

The Connector

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

Spring, 2003

Peggy Strickland & Billie Jo Matthews, Co-Editors

Volume 7 Number 2

Tarboro Press Attacks Immoral Judge

Judge Jones dishonored Judiciary of the State



"The complaint in this case alleges that **Sarah Tilghman** was sent for to come to the Defendant's residence in the Town of **Plymouth**

[Washington Co., NC] on Friday, the 17th inst. about 8 o'clock P.M. She found the defendant at home and much intoxicated. He asked her to spend the night there and an arrangement was effected between the two. Finding him too drunk, the plaintiff refused to stay, and attempted to leave the room, whereupon he threw her upon his bed, struck her several violent blows upon her head and person, and choked her so

that for a time she lost all consciousness. Upon reviving she resisted his importunities, when he drew his pistol and presented it, threatening her life. To aid her escape she cried out that the Sheriff was at the door, which, in his alarm, he opened and she fled from his presence.

In the hasty flight she left upon the gate portions of her dress, the same being a present from his "Honor" for former like services."



This titillating story appeared in the *Tarborough Southerner* on Mar 2, 1971. The article continued:

"People of North Carolina behold one of your Judges! Ye Gods! What a spectacle! Is it possible that no way exists to drive from his office a man so utterly depraved, indecent and disgraced! Remember that this man is a *Judge*. Will not the legislature take the matter in hand and see that this stigma and reproach upon the Judiciary of the State is at once and summarily removed."

And just who was this defendant? None other than **Judge Edmund W. Jones** who was elected judge of **Superior Court** in 1868. Judge Jones held his first court in November of that year and quickly became

[SEE JUDGE, PAGE 5]

Maps of Colonial North Carolina

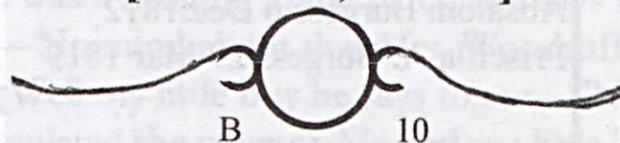
BY WILLIAM D. BENNETT

Among the earliest maps of NC is one by **John White** who based his drawing on not only what he had observed, but also on earlier maps. The coast of NC from **Cape Lookout** to the **Chesapeake** is very accurate. The area south of NC is copied from other sources. John White's details of the Carolina coast were used by cartographers for nearly 150 years.

The **Lancaster** map of 1679 does not give much detail, but there are 23 small houses drawn along the sound. **William P. Cummings** felt the

irregular placement of the houses indicated specific information about their locations, and records show that certain settlers were located in several places where houses appear on the map.

[SEE MAPS, PAGE 7]



RAM ALBEMARLE

Confederate ironclad, winner of notable victories under Capt. J.W. Cooke, was sunk 600 feet north, night of Oct. 27, 1864.

Main Street in Plymouth, Washington County, NC

JAMESVILLE AND WASHINGTON RAILROAD

Facetiously known as the "Jolt and Wiggle" or "Jolter and Wiggler" because of its bumpy ride, the **Jamesville and Washington Railroad (J&W)** and **Lumber Co.** was incorporated in 1869. When it was completed in 1885, it linked **Washington (Beaufort Co., NC)**, on the **Tar-Pamlico River** and **Jamesville (Martin Co., NC)** on the **Roanoke River**, a distance of about 20 miles.

Built to haul lumber from **Diamond City** near **Jamesville** to the port at **Washington**, the small wood-burning

[SEE JOLT, PAGE 8]

QUERY GUIDELINES

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

Tar River Connections Genealogical Society

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Rocky Mount, NC 27804

Internet

www.braswell-library.org/gene.htm

e-mail: trcgs@braswell-library.org

Annual Dues - \$15.00

2002 Officers

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The Connector - Published Quarterly
Membership & Surnames - Annually

William Pittman Burgess 1851 Bible

Births

Sarah E Burgess 22 Aug 1846

Elizabeth Smith Burgess 26 Jan 1852

Martha A. Green 25 May 1844

W P Burgess 17 Mar 1810

Martha Eugenia Burgess 8 Feb 1849

Willy A. Burgess 5 Dec 1855

William Jesse Burgess 6 June 1864

Elizabeth J. Burgess, his wife, 29 Mar 1826

Grandchildren

Flavius H. Pittman, s/o F.C. & Sarah Pittman 6 Jul 1869

Kate Pittman d/o F.C. & Sarah Pittman 2 Apr 1874

Forest Coffield s/o F.C. & Sarah Pittman 17 Sept 1876

Wayland Hunt s/o F.C. & Sarah Pittman 20 Mar 1879

William Turner s/o Jesse & Lizzie Bass 27 Jul 1879

Jesse Eugene Bass s/o Jesse & Lizzie Bass 15 Feb 1881

Deaths

William Burgess 1st, f/o W.P. Burgess Nov 1825

Priscilla Burgess, m/o W.P. Burgess, 8 Jan 1833

Willy A Burgess 25 Dec 1855

Wayland Hunt Pittman 13 June 1880

Sarah Pittman d/o William & Elizabeth Burgess May 1924

William P. Burgess 6 Dec 1889

Elizabeth J Burgess w/o W.P. Burgess 4 Mar 1897

Elizabeth S. Bass d/o William Y Elizabeth Burgess 10 Jul 1909

William Jesse Burgess s/o William and Elizabeth Burgess 12 Jan 1917

Marriages

William P. Burgess & Elizabeth J. Green 4 Sep 1845

F. Cicero Pittman, s/o William H and Martha A. Pittman, & Sarah E. Burgess, d/o William P. & Elizabeth J. Burgess 28 Nov 1867

Jesse Bass, s/o German & Rebecca Bass, to Lizzie S. Burgess, d/o William P. & Elizabeth J. Burgess 28 Nov 1877

Willie J. Burgess to ? Louisa ? 15 Sep 1898

Sons & Daughters of William & Priscilla (Pittman) Burgess

Births

Henry Burgess 3 Dec 1805

Mary C. Burgess 24 Feb 1809

Absalom Burgess 6 Dec 1812

Priscilla A. Burgess 29 Mar 1819

Joseph Bryant Burgess 9 Aug 1807

William Burgess 17 Mar 1810

Eliza P. Burgess 11 Sep 1816

Deaths

Henry Burgess 13 Feb 1864

Priscilla A. Wilkins 23 Oct 1840

William Burgess, f/o William P. Burgess, Nov 1825

Priscilla Pittman Burgess, m/o Wm. P. Burgess, 8 Jan 1833

Marriages

Henry Burgess & Charity Joyner Mar 1894

Joseph B. Burgess & Mary King 4 Mar 1841

Mary Burgess & James ? 8 Jan 1830

Eliza Burgess & Robert Pittman 27 Nov 1855

Priscilla A. Burgess & Richard Wilkins 20 Feb 1840

[Sallie Ricks, Rocky Mount, owner of the *Bible*, is related to William Burgess.]



A Father's Word on Education



Willie Person Mangum, was a United States Senator from 1831-36, 1840-53. He received 11 electoral votes for President in 1836, the same year he wrote the following words of wisdom to his daughter, Sally A. Mangum, who was a student at **Louisburg Female Academy**: "...Let me say My dear, that I hope you will improve your hand writing as much as you can & be particular in your spelling.—To write & spell well is not a high merit; but to write badly & spell worse is a great defect. In a young lady it is as much observed, as would be a sore in a pretty face. If you do not learn while at school, you will never learn. Remember that your education is very backward.—Unless you try to learn you will grow up, if you live, a mere gawk; ignorant, and unfit to keep the company, with pleasure to yourself, of intelligent & well informed people.—Ignorance in grown people is a great misfortune; and in those who had opportunity to be otherwise, it is a great sin. ..."

[Louisburg College Echoes by George-Anne Willard: 1988, Page 29]



EDGECOMBE COURTING.—LOVER, short, sharp and decisive, "Do you love me?" Sweetheart, tenderly and slightly emphatic, "Yes John, do you love me well enough to marry me?" He, proudly,— "Certainly."

[Tarborough Southerner, Feb. 4, 1876]

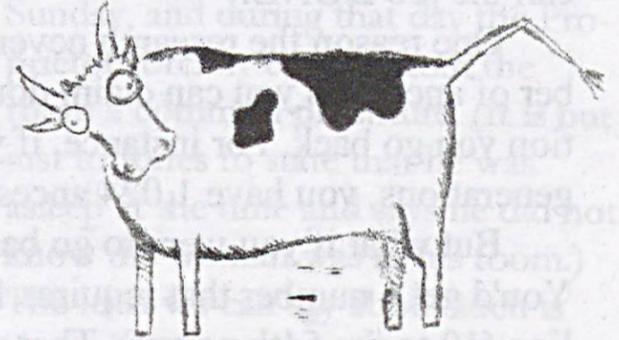
Legal Field day at Nashville—Big Suit over a Little Bull— Bull Bitch Swapping—Great Excitement ending in a Fight and attempted Escape

On Wednesday of last week there was tried at Nashville [Nash Co.] a suit, which for extent of interest, scope of excitement, and smallness of subject matter got away with anything we ever saw, heard, dreamt of, or read about. ...

The suitors and witnesses all lived on the South side of Tar river in Nash county, now **Bailey's Township**.

THE FIRST WITNESS

was **Burt Terrell**, plaintiff. After much higgling, preamble and irrelevancy, which the lawyer for defendant unkindly, would not allow him to indulge in, the witness began —Nathe [**Nathan T. Perry**] had a steer, but it commenced with a bull, I hired bull to Nathe to work. Nathe



wanted to know what I charged him for the bull, I told him I got 3 barrels of corn for the steer and ought to get 2 barrels for bull. He said d—nd if he'd pay it. Agreement was he was to keep the bull 'till last of August, then to deliver him to me, or turn in the woods. In the fall I went up to

SWAP THE BULL FOR AN OLD HORSE.

Nathe told me where to find the bull. Do not recollect the words what was spoke. When I started to catch the bull, Nathe said if I caught Bob [the bull] he would kill me.—Every time I'd git clost to Bob [the bull], Nathe would say, "cur Bob, skit!" an' the bull would jump off. This was in the old field, then Nathe an' I fout, an' he knocked me down with a lightwood knot and jumped on me. He axed me if he'd let me up would I give up the bull, I told him yes, but as I was going off I told him not after I got away. Cross examined—I didn't sell Nathe a steer for \$20, but I give him privately to trade a steer to **Vick**. Vick giv' \$2 boot—Nathe never paid me for steer—I got \$7 difference in swaps.

ENTER BULL BITCH.

I swapped a bull bitch for a hound dog an' got \$1.50 boot, that help make up \$7.

The next witness was **Mrs. Woodruff**, smoking a pipe. She was an ancient dame and much incensed that [Burt] Terrell's title to the bull should be disputed. In a high pressure voice, somewhat like filing a saw, she stated—My cotton was a hanging in the patch and says I to my little boy that cotton must be—No mind about that Mrs. Woodruff, from the referee.

Well my little boy he says to me—"No mind what your little boy said," expostulated the court.—Me and my little boy was in the cotton patch an' says I to him.—"Witness this must be stopped; now tell what you know about the ownership of the bull.—Well Burt sent me an' my little boy to Nathe's to git the beast to haul cotton, and Nathe said he would send him 'cause Burt offered to sell him an'—I don't know nothin' 'bout the beast no how.

Mrs. Jane Richardson entered the stand, with her head enveloped in a ragged red bandanna, and her eye darting forth ire at defendant. She evidently meant business, and regarded the matter as personal to herself. The witness was evidently mad. Her voice was somewhat masculine on a high and wrathful key.

[SEE BULL, PAGE 4]

That's a Bunch of Kinfolks, Folks!

BY MARTHA TURNEY

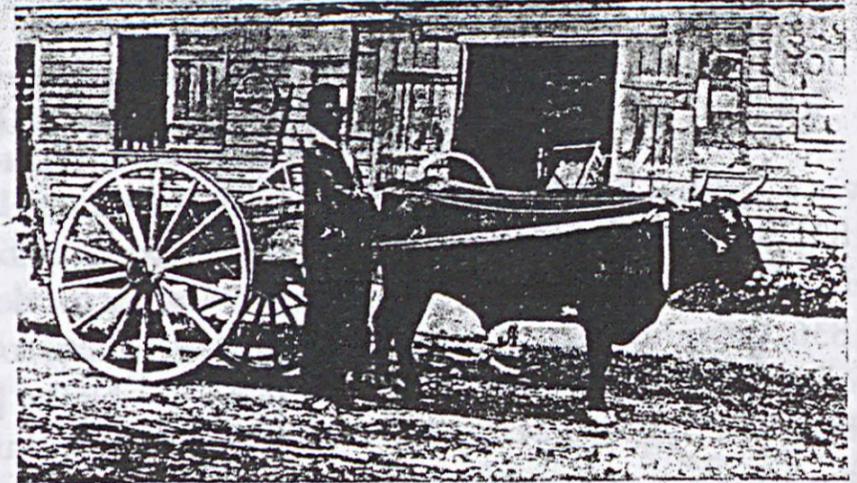
Have you ever noticed that, for genealogists, the work never ends? They never come to a conclusion and call the job **DONE!**

One reason the research never ends is that the number of ancestors you can claim doubles for each generation you go back. For instance, if you go back 10 generations, you have 1,024 ancestors.

But what if you were to go back 100 generations? You'd get a number that requires 10 commas: 1.2 nonillion (10 to the 54th power). That would take you back to 1000 BC.

The only problem is that there weren't that many

people on earth. The population of the world in 1650 was only about 500,000,000. This means there was a lot of intermarriage which adds all kinds of fascinating genealogical complications. Happy Hunting!



Waterproof Mose and His Automobull.
Washington, N.C. Postcard

[BULL, CONT. FROM P. 3]

She began—I was at Burt's, Nathe he come over. Heard him say everybody is arter me for money.—**Lewis** cum arter me tother day but I'll be d—nd if he got any. I sold every cow I had to de richest man in Nash county, an' dot was **Tim Brantley** an' got nothing but Terrell's d—nd bow-legged bull. Sold every cussed cow I had an' I hain't got nuffin but **Cely** and de young un. (vehemently) Nathe was in great wrath. He never did claim de beast. Said he'd dodge an' keep out o' Lewis' way. Oh, I'm telling de trufe I'll tell trufe ef it takes de neck veins. I ain't skeered, dere ain't but one way to skeer me. I'll tell de trufe, ef its tough it may be rough. Cross examined. I live one mile from Burt's residence, sees him every time I passes guine to **Wilson**. Don't like Burt, or any body else much, thinks more of myself dan anybody else. Didn't tell Burt how much I knowed till I was brought to here. I was summoned on suspicions.

EVIDENCE WITHOUT BOTTOM.

Mehaly Bottoms gave in a mass of testimony like "linked sweetness long drawn out." She used the word 'beast' forty-six times. Knew all about

the slut swap, steer swap and bull trade, but did not elucidate to any considerable extent the title to the bull.

Jim Hagan said: Me an' mam went to Nathe Perry's to get de beast to hawl cotton, Nathe said tell Burt to cum arter him, dat Bob [the bull] broke in garden an' had almost busted hisself er eating er collards.

George Woodruff and **Rufus Bottoms** evinced great proficiency in dog trades, turpentine getting, &c., but didn't throw light on a dark subject.

DEFENDANT'S CASE.

Defendant made out a clear case of the passing of title to property and owing \$7, for same. But he could not desist entering into a learned and elaborate of dog swaps and bull swaps, and the manner of conducting same, with all which we were much edified and considerably instructed.

BELLIGERENCY ABOUT THE BULL.

About dark the case was concluded, and all parties were excitedly discussing the merits of the controversy, when Terrell told one of defendant's witnesses that he swore to a d—nd lie. Offended witness delivered a well directed blow between the orbs of Terrell. Clinched, fell, rough and

tumbled; gouging, blood spilt, and hair and hide shed. At last parties were parted.

ATTEMPTED ESCAPE.

When Terrell drew his pistol and gave some leg bail, that a disinterested witness would have denominated first class.

Town constable with lively idea of fees, rushed in pursuit, Terrell reached his sulky, just in time to mount, when constable arrived in time to seize bridle. Terrell like the historic **Don Quixote** figuratively rose in his stirrup, and lit in on the brute, a tickey stud, with his whip. The beast sprang from the constable, running over him, but in this attempt the head stall was broken. The horse ran 100 yds, the whole town by this time was in hot pursuit. The fugitive sprang on the back of the horse, caught the mane, turned a somersault over the horse's head and checked his mad career.

THE CAPTURE.

'Twas thus he was captured, taken before the Mayor of the city, made to contribute to town treasury the sum of five dollars in U.S. currency. Not to be continued in our next.

[Tarborough Southerner, Feb. 4, 1876]

JUDGE, CONT. FROM P. 1] disliked by those in the surrounding area. When he held his first court in **Washington, Beaufort Co., NC, Capt. J.J. Laughinghouse** expressed his contempt for the court and was ordered to apologize or serve 30 days in jail. He chose the jail sentence. Friends who agreed with Laughinghouse kept his jail cell stocked with flowers and delicious food during his time in jail. **Col. D.M. Carter**, another attorney, told Jones: "the occupant of the chair has shown he is lacking in any knowledge of the law, and is devoid of any semblance of character or morals. . . . it is painful for me as a lawyer to address such a tribunal." Jones, observing a courtroom crowded with Carter's friends, ignored the remark.



The saga continued in the *Southern-er* on March 9, 1874. "We respectfully called upon the **Legislature** to take some action towards securing the removal of this man from the position he has so oft and flagrantly disgraced. As a result of this *exposé*, and appeal, we notice the following action taken in the **House** on Saturday last." That action was the adoption of a resolution, introduced by **Mr. Justice**, authorizing a committee to investigate Judge Edmund W. Jones.

However, action was not taken quickly enough to satisfy the *Southern-er*. A third article appeared on March 23, 1871: "In view of the recent report of the committee upon the case of Judge E.W. Jones, and the action, or rather the want of action, taken by the House in the matter we feel compelled to still further allude to a man who has so oft disgraced himself and dishonored the Judiciary of the State. We notice in the House proceedings on Friday last, the following: '**Mr.**

Strudwick, [representative from **Orange Co., NC**] from the select Committee to investigate the charges against Judge E.W. Jones, reported—laying before the House all the testimony elicited in the case, which was of two indefinite a character for the committee to recommend any action by the House. . . . 'We are not surprised at his want of success'"

"In order that the *public* may fully understand the matter, and that the charges made in the *Southern-er* may be vindicated, we give the following facts personally obtained a few days since from two responsible gentlemen of Plymouth, who were present most of the time during the trial before the magistrate and the examination before Mr. Strudwick. They state that

many of the witnesses examined swore directly contrary on plain questions of fact, and that it was almost impossible for any one, on the evidence, to form any correct opinion. Notwithstanding the contradiction of the testimony as to irrelevant points no one pretended to deny that Jones had been guilty of grossly immoral conduct at the time and place charged in [the] *Southern-er*."

"The main reason, however, why no definitive case could be made out, was the absence of the woman, upon who the assault was perpetrated.

—Just before the arrival of the Commissioner she *suddenly and mysteriously disappeared*, and it was publicly charged that Jones had bribed and sent her out of reach."

"If Jones had been innocent, and desirous of vindicating his character from unjust aspersions, he would have used his utmost exertions to have had such an important witness on hand.—If false, she could easily have proven it."

"So much for Jones in Plymouth."

"And now for him in Tarboro: On Saturday evening last he reached this place from **Raleigh [Wake Co., NC]** in a state of extreme intoxication, so much so that he fell out of the cars, and had to be carried from the omnibus to his room in the **Howard Hotel**. He remained over on Sunday, and during that day the Proprietor forcibly ejected from the room a common prostitute. (It is but just to Jones to state that he was asleep at the time and says he did not know the woman was in his room.) The least we can say about such is that it is strange that such a character would have felt privileged to gratuitously thrust herself upon the presence of a Judge of North Carolina."

"These latter facts cannot be contradicted, and we pledge ourselves to prove them at any time by witnesses, whose testimony no committee will dare dispute. Will the Legislature take further action in the matter?"

Charles and Biggs were the owners of the *Tarboro Southerner* at the time these charges were made. The paper was later vindicated as Judge Jones eventually resigned rather than face impeachment charges.

[*Tarborough Southerner*, 1871.]

Politics

Edgecombe gave the largest **Van Buren** majority of any county in the State at the recent election for President and Vice President of the U.S. The democratic ticket received 1175 votes, to 90 for the "whig" candidate; leaving a democratic majority of 1085. In all the mutations of parties, Edgecombe has remained firm, consistent and unshaken in her principles, and unbroken in her Democracy.—*Ral. Standard*

[*Tarboro' Press*, January 7, 1837]



Tobacco Planters Warehouse Company Rocky Mount, NC, 1910

Tucked away in the law office of Austin and Grantham in the Planters Bank Building in Rocky Mount, NC. a new business was formed in 1910. Tobacco Planters Warehouse Company was organized for the purpose of maintaining and operating warehouses for handling the sale of leaf and manufactured tobacco. When E. B. Grantham read the original charter on February 17, 1910, he gave the names and post offices of the incorporators: John L. Bailey, Elm City, NC; W. R. Dawes, P. C. Vestal, S. Robbins, David Everett, W. H. Faulkner (RFD 3), R. H. Moore, C. G. Proctor, G. W. Coley, J. H. Daughtridge, Wm. A. Hinton (RFD 6), M. J. Hedrick (RFD 2), A. Edwards (RFD 2), DeLeon Carter (RFD 2), W. H. Horne, O. B. Proctor (RFD 6), Walter Brown, G. D. Coley (RFD 3), T. F. Cherry, and J. A. Brake, Rocky Mount Post Office; A. H. Whitley, Battleboro, NC; S. F. Austin, P. A. May and J. D. Overton, Nashville, NC; G. T. Dawes, E. P. Weaver, J. H. Robbins and J. R. Batts from Sharpsburg. NC.

The following shares of stock were subscribed during the open meeting:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3 J. L. Brake, Rocky Mt. | 2 J R Lancaster, Rocky Mt. | 5 P. D. Jones, Rocky Mt. |
| 2 Mrs. W. H. Coley, " | 25 E. T. Bass, Nashville, NC | 10 C.L. Benson, " |
| J. H. Robbins, Sharpsburg, NC | 2 W. H. Ruffin, Sharpsburg, NC | 8 J. A. Brake, " |
| 4 Dempsey Pitt, R. Mt, NC | 3 E. T. Robbins, " | 2 J. T. Moore, " |
| 2 Geo. A. Stallings, " | 2 R. C. Pitt, Rocky Mt. | 2 Claud V. Harris, " |
| 4 Geo. W. Culpepper, " | 5 J. R. Batts, Sharpsburg, NC | 3 D. T. Weaver, " |
| 10 J. H. Fly, " | 2 W. B. Hunter, Rocky Mt. | 10 S. B. Weaver, " |
| 10 J. R. Baker, " | 25 S. J. F. Ellen, " | 2 C. E. Stallings, " |
| 25 A. H. Whitley, Battleboro, NC (not present at meeting) | | |
| 10 W. A. Hinton, Rocky Mount, NC (not present at meeting) | | |
| 2 P. A. May, Nashville, NC (not present at meeting) | | |

On April 13, 1910 a call meeting of the Directors was held in (John L.) Bailey - (Frank M.) Draughn and Co's Store at 121 S. Main St. to discuss building a warehouse. Contractors Rose, Toler and Poole submitted bids with Toler having the lowest. This contract was later revoked due to the company buying an existing brick tobacco warehouse at the junction of Church Street and Falls Road, previously owned and operated by Ralph Pitt and James E. Crute, for \$16,000. P. C. Vestal was employed as manager and Planters warehouse was officially in business.

[These names were taken from the original Board Meeting Minutes of Tobacco Planters Warehouse Compy presented to Braswell Memorial Library by S. S. (Buddy) Edmondson, Jr..]

W.A. DAVIS. N.A. GREGORY.

NEW JOHNSON WAREHOUSE

College Street

FOR THE SALE OF

LEAF TOBACCO

Oxford, N.C. 1898

DAVIS & GREGORY PROPRIETORS

SALE MADE FOR *W. E. Jeffreys*

ERRORS CORRECTED

We keep all tobacco stored with us insured Insurance and storage FREE

T. B. JEFFREYS. W. E. JEFFREYS.

JEFFREYS' WAREHOUSE

FOR THE

SALE * OF * LEAF * TOBACCO,

T. B. & W. E. JEFFREYS', Proprietors.

Rocky Mount, N. C. May 21 1898

For *W. E. Jeffreys*

NO.	POUNDS.	PRICE.	TOTAL.
928	200	6 1/2	12 50
	170	4 30	7 31
	36	10	3 60
	40	11 3/4	4 70

[MAPS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

The 1733 Moseley map [copy available in the **Braswell Memorial Library Map Collection**] gives a great number of the names of settlers and plantations on **Albemarle Sound** and the rivers flowing into it, on the **Pamlico, Neuse and Cape Fear Rivers** and their tributaries, and in the vicinity of **Waccamaw Lake**. It also provides the first detailed and accurate cartological survey of the NC coastal area. This rare and important map was used by other cartographers for years, although no later map attempted to give the detailed information concerning settlers found in Moseley's map. While Moseley attempted to portray the interior of the country, the paucity of information in this respect is striking. Deficient as it was, except for the coastal region, and in spite of the rapid settlement westward, little more adequate surveying was done for many years after Moseley's map appeared.

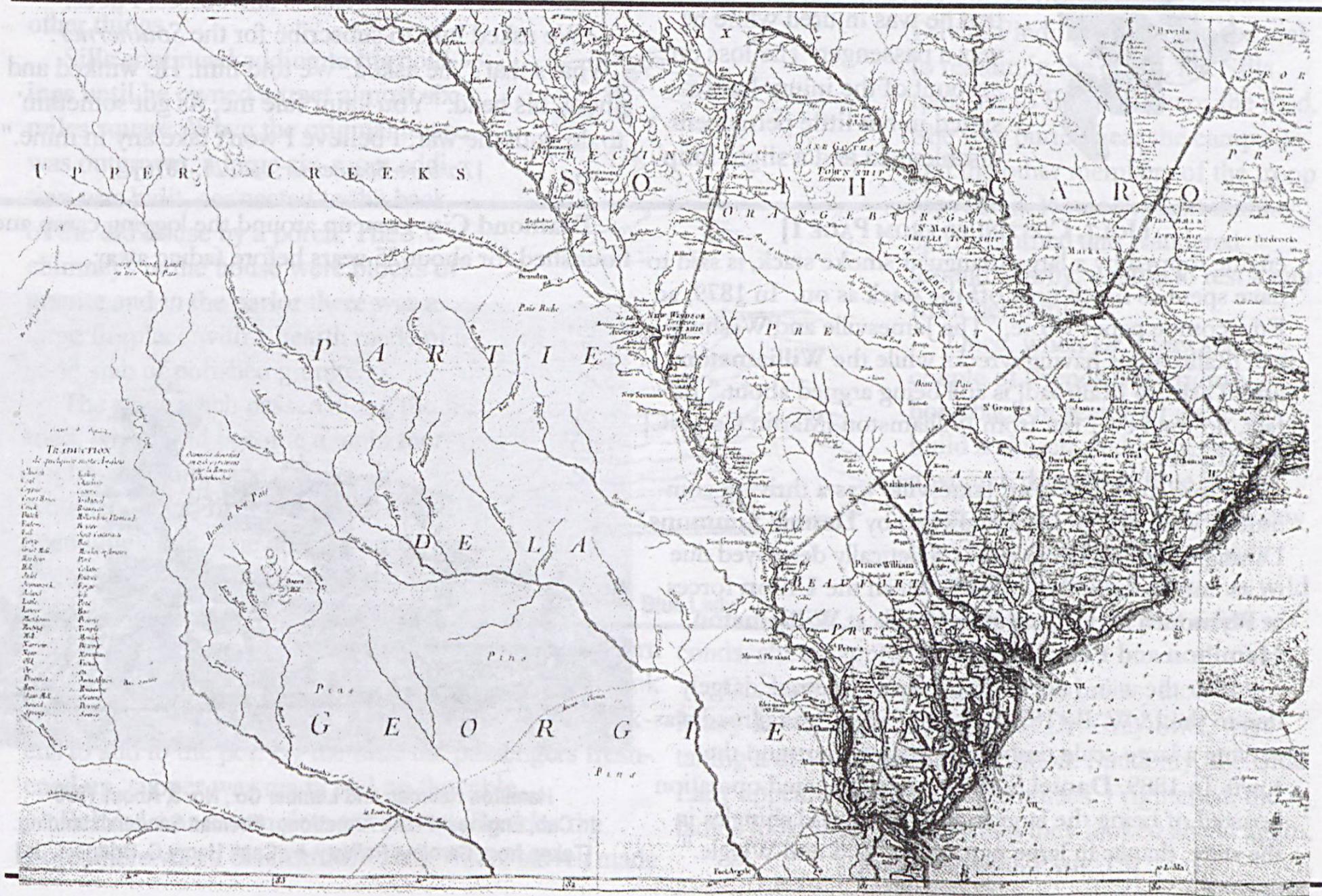
The 1738 **Wimble** map is an excellent survey of the coast line and inlets of NC from the VA-NC line of 1728 southward to **Lockard Folly and Little River**. It locates and names numerous settlers, though not as many as Moseley.

The 1770 map by **Capt. John Abraham Collet**, a major map in the history of NC cartography, greatly surpasses in accuracy and scope any previous map of the re-

gion. It records the great western movement of population up to and across the **Piedmont** during the middle of the 18th century. It is the basis for most subsequent maps of NC until the **Price-Strother** map of 1808. Although Collet is given credit for the map, **William Churton** provided much of the material. Surveyor for **Granville District**, he began collecting information for a map of the colony about 1757. After 10 years, he presented a draft to **Gov. Tryon**, who suggested he continue his work. Churton died in December 1767 while surveying the coastal region. He had willed his maps to Tryon and the material was turned over to Collet who added to the knowledge of the southern part of the province as far west as the **Cherokee Hunting Land** boundary.

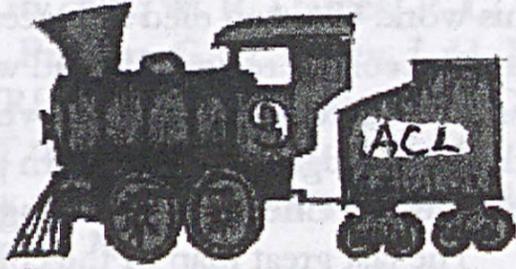
The last great map of the colonial period, the **Mouzon** map, appeared in 1775. Because of its use by the **American, French, and British** forces, it may be called the **Revolutionary War** map of North and South Carolina. Mouzon omitted the names of a number of counties, including **Beaufort and Hyde**. However, he shows increased knowledge of the course of the rivers west of the **Catawba** and adds roads, the names of smaller streams, and physical features.

BELOW: Mouzon Map



Local Young Man Wins Suit From Coastline

A Nash county jury, the past week, set a value of \$250 each upon the toes of a young man, and awarded Marvin Murrill, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Murrill, of this city, \$1,000 for the loss of four toes. The young man sought to recover \$5,000 for the injuries which he sustained when he was in the act of alighting from or attempting to get on an outgoing passenger train, the evidence didn't agree on this point, but at any rate the young man fell from the platform, his right foot getting under the wheels of the car and injuring the same to an extent that it was necessary



that four toes should be removed. The young man held a ticket to Wilson [Wilson Co., NC], coupled with the fact that he was injured while he was a passenger. The loss on account of the injury has resulted in but little permanent disablement and a slight limp

[JOLT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

engine topped by a large triangular smoke stack, is said to have spent as much time off the track as on. In 1879, an Edgecombe paper wrote, "The Jamesville and Washington [Railroad] is having wrecks while the Williamston and Tarboro [Railroad] is still being argued about." In fact, no train ever ran from Williamston [Martin Co., NC] to Tarboro.

Before the Civil War, Jamesville was a thriving community with a large sawmill owned by Dennis Simmons. During the war, the town was practically destroyed due to its unfortunate placement between the Union forces at Plymouth and Rebel strongholds at Williamston, Hamilton and Fort Branch.

After the war, Jamesville made a comeback, largely due to the J&W. By 1870, the narrow-gauge railroad was serving a large-scale timbering operation around the town. In 1889, Daniel Simmons' rejuvenated operation boasted of being the largest maker of wood shingles in the state, thanks in large part to the "Jolt and Wiggle."

CONNECTOR

is all that has been occasioned. In fact since the injury was sustained Mr. Murrill has twice crossed the Atlantic and visited Egypt and points on the Mediterranean Sea, and rumor had it that at one time that he had joined the British army, but ... it developed that these were not the facts. Mr. Murrill is a member of a highly respected family, his father being one of the pioneer furniture dealers here and for upwards of twenty years he has been associated with the firm of C.S. Tucker and Co.

[Taken from *The Evening Telegram*, March 6, 1916]



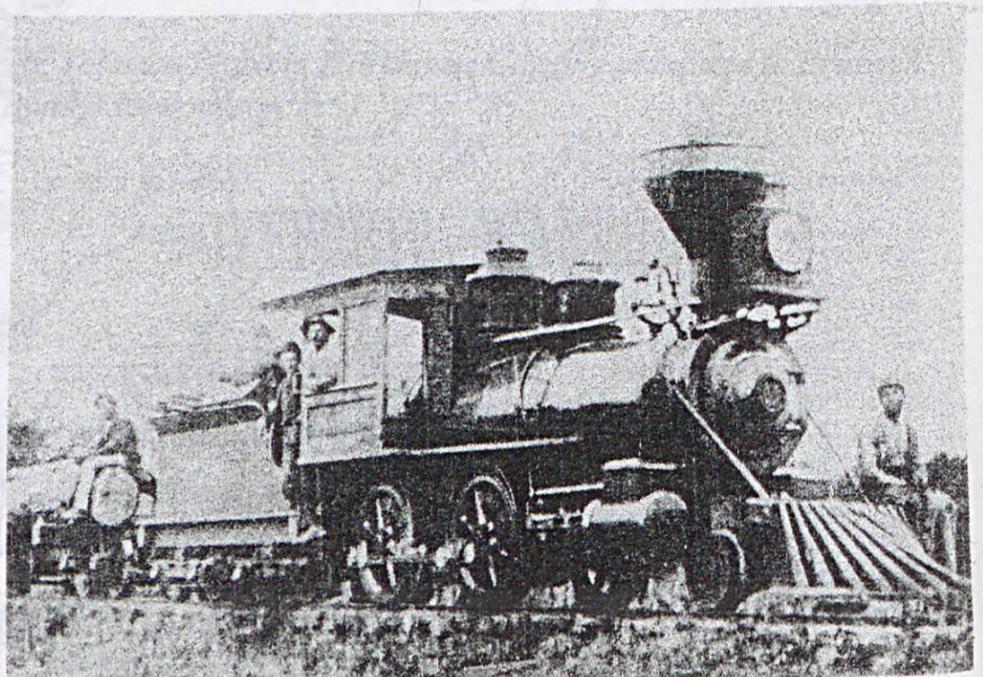
Nashville Greenhorn

TOO MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR ONE.—An episode occurred in Nashville [NC] on Wednesday. A witness in the bull and bitch case strayed into Lancaster's shop. [See "Legal Field Day at Nashville", page 3] He was green and undomesticated. A city swell came in and called for cigars and asked greeny to have one. He blushed, rapidly swapped his quid [tobacco] from right to left jaw and replied: "No thank'ee, its my brother what smokes, I chaws and cusses, I does."

We asked him to subscribe for the *Southerner*. "What's that?" he asked. We told him. He winked and shook his head. "You kaint fule me, its got somethin' to do with the war, I believe I won't take any in mine."

[*Tarboro Southerner*, Jan. 21, 1876]

Diamond City grew up around the logging camp and flourished for about 25 years before fading away.



Hamilton Railroad and Lumber Co., No. 3, About 1890
In Cab, Engineer Frank Armstrong, Fireman Sanders standing.
[Taken from *Carolina Railway*, by Capt. Henry C. Bridgers, Jr.]

100 Years of "Sills" At Belford Plantation

When David Sills was 21, he left Greenville Co., VA and came to Nash Co., NC where he moved around, working in various storehouses. When he got to William Eden's storehouse, he stayed 4 years, making \$100 a year. It was while he was there that he met and married Mary Justiss from Halifax Co, NC.

In 1798, Sills bought a tract of land with an eight-room house and a store building from Harry Huff. His new home was named Belford and it was located about 3 miles north of the present community of Castalia in northern Nash County close to the Franklin Co. line. Sills soon opened his own store and old ledgers show that he sold linen, rose blankets (finer blankets that were not homemade), buttons, hats, loaf sugar, brandy, and groceries, among other things.

Sills continued adding to his holdings until he owned a tract almost six miles square. When the original house was outgrown, a large six-room addition was built, connected to the back of the old house by a porch. The chimneys in the house were blocks of granite and in the parlor there was a large fireplace with a hearth made of a solid slab of polished granite.

The stagecoach passed along the road, which had become a main thoroughfare, about once a week. It would stop and the passengers would spend the night. The drivers would exchange horses for the next leg of the journey. If the coach carried a large load of passengers, the driver would blow his cow horn real loud when he was about ½ mile away and the cook would hear him and run out and kill a few more chickens to add to the pot. By the time the passengers freshened up, supper was ready and on the table.

Belford was a complete settlement. Besides the store, there was a blacksmith's shop where slaves made

farm tools, pots and pans, molds for candles, and most anything else that could be made from iron. When ponds froze, the men would saw blocks of ice and put them in the icehouse. They'd pound those blocks of ice into one big cake and cover it with sawdust so ice was always available. There were also coolers, underground, where milk and butter were stored.

One of the first post offices in Nash Co. opened in a large closet at the Belford store in 1804 with David Sills as postmaster. He kept a ledger in which he wrote the names of the persons who received letters and where the letters came from. The amount of postage, from 5¢ to 25¢, was written on the outside of the letter and the person receiving the letter had to pay it.

It has been said that Belford had a ghost known as the Blue Lady. The tale began when a group of people traveling in a covered wagon camped near Belford. A woman got sick during the night and called for Dr. Gray Sills, who had inherited the Belford from his father, David. Finding the patient too sick to remain in the camp, Dr. Sills took her to Belford where she died. She was buried near the camp site and the other members of the troop moved on. It was thought that her spirit returned and wandered around nearby, unable to rest away from her family.

Once, when Dr. Gray and a couple of friends were riding horseback in search of a site to build a church, suddenly they saw a woman dressed in blue beside them. All the men supposedly saw her. They wondered why a lady was walking around in such a wild spot unattended. In just a few seconds, she disappeared.

On another day, several of the ladies, including Mary Louise Sills, daughter of Dr. Gray Sills, were taking a drive in the late afternoon. Suddenly, the Blue Lady appeared in front of the horses. Frightened, the ladies looked away, and when they looked ahead again,

[SEE BELFORD, PAGE 15]

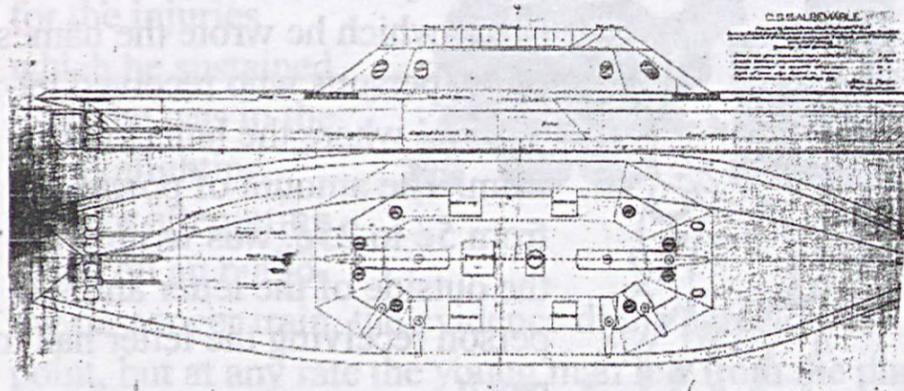


Blue Lady

The Demise of the Albemarle

Confederate ironclad defends NC coast

It was late when the Confederate ironclad *Albemarle* quietly weighed anchor three miles outside the Union-occupied town of Plymouth [Washington Co., NC] on the Roanoke River. Newly constructed [See "The Birth of the Albemarle", *The Connector*, Winter 2003], the *Albemarle's* assignment was to eliminate the

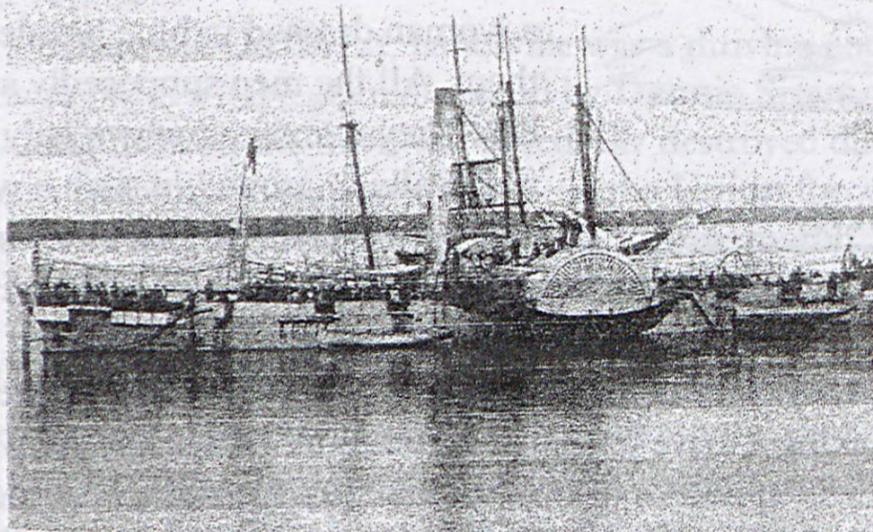


General Plan of the CSS Albemarle [www.history.navy.mil]

federal vessels stationed near the town.

In Feb of 1862 Gen Ambrose Burnside and his northern army had overwhelmed the Confederacy on the Outer Banks of NC, taking Roanoke Island and the Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds. Plymouth, a strategic port, was important to Confederate Gen. Lee's future plans and expeditions by James Johnson Pettigrew and George Pickett had already failed to retake Plymouth for the South. Now, in April of 1864, with the aid of the ironclad *Albemarle*, General Hoke and his troops would attempt to recapture Plymouth for the South.

Warned that the northern forces had placed a gauntlet of sunken hulls, pilings, and torpedoes in the river, Capt. Cooke, master of the *Albemarle*, sent his pilot, John Luck, to investigate. It was discovered that due to unusually high water, the danger was at least 10 feet beneath the surface and the *Albemarle* needed only eight feet. The vessel, with its well-planned shallow draft,



USS Miami photo taken during Civil War [www.history.navy.mil]

would be able to pass safely over the impediments. After midnight Capt. Cooke ordered steam and, by keeping in the middle of the river, they safely approached Plymouth.

The town was fortified by a series of forts and by four gunboats—the *Miami*, the *Southfield*, the *Ceres*, and the *Whitehead*—carrying heavy guns. At dawn on April 19, 1864, as the *Albemarle* drew to the edge of town, shots were fired from two forts, Warren's Neck and Boyle's Mill. They bounced harmlessly off the heavy armour of the ironclad. Of more concern were the two Federal vessels, the double-ender, *Miami*, and the converted and armored ferry boat, *Southfield*, which stood in the middle of the Roanoke River ready to give battle. The *Miami* was powered with sidewheel engines and was designed for swift maneuverability in either direction. She had six nine-inch guns, a Parrott rifle that threw a charge of 100 pounds, and a 24-pound howitzer. The *Southfield* was armed with 5 nine-inchers, a 100-pound Parrott and a 12-pound howitzer. Together the Federal ships mounted fifteen guns against the *Albemarle's* two. Cooke ordered his gun crew to load solid shot and stand by.

Trap for the Albemarle

As the enemy grew closer Cooke saw that the two steamers were linked together with "hawsers and chains". The Union plan was to pass on either side of the *Albemarle* snaring her with the chains and trapping her between them. The ironclad could then be easily boarded and captured. Taking evasive action, Cooke sent his vessel toward the south bank of the river, and then, swinging around, ordered her "all ahead full," sending the 376-ton ironclad straight toward the *Southfield*. The *Albemarle's* iron-plated axe-like ram pierced the hull of the Federal ship a full 10 feet, sending her straight to the bottom. Cooke was horrified, however, when his order to "all stern full" failed to disengage the ram. Stuck fast



Black crew members sewing and relaxing on the forecandle of USS Miami, circa 1864-65. [www.history.navy.mil]

to the doomed ship, it appeared the *Albemarle* would be pulled under water with the *Southfield*. The quiet was broken by the shouts of crew of both ships as they tried to get free.

As the *Southfield* was sinking, the *Miami* continued to fire her heavy guns. The *Miami*'s captain, **Commander Flusser**, was enraged as he watched his shot ricochet off the iron plates of the *Albemarle*. Finally, only 30 feet away from his enemy, Flusser mounted one of the *Miami*'s large cannons and "himself pulled the lanyard ... to discharge a shell with a ten-second fuse. That mighty charge bounced back from the *Albemarle*'s ironfenced deck house and exploded almost upon the *Miami*, its fragments killing the brave officer who had fired it."

Even without their captain, the crew of the *Miami* tried to board the ironclad. Still stuck to the *Southfield*, Cooke was unable to use his big guns. He ordered his crew to the top of the casement where they managed to drive back the Union crewmen with musket fire. Luckily, as the *Southfield* hit bottom, she rolled over, releasing her death grip on the *Albemarle*'s ram. Cooke immediately reversed, freeing his ship. He maneuvered into position to fire his cannon at the *Miami*, but she had had enough and escaped into the Albemarle Sound along with the *Ceres* and the *Whitehead*.

With the river cleared, General Hoke attacked Plymouth. The *Albemarle* fired her two guns into the forts all day. On April 20, 1864 the Federal troops surrendered. The *Richmond Examiner*, on April 24, carried the following: "The results of this most brilliant success was the capture of some 2,500 prisoners, 28 pieces of artillery, heavy and light, some 500 horses, 5000 stands of small arms, 700 barrels of flour, with other commissary and quartermaster supplies, immense ordnance stores and the strong position of Plymouth, which protects the whole **Roanoke Valley**, and furnished a base for our iron-clad to drive out from Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds the large fleet of the enemy's gunboats and open a large and rich country from which we can obtain supplies."

The *Albemarle*'s first battle was over. It had taken just slightly more than an hour to clear the river around Plymouth. Though the ironclad vessel had been struck hundreds of times, her crew was relieved to find her unharmed. The only casualty was a young sailor who put

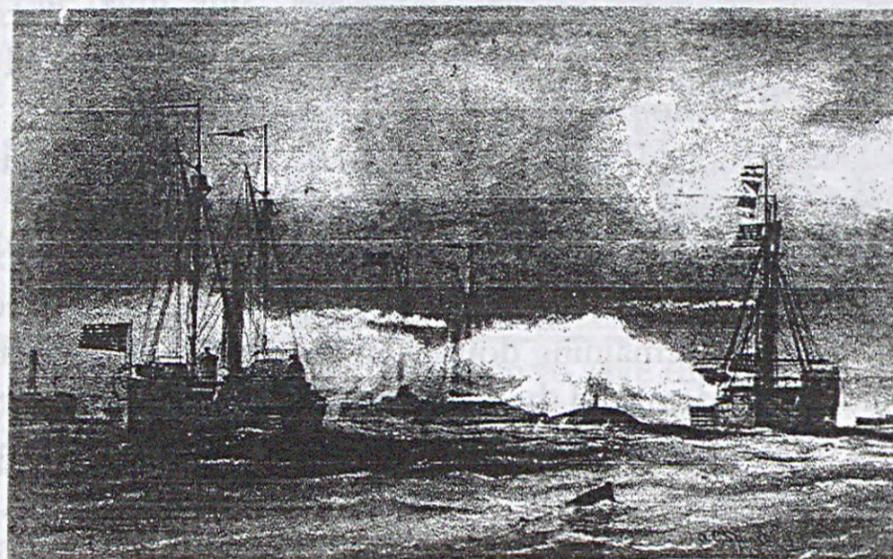
his head out a port hole and was shot with a pistol from the *Miami*. In his report, Captain Cooke praised his officers, **Lt. Roby, Master Shelly, Midshipman Hamilton and Pilot Hopkins.**

Albemarle Sound

On May 5, the *Albemarle*, finally fully equipped, left Plymouth and steamed down the Roanoke River into Albemarle Sound, accompanied by the *Cotton Plant* and the *Bombshell*. Her aim was to try to clear the Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds of the Federal warships that still lurked there. At about 5 P.M. the small force encountered seven Union vessels in the Albemarle Sound. They were the *Miami* and 3 other double-enders—the *Mattabessett*, the *Wyalusing*, and the *Sassacus*—and three smaller craft—the gunboats *Whitehead* and *Ceres* which had escaped from Plymouth, and the ferryboat, *Commodore Hull*. These ships all towered over the squat *Albemarle* and were heavily armed. The *Miami* carried a torpedo



Cmdr. Charles W. Flusser
www.history.navy.mil



"Wood Versus Iron". CSS *Albemarle* in action 5 May 1864
Ships seen from left: *Commodore Hull*, *Wyalusing*, *Sassacus*, *Albemarle*, *Mattabessett*. The *Bombshell* is in the right background.
[www.history.navy.mil]

mounted on an underwater boom and a large net intended to disable the *Albemarle*'s propeller. Faced with such odds, the *Cotton Plant* was sent back to Plymouth, and the *Bombshell* was soon forced to surrender.

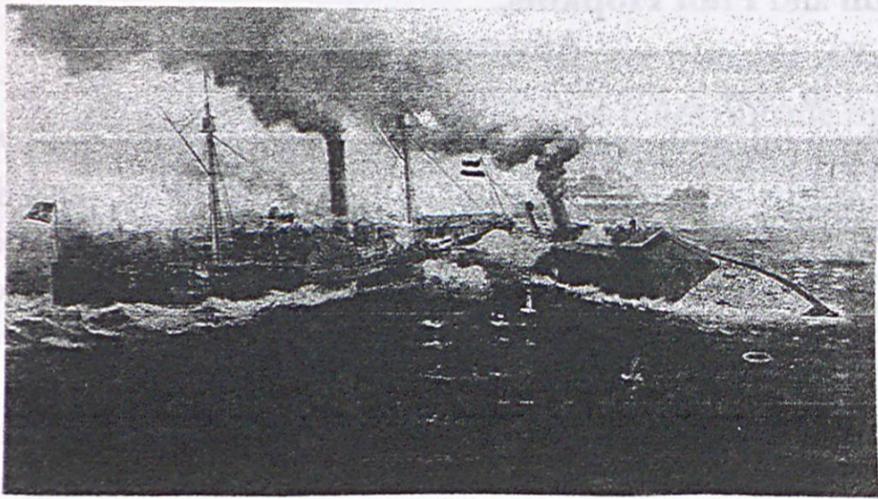
As the distance narrowed, the gallant *Albemarle* opened fire. Her bow gun landed a shell on the bow of the *Mattabessett*, smashing rails and spars and felling six men of a gun crew, but the *Mattabessett* was able to dodge a charging drive with the ram. The enemy poured broadside after broadside at her; but even the 100-pound rifled projectiles and the 9-inch solid shot failed to penetrate her shield. Circling to come in close, the *Sassacus* crippled the *Bombshell* with several well placed shots and forced the little craft to strike its flag and drop out of the fight.

The four double-enders tried to close with the Confederate boat. The *Sassacus*, got into position to ram the

[See *Albemarle*, Page 12]

[Albemarle, Cont. From Page 11]

Albemarle with its bronze ram while the *Albemarle*'s gunners, stripped to the waist and black with powder, fired



USS *Sassacus* ramming *Albemarle*, 5 May 1864
[www.history.navy.mil]

again and again into her. Finally, she smashed home against the *Albemarle*, just below the forward line of the deck house. Something had to give, and it was the *Sassacus*. Her bow was torn away, and almost simultaneously, a 100-lb **Brooke** rifle-shot pierced one of her boilers which exploded, scalding a number of her crew and disabling the ship.

The *Albemarle* heeled over from the impact of the exploding *Sassacus*, but she righted herself and continued firing at the remaining double-enders. Another accurate shot badly damaged the *Wyalusing*. Seeing the handwriting on the wall, the smaller Federal vessels left the fight. The *Miami* tried to close on the ironclad and plant her torpedo, but she had lost much of her agility at Plymouth and had to steer away. Within moments, another hit left the *Wyalusing* wallowing and signalling that she was sinking. That was enough for the northern vessels. They headed for the mouth of the sound. The battle ended at 7:30 p.m.

The fat's in the fire

The *Albemarle* did not come through the battle unscathed. Her smokestack was so riddled with shot and fragments of shell that she had difficulty getting up steam. Unable to move, she was easy prey for the enemy, had they but known it! No one now remembers who was inspired to think of it, but Commander Cooke is known to have ordered all bacon and lard from the gallery to be thrown into the boilers. This produced an exceedingly hot fire, and with that extra heat, enough steam was generated to allow the ironclad to limp back into the mouth of the Roanoke and tie up offshore just below Plymouth. So far as is known, this is the only time fat meat has moved a battleship.

Demise of the *Albemarle*

The northern navy leaders began investigating ways to

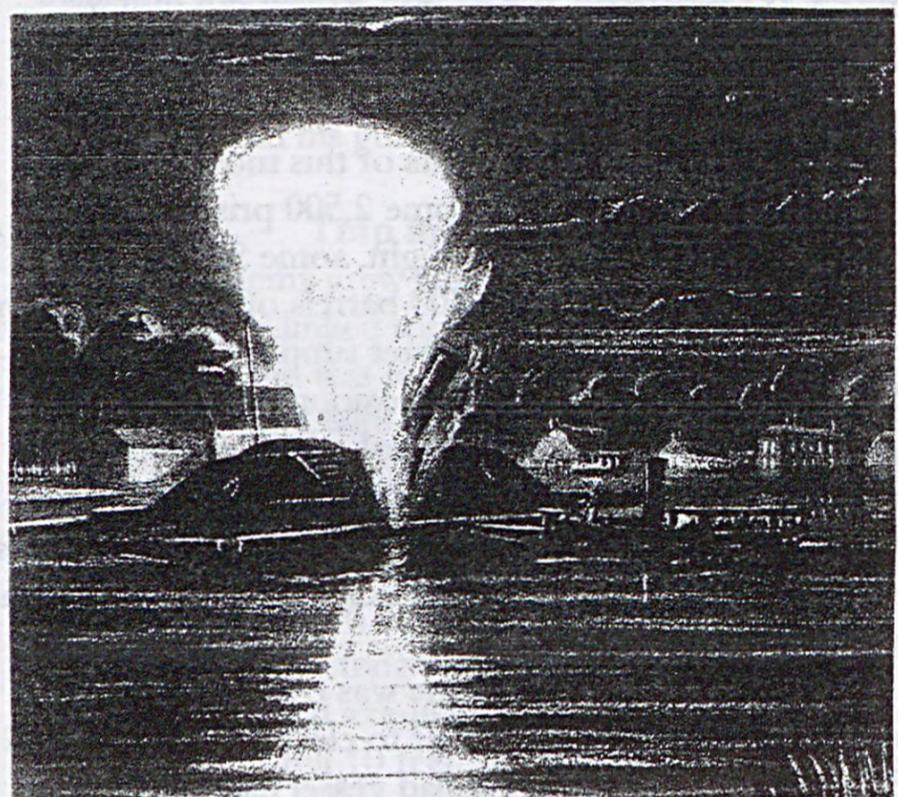
CONNECTOR

rid themselves of the ironclad *Albemarle*. Lt. Wm. B. **Cushing**, USN proposed a daring plan. He would approach her in small boat, hoping to surprise her and board her, taking her as a prize of war. If that failed, he would torpedo her at the dock. A 30-foot picket boat was being built in NY. He had it fitted with a torpedo mounted at the end of a fourteen foot spar. The torpedo contained an air chamber which allowed it to float in a vertical position. Pulling out the pin let a grape ball fall on a percussion cap which ignited the powder charge in the lower chamber. The device was released by pulling a lanyard when it was under the enemy hull. In addition, a 12-pounder howitzer was mounted in the bow. With a crew of seven officers and men, Cushing rendezvoused with the federal ships waiting just outside the mouth of the Roanoke.

On the night of October 27, 1864, Cushing entered the river with the small cutter in tow. The men in the cutter were to surprise and overcome the pickets a mile below Plymouth and prevent them firing warning rockets. However, the two small boats slipped past undetected, and Cdr. Cushing decided to try to board the ram and take her over. But as they approached the ram a dog barked, rousing the guards. Bonfires were lit and surprise was gone. Cushing released the cutter in order to maneuver for the torpedo attack. The launch was clearly lit. Unable to believe that such a small boat had come to challenge them the pickets kept hailing, "What ship is that?" When there was no answer, the invading force was put under heavy fire from the *Albemarle* and the shore.

The fires on the beach enabled Cushing to see that the ironclad was protected from a torpedo attack by a circle

[Albemarle, Continued on Page 13]



CSS *Albemarle* torpedeed and sunk by Lt. Wm. B. Cushing, USN
[www.history.navy.mil]

Readers Choice

Local Color



The Red Hots, By Wynolia C. Apple, published 2002

Meet a group of women who challenge life by never giving up and always doing something for others. They make you want to laugh, sing along, dance and even cry. This red hot group of women ranging in age from seventies to nineties started their rhythm band in Rocky Mount, NC at the local YWCA in 1980. What kind of talent is necessary? You must have a smile on your face, a twinkle in your eye and a spring in your step. The rest just falls into place.

They play for rest homes, churches, civic clubs nursing homes, senior citizens' groups, you name it and they

will perform if they can fit it in their busy schedule using their many talents on the drums, bells, tambourines, xylophone, kazoos, piano and even the washboards.

Although some have passed on others step up to take their places. Read about the lives of some of these outstanding women. They have marvelous stories to tell. "Winnie" Cochran tells about her Mama, Willie Poythress, who taught school in an old pack house after the tobacco season was over at Hilliardston, NC in 1912. Mary Savada Coggin Joyner Blunt, born in 1907, saw her first automobile while visiting her aunt's home in Momeyer, NC. "We heard a strange noise one night, and we went outside to watch this contraption come up the hill."

These are just two snippets from this marvelous book that you don't want to miss. Read the rest of their stories as well as those of Emma

Flye Lanier, Elsie Nobles Clark [Nash County's own Minnie Pearl], Mary Elizabeth Higson, Mary Elizabeth McLaughlin, Virginia Dare Bradley, Annie Lee Shearin, Cora Mavis Harper Campbell, Alene Langley Burnette, Hilda Harrell, Mavis Godwin, Nellie Stone, Doris Manning, Hattie Taylor Barrett, Elizabeth Bunting, Ruth Haskins Harris and Linda Bailey Lanie.

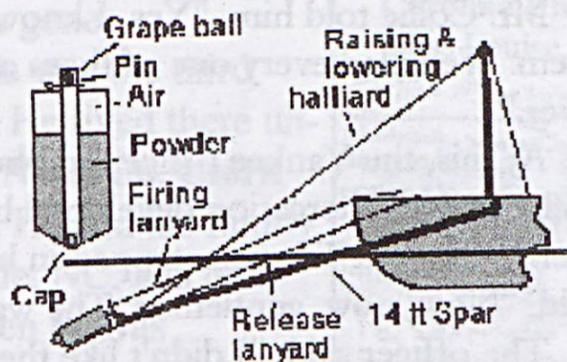
Discover their secrets of staying young. A salute to all who are and have been Red Hots.



[Albemarle, Cont. from P. 12]

of floating logs tethered around her. However, the logs were slippery from long submersion. Standing in the bow of the launch, he ordered his boat to sheer off and then ran her head-on at the logs, skimming over them and into the protective ring. Cushing was tangled in lines—a rope that would lower the spar and another that would set off the torpedo. Two other lines, held at his elbows, ran back to the engines to signal by tugs the steering of the launch. "Bullets pierced his coat, grazing his skin. One ball ripped away the sole of his boot, where it was set on the thwart." Just as they sailed over the logs, he lowered the boom, saw the torpedo tuck itself under the overhang of the *Albemarle's* deck, and pulled the trigger-line.

The torpedo struck the *Albemarle*, causing a great swell of water. At almost that same moment, a canister of grape struck Cushing's small boat, overturning it and throwing all the men into the water.



Cushing's Torpedo

Cushing called out to his men to save themselves, stripped off his uniform, and swam down stream as boats searched for survivors. He was not seen and, eventually, finding mud beneath his feet, he lay exhausted, at the edge of the water until daylight. He remained hidden until afternoon when he was able to board a small skiff and paddle down the river until he reached a federal picket boat.

Cushing's attack was successful. The *Albemarle* rested in 8 feet of water with her upper works above the surface. She had "a hole in her bottom big enough to drive a wagon in." Thus ended the career of the Confederacy's most successful ironclad. The only casualty among her crew of 66 was acting Master's Mate James Charles Hill. He was severely injured when a hatchway fell on him as he slept.

On October 31, Federal forces returned to Plymouth. The *Albemarle's* new captain, Alexander Wharley CSN, had salvaged her guns and shells and used them to defend the town, but after a grim fight, the Confederates were driven out, ending the South's last hope of regaining the Carolina coast.

The *Albemarle* was raised in 1867. The salvage crew patched her up enough to tow her to Norfolk, VA where she was sold for junk.

"Uncle Ruff" and the War Between the States

Russell Van Buren Collie was born in Nash Co., NC on Feb. 7, 1844 and died Jan. 5, 1951, just a month before his 107th birthday. Affectionately known as "Uncle Ruff," he lived for many years near **Seven Paths** in **Cypress Creek Township** in **Franklin County**. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. **Simon Collie**.

Mr. Collie entered the service as a Junior Reserve in 1862 and first served at **Fort Fisher**, below **Wilmington, NC**. He also served at **Petersburg, VA** and then was attached to **Johnston's** army, seeing action at **Kinston, Averasboro** and **Bentonville**. He eventually reached **Clayton** in **Johnston Co., NC**, sick and unfit for service. He was sent by train to **High Point, NC** where he remained until **Johnston** surrendered at **Durham, NC** in April 1865.

Walked 100 miles

Soon after the surrender, Uncle Ruff and a group of his fellow soldiers set out for home—but not by train. Much of the track had been destroyed and he had to walk the 100 miles to **Nash Co.** The walk was especially difficult as he was lame in both feet. Each day the group grew smaller as the soldiers reached their turning off points until, at last, Mr. Collie was alone. In his later life, he recalled the many kindnesses offered to him and his companions on their march.

The veterans of the **Civil War** gathered annually for reunions, and Mr. Collie was always present. The reunions were held at places like **Richmond, Atlanta, Birmingham, Nashville, Memphis, Chattanooga, New Orleans, Dallas, Oklahoma City** and **Louisville**. Other **Franklin Co.** veterans who accompanied him until their deaths were **Capt. Phil Alston, Joseph John Allen** and **James Cheever**.

At the time of his 100th birthday party, Mr. Collie had been married twice and had 11 living children. His first wife was **Mrs. Mary Solomon Lewis** of **Nash County**. After her death, he married **Miss Annie Powell**

of **Franklin Co.** No one at the party knew how many descendants there were, but the number, all told, was well over 100 and represented five generations.. When asked if he had thought of marrying again, he grinned and answered, "Sure, I've thought about it. But I don't believe I want to start raising another family!"

Advanced age can have its surprises. Mr. Collie, at 100, had all the teeth he started with except two, one of which he lost a few years earlier. In its place grew another when he was 97.

Still a fighter

At some time after his 100th birthday, Mr. Collie attended a reunion of veterans of both the North and the South, which was held in **Washington, DC** and sponsored by **President Harry S. Truman**. There was an officer of the **Northern Army** present at this affair, and he and Mr. Collie were talking. When he learned that Mr. Collie was from North Carolina, he asked if he knew of **Rocky Mountain**. Mr. Collie told him it was **Rocky Mount**, and yes, he was from that area.

The Yankee said, "I want to talk to you. I was fighting there, near a cotton mill and a dam with a large waterfall. I lost 21 of my men. that I was never able to account for. I've always wanted to find out what happened to them." He went on to tell when the event occurred, and of

course, it was at the time the **Battle Mill** was burned. The railroad bridge, depot, and shops were also destroyed and homes in the area were looted. [See "Potter's Raid on Greenville, Tarboro and Rocky Mount", *The Connector*, Summer 1998]

Mr. Collie told him, "Yes, I know what happened to them. We killed every one of them and threw them in the river."

At this, the Yankee officer grabbed Mr. Collie by the collar and an altercation developed between the two men. President Truman stepped in between them and said, "Now, now, gentlemen. The war is over."

The officer said, "I didn't like the way he answered me when I asked him a civil question."

Mr. Collie replied, " And we didn't like it when you came down south killing us, either. I guess you got what you asked for."

[Told by **Rachel M. Joyner**, granddaughter of **Russell Van Buren Collie** and **Nash Co. Clerk of Superior Court**.]

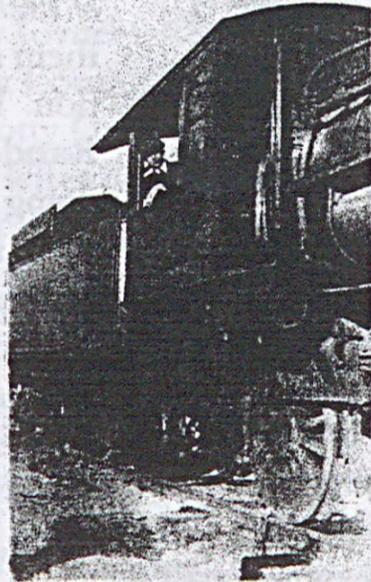


Roanoke & Tar River Rail Road—Meeting in Scotland Neck.

... meeting of the Corporators of a new Rail Road proposed to be constructed from **Margarettsville** [Northampton Co, NC] on the **Seaboard & Roanoke Rail Road**, via **Tarboro** [Edgecombe Co], to **Goldsboro** [Wayne Co.], with authority under one of the most liberal charters ever granted by NC to any corporation, to construct branches and to take stock in other companies.

... **Maj. Grice** ... represents in feeling an interest in one end of the line, while the people of Edgecombe represent the other, and he showed very clearly that while the construction of this road would add greatly to the interests of the S. & R. R. R. and **Norfolk and Portsmouth** [VA], it would be more beneficial to Edgecombe and **Halifax**.

It would render our people independent of the gigantic corporations that are swallowing the old lines of communication north and have no interests amongst us, except to extort



from us the very highest rates of freight and fare possible. He represented to the meeting that if individuals would subscribe enough to grade the Road and lay down the ties, the Seaboard Road would furnish the iron and Rolling Stock, and leave to the Directors of the new Road—that is the **Roanoke and Tar River**—to fix the maximum rate of freight and fare, thus meeting in advance, the objection that, no doubt, would have been urged, that the Road would be controlled by the Seaboard & Roanoke R.R. Co., and Edgecombe and Halifax would be as much the subject of extortion after the road is built as they are now.

The distance from Margarettsville to Tarboro is between 40 and 50 miles and the line passes through one of the very finest portions of the State. The grading will be very light, and the Road, when finished, will bring us within four hours of Norfolk.

It is estimated that \$80,000 (or \$100,000 at most) will grade the Road and furnish the ties, and certainly Norfolk and Portsmouth, Northamp-

ton, Halifax, and Edgecombe will raise it.

If so, the Seaboard Road will do the rest.

The people of Edgecombe, as well as Halifax, are vastly interested in it.

Let them subscribe liberally and they will never regret it.

[Tarboro Southerner, Nov. 23, 1871]



Stage Goes in River

On Sunday last, as the Stage was coming from **Blakely** to **Halifax**, on arriving at the **[Roanoke] River**, within half a mile of the town, the driver, in driving into the Ferry-boat, having failed to lock the wheels, as was customary for him to do, unfortunately drove all four of the horses out the Boat into the River—two of which were drowned. The wheel horses were cut from the stage without any injury to them. No other damage was done as we are aware of.—*Halifax Adv.*

[Tarboro' Press, November 12, 1836]

[Belford, Cont. From Page 9] the apparition was gone.

Thomas A. Sills was the third owner of Belford. He lived there until he was elected **Nash Co. Clerk of Court** in 1898. He and his family moved to Nashville, NC. His term ran until 1913 when he was succeeded by his son, **Jim Nick Sills** who served as Clerk of Court until 1962.

[Taken from a 1972 interview with **Louise Sills** housed in the East Carolina Manu-

script Collection, Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC. "Miss Louise," as she was affectionately



Colby Map, 1857, showing "Bed(l)ford"

called, was the sister of Jim Nick Sills and the assistant Clerk of Court of Nash Co..]

Postmasters at Belford, also known as Sills Store

David Sills	10 Dec 1804
Gray Sills	27 Jul 1833
Wm. D. Harrison	9 Jun 1855
Name changed to Castalia	22 Nov 1855

*Belford, Nash. Co. N.C.
April 15/16*

Sandy Creek Baptist Meeting House

Franklin County, NC—Excerpts from minutes

3rd in a series — 1818-1836



March 17, 1818, Sister Nancy Bartholomew presented a letter of dismissal from **Hawoods M(eeting)**

H(ouse) asking to be recd. into **Sandy Creek Church.**

Richard Webb, his wife and **Patsey Driver** dismissed by letter.

Meriam Edwards granted letter of dismissal and **Brother Hunt** to rite letters and convey it to them.

April Conference, 1818, *Nothing of importance Done.*

May, 1818, *No conference held.*

June Conference, 1818, *Nothing Done.*

August 8, 1818, Conference, Chose delegates for meeting in **Martin Co.** in October.

Benjamin Davis and **Elias Williams** send *Seventy five Cents* to the association fund. **Henry Hunt** to wright letter.

September 12, 1818, Conference, **Winney Thomas** and **Patsey Thomas** granted letters of dismissal.

October Conference, 1818, *Nothing Done.*

December Conference, 1818, **Frankey Thomas**, applied for a letter of dismissal through **Brother Abanatha** and it was granted.

[There was very little business transacted at **Sandy Creek Meeting House** Conferences during the year 1818 with the exception of dismissal of members moving on to other areas. This carried over into 1819 as well.]

March 1819, **Elias Nellums** dismissed.

August 1819, **Brother John & Benamine Davis** were cited to show cause why they have absent themselves from monthly meetings.

September 10, 1819, **Brother Benjamin Davis** gave the Church satisfaction.

Brother John Davis sent a letter to the church that *he was not able to attend meeting and never expected to see Sandy Creek Meeting house again in this life without amendment which is not likely to take place which satisfyd the Church as to his not attending meeting.*

December 11, 1819, **Elias Nellums** having given out removing from this Part of the world, Returns his Letter of Dismission to the Church again.

[Nothing in minute book for the year 1820.]

August 11, 1821. **William B. Bridgers**, **Robert Gupton**, **Elias Carr** to consult with **Dr. Williams** on the propriety of Removing the Said meeting House from where it now stands.

September 8, 1821. Several members were called in to show just cause for not being excommunicated. One member was cited for having a base-born child and was excommunicated accordingly.

October 13, 1821, **Lizza Johnson** granted letter of dismissal.

May 12, 1822, **Polley Bell** now **Polley Brantley** from **Columbia County, Georgia** applied for a letter of dismissal.

[1822 Sandy Creek meeting house was destroyed by fire, and in 1823 a new meeting house was to be built by **Stephen Gupton** at or near the same place. The new building was to be 40 foot long by 24 broad. Just before the house was finished a sermon was delivered by **Elder Philemon Bennet**.]

August 28. 1824, First sermon by **Philemon Bennet** in the new house from *Sollomons Song* (Song of Solomon), 6th Chapter and 10th verse.

[Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?]

April, June, Sept. Conferences 1826, The following received into the fellowship and baptized; **Sary Crocker** and **Worrel misses**, **miss Collins**, **Sally Clark**, **Nancy Swanson**, **Nancy Joiner**.

Miss Alston's Cherry.

Mary Carr applied for a letter of dismissal.

Preaching by **Bennet A. Crocker.**

Tar River Connections would like to thank **Larry Cates** for discovering the *Sandy Creek Baptist Church Minutes of Franklin County, NC* and making them available to TRC for publication. These minutes were found in **Randolph County** while Larry was doing research. Trying to transcribe these minutes has been a challenge. Copies of *The Connectors* have been sent to Sandy Creek Baptist Church. A copy of the original minutes will be on file in the **History-Genealogy Room** in **Braswell Memorial Library, Rocky Mount, NC.**

LIST OF MEMBERS

Received into the Church of Christ at Sandy Creek -1830

Baptized by **William B. Worrell**

James Gupton
 Temperance Thomas
 Matitia Murphey
 Jane Perry
 Martha Leonard
 Nancy Brown
 Matthew Ham
 James Wester
 Mary Clark
 Benjamin Wester
 Daniel Wester
 Lockey Wester
 John A. Coggin
 Stephen Gupton
 Daniel Gupton
 Nancy Benton
 Elizabeth Bledsoe
 Elizabeth Coggin

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

CONT. FROM P 16

Fredick Leonard	Gilford Coley	Sary Cooper	Mary Alston, Honey	Robert Evans
Joseph Pearce	Littleton Collins	1833	Ms Alston, Cherry	David Burnett
Mary Wester	G. Seace Burnett	James Carr	A. Davis estate, Jobe	William Evans
Sarah Leonard	Benja. Sikes	Giddy Burnett	& Isaac	Buck Norris
Abgriter Burnet	Eaton Leonard	Mary Collins	Ingram Leonard,	Allen Evans
Matilda Bartholomew	Lindy Gupton	Sary Wood	Granville	Washington Bradford
Mary Brewer	Jackey Gupton	Massingburg, Cary &	Mary Cooper	Thomas Ascue
Plummer Pearce	Viney Brewer	Phil	Mary Davis	William Ascue
James Vinson	Susan Wood	R. Gupton, Glory	Martha Murrey	John Gupton
James Gupton	Betsey Swanson	Jas. Collins, Ned	Sary Bartholomew	Isaac Gupton
David Collins	Nancy Leonard	Nancy Swanson, Rose	Green Cook	Cabin Gay
John Brewer	Martha Murrey	Nathan Ham	Body Moses	N. Norris
B. Wester, Doley	Charity Davis	Sealy Yarbrough	Charity Johnson	William Ezzil (?)
1831	Betsey Leonard	Samuel Pary, Robin	Bertha Cunningham	Susan Murry
John Thomas	Polley Joyner	William Foster, Nelley	Mary E. Tucker	Anr Gay
John Wester	Nancy Cook	Robert Cooper	Louisa Carr	Sarah Collins
Mary Gupton	Charloty Griffin dis.	Betsey Cooper	Emily Carr	Elizabeth Gupton
Martha Collins	by letter	Patsey Gupton	Priscilla Overton	Mary Carr
Lucy Gupton	Polley Robbins	Thomas Gupton	Patience Davis	Martha Coley
Elizabeth Murray	Eady Brewer	Patsey Vinson	Adaline Jackson	Catherine Jackson
Mis Burnett, Bole	Sam Pary (Perry),	Patsey Ham	Elizabeth Overton	Jackey Murphy
(Bob)	Doll	1834 Missing	Rebecca Wood	Franky Gupton
William Leonard	E. B. Pary(Perry)	1835	Alecy Cooper	Francis Gupton
Anney Tucker	Sary Leonard	[Member excommuni-	Alan Tucker	Massy Ham
Rebecca Murry	Hardy Gupton	cated due to disorley con-	John Overton	Milly Ham
Polley Gay	Mahaley B. Leonard	duct]	Parker Murphey	Mary Ezzel (?)
Polley Cunnigame	Cherry Carr	Ms Williams, Luke	Robert Thomas	Martha Stokes
Mabaley Griffin	Sary Yarbrough	G. Alston, Cati, Rose	Blake Weaver	Martha Evans
Salley Murphey	Sary Gupton	& Charlot	Thomas Bell	Francis Baker
Elizabeth Cunnin-	Mindy Gupton	Wm. Gupton, Aley	James Jackson	Sarah Jackson
game & Elizabeth	Betsey Collins	Polley Coley	John Tucker	Susan Stallings
Ham received by let-	Sary Sikes	1836	Jesse Collins	Mary Stallings
ter	Nancy Gupton	William Gupton	Duke Moses	Harriet Stallings
Martha Wester Re-	Joel Stephens	Emley Parrish	William Brewer	Francis Stallings
ceived by letter	Blake Brewer	Tabitha Guthrige	Washington Murphey	*****
Polly Wester	Tillisha Brewer	[Member Excommu-	Newton Davis	[See Introduction-The
Council Coggin	Caty Wester	nicated for intemo-	James Murphey	Connector, Summer
Priscilla Leonard	*****	erals (?) and	John Murphey	2002, Series 1- Fall 2002,
Nancy Leonard	1832	Drunkness]	John Cunningham	Series 2- Winter 2003]
Lyllar Brown	Baptised by Gideon	*****		
1832	Bass			
Runnils Burnett	Van Leonard	CHURCH MEM-		
Richard Swanson	William Brewer	BERS, no dates		
Edward Swanson	Nancy Burnett	E. Terrel, Kitty		
James Yarbrough	Dennice Yarbrough	N. Swansons, Rose		
David Yarbrough	Polley Gupton	John P. Andrews,		
Green Gay	Patsey Coggin	Winnie		
John Leonard	Mirandy Swanson	G. C. Davis, Maria		
Corlin Leonard	Thomas Bell	B. H. Leonard, Mar-		
Charles Bartholomew	S. Alston, Ginny	tha		
	E. Gupton, Rody			

Tennessee Accident

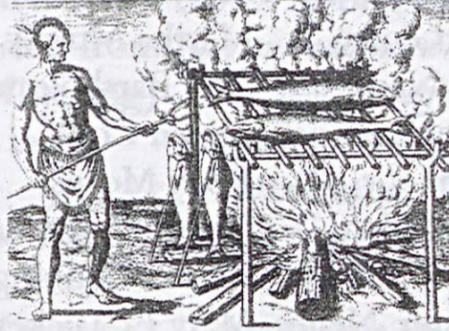
Distressing Accident.—Two men, **Price** and **Whitehead**, whilst in the act of riding a race near **Bolivar, Tenn.**, on Saturday 16th ult., were thrown from their horses, the latter killed instantly, and the former only survived three days. They both had families and had lately emigrated from **Halifax county, North Carolina.**

[Tarborough Press, Nov. 2, 1836]

Shad Fishing in NC

BY HILL MATTHEWS

For thousands of years, about the time the dogwoods start to bloom in early spring, schools of silver, ocean dwelling fish have run up the rivers and creeks of eastern NC on their life-giving journey of a lifetime. The shad, driven by an innate yearning to spawn, migrate up the waters of the coastal plain from their summer grounds off **Canada**, to breeding grounds in rivers like the **Tar** and small tributaries like **Swift Creek** in **Edgecombe Co.** Our ancestors pursued the **American** or **White** shad and its smallest cousin, the **Hickory** shad from river and creek banks, in small boats, and in some cases, makeshift piers constructed along the shoreline.



Driftnetting and gillnetting were the traditional methods of taking shad in NC, and the fish were an important food source, dating back to colonial times. White shad fishing peaks in April, though they have been caught well into June. Runs in upstream locations like **Rocky Mount** are dependant on water flows, however, and in dry years, fishing tapered off drastically a couple of weeks after spring flood waters subsided.

Mill dams, many of which date back to pre-civil war times, allowed water to flow freely and did not affect water levels or the number of fish. However, since they impeded further progress by the migrating fish, these dams signaled the upstream terminus of the shad run. Waters



just below these dams were some of the most productive fishing areas for shad, with schools of the silver fish concentrated in a small area. The dam at **Rocky Mount Mills** halted the shad's movement upstream as did **Bellamy's Mill** on **Fishing Creek**, a major tributary of the **Tar River**.

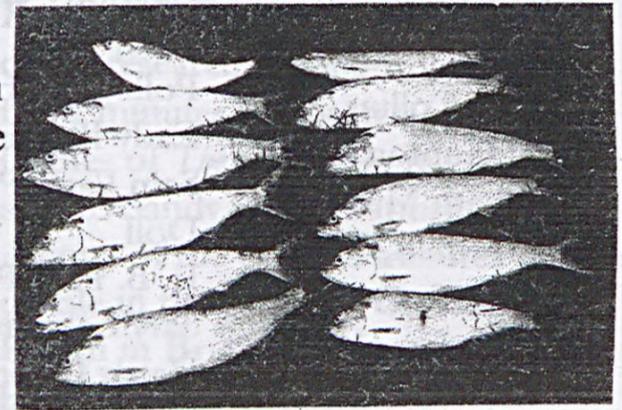
Hickory shad rarely migrated as far upstream as Whites, and were known for spawning in smaller tributaries. The **Beech Swamp** in **Halifax County** empties into **Fishing Creek** near its confluence with

the **Tar River** and was noted as a prime spawning ground for Hickories.

Sometime after World War II, anglers discovered shad would hit small jigs and spoons, and a new recreational fishery was born. Fishing for shad boomed in the 1950s, with anglers catching up to 100 fish daily. Such numbers of fish are unlikely today as the shad population has decreased. It is reported that shad do not feed after they leave the ocean, but strike lures out of sheer anger or frustration. One theory states that a dart (small shad jig) has to bump a shad in the head or pass right in front of its face in order for it to strike.

Fishing Machine

From the early days and on down through the 1930s, herrings were a staple in the diet of the inhabitants of eastern NC. The great demand for the fish prompted a man said to have been a **Smithwick** to invent the fishing machine to increase the catches made by other means. The machines were said to have been in operation back in the middle 1700s or earlier.



The fishing machines, still in use during the early 1900s, were made by linking two flatboats together by a long wooden axle on which was mounted a scoop net usually made of chicken wire. Around the axle were wooden paddles, activated by the current, which kept the net going around in a dipping motion. As the herring were scooped up, they would be channeled by a V-trough at the bottom into the flatboats at each side.

The number of paddles was determined by the speed of the current and size of the fish run. If the dips were made too frequently during heavy runs, the weight of the fish would sink the flatboats unless attended almost constantly. The machines were anchored to trees along the shore at selected spots, and the best catches were usually made at night.

[*Martin County History, Vol. I and Vol. II*, by Frances Manning and W.H. Booker, 1977 and 1979. Thanks to Crystal Baity, Director, Martin Co., NC Travel & Tourism for this information.]

Divorce — She Didn't Mean To Do It!



Petition of **Ann Eliza Armstrong** to **NC Legislature** represent[s] she has been placed in a situation as delicate and novel as it is to her painful and embarrassing. ... Your petitioner represents that she is now by 17 years of age, residing in

the **County of Edgecombe** About twelve months ago, she was addressed by a man by the name of **Wilkins** and another by the name of **Viverett**. She gave preference to the former, and was at that time disposed to have married him, but her parents, though not favorable to the latter, were most decidedly opposed to the former. In this delicate situation, she was greatly perplexed as to the proper course to pursue. To marry **Wilkins**, she should encounter the displeasure of kind and indulgent parents, and to marry **Viverett**, she should doom herself to misery and unhappiness. She would most willingly have given up them both, but her parents under the fear that she might marry **Wilkins**, insisted upon her marrying **Viverett**. In this painful dilemma, she resolved to relieve the fears of her parents, and at an evil hour, under a misapprehension as to consequence, consented to pass through the marriage ceremony, provided no license should be had. This she did with the view of quieting the apprehension of her parents for the moment, intending if she could become reconciled to **Viver-**

ett, to have the license afterwards obtained and the marriage consummated. **Viverett** was accordingly sent for by her father and the ceremony performed by a magistrate, and she gave her silent assent with the mental reservation that as she was not at heart, so she was not in fact a married woman. She refused her consent to have the license taken out or in any way to be treated as the wife of **Viverett**, still thinking that without a license, the marriage was a nullity. She found too, that so far from being reconciled to the man (she cannot tarnish the second man by calling him husband), her aversion daily increased. His awkward efforts to please only seemed to render him the more obnoxious. Nor could she reconcile it to her feelings to unite herself to a man who had so little spirit of independence as to ask the hand of one whom he must have known despised him. For such is the peculiar cant of the female character that whilst she loves with ardor, she hates with bitterness—and now so it is, ... your petitioner learns our laws recognize the marriage state as but a civil contract, and therefore binding whenever the assent has been given, whatever the motives or feelings which may have prompted it. Although your petitioner did not give her free and voluntary assent to the engagement, she unfortunately did manage to render the marriage valid in law ... pass an act divorcing her from the said **Viverett**, not with the view of her to marry another against the will of her parents (for this she pledges herself not to do), but to relieve her from the power of a man whom she can neither love or respect, and to quiet the self-approaches of her unhappy parents. She makes this appeal to you as the only power who can relieve her present unfortunate condition. ...

WEATHER ALERT!

1913 Flood Causes Damage in Millions

The storm struck **Beaufort Co.** on the night of September 2, 1913. The wind and waters attacked with such force that the bridge and railroad trestles across the **Tar/Pamlico River** were swept away like toys. Crops were flooded all along the coast. Large amounts of lumber rode the current downstream. Docks were torn from their moorings and swept away in the flood. Roof tops were blown off. In the town of **Washington**, homes and businesses were flooded. Furniture bobbed around like corks. Rescue parties in boats searched the streets for victims. The river rose a record 10½ feet.

[*Historical Highlights of Washington and Beaufort Co., NC: Bicentennial Edition: 1776-1976.*]

Strayed or Stolen

A few days since, from the stable of **Mr. F. Burton**, in **Granville county**, a chestnut sorrel Horse ... He went off in company with a sorrel that was raised by **Col. Shepherd** in **Orange county**, where it is probable they will aim to go. I will give any person ten dollars who will take him up and inform me of it; or I will give the above reward and pay all expenses if delivered to me in **Halifax [Halifax Co., NC]**.

Allen I. Davie

Halifax, May 22, 1806



In **Warren county**, on the 3d. inst. **Mr. Amos P. Sledge** to **Miss Nancy Pitchford**.

Left With The Booze

"He might have gotten away but he didn't get my cuffs," was the explanation of **Officer [C. H.] Denby**, of the local police force of the surreptitious departure of **Arthur Whitaker**, a young man who was taken from a freight train at **South Rocky Mount** last night with a total of two gallons of liquor in his possession. The facts are that the negro was taken into the **Gorham restaurant** last night at an unearthly hour following his capture and that the officer asked aid in detaining him, and two of the clerks agreed, while the officer went to learn as to the time of the arrival of a train for this city, and as the officer left the man made a dash for the door and departed. The officer has the liquor in his possession but his man appears to have departed for another clime.

[*The Evening Telegram*, Rocky Mount, March 1, 1916]



HOWARD HOTEL.

Arrivals for the Week Ending Oct. 6, 1871

Friday, Sept. 29th.—G. A. Dancy, Jas. H. Taft, Greenville; A.H. Taft, W. Shaw, Washington.
Saturday, Sept. 30th.—V.B. Sharpe, county; Gov. Joshua Baker, St. Mary's, La.
Sunday, Oct. 1st.—James B. Busbee, N.C.
Monday, Oct. 2nd.—V.B. Sharpe, W.H. Knight, W.J. Rogers, R.S. Petway, County; L. Hyatt & Daughter, Mrs. Bell, Washington, N.C.
Tuesday, Oct. 3rd.—Dr. M.B. Pitt, County; Henry Sheppard, Greenville; Henry W. Brown, Pitt County; H.B. Jenks, Boston, Mass.; W.H. Knight, County.
Wednesday, Oct. 4th.—Dr. J. Taylor, Pactolus, Pitt county; H.A. Dowd, County; W.G.B. Hadly, Williamston, N.C.; B.H. Bunn, Rocky Mount; A.J. Miller, W.C. Fergus, Baltimore; Mrs. A. Hill, Duplin County.
Thursday, Oct. 5th.—H.A. Dowd, County; W.H. Dey, Weldon; W.N. Bell, Virginia.

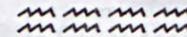
[*The Enquirer*, Oct. 7, 1871]

Braswell Memorial Library Acquisitions



1. *Granville County Heritage, North Carolina, Vol. 1, 2002* by the Granville County Heritage Committee. Donated by TRC member Bettie Arthur.
2. *The Courthouse Bible*. Donated by Barbara Sasser, Nash County Register of Deeds.
3. *The Mouzon Map (1775)*, copy. Donated by TRC member Billie Jo Matthews, in memory of Mary Alford Intellini.
4. Microfilm: *1860 Franklin County Census*. Donated in memory of Bennett Barnes.

SCRAPS.



AN ACROBATIC EQUINE—On Wednesday as **W.E. Sugg**, Esq., was crossing **Sparta** bridge in **Edgecombe county**, driving a colt, and it became necessary to lead the horse across. When Mr. S. had reached the draw, the colt became entirely unmanageable, snorted and cavorted, and like old Jo commenced kicking up behind and before. At last he plunged over the railing sulky and all, turned three somersaults before he struck the water, and hit on his back. By some means he extricated himself from the vehicle, swam a half a mile down the river, and crawled up on dry land a sadder though wetter horse.

The feelings of Mr. Sugg can better be imagined than described. He first raised his specs and peered under, then he re-adjusted them and looked through—finally he took them off altogether and whispered something like, "I'll be blamed."

With the loss of his harness only he may congratulate himself.

[*Tarboro Southerner*, Jan. 21, 1876]

REVIVAL.—The most successful revival ever conducted in **Tarboro** is still progressing—24 converts were baptized on Sunday last. There is, as yet, no abatement of interest. Three from our office are now numbered among the lambs.

[*Tarborough Southerner*, Feb. 4, 1876]