

The Connector

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

Spring, 2001

Peggy Strickland & Billie Jo Matthews, Co- Editors

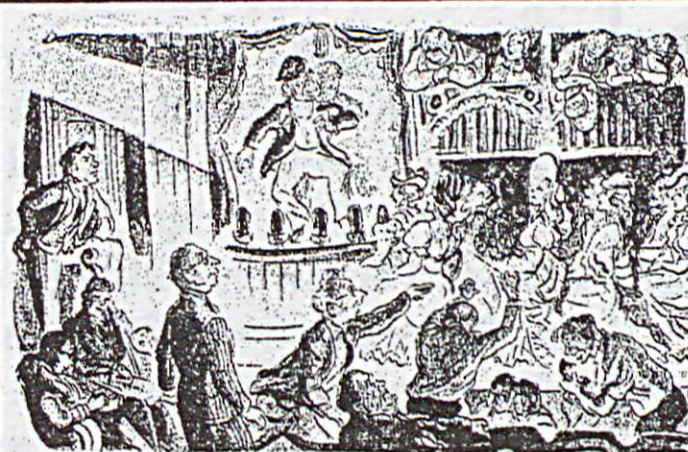
Number 5 Issue 2

Edna Ferber's Research for *Show Boat*

BEAUFORT COUNTY, NC

"I heard of a show boat that was headed for a little village in **North Carolina. The James Adams Floating Palace Theater**, it was called. ... I dashed down to Carolina, arrived at a town called **Washington** and engaged a colored boy with a **Ford** to drive me the thirty miles out to the little landing where the boat lay. ... I'll never forget that Ford. Its original structure probably derived from the well-known brand after which it was named. But its owner had, perforce, supplemented it with bits and pieces of old metal, wire, canvas and wood, held together, seemingly by chewing

gum, spit and faith. Every bolt, joint, hinge and curtain shook, rattled squeaked and flapped. I, in the back seat, was busy trying to hold the thing together. As a door swung spectrally open and I sprang to shut it a curtain would strain and threaten



One of Those Restful Dress Rehearsals Before the SHOW BOAT Opening.

to tear loose from the cotton thread that held it to the body of the car."

Edna Ferber had determined to write a novel about show boats when a friend mentioned such a boat, describing it as "... a floating theater. ... They'd come downstream, calliope tooting, and stop at the town landing to give their show. The actors lived and slept and ate and worked right there on the boat. The country people for miles around would hear the calliope screeching and they'd know the show-boat folks were in town." Ferber spent the next year happily researching show boats. When she heard of the James Adams Floating Palace Theater, she dashed down

SEE FERBER, PAGE 4

Tar River Rambler

BY LOUISE FULLER

A nation is made great, not by fruitful areas but by men who cultivated them; not by rivers and creeks but by men who learned to use them for their advantage. Long before our victory over **England**, private property was one of the basic **American** institutions. This nation was carved out of a wilderness by people who planned to own the land upon which they lived. By 1741 twenty families had "cut their way through the forest" to the **Falls of the Tar**.

Merchants **William Whitehead**, **William Richmond**, the **Hilliards**, **Lanes** and **Bryants** soon came to sell these brave people the items they needed which they could not make for themselves. **Jacob Lockerman**, a

descendant of **Govert Lookermanns** and reputed to be the richest merchant in **New Amsterdam**, set up shop on the **Tar River** just below **Spring Hope**. Land changed hands often. Within the space of 16 years the 100 acres where Lockerman and his 4 slaves sold his wares was owned by 6 people: **Charles Stephen**-
SEE RAMBLER, PAGE 5

B

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JAMES ADAMS FLOATING THEATRE

Toured coastal towns, 1913-1941. Edna Ferber's 1925 visit to ship, then docked nearby, was basis for her novel *Show Boat*.

Main Street in Bath, Beaufort County.

There's Iron in That Thar Swamp Nash County Iron Mine and Bloomery

In the early days, settlers either bought farm and household implements imported from **England** or they made them themselves. Since English goods were expensive and in short supply, it must have been a happy day when iron ore was discovered in a large clay hill along the southern banks of **Toisnot Swamp** in eastern **Nash County, NC** near the **Horne's Church** community. Ore was first mined, refined, and made into utensils and tools about 1779 by the **Bloomery Company** on land leased from **Thomas Horn, Jr.** It thrived throughout the **Revolu-**

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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

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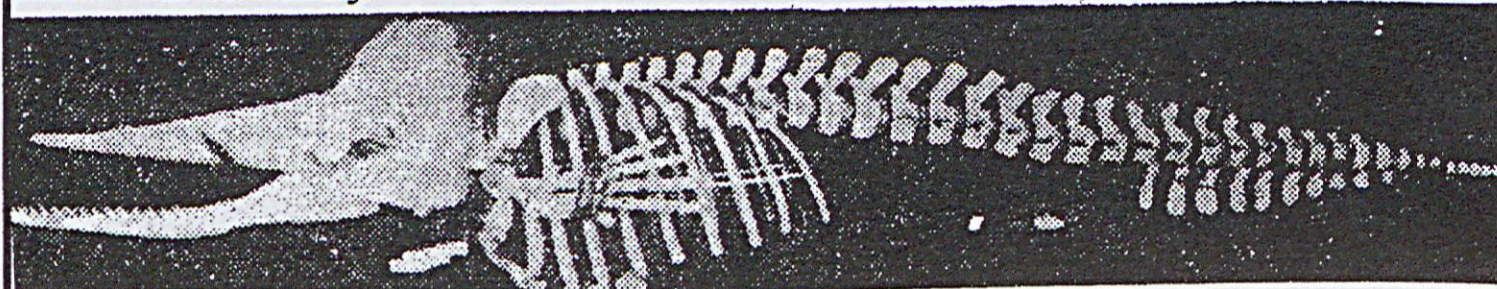
The Connector-Published Quarterly
Membership & Surnames-Annually

The Old Bone Footlog

Was it stones? No. Could it have been petrified logs? No. It was a 50-60 foot **whale skeleton** which spanned **Fishing Creek** and up both banks located about 2 miles north of **Whitakers** between **Nash** and **Hali-fax Counties, NC**. It was known as the old bone footlog and was a quick way to cross the creek, as well as making an ideal diving platform for local youngsters. The skeleton has now given away and the vertebrae dispersed down the creek, but for many years, there were pieces of the whale backbone being used as stepping stones, foot stools and door stops at homes around the area.

About 1880, people who owned land along Fishing Creek decided to investigate the petrified skeleton. **Major James Mayo, T.T. Thorne, Sr., and J.J. Bellamy** invited the curator of the **State Museum** to supervise the unearthing of the fossil remains. The skull was said have been 6 ft. long and 4 ft. wide. The skeleton is believed to have been from the Mio-cene period about 25,000,000 years ago when, apparently, the sea reached inland to about 8 miles west of **Nashville** in Nash Co.

There is evidence of several abandoned shorelines, consisting of low wave-cut bluffs or ridges, in Nash and **Edgecombe** Counties. Along the banks of **Tar River, Fishing Creek** and other waterways of the area, one can often see a strata of shells at the water line. At places, the layer is several feet deep. These shells and other fossils of plants and animals of the far distant past are fairly easy to find. Jagged shark teeth as large as a man's hand, scallop shells 6 inches wide, and oyster shells have been found by local collectors. In 1963, **Van Anderson**, then 10, and **Ray Anderson**, then 7, found what was later identified as the tusk of an extinct walrus family.



The Old Bone Foot-log

Many legends and stories were told about the old bone footlog. During the day, no one hesitated to walk across it, but at night, eerie lights were said to circle around it. Hunters from other areas wouldn't cross it, because their dogs always acted strangely and would never set foot near it, even when they were on the trail of good game. Just before a storm, people nearby reported hearing the sound of splashing and rolling waters and moaning, as if a large animal were in pain.

Tarboro, Edgecombe Co., also had stories of whales. **Wheeler** mentions a whale skeleton near Tarboro in his book published in 1851. Also, in 1925, when workmen were excavating the site of the power plant, they unearthed a nearly complete skeleton of a **baleen whale** which was about 50 feet long. The well-preserved lower jawbones were over 13 feet long. Pieces of bone and other fossils continue to be found today.



Nash County Arts Council

My First Years in Rocky Mount

BY DR. MARGARET BATTLE

In 1933, holding my diploma in medicine and not much else, I stepped from the train [in **Rocky Mount, NC**] and was met by a high school boy who said he had a taxi. He guided me through another passenger train to get to his taxi, and so I missed the doctor's wife who had been sent to meet me.

The grapevine at the hospital did not waste any time telling me that **Dr. Newsom Battle** had been thoroughly disgusted that **Dr. Willis** had accepted me, a woman, as an intern. Also that one of the patients had said she did not want to see any woman intern. (This was to be my future sister-in-law.) But the hospital staff—doctors, nurses, office people—could not have been nicer to me.

Three years later, having finished my hospital training, I was ready to start practicing medicine. If I had to pay calls on unknown people, I thought it would be a good idea to be armed with a gun. The police department promptly told me I could not do that. So then I made one of my wisest decisions—I would make no house calls.

On rare occasions, I did make calls to patients I knew. One was to remove stitches from a middle-aged woman. I had no sooner arrived home than she called me to remind me I had left my diamond

SEE DR. BATTLE, PAGE 6

Boyish Antics—Chicken Stories

Noticing how nice newly plowed land looked, I decided I would have a



Ploughing a Rooster at Age 7

"new ground" myself. So, one Sunday while my mother was away, I made a plow-stock, then looked around to see what I would do for a horse. I spied a large rooster that **Mother** prized very highly, caught him, made a harness to fit, and put him to plowing. I finished my work, but just as I got through, the rooster refused to go. I unhitched him, but it was too much for him; he died that day. I thought I would get a switching, but when I took Mother to see my "new ground," she looked it over, and let me off

with a reprimand.

This story was told by **J.J. Thomas**, an **Alabamian** born in 1838, in his book *Fifty Years on the Rail*.

Another Chicken Story

J.J. Thomas' story reminded **George Strickland** of **Rocky Mount, NC** of his chicken adventure.

"Back when I was a kid of about 6 or 7, just before the war, my grandmother kept chickens in her back yard. My brother, **Bern**, and I, far from any likely fishing hole, decided to hone our fishing skills by fishing for chickens.

First we needed a rig. There was a reed patch just across the railroad and we each soon had a fine pole. There was plenty of string around to serve as line. Having seen **Grandma** feed the chickens dried corn, we decided to use that for bait. We found an ear of corn and managed to dislodge the kernels.

Then we had the problem of how to hook the corn on the line. We came up with the idea of drilling a hole in the kernel of corn so we could tie the string through it. We tried using a stick as a drill, but of course that didn't work. After much confabulation, we finally decided on a nail. If you'd ever tried to drill a hole in a corn kernel with a nail, you know it takes quite a while. We learned that a nail with little flanges on the point worked best. We persevered until we each had a piece of bait tied onto the string and we were ready to fish.

I have to confess that we were a tiny bit afraid of those chickens, so to be on the safe side, we stayed outside the fence. Just like with deep-sea fishing, we knew a couple of grains of corn weren't going to be enough to get the attention of the chickens. We needed chum to draw 'em, so we threw out a couple of handfuls of corn, and sure enough they came running.

We cast our bait in the middle of the pack, and believe it or not the chickens swallowed the bait. When a chicken went running off, we put our whole bodies into pulling back on those poles like **Bill Dance** setting the hook on a trophy bass. The poor chicken, wings flapping, would be jerked to a sudden stop, sometimes falling over backwards. We might have done this a couple of times, but of course, the corn would eventually pop right out of the chicken's mouth.

We never did get any keepers, but we had lots of fun!

FERBER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
to Washington, NC where she met **Charles Hunter** and his wife, **Beulah Adams** who was the sister of **James Adams**. But, unfortunately, the theater season was over. She had come too late. She arranged to join the boat the following April—1925, at **Bath, NC**, their first stop.

"When April came I went as eagerly as a lover to meet the show boat. ... Bath, North Carolina, turned out to be a lovely decayed hamlet on the broad **Pamlico River**. In the days of the Colonies Bath had been the governor's seat. Elms and live oaks arched over the deserted streets. Ancient houses, built by men who knew dignity of architectural design and purity of line, were now moldering into the dust from which they had come. The one hotel or boarding house in the town was a fine old brick mansion which had been the home of the governor of the North Carolina colony in the days before 1776. Its rooms were large, gracious and beautifully proportioned. In the main room was a fireplace so huge that a room was built inside it. A message awaited me from the Hunters. The show boat had been delayed and would be a day or two late. I could expect them at the landing next day, or the day after.

My heart sank as I ascended the broken stairway behind my large and puffing landlady. In the heel of each stocking, above the open-back flat slippers, was a hole the size of a silver dollar. She opened the door of my room. In contrast with the fresh April air outside the room smelled of mice, mold and mankind. My eye leaped to the bed. Then, boldly, I crossed to it and turned down the dingy covers. My worst fears realized, I turned an accusing glare upon my landlady.

"What's the matter?" she demanded.

"The sheets."

"D'ye mean you want them changed?" she asked, with that touch of irritation one might show if a guest were to demand why her own monogram did not appear on the hotel bed linen.

"I do," I replied with dignity and finality. "It is, I believe, customary."

Grudgingly she began to strip the bed under my stern eye. She muttered as she worked. "Only been slept in by my own daughter, and she only used 'em once. She

teaches school and comes home, sometimes. Saturdays. Only slept in 'em last Saturday night, fresh."

"Nevertheless—" I said, firmly.

"That night I slept practically suspended in midair, defying the law of gravity ... Little icy-footed mice skipped back and forth and chattered vixenishly in the wainscotings. I was up, haggard, to greet the April dawn. Breakfast was a grisly meal. A slab of indefinable blue meat floated in a platter of greenish grease. The black liquid mud in my cup was flanked by a tin can labeled **Klim**. My dulled senses finally conveyed to me the realization that this word was really milk spelled back-

wards. Leaving this lethal collation virgin as it had been set before me I wandered off to the little crossroads store a quarter of a mile distant that I had noted on my arrival. The musty little shop, as its doorbell dinged, assailed your nostrils with the mingled odors of kerosene, mice, broomstraw, tobacco juice and dampness. But I bought a slab of milk chocolate, well covered, a box of dampish crackers and a bag of last winter's apples. I surveyed the cheese and decided quickly against it. Fortified with this provender I made out very well for that day and part of the next.

And next morning the **James Adams Floating Palace Theater** came floating majestically down the **Pamlico** and tied up alongside the rickety dock. There began, for me, four of

the most enchanting days I've ever known.

There, on the lower deck near the ticket window, stood **Charles Hunter**, his eyeglasses glittering, his kind face beaming, and there stood **Beulah Adams Hunter**, the **Mary Pickford** of the rivers, with her fresh gingham dress and her tight little curls and her good and guileless face, for all the world like a little girl in a clean pinafore. Show folks. My heart leaped toward them; like **Tiny Tim** I loved them every one, from **Jo**, the colored cook, to the pilot of the tugboat.

...I lived, played, worked, rehearsed, ate with the company. I sold tickets at the little box-office window, I watched the Carolina countryside straggle in, white and colored. ...

Charles and Beulah Hunter gave me their own bedroom, ... a large square bright room, with four windows looking out upon the placid river and the green shores.

SEE FERBER, CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Edna Ferber
Seven—and Stage-Struck

RAMBLER, CONT. FROM PAGE 1

son (Stevens) who patented it April 6, 1745, **Thomas Brown, John Grantham, William Lane, Newitt Lane,** and **Samuel Bryant**. Much of the land remained in families of the original owners for several generations.

Deeds had to be registered at the Court House in **Enfield**, where they and other interesting things were recorded in the **Edgecombe Co. Court Minutes**. The names of some of the newcomers in what is now **Nash Co.** appeared in the Feb. 1744-Nov. 1745 court minutes. They include: **William Strickland**, who proved 3 whites; **Thomas Cockrell**, 4 whites; **Jacob Evans**, 8 whites; **William Andrews**, 10 whites; **William McGee**, 4 whites, 1 black; **W. Hopkins Wilder**, 5 whites; and **Robert Hilliard**, 4 whites and 16 blacks.

In order for the county to maintain law and order, the court sometimes appointed Constables without their consent and even imposed a fine of 50 shillings on them if they refused to take the oath to the king, to cause peace to be preserved and to compile a tax list. Constable **Nathaniel Sanders** may have been one of those. Sanders was summoned to court, ordered to give £25 proclamation money security for his behavior for 12 months or stand committed. (He had stabbed **Jacob Braswell**, reason not stated). Sanders must have given the security as later that day, he was ordered to bring

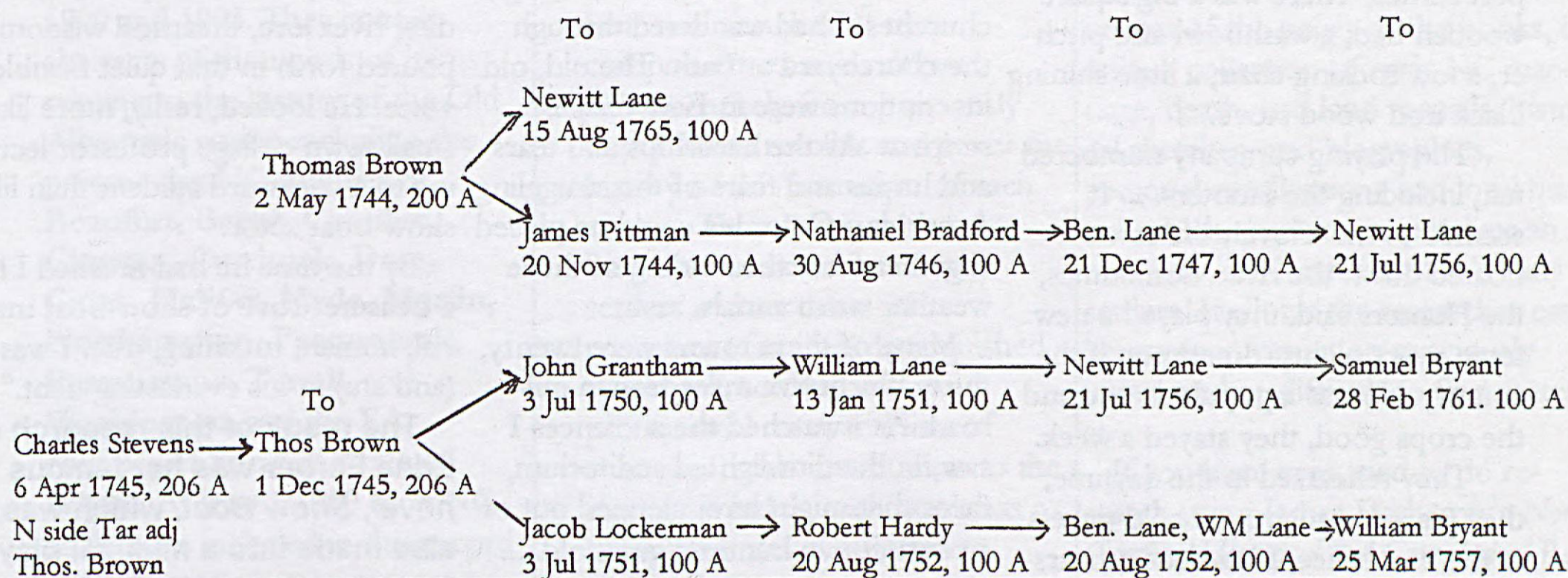
Robert Lassiter into court for "feloniously stealing 2 horses and a mare from **Robert Hilliard**".

The sheriff reported "that some evil disposed persons have burnt the Public Gaol". At that court session no one had been found to rebuild the jail.

(The state at this time was experiencing a money crisis. There were too many varieties in use and not enough for the populace to use. Counterfeiting was plaguing the entire state, but mainly with paper money.)

The court ordered the previous sheriff to pay **Hardy Cane** (the abstract I read said **Lane**) money for his trouble "in detecting some money coiners". A warrant had been issued to Constable Cane to search **Richard Braswell's** house because Braswell was accused of "passing and uttering false coins". The search had been made and Braswell had been brought to court where he confessed his guilt. Cane exhibited a small barrel containing several little wooden moulds, some brass and pewter mettle, some chalk and boraic. Braswell and the barrel with its contents were carried by Constable Cane to the public gaol in **Edenton, NC** to be kept there until he shall be thence discharged by due course of law. The jail had not yet been rebuilt. Was Braswell carried to Edenton for trial in a higher court or because those evil persons had burned Edgecombe's jail?

Early Nash County Land Transfers



Acquisitions— Braswell Memorial Library

▪ *The Naval History of The Civil War*, by Ivan Musicant. A gift from Bettie Arthur, TRC member.

▪ *John Bass of Virginia*, Documents Relating to the Lineage and Family of John Bass 1673 - 1732, by J. Albert Bass, Jr., 2000.

▪ *Moseley Family History*, 2 Volumes, compiled by Leila Eldridge D'Aiutolo, Warren L.

Forsythe, William S. Hubbard, Mary Carolyn Mitton, 2000. 1500 pages on 10,000 kinfolk down to 1800, or 1830 in the South. The books were donated by Warren L. Forsythe.

EDGECOMBE COUNTY



THE SHAKESPEARE CLUB OF TARBORO, 1880

[From the NC Collection, Photographic Archives, UNC Library at Chapel Hill]



FERBER, CONT. FROM P. 4

Crisp dimity curtains flaired their pert ruffles. There was a big square wooden bed, a washbowl and pitcher, a low rocking chair, a little shining black iron wood stove. ...

The playing company numbered ten, including the Hunters. ... It seemed to me a lovely life as we floated down the river. Sometimes, the Hunters said, they played a new town every night; sometimes, if the countryside was a populous one and the crops good, they stayed a week.

They rehearsed in the daytime, they played at night. ... I sold tickets at the box office; I watched rehearsals and performances; I played a walk-on; I chatted with the audience. Sometimes, after the show, they pulled anchor and went down river that night; sometimes they waited until early morning. ...

The audiences' ancestors lay now in the little North Carolina church-

yards, with beautiful **English** names engraved dimly on the tombstones and the vaults inside the crumbling churches. I had wandered through the churchyard at Bath. The old, old inscriptions were in Early English script ... All the hardships and tears and hopes and fears of the struggling **American Colonies** could be pieced together from the reading of those weather-worn annals. ...

Many of these towns were twenty, thirty, thirty-five miles from a railroad. As I watched the audiences I saw, in the dim-lighted auditorium, faces that might have stepped out of a portrait two hundred years old. ...

It was early on the morning of my fourth day that Charles Hunter and I settled down in the quiet sunny corner bedroom, he with a pack of cigarettes, I with a chunk of yellow copy paper and a pencil. He began to talk. It was a stream of pure gold. I sat with my eyes on him and my pencil

racing across the paper, and wrote and wrote and wrote. Incidents, characters, absurdities, drama, tragedies, river lore, theatrical wisdom poured forth in that quiet flexible voice. He looked, really, more like a small-town college professor lecturing to a backward student than like a show-boat actor.

By the time he had finished I had a treasure-trove of show-boat material, human, touching, true. I was (and am) in his everlasting debt."

The result of this research by Edna Ferber was her famous novel, *Show Boat*, which was also made into a musical play featuring the unforgettable Jerome Kern songs Can't help Lovin' Dat Man, Ol' Man River, Make Believe, and Why Do I Love You?

[Taken from Edna Ferber's autobiography, *A Peculiar Treasure*, 1939]

DR. BATTLE, CONT. FROM P. 3

ring at her house.

Standard fee for an office visit I thought would be \$3.00. But in no uncertain words, I was given to understand this was too high.

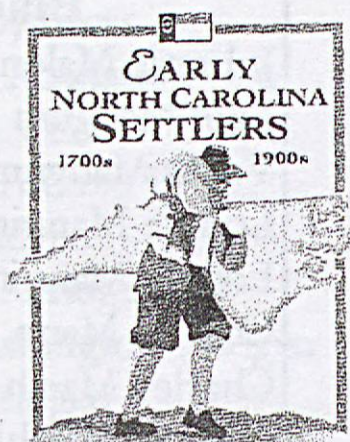
There were several requests to talk to women's clubs. One was held at a beautiful house near **Pinetops**, with exceptionally fine interior woodwork. I was told to limit my talk to 10 minutes and to cover all the development of medicine, to the present time! What really surprised me was being asked if I knew my husband, Dr. Newsom Battle, was the worst little boy in **Tarboro**.

I was to learn there was no limit to what these people would do to help each other. One farmer would spend most of his crop money in getting drunk. This was a great hardship to his wife trying to manage the finances. So the neighbors—a lawyer, a school principal and one other—told him they would help harvest his crop if he would give his wife half of the crop money to run the house. He agreed and they helped him as promised.

The years have passed and I am retired now, but I will never forget how nice the patients were to work with—black and white, rich and poor. They were all my friends.

Reader's Choice

Local Color



Just A Click Away!

Early North Carolina Settlers, 1700s-1900s is a CD providing a unique collection of NC genealogical material with information on approximately 200,000 individuals. It consists of the following fully electronically indexed books:

- *North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register, Vols. I. II. and III* edited by **James Hathaway**. This consists of 11 issues of the *Register* first published between 1900 and 1903. They contain abstracts of thousands of items relating to the history of the Old Albemarle region including the present-day NC counties of **Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Halifax, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington**, and the VA counties of **Surry and Isle of Wight**. At least 50,000 early NC settlers are included in this record of land grants, court records, conveyances, births, deaths, marriages, wills, petitions, military records (including a list of "North Carolina Officers and Soldiers of the Continental Line, 1775-1782"), licenses, and oaths. There are also numerous articles of a

miscellaneous nature, several family sketches, and a series of "Queries and Answers."

- *Marriage and Death Notices from "Raleigh Register and North Carolina State Gazette," 1799-1825, 1826-1845, and 1846-1867* compiled by **Carrie L. Broughton**. These three volumes cover the marriages and deaths of 30,000 North Carolinians beginning in 1799. Approximately 2/3 of each book is made up of marriage records, arranged alphabetically by year with the names of both bride and groom, place of marriage, name of newspaper, and date of publication. The remainder of each book covers deaths, also in alphabetical order by year with the name of the decedent, date of death, place of residence, and the name and date of the newspaper.
- *Historical Sketches of North Carolina from 1584 to 1851* compiled by **John Hill Wheeler** in 1851. Divided into 2 parts, this work contains a history of the state and historical sketches of the component counties drawn almost entirely from previously unpublished records and cover the history of the formation of each county. They also include biographical sketches of early settlers and accounts of prominent families, distinguished statesmen, soldiers and professional men, and lists of county officials. In addition to the electronic index, each book has a complete index that refers to several thousand persons who figured prominently in the early history of the state.
- *Reminiscences and Memoirs of North Carolina and Eminent North Carolinians* by John Hill Wheeler. This is a continuation of *Historical Sketches of North Carolina from 1584*

CONNECTOR

to 1851 with extensive genealogies of more than 65 families covering 62 NC counties.

- *North Carolina Land Grants in South Carolina* compiled by **Brent H. Holcomb**. This is a record of land grants issued in the NC counties of **Bladen, Anson, Mecklenburg, and Tryon** before 1772 in an area which is in the present-day SC counties of **Marlboro, Chesterfield, Lancaster, York, Chester, Union, Cherokee, Spartanburg, Greenville, Laurens, and Newberry**.
- *Sketches of Western North Carolina, Historical and Biographical* by **Cyrus L. Hunter**. This work deals, primarily, with the **Revolutionary** period in the western and southwestern half of NC, particularly Mecklenburg, **Cabarrus, Rowan, Iredell, Lincoln, Gaston, Cleaveland, Burke, and Wilkes** counties, with some reference to adjacent SC.

The CD, which contains actual images of the pages of the books, is a unique collection of early NC marriage, death, and land records, historical sketches, and biographies, personal recollections and local histories which combine to produce an overview of North Carolina's early settlers. It allows the researcher easy access to information previously unindexed or difficult to find material.

If you have ever tried to do research using James Hathaway's *North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register*, you can really appreciate the ease of the electronic index!

The CD can be purchased from Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.; 1001 N. Calvert St.; Baltimore, MD 21202-3897, or by calling 1-800-296-6687. The cost is \$29.99 plus \$3.50 postage and handling.

ROSTER OF NASH COUNTY MEN IN WWI

Third in a Series

White	Black	White	Black
George Ernest Lamm	Wesley Jones	Wade Hampton Nelms	Robert Lee Pitts
John Hogan Lamm	William Jones	Frank F. Nethrey	Johnnie Malone
Walter Lamm	Willie Jones	Roy Potter Newell	June Mangum
Alfred W. Langley	Will Jones	Archie D. Odom	Vertis Mangum
David M. Lawhorn	Wm. Jones	John D. Odom	Lonnie Manning
Howard Layton	Benjamin Joyner	Morton Oliver	Lonnie Manning
Joseph Ira Lee	Cicero Joyner	John C. Overman	Charley Mann
Josephus Leonard	Collie Joyner	Andrew Frank Parish	Charley Marsh
Kemp Plummer Leonard	Colonel Ruffin Joyner	Paul Parish	George Marshburn
Kerby Smith Lester	Dossie P. Joyner	 <p>Wilson Leaping into the Allies' Ranks (An Italian cartoonist's view of the Allies' eagerness to have America join in the war.)</p>	Moses Martin
Bennie E. Lewis	George Joyner		Haywood Maryland
Claude Lewis	Alaska Kerby		Joshua Massenburg
Phram Maduke Lewis	George Washington King		Lonnie Massenburg
Ralph G. Lewis	Henry King		Sam Massenburg
William D. Lewis	John W. King		Jim Mattox
William Lafayette Little, Jr.	Joe Lester Knight	 <p>Wilson Leaping into the Allies' Ranks (An Italian cartoonist's view of the Allies' eagerness to have America join in the war.)</p>	Arthur Mays
Lawrence Thomas Long	Otha Lamm		Fletcher Merritt
Troy S. Malpass	Jack Lancaster		Cecil Mills
Wiley Hilliard Manning	Eugene Larkie		George Mills
Charlie Clifton Martin	David Lee		George Vernon Mills
Joel Thomas Matthews	John Lee		Floyd Mitchell
Kemp Bradford Matthews	John Darby Lee		Henderson Mitchell
Oliver Ernest Matthews	Percy Leonard		Henry Mitchell
Roscoe Dwight Matthews	George Lewis		Malaki Mitchell
William Ed Matthews	James Lewis		Sherman Mitchell
James A. May	Jim Lewis		Sidney Mitchell
Opie Philip May	Nelson Lewis		Zebdee Mitchell
Albert V. Medlin	Reddin Little		Curtis Monk
Theo. Hilliard Medlen	William Lloyd		Alford Moore
Domas R. Merritt	James Ernest Locks		Fred Moore
George Edward Moore	Harvey Long		Kelly Moore
Harry M. Moore	William Longmark		Roy Moore
Thomas G. Moore	Andrew Lucas		Will Moore
Charlie Chris. Morgan	Ebb Lucas		W.H. Morgan
Fernie Green Morgan	Evans Lucas		Chesterfield Moseby
John Tucker Morgan	Grover Cleveland Lucas		Haywood J. Mosely
Kizer D. Morgan	Ivy Lucas		James Murphey
Willie Morgan	Joseph Lucas		John Henry McComick
George Henry Morris	Levi Lucas		Will Moore
Daniels Echols Motley	Luther Lucas		W.H. Morgan
Blain Murray	Oscar Lucas		Chesterfield Moseby
Joseph Ollie Murray	Redmond Lucas		Haywood J. Mosely
Alvin G. McCall	Thomas Lucas		James Murphey
William H. McClees	Jerry Lyon		John Henry McComick
William O. McGowan	Madison Mack		Henry McDougal
Charles Frederick McIntyre	Frank Norman Macklin		Jesse McDuffie
Chas. Frederick McIntyre	Frank Mainor		Jesse McDuffy

White

Jep Rossell Poland
 Granberry C. Poland
 Henry Grady Powell
 Leonadas Powell
 Pellie Poythress
 Herbert Rowland Price
 Mallie P. Price
 Nathan Alonzo Price
 Buck Pridgen
 Frank E. Pridgen
 Geo Washington Pridgen
 Joe B. Pridgen
 James O. Pridgen
 Robert Lee Pridgen
 Eward Dowd Privette
 Homer Stonewall Proctor
 Jacob Frederick Proctor
 James Arthur Proctor
 Mack Ernest Proctor
 Robert Lee Proctor
 Wm. Fred Proctor
 Jacob H. Purvin
 Navie Hilliard Rackley
 Archie Ramsey
 Andrew Gray Raymond
 Wm. B. Rector
 James W. Reid
 Jessie Allington Reid
 Joe Lonnie Riddick
 Clement Richardson
 Bonnie C. Ricks
 Clair Raymond Ricks
 Howard Taylor Ricks
 Charlie Harvey Rittenberry
 Oliver Allen Robards
 Harry Robbins
 John D. Robbins
 Stanley Roberts
 John A. Robinson
 Charlie Rose
 Albert Curtis Rowland
 John W. Ruffin
 Bonnie Sanders
 Luther Bergon Sanders
 Shelton Grey Sanders
 William Sanders
 Almond Logan Sasser
 Joseph H. Saunders Jr.
 John Scott
 Willie Arthur Shackleford

Black

Isaac McKinnon
 Sylvester McLinn
 Tom McNair
 Archie McNeill
 Will McNeal
 Wesley McRay
 Luther McWilliams
 Robert Neal
 William Neal
 Frank Norwood
 Luther Norwood
 Joseph O'Neal
 Robert O'Neal
 Willie O'Neal
 George Parker
 George O. Parker
 Mack Parker
 Wright Parker
 Emanuel Patterson
 Wright Parker
 Jesse Pauley
 Billie Perkins
 Phil Perkins
 Tom Person
 Ed Perry
 Levi Perry
 Willie Perry
 William David Pettiford
 Benjamin Phillips
 Joseph Phillips
 Wesley Phillips
 Daniel Pitt
 George Pitts
 Eddie Pittman
 John Pittman
 Marshall Pittman
 Sidney Pope
 Benjamin Powell
 Boston Powell
 Embro Powell
 Jasper Powell
 Joe Powell
 Walter Powell
 Wiley Powell
 Mosby (Marsdon) Priest
 Benjamin Chufis Pulley
 George Pulley
 George Rackley
 Timothy Rand
 Willie Rand

White

Addison Shearin
 Sidney Howard Shearin
 Fred Shipp
 William H. Sills
 Claud Smith
 Franklin Pierce Smith
 Grady Henry Smith
 Mack Smith
 Marion Butler Smith
 Norman A. Smith
 Offie Smith

**American Womanhood's Blow
 To Kaiserism**


Paul S. Smith
 Willey Batson Smith
 Dean Louis Speight
 Frank S. Spruill, Jr.
 Clayton Lee Stallings
 Norman Hill Stallings
 Walter Stallings
 H. R. Stevens
 Charles Guy Stewart
 Joseph C. Stewart
 Roy E. Stinson
 Cuber Copeland Stone
 Freddie Stott
 Julius Ruffin Stott
 Tonie Stott
 Burgas Strickland
 Clarence Buck Strickland
 Edward Dwight Strickland
 John Loomis Strickland
 J. Richard Strickland
 Larry S. Strickland
 May Harvey Strickland
 Morson Lenard Strickland

Spencer D. Strickland

Black

Grant Redmond
 William Reid
 Willie Rice
 Andrew J. Richardson
 Blake Richardson
 Charley Richardson
 Chasper Richardson
 Graham Richardson
 James Herbert Richardson
 Joe Richardson
 Julius Richardson
 Plummer Benj. Richardson
 William Percy Richardson
 Ashley Ricks
 David Ricks
 Herbert Ricks
 Jack Ricks
 Paul Howard Ricks
 Thomas Ricks
 Tom Ricks
 Eddie Robertson
 Melton Roberson
 Exum Early Roberts
 Eli Robinson
 James Robinson
 Wesley Robinson
 Israel Rodgers
 Fletcher (Flester) Royster
 Roy Daniel Rudd
 Arthur Sanders
 Herman Sanders
 Major Sanders
 Robert Sanders
 William Savage
 George Scott
 Alex Sessoms Jr.
 Isaac Solomon Sessoms
 Charley Sharp
 Jerry Shaw
 Ernest Shepherd
 James Shepherd
 Joe Short
 Burse Simmons
 Elijah Skinner
 James Skinner
 Blount Smith
 Charlie Smith
 Daniel Smith

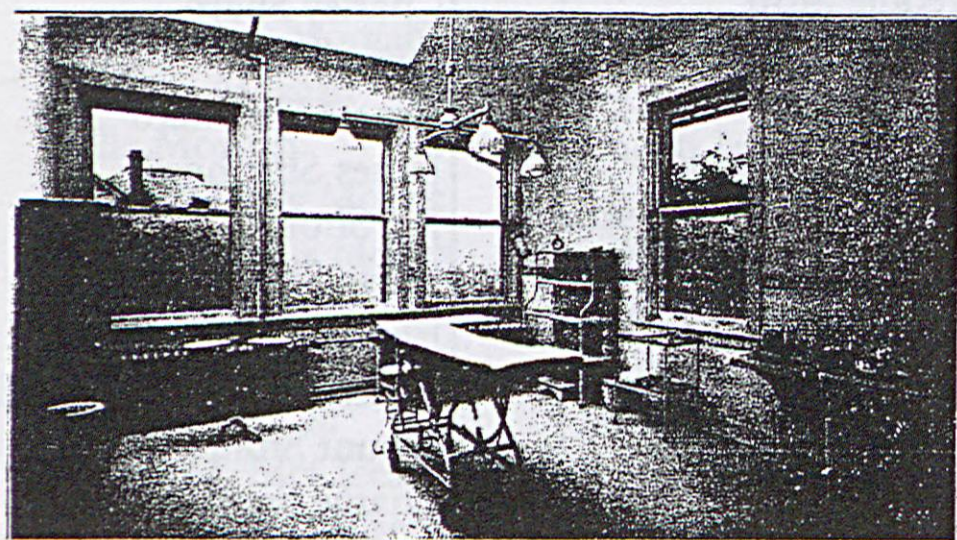
To be Continued, Summer, 2001

1914—Rocky Mount Gets New Hospital



Rocky Mount, NC's **Park View Hospital** opened its doors in July, 1914. The "thoroughly modern institution" was equipped to handle all types of general medical and surgical cases "except those suffering from insanity or contagious diseases." By October, it had admitted 131 patients for treatment, with "88 operated upon without a single death." It was not only a hospital, but provided a training school for nurses as well. The training school was "made up of young ladies from the best families in the state...", assuring the hospital of a reliable corps of nurses "working harmoniously together." The training took 3 years and featured a series of lectures and demonstrations in the various branches by members of the staff.

Located on **Falls Road**, the hospital overlooked "on one side a beautiful natural park" and on the other side "a row of handsome private residences and well kept lawns." While easily accessible from the business district and the railway station, it was "far enough removed from these to give entire freedom from the unpleasant noises and dirt which they necessarily produce." Constructed of brick, it had "a hot water system of heating" to ensure an even temperature through-



OPERATING ROOM

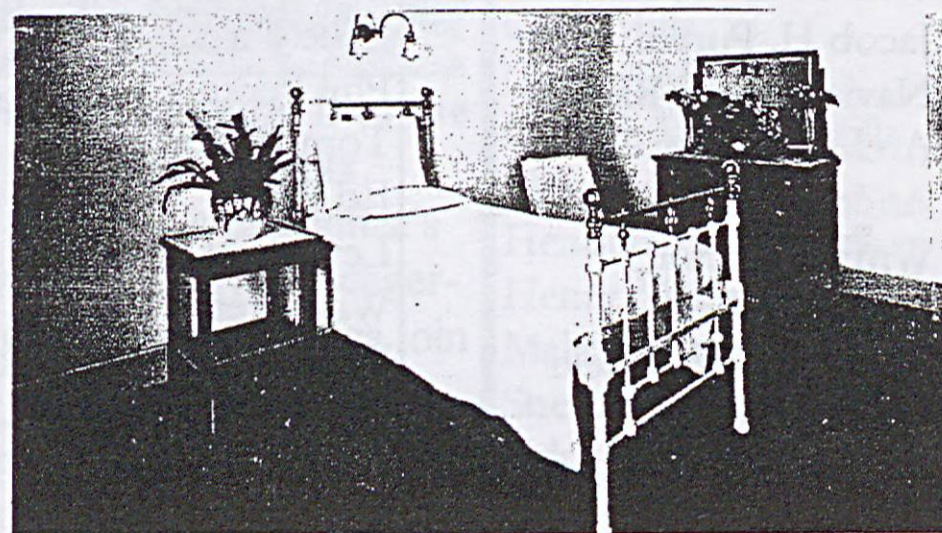
CONNECTOR

out. Each room was "well equipped with electric lights and a special attachment for an electric fan."

The two main floors had patient rooms while the basement housed the kitchen, the nurses' dining room, the X-Ray laboratories, and 2 wards. The operating department, located on the 2nd floor, was "carefully fitted up with all necessary modern appliances for facilitating operative work, including a high pressure steam sterilizing plant." Adjoining the operating department was the laboratory, prepared for "all the usual examinations of blood, sputum, gastric contents, etc." A feature of the lab is "the rapid frozen section method of examining specimens, by the use of which a section of a suspected growth may be cut and stained in a few moments, while the patient remains under the anesthetic."

The nurses' home was a bungalow type structure on **Church Street**, a block from the hospital. It had the advantage of "allowing the nurse to be completely away from hospital surroundings during her hours off duty."

The cost of a private room, board and general nursing was from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per day, depending upon



A. PRIVATE ROOM

the room. A semi-private room was \$2.25 to \$2.50 per day, and a bed in a ward was \$2.00 per day. The charge for a special private "pupil" nurse was \$2.50 per day, board included. For a graduate nurse, it was \$25 per week. The operating room charge was from \$5.00 to \$10.00 "depending on the nature of the operation and the anesthetic employed." Charges were payable weekly.

Early physicians were: **Drs. J.P. Whitehead, I.P. Battle, R.H. Speight, E.B. Quillen and J.P. Speight.** **Dr. Edmund S. Boice** was resident surgeon in charge, and 2 house physicians resided in the hospital and were on duty at all times. **Miss Mamie E. Rice**, a graduate nurse, managed the hospital and the direction of the training school for nurses.

[The new **Braswell Memorial Library** which will open in September, 2001, is on the site of the old **Park View Hospital**.]

Park View Training School for Nurses

Class of 1917

Arendell, Grace	Nathalie, VA
Cooper, Jennie G.	Raleigh, NC
Fortune, Irma H.	Schuyler, VA
Hogan, Roberta B.	Richmond, VA
Mayo, Eva C.	Whitakers, NC
Mayo, Kathleen Ximena	Whitakers, NC
Newman, Martha C.	Milton, NC
Shumate, Sallie J.	Petersburg, VA.
Swank, Stella M.	Harrisburg, VA

Class of 1918

Cooper, Eva	Kinston, NC
Johnston, F. Odessa	Halifax, NC
Woodson, Elizabeth	Punta Gorda, FL

Class of 1919

Bateman, M. Estelle	Raleigh, NC
Connally, Willie H.	Milton, NC
Girard, Clara	Charlotte Court House, VA
Hedgepeth, Edna	Whitakers, NC
Lancaster, Nora	Rocky Mount, NC
Whitley, Addie Lee	Hobgood, NC

[Submitted by Louise Fuller, TRC Member]

Census Information

From 1790 through 1820 three copies of each census were made. One copy was sent to the clerk of the district court and two copies were posted locally in public places for everyone to see. In 1830, all back copies from the district court were sent to the **US Secretary of State in Washington, DC.**

In 1830 and 1840 there were only two copies of the census, one for the **US District Court** and one for the **US Secretary of State in Washington, DC.** The 1840 census has a column on the right that lists **Revolutionary Soldiers** and their ages.

From 1850 to 1880, there were three copies: one for the **Clerk of the County Court**, one for the Secretary of State and one went to Washington, DC. From 1890 to 1920, there was only one copy made and the 1890 copy was almost totally destroyed by fire.

Remember, this work was done before typewriters and computers. Each copy may be less accurate than the one before. The best copy is probably the first one.

[This information is from *Pine Barrens*, the quarterly of the South Georgia Genealogical Society and *Trees of Wilson*, the Wilson County Genealogical Society Newsletter.]



What's In A Name?

Our ancestors often used particular naming patterns when selecting a name for a new child. This explains why certain names are very common in a family line. Understanding these patterns can be helpful in tracing your genealogy.

Naming Patterns

- 1st son - father's father
- 2nd son - mother's father
- 3rd son - father
- 4th son - father's oldest brother
- 5th son - father's second oldest brother or mother's oldest brother
- 1st daughter - mother's mother
- 2nd daughter - father's mother
- 3rd daughter - mother
- 4th daughter - mother's oldest sister
- 5th daughter - mother's second oldest sister or father's oldest sister

After the first five sons and daughters, many families passed on the names of the children's aunts and uncles of the parents. Grandfather's brother will have a name-sake too, in a large family. Then, of course, you must also account for the dear friend and the neighbor, and the doctor, etc ...

[Previously printed in *Gibson Co. Lines*, Vol. 7 #3, May 1994]



Speeding Freight Train Hits Rear of Mail Train—1860

By R. J. COOKE



Conductor William H. Laspeyre

was in agony. His leg was crushed between two passenger cars of his train and he could not be extricated. Just a few short minutes before the accident, he had been hurrying passengers aboard the train at **Dudley Depot, Wayne Co., NC.**

Standing at the platform on a car, the unfortunate Laspeyre probably never knew what happened. The rear car was struck by a freight train, causing that car to rear up and onto the platform of the car in front, where the conductor was standing. That same car hit another of the train's crew, a young baggage master by the name of **John Comann.** Hit square in the chest, he was killed instantly.

With his leg, from ankle to hip, caught between the cars, Laspeyre lay in excruciating pain. His thumb and forefinger were ripped off his left hand as well. It was quickly realized that the crew and passengers could do little for him, so the engineer detached his engine and ran it the short distance to **Goldsboro, Wayne Co., NC,** where medical help was obtained.

From the terminus at **Wilmington,** the Superintendent of the **Wilmington and Weldon Road, Sewall Fremont,** hurried to "...the scene of the accident as fast as steam could carry him." After hearing witnesses, he ordered the freight train's engineer (whose name was **Laguire**) arrested. Several of the Road's "Rules and Regulations" had been violated by the man, including following another train too closely and not slowing down when approaching a station. The conductor of the freight train, **B.B. Cox,** informed Fremont that when they arrived at Dudley on the way south from **Weldon** and **Rocky Mount, NC,** the mail train was overtaking them. Laguire insisted on staying in front of the oncoming train, but was ordered by Cox to pull into a siding to allow the other train to continue. In doing this, Cox was following a strict railroad guideline: Mail trains had the right of way, as the contract with the Government demanded the speedy delivery of the U.S. mail.

Unfortunately for Conductor Cox, according to the rules of the company, he bore as much responsibility for the crash as did the Engineer. Laguire, probably irritated at having to pull over, began to bear down on the mail train. At the next station (**Everettsville**), there was a

steep down grade and Laguire couldn't signal his brakemen quickly enough, so the locomotive hit the rear car of the mail train. Although there were several passengers on board, Comann and Laspeyre were the only casualties.

The first news accounts of the accident reported that Laguire was "blind drunk, as he went to sleep while poor Laspeyre was jammed between the cars." It was said that when he awoke and realized what he had done, he ran off into the woods. Laguire was already being tried and convicted by the press. As far as the papers were concerned, he was criminally guilty. It was discovered that this was only his (and Cox's) third trip on the Road. They had both been employed for less than a month. As further proof of his guilt, it was reported that Laguire was from **Georgia!**

Laspeyre remained conscious during his ordeal. At one point, he asked if he had hung his red lanterns properly. He was assured that the warning signals had indeed been placed on the last car and could be seen "by any person a long distance off." It was nearly two hours before Laspeyre was freed and only then by sawing away most of the platform. He was rushed to a hospital at **Goldsboro** where he remained until Saturday afternoon. His wife was sent for and was with him when the doctors decided to amputate his crushed limb. This was immediately done, but Laspeyre expired within fifteen minutes. His body had taken all it could.

Later that year, the Board of Directors of the W&W voted to give twenty shares of the Road's stock to Laspeyre's family (the stock was valued at \$100 per share). As for Laguire, he was examined before a Justice in **Goldsboro** and released. This apparently did not go well with the officials of the Railroad. Another judge issued a warrant for him and even **Gov. Ellis** had gotten involved, requesting the Governor of Georgia to aid in his capture. It was several days before he was found,

Lamp Signals



Stop

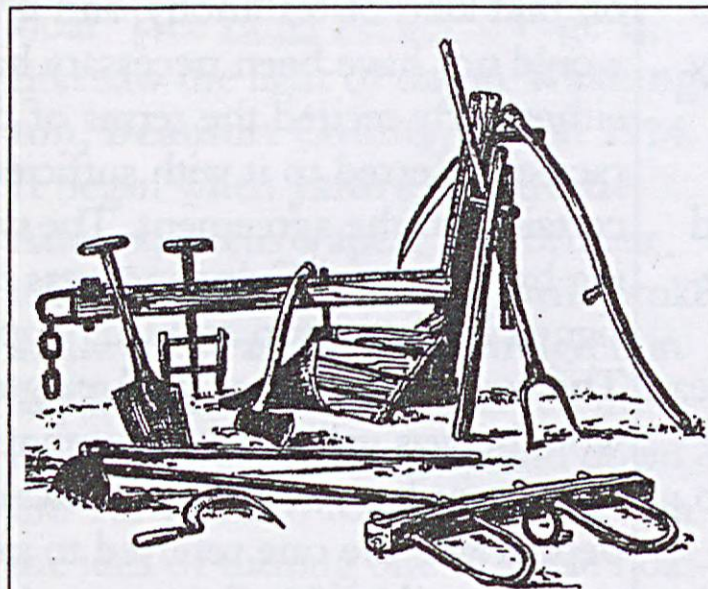
Proceed

Back

Train has parted

IRON, CONT. FROM PAGE 1 tionary War period.

Since there was no power to convert the iron ore into wrought iron, our forefathers dug the ore, loaded it on carts drawn by oxen, and carried



Farming Tools, 1790. Made of heavy iron, these were exhausting to use. Pictured are plow and attachments: sickle, scythe, flail, rake and fork.

it to the **Bloomery** or **Puddler's** furnace at **Lamm's Old Water Mill**, 3 to 4 miles away in what later became **Wilson County**. There, water power and a 700 to 1000 pound trip hammer were used to beat the refined wrought iron into large sheets from which pots, pans, kettles, pothooks, ovens, hoes, axes, plows, knives, chimney irons and other utensils were made. The iron was said to be "of excellent quality, soft and very strong." How much easier it must have been to get the items you needed so close to home.

About 1800, the mine closed. The war was over and store-bought goods were more readily available. Wagons and carts loaded with tobacco, cotton, naval stores, hides, meat, honey, and other products rolled toward **Petersburg, New Bern, Wilmington,**

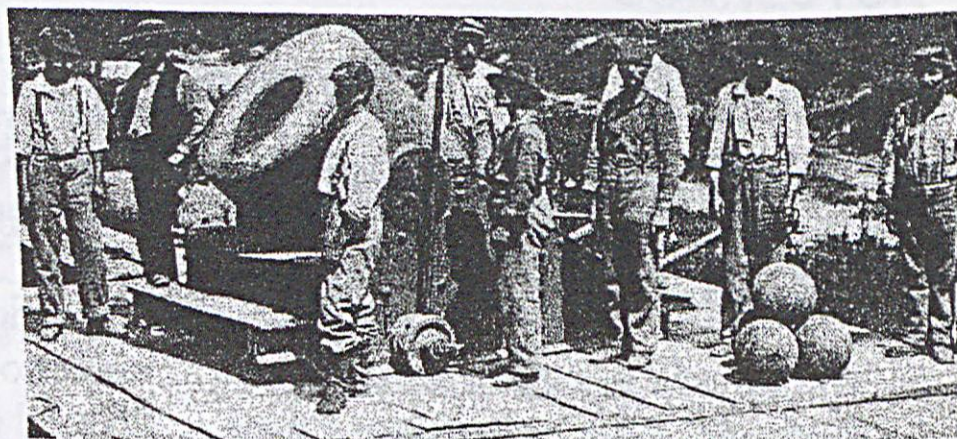
Weldon, and Fayetteville, returning with manufactured goods along with the coffee, sugar and medicine. As a result, little mining was done until 1813 when it was reopened because of the **War of**

1812. Production dwindled after 1815 and stopped several years before the **Civil War**.

By 1860, the **Horne** farm had been sold to **John Matthews**. Munitions were needed to fight the **Civil War**, and in July, 1862, the mining firm of **Tappy and Lunsden** of **Petersburg, VA**, reopened the **Old Iron Mill**. This time, a pit and 40 foot furnace made from bricks of iron ore and clay were erected at the mine. With no coal available, oak trees from the nearby woods were piled high and burned to make charcoal to melt the ore. The works ran 24 hours a day, turning out hundreds of tons of pig iron which was shaped into cannon balls which were shipped to **Petersburg, VA**. In January, 1865, bomb shell production was started. These shells were hauled by rail to the arsenal at **Richmond** until the close of the war. Stories have been told of a huge pile of these shells being buried near the mine to keep them out of enemy hands.

After the **Civil War**, the mine was again closed down. Unused material and equipment was dumped into the open pits and gradually covered with soil. In the early 1900's, the furnace bricks were sold to farmers and used to build tobacco barns furnaces. Today no trace of the iron mine or the furnace remains.

Hugh B. Johnston gives numerous **Wilson** and **Nash County** names associated in deeds, wills and petitions with either the **Bloomery** or the iron mine. They include: **Thomas Horn, Jr., James Cobb, Lemuel**



Wright, Walter Erwin, Edward Moore, Benjamin Flowers, Joseph Phillips, John Eatman, Stephen Cobb, Jeremiah Nichols, James Brown, Jethro Phillips, Henry Atkinson, Henry Horn, Roland Williams, Bridgers Cobb, David Cobb, Edward Nicholson, Benjamin Bunn, Nathan Cobb, Barsha-ba Nicholson, John Pritchett, Benjamin Farmer, Mary Cobb, William Horn, William Horn, Sr., Duncan Dew, Rodah Crowell, Amos Gandy, Benjamin Ely, Alexander Irvin Ricks, Micajah Ricks, John Crowell, Eli Mercer, David Bundy, Theophilus Grice, Alexander U. [I?] Ricks, M. Mason, Bathsheba Crowell, Bartley Deans, Barney Pearson, Abraham Lamm, Henry Holland, Dempsey Taylor, Daniel Deans, Thomas Lamm, Daniel Pearson, Thomas Lamb, Patience Lamm, Enos Rose, L.N.B. Battle, Elizabeth Matthews, Alfred Thompson, and Thomas Ruffin "Sprawls" Lamm.

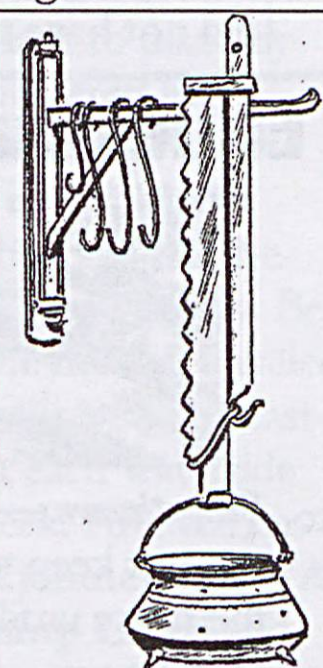
[Information furnished by Reese Ferrell, TRC President.]

Obituary Notice

VA Conference Sentinel & Richmond Advocate

Died at his residence in **Henry Co. [VA]**, 5 May, **Amos Satterfield**, in his 83rd year. He was born in **Person Co., NC**. In his 21st year he went to **SC** where he remained for four years before returning to **Person County**. He was a **Henry Co.** resident for seven years prior to his death.

(3 June 1847)



Iron Cooking Pot

Nash Co. Horse Race Dispute

The horse race was planned.

They would run at **Douthier's** path, on the Monday before next Christmas, for \$200. **Mathew Culpepper** was to run a filly called **Dolly Washington**, a sorrel which he had gotten from **Abner Foster**. **Francis Ward** was to run a sorrel also, called **Golden Rod**, which was got by **DonGalo** and raised by Mr. **William Avent**. Both horses were 2-year olds.

They were to run $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, to start at the end towards the old house, and to run out towards the road. The lowest nag was to carry 136 pounds; the other was to carry 14 pounds for the first inch, and 7 for every other inch over, or in proportion for parts, etc. The 2 parties agreed that either two of the judges, on the day of the race, should measure the ground, and whatever they said was a quarter of a mile should be binding on both parties.

Culpepper and Ward signed the agreement spelling out the terms of the race and it was witnessed by **Abner H. Hines**.

Confident of his horse's prowess, **Martin Culpepper** made a side bet with **Peter Arrington**, signing the following agreement, also witnessed by **Abner H. Hines**: "If **Francis Ward** wins the race that he and myself made this day, I promise to pay to **Peter Arrington** the just sum of \$1,000, on or before 25 December next, as witness my hand and seal, this 30 November, 1805."

Culpepper's bond was delivered to a third person, as a stakeholder, to be turned over to **Arrington** in case **Culpepper** lost the race.

The race between **Ward** and **Culpepper** was run agreeably to the articles, and **Ward** was declared to be

the winner. Afterwards, and on the same day, the stakeholder was directed by the **Culpepper** to deliver over the obligation to the **Arrington**, saying "he would have won the race if his rider had rode agreeably to his directions," and the stakeholder delivered the \$1,000 bond accordingly.

Case closed. Right?

Wrong!

Culpepper refused to make good on his bond, arguing that the agreement that he and **Arrington** had signed did not specify and make clear exactly what race they were betting on, and therefore, he was under no obligation to pay. It seems that, in 1800, an act was passed requiring that a wager on a horse race must be written, as this one was, and that no testimony would be allowed to explain the terms of the bet.

Unfortunately, or fortunately, as the case may be, the agreement between **Culpepper** and **Arrington** merely refers to a "race made" without making clear that there was only one race arranged for that day. **Culpepper** might say that he and **Ward** made another race on the day re-

ferred to and then it would be a matter of controversy between **Culpepper** and **Arrington** as to which race was intended in the agreement.

The Legislature did not intend that horse-racing contracts should depend on that kind of testimony, and it would not have been necessary had either party recited the terms of the race or referred to it with sufficient certainty in the agreement. The writing by **Ward** and **Culpepper** was not signed by **Arrington** and **Culpepper**. The court argued that, as **Arrington** won, he was willing to admit that the agreement between **Ward** and **Culpepper** was the one referred to in the side bet and he felt **Culpepper** should be compelled to do the same; however, if **Arrington** had lost, he would not deem this reasoning applicable.

Even the fact that **Culpepper** directed the stakeholder to deliver the obligation to **Arrington**, after losing the race, did not make **Culpepper** responsible for the debt.

The Supreme Court, in its July 1809 term, ruled in favor of **Culpepper** and against **Arrington**. **Culpepper** did not have to pay!

Hints for Equestrians



Choice of Horse.—Adapt your horse to your stature. A tall man upon a low horse, or *vice versa*, presents an odd appearance.



Demeanor.—Preserve a cheerful countenance while riding. You are not supposed to be attending a funeral.



Being thrown.—If you find that you can not keep your seat, hold on by the mane until you reach a soft spot; then let go.



Falling.—After being thrown, lie quiet for a while. A spirited horse sometimes kicks out when his rider makes any disturbance.

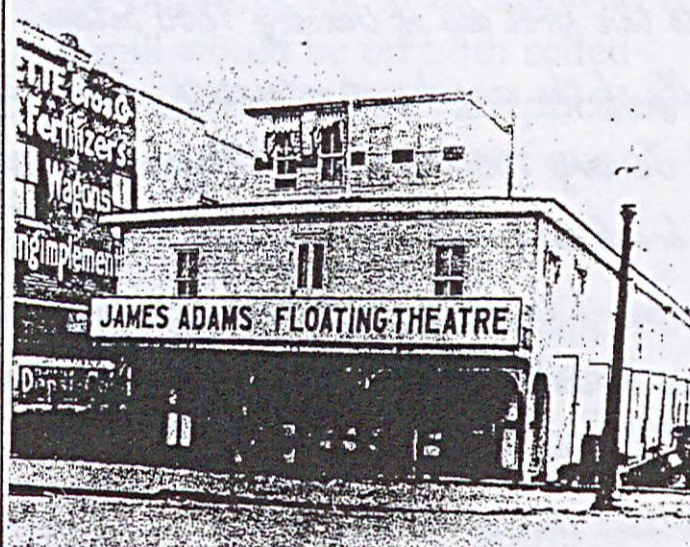
James Adams Floating Theatre

The *James Adams Floating Theatre*, later known as "The Original Show Boat" [See *Edna Ferber* ... Page 1], first saw the light of day in **Washington, Beaufort County, NC** in 1914. It began when **James and Gertie Adams**, circus trapeze performers turned carnival operators, went broke and were stranded in Washington in 1912. Adams, having observed the lumber barges moving up and down the Tar-Pamlico River, came up with the idea of turning one of these floating platforms into a theatre. With the help of **Mr. George Leach**, President of the **Eureka Lumber Co.** who furnished the materials, and work done by **Farrow-Chauncey Shipyard**, the conversion was completed in 1913 at a cost of \$8,941.92.

With clean quarters and plenty of good food, the *James Adams* was home for its self-sufficient performers and support staff. The theatre itself was 122 x 34 feet and could seat 700. Towed from place to place by the small gasoline-powered tug, *Trouper*, the converted barge spent the winters docked in **Elizabeth City, NC** where rehearsals for the new season began each February. Beginning in March, the theatre traveled up and down the rivers of northeastern NC, stopping at each waterside town for about a week. After covering the NC route, it journeyed to **VA** via the **Dismal Swamp Canal** and into the **Chesapeake Bay** area, finally ending its 37-week season at **Onancock, VA** on the eastern shore in November..

Although Elizabeth City church members called it "a hell-hole of iniquity ...", the theatre was a huge success from the beginning. Wherever it went, its arrival was a high point of social activity for people starved for

entertainment. The plays presented ranged from comedy, to melodrama to tragedy, with the audience always actively involved, hissing the villains and applauding the hero—who usually prevailed at the last moment. Some



well-known plays presented were *East Lynne*, *Trail of the Lonesome Pine*, *Saint Elmo*, *Tempest and Sunshine*, *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*, and *Thorn and Orange Blossoms*. Each performance ended with a vaudevillian concert.

As the *James Adams* was passing through the Dismal Swamp Canal in November 1929, it struck a stump which ripped a hole in her hull. She



immediately sank into the dark muddy water. After two weeks, the **Elizabeth City Iron Works** managed to raise her. During that interval, one performer remained at his post, as documented by the following newspaper account: "**Pop Neel**, veteran trouper who has spent 60 of his 71 years in show business and has made his home on the *James Adams* for the past 14 years, set foot ashore last night for the first time in nearly two weeks. Pop stuck by the ship during its stay on the canal bottom

CONNECTOR

and refused to take a pessimistic view of its future even when the situation seemed most discouraging. Last season had been the best in the showboat's history and 'Pop' expects to see many more."

Joseph O. Green, III, author of "Showboating in the Albemarle" which appeared in *The State Magazine*, Feb. 15, 1972, spoke with **Mr. Leslie D. "Strut" Waldorf** of Elizabeth City, then 80 years old, who was one of the original performers on the *James Adams*. He was paid \$8 per week plus room and board to play trombone and piano on the showboat's orchestra from 1915 to 1917.

Wilma Wynns also wrote in the Feb 15, 1979 *State Magazine* of the showboat's visits to **Colerain** on the **Chowan River**. Its arrival on Sunday and departure the following Saturday night brought large crowds to the river to watch. No hardship was too great to raise the money to attend the magical performances, whether it meant chopping peanuts or selling chickens or eggs. It was the event of the year. On the last 2 nights of the boat's week-long stay in **Colerain**, the reserved seat patrons attended in evening attire, passing among themselves the boxes of chocolates they had brought from home.

Mrs. Nina Howard of **St. Michaels, MD**, bought the *James Adams* in 1931 and operated it up and down the east coast, as far away as **Savannah, GA**. The final end of the "Original Show Boat" is not known for certain. Some say the barge burned in the **Savannah River** in 1931. **L.A. Squires**, who wrote "Little Washington and Show Biz" for *State Magazine* in November 1979, told of witnessing the final performance of *Ten Nights in a Barroom* in Washington, NC in the late 1930's. The historical marker in **Bath, Beaufort Co.** simply gives the years as 1913-1941.



Contract for Labor
State of North Carolina
Warren County

This contract made and entered into this first day of January 1866 between Thomas Carroll of the first part, and the Laborers whose names are hereto affixed severally of the second part witnesseth: That said Laborers have agreed to work for the said Thomas Carroll from the said first day of January 1866 to the 31st December; to do all kinds of labor common to the farms of the country, to work each work day from day break until dark (excepting one half hour for breakfast & one hour for dinner in fall, winter & spring & two hours for dinner in summer) to perform such labor as ~~sowing fodder & Tobacco, shucking & shelling corn and cutting horse feed~~, after dark whenever it may be deemed necessary by said Thomas Carroll: to do their work faithfully, to be honest truthful and industrious; to yield cheerful and respectful obedience to all orders given by said Thomas Carroll or his Agent. And they further agree that no time shall be lost without the consent of the said Thomas Carroll, except in cases of sickness, and that whatever time is lost from any cause whatever, shall not be paid for, & that they further agree that if either one of them violates any one of the terms of this contract, he shall forfeit his entire pay, and immediately quit and vacate the house he and his family may then occupy, and leave the plantation of said Thomas Carroll, whenever required to do so by him.

They also agree to take their meals with them to the field whenever they cannot go to their houses, and return within the time allowed in this contract for breakfast & dinner; and that they further agree to give such attention as may be necessary for their proper care to all the stock on sundays.

And the said Thomas Carroll agrees that in consideration of a full & cheerful compliance with all the terms of this contract he will furnish each laborer with the usual allowance of meat, molasses & meal that is to say $1\frac{3}{4}$ lbs of meat 1 quart of molasses and one and one fourth pecks of meal, & when molasses is omitted, then the meat ration is to be $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds per week.

And the said Thomas Carroll will furnish houses & firewood for the laborers, a small spot of ground for a garden and allow each family to raise chickens and one house pig.

And the said Thomas Carroll agrees in consideration of a faithful compliance with the foregoing, to pay each laborer under this contract, at the rate of Eight Dollars (currency) per month, one half at the end of each quarter.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands & seals this first day of January, One Thousand eight hundred & Sixty six. (1866)

Witness: A.J. Bowdon

Th. Carroll

Jasper X Carroll

Sam X Hart

Washington X Holsey

Haywood X Williams

Thomas X Daly

Anthony X James

Elijah X Daly

Alfred X Faulkner

Tippo Baskerville began 22nd January, 1866, to be paid \$7/mo.

A new contract was signed January 10, 1867. The monthly rate was increased to \$10 per month. There were 4 new tenants at that time:

▪Tom Daly

▪Alfred Faulkner

▪Sam Hart

▪Anthony James.

These contracts were made with former slaves after the Civil War.

[Submitted by Hiram Perkinson, TRC member.]

Search and Research

Resources at ECU's Joyner Library

Joyner Library at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC, with its **NC Collection** and **Special Collections**, provides numerous resources for the genealogist. Maury York, ECU librarian, encourages the family researcher to learn more than just names and dates as they go about their family research. It is important to put families in the historical context of the times in which they lived. He encourages us all to take advantage of the wealth of material available at Joyner Library.

The NC Collection consists, primarily, of printed material with 25000 volumes, 30,000 state documents on microfiche, 11,000 reels of microfilm, a small collection of rare books, various electronic data bases, and extensive vertical and clipping files maintained since the 1920's. There are also guides to resources in numerous other repositories such as **State Archives, UNC** and **Duke** libraries.

All census records for NC from 1790-1920 with many indexes are available. The researcher will find an extensive collection of abstracts of census records for about 30 counties in eastern NC. When using census records, don't overlook special schedules such as mortality schedules which list those who died in the last year. There are also 1850-1880 agriculture schedules which list all farmers with information about the # of acres of land, how much was cultivated, what animals and how many,

the value of crops, animals and farm equipment, etc. Manufacturing schedules, including grist mills, tanneries, carriage factories, etc. reveal what was produced, the value of the investment, # of employees, output of the business, etc. A farmer with a grist mill would be on both schedules. These extra details are priceless in understanding the lives of our ancestors.

The NC Collection is home for a large collection of NC newspapers on microfilm including the *Tarboro' Southerner* dating from 1824. These papers are a treasure trove of local history. Indexes exist for some of these papers. Also, remember that newspapers often carried news from other areas. So a Tar River area ancestor could possibly be found in a **New Bern** paper. ECU has an index of the *Eastern Reflector/Daily Reflector*, a Greenville, paper, from 1882 to 1906 on its website: www.ecu.edu.

The map collection contains about 4,000 maps. The **Garland Stout** maps, done in the 1970's, took current road maps and superimposed information from old maps and records. The **US Geological Survey** topographic maps from the turn of century show a tremendous amount of detail including roads, cemeteries, houses along roads, etc. The **Gilmer (?)** maps, done in 1863, list family names of people living in various counties in eastern NC and some of VA. The **Sanborn (?) Fire Insurance** maps are very detailed maps of every building in the central area of a town and surrounding residential areas, showing diagrams of each building. By going from one map to another, (they were redone every 5-7 years) one can see changes as they came about.

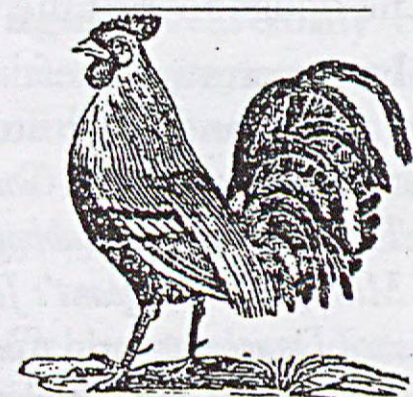
Other resources in the NC Collection are: abstracts of vital records compiled by genealogists;

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public records for 30 counties east of Hwy 95; many abstracts of state records such as **Granville** grants, other early land records, wills, etc.; *Colonial and State Records* started by **Saunders**, finished by **Clark**, a gold mine about the **Revolution** and early NC; **Civil War** records: including the *Roster of NC Troops* and various indexes; county and local histories; laws, which sometimes name individuals, in marriages, divorces, etc.; court records, including all supreme court cases, often name individuals; business directories; and NC yearbooks which list magistrates, teachers, ministers, etc. One special resource is Academic Universe, which contains all court cases, searchable by key word. This is not available on-line but can be used at the library.

Special Collections is the home of a tremendous collection of original manuscripts which are invaluable to genealogists. It includes many individual collections compiled by genealogists along with business, estate and personal records. The emphasis of the collection is on eastern NC. Brochures are available.

The public is welcome at Joyner Library. Weekday visitors should obtain a parking pass at the traffic office on 10th Street near McDonald's. For \$4, you can park close to the library all day. On weekends, the NC collection is open 10-6 on Saturday, and 1-10 on Sunday and no parking pass is necessary.



The rooster came into general use as a symbol for the Democratic party about 1842. Engraving from *North Carolina Standard*, Nov. 20, 1844.

Horne's Community

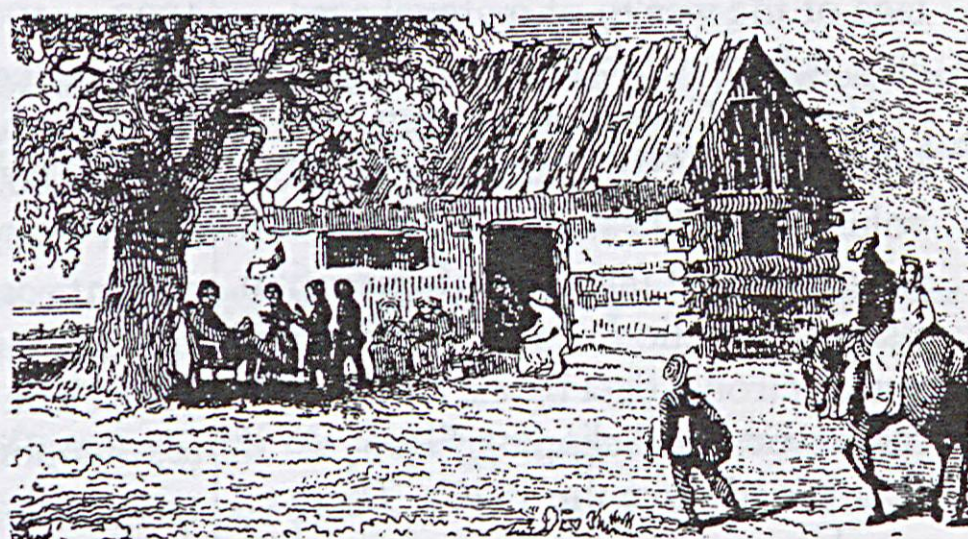
James Hilliard Horne sold land for Horne's Meeting House, which was organized as a Methodist Episcopal Church, for \$1.00 on Aug. 3, 1828. Trustees of the church were **Thomas Winstead, Joel Eatmon, Samuel Williams, Barnaby Pearson, David Winbourne, Ivey J. Winbourne, Demsey Winstead, and Wesley Linsey.** The first church, a log building, was raised in 1828 and was in use until 1878. It was then that **Rev. and Mrs. McLeod** held a revival at which 100 members joined the church, necessitating a larger building. Early pastors of the church include **Reverends John Deans, Ben Deans, Moses Hunt, a Mr. Stanfield and a Mr. Humble**

The area was settled years before the church was erected. The iron mine [See *There's Iron in That Thar Swamp*, Page 1] was on land leased by **Thomas Horne, Jr.** in 1779. It is believed that some people in the Horne's Church area were descended from **Quaker Peter Pearson** who came from **England** about 1701. He moved to **Perquimans Co., NC** and then **Wayne Co., NC** from **VA.** Some of his descendents moved into **Nash County.** The first known **Williams** in the area was **Pilgrim Williams** (wife, **Sarah** and 8 children) who died in 1764 on the south side of **Toisnot Swamp** in what was **Edgecombe Co.,** later **Nash.** Members of this family still own land that has been in the family 250 years. Other early settlers include **John Eatmon, John Bunyan Thompson, Wright Joyner, and William Braswell.**

The story of **Hamilton Tisdale** illustrates the early Nash County justice system. Tisdale had a reputation for

"running around" and for not supporting his family. In 1836, brothers **Bartley** and **Hilary Pearson** took justice into their own hands. They held Tisdale while the women whipped him. It was told that **Barney Pearson**, father of the two holders, kept fresh whips ready as the used ones wore out. The Pearson boys went to **Mississippi** to avoid prosecution, but the women were brought to trial. The jury returned a verdict of guilty for not whipping the man half enough and the judge fined them 1¢ each.

There were 3 schools in the community prior to 1900—**Horne's, High's and Williams'.** They were small one-room buildings with crude desks and little equipment. In 1907, they merged into a 3-teacher school at High's. This school was consolidated with **Bailey** in 1920. Some early teachers were: **Miss Chasey Craft, Miss Alice Dickerson, Tobe Brantley, Miss Virginia Shivers, Mrs. Delcie Terry, Miss Pauline Vick, Miss Sue Clark, Isaac Boswell, Miss Nona Brantley, Miss Sue Vick, and Miss Annie Brantley.** **Dr. W.T. Sanders** (1863-1913) practiced medicine in Horne's community despite being totally blind. He was an excellent doctor and a skilled musician who could play several instruments.



Doughboy Cookbook

The doughboys of the **World War I** were creative chefs. Letters home, diaries and oral histories tell us of such dishes as: *Army Goulash, Corn Willy Hash, Doughboy Cabbage Soup, Fried Mush, Mess Sergeant's Java, Old Fashioned Doughnuts, and Slum.*

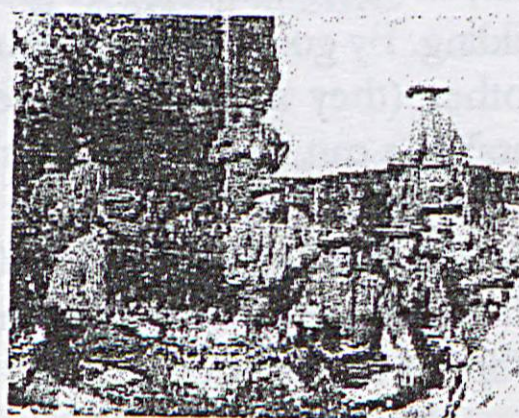
Bullets in a Pot consisted of beans, a.k.a. repeaters, and pork. *S.O.S.* was creamed chipped beef on toast, a.k.a. *S#%\$ on a Shingle.* *Pum Frits* were

pan cooked potatoes, with an onion and a dash of garlic salt. Sounds good! *Goldfish loaf* was canned salmon, a staple that was readily available.

Hardtack consisted of hard, dry biscuits, a.k.a. teeth dullers, or sheet iron. It needed to be moistened before it was edible. "The doughboys

would dunk hardtack in hot coffee, use it atop stew, or follow the **Civil War** practice of soaking it in water, then in salt pork fat and shaping it around their bayonets to cook it over an open fire."

[Taken from "The Doughboy Cookbook" at www.worldwar1.com]



TAYLOR BROS.,

Dealers in

GENERAL MERCHANDISE,

TOWNESVILLE,

Vance County, N. C.

Branson's Business Directory, 1880

Tuscarora Language

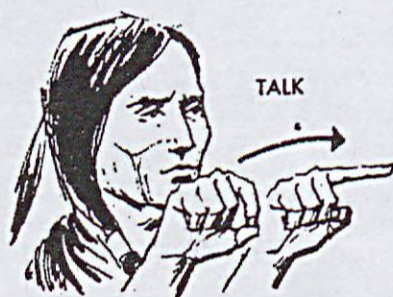
John Lawson, an early settler in NC, was killed by the **Tuscarora** in 1711. His journal and other writings are contained in *Lawson's History of North Carolina*, which describes **NC** and his travels through **Indian** territory, includes a "Dictionary of the Tuskeruro [sic] language". It contains translations for most common items such as numbers, axe, knife, tobacco, man, woman, fire, hoe, salt, gun, belt, pot, acorns, etc. Below are a few samples taken from it:

English

Rum
Knife
Fire
Gun
Bear skin
Young Man
Old Man
North-west wind
A lazy fellow
Englishman is thirsty
All the Indians are drunk
Have you any thing to eat
Let it alone

Tuskeruro

Oonaquod
Oosocke nauh
Utchar
Auk-noc
Oochehara
Quottis
Occooahawa
Hothooka
Wattattoo watse,
Oukwockaninniwock
Connaugh jost twane
Utta-ana-wox
Tnotsaurauweek



Tom Blount King of the Tuskaroro Nation in behalf of himself and Nation having presented a Petition to this Board shewing the difficulty they labour under by the Encroachments of the English upon their settlements Earnestly begging this Board to ascertain his Bounds on Morra-tock to prevent future Contests.

Ordered the survey Genl and Col Robert West at some convenient time repair to Blounts Town and that they lay out the Bounds pursuant to the agreement made with Blount in May 1719 and that Mr. Charleston the interpreter do attend them so that they have the matter settled to lay before this Board at their next meeting.

And it is further ordered that for their trouble and Expence in this Affair (if the Assembly do not allow them their Claim for the service) that they shall have an order from this Board to the Receiver to defray the same

By order

J LOVICK Secty

[Taken from Colonial Records, June 1722]

Fifty Dollars Reward

STOLEN from the Subscriber, living in **Edgecomb County** ten miles above **Tarboro'** on Thursday the 9th inst., a dark bay Mare 9 or 10 years old; also a man's saddle, about half worn, with double skirts, has a new pair of plated stirrup Irons; also a pair of old saddle bags; a pocket pistol, with a rifle barrell and a whale bone stick--By a man who calls himself **Jeremiah Bowling Jackson**, he has resided in our neighborhood about eight months, and for the last six months has lived in my family, and has followed the trade of shoe making. The said Jackson is a man of about 35 years of age--of a light complexion, about six feet high, of a smooth and easy address, and is very remarkable from motions in his eyes, most especially when interogated, or in the least agitated, his eyes will in a surprising manner fly from side to side; when he went away he wore a light coloured surtout coat, with metal buttons; a bottle green close bodied coat, much worn, with black velvet cuffs; a pair of new shoes and a pair of snabboes of a drab cassimir with black velvet ribbon at the heel and eye seams. He also had a pair of ribbed pantaloons, of a deep purple blue or black colour. He also carried away some shoe leather ready cut out, which is not his own, with some shoemakers tools. The mare is a very pleasant brute for the saddle and racks at the rate of 8 miles an hour, has a small star in her forehead, was when taken away shod on her fore feet. The pistol has **F.P.** engraved on the brass of her breech.--The thief professes to be acquainted with different parts of the **United States**, but most particularly the settlements on the **Mississippi River** and its tributary streams--he has frequently signified a wish to see the state of **Georgia**, and has occasionally enquired the route to **Augusta**, however, he has taken occasion to observe that he had obtained a judgement against a gentleman of **Richmond, Virginia**; tells many circumstances of his having visited the penitentiary of that place--He covered his villainy, when in our neighborhood by profession of Religion, yet in the latter respect, it is likely he may lay off his sheep skin and exhibit in public a wolf.

I will give 25 dollars for the property if delivered to me, or 50 dollars for the thief and property.

FRED PHILIPS.

Dec. 15, 1813

Stormy Weather—Hurricane?



The late Storm.—The papers are teeming with the devastating effects of the Storm on the 19th ult. It did not extend far into the interior, but the lower section of the State has suffered to an extent impossible to estimate.

In **Wilmington, N.C.** and vicinity, the effects of the gale were severely felt. The Advertiser of the 25th contains a full and animated description of the storm.—No houses blown down within the limits of the town, although some will require repairs, and most of the yards to be re-enclosed. Every bridge between Wilmington and **Waynesboro' [Goldsboro]** is carried away. Two horses drowned, belonging to the **Halifax Stage**, in **Lewis' Creek**, about three miles south of **South Washington**. All the water mills, except that of **Orton**, have been swept away. Some rice plantations have lost all their crops; others have suffered a loss of one half, one fourth, &c. Masts, trunks, &c., have been washed up on the sound, indicating the loss of vessels at sea. A large part of **Oak Island** has been washed away, and a New Inlet formed opposite **McRae's** or **Pedens' Sound**. A great deal of the river banking is washed away.

Storm.—On Friday afternoon last, the weather gave indications of an approaching storm—the wind was N.E.—and at night between 12 and 1 o'clock, our apprehensions were realized. The storm commenced, and was accompanied with a heavy rain; and during the whole day on Saturday, and until late at night, it was very violent, tearing up large trees by the roots, carrying away fences, chimneys, portions of buildings &c., —and near-

ly the whole time, it rained in torrents, and to a degree which we had never before witnessed in this or any other place. In some of the streets, the water was from 2 1-2 to 3 feet deep! and back of the town, in a lot that had been drained, it was actually to the depth of 6 feet!—We understand the tide at **Cherry's run**, a short distance from town, rose to the height of about 9 feet, and carried away the bridge. Other bridges, we learn, and water mills are destroyed, and immense damage done to the crops of cotton, corn, fodder, &c.

We have great fears for the shipping at the Bar, as we learn there were 40 to 50 vessels there.—*Washington Whig*, August 1837.

☞ We learn that a day or two before the storm here, there were two vessels lost at the **Bar**.—in one of which all the crew perished!—They were from the north counties, names unknown—both captains said to be brothers. [*Washington Whig*, August 1837]

The late Gale.—We conversed yesterday with a gentleman from **Edenton, N.C.** who states that many of the beautiful trees that have adorned that town for so many years fell beneath the violence of the late tempest. Bridges have been swept away, and we are sorry to add that nearly one third of the corn crop in some of the eastern counties of **North Carolina** will, it is feared, be lost.

We learn that every bridge between this and **Newbern** has been swept away, and that the mail carrier receives letters and not papers for the present. Should our subscribers in that section of country fail to receive their papers in due time, they must put the saddle on the right horse. *Norfolk Beacon*.

[All the above articles appeared in the *Tarboro' Press*, Sept. 2, 1837.]

Justices of the Peace—1823 Pitt County

Pitt.—Robert Williams, Benj'n Feson, Simon Purneg, Henry Smith, Hardie Smith, James Sheppard, Edmund Ricks, John Moring, John Bowers, Wm Bowers, Lanier Daniel, Roderick Cherry, Luke Albritton, Wm Pugh, Josiah Woolin, John Cannon, Edmund Andrews, J. Freeman, Gideon Bunum, Shadrack Shivers, Howell Horne, Wilkes Brooks, Sherwood Tyler, John Joyner, Charles Jenkins, Wm Clark, Joseph Blount, John Nesbett, Allen Jones, James Perkins, James Tyrel, Marshal Dickeson, Bryan Grimes, George E. Ellis, Valentine S. Jordan, Benj'n Tiron, Charles Rountree, Joel Patrick, Wilie Clements, N. Nelson, Jesse Cherry, Joseph Brooks, Joseph W. Worthington.



[Submitted by Bill Kemp, TRC member.
Taken from *Ripley's Believe It or Not.*]