

The Connector

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

Summer, 1998

Peggy Strickland, Editor

Volume 2 Issue 3

Pitt, Edgecombe and Nash Counties in Dire Straits

Mrs. Atkinson Pleads for Help from Gov. Vance

In July, 1863, Mrs. Peyton [Susan Virginia Street-
er] Atkinson wrote the following letter to Governor Ze-
bulon Vance, describing conditions from Greenville to
Falls of the Tar in Nash County.

*Governor Vance,
I beg of you to read this, & I know
your kind heart, will not accuse me of presumption
in writing to you. My own feelings & the entreaties
in writing to you, my own feelings & the entreaties of
our Citizens prompt me to the act. We come umble, im-
ploreing our Noble Govener to send help to rescure us*

Falkland July 28th 1863

from these *Yankee Wretches*.

You may have seen an outline of
their deeds, but you know not
the deep, black outrages com-
mitted by them, In Greenville
they destroyed, it is thought,
three hundred thousan dollars
worth of property, robed Citizens
of everything Valuable, such as
watches, jewelry, silver &
money, they had large iron
hooks, with which 2 men could
throw an iron safe easily down & which they did burst-
ing out the back & taking its contents. Some persons
there were robed of every cent & all of their notes, valu-
able papers destroyed, There were no troops at Green-

See Letter, Page 13



Susan Atkinson

Down, Down The River—Franklin County

BY LOUISE FULLER

The Tar River, after flowing
through Granville County, enters
the borders of what we now call
Franklin County. The area has, at
different times, been a part of Cra-
ven, Edgecombe, Granville, and
Bute counties. On 27 Jan 1779
Bute County was divided into War-
ren and Franklin Counties by an act
of the N. C. Legislature. Franklin
County was named in honor of Ben-
jamin Franklin. Commissioners
John Norwood, Matthew Thomas
and Joseph Norris were appointed
and instructed to buy 100 acres of
land for the county seat. Franklin
County Deed Book I page 1 shows

the land was bought 17 Apr 1779
from Patewill Milner and his wife,
Jacobina. The assembly then ap-
pointed Osborne Jeffreys, William
Green, William Hill, William
Brickell and John Hunt to lay off
and direct the building of a court

See Down, Down... Page 12

The Tar River in Franklin Co.

(From 1810-11 Sketch of Franklin Co.)

Franklin County is almost en-
tirely within the drainage basin of
the Tar River. Crooked, Cedar,
Buffalo, Billy's, Jackson, McGees,
and Middle creeks are southern
tributaries of the Tar. On the north-
ern side of Tar River, the county is
drained by Cypress, Sycamore,
Fox, Toole's, and Lynch's creeks
which flow directly into the Tar and
by numerous tributaries of Sandy
and Shocco creeks whose waters
reach the Tar lower in its course.

Between the Lines

BY EUGENE VIVERETTE

On a trip to Fredericksville and
Chancellorsville, a friend showed
me a letter from his collection. It
was written by a Yankee soldier to
his parents right after the Battle of
Chancellorsville, which was a great
Confederate victory. He wrote:

*"We really whipped those Rebels
good... We are now camped about ten
miles north of there [Chancellorsville].
By the way, I lost my knapsack and
razor."*

When we got to Chancellorsville,
we went into a small museum where
a Yankee knapsack and razor were
displayed with a sign that said that
Yankees would keep a razor handy
so that if they wanted to skedaddle,
they would take the razor and cut
the straps of the knapsack and run.

Joyner's Cross Roads Nash Co, NC

Located 5 miles SW of Rocky Mount on Hwy. 97, Joyner's Cross Roads got its name from the Joyner family who lived in one of its quadrants. **Lamon's Bridge**, site of the **Duncan Lamon Ferry** which operated as early as 1750, is a mile NW. People traveling along **Halifax Road** during that time crossed **Tar River** on the ferry.

Lord Cornwallis followed this route on his trip through Nash County during the Revolution. Gov. **Josiah Martin**, the last of the Royal Governors in colonial NC, also crossed at the ferry.

Early landowners in the area

See Joyner's X-Road, P. 18

Tar River Connections Genealogical Society

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Members may submit 3 queries annually. 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.

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The Gourd Patch Conspiracy

By HARRY L. THOMPSON OF BERTIE COUNTY

In 1776, in **Halifax Co. NC**, as opponents to the rule of the British crown drafted a state constitution, loyalist **John Llewelyn**, was incensed by reports of "Romish religion," people compelled "to worship idols," and rumors of giving the "Country to the French to be governed by them." He charged whigs **Willie Jones** of **Halifax Co.** and **Whitmel Hill** of **Martin Co.** of agreeing to "introduce Poppery..." He and others were also angered by the institution of a "draft" to secure the manpower needed for the fight in the early days of the Revolution.

Llewelyn formed a secret society based on faithfulness to the Church of England. His cohorts recruited members, numbering in the hundreds, throughout **Martin, Edgecombe, Halifax, Bertie** and **Tyrell** Counties by talking against the new constitution's encroachment on personal freedoms. The society required an oath of fidelity to **King George**, opposition to the draft, the protection of army deserters, and the defense of "all draughted, distressed, or them that are called Tories as oppressed persons, as far as is in yr. power..." Members of the society used secret signs and code words with religious associations. A small stick with 3 notches cut in it indicated loyalty. Two conspirators, alternating letters, would spell out "B-E T-R-U-E" or point the left forefinger to the right arm before spelling the code words.

The conspirators planned the assassination of Gov. **Richard Caswell** and **Willie Jones**. Plans were made to take "possession of the Magazine at **Hallifax** to secure the Arm's and Ammunition..." Furthermore, Llewelyn planned "to kill all the heads of the Country" during one bloody night of terror, although he had first claimed the Tories could succeed "without Spilling blood...by Confining the heads of the County." Particularly bitter toward wealthy whig planters, he told associates that if he could get "but ten Men to joyn him he Would fall to Work and kill them Every one Speaking of **Whitmal Hill** and others that had [threatened] him as a Tory."

Others who earned Llewelyn's animosity were **Nathan** and **James Mayo**, both faithful whigs. Llewelyn thought "Nathan Mayo was A Very Busy Body & he believed [Mayo] was put there to watch him and that Son of a Bitch would get kiled and that it was a general Taulk that James Mayo was to be kiled and because he was a man that was Very peticular in attacking any that was [believed] to be Enemies to the State."

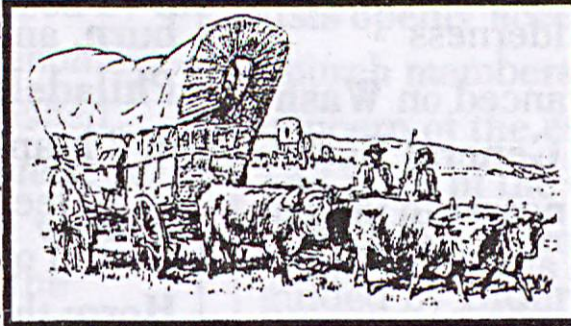
The conspiracy was exposed in the summer of 1777 when **David Taylor** and a relative gave depositions and at least one other member of the society was seized with "all the papers in his pocket." At a meeting in the "gourd patch," where the conspirators regularly gathered, Llewelyn maintained that the captured man must be freed, even if the society "must kill" his captors. The subsequent attack on **Halifax** was reported to Gov. **Caswell** in a letter by **Col. Irwin**: "I am sorry to inform you that too many evil persons in this [Edgecombe] and neighboring counties have been joined in a most wicked conspiracy;...About thirty of them made an attempt on this place, but luckily I had about twenty-five men to oppose them, and I disarmed them." Word

See Gourd Patch, Page 19

Stories My Grandmother Told Me

By ARDA TURNER DANIEL

In April, 1881, my Grandfather, **Charles Turner**, who was 21 and unmarried, started for **Idaho** with his uncle and friend, **W.J. Turner**, 27, and his wife, **Maria**, and their 2 children, **Fred** and **Bertha**. They had about 20 wagons in the train, each pulled by 6 oxen. The Turners had cows, horses, and the wagon of seasoned wood, 4x10'—better than the Conastoga wagon because it was light and water-tight. It held their food, clothes, bedding, rifles and ammunition.



There was a privacy corner in the back of the wagon.

The food recommended for the trip was: 200 lbs of flour per adult, 150 lbs of bacon, 10-20 lbs of coffee, 20 lbs of sugar, 10 lbs of salt, rice, dried beans, tea, baking soda, vinegar, mustard, and tallow. They had fry pans, coffee pots, plates, knives, forks, and money for ferries. They had about \$1000 extra money. The ideal weight was less than 2,500 lbs in the wagon. The travelers walked as much as possible to save the oxen. The women would hike their long skirts up as far as they thought proper, but they made no other concessions for comfort.

They ate venison and antelope, more tender and juicier than deer meat; fowl such as purlieu, plover and duck; and rabbit and buffalo. They also ate "heavy biscuits." Over and over, lunch was "cold beans and heavy biscuits". Also, they picked blueberries and blackberries and dandelion greens along the way. They tried to go 20 miles a day. However, a log of 6 days' travel shows they seldom made it.

They went from **Independence, MO**, through a corner of **Kansas, Nebraska** and across **Wyoming**. Water was essential because the oxen would not go without it. They started with the idea they would keep the Sabbath, but that was abandoned because they had to go when the weather was good and the oxen were able.

They fought Indians three times. They didn't think they were war parties, but Indians hunting food. The minute they saw the Indians, they began to fire their rifles. They never made any mention of any deaths.

They originally started for **CA** to make their fortunes in the gold fields. All through **WY** they heard bad stories about **CA**, but they still continued and instead of going the **Oregon Trail** through **Idaho** to **Oregon**, they dropped down into **NV**. When they received more bad reports in **Winnemucca**, they turned up into **Idaho** and landed at **Rattle Snake Station**.

See Grandmother, Page 14

Gravestone Stories

By DEBBIE BLAKE, STATE ARCHIVES

Gravestones provide data that might otherwise be unavailable, filling in gaps of information, correct-



Batchelor-Ward Cem. Nash Co.

ing misinformation and providing clues to family relationships. Sometimes, they give unexpected information: religious affiliation, occupation, military service, or cause of death.

In earlier days, people were buried in small family and church cemeteries. In the mid-1800's, larger cemeteries were built and many people were moved from the smaller graveyards to these locations.

Symbols on Old Gravestones

Headstones often had symbols which had developed specific meanings over the years. Below are a few of these with their meanings:

Anchor: Hope	Arrow: Mortality
Bird: Eternal Life	Dove: Purity
Garland: Victory	Lamb: Innocence
Palm: Victory over death	Tree: Life
Sun Setting: Death	Wreath: Victory
Time, weather, pollution, building	

expansion and vandalism threaten many old cemeteries. If the information they convey is to be preserved, it is imperative that it be recorded before it is too late. Legislation has been enacted to strengthen laws protecting old cemeteries; still, they are disappearing. A joint project between the state of NC and the counties to gather cemetery data began in 1984. All completed surveys and maps are at the State Archives. They are available to researchers in the search room.

[Taken from Debbie Blake's presentation to TRC at its May meeting.]

Beneath This Stone,

A Lump Of Clay

Lies Arabella Young:

Who On The 24th Day Of May

Began To Hold her Tongue.

Raleigh Star, 1810

The Franklin Rifles

The Franklin Rifles, formed in March of 1861, was a group of **Franklin County** volunteers. The *First Flag of the Confederacy*, raised on the courthouse flagpole at **Louisburg, NC** on 27 Apr 1861, was presented to the Franklin Rifles by the ladies of Louisburg. They carried it until just before the end of the hostilities.

They were taken into state service 20 May 1861, designated Company L, 15th Regiment, NC State Troops, and sent to a camp at **Garysburg, NC**. On June 1, 1861, they were ordered to the VA Peninsula. Working until August to improve the fortifications at **Yorktown**, 80% of the men were stricken with malaria and 15% were lost to death or disabilities. The first to die was **William G. Baker**.

Here is a sketch of their service.

- ♦ Feb. 1862-**Goldsboro, NC** to meet the attack by **Burnsides**.
- ♦ 15 Apr 1862-**Lee's farm** near **Yorktown** with **Magruder's** forces
- ♦ 3 May 1862- between **Mechanicsville** and **Seven Pines**; **Fair Oaks**
- ♦ 31 May 1862-**Malvern Hill**; many men were lost, their bodies found closest to the enemy line of any other Confederates.
- ♦ July, 1862, transferred to 32nd Regiment; became Company K
- ♦ Fall, 1862-near **Drewry's Bluff**
- ♦ Mid-May, 1863-**VA**; **Carlisle, PA**; the first to receive a new issue of the C.S.A. flag made by "the ladies of *Richmond*".
- ♦ By 30 Jun 1863- with Lee's main army

- ♦ 1 Jul - 3 Jul 1863 **Gettysburg, PA**; they lost 78 men the first day.
- ♦ Winter 1863-64-camped along the **Rapidan River**
- ♦ 4 May 1864-marched from their camp on the **Rapidan**; they were either marching or fighting nearly every day from then until the end of the war.
- ♦ **Battles of the Wilderness**
- ♦ 11 Jul 1864-Advanced on **Washington, DC** with **General Early's** troops to a point nearer to the enemy capital than any other Confederate troops.

- ♦ 19 Sep 1864- **Battle of Winchester, VA**

- ♦ 19 Oct 1864-**Cedar Creek**; **Major Rob Alston**, from the **Franklin-Warren** line on **Shocco Creek**, was shot through the jaw.

- ♦ **Middletown Battles**

- ♦ **Petersburg, VA**-the **Franklin Rifles**

spent the rest of the war here, entrenched, half starved, half naked, and half frozen, in knee deep mud.

- ♦ **March, 1865-Hares Hill**

- ♦ 2 Apr 1865- The **Franklin Rifles** had only 10 men remaining. Six were **Franklin County** men. At **Appomattox**, out of 110 men that left **Franklin County** in March of 1861, the following were all that remained of the **Franklin Rifles**:

1. Sgt. J. W. Wheless
2. Corp. W. H. Newby
3. Pvt. John A. Macon
4. Thomas Montgomery
5. Madison M. Long
6. G.W. Ransdale

[Information submitted by **Buck Draughon**, TRC member.]

Franklin Rifles Roster, P7

CONNECTOR

Rev. Morgan Edwards Visits Tar River Falls in 1772-73

So called from the part of **Tar River** near to which the meeting house stands, in the county of **Edgecomb**, 110 miles NW from **Newburn**, and _ miles SSW from **Philadelphia**. The church consists of 2 branches, one near said Falls, ... 30 feet by 20, erected in 1764 on a lot of one acre, the gift of **William Horn**; the other near the mouth of **Swift's Creek**, 15 miles off. The families, about 100, whereof 64 persons are baptized and in communion, which is here celebrated the 3rd Sunday in January, April, July, October. No estate. The salary but presents, to the amount of about £20. Ruling elders admitted, no laying on of hands. They had their beginning by a kind of transformation from General into Particular Baptists. The means were **Rev. John Moore** and wife, **Robert Surgenor** and wife, **Peter Herinton** and wife, **John Baker**. These 7 persons were (December 3, 1757) incorporated by help of **Rev. Charles Daniel**. ...that they had been a society for about 12 years before on the American plan... The first minister is the present **Rev. John Moore**. He has **John Tanner** to his assistant. Mr. Moore was born in **Nansymond county**, in **Virginia**, August 13, 1717. Bred a churchman, Baptised September 1746, by **William Surgenor**. Ordained October 30, 1748 by said **Surgenor** and **Josiah Hart**.... He married **Sarah Meredith**, by whom he has children: **John**, **Elizabeth**, **Kerziah**, **Bethsheba**, **Elisha**, **Lewis**, **Sarah**.

[Copied by J.C. Birdsong, Librarian, for the N.C. State Library, June 24th 1889]



Baptist Beginnings

"The Falls of the Tar"

Baptists were known to speak openly against the **Anglican Church** in colonial VA. They believed they should have the freedom to preach without a license and they objected to the taxes imposed by the established church. All denominations outside of the established church were called *Dissenters*, but the Baptists were the most vocal, and a thorn in the side of the Church of England.

The *Dissenters*, who were primarily Baptists, Methodists, Quakers,

Presbyterians, and Lutherans, weren't allowed to call their meeting places churches, but referred to them as "meeting houses".

Baptist ministers were referred to as "Elders" until after the Revolution. They were not allowed to conduct marriage ceremonies and were not supposed to preach. The Baptists openly accepted slaves as church members. This was a grave concern of the established church and some of the other "Dissenters".

In 1757, a group of Baptists, guided by **Elder John Moore**, established the **Falls of the Tar Primitive Baptist Church**. The first

"meeting house" consisted of a tiny plank structure on the north side of **Tar River** near the **Great Falls** in **Edgecombe [now Nash] Co., NC.**

By 1765, the Primitive Baptists had formed the **Kehukee Association** which covered all the area from south of the **James River** in VA to the SC border and extended west to **Raleigh, NC.** When the Kehukee Association met at the Falls of the Tar in Oct. of 1776, dissension had broken out among the Baptists. One group met in the "meeting house" while the second group met in the woods. Both claimed their group to

See Baptist Beginnings, P.18

The Falls of the Tar Primitive Baptist Church

Two Decades (1757 - 1777) John Moore, Pastor

Owen Kelly	Rebecca Harrel	William Horn	Jane Borden	Ann O'Neal
Martha Sikes	George Harrel	Henry Hart	Emmanuel Skinner	John Barnes
Mary Jordan	Elizabeth Whittington	Robert Portis	John Gordon	Sarah Barnes
William Inman,	Esther Ricks	Elisha Battle	William Barnes	Charity Wimberly
James Wiggins	Dempsey Taylor	Elizabeth Battle	Elizabeth Barnes	Millie Andrews
Elizabeth Wiggins	Judith Pitman	Sarah Hilliard	Benjamin Barnes	Joel Wiggins
Sarah Sessums	Joseph Brady	Mary Horn [w/o Wm]	Charity Barnes	Susanna Brady
Wm McLemore	Mary Brady	Henry Horn, Jr.	Robert Allen	Elizabeth Thomas
Sarah McLemore	Ann Bridgers	Rachel Inman	Elijah Revel	Philip Thomas
Wright McLemore	Elizabeth Belsher	John Tanner	Keziah Moore	James Thomas
Sarah McLemore Jr	Rebecca Harrel	Mary Johnston	Elizabeth Moore	Winifred Wiggins
Sarah Pitman Sr	Jacob Barnes	John Johnston	Micajah Revel	Mary Foxhall
Thomas Williams	Thomas Harrel	Samuel Skinner	Sarah Barnes	Moses Horn
Braswell Bridgers	James Oliver	Lucia Tanner	Arthur O'Neal	
Elizabeth Nettle	Penelope Williams	Mary Ricks		
James Ricks	Elizabeth Norris	Rebecca Skinner		
Daniel Ross	John Whittington	Mary Skinner		
Judith Ricks	Sarah Bryan	Olive Matthis		
Elizabeth Ross	Ann Oliver	Dorothy Revel		
Mary Williams	Sarah Pitman, Jr.	Jesse Harrel		
Sarah Ross	John Moore Jr	Sarah Harrel		
John Pitman, Sr	Miles Scarborough	Ann Skinner		
William Taylor	Elizabeth Moore	Daniel Hooks		
Mary Taylor	Sarah Dillard	Rachel Hooks		
John Ricks	John Pitman Jr	Elizabeth Butts		
Ann Ricks	Elias Fort	Sarah Skinner		
David Bunn	Sarah Fort	Margaret Warren		

Members Present At Adoption Of Constitution Not Listed Above

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| ♦ John Sikes | ♦ John Moore Sr, |
| ♦ John Baker | Pastor |
| ♦ Millie Brewer | ♦ Sarah Moore |
| ♦ Thomas Brewer | ♦ Katherine Surgenor |
| [Suspended 1761 | ♦ Robert Surgenor |
| ♦ Mary Herendon | ♦ John Williams |
| ♦ Peter Herendon | ♦ [Braswell Bridgers, |
| ♦ Joshua Jordan | 1765 Listed |
| | Above] |



ORAL
HISTORY
PROJECT

Nash County Arts Council

Rigors of a Rural Medical Practice in the 1910's

TOLD BY DR. ALLEN WHITAKER

I began my medical career in **Middlesex**, about 1910, when I was five or six years old. I rode in the horse and buggy beside my stepfather, **Dr. James Brian Outlaw**, as he made his rounds in **Nash, Wake and Johnston** counties. At that time, there were no livestock laws in Johnston County; and livesock ran at large, grazing on anyone's land. Well-to-do farmers fenced in their farms, so when pulic roads passed through their farms, the travelers had to open and close their gates. My function, when traveling with my stepfather, was to open and close the gates.

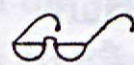
My stepfather had four horses, two bays and two blacks. Bad weather was pretty hard on the horses; and in real bad weather, he put on a pair. We now use dirt and gravel to build up roads in swampy areas. Back then, they would put sawdust and all sorts of things which would becoome a part of the problem on the swampy roads. It was awfully hard to get through some areas that seem trivial to-day—like the road from **Rocky Mount** to **Red Oak**.

We had some very thrilling experiences on several occasions in heavy rain. We would be delayed and have to stay longer than in-

tended. On the way home, we would have to cross **Moccasin Creek**. When it flooded, the banks would be under water. The horse had to swim in water four or five feet deep to get the buggy up on the bridge. It would scare the devil out of me.

On one occasion that I remember, the horse's foot went through the bridge; and his ankle was injured. The farmer we were visiting had to take us back to town. We left the horse until his ankle healed.

The country stores were far apart, and there were none to speak of on the routes that we usually took. If we did come to a store, we could buy sardines and probably Vienna sausage and pickled pigs' feet or cheese. That's what was available for a traveler to eat. On one occasion, a farmer gave us a rack of honey, and we ate honey for lunch.



Another Look At Main Street Rocky Mount, Early 1900's

BY SAM GORHAM

The best movie in town was the **Palace Theatre** on west **Main Street**, where they showed all the latest movie pictures. This was the day of the silent movies. **Sid Davis** played the piano along with the film. He was playing by ear, and I always wondered just how he managed. The boys in our crowd looked forward to attending the picture show on Saturday afternoon when they ran a serial. They signed off with "Continued next Saturday."

A block or so further north was the **Lyric Theater**. This was not as prestigious as the **Palace**, but they had good pictures. They had a small

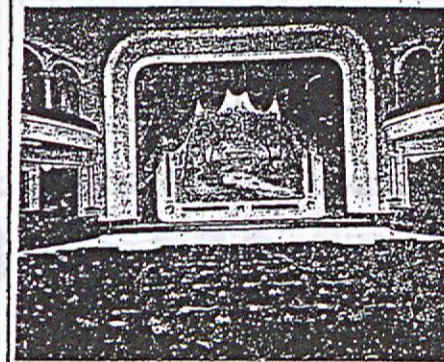
stage where traveling show people would appear from time to time to dance and sing.

Across the railroad tracks, on the eastern side of **Main Street** was what was known as the **Opera House** or **Masonic Temple**. On the



MASONIC TEMPLE

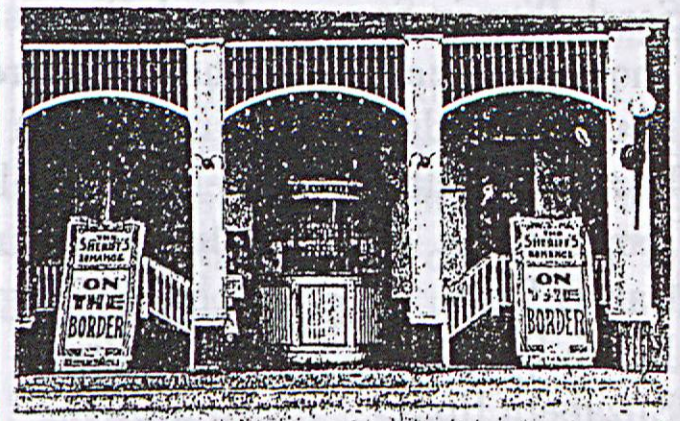
ground floor was the **Post Office**. On the second floor were rooms for various **Ma-son** and **Shrine** functions. At the back of the building was the largest theater in town. I re-



OPERA HOUSE

member sitting in the balcony and throwing peanuts at those below. In the same block were the city offices, city hall, the clerk of city court, the jail, the tax office, and, upstairs, reached by iron steps, the **Rocky Mount Recorder's Court**.

By 1911, Rocky Mount had the **Gem Theater**, owned by **. W.F. Swaringen** and **J.A. Edgerton**.



GEM THEATER

"Here are shown not only several new films of attractive pictures every night, but a class of vaudeville performances that are really creditable to a theatre where the admission price is as low as it is here, five, ten and fifteen cents."

Franklin

Rifles Roster

William S. Allen
Benjamin L. Arrington
William H. Arrington
John C. Aycock
Robert F. Ballard
George S. Baker
Marcellus C. Baker
William G. Baker
William M. Baker
Wash. K. Barham
Newton J. Batchelor
William Bolton
William N. Bolton
Willis A. Bowden
Washington L. Branch
Willis M. Breedlove
William B. Bridgers
Charles E. Brodie
Archibald C. Bunn

Charles A. Camp
John T. Clifton
Thomas S. Collins
William T. Collins
Dixon G. Conn
Ephroin G. Conyers
James Hopkins Cook
James Henry Cook
David D. Cottrell
Obediah N. Crowder
Archibald J. Davis
Bartlett Davis
Dolphin B. Davis
John Davis
Thomas Walton Davis
Joseph H. Edwards
Rufus T. Edgerton
Julius S. Engle
James I. Foster
William E. Foster
James H. Gill
John J. Gill
Norfleet H. Green

William F. Green
George T. Harper
A. S. Harris
Benjamin F. Harris
Edward C. Harris
Oliver H. Harris
Wilderson E. Harris
William S. Harris
Junius W. Height
David T. Hollingworth
Augustus C. Holt
George L. Horton
James H. Howard
William E. Insko
Alford W. Jackson
Henry Jasper
William J. Johnson
Joseph T. Jones
Algenon S. Joyner
Louis W. Joyner
William J. King
Thomas L. Leigh
William E. Leonard

Janes C. Long
Madison M. Long
Nickolas G. Long
Walter D. Macklin
John A. Macon
Joseph S. Macon
Robert C. Martin
Arch. C. Massinburg
Josiah R. May
John A. Mitchell
Thom. A. Montgomery
G.L. Morton
T.C. Neill
William H. Newby
William H. Nickolson
Benjamin F. Park
John J. Pearce
Ricks M. Pearce
Algernon S. Perry
James R. Perry
Jeremiah Perry
Kensmon S. Powell
George W. Ransdell

CONNECTOR

Sylvester S. Ransdell
William E. Ray
Cornelous H. Stallings
Oliver C. Stallings
William R. Stallings
David L. Stone
Algenon G. Strother
William G. Sikes
Charles H. Thomas
Henry W. Thomas
Nathaniel R. Tunstall
John Walson
Thomas J. Ward
Joseph W. Wheelless
Henry W. Wilhite
Benjamin W. Wilson
Patrick H. Winston
James C. Wynn
Wm. H. Yarborough
Leonard A. Young
William S. Young

Song of the Tar

A poem about the Tar River

By W.F. LEWIS, 1837

'Mong Person's spouting springs
I have my happy birth.
Through Granville's grassy glades
I dance in frolic mirth.

Down Franklin's golden sands
I roll my silver tide.
'Mong Nash's barren hills
My flashing beauties hide.

Upon the valleys verge,
Still loathe to quit my hills
I pause at man's behest
To drive his thundering mills.

Over huge rocks pouring
In mimicry of the sea,
Rushing, foaming, roaring,
I fall into the lea.

Through Edgecombe's fertile fields
With smooth and gentle flow,

I echo with the Negro's song
As he gathers the autumn snow.

Down Pitt's green vales
On bosom broad and large
I bear the little steamers
And many a freighted barge.

Through Beaufort's gloomy woods
With slow and gentle flow,
I end my lay and merge my life
In broad old Pamlico.

River of health, flow over the sand
Flow on, beautiful river,
Your limpid stream o'er pebbly
strand
Flow on — thus forever.

In distant lands your sons
In memory of your pines,
And doth ever fondly link
Caolina's name with thine.

When the current of my life
Shall end in death's great deep
Upon the flowing banks
I hope to sweetly sleep.

[Poem submitted by Charles Marks,
TRC Member]



FALLS OF THE TAR BAPTIST CHURCH

Jan 14, 1764: **Wm Horn** of **Edgecombe County** deeded to "The Society of Protestant Dunkers known by the name of Regular or Particullar Baptists enhabiting on the River of the said county" for 0-5-0 pounds proclamation money, to "them and their successors for ever a certain piece or plott of land for a meeting house for religious worship lying and being on the north side of **Tarr River**," one acre adjoining the said William Horn (from 200 acres granted to **Thomas Kirby** on April 20, 1745, sold to **Henry Horn** on September 16, 1752, and deeded to William Horn on December 21, 1761.)

[Submitted by Louise Fuller]

Tips on Bertie Co. Research

BY HARRY L. THOMPSON

Albemarle Co. was formed in 1660. In 1722, **Bertie Co.** was carved out of Albemarle. Several other northeastern counties were eventually cut from Bertie, including **Edgecombe**. No Bertie Co. records were ever lost or burned, and the researcher can find complete, cross-indexed records from 1722 in the courthouse or from 1660 at the State Archives in **Raleigh**. Other excellent resources are:

- ♦ *Bertie Index* by Edyth Smyth Dunstan: Abstracts of Courthouse Records, 1722-1885, including Land Grants, Land Divisions, Grantor Deeds, Marriages and Wills.
- ♦ *Nicholas Cobb and His Descendants* by Joe L. Cobb, RLS TN: Many Bertie families, records immigrations to TN and KY.
- ♦ *Pugh Book*, by Dr. Pugh, circa 1880: Pugh, Norfleet, Griffin, Thompson, Capehart, Nichols, Urquhart families and others of Roanoke River Basin. Pugh family to 1400's. Never published. Contact H.L. Thompson, 252-794-2851 or 252-793-1377.
- ♦ *Confederate Tax Census*: Done as a class project in Bertie Co., given to Braswell Library, Rocky Mount.
- ♦ *Smithwick Book*: A copy is at Hope Plantation in Windsor.
- ♦ *King Book* and related papers: located at Hope Plantation.
- ♦ Speight research by Francis Speight. Sharrock & related families. Harry Thompson.
- ♦ Castellaw Family: Contact Harry Thompson.

See Bertie, Page 18

Time Running Out

BY JEAN ST. CLAIR

Isaac Tripp knew his time was running out. He had always been a strong, proud man, a lover of life and hard worker. Finding himself so helpless was hard to accept.

Isaac had his eyes closed when he sensed a change in the space around him. He slowly opened his eyes and his attention was drawn to a haze formed just above the foot of his bed. Upon closer observation, Isaac saw an image taking shape. Hovering over and staring straight down at him was an old **Indian Chief** in full headdress.

Isaac had never had such an experience. Something told him not to be afraid. He lay very still, listening. The old chief seemed to be chanting. To his surprise, he felt at peace and the pain that had plagued his body seemed to have disappeared. How did this unknown visitor come to be at the foot of his bed?

Hesitatingly he asked, "Who are you? Speak so that I can understand what you are trying to say to me." The old chief continued to hover over the bed, chanting in a strange language. Slowly, the old chief circled the bed, staring down into Isaac's eyes. He chanted one last time and began fading back into a haze, finally vanishing. It was as though he had never been.

Later that night, when Isaac tried to explain to his family what had happened, they suggested it was only a dream. It was hard for anyone to believe his experience. Nevertheless, Isaac knew he had not dreamed it.

A few days later, his condition worsened. The family gathered to be near their loved one in his final

hours. It was a cold February night. Outside, the wind blew. In the distance, a dog howled. As they waited, the howling came closer, until the dog was on the porch. One of Isaac's sons went outside and chased the dog away. Isaac's brother, **Joseph**, stood, holding his brother's hand as the last breaths were drawn.

Later, Joseph retired to the adjoining room to lie down for some much needed rest. Again, the dog could be heard howling, and again, the sound came closer until it was directly outside the window. Once more, the dog was chased away. Within minutes, Joseph began having chest pains. He died before the doctor could be summoned back to the house.

The next morning, a dog's paw prints were found on the floor of the porch and the window sill. The family tried to scrub the prints away, but it was no use. They would not disappear.

Several months later, the porch was painted. After the paint dried, showing through were the prints of the dog's paws.

[Isaac Anderson Tripp, paternal grandfather of Jean St. Clair and Carrie Fussell, and his brother, Joseph Benjamin Tripp died on 28 Feb 1936 in Greenville, NC.]

Gone, But Not Forgotten

From the most disagreeable necessity, being threatened by my wife of taking my life and property. I hereby forewarn all persons from harbouring or trusting her on my account, as I will not pay any debt she may contract.

Lazrus WHITEHEAD, jun.

Nash county, April 12, 1793

NC Journal, Halifax, NC

Mann-Arrington Gold Mine Co Payroll

The Mann-Arrington Gold Mine Co. [Nash Co.] Payroll Ledger of 1887-1893 has survived to give us a glimpse of an almost forgotten time when life was hard and pay was low. Below are a few of the jobs along with the names of people who did them and their pay:

Wallace Cooper	Teamster	1 mo	\$ 30.00
John West	Overseer	1 mo	30.00
C.L. Handcock	Watchman	20 da@1.25	36.25
Zack Kinsey	Timberman	25 da@1.75	43.75
John Hackney	Engineer	15 da@1.00	15.00
Henry Batchelor	Laborer	3 da@.75	2.25
Isham Yarborough	Laborer	3 da@.75	2.25
George B. Cooper	Storekeeper	1 mo	65.00
William Boothe	41 cords of wood hauled @.40		16.40
B.F. Griffin	25 4/5 cords @ .50		12.90
John Fenner	2 2/5 cords @ .40		1.04
Tom Rush	Miner	9 da@\$1.25	11.25
Lee Thorp	Painter	10 da@1.50	15.00
John Varker	Foreman	1 mo	75.00
Aaron Thomas	Bucket Loader	26 da@1.00	26.00
Tommy Dickens	Hoisterman	31 da@1.25	38.75
Aleck Hicks	Car-Man	32 da@.90	18.90
Joe F. Peel	Carpenter	26 1/4 da@1.00	26.25
Dr. Spruil	2 horse team	1 day	3.00
J. Arch Bobbitt	Mill-man	25 da@\$.90	22.50
Ed Gallimore &	(Mining Contract - 40 1/2 ft		50.62
Dave Leonard	@ \$2.50)		50.63
J.A. Morris	(Mining Contract - 18 ft@\$1.00)		18.00
Ruffin Coley	280 1/2 bus coal @ \$.05 bu		14.02
Bob Davis	Amalgamater 23 1/2 D. @ \$2.31		54.28

Cicero Perdue & (Mining Contract - 10 ft 50.00
Sam Briggs @ \$5.00)

Spring Hope Prospecting for December

Jim Leonard	15 da @ 1.50	22.50
W.F. Powell	10 da @ 1.00	10.00
Jno Guerner	4 da @ .75	3.00
Dan Jones	3 da @ .75	2.25
Cob Duke	No 2 vein 40 ft deep @ .50	
	East Drift 23 1/2 ft @ .75	
	West stops 17 1/3 fathoms @ 2.00	
	East stops 10 2/3 fathoms @ 2.00	
		\$131.48

Bud Drake	Woodard Mine 6 da @ .75	4.50
Fred Drake	Woodard Mine 10 da @ .75	7.50
Harris, Yates & Metters	(Sinking incline No 5 shaft 16 3/4 days @ 3.00)	48.7
Baldy Mills	Wood chopper 20 3/4 da @.75	15.54
Jim Leonard	Prospecting 23 1/2 @ 1.50	35.25
J.H. Evans	13 1/4 da @.85	11.26
S.J. Bobbitt	Ox team 8 days @ .25	2.00
John Martin	1 da @ .85	.85
Tommy Lewis	6 4/5 cords wood @ .60	4.08
Lemmon Wiggins	4/5 cord wood @ .60	.48
Anderson Christopher	3 3/5 cords wood @ .60	2.16
Henry Richardson	9 3/5 cords wood @ .50	4.80
Buck Bennett	30 1/2 cords wood @ .50	15.10
Gaston Brake	21 1/5 cords wood @ .50	11.60
Nick Skinner	10 1/5 cords wood @ .50	5.10
W.T. Radford	4 3/5 cords wood @ .40	1.84
Leah Pearce	4 cords wood @ .40	1.60
Rufus McGee	7 da @ .75	5.25
Redin McGee	5 cords wood	2.00
Pete Vasterville	Fireman	5.50
W.H. Callifor	Laborer & Fireman 24 1/2 da @ 1.25	

Gold Diggers of 1936

BY W. INMAN REED, JR.

The only levity connected with this story lies in the title—the result of my having gone into gold mining in a small way in the late months of 1936, a year in which a musical revue on Broadway bore that name, and which was unquestionably more profitable to its backers than my

effort was to me.

The 1933 boost in the fixed price of gold from \$20.67/oz. to \$35/oz. generated a great deal of Canadian interest. Much of the mining activity before the 1948 discovery of gold in CA had centered in southeastern states, and NC had been the leading gold producer in the nation. In view of the unsophisticated recovery methods employed in earlier mines, Canadians were certain that rich ore might be found around and beneath the early workings. Representatives of Canadian mining syndicates be-

gan to circulate in the areas where paying quantities of gold had been mined in the early 1800's.

In the 1930's my mother was half owner of the **Reed-Simmons** farm near **Ita, NC** located in western **Halifax Co.**, just over the line from **Frank Avent's** in **Nash Co.** This property consisted largely of red clay and scrub pine and a goodly number of quail. A tenant wrested a meagre living by producing modest crops of cotton and tobacco.

See **Gold Diggers**, P. 17

Baptist, Did You Say?

Leasburg N C
Sept. 17th 1887

Dear Aunt Martha.

I received your letter last week, was glad to hear from you of course. You asked about grandfather Nash, he has been dead several years. Uncle Hugh brought Aunt Bettie (his wife) with him when he came. Tell me what church you belong to, though I almost know you are a Baptist, if you are I don't wish to be uncharitable, but I think you would stand a poor chance for Heaven. I ought not to ^{say such} a thing, but they are so selfish. I know though that the church cannot save you but, how can anyone believe in Close Communion, Immersion and so on, and not be selfish? I don't mean any harm, I merely throw in these remarks. I know there are good people in all churches and I have seen some of the best in the Baptist church, however, I don't believe in such doctrines as they teach, do you?

But enough of this. I have no doubt but that you think it funny of me to go on so about your church relations, but you must excuse my presumption on the plea of good will.

You said that you expected to hear soon, that I was married; why, I am not quite eighteen and am still going to school, that looks like getting married doesn't it!

You must make your little boys write to me. I would read letters from them with pleasure. I would be glad to go to see you if I could do so.

We had some good meetings on this circuit this year, but I have not had the pleasure of attending any of them. I hope we will have a glorious time here when our time comes. This is our last year at this place. I would like very much to know where we will go next year. Who is the Methodist preacher nearest you?

We have a young lady boarder now going to school, and Mr. Davis the young preacher boards with us too. I had some pictures taken not very long ago, and thought when I got them I would have some to give my kinfolks but, lo when they came they were not fit to look at, and I would not give nay one them. I wish they were fit to give away but they are a fright.

I weighed yesterday, 122 pounds. I believe I have written all I know so will stop for this time hoping to hear from you soon.

Tell me in your next letter what was the matter with Aunt Lou, and all about her death. Company has come and I must stop.

Write soon. Lovingly
Rosa Nash

Note: Rosa Nash Was the only child of Sarah Francis Marks and Leonidas L. Nash who were married in Brinkleyville, Halifax Co., NC 25 Oct 1866. It appears from Rosa's age at the time of this letter that she was born circa 1869. Her mother died 26 Mar 1872. Her father was a Methodist preacher. The aunts mentioned, Martha and Lou, were sisters of her mother. Leasburg was a town in east Caswell Co., incorporated in 1788 but has been long inactive. It was once the county seat.

Submitted by Charles Marks, First cousin - once removed.

Vermin

A 1769 Act to encourage the Destroying of Vermin in the Several Counties therein mentioned.

I. Whereas the Counties of ...Bute, and Granville, much infested with Wolves, and other Vermin, to the great Prejudice of the Inhabitants:

II. Be it Enacted ...That every person who shall kill any Vermin here-in after mentioned, within Ten Miles of any settled Plantation...shall be entitled to a Claim...to the several Rewards as follows:

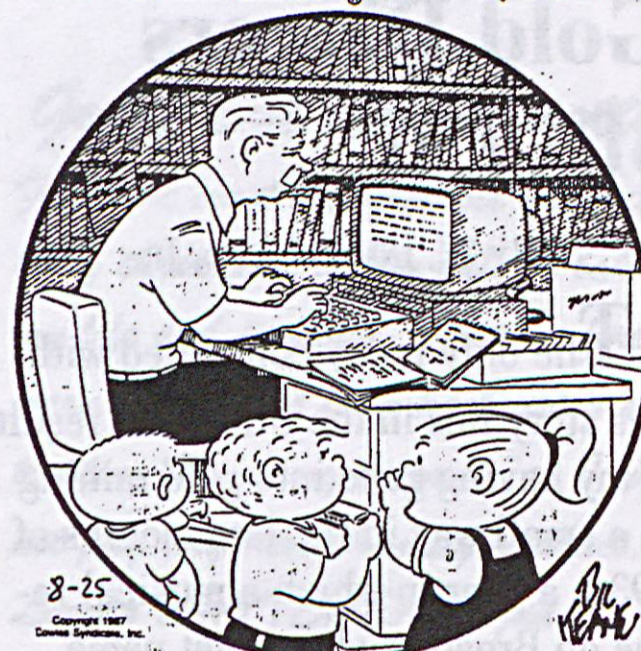
Wolf or Panther seven shillings and Six pence...

III. ...hereby directed to produce the scalp of the aforesaid Vermin with both Ears before a Magistrate, who is to administer an Oath to such Person Claiming the same, that it was taken and killed within the Bounds of such County where the Claim shall be made;... which Oath being administered, the Magistrate is hereby directed to give a certificate for the same, and immediately cause such Scalp to be destroyed....

IV. ...hereby required and authorized, and impowered, to lay a Tax on the several Taxable persons within their respective Countes for discharging the said Claims.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bil Keane



8-25
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"You better be quiet or Granddad will leave you out of the family history he's writing."

Search and Research

(A new column in the *Connector* providing investigative material for the N. C. genealogist.)

Tax Records in NC

A tax list [tithables or taxables lists] generally provides, at a minimum, a date, a district within a county, the name of the taxpayer, property description and value, and the tax due. Since taxation and its necessary record keeping goes back to our earliest days, tax records are some of the most valuable resources for the researcher.

Tax lists were made for each of the different districts within a county and the districts were often named for local notables; thus the names changed as the officials changed. The researcher will need to note the names of near neighbors to avoid confusing his ancestor with others with the same name as the names of the districts fluctuate. Beginning in 1868, tax lists were made by township.

The tax lists sometimes listed individuals other than the taxpayer as persons subject to poll or head taxes. This might include servants, older sons, occasionally widows or adult single women, wards, servants, executors, and partners. Even when names are not given, the numbers often allow the researcher to theorize on the make-up of the family, particularly by scrutinizing a series of tax lists.

A knowledge of the tax laws of the day can help the researcher glean additional information about his ancestor. Poll taxes were levied on persons between certain ages. Thus, if your ancestor is identified as a poll, at a certain date, you at least know limits of his age at that time, ie 21-50.

Occasionally, tax lists included occupations. Certain people, such as lawyers, teachers, merchants, tollgate keepers, paid special taxes and thus were identified as such.

Tax lists do not name all residents of the county since non-property owners were usually not taxed. In addition, exemptions were given for various reasons. And finally, many who should have paid taxes managed to evade them through various means.

Early tax lists are usually found as unbound manuscripts. By the early 1800's, it had become common to use bound volumes, and a little later, printed forms were filled in by hand. Many of these records have been abstracted, thus making the data more easily accessible. However, it is the researcher's responsibility to verify the information for himself in the primary sources.



Sir Archie Neglected

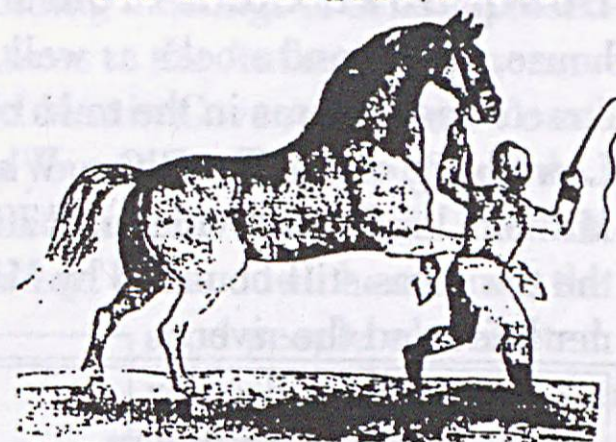
BY HIRAM PERKINSON

[A recent article in Colonial Williamsburg failed to mention a famous eastern NC thoroughbred, Sir Archie, inspiring Hiram Perkinson to write the following letter to the editors, include a copy of a broadside circulated by William Amis offering Sir Archie's services. The letter was published in the Spring 1998 Issue.]

... In the eighteenth century, Samuel Johnson defined "thoroughbred" as "completely educated, completely taught," and in the words of Sir Archie's enslaved groom, **Uncle Hardy**, Sir Archie "was the mostest (sic) horse." Indeed, Sir Archie is considered to be the foundation sire of the American Thoroughbred horse.

CONNECTOR

THE CELEBRATED HORSE



SIR ARCHIE, WILL STAND THE ENSUING SEASON

At my Stable in Northampton County, North-Carolina, about three miles from the Court-House, nine miles from the town of Halifax, and twenty-one miles from Bedford, Virginia.

He will Cover Mares at Fifty Dollars the Season, payable on the first of January next, or Forty-Five Dollars if paid within the Season, (with one dollar to the Groom in all cases.)

For Sir Archie's Friends, that live at a Distance, will send their Mares with the Mares, payable on the first of January next—Also, breeding of the Mares to be paid when taken away.

The season will commence the first of February next, and terminate the Fifteenth of July—Extensive fields of Small Grains and Clover are sowed for the benefit of the Mares, (which may be let with the Mares) with the addition of grain feeding, at 23 cents per day—Separate enclosures are provided for Mares with Calves—No pains will be spared in taking the best possible care of Mares, &c., which may be let, but no responsibility for escapes or accidents.

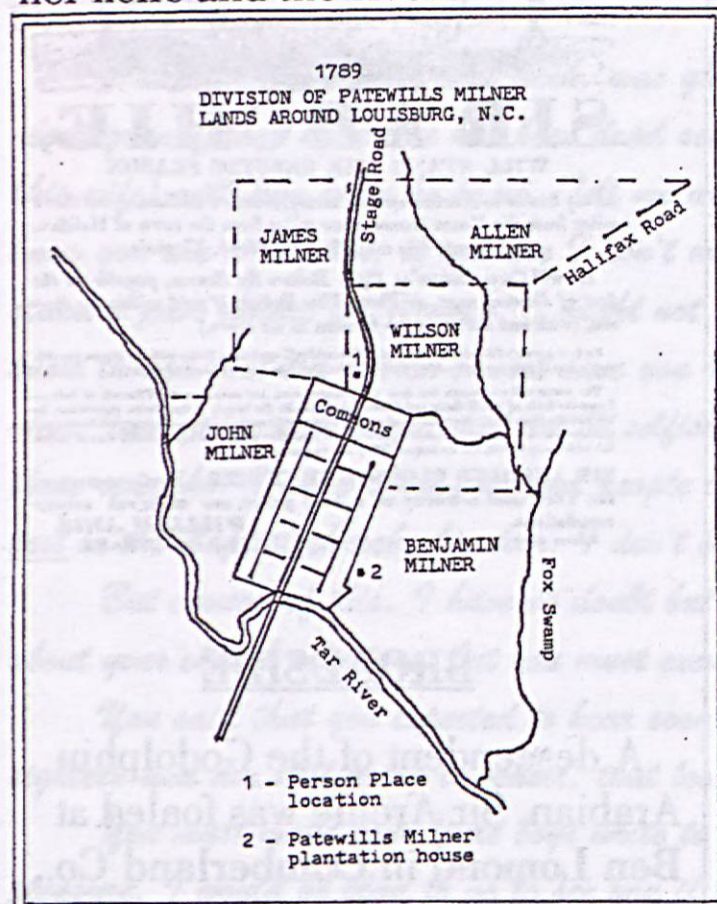
SIR ARCHIE'S BLOOD, GREAT SIZE—Performance on the Turf, and celebrity as a Foul getter, are sufficient recommendations.
WILLIAM AMIS.
January 1, 1800.

BROADSIDE

A descendent of the Godolphin Arabian, Sir Archie was foaled at Ben Lomond in Cumberland Co., VA in 1805. His early owners included Ralph Wormeley of Rosegill and John Randolph of Roanoke. Randolph sold the young colt to William Ransom Johnson of Warrenton, NC. Rightfully called "the Napoleon of the Turf," Johnson campaigned Sir Archie in VA where he defeated all challengers in 1808. Johnson sold Sir Archie to William R. Davie, a NC Governor and a founder of the University of NC, and his son. Because of political reversals in Halifax Co., NC, these gentlemen traded Sir Archie to William Amis of Mowfields near Jackson, NC, where Sir Archie stood until his death in 1830.

Such was Sir Archie's fame, and that of his progeny, that the Washington DC Jockey Club in 1827 refused race entrants from south of the York River, an action that foreshadowed events that would later lead to the complete severance of the Union...

Down, Down Cont. From P1 house, prison and stocks as well as streets and squares in the town of **Lewisburg** on the Tar River. When Milner's land was divided in 1789 the town was still bounded by Milner heirs and the river.



The Tar River enters Franklin County from the west and many feeder creeks and branches greatly increase its width and depth before it reaches Lewisburg (Louisburg). Two main North-South roads cross the Tar, one of which is at **Sims (Sennes) Bridge**, originally known as **Sims Ford**.

In 1776 the hands of **Benjamin Seawell** were assigned to work the road from **Sims Ford** to **Thomas Bell's Old Place**. The next year **Giles Bower**, **Thomas Sherrod**, **James Murray**, and **Benjamin Seawell** were appointed commissioners to let the bridge at **Sims Ford** and "repond".

A Lynching

There is a fascinating story involving a tributary of the Tar. In 1768, times were desperate and many people could not pay their taxes. **Governor Tryon** sent **Major Lynch**, one of his soldiers, to collect the taxes. Legend tells that Major

Lynch was taken into custody by the local folk, tried, sentenced to die, and hanged on a live oak on a creek now called **Lynch Creek**.

The N. C. Records of 26 Jan 1779 (3 days before Franklin County was formed) state that **Edward Jones** and **Atkins McLemore**, who owned a large tract of land in the **Sims Bridge** area, are to deliver to **Colonel Nicholson Long** the remainder of "the guns, locks and every other thing belonging to the Gun Manufactory in Bute County".

The old **Cannady-McLemore House** towers over the west side of **Lynch Creek** and the north side of the **Tar River** on **Diking Road** which is a little closer to the house than it was in earlier times; traces of the old road are still visible. Most of the 700 acres **Abraham McLemore** sold **William Moore** belong to the **Cannadys**. The remains of an old, old dam on the creek are remembered by local folk. What wonderful tales this grand old house and the river, the mighty Tar, could tell!

Braswell Memorial Library Acquisitions

1. *Nash County Division of Estate Slaves & Cohabitation Record, 1862-1866*, by Timothy W. Rackley
2. *Nash County Court Minutes, Vol. XII, 1827-1828*, by Timothy W. Rackley
3. *Nash County 1840 Census*, abstracted by John Walker
4. *Cemeteries of Nash County, North Carolina (and Surrounding Area) Vol I*, edited by Timothy W. Rackley and Tar River Connections
5. *"Confederate Tax Census" for Bertie County, NC 1862*, com-

CONNECTOR

piled by U.S. History Class, 1975-76, Roanoke-Chowan Academy-A gift from Harry Thompson

The Ice House

BY RACHEL LEONARD BROOKS

The ice house was in the back yard. It was a hole dug in the ground with a log house built in the ground and about two or three feet above the ground. It had logs on top with wood shingles covering them. Dirt was piled up around and on top of it. It was about 12 feet square.

People would saw squares of ice and place them together in the ice house, wrapped in saw dust. It was taken out in the summer time, washed off and used to make lemonade and ice cream.

Papa Daddy's brother ran a mercantile store in Nashville and his wife, **Aunt Hester**, ran a millinery shop upstairs in the store. **Papa Daddy** got him to order him an upright ice box.

By then, **Papa Daddy** had a car and they went to town at least once a week and got ice. If they didn't go, some of the **Harpers** or the **Buntings** would bring some ice. Anyway, they got ice twice a week.

The ice box was in the dining room. It had a hole in the bottom for the water to drain out. They kept a dish pan under the refrigerator to catch the water. If they forgot to empty it, it was a mess on the floor. Sometimes it would run over and under the dining room rug. Later, they bored a hole in the floor to let the water run out.

["**Papa Daddy**" was **George Lawrence Winstead**, grandfather of Rachel Brooks, of the **Philadelphia Community, Nash County, NC**]

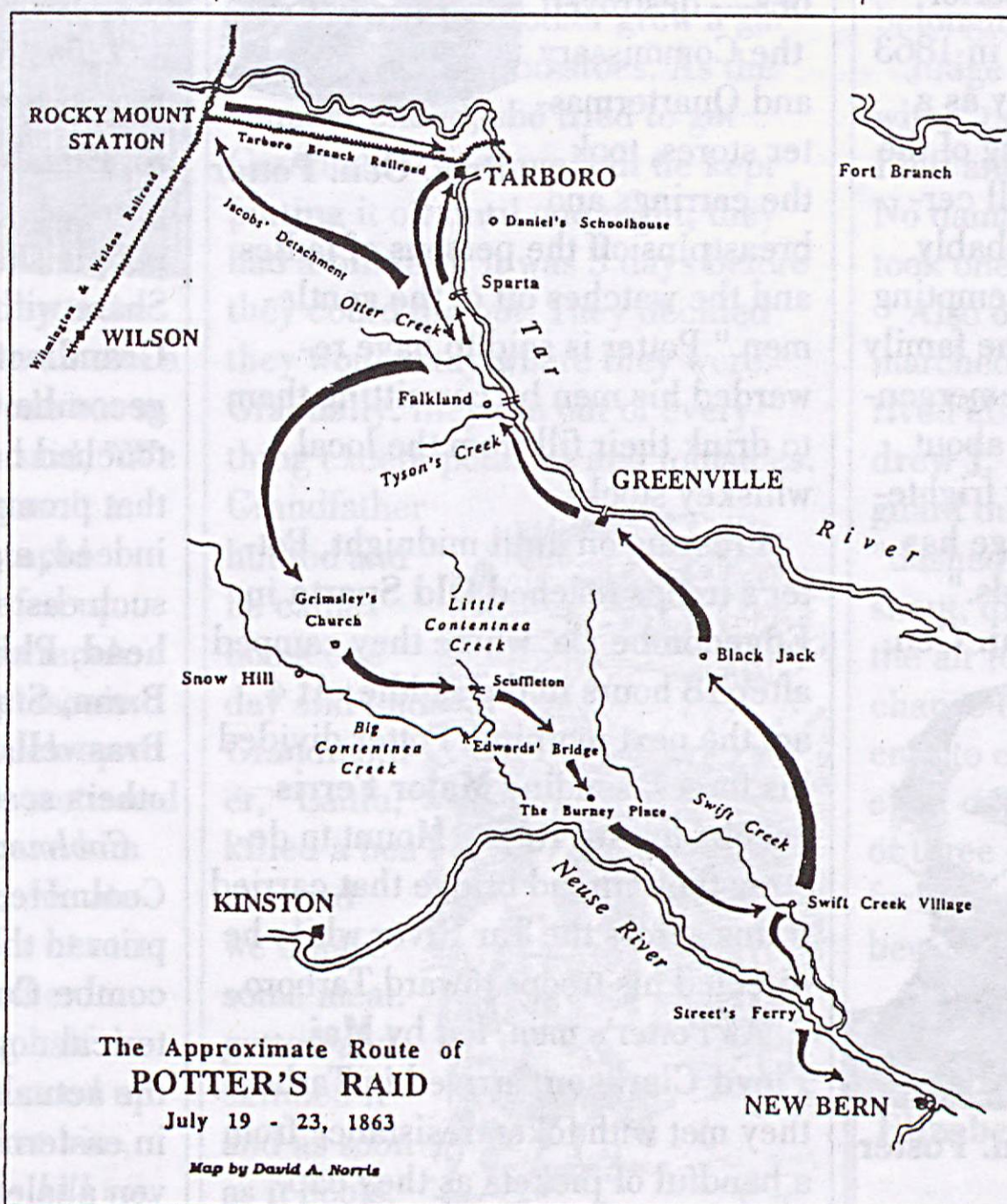
Letter, Cont. from Page 1
ville. General Martin, had many rifle pits or breast works. thrown up at Greenville, & about the time they were completed he ordered the place to be evacuated & believe me there is not now nor at the time of the invasion, any soldiers between **Taw[r]boro** & Greenville, except a few sick ones at Greenville & on one of our plantations, which is headquarters for **Major Kennedy** who belongs to **Col Griffins** regiment. & in all of this fighting Major Kennedy & men did the effectual work but he no longer comes to his quarters than Gen Martin orders him away to where it is believed no enemy is advancing at the time of this raid he was ordered to **Hamlit-ing** [Hamilton] & not a man, capable of service, was any wheres where the federals advanced.

These Yankees destroyed the bridge at Greenville proceeded to Tawboro unmolested except only a few shot from, helpless citizens, on their rout from Greenville to Tarboro they stole all horses they could get, robbed persons of all their money, watches, brandy, silver, armes rushed into houses at midnight, bursting open doors, into Ladies bedrooms, whilst they were in bed, Tied citizens & locked them up in Gin Houses; Destroyed every thing belonging to the government in Tawboro & after the fight at Tawboro you thing the wretches did not go to the hotell & dine. You know they destroyed the factory & other

property at the falls of Tar river, I cant begin to tell you in letter of their deeds. This is a rich portion of the state you know & our crops promise an abundant harvest notwithstanding heavy rains, but if we

holding meetings to send representatives to the Authorities to remove old Martin Govener Vance We call on you, O' in the name of God do something for us examine into this matter, Come down here to see the

good people who elected you, who will support you through life & death, We call on our Govener, for help. Dont allow us, while Carolinas noble sons, have responded, to the call of troops, to be trodden down so, Many a lady & her hepleless little children slept in the woods with the green grass for their beds & the Canopy of Heaven for their shelter, during this raid. The Yanks had armed negroes along, in **edgcomb** county one of these african wretches, entered a prominent citizens house & asked if they had any pretty white gals that he wanted a wife. *O! my God how will this end.* O Govener you are a Father a brother, how can



are left exposed in this way, we can do nothing for the state or Confederacy. Now allow me to write the sentiments of the community, it is believed that General Martin, is in Coleague with **Genl Potter**, Do you know they married sisters, General Martins headquarters is **Kingstan** [Kinston] & I am told, that Mrs. Martin goes to **Newbern** just when she pleases. Men who were in this fight say every Yankee could of been captured at **Swift Creek bridge**, if Genl Maratin would of let them remained there but he ordered them away about half of an hour before the Yanks came to Cross & just gave them passage, The citizens are

you hear this. but down here it has to be borne. I wish I could see you I beg umbley for you to take this letter as it is intended, good for the county, not presumptuously. I am actuated partly to write this by others. I should like to tell you all, & will be in **Raleigh** some time next week, & if you desire to know more of this matter, on the arrival of this, just write a line & drop it in office at Raleigh, & you shall know of my arrival. *May god protect your slumbers. while we are afraid to pillow our heads.*

Very respectfully

Wm. Peyton Atkinson

Potter's Raid on Greenville, Tarboro, and Rocky Mount

George Howard, a Superior Court Judge, wrote his wife in 1863 from Tarboro, "I am as busy as a bee preparing for the coming of the Yankees. I believe they will certainly be here this Fall, probably this summer....And I am attempting to so arrange matters that the family can all leave in case of an emergency. **Mother** is very nervous about affairs and **Alice** is terribly frightened—all her boasted courage has oozed out of her fingers' ends."

In July, 1863, Union Maj. Gen. **John Gray Foster** ordered a raid, to be led by **Brig. Gen. Edward Potter**, against Greenville, Tarboro, and Rocky Mount. It was at



Maj. Gen. Foster

Tarboro, a Tar River port, that the Confederates were building an ironclad gunboat. Of even more importance was the cotton mill at Rocky Mount, the largest in the state. Here, cloth for the grey uniforms of the south was produced. In addition, the **Wilmington and Weldon Railroad** bridge crossed the Tar River at Rocky Mount. Without this lifeline to the north, Lee's troops would be without the supplies they needed.

On 19 Jul 1863, Potter captured an undefended Greenville without a fight, destroying about \$300,000 worth of supplies and property, looting the citizens, and burning the Tar River bridge. The *Wilmington Journal* reported that the Yankees

"...gutted the place, taking \$2,800 from Dr. Blow, \$5,500 in bank notes from **Alfred Forbes**—destroyed

the Commissary and Quartermaster stores, took the earrings and breastpins off the persons of ladies and the watches off of the gentlemen." Potter is said to have rewarded his men by permitting them to drink their fill from the local whiskey stocks.

Pressing on until midnight, Potter's troops reached **Old Sparta** in **Edgecombe Co.** where they camped after 18 hours in the saddle. At 4 am the next morning, Potter divided his forces, sending **Major Ferris Jacobs** toward Rocky Mount to destroy the railroad bridge that carried trains across the Tar River while he directed his troops toward Tarboro..

As Potter's men, led by **Maj. Floyd Clarkson**, arrived in Tarboro, they met with token resistance from a handful of pickets as they captured the town. The destruction was great: burned medical supplies, cotton and railroad cars; two steamboats, the *General Hill* and the *Governor Morehead* destroyed; a half finished ironclad, sister ship to the *Albemarle*, burned; government warehouses, the jail, the market house and several guns destroyed;

and some private businesses such as **Williams** and **Palamountain's** Blacksmith and **Michael Cohen's**



Brig. Gen. Potter



THE ALBEMARLE

See Raid, Page 15

CONNECTOR

Reader's Choice



Local Color

Time Remembered by Elizabeth Braswell Pearsall: Born in Battleboro, **Elizabeth Pearsall** gives glimpses of her life with sketches of people she has met along the way. Share with her the memories of her **Grandmother Bryan's** farm in **Edgecombe Co.**; the people that have touched her life in **Rocky Mount** that prompted her to write, "Ours is, indeed, a good town"; and discover such eastern NC names as **Whitehead, Phillips, Davis, Sherrod, Bunn, Staton, Robbins, Owens, Braswell, Bryan, Melton** and many others scattered throughout.

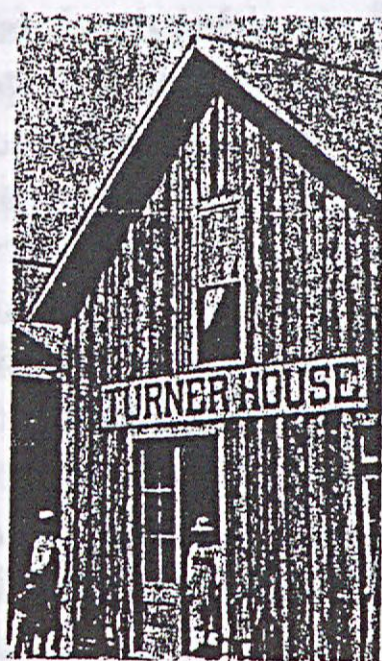
Coolmore by William L. Everette: Coolmore, a stately home built just prior to the Civil War in **Edgecombe Co.**, is the center of this historical novel. The author has taken the actual raids by the Union Army in eastern NC and successfully woven a tale of heartache and happiness between a young Union cavalry officer and a southern belle.

GRANDMOTHER, CONT FROM P.3

When they reached Rattle Snake Station, Great-Aunt Maria was pregnant and sick and they had \$13.50. W.J. asked **Commodore Jackson**, a Civil War veteran who had a stage station, if he could work for him. He said, "Yes," and gave them shelter. He stayed 2 years and planted oats on some desert land Jackson had burned off the previous year. They had a huge crop of oats they sold to the **Overland Stage Coach Co.**, making them both wealthy. W.J. moved about 18 miles to what is

now **Mountain Home**, where he built 3 hotels.

My Grandfather returned to **Ohio and Missouri** to court my Grandmother. They married in 1887 and returned to



Idaho. Grandmother went by train and stage coach, staying in a hotel a night or two. When they rode out to their ranch, Grandmother said, "We rode out there and there wasn't a soul to greet me but one stupid cow." She was thoroughly fed up.

It was very lonely on the ranch. Grandmother was making biscuits one day when an Indian buck appeared in the doorway. He motioned to her to keep on, so she gave him the biscuits she had made. He ate that batch and motioned for her to make more. She made another batch. Finally, after eating half the third batch, she said, "He stood up and I stood up and looked at him, and I thought, *he's going to kill me, he's going to kill me*. He finally turned and walked out the door. I sank down into the chair and I just sat there until Charlie came home, then I began to cry."

Grandmother also told of the day a sheep herder came by. He had a shirt wrapped around his very bloody hand. He'd been cutting meat and had cut his hand clear down to the thumb joint. Grandmother went to the shed and gathered cobwebs and packed the hand with them. She said she bound it with a clean cloth, washed his shirt, gave him dinner and two strong cups of coffee, and he went on. Several years later, he stopped by and showed her his hand. Outside of a

black streak from the cobwebs, it was just perfect.

One summer, the family camped in the mountains so Grandfather could prospect for gold. They had 2 tents, one for cooking and one for sleeping. Grandmother grew a garden and canned tomatoes. As the summer ended, she tried to get Grandfather to leave, but he kept putting it off until one night, they had a blizzard. It was 3 days before they could dig out. They decided they would stay where they were. Gradually, they ran out of everything except potatoes and tomatoes.

Grandfather hunted and he came home one day and told Grandmother, "Laura, killed a bear cub and we'll have some meat. gutted and skinned it and as soon as it cools, we'll go out and cut it down."



Grandmother went out and there was a baby hanging in the tree. It had little curved arms and legs, and buttocks. She said, "Charlie, I can't eat it. I can't cut it up." He said, "Laura, straighten up. We need the meat." Finally, he went out and chopped it up with an ax. She said, "I cooked it because my little girls needed food. I couldn't eat a mouthful, hungry as I was. *I couldn't eat a mouthful of it.*"

Raid, Cont. From Page 14
gristmill, razed. The stores on Main Street were pillaged as were a number of private homes.

CONNECTOR

One group of soldiers nearly captured former NC governor, **Henry T. Clark**, as he started on his morning ride from his home near Tarboro. Unable to catch Clark, they ransacked his house, throwing many belongings down the well.

Judge Howard later wrote his wife, "the Yankees have been here. I left and kept about an hour ahead. No damage done to us. They only took one horse and 6 or 700 segars."

Also on 20 July, Major Jacobs marched to Rocky Mount. He arrived about 8:30 am and **Pvt. Andrew J. McIntyre**, a soldier on guard duty, wrote that the enemy "dashed up to the depot with a shout, discharging their pistols in the air to create a panic. I had no chance to escape, and was soon taken into custody, together with about eight or ten other soldiers and two or three officers who were home on furlough, and about the same number of citizens."

Buyers At Sale of Property Elizabeth Jones of Franklin Co. November 1814

Anselm Alford	Axiom Alford
Kinchen Alford	John Bartholomew
Isaac Bass	John Bell
Abner Chieves	James Chieves
Alsey Denton	Dempsey Denton
John Denton	Lizy Denton
John Dunn	Thomas Dunn
Cordy Ferrel	Turner Ferrel
James Harris	John Harris
Williamson Harris	Polley Jackson
Sally Jackson	William Jackson
Perrin Jones [son]	Thomas Jones
William Lancaster	Elisha Lankford
Warren Massingale	William Nellam
Jeremiah Perry[ridge]	Ezekil Porch
Reubin Stallings	Thomas Walker
Simon Williams	Polley Worley

[Submitted by Louise Fuller, Loose Estate Papers, Franklin Co., NC.]

\$500 REWARD

TWO HORSES AND ONE MULE TAKEN FROM my Stables by the 3rd New York Cavalry, the 30th July 1863, one horse about seven years old, a sun-burnt, yellow sorrel, thick, heavy set, short tale, with tale and main a little wavy; had on shoes before; hind feet white and very tender footed, and is gentle in all work; but rough under the saddle. The Filly is about three years old, blood bay, with white in her forehead about the size of a half dollar, with a long tale with a few white hairs in the end of it, and a roan spot on her side. The mule is a very small-horse mule, three years old, rather a mouse color, with main and tail cropped, and has a dark stripe down his back. I will pay one hundred dollars for the Mule and two hundred dollars each for the Horses, provided they are not injured.

Aug 5-lw*

**W.W. PARKER,
Rocky Mount, N.C.**

[Daily Progress, Raleigh, 5 Aug 1863]

The Yankees failed to capture a southbound mail train which passed Rocky Mount at 8 am, but they captured a train from Tarboro. Union **Capt. Rowland Hall** wrote that the engineer had started the train's engine "& was already making good headway toward the bridge...But **Cpl [George] White...** jumped from his horse, swung himself pistol in hand upon the engine, seized the lever from the driver brought back the train." Pvt. McIntyre wrote, "They run the engine off the track, and burnt the cars. While the car which was loaded with ammunition was on fire, an explosion took place which blowed one Yankee, who was plundering around inside, a-whizzing outside, but though badly burned, he was not killed."

Destroyed in Rocky Mount were: the depot, a water tank and other nearby buildings; the Tar River railroad bridge; cotton and flour mills, including barrels of flour, hard-tack, cotton and cloth goods; a machine shop; 800 bales of cotton the

Confederacy could ill afford to lose; and 37 wagons loaded with "all manner of stores and supplies."

Houses and shops were looted. A Charlotte newspaper recorded that some of the raiders "entered private dwellings, broke open bureaus and drawers, stole clothing, petty trinkets and jewelry, in one case known to our informant taking forcibly from a lady's finger her wedding and other rings." The *Western Democrat* reported that soldiers ransacked **William E. Pope's** home taking cash and bonds, "his bed-clothing, his own and family's personal clothing, including children's clothing," and even their tooth-brushes! **W.W. Parker** lost his stables, barns, \$70,000 in money and bonds, cotton, and the soldiers "absolutely stole his buggy."

Jacobs left Rocky Mount before noon and rejoined Potter during the afternoon of July 20th and Potter began his withdrawal from Tarboro. Learning that Confederate troops were gathering across the Tar River, he destroyed the bridge there and withdrew toward **New Bern**.

Small groups of rebels began to gather in the wake of the raid, harassing Potter as he sought to return to New Bern. Weariness and lack of sleep began to tell on the Union troops and the withdrawal became

somewhat disorganized. After several skirmishes, Potter managed to reach a "Piney woods road" and began an all-night march toward New Bern.

At day break, July 21, the Yankee force stopped at **Grimsley's Church** near **Snow Hill** in **Green Co.** to rest. Attacked by various confederate contingents under **Maj. Claibourne**, **Col. Claibourne**, **Maj. Saunders**, **Col. Pool**, **Capt. Franklin Pitt**, **Capt. Lycurgus Barrett**, and others, it was not until July 23 that the weary Union force reached its destination. A NC soldier, **K. J. Carpenter**, observed in his diary, "It is a wonderful thing to follow a retreating army in haste. So many things are strewn along the road; there were carriages that had been upset, throats of horses cut to prevent [their] falling into our lines..."

This, then, was the scenario when **Mrs. Peyton (Susan Streeter) Atkinson** sent her impassioned letter to **Governor Zebulon Vance** on July 28, 1963.

[Taken from *The Civil War in North Carolina, Ironclads and Columbiads: The Coast*, by William R. Trotter and "The Yankees Have Been Here!", *The North Carolina Historical Review*, Jan 1996.]

The Joyner Family of Nash Co., NC

BY HELEN SHARPE

William Joyner was the progenitor of most of the Joyners in **Nash Co.** William first appears in **Edgecombe Co.** records when he applied for a **Granville Land Grant**. One hundred eighty acres were surveyed on 12 Dec 1752. This land adjoined **Thomas Kearsey** and **Joshua Dawson** and went up various courses of **Tar River**. Although William did not receive his grant



Rocky Mount Mills after 1869 fire.

until 17 Feb 1761, he probably lived on it during this 9 year period. After the death of **William** and his wife, **Selah**, the property passed on to their son, **Drewery**.

William's will, written in 1782 is recorded in the February Court 1785 in Nash Co. He names his 12 children: **Nathan, Jacob, William, Hardy, Burwell, Jordan, Lewis, Nealus, Drury, Ann Ricks, Mary Barnes, and Elizabeth Joyner**.

Some of William's children left for land in other states. Jacob & wife, **Millie**, Hardy & wife, **Karen Haprock**, and Burwell & wife, **Honour** went to GA. **Cornelius** moved his family to **Wilson Co, TN**.

Most Nash Co. Joyners descend from Jordan, Lewis and Drewery. Over 400 Joyner marriage records can be found in the Nash Co. Court House. Most local people are familiar with the present day Joyner's Crossroads, as well as Joyner's Depot that existed in the middle 1800's. The Joyner name is on many Edgecombe and Nash land records. William would be proud to know that over 2,000 descendants have been traced back to him. Perhaps you are among them.

Gold Diggers, From P 9

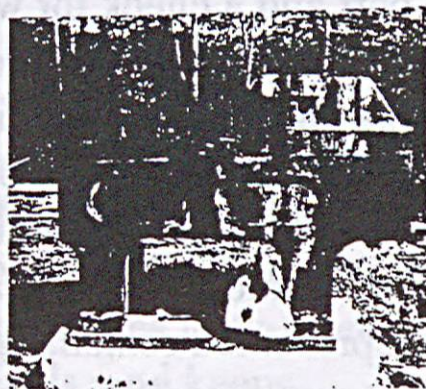
Thus, the appearance of Canadian prospectors begat a fairish amount of enthusiasm in a time of severe economic depression. In the fall of 1936 a Toronto agent approached my mother's co-owner proposing that we conduct a small exploratory operation to determine the extent and value of the gold-bearing ores on our holding. Small amounts of gold had been panned along the streams. Geologists assured us there was gold there. The Canadians were willing to gamble, if

the rock assayed at least \$4 per ton in several spots.

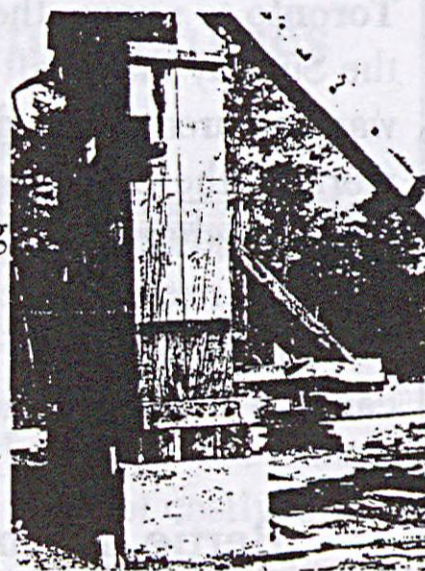
We decided to undertake a small exploration project. We located an engineer with a good deal of mining experience who was willing to throw his lot in with ours, and in late January of 1937, I became a gold miner of sorts.

Machinery

We were able to piece together a motley array of necessary machinery. One device so obtained was a **rock crusher**



which took chunks of quartz approximately the size of a football and reduced them to about golf-ball size. We also got a **stamp mill**—an imposing upright mechanism some 15 feet tall, which operated a battery of six 800



pound hammers. This broke down the golf-ball sized rocks into a sandy mix about the consistency of coarse salt. It required about 40 gal. of water per minute. To get the water, we used a large pump, to draw water from a stream about 500 feet away. As the rock reached sand-like consistency in the stamp mill, it was mixed with water, overflowed the mill bed and was carried over a 4x6 ft. copper plate covered with mercury. This combination amalgamated any free gold suspended in the sandy mix. Next the mix flowed over 2 Wilfrey tables, wooden 3x8ft surfaces inclined slightly downward

both lengthwise and widthwise from the lower end of the mercury-treated copper plate. The table tops were fitted with lengthwise cleats 3/8" square and 1" apart. The Wilfrey tables vibrated in a movement not unlike the circular motion employed in panning gold by hand. The lighter non-gold bearing particles bounced over each succeeding riffle, or cleat, and finally off the lowest corner of the table. At the same time any gold-bearing particles, being heavier, would wash down the length of the table, between the cleats, and ultimately run through an aperture at the lowest corner of the table, and into a bin. After drying, this material was bagged and set aside for later smelting for recovery of any gold content.

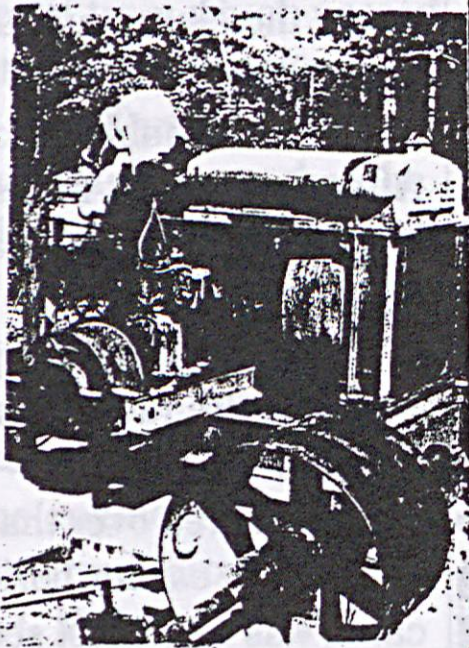
Tunneling

To acquire raw materials—that is, the gold-bearing rock—we had selected an area over that part of the vein which earlier borings had indicated was its widest section. From that point we dug downwards about 100'. The shaft was 6' square, with vertical 8" square timbering at each corner. As it grew deeper, the corner posts were joined and braced by 6' long 6" square horizontal timbers. On each side, this bracing member was suspended from its like member above by 2 1/2-inch iron rods. On this frame work the sides were timbered with 2x8" planking to prevent soil from collapsing inwards. After the first 8 to 10', it became necessary to operate a small pump to exhaust water from what was essentially a well. We had to erect a frame over the top of the shaft, rigged with a windlass, fitted to a cable and a 55-gal. drum to remove the displaced earth and rock, and, as we drove deeper, to act as a crude sort of elevator.

At a depth of about 95' we hit the quartz vein. There we began to tunnel along the vein in each direction. At this point we had to blast to remove ore material and to extend the tunnels. To avert danger of a cave-in, the tunnels had to be timbered.

After each tunnel had been extended 100', with several pilot digs along the length of each, and the extracted material had been processed, we felt that we had a potentially profitable operation since the ore had assayed better than \$10/ton.

Working as we were—with old equipment, powered by gasoline engines; lighting from a Delco system; water pumped through lengthy surface pipelines by



gasoline pumps; and with the requirement to provide rudimentary cover over the shaft, plates and tables—required many man hours, which, in conjunction with necessary spare parts, hardware, cut-to-size timber, gasoline and blasting materials, resulted in a cash outflow of thousands of 1930's dollars.

Gold Recovery

To return to the actual gold recovery, after quartz had been crushed and pulverized, mixed with water and run over the mercury-coated copper plate, the mercury was periodically scraped off the plate to recover any free gold which had been amalgamated. The miner, would hand-pan a sample to get an idea, from the colors, of the probable yield. When he deemed it time to remove the amalgam it was done

by scraping the plate with a hard rubber square. What came off resembled a baseball-sized glob of rolled tinfoil. This was placed in an iron retort and heated with a blowtorch to vaporize the mercury and recover it. What was left looked like a rusty metallic sponge. This was packed up and mailed off to the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia. In a few days, back would come an assay report and a check for whatever pure gold they had recovered. Usually the check would include payment for small amounts of other metals recovered in the refining process.

I would estimate that this money represented something like a 5-6¢ return on each of our invested dollars. In Sep 1939, believing our operation had potential, I went to Toronto to pursue the matter. On the Sunday that I left Canada, war was declared on England. The next morning the Canadian government embargoed export of capital for any save defense purposes. Thus, my modest participation in gold rushes came to an abrupt end.

Bertie, From Page 8

Hoggard Family: Contact Phil Hoggard at Bertie Courthouse, or Jimmy Hoggard Insurance, King St., Windsor, NC.

- ♦Whitmel Family Bible: Early 1700's. Contact Miss Cetie Griffin, 252-348-2746.
- ♦1939 WPA Cemetery Census: 239 pages of burials predating 1913. On microfilm at UNC; paper copy in Register of Deeds Office, Bertie Courthouse.
- ♦Lawrence Memorial Library, Windsor, NC: Excellent research section.
- ♦Miller Family, by Latham "Bing" Miller. Contact Harry Thompson.

♦Bryan Family of Snowfield. Entire Bryan Family. Contact James Robert Grimes at 252-793-3323, Plymouth, NC or Harry Thompson. Also has complete genealogy of Grimes Family. James Robert is direct descendant of Gen. Bryan Grimes.

Baptist Beginnings From P. 5

be the Kehukee Association.

This dissension had arisen over the Baptists dividing themselves into *Regular* and *Separate*. The Separate Baptists believed that baptism could only be administered to adults who had expressed their personal faith. They rejected all creeds and acknowledged only the Bible. The Regular Baptists believed that all men were eventually saved; therefore they would be more likely to find faith in Christ after baptism.

Baptist ministers (Elders) did not have to have any formal training and sometimes there would be several ministers in a group. Such loose organization resulted in rivalries and divisions. This trouble in the Kehukee Association continued until the summer of 1777 when all members put aside their differences and harmony was restored. Known as the *United Baptists*, the organization adopted seventeen Articles of Faith.

Joyner's X-Road, From P. 2

were Drew Joyner, Dave Everette, John D. Robbins, Bill Griffin, Barry Davis, Redmond Fairless, Anna Liza Joyner, William Gray Hales, Noah Viverette, Charlie Calhoun, and a Turner family.

Draft evasion is not new in our time. The husband of Anna Liza Joyner hid in a cave on an island in Tar River to avoid fighting in the Civil War.

A deed dated 30 Dec 1881 conveyed 3½ acres of land from G.L. and Mary E. Joyner, to John D. Robbins, J.F. Weaver, G.D. Joyner, and James Viverette, trustees of Mill Branch Primitive Baptist Church, the first church in the community. The price was \$1.00 and the land was to remain the property of the congregation as long as the church existed.

Early minutes show that an organizational meeting was held at the new meeting house in Aug. 1882, with preaching by Elders J.D. Scott and B.C. Pitt. Elder Scott was chosen Moderator, Elder Pitt, Pastor, and G.W. Thomas, Clerk. Letters were received from Pleasant Hill: H.B. Proctor, J.D. Robbins, J.H. Thorn, J.H. Joyner, Sisters Frances C. Proctor, Evalina Robbins, Christiana Joyner, and Sophia Daughtridge; from Falls [of the Tar]: William M. Daughtridge, Joel B. Whitley, and John W. Stone; and from Union: Charles W. Proctor.

Mill Branch cemetery has been used over the years by the whole community. Early burials include people born in 1830, 1835, 1836, 1845. The inscription on the grave of Minnie Robbins Batts states that she exclaimed while dying, "I'm as happy as can be."

Griffin School, named for Bill Griffin who lived nearby, opened about 1905 at the intersection of Hwy 97 and Co. Rd. 1731 on land purchased from William Gray Hales. The children used a pitcher pump for water, when it would operate, and went to a neighbor's house when it wouldn't. They fired the pot-bellied stove with wood, sometimes having to cut and split the kindling. There was no inside plumbing.

Practical 1885 Housewifery

A smattering from a reliable & complete manual of housekeeping

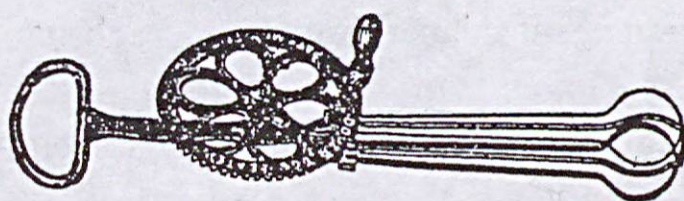
(From the Perkins Family Library)

Cookery

WEDDING CAKE

Fifty eggs, five pounds sugar, five of flour, five of butter, fifteen of raisins, three of citron, ten of currants, pint brandy, fourth ounce cloves, ounce cinnamon, four of mace, four of nutmeg. This makes forty-three and a half pounds, and keeps twenty years. This cake is unequalled.—Mrs. C.H.D., Raleigh, N.C.

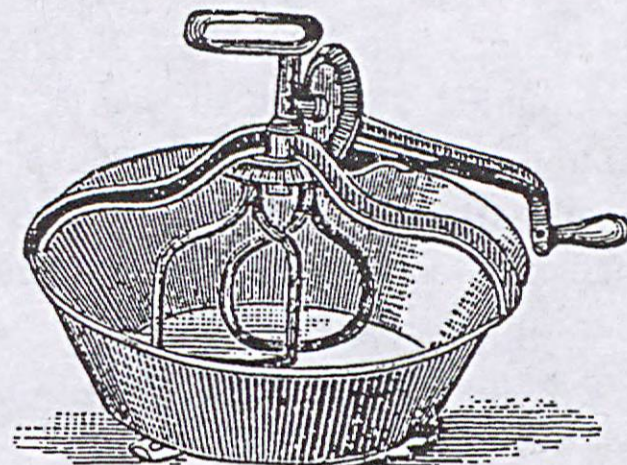
Kitchen Luxuries



THE DOVER EGG BEATER is generally regarded as the best in the market, and we know of no rival that has all its excellency. It is not costly, and is very durable. By an ingenious contrivance the inner circle revolves in a contrary direction to the

CONNECTOR

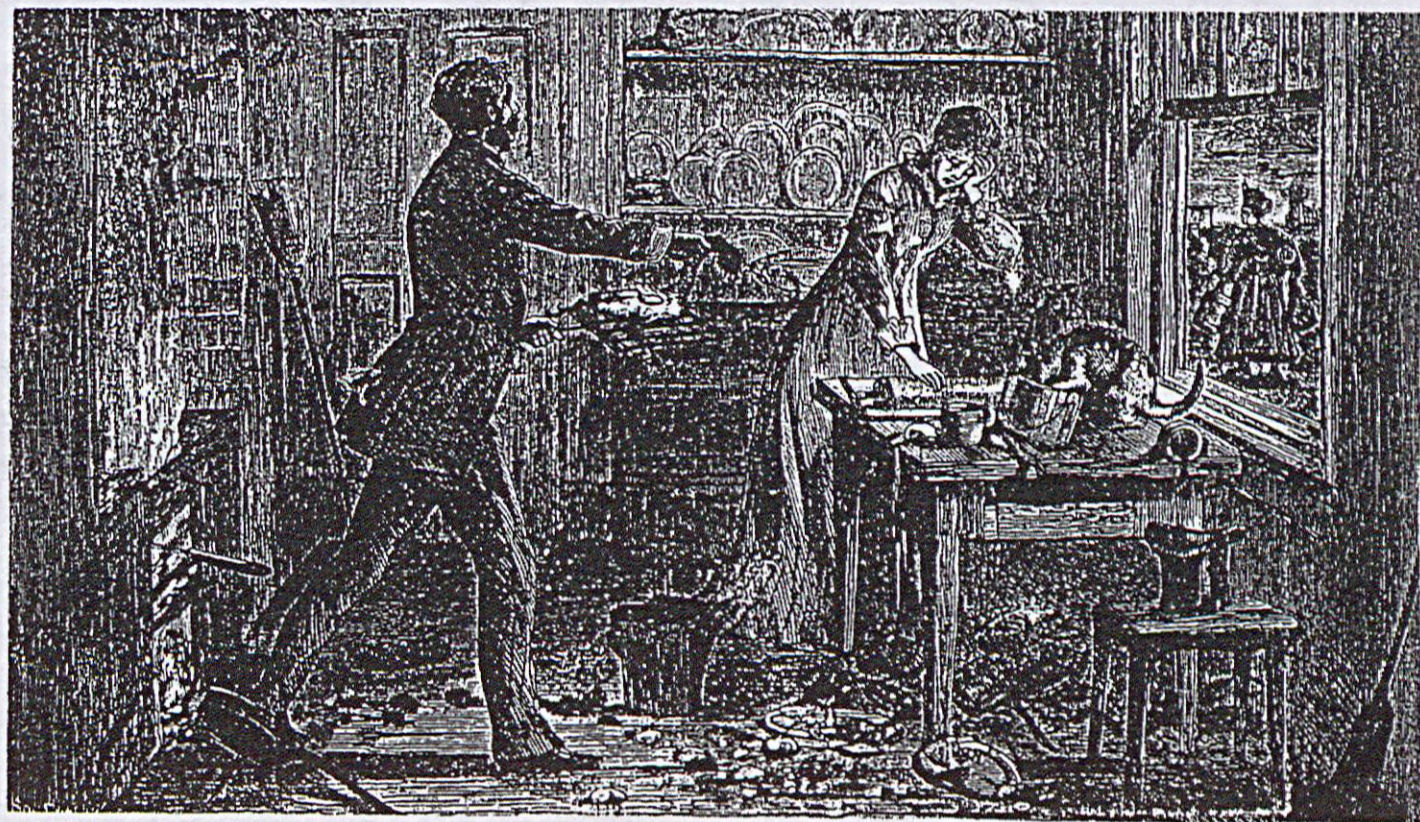
outer circle. With this the egg beating is a very simple matter.



UNIVERSAL DOUGH MIXER AND KNEADER.—There are several contrivances in market which claim to lighten the hard labor of mixing and kneading dough in bread-making. The inventors of "The Universal" claim that it will produce as fine bread in eight minutes as can be made by half an hour's labor with the hands.

Gourd Patch, Cont from P 2 of the conspiracy spread and the conspirators sought to escape.

William Brimage's flight was most theatrical. A practicing attorney and judge on the Admiralty Court in Bertie Co., Brimage was married to Elizabeth West, daughter of Colonel Robert West of Bertie County, a prominent leader of both county and colonial politics. Through this union, he had acquired



"NEVER MIND; DON'T CRY, PET, I'LL DO ALL THE COOKING." AFTER DRAWING BY SOL. EYTINGE, JR.,

title to thousands of acres of land in eastern NC. A loyal supporter of the King, Brimage had taken part in Llewelyn's society. He left Bertie Co, made his way to Albemarle Sound and hired a boat to transport him to **Roanoke Island**. As the boat maneuvered its way through the dark night, Brimage and a companion pulled pistols and demanded to be taken to **Currituck Inlet** from where they planned to make their way to VA. The wild, blustery weather on the **Outer Banks** forced the loyalists to take refuge on an island. There, the owners of the boat overpowered the two loyalists and recaptured their boat, leaving the Tories stranded. Brimage was caught and imprisoned at Edenton where he "was chained down to the Floor of the Common Gaol." Gen. Allen Jones of the NC militia declared, "The great Mr. Brimage is in Edenton Gaol being one of the heads of these Cut throats also...I make no doubt but hanging about a Dozen will have exceeding good Effects in this State & give Stability to our new Government."

The loyalists who were held in the Halifax jail were moved to **Edenton** to stand trial for treason. An act passed by the General Assembly in May, 1777 made the penalty for treason death "without the benefit of Clergy" and the forfeiture of all property to the state. Ironically, Brimage had been assigned as judge for the April term in Edenton and Caswell had difficulty finding a substitute to try the case. He finally named **John Baptist Beasley**, of Edenton, and on Sept. 16, 1777, John Llewelyn was convicted of "High Treason." Other members of the group were found guilty of "Misprision of Treason."

Llewelyn's plight generated a great deal of sympathy from "the

most considerable Men in Martin County." Even Nathan Mayo, one of his main targets, met with the governor, along with Llewelyn's wife, to plead for his reprieve. The assembly, however, recommended that the sentence be "carried into execution without delay." But before the execution could be performed, Judge John Baptist Beasley asked for mercy for Llewelyn, "The distressed circumstances of **Mary Lewellen**, Wife of the poor unhappy **John Lewellen** now under the sentence of death in Edenton Gaol induces me to write your Excellency. I am so unhappy to have nothing to plead in his behalf but Mercy which as it is a *darling attribute of the deity* hope it will prevail, this much I can say that when he had an opportunity to escape out of Edenton Gaol he did not." He must have been successful as there is no record of the execution and ample record in censuses and tax lists that he continued as a Martin Co. planter.

William Brimage was charged with both treason and misprision of treason, but he was not convicted. When ordered to take the State Oath, Brimage refused and fled to New York in April, 1778. Back in England, Brimage approached the King. "Sire, I have been loyal to you, and I have lost everything," or words to that effect, he must have said. "Sorry, Brimage, I'm fighting a war with those pesky colonials, and I have no money to give you, but I will appoint you Attorney General of Bermuda," was the king's line, and he did. Brimage served in that post until about 1781 when he again returned to England. Brimage eventually died there, alone and penniless. Elizabeth, his wife, approached **James Iredell** to help her regain the land that had been lost. It was eventually decided that, since

the land had come to Brimage through her father, and since no woman is responsible for the politics of her husband, the land should be returned to her.

[Harry Thompson was the speaker at the July meeting of TRC. Besides providing an entertaining and provocative program, he distributed a list of Bertie County research materials which is printed elsewhere in this paper. A more detailed discussion of Tory activities in the Revolution can be found in The North Carolina Historical Review, Winter, 1978.]

TRC New Members

- Wm. Inman Reed, Jr
200 Trade St. Apt. G105
Tarboro, NC 27886; 252-641-7060
- Maria Hurst, 127 S. Main St.
Warrenton, Nc 27589; 252-257-4885
- Susan Gay Peterson, PO Box 21541
Seattle, WA 98111; 206-525-7580
- Thomas Battle; 304 Wildwood Ave
Rocky Mount, Nc 27803; 252-446-5411
- Kemp Bryan; 659 Dubberly Rd
Hortense Ga 31543; 912-530-7410
- Charlotte Ainsworth; 2209 Clayville Ct
Chesterfield, MO 63017-8204
314-227-7061;
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- Betty Ruth Smith; PO Box 880-459
Rockport, TX 78381
- Mary F. O'Conner; 3607 Trail Ridge Rd
Louisville, KY 40241; 502-423-8167
- Doris Joyner; 1902 Womble Rd
Nashville, NC 27856; 252-459-4221
- Sharon T. Moody; 828 Big Canoe
Big Canoe, GA 30143; 770-390-5751
- Ann H. Kahn; PO Box 3416
Sebring, FL 33871; 941-382-6880

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Roy "Jack" Edwards - Yor27@aol.com
Fairy Fanny Bunn-
fairyw@rockymountnc.com

