

# THE CONNECTOR

SUMMER/FALL 2012 VOLUME 16, ISSUE 2

*Preserving the Past...For the Future*

## THE REMARKABLE STORY OF JOHN WESLEY BONE

*Record of a Soldier in the Civil War  
In his own words*

*John Wesley Bone was a member of  
Company I, 30th Regiment, Reg. NC  
State Troops, CSA*

I was born and raised on a farm near **Oak Level, North Carolina** and was eighteen years of age when the war broke out. My parents **David** and **Dinah Poland Bone** lived in a community that had very few educational advantages; therefore my education was very limited.

Realizing that the South was in dead earnest and hostilities becoming very warm in some places, and believing that sometime in the near future I would have to go as a soldier, about the first of September, 1861 I volunteered at Nashville, North Carolina, for a pe-



John Wesley Bone

riod of twelve months under **William T. Arrington**, as Captain. It was here that I had the first oath administered unto me. How well I have remembered

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## THE BEGINNINGS OF *THE CONNECTOR*

The Fall of 1997, while eating a sandwich at **Gardners'** located in Westridge Shopping center, **Bettie Arthur** and **Billie Jo Matthews** were discussing how to get **Tar River Connections Genealogical Society** up and running.

The organization was new for our area and it needed a lot of help.

**George Strickland**, acting manager of **Gardners'**, came over to the table and suggested we call his wife, **Peggy**, at Nash Community College to help us out. "She would

love doing this so give her a call". **Billie Jo** replied, "Get her on the phone, and I'll do the talking". Of course, **Peggy** said yes to taking over typing a newsletter for the society. **Peggy** and **Billie Jo** took to each other and stuck to

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TAR RIVER CONNECTIONS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
PO BOX 8764  
ROCKY MOUNT NC 27804

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Monthly meetings are held at 6:30 pm the third  
Tuesday of each month (except December) at  
Braswell Memorial Library,  
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#### 2012 OFFICERS

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#### NEWSLETTER:

BILLIE JO MATTHEWS, JANET SADOWSKI

### Submission of Articles

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

Email articles to [sadowski@pbtcomm.net](mailto:sadowski@pbtcomm.net)  
or mail:

Janet Sadowski  
2019 Calks Ferry Road  
Lexington, SC 29073

### A NEW ROCKY MOUNT BOOK AVAILABLE

A recently completed reference book, *Rocky Mount Municipal Officials, 1867-2010*, is now available at the Braswell Memorial Library in the Local History Room. Authored by **Stephen W. Raper**, retired Rocky Mount City Manager, the book contains complete listings of elected and appointed officials holding office since the town was chartered in February 1867.

Mayors, governing board members, city clerks, city attorneys, city managers, police chiefs, fire chiefs and all department heads have been identified and enumerated along with their terms of office. The City's Records

Court is also discussed, including recorders (judges), vice-recorders, and solicitors.

A historical narrative is written for each City of-fice or position, as well as a discussion of the various forms of government under which the City operated during its history. Photographs of almost all of the elected and appointed officials are contained in the book.

The reference work required about two years of research to complete. A copy is also available in the North Carolina Collection in the Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**GENEALOGY**  
**Family History**  
**Ancestry ★ Traditions**  
**Old Photographs Memories**  
**The black sheep of the family**  
**The part of you that wants to belong to something bigger**



## THE DEATH OF PRINCESS ANNE TILLERY

The wife of physician and eight-time mayor of Rocky Mount, **Dr. Richard C. Tillery, Princess Anne (Toon) Tillery**, died on February 22, 1873 in **Lauderdale County, Tennessee** at age 35 and was buried in the **Elon Cemetery** outside of Double Bridges, Tennessee. The Tillerys were long-time residents of Rocky Mount at the time. Until the recent discovery of a bound book of original editions of the *Rocky Mount Mail*, the town's first newspaper, dating from April 1872 to the summer of 1875 which were previously not known to exist, the circumstances of Mrs. Tillery's death were a complete mystery. Why was she in west Tennessee so far from home in Rocky Mount at the time of her death? How or why did she die?

Local history researcher, **Stephen W. Raper**, had pieced together certain facts and information in 2010 regarding the Tillery family from then available sources. (See Dr. Tillery's biographical sketch in the 2011 winter edition of the *Connector*, vol. 15, issue 1). It was known that Dr. Tillery's mother, **Mary**

**Eliza Bradley (Fort, Tillery)**, had remarried after the death of her second husband and Dr. Tillery's father, **Parasmus Tillery**, and located with her new husband, **William R. Musgrave**, and her children to Goldsboro and then to South Carolina, Tennessee and finally to Mississippi County, Arkansas. After William died in Kentucky in 1864, the family moved just across the Mississippi River to Lauderdale County, Tennessee where one of her sons by Mr. Musgrave worked in Hales Point and Mary owned property and ran a boarding house in nearby Double Bridges. Raper concluded Princess Anne Tillery and possibly Dr. Tillery were visiting his mother in February 1873 in Tennessee when Princess Anne became ill or had a tragic accident there and died. Unfortunately, there were no local or area newspaper reports or family letters or documents to explain her death. Additionally, there were no Lauderdale County, Tennessee records or newspapers in existence at that time to record her death.

Now, with new information contained in the *Rocky Mount Mail*, some of

the questions surrounding the circumstances of Mrs. Tillery's death have been partially answered. In its February 7, 1873 edition, the *Mail* reports, "Dr. R. C. Tillery and family left Rocky Mount last Tuesday bound for Indianapolis. The Dr. goes there in order that he may place his invalid wife under such medical treatment as he hopes will effect a permanent cure. He will probably be absent several months." Thus, it may be reasonably concluded she suffered from some incapacitating disease or condition which led Dr. Tillery

to seek specific treatment for her not otherwise available in this area.

Of course this new information sheds some light but it does not fully answer all the questions and raises other questions as well. What was her ailment? Why travel to Indianapolis for treatment? Did the Tillery's actually get to Indianapolis and obtain treatment for her prior to her death? Or, was her condition such that no treatment would be useful? Did they leave Indianapolis and then

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Photo By Martha Morgan O'Dell 2007



(Continued from page 1)

it unto this day. I was sworn in with three others, all strong able bodied men, except myself. I was healthy, but rather small and young. But long before the war had ended my three companions had passed away and left me. On the 10th of September, we joined our regiment at Raleigh. Our company was second of the 30th NCV. Our company numbered about one hundred men and the Regiment about one thousand. We were first organized at **Camp Mangum**, near Raleigh, North Carolina.

We were then stationed near **Smithville**, now known as **Southport**, near the old historic **Fort Caswell**. Disease, also, set in on us, such as measles, mumps, yellow jaundice, and many other things due to camp life. Many of the men died. I was taken with measles and was carried to the hospital. I believed at that time, that it was almost certain death to be carried to a hospital and did not want to go, but Captain prevailed with me to go, assuring me that I would have better treatment there than I could possibly get in camp. Upon being relocated to **Camp Wyatt** near **Fort Fisher**, I

was taken sick again with fever at this fort and was sent to camp. I was carried to the hospital and remained awhile until I got some better. I then was furloughed home, feeling that I had been gone a long time and had seen much of this world.

We had now spent about nine months as soldiers, but only knew a very little of the life of a soldier or the art of war, as the reader will learn if they follow me through the rest of the war, which now began in earnest. The unit now engaged in battles at **Seven Pines**, **Mechanicsville**, **Gaines Mill**, **Cold Harbor**, and then **Malvern Hill**. We reached Malvern Hill on Tuesday, July 1, '62, just before twelve o'clock. Our Brigade was placed in the center of the hill. We charged up the slope. I well remember, just as I reached the edge of the field, I heard a ball hit my left hand companion and he fell dead. I soon had a Minie' ball shot through my front leg. As I loaded and fired I could see the men fall and hear them halloo all around me, but we held our line and kept firing, finally I was wounded in the hand. Next morning everything was wet and things were somewhat bet-

ter, it was then that I learned that **Capt. William Arrington** with some others of the Company were killed and several of them were wounded. I recovered in the **Chimborazo Hospital** No. 4, Richmond, Virginia.

Later in the fall we fought at **South Mountain**, and **Fredericksburg**. As we approached Fredericksburg that first week of December, '62 we were a very hard looking set of soldiers, the men had lost, thrown way and worn out about all that they started from Richmond with in August, and as I have said before, we did not get much besides our rations while in the **Shenandoah Valley**. As we came out of the valley, the weather was very cold, the ground frozen and many of the men were barefooted, with large cracks in their feet, and when we would get up in the mornings and start on those turnpike roads, the blood would run out of our feet. We could be tracked nearly all day by the blood from our feet. The spring of '63 was to bring the battle of **Chancellorsville** for us. Here is where **Stonewall Jackson** got his death wound. He had ridden by our picket line, making ar-

rangements for the attack, and as he rode back he was mistaken for the enemy's cavalry, and fired on by some of his men, and mortally wounded, and died from it in a few days. I was so near on that night that I heard the firing of the guns that wounded him. The following day, we again formed line of battle on the east side of the plank road, and we now looked after our men to learn how many we had for duty. Our Company carried into the fight that morning seventy-five men, of that number forty were killed and wounded, eight being killed on the field. It continued to rain and everything was in a bad condition. I was taken with a chill, and then a fever. At this time my condition was a sad one. I had to separate with comrades and friends, many forever and I was now thrown entirely among strangers and very sick. A severe attack of brain fever (probably a form on meningitis or encephalitis) had taken hold of me. The army was now about ready to move. They were now on their way to **Gettysburg**. I was in hospital and furloughed home from June until October, but when I felt sufficiently able to try army life again

(Continued on page 5)



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I left for my command, rejoining it for duty at the battle of **Kelly's Ford** on the **Rappahannock River**. Our regiment **Colonel W.W. Sellers** was killed that day November 7, 1863. The Company that I was a member of had one-half of them killed, wounded and captured, scarcely any that were captured ever returned to the Regiment, as the North would not exchange prisoners any longer. At this time I contracted a deep cold and that morning was taken with a pain in my lungs, which resulted in pneumonia; the army was now beginning to move. I was not able to go, so I was left by the side of the road, with a comrade with me to get me on an ambulance. I was in the **CSA General Hospital, Charlottesville, Virginia** from Dec 4-until March, 1864. I rejoined my unit as the great campaign of 1864 had now opened, with the **battle of the Wilderness**, then the **battle of Spotsylvania Court House**. Our breastwork at Spotsylvania on our right was made in a curve, and called in history the "**Horse Shoe**" owing to its shape. About sunrise the enemy massed their troops in front of the Horse Shoe, and attacked and

drove our men out. We were now ordered to retake the position. We had orders to charge, and charge we did. Just before we reached the first line of works, I was badly wounded by a Minie's ball striking me in the right breast passing through my lungs and coming out beside my backbone and lodging in a pack that I had on my back. I thought if I could get back to my rear line I had better do it, so I got up, but did not go but a short distance before I had to give up from weakness: here another ball struck me. I revived a little and started again, but soon had to give up. I now had a little hill to ascend, and as I was on my way another ball struck me. **Captain James J. Harris** and my nearest comrade were killed. I laid on the battlefield for three days unattended, until I could crawl to safety. I was taken to the **Wayside Hospital, Richmond**, and then furloughed until Oct 1, 1864. I rejoined my unit just in time for the **battle of Cedar Creek**, where the greatest number of my Company were killed, wounded, captured or scattered behind. This about ended the campaign in the valley for the war. We marched to **Staunton**, and then went on rail cars to **Petersburg**, where we

were ordered to build our winter quarters. The trenches around Petersburg were now our home for eight or nine months, rain or shine, hot or cold. Many were taken sick in the trenches and died; while many were killed. It was a disagreeable place. We at least realized that we could not hold the place any longer, so we fled, leaving Petersburg to be captured by our enemies. We marched all day and late in the evening the enemy caught up with us. The next day, Friday, we reached **Farmville, Virginia**, formed line of battle; we fought, moved on, and fought again. That night we stacked arms and commenced piling up some fence rails for protection. It was here that we learned for certain that the Army of Northern Virginia had surrendered. This was April 9, 1865. The enemy camped near us, and we were soon visiting each other's camps. I suppose that most of us on both sides took the quietest night rest that we had in many, for we were not dreading and watching for each other: for the lion and the lamb had now lain down together. I could not find but three more present, beside me, of the first old original Company that left Nash County in September, 1861. Our Com-

pany, when they surrendered numbered eighteen, having lost nearly half of what it numbered when we left Petersburg. It was considered best to parole the Calvary first, so that they could get their horses away, where they could be fed. We remained here in camp at Appomattox Court House, Monday and Tuesday waiting for our paroles. On Tuesday evening General Lee had us marched out and had all of his men gathered as near together as they well could be; then he and others rode in the midst of us, and then setting on his horse, pulled off his hat, and made a speech, telling us of his regrets that we had not succeed in gaining the cause that we had tried so hard for, but did not put the blame on us, complimented us for other four years of hard services that we had done, and also told us to go home in peace, be good citizens, and try to rebuild our lost fortunes. He sadly bade us all and the army Northern Virginia adieu, and departed from us for the last time. We were turned out into the world most of us without any money, with one weather-beaten suit of clothes, and nothing to eat, entirely on the mercy of somebody else. The

(Continued on page 6)



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government had not paid us any wages in over twelve months, and most of us were from one hundred to one thousand miles from home. With all of the disadvantages against us, we were in sad condition but we were very glad to take the chance. Hoping that we could once more reach our homes, that we had not seen in a long time, and see a friend once again. As for me, I found my father and mother, and two young brothers all living at the old homestead and in very good circumstances for war times. My brother, **Henry A. Bone**, returned in a few days.

Post Script: Twenty-one cousins, brothers-in-laws, and a brother of J.W. Bone served in the War-Between-The-States. Nine died in service to their country. North Carolina, would suffer the heaviest death toll of any Confederate state. Company I, 30th Regiment, was organized with 167 enlisted men, 18 returned to North Carolina after the surrender at Appomattox, of these, only 4 were from the original company that left Nash County in September, 1861. John Wesley Bone was born on November 7,

1842, died April 7, 1936, at age 93.

Written and submitted by  
TRCGS Member Frederick H. Cron

Source Information: The chief reference is *Record of a Soldier in the Late War* written by John Wesley Bone in 1904, when he was bed-ridden recovering from an attack of rheumatism. The manuscript is held by his descendants, and is included in two books published by F.H. Cron.

An audio-visual program "Honor Answers Honor" heard at the National Park Visitor's Center, Appomattox Court House, Virginia. The program was developed by the National Park Service in 1976 and began showing at Appomattox in Sept, 1977 the script was written by Rosemary Pyne, a freelance writer. She used material from several state archives, including North Carolina. The Confederate material, according to National Park records, was indeed taken from "Record of a Soldier in the Late War" by J.W. Bone.

An article from the "Confederate Veteran", entitled "Visiting Virginia Battle Fields", when J.W.

Bone was eighty-four years old.

Records from the General Service Administrations on J.W. Bone's service record.

From the North Carolina State Archives, the record of the Thirtieth Regiment by Colonel F. M. Parker.

The Soldier's Application for Pension, dated June 17, 1901, for the wound and injury received at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House on May 12, 1864.

A study of the greater family of J.W. Bone, including his cousins, immediate family, and brothers-in-laws indicating twenty-one served; nine died in service to their country, conducted by Frederick H. Cron.

The History of the Thirtieth Regiment, by Colonel F. M. Parker, gives the enlisted population for the unit.

North Carolina, which will suffer the heaviest death toll of any Confederate state, secedes on May 20, 1861, the eleventh Confederate state. From "Don't Know Much about the Civil War", page 180, by Kenneth C. Davis.



Gravestone of John W. Bone taken by TRCGS Member Helen Sharpe. The John Bone Cemetery is located in Oak Level Township, Nash County, NC, on the south side of SR1704.



## Braswell Memorial Library

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

### GARDNER FAMILY BIBLE

After completing the research for the January 2011 report on **James B. Gardner** of Edgecombe and Nash Counties, [See *The Connector* Vol. 16, No. 1] b. ca. 1796, Mr. **Albert R. Page, Sr.** of Salt Lake City, Utah brought a **Gardner family Bible** record to the author's attention in April of 2011. The family information from this Bible was transcribed by **J. Robert Boykin** and published with the title "**Henry C. and Martha Gardner Bible**" in the May 2008 edition of *Trees of Wilson*, the newsletter of the Wilson County [North Carolina] Genealogical Society, page 58. Inserted in this Bible was a folded, ledger-sized sheet giving births, deaths, and marriages of both the William Gardner, Sr. family and the **Brittain Gardner** family. According to the sheet inserted in the Bible:

"**William Gardner** Son of **George** and **Mary** his wife was born the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 1773

**Nancy Gardner** wife of said William Gardner was borned the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 1770

**Bridges Gardner** Son of William Gardner and Nancy his Wife was borned Nov the 15<sup>th</sup> 1796

**Edwin Gardner** Son of William Gardner and Nancy his Wife was borned the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nov 1798

**Lucretia Gardner** Daughter of William and Nancy his Wife was borned 20<sup>th</sup> of Dec 1799

**Simeon Gardner** Son of William and Nancy his Wife was borned the 10<sup>th</sup> of Dec 1801

**Sallie Gardner** Daughter of William and Nancy his Wife was borned the 20<sup>th</sup> of Jan 1803

**Polly Gardner** Daughter of William Gardner and his Wife was borned the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 1806

**George Gardner** Son of William Gardner and Nancy his Wife was borned the 20<sup>th</sup> of Oct 1808

**William Gardner** Son of William Gardner and Nancy his Wife was borned the 20<sup>th</sup> of Jan 1810

**Brittain Gardner** Son of William Gardner and Nancy his Wife was borned the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 1814

**Evalina Gardner** Daugh-

ter of William Gardner and Nancy his Wife was borned the 28<sup>th</sup> of Jan 1818"

This information agrees with the conclusion drawn in the original report on James B. Gardner; namely, that James B. and **Edwin Gardner** had a close relationship to **William Gardner, Sr.** The Bible evidence, combined with the matching birth year for James B. in other sources compared to the Bible, and with the family oral history of a "Bridges" or "Bridgers" Gardner within the family, leads to the conclusion that it is highly likely that James B. Gardner is James Bridges or James Bridgers Gardner and is the child in the Bible list referred to as "Bridges." It is also likely that Edwin Gardner is the same person as Edwin in the Bible list, making James B. and Edwin the legitimate, biological children of William Gardner, Sr. and his wife Nancy. One possible explanation for their absence as heirs of William Gardner, Sr. in his estate papers is that, as the oldest sons, they may have already received a share of their father's estate. That James B.

owed a debt to his father's estate may also be a factor in this absence.

When questioned about the original Bible and its inserts, Mr. Albert Page said he believed Mr. Boykin sold the Bible to "someone up North." Pat Gardner made contact with Mr. Boykin, who gave her the story of how he came to have the Bible and confirmed that he did sell it to a woman who was a Gardner descendant. He could not recall her name and did not have any contact information for her, but suspected she was a member of the Wilson County Genealogical Society. Until this person is identified, the whereabouts of the original Bible remain unknown.

Researched and written by Traci Thompson, Local History/Genealogy Librarian, Braswell Memorial Library, 727 North Grace Street, Rocky Mount, NC 27804. The original article has source information. A copy is available at Braswell Memorial Library in Rocky Mount, NC.



## JOYNER FAMILY OBITUARIES

### VETERAN ANSWERS LAST ROLL CALL

Many friends will learn with regret of the death of Mr. **N. T. Joyner**, who died at the home of his son, Mr. **N. M. Joyner**, near Nashville on Monday last about noon. Mr. Joyner was about eighty-four years old and was among that valiant band of Southern soldiers who fought all through the great struggle of '61 and '65,

being one of seven brothers who offered themselves for the cause of the South. The deceased was a brother of Mr. **G. W. Joyner, Sr.**, of Nashville, and is also survived by two sons, viz.; Messrs. **G. W. Joyner** of Rocky Mount, and **N. M. Joyner**, of near Nashville, and one daughter, Mrs. **Nannie Drew**, of Raleigh. The funeral services were

held Tuesday afternoon and interment made at the old Joyner homestead.

Source: *Nashville Graphic*  
April 1, 1920.

Note: Surviving **Nathan Thomas Joyner** was brother, **George Washington Joyner** (b. 8/28/1844) sons, **George Washington**

**Joyner** (b. 1/22/1863) and **Neverson Monroe Joyner** and daughter, **Nancy (Nannie) Joyner Drew**.

Submitted by: TRCGS Member Debbie Strickland

### NASH CIVIL WAR HEROES REDUCED TO ONE VETERAN

#### George Washington Joyner Of Confederate Fame Dies At Age of 91.

#### J. W. Bone, 94, Remains

With the interment Sunday of **George Washington Joyner**, 91, Nash county saw its thinning ranks of Civil War veterans reduced to a single surviving warrior, **John Wesley Bone** of near Sandy Cross.

Joyner, venerable Nash county resident and a veteran of the War Between the States, died here about three o'clock Saturday afternoon after an illness occasioned by a recent paralytic stroke. Until a few months ago he had enjoyed unusually good health for a man of his age.

He was born in Nash County August 28, 1844, the son of **Tommy** and **Amie Land Joyner** of Nash and Pitt counties. His early life was spent in the vicinity of Nashville. At the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted in the Confederate army, Company I of the Thirtieth Regiment.

John Wesley Bone was a member of the same company. Through the bitter months of the conflict, Joyner and Bone marched, slept and fought side by side. Joyner was wounded in the battle of Chancellorsville. During **General Jackson's** valley campaign, he was captured by the Federals and imprisoned at Point Lookout where he remained a prisoner for a year.

Joyner and Bone met

for the last time last August when friends and relatives staged a reunion celebrating the ninety-first anniversary of Joyner's birth. At the funeral services here Sunday, Mr. Bone, now 94 years old, paid a final tribute to his comrade of the Confederacy and reviewed incidents of the conflict and reconstruction days.

Final rites for the deceased were conducted Sunday afternoon from the Nashville Baptist church, with Rev. P. B. Upchurch, the pastor, officiating. Interment followed in the old Joyner burial ground.

The deceased was a member of the Macedonia Baptist church. He married the former Miss Zanie Ann Lindsey. She died twenty-three years ago.

He is survived by three daughters, Mrs. J. L. Tyson and Mrs. J. R. Batchelor of Nashville, and Mrs. Senora Dean of Spring Hope; two sons, J. J. Joyner of Nashville and M. H. Joyner of Portsmouth, Va; forth-three grandchildren, seventy-one great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers for the funeral were **Gray R. King, J. A. Leonard, W. M. Ferrell, Burt Winstead, R. F. Parham** and **J. A. May**.

Source: *Nashville Graphic*, March 26, 1936. Submitted by: TRCGS Member Debbie Strickland



## Pam's Corner

Pam Edmondson, Local History Specialist, Edgecombe County Memorial Library, Tarboro, NC

### ROCKY MOUNT ITEMS

Rocky Mount, June 9th, 1896, In pursuance of notice issued by order of the commander, a meeting of **W. L. Pender Camp** of Confederate Veterans met in **Matthews Hall** last Thursday.

**First Lieut. Commander Dossey Battle** presided and **Adjutant J. W. Cotton** was at the secretary's desk. Twenty-eight comrades were present and great interest in the camp was manifested.

Many handed to the adjutant to be placed in the records of the camp short histories of their military career. It was earnestly urged upon all comrades to prepare and send in these histories as soon as possible.

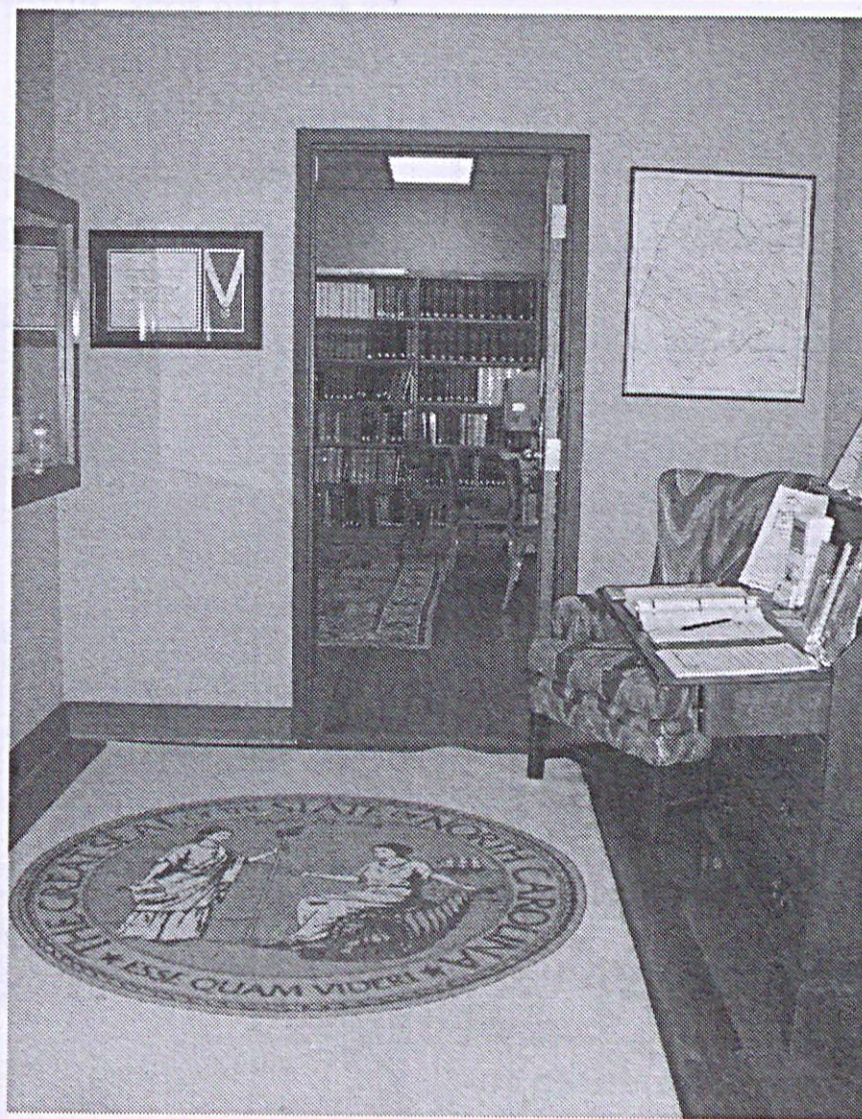
A great many announced their intent to go to Richmond the 30th June to attend the great reunion.

As a result of the meetings held by **Evangelist W. R. Gales** and which ended Tuesday evening, about one hundred converts have joined or will connect themselves with the various church organizations. The moral atmosphere has been purified by the preaching of the evangelist and joy and peace reign in many hearts before oppressed by unchristian feeling.

Crops of every kind are looking well and this makes the farmers smile.

Occasional.

Source: *The Tarboro Southerner*, June 11, 1896.



Entry hall to the Janie F. Allsbrook Local History Room  
Edgecombe Memorial Library In Tarboro

### *Rocky Mount Hotel.*

The Subscriber respectfully informs his friends and the public that he has commenced keeping

### *A House of Entertainment,*

At his residence at the Falls of Tar River, 18 Miles from Tarborough and 55 from Raleigh, on the stage road between those towns., He will provide everything abundantly, necessary for the comfort and convenience of man and horse, and hopes to merit and receive a share of public patronage.

ISAAC W. HORNE

Jan. 1833

From *North Carolina Free Press*  
Tuesday, February 5, 1833.



## PROMINENT MINISTER UNABLE TO ATTEND FUNERAL OF MOTHER

The funeral of **Sarah Elizabeth Vick Denson** was held on December 16, 1928 from her home in Red Oak.

She was 93 and had been an invalid for about 10 years, and had been confined to her bed for several years due to a broken hip. Due to his illness, her prominent Primitive Baptist minister, **Elder A. B. Denson**, was unable to attend her funeral. She was a well known member of the community and was credited with reading the Bible 14 times during her last year.

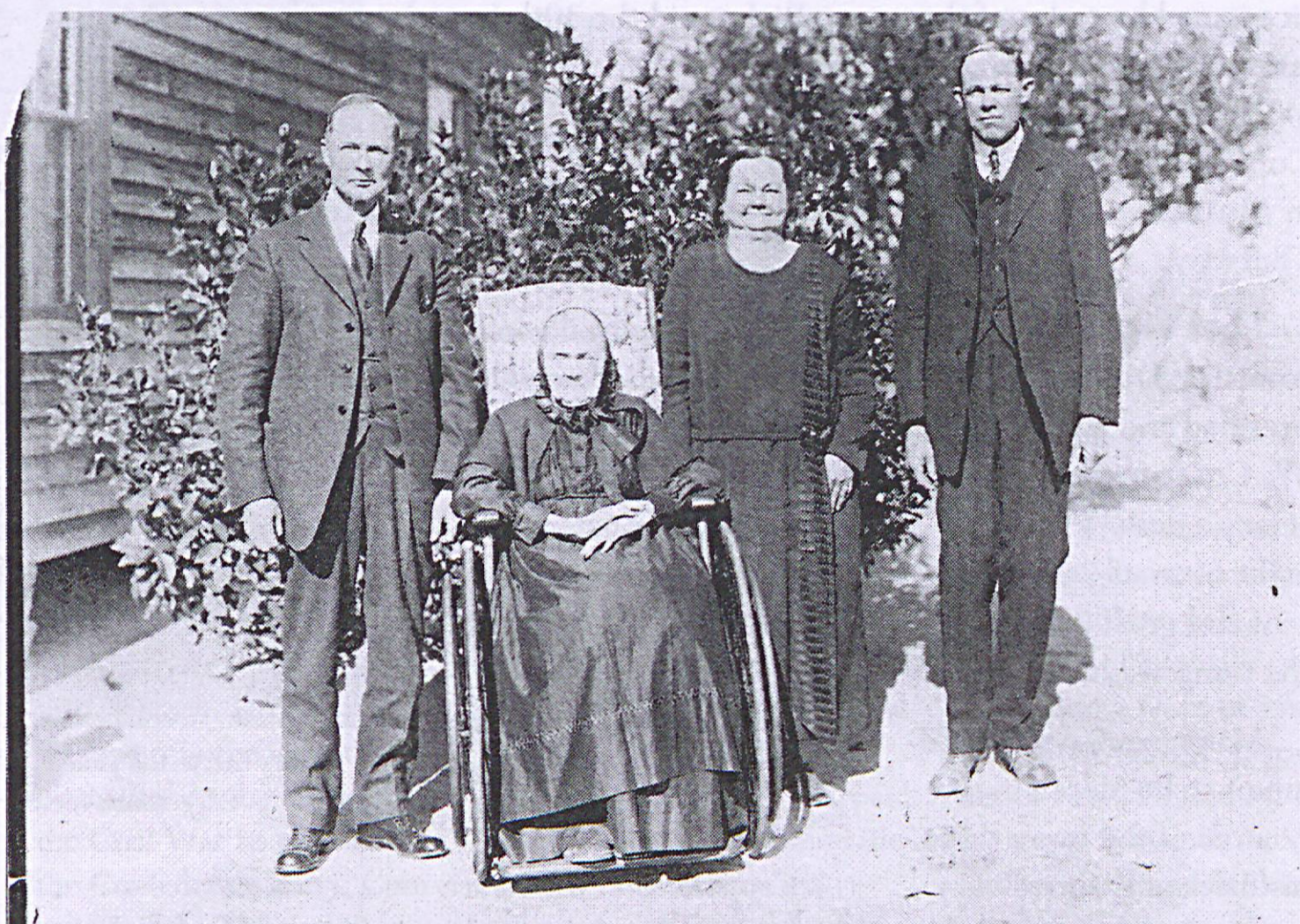
She had never ridden in a motor driven vehicle and one of her last requests that she be carried to her grave by a horse drawn hearse. She was carried to her grave in the family cemetery in Coley Town by a stately black

hearse drawn by horses.

She was survived by her two sons, **Elder Alexander Buxton Denson** (1873-1952), and **Noah Benjamin Denson** (1875-1956), and daughter

**Sarah Louvenia Denson Dickens** (1869-1940). **Sarah Denson** (1835-1928) was the widow of **Benjamin E. Denson** (1839-1894)

Article and photograph submitted by TRCGS member Jimmy Winters, great grandson of Sarah Dickens.



Undated photo prior to 1928. (left to right) Elder A. B. Denson, his mother in wheelchair, Sarah Vick Denson, his sister, Sarah Louvenia Denson Dickens, and his brother, Noah B. Denson

## RESEARCH MATERIAL OF SHELIA HANNA

The Heritage Society of Franklin County, NC recently became the recipient of Shelia Hanna's research material. Shelia was the Franklin County Coordinator on the NC genweb site from 2008 to 2010 ([www.ncgenweb.us/franklin/](http://www.ncgenweb.us/franklin/)). She passed

away about three years ago leaving a mass of books, maps and other research material. Her husband inquired online as to how he could give her material to someone or an organization who could appreciate her research. He stated that he had certain guidelines to be

met before he would relinquish Shelia's works. The Heritage Society met those guidelines and received the boxes of North Carolina research. The society plans to form a committee and catalog the material in 2013 and decide how to make the material available

to the public. The Heritage Society is excited to receive this gift and hopefully it can be made available in a Franklin County genealogy room in the near future.



# Heritage Society of Franklin County

PO Box 45, Louisburg, North Carolina 27549

## A PLEASANT OCCASION

One of the most enjoyable and unique events which has graced the social history of our town for many years and in which it has been the fortune of this writer to participate took place at the residence of **Dr. J. E. Malone** on Thursday night. It was a party given complimentary to **Miss Birdie Thomas**, of Knoxville, Tennessee, who has been visiting the family of Dr. Malone for some weeks past, and who has during her stay won hosts of both friends and admirers. The old and sumptuous parlor adorned with

evergreens and as the guests entered, Miss Thomas clad in white satin and diamonds which gave to her blonde beauty a fresher loveliness, stood ready to receive them. Within the room more of Louisburg's charming, young ladies robed in a great variety of rich antique costumes, some of which had not seen the light for many years were gathered, forming indeed a fairer adornment than the evergreens of nature of the pictures of art.

The shimmering of many colored silks, the blaze of jewelry fashioned before these days of cheap

imitation, and now and then a dainty slipper peeping from under folds of rich satin gave us a glimpse of the departed glory of the splendid ANTE-BELLEUM days.

Music too lent its influence to the pleasure of the hour, and the throng of "fair women and brave men" had forgotten to count the flight of time when supper was announced.

The name of the host alone was sufficient guarantee for the elegance of the repast and it is enough to that the one then

spread added fresh laurels to his fame as a prince of entertainers. It suffered full justice untempered with mercy at the hands of those for whom it was prepared.

After supper mirth and joy ran riot and it was not until a new day had begun that we departed.

Source: *Franklin Times* Newspaper, January 3, 1890 Submitted by HSFC and TRCGS Member Patricia Leonard.

## NEWSPAPERS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY

*The Daily Courier* See:  
*The Franklin Courier*

The Franklin Courier Began in 1871 Earliest known issue: Apr. 12, 1872 Last known issue: Nov. 6, 1879 OCLC #10460225 Published as: The Daily Courier, July 26-29, 1876.

*Franklin Progress* Began in 1905 No known issues

OCLC #27701192

*Franklin Times* (1870)

Began in 1870 Earliest known issue: July 24, 1879 Currently published OCLC #11560974

*Louisburg Union &*

*North Carolina Miscel-*

*lany* Began in 1846 Earliest

known issue: Oct. 29,

1846 Last known issue:

Nov. 4, 1847 OCLC #24727842

*North Carolina Times*

Began in 1847 Earliest known issue: July 8, 1848 Ceased in 1848 Last known issue: Nov. 18, 1848

OCLC #25685010 Continued by: *Raleigh Times* (Raleigh, N.C.: 1848) Moved to Raleigh, N.C. by June 24, 1848

*Weekly News*

(Louisburg) Began in 1853 Earliest and last known issue: Feb. 10, 1855





## WORKSHOP TO IMPROVE RESEARCH STRATEGIES

The spring workshop, *Genealogy Done Right*, was presented by the North Carolina Genealogical Society (NCGS), Braswell Memorial Library, Tar River Connections Genealogical Society, and Edgecombe County Genealogical Society. **Thomas W. Jones**, PhD, CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS, was the presenter. The two day event was held at Braswell Library on March 30th and 31st of this year.

The first day of the workshop was limited to about thirty individuals. This phase of the workshop was more intense. The participants were involved in special activities that would not have been possible with a large group. The second day of the workshop started with registration. The group of about 100 were given a warm welcome by **Tracie Thompson**, Local History/ Genealogy Librarian. Next, the speaker, Thomas W. Jones, was introduced by **Lucinda Howell Glover**, Program Chair, NCGS.

There were two morning sessions, lasting about an hour each. The first session was, *"How to Avoid Being Duped by the Internet."* The second session was,

*"Solving the Mystery of the Disappearing Ancestor."* Both sessions were most informative. After the lunch break, there were two additional sessions, *"Organizing Evidence to Overcome Record Shortage,"* and *"Seven Habits of Highly Effective Genealogists."*

The Edgecombe County Genealogical Society prepared a lovely table with delicious food items for participants to enjoy in the morning of the first day, and during breaks both days of the event. The Tar River Connections Genealogical Society provided a light breakfast on Saturday, the second day of the event.

Several vendors were set up in the Wiley Room. Each vendor had a table on which to display their items

available for purchase, such as books, maps, CD's, newsletters, and other things of interest to someone researching their family history.

All of the participants left the workshop with a wealth of information from program notes, personal notes, a PowerPoint presentation, as well as useful information purchased from the vendors.

Submitted by TRCGS Member Margie Parker Brantley



Dr. Thomas W. Jones, Presenter



Workshop participants Betty Batchelor, Janie Joyner Dew, Dr. Bruce Pruitt, Margie Parker Brantley, and Mary Keel



Margaret M. Hofman, author, and daughter, Tessie, attend their vendor table



Helen Sharp attends vendor table



## PATROLMAN HENRY THOMAS TIMBERLAKE

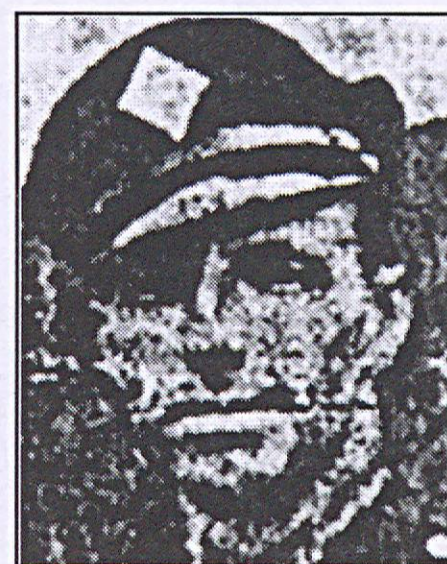
Henry Thomas Timberlake was born June 23, 1909 to Dr. Richard Epaphroditus Timberlake and Lena Clyde Winston Timberlake in Youngsville, Franklin County, North Carolina. His mother had been married prior resulting in a half-sister named Gladys and he also had an older brother, Richard E. Timberlake, Jr.

In the 1930 census Henry was 20 years old and living at home with his parents and his 22 year old brother. He joined the North Carolina Highway Patrol during the 1930's and moved to Fayetteville, Cumberland County, North Carolina.

According to the death certificate Patrolman Timberlake was working when he was involved in an

auto accident on November 29, 1939 and was taken to the hospital in Cumberland County. Three days later he died as a result of cerebral contusion and compound fracture of left brain.

Burial was in his hometown of Youngsville, Franklin County, North Carolina. He was 29 years old at his death and single. There is no marker on his grave to show his service to the citizens of North Carolina.



### The Confederate Flag.

Furl that Banner, for 'tis weary,  
Round its staff 'tis drooping dreary;  
Furl it, fold it, it is best;  
For there's not a man to wave it,  
And there's not a sword to save it,  
And there's not one left to lave it  
In the blood which heroes gave it;  
And its foes now scorn and brave it:  
Furl it, hide it—let it rest.

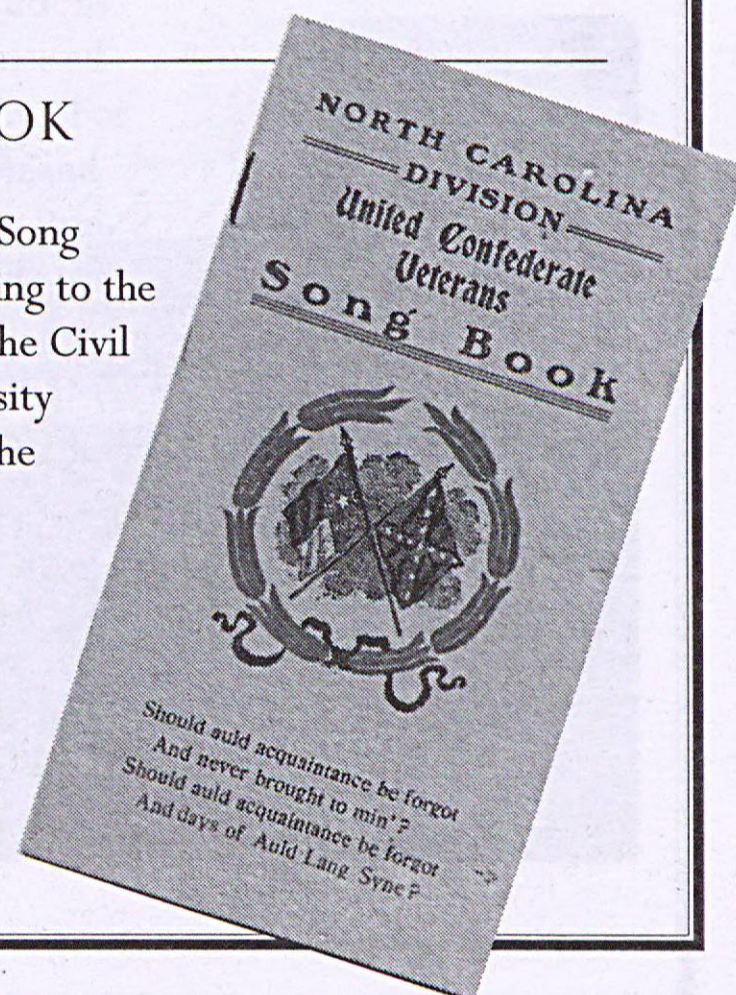
Furl that Banner, true 'tis gory,  
Yet 'tis wreathed around with glory,  
And 'twill live in song and story,  
Though its folds are in the dust;  
For its fame on brightest pages,  
Penned by poets and by sages,  
Shall go sounding down the ages—  
Furl its folds though now we must.

Furl that Banner, softly, slowly,  
Treat it gently—it is holy—  
For it droops above the dead;  
Touch it not—unfold it never,  
Let it droop there furled forever,  
For its people's hopes are dead.

## CONFEDERATE SONG BOOK

The United Confederate Veterans Song Book, ca. 1890-1900, contains songs relating to the southern states prior to, during, and after the Civil War. It is part of the East Carolina University Digital Collections and can be viewed on the internet at:

[digital.lib.ecu.edu/2770](http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/2770)





## SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY IN BERTIE COUNTY

On August 28, 1861 **Major General Benjamin Butler** with a Federal Force of 2,000 men attacked and captured Hatteras Inlet and Forts Hatteras and Clark. In January 1862 **Brigadier General Ambrose Burnside** assembled a Union Force of 15,000 troops and more than 60 ships left Annapolis, Maryland to begin his "Burnside Expedition" on North Carolina Waterways. With the Coastal Waterways defended by a very small Navy and only a "Mosquito Fleet" the odds were stacked against the Defending Confederate Forces. It was only a matter of time before Burnside would land at Hatteras Inlet on January

13 and capture Roanoke Island on February 7 and Elizabeth City on February 10. Winton was attacked and burned on February 18-19. After New Bern was captured on March 14, Washington on March 20 and Plymouth on May 17, all of the Sounds Region was securely under Union control by August 1862. The Union Forces stationed at Roanoke Island and Plymouth would routinely make runs up the Chowan River to obtain bacon and other goods while intimidating the residents. On the West side of the River there were many plantations that were loyal to the Southern Cause, one of such was **Ashland Plantation**. Ashland was origi-



nally owned by **George Pollock** from Halifax and was sold to **Thomas D. Holley** in 1832. It was acquired by his son **Agustine Holley** and at that time the plantation consisted of approximately 1100 acres. Augustus "Gus" started the present house in the early 1830's and completed it in 1840. It was constructed mainly by his own slaves and named for **Henry Clay's** home in Ashland, Kentucky. Legend has it that Holley would offer his house with a hidden room over the porch as a "safe house" for the Confederate Troops

keeping watch of the Union movement along the River. One documented Confederate Unit patrolling the area was the 68<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment commanded by **Col. James W. Hinton**. Gus Holley knowing that if the Union Forces found that he was housing Confederate Troops they would likely burn his plantation as they did in Winton. This gives new meaning to the phrase "Southern Hospitality". Holley's Wife, Martha, died 10 years before he did and he then married a widow with two

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children.....**Sallie D. Jernigan.** Gus left the plantation to his widow at his death. The Plantation was later divided into tracts and owned by the **Miller Family** who sold to the **Perry Family** who sold it in 1997. The home has been completely restored

and is owned by a private family at the present.

Source: Submitted by TRCGS  
Member Wallace Abernathy



(Continued from page 3)

travel to Tennessee to visit his mother there? Perhaps the family went there so his mother could assist in caring for Princess Anne. Or, did the Tillerys go to Tennessee before going to Indianapolis? Unfortunately, the *Mail* does not provide any additional information in its subsequent issues, although there are several missing issues in late February and early March 1873 which possibly could have contained this information.

Princess Anne Tillery was from a wealthy family. She was a noted belle and known as an active and vibrant young woman and a skilled horse-woman who enjoyed riding and the outdoors. She was born on June 13, 1838 in Bladen County, N.C. to An-

**thony Fentress and Margaret Council Gause Toon.** One of her brothers would become a Confederate general and later served as Secretary of Education for the State of North Carolina. On February 4, 1863 in Columbus County she married Dr. Tillery, then serving as an artillery officer attached to the 40<sup>th</sup> N. C. Infantry Regiment. She moved to Rocky Mount after her husband resigned from the army in late 1863. The couple would have four children, two of whom survived. Her husband was a successful physician who was able to properly provide for his family, even during the difficult economic times of Reconstruction in rural eastern North Carolina.

Both Dr. Tillery and  
Princess Anne Tillery

owned property in Rocky Mount, jointly and individually. She inherited money and property (including slaves) from her father prior to the end of the Civil War. In sum, it appears she enjoyed a relatively comfortable life as compared to most of her fellow citizens in Rocky Mount during those days. Her background and environment, then, would not seem to create conditions which would have caused her medical infirmity. For what ever the reason and what ever the cause, Princess Anne in fact suffered from some unknown (to us) medical condition that led to her death at a relatively young age, despite Dr. Tillery's exhaustive efforts to secure the best available cure or treatment for her. We may never know all the facts of this

case, but at least we know a bit more now which helps to better understand the tragic and premature death of the wife of one of early Rocky Mount's most distinguished citizens and leaders.

Source: Submitted by  
TRCGS Member Stephen  
W. Raper. June 2012



## A UNIVERSAL OBLIGATION



The militia system was originally transplanted to the American colonies from England. From the beginning, it was grounded in the principle of universal obligation. It enrolled every able-bodied male between certain ages, usually eighteen and forty five with only a few exemptions such as congressmen, stagecoach drivers, ferryboat men and patrollers. North Carolina required those enrolled to furnish their own arms and to muster for regularly scheduled training usually twice a year, in the spring and fall. Militia members were to arm themselves with a musket, bayonet and belt, two spare flints, a cartridge box with 24 bullets, a power horn and a knapsack. Militia members wore their civilian clothing and therefore a wide vari-

ety of clothing would be seen in a militia company. Generally the clothing of the average farmer is a good description. They were organized by company, commanded by a captain in geographical districts, therefore, were likely to be neighbors. The muster roll of Edgecombe County, North Carolina militia records that survive from the 1750's indicate an enrollment of 1317 men into fourteen companies, with average strength of 94 men.

The **Ricks** family which originally had come to the New World in the person of **Isaac Ricks**, born in Norfolk, England in 1638. By family tradition he immigrated and landed at Jamestown, Virginia and settled in what was to become the Isle of Wight County, Virginia. Over a period of 100 years the family moved to the Chowan Precinct, Bertie Precinct and after 1741 to Edgecombe County, North Carolina.

The Muster rolls of Edgecombe County militia indicate the enrollment of the following members:

**Capt William Haywood's** Company - **Abraham Ricks**, Soldier

**Capt Benjamin Lane's** Company - **Benjamin Ricks & William Ricks**, Soldiers

**Capt. Hardy Cone's** Company - **James Ricks & John Rick**, Soldiers

North Carolina was divided into six military districts during the Revolutionary War, the Halifax district was composed of Nash, Edgecombe, Franklin, Halifax, Martin, Northampton and Warren counties.

**Benjamin and Patience Helty Ricks** of Edgecombe, after 1777 Nash County, were to have thirteen children, nine boys and four girls.

Four of their sons (**Abraham, William, John, Josiah**) were found on duty at Kingston, Rhode Island on March 26, 1780.

A total of six (**Lewis, Sgt Maj Benjamin, William, Josiah, John, Abraham**) of the nine sons saw military service in the Revolutionary War. A seventh son, **Jacob** rendered material aid as recognized by NC Revolutionary War Pay Vouchers # 6959 dated June 4, 1782 & # 9059 dated August 30, 1783.



Submitted by TRCGS Member  
Fredrick H. Cron

Notes: *Journal of Libertarian Studies- The Colonial Period and the American Revolution*

*North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*

*Militia Acts of 1792*

*Building a 1750's North Carolina Militia Impressions*

*North Carolina Regiments in Revolutionary War*

*Colonial Soldiers of the South, 1732-1774*

*The Ricks Family, Compiled by Guy S. Rix- 1908*

*The Descendants of Jonas Ricks and Other Ricks Families in America by Donald Milton Ricks*



## LOUISBURG COLLEGE

Opened in 1857 on the site of the **Franklin Academy**, chartered 1787. Now a Methodist junior college, coeducational **Louisburg College** is the oldest two-year, church-related, co-educational college in the nation. Its predecessor institution, **Franklin Academy**, received a charter in 1787. The academy was re-chartered in 1802 and, after false starts, opened east of the town commons, on January 1, 1805, as **Franklin Male Academy**. Enrollment expanded under the leadership of **Matthew Dickinson**, a graduate of Yale University, who was well versed in over twenty subjects including five languages. In 1814, **Louisburg Female Academy** was chartered and opened on the west side of the town commons with an additional building to accommodate the young women. Under the rule of **Asher H. Ray** and his wife **Jane Curtis Ray**, the school offered four-year regular courses and became known as a respected female seminary.

Work began to transform the female academy into a college in 1855.

Development and instruction continued under the new plan until 1865 when the college was forced to close. The college re-opened in 1866 only to be closed again in 1878 for the next eleven years. During that time the buildings were used as a private residence and for a high school.

Reopening in 1889 with eight teachers and a president, the college enrolled around 100 students. The institution had long been operated under the care of the Methodist Church, but the church had not given any support for the institution since its establishment in 1805. The

college did receive funds from **Washington Duke** of Durham, who became owner of the property in 1891. Upon Duke's death in 1907, **Benjamin Duke**, his son, presented the property to the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church. His act of generosity officially linked the college to the Methodist Church. New additions were made to the campus in the early twentieth century and the program was reorganized in 1915 to make Louisburg College a junior college. The college became coeducational in 1931.

### References:

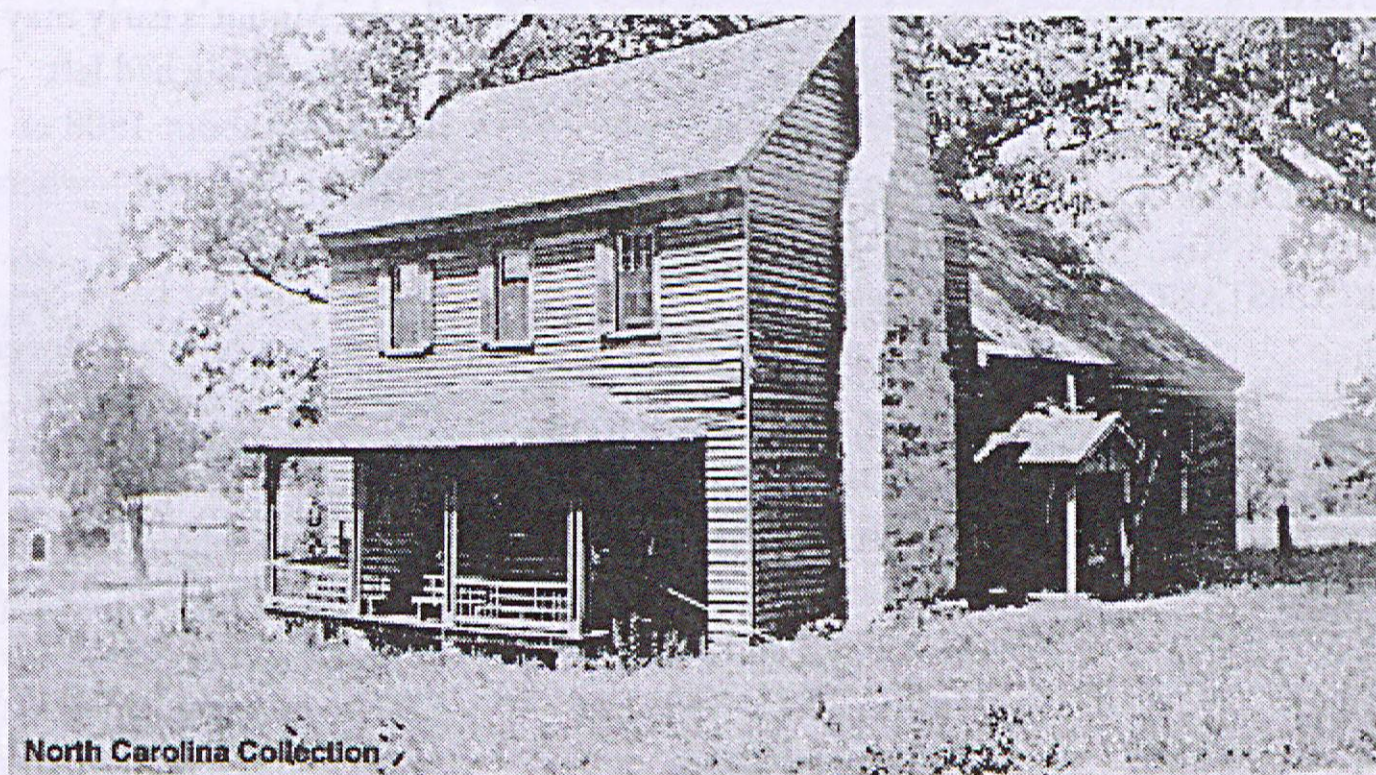
William S. Powell, *Higher Education in North Carolina* (1964)

William S. Powell, ed., *Encyclopedia of North Carolina* (2006)

Vickie E. Mason, *The Historic District of Louisburg, North Carolina* (1990)

Louisburg College website: <http://www.louisburg.edu>

Submitted by TRCGS  
Members Gerald and  
Patricia Leonard



A building on the campus of Louisburg Female Seminary (later Louisburg College) dating from 1814. The structure burned in 1927. Photograph ca. 1915.

<http://www.lib.unc.edu/ncc/pcoll/01franklin/franklin.html>



## A GHOST STORY BY AN OLD REPORTER

So you don't believe in ghosts? Maybe it is because you never saw one. I didn't believe in them, either, until the other evening when I ran head-on into one, or rather I should say he ran head-on into me. The strange thing is that he didn't look at all like I thought a ghost should look, but he definitely was not an impostor because I couldn't possibly be mistaken about who he was, and here he was before me, a real flesh-and-blood creature even though he had been dead for more than fifty years.

Ghosts can talk, too, or at least this one could, although what he said didn't make too much sense. He wasn't the spectral, vaporous figure you might expect, but a person just like you and me, wearing the same kind of clothes that we wear.

Perhaps you, too, could see this ghost if you went about twilight to the Old **Dr. George L. Wimberly** residence at the corner of Hill and Arlington. That is where I was the other evening, standing at the Arlington street entrance to the spacious backyard. I wasn't there long before bells began to jangle deep in the recesses of

memory, and that backyard came alive and was peopled with romping young boys, and suddenly I realized that I knew them—**George Wimberly and Stanley Matthews, Harvey Short, Jim Forcum, George Edwards, Mack Brown, Fletcher Daughtridge, Ducky Clark and the Baker boys, Joe and Boykin.**

As I watched these boys hitching up a goat to a wagon, I remembered how, after some fifty years, I had located the Baker boys through a strange circumstance. They had lived in the large frame house next door to the Wimberly residence, and their father had been one of Rocky Mount's early mayors. The family had left here along about 1908 or 1909 for Alabama—where in that state I did not know—and for half a century thereafter I was never able to learn from anyone what had ever become of Joe and Boykin Baker, or whether they were still alive.

Then one night about ten or twelve years ago, I sat beside Congressman **Frank Boykin**, of Alabama, at the speakers table at a dinner in **Biloxi, Mississippi**. As he and I chat-

ted, I began to wonder if there could be any connection between his family and the Bakers. After all, the youngest Baker boy was named Boykin, which obviously was a family name, and hadn't they gone to Alabama?

Well, I told the Congressman I had once known a boy in Rocky Mount, N.C., whose first name was Boykin, and I just wondered—

"Oh, you mean Boykin Baker," he interrupted. Then he went on to tell me of the family connection, and to give me the addresses of both Joe and Boykin. Joe was living in Mobile and Boykin in Houston, although the latter, an official of the United States Immigration Service, has since been transferred to Boston.

If you are wondering what about that ghost, just have a little patience; I'll get back to him in due time. As I stood there, I thought too, about Stanley Matthews, who disappeared from the Rocky Mount scene not long after the Bakers, and I did not see him again until the big homecoming shindig here three years ago, and I knew

"AS I WATCHED THESE BOYS HITCHING A GOAT TO A WAGON I REMEMBERED HOW, AFTER SOME FIFTY YEARS, I LOCATED THE BAKER BOYS THROUGH A STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCE.."

(Continued on page 19)



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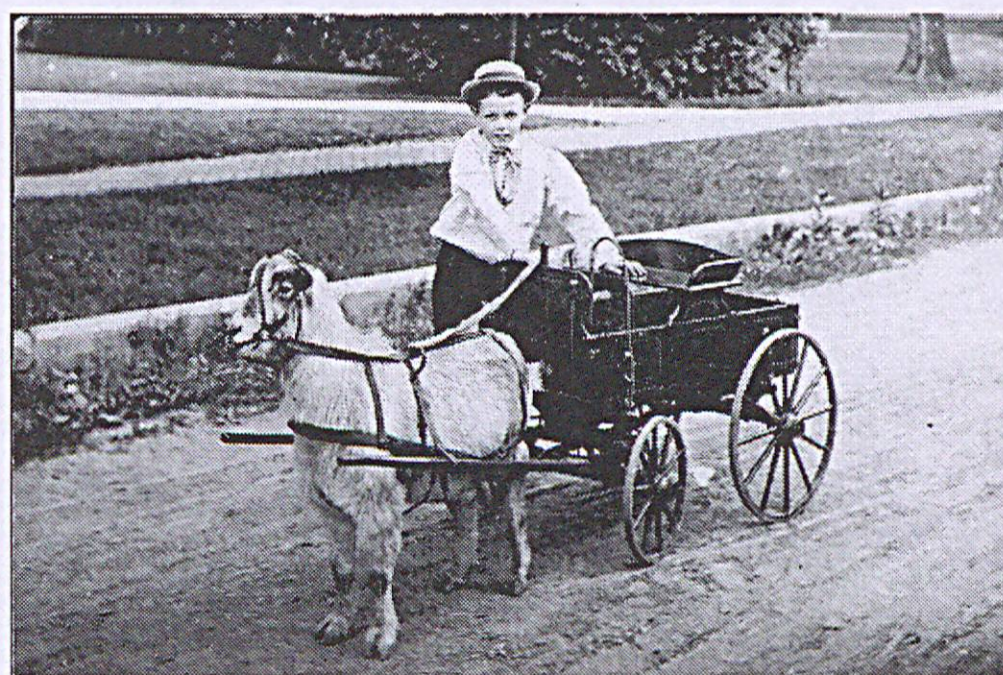
him right away because he hadn't changed too much, and I learned from him that he had been a career man in the Army Medical Corps and had only recently retired with the rank of colonel. Was then superintendent of a tubercular sanitarium in Pennsylvania. Later he dropped in to see me in Pittsburgh, and advised that he had fully retired and was going to Florida to live, and he had hardly more than settled down before passing away suddenly from a heart attack.

Now, the boys had the goat hitched up, and it dashed out of the yard into Arlington street, with the boys running alongside, and suddenly I was made aware that there was one

boy I had not noted—a boy that I knew better than any of the others. He was dishing headlong toward the street, letting out Indian war whoops and not looking where he was going. And he ran right into me, his head striking me in the middle and knocking the wind out of me. And he hesitated for just a second and shouted "Look out, Mister," and tore on after his playmates.

Then, suddenly I became aware of who he was. He was that ghost—the ghost of the boy I used to be. S.T.M.

Submitted by TRCGS  
Member Edwin Ferebee  
Williamson. *The Rocky  
Mount, N.C. Telegram*,  
Wednesday, September  
13, 1961. Written by Sam  
Mallison



(Continued from page 1)

each other like glue. Their minds were totally in sink. Every Tuesday was travelling day for the two of them. They traveled to all of the libraries in the area, knocked on doors, spent endless hours copying and absorbing information, then back to Peggy's home to have her type up the outcome. It was Billie Jo's job to help write

some of the articles as well as do all the editing to get the newsletter ready for the final printing.

Starting with 4 pages it soon became 20 pages. In those days they ran the pages off, stapled them together and mailed them out to what soon became over 200 members across the country.

Sometimes there was dis-

cord but most of the time these days was looked forward to as fun days with lots of "giggles" and girl talk. Peggy was indeed a blessing to Tar River Genealogical Organization as well as a good friend.

Source: "Life's Moments" file of Billie Jo Matthews. Peggy Strickland is a valued member of TRCGS and we always look forward to her articles.



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THE YEAR HAS FLOWN BY AND IT IS AGAIN TIME TO  
COLLECT MEMBERSHIP DUES.

PLEASE HELP US AVOID ADDITIONAL POSTAGE BY  
MAILING YOUR DUES NOW.

ANNUAL DUES ARE \$15 AND SHOULD BE MAILED TO  
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