

The Connector

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

Summer, 2000

Billie Jo Matthews & Peggy Strickland, Co-Editors

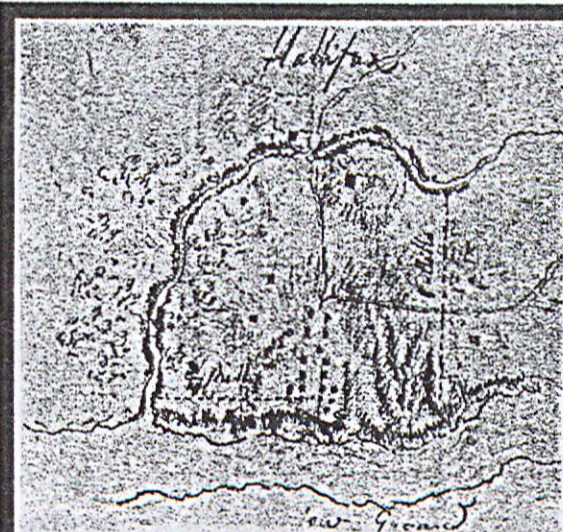
Volume 4 Issue 3

British Troops at Halifax

"At Halifax, some enormities were committed by the British, that were a disgrace to the name of man." These are the words of **Stedman**, historian of the army of **Charles, Lord Cornwallis**, commander of British troops in NC in 1781. British Lt. Col. **Banastre Tarleton** adds, "A sergeant and a dragoon were executed at Halifax, for rape and robbery."

On May 4, 1781, Tarleton, with

180 dragoons, crossed **Quank[e]y Creek** and marched into the little town of Halifax, **Halifax Co., NC** in advance of Cornwallis on his march to VA. Tarleton and the redcoats approached the **Eagle Hotel** where they secured rooms for Cornwallis and his retinue, himself and his aids. Cornwallis



Map of Halifax defenses by Polish engineer, Col. Tadeusz Kosciuszko, who concluded it was indefensible from south.

and the main British force were several days behind Tarleton.

By May 1, the officials at Halifax had known that Cornwallis was marching northward. **General Allen Jones**, in command of the troops of the Halifax district and headquartered in Halifax, held his forces in readiness to attack the invading enemy if an opportunity should be presented. The **Edgewcombe** regiment under **Colonel Hunter**, Halifax under **Colonel Allen**, and **Northampton** under **Colonel Gee**
SEE HALIFAX, PAGE 12

Tar River Rambler

BY LOUISE FULLER

On Saturday, April 15, 2000, a group from the **Tar River Connections Genealogical Society** and **Nash Community College** went rambling on a genealogy class field trip in our area. **Hiram Perkinson**, TRC President, planned the interesting journey, drove the bus and was our commentator. We felt we had left this century and become a part of an earlier time as we saw the ways our predecessors grappled with obstacles of living decades ago.

The grand old houses we visited are excellent examples of earlier types of construction and most of them still contain original furnishings. The occupants were genial, informative and proud of their heritage. Ninety-year old **Edward Thorne** charmed us with his knowledge and love of **Cherry Hill Plantation**.

Even today it is a wonderful, elegant, unchanged house. **Shady Oaks**, the restored tripartite home of **Barbara and John Kennedy**, has elaborate woodwork within the house, stone walls, a serpentine boxwood bed and a number of other old buildings outside.

We crossed the state line into VA and **Prestwood Plantation**. **Sir Peyton Skipworth** and **Lady Jean**
SEE RAMBLER, PAGE 4

Weather Alert

We [in **Edgecombe Co.**] have occasionally been visited by storms. The country suffered much by a horrendous storm which took place on the 7th September 1769. It destroyed crops, mast trees, mills, etc.

[Taken from an 1811 **Edgecombe Co.** "Agricultural Report" by **Jeremiah**

Note Survives 138 Years

Oct 9 1862

Mr. Person Sir

You will please come down hear, between now and Saturday, as I hav got to go with the conscrips, the 16 of this month, and I must leav hear Saturday. come as soon as you git this
Yours respecefully &c

J.D. Ricks

On the reverse side:

PS Mr. Person, I hav a dif-
icultive with John and he is
in the woods if I don't git
him I wish you would giv
him about 3[.]00 for me

[Contributed by **Hiram & Phil Perkinson.**]

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.

Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Don't expect a miracle!!

Tar River Connections Genealogical Society

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Internet <http://necn.ncwc.edu/trcgs/trchp.html>

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The Connector-Published Quarterly
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Recreated Units of 10th and 26th NC Troops Escort Body of Pvt. Warren Biggs to his Grave Site.

Coming Home

Priate Warren Biggs, a member of the 10th NC State Troops, Battery D, 1st NC Heavy Artillery during the Civil War, was finally buried next to his wife, Mahala Winborne Biggs, in southern Nash Co. on April 15, 2000. Private Biggs died Nov. 2, 1863 of typhoid while serving at Fort Fisher near Wilmington. His body was moved from a one-man graveyard to the cemetery at Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church in Bailey.

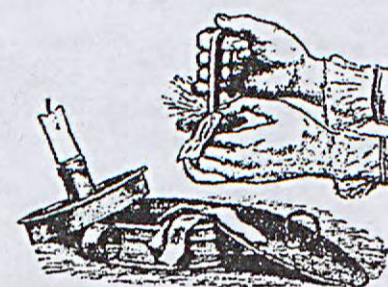
The ceremony took place on Saturday morning at 11 a.m.. "A procession of Civil War reenactors from the 10th NC State Troops and the 26th NC State Troops marched out of the woods with the casket on a caisson, Confederate battle flags flying. As the procession moved toward the gravesite, a lone trumpet quietly played 'Dixie'. 'Taps' was played as the casket was lowered into the ground. As the reenactors began moving away, two trumpets played 'Dixie,' one slightly behind the other so it sounded like reverb."

The first national flag of the Confederacy draped the casket. "After the service, the reenactors all removed one button from their uniform coats and dropped them into the grave with Biggs."

Private Biggs' grave was located by his great-great-grandson, Charlie E. Smith of Knoxville, MD, in 1977.

[Taken from a story by Ken Murchison in the *Spring Hope Enterprise*, April 20, 2000. Submitted by Pauline France.]

- **Tinder:** Anything that catches fire easily. Material used to catch fire from a spark.
- **Tinder-box:** Box for holding tinder, flint, and steel for making a fire.



1886 Obituary

Ella Lane

Died, on Thursday, Oct. 7th, 1886, in Edgecombe county, Ella, beloved daughter of Lucy A. Lane, of Black Jaundice, in the 16th year of her age.

She left many friends to mourn their loss, and an utterly heart broken mother, who has had it seems, her share of trouble. Several years ago her husband Lawrence Lane, died, leaving her alone with two little girls, Ida and Ella, and ere she had ceased grieving for him Ida was killed with morphine accidentally while at her grandfathers. This was a blow few have felt, the most terrible of blows, because when the loved ones die with us around them, there is something, I can't tell what, which causes us to be more reconciled, but when they die far away from us we never forget that they died from home. The dose was given to Ida by her grandmother, who has never recovered from the shock it gave her.

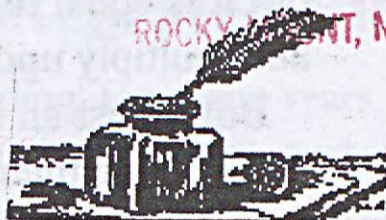
Ella was a member of the M.E. Church South. She was a congenial companion and a dutiful daughter, obedient in all things. I never knew her veracity to waver or doubted her integrity. Her sickness was short. She came home from school Friday with a chill, and had a yellow chill each day successively till Thursday.

H.T.T.

Rocky Mount, N.C., Feb. 4th, 1887

[Taken from Zion's Landmark, Feb. 15, 1887, No. 7. Contributed by J. Robert Boykin III of Wilson, NC]

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CONNECTOR

Duel of Quills

The story begins in November, 1795, when Thomas Blount is challenged to a duel by Dr. Redmond Dillon Barry. Dr. Barry's challenge, published in the Halifax, NC newspaper, *North Carolina Journal*, in April, 1796, alleges: *Mr. Blount, Sir, As my exertions to discover the nature and motive of a pusillanimous compact lately hatched by a few malicious men respecting a subscription for a ball in this town, by which ... I only am proscribed and precluded the privilege of a gentleman, have hitherto failed, I am constrained in justification of my character ... call upon you, ... for a ... full explanation ... I shall willingly meet you ... at Petersburg or Richmond, where we at least shall escape the interference of officious officers or feigned friends. ... Redmond D. Barry. ...*

Thomas Blount and Dr. Barry were both residents of the little town of Tarboro, Edgecombe Co., NC. Little is known of Dr. Barry, other than he was a Mason. Thomas Blount (1759-1812), however, was a well-known landowner, merchant, congressman, and revolutionary soldier. He managed the Tarboro branch of a family business which operated shipping, wharves, warehouses, ships, sawmills, a gristmill, tanneries, and cotton gins, as well as managing huge tracts of land. His first wife, Martha Baker, died in childbirth. Thomas married Mary "Jackie" Sumner, daughter of Revolutionary War Gen. Jethro Sumner, in 1796, the same year he clashed with Dr. Barry.

Other *Journal* items appeared and in February, this article from Thomas Blount: PHILADELPHIA, February 29, 1796. —...Dr. Mungo Ponton, on or about the 18th of November last, delivered me a message from Doctor Barry, purporting.. (for it was not in writing) a desire that I should meet him for the purpose of giving him satisfaction for an alleged insult; and instantly he received an answer, that I would not meet him... that Dr. Barry's conduct had not left me at liberty to consider him a gentleman... Thomas Blount.

More newspaper sparring ensued until the following from Dr. Barry: HALIFAX, April 4, 1796.— ... I find it [the NC *Journal*] shamefully abused by a late inconsistent quibbling scribbler, Thomas Blount; metamorphosing your comprehensive and enlightened Paper as it were, to a Scandalous Magazine. He there with his grey goose quill (the only weapon he ever brandishes) labours hard to remove the imputation of cowardice—but alas! .. And notwithstanding his feigned efforts to revive the days of Knight Errantry, by expecting Doctor Ponton to ask a fight of him, as if some distressed damsel had been the subject; yet conscious am I that there is scarce a man nor even woman existing Mr. Blount would step forward for on such an occasion. ... Yours &c. Redmond Dillon Barry.

Blount's friends responded for Blount, who was in Philadelphia: HALIFAX, April 18, 1796. ... indispensable duty we owe Mr. Blount ... to take notice of Doctor Barry's illiberal and scurrilous publication that appeared ... on the 4th instant. —... At the Tarborough November races, a Ball was set on foot by way of subscription, and it was proposed by a number of the subscribers, that Doctor Barry ... had rendered himself unworthy of being admitted as a subscriber; but we declare that Mr. Blount was not the mover of this measure:—... the doctor fixed on him, and accordingly determined to challenge him... Mr. Blount consequently refused the challenge on the principle that



SEE DUEL, PAGE 16

A Drawback of Being a Tramp

ONE WAY TO GET RID OF TRAMPS:—Tramps have become an established institution in this country, and since trains are their chief means of transportation, and trains enter **Weldon [Halifax Co.]** from all four points of the compass, our town has more than its share of these "knights of the rails." Since their advent minds have been engaged in trying to solve the problem of getting them to work. It is true that a few will chop wood or rake leaves for a meal, but the majority will do no manner of work, and have accomplished the wish contained in the old song beginning, "I wish every day was Sunday." They hate work as the devil hates holy water, and their ingenuity in avoiding and living with-

out it is equal to their dislike for it. Still tramps increase and multiply upon the face of the earth.

But at last an invention is being completed which will either force them to work or else send them to that land from which not even tramps can return. According to news report, the Board of Supervisors of **Westchester County, N.Y.** have determined to erect a building to be constructed with apartments to be flooded with water to a depth of six feet. When a tramp is caught he is to be put into one of these compartments and water will be turned on. To save his life he will be compelled to bail the water out as fast as he can or be drowned. The Board will be merciful in that after six hours of bailing the tramp has a choice. He can leave the county never to return or keep on with the bailing.

[Taken from an article in the *Roanoke News*, 23 Dec 1886]

RAMBLER, CONT. FROM P. 1

Skipworth built this 3-story brick house near **Clarksville**. It is furnished with much of its original belongings, but it is best known for its exquisite French and English wallpapers, its library and Lady Jean's garden. An unusual triangular fan which hangs over the dining room table is one of its outstanding features.

We saw a number of old houses, visited 3 picturesque towns, and viewed from our windows a cemetery, an old church, rivers and numerous historical sites. At the end of the day, we agreed to add a sweet treat, a visit to the Russell Stover Candy Store. It was a glorious day!

Below is a list of sights seen or visited:

1. Arrington Cemetery & site of home ca 1790—moved to Randolph Pines in Enfield.
2. York Chapel and early road from Halifax to Louisburg.
3. Hilliardston Academy ca 1810.
4. Battle House ca 1780—1 of 2 gambrel roof houses in Nash Co.
5. Taylor's Store & Battle House ca 1780, similar to a house in Warrenton, NC.

6. Portis Gold Mine
7. Fishing Creek: Boundary of Warren, Nash, Franklin and Halifax Counties.
8. Dalkeith ca 1820.
9. Tuscalum ca 1830.
10. Clark House ca 1840—A. G. Jones, Builder
11. Davis House ca 1830—A. G. Jones, Builder
12. Inez Cherry Hill ca 1845—toured
13. Cheek House ca 1812—oldest brick house in Warren Co.
14. Shady Oaks ca 1815—toured.
15. Warrenton: A. Coleman-Jones House; B. White House—R. E. Lee; C. 18th Century House; D. Jacob Holt House; E. Eaton House; F. Bragg House; G. Plummer House; H. Polk House
16. Warren Plains, where R. E. Lee arrived in 1869. [See *A Final Visit, The Connector*, Summer, 1999], Raleigh & Gaston Freight Station.
17. Norlina
18. Buggs Island Lake—Ivy Hill ca 1780.
19. Occaneechi Island.
20. Prestwood ca 1780—tour and picnic.



Acquisitions— Braswell Memorial Library

- *Nash County Record of County Court Minutes, Real Estate Conveyances, Cohabitation Record & WPA Pre-1914 Cemetery Inscription Survey-Mitchell Co through Rowan*, 4 Reels. Gift from Tim Rackley.
- *The Colonial Records of North Carolina, Vols VIII, IX & X (2nd series)* Robert J Cain, Editor.
- *Woodard Family*, compiled & edited by Bruce H Woodard & Marion Woodard Moore. Gift from M Moore.
- *Benjamin and Drusilla Bunn*, From Capt John Houston Thorpe's Journal by Moneta Allison Thorpe. Gift from Dr Louis S Thorp.

Disintegrated Bible Reveals Facts

Lying dormant in an old 'out building' for many years, the family Bible of **Joseph Hartsfield White** (1805-1895) and **Harriat Sykes White** (1812-1888) had disintegrated beyond repair. Tucked away in the center of the cherished family Bible were 3 pages of family records still intact. Someone had carefully kept up with the family records after the death of the Mother and Father until the Bible was hidden away.

Joseph Hartsfield White, gentleman farmer, and his wife lived in the **May's Crossroad-Peachtree Church** area of **Nash Co.** Their marriage bond was dated 17 Dec 1832, bm **William H Abernathy**, w **John G Blount**.

Joseph H & Harriat's first child, **Louisa**, married **Gray Willis Hammond** who served as a Colonel in the Civil War and later became one of the first mayors of Rocky Mount [see "Col Gray Willis Hammond", *Connector*, Fall 1997]. Their second child, **George W**, served in the war and was killed in action at **Bristoe Station, Va**, [see "1863 Letter from Col Hammond to Mr & Mrs Jos. H White", *Connector*, Spring 1998]. Their third child, **Catherine**, became a teacher.

It isn't often that you find documents that include the female lines in a family. When these family pages surfaced recently, including the names of **Privett, Moore, Marshbourn, Edwards, Mitchell, Worthington, Heath** and **Ledbetter**, it was a 'coup' for **Roy Wilder, Jr** (TRC Member), great great grandson of Joseph Hartsfield and Harriat Sykes White.

Family Record

Born Died

[Children of Joseph H and Harriat White]

Loweazer (Louisa) J White 22 Nov 1833
 George W White 13 Oct 1836
 [Kia 14 Oct 1863, Bristoe Station, Va]
 Catharine (Kate) White 17 Feb 1839
 Mary Ann White 6 Oct 1841 16 Apr 1842
 Indiana White 20 Feb 1845
 Joseph anney (Joanna) White 12 Jun 1847
 Nancey [Harriet] White 6 Sept 1850 29 Jan 1921
 w/o S C Edwards

[Grandchildren of Joseph H and Harriat White]

Wash White Privett 29 Nov 1867
 [s/o Joseph B & Joanna White Privett]
 Mary Griffin Privett 4 Apr 1869
 [d/o Joseph B & Joanna White Privett]
 Irene White Moore 26 Jan 1867
 [d/o James C & Kate White Moore]
 Earnest Washington Moore 8 Oct 1869 11 Dec 1914
 [s/o James C & Kate White Moore]
 Joseph John Marshbourn 26 Dec 1869
 [s/o G R & Indiana W Marshbourn]
 Martha Maud Moore 21 Jun 1886
 [d/o James C & Kate White Moore]
 Nannie Rogers Moore 14 Jun 1880
 [d/o James C & Kate White Moore]
 Florence Ellen Edwards 26 Mar 1871
 [d/o S C & Nancy W Edwards]
 Harriett Elizabeth Edwards 29 Dec 1873
 [d/o S C & Nancy W Edwards]

Joseph H White[Father] 11 Nov 1805 26 ____ 1895

Harriat White [Mother] 20 Jun 1812 8 Jul 1888

Children of Little B. (Littleberry) White, [Father of Joseph H White]

John White 19 Jan 1774
 Sukie White 2 Mar 1776
 James White 21 Jan 1778
 William White 22 Feb 1779
 Little Bery White 30 Sep 1781
 Mary White ____ Aug 1783
 Charles White 20 Aug 1785
 Alx White 12 Jun 1787
 Ewd White 15 Mar 1791
 Abrm White 20 Mar 1793
 Elizabeth White 18 Jul 1796
 Wortham White 7 Jan 1800
 ____ Ann White his wife died ____
 Patsy White 18 Mar 1803
 Joseph H White 11 Nov 1805

Other Deaths

Sadassa Maie Edwards 11 Jan 1918
 d/o S C & N H Edwards
 S C Edwards 7 Aug 1923
 s/o W H and Betsy Bass Edwards
 Lizzie Edwards Mitchell 12 Dec 1934
 d/o S C & Nancy H Edwards, buried in Spring Hope
 Charles Scott Mitchell Aug 1925
 h/o Lizzy Edwards Mitchell, buried in Spring Hope
 Christine Moore Edwards 21 Dec 1925
 w/o Linwood Edwards, buried Moore burying ground
 in Franklin Co

HOW THE YANKEES FOUND TAR RIVER

When the Confederates were preparing to evacuate Washington, NC, in March, 1862, they sent men to destroy all cotton and naval stores that would be likely to fall into the possession of the enemy. At Taft's Store they found about 1,000 barrels of tar and turpentine; and as they could not burn it without burning several houses, they rolled the barrels to the river bank, cut the hoops in two and dumped them in the river.

In June of the same year I was going up Tar River on the steamer Governor Morehead. At Taft's Store we met the steamer, Colonel Hill, with two flat boats carrying 400 Yankee soldiers from the prison at Salisbury, NC to Washington, NC to be exchanged.

The Colonel Hill had tied up at dark, and the prisoners, wishing to take a bath, the officer in command had stationed guards with torches on both banks of the river, and gave them permission to wade in, which they did, and stirred up the tar and turpentine from the bottom of the river, and they got well smeared with it. When we came up to them each man had his rations of meat in one hand and a small piece of stick in the other, greasing and scraping for dear life.

We shut off steam. I hailed them with, "Hello boys, what's the matter." The reply was, "We have heard of Tar River all our lives, but never believed that there was any such place, but be damned if we haven't found it. The whole bed of it is tar."

J.D. MYERS

[Taken from *The Confederate Revue*, submitted by Louise Fuller]

Search and Research Don't Forget Your P's & Q's

PRESENTED BY TIMOTHY RACKLEY

The Courts of Pleas & Quarter Sessions began in NC in 1688 and continued until 1868 when a new State Constitution was adopted. Minutes of the court sessions contain the skeleton of all county records and can tell us much about the daily lives of our ancestors. These records may be the most important available, but they are underutilized because many people are not aware of the wealth of information they contain and because they are not indexed.

Pleas and Quarter Sessions usually began the second Monday of February, May, August, and November and typically lasted from 3 to 5 days. Entries in the Court Minutes are usually brief summations of the various transactions. Some types of records to be found in the minutes include the following:

1. **DEEDS:** Deeds recorded in the minutes of P's & Q's include deeds of sale, deeds of trust/mortgage, deeds of gift, bills of sale, and powers of attorney.
2. **TAXATION RECORDS:** Taxation records give information about tax rates, the district where an ancestor lived, and whether the ancestor was able to pay assessed taxes.
3. **LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT:** Records of last wills & testaments indicate whether the ancestor had a written will, an oral will, or died without a last will and testament (intestate).
4. **ESTATE RECORDS:** The information to be gleaned from estate records include the name of the executor or administrator of the estate, provisions for the widow and children, how long it took to settle the estate, and who was appointed to audit & settle the estate accounts.
5. **GUARDIAN RECORDS:** Guardians were appointed for orphans and for lunatics or incompetent. The records often indicate relationships in these cases.
6. **OTHER DATA:** Civil or minor court cases, expenditure of public funds, base-born children, licenses for resale, evidence of marriages, revolutionary war pension petitions, etc.
7. **LOCAL OFFICIALS OF THE TIME**

Some of these records are available in county court houses and many have been microfilmed and are available at the State Archives in Raleigh, NC. Court records for a few counties are available in abstracted or transcribed form. You should check with the local library in the area of your interest or with the State Archives.

Tim Rackley is transcribing the minutes of the P's & Q's of Nash County. They are available from him at PO Box 2502, Kernersville, NC 27285-2502. Or you can e-mail him at trackley@ix.netcom.com.



Cornwallis Leaves Mementos In Nash Co

BY BOBBY BOYKIN

According to a letter to **Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton** at **Halifax** [See *British Troops at Halifax*, Page 1], **Cornwallis** spent the night of May 8, 1781 at **Crowell's Plantation** in **Nash Co.** [near the present **Rocky Mount-Wilson Airport**] with **John Eatmon** (1750-1829).

Legend has it that the morning after **Cornwallis'** visit, a handkerchief and eyeglasses were found by a female slave in the room where he slept.

These items have been handed down in the **Eatmon** family and are now in the possession of **J. Robert "Bobby" Boykin III**, a **Wilson** antique dealer.

The eyeglasses are silver with extendible sides with holes for a leather strap. There are indecipherable makers' marks on the sides. [Both items have been authenticated as to the time of manufacture.]

John Eatmon, a private during the **Revolutionary War**, was in **Kinston, NC** on 26 Mar 1780 with **Lt. William Merritt**. He was a road overseer in **Nash Co.** in 1778.

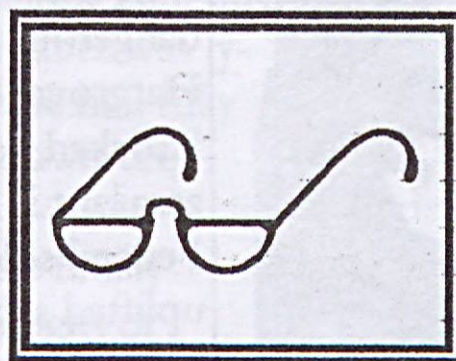
Cornwallis' journey

It was May 6, 1781 when **Cornwallis** and the main body of **British** troops reached **Peacock's Bridge** on **Contentnea Creek** near **Stantonsburg** in **Wilson Co., NC**. The first clash of arms occurred as **Col. James Gorham**, with 400 militia, made a stand at the bridge, but he was driven

off and **Cornwallis** proceeded into **Nash Co.** where he camped at **Crowell's Plantation** near **Viverette's Mill** [now known as **Davenport Mill**], and the site of **Lemon's Ferry** [now **Lemon's Ferry Bridge**].

He crossed the **Tar River** on May 9 and, traveling along the **Nash-Edgecombe Co.** line, he reached **Halifax** on May 10th.

In early May, **Cornwallis** left **Wilmington** headed for **VA**. **Lt. Col. Tarleton**, with 180 dragoons, and the



light companies of the 82nd and of **Hamilton's NC** regiment, both mounted on horses, advancing in front of **Cornwallis**, crossed the **Nahunta** and **Coteckney**

[**Contentnea**] creeks, and soon reached the **Tar River**. On his route he ordered the inhabitants to collect provisions for the **King's** troops, whose numbers he magnified in order to awe the militia. As he advanced on **Halifax**, the **Americans** at **Swift Creek**, and afterwards at **Fishing Creek**, attempted to stop them, but they were dispersed, **Tarleton** said with some loss, patriot accounts said with no loss.

The march of the main **British** column under **Cornwallis** was slow and deliberate. The **State Militia**, poorly organized and not well armed, were occupied with the **Tory** [British loyalists] forces that were beginning to rise, and **Cornwallis** proceeded mostly unopposed across **NC**. The **Whigs** [loyal Americans], unable to resist, scurried into the swamps or fled to a distance. The **Tories** rose in numbers and wreaked vengeance on their neighbors for all they had suffered since the beginning of the **Revolution**. The track of the army was a

scene of desolation, and the **Whig** settlements were scourged.

Many of the outrages were committed by camp followers who, under the protection of the army, plundered the distressed inhabitants. There were also many women who followed the army in the character of wives of the officers and soldiers, a certain number of women being allowed for each company. These were generally mounted on fine horses and were dressed in the best clothes that could be taken from the inhabitants as the army marched through the country.

One officer, **Glaueck**, was seeking to procure arms for the men assigned to his command, and in the absence of swords, improvised weapons made of hickory clubs. With these he hung on the outskirts of the **British** line and kept in check the barbarous camp followers. In **Nash Co.** a squad of **Tories**, who had risen on their neighbors, were roughly handled and hotly pursued. [See "Tories Attack Drake House", *The Connector*, Fall, 1997]

"Not a man of any rank or distinction, or scarcely any man of property," wrote **Col. Seawell** after the **British** moved on, has lain in his house since the **British** passed through **Nash Co.** We are distressed with all the rogues and vagabonds that **Cornwallis** can raise to pest us with. ... A certain **Robert Beard** with fifteen others on Friday last seized the person of **John Ferrell**, **Isham Alford** and **Robert Melton**, together with seven horses and I think three guns, ... and carried them all off. Our men after collecting, pursued them; but night coming on and drawing near the enemy's lines, they returned without any luck."

☠ Foul Murder ☠

Edenton, 16 Mar 1824: At **Washington [NC]** Superior Court, on Thurs-

day last, his honor **Judge Badger** presiding, came on the trial of **John Skinner**, for poisoning his brother, **Samuel Skinner**, about three years past. After a patient hearing of the counsel, the Jury retired, and soon af-

ter returned into court with a verdict of *Guilty*. —He is to be executed the 23d of April next. We understand, however, that a petition will be presented to the Governor for a pardon.

[*Halifax Free Press*, 26 Mar 1824]

Hargrove's Troops Defend South Anna Bridge

The Defender of the South Anna Bridge. With Sixty-two men he held it against the enemy's force of fifteen hundred for four hours.

Those are the words carved on the tombstone of **Tazewell Lee Hargrove**, Lt. Col. of the **44th NC Troops**, located in a small family cemetery in **Townsville, Vance Co.** [originally **Granville Co.**].

Tazewell Lee Hargrove was born near **Henderson in Granville Co, NC**. He joined the **Confederate Army** in 1862 and raised a company of Granville county troops, designated **Company A** of the 44th Regiment of State Troops. Hargrove was Captain, **Elkanah E. Lyon** was 1st Lieutenant and **Robert L. Rice**, 2nd Lieutenant. **Col. George B. Singletary** commanded the Regiment. By July 1862, Hargrove had risen to the rank of Lt. Colonel, 2nd in command of the **44th North Carolina of Pettigrew's Brigade**.

The 44th Regiment served around **Richmond, VA** from the fall of 1862 to June 1863 when it was detached at **Hanover Junction** to guard bridges on the **South Anna River** and protect **General Robert E. Lee's** communication and supply lines as he began the **Gettysburg Campaign**. **Col. T.C. Singletary** remained at the junction with 2 companies while **Maj. Charles M. Stedman** commanded 4 companies north of the junction. Lt. Col. Hargrove, with 4 companies, was assigned the protection of 4 bridges where the **Central** and the **Fredericksburg Railroads** crossed the South Anna and the **Little Rivers**. He posted a company at each bridge, remaining himself with Company A at the Central Railroad bridge across the South Anna, the most dangerous post.

On 26 June 1863, 1200-1500 **Federal** troops under the command

of **Col. Samuel P. Spear**, moved from the **White House Landing** and approached the south side of the river held by Lt. Col. Hargrove and his 40 men. Before Spear could attack, Hargrove abandoned the breastworks and fell back to the north side of the river, placing his men behind



Lt. Colonel Tazewell Lee Hargrove

the railroad bed and cross ties along the river bank. A small earthwork and watchman's house were also part of his position.

Col. Spear launched a charge of mounted and unmounted troops. For 4 hours the Confederates resisted repeated assaults by the far superior force. Col. Hargrove refused to surrender. Four hundred more men were sent to reinforce the Federal cavalry on the north side and another assault on Companies A and G was ordered. Spear crossed the river and ordered the attack to be made up the river bank against Company G's unprotected right flank and Company A's unprotected left flank.

The dismounted cavalry charged the Confederate positions and soon were thoroughly mingled with Hargrove's men. **A.S. Peace** describes the bloody scene: "We were completely surrounded. Men in ranks and

out of ranks, mounted and on foot, armed and disarmed, were on all sides, while horses without riders wild in every direction through the fields. We would now have been an easy prey if the enemy had kept ranks and stood off from us, but, being too eager, they rushed in on us, more than ten to one, and were too close and crowded to use their sabers to advantage. A pistol shot was more dangerous to them than us. ... Col. Hargrove, his sword broken, is knocked down with a saber cut. His assailant is felled across him. Another Federal soldier just above him with uplifted saber endeavoring to strike his head, is clubbed in the mouth by a Confederate soldier and at the same time is shot through the heart by **Sergeant [W.H.] Strum** and falls dead across the col. Now a mass of humanity, both gray and blue, is piled above and about him grappling for the lives of each other. Still Col. Hargrove's voice rang out encouraging his men to fight to the last."

Much of the fighting swirled around a watchman's cabin where Col. Hargrove stood on the porch and fought several Yankees at one time. **Robert Bingham** tells of the valor of 16-year old **Joseph H. Cash**: "Private Cash, a boy only sixteen, killed four men who tried to set the bridge on fire during the first part of the fight and two more as they charged across the bridge just about at the end of the fight, one with his last cartridge and the other with his bayonet. ..." A.S. Peace told the rest of the story: "Private Cash ... found himself face to face with Colonel Spear, who ordered him to surrender. Cash replied, 'Not until my colonel commands me,' and rushing at Colonel Spear was shot dead by him just as his bayonet was about to pierce the Colonel's body."

CONT. ON NEXT PAGE

HARGROVE CONT. FROM PAGE 8

Sergeant J.G. Hayes, a Granville Co. soldier described as "A man of most powerful muscle," ran amuck through the Federals, knocking from one to two men down with each stroke of his gun butt until felled by a blow across his face by a carbine.

Sgt John R. Buchanan was shot in the chest just above the heart, but it took 6 Federals to capture him. **Pvt. Joseph Satterwhite**, struck on the back of the head, lost his gun, but "He crawled to where a saber was lying, seized it and before he had fully straightened up, struck down the man before him."

The Confederates were finally forced down by sheer weight of numbers. Nearly every man on the Confederate side was killed or wounded. Sgt. Peace later wrote, "Seven of our men were killed and all the rest were wounded and captured except myself who, being severely wounded, was left on the field for dead. Many died afterwards from their wounds. I saw as many as eleven wounds on one man and from three to five were common." Sgt. Peace himself was shot at such close range that his clothing was set on fire. Regaining consciousness, he crawled into a mud hole to quench the flames before he passed out again. He was found the next day by a negro man who, for 50¢, pulled the wounded Tar Heel out of the mud hole, put him in a wheelbarrow and pushed him to the top of a hill where he was rescued.

Robert Bingham relates the end of the story. After the handful of Confederate prisoners had been assembled, Col Spear asked, "Col. Hargrove, where are your men?" Hargrove replied, "I had only 80 at first, and these are what's left of them." Spear replied, "It was reported to me that there were at least 400 infantry in those breastworks.

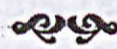
Col. Hargrove, you have ruined my reputation. I came here to destroy all 4 of the bridges and the Junction and I must retreat after burning only one bridge and capturing this handful of men."

Among the dead were **Sgt. John W. Newman**, **W.D. Morgan**, **Burton K. Nevils**, and **John K. Pittard**.

Col. Hargrove was a prisoner of war, first at **Fort Delaware**, then **Johnson's Island** in **Lake Erie**, then back at Fort Delaware. In 1864, 600 Confederate officers, including Col. Hargrove, were taken to **Morris Island, SC**, where, for 8 weeks, they lay under fire of opposing batteries. They became known as the "Immortal Six Hundred."

Hargrove was sent back to prison where he was known as the "Cussing Colonel" among the Yankees who bore the brunt of his wrath. He refused parole and refused to sign allegiance. He remained in prison after the war until his parents, **Israel** and **Nancy Hargrove**, pleaded with him to sign so he could return home.

[Taken from an article by T.H. Pearce in *The State Magazine*, August 1980. Submitted by Eugene Viverette, TRC Member.]



Reader's Choice

Local Color



Memoirs, by Rachel Leonard Brooks, 1999

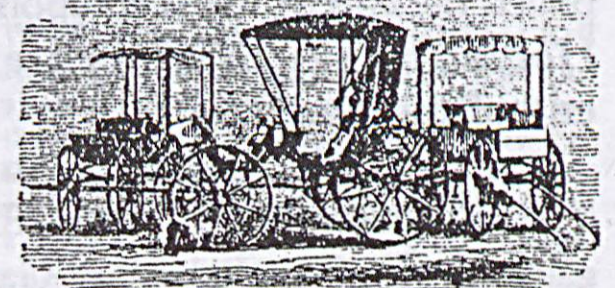
Recording past happenings is not a talent shared only by the educated. **Rachel Brooks** proved this in writing her own *Memoirs* for her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She had always wanted to write

down her thoughts, but felt inadequate because of her lack of education. In her own words she states, "As I have grown older I recognized that it is not the English or education that counts." Her stories come from her delightful memory to be shared by all who would like to delve into memories from the beginning of the twentieth century.

Meet **Papa Daddy** and **Big Mama**, the progenitors of the **Lawrence Winstead Clan** in the **Philadelphia Community of Nash County, NC**. Born on a cold, windy night in March of 1914 at the **Lawrence Winstead Plantation**, Rachel grows up and introduces you to her Mother (**Gertie**), and many Aunts and Uncles. (Her Father's family, the **Leonards**, will be covered in another book.)

Discover the **Garden House** (outside toilet); what it was like to ride in a mule driven wagon all the way to **Rocky Mount** to see the **Big Circus**; experience the delight of eating fresh baked loaf bread and eating 'cracklings' with sweet potatoes; learn the art of quilt making; experience hog killing time, soap making and those never ending wash days. These are just a few of the memories that Rachel shares with you in her book.

Don't we all wish we had a grandmother or great grandmother just like Rachel Brooks. One who cares.



Good Work.

Low Prices.

W. R. VICK,

Carriage and Wagon Builder,

Undertaker and Dealer in Carriage Material,

Cheap Shop,

WELDON, N. C.

Following the Tracks

Raleigh & Gaston RR—1836-1840

"My father went to **Petersburg, VA.**, when I was a small boy, to buy goods for a country store, and he announced, when he returned, that he had not only seen a railroad, but had ridden on one; that the wheels ran on iron rails; the cars were propelled by a thing they called an engine; that the train, engine and two or three cars, ran at the rate of ten to fifteen miles an hour, and that said train could carry fifty passengers. I looked at him with amazement, and wondered how I would feel if I had seen as much as he had, and knew as much as he knew. It was a long time after that before I ever saw a railroad; but it came at last—the old **Raleigh and Gaston**—and for over half a century the old wagons that did the hauling, between **Raleigh and Fayetteville**, and between **Raleigh and Petersburg, VA.**, have gone into 'innocuous desuetude,' as **Grover Cleveland** would say, and the iron horse has been doing the pulling.

"Of course it is known that the **Raleigh and Gaston** railroad was first laid with Strap-iron, on wooden stringers, and that, in a few years, it was like taking his life into his own hands, when a man got aboard a train; for, as the wooden stringers began to rot and wear, the strap-iron was inclined to 'snake up' at the ends; and, not unfrequently, a 'snake head,' as it was called, would run through the bottom of the car and tear things up. The first conductors I remember on that road were **Captains Riggan and Horton**. The latter, **Capt. Jephtha Horton**, after he quit running as conductor, was made yardmaster at the depot, and one day, as a freight train was pulling from under a shed, the top of a car pulled the end of the shed upon, and killed him. **John Horton**, his son, took his place" [See Note at the end of the story.]

Construction begun

Construction began on the first 40 miles of standard gauge track of the **Raleigh & Gaston Railroad** in Nov. 1836. It was to run from **Gaston, NC**, on the **Roanoke River**, to **Raleigh**, about 85 miles away. [The **Gaston** of the R&G RR was a small town in northwest **Northampton Co.** developed as the terminus of the railroad. The

town began to decline after 1865 when the bridge across the **Roanoke River** was burned. By June of 1838, the track reached to **Littleton** and **Macon** in **Warren Co.**, a distance of 20 miles.

Originally, the R & G RR was to go through the town of **Warrenton**, **Warren Co.**, and east of **Henderson**. However, some of the good people of **Warrenton** did not like the idea at all. They claimed that it would smoke up their homes and be noisy; that it would scare their horses and run over their children. They called a town meeting, and it's said that after the meeting, the men of **Warrenton** with "turkey rifles" loaded to kill, drove the railroad surveyors away. The engineers modified their plans and went through **Warren Plains**, 3 miles north, instead. This, the nearest station for **Warrenton**, was built 3 long miles and a mighty long walk from the county seat of **Warren Co.**

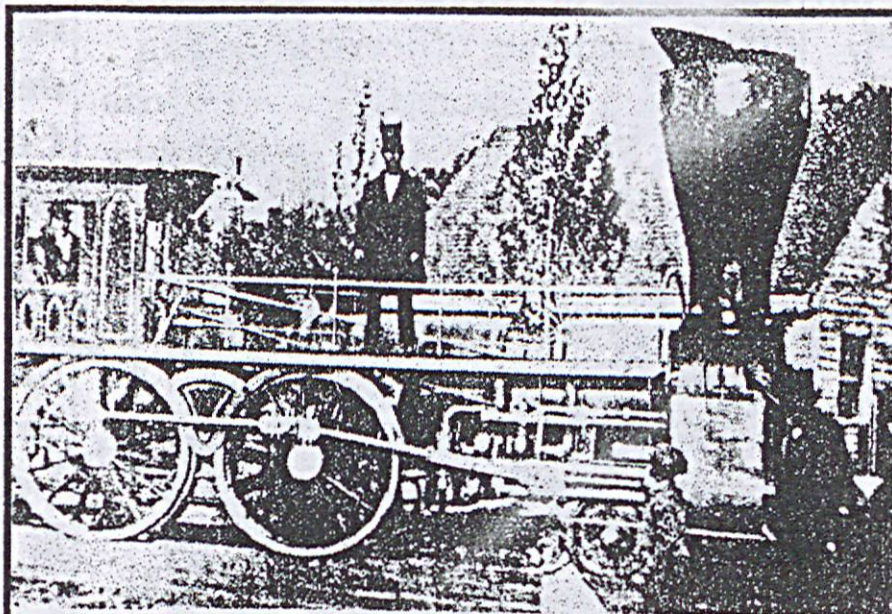
Land Donated

Lewis Reavis offered 10 acres of land if the RR would come by **Henderson**, **Vance Co.** **Whitfield Reavis** also gave land; rights-of-way were secured and the railroad accepted the offer. **Capt. J.R. Thrower** was the Road Master. To the south of **Henderson**, rights-of-way were given by the **Blacknalls, Woodliefs, Staun-**

tons, Debnams, Kittrells, and others and the road went through **Kittrell** in southwest **Vance Co.** The R&G RR carried its first passengers to **Henderson**, 42½ miles from **Gaston** on 6 Sept 1838. The first freight was mainly lumber, tobacco and cotton.

Between **Henderson** and **Raleigh**, the track runs through the northwest corner of **Warren Co.**, through southeast **Granville** and southwest **Franklin** counties and finally into **Wake Co.** Four major bridges were constructed including the **Tar River** bridge which was 846 feet long and 94 feet high above normal water level. Several delays of shipments of strap iron held up completion of the road to **Raleigh** until March 21, 1840 when the first train steamed into the terminal at **Raleigh**, stopping just behind the present **Legislative Building** of the **State Capitol**.

The *Raleigh Register*, 24 Mar 1840 carried the following description of this exciting event: **PHIZZZ - ZZZ - ZZ**. This is as near, as we can come in type, towards expressing the strange sound which greeted the ears of the assembled population of our city, on urday evening last. About six o'clock of that day the first Steam Locomotive, that ever snorted amongst the hills of **Crab-tree**, reached



The locomotive *Romulus Saunders* ran on the **Raleigh & Gaston RR** in the 1850s. Dr. William J. Hawkins, center, is the RR President. In the foreground is the son of Rufe Smith, fireman.

the limits of our City, and enthusiastically welcomed with every demonstration of joy. The bells rang, the artillery roared and the people cheered. **HUZZA! HUZZA! HUZZA! ...**

On 27 Mar 1840, the *Raleigh Register* reported: **Our Rail Road.** The Raleigh and Gaston Rail Road is now in full operation--the cars arriving from, and departing to the North, daily, with Passengers and Mails. The Passenger Cars are entirely new, of very handsome construction, and possessing comforts and conveniences not always found in them. The Northern Train left for the first time on Wednesday last, about 2 o'clock, P.M. and notwithstanding a driving snow, that turned the noses of the most resolute blue, a large Company collected to witness their departure.

Celebration

A 3-day celebration in June, 1840 honored the railroad and the newly completed capitol building. M.N. Amis in his book *Historical Raleigh*, published in 1913, describes the festivities: "...men, women and children came to see the new wonders--the State-House, the railroad and locomotive. At night the trees of Capitol Square were illuminated with colored lamps, as well also as was Fayetteville Street. Gorgeous transparencies could be everywhere seen. One was a representation of a locomotive, another of the State-House. ..."

Kemp P. Battle added: "... men, women, and children flocked in to see the new wonder. Ruffin's Richmond band discoursed sweet music for the occasion. The Tornado [the first locomotive to reach Raleigh] was constantly employed in making excursion trips into the country for the delection of visitors. ..."

The R & G RR tracks were made of wooden sills across which strips of oak plan were nailed lengthwise and upon these long strips of oak iron strips were fastened with counter-sunk iron bolts. Sometimes these bolt heads would wear out, causing the iron strips to buck up and sometimes

penetrate the passenger coaches before the engine could be stopped, as described by Rev. Whitaker above.

Early trains

Early engines, the "Raleigh" and the "Gaston", were ordered from C. Tayleur & Company of England and transported to NC by sailboat. They were small and primitive with 2 large wheels on each side of the boiler and a tall smokestack. They had no whistle, bell or cab and the engineer stood out in the open weather between a stack of wood and a barrel of water. The coaches were also small with 4 wheels and a door on the sides. Although seats were wooden benches, passenger cars did have canvas tops.

Amis tells us, "Frequently the locomotive would jump the track as if attempting to take to the woods, leaving the train crew helpless until assisted by the neighboring farmers and field hands to place it back on the track. Sometimes the passengers would be forced to get out of the coach and push the train up the hill or grading."

From the Fourth Annual Report of the Raleigh & Gaston, June, 1840: "The road has been divided into four sections, on each of which an overseer is employed, with a number of hands sufficient to keep it in repair. Slaves have been exclusively employed, and to avoid unnecessary waste and extravagance, contracts have been made with their owners for feeding and clothing them. The price paid for the hire, food and clothing of each is \$150 per annum for sound, able-bodied men. Though apparently a high price, this arrangement will, we believe, prove most economical.

"There are eight depots on the line, besides the one at Raleigh. At each of these an agent is employed, who furnishes the requisite labor, and receives compensation for his ser-

vices, in proportion to the importance of the depot, the number of hands employed, and the amount of business done.

In 1855, the R&G RR was extended from Gaston to Weldon, NC.

[The first part of this article is from *Whitaker's Reminiscences, Incidents and Anecdotes*, by Rev. R. H. Whitaker, D.D., Raleigh, NC, published in 1904. For anyone interested in the more technical aspects of the construction of the railroad, the *Raleigh Register* 10 Apr 1840, carried a detailed description furnished by Chief Engineer, C.F.M. Garnett, Esq.]



Rail Road Notice.

—:§:—

PASSENGERS going North, and especially those who desire to pass through Washington and Baltimore, or to visit the Virginia Springs, are respectfully informed, that a TRAIN OF CARS with the Mail and Passengers from Tarboro' via Halifax, leave Blakely regularly three times a week, running thro' to Petersburg and Richmond in time for the Western

Line of Stages,

Through Lynchburg and Charlottesville and Staunton, and for the Daily Mail train of the Richmond and Fredericksburg Rail Road, arriving by this Line at Washington to dinner and in Baltimore by 8 o'clock in the evening.

Passengers who take the
Wilmington and Halifax Line,



Will find the route by the Petersburg Rail Road the most certain and agreeable and although the Mail Train of Cars, leave but three times a week, yet almost every day an Engine with a train by which Passengers can be conveyed; leaves Blakely and arrives at the junction with the Greenville and Roanoke Rail Road in good time to take the Daily Express Mail Line for the North, which connects at Petersburg with all the fast Northern Lines of Rail Road, steamboats or stages.

OFFICE PETERSBURG RAIL ROAD CO. }
14th Aug. 1837. }

HALIFAX, CONT. FROM P. 1

were encamped along Quanky Creek.

On May 3, scouting parties learned that Tarleton's dragoons had crossed **Fishing Creek** and were advancing along the **Huckleberry Swamp Road**. Gov. Nash, Gen.

Jones and the other officers held a hasty conference. It was decided that it would be a useless expenditure of life to undertake to oppose the advance of the British with untried militia against Tarleton's veteran cavalry. The **American** troops withdrew toward **Warrenton, Warren Co., NC**. Halifax quickly put aside its military appearance and assumed the air of an unpretentious village.

Tarleton described the scene at Halifax: "The Americans were charged and defeated in detached parties, in the environs and in the town, before they had settled any regular plan of operation: The ground about half a mile in front of Halifax afforded a strong position, of which they did not avail themselves; but they were surprised whilst assembling on the wrong side of the bridge over a deep ravine, and were routed with confusion and loss: The only useful expedient which they had adopted was the securing a number of the boats belonging to the inhabitants of the place on the other side of the river, where a party began to intrench themselves, and from whence they fired upon the British when they approached the bank."

Guards were placed on all the avenues to the post, and spies were dispatched to gain intelligence. Lt. Col.

Hamilton, who was familiar with that section of NC, and was a volunteer on this expedition, assisted in these activities. Tarleton sent a report to Cornwallis describing the situation of the enemy on the opposite bank of the river and requesting the light

hind the ravine half a mile from the town. In this situation he earnestly watched every path and road to his camp, and collected a number of boats below the town.

Cornwallis replied that the body of the **King's** troops could not advance

beyond **Vivaret's [Viverette's] Mill [Nash Co]**, before favourable news was obtained from VA; that the light company of the guards could not proceed for want of horses; but that Tarleton might stay a few days at Halifax if he thought it safe.

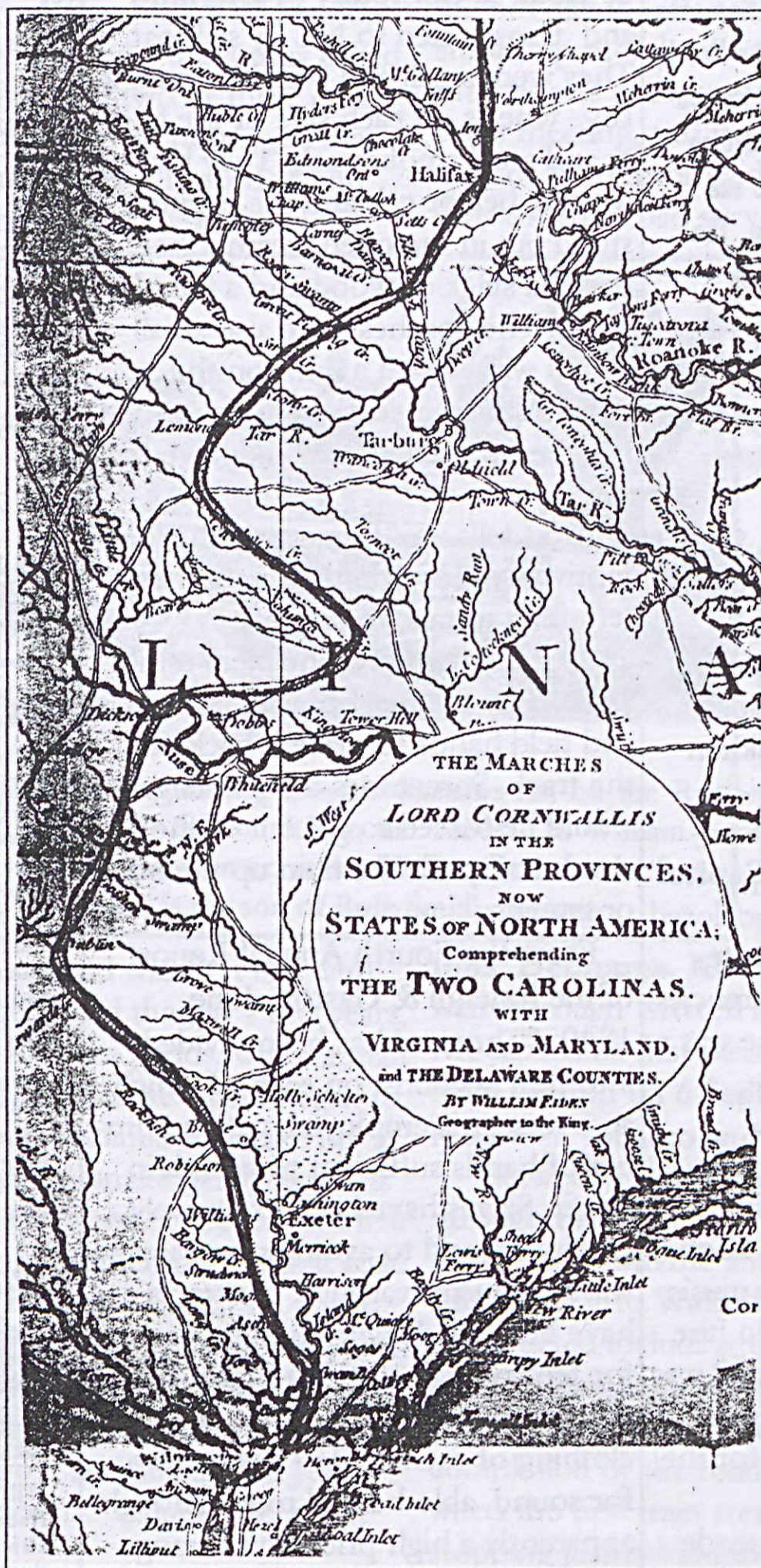
Foraging parties were sent out to gather supplies for the British army before they crossed the **Roanoke River** and moved on to VA. **John H. Wheeler**, in his *Historical Sketches of North Carolina*, tells us: "...Col. Tarleton, near 'Twanky Chapel,' in Halifax County, either from a scarcity of provisions or from a malicious desire to destroy the property of the American citizens who were opposed to the British, caught all the horses, cattle, hogs, and even fowls that he could lay hands on, and destroyed or appropriated them to his own use. The male, and most of the female inhabitants of the country fled from the approach of the British troops, and hid themselves in the swamps and forests adjacent ..."

The far out-matched **Patriot** forces kept watch, making swift, daring raids on the British whenever they could.

Small bands had attacked at **Swift Creek** and Fishing Creek as Tarleton approached Halifax, and they continued to pester the British at Halifax.

W.C. Allen in *History of Halifax County*, tells this story: "In one of the

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



company of the guards be detached on horseback to assist him in the defence of his post. While he waited, Tarleton changed his ground, leaving Halifax under the inspections of an advanced picket during the day while he took a position with his corps be-

bold dashes of the patriots into Halifax, one of the American cavalry men became separated from his comrades, and, as he dashed for safety across Quanky bridge, was confronted on the bridge by several of the enemy. Beset behind and before, he reared his horses and made him leap the railing, plunging to the water thirty feet below. The horse was killed, but the daring hero made his escape."

On May 10th, Cornwallis entered Halifax. He immediately ordered Lt. Col. Tarleton to cross the river and explore the country between there and **Petersburg**, VA. The troops had not gone more than 4 miles when Cornwallis, attended by 6 dragoons, overtook them and halted their march. On the arrival of a group of local people, Cornwallis directed Tarleton to dismount his dragoons and mounted infantry and to form them into ranks "for the convenient inspection of the inhabitants, and to facilitate the discovery of the villains who had committed atrocious outrages the previous evening. A sergeant and one private dragoon were pointed out and accused of rape and robbery: They were conducted to Halifax, where they were condemned to death by martial law. The immediate infliction of the sentence exhibited to the army and manifested to the country the discipline and justice of the British general." [Tarleton's *A History of the Southern Campaign*]

Look Here

ଓଡ଼ିଆ

The subscriber will sell a fine young *Mare*, by Andrew, in foal by a thorough bred horse. Also a tip-top saddle and harness *Horse*. Persons wishing to buy will apply, or address me at this place.

I.W.W.DRAKE

Nashville, Jan. 4th, 1839


Registered Letter Makes the Rounds

On June 26, 1902, a registered package was sent from the small **Nash County, NC** post office of **Nick**, just below the tiny community of **Ita** in **Halifax Co, NC**. Two days later, by the time it reached the **Brinkleyville Post Office** in **Halifax Co, NC**, a distance of only 20 miles, it had passed through 8 post offices and ridden 2 trains.

Below are the 8 post offices and two trains:

1. **Nick, George W. Sexton,**
Postmaster
2. **Gold Rock, Edward M. Drake,**
Postmaster
3. **Battleboro, John B. Stokes,**
Postmaster. The letter boarded the
Atlantic Coast Line Railroad
(Wash. & Charles.) Train 78, and
was stamped by **R.H. Barnitz.**
4. **Weldon, John H. Howard,**
Postmaster. The letter was put on
the **Seaboard Railroad (Norf. &**
Ham.) Train 4_ on June 27th. and
was stamped by **J. Gibson.**
5. **Littleton, M. Murray Fergeson,**
Postmaster.
6. **Panacea, Cicero B. Harriss,**
Postmaster.
7. **Terrapin, Minnie E. Hardy,**
Postmistress.
8. **Brinkleyville, Medora P. Partin,**
Postmistress.

[illegible]

U. S. P. O. D. REGISTERED PACKAGE.	
BE SURE TO SEAL THIS PACKAGE SECURELY, AND TO POSTMARK IT PLAINLY.	
<div>Fourth-class P.M.s. must write in ink, in the brackets, on each envelope, the names of their Post Offices, wherever they receive a new supply.</div>	<div>[P. O. <u>Nick</u> State, <u>N.C.</u>]</div>
<div>Postmark of  Mailing Office, on date when mailed.</div>	
No. <u>39</u>	
POSTMASTER AT <u>Brimleyville</u>	
COUNTY OF <u>Halifax</u>	
STATE OF <u>N.C.</u>	

PATENTED JUNE 14, 1874.

KEEP BY DRAWING POINT OF KNIFE FROM M TO M WITHOUT DETACHING END OF ENVELOPE

[Submitted by Hiram and Phil Perkinson.]

Search and Research

Land Grants in North Carolina

PRESENTED BY MARGARET HOFMANN

The first land grants in North Carolina were issued in 1663 when the area was the **Province of North Carolina**. From then until 1729, patents for granting public land were issued by the **Lords Proprietors of Carolina**; from 1735 to 1775, the rights belong to the **Crown of England** except in the upper half of the colony where **John, Earl of Granville** issued grants from 1748 to 1763 when the office was closed due to the death of Lord Granville. In 1775, immediately prior to the collapse of royal authority, the Crown ordered the land office in the lower half of the colony closed. As a result, new settlers could not take up vacant lands until North Carolina declared itself a sovereign state, adopted a written constitution and addressed the issue.

In 1777, a law was passed allowing anyone who took the oath of allegiance to the new state to purchase vacant land at the rate of 50 shillings per hundred acres. With a few exceptions, a single man could purchase 640 acres for himself and an additional 100 acres for his wife and each child. Although the law seems to apply to adult males, unmarried and widowed women could also take out patents for land. If a patentee died while the grant was pending, the patent might be issued in his name without reference to his death. Occasionally, patents were issued in the names of infants and minor children, probably indicating the death of the enterer. Young children could own land, but they could not sell it until they were 21 years of age. Landowners retained full mineral rights to the land.

The act of 1777 stipulated the procedure for issuing grants. Each county appointed an entry taker and a surveyor. The entry taker received a written description of the land to be purchased and the purchase money and fees from the potential purchaser. He copied the description into his entry book and let it lie for 3 months. He then issued a warrant to the surveyor authorizing him to survey the land. The surveyor prepared a plat and made two copies of it. If he could not find enough vacant land to make up the full acreage, he issued a "certificate of deficiency of land" so that part of the purchase money might be refunded. The surveyor sent the warrant and the two plats to the secretary of state where a patent was drawn up. One copy of the plat was attached to the patent and the other was filed with the original warrant in his office. The patent was sent to the governor for signature and a seal, then returned to the secretary of state for his signature. This completed the grant. In April and October of each year, the entry takers from the various counties came to the secretary of state's office with the purchase money and fees collected during the past 6 months. The secretary of state gave each entry taker a package of grants; if payment for a grant were lacking, that grant was removed and retained by the secretary of state. The entry taker then delivered each original signed and sealed grant to the proper grantee. The grantee was obligated to have his grant recorded by the register of deeds in his county within 12 months. This process remained basically unchanged until the land office closed in 1959 and the last patent was issued on 5 April 1960.

[Margaret Hofmann was the speaker at the March meeting of Tar River Connections. She is the author of numerous books on genealogy.]

Headache, Head Ailments

Early North Carolina Folklore

- Never go in one door of a house and out of another; if you do, it will give you a headache.
- You must not cut your hair in March, for you will have headaches the rest of the year.

- To cure headaches, the next time the sufferer's hair is cut, bury the cuttings in the middle of aspring that rises on the north side of a hill.
- To walk in another's track will give that person the headache.
- Stepping continuously in another's footprints will cause severe headaches.
- If a bird gets your hair combings and makes a nest of them, you

- will have a headache all the year (or as long as the nest is used, or the rest of your life, or until it grows back again.)
- If a bat strikes you on the head, you will suffer with headaches the remainder of your life.



Halifax Women Defy British

In May, 1781, British troops occupied Halifax, Halifax Co., NC. They remained several days and the English officers quartered among the families in the town. In particular, they stayed at the Grove Plantation, home of Willie Jones and at the home of Nicholas Long.

Tradition attributes to Mrs. [Willie] Jones, daughter of Col. Montfort, a passage of wit between her and British Lt. Col. Tarleton, who was wounded in the hand by a sabre cut, by the sword of Col. William Washington at Cowpens, SC. When Tarleton spoke of Washington in opprobrious terms, as an illiterate, ignorant fellow, hardly able to write his name, Mrs. Jones replied, "Ah! Colonel, you ought to know better, for you bear on your person proof that he knows *very well how to make his mark*." As she said this she glanced at Tarleton's hand which bore the scar of Washington's sabre stroke. The fiery Briton turned red, but continued the conversation.

On another occasion, Tarleton sneared sarcastically, "I would be happy to see Col. Washington." He understood Washington was diminutive and ungainly in person. Mrs. J.B. Ashe (sister of Mrs. Willie Jones), at whose house British Gen. Leslie and other British officers were quartered, replied, "If you had looked behind you, Colonel Tarleton, at the battle of the Cowpens, you would have enjoyed that pleasure."

This was too much to the already chafed officer; his hand involuntarily grasped the hilt of his sword. At this moment, General Leslie entered the room, and observing his Colonel very angry, and the lady agitated, he inquired of her the cause of her emo-

tion. She explained the cause, to which the gallant General said, with a smile: "Say what you please, Mrs. Ashe, Colonel Tarleton knows better than to insult a lady in my presence."

John H. Wheeler, in his *Historical Sketches of North Carolina*, tells this tale of the British occupation of Halifax: "...while every one else left the premises on which she lived, Mrs. Powell (then Miss Bishop) stood her ground, and faced the foe fearlessly. But it would not do; they took their horses and cattle, and among the former, a favorite pony of her own, and drove them off to the camp, which was about a mile distant.

"Young as she was, she determined to have her pony again, and she must necessarily go the British camp, and go alone, as no one would accompany her. And alone she went, on foot, at night, and without any weapon of defence, and in due time arrived at the British camp.

"By what means she managed to gain an audience with Tarleton is not known; but she appeared before him unannounced, and raising herself erect, said 'I have come to you, sir, to demand restoration of my property, which your knavish fellows stole from my father's yard.'

" 'Let me understand you, Miss,' replied Tarleton, taken completely by surprise.

" 'Well, sir,' said she, 'your roguish men in red coats came to my father's

yard about sundown, and stole my pony, and I have walked here, alone and unprotected, to claim and demand him; and sir, I must and will have him. I fear not your men; they are base and unprincipled enough to dare to offer insult to any unprotected female; but their cowardly hearts will prevent them doing her bodily injury.' And, just then, by the light of a camp fire, espying her own dear little pet pony at a distance, she continued, 'There, sir, is my horse, I shall mount him and ride peaceably home; and if you have any of the gentlemanly feeling within you of which your men are totally destitute, or if you have any regard for their safety, you will see, sir, that I am not interrupted. But before I go I wish to say to you that he who can, and will not prevent this base and cowardly stealing from hen roosts, stables, and barn-yards, is no better, in my estimation, than the mean, good-for-nothing, guilty wretches who do the dirty work with their own hands! Good night, sir.' And, without waiting further, she took her pony uninterrupted, and galloped safely home; Tarleton was so much astounded that he ordered that she should be permitted to do as she chose."

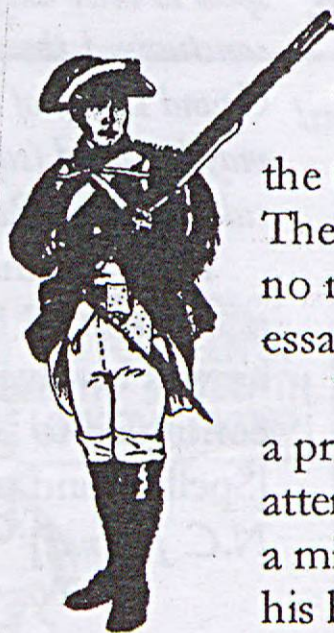
Other women at Halifax commended by Wheeler include Mrs. Allen Jones, sister of Isaac Edwards, the English Secretary of Gov. Tryon, and Mrs. Nicholas Long, the former Miss McKinny.

CONNECTOR

British Cocked Hat

The hats of the Serjeants to be laced with silver. Those of the Corporals and Private Men, to have a white tape binding. The breadth of the whole to be one inch and a quarter; and no more to be on the back part of the brim, than what is necessary to sew it down. To have black cockades.

The cocking a soldier's hat in a becoming manner, being a principal ornament to his appearance, should be very much attended to: the short, smart cock is certainly most adapted to a military man, as it always gives a sort of martial air, adds to his height, and always fits firm on his head: ...



Letter From Col. Nicholas Long to Gen. Sumner

HALIFAX, June 9th, 1781

DEAR SIR:

... You seem to limit me to a small number of artificers [craftsmen], which I think will be inadequate to furnishing the army with necessaries most essentially required ... The following is a Catalogue of various Soldiers employed as artificers, Waggoners, &c., under my direction, vizt:

- Armourers: **David Arnold, John Coleman, George Dillard**
- 4 Black Smiths: **Samuel Weldon, Samuel Williams, Levi Guthrie, William Campbell**
- Artificers, 9 in wood: **Thomas Cullum**, Cartouch Box Maker; **John Fitzgerald**, Gunstocker; **Zachary Dillard**, Gunstocker, **James Sykes**, Gunstocker, **Peter Robertson & Henry Overstreet**, have excellent negroes for getting gun stocks, &c, sawing,

carpentering, &c., **Joshua Gamon**, Canteen maker, **Joshua Jones**, Canteen maker, **George Smith**, Canteen maker

- 3 Taylors in camp: **Spencer Snow, Mark Brown, George Ware**. Invalid Taylor, **Thomas Tucker**
- Waggoners, 9: **William ____**, **Dun Dunbar**, **Willis Holmes**, **William Parker**, **Jno. Barrett**, **Richard Stephens**, **Solomon Gordon**, **Julius Nichols Jr.**, **George Aaron**

Waggoners, 11, Old Contl. Soldiers: **Jno. Casey**, **William Reasoner**, **William Briant**, **Shoebill Clegghorn**, **Burwell Lucy**, **Will Taylor**, **William Williams**, **Peter Hessian**, **Daniel Foster**, ____ **Roberds**, One more man

Express Rider: **Samuel Taylor**. He is not capable or marching, finds himself a horse, and is a proper person for that business, and we have no money to expend for that purpose. I should be glad you let him return to me. 40 in all.

I have forgot waggon makers, &c., here is: **James Faucett**, **John Kelly**, **James Amis**, **Jesse Lane**.

NICHOLAS LONG, D.Q.M.G.

DUEL, CONT. FROM P. 3

*he (the Doctor) was not a gentleman. ... Would a gentleman stoop to the degrading office of a mischievous incendiary, and endeavour by misrepresentations to set friends at variance? ... Would a gentleman render an account ... of a certain amount and at another time produce another account for the same services of a larger amount? Would a man of courage wilfully affront a gentleman and refuse him satisfaction? Is not appearing in the public streets stript, blustering, bullying, cursing and swearing, rioting as much as one man could make so? Is the drawing a knife on a friend, and that friend scarcely able to walk, to be considered as a noble manly action, or as an assault? By such conduct as this had Doctor Barry set a stamp on his own character, and has thereby forfeited the good opinion of every person of note in and about Tarborough, and is not now admitted as a visitant in any reputable family in town. Please give the above a place in your next paper, and oblige your obedient servants, **John Ingles, Thomas Guion, H. Haywood, J.E. Woodman, Charles Gerrard, Edward Hall, W. Clements, Edward Bignal, N. Mathewson, John G. L. Schenck**.*

Dr. Barry comes to his own defense: HALIFAX, April 25, 1796.— ... the rectitude of my conduct will bear the strictest test of enquiry;... At the Tarborough races a subscription for a ball was proposed; which subscription I understood was not to be handed to me. Surprised at this information, I sent a friend to **Nathan Mathewson** ... in order to enquire the motive, to whom Mathewson observed that this measure had been taken in consequence of my connections: ... He (Mathewson) solemnly appealing to heaven, protested that he was not materially concerned; but that three or four gentlemen, naming Blount, Ingles,

*Clements and Dr. Haywood had met at the tavern, and that some of them suggested the impropriety of presenting the subscription to me, alledging that the ladies of the town would feel their delicacy hurt at dancing with me, in consequence of an intimacy supposed to exist between a certain lady and myself—delicacy forbids me to mention her name—but who it was that made the motion, says he, I cannot recollect; ... attempts abortive in discovering the author, and seeing Blount the first subscriber as well as the writer of the preamble to the subscription, an anxious and determined resolution to have the matter cleared up dictated the propriety of the following letter [the challenge]. Mr. Blount thought proper not to answer, and ... he set out for **Philadelphia**. Determined then to receive satisfaction, I pursued him to Halifax, when and where I sent him a challenge by Dr. Ponton. Necessity compels me to mention that a number of these subscribers are **Masons**, to wit, [Nathan] Mathewson, [Charles] Gerrard, [William] Clements, [John] Ingles, and the poor noddle [Thomas] Guion, three of whom are even Arch Masons, have without any regard or retrospect to their duty to me as Masons, screened themselves under this sanctuary. I therefore as a member of that institution and of the Grand Lodge of this state, sincerely wish an emergent (sic) meeting may be called (suppose at Halifax) to take this conduct into consideration. ... Redmond Dillan Barry.*

How did the story end? We really don't know the details. In 1797, Dr. Barry moved to **Raleigh, NC** where he was involved in even more scandal. Thomas Blount continued to serve in Congress until his death in 1812. [Spelling and punctuation are as they appeared in the **N.C. Journal**.]

Dissolution of the Union

BY SAM. E. WESTRAY

NASH CO. N.C.

[Senior speech, 1858, University of NC]

This all absorbing and momentous topic which of late has become the theme both of the learned and the ignorant is of such mighty import to us free men that tho the very word Dissolution ought rather to be a check to the rash and a stumbling block to the fanatic rather than the subject of the demagogue and the theme of the confessor. What I ask would be the result of a disunion. Let the tale of the roaring Cannon and the din of arms echo how the result will be. When a civil war shall have been proclaimed through out the length and breadth of our land then we may look out for some ambitious foreign power to bring assistance to one of them. And when they shall have been victorious will like the Romans of old themselves assume the helm of sovereignty. Then will the Stars and Stripes be folded. And never again may we behold that soul inspiring emblem of our liberty floating over free men on the tended field or be urged to deeds of glory and be renown by its presence. All this would again certify the maxim that man is incapable of self government and give European sovereigns the pleasure of chuckling over the down-fall of this great republic. But some may say as we are divided in sentiment we should be divided in territory also. This I deny for though petty differences and party intrigues may occasionally disturb our peace yet our political horizon again becomes bright as a sunrise morn. But let once the dark cloud of disunion settle well over our land its sumber hours will quickly envelop all that was once the pride and glory of America. Then may the sage of the Old World stroll forth at sunsets balmy hour and pointing at the bright day god as he kisses the sparkling wave for the last time, instruct

his youngsters about the far away land where civil liberty once found a home and also a grave. To the enthusiastic secessionist I would say go look at the records of revolutionary France. And see what they say of a people left to themselves without law and without government. Go I would say and read their religion in the Epitaphs on the Tombstones of the departed that death is an eternal sleep that knows no awaking. Such are services of evil effects that will necessarily arise from a dissevered and ill organized government. In the next place I would ask will the Americans be any better off after they had seceded than before? Most assuredly not but much worse. Self love then aside from other interests would dictate that we should hold together united by the strongest bonds both of friendship and self interest. And in bidding adieu to this subject I would say long may America survive the shocks of the crafty and intrigues of the designing until at length like the mighty oak of the forest she may stand unmoved by all the storms that bound around her.

{This speech clearly voices Samuel Westray's feelings about secession in 1858. ...}

Samuel Westray is a descendant of the Westray family that settled the Nash Co. community of Westrayville (See *Westrayville*, *The Connector*, Fall, 1997).

[Submitted by Larry Jones, TRC Member]

Faded Writing

If writing is too faded to read, use a 75 watt black light bulb in any lamp that casts light directly on the written page. The writing will miraculously appear.

[Submitted by Barbara Dupree, TRC Member]

PEANUTS

2-3-00



RESIGNATIONS OF MILITIA OFFICERS

Abstracts of letters of Resignations of Militia Officers in North Carolina 1779-1840, compiled and abstracted by Timothy Kearney. The following is a list of those known resignations from Nash County. Nash was in the 7th Division, 17th Regiment and the 22nd Regiment.

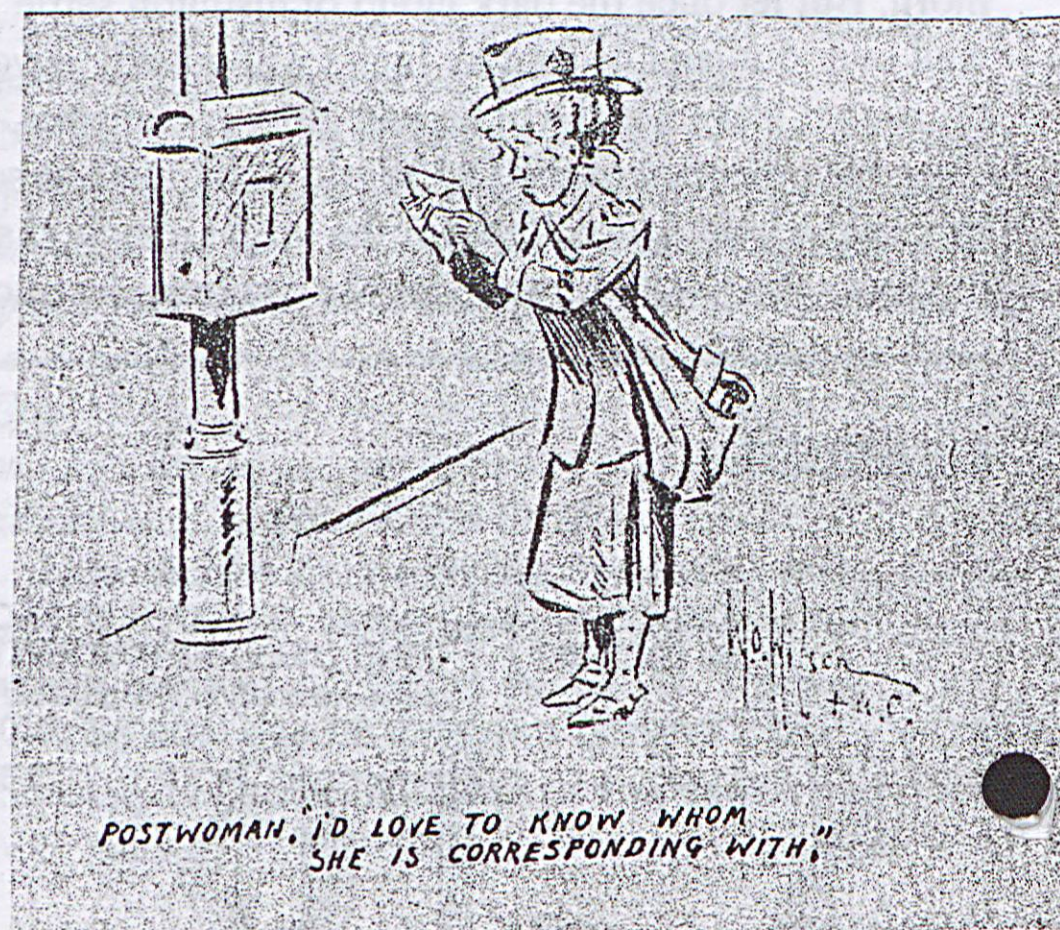
- **J.J. Clinch** (Nov/Dec Session) 1st Colonel
- **John Bonds** 16 Dec 1799 Colonel and also Justice of the Peace
- **Wm. Avent** 16 Oct 1810 1st Major. "I recommend **Benj. Mason** to be appointed in my stead as he is the eldest Captain and I think worthy of the appointment.)
- **Archibald Griffin** 10 Dec 1813 Lt. Colonel Comdt.
- **J. Crowell** 28 Sept 1814 2nd Major

- **Benj. Mason** 14 April 1817 1st Major
- **J. A. Broome** Oct. 1828 **Rocky Mount.** "I resign the appointment conferred upon me Dec. 1821 as a Colonel Commandant of **Pitt County Regiment of the Second Brigade**, and take the liberty of recommending Adj. **Benjamin Joiner.**"
- **D. Harrison** 18 Nov 1828 Lt. Colonel
- **Caleb Leonard** c. 1831 Lt. Colonel
- **Wm. M. Hammonds** Major, appointed 31 Jan 1831
- **Dempsey Winstead** 13 Dec 1835 Lt. Colonel 22 NC Regiment
- **Arael Vick** 13 Nov 1835 Colonel 22nd N.C. Regiment, **Nashville**
- **James N. Mann** 12 March 1836 Major, **Hilliardston**
- **Joseph Arrington** 15 July 1836 Brig. General 17th Brigade
- **John E. Lindsay** 28 Sept 1842 Colonel 22nd Regiment

Early Person Co. Post Offices and First Postmasters PO's Established by 1875

<u>Name</u>	<u>First Postmaster</u>	<u>Date Appt.</u>
Allensville	James W. Thomas	9 Nov 1855
Arcadia	Benjamin Sumner	2 Feb 1833
Bethel Hill	John E. Montague	5 Dec 1860
Bushy Fork	William A. Bradsher	7 Sep 1855
Cameron's Mill	Isham Malone	14 Jun 1832
Centre Grove	John K Bumpass	3 Jul 1856
Cochrain's Store	Simeon Cochrain	1 Jul 1822
Cross Roads	Wm. E. Wagstaff	3 Oct 1873
Cunning's Store	John Garner	1 Jul 1816
Daniel's Mills	William Daniel	24 Mar 1846
Five Forks	Bedford Vaughan	1 May 1850
Gordonton	Alexander Gordon	16 Mar 1830
Harmony	Alexander Walker	12 Jul 1847
Hester's Store	Robert H. Hester	17 Mar 1854
Hurdle's Mills	Hardy Hurdle	23 Jul 1859
Leas Chapel	Stephen C Morton	23 Mar 1870
Longs Cross Roads	John S. Long	7 Jul 1873
McMurray's Store	William McMurray	25 May 1825
Mill Creek	James H. Street	6 Sep 1841
Mount Tirzah	Charles Moore	1 Jul 1795
Olive Hill	James M Winstead	25 Jun 1846
Person C.H.	Charles Moore	25 Feb 1795
Point Pleasant	John W. Hamlet	11 Jan 1843

<u>Name</u>	<u>First Postmaster</u>	<u>Date Appt.</u>
Rogersville	John Rogers	7 Apr 1824
Roxborough	John Williams	21 Apr 1806
Tar River	Thomas Webb Jr.	30 Mar 1841
Van Hook's Store	Augustine Van Hook	29 May 18
Webbs Mills	James Daniel	4 Jun 1840
Williamsville	Carey Williams	1 Oct 1802
Winstead	James F. Sergeant	24 Jul 1873
Woodburn	Robert W. Lawson	22 Sep 1874
Woodsdale	Hugh Woods	2 Oct 1829
Yancey's Store	Tinsley A Yancey, Jr	16 Nov 1874



Settlement of Eastern North Carolina

BY M. W. "MONK" MOORE

- **1663** King Charles II, in his kingly wisdom, granted the land from approximately 40 mi. south of the **James River** to **Florida** to 8 Lord Proprietors. The area to the mouth of the **Cape Fear River** was known as **Albemarle**; the rest was **Clarendon**. Unfortunately, nobody came, because there was nothing here but a vast, desolate pine forest stretching from the sound to the **Miss. River**, broken only by several large lakes and some lands cleared by the Indians. The **Tuscarora Indians** and a few trappers and hunters in the northeast corner of the area were the only inhabitants. The only road was the Indian trading route, **Green Path** [*The Connector*, Winter, 2000], along what is now Hwy. 231 to the **Tar River** near **Green's Ford** and **Webb's Mill** [*The Connector*, Spring, 1998]. The first settlers to take up King Charles offer, beginning in the 1680's, traveled along the rivers: to **Bath** on the **Pamlico**; from **Surry Co., VA**, down the **Blackwater River** to **Chowan**, **Mufreesboro**, **Winton**, and **Edenton**; down the **Roanoke River** to **Plymouth** and **Halifax**; and along **Neuse River** to **Beaufort**, **New Bern**, **Kingston**, **Waynesboro**, **Smithfield**, and **Raleigh**.
- **1710** By this time, the area was pretty well settled, but the **Tuscarora Indian War** intervened.
- **1713** The expulsion of the **Tuscarora Indians** opened up the **Tar River** area of NC to settlement.

- **1720** **Old Sparta, Edgecombe Co.**, was settled by a party from VA. A fort was built at **Reddings Plantation** on the **Tar River**. The **Tarboro** vicinity was settled in 1722. By this time, about 20 families were living along the **Tar River**, including **James Thigpen**, **Thomas Elliot**, **Paul Palmer**, **James Anderson**, **Francis Branch**, **Samuel Spruill**, **James Long**, **Thomas Hawkins**, **William Burgis**, and **William Arrington**.
- **1739** **Francis Rountree**, on the south side of **Contentnea Creek** in **Wilson Co** just south of **Wilson**, built a flatboat landing. Later, a store was built on the site and cotton was shipped down stream and cotton cloth was shipped back from **England**. The local ladies rode their buggies out to shop at **Rountree's Store**. **Contentnea Creek**, also known as **Moccasin River**, was home of the **Moccasin River Steamboat Co.** It was actually given the power to kill anyone who blocked the navigation of the creek. [Hard to believe now when **Contentnea Creek** is only knee high in most sections!]
- **1740** The largest migration began in **Edgecombe Co.** **John Thomas** was given a grant on **Toisnot** in what later became **Wilson Co.** **Charles Evans** and **Francis Betters (Bettis)** and **Charles Evans, Jr.** were on **Town Creek**. In 1744, **Nicholas Sessums** purchased land in the **Town Creek** area. **Amos Johnston** built a mill at **Old Sparta** and his sons-in-law, **Joel Battle** and **Peter Evans**, started **Rocky Mount Mills**, the 2nd cotton mill in the state.

Between 1740 and 1760, the population grew and people were coming to areas that had been

CONNECTOR

unaccessible before by way of the smaller streams such as **Toisnot**.

- **1760** **Tarboro** was laid off. **Pitt County** was formed from **Beaufort Co.** and a small corner of **Edgecombe Co.**
- **1762** A toll bridge was built over the **Tar River** by **Joseph Howell** at **Howell's Ferry** in the **Rocky Mount** vicinity.
- **1764** **Tarboro** became the county seat of **Edgecombe Co.**, replacing **Enfield**. (Prior to this, it was ordered that a public house be built with sufficient amusement for people having to do business at the **Enfield Court**.)
- **1777** The **Nash-Edgecombe Co.** line was established from the **Great Falls of the Tar River** to the **Widow Rowe's Ferry** on **Contentnea Creek**, west of **Wilson** [later moved east to run along the railroad].
- **1807** A bridge was built across the **Tar River** at **Falls of the Tar [Rocky Mount]**. **Redmond** and **Joel Bunn**, **Nathan Gilbert**, and **John Watkins** were in charge of construction. It opened in 1811.
- **1820** Inland transportation was a major concern. The **Tar River** was impassable above the falls due to the rock formations and a man-made barrier farther upstream. A fish trap had been built by the **Tuscarora Indians** near present-day **NC 58**. As a result, a vast project was proposed—build a canal from **Toisnot**, just below **Dew's Mill** [now **Silver Lake**] to the **Tar River** above these obstacles. The project came to nothing.
- **1840** The **Wilmington and Raleigh RR** [later the **Wilmington and Weldon**] was completed from **Wilmington** to **Weldon, Halifax Co.**
- **1865** After the Civil War, trains and roads opened settlement in the **Tar River Basin**.

Mr. Ben White—Teacher at Solitaire

Soon after the close of the war [Civil War] **Mr. Ben White** came to teach our neighborhood boy school. He had taught this a year or two immediately preceding the war. The house in which he taught school was about a mile northeast of our home. It stood in a little clearing in the midst of the pine woods that lay between Father's farm and those of **Mr. Jesse Powell**, the **Bryans** and **Capt. Whitehead**. The site had been chosen as one central to all the neighbors. It was a lonely spot and some one had appropriately named it "**Solitaire**." The house, a plain, little wooden structure about twenty by forty feet, was used not only as the neighborhood school house but as a meeting house where the occasional preachers who came our way would deliver their sermons, and as a dance hall for the young people gathered there for their picnics.

Across the woods to the east about a quarter of a mile distant was the little home of **Mrs. Dosier**, a very old widow lady, who lived alone. She was a rather simple but very kindly old woman ... Sometime during Mr. White's sojourn in our neighborhood this old lady had fallen in love with him. ... She would go out to a smooth hard part of the path that he waled to and from school and scratch on the ground the words "I love you" with her initials. ... She confessed her love for him to Mother or to **Aunt Phareby** and said that nothing in the world was so beautiful to her as Mr. White walking to his school on spring mornings, that his red hair made such a pretty blend with the green young leaves and grass.

I was too young to go to his school, so it was through the older boys that I learned about his methods of discipline, the very simple one of thrashing them soundly on slightest occasion. He seems to have been an irascible man, and it may be that he let his temper get away with him in dealing with the boys.

I used to hear **Dr. W.H. Whitehead** laughingly tell

of the time he undertook to thrash my brother **Joe**. He resisted and fought back, and in the scuffle that followed, Mr. White got him down on the floor and sat astride of him, seizing him by the ears and bumping his head against the floor until he thought he had him subdued. Then he let him up and while Brother Joe scowled at him in sullen anger, he said with heavy sarcasm, "Joe, you look like you are sort of mad with me. Maybe you would like to hit me again; hit me, Joe, if you want to," thrusting his face close to Joe's, who promptly hit him again. Then they had their scuffle all over again.

Not being one of his pupils I did not see the harsher side of his nature. He boarded at our home, sleeping in an upper room of the "schoolhouse." As I remember he seemed a kindly gentle man. I didn't stand in the least awe of him, as I would have done if I had been one of his pupils. He made the first bow I ever had and taught me how to fix and shoot the arrow. This was my most prized possession, for children had very few toys of any kind then.

During the time that he lived at our home Mr. White married an **Alamance** lady, **Miss Norwood**. They lived in the school house, occupying the same room that Mr. White had used during his bachelor days, but I cannot remember whether they ate at our table or whether she did light housekeeping, preparing their own meals. She was a demure, gentle little lady, most unobtrusive but very friendly. At the close of the term after Mr. White was married he gave up his school and went to live on his farm near **Mebaneville** [now called **Mebane**].

[Taken from *Memoirs of Walter E. Phillips*. Mr. Phillips (1860-1939), great grand-son of **Hartwell Phillips** (?-1801), grandson of **Frederick Phillips** (1772-1837), and son of **Dr. James Jones Phillips** (1798-1874) and **Harriet Burt Phillips**, grew up at **Mount Moriah** in **Edgecombe County**, near the small town of **Battleboro**. His memoirs can be found at **Braswell Memorial Library** along with an excellent collection of **Phillips**, **Arrington**, **Battle**, **Bunn**, **Burt**, **Hyman**, **Lane**, **Parker**, and **Spruill** family material.]

Arithmetic at Solitaire?

SLATE EXERCISES:

(1)	(2)	(3)
4 <u>28</u>	3 <u>15</u>	2 <u>20</u>

Ans. 7

9	5	7
<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>

Ans. 18

1. Five goes into 5 how many times?
5 contains 5 how often?



2. One horse has 4 feet. How many feet have 2 horses? How



- many feet are 2 times 4 feet? 2 times 4 are how many?

3. Henry and James divided 10 marbles equally. How many marbles did each have?



4. How many times are 2 inches contained in 12 inches?

THOMAS HACKNEY BRASWELL
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ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804