

NEWSLETTER OF THE TAR RIVER CONNECTIONS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

# THE CONNECTOR

WINTER 2009 VOLUME 13 NUMBER 1

*Preserving the Past ... For the Future*

## CAPE HATTERAS: ONE OF NORTH CAROLINA'S DEFENSES

Cape Hatteras was one of North Carolina's coastal defenses during The War Between The States. From the beginning of the War and until January of 1862 the South had full use of the waterways of the sounds and coastline of North Carolina. On January 11, 1862 Brigadier General Ambrose Burnside left Hampton Roads, Virginia with a sixty-seven ship expedition intended for invasion into Pamlico

Sound. As this expedition approached Cape Hatteras on January 13-15, 1862, it was struck by a Nor'easter. The USS Picket with General Burnside on board led the Invasion Force of ships over the Hatteras Bar. The USS Picket was considered to be the least seaworthy, but made it over the bar. Some of those that were lost to the storm were; Federal Transports City of New York with \$200,000.00

worth of Ordnance Supplies and the Pocahontas with one hundred horses, Zouave Army Gunboat, Grapeshot Floating Battery, Steamer Louisiana and a Coal Schooner. This delay and loss of a portion of the Federal Invasion Force helped the Confederates very little. When the Federal Ships arrived the Sounds Defense Fleet and Land Forts were still woefully weak. With the Federal occupation of the Coastal

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *New officers announced*
- *New members needed*
- *Call for manuscripts*
- *Member requests*
- *Bedsread from 1880s*
- *Will of Thomas Ruffin Batchelor*
- *Boys of the Civil War*
- *How-to Series in Genealogical Research*

## EMILY BATTLE'S HISTORY OF BATTLEBORO

The town of Battleboro lies just north of Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

Battleboro came into existence about 1835, receiving its name from Joseph Sumner Battle.

In the year 1834 the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad was incorporated, work commencing in Weldon, thence on through what is now Battleboro.

Battle, with his slaves and

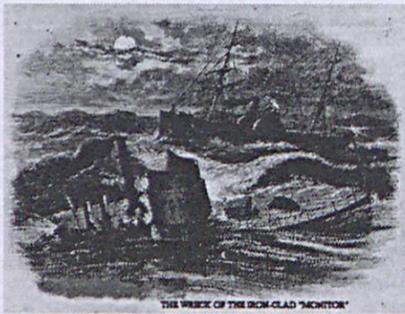
neighbors, built an eight-mile road-bed. In 1839, when the first train passed at this point, the name was "Battle's Camp—" later being changed to Battle's Station. *(cont'd on p. 6)*

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# CAPE HATTERAS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



*“THE USS ALLIGATOR” WAS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S FIRST SUBMARINE.”*

Regions, their gunboats were able to control most of the Waterways of Eastern North Carolina and it was a simple matter for troops to occupy the surrounding area.

After the Battle with the CSS Virginia at Hampton Roads, Virginia and in December 1862 the USS Monitor headed south to be part of a force to capture Charleston, South Carolina. As the Ironclad approached Cape Hatteras, it was caught in a storm, sinking it on December 30.

The Federal Government, feeling a need for a weapon against the Confederate Ironclads, designed and built its first

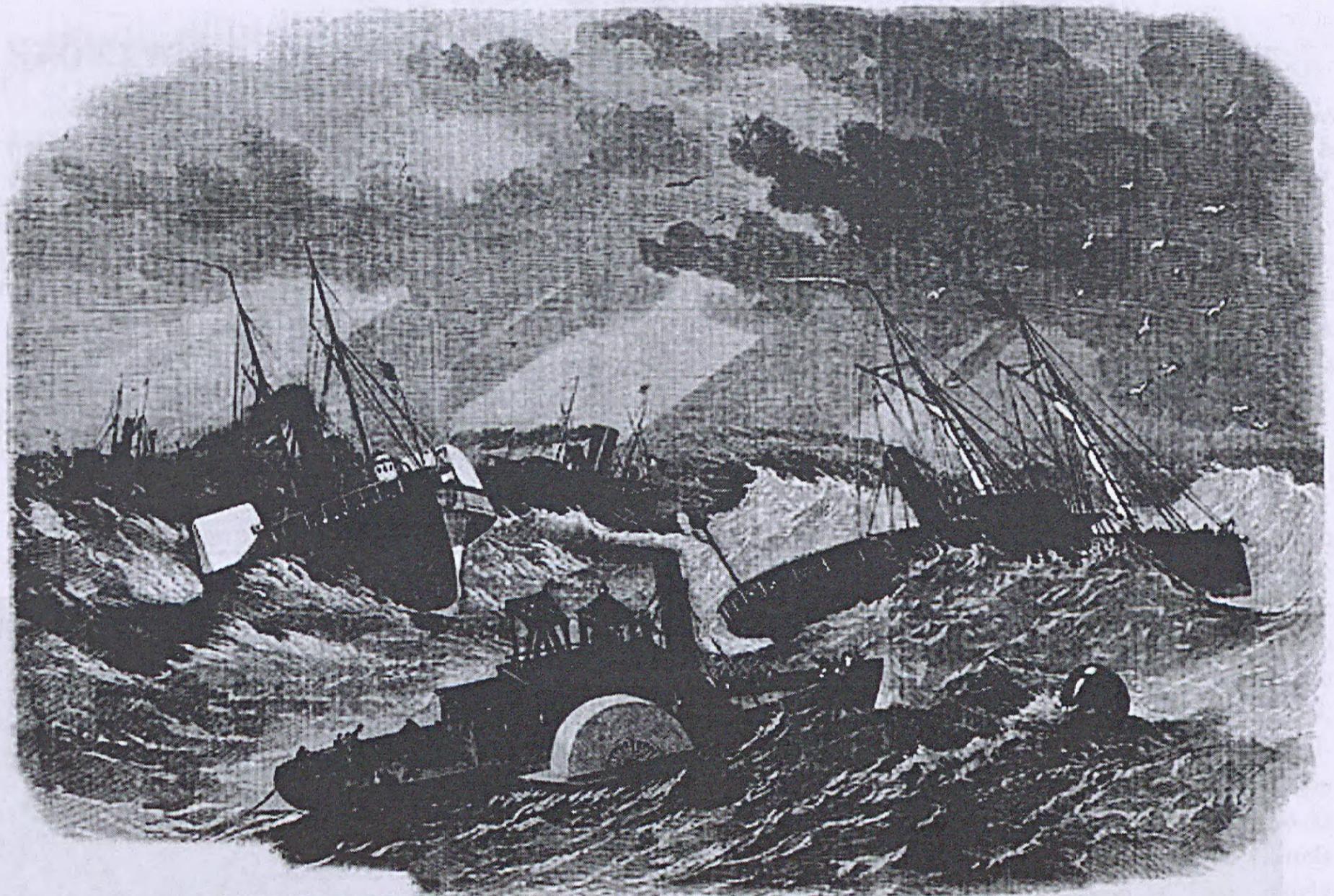
Submarine, naming it the USS Alligator because of its appearance and colors. After unsuccessful ventures in Coastal Virginia Waters, it was sent to South Carolina to assist with the invasion of Charleston. On April 2, 1863 while being towed it, too, was caught in a violent storm off Cape Hatteras and sank.

John Ericsson, the designer and builder of the USS Monitor, built nine more Monitor Class Ironclads. With completion by late 1862, their intention was to join the fleet headed to South Carolina to attack and demand surrender of Charleston, one of the few ports still open to block-

ade-runners which were vital to the economy of the Confederacy. The Federal Government, knowing the harbor was mined with torpedoes, commissioned Ericsson to build a raft fifty feet long and twenty-seven feet wide nesting onto the bow of the Ironclads. Its purpose was to explode the torpedoes before they did damage to the hull. Three were built and mounted to the ships for the trip. As they approached Cape Hatteras on April 7, 1863 they were struck by another violent storm which tore two of the rafts from the ships. The third one made it to Charleston, but, before entering the Harbor had to be “cut loose” to



TRANSPORT POCAHONTAS - SINKING

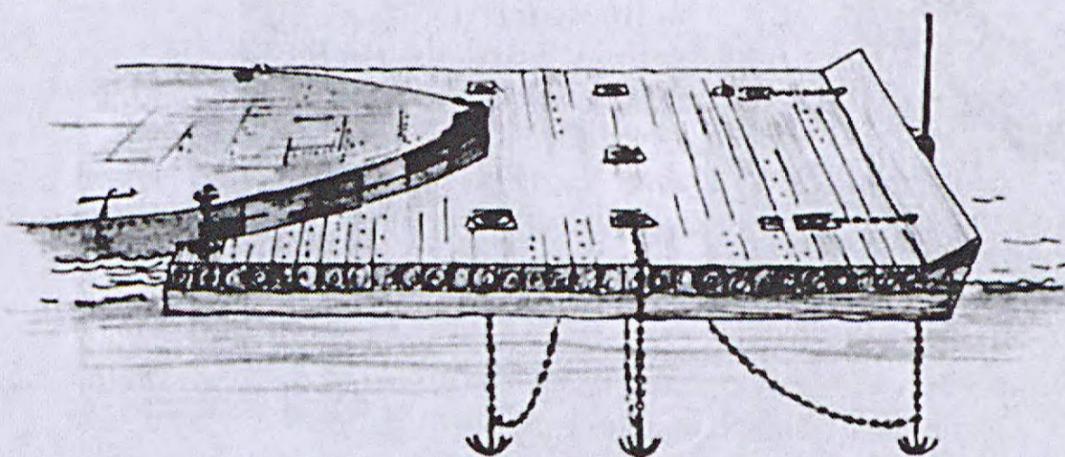


**USS PICKETT LEADING THE FEDERAL FLEET OVER THE HATTERAS BAR**

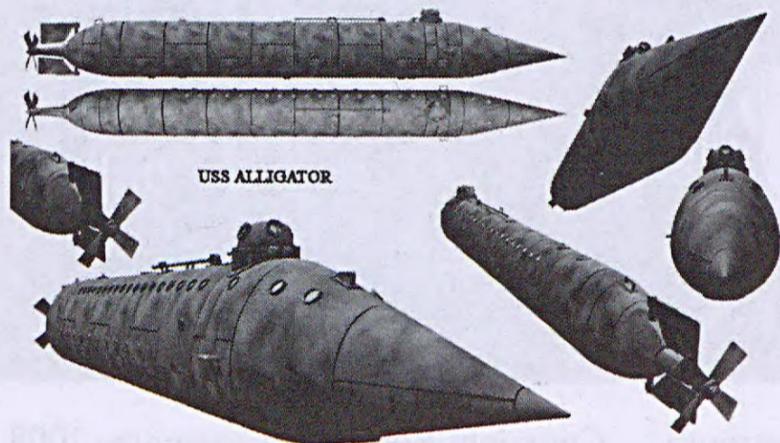
prevent it from damaging the ship. Also, it was steering the ship into the large guns on Fort Sumter. The Confederates, after seeing this raft washed up on the beach, nicknamed it "The Devil."

Throughout the War the Federal Government continued to underestimate the wrath of Cape Hatteras during winter and storm prone months.

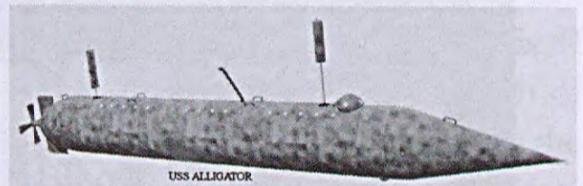
~ A. Wallace Abernethy,  
TRC Member



**ERICSSON RAFT - THE DEVIL**



**USS ALLIGATOR**



**USS ALLIGATOR**

# *A History Of Stonewall Manor*



By Lauren Filletaz



Bottom photo by Robert A. Cassanova Copyright Robert A. Cassanova, 2008

WINTER 2009

## STONEWALL MANOR

Stonewall takes its name from the heavy granite wall that borders the front lawn along U.S. 64 By-pass. The house, set in a superb oak grove, was built on the banks of the Tar River circa 1830 by Bennett Bunn, who was a well established and prosperous planter in Nash County. In its prime, Stonewall was the center of a large antebellum plantation. Its scale and sophistication of design make it one of the truly elegant plantation houses in North Carolina.

When Bennett Bunn returned to Rocky Mount from Pitt County in the late 1920's, his reputation as a wealthy plantation owner and businessman quickly spread. He also became a central figure in social activities in Rocky Mount and entertained many of the areas elite. In addition to his large land holdings, he owned many of the buildings in the Little Village at the Great Falls of the Tar River, which had recently become known as Rocky Mount. One such building was a general store called Big Falls, which was operated by his nephew, Redmun Bunn, and a partner by the name of Benjamin F. Knight. The ledger for Big Falls has been preserved, and can be seen at Stonewall Manor today, with accounts dating back to the early 1830's.

Bennett also had business dealings with Battle & Co. (later known as Rocky Mount Mills), one of the first cotton mills in the South. This may

have been primarily due to the fact that cotton was one of the largest crops grown on Bennett's plantation. It is known that he was involved in manufacturing, the nature of which varied over several different industries. Along with these dealings, Bennett Bunn also owned stock in Wilmington & Raleigh Railroad. Originally planned to connect Wilmington to Raleigh, North Carolina, the company decided in the late 1830's to instead connect with Weldon, with the tracks pointing in the direction of Petersburg, Virginia and the industrial North. This railroad crossed much of Bennett's land immediately North of the Tar River. In all, his wealth and prestige made Bennett one of the most prominent businessmen in Rocky Mount during his stay, with Stonewall Manor being a catalyst.

The late Federal house is of brick laid in Flemish bond. Furthermore, the structure's brick façade was very rare in this region, where frame houses prevailed throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In sharp contrast to the narrow and gable-roofed houses of contemporary planters, Bunn selected a spacious hip-roofed form that was five bays wide — rather than the standard three bays of local houses — and a full two rooms deep (double-pile) on either side of a broad central hall with a flush chimney rising out of each.

The two main floors are raised over

a full basement that is entered from ground level. The central entrance is composed of a typical six-panel Federal door framed by fluted Ionic pilasters. Above is a semicircular lunette. At the rear is a two story wooden addition. Evidence in the brickwork indicates that originally there was a portico on this façade as well.

The interior of the house has a full-length, north-south hall with two rooms on either side. On either side rise twin elliptical stairs that meet at the second-floor level above the arch dividing the halls below. The double stair features simple moulded rails, scrolled at the newels, and plain balusters rectangular in section. The rest of the interior woodwork is as fine as the stair. The Adam mantels of the principal rooms are extremely well executed. The most elaborate has coupled Ionic colonettes with spiral reeded shafts. The over mantel is framed by fluted pilasters that have the same unusual Ionic capitals as the colonettes below. Marbleized baseboards of a vernacular design grace all the rooms on the two main floors except for the two rear rooms on the top level.

After Bennett Bunn's death in 1849, Stonewall, with its 126 acres, was purchased by another planter, and was then passed through the hands of several others before the abolition of slavery in 1868 which brought the plantation to a final turning-point. Most of the farmland was sold to pay the debts of its latest land owner. Its role as the focal point of a vast plantation was therefore effectively ended.

It wasn't until 1916, when the property was purchased by Rocky Mount Mills for \$15,000 that renovations to this historical landmark began.

In 1975, the Nash County Historical Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of Stonewall Manor, acquired a 30 year lease on Stonewall Manor from Rocky Mount Mills (previously known as Battle & Co.). After 5 years, Rocky Mount Mills donated the house and grounds to the Nash County Historical Association. Since that time, the association has been responsible for Stonewall's dramatic restoration, and presently this brick mansion that overlooks the Tar River is among the state's finest restored antebellum homes.

Beginning in September of 2008, Stonewall Manor began plans for massive reconstruction on the house, much of which was contingent upon the support of grant money from multiple organizations. We are proud to say that with the support of these organizations, we have been graciously granted a total of \$40,000 which will be a tremendous help in the reconstruction guidelines that have been laid out. These monies will be used to complete projects

on the back of the house that were left unfinished after the last grant money that we received was used on unforeseen damages. They will also be used to do some painting and replace damaged decking on the front of the house. Alongside of these projects, we are also in the process of constructing a new parking lot as well as extending our split-rail fence down to the beginning of our property. By Spring of 2009, Stonewall will be rejuvenated and open to the public for tours and functions.

The last 3 months of 2008 were very successful for Stonewall Manor. We held the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fundraiser for Debbie's Fund and had very rewarding feedback from our evening and daytime tours over the Christmas holiday. We hope that 2009 will be equally as rewarding. We have a very aggressive schedule planned with events running April through June, including our Annual Derby Day as well as other exciting functions ranging from an Authentic Eastern Barbecue, Living History Days and Fundraisers to Bluegrass Festivals and more. We have already received an outpouring of support from the community reflected in an increase in membership and donations, and we look forward to having the same results in 2009. We hope that you will join us as we celebrate history here in our backyard!

## History of Battleboro

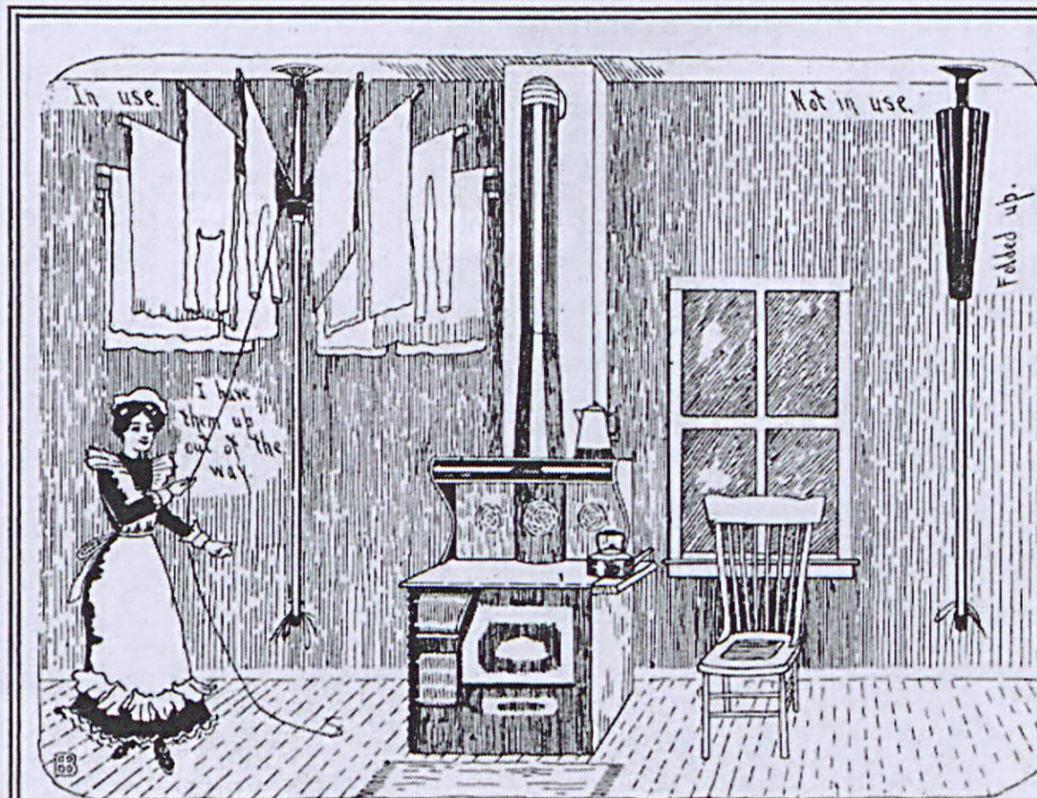
(continued from page 1)

It was incorporated under the name 'Battleboro' in 1873.

In 1885 the first Eastern Tobacco Market was established here.

Cornwallis defeated the militia near here at Swift Creek in 1781.

— written by Miss Emily Battle, daughter of Dr. Ivan Battle; article submitted by Rachael Brooks.



Just loose the cord, lower arms to level of your hands, hang on the clothes, pull the cord and they go to the ceiling, out of your way. A postal will bring full information.

## No More Clothes Lines

The Perfection Clothes Drier is held to wall by one bracket, secured by one screw. Has 35 feet of hanging space. Dries clothes in less than half the usual time—you lower the arm, put on the clothes, draw them to the ceiling, out of the way and where all the heat of the room is, by just pulling a cord—always ready; never in the way; a blessing to housekeepers. Sent to any address by express on receipt of \$2.50.

**AGENTS WANTED**

**Home Elevating Clothes Drier Co.**

2029 FIRST AVENUE,

SEATTLE, WASH.

# The Good Old Days

In April 1914, momentous events were in the making. The start of **World War I** was less than 4 months away. Americans, however, were only slightly interested in the affairs of the Old World. We were prosperous—strong and independent. Business was good and the future was bright. In Mexico, where revolution was rampant and American interests were threatened, we struck swiftly and decisively. U.S. warships blasted the port of **Vera Cruz**, 6,000 marines stormed ashore and Congress threatened a declaration of war. The trouble subsided quickly and Americans were again absorbed in local events.

Cigarettes sold for 5¢ a pack and a four-room house could be rented for \$8 a month. The admission price to local theaters was set at a nickel for children and 10¢ for adults, with the price soaring to 15 and 20¢ when vaudeville came to town.

In **Rocky Mount [Nash and Edgecombe Counties]** the Board of Aldermen was concerning itself with better food handling and general sanitation. April 6, 1914 saw an ordinance passed requiring that all bread produced for sale in the city must be wrapped. On the same day, the Nash Co. Board of Commissioners announced the election of **M.V. Barnhill** as solicitor for the county Recorder's Court. (He later served on the NC Su-

preme Court.) While these items made the news, they don't tell us what life was like. Advertisements in the *Evening Telegram* paint a clearer picture.

## Banking in Rocky Mount

Banking was big business in Rocky Mount. No issue of the *Evening Telegram* went to press without numerous advertisements devoted to the progressive endeavors of these institutions. The **Planters Bank**, with **J.C. Braswell**, president, and **J.W. Aycock**, cashier, advertised regularly, boasting that its \$950,000 in resources made it the largest bank in this section. The **Savings Bank** advertised under the signature of its cashier, **F.P. Spruill**, that 4% interest was being paid on all savings. The **First National Bank** claimed to be the "Safest for Savings."

The **Citizens Building and Loan Co.** used space to announce that it was maturing its first series of bonds in the amount of \$50,000. The **Bank of Rocky Mount**, with **Thomas H. Battle**, president, and **Frank F. Fagan**, cashier, advertised that "The small man with a small roll as well as the big business man with thousands, always find a welcome at Rocky Mount's oldest bank."

The Rocky Mount Insur-

ance and Realty Co., with a capital and surplus of \$125,000 purchased half-page ads to offer its gold bonds for sale.

## Food Was Cheap

Grocery stores apparently found little need for advertising. Food was plentiful and it was cheap. A regular dinner at the **Olympia Café** on Main St. cost exactly 25 cents. The **Thomas Candy Company**, also on Main St., boasted "One of the most complete ice cream factories in this section of the state," and added that "The housewife that has long desired **Thomas Ice Cream** but had no one to send for it can now secure it by phoning 693, and we will make prompt delivery." **Z.B. Bulluck**, located on Washington St., ran quarter-page ads for two solid weeks announcing that "A Fresh Shipment of **New Corned Herrings**" had just been received.

## Clothing Bargains

Clothing and accessories were available at prices that would make the good old days really look good. The following price list was advertised frequently by **Bailey, Draughn and Co.**, 127 S. Main St.: ladies hose, 8¢

- 39¢; ladies' corset covers, 19¢, corsets, 39¢-79¢; ready made sheets, 79¢; men's shirts, 79¢; men's suits, \$11.50 - \$20; silk, 39 - 79¢ per yard; ladies' shoes, 98¢ - \$2.89; and men's shoes and oxfords, \$2.39 - \$3.98.

At the same time the **Fashion Shop** on N. Washington St. was offering the following items: Spool cotton at 5 spools for 10¢; silk hose at 38¢; towels for 8¢ each; and wool dress goods at 35¢.

## Appliances Make A Bow

Home appliances advertised in 1914 paint a picture of a society on the threshold of the modern era. The *Edison Diamond Disc Phonograph* was the rage. Radio was not developed to the point that it spanned the distances required for commercial use. The US Navy had just announced that it had developed wireless apparatus capable of transmitting messages up to a distance of 700 miles.

**R.E. Quinn and Co.** advertised a complete lawn swing for \$5 with porch swings ranging from \$2 - \$3.50. **Bulluck, Philips and Co.**,

located in the First National Bank building, offered the Automatic refrigerator to local homemakers, advertising that the product was "built as carefully as parlor furniture with no open joints to let in the air."

Electricity was fast becoming a part of home life, but it was far from dependable. Evidence of this is seen in the wording of this ad by **F.F. Harrell**: "children need electric light, the pure air illuminant. Electric light burns in a sealed glass bulb. It neither devitalizes the air in the home nor gives off products of combustion. Electric light is, therefore, the most healthful and cleanest of illuminants. The merest child can switch electric light on or off without effort and without danger.

[From "What Were The 'Good Old Days' Like Here Back In 1914?" by Bill Johnson, *The Rocky Mount Evening Telegram*, 2/15/1953]

## Wood Community

School also played an important role in the lives of the people at Wood. The name of one of the first schools at Wood was Guildfield. It was built in 1900 in front of **W.S. Lewis's** house. The building was painted red and contained three rooms. In 1902 another school was built and it was also called Guildfield. It was located in front of **Alex Wester's** house. This building had only one room. **Mark Leonard** was the only teacher. It burned in 1904.

Wood Academy was built in 1905 and was located behind Wood Baptist Church, off Highway 561. It had three classrooms. The middle room was built two feet higher so that whenever they had a program, the wall between the three rooms could be raised and the middle room would serve as a platform. Large iron heaters were used for heating. Some of the faculty members were **Miss Knox, Miss Eugenia Boone, Mrs. Frank Read, Miss Nona Ponder, Miss Harper, Miss Hollingsworth, Miss Mami Dickens, Miss Blanchard, Miss Sherfield, Miss Fogleman, and Mrs. Pattie Lamb Justice**. The Academy closed in 1927.

The last school built at Wood was located in front of the Academy. It was put up by the Gold Mine Township in 1928. The building was

## Websites of Interest:

<http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Lair/3680/cw/cw.html>

Civil War Rosters - Arranged by State —This is a directory of Civil War Rosters/Muster Rolls that have been found on the internet. Since only 50-60% of all rosters are on the internet, some units will not be listed.

<http://cwar.nps.gov/civilwar/>: The official National Park Service Civil War Web Site. The approaching Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War (2011-2015) offers the current generation of Americans a most important opportunity to know, discuss, and commemorate this country's greatest national crisis, while at the same time exploring its enduring relevance in the 21st century.

<http://abmc.gov/home.php>: American Battle Monuments Commission. Can help with questions concerning foreign burial sites of U.S. soldiers who fought in WWI, WWII, Korean War, and other similar information.

*Continued from previous issue:*

By Evelyn Gupton Winstead

brick and had seven classrooms, an office, a big storage room and a large auditorium. This school had approximately 100 pupils in grades one through seven. The faculty was as follows: **Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Olive Perry, Mrs. Mabel Harris, Miss Mary Dickerson, Miss Nona Ponder, Miss Adelaide Duke, Pattie Beasley, Miss Ruth Parrish, Mrs. Frank Read, and Mrs. Lizzie Wester**.

My teacher in first grade was Mrs. Harris, who was later the teacher-principal. For Christmas, she gave me a book called "Peter Rabbit." I still have this book. I was a member of the last class that attended the school before it closed in 1946. We were moved to Gold Sand High School seven miles away.

Mrs. Mabel Harris is presently living in Wilton, NC and at 92 years of age is in good health and mind and has an excellent sense of humor.

Religion plays an important role in any community. There were two denominations represented at Wood in the early 1900's. The first church was Mount Hebron Baptist Church located about two miles from Wood. It was constituted in 1885. The church stopped operating after a new Baptist church was built in the heart of Wood. The church was organized Oct. 6, 1915 as Bethany Baptist Church. According to a deed dated Feb. 12, 1917 the name of the church was changed to

Wood Baptist Church. It was located on Johnson Street, now Linwood Gupton Road.

In 1916 a Methodist Church was built on Ruffin Street. The building was torn down and moved to Inez, NC

where the church was reconstructed. It is called Shady Grove Methodist Church today.

In 1948, the congregation of Wood Baptist Church purchased the Wood Elementary School building at auction. In 1949 the school building was converted into a church. The remodeling cost

\$11,272.09. The new church was dedicated on July 26, 1951. A new parsonage was built near the church in 1961. Today the Wood Baptist Church has a beautiful refurbished building.

The old church property was purchased by **Percy Alex Gupton**, my father, and it was later sold to Linwood H. Gupton. It was eventually sold to **Henry George Hamlet** who still owns it today.

The first post office was located at **Ransom's Bridge**, two miles east of the present community of Wood. The next post office was in Albert Sidney Johnson Hamlet's store with Hamlet as postmaster. He served from 1918 until 1931. The next postmaster was Frank A. Read, Sr. who served from 1931 until 1957. At that time the post office was closed and the mail was, and still is, carried by a rural mail carrier.

According to records, Wood had four mayors. They were: a **Mr. Newsome**; a **Mr. Upchurch**; Mr. W.D. Fuller; and, finally, Mrs. Mamie P. Gupton who was appointed honorary Mayor of Wood until her death in 2000.

There was only one town commissioner, **J.S. Shearin**. **Will Carter** served as policeman during 1918-1919. The streets in Wood were laid out by **D. F.**

**McKinne** and the Atlantic Coast Realty Co. subdivided the town on Nov. 22, 1913. The names of the streets, which ran north and south, were Hayes, Britt, Johnson and Ruffin. The avenues, running east and west, were Railroad, Halifax, Broad, Warren, Franklin, Nash and Wilson.

When the 911 emergency services came into existence in Franklin Co., Johnson Street was changed to Linwood Gupton Road because there was already a Johnson Street within the Louisburg calling area. Linwood Gupton was a prominent citizen of Wood whose home was located on this street. Wood had approximately 25 blocks and

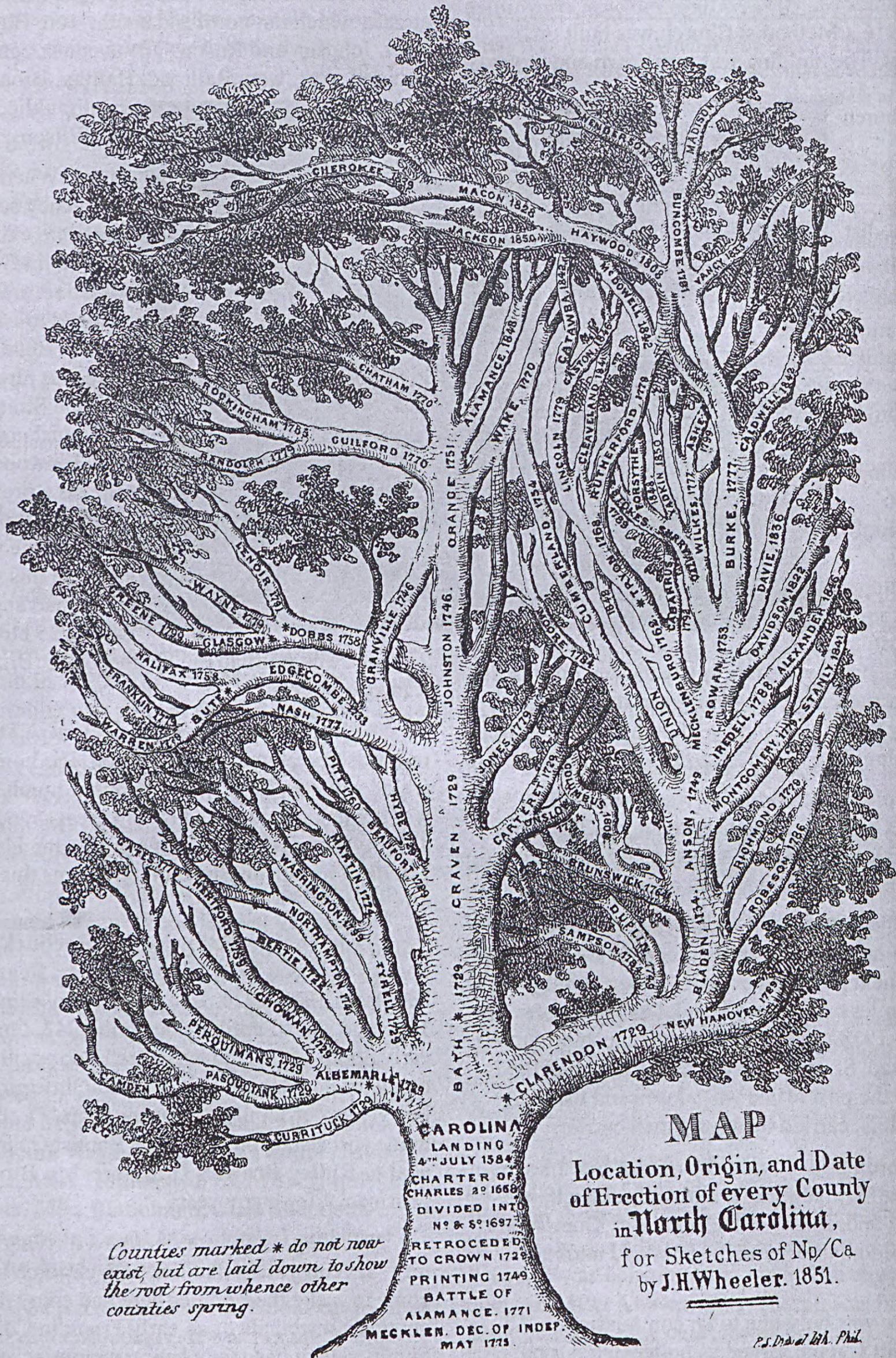
216 lots. The railroad ran behind Gillis, Britt and Railroad Streets.

Wood also had several doctors. A **Dr. Peters** was perhaps the first at Wood. His home, which still stands on Wood Baptist Church Road, was owned and occupied by my great-grandfather, **Johnny Burnette**. One of his great-granddaughters, **Lucille Thompson Shearin**, still owns this property today.

Dr. Herbert Perry and **Dr. Roebuck** were doctors at Wood from 1900-1918. **Dr. Beam** was here from 1918-1924. **Dr. Arch Perry** came in 1925 and stayed until his death in 1942. I have an early photo of Dr. and Mrs. Arch Perry with a note on the back saying, "This is for the little girl." Dr. Perry was our family doctor for years. Dr. Perry's home still stands on the Wood Baptist Church Road next to **Ridley Brown's** Drugstore. Mr. Brown was pharmacist for many years.

Today, Wood survives as a thriving community. Several young families with children have come to make their homes here and enjoy the pleasant quiet surrounds of an early Franklin Co. community which has many happy memories and looks to future growth and continued blessings.





*Counties marked \* do not now exist, but are laid down to show the root from whence other counties spring.*

**MAP**  
 Location, Origin, and Date  
 of Erection of every County  
 in North Carolina,  
 for Sketches of Np/Ca  
 by J.H. Wheeler. 1851.

*P.S. Drawn at Wash. Phil.*

# The Counties of North Carolina: An Early Map

## Explanation of the Map

On the dissolution of the Proprietary Government in 1729, the Province of North Carolina was divided into three Counties:

1. ALBEMARLE
2. BATH
3. CLARENDON

From these three branches spring all the Counties of the State.

All of these (Albemarle, Bath and Clarendon) exist only by name, the territory having been divided, and are only used, as are also Bute, Dobbs, Tryon and Glasgow (marked thus \*) to show the branches from whence other counties have sprung.

To find a County, its formation and derivation, is not difficult. Wake, for instance, is a centre County, formed in 1770 from Cumberland, Orange and Johnston.

Lincoln County, formed in 1779 from Tryon, which in that year was divided into Lincoln and Rutherford; Tryon erected in 1768 from Mecklenburg; Mecklenburg in 1762 from Anson; Anson in 1749 from Bladen; Bladen in 1734 from New Hanover; New Hanover in 1729 from Clarendon. All of which is plainly visible in the delineation.

Guildford County was formed in 1770, from Orange and Rowan; but as Orange was from a different stock than Rowan, it could not be delineated on the plan of the tree. This must be borne in mind.

The engraver has omitted in some of the engravings to letter the branch CASWELL, springing from Orange and *Person*, which springs from Caswell, which the reader will supply.

[Map and description are found in Historical Sketches of North Carolina: From 1584 to 1851, by John H. Wheeler. Vol. II. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo and Co., 1851.]

## EDGECOMBE COUNTY

EDGECOMBE COUNTY was formed from Craven County in 1733, by the Governor (Burrington) and Council, and confirmed by the Legislature, which met at Edenton in 1741.

Its name is Saxon, and signifies a "valley environed with hills," and is derived from the Earl of Mount Edgecombe, who, as Capt. Edgecombe, of the navy, had served with reputation under Admiral Byng, in 1756, in Minorca. Its true orthography is Edgecumbe, as laid down in the old maps, and in the History of England.

It is located in the eastern part of North Carolina, and is bounded on the north by Halifax County, east by Martin County, south by Pitt, Greene, and Wayne Counties, and west by Nash County.

Tarborough is the capital, on the Tar River, distant from Raleigh seventy-six miles. The original name of Tar River was *Tau*, which, in the native Indian tongue, means "River of Health."

Its population is 8365 whites; 8547 slaves; 277 free negroes; 13,770 representative population.

Its products are 2,445,000 lbs. cotton; 715,666 bushels corn; 27,280 bushels oats; 14,295 bushels wheat; 7260 lbs. wool; 21,926 bbls. Turpentine; 114 bbls. Fish.

The fossil remains of a mammoth skeleton, the back bone of which is visible, near the Railroad Bridge, in this county, will doubtless attract the notice of the State Geologist.

Edgecombe's early history is full of interest. She sent to that assembly of patriots, who met at Newbern, 21st August 1775, in the very presence of the Royal Governor, as delegates: ROBERT BIGNAL, HENRY IRWIN, DUNCAN LAMON, THOMAS HUNTER, and THOMAS H. HALL.

She sent to the Congress that met at Halifax, 12th Nov., 1776, and which formed our Constitution: WILLIAM HAYWOOD, ELISHA BATTLE, JONAS JOHNSON, ISAAC SESSUMS, and SILLIAM HORN.

By the resolve of the Congress, Hillsboro', 9th Sept., 1775, for the Halifax District: NICHOLAS LONG, was appointed Colonel;

**HENRY IRWIN**, Lieutenant-Colonel; **JETHRO SUMNER**, Major.

By the same, as field officers for **Edgecombe**: **WILLIAM HAYWOOD**, Colonel; **SHERWOOD HAYWOOD**, Lieutenant-Colonel; **JOSEPH MOORE**, 1st Major; **HENRY HORNE, JR.**, 2d Major.

The officers appointed for Edgecombe County by Congress, at Halifax, 4th April, 1776: **EXUM LEWIS**, Colonel; **SIMON GRAY**, Lieutenant-Colonel; **JONAS JOHNSON**, First Major; **THOMAS HUNTER**, Second Major.

Although, from her inland position, Edgecombe was not exposed to danger or attack, yet her brave sons were alive to the interests and honor of our common country, and sent them forth to do battle for the cause of liberty.

### FRANKLIN COUNTY

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** was founded in 1779. The General Assembly in that year obliterated the name of Bute, and divided its territory into the counties of Franklin and Warren. It derives its name from Benjamin Franklin, the Philosopher and Sage, who rendered such signal services to his country in the Revolution in a civil capacity. He was born Jan. 1706, in Boston, and died in Philadelphia, April, 1790, where he lies buried.

It is located near the centre of the State, joining Wake County, in which is the seat of Government. Bounded on the north by Warren, east by Nash, south by Johnson, and west by Wake Counties.

Its capital is Lewisburg, and is distant 36 miles east of Raleigh.

Its early history is connected with Warren, from which old Bute was formed.

"There were no Tories in Bute," was regarded as a fixed fact; the whole country as one man, was for Independence and liberty.

Population of Franklin, 5,685 whites; 5,507 slaves; 521 free negroes; 9,510 representative population.

Products, 451,909 lbs. tobacco; 437,277 bushels corn; 577,993 bushels oats; 14,456 bushels wheat; 538,320 lbs. cotton; 8,968 lbs. wool.

### HALIFAX COUNTY

**HALIFAX COUNTY** was formed in 1758 from Edgecombe County; and in this year the court house for the counties of Edgecombe, Granville, and Northampton was moved from Enfield to the town of Halifax.

It derives its name from the Earl of Halifax, who, in 1758, was the first Lord of the Board of Trade. "It is a name of Saxon origin, and means "holy hair," from the sacred hair of a certain virgin, whom a clerk beheaded, because she resisted his passion. She was canonized." It is situated in the north-eastern part of the State, and bounded on the north and east by the Roanoke River, which separates it from Northampton County; on the south by Martin, Edgecombe, and Nash Counties; and the west by the County of Warren. Its capital town is Halifax, which is beautifully located on the west bank of the Roanoke River, navigable for steam and other boats, and distant from Raleigh eighty-seven miles.

Its population, 5,63 whites; 8,954 slaves; 1,872 free negroes; 13,007 representative population.

Its products, 2,905,573 lbs. cotton; 15,750 lbs. wool; 669,325 bushels corn; 147,216 lbs. tobaccop 11,230 bushels wheat; 72,032 bushels oats; 4,886 bbls. Turpentine.

The County of Halifax, in its early history, is distinguished for its devotion to liberty, and for the patriotism of her sons.

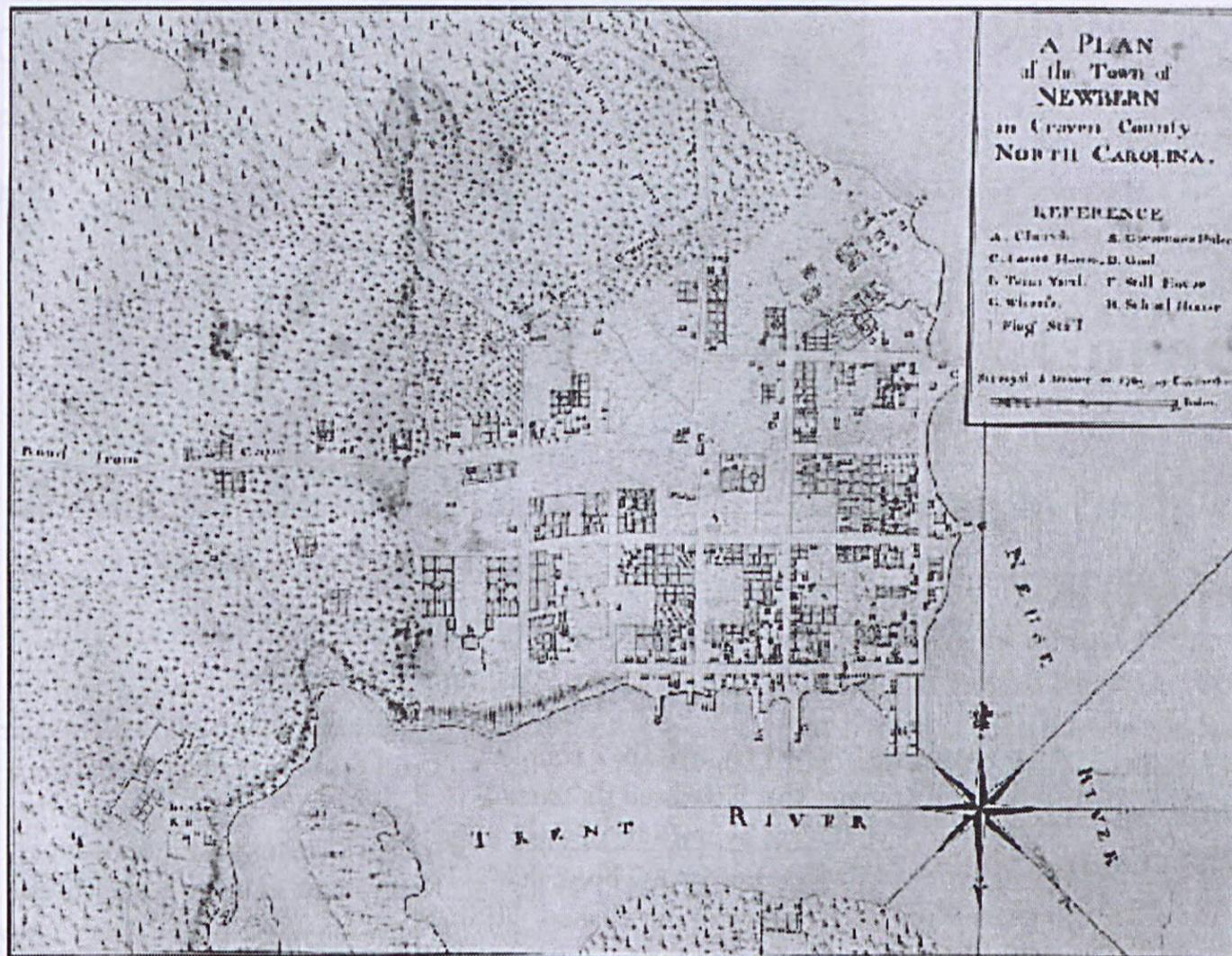
At a meeting of the Committee of Safety for Halifax County, Dec. 21st, 1774, present **WILLIAM JONES**, Chairman; **NICHOLAS LONG**, **JOHN BRADFORD**, **JAMES HOGAN**, **BENJAMIN McCULLOCK**, **JOSEPH JOHN WILLIAMS**, **WILLIAM ALSTON**, **EGBERT HAYWOOD**, **DAVID SUMNER**, **SAMUEL WELDON**, and **THOMAS HAYNES**.

It is represented that **ANDREW MILLER**, a merchant in Halifax town, refused to sign the Association.

Ordered that **MR. HAYWOOD** and **MR. HAYNES** desire his attendance before the committee.

Upon which he attended and refused to sign, and gave as reasons that he owed persons in England, to be bound not to export any commodity to England after 1st September next, would be unjust, and therefore he declined signing that part of the Association respecting a non-importation to Britain.

It was resolved unanimously, "That this Committee will not purchase any goods or wares from said **MILLER**, or any person connected with him, and we recommend the same course to the people of this country, and to all who wish well to their country."



# Johnny Has Gone For a Soldier: *Those Boys Who Served during the Civil War*

“Surprise is often expressed that there are so many veterans of the Civil War still living,” a 1918 newspaper article says. The fact remains that the war was fought, at least on the northern side, by boys. Of the 2,159,798 enlisted there were only 46,626 who were over 25 years old. Joseph G. Cannon, U.S. House of Representatives, read the official figures of the age of enlistment as follows:

- Those 10 years and under – 25
- Those 11 years and under – 38
- Those 12 years and under – 225
- Those 13 years and under – 300
- Those 14 years and under – 1523
- Those 15 years and under – 104,987

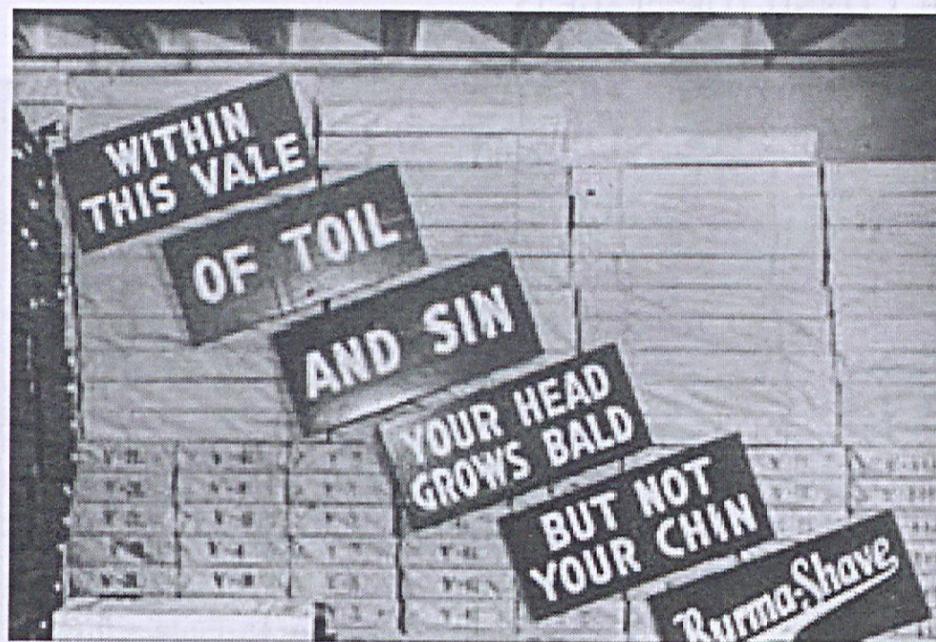
- Those 16 years and under – 231,051
- Those 17 years and under – 844,891
- Those 18 years and under – 1,151,438
- The article continued:
- Those 21 years and under – 2,159,789
- Those 22 years and over – 618,511
- Those 25 years and over – 46,626

By far, the greatest number of enlistments were boys 18 and under. Many of these boys were officers by the time they

were 20, far too inexperienced to handle the intricate, complex and death-dealing machinery and engines of destruction. At the time of this article, October 1918, there were 400,000 these young men “who remembered” still alive.

[Excerpt from “Military Records: Follow-up and Trivia,” by Donna Porter Phillips.

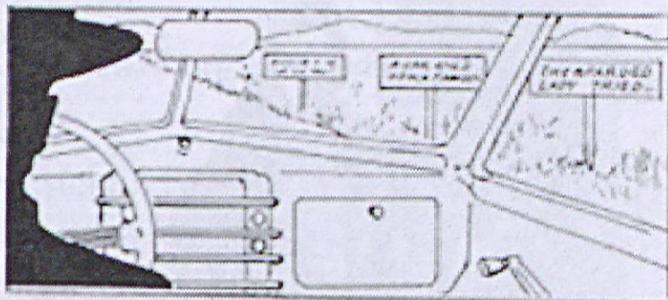




# Burma Shave (by Hill Matthews, TRC Member)

Burma-Shave road signs? Those small, consecutive highway billboards with their funny rhyming poems were the advertising gimmick of Burma-Shave brushless shaving cream and the precursor of the modern billboard. Burma-Shave was a product of the Burma-Vita company and was designed to replace “Grandpa’s old fashion shaving brush” that the ads frequently ridiculed. The sign series appeared from 1925 to 1963 and typically consisted of six small billboards posted at the edge of the highway and spaced so that they could be read, one after the other, by passing motorists. The last sign was almost always the name of the product, Burma-Shave, but they were usually humorous and often touted safe driving.

In addition to becoming perhaps the most memorable advertising campaign in history, the Burma-Shave signs also became a pop phenomenon and a part of American culture. Movies and television shows from the 40’s and 50’s era have used Burma-Shave billboards to set or date the scene. The long running country music and comedy series Hee Haw borrowed the style for program bumpers, using the signs to transition from one scene to the next. **Bonnie**



and Clyde and **Stand by Me** are a couple of the many movies that have used the Burma-Shave signs. The Verse by the Side of the Road by Frank Rowesome, Jr. is a book that provides a detailed history of the Burma-Shave company and provides the complete text of all the original jingles.

Younger people today may not be aware of the Burma-Shave ads and in fact many of the jingles themselves use terms that have become outdated. A locally famous judge was speaking to a group of teenagers years after the ads had disappeared from our roadsides. In his speech to the youths about how to get their first driving permits, Judge Matthews invoked one of the catchy rhyming jingles to prove a humorous but valid point.

*If hugging  
On Highways  
Is your sport  
Trade in your car  
For a davenport  
Burma-Shave*

The lines were delivered and met with dead silence, until someone in the room mentioned that a davenport is a *couch*. Then the laughs and snickers followed as they finally got the joke, and hopefully the point as well.

Burma-Shave ads are a part of our history and a slice of Americana we best not forget for they invoke a simpler time in which we would travel down two lane roads and actu-

ally take time to enjoy the scenery and possibly read an ad and get a laugh as well. I can imagine the signs keeping your attention as you round another corner to see how the jingle would finish. Anyone interested in nostalgia, the early American automobile roads or just looking to put a smile on their face should take a little time and read some of the old catchy jingles. Here is one more for the road.

*If our road signs  
Catch your eye  
Smile  
But don't forget  
To Buy  
Burma-Shave*

References:

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burma\\_shave](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burma_shave)
- <http://www.mc.cc.md.us/Departments/hpolsrv/mthomas.htm>
- <http://www.fiftiesweb.com/burma.htm>
- <http://burma-shave.org/>

## Call for Manuscripts:

*Please consider submitting an article!*

## Members' Requests:

- \* More on Nash, Franklin, Edgecombe Counties
- \* Tar River Watershed Early Settlers
- \* List of web/links for TR area
- \* "How-to" series for beginners
- \* List of useful web links for more "in-depth" genealogy enthusiasts
- \* More genealogy!
- \* Architectural history
- \* Preserving photographs
- \* Civil War
- \* Revolutionary War
- \* Stories from members
- \* Recollections & reminiscences

## Pam's Corner

Submitted Pam Edmondson

### Shooting in Nash.

From **The Tarborough Southerner**, Feb. 10, 1898

We have just received news of the killing of John Kornegay by W.J. Floyd. The tragedy occurred at Floyd's distillery near Sandy Cross, Nash County. It seems that Kornegay used to work for Floyd but had been discharged some weeks ago; this caused some ill feeling on the part of the deceased, and when the parties met yesterday Kornegay attacked Floyd, firing two shots at him, slightly wounding him. Floyd returned the fire, shooting Kornegay through the head.

Later: — Mr. Floyd was acquitted by the coroner's jury. The verdict being "justifiable homicide — Argonaut.

### Death Notices from Raleigh, Tarboro Papers

1. John D. Abernathy, of Nash County, died January 19, 1858 Duplin County, Raleigh Register, January 27, 1858. 2. Mrs. Penelope Abington died October

October 17, 1855, Tarboro, aged about sixty and leaving no immediate family. Southerner Oct. 20, 1855. 3. Mrs. Maria Abram died Dec 27, 1888 Rocky Mount, News & Observer Dec 28, 1888. 4. A. H. Arrington died July 20, 1872 Nash County. Daily Sentinel July 23, 1872.

*Announcing the online publication*

# The Allen Parker

# Slave Narrative and Project

A wonderfully informative and interesting website has been created by East Carolina University Whichard Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities David S. Cecelski. The website is entitled "The Allen Parker Slave Narrative," which tells the saga of a young slave boy who grew up along the Chowan River in eastern North Carolina.

The material on the site was researched by East Carolina students, making use of original documents and interviews. It contains a wealth of information on slave culture, antebellum politics, folk life, and about life in the south.

The site's web address is: <http://core.ecu.edu/hist/cecelskid/dcintro.htm>.

## Thomas R. Batchelor Will

State of North Carolina

Nash County

I, **Thomas R. Batchelor** of the county and state aforesaid, being of sound mind and memory, but considering the uncertainty of my earthly existence, do make and declare this my last will and testament, in manner and form following, that is to say:

Item: I give and devise to my elder daughter **Mahala T. Winstead** wife of **D.H. Winstead** all that tract of land where she now lives adjoining the lands of **John Vick** and others containing fifty acres more or less to have and to hold to her. The said Mahala T. Winstead for and during the term of her natural life and then to her bodily heirs and theyer assigns forever.

Item: I also give to my said daughter one trunk one bead and furniture which advancements has already been made at the time of her marriage. The above shall be all of her share of my estate, I will further provide for the rest hereafter.

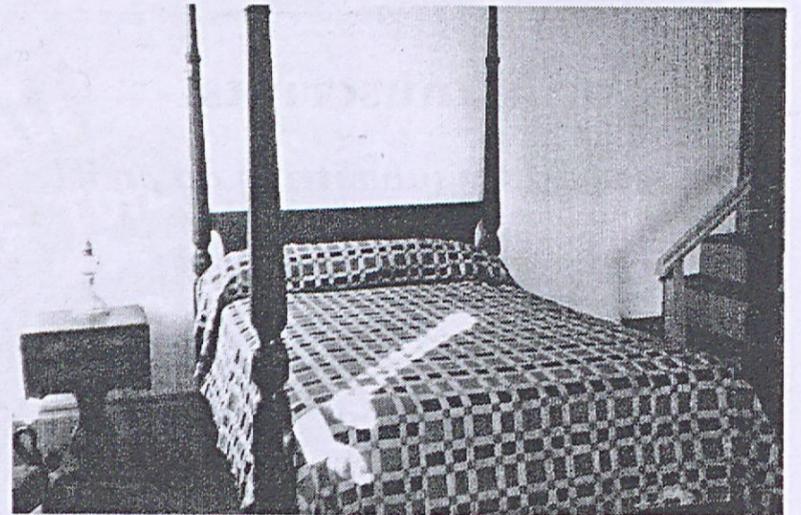
This December 11<sup>th</sup> - 1903

**Thomas R. Batchelor** (Seal)

Witness: **J.W. Batchelor**

Recorded on Will Bk. Vol. 6 p.

414



## Handwoven Bedspread

### From the 1880s

### On Display at Stonewall

Using dyes extracted from vegetables and plants from their farm and wool sheared from sheep raised on the Manning Farm near Spring Hope, North Carolina, enterprising homemakers wove this bedspread on a 27-inch loom. They then stitched it together by hand.

This pattern is know as the American Beauty Pattern. The bedspread is now on display in the children's room at Stonewall in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. It was woven by Temperance (Tempie) Ann B. (Matthews) Manning, who lived from 1845 to 1918. She was the wife of Marion V. B. Manning and the sister of Hilliard F. M. Matthews.



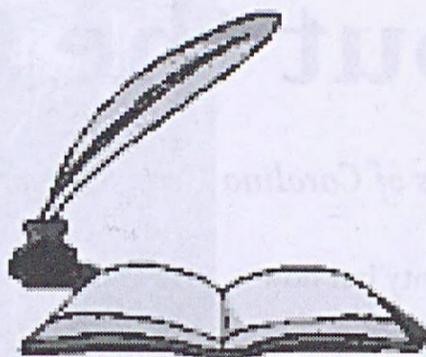
*MANNING FAMILY*  
TASSIE - BRIDGEN BACHELOR    MARION-TEMPIE ANN (MATTHEWS)    JACK-EMERA    VAN Wm - MARY  
"BOLLIE" HOLDING A CHILD    OLLIN    OCIE  
UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN

# A Beginner's Guide to Genealogy: A Basic Plan

Confession first: I am by no means an expert in genealogical research. I have been dabbling in it long enough to recognize a few of my own mistakes, and I can write a little here to help point the beginning genealogy enthusiast in the right direction.

First of all, it is important to have a plan -- a specific, methodical, fairly detailed plan, and to write down your plan. Otherwise, it is so easy to go off in a hundred different directions. Finding out that you're related to Ronald Reagan or Kate Chaucer or the man who shot Dillinger is indeed fun, but you'll never be able to say so with any degree of certainty unless you start with the present and work your way back, doing careful research and documentation along the way.

Unless you plan where you're going, keep track of where you've been, and know where you've been after you've been there, you're guaranteed to waste hours duplicating your re



search. Plus, that key piece of information you missed in your shotgun approach to genealogy may be the critical piece that ties relationships in the next generation to the generation that came before it, and which is unavailable elsewhere.

Recently, I decided to "start back over" in my own research. My stacks had gotten out of control. Wills photocopied from State Archives were mixed in with articles printed from the internet. Generations were all mixed up, and documents I know I have are still lying in some drawer or basket of papers. I went to Helen Leary's book on doing North Carolina research and typed out my own version of her suggestions. I present them here in case they might help someone else get back on track in their own genealogy.

I incorporate a Microsoft Word Table to help keep me even more organized.

[material here offered by Debra W. Kincheloe]

## My Overall Genealogy Research Plan

1. Begin with myself. In order to not get bogged down with the first generation, stick to a systematic schedule for working on the first generation. Allot time for myself, my spouse, my children my siblings, and their families.
2. Go to second generation. This will include my mother, father. and their siblings and children.
3. Go to third generation. Grandparents, their siblings and children.
4. Go to fourth generation. Great-grandparents, their siblings, and children.
5. Go to fifth generation. Second great-grandparents, their siblings, and children.
6. At some point, working with the children will become mathematically so time-consuming that I may choose to work with great-grandparents and their siblings only, at which time I will decide upon a method of working them into my overall plan.

### What to Record: Individuals

Record the following types of information about each ancestor: Full name of ancestor, nickname, habitual signatures or marks, professional name(s), birth information, including date and place; location of death record; death information, including date, place, and burial; location of death record; marriage information, including names of parents, birth place and date, names of witnesses, and location of the record; church affiliation or lack thereof; military service information; educational background; migrations, including address changes; land or lot purchases and dates; business, professional, or occupational information; public and volunteer service information, including dates, positions held, etc.; any other information about the individual that might lead to additional records. See also family heirlooms, family Bibles, and family photographs.

### What to Record: General

Gather as complete information as possible, including sources and variations. Family tradition, or "oral history," should be labeled as such, and be evaluated in the light of information from other sources.

**Procedure for Beginning** Start with yourself and at least assemble the basic documents: birth certificate, marriage certificate, children's birth certificates, diplomas, military discharge papers, labeled photographs. Send for copies of vital records for parents and, if possible, their siblings, progressing through the generations until you run out of vital records (1913 in North Carolina). Continue patiently and accurately in this manner from generation to generation. Assemble each generation's information before proceeding to the next, and evaluate what has been learned in order to search efficiently for what is still unknown.

# Milling about the Counties —

*Contributed by Ron and Carol West, Owners of Carolina Grits & Company.*

Grist milling has returned to Nash County but now in a somewhat different form than we think of from the olden day. We envision a dam and big wheel that catches the water from the river above and turns shafts and pulleys which then turn big stones and shakers and sifters and feeders. Where did the mills go and how long have they been gone? These are some of the questions that have been asked since Ron retired from Consolidated Diesel and restored an antique grist mill and started Carolina Grits & Co.

In researching Nash and Edgecombe County history for milling information — we learned quite a bit. While we have lived in Nash County almost 30 years, this part of the area's history was not known to us. So for you ole' timers, please bear with us as we share some of what we learned.

The basic law of the 18<sup>th</sup> century regarding mills dealt primarily with regulating the distance between mills on NC Rivers. In the early days, mills were water powered and the law required at least two miles in distance on any stream either up or downstream to prevent interruption or overflow of one mill by another. Today, it is sad to say that there are no longer any water powered mills in Nash County, but now, at least, there is a source for locally produced old fashioned stone ground grits and corn meal.

The first petition for a mill was recorded in 1745 by William West and was to be located on the Tar River. While this location is now in Nash County, at that time, the land was part of Edgecombe County. Based on a 1974 article in the Nashville Graphic written by Joseph W. Watson, there were 46 mills in Nash County — 28 were built while Nash was still a part of Edgecombe and then another 18 after 1777, the year that Nash was incorporated. Water powered mills endured another 250 years in Nash and Edgecombe Counties.

Floods and droughts were then and still are a constant threat and eventually caused the demise of all of the water powered mills in Nash County. Droughts were a lesser threat but still affected production and production services. In 1901, Mr. Calloway Meadows invented the "Meadows Mill," a portable mill which used vertically positioned stones instead of the conventional, horizontal type stones. This allowed the miller to precisely set the distance between the stones to better control the grind. Initially, these were powered by water wheels and eventually supplemented by stationary power from the new developed internal combustion engines. Often the local markets would custom grind grains using these portable mills. Farming families could cooperatively own a mill, power it with a tractor PTO or a Model A jacked up with a wheel replaced by a pulley.

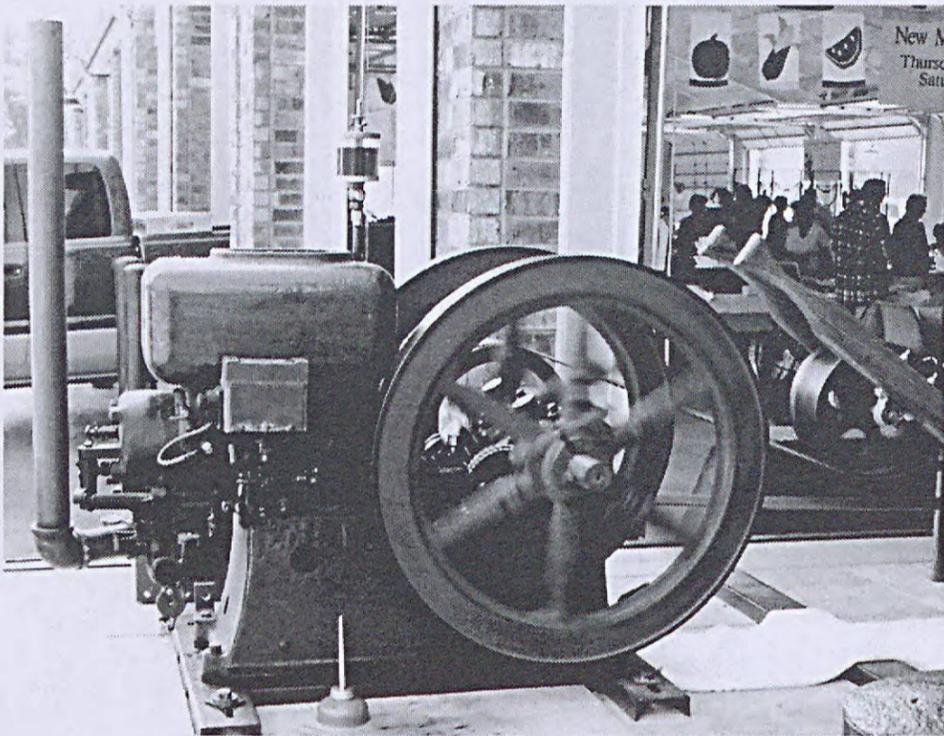


Stone milling has been around for nearly 1000 years and is still the best way to obtain the natural wholesome, best tasting bread and foodstuffs from whole grains. "Stone grinding is done at cooler temperatures, so the enzyme activity in the wheat or corn continues for several days...." "That makes the flavor better. When the stones run together they take a little flake off the grain instead of a chunk, a flake has more surface area, so that adds to the flavor," says Bob Hege, Agricultural Engineer and owner of the Meadows Mill Co. of N. Wilkesboro, N.C. Stone, as

opposed to steel, milling retains some germ which adds flavor and nutrition but decreases the shelf life of the product. That is why our labels specify that you need to "Freeze to stay fresh."

Periodically, the miller would have to 'dress' the stones to make sure grain was ground correctly. Improperly dressed or sharpened stones could decrease the yield, or make an uneven product. Dressing stones is a true skill as it is a job which must be done right the first time. Some stones could weigh as much as 5000 lbs and would take days to complete.

Stone ground grits and cornmeal are produced at the



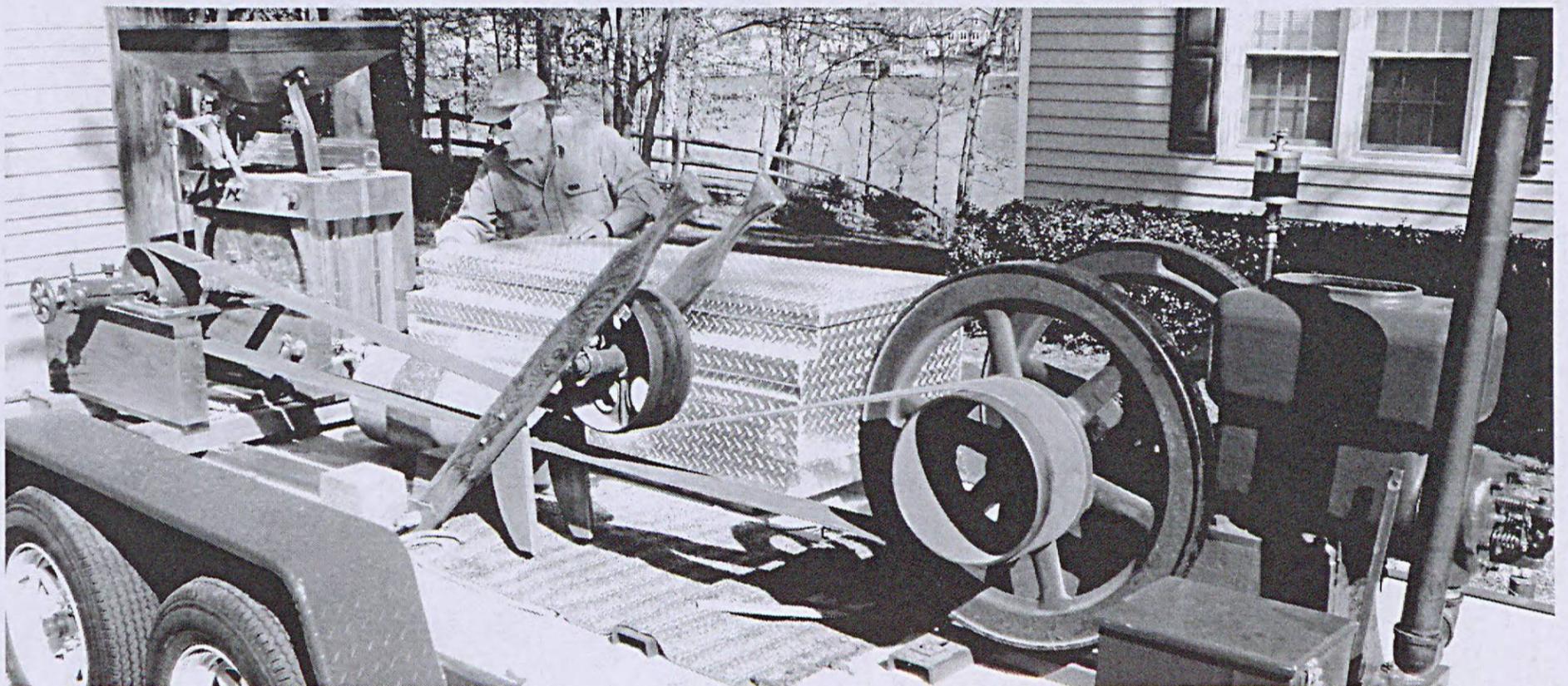
same time by stones shearing the corn into small pieces. These are then separated by bolting or sifting. This is done basically in 2 stages. The first stage is to remove the hull from the milled corn. The second stage separates the grits from the meal.

At Carolina Grits & Co., we use a restored 1912 Meadows Mill which is powered by a 1926 Hercules Hit & Miss Engine. Modern quality improvements were installed during the restoration and considered fully compliant with N.C. food production standards.

A 1911 Meadows Mill is being restored to support the demand for quality stone ground grits. The stones in this Meadows Mills are made with Balfour pink granite from the Salisbury, N.C quarries, world renown for its hardness and durability. These stones are 20 inches in diameter and weigh approximately 250 pounds.

We have heard tales and folklore regarding trips to the mills when folks lived on the farms. We've had some folks become tearful seeing the restored mill run and grind the corn. Many people have shared memories of taking their grain to the local mill in a wagon, play or fish in the stream or creek during the milling, and take home half of the meal to have until next season. The other half of the yield was paid to the miller for the milling service.

Selling our product at local farmers' markets has been a rewarding and enjoyable time. Many Saturdays during the market season, you can find us down town at the Rocky Mount Farmers' Market on Peachtree Street. If you are lucky, listen closely, you might hear that old familiar sound of the hit and miss engine, and memories might be awakened from your childhood as well.





**TAR RIVER CONNECTIONS  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

**PO BOX 8764  
ROCKY MOUNT NC 27804**

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**The Connector**

Published Quarterly

**A Message to  
ALLTRC Members**

We can't do it without you. This publication, now in its thirteenth year, is totally a work of love. Volunteers meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month in the Warner Room at Braswell Memorial Library in Rocky Mount. Without dedicated members who volunteer their efforts and support, this little history record cannot thrive. Right now, we need the following:

\* **New Members** — and old ones who pay. Annual membership fees are \$20., payable the first of the year, and include four issues of the newsletter **per year.**

\* **Attendees at the meetings** — Many of our membership live in other cities and states and cannot attend. We do need local people who are able to meet on a regular basis to plan and organize programs in local history.

\* **More writers!** Even if you live across the country, you can volunteer your services. Many of you have articles already done, pictures or documents tucked away among your research, or who knows what treasure lies out there? If you found something of interest in your research, then chances are there are people in our surrounding counties who would find it of interest as well.

\* **New blood.** Ideas are unlimited, but we need someone to think them and to act upon them. We need YOU!

\* **A newsletter editor**—Peggy Strickland and Billie Jo Matthews have given many years of service in putting together **The Connector** and getting it to the members. We offer our gratitude to Peggy, who has had to resign from being newsletter editor, for having undertaken such a huge task for all these years.