NC
15	Wm. W. Green	Col. Lewis Green	Milton, Granville, NC
17	James A.G. Hunt	Eustace Hunt	Milton, Granville, NC
21	Amos W. Jones	Rev. Amos Jones	Lewisburg, Franklin, NC
18	Wm. H. Boyd	Richard Boyd	Warrenton, Warren, NC
16	Armistead Burwell	Spotswood Burwell	Woodworth Store, Granville
	Charles Eaton		Warren, NC
	Philemon Hawkins		Warren. MC
19	Henry F. Jones	Amos Jones	Lewisburg, Franklin, NC
21	R.W. Lassiter	Wm. Lassiter	Oak Hill, Granville, NC
16	Jno. Read	Dr. Char. L. Read	Brownsville, Granville, NC
18	Wm. B. Read	"	"
15	G[eorge] E. Wyche	James Wyche Esq	Ford Creek, Granville, NC
17	L. T[homas] Clanton	Wm. C. Clanton	Grove Hill, Warren, NC
1838			
22	John J. Reavis	Lewis Reavis Esq.	Williamsboro, Granville, NC
19	Turner M. Jones	Amos Jones	Lewisburg, Franklin, NC
15	A[lexander] B. Pierce	Rice B. Pierce	Halifax, NC
19	J[ames] C. Robinson	Eliza Robinson	Warrenton, NC
1839			
18	Henry Joyner	A. Joyner	Halifax, Halifax, NC
17	Willie M Person	P Person	Franklinton, Franklin, NC
16	Benjamin Robinson	R Robinson	Warrenton, Warren, NC
1840			
15	Wm T Eldridge	Rowling Eldridge	Brooklyn, Halifax? NC
17	Presley K [R?] Garner	John Moody	Jackson, Northampton, NC
16	N[athaniel] Macon [Jr]	N Mason	Gaston, NC
16	B F Simmons	Alfred Simmons	Halifax, NC
1841			
17	John Tompkins	Geo E Stirvill[?] Esq	Warrenton, NC
17	Samuel A Williams	John A Williams	Warrenton, NC
1843			
16	F[rank] M Wright	Joseph P Bell	Garysburg, Northampton, NC
18	J E Jones	Wm D Jones	Warrenton, Warren, NC
17	Cyril C [G] Wyche	James Wych[e]	Henderson, Granville, NC
15	B[enjamin] F Lockhart	J J [L L] Bell	Garysburg, Northampton, NC
(after age 15, Lockhart added 11 mo 28 d)			
1845			
	Tazewell L Hargrove	J W Hargrove	Lynessville, Granville, NC
	G B Alston	Major Alfred Alston	Warrenton, Warren, NC
1846			
20	E[d] E Thompson	Wm Thompson	Stantonsburg, Edge, NC

WOOD CONT. FROM PAGE 1

sawmill activities of **Greenleaf Johnson Lumber Co.** which started buying land, timber and railroad right-of-way in 1911.

The company flourished until about 1922. While the lumber company brought a number of workers to the county, including some **Russians**, they also employed many Franklin County people and the economy boomed.

The railroad to Wood was completed in 1914 and the station was called the **Greenleaf-Johnson**.

A passenger car was attached to the wood-hauling train and Wood residents rode from Wood to **Vaughn, Warren Co., NC** where the track connected with the **Seaboard RR**. This excursion became a popular Sunday afternoon pastime for many area residents.

In the beginning, there were few businesses in Wood, but eventually, more stores were built including those owned by **Mr. Allen, McKinne Brothers, Bryant King, Sid Hamlet, Mr. Taylor, Leonard Brothers, W.D. Fuller, Jim Gup-ton, Candler and Crowell, G. M. Raynor, and John Lanier**.

Charlie Wood had the first blacksmith shop and **W.D. Fuller** was the undertaker. The first hearse was drawn by a pair of matched white horses, which made an impressive sight on its way to the cemetery. Wood also had the **Wood Bank Trust Co.**, first built in 1918.

The bank's money was sent to **Richmond, VA** periodically and was once stolen at **Henderson, NC**. It was later found in an old au-

tomobile tire. **Mrs. Joe Shearin** operated a hotel where teachers, railroad workers, lumbermen, and drummers stayed.

Eugenia Boone, Mrs. Read, Miss Ronder, Miss Harper, Miss Hollingsworth, Miss Mamie Dickens, Miss Blanchard, Miss Sherfield,

Miss Mahorn, Miss Fogleman, and Miss Pattie Lamb Justice. This school closed in 1927.

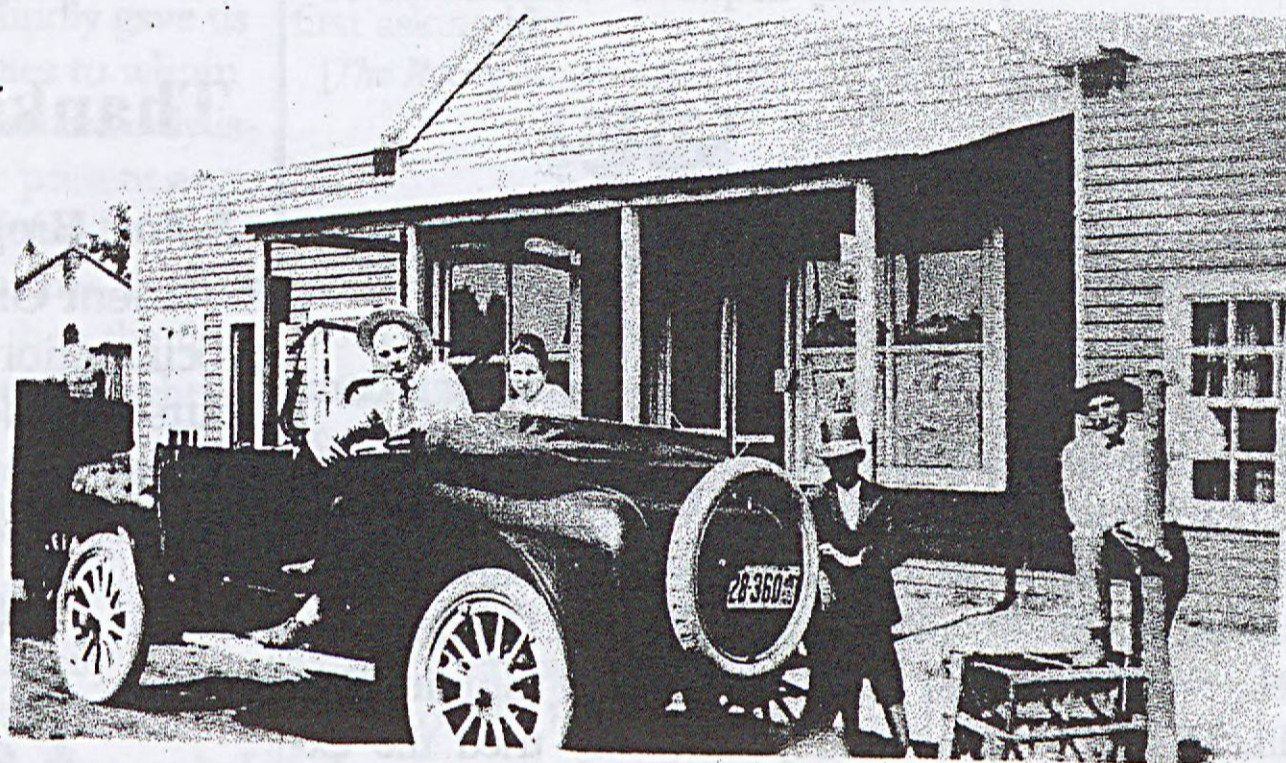
In the early days, Wood had 2 churches. **Mount Hebron** was located about 2 miles from Wood and began in 1885. It stopped operating after a **Baptist** church was built in the town in about 1917 or 1918. In 1916, the **Methodist** church was built. It was later torn down and moved to **Inez, NC** where its

lumber was used to build **Shady Grove Methodist Church**.

The first post office in the area was located at **Ransom's Bridge**. Then **Sid Hamlet's** store took over the function and Hamlet was postmaster from 1918 until 1831. **Mr. Will Carter** was the policeman about 1918. **Dr. Peter** was probably the first doctor at Wood. **Dr. Herbert Perry** and **Dr. Roebuck** also practiced there from 1900 to 1918. **Dr. Beam** and **Dr. Arch Perry** came a little later. **Mr. Ridley Browne** was pharmacist.

Today, only a remnant of the once thriving community remains.

[*Franklin Times*, 30 July 1970]



Wood, 1918, [Briscoe Automobile]

Courtesy NC Division of Archives & History

Guildfield School was built in 1900. It was painted red and had 3 rooms. It was replaced in 1902, but the new school burned in 1904. **Mark Leonard** was the only teacher. **Wood Academy**, built in 1905, had 3 classrooms which could be opened to make an auditorium. Large iron heaters kept it warm. Some of the faculty included: **Miss Knox, Miss**



Log Train Near Wood, 1918

Courtesy NC Division of Archives & History

Wood Items

Mr. Raynor has moved to his new home on **Gillis Street**.

Misses **Mamie Lanier** and **Noble Gup-ton** spent Sunday in **Rocky Mount**.

Our teachers are back at their post of duty and school work is progressing well.

Mr. McKinne is refilling his store with a new stock of goods.

[*The Franklin Times*, Jan. 14, 1916]

Acquisitions— Braswell Memorial Library

1. *Abstracts from the North Carolina Journal-Halifax, NC*, Vols I, III, IV, V by Raymond Parker Fouts.
2. *Granville County NC Deeds 1772-1778*, abstracted by Timothy W. Rackley
3. *Nash Co. NC Federal Census 1800-1840*, abstracted by Reese Ferrell & John Walker, edited by Joan Howell & Reese Ferrell. A gift from Reese Ferrell.
4. *New Census Microfilms: Union County 1880*, Wake County 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, Warren County 1880*, Washington County 1860, Watauga County 1860, Wayne County 1870, 1910*, Wilkes County 1870, 1910** (*denotes only part of year)
5. *Roanoke: Solving the Mystery of the Lost Colony*, by Lee Miller, 2001.
6. *General William Dorsey Pender-A Military Biography*, by Edward G. Longacre, 2001.

STEAM, CONT. FROM P. 11

300 years old. Hardee Creek is said to have been named for Col. John Hardee, who was buried on the site of the old Pitt Co. courthouse. Other docks included Grimesland, Taft's Landing, Yankee Hall, and Clark Landing which was near Washington. Fertilizer, cotton and other products were shipped from each of these docks.

Grimesland

Grimesland was especially important. Ferry boats crossed the river as there was no bridge and everything from whiskey to tombstones was bought and sold at the Grimesland dock. One of the most troublesome

7. *The North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, Vols. I-XXVI, except Vol. II. All volumes are hardbound. Missing volumes were recently acquired compliments of Tim Rackley.



Fast Mail

Express Mail.—This mail commenced running yesterday the 15th inst. Messrs **Williams and King**, are the contractors for carrying this mail from **Blakely [North Hampton Co]** to **Louisburg [Franklin Co]**. On Sunday last, they tried the experiment to see what length of time it would take them to accomplish the distance, and performed it in one hour less than contract time. A letter was received by a gentleman in this place, from a gentleman in Louisburg by the Express Mail, in the short space of four hours and an answer returned in five hours and five minutes, accomplishing a distance of one hundred and four miles in nine hours and five minutes. They have the best Northern Trotters and fine

CONNECTOR

riders, which will ensure them success. — *Halifax Adv.*

[*Tarboro' Press*, November 26, 1836]



Thanksgiving Day

Gov. Brogden, as well as **President Grant**, has issued a proclamation setting apart Thursday, November the 25th, as a day of public thanksgiving.

[*The Rocky Mount Mail*, 12 Nov 1875]



Pay me!

"**Samson**, you pay me dat insignificantum sum you owe me for de beautifying your parlor in de cellar wid de whitewash paint?"

"'em berry sorry it aint impossible no how you can fix it, till de strangulashum tightness ob de money market is absquatulate. Wait till I catch another opposom and den de Gentlemen will pay me and den I can pay you."

[*Tarboro' Press*, Jan. 4, 1840]



STEAMBOAT

For City Point.

SUMMER ARRANGEMENT.

THE public are respectfully informed that the new and comfortable

Steamboat Eagle,

Capt. Chase, has commenced her run to and from City Point, departing every Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 7 o'clock A. M. in time to join the James River and Bay Boats, and on Tuesday's, Thursday's and Saturday's, will be in time for the return passengers. Travellers may now avail themselves of steam carriage from Blakely, N. C. to Boston.

P. RYAN, Agent,
Petersburg, Va.

March 26,

17-3

[From *Tarboro Press*, May 21, 1836]

landings on the Tar was Taft's Landing, about 5 miles below Greenville. It was a big fertilizer shipping center situated at the foot of a hill said to have sloped at a 45° angle. In trying to drive mules uphill, many owners of the fertilizer-laden wagons used language that would have made some of the boat crew bow their heads in shame.

[*Blakely*, mentioned in the ad, was a town in Northampton Co. on the *Roanoke River*. It was on 300 acres owned by **John D. Amis**. It was the terminal point in 1888 of the *Petersburg Railroad*, the first railroad in NC.]

An Angry Parent

AN ANGRY PARENT.-We were in the Register's office last Monday when **Capt. Bridgers** kindly gave us the names of some parties to whom marriage license had been recently issued. There was no one present save the Register and ourself and he commenced to give us the names, **Henry Allen** to **Emily B.** Just then the father of Miss Emily stepped in when the following occurred:

Capt. Bridgers.- By the way, Mr. B., this is your daughter isn't it?

Mr. B.- Who?

Capt. Bridgers.- Miss Emily B.

Mr. B.- Yes, by G -, what of it?

Capt. Bridgers.- Oh nothing, only I was giving her marriage to the paper for publication.

Mr. B.- She ain't married, who says she is? I and my old 'oman left home this morning, and I have never heard that she was to be married.

Editor.- A runaway match, by George.

Mr. B. (angrily).- What have you got to do with it? By G- what is my business is my business, and what is your business is your business.

Editor.- Oh, certainly, I have had nothing to do with it. Don't want to fight about it.

Capt. Bridgers.- Come Mr. B., you are making a fool of yourself - the young folks were just waiting for you to go to court so that they could marry and if you want to prevent it you had better be getting off instead of standing here wanting to fight about it.

Mr. B. - Say, Alfred, what's the law? Who stood his security? Tell me quick? I know I oughtn't to get mad with you and Mr. Thorp [editor of the Mail], but it took me so sudden like. It's a durned mean man as will marry a man's daughter without asking for her.

And with his blood at fever heat Mr. B. took his wife and started for home, calling down maledictions upon the head of the man who would marry his daughter without first asking him.

[*The Rocky Mount Mail*, 18 Feb., 1876]

Obituary Notice

from the *Virginia Conference Sentinel* & *Richmond Advocate* contributed by Richard Slatten, *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy*, Vol 22-Nov 1984-#4

- Died on the 4th inst., **Byrd Puliam** of **Person County, NC**, of heart trouble. He was husband and father.

STALLINGS, CONT. FROM P. 5
27 Mar 1763, listing the above 9 children. Elias Jr., John, Josiah, Moses, Jesse are all mentioned in court and land records of Bertie Co. from time to time at least until 1763.

The first land transfer in what is now Franklin Co. involved a land transfer to John Stallings of Granville Co. in 1760. This land was on the north side of **Tar River**. In 1761, John acquired 470 acres on the east side of the Tar. A number of other land transfers involving John Stallings in Bute and Granville Co. take place from then until at least 1767.

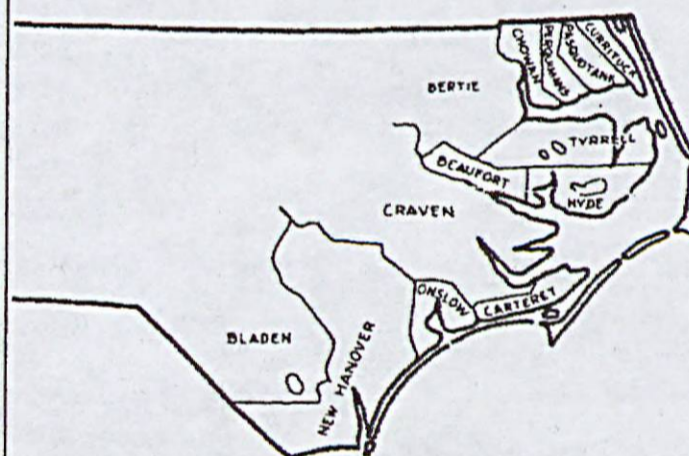
The first record of Elias Stallings in Granville Co. is a deed in 1762 which mentions Elias Stallings line. Bertie Co. records of 1765 mention Elias Stallings and wife Ann in the sale of land. In 1769, Elias Stalling bought 150 acres in Bute Co.

Jesse Stallings appears in Granville Co. in 1762 in a deed conveying 383 acres to him. The first record of Moses Stallings in Bute Co., NC is in 1767 in which Jesse Stallings sells 308 to him. In 1764, Moses sold 224

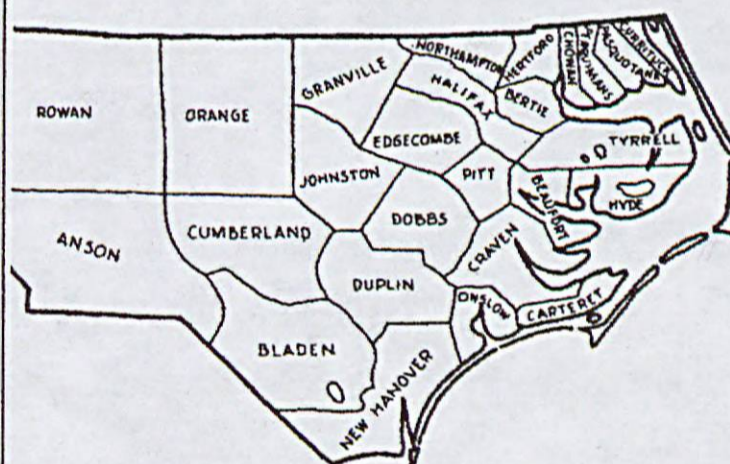
acres in Bertie Co. In 1787, in Franklin Co., Jesse Stallings, SC planter, deeds 40 acres in Franklin Co.

Josiah Stallings is the missing son of Elias and Susannah Stallings from those who came to Franklin Co. Josiah inherited the bulk of his father's estate and made his will in Bertie in 1772, naming his children as **Betty** and **John**. This John Stallings would become the John Stallings of Stallings Crossroad at Cedar Rock, Franklin Co., NC.

Who were the pioneer Stallings of Franklin Co., NC? The discovery of the estate records of Moses Stallings and his nephew John Stallings were the keys to resolving the mystery. They were John, Elias, Moses and Jesse Stallings, all decedents of Elias Stallings Jr. and Susannah Arnold of Bertie Co., NC. The grandsons of Elias Jr. and Susannah make up the rest of the Stallings story.



EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA 1740



EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA 1760

A FAKE BLIND TIGER.

A Shrewd Fellow Who Sold His Corn At Fifty Cents A Pint.

A fake blind tiger, it is said, did a thriving business here last Saturday night. The tiger would spot a man whose look betokened great thirst, and approaching the thirsty one would whisper, "Don't you want to buy some corn?" If the man approached expressed a desire to invest his coin in "corn"—and they do say that there were many corn buyers running at large last Saturday night the purchaser was told to meet the seller at a designated place and time—the time being might

soon after the deal was made. The seller showed up at the appointed place and time named with a pint or a quart of corn and got his money for it at the high price of fifty cents a pint. There was not so much fake about the transaction after all, for it was not corn juice that was sold, but just plain corn, sound and fit for use. And they do say further that there was no cheating as to quantity, no short weight or measure, full and fair measure being given. A pint of good clean white corn for half a dollar. The price was high, to be sure, but those who bargained for pure corn have no kick coming, because they did not get corn juice.—*Statesville Mascot.*

[The Graphic, Nashville, NC, Feb. 18, 1909]

Letters to J.S. Jones

These letters are to Joseph Speed Jones whose father owned Jones' Springs. It appears that he was tending Heck land in Warren and, perhaps, Granville Co. Jones' Spring was near Henderson, NC.

Raleigh, NC

April 4th 1864

J.S. Jones

Dear Sir,

... I think that we ought to have at least two of those large stills. I am decidedly of the opinion that the molasses would be better—some say that with the copper boilers we could make sugar, but as to this I know nothing. If we try to buy the stills, we ought to know how as others may conclude to do the same thing. ...

Yours truly
J.M. Heck

Raleigh Bayonet Factory

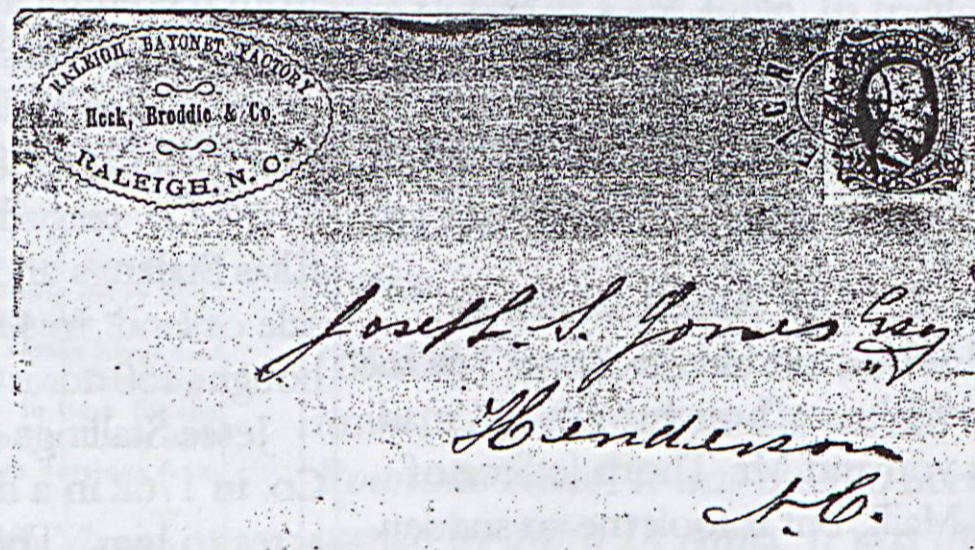
Heck, Broddie & Co. Raleigh, N.C. Aug. 20th 1864
J.S. Jones Esq.

Dear sir:

... I have not had time to do any thing about the molasses nor do I know just what to do.

I will write you further about this in a few days. If barrels can be furnished for one gal of molasses each do not fail to secure as many as you can get. ... How many persons at the springs? How about the fruit? Would like very much to get someone to dry some of it someway on the shares. Any surplus I want the refugees at the springs to have—Perhaps some of them would be willing to charge of a certain portion of them and dry them some way that would be advantageous to both parties. I think it be a great waste to allow the crop of fruit to be destroyed while the people of Richmond and perhaps Petersburg are paying fifty dollars per bushel for theirs, but I the matter to your judgement. we will at once send you the coffee boiler.

Yours truly
J.M. Heck



[Provided by Hiram Perkinson]