

# The Connector

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

Winter, 2005

Billie Jo Matthews & Peggy Strickland, Co-Editors

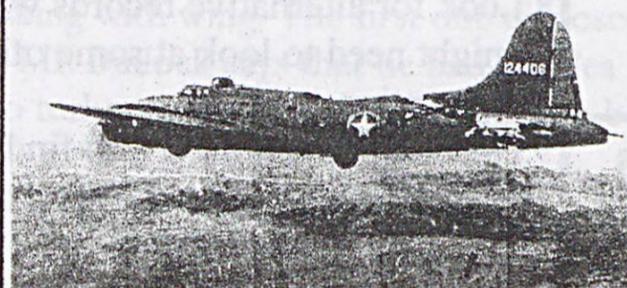
Volume 9 Number 1

## *The All American 'Comin' In On A Wing And A Prayer'* HILL MATTHEWS

Flying high over the sands of North Africa on the clear afternoon of February 1, 1943, pilot Ken "Sonny" Bragg and his massive B-17 flying fortress bomber were in trouble. The plane, aptly named the *All American*, had delivered its payload of bombs on the Nazi controlled port city of Bizerte, Tunisia. Surviving attacks from German fighters on the way in and heavy anti-aircraft guns while hitting his targets, Lt. Bragg was beginning the two hour return flight to base.

Suddenly, on the horizon, Sonny spotted two German M-109's speeding directly toward him. This frontal assault was the most difficult attack these fighter planes could make; but stood the greatest chance, if successful, to bring our huge bombers down.

Our pilots tightened their formation of 50 B-17's and began to dive in hopes of eluding the enemy attack. Bullets began to fly in the afternoon sky as the forward gunners



*All American, after being hit*

engaged the Germans. Ken watched in horror as the lead bomber, positioned directly to his left, was hit badly and fell out of formation, careening to the earth below.

With the *All American* now leading the wave of bombers, the second fighter came in firing. The *American* gunners found their target and the Nazi pilot was taken out, but his plane continued on a certain collision course. Lt. Bragg attempted to maneuver to safety and narrowly avoided a mid air head on crash. All he noticed was a slight thump, but suddenly the bomber's trim tabs refused to respond and the airplane started climbing out of control. It was all Ken could do to correct the

SEE WING, PAGE 4

## Reminder of Home NC Pine Trees Thrive in TN

An adventuresome spirit brought Samuel R. Smith from NC to Montgomery Co, TN in 1833. It was no small task for the 71-year-old man who had finally convinced his wife to join him on the trek to wild country now called Fort Campbell, Ky. When he came, he brought a piece of North Carolina with him—7 tiny pine seedlings. One of his first acts was to plant the pine trees.



Samuel Smith Pine  
TN Landmark Tree

Smith died at the old homestead on Jan. 16, 1837 and was buried at a site selected by him near his beloved pines. By 1976, during the bicentennial celebration, his trees had grown to majestic proportions. One—135 feet tall and believed to be the largest on the military reservation—was within a few feet of Smith's grave, close enough to blanket it with pine needles. But time had taken its toll, and Smith's headstone—along with those of five relatives—was obscured by undergrowth. Only the thud of artillery fire disturbed the overgrown spot.

As part of the 200th birthday

SEE TREE, PAGE 6

## RUNAWAY!

RAN away from the Subscriber, in Edgecomb Precinct, North Carolina, on the 26th Day of December last, a Servant Man, named Darby Tool. He is a Shoemaker by Trade, hath but one Leg, and is an Irishman. Whoever will bring the said Servant to me in Edgecomb Precinct, or secure him, so that I may have him again, shall have Four Pistoles Reward, besides what the Law allows, paid by me. He is suspected to be gone to Cherry Point, on Potowmack; and had in Company with him, one Mary Cullen, an Irish Woman, whom he calls his Wife.

William Whitehead.

[Virginia Gazette April 7, 1738]

## QUERY GUIDELINES

1. Members may submit three queries annually to the address or e-mail below.
2. The query should include a time frame and as much pertinent information as you have.
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 a self-addressed, stamped envelope for reply by mail.

### Tar River Connections Genealogical Society

PO Box 8764  
Rocky Mount, NC 27804

#### Internet

[www.braswell-library.org/gene.htm](http://www.braswell-library.org/gene.htm)

#### —e-mail—

[trcgs@braswell-library.org](mailto:trcgs@braswell-library.org)

Annual Dues - \$15.00

#### 2005 Officers

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*The Connector*-Published Quarterly  
Membership & Surnames-Annually

## Search and Research 12 Tips for Genealogical Research

JIM STALLINGS AND FAIRY WILLIAMS

1. Research the whole family, including birth sequence, to get a better understanding.
2. Learn about the history, geography and conditions in which your ancestors lived. This will help you understand them.
3. Learn the types of records that might be available for a specific time frame and where they can be found. Use historical maps to be sure you are looking in the right place.
4. Learn the details of online catalogs so you will not waste research time later.
5. Work on internet skills such as search engines, databases, directories, etc., as well as genealogical sites.
6. Use every resource you have available.
7. Carefully study each fact for accuracy, credibility, authority of source, primary vs. secondary source, original vs. derivative source, currency, and bias.
8. Look for alternative records when what you want is unavailable. You might need to look at some other person in the family, or look at another generation.
9. Document everything you find.
10. Develop a timeline showing the life events of ancestors. This will give you a better understanding.
11. Prepare before you go hunting for information. Have appointments. Know what you are looking for. Don't waste time!
12. Re-read your information from time to time. This will help clarify your ancestor.

[Taken from "Along These Lines" by George Morgan]

### The Family Tree Oh My Goodness!

A modern mother, explaining to her little girl the pictures in the family photo album: "This is the geneticist with your surrogate mother, and here's your sperm donor and your father's clone. This is me holding you when you were just a frozen embryo. The lady with the very troubled look on her face is your aunt, a genealogist.

[From Lake Havasau [Arizona] Genealogical Society Newsletter, contributed by Harriette T. Kent, TRC member]



[www.jsmagic.net](http://www.jsmagic.net)

## Readers Choice Local Color

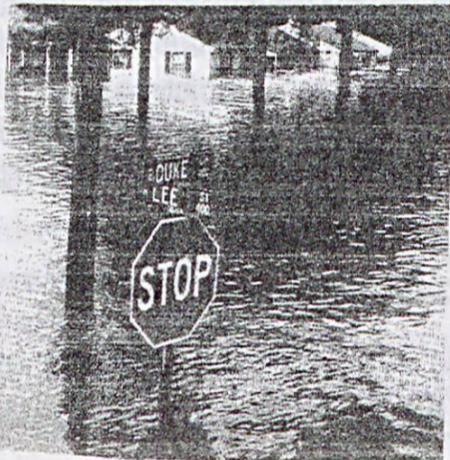


*Flooded: Reflections of Hurricane Floyd,*  
Collected by Friends of Braswell  
Library

On Sept. 16, 1999 the complexion of the **Rocky Mount, NC** area was changed forever. A community quickly became divided by raging waters created by the torrential rains of Hurricane Floyd. Rocky Mount, **Edgecombe** and **Nash Counties** were isolated in parts from each other. Businesses, homes and landmarks were destroyed. Hundreds of people were displaced.

*Flooded: Reflections of Hurricane Floyd* relates some of the stories of the displaced citizens along with the stories of volunteers who aided them. Thousands of rescues were conducted from roof tops of homes, attics and trees. Family pets were taken into loving arms by rescue workers. One young man found his dog in the laundry room of his home caught in a current of water unable to swim out.

In the face of all of this tragedy and chaos the community stood together forming bonds among people of all races. To all the Friends of the Braswell Memorial Library we would like to borrow a line from **Bob Hope** and say "Thanks for the Memories", lest we forget.



## A Turkey Story



There are turkey stories as well as fish stories, if anyone should ask you, and **N.P. Bullock (Dock)** tells the following and vows that it is true:

A few days ago he was not far from **Doehead**, near the old race track back of the **Sessum** field, when he saw ahead of him two wild turkey gobblers fighting. Mr. Bullock stepped out into the bushes and crept along till he was opposite the fighting fowls. So intent were they in their contest that he was not heard. With a stealthy step he advanced till he was almost upon them

and then he made a spring and caught the two by the neck, one in each hand.

Then ensued a battle between man and bird. With wings and feet the latter fought, scratching Mr. Bullock's arms and tearing his clothing. With much difficulty one bird was carried to the ground, where its head was crushed by the man's foot, while the other maintained its desperate scratching with feet and striking with wing. The first one disposed of the other soon fell an easy victim.

Mr. Bullock says that he had no idea how strong a turkey was before. The two turkeys were grown gobblers with beards nearly three inches long.

[*The Daily Southerner*, June 16, 1905]

## It's Good For You!

**AS** the common Good of our Fellow-Creatures is, or should be, one of our greatest Considerations; so when any thing offers to their Advantage, it ought to be communicated to the Publick, that every one who has Occasion, may reap the Benefit of it. It is for this Reason published, That **Francis Torres**, has, by long Travel, Study and Experience, discovered several Secrets that have relieved and cured many Persons under Disorders, particularly of the Rheumatism, Gout, Bite of venomous Snakes, Cancers, Swellings, Pains in the Joints, Sciatick, Dropsy in the Legs, Cramp, Pleurisy, Womens Labour-Pains, Pains in Childrens Bellies, Burns, Pains in the Bones, Coughs, Fever in the Head, sore Eyes, Headache, Toothache, and several other Diseases; and that in a Manner hitherto unknown, by the Virtue of a Chinese Stone, and Powders, to be applied to the Place most affected, without taking any thing inwardly. The following Certificates will be satisfactory.

...

**Pamplicoe, in North-Carolina:** The Minister's Wife of this Place having very sore Eyes, so that she could not see, for the violent Humour which ran from them; and having applied a small Bag of this Powder to them, in 24 Hours she was perfectly well.

[*Pennsylvania Gazette*, October 17, 1745]

## WINGS, FROM PAGE 1



Lt. Ken "Sonny" Bragg

ascent and hold the flying fortress on a somewhat even keel. He was using pressure from his knees to control the angle of flight, and he and his copilot had to throttle the engines down to maintain some semblance of stability.

It was only then that Lt. Bragg was able to leave the cockpit to the copilot and check the rear for damage.

Ken was shocked at what he found and could not believe the sight before his eyes. The bomber's tail section was almost completely severed by the collision with the Messerschmit. In fact, part of the German fighter's wing was lodged in the bomber's rear quarter. The *All American's* tail swayed eerily in the wind.

Assessing the situation, Lt. Ken Bragg assembled his crew. The choices before them were abandoning the plane and jumping into enemy territory or continuing on with hopes the tail and fuselage would hold together until they could land. If the bomber fell apart in flight, literally breaking in two, the tumbling pieces could make it impossible for the men to free themselves from the falling plane.

The brave airmen all chose to stay aboard and head for base, linking their fate with Lt. Bragg's ability to bring his broken aircraft safely to the ground. In fact, Ken Bragg did bring his B-17 in for a successful emergency landing. His first words upon completing the amazing flight were, "No business Doc," meaning none of his crew had sustained injuries. Engineers later inspected the airplane and decried that no plane in such condition could maintain flight. The tail section actually fell off when inspectors entered to assess damage.

The *All American* was later restored to action by the 50th Service Squadron and flew more missions under Lt. Bragg late in the war.

Ken's admission that he had come in on a wing and a prayer inspired songwriter **Jimmy McHugh** to write a

song and dedicate it to the crew of the *All American*. "Comin' In On a Wing and a Prayer" became the number one song in the country and was featured by **Kay Kyser of Rocky Mount, NC** and his famous orchestra. A photograph of the *All American* in flight with its partially severed tail section was one of the most publicized and inspiring images of WWII.

Before joining the **U.S. Army Air Corps**, Sonny had attended **Duke University in Durham, NC** and played on the 1938 *Blue Devil* football team dubbed the "Iron Dukes." The remarkable *Blue Devils* that year went undefeated and untied in the regular season before giving up a touchdown to **Southern Cal** in the last minute to narrowly lose the **Rose Bowl**.

The next year Sonny headed to **Miami** and enrolled in the famed **Embry-Riddle** flying school, for he had always dreamed of being a pilot. After completing the school, Sonny was given the opportunity to continue his training with the **Army Air Corps** in the summer of 1941. Later that year we would experience **Pearl Harbor** and be propelled into WWII. Soon many young men from all over the country would train to fly B-17 bombers. Among them was **Lt. Raymond J. Works Jr. of Rocky Mount**, who was stationed in **England** during the war and flew combat missions over **Europe**.

From a nation of heroes, in a time of heroes and heroes, Lt. Ken "Sonny" Bragg's brave service uplifted **America** and confirmed to this war weary country that we could make it home, on a wing and a prayer.

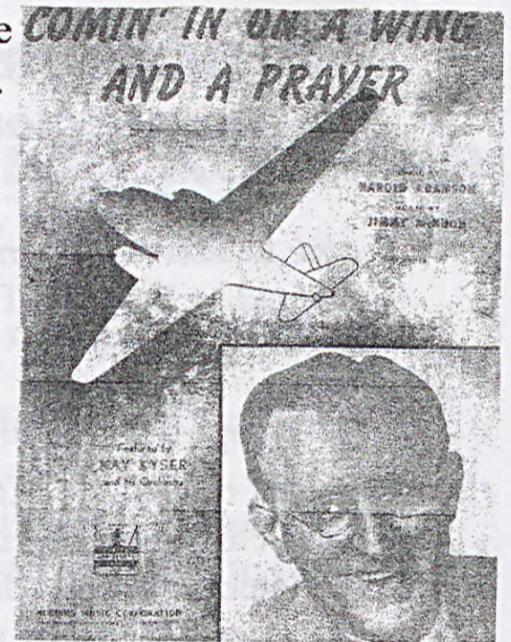
[Sources: "Comin' In On A Wing And A Prayer" sheet music. Lyric by Harold Adamson, music by Jimmy McHugh. Featured by Kay Kyser and his Orchestra, 1943: *Savannah Morning News*, October 17, 1999: "The All American", [ultimatesacrifice.com](http://ultimatesacrifice.com): "A Dedication to Bragg," *Islands Closeup*, July 24, 1997: "The Last Mission of the *All American*," Ken R. Bragg, Jr]

## Married

In **Franklin county**, Mr. **Richard Russell**, of **Warren county**, to Mrs. **Ann Hawkins**, widow of the late **Gov. Hawkins**.

[*Halifax Free Press*, April 23, 1824.]

## CONNECTOR



Rocky Mount's Kay Kyser

## Riding the Shoo Fly

BY NANNIE TILLERY WILLIAMS FRANCIS



When we grew up to go alone,  
Ma would let us ride the **Shoo Fly Train**,  
That was a train going north.  
We would go to visit Grandpapa and

our aunts,  
They would be at the station in **Enfield, North Carolina**,  
With the buggy pulled by **Nellie** the horse.

When getting on the train Ma would say,  
You can eat until you get to **Whitakers**,  
As soon as the train started we opened our shoe box and started eating.

Don't forget to close your box she would say,  
Wipe your mouth so you will be pretty when you get there.

We both sat near the window,  
So we could see our aunts and **Nellie** the horse.  
They would be there waving their hands,  
When the train stopped and the door opened we would jump in their arms.  
They put us in the buggy and asked us lots of questions,  
We could hardly answer for looking all around.  
When we got to Grandpapa's house,  
He had a big watermelon under the tree,  
And told us to change clothes cause **Hettie** wanted us to stay clean.

It was a hard thing to do when there were so many things planned that day.

Our clay cakes we had left under the house to bake  
We had to look to see if they were there.  
Everything was in place just as we left it before,  
Grandpapa said he kept everything in place,  
And watched everything we left.

But the fun came when Grandpapa would put us on  
**Nellie's** back,  
And take us for a ride through the country.  
He would holler to his neighbors that we were there,  
We both would wave our hands.

So much fun to visit them,  
Our relatives were so nice to us.  
We didn't have to wait til Sunday,  
To get that chicken pot pie.  
We picked berries and got blue in the face,  
And they would laugh and say **Hettie** should see you now.  
Berries everywhere on our faces and on our clothes,  
But who cared the water was there,  
Waiting in the tub in the backyard.  
We both jumped in and played around,  
And we were soon like new again  
Tired and sleepy we soon went to bed,  
But the next day we were all ready again.

This poem was taken from *Happy Hill Memories* written by **Nannie Francis**, daughter of **Frank Whitman** and **Hettie Gray Williams**. Frank and Hettie Williams married in 1906. On the 1910 census, Frank was 27, Hettie was 24, and **Lossie**, the oldest child, was 2 years old. They lived on **Beal Street, Rocky Mount, Nash Co.** Frank Williams worked at the railroad freight depot. He and Hettie eventually had 5 children.

## War of 1812 Uniform

"There was no regulation uniform for the militia to wear. **Gov. Hawkins** therefore drew up a design for the field officers' uniforms. These officers were to have dark blue coats with buff linings and yellow buttons, very similar to those worn by **Gen. Geo. Washington** in the **Revolution**. For winter they wore white vests and blue pants; in the summer the pants were white. Their boots were long, black, and shiny, of the type worn by the **Russian, Gen. Suwarrow**, in his campaigns against **Napoleon**; hence, they were called suwarrow boots. On their hats were black cockades fastened with a golden eagle; they wore red sashes around their waists and carried yellow-hilted swords.



Blue coatee with red collar and cuffs, yellow braid, and brass buttons

When **Calvin Jones** of **Raleigh [Wake Co., NC]** attempted to raise a volunteer cavalry unit, he designed the uniforms they were to wear. He described them thus: The uniforms will be round jackets (double breasted) and pantaloons of cotton homespun, dark blue and white, mixed, round black hats, with blue cockades; suwarrow boots and spurs. Each will be armed with a broad sword or sabre, or, for want thereof, a cut-and-thrust sword, slung over the shoulder by a white belt three inches wide, and a pair of pistols. As many as have rifles and are expert in their use, will be armed with them. The others will be furnished with muskets by the public."

[*N. C. and the War of 1812*: Sarah McCulloh Lemmon; NC Dept of Archives and History; 1971]

## A Close Call

**John L. Ward** was born in **Bute Co., NC** 12 Jul 1763. He was drafted March 8, 1780 at **Thomas Christ- mas's** in **Warren Co., NC**, where **Warrenton** is now lo- cated. The following story is included in his application for a pension.

Ward saw a little cabin on the road and called and re- ceived from the hands of an old lady a glass of milk. While drinking the same, the horse began prancing. "I looked behind, saw a cloud of dust arising. I then, with all speed, gave notice and information to the rear guard that the enemy was at hand. I then pushed for the river where I found the army nearly all crossed over. I forced [my horse] into the river. The enemy arrived at the bank and ordered me to stop or I would be a dead man, but I forced the horse in a still more rapid manner. They fired a volley of balls at me which so much alarmed the horse and myself, too, that I lost my hold on my horse.

### TREE FROM PAGE 1

of our nation, the **Girl Scouts of America** and the **20th Engineer Battalion** at Ft. Campbell undertook the arduous project of clearing the grave site. The undergrowth was cleared away and the original granite headstones were propped up. At a ceremony to mark the achievement, a speaker said, "The undergrowth has been cleared, and Samuel Smith's headstone feels the sun."

Who was Samuel R. Smith? Born in **Granville Co., NC** in 1762, Smith enlisted as a private in **Warren County, NC** in 1778 and served three months in **Captain Charles Allert's** company of light infantry in the regiment comman- ded by **Col. Lytel**. He also served in 1779 in a company commanded by **Capt. Hopkins** in the regiment commanded by **Col. Green**. Smith was part of the NC force that fought with **Gen. John Ashe's** 1,200 men at Bri-



Samuel Smith's Grave

er Creek, south of **Augusta GA** where the **Americans** were defeated by the **British**.

After the war, Smith led groups of settlers from NC into TN. until, in 1833, he brought his own family to **Montgomery Co., TN** to settle on **Piney Fork**. He was a generous member of his community. He gave land for the establishment of **Asbury Church**. The original building was of logs and served as both church and school house. The church was still in existence in 1976.

The trip from North Carolina to Tennessee was a long and arduous one. Settlers came through the Cumberland Gaps and at the season of the year when streams were the lowest. They came in ox-carts, many walking most of the way. Including the slaves and their families, there were about 350 people in Smith's party. They were detained for a week by a stork party. A baby girl,

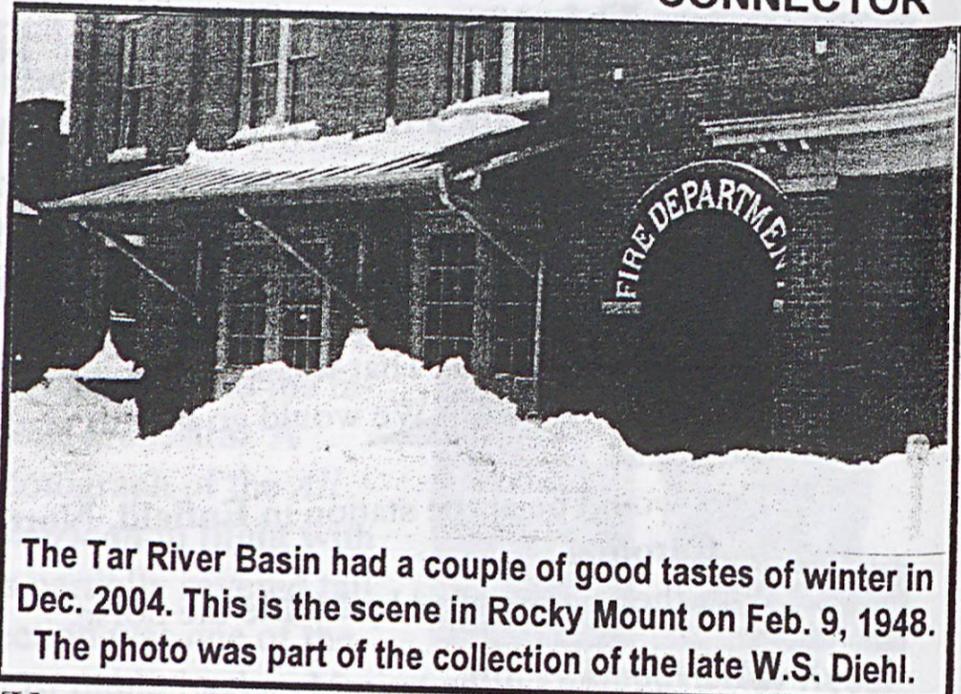
granddaughter of Samuel Smith, was born on the trail.

Among those who traveled with Smith were people whose names are still well known in Montgomery and surrounding counties: **Southall, Rives, Gold, Oldham, Smith, Turner, Moss** and others.

Samuel R. Smith was married first to Miss **Sallie Williams** and then to a Miss **Dobson**. To the first union were born four sons and one daugh- ter: **Harry, Elizabeth (Betsy), Charles, John** and **Wiley**. By his se- cond marriage there were three chil- dren: **Mary, Samuel R. Jr.,** and **Sarah Long**.

NC PENSION ROLL OF 1835  
**SAMUEL SMITH, GRANVILLE COUNTY, PRIVATE, NORTH CAROLINA MILITIA**  
**\$26.66 ANNUAL ALLOWANCE**  
**\$79.98 AMOUNT RECEIVED**  
**MARCH 3, 1834 PENSION STARTED**  
**AGE 74**

## CONNECTOR



The Tar River Basin had a couple of good tastes of winter in Dec. 2004. This is the scene in Rocky Mount on Feb. 9, 1948. The photo was part of the collection of the late W.S. Diehl.

[However] both arrived safely on the opposite bank safe and sound."

[This is one of the over 600 items included in the Tar River Collection, articles about people with Tar River connections. The index to the collection will soon be available on our web site and at Braswell Library.]

# Braswell Memorial Library

## Local History Collection Acquisitions

### Books Added Nov—Dec 2004



### Braswell Memorial Library's Local History

Librarian, Traci Thompson, is gathering an outstanding collection of local history and genealogical resources, as shown by the following list of new material:

1. *The History of Park View Hospital and Park View School of Nursing* by Patty C. Collins
2. *Pioneers of Wiregrass, Georgia* by Folks Huxford
3. *Martin County [pictorial history; part of the Images of America series]* by Fred W. Harrison, Jr.
4. *My Father Was a Dreamer* by Preston A. Moore, Jr.
5. *Person County, North Carolina Marriage Records 1792-1868* by Katherine Kerr Kendall
6. *Turff & Twigg, V.1: The French Lands (A study of ten thousand acres donated by King William III to the French refugees who settled at Manakintowne on the southern bank of the James River in the colony of Virginia in 1700)* by Priscilla Harris Cabell
7. *Memories Through the Years* by Linda Gray Bottoms Bass (Genealogy of the families of Crisp, Webb, Duke, Felton, Gay, Killebrew/Killigrew, Langley, Owens, Lewis, and Wooten)
8. *Craven County, NC Cemeteries Vol. 1: City of New Bern* by the Eastern NC Genealogical Society
9. *Ledbetters Revisited* by Kenneth E. Haughton
10. *The Greens of Clear Springs, New Bern, and Craven County* by Robert F. Schwenker Jr.
11. *Roster, North Carolina Society, Sons of the American Revolution: 1911-1994* by William D. Bennett
12. *The Heritage of Onslow County, NC* by The Onslow County Historical Society
13. *The Heritage of Wayne County, NC* by The Wayne County Historical Association Inc.
14. *Aristocrat in Uniform: General Duncan L. Clinch* by Rembert W. Patrick
15. *Colonial Soldiers of the South* by Murtie June Clark
16. *Guide to Naturalization Records of the United States* by Christina K. Schaefer
17. *American Place Names of Long Ago* by Gilbert S. Bahn
18. *History of the Coats and Related Families* by C. Stanton Coats
19. *A Genealogical Study of the William Crocker Family and Descendants of Johnston County, NC* by Ray Keith Hodge
20. *Free African Americans of North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina From the Colonial Period to About 1820* (4th edition) by Paul Heinegg
21. *Lasting Legacies: Selected Columns Published in the Kenly News from the Summer of 1998 to the Fall of 2001* by Bob Boyette
22. *Treasured Times: Selected Columns Published in the Kenly News from November 1981 to August 1998* by Bob Boyette
23. *Yesterdays Remembered: Selected Columns Published in the Kenly News from January 1989 to April 1994* by Bob Boyette
24. *Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War: Volume 1* by Murtie June Clark
25. *Farm Heritage and Humor & Memories of Gold Valley* (2nd edition) by Bruce H. Woodard
26. *Marriages of Granville County, NC, 1753-1868* by Brent H. Holcomb
27. *Johnston County (Images of America series)* by Todd Johnson and Durwood Barbour
28. *The Spring of '31: A Kid's View of the Great Depression* by James E. Munden, Sr.
29. *Johnston County: Its History Since 1746* by Thomas J. and T. Wingate Lassiter
30. *Sweet Tea and Biscuits: The Woodard Collection; Recipes and Recollections from the Family of Stephen E. Woodard* by Rebecca Talton Kalsbeek
31. *Eastern Cherokee Census, Cherokee, North Carolina, 1915-1922, Volume I: 1915-1916* by Jeff Bowen
32. *An Index to the Smithfield Herald (4 volumes, 1883-1900)* by Jeffrey P. Begeal
33. *Brides Index for Beaufort County, NC, Volume 1: 1847-1909* by The Beaufort County Genealogical Society
34. *A Genealogical Study of the Larkin George Boyette Family and Descendants* by Ray Keith Hodge
35. *Johnston County: Economic and Social* by William Sanders and George Ragsdale
36. *Beaufort County, NC Marriage Register, 1867-1872* by the BCGS
37. *Letters From Albert Hodge: An Insight Into the Life and Times of Albert Haywood Hodge From Letters He Wrote During World War II and Other Sources* by Ray Keith Hodge
38. *Records of Estates of Johnston County, NC: Vol. I-XIII, 1781-1822 (2 volumes)* by Elizabeth Easley Ross
39. *Kinfolks of Johnston County, Volumes I & II, 1759-1865* by Elizabeth E. Ross and Zelda B. Wood
40. *Index to Johnston County Loose Estates, 1771-1962* by Elizabeth E. Ross

Acquisitions, Cont. on Page 8



## Tar Heels and SoreBacks

BY NORMAN VICK

There have been many explanations of how and why **North Carolinians** came to be called *tar-heels*. Here is one explanation.

The English explorers were thrilled to see the dominant pine forests with their tall, straight trees that were badly needed as masts for their sailing ships. Equally important was the sap from those trees which could be cooked to produce tar, pitch and turpentine.

Before the discovery of petroleum, tar was the only substance available to caulk the seams in the wooden decks of ships, and turpentine was valuable for medicinal uses.\*

Many of our first families found sustaining employment in producing naval stores. Most often their distilleries were located deep in the dense forest, far from town, where there were no schools or churches — nothing but hard work. When they ventured forth, they were scorned as backwoods hicks who still smelled of turpentine. A dead giveaway of their dirty employment was their shoes with the tar still clinging.

It was a long time before the derogatory word, tarheel, became complimentary, but eventually it did. Today, North Carolinians are proud to be known as *tar-heels*.

But what about *sorebacks*? People from **Virginia** were sometimes referred to as **sorebacks**. The term was



not complimentary. From the stories of the early Virginia Colony, there were many tales of the rigid enforcement of the harsh laws that were common to the **English** of that time. There were six offenses punishable by hanging and innumerable ones that required flogging.

It was well recorded that many victims of flogging fled to the "wilds" of NC with their sore backs still bloody. It is hoped that they were treated more kindly by the tarheels of the "Old North State."

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\*From the beginning, **Britain's** colonies in **North America** were encouraged to produce pine tar and pitch, and to collect gum from pine trees for later shipment to **England**. These fledgling industries in **New England** and the Carolinas were encouraged by the Bounty Act of 1705 which offered colonists a ten-shilling bonus on every barrel of pine pitch shipped to England to be used for protecting the hulls of British ships. From 1720 to 1870, NC was the major producer of naval stores in the new world. During colonial times turpentine, pitch and tar were more valuable than gold and were used to buy goods and services. Wood tar has been used by mariners as a preservative for wood and rigging for at least the past six centuries.

[Also, see "Cars..." by Vick on page 20. Norman Vick, TRC member, taught history in **Henderson, Vance Co, NC** for 4 years before WWII. Vick has also written about his early life at **Glenview in Halifax Co., NC**. See "RFD Halifax, NC" *The Connector*, Fall 2004.]

### Acquisitions, Cont. from P.7

41. *Marriage Registers of Johnston County, NC, Volumes I & II, 1867-1900* by Elizabeth E. Ross and Ray King
42. *The Barbour Clan of Memory Lane* by Todd Johnson
43. *Johnston County, NC Will Abstracts, 1746-1870, Volume I & II, Rev. Ed. By Elizabeth E. Ross*
44. *Abstracts of Marriages and Deaths of Extant Washington, NC Newspapers, Volumes I-III* by the BCGS
45. *Abstracts of Beaufort County, NC Death Certificates, Volume I: 1913-1914 and Volume II: 1915* by the BCGS
46. *Beaufort County, NC Will Abstracts, 1720-1868* by the BCGS
47. *1850 Census of Johnston County, NC* by the Johnston County Genealogical Society
48. *Family Bible Records, Volumes I-III* by Elizabeth E. Ross and the JCGS
49. *Record of Marriages, 1851-1868, Beaufort County, NC* by the BCGS
50. *Beaufort County, NC Deed Book I, 1696-1729 (Records of Bath County, NC)* by Allen Hart Norris
51. *Beaufort County, NC Works Progress Administration Cemetery Records* by the BCGS
52. *Beaufort County, NC 1850 Census* by Louise Miller Cowell
53. *Abstracts of Beaufort County, NC Delayed Births Through 1920, Volume I* by the BCGS
54. *The Pridgen Family of Sapony Creek, Nash County, NC: Some of the Descendants of William Pridgen, d. ca. 1762* by Plummer Alston Jones, Jr.
55. *A Saga of the Speight Families in America* by Dr. Charles F. Speight, Jr.
56. *A Genealogical Study of the Woodard Family of Johnston County, NC* by Ray Keith Hodge
57. *Old Albemarle County, NC Book of Land Warrants and Surveys, 1681-1706* by Weynette Parks Haun
58. *Old Albemarle County, NC Miscellaneous Records, 1678 to ca. 1737* by Weynette Parks Haun
59. *Sussex County, VA Court Records, Vol. I (1754-1801), Vol. VII, (1712-1718), and Vol. X (1749-1751)* by Weynette Parks Haun
60. *Sampson County Will Abstracts, 1784-1900* by Elizabeth E. Ross

# War of 1812 Muster Rolls

Granville, Person & Warren Counties  
4th and Final in a Series

[See Related Story, "War of 1812 Uniforms" on Page 5.]

**5th Regiment  
8th Company  
Detached  
from the  
Granville  
Regiment**

Acock, Jesse  
Adcock, William  
Allen, James  
Ananias, William W.  
Avery, Henry  
Barnett, John  
Barnette, John Jr.  
Bass, John  
Beck, William  
Byers, David  
Byers, George  
Bynum, Kinchen  
Cazart, Wist  
Chambles, Henry  
Christon, Michael  
Clark, Francis  
Clemons, Samuel  
Cole, Thomas  
Davis, John  
Freeman, Martin  
Fuller, Arthur  
Gill, James  
Green, Asa  
Green, Nicholas  
Hayes, Solomon  
Hendley, Henry  
Higgs, Kinchen  
Huffman, Benjamin  
Johnston, Wist  
Jones, Henry  
Kennedy, Wiat  
Kithrell, Merkle Tom  
Kittrell, Kade  
Lawrence, Abram  
Lieuter, George  
Lile, Thomas  
Lyod, John  
Madison, Payten

Mayfield, Valentine  
Mayson, James  
Medders, James  
Miner, Lazarus  
Mitchell, John  
Moore, Lain  
Morris, Henry  
Nance, Egreppey  
Parks, William  
Paskill, John  
Persyth, Samuel  
Roberts, John  
Robertson, Newmon  
Sewit, James  
Sherril, John  
Spear, John  
Stephenson, John  
Tate, James G.  
Taylor, Fletcher  
Walker, Green B.  
Walker, Tandy  
Weathers, Edward  
White, William  
Winston, Moses  
Wood, Richard  
Wortham, Benj. H.

**5th Regiment  
9th Company  
Detached  
from the  
Granville  
Regiment**

Adcock, Jesse  
Anderson, Jeremiah  
Anderson, Scarlett  
Barnes, William  
Bass, Horatio  
Blanks, William  
Chambles, Henry  
Chavis, John  
Christian, Michale  
Clement, Samuel

Collins, William  
Czat, Wyat  
Daniel, Thomas  
Daniel, William  
Daniels, John  
Downey, John  
Downey, Thos  
Duncan, Charles  
Ellis, Elkshel  
Elliston, Robert  
Evans, Thomas  
Evans, William  
Freeman, Miston  
Gilliam, Leatly  
Gilliam, William  
Gordan, William  
Gordon, Robert  
Griffin, William  
Grissom, Willie  
Grisson, Benjamin  
Haines, Overton  
Hargrove, William  
Harris, Ransom  
Hawkins, Reuben  
Hayes, Peyton  
Hedgepith, Thomas  
Hester, Ransom  
Higgs, Barnett  
House, Thomas  
Howard, Bewdie  
Howard, Thos.  
Hunt, Thomas  
Jenkins, Robert  
Johnston, William  
Jones, Davis  
Jones, Henry  
Lamkins, Meredith  
Lampkin, Meredith  
Lewis, Thomas  
Longmire, Robert  
Madison, Pautom  
Mangum, Pleasant  
Meddows, James  
Mitchel, Zachariah  
Montague, John  
Norwood, John  
Oakley, William

Parish, Reuben  
Peace, John T.  
Perdue, Rowland  
Persithe, Samuel  
Petiford, Moses  
Pettiford, Lervey  
Pool, Phillip  
Pratt, Charles  
Satterwhite, Solomon  
Seares, William  
Setton, Edward  
Smith, Charles  
Stamper, Robert  
Stephenson, John  
Tate, James G.  
Terry, William  
Tyler, Lemuel  
Ward, Benjamin  
White, William  
Wilson, Robert  
Wortham, Benj H.

**5th Regiment  
10th Co.  
Detached  
from the  
Person  
Regiment**

Atkinson, John  
Blanchard, Jeremiah  
Branch, James  
Buchannon, Walter  
Buchannon, William  
Bull, Jesse  
Burton, Huthens  
Burton, Thomas  
Halley  
Carton, John  
Chambers, Wm W.  
Christenburg, Aaron  
Cochran, Robert  
Cooper, John  
Corner, Reuber  
Dancey, Thomas  
Davey, Gabriel  
Day, Philip  
Dixson, Edmond  
Elizir, Alexander  
Elmore, John  
Eskridge, John R.  
Filmond, John  
Fuller, Hosea  
Fuller, John  
Gill, William  
Glenn, John  
Glenn, Sampson

Gordan, Thomas  
Graves, John W.  
Hudgins, Asa  
Jacob, James  
Jones, William  
Lareson, David  
Lawson, Thomas  
Mann, James  
Mann, John  
Mann, Robert  
Mitchell, Edmond  
Moore, John  
Nellum, David  
Nellums, William  
Nipper, Samuel  
Norris, Leonard  
Pain, Solomon  
Pope, William  
Pullam, John  
Rainey, John  
Ramsay, Lewis  
Rimer, Jeremiah  
Rogers, Giles  
Rogers, Joseph  
Rose, Duncan  
Sampson, Glenn  
Singleton, Phillip  
Singleton, William  
Stanfield, Jeremiah  
Stanfield, John  
Tapp, Vinson  
Vanhook, Isaac  
Waddy, James  
Walker, Bird  
Walker, Solomon  
Ward, Charles  
Williams, Robert

**3rd Regiment  
7th Company  
Detached  
from the  
Warren  
Regiment**

Acock, Ransom  
Allen, Charles  
Allen, Ivy  
Allen, John  
Alston, James  
Beach, Richard  
Bennet, Charles  
Bennet, James C.  
Breadlove, William  
Capps, Jasper  
Carter, Jiles  
Davis, Benjamin

**CONNECTOR**

Davis, Hardeway  
Davis, Joshua  
Davis, Richard  
Davis, Thomas  
Dowtin, Samuel  
Edgerton, Wilmot E.  
Ellington, Joel  
Ellington, Pleasant  
Ellis, Miles  
Ellis, Obadiah  
Ellis, Simes  
Harper, Joshua  
Harton, Thomas  
Hawkins, Micajah T.  
Hawks, John  
Hazelwood, George  
James, Henry  
Jenkins, Solomon  
King, Leonard  
Lamert, Claton  
Mitchell, Lemuel  
Morholand, John  
Myrick, Owen F.  
Neal, Cudburth  
Newman, Thomas  
Oliver, William  
Pearson, Henry  
Pearson, Wiles  
Peebles, Anderson  
Perdue, Daniel A.  
Perdue, Philemon  
Pertilla, Edward  
Pertilla, William  
Powell, James  
Randolph, Peter  
Robertson, Buck  
Robertson, Doct. M.  
Robertson, John  
Sherod, Elisha  
Sherrin, Lewis  
Sherrin, William  
Sledge, Amos P.  
Smith, James  
Stackhouse, Thos.  
Stoddard, Charles  
Stroud, Ransom  
Tally, James  
Tally, Joel  
Tally, Thomas  
Thompson, James  
Turner, Nathan  
Turner, William  
Tussell, Arthur  
Walker, Thomas  
Ward, Richard  
White, Daniel  
Williams, D.G.  
Williamson, Kinchen  
Wren, Joseph

## Hero of Withlacoochee

Duncan Lamon Clinch  
Nash County, NC Native

It was a moment of indecision for the 27-year army veteran, Gen. **Duncan Lamon Clinch**, as he sat on his horse watching the **Withlacoochee River**, in western Florida, swirl before him—deep and 150 feet wide. He had expected to find a place where his men could ford the river, but torrential rains had made that impossible. The **Seminole Indians**, led by **Osceola**, were somewhere on the south side of the river, while he, with his 750 soldiers, was on the north side with no boats or rafts. What led to this dilemma?

In 1834, Clinch was assigned to oversee the "peaceful and harmonious removal of the Indians [from Florida], according to their treaty with the U. States." He soon became convinced that "...they have not the least intention [of leaving]... unless compelled to do so by a stronger force than mere words." At a conference in March 1835, Clinch met with individual Seminole chiefs, hoping to persuade them to agree to move the following spring. He tried to convince them "of the utter folly of attempting to resist ...; as it would bring misery and ruin upon their wives and children and on their Nation."

At a council on Apr. 22 the Indian chiefs all expressed opposition to the proposed move. However, Gen. Clinch declared that "he had been sent here to enforce the treaty; he had warriors enough to do it, and he would do it." The next day, 8 chiefs agreed to abide by the treaty, while 6 refused. The Indian agent, **Wiley Thompson**, declared the 6 resisters were no longer chiefs, and scratched their names from the roll of council members.

During the summer of 1835, as plans were made for the Indian removal, it became evident that many of the Indians would not go peacefully. By October, Clinch was convinced there would be war. The settlers felt threatened and were demanding protection. There were not enough troops to fight the Indians and patrol the settled

areas. The government, underestimating the number of Indians in the area, thought a "show of force would cow the Indians into submission; they utterly failed to comprehend what a determined band—even a band of poor fighters—could accomplish...."

In November, in preparation for war with the Indians, General Clinch began to move his men to his plantation, **Auld Lang Syne**, where he built **Fort Drane**. There were six companies of regular army troops, totaling about 250 men. On Dec. 24, Gen. **Richard K. Call** arrived with 560 mounted militia. Clinch was confident of his ability to defeat the Seminoles. However, the optimistic General was unaware that the militia under Call had only agreed to serve until Jan. 1, 1836.

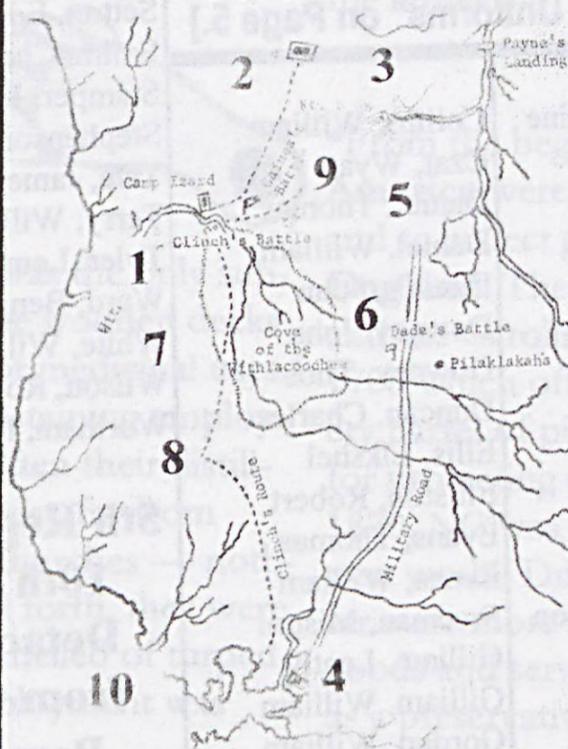
An Indian scout informed Clinch that the Indians were gathering at a town about 35 miles south of the Withlacoochee River and plans were made for an immediate attack. Unknown to Clinch and Call, however, the Seminoles had attacked first. On December 25, the **Second Seminole War** began with furious Indian attacks on plantations across Florida.

Gen. **Francis Dade** had been ordered to march his troops along the military road from **Fort Brooke** in southern Florida to **Fort King** in the north to assist Clinch. When Gen. Call learned of this, he told Clinch that the only thing that could save Dade was to have disobeyed the order to march.

"Disturbed as the country is through which he must pass, he can never reach you." Call was right. On Dec. 28, the Indians ambushed and massacred the troops on their march, leaving only 2 survivors to tell the story. On the same day, Osceola killed Indian Agent Wiley Thompson. Gen. Clinch was unaware of these developments as he prepared to leave Fort Drane.

On Dec. 29, Gen. Clinch, Gen. Call and their force of about 750 men left Fort Drane, marching south toward the Withlacoochee River. General Call advised Clinch to move speedily to reach the Indian town, but Clinch did not agree. Call later declared that Clinch "set out with every cart and wagon, mule and horse, he could raise on his plantation, or among his troops." With the noise of "horses pulling wagons out of the mud, and men strug-

### A Map of War in West Central Florida 1835-36



1. Withlacoochee River
2. Fort Drane
3. Fort King
4. Fort Brooke
5. Military Road
6. Dade's Battle
7. Clinch's Route, 1835
8. Clinch's Route 1836
9. Gain's Route, 1836
10. Tampa Bay

gling to carry supplies through the swamps," along with dogs running back and forth, flushing birds and barking fiercely, the army's arrival at the river would be no surprise to the enemy. It took three days to reach the Withlacoochee River instead of the expected one day.

### Clinch Makes a Decision

As Clinch surveyed the raging river, trying to decide whether to continue his march or to retreat to Fort Drane, he was certain he had the superior force, and that the destruction of the Indian village would make the Indians agree to the migration. However, the one thing he had not included in his supply train was boats or rafts. The only vessel available to the army was one abandoned, leaky canoe. With two men paddling, no more than 5 men and their equipment could be carried across on each trip. The transfer would take hours. Unaware that war had already begun and that the Indians were waiting in ambush, he decided to move his men across the river. After all, this was the only day he would have the volunteers as they would be free to leave the next day.

The canoe made trip after trip, moving the regular troops to the south side of the Withlacoochee River. With no Indians in sight, the men who had been transported marched about 500 yards and stacked their guns and rested.

Scouts pointed to signs that a large band of Indians had been there recently, but the transportation continued.

It was 12:30 by the time the regular army was safely on the south side of the river. They made their way to a clearing surrounded on three sides by hammocks [elevated areas covered in trees] thick enough to conceal enemy warriors. The open terrain presented a perfect killing zone, and the Indians took full advantage of it. The regular force, resting in the middle of the open field, was ambushed by an army of 250 Seminoles led by Osceola. "... the woods seemed to belch shot and sound. ... Soldiers grabbed their guns and quickly formed a two-man-deep line of battle.... The regulars returned a devastating fire that drove the attackers back among the protecting trees."

When Clinch reached the scene, he ordered the men to spread out and charge the Indians. At one point, the general shouted, "*Men, I am ready to die on the spot, if necessary, but not to retreat.*"



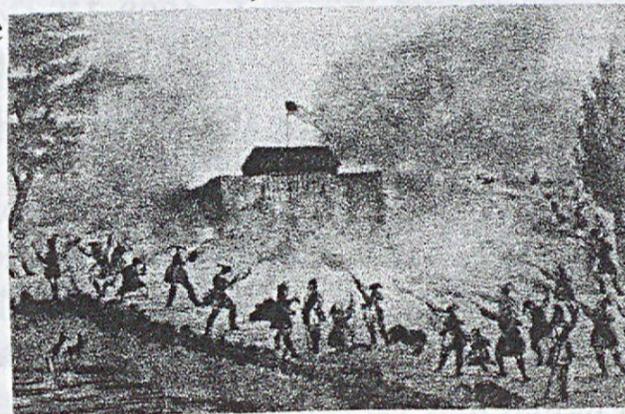
**Seminoles Attack FL Fort**

swamp. The soldiers had held their line.

The battle lasted about an hour. Clinch reported that he had 4 men killed and that over 100 Indians had died. The number of Indian casualties was never verified. One soldier, **Lt. Chubb**, displayed 2 scalps. His wife was not the most "credulous of women," and he needed evidence to convince her and his neighbors of his bravery.

### Fierce Warriors

In his book, *Aristocrat in Uniform*, **Rembert Patrick** described the Indian warriors: "The savages ... made a



**Battle**

most terrifying picture; their almost naked bodies painted in brilliant colors of war, their heads shaved except for a tuft of hair on top (which seemed to indicate both their willingness to be scalped and their desire to take souvenirs from the heads of soldiers), and their bloodcurdling yells that echoed through the forests." Later, those who took part in the battle were to recall the "continual

screaching and yelling of the Indians... Their war cries began with a low growling noise and rose to a final crescendo that burst into a fiendish, nerve-shattering yell. After each shot the Indian uttered his frightful whoop, threw himself leftward to the ground (to confuse the soldier who often fired directly at the flash of the Indian's musket), and in his prone position hastily reloaded his gun."

### Return to Fort Drane

Clinch decided not to continue his march. Their supplies were inadequate to continue, the term of enlistment was over for the militia, and there were many injured soldiers that would hinder any movement of the command. Cypress logs had collected at a bend in the river and these were lashed together, along with the canoe, to form a crude bridge across the river. By evening, all the men were safely back on the north side of the river. Some horses and many guns were left behind and retrieved by the Indians. On Jan. 1, 1836, the army retreated back to

**CLINCH, CONT. ON PAGE 12**

**CLINCH, CONT FROM P 11**

Fort Drane. The Seminoles now believed that they could hold off any invader in their homeland.

This was Gen. Clinch's largest battle during nearly 28 years of army service. He had underestimated the enemy and had suffered what many deemed a defeat. However, he could be proud of his performance under fire and the fact that he brought his troops home with only 4 casualties.

Later, Osceola sent Clinch the following message: "*You have guns and so have we; you have powder and lead and so have we; you have men and so have we; your men will fight, and so will ours until the last drop of Seminoles' blood has moistened the dust of his hunting grounds.*"

A private who served under Clinch wrote the following to a **New Hampshire** paper: "General Clinch received several balls in his clothes, and one through his cap, passing not an inch above his head. ... when the balls poured like hail around him, not a muscle of his face moved ... ; a majority of the Indians present, probably knew him personally; ... their fire was directed particularly at him—but he quailed not, calmly giving his orders and attending to their execution. ..." In later years, he became known as the "Hero of Withlacoochee" and "Old Withlacoochee."

This marked the beginning of what would be 7 years of savage war with the Seminoles that finally ended in 1842. The army captured many Indians, especially women and children, and moved them to the **Indian Territory**. About 500 Seminoles managed to hide in the **Everglades** and swamps of southern Florida where the white men were afraid to venture. The price of the war was the lives of over 1,500 soldiers and \$20 million. It is unknown how many Seminoles died.

**Life of Duncan L. Clinch**

Duncan Lamon Clinch was born in **Nash Co., NC** on 6 April, 1787. His parents were **Mary Lamon** and **Joseph John Clinch**.

Mary was the daughter of **Duncan Lamon** who was well known in Nash and **Edgecombe Counties**. He received a grant in 1761. He served in the provisional congresses of NC and was a justice of the peace in Nash Co. after its establishment in 1777.



**Osceola, Seminole Leader**

Duncan's father, Joseph Clinch, moved, as a child, with his family to **Edgecombe Co, NC** from **Isle of Wight Co., VA**. The family settled near **Tarboro, NC**. Joseph joined the **Continental** forces on Apr. 22, 1776 and family records indicate he was briefly an aide to Gen. **George Washington**. He returned to Edgecombe Co. and raised and equipped a militia regiment. After the **Revolution**, Joseph acquired land in Nash Co. and built a house on **Swift Creek** near the present-day **Rocky Mount, NC**. A bridge across the creek is still known as **Clinch's Bridge**. Joseph's wife, Mary, died in 1792, and Joseph died in 1795. Thus, Duncan Lamon Clinch was left an orphan at the age of eight.

He received 378 acres of land from his father's estate, which he sold to **William Bellamy** in 1809 for \$1200. No other records of his childhood have been found.

In 1808, US Congressman **Thomas Blount** recommended Duncan for a commission as a First Lieutenant in the **Third Infantry** of the U.S. Army. He was promoted to Captain in 1810, Lt. Col. of the **43rd Regiment** in 1813, Col. of the **8th Regiment** in 1819, and Brigadier General in 1829.

After the Battle of Withlacoochee, he continued to fight the Indians as part of **Maj. Gen. Edmund P. Gaines'** force until he retired Sept. 21, 1836. He settled on a plantation near **St. Marys, GA**, and was elected as a **Whig** to the **Twenty-eighth Congress** to fill the vacancy caused by the death of **John Millen**.

In 1847, Georgia Whigs selected the "Hero of the Battle of Withlacoochee" to be their candidate for governor. He was defeated.

Duncan Clinch was married first to **Eliza Bayard McIntosh**. Theirs was a love match and they had 8 children: 1) **Eliza Bayard Clinch**, who married **Robert Anderson**, who defended **Fort Sumter** in 1861; 2) **John Houstoun Clinch**, married **Elizabeth Higbee Waldburg**, of Georgia; 3) **Mary L Clinch**; 4) **Duncan L. Clinch**, married **Susan Hopkins**, of Georgia; 5) **Catherine M.**

**Clinch**, married **Barnwell Heyward**, of South Carolina; 6) **Henry A. Clinch**, married **Ella Ford**; 7) **Nicholas Bayard Clinch**; and 8) **George W. Clinch**, married **Catharine Ferris**, of Florida.



**Duncan L. Clinch**

## Divorce

Petition of Rachel Bla[c]kwell of Person County [NC] states she intermarried with Thomas Blackwell sometime in 1814, had two children by him, and lived with him for three years. Her said husband, through habits of intoxication and extravagance, spent the whole of your petitioner's estate and left her and her children to want. He then left her and removed to the State of Virginia. She had not seen said Thomas since June 1826, and he has not contributed one cent to the support of herself or her children in eleven years. Prays for a law to secure to her such property as she may hereafter acquire.

["Divorces and Separations From Petitions to the North Carolina General Assembly from 1779, Part 23-Sessions 1828-1834," by Ransom McBride: *The North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, August 2002.]

## The Election

TARBOROUGH, in EDGECUMBE County, NORTH CAROLINA, September 29, 1772.

LAST Tuesday, agreeable to our Charter, came on the Election of a Representative for this Borough, when James Milner, Esquire, of Halifax [Co.], was unanimously elected to represent us in the next General Assembly of this Province. A considerable Number of the most respectable Inhabitants of the Borough and County assembled here that Day, where there was a very genteel Entertainment provided for them at Mr. Hill's, by Order of our worthy new Representative. In the Evening there was an elegant Supper, and a Ball, which was greatly embellished by a very numerous and brilliant Appearance of most charming Ladies, and the Whole conducted with a Decorum and Festivity, which sufficiently denoted the real Satisfaction of the

## CONNECTOR

Company. Indeed, from Mr. Milner's excellent Character, and distinguished Abilities, we justly entertain the most sanguine Hopes of his invariably promoting, to the utmost of his Power, the Welfare of the Province in general, and of this Borough, and County in particular.

May Milner's Name in future Annals these,  
And Edgecumbe's grateful Sons approve each Line,  
May future Patriots aim, like him, to be Renown'd for Honour and Integrity;  
And may the Nine, in their harmonious Days,  
Attest his Merit and record his Praise.  
[Virginia Gazette, October 15, 1772]

### Printing Press for Sale.

A SUPER ROYAL Printing Press, on the old mode of construction, can be procured on reasonable terms.

Apply at this Office.

Tarborough, July 24.

[Tarboro Press, Dec. 3, 1836]

## CLINCH, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

In 1834, when Clinch was transferred to Florida, Eliza remained in Mobile, AL with the children. In March, 1835, their son, Duncan, 9 years old, contracted scarlet fever. Eliza sent the other children away and nursed little Duncan until he began to recover. On April 10, she joined her other children for a shopping trip. The next morning, she was stricken with fever, and, tired and worn from her son's illness, she died on April 15.

After his retirement in 1836, Clinch married Elizabeth Bayard Houstoun, who had helped to care for Clinch's children after the death of Eliza. Elizabeth was in her mid-thirties and had never married. She was a good mother to the children and helped Duncan refurbish his home. She died in August, 1838.

Duncan Clinch married a third time, to Sophia Hermes Gibbs Couper, an attractive 33-year-old widow, in February 1846. His third marriage, like his first, was a love match. Sophia lived until 1903.

In 1849, Damon Clinch and his family stayed later

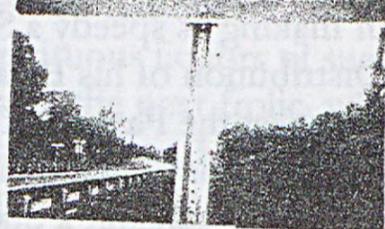
than usual at their summer home in Habersham County, GA. They left by stagecoach in November, taking a train from Athens, GA to Atlanta. From Atlanta, they went on to Macon where Clinch was forced to rest. He died there on Nov. 27, 1849. He was buried in Bonaventure Cemetery, in Savannah, GA. the Southern Whig reported. "The distinguished patriot and soldier is no more."

In 1851, Clinch County, GA was established on the Florida border in honor of Duncan L. Clinch.

(The Seminoles were Creek Indians who fled to Florida, controlled by Spain, to escape being enslaved by the British. They had adopted many ways of the white man. Many blacks that had escaped slavery in Georgia and the Carolinas came to Florida and lived near the Seminoles. A union was formed between them because they both had a mutual fear, slavery. The bond was so strong that the U.S. could not break them apart. The blacks became known as the black Seminoles.)

[Primary sources: *Aristocrat in Uniform: General Duncan L. Clinch*, by Rembert W. Patrick; *American Military Strategy During the Second Seminole War*, by John C. White, Jr.]

### CLINCH'S BRIDGE



Clinches Bridge in Nash Co. near Gold Rock. It was named to honor Duncan L. Clinch and his father, Joseph John Clinch.

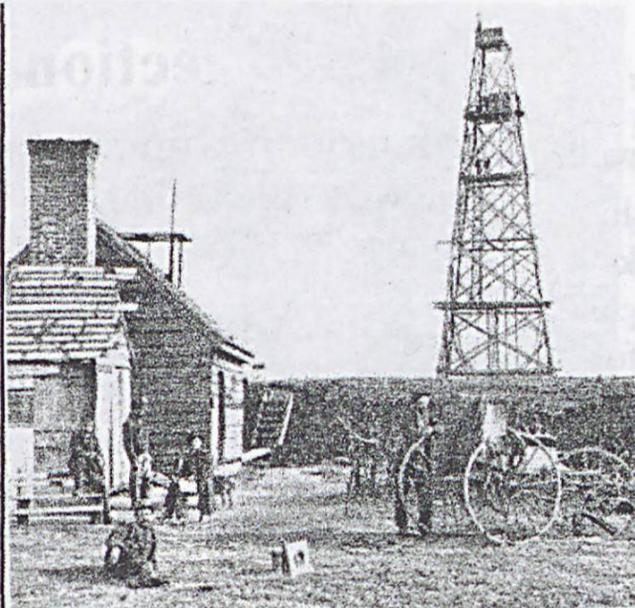
## What's Going On? Civil War Communication

At the time of the **Civil War**, the telegraph was emerging as a means of communication. Telegraph poles and wires were erected to provide communication from the battle front. The photograph below shows military telegraph operators with poles in the background.

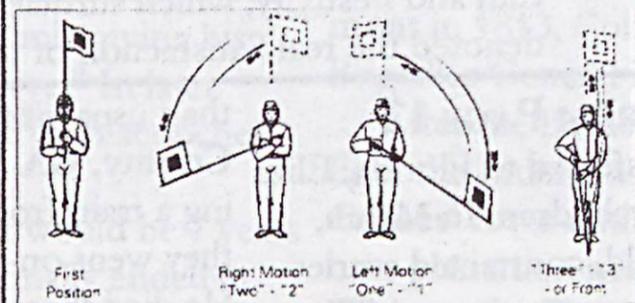


Tall signal towers were used to send messages short distances. The picture above right shows a signal tower at **Bermuda Hundred, VA**.

Line-of-sight signal flags were also widely employed during the Civil War. This method of communication, known as "wigwag," used various positions of the flag to represent letters of the alphabet. Soldiers would



wave them to send messages to other units. Since the system is visual, the enemy, began intercepting the other side's messages. This forced the armies to begin encrypting. Also, due to the nature of this visual system, the signal officers, alone on top of a tower or hill with no weapon, risked their lives to send messages. Despite being somewhat removed from the front line, they were still within range, and easily within sight, of the enemy's fire.



## Code Calls Civil War Edgecombe Guard

About to advance	Z X
Ammunition exhausted	S X
Are advancing	S M
Barrage wanted	P G
Being shelled	Z F
Enemy barrage commenced	X P
Enemy M, G, fire serious	F A
O.K.	F Y
M G ammunition needed	A X
Message received	A Z
Message not received	B F
Objective reached	F M
Re-enforcements needed	F C
Relief Completed	C A
Rifle ammunition needed	A F
Situation serious	C M
Stretcher bearers needed	C Z
Stopped	S A
Have broke through	A W

[Pictures: Library of Congress. Text: [www.kidport.com](http://www.kidport.com) and [www.mercurians.org](http://www.mercurians.org). "Edgecombe Code Calls," *Cutchin Family Collection*, East Carolina Manuscript Collection, Joyner Library, ECU, Greenville, NC]

## An Early Demise

[SEE ELECTION, PAGE 13]

Death [...]

MR JAMES MILNER, Attorney at Law in **Halifax, North Carolina**; by a Fall from the Horse, which fractured his Skull.

[Virginia Gazette, December 31, 1772]



HALIFAX, North Carolina,  
January 8, 1773.

THE Subscribers, acting Executors of the last Will and Testament of

James Milner, Attorney at Law in this Province, lately deceased, being desirous of making as speedy a Settlement and Distribution of his Estate as possible, request the Favour of all these Persons who may have Claims on the said Estate to transmit a State thereof to us, as well authenticated as the Nature of such Claim will admit; all those who may be Indebted thereto will avoid the Charges of Suit only by making speedy Payment. All Papers lodged in his Hands for Counsel or Suit will be carefully preserved, and delivered to the Order of the Clients to whom they respectively belong.  
**JOSEPH MONTFORT.**  
**ANDREW MILLER.**

[Virginia Gazette February 4, 1773]



**Land for Sale.**

HAVING more land than I can cultivate, I offer for sale my  
**Mill Plantation,**  
In the county of **Edgecombe,**  
Adjoining the lands of Reuben Taylor—Henry Adams and others—containing  
**About 200 Acres,**  
On which is a good Mill, Apple and Peach Orchard, and many other advantages.

**ALSO,**  
ANOTHER SMALL TRACT, of very valuable Land,  
In the county of **Nash,**  
Lying on the north side of Swift Creek, adjoining the lands of Jacob Ing, John Hilliard and others.  
Apply to the Subscriber, at his residence in the county of Nash.  
**WILLIAM BELLAMY**  
Oak Forest, January, 1836. 4

## Early North Carolina Hospitality

Objects that have been handed down in families make history come alive. Many of those items have to do with hospitality and alcoholic beverages. We can envision our ancestors sipping or swigging rum, toddy, punch and straight liquor from the various jugs, mugs, glasses, and bottle cases that have survived.

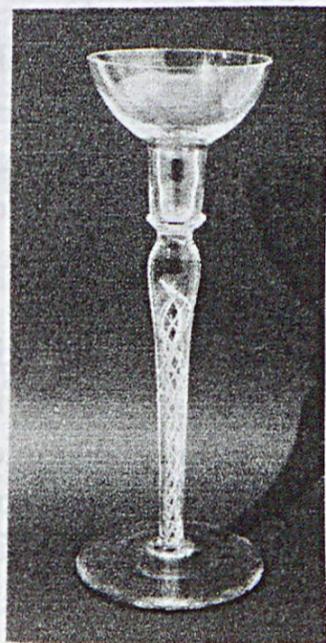
Our ancestors had access to various alcoholic drinks, but **Nash County, NC** in particular, has a history of producing



**Mallet Bottle**

great extra-tasty and potent apple brandy. There is a story about **Nick Arrington**, the 19th century Nash Co. planter renowned for his fighting cocks. It seems that Arrington left the area on one of his cock-fighting forays and when he returned, he noticed a sign, "Nash," as he came back into Nash County. "Why in the world is that sign there?" he questioned.

"Everybody already knows about 'Old Nash.'" Of course, he wasn't referring to the county, but to the famous apple brandy produced there. [See "The Sport of Kings," *The Connector*, Winter 1999 and "That Famous Nash Brandy," *The Connector*, Spring 1998]



**Air Twist Glass**

In studying NC history, it is often necessary to rely on **Virginia** writ-

ers. One of the most interesting was **William Byrd** who surveyed the boundary line between NC and VA in 1728. In his journal, Byrd attributed the inertia of North Carolinians, who were noted for their consumption of alcoholic beverages, to a fondness for rum. "Strong Drink ... [which] they get with such Difficulty that they are never guilty of the Sin of Suffering it to Sour upon their Hands."

**Dr. John Brickell** who lived in **Edenton, Chowan Co, NC** described excessive drinking that went on among men of all classes. "I have frequently seen them come to the town and there remain drinking rum punch and other liquors for 8 or 10 days successively —on a drunk. And after they have committed this excess will not drink any spirituous liquors til such time as they take the next frolic, which is generally in 2 or 3 months. But among the better sort, it sits quite otherwise, having plenty of wine, rum and other liquors at their homes which they generously make use of amongst their friends."

### Hospitality

North Carolinians have always been hospitable. A 1771 account



**Delft Punch Bowl**



**Witch Bottle**



**Onion Bottle**

## CONNECTOR

says, "Hospitality was a by-word in North Carolina. Friends live in the greatest harmony imaginable. They always treat each other with friendship and hospitality and never dispute over their liquor."

Being a good host or hostess requires having the proper utensils, and estate inventories make it clear that our ancestors were well-prepared. An array of decanters, cellarettes



**Baluster Glasses**

or bottle cases, flasks, tankards, and other such items, as well as spirits of various kinds, are features of many such lists. For instance, fourteen inventories listed 36 punch bowls along with various ladles, strainers, and squeezers for extracting the lemon or lime juice that was an essential ingredient in traditional punch recipes.



**Bottle Case or Cellarette similar to one found in Nash Co. Made by Thomas Sharrock, Roanoke River Basin**

[Taken from a program by Hiram Perkinson, TRC member. The pictures are similar to some of the items displayed by Perkinson.]

## A City's Beginnings

**M**rs. J.W. Powell came to **Rocky Mount, NC** in 1874 at the tender age of four. In 1934, she told **Vernon Sechrist\***, *Evening Telegram* reporter, what she remembered.

"My father and his brother, **B.R. Arrington** and **A.W. Arrington**, respectively, came here from **Sampson Co, NC** to open a store for **W.S. Battle** who was carrying on the work at the **Rocky Mount Mills**. The store was to serve as sort of commissary for the mill employees.

"There was the store on the left down at the falls, while just across the street at the site where the offices of the mills are now located, was the large house belonging to Mr. Battle. A few tenant houses were scattered around and the population of Rocky Mount was less than 75 souls.

"It was not long before the Arrington brothers decided to go into business for themselves. Consequently, they erected a store down in the

woods on a muddy road where the **Planters Bank** now stands. Since the mill's store was used principally as a

commissary, the Arrington store served the people throughout the entire area. My father and uncle employed 15 clerks in their store to accommodate the customers that came here from every point within a radius of 50 miles of Rocky Mount.

"The family moved into an old house that was located where the

**First Presbyterian Church** now stands.

The germ of expansion had been planted, and other houses started

to spring up in what was to become Rocky Mount proper. Soon there was the **Wayside Inn**, the first of a long generation of inns, that were to reach their climax in such classical modern names as **Tourist Inn, Travelers Inn, Come Inn, Break Inn**, etc.

"The proprietors of the Wayside, which was located where the **Holt-Cobb Warehouse** stands today, were maiden aunts, the Misses **Grey**, great aunts of **W.C. Woodard** of this city. The front of the inn extended to the site now occupied by **Fire Station No. 1**.

"In front of the inn was a well, known as **Parker's well**, which supplied the entire village with water."

Mrs. Powell remembered the time **William Jennings Bryan** spoke before the inn on one of his tours in the midst of a political campaign, and, whether because of the influence of the great dry advocate or the unusual thirst of the multitude of the listeners, the well went dry for a spell.

### Natives Played Games

"Modern sports enthusiasts would have been stumped for something to do during those childhood days of Rocky Mount, because there were but two sports here. The great indoor sport was checkers, while a twelve-months season was observed outdoors in the great game of 'knucks,'

which was played with marbles, and which was enjoyed by both young and old."

### Churches

"Finally, a church came into being. It was operated by the **Methodist** denomination. It was a tiny modern structure built on the site now graced by the **Thomas Hackney Braswell Library**. All the residents who were not Methodists went to the church anyway because there was no other place for them to go for religious worship. The cemetery was located



on the present site of the **Imperial Tobacco Co.'s** building, and one

would need but to dig downward for a few feet to discover many bones of the early settlers.

"Several years later, the **Presbyterian Church** came into being, and the **Baptist** and **Episcopal** followed in order. A lawyer, **Lucius V. Bassett**, who is remembered yet today by many citizens, built the Presbyterian Church while his brother, **Clifford Bassett**, painted it.

"The first school was set up about ten years after I reached Rocky Mount. It was located in a floral hall on the present site of the **Park View Hospital**. I had to walk from my home to the school via a narrow path that ran right through the graveyard. I was afraid to traverse **North Church Street** and **Falls Road** after the sun had gone down.

"The coming of the old **Wilmington and Weldon Railroad**, forerunner of the **Atlantic Coast Line** road was one of the big factors contributing to the rapid growth of Rocky Mount. When the trains would come by on the single track all of the citizens would run out to see them. You could go to **Wilmington** on the train one day and get back the next day on

**CITY CONTINUED ON PAGE 17**



**W.J. Bryan** spent the night in Rocky Mount in the Bunn home, or "Benvenue," in 1896.



**CITY CONT. FROM PAGE 16**  
the same train."

### Station in Little Shed

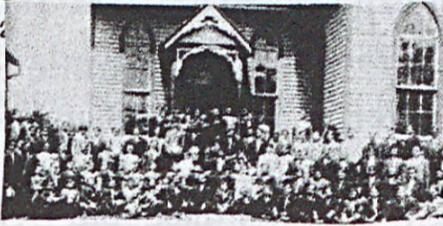
"The first railroad station was located in a little shed at Parker's well.



**ACL Depot, 1905**

This was later moved to a small shanty where the **Kress Novelty Store** now stands, and later was moved to its present site.

"The southern section of the city, below what is now **Western Ave.**, was nothing more than a howling wilderness, and the spot now



occupied by the **First Baptist Church** was an old fish pond. Mother was always afraid that one of the children would drown when he went fishing in that wild country.

"There was a small creek, they called it a canal, that ran across the city striking about where **Nash and Church Streets** now intersect. Later generations of Rocky Mounters disowned the creek and so bottled it up that it passes under the city today, cooped up in huge pipes, and few citizens who ride down **Main Street** realize that they are crossing a creek when they traverse the block from Western Ave. to Nash Street."

### Travel

"Back in those days, **Tarboro** and **Nashville** were the 'towns' of the section and Rocky Mounters who could get a spare horse and buggy and wanted to see the sights went to one or the other of those places. There was some tourist traffic and persons travelling from **Petersburg, VA**, and sections north came into Rocky Mount by way of Nashville for

there was no federal highway No. 301 [or 95] then.

In 1889, Mrs. Powell, who then was Miss **Lillie Arrington**, a blushing lass of 19, was married to

**John William Powell**, a Baptist minister, the first pastor the local first church had."

### Helped in the Church

"I was the janitor and handy man around the church. I dusted pews, built fires, swept floors, and did such other tasks as were required."

The following children, who are living now [1934], were born to this couple: **Edwin**, terminal trainmaster of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad; **Benjamin**, now chief clerk to the superintendent of the **Richmond** district of the railroad; **Mrs. Annie Mae Gardner** and **Mrs. J.P. Ricks** of this city; and **Mrs. L.R. Thomas** of **Goldsboro**.

"After the old Wayside Inn, the first hotel established in the city was operated by **Mrs. T.A. Marriott** and was called

the **Marriott House**. It was erected on the site now occupied by the **Ricks Hotel**, but later was acquired by **T.L. Bland** and moved to the corner of **Coast Line Street, Hammond Street, and South Church Street**. The first drugstore was erected on the site where the **Standard Drug Store** now

stands, while the railroad built the first hospital, which was burned and



**J.W. Powell Family**

later replaced. The Imperial Tobacco Co. was one of the first plants of its kind to be erected here.

"When there were less than a dozen dwellings in the city, there were 13 barrooms here. This village of Rocky Mount was noted for its liquors, and the **Nash Co.** corn whiskey was rapidly coming into its own. On the corner where the **Epstein Building**

now stands was a huge barroom with swinging doors.



**Richard Long Saloon, 100 Block Tarboro St. ca. 1900**

"The growth of the city has been almost phenomenal. As a child, I looked for a bear to come out of the wilderness in South Rocky Mount; today, an automobile may come at any moment from any direction and wreak more damage than the bear."

[Text: *Rocky Mount Evening Telegram*, Oct. 1934. Pictures: *Rocky Mount, Industrial Edition of the Rocky Mount Record*, 1906 and *A Pictorial History of Rocky Mount* by Bugs Barringer, Dot Barringer and Lela Chesson, 1977.]

\***Vernon Franklin Sechriest**, "Seek," graduated from **Duke University** with a degree in English and history and joined the *Rocky Mount Evening Telegram* staff on June 6, 1930. He advanced from cub reporter to editor and was well known locally for his column "Relax" that appeared regularly in the *Telegram*.

## F. M. Rawlings

BATTLEBORO, N.C.

DEALER IN

DRY GOODS, BOOTS, SHOES  
Hats, Caps, Ready-made Clothing,  
Meat, Meal, Flour, Coffee, and a  
stock of General Groceries.

Highest market price paid for  
Cotton and Country Produce.

[*Battleboro Progress*, Jan. 2, 1880]



**ACL Hospital**

## Franklin Co. Pioneer

### LEWIS SOLOMON IN KENTUCKY AND ILLINOIS

**Lewis Solomon, Sr.** [April 1, 1778-July 28, 1849] was born in **Franklin Co, NC**. In 1798, he married **Sarah Bowden**, daughter of a prominent Franklin Co. citizen, **John Bowden**. Lewis and Sarah had 6 children before they moved their family to **Kentucky** in 1811. In **Muhlenburgh Co.**, he bought a tract of timberland. In the next 14 years, they had 7 more children.

A drastic depreciation in the value of currency and the failure of the Commonwealth Bank of Kentucky cost Solomon heavily, and in 1825 he emigrated to **Illinois**, where he hoped to find a better life.

The trip to Illinois was long and difficult. The family's worldly goods were transported in a one-horse cart—hired for \$10—and on two pack horses. Most of the family walked—only Sarah and the youngest children rode in the cart. They camped along the way, enduring what must have been cold and harsh conditions. When they arrived in **Jacksonville, IL** on Nov. 2, 1825, Lewis had just 50¢. Jacksonville was a tiny village with one frame house and three or four log cabins. The land around the village was owned by the government and could be bought for \$1.25 per acre, but Lewis had no money to buy land.

The family moved into a vacant log cabin which had neither floor nor door. Lewis split clapboards and made a door which he hung on wooden hinges. He hewed out and smoothed slabs of timber for the floor. In the spring of 1826, they rented land 5 miles south of town and raised a crop. They cultivated the crop with a shaft plow with a wooden moldboard and with other similarly primitive tools.

In 1827, the Solomon family was able to move to the northern part of Macoupin Co. on what was later known as **Eagle's Point**, named for the large number of spotted eagles. There was also a creek which became known as **Solomon's Creek**, named after Lewis Solomon. Lewis built a log cabin that was chinked with chips and daubed with mud. The chimney was made of mud and sticks. There was no sawn lumber in the entire cabin. The floor was made of puncheons [split timbers or slabs with one side smoothed] and Lewis rived [split] the boards for the door that was hung on wooden hinges. The roof was clapboard held in place by weight poles. There were no windows. Life was hard, but at least they had a home!

Lewis Solomon had little formal education, but he and his family made a place for themselves in Illinois. Lewis, a **Baptist**, was one of the earliest preachers and per-

## CONNECTOR

formed the first marriage in **North Palmyra Township**, marrying **Andrew Thompson** to **Sarah Roodring**. He was also the first Justice of the Peace. He had the first blooded stock, *Byfield* hogs, and fed the first cattle in the township. The first blacksmith shop, run by a Mr. **Stratton**, was on his property. His son-in-law, **James Howard**, was the first school teacher in the area. Lewis's wife, Sarah, and their daughters wove cloth and made clothes for the entire family.

Lewis Solomon had to borrow to buy his first 80 acres of land, and he paid dearly with interest at 25%. However, when he died in 1849, he was out of debt and owned 256 acres. He had also been able to erect a weather-boarded dwelling house where the family lived until his death.

Children of Lewis Solomon, Sr. and Sarah Bowden

1. **Henry**, b. 12/6/1799
2. **Drewsilla**, b. 7/2/1801, m. **Elizah Wills**
3. **John**, b. 12/28/1802
4. **Elizabeth**, b. 4/29/1806, m. **Jimmie Roe**
5. **Peggie Margaret**, b. 5/30/1808, m. **James Howard**
6. **James**, b. 7/28/1810
7. **Lewis, Jr.**, b. 4/1/1812 [Macoupin Co. Judge]
8. **Philemon B**, b. 5/25/1814
9. **Nancy**, b. 11/23/1815, m. ? **Johnson**
10. **Asher**, b. 5/25/1817
11. **Polly Ann**, b. 11/26/1814?, m. ? **Smith**
12. **Dempsey**, b. 1/11/1821, m. **Elizabeth Newell**
13. **Jesse J.**, b. 2/17/1823, m. **Nancy Hollingsworth**



# LEMAY'S, AND GALES'S NORTH CAROLINA ALMANAC, FOR 1836,

For Sale at this Office at the Raleigh prices, viz: 10 cents each, 75 cents a dozen, 4 dollars for half a groce, \$7 a groce, &c. October, 1835.





## Cars We Remember

BY NORMAN VICK

The older you get the harder it is to find someone willing to sit and engage in a conversation. No one seems to want to listen to the old folks reminisce. My neighbor, **John Hoblock**, and I found common ground in talking about *CARS!* It began with a discussion of modern cars. Soon I asked, "Do you remember the terrible loss of life and limb caused by the T-MODEL Ford?" Each of us was eager to recall the numerous cars he had owned, their characteristics, their merits and demerits, and their cost. Next we were into discussing the early automobiles that have long since disappeared from the scene. John named some that I had forgotten. Between the two of us we were able to compile quite a list, but I am sure we missed some. This list is in no particular order, but they are all *Gone with the Wind!*

Chrysler Airflow	Auburn Beauty Six	Chandler Touring Car
Hupmobile	Maxwell	Cord
Willis-Knight	Willis	Packard
Stuz Bear Cat	DeSoto	Pierce-Arrow
Whippet	Graham-Paige	Star
Studebaker	Durant	Essex
Hudson	Overland	Franklin (Electric)
Edsel Ford	T-MODEL Ford	A-MODEL Ford
Rio	Oakland	

Talking about the A-MODEL Ford gave me an acutely visible flashback which sticks in my memory. It was an event which caused me to remember more than that marvelous Ford. It was in 1932, when I was 18 years old, and my brother-in-law, **Walter Ayers**, decided to take my father and me for a ride in his brand new A-MODEL Ford. It was the first model which boasted a speedometer.

It was a long ride. About 75 miles of it was on the first paved highway between **Rocky Mount** and **Raleigh, NC**. That highway was a solid concrete strip, only some 20 feet wide, barely wide enough for two cars to meet or pass safely. The dirt shoulders were poorly maintained and showed ruts several inches deep immediately adjacent to the paving. It took an alert and skillful driver to avoid the obvious hazard of allowing the car to run off the pavement, and yet allowing space for other vehicles in the unmarked traffic lanes.

Luckily, Walter was a skillful driver, and he kept that speedometer reading at 55

miles per hour, the fastest ever for me. I trusted him, but I watched in fearful fascination as he steered that right front wheel only a few inches from the edge of disaster.

We met very few cars, and I am sure none passed us at that speed. If my father or Walter had any trepidations, they did not show it. Both of them were unusually quiet men and never spoke a word all the way to Raleigh. Neither did I, but for me, it was a blue knuckle flight. We did not stop along the way because there were no stoplights. Imagine that!

Eventually I found that our destination was the **NC State Fairgrounds**. There a special train stood on a spur track and a large crowd was trying to get a glimpse of a man standing, with obvious difficulty, on the rear fantail of the last car. It was the Presidential Candidate, **Franklin Delano Roosevelt**. He waved and smiled and spoke, but we could not hear him.

Oddly, there was no cheering, nor applause. Instead, his audience stood in awed silence with their hats in their hands, as if in church. As the train slowly pulled away, the crowd waved a friendly farewell.

I do not remember much about the trip back home, but I know we did not run off the pavement; and just as before, there was no talking.

[Norman Vick, a TRC member, lives at Seal Beach, CA. He grew up on a farm at **Glenview**, near **Enfield** in **Halifax Co, NC**. He wrote *Carolina Camelot—RFD*. Stories from that book appeared in "RFD Halifax, NC," *The Connector*, Fall 2004. Also see "Tarheels and Sorebacks," on page 8 of this issue.]

