

The Connector

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

Fall 2002

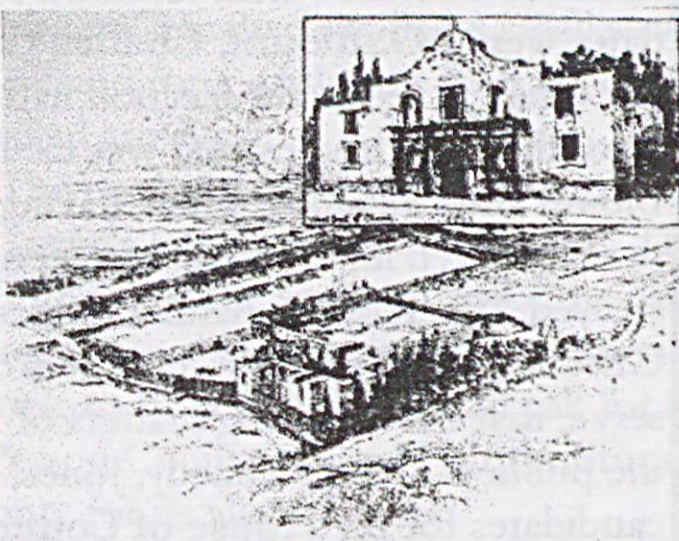
Peggy Strickland & Billie Jo Matthews, Co-Editors Volume 6 Number 4

Nash County Native Dies at Alamo

"At dawn on the first of March [1836], **Capt. Albert Martin**, with 32 men (himself included) from **Gonzales and DeWitt's Colony**, [Texas], passed the lines of **Santa Anna** and entered the walls of the **Alamo**, never more to leave them. These men, ... passed through the lines of an enemy four to six thousand strong, to join 150 of their countrymen and neighbors, in a fortress doomed to destruction. ... They willingly entered the beleaguered walls of the Alamo, to swell the little band under [**Lieutenant Colonel William Barret**] **Travis**, resolved 'never to surrender or retreat.' " —**John Henry Brown** in *History of Texas*.

One of those brave men was **Dol-**

phin Ward Floyd, born in **Nash County, North Carolina** on March 7, 1804. He left NC in 1825 and came to the DeWitt Colony in Texas in 1832 or 1833 from **Alabama**. He lived in Gonzales where he was a member of the **Gonzales Rangers**. Floyd married **Ester Berry House** and made his living as a farmer—un-



til he lost his life at the Alamo.

What led to the tragedy of the Alamo? During the winter of 1835-36, Texans decided to sever relations with **Mexico**. **Santa Anna**, a powerful Mexican general, raised a large army and rode into Texas territory in an effort to abort the Texas attempt at independence. He approached **San Antonio** in late February, 1836. **Lieutenant Colonel Travis**, taken by surprise and with only 150 men, retreated to the Alamo to try to hold off **Santa Anna**. At 4:00 p.m. on Feb. 23, Travis sent **Launcelot Smithers** on a 76 mile ride to Gonzales to seek reinforcements. Travis wrote: "... The enemy in large force is in sight. ... We have 150 men and are determined to defend the Alamo to the last. ..."

[See Floyd, Page 6]

Cherokee Nation

By Susan Wilson Ellis

By the time **Europeans** arrived, **Cherokee** lands covered a large part of what is now the southeastern **United States**. The **Cherokee Nation** was one of the most progressive among **American Indian** tribes. In **North Carolina**, the **Cherokee Indians**, a branch of the **Iroquois** nation, can trace their history back more than a thousand years.

The Cherokee lived in small communities, usually located in fertile river bottoms in a society based on hunting, trading, and agriculture. Homes were wooden frames cov-

ered with woven vines and saplings plastered with mud. These were replaced in later years with log structures. Each village had a council house where ceremonies and tribal meetings were held. The council house was seven-sided to represent

[SEE CHEROKEE, PAGE 8]

NOTICE

Hookworm Program
Nash County and Elsewhere
Free Treatment

Cost Paid By Rockefeller
Foundation

Everyone Old and Young
Invited to Participate
1910-1915

"Justice for All"

Justice is a small community on **Little Peachtree Creek** in eastern **Franklin County, NC**. It was settled about 1873. The first inhabitants of the area were the **Bowdens** who descended from **Pierre Baudoin** or **Bowdoin**. They were of **French** origin and first appeared in **Northampton County** in 1700 when two brothers, **John I** and **James**, **Boston** mariners, purchased land there. The **Franklin County Bowden** families descend from **John I**. John's son, **John II**, purchased land in **Bute Co.** in 1774. The will of **John IV** is recorded in **Franklin Co.**, as is that of

[SEE JUSTICE, PAGE 4]

QUERY GUIDELINES

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

Tar River Connections Genealogical Society

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The Connector-Published Quarterly
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Election Fraud?



... We understand that no election of members of the **House of Commons** had been had at **Beaufort**, owing to a riot which took place at the time of counting out the ballots. The candidates were **John G. Blount, Charles Crawford, John Kennedy** and **Frederick Grist**. It seems the election had been conducted with very considerable warmth on both sides, and was likely to terminate in favour of Mess. Blount and Crawford, when, having counted within 72 votes of the whole number given in, a general battle ensued, and the commons box was destroyed. Each party accuses the other of an intention to break the box—it is believed, however, that neither had at first such a design, but that "Rum and the Devil accomplished it." [*North Carolina Journal*, Halifax, NC, Sept. 4, 1793]

To the Editor of the *North-Carolina Journal*. There appeared some time ago a publication in the *State Gazette*, containing some ill-founded strictures respecting the election of the county of Beaufort. The following sentence whereof I shall set down in the author's own words, "The candidates were **J.G. Blount, Charles Crawford, John Kennedy** and **Frederick Grist**. It seems the election had been conducted with very considerable warmth on both sides, and was likely to terminate in favour of messrs. Blount and Crawford, when, having counted within 72 votes of the whole number given in, a general battle ensued, and the common's box was destroyed. Whereby the natural inference is, that the party of Kennedy and Grist destroyed the box. Since it is of import and incumbent on me to observe, that the following matters of fact, have not yet been fairly stated to the public—Grist, Kennedy, Jones, Crawford, and **Bryan Blount**, were candidates for the **House of Commons**. There are two separate places of election in the county, one at the **Dividing Creeks**, and the other in **Washington**—and there were also two boxes for the reception of the commoner tickets. On the day of election below, J.G. Blount conceiving that B. Blount and Crawford, the men whom he proposed, would not be elected, declared himself a candidate in the place of B. Blount. ... That the election would have ended in favour of Kennedy was obvious—without his party appearing armed with clubs or any weapon of defence—consequently no opposition, no battle ensued. And as to intoxication being the cause of that ignominious deed, I desire it may be observed, that the very perpetrators of it were by no means deprived of their reason by spirits; but it rather appeared the result, and bore the aspect of a premeditated plan. ... **J. Kennedy, Junior**. Washington, Nov. 1793. [*NC Journal*, Nov. 27, 1793]

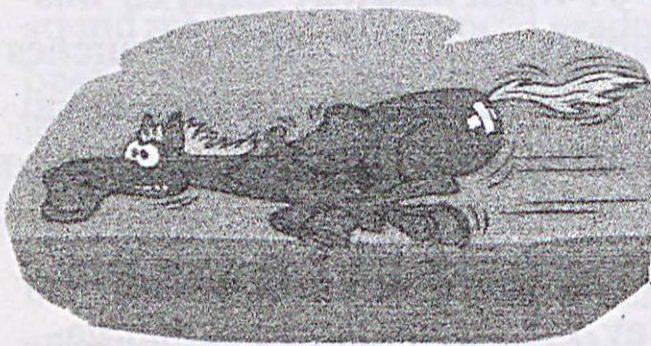
Halifax, January 22. .. At the close of the poll, on Thursday the 19th inst. for electing Members to represent the county of **Beaufort** in the present **General Assembly**, I received an insult from **John Gray Blount, Esq.** in consequence of my not being of that temporising disposition, but that I could express myself freely, "that they eventually carried their election by fraud and collusion, that it was the opinion of many, and that I verily believed that He was accessory to the destruction of the box at the last annual

[SEE ELECTION, PAGE 3]

DISAPPEARING HORSE

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"Runned away, strayed away, or stoled away, mine big black horse, sixteen hands and six inches tall; he vast black all over his body but his head, and dat vash black too; he had fore legs, two behind and two before, and ven he walked and runned day follered one after anoder. He had two black ears upon his head, one vite and one brown; had no eye upon one side of his head, and couldn't see anyding mit de oder.



He had a fine big head vich he vore before him, and a long dale pehind, vich I cut short de oder day, and it ish not now so long as it vash before; it always stays behind, except ven he valks backward, and den it comes in front. Anybody vat finds him and brings him to me, pay five dollars reward and no questions axed."

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[ELECTION, FROM P. 2]

election." For which insult I demanded immediate satisfaction the next morning, but he declined the acceptance, upon the principle of a justice he owed himself and connections, together with other reasons of the like timid nature which are generally alleged by dastardly minds. **John Kennedy, Jun.** Washington, Dec. 25.

[North Carolina Journal, Halifax, NC, Jan. 22, 1794]

A Mad-Stone

AS TOLD BY JOSEPH BLOUNT CHESHIRE IN *NONNULLA*, 1930



Benjamin P. Thorp of Goshen, in Granville

Co., was the possessor of a "mad-stone" and had wonderful stories to tell about it. The stone is about the hardness of soapstone, but lighter, of a close fine grain or texture, and of a beautiful smooth surface. It is of a deep pink color, except that on one side there is a thin stratum of white color with a pink tinge here and there and seemingly of a little softer stone. It is of irregular

shape, about two inches and a quarter through its greatest dimension.

In the early 1800s, according to tradition, an unknown man traveled through Granville and **Person** counties and neighboring counties in VA. He stopped with a man named **Pointer** near **Woodsdale** in Person Co. He carried with him a rattlesnake in a box which he took out and provoked to strike him on his arm. He then applied a small stone to the wound. The stone adhered to the wound for a while and then fell off; and the man showed no sign of having received any harm.

The doubtful **Pointer** suggested that perhaps the poison sacs at the roots of the snake's fangs had been extracted. Thereupon the stranger called for a cat and provoked the snake to strike the cat. The cat showed all the symptoms of poison from a snake bite and very soon died. The traveler gave the stone to **Pointer** to keep until he should call for it, and went his way. This stone, known in Person County as the "**Pointer Stone**," gained a wide reputation in Person County for its alleged cures.

Upon one occasion, Ben Thorp said his grandfather, old **Benjamin P. Thorp**, sent thirty miles to borrow this stone and entered into a bond of a thousand dollars for its safe return; and by its use he cured one of his Negroes, who was in a dangerous condition from having been bitten by a rabid dog. **Pointer** demanded money from those whom he allowed the use of the stone, larger or smaller sums in accordance with the wealth or poverty of the applicant.

The strange traveler, with his rattlesnake, is next heard of across the line in **Mecklenburg Co., VA**, where he gave a similar stone to a man named **Lockett**. This man **Lockett**, in his extreme old age, about 1880 or 1885, gave the stone to the **Hon. Robert T. Thorp**, late member of Congress from that district. Thorp had rendered him some services as a lawyer, and the stone was given him as a fee, the old man having no money. Robert T. Thorp gave it to his brother, Ben Thorp, from whom this history was derived. The third appearance of the old man was in **Dinwiddie Co., VA**, where he is said to have given a third mad-stone to another person. He then killed his rattlesnake, and was never seen again. The only account he gave of his mad-stones was that he had gotten them "out of the maw of a deer." Each of these stones had a great local celebrity, and they were believed to be still in use in the year 1904. I was given this account of them.

The method of employing the stone, where a person was suffering from a

[SEE MAD-STONE, PAGE 5]

Braswell Memorial Library Acquisitions

1. *Cherokee Connections: An Introduction to Genealogical Sources Pertaining to Cherokee Ancestors* by Myra Vanderpool Gormley.
2. *Biographical History of North Carolina from Colonial Times to the Present* by Samuel A. Ashe.
3. *Edgecombe County North Carolina Deeds, Vols. 1-6 [1759-1802]* by Stephen E. Bradley.

4. *Nash County North Carolina Court Minutes, Vol. 13* by Stephen E. Bradley and Timothy W. Rackley.
5. *Will Book B, Franklin County, North Carolina, 1794-1804: Wills, Estates, Guardian Accounts* abstracted by Stephen E. Bradley.
6. *Will Book K, Franklin County, North Carolina, 1834-1840: Wills, Estate Records, Guardian Accounts* abstracted by Stephen E. Bradley.
7. *The 1820 Tax Lists, Franklin County, North Carolina: with Louisburg 1818*

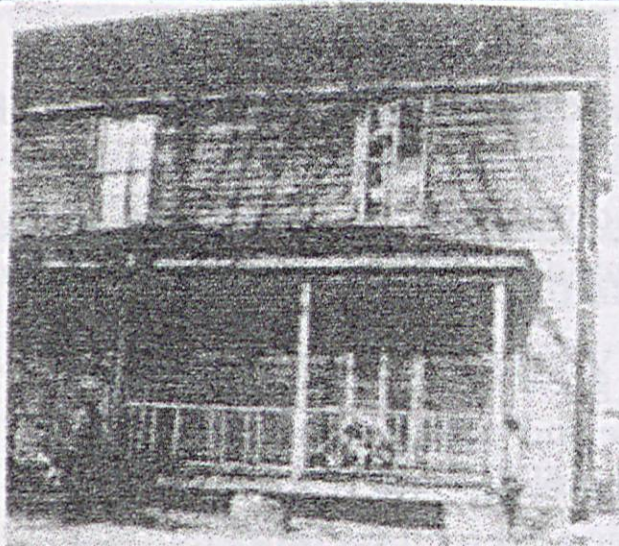
CONNECTOR

- and 1821 abstracted by Stephen E. Bradley.
8. *North Carolina Revolutionary Army Accounts* by Weynette Parks Haun.
 9. *Washington and the Pamlico* by Ursula Fogleman Worthy & Pauline Marion Worthy, gift of Roy Wilder, TRC Member.
 10. *Granville County North Carolina, Original Wills, Vol I 1749-1810* abstracted by Timothy W. Rackley.
 11. *The Stallings Family of Franklin Co., NC* by Callie J. Stallings, TRC member.

JUSTICE, CONT. FROM P. 1

William Bowden. Joshua Lawrence Bowden, the founder of Justice, was the son of Abel and Betty Coppedge Bowden and the grandson of John IV. Joshua is buried in the family cemetery at Justice.

In the late 1800s, Justice was a



Early Justice House

thriving community with a post office, a cotton gin, a grist mill, a saw mill and J. L. Bowden's store. There was a north-south road between Louisburg and Spring Hope and an east-west road between Raleigh and Nashville. Besides the Bowdens, Justice residents included Benjamin Thomas, James Qualls, Alfred Wheless, Polly Wheless and William Boone.

How Justice got its name

Mrs. Bowden is credited with naming the town. She remarked that she wished for justice for all people, and she and Joshua agreed that Jus-

tice should be the name of their community. Mr. and Mrs. Bowden operated the store and Mrs. Bowden served as postmistress. The post office remained until about 1911. Early mail carriers were Rufus Smith, Bob Eldridge, John Daniel, and Buck Johnson.

Joshua Bowden also owned the first mills—cotton, grist and saw—in the area, but they were destroyed by fire in 1912. They were rebuilt by J.L. Bowden, J.C. Bowden and Will Cooper, but burned again in 1921. B.F. Wheless and J.E. Wheless later installed a cotton gin.

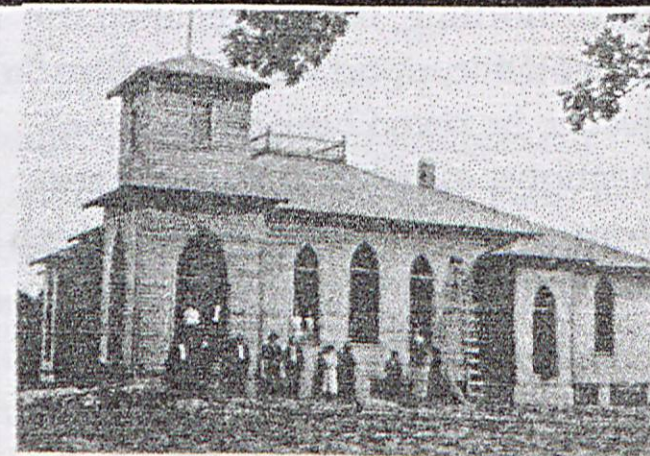
The first school was in a building across the road from Mr. Bowden's store. Later, a one-room school was built where Duke Memorial Church now stands. Some of the teachers in the school were Miss Claudia Boone, Miss Nan Hight, and Miss Pearl Stallings. In 1911, another building was erected which was called the Justice School Academy or, later, Justice School. On Nov. 22, Rev. G.W. Duke presented the building to the County Board, and it was accepted by Supt. R.B. White. One of the most important parts of the program was the dinner waiting outside: barbecue bacon, chicken, bread, cake, pickles

and pies.

The building used for school was also used for church services until 1904 when Midway Church was built. In 1924, the various churches and Sunday schools combined and Duke Memorial Church was built on the site of the original one-room school. The church was named for Rev. George W. Duke who organized it. Mr. A. Corey was instrumental in arranging the merger of the Midway and Justice Churches.

The Justice Tomato Club was organized in 1914 with charter members Pauline and Viola Bowden and Mary and Montagress Stallings. Miss Pauline Smith was the home agent who organized the club. Other early home agents were Sallie J. Martin, Miss Bordeaux, Kathleen Wilson, Miss Daisy Caldwell, and Mrs. Alta P. Shilling.

[From articles by Mrs. John D. Beaty and Mrs. Joseph A. Perry, published in the *Franklin Times*, July, 1970.]



Duke Memorial Baptist Church

[MAD-STONE, FROM P. 3]

bite or sting or other wound supposed to be infected with poison, was to apply the stone to the open wound. If there was poison in the wound, the stone, it was claimed, would adhere to the wound until it had absorbed or drawn out all the venom, when it would fall off. The patient would feel a sensation, sometimes quite painful, as of the stone drawing or sucking upon the wound.

After the stone had drawn the poison from the wound, it had to be cleansed by being immersed in a pan of fresh milk. The poison would escape from the stone in a kind of effervescence in appearance and in sound while the milk would gradually become slightly tinged with a greenish hue. When the stone was applied within a short time, within an hour or two, after the poisonous sting or bite had been received, little or no pain would be felt by the sufferer. But when many hours had elapsed and inflammation had supervened, the patient, after the stone had begun to draw the venom from the wound, usually became much nauseated and would vomit copiously, then fall into a deep sleep, and awake after some hours greatly relieved.

Shortly after the stone came into Thorp's possession, two little daughters of a man named **Currin**, were bitten by a mad dog. Other dogs and animals, bitten by the same dog, went mad and had to be killed. The stone was applied to the wounds received by the little girls. It adhered for a time and then fell off. It was applied again and again, but did not adhere after the first application. The children felt no further pain; and the wounds healed at once.

A year or more after this the little son of **James Hart** was bitten in the face by a rabid dog. When Thorp arrived the child, only four or five years old, was asleep in a crib. The stone

was applied successively to the several places, where the dog's teeth had broken the skin, and it adhered upon the first application, but not upon a second. When it began to draw, the child tried to push it off, and cried, saying that it hurt him. He had to be held to keep him from pushing away the stone. After the stone had been applied he suffered no more pain and the wounds healed readily. Several animals, bitten by the same dog, went mad and had to be killed.

Augustus Wilson, living near **Stovall** [Granville Co.], was bitten by a rabid dog about daylight. Before night he had reached Thorp's residence; the wound by that time had become a good deal swollen and inflamed. The stone was applied and caused much pain; but after the pain caused by the drawing of the stone had ceased, the swelling subsided, and by the next morning the man was entirely relieved; and he suffered no further inconvenience.

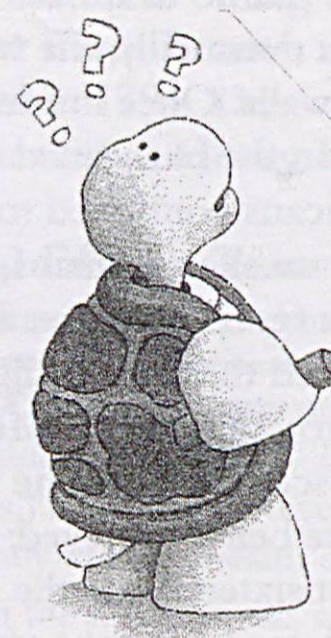
About 1894 **Richard Slaughter**, in removing stones from a rock pile, was bitten on the end of his forefinger by a snake hidden in the pile. A string was bound tightly around the finger, but the finger and hand began at once to swell and become exceedingly painful. **Dr. William Thorp**, who had seen a Negro boy suffering from the bite of a venomous spider relieved by the application of the stone, advised the man to "send for Ben Thorp and his mad-stone." When Thorp got to him, his hand and arm were much swollen, and he was almost in convulsions from the violence of the pain. The stone was applied and adhered at once. In a few moments the man became nauseated and vomited copiously. At once the pain abated, the swelling began visibly to subside, and he fell into a deep sleep. In a couple of hours he woke, entirely relieved, and resumed his work.

Dr. Thorp then said, "Now let's look at the snake." The snake had been killed and upon inspection proved to be a large highland moccasin.

On November 10, 1904, a colored man, **Jeff Satterwhite**, confirmed a story told by **Peterson Thorp**. Satterwhite's son had been bitten by a snake. Before the mad-stone was sent for, the boy had been given large quantities of whiskey, which afforded some alleviation of the pain by stupefying the patient; though he continued all the while moaning and restless, with the swelling not materially reduced. The next morning, the effect of the whiskey having worn off, and the effect of the poison continuing, with intense suffering, Satterwhite then sent for Benjamin Thorp, who applied the stone, with the happy result that the boy recovered fully.

The boy's dog had also been bitten by the snake; and was for a time much swollen and suffered greatly. But Jeff explained that the dog "had sense enough to hunt his own yerb, and so he finally got well. A dog know better how to take keer of himself than a man do," was Jeff's concluding reflection.

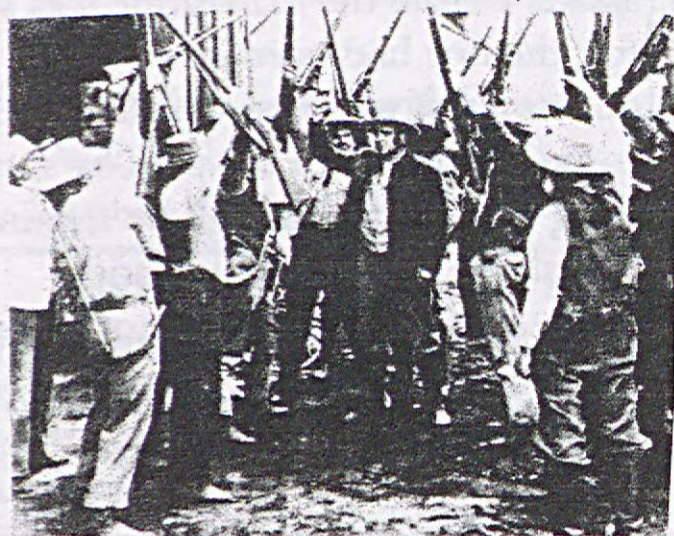
The whereabouts of the "Lockett Stone" is unknown. Do you know where it is?



[FLOYD, CONT. FROM PAGE 1]

On Feb. 24 Smithers wrote: "... there is 2000 Mexican soldiers in Bexar [San Antonio], and 150 Americans in the Alamo. ... they intend to show no quarter.... If you do not turn out Texas is gone. ..."

Responding to Travis' appeals, the Gonzales Alamo Relief Force,



Men of Gonzales, preparing to enter the Alamo. From *Heroes of the Alamo*, 1937.

which totaled 32 men including Dolphin Floyd left Gonzales for the Alamo on Feb. 27. On Feb. 29, the group prepared to make their way into the garrison through the surrounding Mexican forces. After being shot at by their own sentries, the gates were opened for them and the Gonzales Rangers dashed into the fort at 3 a.m. on March 1. These 32 untrained men were the only additional troops to reach the Alamo before the final massacre.

Before dawn on March 6, the Mexicans stormed the garrison. The men in the Alamo beat back several attacks, but eventually, the Mexicans scaled the walls. Once inside, they blasted open the barricaded doors. The Americans continued to fight, using their muskets as clubs, until only 6 men remained alive. Santa Anna ordered these men killed also. Alamo historian Charles Merritt Barnes described the scene when the bodies were being retrieved: "... One, a lad of but sixteen, was the bravest of them all, for he fought after his weapons were useless. He died throt-

ting an antagonist, not relaxing his grip on the latter's throat even when death seized the boy. He and his foe died together. ...they had to tear the boy's hands from the throat of his assailant, ..."

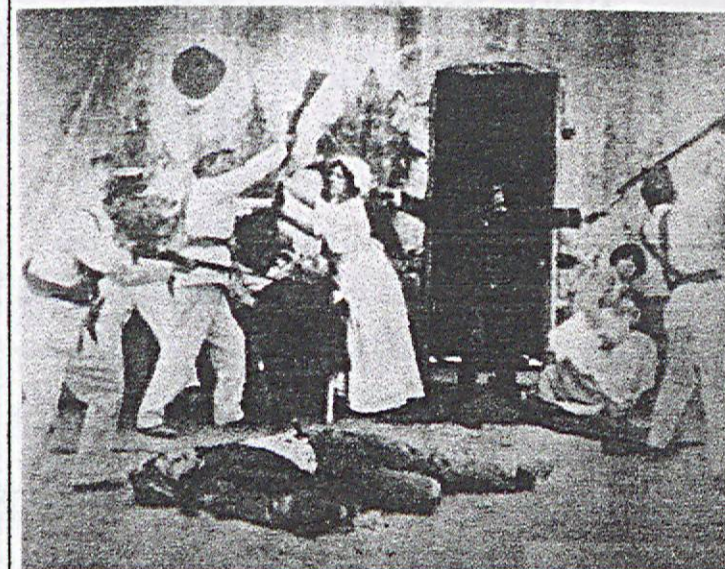
One hundred eighty nine men died that morning at the Alamo. Besides Floyd, the casualties included 6 other unsung heroes with NC ties: Micajah Autrey, son of Theophilus and Elizabeth Greer Autry, born in Sampson Co., NC in 1794 or 1795; William Parks, son of Jonathan and Catherine Turner Parks, born in Rowan Co., NC in 1805; Mial Scurlock, son of Joseph and Martha Jones Glasgow Scurlock, born in Chatham County, NC in 1809; Joshua G. Smith, son of Alexander and Rachel Gist Porter Smith, born in NC in 1807, and living in Green Co. TN by 1810; John W. Thomson, a doctor born in Louisa Co, VA in 1807, moved to TX from NC in 1835; and Claiborne Wright, son of James and Patsy Stigall Wright, born in NC in 1810.

Runaway Scrape

The term **Runaway Scrape** was the name applied to the flight of Texans from their homes when Santa Anna began his attack on Texas in 1836. The exodus began in earnest on March 11 when Sam Houston arrived in Gonzales and learned that the Alamo had fallen. Houston retreated to the **Colorado River** and ordered the inhabitants of Gonzales to abandon the town. As the news spread, people all over Texas left their homes and belongings to make their way to safety. As Houston retreated further, to the **Sabine River**, additional inhabitants were left unprotected, and they too began to flee.

The people were afraid of both the Mexicans and the **Indians** and the headlong flight of the Runaway Scrape was one of panic. There was little time for preparation; some left

their homes with food still on the table! Transportation was hard to come by. There was much sickness, made worse by cold, rain and hunger. The flight continued until news came of an American victory at **San Jacinto**. The **San Jacinto River** was the site of the climactic battle in the **Texas War for Independence**. Here, in



Alamo women resisting final attack in *The Immortal Alamo*, 1911.

1836, after months of strategic retreat, Sam Houston trapped the Mexican army led by Santa Anna at a bend in the river and triumphed in a surprise attack. Then, gradually, the refugees reversed their steps toward home.

Dolphin Floyd's wife, Ester Berry House Floyd—later **Clark**, was one of the unfortunate people forced to flee. Ester Floyd's situation was dire. She had just learned that her husband had been slain at the Alamo. She was pregnant—almost ready to deliver. The poor widow had little time for grief. She was one of those who gathered a few necessities and joined the move to the east at Houston's order. Ester had a two wheeled cart whose axle she kept greased with her gourd of soft soap. Although the details are not known, the baby, **Elizabeth**, must have been born along the trail. As they crossed the **Brazos River**, Mrs. Floyd's cart overturned and everything, including the baby, went into the water. Luckily, Elizabeth

[FLOYD, CONT. NEXT PAGE]

[FLOYD, CONT. FROM P. 6]

suffered no ill effects from the dunking.

There are several first hand accounts of the flight along the Run-away Scrape and of the return home. Widow Floyd was assisted by the **Robert Hancock Hunter** family on the return journey. Hunter described the experience. "... We had 4 yolk of oxen & big waggon & 2 horses & buggy. ... Mrs Floyed drove up & asked if she could camp with us. Yes. She was from San Antonio. Her husband was kild in the Alamo, & she was now tryin to git back. ... We got a bout half mile & run over a stump. ... We just got out of the water, & Mrs. Floyeds cart broke down, one wheel mashed all to peaces. The wheel was rotten I looked at it. We all stopt. Mrs Floyed was crying, & did not know what to do. I went to mother, & told her that I thought I could fix it. Well Robert if you think you can go at it, we must try & git her a long if we can. She had 2 old, very old negroes, man & a woman, & she had a young man by the name of **Uria Anderson** to drive her cart, by her haulin his trunk a long. I said Mr Anderson, you cut 2 or 3 of them little hichorys down. I took masure off the tyer, & told the old negro to heat it. I had my chest of tools in the waggon, & I had plenty of tools. I comenced & chisled the old roten spokes out. I cut some little hichory poles, cut them the right lengh for spokes, trimed them & drove them in the hub. Anderson split his peaces. I struk a circukel on my spokes, sawed them off, bowed my fellows, & put them, & slapt on the tyer, & cooled her off, & started, & we campt at the River that night.

... Next day we got to the **pine-lands**, & there Mrs Floydes other wheel gave way. Old man **Yoakum** lived at Pine-lands, & he had a wooden cart & tryed to swap our cart for it, & he wanted 15 dollar to boot. I told Mrs Floyde that I would not give it. Well what will we do. Well, said I, hold on a little. I said Mr An-

you in the big priria. You had better take me up. I said no that wheel will go all right, & did take her home to Gonzales.

... we made it home. We went threw the Battle ground & seen lots of Mexicans bones. After we got home & rested up some, I took Mrs Floyeds cart & huded off most of the surples, bark & wood, & made it some tighter. It was an auffel looking cart. Well Father ground her 5 bushels of meal, & we kild a beef & barbacued it, gave her as much as she wanted, & left for home in Gonzales. She wrote back to us, or to Mother, & said that old cart last her safe home, & she was thankful. "

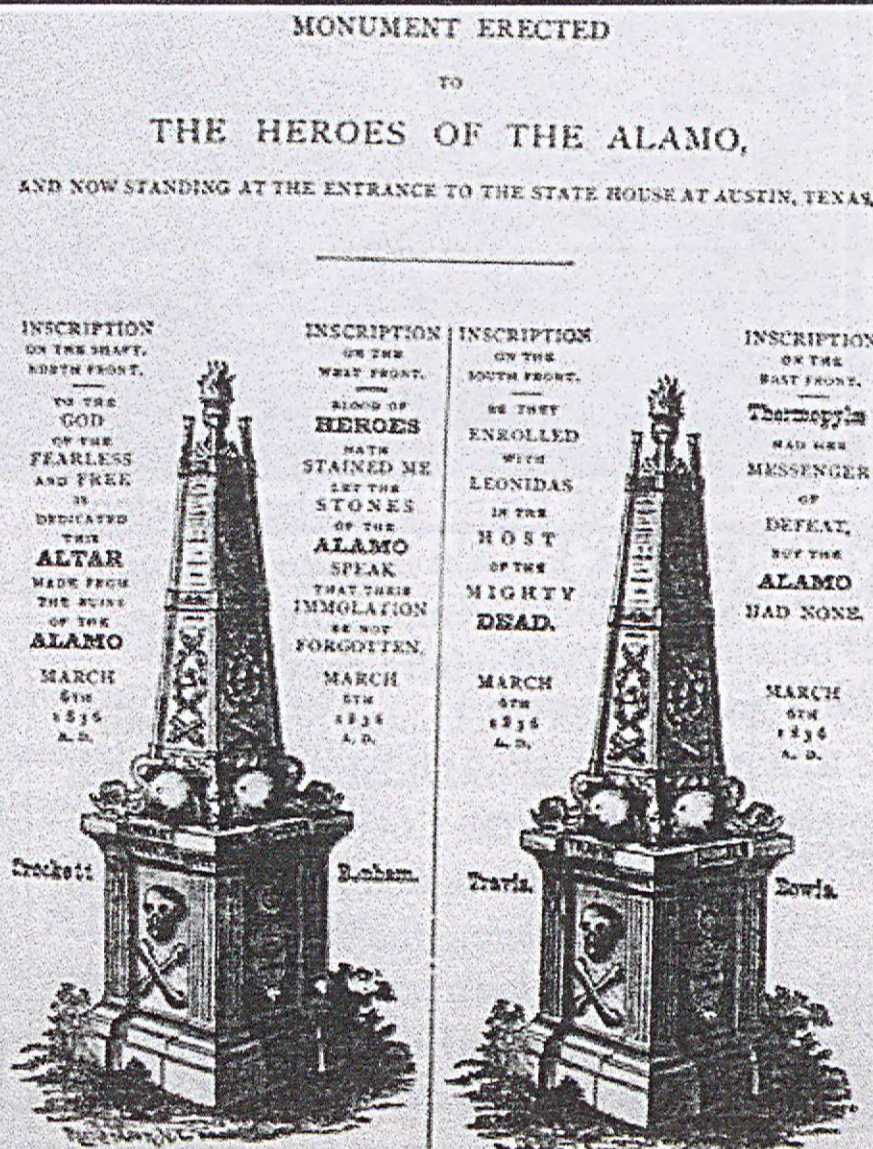
Dolphin Floyd's Roots

Dolphin Ward Floyd was the son of **Thomas Penuel** and **Mary Sarah Beckwith Floyd**. He had a sister **Sarah** and brothers **John, Penuel** and **Thomas B. Nash Co.**, NC deeds show **Thomas Penuel Floyd** buying land along the south side of **Little Peachtree Creek** as early as May 1788. He also bought on the north side of **Pig Basket Creek** in 1791. **Amos Beckwith**, father of **Mary Sarah Beckwith Floyd** owned land in the same area. He acquired 300 acres on **Pig Basket Creek** and **Tar River Branch** adjoining **Hilliard** in 1794. This was part of a tract granted to **Henry Beckwith** in 1754.

Floyd County, Texas, formed in 1876, was named for **Dolphin Floyd**.

DIED: In this county on Tuesday last, very suddenly, *Mr. John Williams*, (son of Thomas,) aged about 40 years. He was apparently in good health on Monday—in the night he was attacked with the quinsy, and died in a few hours.

[Tarborough Press, Jan. 12, 1839]



First Alamo monument, carved by William B. Nangle in 1841 from stones from the Alamo.

derson git your ax & we can cut one of those pines. Mr Yoakum said, I dont want any of them cut down. Said I, all right. It was six miles back to a point of timber on the Nataches bottom. Mr Anderson take a yolk of oxen a chane & go to that point & cut me a big log, as much as the oxen can pull. He got back a little before night. I split spokes & fellows out of it & by 12 oclock next day we are on our way. Just as we left Mr Yoakum come down & said, well I see you are in rather a bad fix. If you want to swap, I will take 10 dollars to boot. I said no, I have the wheel, so I think she will go all wright. He looked at it, ah no that wont go 5 miles, & leave

[CHEROKEE, FROM PAGE 1]

the seven clans of the Cherokee: **Bird, Paint, Deer, Wolf, Blue, Long Hair, and Wild Potato.** Each tribe elected two chiefs -- a Peace Chief who counseled during peaceful times and a War Chief who made decisions during times of war. However, the Chiefs did not rule absolutely. Decision making was a more democratic process, with tribal members having the opportunity to voice concerns.

Cherokee society was a matriarchy. The children took the clan of the mother, and kinship was traced through the mother's family. Women had an equal voice in the affairs of the tribe. Marriage was only allowed between members of different clans. Property was passed on according to clan alliance.

Cherokee Language

In the early 1800's, the Cherokees began a period of change. The Cherokee Nation was established. **Sequoyah** invented a syllabary system of 86 symbols for writing the Cherokee language. With a written language available, the Cherokee Council passed a resolution to establish a newspaper. A printing press was ordered, the type cast for the Cherokee syllabary, and the *Cherokee Phoenix* was in business.

By 1828, the Cherokees had assimilated many European-style customs, including the wearing of gowns by Cherokee women. They built roads, schools and churches, had a system of representational government, and were farmers and cattle ranchers. But the discovery of gold in Georgia sealed their fate in the east. In 1830, **President Andrew Jackson** signed the **Indian Removal Act**. The Cherokee fought the act through the courts, but they were unable to overturn it. Although most Cherokee sup-

ported **Principal Chief John Ross**, who fought the encroachment of whites starting with the 1832 land lottery, a small band followed **Major Ridge**, his son **John**, and **Elias Boudinot** who advocated removal. When Ridge signed the **Treaty of New**



"Trail of Tears" by Robert Lindeux

Echota, Jackson had the document he needed to remove the Indians.

"Trail where they cried"

In 1838 the United States began the removal to **Oklahoma**. Ordered to move on the Cherokee, **General John Wool** resigned his command in protest, delaying the action. His replacement, **General Winfield Scott**, arrived at New Echota on May 17, 1838 with 7000 men. Early that summer General Scott and the United States Army began the invasion of the Cherokee Nation. About 3,000 Cherokees were rounded up and loaded onto boats that traveled the **Tennessee, Ohio, Mississippi, and Arkansas Rivers** into **Indian Territory**. Many others were held in prison camps awaiting their fate. Seeing the huge loss of life, John Ross made an urgent appeal to Scott, requesting that the general let him lead his tribe west. General Scott

agreed. Ross organized the Cherokee into smaller groups and let them move separately through the wilderness so they could forage for food. Although the parties under Ross left in early fall and arrived in Oklahoma during the brutal winter of 1838-39, he significantly reduced the loss of life among his people. Still, 4,000 died from hunger, exposure and disease on the 1,200 mile march through **Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas** into rugged Indian Territory. The journey became an eternal memory as the **"trail where they cried"** for the Cherokees and other removed tribes. Today it is remembered as the **Trail of Tears**.

Eastern Cherokee

The **Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians** live just south of the **Great Smoky Mountain National Park** in NC. They can trace their descent from about 1,000 Cherokees who managed to elude this forced removal. About 300 of these claimed US citizenship; the rest were living in Tennessee and North Carolina towns or hiding in the mountains. Through the 1840s, federal agents searched the mountains in attempts to remove the refugees to Oklahoma. In 1848, the US Congress agreed to recognize the NC Cherokees' rights if the state recognized them as permanent residents. In 1866, the state of North Carolina formally recognized the band, and in 1889 finally granted it a state charter. In 1925, tribal lands were finally placed into federal trust to ensure that they will forever remain in Cherokee possession.

These lands include 52 tracts which total 56,688 acres scattered across five North Carolina counties: **Cherokee, Graham, Jackson, Macon and Swain**. Most of this land is known as the **Qualla Boundary**.

[CHEROKEE, CONT. PAGE 12]



Cherokee Rose

Symbol of

"Trail Where They Cried"

Sandy Creek Baptist Meeting House



The minutes of Sandy Creek Meeting House [Baptist Church] in Franklin Co., recently discovered on a microfilm in Randolph Co., NC, reveal fascinating details of the early years of the church. The entries below came from the first 24 pages. Much of it is undated. *The Connector* will print additional excerpts as they are transcribed.

The first entry appears to be notes for a speech at the dedication of a new building. The speaker is not identified. *The First church on the north side of creek was a log house by Bro. Wm. Lancaster*

Jan 29th 125 year

The next house was a frame on the top of the hill which burned. Then the people worshiped in an arbor. Then another house built on the site of the present was 1837 This was torn down and the one now standing was built. About 1886 this one was repaired. We finally outgrew this and the result is this one which we dedicate today. The following brethren have served as pastors Goodwin, _____, Th. H. Spivey, P.D. Pierce, Thos. Wilcox, G.H. Pitchford, N.A. Purefoy.

Another entry reads: *A meeting of Conference _____ April 1772 _____ that the church at Tarriver Giles Creek Be said of in a District by itself Viz Beginning att John Milliners and from thence to Henery Hills ordinary and so by _____ oms mill and by Shocko Church and so by Colo. Hawkins and so by Robert Bridgers (?) and so to Roanaoke _____.*

A copy of the church covenant, originally dated August 15, 1770 is written in the minutes. The entry concludes: *We the Committee certify that this is a true copy of the original faith and Covenant of the Church at Sandy Creek Meeting House N. Carolina F. County July 6th day 1850 It is signed by: N. Davis, Clerk, P.D. Pearce, H.G. Gupton, Taylor Hedgepeth, D. Gupton*

At least two birthdays are recorded: *N Davis Bornd May the 29th AD 1816 and W.H. Swanson Jr. was borned January 29th 1859*

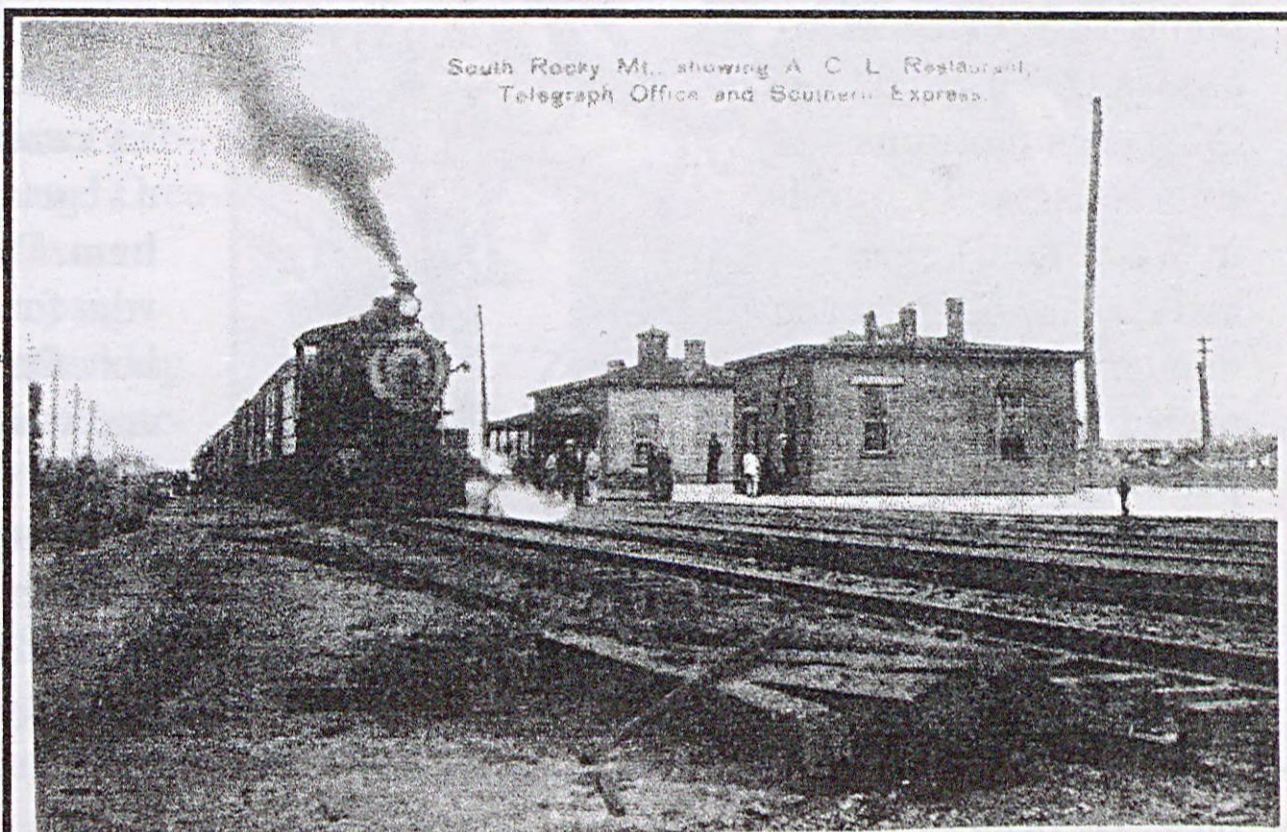
The members of the church were not without fault. At a meeting of Conference

10th of January 1772, 3 members were suspended for Drunkenness and one for *Falling of Sin*. In June of the same year, 2 members were suspended for telling lies. In 1773 a women was suspended for *being Jeoulous of her Husband* and another for *Being Jeoulous of another Woman with out any Just Cause*. The last woman had previously been suspended for ... *and thretning to _____ at _____ with knives and stab her*. Other sins included *refusing to be a member with us, quarreling with his brother, going from the church Irregular, and an ungodly life*. Most of those suspended were later taken back into the church.

On a more upbeat note, *At a meting of conference held at Sandy Creek Meting house November 1th 1775 Jacob Crockker called by the church to exersise his gift in preaching the Gospel of our Lord* and on June 1st 1776 ordered by the church that *William McGreger* have liberty to exercise his gift in preaching the Gospel of Christ. On the other hand, *Ordered that Negro Cezar* be suspended for *atemting to Preach with out leave*

The minutes also record the formation of **Maple Spring Meeting House**: *In Conference April 17th 1793 The Church at Sandy Creek having unanimously agreed to a Discussion of the Members, accordingly 10 were Dismissed to the Maple Spring M. H as a body under the Care of their Expectation pastor, after which Bro Lancaster Resigned. the pastoral care of the remaining members at Sandy Creek, to Bro. ? Moore, who was unanimously Chose as pastor.*

[For list of members in first 24 pages, see Page 16]



Postcard of South Rocky Mount showing ACL Restaurant, Telegraph Office and Southern Express. About 1909.

GREELEY MARRIED IN WARRENTON

About 1820, Mrs. Harriet J. Allen opened a school in Warrenton, Warren County, NC. In 1834, a new teacher arrived—Miss Mary Younge Cheney, a native of Litchfield, Connecticut who had also taught in New York City. She had developed a weakness of the lungs, and, advised by her physician to seek a warmer climate, she had secured the position in Warrenton where she soon recovered her health. She was engaged to the then mostly unknown **Horace Greeley**.

Mary Cheney was a highly cultivated young woman, nervous and high-strung, intellectually active, but given to following fads and "isms" of every variety and description. In this respect, she was a match and more for Greeley, whom she had met in a vegetarian boarding house in New York City. Greeley was a young printer at that time, though later he became the editor of the *New York Tribune*, and, in 1872, a candidate for the presidency of the United States.

By 1836 Horace Greeley felt financially able to marry and so he followed Miss Cheney to Warrenton to claim her as his bride. The laws of NC then required that the male applicant for a license to marry should give a bond, with security, for the support of his wife. **John Yancey**, a citizen of Warren Co., became Mr. Greeley's bondsman. Interestingly enough, Horace Greeley never signed his marriage bond.

On 5 July 1836, the couple was married from the home of **Squire Thomas Bragg**. The wedding took place in **Emmanuel Episcopal Church** in Warrenton. Greeley had insisted on this even though he was not connected with the Episcopal Church. Some time earlier, he had attended the wedding of a close friend at which the Episcopal service was used. It caught his attention at once. He heard it through with deepest interest and at the end ex-



Emmanuel Episcopal Church,

claimed aloud, "That's the most beautiful service I ever heard. If I'm ever married it shall be that way."

Dressed to kill

Although the wedding was not widely reported, there were recollections of the occasion which throw some light upon it. Greeley, throughout his life, was notoriously careless and slovenly in

dress. One acquaintance remembered that Greeley "seemed to have got his clothes by the pitchfork method out of a heap of ready-made garments, and to have taken whatever was thrust upon him." At his wedding, however, the story was different. "Sumptuous was the attire of the bridegroom; a suit of fine black broadcloth, and, on this occasion only, a pair of silk stockings; but on trying on his wedding suit previous to his departure for the South, he found, to his dismay, that the stockings were completely hidden by the apparent terminations of another garment. The question now occurred to his logical mind, 'What is the use of having silk stockings, if nobody can see that you have them?' He laid his case, it is said, before his tailor, who, knowing his customer, immediately removed the difficulty by cutting away a crescent of cloth from the front of the aforesaid terminations, which rendered all the silk stockings obvious to the most casual observer."

After the Wedding

The couple returned to New York where Mrs. Greeley continued to teach. They set up house-keeping with a vegetarian menu as advocated by **Dr. Sylvester Graham**. **Dr. Graham** was the proponent of vegetarianism who founded the first movement to fully recognize the benefits of fruits and vegetables and the harm of meat and white flour. We have Greeley's own description of it: "My wife ... who was long a more faithful, consistent disciple of Graham than I was, in our years of extreme poverty kept her house in strict accordance with her conviction; never even deigning an explanation to her friends and relatives who from time to time visited and temporarily sojourned with us; and, as politeness usually repressed complaint or inquiry on their part, their first experience of a regimen which dis-



Horace Greeley

pensed with all they deemed most appetizing could hardly be observed without a smile. Usually, a day, or at most two, of beans and potatoes, boiled rice, puddings, bread and butter, with no condiment but salt, and never a pickle, was all they could abide; so, bidding her a kind adieu, each in turn departed to seek elsewhere a more congenial hospitality."

Advocate for Western Expansion

As editor of the *New York Tribune*, Horace Greeley was a powerful advocate for a number of causes, one of which was the expansion of the west. However, when he made a trip west in 1859, he became some-



Engraving of farmhouse where Greeley was born in 1811.

what disillusioned. He found whiskey easier to purchase than food, and was kept awake at night by gambling and gun shots in his **Denver** "hotel," where he slept wrapped in blankets on a dirt floor. Rattled and bruised by the shock

of stage coach travel, suffering from bad water, sleepless nights, and a painful case of boils, he still managed to report in extensive detail on the sparsely populated country he was passing through. Nevertheless, Greeley remained positive on the western expansion of our nation. He was known for his famous quote "Go West young man, and grow up with the country."

Presidential Candidate

While much admired, Greeley was also regarded as eccentric and odd, in both his personal appearance and his reformist ideas. When in 1872, the anti-Grant **Liberal Republicans** and the **Democrats** nominated Greeley to challenge **Ulysses S. Grant**, Greeley was attacked as a fool and a crank. During the campaign **Thomas Nast** produced a series of cartoons attacking Greeley who commented that the venom of these cartoons was so bad that he "scarcely knew whether he was running for the presidency or the penitentiary."

In September 1872, Greeley abandoned his campaign for the US Presidency when Mrs. Greeley was taken desperately ill. He nursed her devotedly day and night. The strain upon him increased until he was on the verge of collapse. About a week before her death he said to a friend who called, "I have not slept one hour in twenty-four for a month; if she lasts, poor soul,

Greeleyisms

1. Go West, young man, and grow up with the country.
2. Abstaining is favorable both to the head and the pocket.
3. Common sense is very uncommon.
4. Fame is vapor, popularity an accident, riches take wings. Only one thing endures and that is character.
5. The darkest hour of any man's life is when he sits down to plan how to get money without earning it.
6. Fame usually comes to those who are thinking of something else.
7. The illusion that times that were are better than those that are, has probably pervaded all ages.
8. A widow of doubtful age will marry almost any sort of a man.

another week, I shall go before her." His prophecy was not far from accurate. After her death he was unable to sleep, and immediately after his crushing defeat in the election, he was attacked by an inflammation of the brain, accompanied by constant delirium, which quickly caused him to follow her. He died November 29, 1872.



Thomas Nast linked Greeley with the corrupt politician, Robert Tweed, during the presidential campaign. (Harper's Weekly, 3rd October, 1872)

Water Traffic in By-Gone Days Early Days of Washington, Beaufort Co., NC

WRITTEN BY LUCY WHELOCK WARREN MYERS

FEB. 20, 1850-APR. 27, 1937

Some of my most vivid recollections have to do with the water traffic, both on the upper and lower rivers, and at sea. In fact, in the early days, water communication was the principal way of keeping in touch with the outside world, except by stagecoach for the passen-



gers, and by large canvas-covered wagons for the inland freight traffic. In my childhood a great event of the day was the passing through of the stagecoach from **New Bern** to **Plymouth** and the reverse trip. These stagecoaches were almost as large and heavy and as gaily painted as the circus bandwagon of today. The driver felt his importance and took great delight in blowing at the foot of the bridge a large horn to herald the approach of the stage. He would come into town at a dashing gait and cracking his whip over the four, or sometimes six, horses required to draw the heavy vehicle.

In those days, too, there was only one small steamboat plying on the upper [Tar-Pamlico] river, but great quantities of product from the rich counties of **Pitt**, **Edgemcombe** and **Nash** were freighted down on flatboats consigned to middlemen here, called commission merchants, to be shipped away on seagoing vessels. Those

merchants found this business very lucrative, and were among the wealthiest and most prominent men of the town. Among them I recall **Mr. B.F. Havens**, **Mr. W.A. Willard**, **Mr. S.R. Fowle**, **Mr. G.H. Brown**, and **Mr. John Meyers**. The flatboats brought a very important part of the trade of the town.

These boats were propelled by manpower. They were poled along by negroes who walked along a plank footway along the side of the boat. As they walked, they chanted a most peculiar mournful song. These flatboats came down the river piled high with bales of cotton, barrels of tar, pitch and turpentine, bags of corn, sides of bacon and stacks of brick, staves and shingles. The making of barrels was an important industry here, and the town was dotted with noisy cooper shops. These barrels were used by the large distilleries located here.

The commission merchants, many of them, owned large sea-going sailing vessels—two and three vessels each, which traded along the coast northward to **Baltimore**, **Philadelphia**, **New York** and **Boston**, and southward to the **West Indies**. All the ice we had in those days was natural ice, brought from **Maine** in these sailing vessels. I well remember how interesting it was to watch the stevedores unloading the great blocks of ice and storing them away in the two big ice houses owned by **Mr. B.F. Havens** and **Mr. John Meyers**. Then, still more interesting, was the coming of the vessels from the **West Indies** with sugar, molasses, oranges, tamarinds, limes and a treat of sticks of candy cane for the children—with also an occasional monkey or parrot for sale.

[Taken from *Washington and the Pamlico*, edited by Ussula Fogleman Loy and Pauline Marion Worthy; 1976.]



1850s Fashion Plate

[CHEROKEE, FROM P. 8]

All lands are held in common by the Tribe, with possessory holdings issued to individuals. Reservation population is about 6,000, and tribal enrollment is 10,000. Towns within the boundary include **Big Cove**, **Birdtown**, **Paintown**, **Snowbird**, **Wolftown** and **Yellowhill**.

Susan Wilson Ellis is a direct descendent of Cherokee **Susie Brock**. She found that all the rolls of Chero-



Cherokee Phoenix, 1828

kee Indians, taken from the late 1800s, are available through the **National Archives** on the internet. The address is www.nara.gov. Susan has also had good luck finding family information on state and local sites.

[Taken from a program presented by Susan Wilson Ellis.]

The Shoo-Fly Special

The Shoo-Fly was a dashing little passenger train of two coaches and a mail car that ran along the old **Raleigh and Gaston Railroad**, later the **Seaboard Airline Railroad**, between **Raleigh** and **Weldon**. It began its run in 1904 when the railroad was the best way for folks to travel to the capital city.

There was a saying about the Shoo-Fly that "it stopped at every single house along the tracks one time and at every double house two times."

The engine was only about one-fifth the size of later steam engines. It left Weldon at 7 a.m. and reached Raleigh by 10. In the afternoon, it left Raleigh at 5 p.m., having given its riders time to shop in the big city.

One story of how it got its name is that it ran so slowly, it was constantly shooing flies off the track. More likely is the belief that the name came from the train's ability to dash away speedily to the next town, crossing, or cowpath along its route.

The Shoo-Fly generally ran on time, mainly because it had no connections to make and it always had the Seaboard's most experienced engineer in the cab.

During its lifetime the Shoo-Fly had four engineers: **D.M. King**, **Buck Cattles**, **S.J. Ferguson**, and **J.A. Fleming**. **Lawrence Leavette**, **George Lassiter**, and **Bill Cox** were conductors.

It was **D.M. King**, known as "**Old Man Dave**," who was most responsible for molding the Shoo-Fly into the lives of the people. Born near **Trenton TN**, Dave King began railroading as an apprentice on the **Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad**. He came to Raleigh as a machinist apprentice and worked his way up to road foreman of engines, master mechanic, general foreman, and finally engineer. As the oldest engineer in terms of service, he was able to pick his run, and he chose the Raleigh to Weldon Shoo-Fly.

Old Man Dave was a big man, gruff and plain-spoken. Because of his heart of gold, people who knew him loved him. He enjoyed visiting with his passengers before they started the homeward trip and quite often **Sheriff House** would talk with King about his own logging road and locomotive. **Judge Walter Clark**, then NC Chief Justice, would catch the train to his plantation on the **Roanoke** and he often asked Old Man Dave what people down

the road thought of issues of the day such as women's suffrage. Old Man Dave was known to have held the train for 10-15 minutes for favorite passengers like State Treasurer **Ben Lacy**.

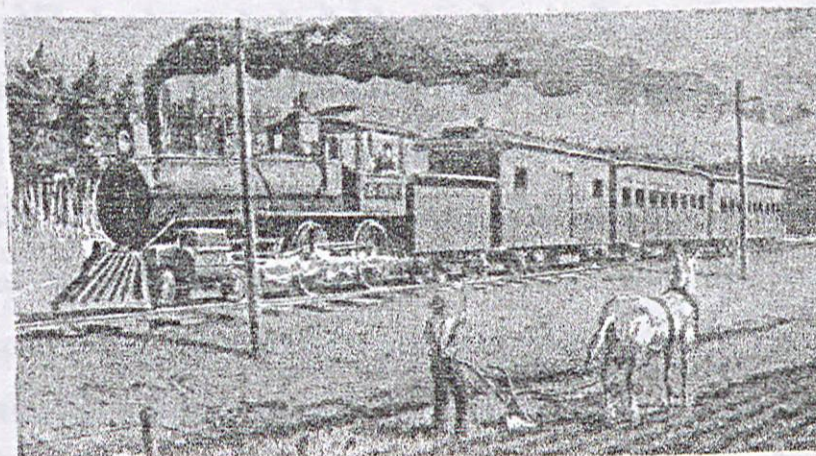
On Dec. 23, 1908, King was backing the Shoo-Fly from the roundhouse to Raleigh's old **Union Station** when he noticed that the water gauge in the cab was foaming badly. He called **John Sasser**, general foreman, to look at the gauge. Sasser told Old Man Dave that he should be able to make it to Weldon with no trouble, but on second thought, he sought the advice of **Jack Bissette**, master mechanic. When they returned to the Shoo-Fly, the gauge was foaming worse than ever. Bissette said, "Dave, I couldn't give you another engine in under two hours, and then it might not be as good as this one. The passengers would probably raise enough Cain to cause us to lose our jobs. You can run 'er. I've run 'em when they foamed worse than this."

"All right," said King. "If you can do it, I can. Get out."

Bissette and Sasser watched as Old Man Dave and the Shoo-Fly steamed away into the darkness. Those who heard about the difficulties hung around the depot, worrying about whether Old Man Dave would be boiled alive, but finally word came from Weldon that King had made it.

Old Man Dave, with Capt. George Lassiter as conductor, operated the Shoo-Fly for 10 years. It became a commuter's train, a picnicker's train, a shopper's train, and an excursion special. Young people would begin at one end of the line for an excursion party, pick up friends along the way, and wind up a laughing crowd of revelers at the other end.

After it left Raleigh, the Shoo-Fly's big stops were **Wake Forest**, **Thelma**, **Warrenton**, **Littleton**, **Norlina**, **Roanoke Rapids**, and **Weldon**. It took Wake Forest Sunday School classes and fans to baseball and football games. It became tradition for young college students in Wake Forest to gather on a bank to watch the train hiss into the station. In Nov. 1919, the sophomore class protested that freshmen were disobeying the "unwritten law" that they remain in their dorms after sun set. The freshmen declared it was their right to be present when the little train arrived. The only way to get the freshmen indoors before nightfall was to change the



[SEE SHOO-FLY, PAGE 17]

Remembering My Brother

Dolphin Ward Floyd, born in Nash Co., NC, died at the Alamo in 1836. [See Story on Page 1] In 1855, Dolphin Ward Floyd's widow, Ester Berry House Floyd, now remarried to Capt. John Clark of Kentucky, received the following letter from Dolphin's brother, Thomas B. Floyd:

"Dear Nephew & Sister, for such as I shall call you, Very recently Sister Sarah Received a letter from North Carolina bearing some intelligence of our Deceased Brother Dolphin Floyd. ... I saw in some gazet of the United States but not Recollect what one; the Names of the persons of thoes that were Massacred in Texas and my Brother was one. ... My Mother Received one Letter from him after he went to Texas Stating to her he was Married and had one child 18 Months old & that he Married a Widow Jones. He also wrote that he used to tell us all, while joking and talking about Marying, that he intended Marrying some old Rich widow that she might Die directly & then he would be independant. Though he had Married, as he always had said, a Widow and that she was not very old nor very Rich. So we have never heard any more about him untill now. Therefore I take the privilege of writing to you both Requesting you write to me as soon as these lines of my best love and Respects Reaches you and particular on the account of my poor old aged Mother for since she has heard this much about him she is very desirous to hear more. She is now in her 86 year & lives within 1/4 of a Mile of me with my Brother Penuel & Sister Sarah both single. So far as Respects the goods of this world they are independant. My Mother is well taken care of as Respects the comforts of this life. In fact we that are here in Georgia are all getting along well. Brother John is very Rich. I have plenty my self for my children to do well on. Now there is one or two things I do wish to know. First I wish to know how you are situated and what your condition is Relative to living & making out in this life. Secondly what it was when you Married my Brother. Thirdly what his condition was when he Married you. Fourthly what was his reputation, whether good or bad. I wish to know whether he stood fair to the world as Respects truth and varasity & what was his general deportment. You may think I am too scrupulous & wish to know to much. My Dear Nephew & Sister, this is a great request, too much, you may think, to be revealed, but nothing less than the Revelation will satisfy me. Now for my Reasons to wish to know them is this: to see if a person once pure as vain Mortal can be can become adulterated by leaving his county and family Circle. When He left NoCa, Novr. 22nd 1825, and took a last shake of the hand from his poor old Mother & his Brothers & Sisters, With the exception of Sin, Stain was not to be found on him. He indulged in no bad practices save that of the folly of youth. He Drank no ardent Spirits, chew no Tobacco, nor used Signs. When he left us He made no pretentions to Religion of any sort. He was always lively and very good of company and had the good will of all that knew and was much beloved. He was very Industrious though subject to waist as we all thought. Now I wish to know some more things. I want to know whether he was a good Husband, a kind father, a good provider & if a master a good Master neighbor, whether he was charitable, Benevolent so far as in power. I wish to know something Relative to your Birth, where you were born and of what nation. We understand you have Married since my Brother got killed to a Mr. Clark. We do not blame you for that as it is reasonably supposed that every Body tries to do the best they can. I want to know how John is getting along. It would do me so much good to hear he was doing well. We understand you had a Daughter by my Brother and she had married and since Died as her name was Elizabeth. We have two samples of Hair to be John's and Elizabeth's. Now my Dear Sister & Nephew these Requests you may think to be Exaggerations and Spiculative. But they are the pure desiers of my heart and no speculative design in them, no farther than to know the truth. Now if you want to know my Brothers age he was born March 6th A.D. 1804. ... I was born Feby. 27th 1802. When he left Northcarolina we were both about one Weight, say 125 lbs. Though at this time I way 190 lbs. I am corpulent and clamsey and feel my age much. The rest of our family is all small. Brother Penuel will weigh not more than 120 and is about 45 years of age. ... If these lines ever Reach you they leave all your connections in this county well. May they find you enjoying the same blessing is my prayr. So I Subscribe my self your affectionate Brother and uncle untill death. So fare well, Thos B. Floyd.

[From Alamo Legacy by Ron Jackson]

---LET'S LOOK BACK---

BY BETSY HOLDFORD HUDGINS

LITTLE CHARLIE BISHOP

In July of 1806, **Charles Evans Bishop** was born to **William M. Bishop, Jr.** and **Eva Potter Bishop**. Two years later, a little girl named **Virginia B.** was born to William and Eva, but this story is about little Charles.

The 1900 census for the **Weldon Township in Halifax County, NC** shows William and Eva with Charles and Virginia living in the household of **Virginia Sledge**. William is listed as the son-in-law to Mrs. Sledge and Eva is listed as the daughter. William and Eva have been married for 9 years and Eva's record shows that she has had 2 children with 2 children still living. William is 32 and Eva's age is listed as 24.

William was the son of **Elizabeth Barrow Bishop** and **W.M. Bishop, Sr.** who had already passed away. The 1900 census listed Mrs. Bishop as 64 years old, widowed and living in the household of **George F. Medlin**, her son-in-law and his wife **Pattie** and their two daughters, **Sallie** and **Eunice**. The census shows that Mrs. Elizabeth Bishop has had 5 children with 3 still living. There was also a **Charles E. Bishop** (age 43) living in the household with them and listed as brother-in-law to George F. Medlin.

On June 2, 1901, little Charles died at the age of 5 years and his father was very upset about losing his only son. Charles' obituary states, "He was a handsome little fellow, bright, winsome and the pet of the household. He was sick only a few days and his death was a great shock to those who loved him so dearly. But death is no respecter of persons or age. The young as well as the old are cut down and we stand in the presence of a mystery when death enters and claims our loved ones. We cannot see, now, why the little children are given to fond parents for a few short years and then suddenly cut down, leaving bruised hearts, but we shall see clearly some day and know that it is all for the best." (*The Roanoke News* - June 6, 1901) According to the obituary, the funeral was held at the residence of Mrs. V.A. Sledge and **Rev. J.D. Bundy**, pastor of the **Methodist Episcopal Church** officiated and little Charles was laid to rest in the **Cedarwood Cemetery in Weldon**.

Charles' father, William, went back to work after the death of his son for the **Seaboard Air Line** (the railroad). On October 18, 1901 he was uncoupling the air brakes to the caboose when the engineer backed the train and ran over his foot. **Dr. I.E. Green** and **Dr. A.J. Ellis** amputated the foot "very skillfully" but William's heart could not take the strain and he died on Sunday, October 20th. The funeral was held at the residence of Mrs. V.A. Sledge and **Rev. J.D. Bundy**, pastor officiated.

"He leaves a devoted wife, who was formerly Miss Eva Potter, and a little daughter. A few months ago he lost a little son by death. The little boy's death made a deep and lasting impression upon him, and a few days before the accident ended his life he had a dream in which the little boy came to him and told him that he wanted to whisper something in his ear, and said, "In ten days you will be where I am." The dream was a peculiar one, and while in good spirits at the time, sure enough, in less than a week he was dead." (*The Roanoke News* - Oct. 24, 1901)

"**Rev. P.N. Stainback** offered a prayer and then the casket was taken out to Cedarwood cemetery, where the remains were consigned to the earth."



NOTICE

Post-Office. Doctor Thomas Gloster having undertaken the management of the Post-Office in this town, respectfully informs all persons who take the **Halifax** newspapers, that, as he means to conduct it with the utmost punctuality, they must, if they wish to receive them

by this conveyance, deposit the amount of one half year's Postage (beginning from the 1st of October) either in the hands of **Col. William Brickle of Louisburg**, **Major James Gray of Franklin county**, or with him in **Warrenton**.

[*North Carolina Journal*, Halifax, NC, Oct. 23, 1793]

Early Sandy Creek Meeting House Names

Minutes of the Franklin Co. Sandy Creek Meeting House were recently found in Randolph Co., NC. This is a list of names found in the first pages of those minutes. Most of the names are not dated. Those mentioned more than once are starred.

White Females

Ann Jones*	Elizabeth Thomas	Patience Dinby*	Lyddia Watkins*
___ Tempora Watkins	Sarah Webb*	Keziah Bird*	Elizabeth Richardson*
Charity Eley*	Prudence Jernigan	Pamela Dinby*	Prudence Ward Dismissed
Agnes Edwards	Martha Acock	Mary Baker	Lyddia Biss
Mary Sessoms*	Lyddia _____	Betty Dinson	Frances Smart*, 1772
Martha Carr*	Rebecca Lyles Dead	Molly Jackson	Zelpah Drake*
Rebecca Boon*	Ann Carlile*	Sealy Gillam*	Huldah Abanathy*
Mary Westry *	Susanna Abanathy*	Charity Murphey	Rebecca Cooper*, 1791
Ruth Richardson	Elizabeth _____	Mary Vincent Died	Amy Smart*
Sarah Smart Dismissed	Kercy Smart*	Sarah Graves*, 1773	Susanna _____
Sarah Gupton*	Agnes _____	Nanny Gupton*	Sarah Boon
Dinah Ham*	Prudence Bass	Agness Ham*	Serena (?) Scott
Elizabeth Boon	Susana Jones	Rosana Lenard	Tinny Boon's
Anacah Eley's	Violet Jones's	Hagness Watkins's	Hannah Webb's
Sopha Young	Grace Barnes	Hester Nelms's	Elizabeth Cary
Rebeca Wood	Milley Wester	_____ Robins	Salley Coppage
Betty Cave	Salley Person	Alcey Cooper	Patsey Thomas
Winney Thomas	Precilla Harper	Nance;y Bartholomy	Betsy Ham
Frankey Thomas	Elizabeth Coppadge*, 1773	Mary Prince, 1774	Elizabeth Solomon, 1774
Mary _____, 1774	Elizabeth Mayfield, 1774	Ruth Denbey, 1775	Charity Wester, 1776
Cattron Richardson*, 1776	Sarah Cook*, 1776	Elizabeth Denson, 1773	Hannah Vinson*, 1772
Amey Winson, 1772	Sarah Carlile*, 1774	Rosanah Ballard, 1775	Priscillah Tan, 1781
Martha Chadwick, 1781	Diannah Hamblam, 1783	Hannah Winson	Jemimy Steward, 1778
Elizabeth Cooper & children, 1775	Dolley Cooper, 1777	Elisebeth Solomon, 1777	

White Males

Jones Dinby	Smith Abbanatha	Richard Webb	Stepphen Smart
Jacob Jones	John Smart Dismissed	Benjamin Bridgers*, 1792	Robert Young
Theopheles Bass	Josiah Eley	David Vinson*, 1773	Ransom's, Aaron
Stephen Gupton	Person's, Petor	Micajah Yarbrough*	Bridger's, Isam
Jonas Murpha	Norwood's, Edward	James Wood	Solomon's, William
William Rose	Jesse Coppage	John Davis*	Elias Nellomes
Eli Eley	Benjamin Davis	John Bowden	Newton Davis
_____ Abbanatha	Holland Brown, 1792	George Goodwin, 1773	James Coppadge*, 1773
Thomas Morrow, 1774	Cannon Cooper, 1774	John Parham, 1774	Isom Bridges, 1771
James Mi__se, 1774	Antony Ivey, 1774	Joseph Jones, 1774	John Jackson, 1774
James Ross, 1774	Henry Connor, 1776	Jonathan Meecham, 1776	Edward Carlile*, 1776
William McGregor*, 1776	William Soloman, 1776	William Andrews, 1776	Peter Walker*, 1772
Edmond Denson*, 1773	Edward Richardson*, 1773	Thomas Webb*, 1772	Efram Gilliam, 1772
Christopher Bass, 1772	Benjamin Cooper*, 1772	William Ballard, 1772	Abram Ellis, 1773
William Burgess, 1773	John Woodbanks, 1773	Mark Bennett*, 1773	David Vinson, Jr., 1772
Garry Cook, 1778	David Overbe	Joseph Jones*, 1776	Samuel Jones
Joseph Woodbanks, 1774	Laban Ellis, 1775	William Jonson, 1776	Ambros Edwards*, 1775
Richard Conyears, 1776	Johnthan ___shaw, 1781	William Powell, 1781	Thomas Morress, 1781
Christian Morrass, 1781	Jacob Crockker, 1775	Richard Conners*, 1783	Moses Babb, 1787
William Bridges, 1783	James Mosley, 1784	Presley Nelms, 1792	James Walker*, 1778
Larry Carlile	William Jackson, 1777	William Walker, 1771	William Andres, 1775
Matthew Robberis_, 1775	Simon Williams & wife Elizabeth, 1775	Charles Ivey, Deacon, 1777	

Female Negroes

Betty Oleve Sall Judah Rose Hestor

Male Negroes

Ben Isaac Jobe Cezar Isam Peter Jaws, 1777

Reader's Choice

Local Color



Louisburg College Echoes, Voices from the Formative Years, 1787-1917 by George-Anne Willard: 1988. Written to commemorate Louisburg College's 200th Anniversary, this book was documented almost entirely through primary sources including newspapers, letters, and diaries. The history of the college is portrayed and preserved in the words and voices of the participants themselves. The stories of both the **Franklin Male Academy**, which opened on January 1, 1805, and the **Louisburg Female Academy** which began classes in 1815, are intertwined.

The book is arranged by year and the narrative for each year includes the major changes and events effecting the college along with fascinating and revealing details about the lives of those involved. For example, referring to 1805: "**Matthew Dickinson** (1780-1809), ... the first principal. ... he boarded at first with **Jacobina Milner**, paying thirty-six dollars for the year. ..." In 1808, **Edward Hooker**, a fellow Yale graduate visited Dickinson: "Dickinson soon came, took

tea with me at **Hill's**. ... we walked to his academy, a pleasant building on the hill ... "

In 1862, in the midst of the **Civil War**, **Pauline Hill**, a student, wrote: "Hurrah for the Southern girl, who wears a home-spun dress!" She also wrote: "There are several girls here from **Virginia**—the **Boykins**, **Hoppers** and others. **Emma Bell** and **Lethea Swift**, from **Plymouth**, are in my class." By the end of the war, the male academy building was being used as a granary for **Union** troops. **E.H. Davis** wrote of "seeing that old building still standing in a corner of the grove, full of shelled corn to the bottom of the window opening which must have been at least 3 feet. So deep it was at any rate, and so great the weight that the floor had given way and the building was on the verge of wrecking."



Class of 1910

In 1866, times were hard. **Charlotte Patrick** wrote her father: "You told us we had better get our dresses here. I haven't got any money to get them. ..." In 1877, **Mrs. A.T. Harris**, matron, received praise: "Her table is supplied with the best that the market affords and she spares no pains to make all the boarders feel that the College is not simply a boarding school, but a home for each one of them."

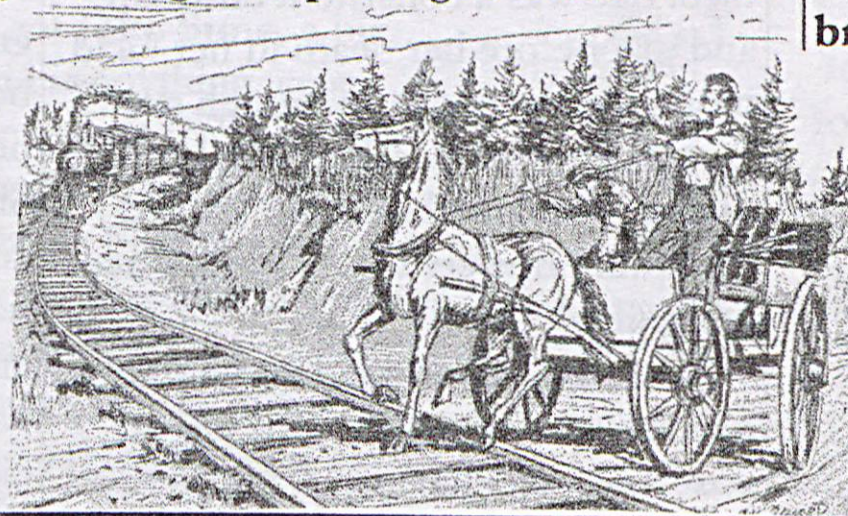
Besides the refreshing mix of facts and human interest stories, the book also includes a number of fascinating old photographs, one of which accompanies this review. **Braswell Memorial Library** has the book and it is well worth reading.

[Shoo-Fly From Page 13]

train's schedule. When the "valiant little engine" pulled into the station, boys would gather around to whistle and flirt with girls on the train. Sometimes the young men were so enthusiastic that they would swarm the coaches. One professor noted that it was "dangerous for a girl to be on the train." There are records in Wake Forest court files that show that "young dandies" were fined \$2.65 for flirting.

James A. Fleming was the last man to operate the Shoo-Fly. He ran the train from 1920-1925. Fleming found

his job a pleasant routine. He left Weldon in the morning, brewed a pot of coffee with the fireman in Raleigh, and got his passengers home in time

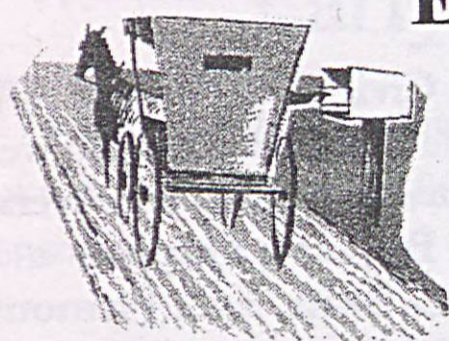


There were many stories about the Shoo-Fly. One was of the time it ran down and killed a horse at a crossing near **Henderson**. Its drunken owner

and a friend parked their buggy on the crossing and defied the Shoo-Fly to pass.

Then there was the lady at **Millbrook** who caught her small son from the Shoo-Fly's rear car and foiled his efforts to ride off and see the world.

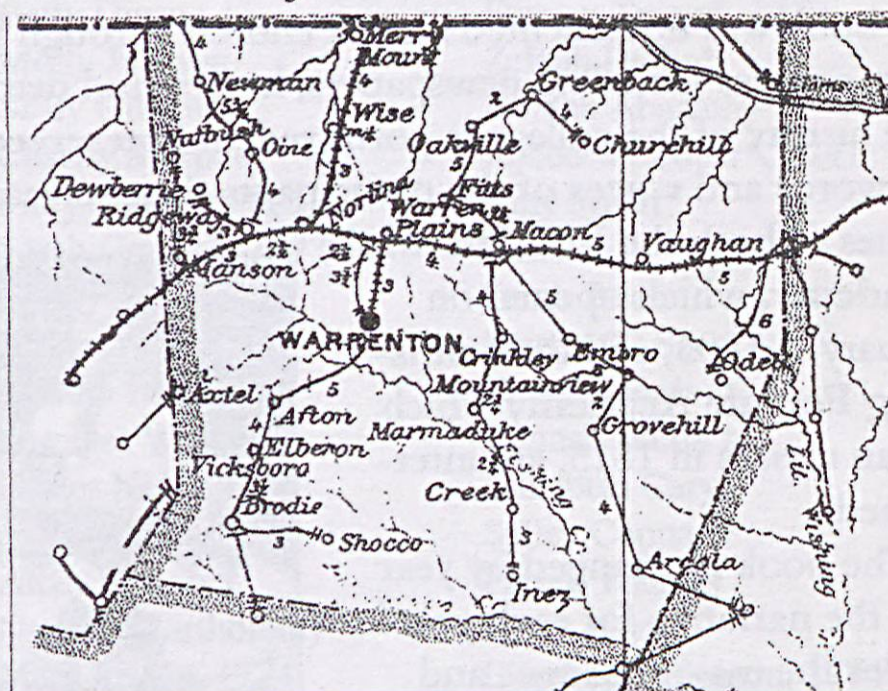
However, the little train finally outlived its usefulness. Buses began to drive along the roads next to the railroad. Eventually, those buses would stop at the railroad stations and pick up passengers who were waiting for the train. In 1925, it was cut off from the Seaboard Air Line Railroad.



Early Warren Co. Post Offices PO's Established by 1875

Name	First Postmaster	Date Appt.
Afton	Henry B Hunter	6 Jul 1872
Almeria	Henry G. Goodloe	4 Apr 1856
Arcola	Samuel T Alston	7 July 1849
Branchville	B.F. Cheatham	15 Jul 1858
Cheathamsville	B.F. Cheatham	30 Sep 1858
Chestnut X Roads	Francis Allen	15 Feb 1821
Ellisville	James Ellis	1 Oct 1812
Exchange	Seth W Mabry	5 Sep 1835
Grove Hill	Zanthus Snow	1 Jul 1806
Hunter's Store	Henry B Hunter	23 Jun 1874
Kinderhook	William G Jones	9 Jan 1841
Littleton	William B Little	7 Apr 1820
Macon Depot	Benj. I Edgerton	11 Dec 1839
Manson	Benj. F. Cheatham	20 May 1859
Marshallville	John Marshall	9 Dec 1807

Name	First Postmaster	Date Appt.
Merry Mount	Henry White	2 Nov 1847
Monroe	Clack Robinson	27 Feb 1818
Nicholson's House	George Nicholson	4 Oct 1814
Nutbush	John H Bullock	23 Jul 1847
Oakville	Levi C. Perkinson	15 Apr 1872
Owens Store	Henry T Doyles	18 Mar 1840
Ridgeway	John Daly	21 Feb 1839
Shocco Springs	William Hawkins	12 Dec 1832
Warren Plains	John W Paschall	1 Jun 1857
Warrenton	James Turner	1 Oct 1793



Franklin Times

DIED: On the 3rd of September, 1873, at **Quitman, Ark.**, of Congestion, **Mr. Alexander II Hopkins**, in the 25th year of his age.

The deceased was a native of **Franklin County, NC.** He was gallant **Confederate** Soldier and served with distinction in the army under **General Lee**, having participated in the battles of **Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, The Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court house**, and others.

He possessed many noble traits of character, and the announcement of his early death, cut down as he is in the vigor of manhood, will fall with lacerating effect upon the hearts of his two orphan Sisters, and will cast a shadow of gloom over the entire community of which he was a member. [Sept. 26, 1873]

OBITUARY: Miss Lucy J Walker, daughter of **Bro. Nathan B. Walker**, was born July 30th, 1849 and died of

Pneumonia in **Raleigh**, Feb 4th, 1874, aged 24 years 6 mos. and 4 days.

Her remains were brought to this place and interred in the Town Cemetery. She professed religion and joined the **Methodist Church** in 1860, under the pastorate of **Bro. Riccaud**. For a number of years she was a great sufferer, until finally her extreme sufferings deranged her mind and she was placed under the care of **Dr. Grissom** at Raleigh, where she died. She was a consistent christian, and just before her death in her lucid moments she spoke as though she would welcome death as a relief, and one day remarked that she "hoped the spring flowers would bloom over her grave."

We feel peculiarly sad as we stand o'er the new made grave of one so pure, so young, so gifted, and yet so unfortunate, but in our sadness we are comforted as we feel that she has gone where her sufferings are all o'er, and her mind at rest. Bro. Walker has

been greatly afflicted. May God strengthen him to hold out yet a little longer and he will receive his reward. [Sept. 26, 1873]

OBITUARY: Another faithful soul has gone to rest. Mrs. **Mary Strickland**, consort of **Abel Strickland**, died the 17th April 1874, aged 65 years. She was a consistent member of the Methodist Church for over thirty years and was noted for her strict piety and christian integrity. For several years before her death she was greatly afflicted and suffered much, but in it all she was patient, bearing her afflictions without murmuring. She was a kind mother, an affectionate wife and above all a good christian. Her funeral was largely attended and the profuse tears from the old and young were testimonials of her exalted position in the affections of all who knew her. ... [Feb 20, 1874]

[Items from the *Franklin Times*, Louisburg, NC, contributed by TRC member, Pam Jeans.]

How Bearpond Got Its Name

By C.W. RANEY



About the year 1785, large numbers of **Vance County, NC** settlers would gather at the **Tavern at Linbank**, especially on Saturday. The largest crowd was always found gathered around a tall, rawboned middle-aged man wearing a coon skin cap, with long red whiskers, besmeared

with tobacco juice, his pants stuffed in high top boots, who called himself **Capt. Zeke Brown**, the celebrated bear hunter from "**Orrapeake**." Capt. Brown had no fixed home and no possessions except two-thirds of a yellow, bench-leg, one eyed, one eared, no tail, full fice, which he called "**Punkin**." The Captain always said Punkin had lost the other third of himself tackling bears in former days.

The Captain's wonderful bear stories charmed the settlers, as he would relate hair-breadth escapes—how he would enter the dens of the old bears, choke them to death, and take the cubs home and raise them in pens just as we would pigs. How he would climb the tallest gum trees, pull down the bears by their tails and kill them before they could turn on him.

Eventually, it began to be whispered around that the Captain was raised in **Wake County** and had never seen a bear in his life. So the boys concluded they would test the matter. They put out the report that bear tracks were being seen near the little lake, and got **Jake Sims**, a big, strong, young fellow who could mimic anything, especially the growling of a bear, to consent to act as the bear. They got a lot of bear skins from some of the settlers and draped Jake up so much like a bear that the small boys and dogs were afraid to go near him. All of this was kept a secret from Captain Zeke.

After finding a large tree that bent over the lake, they appointed a night for the fun of testing the Captain's courage, and the news came out about dusk that the bear was jumped and making for the lake. Over a hundred people gathered at the tavern with half as many dogs of every description, consisting of hounds, curs, setters, pointers, disappointers, and fice. A delegation was sent in

post haste after Captain Zeke and Punkin, and as he came up, a courier arrived saying that they had seen the bear up the sloping tree on the lake.

They all put off at once for the lake with Captain Zeke who was expected to climb the tree and bring down the bear. When they reached the spot and saw the bear up the tree, instead of



Captain Zeke's going up at once after the bear, he began to hesitate and thought it best to wait until morning, at the same time looking around a little restless like. The bear up the tree began to growl and somebody hollered, "Look out, he's coming down, he's coming down!" When the boys began to yell and half-hundred curs to bark and how, the Captain was seen to make a break through the brush as fast as his long legs could carry him with Punkin at his heels.

Jake, the bear, seeing the situation, put off immediately after him, growling vigorously and more vigorously as he gained on him, the vast crowd of settlers following, yelling, "There he goes, he is about to capture the Captain." Just then, the Captain's foot hung a vine and down he came with bear on top of him. You never heard such squalling and calling for help. But it seems that the Captain, in his desperation, gave Jake some such hard blows in the ribs as to stop his growling or other exertions for a while, and when the captain got loose and regained his feet, he disappeared in the bushes with Punkin at his heels and left forever for parts unknown.

The little lake has ever since been known as Bearpond.

[Taken from *Vance County, North Carolina, A Short History*, by Samuel Thomas Peace: 1955].



Patriotic Ladies

August 1, 1787

The Pennsylvania Gazette

The patriotic ladies of **Halifax town, North-Carolina**, have entered into an association to refrain, as far as possible, from all unnecessary expences and superfluous decorations; and are determined in future, until their country shall be extricated from its present difficulties and distress, to pay strict attention to domestic economy and frugality, and to give all due preference to the manufactures of their own country.

By the PRESIDENT

Of The UNITED STATES of *America*.

A Proclamation.

WHEREAS it is the Duty of all Nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty GOD, to obey his Will, to be grateful for his Benefits, and humbly to implore his Protection and Favor: and whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint Committee, requested me "To recommend to the People of the United States, a Day of public Thanksgiving and Prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful Hearts the many and signal Favors of Almighty GOD, especially by affording them an Opportunity peaceably to establish a Form of Government for their Safety and happiness."

NOW THEREFORE, I do recommend and assign Thursday the Twenty-fifth Day of November next, to be devoted by the People of these States, to the Service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be: That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble Thanks for his kind Care and Protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a nation;—for the signal and manifold Mercies, and the favourable Interpositions of his Providence in the Course and Conclusion of the late War;—for the great Degree of Tranquility, Union and Plenty, which we have since enjoyed;—for the civil and religious Liberty with which we are blessed, and the Means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful Knowledge;—and in general, for all the great and various Favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

AND ALSO, That we may then unite in most humbly offering our Prayers and Supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech him to pardon our national and other Transgressions;—to enable us all, whether in public or private Stations, to perform our several and relative Duties properly and punctually;—to render our national Government a Blessing to all the People, by constantly being a Government of wise, just and constitutional Laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed;—to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations, (especially such as have shown Kindness unto us) and to bless them with good Government, Peace and Concord;—to promote the Knowledge and Practice of true Religion and Virtue, and the Increase of Science among them and us;—and generally, to grant unto all Mankind such a Degree of temporal Prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

GIVEN under my Hand at the City of New-York, the third Day of October,
In the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eight-nine.

G. WASHINGTON.

[During the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress adopted at least seven Thanksgiving proclamations. This is first Thanksgiving Proclamation after independence.]