

THE CONNECTOR

WINTER/SPRING 2016 VOLUME 20, ISSUE 1

Preserving the Past...For the Future



JOSIAH NELSON BONE AND LOUISBURG MALE ACADEMY

My father was **Josiah Nelson Bone**. He was born February 16, 1852 in his parent's farm house on what is now the Batchelor Road, Oak Level Township, Nash County, North Carolina. He was the third son born to **David and Dinah Armitite Poland Bone**. He was a kind of a studious boy and went to school almost in sight of where I live now, near the woods out there just this side of, west of the **Jake Vick** home in a log school house called the "Old Field School" or "Common School", located by the side of the road or path. The log building was 14' X 18' with two doors and one window, a chimney and an open fire place at one end. The scholars were seated around on split log benches; and went four months a year- two months in spring, and two in the summer. The term was divided because he did not go in extremely cold weather on account of the open school building. He went there with such folks as **Axum Kerr, Big Josiah Vick, and Bell Walker** till he got as about as far as he could go there. Being of studious mind he begged, borrowed and bought all of the books he could afford and self- taught himself at home. When he became twenty-one he rented a field and planted it in cotton, his father (David) let him have a colt to break, to plow his cotton with; well, he made this crop of cotton, and used the money to go to **Louisburg Male Academy**, Franklin County, North Carolina to school. Before the term ended, his money gave out. His brother **Tina** borrowed twenty dollars from a neighbor and that



Josiah Nelson Bone

kept him there until the end of the term June 3, 1874".

As the attached Report attest to, he graduated. A note written on the edge of the report asked that "hand this to your father, MSD (the principal)

Teacher's Certificate

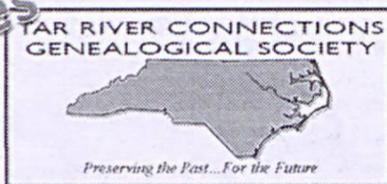
Josiah Bone was granted a Teachers' Second (2) grade certificate that authorized him to

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

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

Email: trcgs@braswell-library.org

Monthly meetings are held at 6:30 pm the third
Tuesday of each month (except December) at
Braswell Memorial Library,
727 N. Grace Street in Rocky Mount, NC.

2016 OFFICERS

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NEWSLETTER:

BILLIE JO MATTHEWS

JANET SADOWSKI

To Submit Articles

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

Email articles to sadowski@pbtcomm.net
or mail:

Janet Sadowski
2019 Calks Ferry Road
Lexington, SC 29073

NEW PUBLICATION

Announcing the recent publication of two new local history books by our own Tar River Connections Genealogy Society member Steve Raper.

The publications are:

Spencer Fountain: Rocky Mount's Radical Republican Mayor and

Early Rocky Mount and the Politics of Reconstruction.

Copies will be available at the State Library at NC Archives building in Raleigh, at the North Carolina Collection, Wilson Library at UNC in Chapel Hill, and at Braswell Library in Rocky Mount. For additional information you may contact Steve at

swrapertn@hotmail.com

DUES

Dues are \$20 per year for those members who elect to receive their newsletter by snail mail.

If you wish to receive your newsletter by email you only pay \$15 per year. There are several benefits in choosing this option:

- Receive newsletter quicker (which can be printed at home)
- Newsletter is in color
- Links are active — click and go!
- Enlarge text, pictures, and diagrams for easier reading
- Index on back page (This page is used for addressing and stamps on snail mail copies.)

Thank you to the members who have already submitted their 2016 dues!

The Rocky Mount Mail says: On Sunday, the 12th instant, Mr. Nathaniel Womble led to the hymeneal altar, Mrs. Elizabeth Long. Mr. Womble is 72 years of age and the bride is 36.— He has now his fifth wife and Mrs. Womble her third husband. He visited his present wife for the first time on the Sunday previous to his marriage, which proves that though old in years, he got a-Long in a hurry.

The Daily Journal (Wilmington, North Carolina)
18 July 1874, Page 1

HOME SCHOOLING—JUST AS THEN, NOW

In the early 1800's, Nash County offered children few avenues for traditional education. Any child who desired schooling in the three R's found the prospects dim. While most parents were not themselves well educated, they recognized that education was vital, and soon an impromptu form of home schooling was underway. **Nelson Bone's** (1782-1866) wife **Mourning Ballard** had died in the early 1820's. Therefore, Nelson took on the responsibility of instructing his children in the privacy of the family home, near **Sandy Cross, Nash County**. Nelson was a Deacon at the **Sappony Primitive Baptist**, very active in community affairs as had been his mother, **Elizabeth Winstead Bone**. Nelson had probably learned to read and write English quite well without ever going to a formal school. His mind was probably filled with the lore of the Bible, words and music of gospel hymns and popular songs, the sayings of Poor Richard, Mother Goose Rhymes, and some Scotch-Irish rhymes and folklore.

The Bone children, **David,**

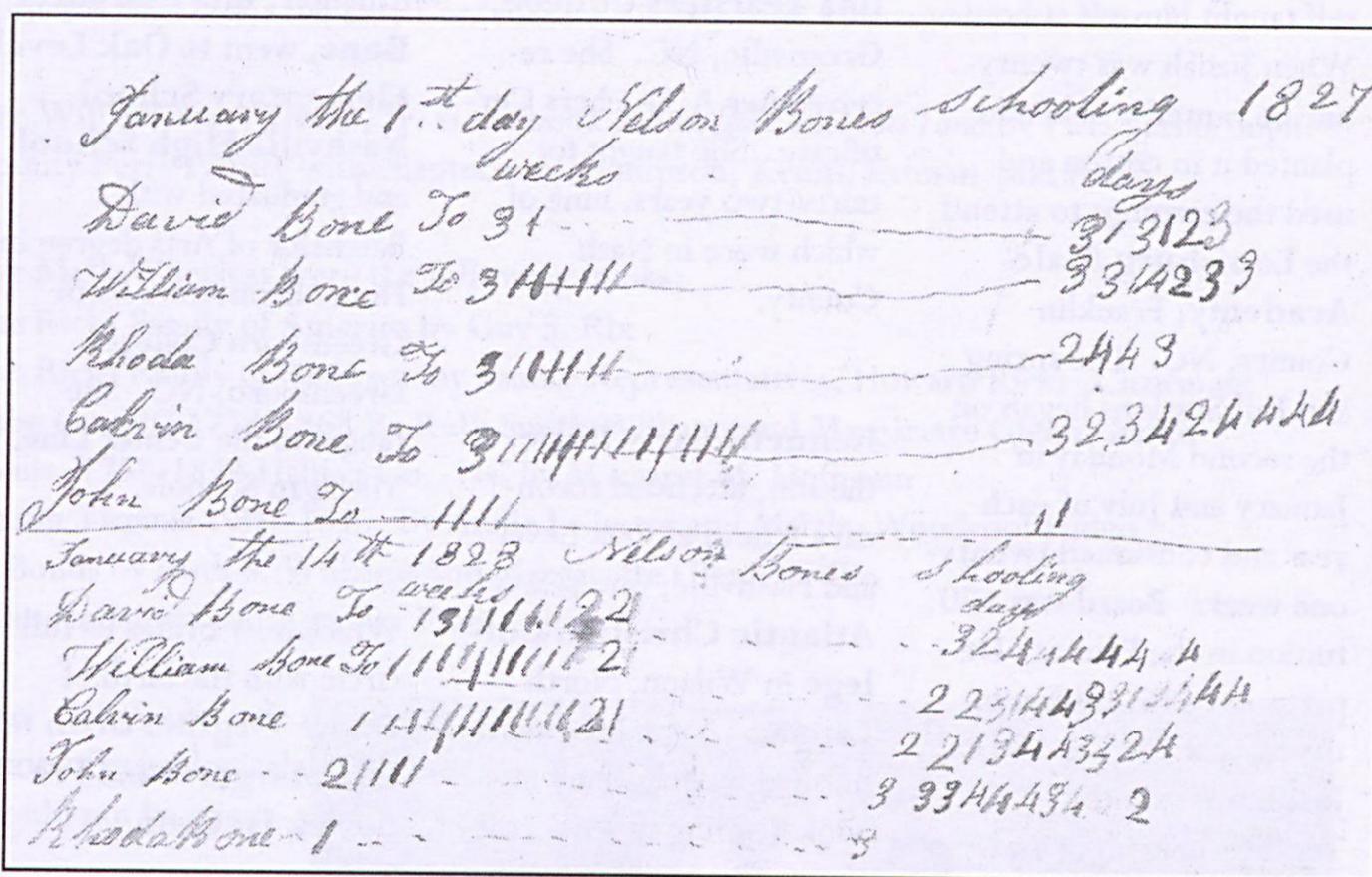
William, Rhoda, Calvin and **John**, were between twelve and five, a record of the number of weeks and days of instruction for them were made for both 1827 and 1828. Nelson wrote the name "**Andrew Jackson**" and the date February, the 3rd day 1828 on one of the accountings. Heavy on his mind was the presidential candidacy of Andrew Jackson, son of

North Carolina, hero of the Battle of New Orleans and the Southeast Indian Wars. Andrew Jackson in 1829 became the first president not from Virginia or Massachusetts.

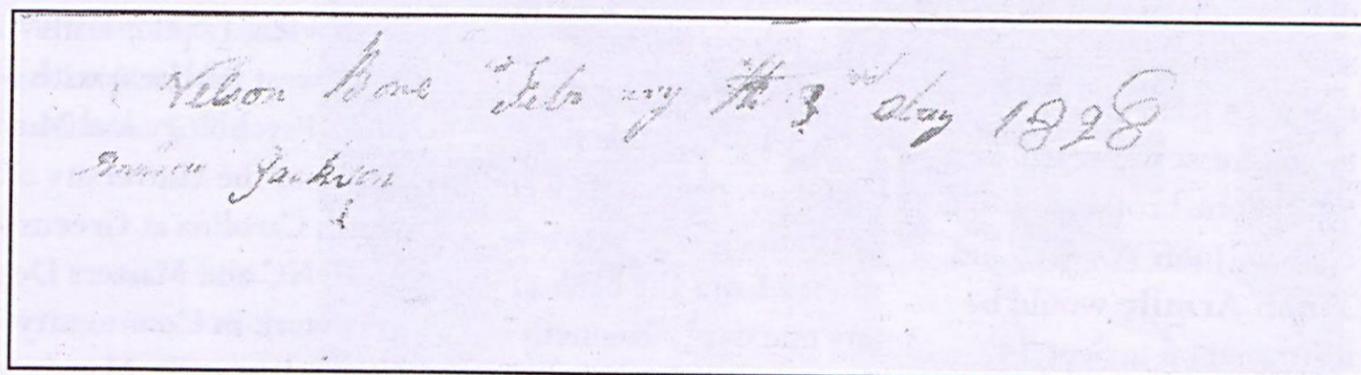
In **Josiah Nelson Bone's** (Nelson Bone's grandson) generation, schooling became a little more formalized. Josiah attended the

"**Old Field School**" or "**Common School**" two months in the spring and two in the summer. The log cabin building, west of the **Jake Vick** home, in the **Oak Level community**, stood by the side of the road or path. The building was 14 x 18 with two doors and one window, a chimney and an open fireplace at one end.

(Continued on page 4)



Front and back of hand written school log



(Continued from page 3)

The scholars were seated around on split log benches. The books were composed of an old Blue-Back Webster Speller, Smith's Arithmetic and Geography, and an English Grammar. One teacher taught 30 to 40 scholars, some of which walked four to five miles to reach the school. Being of a studious mind Josiah begged, borrowed, and bought all the books he could afford and self taught himself at home. When Josiah was twenty-one he rented a field and planted it in cotton and used the earnings to attend the **Louisburg Male Academy**, Franklin County, NC. The spring and Fall Sessions began on the second Monday in January and July of each year and continued twenty-one weeks. Board was \$70, tuition in the Primary Department \$15; tuition in the regular English \$20. Josiah was granted a Teacher's Second Grade Certificate on July 4, 1874, after successful completion of his studies. He taught school four months a year, making a farm crop in between for seven years. The three Bone brothers, Josiah Nelson, John Wesley, and **Tinah Armile** would be instrumental in Sept 14, 1896 in founding the **Oak**

Level Academy, four month public, five month subscription - school, located near present day **Oak Level Baptist Church**.

Minnie Lee Bone the daughter of **Josiah Nelson** and **Ella Elizabeth Mason Bone** was educated in the Oak Level and Nashville local schools, Louisburg College for two years and continued her education at **East Carolina Teachers College**, Greenville, NC. She received her A Teachers Certificate. She taught for thirty-two years, nine of which were in Nash County.

Kenneth Early Bone, the son, attended secondary school at Oak Level and Nashville; one year at **Atlantic Christian College** in Wilson, North Carolina. When Kenneth finished his schooling in book keeping in 1907, the country was in a depression, "there was no job available, so my father gave me a job on the farm. It was at a time if you had money in the bank you could not draw but twenty-five dollars of your own money from the bank in any one day". Kenneth Bone married **Mary Mar-**

garet Roberson on August 14, 1942. Margaret was educated in Robersonville, NC, graduating from **Robersonville High School** in 1921. She received a normal (two years) teaching degree in 1925 and her BA from East Carolina in 1939. She taught in elementary schools for 18 years having met Kenneth when she was teaching at Spring Hope.

Kenneth and Margaret's daughter, **Ella Margaret Bone**, went to **Oak Level Elementary School**, **Nashville High School** and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Home Economics from Greensboro College, Greensboro, NC. She taught in the Center Line, Michigan Schools.

Which now brings us full circle with the birth of **Diane Virginia Cron** to **Ella Margaret** and **Fredrick H. Cron**.

Diane, married to **Scott Nishwitz**, (a pilot with Southwest Airlines) with a BA in Psychology and Music, from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, NC and Masters Degree work in Community Counseling at St. Mary's

University, San Antonio, Texas - "home schools" - her twin sons, **Daniel** and **Ethan**, and the eldest son **Andrew Nishwitz!**

Notes:

The schooling record of the Nelson Bone's children came from his personal papers, and ledgers, dated 1827 and 1828.

"An Open Letter" to the Graphic, dated Thanksgiving Day of 1930, from Capt. J.W. Bone describing schooling at the old log cabin school.

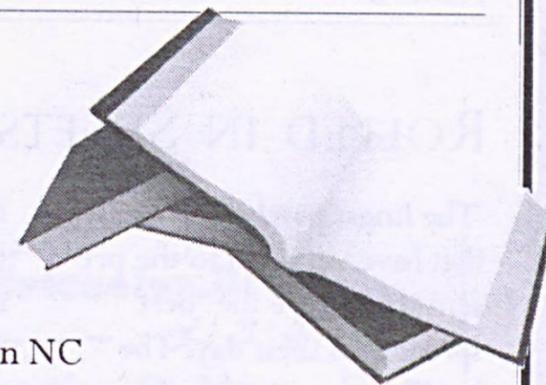
"A short sketch of the life of Josiah Nelson Bone" by his son Kenneth E. Bone, tape recorded on June 12, 1980.

The Bone family has the original papers of The Teacher's Second Grade Certificate, the tuition schedule of Louisburg Male Academy and the original charter of the Oak Level Academy.

Written and submitted by TRCGS Member Fredrick H. Cron

DONATED BOOKS TO BRASWELL LIBRARY

Part of your dues goes into purchasing books and donating them to Braswell Library:



Abstracts of Beaufort County, NC, Deed book 2: 1729-1748 by John A Brayton
 Histories of Currituck County, NC Families - Family Research Society of Northeastern NC
 The Heritage of Currituck County, NC - Family Research Society of Northeastern NC
 Local History Reference Collections for Public Libraries - American Library Association
 Bladen County, NC Land Entries 1778-1780 by Dr. A.B. Pruitt
 Edgecombe County Land Warrants 1778-1900 by Dr. A.B. Pruitt
 Bertie County Road and Bridge Records by Stewart Dunaway
 Bertie County Mill and Ferry Petitions by Stewart Dunaway
 Wilson County, NC Cemeteries, Volume V by Wilson County Genealogical Society
 In Search of Your German Roots from Genealogical Publishing Co
 The Surnames of Wales from Genealogical Publishing Co
 Genealogy at a Glance: Scots-Irish Genealogy Research from Genealogical Publishing Co
 Battle of Plymouth, NC (April 17-20, 1864): the Last Confederate Victory from Heritage Books, Inc

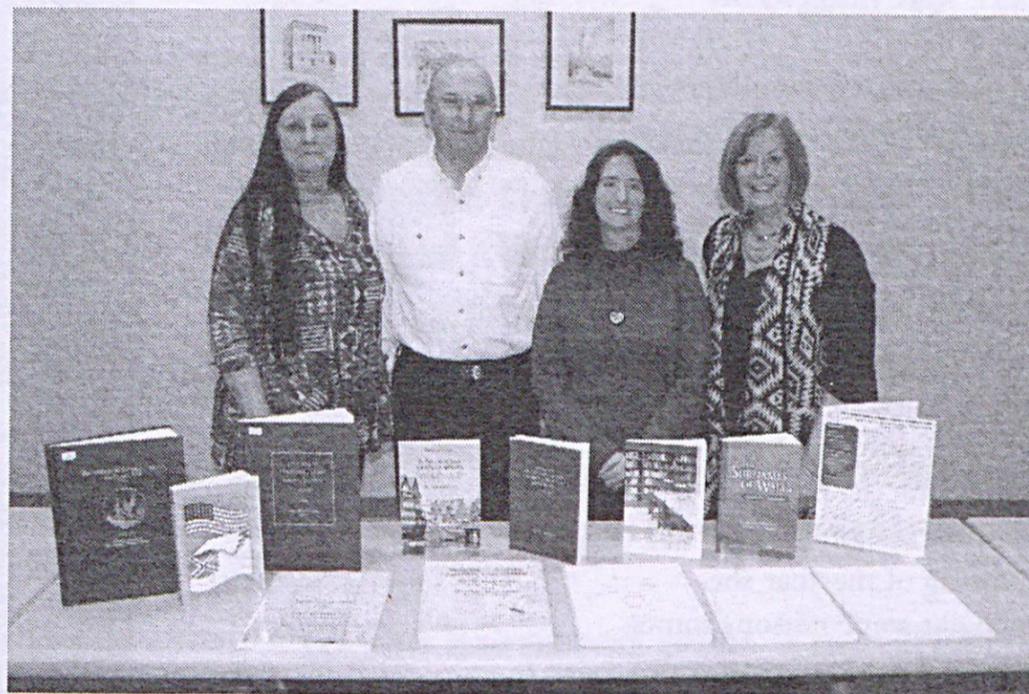
Donated by TRCGS Member William Perry Deans, Sr. is the book *Echoes from Ancestors Land* by P. I. Yarborough. It is a history of the Nash County Perry Family with chapters on Thompson, Kemp, Eatman, and Finch.

Donated by TRCGS Member Mark Wheelless were the following books:

History and Genealogy of the Ricks Family of America by Guy S. Rix
 History and Genealogy of the Ricks Family of America by Family Representatives, Howard Ricks, Chairman
 Marriages of Early Edgecombe Co. NC 1733-1868 By Ruth Smith Williams and Margarett Glenn Griffin
 Genealogical Abstracts of Wills, 1758-1824 Halifax Co., NC by Margaret M. Hofmann
 Adventures of Purse and Person Virginia 1607-1625. By Annie L. Jester and Martha Woodroof Hiden
 Nash County, NC Marriage Bonds by Ruth S. Williams and Margarett Glenn Griffin
 Franks Family History and Descendants , by Elton Ray Franks, Jr.

Thank you to all our members! Without your yearly dues the annual donation of genealogical books to Braswell Library would not be possible.

A special thank you goes out to both William Perry Deans, Sr., and Mark Wheelless for their generosity! A special label was created and placed inside the cover of these books to denote your contribution.



Left to right are TRCGS member Debbie Peacock, TRCGS member Jimmy Winters, Braswell History/ Genealogy Librarian Traci Thompson, TRCGS member Rebecca Young

ROLLED IN SHEETS

The finest patchwork quilts that have survived to the present time were the "best spreads" of their day. The best fabrics were saved for them, the most elaborate work was put into them, and they were preserved by using them only infrequently in a guest room. In the **Josiah Nelson and Ella Elizabeth Mason Bone** household they were carefully rolled in sheets and stored in a closet off the master bedroom.

Quilts came to be made in great numbers not principally as a bedcover, but blankets for additional warmth. Tradition says that a chest filled with thirteen quilts was the goal of every young woman. These quilts are fascinating not only for their craftsmanship, but also for their serving as a psychological outlet for the woman's artistic and aesthetic desires.

In the words of **Kenneth E. Bone**, "Those quilts that you admire were made by my mother before she was married in 1886. She would cut the scraps. She would take the scraps of material that she had a dress made out of and piece them together in a pattern — Log cabin, Flower Baskets, Pinwheels, Star of Bethlehem, Feathered-Maltese Cross and different patterns that became the names of quilts, in the winter days. In the spring of the year she would get some cotton, some cards; and card the cotton and make batts and place those

batts between her lining and the top of the quilt, put those materials into a frame and quilt it. Sometimes you would have a quilting; neighbors would come in and help you quilt it. I have no idea how long it would take her to complete it. She did not work at it regular, just at odd times. She mostly sewed them together in the winter. In the spring she would quilt it after the weather got warm, maybe in the pack house. The early quilts were made before my birth in 1888; she made some after I was a boy, a small boy."

The quilts were made by Ella Elizabeth Mason Bone, Born 20 Aug 1859 - Died 10 Sep 1943.

The quilts were displayed by her granddaughter, Ella Margaret Bone Cron and great-granddaughter, Diane Virginia Cron Nishwitz.

The article was in the words of Kenneth Early Bone, the son of Ella Elizabeth Mason Bone.

Kenneth passed away on 28 Feb 1982, age 93.

Article Submitted by TRCGS Member Frederick Cron



MARY BATCHELOR

Mary Batchelor is Mary "Polly" Abernathy Batchelor. She was wife of Richard Romulus Saunders Batchelor. Her parents were: William H. Abernathy and Martha Hammond Abernathy. Richard's parents were Joseph Batchelor and Edith Manning Batchelor.

Their children (& marriages) were: Martha Wright Batchelor (Mrs. Benjamin Franklin Edwards), John Richard Batchelor (1st. Melinda Barbee, 2nd Mary Ann "Mollie" Joyner), Sarah Edith Batchelor (Mrs. Adam Bryant Batchelor), JoAnn Batchelor (Mrs. William Newsome Joyner), Mary Ransom "Polly" Batchelor (Mrs. George Washington Batchelor), Senora Harriett Batchelor (Mrs. Neverson Monroe Joyner), Cora Ellen

Batchelor (Mrs. Matthew Haywood Joyner), William Josephus Batchelor (Daisy Blanche Harrison), James Wade Merritt Batchelor (1st. Mary Adams, 2nd Nancy Floyd), Catherine Batchelor (died at young age), George Giles Batchelor (Virginia Deans), and Lutora "Lou" Batchelor (Harris Robert Perry).

Richard and Polly were the great great grandparents of TRCGS Member Debbie Strickland who submitted the articles and information. Thanks Debbie!

MARRIED.

On the 8d inst., at the residence of the bride's mother, by Sam'l W. Marshborn, Esq., Mr. Richard Romulus Saunders Batchelor to Miss Mary Abernathy, daughter of W. H. Abernathy, deceased.

From the Semi-Weekly Standard (Raleigh, NC)

Sat, July 11, 1857, Page 3

Nashville Graphic 3-23-1911
Mrs. Mary Batchelor Dead.

--- d. 3-21-1911

The sudden death of Mrs. Mary Batchelor which occurred at her home in Coopers township Tuesday evening about 6:00 o'clock, was a shock to her many friends and acquaintances. Mrs. Batchelor was about seventy-four years old and for the past few years had been in feeble health, having suffered a stroke of paralysis about three years ago from which she never fully recovered. For the past two months or more she has been confined to her bed and on Tuesday afternoon suffered a second stroke of paralysis and the end came quickly. She was the mother of our townsman, Mr. W. J. Batchelor and there are eight other children surviving, viz: Mr. James Batchelor, George Batchelor, John Batchelor, Mrs. W. N. Joyner, Mrs. N. M. Joyner, Mrs. M. H. Joyner, Mrs. B. F. Edwards and Mrs. Harris Perry. The deceased has been a member of the White Oak Methodist Church for the past fifty years, having joined that church in its early history. The interment was made yesterday afternoon at the homestead of Mr. N. M. Joyner, in Coopers township, where many friends had gathered to pay a last sad tribute of respect.

To the bereaved ones The Graphic extends its sympathy.

(Continued from page 1)

teach in the Public Schools of Nash County for one year on July 4, 1874."When the next school term arrived, my father taught school in the same log cabin he previously went to, with the boys. That was his first year of teaching, and some of those boys, older and bigger than he was, and that he went to school with, really gave him a fit in disciplining, but he got through that term with them. He taught four months a year for seven years, making a little crop in between time."

Josiah Bone would become one of the seven co-founders/trustees of the **Oak Level Academy** on September 14, 1896. The school was to operate as a public school for four months each term; on tuition-trustee funds for five months each school year.

Louisburg College is the oldest chartered two-year, church-related, co-educational college in the nation. So the educational heritage runs deep.

The Louisburg Male Academy lies about 25 miles from the home of Josiah Bone.

The sketch of Josiah Nelson Bone early schooling was related by his son, Kenneth Early Bone, on June 12, 1980, to Frederick H. Cron.

Submitted by TRCGS Member Frederick Cron

Louisburg Male Academy,

M. S. DAVIS, A. M., Principal.
Assistant.

THE Spring and Fall Sessions will begin on the second Monday in January and July of each year, and continue twenty-one weeks. Louisburg, noted as the "Village of Schools," is unsurpassed in point of health, morality, and educational advantages. The Academy is situated in a beautiful oak grove of twelve acres, in the most elevated and desirable portion of the village, entirely removed from the noise and excitement of the town. The Principal is pleased to state, that although this Institution has been under his charge seventeen years, with an average attendance of forty-five per session, scarcely one death has ever occurred among his pupils.

Students will be prepared to enter any College in the United States, and those not aspiring to Collegiate honors, or whose limited means will not allow them to enter that pathway, may here receive a thorough English Education. Mathematics being the ground work of a business education, more time and attention are devoted to that, than any other branch of study.

In teaching the Latin and Greek Languages, the object is to afford systematic training in the principles of each, and every effort is made to familiarize the pupil with the leading principles of the Grammar, before further advancement. Attention is given to the analysis of synonyms, and to the origin of those words which furnish stems of our own language.

Those Text Books are used which tend to facilitate the attainment of the object in view, and changes are made only when a work can be found better than the one in use. Among the Text Books used are Ringham's Latin, and Bellows' Greek Series, Davies' and Robinson's Mathematics, Wilson's Rhetoric, McNally's Geographies, Storr's Natural Sciences, &c.

In the government of the School, such rules and regulations are adopted as are believed to be best calculated to promote good order and close application. No pains are spared to instill into the minds of the pupils a high sense of honor, and to impress upon them the fact that veracity, high toned morality and gentleness of manner are essential elements of a good character.

TERMS PER SESSION.

Board with the principal, (washing, lights and towels not included.)	\$70 00
Tuition in Primary Department,	15 00
Regular English Course,	80 00
	5 00

of the session, and will be promptly presented

LOUISBURG MALE ACADEMY,

FRANKLIN COUNTY, N. C.

THE several grades of Scholarship recognized in this Institution, are **PERFECT, GOOD, RESPECTABLE, INDIFFERENT** and **BAD**.

At the close of every recitation the roll is called, and each pupil required to report the number of questions missed. Those who answer every question correctly, and evince a thorough knowledge of the lesson, are marked *Perfect*, those who miss one, *Good*; two, *Respectable*; three, *Indifferent*; four, *Bad*. In Mathematics, greater particularity is observed, and those who fail to solve one problem at recitation are marked *Indifferent*. If the perfect recitations amount to fourteen-fifteenths of the whole number recited during the session, the pupil's report is considered *Perfect*. Pupils are permitted to examine the teachers' class books whenever they desire to do so. They are thus enabled, at any time, to ascertain in a few minutes their standing, both in Scholarship and Deportment, up to their last recitation. Parents and Guardians should require their sons and wards to make weekly or monthly reports of their Scholarship. Such a course would doubtless prove an incentive to study.

Each session closes with a public examination, at which all the pupils are required to be present. Those who fail to attend, are deemed guilty of a grave misdemeanor and are deprived of all honors. At the close of every session, a report of each pupil's scholarship, deportment and attendance, is made out and sent to his Parents or Guardian.

Report of Josiah A. Bone

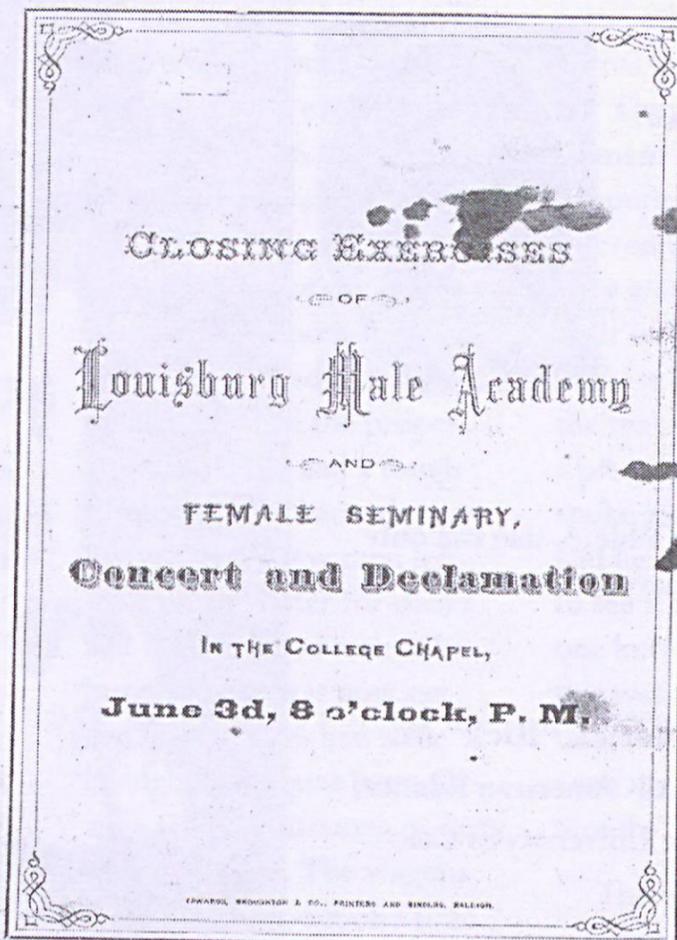
for the session ending June 3 1874

PERFECT RECITATIONS,	226
GOOD,	46
RESPECTABLE,	10
INDIFFERENT,	0
BAD,	0
WHOLE NUMBER OF RECITATIONS,	282
ABSENT, EXCUSED,	2 1/2 Days
ABSENT, NOT EXCUSED,	0
FAULTS IN DEPORTMENT,	0
GENERAL BEHAVIOR, <i>Very good and Affectionate</i>	

and Progress very satisfactory. He is highly commendable for his deportment.

Teacher acts all praise.

CLOSING EXERCISES OF LOUISBURG MALE ACADEMY



**PROGRAMME:
PART I.**

1. ANTHEM, "Ring Out Merry Bells,"
Misses Wilder, M. Davis and others.
2. SPEECH, "Burr and Blannerhassett,"
Wm. D. Griffin.
3. COMPOSITION, "Error of Devoting too much time to Accomplishments"
Miss Furgurson.
4. SONG, "Fairy at the Ball,"
Misses Uzzell.
5. SPEECH, "That's Where You are Wrong,"
Wiley Person.
6. MUSIC, "Nelly Gray" with variations,
Miss F. M. Davis.
7. SPEECH, "Extract from a Literary Address,"—Gaston,
John H. Uzzell.
8. SONG, "Name the Day, Sweetheart,"
Misses Thomas, Wilson and others.
9. MUSIC, "Dream on the Ocean Wave Waltz,"
Miss Pattie Reid.
10. SPEECH, "Address of Boston,"
C. E. Morse.
11. SONG, "Minnie Lee,"
Misses Stone and others.
12. COMPOSITION, "Night"
Miss Maggie Pleasants.
13. MUSIC, "Love by Moonlight,"
Miss Furgurson.
14. SONG, "Ethel May,"
Misses Ballard, Hill and others.
15. SPEECH, "That Billy Goal,"
H. T. Huff.
16. MUSIC, "Lancers,"
Miss Pleasants.
17. SPEECH, "Judges Should be Free,"—Bayard,
W. P. Neal.
"It is better to Laugh than to Sighing"
Miss Furgurson.
18. SPEECH, "There is a God,"—H. A. Knox,
Fenner Yarbrough.
19. MUSIC, "Sleigh Bell Polka,"
Miss F. M. Davis.
20. SPEECH, "Queer, but Convenient,"
Behon Hill.

**PROGRAMME:
PART II.**

1. SONG, "La Fille Du Regiment,"
Miss M. C. Smith.
2. COMPOSITION, "The Scholar's Hope,"
Miss F. M. Davis.
3. SONG, "I Really Don't Think I Shall Marry,"
Misses Wester, Uzzell and others.
4. SPEECH, "The World for Sale,"—R. Hoyt,
J. J. Barrow.
5. MUSIC, "Falling Leaves,"
Miss F. M. Davis.
6. SPEECH, "Cover them Over,"—W. M. Carlton,
H. M. Barrow.
7. MUSIC, "Trio on Popular Airs,"
Misses Crenshaw and others.
8. SPEECH, "Fuss at Fires,"
Frank P. Williams.
9. SONG, "Courtship,"
Misses Pleasants and others.
10. SPEECH, "Address to Young Ladies,"—Col. W. F. Green,
Geo. W. Carlile.
11. MUSIC, "Oxen Waltz,"
Misses Davis and Furgurson.
12. SPEECH, "Cassabianca Improved,"
Jas. H. Yarbrough.
13. SONG, "Who's at My Window,"
Miss F. M. Davis.
14. MUSIC, "Home, Sweet Home,"
Miss Furgurson.
15. SPEECH, "Death of Leonidas,"—Geo. Ordly,
E. H. Davis.
16. SONG, "Good-bye Charlie,"
Misses Huff, Green and others.
17. SONG, "Now Isn't it Really Provoking,"
Misses Hill and others.
18. SPEECH, "Carolina's Sons should Love Carolina,"—J. C. Dublin,
Robert H. Davis.
19. SONG, "Bird of the Mountain,"—Arlison.
20. SPEECH, "The Ruins of Time,"—Milford Bard,
Jas. A. White.
21. CHORUS, "Joy, Joy, Happy are We,"
Misses Baines, Wilson, Green and others.

YOU DON'T MEAN IT!

Hi, my name is Sage - I am only four, but I am very precocious for my age. I happened to be looking through the year book of East Carolina Teachers College, Greenville, North Carolina," The 1925 "TECOAM"; to my surprise whom did I see, but on page 108, a photograph of my maternal great, grandmother, **Margaret E. Roberson** of Robersonville, North Carolina.

She was only twenty at the time, but I immediately recognized the family resemblance with my NAMA (Grandmother Cron). Well what really surprised me, was she was on the Track Team.

"You don't mean it! My great, grand-

MARGARET E. ROBERSON
Robersonville, N. C.

Poe Society; Track Team; Martin County Club, Athletic Association.

"They are never alone that are accompanied by noble thoughts."

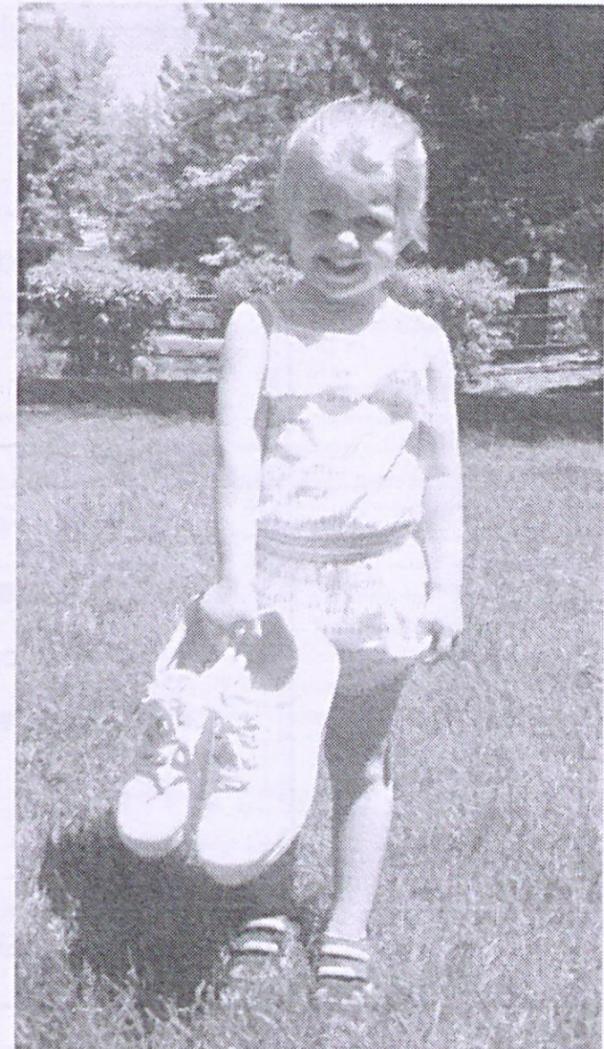


mother wore track shoes."

To an aspiring female athlete- that can only mean one thing --- I have got to run!!!!

PS: Sage's father **Frederick "Rick" Michael Cron** was an All- American Runner, Cross County, for the University of Colorado in 1996.

Submitted by TRCGS Member Frederick Cron



Post Script to the above article

Sage Cron enrolled in Buffalo Trails Elementary kindergarten for the fall term. As a fundraiser for the computer laboratory of the school, the students were encouraged to gain sponsorship @ \$10 per lap for running on a course set up on an adjoining soccer field. In Sage's running debut at five years of age, she ran 35 laps; a little over 2 miles on August 28, 2015.

Bravo to Sage!

She is shown here with her brother, Mason Cron, age three, giving a high five in congratulations to his sister.

WORKINGS OF THE SUPREME POWER MAY 12—OCTOBER 1, 1864

The following narrative was excerpts from the *Record of A Soldier in the late War* by John Wesley Bone, a member of Company I, 30th Regiment, N.C. Troops, raised in Nash County, North Carolina and enlisted there on September 10, 1861

I now wish to take the reader back to the place where I was wounded and try to show the working of the Supreme Power. I know it was greatly bestowed upon me in my sad condition. I know if I had stayed where I was wounded the enemy would have gotten me and in all probability I would have died. If I had gotten off the field and in care of my men in the rush of the wounded I would have been sent to the railroad and as before stated that would have resulted in my death. I was lucky enough to be left just far enough for neither side to get me and I stayed there until the rush was over. I was unable to find out why the man from Louisiana laid down his plunder beside a wounded man and searched it. Everything seemed to be going my way. The moon went down in time for me to make my way out and the cannon redoubts were placed in a different direction. I think the man from Louisiana saved my life for the kept me from being sent off. It is a wonder I am living today after going through so much during the war. We were now given tents to stay

in. The wounded died very fast, several would be carried out and buried each day. In the tent I was in three died. One of them was a member of my Company and the other two members of my Regiment. Many a poor fellow would have lived that died if he had only had the proper attention. We had a tough time. Here we had a doctor or two, and a few men left with us, the latter for cooks and nurses. The Fredericksburg railroad was now cut and our supplies had to be brought in wagons from Orange C. H., a distance of forty miles or more. The wagons would come about one time each week, and when they went back they would carry the wounded that were able to be moved. This was the way that we were moved from here. Sometime in June, a raiding party of Yankees came through that section and took a part of our nurses, leaving us only a few. Our wagon train failed to come for fear of being captured. Our nurses had to look around in that raided country and pick up what they could get in the way of blackberries, cherries, and other fruits. The inhabitants divided their beans, potatoes, cabbage and other things with us, so we managed to keep alive until our train could come through in safety. The good ladies on the other side of the river heard of our condition and a party of them got up a collection of butter and bread, and

some other things, and came across the river to our hospital. They divided their nourishment among us, spoke encouraging words to us, and offered their services. We felt very grateful; but we declined their offer I remember as one of these good ladies came in the tent where I was, gave me a piece of bread with butter, spoke kind words to me, and laid her hand on my forehead to see if I had any fever. No one knows how encouraging this was to one in our condition, and probably had not even seen a woman before in months.

The wagon train began to run through regular every week, bringing rations and carrying back the wounded. In July, I was considered able to be sent to the railroad train that came in on Saturday morning. One Sunday morning I was put upon an ambulance with others and bid farewell to my comrades, and left with a glad heart, after spending about one and one-half months at this place. We camped by the roadside that night. The next day we reached Orange C.H. again, and were taken by the way of the train to Gordonsville, and later taken to the hospital. I should have been sent home, but both railroads leading South from Richmond were now cut by the enemy so I had to remain here a week or two longer I was then furloughed by the same board that I was about one year be-

fore when I had the fever. I then came home making my way by Richmond, via Danville, Greensboro, and Raleigh, getting home again about the middle of July. I remained until about the first of October and then made my way back to my command.

Footnotes

The manuscript, as a typed copy, stapled with an oil cloth cover was made available to me for retyping/ copying in August of 1968. I later include the "Record" in my book entitled *Distant Voices as Heard by Frederick Holmes Cron*, footnotes by Hugh B. Johnston, Jr., Copyright, 1987. I again used the "Record" in *Distance Voices as Heard from The Water's Edge*, Copyright, 1999.

The material for this article was taken from *Distance Voices* pages 65 - 66.

Submitted by TRCGS Member Fred Cron.

FROM THE FREE CHAPEL CHURCH TO OAK LEVEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Oak Level Baptist church was organized on July 28, 1879 with nine charter members as a free chapel church. This church was organized by **Rev. J. G. Barkley, Daniel Westry, and R.D. Harper**, using the Free Chapel Church building as a meeting place. The nine charter members were **Tinah Armile Bone, James A. Vick, George N. Langley, John W. Pridgen, William F. Brantley, Mourning A. Batchelor, Margaret Joyner, John W. & Mary Brantley.**

The definition of a "free chapel church" is thought to have meant, that the church was free and open to all faiths. Oak Level called themselves this for a short time before the Church was welcomed into the Tar River Baptist Association held in Louisburg, October 9 -11, 1879.

The earliest mention of the Free Chapel is from the *Tarborough Southern* reporting a sermon that was preached to several thousand people on

September 24, 1875.

The first church was originally located five miles west of Rocky Mount on the **Halifax road**, sometimes known as the **Cornwallis Road**, running from **Duncan Lamon's bridge**, northerly through the two **Easonburgs** and **Dortches**.

The Free Chapel Church building was used for fourteen years until 1893, when a new sanctuary was erected on land donated by **Lawrence Telfair Ricks**, son of **Amos**

and Martha Ricks, about 3 ½ miles west of the Free Chapel on the old Nashville and Rocky Mount Road about 100 feet west of the its intersection with the **Old Carriage Road**. The site size was one acre. The receiving trustees were **Tinah Armile Bone, J. B. Batts, and D.W. Gardner**. This new location was surrounded by majestic oak trees; hence the name of the church became

(Continued on page 13)



John Wesley Bone - far left, standing; Robert "Bob" Ernest Bone - 2nd from left kneeling, straw hat; Martha "Pattie" Ann Bone - standing next to Bob Bone; James Alford Daughtridge - seated holding Bible, dark hat; Josiah May Bone - seated, holding Bible, dark hat, moustache; Walter James Bone - 3rd boy from left in row of children, cap tipped back; Mary Elizabeth "Mamie" Williford Bone, standing behind Walter Bone, slightly to his left; Zillah Pridgen Bone - seated far right, dark skirt and hat; Kenneth Early Bone - Back row, tallest man, white straw hat, with black band; Minnie Lee Bone - Second row, fourth from right, black hat, white blouse

(Continued from page 12)

Oak Level Baptist Church. The road on which it was and is currently located was re-named **Oak Level Road**.

1907 Photograph -

The congregation consisted of 62 souls.

"On Sunday morning, the entire family would load up in the horse and buggy and go to Sunday school. We always went to church here (Oak Level Baptist Church), as long back as I can remember.

David and Dinah Poland Bone, my grandparents, did not go too regularly. They did join the Oak Level Baptist Church when it was organized as the Free Chapel on the Halifax Road, in their later years.

When I was born to **Josiah and Ella Elizabeth Bone**, both my sister and I joined the **Nashville Methodist** in 1903. We would go about once a month to church in Nashville and once a month to Oak Level. That was as often as they preached at that time. Services were held on both Saturday and Sunday. They didn't have night preaching much.

I use to drive into Nashville for preaching in thirty minutes with my horse- Frank. It was 4½ miles to church.

The Methodist and Baptist kept you until 12:00 or 12:15" – **Kenneth Early**

Bone

The wooden frame building was used for twenty nine years, from 1893 until 1922.

In 1920, because the Sunday school and church attendance had increased, the need for a new sanctuary arose. At this time the pastor, **Rev. Paul Gulley**, called a conference to make plans for a new building. **Tinah Armile** and his wife **Henrietta Corina Ricks Bone** proposed that if the new building were to be constructed of brick, they would pay one half the cost of the new church. Their proposition was agreed upon and in 1922 the work was completed on this building. The new structure included a Sunday school auditorium, classrooms and a large basement. The then presiding pastor **R. M. Von Miller** assisted in the construction.

The church held a Homecoming Day on September 10, 1938 to dedicate the building. Pastor R. M. Von Miller preached the dedicatory sermon and the old mortgage note was burned by **Tinah A. Bone**, the only charter member living at that time. Mr. Bone served as church clerk for forty nine years. **Tinah** passed away on October 4, 1942, at age eighty eight. **Henrietta** had predeceased him on Jan 6, 1925, age sixty five.

Oak Level Baptist Church – Notes

Oak Level Baptist Church, Nash County, North Carolina, Heri-

tage, 1777-2011, Article 46, p. 18, submitted by Rev. Hoyle "Kip" Vinson.

Reminiscences from a transcript of a tape recording Fred Cron made with Kenneth Early Bone on August 17, 1980 from *The Bone Family, Distant Voices as Heard From The Water's Edge* by Frederick Holmes Cron.

Oak Level Baptist Church photograph – 1907, from an album previously owned by Eunice Mae Bone provided by Julianne Faison Bone Meghan. Identifications of individuals by Julianne and Ella Margaret Bone Cron.

A History of the Tar River Baptist Association, 1830-1921 by Thomas J. Taylor, D.D., p.

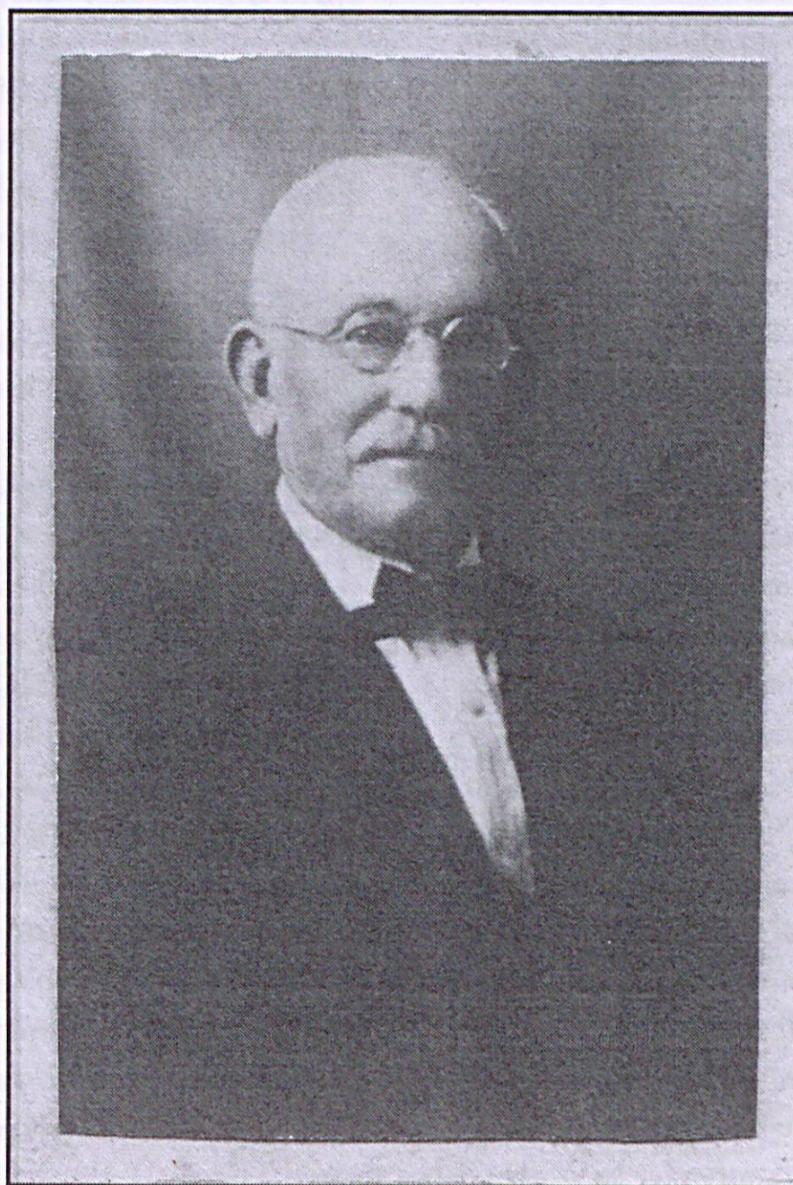
61.

Undated article entitled *Oak Level Church Formed in 1879; Report on History Shows Progress*, Nashville Graphic.

T. A. Bone Store Had First Telephone by Anne Ruggiero, Nashville Graphic Correspondent.

Information search assistance provided by Traci Thompson, MLIS, CG., Local History/ Genealogy Librarian, Braswell Memorial Library

Article submitted by TRCGS Member Frederick H. Cron



Tinah Armile Bone

NC LAND ENTRIES, WARRANTS, SURVEYS, & GRANTS 1777-1800

In 1777 the legislature of the "new" state of North Carolina passed an act allowing the state to take over the title to all "vacant" land within its borders. This land had formerly been the property of the King or the Earl of Granville. In the same year, the legislature also passed an act creating a procedure for selling the land to almost anyone who had the money to pay the required fees. These "instruments" were called grants, but that does not imply the free gift of land.

The first step in the procedure was for the prospective landowner to find some vacant land. He may choose land on which he has been living, an adjoining tract, or a tract far removed from his current residence.

The next step was to have the claim recorded in the land office in the county where the land was. There was a small fee to pay for recording the claim. This is sometimes called "making a land entry" or having the claim entered in the records. A land entry taker was appointed to each county land office. The land description at this point was purposely vague. The state

was interested in getting the entry in the records and making sure the claimant could pay the required fees. It was understood that the land description would be clearer once a survey was made. In 1778, ALL required fees were supposed to be paid when the entry was recorded (entry fees, surveying fees, & grant fees). But this soon changed, and only entry fees were required when the entry was recorded.

Between 1778 and 1781, the person making an entry had to pledge allegiance to the state. This requirement was supposed to keep Tories from claiming land.

Next there was a waiting period. The purpose of the waiting period was to allow time for everyone else to know the tract had been claimed. Other people could then decide if the claim included land that was already owned by someone other than the claimant. If such problems arose, there could be a court trial to determine who was really entitled to claim (or own) the land before additional steps were taken. If there were no disputes, the entry taker would issue a land war-

rant.

The warrant was form letter addressed to the county surveyor instructing the surveyor to survey the claim "without delay". The surveyor was paid based on the number of acres in the survey (which may be slightly different from the number of acres in the land entry). When the survey was finished, the land warrant and two copies of the survey were sent to the North Carolina Secretary of State. Usually, surveys included the name of the surveyor and names of chain carriers. Chain carriers may be neighbors or the person whose land is being surveyed; depending on who was present on that day.

The Secretary was supposed to make sure the State Treasurer had received the state's share of the fees before he proceeded with a grant. The state charged 50 shillings per hundred acres between 1778 and 1781. Beginning in 1783, the state fee was raised to 10 pounds per hundred acres. Afterward, the fee varied; lower fees were charged if the land included a swamp or was mountainous. Still later, the state's fees were

changed every few years.

Using the land description in the survey, the Secretary (or one of his clerks) filled out a land grant. The Governor signed the grant. The state seal was attached to the grant by the Governor's Secretary. One copy of the survey was attached to the grant. The land description was recorded in the land grant books kept by the Secretary of State. The Secretary kept the second copy of the survey and the land warrant. The Secretary of State and Governor's Secretary were paid small fees for each grant that was processed. Prior to the Governor signing a grant, a "last minute" protest could be made.

Paperwork survives for petitions dated between 1778 and 1835; such disputes were settled by a jury trial in the county where the land was located. Many times, we find a petition to the Governor, but we have difficulty determining the outcome of the trial. The grant was returned to the grantee. Sometimes this means the grant was returned to the county court house, and an advertisement was placed in the

(Continued on page 15)

LAST NASH VET DIES IN COUNTY

John Wesley Bone of Oak Level
Community to be Buried
Thursday Afternoon.

Nashville, April 8—**John Wesley Bone**, a well known retired farmer of the Oak Level community, died Tuesday afternoon of pneumonia. Mr. Bone was born September 7, 1842, and died at home. He was the oldest son of the late **David** and **Dinah Bone**.

In spite of his 93 years, he was active until a few days before his death.

Funeral services will be held from the **Oak Level Baptist church**, Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock by **Rev. Guy E. Moore**, pastor, assisted by **Rev. L. D. Hayman** of the **Nashville Methodist Church**. Pallbearers will be **Walter J. Bone**, **C. W. Bone**, **J. E. Daughtridge**, **John A. Daughtridge**, **Paul Bone** and **W. H. Glasgow**. Honorary pallbearers will be the deacons and trustees of Oak Level Baptist church, viz; **L. D. Bass**, **L. E. Bass**, **G. A. Taylor**, **G. C. Bunn**, **G. W. Stone**, and **B. F. Proctor**.

His was the last Confederate veteran of Nash county. He was a member of **company I, 30th Regiment**. He enlisted at the beginning of the war and surrendered at Appomattox. Mr. Bone had an unusual war record.

He was wounded twice, one wound in hand and the other in the

chest. During the battle at Spotsylvania Court House he was severely wounded in the right breast, the bullet passing through his lungs and coming out at the back. The ball lodged in his clothing. As he tried to leave the spot he was struck twice. He lay under a large tree for three days and nights, without food or medical attention.

Mr. Bone was an active member of Oak Level Baptist church. He served on the board of deacons for years, and for the past several years he has been an honorary member of the board.

In 1868 he was married to **Zilloh Pridgen** of Nash county who preceded him to the grave twenty three years ago.

Surviving are two sons, **J. M. Bone** and **R. E. Bone** of the Oak Level community. His only daughter, **Mrs. J. S. Daughtridge** of Battleboro passed away during the influenza epidemic of 1918.

He also leaves two brother, **J. N. Bone** and **T. A. Bone** of the same community, and **H. A. Bone** preceded him in August, 1931. He leaves the following grandchildren: **Walter J. Bone** of Nashville, **Charles Wesley Bone** of Oak Level, **Eunice Bone** of Raleigh and **Eloise Bone** of Whitakers, **Elain Daughtridge** of Belmont and **John A. Daughtridge**, a student of Wake Forest college, and five great grandchildren.

(Continued on page 17)

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A photograph from 1898 shows John Wesley and Zillah in their Sunday-best cloths, seated in rocking chairs outside their home. Their son Robert and daughter, Martha Ann, stand beside them.

(Continued from page 16)

Note: The source of this article and exact date printed is presently unknown. The article was found in the family scrap book.

Submitted by TRCGS Member Fred Cron



The editors of this newsletter would like to extend a warm THANK YOU to Tar River Connections Genealogical Member **Fred Cron** for his many contributions to the newsletter. Well done Fred!!!

A FAINT RECORD—WRITTEN BY JOHN WESLEY BONE ON DECEMBER 16, 1918

The following is a faint record of the Bones' origin and descendants in Nash county at this date, gotten up by **Jno. W. Bone**, now seventy-six (76) years old, and the older Bone now living in said county. Many things of the families have passed my recollection that I have seen and heard of the families. At this late day, with the rush and stir of the world, and my body and mind both growing very weak; but will write what I have seen and heard, to the best of my recollection; - thinking that this record may be read some day by somebody that would like to know the origin of said family, not that they are such a notable family only in name, for we are the only family of said name living near here. They are mostly a straightforward, working, honest people, not as sensible as some; but trying to make an honest living by our own labor and trying to make the world better by being here.

Some time in the date 1780, after the Revolutionary War was ended, two men, **Jack Bone** and **Neddie Ballard**, came to Nash county from Virginia, somewhere from near **Harper's Ferry**, Virginia. Jack Bone had been in the

war. Bone settled on or near Tar river, on **Jacob's swamp**, buying or taking up a parcel of land on both sides of the swamp, now where **J. H. Vaughan** lives, and settling on the opposite side of said swamp where a **Mr. Boon** now lives, Ballard settling near old **Sappony Creek Church** site at the place known now as the old **Nelson Bone** place. Some time after settling down in Nash county, Bone married a **Miss Winstead**; but I do not know now of what family of Winstead's she was related to. Bone raised two sons, **Nelson** and **Wiley**, and three daughters. Nelson married **Mourning Ballard**, daughter of **Neddie Ballard**; do not know who Ballard married, nor how many children he raised. The name of the family was last in Nash County. I have heard that he raised one son. He went to the War of 1812, and died. **Wiley Bone** married **Mourning Pridgen**. Nelson first settled near where he was raised, but later took charge of his father-in-law's, the Ballard place, where he raised a family and lived and died. He was somewhere about eighty-four (84) years old when he died; he died in July 1866.

He raised four (4) sons, **David, William, Calvin, and John**, and one daughter, **Rhoda**. Wiley settled near where he was raised and lived until he died, before he was a very old man; he died suddenly at his plow when I was very small. He raised three (3) sons, **Bennett, Drew, and Hardy**, and five (5) daughters, **Mamie, Elizabeth, Lucy, Piley, and Nancy**. Jack Bone's daughters were **Polly, Pherby, and Nancy Polly** marrying **Williamson Poland**; Pherby marrying **Arch Baker**, and Nancy marrying **Lewis Vick**. Their descendants are very badly scattered.

I will now follow Nelson Bone's descendents; his first wife died when his children were small. David the older was perhaps entering his teens; he married the second time but raised no children by his last wife, she being **Nacey Batchelor**, she dying about one year before he did. He accumulated a good living, raised several stores, and gave his children a home. David and William settled on the east side of Sappony Creek, where they lived and died. David married **Dinah Poland** about 1841, and

raised four sons, **John W., Henry A., Joseph N., and Tinah A.**, who are all now living. All but Henry are living near the old homestead, where our father lived and died at the age of seventy-seven years; our mother dying about three years before he did. He dying in the year Nov. 1891. Jno W. Bone, the oldest, was about 19 years old when the Civil War commenced, being called into it, and went through about four years' hard service in it; twice wounded, having a ball at one time shot through my body; but survived and surrendered when the conflict ended, and belonging to General Lee and Stonewall Jackson's commands, and surrendered at Appomattox, Va., April 9, 1865. Received a parole and walked to my father's home, a distance of about two hundred miles, with a weather-beaten uniform on and a shattered body to start out in life, and try to help build up the destructions and ruins of the war; trying to improve my education some; started as a farmer to try to make me an honest living by cultivat-

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)

ing the soil, which profession I have followed unto this present time. In the year 1868 I married a **Miss Zillah Pridgen**. We journeyed through life together for about 45 years, she dying in the year 1913. We raised three children, **Josiah M.**, who now lives at **Oak Level Church**; **Robert E.**, who now lives with me; **Pattie A.**, who departed this life Nov. 1, 1918, in Battleboro, NC, where she and her husband **Jas. A. Daughtridge** lived, leaving two children, **Jas. Elvin** and **Jno. A. Daughtridge**. **Josiah M.** married a **Miss Williford** and has four children, **Walter J.**, who is now about 20 years old, and is a student of Wake Forest College; **Charley W.**, and two little girls, **Eunice** and **Elevens**; **Robt. E.** married a **Miss McDearmid** and have no descendants. **Henry A.** married a **Miss Baker** and raised eight children; two sons, **Willie H.** and **Columbus**, who are all married, but one and are living at different places. **Josiah N.** married a **Miss Mason** and raised two children **Kenneth E.**, and **Minnie Lee**, who are now living with their parents. **Tinah A.** married a **Miss Ricks**, (who has died since the above was

written), who died in 1862, leaving five sons, **Nelson Robert, Allen, Ashley,** and **Geo. T.**; they have all been dead for some time, except. **Geo. T.** who has never married, but owns and lives near the old Homestead, where their father died about the year 1880. **Calvin**, the third son [of *Nelson Bone*], married a **Miss Horne**, and lived in Wilson county until he died some time near 1890, raising four children, two sons and two daughters, **John T.**, the oldest, died in the Army of the Civil War; **Jas. N.** went to Florida several years ago and we suppose that he is dead, as we have never heard from him in some time. Two girls, **Martha** and **Penina** married but raised no children and have been dead for some time. **John**, the youngest son of **Nelson**, married a **Miss Taylor** and raised three sons and one daughter, **William T., Richard, Henry,** and **Mourning**. The boys have all been dead for some time, leaving some children; **Mourning** married a **Mr. Mason** and now lives in Nashville, having raised two daughters, **Gertrude** and **Beatrice**, **John Bone** dying at about the age of seventy-five (75) and he settled and lived at old **Sappony Church**; served

two years in the Civil War and held various offices in the county. **Rhoda**, the only daughter of **Nelson Bone**, married a **Thomas Mercer** of Wilson County and lived there to be a good old age, raising seven children—mostly girls, one son now living in Wilson, **W. H. Mercer**.

Will now state something of **Wiley Bone's** descendents; his oldest son **Bennett** married a **Miss Barnes**; they raised some children, mostly girls; they are all dead now. He lived to be an old man and died. **Drew**, the next, married a **Vick** and lived near Rocky Mount; raised several children, boys and girls, dying at an old age. Some of his boys are now living in different parts. **Dr. Bone** of Rocky Mount, is a grandson of his; **Hardy**, the youngest, married a **Miss Proctor** and raised three children; one son **Ira**, who is now living, and two daughters, **Hardy** went into the Civil War with me and died.

I have now written a short outline of the origin on the **Bone family**, thinking that after years some of the descendants would like to know when and how the family started in Nash County.

As I have said before

that I am the oldest living **Bone** in the county and perhaps know more of the family than any one else now living. I am now in my seventy-seventh year — my eyesight and mind both weakening. Therefore, I have not written it in very proper form, etc.

Jno. W. Bone

This Dec. 16, 1918

Note:

"The Faint Record" was written by John Wesley Bone on December 16, 1918. The author lived from November 7, 1842 - April 7, 1936.

Contemporary research indicates that both Jack Bone's and Neddie Ballard's fathers - John and Edward - lived in that portion of Edgecombe County that would become Nash County, prior to 10 June 1763.

Submitted by TRCGS Member Fred Cron

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

Braswell Memorial Library
Att: Local history / Genealogy Room
Rocky Mount NC